



HISTORY
OF
STEELE AND WASECA COUNTIES,
MINNESOTA.

AN ALBUM OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY,
EMBRACING SKETCHES OF THE VILLAGES, CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS; EDUCATIONAL, CIVIL, MILITARY AND
POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT CITIZENS, AND BIOGRAPHIES
OF OLD SETTLERS AND REPRESENTATIVE MEN.

HISTORY OF MINNESOTA,
EMBRACING AN ACCOUNT OF EARLY EXPLORATIONS, ORGANIZATION, A REVIEW OF ITS POLITICAL
HISTORY, TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE INDIAN OUTBREAK OF 1862.

ILLUSTRATED.

CHICAGO:
UNION PUBLISHING COMPANY,
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" BIOGRAPHY IS THE ONLY TRUE HISTORY."—*Emerson.*

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*Simeon S. Todd M.D. Artis Obstet. et Mulier.
Morb. Prof. Emer. in Collegio Medicinæ urbis Kan-
sensis, Anno Dom. 1893*

◇ PREFACE. ◇

Rev. J. C. Dyer p. 2



IN the compilation of this volume it has been the aim of the publishers to prepare a local history, comprising in a single volume of convenient form, a varied fund of information, not only of interest to the present, but for preservation for coming generations, from which future searchers for historic data may draw without the tedium incurred in the preparation of this. We have gathered together a vast mass of historic facts, and interwoven them with individual sketches of those who have been identified with the development of the various localities. That our work is wholly errorless, or that nothing of interest has been omitted, is more than we dare to hope, and more than is reasonable to expect, but we have spared neither pains nor expense in our efforts to have the work as near perfect as it is possible for such a work to be made. The manuscript of the historical portions was carefully submitted to committees of prominent old settlers who were requested to make all changes or additions necessary for a complete and correct work. The certificates of these gentlemen will be found on pages IV and V. As to the biographical department, equal care was bestowed. The biographical sketches were carefully submitted to those whom they concerned and the parties were asked to revise and correct the statements and data. In closing our labors, we have the gratifying consciousness of having used our utmost endeavors in securing reliable data, and feel no hesitancy in submitting the result to an intelligent public. The impartial critic, to whom only we look for comment, will, in passing judgment upon its merits, be governed by a knowledge of the manifold duties attending the prosecution of the undertaking.

There is always more or less difficulty, even in a historical work, in selecting those things which will interest the greatest number of readers. Individual tastes differ so widely, that that which may be of absorbing interest to one, has no attractions for another. Some are interested only in that which concerns themselves, and do not care to read of even the most thrilling adventures in which they were not participants. Such persons are apt to conclude that what they are not interested in is of no value and its preservation in history a useless expense. In the settlement of a new county, or a new township, no one person is entitled to all the credit for what has been accomplished, but every individual is a part of the great whole, and all are directly or indirectly connected with each step of progress. For this reason it is always a very difficult—if not an impossible—task to measure and express the exact meed of praise or commendation due to the individual, and we have, therefore, stated the facts, with “naught set down in malice or in praise.”

In conclusion, we desire to express our sincere thanks to county, township and village officials for their uniform kindness to us in our tedious labors; and we must also express our indebtedness to the Press, the Pioneers and the Citizens generally, who have extended more than ordinary courtesy and assistance to our employés.

That our efforts may prove satisfactory, and this volume receive a welcome commensurate with the care and labor bestowed upon its preparation, is the earnest desire of the compilers.

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CERTIFICATES FROM OLD SETTLERS IN STEELE COUNTY.

Following will be found copies of the certificates from the various committees of old settlers, who revised, corrected and approved the manuscript of the History of Steele County, viz:

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HISTORY OF STEELE COUNTY.



HISTORY

OF

STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.



AS the changes of half a century are contemplated, one can scarcely comprehend or realize that the wonderful results of Time's marvel-working hand are the achievements of a period so brief as to be within the remembrance of the present generation.

Let us turn back, as it were, the leaves of Time's great book to but a little more than a quarter of a century ago, and the stranger would have gazed upon a landscape of wondrous beauty, selected by Indians as a camping-ground, with that singular appreciation of the beautiful which nature has made an instinct in the savage. These vast and rolling prairies and woodlands were as green then as now; the prairie flowers bloomed as thickly and diffused their fragrance as bountifully. We are in the haunt of the red man, with scarcely a trace of civilization, while the freedom of bird and beast reigns supreme. But, to-day, what a contrast! Then, all was as nature had formed it, with its variegated hues of vegetation; in winter a dreary, snow-mantled desert; in summer a

perfect paradise of flowers. Now, all traces of the primitive are obliterated; in place of the tall prairie grass and tangled underbrush, one beholds the rich waving fields of golden grain. In place of the dusky warrior's rude cabins are the substantial and often elegant dwellings of the thrifty farmers; and the "iron horse," swifter than the nimble deer, treads the pathway so recently the trail of the red man. Then a sickle of fire annually cut away the wild herbage, and drove to its death the stag; now it is the home of the cereals, and nourishes on its broad bosom thousands of tons of the staple products of the great North Star State. Then the storm drove the wolf and stag to their hiding-place; now the blast drives the herd of the husbandman to comfortable shelter. The transformation is complete.

In this volume it will be the aim of the historian to record the progress of Steele County from its earliest settlement to the present time; to show the changes that have from time to time been made and how they were brought about, and to record the life work of individuals who have been instrumental in effecting the change. It will thus be seen to embrace events which some may

think insignificant. "Great events find ready record," says a well-known writer, "but minor doings are often neglected, until they become so obscured by the dust of time as to be forever clouded." Yet from such humble origin may spring the mightiest results. The history of men's lives is often incomplete through the negligence of those whose duty it was to record the dates of births, or deaths, or happenings which have eventually proven epochs in the world's progress. History is sometimes narrowly regarded but the doings of rulers, who have the world for their theater of operations, and the fate of empires for their subjects. Such grave performances are, of necessity, remembered, but they are no more, in themselves, worthy of preservation than are the simpler deeds of heroism which pioneers so modestly participated in. Yet when the careful student seeks for the moving forces which made thrones tremble, he is too often rewarded but meagerly. The people are seldom recorded in history. In rare exceptions may be found a clearer ray of light on humble undertakings, but they serve only to show the other failures stronger by contrast. The Pilgrim Fathers who survived the shock of the first rude winter are recorded in the sparse annals of New England, and their descendants revert with pride to those heroic ancestors. But the fifty

pilgrims who died during that bleak season are never spoken of by name, though they are none the less worthy of undying reverence. Again, had some one more thoughtful than the rest among John Winthrop's band, which two and a half centuries ago set deep the seeds of civilization on the rough shores of Massachusetts, left a record of events then transpiring, how invaluable would that book now be to those who might prepare a great work on Boston's history. This same fact is true of every old settled country. The early pioneers and those who took part in the development during the first quarter of a century of the history of every county are generally lost to the knowledge of those who come later, and as time goes on it soon becomes impossible to obtain reliable information concerning them.

Realizing this fact, this work has been compiled. Thousands of facts are herein recorded, and individual sketches of hundreds of citizens, living and dead, are here placed in an enduring form. These men and women are, or have been, actors in the drama of the settlement and development of Steele County. By inserting these sketches, in addition to other matter, is preserved not only the recital of historic fact, but a sub-current of individual deeds runs through all, giving a realism to the narrative which could be imparted in no other way.



CHAPTER II.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.



IN no portion of the great State of Minnesota is Steele County surpassed for its beautiful scenery: its rolling prairies interspersed and diversified with natural and domestic groves; its meandering streams and its carpet of flowers and verdure. It lies in the southern or southeastern part of the State, having for its boundaries Rice County on the north, Dodge on the east, Freeborn on the south and Waseca on the west. As an agricultural and stock-raising region, Steele is also hard to excel. The soil is very productive—a rich, dark loam, well adapted to all cereals common to this latitude. It is also well suited to the production of tame and indigenous grasses, and stock-raising, both native and blooded, attracts the general attention of the intelligent class of farmers that have settled here. The surface between the streams is a gently rolling prairie, interspersed by “oak openings” in various portions of the county.

The county is well watered, not only by numerous streams, but also by springs, brooks and lakes. Straight is the largest and most important of the streams. It rises in Freeborn County and flows northward through Steele County, and on until it joins the Canon River. Numerous smaller streams flow into and swell the Straight River in Steele County, the most important of which are Maple, Turtle and Crane Creeks. At several points in this county the Straight River furnishes valuable water-powers which have been successfully improved. These streams are all lined with a moderate growth

of natural timber, which is heavy and dense in the northern part of the county, there being sufficient to supply the inhabitants of Steele County with fuel and fencing for half a century to come.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

The geological formation here is about the same as characterizes the balance of this immediate portion of the State. The following extracts from Prof. N. H. Winchell's (State geologist) report of the geological and natural history survey of Steele County, made in 1876, comprise all that has been published officially in relation to this subject:

“The heaviness of the drift over this county effectually covers all the rock. The slight fall of the river enables it to uncover but little thus covered up. The only exposure of rock in this county is in Clinton Fall Township. The rock is Trenton limestone, and is first met on section 33. It is in the bed and on the low banks of the Straight River. The exposure, at the time visited, extended only about four feet above the surface of the water. The rock is in horizontal layers twenty-six inches thick. It is blue on fresh fracture, yellow when weathered, compact, sparry and contains many minute fragments of blue shale, like the corresponding rock at Minneapolis. On section 28 of the same township the rock is in thicker layers. The following section was seen in one place, beginning above:

“2 feet loam.

“2 feet blue clay and limestone in thin layers.

“4 feet—to water's surface—compact blue limestone, in thin layers.’

“Near by was another section as follows :

“2½ feet black and red loam.

“2 feet hard yellow clay.

“7 feet blue stone in layers 2 to 5 inches thick, extending to surface of water.’

“Below this there is no more rock until the county line is passed. At Wolcott Mills, about 1½ miles in Rice County, blue Trenton limestone has been quarried in the bed of the river.

“No fossils were found in the rock. This stone is used for flagging and other purposes at Owatonna, and is considered a good stone.

“Some evidence of the existence of a cretaceous area in the State was found. On the southeast quarter of section 26 of Deerfield, on the farm of Aug. Hloffman, coal has been found in sinking a well. Dr. G. A. Rossback tells the writer that they went through 25 feet of black-blue clay, in the under part of which were fragments of coal. After that they passed through gravel, in which also were coal fragments. At the depth of 63 or 64 feet rock was struck; the drill showed it to be black slate with pieces of coal imbedded in it. Although no specimens of the coal were seen by the writer, the description given would answer for cretaceous lignite. When the matter is further explored all doubt as to the geological horizon of the rock will be cleared up. Meantime the evidence from the geology of adjoining counties, as well as the nature of the rock itself, justifies us in calling the rock cretaceous.

“The drift is here, as already mentioned, very heavy. Sections of it were seen at several places. A gravel knoll, cut through at Owatonna, showed one foot of black loam on the top, then four feet of yellow, sandy clay, then seven feet of assorted sand and gravel. Other sections along the railroads showed essentially the same arrangement. Among the gravel-pebbles fragments of argillite were common.”

The Owatonna mineral springs should be mentioned. They are nine in number, and are located about one and one-half miles northeast of the city. They lie along Maple Creek, at the base of a low, clayey bluff. Of the five seen by the writer, four deposited iron. The water of the fifth had a decidedly bluish tint. Fountain Spring was put down twenty-two feet and now flows out freely, raising the water about five feet above the surface. The others are natural springs. They are all undoubtedly due to the clay floor underlying the loose materials of the drift. The taste of the water is mineral. The analysis of the water, published by the Owatonna Mineral Springs Company, is appended :

In one gallon, or 231 cubic inches, there are :

Chloride of Sodium .....	.1680	grains.
Sulphate of Sodium.....	.2856	“
Bicarbonate of Sodium.....	1.8592	“
Bicarbonate of Calcium	13.1992	“
Bicarbonate of Magnesium.....	5.2920	“
Bicarbonate of Protoxide of Iron	.6160	“
Alumina .....	.2800	“
Silica	1.1200	“
Organic Matter		a trace.
Total.....	22.8200	grains.



CHAPTER III.

EARLY DAYS.



O the readers of local history, the chapter pertaining to the early settlement of a country is of general interest; especially is this the case with pioneers themselves, those who have witnessed the changes that have been made, who have seen a trackless wilderness transformed into a beautiful country, and filled with an enterprising, happy people. He here reads, slowly and critically, every word, recalling memories of the past, which for a generation have been buried among a host of recollections, which now arise before him like a dream. His old associations, the deeds, the trials and battles against hunger and cold, while the settlers were few and far between, and wolves howled about the little log cabin, sending a chill to his heart, and the wind driving the sifting snow through the crevices—all now arise vividly before him. Often is it with pleasure he can recall these recollections, viewing with satisfaction the thought that he has lived to see a thrifty and wealthy land, dotted with schoolhouses and churches, villages and cities.

But again it will be with sadness that the past is recalled, as thoughts spring up of the dark and painful side of early days. How a wife, whose virtues, bravery and simplicity will always be remembered, or a child, prattling in innocence, being called from earth to the eternal home, was laid away under the cruel sod, in solemn quietude, by the rough but tender hands of hardy pioneers. Time had partially allayed the sting, but the wound is now uncovered by the allusion to days

gone by, and the cases are not a few, where a tear of bitter sadness will course down the cheek in honor of the memory of those who have departed.

Notwithstanding the many disadvantages and even sorrows attendant upon the first steps of civilization, the adversities to be encountered, the pioneers led a happy life. The absence of the aristocratic and domineering power of wealth and position must have been a source of comfort and satisfaction. Merit alone insured equality, and this could not be suppressed by traditions. The brotherhood of man was illustrated in a sincere and practical way, and hospitality was not considered so much a Christian trait as a duty to humanity.

EARLY SETTLERS AND FIRST EVENTS.

The first claims in Steele County were made in the summer of 1853 by A. L. Wright, Chauncey Lull, Smith and Orlando Johnson and L. M. Howard, who staked off claims, and some members of the party began improvements that fall. All these selected land in what has since become Medford Township. Late that fall A. L. Wright and Chauncey Lull erected the first cabin in the county. These two were the only parties who spent the following winter of 1853-4 here. This was the extent of the settlement made in 1853.

In 1854 a number came, among them being W. W. Wilkins, William Allen, John Sanborn, William K. Colling, Edwin Drake, Orlando Bartholomew, David Sanborn, A. W. and F. F. Adams, W. W. Arnold, F. W. Fisk, James Huginan, A. B. Cornell, W. F. Pettit, G. W. Green, J. W. Park and S. B. Smith.

In 1855-6 many others came and all parts of the county received settlers. The following is a partial list of the pioneers:

David Lindersmith, Nelson Morehouse, Dr. E. M. Morehouse, James and Sandford Hayes, Mr. Crehore, P. P. Carlton, John Odell, James Cole, N. Winship, J. H. and Ezra Abbott, C. and J. Ellison, J. W. Morford, A. Phelps, James Connell, M. A. Dailey, L. B. Town, B. L. Arnold, Rev. A. Town, Obed Gains, P. Sanford, Basil Meek, J. Wilson, John Wilcox, Edward McCartney, Mr. Hobaugh, Ezra Crandall, F. J. Stevens, A. M. Fitzsimmons, C. H. Walker, W. F. Drum, Thomas Thompson, E. W. Levi, and Albert Bailey, Mr. Savins, Dr. Thomas Kenyon, T. J. Clark, O. A. Barnes, Dexter Smith, E. Lagro, David Burns, O. Fisher, H. Catlin, John Catlin, Charles R. Knowlton, Warren Fisher, J. E. Hughes, Manna Case, Chas. McCarty, William Burns, William Close, Robert Adair, George Dennis, Newton Parker, D. C. Tiffany, Samuel Thompson, Sandford Kinney, E. Teed, Samuel Hastings, William Manson, G. W. Knapp, John Bennett, R. Heath, Capt. John Ball, A. B. Clark, G. W. Grimshaw, Charles Adsit, Amos Coggs-well, S. A. Sargent, Harvey Eastman, Oscar King, Mr. P. Erham, William Shea, C. V. Brown, Hiram Pitcher, Levi Chase, Thos. McCormick, Robt. Reynolds, H. S. Howen, Enfin Enfinson, J. Gordon, D. T. Gordon, M. Warren, Mr. Winchell, F. B. Davis, C. W. Curtis, L. E. Thompson, Mr. Magoon, David Bayley, Thomas Bray, John Blythe, Levi Annis, J. J. Brackett, Ira Foster.

Mr. L. M. Howard, who had settled in the town of Medford, commenced breaking prairie in September, 1853, which was the first plowing done in the county. Mr. John Sanborn, who came in the spring of 1854, brought his family with him, and located in the southern part of the town. Mrs. Sanborn is said to be the first woman to locate in Steele County.

In 1855 Messrs. Abbott Brothers built a steam sawmill, and in 1856 another saw-

mill was erected by Messrs. Melvin, Rideout & Hall. The first school in the county was taught on the present site of Owatonna by Miss Helen Holbrook in 1855.

In May, 1854, William T. Pettit and A. B. Cornell located on the present site of Owatonna. Mr. Cornell made a claim on the east and Mr. Pettit on the west side of the river. The first dwelling at this point was built of poles, with prairie grass for a roof, by Mr. Cornell. In the commencement of the early settlement, nearly all buildings were of logs, and of such Mr. N. Winship built a hotel in 1855. In the summer of the same year, Mr. Pettit built the first frame house, paying \$107 per thousand for a part of the pine lumber, which he bought at Red Wing. In the spring of 1856, Ezra Abbott built a steam sawmill, and in the fall Mr. N. Morehouse built a saw-mill on the water-power on the west bank of the river. These mills added very materially to the growth and interests of the new settlement.

In the various township and city histories the early settlement is carried to a later day. The names of many other early settlers might be given here, but they are omitted to avoid repetition.

In those early days the struggle was a hand-to-hand conflict with stern necessity and the disadvantages that must be met before the means of subsistence and the necessaries of life could be supplied from the cultivation of the soil. Many a time was the meal to furnish the family with bread manufactured in a coffee-mill, and oftener still was the wheat or corn boiled and eaten without grinding in any manner. Adventures were but few of a startling nature.

Before any post routes were established in this section, it was only occasionally that the people received any mail matter, and when they did it was generally through the kindness of some of the settlers who would go to Faribault, which was the nearest post-office, and bring the bundle for all the settlers. A. B. Cornell was often the messen-

ger, and at such times as the river was swollen so that teams could not ford it, he used to swim across and go on foot to procure the mail, and on returning, when he reached the river he would tie the letters and papers in a bundle and attaching a stone thereto would throw the bundle across and then swim across and deliver the mail to those to whom it was directed. The news in those times was fully appreciated by all who were so fortunate as to have letters from friends.

The first celebration of independence in Steele County was held at Owatonna, on the 4th of July, 1856. The grounds used were near the present site of the Congregational Church. Some arrangement had been made with Mr. and Mrs. N. Winship to get up a dinner, and it was served at Morford's old building, a temporary one which had been erected. A rich feast was the result. After they got the crowd together it was found that there was no music, and not an instrument in town that anyone could play; so David Lindersmith's wife was sent for, and he took the place of a brass band and led the crowd while they marched in procession through the few streets in the village. Judge Donaldson acted as marshal of the day. H. M. Sheetz, the orator of the day, read the declaration and delivered an address. An enjoyable time was had. The attendance numbered about 150 persons from the village and surrounding country.

The second celebration was held in 1857. It was a genuine basket-picnic affair. F. J. Stevens, of Meriden Township, was the orator of the day.

In 1859 another enjoyable celebration was held at Owatonna on the 4th of July. It was a picnic gathering. The intention was to hold it out of doors, but the weather turned out so cold that it was adjourned to J. W. Morford's building, now occupied by Rosebrook's store, which was just being finished. Overcoats and winter clothing were very comfortable, and flakes of snow even

fell. The orators were Hon. W. R. Kinyon, Elder Cady and Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Sheetz. Quite a discussion was had over the free-soil or abolition question.

STAGE AND MAIL ROUTES.

During the winter of 1854-5 Congress, for the purpose of aiding in the establishment of western mail routes, granted for that purpose one section of land for every twenty miles of route operated, under certain conditions. Of course the stage companies at once prepared to take advantage of this, and stations were established on these sections—twenty miles apart. The first stage run through Owatonna was from St. Paul south. This was late in 1855. Owatonna was the terminus for a time. A postoffice had been established at Medford, but the mail sacks were not opened at Owatonna until later.

In the winter of 1855-6, or late in the fall of 1855, as is claimed by some of the old settlers, stages commenced running west from Winona carrying mail on west to St. Peter. The first mail bag that went to the latter place contained one letter—of greeting from the postmaster at Winona to the one at St. Peter. Stages were not really put on for passenger travel until 1856, and after that they were run regularly. The manager was a man named Lord, who lived in Winona and who, as a rule, drove the stage himself. The route extended from Winona west, through Owatonna and other points to Travers des Sioux or St. Peter. The first stage arrived here from the east, during the last week in September, 1855.

A station was located on section 6, near the northwest corner of Owatonna Township. Stages were run weekly to St. Peter and return to Winona.

In 1856 M. O. Walker, succeeding Lord, became proprietor of the stage line, and his name became a familiar one in almost every settlement in the northwest. This stage line continued in operation until the railroad reached Owatonna in 1866, and then moved westward, followed closely by the lines of

railway. Walker at one period, in 1857-8, became badly involved in debt. He owned many different lines of stages, and, as the financial crash, which came at about this time, checked travel, many of these lines did not pay expenses. Often the agents or drivers were unable to pay bills for repairs and keeping contracted along the route, and it seems several of this character were run up in Owatonna. Finally papers were got out and placed in the hands of the sheriff, who was instructed to attach Walker's horses as they drove through, and this procedure was repeated many times, the sheriff often having from ten to fifteen of Walker's horses in his charge. Yet it was sometimes a difficult matter to attach the teams. The stages carried United States mail, and so long as a mail-sack remained in the wagon, the sheriff dare not attach the team for fear of violating the United States statutes in detaining the mails or obstructing the route. Ordinarily the sheriff would stand behind the corner of the house, and as soon as the sack was carried into the postoffice he would walk out and claim the team. The carriers got so they would watch for this and would get a sack on just as soon as one was taken off. Walker would invariably pay his bills after a short delay, and then matters would move on smoothly until the next creditor would swear out an attachment. In 1859 Nichols & Wheeler became proprietors of the stage line. They continued it for about four years, when it was purchased by Burbank & Co. who operated it until the railroad came in 1866. A north and south stage line was also put in operation at an early day.

With the beginning of 1856 stages arrived regularly on this line, which was then operated by Brackett & Co. Williamson & Cotter succeeded them and operated the line until the railroad was built through. Philo Finch, of Clinton Falls, was one of the drivers on this route for Williamson & Cotter. They also had a station every twenty miles, located on the lands which they claimed under the grant. They located a town called Oak Glen in Steele County, on section 1, in what is now Blooming Prairie Township, and laid plans for the erection of a city. This line continued in active operation until the railway was put through in 1866-7. The proposed city never succeeded in getting a fair start, and when the railroad reached this locality the village of Blooming Prairie was laid out on section 25, in the same township, and Oak Glen became a thing of the past.

In 1856 a mail route was established from Owatonna to Geneva, and E. C. Stacy was the first to operate it. Nathaniel Winship next got the contract and continued to run it for four years. The mail was carried sometimes with a buggy, again on horseback and frequently on foot. Hugh Murray is remembered as having footed it across the country with the mail on his back.

As early as 1857 a mail route was established from Red Wing to Blue Earth City, and Philo Hawes became the carrier. Part of the time he was in company with a partner under the firm name of Cotter & Hawes. This was continued until about the time the railroads were completed to this point.



CHAPTER IV.

ORGANIZATION, COUNTY LINES, AND COUNTY NAME.

ORGANIZATION.



STEELE COUNTY was created February 20, 1855, at the sixth session of the territorial legislature, which was held in St. Paul. Up to that time the territory now comprising it, together with many other counties in southern and southeastern Minnesota, formed a part of Rice County. When Steele was set off as a county it was provided that it should remain attached to Rice for civil and judicial purposes. The territory it then embraced included all of the present county of Waseca together with the two western tier of townships in Steele. The eastern tiers of townships of Steele, as now formed, was then a part of Dodge County. The new county was named "Steele" in honor of Franklin Steele, of St. Anthony, a government contractor and a man of prominence in early days, who took an active interest in State politics, and made a large fortune early in the history of the State.

The settlement in the territory from which Steele was created was only fairly commenced at that time, as will be seen by reading other chapters in this volume. A few settlers had gathered about Medford, a few at Owatonna, and a scattering settler here and there throughout the balance of the county comprised its population at that time. During the early part of the year 1855, a great many additions were made to the various settlements. In the meantime

the Abbotts—Ezra and John II.—had become interested here and in connection with A. B. Cornell and Wm. F. Pettit were laying the foundation for the future city of Owatonna. In the summer the plans for county organization were matured very quietly and in secret by the town proprietors of Owatonna, and parties went to St. Paul to see the territorial governor, Willis A. Gorman. A. B. Cornell was the prime mover in the matter. No petition was got up, nor were the settlers generally cognizant of the proposed attempt at organization, or they would undoubtedly have insisted upon having a hand in the matter, and having something to say as to who should be county officers. Cornell, together with a few others, got 'Squire Pierce to accompany them, and, when in the presence of the governor, Mr. Cornell asked that the county be organized, and presented a list of gentlemen for officers. The governor, a frank, whole-souled fellow, thought this was the desire of the citizens here and acceded. 'Squire Pierce until then had no knowledge of the scheme, but he said he could not go back upon Cornell at that time, so he kept quiet and the governor took him for one of the schemers. Afterward, some of the citizens here, meeting Gorman at Faribault, took him to task for his actions, and the governor was very wrathful, but it was too late—Steele was organized and he could not disorganize it. The result of this visit was the appointment of S. B. Smith, F. Ingram and F. W. Fisk as commissioners to

organize Steele County. Several of the county offices were filled by appointment at the same time, although it has been impossible to find records which give a full list. The old settlers nearly all agree, however, that Charles Ellison was appointed register of deeds; Simeon Case, prosecuting attorney; Smith Johnson, judge of probate; J. H. Catlin, clerk of court, and Wm. F. Pettit, sheriff.

This all took place in the summer of 1855. The same fall, on the 9th of October, a general election was held for State officers, only one county officer being elected—William F. Pettit, sheriff. At this election everyone voted—whether they had been here one month or six—and there were about 117 votes polled in the county. It is impossible at this time to learn why only one county officer (sheriff) should have been elected, and some of the oldest and best-posted of the old settlers claim that it is a mistake; others that it was merely a joke, yet as the records show it, this was the first election ever held in the county. The polling place at Owatonna was in the old log schoolhouse, or rather, a temporary structure of logs and brush, which stood near where the second ward school-building is now located. Dr. E. M. Morehouse was one of the clerks of this election, and D. B. Selleck one of the judges. At that time there was a good deal of rivalry between Owatonna and Medford, as each wanted to make as good a showing as possible. At this election Smith Johnson, Dr. Finch and Isaac Sanborn came to Owatonna to watch the polls and prevent fraud, and they soon began challenging votes. At this, Cornell and Pettit got them aside and while they were arguing, the word went out to the boys to file in and vote. One party who attended claims that there were fifty-three illegal votes polled inside of thirty minutes. The difficulty between the two localities was not particularly relating to the county-seat but more of a local jealousy or rivalry to get the start in a business sense.

It cited that when the Owatonna people were endeavoring to get a postoffice it was blocked by the Medford postmaster, Smith Johnson, Sr., refusing to sign the petition. The law in those days required that a petition for a postoffice *must* be signed by the nearest postmaster. Medford had secured the establishment of a post-office first, and for a long time Mr. Johnson refused to sign the Owatonna petition.

Whether all of the county officers appointed by the governor in the summer of 1855 qualified or not, is impossible to say, yet it is known that many of them did. In July, 1856, the following is a list of the county officers who were serving, although how some of them came to hold the offices cannot be told. The list is taken from a copy of the *Watchman and Register*, dated July 29, 1856.

County commissioners: Samuel B. Smith, William Allen and Melmer P. Ide.

Register of deeds, Charles Ellison.

Sheriff, William F. Pettit.

Treasurer, David Sanborn.

Surveyor, John W. Park.

Clerk of court, F. Wilbur Fisk.

District attorney, John M. Blivin.

Judge of probate, Franklin B. Davis.

Assessors: David Lindersmith, Charles Thompson and Luke Osgood.

Supervisor of roads, David Lindersmith.

Justices of the peace: Addison Phelps and Seymour Howe for Owatonna precinct; Sylvester McNitt for Franklin; Smith Johnson, Sr., for Medford; Simeon Smith for Swavesey; and Curtis Hatch and J. A. Bassett for Empire.

Official matters moved along smoothly during this year, 1855-6. It appears that all deeds and official instruments were still being recorded in Rice County for some reason, and Steele County books were not opened for the reception of these instruments until in the autumn of 1856.

Late in the summer of 1856 a convention was held at Owatonna for the nomination

of officers, and a heated campaign followed, in which all hands throughout what is now Steele and Waseca Counties took an active part. The county-seat question was not the leading issue, as has been stated in several previously published histories, but it was more particularly over the question as to who should be leaders; as one old settler puts it, it was "Cornell" or "anti-Cornell." Cornell was certainly quite an apt hand to stir up animosities and strife. He was active and energetic, unsparing to a foe, and was for "Cornell, first, last and all the time." This convention was called a "People's Convention," and was not particularly partisan, or in favor of any exclusive political party. In fact, creeds were hard to distinguish in those days. Cornell was nominated for the legislature, and was defeated at the polls by Rev. O. A. Thomas. James Connell was nominated for register of deeds, but Charles Ellison came out as an independent candidate and got Connell to withdraw. Park defeated Ellison at the polls. David Lindersmith was nominated for sheriff; David Sanborn for treasurer; J. Bradish, of the present Waseca County, for attorney; H. W. Peck, one of the proprietors of the town of Empire in what is now in Waseca County, for surveyor; J. M. Blivin, of Swavesey Township for coroner; and Ezra Abbott for superintendent of schools. No convention was held to put an anti-Cornell ticket in the field, but the leading "anties" got together, and opposing candidates were announced for all of the offices, and in some cases half a dozen for each. G. W. Green led the opposition in what is now Steele County, while Lewis McCune and James E. Child, in what is now Waseca County, took an active part in opposing Cornell in the west end. Child was an able man, and directed his work chiefly against Cornell for representative and Ellison for register of deeds. The latter was something of a chameleon as to his political faith and a little inclined to change with whomever he

was talking with. Mr. Child wrote a poem relating to this, in which was the following verse:

Mr. Ellison, Esquire,
 You ought to look higher
 Than to think of registering deeds.
 The people up here
 Feel desperately queer
 To know your political creed."

The vote was badly split up as will be seen by the official vote published in another chapter. A. B. Cornell and J. H. Abbott, in the meantime — in July, 1856, — had established a paper at Owatonna, under the name of the *Watchman and Register* and this took an active part in the campaign.

On the 14th of October, 1856, the election came off. It was the first election of county officers. The offices were all filled as follows: Register of deeds, John W. Park; sheriff, David Lindersmith; treasurer, David Sanborn; judge of probate, Bazil Meek; district attorney, Geo. W. Green; surveyor, H. W. Peck; coroner, Thomas Kenyon; auditor, Z. B. Moore; superintendent of schools, Ezra Abbott; for assessors Geo. O. Hankerson, P. Sanford, P. Healey, James E. Child, L. B. Town and John A. Headley all received votes; county commissioners, David Smith, N. Winship and William Allen.

On the 1st of August, 1855, the board of commissioners met for the first time and the organization of Steel County was perfected, the county-seat being located at Owatonna. Since that time the official history of the county has been uneventful. The various offices have almost without a single exception always been filled by capable and honest men, and the thread of history runs smoothly and without interruption down to the present day. Elsewhere in this volume we trace all the prominent acts of the various gentlemen who have filled the offices, together with a full history of the board of county commissioners, with their acts and a list of members in the various years since the county was organized.

COUNTY LINES.

Even before the organization of Steele County it became apparent to the settlers at Owatonna that the boundaries of the county were arranged disadvantageous to the interests of the embryo city. The county, when first created, embraced twenty congressional townships—i. e., all of Waseca County and the eight western townships of the present county of Steele. This arrangement left Owatonna in the northeast corner of the county, three miles from the east and seven from the north line of the county. It was evident that this was not the point to be readily chosen as the county-seat, and it would be difficult, as years went by and settlement increased, to keep the county-seat at a point so far from the geographical center of the county. Even then there were other points springing up at various places, and were becoming active rivals for county-seat honors. Wilton had a splendid location and John C. Ide was already putting up a hotel and sawmill and attracting considerable attention toward that point. A village called Meriden, in the present township of that name, was much nearer the geographical center of the county than Owatonna, and a number of capable men had located there and were actively advancing the interests of

that location. Beside these a number of other points were springing up which constantly menaced the future of Owatonna's county-seat interests. After the county was organized, in August, 1855, and from that time through the following months the matter was occasionally discussed and finally a plan was matured which proved a success in settling the matter favorably to Owatonna's interests. It was to have one tier of townships set off from Dodge County and attached to Steele; and then to detach the western half of Steele County and organize that as Waseca County. This suited Mantonville, as they had been located too far east, and it gave Wilton a chance to become the county-seat of Waseca County. In February, 1856, an act was passed by the legislature making the desired change, and townships 105, 106, 107 and 108, range 19, became a part of Steele County. On the 27th of February, 1857, an act was passed by the legislature creating Waseca County, and located the county-seat of the new county at Wilton. This arranged the lines as they remain at the present time, and ended all trouble as to county lines, settling a matter which up to that time had been an absorbing topic for the citizens in the territory affected.



CHAPTER V.

HISTORY OF THE COUNTY'S GOVERNMENT.



THE first meeting of the board of county commissioners appointed by the governor was held on the 1st day of August, 1855, at the house of A. B. Cornell, on the present site of Owatonna. The opening sentence of the record is as follows: "Agreeable to direction from the Governor of the territory of Minnesota, the board met at the house of A. B. Cornell, and, after taking the oath, proceeded to organize the county by appointing S. B. Smith chairman of the board. The first work of the board was to divide the county into townships, or precincts, as they were then called — three in number — which they named Owatonna, Swavesey and LeSeuer, only the first named of which embraced territory now included in Steele County, the other two embracing the territory now forming Waseca County. It was also ordered that the seat of justice of Steele County be located at Owatonna, on the southeast quarter of section 9, township 107, range 20. The board at that time consisted of S. B. Smith, chairman, F. Ingram and F. W. Fisk, although the last named does not appear to have attended this meeting. From the record this appears to have been all that was accomplished at the first meeting. Charles Ellison was clerk of the board, and A. B. Cornell, deputy. On the 25th of August, 1855, a special meeting of the board was held, at which Medford Township was set off from Owatonna, and its organization was authorized.

The first county roads to be acted upon

were considered on the 17th of October, 1855. They were as follows: "One from Owatonna to the county line in the direction of Drake's"; one from the east county line in the direction of Mankato, and "one from Owatonna to the county line near Ralph Stout's." Sylvester McNitt and Henry A. Catlin were appointed to view and report on the last mentioned road, "with the understanding that they were to make no charge to the county for such services." At this same meeting the vote of Steele County (election on October 9, 1855) was canvassed, the canvassers being Addison Phelps and J. Jenkins, justices of the peace, and Charles Ellison, clerk of the board of county commissioners.

At the next meeting, on the 10th of November, 1855, the newly-elected board of county commissioners held their first meeting. The board was composed of S. B. Smith, chairman, F. W. Fisk and John H. Abbott.

On the 7th of April, 1856, the county was divided into assessors' districts, and a short time later Benjamin L. Arnold, James E. Child and Wilbur Fisk were appointed county assessors.

In April, of the same year, the finances of the county were clearly shown by the following statement: "An order was presented to the board by John W. Park, for services as road viewer and county surveyor, to the amount of \$29. The condition of the finances of the county is as follows: *County in debt, \$29.*"

At this same meeting Franklin Township was organized, and several changes made in the townships lying in what is now Waseca County.

In April, 1856, the first list of grand and petit jurors was drawn by the board of county commissioners, as follows :

Grand Jurors: Joseph Smith, Andrew I. Bell, A. B. Cornell, Michael Johnson, Curtis Hatch, Hiram Jenkins, Samuel Drake, Samuel F. Wyman, M. P. Ide, Samuel M. Freeman, Orlando Bartholomew, John Sanborn, Alfred M. U. Sanborn, C. W. Curtis, A. L. Wright, Wm. W. Arnold, Avery W. Adams, Geo. W. Patridge, Lewis Howard, Smith Johnson, Sr., David Lindersmith, Seymour Howe, B. L. Arnold, P. Carlton, W. W. Finch, A. Selleek, Dexter Carlton, Ralph Kenyon, John H. Abbott, Geo. W. Drew, Henry A. Catlin, Basil Meek, Sr., Abram Fitzsimmons, Sylvester McNitt, N. Winship, Rev. Thomas, Mr. Adair, Sr., Lorenzo Muckey, John Jenkins, S. M. Case, John W. Park, A. Phelps, Wm. Allen, F. B. Davis, Luther Huntley, Rev. A. Town, Wm. W. Robinson, Wm. Burns, W. R. Fisk, James E. Child.

Petit Jurors: G. O. Hankerson, Benj. A. Freeman, W. K. Colling, Henry C. Gilman, Francis S. Adams, Philip Smith, D. B. Kimball, Ralph Stout, Mr. Lane, Mr. Strong, Smith Johnson, Jr., Wallace W. Wilkins, Levi J. Morehouse, Nelson Morehouse, Eli M. Morehouse, P. Sanford, E. S. Hays, D. B. Selleek, L. F. Case, Phillip Miller, John Duckering, M. I. Prisby, L. B. Town, John W. Catlin, Welcom Curtis, Henrick Rumhose, Hiram Robinson, Hobart Hutehinson, Chas. Ellison, Robt. McDougall, I. N. Kelly, Jos. W. Bureh, Hiram Greenwold, F. Newland, T. Dennis, L. Town, Joel Wilson, I. M. Sanborn, Geo. W. Squires, Benjamin Scott, S. Thompson, Clinton Simmons, Emmons Reed, Daniel Poole, John Truesdale, Wm. Knapp, Moses Rivard, Francis Judd, Fletcher Dubois, Mr. Miller, Mr. Adams, Wm. McCarty, W. K. Colling, John Wilcox, G. G. Files, Mr. Keys, T. Johnson, David Jenkins, Frederick Shaw, James McNitt, Ashley Harris, Thos. G. Meek, Jephtha Town, James Overstreet, John Moon, Joseph Wag-

ner, L. E. Thompson, F. W. Bliss, Asa B. Sutliff, Basil Meek, Jr., Abram Barnhard, John Hortop, Jr.

On the 7th of July, 1856, a meeting of the board was held at the store of Adolphus Town, in Owatonna, and the record shows the names of S. B. Smith, chairman, William Allen and Melmer P. Ide as composing it. David Lindersmith, Levi Thompson and L. B. Osgood were appointed to assess the county.* It was also ordered that the county officers should hold their offices open at the county-seat, and that the board would provide a place in the store of Park & Smith for the county treasurer.

For the year 1857 the members of the board of commissioners consisted of Nathaniel Winship, of Owatonna, chairman; Wm. Allen, of Medford, and David Smith. At their first meeting, in 1857, this board resolved that the offices of clerk of court and county treasurer should be held at the office of John W. Park, and that the sheriff's office should be kept at his house.

The finances of the county are again shown up at the January meeting of the board in 1857, when the following sentence appears on the records: "*Finances of the county—in debt.*"

The second drawing of jurors occurred at the April session, 1857, when the list was made up as follows :

Grand Jurors: John A. Hadley, Franklin B. Davis, Chas. W. Curtis, Henry Magird, J. A. Goodwin, E. G. Sturgiss, Wallace W. Wilkin, John H. Abbott, B. L. Arnold, Joel Wilson, N. Breidenstein, Thomas Thomson, Robt. Adair, Dexter Carlton, Wm. F. Pettit, Alson Selleek, R. A. Page, Luke Colburn, Robt. McDonald, W. H. Chamberlain, H. C. Gilman, L. H. Lane, W. G. Allen, Nelson Skivring, A. B. Thompson, Addison Phelps, Ezra Abbott, C. B. Pettie, G. W. Grimshaw, Smith Johnson, John D.

* This assessment all fell through as illegal, from the fact that only one of them, David Lindersmith, made his report within the time allowed by law.—EDITOR.

Sanborn, Luke B. Osgood, John H. Wheeler, Luther Huntley.

Petit Jurors: James W. Adams, John Q. Swanger, John A. Pierce, Charles McCarty, D. A. Kimball, Lorenzo Muckey, Geo. O. Hankerson, Elijah Brown, B. A. Freeman, Wm. Runalls, Samuel Ring, L. F. Case, Hugh Burns, L. B. Towns, John Moon, Christopher Dickinson, Jonathan Howell, L. P. Stowell, C. L. Lowell, Thos. J. Kerr, Hugh McDougall, Wm. Wells, W. W. Hankerson, Ralph R. Stout, Geo. Strong, Jas. Overstreet, James Shipley, Hiram Greenud, P. P. Carlton, John Wilcox, E. Eldred, Simeon Case, G. G. Tiles, Lucius Town, Wm. Webster, Edward Fay, John B. Douglas, Frederick Roberts, Chas. Green, Isaac C. Pierce, John Oliver, Francis F. Adams, Samuel Morrison, Avery W. Adams, Alfred H. Sanborn, Ashley Harris, Chas. McHenry, Asa Carpenter, A. L. Wright, Orlando Bartholomew, G. H. Partridge, Thos. Huntley, Simeon Smith, E. K. Carlton, Wm. Donclson, A. I. Bell, P. Q. Horton, A. R. Wilson, Wm. J. Moon, Geo. Leorang, Patrick Healey, John Adair, H. W. Hutchinson, A. P. Peterson, Marcus Seymour, D. B. Selleck, Sylvester McNitt, Christopher Hayes.

In July, 1857, from the records it appears that the board was composed of N. Winship, chairman; William Allen, of Medford, and A. A. Woodward, of Somerset. In October William Allen resigned.

In October of the same year, Geo. W. Green resigned the office of district attorney, and Sylvanus Yearly was appointed.

In January, 1858, the board for the ensuing year met and organized by the election of Nathaniel Winship, of Owatonna, chairman. The other members were Hiram Pitcher, of Berlin, and Lorenzo Muckey, of Medford.

On the 5th of June, 1858, John W. Park resigned the office of register of deeds and M. A. Dailey was appointed his successor.

On the same date David Sanborn, the county treasurer, made a statement of the

financial condition of the county for the year, as follows :

Total amount received.....	\$1,364 10
Total paid out.....	\$765 74
Balance on hand.....	598 36
	\$1,364 10

The outstanding indebtedness of the county, January 6, 1858, was \$2,129.69.

April 6, 1858, the county was rearranged as to townships. This matter receives attention in another chapter.

During the winter of 1857-8, the system of county government was changed, the legislature having abolished the board of county commissioners and created the board of supervisors. Under this new system the board consisted of one member from each organized township—the chairman of each of the township boards. The first meeting under the new law was held on the 14th of September, 1858. The following were the members from the various townships in the county :

Medford.....	Franklin B. Davis
Clinton Falls.....	Geo. W. Green
Deerfield.....	John H. Morse
Owatonna.....	Wm. F. Pettit
Lafayette.....	Amos Norton
Meriden.....	Walter Stebbins
Union Prairie.....	Levi E. Thompson
Aurora.....	Simeon Osborn, Jr.
Somerset.....	T. C. Minthorn
Lemond.....	Samuel M. Hastings
Summit.....	Hiram Fredenburgh
Berlin.....	Charles Brown

Geo. W. Green was elected chairman of the board and M. A. Dailey, clerk.

At this session of the board the names of Lafayette and Union Prairie Townships were changed to Freeman and Orion, respectively.

The law creating the office of county auditor had gone into effect, and in October, 1858, A. McKinney had been elected to fill it, but there arose some question as to the legality of the election, M. A. Dailey contesting, and on February 9, 1859, the contest was decided by the board choosing Mr.

Dailey, who was at that time acting as clerk of the board, or auditor.

The second annual session of the board of supervisors began on the 13th of September, 1859, when an organization was effected by the election of George W. Green to the chair. The following comprise a list of the members:

Owatonna, George B. Hall; Medford, F. B. Davis; Deerfield, J. H. Morse; Meriden, F. J. Stevens; Aurora, George W. Grimshaw; Summit, H. Fredenburgh; Clinton Falls, George W. Green; Orion, L. E. Thompson; Dover, S. H. Patterson; Somerset, Thomas Thompson; Lemond, S. M. Hastings; Berlin, I. W. Crosby.

In October, 1859, the board of equalization arranged the assessment of the county. The real estate in the various townships was assessed as follows:

TOWNSHIPS.	No. of Acres.	Assessed Value per Acre.
Medford	9,036	\$4.07
Owatonna	18,875	3.50
Clinton Falls	8,307	2.95
Dover	11,655	2.59
Orion	13,013	2.63
Meriden	16,828	2.80
Somerset	11,901	1.87
Summit	6,534	1.98
Berlin	7,392	1.98
Aurora	15,923	1.95
Deerfield	12,345	1.99
Lemond	10,105	1.96
	14,1919	

On the 6th of February, 1860, Frank L. Melvin, who had in the meantime been elected county auditor, resigned, and the board appointed M. A. Dailey to fill the vacancy.

In the winter of 1859-60 the legislature again changed the system of county government, abolishing the board of supervisors and re-establishing the board of county commissioners, which was to consist of three members, or five when the population of the county should warrant it. The first meeting under the change was held on the 17th of May, 1860, when H. Fredenburgh

and F. J. Stevens were present as members. Mr. Fredenburgh was elected chairman.

In June, 1860, the county was divided into commissioners' districts, as follows: No. 1 included Medford, Deerfield, Clinton Falls and Orion. No. 2 included Owatonna, Meriden and Dover. No. 3, Aurora, Somerset, Lemond, Oak Glen, Summit and Berlin. The board for 1860 was composed of H. Fredenburgh, of Summit, chairman; L. E. Thompson, of Orion, and F. J. Stevens, of Meriden.

In 1861 the members of the board were N. Winship, of Owatonna, chairman; George C. Pettie, of Aurora; and W. P. Francis, of Medford.

When the board met for the first time in 1862, Alex. Chambers, of Owatonna, was chosen chairman. The associate members were H. Fredenburgh, of Summit, and Benjamin F. Melvin, of Medford. At the January session in this year the name of Orion Township was changed, first to Lyon and then to Merton. In the spring of 1862 the educational system was changed, and the county was divided into districts for the supervision of the schools. In September, 1862, the board of commissioners appointed a school superintendent for each of these districts, as follows: first district, R. G. Lincoln; second district, Harvey Chapin; third district, Dwight Gordon.

For 1863 the *en personnel* of the board was the same as during the previous year. On the 5th of November, 1863, W. Morris resigned the offices of county auditor and register of deeds. The board appointed A. N. Stoughton county auditor; and Charles S. Crandall, register of deeds.

In 1864 the board of county commissioners met for their first session on the first Monday in January, and organized by re-electing Alex. Chambers chairman. The other two members were H. Fredenburgh and B. F. Melvin. Mr. Melvin resigned January 18, and F. B. Davis was appointed to fill the vacancy. An act was approved March 3,

1864, changing the school system again, and in accordance with this the board appointed A. A. Harwood superintendent of schools for the entire county and fixed the salary at \$200 per year.

When the board met in January, 1865, it was composed of Alex. Chambers, of Owatonna, chairman; A. J. Abbott, of Medford, and H. Fredenburgh, of Summit. Mr. Abbott resigned in January of the same year and Henry Maw, of Merton, was appointed to fill the vacancy. In May, 1865, S. H. Patterson resigned the office of sheriff and William Scriby was appointed by the board to act until the general election following.

In 1866 the following gentlemen comprised the board: Alex. Chambers, of Owatonna, chairman; H. Fredenburgh, of Summit, and O. Bartholomew, of Medford.

The board for 1867 was as follows: H. Fredenburgh, of Summit, chairman; O. Bartholomew, of Medford, and George B. Hall, of Owatonna. Among the first matters acted upon by this board was to set off and authorize the organization of Oak Glen (now Blooming Prairie) Township.

In 1868 the board was composed of George B. Hall, of Owatonna, chairman; O. Bartholomew, of Medford; and D. T. Gordon, of Berlin. In January of this year F. J. Stevens was appointed county superintendent of schools, and in September he was reappointed for the year commencing January 1, 1869.

In 1869 the board of county commissioners consisted of George B. Hall, of Owatonna, chairman; D. T. Gordon, of Berlin; and L. H. Lane, of Merton Township. In January, 1869, the record states that M. J. Toher resigned the office of sheriff and Ferdinand Borchert was appointed. It appears that Borchert had been elected sheriff as Frank Borchert instead of Ferdinand, and to cover any possible technical difficulty Mr. Toher, his predecessor, resigned and the board then appointed Mr. Borchert.

During this year—1869—the board was increased to five instead of three members.

The board redistricted the county on the 10th of September, 1869.

In 1870 the board was composed of George B. Hall, chairman; D. T. Gordon, of Berlin; L. H. Lane, of Merton; G. W. Buffum of Clinton Falls; and Frank Chambers, of Havana. On the 11th of March of this year it was decided to submit to the voters of the county the question of issuing county bonds to the amount of \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting a county jail.

In 1871 the board organized by the election of L. H. Lane, of Merton, chairman; the other members were George B. Hall, of Owatonna; G. W. Buffum, of Clinton Falls; Hugh Murray, of Lemond; and Frank Chambers, of Havana. On the 8th of June, this year, Charles Dinijes resigned the office of county surveyor and the board appointed James M. Finch to fill the vacancy.

For the year 1872 the board was made up of the following named: G. W. Buffum, of Clinton Falls, chairman; George B. Hall, of Owatonna; Hugh Murray, of Lemond; G. O. Hankerson, of Medford; and Henry H. Mitchell, of Aurora.

In 1873, when the board first met, it was composed of the following members: George B. Hall, of Owatonna, chairman; George O. Hankerson, of Medford; Hugh Murray, of Lemond; H. H. Mitchell, of Aurora; and G. W. Buffum, of Clinton Falls. On the 23d of June, 1873, H. H. Mitchell resigned and E. Stapleton, of Aurora, was appointed to fill the vacancy. It appears that at about this time the name of Oak Glen Township was changed to Blooming Prairie, although no entry of the change seems to have been made on the records.

In 1874 the board met for the first time on the 6th of January, being composed of the following members: G. W. Buffum, of Clinton Falls, chairman; G. B. Hall, of Owatonna; Hugh Murray, of Lemond; G. O. Hankerson, of Medford; and H. A. Gleason, of Blooming Prairie.

On the 5th of January, 1875, the board

organized with the following membership: Geo. B. Hall, of Owatonna, chairman; A. B. Clark, of Blooming Prairie; J. A. Oppliger, of Owatonna; John H. Morse, of Deerfield; and Hugh Murray, of Lemond. On the 6th of January Hugh Murray presented his resignation, and J. O. Waumett, of Meriden, was appointed by a board, which, according to law, consisted of the county auditor, judge of probate and register of deeds.

January 4, 1876, at the regular annual meeting, Geo. B. Hall, of Owatonna, was elected chairman, the associate members being A. B. Clark, of Blooming Prairie; John H. Morse, of Deerfield; E. L. Scoville, of Meriden; and John Q. Ellis, of Owatonna. January 6, Rev. George C. Tanner was appointed county superintendent of schools for the ensuing year.

The following were the members of the board for the year 1877: George B. Hall, chairman; A. B. Clark, of Blooming Prairie; J. O. Waumett, of Meriden; John H. Morse, of Deerfield; and John Q. Ellis, of Owatonna. In March of this year it was again decided to submit to the voters the question of issuing \$10,000 bonds of the county for the purpose of erecting a jail, as the project had been unsuccessful before. This time the matter was accomplished, and at the next meeting, on June 25, the chairman of the board was authorized to issue bonds of the county in that amount. This loan was negotiated through Dr. McCutcheon, of Faribault. The bonds were to bear interest at the rate of 9 per cent and were payable in one and two years.

On New Year's day, the board met in annual session for 1878. At this time it was composed of John Q. Ellis, of Owatonna, chairman; Geo. B. Hall, of Owatonna; John O. Waumett, of Meriden; W. P. Francis, of Medford; and Andrew Erdmann, of Havana.

In 1879 the board consisted of John Q. Ellis, of Owatonna, chairman; W. P. Francis,

of Medford; A. Erdmann, of Havana; J. O. Waumett, of Meriden; and E. Donaldson, of Owatonna.

In 1880 the following were members of the board of commissioners: J. Q. Ellis, chairman; Andreas Erdmann, of Havana; W. P. Francis, of Medford; E. Donaldson, of Owatonna; and Oscar Murphy, of Lemond. In March, 1880, a committee, consisting of Commissioners Erdmann, Francis and Murphy, was appointed to view sites and report on the advisability of the county's purchasing a poor farm. This, however, did not seem to aid in arriving at a conclusion, for in January, 1881, Commissioners Murphy and Eggleston were appointed a committee to look into the same matter.

The following were members of the board in 1881: J. Q. Ellis, of Owatonna, chairman; Oscar Murphy, of Lemond; Edward Donaldson, of Owatonna; Jesse Healey, of Somerset; and W. A. Eggleston, of Merton. In July of this year the county was redivided into commissioners' districts, as follows: First district to embrace Meriden, Lemond, Berlin and Summit; second district, Havana, Somerset, Aurora and Blooming Prairie; third district, Deerfield, Medford, Merton and Clinton Falls; fourth district, Owatonna Township and second ward of the city; fifth district, first, third and fourth wards of the city. Commissioner Donaldson presented a minority report opposing this change in commissioners' districts, in which he stated "that the only apparent advantage gained was a political one."

The board for 1882, which convened in annual session on January 3, was composed of John Q. Ellis, of Owatonna, chairman; Oscar Murphy, of Lemond; W. A. Eggleston, of Merton; Jesse Healey, of Somerset; and H. Schmidt, of Owatonna. Early in February Mr. Ellis died and Elias Scannel was appointed commissioner to fill the vacancy. On February 15 Oscar Murphy was elected chairman for the balance of the year.

During the year 1883 the following gen-

tlemeu made up the board of commissioners : Oscar Murphy, of Lemond, chairman ; Jesse Healey, of Somerset ; W. A. Eggleston, of Merton ; H. Schmidt, of Owatonna ; and Elias Scannel, of Owatonna.

On the 1st of January, 1884, the board again met in annual session, being then composed of the following members : Oscar Murphy, of Lemond, chairman ; E. Scannel, of Owatonna ; H. Schmidt, of Owatonna ; Jesse Healey, of Somerset ; and C. M. Finch, of Clinton Falls. At this time the board decided to submit to the voters of the county the question of issuing bonds of Steele County in the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of erecting a court house. It was to be submitted at the next general election. In January, 1884, the county coroner removed from the county and the board appointed Dr. J. L. Harrington to fill the vacancy so caused.

In January, 1885, Oscar Murphy, of Lemond, was again elected chairman, his associates being Jesse Healey, of Somerset ; C.

M. Finch, of Clinton Falls ; G. W. Kinyon, of Owatonna Township ; and L. L. Bennett, of Owatonna city.

The board of commissioners for 1886 was composed of Oscar Murphy, of Lemond, chairman ; Jesse Healey, of Somerset ; C. M. Finch, of Clinton Falls ; G. W. Kinyon, of Owatonna Township ; and L. L. Bennett, of Owatonna city.

For the present year — 1887 — the following gentlemen comprise the county board : Herman Schmidt, of Owatonna, chairman ; John Virtue, of Clinton Falls ; H. L. Zwienner, of Blooming Prairie ; Theo. Chambers, of Berlin ; and G. W. Kinyon, of Owatonna Township. In January, 1887, Rev. G. C. Tanner resigned the office of county superintendent of schools, and J. D. Brown was appointed.

This completes the history of the board of county commissioners, and gives a full and complete list of the members, interwoven with a brief mention of their most interesting actions.



CHAPTER VI.

CREATION AND ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS.



WHEN Steele County was organized in August, 1855, as has already been stated, it embraced all of the territory now forming Waseca County, and the two western tiers of townships now included in Steele. On the first day of August, 1855, the board of county commissioners met for the first time, and their first work was to divide the county into townships, or precincts, as they were then called.* The territory which now comprises Waseca County was divided into two townships—Swavesey and LeSeuer—and the later changes of boundaries of these are given at length elsewhere in this volume. Only one township was created in what is now Steele County. This was named Owatonna. It embraced all of the county as it was then formed, or all of the present county except the east tier of townships—Merton, Havana, Aurora and Blooming Prairie, which then formed a part of Dodge County. In Owatonna Township it was ordered that the first township meeting should be held at the schoolhouse in Owatonna, and Dexter Carlton, Obed Gaines and Leonard F. Case were appointed judges of the first election.

On the 25th of August, 1855, Medford Township was created, comprising the territory now included in the townships of Medford, Clinton Falls and Deerfield (town 108, ranges 20 and 21), which had been included up to that time in Owatonna Town-

ship. The first meeting was to be held at the house of William Colling, "on the west side of the road leading to Owatonna," and F. F. Adams, William Allen and Orlando Bartholomew were appointed judges of the first election.

In this shape the county remained until the meeting of the board on the 7th of April, 1856, when, in addition to several changes being made in the territory now comprising Waseca County, Franklin Township was created, embracing township 108, range 19, and the east half of township 108, range 20—thus taking eighteen sections from Medford Township. It was also ordered that Owatonna Township should comprise all of the county south to the township line between townships 107 and 108—the south three-fourths of the county. Officers were appointed as follows: Owatonna Township, Hiram Robinson, constable, and Philo Sanford, Parker Carlton and Luther Huntly, judges of election. Franklin Township, Sylvester McNitt, justice of the peace; F. Newland, constable; William Allen and G. O. Hankerson, judges of election—first election to be held at the house of Sylvester McNitt. In Medford Township, Rev. O. A. Thomas, Isaac Sanborn and Smith Johnson were selected as judges of the first election, which it was provided should be held at the house of William W. Finch.

Thus the county remained for about one year, or until April 6, 1857, when a general rearrangement was made and every congressional or government township in the county was set off and given a name as a civil township. In the meantime, in February, 1856, the eastern tier of townships

*[All through the early records these civil subdivisions were termed precincts, but we shall here refer to them as townships, the name having been changed by an act of the legislature.—EDITOR.]

(range 19) had been set off from Dodge and annexed to Steele; and, on the 27th of February, 1857, the legislature passed an act creating Waseca County of the west half of what then formed Steele County. These changes arranged county lines as they are at the present time. The following is a list of the townships created at that time, and the officers appointed to attend to the organization of each.

Owatonna embraced township 107, range 20. Geo. W. Green, P. P. Carlton and James F. Hall were made judges of election, and J. W. Bureh and Hiram Robinson, constables.

Medford was organized of township 108, range 20. W. W. Wilkins, Smith Johnson, Jr., and W. W. Finch were appointed judges of election; Charles Jones, constable, and Orlando Bartholomew, supervisor of roads. The house of Smith Johnson, at Medford, was designated as the place for holding the first election.

Union Prairie embraced township 108, range 19. John Colburn, C. W. Curtis and M. J. Kimball were appointed judges of election; C. W. Curtis, justice of the peace, and John A. Pierce, road supervisor. The first town meeting was ordered held at the house of C. W. Curtis.

Somerset was comprised of township 106, range 20. The house of Thomas Kenyon was designated as the place for holding the first township meeting, and T. C. S. Minthorn, Orlando Lebará, and T. J. Clark were appointed judges of the first election.

Meriden embraced township 107, range 21, as at the present day. Ashley C. Harris, E. Ash and H. S. Clement were appointed judges of election; William Webster and M. T. C. Flowers to some office not mentioned in the records; Daniel Poole and J. L. Greene, constables; William Webster, Christopher Walker and Ashley C. Harris, road supervisors. The house of William Webster was selected as the place for holding the first election.

Deerfield was formed of township 108,

range 21. Washington Morse's house was designated as the place for holding the first township election. The officers appointed were as follows: D. H. McQuestion, Isaac Coc and Washington Morse, judges of election; Washington Morse and Charles Bureh, justices of the peace; Elias F. Hobough and Benjamin Gypson, constables, and D. H. McQuestion, road supervisor.

Township 107, range 19, now known as Havana, was then given the name of Lafayette. Robert Adair, Charles McCarty and George Dennis were appointed judges of election; Elisha Eldred and Newton Parker, justices of the peace; W. Hammond and Hugh Burns, constables, and James M. Soper, road supervisor.

Aurora embraced township 106, range 19. Amos Coggswell, George W. Grimshaw and Stephen Sargeant were appointed judges of election, and George W. Grimshaw, road supervisor. The house of A. B. Clark was selected as the place for holding the first township election.

Berlin was organized embracing township 105, range 21. M. Warren, Charles Brown and Ashbell Ingerson were appointed judges of election; M. B. Winchell, constable, and Lewis B. Tilden, road supervisor. The house of Hiram Pitelher was designated as the place for holding the first election.

Summit embraced township 105, range 20. The place for holding the first election was designated as the house of George W. Knapp. Thomas Bennett, George W. Knapp and John Aldrich were appointed judges of election; George W. Knapp, justice of the peace, and Thomas Bennett, road supervisor.

Lemond Township was formed of township 106, range 21. William Parcher, Sandford Kinney and C. B. Coon were appointed judges of the first election; William Parcher, justice of the peace; Jerome B. Coon, constable, and E. D. Teed, road supervisor. Twiford Mills was the place designated for holding the first election.

Township 105, range 19, was set off at this

time as Oak Glen, but this was not organized until some time later.

It seems as though this division of townships was, from some cause, incomplete or illegal, for in April, 1858, the board of county commissioners again took up the matter. The record states that "an act of the legislature, directing the division of counties into townships, and for the purpose of township organization, having been brought to the notice of the board, it is ordered that Steele County be reorganized into townships." By their action at that time Oak Glen Township was attached to Aurora, and Medford Township was divided by the organization of the south half of township 108, range 20, under the name of Clinton Falls, leaving both Medford and Clinton Falls Townships as they remain to-day. This, it was stated "was in accordance with the unanimous request of the legal voters of Clinton Falls by petition, verified by the affidavit of Geo. W. Green." Aside from these alterations, the townships remained as they had been previously set off.

In September, 1858, the name of Lafayette Township was changed to Freeman. At the same time the State auditor notified the board of county commissioners that the name of Berlin should be changed, as there was another township of that name in the State; but the board answered that it was the unanimous wish of the citizens to retain that name on account of having a postoffice of the same name, and it was therefore allowed to stand. On the 11th of the same month the name of Union Prairie Township was changed to Orion in accordance with the vote of the citizens.

On the 13th of October, 1858, the name of Freeman Township was changed to Dover, as there was already a township of that name in the State.

No further change in the townships took place until January, 1862, when the name of Orion was changed to Lyon, and almost immediately again changed to Merton which it still bears.

In March, 1867, authority was given for the organization of Oak Glen, which had been connected with Aurora.

In 1869 the name of Dover Township was changed to Havana, under which name it has since remained.

In January, 1873, the name of township 105, range 19, was changed from Oak Glen to Blooming Prairie.

This completes the history of the changes of boundaries of the townships in Steele County. In the various township histories will be found the detailed history of their organization. All these changes have finally brought the townships of the county to the shape in which we now find them. The following table will show the territory embraced by the various townships, summing up the changes traced above:

Merton, township 108, range 19.
 Medford, north half of township 108, range 20.
 Clinton Falls, south half of township 108, range 20.
 Deerfield, township 108, range 21.
 Meriden, township 107, range 21.
 Owatonna, township 107, range 20.
 Havanna, township 107, range 19.
 Aurora, township 106, range 19.
 Somerset, township 106, range 20.
 Lemond, township 106, range 21.
 Berlin, township 105, range 21.
 Summit, township 105, range 20.
 Blooming Prairie, township 105, range 19.



CHAPTER VII.

OTHER OFFICIAL MATTERS.

FIRST INSTRUMENTS RECORDED.



WHEN the settlement of Steele County commenced, the territory now comprising it formed a part of Rice County, and all deeds, mortgages and other official documents were taken to Faribault for record. This was continued for some time after Steele was really organized. In 1856, however, D. Shaw, under authority of the board of county commissioners of Steele County, made a transcript of all papers relating to this county which had been filed in Rice, and they were put on record in Steele County.

The first mortgage that appears in the Steele County records bears the date of March 18, 1856. It runs from Charles Jones to Benjamin B. Richards, and for a consideration of \$56 covers the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10 and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 15, township 108, range 20. The witnesses were G. W. Curtis and Thomas E. Bennett.

The first deed upon the record books of the county is dated January 10, 1856. In consideration of \$70, Lucius Lewis deeds to D. B. Selleck the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 2, township 107, range 20.

POPULATION.

The first census in which Steele County figured was that of 1857, according to which the total population of the county was 2,598, made up of 1,981 born in the United States and 617 foreigners. The following are some

of the items given in the census returns: males, 1,496; females, 1,102; farmers, 716; merchants and mechanics, 108. The various townships were populated as follows:

Owatonna	614
Medford	440
Union Prairie (Merton)	236
Lafayette (Havana)	222
Somerset	207
Meriden	193
Berlin	193
Deerfield	192
Aurora	138
Lemond	96
Summit	45
Oak Glen (Blooming Prairie)	22
Total	2,598

The census of 1860 gave Steele County a population of 2,863, of which 2,256 were native born and 607 foreign.

In 1865, according to the school census, the county had a total population of 4,932 persons.

In 1870 the total population had grown to 8,271. Of this number 6,088 were born in the United States, and 2,183 in foreign countries.

The school census was again taken in 1875. At that time the county had 10,739 inhabitants.

The United States census of 1880 gave Steele a total population of 12,460. Of this number 8,576 were native born; and 3,884 foreign born; 32 were colored people. The population of the various townships was as follows:

Aurora	600
Berlin	683

Blooming Prairie	562
Blooming Prairie Village... ..	338
Clinton Falls	502
Deerfield.....	858
Havana.....	851
Lemond.....	648
Medford.....	761
Meriden.....	809
Merton.....	756
Owatonna City.....	3,161
Owatonna Township.....	584
Somerset.....	811
Summit.....	536
Total.....	12,460

The school census, taken in 1885, gave the county a total population of 12,733. There were 2,251 families: 6,277 males, and 6,441 females. The total was divided among the various townships as follows:

Aurora.....	727
Berlin.....	707
Blooming Prairie.....	626
Blooming Prairie Village.....	366
Clinton Falls.....	477
Deerfield.....	863
Havana.....	865
Lemond.....	698
Medford.....	687
Meriden.....	833
Merton.....	670
Owatonna City.....	3,280
Owatonna Township.....	550
Somerset.....	833
Summit.....	551
TOTAL.....	12,733

REAL AND PERSONAL VALUES IN 1861.

In 1861 the real and personal property assessment was as follows:

	ACRES.	TOTAL VALUATION, REAL AND PERSONAL.
Owatonna.....	21,467	\$124,683.85
Dover.....	14,836	43,252.00
Aurora.....	19,335	33,431.80
Orion.....	17,919	53,433.65
Somerset.....	15,314	30,035.50
Clinton.....	10,215	35,393.00
Deerfield.....	15,912	33,825.00
Lemond.....	11,760	27,213.00
Summit.....	8,760	17,160.00
Berlin.....	10,198	26,184.50
Medford.....	17,680	52,744.00
Meriden.....	19,749	59,412.50
Total.....	183,165	\$536,769.28

VALUES FROM 1861 TO 1886.

As a matter of interest, and to show the growth of assessed values of personal property in the county, the following statistics are presented of the amount of personal property returned each year for the past twenty-six years:

1861.....	\$ 82,666	1874.....	\$ 792,095
1863.....	115,103	1875.....	1,001,133
1864.....	230,944	1876.....	1,043,155
1865.....	283,766	1877.....	1,001,193
1866.....	387,230	1878.....	1,056,254
1867.....	522,463	1879.....	987,939
1868.....	598,204	1880.....	992,927
1869.....	560,817	1881.....	1,014,383
1870.....	554,869	1882.....	1,099,271
1871.....	551,770	1883.....	1,170,990
1872.....	566,967	1884.....	1,134,661
1873.....	589,246	1885.....	1,117,530
1886.....			1,118,534

PRESENT VALUES.

The total assessed value of real and personal property in Steele County, in 1886, was \$4,596,332.

The personal property assessment was \$1,118,534. This amount was divided among the various townships and villages of the county as follows:

Blooming Prairie Village.....	\$ 51,923
Blooming Prairie.....	46,504
Summit.....	33,546
Berlin.....	53,365
Aurora.....	48,420
Somerset.....	65,199
Lemond.....	49,732
Havana.....	53,693
Owatonna.....	40,256
Owatonna City.....	405,436
Meriden.....	61,043
Merton.....	59,604
Medford.....	57,612
Clinton Falls.....	33,997
Deerfield.....	58,204

The real-estate assessment for 1886 gave Steele County a total assessed value of \$3,477,798, as fixed by the board of equalization. This included the value of improvements, but not of personal property. The average assessed value of lands, exclusive of improvements, was fixed at \$9.34 per acre. The total number of acres assessed, exclusive

of town lots, was 267,512, of which amount 109,151 acres were improved, and 153,486 were unimproved.

In 1886 the average rate of taxation throughout Steele County was 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ mills on the dollar. The total taxes levied that year was \$63,000.48. Of this amount \$5,948.89 was for State purposes and the balance for county, school, city and township.

CROPS.

The following statement, showing the crops sown and raised in Steele County in 1886, will give a very clear idea of the diversity with which agriculture is pursued here:

	ACREAGE.	YIELD.	AVERAGE PER ACRE.
Wheat.....	58,118	733,746	13
Oats.....	15,162	487,896	32
Corn.....	10,930	300,110	28
Barley.....	2,237	55,771	25
Rye.....	19	233	12
Buckwheat.....	32	325	10
Potatoes.....	259	57,123	22
Beans.....	9	207	23
Sugar-cane.....	26	2,984	114
Cultivated Hay.....	4,091	7,481 tons	
Flax.....	96	1,200	12
Other Products.....	170		
Total.....	88,425		

Wild Hay..	30,850 tons.	Tobacco....	273 lbs.
Timothy...	527 bushels.	Wool.....	17,183 "
Clover.....	852 "	Butter	379,875 "
Apples.....	532 "	Cheese.....	159,184 "
Honey.....			73,011 "

In 1886 the acreage sown to the various crops was as follows:

Wheat.....	52,993	Oats.....	15,957
Corn.....	11,886	Barley.....	2,919
Rye.....	29	Buckwheat.....	41
Potatoes.....	589	Flax.....	300

Total acreage cultivated in 1886 was 90,625 acres.

EDUCATIONAL.

The first school district in the county — or No. 1 — was set off on the 7th of April, 1856. It embraced sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17, township 107, range 20. Districts Nos. 2 and 3 were created at the same time, the former being located in township 107, range 20, and the latter being located in

township 108, ranges 19 and 20. Up to February, 1857, there had been thirteen school districts organized. In 1886 there were eighty-three organized school districts in the county.

The first school in the county was taught on the present site of the city of Owatonna in the summer of 1855, by Miss Helen Holbrook.

As this volume goes to press County Supt. Brown has just completed his report showing the condition of schools in 1886. According to it there were 3,701 children of school age in the county, including Owatonna. Outside of Owatonna there were 3,601 entitled to apportionment and 144 not entitled to apportionment. The number enrolled between the ages of five and eight years was 795; between the ages of eight and sixteen, 2,484; and between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, 427. The number between the ages of eight and sixteen that attend school sixty days, or a term of three months, was 1,781. Six new school-houses were built during the year, valued at \$2,545. The teachers employed during the winter term were twenty-eight males and fifty-three females; during the summer term, six males and sixty-six females. The value of school buildings was estimated at \$35,050, and of furniture at \$3,193. None of these statistics include the Owatonna schools. There were fourteen female teachers in the city schools. The Owatonna school buildings were valued at \$40,000 and the furniture at \$2,500.

EARLY MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD.

The first marriage that appears on the record books of this county was solemnized on the 10th of November, 1856, more than thirty years ago. The parties were Smith Johnson, Jr., and Sabrina Wilkins. The marriage ceremony was performed by Rev. O. A. Thomas. Mr. Johnson is still a prominent resident of Steele County, living at Medford. There are many amusing anecdotes connected with some of the earlier

weddings, most of which find their proper places in the various township histories. How the rustic, blushing bride left the kitchen, unbuckled her apron, and throwing on her sunbonnet, climbed into the lumber wagon and started off with John, who had his pants in his boots and overalls on, for their wedding tour, to hunt up the "squire" and get "jined." An incident is called to mind which is unlocated and cannot properly be placed in any of the townships. It is said on one occasion, way back in the '50's, a country couple made their way to one of the villages in the county, in quest of some one who was authorized to tie the hymeneal knot. They went to a young storekeeper, who, in the way of a joke, referred them to the postmaster, stating that the government authorized him to officiate on such occasions. When the postmaster was seen he disclaimed any knowledge of such authority, and said that he had only been in the government employ for a short time and was not yet "quite up to snuff," but if the merchant said he could he supposed it was so. Accordingly the couple were ranged up in front of the postmaster, who, in the most approved style impressed them with the solemnity of the occasion, warned them to "let no man put asunder what he had joined," and in closing pronounced them Mr. and Mrs., etc., according to the postal laws of the United States. "And you may go in peace; only one dollar apiece, please."

It would doubtless be of interest to many to give the record of marriages for the first

ten years of the county's existence, but they are too numerous; therefore, we give only the first two years, as taken from the record in the office of the clerk of the court.

Benjamin A. Freeman and Sarah Ring, by Rev. O. A. Thomas, November, 1856.

William Williamson and Lucretia Finch, by Rev. O. A. Thomas, December, 1856.

Geo. H. Robbins and Abigail Presby, by Addison Phelps, justice of the peace, November, 1856.

Friday Wupshal and Julia Grehring, by Addison Phelps, justice of the peace, December, 1856.

Hiram Robinson and Harriet Town, by A. Town, evangelist, in 1857.

Jacob Yonker and Mina Mundt, April, 1857.

John G. Truesdell and Elvira Watrous, December, 1857.

Chas. M. Williamson and Mary V. Morrison, November, in 1857.

Peter Johansen and Ann Schimek, January, 1858.

John H. Force and Martha Howe, January, 1858.

Emory M. Geatchell and Sarah O. Runnels, February, 1858.

John Moon and Margaret Meek in February.

Loren B. Town and Naomi L. Stoughton in April.

Charles B. Baker and Louisa M. Lane in April.

Franklin Hickok and Elizabeth McCaslin in May, 1858.



CHAPTER VIII.

NATIONAL AND STATE REPRESENTATION.

CONGRESSIONAL.



UNTIL Minnesota became a State it had only one representative in the halls of Congress—a territorial delegate who was allowed to speak but not vote. The first territorial delegate from Minnesota was Henry H. Sibley, who served from January 15, 1849, to December 5, 1853. He was succeeded by Henry M. Rice, who served until December 7, 1857. W. W. Kingsbury was elected to succeed Rice, and served until December 6, 1858. On the 23d of February, 1857, the United States Senate passed an act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a constitution preparatory to their admission to the Union. In accordance with the provisions of this enabling act a constitutional convention was held on July 13, 1857, at the territorial capital. On the 13th of October, 1857, an election was held, when the constitution was adopted and a full list of State officers was elected. Three congressmen were also elected at this time—George L. Becker, W. W. Phelps and J. M. Cavanaugh—but it was afterward found that Minnesota was only entitled to two congressmen, and the matter was amicably adjusted by the withdrawal of the first-named, Mr. Becker. By this election Messrs. Phelps and Cavanaugh became the first members of Congress from the State of Minnesota.

In the winter of 1857-8 the legislature divided the State into two congressional dis-

tricts, the southern part becoming the first district and the northern part the second congressional district—Steele County becoming, therefore, a part of the first district. At the election held in the fall of 1859, William Windom was elected congressman from the first district, his opponent being C. Graham, a Democrat. The vote, including the whole State, stood: Windom, 21,016; Graham, 17,417; majority, 3,599.

William Windom was a native of Ohio, born in Belmont County, May 10, 1827. He studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1850, and in 1853 was elected prosecuting attorney for Knox County. In 1854 he came to Minnesota and settled at Winona, which city has since been his home. In 1859 he was elected to Congress as stated and was re-elected in the years 1860, 1862, 1864 and 1866. Since his service in the lower House of Congress, he has twice been elected to the United States Senate, and was appointed Secretary of the United States Treasury by President Garfield in 1881.

In the fall of 1868, M. S. Wilkinson was elected congressman from the first district to succeed Mr. Windom, and served two years. Mr. Wilkinson was a lawyer who was then living at Mankato, who had been very prominent in all public matters. He was among the earliest settlers of the State, having located here in 1847, and had represented Minnesota for one term in the United States Senate—elected December 15, 1859, and serving until 1865. After his term of office as congressman expired, he served one

term in the State Senate from Blue Earth County. Subsequently he removed to Wells, in Faribault County, where he still lives.

Hon. Mark H. Dunnell, of Owatonna, succeeded Mr. Wilkinson as congressman from the first district, and served for twelve consecutive years. Mr. Dunnell has for years been an honored citizen of Steele County and we herewith present a biographical sketch of his life:

Hon. Mark Hill Dunnell is a son of Samuel Dunnell, a farmer, and Achsah Hill, and was born in Buxton, Me., on the 2d of July, 1823. His great-great-grandfather came from Scotland, while the Hills were of English descent. Mark H. spent his minority upon his father's farm, attending the district school and different academies during such seasons of the year as were least pressed with work, finishing his studies preparatory for college under private tuition, and securing with his own hands, the means for his entire education after leaving the district school. He was graduated from Waterville College, now Colby University, in 1849, and for two years was principal of Norway Liberal Institute, and then for three years of Hebron Academy, both in his native State. The latter was a school of high grade, in which especial attention was given to the classics and the preparation of young men for college. During the three years that Mr. Dunnell was at its head he thus fitted forty or fifty students and sent them to different colleges and universities in New England. Among these were Hon. Eugene Hale, now United States senator from Maine; Hon. John D. Long, afterward lieutenant-governor of Massachusetts, now a member of Congress; Rev. G. M. P. King, D. D., now president of Wayland Seminary, in Washington, and a dozen other men of high standing in the professions.

In 1854 Mr. Dunnell was a member of the Lower House of the Legislature, and of the Upper House in the following year. In 1855, 1857, 1858 and 1859 he was State superin-

tendent of common schools, in Maine, being appointed by Gov. Anson P. Morrill and reappointed by Gov. Hannibal Hamlin. While Mr. Dunnell was teaching in the academies already mentioned, he devoted his leisure time to the study of law, was admitted to the bar in 1856, practiced some that year and in 1860 opened a law office at Portland. In March of the following year, one month before the Civil War commenced, he was appointed United States consul to Vera Cruz, Mexico, and before entering upon his duties he asked a four months' delay in order that he might aid in raising the Fifth Regiment, Maine volunteers, of which he was chosen colonel. He reached Washington with his regiment in season to participate in the first battle of Bull Run. In October following, at the request of Secretary Seward, he entered upon his duties at Vera Cruz, which had become an outlying rebel city through which munitions of war were passing for Confederate use. On one occasion he was instrumental in detaining fifteen thousand stand of arms bound for Texas. For services of this kind, rendered while there, he received a letter of thanks from Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State. During part of the time that he was at Vera Cruz, the Mexicans were resisting the Spanish, French and English alliance against Mexico, and when the governor of the State of Vera Cruz retired from the city to join the Mexican forces, he placed the keys of the government of the city in the hands of Consul Dunnell, he being the senior officer among the friendly powers. In 1862 Col. Dunnell resigned the office of consul, returned to Maine and aided the governor in recruiting men and in the organization of the State militia, practicing his profession at the same time. In 1864 he was tendered the secretaryship of the newly-formed territory of Montana, but declined to accept it. In January, 1865, we find him located at Winona, and since that date he has been a citizen of Minnesota, having removed to Owatonna in

June, 1867. He was a member of the House of Representatives in 1867, and at the close of the session was appointed (on the 2d of April, 1867) State Superintendent of Public Instruction—an office which he held for three and one-third years, and the duties of which he performed with faithfulness and ability, giving a fresh impetus to the cause of education in the "North Star State." He resigned the office of superintendent to take his place in Congress, to which he had been elected in the autumn of 1870. He was re-elected in 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878 and 1880, serving six consecutive terms in the House of Representatives—an honor never before conferred by the people of Minnesota. His renomination the fourth time—an act done by acclamation—was a subject of warm congratulation and much rejoicing on the part of his Republican friends all over the country. The press was made especially happy by the graceful act. The *Washington National Republican*, published where the untiring labors of Congressman Dunnell were witnessed, thus spoke in August, 1878, of his renomination:

"We have already announced the renomination of Hon. Mark H. Dunnell for Congress in the first district of Minnesota. In this his constituents have honored themselves, and at the same time have given proper recognition to valuable public service characterized by marked ability. This nomination is made more significant by the fact that it was unanimously bestowed. Mr. Dunnell, during the period of years he has held a seat in the House of Representatives, has distinguished his legislative career by abilities of a high order, both as a worker and debater. By a life of purity at the national capital and an unflinching devotion to the interests of his constituents and the country at large, he has won for himself a high degree of confidence and respect. His election is assured, and his return to Congress will be hailed with satisfaction by all who know him. He is a stalwart Republican."

During the twelve years which Mr. Dunnell spent in Congress he served upon the following committees of the house: Public lands, education and labor, claims, commerce, Mississippi levees, expenditures in State department, four years upon the committee on ways and means, and was also a member of the special committee to investigate the presidential election of 1876 in the State of Florida. No representative from Minnesota served his constituents with more fidelity, nor has any representative attained more prominence and influence in the House than Mr. Dunnell.

In the XLIIIrd Congress an attack was made upon the Republic of Mexico, and Congressman Dunnell made a speech in which he gallantly defended that republic from what he regarded as an unwarranted assault. His speech was widely quoted, printed in full in all the Mexican journals, and he was made an honorary member of the Society of Geography and Statistics, the highest society of the kind in that republic, and hence the highest honor it was capable of bestowing. On the organization of the Forty-seventh Congress, Mr. Dunnell was urged for the speakership of the House of Representatives and had the support of the Republican caucus. His fitness for the place was conceded, but his views on the tariff given in the XLVIth Congress, in favor of reduction, were used against him and he was defeated. In 1868 Mr. Dunnell received the honorary degree of LL.D. from Shurtliff College, one of the oldest institutions of learning in Illinois.

He has been a member of the Republican party from its inception, and in 1856 was a delegate to the National Convention which nominated Gen. John C. Fremont. His labors in behalf of the party in the past have been earnest and unceasing, and in Congress he made a record in which his constituents as well as himself could take a just pride. As a speaker, both on the "stump" and in Congress, he was effective and popular, and

he has repeatedly spoken in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Connecticut, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The cause of education has had no warmer friend in the great Northwest than Mr. Dunnell. For ten years while a citizen of Maine he was a trustee of the Waterville College. And since his residence here, no educational movement has been made that has not received his hearty support and encouragement. Of the Pillsbury Academy, since its inception, he has been a member of the board of trustees, and in 1877, 1883-4 and 1884-5 was president of the board. He was married to Sarah A. Parrington, November 20, 1850. Five children were born to them: Warren B., Nellie A., Fanny, Mark B. and Alice Maud. Nellie became the wife of Prof. C. W. Hall; she died in Germany in February, 1876. Alice M. died in Owatonna in July, 1873, being nearly five years of age. Warren B., an architect, resides in Minneapolis. Fanny is now the wife of H. R. Moore, Jr., and Mark B. is a graduate of the University of Rochester, N. Y., taught one year at Faribault, and is now a student at the Law School of Columbia College in New York City.

In 1882 Milo White, of Chatfield, was elected to Congress from the first district. He was an old settler at Chatfield, and had been prominent in local politics for many years, serving his district in the State senate for several terms, and taking an active part upon the Republican side, in political matters generally. He was re-elected to Congress in 1884, serving four years. Mr. White had been raised at and followed the mercantile business at which he had amassed a comfortable fortune. In 1886 he made a hard fight for renomination but was defeated by Hon. John A. Lovely, an able lawyer of Freeborn County.

At the polls Mr. Lovely was defeated by Judge Thomas Wilson, of Winona, the Democratic nominee — the first Democrat elected

from this district since 1859. Mr. Wilson is an early settler in Winona County, where he has practiced law for nearly a third of a century. He has served upon the district and supreme benches of the State, represented Winona County in both branches of the legislature and in many ways has taken a prominent part in State and local matters. As a lawyer he ranks among the ablest in the Northwest.

The first district as it is now constituted is composed of the counties of Winona, Olmstead, Steele, Wabasha, Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge and Freeborn.

REPRESENTATION IN TERRITORIAL AND STATE LEGISLATURES.

Steele County was created on the 20th of February, 1855, by the sixth territorial legislature. At the same session the "apportionment of 1855" was made, and according to this the territorial council was composed of fifteen and the House of thirty-eight members. Steele County became at once a part of the tenth council district which was composed of the counties of Steele, LeSueur, Faribault, Blue Earth, Brown, Nicollet, Sibley, Pierce and Renville. This district was entitled to elect one councilor and three representatives.

The VIIth Legislature convened January 2, and adjourned March 1, 1856. The tenth district was represented in the council by Charles E. Flandrau, and in the House by George A. McLeod, Parsons K. Johnson and Aurelius F. de LaVergne. Neither of these parties were residents of Steele County.

The VIIIth Legislature convened January 7 and adjourned March 7, 1857, and an extra session was held during the summer. P. P. Humphrey represented the tenth district in the council and O. A. Thomas, Joseph R. Brown and Francis Baasen in the House. This was the last session of the territorial legislature, as the territory became a State by the adoption of a constitution and election of State officers on the 13th of October, 1857. Mr. Brown, above mentioned, lived

in the Minnesota Valley and had been Indian agent for a number of years. Mr. Baasen belonged in New Ulm. Mr. Thomas was a resident of Steele County who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

The Ist State Legislature assembled on the 2d of December, 1857, and finally adjourned August 12, 1858, having held a special session. In the meantime the constitution had reapportioned the State, and Steele and Waseca Counties (the latter had just been created) were associated together as the fifteenth senatorial district, which was entitled to one senator and four representatives. According to this apportionment the Senate had thirty-seven and the House eighty members. At the first session of the State legislature the fifteenth district was represented in the Senate by Lewis L. McCune, of Waseca County, and in the House by Hiram M. Sheetz, George C. Pettie and Smith Johnson. All of the representatives in the House, during this session, were residents of Steele County. Mr. Sheetz was the publisher of a paper at Owatonna. He had come here at an early day and remained until the time of his death. George C. Pettie was a resident of Aurora, and Smith Johnson, of Medford Township. Both are mentioned elsewhere.

No session was held in the winter of 1858-9, mainly owing to the protracted session of 1857-8, which was believed to render unnecessary another one following so soon.

The IId Legislature assembled December 7, 1859, and adjourned March 12, 1860. William F. Pettit had succeeded Mr. McCune in the Senate from the fifteenth and in the House were Amos Cogswell and G. W. Green from Steele County and G. T. White and J. I. Stewart from Waseca County. Amos Cogswell, of Steele County, was elected speaker of the House. At this session of the legislature the apportionment of 1860 was made, and the number of members was cut down to twenty-one senators and forty-two representatives. In accordance with this apportionment Steele, Waseca and

Freeborn Counties were thrown together in forming the sixteenth district, which was entitled to one senator and two representatives. William F. Pettit, the senator from Steele County, was one of the founders of the city of Owatonna. Amos Cogswell and G. W. Green in the House were both lawyers from Steele County, and were both prominent and able men. It is said that Steele County has never, either before or since, sent a more able and influential delegation than it had in the IId Legislature. All of these parties are mentioned at length elsewhere.

The IIIrd Legislature convened January 8, and adjourned March 8, 1861. George Watson represented the sixteenth district in the Senate, and William F. Pettit, of Steele County, and James E. Child, of Waseca County, were in the House.

The IVth Legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned March 7, 1862. The sixteenth district was represented at this session by A. B. Webber, of Freeborn County, in the Senate; and P. C. Bailey and H. C. Magoon in the House. Mr. Bailey was a resident of Waseca. H. C. Magoon was an early settler in Merton Township, Steele County.

The Vth Legislature convened on the 6th of January, and adjourned on the 6th of March, 1863. M. A. Dailey, of Owatonna, was the senator, and Asa Walker, of Freeborn County, and Philo Woodruff, of Waseca County, were the representatives from the sixteenth district. Mr. Dailey is mentioned at length elsewhere in this volume.

The VIth Legislature met on the 5th of January and adjourned on the 4th of March, 1864. The sixteenth district at that session was represented by F. J. Stevens, of Steele County, in the Senate, and by Philo Woodruff, of Waseca County, and John L. Gibbs, of Freeborn County, in the House.

F. J. Stevens, the senator at that time, was an early settler in Meriden Township, Steele County, having come from Massachusetts. He remained here for a number of years and

then returned to his original home in the New England States. He held a number of offices at different times while here and was a prominent man in early affairs.

The VIIth Legislature assembled January 3, and adjourned March 3, 1865. B. A. Lowell, of Waseca County, had succeeded Mr. Stevens as senator from the sixteenth district, and in the House were J. B. Crooker, of Steele County, and John L. Gibbs, of Freeborn County. J. L. Gibbs, who was in the House at that time, has since become a prominent figure in State politics and is now one of the State railroad commissioners.

The VIIIth Legislature convened January 2, and adjourned March 2, 1866. The sixteenth district was served in both Senate and House by the same representatives as in the seventh, except that John L. Gibbs had been succeeded in the House by Augustus Armstrong. By this legislature the reapportionment of 1866 was made, increasing the number of senators to twenty-two, and representatives to forty-seven. The sixteenth district remained the same as before, and was given three instead of two representatives in the House, one for each county.

The IXth Legislature convened January 8, and adjourned March 8, 1867. At this session Augustus Armstrong represented the sixteenth district in the Senate. The representatives were Dr. W. H. Twiford, of Steele County, and William Brisbane, and James E. Smith, of Waseca County. Augustus Armstrong, the senator during this session, was from Freeborn County, and was an able man. He afterward held the office of United States marshal for four years.

Willis H. Twiford was born May 12, 1821, in Fayette County, Ohio. His mother died when he was seven years old, leaving ten children who were scattered, his father, Clement Twiford, being poor. Young Willis at nine years old was sent to Marysville, Ohio, and placed in the family of Silvester Phelps, where he had the advantage of the

common schools of that day, remaining there three years; became quite efficient in spelling, reading, writing, English grammar and geography. At twelve years of age he was sent to West Canaan in Madison County, Ohio, for the purpose of learning the wagon-maker's trade with his brother, T. B. Twiford, but only remained with him about a year when he went to Pickaway County, Ohio; attended school the following winter and in the spring of 1835 went to living with Smith B. Horsey, near Westfall. Here he remained until the fall of 1838, working on the farm. At this time his father married Mrs. Hanna Beach, of Madison County, Ohio, when he was ordered home, where he very reluctantly went, having the usual prejudice against a step-mother. But this prejudice soon gave way to the most profound respect and filial affection and he now looks on that two or three years of home influence as the awakening period to a higher plane of life. From 1838 until 1841 he worked on the farm, attended school and taught in winter. In 1842 he entered the office of Dr. J. Sidney Skinner, of West Canaan, Ohio, and studied medicine, graduating at the Starling Medical College of Columbus, Ohio. In 1845 he began the practice of medicine in Pleasant Valley (now Plain City), Ohio. April 29, 1846, he married Miss Nancy R., daughter of Jeremiah Dominy, Esq., of Madison County, Ohio. He remained in Pleasant Valley until 1853, when he removed to Union City, Ind., and was there actively engaged in the practice of his profession until the War of the Rebellion, when in May, 1861, he was commissioned surgeon of the Twenty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteers. He was engaged in all the prominent battles with the Army of the Potomac. Becoming distinguished as a surgeon he was early in the war appointed chief operator of the First Division, Twelfth Army Corps. In 1863 the Eleventh and Twelfth Army Corps were consolidated and formed the Twentieth, commanded by Gen. Joseph



Mark W. Sumner

Hooker. Surgeon Twiford was appointed surgeon-in-chief of First Division on the staff of Gen. Williams. He was about this time severely injured by a fall and was granted leave of absence and in July reluctantly resigned. About 1st September, 1864, he came with his family to Minnesota, settling on a farm in Somerset, Steele County, and remained until 1873 when he removed to Geneva, Freeborn County, where he now resides, actively engaged in the practice of his profession, being a member of the State Medical Society and also of the American Medical Association. The doctor often speaks of his step-mother's influence as shaping whatever there is exemplary in his whole life.

The Xth Legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned March 6, 1868. Mr. Armstrong was still in the Senate. In the House the sixteenth district was represented by William R. Kinyon, of Steele County; J. E. Smith, of Freeborn, and George A. LaDow, of Waseca County.

The XIth Legislature convened January 5, and adjourned March 5, 1869. The sixteenth district was represented by J. B. Crooker, of Steele County, in the Senate, and in the House by E. Easton, of Havana Township, Steele County; W. Smith, of Waseca County, and Augustus Armstrong, of Freeborn County. J. B. Crooker, the senator from Steele in the XIth Legislature, figures prominently in the early history of Owatonna. He was originally from central New York, but came here from California in 1856, and located in the county-seat. His brother, E. B. Crooker, came at about the same time. They had been engaged in mining in the West and had been very successful, as they were well off as to world's goods when they came. They bought an interest in what is known as the "five hundred acre" tract of land, and, after the Coburn failure in the winter of 1858-9, they engaged in the general merchandise business. They remained in this for a number of years, and were then for a time en-

gaged in the lumber trade, and finally removed to Minneapolis, where they soon failed and went through bankruptcy. E. B. Crooker is now running a dray line there, while J. B. is in the real-estate business. Both were active, energetic, wide-awake men; industrious and enterprising and, while unsuccessful in the end through careless business methods, yet they were prominent factors in the early development of Steele County.

Mr. Easton, the representative from Steele County in this session, is still a resident of Owatonna.

The XIIth Legislature convened January 4, and adjourned March 4, 1870. J. B. Crooker, of Steele County, still represented the district in the Senate. In the House the district was served by H. W. Rulliffson, of Steele County; W. C. Young, of Waseca County, and A. C. Wedge, of Freeborn County. Mr. Rulliffson was an early settler in Summit Township, where he had a large farm. He finally removed to the western part of the State, where he still lives.

The XIIIth Legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned March 3, 1871. W. C. Young, of Waseca County, had succeeded J. B. Crooker as senator from the sixteenth district, and in the House were F. B. Davis, of Steele County; William Brisbane, of Waseca County, and A. C. Wedge, of Freeborn County. This legislature made a reapportionment of the legislative districts in the State, which increased the number of senators to forty-one, and the number of representatives to 106. According to this apportionment Steele County alone became entitled to one senator and two representatives. The county was divided into two representative districts, as follows: No. 1 embraced the town and city of Owatonna, and the townships of Medford, Clinton Falls and Merton. No. 2 embraced all the balance of the county. F. B. Davis, the senator during this session, was an old settler in the northern part of the county,

who afterward located in Meriden Township. He left the county a number of years ago.

The XIVth Legislature assembled January 2, and adjourned March 1, 1872. Amos Coggs well represented Steele County, or the twelfth district, in the Senate. The county's representatives in the House were W. W. Wilkins and F. B. Davis. Messrs. Coggs well and Wilkins are still honored residents of the county.

The XVth Legislature convened on the 7th of January, and adjourned on the 7th of March, 1873. Amos Coggs well again represented Steele County in the Senate. W. W. Wilkins and A. Colquhoun were the representatives in the House.

The XVIth Legislature assembled January 6, and adjourned March 6, 1874. Amos Coggs well was again in the Senate from Steele County. In the House were C. S. Crandall and J. M. Sloan. These gentlemen are still living in the county, except J. M. Sloan, who was an old settler in the southern part of the county, where he died several years ago.

The XVIIth Legislature assembled January 5, and adjourned March 5, 1875. Steele County was represented in the Senate by Amos Coggs well, and in the House by W. R. Kinyon and Hugh Murray. Mr. Kinyon was elected speaker of the House.

The XVIIIth Legislature assembled January 4, and adjourned March 3, 1876. At this session L. L. Wheelock succeeded Mr. Coggs well as senator from Steele County. In the House the delegation from Steele County was the same as in the seventeenth. Mr. Kinyon was again honored by being chosen speaker of the House.

The XIXth Legislature convened January 2, and adjourned March 2, 1877. L. L. Wheelock still represented Steele County in the Senate. In the House the county was represented by George W. Buffum and Walter Muir. Senator Wheelock and Representative Buffum are noticed at length elsewhere. Mr. Muir was a resident of Berlin

Township, where he remained until a few years ago.

The XXth Legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned March 8, 1878. At this time Steele County was represented in the Senate by Dr. E. M. Morehouse, of Owatonna, and in the House by G. W. Buffum and Walter Muir.

The XXIst Legislature convened January 7, and adjourned March 7, 1879. W. W. Wilkins had succeeded Dr. Morehouse as senator from Steele County. In the House the county was represented by H. H. Rosebrock and H. M. Hastings.

The XXIInd Legislature convened in regular session January 4, and adjourned March 4, 1881. An extra session was held during the same year. W. W. Wilkins was still senator from Steele County. In the House the representatives were H. H. Rosebrock and A. Colquhoun.

This legislature made the apportionment of 1881. It fixed the number of senators at forty-seven, and of representatives at 103. In accordance with this apportionment Steele County retained its old district number—twelve; but it was only to be entitled to one senator and one representative. After this time sessions were held biennially instead of annually.

The XXIIIrd Legislature assembled January 2, and adjourned March 2, 1883. A. C. Hickman, of Owatonna, had succeeded Mr. Wilkins as senator. In the House Steele County was represented by H. A. Finch.

The XXIVth Legislature convened January 6, and adjourned March 6, 1885. A. C. Hickman, of Owatonna, again represented Steele County in the Senate. James M. Burlingame was the representative of Steele County in the House.

The XXVth Legislature convened in January and adjourned in March, 1887. Charles S. Crandall, the present senator from Steele County, represented the twelfth district in the Senate. In the House G. W. Buffum represented the county and still

holds the office of representative. A biography of Senator Crandall is presented in connection with the history of the city of Owatonna. We herewith append a biographical sketch of the representative in the Lower House.

Hon. George W. Buffum was born in Richmond, Cheshire County, N. H., June 3, 1834, where he spent his earlier years, receiving the schooling accessible in those days. In 1848 he removed with his parents, settling in Sheboygan County, Wis. There he remained, attending school and farming, until shortly after the war broke out in 1861, when he enlisted in Company I, First Wisconsin Infantry (John C. Starkweather, colonel), as a private soldier. The regiment went to Louisville, Ky., and reported to Gen. W. T. Sherman, becoming a part of the Army of the Cumberland. Later they were assigned to the Fourteenth Army Corps under Gen. Thomas. They remained at Louisville until the following February, when a move to Mumfordsville was made, and in that locality in their various skirmishes they saw their first fighting. The balance of the winter was spent at that point and then they were marched on to Bowling Green, which was evacuated by Gen. Buckner, who was in charge of the rebel forces. Gen. Buell had succeeded W. T. Sherman in the command of the Army of the Cumberland. The latter army proceeded to Nashville and from there on through Tennessee and into Alabama, guarding railroads, skirmishing and driving the Confederates under Bragg before them. Thus the major part of the summer was spent, until in September, when Bragg, whom they had been pushing, made a flank move and returned toward Louisville. Upon this turn of affairs our army also "faced about" and marched back to the city of Louisville, where they were heavily reinforced and reorganized. As soon as the new troops could be assigned and the reorganization perfected, they started in pursuit of Bragg, meeting him at Perryville, Ky.,

October 8, 1862, where a severe engagement took place. The First Wisconsin was in Maj.-Gen. McCook's Corps, Col. Starkweather of this regiment commanding the brigade. The regiment went into the fight with about 400 men, and of this number 56 were killed outright and over 100 wounded. The battle was a very severe one, and the losses on both sides were very heavy. The losses were given in the army records as being: Union, 916 killed, 2,943 wounded and 489 missing; Confederate, 2,500 killed wounded and missing. Bragg retreated. The First Wisconsin continued under the same division and brigade commanders, but Gen. W. S. Rosecrans succeeded Buell in command of the army, and on the 31st of December, 1862, began the battle of Murfreesboro', or Stone River, Tenn., the most important battle of the winter of 1862-3. The fighting continued for three days, when the enemy evacuated. The losses on both sides were again very heavy, but the casualties in the First Wisconsin were not quite so heavy as at Perryville. The forces, after this, remained at Murfreesboro' until the following June (1863), when orders came from Washington to break camp and move on the enemy, which was immediately carried into execution. They kept continually on the march, skirmishing and pressing the Confederates back until the 19th of September, 1863, when there occurred one of the most noted battles of the war, at Chickamauga, Ga. The First Wisconsin occupied the most perilous position and took a most active part in this, as they were at the head of the infantry forces, their colonel (Starkweather) being wounded, and their losses were very heavy. The subject of this sketch, Mr. Buffum, in the meantime had become first lieutenant of Company I, and here assumed command, as the captain was killed on the first fire. The Union forces were defeated at this battle and retreated to Chattanooga, Tenn., where the army was reorganized by Gen. Grant. On the second day of the battle, however,

between sundown and dark, Mr. Buffum, together with about half of both his company and regiment, were taken prisoners of war and removed to Libby prison at Richmond, where they were kept for about eight months. From there they were taken to Danville and after a few days to Macon, Ga. There they were kept until the last of July, when 600 officers, including Mr. Buffum, were taken to Charleston, S. C., and held as a safeguard, to be sacrificed in retaliation for any serious damage that might accrue to the city if bombarded by the Union forces. They were kept there until some time in October, when the yellow fever broke out among the prisoners and they were removed to Columbia, S. C., where Mr. Buffum was exchanged on the 10th of December, 1864. He was finally mustered out as captain, December 19, 1864, his regiment in the meantime having been discharged. He at once returned to his Wisconsin home in Sheboygan County for the first time since his enlistment.

On the 1st of the following January, 1865, Mr. Buffum was married to Miss Ellen E. Putnam, a native of Maine, born June 19, 1844. In May, 1865, he made his first trip to Minnesota and purchased his present farm in Owatonna and Clinton Falls Townships, Steele County, removing to Owatonna in the following June, and has since made this county his home. From the time of his settlement here, nearly twenty three years ago, Mr. Buffum took a prom-

inent part in public matters. He was elected a member of the board of county commissioners in 1869, and served until 1875, acting as chairman of that body a portion of the time. In 1876 he was elected representative from Steele County in the Lower House of the legislature, and was re-elected in 1877, serving through the XIXth and XXth Legislatures. In the fall of 1886 he was again elected representative for the two years' term, and holds that office at the present writing. In the last session he was among the most active and influential members, and ably represented his constituents in a session which was among the most important held in the history of the State. He was a prominent candidate for the speakership at the opening of the session and, although unsuccessful in that respect, his influence and ability were recognized in the formation of committees, he being placed upon a number of the most important, and made chairman of the committee on temperance. Mr. Buffum has been identified with the Republican party since its organization; he is clear-headed and an able parliamentarian, a careful business man; he has accumulated a comfortable fortune. He takes an active interest in G. A. R. and Knights Templar matters, being a member of both organizations at Owatonna. He has one son, Frank P., born October 1, 1866, who graduated June, 1886, from Pillsbury Academy, Owatonna, and is now taking a medical course at Rush College, Chicago, Ill.



CHAPTER IX.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.



IN this connection we take up the history of all the county offices. Biographies of many of the officials appear in other chapters of this work, and of such we make but brief mention here. The historian has endeavored to obtain a biographical sketch of each official, but in a great many cases this has been impossible, and, in fact, in some instances but very little information as to the parties could be got, as many of them have been gone from the county for years, and have been lost to the memories of the old settlers who are still accessible to the writer.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

Charles Ellison was the first register of deeds for Steele County. He was appointed by the governor in the summer of 1855, and served until January 1, 1857. He opened the records of the county, in the absence of record books, upon a couple of sheets of foolscap paper. Ellison came here from Iowa early in the spring of 1855, and took a claim south-east of Owatonna, which has since fell into John Chambers' possession after a number of changes. Ellison remained about for several years improving his claim a little, and finally went to Somerset, where in company with others he was interested in the project of starting a village. A few years later he left the county.

John W. Park succeeded Mr. Ellison as register of deeds, being elected in October, 1856. Park was a native of Vermont, but came here from Waukesha County, Wis., in the fall of 1854, accompanying W. W. Wilkins, S. B. Smith, and Curtis Haseltine.

Park and Smith settled on a claim in the northern part of the present city plat, where they lived together and began improvements. The others of the original party are mentioned at length elsewhere in this volume. In the spring of 1855, Smith and Park started a store at Owatonna, the first in the city, and continued to run it until the fall of 1856, when they sold it to Elder Town. Smith continued to farm until 1857, when he went back to Waukesha, where he still lives. Park held a number of offices while here, being county surveyor, register of deeds and deputy postmaster at the same time. After selling their mercantile business, Park attended to his few official duties for a couple of years and then returned to Waukesha County, Wis. It should be mentioned that in the spring of 1856, both Smith and Park had returned to Wisconsin and married sisters there. Both were clear-headed, sound business men, and were prominent in public affairs, generally, while they lived here.

In the fall of 1857 George W. Danforth was elected register of deeds and served for one year. Mr. Danforth had only been here a short time before the election, having come from Indiana. He worked for a time for Elder Town in his store. After remaining here a short time he returned to Indiana.

Marvin A. Dailey was the next register of deeds. He was first elected in October, 1858, and re-elected in 1860, serving until January 1, 1863. Dailey was originally from New York. He settled at Owatonna in 1856, and took quite a prominent part in politics and public matters, holding many important offices of trust during his residence

here. He continued to live at Owatonna until a few years ago, when he removed to Minneapolis, where he is now in the employ of the Minneapolis & St. Louis R. R. Company. After Mr. Dailey's term of office as register, the offices of register of deeds and county auditor were consolidated and E. J. Crandall held the position.

Walter Morris succeeded Mr. Crandall. He was elected in November, 1862, and served nearly two years. The offices of auditor and register were together at this time. Mr. Morris was one of the earliest settlers of Rice County, and Morrystown in that county was named in honor of his family, where they had settled in April, 1855. Mr. Morris was born in Ohio on the 12th of January, 1833. In 1846 his parents removed to Indiana, and in 1853 to St. Paul, thence to Hastings, until 1854, when they settled in Faribault, where Walter Morris was one of the proprietors selling his interest to John W. North. An event of his life which he related to the writer happened in 1854, when he assisted Alexander Faribault in getting five hundred Indians across the Redwood to receive their pay. While on their way thither the Indians obtained liquor, got drunk and made numerous threats, but were finally sobered down and reached their destination in safety. After leaving Mankato they traveled two days and a half with nothing to eat and when, finding a skunk, which made them a meal, they thought themselves fortunate. In 1861 Mr. Morris settled at Owatonna, and served as register of deeds and also county auditor as stated. In 1863 he resigned and the following spring made a trip to Colorado, engaged in farming and remained two years; but as the grasshoppers harvested both crops he removed to Mason, Mo. In 1870, he settled in St. Louis, and 1875 returned to Morrystown, Rice County, and engaged in mercantile business.

In November, 1864, Charles S. Crandall was elected register of deeds to succeed Mr. Morris, and two years later he was re-elected,

-serving four years. Mr. Crandall is still an honored resident of Steele County. A sketch of his life appears elsewhere in this volume.

In November, 1868, H. J. Lewis was elected register of deeds, and was twice re-elected, serving until the 1st of January, 1875. Mr. Lewis came to Steele County at an early day, and settled near Crane Creek. He enlisted early during the war, serving in a Wisconsin regiment, and attained a high rank before being mustered out. After his discharge he came to Steele County, and in 1868, as stated, was elected register of deeds, and served six years. Toward the last of his official term his health failed, and after a while he went to Wisconsin, where his death occurred a few years ago.

By the election in November, 1874, Ezra Tyler succeeded Mr. Lewis as register of deeds. In 1876, 1878, 1880, 1882 and 1884 Mr. Tyler was re-elected, serving in all twelve years. He was a young man when he settled in Steele County, which was before the war. He followed different occupations for business until the war broke out, when he enlisted and went into service. After the close of the Rebellion he was, for a time, engaged in the mercantile business at Owatonna, associated with a brother. When elected, his official duties occupied his attention. In the spring of 1887, shortly after the expiration of his term of office, he removed to Duluth, where he is engaged in the compilation of a set of abstracts.

George E. Sloan, the present register of deeds, was elected in the fall of 1886. Mr. Sloan was born in Alburgh, Grand Isle County, Vt., in 1844. When six years of age he went to St. Lawrence County, N. Y., where he remained until 1868, when he came to Minnesota. He enlisted in August, 1862, in Company I, One Hundred and Forty-second New York Volunteer Infantry. In June, 1863, he was discharged. He took part in the battle of Fort Fisher, and was wounded in the face and neck at Drury's Bluff. After coming to Minne-

sota he engaged in farming in Havana Township. In 1882 he removed to Summit, where he remained until elected register of deeds in 1886. He is a member of the James A. Goodwin Post No. 81, Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Sloan was married in April, 1872, to Miss Luey Roberts, a native of New York State. They have had seven children: William (deceased), George, Nellie, Frank, Margaret, Effie and Etta (twins.)

COUNTY TREASURER.

David Sanborn, the first treasurer of Steele County, was appointed by the governor in 1855 and elected at the October election in 1856. He was born in Sanbornton, N. H., on the 27th of July, 1809. For many years he followed the trade of a mason and builder, erecting several large blocks in Lowell, Mass. In 1853, he came west and the following year settled in Steele County, remaining here until the time of his death which occurred April 6, 1885. Two daughters and one son survived him: B. C. Sanborn, editor of the *Madelia Times*; Mrs. D. C. Junkins and Mrs. F. C. Webb.

It seems that Mr. Sanborn only served until January 1, 1858, as county treasurer, and, in fact, during that time there were scarcely any official duties to perform. In October, 1857, J. W. Morford was elected treasurer, and in 1858 and 1859 he was re-elected. Mr. Morford was originally from Wayne County, N. Y., but came to Owatonna in 1856 from Wisconsin, where his people had settled at an early day. He and John Odell came together and the two were engaged in the mercantile business. Mr. Morford, from the first, took a prominent part in all public matters, and this characterized his life all through the many years that he lived in Steele County. He put up the building now occupied by Rosebrock's furniture store, which was the first public hall in Owatonna, and he is still interested in property here, owning the building now occupied by Katz's clothing house, as

well as other real estate. Mr. Morford remained in Owatonna until a few years ago, when he removed to Watertown, Dak., where he still lives. He made many friends here, and deserved them; strictly honest, whether in prosperity or adversity; his word was as binding upon him as his bond. He was a leading Mason, and when the order here was in its infancy, he fitted up his hall for a lodge-room. In all public affairs and enterprises Mr. Morford was always ready and willing to do his full share.

On the 8th of October, 1861, Dr. W. W. Finch was elected county treasurer to succeed Mr. Morford, and served two years. At that time the only safe in Steele County was owned by W. R. Kinyon, who was then practicing law at Owatonna, and Mr. Kinyon became deputy treasurer and the books and funds were kept at his office. Dr. Finch was originally from Vermont. He came west at an early day and settled in Clinton Falls, where he engaged in farming. He had been a practicing physician before coming to Steele County, and during his entire residence here he attended calls, and took care of a practice which his neighbors forced upon him. He remained in the county for a number of years after the expiration of his term of office as treasurer, and finally removed to Santa Barbara, Cal., where he died a few years ago. He had accumulated a comfortable fortune before leaving Steele County. Dr. Finch was a man of a good deal of both natural and acquired ability; a man who was esteemed and respected, and justly, by all who knew him.

B. F. Melvin was elected treasurer in 1863, and was re-elected in 1865, 1867, 1869 and 1871, serving ten years. Mr. Melvin was a native of the State of Maine, but had come west at an early day, settling in Medford Township, Steele County. Some time after his election to the office he removed to Owatonna and made that his home until the time of his death, which occurred a few years ago. His wife died here during the

summer of 1887, and one son, Frank, is still a resident of the city. Mr. Melvin was an efficient officer and held the respect of all.

Thomas Thompson succeeded Mr. Melvin as treasurer. He held the office for two terms—from January 1, 1874, until January 1, 1878. Mr. Thompson was originally from Ohio. He came to Steele County at an early day and settled upon a farm southeast of Owatonna. When the war broke out he enlisted and went into service in a cavalry brigade. After his discharge he returned to his Steele County farm, and a few years later was elected county treasurer. He again returned to his farm upon the expiration of his term of office, and a year or two later removed to Dakota Territory, where he died a few years ago. His remains, together with those of a deceased daughter, were brought back here for burial; but his family still live in Dakota.

In 1877 John A. Cansdell was elected treasurer and in 1879 and 1881 he was re-elected, serving until January 1, 1884. Mr. Cansdell came to Steele County before the war and settled upon a farm near Rice Lake. When the war broke out he enlisted, and during his service lost one leg. He returned to Steele County and moved to Owatonna, where for several years he ran a Grange general merchandise store. In this he was not successful and came out of it somewhat involved. Then he was elected to office, and a short time after the expiration of his third term he removed to Minneapolis, where he still lives.

Soren Peterson, the present county treasurer, succeeded Mr. Cansdell. He was elected in 1883 and re-elected in 1886. Mr. Peterson was born in Denmark in 1847. He came to America in 1869 and came to Steele County, Minn., settling in Blooming Prairie, where he lived until elected county treasurer. Mr. Peterson was married in 1869 to Miss Kirsten Davidson. Their children's names are: Mary, Hans, Willie C., Carl L., Anna, Emma and Hansine. Mr. and

Mrs. Peterson are members of the Lutheran Church.

COUNTY AUDITOR.

When Steele County was organized, in 1855, the office of county auditor had not yet been created, and the duties were performed by an officer termed the clerk of the board of county commissioners, who was appointed by the board. Charles Ellison was the first to fill this office, being appointed by the board at their first session, in August, 1855.

In October, 1856, Z. B. Moore was elected to the office of auditor and apparently held it for two years, whether he performed the duties or not. Not much is remembered of Moore except that he was a smart and active young man who came here at a very early day and remained about Owatonna for a few years. He then went, it is thought, to California, and has been lost trace of.

There appears to have been some dispute or difficulty regarding this office during the winter of 1858-9. The election records show that A. McKinney was elected to the office in October, 1858, but M. A. Dailey contested, claiming that the election, at that time, of this officer was vested in the board of county commissioners. Mr. Dailey had succeeded Mr. Ellison as clerk of the board, which was really the same as county auditor, and the result of the matter was, that in February, 1859, the board settled the matter by formally electing Mr. Dailey.

In October, 1859, Frank L. Melvin was elected county auditor, but in February, 1860, he resigned and Mr. Dailey was re-appointed.

E. J. Crandall was elected county auditor to succeed Mr. Dailey, in November, 1860, and the office was shortly afterward merged with that of register of deeds.

Succeeding Mr. Crandall in 1862, Walter Morris was elected county auditor and register of deeds, and held the offices jointly until the 5th of November, 1863, when he resigned and C. S. Crandall became register of deeds,

and A. N. Stoughton became county auditor by appointment of the board of county commissioners.

A. N. Stoughton was elected in November, 1864, and re-elected in 1866, 1868 and 1870, and after the expiration of his term, he served as deputy auditor for about six years. Alvin N. Stoughton was one of the pioneers of Owatonna. He was born in Weathersfield, Vt., in 1814; came to Ohio in 1819 with his parents, and in 1856 came to Steele County. He was engaged in the mercantile business until 1864. In 1865 he was appointed auditor and was elected four successive terms as stated. In 1885 he was elected city justice and again in 1886; in the spring of 1887 was elected city treasurer. He has twice been mayor of the city, having been the second one elected. Mr. Stoughton was married in November, 1837, to Miss Dorothy Wright, who died in 1842. He was again married in 1846 to Mrs. Mary J. Wadsworth, a native of Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Stoughton are members of the Congregational Church.

In November, 1872, L. S. Padgham was elected county auditor; in 1874 and 1876 was re-elected and served until January 1, 1879.

M. B. Chadwick succeeded Mr. Padgham. He was elected first in the fall of 1878, and being three times re-elected served until January 1, 1887.

John C. Burke, the present county auditor, was elected in October, 1886. Mr. Burke is a pleasant, affable gentleman, rapid and accurate in the transaction of business, and has a most thorough and complete knowledge of his office and the vast mass of documents of which it is the repository. Mr. Burke is a native of Pittsfield, Berkshire County, Mass., where he was born June 10, 1860. When only five years of age his parents moved west and located in Meriden Township, Steele County, Minn., where John C. lived until elected county auditor in 1886. Mr. Burke is a Democrat in political faith, and is a member of the Catholic Church.

SHERIFF.

William F. Pettit was the first sheriff of Steele County. He was appointed by Gov. Gorman at the time the county was organized, in the summer of 1855. For some reason the record shows that Mr. Pettit was elected in October, 1855, although it does not appear that any other county officer was voted for at that time. Mr. Pettit's settlement, and the fact that he became one of the town proprietors of Owatonna, is detailed elsewhere in this volume. He first came here in the fall of 1854 and took a claim, upon which he settled during the following year, and began improvements. In the fall of 1855 he erected the first frame house upon the present site of the city. He remained in Steele County until after the war, and finally removed to California, where he died a number of years ago. A few years previous to his leaving Steele County he bought a farm northwest of the city a short distance, and lived upon it until he left. The major part of his time, however, during his residence here was devoted to real-estate and town-site interests. He was also for a time interested in a dry goods store and a sawmill. He represented Steele County in the State Senate one term, and stood well among his colleagues during one of the most important sessions held in early days. A man of remarkable force of character, generous to a fault, and always willing to do his full share in building up the town and country. Of course being a town proprietor these enterprises all tended to directly benefit him and his interests, yet the fact that he always took his part of the work and expense should be set down to his credit. Energetic and active, he was a prominent man in early days, and his name is indissolubly connected with the early development of Steele County, and its history as an organization.

David Lindersmith succeeded Mr. Pettit as sheriff, and was the first to fill the office under a legal election. He was chosen at the October election in 1856 and served for two years.

W. H. Willsey succeeded Mr. Lindersmith as sheriff of Steele County. Being elected in October, 1858, he served from January 1, 1859, until January 1, 1861. Mr. Willsey has been a prominent citizen of Steele County for nearly a third of a century, and is still an honored resident. A history of his life is presented elsewhere in this volume.

In November, 1860, S. C. Williamson was elected to succeed Mr. Willsey as sheriff. He was elected for a term of two years, but it appears did not serve out the full term. Mr. Williamson came from Malone, N. Y., and must have settled in Steele County as early as 1855 or 1856, locating first in Clinton Falls Township. Later he removed to Owatonna and while there operated a stage line and was also interested in the livery business with a partner under the firm name of Williamson & Cotter, the last named being a brother of the present clerk of court of Steele County. After a residence of a few years in this county Mr. Williamson disposed of his interests here and returned to New York State.

Seth H. Patterson was elected sheriff in November, 1862. In 1864 he was re-elected, but in May, 1865, he resigned. He came to the county at an early day and located upon a piece of land east of the city, where he engaged in farming. After remaining in the county for a number of years, being interested in various enterprises, he finally sold out and left the county.

Upon the resignation by Mr. Patterson of the office of sheriff the board of county commissioners, in May, 1865, appointed William Scriby to fill the vacancy, and he served until the following general election in November. Scriby was an Englishman who settled in Steele County during the latter part of the war, locating upon a farm in Havana Township. He remained there until after the war when he sold to Gordon Watson and left the county.

At the next election in November, 1865, Willard Wheaton was elected sheriff and

served out the unexpired term. Mr. Wheaton was a carpenter by trade, and an old settler in Steele County, having located at Owatonna in 1855. Some time after his term expired, he left the county, having lost his first wife here, and was married again, this time to a Rice County lady. A few years later returned to Owatonna temporarily and met his death while here. It was caused by a runaway. His remains were interred here. A daughter of his — now Mrs. Merrill Odell — is still a resident of Steele County.

In November, 1866, Michael J. Toher was elected sheriff and at that time served one term.

The records show that in November, 1868, Frank Borchert was elected sheriff. When Mr. Borchert came to file his bond it appeared that his name was Ferdinand Borchert, and the board refused to accept it. So to cover any possible technical difficulty M. J. Toher, his predecessor, resigned the office, and the board proceeded to appoint Ferdinand Borchert sheriff of Steele County. He served one year.

Succeeding Mr. Borchert in November, 1869, Michael J. Toher was again chosen to fill the office. He was re-elected in 1871 and 1873, serving until January 1, 1876.

In November, 1875, Clark Chambers was elected sheriff. As he was re-elected in 1877, 1879 and 1881, he served for eight consecutive years. Mr. Chambers is still a prominent resident of Owatonna.

The present sheriff, Hugh Murray, is one of the most generally popular men in the county. He was elected in 1883, and re-elected in 1886. Mr. Murray was born in Washington County, Vt., in 1837. At the age of twenty years he came west, remaining in Pennsylvania a short time, thence to LaSalle County, Ill., where he remained a year. He came to Steele County in 1858, locating in Lemond Township, where he now owns over a thousand acres of land. In 1871 Mr. Murray was elected county commissioner, which position he held until 1876. In 1875,

he was elected to the Lower House of the legislature, where he served two terms. He is a member of Blue Lodge, No. 33, A. F. & A. M., at Owatonna. Mr. Murray was married in 1861 to Miss Elizabeth Hastings, a native of New York; Carrie and Wyatt are the names of their only living children.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

The first county superintendent of schools for Steele County was Ezra Abbott, who was elected in October, 1856. Mr. Abbott is noticed at length elsewhere. The educational system underwent many radical changes in early days, although when Mr. Abbott was elected the system was very similar to that of the present day. After the election of 1856, we do not find any record of the election or appointment of a superintendent until 1862. In the spring of this year the system was changed and the county was divided into districts for the supervision of schools. In September of the same year the board of county commissioners appointed a school superintendent for each of these districts as follows: First district, R. G. Lincoln; second district, Harvey Chapin; third district, Dwight Gordon.

In a short time another change was made in the educational system by an act approved on the 3d of March, 1864, and in accordance with this the board of commissioners appointed A. A. Harwood superintendent of schools for the entire county and fixed the salary of that officer at \$200 per year. Mr. Harwood is noticed at length elsewhere.

Hon. A. C. Hickman succeeded Mr. Harwood as superintendent.

F. J. Stevens succeeded Mr. Hickman, and served for several years.

O. A. Tiffany was the next superintendent of schools.

Succeeding him, Rev. G. C. Tanner was appointed and held the office until January, 1887, when he resigned.

J. D. Brown was appointed to succeed Mr. Tanner and is the present incumbent.

JUDGE OF PROBATE.

The first judge of probate of Steele County was Smith Johnson, Sr., who was appointed by the governor in the summer of 1855.

Franklin B. Davis succeeded Mr. Johnson and served a portion of one year.

Bazil Meek succeeded Mr. Davis as judge of probate. He was elected in October, 1856, and re-elected in 1857. Mr. Meek came here in the spring of 1855 from Jo Daviess County, Ill., bringing his family, and located upon a claim just west of the present business portion of the city, but within the city limits. He remained there engaged at farming for several years and then left the county.

In November, 1860, R. G. Lincoln was elected judge of probate, and in 1864 he was re-elected. Mr. Lincoln was an early settler at Medford, where he had been engaged in the mercantile business. He was an intelligent and capable business man, and was closely identified with the early history of the northern part of the county. He remained at Medford until the time of his death.

J. J. Aiken succeeded Mr. Lincoln, and served a portion of one term.

In November, 1866, A. A. Harwood was elected judge of probate, and served two years.

Hon. A. C. Hickman was the next judge of probate, by virtue of the November election, in 1868, and two years later was re-elected. A biographical sketch of Mr. Hickman is presented elsewhere. He is still a resident of Owatonna, and is to-day and has been for years one of the most able and prominent lawyers in this part of the State.

In November, 1872, Hon. L. L. Wheelock was chosen judge of probate, and being re-elected in 1874 served three years, resigning before the expiration of his term. Judge Wheelock is also one of the leading members of the bar of southern Minnesota. Having for twenty years been identified with polit-

ical and legal matters, he is widely known throughout the State. A history of his life is presented in connection with the history of Steele County's bar.

Upon the resignation of Judge Wheelock the governor appointed Judge Amos Coggs- well to this office, and he served out the balance of the term. Mr. Coggs- well has been among the most prominent lawyers in the State, and a biography of him appears elsewhere.

Hon. Lorenzo Hazen succeeded Judge Coggs- well by the election in November, 1876. In 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884 and 1886 he has been re-elected, and is the present incumbent. He has had the support of both political parties. Mr. Hazen was born in Copenhagen, Lewis County, N. Y., in 1817. When twenty-six years old he went to Wisconsin and engaged in farming. Three years later he removed to Fond du Lac, where he remained for ten years. He then removed to Ripon, Wis., where he remained for eleven years and then came to Steele County, Minn., locating at Medford, where he engaged in carpentering and conveyancing. In 1877 he came to Owatonna, having been elected judge of probate. Mr. Hazen was elected justice of the peace at Fond du Lac, in 1844, and held the office for ten years. In 1846 he was a member of the first constitutional convention of Wisconsin, at Madison. He was also elected justice of the peace at Ripon, and held that office there for ten years. Mr. Hazen has held various offices of trust since he came here, and has been prominent in all public affairs. He was married, in 1843, to Miss Mary Moore, a native of New York. Mary H., now wife of E. T. Howard, of Red Wing, is the name of their only child. Mr. Hazen was admitted to the bar in about 1869, but has never engaged in the practice of the legal profession to any extent.

CLERK OF COURT.

The first clerk of court of Steele County was J. H. Catlin, who was appointed by

Gov. Gorman, in 1855. It does not appear from record, however, that he ever performed a single official act.

F. Wilbur Fisk was the second clerk of court, serving by appointment. He held the office during the greater part of 1856.

George Oulton was the first clerk of court to hold the office by virtue of an election. He was chosen in October, 1857, and apparently held the office for two years. Oulton was a native of Vermont, who came here as early as 1855, locating at Owatonna, and working at whatever he could find to do. He was a smart, active fellow, what would be termed a society man with no bad habits or vices. After a year or two he was engaged most of the time in assisting M. A. Dailey. About the time the war broke out, or possibly a short time before, he left here and finally brought up in California, where he made a fortune in different enterprises, more particularly, it is thought, in the wholesale liquor trade. He became one of the most powerful and influential men in the State, was connected with the Union Pacific Railroad at one time, served in various official capacities, rode in his special palace car, and at one time not more than a decade past was considered as powerful and influential as any man in California. It may truthfully be said that he made as complete a success of life as any man who has ever gone from Steele County.

On the 20th of October, 1859, W. F. Drum was elected to the office of clerk of court and served one term. Mr. Drum was a native of New York State, and a graduate of the West Point military school. He came west at an early day and settled upon a farm in Meriden Township. He remained in Steele County only a few years and then went to Washington, where he secured an appointment in the regular army and has been in the service ever since. He was an educated and intelligent man, and was quite prominent in public affairs during early days.

John N. Kelley succeeded Mr. Drum by the election in October, 1861, and served four years. Kelley was also a New York man. He came here in July, 1855, and located at the county-seat. He was an active and capable young man, single at the time — although he afterward married — and was well known in early days. He was postmaster at Owatonna for several years, and for a time was one of the proprietors of the Eureka hotel. About the close of the war he got a position as messenger with an express company and moved out of Steele County. He is still in the express business and now lives at St. Paul.

In November, 1865, Anson M. Kinyon was elected and served one term, which was then four years.

I. W. Burch succeeded Mr. Kinyon. He was elected in November, 1869, and was re-elected in 1873 and 1877, serving twelve years.

James A. Cotter, the present efficient and accommodating clerk of court, was elected in November, 1881, and was re-elected in 1886. Mr. Cotter was born in the town of Richmond, Walworth County, Wis., in 1849. When he was nine years of age his parents moved to Juneau County, where they resided until the fall of 1864, when they came to Steele County, Minn., locating in the town of Havana, where James A. received his education, also attending the high school at Owatonna. He was employed in the grocery store of T. H. Kelly as salesman for eight years. In the fall of 1881 he was elected clerk of court on the Democratic ticket and was re-elected in 1886 with 653 majority.

Mr. Cotter was married in September, 1875, to Miss Miranda J. Jones, a native of Pennsylvania. Jay and Laura A. are the names of their two children. Mr. Cotter was a member of the board of education from 1880 to 1886.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

The following is a list of the gentlemen

who have occupied the position of prosecuting attorney for Steele County, as shown by the records. Nearly all of these gentlemen receive extended notice in other chapters, so that it is unnecessary to refer to their history here, further than to give the date of the election of each:

Simeon Case was the first county attorney. He was not a lawyer, but was appointed by the governor in 1855, not so much for the duties to be performed — for there was nothing to do then — as for the mere purpose of filling the office.

George W. Green (district attorney), 1856.

O. F. Perkins (district attorney), 1857.

S. M. Yearly (county attorney), 1858, 1860 and 1862.

A. A. Harwood, 1864.

J. B. Searles, 1866, 1868, 1870.

J. M. Burlingame, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878, 1880.

W. F. Sawyer, 1882, 1884.

W. A. Sperry, 1886.

SURVEYOR.

John W. Park was the first surveyor of Steele County, appointed by the territorial governor, in 1855. A number of the early settlers also claim that Mr. Park was elected to the office in the fall of 1856; but the records state that H. W. Peck was elected surveyor at that time. It is certain, however, that Park was the first, as he served as such all through 1856, and attended to most of the work during the following year.

In October, 1857, O. W. Pollock was elected surveyor and appears to have served one year. Pollock was a young Pennsylvanian who came to Steele County in 1856, and located at Owatonna. He was a civil engineer, and followed surveying for an occupation. He remained for a number of years, when he left. An incident is related of Pollock's election which is worthy of a place here. Pollock ran as a Republican candidate and Luther Bixby, a Democrat, was his opponent. Mr. Bixby contested the election and it was carried to the Supreme

Court, where Judge Flandrau decided that Pollock had not been here long enough to gain a residence. By the time the decision was rendered he had been here the time fixed by law and the board at once appointed Mr. Pollock to the office.

A. Ingerson succeeded Mr. Pollock, being elected in the fall of 1858, and re-elected in 1859. Mr. Ingerson was an early settler in Berlin Township, where he had located upon a farm. After a few years he secured an appointment to a government clerkship in Washington and moved there. He now resides in Hennepin County, Minn.

S. B. Beach was the next surveyor of Steele County. He was elected in November, 1860, and served one year.

In October, 1861, J. M. Finch was elected and served a like period. Mr. Finch was a native of New York. He had located at Clinton Falls at an early day, where he had engaged in farming, and remained there until the time of his death. Several of his sons are still residents of the county. Mr. Finch was prominent among the old settlers, belonging to a family that were closely identified with all public matters in early days. His death was regretted and mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

John H. Abbott succeeded J. M. Finch as surveyor. He was elected in November, 1862, and served the full term of two years.

Luther Bixby came next, by virtue of the election in November, 1864. Mr. Bixby was a native of Vermont. He came west at an early day and located in the village of Owatonna. Being a surveyor he followed that occupation at first, and after a few years, opened a drug store. While engaged at this he discovered and began the manufacture of a patent medicine called "Bixby's Death to Pain," and toward the latter part of his mercantile career here he purchased a newspaper. After selling out his store he removed to Minneapolis, and began the publication of the *Temperance Review*, at the same time manufact-

uring and placing his medicine upon the market. He has since sold both these interests, and now lives near Chicago.

Succeeding Mr. Bixby, in 1866, J. M. Finch was again elected to the office, and held it for two years.

M. E. Billings was elected in the fall of 1868, serving the same length of time.

By the election in November, 1870, Charles Dennijes became surveyor. Mr. Dennijes is still a resident of Owatonna.

B. S. Wheeler was the next surveyor. He was elected in the fall of 1871 and re-elected in 1873, 1875 and 1879. Mr. Wheeler was an early settler in the town of Summit, where he had been engaged in farming. He remained there until a few years ago, when he removed to southeastern Dakota where he still lives.

In the fall of 1881 John H. Abbott was again elected surveyor.

A. M. Mitchell, the present surveyor, succeeded Abbott. He was elected in November, 1883, and re-elected in 1886. Mr. Mitchell is a native of Indiana, born November 25, 1836. At the age of twenty-three he left home to make his own way in the world and engaged at carpenter work for a few years. He then spent one year in Nebraska, and then settled at Burlington, Iowa, where he followed his trade for some time. On the 3d of April, 1863, he came to Steele County and located on section 36, but about a year later removed to section 34, Aurora Township, where he has since lived, carrying on general farming and stock raising. On the 31st of October, 1864, he enlisted in Company D, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, under Capt. Reeves, and was discharged at Fort Snelling, September 27, 1865. Mr. Mitchell was married to a Miss Margaret Walker, a native of Burlington, Iowa, born March 9, 1841, and they have seven children as follows: John B., born January 5, 1861; Charles H., born August 22, 1862; Ettie M., born September 9, 1866; Dora J., born December 20, 1867; Minne S., born Novem-

ber 9, 1870; Delbert M., born December 9, 1873, and Alice M., born October 14, 1883. John and Charles are both graduates of the Pillsbury Academy at Owatonna. Mr. Mitchell is a Republican in politics and since his residence here has held various offices of trust, including those of town clerk, town supervisor, school director and others.

COUNTY CORONER.

The following is a list of the various gentlemen who have been elected to the office of coroner of Steele County, together with the date of election of each as shown by the records. Many of those named never qualified:

Thomas Kenyon, 1856-8.
Anton Shimek, 1860.
Thomas Kenyon, 1861.
G. Watson, 1862-4.

John Austin, 1866.
J. G. Gilchrist, 1868-70.
L. L. Bennett, 1871-3.
H. S. Hill, 1877.
L. L. Bennett, 1879.
Dr. H. S. Hill, 1881.
Dr. E. E. Aukes, 1883.
Dr. J. L. Harrington, 1884.
C. Peterson, 1886.

COURT COMMISSIONER.

The following-named have held this office by election:

P. J. Nordeen, 1860.
R. G. Lincoln, 1861-4.
A. A. Harwood, 1866.
J. M. Burlingame, 1869.
M. B. Chadwick, 1872.
L. Hazen, 1881-6.



CHAPTER X.

POLITICAL.



THE political history of Steele County is more fully and more authentically shown by giving the vote of the county during the various years, than in any other manner. The county has been Republican by large majorities on national and State issues ever since its organization; yet in local affairs it has varied considerably and many Democratic candidates have, through their personal popularity, been elected to county offices over Republican "standard bearers." As a rule, the Republicans hold a convention and nominate a "straight ticket," and the opposition concentrate all their force upon an "Independent" or "People's" ticket. In this connection is presented an abstract of the vote at every general election held in Steele County, as far as could be ascertained from the records in the court house, and files of the newspapers. The first election was held in October, 1855, and resulted as follows:

Election, October 9, 1855.

Delegate to Congress.	
W. R. Marshall, Democrat.....	38— 34
David Olmsted.....	4
Henry M. Rice.....	2
Councillor.	
P. P. Humphrey.....	106— 95
Chas. E. Flandrau.....	11
Legislative Assembly.	
A. B. Cornell.....	83— 2
G. A. McLeod.....	81
Sheriff.	
Wm. F. Pettit.....	84— 56
Benj. A. Freeman.....	28

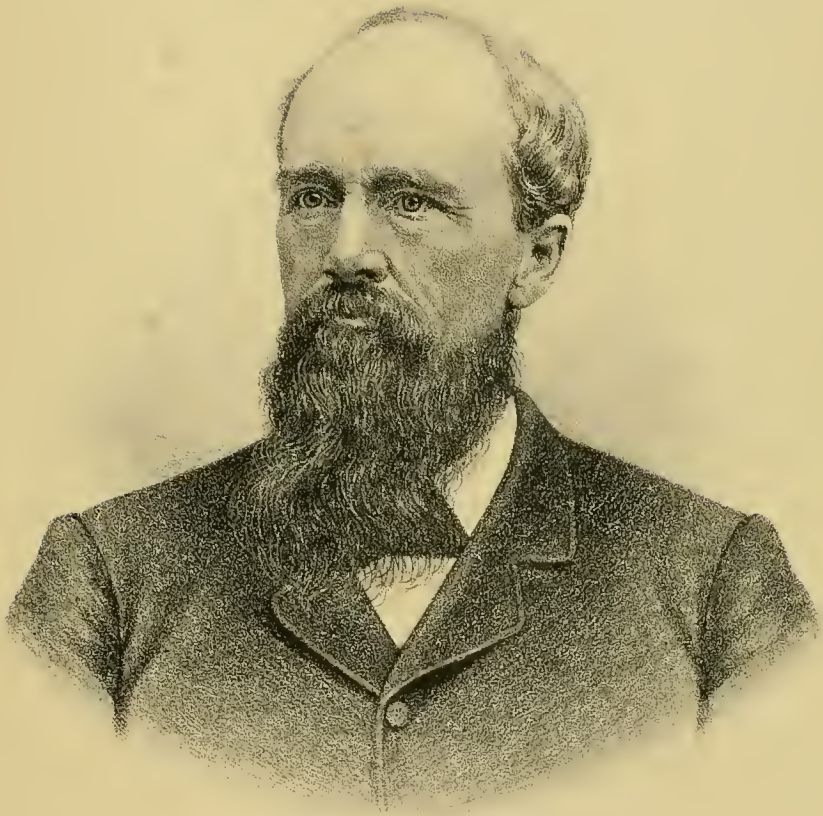
Election, October 14, 1856.

Register of Deeds.	
John W. Park.....	201— 23
Charles Ellison.....	178

Sheriff.	
David Lindersmith.....	191— 4
Joseph W. Burch.....	187
Treasurer.	
David Sanborn.....	379—379
Judge of Probate.	
Bazil Meek.....	199— 22
W. W. Robinson.....	177
Bazil Meek.....	7
District Attorney.	
George W. Green.....	199— 25
John Bradish.....	174
County Surveyor.	
H. W. Peek.....	259— 62
James M. Finch.....	97
James W. Finch.....	18
C. M. Merrick.....	13
James Finch.....	5
Coroner.	
Thos. Kenyon.....	196— 28
J. M. Blevin.....	168
W. W. Finch.....	23
Auditor.	
Z. B. Moore.....	180— 3
C. W. Curtis.....	177
W. W. Finch.....	1
School Superintendent.	
Ezra Abbot.....	184— 1
W. W. Finch.....	183
County Assessors.	
Geo. O. Hankerson.....	201
P. Sanford.....	181
P. Healy.....	181
James E. Child.....	180
Lorin B. Town.....	180
John A. Hadley.....	180
Geo. A. Child.....	19
T. B. Town.....	19
County Commissioners.	
David Smith.....	233
N. Winship.....	201
Wm. Allen.....	201
M. J. Kendall.....	181
Addison Phelps.....	181
Wm. H. Chamberlain.....	138
H. Chamberlain.....	4

Election, October 13, 1857.

Adopting State Constitution.	
For.....	613—544
Against.....	69



A. W. Buffum

Governor.

Alex. Ramsey, Republican..... 495—303
Henry H. Sibley, Democrat..... 192

Lieutenant Governor.

John C. Ide, Republican..... 491—301
William Holcombe, Democrat..... 190

Secretary of State.

L. K. Stannard..... 494—300
Francis Baasen..... 194

State Treasurer.

Frank Mantor..... 492—297
George Armstrong..... 195

State Auditor.

A. P. Lane..... 493—300
Wm. F. Dunbar..... 193

Attorney General.

George Nourse..... 493—299
Chas. H. Berry..... 194

Congressmen.

M. S. Wilkinson, Republican..... 493
Henry A. Swift, Republican..... 493
Cyrus Aldrich, Republican..... 493
Geo. L. Becker, Democrat..... 194
W. W. Phelps, Democrat..... 194
J. M. Cavanaugh, Democrat..... 193

District Judge.

N. M. Donaldson..... 492—298
Henry C. Lowell..... 194

District Attorney.

O. F. Perkins..... 489—296
Frank Wainer..... 193
John Moon..... 2

Clerk of District Court.

George Oulton..... 471—279
Marvin A. Dailey..... 192
Chas. L. Lowell..... 10

State Senator.

Lewis McKune..... 428—174
Wm. Pettit..... 254
Scattering..... 2

Representatives.

Geo. L. Leonard..... 492
H. M. Sheetz..... 486
George C. Pettie..... 485
Smith Johnson..... 470
Edwin Drake..... 200
W. W. Robinson..... 193
D. S. Bellis..... 193
Henry W. Peck..... 192
A. B. Cornell..... 2
W. W. Finch..... 2
Geo. W. Green..... 1

Judge of Probate.

Bazil Meek..... 412—392
Addison Phelps..... 20
Jacob Myers..... 12
Scattering..... 3

Delegate to Congress.

Chas. McClure, Republican..... 435—285
W. W. Kingsbury, Democrat..... 150

County Commissioners.

Lorenzo Muckey..... 424
Hiram Pitcher..... 413
John A. Hadley..... 152
Henry N. Bill..... 173

County Treasurer.

Joseph W. Morford..... 436—286
John N. Kelly..... 150

County Surveyor.

O. W. Pollock..... 399—228
Luther Bixby, 2d..... 171

Register of Deeds.

George W. Danforth..... 573—572
M. A. Dailey..... 1

Road Commissioners.

Seth H. Patterson..... 438
Zachariah Scribner..... 420
E. Le Gro..... 161
John D. Sanborn..... 155

Assessors.

A. B. Clark..... 445
W. B. Evans..... 440
F. J. Stevens..... 440
Daniel Harmon..... 152
John Oliver..... 152
Geo. B. Thompson..... 151

Election, October 12, 1858.

State Senator.

William F. Pettit, Democrat..... 387—115
Lewis McKune, Republican..... 272

Representatives.

H. M. Sheetz..... 472
A. A. Woodward..... 388
Geo. W. Green..... 286
B. M. Morrill..... 380
O. T. Jones..... 200
Buel Welsh..... 345
Alexander Johnson..... 258
James Banie..... 271

Register of Deeds.

Marvin A. Dailey..... 370— 98
A. B. Cornell..... 272

Judge of Probate.

R. G. Lincoln..... 450—249
Charles V. Brown..... 201

Prosecuting Attorney.

S. M. Yearley..... 326—149
Patrick Cudmore..... 177
Edwin Drake..... 118

Sheriff.

W. H. Willsey..... 410—174
John Oliver..... 236

Coroner.

Thomas Kenyon..... 297—119
E. Y. Hunnewell..... 178

County Auditor.

A. McKinney..... 343—226
George Lincoln..... 117

	Surveyor.	
A. Ingerson.....		177
	County Treasurer.	
J. W. Morford.....		301
<i>Election, October 20, 1859.</i>		
	Governor.	
Alexander Ramsey, Republican.....		440—262
George L. Becker, Democrat.....		178
	Lieutenant Governor.	
Ignatius Donnelly.....		441—263
S. B. Lowry.....		178
	Secretary of State.	
J. H. Baker.....		445—266
Francis Baasen.....		179
	State Treasurer.	
C. T. Scheffer.....		448—271
Samuel Abbe.....		177
	Attorney General.	
Gordon E. Cole.....		446—268
John B. Brisbin.....		178
	Congressmen.	
Cyrus Aldrich, Republican.....		447
William Windom, Republican.....		449
Christopher Graham, Democrat.....		175
James M. Cavanaugh, Democrat.....		176
	Representatives.	
Amos Coggswell.....		454
Geo. W. Green.....		437
Jesse I. Stewart.....		440
George T. White.....		439
W. R. Kinyon.....		175
John Powers.....		168
W. H. Wyman.....		172
W. W. Cowles.....		170
	County Treasurer.	
J. W. Morford.....		451—286
H. M. Bills.....		165
	Clerk of Court.	
W. F. Drum.....		458—296
John N. Kelly.....		162
	County Auditor.	
Frank L. Melvin.....		431—266
Charles V. Brown.....		165
	Surveyor.	
Ashbel Ingerson.....		426—234
James M. Finch.....		192
<i>Election, November 6, 1860.</i>		
	President.	
Abraham Lincoln, Republican.....		523—366
S. A. Douglas, Democrat.....		157
J. C. Breckenridge, Democrat.....		8
	State Auditor.	
Charles McIlrath.....		513—356
Herman Trott.....		157
Josiah S. Weiser.....		8
	Clerk of Supreme Court.	
A. J. VanVorhes.....		512—355
Jacob J. Noah.....		157
William B. Leach.....		8

	Congressmen.	
Cyrus Aldrich, Republican.....		512
William Windom, Republican.....		513
John M. Gilman, Democrat.....		158
James George, Democrat.....		157
James W. Taylor.....		8
A. J. Edgerton.....		8
	Register of Deeds.	
M. A. Dailey.....		261—8
A. B. Cornell.....		253
W. R. Kinyon.....		158
	County Auditor.	
E. J. Crandall.....		478—318
James M. Finch.....		160
	Sheriff.	
S. C. Williamson.....		475—299
L. E. Rawson.....		176
David W. Cook.....		27
	Judge of Probate.	
R. G. Lincoln.....		480—307
Darius Cook.....		173
	County Attorney.	
S. M. Yearly.....		509—349
John H. Morse.....		160
	Court Commissioner.	
P. J. Nordeen.....		311—119
L. F. Babcock.....		192
Henry M. Bill.....		164
	Surveyor.	
S. B. Beach.....		512—344
James M. Finch.....		168
	Coroner.	
Anton Schimek.....		482—299
D. G. Fowle.....		183
Scattering.....		3
<i>Election, October 8, 1861.</i>		
	For Governor.	
Alexander Ramsey, Republican.....		353—280
E. O. Hamlin, Democrat.....		73
	Lieutenant Governor.	
Ignatius Donnelly, Republican.....		363—305
Thomas Cowan, Democrat.....		58
	Secretary of State.	
James H. Baker, Republican.....		360—295
Daniel Buck, Democrat.....		65
M. A. Dailey.....		1
	State Treasurer.	
Charles Scheffer.....		363—299
C. P. Fisher.....		64
	Attorney General.	
Gordon E. Cole.....		363—299
William H. Peckham.....		63
	State Senator.	
A. B. Webber.....		252—69
E. C. Stacey.....		183
	Representatives.	
H. C. Magoon.....		212
A. B. Cornell.....		178
P. C. Bailey.....		256
J. I. Stewart.....		167

County Treasurer.	
W. W. Finch.....	309—203
Geo. C. Pettie.....	106
Clerk of Court.	
John N. Kelley.....	223—20
Smith Stowers.....	203
William Davidson.....	1
Court Commissioner.	
R. G. Lincoln.....	384—382
Scattering.....	2
Surveyor.	
J. M. Finch.....	166—166
Coroner.	
Thomas Kenyon.....	247—103
Anton Shultz.....	144
A. B. Cornell.....	1

Election, November 4, 1862.

Congressman.	
William Windom, Republican.....	331—268
A. G. Chatfield, Democrat.....	63
State Senator.	
M. A. Dailey.....	287—251
N. Winship.....	36
Scattering.....	4
Representatives.	
Philo Woodruff.....	327—2
Asa Walker.....	325
Register of Deeds.	
W. Morris.....	327—320
Scattering.....	7
County Surveyor.	
John H. Abbott.....	319—316
Scattering.....	3
County Attorney.	
S. M. Yearly.....	305—303
Scattering.....	2
Coroner.	
G. Watson.....	329—329
Sheriff.	
S. H. Patterson.....	238—238

Election, November 3, 1863.

Governor.	
Stephen Miller, Republican.....	418—337
Henry Wells, Democrat.....	81
Secretary of State.	
David Blakely, Republican.....	415—331
Amos Cogswell, Democrat.....	84
Attorney General.	
Gordon E. Cole, Republican.....	413—330
W. H. Grant, Democrat.....	83
Clerk of Supreme Court.	
George F. Potter, Republican.....	412—330
J. Mainsier, Democrat.....	82
Lieutenant Governor.	
Charles D. Sherwood, Republican.....	396—314
J. S. Norris, Democrat.....	82
C. D. Sherman.....	21
State Treasurer.	
Charles Scheffer, Republican.....	413—331
J. Estebrook, Democrat.....	82

Auditor of State.	
Charles McIlrath, Republican.....	405—326
J. H. McKinney, Democrat.....	79
State Senator.	
F. J. Stevens.....	398—328
Amos Cogswell.....	70
Lewis Howard.....	5
Representatives.	
Philo Woodruff.....	397
J. L. Gibbs.....	396
William Brisbin.....	5
County Treasurer.	
B. F. Melvin.....	374—330
G. B. Hall.....	44

Election, November 8, 1864.

President.	
Abrabam Lincoln, Republican.....	636—427
George B. McClellan, Democrat.....	209
Congressman.	
William Windom, Republican.....	629—420
H. W. Lamberton, Democrat.....	209
Chief Justice Supreme Court.	
Thomas Wilson, Republican.....	637—428
A. G. Chatfield, Democrat.....	209
Associate Justices.	
S. J. R. McMillan, Republican.....	634
John M. Berry, Republican.....	635
Eli T. Wilder, Democrat.....	209
E. O. Hamlin, Democrat.....	209
District Judge.	
N. M. Donaldson, Republican.....	569—315
Geo. W. Batchelder, Democrat.....	254
State Senator.	
B. A. Lowell.....	581—391
Wm. Brisbane.....	190
Representatives.	
J. L. Gibbs.....	577
J. B. Crooker.....	535
N. Winship.....	267
A. Armstrong.....	196
Scattering.....	10
Probate Judge.	
R. G. Lincoln.....	602—432
James M. Finch.....	170
Sheriff.	
Seth H. Patterson.....	597—385
Hugh Murray.....	212
County Auditor.	
A. N. Stoughton.....	598—395
O. Bartholomew.....	203
Register of Deeds.	
C. S. Crandall.....	544—277
J. N. Kelly.....	267
Surveyor.	
L. Bixby.....	205—205
County Attorney.	
A. A. Harwood.....	581—357
S. M. Yearly.....	224
Court Commissioner.	
R. G. Lincoln.....	589—589

	Coroner.	
G. Watson.....		598—390
J. H. Morse.....		208

Election, November 7, 1865.

	Governor.	
Wm. R. Marshall, Republican.....		521—403
H. M. Rice, Democrat.....		118

	Lieutenant Governor.	
Thomas H. Armstrong.....		530—421
Charles W. Nash.....		109

	Secretary of State.	
H. C. Rogers.....		531—423
John R. Jones.....		108

	Treasurer of State.	
Charles Scheffer.....		531—423
Frank Henderstadt.....		108

	Attorney General.	
William Colville.....		530—422
William Lochren.....		108

	Constitutional Amendment to Section 1, Article VII.	
For.....		392—238
Against.....		154

	Representatives.	
A. Armstrong.....		353— 70
J. B. Crooker.....		283
Adolphus Town.....		134

	Sheriff.	
W. Wheaton.....		526—526

	County Treasurer.	
Benjamin F. Melvin.....		529—529

	Clerk of Court.	
Anson M. Kinyon.....		519—519

Election, November 6, 1886.

	Congressman.	
W. Windom, Republican.....		779—311
Richard A. Jones, Democrat.....		468

	State Auditor.	
Charles McIlrath.....		785—319
Nelse E. Nelson.....		466

	Clerk of Supreme Court.	
Sherwood Hough.....		787—321
Dennis Cavanaugh.....		466

	State Senator.	
A. Armstrong.....		789—788
Scattering.....		1

	Representative.	
W. H. Twiford.....		745—242
A. C. Flanders.....		503
Scattering.....		1

	County Auditor.	
A. N. Stoughton.....		763—290
Jacob Newsalt.....		473

	Sheriff.	
Michael J. Toher.....		480— 24
Richard Miles.....		456
M. E. Billings.....		306
Scattering.....		2

	Judge of Probate.	
A. A. Harwood.....		709—190

A. Pettie.....		519
Scattering.....		3

	Court Commissioner.	
A. A. Harwood.....		743—280
Patrick Cudmore.....		463

	Register of Deeds.	
C. S. Crandall.....		711—173
L. M. Howard.....		538

	Surveyor.	
James M. Finch.....		1123—1121
Scattering.....		2

	County Attorney.	
J. B. Searles.....		768—296
Amos Coggsell.....		472

	Coroner.	
John Austin.....		454— 37
J. C. Messenger.....		417
Scattering.....		2

Election, November 5, 1867.

	Governor.	
William R. Marshall, Republican.....		996—426
Charles E. Flandrau, Democrat.....		570

	Lieutenant Governor.	
Thomas Armstrong, Republican.....		997—427
A. K. Maynard, Democrat.....		570

	Secretary of State.	
Henry C. Rogers.....		1029—503
Amos Coggsell.....		526

	State Treasurer.	
Emil Munich.....		995—460
John Friedrichs.....		535
A. G. Chatfield.....		35

	Attorney General.	
F. R. E. Cornell.....		995—458
A. G. Chatfield.....		537
John Friedrichs.....		35

	Representatives.	
W. R. Kinyon.....		925—319
Alex. Chambers.....		606
R. Drake.....		1

	Proposition to Issue County Bonds for Building Jail.	
Against.....		463—132
For.....		331

	Proposed Adjustment of Railroad Bonds.	
Against Adjustment.....		1525—1517
For Adjustment.....		8

	County Treasurer.	
B. F. Melvin.....		952—353
Charles Schoen.....		599

Election, November 3, 1868.

	President.	
U. S. Grant, Republican.....		1137—624
H. Seymour, Democrat.....		503

	Congressman.	
M. S. Wilkinson, Republican.....		1131—625
Geo. W. Batchelder, Democrat.....		506

	County Auditor.	
A. N. Stoughton.....		1048—476

Jacob Newsalt	572
Scattering	1
Sheriff.	
Frank Borchert	867—104.
M. J. Toher	763
Scattering	2
Register of Deeds.	
H. J. Lewis	1036—442
A. Horstmann	594
Scattering	1
County Attorney.	
J. B. Searles	1110—584
Amos Coggs well	526
Surveyor.	
M. E. Billings	928—273
Luther Bixby	655
Judge of Probate.	
A. C. Hickman	1083—532
H. H. Johnson	551
Coroner.	
J. G. Gilchrist	1091—581
L. L. Bennett	510
State Senator.	
J. B. Crooker	953—280
M. F. Lowth	673
<i>Election, November 2, 1869.</i>	
Governor.	
Horace Austin, Republican	637—276
Geo. L. Otis, Democrat	361
Daniel Cobb, Prohibitionist	75
Lieutenant Governor.	
William H. Yale	644—283
J. A. Wiswell	361
John H. Stevens	70
Secretary of State.	
Hans Mattsou	640—279
T. G. Fladeland	361
James E. Child	69
State Auditor.	
Charles McIlrath	639—277
L. A. Evans	362
J. A. Randolph	70
State Treasurer.	
Emil Mnnch	642—282
Casper Baberich	360
Rob. Stewart	72
Attorney General.	
F. R. E. Cornell	641—281
Seagrave Smith	360
J. Ham Davidson	71
Clerk of Supreme Court.	
Sherwood Hough	643—289
W. T. Bonniwell	354
Chief Justice of Supreme Court.	
C. G. Ripley	632—272
C. E. Flandrau	360
E. O. Hamlin	69

County Treasurer.	
B. F. Melvin	1033—1029
Scattering	4
Sheriff.	
M. J. Toher	543— 28
S. H. Stowers	515
Scattering	7
Clerk of Court.	
I. W. Burch	1060—1060
Court Commissioner.	
J. M. Burlingame	691—324
Amos Coggs well	367
Representative.	
H. W. Ruliffson	669—282
L. C. Woodman	387
<i>Special Election, May 31, 1870.</i>	
Payment of Railroad Bonds in Lands.	
Yes	775—714
No	61
<i>Election, November 8, 1870.</i>	
Congressman.	
Mark H. Dunnell, Republican	809—502
C. F. Buck, Democrat	307
Scattering	6
County Auditor.	
A. N. Stoughton	844—529
Benj. F. Wheeler	315
Register of Deeds.	
H. J. Lewis	836—512
A. C. Flanders	324
County Attorney.	
J. B. Searles	774—433
Amos Coggs well	341
Surveyor.	
Charles Dennijes	811—463
L. Bixby	348
Judge of Probate.	
A. C. Hickman	676—185
H. H. Johnson	491
Coroner.	
J. G. Gilchrist	825—379
E. M. Morehouse	346
State Senator.	
W. C. Young	788—424
James F. Jones	364
Representative.	
F. B. Davis	752—353
N. Winship	399
<i>Election, November 7, 1871.</i>	
Governor.	
Horace Austin, Republican	1195—701
Winthrop Young, Democrat	494
Samuel Mayall	15
Lieutenant Governor.	
William H. Yale	1175—651
D. L. Buell	524

William A. Bentley	14
Secretary of State.	
S. P. Jennison	1161—624
Erick N. Falk	537
J. Guilford	14
State Treasurer.	
William Seeger	1174—652
Barney Vosberg	522
W. L. Mintzer	15
Attorney General.	
F. R. E. Cornell	1117—548
J. L. McDonald	569
N. F. Sargent	14
Associate Justices of Supreme Court.	
S. J. R. McMillan	1175
John M. Berry	1175
Daniel Buck	522
William Mitchell	521
E. O. Hamlin	14
A. P. Jewell	14
County Treasurer.	
B. F. Melvin	909—144
Sandford Kinney	765
Sheriff.	
M. J. Toher	909—138
S. H. Stowers	771
County Surveyor.	
B. S. Wheeler	1240—1217
J. M. Finch	23
Scattering	9
Coroner.	
L. L. Bennett	909—134
Solomon Blood	775
State Senator.	
Amos Cogswell	952—233
C. S. Crandall	719
Representatives.	
W. W. Wilkins	660
Geo. W. Green	204
F. B. Davis	453
W. H. Twiford	341
<i>Election, November, 1872.</i>	
President.	
U. S. Grant, Republican	1033—406
Horace Greeley, Democrat and Liberal Re- publican	627
Member of Congress.	
Mark H. Dunnell, Republican	1042—416
M. S. Wilkinson, Democrat	626
Auditor of State. *	
O. P. Whitcomb	876—336
Albert Scheffer	540

* NOTE.—In the vote for State auditor, the townships of Meriden, Deerfield and Clinton are not reported. The vote of Clinton is also omitted from vote on clerk of Supreme Court.

Clerk of Supreme Court.	
Sherwood Hough	993—375
James George	618
Register of Deeds.	
H. J. Lewis	768—86
Charles Dennijes	682
M. A. Dailey	223
Judge of Probate.	
L. L. Wheelock	995—318
H. H. Johnson	677
County Auditor.	
L. Padgham	765—164
Edward Donaldson	601
A. N. Stoughton	308
Court Commissioner.	
M. B. Chadwick	991—991
County Attorney.	
J. M. Burlingame	991—314
Amos Cogswell	677
Representative—First District.	
W. W. Wilkins	495—142
G. W. Knapp	353
Representative—Second District.	
A. Colquhon	418—120
Hugh Murray	298
<i>Election, November 4, 1873.</i>	
Governor.	
C. K. Davis, Republican	774—205
Ara Barton, Democrat	569
Samuel Mayall, Prohibitionist	58
Lieutenant Governor.	
A. Barto	726—58
E. Ayr	668
Secretary of State.	
S. P. Jennison	738—68
John H. Stevens	670
State Treasurer.	
Mons Grinager	763—179
E. W. Dike	584
I. N. Sater	59
Attorney General.	
Geo. P. Wilson	802—200
Wm. P. Clough	602
County Treasurer.	
Thomas Thompson	705—25
A. N. Stoughton	680
Sheriff.	
M. J. Toher	784—190
David Whipple	594
Surveyor.	
B. S. Wheeler	1352—1349
Scattering	3
Clerk of Court.	
I. W. Bureh	1407—1407
Coroner.	
L. L. Bennett	720—104

T. L. Hatch.....	616
E. P. Gould.....	60
Scattering.....	4
State Senator.	
Amos Coggswell.....	784—169
J. M. Burlingame.....	615
Scattering.....	2
Representative — First District.	
C. S. Crandall.....	376— 33
N. M. Donaldson.....	343
Scattering.....	5
Representative — Second District.	
J. M. Sloan.....	446—252
F. J. Stevens.....	194
Scattering.....	3
<i>Election, November 2, 1874.</i>	
Chief Justice Supreme Court.	
S. J. R. McMillan, Republican.....	1062—430
Wescott Wilkin, Democrat.....	632
Associate Justice Supreme Court.	
Judge Cornell.....	1057—428
Wm. Lochren.....	628
Congressman.	
M. H. Donnell.....	960—271
F. H. Waite.....	889
County Auditor.	
L. Padgham.....	1275—859
J. P. Jackson.....	416
Register of Deeds.	
Ezra Tyler.....	911—145
M. A. Dailey.....	766
County Attorney.	
J. M. Burlingame.....	1006—331
Amos Coggswell.....	675
Judge of Probate.	
L. L. Wheelock.....	1128—571
J. A. Cotter.....	557
Representative — First District.	
W. R. Kinyon.....	605—308
L. H. Lane.....	297
Representative — Second District.	
Hugh Murray.....	426—103
E. L. Scoville.....	323
<i>Election, November, 1875.</i>	
Governor.	
J. S. Pillsbury, Republican.....	874—220
D. L. Buell, Democrat.....	627
Lieutenant Governor.	
J. B. Wakefield.....	879—286
E. W. Durant.....	593
Secretary of State.	
J. S. Irgens.....	898—318
A. Bierman.....	580

State Auditor.	
O. P. Whitcomb.....	894—313
P. H. Rahilly.....	581
State Treasurer.	
William Pfaender.....	888—312
A. Scheffer.....	576
Attorney General.	
Gen. Wilson.....	891—316
R. A. Jones.....	575
Railroad Commissioner.	
W. R. Marshall.....	885—291
W. T. Bonniwell.....	594
Chief Justice Supreme Court.	
James A. Gilfillan.....	895—311
L. Emmett.....	584
Clerk of Supreme Court.	
S. H. Nichols.....	889—300
A. A. McLeod.....	589
County Treasurer.	
Thomas Thompson.....	1011—579
A. Knobloch.....	432
Sheriff.	
Clark Chambers.....	1009—514
M. J. Toher.....	495
State Senator.	
L. L. Wheelock.....	857—196
Amos Coggswell.....	661
Representative — Second District.	
Hugh Murray.....	434—181
Dexter Smith.....	259
Representative — First District.	
W. R. Kinyon.....	519—211
L. C. Woodman.....	308
<i>Election, November, 1876.</i>	
President.	
R. B. Hayes, Republican.....	1581—623
S. J. Tilden, Democrat.....	958
Congressman.	
M. H. Dunnell, Republican.....	1523—573
E. G. Stacy, Democrat.....	950
Representative — First District.	
G. W. Buffum.....	685—111
E. M. Morehouse.....	574
Representative — Second District.	
Walter Muir.....	667— 65
Hugh Murray.....	602
County Auditor.	
L. Padgham.....	1620—696
Gustav Siebold.....	924
Register of Deeds.	
Ezra Tyler.....	1572—619
John Shea.....	953
Judge of Probate Court.	
L. Hazen.....	1391—254
Amos Coggswell.....	1137

County Attorney.	
J. M. Burlingame.....	1574—614
D. B. Johnson.....	960

County Commissioner.	
J. O. Waumett.....	339—143
E. L. Scoville.....	196

Election, June, 1877.

Bonds to Build Jail.	
For.....	941—320
Against.....	621

Paying Railroad Bonds.	
No.....	1401—1153
Yes.....	248

Election, November, 1877.

Governor.	
J. S. Pillsbury, Republican.....	1004—176
W. L. Banning, Democrat.....	828

Lieutenant Governor.	
J. B. Wakefield, Republican.....	1004—165
A. A. Ames, Democrat.....	839

Secretary of State.	
J. S. Irgens.....	1010—172
A. T. Lindholm.....	838

State Treasurer.	
J. F. Meagher.....	815—570
Wm. Pfaender.....	245

Attorney General.	
Gen. Wilson.....	1009—172
J. R. Jones.....	837

Railroad Commissioner.	
W. R. Marshall.....	996—152
H. W. Hill.....	844

County Treasurer.	
John A. Cansdell.....	1021—188
John Bichner.....	833

Clerk of Court.	
I. W. Burch.....	1041—198
J. L. Cass.....	843

Coroner.	
H. S. Hill.....	1003—146
L. L. Bennett.....	857

Sheriff.	
Clark Chambers.....	987—96
P. Brennan.....	891

State Senator.	
E. M. Morehouse.....	1087—302
A. C. Hickman.....	785

Representative.	
G. W. Buffum.....	536—37
W. F. Sawyer.....	499

Representative — Second District.	
W. Muir.....	422—3
Cord King.....	419

Commissioner — Second District.	
A. Erdman.....	307—177
G. W. Kinyon.....	130

Commissioner — Third District.	
W. P. Francis.....	209—25
A. B. Libby.....	184

Election, November, 1878.

Auditor of State.	
O. P. Whitcomb, Republican.....	1381—463
M. Black, Democrat.....	919

Judge of the Supreme Court.	
John M. Berry.....	1470—612
Wm. Mitchell.....	858

Clerk of the Supreme Court.	
Samuel H. Nichols.....	1378—558
Dillon O'Brien.....	920

Member of Congress — First District.	
M. H. Dunnell, Republican.....	1405—560
William Meighen, Democrat.....	845

Judge of District Court — Fifth District.	
Samuel Lord.....	1472—574
Lafayette Emmett.....	898

County Auditor.	
M. B. Chadwick.....	1294—291
Alex. Graham.....	1003

Register of Deeds.	
E. A. Tyler.....	1393—452
Charles Diinjies.....	941

Judge of Probate.	
L. Hazen.....	1365—426
J. S. Austin.....	939

County Attorney.	
J. M. Burlingame.....	1309—276
D. B. Johnson.....	1033

Court Commissioner.	
L. Hazen.....	1319—414
J. S. Austin.....	905

Senator — Twelfth District.	
W. W. Wilkins.....	1189—91
E. M. Morehouse.....	1098

Representative.	
H. M. Hastings.....	532—50
W. W. Day.....	482

Election, November, 1879.

Governor.	
J. S. Pillsbury, Republican.....	1175—409
Edmund Rice, Democrat.....	776
W. W. Satterlee, Prohibitionist.....	131

Lieutenant Governor.	
Charles A. Gilman, Republican.....	1148—408
E. P. Barnum, Democrat.....	740
B. S. Williams, Prohibitionist.....	182

Secretary of State.	
Fred Von Baumbach.....	1217—476
Felix A. Borer.....	721
I. C. Stearns.....	127

State Treasurer.	
Chas. Kittelson.....	1201— 476
Lyman E. Cowdrey.....	746
J. M. Duram.....	126
Attorney General.	
Chas. M. Start.....	1209— 469
P. M. Babcock.....	740
A. W. Bangs.....	128
Railroad Commissioner.	
Wm. R. Marshall.....	1209— 407
W. M. Colvill.....	739
Chas. Griswold.....	126
County Treasurer.	
John A. Cansdell.....	1209— 441
H. Schmidt.....	758
Geo. Mitchell.....	109
County Sheriff.	
Clark Chambers.....	1442— 935
A. B. Clark.....	507
J. W. Landon.....	23
Surveyor.	
B. S. Wheeler.....	2063—2063
County Coroner.	
L. L. Bennett.....	1205— 454
E. M. Morehouse.....	751
D. H. Roberts.....	121
County Superintendent.	
G. C. Tanner.....	1013— 38
Jos. A. Sawyer.....	975
E. H. Sibley.....	77
<i>Election, November, 1880.</i>	
For President.	
James A. Garfield, Republican.....	1642— 698
W. S. Hancock, Democrat.....	944
Neal Dow, Prohibitionist.....	60
Member Congress.	
M. H. Dunnell, Republican.....	1544— 696
Henry R. Wells, Democrat.....	848
W. G. Ward, Republican.....	184
D. H. Roberts, Prohibitionist.....	58
Representative—North District.	
H. H. Rosebrock.....	845— 471
John Virtue.....	374
Representative—South District.	
A. Colquhon.....	784— 300
Cord King.....	484
County Auditor.	
M. B. Chadwick.....	1640— 699
C. Yust.....	941
Register of Deeds.	
E. A. Tyler.....	1645— 707
N. Winship.....	938
County Attorney.	
J. M. Burlingame.....	1596— 620
Amos Coggsell.....	976
Probate Judge.	
L. Hazen.....	1792—1792

<i>Election, November 8, 1881.</i>	
Governor.	
Lucius F. Hubbard, Republican.....	1064—438
R. W. Johnson, Democrat.....	626
Lieutenant Governor.	
Chas. A. Gilman, Republican.....	1124—432
E. P. Barnum, Democrat.....	692
State Auditor.	
W. W. Braden.....	1139—439
R. Lehmicke.....	693
Secretary of State.	
Fred von Baumbach.....	1139—436
A. J. Lambertson.....	693
State Treasurer.	
Charles Kittelson.....	1139—436
John F. Russell.....	693
Attorney General.	
W. J. Hahn.....	1138—444
G. N. Baxter.....	694
Supreme Court Justices.	
Wm. Mitchell.....	1834
Greenleaf Clark.....	692
D. A. Dickenson.....	1834
Chas. E. Vanderburg.....	1148
Clerk of Court.	
J. A. Cotter.....	947— 93
I. W. Burch.....	854
Sheriff.	
Clark Chambers.....	1004—219
Hugh Murray.....	785
County Treasurer.	
John A. Cansdell.....	1138—508
Joseph Birchner.....	630
Court Commissioner.	
L. Hazen.....	1169—519
Jonas Austin.....	650
County Superintendent.	
Geo. C. Tanner.....	1792
Coroner.	
Dr. H. S. Hill.....	1025—252
Dr. E. E. Aukes.....	773
County Surveyor.	
John H. Abbott.....	1140
<i>Election, November 7, 1882.</i>	
Congressman.	
Milo White, Republican.....	1199—148
A. Biermann, Democrat.....	1051
Supreme Court Justice.	
James Gilfillan.....	2266
State Senator.	
A. C. Hickman.....	1195—127
E. M. Morehouse.....	1068
Representative.	
H. A. Finch.....	1195—135
M. Guthrie.....	1060

County Auditor.	
M. B. Chadwick.....	1279— 308
L. Ellington.....	971
Register of Deeds.	
E. A. Tyler.....	1267— 273
A. F. Byrne.....	994
County Attorney.	
W. F. Sawyer.....	1281— 305
Amos Coggsell.....	976
Judge of Probate.	
L. Hazen.....	2265
Bond Act.	
For.....	1026
Against.....	16
<i>Election, November 6, 1883.</i>	
Governor.	
Lucius F. Hubbard, Republican.....	1161— 211
Adolph Biermann, Democrat.....	950
Chas. E. Holt, Prohibitionist.....	86
Lieutenant Governor.	
C. A. Gilman.....	1223— 325
R. L. Frazee.....	898
C. B. Shove.....	75
Secretary of State.	
F. von Baumbach.....	1205— 312
J. J. Green.....	893
Prof. E. G. Paine.....	78
State Treasurer.	
C. Kittelson.....	1233— 339
John Ludwig.....	894
C. M. Anderson.....	78
Attorney General.	
W. J. Hahn.....	1238— 345
J. W. Willis.....	893
Francis Cadwell.....	78
Railroad Commissioner.	
James H. Baker.....	1239— 345
A. T. Lindholm.....	894
S. Meeker.....	76
County Treasurer.	
Soren Peterson.....	1264— 348
H. Schmidt.....	916
Sheriff.	
Hugh Murray.....	1113— 56
J. Z. Barnard.....	1057
Surveyor.	
A. M. Mitchell.....	1286—1286
Coroner.	
Dr. H. S. Hill.....	1241— 321
Dr. E. E. Aukes.....	920
Superintendent of Schools.	
G. C. Tanner.....	1859—1859
Amendment to Constitution.	
No.....	967— 14
Yes.....	653

<i>Election, November, 1884.</i>	
President.	
James G. Blaine, Republican.....	1273—267
Grover Cleveland, Democrat.....	1006
J. P. St. John, Prohibitionist.....	49
Justice of Supreme Court.	
John M. Berry.....	2311
Congressman.	
Milo White, Republican.....	1184— 84
A. Biermann, Democrat.....	1100
C. A. Bierce, Prohibitionist.....	51
Representative.	
J. M. Burlingame.....	1247—145
P. Brennan.....	1092
County Auditor.	
M. B. Chadwick.....	1313—291
D. E. Austin.....	1022
Register of Deeds.	
E. A. Tyler.....	1286—275
C. Yust.....	1011
County Attorney.	
W. F. Sawyer.....	1317
Probate Judge.	
L. Hazen.....	2351
Court Commissioner.	
L. Hazen.....	2340
Coroner.	
Dr. Harrington.....	1278—212
Dr. Morehouse.....	1066
Court House Bonds.	
No.....	1017—226
Yes.....	791
<p>This year there occurred a tie for the office of commissioner from the fourth district, the candidates, G. W. Kinyon and E. Scannel, each receiving 183 votes. Upon drawing lots Mr. Kinyon was successful.</p>	
<i>Election, November, 1886.</i>	
Governor.	
A. R. McGill, Republican.....	1339— 49
A. A. Ames, Democrat.....	1290
James E. Child, Prohibitionist.....	115
Lieutenant Governor.	
A. E. Rice.....	1396— 152
John Frank.....	1244
J. P. Pinkham.....	166
Secretary of State.	
Hans Mattson.....	1401— 169
Luth Jaeger.....	1232
C. A. Bierce.....	120
State Auditor.	
W. W. Braden.....	1395— 155
Gust. A. Lundberg.....	1240
H. W. Allen.....	120
State Treasurer.	
Joseph Bobleter.....	1401— 163

H. Pochler.....	1238		
P. J. Kniss.....	120		
Attorney General.			
M. E. Clapp.....	1400—	160	
John N. Ives.....	1240		
W. M. Hatch.....	120		
Clerk Supreme Court.			
J. D. Jones.....	1402—	163	
T. O'Leary.....	1239		
C. A. Fosness.....	144		
Member of Congress.			
Thos. Wilson, Democrat.....	1355—	97	
John A. Lovely, Republican.....	1258		
Dr. D. H. Roberts, Prohibitionist.....	129		
Judge—Fifth District.			
T. S. Buckham.....	1360—	1360	
County Auditor.			
J. C. Burke.....	1354—	61	
M. B. Chadwick.....	1293		
D. McKinlay.....	95		
County Treasurer.			
S. Peterson.....	1439—	236	
Albert Kasper.....	1203		
Geo. Mitchell.....	108		
Register of Deeds.			
G. E. Sloan.....	1455—	273	
John Kearney.....	1182		
B. Chapin.....	93		
Sheriff.			
Hugh Murray.....	1617—	572	
Oscar Murphy.....	1045		
J. W. Landon.....	86		
County Attorney.			
W. A. Sperry.....	1391—	117	
Amos Cogswell.....	1274		
Judge of Probate.			
L. Hazen.....	2639—	2639	
Court Commissioner.			
L. Hazen.....	2639—	2639	
County Surveyor.			
A. M. Mitchell.....	2690—	2690	
Coroner.			
C. Peterson.....	1344—	48	
J. H. Adair.....	1296		
Clerk District Court.			
J. A. Cotter.....	1652—	680	
A. M. Kinyon.....	972		
Superintendent Schools.			
G. C. Tanner.....	1607—	252	
D. A. McKinley.....	1355		
F. D. Sheldon.....	93		
State Senator.			
C. S. Crandall.....	1322—	109	
E. M. Morehouse.....	1263		
A. H. Mudeking.....	89		
Representative.			
G. W. Buffum.....	1446—	181	
M. Guthrie.....	1265		
Dexter Smith.....	104		
County Commissioners.			
Theo. Chambers, Republican.....	303—	52	
W. F. Hobbins, Democrat.....	251		
C. R. Knowlton, Prohibitionist.....	19		
H. L. Zwiener, Republican.....			
O. O. Prestegaard, Democrat.....			
F. K. Hickok, Prohibitionist.....			
John Virtue.....			
W. Rosenthal.....			
S. Morrison.....			
G. W. Kinyon.....			
Jas. Morton.....			
E. H. Sibley.....			
H. Schmidt.....			
L. L. Bennett.....			
O. M. Hammond.....			



CHAPTER XI.

THE COURTS — CASES — DISTRICT JUDGES AND THE BAR OF STEELE COUNTY.



IN this chapter we have grouped together all that we could learn regarding courts, cases and the bar of Steele County. There are probably other cases that would be of interest; but as all of the details must be gleaned from the memories of the old settlers, there is much conflict, and a number have had to be omitted, because it has been impossible to write a version of them upon which all could agree. Another class of cases which had to be omitted were those where the parties who were interested, or their near friends, were still living in the county, and the publication of details might give pain and cause dispute, for no lawsuit was ever tried that did not have two sides; else, as Dickens says, in *Bardell vs. Pickwick*, "why this suit?"

The first trial of interest in the county occurred at Owatonna, in the fall of 1855, before Addison Phelps, who had been appointed a justice of the peace by the territorial governor. It appears that several parties had taken a claim jointly somewhere in the neighborhood of Wilton, in Waseca County (then a portion of Steele), and had put up a claim shanty. Several contesting claimants invaded the premises, pulled down the shanty and jumped the claim. The first parties had the "invaders" arrested, and four or five of them were brought to Owatonna as prisoners for trial. At that time there were no available lawyers here, although A. B. Cornell was on hand to prosecute them. The defendants could find no

lawyer, and were feeling pretty blue. They, together with about twenty witnesses, were taken up to the Winship House for supper. When the evening stage came in, a man alighted and took supper at the hotel. He overheard their talk regarding the case, and feeling that they were being abused he announced himself as Attorney Onstine, one of the ablest lawyers in the northern part of Iowa, and undertook their defense. When the case was called for trial he was on hand, and a legal combat of two days' duration ensued, resulting in the acquittal of the prisoners, who had shown that they had the best title to the claim.

The first offense committed in the county against "the peace and dignity of the United States," as criminal offenses were designated in territorial times, was upon the part of John Duekering. He had struck a little fellow, or dwarf, called Napoleon Bonaparte, cutting him pretty badly, and Bonaparte had Duekering arrested, and fined a small amount.

In August of 1857, a party of roughs, or, as the old settlers termed them, "border ruffians," attempted to "paint the embryo city of Owatonna red," as the expression of later days goes. Two men named Bull, a man named Orr, and a Mr. Squires got to drinking pretty heavily, and got into a row, after which they procured knives and pistols and began a reign of terror in cleaning out the town, marching up and down the streets. Nearly all of the citizens fled for their lives. The sheriff, David Lindersmith, had been very ill, so there was no peace officer at hand; but

after consultation Sheriff Lindersmith was sent for and got up from a sick-bed to quell the disturbance. Upon arriving at town, he found the four huddled together near Elder Town's store on Bridge street. For a few minutes they resisted arrest and one of them nearly killed a bystander with a rock which he drew from his breast pocket. When they were secured the sheriff took them to a hotel and placed them under a guard, while he, suffering a temporary relapse, gave up and went to sleep. At about daylight the guards were changed and for a few minutes they were left alone with the sick sheriff, taking advantage of which they all escaped. Parties started at once in pursuit and succeeded in capturing two, while a third returned and gave himself up. The sheriff was now determined to see that they did not escape again. The nearest lockup was in St. Paul, so a log-chain was procured and the prisoners were all padlocked together, while a guard of two men with pistols and clubs were placed over them. Either S. M. Yearly or G. W. Green prosecuted the case, while the prisoners got a Faribault lawyer, H. C. Lowell, to defend them. An interesting trial followed. The Faribault man was an able lawyer. In his argument, he played upon the sympathies of the jury, referred feelingly to the manner in which the sheriff had chained the poor men, and said a sheriff who would be guilty of so maltreating human beings ought to be sent to jail for life, etc. As the sheriff told the historian, it changed the whole course of public sentiment. Whereas two hours before the citizens favored hanging the ruffians, they then wanted to lynch the sheriff. The result of the trial was the acquittal of all the prisoners.

In October, 1857, a case came before the district court which excited a great deal of interest and merriment in the young settlement. It was entitled Jacob Yonker vs. William and Dorothea Mundt. The record shows S. M. Yearly an attorney for the plaintiff and G. W. Green as attorney for

the defendants. It appears that during the spring and summer of 1857, Jacob Yonker, the plaintiff, and Minnie Mundt, a daughter of the defendants, had been working at Winship's hotel, and a short time before the commencement of this action they had taken a notion to get married. Thus far all was legal and right enough. But it seems that Minnie was not of age yet, being only seventeen, and they did not deem it necessary to go through the formality of getting a license. They therefore went before Elder Town, who, after asking them the usual questions, pronounced them man and wife. For a few days everything moved along smoothly enough; but when the bride's parents learned of it, they commanded Minnie to come home, as she had married without their consent; and she, being a dutiful child, obeyed, leaving the bridegroom alone in his misery. Yonker took on terribly for a while, and finally, after getting legal advice, swore out papers for the arrest of his parents-in-law for "abducting" his wife. They were brought up by the sheriff, and when they saw the turn things had taken they wanted to settle it, and Mr. Mundt offered to pay Yonker what damage it had been to him. Yonker immediately responded: "I don't want your money; I want my Minnie!" In this way the matter was finally settled, Yonker paying costs and getting "his Minnie," while the old folks went their way in peace; and the young people resumed their happy relations as bride and groom.

Along in 1857 and 1858 there was considerable litigation growing from claim matters. An amusing incident is related in relation to this, which, barring names, is about as follows: It seems that a shanty had disappeared from one of the settler's claims; and, from conclusive evidence, it was apparent that it had been stolen. A search warrant was got out and placed in the sheriff's hands, which directed him to "seize certain *basswood lumber*," and arrest the party or parties found in possession of the same. The officer went to

the place where the shanty had stood and there found the tracks of the wagon which the stolen lumber had been loaded upon. Following the track in a circuitous route it finally brought up at a little cabin, in front of which was a nice pile of shanty lumber. The sheriff congratulated himself, as the whole matter was so plain as to leave no chance for mistake. Upon examination, however, the lumber proved to be elm and popple, and, under the warrant, it was impossible to seize it. The officer, therefore, drove off and left the thief in possession.

All through the early records there appear references to a case in which Nathaniel Squires, David Lindersmith, the State of Minnesota, *et al.*, are mixed up as plaintiffs and defendants. While there is nothing connected with the case or the matters involved to make it of more than ordinary interest, yet there is scarcely an old settler in the county who will not be interested in an account of it, as it was so badly mixed at the time it was tried that scarcely anyone fully understood the details from which the suit grew. In the early part of 1857 Nathaniel Squires and Henry Corrigan got into a difficulty in Owatonna and began to fight it out. Squires got Corrigan down and was punishing him, when the sheriff, David Lindersmith, came upon the ground, and took them before Justice Shaw to see what should be done to preserve peace. Corrigan made complaint against Squires and the latter was fined \$15. Corrigan was discharged, as Squires refused to make any complaint. Squires had no money to pay the fine, but they let him go. Thus the matter remained for some time, as Squires had no property attachable. Finally Squires bought a couple of cows and an attachment was got out and placed in Sheriff Lindersmith's hands for execution. He seized one cow and took her home with him, intending to have a sale at once. Squires claimed the action of the sheriff was illegal, and that the cow was exempt from execution. He gave bond

and replevied the animal, and the case was taken before Justice Seymour Howe, who lived south of Owatonna, to try title. S. M. Yearly appeared as Squires' attorney and Judge Green defended Lindersmith. After a jury trial a verdict for Lindersmith was returned, and he at once secured possession of the cow and took her to his home. One Sunday, the 28th of June, 1857, Squires came and stole the cow, taking her to his son's, on Maple Creek, where she was butchered immediately. The sheriff got several others and started in pursuit, arriving at the "scene of slaughter" just as the beef was being hung up; but as the other parties fought, they finally returned without the beef. Warrants were sworn out for Geo. Squires, Joseph Wagner and Philander Atwater for resisting an officer. They were brought to trial July 1, 1857, and were discharged by the justice on the ground that the warrant did not agree with the complaint. They afterward delivered up the beef and the sheriff sold it. At the same time a warrant was issued for Nathaniel Squires, on account of stealing the cow. He was arrested and had a preliminary examination on June 30, 1857, when he was bound over to appear in District Court. A few weeks later Squires sued Lindersmith for the price of the cow, and upon a change of venue the case was taken to Squire Tiffany, in Havana Township, for trial. A jury trial was had and a disagreement followed. A new trial was set and then an adjournment was asked. This was in April, 1858. The law fixed thirty days as the length of time an adjournment could be had upon consent of parties. Judge Green, attorney for Lindersmith, suggested that the trial be set for the *second Monday in June, about sixty days distant*, and upon the others consenting, the justice entered it upon the docket and adjourned court. S. M. Yearly, attorney for Squires, discovered the error almost at once, but Green had taken his client and marched right off. They had got about twenty rods

when the justice called to them, but they replied that *June suited them*, and moved right on. The justice interlined the record and changed "June" to "May." When the second Monday in May came, Squires and his attorney appeared, and as no one was present to defend, they got judgment. In June, the defendant appeared with Amos Coggs well and G. W. Green as his attorneys, and demanded judgment but the justice told them that the matter was all settled, so they left. An execution was got out on Squires' judgment a short time later, and was placed in the hands of the coroner, Thomas Kenyon. He refused to execute it unless an indemnifying bond was given; the same thing occurred with Mr. Willsey, when he became sheriff, and as no bond was furnished the matter was finally dropped.

The case of State of Minnesota *vs.* L. C. Cate came up for trial at the July term of court in 1859, and was the first "whisky case" taken to district court in Steele County. Amos Coggs well defended Cate. It appears that Cate had been keeping a saloon in a building near where the Morehouse Opera House block is now located, and was indicted for selling liquor without a license. At the first trial he was found guilty, but his attorney, Mr. Coggs well, made a motion for a new trial, and a few days before the second trial took place, the defendant was taken sick with the typhoid fever and died.

In the summer of 1859, the Mankato town-site cases were tried here upon a change of venue. Hundreds of them were docketed; but test cases were made of the different classes, so that all were not tried that were placed upon the docket. Some of the ablest lawyers in the State appeared in these cases, and they evoked great interest throughout the entire State at the time, as the title to about all of the city of Mankato depended upon the decision. The gist of these suits, as near as we have been able to learn, was as follows: The original proprietors of

the city of Mankato had laid out a town, had commenced building, and property was advancing in value. Early in the '50's, several parties, among whom are remembered Messrs. Brandon, Moreland and Cole, organized themselves into a new company and jumped the claims of the old proprietors and the squatters holding under them, on the ground that the original claimants had taken possession before the Indian title was extinguished. The decision was in favor of the old proprietors, or the squatters. Some of these old cases, however, are in court yet.

The criminal case of the State of Minnesota *vs.* Henry Kreigler, which was tried here in December, 1860, was the first murder trial ever had in Steele County. The case was brought here upon a change of venue from Freeborn County, where the defendant had killed Nelson Boughton, of Oakvale, that county. I. W. Perry and Gordon E. Cole appeared for the State and A. Armstrong, Perkins & Perkins and W. R. Kinyon appeared for the defendant. After a lengthy and interesting trial, a jury returned a verdict against the prisoner of "murder in the first degree," and the court sentenced him to be hung. He was taken to Albert Lea where the sentence was executed. This was the first case of hanging in southern Minnesota, and the writer believes the only one that has occurred in the history of this part of the State under sentence of a court. Many thought then, and still believe, that the defendant in this case was insane. Kreigler was a German and could speak but little English, but his actions throughout the trial indicated plainly that he was either crazy or half-witted, or was feigning very naturally. He would dance, in his chains, all the way from the jail to the court house, and in a dozen other ways his actions were those of insanity.

The case of State of Minnesota *vs.* Eliza J. Brown appears on the criminal calendar of the April term of court in 1862. It was a case of considerable interest in those days

and raised quite an excitement. It seems that Mrs. Eliza J. Brown had located upon a farm in Merton Township and was engaged in working it. She had several children, among whom was a daughter; and she employed a hired man to help run the place. As time ran along Mrs. Brown got suspicious of the fellow's attentions to her daughter, and finally determined to kill him. So one day, on the pretense of having repairs made, she got him into the cistern, and then opened hostilities. She threw flat-irons, shovels, stones and everything she could lift in upon him, and tried to brain him with clubs and pitchforks. The cistern, however, was boarded up so that he could partially get out of her reach. When he would thus take refuge, she would pour hot water in upon him, and drive him out and then resort to her clubs and flat-irons. When he would jump and catch the top to lift himself out, she had the ax handy and would chop at his hands. Luckily, some one happened along before she had killed him, and got the fellow out. The cistern was a sight after the battle, filled with her implements of warfare. A warrant was sworn out and Mrs. Brown was arrested. She secured H. C. Lowell, of Faribault, as attorney to defend her, while G. W. Green and S. M. Yearly appeared for the State. She waived examination and the case came up for trial in April, 1862, in District Court, before Judge Donaldson. A large number of witnesses were present from the Merton neighborhood, and a good deal of feeling was worked up over the case. The theory of the defense was that the mother was justified and it seems that they supported it well, for the trial resulted in a verdict of acquittal. The case was severely contested. The injured man was laid up for nearly a year with his wounds.

The case of State of Minnesota *vs.* John Ryan, which was tried at the spring term of district court in 1868, was one of the most important murder trials in the history of the

county. The defendant had killed Thomas Dorsey, the details of the tragedy being about as follows: Ryan had been here through 1866-7, working on the railroad, and when the railroad was built west to Waseca, he went with the construction party. On the 4th of July, 1867, a celebration was held at Owatonna, and Ryan, with others, came back to attend. In a saloon he met Thomas Dorsey and invited him to drink, but Dorsey refused, upon which a quarrel ensued. Ryan would not let the matter drop, but followed Dorsey out, determined to fight. Later Dorsey hid in a lumber-yard, and Ryan, learning of his whereabouts, procured a knife and hunted him out. In the struggle that ensued Ryan stabbed Dorsey several times, inflicting wounds from which the latter soon died. Ryan was tried, found guilty, and on the 22d of April, 1868, was sentenced to be hung. The scaffolding was nearly completed, when the governor commuted his sentence to imprisonment for life. Ryan was a vicious, ill-tempered and dangerous man, and, even in prison, was not allowed to mingle with the other convicts. He finally lost his reason, and on April 2, 1883, he was pardoned by Gov. Hubbard and released.

At the April term in 1868 an interesting case was tried, entitled State *vs.* Joseph Young. Young was a farmer, living on section 36, in Owatonna Township. It seems that a couple of young men from Owatonna were driving past his place, after having been chicken-hunting in Aurora Township, when Young's dog ran out and followed, barking and annoying them. They either killed, or seriously shot, the dog, and Young, who was plowing in the field near by, ran up to the buggy and pulled one of the young men out, at the same time stabbing him. Young was found guilty and fined \$150 and costs. Amos Coggswell defended, and J. B. Searles prosecuted.

The case of State of Minnesota *vs.* William Sterling, which was tried in April, 1869, was of considerable interest. It was prose-



J. M. Burlingame

cuted by Gordon E. Cole and J. B. Searles, and Gov. Gorman and Amos Coggsell were attorneys for the defendant. A short time previous to the time when this case was tried, Dr. Duvall, a faith doctor, or one that professed to cure by "laying on of hands," had located at Owatonna, and was stopping with William Sterling, who was then in the lumber business. After a few weeks of courtship he was married to Mr. Sterling's sister-in-law. Some of the boys about town decided to charivari the newly-married couple, and they repaired to the house of William Sterling, where the pair were stopping, with a full orchestra of horse-fiddles, tin-pans, etc. The concert had progressed but a few minutes, when Mr. Sterling stepped to the window with a gun in his hand and fired into the midst of the serenading party, seriously wounding John Reisel, one of the boys. Sterling was indicted by the grand jury, tried, found guilty and fined a small amount. The doctor was also indicted, but was acquitted upon trial. The injured man recovered, and is still a resident of Owatonna. The doctor afterward removed to Wisconsin, where he poisoned his wife, was tried, found guilty and sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

The case of State of Minnesota *vs.* John Murray, for the murder of Mr. Hickey, was tried in April, 1870, and attracted wide attention. Murray had come to Owatonna as a railroad hand in 1866, and early in the spring of 1870 was living in Owatonna, a short distance from Hickey's place. Their families became involved in a quarrel, and the men took it up. One day they met over a popple-pole fence, which bounded Hickey's lot, and after some words Murray seized a pole from the fence and dealt Hickey a blow over the head which caused his death. Murray was placed in jail, and when arraigned in district court plead "not guilty." The case was prosecuted by J. B. Searles, county attorney, assisted by Att'y-Gen. Cornell. The defendant was ably represented

by Amos Coggsell. The trial resulted in a verdict of guilty, and the defendant was sentenced to six years in the penitentiary. After serving about three years, however, he was pardoned by the governor.

The case of State of Minnesota *vs.* Samuel R. Henry was the most important trial during the December term, 1874. Henry had committed rape upon a young girl at Blooming Prairie. Amos Coggsell and J. M. Burlingame appeared for the State, and L. L. Wheelock and an attorney from Decorah, Iowa, defended the man. After an interesting trial he was convicted and sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary. He served about six years of his sentence when he was pardoned by the governor.

The State of Minnesota *vs.* M. Keefe was a criminal case called for the June term, 1875. The defendant had got into a row with a Norwegian named Oleson at Blooming Prairie, during which he cut him up pretty badly. J. M. Burlingame prosecuted and Amos Coggsell defended. The prisoner was found guilty and fined \$500.

In June, 1876, John Linhardt was brought before Judge Donaldson on the charge of forgery. It appears that he had forged the name of J. A. Oppliger to an order for \$50 on the First National Bank and passed the same. He was arrested at Rochester, brought back and held until the grand jury, which was in session at the time, indicted him, and he plead guilty and was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. He returned all of the money except \$10.25, having been arrested on the same day that he committed the crime. He was tried, convicted and sentenced within forty-eight hours after he passed the order.

A serious stabbing affray occurred in the town of Somerset, in June, 1877, the circumstances of which as related by one side were as follows: Frank Herdina, father, two sons and another man, left town on that day, just enough imbued with whisky to make them very quarrelsome and easily irri-

tated. W. R. Knickerbocker, wife, child and a man named Barker soon followed them, and when about five miles south, Mr. Knickerbocker drove by the Herdinas, who had two teams partly loaded with lumber. Mr. K. had gone but a short distance by them when they gave chase, galloping their horses to catch up. Soon Mr. Knickerbocker's little boy's hat blew off and Mr. Barker jumped out to get it. The Herdinas at this juncture came up and pounced onto Barker, and with large, two-bladed pocket-knives, they cut a gash to the bone, about eight inches long, in the calf of the right leg; they tried to cut him in the left breast and would no doubt have pierced his heart, had it not been for a large pocketbook in his inside vest pocket, which was cut through several times, the points of the blades entering the flesh. Mr. Knickerbocker, who was a strong man, seeing these barbarous actions, went to the rescue and knocked two of the assailants senseless, when the other two pounced on his back, cutting him severely and driving the knife into his shoulder up to the hilt, and breaking off the point in the shoulder. With a powerful exertion Mr. Knickerbocker freed himself and grabbing Barker threw him into the wagon and jumping in himself drove rapidly away. He soon came to Justice Pike's residence and Mr. Knickerbocker fainted upon getting out. Mr. Pike immediately ordered the arrest of the offenders, and in company with Osear Gross succeeded in capturing the three Herdinas and delivered them to the sheriff the same night. Constable Tiffany went out the next morning and captured the fourth man. Mr. Knickerbocker was cut in the arm beside the shoulder gash. Mr. Barker, who was only twenty years old, was cut thirteen times, and for some time his recovery was doubtful. The prisoners were arraigned before Judge Donaldson and bound over in the sum of \$500 each to appear at the December term of court, in 1877. When the case was called for trial a number of important additional

facts were developed. From the evidence it appeared that the two parties had had some trouble before leaving the city, and Bailey, one of the Knickerbocker party had "pulled his coat" and dared the others to fight him. Also, that Barker had thrown a stone knocking the old man Herdina down before the trouble really commenced, and that the Bohemians had responded, knocking Mr. Knickerbocker down. Barker was forced backward into a ditch, falling and pulling Herdina with him. Herdina's son tried to use the knife on Barker, cutting him as well as his own father quite severely. The jury was made up wholly of Americans, not a Bohemian being allowed to sit upon it. They returned a verdict of guilty in each case and the prisoners were sentenced as follows: Kroulik to one year in the county jail; Frank Herdina, Sr., to one year in the penitentiary; Frank Herdina, Jr., two years in the penitentiary, and Adolph Herdina to four years in the penitentiary. The case was prosecuted by J. M. Burlingame and defended by Amos Cogswell.

After sentence was rendered in the Herdina matter, the case of Frank Herdina, Sr., was taken to the Supreme Court on appeal, and a stay of judgment granted to await decision. In the higher court the case was ably contested, and finally ended in the sentence of District Court being sustained. The syllabus of the decision was as follows:

"State of Minnesota, respondent, *vs.* Frank Herdina, Sr., *et. al.*, appellants. A parent has no right to protect his child in the commission of a crime. To convict of an assault with a dangerous weapon, with intent to do great bodily harm, one who comes to the assistance of the person holding the weapon, it is not necessary that he should have aided in the previous arming of such person.

"Evidence merely that the defendant was drunk when he joined one in committing an assault, without any evidence of the condition of his mind, or that he was too drunk

to reason or know right from wrong, will not require a charge to the jury that if defendant was so drunk that he did not know what he was doing, they should find for the defendant. Order affirmed."

Shortly after the commencement of the criminal cases William F. Barker began a civil action against Frank Herdina, Sr., *et. al.*, for \$1,500 damages. A verdict for \$750 was returned against Frank Herdina, Sr., and Adolph Herdina. In the actions against Frank Herdina, Jr., and John Kroulik, verdicts for the defendants were rendered.

Mr. Knickerbocker began similar civil suits in which damages were laid at \$1,000. Verdicts were rendered for plaintiff in the sum of \$675 against Frank Herdina, Sr., Frank Herdina, Jr., and Adolph Herdina, and for the defendant in the case against John Kroulik.

In June, 1878, the criminal calendar contained a case entitled State of Minnesota *vs.* Claude Van Alstyne, the grand jury having indicted him during the latter part of May. When the case was called the defendant put in a plea of "not guilty," and Judge Amos Coggswell and Hon. L. L. Wheelock were appointed to conduct the defense, while Judge A. C. Hickman assisted the county attorney, J. M. Burlingame, in the prosecution. The trial was one of great interest, and one of the most extensive and important in the history of the county. Claude Van Alstyne was a young man twenty-one years of age, a native of Belvidere, Ill., but had lived for a number of years in Butler, Bates County, Mo. He came from there to Minnesota. A short time before the crime was committed he came from Rochester and began working for Isaac Turtelot, at Owatonna, taking out ice from Straight River. On the 15th of February, 1878, he, together with Phocion Turtelot, a son of his employer, Lewis Arnold, L. Stevens, F. Davis and James Atchison were at work upon the ice. Phocion Turtelot, it appears, assumed a sort of general charge

of the work, and coming up to where Van Alstyne was at work they got into a quarrel, in which the defendant struck Phocion with an ice-hook, killing him. There were two sides to the quarrel, as is usual in these sad tragedies, and we here give as near as possible both sides: The witnesses for the prosecution all agreed upon about the following state of facts: "Defendant was hooking on the grappling hooks for the horse to pull out the ice. Phocion went to breaking the ice, and Van Alstyne told him to stop. Phocion said, 'I won't do it.' Defendant said, 'If you break it, you can draw it up yourself.' Phocion replied that, 'by —, he would break it,' and told him: 'It's none of your — business; who is boss here?' Defendant said, 'It don't make a — bit of difference. I am running this part of the business myself.' Phocion again replied that he would break it. Defendant stepped up toward him and pushed him, and Phocion jumped back on a cake of floating ice, then back to the bank, and seizing a bar says to the defendant: 'I'll beat your life or brains out.' Some of the other workmen put in a few words at about this time. But a second later and Van Alstyne struck Phocion on the head with the ice-hook. He then pulled out the hook. Phocion got up after a few minutes, made his way to the wagon and was taken home. He died from the effects of the blow, on the 22d of February, 1878." Some of the witnesses for the State claimed that Van Alstyne struck two blows. The blow fractured the skull the hook having penetrated the skull about two inches, from which the brains slowly oozed.

The theory advanced by the defense was that the act was justifiable under the circumstances. The substance of the evidence introduced by the defense is clearly shown in the testimony of Claude Van Alstyne, the defendant. Condensed, it was about as follows: "I was not acquainted with Turtelot before I came here. I went to work for him the day after I got here, on the ice. On the

day mentioned there were there beside myself, Atehison, Davis, Stevens and Arnold. Turtelot was there about one hour. I did not see him leave. He set me to hitching on the grapples to haul ice onto the platform. He had me at that about nine days. He said that morning, I was to keep at that work, as no other man he could get could do the work I did on that platform. When Phocion was breaking the ice, I said: 'Don't break that ice! If you do you will have to draw it up yourself.' I had the grapples in my left hand and the pick I always carried in my right. He said: 'It's none of your — — business! I'll do as I please; the ice don't belong to you.' I had no idea or intention of striking him. I pushed him with my hand so that he lost his balance. He turned right around and said: 'I'll smash the — — life out of you!' When he raised the bar, I said: 'Don't you strike me with that bar!' and I backed up as far as I could get. I told him three or four times not to strike me, and he struck at me with it. I dodged or it would have hit my head; instead it hit my arm. He had the bar raised to strike me again, and I struck him with the pick. I meant to strike him with the stick. I didn't notice how I struck him. My object was to strike him and then get away from him. I did it to defend myself. That was all the object I had. He fell on his knees and then fell over on his right elbow. As he fell I let go the pick handle and stepped back. Then I saw it was in his head, and I took hold of it and raised it out of his head. Then I took it and the bar and laid them on the ice, I guess ten or fifteen feet away. I think I stood and looked at him till he got up—as much as a minute. Then I stepped over to Davis and Atehison; I was pretty badly excited at that time." The judge here asked the question: "Couldn't you have got out of there as fast as Phocion could?" to which the defendant replied; "Not without turning my back on him, and he would have struck me behind."

In Judge Lord's charge to the jury, among many other important and interesting points of law set forth, were the following: ". . . There is no dispute but that the defendant struck Turtelot with this instrument, a blow upon the head, on the 15th of February, 1878, and that blow resulted in his death. The first question is: Whether that blow was criminal or not? It is claimed on the part of the defendant that he was justified in striking that blow. Now a party has a right to defend himself, and he has a right to use such a degree of force as may be necessary to defend himself, and if a felonious assault is made upon him he has a right, if necessary in protecting himself, to take the life of his assailant; but he has no right unless it is necessary. This right of self-defense is limited to the necessity. It is the duty of the party assailed to get away if he can. The mere circumstances of an assault being made upon him does not justify his assaulting the other party if he can get away. Now, in considering whether this killing was necessary, in order to defend himself, look at the circumstances of the case, the situation of the parties, and their relative ability to defend themselves from assault; and consider whether, in fact, this blow was given in self-defense, or whether it was given for the purpose of killing, or for the purpose of a lesser assault than that; whether it was not rather an attack upon Turtelot than an act of self-defense. You will find from the general circumstances whether this defendant was in any real danger of injury if he had stepped away and let Turtelot alone; and then, further, whether it was necessary to strike such a blow as he did, supposing Turtelot was coming at him with that bar and he standing there defending himself. . . ."

The jury returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter in the second degree after a short absence from the court-room, and the prisoner was sentenced to the State penitentiary for life. He remained in prison until

the spring of 1884, when he was pardoned by the governor.

An interesting case was tried at the December term of court, 1881. It was entitled, *Joseph Kaplan vs. C., M. & St. P. R. R. Co.* It was an action brought to recover \$5,000 damages for the killing of the plaintiff's little seven-year-old daughter by the defendants' train in June, 1881. Judge A. C. Hickman appeared for the plaintiff, and Gordon E. Cole for the defendants. A struck jury was empaneled, who brought in a verdict for the defendants.

On Friday night, September 12, 1884, just about the time the Barrett circus, which had just given a performance, was breaking up, John Blair, a special policeman, arrested a woman supposed to belong to the circus. He started up Cedar street and when near Potter's lumber yard a man ran against him, and turned to ask why Blair had run into him. Blair replied that he did not, when they had some words and the man struck Blair on the side of the head with a heavy club. The blow felled Blair and the miscreant disappeared in the darkness. Blair was helped home and died the following morning. Sheriff Murray, in company with one of the parties who saw the blow struck, followed the circus to Rochester on the 13th, for the purpose of looking over the employés of the show for the murderer. They soon found him in the person of James Jacobs, and he was arrested and brought to Owatonna the same evening.

The case of State against James Jacobs came to trial at the January term of court, 1885, Judge Thomas S. Buckham, presiding. The State was represented by W. F. Sawyer, county attorney, and the defense by Judge Amos Coggsell. After a number of challenges, the following jury was selected to try the case: Lewis Burns, of Berlin; T. T. Nelson, of Havana; H. Wentworth, Henry Ribbe, D. W. Hines, of Aurora; M. Guthrie, of Blooming Brairie; W. J. Ellis, of Havana; Frank McCauley and Cord

King, of Aurora; Frank Carlton, of Merton; John Lippert, of Meriden; and L. C. Peters, of Berlin.

The following account of the trial, taken from one of the city papers, goes sufficiently into detail, and is given in full: "James Jacobs, the prisoner, was then brought into court. The first witness called on part of State was C. C. Garvey, of Minneapolis, who saw the blow struck, and who heard quarrel between John L. Blair and James Jacobs. The next witness was Edward Austin, of Owatonna, who repeated the story of the murder. Dr. L. L. Bennett was next called, he having had the custody of the weapon (the heavy stick) with which Policeman Blair was struck. Mr. Andrew Meehan, of Owatonna, was called and testified to what he saw and heard. Mr. A. McCumber, of Winona County, was next sworn. He testified that he attended the concert after the circus was out. After the concert he went over to see the circus men load their wagons on the train. While there, he saw a gathering on or near sidewalk between railroad tracks on opposite side of street. He ran over to within about fifteen feet. He saw Jacobs with a club in his hand and Policeman Blair raise and point his pistol at him twice; heard prisoner say, '— — you! put up that pistol or I'll kill you.' The prisoner had just drawn club from under his arm or coat. Jacobs then turned and blew a whistle he took from his pocket, when those loading the wagons dropped work and ran over toward Jacobs. Blair put his hand back in coat pocket with pistol, and turned and began to walk south, when the prisoner took a few steps forward, probably fifteen or twenty feet, and struck Blair on side of head, holding club in both hands, knocking him into the ditch, where he fell. He got up in about a minute and began to reel across the street, when two men took him off. The witness, Garvey, testified that he saw girl get up and run out of circus and taking prisoner by the arm walked off with him. Also saw

Blair come and take her away. Saw big man at crossing, with club under his arm, brush against Policeman Blair. Prisoner swore and told Blair that he had run into him once too often. Some one shouted, 'arrest man with club,' after which Mr. Garvey's testimony agreed substantially with Mr. McCumber's. This was the substance of the evidence introduced by the State.

The defense introduced a number of depositions, taken in Warsaw, Ind., showing the good character, steady habits and worth of James Jacobs when he worked there a number of years ago. A number of depositions were also read taken before a justice of the peace in Fort Wayne, Ind. These certified to his good character during the winters when he worked around there, he having been away traveling with some circus each summer. The defense had a railway conductor sworn, who testified that he saw Jacobs at his work as usual about fifteen minutes after the concert was concluded. The prisoner also testified in his own behalf, denying that he went off with the girl, also stating that he never saw her until he saw her in jail. He stated that Blair pulled a revolver and threatened to shoot him; and that Blair had his revolver leveled when the prisoner struck him. Attorney Sawyer made an able plea to the jury on behalf of the State, endeavoring to convince them that the prisoner was guilty of willful, premeditated murder as charged in the indictment. Judge Coggsell, on the part of the defense, made a strong and convincing argument, reviewing every phase of the case. The jury after an absence of a few hours brought in a verdict of "guilty of manslaughter in the fourth degree." The judge sentenced him to State penitentiary for the term of four years, the longest period provided by law for that degree of crime. This verdict gave a good deal of dissatisfaction, as it was felt that the prisoner had not received the punishment he deserved. The night he was brought back

from Rochester, feeling ran high and he narrowly escaped lynching. A large crowd had assembled at the depot to meet the train that was to bring the prisoner in, and the desire for lynching seemed almost unanimous. H. M. Hastings, seeing the danger, telegraphed the sheriff, Hugh Murray, who had charge of the prisoner, and it was arranged to stop the train out of town and convey the prisoner secretly to the jail. Later the crowd assembled at the jail, crying "hang him! hang him!" but Sheriff Murray made a timely and appropriate speech, cooling them down and warning them against attempting to take the law in their own hands, and the gathering finally dispersed. Great credit is due to Mr. Murray and Mr. Hastings for their management of the affair.

At the June term, 1885, was tried the case of State of Minnesota *vs.* William Van Ruden, one of the most important murder trials in the history of Steele County. The details connected with the tragedy from which the case grew are susceptible of many various and conflicting versions, the friends of the deceased man, John Lehman, as well as the friends of Van Ruden, claiming that the fault was wholly upon the part of the other. However that may be, we here give the facts as they were related without coloring. It appears that near the line separating Steele and Dodge Counties, nearly due east from Owatonna, there lived until the time of this tragedy, two neighbors—William Van Ruden and John Lehman—the former in Steele and the latter in Dodge County. For some time there had been bad blood between the two men, and many wordy conflicts had taken place. On the 25th of May, 1885, Van Ruden left home to attend to some business and during his absence Lehman, armed with a gun, went over to Van Ruden's farm. On this point there arose an important question on the trial, the prosecution claiming that his errand was only to drive off chickens or something of that kind, with no evil or

malicious intent, while the defense claimed that he went to commit murder. It is stated that Lehman shot the gun several times, and when remonstrated with by Mrs. Van Ruden he abused her, calling vile names. After that he would lie down in the bushes for a time; then get up and walk around, and finally, chose a spot in the brush just across the county line, on his own farm, and there laid down. In a short time Van Ruden came home and his wife related what had taken place. Thereupon he took down his gun and, after seeing where Lehman lay, he started for the place accompanied by his wife. As they neared the spot Lehman arose with his gun in his hand, and at the same instant Van Ruden fired, killing Lehman almost instantly. Van Ruden was arrested, indicted and tried in June, 1885. He was defended by Hon. A. C. Hickman and Hon. Amos Coggsell. The prosecution was ably represented by W. F. Sawyer, Esq., and an earnest and able fight was made in the courts. The only witnesses to the tragedy were the prisoner and his wife. The theory of the defense was that the killing was done in self-defense, and an important item of the evidence was found in the fact that the gun carried by the deceased when found was cocked and ready for shooting. The jury found Van Ruden guilty, and the court sentenced him to five years in the penitentiary, which sentence he is now serving.

DISTRICT JUDGES.

When the territory of Minnesota became a State, Steele County became a part of the fifth judicial district which then embraced the counties of Steele, Dakota, Goodhue, Scott, Rice, Waseca, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn. Hon. N. M. Donaldson, of Owatonna, was the first judge of this district. He was first elected in October, 1857, and was re-elected in 1864, serving until the 31st of December, 1871.

Nicholas M. Donaldson during his life was one of the most prominent men in the State.

He was born at Cambridge, Washington County, N. Y., on the 12th of November, 1809, his father a native of the north of Ireland, his mother of Scotland. Nicholas M. lived on a farm until eighteen, when he became a clerk in a store at Argyle, in his native county, finishing meantime his education at the Salem Academy. After this he taught school several winters and farmed during the summer. In 1840 he moved to Hayesville, Richland County, Ohio, taught school two years, read law at the same time with Thomas W. Bartley, since a supreme judge of Ohio, and was admitted to the bar in the autumn of 1843. Mr. Donaldson opened an office in Mansfield, the county-seat of Richland County, and when the county was divided in 1846 he removed to Londonville and was elected prosecuting attorney of his county. In 1849, he pushed westward to Waupun, Wis., and during his residence there was chairman of the board of supervisors and a member of the legislature from 1851 to 1855. In 1856 he settled in Owatonna, and in the autumn of 1857 was elected judge of the fifth district, and served fourteen years. His death occurred at Owatonna early in February, 1879.

Samuel Lord was elected judge in October, 1871, and served from January 1, 1872, until February 21, 1880.

Thomas S. Buckham, of Faribault, succeeded Judge Lord, by appointment of the governor, on the 21st of February, 1880, and is the present judge.

The fifth judicial district now embraces Steele, Waseca, Dodge and Rice Counties. The times fixed for holding court are as follows: Owatonna, in June and December; Mantorville, in March and October; Faribault, in May and November; Waseca, in March and October.

THE BAR OF STEELE COUNTY.

G. W. Green was undoubtedly the first lawyer to locate within the limits of Steele County. He came here from Wisconsin in

1854 and made some investments near Owatonna, or on the town plat. A few years later he located at Clinton Falls, where, in 1857, he bought the Clinton Mills. At that time he was a man of thirty-five years, perhaps, and a healthy, fully-developed man, mentally as well as physically. In Wisconsin he had been active in public affairs as well as private enterprises, and there obtained his right to the title of "Judge" through holding the office of county judge for a number of years in Dodge County in that State. When he bought the mill he took hold of the work himself, and attended to law business, politics and official duties between times. He was a man of much more than ordinary ability, and took a very prominent part here in early days—representing Steele County in the Lower House of the Legislature, and otherwise taking a leading part in political and official matters. In 1857 he was a prominent candidate for the nomination for district judge, but was defeated by Judge Donaldson. As a lawyer, he was among the ablest in this portion of the State, well read in law, of good argumentative powers, and withal a practical man. It is remembered of him that he had the faculty of getting his cases well in hand and his witnesses and evidence marshalled in the most perfect manner. He was one of the most influential members of the legislature in which he served, originating and drafting the bill embracing the civil organization and government of townships, and the supervisor system. At that time railroad matters occupied a good deal of attention, and, in fact, that was among the most important sessions of the legislature in the history of the State. Steele County was represented in the House by Judge Amos Coggsell and Judge Green, and it is doubtful whether there was a stronger delegation in the legislature. Mr. Coggsell was made Speaker of the House. The Transit—or the present Winona & St. Peter Railroad—was then before the legislature on account of

land grant and route matters. There was active work being done in behalf of the interested points to decide whether the Transit should cross the north and south road at Aurora, Owatonna or Clinton Falls. Judge Green opposed Owatonna so actively that when the succeeding election came he was defeated. Judge Green remained in Steele County until about 1880, when he removed to California, and he now lives in Salinas, that State. He accumulated considerable property while in Steele County, and since his residence in California he has not been actively engaged in any business. In another chapter will be found a very interesting article from Judge Green's pen.

Amos Coggsell located here in 1856 and at once took his place as one of the leading attorneys in this part of the State. He and Judge Green were the principal court or trial lawyers in the county during those early days.

M. A. Dailey located at Owatonna in 1856. He was originally from Washington County, N. Y., a man nearly forty years old at the time he came here. It is thought that he had never practiced law before settling here, but he was a careful and rapid business man, and an expert accountant, and it was not long before he was elected to public office, and he soon held nearly all of the county offices. He then commenced his law practice, and a great deal of business came to him through the various offices which he held. His practice was almost wholly confined to office work, foreclosing mortgages, making out papers, and attending to tax matters, and it was seldom that he went into court with a case unless before a justice of the peace. He made money in those days but did not seem to accumulate much. Times were hard, particularly from 1858 until early during the war. One time during this period, while Dailey and W. R. Kinyon (who in the meantime had begun practice here) were talking, Mr. Kinyon remarked that he was afraid they would finally starve

him out, when Mr. Dailey replied that he was making \$3,000 a year. This was an enormous salary for this country in early times, and we mention the incident to show the extent of Dailey's business at that time. In the fall of 1862 Mr. Dailey was elected to the Senate, and in the following spring he resigned, secured an appointment as quartermaster in some regiment and went into the service. After the close of the war he returned and tried to pick up his former business. Other lawyers, however, had located here who were better posted in law, and more active in working up business, while the county offices had passed into the hands of other men, and in every way the renewed activity and general state of affairs made it impossible for Dailey to regain his former standing, either officially or in the law business. After a few years he secured an appointment in the postal service, and finally removed to Minneapolis, where he now lives, engaged at clerical work in a railroad office.

S. M. Yearly located here in 1856, coming originally from the New England States. He settled upon a claim southeast of Owatonna, put up a frame house and went to farming in a light way, at the same time attending to a limited law practice. He held the office of prosecuting attorney of the county for some time during his residence here, and was quite an active politician, always being on hand at conventions and public meetings. After the close of the war he removed to the western part of the State, where he still lives. Yearly was very quick-tempered and scarcely ever tried a suit without getting half crazy with anger. He has been known to get so mad during the trial of a case, as to take up his books and quit the court-room in high dudgeon, leaving the other lawyer to try the case alone.

W. R. Kinyon settled at Owatonna in 1858 and at once began practice. He is still a resident of Owatonna, being now president of the First National Bank, having given up

the active practice of law. Mr. Kinyon has a number of times represented the county in the legislature and has twice been honored by being chosen speaker of the House. Almost every enterprise or action of a public nature that has affected Steele county during the past quarter of a century has felt his influence and received his support.

P. J. Nordeen was the next lawyer. He was a Norwegian, who, it is thought, came here from Wisconsin in the spring of 1859, locating at Owatonna and opening a law office. He bought a lot and commenced to build, at the same time attending to his law practice. He did not succeed in working up much business and after trying it for a few years he left. He was a young man, but had been admitted to the bar and engaged in practice before coming here. During his residence in Steele County he held the office of court commissioner for one term.

In 1861 the bar of Steele County was increased by the arrival of James Thorn, from Juneau, Wis. He had been clerk of court there and been admitted to the bar. He opened an office here and began practice, but did not gain much business, and after several years he removed to southeastern Nebraska, where he engaged in the abstract business and became quite prominent. He was of a roving, unsettled disposition and never accumulated much. While here he did not take a very prominent part in affairs, and only made a bare living, if that.

A. A. Harwood located here sometime during the latter part of the war, or about the time Thorn left. He was a man of about thirty years of age at that time and had been practicing law in Wisconsin. He brought his family with him, bought a home and opened a law office. He had a good deal of push and energy, and was not backward in advancing his own interests. He became quite prominent here, holding various county offices, and was a prominent candidate for the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to succeed Mark II.

1859 elected
for 1859-60 sess

Dunnell when the latter was elected to Congress. After a residence here of about fourteen years Harwood removed to Austin, where he engaged in the publication of a newspaper and was postmaster for a number of years. Finally he secured an appointment to a government clerkship and removed to Washington, where his wife still lives. He died several years ago.

These were the lawyers of early days. Since that time a great many have come and gone. Some only to remain a short time, others who became in a measure prominent. It is sufficient, however, to merely give, in this connection, the personal history of each of the gentlemen who compose

THE BAR OF TO-DAY.

The present bar of Steele County comprises a number of gentlemen of State reputation, and, as a whole, a more genial and intellectual lot of men could scarcely be found in any county of the State. The following is a list of the present members of the Steele County bar:

Hon. Amos Coggsell, Hon. J. M. Burlingame, Hon. L. L. Wheelock, Hon. A. C. Hickman, W. A. Sperry, C. W. Hadley, Hon. L. Hazen, M. B. Chadwick, Hon. H. H. Johnson, H. E. Johnson, E. W. Richter, W. F. and J. A. Sawyer, all of Owatonna, and A. D. Ingersoll, of Blooming Prairie.

Hon. Amos Coggsell was born in Boscawen, N. H., September 29, 1825. His early education was received in the common schools of his native county. When sixteen years old he went to Gilmanton Academy, where he attended three years, after which he entered the law office of Hon. Franklin Pierce, at Concord. Three years later he was admitted to the bar, and came west to McHenry County, Ill., where he began the practice of his profession. In 1853 he was given an appointment in the general Land Office at Washington. In August, 1856, he came to Steele County. In 1857 was chosen to act as a member of the constitutional con-

vention. In 1860 was elected to a seat in the House of Representatives and was made speaker. From 1872 to 1875, inclusive, was in the State Senate, and then for one year was probate judge of Steele County. Mr. Coggsell was married in 1848 to Miss Harriet I. Clark, who died in 1869. He was again married in 1873 to Mrs. Lucinda Dunning, who died eighteen months later. He was once more united in matrimony in 1879 to Mrs. Mary A. Allen, a native of New York. Heman C., Helen, wife of James Riley, of Watertown, D. T., and Abbie are the names of his children, all of whom are by his first wife. Mr. Coggsell is a Mason, being a member of the Blue Lodge and Chapter at Owatonna. He is an easy and effective speaker and an able lawyer. For over a quarter of a century he has been upon one side or the other of nearly every important civil or criminal case tried in Steele County, and, as a criminal lawyer, his reputation extends throughout the State.

The following sketch of Hon. J. M. Burlingame appeared in the *St. Paul Globe* in January, 1885, among other sketches of members of the legislature of Minnesota of that year:

"James M. Burlingame, of the twelfth district, was born in Sterling, Windham County, Conn., and is forty-six years old. He was a student at Plainfield Academy, Connecticut; afterward prepared for admission to the scientific course of Michigan University, at Monroe, Mich., under Edwin Willett—a graduate of the university and since member of Congress—and for admission to the classical course of the university at Ann Arbor, under Prof. Abbot, now at the head of the agricultural department of the university located at Lansing. He completed the law course of the Michigan University, graduating with the first class that took the full two years' course in March, 1861, and was at that time admitted to the bar of Michigan. He went immediately from there to Albany, N. Y.; taught Latin

and mathematics in the Albany Female Seminary two years, occupying a portion of each day in the law office of McHarg & Burlingame; enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Regiment New York Volunteers in 1864 (having been rejected on a former enlistment in 1861 on account of feeble health); was assigned to service in the Second Battalion located in New York harbor; visited the armies of Thomas, Sherman and Grant in charge of recruits; served till the close of the war, then returned to Albany and went to Illinois and remained one year; was editor of the *Decatur Tribune* in 1866. He came to Owatonna in April, 1867; was city attorney of Owatonna nine years, and county attorney of Steele County from December 1, 1872, to January 1, 1883; was married to Marie Louise Grant, of Lexington, Ky., in 1866."

The following account of Mr. Burlingame's services in the legislature of Minnesota is taken from the *Owatonna Journal*.

In November, 1884, he was elected to the legislature and served on the Judiciary, Railroad and Education committees. He was chairman of the latter committee and the attorney of the Railroad Committee, in which position he formulated the railroad law which is now upon our statute books and which has been of almost incalculable value to the State. Although new to legislative duties, it being his first experience in a legislative body, Mr. Burlingame commenced his labors at once as will be seen by the following extract from the reports of proceedings in the House:

"The first bill to come before the House in Committee of the Whole was Mr. Burlingame's, providing for a vote on a constitutional convention." This bill in Mr. B.'s custody passed the House without a dissenting vote.

The State Public School Bill was another measure in which Mr. Burlingame took a deep interest, and, as chairman of the Committee on Education, hastened it back to the

House, having combined Mr. Leneau's bill and his own and recommended it for passage, when under the joint custody of Mr. Leneau and himself its passage was secured without a dissenting vote.

Of the part he took in railroad legislation the *St. Paul papers* commented as follows:

"Mr. Burlingame has figured prominently thus far in such debate as has been drawn out on the Railroad Bill. He won the confidence of the Railroad Committee by presenting the bill which most nearly met the approval of the committee, and to him has since fallen the task of formulating as nearly as possible the ideas of a majority of the committee. In the explanations and such other debate as he has been drawn into, he has shown readiness, clear-headedness and facility of statement. He talks like a lawyer, works like a business man, and is on good terms with everybody with whom he comes in contact. He will probably have much to say in the railroad debate on Tuesday."—*St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

"The feature of the day has been the House special order, set for 11 o'clock, consideration of the Railroad Bill.

"Mr. Burlingame made an extended and strong speech in its favor, from the committee on railroads. Mr. Burlingame was followed with marked attention, especially in view of the fact that, as the judicial member of the committee, he has been relied upon to guard the legal points. Marked applause greeted Mr. Burlingame at the conclusion of his speech."—*St. Paul Dispatch*.

"Mr. Burlingame's work upon the Railroad Committee was particularly important and laborious, from the fact of his being the only lawyer upon it. In consequence the delicate work devolved upon him of passing upon various legal points involved in the measures considered, more especially the committee's own bill, the general arrangement of which he had also to supervise. It will thus be seen that Mr. Burlingame's first legislative experience has been very far removed from a

holiday season. . . . Being as he is in the very prime of life, with a mind already well stored with useful and professional knowledge, industry and commendable ambition, and full of bodily vigor, Mr. Burlingame should and probably will be heard from in more important positions than he has yet occupied."—*St. Paul Globe*.

"Representative Burlingame, of Steele County, a lawyer of very great ability, has made himself very popular with his co-workers by his well-expressed and sensible views on various subjects, more especially on railroad legislation, in which he has taken a leading hand as a member of the Railroad Committee. It was he who drafted the well-known Railroad Bill which created so much agitation but finally went through."—*St. Paul Dispatch*.

During the session of the legislature Mr. Burlingame obtained a large acquaintance and became one of the most popular members of the House. His friends were very anxious that he should be selected one of the members of the railroad commission, but that was impracticable. During the past eighteen years he has been a faithful worker in the ranks of the Republican party in this State. He has never faltered or hesitated in giving his time and labor to secure the success of the party. During his long services as county attorney, he succeeded in suppressing a lawless element and worked a reform which has proven thorough and lasting. His labors to procure proper railroad legislation by the last legislature show the depth of his sympathies for the laboring masses, be they farmers, merchants or mechanics.

Mr. Burlingame's father, P. M. Burlingame, and uncle, James Burlingame, were both ministers of the Christian Church, the latter for more than fifty years. The names of his ancestors, so far as he can now recall them, were Peter Montgomery, Peter, Nathan Thomas, Joshua Roger. His grandmother, wife of Peter, was Elizabeth Montgomery, a

relative of Richard Montgomery, a general in the Revolutionary War. His grandfather also served in the same war, and prior to the age of railroads he was the contractor and builder of the Providence and Hartford turnpike. Mr. Burlingame's mother was Harriet Dean, daughter of Christopher and Lydia Dean, of Windham County, Conn. Mr. Burlingame is now engaged in the practice of the law at Owatonna and at Austin, and is also attorney for the Business Men's Association of Minnesota, and the Boards of Trade Union of Northfield and other cities, for whom he has several cases pending before the State and Interstate Commerce commissions. He has five children living, James Montgomery, Ernst Marshall, Robert Morrison, Ruth and Harold Grant. Two have gone before, Carroll Dean and Marie Louise. Mrs. Burlingame is a relative of the Marshalls and Morrisons of Virginia and Kentucky, and of the Grants of Kentucky and Ohio. Thus the old family names of both branches recur in the names of the children.

Prominent among the men who have taken an active part in developing the resources and in advancing the interests of Owatonna and of the State, is Hon. Lewis L. Wheelock. He is a son of Lewis L. Wheelock, Sr., and Mary Howe Wheelock, and was born at Mannsville, Jefferson County, N. Y., on November 12, 1839. At the early age of ten years our subject was left an orphan, and thrown upon his own resources. He received his early education in the public schools of his native State, and at the age of twenty he was employed as a teacher in the Macedon Academy, in Wayne County, N. Y., serving in that capacity until the outbreak of the Civil War. In 1862, he enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Sixtieth New York Volunteers; was mustered in as first lieutenant of Company B. He was subsequently promoted to captain of Company C, of the same regiment, and served a trifle over three years. At the battle of

Opequon, near Winchester, September 19, 1864, he was wounded in the right arm, below the elbow, and was laid up for a month. His regiment was mustered out at Savannah, Ga., in November, 1865. The colonel of this regiment was Charles C. Dwight, of Auburn, now on the Supreme bench of that State. Capt. Wheelock read law with Mr. Dwight, came to Owatonna in 1866, and was admitted to the bar in 1867. Subsequently he went to Georgia, and was connected with the Freedmen's Bureau for some months. He returned north in 1868, attended a course of lectures at the Albany Law School, and then opened an office at Owatonna. Since residing at Owatonna he has been city attorney and judge of probate. In 1876-7 was in the State Senate. During both sessions was chairman of the Committee on Education, and also served on Railroad and Judiciary committees. He is the present postmaster of Owatonna, is a Knight Templar, and a member of the Congregational Church. On July 25, 1871, Mr. Wheelock was married to Miss Adaline Burch, of Hillsdale, Mich. Following are the names of their children: Mary A. (deceased), Lewis B. (deceased), Arthur B., Lorenzo D., Addie C., Minnie and Paul, twins. In 1887 he was elected department commander for Minnesota of the Grand Army of the Republic, which position he holds at this writing. Mr. Wheelock, during his service in the State Senate, became one of the most influential and prominent members of that body, being an able speaker and parliamentarian. His many years' residence here, together with the various public offices which he has held, and the prominent part he has taken in public and political matters, have made him well-known throughout the State.

No western State can boast of an abler bar than Minnesota. Prominent among those men who have here reached the higher walks of the profession, and have done much to build up the fame of the State, is Hon. Adam

C. Hickman, of Owatonna. He was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1837. His early life was spent on a farm in that county. On reaching the proper age he entered Allegheny College at Meadville, Pa., and graduated from that institution in 1862. He then began the study of law and in 1863 graduated from the Ohio State and Union Law College at Cleveland. After practicing a year at Akron, Ohio, he came west, locating in Owatonna. In 1866 he was elected superintendent of public schools of Steele County, and served two years in that capacity. From 1869 to 1873 he was judge of the probate Court. In the fall of 1882 was elected to the State Senate, and represented this district in that body until January, 1887. Mr. Hickman is a Mason, being a member of Blue Lodge No. 33 and also of the Chapter and Commandery. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On November 9, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss Ella B. Peck, a native of New York. Judge Hickman is a man of fine personal appearance. He is among the best known lawyers of this part of the State; a clear and forcible speaker, ready in debate, careful in details and has justly earned the high reputation he has attained.

Wesley A. Sperry, county attorney, was born in Oakland County, Mich., in 1847. He spent his early life in his native county. In 1873 he graduated from the Ann Arbor Law School, and the following year he began the practice of law at Mantorville, Minn. In ten days after his arrival there he was appointed county attorney and was elected to that position two subsequent terms. He came to Owatonna again in the fall of 1879 and formed a partnership with Judge L. L. Wheelock. In the fall of 1886 he was elected county attorney of Steele County. Mr. Sperry is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was married on Christmas Day, 1878, to Miss Julia A. Steele, a native of New York State. Clara L. is

the name of their only child. Mr. Sperry is one of the best read lawyers in the county. He is an effective advocate, and the firm of Wheelock & Sperry have an extensive practice.

Charles W. Hadley, attorney-at-law, was born in Grafton County, N. H., in 1844. In 1850 his father moved with his family to Rockton, Ill., thence to Maquoketa, Iowa. Here Mr. Hadley took an academical course, and later entered Cornell College at Mt. Vernon. In 1861 he left school and enlisted in Company H, Fourteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was taken prisoner at Shiloh, and was paroled the following September. He was discharged in June, 1863. He came to Owatonna in 1870, was admitted to the bar in 1874, and has practiced here since that time. He was married June 17, 1874, to Miss Lillie C. Adams. Albert W. is the name of their only child. Mr. Hadley is adjutant of James A. Goodwin Post No. 81, Grand Army of the Republic.

Miles B. Chadwick, of the firm of Hickman & Chadwick, was born near Franklin, Venango County, Pa., in 1843. He attended Allegheny College, at Meadville, and graduated from that institution with honors in 1867, and then went to Cleveland, where he graduated from the Ohio State and Union Law School in 1869. He came to Owatonna in 1870, and was associated with Mr. Hickman until 1878, when he was elected county auditor, a position he held for four terms. He was married in 1872 to Miss Helen S. Laird, a native of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chadwick is a prominent Mason. He was elected clerk of the State Legislature in 1874-5, and has held many other positions of trust and importance.

Col. Harvey H. Johnson, attorney, was born in Rutland, Vt., in 1808. He studied law and was admitted to the bar there. Later he located in Akron, Ohio, where he was mayor and postmaster for a number of years. He moved from there to Ashland in 1846, and while residing there represented his

district in the XXXIIIrd Congress. He came to Minnesota in 1855, and was for some time connected with the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Co. His son, Robert H. Johnson, was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1846. He enlisted in Company I, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served one year in defense of his country. He came to Owatonna in 1865, and was for some time engaged in the lumber business. Later he went into the boot and shoe trade, and is now in the insurance business. He was elected city marshal in 1886. He was married in 1871 to Miss Ida Morley, a native of New York State. Calista A., Harvey M., Ralph S. and Robert are their children's names. Mr. Johnson is a member of James A. Goodwin Post, Grand Army of the Republic No. 81.

Edward W. Richter, attorney-at-law, was born near Berlin, Waushara County, Wis., in 1851. When he was two years old his parents moved to Ripon, Wis., where Mr. Richter received his education at Ripon College. He came to Dodge County in 1869, and in 1876 went to Rochester, where he studied law two years with Start & Gove. He was admitted to the bar at Owatonna in 1881, after which he became a partner of Judge Amos Coggs-well. After some eighteen months this business relationship was dissolved, and Mr. Richter engaged in practice alone. He was chosen city attorney in 1883 and held the position for about three years. He is now doing an extensive real estate and loan business in connection with his legal practice. Mr. Richter was married in October, 1881, to Miss O'Connor, a native of Massachusetts. Edward M., Mary and Jean Paul are their children's names. Our subject is a member of the Catholic Church.

J. A. Sawyer, of the law firm of Sawyer & Sawyer, was born in Merrimac County, N. H., in 1846. When eight years, his old father's family came west to Illinois and to Minnesota in 1856. Our subject received his education at Northfield, where he graduated in 1877. He afterward studied law and was

admitted to the bar in the spring of 1880. The firm of Sawyer & Sawyer also have an office at Waseca and do an extensive legal business. Mr. Sawyer's father, Joseph Sawyer, died in the fall of 1886, aged nearly eighty-five years. Our subject was married in 1882 to Miss E. N. Abbott, a native of New Hampshire. The names of their children are Abbott W. and Carleton J.

W. F. Sawyer, junior member of the firm of Sawyer & Sawyer, was born in Merrimac County, New Hampshire, October 26, 1850. He received his education at Carlton College in Northfield. He was married November 7, 1883, to Miss Ella P. Coffman, a native of Pennsylvania, and they have been blessed with two children, Leon G. and Alice B. Mr. Sawyer studied law and was admitted to the bar in Steele County in December, 1876.

A. D. Ingersoll, attorney, of Blooming Prairie, is a native of Dodge County, Wis., born November 8, 1852. His parents were A. and Mary (McNamara) Ingersoll. They, in company with A. D., came to Blooming Prairie in October, 1878. The father lived in the village until the time of his death in 1882. Mrs. Ingersoll is still living there. A. D. began to read law with E. Hooker, of Waupun, Wis., in November, 1876, and remained with him until October, 1878, when he came west and was admitted to the bar in June, 1877, at Port Washington, Wis. Since his arrival in Minnesota he has devoted his attention entirely to his profession. He was married June 19, 1880, to Miss Eunice T. Bowker. Their union has been blessed with two children—Marion, aged four; Chester, aged one year.



CHAPTER XII.

THE PRESS.



HERE is no instrumentality, not even excepting the pulpit and the bar, which exerts such an influence upon society as the press of the land. It is the Archimedian lever that moves the world. The talented minister of the Gospel on the Sabbath day preaches to a few hundred people; on the following morning his thoughts are reproduced more than a thousandfold, and are read and discussed throughout the length and breadth of the land. The attorney at the bar, in thrilling tones, pleads for or against the criminal arraigned for trial, often causing the jury to bring in a verdict against the law and the testimony in the case. His words are reproduced in every daily that is reached by the telegraphic wire, and his arguments are calmly weighed by unprejudiced men and accepted for what they are worth. The politician takes the stand and addresses a handful of men upon the political questions of the day; his speech is reported, and read by a thousand men for every one that heard the address. Suddenly the waters of one of our mighty rivers rise, overflowing the land for miles and miles, rendering thousands of people homeless, and without means to secure their daily bread. The news is flashed over the wire, taken up by the press, and known and read of all men. No time is lost in sending to their relief; the press has made known their wants, and they are instantly supplied. "Chicago is on fire! Two hundred millions' worth of property destroyed! Fifty thousand people rendered homeless!" Such is the dread intelligence

proclaimed by the press. Food and clothing are hastily gathered, trains are chartered, and the immediate wants of the sufferers are in a measure relieved.

The power for good or evil, of the press, is to-day unlimited. The shortcomings of the politician are made known through its columns; the dark deeds of the wicked are exposed, and each fear it alike. The controlling influence of a nation, state or county is its press; and the press of Steele County is no exception to the rule.

The local press is justly considered among the most important institutions of every city, town and village. The people of every community regard their particular newspaper or newspapers as of peculiar value, and this not merely on account of the fact already alluded to, but because these papers are the repositories wherein are stored the facts and the events, the deeds and the sayings, the undertakings and the achievements that go to make up final history. One by one these things are gathered and placed in type; one by one the papers are issued; one by one these papers are gathered together and bound, and another volume of local, general and individual history is laid away imperishable. The volumes thus collected are sifted by the historian, and the book for the library is ready. The people of each city or town naturally have a pride in their home paper. The local press, as a rule, reflects the business enterprise of a place. Judging from this standard, the enterprise of the citizens of Steele County is indeed commendable. Its papers are well filled each week with advertisements of home merchants and

of its business enterprises. No paper can exist without these advertisements, and no community can flourish that does not use the advertising columns of its local press. Each must sustain the other.

THE WATCHMAN AND REGISTER.

The first paper started in the county was under the above title. It was established at Owatonna, in July, 1856, by J. H. Abbott and A. B. Cornell, who purchased press, type and fixtures of Maj. W. A. Hotchkiss, at that time editor and publisher of the *Northwestern Democrat*, at St. Anthony. Mr. Cornell acted as editor and business manager for a time, when the services of H. M. Sheetz, an experienced newspaper man, were secured as editor. Sometime in 1857 the word *Watchman* was dropped from the name, and the *Owatonna Register* was published until some time in the winter of 1857-8, with Abbott & Cornell and W. F. Pettit as proprietors, and H. M. Sheetz as editor, and then it was discontinued. It had been a useful means of advertising the locality, and did its full share in molding the public mind. The only copy of the early issues of the *Watchman and Register* still in existence, we believe, is one which Dr. E. M. Morehouse has preserved. It is no. 2, vol. I, and bears date of July 29, 1856. The proprietors are given as J. H. Abbott and A. B. Cornell, while the names of A. B. Cornell and C. T. Smeed appear as editors. The paper is a seven-column folio, neatly printed and ably edited, and supports the "Democratic-Republican ticket," headed by John C. Fremont for President, and William L. Dayton for Vice-President. The local advertisers in this issue were:

A. B. Cornell, attorney-at-law and real-estate agent; A. Town, general merchandise store; F. Wilbur Fisk, of Franklin, land agent; Sylvester McNitt, justice of the peace; John W. Park, surveyor; N. Winship, hotel; Philo Sanford, hotel; E. M. Morehouse, physician; Joel Wilson, black-

smith; Moses Rivard, shoemaker; and Charles Ellison, register of deeds.

All through this paper the name of the county-seat is spelled "*Owatonia*."

In another chapter we give a number of extracts from this paper.

THE MEDFORD VALLEY ARGUS

Was the second journal to lay claim to public favor as a "retailer of the doings and sayings" of Steele County. It was published at Medford, dating its first appearance about the middle of August, 1858, and was under the control of Messrs. Francis & Sulley. It was printed with the same material which had been used in the publication of the *Register*, the material having been purchased of the company by William F. Pettit, and by him sold to Mr. Bartholomew, of Medford. Messrs. Francis & Sulley leased it of Mr. Bartholomew. Mr. Sulley soon sold his interest to Mr. J. R. Lucas, and the publication was continued for a short time, when the enterprise was abandoned, and the material was rented to H. M. Sheetz, who removed it back to Owatonna.

THE OWATONNA JOURNAL.

This paper was started by H. M. Sheetz, with the material which he had secured at Medford, and made its appearance shortly after the demise of the *Argus*. It was a seven-column sheet, neatly printed and ably edited, and was received with marked favor by its patrons. It was Republican in politics and the earnest and devoted advocate of all reforms. In October, 1859, Mr. Sheetz died, and the *Journal* was carried on by his widow for some time thereafter. Hon. William F. Pettit, at that time State senator from Steele County, had started a project to allow Mrs. Sheetz, who was a woman of considerable literary ability, to retain the office as a mark of esteem from the public, whom her husband had so faithfully served, and had already received \$150 from his fellow members of the Senate to aid in carrying out

this benevolent project. But upon returning home he found that the office had been sold to A. B. Cornell, which at once put a stop to the publication of the *Journal*.

THE NEWS LETTER.

Shortly after the suspension of the *Journal*, the *News Letter* was established by A. B. Cornell. He kept up the enterprise until 1862, when he took a sutler's position in the army, and Mrs. Cornell continued the publication of a small sheet some three or four columns in width until 1863, when Dr. Kelly, editor of the *Plaindealer*, which in the meantime had been started, purchased the job office and the good-will of the *News Letter*, and its publication was discontinued.

THE OWATONNA REPRESENTATIVE.

In the summer of 1860 Messrs. William F. Pettit and John H. Abbott assisted J. W. Crawford in the purchase of an office in Mantorville, Dodge County, and the publication of the *Owatonna Representative* was commenced. It was an eight-column sheet and was very ably conducted and well printed, reflecting much credit upon the enterprise of the citizens who sustained it, as well as those who conducted it. It was continued for about eighteen months, when Mr. Crawford entered the army, and Messrs. Pettit and Abbott sold the material to James E. Child, of Wilton, Waseca County.

THE OWATONNA REGISTER.

Was started by A. B. Cornell soon after his return from the army. It was published in an independent, neutral manner, consequently meeting with poor success, yet it continued to drag out an existence for some little time, when it succumbed from want of proper sustenance, and publication was discontinued.

THE OWATONNA DEMOCRAT.

This was a newspaper aspirant for public favor, started with Capt. J. D. Wood as editor and proprietor. It was received with

considerable enthusiasm by the Democracy, as it was a purely Democratic paper; yet it did not receive sufficient support to meet the necessary expenditures, and after trying the experiment for about a year it was discontinued.

THE VIDETTE.

In the spring of 1867 J. A. Spellman started a paper called the *Vidette*. It was a seven-column folio, and Independent Republican in politics. It was continued only for a short time, when it was merged with the *Journal*, Mr. Spellman becoming one of the proprietors of that paper.

THE OWATONNA REGISTER.

In 1867 another Democratic paper was started, which was called the *Owatonna Register*, under the control of Mr. C. F. George. He continued its publication at a pecuniary loss for about one year, when the office was removed to Faribault.

THE OWATONNA PLAINDEALER.

In April, 1863, Dr. L. H. Kelley commenced the publication of a paper called the *Owatonna Plaindealer*. The town was then growing rapidly, the business kept increasing until the *Plaindealer* became one of the best paying offices in this part of the State. It was started as a seven-column paper, but in the spring of 1866 was enlarged to an eight-column folio. In the fall of the same year the office was purchased by Tappan, Higbee & Hathaway. The new firm shortly afterward commenced the publication of the

REPUBLICAN JOURNAL,

and in a few weeks the firm became Higbee, Spellman & Bickham, and the name of the paper became

THE OWATONNA JOURNAL,

although the policy and politics of the paper remained the same — Republican. Mr. Bickham was then a Democrat and for a time part of the paper was given to Democracy.

The files of the *Owatonna Journal* commence with the issue of January 13, 1876; at least we have been unable to find any copies of prior issues. At that time the paper was running as an eight-column folio. The proprietors at that time were Crandall & Bickham — C. S. Crandall, W. H. Bickham — and Thursday was the day of issue. It was very neatly gotten up and well filled with local and general news, as well as having a good run of local advertising. During the same winter Mr. Crandall, one of the firm, was appointed postmaster, and that partially severed his former intimate connection with the management of the *Journal*. The issue of October 19, 1876, was the last bearing the names of Crandall & Bickham as editors, for F. T. Drebert purchased it and assumed charge with the following issue.

In parting with the *Journal* Mr. Crandall severed his connection by saying: "With this issue of the *Journal* my connection with it ceases. During a period of nine years my relations with this paper have given me a weekly medium of communication with the people of this county." His political tendencies were evidently not different from what we find them to-day, for he says: "I cannot view the effort to place the control of the destinies of this country in the hands of the South with any other feeling than of the profoundest anxiety for our country. Looking over that country to which the scepter would be given by such an act, I see a totally different people, a different civilization, morally and intellectually, and following such a change, I see nothing but a downward tendency in the future. Whatever may be your party preference here at home, let no man deceive you into the belief that the path to reform leads to the late Southern Confederacy."

With the issue on the 26th of October, 1876, the name of F. T. Drebert appears at the head of the columns as editor and proprietor. The policy of the paper was not changed, as will be seen by the following ex-

tract from Mr. Drebert's salutatory presented in his first issue.

" . . . There will be no change in the political course of the *Journal*. I cast my first vote for the first Republican candidate for the presidency and have since] been steadfast in the faith. To the end of my life I shall remain loyal to the principles of freedom, progress and nationality. If the relations existing between myself and the Republican party are ever severed, that party must abandon its cardinal doctrines, an event I cannot conceive as likely to occur, so long as its ranks are composed of the truest patriots of the land, and its destinies directed by the wisest and most conscientious of our citizens. As a local paper the *Journal* will labor earnestly to advance the best interests of Owatonna, Steele County and Minnesota. I have come to stay to identify myself with the citizens of the city, county and State, and become one of them. Their interests will be my interests, and in being true to them I shall also be true to myself. . . . "

Since that time Mr. Drebert has retained his connection with the paper. At the time he came, the office was kept in what was known as the Dresser building on the east side of Main street. It remained there until the building which the office now occupies was completed, when it was moved to its present finely-finished apartments in what is commonly called the Temple Block. One incident in the history of the *Journal* was its connection with the failure of L. Bixby's *Review*. Mr. Bixby had rented the material of that office to A. H. Lewis, and in 1879 he made arrangements with Mr. Drebert to turn over the subscription in the manner of a consolidation of the two, the publication of the *Review* to cease, and, according to the arrangement, while he did not become a partner in the publication, he was to get a percentage on the job work and advertising. By consent of Mr. Drebert he moved a lot of paper and stock into the *Journal* rooms for storage purposes. As soon as Mr. Bixby learned of

this he got out a writ of replevin and secured possession of the material, making Mr. Drebert a co-defendant. When the suit was settled Mr. Bixby started a paper called *The Review*, having copied the subscription list. This paper was afterward removed to Minneapolis and became the *Temperance Review*.

On the 12th of February, 1886, the *Journal* was consolidated with the *Herald*, which had been established by the Soper Brothers, and the name of the paper became the

JOURNAL AND HERALD.

Under this arrangement the firm name became Drebert & Soper brothers — *en personnel*, F. T. Drebert, J. A. and W. B. Soper. W. B. Soper retired from the firm in October, 1886, leaving the management in the same hands as we still find it — Drebert & Soper — F. T. Drebert and J. A. Soper. The *Journal and Herald* office is undoubtedly one of the finest and most extensively equipped offices in the State, outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and is a credit to Owatonna. It is furnished with a newspaper cylinder press, a Babcock pony cylinder with steam power attached, and three other presses for general work; its assortment of poster, jobbing and news type is very extensive, and in fact the office has capacity for any class of work. The paper has attained a wide circulation, not only locally, but in a general sense, and as an exponent of Republican doctrines its influence in the party and with the people is not surpassed by any journal in this portion of the State.

F. T. Drebert, senior member of the firm of Drebert & Soper, proprietors of the *Journal and Herald*, was born in Baltimore, Md., March 7, 1834. While in his infancy his parents removed to Connersville, Ind. In 1840, his mother having died, his father returned to Baltimore. The subject of this sketch attended the public schools of that city, having his studies interrupted by going two voyages to sea with his father, who was master of a merchant vessel. After return-

ing from these voyages Mr. Drebert resumed his place in school, in a short time entering the high school, an institution of the character of many of our western colleges. Leaving school he went into the book and job printing office of Joseph Robinson to learn the trade. From 1860 to 1868 he was engaged in editorial work on the Connersville (Ind.) *Times*, except two short intermissions, during the first of which he taught school and read law in Judge J. M. Wilson's office, and during the second was engaged in publishing the *Liberty Herald*, located in the adjoining county of Union. In 1868 he purchased an interest in the *Liberty Herald*, which, in a few months, he sold to his partner, and in 1869 purchased the Rushville (Ind.) *Republican*. He sold the office in 1876 and came to Owatonna. During his residence in Connersville, Ind., Mr. Drebert was married to Mary A. Harrison, of that place. They have been blessed with six children, all of whom are living as follows: Caroline, Oliver M., Mary E., Alexander F., Eleanor and Belle. Mr. Drebert, through his many years' experience, has become a thorough newspaper man, thoroughly mastering his profession. He is a versatile, pungent writer and is recognized as one of the ablest editorial writers in the State.

J. A. Soper, of the firm of Drebert & Soper, is a native of the State of New York, born in 1858. While he was yet a child his parents moved west and located in Clinton Falls Township, Steele County. After a few years they removed to Owatonna, where they still live. J. A. Soper was married in November, 1883, to Lillie M. Cooper, a daughter of John Cooper, of Faribault. One child has blessed their union, Bonnie Eveline, born August 25, 1887. Mr. Soper, while still at home, learned telegraphing and for several years followed that business, he and his brother for some time having charge of the Owatonna office. J. A. Soper began the printing business with a little "Novelty Job Press," which he "set up" in his father's

store and turned out light work. His various newspaper ventures receive extended notice elsewhere. He is a thorough newspaper man, and has the reputation of being among the most tasty job printers in this part of the State.

THE PEOPLE'S PRESS.

The first issue of this paper made its appearance on Wednesday, the 2d of September, 1874, as an eight-column folio. It was established by B. E. Darby and N. E. Lemen, under the firm name of Darby & Lemen. The first issue of the paper presented a neat appearance, well filled with local as well as general news. The local advertisers in the first issue were the following: Attorneys, Coggswell & Johnson, Johnson & Burlingame, L. P. McClarren; physician, S. Blood; dentists, Cole & Medd; tailor, John Cottier; groceries, P. O. Maly; cigars, C. Bartsch & Co.; barbers, Valentine & Lidington; meat markets, J. A. Oppliger and Pepper & Montgomery; hotels, Parcher & Bryant and William Engel; real estate, Dr. E. W. Johnson; furniture, H. H. Rosebroek; wagon shop, Charles Schoen; brewery, Lewis Bion; hardware, A. Butsch; livery, G. B. Twiss; lumber, A. G. Murray; hardware, S. B. Hunkins; boots and shoes, A. Butsch; drugs, Z. Handerson; hardware, Requa & Furbers; books, Brown & Spellman; drngs, Harsha & Donaldson; jewelry, Julius F. Young & Co.; general merchandise, J. W. Morford; merchandise, G. F. Albertus musical instruments, J. B. Lambert; liquors, H. Hall.

The campaign preceding the October election of 1874 was at its height. Mark H. Dunnell, of Owatonna, had been nominated by the Republicans for Congress and Judge Franklin H. Waite, of Mankato, had been made the Democratic nominee. The *People's Press* at once commenced political action, opposing Mr. Dunnell and favoring Waite. In an advertisement on the fourth page of the first issue it is stated that the *People's Press*, "the anti-monopoly paper of Steele County,

is independent of rings or cliques, and a true representative of the farmers and workingmen. The *Press* is devoted to the interests of those who make an honest living, and opposed to all monopolies whereby a tax-ridden people are still further oppressed.

" 'He who would grow both rich and wise,
Should either read or advertise.' "

The motto of the *Press* was: "Justice Liberty and Union; Independent of party and party cliques."

As the editors in the first issue present an able "salutatory," we herewith give some of the most pointed paragraphs, as they outline the future policy of the paper:

"Though the people of Steele County have already one paper, we believe there is ample room for another. Our people may now be considered to be a reading people. The benefits arising from our excellent system of free education are patent to every observer and the demand for additional reading matter is continually increasing. Convinced of this fact, we offer no apology for issuing a weekly journal to supply a desideratum, the want of which has been long felt.

"Upon presenting this, the initial number of the *People's Press* to the public, we have but few promises to make, leaving our future acts to speak for themselves, believing that they will be more potential than many promises and platforms of words upon words.

"The *Press* is not to be an effort of to-day to aid in a political campaign or advance a temporary interest, but our best efforts will be put forth to place it upon a sure foundation, a journal for to-day, to-morrow and the future, a means to earn us a livelihood, while doing its duty.

"The *Press* will be emphatically independent in the broadest construction of the term, free and untrammelled in all things—free from any political, money or society power; wearing no collar, but striking for the right wherever it may be found, and probing the festering sores of corruption, whether in the petty places of authority or

when concealed by the ermine or gilding and trappings of power and place. Against monopolies the *Press* will wage war, and is in full sympathy with the efforts of the producing classes against the mighty powers whose baneful shadows are cast over the struggling tiller of the soil, the mechanic and the laborer of whatever degree. The organized movement of labor against those who would oppress it will be earnestly advocated and encouraged.

“Our design is to make the *Press* truly the people’s paper, devoted to general literature, the news of the day, editorial opinions, correspondence, a vehicle for the expression of our readers’ opinions and criticisms, and particularly a faithful and entertaining chronicler of local events. Home will be our first consideration always. And while faithfully guarding the interests of Owatonna, we will conscientiously endeavor to further the interests of the entire county, not being warped by sectional lines, neither preferring the shop and store before the farm. In short, we intend to build up a paper of an immense circulation and one of which every subscriber may be proud. No slang or immorality will enter either our reading or advertising columns, and the paper will be one all can properly take into the family circle. In conclusion, we only ask for the support that our efforts shall seem to deserve, hoping that our labors and your encouragement will result in our common good, and make the *Press* a worthy champion of the right.

“DARBY & LEMEN.”

Although the name of Mr. Lemen appears as one of the proprietors of the *Press*, he was not an active partner, and on the 16th of September, 1874, his name was dropped from the head of the columns and that of B. E. Darby appeared as sole editor and proprietor. Mr. Lemen had been running a paper at Kasson, Dodge County, and when the *People’s Press* was established he sold Mr. Darby the material with which the *Press* office was then furnished, and agreed to get

out the first issue. In this, however, he failed, as Mr. Darby arrived before that time, and the first number of the *Press* made its appearance through his exertions. Mr. Lemen never moved to Owatonna.

Mr. Darby continued the publication of the paper alone until January 6, 1874, when L. C. Martin became associated with him as partner, under the firm name of Darby & Martin. Mr. Martin came here from Prairie du Chien, Wis., and worked as a printer for Mr. Darby during his first year’s residence here. In March, 1876, the day of publication was changed from Wednesday to Saturday. On the 9th of March, 1878, Mr. Darby bought out his partner’s interest, and the firm of Darby & Martin was dissolved, Mr. Darby again assuming full ownership. Shortly after severing his connection with the *Press*, Mr. Martin returned to Wisconsin and engaged in the publication of a Greenback journal in the southwestern part of that State. In this, however, he only remained a short time. He is now in Florida. When he first came to Steele County he was a young man, possibly twenty years of age, and single. Some time after selling out here he returned and was married to a daughter of O. S. Crandall.

October 4, 1878, the day of publication was again changed, this time to Friday. On the 26th of October the *Press* was enlarged and the form changed to a six-column quarto. When the paper was started the office occupied rooms in the Bixby building, on Bridge street, where Thon Bros. are now. A year later it was moved to H. R. Moore’s brick block, which was then occupied by Searles’ hardware store. In April, 1880, the *Press* office was removed to its present quarters in Lord’s block, on the east side of Cedar street.

On the 26th of June, 1885, the *People’s Press* absorbed a paper which had been published for some time previous at Blooming Prairie, under the name of the *Tribune*. Under the arrangement made, the *Press*

filled out the *Tribune's* subscription and advertising contracts, and started a Blooming Prairie department.

The *People's Press* has always steadfastly held to the Democratic faith in political matters, yet it is a local paper in every sense. It has always taken a most active part in all matters tending to benefit either city or county. One feature connected with the way the paper is conducted is worthy of mention. The whole of every issue, except that part relating to general news, termed "patents," is devoted to local news, and, except during political campaigns, the space, instead of being devoted to editorials on foreign subjects, is filled with town and county matters. This fact has given this paper an especially large circulation throughout the county. The *Press* has never missed an issue since the first number made its appearance. All official matters have always been published, whether the *Press* was the official paper of the county or not; yet it has been the official paper several years in its history. That matter, of course, has always been arranged according to the political complexion of the board of county commissioners. The *Press* wields a powerful influence, and is recognized as one of the ablest and most active exponents of Democratic ideas in the State.

The office of this paper is well equipped for book and general job printing. Improved cylinder presses, steam-power and other first-class machinery, and an excellent selection of the latest styles of plain and fancy job type enable them to turn out almost any class of work in good, workman-like manner. They also do a good class of book-binding.

Benjamin E. Darby, editor and proprietor of the *People's Press*, Owatonna, Minn., was born February 18, 1848, at St. Eleanors, Prince Edward Island. At the age of two years his parents removed with him to their farm in Abram's Village, Egmont Bay. Here he lived until he was sixteen years old, at-

tending the district school and doing much hard work. He evinced good mathematical ability and had acquired an excellent knowledge of the French language, when he entered the grammar school at the county-seat, remaining there two years, studying algebra, Latin, Greek, geometry, land-surveying and navigation. He afterward attended and graduated from the normal school in Charlottetown and the Prince of Wales College in the same city. He followed the profession of teacher in that province until August, 1871, when he came to Minnesota. In 1871 and 1872 he was principal of the public school at Zumbrota, Goodhue County; in 1872 and 1873, principal of the public school at Pine Island, in the same county, and in 1873 and 1874 principal of the public school at Kasson, Dodge County. He was married in August, 1874, to Annie K. Barnard. They have been blessed with four children, as follows: George F., born May 22, 1875; Harry B., born October 15, 1876; Benjamin E. (deceased), born March 28, 1880 (died when fifteen months old), and Fannie A., born November 22, 1883. The *People's Press* has grown steadily in circulation and influence under Mr. Darby's management, and has been a financial success. He is a thorough master of the business in all its details, being a good job printer as well as an interesting and forcible writer. Mr. Darby has been secretary of the Owatonna fire department for a number of years, and was again re-elected in the spring of 1887 without opposition. He is a Master Mason.

OUR PASTIME.

A weekly paper bearing this title was established at Owatonna, in 1875, by the Soper Brothers—J. A. and W. B. Soper. It was a four-column folio, neatly printed and well edited, the subscription price being fifty cents per year. The paper was continued, being in the meantime enlarged to double the size under which it was started, for about one year, when the name was changed to

THE WEEKLY REVIEW,

and under this name it flourished for something like another year. During the time A. H. Lewis became associated with the Soper Brothers, and the firm name became Soper Brothers & Lewis. This arrangement only continued for about six months, when the *Review* was sold to Luther Bixby. Lewis' connection with the paper assumed a variety of characters, in turn being that of a partner, a lessor, editor on salary, and finally terminated. After this, for a time, Mr. Bixby employed S. C. Harris as editor and eventually the paper was moved to Minneapolis, and became the *Temperance Review*.

THE MORNING STAR.

This was the name of a small daily started at Owatonna, in January, 1876, by Hanson & Howe, two energetic young men. It was only continued for a very short time.

DAILY HERALD.

This paper was started by the Soper Brothers in 1879, with S. C. Harris as editor. It was a small paper, a four-column folio, and was issued daily for about three or four months, when it was changed to a weekly, and became

THE STEELE COUNTY HERALD.

The paper was enlarged to a four-column quarto. The first issue of this paper bore the date of April 6, 1880. About a year later it was enlarged to a five-column quarto. Soper Brothers continued the publication of the *Herald* until the 12th of February, 1886, when it was consolidated with F. T. Drebert's paper, the *Journal*, and the name of the paper became the *Journal and Herald*,

with Drebert & Soper Brothers as proprietors. A history of this paper has already been given. At the time of the consolidation the *Herald* office was equipped with an excellent outfit of presses, steam engine, type, machinery and fixtures.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

In 1868, W. H. Mitchell compiled and published a work entitled "Geographical and Statistical History of Steele County." It was got out in pamphlet form, bound in paper, and contained about one hundred pages. It was a work of considerable merit, showing great research in its statistical and historical departments, and was the means of preserving much historical data that would otherwise have been inaccessible.

In 1874, A. T. Andreas, of Chicago, Ill., published a complete atlas of Minnesota, which contains not only a map of Steele, but also a concise and well-written historical sketch of the county. The work, in the extent of its details, and the mass of historical, statistical and geographical information it contains, is one which will become more and more valuable as years go by; and, while some of its patrons were dissatisfied at the time it was published, yet in later years its true worth is coming to be fully realized. The price charged for the atlas was \$15 per copy.

In 1879, Warner & Foote, of Minneapolis, published a wall map of Steele County, which was very complete, showing the size and ownership of farms, location of roads, dwellings, schools, churches, etc. The work was sold for \$12 per copy, and its compilation involved a great deal of time, care and expense.



CHAPTER XIII.

RAILROADS.



THE VIIth Territorial Legislature granted a charter which was approved on the 1st of March, 1856, for a railroad from the Iowa State line, near where the Red Cedar crosses it, and thence up the Cedar Valley, along the Straight River Valley, and through the "big woods," to Minneapolis, a distance of one hundred miles. The summer previous, 1855, had witnessed a heavy increase in the population of Steele County. Railroad agitation had already begun in earnest; all who were interested here took an active part in working the matter up. It was evident that a railroad from St. Paul south, on the west side of the Mississippi River, must go far back into the interior in order to avoid the deep ravines and high ridges formed by the Zumbro and Root rivers; that in the interior were the Cannon and Straight rivers flowing north, the latter interlocking with the Cedar River flowing south, and that, manifestly in the valley of these streams there was not only a leading railroad route, but fine timber, excellent water-power and a good agricultural district. Owatonna also lay in a direct line from Winona to the south bend of the Minnesota River, which route had already—even at that early day—been looked out, and a charter granted to the Transit Company.

Railroads, it was absolutely necessary to have, and strenuous efforts were made to put the scheme in operation. Parties went to St. Paul to attend the session of the

VIIth Territorial Legislature, and the charter above mentioned was granted, and the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railroad was incorporated. Section 1 of the bill provided that "Franklin Steele, Isaac Atwater, D. M. Hanson, James F. Bradley, Ezra Abbott, R. P. Russell, A. M. Fridley, H. H. Sibley, John W. North, James Shields, Alex. Faribault, John C. Ide, Charles Jewett, F. W. Fisk, Benjamin L. Arnold, William F. Pettit, John H. Abbott, A. B. Cornell, A. Town, A. B. Vaughn, H. O. Billings, Orlando Wilder, and such other persons as may become associated with them," were created "a body corporate, by the name of the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railroad Company." Section 4 appointed Henry H. Sibley, at Mendota, Franklin Steele, at Minneapolis, James Shields, at Faribault, William F. Pettit, at Owatonna, and A. B. Vaughn, at Austin, commissioners to open books and receive subscriptions to the capital stock of the company. The charter also provided that when \$50,000 of stock should be subscribed the commissioners should meet at Faribault for the purpose of apportioning the stock among the subscribers, and also call a meeting of the stockholders to choose directors. This, according to the act, was to be done previous to the 1st of March, 1857. The commissioners succeeded in securing stock subscriptions to the amount of \$200,000. Owatonna, Faribault and Northfield were most active in raising this amount of stock, which was generally referred to as the "Owatonna straw stock," the general citizen having little or no faith in the success of the enterprise. The

first meeting of the stockholders was held at Mendota in February, 1857, at which time the following named directors were elected: Ezra Abbott, of St. Anthony; Franklin Steele, of Fort Snelling; H. H. Sibley, of Mendota; J. W. North, of Northfield; James Shields, of Faribault; William F. Pettit, of Owatonna, and A. B. Vaughn, of Austin; Ezra Abbott, treasurer; Franklin Steele, secretary, and J. H. Abbott, chief engineer. In June Mr. Abbott and L. Kellett commenced surveying the route, and by the close of September the location was made and the estimates for construction completed. In May, at the extra session of the legislature, that body made to this road a munificent grant of lands, according to the act of Congress of that year, which was much more liberal than that heretofore granted to any State or territory. But the great financial panic of 1857 followed, and men of reputed wealth, who had thought themselves wealthy, were reduced from affluence to poverty, and in this western country the pressure was very severe. In 1858 all the companies in the State did a large amount of grading and other work on the lines of roads, stimulated thereto by the action of the legislature in passing the "five million loan bill" and its ratification by the people. Of the 110 miles of the Cedar Valley Railroad to the State line, seventy-two were graded and a large number on the other portions of the road.

When the \$5,000,000 loan bill was passed it was provided that the road-beds of the railroads so aided should be mortgaged. When the financial crash came these mortgages were foreclosed, and later the grant to the Cedar Valley Company was given to the Minnesota Central Company, and that of the Transit Company was given to the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company. In relation to the bonds, an act was passed making them a basis upon which the banks could issue currency, and this was carried out at nearly all points in

this part of the State. At Owatonna a bank issued circulating notes based upon these bonds, and as they continued to depreciate in value, until they were utterly worthless, of course the bank failed. Hundreds of merchants and business men were ruined, and in every way it proved not only a disgraceful but a very disastrous transaction.

In the fall of 1860 the election contest was an exciting one, the main question at issue being the location of the Transit Railroad, now the Winona & St. Peter Division of the Northwestern Railway. The legislature was to fix the location. Hon. William F. Pettit was the candidate for representative who favored Owatonna, and Hon. G. W. Green favored a point farther north. Mr. Pettit was elected by a handsome majority, and at the following session of the legislature the land grants were disposed of to solid companies, upon condition that a certain number of miles should be completed and cars running thereon each year, under penalty of forfeiture of the whole grant to the State. But the Rebellion breaking out that spring, work was delayed on all the roads. In 1862 an act of Congress was secured to facilitate the construction of the Minnesota & Cedar Valley Railroad. Work was resumed in 1863 and 1864; and in 1865 the Cedar Valley road was put in operation as far as Faribault; and the Winona & St. Peter as far as Kasson, about sixty-five miles west of Winona. In August, 1866, both roads were completed to Owatonna and the struggle and anxiety of the people received their legitimate reward in the improved business and increased value of property. The Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railway afterward became the Minnesota Railway, and was finally absorbed in the great Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway system. In the same way the Transit Company's road had become a part of the Chicago & Northwestern. Both now belong to great railway systems—the leading thoroughfares of freight and travel of the West.

These — the Chicago & Northwestern, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railways — comprise all the lines of railway that have as yet been built through Steele County. However, at the present writing there is prospects that the Duluth, Red Wing & Southern Railroad will be constructed through the county at an early day. The company demanded a bonus of \$40,000 in bonds from the county and the matter was finally submitted to the voters at a special election held on the 30th of June, 1887, at which the proposition was carried in favor of bonding by a majority of 412. The proposition for the issuance of the bonds states the plan and route of the proposed road so clearly that we give it in full, viz.:

“In consideration of the issuance and donation thereto of the said bonds, the said railroad company will construct, complete and put into operation its line of railroad as follows:

“From Albert Lea, in the county of Freeborn, State of Minnesota, through the said county of Steele and Owatonna, the county-seat of said county, to the city of Red Wing, Minn., within two years from January 1, 1888, and from said city of Red Wing to Duluth, Superior or Ashland, on Lake Superior, within three years from January 1, 1888, and further agree that said road shall not be owned or operated by any through line running to Chicago or Milwaukee and will, in consideration of said bonds, at the election of said county commissioners of said Steele County, issue to it such number of the shares of its capital stock as will at par value of such stock correspond with the principal sum of said bonds.

“In case the said railroad company, its successors or assigns, shall fail to complete the said portions of the said railroad in the time herein provided, it shall forfeit and lose all right to have and obtain all that portion of the said bonds to be donated on account of the portion or portions of the said railroads so failed to be completed.

“The said bonds shall be delivered to the said railroad company, its successors or assigns, as follows:

“When said railroad shall be completed and the cars running through from either Red Wing or Albert Lea to the city of Owatonna in said Steele County, one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of said bonds; when the road is completed from Red Wing to Albert Lea through the said city of Owatonna, one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of said bonds, and when the connection with Lake Superior is completed the remaining one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of said bonds shall be delivered.

“In order to insure the faithful performance by both the said county of Steele and the said railroad company, of the foregoing conditions in respect to the issuance of the said bonds, the said bonds shall within thirty (30) days after the canvass of the vote authorizing the issuance of the same be duly executed by the said county commissioners and be placed in escrow in the hands of the cashier of the First National Bank of St. Paul, Minn., to be delivered to the said railroad company, its successors or assigns, as herein provided and not otherwise; and the certificate of stock to be exchanged thereof, shall be placed with the same depository at the same time.

“But, in case the said railroad company shall fail to acquire the right to have delivered to it any portion or the whole of the said bonds, by failure to build and put into operation the said portions of the said railroad in the time aforesaid, in such case all such portions of the said bonds as the said company shall have so failed to perfect its right to have delivered to it, shall, upon the demand of the said county commissioners or their successors be surrendered to the said county commissioners or their successors for cancellation.

“Dated June 3d, A. D. 1887.

“DULUTH, RED WING & SOUTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY. By F. W. HOYT,

“Attest, EDGAR R. MILLS, President.

“Secretary.”

CHAPTER XIV.

THE WAR—ITS CAUSES.

STEELE COUNTY IN THE WAR.



FROM the commencement of government there have been two antagonistic principles contending for mastery: slavery and freedom; sometimes smoldering and even invisible; but the seeds were there, and ever and anon would burst into flames, carrying destruction, death and desolation with them. A repetition of the great conflict which for ages has agitated our globe—the conflict between aristocratic usurpation and popular rights. History is crowded with descriptions and scenes of this irrepressible conflict. Two thousand years ago, when the aristocracy of Rome was headed by Cneius Pompey, Julius Cæsar, espousing the cause of the people, unfurled the banner of equal rights, and striding through oceans of blood which tossed their surges over every portion of the habitable globe, overthrew the aristocratic commonwealth and reared over the ruins the imperial commonwealth. Again, on the field of Pharsalia, the aristocratic banner was trailed in the dust, and democracy, although exceedingly imperfect, became victor. It was aristocracy trying to keep its heel on the head of democracy which had deluged the Roman empire in blood. But the nobles regained foothold, and, regardless of these lessons, renewed their oppression. Again they commenced sowing the seed which must surely bring forth terrible fruit. Over two hundred years ago the aristocracy of France,

housed in magnificent palaces, mounted on war horses, with pampered men-at-arms ready to ride rough-shod on every embassy of violence, trampled upon the suffering serfs until humanity could no longer endure it. The masses of the people were deprived of every privilege, save that of toiling for their masters. The aristocracy so deprived the people, whose wives and daughters, through their brutality, were forced to go to the field bareheaded and barefooted, and be yoked to the plow with the donkey, that they never dreamed that the wretched boors would dare even to look in defiance towards the massive and stately castles, whose noblemen proudly strode along the battlements in measureless contempt for the helpless peasantry below. But the pent-up vials of vengeance of ages at last burst forth. These boors, these jacks, rose, and like maddened hyenas rushed upon their foes. Imbruted men, who for ages had been subjected to the most outrageous wrongs, rose by millions against their oppressors, and wreaked upon them every atrocity which fiend-like ingenuity could devise. All the brutal and demon passions of human nature held high carnival, and it can truly be said France ran red with blood. But at length disciplined valor prevailed. After one-half of the peasantry of France had perished, the knighted noblemen, the aristocrats, resumed their sway, and their hellish bondage, worse than slavery, was again placed upon the people. This war of the jacks, or, as it is called in history,

JACQUERIE, is one of the most interesting and warning events of the past, and yet it was all unheeded. The oppression went on, growing more and more outrageous; the people were kept ignorant that they might not know of the wrongs; poor, that they might not resent them. That the lords might live in castles and be clothed in purple, and fare sumptuously, the people were doomed to hovels, rags and black bread. The peasant must not place the bit of dough in the ashes by his fireside; he was compelled to have it baked at the bakery of his lord, and there pay heavy toll. He dare not scrape together the few crumbs of salt from the rocks of the ocean shore; he must buy every particle from his lord at an exorbitant price. "Servants, obey your masters!" was interpreted to apply to all save of noble birth, and religion was converted into a method for subjecting the masses. Bibles were not allowed to be read by these "boors," lest they learn what the Saviour really taught, and a peasant detected with one in his hand was deemed as guilty as if caught with the tools of a burglar or the dies of a counterfeiter.

As associates for lords—the idea would have been considered contrary to nature or reason. Thus Louis XV., surrounded by courtesans, debauchees and the whoredom of his castle, once said: "I can give money to Voltaire, Montesqueu, Fontenelle, but I cannot *dine* and *sup* with these people." If the peasant, with his wife and child toiling in the field, in the cultivation of a few acres of land, managed to raise \$640 worth of crops during the year, \$600 of it went to the king, the lord and the church, while the remaining \$40 was left to clothe and feed the emaciated family. Thos. Jefferson, in the year 1785, wrote from Paris to a friend in Philadelphia: "Of twenty millions of people supposed to be in France, I am of the opinion that there are nineteen millions more wretched, more accursed in every circumstance of human existence, than the most conspicuously wretched individual in the

whole United States." It was this state of affairs which brought on the war of the French Revolution, inaugurating the most terrific of all time's battles. Such combats earth never saw before, probably will never see again. Two worlds, as it were, came clashing together. Twenty millions of people trampled in the mire, rose ghastly and frenzied, and the flames of feudal castles and the shrieks of haughty oppressors appalled the world. All the combined aristocracy of Europe were on the other side to crush the demand of the people for the equality of man. Russia, Prussia, Sweden, Austria, England, Spain—all the kings rallied their armies to the assistance of France in subduing the oppressed masses who, believing they were right, marched heroically to the victories of Marengo, Wagram and Austerlitz. But in the final victories of the despots, aristocratic privilege again triumphed in Europe. In the meantime a similar though less bloody and terrific battle had taken place in England; the same ever rising conflict between the united courtiers and cavaliers under Charles I. and the Puritans under Cromwell. With prayer, fasting and hymn, the common people, who had for ages been under the yoke of servitude, took to arms in defense of their rights, and many cavaliers bit the dust through their sturdy blows. But Charles II. returned to the throne, and again aristocracy triumphed. The oppressed were our Puritan fathers; again they were trodden under foot. Then it was that the heroic resolution was adopted to cross the ocean three thousand miles, and there in exile establish and found a republic where all men in the eye of the law should be equal. The result is too well known to need rehearsal; how they fought their way through all the dangers of the savage new world and succeeded in the object; how the aristocracy of England made the desperate effort to again bring the yoke to bear; to tax us without allowing us to be represented in parliament; to place the appointment to all important offices in the

hands of the king, who would send over the sons of England's noblemen to be our governors and our judges, and who would fill all the posts of wealth, dignity and power with the children of the lords. Hence, the War of the Revolution. We, the people, conquered, and established our government independent of all the world, placing as corner-stone of the edifice, that "all men are born free and equal, and are alike entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Then coming down, the great conflict of America, the Rebellion, it was a continuance of that irrepressible conflict which has shaken the world to its uttermost depths for ages. It was based upon slavery, that which has caused the shedding of oceans of blood, and making millions of widows and orphans. The constitution under which we are bound together is, in its spirit and legitimate utterance, doubtless one of the most noble documents ever produced by the mind of man, and even now, when the advancement of a century has dawned upon its use, not a paragraph requires changing to make it true to humanity. But yet ingloriously and guiltily we consent to use one phrase susceptible of a double meaning—"held to labor." So small and apparently so insignificant were the seeds sown, from which such a harvest of misery has been reaped. In the North these honest words meant a hired man or an apprentice. In the South they were taken to mean slavery, the degradation and feudal bondage of a race. A privileged class assumed that the constitution recognized it, and the right of property in human beings. This class endeavored to strengthen and extend their aristocratic institution, which was dooming ever-increasing millions to life-long servitude and degradation. All wealth was rapidly accumulating in the hands of these few, who owned their fellow-man as property. The poor whites, unable to buy slaves, and considering labor which was performed by them degrading, were rapidly sinking into a state of

frightful misery. The sparse population which slavery allowed, excluded churches, schools and villages. Immense plantations of thousands of acres, tilled by as many slaves driven to work by overseers, consigned the whole land to apparent solitude. The region of the southern country generally presented an aspect of desolation which Christendom nowhere else could parallel. The slaveholders, acting as one man, claimed the right of extending this over all the free territory of the United States. Free labor and slave labor cannot exist together. The admission of slavery effectually excluded free men from them. It was impossible for those men cherishing the sentiment of republican equality, to settle there with the privileged class who were to own vast realms and live in luxury upon the unpaid labor of the masses. It was on this point that the conflict in its fierceness commenced. From the year 1790 the strife grew hotter and hotter every year. The questions arising kept Congress, both the Senate and House, in one incessant scene of warfare. There could be no peace in the land until this aristocratic element was effectually banished.

The Hon. Mr. Iverson, of Georgia, speaking of antagonism of the two systems, aristocracy and freedom, said, in the Senate of the United States, on December 5, 1860: "Sir, disguise the fact as you will, there is enmity between the northern and southern people which is deep and enduring, and you can never eradicate it, never. Look at the spectacle exhibited on this floor. How is it? There are the northern senators on that side; here are the southern senators on this side. You sit upon your side silent and gloomy. We sit upon our side with knit brows and protentious scowls. Here are two hostile bodies on this floor, and it is but a type of the feeling which exists between the two sections. We are enemies as much as if we were hostile States. We have not lived in peace. We are not now living in peace. It is not expected that we shall ever live in

peace." Hon. Mr. Mason, of Virginia, in continuation of the same debate, said: "This is a war of sentiment and opinion, by one form of society against another form of society." The remarks of Hon. Garrett Davis, a senator from Kentucky, are to the point: "The cotton States, by their slave labor, have become wealthy, and many of their planters have princely revenues, from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year. This wealth has begot a pride, and insolence, and ambition, and these points of southern character have been displayed most insultingly in the halls of Congress. As a class, the wealthy cotton-growers are insolent, they are proud, they are domineering, they are ambitious. They have monopolized the government in its honors for forty or fifty years with few interruptions. When they saw the scepter about to depart from them, in the election of Lincoln, sooner than give up office and the spoils of office, in their mad and wicked ambition they determined to disrupt the old confederation and erect a new one, wherein they would have undisputed power."

Thus the feeling continued growing stronger. One incessant cry became, "Abjure your democratic constitution, which favors equal rights to all men, and give us in its place an aristocratic constitution, which will secure the rights of a privileged class." They insisted that the domestic slave trade should be nurtured, and the foreign slave trade opened, saying, in the coarse and vulgar language of one of the most earnest advocates of slavery: "The North can import jackasses from Malta, let the South, then, import niggers from Africa."

The reply of the overwhelming majority of the people of the United States was decisive. Lincoln was elected and inaugurated despite the conspiracy to prevent it. Volumes could be and have been written upon these actions, but they are well known. We will merely mention the most prominent features transpiring, until the havoc of war actually set in.

On the 7th of November, 1860, it was known that Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States, and was to enter upon his duties on the fourth day of the following March. In the meantime the executive government was virtually in the hands of the slave power. James Buchanan, the President, had been elected to the office openly pledged to pursue the general policy the slave-holders enjoyed. The cabinet were all slave-holders and slave-masters. The United States Navy was scattered all over the face of the earth, leaving only two vessels for the defense of the country; the treasury was left barren; the army was so scattered in remote fortresses in the far West as to leave all the forts, where they would be needed, defenseless; the United States arsenals were emptied, the Secretary of War sending their guns to the slave States, where bands of rebels were organized and drilling, prepared to receive them. One hundred and fifteen thousand arms, of the most approved pattern, were transferred from Springfield, Mass., and from Watervliet, N. Y., together with a vast amount of cannon, mortar, balls, powder and shells were also forwarded to rebels in the slave States.

On the 18th of February, 1861, the inauguration of Jefferson Davis, as President of the Southern Confederacy, took place at Montgomery, Ala. Four days later the collector of customs, appointed by the Confederate government in Charleston, S. C., issued a manifesto that all vessels, from any State out of the Confederacy, would be treated as foreign vessels, and subject to the port dues and other charges established by the laws of the Confederate States. Thus, by a stroke of the pen, the immense commerce of the Northern States was declared to be foreign commerce, beneath the guns of the forts which the United States had reared, at an expense of millions of dollars. Already a number of States had passed the ordinance of secession. On the 4th of March, 1861, Abraham

Lincoln was inaugurated President, and assumed official duties. At half-past four o'clock on the morning of the 12th of April, 1861, the rebels opened fire upon Fort Sumter, and, after enduring terrific bombardment from all sides, the heroic defenders abandoned it and were conveyed to New York. Fort Sumter was the Bunker Hill of the Civil War. In both cases a proud aristocracy were determined to subject this country to its sway. In both cases the defeat was a glorious victory. On the next Monday, April 15, President Lincoln issued a call for three months' service of 75,000 volunteers. The effect was electrical. Within fifteen days it is estimated that 350,000 men offered themselves in defense of our national flag. Thus the Civil War had burst upon the United States with almost the suddenness of the meteor's glare. It was, however, but like the eruption of the volcano whose pent-up fires had for ages been gathering strength for final explosion. The conspirators had for years been busy preparing for the conflict. In the rebel convention, which met in South Carolina to consummate the conspiracy, Mr. Inglis said: "Most of us have had this subject under consideration for the last twenty years." Mr. Keitt said: "I have been engaged in this movement ever since I entered political life." Mr. Rhett said: "It is nothing produced by Mr. Lincoln's election, or the non-execution of the fugitive slave law. It is a matter which has been gathering for thirty years." But more need not be said; the result is too well known. Call followed call in quick succession; the number reached the total of 3,339,748.

The calls were as follows:

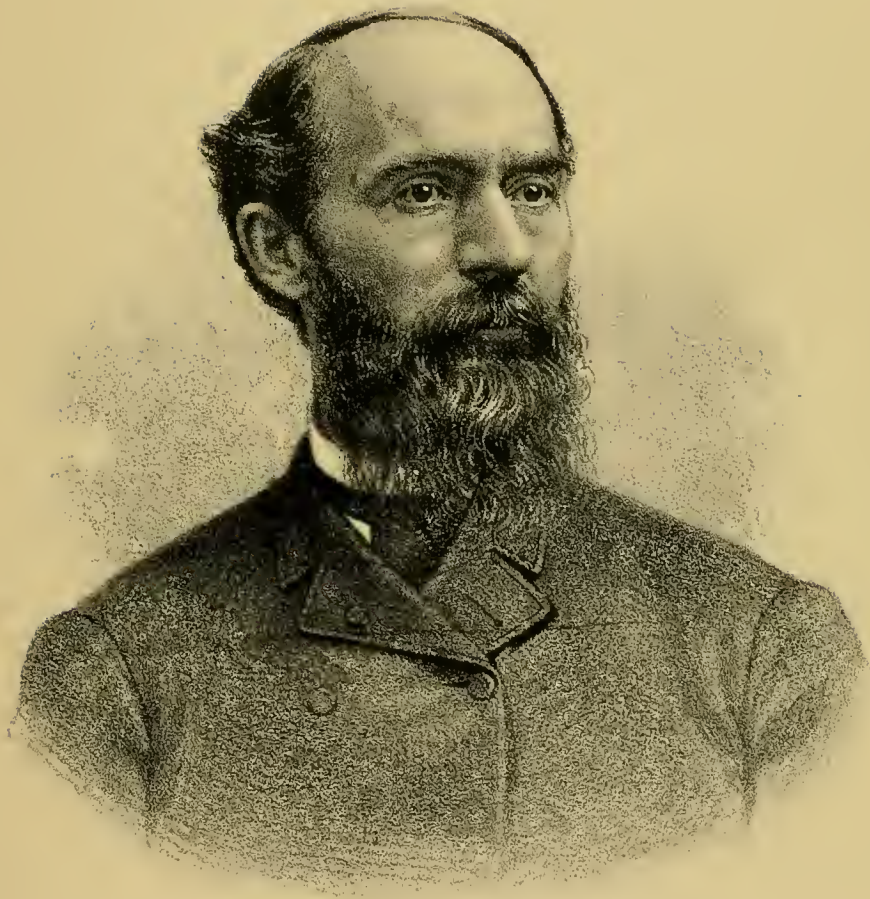
April 15, 1861, for three months	75,000
May 4, 1861, for five years.....	64,748
July, 1861, for three years... ..	500,000
July 18, 1862, for three years.....	300,000
August 4, 1862, for nine months.....	300,000
June, 1863, for three years	300,000
October 17, 1863, for three years.....	300,000
February 18, 1864, for three years.....	500,000

July 10, 1864, for three years.....	200,000
July 16, 1864, for one, two and three years.....	500,000
December 21, 1864, for three years.....	300,000

Total, 3,339,748

STEELE COUNTY IN THE WAR.

Looking at Steele County to-day, we can scarcely realize that when the war broke upon the country, arraying more than a million of men in arms, and which made our ship of State reel and stagger as if smitten by thunderbolts and dashed upon rocks, that Steele county was but "six years old"; and Minnesota as a State of the American Union was yet but three years old. But, notwithstanding its own resources had not been subjugated to man's use, very material aid was promptly offered in subduing the rebellious States. The feeling through Minnesota was universal that the Union must be preserved, and the sights and sounds that were so noticeable in every village and hamlet, north of Mason and Dixon's line, were duplicated here. The celerity with which men abandoned the pursuits of peace to take up those of war was most marvelous. The population of Steele County in 1860 was 2,863, and this had grown but little when the enlistments began. Alex. Ramsey, of St. Paul, happened to be in Washington at the time Fort Sumter was fired upon, and was with the President when the first call for 75,000 three months' volunteers was issued. He at once telegraphed the State adjutant-general to call for troops. In this way the news of the firing on Sumter and the call for men became known at the new settlement in Steele County at about the same time. Lewis McKune, a talented man from Waseca County, was the first to raise troops here. He came, and after talking the matter over a little, a meeting was held in Morford's Hall, at which he and others made speeches, and enlistments began. Several enlisted for three months the same night, among whom were Dwight Morford, Anton Schimek, Andrew Collyer, M. R. Pat-ten, Alvin Phelps, Edward Phillips, Oscar



Lewis L. Wheelock

Gross, Henry Borchert, George Crooker and possibly a few others. A company was raised in Steele and Rice counties, of which Lewis McKune was elected captain. The boys marched to Faribault with David Lindersmith playing the fife and Elder Thomson the drum, and were finally mustered in as a part of the First Minnesota Regiment, of which Willis A. Gorman was colonel. Many of the early volunteers were killed at the first battle of Bull Run.

After this, meetings were held very often and enlistments continued throughout the war. There were but few Copperheads in Steele County, and when one did occasionally make himself known he was promptly subdued, or given twenty-four hours to leave.

OFFICIALLY.

Officially Steele County nobly did its part, and in addition to the bounties voted by the county board, nearly every township in the county promptly voted aid. August 4, 1862, the President's call was issued for three hundred thousand men. The first action of the board was in reference to this call. The meeting of the board was held August 12, 1862, Alex Chambers and B. F. Melvin being present. It was ordered by the board that the sum of \$50 be appropriated for each volunteer who enlisted, the amount to be paid in installments, as follows: Married men to receive 10 per cent of whole amount in three months; 10 per cent to be paid at end of each month in service until said amount was fully paid. Single men to receive 50 per cent of whole amount at the end of six months; balance at the end of first year in service.

However, on the 2d of September, 1862, the board met again and changed the terms of payment from the plan involved in their previous resolution. The members attending at this meeting were Alex. Chambers, B. F. Melvin and H. Fredenburgh. The terms of payment of bounties fixed at this meeting were as follows: Ten per cent to

be paid at end of each month. The county treasurer was directed to call upon the subscribers to the bounty fund, in order to meet the installments when due.

At the next meeting of the board, January 9, 1863, all members were present: Alex. Chambers, B. F. Melvin and H. Fredenburgh. The county treasurer stated to the board that there was no money in the treasury to pay the monthly installments to the volunteers of Steele County, who were entitled to bounty-money due them. The county auditor was therefore directed that upon presentation of the treasurer's order by any volunteer, stating the amount due him upon his monthly installment, to issue county scrip, bearing 10 per cent interest, to said volunteer for the amount of the order.

On the eighth day of April, 1863, a special meeting of the board was held for the purpose of dividing the county into districts for the election of officers for military purposes, each district to elect one captain, one first and one second lieutenant. The districts were arranged as follows:

First District—Aurora and Dover; the election to be held at the residence of A. B. Clark.

Second District—Somerset and Summit; election to be held at schoolhouse, near "Bill's house."

Third District—Berlin and Lemond; election to be held at residence of J. W. Crosby.

Fourth District—Owatonna; election to be held at "schoolhouse."

Fifth District—Merton; election to be held at "town-meeting place."

Sixth District—Clinton Falls and Medford; election to be held at residence of David Sanborn.

Seventh District—Meriden and Deerfield; place of election to be at "schoolhouse, near John O. Waunnett's."

On the 19th of December, 1863, a resolution was passed, stating that a majority of the taxpayers wished that the bounty to volunteers be raised to \$100. B. F. Melvin

was therefore appointed to see at what terms and from whom the county could secure a loan sufficient to pay the claims of the volunteers. In January, 1864, Mr. Melvin reported that Dr. McCutchen, of Faribault, had agreed to take \$3,000 of the bonds at par; but stated that "he was informed by the doctor's attorney that the commissioners had no legal right to issue such bonds."

On the 13th of January, 1874, Alex. Chambers was chosen to negotiate the "bounty orders" so called, and if it was found that they were illegal the legislature was to be asked to authorize the issue of \$6,000 bonds for payment of bounties, and each volunteer who should enlist and be accepted, and accredited to Steele County, should receive \$100 as soon as money could be secured. In accordance with this on the 12th of February, 1864, an act was passed by the legislature, authorizing the issuance of \$6,000 in bonds, drawing 12 per cent interest, one-half to be paid at expiration of two years, balance in three years. Alex. Chambers was appointed to negotiate the loan and it was provided that the volunteers should be paid their bounties in the order in which they enlisted until the money should all be paid out. It was to be paid to new recruits or new volunteers, not to veterans that should re-enlist.

THE LIST OF SOLDIERS.

The following is a complete list of the soldiers who enlisted from Steele County, as shown by the records in the adjutant-general's office:

AURORA.

Annis, Levi	Fling, George A.
Berg, Jacob	Snyder, William J.
Bixby, J. S.	McDaniels, R. C.
Curtis, George H.	Thimson, Nils P.
Lopping, Henry	Roberts, John L.
Green, William	Johnson, William J.
Myers, Felix	Howe, Samuel
Morin, Patrick	Dickenson, Chris.
Morin, Dennis	Olmsted, Samuel B.

Pettie, David	Roberts, James L.
Pettie, C. B.	Weed, Clark
Pettie, G. C.	Siverson, Halleeck
Cook, Albert T.	Richards, Alonzo
	Danchy, Arthur H.

BERLIN.

Chase, Levi	Pitcher, Eli F.
Chase, Dudley	Reese, Isaac
Chase, Timothy	Grow, Francis
Hanson, William	Roberts, Eugene W.
	Willson, William

DOVER — (NOW HAVANA).

Chambers, Frank	Webster, Joseph R.
Curtis, Manly M.	Bunns, W. H.
Dubois, James L.	Elliott, Gilbert W.
Emery, George W.	McCaslin, John
Jones, Anthony	Bailey, Richard S.
Jones, Anthony W.	Bloomer, Henry
Jones, Isaac W.	Minthorne, Henry F.
Patterson, Martin	Hart, Allen
Strotham, J. E.	Anderson, John
Tiffany, Oscar	Hudson, Charles
Warfield, John M.	Jones, Charles
Willis, John	Giles, S. F.

CLINTON FALLS.

Baker, Ozias B.	Morrison, William E.
Barnhard, William	McNitt, Truman E.
Barnhard, James	Parsons, Henry
Bortley, John H.	Sanborn, B. C.
Cressey, R. W.	Williamson, D. W.
Curtis, Thomas	Ritchie, Joseph
Green, George W.	McIntire, Sanford II.
Hunt, Andrew M.	Morrison, Samuel
Hays, Sanford E.	Warner, Martin

DEERFIELD.

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

LEMOND.

Beach, Samuel B.	Tatro, Joseph
Bragg, Aaron S.	Tatro, John

Huston, Thomas	Gould, Samuel
Johnson, Nelson	Bragg, Henry W.
Kinney, Newcombe	Davis, Edward
Kinney, Stillman	Gibbons, James
Tasker, Daniel	Sorenson, Ingbert.

MEDFORD.

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

MERIDEN.

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

MERTON.

Adams, James H.	Mosher, Norman
Barnes, James J.	Martin, Willard E.

Burns, Alvin	McAndrews, Patrick
Baker, Charles B.	Norton, Sewell P.
Carpenter, Joseph	Naylor, George
Curtis, Samuel J.	Naylor, James
Condin, Patrick	Reed, Andrew W.
Carpenter, Thomas	Thompson, Franklin
Eastman, A. R.	Taylor, Emmons P.
Flake, Levi	Williams, Theodore
Henry, Michael W.	Willey, Geo. H.
Henry, Miles	Welch, Melvin H.
Irvin, Frederick J.	Molley, Lawrence W.
Jones, Henry B.	Barnard, Warren
Jones, Oliver T.	Dodge, Daniel, Jr.
Kendall, Frank L.	Casler, Smith
Lane, John	Curtis, John W.
McAndrews, Michael	Curtis, Henry L.
Pennick, Wilmot H.	O'Toole, Terrence
Thom, Robert	Collin, Thomas J.

OWATONA.

Ambler, R. C.	Ernst, A. W.
Arnold, E. M.	Elliott, Jeremiah
Boll, Fredolin	Fillmore, E. D.
Burr, John D.	Fletcher, Harvey
Barnett, P. D.	Flinn, J. N. H.
Barney, Michael	Foster, Norman T.
Burns, Hugh	Gordon, Walter
Babcock, L. F.	Goodwin, Jas. A.
Burr, Murdock P.	Grear, John
Case, M. B.	Hall, James F.
Crooker, Geo. W.	Hooker, J. B.
Colyer, Andrew H.	Hadley, J. A.
Coverdale, D. L.	Hess, Jacob W.
Carter, J. T.	Haynes, Asa S.
Crawford, J. W.	Hartz, William
Crandall, O. S.	Hammond, Chas. F.
Case, Simeon	Kelley, Thomas
Carlton, Dexter	Kerrott, E. M.
Conwell, F. A.	Livingston, Frank
Lindersmith, Oliver	Pasco, Richard A.
La Gro, Ebenezer	Presley, William
Morford, S. D.	Russell, W. H.
Moessner, C. F.	Rideout, Andrew J.
Mills, Geo. M.	Sawyer, Jas. T.
Morford, Joel G.	Schimek, Austin E.
Moore, Orlando S.	Sherman, W. H.
Minthorne, T. C. S.	Stowers, Smith H.

CHAPTER XV.

REMINISCENCES OF INTEREST.



IN this chapter we present a number of reminiscences that have, through various means, fallen into the hands of the historian. Many of the articles will be found extremely interesting and all contain historical data which make them well worthy of preservation.

RECOLLECTIONS.

By A. B. Cornell.

Ever will myself and family remember the many pleasant days spent in what is now one of the most beautiful cities of Minnesota, and never can be forgotten our first thoughts on beholding the charming nook, now changed into a mart of enterprise by the hand of man.

Oft does our memory linger as we live over the first days of our introduction to the unsettled portion of the then territory of Minnesota, and perhaps a simple sketch of events passing at that time may be readable.

'Twas early in the year 1854 that four families, incited by the reports received, left Sparta, in Monroe County, Wis., to try the realities of a border life among the Sioux Indians.

Their names were Geo. F. Pettit, wife and three children; W. F. Pettit, wife and child; Wilbur Fisk and wife, and the writer with his wife and two little girls of less than three years of age.

The first two named parties were possessed of some means; the last two were comparatively poor, but they had all a reasonable share of pluck, and left Wisconsin with a determination to hew out a home in the far

Northwest. The trip thither was overland, the only traveled route being *via* Black River Falls, Eau Claire, Menominee, Hudson, or St. Croix, to St. Paul, from whence we were intending to make for the headwaters of Cannon River, over what was then a seemingly boundless prairie. The journey, though not without interest or excitement, was one of great fatigue, especially for the wives and little ones, but was happily accomplished without special accident till we approached a small creek, a short distance north of where now is located the flourishing city of Northfield. On arriving at that creek we had camped for the night on the bank of the Vermillion, had partaken of a supper of fish from the limpid waters thereof. When, ere we retired, the heavy clouds in the west betokened a storm, and the distant rolling thunder did not impart special music to our ears. Before morning the storm swept along, one continued peal of thunder, incessant flashes of lightning and a perfect deluge of water. In a few moments the whole prairie seemed a vast pond; but as the day broke the clouds cleared away, and the original party, reinforced by several other teams, among whom a Mr. Alexander, who subsequently settled near Northfield, started out for the "land of promise." Passing to the west of a towering obelisk on the open prairie — a sort of landmark for the early settlers — we came to a vast expanse of water which forbid further progress. Skirting down the stream we found a trail where evident crossings had been made previous to the storm, and, observing signs of a camp on the other side, we too camped for the night.

In the morning, the stream having very much abated, some of the party waded to the bank of the stream, which was not of great width, and on inquiring found the campers there to consist of a young Frenchman and his Matilda Jane, who had started a day or two previous from what was then known as Faribault's Trading Post, now the city of Faribault, bound to Mendota, sixty miles away, to secure the services of a priest to join in wedlock two loving hearts. The storm coming on they were blockaded — could neither proceed nor return — and not having provided themselves with any lunch, as might naturally be supposed they were hungry. Still the delicacy of the situation made them rather reticent in applying for relief. Our party having taken in the situation, fully believing that loving hearts even, could not subsist on bliss alone, took speedy measures to convey, on the cranium of an expert swimmer, some edibles to the other bank of the stream, where the swain, wading out, met the messenger, but not being arrayed in appropriate bridal array was compelled to decline an introduction to the soon-to-be bride. The next day the water had so fallen that rafts were put in requisition, the party taken across, a hurried dinner eaten, and the blushing, happy pair started *priest-ward* (a new word, but will be understood), bound for a blessing or *ratification* of their promises to each other.

Here, in ferrying our party over, by some slip or carelessness, the raft capsized, carrying with it a wagon and its entire contents, but by good luck no lives were lost, though we were delayed for a couple of days in fishing from the bottom of the stream the various articles therein submerged.

Passing on we came to Cannon River, near where Waterford was afterward located, where was the first semblance of settlement after leaving St. Paul, and finding the water so high it was decided to make a permanent camp, and like the Israelites of old send out *spies* to view the land. While making

arrangements, Col. Ide, who had located a few days previous just east of Faribault, came into camp, his mission being to attend the Masonic celebration of St. John's day at St. Paul, he being a Master Mason.

We speak of him more particularly because he was afterward a member of the legislature from Rice County, a candidate for lieutenant governor on the first organization of the Republican party of the State — one of the early settlers of Wilton, Waseca County, a man universally beloved — and who some years since passed away.

When matters were properly arranged, the Pettits, Fisk, and the writer, together with several young men, started on a tour of exploration — passing up and around Cannon Lakes — toward the source of the stream to the lakes near Waterville, thence south and east to Clear Lake, thence northeast, through what then seemed almost interminable marshes, to the vicinity of Deerfield, from there to where Medford is now located, where was found a pioneer, Smith Johnson by name, where we halted for a day or two. In this vicinity three families, Sanborn, Collins and Johnson, who were probably the first families settling in what is now Steele County, but was then embodied in Rice County, taking in what is now Rice, Steele, Waseca, Freeborn, Mower, Dodge and the greater part of Olmsted and Fillmore counties. The only place at which an election was held in all that tract of country, in 1854, was Faribault, at which time the assembly district was composed of Hennepin, Dakota and Rice counties, and H. H. Sibley, afterward governor, was elected representative, the entire vote being about three hundred, Rice County contributing the total number of twenty-eight, — all for Sibley.

After partaking of the hospitalities of settlers Mr. Geo. F. Pettit and several of the young men, to whom the mosquitoes paid particular attention, decided to return, while Mr. Fisk and one or two others went through

the timber to East Prairie, Mr. W. F. Pettit and the writer following up the river to where Owatonna now stands, Mr. Pettit laying claim to 320 acres northwest of the point where Maple Creek forms its junction with Straight River, the writer laying claim to what is now included in the southern part of the city, but, as no lines were then surveyed, a portion of said land or claim afterward proved to be on the school section.

Here, far away from any settlement, in the midst of and surrounded by Indians, Mrs. Cornell and her two little girls commenced the making of a home; the shade of a tree just above a spring which was dug in the hill-side being the kitchen, and some crutches with poles and brushes overhead, covered with hay, about nine feet by ten in size, being parlor, sitting and bedroom. The first day of July, 1854, is a day long to be remembered; the first white woman beheld your now prosperous city, and until the twenty-second day of September was the sole female inhabitant. No roads traversed the country in any direction; no trails except one crossing the river nearly a mile north at the point of timber, then over the hill to the coast, near where the public school building was afterward erected; but we did not lack for company. The natives, the noble Sioux, were constant visitants, in season and out of season, but were viewed with a great apprehension at the time. The nearest postoffice was St. Paul, eighty miles away; neither was there a store nor a chance to get a box of matches nearer than the capital. North of us the nearest settler was distant seven miles; east, forty-five miles, where the city of Rochester now stands; south, forty miles, and west, Mankato, fifty miles, with neither roads nor bridges nor trails except those made by the Indians.

In the fall a postoffice was established at Faribault, which made us feel we had everything at our very door as we could, by walking a journey of eighteen miles, send to St.

Paul for anything we might want, and it took only two weeks to get it.

The writer and family, Judge Green and family, Messrs. Park, Smith and Williams, single men, and a family by the name of Scott were the only parties who spent the winter of 1854-5, though in the early spring Messrs. Phelps, Carlton, Town, Sanford, Arnold, Lindersmith, Meek, Odell, settled nearby. A school was established. Mr. N. Winship located in early part of summer and erected the first public-house in the county. It was built of logs subsequently enlarged, and has been kept by the same gentleman for about thirty years. Messrs. Smith and Park opened a store, a postoffice was established, roads opened and the town laid off. The legislature of 1855 laid off Steele County, and it was organized by Gov. Gorman, Samuel F. Smith, F. W. Fisk and Francis Ingraham, commissioners; Smith Johnson, probate judge; Charles Ellison, register of deeds; W. F. Pettit, sheriff; Simeon Case, county attorney; J. H. Catlin, clerk.

The first school was taught by Miss Helen Holbrook in the summer of 1855, the accommodations being inexpensive, a mere bower of brush, while occasionally Rev. Mr. Town did the spiritual part of the settlement, in the way of preaching. The county-seat was established, and Owatonna took a start as a town of note.

In 1856 the *Watchman and Register* was started by Mr. J. H. Abbott and the writer. Mr. Ezra Abbott erected a steam sawmill; a neat log schoolhouse was built, a drug store was opened by Dr. D. S. Harsha, J. W. Morford opened a shoe store, subsequently putting in dry goods and groceries, and through the untiring energy of its citizens, arrangements were so made as to secure both the Transit and Minnesota Central railroads, thus making it one of the best towns in southern Minnesota.

The name is Sioux, and the proper pronunciation is "Wootanna," spelled Owatonna, and signifies straight. There were many incidents

that took place during the early settlement, many of which were amusing. The early settlers were all industrious and enterprising, but were generally poor, ready always to extend a helping hand, not addicted to vices, the consequence being that taxes have been measurably low. We look upon Steele as one of the best counties of the State, and to-day, were it not for the long winters, we would prefer Minnesota to any Western State.

“EARLY DAYS”

By Hon. G. W. Green.

About the year 1854 I left Beaver Dam, Wis., in company with Messrs. Hollingsworth, Bradley and Boomer, for the purpose of seeing some portion of southeastern Minnesota, with an idea of settling there. Arriving at La Crosse we purchased material for camping and ferried across the Mississippi River. One log house nearly finished greeted us on the west side of the river opposite La Crosse. This was all there was of La Crescent. The next house, twenty-four miles distant, was occupied by a Thompsonian physician, by name of Bently, who had concluded to mix claim-taking and rudimentary farming with his profession. Six miles further on, where now is St. Charles, was one more log house occupied as a tavern by one Springer. There was a slight, newly-made wagon track extending about ten miles further on, where a young man and his wife, by name of Potter, had taken a claim and were building a small house. One story of this house was finished and the chamber floor laid of loose boards, without any roof. They asked us to stay with them over night; we did so. In the night it rained hard and we got thoroughly soaked. After breakfast the next morning we started on without any track and no guide but our pocket compass. About noon of this day we came up with Mr. A. G. Sutliff, who was moving with his family from Dodge County, Wis., to a point about eight miles northwest of Travers des Sioux (a missionary post near where St. Peter now is), so named because

it was at this place that the Sioux Indians forded the river.

Mr. Sutliff was a noted pioneer of Wisconsin. On the occasion of a previous trip the spring before, he had made a claim at the point whither he was now wending his way, but by a different route. So he knew but little more than we did as to the most feasible route to his destination. Mr. Hollingsworth was Sutliff's father-in-law. We very willingly accepted their kind invitation to keep in company with them to their new claim. Mr. Sutliff had with him a large herd of cattle and sheep. We crossed the Ashland prairie near the head of the Straight and Zumbro rivers and near the Oak Glen lakes. Within one mile of Straight River we camped for dinner. After dinner Mr. Sutliff wanted me to go with him and look for a suitable place to cross the river. We went to the river, and, finding no desirable crossing, concluded to cross further up near what seemed, by the appearance of the timber, to be a very considerable bend in the river, apparently some five or six miles away. It was agreed that Sutliff should go back and guide the teams, while I should cross the river and travel up to the proposed crossing. Without thinking much about the company, I went slowly on, until I came to the place where Dr. Kenyon subsequently lived. I could see or hear nothing of the company, not even a cow-bell, several of which I knew were in use on the cattle. I tried as well as I could to find their whereabouts. Although but a short distance below the proposed crossing, I could not find any trace of them before it was dark. As fate would have it, I had neither coat nor blanket, jack-knife nor matches, ax nor hatchet. Tired and hungry I laid myself under a tree to rest, and was very soon asleep. With no breakfast I renewed my search for the company, going on up the river to a point where a Mr. Bennett afterward made his claim, but found no signs. I then concluded to follow down the river as long as

my strength lasted, unless I found something more desirable. Before proceeding, however, I pulled off a boot and, with the head of a pin, wrote upon a smooth part of the boot-leg my name thus: G. W. Green, Beaver Dam, Wis., not knowing but some one would find my bones and boots, and thereby my friends in Wisconsin might hear from me. I had a little matter of \$700 in my pockets which, in case I should be lost, this act might be the means of my family getting. I had no other way of writing. After this preparation for the worst that might befall me, I started down the river, traveling slowly until nearly sun-down, when I found the trail where they had crossed the river, not over a half mile above where I had left Sutliff. With new courage I started on this trail. I followed it a short distance without any trouble; darkness coming on, the trail became invisible and I lost it. In hunting for it, I stumbled and fell, and my weariness and exhaustion were such that I did not feel disposed to rise for some time. I unconsciously fell asleep; when I awoke the sun was high up and shining brightly. Re-invigorated by my sound and restful sleep I soon found the trail and following it slowly a short time, I observed two men approaching me. They were of our company. Looking up towards the timber about three miles from where they had crossed the river, I saw the wagons and remainder of the company. They had camped there early in the afternoon expecting that I would see and come to them. When night came and I did not appear, they built a large fire and kept it going all night, hoping thereby to attract my attention.

The next day they spent on horseback looking for me. When I arrived in camp, they represented to me that my eyes were staring, and my lips and tongue swollen. Mrs. Sutliff prepared me something to eat, but I had no appetite and could eat nothing, instead thereof calling for a cup of sour milk which I drank with relish. I took but very

little nourishment, except sour milk, the rest of the day. My appetite slowly returning the next day, I ate sparingly, but it was some three or four days before I could take an ordinary meal.

From here we proceeded to Beaver Lake, crossing its outlet where the road now runs; here we saw an Indian, and tried to get some idea from him what course to take to reach the Minnesota River, but failed to secure any correct information. Crossing some of the rivulets that unite to form the Le Sueur River, we forded the main Le Sueur near where St. Mary's was afterward built. We wandered on we knew not where, and struck Minnesota Lake. Here we stayed two days and looked for signs. At last, about three miles west of the lake, we found a freshly-made Indian trail going southwest. We concluded that the Indians had gone on a hunting expedition and that they had congregated at the Minnesota River, starting *en masse* from there. Not knowing anything better to do, we took this trail back and struck the river at Mankato, July 4. Mankato then consisted of one family who kept a log boarding-house, and one man who presided over a saloon made of small poles. No other evidence of civilization met our gaze. From here we proceeded to Mr. Sutliff's claim, remaining with him a day. We then followed the trail down the Minnesota River to St. Paul, which was at this time but little more than an Indian trading-post, not as large as St. Anthony. And Minneapolis had not yet been spoken of. Here we boarded the steamer for La Crosse, from which point we took our way homeward by our own conveyance.

At the time of this hasty and imperfect observation of this part of southeast Minnesota, the prairies were covered with luxuriant grasses from three and a half to four feet high, over which deer and elk roved at will, several large herds coming within our view.

After leaving Potter's house, ten miles from Springer's, we saw no house until our

arrival at Mankato. I think there were two or three shanties or at near Le Sueur. At Belle Plaine there was one house occupied by Indian traders, and Judge Chatfield, then late of Racine, Wis., was building a small log house, preparatory to moving his family there. We found several township lines recently run; one especially prominent in my recollection was the corner post at the southeast corner of township 107 north, of range 20 east, being the southeast corner of the city of Owatonna, whether I have the numbers right or not.

I made no definite location on this trip, but thought I would return to Wisconsin and move with my family into the vicinity of Straight or Le Sueur River, then making my location. Accordingly on the 12th of August, 1854, I started with my family and movables, upon ox wagons, drawn by seven pairs of oxen, wagons all lightly loaded, but too heavy for the trip, as I afterward found. By driving slowly and carefully, and leaving on the way about one-third of our load, we got through all right. With our train I had about eighty cows and young cattle, besides three wagons belonging to other parties. Eleven men accompanied me to help me through and assist in cutting hay for the stock, also to put up necessary buildings, etc., on our arrival. But it was agreed that they need stay no longer than two weeks after I had made my location.

While crossing the Ashland prairie, we met Mr. Sutliff returning with his teams and wagons to Wisconsin for winter supplies. He had sold his claim near Travers de Sioux and returned to Le Sueur River, locating about six miles south of Wilton. He, being anxious that we should all locate near him, concluded to return with us and show us lands in his vicinity. Arriving at Straight River at the point where Owatonna is located, we found that stream booming, eight feet deep. We could go no further with all our luggage. Tents were pitched, cattle herded, counsel solicited. Here we found A. B. Cor-

nell and family located on the bank of the river in a pole house covered with hay, near the bridge on Bridge street. Mr. Cornell seemed glad to see us and did not fail to respond freely to our request for counsel. He showed me the ground north of town on which I finally located. But as we all desired to locate together, and the rest could not satisfy themselves near, it was decided to leave the women and children with a couple of men as guard for them and to watch the stock, while the rest of the company should move on to Le Sueur River and reconnoiter. The next day we crossed the river with three wagons, four yoke of oxen, and one cow. The men camped on the west side of the river that night; I went back to the tent and stayed with my family. It rained a large portion of the night. In the morning we started, bearing southwest. We struck the Big Slough near where the road to Lemond now crosses it, and spent until the next day noon trying to cross, but all in vain. We then made our way to the river, where we found that, by mowing some grass to cover the outlet to the slough, we could cross. Still it rained by spells, and there was a well-defined stream in every ravine. We went on to Beaver Lake and struck our old trail made on the first trip. In crossing one of the head rivulets of Le Sueur River, now a foaming torrent, the front end-board of one wagon-box went out and several articles went down. A broad-ax was lost, so we called this stream "Broad-Ax" Creek. In fording another rivulet one of the men, with boots as high as his knees, stood upon the back end-board of a wagon-box, holding onto the top of the wagon-cover, so this was called "Big Boot" Creek. We looked around the prairies and timbers between Wilton and Sutliff's claim. We all liked the country and concluded to make claims there. I requested the men to go and make their claims, then I would make mine, which was done. Still it rained; the men got wet and cold and finally homesick,

or sick of their country. They said it would all overflow every wet spell, and, should they settle there, no one else would venture so far from civilization for the next hundred years, and for the rest of their natural lives and those of their families, they would be there without bridges or other improvements, except such as they could improvise among themselves. So we all went back to Straight River and, on the 20th of September, I staked out my claim, the south line of which extended a short distance north of the present Owatonna Railway depots. My men went to work cutting hay (no mowers and horse-rakes then). Two weeks had expired; our hay was cut and stacked; our log house laid up and covered with shake-roof; no gables, no chinking, no floors, doors or windows. I could not persuade the men to stay another day. They said there would be no other person settling in there for the next fifty years, and that if I wintered they knew I would return to Wisconsin in the spring. So they started on their return trip. Here I was left with an invalid wife and three small children, no stables for the stock, no house suitable for cold weather, and apparently no help attainable. It seemed more than I could do to make things endurable for winter, but the next day a wagon-load of ten men made their appearance, and I got what help I needed from then on. Mr. Cornell had a log house commenced on the bank of the river, near where Mr. Albertus' house now stands. It was laid up about four or five logs high. He fixed the back part and moved into it the fore part of winter. The upright part was completed the next spring and opened as a hotel. We moved into our house the latter part of October, having got the gables up and the spaces between the logs chinked and mudded on the outside.

About the 1st of November I found a company of movers, consisting of twenty-two men, women and children, camping on the prairie between Owatonna and Crane Creek.

The wind was cold and fresh from the northwest, with every appearance of a storm. I offered them one-half of my house for a few days until they could do better. They accepted. In the latter part of November, during a severe windstorm, accompanied with snow, hail and rain, a company of twelve surveyors drove up to my door. They had been engaged in dividing townships into sections. They were hunting for shelter from the storm. I assured them they had come to exactly the right place; that I had plenty of room for shelter. (My company of twenty-two had not yet left.) They observed the crowd of men, women and children around, and remarked that, judging by appearances, our house must be already pretty well filled. I told them that only the lower part of the house was occupied, and that, although there was no chamber floor, they could take their axes and cut poles sufficient to lay across the beams, upon which they could place hay to spread their blankets on.

This problem being solved, they desired to know what could be done with the teams, which needed shelter equally with the men. I pointed out to them a large stack of hay near the house, which was fenced with a high, strong oak fence. I told them they could turn the horses in there around that stack, and pitch off enough hay to make them comfortable. After some further inquiries they concluded to accept my offer, and went to work accordingly.

The next morning they departed for Austin, well satisfied with their entertainment. My company of twenty-two remained with me till spring, and, as there was not space sufficient to make beds for all at once, they took turns in sleeping, whether by night or day, while the rest sang songs, told stories, etc. Some of them went to Le Sueur River, some located near Owatonna, and some returned to Wisconsin.

In March, 1855, Dr. W. W. Finch, an eminent physician of Essex County, N. Y.,

settled at Clinton Falls. On the 6th of April my son, George K. Green, was born, Dr. Finch attending, who went from my house to that of A. W. Adams, when his son, Frank, was born. These two were the first white children born in Steele County.

The spring and summer of 1855 proved to be an important era in the history of Owatonna. There was no town there yet, but Cornell had been reinforced in the persons of W. F. Pettitt, Ezra and John H. Abbott, Squire Phelps and others. There were no roads through Steele, Waseca or Dodge counties; only miserable trails. Mr. Cornell, with his reinforcement, displayed indomitable energy and tact in converting the tracks toward Mantorville and Austin into passable roads. Then he and others started out as missionaries to enlighten the various emigrant trains searching for claims in Minnesota, through the counties of Dodge and Mower, and convincing them beyond doubt that Steele County was the equal, if not the superior, of any other section of the State, and that Owatonna was the center around which the world revolved—the “open sesame” to prosperity and wealth. Cornell even went as far as La Crescent, opposite La Crosse, and later into Sparta, Wis., instructing the emigrants in search of new homes in regard to the Eldorado, meaning Owatonna, Minn. As a consequence of his labors and that of others having the same interest, the town site of Owatonna was covered with emigrant wagons, men, women and children flocking in from every direction. A large corps of energetic young men were engaged in gratuitously showing such emigrants as desired new homes where they could make the most advantageous claims. Very many settled in the county that year, and many located in Owatonna, and thus the success of the enterprise was assured.

In the spring of 1857 I sold out at Owatonna and went to Clinton Falls, where I engaged in the building of the Clinton mills. These mills became the place for custom-

grinding flour and feed for a large portion of Dodge, Mower, Freeborn, Waseca, Blue Earth, Faribault and Steele counties, and a portion of the south part of Rice County. After the advent of railroads better mills were erected all over the country, with modern machinery and model millers, and better flour was obtained from these than could be made by any of the pioneer custom-mills. The old mills were not generally located favorably or conveniently for the new and improved order of things that came after the building of the railroads.

I liked Minnesota, and especially Steele County; the people were mostly born and reared in the same latitude with me. Their habits and modes of thinking were similar to mine, and although radical differences at times existed, which were combated with energy on both sides, yet I liked the people and thought to spend the rest of my days with them. But in December, 1879, I took a violent cold which fastened itself upon me for all winter and until the latter part of summer, when I seemed to get well, or nearly so. But the next winter, while I did not take cold in the ordinary acceptation of that term, yet, when the cold weather came I had asthma, which I did not recover from even by keeping myself almost constantly in-doors. The malady increased all winter, so I could not sleep well nights, and even through the ensuing summer there was no visible improvement in my condition.

In the fall I became worse, and it was evident to me that I could not stand another Minnesota winter. So on the twenty-fourth day of October, 1881, I started with my family for California. In a few months after my arrival I entirely recovered from asthma, and have not felt a touch of it since.

SALINAS, CAL., August, 1887.

FROM THE WATCHMAN AND REGISTER, 1856.

As a matter of interest to the old settlers we here present a number of extracts from a copy of the *Watchman and Register* of July 29, 1856, which has been preserved by

Dr. E. M. Morehouse. It is a copy of the second issue of the paper:

A. B. Cornell advertises as "attorney and counselor-at-law, notary public and general land agent, Owatonia, M. T. Being well acquainted with the whole country and its best locations, he feels assured that he can satisfy all who may favor him with their business." He states that he will enter land on time for occupants, and that he has village property in Owatonia, Mantorville, Austin, Wilton and Empire.

Adolphus Town advertises a "lot of books, many of a religious character, for sale cheap."

The following article in regard to Owatonia is also found in this issue:

"Owatonia is situated on the east bank of Straight River, on a beautiful table-land some thirty feet above the bed of the stream, and is eighteen miles from its junction with Cannon River. To the north and south are heavy bodies of timber, while westward it is generally prairie, interspersed with beautiful groves; clear running streams and gushing springs abound.

"But two years since, the first settlement was made, at which time no one lived nearer than five miles on a direct line north, and in any other direction nearly forty. In October succeeding the settlement, the first surveys were made in the vicinity, since which time the country has been rapidly filling up.

"The town or village was laid off as such last November, and has gone ahead beyond all calculation. It is a point well worthy the attention of all desiring to invest in town property, and the country around cannot fail to suit the most particular.

"Our settlers are all industrious and enterprising, being mostly from the Eastern States; good schools are already established, and the Word of God is publicly proclaimed by preachers of the different denominations every Sabbath.

"No intoxicating drink has been sold, and it is the determination of all to keep the

curse away. This place is the county-seat of Steele County, and, being on the direct route from La Crosse and Winona to St. Peter city, Travers des Sioux and Mankato, and from Dubuque by way of Cedar River to St. Paul, Minneapolis, and St. Anthony, make it a prominent center,—roads connecting it with all the surrounding country—in fact, the future prospect stands unrivaled."

POLITICS IN 1857.

In an issue of the *Owatonna Register*, dated November 13, 1857, we find an article upon the political situation which will be found of much interest. A. Brown was acting as editor of the paper. It is headed "Results," and is as follows:

"Election is now over, and as the smoke of the conflict recedes in the distance we are enabled to trace out upon the background the result, and deduce conclusions therefrom.

"The contest was a very close one, throwing aside the floating vote that must necessarily be polled under the regulations of the schedule and ten-day system of residence. Including the Indians and half-breeds, who exercised the right of the elective franchise, the full vote of the territory is a moiety over forty thousand.

"The entire Democratic State and Territorial ticket with the exception of governor is elected by a small majority, and both branches of the legislature are in the hands of the Democrats, thus securing the election of two United States senators, pro-slavery. The Republicans have elected their governor by a majority of at least five or six hundred throwing out the fraudulent returns from Pembina, Cottonwood and Redwood counties, Mille Lac, Brown and other frontier towns, precincts and fabulous localities that have no tangible existence, except upon lithographs, which have all been returned with enormous votes for Sibley. For instance: Cass, Pembina and Todd report seven hundred votes for Sibley, and Ramsey blank. Now it is a well-known fact that east

of the Red River of the North, within the proposed boundaries of the State, not over fifty votes could have been polled; and in the counties of Cass and Todd, that never in the aggregate polled over sixty votes, and now only claim to have given Sibley ninety votes, it is plain the balance of seven hundred must have come from Pembina.

"Again, the counties of Rock, Cottonwood, Martin and Murray, whose existence to the public, prior to this, has been a myth, are reported to have given 219 majority for Sibley, Ramsey getting but two votes. The unorganized county of Renville casts 119 votes—more than there are inhabitants in the county, including men, women, children and red-skins; and 111 of those are for Sibley. Here is where Stephen A. Douglas, the Dred Scott decision, and Buchanan & Co. were so unanimously endorsed, as the *Pioneer* vauntingly boasts.

"We might add McLeod and a host of other border localities, inhabited principally by a few half-breeds and savages, where majorities were ground out for Sibley and the 'balance' on the Barstow principle. By these nefarious means and spurious returns, Sibley leads Ramsey 290 majority. And take into consideration the fact that these bogus returns have been laying in the secretary's office for the last two or three weeks, unannounced, while their contents were bruited upon the street corners, the conclusion is irresistible that they were kept back till different sections could be heard from, in order to see how many extra votes were necessary to elect Sibley.

"These are a portion of the frauds that have been forced upon the intelligent people of Minnesota. The record is too disgusting and bare-faced to pursue further. We do not wish to indulge in harsh language or undue invective. We appeal to all honest Democrats for the truth and candor of our statements. The mass of the Democratic party will not sanction this high-handed outrage, but their leaders will. Gorman,

Brown & Co. willed, and it was performed. And they will stand by it now—mark that. They have luxuriated on the public teat too long to think of surrendering it now.

"The seats of a few members of the legislature will be contested, but not so as to change the result. Ramsey will, undoubtedly, contest the seat for governor; then comes the tug-of-war. If, in the teeth of the mass of corruption, ballot-box stuffing, and wholesale fraud which have been perpetrated, the courts shall disregard the cry for justice, then, indeed, have we fallen upon evil times. Should this be the case, the Democratic party will go speedily to the wall. The mark of Cain will rest heavily upon its forehead. Its doom will be sealed, and its own history will ring, trumpet-tongued, its own condemnation. The Republicans have come out of this campaign with clean hands. They have the proud consciousness of knowing there is no stigma attached to an honorable defeat. Their escutcheon is untarnished by political dishonor and their future is bright and hopeful."

COUNTY MATTERS IN 1860.

The following is an editorial from the pen of A. B. Cornell, which appeared in the *News Letter*, in its issue of July 17, 1860. The article is presented just as it appeared in the columns of the paper mentioned, except that names of parties are omitted, as it would be unfair to give them without giving a chance for an answer to the insinuations. In the main, however, the article gives a fair idea of the general feeling in the county at that time:

"OUR COUNTY AFFAIRS:—In our last issue, in calling attention to the indebtedness of Steele County, we inadvertently omitted to place in the catalogue the sum of \$1,300, or thereabouts, that is due to the State, on State tax of 1858, as we are informed by Mr. Morford, the county treasurer. In this connection it may be proper to state that there are assets in the hands of the county in the

shape of *returned lands* to pay quite a proportion of the indebtedness mentioned, but which is not at present applicable to liquidate our debts; and the question naturally arises as to where we are drifting. We have been told by some gentlemen that the assets heretofore mentioned were sufficient to cancel all our debts; and that the time of redemption being soon out, we shall then be prepared to pay every one. We think that is rather poor consolation to our hard-working citizens, and that they will hardly appreciate it, knowing full well that most of them have paid extraordinary high taxes for the last three years, with but little prospect of there being a change for the better, under the present administration of affairs. Our county orders are already *hawked* about our streets at 25 per cent discount. Some of our county officers are buying them up of our own citizens at even a much lower figure, paying them into our already depleted treasury for taxes, and pocketing the profits arising from the trade; but they are only acting as *agents* of other parties who live at distance, so, of course, it's all right.

“One person says to us that the action of the county board, in not levying a State tax, was a daring assumption of power not warranted by the constitution, revolutionary in its character, and derogatory to the interests of some of our citizens. Well, suppose we admit it; does that prove that it was not intended as a measure of relief to those of our citizens who had parted with their all to sustain their families during the trying times of a year or two since, save, perchance, it might be the last cow, on which they depended for living necessary to their little ones, and which last dependence would be liable to be sold to pay their taxes to carry on the government and help to make aristocrats of some who were once our associates? Verily, that Steele County Board are an ungrateful lot of scamps, and ‘Judge Green is the worst of the lot, for he *knew better.*’ Poor

man! That sin of knowledge ought to be repented of, and that right speedily.

“Another thing of some moment to the taxpayers is the high prices paid some of our officials for their services, though it is rather a hard matter for outsiders to find out what services were rendered by said officials, as the accounts are so indefinite. Yet occasionally we do find out something that is *particularly definite*. Here are four items of account taken from the report of September 13, 1859:

Copying assessment rolls.....	\$ 87.01
Same,—rent, services and disbursements..	167.50
“ attendance on session of the board. . . .	21.00
“ on com. to settle with sheriff	6.00

Making an aggregate of.....	\$281.51

audited at one session of the board, being over *one-sixth* of the annual tax of the whole county for county purposes. Now as to these items, we are free to state we cannot see the justice of allowing the sum of \$87 for copying assessment rolls. A mere ordinary penman can do it easily in twelve days, and we have no doubt but plenty of individuals could be found that would do it by the job for \$25, and make fair wages at that. Again we cannot see the justice of allowing our assessors but \$1 per day for making the assessment—traveling through the storm and wading marshes to obtain it, and allowing a mere copyist from \$7 to \$12 per day to sit in a comfortable office and use his pen. The third and fourth items are specific, and embody nearly or quite all the services of ‘clerk of the board,’ and we would like very much to know the character of the *services* mentioned in the second item, as well as the amount of rent, and a specific statement touching the disbursements therein mentioned. Was it for *express charges* on that splendid lot of *books and stationery* purchased in Chicago, with the price of those *nice \$5 gold pens* reckoned in? The people who foot the bills are anxious to know about these *little* things, for they are *large* in the aggregate.”

CROPS.

The principal agricultural products of the county are the same to-day as in early times, except that during later years flax has taken a more prominent place than formerly. The most important items are wheat, oats and corn, the first named being the great staple. The following figures will serve to show the yield of these products for several years in an early period in the county's history :

YEAR.	WHEAT.		OATS.		CORN.	
	Bush's.	Av. per acre.	Bush's.	Av. per acre.	Bush's.	Av. per acre.
1869.....	359,293	17.30	236,833	39.87	70,479	27.52
1870.....	284,098	13.04	217,223	29.22	96,607	25.95
1871.....	335,560	14.25	192,638	28.08	143,346	34.90
1872.....	552,855	18.21	280,006	33.86	151,573	35.39
1873.....	750,000	19.60				

During these years however, other grain crops—barley, rye and buckwheat—were cultivated to considerable extent. Potatoes and other root crops gave abundant yields.

WHISKEY RUNNING IN THE GUTTER.

In 1857 Sherwood & Squires traded some property which they owned for a stock of liquors, intending to start a saloon. They had already hauled in one load of the stuff and, as their building was not ready to store it inside, it was stored in a little wooden building near the Winship House for the night. During the evening some of the village boys got together and decided to destroy the outfit. They crawled up to the barrels and bored holes through each cask, letting the liquor run out upon the ground. Quite a fuss was raised over the affair, but it finally blew over and none of the perpetrators were ever discovered. A. N. Stoughton, who is still an honored resident of the city, was arrested at the instance of Squires, and taken before Squire Tiffany, of Havana. When the case was called it was demanded that Squires give bonds for the costs, which he was unable to do, and the matter was finally dropped. Mr. Stoughton, of course, had nothing to do with the matter, but the

affair was quite an interesting joke to the old settlers.

THE OLD VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

In August, 1857, a number of the citizens of Owatonna held a meeting and formed a vigilance committee, for the purpose of preserving peace, protecting property, punishing offenders and cleaning out saloons. There were probably twenty or thirty in the organization. The first thing they proposed doing was to mob a certain saloon and throw out the liquors, but then the question arose, Who was to lead the van? Uncle Dave Lindersmith was the sheriff at that time; so they went to him and proposed that he take charge of the campaign which they intended to inaugurate. He replied that he supposed he was an officer elected to preserve the peace and it did not comport with the dignity of his office to lead a mob upon a business which was carried on under the sanction of the law. However, he added, that if such a thing should occur at any specified time, he would be obliged to attend to business *in another part of the county* while the campaign was going on.

THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF STEELE.

The following sketch of the early settlement of Steele County was published in A. T. Andreas' Historical Atlas of Minnesota (1874), and may be of interest for future reference and preservation. There are several mistakes in the article, as will be noticed by the reader, but we present it *verbatim* :

"Edward McCartney settled in the town of Deerfield in May, 1855. The first birth in the town was a daughter in the family of Mr. Hobough, and the first death that of Miss Austin. The first marriage took place on the 16th of June, 1859. Wm. B. Evans and Miss Frederica C. Williams were the happy couple. The first school was taught by Miss Elizabeth Hodgson in the summer of 1857.

"A. M. Fitzsimmons settled in the town of



E. M. Morehouse, M.D.

Meriden in June, 1855. The first birth was in the family of C. H. Wilker, in 1856.

"The first marriage was that of W. F. Dunn to Miss Roxie Henshaw, which took place in September, 1856, at Mr. Anstin Vinton's, Rev. H. Chapin performing the ceremony. In the absence of horses, the bridal party were conveyed in farm wagons drawn by oxen. The first death was that of Mr. Simmons, in 1858. Miss Leroy taught the first school in the summer of 1858.

"Thomas Thomson made the first claim in the town of Somerset, in November, 1855. The following May, three brothers, Levi, E. W. and Albert Bailey, and Mr. Savins came and built shanties. Others soon came, among whom were Dr. Thos. Kenyon, T. J. Clark, O. A. Barnes, Dexter Smith, E. Lagro, D. Barnes, O. Fisher, H. and J. Catlin, C. R. Knowlton, W. Fisher and J. E. Hughes. The first death was that of Mr. M. Case, in July, 1856.

"Mrs. T. J. Clark gave birth to a daughter in the summer of 1856, which was the first child born in the town. The first marriage was that of Alexander Hissam to Miss Rachel Bill, in 1858. Miss Phebe Kenyon taught the first school.

"Charles McCarty, Wm. Burns, Wm. Close and Robert Adair were the first to settle in the town of Havana, in 1855. George Dennis, N. Parker and D. C. Tiffany came in the following year. The first birth was a child in the family of Robert Adair, in 1855. The first death was that of Mrs. Newton Parker, in November, 1856, Rev. M. Wetzel officiating. Miss Elizabeth McCaslin taught the first school in the summer of 1857, and in the following fall was married to Frank Hickok, having the honor of being the first teacher and bride in the town.

"In the spring of 1856, Samuel Thompson, S. Keeney and E. Teed settled in the town of Lemond. Samuel M. Hastings came in the following summer. The first marriage was that of Daniel Tuscan to Miss Cornelia Davis, and the first birth occurred in the

family of Mr. Hughes. The first death was that of Mr. Wm. Manson, in 1860. The first school was taught in the winter of 1858-9, by Stillman Kinney.

"G. W. Knapp and family located in the town of Summit in June, 1856. Their first habitation was a tent, cooking and work generally being done in the open air. The first birth was in the family of Roswell Heath, in 1857, and the first marriage that of Benj. Wheeler and Miss Delia Fredinburg, in December, 1858.

"Col. J. Ball, A. B. Clark, G. W. Grimshaw and Charles Adsit, in June of 1856, made claims in the town of Aurora. Amos Coggs-well, S. A. Sargent, H. Eastman, Oscar King and Mr. Perham were the next to locate in the town. The first birth was in the family of Amos Coggs-well, March 6, 1857, and the first marriage was that of Joseph Branning and Miss Laura Pettie. The first death was that of Steven A. Sargent, in 1856; Rev. H. Chapin conducted the funeral services. Miss Jane Arnold taught the first school.

"In July, 1856, William Shea, C. V. Brown, Hiram Pitcher, Levi Chase, Thomas McCormick, Robert Reynolds, H. S. Howen, Enfin Enfinson, Joseph and D. T. Gordon, Marshall Warren and Mr. Winchell settled in the town of Berlin. The first plowing was done by Levi Chase. The first birth was in the family of C. V. Brown. Mr. Joseph Gordon died in December, 1859, which was the first death in the town. The first marriage was that of J. O. Culver and Miss Jane Gordon, in 1857. The ceremony was performed by Hiram Pitcher, a justice of the peace. This being the first time the justice had performed the ceremony, he varied a little from the usual form, and the groom was made to promise to obey the bride, instead of the bride obeying the groom. D. T. Gordon taught the first school in the winter of 1857-8. C. W. Curtis and L. E. Thompson settled in the town of Merton in 1856; soon after Messrs. Magoon and Naylor came. The first death was that of a child of Oscar Searls.

David Bagley, Thomas Bray, Levi Annis, J. J. Bracket and Ira Foster settled in Blooming Prairie in 1857. The first birth was James Bray, son of Thomas Bray, in 1859. The first marriage was that of Ira Foster and a widow by the name of Scott, in 1860. Miss Hatty Layton taught the first school in 1861.

"Blooming Prairie (formerly Oak Glen) was not organized until 1867, having been formerly attached to the town of Aurora. The organization of the other towns was effected in 1858."

STAGE BUSINESS.

The following item appears in the issue of the *Owatonna Plaindealer*, September 22, 1864:

"Burbank & Co. have decided to put on the road between this place and Rochester, next Monday, two daily lines of stages each way, owing to the great increase of travel. Last Monday afternoon there were twenty-seven persons desiring passage east. Nineteen got on one coach and the rest hired a livery, but this is not an unusual occurrence. The company have the best of accommodations on the road for the convenience of the traveling public."

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE ABBOTTS.

The Abbots — Ezra and John H. — who took a prominent part in the early history of the town and county, were natives of New Hampshire. Ezra came west, first settling at Batavia, Ill., in 1854, although for some time he had been living in Virginia. At Batavia he and his wife were engaged as teachers in an academy. John H. started west in May or June, 1855, and at Batavia, Ill., he joined his brother Ezra, and from there they came together first to St. Paul, which was then the territorial capital and by far the largest city in the territory, and a few days later to St. Anthony. They next visited a number of localities in search of a suitable site. Ezra had in view the location of a model stock farm, while John H., who had been largely engaged in railroad work,

had in view a town site, where it would be possible to build a railroad center and a metropolis. After a time they visited Faribault and there learned of the Owatonna settlement and town-site. Faribault at that time was having quite a boom. J. W. North had already located at the present site of Northfield, and was making preparations for building a city. There was only one building on the site at that time, however, and the dam across the river was just being built. At Faribault they found a village of several hundred inhabitants, a mixture of French, Indians and Americans. Gen. Shields, afterward United States senator, was then in the "big woods" starting his village — Shieldsville. Alex. Faribault, the old Indian trader, was the leading spirit of the settlement, surrounded by his usual coterie of Indians, guns and dogs. Gen. Levi Nutting was also there, and had started to build a hotel. Many others were already engaged in building a city there, but those mentioned have become familiar names in Minnesota history. While in the vicinity of Faribault they ran across one of the Pettit families, and through that means were directed toward Steele County. On their way up the river they passed the sites of both Medford and Clinton Falls. At the first they saw Smith Johnson, who informed them of the brilliant prospect they had for building a town. At Clinton they saw Deacon Finch, who was plowing near the trail, and he explained to them how nature had planned Clinton for a metropolis, with its water power, abundance of stone, etc.

Upon arriving at the site of Owatonna at about noon one day late in June or early in July, 1855, they went to the little log cabin just north of where Mr. Albertus' present dwelling stands. They found here A. B. Cornell and wife, W. F. Pettit, Rev. Mr. Thomas, and several boarders. After dinner they looked over the table-land and town-site generally. Pettit's claim extended a mile east and west, Bridge street being at

the south line of it. Cornell then "claimed" eighty acres south of this line, having sold some which he had held previously. Park & Smith also had a claim, and Addison Phelps held one still south of Cornell's. Mr. Morehouse was living in a cabin not far from the river, near the present site of the mill. John Deckering, agent for Judge Green, was living near Maple Creek. The judge had claimed four forties of land in sections 3, 4, 9 and 10, in what is now Owatonna Township. Obediah Gains, who with his son had claimed 320 acres of land, was here. This claim was directly east of the Pettit and Cornell claims. Elder Town was also here as the advance agent for a little colony, and was looking up claims. Charles Ellison was also among the settlers, having a claim two miles south of Owatonna, but was stopping at Cornell's. D. Linder-smith was living in a log cabin on the west side of the river. A man named Presley was living in the woods north of town. In addition to these there were a number of young men, who might more properly perhaps be termed transients. The only crop growing was some sod corn and water-melons which Pettit had planted. Pettit was anxious to go to Texas and wanted to sell, yet held his claim at quite a high figure — \$1,300 or \$1,400. There were scarcely any improvements, and in this condition this price seemed high; yet there were many considerations which led them to finally accept the proposition, and as a matter of interest it will not be out of place in this connection to refer briefly to them. Up to this time Ezra Abbott and his brother had been undecided where to locate. In a measure their objects were different, yet of course both desired a location that had some promise for the future.

During the winter of 1854-5 a charter had been obtained and organization effected of a company proposing the construction of a railroad from Winona westward to St. Peter. This was called the "Transit." Movements

were also already on foot, although very incomplete and indefinite, with a view to building a road from Minneapolis or St. Anthony south to Iowa. Owatonna seemed to be a natural crossing for these two lines. This was one important point in favor of the town. Another was its location, which was magnificent. But there were drawbacks. At that day to locate and attempt to build a town at a point where there was no hope of securing a county-seat was discouraging business. During the session of the territorial legislature, in the winter of 1854-5, Steele County had been created and set off from Rice County. It embraced twenty congressional townships — all of the present county of Waseca and the two western tiers of Steele County's present townships. It will thus be seen that Owatonna was virtually in the northeast corner of the county as then bounded. This, of course, must be changed or the county-seat would undoubtedly be finally located farther west. However, after looking over the ground thoroughly, the Abbotts decided to accept Pettit's offer, which they did, and thereupon became part owners of the town-site. John H. is still a resident of the city. Ezra lived there until the time of his death, which occurred on the 16th of August, 1876. Both took a prominent part in the early development of the city, and their names must always be indissolubly connected with the early history of the county.

REMINISCENCE AND BIOGRAPHY.

By Rev. William Thomson.

I was born at Taneytown, Frederick (now Carroll) County, Md., on the twenty-ninth day of April, 1812. At the age of about sixteen years I went to the city of New York to learn the trade of house-building with my uncle, Samuel Thomson, who was at that time a master-builder. I served an apprenticeship of over five years at that business, and became a fair mechanic in that line, at the same time acquiring a knowledge of

architectural drawing, etc. In the meantime I was converted and felt a strong desire to become a minister of the gospel, but circumstances not being favorable to such a course of preparation as was necessary at that time, I deferred that work until later in life.

I served my apprenticeship faithfully and when becoming twenty-one years of age I left New York and returned to my native town in Maryland, and on the nineteenth day of June, 1834, was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Peck. Subsequently I took a private course of theological studies under the supervision of Rev. William Adams Wadsworth, a Lutheran minister, at Canton, Stark County, Ohio. After completing my course of study, made application to the East Ohio Evangelical Lutheran Synod for examination, was examined before open synod, and admitted as a candidate for ordination, and at a subsequent meeting of the same body, held at Bethlehem, Ohio, I was solemnly ordained by laying on the hands of the presbytery. On the seventh day of October, 1845, after being set apart to the duties of the active ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, I served congregations in Stark and Columbiana counties, in Ohio, then at Rostraver, Pa.; returned to Ohio in the spring of 1846 and served four congregations for ten consecutive years.

About April 1, 1855, in company with a portion of my Ohio charge, and my family consisting of myself and wife and Joseph Hugh, Mary E., Hamilton R., Luther M., Cornelia Jane and Louiza Ellen, we took steamboat at Wellsville, Ohio, for the then territory of Minnesota. After a tedious journey of about sixteen days we landed at Hastings at midnight, several of our number being very sick. I can never forget our first night's experience in Minnesota. We were hurriedly set ashore on the bare ground, but by placing some bedding and arranging our pack-boxes around, formed a temporary shelter by placing four of our number, one at each corner, to hold a bed-quilt over the sick

to keep off the falling rain. And so we stood for about one hour trying to get the hotel-keeper to take us in, but as he was not willing to receive our sick we resolved to spend the night in watching them. Whilst we were thus engaged a Mr. Baily, who kept a kind of variety store (the only one in the village), came to us and spoke kindly, and offered us the free use of his building, telling us to make ourselves as comfortable as we could. We gladly carried our sick into his store-room, and there, on that sad night, and on the floor of Mr. Baily's store, Miss Lucetta Jane Barriek died in about one hour after she was taken in; her sister, Mrs. James Anderson, died in a few days after, and both were buried side by side near the then village, now city, of Hastings, and my first ministerial services in Minnesota were to perform the funeral obsequies of those two members of my Ohio congregation.

Leaving my wife in charge of four very sick children, in company with Mr. Anderson, I started for the interior of this to us new country, settled first near Cannon City in Rice County, remaining there only one year for various reasons. Myself, William N. Breidenstien (a son-in-law), my eldest son, Joseph, and Mr. Elias Hahn, in the early part of April, 1856, made a journey on foot, seeking a better locality. Our objective point was Wilton, in Waseca County. Crossing Straight River at Faribault we followed the course of said stream on both sides, crossing twice after leaving Faribault; we reached Owatonna sometime in the month of April. Crossing Maple Creek we approached the village on the east side. On the hill we found a man, whose name I have forgotten, who kept a small store; we inquired for "Owatonna." "Why," said he, "this is it." "Is this all of it?" we asked. "Oh, no," said he, "over the hill there you will find the rest of it." So on we went, and found the rest of "Owatonna," consisting of a few houses scattered over a most beautiful site for a town. Winship House had just been

built, then a log hotel a little down the river, kept by a Mr. Sanborn, a schoolhouse, a smith-shop, and one or two small stores, was about all of Owatonna at that time. We crossed Straight River on a farm wagon driven by Mr. Thomas Meek. The banks were overflowed so as to cover the very poor basswood bridge, but Mr. Meek was well acquainted with the bearings, and so conveyed us safely over. We stopped that night with Mr. David Lindersmith, who subsequently informed me of the southeast quarter section 20, town 107, range 20. I moved with my family onto this claim early in May, 1856, and have resided on it ever since, with the exception of two years' residence in the city of Minneapolis, having rented the farm to my son-in-law, G. B. White. To return to our trip to Waseca County, I will state that we looked the country over carefully, passing over some beautiful prairie land. At last we reached Le Seur River at the fording. Seeing a man on the opposite side with an ox-team we called to him, and he kindly drove across and took us to the other side. We remember the gentleman's name was John Kelly. We asked for the town. "Right here," said Mr. Kelly. He conducted us to a log house just being built, where we met Mr. A. B. Cornell, of Owatonna, hewing logs to build a house. He said "Wilton was to beat Owatonna." We couldn't see it in that light. As it was drawing towards night and no houses in view we inquired for lodging. "Just follow me," said Mr. Kelly, "and I will take you to the 'Central Hotel.'" Accordingly we obeyed orders, and taking us down the slope to the front of the "Central," we found a rude structure composed partly of pine boards, set perpendicularly, nailed to a pole laid over the entrance, to a kind of cave in the hill, probably 15x20 feet. The host, a Mr. Jenkins, treated us kindly, and his charges were quite moderate. We then took leave of our kind host and his excellent wife, and took a good look at the surrounding country. It was a grand sight. As far

as eye could see it was one vast ocean of waving grass, not green, but having passed the winter, it was changed to a beautiful brown, showing that it must be a very good grazing ground for the large herds of fine cattle that were being daily driven into this beautiful land, which had lain so many centuries only as a hunting ground for the aborigines, or a pasturage for the buffalo and other wild animals.

Subsequent circumstances proved that Mr. Cornell was entirely wrong in his estimate of the future greatness of the contemplated "City of Wilton." Thus after looking all over the country in and around Wilton, we felt a desire to return by the way we came, to the then village of Owatonna, and eventually all settled as near as we could to the promising city of Owatonna, Mr. Hahn claiming in the town of Somerset, and Breidenstein on Straight River, cornering with me on the section line. Mr. Hahn still resides on his land on Turtle Creek, about five miles from Owatonna. Breidenstein lives with his family near Boice City, I. Ter., thus, instead of being near each other, as we intended, we are scattered far and wide. Having traded my pre-emption right in Rice County, we went to work in good earnest on the new claim; of course much of my own time was occupied in my ministerial duties, and not being a practical farmer, and being entirely ignorant of the mode of farming in this climate, we labored under great disadvantages in many respects; nevertheless, the second season we put out some twenty-five acres of wheat, corn and rye; crops looked quite promising until within a few days of harvesting, when suddenly a terrible hail-storm destroyed all our hopes, and a general panic ensued; many left for other parts, but a few remained and by mutual sympathy and kindness, no one starved to death. But those were the dark days in the life of early pioneers of this country, when

"Men looked in each other's eyes,
To read their chance of death or life."

It would perhaps be too tedious and uninteresting to recount many of the experiences through which we have passed; I will only give two of the most important of my personal adventures. In the fall of 1857, I started one day for my appointment at East Prairieville, and as I had several times noticed a road at the crossing of a small creek a short distance below Medford, diverging a very little to the left, running as I thought very nearly parallel with the road I had before taken, and thinking it would lead me out to the open prairie, a little lower down the river, and bring me nearer to a point I wished to reach, I pursued it but a short distance when I found it to bear too much to the left. I then concluded to cross the V, formed by the two roads; after walking for a long time I came to a small stream emanating from a spring. I stooped down and took a drink; on rising again, I lost my bearings, and in attempting to make a straight line from the spring, I only circled round to the same place; this I did the third time. I then found a line of blazed trees made by the surveyors and by watching those marks, I found my way out to the road I was in search of. Fortunately I found a Mr. Close in his winter quarters, and as it was then about 10 o'clock at night, he very kindly gave me my supper and lodging, and on the morrow I reached my destination in good time. At another time I left home in a snow-storm, and in trying to make my way to a Mr. Coperthwaits', where I intended to stay over night, night overtook me, and having neither roads nor fences to guide me, and a fearful snow-storm in full force, I missed my way and went too far eastward. I took, as I thought a straight course to the gentleman's house, and after walking for about two hours, I came to a deserted claim shanty, but there was neither door nor window, and the snow had drifted in and filled it nearly full; I had matches, but no fuel of any kind, so I could not build a fire. I now fully realized my perilous con-

dition; I was *really lost*. To anyone who has not had the same experience, words fail to give an adequate idea of the sensation; I never had the same routine to go through, that I had in the timber, to-wit: I made three tangents to get to the same forlorn shanty; finally I took great care to keep the wind directly on my back, and by that means got away from the shanty I had visited so often.

I was perfectly calm, and deliberately concluded that in order to keep from freezing I would be compelled to continue walking slowly until daylight should reveal my whereabouts, for I had not the least idea of the points of the compass. After about two hours' walking, fortunately I saw a stovepipe from which smoke was wafting upward. I hastened up and was very kindly entertained by the gentleman of the house, whose name I have forgotten; next morning—Sunday—found me just six miles too far east, but after a good breakfast, without charge, I made my way to Cannon City in good time. It must be remembered that at this time I had no horse and was compelled to travel on foot, preaching at the following points: Cannon City, East Prairieville, Brush Creek,—occasionally Faribault and Morristown. I met the above appointments generally promptly and in good time. The Home Missionary Society gave me the first year \$100 and from the other sources I received in all about \$60; organized the first English Lutheran congregation (that I knew of at the time) in the house of Hon. J. C. Ide, at East Prairieville, in the month of June, 1855. I believe I preached the first funeral sermon in the Ide settlement at the house of a Mr. Pratt, it being on the death of a lady in some way related to Mr. Pratt. A Methodist minister, a young man whose name I forget, was present at the funeral service, but did not make himself known until after the services closed. I believe I was the first Lutheran minister officiating in the English language exclusively, in the Territory of

Minnesota. If there were any other I never heard of him. Through the courtesy of Col. Ide, who was a visitor to the territorial legislature in 1855, I had my credentials filed in the office of a Mr. Noah, at Mendota, and afterwards at Owatonna. My credentials were filed on page 1 of credentials, so I must have been among the first in that line. Hoping to be excused for this digression to Rice County, I will now proceed more particularly to call up facts and incidents that have occurred since our settlement at Owatonna. By disposing of my preëmption right in Rice County I received in exchange an ox-team, farm wagon, one cow and calf and \$75 in cash. With this outfit we took possession of the southeast quarter, section 20, town 107, range 20. There were no improvements on the claim, so we erected what in that day was called a claim-shanty. As this term is generally understood I need not particularize. We occupied it comfortably, under the circumstances, and enjoyed good health and spirits for two or three years, until we were able to put up a frame house, which subsequently was destroyed by fire.

My congregation at Prairieville became quite discouraged by the intense cold of the winter of 1855-6, and left for other parts. I had no nucleus for a Lutheran Church in Owatonna, but by invitation of the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, I preached frequently for each of them, mostly, however, in Mr. A. N. Stoughton's hall, where in the absence of their pastor, Rev. Thomas, by request, I admitted several members to their church and administered the holy communion. The East Ohio Synod, to which I belonged, always has been in favor of Christian union, consequently imbibing this principle of unity from the synod to which I belonged, I have had no difficulty in fraternizing with all orthodox denominations of Christians, so far as they would permit me to worship God with them; have always been treated kindly and frequently preached for all of them. Being without a

regular charge, my ministerial labors have been those of a traveling missionary and in this capacity I visited and preached at the following places with more or less regularity from 1858 to the present time, 1887: Cannon City, East Prairieville, Faribault, Brush Creek, Morristown, Kenney's hall and schoolhouse, Dodge City, Norway, Dodge County; Eyota, Olmstead County; Washington, Fillmore County; Dorrance's and Beardsley's, Rice County; Berlin, Hastings' schoolhouse, and Fitzsimmon's schoolhouse, also at Havana and Tiffany's schoolhouse; meantime I preached several funeral sermons. In the spring of 1858 or 1859 a family by the name of Simmons came from Wisconsin and bought a claim of a Mr. Woods, and whilst temporarily located with Mr. Hiram Greenwood, making preparations to build a house on his land, he and his wife were killed by one stroke of lightning. I preached a short funeral sermon at the house, after which they were buried in one grave on the claim he had just purchased. The ensuing spring a Mr. Clinton Simons, a few miles west of us, was also killed by lightning, and I was called upon to preach his funeral sermon. Since the country has been broken and cultivated, there have been but few deaths by lightning. A Mr. Munson, I believe, was the first person to die in the town of Lemond. I also preached his funeral sermon. Our first school was taught in a slab shanty by Miss Emaline Hall, with about twenty-five scholars. We now have a very good frame schoolhouse, at present taught by Miss Stowers, but by removal of several families of children out of the district, there is but an average attendance of about fifteen. On the 7th of September, 1858, our twin sons—Ezra and Samuel—were born. I am not certain, but think they were the first pair of twins born in the township. We have had three very severe and destructive hail-storms, but at the same time have lived and enjoyed good health. Owatonna has grown from a village to a very thriving inland city, of

probably four thousand inhabitants, having two banks of issue, many very good dwelling houses, quite a number of dry goods stores, groceries, several hotels, also two or three drug stores, and alas, that we must state it to the shame and disgrace of our otherwise pleasant city, twelve liquor saloons, at a license of \$500. There are to counterbalance these several Christian churches, as the Catholic, Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal, English and German, one Lutheran exclusively German, St. Paul's Episcopal and one Baptist. I am now in my

seventy-sixth year, and preach every two weeks at Eyota, Olmstead County, Minn. My family at present consists of myself, wife and our twin sons. We are better than ever satisfied and pleased with Minnesota. We have had but one death in the family for over thirty years — an aged aunt to my wife who died in her ninety-first year, and now lies in our Oakwood Cemetery in peace. We are contented and happy, and will not leave our present abode until a higher power calls us hence to a better land beyond the river.

WILLIAM THOMSON.

CHAPTER XVI.

HISTORICAL EVENTS CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED.



WE have here grouped together all the statements, events of importance, deaths of prominent persons, accidents, or crimes, which would be of interest, commencing with 1853, and closing with June, 1887, when this manuscript went to press. it is not to be expected that this chapter includes everything of interest which has occurred during the years named, as many of the most important events receive attention in other chapters; but it embraces hundreds of interesting items which could not properly be placed in other departments.

Prior to 1874, the fact that the files of county papers have not been preserved, leaves Steele County without reliable records of local happenings, therefore the events given for those years are mainly based upon the statements of the old settlers.

1853.

The first settlement, within the limits now comprising Steele County, was effected dur-

ing the summer of this year, in Medford Township.

The first cabin in the county was erected by A. L. Wright and Chauncey Lull.

1854.

During the summer, the first settlement on the present site of Owatonna City was effected by A. B. Cornell and William F. Pettit. The first building on the site of the city was erected this year.

1855.

Steele County was created by the territorial legislature on the 20th of February.

August 1, the organization of the county was effected, and the board of county commissioners, appointed by Gov. Gorman, held their first meeting.

October 9, the first election was held. It was for State officers, with but one exception. W. F. Pettit was elected sheriff. He was the first county officer elected.

1856.

The first election for county officers occurred in October, when a full set was chosen.

In July, the *Watchman and Register*, the first newspaper in Steele County, was established at Owatonna, by J. H. Abbott and A. B. Cornell.

April 1, the county was in debt \$29.

The winter of 1856-7 was a very severe one. Snow was very deep and a crust between one and two inches in thickness formed upon it, which made travel almost impossible, as it would scarcely hold a man. A horse would break through and cut his limbs, so that, except on the well-broken roads, which were very few, travel was completely blocked. Deer were plenty that winter, but were nearly all killed off before the spring thaw came. On account of the snow they could be overtaken easily, and hundreds were slaughtered with clubs.

1857.

A severe hail-storm passed through the county in the latter part of July, which was very destructive to crops. Hailstones of "fabulous size" fell. It is stated that they made indentations in the earth which could be noticed for three or four years afterward. It was during this storm that hailstones broke right through the roof of a hotel in Mantorville, Dodge County.

On the 27th of February, Waseca County was taken from Steele County; a tier of townships had previously been detached from Dodge and annexed to Steele, leaving the boundaries of the county as they are to-day.

This was the year of the great financial panic. The following year its effect was felt here; yet it did not affect times in Steele County very much. As one old settler expresses it: "Times were already as hard as they could be made."

1858.

During the summer the hail cut the grain badly in Steele County, and seed wheat brought over \$1 per bushel in Owatonna.

This year was known as "Johnny-cake year" in Steele County. Scarcely any pro-

visions were in the country, and nobody was able to buy, anyway. Most of the settlers lived upon corn bread; many were reduced to bran bread, while not a few got along on bare potatoes without salt or meat.

January 6, the county was in debt \$2,129.69.

During this year the system of county government was changed. The board of county commissioners was abolished and a board of supervisors was created to succeed it. The board of supervisors was composed of one member from each organized township in the county.

1859.

Prices were very low this year. Wheat was hauled to Hastings and Red Wing, and there only brought thirty-five and forty cents per bushel part of the year. The money was of such character, everyone exacted gold and silver. Paper money was worthless, as so many of the banks which were authorized to issue a circulating medium had failed. These were the days of "wild-cat currency."

The system of county government was again changed this year, reverting power to the board of county commissioners.

A good crop of wheat was raised this year, the average yield per acre being as high as any ever produced in the history of the county. It is thought that wheat averaged at least twenty-five bushels per acre throughout all this portion of the State.

1860.

The United States census taken this year, gave Steele County a population of 2,863. Of this number 2,256 were native born Americans; and 607 were of foreign birth.

At the presidential election this year, 688 votes were polled, divided among political parties as follows: 523 for Abraham Lincoln, Republican; 157 for Stephen A. Douglas, Democrat; and 8 for J. C. Breckinridge, Democrat.

Another good crop was raised this year with an increased acreage under cultivation.

In the fall of 1860 an agricultural society was organized with a membership of about forty, and a county fair was held.

1861.

April 12, Fort Sumter. S. C. was bombarded by Gen. Beauregard, and the War of the Rebellion began. Its effect was soon felt in Steele County and enlistments began almost immediately.

Prices grew better with this year and toward fall, wheat was bringing a good price.

Crops were good all through the war, but the difficulty was in taking care of them, owing to the absence of a great majority of the male inhabitants. This was the case in 1863 and 1864, particularly.

1862.

A great many of the able-bodied residents of Steele County enlisted during this year, and went South for service.

Prices continued to grow better and in fact continued to advance while the war lasted, although in Steele County a very light acreage was cultivated.

1863.

The war for the Union was still in progress. It is said that the settlement and development of Steele County was entirely at a standstill. The county was half depopulated.

1864.

This was another presidential election year. Eight hundred and forty-five was the total number of votes polled in Steele County. Abraham Lincoln, Republican, received 636, and Geo. B. McClellan, Democrat, received 209.

1865.

April 9, Gen. Lee, the Confederate, surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Va., virtually the closing act of the war.

April 14, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was assassinated.

1866.

This year marked a new era in Steele County's history. Two lines of railway were completed, and trains were running into Owatonna in August.

New settlers began to arrive, and Owatonna grew wonderfully.

The water was very high in Straight River this year, and overflowed considerable land in the vicinity of Owatonna.

1867.

The settlement of the county was largely increased during this and the few years immediately following.

In Mitchell's Statistical History of Steele County, the following crop statement appears: "The year 1867, though considered by all as one of the poorest seasons ever known in Minnesota, marked the products of the soil in Steele County as follows: Wheat, average yield per acre, 15½ bushels; oats, 34 bushels; corn, 38 bushels; potatoes, 110 bushels."

1868.

Another presidential election. There were 1,640 votes polled in Steele County for the various electors. U. S. Grant, Republican, received 1,137; and Horatio Seymour, Democrat, 503.

1869.

During this year the board of county commissioners was increased from three to five members.

Crops raised this year were as follows: Wheat, 359,293 bushels, averaging 17.30 bushels per acre; oats, 236,833 bushels, averaging 39.87 bushels per acre; corn, 70,479 bushels, averaging 27.52 bushels per acre.

1870.

The United States census was again taken this year. It gave Steele County a total population of 8,271; of which number 6,088 were American born, and 2,183 were of foreign birth.

Crop yield: Wheat, 284,098 bushels,—

average, 13.04 bushels per acre; oats, 217,223 bushels,—average, 29.22 per acre; corn, 93,697 bushels,—average, 25.95 bushels per acre.

1871.

During this year there were 335,560 bushels of wheat raised in the county—an average of 14.25 bushels per acre; 192,638 bushels of oats were threshed—an average of 28.08 bushels per acre; 143,346 bushels of corn were gathered—34.90 bushels per acre.

1872.

The presidential election occurred again this year. There were 1,660 votes polled in Steele County for presidential electors, of which number 1,033 were for U. S. Grant, Republican; and 627 for Horace Greeley, Democrat and Liberal Republican.

Stock raising and dairying had already begun to receive considerable attention in Steele County. The number of pounds of butter produced in 1872 was 275,024, and of cheese 138,479, the latter being at that time nearly three times that of any other county in the State. There were then no less than six cheese factories in successful operation in the county.

The crop yield this year was as follows: Wheat, 552,855 bushels, average 18.21 bushels per acre; oats, 280,006 bushels, average 33.86 per acre; corn, 151,573 bushels, average 35.39 per acre.

1873.

During this year another great financial panic occurred. Property values decreased to almost nothing. Money became very scarce and times extremely hard.

The estimated population of Steele County taking the number of school children as a basis was 9,171.

The school statistics for that year were as follows: Number of districts in the county, 70; total expenditure for building, teachers' wages, etc., was \$21,081.43; number of schoolhouses, 70; value, \$45,321. Of the \$21,081.43 expended, \$12,595.78 was paid to teachers.

During this year there were 750,000 bushels of wheat raised in Steele County—an average of 19.60 bushels per acre.*

1874.

The following item appears in the first issue of the *People's Press*, September 2, 1874: "J. W. Morford, Esq., informs us that he raised on his farm, near the city, from sixty-one acres, 1,700 bushels of the best wheat. Who can beat it?"

Dr. Morehouse at that time was erecting his opera house, of which the *Press*, in the same issue, said: "The public hall of Dr. Morehouse in this city, now in course of construction, will be one of which our citizens have good reason to be proud. It is large, extending from Bridge to Main street."

In the first issue of the *People's Press*, September 2, 1874, is found a lengthy account of a people's convention—or as it is entitled, The Democratic, Liberal Republican County Convention—held to nominate candidates for the various county offices. The following are the names of the gentlemen who participated in the proceedings, as it may be of interest to refer to in coming years: Hon. H. H. Johnson was elected chairman and R. M. Drake, secretary. Delegates were appointed to attend the congressional convention and were instructed to use every honorable means to secure the nomination of Amos Cogswell. The following is a list of the delegates who attended the county convention: Merton—Dexter Lane, T. J. Conlin, M. A. McAndrews and E. Smith; Medford—D. C. Hunkins, N. Parker, R. M. Drake, S. Freeman and John Karney; Aurora—Oscar King, Phenix Meyers, E. Stapleton, Amos Cogswell, Reuben Austin and Peter McCrady; Lemond—H. M. Hastings, Hugh Murray, Gill Russell and William Gamble; Owatonna City—H. H. Johnson, G. H. Cole,

* From 1873 until this MSS. went to press we have had newspaper files to refer to, so that we are able to give a more detailed account of the matters and events transpiring. We give all items that may be of interest, referring to the files of the *People's Press* and the *Journal and Herald* as authority for all statements.—EDITOR.

J. W. Morford, James Patch, Julius Young, George B. Hall, S. M. Hastings, J. B. Soper, J. W. Hall, P. Brennen, E. W. Johnson, L. Bion, G. F. Albertus, M. A. Dailey, Howard Johnson, J. Opplinger, M. L. Deviny, E. Burk, H. W. Pratt, Herman Smith, Gilbert Potter, E. Tilden and Timothy Hennessy; Havana — J. S. Cass, Andrew Cass, James Cotter and J. S. Austin. A few weeks later the following ticket was put into the field: County auditor, J. P. Jackson; register of deeds, M. A. Dailey; probate judge, James Cotter; county attorney, Amos Coggsell; county commissioners, A. B. Clark and Geo. O. Hankerson; representatives, L. H. Lane and Hugh Murray.

The Republican county convention for 1874 was held at Owatonna on October 10. Geo. W. Green, of Clinton Falls, was elected chairman and C. C. Cornell, secretary. The list of delegates has not been preserved in the newspaper files from which this report is taken. Among those present, however, were Geo. W. Green, C. C. Cornell, E. Dart, H. Rulliffson, W. W. Wilkins, Moses Norton, T. H. Kelley, L. Mucky and W. Sherman. W. R. Kinyon, of Owatonna, was nominated for representative. The following county ticket was placed in nomination: L. S. Padgham, auditor; E. A. Tyler, register of deeds; L. L. Wheelock, probate judge; J. M. Burlingame, county attorney.

The *People's Press*, on the 9th of September, 1874, contained the following item: "Of the many things worthy of comment is the enterprise shown by Messrs. Chambers and Mitchell in the erection of the fine building that occupies the corner of Cedar and Vine streets. It is an honor to Owatonna, and speaks highly for some of its business men."

"Three fights have of late enlivened the usual quiet of our city. No lives lost."—*Press, September 2, 1874.*

Speaking of the condition of business in Owatonna, the same issue of the *Press* contains the following: "One of the surest indications of business is to see every house

and storeroom in a town occupied. Conceding such to be the truth, we freely admit that Owatonna is equal to any city of like size in the State. Vacant rooms are scarcer than divines who support Theodore Tilton."

Under the head of "Our Debut," the *Press* further says, in speaking of the advantages here found: "We consider the literary field in which we are about to labor as extensive and as fertile as any in Minnesota. We believe Owatonna is destined, enjoying as it does excellent railway communication, situated in the midst of the most fertile country in the world, and containing only one weekly newspaper and more than 3,500 inhabitants, to offer an excellent opportunity for the establishment of a lively journal."

MARKET REPORT, SEPTEMBER 9, 1874.

Wheat.....	per bu.	\$0 75
Oats.....	"	40
Corn in ear.....	"	50
Potatoes.....	"	50
Onions.....	"	75
Tomatoes.....	"	1.00
Beef Steak.....	per lb.	10 to 12
Pork.....	"	10
Mutton Chops.....	"	12
Butter.....	"	20 to 30
Chickens.....	each	25
Eggs.....	per doz.	12

"The names of the teachers in the public schools of Owatonna are as follows: Superintendent, C. W. Hall; high school, Miss Henrietta Fellows; teachers, Miss A. M. Hathaway, A. A. Crandall, Miss M. E. Bear, Miss L. Prindle, Julia A. Clark, Ida G. Warren, Mary E. Blood and Mary E. Mellen."—*People's Press, September 9, 1874.*

"Never in the history of Steele County have our farmers been so far advanced at the season of their plowing as now."—*Press, October 14, 1874.*

In October Eric Ericson was found dead about four miles south of Owatonna. He had left town at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon for home. The wagon-box was found upset and he lying dead on his face. It was supposed his cattle (he was driving oxen) had run away with him.

October 30, a fireman named Martin Upper fell from the engine on a Winona & St. Peter Railroad express train into a bridge about one mile west of Owatonna. Having been missed, the train was stopped and he was found hanging on to the bridge ties. He was terribly bruised, but recovered.

The issue of the *People's Press*, November 4, contains the following "Lost Notice": "Lost — A pocket-book containing a one-cent stamp. Value of the pocket-book, five cents. Anyone returning the same will be suitably rewarded.—*Fred Woodward.*"

In December, 1874, the freight rates from Chicago to Owatonna, per hundred pounds, were as follows: 1st class, \$1.10; 2d class, \$1.00; 3d class, 75c.; 4th class, 55c.

During the latter part of 1874 and the year 1875, the citizens were treated to an old-fashioned newspaper war. The writers on both sides were able men, and they cut and slashed with their pens, shedding oceans of ink. A few samples of the courtesies exchanged are here given for the amusement of the reader:

The *Journal* of January 13, remarked: "The Bridge street sheet is the *Despatch*, and nothing else. To be sure, one side is dated here and besmeared with blackness, but it is of no interest to anybody, and is a disgrace to a city like this."

On January 20 the *People's Press* retorts: "The fact is, the *Press* gives eight columns more reading matter, weekly, than the *Snorter*, and as the *Snorter* has had a monopoly of the printing, and oppressed and slandered the people for so long, it thinks it has a perfect right to do it. Besides, it has two pages, at least, which the people can read with no difficulty, which is better than to have four pages, as the *Snorter* has, that look like a hog which has just crawled out of a mud puddle."

In another column one of the papers state that they are in one respect like

"The mule that stood on the steamboat deck,
The land he would not tread,

When a very small man, exceedingly frail,
Attempted to give it a gentle twist of the tail,
When, to the bystanders' very great amaze,
He flew, as a hurricane, before their gaze,
Into the foamy waves."

1875.

Late in February, the schoolhouse in district No. 51, Summit Township, was burned to the ground. In speaking of the matter, one of the local papers stated "that the ashes of an armful of burned hay was found among the debris, and it is supposed to have been set afire. An unsuccessful attempt was made some time ago to divide the district, and it is supposed some of the unsuccessful ones took this manner of revenge." A number of school books and the school furniture were destroyed. No insurance.

In the issue of the *Press*, March 17, there appeared the following article: "I came to Owatonna a few days ago on business, and was obliged to stay a day or two on account of the irregularity of the trains. At the station I met a pretended friend, who robbed me of a part of the contents of my pocket-book. In the evening I was met by an officer and ill-used and joked about having a place to keep me securely all night. I give said officer notice that the next time he will know what he meets me for.—T. FARLEY, of Milwaukee."

Early in the spring of 1875, it was discovered that the springs northeast of Owatonna possessed medicinal qualities, and a reporter for the *Chicago Times* visited them for investigation, and news matter. Shortly afterward an article headed "A New Saratoga" appeared in that journal as follows:

"For the benefit of such of our readers as are not yet acquainted with the geography of Minnesota, I will premise my remarks by stating that Owatonna is a thriving town of about 3,000 inhabitants, the county seat of Steele County, situated on the east bank of the Straight River, at the crossing of the Winona & St. Peter, and the Iowa & Minnesota division of the Milwaukee & St. Paul

railroads, seventy miles south of St. Paul and ninety-one west of Winona. Happening to be detained here, I found the citizens greatly excited by the recent discovery of several mineral springs in a fine natural grove near the town. Having received an invitation from Gen. Beers, the discoverer of the springs, to visit the future Saratoga of the West, I started, in company with him and two other prominent citizens behind a fine team, and thoroughly enjoyed the ride of little more than a mile, in such an atmosphere as Minnesota alone can boast, a faultless blue sky and brilliant sunshine which made the particles of fine snow thrown up by our horses' heels glitter like diamonds. On reaching the grove in which the springs are situated, a winding track of about a quarter of a mile brought us to the first spring, which bubbled clear as crystal from the bank above a little creek formed by the overflow of this and other neighboring spring. I was struck at the first glance by the rust-like coating of the pebbles and twigs over which its water flowed, indicating the presence of iron in considerable quantities, while bubbles of carbonic acid gas, rushing continually to the surface, converted the little basin formed by the spring into a natural soda fountain. On tasting of the water I found it rather pleasant than otherwise to the palate, and although the flavor of iron was very predominant, it lacked the abominable combination of horrors inherent in some mineral springs, which renders it necessary to acquire a taste for them before it is possible to swallow even a single glass of the water without experiencing an inward qualm. This, on the contrary, was piquant and refreshing. I was informed by a farmer living in the neighborhood that he had used the water for some time, both for drinking and culinary purposes, and that both himself and wife had derived great benefit from it. It has also been used by several citizens of Owatonna who have been troubled by dyspepsia and kidney complaint, all of whom

testify to a rapid improvement in their systems. There are, within the space of three or four acres, some seven or eight springs, all somewhat similar in character, except that some of them appear to have rather stronger alkaline properties than others, and one is so strongly impregnated with sulphur that it is apparent, not only to the taste, but to the olfactory organs at several feet distant. The waters have not yet been submitted to chemical analysis, but that will be done shortly, and the mineral properties fully ascertained. Whether they fully justified the anticipations formed of their healing qualities or not, the visiting pleasure seeker or invalid will be amply rewarded for the fatigue of a journey by the beauty of the surroundings. The springs are situated in an amphitheater, shut in by surrounding hills, the surface of which is broken by ravines running in every direction.

A short time after the publication of the above, a mineral spring company was organized at Owatonna, for the purpose of improving the "plant," with a capital of \$10,000. They secured qualitative analysis of the water from Prof. Shapers, State Assayer and Chemist of Massachusetts. He pronounced it as closely resembling the Bethesda spring, at Waukesha, Wis., and found it to contain bicarbonates of lime and magnesia, sulphate of lime, chlorides of soda, potassa, silica, alumina, and carbonates of iron. In April, 1875, Prof. Bodie, of Milwaukee, pronounced the water of the springs superior to the famous Bethesda spring of Wisconsin.

At about this time the grasshoppers were devastating the western part of the State, although Steele County had so far been free from trouble on that score. The *Press*, however, on March 31, 1875, contained the following item: "Considerable curiosity, if not a little excitement, was caused yesterday by a man from Crane Creek, bringing in a lot of young grasshoppers, supposed to be the species that have been devastating the frontier. But persons who saw those on the

frontier readily distinguished them from these. So our citizens need not be at all alarmed."

On the 5th of May the cooper shop belonging to J. D. Holden, in Owatonna, was burned to the ground. Total loss, \$1,500; insurance, \$500.

On Sunday, May 30, 1875, a sad accident occurred a few miles south of Owatonna, on Straight River, by which John Windro, of Somerset Township, lost his life. It seems that a Bohemian, named Antone Slazek, started out hunting and went to the house of the deceased, who was of the same nationality. After fooling with the gun in the house for some time, he placed a cap upon it and pointed the muzzle toward Windro, saying: "I will shoot you." Windro dodged, and in taking down the gun it was accidentally discharged, killing Windro almost instantly. Slazek was arrested by Sheriff Toher, but the grand jury, after examining the facts and evidence bearing on the case, decided that the shooting was accidental and the prisoner was discharged.

As to the truth of the following account of a matrimonial purchase, the historian is unable to vouch. The article was clipped from the *Austin Register*, of 1875. It is as follows: "Two Norwegians living at Norwegian Lake, near the line of Steele and Freeborn Counties, became enamored of the same lady, and each had urged his suit with respective fervency. One of the suitors lived in Steele and the other in Freeborn County. The lady had no especial choice, the suitor to visit her last always thought he got the best of it, as he always thought she would never 'go back' on him. So to designate these lovers we will call them Steele and Freeborn. As Steele lived the farthest away from his affectionate Dulcinea, Freeborn rather had the inside track, and he accordingly took the girl home with him for a visit. The old gentleman was rather favorable toward Steele, and thought Freeborn ought to have a little more respect for

the feelings of Steele, so he dropped a letter to Steele, informing him how things were going on, and told him he thought it would be necessary for him to make a pilgrimage that way soon in order to keep up with his rival, who was making sad havoc with the affections of his intended. Steele was a big-fisted fellow, and when he received that letter he couldn't contain himself, and accordingly started down to see about it. Freeborn, hearing of his coming, called in his friends and stationed a guard around his cabin, and swore by all above the sea and under the earth he would wade in blood to his knees but what he would have the girl. Steele went to the cabin of Freeborn under a flag of truce, and there met his green-eyed rival face to face, and but for the friends of both parties, would have clawed each other beautifully. In order to 'compromise' matters, Steele offered to take \$100 for his interest in the girl, but Freeborn couldn't see it; then he offered to give \$100 to Freeborn, which was refused he raised the offer to \$125, then to \$150, and upon being again refused, took a friend aside for counsel, and it was finally agreed to offer \$160 for the girl and not another red. Freeborn said he would take it. Steele gave his note for the amount, and the father of the girl signed it. The young lady—the prize for which they were contending—stood by a silent listener, all this time ready to go with either party. She is about eighteen years of age, speaks English, and for the life of her can't tell which of these gentlemen she likes best. It is said that the old gent and Steele afterward repudiated the note, claiming they had not got value received. The parties were afterward married at the Norwegian Church, in Steele County."

The wet weather during the summer season of 1875 proved disastrous to crops in Steele as well as in the balance of the State.

On the 14th of November the old pioneer log residence of Elder Town was destroyed by fire; loss, \$500.

The *People's Press*, in its issue of Decem-

ber 22, 1875, contains the following, under the head of a "Row in Havana:" "John Johnson, a son of 'California' Johnson, of Havana, was married to a Miss Christopherson, on the 13th, at which time a gallon of alcohol was diluted, and after several of them had imbibed freely, old 'California' got on his ear, then took a gun down, and striking it on the floor, broke the stock, and it was then taken away from him and discharged. 'California' then followed Amon Christopherson out of the house, and without any cause or provocation, drew a knife and struck him in the cheek. The knife went through the cheek, struck and broke a piece out of a tooth, cut a gash across the tongue, and cut the opposite tooth badly. Johnson evidently intended to kill Christopherson by stabbing him in the neck, but missed his mark. A warrant was issued, but by the time the officer had reached Havana, Johnson had fled—it is thought to Colorado." Mr. Johnson afterward returned, reformed and became a respected citizen.

1876.

"The house of *Amus Krat*, on section 11, Aurora Township, neighbor of Cord King, was destroyed by fire a few days ago. The inhabitants narrowly escaped with their lives."—*People's Press*, Jan. 26, 1876.

The following sensational article appeared in the *People's Press*, in its issue of April 29, 1876. It appears in connection with the Aurora news, the correspondent signing himself "H.:" "In order to tell my story and that it may be understood, I must go back to 1856. Among the first settlers of Aurora was a man named Sargent, whose character was unspotted. He lost his wife, and lived until about four years ago, when he was taken sick, and though he had the best of care by kind friends, he died of old age. He was buried near A. B. Clark's. He had no relatives here and folks had about forgotten him, until last fall it was said he could be seen on certain nights in

the grove south of A. B. Clark's. I found out what kind of nights he was to be seen, and being something of a skeptic, I determined to see for myself. So, I started, one of those foggy nights, and had gotten about half way through the grove, and behold! there he stood, cane in hand. I was startled at first, but put on a bold face and advanced to meet him. Now, I had heard in my younger days that when the dead returned to earth they had something they wished to say, so I stepped up and said: 'Uncle Sargent, what shall I do to be saved?' He raised his cane and his face was illuminated with a heavenly smile, and he said: 'Vote the Democratic ticket!'—H."

In May, a band of four three-card-monte men, who had been operating in and about Owatonna, were captured. On the 17th of that month they had swindled J. Bower, of Brown County, out of \$42, and he had put the officers on their track. The marshal took after them and found two in the vicinity of the old Owatonna House. They ran down Bridge street, followed by a large crowd, to the river, jumped in and endeavored to cross, but the river was very high and they were caught by men in a boat. Two more were afterward caught and locked up. When arraigned they gave their names as G. H. Richardson *alias* Top Rogers, John Manning and Edward Burke. They were sentenced to jail for sixty days.

On February 20, 1876, the house of J. Clark, of Somerset Township, was totally destroyed by fire. It was occupied by Walter and William Kenyon. Loss, \$700.

In May, 1876, four head of cattle belonging to J. S. Bixby, of Aurora Township, were killed by lightning.

May 16, the stable and granary belonging to George Naylor, in Merton Township, were struck by lightning and burned, including contents, consisting of a span of horses, three cows, a calf, five hundred bushels of wheat and one hundred bushels of oats. When Mr. Naylor discovered the fire, he sent



W. H. Kingston

his little girl to a neighbor, Mr. Feastons', for help, but on arriving there a large dog, jumped upon her and bit and tore her in a dreadful manner. For several days the life of the little girl was despaired of, but she finally recovered.

June 20, Christian Schuelke, a German in the employ of H. D. Lewis, in the northern part of Meriden Township, was struck by lightning and instantly killed. He was thirty years old and left one child. On examination it was found that the lightning had struck him in the breast and passed through the body and out at the boots.

Early in July, Abidan Ressler, a boy of fourteen, was drowned in Straight River, at Clinton.

Tuesday morning, September 12, Mrs. John Bradshaw, living on the south line of the town of Owatonna, met with a serious accident. Her son had a large horse-pistol and pointed it at her; she thinking it was not loaded did not notice, when the boy somehow discharged the pistol and the contents struck along the left side of her neck and head. One shot pierced her left eye near the center, and another the corner of the right eye. Dr. Blood, was called, and after examination thought that she would lose the sight of her left eye. The wounds were very painful.

The *People's Press*, of September 30, contained the following in relation to grasshoppers: "Reports from the western part of the county are to the effect that grasshoppers are laying eggs, and that the eggs already laid are in good condition. Small numbers have already hatched, but not enough to amount to anything. They are mostly in the towns of Lemond and Berlin. We have them, and there is no use worrying about it; all we can do is to accept them, plow as usual this fall, plant next spring, and if the grasshoppers hatch in any great numbers, as they probably will, all that can be done is to fight them as potato bugs in former years. Every farmer in the county should

take precaution and not burn a load of straw, as the article can be made very useful in their destruction."

The following account of a sad accident appeared in the issue of the *People's Press*, dated October 14: "Last night Charles Dailey, while taking down his gun, by accident nearly fatally shot his sister Maggie. The gun was loaded, and as he took it down the hammer was pulled back, and falling on the cap discharged the load. The charge struck his sister Maggie (who was in range with the muzzle of the gun), between the neck and shoulder, passing obliquely downward, cutting out part of the collar bone. The main artery beneath the collar bone was untouched."

One of Blooming Prairie's earliest settlers, Thos. Bray, died November 6, 1876, aged fifty years. He had been a universally kind man, and was esteemed by all who knew him.

At the presidential election this year, there were 2,539 votes polled in Steele County, of which R. B. Hayes, Republican, received, 1,581; and Samuel J. Tilden, Democrat, 958.

1877.

Monday evening, January 9, the alarm of fire was sounded at Owatonna, and a crowd rushed to the Central Block, to find that the roof of the rear of Melvin & Fox's building was in flames. All the stores in the city being shut up at 8 o'clock, this was also closed, and no one there. The front door was soon forced open and the crowd took a lot of clothing out, but the fire being under the roof and under good headway when discovered, they were soon driven out. The building joining immediately on the west, occupied by Downie Bros., was also soon in flames, as the wind came from the southeast and blew the flames directly against it. When it was seen that this building must also burn, the crowd rushed in and carried out goods until kept out by the heat. The building occupied by Melvin & Fox was owned by the Hon. Lewis

L. Wheelock, and valued at \$1,000; insured for \$600. The building occupied by Downie Bros. was owned by E. Scannell, and was valued at \$1,400, and insured for \$800. Melvin & Fox had their stock insured for \$2,500. The stock of Downie Bros. was insured for \$3,000; loss, \$4,500.

"It is said that a pretty school ma'am, teaching in Steele County, to prevent scholars from being tardy, adopted the plan of kissing the first scholar who made his appearance at the schoolhouse. All went well for a few days, when the nineteen-year-old-boys, anxious to participate in this fun, actually got to roosting on the fence all night, in order to be at the school first in the morning."—*People's Press, January 27, 1877.*

Accident—Wednesday, February 21.—While down in a well, Mr. D. B. Potter met with an accident which came very nearly proving fatal. Over two hundred pounds of dirt and rock fell a distance of twenty feet, striking him on the shoulders and back. Good care brought him on the street again, though somewhat lame and sore.

Mrs. Mary H. McAndrews died at the residence of Henry McAndrews, in Merton Township, on March 24, aged seventy-six years. She was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1801.

Francis C. McAndrews died in Deer Lodge, Mont., January 25, 1877, of consumption. He was one of the old settlers of Steele County, having gone to Montana for his health.

The funeral of Mrs. Wm. Pepper, which took place Sunday, April 25, was very largely attended. The Odd Fellows of both lodges in Owatonna turned out and honored the memory of their dear, departed sister. The funeral services were held at the Universalist Church, which could not accommodate the people that attended. Mrs. Pepper was greatly beloved by all who knew her, and left a large circle of mourning friends.

"A Ghost Story.—One night as two men were returning to their homes in Aurora, in

a sleigh, having previously imbibed a little. The night was clear, and the sleighing all that could be desired. While driving along in good spirits, they were accosted by several figures, apparently human, dressed in white, who kept pace with the sleigh on either side of the road. The young men were somewhat alarmed. All the ghost and goblin stories which they had ever heard now danced before their minds. One of the figures made a motion as if wishing to speak. The young men, too terrified to disobey, stopped and listened, when in a deep-toned, unearthly voice, the phantom said: "GET YOUR CLOTHES MADE BY JOHN COTTIER."

Mrs. J. W. Morford died at Owatonna on the 14th of May, 1877. Mrs. Morford was born in Luzerne County, Pa., March 24, 1827. She was married October 9, 1849, to J. W. Morford, and in 1856 moved to this county with her husband, thus being among the earliest settlers. The following incident of her life in the pioneer times of this country will be read with interest, and give an idea of some of the trials endured: "Mr. Morford's claim was about three miles east of town. He lived on his claim, yet attended to his business in town, generally going home each night, when not detained too late by his business. Whenever he was detained in town, Mrs. Morford would spend the night at Mr. Odell's. On one of these occasions, in November, 1856, Mrs. Morford, having waited until somewhat late for his return, started for Mr. Odell's. After walking, as she thought, far enough to reach the house, she looked about her but could not see the shanty. After wandering about some time, she concluded she was lost. She did not despond, for she knew daylight would set her right, and, coming to a thicket, she wrapped her shawl around her and laid down to sleep. Next morning she awoke and started for home. Seeing a shanty she stopped to inquire her whereabouts. No one answering her knocks, she went in. Things looked strangely familiar to her, and

upon closer scrutiny found it was her own home. She had become so completely bewildered that she did not recognize it until she saw the familiar furniture.

Robert Adair, one of the earliest settlers in Havana Township, died June 7, of paralysis. He was seventy-one years of age.

The *Press*, in its issue of June 9, contains the following article in relation to the devastation of the grasshoppers :

"Last Saturday and Sunday the hoppers had hatched out so plentifully in the towns of Meriden, Lemond and Berlin, in this county, that the inhabitants lost no time in coming to town to secure tar and "dozers." Almost every farmer in the infested district had a machine and were successfully fighting them. But little damage has been done, and, by the use of dozers, the crops were kept in good condition."

A serious stabbing affray occurred in the town of Somerset on the 31st of June, in which W. R. Knickerbocker and a man named Barker were badly cut by Frank Herdina and several other Bohemians. As the matter was afterward carried into court, a full account of the fracas is given in Chapter XI.

The *Journal and Herald*, in speaking of the grasshoppers in August, said : "We expect we shall not chronicle the departure of the hoppers until winter. Almost every pleasant, warm day, when the wind is from the northwest, they can be seen in large numbers, going southeast. None alight, and none fly if the wind is from any other direction. Where they go is a mystery. It is reported that a swarm lit down in Oakland County, Mich., and another swarm in the northern part of New York and Vermont, in both places devouring everything."

On Thursday, September 27, a destructive fire occurred at Blooming Prairie. The losses were as follows : The elevator of Pratt & Robinson, \$3,500; insured for \$2,800. Wheat in the same, 2,800 bushels; 1,800 bushels belonging to farmers, of which Ole

Ille had 1,100 bushels, insured for full value. The warehouse of C. Whitton, valued at \$300, containing 600 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of oats and 800 bushels of barley.

In November Charles R. Pate, a traveling agent for the *Atlantic Weekly*, committed suicide at the Arnold House, Owatonna, by cutting his throat from ear to ear with a razor. Ill health was the cause assigned.

On the 5th of December, 1877, Benjamin Arnold, an old and respected citizen of Owatonna, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head. Four pistol balls had penetrated the brain. "Tired of living," was the cause assigned. He was one of the oldest settlers, having located in Steele County in 1855 with his wife, who died in 1876. The Arnold House was at one time his property and still bears his name.

On the 22d of January, Peter Ganser's brewery, at Owatonna, was burned to the ground. The loss was estimated at \$20,000, on which there was an insurance of \$6,000. It was supposed that the fire originated in the dry kiln.

January 28, another disastrous fire occurred in Owatonna, by which Julius F. Young's jewelry store was totally destroyed. But little of the stock was saved. On stock, furniture and building there was an insurance of \$7,000.

On the 12th of February, 1878, a serious shooting affray occurred at Owatonna, through which Thomas Langon lost his life. It seems that Langon, in company with several others, had been on a spree during the evening, and the city marshal, S. Stowers, attempted to arrest one of them, when Langon kicked the marshal in the face and chest, and ran. Stowers started in pursuit, and after ordering Langon to halt several times, fired three shots which took effect, and he died several days later. A coroner's jury was convened, composed of W. A. Dynes, Charles Schoen, George B. Hall, James Thompson, T. H. Kelly and H. Harts-horn, which rendered a verdict in accord-

ance with the above facts and exonerated Stowers.

On the 15th of February, Phocion Turtelot was murdered at Owatonna by Claud Van Alstyne, while they were engaged in getting out ice on the Straight River. Van Alstyne was tried, convicted and sentenced to State's prison for life. See Chapter XI.

A meeting of the old settlers of Steele County was held on the 13th of July, 1878, at Morehouse's opera hall, Owatonna, for the purpose of organizing an old settlers' association for Steele County. On motion of Dexter Smith, David Lindersmith was elected chairman, and J. W. Morford, secretary. It was resolved that the chairman appoint one or more from each township to draft a constitution and by-laws to govern the organization. After this, on motion of John Shea, the meeting was adjourned to September 14, but nothing further appears to have been done.

At about 4 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, September 10, a fire broke out in Paddock & Bickford's foundry at Owatonna, destroying the building and most of the contents. The stock and building were valued at \$3,200 and insured for \$600.

On Wednesday evening, September 11, Fred Anhalt, a German, in Meriden, committed suicide by shooting himself.

On Wednesday, September 18, a son of Mr. E. Norton disappeared. He was ultimately found drowned in about half a tub of water. The little fellow was supposed to have been leaning over the side, playing in the water, when, losing his balance, he fell in and it resulted fatally.

Meriden station, on Tuesday night, September 24, was the scene of a robbery. An unknown man entered the bar-room of R. G. Rosenau's saloon and called for a glass of beer, which was given him. At this time a masked man stepped in, supposed to be a confederate, holding out a large pistol, which he pointed directly at the bartender, and the two men soon transferred the contents of the

money drawer to their pockets and took to their heels.

On Wednesday morning, October 23, a shooting affray took place at the residence of Samuel Finley. It appears that E. A. Wilder, a son of Finley's wife by a former husband, entered the room of Mr. Finley, and, on being ordered out, pulled out a loaded pistol and discharged two shots at the old man, one grazing the top of his head, cutting a furrow an inch long, the other taking effect in his right cheekbone, and passing through his ear, causing a bad wound. He also discharged a third shot at John P. Finley, who came to the assistance of his grandfather and who lived with him. The young man was arrested. The *People's Press*, in speaking of the affair, said: "After getting sureties and having the appeal papers ready, in the case of E. A. Wilder, those in charge of the matter finally concluded to let him stay in jail six months rather than carry his case to the supreme court or pay his fine."

On Sunday, December 15, Willard Wheaton was killed. While driving along the mineral springs road where it passes under the railroad track, his horse became frightened, throwing him out upon his head on the frozen ground, so affecting his spinal cord as to paralyze his whole body, causing his death.

Crops were very poor in Steele County in the year 1878, therefore money was scarce in 1879.

In the fall of 1878 several highway robberies were committed in and about Owatonna, the victims being but little worse off, financially, yet put to considerable trouble in the way of holding up hands, etc. The robbers being too lazy to get into a man's wagon to search him, would make him get out, in this way saving their strength for future use should they be compelled to run. Some of the victims are mentioned as follows: Orrin Searle of \$4 cash, watch and gold chain; C. B. Wilkinson of \$5; Mr. McMillan of \$2.

Alois Rishavery was killed in Summit Township, Wednesday, December 5, while attempting to jump out of a wagon when the team was running away.

George Robinson, aged seventy-two years, died December 16, of cancer. He was a man highly esteemed by all who knew him, and his death caused a feeling of general sadness throughout the community.

Statistics of Steele County for the year ending December 31, 1878, show 405 births and 156 deaths, an increase of 249 over the previous year.

1879.

Dr. J. J. Aikin, of Owatonna, died January 4, 1879, of paralysis. Aged sixty-four years.

About two o'clock Sunday morning, January 17, a fire broke out in G. W. Chesley's art gallery, and in a few minutes the entire roof was in flames. The room underneath was then occupied by Skinner & Jewett, grocery and boot and shoe dealers, and in trying to remove the stock from the store about half a dozen men were caught by the burning ceiling falling in upon them. All escaped, however, but one had his hands badly crushed and burned. The building of Mr. Chesley was valued at \$4,000; insurance, \$2,200. The stock of Messrs. Skinner & Jewett was valued at about \$2,000; insured for \$1,500.

John Wamous, an aged Bohemian, met with a fatal accident Saturday, January 18, while going home with a load of bran from Owatonna. It is supposed that in going down the hill south of town, beyond the Catholic burying ground, he lost his balance and fell head-foremost from the load, killing him by dislocating his neck, and breaking in his skull.

Mr. John Barney died very suddenly of apoplexy Friday morning, January 31.

At 12:30 o'clock Sunday, February 8, a fire broke out in Hammond's building, on west side of North Cedar street, burning off the roof and the front of the upper story.

Total amount of insurance on building and stock was \$1,000; damage about \$800.

Sunday, February 16, 1879, a fire broke out in the rear of E. M. Morehouse's store building on Broadway, then occupied by a grocery firm—Sykora & Kaplan.

On Thursday morning, March 13, 1879, Mr. Henry Reans had his left arm broken while digging a well. It appears that a hard piece of blue clay cleaved loose about thirty feet above him, and in falling struck his arm, causing the fracture.

The house of J. C. Baekus, of Owatonna, was burned March 14, destroying nearly all the furniture. The building was valued at \$2,000, insured for \$1,500; also \$400 on furniture and \$100 on wearing apparel.

Died of pneumonia, March 24, Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Bixby, eldest daughter of John and Christina Eichler, aged thirty-three years, five months and twenty-seven days. The deceased was born at Lafayette, Onondaga County, N. Y., and came to Wisconsin with her parents in 1856. She experienced religion in her thirteenth year, being converted in a play-house where the school girls were accustomed to hold prayer-meetings. She afterward removed with her family to Freeborn County, Minn., in 1861. She was married to Mr. J. S. Bixby November 29, 1866.

H. Reidell died April 8, 1879, aged sixty-five years and twenty-seven days. Mr. Reidell was born in Vermont and came to this State in the fall of 1855. In 1875 he came to Owatonna, where he lived until the time of his death.

Saturday, April 5, Rev. Mr. Graves, Congregational minister at Medford, in stepping on the train while in motion, fell between the cars. One of his feet was run over and crushed so badly as to require immediate amputation.

Saturday, April 5, R. S. Hatley, of Havana, had the misfortune of having his house burned, saving nothing to speak of. The house was valued at \$500; no insurance.

April 13, 1879, Mr. Arad Jones, of Havana, died of consumption, aged seventy-four years. The deceased was a very old settler of Steele County and esteemed by all who knew him.

Saturday, April 30, S. G. Lund, lumber dealer in Owatonna, had his safe blown open and the few dollars in silver which it contained was taken. The burglars effected an entrance by the window on the northwest corner, and on leaving, left a sledge, a number of wedges, two bits and several cold chisels.

Mrs. Katie Siebold, wife of Mr. F. G. Siebold, died on the 9th of June, 1879, aged thirty-six years and nine months. She was universally beloved and respected.

Early in June Dellie Quiggle, a child of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. or L. J. Quiggle, of Owatonna, was drowned in Straight River.

On the 10th of June burglars effected an entrance into the residence of L. Bion, in Owatonna, and carried off \$180 worth of cash and jewelry. One of the burglars was afterward shot and killed, by an officer at Rochester, Minn. Part of the stolen goods were found on his person.

Samuel M. Finley died of old age at Owatonna on the 30th of May, 1879, aged eighty-eight years.

On Saturday, May 31, 1879, over \$6,600 of the taxes of 1878 were taken in at the court house.

In June a disastrous storm passed over the northeastern part of Steele County, doing considerable damage to buildings in Merton Township. Among those who suffered loss were: P. Malone, Edward Bartley, Mike and Mark Henry, P. J. Tuttle, John Lane, R. R. Stout, and Dexter Carlton.

A severe hail-storm passed over Steele County on the 2d of July. Especially did the farmers in Meriden Township suffer. Among others who lost heavily through destruction of grain were G. Mudeking, G. F. Albertus, Chris. Schulke, J. P. Jackson, John O. Wuamett, Darius Cook, William Presby,

Mr. Birkle, Archibald Warren, E. L. Scoville, P. Schuster, T. W. Irving, G. W. Buffum, C. H. Church, G. W. Knapp, and John Q. Ellis. It was stated that fully 10 per cent of the crops throughout the county was destroyed.

On July 4, 1879, the barn of Mr. Henry Moffatt, about two miles north of Owatonna, was destroyed by fire; loss, \$200.

On Tuesday evening, July 8, 1879, a terrible hail-storm passed through the township of Berlin, Steele County, cutting a swath over two miles wide, beginning at section 18 and ending on 36. The following are the names of the farmers whose crops were wholly destroyed: Lewis Burns, D. Gordon, Dwight Gordon, E. Kinney, P. Dunnigan, Thomas Brown, James McCormack, William Lonergan, John Lonergan, Thomas Lonergan, A. Anderson, J. Johnson, L. Peterson, H. Bradley, H. O. and Ole Thompson, Iver Oleson and John McGillicuddy. The following is a list of the farmers whose crops were partly destroyed: Thomas McCormack, A. Quitbar, P. McGillicuddy, M. McFarland, J. M. Sloan, J. Wolaski, H. G. Cusick, G. W. Giddings, Edward and Benjamin Wheeler, H. W. Rulliffson, J. Bohm, and B. Kingsley. The loss to the town of Berlin caused by this storm was estimated at \$20,000.

Joseph Hoffman, Sr., aged seventy years and five months, died in Owatonna July 28, 1879. Mr. Hoffman came to Steele County in 1858.

Mr. Daniel Gross, aged seventy-eight years, died October 18, of old age. Mr. Gross had been long and favorably known in the vicinity of Owatonna.

In Owatonna, on Thursday evening, October 30, 1879, Vinzenz Nowotne was robbed by John Stransky of \$8.45. Stransky was arrested.

Andrew Oppliger, of Owatonna, died at the residence of his son, J. A. Oppliger, on Thursday evening, November 6, of apoplexy, aged sixty-nine years.

In December, 1879, a board of trade was

organized in Owatonna. The following officers were elected: W. R. Kinyon, president; E. Donaldson, vice-president; A. Knobloch, second vice-president; W. A. Dynes, secretary; William Leary, treasurer; directors: John Shea, Charles Schoen, C. N. McLaughlin, M. A. Fredenburg, C. H. Randall, Edward Downie, E. Ray Fenno; committee on by-laws: E. Ray Fenno, H. H. Luers and F. T. Drebert.

A fatal accident.—On Friday, December 2, Joseph Ripkathen, a resident of Havana, was killed. While on his way to Owatonna his team became frightened, running on to some plowed ground, throwing him off the sleigh, fracturing his skull and killing him instantly.

Mrs. Jemima Hartle, of Havana, died December 12. She had been a resident of Steele County about nine years, and left a large circle of friends.

1880.

The United States census of this year gave Steele County a total population of 12,460. The number of American born residents of the county was 8,576 and foreign 3,884.

Steele County's total vote at the presidential election, held in November of this year, was 2,646, divided as follows: James A. Garfield, Republican, 1,642; W. S. Hancock, Democrat, 944; Neal Dow, Prohibition, 60.

Mary Jane Yust, aged thirty-three years, died in Deerfield Township, Sunday, January 18. She was the wife of C. Yust.

March 26, George Caward's barn at Owatonna burned with all its contents. One team valued at \$500, and three other horses were burned. Loss about \$2,000; no insurance.

John P. Johnson, of Owatonna Township, died of consumption, Wednesday, April 21. Mr. Johnson had always been a good citizen and had the highest respect of all who knew him.

The house of Henry Brasen, of Meriden, was burned May 29. The house was known

as the Farmers' Home. The building was valued at \$1,500, insured for \$800; furniture at \$500, insured for \$200.

On Thursday night, June 12, M. L. Deving, of Meriden, had his barn struck by lightning and burned to the ground. It was valued at \$1,000, and insured for \$500.

Joseph Chambers, of Owatonna, died September 10, aged sixty-one years, three months and ten days. Mr. Chambers was born in Argyle, Washington County, N. Y., and had come to Steele County in 1864. He was a man highly respected by all who knew him.

On Tuesday, October 13, a plank, to which was attached a pulley, hoisting a mortar cask, broke from its fastening on the top of Mr. Moore's brick block, then in course of construction, and fell, striking Hans Erickson on the head, crushing his skull, thus causing his death.

On Monday, November 1, five prisoners made their escape from the Steele County jail. They sawed themselves out of the iron cage, then pulled out one of the window casings, and dug enough brick out below to let themselves out. Sheriff Chambers immediately offered \$25 for their arrest.

1881.

On Friday, March 18, a fire broke out in John Lawler's house near the depot, destroying the house and contents. The occupants merely escaped with their lives. No insurance on building.

Died, on Thursday morning, March 26, Mrs. A. P. Riggs, aged forty-five years. The deceased was born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., November 7, 1836, and came to Owatonna in 1868, where she had lived until death.

Mrs. Hannah Moulton, aged eighty-six years and six months, died in Owatonna, April 27, having been an invalid for five years. She was born in New Bedford, Mass., in 1794.

Dr. Edward Wallace Johnson was born in

Vermont, on the 5th of May, 1813. He graduated at Willoughby Medical College, Ohio, and subsequently entered upon an extensive and lucrative practice, and was so successful in his chosen profession that he accumulated a handsome competency. In 1881 he retired from active practice and located in Owatonna, where he remained until the time of his death.

Hon. Francis Coggsell, father of Judge Amos Coggsell, died at Goodwin, D. T., October 22, 1881. He was born at Dover, N. H., April 6, 1790, being over ninety-one years old at the time of his death. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College, and was in the defense at Portsmouth in the War of 1812. After the war he studied law, was admitted, and practiced at the Merrimack County bar for thirty years, ranking high as an able advocate and criminal lawyer. He came west in 1868, and lived with his sons, Amos and G. W. Coggsell, both well known. His remains were brought from Dakota and placed for their last long rest beside those of his wife, in Aurora cemetery.

On the 29th of December, 1881, the residence of Mr. M. J. Mooney, in Merton Township, was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$800; insurance, \$500.

1882.

Mrs. John Cottier died at Owatonna, January 16, of heart disease. She was born in Mansfield, Cattaraugus County, N. Y., April 1, 1826, her maiden name being Anna Griffin. She married Mr. Cottier at Ellicottville in the same county, September 15, 1848, and they had seven children, all of whom were alive at the time of her death. She was beloved by all who knew her, for her many virtues.

John Q. Ellis died of cancer, February 3. He was born at Sumner, Me., November 13, 1824, and came to Sparta, Wis., in 1856, where he lived until coming to Steele County, in March, 1867. At the time of his death he was chairman of the board of

county commissioners, which position he had occupied for several years. He was a man of good abilities, careful, painstaking and efficient in all his official duties, and his death was mourned sincerely, by not only his family but a very large circle of intimate friends.

Early in February, 1882, the schoolhouse in District No. 13, Aurora Township — near Stapleton's — was burned to the ground.

On the 11th of March, 1882, the house of John Pavak, Jr., located a short distance southeast of Owatonna, took fire and burned to the ground. The family had difficulty in saving their lives. The building and furniture were a total loss. The value of building and furniture was about \$1,000; insured for \$400.

In February, 1882, a stock company was organized at Owatonna for the purpose of establishing a tow and twine factory. The following parties were first to subscribe stock: B. S. Cook, Neal Graham, W. R. Kinyon, A. Reynolds, L. L. Bennett, M. J. Toher, W. A. Dynes, J. E. Buxton, Wheelock & Sperry, A. C. Hickman, N. C. Larson and B. E. Darby. The organization of the company was effected on the 11th of March, 1882, when \$20,000 of stock had been subscribed. The name adopted was the "Owatonna Twine and Oil Company." The following gentlemen were duly elected directors for the ensuing year: W. R. Kinyon, L. L. Bennett, B. S. Cook, L. Lord and W. A. Dynes. A. Reynolds was engaged as superintendent, at \$1,200 per year. Quite an active effort was made to secure the coöperation of the farmers, but it was unsuccessful. In April, of the same year, a meeting of the stockholders was held, at which the directors made a full report, in which they stated: "We have earnestly and faithfully tried to induce our farmers to sow sufficient flax to warrant us in the erection of buildings, purchase of machinery, etc., in order to commence the manufacturing of twine this season, but find it impossi-

ble to do so. In view of this state of facts we do not feel warranted in making the necessary expenditure this season. We can suspend further operations for the present, dispose of flax seed on hand at a trifling expense to the stockholders, continue our organization and be fully prepared to resume operations next year, provided we can get the flax grown. We therefore respectfully recommend and advise that further operations be suspended for the present; that the secretary and treasurer be instructed to dispose of the seed, etc., belonging to the company, pay all obligations and return pro rata to the stockholders the balance of the money that has been paid in. Our largest stockholder and superintendent, Mr. A. Reynolds, advises this course, and has cancelled his engagement with the company, which was made for one year at a salary of \$1,200 per year." This report is signed by "W. R. Kinyon, L. L. Bennett, B. S. Cook, Lewis Lord and W. A. Dynes, directors." It was further explained that they had only been able to make contracts with farmers for raising thirty-five acres of flax, and that the mill would require at least eight hundred acres. They had conditional promises of farmers to sow 109 acres more.

On Tuesday morning, April 3, 1882, the graded school-building at Owatonna was totally destroyed by fire, together with all furniture and contents. The building was insured for \$5,000.

Late in March, 1882, Mrs. Raedel, a resident of Deerfield Township, committed suicide by hanging. She had been sick nearly all winter and her mind was partially deranged, so that it was necessary to keep the house locked, for fear she would run off in the night and freeze to death. She was fifty years old.

R. B. Newhall died of consumption, March 31, 1882. He had contracted rheumatism in the army, and it affected him until the time of his death. He was fifty-nine years old.

Mrs. W. H. Holden died of heart disease in

Owatonna on April 9, 1882, aged thirty years.

April 15, 1882, a fire occurred in Lemond Township, which destroyed the dwelling-house owned by H. E. Johnson, which was occupied by Mrs. Rease.

Mrs. Eliza S. Burns, an early pioneer, died at Somerset, on Thursday, April 23, 1882. Mrs. Burns was born in Stephentown, Mass., January 7, 1817, and was married to William Burns in Italy, Yates County, N. Y., March 23, 1840. They came to Minnesota in 1856 and settled in what is now Havana Township, being among the very first settlers. She was a generous, kind-hearted lady, a characteristic pioneer, and beloved by all who knew her.

On the 18th of April, W. S. Melvin, a former prominent resident of Owatonna, met with an accident at Brookings, D. T., which resulted in his death. It appears that he had started to cross a railway track obliquely, when an engine—coming swiftly from the direction toward which his back was turned—struck him. He was thrown half as high as the locomotive smoke-stack and fell on the side of the engine, rolling off on the ground seventy feet from where he was struck. After the accident he lay in an unconscious condition for thirty-six hours, when he died. The remains were brought back to Owatonna and buried, with Masonic honors. At the time of his death he was thirty-five years old, having been born in Hallowell, Me., in 1846.

Cornelius Moran died of cancer at his home in Lemond Township, on April 27, 1882, aged fifty-nine years. He was a man respected by all who knew him, and a valuable citizen. He came from New York State to Wisconsin at an early day, and in 1857 moved to Steele County, Minn., settling first in Meriden Township, but later moved to Lemond, where he lived until his death.

Dr. Thomas Kenyon died at his residence in Somerset on the 17th of April, 1882, aged sixty-nine years. He was an old set-

tlar and for many years had taken a prominent part in all public and political matters.

John M. Sloan died at his home in Berlin Township, on the 30th of April, 1882, aged fifty-eight years and eight months. He was a man of many friends and stood high as a neighbor and a friend.

August Sayler died on the 16th of May, aged sixty-four years, universally respected, a hard-working man and a good citizen.

June 3, 1882, a fire occurred in Merton Township, by which James Clark lost a barn and granary, together with several hundred bushels of wheat and oats, several tons of hay, two sets of harness, and other farming tools. Loss about \$700, about half of the amount being covered by insurance.

A few days later, the house of M. J. Toher, on his farm three miles south of Owatonna, was burned. Loss, \$400; no insurance.

William Shea died at the home of his son, P. Shea, in Berlin Township, on June 12, 1882, of old age. He was born at Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland, in 1775, making him one hundred and seven years old. At the time of his death he was beyond doubt the oldest man west of the Mississippi, and possibly in the United States. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Steele County, having been a resident of Berlin Township for twenty-seven years. He was a good citizen and highly respected by all who knew him.

Mrs. Dolly Kinyon died of old age at the residence of her son, C. J. Kinyon, on the 17th of June, 1882. She was seventy-two years of age.

Herschel Tiffany, aged seven years, a son of Oscar Tiffany, was drowned in the Straight River on June 15, 1882.

On the 23d of June, 1882, a sad accident occurred on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway in Aurora Township. A stone culvert had been washed out, and the engine, tender and three cars containing stock, emigrant movables, baled hay and grain,

were piled in a heap. Mr. Musser, the engineer, was instantly killed, having got his legs jammed between the engine and the tender, and Dr. Hawkins, of Blooming Prairie, was obliged to cut off his feet, between the ankle and knee, before he could be taken out. Seventy head of cattle and forty hogs were killed.

On the 1st of October, 1882, the county jail at Owatonna was broken open and four prisoners escaped. They were all (except one crazy man) in one cell, and succeeded in sawing or cutting a hole in the iron cage, through which they crawled, and soon dug a hole through the brick wall and disappeared. They were all from Dodge County. Three of them were awaiting trial for having robbed a man on a train near Dodge Center, and, after robbing him, threw him out of a box car. The names of the parties who escaped were David Collins, *alias* James Prescott, Thomas Barrett, Michael Smith and John Snyder.

Byron C. Holmes died at his home in Owatonna Township, November 25, 1882, aged thirty-two years. He was a well-to-do farmer, respected by all. He left a wife and four children.

1883.

Henry Borchert died at Owatonna on January 3, 1883. He had for several years previous to his death been living on the Clark farm, in Aurora Township, where he had been chairman of the township board and had taken a prominent part in local matters. He was among the early settlers of the county, having settled here with his father in 1858. He was forty-four years old at the time of his death.

David Wells died at Owatonna on the same day, aged nearly fifty-five years. He was a man universally respected.

Robert Crosby, one of the substantial farmers of Meriden Township, died at his residence on the 8th of February, aged seventy-three years and ten months. He had been a

great sufferer for ten months previous to his death from a cancer to which he finally succumbed.

Philip Jacob Junker died on the 2d of March, of inflammation of the lungs. He was born February 9, 1833, in Eisighofen, District Nastetlen, Prussia. He came to America when nineteen years of age, and came to Minnesota from Wisconsin in May, 1867. At the time of his death he was the president of the Deerfield Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and was universally esteemed by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He was buried with Masonic honors.

A disastrous storm swept over Steele County on Saturday morning, July 21, 1883, the damage resulting from which was estimated at \$20,000, although no lives were lost. The morning was sultry and very oppressive; an easterly storm set in and everybody expected a rainy time. At about 11 o'clock the heavens north and west grew ominously dark, and shortly afterward the storm burst upon the city. Trees were bent almost double and broken off like pipe stems. The elevator and roundhouse on the C., M. & St. P. railroad were partially unroofed. A. Simpson's wind flouring-mill was ground to kindling wood. A large new building, size 72x140, on the State Fair grounds, was flattened to the ground, and the grand amphitheater was blown down and broken up badly. The damage to the State fair grounds was fully \$2,000; on Simpson's flouring-mill, about \$6,000. The old Turtelott ice house was blown down and Potter's stock barn was unroofed. The north end of the Main street Methodist Episcopal Church was moved east four inches. Probably, two hundred chimneys in various parts of the city were demolished. The porches on the west side of the Nickerson House were badly wrecked, and the roof of the upper one carried off. At Meriden Station the German Methodist Episcopal Church was blown down, a part of the steam flouring-mill unroofed and

the depot moved half a foot. The house and barn of William Abbe were blown down, loss about \$2,000. Frank Chambers' barn in Havana blew down, killing four of the five horses it contained. William Gowdie's new barn was blown down. The east end of George Chambers' barn was unroofed. Byron Holmes' barn, about three miles southeast of town, was demolished. T. H. Frazer's granary was destroyed. Levi Morehouse's barn was partially unroofed and Thomas Irving's barn blown down. Besides these were many smaller losses scattered over the north half of the county. But the most serious calamity was the effect of the storm upon the passenger train on the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, then due at Owatonna at 11:48. Whilst nearing town at full speed, the coaches were caught in the clutches of the wind and whirled almost over and over. The baggage car turned a double somerset and landed right side up. The rear car was well filled with passengers and was hurled over and dashed against a stout wire post-fence. It is almost miraculous that none were killed, although quite a number sustained severe injuries.

On the 30th of July, Frederick Runge, of Havana, was run over by his heavy lumber wagon, on which there was a load of lumber, and soon died from the effects of his injuries. It appears that he had got off the load to fix something when the team made a sudden start, throwing him down, and the wheels passed over his body.

People's Press, August 17, 1883: "Steele County never had better harvest weather than the past week afforded. The crops are remarkably fine and the farmers are jubilant."

Mrs. Harriet Knowlton, wife of C. R. Knowlton, died of paralysis at their home in Lemond Township, September 1. She was fifty-seven years of age."

On Sunday, the 8th of September, 1883, the house of Mrs. Smith, in Owatonna, was entered by burglars, and the inmates robbed of about \$150 in cash and jewelry. No clues

The death of Cyrus J. Reynolds occurred on the 29th of September. He was born in Madrid, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., March 15, 1830. He removed to Minnesota in 1862 and from that time until his death he spent most of the time in Owatonna. He was widely and favorably known as a man of integrity and an upright citizen.

G. G. Opplinger died at his residence in Owatonna on Wednesday, October 10. He was a man whom all respected, a careful business man, and his death was a loss to the community.

On the 22d of September, 1883, the Bryant house, about three miles southwest of Owatonna, was destroyed, together with all its contents, by fire; insurance, \$600.

It was stated on good authority that the average yield of the southern half of Steele County in 1883 was: Wheat, sixteen bushels per acre; oats, fifty-five to sixty.

William Goudie, of Havana, died on the 20th of October. He was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, August 12, 1824. When seventeen years old, he commenced his apprenticeship at the carpenter and joiner trade. At twenty-two he married, and five years later, in 1851, he removed to America, locating at Waukesha, Wis., where he remained eight years, then removing to Vernon, in the same State. In 1864 he came to Minnesota, locating in the township where he died.

William Jones, a highly respected resident of Havana Township, died on the 23d of October, 1883, of consumption.

Matthew P. Hough died October 23, 1883. He was born in New York State in 1795, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was the father of B. S. Hough.

The blacksmith shop and residence of F. A. Stebbins, at Meriden, were entirely destroyed by fire on the 23d of October. Loss, about \$1,000; insurance, \$550.

Robert C. McClintock died at Owatonna on the 4th of November, 1883, aged fifty-six years.

MARKET REPORT, NOVEMBER 1, 1883.

Wheat, No. 2.....	\$0 80
Wheat, No. 3.....	75
Oats.....	25 to 30
Corn.....	50 to 65
Barley.....	50
Potatoes.....	20 to 25
Beaus.....	2 50
Butter.....	20
Cheese.....	14
Eggs per doz.....	20
Hogs, dressed, per hundred.....	4 50 to 5 00
Hogs, live, per hundred.....	2 50 to 3 00
Wood, dry, soft, per cord.....	3 50
Wood, dry, hard, per cord.....	5 00 to 5 50
Wood, green, soft, per cord.....	3 50
Wood, green, hard, per cord.....	4 00
Cattle on foot, per hundred.....	2 50 to 3 00
Hay, per ton.....	5 00
Flour, straight, per hundred.....	3 00
Flour, patent, per hundred.....	3 50
Wool, unwashed.....	18
Wool, fleece washed.....	24
Wool, tub washed.....	27

A serious accident occurred early in December, at Owatonna, by which Fred. L. Burdick nearly lost his life. A runaway team was the cause.

December 19 Charles Early's house, just north of Owatonna, was burned to the ground.

A destructive fire occurred at Medford on the 20th of December, 1883, destroying five stores and a doctor's office. The losses were as follows: Capt. Heath, building and pool table; loss, \$1,000; G. H. Butler, stock, loss, \$550; insurance, \$400; A. P. Bryant, drug store, loss, \$800; insurance, \$600; J. F. Curtis, drug store, loss, \$1,500; insurance, \$1,000; O. Lee's meat market, barber shop, doctor's office, store and hall, loss, \$2,800; insurance, \$1,350. John Bailey's loss was about \$1,000 on store. This was the only fire that had occurred at Medford for over twenty years, except the burning of the flouring-mill.

1884.

January 5, 1884, Dr. Morehouse's building at Owatonna, occupied by Bennett's butter depot, was destroyed by fire. Loss about \$900.

On the 18th of the same month another fire occurred at Owatonna, which destroyed several buildings. The losses were as follows: P. Mallinger, saloon, residence, stock, etc., loss \$2,000; insurance, \$800. Ole Hanson, owner of what was known as the Thompson building, loss \$1,000; insurance, \$700; James Thompson, loss on stock \$500; insurance, \$1,100, loss on household goods, \$100.

Elisha Smith died of consumption at Blooming Prairie, January, 25, 1884. He was born in Vermont in 1809. He settled in Bloomington, Minn., in May, 1855, and in 1870 settled at Blooming Prairie.

John Warren died at Owatonna in February, 1884, of pneumonia.

On Saturday, February 16, 1884, William Davis died of cancer. He came to this county many years ago and was one of the pioneers in Meriden Township, where he had lived for some twenty-five years. In 1882 he sold the old homestead and moved into Lemond Township, where he died.

Patrick Collins, another of the pioneers of Meriden Township, died February 5, 1884.

Nathan Sage died at the residence of his son-in-law, Alanson Holmes, in the town of Meriden, February 23, 1884. Mr. Sage was born in New Berlin, Chenango County, N. Y., October 11, 1800. He had been a resident of Steele County for about ten years, at the time of his death, and was well and favorably known.

A fatal accident occurred on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad on March 7, 1884, at Owatonna. A brakeman named Elmer Tooke fell under the wheels of a car he was coupling and was horribly mangled. His left leg and arm were so badly crushed that the bones were broken into short pieces. He was taken to the Nickerson House, where he died the following morning. He was twenty-three years old, and his relatives lived at Zumbrota, Minn.

Ambrose Benjamin Tiffany died of old age at the residence of his son, Oscar Tiffany, in Owatonna, March 31, 1884. He was

born in Massachusetts, January 31, 1811. He moved with his parents to Cicero, N. Y., where he lived thirty-four years, removing to Wisconsin at an early day. He came from Wisconsin to Rice Lake, Minn., in 1855, where he kept hotel for a number of years and prospered. He was one of the first settlers there, and on his arrival found about three hundred Indians camped on its shore.

April 2, 1884, burglars effected an entrance into the residence of P. Mallinger, at Owatonna, and stole \$68 in money. Several other houses were broken into the same night.

Thomas Foster died at his residence in Medford, on the 7th of April, 1884, aged sixty-eight years. He was one of the early settlers in that neighborhood, a good citizen and respected by all.

J. H. McDaniels died on the 2d of April, 1884, at his home in Blooming Prairie Township, of paralysis. He was about sixty years old.

Dr. R. W. Middaugh died among his relatives at Waupun, Wis., May 9, at the ripe old age of seventy-eight years. He was well known in Steele County.

On the 3d of June, the dwelling house of William Siewert, in Deerfield Township, was destroyed by fire. He had a light insurance upon the property.

Napoleon Searl died at his residence in Owatonna, June 10, 1884. He was born at Whitehall, N. Y., June 8, 1823, and lived in New York State until 1860, when he removed from Cattaraugus County, N. Y., to Owatonna. He was buried with Odd Fellows' honors.

August Mollenhauer died at his home in Somerset Township on the 21st of June, 1884, aged sixty-two years.

On the 28th of July, 1884, Ganser's brewery at Owatonna was destroyed by fire. The loss was estimated at between \$15,000 and \$16,000; insurance, \$7,000.

September 3, 1884, Cornelius Hanson was killed by lightning while plowing in Lemond

Township. The team was killed and the man's clothing was almost entirely burned off his back. Three stacks of grain which stood near by, were also struck and burned to the ground.

On Friday night, September 12, 1884, at Owatonna, James Jacobs struck Policeman, John Blair with a club, from the effects of which he died the following day. Jacobs was tried, convicted and sentenced to four years in the penitentiary. (See chapter XI.)

Rev. T. Ware died at his residence in Owatonna on the 16th of September, 1884, of inflammation of the lungs. He was fifty-eight years old, and had been a resident of Minnesota since 1861.

Martin L. Blair died at his residence in Owatonna, October 9, 1884. He was born in Massachusetts, February 11, 1804. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and was buried by them.

Rev. N. Olson, pastor of the Norwegian Church in Owatonna, died October 15, 1884. He was seventy years of age.

A fatal accident occurred on the 13th of November, 1884. Chris. Behne, of Aurora, was run over and fatally injured, dying from the effects a few days later. It appears that Mr. Behne had been plowing and, having attached his team to the lumber wagon, started home for dinner, when his team, becoming frightened, ran away, throwing him off, and the wheels passed over his body with the above result.

George Hart died at the residence of his son, William Hart, in Havana Township, on the 18th of December, 1884. He was eighty-seven years old. Mr. Hart was born in Queen's County, Ireland. He had been a resident of Steele County for almost eighteen years.

December 21, 1884, Gilbert H. Russell died at his home, in Lemond Township, after a painful illness. He was fifty years of age.

In November of this year, another presidential election occurred; 2,328 votes were

polled in Steele County, as follows: James G. Blaine, Republican, received 1,273; Grover Cleveland, Democrat, 1,006; J. P. St. John, Prohibition, 49.

1885.

H. J. Robinson died at his home in Owatonna, January 4, aged forty-one years. He had lived in Lemond Township until about one year before his death. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In January, the cheese factory at Dodge City, Steele County, was destroyed by fire.

On the 25th of the same month the farmhouse of C. F. Ellis, in Aurora Township, was destroyed by fire. Neils Ray and family, who occupied the house, narrowly escaped with their lives, and Mr. Ray was seriously burned.

S. E. Preiser, of the firm of Oppliger & Preiser, died of typhoid fever at Owatonna, January 30. He was born in Germany, January 1, 1859; was liberally educated, a fine accountant, and a good business man.

On the 11th of February, a fatal accident occurred at Owatonna. John Labare was caught by his left arm on a belt which was revolving on a horizontal shaft in the machine shop of Howe & Co., and received injuries from which he died in about one hour.

George Parsons died in Clinton Township, February 14, 1885, aged seventy-nine years. He was one of the pioneers of the county.

Samuel M. Ring died in Medford, Minn., February 18, 1885. He was born in Salisbury, Mass., February 28, 1806. In 1831 he married Lois W. Pike, who with four sons and three daughters were alive at the time of his death—one son and one daughter being dead. About the year 1845, Mr. Ring removed with his family to Chelsea, Me., where he resided until 1856, when he came to Medford, and made a home upon the farm where he died.

J. S. Hamblin, of Havana Township, died on the 11th of March, 1885, of heart disease. Mr. Hamblin was born in Addison County, Vt., and was sixty-eight years old at the time

of his death. He had been a resident of Steele County for about seventeen years.

On the 13th of May, 1885, a terrible calamity befell Henry Lewison, who then lived one mile north of Aurora station. His house was burned down about midnight and the following children were burned to death: Hans, aged seventeen years; Lewis, aged fifteen; Barbara, aged nine; Berent, aged seven, and Samuel, aged four. It appears that they were all sleeping up stairs, and hearing a noise and crackling of flames below, Mr. Lewison and wife, hired man and the boy aged ten years went down carrying the baby. Mrs. Lewison was burned on the face and hands, but not seriously. When they got down they found the kitchen part entirely burned down, and the stairs by which they escaped were immediately enveloped in flames. Their household goods were all burned. There was no insurance on the property.

On the 9th of June, 1885, Mrs. J. J. Guthrie, wife of the station agent at Aurora, gave birth to three living children — all girls. The first child weighed $7\frac{3}{4}$ pounds, the other two each $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds respectively, their aggregate weight being $22\frac{3}{4}$ pounds. Prior to their birth Mrs. Guthrie weighed 155 pounds, after their birth 95 pounds. Immediately after the birth of the last child the mother went into a condition of profound collapse, from the sudden removal of so great a bulk from the abdomen and consequent diminution in the blood pressure. This tendency to collapse continued for fourteen hours, and it was only by constant and continued attention that death was averted. At the present time these three little girls are all in a thriving condition. Their respective names are Mary Regina, Catherine Derina and Winnefred Lavina Guthrie. Dr. T. L. Hatch, of Owatonna, was the attending physician. He also attended Mrs. Wenzel Boucker, at Blooming Prairie, on the 20th of October, 1878, when she gave birth to three boys, weighing about three pounds apiece.

On the 4th of July, 1885, three boys were drowned in the Straight River at Owatonna. The boys' names were: Milton Rhodes, adopted son of Lysander House; Albert Lutigens, son of Henry Lutgens, of Meriden, and Edward Erickson.

Early in July, 1885, John Statler, a twelve-year-old son of Nicholas Statler, of Deerfield, was killed by lightning.

R. A. Stoughton died of consumption at his home in Owatonna, September 19, 1885. His death was mourned by a large circle, and the community lost an upright and honorable citizen.

On the 1st of October, 1885, an accident occurred about a mile northeast of Owatonna, by which John Larson lost his life. He fell from a wagon and received injuries from which he died.

S. M. Hastings died of old age at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. S. H. Stowers, on the 17th of October, 1885. He had been in feeble health for several years.

John Fritze, of Havana Township, died on the 25th of October, 1885, of heart disease. He was sixty-seven years old, and the father of a large family.

MARKET REPORT, NOVEMBER 1, 1885.

Wheat, per bushel.....	\$	71
Oats, per bushel.....		20
Corn, per bushel.....		35
Barley, per bushel.....	30	to 40
Potatoes, per bushel.....	25	to 30
Beaus, per busbel.....	1 00	to 1 25
Butter, per pound.....		15
Cheese, per pound.....		12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eggs, per doz.		17
Hogs, dressed, per hundred.....		4 00
Hogs, live, per hundred.....		3 00
Wood, dry, soft, per cord.....	3 50	to 4 00
Wood, hard, per cord..	4 75	to 5 50
Wood, green, soft, per cord.....	3 50	to 4 00
Wood, green, hard, per cord.....	2 75	to 3 00
Cattle, on foot, per hundred.....		3 00
Hay, per ton.....		5 00
Flour, straight, per hundred.....		2 40
Flour, patent, per hundred.....		2 80
Sheep, per pound.....	02	to 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wool, unwashed.....	12	to 15
Wool, fleece washed.....	18	to 18
Wool, tub washed.....	20	to 20

Andrew Erdmann died at his home in Havana Township, on the 5th of November, 1885, after an illness extending over a period of two years. Mr. Erdmann was born at Strocowo, Posen, Prussia, May 12, 1837. He attended school from the age of six to fourteen; was then a farm laborer for about four years, after which he came to Beaver Dam, Wis., in 1855. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted on the Union side, but was soon afterward discharged for failing health, and later came to Steele County. He was a member of the board of county commissioners for several years.

Nathan K. Hill died of heart disease at the residence of his son, J. H. Hill, in Havana Township, on the 16th of November, 1885. He was born in Westbrook, Conn., July 28, 1814, and came to Steele County in 1874.

1886.

On Thursday, February 4, Mr. Joseph Waurin, of Merton, committed suicide by hanging himself. Mr. Waurin had been more or less troubled with dyspepsia for about eight years, and it is thought he took this means of ending his misery. He was a man in good circumstances and highly respected.

Mrs. Mary A. Hill died February 12, 1886. Mrs. Hill was born in the State of New York, October 11, 1811. She was married in 1839 to Mr. Wm. Hill, who survives her.

On Thursday, July 8, 1886, a terrible accident took place in Medford Township. It appears that Mr. P. J. Webber was mowing grass, and his two little children followed him for awhile, but finally disappeared. Mr. Webber inferred that they had gone home, but instead of that they were in the tall grass. He drove along, not knowing that they were in so close proximity, and as little Eva, a four-year-old girl, stood in the way of the sickle, both of her feet were cut off.

In Lemond, Saturday, March 20, 1886, Mr. August Jerger died at his residence, aged

sixty-three years. Mr. Jerger was a man highly respected by all.

Died in Owatonna, on Sunday, August 29, 1886, Mr. J. B. Jensen, aged sixty years. He had formerly lived in Meriden Township.

On Friday morning, September 3, 1886, Mrs. Ruth Ann Partridge, aged about sixty-five years, died at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Robert Lennon.

Died of old age, at his home, in Meriden, on Friday, September 17, 1886, Hon. H. D. Lewis, aged eighty-five years, six months and two days.

Joseph Sawyer died of old age on September 20, 1886, at the home of his son, J. A. Sawyer, in Owatonna, aged eighty-four years seven months and eighteen days. The deceased was born February 21, 1802, and at the time of his death was one of the oldest men in Steele County. He settled in Steele County early in the summer of 1856, and through all these years had held the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Dennis Dugan died in Owatonna, Friday, October 15, 1886, of old age. Mr. Dugan was an old settler in Steele County, and at the time of his death was ninety years old.

J. D. Holden, of Owatonna, died on Thursday, November 18, 1886. Mr. Holden was born in New Hampshire and was near fifty-eight years of age at the time of his death. He came to Owatonna in 1859 and had always taken a prominent part in public matters. He was an estimable citizen and his death was sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends.

On December 26, 1886, Thomas Lee stabbed and severely wounded John Buttleson in the thigh. His face was also badly cut. Lee was arrested.

On Saturday, December 26, 1886, Mrs. Ellen Casidy, aged twenty-one years, died at her residence in Summit Township.

The Owatonna Packing House was built in 1886.



Henry Birckett

1887.

Z. Henderson died at his home in Thomas-town, Wadena County, Minn., January 12, 1887, aged seventy-three years, two months and nineteen days. The deceased was born in Massachusetts, October 24, 1883. During his younger days he lived in the East, and a portion of the time in Ohio. He was married in March, 1841, to Miss Caroline Myrick. In 1863 he was a member of the lower branch of the Vth Legislature from Rochester, Minn. Later he moved to Steele County and lived there until 1877, when he moved to Wadena County, Minn.

M. A. Fredenburg died on Tuesday, March 29, 1887, of malignant erysipelas, aged sixty years. He was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., in the year 1826, settled in Owatonna in 1874, and a few years later became mayor of the city. Mr. Fredenburg was one of those quiet, self-possessed, irreproachable men who always win the respect of all.

A fatal accident occurred in Owatonna Tuesday evening, April 19, 1887. Mr. Kuchenbecker, of Meriden, in company with Reuben Grubich and Geo Karth, were starting home, and when between Soper's wheat warehouse and H. M. Hastings & Co.'s flouring-mill, the tongue dropped down, frightening the team, which ran away, upsetting the wagon. Reuben Grubich was killed; the others were seriously injured but not fatally.

In June the corner-stone of the State school was laid at Owatonna, the ceremonies being attended by a large concourse of people, including many of the most prominent men of the State.

Early in October the elevator of the Winona Mill Company at Owatonna, together with a large amount of grain, was destroyed by fire. It was said to have been the largest elevator on the Northwestern Railroad west of Winona.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE CITY OF OWATONNA.



ON the banks of Straight River, a little over three miles north of the geographical center of Steele County, is located the city of Owatonna. Its location is among the most beautiful, and its surroundings among the most pleasant of any of Minnesota's many beautiful cities. Nature seemingly designed this spot for the site of a city, with the broad table-land adjoining the clear, sparkling stream, and bounded by the range of hills on each side. The change from the primitive to the developed state has been constant and rapid, as it has been but a third of a century since the idea of building a city here was first conceived; but

it has been one continual change from the moment of its origin, until Owatonna of today stands forth, one of the brightest in the diadem of "Minnesota Cities." To those who have watched its progress from its earliest origin until the present time, the accomplished results of bygone years seem like an Herculean task, and there is much that cannot fail to be of interest to those who have been connected and identified with the city in all the various changes that have occurred from year to year.

Endowed with many natural advantages, aided by the strong arm of an enterprising husbandry, Steele County has assumed a position among the best and wealthier of her sister counties throughout the State; and

Owatonna, as the first town within her boundaries, has kept pace with the improvement and advancement of the country by which it is surrounded. The city is well laid out. There are many substantial brick blocks to be seen upon the business thoroughfares, and a stroll through the city discloses many handsome and costly dwellings. An abundance of shade trees adorn the streets, which in summer add greatly to the beauty of the place. The location is exceedingly healthy, the inhabitants are an educated and intelligent class, and society is of the most refined and desirable character.

No locality could present more favorable opportunities for the employment of capital in industrial or manufacturing enterprises. Situated at the junction of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Chicago & Northwestern railways—two of the most important thoroughfares of the country—it is possessed of the most desirable shipping facilities.

At the present writing the city has a population of about 3,500. The name grew from an Indian word, "*Wootanna*," signifying, straight. The latter name had already been applied to the river when the first settlement was made here, the river being given the English, and the city the Indian title, both, however, meaning the same.

THE BEGINNING.

The first settlement on the present site of the city of Owatonna was made by William F. Pettit and A. B. Cornell in the summer of 1854. About the middle of May, of that year, William F. Pettit, George F. Pettit, A. B. Cornell and F. Wilbur Fisk left Sparta, Wis., for a visit to the far-famed prairies of Minnesota. George F. Pettit had been at Faribault some time previous, and made such a glowing report of the country that those who had families took them along, determined to make their homes on the sunset side of the Mississippi. Seven wagon-loads of people, furniture, supplies, etc., set out, and

were four weeks in reaching Faribault—a long journey, attended with toil, discomfort and fatigue, and one that none but strong brave hearts would undertake and successfully accomplish. George F. Pettit settled at Faribault, F. W. Fisk on East Prairie, and William F. Pettit and A. B. Cornell located on the present site of the city of Owatonna. Mr. Cornell made his claim on the east side of the river and Mr. Pettit on the west. Cornell built a somewhat primitive dwelling, which was constructed of poles covered with prairie grass, but it was sufficient to protect them from the storm and the scorching rays of the sun, and they were all contented to wait patiently till a more commodious house could be erected. This was the first residence and the first building erected within what is now the city limits. Mr. Cornell soon commenced putting up a log house, just north of where the bridge now stands, and had the logs raised ready to put up on the roof, when he sold his claim to Mr. Pettit, who had, in the meantime, disposed of his own on the west side of the river to a Mr. Crehore. Some time in August, Mr. Pettit had contracted with Mr. Cornell to build a house for him, similar to the one he was building for himself, but when he purchased Cornell's claim the contract was annulled and another made that he could finish the one already commenced. We give the contract in full, as it is probably the first ever made in the county. It is as follows:

"It is hereby agreed by and between W. F. Pettit and A. B. Cornell, that A. B. Cornell shall, previous to the twentieth day of October next, build for said Pettit a log dwelling house on the foundation said Pettit has already commenced; said house to be 22 feet long and 18 feet wide; puncheon floor below, two doors and five windows, shingled roof, logs hewn inside up to beams and mudded on the outside; also, a cellar 14x18 feet, dug so as to be 6 feet from bottom to sleepers; said house to be one and a half

stories high and put up similar to said Cornell's, and the said Pettit is to furnish all nails, glass, sash putty and lumber for doors and the upper floor so as not to delay said job and to pay for said building \$75.

"W. F. PETTIT,

"A. B. CORNELL."

"August 3, 1854."

These movements gave a material start to the growth of the embryo city. The first track made across the prairies is the pioneer of civilization, and the forerunner generally of a crowd of immigration, and this was no exception to the general rule. Others followed the lead of Messrs. Pettit and Cornell and several houses were built that fall (1854). Hon. G. W. Green, of Beaver Dam, Wis., commenced the erection of a house which was raised on the 2d of October, all the settlers in the vicinity assisting. Interesting articles, written by both Judge Green and A. B. Cornell, and giving a detailed account of the experiences of each will be found in Chapter XV. In the winter following, of 1854-5, J. W. Park and S. B. Smith erected a log cabin near where the railroad tracks are now located.

These were dreary, lonesome days to the settlers; far from friends, marts and posts of trade, with no one save themselves to commune with, their lives must, indeed, have been "hermit-like." Sometimes, too, a little fear of what the Indians might do, crept into their minds to disturb their tranquillity, yet the Indians were at peace with the whites, and at that time considered them their best friends. But at times circumstances would occur to arouse the suspicions of the people to a high pitch. The following instance of this was related to the historian: The first year of the settlement (1854) all the provisions and supplies of all kinds were brought from St. Paul, and at one time Mr. Cornell went with his team to that town to bring a load of provisions, etc., and was absent about a week, leaving Mrs. Cornell with only her children and a boy to keep her company.

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

When spring opened, in 1855, the settlement continued rapidly. During the spring and early summer the following named all came, many accompanied by their families: Addison Phelps, Nelson Morehouse, B. L. Arnold, Joel Wilson, Dexter Carlton, Parker Carlton, Alson Selleck, N. Winship, John Wilcox, two Schimeks, David Lindersmith, Leonard and Simeon Case, Bazil Meek, Obed Gaines, Miner Prisby, Adolphus Town, Philo Sanford, Charles Ellison, John H. and Ezra Abbott, C. G. Hayes, John Moon and Mr. Ward. Possibly there were a few others. All of these parties settled within a radius of a mile or two of the present center of the city. Many at once erected cabins, while

others selected claims and returned for their families. The only sign of business here was at the residence of A. B. Cornell, where the traveling public was fed and lodged. Early in May of this year (1855) Smith & Park began keeping a few groceries and provisions at their cabin near the present railway depots. About the first of July, N. Winship commenced hauling logs for his hotel. They moved into it on the 4th of August, and it was opened for the accommodation of the traveling public. This was the first hotel erected here, and, in fact, was the first building upon what was then the village plat. In later years, however, the plat has extended so as to take in the site of Cornell's first cabin. In September, 1855, John Sweat put up a little cabin and opened a blacksmith shop near where Deeg's wagon shop now stands. Later he sold to Joel Wilson, and left. In October, 1855, J. W. Park and S. B. Smith erected a log house just north of the Winship House, on Oak street, and filled it with a stock of goods which proved of great convenience to the pioneers. Quite a number of young men came this year, who only remained a short time.

In the summer of 1855 Mr. Pettit sold his claim to John H. Abbott, and soon afterward bought an undivided half of Mr. Cornell's claim lying immediately south of the one just sold. All hands at once went to work to build up a first-class town. Roads and bridges, for the purpose of communication with other sections of the country, were the first things to be attended to, and with willing hearts and stout hands they went to work and opened up the roads, bridged the sluices and water courses, and soon had the satisfaction of knowing that at least an important thoroughfare was opened through their town. Mr. Cornell, with true western energy and perseverance, built a bridge across the Straight River and travel was seemingly nearly constant. Not unfrequently were there from twenty to thirty or forty emigrant teams in the streets at the

same time. Business flourished. Every settler whose house was large enough to accommodate more than his own family had all the spare room occupied with strangers and those seeking homes. Cornell, also, made several extended trips in advertising this locality. A village was platted, streets and lots marked out and speculation in city property was very active. In the autumn of 1855 the county was organized and Owatonna was made the county-seat. A postoffice was opened this fall; mail routes were established and stages were shortly afterward put on. In September Mr. Cornell and John H. Abbott laid out the town site, comprising about 120 acres — about sixty acres on each of their claims. In November they went to Winona and preëmpted the land, and on the 26th of December, 1855, filed the town plats in the office of Charles Ellison, register of deeds. A very respectable log schoolhouse was also built this fall, though the first school had already been taught. The old log schoolhouse performed a somewhat important part in the early history of the place. Schools were held in it during all school terms; each of the denominations used it in turn as a house of worship. All the political meetings and elections were held there; singing schools, lyceums and prayer-meetings occupied the evenings, so that it was kept in almost constant use until it was removed and torn down. The town proprietors donated about forty lots to those who would erect substantial and useful buildings. During this summer (1855), Mr. Pettit built the first frame house in the county, on the hill in the eastern part of the city. He was obliged to haul part of the pine lumber from Red Wing, with which to complete the house, which cost \$107 per thousand, and the roof boards, procured at Faribault, cost \$60 per thousand. Such were the disadvantages under which the pioneers had to labor.

With 1856 came renewed activity in a business way as well as in emigration, and the little settlement on Straight River increased

rapidly. The winter had been a severe one, but had not depressed the spirits of the colonists. In April of this year Messrs. Pettit, Abbott and Cornell bought of Park & Smith five hundred acres of land lying on the north side of the town for \$8,000. This was afterward known as the "Five Hundred Acre Tract." Early this year B. L. Arnold put up the Eureka House, the first frame hotel erected in the county. Philo Sanford during the same summer and fall put up what was then called the American House—now the Central. Elder Town, who had bought out Smith & Park, erected a small building on Bridge street—nearly opposite Hunnewill's hardware store—and moved his goods into it. Nathaniel Winship built an addition to his hotel. John Dingman came and put up a building near where Rosebrock's furniture store is now located, and J. W. Morford, who arrived at about the same time, opened a stock of goods in it. A hardware stock was established by a couple of young men who, after a few weeks, sold to E. Y. Hunnewill. Business took long strides forward. In July of this year J. W. Morford and John Odell opened a store on Bridge street, and somewhat later in the season Dr. Harsha and Judge Donaldson a drug and general provision store. Potwin & Stoughton—A. N. Stoughton and Geo. Potwin—opened business on Main street, in a building which stood where the jail now is located. J. B. Crooker came this year and a few years later opened a general store. Among those who came were M. A. Dailey, H. M. Sheetz, Willard Wheaton, Harvey Beardsley, Joseph Webster, James Moore, George Oulton, Rev. H. Chapin, D. Potwin, the Odells and others.

During this year (1856) Town & Burch (Loren Town and J. W. Burch) were engaged in the general merchandise trade. In the following year Mr. Burch sold his interest to A. Town, who afterward secured the whole business and finally closed out the stock.

In the spring of the same year (1856) Ezra Abbott, J. W. Park and S. B. Smith brought

a steam sawmill from Walcott, where it had been in operation for a year or so, and this was set up just north of the bridge on the east side of the river. Building operations were greatly accelerated. The common lumber for most of the new buildings was manufactured by it. This mill was in operation here for about three years, Mr. Abbott in the meantime having purchased his partners' interests, and it was then sold and removed to Faribault.

In the fall of 1856 Nelson Morehouse erected a building and put a sawmill into operation on the water-power on the west side of the river. He operated this for a number of years, and it was finally remodeled into a flouring-mill. A live western newspaper was established in 1856 that did much toward making known to the outside world Steele County's advantages. During the same summer Melbourne Burr opened a cabinet shop in a building near where the Episcopal Church is now located.

In 1857 the growth was not so rapid as it had been the preceding year; considerable railway agitation was had, although not more than had been the case in 1856. During this year (1857) G. W. True and Mr. Potwin brought a sawmill here from Mount Vernon, Ohio, a bonus being raised to secure it. The mill came in the name of True, although Pettit and Abbott were interested in it. It was set up just west of the Winship House. Machinery for a gristmill was also brought here, although this was never set up. The sawmill was run for several years and it was finally removed to Morris-town.

In 1857, the first millinery store was started by Mrs. Lambert, in a building where the Brooks bakery is now located. Mrs. Magoon also started a millinery establishment at an early day.

N. Squires established a meat-market this year. William Wadsworth started a jewelry store on Main street where the jail is now located. The Sherwood brothers opened a

saloon. Mr. Coburn started a general store, trusted the railway contractors and it soon ended in bankruptcy.

In 1858 and 1859 the financial depression which had commenced with 1857 was severely felt here. Business development was at a standstill. Money was very close; paper money was almost worthless and everyone demanded gold or silver. The bank issue, based upon railway securities, also hurt this country sadly, and it is a truthful saying that a hatfull of \$100 bills of such currency would scarcely buy a meal of victuals.

J. B. Crooker established a general store in 1859 and among other business interests which in early days clustered here should be mentioned: The tailor shop started by Dresser & Goodwin in a building nearly opposite Hunnewill's hardware store; the general store started at an early day by Bascom Bros. in a building near where Greeley's pump factory is now located.

The same state of affairs, financially, continued through 1860 and 1861, while in the latter year, the breaking out of the war made matters still worse. A great many of the able-bodied young and middle-aged men left during "'61" and went into the service.

In 1862 business began to pick up a little. The Indian massacre drove many from their homes west of here, and Owatonna, being upon a main thoroughfare and the first feasible stopping point, again became a scene of activity. The soldiers going through, and the fleeing settlers, besides the fact that the soldiers in the army began to receive their pay at about this time, made money matters easier, and its effect was soon felt in the channels of business.

From 1863 to 1867 the city grew rapidly, and many substantial improvements were made. Two lines of railway reached the city in 1866, as is detailed elsewhere in this volume, and this added new life to the growth, although, to a great extent, the impetus to business development given by rail-

way connections had been anticipated, and the growth caused by it really began in the summer of 1865. From that time until 1867-8 many fine business buildings were erected, among them being Dresser's block, Kinyon's building, Kelly block, Abbott block, Wadworth's building, Crooker's (now H. R. Moore's) residence; Crooker, Kelly, Bixby and Dr. Morehouse erected the row of bricks on the south side of Bridge street, Dr. Harsha the First National Bank building, Odell & Pott's building, Wadworth put up a brick building, Hunnewill a hardware store, and Soule erected the north sixty feet of the H. R. Moore & Co. block. The Arnold and Park hotels, Howe's foundry and machine shops, and other buildings erected and enterprises inaugurated.

The business boom of these years was almost without parallel in the history of Minnesota. The population of the city more than doubled, increasing from a village of six or seven hundred to a city of two thousand during the years 1866 and 1867. Since that time the growth has been more gradual, but of a permanent and beneficial character. At the present writing the city has a population of at least 3,500.

BUSINESS MEN IN 1868.

As a matter worthy of preservation we here present a full business directory of Owatonna in 1868:

Attorneys — Amos Coggsell, A. A. Harwood, Searles & Hickman, Delos Higbee, Kinyon & Wheelock, M. A. Dailey, J. J. Aiken, N. M. Donaldson (judge).

Agricultural Implements — Lowth, Howe & Co., Allen & Dearborn, Fisk & Medal, G. W. Payne, J. E. Buxton, Wm. Scruby.

Boots and Shoes — Chase Bros., Lord Bros. & Co., Cooper Bros., Morford, Willsey & Co., G. F. Albertus, J. Lonergan, Frank Yaneck, J. E. Griggs.

Books and Stationery — C. E. Seaton.

Bankers — Easton & Kinyon, S. Mills, Jr., & Co.

Barbers — Jerry Pope, J. A. Pierce, Louis Teabean.

Bakeries — Mrs. J. G. Cochran, George Chapman, M. J. White.

Blacksmiths — F. H. Cooper, M. S. Quigle, P. Schuster, C. Hanson, Hiram Cartwright, — Sherman, — King.

Brewery — Mace & Co.

Clothing — J. G. A. Denerline, Friend & Newsalt, G. F. Albertus, Soule Bros., Armstrong & Cottrell, J. E. Griggs, Marble & Co., Lord Bros. & Co., Cooper Bros.

Cooper Shop — Peter Hanson.

Dry Goods — Lord Bros. & Co., Cooper Bros., Arnston & Connell, Morford, Willsey & Co., Armstrong & Cottrell, Siebold & Hortsman, Soule Bros., L. Andrews, G. F. Albertus, Jo. Wilson.

Dentists — G. H. Cole, Miss Kellogg.

Drugs — Harsha & Donaldson, L. Bixby, Bennett & Hubbard.

Eating Houses — Railroad Eating House, C. F. McNamara, Mitchell Bros., Hiram Cartwright, Mrs. Cochran, W. C. Bosworth, George Chapman, M. Lont.

Earthenware Factory — C. C. Cornell.

Express Offices — Merchants' Union and American.

Furniture — J. F. Hanna, H. & J. Hickox, Chas. Schoen.

Flour and Feed Stores — Farmer Brothers, Kelly & Tyler, Marble & Co., J. P. Requa, T. J. Clark, Arntson & Connelly, Newton & Gross.

Foundry and Machine Shops — Lowth, Howe & Co.

Groceries — Kelly & Tyler, S. S. Russell, Soule Brothers, G. F. Albertus, Joos & Boll, L. Andrews, Siebold & Hortsman, Morford, Willsey & Co., Armstrong & Cottrell, Arnston & Connelly, Cooper Bros., T. J. Clark, William Cleator, J. Chambers, H. Cartwright.

Hardware — Cottrell & Hunkins, J. E. Buxton, Thomas & White, E. Y. Hunnewill.

Harness Shops — O. M. Hammond, O. A. Albee, A. Burch.

Hotels — Winship House, Barker's Exchange, National Hotel, American House, Arnold House, Scandinavian Hotel, Steele Center House, Tilden House, Owatonna House.

Hoopskirt Factory — W. Holt.

Jewelry — Ezra Abbott, J. F. Young, J. Hough.

Lumber Dealers — Crooker Bros. & Lamareaux, S. B. Washburn, Backus Bros., Sterling & Searles, Dean & Co.

Livery Stables — Twiss & Christie, C. W. Hastings.

Millinery — Mrs. L. H. Kelly, Mrs. Magoon, Mrs. White, Mrs. W. Holt, Mrs. M. J. Myrick.

Meat Markets — J. A. Oppliger & Co., Kowitz & Riedon, Truax & Savage.

Physicians and Surgeons — E. M. Morehouse, L. H. Kelly, Dr. Blood, L. L. Bennett, D. Bodle, D. S. Harsha, J. G. Gilechrist and W. A. Ware.

Photographers — G. W. Chesley, Mrs. J. P. Briggs, A. F. Simons.

Painters — Hall, Beers & Co.

Planing-mill — Lamonte Gilbert.

Real Estate Dealers — W. H. Kelley, B. F. Melvin, John H. Abbott, Ezra Abbott, Searles & Hickman, Kinyon & Wheelock.

Tailors — John Cottier, J. G. A. Denerline, Christopher Fahriess, D. B. Marble & Co.

Telegraph Offices — A. H. Lee, operator at C. M. & St. P. depot; G. H. Merrill, at W. & St. P. depot.

Wagon Shops — P. Schuster, Sherman & Brown, — Brown, — King.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

Owatonna's history in a mercantile point of view began in the spring of 1855, when Smith & Park opened their little stock of general goods in their log cabin, which had been erected for a residence. In the fall of the same year they put up a log cabin on the corner of Oak and Main streets, north of the Winship House, and moved their store into

this. The stock was very small but was all that the trade demanded in those days. The firm remained in business about a year when they sold to Elder Adolphus Town. Mr. Town conducted the business in the same building for a time and then erected a building on Bridge street, near where Greeley's pump factory now stands. He continued the business for a time, when it passed into the hands of J. W. Burch and L. B. Town. Later Elder Town again became proprietor and finally closed out the stock.

In 1856 J. W. Morford and John Odell started a store, stocking it with a full line of groceries, boots and shoes. In 1858 Mr. Morford bought out Mr. Odell's interest and ran the business himself until the spring of 1859, when W. H. Willsey bought in. Immediately after this they added dry goods and notions, making it a general store. This firm remained in business thirteen years. Mr. Morford then bought out Mr. Willsey's interest and ran the store with the same line for some time, but finally made it an exclusive boot and shoe store. In 1883 he closed out part of this stock and removed the balance to Watertown, Dak. There, it is stated, he traded it for a farm.

It appears that the first hardware store was started in 1856, by two young men whose names have been forgotten. The building occupied was about 16x24 feet in size, and is still on the ground where it was built. The young men remained in business about four weeks, when they sold stock and building to Hunnewill & Armstrong — E. Y. Hunnewill and William Armstrong. These gentlemen remained in business together for about five years, when they divided their stock, each taking half. Mr. Hunnewill remained at the old stand for about eighteen years; during this time, however, he made several additions to the building, as the trade demanded, and then put up the brick which he now occupies. William Armstrong erected a building on Main street and remained in business about four years, then sold to

George Cottrell, who was succeeded by Hunkins & Cottrell, the latter being a brother of George. They were succeeded by Searles & Dynes; later Mr. Dynes sold to his partner. Mr. Searles remained in business until his death, May 24, 1885, which was the result of an accident. While handling barbed wire a large roll fell upon him, inflicting fatal injuries. Parrot & Smith succeeded D. O. Searles after his death and are the present proprietors. In 1866 G. F. White started a hardware store, but only remained in business about two years, when he closed out his stock and went to California. The next was started by A. Knobloch and N. C. Larson in 1874. The same year they erected the building now occupied by Mr. Knobloch. In 1878 they divided their stock, Mr. Knobloch remaining in the building, where his store is still located. Mr. Larson then bought the building he now occupies, and is still in trade. In March, 1879, Thon Brothers came here from Chicago and put in a full line of hardware in building near Julius Young's jewelry store, and are still in business. The building now occupied by Crandall & Nelson as a hardware store was built by W. H. Kelley in 1880. Shortly after this Mr. Crandall purchased it. P. Bliss then occupied it as a book store and the postoffice was also in same building until April, 1884. Mr. Bliss remained until September of the same year. Immediately after Mr. Bliss vacated the building Crandall & Nelson moved their stock of hardware into it from the building just north of Mork's boot and shoe store, where they had been doing business for about two years.

The first drug store in Owatonna was started by Dr. D. S. Harsha and Judge Donaldson in 1856. The store was stocked with a full line of drugs and was called the "Steele County drug store." In 1866 Dr. Harsha erected the brick building now occupied by the First National Bank, and into this moved the stock of drugs. Mr. Harsha remained in the drug business until his death, which

occurred in 1880, after which the entire stock was closed out. During this time Edward Donaldson was also a partner a portion of the time.

In 1856 Melbourne Burr started a furniture store in a building near where the jail now stands. He remained in business a number of years, when he sold to J. F. Hanna. He remained in business until about 1870, then closed out his stock, and began farming. James Hickox in 1865 also started a furniture store occupying a building on North Cedar street. In 1871-2 he partly closed out his stock, and removed the balance to Rochester. The next was started by Charles Schoen in about 1866, on the corner of Bridge and Oak streets. He sold his stock to F. Kruschke, who continued in business until 1870, when he sold to H. M. Brown. In 1877 Mr. Brown sold to Albert Hafeman who is still in business. In 1869 H. H. Rosebrock opened a stock of furniture in a building near where Julius Young's jewelry store now stands. He remained in this building about two and one-half years, when he purchased of J. W. Morford the building which he now occupies. S. B. Hunkins in about 1873 opened a line of furniture in the second story of the building occupied by H. R. Moore, Jr., & Co. One year later he closed out his stock to H. M. Brown and H. H. Rosebrock. A furniture store was started by P. S. Westburg in 1874. In 1876 he sold to Ole Ecker who, in 1877, sold to J. A. Cansdell. About one year later, Cansdell sold to Mr. Nickerson. D. C. Adams afterward purchased the stock and remained in business until 1882, when he sold to Fuller & Green. Fuller afterward bought Green's interest and in a short time sold it to Mr. Gramps. Fuller & Gramps remained in business until the winter of 1886-7, when they failed. In 1879 S. Deutschmann started a second-hand furniture store and remained in this line about two years, when a new and complete stock was put in. These changes in this line of trade

leave the furniture business at this writing in the hands of H. H. Rosebrock, A. A. Hafeman and S. Deutschmann.

In 1860 a book store was started by William Seaton. He had run it but a short time when D. D. F. Brown bought an interest. Later Mr. Farmer purchased Seaton's interest and Mr. Spelman afterward bought out Mr. Brown's, leaving the firm Spelman & Farmer. In 1877 Mr. Farmer sold to P. Bliss, and the firm of Spelman & Bliss remained in business together until 1884, when Philo Bliss bought Mr. Spelman's interest and continued until the summer of 1887, when the stock was purchased by Anson M. Kinyon, who still conducts the business.

The first jewelry store was started by William Wadworth. In about the year 1864 another was established by Burr & McClure (Richard Burr and Henry McClure). The building occupied was near the present postoffice building on Bridge street. These gentlemen remained in business together until 1866, when they dissolved partnership, Mr. McClure remaining in trade. Shortly after this Mr. McClure moved his stock of goods into a building on the corner of Central and Broadway, where he remained in business until his death, which occurred in October, 1866. Ezra Abbott then bought the stock and in a short time took in a partner, Mr. Richmond. Two years later Mr. Richmond retired from business, and the firm became Abbott & Son. Later they sold to Henry Birkett, the present proprietor. A few years later Mr. Abbott's son, Edmund Abbott, again started in the jewelry trade and remained in business until 1885, when he removed his stock to Minneapolis. In 1867 Julius Young started a jewelry store in a building where now stands the Farmers' National Bank. At this time he had but very little, if any, stock, simply doing repairing. He remained in this building about six months, then moved into J. Newsalt's clothing store under the Opera

House. Here he put in a small line of jewelry. In 1868 he moved his stock into a wooden building on Bridge street and enlarged his stock, remaining there about one year, when he bought a one-story brick, which stood on the site of his present building. Shortly after purchasing this he enlarged it and arranged a fine store. In 1878 this building burned with all of the furniture. A short time before the fire Mr. Young had let a \$2,000 policy run out. The insurance he held was for \$5,000; loss \$11,000, leaving amount not covered by insurance, \$6,000. Shortly after the fire Mr. Young began the large brick which he now occupies, completing it in the fall of 1878. In 1876 C. F. Warner established a jewelry store. He is still in business, carrying a large line of jewelry and sportsmen's goods.

It is stated that the first exclusive boot and shoe store was started by Chase Bros. & Co. in 1866. This firm remained in business until 1869. R. H. Johnson bought them out and remained in business until the spring of 1873, then closed out the entire stock, and is now city marshal. The next was started by Gottfried Doufner in 1869. In 1884 he sold to Mr. Butsch, who is still in business. In 1868 Wm. Mork came to Owatonna from Chicago and worked for Chase Bros. & Co. and R. H. Johnson until 1872, when he established a boot and shoe store, occupying a building which stood on the site of his present store. The structure he now occupies was erected in 1880. In 1876 Weber & Son came here from Sauk Center and started a boot and shoe business. They occupied the Higbie building until 1879, when they erected the two-story brick which they now occupy.

BANKING.

The first bank in Owatonna was established on the 1st of January, 1859, by a man who came here from St. Paul, whose name has been forgotten. It was opened in M. A. Dailey's office, a building which stood where Kelly's store is now located. It was estab-

lished for the purpose of issuing a currency based upon the railroad bonds. After a few months the railway securities becoming more and more worthless, the banker packed up his few "traps" and left. He had brought a little iron safe here, the first brought into the county, and upon his leaving Dailey kept it for office rent. W. R. Kinyon afterward purchased and moved it into a little building just west of where the First National Bank now stands. The safe was afterward removed to Waseca, when Mr. Kinyon established a bank at that place, where it was blown open and robbed of \$3,000.

During the year 1866 another bank was established by J. C. Easton and W. R. Kinyon. Even before that time Mr. Kinyon had been doing a light banking business, but in that year the partnership was formed, and June 1, they opened their books for regular banking business. During the same summer they completed the brick building just west of the First National Bank, which is now used for a millinery store, and in this building the firm of Easton & Kinyon continued business for about five years, when they organized the First National Bank with a capital stock of \$50,000. The stockholders at that time were W. R. Kinyon, J. C. Easton, J. W. Morford, E. Y. Hunnewill, Otis Lord and Lewis Lord. In 1874 the capital stock was increased to \$75,000, and in 1876 reduced to \$60,000, the present capital. The present stockholders are W. R. Kinyon, J. C. Easton, E. Y. Hunnewill, Otis Lord, Lewis Lord, G. F. Albertus, C. J. Kinyon, Geo. R. Kinyon, R. H. Chapin, H. M. Hastings, Mrs. A. L. Higbie, Mrs. James Cooper, Mrs. N. M. Donaldson and daughters, Mrs. M. S. Harsha and W. H. Kelly. The present officers are as follows: W. R. Kinyon, president; C. J. Kinyon, vice-president; Geo. R. Kinyon, cashier; directors, W. R. Kinyon, E. Y. Hunnewill, Otis Lord, G. F. Albertus, Lewis Lord, W. H. Kelly and C. J. Kinyon. The building now occupied by the bank was refitted and occupied by the bank in 1882.

Hon. William Riley Kinyon, president of the First National bank, is a son of Samuel and Dolly (Wheelock) Kinyon, dating his birth at Ellisburg, Jefferson County, N. Y., on the 3d of February, 1833. He comes from an early Rhode Island family. His grandfather, Joshua Kinyon, was in the War of 1812-15. The Wheelocks are traced back to Vermont; hence, his ancestors on both sides are New Englanders. Samuel Kinyon was a farmer, dying when William was seventeen years old. The latter had to work hard in his youth, being part of the time in a dairy. He had a strong thirst for knowledge, and gave to books every hour of time at his command. He supplemented a few terms at the Union Academy, Belleville, with much hard study in private, with almost every conceivable disadvantage, and yet, at the age of twenty-one (1854), entered the junior class of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., graduating in course and delivering the valedictory of the Adelpic society. The two winters before entering college, and the winter before graduating, he taught school, following the college curriculum all the time and keeping up with his class. Soon after closing his studies, Mr. Kinyon came as far west as Juneau, Wis., where he taught a graded school one year, and subsequently spent seven or eight months in the office of the clerk of the court, reading law all the time he was at Juneau. He was there admitted to the bar in the spring of 1858; came thence directly to Owatonna; was here admitted to practice and continued it until 1870. In 1866, in company with Jason C. Easton, he opened a private bank, which has since become the First National Bank, as stated. He was a member of the House of Minnesota Representatives in 1868; chief clerk of the House in 1869 and 1870, and again member and also speaker in 1875 and 1876, the XVIIth and XVIIIth legislatures. Mr. Kinyon was originally a Douglas Democrat, voting for the Little Giant in 1860, and the Republican ticket since the old

flag was dishonored by rebel hands at Fort Sumter. He is an active worker in Masonic circles, being member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery. Mrs. Kinyon was Miss Mettie Gillett, of Juneau, Wis., a native of Wayne County, N. Y., their union taking place on the 31st of December, 1857. They have one son, George R., mentioned elsewhere. The family attend the Congregational Church, of which Mr. Kinyon is a liberal supporter. The life and character of Mr. Kinyon need no eulogy from the pen of a biographer. His career has ever been free from disreputable methods. His name has been prominent in the affairs of his county and State for nearly a quarter of a century, yet has passed through the gauntlet of political strife without a stain.

Charles J. Kinyon, vice-president of the First National Bank, was born in Ellisburg, Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1848. His early life was spent on a farm. When twenty-one years of age he entered Hungerford Collegiate Institute, at Adams, N. Y., and graduated from the business department. He came west in 1871, and in the fall of 1872 he entered the First National Bank as clerk, and in 1875 was made cashier. He acted in that capacity until 1883, when he was made vice-president. Mr. Kinyon was married in September, 1874, to Miss Charlotte E. Wardwell, a native of New York State. Fayette C., Ward W. and Edna A. are the names of their children. Mr. Kinyon was city treasurer from 1883 to 1886.

George R. Kinyon, cashier of the First National Bank, was born in Owatonna, Minn., May 31, 1861, his parents being W. R. and Mettie G. Kinyon. George R.'s earlier education was obtained in the common schools of the city, and when the Minnesota Academy was opened he entered that institution, and was a member of the first class, graduating in June, 1880. The same spring he was appointed teller of the First National Bank, in 1881 assistant cashier, and in 1882 cashier, which position he now holds. He was mar-

ried April 24, 1883, to Miss Alice Hall, of Owatonna.

S. Mills, Jr., & Co. also established a bank in 1866. They opened in a little wooden building which stood where A. M. Kinyon's book store is now located, and the same fall they moved into the south end of H. R. Moore & Co.'s store building. A year or so later they removed to the building now occupied by the Farmers' National Bank. S. Mills, Jr., & Co. remained in business until 1871 or 1872, when they failed.

Soon after the failure of S. Mills, Jr., & Co., the building occupied by them passed under the control of the Farmers' National Bank, and was partially rebuilt in 1872. In 1873 the Farmers' National Bank commenced business, with capital stock, \$50,000. The stockholders were: W. H. Burdick, A. C. Hickman, C. W. Hastings, W. H. Sherman, A. C. Gutterson, E. H. S. Dart, Hiram Backus, A. C. Dodge, W. H. Willsey, J. G. A. Denerline, A. L. Higbie, D. Higbie, T. B. Lawrence, J. C. Backus, L. L. Bennett and Amos Coggsell. In 1878 their capital stock was increased to \$60,000, and in 1884 to \$75,000. The present stockholders are: A. B. Wood, J. B. Soper, L. L. Bennett, J. C. Backus, W. H. Willsey, D. Freeman, M. W. Cooper, A. Backus, C. F. Backus, P. Baldwin, A. C. Gutterson, E. H. S. Dart, Neil Graham, D. Higbie, A. L. Higbie, E. C. Holden, Jesse Healey, D. D. Fenno, W. H. Kelly, T. B. Lawrence, Lillian M. Harlow, F. L. Murray, H. Birkett, Sarah H. Abbott, A. C. Searl, N. P. Jefferson, S. McNitt, O. Lindersmith and T. R. Medd. The present officers are: L. L. Bennett, president; W. H. Willsey, vice-president; A. C. Gutterson, cashier; C. F. Backus, assistant cashier. The present directors are: L. L. Bennett, W. H. Willsey, W. H. Kelly, Neil Graham, C. F. Backus, J. C. Backus and D. Higbie.

Leonard L. Bennett, M. D., president of the Farmers' National Bank, was born in Will County, Ill., in 1839. He received his early education at Wauconda, Ill., taking an

academic course. He then studied medicine with his brother at Richmond, Ill., and graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1862. In 1864 he came to Owatonna and pursued the practice of his profession. Later he became connected with the Farmers' National Bank, of which he is president, and retired from the practice of medicine. On the 24th of May, 1864, he was married to Miss Arabella F. Brown, a native of New York State. Carl K. and Guy B. are the names of their children. Dr. Bennett is a Mason; a prominent member of the Universalist Church. He has taken an active part toward building up city and county; is a man of the strictest integrity; liberal, enterprising, and widely and favorably known. He has been county commissioner, besides holding various other offices of importance.

A biographical sketch of W. H. Willsey, the vice-president of the bank, appears elsewhere.

Prof. A. C. Gutterson, cashier of the Farmers' National Bank, was born in Windsor County, Vt., March 10, 1830. He remained at home until about twenty-one years of age when he began life for himself. He had received thorough schooling in music, and that was his first avocation. Two years later he engaged in the general mercantile trade, following that for three or four years. In 1858 he came west and located at Mazo Manie, Wis. Eighteen months later he returned to his native town, and remained there two years, after which he again came west to Wisconsin, locating in Black Earth. In 1866 he came to Owatonna, and for about five years was a member of the firm of Lord Bros. & Co., after which, for several years, he followed his profession, music. In 1873 he became connected with the Farmers' National Bank, of which he is cashier. In 1873 he organized the Beethoven Musical Association at Owatonna, and in 1883 the orchestra, being director in each. Both of these organizations are a credit to the city, being well drilled, and composed of compe-

tent musicians; they handle the very best grades of music. As will be seen from reading the chapter relating to Pillsbury Academy, Mr. Gutterson has for years held the professorship of music in that institution. Prof. Gutterson was married in February, 1855, to Miss Nancy Stiekney.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

Manufacturing industries are the most important of Owatonna's business interests. The following is a list of the principal manufactories now in operation: Hastings, Willsey & Edson, flouring-mill; A. Simpson, flouring-mill; McLaughlin, Sheldon & Co., manufacturers Diamond Feedmill; T. J. Howe & Co., and C. W. Burdie, foundry and machine shops; Schuman & Fenner, and C. M. Lorence, cigar manufacturers; Orrin Greely, pump factory; Owatonna Creamery, Henry A. Holmes, superintendent; P. Ganser's brewery; L. Bion's brewery, and the wagon and carriage factories of Charles Schoen and John Deeg.

Hon. Hector M. Hastings, of the firm of H. M. Hastings & Co., millers, was born in Horse Heads, Chemung County, N. Y., in 1835. His father, Samuel M. Hastings, came with his family to Kendall County, Ill., in 1847. Hector M. came to Minnesota in 1855 on a prospecting tour, and in 1856 he located in Le Sueur County, where he remained until 1863, then moved to Steele County, locating on section 14, Lemond Township, where he now owns a tract of 2,300 acres. He participated in the Indian wars of 1862 and witnessed the hanging of the thirty-eight Sioux Indians at Mankato. He was married on April 2, 1853, to Miss Mary A. Roberts, a native of Pennsylvania. George W., Ida and Fannie are the names of the children born to them. Mr. Hastings has taken a prominent part in all public matters, and all enterprises calculated to build up city or county have always had his hearty support. The enterprise of which he is the head is among the most

important manufacturing industries of the county.

William H. Willsey, of the milling firm of H. M. Hastings & Co., was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., in 1832. He came west to Walworth County, Wis., in 1848, and was engaged in various pursuits until 1851, when he went to St. Paul and on reaching that village found Little Crow's band encamped on the west side of the river. During the winter of 1851-2 he worked in a sawmill and for five subsequent years he was engaged in the logging business, first on Rum River two years, then three years on the St. Croix and tributaries. He then came to Owatonna and was elected sheriff in 1858. After acting in that capacity for two years, he embarked in the mercantile business being of the firm of Morford & Willsey. In 1885 he became one of the firm of H. M. Hastings & Co. Mr. Willsey is vice-president of the Farmers' National Bank. He was married January 1, 1863, to Emily V. Phelps, a native of Ohio. Maud is the name of their only child. He is a Mason, and Mrs. Willsey is a member of the Universalist Church. Mr. Willsey's name appears very frequently through the pages of this volume. For nearly thirty years he has been intimately connected with the growth and development of the city and county and his name is indissolubly connected with their history.

O. E. Edson, of the firm of H. M. Hastings & Co., came to Owatonna in June, 1885, and bought a third interest in the mills and since that time has had charge of them. Mr. Edson is a native of Pennsylvania, born April 7, 1842. His parents were Hiram S. and Mary (Van Dusen) Edson, both of whom were natives of New York, but who at an early day removed to Pennsylvania where O. E. was born. In 1855 they went to Illinois, where Mr. Edson, Sr., died in 1856. Later Mrs. Edson married again and in 1876 went to Washington Territory, where she now lives. O. E. Edson remained with

his parents until twelve years old, when he went to Chicago to attend school, working out of school hours for his board and clothes for three years. When fifteen years old he went to McHenry County, Ill., and served three years at the miller's trade. When eighteen he went to Colorado, where he followed mining for a year. In 1861 he enlisted in Company B of First Colorado Infantry, and served in the western army for four and a half years, receiving his discharge at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in the fall of 1865. From there he went to St. Louis and was in a mill there for a year; then went to Wisconsin and in 1867 married Miss Martha E. Smith, of Black River Falls. From there he went to Eau Claire and took charge of a flouring-mill for three years. He was next located at Osseo, where he had charge of a mill for five years. From there going to Minneapolis, he was engaged in the milling business until April, 1884, when he removed to Faribault. His next move was to Owatonna in 1885. He is a thorough master of the milling business in all its details.

Adam Simpson, one of the enterprising millers of Owatonna, was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1844. He came to Owatonna in 1870, and rented a windmill, which he ran for a number of years. In 1878 he bought the water-mill west of the city, which he still conducts. This mill has a capacity of 150 barrels per day, and is doing a flourishing business. Mr. Simpson was married in 1870 to Miss Emma L. Wheelock. They have seven children. Mr. Simpson is a member of the Christadelphian Church. He is a man who stands high among the many substantial business men of the city.

C. N. McLaughlin, of the firm of McLaughlin, Sheldon & Co., manufacturers of the Diamond feedmill, was born in Amherst, Ohio, in 1853; a year later the family moved to Fox Lake, Wis. His father was a railroad contractor, and built a part of the Milwaukee road, in Wisconsin. Our subject went to New York State with his father in

1869, and was there engaged in the construction of railroads for some time. He came to Minnesota in 1874, locating at Plainview, where he was engaged in the farm machinery business. He came to Owatonna in 1877, and in 1881 embarked in the manufacturing business. He was married December 16, 1876, to Miss Minnie S. Melendy, a native of Orange County, Vt. They have two children. Mr. McLaughlin is a member of the Congregational Church, and is also a member of a number of societies, including the United Workmen and Legion of Honor. The firm, of which he is the head, does a large business, and is among the most substantial business houses in the city. Mr. McLaughlin has been mayor of the city, and in many other ways been a prominent citizen.

C. E. Sheldon, of McLaughlin, Sheldon & Co., is a native of Jersey City, N. J., born in 1854. His parents were Elisha S. and Camilla (Crofts) Sheldon. Mr. Sheldon remained in Jersey City until ten years of age, when with his father (his mother having died some time previous), he went to Red Wing, Minn. In 1876, in company with a partner, opened a jewelry, book and stationery store, remaining in that for about two years, when he sold his interest in the book and stationery department to his partner, and continued the jewelry business alone until 1882, and during this time Mr. Sheldon was interested in the farm machinery business. In 1882 the firm of McLaughlin, Sheldon & Co. was formed for the purpose of manufacturing the Diamond feedmills, with headquarters at Red Wing. In 1883 the whole business was moved to Owatonna, and Mr. Sheldon came here to devote all his time to the manufacturing of the mills. Mr. Sheldon was married in 1878 to Miss Carrie Brooks, of Red Wing. They now have three children: Harriet P., Walter B. and Chas. D. Mr. Sheldon is a man of remarkable force of character and energy, and as a citizen and business man holds the respect and confidence of all.

E. W. Brooks, of McLaughlin, Sheldon & Co., is a resident of Red Wing, Minn., having lived there for the past twenty-five years. At present he is general agent for the Plano Harvester Company, and previous to his connection with that company had charge of the McCormick Machine Company's interests, in Red Wing, for sixteen successive years.

The first foundry in Owatonna was established in 1865, by T. J. Howe and M. F. Lowth. They continued the business until 1873, when Mr. Lowth sold half his interest to H. N. Labare, and the firm became Lowth, Howe & Labare. In 1878, Mr. Howe bought the quarter interest held by Mr. Lowth, and the firm became T. J. Howe & Co., as it still remains.

Thomas J. Howe, of the firm of T. J. Howe & Co., manufacturers of broadcast seeders, was born in Lewis County, N. Y., January 15, 1827. When he was four years old his father's family moved to Black River, N. Y., where our subject learned the machinist trade. In 1854 he came west to Beaver Dam, Wis., and in 1865 came to Owatonna. Here he formed a partnership with Michael F. Lowth, in manufacturing seeders. He was elected mayor in 1873, and served three terms, and was alderman from the third ward from 1868 to 1872. In 1877 he was elected a member of the school board, and served two years, and again, in 1884, was made president of the board, holding until 1886. Mr. Howe is a member of Blue Lodge, A. F. & A. M., at Owatonna, and also of the Chapter and Commandery. He is also a member of the Universalist Church. He was married May 6, 1861, to Miss Sarah M. Chapman, a native of Jefferson County, N. Y. Jesse B. and Harry C. are their children's names, both living at home. Mr. Howe is one of the patentees of the "Light-Running Owatonna Force Feed Broadcast Seeder," upon which some seven different patents have been issued. He has been active in all enterprises

beneficial to the city, and has been, and is, among the most prominent business men of the city.

C. W. Burdic, proprietor of City Iron Works, was born in Rockville, Tolland County, Conn., in 1835. He learned the machinist trade and went to Hartford, where he was engaged in the different gun works in that city for some years. Mr. Burdic's first wife was Mary E. Hill, daughter Capt. John E. Hill, of Mystic, Conn. She died in 1864, and he was again married in 1866 to Miss Cevila V. Moon. Ella L. (wife of George N. Tapley, of St. Paul) is an only daughter by his first wife. Mr. Burdic is an enthusiastic Mason, being a member of Blue Lodge and Chapter.

F. G. Schuman, of the firm of Schuman & Fenner, tobacconists, was born in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1859. He learned cigar-making in that city, and was in the employ of Gelz & Co. He came to Owatonna in 1880, where he worked for Mr. Lorence for six years; then he formed a partnership with Mr. Fenner, and they are now doing a flourishing business on the south side of Bridge street.

Prominent among the pioneer settlers of Steele County is Orrin Greely, proprietor of the Owatonna pump factory. His father, Ephriam Greely, and his mother, Sally (Clark) Greely, were natives of New Hampshire. His ancestry on both sides is American as far back as can be traced. Our subject was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., in 1824; when eighteen years of age the family came west to Cleveland, Ohio, and from there to Racine, Wis., where the father died, May 28, 1846. Orrin remained at home until that time, and then moved to Waupun, Wis., following the same business as his father, a millwright. Two years later he settled at Kingston, Wis., where he was engaged in the mercantile business for two years. In 1852 he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and for about one year worked for the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Lakeshore Railroad

Company. After this, a number of years were spent in various portions of Wisconsin and Illinois, including six months spent in erecting windmills on the Illinois Central railway, south of Chicago, and three years in the mercantile business in Waupun. On the 30th of October, 1857, Mr. Greely arrived at Owatonna, and during the first fourteen years of his residence he was engaged in mill work and carpentering. Since that time he has been manufacturing the Owatonna Star Pump, and dealing in iron pipes, fittings, brass goods, fanning mills, etc. Mr. Greely was married in 1846 to Sarah A. Speer, who died the following year. In 1849 he was married to Emily T. McMullen who died in May, 1854, of consumption. In June, 1856, he was again united in matrimony, wedding Sarah A. McMullen. Their children are as follows: Harmon F., Eddy H. and Frank L. The first by the second wife, and the last two by his present wife. Mr. Greely is one of Owatonna's most enterprising citizens. He has been connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church for twenty-seven years.

Henry A. Holmes, superintendent of the Owatonna creamery, was born in Clinton County, N. Y., in 1828. He came west to St. Louis, Mo., in 1852; he remained there but a short time, after which he went to Chicago, where he remained fourteen years, engaged principally as salesman in different retail stores of that city. He came west to West Union, Iowa, and resided there eight years. While there he started the first creamery conducted on the gathered cream plan that was opened west of the Mississippi River. Subsequently he came to Minnesota, locating in Chatfield, having charge of the Chatfield and St. Charles creameries. By excellent management he brought those enterprises up to a paying and thrifty condition. He came to Owatonna in the spring of 1887, and now has charge of the Farmington, Redwood Falls, Marshall and Owatonna creameries. His skill and energy

have already been manifested, and the prosperity of these creameries is now an assured fact. He was married in 1850 to Adeline A. Dow, a native of Vermont. Benjamin H., the only child, resides at Spring Valley. Mr. Holmes is a Mason, being a member of the Blue Lodge Chapter and Commandery.

P. Ganser, proprietor of Ganser's brewery, came to Owatonna in 1865, and bought out the brewery of Knobloch & Manhaim. Mr. Ganser conducted this until 1878, when it was destroyed by fire, the loss to Mr. Ganser being about \$12,000. He then, with characteristic enterprise, rebuilt, and in 1884 it was again burned to the ground. Mr. Ganser then erected his present commodious building, and is now doing a business of between 3,500 and 4,000 barrels per year, having an extensive shipping trade, as well as supplying the home market, and using about 11,000 bushels of grain per year. In 1879 Mr. Ganser, in company with Jacob Glaeser, erected the Germania hall and billiard rooms, and put in one of the finest retail liquor stores in the Northwest. In July, 1887, Mr. Ganser sold his interest in that establishment, and now devotes his whole time to his extensive brewing business. During the present season he has put in improvements to the amount of \$2,500. Mr. Ganser is a native of Prussia, born in 1836. He remained in his native country until eighteen years of age, when he came to America and located in Wisconsin, where he lived for a time and then went to California. In 1863 he returned to Wisconsin and in 1865 came to Owatonna, as stated. Mr. Ganser has extensive business interests here, employs a number of men, and is rated among the most substantial and solid citizens of the county. Enterprises, of whatever nature, which tend to benefit city or county, have always received his support, and in many ways has he taken a prominent part in the affairs of the city.

Louis Bion, proprietor of the Owatonna brewery, was born in Bavaria in 1845. He



G. W. Chesley.

came to America in 1864 and worked for six months in Milwaukee. He came to Winona in September of the same year, and for six years was foreman in C. C. Peck's brewery in that city. He came to Owatonna in 1870 and purchased the brewery on Bridge street, which he has since operated. He was married in 1868 to Miss Katie Schrofer and they have three children. Mr. Bion is an Odd Fellow and is also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Charles Schoen, manufacturer of wagons and carriages, was born in Prussia in 1828. In 1847 he came to America, locating in New York City for one year. He then came west to Milwaukee, Wis., where he engaged in carriage-making, having learned his trade in Prussia. After remaining there for some time, he removed to Madison, then to Prescott, Wis., finally coming to Owatonna, Steele County, Minn., in 1862, where he opened one of the first carriage shops in the city. Mr. Schoen was married in 1859 to Miss Elizabeth Myers, a native of Germany. They have nine children, Phillip, Anna, Katy, Henry, Clementina, Louisa, Lorens, John and Frank. Mr. Schoen is a Democrat and also a member of the Catholic Church. His establishment does an extensive business.

John Deeg, manufacturer of wagons and carriages, was born in Germany in the year 1843. In 1868 he came to America, locating in Owatonna, Steele County, Minn., where he was engaged for one year in the carpentering trade. He then embarked in his present business. Mr. Deeg was married in 1874 to Minnie Staulke. They have six children: Lena, Leonard, John, Minnie, Ella and Alvin. Mr. Deeg belongs to the Goethe Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and also to the Lutheran Church.

OWATONNA PACKING COMPANY.

This is one of the most important of Owatonna's business interests. The company was incorporated on the 2d of November, 1885, with a paid-up capital of \$25,000. They at

once erected a two-story brick building, 86x142 feet in size, which was completed in 1886. The present officers of the company are as follows: N. J. Schafer, president; J. M. Schafer, vice-president; L. L. Bennett, treasurer; B. E. Darby, secretary, and N. J. Schafer, L. L. Bennett, Neil Graham, J. M. Schafer, Henry Birkett, J. C. Backus and William Mork, directors. These were also the first officers of the corporation, except that Henry Birkett was the first vice-president. The company have the capacity for handling and dressing five thousand hogs per day; and during last season employed fifty-three hands. They have a branch house at Duluth, where most of their goods are sold; a considerable amount, however, is shipped to Dakota.

Hon. Nicholas J. Schafer, president and general manager of the Owatonna Packing Company, was born in Darien, Genesee County, N. Y., in 1854. When ten years old, his father, Phillip Schafer, moved with his family to Freeborn County, Minn. N. J. Schafer went to Dakota in 1867, locating at Big Stone City; from there he moved to Millbank, where he held the office of councilman and was otherwise prominent in local affairs. He was elected to the territorial legislature in 1881, from Grant County, and still owns large interests in Dakota. He came to Owatonna in 1886, and was made president of the packing company. In masonry, Mr. Schafer is Master of the Blue Lodge, High Priest of the Chapter and Senior Warden of the Commandery. He was married September 5, 1882, to Miss Louisa Knobloch. They have one girl — Gertrude Louisa.

HOTELS.

The first hotel in Owatonna was the Winship House, which was opened by N. Winship in 1855, on the site which it still occupies. The building then was a log cabin, 22x16 feet in size, and from the travel which passed through here this little hostelry became one of the best known landmarks of southern Minnesota in early times. In 1856 an addi-

tion, 12x22 feet in size, was erected and various changes and additions have since been made. Mr. Winship is still proprietor.

Late in 1855 another hotel was opened in A. B. Cornell's log cabin, by Philo Sanford. It was located on the bank of the river near where G. F. Albertus' residence now stands. In 1857 Mr. Sanford erected what was then known as the American House, now called the Central House, which stands just west of the Morehouse block, on Broadway. After a year or two A. Town purchased the property, and it has since changed hands a number of times. M. A. McAndrews is the present proprietor of the hotel.

In 1857, B. L. Arnold erected what was known as the Eureka House, located where John Shea's clothing store now stands. Mr. Arnold ran this for about five years, then rented it to D. W. Walbridge and finally, in 1864, sold to David Barker, who rebuilt and rearranged the house, building a new front, and the place became known as "Barker's Exchange." Three or four years later he sold to J. Oppliger, who conducted a meat-market there for about one year and then sold to Parcher & Bryant, and they fitted it again as a hotel. Two years later Parcher bought his partner's interest, and a few months afterward, John Shea became a partner. Finally, the whole thing was rented to Parcher for five years, and two years later he sub-let to a Mr. Brown. He was followed by Charles Hastings, who conducted it until August 1, 1882, when he was succeeded by C. Tryon. Shortly afterward Mr. Shea, who in the meantime had become owner of the property, sold it to William H. Kelly, and its use as a hotel was discontinued.

The Owatonna House was built and opened during the war by George Leick. Several years later it was purchased by Mr. Engel, and at the time of his death he was succeeded by his son, William Engel, the present proprietor.

The Scandinavian House was built in 1866 by John M. Joos. For a number of years it

was rented, and finally came into the possession of Ole Elton, the present proprietor.

In 1866 John Bartsch erected and opened the German hotel, near the depots. He ran it until the time of his death, which occurred in November, 1881, and since that time his widow has conducted the business.

The Arnold House was erected in 1866 by B. L. Arnold. Mr. Arnold sold to Charles Hastings, who conducted it until 1882, when the property was purchased by C. Tryon, the present proprietor. The hotel is a three-story frame structure, well furnished and conveniently arranged. Mr. Tryon has built up the trade of the house until it is now one of the best paying hotels in this part of the State.

In 1866 Peter Lem started a Scandinavian hotel in the building now occupied as an office by Dr. Rossbach. It was only run as a hotel for a short time.

The Tremont House was built in 1867 by Mr. Cory. He sold to John Parcher and later it passed into the hands of J. Oppliger. In 1876 W. Nickerson purchased the property, and his son Charles is the present proprietor.

In 1868 O. H. Wensell and Oliver Nelson erected and opened a house called the City Hotel. In 1869 it was purchased by E. B. Crooker, and in 1870 he sold to Appleton Hale. In 1875 James and George Peachey bought the property and the name was changed to the Peachey House. George Peachey, the present proprietor, bought the house in 1880.

The American House was built in 1875 by James Connell. The property has changed hands several times. L. Robinson is the present proprietor.

In 1880 Dr. E. M. Morehouse erected a three-story brick building, which was opened as the Commercial Hotel in 1884 by Elmer E. Cane. Various parties have conducted it since that time. O. E. Edson is the present proprietor.

Church's hotel was built and opened by

John Church in 1885. F. D. Albro is the present proprietor.

In the summer of 1887, Dr. E. M. Morehouse began the erection of a magnificent brick block, just north of the postoffice, which is to be opened as the Merchants' Hotel, and it is fast nearing completion as this volume goes to press. The building in size is one hundred feet front by eighty feet deep, four stories high, constructed of brick of Dr. Morehouse's own manufacture. Almost the entire front will be filled with plate glass, while massive iron pillars are used as supporters, and tiling will be used for office and hall floors. The house will be elegantly furnished and contain over a hundred sleeping rooms. The house will be equipped with steam-heating apparatus, fire escapes, elevator and all modern improvements. In addition to this, four stairways will open on the street. When completed it will have cost \$50,000 or more and will be the finest hotel in the southern part of the State.

In connection with this article we present biographical sketches of a number of the leading hotel men of the city.

Nathaniel Winship, the pioneer hotel man of Steele County, and present proprietor of the Winship House, was born in Weston, Windsor County, Vt., July 9, 1822, his ancestors being Americans as far back as can now be traced. His parents were John A. and Amy (Walker) Winship. Nathaniel at an early day settled in Milwaukee County, Wis., and in 1855 came to Steele County, as has been stated heretofore. He was married October 9, 1851, to Miss Emily P. Moulton, a native of Vermont. Her people were English, her mother being a Tabor, a prominent family in the New England States in early times. Mr. and Mrs. Winship are members of the Baptist Church and hold the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends. They have the following children — Henry M. and Ernest T., of Tracy, Minn.; John E., proprietor of a job printing office in Owatonna; Alice E. and Frank R. Mrs. Winship's

mother came here in 1858 and resided here until her death, which occurred April 17, 1881.

When Mr. Winship and family first arrived here they lived for a time in a little shanty located where the brewery now stands. Mrs. Winship states that many times when feeding her domestic animals, the gophers would come up and eat with them. Another time a rattlesnake came into the house and laid by the stove while the family were at dinner. A common saying was as to "whose floor should be kept the cleanest." Many families were then living in little log cabins with no floor save "Mother Earth."

Cyrus Tryon, proprietor of the Arnold House, is a native of Cumberland, Me., born in the year 1831. He came West in 1853 and, having learned the business of locomotive engineer, and followed it in the East, followed that business in the West until he had completed his twenty-eighth year on the road. He ran the first train into Madison, Wis., and for years was identified with what has since become the great Milwaukee railway system. From railroading he entered the hotel business, conducting leading hotels at both Prairie du Chien and Richland Center, in Wisconsin. In 1882 he came to Owatonna, and purchased the Arnold House which he still owns and conducts. In 1854 he was married to Miss Emily Lawrence, whose father was a cousin of the famous Abbott Lawrence. She is also a native of the State of Maine. Mr. and Mrs. Tryon have four children, as follows: William E., a practicing physician of Minneapolis; Frank V., proprietor of the Tryon Hotel, Austin, Minn.; Lillian M., now Mrs. R. O., Philpot, of Owatonna; and George W., a graduate of Pillsbury Academy. Mr. Tryon thoroughly understands the hotel business and has built up a large and increasing custom, while Mrs. Tryon, besides being an accomplished musician, is an affable and courteous lady who, as a hostess, has done much

toward gaining for the Arnold House the reputation which it sustains.

Francis D. Albro, proprietor of the Church hotel, was born in Kent County, town of Coventry, R. I. When he was ten years old his father's family moved to Scotland, Conn., thence to Norwich, where he learned the machinist trade. He was married in 1856 to Miss Esther C. Arnold. In 1862 he enlisted in Company C, Twenty-first Connecticut Volunteers. He was wounded in the battle of Fredericksburg and was discharged. His wife died in 1870, and he was again married in 1871 to Mrs. Abbie C. Fitch. He came to Owatonna in 1886, purchased the Church hotel, and is its present proprietor. Mr. Church had two children by his first wife—Isadore E. and Susan H.—both of whom are living. By his second wife he has had three children: Frank R., born in February, 1874; Herbert E., born May 2, 1870, and Cressey A., born April 23, 1873. Mr. Albro is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Sedgwick Post (Norwich, Conn.) Grand Army of the Republic. With his wife he belongs to the Congregational Church.

Michael A. McAndrews, proprietor of the Central House, was born in Ireland in 1845. He came to America when two years old, with his parents, locating in Lake County, Ill., where he engaged in farming. In 1857 he, with his father, Francis McAndrews, came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Merton Township. His father died in June, 1872. His mother died in 1878. Our subject enlisted, August 23, 1862, in a company, and went to Winnebago Agency in August, 1862. In January, 1864, he enlisted in Battery L, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and was in service until September, being, most of the time, in Chattanooga. He came to Owatonna in 1884, and in the spring of 1887 took possession of Central House. Mr. McAndrews was married in December, 1872, to Mary A. Hand, a native of Iowa. They have four children: Abbie A., Willie H., Frank J. and John H. They are members

of the Catholic Church, and Mr. McAndrews belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic.

Ole Elton, proprietor of the Scandinavian House, was born in Norway in 1842. In 1866 he came to America, locating in Waseca, Minn., where he engaged in the merchandise business for two years. In 1876 he came to Owatonna, where he has since resided. Mr. Elton was married in 1862 to Miss Mary Larsen, who died in 1872. He was again married in 1874, to Lena Larsen. Agnes, born in Norway, October 2, 1864, Olof, born in Norway, June 6, 1866, Andrew, born in Waseca County, April 1, 1868, and Carrie, born in Waseca City, November 5, 1875, are the names of their children.

William G. Engel, proprietor of the Owatonna House, was born near Milwaukee, Wis., in 1858. In 1867 he came to Owatonna. His father, William L. Engel, worked one year in a brewery and then bought the Owatonna House, which he conducted until the time of his death, in December, 1872. William G. has been running the house since his father's death.

John Bartsch, deceased, former proprietor of the German hotel, was a native of Germany. He came to America in 1854 and located in Dodge County, Wis., where for twelve years he was employed in an iron foundry. In 1866 he came to Owatonna and engaged in the hotel business, erecting the house referred to. He continued to conduct it until his death, which occurred November 27, 1881. He had been married many years previous, and had four children: Charles, Hattie, William and Gusta. Charles now lives in Dakota and Hattie in Minneapolis. William and Gusta still live at home. The business is carried on by the widow and William.

William Bartsch was born in Wisconsin on the 17th of December, 1863. He is a single man, of good business qualities, and a Democrat in politics.

G. W. Peachey, proprietor of the Peachey House, was born in Dodge County, Wis.,

in 1853. His father, James Peachy, brought his family to Dodge County, Minn., where he was one of the pioneers of Ellington Township. Geo. W. Peachy came to Owatonna in 1876, purchased the City Hotel and has conducted it under the name of the Peachy House since that time. He was married in 1878 to Miss Lillie Cole. He is a member of Lodge No. 14, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The first physician to locate in what is now the city of Owatonna was Dr. E. M. Morehouse, who is still a leading physician of the city. During the third of a century that has glided by since the city was laid out, the number of physicians that have come and gone have been legion. At the present writing (1887) the medical profession is well represented at Owatonna by the following named physicians, viz.: Drs. E. M. Morehouse, Edward E. Bigelow, J. L. Harrington, J. H. Adair, G. A. Rossbach, T. L. Hatch, D. H. Roberts and W. A. Ware.

Eli Martin Morehouse, M. D., pioneer physician of Owatonna, was born at Warren, Trumbull County, Ohio, March 2, 1835, his parents being Nelson and Sarah Johnson Morehouse. His father, Nelson Morehouse was a mill-owner, and his grandfather, Eli Morehouse, participated in the second war with England. Eli M. received an academic education in Warren; commenced reading medicine when a mere lad, his preceptor being the celebrated Dr. William Paine, professor of the theory and practice of medicine, in the University of Medicine and Surgery, at Philadelphia. At seventeen he had graduated in medicine and at eighteen commenced practicing at Warren, at seventeen having received his diploma from the University of Medicine and Surgery, at Philadelphia. In 1853 Dr. Morehouse crossed the Mississippi River and engaged in practice at Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa. Early in 1855 he came to Minnesota and

became the first and only physician at Owatonna, then, since that time he has been in practice here constantly, with the exception of a short time about the close of the war, when, in 1864, in order to have a respite from severe labor, he took a trip to Montana and other Territories, coupling a mild form of gold fever with a taste for adventure. He was absent for two years, in practice part of this time at Virginia City, Mon. After this trip he again resumed his large practice here and has since continued it. In May, 1871, he led off in the formation of the Minnesota State Eclectic Medical Society, of which he was the first president, and at the present writing again holds that office. He is also a member of the National Eclectic Medical Association, having years ago received diplomas from the New York and Cincinnati Eclectic Medical Colleges. In early days, as at the present writing, the Doctor was among the best known men in this part of the State. There were no rail roads for years after he began practice here, and his ride extended from thirty to fifty miles in every direction, while the absence of roads and bridges, and the trackless prairies form the basis for enough incidents of danger and hardships to fill a volume. This brought him in contact with a vast range of country, and formed the foundation for the extended and lucrative practice which he has enjoyed ever since. He was chosen a member of the State Senate in 1877, and in the session of the following year was upon seven committees, including those of public lands, Indian affairs, State university and library. In early days he was a Republican, but since the war has been a Democrat. He has held many other public offices of trust and has been offered many times the nomination of his party for others, but as a rule he has declined. The Doctor belongs to the Camp in Odd Fellowship, and is a Knight Templar among the Masons. Since locating in Owatonna no man has been more active and

liberal in advancing the interests of the city. In 1867 he built the Morehouse block or Opera House; later the Merchants' hotel and other important buildings, and now has nearly completed a four-story brick block opposite the postoffice, which will be the finest and largest building in the city. A full description of it is given elsewhere in this volume. He also owns hundreds of acres of improved and unimproved land. All matters tending to benefit the city or county have always received his hearty encouragement—both with his influence and in a financial way.

George A. Rossbach, M.D., has practiced in Owatonna since 1871. He was born in Moyennoutier, France, in 1813. Graduating from the Strasburg Medical College in 1833, he went with a regiment of French troops to Africa in the capacity of surgeon. He came to America in 1851, locating in Sauk County, Wis. In 1861 he was made surgeon of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry, serving a year and a half with the troops and two years at a hospital at Fort Scott, Kan. He came to Owatonna in 1871. He is an Odd Fellow, being a member of Goethe Lodge. He is one of the most skillful surgeons in the State.

D. H. Roberts, M. D., homeopathic physician, was born near Richmond, Wayne County, Ind., in 1824. He received his medical education principally in Indianapolis. After practicing a short time he accepted a chair of natural science in the Whitewater College, and later he was made superintendent of the Farmers' Institute near Lafayette. Subsequently he located in Pendleton, Ind., where he resumed practice. In 1869 he came to Minnesota and located in Plainview. In 1872 he removed to Owatonna and has since been doing a lucrative business. The doctor is a Mason and also an Odd Fellow. He was married in 1848 to Miss Elizabeth P. Austin, a native of Philadelphia.

Edward E. Bigelow, M. D., was born in

Akron, Ohio, in 1841, where he spent his early life. In 1850 removed with his father's family to Lake Mills, Jefferson County, Wis., where he received an academical education and then began the study of medicine and surgery, which was interrupted by the War of the Rebellion. He enlisted in Gen. Fremont's body-guard, at Milwaukee, 1861, but was rejected on account of being unfit for cavalry service. He re-enlisted in 1862 and was appointed sergeant of Company D, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteers, and was discharged, on account of disability, in 1863. He pursued the study of his profession in the office of his preceptor till the fall of 1865, when he entered the medical college of the University of Michigan. Having received the degrees of doctors of medicine and surgery, in March, 1867, he immediately entered upon the duties of his profession at Milan, Mich. In 1873 removed to Manchester. On July 5, 1877, he was united in marriage with Miss Ella A. Eeles, of Waterloo, N. Y., and in the fall of the same year removed to Owatonna, Minn., and is now very actively engaged in his chosen profession, having a large and increasing practice. The doctor is a member of the Minnesota State Medical Association and of the American Medical Association. In Masonry he is a member of the Blue Lodge, Owatonna Royal Arch Chapter No. 15, and of Cyrene Commandery No. 9 of Owatonna. He is an Odd Fellow and a member and surgeon of James A. Goodwin Post, Grand Army of the Republic, No. 81. The doctor and Mrs. Bigelow have two little girls—Edna Louisa, born December 17, 1879, and Marian E., born August 13, 1884.

Theodore L. Hatch, M. D., of Owatonna, was born in Broome County, N. Y., the 20th of January, 1848. When he was two years old his parents removed with him to Washington County, Wis., where they resided till he was six years of age, when they moved to Plainville, Adams County, Wis. Dr. Hatch received a good common school education

and at the age of twenty engaged in the avocation of teaching. In the spring of 1867 he commenced the study of medicine at Neillsville, Wis., and took his medical degree at the University of Michigan on the 29th of March, 1871. In the final examination for the degree of doctor of medicine he stood at the head of his class in anatomy and physiology, and obstetrics and gynecology. He practised at Neillsville, Wis., during the summer of 1871, coming to Steele County in October of that year. During the winter of 1871-2 he taught school at Aurora station, engaging in practice outside of school hours. In the spring of 1872 he moved to Blooming Prairie and practiced medicine, engaging also with his brother in the drug business. In May, 1880, he became a resident of Owatonna, where he has since resided. He is at present county physician of Steele County, this being the fourth term he has held that position.

J. L. Harrington, M. D., was born in Windham County, Vt., in 1840. From the age of nineteen to twenty-two, he studied medicine and taught school alternately. He graduated in medicine June 3, 1862, from the University of Vermont, and soon commenced to practice at Weston. In 1864 he enlisted in Company I, Fourth Volunteer Infantry, and was subsequently promoted to assistant surgeon in the First Vermont Heavy Artillery. In 1866 he went to Halifax and resumed his practice, remaining there until 1881. During his residence there he was a member of the State constitutional convention in 1872. In 1878 was elected to the legislature, and was chairman of the State board of supervisors of the insane in 1879 and 1880. In 1881, on account of failing health, he came west and located in Owatonna. On February 2, 1867, he was married to Mrs. Catharine Tenney, a native of New Hampshire. William E. is the name of their only son. Mrs. S. R. Nelson, of Owatonna, is a daughter of Mrs. Harrington by her former marriage. Dr. Harrington is a skill-

ful surgeon and a splendid physician, and has a lucrative practice.

J. H. Adair, M. D., was born in Havana Township, Steele County, in 1858, his people being the first settlers in that locality. Dr. Adair received his early education at Owatonna, and later took a course at Carleton College, Northfield. In 1880 he went to Chicago, entered Rush Medical College and graduated from that institution in 1883. He began to practice at Winnebago City, Minn., but a year later came to Owatonna, where he is now practicing. September 15, 1887, he was married to Miss Mary L. Davidson, daughter of William Davidson, of Owatonna.

PRESENT BUSINESS.

At the present writing (August, 1887) the general business of Owatonna, in the various lines of trade, is represented by the following-named gentlemen and firms:

General Merchandise—G. F. Albertus, J. Oppliger & Co., A. Kasper, Soukup Bros., Nelson & Jefts, J. C. Jahreiss, Petrich & Speckeen, M. Leary, T. H. Kelly & Co. and W. Holt.

Exclusive Dry Goods—H. R. Moore, Jr., & Co. and J. L. Saxton.

Groceries—Twiford & Sperry, E. Downie & Co., A. Mudeking, Wm. Davidson, E. W. Piper, E. W. Clarke, Stowers & Jefferson, E. F. Requa.

Clothing—John Shea, H. Katz & Co. and J. Schulein.

Hardware—E. Y. Hunnewill, Thon Bros., Crandall & Nelson, Parrott & Smith, A. Knobloch and N. C. Larson.

Drugs—F. M. Bauter, Wm. Gauswitz & Co., C. Peterson and Luers & Luers.

Boots and Shoes—William Mork, Nichols & Hall, Weber & Son and J. A. Butsch.

Jewelry—Henry Birkett, Julius F. Young and C. F. Warner.

Lumber—Laird, Norton & Co. (George Clark, manager), J. Z. Barncard & Co. and Wisconsin Lumber Company (McIndoe Alexander, manager).

Saloons — Emil Theimer, J. Glaeser, Chas. Kenmoth, Joseph Hoffman, T. Fedder, Bion & Hoffman, W. Watowa, Joseph Kubat, M. Ryan, Mrs. Bartsch, Anton Belina and Thompson & Wightman.

Flour and Feed — J. W. Gillett. Nearly all of the grocery stores also handle flour and feed.

Marble Works — Webb & Hemingway, Byrne & McDonald and A. Meyer.

Agricultural Implements — Buxton & Jones, McLaughlin & Larson, R. H. Chapin, M. S. Quiggle, Crandall & Nelson, Virtue & Co. and Hotchkiss & Co.

Pump Factory — Orrin Greeley.

Diamond Feedmill Manufacturers — McLaughlin, Sheldon & Co.

Blacksmith Shops — Brown & McRostie, Homer Wardwill, C. Zannetti, Ben. Meixner, R. Deininger, H. Cartright, C. Hanson, M. S. Quiggle and C. F. Smith.

Wagon Shops — C. Schoen, Ben Meixner, John Deeg, R. Deininger and H. Cartright.

Livery — Fred Roskopf and R. H. Chapin.

Confectionery — Chas. Chenoweth, W. Dennis.

Bakeries — C. Chenoweth and Mr. Brooks.

Harness Shops — H. F. Luce & Son, O. Butsch, Meyer Brothers, C. Bowers and O. M. Hammond.

Shoemakers — J. Lee, O. Searle, J. R. McLeod and J. Bartosch.

Merchant Tailors — John Cottier, N. W. Hanson and D. Banks.

Barbers — Jerry Pope, Parker Brothers, Boggs & Essex, N. G. Frisco and Andrew Sanderline.

Books and Stationery — A. M. Kinyon. Several drug stores also handle a light stock of this line of goods.

Grain — Pratt & Co., Soper & Son. J. S. Austin.

Photographers — G. W. Chesley and H. Müller.

Dentists — Doctors Medd, Searle and Stearns.

Real Estate — B. S. Cook.

Meat Markets — Owatonna Packing Company, Charles Meschke, Gus Sekwanke, Boice & Forsyth and John Stranski & Co.

CITY GOVERNMENT.

In this connection we present a complete list of the officers who have managed the various departments of the city government from the incorporation of the city in 1865, to the present time, inclusive:

OFFICERS, 1865-6.

Mayor, G. B. Hall; recorder, A. M. Kinyon; assessor, J. W. Dresser; treasurer, J. B. Hooker; city marshal, W. Wheaton; city justice, A. N. Stoughton; city attorney, J. B. Searles; city surveyor, L. Bixby; official paper, *Plaindealer*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, W. H. Willsey, W. R. Kinyon; justice, A. Chambers; street commissioner, S. N. Sargent; constable, James Connell.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, J. A. Oppliger, J. B. Crooker; justice, I. P. Requa; street commissioner, A. Odell; constable, Wm. Curtis.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, W. Scruby, J. Donaldson; justice, Philo Bliss; street commissioner, M. H. Franklin; constable, J. B. Hooker.

Board of Education.—At large, D. S. Harsha, C. L. Tappan; first ward, Seth Hotchkiss; second ward, A. Town; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1866-7.

Mayor, A. N. Stoughton; recorders, A. M. Kinyon, C. S. Crandall; assessor, J. Chambers; treasurer, G. B. Hall; street commissioner, S. N. Sargent; city marshal, W. Wheaton; city justice, C. C. Cornell; city attorney, J. B. Searles; city surveyor, L. Bixby; official paper, *Plaindealer*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, W. H. Willsey, W. R. Kinyon; constable, James Connell; justice, A. Chambers.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, J. Newsalt, H. C. Eldred; justice, I. P. Requa; constable, William Curtis.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, William Scruby, H. J. Lewis, J. A. Opplinger; justice, Philo Bliss; constables, C. G. Smith, H. A. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, D. S. Harsha, C. L. Tappan; first ward, Seth Hotchkiss; second ward, A. Town; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1867-8.

Mayor, S. B. Washburn; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, L. E. Rawson; treasurer, G. B. Hall; street commissioners, H. J. Lewis, C. L. Gardner; city marshal, M. J. Toher; city justice, H. H. Johnson; city attorney, J. B. Searles; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, W. R. Kinyon, Clarke Chambers, W. H. Willsey; constable, Levi Frank; justice, Addison Phelps.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, H. C. Eldred, N. Winship, J. Donaldson; constable, none; justice, H. A. Beers.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, J. A. Opplinger, J. Donaldson, J. S. Fuller; constable, I. W. Hanks; justice, M. F. Lowth.

Board of Education.—At large, D. S. Harsha, S. S. Russell; first ward, S. Hotchkiss, I. J. Fuller; second ward, A. Town; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1868-9.

Mayor, J. W. Morford; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, E. Scannel; treasurer, S. Hotchkiss; street commissioner, A. Phelps; city marshal, I. W. Hanks; city justice, H. H. Johnson; city attorney, J. B. Searles; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, C. Chambers, J. A. Armstrong, Chas. Dennijes; constables, none; justice, Wm. Dean.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, N. Winship, D. B. Marble; constable, J. B. Hooker; justice, H. A. Beers.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, T. J. Howe, K. D. Chase; justice, Wm. Davidson; constable, I. W. Hanks.

Board of Education.—At large, S. S. Rus-

sell, S. B. Washburne; first ward, I. J. Fuller; second ward, P. S. Smith, John Odell; third ward, Wm. Davidson.

OFFICERS, 1869-70.

Mayor, A. N. Stoughton; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, E. Scannel; treasurer, J. Chambers; street commissioner, M. J. Toher; city marshal, I. W. Hanks; city justice, H. A. Beers; city attorney, J. B. Searles; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, J. A. Armstrong, Lewis Lord; constable, James Cornell; justice, T. G. Patch.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, D. B. Marble, L. E. Rawson; justice, L. B. Town; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, K. D. Chase, T. J. Howe, H. Backus; constable, I. W. Hanks; justice, Philo Bliss.

Board of Education.—At large, G. B. Hall, M. F. Lowth; first ward, B. F. Melvin; second ward, John Odell, D. S. Harsha; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1870-71.

Mayor, H. H. Johnson; recorder, Isaac Burch; assessor, Seth Hotchkiss; treasurer, J. Chambers; street commissioner, L. Gilbert; city marshal, I. W. Hanks; city justice, H. A. Beers; city attorney, J. B. Searles; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, J. A. Armstrong, R. C. Olin, Lewis Lord; constable, James Cornell; justice, T. G. Patch.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, D. B. Marble, L. E. Rawson; constable, E. R. Fenno; justice, Samuel Collins.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, T. J. Howe, H. Backus; justice, Philo Bliss; constable, I. W. Hanks.

Board of Education.—At large, G. B. Hall, G. C. Tanner; first ward, Charles S. Crandall; second ward, D. S. Harsha; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1871-2.

Mayor, R. C. Olin; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, Seth Hotchkiss; treasurer, J. Chambers; street commissioner, James Cotter; city marshal, I. W. Hanks; city justice, H. H. Johnson; city attorney, Lewis L. Wheelock; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, R. C. Olin, T. W. Irving, W. H. Sherman; constable, James Connell; justice, T. G. Patch.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, D. B. Marble, E. A. Tyler; justice, M. L. Blair; constable, R. G. Chittenden.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, H. Backus, J. E. Buxton; justice, J. S. Austin; constable, O. G. Evenson.

Board of Education.—At large, G. C. Tanner, Lewis L. Wheelock; first ward, Charles S. Crandall; second ward, E. H. S. Dartt; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1872-3.

Mayors, W. H. Kelly, J. A. Oppliger; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, Seth Hotchkiss; treasurer, Joseph Chambers; street commissioner, S. J. Loomis; city marshal, D. Whipple; city justice, H. H. Johnson; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, B. S. Wheeler; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, T. W. Irving, W. H. Sherman, W. H. Willsey; justice, T. G. Patch; constable, James Connell.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, E. A. Tyler, A. C. Dodge; justice, C. C. Cornell; constable, D. Whipple.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, H. Backus, J. E. Buxton; justice, J. S. Austin; constable, A. E. Simons.

Board of Education.—At large, Lewis L. Wheelock, G. C. Tanner; first ward, Chas. S. Crandall; second ward, E. H. S. Dartt; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1873-4.

Mayor, T. J. Howe; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, D. W. Burch; treasurer, Joseph Chambers; street commissioner, S. J.

Loomis; city marshal, E. L. Paddock; city justice, T. G. Patch; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, B. S. Wheeler; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, T. W. Irving, Seth Hotchkiss; justice, H. H. Johnson; constable, Theo. Dean.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, A. C. Dodge, Titus Case; justice, C. C. Cornell; constable, E. R. Fenno.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, H. Backus, J. E. Buxton; justice, Wm. Davidson; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, G. C. Tanner, John A. Spelman; first ward, A. N. Stoughton; second ward, E. H. S. Dartt; third ward, D. W. Burch.

OFFICERS, 1874-5.

Mayor, T. J. Howe; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, Seth Hotchkiss; treasurer, Joseph Chambers; street commissioner, P. Brennan; city marshal, S. H. Stowers; city justices, T. G. Patch, N. M. Donaldson; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, Seth Hotchkiss, Clarke Chambers; justice, H. H. Johnson; constable, P. R. Pike.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, Titus Case, N. M. Donaldson; justice, Isaac Howe; constable, G. F. Doolittle.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, J. E. Buxton, Geo. Wilson; justice, Wm. Davidson; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, G. C. Tanner, John A. Spelman; first ward, A. N. Stoughton; second ward, E. H. S. Dartt; third ward, H. W. Pratt.

OFFICERS, 1875-6.

Mayor, T. J. Howe; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, Seth Hotchkiss; treasurer, J. Chambers; street commissioner, P. Brennan; city marshal, S. H. Stowers; city justice, N. M. Donaldson; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, Clarke Chambers, A. Knobloch; justice, H. H. Johnson; constable, S. H. Stowers.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, N. M. Donaldson, E. Donaldson; justices, Isaac Howe, H. A. Beers; constable, Wm. Furman.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, J. E. Buxton, Geo. Wilson; justice, Wm. Davidson; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, G. C. Tanner, J. C. Ellis; first ward, A. N. Stoughton; second ward, E. H. S. Dartt; third ward, H. W. Pratt.

OFFICERS, 1876-7.

Mayor, N. M. Donaldson; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, L. E. Rawson, treasurer, J. Chambers; street commissioner, P. Brennan, city marshal, J. B. Putney; city justice, N. M. Donaldson; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *People's Press*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, A. Knobloch, J. R. Fox; justice, H. H. Johnson; constable, George Van Dusen.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, E. Donaldson, J. C. Ellis; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, Wm. Furman.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, E. Easton, Jas. Thompson; justice, Wm. Davidson; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, H. W. Pratt, J. C. Ellis; first ward, W. A. Dynes, R. H. Chapin; second ward, E. H. S. Dartt; third ward, C. G. Earley.

OFFICERS, 1877-8.

Mayor, M. A. Fredenburg; recorder, Isaac W. Burch; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, Joseph Chambers; street commissioner, P. Brennan; city marshal, S. H. Stowers; city justice, N. M. Donaldson; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Review*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, J. R. Fox, A. Knobloch; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, none.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, E. Donaldson,

J. C. Ellis; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, E. M. Arnold.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, James Thompson, C. H. Randall; justice, E. C. Culver; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, J. C. Ellis, J. E. Truesdell; first ward, G. C. Tanner; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, T. J. Howe.

OFFICERS, 1878-9.

Mayor, M. A. Fredenburg; recorder, I. W. Burch; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, Joseph Chambers; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, S. H. Stowers; city justice, N. M. Donaldson; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Owatonna Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, A. Knobloch, A. C. Gutterson; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, S. H. Stowers.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, E. Donaldson, C. W. Hadley; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, W. C. Hadley.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, C. H. Randall, J. C. Backus, J. D. Holden; justice, E. C. Culver; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, J. S. Woodard, Lewis Lord; first ward, G. C. Tanner; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, T. J. Howe.

OFFICERS, 1879-80.

Mayor, J. C. Ellis; recorder, I. W. Burch; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, Joseph Chambers; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, D. Whipple; city justice, C. C. Cornell; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Owatonna Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, Lorin Andrews, A. C. Gutterson; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, W. C. Hadley.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, J. E. Buxton, G. W. Rockwood; justice, A. B. Barrett; constable, D. W. Williamson.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, J. C. Backus, G. F. Albertus; justice, R. B. Newhall; constable, Geo. W. Peachey.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, H. Schmidt, E. M. Morehouse; justice, none; constable, S. H. Stowers.

Board of Education.—At large, J. C. Ellis, James Cotter, J. E. Truesdell; first ward, L. L. Wheelock; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, T. J. Howe; fourth ward, Chas. Dennijes.

OFFICERS, 1880-1.

Mayor, J. C. Ellis; recorder, Charles Dawson; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, Joseph Chambers; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, D. Whipple; city justice, C. C. Cornell; city attorney, L. L. Wheelock; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Owatonna Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, Lorin Andrews, A. C. Gutterson; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, W. C. Hadley.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, J. E. Buxton, Henry Birkett; justice, A. B. Barrett; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, G. F. Albertus, E. M. Morehouse; justice, R. B. Newhall; constable, Geo. W. Peachey.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, Herman Schmidt, John Hammel; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, A. Hafemann.

Board of Education.—At large, James Cotter, A. C. Hickman; first ward, L. L. Wheelock; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, T. J. Howe; fourth ward, Chas. Dennijes.

OFFICERS, 1881-2.

Mayor, B. S. Cook; recorder, Charles Dawson; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, R. B. Newhall; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, I. U. Jones; city justice, H. A. Beers; city attorney, H. E. Johnson; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *People's Press*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, A. C. Gutterson, J. E. Truesdell; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, W. C. Hadley.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, Henry Birkett, E. Scannel; justice, A. B. Barrett; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, G. F. Albertus, E. M. Morehouse; justice, R. B. Newhall; Constable, J. C. Johnson.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, John Hammel, H. Schmidt; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, O. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, A. C. Hickman, James Cotter; first ward, L. L. Wheelock; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, A. Simpson; fourth ward, Chas. Dennijes.

OFFICERS, 1882-3.

Mayor, B. S. Cook; recorder, C. E. Luce; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, H. H. Luers; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, I. U. Jones; city justice, H. A. Beers; city attorney, H. E. Johnson; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Steele County Herald*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, J. E. Truesdell, John Chambers; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, W. C. Hadley.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, E. Scannel, S. S. Green; justice, M. A. Fredenburg; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, E. M. Morehouse, G. F. Albertus; justice, none; constable, Ignatius Kremer.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, Peter Ganser, Herman Schmidt; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, O. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, James Cotter, A. C. Hickman; first ward, L. L. Wheelock; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, A. Simpson; fourth ward, E. Y. Hune-will.

OFFICERS, 1883-4.

Mayor, H. Birkett; recorder, C. E. Luce; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, C. J. Kinyon; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, John Thorson; city justice, M. A. Fredenburg; city attorney, E. W. Richter; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *Owatonna Journal*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, John Chambers, J. E. Truesdell; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, R. H. Johnson.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, S. S. Green, J. C. Ellis, H. H. Luers; justice, M. A. Fredenburg; constable, W. H. Shoemaker.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, G. F. Albertus, Frank Stimson, J. D. Holden; justice, J. D. Holden; constable, Ignatius Kremer.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, Peter Ganser, Herman Schmidt; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, O. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, A. C. Hickman, James Cotter; first ward, L. L. Wheelock; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, A. Simpson; fourth ward, E. Y. Hune-will.

OFFICERS, 1884-5.

Mayor, John Shea; recorder, C. E. Luce; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, C. J. Kinyon; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, R. White; city justice, M. A. Fredenburg; city attorney, E. W. Richter; city surveyor, J. H. Abbott; official paper, *People's Press*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, J. E. Truesdell, M. J. Toher; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, R. H. Johnson.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, S. S. Green, J. Z. Barncard; justice, O. Abernethy; constable, W. H. Shoemaker.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, E. M. Morehouse, J. Glaeser; justice, O. M. Hammond; constable, Ignatius Kremer.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, Peter Ganser, Herman Schmidt; justice, H. A. Beers; constable, O. Tiffany.

Board of Education.—At large, J. A. Cotter, T. J. Howe; first ward, W. A. Sperry; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, Lewis Lord; fourth ward, E. Y. Hune-will.

OFFICERS, 1885-6.

Mayor, C. N. McLaughlin; recorder, C. E. Luce; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, C. J. Kinyon; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, R. White; city justice, A. N. Stoughton; city attorney, E. W. Richter; city surveyor, A. M. Mitchell; official paper, *People's Press*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, M. J. Toher, N.

C. Larson; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, R. H. Johnson.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, S. S. Green, J. Z. Barncard; justice, M. A. Fredenburg; constable, H. R. Thompson.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, E. M. Morehouse, E. W. Piper; justice, William Davidson; constable, Ignatius Kremer.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, Peter Ganser, Charles Schoen; justice, C. C. Cornell; constable, Herman Lee.

Board of Education.—At large, George E. Peck, T. J. Howe; first ward, W. A. Sperry; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, Lewis Lord; fourth ward, E. Y. Hune-will.

OFFICERS, 1886-7.

Mayor, T. H. Kelly; recorder, C. E. Luce; assessor, E. Easton; treasurer, G. D. Holden; street commissioner, J. C. Ault; city marshal, R. H. Johnson; city justice, A. N. Stoughton; city attorney, J. M. Burlingame; city surveyor, A. M. Mitchell; official paper, *Journal and Herald*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, N. C. Larson, C. W. Hadley; justice, H. F. Luce; constable, R. H. Johnson.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, Henry Birkett, James Brown; justice, M. A. Fredenburg; constable, H. R. Thompson.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, E. W. Piper, Dr. E. M. Morehouse; justice, William Davidson; constable, Ignatius Kremer.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, Peter Ganser, Charles Schoen; justice, A. Moncrieff; constable, George Putney.

Board of Education.—At large, T. J. Howe, G. E. Peck; first ward, W. A. Sperry; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, L. Lord; fourth ward, E. Y. Hune-will.

OFFICERS FOR 1887-8.

Mayor, M. B. Pratt; recorder, C. E. Luce; assessor, J. S. Austin; treasurer, A. N. Stoughton; street commissioner, John Quinn; city marshal, R. H. Johnson; city justice, J. Newsalt; city attorney, Amos Coggs-

well; city surveyor, A. M. Mitchell; official paper, *People's Press*.

First Ward.—Aldermen, C. W. Hadley, N. C. Larson; justice, H. F. Luce; constable R. H. Johnson.

Second Ward.—Aldermen, Henry Birkett, James Brown; justice, M. A. Fredenburg*; constable, H. A. Tiffany.

Third Ward.—Aldermen, Dr. E. M. Morehouse, G. F. Albertus; justice, J. H. Soukup; constable, John Ganser.

Fourth Ward.—Aldermen, Peter Ganser, Joseph Hoffman; justice, A. Moncrief; constable, H. Lee.

Board of Education.—At large, T. J. Howe, H. Schmidt; first ward, W. A. Sperry; second ward, W. A. Dynes; third ward, H. Cartwright; fourth ward, E. Y. Hunewill.

Hon. Merritt B. Pratt, present mayor of Owatonna, was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1835. He came to Minnesota in 1856, locating at Mantorville. At that place the Mantor brothers had just platted the village, and Mr. Pratt's father purchased a third interest and became one of the town proprietors. Twelve years later our subject moved to Blue Earth City, where he was for a number of years engaged in the mercantile business. During his residence there he served one term as sheriff of Faribault County, and was otherwise prominent in political and public affairs. In 1881 he came to Owatonna and embarked in the grain business as a member of the firm of H. W. Pratt & Co., whose principal office is in Minneapolis.

He was elected mayor in the spring of 1887 on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Pratt was married in 1862 to Mrs. Gertrude F. Miles, a native of New York State.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The earliest records relating to the fire department begin with a meeting held on

* Mr. Fredenburg died shortly after his re-election to this office.—EDITOR.

the 4th of May, 1879. The records do not give a list of members present, but a list of those absent is placed upon the roll, and as a matter of interest we give the list, which was as follows:

N. C. Larson, R. L. Muckey, S. R. Nelson, W. H. Montgomery, Daniel S. Stewart, G. F. Albertus, R. H. Johnson, L. Andrews, A. Knobloch, C. W. Hastings, S. W. Farmer, James Brown, J. E. Buxton, A. C. Gutterson, D. G. Currier, R. Lilley, C. H. Randall, W. A. Dynes, D. C. Adams, H. Birkett, Frank Murray, S. Downie and J. Easton. The records are signed by F. T. Drebert, as secretary. The name of the organization then was "The Spring City Fire Department."

In June, 1879, the following officers were elected: P. Winsor, foreman, W. W. Hubbard, first assistant; D. S. Stewart, second assistant; D. G. Currier, third assistant foreman; F. T. Drebert, secretary, and C. J. Kinyon, treasurer. C. W. Hadley at that time was chief engineer. During the same summer a new hook and ladder truck was added to the fire apparatus and a fourth section was organized to handle it.

In June, 1880, the following officers were elected: P. W. Winsor, foreman; G. L. Forsyth, assistant foreman, section No. 1; David Stewart, assistant foreman section No. 2; John Shea, assistant foreman Hook and Ladder section; J. W. Morford, assistant foreman Sack section; B. E. Darby, chairman; E. W. Green, secretary; C. J. Kinyon, treasurer; Edward Donaldson and John Shea, trustees. At this meeting the record shows that there had arisen some dissatisfaction regarding the payment of fines and dues, and shortly afterward the organization was abandoned. In fact this was the last meeting of which there is any record.

On the 2d of August, 1882, a meeting was called by S. S. Green, who had been appointed chief engineer, for the purpose of organizing the "Owatonna Fire Depart-

ment." It was attended by John McMichael, E. D. Middaugh, G. L. Forsyth, Robert White, E. M. Twiford, W. Dennis, P. Hanson, James Brown, J. Z. Barncard, A. G. Meyer, James Thompson, C. J. Kinyon, II. H. Luers; J. M. Schafer, G. W. Elliott, B. E. Darby, J. F. Young and N. C. Larson. An organization was effected by the election of the following officers. J. Z. Barncard, chairman; H. H. Luers, secretary; N. C. Larson, treasurer; Robert White, first assistant engineer; G. L. Forsyth, second assistant engineer; C. J. Kinyon, third assistant engineer. S. S. Green was chief engineer. A committee consisting of S. S. Green, R. White, H. H. Luers, C. J. Kinyon and G. L. Forsyth was appointed to draft by-laws, which they did. Since that time the following have held the various offices:

Elected May 2, 1883—J. Z. Barncard, chairman; B. E. Darby, secretary; N. C. Larson, treasurer; R. White, first assistant engineer; G. L. Forsyth, second assistant engineer; C. J. Kinyon, third assistant engineer. S. S. Green was still chief engineer.

Elected May 7, 1884—C. E. Luce, chairman; B. E. Darby, secretary; N. C. Larson, treasurer; R. White, first assistant engineer; G. L. Forsyth, second assistant engineer; C. J. Kinyon, third assistant engineer; C. M. Lorence, foreman water carts; E. M. Twiford, foreman force pumps; S. S. Green, chief engineer.

Elected May 4, 1885—S. S. Green, chief engineer; C. E. Luce, chairman; B. E. Darby, secretary; N. C. Larson, treasurer; E. M. Twiford, first assistant engineer; G. L. Forsyth, second assistant engineer; C. J. Kinyon, third assistant engineer; C. E. Luce, foreman of hose cart and force pumps.

Elected April 12, 1886—S. S. Green was re-elected chief engineer, but declined, and E. M. Twiford was chosen to succeed him. Mr. Green had held this responsible position since the reorganization of the department, filling it with credit to himself and satisfaction to the entire city. Resolutions were

drawn and adopted by the department thanking him sincerely for his past services and regretting his decision to decline. The officers elected at that time were: E. M. Twiford, chief engineer; L. Peterson, first assistant; C. S. Austin, second assistant; W. J. Thompson, third assistant; Paul Murphy, fourth assistant; C. E. Luce, chairman; B. E. Darby, secretary; C. J. Kinyon, treasurer; Fred Cottier, property-man.

Elected April 4, 1887—E. M. Twiford, chief engineer; L. Peterson, first assistant; C. S. Austin, second assistant; W. J. Thompson, third assistant; C. E. Luce fourth assistant; C. E. Luce, chairman; B. E. Darby, secretary; C. J. Kinyon, treasurer. These are the present officers.

The following is a list of the gentlemen who formed the various sections of the department, September 16, 1887:

E. M. Twiford, chief engineer.

Engine No. 1.—L. Peterson, first assistant engineer; B. E. Darby, L. C. Berg, Fred Cottier, Egbert A. Brown, Nels Rasmusson, F. H. Coon, J. H. Soukup, S. S. Green, Hans Robertson, James Robertson, Helga Helgeson.

Engine No. 2.—C. S. Austin, second assistant engineer; John Thorsen, J. P. Thon, R. H. Johnson, W. Morgan, R. G. Nelson, John Knight, Louis Hammel, Robt. Davidson, Ole Thorsen.

Hook and ladder truck.—W. J. Thompson, third assistant engineer; John Diviny, C. J. Kinyon, Wyatt Murray, John Sherbino, B. McClintock, J. D. Slonaker, A. Moneriff, W. D. Snyder, Eugene Kelly, Morris Cusick.

Horse cart and force pumps.—C. E. Luce, fourth assistant engineer; Fred Schuman, C. E. L. Greenwood, Philip Schoen, Max Hartwig, Louis Fenner, Perry Rolfe, Andrew Hendricks, Elias Reese.

The department is equipped with Champion Chemical Extinguishers Nos. 1 and 2. They have a hook and ladder truck with the usual outfit of ladders, pails, hooks, etc.

They also have a hose cart with about six hundred feet of hose arranged to attach to the city force pumps, of which there are four, located as follows: One on corner of Bridge and Oak streets; one at city park; one on corner of Rose and Cedar streets and one on Vine street, fifty feet west of Cedar. The members of the department are fitted with neat uniforms.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The first school taught in Steele County, Minn., as well as Owatonna, was opened in July, 1855, by Miss Helen Holbrook. Park, Smith and A. B. Cornell had driven four posts in the ground and partially covered them with boughs; and in this primitive structure the school was begun. Among the scholars who attended were Emily (now Mrs. W. H. Willsey) and Anetta Phelps, daughters of Addison Phelps, one daughter of A. B. Cornell and a couple of B. L. Arnold's children.

At the present writing there are three public school buildings in the city; the high school and the first and second wards. Two of the buildings are costly structures. The schools are well graded and have been among the best managed schools in the State. There is not a city of the same size in Minnesota, where public schools are rated so high, or educational facilities and privileges so excellent as in Owatonna, and the citizens justly feel proud of their educational institutions.

POSTOFFICE.

The Owatonna postoffice was established in 1855, with S. B. Smith as postmaster. Up to that time the name of the town had been spelled "Owatonia," but at this time the "i" was changed to an "n," and the orthography became the same as it is to-day. M. A. Daily was the second postmaster, and he was succeeded in turn by John N. Kelley, William Wadsworth and Twiford E. Hughes. On the 7th of April, 1870, E. Easton took possession of the office and remained until

January 8, 1876, when he was succeeded by Charles S. Crandall. Mr. Crandall held the office until April 10, 1884, when he was relieved by Lewis L. Wheelock, the present incumbent.

This office was made a money-order office in August, 1866. The first three money orders were purchased by Twiford E. Hughes, Alverson & Graham and Dr. A. S. Mygatt. Up to August 1, 1886, there had been a total of 43,367 money orders issued.

FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

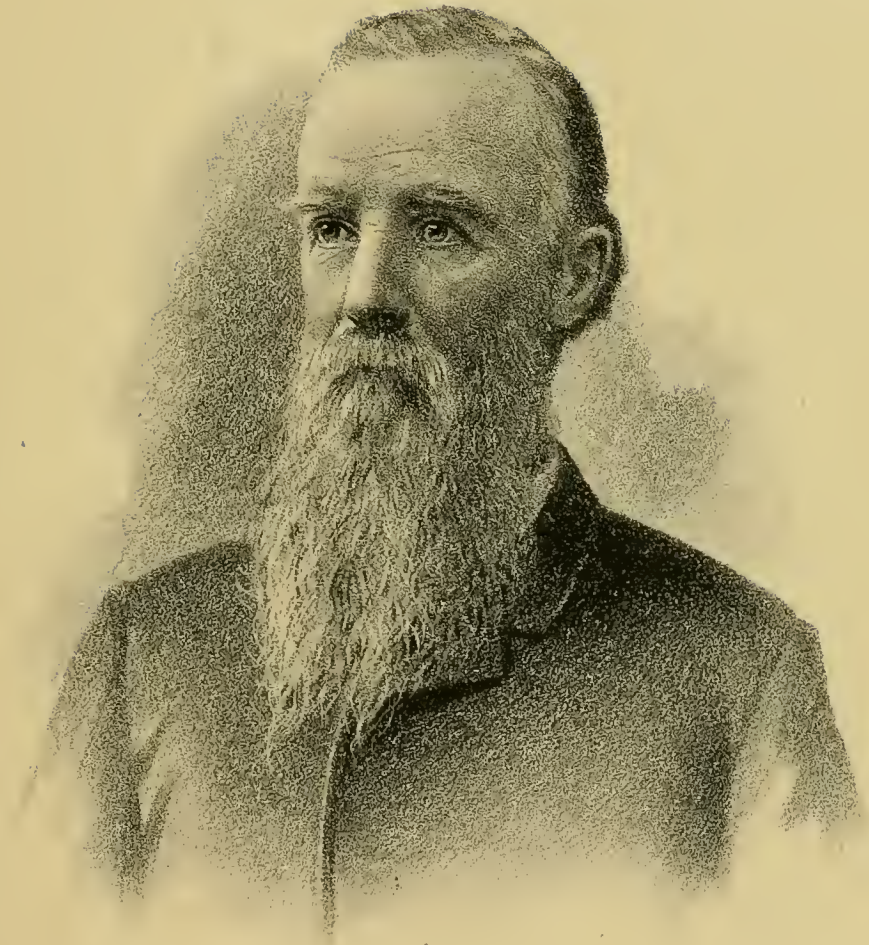
Star in the East Lodge, No. 33.—The first meeting of this lodge, while working under dispensation, was held on the 16th of December, 1859, with J. C. Whipple, R. W. G. J. W. of Faribault Lodge No. 9, presiding. John Kelso acted as secretary. The first stated communication held under dispensation was on the 23d of January, 1860. The first officers elected were as follows: J. C. Whipple, W. M.; E. M. Morehouse, S. W.; Joel Wilson, J. W.; Nelson Morehouse, Treas.; John Kelso, Secy.; Thomas Thompson, S. D., and David Lindersmith, I. D.

When the move was first agitated it was found that there were not enough Masons at and about Owatonna to form a quorum, and finally several citizens went to Wilton, and others to Faribault, where they joined the order, and enough members were thus secured. While the lodge was working under dispensation, it does not appear that any permanent set of officers was elected, but the records show that the following named acted as W. M. during that time: J. C. Whipple, S. C. Williamson, E. M. Morehouse, J. W. Morford, W. H. Willsey and W. R. Kinyon.

A charter was granted to the lodge on the 24th of October, 1860, naming the following as officers: S. C. Williamson, W. M.; Dr. E. M. Morehouse, S. W., and Joel Wilson, J. W.

Since that time the following have been the elected officers during the various years:

Elected, October 29, 1860, for 1861: W. R. Kinyon, W. M.; E. M. Morehouse, S. W.;



L. C. Woodman

W. H. Willsey, J. W.; J. W. Morford, Treas.; John Kelso, Secy.

For 1862 — E. M. Morehouse, W. M.; W. H. Willsey, S. W.; L. B. Tanner, J. W.; J. W. Morford, Treas.; J. N. Kelly, Secy.

1863 — W. R. Kinyon, W. M.; J. W. Morford, S. W.; J. N. Kelly, J. W.; E. M. Morehouse, Treas.; W. H. Wadsworth, Secy.

1864 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; Joel Wilson, S. W.; W. H. Willsey, J. W.; W. R. Kinyon, Treas.; W. H. Wadsworth, Secy.

1865 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; W. R. Kinyon, S. W.; W. H. Willsey, J. W.; Jacob Opliger, Secy.

1866 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; Wm. H. Kelly, S. W.; H. C. Eldred, J. W.; J. A. Opliger, Treas.; J. Newsalt, Secy.

1867 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; H. J. Lewis, S. W.; A. B. Webber, J. W.; Addison Phelps, Treas.; S. H. Stowers, Secy.

1868 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; H. J. Lewis, S. W.; E. Scannel, J. W.; A. M. Kinyon, Treas.; J. A. Robey, Secy.

1869 — H. J. Lewis, W. M.; J. A. Robey, S. W.; L. S. Padgham, J. W.; James Morton, Treas.; A. M. Kinyon, Secy.

1870 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; J. A. Robey, S. W.; L. S. Padgham, J. W.; R. C. Olin, Treas.; A. C. Hickman, Secy.

1871 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; A. C. Hickman, S. W.; Hiram Backus, J. W.; R. C. Olin, Treas.; J. W. Hall, Secy.

1872 — A. C. Hickman, W. M.; H. Backus, S. W.; L. L. Wheelock, J. W.; H. H. Rosebrock, Treas.; T. G. Patch, Secy.

1873 — J. W. Morford, W. M.; J. D. Holden, S. W.; D. Whipple, J. W.; H. H. Rosebrock, Treas.; M. L. Strong, Secy.

1874 — J. D. Holden, W. M.; A. C. Hickman, S. W.; H. H. Rosebrock, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, Treas.; L. L. Bennett, Secy.

1875 — J. D. Holden, W. M.; A. C. Dodge, S. W.; A. C. Gutterson, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, Treas.; L. L. Bennett, Secy.

1876 — A. C. Dodge, W. M.; M. B. Chadwick, S. W.; N. C. Larson, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, Treas.; L. L. Bennett, Secy.

1877 — A. C. Dodge, W. M.; M. B. Chadwick, S. W.; W. S. Melvin, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1878 — J. D. Holden, W. M.; M. B. Chadwick, S. W.; J. M. Burlingame, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1879 — J. M. Burlingame, W. M.; C. H. Randall, S. W.; George D. Holden, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1880 — L. L. Wheelock, W. M.; H. H. Rosebrock, S. W.; H. Birkett, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1881 — J. D. Holden, W. M.; I. U. Jones, S. W.; N. C. Larson, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1882 — J. D. Holden, W. M.; M. B. Chadwick, S. W.; H. S. Hill, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1883 — M. B. Chadwick, W. M.; H. S. Hill, S. W.; I. H. DeWolf, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1884 — M. B. Chadwick, W. M.; H. S. Hill, S. W.; J. Z. Barnard, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1885 — Henry Birkett, W. M.; N. C. Larson, S. W.; C. W. Burdic, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1886 — N. J. Schafer, W. M.; N. C. Larson, S. W.; D. Moody, J. W.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; M. B. Chadwick, Secy.

1887 — N. J. Schafer, W. M.; C. W. Burdic, S. W.; D. Downie, J. W.; M. B. Chadwick, Secy.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; H. H. Luers, S. D.; N. C. Larson, J. D.; L. Anderson, S. S.; H. H. Rosebrock, J. S.; G. W. Shaw, T.

This lodge now has over one hundred members. In early days the meetings were held in Morford's Hall, but in 1874 they moved into the present Masonic Hall over the Farmers' National Bank. The rooms are finely furnished, and the lodge owns handsome and appropriate regalia. Regular meetings are held on the evenings of the second and fourth Wednesdays in each month.

Owatonna Royal Arch—Chapter No. 15.

—On the 28th of September, 1866, C. W. Nash, Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons for Minnesota, granted a dispensation to W. R. Kinyon, M. F. Lowth, L. H. Kelly, T. G. Patch, J. W. Morford, H. J. Lewis, I. F. White, N. Hubbard and R. M. Dunberry to establish a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Owatonna, and appointed M. F. Lowth, H. P.; W. R. Kinyon, King; and L. H. Kelly, Scribe. The companions met for the first time in Masonic Hall on October 15, 1866, for the purpose of effecting organization, and the High Priest appointed the following officers: E. R. Lathrop, C.; J. W. Morford, C. H.; H. J. Lewis, P. S.; J. F. White, Treas.; T. G. Patch, Secy.; Charles Case, G. M. 3d Vail; N. Hubbard, G. M. 2d Vail; E. M. Hawley, G. M. 1st Vail; and R. M. Dunberry, S. The code of by-laws was prepared by W. R. Kinyon, J. W. Morford and T. G. Patch. The first regular convocation was held on the evening of November 2, 1866, at which time the first permanent officers were appointed. They were the same as those already given, except that E. R. Lathrop was made C. H., and J. W. Morford R. A. C. The charter was granted on October 22, 1867, and the following were nominated and duly installed as officers: M. F. Lowth, M. E. H. P.; W. R. Kinyon, E. K.; L. H. Kelly, E. S.; H. J. Lewis, P. S.; J. W. Morford, R. A. C.

The following is a list of the officers who have been elected during the various years since that time:

December 20, 1867—W. R. Kinyon, M. E. H. P.; M. F. Lowth, E. K.; L. H. Kelly, E. S.; J. W. Morford, C. H.; H. J. Lewis, P. S.; A. M. Kinyon, R. A. C.; W. F. Pettit, Treas.; A. B. Webber, Secy.

For 1870—A. B. Webber, M. E. H. P.; W. H. Willsey, E. K.; S. B. Washburn, E. S.; W. T. Kittridge, C. H.; H. J. Lewis, P. S.; J. W. Morford, R. A. C.; W. R. Kinyon, Treas.; T. G. Patch, Secy.

1871—W. R. Kinyon, M. E. H. P.; W. H. Willsey, K.; S. B. Washburn, S.; J.

W. Morford, C. H.; H. J. Lewis, P. S.; H. Backus, R. A. C.; E. M. Morehouse, Treas.; T. G. Patch, Secy.

1872—W. R. Kinyon, M. E. H. P.; W. H. Willsey, K.; L. S. Padgham, S.; J. W. Morford, C. H.; H. Backus, P. S.; Thomas W. Irving, R. A. C.; Thomas J. Howe, Treas.; T. G. Patch, Secy.

1873—L. L. Wheelock, M. E. H. P.; J. W. Morford, E. S.; W. H. Willsey, K.; A. C. Dodge, C. H.; T. W. Irving, R. A. C.; E. M. Morehouse, Treas.; T. G. Patch, Secy.

1874—W. R. Kinyon, M. E. H. P.; W. H. Willsey, E. K.; A. C. Hickman, S.; A. C. Dodge, C. H.; H. Backus, P. S.; T. W. Irving, R. A. C.; L. L. Bennett, Treas.; T. G. Patch, Secy.

1875—W. R. Kinyon, M. E. H. P.; L. L. Wheelock, E. K.; L. L. Bennett, E. S.; J. W. Morford, C. H.; A. C. Dodge, P. S.; S. H. Stowers, R. A. C.; H. H. Rosebrock, Treas.; M. L. Strong, Secy.

1876—J. W. Morford, M. E. H. P.; M. F. Lowth, E. K.; J. A. Oppliger, E. S.; S. H. Stowers, C. H.; A. C. Dodge, P. S.; T. W. Irving, R. A. C.; H. H. Rosebrock, Treas.; M. L. Strong, Secy.

1877—J. D. Holden, M. E. H. P.; J. M. Burlingame, E. K.; N. C. Larson, E. S.; S. H. Stowers, C. H.; J. R. Fox, P. S.; H. H. Rosebrock, R. H. C.; W. H. Willsey, Treas.; M. L. Strong, Secy.

1878—J. M. Burlingame, M. E. H. P.; H. H. Rosebrock, E. K.; A. Graham, E. S.; L. L. Bennett, C. H.; J. D. Holden, P. S.; H. Birkett, R. A. C.; W. H. Willsey, Treas.; M. L. Strong, Secy.

1879—J. W. Morford, M. E. H. P.; N. C. Larson, E. K.; J. M. Burlingame, E. S.; H. Birkett, C. H.; J. D. Holden, P. S.; H. H. Rosebrock, R. A. C.; W. R. Kinyon, Treas.; M. L. Strong, Secy.

1880—W. R. Kinyon, M. E. H. P.; L. L. Wheelock, K.; L. L. Bennett, S.; H. H. Rosebrock, C. H.; J. D. Holden, P. S.; E. Downie, Secy.; G. F. Albertus, Treas.;

J. W. Morford, R. A. C. ; G. W. Shaw, Sent.

1881—H. Birkett, M. E. H. P. ; J. D. Holden, E. K. ; G. F. Albertus, E. S. ; H. H. Rosebrock, C. H. ; L. L. Bennett, P. S. ; N. C. Larson, R. A. C. ; W. R. Kinyon, Treas. ; T. J. Howe, Secy.

1882—L. L. Bennett, M. E. H. P. ; T. J. Howe, E. K. ; G. F. Albertus, E. S. ; W. R. Kinyon, Treas. ; H. H. Luers, Secy. ; H. H. Rosebrock, C. H. ; J. D. Holden, P. S. ; J. W. Morford, R. A. C.

1883—J. D. Holden, M. E. H. P. ; T. J. Howe, E. K. ; H. H. Rosebrock, E. S. ; J. Z. Barncard, C. H. ; H. Birkett, P. S. ; J. W. Morford, R. A. C. ; W. R. Kinyon, Treas. ; H. H. Luers, Sec'y.

1884—J. D. Holden, M. E. H. P. ; H. H. Rosebrock, E. K. ; H. S. Hill, E. S. ; J. Z. Barncard, C. H. ; H. Birkett, P. S. ; N. C. Larson, R. A. C. ; W. R. Kinyon, Treas. ; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1885—L. L. Bennett, M. E. H. P. ; J. Z. Barncard, E. K. ; T. J. Howe, E. S. ; N. C. Larson, C. H. ; J. D. Holden, P. S. ; H. Birkett, R. A. C. ; W. R. Kinyon, Treas. ; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1886—J. Z. Barncard, M. E. H. P. ; N. J. Schafer, E. K. ; N. C. Larson, E. S. ; D. S. Coverdale, C. H. ; H. H. Rosebrock, P. S. ; E. E. Bigelow, R. A. C. ; L. L. Bennett, Treas. ; H. H. Luers, Secy.

1887—N. J. Schafer, M. E. H. P. ; T. J. Howe, K. ; H. H. Rosebrock, S. ; E. E. Bigelow, C. H. ; C. W. Burdic, P. S. ; H. H. Luers, R. A. C. ; G. F. Albertus, Treas. ; J. W. Connor, Secy. ; G. W. Shaw, Sent. ; C. W. Burdic, 1st Vail.

Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar.—The Knights Templar, in Masonry, is one step higher than the Chapter. Any member of the Chapter in good standing is eligible to membership in the Commandery. On the 17th of February, 1874, a dispensation was granted by H. L. Carver, of St. Paul, Grand Commander of Minnesota, authorizing the organization of Cyrene Com-

mandery, and, accordingly, the first meeting was held on the 19th of the same month, at Masonic Hall, in Owatonna, at which an organization was effected by the election of the following named as first officers: C. H. Hathaway, E. C. ; J. W. Morford, G. ; Smith H. Stowers, C. G. ; H. Backus, P. ; H. R. Moore, Jr., S. W. ; Thomas W. Irving, J. W. ; Hiram J. Lewis, Treas. ; T. G. Patch, Rec. ; and H. H. Rosebrock, W. This list also comprises all of the charter members. The Commandery grew rapidly from the start. During the year 1874 the following Masons became Sir Knights of this Commandery, in the order named: W. R. Kinyon, W. H. Kelly, E. M. Morehouse, A. C. Dodge, J. A. Oppliger, M. L. Strong, Thos. J. Howe, A. C. Hickman, L. L. Wheelock, C. W. Gardner, L. S. Padgham, G. F. Albertus, W. H. Willsey, and T. H. Frazer.

In 1875 J. W. Hall, N. C. Larson and Henry Birkett joined, and since then the membership has continually increased, until in August, 1887, it numbered sixty-two knights in good standing. This includes twenty members who are residents of Waseca and vicinity. Nearly all the balance are citizens of Steele County. Conclaves have always been held in the Masonic Hall, where the Commandery owns the full complement of furniture and paraphernalia. The knights all own tasty and handsome regalia, many of which are rich and costly. Conclaves are regularly held on the evenings of the second and fourth Mondays in each month. The Cyrene Commandery has always been prominent in State Masonic circles. It has furnished two Right Eminent Grand Commanders of Minnesota: Henry Birkett, who served two years, and R. L. McCormick, who held the office one year; and in June, 1886, the session of the Grand Commandery of Minnesota was held at Owatonna, attended by the most prominent knights in the State. The Commandery has at different times taken special train excursions to various portions of the State, includ-

ing Minneapolis, Faribault, Red Wing, Waterville, and Stillwater, at which enjoyable times were had. The Commandery now includes nearly all of the leading and wealthy business men of Owatonna, although its membership has suffered somewhat from removal of members, and a few deaths have also occurred within the lodge. The last meeting under dispensation was held on the 22d of June, 1874. The charter was granted on the 17th of February, 1874.

The following is a complete list, as far as the records show, of the various officers who have served the commandery in each year, from its organization to the present time:

Installed, June 1874.—C. H. Hathaway, E. C.; J. W. Morford, G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; A. C. Dodge, S. W.; T. W. Irving, J. W.; E. M. Morehouse, T.; T. G. Patch, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; W. H. Willsey, S. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, W.; L. S. Padgham, 1st G.; Thomas J. Howe, 2d G.; H. Baekus, 3d G., and G. F. Albertus, Sen.

Installed, April 12, 1875.—C. H. Hathaway, E. C.; J. W. Morford, G.; S. H. Stowers, E. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; A. C. Dodge, S. W.; T. W. Irving, J. W.; E. M. Morehouse, J.; M. L. Strong, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; W. H. Willsey, S. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, W.; L. S. Padgham, Capt. G.; G. F. Albertus, 2d G.; H. Baekus, 3d G.

Installed, April 24, 1876.—C. H. Hathaway, E. C.; J. W. Morford, G.; M. L. Strong, C. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; T. W. Irving, S. W.; H. H. Rosebrock, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; S. H. Stowers, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; W. H. Willsey, S. R.; H. Birkett, W.; A. C. Dodge, 1st G.; T. J. Howe, 2d G.; H. Baekus, 3d G., and J. W. Hall, Sen.

Installed, March 26, 1877.—W. R. Kinyon, E. C.; T. W. Irving, G.; M. L. Strong, C. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; J. W. Morford, S. W.; H. Birkett, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; S. H. Stowers, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; W. H. Willsey, S. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, W.; J. W. Hall, Sen.

Installed, April 8, 1878.—W. R. Kinyon, E. C.; R. L. McCormack, G.; M. L. Strong, C. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; H. Birkett, S. W.; T. W. Irving, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; S. H. Stowers, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; W. H. Willsey, S. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, W.; G. F. Albertus, Sen.

Installed, April 14, 1879.—R. L. McCormack, E. C.; T. W. Irving, G.; M. L. Strong, C. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; W. H. Willsey, S. W.; J. W. Morford, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; S. H. Stowers, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; W. H. Willsey, S. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, W.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Installed, March 30, 1880.—R. L. McCormack, E. C.; H. Birkett, G.; T. W. Irving, C. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; G. R. Buckman, S. W.; W. H. Willsey, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; W. H. Maes, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, S. B.; S. G. Lund, W.; T. J. Howe, 1st G.; N. C. Larson, 2d G.; J. W. Morford, 3d G.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Installed, April 25, 1881.—Henry Birkett, E. C.; A. C. Hickman, G.; T. W. Irving, C. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; Henry E. Strong, S. W.; W. C. Thayer, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; W. H. Maes, R.; Clarke Chambers, St. B.; T. J. Howe, S. B.; N. C. Larson, W.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Installed, April 8, 1882.—H. Birkett, E. C.; L. L. Wheelock, G.; G. R. Buckman, C. G.; A. C. Hickman, P.; W. C. Thayer, S. W.; W. H. Maes, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; J. W. Morford, R.; T. J. Howe, Sw. B.; N. C. Larson, W.; E. E. Bigelow, 1st G.; H. H. Rosebrock, 2d G.; L. L. Bennett, 3d G.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Installed March 26, 1883.—L. L. Wheelock, E. C.; G. R. Buckman, C. G.; G. C. Tanner, P.; W. H. Maes, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; W. H. Donaldson, R.; T. J. Howe, Sw. B.; N. C. Larson, W.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Chosen March 24, 1884.—L. L. Wheelock, E. C.; G. R. Buckman, G.; L. L. Bennett, C. G.; G. C. Tanner, P.; J. D. Holden, S. W.;

N. C. Larson, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; T. J. Howe, R.; W. H. Willsey, St. B.; J. Z. Barncard, S. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, W.; E. E. Bigelow, 1st G.; J. M. Diment, 2d G.; J. J. McDonald, 3d G.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Chosen March 23, 1884—James M. Diment, E. C.; D. S. Cummings, G.; Frank Grant, C. G.; G. C. Tanner, P.; J. D. Holden, S. W.; N. C. Larson, J. W.; G. F. Albertus, T.; L. L. Bennett, R.; E. E. Bigelow, Std. B.; W. H. Willsey, S. B.; H. H. Rosebrock, W.; D. S. Coverdale, 1st G.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Chosen April 12, 1886—James M. Diment, E. C.; D. S. Cummings, G.; F. F. Grant, C. G.; G. C. Tanner, P.; N. C. Larson, S. W.; N. J. Schafer, J. W.; W. H. Willsey, T.; L. L. Bennett, R.; D. S. Coverdale, St. B.; T. J. Howe, S. B.; E. E. Bigelow, W.; G. W. Shaw, Sen.

Chosen March 28, 1887—Present officers: F. F. Grant, E. C.; G. R. Buckman, G.; N. C. Larson, C. G.; L. L. Wheelock, P.; N. J. Schafer, S. W.; J. E. Truesdell, J. W.; H. H. Rosebrock, Treas.; T. J. Howe, R.; J. A. Oppliger, St. B.; G. F. Albertus, S. B.; J. W. Conner, W.; L. L. Bennett, 1st G.; J. Z. Barncard, 2d G.; J. M. Diment, 3d G.; and G. W. Shaw, Sen.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Star of the West Lodge, No 14.—On the 9th of August, 1864, J. Newsalt, then a member of Prairie Lodge No. 7, Winona, Minn., accompanied by E. K. Smith, P. J. Smith and R. C. Ambler, went to Rochester, where his companions were initiated by Rochester Lodge No. 13, and received all the degrees appertaining to a subordinate lodge of Odd Fellows. Through the kindness of the Rochester lodge the regular fees were refunded, with which a charter was procured December 28, 1864, and *Star of the West Lodge No. 14, I. O. O. F.*, was duly instituted by M. W. G. M., C. D. Strong, assisted by P. G. M., O. J. Noble. The charter members were J. Newsalt, Wm. Hamburg, E. K. Smith, P. J. Smith, Eben Durham and W. H. Twi-

ford. The first officers elected and installed were J. Newsalt, N. G.; E. K. Smith, V. G.; W. H. Twiford, Secy.; and William Hamburg, Treas. On the evening of the organization of the lodge D. B. Marble, A. C. Hickman, and James Lee were admitted by card, and L. Bixby, G. W. Shaw and R. Joos by initiation. During the first term of six months three members were admitted by card and twelve by initiation. The officers elected and installed for the second term, commencing July 1, 1865, were E. K. Smith, N. G.; L. Bixby, V. G.; A. C. Hickman, Secy.; D. B. Marble, Treas.; and J. Newsalt, D. D. G. M. During the second term, two were admitted by card and six by initiation.

The following is a list of the officers who have served the lodge from 1865 until the present time. The date given refers to the commencement of the term:

January 1, 1866—L. Bixby, N. G.; D. B. Marble, V. G.; A. S. Mygatt, Secy.; G. W. Shaw, Treas. During this term five members were admitted by initiation.

July 1, 1866—D. B. Marble, N. G.; G. W. Shaw, V. G.; P. J. Smith, Secy.; Wm. Pepper, Treas.; E. K. Smith, D. D. G. M. Four members were admitted by card, and four by initiation.

January 1, 1867—L. Bixby, N. G.; P. T. Smith, V. G.; G. H. Tyrrell, Secy.; P. McRostie, Treas. During this term five were admitted by initiation and one by card.

July 1, 1867—G. W. Shaw, N. G.; Wm. Scruby, V. G.; J. J. Thomas, Secy.; R. T. Smith, Treas.; L. Bixby, D. D. G. M. During the term J. J. Thomas resigned, and C. S. Crandall was elected secretary to fill the vacancy. Eight members were initiated and one admitted as an Ancient Odd Fellow.

January 1, 1868.—G. H. Tyrrell, N. G.; W. H. Reynolds, V. G.; C. S. Crandall, Secy.; Alson Selleck, Treas. During the early part of the term G. H. Tyrrell resigned the office of N. G., and L. Bixby was elected to

fill the office. Three members were admitted by initiation and two by eard.

July, 1868 — William Reynolds, N. G.; William Pepper, V. G.; J. W. Daniels, R. S.; W. H. Sherman, Treas.

January, 1869 — William Pepper, N. G.; A. S. Mygatt, V. G.; John Middaugh, R. S.; Sydney Smith, Per. Sec.; A. P. Requa (resigned), E. B. Crooker, Treas.

July, 1869 — A. S. Mygatt, N. G.; C. S. Crandall, V. G.; E. T. Smith, R. S.; George Mitchell, Treas.

January, 1870 — C. S. Crandall, N. G.; J. D. Mitchell, V. G.; A. A. Harwood, R. S.; L. Bixby, Per. Sec.; H. M. Brown, Treas.

July, 1870 — J. D. Mitchell, N. G.; George Mitchell, V. G.; H. N. Brown, R. S.; J. C. Backus, Treas.

January, 1871 — George Mitchell, N. G.; J. C. Backus, V. G.; J. Newsalt, R. S.; William Pepper, Treas.

July, 1871 — J. C. Backus, N. G.; Geo. A. Black, V. G.; E. K. Smith, R. S.; George Mitchell, Treas.

January, 1872 — George A. Black, N. G.; John Cottier, V. G.; E. K. Smith, R. S.; A. C. Hickman, Treas.

July, 1872 — John Cottier, N. G.; James K. Price, V. G.; William Reynolds, R. S.; D. Lawson, Treas.

January, 1873 — J. K. Price, N. G.; D. Lawson, V. G.; A. S. Mygatt, R. S.; G. W. Shaw, Treas.

July, 1873 — D. Lawson, N. G.; J. P. Requa, V. G.; E. K. Smith, R. S.; G. W. Shaw, Treas.; H. F. Luce, Treas.

January, 1874 — P. McRostie, N. G.; N. Searl, V. G.; A. L. Harding, R. S.; H. F. Luce, Per. Sec.; George Mitchell, Treas.

July, 1874 — George Mitchell, N. G.; A. L. Harding, V. G.; E. M. Arnold, R. S.; E. K. Smith, Treas.

January, 1875 — A. L. Harding, N. G.; H. F. Luce, V. G.; G. Peterson, R. S.; W. H. Reynolds Per. Secy.; H. M. Pepper, Treas.

July, 1875 — H. F. Luce, N. G.; R. Lilly, V. G.; G. Peterson, R. S.

January, 1876 — R. Lilly, N. G.; G. Peterson, V. G.; W. A. Dynes, R. S.; H. F. Luce, Treas.; E. K. Smith, P. S.

July, 1876 — C. W. Burdick, N. G.; W. A. Dynes, V. G.; E. C. Kinny, R. S.; John Mitchell, Treas.

January, 1877 — John Cottier, N. G.; George Shaw, V. G.; R. Lilly, R. S.; T. R. Medd, P. S.

July, 1877 — W. A. Dynes, N. G.; E. C. Kinney, V. G.; W. L. Winslow, R. S.; J. D. Mitchell, Treas.

January, 1878 — E. C. Kinney, N. G.; T. R. Medd, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; H. F. Luce, P. S.

July, 1878 — T. R. Medd, N. G.; E. R. Fenno, V. G.; R. L. Muckey, R. S.; T. C. Webb, Treas.

January, 1879 — E. R. Fenno, N. G.; W. L. Winslow, V. G.; R. L. Muckey, R. S.; R. Lilly, P. S.; Geo. W. Shaw, Treas.

July, 1879 — W. L. Winslow, N. G.; O. E. Parker, V. G.; R. Lilly, R. S.; E. K. Smith, P. S.; Geo. W. Shaw, Treas.

January, 1880 — Geo. W. Shaw, N. G.; H. F. Luce, V. G.; E. K. Smith, R. S.; G. W. Peterson, P. S.; W. H. Reynolds, Treas.

July, 1880 — John Cottier, N. G.; Frank Webb, V. G.; H. F. Luce, R. S.; E. R. Fenno, Treas.

January, 1881 — F. C. Webb, N. G.; W. Hughes, V. G.; W. A. Dynes, R. S.; A. Simpson, P. S.; E. R. Fenno, Treas.

July, 1881 — T. R. Medd, N. G.; A. Simpson, V. G.; Geo. H. Peterson, R. S.; O. S. Boice, P. S.; F. C. Webb, Treas.

January, 1882 — A. Simpson, N. G.; O. S. Boice, V. G.; Geo. Parrott, R. S.; F. C. Webb, P. S.; E. R. Fenno, Treas.

July, 1882 — O. S. Boice, N. G.; Geo. Parrott, V. G.; J. W. McKinny, R. S.; John Cottier, Treas.

January, 1883 — Geo. Parrott, N. G.; J. H. Helwig, V. G.; J. W. McKinny, R. S.; G. W. Peachy, P. S.; A. Simpson, Treas.

July, 1883 — F. C. Webb, N. G.; J. H.

Helwig, V. G.; E. Fuller, R. S.; O. S. Boice, Treas.

January, 1884—J. H. Helwig, N. G.; E. Fuller, V. G.; G. H. Peterson, R. S.; H. F. Luce, P. S.; John Cottier, Treas.

July, 1884—E. Fuller, N. G.; George Peachy, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; Mr. Andrews, Treas.

January, 1885—George Peachy, N. G.; James Brown, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; George Parrott, P. S.; John Cottier, Treas.

July, 1885—James Brown, N. G.; J. H. Dewart, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; John Cottier, Treas.

January, 1886—H. F. Luce, N. G.; John A. Shaw, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; T. J. Gillam, Secy.; John Cottier, Treas.

July, 1886—H. F. Luce, N. G.; J. A. Shaw, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; John Cottier, Treas.

January, 1887—John A. Shaw, N. G.; E. H. S. Dart, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; George Parrott, P. S.; John Cottier, Treas.

July, 1887—Mr. Wright, N. G.; W. F. Barker, V. G.; F. C. Webb, R. S.; John Cottier, Treas.; George W. Shaw, Warden; Geo. H. Peterson, R. S. N. G.; J. H. Helwig, L. S. N. G.; Mr. McGillan, I. G., and Chap. Rev. J. C. Ogle.

The lodge now has fifty-five members in good standing. Its financial condition is excellent, as it has money in the treasury, besides considerable loaned out. The first meetings of the lodge were held in Morford's hall, which is now occupied by Rosebrock's furniture store. A short time later, a room over what is now Mr. Holt's general store was used, and a couple of years later they occupied a room adjoining that one. After four or five years, a third story was added to the building which they now occupy, and for a consideration of \$1,100 they secured a ninety-nine-year lease of it. The money was raised by the organization of a stock company and the issuance of certificates. It is all paid, and the lodge is out of debt. The lodge-room is appropriately furnished, and

they possess a full outfit of neat and tasty regalias.

Goethe Lodge, No. 38, I. O. O. F.—This lodge was organized at Owatonna, April 25, 1873, by Grand Master E. K. Smith, of Owatonna, assisted by Robert Smith, V. G. M. The following is a list of those present: Past Grands J. Newsalt, William Pepper, A. S. Mygatt, W. H. Reynolds, G. A. Black, and Brothers L. Bion, A. Butsch, G. Siebold, J. Deeg and A. Hafemann. At that time there were initiated John Hammel, F. Mudeking and J. H. Hartwig. The first officers were elected at the same meeting, as follows: J. Newsalt, N. G.; L. Bion, V. G.; Richard Joos, P. S.; G. Siebold, Secy.; A. Butsch, Treas.

The following is a list of the officers who have served this lodge since its organization, as shown by the record of elections:

Elected June 30, 1873—J. Newsalt, N. G.; L. Bion, V. G.; G. Siebold, R. Secy.; Richard Joos, P. S.; A. Butsch, Treas.

December 31, 1873—Louis Bion, N. G.; Adam Butsch, V. G.; John Deeg, R. S.; J. Newsalt, P. S.; J. Newsalt, Treas.

June 30, 1874—A. Butsch, N. G.; John Deeg, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; J. Newsalt, P. S.; Albert Hafemann, Treas.

December 31, 1874—John Deeg, N. G.; Albert Hafemann, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; J. Newsalt, P. S.; Fred Mudeking, Treas.

June 30, 1875—A. Hafemann, N. G.; John Hammel, V. G.; L. Bion, R. S.; Jacob Newsalt, P. S.; John A. Butsch, Treas.

December 31, 1875—John Hammel, N. G.; F. Mudeking, V. G.; J. Newsalt, R. S.; R. Deininger, P. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

June 30, 1876—F. Mudeking, N. G.; Theo. Fedder, V. G.; Gustav Siebold, R. S.; R. Deininger, P. S.; John Deeg, Treas.

December 30, 1876—L. Bion, N. G.; G. Siebold, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; R. Deininger, P. S.; Geo. A. Rossbach, Treas.

June 30, 1877—G. Siebold, N. G.; Theo. Fedder, V. G.; J. Newsalt, R. S.; R. Deininger, P. S.; L. Bion, Treas.

December 31, 1877—L. Bion, N. G.; R. Deininger, V. G.; William Scheele, R. S.; John Deeg, P. S.; John Hammel, Treas.

June 30, 1878—L. Bion, N. G.; Robt. Deininger, V. G.; J. Newsalt, R. S.; John Deeg, P. S.; Geo. A. Rossbach, Treas.

December 31, 1878—R. Deininger, N. G.; W. H. Scheele, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; John Deeg, P. S.; G. A. Rossbach, Treas.

June 30, 1879—G. A. Rossbach, N. G.; Charles Lorence, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; John Deeg, P. S.; L. Bion, Treas.

December 31, 1879—Emil Theimer, N. G.; John Butsch, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; John Deeg, P. S.; Robt. Deininger, Treas.

June 30, 1880—John Butsch, N. G.; Charles Lorence, V. G.; L. Bion, R. S.; John Deeg, P. S.; R. Deininger, Treas.

December 31, 1880—C. M. Lorence, N. G.; C. F. Hummer, V. G.; E. Theimer, R. S.; J. Ganser, P. S.; R. Deininger, Treas.

June 30, 1881—W. Scheele, N. G.; J. Ganser, V. G.; E. Theimer, R. S.; Jacob Thon, P. S.; R. Deininger, Treas.

December 31, 1881—J. P. Ganser, N. G.; Jacob Thon, V. G.; Louis Bion, R. S.; Louis Bion, P. S.; R. Deininger, Treas.

June 30, 1882—Louis Bion, N. G.; A. Schlesinger, V. G.; E. E. Aukes, R. S.; E. E. Aukes, P. S.; R. Deininger, Treas.

December 31, 1882—John Deeg, N. G.; E. E. Aukes, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; John Hammel, P. S.; Robt. Deininger, Treas.

June 30, 1883—E. E. Aukes, N. G.; Jacob Thon, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; John Hammel, P. S.; L. Bion, Treas.

December 31, 1883—Robt. Deininger, N. G.; Charles Wiese, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; John Hammel, P. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

June 30, 1884—A. Schlesinger, N. G.; Charley Wiese, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S.; John Hammel, P. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

December 31, 1884—Charles Wiese, N. G.; Henry Sanders, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S. and P. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

June 30, 1885—Henry Sanders, N. G.; Charles Moldenhauer, V. G.; John P. Ganser, R. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

December 31, 1885—Charles Moldenhauer, N. G.; J. P. Thon, V. G.; J. P. Ganser, R. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

June 30, 1886—Jacob Thon, N. G.; Gustav Schwandke, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S. and P. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

December 31, 1886—Gustav A. Schwandke, N. G.; William Wichlow, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S. and P. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.

June 30, 1887—William Wichlow, N. G.; John Thon, V. G.; John Hammel, R. S. and P. S.; Theo. Fedder, Treas.; John Deeg, Conductor; F. Schuman, Warden; Robert Deininger, R. S. of N. G.; Matt Bion, L. S. of N. G.; Henry Sanders, I. G.; William Scheele, O. G.

The lodge held meetings at first in the hall of Star of the West Lodge. Afterward they used Adam Butsch's building, on Main street. In 1879 they moved in the present lodge room, in the Morehouse block, on Broadway. The room is nicely furnished, they own neat regalia, and have money on interest. They now (June, 1887) have fifty-two members in good standing, of which number the following are Past-Grands: J. Newsalt, L. Bion, John Deeg, John Hammel, F. Mudeking, R. Deininger, Theo. Fedder, J. A. Butsch, Emil Theimer, Charles Lorence, William Scheele, A. Graffmiüller, John Ganser, E. E. Ankes, Charles Wiese, Henry Sander and J. Thon. This lodge has furnished officers of the Grand Lodge of the State on two occasions: J. Newsalt, Grand Master, and Emil Theimer, Grand Herald.

Rebecca.—During the first term of Star of the West Lodge in 1865, a Rebecca organization was formed in which all scarlet degree members were entitled to membership, also the wives of scarlet degree members. The object of this degree was for the especial benefit of the wives of members. The organization was maintained on account of the

beneficial social features which it embraced, until several years ago, when it was abandoned.

Central Encampment, No. 4, I. O. O. F—On the afternoon of March 31, 1869, C. A. Strong, D. D. G. S.; C. C. Comee, G. M., and the P's from the Rochester and Star of the West Lodges met in the hall of the Star of the West Lodge, Owatonna, for the purpose of organizing an encampment, a dispensation having already been granted. The following were the first members: C. C. Comee, D. B. Marble, Luther Bixby, E. K. Smith, J. W. Daniels, A. S. Mygatt, Wm. Reynolds and William Pepper. In addition to this list, the following named became members, either at the first or second meeting: E. B. Crooker, J. W. Dresser, C. W. Hastings, John Middaugh, H. M. Brown, C. S. Crandall and A. C. Hickman.

The following is a list of the officers who have been chosen at the various elections held since the encampment was organized:

Elected March 31, 1869: C. C. Comee, C. P.; D. B. Marble, H. P.; E. K. Smith, S. W.; J. W. Daniels, J. W.; A. S. Mygatt, S.; W. H. Reynolds, Treas.

June 16, 1869—L. Bixby, C. P.; E. K. Smith, H. P.; A. C. Hickman, S. W.; John Middaugh, J. W.; J. C. Backus, Secy.; H. M. Brown, Treas.

December 15, 1869—E. K. Smith, C. P.; A. C. Hickman, H. P.; J. C. Backus, S. W.; John Middaugh, S.; W. M. Reynolds, J. W.; H. M. Brown, Treas.

August 3, 1870—E. K. Smith, C. P.; J. C. Backus, H. P.; O. M. Hammond, S. W.; C. S. Crandall, J. W.; E. T. Smith, S.; H. M. Brown, Treas.

January 4, 1871—A. C. Hickman, C. P.; O. M. Hammond, H. P.; Wm. Pepper, S. W.; H. M. Brown, J. W.; E. B. Crooker, S.; W. H. Reynolds, Treas.

July 5, 1871—O. M. Hammond, C. P.; J. C. Backus, H. P.; E. T. Smith, S. W.; D. Lawson, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; A. C. Hickman, Treas.

January 3, 1872—J. C. Backus, C. P.; E. T. Smith, H. P.; W. H. Reynolds, S. W.; J. Newsalt, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; A. C. Hickman, Treas.

June 19, 1872—L. Bixley, C. P.; D. Lawson, H. P.; J. Newsalt, S. W.; George A. Black, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; O. M. Hammond, T.

January 1, 1873—D. Lawson, C. P.; W. H. Reynolds, H. P.; Geo. A. Black, S. W.; J. C. Backus, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; J. K. Rice, T.

June 18, 1873—W. H. Reynolds, C. P.; G. A. Black, H. P.; A. S. Mygatt, S. W.; D. Lawson, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; E. K. Smith, T.

December, 1873—W. H. Reynolds, C. P.; Wm. Pepper, H. P.; J. Newsalt, S. W.; G. F. Doolittle, J. W.; L. Bixby, S.; J. C. Backus, T.

June 17, 1874—William Pepper, C. P.; J. Newsalt, H. P.; G. F. Doolittle, S. W.; H. F. Luce, J. W.; A. L. Harding, S.; G. W. Shaw, T.

December 16, 1874—J. Newsalt, C. P.; A. L. Harding, H. P.; L. Bion, S. W.; W. H. Reynolds, T.; C. P. Lilly, S.

June 16, 1875—A. L. Harding, C. P.; G. F. Doolittle, H. P.; H. F. Luce, S. W.; R. Lilly, S.; G. W. Shaw, T.; D. Lawson, J. W.

December 15, 1875—A. L. Harding, C. P.; H. F. Luce, H. P.; R. Lilly, S. W.; E. K. Smith, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.; G. W. Shaw, T.

June 2, 1876—H. F. Luce, C. P.; R. Lilly, H. P.; G. W. Shaw, S. W.; John Cottier, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.; J. Newsalt, T.

December 20, 1876—R. Lilly, C. P.; P. McRostie, H. P.; W. A. Dynes, S. W.; John Cottier, J. W.; John Hammel, T.; E. K. Smith, S.

June 20, 1877—P. McRostie, C. P.; W. A. Dynes, H. P.; G. W. Shaw, S. W.; W. H. Reynolds, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; John Hammel, T.

December 19, 1877—W. A. Dynes, C. P.; G. W. Shaw, H. P.; John Cottier, S. W.; R.

Lilly, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; John Hammel, T.

June 19, 1878—G. W. Shaw, C. P.; John Cottier, H. P.; John Hammel, S. W.; W. H. Reynolds, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.; W. A. Dynes, T.

December 27, 1878—John Cottier, C. P.; John Hammel, H. P.; G. H. Peterson, S. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; G. W. Shaw, T.; W. A. Dynes, J. W.

June 18, 1879—John Hammel, C. P.; G. H. Peterson, H. P.; E. C. Kinney, S. W.; W. H. Reynolds, J. W.; G. W. Shaw, T.; E. K. Smith, S.

December 17, 1879—Geo. H. Peterson, C. P.; E. C. Kinney, H. P.; P. McDonald, S. W.; W. H. Reynolds, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; G. W. Shaw, T.

August 4, 1880—John Cottier, C. P.; H. F. Luce, H. P.; A. Simpson, S. W.; John Hammel, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; G. W. Shaw, T.

January 5, 1881—J. Newsalt, C. P.; L. Bion, H. P.; A. Simpson, S. W.; G. H. Peterson, J. W.; E. K. Smith, S.; John Hammel, T.

January 3, 1882—L. Bion, C. P.; John Cottier, H. P.; J. H. Helwig, S. W.; H. F. Luce, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.; John Hammel, T.

December 20, 1882—John Cottier, C. P.; J. H. Helwig, H. P.; John Hammel, S. W.; W. H. Reynolds, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.

December 5, 1883—G. W. Shaw, C. W.; J. H. Helwig, H. P.; W. H. Reynolds, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.; H. F. Luce, T.

December 17, 1884—G. W. Shaw, C. P.; J. H. Helwig, H. P.; John Hammel, S. W.; W. H. Reynolds, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.; H. F. Luce, T.

December 16, 1885—J. H. Helwig, C. P.; John Cottier, H. P.; E. Theimer, S. W.; R. Deininger, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.

December 15, 1886—(present officers)—Emil Theimer, C. P.; F. C. Webb, H. P.; R. Deininger, S. W.; J. A. Shaw, J. W.; G. H. Peterson, S.; H. F. Luce, T.; F. G. Shu-

man, P. S.; H. Sanders, O. S.; J. Newsalt, G.; John Helwig, 1st W.; John Cottier, 2d W.; H. F. Luce, 3d W.; G. W. Shaw, 4th W.; John Cottier, George H. Peterson and George W. Shaw, trustees.

The Encampment meetings since its organization have always been held in the Star of the West Lodge rooms, where they own the necessary furniture and paraphernalia, together with handsome regalia. The encampment is in good condition financially, and has been from the start. This order is in Odd Fellowship one step higher than the Subordinate Lodges; and any "third degree Odd Fellow" in good standing is eligible to membership in the camp.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

This organization is not an ancient one, being the outgrowth of the civil war. Every soldier who was honorably discharged from service is eligible to membership. The objects of the organization are to preserve and strengthen the fraternal feelings which bound soldiers together upon the field and in camp, and to perpetuate the memory and history of the beloved dead. Also to assist, in their declining years, such former comrades in arms as, from wounds and hardships, might need help and protection; and to care for the widows and orphans of those who fell. It is non-political, and no discussion of partisan questions is allowed at their meetings. As a matter of interest we give a list of the present officers of the G. A. R. of the department of Minnesota, as the Commander is a citizen of Owatonna. They are as follows: L. L. Wheelock, of Owatonna, department commander; E. R. Jefferson, of Duluth, senior vice-commander; J. H. Ege, of Minneapolis, junior vice-commander; D. P. Kennedy, of Litchfield, medical director; W. E. Stanley, of Austin, chaplain.

James A. Goodwin Post, No. 81—Was organized at Owatonna on the 21st of March, 1884, the first meeting being held at the Knights of Honor hall, on the evening of that date. R. A. Becker, senior vice dep't

com., and Comrades Zeigbaum, Leibold and Waffle came down from St. Paul and assisted in effecting an organization. There were thirty-six charter members, as follows: L. L. Wheelock, J. W. Burch, John Helwig, E. A. Tyler, W. A. Dynes, C. W. Hadley, Oscar Gross, Frank L. Melvin, L. L. Inman, J. Z. Barncard, S. N. Lund, J. L. Harrington, W. W. Day, George E. Sloan, David Curtis, John Ryan, Oscar Murphy, R. H. Reynolds, A. Hemingway, E. P. Norton, F. M. Bauter, Eli I. Williamson, C. M. Williamson, William Gamble, C. W. Wilkinson, J. D. Backus, J. E. Teed, D. W. Williamson, W. H. Twiford, E. E. Bigelow, D. O. Searle, H. J. Robinson, J. Fredenburg, Horace Smith, J. D. Holden, and Orlando Lindersmith.

The first officers were elected at the first meeting, and served until the following annual election, on the second Tuesday in January. The officers have been as follows:

Elected March 21, 1884—L. L. Wheelock, P. C.; E. A. Tyler, S. V. C.; D. O. Searle, J. V. C.; J. H. Helwig, A.; W. A. Dynes, Q. M.; J. L. Harrington, S.; J. Newton Brown, C.; J. Z. Barncard, O. D.; E. P. Norton, O. G.; C. B. Wilkinson, S.; J. D. Holden, Q. M. S.

Elected January, 1885—L. L. Wheelock, P. C.; E. A. Tyler, S. V. C.; W. W. Day, J. V. C.; J. Z. Barncard, O. D.; J. H. Helwig, Adj.; E. I. Williamson, Chap.; E. P. Norton, O. G.; J. L. Harrington, Sur.; S. B. Wilkinson, S. M.; W. A. Dynes, Q. M.; J. D. Holden, Q. M. S.

Elected January, 1886—E. A. Tyler, P. C.; F. M. Bauter, S. V. C.; W. W. Day, J. V. C.; E. E. Bigelow, Sur.; C. B. Wilkinson, O. D.; D. W. Williamson, O. G.; E. I. Williamson, C.; T. W. Hanks, Q. M.; D. S. Coverdale, Q. M. S.; J. H. Helwig, Adj.; C. W. Hadley, S. M.

Elected January, 1887—J. Z. Barncard, P. C.; George E. Sloan, S. V. C.; F. C. Berg, J. V. C.; E. E. Bigelow, Sur.; Chas. Giddings, O. D.; C. B. Wilkinson, C.; F. M. Bauter, Q. M.; E. P. Norton, O. G.; J. W.

Burch, Adj.; C. H. Sterns, S. M.; W. A. Dynes, Q. M. S.

Meetings were held in the Knights of Honor hall on Cedar street until August, 1887, when they removed to their present quarters—G. A. R. hall—over the post-office. The rooms are comfortable and well furnished and arranged. They hold a five-years' lease. The financial condition of the post is excellent. Socially and officially matters have run very smoothly in the post since its organization; the best of feeling has and does exist between all the comrades, and no petty strife, jealousies or trouble of any kind has ever occurred to mar the fraternal feeling of the members, and for smooth sailing and competent, careful management, the James A. Goodwin Post has made a record which is known throughout the State.

The membership of the post increased very rapidly from the start, and now its roll contains the names of 136 members. The following is a descriptive list of the members as shown by the books in August, 1887, giving the name of the member, rank at time of discharge from the army, his company and regiment and date of discharge, viz:

L. L. Wheelock, captain, C, 160th N. Y., Nov., 1865.
 J. W. Burch, major, 44th Ind., 1865.
 H. R. Thompson, private, E, 4th Minn., Jan., 1865.
 John Helwig, private, C, 35th Iowa, May, 1865.
 E. A. Tyler, lieutenant, E., 1st Minn., March, 1865.
 W. A. Dynes, com. ser., 72d cav., March, 1866.
 L. C. Berg, musician, K, 28th Wis., Aug., 1865.
 C. W. Hadley, corporal, H, 14th Iowa, March, 1863.
 Oscar Gross, private, G, 1st Minn., Sept., 1861.
 Harvey Fletcher, wagoner, E, 4th Minn., July, 1865.
 C. O. Easton, private, D, 22d Wis., Jan., 1865.
 Frank L. Melvin, private, A, 10th Minn., Aug., 1865.
 L. L. Inman, sergeant, F, 1st Wis. cav., April, 1865.
 J. Z. Barncard, lieutenant., B, 2d Minn., Jan., 1864.
 Theo. Chambers, private, F, 95th Ill., Aug., 1865.
 S. N. Lund, private, A, 3d Wis., July, 1864.
 J. L. Harrington, asst. sur., 4th Vermont, Aug., 1865.
 D. F. Betchen, private, Board of Trade bat., Chicago, Jan., 1865.
 W. W. Day, private, D, 10th Wis., Dec., 1864.
 George E. Sloan, private, I, 142d N. Y., Jan., 1865.
 David Curtis, private, K, 3d Wis., July, 1865.

- John Ryan, private, F, 4th Minn., Dec., 1864.
 Oscar Murphy, sergeant, D, 2d Wis. cav., Feb., 1865.
 Julius F. Young, musician, A, 20th Wis., July, 1865.
 M. A. McAndrews, corporal Bat. L, Minn.
 L. H. Lane, captain, I, 23d Ohio, July, 1865.
 R. H. Reynolds, corporal, E, 10th Minn., Aug., 1865.
 A. Hemingway, corporal, B, 32d Wis., June, 1865.
 E. P. Norton, private, D, 9th Maine, Aug., 1865.
 F. M. Bauter, private, E, 11th Mich., April, 1863.
 W. C. McGowan, private, A, 142d N. Y., April, 1864.
 E. I. Williamson, sergeant, G, 2d Minn. cav., Dec., 1865.
- Oscar Tiffany, sergeant, E, 4th Minn., July, 1865.
 G. W. Bullum, captain, I, 1st Wis., Dec., 1865.
 C. M. Williamson, private, E, 1st Minn., May, 1865.
 William Gamble, private, D, 9th Wis., Oct., 1865.
 C. B. Wilkinson, captain, A, 3d Minn., Aug., 1865.
 J. D. Baekus, private, D, 123d N. Y., Jan., 1865.
 J. Teed, musician, A, 10th Minn., Aug., 1865.
 D. W. Williamson, corporal, F, 3d Minn., Sept., 1865.
 W. H. Twiford, surgeon, 27th Ind., July, 1864.
 E. E. Bigelow, sergeant, D, 29th Wis., 1863.
 W. H. Holden, private, E, 128th N. Y., Jan., 1865.
 Edward Kingsbury, private, F, 23d Wis., May, 1863.
 Samuel Ellis, private, A, 95th Ill., Aug., 1865.
 Andrew Mechan, private, C, 1st Minn. heavy art., June, 1865.
- James Hannah, private, B, 10th Minn., July, 1865.
 J. D. Carter, private, K, 2d Minn., Sept., 1864.
 Jason Bemis, corporal, F, 2d Ohio cav., Sept., 1864.
 D. H. Sutton, private, G, 17th Ill. cav., Jan., 1866.
 D. R. Pike, musician, K, 127th N. Y., July, 1865.
 Wm. Rosenthal, private, I, 4th Minn., Jan., 1865.
 S. M. Kinney, private, A, 10th Minn., May, 1865.
 P. Leibold, private, D, 8th Minn., July, 1865.
 Jos. B. Tudor, private, F, 7th Mo. cav., Nov., 1865.
 G. Gross, private, C, 2d Minn. cav., Nov., 1865.
 Edw. Davis, private, C, 2d Minn. cav., Nov., 1865.
 J. M. Burlingame, private, B, 127th N. Y., May, 1865.
 Fred. Boll, private, G, 1st Minn., May, 1865.
 Jos. Cobb, private, H, 4th Minn., June, 1865.
 Thos. Coney, private, C, 2d Minn. cav., Nov., 1865.
 T. H. Kelley,
- John Lippert, private, E, 45th Wis., July, 1865.
 D. S. Coverdale, captain, K, 2d Minn., Aug., 1865.
 C. Batzel, private, E, 1st Minn., July, 1865.
 Ed. Garrett, corporal, B, 10th Minn., Aug., 1865.
 Geo. Naylor, private, H, 3d Minn., Nov., 1864.
 W. E. Martin, private, A, 10th Minn., July, 1865.
 T. C. Kenyon, private, C, 2d Minn. cav., Nov., 1865.
 John Reash, private, B, 1st Minn. heavy art., June, 1865.
- C. V. Musser, private, H, 38th Wis., Jan., 1865.
 Andrew Fischer, lieutenant I, 142d N. Y., June, 1865.
 Henry Walter, private, K, 1st Minn. heavy art., Sept., 1865.
- A. S. Bragg, corporal, I, 4th Minn., Jan., 1865.
 Godfried Boshard, private, D, 9th Wis., Dec., 1864.
 R. H. Johnson, private, I, 11th Minn., July, 1865.
 Hugh Bradley, private, F, 7th Minn., Aug., 1865.
 Warren S. Reynolds, private, 48th Ohio bat., July, 1865.
- J. L. Roberts, private, 53d Ill., Sept., 1862.
 W. A. Hinchley, private, C, 16th Wis., July, 1865.
 S. N. Harter, private, F, 18th Wis., Jan., 1865.
 H. Wardwell, private, K, 23d Wis., July, 1865.
 F. C. Berg, private, A, 28th Wis., Aug., 1865.
 H. A. Finch, sergeant, G, 16th Wis., July, 1865.
 Henry Rand, private, B, 32d Wis., June, 1865.
 J. N. Morrison, corporal, G, 2d Minn. cav., Dec., 1865.
 T. Hennessey, private, I, 49th Wis., Nov., 1865.
 T. W. Hanks, bugler, 3d Minn. light ar., Feb., 1866.
 Nis Nelson, private, E, 1st Col. cav., Nov., 1865.
 C. H. Randall, private, F, 37th Wis., May, 1865.
 Martin Halley, private, C, 134th N. Y., Jan., 1865.
 John Blythe, private, C, 1st Minn. heav. art., June, 1865.
 J. C. Hemingway, private, I, 1st Minn., July, 1865.
 Geo. H. Curtis, private, A, 10th Minn., August, 1865.
 W. G. Mason, private, I, 2d Minn., Sept., 1864.
 N. P. Thimsen, private, K, 2d Minn. cav., May, 1865.
 W. H. Burns, private, C, 2d Minn. cav., Nov., 1865.
 J. S. Bixby, private, A, 10th Minn., Aug., 1865.
 C. B. Pettie, private, A, 10th Minn., June, 1865.
 S. R. Anderson, private, H, 1st Minn. heavy art., Sept., 1865.
- S. B. Hough, private, G, 9th Ill. Cav.
 S. H. Stowers, lieutenant, A, 10th Minn., May, 1865.
 A. A. Farnsworth, private, G, 17th Ill. Cav., Jan., 1865.
- H. Rosenau, private, L, 1st Minn. heav. art., Sept., 1865.
- E. Austin, private, 3d Wis. cav., May, 1865.
 Mark H. Dunnell, colonel, 5th Maine, Aug., 1861.
 A. W. Reed, private, A, 10th Minn., October, 1864.
 Chas. Vose, private, F, 9th Wis., Dec., 1864.
 F. Zwiener, private, E, 20th Wis., Jan., 1865.
 C. H. Sterns, corporal, 1st Iowa bat., Sept., 1862.
 Merton Stanehoff, three years.
 George Glicchman, private, B, 26th Wis., June, 1865.
 Chas. D. Giddings, quartermaster, Ship Ouachta, January, 1865.
- D. Fuller, private, B, 34th N. Y. bat., Jan., 1865.
 A. M. Kinyon, private, K, 29th Wis., 1863.
 James Brown, farrier, D, 11th N. Y. cav.
 James Oleson, private; K, 8th Wis., Sept., 1865.
 L. O. Gaylord, private, A, 1st Minn. art., June, 1865.
 Ezra Town, private, E, 4th Minn., July, 1865.
 Newton Parker, private, E, 1st Minn., July, 1865.
 Aug. Kreger, private, E, 27th Wis., Aug., 1865.
 P. Mallinger, lieutenant, F, 9th Wis.
 A. W. Jones, private, A, 10th Minn., Aug., 1865.
 L. P. Hall, private, G, 3d Minn., Nov., 1864.
 A. Colquhon, private, D, 11th Minn., June, 1865.
 Fred Yanke, private, G, 42d Wis., Feb.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

Owatonna Turnverein.—This society was organized July 3, 1883, the first meeting being held at Butsch's hall. It was organized for gymnastic purposes, and at the start had fifteen members. The first officers elected were as follows: J. Newsalt, president; C. Butsch, vice-president; J. Glaeser, secretary; Theo. Fedder, corresponding secretary; J. A. Butsch, treasurer; J. P. and John Thon, teachers.

The following named have filled the various offices since the society was organized: J. Newsalt, R. Deininger, J. Newsalt and Theo. Fedder, presidents; C. Butsch, John Deeg, Peter Ganser, F. Rosebrock, John Thon, H. Sanders and F. Hagedorn, vice-presidents; J. Glaeser, Theo. Fedder, J. Hammel, Jr., Peter Ganser, J. P. Thon, H. Sanders, John Hammel and J. P. Thon, secretaries; J. A. Butsch and R. Deininger, treasurers; J. P. Thon, John Thon, F. Schuman, C. Butsch, R. Bartosch, George Newsalt and L. Hammel, teachers.

The present officers of the society were elected December 27, 1886, and are as follows: Theo. Fedder, president; F. Hagedorn, vice-president; J. P. Thon, secretary; John Hammel, corresponding secretary; R. Deininger, treasurer; John Thon and L. Hammel, teachers; H. Rosebrock, warden.

The society now has thirty-eight members. Meetings are held once each week in Twiss' building, on Broadway, but gymnastic or turning exercises are had every Tuesday and Friday evenings.

C. S. P. S.—Society of Minnesota, Lodge No. 67, Bohemian Slovanik Benevolent society. This lodge works under the auspices of the supreme lodge, which was instituted at St. Louis in 1854; and under the Grand Lodge of the State of Minnesota. The society at Owatonna is named Lodge No. 67, Bohemian Slovanik Benevolent Society of Minnesota. This lodge was instituted on the 15th of January, 1881, by authority of the Grand Lodge of the State. It has

for its objects friendship, benevolence and charity. The weekly sick benefits are fixed at \$3 for each week of sickness, and at the death of a member the sum of \$1,000 is paid to his heirs. The charter members of this lodge were: Anton Zajic, Joseph Arsen, Vac. Kovar, L. L. Marek, Joseph Cepelak, Frank Sejkora, Eduard Bros. and Joseph F. Racek. The terms of membership are from \$5 to \$15. The principal officers elected are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, financier and three trustees. The trustees are elected every two years, the other officers annually. Meetings are held monthly. The annual dues are \$5 per year for each member. On the 16th of July, 1885, the society was incorporated, with Joseph H. H. Soukup, president, and Frank Kovar, secretary. The present officers are as follows: Joseph W. Kaplan, ambassador; Alois L. Simon, president; John Dusek, vice-president; Joseph H. Soukup, secretary; Frank Horak, financier; John Pichner, treasurer; Joseph Kubat, guide; John Svir, outside guide; Joseph F. Vavrin, inside guide. The following is a complete list of the present members of the society here: Joseph W. Kaplan, Joseph H. Soukup, John Dusek, A. L. Simon, Frank Horak, John Pichner, Joseph Kubat, Joseph Vavrin, John Svir, Anton Pirkli, L. L. Marek, Anton Belina, Anton Kasper, Joseph Tamshe, K. C. Tamshe, John Slavik, Frank Ripka, V. Mares, Joseph Krejei, Felix Svekla, V. Pichner, V. Kovar, A. Kovar, F. Simon, Fr. Kovar, V. Suchanek, V. Jirousek, Al. Kasper, John R. Soukup, V. Martinek, Joseph Martinek. The lodge started here with but very few members and has had a steady growth, now numbering thirty-one members in good standing, and its prospects for the future are bright. In all there are 7,378 members of the society of C. S. P. S.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

The first organization of this order was inaugurated here in 1856. Among the members of this organization were the following:

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Sheetz, Levi Morehouse and sister, Mr. Burr, Geo. Oulton, Mrs. Loren Town and others.

Owatonna Lodge, No. 31, I. O. of G. T.—Was organized on the 12th of October, 1865, by Rev. Reuben Gregg, District Deputy of the Grand Lodge of the State. There were seventeen charter members, as follows: H. C. Eldred, E. Durham, L. S. Padgham, Frank Dickinson, James D. Beers, T. E. Hughes, J. H. Donaldson, H. M. Brown, D. D. F. Brown, Daniel Thom, J. W. Smith, Albert A. Crandall, Mrs. Mary Durham, Mrs. L. A. Eldred, Miss L. J. Kellogg, Miss Mary Blair and J. E. Bush. The following list of officers were chosen for the first quarter: L. S. Padgham, W. C. T.; Miss L. J. Kellogg, W. V. T.; Frank Dickinson, W. S.; J. H. Donaldson, W. F. S.; Miss Mary Blair, W. F. S. During the first quarter there were six initiated and a clearance card granted to one, leaving twenty-two members. The second quarter increased the number of members to fifty-four, and during the third quarter ten more were added. At the close of the year the number had increased to one hundred and eight. Each quarter added to the list of members, until at the close of the second year there were one hundred and thirty members in good standing. This kept on increasing, until at the close of the third quarter of the third year, April 30, 1868, there stood upon the rolls the names of two hundred and forty-nine members in good standing.

A number of changes have taken place in this society. An organization is still maintained, however. The present officers were elected on the evening of August 1, 1887, and are as follows: Rev. J. C. Ogle, C. T.; Mrs. A. M. Kelly, V. T.; J. W. Rowland, R. S.; Miss Annie Kelly, A. S.; R. G. Nelson, F. S.; Mrs. L. A. Morehouse, treasurer; P. J. Rolfe, marshal; Mrs. P. J. Rolfe, D. M.; F. H. Coon, S.; Miss Susie Gates, I. G.; O. B. McClintock, P. C. T.

Musical.—The Owatonna Cornet Band

was organized in 1875. The members and musicians at that time were as follows: W. H. Holden, leader; P. McDonald, L. Mosher, G. D. Holden, J. E. Winship, John Seaman, E. T. Winship, W. B. Soper, G. F. Doolittle, John Blair and L. C. Berg. Several changes have taken place in the band since 1875, but the organization has been maintained, and the band now ranks among the best in the State. At the present writing the organization is made up of the following musicians: W. H. Holden, G. D. Holden, Miss Mabel Holden, Henry Huber, C. L. Buxton, J. T. Holden, E. E. Butsch, J. D. Slonaker, W. B. Soper, E. F. Requa, John Huber, L. C. Berg and J. E. Winship.

In 1883, Prof. A. C. Gutterson organized an orchestra at Owatonna, which has become one of the finest in the state. The present members of the organization are as follows: Prof. A. C. Gutterson, director; J. E. Engel, Emil Theimer, Ed. Burch, William Pope, Daniel Slonaker, George Holden, W. H. Holden, J. E. Winship and John Huber.

In 1873 Prof. Gutterson organized the Beethoven Association, an organization which is still maintained under his directorship.

Business Men's Association of the State of Minnesota.—Owatonna being the residence of the secretary of this association, it may, in a measure, be considered its headquarters; and the association, while of but recent organization, has attracted such wide notice, comment and commendation, it is well worthy a brief history in this connection.

In the spring of 1887, in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the board of trade of Faribault, a call, or invitation, was extended to the various boards of trades and citizens of the State, to send delegates to a convention of business men to be held in the city of Faribault on the 12th and 13th of April, 1887.

The object of this convention was stated as being the consideration of the inter-state commerce law, and to take action to secure to the people of the whole State all the benefits which it was believed would fol-

low a strict and honest enforcement of the law, as well also to consider any other matters affecting the business interests of the State. This call was signed by John B. Parshall, president, and E. H. Loyhed, secretary of the Faribault Board of Trade.

In accordance with this call, about fifty delegates met and organized by the election of Senator E. M. Pope, of Mankato, as chairman, and E. H. Loyhed, of Faribault, as secretary. The delegates composed the most influential and prominent business men from twenty of the principal points in this portion of the State. After a discussion of various matters affecting business interests, a permanent organization of the Business Men's Association was effected by the election of the following named officers: Hon. E. M. Pope, of Mankato, president; W. P. Colburn, of Albert Lea, and J. F. Norrish, of Hastings, vice-presidents; Hon. J. M. Burlingame, of Owatonna, secretary; P. C. Bailey, of Waseca, treasurer; W. P. Sargent, of Albert Lea, J. R. Parshall, of Faribault, J. H. Mullen, of Wabasha, R. O. Hall, of Austin, C. P. Carpenter, of Farmington, O. F. Perkins, of Northfield, and C. A. Erickson, of Red Wing, executive committee.

The first annual meeting of the association was held in Mankato on the 7th of June, 1887, at which time the first officers were unanimously reelected. It was largely attended by business men from all parts of the State, and the organization has already attained an influence which is bound to prove beneficial to business, and all shipping interests. It has already called numerous irregularities and matters requiring investigation to the attention of the railway commissioners, and several important cases are now pending under the management of Hon. J. M. Burlingame, attorney for the association.

Insurance Societies. — Owatonna also has a number of societies devoted to social, fraternal and benevolent objects, with a principal view to issuing insurance policies upon the lives of its members. Among these are

the Knights of Honor, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and Star Council of the American Legion of Honor.

The Star Council of the American Legion of Honor was organized with thirty-four charter members at Owatonna, April 10, 1880, and an organization has since been maintained. It now has a membership of thirty-eight in good standing. Two losses have occurred here by deaths of A. J. Snyder and J. D. Holden.

RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

Presbyterian Church of Owatonna. — The first services of this denomination were held at Owatonna in the winter of 1855-6 by Rev. Harvey Chapin, who located here in February, 1856, dividing his labors, however, between this and several other villages, and organizing churches at Dodge City, East Prairieville and Ashland. On the 13th of September, 1857, he organized the Presbyterian Church with the following as the first members: Mrs. Judge Donaldson, Mrs. Jane Chapin, Mrs. Jane McCaslin, Mrs. Elisabeth Ashton and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Adair. They were joined by William Davidson and wife and a few others within a year afterward. For several years Mr. Chapin preached in the old log schoolhouse, until 1863, when, principally through his own influence and indefatigable labors, a church was commenced, he and William Davidson hauling the logs for timbers, and in 1864 it was completed. In this small but neat church Mr. Chapin continued to preach until the spring of 1865, when he removed to Tipton, Mo. In that place his ministerial labors were brought to a sudden and mournful close. His house caught fire, and, in an effort, as was supposed, to save important papers, he perished in the flames. Mr. Chapin was succeeded in Owatonna by Rev. H. W. Nelson. In the fall of 1865 Rev. I. Faries, who had come to Minnesota in search of health, became a temporary supply, but in May, 1867, his failing health deprived the church of ministrations which had been eminently use-

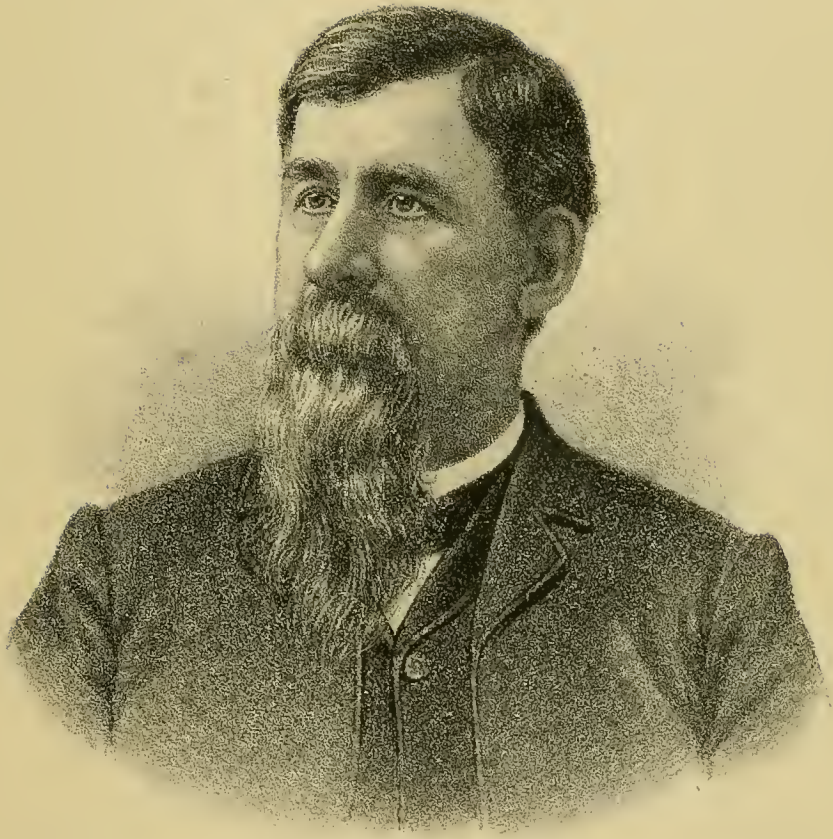
ful. On the 22d of July, 1867, Rev. R. H. Cunningham accepted an invitation from the church and continued his labors here for one year, when he accepted a call to Rushford. Since that time the following have served as pastors of this church in the order named: Reverends W. S. Wilson, J. J. Ward, James McCanley, O. Thatcher, William Pelan, James McGowan and Robert A. Anderson. Rev. Anderson is the present pastor. He came here from Redwood Falls, Minn., in December, 1885, and has many warm friends. He is an effective preacher.

Services were first held in the old log schoolhouse, and then for one season, in Morford's hall. After this a frame schoolhouse, which stood where the first ward school building is now located, was used until 1864, when the church edifice was completed. It was a frame building, which still stands just west of the Arnold House. This building served as a house of worship until 1877, when the present church was built at a cost of \$3,000. The old building was sold to J. G. A. Dennerline, and was used for some time by the German Reform denomination. The present Presbyterian Church is neatly furnished and cushioned throughout; and the society is in thriving condition, being free from debt. The church was organized legally, with corporate powers, in 1859, the certificate of organization being filed May 27, 1859. The trustees elected at that time were D. S. Harsha, W. F. Drum, Robert Adair, W. F. Pettit and William Davidson. The present trustees were elected in May, 1887, and are as follows: H. Birkett, president; C. E. Sheldon, vice-president; J. M. Burlingame, clerk; G. R. Kinyon, treasurer; D. Downie and Dr. J. H. Adair.

During the first few years after this church was organized a Union Sunday-school was maintained by all the denominations, alternating in furnishing the superintendent and officers. At an early day, however, a Presbyterian Sunday-school was organized, which is still in thriving condition. The present

officers are: C. E. Sheldon, superintendent; William Davidson, assistant, and Miss Kate Donaldson, secretary and treasurer.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Owatonna was organized in October, 1856, with the following persons as members: William B. Norman, Sarah J. Norman, Amelia Oliver, James M. and Emily Soper. On the 7th of August previous to this Rev. Solomon Wetzel had been appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Conference to take charge of the Owatonna circuit, which at that time had just been organized. Mr. Wetzel was a man of untiring energy and perseverance, and finding, as was usually the case with the pioneer churches, that the amount to be received from his charges would not be sufficient for his proper support, he labored with his hands to supply the temporal needs of himself and family, and with the active energies of his brain to meet the spiritual demands of his congregation. The meetings were first held in the schoolhouse, the Methodists and other denominations alternating with each other in the use of the house. At the next session of the conference, Rev. A. Mattison was appointed to take charge of the interests of the church on this circuit. Services were held for a time in the old log schoolhouse, and afterward in a portion of A. N. Stoughton's dwelling. Still later, their place of worship was a store building, located on Broadway. The church prospered materially under the labors of Mr. Mattison, and many members were added to it, not only to the class at Owatonna, but also to the other points under his charge. John Odell was the first class-leader of the church in Owatonna. In 1859 Rev. John Rogers was appointed to the pastorate of the church, and the meetings were held first in the schoolhouse, afterward in Morford's hall. In 1860 Rev. Robert Hoover became pastor, and was succeeded in turn by Rev. Mr. Cornwell, who remained something less than a year, when he was appointed chaplain of



J. C. Ogden

one of the Minnesota regiments and went into the service. This left the church without a pastor during the remainder of the conference year. In 1862 Rev. J. H. Richardson was appointed pastor, and remained two years, when he was succeeded by Rev. T. McClary, who also remained two years. After this Owatonna became a station, and Rev. E. R. Lathrop was selected for the pastorate charge. Succeeding Mr. Lathrop, the following have served as pastor in the order named: Revs. S. F. Sterritt, C. Hover, R. Washburn, J. W. Martin, A. B. Bishop, H. G. Bilbie, M. S. Kaufman, J. Whisler, J. H. Dewart, G. R. Hair and J. C. Ogle. At various times meetings had been held in the schoolhouse, Morford's hall, the Baptist Church and Dresser's hall. In the summer of 1867 a neat chapel 26x56 feet in dimensions was erected on lots owned by the society, on the corner of Main and Elm streets. Its cost was about two thousand dollars. It was dedicated September 8, 1867. A parsonage was completed at about the same time, since exchanged for another piece of property.

The "Little Brown Church," as many of the older members call the old building, was used as a place of worship until the present handsome church building was completed in November, 1878. Rev. M. S. Kaufman was pastor at the time the building was erected, and much of the success was due to his untiring efforts. No less, however, is due to the building committee, which was composed of Hon. A. C. Hickman, George E. Peck, J. Q. Ellis and S. W. Farmer. The corner-stone of the building was laid August 30, and it was dedicated December 1, 1878, by Chaplain C. C. McCabe, D. D. The edifice is 48x100 feet in size, including a lecture room 25x55, handsomely furnished, and is among the finest church buildings in Minnesota. Its cost was about \$6,000.

The first M. E. Sunday-school was organized in the spring of 1865 with the following officers: A. C. Hickman, superintendent;

John Odell, assistant; C. F. Andrews, secretary; Orin Greeley, librarian; William T. Pettit, treasurer. The organization has been maintained ever since, and the Sunday-school is now well attended and in good condition. During all the years that have glided by, since the organization of the Methodist Church, it has constantly gained in membership, and it is now among the best attended churches in the city. The present officers of the organization are as follows: Trustees—Geo. E. Peck, president; W. A. Sperry, secretary; A. C. Hickman, treasurer; J. W. Doolittle, Dr. E. E. Bigelow, Dr. J. L. Harrington, O. E. Edson and John Thompson. Stewards—C. H. Webb, H. N. Labare, C. H. Gordon, C. B. Wilkinson, S. W. Farmer, John Cottier, F. M. Banter, John Nichols, A. W. Rankin, W. A. Sperry, Prof. Merrill and S. N. Lund.

Rev. Joseph C. Ogle, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Owatonna, was born July 21, 1830, in Canton, Stark County, Ohio. His ancestors came from England and settled in Maryland and Virginia, where many of their descendants still reside. Mr. Ogle's parents, William and Mary Ogle, came to Ohio in 1820 and located in Canton. They had three children: the eldest being Carrie, the second George, and the third, and youngest Joseph C., the subject of this sketch. When he was two years of age his father died, and his mother died when he was seven, the parents being both buried in the old cemetery at Canton, Ohio. When Joseph C. was ten years of age, he was brought by friends to Columbiana County, Ohio, and placed in the home of Benjamin McKarns, where he lived on a farm till he was seventeen years of age, working on the farm in summer and going to school in the winter. At the age of seventeen, with seventy cents in his pocket and clothed in a summer suit of home-made linen, he started out to make his own way in the world. Having up to this age received a limited common-school education, yet enough to give him a

X His son George A. Ogle is in the newspaper publication business at 415 Dearborn St. Chicago, Ills.

thirst for greater attainments, his great desire was to secure a good education. After leaving Mr. McKarn's he attended the common school two winters. He taught his first school, a term of five months, in the winter of 1849-50, in Columbiana County. For this he received \$12 per month and "boarded round." After this he attended for two years an academy in Wellsville, Ohio, taught by Rev. Campbell; he also attended two summers the academy at Poland, Mahoning County, Ohio, of which Dr. McMasters was principal; and finally taking a classical and scientific course and graduating from Jefferson College, then located at Cannonsburg, Pa., and an educational institution of high rank. Being poor and having to depend upon himself, he often found it a hard struggle to find means to prosecute his studies; hence he was often compelled to alternate between teaching and attending school,—often teaching a term of school and then attending school a term. During two winters he taught and also kept up his studies with his class. Mr. Ogle may be said to be a self-made man. Many of his preparatory studies were conquered by him without a teacher, with many of the great problems of life to grapple alone, which accounts for much of his independence of thought and speech as a public speaker. During the years when he was pursuing his education, he taught several terms of school in the country and towns. He was for two years principal of the graded schools in Manchester, Adams County, Ohio; and after he left college he was two years principal of the graded schools in East Liverpool, Ohio. On the 25th of October, 1859, he married Miss Annie C. Mast, of East Liverpool, Ohio, who was at the time a teacher in the grammar department of the graded schools of that city, a position which she had successfully filled for eight years. By this union they have had five children, all of whom are now (1887) living: John B., George A., Charles S., Carrie E., and Howard E. In 1860

Mr. Ogle was licensed to preach in the Methodist Church, to which profession he has devoted his life. In Ohio he served pastorates in Cambridge, Zanesville, Pennsville, Steubenville and Tiffin. In the fall of 1875 he with his family removed to Minnesota and settled at Worthington, Nobles County, where he at once became pastor of the Methodist Church, serving the first year as a supply. In the fall of 1876 he became a member of the Minnesota Annual Conference. He remained in Worthington six years being pastor of the church three years. During two years while there he was principal of the Worthington Seminary. This school was under the care of the Methodist Church, and had a successful and prosperous career until the building was consumed by fire in 1878. During the six years he spent in Worthington he served five years as county superintendent of schools, part of this time being pastor of the church, principal of the seminary, and county superintendent at the same time. He was first appointed by the county commissioners to fill a vacancy, and afterward was elected twice by the people. During his residence there he was also editor and publisher of the *Worthington Journal* for two years. Since he came to Minnesota he has served pastorates in Worthington, Winnebago City, Mankato, and now (1887) is filling a very pleasant pastorate with the Methodist Church in Owatonna, to which charge he was appointed in the fall of 1886. Mr. Ogle has achieved the reputation of being among the most forcible and eloquent pulpit orators of his church in the State. He is a thoroughly educated man, of extensive reading, and has a fine command of language. A portrait of Mr. Ogle will be found in another department of this work. *He died July 3, 1891.*

First Baptist Church of Owatonna.—The Baptist Church of Owatonna was organized June 27, 1857, with the following members, who were admitted upon letters from other churches to which they had previously be-

longed: Adolphus Town, Ann Town, Albert D. Low, N. O. Low, J. M. Finch, R. J. Tousey and Wm. H. Woods. Sometime in the fall L. B. Town, Daniel Burch and S. W. Breese were also admitted by letter. The first Baptist meeting held in Owatonna, or Steele County, was on a Sabbath about the last of April, 1856, at the residence of A. B. Cornell, about fifteen persons being present, and Rev. A. Town preached the sermon. Meetings were held in the little log schoolhouse. In the autumn of 1857 Elder Knapp, one of the noted evangelists of that period, came to visit a daughter then residing here, and being invited, willingly consented to go into the little log schoolhouse, and there preached some of his wonderful sermons, with such power that many believed and were added to the church. In the winter of 1858 the pastors of the different churches (Elder Town at that time being pastor of the Baptist church) decided to unite in union meetings, and a large number were converted. The services were held in the only public building in those early times—the little log schoolhouse, 16x26 feet in size; but many were the earnest hearts that gathered there from day to day, and week to week. On the 11th of September, 1858, the churches of Ashland, Wasioji and Faribault met with the Owatonna church, and organized the Minnesota Central Baptist Association, which reported at that time 120 members. In 1859 Elder Town resigned the pastorate, and Elder Edgar Cady, of Lake City, was chosen to supply the place. He was followed in 1860 by Rev. A. D. Low, who acted as pastor until February, 1861, when in consequence of a difference of opinion among the members, a vote was taken in one of the church meetings to disband the organization, and a portion of the members left and effected another church organization. Those who remained chose Elder Town as their pastor, and regular meetings were held until October, 1863. In the meantime in 1858 preliminary steps had been taken toward

building a church, and during this church difficulty it had been left untouched. Early in the "sixties," however, while Elder Town was pastor of the "First Church," the building was completed, and on the 13th of October, 1863, was dedicated; the dedicatory sermon being preached by Rev. D. S. Dean of Illinois. Mr. Dean accepted a call to the pastorate of the church, and remained until April, 1865, when by mutual agreement the two churches united.

On January 31, 1863, through the differences of opinion which had arisen, the present Baptist Church of Owatonna was organized with fifteen members, nearly all who had taken their letters from the old organization placing them here, and this organization was recognized as the "Baptist Church of Owatonna" by the council of the Minnesota Central Baptist Association, held at Wasioji, February 3, 1863. The society met once in two weeks for worship, being supplied by Rev. J. F. Wilcox. October 12, 1863, this church was first represented at the State convention, the delegates being G. W. Shaw and E. K. Smith. On the 8th of April, 1865, the two Baptist churches were consolidated with a united membership of sixty-four, and they took the name of "The First Baptist Church of Owatonna." For a time the pulpit was supplied alternately by Revs. J. F. Wilcox and D. S. Dean. The former, however, continued as regular pastor of the church until June, 1866, when his labors closed, and he was succeeded by Rev. A. L. Cole. After the union of the two bodies, the building which had been erected under Elder Town's direction had been purchased by the church, and used as a place of worship. In the autumn of 1866 it was sold to the school district for \$1,250, the use of it for one year being reserved. In the fall a new church building was erected, size 32x58 feet, with tower, in which was hung a 1,000-pound bell. It was dedicated on the 22d of December, 1867, Rev. Mr. Parker, from Austin, preaching the dedicatory ser-

mon. The cost of the building was \$4,152.64, which had all been provided for, leaving the church free from debt. The following winter will long be remembered as a time of religious revival. There were forty-three baptisms, and many more united with the church by conversion and letter. Rev. Cole resigned in April, 1869, and Rev. E. H. Cressey succeeded him, remaining thirteen months. On the 1st of February, 1871, Rev. H. H. Beach came from Winona, and after serving a year and a half he also resigned. Rev. E. P. Dye succeeded him as pastor and remained until June 28, 1874. Among the events recorded about this time is found the following interesting item: "June, 1873.—A deed was presented to the trustees by Sister Reiggs (now deceased), on behalf of the ladies of the church, of a lot for a parsonage. On motion a vote of thanks was extended to Mother Hunkins for her untiring zeal and her effort in helping to pay for the lot." In 1878 the lot was sold, and the proceeds used toward paying for the present parsonage, bought at that time. The ladies have cheerfully helped to bear the burden. A sewing society established about this time is still faithfully attended, the proceeds from which have been no little help financially. Rev. W. W. Whitcomb accepted a call to the pastorate September 20, 1874, and remained for three years. The Minnesota Academy was located here during his pastorate, and he was untiring in his efforts to attain that end. Rev. C. H. De Wolfe succeeded him in February, 1878, and after a service of nearly five years was, on account of ill health, compelled to resign October 25, 1882. The church remained without a pastor until April 26, 1883, when Rev. J. H. Thompson accepted a call to the place, remaining about fifteen months. After his resignation they were again without a pastor until the autumn of 1884, when Rev. W. A. Spinney accepted a call from this church, and is still here doing effective work. He is a talented and educated gentleman, thor-

oughly imbued with the importance of his calling and faithful to his work. During the summer of 1885 material improvements were made on the church properties in the way of papering and painting, and a vestry, 16x26 feet in size, was added, so that to-day the church is spacious, and being well furnished abundantly fills the purpose for which it was built.

The present officers of the Baptist Church are as follows: D. C. Adams, J. Holland, and S. S. Greene, trustees; L. C. Woodman, J. L. Ingraham and J. Holland, deacons; Philo Bliss, treasurer and clerk.

Rev. W. A. Spinney is a native of Nova Scotia, born June 12, 1852. When a child, his parents moved to Boston, Mass., where they died soon after, leaving their son W. A. to fight the stern realities of life alone. At the age of sixteen he became a clerk in a wholesale and retail produce store, and, when nineteen, became a partner. Soon after, he entered Worcester Academy, and went to Colgate Academy of Hamilton, N. Y. After graduating there he entered Madison University. Graduating in 1877, he then entered Newton Theological Seminary and graduated in 1880. In the fall of 1879 he was called to a church in Massachusetts, and preached there Sundays while attending studies, until he graduated. He was ordained in March, 1880. Mr. Spinney remained with the church referred to until October, 1882, when he was called to Duluth, Minn., and remained there until 1884, when he came to Owatonna. Mr. Spinney was married in June, 1880.

First Congregational Church.—September 26th, 1857, a meeting was held at the residence of Alvin N. Stoughton, at which it was voted to organize a Congregational Church, to be called the "First Congregational Church of Owatonna." The proposed organization was effected October 23, 1857. The Fairbault and Clinton churches were invited to sit upon the council, and Rev. Ozro A. Thomas, of Clinton, and Rev. J. C. Strong, of Bradford, Iowa, assisted in the public ser-

vice of formation and recognition. Rev. O. A. Thomas preached the sermon. The following persons, bringing letters from other evangelical churches, became members of the new church: Alvin N. Stoughton, Lydia H. Hall, George W. Danforth, Emeline Hall, Mary J. Stoughton, George W. Hall, Melbourne C. Burr, Charles A. Strong, Naomi L. Stoughton, Emory O. Walden, Wait Stoughton, Jesse B. Gaylord.

The movement which resulted in the new church organization was emphatically a pioneer movement. The church held its services, at first, at the residence of A. N. Stoughton, in a wing of his house built for the use of the church; subsequently it worshiped in Morford's hall, and afterward in the district schoolhouse until the present edifice was erected.

Rev. Ozro A. Thomas was the first minister of the new society. He began his labors with the church in the spring of 1858, and continued them until the fall of 1863. During the period of his ministry he resided at Clinton, and ministered on alternate Sabbaths to the Clinton and Owatonna churches. He preached also both at Somerset and at Meriden once a month. Notwithstanding this division of his labors among these different fields, and the fact of his non-residence at Owatonna, the church had a good measure of prosperity while under the charge of Mr. Thomas, and received frequent accessions both by letter and by profession.

The first deacon of the church was Alvin N. Stoughton, who was chosen to his office February 25, 1858. May 8, 1860, a second deacon was added, and the choice fell upon Francis Thom. The first clerk was Charles A. Strong. The first trustees were Alvin N. Stoughton, Wait Stoughton, and Richard Miles, chosen May 8, 1858.

In the spring of 1864 Rev. Charles L. Tappan became the minister, and continued to hold that office till the spring of 1866. During this time Mr. Tappan preached regularly

at Somerset also, where several members of the church resided.

In the spring of 1865 a Sabbath-school, with Dr. L. H. Kelly as superintendent, was organized under the immediate charge of the church. There had been, previous to this time, a union Sabbath-school of the four religious denominations of the place, Baptist, Congregationalist, Methodist and Presbyterian. The new school flourished and became the nursery of the church. The church has been largely recruited from it, and many of its members have been trained to habits of Christian activity by work performed in the Sabbath-school as teachers. The school has a present average attendance of 160, and is under the superintendency of Hon. Lewis L. Wheelock.

In August, 1866, Rev. Leverett S. Griggs began to labor with the church as its minister. His ministry was peculiarly blessed of God, and the period was marked both by the temporal and spiritual prosperity of the church. Two considerable revivals occurred during Mr. Griggs' ministry.

In the spring of 1867 the society began to build a new house of worship. During a part of the time in which this building was in process of erection the Methodist society very kindly extended an invitation to this church to worship with them, and union services of the two denominations were held in the Methodist house of worship. The new church edifice was completed in the spring of 1869. It was dedicated Sabbath, October 17, 1869, during the meeting of the General Congregational Conference of Minnesota. The sermon was preached by Rev. Charles Secombe, of Northfield. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Rev. D. B. Coe. Early in 1869 Rev. L. S. Griggs was compelled by ill health to close his connection with the society for which he had labored so faithfully and so successfully. In September, 1869, Mr. Charles C. Cragin was engaged to labor with the church as its minister. February 16, 1870, he was ordained to the gospel

ministry and installed as pastor of the church, which position he still occupies.

From this society three colonies have already gone forth to plant other churches. The church at Somerset was organized November 18, 1866, with eight members from the church at Owatonna. January 1, 1868, Waseca called for five members to assist in the organization of its new Congregational Church. July 13, 1869, Merton made a still larger demand, and thirteen were dismissed to form a new church in that place. It is rare to see a church less than thirteen years old the mother of three churches.

Rev. Mr. Cragin served as pastor until September, 1869, when Rev. N. H. Bell was installed and remained until September, 1873. Rev. O. Dickerson commenced his pastorate in July, 1874, and served until October, 1876. In November, 1876, he was succeeded by Rev. D. A. Morehouse, who remained until June, 1881. Rev. J. N. Brown, the present pastor, succeeded Mr. Morehouse, being installed November 1, 1881. The present deacons of the church are as follows: Francis Thom, Hon. Lewis L. Wheelock, A. N. Stoughton, J. W. Burch, and J. E. Truesdell. The church now has a resident membership of 200.

Rev. Justus Newton Brown, pastor of the Congregational Church, was born in Huron County, Ohio, in 1844. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, of the One Hundred and First Ohio Regiment, and spent three years in the service, after which he returned to his native county. In 1867 he graduated from Oberlin College, and in 1871 from the Oberlin Theological Seminary. He then for two years edited the *Lorain County News*, at Oberlin. In 1876—having in the meantime taught school several terms—he graduated from the Andover Theological Seminary, and since that time has been a minister of the gospel; entering upon his duties as such at Wilton, New Hampshire; thence to Charlotte, Mich., from which place he came to Owatonna. Mr. Brown was married in 1867 to Miss Hattie A. Sparhawk, a native of

Ohio. The names of their children are Carleton F., and Wilton G. Mr. Brown is an able preacher and is justly popular.

Episcopal—St. Paul's Parish.—The first Episcopal services in Owatonna were held early in the summer of 1858, by Rev. J. Lloyd Breck, D.D., and the Rev. D. P. Sanford. Services were kept up every other Sunday by the latter of these clergymen until the following spring, when, after a short interruption, they were continued by Rev. Solon W. Manney, D.D. At that time there was no church edifice in the village. The first services were held in the office of Maj. M. A. Dailey, on Mill street; subsequently services were held in the wing of A. N. Stoughton's residence; afterward in the schoolhouse, and still later in Morford's hall. St. Paul's Parish was organized on the 19th of August, 1860, when David Potwin and John Crozier were chosen wardens; and N. M. Donaldson, S. M. Yearly, John Odell, W. A. Ware, W. H. Kelly and M. A. Dailey, vestrymen. Services continued to be carried on by the Rev. Dr. Manney, and other clergymen of the Bishop Seabury Mission, established at Faribault, as this had, from the first, been considered a station of the Faribault Mission. Dr. Manney was succeeded by Rev. George C. Tanner for a short time, when the work was placed under the charge of the Rev. S. S. Burleson. He resigned in the fall of 1864, and Rev. J. A. Babcock, of New York, removed here and took charge of the parish. In the fall of 1866 the parish again became vacant, and services were discontinued for the winter, excepting the occasional visitations of the bishop. In March, 1867, Rev. George C. Tanner resumed services, and in June removed his family to Owatonna. He remained in charge of the parish until December 31, 1886.

During the rectorship of Rev. Mr. Babcock services were held every other Sunday in the Presbyterian house of worship. At that time there was but a small number of communicants, the church families with

communicants being limited to about a half dozen. The only church property was the lot on which the present church stands. Soon after Mr. Tanner removed to Owatonna the work of erecting a place of worship was begun. Three hundred dollars was subscribed by the people of Owatonna; friends in St. Paul and Minneapolis contributed \$300 more, and with this sum the erection of the chapel, now used for a Guild room, was begun, and during the summer completed by the contributions of friends in Owatonna and abroad, and especially by the untiring efforts of the ladies of the parish. The cost of the building and furnishing was about \$1,400. The lot had been purchased by the Bishop Seabury Mission several years before at a cost of \$25. The chapel was consecrated on Friday, November 15, 1867, by the Rt. Rev. H. B. Whipple, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Minnesota, a large number of the clergy of the diocese being present. The pipe-organ at the present time in use was purchased in the year 1869 through the efforts of J. G. Gilchrist, M. D., senior warden of the parish and organist, to whose interest in the music very much of the success of the effort to keep up the service was due. In the year 1883 it was decided to undertake the erection of a new church. A subscription paper was started and a building committee appointed by the vestry, consisting of Messrs. E. Y. Hunnewill, G. W. Chesley and B. F. Welch. The subscriptions were mainly secured by the rector.

In the fall the foundation was laid, and the following summer completed, and the building was used for the first time for divine service in October, 1884. The church which had been built with so much interest was to have been opened on Tuesday, October 7, and a large number of clergy had been invited to participate in the services; but the sudden news of the murder of the daughter of the rector and her family in Nebraska postponed the matter indefinitely.

The entire cost of the building and furnish-

ing is not far from \$5,000. A considerable part of the cost was raised by Mr. Tanner as the gift of personal friends. The consecration of the church took place in August, 1885, by the bishop of the diocese, a number of the clergy of the diocese being present and assisting. Many beautiful memorials have been placed in the church, the gift of members of the parish and citizens in Owatonna. The church has also several memorial gifts of great beauty from Spencer A. Perceval, Esq., of England. Many substantial contributions are from persons who have been members of the parish who have removed to other places.

During the twenty years of Mr. Tanner's rectorship there have been 209 baptisms and 124 confirmations. The number of communicants in 1867 did not exceed ten. The present number is about one hundred. A large number of families and members have come and gone since the parish was organized. One hundred and sixty-nine funerals have taken place in connection with the parish, and 112 marriages been solemnized.

Rev. R. E. Metcalf succeeded Mr. Tanner, assuming charge early in 1887. The present official board of the church is composed of G. W. Chesley and B. F. Welch, wardens, and J. A. Soper, clerk. A thriving Sunday-school is maintained, of which Rev. Mr. Metcalf is superintendent; B. E. Darley, assistant; Miss Nellie Chesley, treasurer; and Miss Carrie Petersen, secretary.

Universalist Society. — In November, 1866, Rev. S. Wakefield, then pastor of the Universalist Society in Rochester, visited Owatonna, and preached the first Universalist sermon in the county. On the 20th of April, 1867, a society was organized at a meeting held in Dresser's hall. The first members were: S. B. Washburn, A. B. Webber, Mrs. F. C. Webber, H. J. Lewis, Mrs. D. B. Lewis, L. L. Bennett and wife, Kelsey Chase, Mrs. Bell Chase, Louis Lord, Sarah Philips, Nathan and Mrs. L. O. Hubbard, T. J. and Isaac Howe, O. H. Porter, Rev. S. and Ella Wake-

field, John M. and Mrs. Hannah Houghton, T. J. Clark, Alonzo Brown, Miss D. Squires, William Pepper, A. C. Gutterson, C. C. Cornell, Seth Hotchkiss, T. C. S. Minthorn and Gordon Watson. In March, 1868, Rev. S. Wakefield became pastor. Succeeding him the following named have acted as pastor of this society, although at times there has been no pastor in charge: Revs. E. W. Pierce, H. B. Butler, Mr. Spafford, L. J. Dinsmore. The last named left in 1885, since which time the church has been without a pastor, although the organization has been maintained. The present officers are as follows: T. J. Howe, D. H. Roberts and L. Lord, trustees; W. A. Dynes, treasurer and collector; L. L. Bennett, clerk; A. C. Gutterson, moderator.

Services were held in the early days of the organization in the schoolhouse in what was then the third (now second) ward. A few years later a church edifice was erected at a cost of \$2,500. This building is still in use although in 1887 it was refitted and rebuilt at a cost of from \$500 to \$700.

A Sunday-school was organized at about the time the society was, and this has since been maintained. Prof. A. C. Gutterson was superintendent of this for about fourteen years. The present officers are as follows: L. L. Bennett, superintendent; Mrs. Ida Slade, assistant; E. C. Helwig, secretary and treasurer. The school is well attended. The society is in good condition financially, being wholly out of debt.

Roman Catholic—Church of the Sacred Heart.—It is claimed that the first Catholics in Steele County were Thomas and John Bergan, Michael Barney, Joseph Kiesel, James McLaughlin and James Lonergan. Rev. Father Keller was the first priest to hold services in the county with any degree of regularity. At that time he lived at Faribault, and had charge of the mission south of that point to the State line. At first services were held in private houses, then in Dresser's and Butsch's halls until a church edifice was erected. In 1867 a church committee was

organized to take steps for the erection of a building. It was composed of M. J. Toher, president and treasurer; James Lonergan, Joseph Kaplan and Charles Schoen, of Owatonna, and William Leary, of Merton. The building was ready for occupancy on Christmas day, 1868. It was 42x75 feet in size, and cost, exclusive of lot, \$2,600, and is still in use. Three or four years later a parsonage was erected upon the same lot, which cost \$1,200. Father Keller continued to come here for a number of years, when he was followed by Father Schave, who came here from Hastings, and became the first resident priest. Succeeding him came the following named in the order mentioned: Revs. Father Hurley, Father Wiesler, Father Prybil, Father Raleigh, Father Joy, and finally the present priest, Father J. M. Solnce. The present priest also has charge of parishes at Claremont and Somerset. The Church of the Sacred Heart is in excellent financial condition, being entirely free from debt, with nearly \$1,000 in the church treasury. The society has a large membership, which extends over the major portion of the county, and in every way it is in a thriving condition.

Rev. J. M. Solnce, pastor of this church, was born at Smednik, Carniola, Austria, June 7, 1861. He completed his theological studies at the Provincial Seminary of St. Francis of Sales, at St. Francis, Wisconsin, and took charge of this parish on the 2d of September, 1885. Father Solnce is a genial and talented gentleman, and is one of the most popular priests in this part of the State.

School of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sales.—In connection with the history of the Catholic Church should be mentioned the educational institution which is located just north of their church edifice. This school was established at Owatonna in 1876, and the same year a three-story brick building, with a stone basement, was erected at a cost of \$8,500, upon a lot which was donated to the order by the Church of the Sacred Heart. The general management of the school is

vested in the Order of Sisters, the general headquarters of which are at Joliet, Ill.; but they have also State headquarters at Rochester. The building is divided into school-rooms, furnished with first-class school apparatus. The school is maintained by tuition. The course of study here embraces all the ordinary branches, with the addition of music, drawing, painting, needlework and languages. To these, if desired, religious instruction is added. No teachers are placed here except those educated by the order and in their institutions, and they are especially fitted for, and educated in, the branches which they teach.

St. John Congregation—German Evangelical Lutheran Church.—About 1870 services of this denomination were held in private houses, and an organization was effected. Rev. Emmil came here occasionally from Meriden and preached. The first regular pastor was Rev. Hauser, who came here in 1876, and remained about one year. Rev. Wetzel succeeded him, and during his pastorate in 1878 a neat church edifice was erected at a cost of about \$2,000. After his removal the pulpit was vacant for a time, after which Rev. Schaaf, from Aurora, filled the pulpit until 1880. Rev. Carl Mende was the next pastor, and remained until 1883, when Rev. Schaaf again occupied the pulpit for a short time. These pastors all belonged to the Synod of Missouri, but at this time controversies arose which resulted in this congregation withdrawing from that synod and becoming connected with the Synod of Iowa. Under this state of affairs Rev. F. W. Klein was the first pastor, preaching his first sermon here on the 1st of March, 1884. He is the present pastor. This circuit includes congregations in Somerset, Lemond and Deerfield townships, besides the city. There are now 46 families belonging to this congregation, besides many supporters who could not be termed regular members. The present trustees are William Kottke, Wm. Bubholz, E. Rosine and August Pitzke.

Every winter the church maintains a day-school for six months.

Rev. F. W. Klein, pastor of this church, came to Owatonna in March, 1884, and has been in charge of the church since. He is a native of Limbuge, Germany, born August 10, 1856. His parents were Leopold and Helena Klein. When ten years of age he went to Wiesbaden and attended school there seven years, and from there to Erlangen University, graduating when twenty years of age. After that he went into the regular Prussian army, and after serving his year became assistant pastor at Therlenhofen for three years. When through there he came to America and located at Mt. Vernon, Black Hawk County, Iowa, remaining there some eighteen months, when he came to Owatonna, where he now resides. Mr. Klein was married June 27, 1883, to Miss Louise Anna Fredrick Severin, of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

German Methodist Episcopal Church.—The German Methodist Church was organized in 1875, with the following members, including their families: August Mollenhauer, C. F. Mathwig, August Meirke, August Soehler, Carl Sette, William Mundt, Mr. Kellar, William Mogler, John Elleson, Gustaf Buche and W. Woeker. At that time this circuit included Deerfield, Blooming Grove, Owatonna, Somerset, Meriden and Aurora. Rev. H. Schnitker was preacher in charge, but Rev. Jacob Kellar served this portion of the circuit. Rev. Henry Roth was then presiding elder. Succeeding Revs. Kellar and Schnitker, Rev. F. W. Buchholz took charge of the circuit and remained one year, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. A. Borchardt, who remained a like period. In the meantime the circuit had been divided and the Owatonna branch included Owatonna, Somerset, Aurora and Meriden. Rev. H. E. Young was the next pastor, serving two years—until 1882, when he was followed by Rev. F. R. Hogrefe. After two years of service, he was suc-

ceeded by Rev. H. F. Lange, who also remained two years. The present pastor, Rev. C. A. Borchardt, succeeded Rev. Lange, and is doing effective work. The present trustees are C. F. Mathwig, W. M. Soehler, H. Mundt, A. Mierke, C. Sette, F. R. Emke and R. Petrich. The organization has prospered, is out of debt, and now has a membership of over fifty. Part of each year the church maintains a day-school—when it does not conflict with the public schools. A Sunday-school was organized when the church started, that is still maintained. When the church was first organized services were held in the school-house. In 1877 a neat church building was erected which now serves as a place of worship.

The Seventh-Day Adventists.—An organization of this denomination was effected at Owatonna in the fall of 1886. The first pastors were Revs. Scram and Gregory, and the latter remained during the winter following its organization. There is now no resident pastor, although Rev. Dimmick, of Medford, occasionally fills the pulpit for the society. A Sunday-school was organized at the same time as the church. The society here now has about fifty members. They own a church building which was purchased from the Scandinavian Lutheran Society.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first white child born in what is now Owatonna was George K., a son to Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Green, which occurred on the 6th of April, 1855. Dr. W. W. Finch attended, and went from Judge Green's house to that of A. W. Adams in Clinton Falls Township, where Frank, a son of A. W. Adams, was born. These two were the first children born in Steele County.

The first death at Owatonna occurred in August, or September, 1855, and was a child of Miner Prisby. The remains were buried in the woods north of town.

The first marriage of residents took place at Faribault in the summer of 1855, the contracting parties being John Wilcox and Clara

Brooks, the ceremony being performed by Elder Town. The event was heartily celebrated by the pioneers, especially the young people.

The first building erected upon the original town plat was the Winship House, built in July, 1855.

The first building put up within what now constitutes the incorporate limits was A. B. Cornell's log cabin.

The first store was opened by S. B. Smith and J. W. Park in the spring of 1855.

The first blacksmith shop was started by John Sweat.

The first frame building was W. F. Pettit's residence.

The first brick building was erected by William Wadsworth in 1863. It was built for a store, but is now used as an engine-house.

PROMINENT BUSINESS MEN AND RETIRED CITIZENS.

In this connection we present biographical sketches of all the most prominent citizens of Owatonna who have not received extended notice heretofore. It will be remembered that many of the leading citizens have already been mentioned at length in connection with the bar, medical, official and various other departments of this work. These sketches are placed here miscellaneously, as they come to the writer's hand, and if the reader desires to find any particular biography, we would respectfully refer to the index.

The men who take an active part in public affairs and still retain the universal regard of their fellow-citizens, without regard to party lines or prejudices, are very few. Among that fortunate few belongs the name of Hon. Charles S. Crandall. His infancy and early youth were spent among the rugged hills of the Buckeye State, where he was born in 1840. He came to Steele County in 1857 and for three years was engaged in farming. In 1861 he was appointed deputy auditor and register of deeds. Later on,

owing to the resignation of the incumbent, he was appointed to fill the position and was elected two successive terms. In 1874 he was elected to the Lower House of the Legislature, and in 1886 was elected to the Senate. As editor of the *Owatonna Journal* Mr. Crandall spent eight years of his life in journalism, and his career in newspaper work was ever characterized by fearlessness and unswerving devotion to party and principle. He was postmaster for eight years, and discharged the duties of that office faithfully and well. In 1882 he engaged in the hardware business, being the senior member of the firm of Crandall & Nelson. For a number of years he has been an Odd Fellow. In 1864 Mr. Crandall was united in matrimony with Miss Marietta E. Allen, a native of Oneida County, N. Y. Mary. E. and Georgia C. are the names of their children.

Adolph Knobloch, hardware merchant, was born in Germany in 1831. He came to America in 1847, and resided two years in Cleveland, Ohio. At the end of this time he came west to Sheboygan, Wis. In 1853 he returned to Europe and was absent six months. In 1854 he returned to America, went to New Orleans, thence to St. Louis, and later he started a brewery at Hannibal, Mo. In 1855 he came to St. Paul, and afterward removed to Brownsville, Minn., where he established a brewery—the first at that place or in the southern part of the State. March 22, 1858, this establishment was destroyed by fire, and he then spent three years at Prescott, Wis. In 1861 he came to Owatonna and put up the first brewery erected in the city. In 1874 he embarked in the hardware business, in which he is still engaged. Mr. Knobloch is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a member of the Legion of Honor, and attends the Presbyterian Church. He was married in March, 1857, to Sophia Myer, a native of Germany. Lorens H., Adolph and Louisa are their children's names.

George Parrott, of the firm of Parrott &

Smith, hardware dealers, was born in Schoharie County, N. Y., in 1852. His father William Parrott kept hotel at Schoharie Courthouse for twenty-five years, and the leading hotel there still bears his name. He died in 1884. A brother of our subject, Hon. Matt. Parrott, of Waterloo, Iowa, is State Senator from his own district. Our subject learned the tinner trade in his native State and came west in 1879. He worked for some time for D. O. Searle, and at his death the firm of Parrott & Smith bought the stock. He was married in 1881 to Miss Mary Cole, a native of Owatonna. Alfred C. is their only child. Mr. Parrott is an Odd Fellow.

John Thon, of the firm of Thon Bros., hardware dealers, was born in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1859. He learned the potter trade when thirteen years old, and worked in different western cities. He came to Owatonna in 1883, and formed a partnership with his brother in the hardware business. Jacob P. Thon, senior member of the firm, was born in New York City in 1857, and came with his parents to Milwaukee in 1859. He learned the tinner trade at Milwaukee, and came to Owatonna in 1879. He was married in 1884 to Miss Louise Hammel. Alvin R. is their only child. The Thon brothers are Odd Fellows, being members of Goethe Lodge, and also are members of the Owatonna Turnverein.

Jacob A. Oppliger, dealer in general merchandise, was born in Switzerland in 1834. He came to America in 1853, locating in Rochester, N. Y., being engaged in the butchering trade. He came west to Buffalo County, Wis., thence to Galena, Ill., thence to St. Paul, where he remained one year and a half, when he returned to Buffalo County, Wis., and remained one winter. In 1858 he came to Faribault, and opened a meat market. He came to Owatonna in the spring of 1861, and engaged in buying stock and running a meat market. Mr. Oppliger was elected alderman several terms, and in 1873 was elected and served one term as mayor.

He is a Mason, being a member of the Blue Lodge Chapter and Commandery of Owatonna. Mr. Opplinger was married in 1859 to Miss Mary Schultz, who died in 1864. In 1867 Mr. Opplinger married Malvine Burchert. There are seven children: Hattie and William F., by the first wife, and Adolph G. Malvine, Edward, Emil and Ella by the second.

G. F. Albertus, dealer in dry goods, was born in Saxony in 1828. He came to America in 1842, locating in Sauk County, Wis. He was subsequently elected county treasurer, which position he held two years. He was also elected and served as county commissioner and justice of the peace. He came to Owatonna in 1866. Mr. Albertus was married in 1849 to Miss Mary E. Bartlett, who died in 1862. In 1864 he was married to Miss E. W. Hoefler. Louise A., wife of John Kohr, of Montevideo, John H., Mary E., wife of Frank Hollensworth, of St. Paul, and Gustavus A., are the children by his first wife; and Minnie L., Kate E., Arthur R., Lucy M., George F. (deceased), Charles, and Frank G., are the names of the children by his second. Mr. Albertus is among the best known citizens of the county. He has large property interests, and has in many ways been prominently identified with the growth and development of the city.

The dry goods house H. R. Moore Jr. & Co. was established in Owatonna by H. R. Moore, Jr., in 1870, who came at that time to close out the remains of a large stock which the firm had had in Beloit, Wis. Previous to their coming here he had been to St. Paul, trying to close out with the intention of giving up business. Mr. Moore, however, liking the business prospects of this city, bought their present building and put in a stock of goods, rebuilding and otherwise improving in 1880. In 1883 the firm established a branch store at Fergus Falls, which ran very successfully. It was finally closed out, however, and Mr. Moore, wishing to retire from active business, formed the pres-

ent firm, which consists of H. R. Moore, Jr., John H. Helwig and James W. Connor, under the firm name of H. R. Moore Jr. & Co., the business being under the control of Messrs. Helwig and Connor. J. W. Connor, junior member of the firm, came to Owatonna in the year 1869, and attended school until 1877, when he graduated from the high school. The same spring went to New Orleans, where he remained for some eight months. He then returned to Owatonna, and entered the store of H. R. Moore Jr. as a clerk; in 1886 he was taken in as partner.

Joseph H. Soukup, of the firm of Soukup Bros., dealers in general merchandise, was born in Bohemia in 1857. In 1867 the family came to America, locating in Chicago. A year later they came to Hennepin County, Minn., and settled upon a farm near Minnetonka. Our subject went to Waverly and was there engaged in the hardware business for a short time. He came to Owatonna in 1884. He was married in the same year to Miss Anna Watowa. Mr. Soukup is a member of the C. S. P. S., a society of which a history is presented elsewhere in this volume.

Hon. Henry Birkett, ex-mayor of the city of Owatonna, is a native of Ottawa, Canada, born July 4, 1848. His parents were Miles and Elizabeth (Wren) Birkett, natives of England, who settled in Canada in 1838. His father, Miles, was engaged in the mercantile business and remained in Canada until his death in 1848. His mother died at Ottawa in 1886. Miles Birkett and wife had a family of six sons and four daughters, six of whom are now living, as follows: William, now a resident of Ottawa; Miles, a resident of Providence, R. I.; Mrs. Mary Rogers, of Ottawa, Canada; Thomas, of Ottawa, Canada; Mrs. Elizabeth Fenton, of Ottawa, Canada, and Henry, the subject of this sketch. Henry received a common school education, and when fourteen years of age attended the grammar school at Ottawa, Canada, for one year. He then served an

apprenticeship extending over a period of five years and two weeks with Young & Radford, in learning the watchmaker's and jeweler's trade, after which he remained for one year as a journeyman. In 1870 he took a trip to New York, where he spent the summer, working at his trade, and then returned to Canada, only, however, to remain one month, and then started for the west. Stopping for a short time in Minneapolis he made his way to Chicago, Ill., where he worked at his trade for C. A. Morse for two months. On the 2d of November, 1870, he came to Owatonna and began working at his trade for E. Abbott & Co., remaining for two years. In 1872 he returned to Ottawa, Canada, and in company with J. J. Radford opened a jewelry store there, remaining one year. Selling out his interests there he returned to Owatonna in the fall of 1873, purchased the stock of E. Abbott & Co., and has since continued in this line, now conducting a well stocked jewelry store on the corner of Center street and Broadway, Owatonna. Mr. Birkett served as mayor in 1883-4, and was alderman from second ward for ten years, and president of the board in 1886. He stands high in the Masonic order, being a member of Star of the East Lodge, No. 33; Royal Arch chapter No. 15; and Cyrene Commandary No. 9 Knights Templar. He has held all the official positions in these lodges, with credit to himself and honor to its members. He has also served in the high Masonic office of Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandary of Knights Templar of Minnesota,—the highest honor within the gift of the Knights Templar in the State. Mr. Birkett was married January 14, 1875, to Claudia M. Abbott, daughter of Ezra Abbott, and they have three children now living: Harry E., Ethel S. and Miles W. In politics Mr. Birkett is a Republican. He has in many ways been identified with Owatonna's growth and development; has taken a prominent part in all public matters affecting the city's welfare, and is to-day

among the most prominent and influential of Owatonna's business men.

C. F. Warner, jeweler, is a native of Dane County, Wis., born in 1854. His parents were Franklin and Juliette Edwards Warner, both natives of New York, who had settled in Columbia Co., Wis., in an early day. They later moved to Dane County, and in 1865 came to Steele County, Minn., where Mrs. Warner died in 1867. Mr. Warner Sr. moved to Dakota in 1880, and still lives there. C. F. Warner remained with his parents until twenty years of age, when he went to Osage, Iowa, where he spent a year working at the jeweler's trade, having spent two years at it before leaving home. From Osage he came to Owatonna, and in 1876 he established the jewelry store which he still conducts. In 1885 he added a full line of sportsmen's goods, including guns, rifles and ammunition; and, in 1887, added the Standard sewing machines and fixtures to his stock. He now handles a large stock, and does an extensive business. Mr. Warner was married in 1875 to Miss Mary Cusick, of Berlin Township, Steele County. They have two living children, Ada and Annie, and a third child died when a little over two years of age.

Julius Young was born February 28, 1845, in Baden, Germany. His father was a captain in the regular army. When, in 1847, the legislative body of that state adopted a Democratic form of government and deposed their autocratic Grand Duke, his father stood by the people and with Heeker, Bleucker, Sigel, Blind, and later, Carl Schurz and others, defended the state to the last, losing his life in 1849 in the battles against the allied Prussian and monarchial forces. In the years of reaction that followed, his mother came to London, and there in the refugee families of Carl Blind and Prof. Hinkel, met Carl Schurz's father, and was induced by him to come to America. In April, 1859, being reared by his grandmother, Julius went to Stillwater, Minn.,

where his mother had emigrated and remarried, and there was apprenticed to Wm. Illingsworth, of St. Paul, a noted watch and clock maker, finishing his time in May, 1862. An enemy to slavery, in any form, he wanted to enlist in one of the Minnesota regiments, but being only seventeen years old could not get permission of his parents, and had to resort to deceit in going to Madison, Wis., working there for a jeweler at \$40 per month. There he enlisted in the Twentieth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, and being condemned to carry a drum discarded it and soon became assistant hospital steward of the regiment, and later, eager to carry a gun, courier to Gen. Heron, commanding a division in southwest Missouri and Arkansas. After being in several skirmishes against Marmaduke, he was in the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark., December 7, 1862, where they lost fully one-third of the command, and where he received a severe injury the night following, by being unhorsed. In January, 1863, he was in the capture of Van Buren, Ark., the next day the capture of Fort Smith; in February, when Marmaduke made an unsuccessful attempt to capture Springfield, Mo., in their raid they intercepted him and almost annihilated his command. In May, 1863, they went to Vicksburg, and being sent to report their arrival to the commander of the Thirteenth Army Corps to which they were attached, Mr. Young got into the battle of Champion Hill; returning to Young's Point, crossed the Mississippi River under heavy fire of the Vicksburg left wing, and stormed the heights of Warrington, and later took Fort Hill, just outside the main defense. He was in the siege of Vicksburg until the capitulation on the 4th of July, 1863. The same month was in the capture of Yazoo City; got into a part of the Red River expedition; was captured with the Nineteenth and Twenty-sixth Indiana at Morganza, La., and confined in the stockade at Tyler, Tex.; escaped the third week, making his way to

Fort Smith, Ark., with others, and got to his command in time to go with the Gen. Banks' Rio Grande expedition; in November of the same year, in crossing the Gulf of Mexico he was on the "Thomas Scott," encountered a heavy storm, the expedition losing two transport steamers and eighteen schooners with supplies. The flag ship, the "Thomas Scott," an armed transport, lost the use of the rudder for nearly eight hours; twenty four men, including three sailors, were washed overboard, and six guns were cut loose to lighten the vessel. Reaching Brasos Santiago Island, they surprised the pickets by wading through the water at low tide, and, effecting a landing on the main land, pressed on and took Brownsville, and later Corpus Christi, Tex. From Brownsville Mr. Young made trips to Monterey and Tampico, Mex., to the American consuls. Receiving leave of absence for sixty days, he got on the ill-fated river steamer, "W. R. Arthur," which at Columbia Bend, below Memphis, was so badly riddled by two batteries while passing the bend. In August, 1864, he was on the Mobile Bay expedition, being sent to the flagship. He passed Forts Morgan and Gaines on the "Hartford," and got into the terrific naval fight, after passing, with the rebel rams, Morgan and Sehna, which were captured; saw the monitor, "Tecumseh," sink with 122 souls, not twenty yards distant, and the burning of the war sloop, "Tennessee," and heard the quick and decisive commands of Commodore Farragut, lashed to the rigging above him; in the taking of Fort Gaines; in the landing of our troops under fire at Mobile point; the siege of Fort Morgan; the capture of Pass Magula; and in March, 1865, in the siege and storming of Spanish Fort and subsequent capture of Mobile, Ala. Mr. Young had a narrow escape at the explosion of the magazine at Mobile, Ala. He served three years and fifty-five days, until July, 1865, coming to Madison, Wis. He was employed by Mr. Burr, of Burr & McClure, jewelers

of Owatonna, and remained with them from August, 1865, to June, 1866, when the firm dissolved partnership. He took a situation at St. Peter, and on learning of the death of his former employer, came in December, 1866, to permanently locate in Owatonna, opening a shop in an old frame building on the corner now occupied by the Farmers' National Bank. Later he moved to J. New-salt's store under the Opera House. In 1869 he bought a one-story brick building on Bridge street, accumulating a large range of custom and fine stock. July 31, 1882, he was married to a daughter of C. Dinnijes, and has had children, two boys and two girls; only the latter are now living, one twelve years and one two years old. In 1878 he lost his building with most of the stock and tools by fire, losing more than \$6,000 over insurance. He rebuilt on a larger scale, planned and executed under his own supervision the building he now occupies, Young's block, on Bridge street. In building on a large scale and restocking, buying nearly everything new, and particularly the selling at auction of a competitor's stock during part of the holiday season, 1879, forced him to make an assignment in favor of his creditors. However, he again got control of his business in August, 1880, and since then he has not only done the principal repair work, but has enlarged his store to 22x100 feet, adding increased accommodations every year, until now he has a finely arranged store, second to none in Minnesota. He carries a large assortment of watches, clocks, jewelry, including diamonds, optical goods, silverware, china and fancy goods of various descriptions. Besides being the oldest watchmaker and jeweler, he is the pioneer sewing-machine dealer, carrying since 1868 the best machines; and since 1882 pianos and organs of leading makers, and also small musical goods and material.

Hon. Benjamin S. Cook, ex-mayor, real estate dealer and loan broker, was born in Center County, Pa., in 1833. When he

was still a child his parents moved to the western part of the State. At the age of seventeen he entered a mercantile establishment at Conneautville as clerk. In 1854 he embarked in business for himself in the same town. In the winter of 1855 he organized a party of five, of which he was the junior member, for the purpose of making a prospecting tour through the west. They arrived in Minnesota in June, 1856, and located the town site of Concord, in Dodge County. He is now the only surviving member of the party. In 1860 he went to Mantorville and engaged in the drug and grocery business. In the spring of 1873 he removed to St. Paul, when he was made superintendent of the St. Paul Street Railway Company. He acted in that capacity until 1875, and in 1876 he came to Owatonna. Mr. Cook was married in October, 1855, to Miss Isabella Groger, a native of New York State. Mrs. L. H. Knobloch, now of St. Paul, is their only child. Our subject was elected mayor of Owatonna in 1881, and held that office two terms. He has been a member of the democratic state central committee, or congressional committee, almost continuously since he has been in the State, and was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago in 1884 that nominated Grover Cleveland. It is said that Mr. Cook has been present at every Territorial or State Democratic convention as a delegate (save two), since 1857, and while active as a party political manager has never sought office for himself. Since his residence here he has taken an active part in all public matters, and is among the most prominent business men in this part of the State.

Edward W. Piper, grocer, was born in Monroe County, Ohio, in 1825. His father's given name was Lewis, and his mother's maiden name was Rogers. His people came to Elgin, Ill., in 1836, coming the entire distance by team. Shortly afterward they went to Mount Morris, where Mr. Piper Sr. was engaged in wagon-making. Lewis Piper

died in Ogle County, Ill., aged eighty-three. Our subject came to Baraboo, Wis., in 1841, and was one of the pioneers of that city. In 1866 he came to Owatonna, and for thirteen years was engaged in the grain business. In 1879 he embarked in the grocery business. He was married March 8, 1857, to Miss Cornelia Hill, a native of New York State. Ella, now the wife of Clinton Dunning, of Wisconsin, Ada I., deceased, Edward A., deceased, and Arthur W., who is engaged in his father's store, are their children's names. Both Mr. and Mrs. Piper are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Piper was a member of the city council in 1885-6, and has otherwise taken an active and prominent part in local affairs.

Eri M. Twiford, of the firm of Twiford & Sperry, was born near Columbus, in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1852. When two and a half years old his parents moved to Indiana where they remained till the fall of 1864, when Eri M., in company with his father, Dr. William H. Twiford, came to Steele County, Minn. In 1879 he came to Owatonna and worked for the Diamond Mill Company. He then formed a partnership with W. A. Dynes in the hardware business, and later engaged in the meat and provision trade. In 1884 he engaged in the grocery business, and the firm is now doing a thriving trade. In 1881 Mr. Twiford married Miss Anna Howard, a native of Minnesota. They have two children, Edna and Guy. Mr. Twiford is a member of the Sons of Veterans; is first lieutenant of company E, 3d Regiment, State Militia, and is chief engineer of the city fire department. An extended biography of Mr. Twiford's father, Dr. W. H. Twiford, is presented in chapter VIII.

David W. Sperry, grocer, of the firm of Twiford & Sperry, was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., October 31, 1838. Forty-five years of his life were spent in that county. He learned the tinner's trade at an early age, and was for many years engaged in the

hardware business. He came to Owatonna in 1884 and engaged in the manufacture of fanning-mills. In 1885 he engaged in the grocery business in company with Mr. Twiford. He was married January 6, 1863, to Miss Roxie O. Lazell. Albert L. and Rosa Bell are the names of their children.

William Davidson, grocer, was born in Northumberlandshire, England, in 1828. He came to America in 1831, locating in Canada West. He was married in 1856 to Miss Ellen Hunter, a native of Canada. The names of the children born to them are Robert M., William H., Isabella J. and Mary L. Mr. Davidson came to Steele County in 1856, and to Owatonna in 1858. He is now engaged in the retail grocery business. He is a prominent member and officer in the Presbyterian Church, and has in many ways been intimately connected with the history of both city and county.

G. W. Chesley, whose portrait will be found on another page, is the pioneer photographer of Steele County. Mr. Chesley was born in Waterbury, Washington County, Vt., July 19, 1829, and remained there attending school most of the time, until seventeen years of age. His father was Enoch Chesley, and his mother Desire (Ayers) Chesley, the former of English, the latter of Scotch, descent. The father died when G. W. was seven years of age, and the mother in 1862, at Waterbury. G. W. Chesley began life for himself when seventeen, going to Geneva, N. Y., where he entered the gallery of a Frenchman to learn the old-time daguerreotype business. That was before the time of photography, when pictures were mounted on copper or silver plate. He continued in that business for one year, and then, in 1853, came west, accompanied by a younger brother, who had learned the business at the same time. They located at Watertown, Wis., and fitted up a gallery with a chemical and apparatus sales-room in connection, remaining there four years. In the meantime G. W. had bought his brother's interest, and in 1857 he sold

the establishment and removed to Monmouth, Ill., where he again opened a gallery. After about one year, being afflicted with ague, he sold out, and for nearly two years gave up business and traveled extensively through different parts of the Northwest to regain his health. In the fall of 1860, he came to Owatonna and established the first gallery in either Steele or Waseca counties, since which time this has been his home. Shortly after the war broke out he arranged a photographic outfit and accompanied the army through the South, taking photographs of various battle-fields, regiments and companies. When the war closed, in the spring of 1865, he returned to his home in Steele County, and has since carried on an extensive business at his photograph gallery. In 1879 he erected the fine brick block of which he now occupies the second story, while J. L. Saxton's dry goods house occupies the first floor. Mr. Chesley was married March 22, 1856, to Miss Ellen E. George, a native of Vermont. They have three children, : George L., Walter A. and Elouisa. In 1885 Mr. Chesley erected a building and fitted up a photograph gallery at Pipestone City, Minn., which his eldest son, George L., now conducts. Mr. Chesley's gallery at Owatonna now turns out some of the finest and most artistic photograph and cabinet work that can be obtained anywhere in the State. Nearly all of the engravings in the Steele County department of this volume, were made from photos taken in his establishment.

Hon. John Shea, ex-mayor and popular clothing merchant of Owatonna, is a self-made man, and a true type of the western pioneer, standing six feet high and weighing 225 pounds. He is always pleasant, jolly and agreeable, and one of the most generally popular men in the county. He takes great interest in any enterprise calculated to advance the interests of the city, and has in many ways taken an active part in public matters. Mr. Shea was born in Joliet, Will County, Ill., in 1839. When six months old

his parents removed to Hartland, McHenry County, Ill., then on the frontier, and there John was raised with an abundance of hard work, but with very poor facilities for schooling. He had the misfortune of losing his mother at the age of ten years, but with the assistance of his eldest sister, his father was able to keep the family—consisting of three boys and three girls—together until they were young men and women. In 1856 his father sold out, and with his family removed to Berlin Township, Steele County, Minn. and located on a farm. After spending two winters there, John, being of an adventurous disposition, concluded to find a warmer climate to winter in, and therefore managed to spend his winters in the South, and return each summer to help his father. When the Indian war broke out he enlisted in the First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and participated in all the battles and incidents of the expedition, until there were no hostile Indians left in the State. He was mustered out with the regiment, went home and helped his folks until the spring of 1866, when he was taken with the "gold fever," which was then raging throughout the West. Rigging up an ox-team, with a good supply of provisions, he joined Col. Holmes and other parties at the foot of the "Kotas," where they organized in order to protect themselves from the Indians, and Mr. Shea was elected captain, a position which he filled competently, as he was experienced in organizing against the redskins. The party was ninety-two days in reaching Helena, Mont., where they disbanded. Mr. Shea being a "tenderfoot," encountered many adversities, but being possessed of staying qualities, he finally discovered a mine, from which he made a "stake." After spending eight years in the mines of Montano and Idaho, in 1874 he returned to the "States" to visit his folks; but upon reaching Steele County, the country had so developed, and become so attractive, he concluded to remain a few years. He bought a half interest in the Parcher

House, at Owatonna, and, after running it for six months, bought the whole of the property, and rented it for five years. Then, being at liberty to try some other business, the first thing to present itself was a stock of bankrupt clothing brought in from Beloit, Wis., valued at \$15,000. He bought the stock and took W. L. Winslow in as a partner. This firm continued for three years, when Mr. Shea bought his partner's interest, and has since continued the business, having become one of the leading clothing men of the State. Mr. Shea was married in 1879 to Miss Kate Deviny, who added to his happiness the comforts of a home. They have a family of two boys and two girls. Mr. Shea was elected mayor in 1874, and served one term. When the reader visits Owatonna it will be to his interest to call and make the acquaintance of Mr. Shea, as he is awake to the wants of the human family, and takes great delight in selling them clothing, cheap.

A. J. Katz, of the clothing firm of Katz & Co., was born in Germany in 1866. He came to Baltimore in 1881, where he clerked for his uncle in a dry goods establishment for a year and a half; thence to Washington, D. C., where he remained six months, and in 1883 went to Davenport, Iowa. In January, 1887, he came to Minnesota, and in company with H. Katz, of Chicago, purchased the stock of A. Apple. By square dealing, and selling an excellent class of goods at the lowest living profits the firm have built up a large and increasing trade. They are very reliable men to deal with.

Michael S. Quiggle, dealer in farm machinery, was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1834, and in 1843 went to Green Lake County, Wis. He learned the blacksmith trade with his father. In 1857 he came to Minnesota, locating in Waseca County, and came to Owatonna in 1858. He was married in 1861 to Miss Lucinda J. Hammond. Lillie L. and Ettie M. are their children's names. Mr. Quiggle does an extensive business in his line.

John E. Buxton, dealer in farm machinery, and member of the Minnesota Transfer Implement Company, was born in St. Lawrence, August 5, 1823. His parents moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., when he was twelve years old, and there his father died in 1843. In 1844 he moved to Columbus, Wis., where he was engaged in the manufacture of wagons, carriages and plows. In 1864 he came west to Winona, and three months later to Owatonna, where he has since been engaged in the machinery and hardware trade. He was married in July, 1848, to Miss Eunice T. Ingraham, a native of New York, who died on March 30, 1877, of apoplexy. Mr. Buxton has for years been closely identified with the business interests of the city, and is to-day among the most prominent and widely known citizens of the county.

Rufus H. Chapin, dealer in farm machinery, was born in Solon, Cortland County, N. Y., in 1826. In 1870 he came to Steele County, Minn., where he engaged in farming for four years. Mr. Chapin was married in 1849 to Miss Abigail S. Putnam, a native of Truxton, Cortland County, N. Y. They have three children: Byron P., Mary L. and Frank H., the two latter residing at present in Dakota. Mr. Chapin has been a member of the Baptist Church since 1855, and is one of the leading business men of the city.

Jacob Newsalt, city justice, was born in Prussia in March, 1838. When ten years of age he came to New York City, where he remained until seventeen, when he came west to La Crosse, Wis. In 1864 he came to Owatonna and embarked in the mercantile business. In 1878 he sold out and engaged in the real-estate business, which he still continues in connection with loans and insurance. Mr. Newsalt is an Odd Fellow; in 1881 was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, and in 1887 was elected Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge. He is also a Mason, and is Master of Owatonna Lodge, No. 26, Ancient Order

of United Workingmen. On June 24, 1866, he was married to Miss Josephine Kubat, a native of Austria. George, Annie L., Mabel M., Jessie F. and Gracie A., are their children's names. Mr. Newsalt is the present city justice, and has made one of the best judicial officers the city of Owatonna has ever had.

Hon. Herman H. Rosebrock, dealer in furniture, carpets and undertaking goods, was born in Hanover, Germany, November 10, 1838. In 1858 he came to America, locating in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he clerked in a grocery store. He then came to Indianapolis, where he was engaged in the grocery business for six years. He attended the Agricultural College at Ebstorf for some time. In 1865 he came to Owatonna, Steele County, Minn., and engaged in the butchering business for one year, after which, in 1869, he embarked in the furniture business, and now carries on an extensive business at his store on Bridge street. Mr. Rosebrock was married in 1864 to Miss A. Dinnijes, a native of Prussia. Carl is the name of their only child. Mr. Rosebrock is a member of Blue Lodge Chapter and Commandery in the Masons, and was a charter member of the Commandery. He has been a member of the Lower House of Legislature, serving two terms, from 1879 to 1882, and made a creditable and satisfactory record.

Frederick Deutschmann, furniture dealer on Bridge street, was born in Germany in 1825. He came to America in 1854, locating in Chicago, where he remained a short time. He then moved to Davenport, Iowa, then to St. Louis, where he engaged in making show-cases for two years. In 1860 he returned to Davenport, where he remained till 1879, when he removed to Colorado, locating in Denver. In 1880 he came to Steele County, where he has since lived. Mr. Deutschmann was married in November, 1878, to Susana Letrig, a native of Germany. They have three children: Lilly, Ada and George.

William Mork, dealer in boots and shoes, was born in Denmark in 1844. He came to America in 1866, and until 1869 resided in Chicago. He then came to Owatonna and worked as a journeyman until 1871, when he embarked in business for himself. In 1880 he erected the building which he now occupies and where he is doing a flourishing business. He was married in 1871 to Miss Cornilia Oleson. The fruits of this union are the following named children: Annie, Lily, William and Ella. Mr. Mork is a Mason and also a member of the Lutheran Church.

George L. Forsythe, of the firm of Boice & Forsythe, was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., in 1849. He came west to Steele County in 1877 and formed a partnership with Mr. Boice in the meat-market business. He was married on February 22, 1873, to Miss Delcina Boice, a native of New York State, who died December 6, 1883. Mr. Forsythe is a member of the Congregational Church. His firm do a thriving business, and is rated among the substantial business firms of the city.

John Cottier, merchant tailor, was born on the Isle of Man in 1826. He learned tailoring in his native home and came to America when twenty-two years of age, locating in Cattaraugus County, N. Y. In July, 1865, he came to Owatonna and opened a tailor shop, which for a number of years was the only one in the village. He is now doing an extensive business. Mr. Cottier is one of the leading Odd Fellows of the city and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was married in September, 1848, to Miss Ann Griffin, who was born in New York State. Their children's names are Elizabeth A., James B., Lilly V., Joseph P., Ellen S., Frederick G. and Eugene C. His wife died in 1882, and he was again married in February, 1884, to Mary Millner, a native of New York, born in 1834. They were married in Baraboo, Wis.

N. W. Hanson was born in Denmark May 5, 1855; he lived there until twenty

years of age, then went to Norway and Sweden and worked at the tailor's trade for two years. He returned to Copenhagen and there learned the cutter's trade, after which he went to Wadsoe, Norway, to take charge of a tailoring establishment. There he remained a year and a half; then returned home, and six months later returned again to Wadsoe. Here he was married May 5, 1881, he being twenty-six years of age on this day. Eight days later he and his wife started for America and landed in Philadelphia June 25, 1881. From there they went to Rochester, Minn., where he worked at his trade for about three years, then came to Owatonna and started the tailoring establishment which he still runs. They have had born to them three children: Engebor Marie, Knute Kare and Agnes Begito.

Fridolin Boll, dealer in millinery goods, was born in Germany in 1838. His parents came to America with him in 1848, stopping in New York City for a time; thence to Dayton, Ohio, and later to Indiana. They came to Minnesota in 1855, locating at Chatfield for a year. In 1856 he removed to Faribault, and in the spring of 1861 enlisted in Company G First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. With his company he participated in the battles of Winchester, Yorktown, Bolivar Heights, Chancellorville, under Hooker; Bristow Station, Fair Oaks, Gettysburg and Antietam, the seven days' fight in falling back from Richmond, and also Malvern Hill, Virginia, and was discharged on the 19th of May, 1864. He was married in September of the same year to Miss Margaret J. Deiah. The names of the children born to them are Albert T., Emma L. and Fridolin W. Mr. Boll is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and takes an active interest in all matters of a public nature.

Frank M. Bauter, druggist, was born in Steuben County, N. Y., in 1844; but his father moved with the family to St. Joseph County, Mich., in an early day. Our subject enlisted in 1861 in Company E, Eleventh

Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and served twenty months in the war of the rebellion. During the battle of Stone River he was wounded in the right arm, which was subsequently amputated. In 1871 he graduated from the State Normal School at Ypsilanti, Mich., after which he taught school for a number of years. He first began the drug business at Lawrence, Mich., and in 1880 came to Owatonna. He was married in 1873 to Miss Cornelia E. Rowe, a native of Iowa. Their children's names are Winnefred, Helen and Marion Francis.

Christian Peterson, druggist, was born in Denmark in 1857, and came to America in 1872. He resided three years in New Jersey, when he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, thence to Clinton, Ia. He entered the commercial department of the Ann Arbor University, also attended medical college one term there; then went to Detroit, and from there to Rochester, Minn., where he remained two years and a half engaged in the drug business. He then was located in Blooming Prairie for three years, and in 1884 settled in Owatonna, where he is still in business, carrying a large stock of drugs. He was married in 1883 to Miss Anna M. Johnson. Alvin C. and Ella J. are their children's names. Mr. Peterson was chosen county coroner in January, 1886, and still holds the office; also has held the office of justice of the peace in the third ward for one year.

William Gausewitz came to Owatonna October 18, 1884, and bought the drug business of Mr. Stoughton, and has since that time been engaged in the drug business here. Mr. Gausewitz is a native of Reedsville, Wis. His parents are Carl and Amelia Gausewitz, natives of Germany, who are now living in Milwaukee, Wis. William remained with his parents until thirteen years of age, when he learned the drug business and has since been engaged in his profession.

George Clark, superintendent of Laird, Norton & Co.'s lumber yards, was born in Bradford County, Penn., in 1848. He was

engaged in various pursuits until 1872, when he engaged in the lumber business. He went to Buffalo, N. Y., and was in the employ of Shaw & Co. until 1885, when he came to Owatonna. He was married in 1879 to Miss Lucy A. Kiehle, sister to the State superintendent of public instruction of Minnesota. Their children's names are Walter and Mildred.

McIndoe S. Alexander, of the lumber firm of Alexander Bros., was born in Portage County, Wis., in 1855. His father, John Alexander, resides near Wausau, Wis., and furnishes for the Alexander Stewart Lumber Company. Our subject came to Owatonna in 1883, where he in company with his brother carries on a branch yard for that company. He was married in March, 1887, to Miss Carrie A. Murray.

Jacob Z. Barneard, lumber dealer, was born in Franklin County, Pa., in 1842. In 1843 his parents moved with their family to Greencastle, Ohio, residing there three years; thence to Decatur, Ind., where they remained ten years. Our subject came to Rochester, Minn., in June, 1855, where he remained until 1867. In 1861 he enlisted in company B, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and after serving three years he re-enlisted in the First Minnesota, and was made first lieutenant of Company I. He served six months in that regiment. In 1867 he came to Meriden, Steele County, where he was engaged in the grain business, and later to Owatonna. He was married in 1870 to Miss Hattie E. McCall, a native of Wisconsin. Ora Z., Winnefred, Lois and Daisy are their children's names. Mr. Barneard is a Knight Templar and a prominent member of James A. Goodwin Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

Lars Peterson, foreman at J. Z. Barneard's lumber yard, was born in February, 1842. He came to America in 1862, locating in Freeborn County, Minn., where he remained two years, then came to Owatonna, and was employed by Crooker & Franklin in the lumber business. He afterward

worked for Graham & Co., then for C. H. Randall, and finally entered the employ of Mr. Barnard. Mr. Peterson was married in 1862 to Miss Sophia Christianson. They have four children: Annie, Emma, Walter and Adelia. Mr. Peterson is a member of the Baptist Church and also of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

George W. Caward, wood and coal dealer, was born in England in 1842. When he was still a child his parents came to America, locating in Ontario County, N. Y. He was in that State until 1867, when he came to Whitewater, Wis., where he embarked in the grain and stock business. For nine years he was conductor on the Milwaukee & Prairie Du Chien Railroad, and subsequently came to Cresco, Iowa, and was engaged in the dry goods business there for two years, after which he came to Owatonna in 1875. After coming here he ran the omnibus line for eight years, and finally sold out to Gage & Giddings. Mr. Caward was married in 1866 to Miss Rosetta Kinney. Neil is the name of their only son.

William A. Dynes, retired merchant, was born in Warren County, Ohio, in 1844. When only six years old his parents came to Delaware County, Ind. In 1863 he enlisted in Company B, Seventh Indiana Cavalry, and was discharged March 16, 1866, after serving nearly three years. He then came to Indianapolis, Ind., to attend Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, from which he graduated. In July, 1866, he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Somerset Township. He remained there five years, and then engaged in the hardware business at Owatonna. In 1876 he was elected a member of the Board of Education, which office he has since held with the exception of one year. In company with Mr. Burdick in 1878, he built the Diamond steam mill. Mr. Dynes is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and also of the James A. Goodwin Post, No. 81, Grand Army of the Republic. September 10, 1866, Mr. Dynes

was married to Miss Abigail E. Twiford. They have five children: Willis M., Ina A., Ella B. and Eva M. (twins), and Albert. Mr. Dynes is a member of the Universalist Church, and is among the prominent citizens of the city.

S. S. Greene, grain dealer, came to Owatonna in 1866, and was in the employ of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Co., as clerk at the depot for some seven years. In 1875 he went into the grocery business, remaining in that for three or four years, and in 1878 engaged in the grain trade, which he still continues. Mr. Greene's name appears frequently in these pages, particularly in connection with the history of the city fire department, of which he was chief engineer for a number of years.

T. R. Medd, D. D. S., was born in Dane County, Wis., in 1852. His father was a preacher of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and has been stationed at various places throughout Wisconsin. T. R. Medd studied dentistry under a practitioner in Sparta, Wis., and in the fall of 1874 came to Owatonna and followed his profession for about one year. He then attended the Philadelphia Dental College, and graduated, after which he returned to Owatonna, where he has since had a lucrative practice. Dr. Medd is a member of the Masonic Order, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Dr. Alexander C. Searl, dentist, was born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., in 1850. When he was ten years old his parents came to Owatonna, Minn., and a year later moved upon a farm northeast of the city. His father lived upon that place two years, and then moved back to the city. In 1878 he settled in Lemond, and remained there until 1882, when he returned to Owatonna, where his death occurred. Dr. Searl's mother is still living. In the fall of 1871 the subject of this sketch went to Sinclairville, N. Y., where he spent three years in the dental office of Dr. A. A. Stone,

and in the spring of 1875 he opened a dental office in Owatonna in company with Dr. McIntosh, now of Chicago. He later attended the Pennsylvania Dental College, graduating and receiving his diploma in 1883. Dr. Searl was married in May, 1884, to Miss Hattie Sewell, a native of Wisconsin.

John N. Hammel, contractor and builder, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1823. He came to America in 1854, and for a time made his home in Washington County, Wis. He learned the carpenter's trade in the old country, and has followed it all his life. He came to Owatonna in 1864, and has erected a large number of the finest dwellings and business houses in the city; among these are Germania hall, high school building, Weber's block, three cottages connected with the State Indigent School, W. H. Kelly's store building and Oppliger's residence, Mork's store, Theimer's store, P. Ganser's brewery and residence, and many others. Mr. Hammel was married in the old country in 1853 to Miss Mary Steigauf, a native of Germany. John, Matilda, Louisa and Louis are the names of their children. He is a prominent member of Goethe Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as will be seen by reading the history of that lodge.

George W. Shaw, carpenter, was born in Ithaca, N. Y., July 30, 1823. He came west to Faribault, Minn., in May, 1856, and in October of the same year came to Owatonna. He erected some of the first buildings in the village, among them being the old Eureka House. He was married in 1849 to Miss Catharine J. Knapp, a native of New York. Their children are Elmer E. and Dell B. Mr. Shaw and wife are members of the Baptist Church. He is among the most prominent workers in the Masonic and Odd Fellow orders in the city, and his name is indissolubly connected with the history of the local lodges of these societies.

W. H. Burdick, contractor and builder, came to Steele County in 1865, and located in the then village of Owatonna, putting in

a sash, door and blind factory and planing mill. Mr. Burdick ran that business for some time, and finally sold out, and has since followed contracting and building, chiefly in Owatonna, but in 1870 went to Minneapolis and took contracts there. Mr. Burdick is a native of Vermont, born June 27, 1834. His parents were William and Cynthia Burdick. They moved to New York when William was quite young, remaining until 1855, when they came to Monroe County, Wis. At the age of sixteen William was apprenticed to the carpenter trade for three years, after which he followed contracting for two years, and in 1855 he went to Sparta, Wis., and engaged in contracting and building. While there he married Miss Mary E. Ingels. They have four children: Fred. L., Carl J., Gertrude A. and Orvill II.

J. D. Holden came to Owatonna in 1869 and opened the first cooper shop in the city. He remained in the business until 1885, when his health failed, and he turned the business over to his son, G. D. Holden. J. D. Holden was a native of New Hampshire, but left there while young, and with his father's family went to New York, remaining there until twenty-eight years of age, when they removed to Appleton, Wis., and engaged in the cooper business. He remained there until the war broke out, when he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first, Wisconsin, and served three years, being in twenty-one engagements, and following Sherman in his memorable march to the sea. Mr. Holden never received a wound, nor lost a day through illness, during his long service. After receiving his discharge, he returned to Milwaukee and remained there two years; from thence he went to Winona, Minn., remaining one year, when he came to Owatonna and remained until the time of his death, which occurred in November, 1886. Mr. Holden was married, while in New York, to Miss Olive Enterton. She died some years later, leaving two children, Laura and George. Mr. Holden was married again in 1865 to Mrs. Mary

J. Howe, who still lives in Owatonna.

George D. Holden was born in New York in 1857. He remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, when he went to Richmond, Ind., where he remained one year. The two succeeding years he traveled as a musician. Later he went to Elgin, Ill., and for three years worked in the watch factory, and from there came to Owatonna, where he has since lived.

Hosea F. Luce, harness dealer, was born in Bridgewater, Windsor County, Vt., in 1832. When twenty-nine years of age he came west to Wisconsin, locating in Ripon. In 1866 he removed to Steele County, Minn., settling in Owatonna, where he opened a harness shop. He is ward justice of the first ward, which office he has held since 1877. Mr. Luce was married March 13, 1855, to Miss Elizabeth A. Harding, a native of Vermont. They have five children: Chas. E., Frank F., Harry H., George W. and Grace V. Mr. Luce is an Odd Fellow.

Charles E. Luce, son of Hosea F., was born in Woodstock, Vt., in 1856. He was married on the 12th of September, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth V. Allen, a native of Wisconsin. He is the present recorder of the city of Owatonna.

Charles Bower, harness dealer, was born in New York State February 16, 1850. He came west to Dane County, Wis., learned the harness trade at Cross Plains, and came to Minnesota in 1870. For a number of years he worked at journey work in the different towns of the State. He opened business for himself in Owatonna in the spring of 1875, and is still doing a good business. He was married in the spring of 1880 to Caroline Erdmann. Their children are Mary, Wilhelmena, Caroline and Laura.

Carl Zamboni, gun and ammunition dealer, was born in Switzerland in 1841. He came to St. Louis, Mo., in 1868 and worked at his trade two years in that city. He came to Owatonna in 1870, and now carries a splendid stock of everything in his line.

He was married in 1868 to Miss Mary Tome. Their children's names are Emil, Willie, Sylve and Eddie.

William H. Hill, glove and fur dealer, was born in Lewis County, N. Y., in 1842. He came to Illinois with his father's family in 1846, and in 1848 came to Baraboo, Wis. In 1861 he enlisted in Company F, Third Wisconsin Cavalry. This regiment participated in the battles of Shiloh, Balls Bluff, Snow Hill, Crooked Creek, Taperville, second Bull Run, besides many minor engagements. Mr. Hill was discharged October 14, 1865, and in the following year came to Owatonna, where he worked at various pursuits until 1873, when he engaged in his present business. He was married in 1865 to Miss Carrie E. Sahlor, a native of Germany, who died in 1881. He was again married in 1886 to Miss Emma Dike. The names of his children are William H. G., Birdie L. and Lottie D.

James W. Gillett, dealer in flour and feed, was born in Wayne County, N. Y., in 1850. In 1854 the family came west to Dodge County, Wis. Our subject came to Owatonna in 1862, and here received his education. When nineteen years of age he went into the dairy business, and followed it eight years, and then embarked in the flour and feed business. He was married in 1871 to Miss Eliza Ring, a native of Maine. The names of the children born to them are Ida, Ira, Wallace and Pearl.

The Crawbuck brothers are natives of New York City. Both their father and grandfather were born there. Their grandfather was a surgeon in the United States army during the War of 1812, and died in the South, of yellow fever. Their father served in the War of the Rebellion as a private in Company I, One Hundred and Seventy-sixth N. Y., of Brooklyn, and was killed in the battle of Brashears City. The brothers remained in New York until the spring of 1874, when they came to Owatonna and followed painting for two years,

when they returned to New York City, remaining one year. They again came to Owatonna, and later went to St. Paul and pursued their business of painting there for four years; then returning to Owatonna, started a paint-shop, which they conducted for two years. They then removed to Oakland, Cal., where they remained two years, returning to Owatonna in the fall of 1886, since which time this has been their home.

Fred. R. Rosskopf, liveryman, was born in Washington County, Wis., in 1853. When Fred, was twelve years old his parents moved to Wanpan, Wis., and six years later to New Ulm, Minn. Fred. came to Owatonna in 1875, and in May, 1887, succeeded George Gage in the livery business. His barn is opposite the Arnold House, and is a first-class establishment in every department.

R. Deininger came to Owatonna in 1874 and worked at the blacksmith trade until the following year, when he opened a shop for himself, and has continued in that business since that time, doing all kinds of custom and repair work. In 1886 Mr. Deininger put in a stock of plows, and added to his blacksmith shop a wagon department, where he carries on the manufacture of all kinds of wagons for local trade and also doing repair work. Mr. Deininger is a native of Germany, born November 24, 1849. He remained in his native country until twenty-three years of age, when he came to America, locating in Wisconsin for two years. From there, in 1874, he came to Owatonna. Mr. Deininger is a member of the Odd Fellows, both of Subordinate Lodge and Encampment, having filled all the different offices in each lodge, and at present is S. W. of the Encampment. He was married in 1876 to Miss Mary Fritze, of Steele County. They have four children: Maggie, Amelia, Katie and Robert, all living at home.

Charles F. Smith, blacksmith, was born in Saxony, Germany, in 1846. He came to Milwaukee, Wis., in 1854, and to Owatonna

in 1868, where he opened a blacksmith shop. He was married in 1874 to Miss Annie Engel. Mary is the name of their only child. Mr. Smith is a member of the Masonic order.

Homer E. Wardwill, blacksmith, was born in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1847. When four years old he was brought by his parents to Sauk County. In 1861 he enlisted in the Sixth Wisconsin Artillery, serving eleven months with that regiment. He then reënlisted in Company K, Twenty-third Wisconsin Infantry, and was mustered out July 4, 1865, at Mobile, Ala. He was married in 1868 to Miss Eliza Wilson. The children born to them are Minnie E., Mary E. and an infant child. Mr. Wardwill is a member of the James A. Goodwin Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

The job printing office of J. E. Winship was established in March, 1886, by J. E. Winship and others under the firm name of J. E. Winship & Co., and was carried on under that firm name until the spring of 1887, when Mr. Winship bought out the other partners and is now the sole proprietor. Mr. Winship does all kinds of job work, having as well a fitted office as is usually found in the large cities. The office is equipped with an engine of six-horse power to run the machinery. J. E. Winship is a native of Owatonna, born here in July, 1863. His parents were Nathaniel and Emily P. Winship. When fifteen years of age J. E. Winship entered the printing establishment of Johnson, Smith & Harrison, in Minneapolis, where he remained for one year, when his health failed and he returned home for a year. Later he went to St. Paul and took charge of the printing department of Noyes Bros. & Cutler, wholesale druggists, for three years. He returned to Owatonna in the fall of 1885, and in the spring of 1886 opened his present business.

John Chambers came to Steele County in 1856, in company with his brother Frank. They took up government land on sections 29 and 32 in the town of Havana, each

taking 160 acres. After securing their land they returned to Illinois and remained there until 1860, when they came back to Steele County, arriving here July 4. They brought with them from Kane County, Ill., two hundred and forty head of sheep, forty head of cattle, twenty-one head of horses and three hogs, driving them all the way and being three weeks and four days on the road. In 1861, they moved upon their farms, Frank Chambers remaining on his until the spring of 1883, when he went to Puget Sound, Wash. Ter. John Chambers remained on his farm until 1876, when he lost his wife and moved into the city of Owatonna. He remained in the city for two years, when he bought another farm near the city, and moved upon that, remaining four years, when he sold the farm which he lived on and again returned to the city. Since that time Mr. Chambers has been in the stone quarry and wood business. He is a native of Cattaraugus County, N. Y., born October 3, 1830. His parents were Alexander and Sarah Chambers. Mr. Chambers remained with his parents until twenty-four years of age, when he went to New Orleans and remained there for six months, and then returned to his old home in New York. In 1855 he went to Illinois and remained there until 1860 (excepting his visits to this State), when he moved to this county. Mr. Chambers was married in 1859 to Miss Orinthia Babcock, of Illinois. She died in 1876. They had six children born to them: Gertrude, born September, 1860, died December 30, 1861; Andrew, born February 14, 1862, died August 1, 1868; Ella, born September 16, 1864; Sarah, born December 27, 1865, died August 1, 1868; Alexander, born March 7, 1869, died February 7, 1871, and Laura, born April 7, 1871. Mr. Chambers was married again March 14, 1877, to Amanda A. Patten, of Steele County. They have one child, an infant.

Sylvester McNitt is a native of Jefferson County, N. Y., born August 27, 1822. His parents were James and Sarah (Lindsay)

McNitt. Sylvester remained in his native State until twenty-two years of age, when he removed to Kane County, Ill., remaining there about eleven years, when he again started west, traveling with team from Kane County, Ill., to Steele County, Minn.; being two months on the way, and landing in Clinton Falls Township June 24, 1855. He claimed government land on section 24, where he remained from that time until 1882, when he moved into the city of Owatonna, where he now lives. Mr. McNitt in company with Abraham Barnhardt cut the first road from what is called East Prairie, to Owatonna, in the winter of 1857, and made the first wagon-track from what was then called Elwood to the village of Clinton Falls, which is up to this day called the "old McNitt road." At this time Mr. McNitt kept a few sheep, and had to go to Decorah, Iowa, to get their carding done, that being the nearest mill. When he first located on the farm he built the kind of house so well known to all early settlers, of logs, and remained in that until 1866, when he erected a fine brick house, which still stands, it being the first and only brick house in the township. To give an idea of prices in those days we give one of the incidents of Mr. McNitt's settlement. From Illinois he brought some potatoes to use on the way, thinking to find plenty for seed when he got here; but this proved a mistake, so he hunted in his wagon-box and found a few small ones that had not been used. These he planted, and from them raised eighteen bushels of fine potatoes. The settlers of Owatonna hearing of his crop came and offered as high as \$6 per bushel for them; but he knowing the scarcity concluded not to sell, even at that price, and the would-be purchasers had to return as they came, empty-handed. Mr. McNitt was married March 30, 1841, to Susan Smith, whose parents were Oliver and Rebecca Van Patten Smith, of Jefferson County, N. Y. Their union was blessed with five children, three of whom are still living: Emelia J.,

now Mrs. N. Castle, of Wolcott, Rice County; Henrietta, now Mrs. J. P. Atwater, of the town of Clinton Falls; and Clara R., now Mrs. Jos. Ring, of the town of Medford.

L. C. Woodman came to Steele County, Minn., in November, 1859, and purchased a farm on section 5, in the township of Owatonna. He remained upon that for some six years, when he sold it, and, in company with M. Gould, purchased a tract of land on section 33, Clinton Falls Township, where they ran a lime-kiln for one year. Mr. Woodman then sold his interest to his partner and removed to Owatonna, built a home, and lived there for one year; then, purchasing the farm and lime-kiln referred to, he conducted that business for a year, after which he gave his attention to farming, and remained there until 1882, when he sold out and again returned to the city of Owatonna and bought a home on Oak street. A year later he moved into the western part of the city, where he has since been living more of a retired life. For a time he was in the wood trade, and now, in addition to a light real-estate business, he loans money, having accumulated a comfortable fortune. Mr. Woodman is a native of New Hampshire, and was born March 1, 1825. He remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he went to Massachusetts, remaining about seven months; then went to Michigan, where he spent two years. Returning to New Hampshire and spending the winter, he then went back to Massachusetts, where he put in three seasons. In the meantime he had purchased a farm in New Hampshire and farmed it on his own account for three or four years, when he rented his place, and was in the employ of the town of Canaan, Grafton County, N. H., taking care of the poor for four years. The following summer he spent in Massachusetts, and then, as has been stated, he came to Steele County, Minn. Mr. Woodman, during the many years he has been a resident of the county, has always been active and prominent in

public matters, and, in the heavy taxes which he pays, besides always being willing to contribute to worthy enterprises, does his full share in the support of public institutions and in building up and developing the city. Shortly after he came here he was chosen supervisor of Owatonna Township, and held that office for two terms, and after moving to Clinton Falls he was elected supervisor a number of times, and held the office of assessor for four years, besides other local offices of trust, although he is not a politician. He takes an active interest in the cause of education. Having lived here for nearly thirty years he has a wide acquaintance, and has many warm friends among the substantial old settlers of the counties. Mr. Woodman is a deacon in, and a member of, the Baptist Church, having joined that denomination some twenty years ago. We take pleasure in presenting a portrait of Mr. Woodman elsewhere in this volume.

Oliver Abernethy came to Steele County in 1864 and rented a farm in the town of Meriden, remaining there for two years. In 1865 he "claimed" eighty acres of government land, and in the spring of 1886 moved onto it. In 1868 he bought 141 acres adjoining his original property, making a farm of 221 acres. He lived there until 1879, when he rented his farm and removed to Meriden Station, where he was engaged in the hotel business for four years. In 1883 he sold his farm and also the property at Meriden Station, and located in Owatonna. Mr. Abernethy was justice of the peace for twelve successive years while on his farm in Meriden Township, and the first year in Owatonna he was appointed to the same office to fill a vacancy. The next year he was elected, but refused to qualify. Since that time Mr. Abernethy has been dealing somewhat in real estate, but lives a rather retired life. Mr. Abernethy was born in Scotland July 19, 1815, and lived in his native country until the age of sixteen, when he went to Eng-

land and made that his home until the fall of 1840. During this time he led a seafaring life. He then came to Canada, where he was laid up in the hospital for three months from severe injuries received. The next two years he spent in Montreal, fitting vessels for the sea, and in 1842 he came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived for seven years. In 1849 he came to Milwaukee, and went into the mercantile trade, but was soon burned out, and, not having any insurance, was unable to start again. He went to work at carpentering, remaining in Milwaukee for three years; then was at Janesville for one year; thence to Belleville, where he remained until 1864, when he came to Owatonna as has been stated. Mr. Abernethy is an old settler and one of the substantial citizens of the county.

J. C. Backus, retired business man, is a native of the State of New York, and was born in 1829. He remained in his native State until twenty-two years of age, when he came west and located in Columbia County, Wis., where he purchased a farm and devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits until 1865, when he came to Steele County, Minn., and located in the then village of Owatonna. In company with a Mr. Ward he opened a lumber yard. About one year later Mr. Backus purchased his partner's interest, and soon afterward formed a partnership with his brother, Hiram Backus. This firm was finally succeeded by Crooker Brothers. J. C. Backus then engaged in the grain trade, and after carrying on a successful business for eight years, sold his elevator, and has since been retired from business.

Hon. Myron A. Fredenburg, deceased, was a native of Schoharie County, town of Gilboe, N. Y., born in 1826. He remained in his native State until 1874, when he came to Owatonna, Minn. Was married in 1858 to Miss Gertrude Major, of New Jersey. In 1862 he went into mercantile trade in Jeffersonville, Sullivan County, N. Y., and remained there in trade until he came to

Owatonna. After Mr. Fredenburg came to this city he opened a grocery store and remained in that business for five years. In 1877 was elected mayor of city, and held the office for two terms, and afterward was elected city justice two terms. He then held the office of justice for the second ward for five years, or until the time of his death, which occurred March 29, 1887. For some time previous to his death he had been in the insurance business. Mr. Fredenburg was an earnest Christian, having joined the Presbyterian Church while quite young, and was appointed deacon of that church while still in New York. After coming here he joined the Congregational Church, and was deacon of that denomination at the time of his death. In his younger days Mr. Fredenburg followed teaching, making that his business for some six years. He was a poor boy when he began life for himself, but by economy and frugality accumulated a competency, leaving ample means for his family, which consists of wife and four children: Carrie, Milton, Gertrude and Hiram. Carrie married S. S. Hotchkiss, and now lives in Chicago. Milton is married and lives in Minneapolis. The other two are still at home with their mother.

John N. Travis, a wealthy retired citizen of Owatonna, has led an eventful and active life. He was born in New London County, Conn., in 1826; came to Illinois in 1848; crossed the plains in 1849 as wagon-master of a train. Starting from St. Joseph, Mo., sometime in April, they crossed the Missouri about forty miles above St. Joe in a flatboat; were five days in crossing into Nebraska, there being at that time no white inhabitants on the route taken to Fort Kearney, about 200 miles distant, and only at the forts and Salt Lake City, between the Missouri River and the Sacramento Valley, 2,300 miles. They were without water for almost two days between the Humboldt River and Black Rock Hot Springs. Mr. Travis saw an

Indian shoot an emigrant's ox with arrows at Pitt River, and landed in the Sacramento Valley in October, having been about six months on the road. He was in the mines and valleys something over three years, and was once surrounded by Indians in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. He returned to Connecticut by way of San Diego, Acapulco, Panama and island of Jamaica to New York, in 1853; was taken with Panama fever after returning, which broke him down, and he has been an invalid ever since. He returned to Chicago, and was in the mill-stone manufacturing business with an uncle and brother for a year or more, and then came to Minnesota in 1855 on a prospecting tour. He returned to Illinois, and the next spring (1856) brought a nursery stock to Owatonna of 60,000 root grafts, with cuttings and shrubbery. He was in Hastings on this trip, and witnessed a "Sioux scalp dance" a few days after the Indian battle near Shakopee. Upon arriving here Mr. Travis took a claim a few miles from Owatonna, where he erected a house and did some breaking. His nursery was the first in Steele County. Then, as Mr. Travis afterward wrote: "Thinking I had the world by the heels in the nursery line, I thought it time to get married;" and he therefore returned to Illinois in September, 1857, and was married to Miss Martha A. Miller at Ottawa, Ill. She was born in Huntington County, Pa., in 1827, and with her parents had removed to Illinois in 1848. They have had four children, three of them now alive: Annie F., born in Chicago; Charles Jay, born in Milwaukee, and Mattie E., born in Owatonna. They returned to Owatonna in May, 1857, moved onto their land, and commenced farming. The Winebago Indians were quite plenty in those days, and Mrs. Travis was very much afraid of them, especially as once in the night at about 2 o'clock they were awakened and found three big fellows standing by their bed. The nursery proved a failure. The second year, in February, a thaw and

violent freeze destroyed the whole outfit, and in the fall Mr. Travis and family returned to Illinois, and went into the millstone business again in Chicago. He saw the first four companies of thirty-day Illinois State troops, armed mostly with shot-guns (as the city had not enough rifles), depart for Cairo. That year they removed to Milwaukee, and he took charge of the millstone department of the Reliance works of E. P. Allis & Co., and was with the company some five or six years. He again lost his health, so that the doctors, as he states, "to get him off their hands," sent him again to Minnesota, where he has since lived—eleven years on his farm and nine years in town. He has invented twelve different labor-saving machines, but has but few of them patented. He crossed the plains again in 1883, and was landed in four days at San Francisco from the Missouri River, making the distance in about 176 days' less time than in 1849, and returned in about two months by way of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Olympia, Portland and Spokane Falls, and staged it from Missoula to Helena over the Rockies, finally coming home by way of St. Paul. He has been in nearly all the States and Territories, and Canada, Mexico, Central America and the West Indies.

D. C. Adams came to Owatonna in November, 1872, and went into the business of loan broker and real-estate agent. In 1879, in addition to that business, he put in a stock of furniture, and remained in that line for about a year. Within the last few years he has invested considerable money in loans and real estate in Minneapolis, which is under the control of an agent. Mr. Adams is a native of Vermont, but when quite young went to Massachusetts, and later became proprietor of a large hotel at Holyoke in that State. He remained in that business a number of years, and when he gave that up came to Owatonna, Minn., as has been stated. Mr. Adams is one of the most prominent and wealthy citizens of the

city, and has in many ways been prominent in the various projects and enterprises advanced to build up the city and county.

J. S. Austin came to Steele County, Minn., in 1864, and located in Havana Township. He bought a farm on section 7 and lived there for three years, when he sold out, came to Owatonna, and went into the grain trade. In 1870 he went to Havana Station, built an elevator, and in addition to his grain trade engaged in the general mercantile business. He remained there until the fall of 1885, when he returned to Owatonna, since which time he has been living a retired life. Mr. Austin is a native of New York, born in 1833. His parents were Wm. S. and Hannah Austin, — his father a native of Vermont and his mother of New York. Mr. Austin lived in his native State until seventeen years of age, when, with his father's family, he removed to Green Lake County, Wis. Remaining there until 1856, he then went to Omaha, Neb., where he remained two years, when he again returned to Wisconsin, living there until 1864. Mr. Austin was made a Master Mason in 1856, and has always remained in good standing with the order.

P. Brennan came to Owatonna in August, 1866, at that time having charge of laying the track of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Later he moved his family to the city, where they have remained. Mr. Brennan is a native of Ireland, but came to the State of Ohio in an early date, and commenced working for a railroad company in 1850 at Cleveland, Ohio, as a track-layer. He remained there until 1855, when he went to Milwaukee and commenced on the Lake Shore; later he came to Owatonna. He has been an extensive railway contractor, and been identified with many of the leading roads in the West.

Andrew Bryson came to Steele County in 1877, and bought a farm within the city limits of Owatonna, where he has since lived. Mr. Bryson is a native of Scotland, born in 1852.

His parents were William and Eliza Bryson, who still live in Scotland. Andrew Bryson left home when fourteen years of age and came to New York, where he learned the harness-maker's trade. Later he opened a shop for himself, but had to give up his trade on account of failing eye-sight. He then came west to get a farm and located in Owatonna. He now has a farm of 130 acres, seventy acres of which are in the city limits. Mr. Bryson was married in 1876 to Miss Ida J. Parment, of New York.

Rev. Reuben Washburn was born in Essex County, N. Y., in 1824. He entered the ministry in 1846 and labored in the Troy Conference until 1868, when he came west to Dundas, Minn., where he took the pastorate of that church. Since that time he has been stationed at Owatonna, Spring Valley, Eyota, Castle Rock, Zumbrota and Grand Meadow. He now resides in Owatonna, and has retired from the ministry after a long life of usefulness. He was married in 1849 to Miss Harriet A. Wright, who died in March, 1870. He was married in July following to Annie Brundige. Their children's names are Emma J., Wilbur W., Chas. D. and John W.

Maj. J. W. Burch was born in Otsego County, N. Y., in 1833. When he was five years old his parents came to Steuben County, Ind., where he was brought up on a farm. He came to Owatonna in 1855 and engaged in farming. In 1860 he returned to Indiana and enlisted in Company A, Forty-fourth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. This regiment took part in the battles of Donaldson, Shiloh, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and Nashville, besides numerous skirmishes. Our subject was promoted to second lieutenant; at Stone River, on June 12, 1863, was made captain of Company A, and in 1864 was made major of the regiment. He was mustered out September 25, 1865. He was married in 1886 to Miss Matilda Freygang. He is adjutant of James A. Goodwin Post, Grand

Army of the Republic, at the present time.

William H. Montgomery, furniture dealer, was born St. Lawrence County, N. Y., in 1834. When eighteen years of age he came west to Wisconsin, and came to Minnesota in 1853, locating near Hastings. When he arrived there, there were 500 Sioux Indians encamped on the river bottom. He was the fourteenth person (west of the river) in Minnesota to preëempt land, and was a juror at the first court held in Dakota County. He came to Steele County in 1865, and carried on a farm in Meriden Township until the fall of 1871, when he came to Owatonna; was engaged in the butcher business until 1880, when he embarked in the hardware business in company with W. A. Dynes. The firm closed out their business in 1887. Mr. Montgomery was married in 1860 to Miss Diana Boice, a native of New York State. Nora I. is the name of their only child. Mr. Montgomery is now carrying on the furniture business, being located under the Opera House.

Philo Bliss was born in 1830 in Groton, Tompkins County, N. Y., where he spent the early part of his life. He attended the academy in Cortland County, N. Y., and was engaged in farming and milling until he was twenty-one years old. In 1858 he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna, and was engaged in farming until 1871. In 1877 he engaged in the book and stationery business, and continued until the summer of 1887. Mr. Bliss was married April 7, 1858, to Miss Charlotte E. Franklin, a native of New York State.

Peter Mallinger, retired hotel-keeper, was born in Luxemburg, Holland, in 1836. He came to America in 1855, locating in Milwaukee. In 1861 he enlisted in Company F, Ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and for four and a half years was engaged in the frontier warfare which raged on the borders of the Indian Territory, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri. In 1864 he reënlisted in Company K, Forty-eighth Wisconsin

sin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war as second lieutenant of his company. He was married in 1867 to Cacilio Buchstor. Their children's names are Annie, Minnie, Adolph, Gustaf, Charles and Mary. He is a member of James A. Goodwin Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

Adolphus Town was born in Washington County, Vt., in 1805. There he lived with his parents until the age of twenty-eight years. When twenty-six years old he married Miss Rebecca Simmons. They were blessed with eleven children, six boys and five girls, all of whom are living but three, and one is now a resident of Owatonna. Immediately after leaving home he went to Buffalo, N. Y., where he remained some time, then moved to Sandusky, O. After this he went to Merrian, Merrian County, Ind., and there bought a farm; then sent to Sandusky for his wife and two children. While there the first winter he taught a subscription school. In 1835 he was ordained as Baptist minister, and followed this calling until a few years ago, when he met with an accident, being struck on the head with a stone, injuring his brain. Mr. Town is one of Steele County's first settlers, having come here in August, 1855, and his name figures quite prominently in the early history of the city.

H. C. Yarchow, traveling salesman for Buxton & Jones, came to Owatonna in May, 1881, and since that time has been traveling for the above-named firm in implement and machinery firm through Minnesota and Dakota. Mr. Yarchow is a native of Prussian Germany, born in 1847. He came to this country in 1851 with his parents, who settled in Cook County, Ill., and remained there three years, when they went to Monroe County, Wis., where they now reside. H. C. Yarchow remained with his parents until the fall of 1875, and since that time has been in the machine business, making Winona, Minn., headquarters for several years before he came to Owatonna.

George Mitchell came to Steele County in 1857 and took up government land on section 4, town of Summit, where he remained until 1860, when he moved into the village of Owatonna. He remained here until the spring of 1865, when he enlisted in the second organization of the First Minnesota, Company F, and served until the close of the war. He then returned to Owatonna, and the following spring went into the lumber trade, and has remained in that business most of the time since. Mr. Mitchell now has a farm of sixty-six acres (all of which is in the city limits), which he cultivates in connection with his other business. Mr. Mitchell is a native of Scotland, born November 30, 1833. His parents were Alexander and Annie Murdock Mitchell. He remained in Scotland until twenty years of age, when he came to Canada, remaining there three years; then started for the West, arriving at Owatonna in April, 1857. He was married in 1860 to Miss Bolinda Watson. They have two children: George Alexander and Charles. Geo. A. is now married, and Charles is home with his parents.

Henry P. G. Sander was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1843. He came to America in 1873 and located in Madison, Wis., where he worked at his trade as a baker one year. In 1874 he started in business for himself at Columbus, Wis. He came to Minnesota a few years later, locating in Owatonna, where he carried on an extensive business in his line—baker and confectioner. He was married in 1877 to Miss Elizabeth Riekman. The names of their children in the order of their ages are Hieno, Dora, Rudolph and Hedwig.

LIQUOR DEALERS.

The first saloon in Owatonna was started in 1856 by a couple of brothers named Sherwood.

We here present biographical sketches of all the most prominent liquor dealers of the city, at this writing:

Emil Theimer, liquor dealer, was born in Austria in 1852. He came to Waterville, Le Sueur County, Minn., in 1863, with his parents, and there spent his youthful days on a farm, attending school at St. Peter during the winter months. When seventeen years of age he went to Faribault and entered a brewery for the purpose of learning the trade. He then went to Elysian and built a brewery, which was destroyed by fire two years later. Mr. Theimer then went to Faribault, and later to St. Paul, where he acted as foreman in Bengeman's brewery until he came to Owatonna. He has just completed a fine brick building on Cedar street, 22x70 feet in size and two stories high. He was married in 1875 to Miss Anna Misgen, of Faribault. Their children's names are Imelda, Emil, George, Alma, Carl and Hugo. Mr. Theimer is a prominent member of Goethe Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the Grand Lodge, and also of Encampment No. 4.

Jacob Glaeser, liquor dealer, is a native of Wisconsin, born there February 7, 1854. His parents were Jacob and Elizabeth (Sieben) Glaeser, both natives of Germany. Jacob Jr. started for himself when seventeen years of age, and clerked in a grocery store in Sun Prairie, Wis., for four and a half years. He then came to Albert Lea, Minn., in November, 1874; and remained there until he came to Owatonna, in 1875, when he engaged in his present business, being in company with M. Mickelsen for one year. Mr. Glaeser then sold his interest in that establishment to Joseph Hoffman, and formed a partnership with Peter Ganser. They erected the Germania hall, a brick block, and put in the finest equipped and furnished billiard hall in this part of the State. They were in partnership for a little over ten years when, July 1, 1887, Mr. Glaeser purchased Mr. Ganser's interest and is now sole proprietor.

M. Ryan, liquor dealer, came to Steele County, Minn., in 1884, and located in Owa-

tonna in 1886, opening a liquor store and billiard hall, and has continued in that business since. Mr. Ryan is a native of Indiana, and was born in 1858. His parents were James and Julia Ryan. He remained with them until twenty-six years of age, working on the farm, and then came to Steele County, Minn. Mr. Ryan was married in 1882, while in Indiana, to Miss Hannah Jefferson, a native of that State. They have two children, Frank and Mabel.

Peter Peterson, liquor dealer, was born in Denmark in 1849. He came to America in 1870, locating at Faribault, Minn. From there he moved to Minneapolis, where he remained five years. In 1879 he removed to New Richland, Waseca County, and came to Owatonna in May, 1887.

Anton Belina, liquor dealer, is a native of Bohemia, where he was born in 1849. He came to this country in 1862 with his parents, who were Wenzel and Jennie Belina. The family then included five children: Frank, Anton, Wenzel, John (who died December 13, 1886), and Joseph, all of whom, except John, still live in Steele County. The father purchased a farm in the township of Owatonna, and like many other early settlers found it a hard struggle to provide for his family and pay for the farm; but, by industry and frugality, he succeeded in paying for his home, becoming one of the thrifty and substantial citizens of the township. He remained on the farm until the time of his death in 1884, and his wife still survives him. All of the boys were musicians, Anton beginning music when only nine years of age. Charles M., one of the brothers, is now studying medicine with Dr. Moorehouse. He began in the spring of 1885, and the following winter attended a course of lectures at Des Moines. He intends completing a thorough course, and has good prospects for the future. Anton, the subject of this sketch, remained with his parents until sixteen years of age, when he learned the wagon-maker's trade,



F. Ganser

following that until 1883, when he opened his present establishment.

Joseph Kubat, liquor dealer, came to Owatonna in 1874 and opened a butcher shop. He carried on that business for eighteen months. Later he opened a liquor store and billiard room, and has since continued in that business. Mr. Kubat was born in Bohemia in 1848. His parents were Anton and Annie Kubat, who came to this country in 1852, and settled in Illinois. There they remained until *1854, when they came to Steele County, taking government land in section 24, Owatonna Township, being among the earliest settlers in the county. There were at that time but one or two log houses where now stands Owatonna City. They still live on their farm. Joseph lived with his parents until twenty-four

years of age, when he started in life for himself and worked on a farm until 1874. He was married October 30, 1872, to Miss Annie Slezak, of Owatonna. They have six children: William A., born November 21, 1873; Milo A., born July 29, 1875; Otto A., born October 3, 1876; Emel S., born March 16, 1879; Joseph A., born April 5, 1881; and Libuse A., born June 10, 1883.

Theodore Fedder, liquor dealer, was born in Prussia in 1847. He came to America in 1868, locating in Richfield, Wis., where he remained four years, after which he came to Owatonna. Here he was for seven years in the employ of Louis Bion, in the brewery, and in 1878 he started in business for himself. In 1867 he was married to Miss Eva Bartz, and their children's names are Matilda, Albert, Theodore, Theresa, Katie, Dora and Louis. Mr. Fedder is a member of Goethe Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

* [This is probably meant for "1856" instead of "1854." — EDITOR.]



CHAPTER XVIII.

PILLSBURY ACADEMY—STATE SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.



At the Baptist State convention held at Rochester, in October, 1874, the committee on education, consisting of Rev. G. Cole, of Redwing, Rev. J. W. Reese, of Mankato, and Rev. J. Rowley, of Winona, reported in favor of early efforts for the establishment of an institution of learning, the appointment of a committee "to receive proposals for the location of a Baptist academy, and do such other work as in their judgment they may deem necessary to advance the cause of higher education." Dr. Geo. H. Keith, of Minneapolis, Rev. S. Adams, of Hastings, and Rev. G. Cole, of Red Wing, were appointed the committee.

At the State Convention held in St. Paul, in October, 1875, this committee reported proposals for location from Brainerd, Red Wing and Owatonna, and among other things said: "We are of the opinion that the one from Owatonna, in view of all considerations, is the one it would be for the best interests of the denomination to accept." The report was referred to a special committee of five, as follows: Rev. E. Westcott, Rev. J. Rockwood, C. S. Bryant, Esq., E. N. Brown, Esq., and W. C. Durkee, Esq. That the character of the report may be better known, the following extract from the minutes of the State Convention is here given:

"The first of the recommendations is that a committee of seven—one from each association—be appointed, with power to examine the proposals received, and to decide the question; having power also to extend the time for receiving such proposals, but not

beyond January 1, 1876. This was adopted. The second recommendation, that the denomination in Minnesota endeavor to raise the sum of \$50,000 as an endowment of the proposed academy, was also adopted. The third recommendation is that there be a finance Committee of seven—one from each association—who shall have charge of the whole work of endowment. This also was adopted. The fourth recommendation, proposing a committee of three, to have in charge the incorporation of the proposed academy, was adopted. The fifth point is to the effect that the donor of \$20,000 shall have the privilege of giving a name to the academy. This recommendation was likewise adopted. The report was then unanimously adopted as a whole."

The following committees were then appointed:

Committee to Receive Proposals and Select Location.—Rev. E. Westcott, Hon. W. W. Billson, Dea. N. C. Gault, Dea. E. French, Geo. H. Herriek, Esq., Hon. John O. Milne and Rev. G. W. Fuller.

Finance Committee.—Rev. J. E. Wood, Rev. E. Westcott, Hon. M. H. Dunnell, Rev. J. F. Wilcox, W. C. Durkee, Esq., E. Kimball, Esq. and Dea. T. W. Stebbins.

Committee on Charter.—E. M. Van Duzee, Esq., Dr. Geo. H. Keith and Hon. W. W. Billson.

This convention voted to decline the offer of \$15,000 from the city government of Owatonna. The committee on location took final action November 16, 1875, and through its chairman, Rev. E. Westcott, reported to the State Convention, held at Owatonna in October, 1876, as follows:

"Your committee on location of State Academy would report that they met at Owatonna on November 16, 1875, and found no new propositions from localities awaiting their coming together. They did find the proposition from Owatonna necessarily modified by the action taken by the convention held at St. Paul, in the rejection of the generous offer of the citizens and council of the city of Owatonna, because it contravened the great principles of religious liberty for which Baptists have suffered so much and uniformly contended so long. The proposition as modified was a subscription by citizens of Owatonna, amounting to \$6,195, with the promise of more as the subscription should be further pressed. I may say in conclusion, the members of the committee who were present were unanimous in their decision; each ballot read Owatonna, and as far as I have heard the people express themselves, the unanimity is unbroken."

On motion of Dr. Keith it was voted "that the action of the committee in locating the academy at Owatonna is hereby approved and confirmed."

The finance committee organized at St. Paul, October 7, 1875, by electing Hon. M. H. Dunnell, president, Rev. E. Westcott, treasurer and W. C. Durkee, Esq., as secretary, and soon became incorporated under the laws of the State. The first regular meeting of the committee was held at Owatonna, November 26, 1875. There were passed over to the committee, at this meeting, the subscriptions of the citizens of Owatonna amounting to \$6,195, together with the deed of the lots selected for the site of the academy, costing \$2,000. The first payment on the lots was made by the citizens of Owatonna.

The next meeting of the committee was held at Owatonna, May 3, 1876, at which the committee voted to adopt the dollar roll as one method of raising funds.

Rev. E. Westcott was appointed to raise funds in the Zumbro Association; Rev. W.

W. Whitcomb in the Central, Rev. S. Adams in the Minnesota, and Rev. J. W. Reese in the Minnesota Valley Association, while Rev. J. F. Wilcox was appointed for the rest of the State, and to have a general oversight with power to appoint agents, also to secure a general agent in case he could not himself attend to it.

The next and last meeting of the committee was held at Minneapolis, July 11, 1876, when Rev. R. A. Clapp and Rev. J. M. Thurston were appointed solicitors in the Minnesota Valley Association.

The finance committee through Hon. M. H. Dunnell, reported to the convention held at Owatonna, October, 1876, pledges to the endowment and building funds, including the dollar roll, to the amount of \$12,313.

The following resolution was offered by Dr. Keith:

"*Resolved*, That the committee on incorporation of the academy located at Owatonna, are hereby instructed to arrange for a board of trustees of eighteen, and not less than one-third of said board to be women."

On motion, the resolution was adopted.

Under instructions from the State Convention, the finance committee met in Owatonna in May, 1877, and resolved to take immediate steps to secure funds sufficient for the erection of a building on the academy grounds, to the end that a school be opened in the coming September. Hon. M. H. Dunnell, Rev. E. Westcott and T. W. Stebbins were appointed a building committee. Funds were raised to the amount, in round numbers, of \$4,100. Ground was broken July 8, and the building was dedicated September 10—the school opening the next day. The building, including all its furniture and fixtures, was wholly paid for at the time, and cost, as stated, the sum of \$4,100. At the dedication, September 10, a minute report was read by Hon. M. H. Dunnell, president of the finance committee. Speeches were made by Rev. Dr. E. C. Anderson, of Lake City, Rev. E. Westcott, of Concord, Dr. Geo. H. Keith, of Minne-

apolis, Rev. Mr. Thatcher, of Owatonna, Rev. A. P. Graves, of Concord, Rev. Mr. Arnold, of Rochester, Rev. E. K. Cressy, of Illinois, Prof. Pratt, of Faribault, Rev. J. F. Wilcox, of Northfield, and Rev. H. C. Woods, of Minneapolis. The president of the finance committee, in a short address, delivered the keys of the academy to Samuel H. Baker, B. A., the principal, to which he made an appropriate response. Holden's cornet band and the Beethoven Musical Association, of Owatonna, furnished excellent music for the occasion. This building is still in use, although it is the intention at the present writing to erect a costly and commodious structure in the near future, and use the present building as chapel.

At the Baptist State Convention held in Minneapolis in 1885, Hon. George A. Pillsbury proposed that if \$25,000 could be raised and added to the endowment fund he would erect a ladies' boarding-hall and donate it to the institution. The amount was raised almost immediately, and in accordance with his proposition in 1886, he erected what is known as Pillsbury Hall. The site for the hall, which is just north of the "chapel," was purchased in February, 1886; the cornerstone was laid June 1, 1886, and the hall was opened in October. It is a magnificent structure, occupying a commanding position on the hill in the eastern portion of the city. The cost was about \$25,000. The name of the academy was changed from Minnesota to Pillsbury Academy by a vote of the Baptist State Convention in October, 1886, and ratified and legalized by an act of the legislature in 1887. The academy has prospered finely, now having students from all portions of the State. The average attendance is now about seventy-five. It has prepared many students for some of the most noted educational institutions in America, including Harvard College; Madison (N. Y.); Rochester; Amherst; Carlton; Minnesota State University, and others. The control of the institution is vested in a board of eighteen directors or trustees — one-third of whom are ladies.

The latter fact is due to Mrs. Silas Hillman, of Dodge County, who made a generous donation upon the condition that one-third of the board of trustees should be composed of ladies. Among so many who should be mentioned as prominent workers in securing the academy and making it the success it has been, it is difficult to choose; but a history of this institution that did not give great credit to Hon. George A. Pillsbury and Hon. M. H. Dunnell would be sadly deficient.

OFFICERS AND INSTRUCTORS.

The following is a list of the officers and instructors who have served in the various years since the academy was opened :

FALL, 1877.

Finance Committee and Acting Trustees—Hon. Mark H. Dunnell, of Owatonna, president; Rev. Erastus Westcott, of Concord, treasurer; William C. Durkee, Esq., of Mankato, secretary; Rev. John E. Wood, of Detroit; Rev. James F. Wilcox, of Northfield; Thomas W. Stebbins, of Rochester; and Edwin Kimball, Esq., of Forest City.

Instructors—Samuel H. Baker, B. A., principal; Addie A. Sargent, B. S., assistant; Rev. Geo. C. Tanner, teachers' class; Dora Williamson, instrumental music; A. C. Gutterson, vocal music.

1877-8.

Instructors—Samuel H. Baker, B. A., principal (higher mathematics and classics); Addie A. Sargent, B. S., preceptress (modern languages); Jean C. Sherwood, B. S., (English literature and rhetoric); Rev. G. C. Tanner, A. M. (normal class); Dora A. Williamson, and Prof. A. C. Gutterson, music.

Officers and Trustees—Rev. E. Westcott, of Concord, president; Dr. H. S. Hill, secretary; P. Bliss, of Owatonna, treasurer; Dr. G. H. Keith, Minneapolis; Hon. M. H. Dunnell; Hon. H. H. Johnson, Owatonna; Rev. R. A. Clapp, St. James; John V. Daniels, Rochester; E. M. Van Duzee, St. Paul; M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; W. P. Gibson, Mankato; Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; Lydia J. R. Gates,

St. Paul; Lucy J. Ross, Kasson; Nancy M. Farrington, Winona; Amy H. Wilbour, Austin; Lucy N. Allen, Lake City.

1878-9.

Instructors — Samuel H. Baker, B. A., principal; Addie A. Sargent, B. S.; Jean C. Sherwood, B. S.; Rev. Geo. C. Tanner, A. M.; Lillie Lake, A. C. Gutterson.

Trustees and Officers — Rev. Erastus Westcott, of Concord, president; Dr. H. S. Hill, of Owatonna, secretary; Philo Bliss, of Owatonna, treasurer; Dr. George H. Keith, of Minneapolis; Hon. Mark H. Dunnell, of Owatonna; Hon. H. H. Johnson, of Owatonna; Rev. Robert A. Clapp, of St. James; John V. Daniels, of Rochester; E. M. Van Duzee, of St. Paul; Myron A. Fredenburg, of Owatonna; William F. Hillman, of Mantorville; William P. Gibson, of Mankato; Sarah P. Butler, of Minneapolis; Lydia J. R. Gates, of St. Paul; Nancy M. Farrington, of Winona; Amy H. Wilbour, of Austin; Lucy N. Allen, of Lake City; and Maggie E. Morin, of Albert Lea.

1879-80.

Instructors — Samuel H. Baker, B. A., principal (classics and higher arithmetic); Addie E. Sargent, B. S. (modern languages); Maria Burlingame, O. E. (English literature and rhetoric); Lillie Lake, instrumental music; A. C. Gutterson, vocal music.

Trustees and Officers — Rev. Erastus Westcott, Concord, president; Dr. H. S. Hill, Owatonna, secretary; Philo Bliss, Owatonna, treasurer; Dr. G. H. Keith, Minneapolis; Mark H. Dunnell, H. H. Johnson, Owatonna; Rev. Robert A. Clapp, St. James; John V. Daniels, Rochester; E. M. Van Duzee, St. Paul; M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; W. P. Gibson, Mankato; Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; Lydia J. R. Gates, St. Paul; Nancy M. Farrington, Winona; Amy H. Wilbour, Austin; Lucy N. Allen, Lake City; Maggie E. Morin, Albert Lea.

1880-1.

Instructors — Israel H. DeWolf, A. M.,

principal (Latin and natural science); Addie A. Sargent, B. S., (mathematics and German); Maria Burlingame, O. E. (Greek, English literature, history); Lillie Lake, (instrumental music); A. C. Gutterson (vocal music).

Trustees and Officers — Rev. Erastus Westcott, of Concord, president; Dr. H. S. Hill, of Owatonna, secretary; Philo Bliss, of Owatonna, treasurer; Dr. G. H. Keith, Minneapolis; Hon. M. H. Dunnell, Hon. Harvey H. Johnson, Owatonna; Rev. R. A. Clapp, St. James; Rev. R. W. Arnold, Rochester; E. M. Van Duzee, St. Paul; M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; W. P. Gibson, Mankato; Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; Lydia J. R. Gates, St. Paul; Nancy M. Farrington, Winona; Amy H. Wilbour, Austin; Mary H. S. Pratt, Faribault; Maggie E. Morin.

1881-2.

Instructors — Israel H. DeWolf, A. M., principal (Latin and natural science); Addie A. Sargent, B. S., (mathematics and German); Maria Burlingame, O. E. (Greek, English literature, history); Lillie Lake and Maggie Louise Dickson (instrumental music); A. C. Gutterson, vocal music.

Trustees and Officers — Rev. Erastus Westcott, of Concord, president; Dr. H. S. Hill, secretary; Philo Bliss, Owatonna, treasurer; Rev. H. C. Woods, Minneapolis; Hon. M. H. Dunnell, Hon. H. H. Johnson, Owatonna; Rev. R. A. Clapp, St. James; Rev. R. W. Arnold, Rochester; E. M. Van Duzee, St. Paul; M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; Rev. L. C. Barnes, St. Paul; Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; Lydia J. R. Gates, St. Paul; Nancy M. Farrington, Winona; Amy H. Wilbour, Austin; E. A. Ellerbe, Mankato; Maggie E. Morin.

1882-3.

Instructors — Israel H. DeWolf, A. M., principal (Latin and Greek); Addie A. Sargent, B. S., (mathematics, German and botany); Maria Burlingame (English literature and history); Clara M. Griffin (English

department); Maggie Louise Dickson, (instrumental music); A. C. Gutterson, (vocal music).

Trustees and Officers — Rev. Erastus Westcott, of Concord, president; Dr. H. S. Hill, secretary; Philo Bliss, Owatonna, treasurer; Rev. H. C. Woods, Minneapolis; Hon. M. H. Dunnell, Hon. H. H. Johnson, Owatonna; G. H. Herrick, St. James; Rev. R. W. Arnold, Rochester; E. M. Van Duzee, St. Paul; M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; Hon. Geo. A. Pillsbury, Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; Lydia J. R. Gates, St. Paul; Irene Wilcox, Northfield; Amy H. Wilbour, Austin; E. A. Ellerbe, Mankato; Maggie E. Morin, Albert Lea.

1883-4.

Instructors — Joshua L. Ingraham, A. M., principal (Greek and mathematics); Bela M. Lawrence, A. B. (Latin, German and sciences); Orinda P. Chollar (English literature, history and rhetoric); M. Louise Dickson (instrumental music); A. C. Gutterson, (vocal music).

Officers and Trustees — Hon. M. H. Dunnell, president; Dr. H. S. Hill, secretary; Philo Bliss, of Owatonna, treasurer; Rev. H. C. Woods, St. Paul; Rev. Erastus Westcott, Concord; Hon. H. H. Johnson, Owatonna; G. H. Herrick, St. James; Hon. A. C. Hickman, Owatonna; E. M. Van Duzee, St. Paul; M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; Hon. G. A. Pillsbury, Minneapolis; Mrs. Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; Lydia J. B. Gates, St. Paul; Irene Wilcox, Northfield; Anna H. Wilbour, Austin; Maggie E. Morin, Albert Lea; Mrs. G. M. Palmer, Mankato.

1884-5.

Instructors — Joshua L. Ingraham, A. M., principal (Greek and mathematics); Bela M. Lawrence, A. B. (Latin, German and sciences); Laura E. H. Arey (English literature, history and rhetoric); Emma M. Rich, (instrumental music); A. C. Gutterson, (vocal music).

Officers and trustees — Hon. M. H. Dun-

nell, president; Rev. W. A. Spinney, secretary; Philo Bliss, of Owatonna, treasurer; Mrs. Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; Mrs. Lydia J. R. Gates, St. Paul; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; Hon. H. H. Johnson, E. M. Van Duzee, St. Paul; Rev. E. Westcott, Concord; Mrs. Amy H. Wilbour, Austin; Mrs. Maggie E. Morin, Albert Lea; G. H. Herrick, St. James; Rev. H. C. Woods, St. Paul; Hon. G. A. Pillsbury, Minneapolis; Mrs. Irene Wilcox, Northfield; Hon. A. C. Hickman, Owatonna; Mrs. G. M. Palmer, Mankato.

1885-6.

Instructors — Joshua L. Ingraham, A. M., principal (Greek, mathematics and mental philosophy); Bela M. Lawrence, A. M. (Latin, German and sciences); Mrs. Laura E. H. Lawrence (English literature, history and rhetoric); Emma M. Rich (instrumental music); A. C. Gutterson (vocal music).

Officers and Trustees — E. M. Van Duzee, of St. Paul, president; Rev. W. A. Spinney, secretary; Philo Bliss, of Owatonna, treasurer; Mrs. Sarah P. Butler, Minneapolis; Hon. M. H. Dunnell, M. A. Fredenburg, Owatonna; Lydia J. R. Gates, St. Paul; W. F. Hillman, Mantorville; Hon. H. H. Johnson, Owatonna; Rev. E. Westcott, Concord; Mrs. Amy H. Wilbour, Austin; Mrs. Maggie E. Morin, Albert Lea; G. H. Herrick, St. James; Rev. H. C. Woods, St. Paul; Hon. G. A. Pillsbury, Minneapolis; Mrs. Irene Wilcox, Northfield; Hon. A. C. Hickman, Owatonna; Mrs. G. M. Palmer, Mankato.

1886-7

Instructors — Joshua L. Ingraham, A. M., principal (Greek, mathematics and mental philosophy); Bela M. Lawrence, A. M. (Latin, German and sciences); Mrs. Myra E. Call, A. B. (English literature, history and rhetoric); Emma M. Rich (instrumental music); Prof. A. C. Gutterson (vocal music).

The following is a list of officers and trustees, giving the year in which their terms expire—Edward M. Van Duzee, of St. Paul,

president; Rev. W. A. Spinney, secretary; Philo Bliss, of Owatonna, treasurer:

Philo Bliss, Esq.....	Owatonna.....	1889
Mrs. Sarah P. Butler.....	Minneapolis.....	1887
Hon. M. H. Dunnell.....	Owatonna.....	1888
*Myron A. Fredenburg, Esq.,	Owatonna.....	1887
Mrs. Lydia J. R. Gates.....	St. Paul.....	1888
William F. Hillman, Esq.....	Cedar Rapids, Neb.....	1888
Edward M. Van Duzee, Esq.,	St. Paul.....	1889
Rev. Erastus Westcott.....	West Concord.....	1887
Mrs. Amy H. Wilbour.....	Anstin.....	1889
Mrs. Maggie E. Morin.....	Alberta Lea.....	1887
G. H. Herrick, Esq.....	St. James.....	1887
Rev. I. C. Woods, D. D.....	St. Paul.....	1887
Hon. George A. Pillsbury.....	Minneapolis.....	1888
Mrs. Irene Wileox.....	Northfield.....	1888
Hon. A. C. Hickman.....	Owatonna.....	1889
Rev. W. A. Spinney.....	Owatonna.....	1888
William H. Kelly, Esq.....	Owatonna.....	1889
Mrs. T. W. Stebbins.....	Rochester.....	1889

Executive Committee (1887-8)—Hon. M. H. Dunnell, W. H. Kelly, Hon. A. C. Hickman, Philo Bliss, and Rev. W. A. Spinney, of Owatonna.

Finance Committee—Rev. J. F. Wilcox, of Northfield, president; Hon. M. H. Dunnell, of Owatonna, treasurer; W. W. Huntington, of Minneapolis, secretary; G. H. Herrick, of St. James; T. W. Stebbins, Rochester; Rev. E. Westcott, West Concord; Hon. George A. Pillsbury, Minneapolis.

1887-8.

Instructors—Joshua L. Ingraham, A. M., principal (Greek, mathematics and mental philosophy); Homer J. Vosburgh, A. B. (Latin, German and sciences); Miss Myra E. Call, A. B. (English literature, history and rhetoric); Emma M. Rich (instrumental music); Prof. A. C. Gutterson (vocal music).

Prof. J. L. Ingraham, the present principal of Pillsbury Academy, is a native of Camden, Me., born in 1852. His parents were Joseph and Fanny Ingraham. Mr. Ingraham remained with them, receiving the advantages of a common-school education until twenty-one years of age, when he went to the Waterville Classical Institute and remained until entering Colby College in 1876, graduating therefrom in 1880. For

*[Deceased.]

two years after this he taught in Worcester Academy. Then, his health not being robust, he gave up work for a year, and in 1883 came to Owatonna and took charge of the educational institution, which is still under his direction. Prof. Ingraham was married in 1880 to Miss Maria E. Page, of Camden, Me. They have one child, Fanny C.

GRADUATES.

Class of 1878—William Abbott.

Class of 1879—Mrs. Cornelia Tanner Perceval (deceased).

Class of 1880—A. W. Lane, A. J. Truesdell, George R. Kinyon, Silas Middleton, James Haycraft, Helen S. Evans, Dora W. Hunkins and Ina M. Gutterson.

Class of 1881—Edward G. Adams and Eugene Case.

Class of 1882—Eugene P. Hickok, Frank Burnett, Frank A. Sebring, Mary Webber, Ellen Nelson, Libbie Crandall, Mabel E. Peck and Etta M. McBride.

Class of 1883—Carl Rosebrock, Carl Brown, Bertha C. Truesdell, Mabel E. Gutterson, Nellie E. Fife, John B. Mitchell, Peter Koch, Luella Gould.

Class of 1884—George L. Carey, Agnes Brennan, Benton A. McMillen, Minnie Williamson, F. W. Meehan, Sadie Wilson and Wm. J. Leary.

Class of 1885—Arthur R. Albertus, Mary L. Bailey, Alzina Jones, Carl K. Bennett, Gertrude Kimball, Jefferson Brown, Minnie A. Pillsbury, C. H. Christianson, Theo. Weber, May Fowler. Charles Mitchell, A. I. Reeves and Alvin Schuster.

Class of 1886—Carl D. Case, U. G. Weathersly, Lillian L. Abbott, Nellie Brennan, Frank F. Buffum, Maxwell H. Cusick, Willis N. Holland, Lawrence W. Parker, Frank L. Carey, Fred. E. Church, Ane Magrete Heegaard, A. A. Maloney, G. W. Tryon, Lucia M. Wolverton.

Class of 1887—Lavinia Mead, Alice Kennedy, Mary Schafer and Minnie Heegaard (first graduate from musical course).

State Public School.

The Legislature of Minnesota passed an act which was approved by the governor on the 9th of March, 1885, establishing what is known as the State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children, and making provisions for the government of the same. In accordance with the provisions of this act the governor appointed five commissioners, for the purpose of selecting a location and erecting thereon suitable buildings. The members of this commission were B. B. Herbert, Anthony Kelly, C. S. Crandall, Wm. Morin and John Byers, and the body was termed "Commissioners for the Location and Acting Board of Control of the State Public Schools of Minnesota." This board held their first meeting in the governor's office, at the State capital, April 22, 1885, and elected from their members a secretary and treasurer, the governor acting as president *ex-officio*. It was decided that all applications for the location of the institution from the different portions of the State should be heard; but in making the final decision as to a site the interest and convenience of the school should be regarded rather than the amount that might be offered in the way of a donation to the State, but that not less than eighty acres of land could be accepted as a site for the school. The commissioners then adjourned to meet June 1, 1885, for the purpose of visiting the several villages and cities offering sites.

At the meeting on June 1, the secretary reported that Farmington, in Dakota County; Northfield, Rice County; Owatonna, Steele County; Albert Lea, Freeborn County; Hastings, Dakota County, and Lake City, Wabasha County, had each offered a site of from eighty to one hundred and sixty acres. A few other points, including Wayzata and Redwood Falls, also submitted propositions.

After visiting the several places and carefully examining the different sites a meeting was held at St. Paul on the 26th of June, to

decide the matter. The offers for the donation of sites as finally submitted in writing were as follows: Farmington, 110 acres of land; Northfield, 94 acres; Lake City, 240 acres; Red Wing, 145 acres; Hastings, 116 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres; Albert Lea, eighty acres; Owatonna, 160 acres of land with all necessary wells for the use of the institution, and all building material delivered on the grounds free of freight. The sites offered were each and all desirable and entirely sufficient for the wants of the school, and when the size of the various places and the cost of the several tracts were taken into account, the offers might be said as to be equally generous. The farm buildings were offered to be donated with the various sites. Red Wing included fair buildings, stables and fences, costing over \$4,000. Lake City added to her munificent offer of 240 acres of land, a stone-quarry, the use of a brickyard for the manufacture of the brick for the buildings, and \$500 worth of trees and shrubbery to be properly set out under the direction of the commissioners, also offering to furnish employment to the inmates of the institution in the extensive nursery and fruit gardens adjoining the land to be given as site, so far as should be deemed advisable by the school management. Litchfield, in Meeker County, also appeared before the commissioners at the meeting and made a like liberal offer with the other places named. The decision became a matter of much difficulty and delicacy. Sixteen ballots were had without any choice. An adjournment was taken until the twenty-seventh, when on the twenty-fourth ballot Owatonna was chosen as the place for the location of the school by three votes for that point to one for Red Wing and one for Hastings. The selection of Owatonna was then made unanimous.

The site at Owatonna was finally selected under the advice of Supt. John N. Foster, of the State Public School of Michigan, and Secretary H. H. Hart, of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of Minnesota. The

site consists of 160 acres of excellent farm land, adjoining and overlooking the city and the beautiful river valley at that place. The land is rolling, well drained, and affords a most attractive site. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad crosses the farm, and a switch has been built to accommodate the school,—the State only paying a small amount toward the grading for the track,—so that building materials and fuel are delivered on the grounds without any cost for drayage, and the products of the farm may hereafter be handled in like manner.

Among the reasons which influenced the commissioners in deciding upon Owatonna as the home for this institution were, first, the fact of its location, very near the center of the oldest and most densely settled portion of the State, affording a better opportunity for placing the children in well-to-do families within easy reach of the institution which is expected to keep a watch over their care and education; second, its easy accessibility by different lines of railroads from any portion of the State.

As soon as the title to the property was obtained, arrangements were commenced for laying off the grounds and the erection of buildings. The services of Mr. Pehrson, a landscape gardener in the employ of the State institution at Faribault, were secured and the buildings located and grounds laid off for future improvement. W. B. Dunnell was chosen as architect, and directed to prepare plans for the buildings.

Prof. J. N. Foster, superintendent of the State Public Schools of Michigan, had already visited the State, on invitation of the commissioners, and given much valuable advice with regard to the choice of a site, the erection of buildings and the management of the schools. As the act passed by the Minnesota Legislature is almost an exact copy of the Michigan law, and the Michigan school at Coldwater was considered a model in every way, the architect, and Directors Anthony Kelly and B. B. Herbert, visited

that institution, in order to be thoroughly informed as to the best building methods for such a school. Their report favored what is known as the cottage plan, and the commissioners decided unanimously to adopt that system.

The Michigan school had, through its admirable management and the result of its work, become not only the model for several States of the Union, but for some of the countries in Europe that have sent commissioners to examine and copy its plans, and the commissioners thought it wise to benefit by the eleven years of most successful experience of that institution. To give the plans adopted there is to give in effect the plans deemed most practicable and in theory adopted by the Minnesota commissioners. The buildings of the model school at Coldwater, perfected after so many years of experience, consist of: 1. A main building, containing the superintendent's office, reception room, vault for papers and records, and the library, living rooms for the superintendent and family, children's and employé's dining halls, sewing room, sleeping apartments for the teachers and employé's, kitchen, bakery, store-rooms and pantries. 2. From six to nine cottages for the children. Each of these cottages is under a lady known as a cottage manager. The children are divided by means of these cottages into families of twenty-five or thirty each, under the control of this lady, acting in the place of a mother, looking after the behavior, cleanliness, clothing and instruction of the children out of school hours. 3. A school building with four rooms, also a building devoted to kindergarten instruction for the smaller children. 4. A hospital building for the care and separation of children when sick, and for keeping of new pupils supposed to have been exposed to infectious diseases until danger of contagion has passed. 5. An engine, boiler and pump house from which all buildings are heated and in which gas is manufactured for lighting purposes. Above the boiler room,

in the same building, is also a laundry operated by steam for the accommodation of the entire school. 6. Extensive barns and stables for the accommodation of a well-stocked farm. All these buildings, with the exception of fewer cottages and a smaller main building, were needed here. The arrangement for water supply and sewerage is also excellent, and the adoption of a similar plan was also recommended.

Michigan has found it wise and economical to care for her dependent children. In the eleven years of the existence of their institution, over nineteen hundred children had been received and put on the way to happy and useful lives.

The appropriation made by the Legislature for establishing this school was \$20,000. The commissioners decided that the amount could be most wisely expended in the erection of three cottages capable of accommodating thirty-five children each, one to be used temporarily as a main building for offices, living room, kitchen, dining halls, etc. In accordance with this decision, plans and specifications were drawn under the direction of the commissioners and bids taken for the building and completion of the same. These bids were publicly opened at a meeting of the commissioners advertised to be held for that purpose, and were found to range from a little over \$24,000 down to \$15,600 for the cottages, and the contract was let to John Hammel and Silas Anderson, of Owatonna, at the last-named price, they being the lowest bidders. The foundations for the cottages were put in during the fall of 1885, and the walls built and the buildings completed during the summer of 1886. The buildings are of brick, 30x40 feet on the ground, two stories besides the basements and garrets. They are substantially built and covered with slate roofs. The basements have been plastered with water cement on the outside and especially finished with a view to permanent use for domestic purposes, sewing rooms, etc., to economize in the num-

ber and size of other buildings. The garret in the cottage temporarily set apart for the superintendent's or main building, has been finished off into dormitories for employes, and the garrets in the other buildings could be in like manner utilized.

The commissioners had many applications for the position of superintendent of this school. After careful consideration it was thought that the permanent success and usefulness of the institution would depend very much on placing it in the hands of a gentleman of practical experience at the very beginning. The position was accordingly tendered to Prof. G. A. Merrill, of the Michigan State public school, who added to years of experience the highest qualifications, and had been most flatteringly recommended by his associates in this line of work. Negotiations were opened through a committee appointed for the purpose, and his services were secured, to commence as soon after the 1st of October, 1886, as arrangements could be made for opening the school. For like reasons it was subsequently decided to employ one experienced cottage manager from the Michigan school, and an estimable, experienced lady was secured.

On August 18th the newly elected superintendent met with the commissioners, and it was decided to attempt to open the institution to the public October 10. This was afterward found impracticable.

The funds appropriated by the State had been exhausted, and it was found that unless other aid could be obtained the buildings must stand empty, and the dependent children, clamoring for admittance, must go uncared for, and the opening of the school be postponed to await the action of this Legislature. At this crisis, citizens of Owatonna who trusted to the good faith of the State in this attempt to care for the destitute children, stepped forward and advanced \$5,000. The work was pushed forward, the buildings were furnished and the commissioners were enabled to notify the governor

on November 30 that the buildings were in readiness, and on the second day of December the first three children were received.

BUILDINGS.

The first appropriation was approved in March, 1885, the amount being \$20,000. Three cottages were erected with this money, besides getting the grounds in shape, purchasing furniture, stock and incidental expenses. The cottages cost about \$16,500, as has already been stated. In these buildings the institution began its work, one of them being temporarily used as the administration building.

The Legislature in 1886-7 made an additional appropriation of \$70,000 for permanent improvements, besides an appropriation for current expenses. The permanent improvements, such as the erection of suitable buildings, was at once put under way, contracts let and building operations begun. The buildings in course of erection will be ready for occupancy by January, 1888, and are as follows :

The administration or main building at this writing, August, 1887, is fast nearing completion. It will be 132x180 feet in size and practically three stories in height, and will cost about \$50,000. The first floor of this building will be used for superintendent's offices, reception room, library, chapel, children's and employes' dining-rooms and the industrial departments, shoe shop, sewing room, etc. On the second floor will be the superintendent's family rooms, together with the private rooms of the teachers and employes. The laying of the corner-stone of this building was an auspicious event in Steele County's history. It was performed with ancient and imposing ceremonies, thousands of prominent citizens from Steele County and all portions of the State being present. The ceremonies were conducted by the Masonic fraternity, although nearly all the societies took part in the exercises.

Hon. W. R. Kinyon was president of the

day, and announced the program. Mayor Pratt, ex-Mayor Birkett and President Albertus, of the City Council, were the city committee, and Mr. F. F. Grant, a leading Knight Templar, contributed largely to the success of the ceremonies. The architect of the building, Mr. W. B. Dunnell, was also one of the moving spirits. The ceremonies at the grounds were begun by an address of welcome by Hon. M. H. Dunnell. Hon. W. H. Braden, state auditor, represented Gov. McGill, and spoke a few words appropriate to the occasion. Rev. Dr. Dana, of St. Paul, made a fine address. He was followed by Rev. H. H. Hart, secretary of the State Board of Corrections and Charities. Ex-Gov. Barto, of Sauk Center, made a humorous speech and was followed by Hon. C. S. Crandall, of Owatonna, President of the Board of Control of the State Public School for Indigent Children, who made a good speech showing the purposes and benefits to be derived from so beneficent a State institution. Hon. B. B. Herbert, of Red Wing, followed by a few words from M. J. Daniels, of Rochester. Most Worshipful J. H. Brown, Grand Master of the State of Minnesota, A. F. & A. M., then proceeded with the Masonic ceremonies of laying the corner-stone. He was assisted by C. H. Benton, D. G. M.; Alphonzo Barto, G. S. W.; Ambrose La Due, G. J. W.; J. E. Getman acted as Grand Treas.; A. T. C. Pearson, G. S.; Thomas G. Crump, of Litchfield, Grand Orator. Rev. Geo. B. Whipple acted as Grand Chaplain. Hon. J. M. Burlingame, of Owatonna, acted as Grand Marshal. After the stone was laid, corn, wine and oil were put on it. The building was then turned over to the architect for completion, who responded with a short, well chosen speech. The procession was then reformed and returned to the city. The casket in the corner-stone contained a Bible, the names of the State, county and city officers, a list of the officers of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and of the Star of the East Lodge of Owatonna, and copies of the constitution

and by-laws of both, the charter of Owatonna, copies of the *Globe*, *Pioneer Press*, *Minneapolis Tribune*, *The People's Press*, *Journal* and *Herald*, and a copy of the first biennial report of the board of control and superintendent, and a copy of Gov. Hubbard's message to the Legislature of 1886-7.

Next to the administration building comes the schoolhouse, which is also in course of erection. This is 57x41 feet in size, and will be divided into five school-rooms, one devoted exclusively to kindergarten work. The building will have cost, when completed, about \$7,500.

A large and handsome barn has been erected, to the west of the cluster of buildings, at a cost of \$2,200.

The hospital is a one-story structure, size about 33x47 feet. It will be divided into sick-rooms, neatly furnished, and will cost \$2,200. The name implies the use to which it will be put.

One building serves as the engine-house and laundry. It will be a one-story building size 40x50 feet, with the boilers and machinery in the basement.

A fourth cottage will also be erected, in 1888, upon a similar plan as those now in use, which will cost about \$6,000.

These improvements will exhaust all of the appropriation of \$70,000, and will place the institution in good working-order and furnish comfortable and convenient quarters. The buildings will be well furnished, and the contract has already been let for electric lighting. The buildings are all heated by steam. The cottages now in use are comfortably furnished, and are kept scrupulously clean and neat.

WORK OF THE SCHOOLS.

The institution was formally opened on the 2d of December, 1886, when three children from Steele County were received. From that time on they have continued to come. Twenty-one had been received up to the 1st of January, 1887. On the 1st of July, 1887, sixty-one had been received,

although eleven of this number had been placed in families, leaving fifty at the schools. On the 1st of August, 1887, there were sixty in the schools and eleven in families.

The following list shows the number which have been received from the various counties: Steele, 8; Rice, 3; Dakota, 11; St. Louis, 7; Nicollet, 2; Freeborn, 5; Wabasha, 3; Otter Tail, 2; Isanti, 3; Hennepin, 5; Waseca, 4; Sherburn, 2; Winona, 1; Wright, 1; Goodhue, 2; Becker, 2; Fillmore, 1; Olmsted, 1; Nobles, 3; Ramsey, 1; Murray, 2; Houston, 1; Crow Wing, 1.

The children admissible to the State public school are those within the borders of the State who are dependent on the public for support, over three and under fourteen years of age, and in suitable condition of body and mind to receive instruction. The children are placed under the care of the school through proceedings in the probate courts begun by county commissioners. This process of law in the probate courts makes the child the ward of the State during minority, and cancels all parental control if the parents of the child are living. It is not intended that worthy families shall be unduly broken up, or that children shall be unnecessarily separated from their parents, but that those children whose parents have deserted them or have been rendered incapable of supporting them shall be provided for and saved from leading the neglected lives they would naturally lead if left unprotected. As has been indicated, the children are not kept in the institution for a definite term of years, but are placed in good approved homes on indenture as soon as practicable. But the supervision of the State does not cease when the children are placed in homes. They are carefully and frequently visited in order that none shall be ill-treated, and every indenture contract contains a clause reserving the right to the board of control, to cancel the contract and return the child to the school whenever the interests of the child require it. Thus the State assumes the care and con-

trol of its dependent and neglected children that it may rear them to self-supporting and respectable citizenship.

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

The present list of officers and employes is as follows: Prof. G. A. Merrill, superintendent; Mrs. G. A. Merrill, matron; H. W. Lewis, clerk; Alma Hempel and May Donovan, teachers; Mrs. Sarah Bailey and Miss Mary Considine, cottage managers. To this list will be added two teachers and two cottage managers as soon as the additional buildings are completed. There will also be a chief engineer, besides other assistants and laborers.

An important office yet to be filled is that of State agent for the schools, whose duty it is to look after the important matter of locating the children in families and visiting and watching their conduct and progress after they are so placed. It is an office which requires the keenest of judgment and ability, and is among the most important features of the institution. Up to this time Prof. Merrill has filled this position, together with attending to his duties as superintendent; but with the additional capacity given by the buildings now in course of erection, the work of both offices will soon be beyond the ability of any one man, as there are already applications which will more than fill the increased capacity. Prof. Merrill served as State agent of the Michigan institution for a number of years, resigning that to become superintendent here. As soon as the new buildings are opened the board of control will fill the office of State agent for the Minnesota school.

The general supervision and government of the State public school is vested in what is termed a board of control, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the State Senate. The first and present board of control is made up of Hon. C. S. Crandall, of Owatonna, president (six-year term); Hon.

B. B. Herbert, of Redwing, secretary (four years); and Dr. L. P. Dodge, of Farmington (two years). After the expiration of the terms for which they were appointed, one member will be appointed every two years, and serve a six-year term. This board constitutes a body corporate, with the right of suing and being sued and of making and using a common seal. It has exclusive authority over the management and government of the school, establishes the system of government for the institution, makes all necessary rules and regulations for enforcing discipline, imparting instruction, preserving health, and for the proper physical, intellectual and moral training of children. They appoint the superintendent and matron, and such officers, teachers and employes as shall be necessary, who hold during the pleasure of the board; it prescribes duties and fixes salaries subject to the approval of the governor.

Prof. G. A. Merrill, superintendent of the State public school, is a native of Kalamazoo County, Mich., where he was born December 27, 1859. His parents were George and Sabra Merrill. G. A. Merrill lived with his mother until fifteen years of age—his father having died when he was but eight years old—and he then started in life for himself, obtaining his education in common schools and by private study. He began teaching school when nineteen years of age and continued at that for some three years, when he was appointed assistant superintendent of Michigan State public schools and remained in that position for two years, when he was appointed as State agent of the same institution. He continued in that position for two years when he was appointed to his present position. Prof. Merrill was married October 6, 1886, to Miss Estelle Ogden, of Michigan. Prof. Merrill is filling his important office with credit to himself and satisfaction to all interested in the institution.

CHAPTER XIX.

MERTON TOWNSHIP.



THIS township forms the northeastern corner of Steele County, being composed of township 108, range 19. It is bounded on the north by Rice County, on the east by Dodge County, on the south by Havana Township, and on the west by Medford and Clinton Falls. The soil is a rather light loam, with a clay subsoil on the low lands, and on the higher or rolling prairie a gravel or sandy subsoil. The surface is mostly prairie, although there is a small patch of timber in the northern part. In the southern portion is a small amount of oak openings. Natural meadows are found on nearly every quarter-section, though the principal part of the land is entirely suited to agriculture, and produces the best quality of crops of all kinds, and the township is not surpassed by any other portion of the county in productiveness.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

It is claimed that the first settlement in this township was made in 1855, by G. W. Dresser, who located in the southwestern portion of the township.

Among others who came during the same year were the following: William and David Deets, Paul Williams, John Coburn, William Miller, J. W. Adams, David Casper, T. B. H. Brown, Thomas Hortop, Fred. Irwin, Andrew Reed and Lewmon G. Reed.

A number of additions were made to the settlement in 1856, among them being A. Wilson, Charles Baker, James Clark, Hugh Mooney, Mr. McAndrew, George Norton, E. P. Taylor, Thomas Stockwell,

John Pierce, M. J. Kendall, L. E. Thompson, James Hurst, the Naylor, Oscar Searle, Mr. Deffenbacher, Daniel McNitt, Sydney Smith Jr., Mr. Curtis and others.

Among others who came at an early day were R. A. McDonald, Charles Wilson, Herman Purfeest, the Lane family, Henry Maw, John Trask and others.

VARIOUS EVENTS.

The first birth in the township was that of Harriet Elizabeth, a daughter of Lewmon G. Reed and wife, who was born May 3, 1856.

The first death was that of Sarah Jane (Reed) Irwin, who died November 1, 1856. Her remains were interred at what has since been known as Rice Lake Cemetery.

In 1862 that dreaded scourge of children, diphtheria, visited this township. The first death from it occurred in February, in the family of Oscar Searle, and two daughters, Alice and Marion, were taken away. A number of children soon followed, among them being Adelaide and Bertie, children of Henry Maw, and three from the family of Daniel McNitt.

The first school in the northern part of the township was taught in what was afterward known as the Rock schoolhouse.

The first lady teacher in the eastern part of the township was Margaret Hunter. The school was held in Edward Naylor's house on section 26. Andrew J. Stickles was the second teacher in that district.

In the summer of 1859—sometime in June—considerable excitement was created in the settlement by the appearance of a large brown bear, which had made its way

from the timber in the northwest part of the town, and was probably on an exploring expedition. The settlers turned out *en masse* to give him a reception, and greeted him with pitchforks and such other implements of warfare as could most readily be found, and, after a weary march, in which the people undertook to keep up with his bearship, one sturdy farmer got a fair shot and killed him.

In 1856 a Mr. Coburn opened a store in the northwest corner of the township and christened the village "Dodge City," but the country was so sparsely settled he concluded that it would not pay, and sold his stock to O. T. Jones. Mr. Jones kept the store but a short time and then closed it up.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized in 1855 the eastern tier of townships as it is now formed was connected with Dodge County. It remained in this shape until February, 1856, when the Legislature changed the county lines, and Steele County was made to include this tier of townships. On the 6th of April, 1857, the board of county commissioners set off township 108, range 19, and authorized its organization, giving it the name of Union Prairie. The organization, however, was not fully perfected until the spring of 1858. On the 11th of September, 1857, the name was changed to Orion, and it thus remained until January, 1862, when it was given the name of Lyon; this however was almost immediately changed to Merton, which it still bears.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Lewmon G. Reed was one of the earliest settlers of Merton Township, having come here from Canada, in 1855, and located on section 25. He was born in Canada, March 11, 1811. At the age of twenty-one years he left home to care for himself, and engaged at farming, in which he still continues. Mr. Reed has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Jane Richards (now deceased), a native of England. This union was blessed with two

children, Mary Cornelia and Sarah Jane; the former afterward became Mrs. Joseph Smith. Sarah Jane married Fred. Irwin; she died. November 1, 1856. Mr. Reed's second marriage was to Miss Margaret Orrock, a native of Canada, born November 30, 1832. Her ancestors were Scotch. They have had seven children, as follows: Harriet, born May 3, 1856 (killed by an accident in falling wheat); Sarah G., born August 23, 1858; Janet J., born March 13, 1861; Caroline A., born April 15, 1864; Jessie L., born July 17, 1866; Orrock G., born January 18, 1869, and Nellie L., born October 6, 1871. Two of these, Orrock and Nellie, are living at home. Sarah married James Naylor, and lives in Potter County, D. T. Janet married John Naylor, and now lives in Otter Tail County, Minn. Caroline A. married Ward Perkins, and now lives in Brookings county, D. T. Jessie L. married Joseph Miller. Mr. Reed was the second settler who located in the eastern part of this township, and was among the very earliest settlers in Steele County. He has been prominent in local affairs. In 1859 he was elected justice of the peace, and held the office for two years; has been road overseer, and held various other positions. He is Republican in politics. He is a member of the Methodist Church, and was the first class-leader at Rice Lake, Dodge County, and was also Bible-class leader for a number of years.

Edward Naylor came here with his parents, in the year 1856, from Illinois. Mr. Naylor is a native of Lincolnshire, Eng., where he was born January 6, 1833. He remained at home until he arrived at the age of twenty-four years, when he commenced farming for himself on section 26, Merton Township, and has remained there ever since, doing a general farming and stock-raising. In the year 1865 Mr. Naylor enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and was engaged in service for about nine months. He was discharged October 8, and came back to his farm. On February 29, 1851, he was mar-

ried to Miss Marion Hunter, a native of Canada. They are the parents of five children: William John and Margret Elizabeth, (twins), Minnie E., Nettie Marion, and Edwin H., three of whom are living at home. Margaret is at Warren, Marshall County, teaching school. Minnie E., is living at Warren, Marshall County, Minn.; she married Wilber F. Powell, who is engaged in the machinery business. The other children are living at home. Mr. Naylor has been road supervisor and school director. He was elected in 1873 and held the offices several years. He is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Naylor engages quite extensively in cattle, keeping about one hundred head most of the time. He has a magnificent residence, and out-buildings, the house and barns having cost about \$7,000. The house is surrounded by a beautiful natural grove of timber. Mr. Naylor's market-place is at Owatonna, while his postoffice is at Rice Lake.

A. Wilson was born in England in 1833. At the age of four years he came to America with his father. They first located in Oneida County, N. Y., where they remained for six or eight years, then removed to Dane County, Wis. The subject of this sketch remained at home until he was twenty-two years old, then went to Janesville, and engaged as salesman for a lumber firm. He only remained there during the summer, as he was taken sick in the fall and returned home for the winter. The following spring, on the 1st of May, 1855, he was married to Nancy E. Thompson. During the summer he remained at home, helping his father on the farm, and in the fall moved onto a little farm of his own near that of his father's. He remained there until 1856, when he sold out and moved overland to Steele County, Minn., arriving here May 31, 1856. In company with Mr. Wilson were Lorenzo Muekey, Mrs. P. Wilkins and family, and L. E. Thompson and family. Mr. Wilson immediately made a homestead of the south-

east quarter of section 17, put up a 10x12 foot claim shanty, and did some breaking to comply with the homestead laws. He still lives upon his homestead. The place is under a high state of cultivation, with fine buildings, and is among the best farms in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have had born to them five children, as follows: Adelbert, born August 7, 1859 (died when six weeks old); Frank Arthur, born October 28, 1864; Henry Ellsworth, born May 19, 1867 (died November 21, 1869); Lena Z., born November 23, 1869; and Mary Mabel, born September 27, 1876.

Charles Wilson was born January 18, 1835. His people were English, and he was but two years of age when they came to the United States. At the age of twenty he began life for himself and engaged in farming in Wisconsin. In May, 1856, he came to Minnesota and settled in Merton Township, taking government land and building a cabin. Mr. Wilson now has 240 acres of land on sections 8 and 18, and carries on general farming and stock-raising. He is a Republican in politics, and has held various school district and township offices of importance. In February, 1864, he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Cavalry, and was discharged November 21, 1864. Mr. Wilson's present wife was formerly Miss Agnes J. Gibson. They were married December 24, 1876. Mr. Wilson's family consists of six children: Jennie, Ida, Nettie, Fred., Minnie and Arthur, the five last named of whom are living at home.

Thomas Stockwell, one of the most prominent farmers in Steele County, came here in May, 1857, and settled on section 28, where he has since lived. Mr. Stockwell was born in England, April 17, 1832, but from the time he was fifteen until 1857 he lived in Chicago. Mr. Stockwell married Miss Mary Conlin, a native of Illinois. Politically he is a Democrat, and has held various offices of trust in the township, including those of assessor, supervisor, etc. Mr. Stockwell

has 500 acres of land, most of which is under a high state of cultivation; he has fine buildings, carries on an extensive farming and stock-raising business, and is one of the leading farmers in this part of the State. He is a member of the Episcopal Church.

Dexter Carlton came to Steele County in April, 1855, and located in Owatonna Township. After remaining there for eleven years engaged at farming, he came to Merton and located on section 7, where he has since lived. Mr. Carlton was born in Vermont, June 29, 1819. At the age of twenty-one he left home to care for himself, first being engaged at farming, after which he worked in a mill for some time. Most of his life, however, has been devoted to tilling the soil. Mr. Carlton was married to Miss Caroline Lord, a native of Vermont, who was born April 30, 1820. They have had seven children: Maria C., born November 23, 1844; Lowell D., born July 8, 1846; Chloe A., born January 2, 1849; Alma D., born April 3, 1851; Frank C., born September 26, 1855; George L., born March 3, 1857, and Albert O., born October 16, 1859 (died July 22, 1880). Mr. Carlton is a Republican in politics. With his family he belongs to the Universalist Church. In 1862 he enlisted in the Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged in August, 1865.

R. A. McDonald is a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, born December 25, 1834. He left Scotland in 1839, and came to America, settling at Jersey City where he remained about one year. He then removed to the town of Dover, near Racine, Wis., and remained there a number of years. He then lived in Bremer County, Iowa, for two years and on the 27th of October, 1855, came to Steele County, Minn., and settled in Merton Township. Mr. McDonald married Miss Marion Gibson, who was born in Canada, September 7, 1834. Her parents were natives of Scotland; the mother died December 11, 1886; the father is now living in

Merton Township. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have five children, as follows: Maggie, born September 22, 1871; Asa, born July 15, 1873; William, born May 22, 1875; James, born December 23, 1877, and Agnes, born November 23, 1879. Mr. McDonald is one of the prominent citizens of the township; is a Republican in political matters and, with his family, belongs to the Congregational Church. He carries on general farming and extensive stock-raising, devoting much attention to breeding blooded horses and stock.

W. A. Eggleston is a native of New York, born August 8, 1843. At the age of twenty-one W. A. Eggleston began life for himself, and followed the vocation of teaching during the winter and farming in the summer. He taught for a number of terms and in 1869 purchased a farm. He now has 160 acres of excellent land on sections 17 and 18, where he carries on extensive farming and stock-raising. Mr. Eggleston married Miss Lucinda Norton, a native of Green County, Wis. Her people came here in 1857, and were among the early settlers of the township, locating on section 19. Mrs. Norton died in 1874, and Mr. Norton is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Eggleston have three children, living at home, as follows: Gertie H., born July 31, 1870; Ella M., born November 3, 1871, and Daisy M., born October 24, 1877. Mr. Eggleston is a Republican in political matters; he has held the office of county commissioner, was town clerk for nine years, justice of the peace for eleven years, school district treasurer, and is the present chairman of the township board. He is treasurer and one of the trustees of the Methodist Church. Mr. Eggleston received a classical education, attending for three terms the Academy at Antwerp, N. Y., and is among the most intelligent and prominent citizens of the county.

John Lane came to Steele County in 1857, from Sheboygan County, Wis. He had begun life for himself when about twenty years of age, and engaged at farming, work-

ing by the month for some two years. He then went to Wisconsin, where for about six years he was engaged in the lumber business, and in 1857, as stated, came to Steele County, and located on section 29, Merton Township, where he has since lived, having now a well improved and valuable farm. In 1862 he enlisted in the Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served for three years, participating in the battle of Nashville, and in many other important engagements. He was mustered out on August 31, 1865. Mr. Lane's first wife was Miss Mary Jane Shaw, a native of Vermont. In 1875 he married Miss Sarah Holmes, a native of Ohio. Mr. Lane's family consists of two children, Stella J., and Wykoff J., both living at home. Mr. Lane, in his early years, received a common-school education, as schooling facilities were not as perfect as they are to-day. He is a Republican and belongs to the Methodist Church, with his family.

Herman Purfeest became a resident of Merton Township, Steele County, Minn., on the 17th of April, 1857. He is a native of Germany, and was born July 18, 1830. At the age of seventeen, Herman left home to care for himself, and worked at wool-weaving for three years. In 1850 he came to the United States, and in 1857 came to Steele County, as stated. In 1857 he was married to Catherine Kiser, who died in the spring of 1871. In 1872 he was married to Mrs. Sherneing (formerly Miss Elizabeth Smith), a native of Germany. They have one child, and Mrs. Purfeest had four children by her former marriage. Mr. Purfeest has always, in the past, been a Republican in political matters, but is now Independent. He has been school treasurer of his district for five years, and taken an active interest in public affairs. He belongs to the Lutheran Church. Mr. Purfeest served during part of the war in the Second Minnesota Cavalry, and was discharged in November, 1865.

W. E. Martin came here in 1857 from Ad-

dison County, Vt., and engaged in farming and teaching school. He was born on the 8th of December, 1836. On December 2d, 1857, he was married to Miss Nancy Cady, who died September 8, 1864. He was again married, on the 25th of September, 1865, to Miss Alice A. Barnes, a native of Wisconsin. They have six children, besides one which died in infancy, as follows: Frank, born April 11, 1868; George, born June 27, 1870; Bessie, born November 8, 1874; Grace, born March 11, 1880; Ruth, born December 29, 1882, and Harriett, born November 16, 1885. Frank is in Marshall County, Minn., teaching school, and the others are at home. Mr. Martin and family are members of the Baptist Church. In political matters Mr. Martin has taken a prominent part, being a Prohibitionist. In 1879 he was elected assessor of Merton Township and still holds the office. He has been justice of the peace six years; school treasurer two terms, and town supervisor two terms. On the 11th of August, 1862, Mr. Martin enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until honorably discharged, July 7, 1865. At the present writing Mr. Martin is carrying on farming and stock-raising on section 32.

E. P. Taylor was born on the 20th of August, 1835. He came to Steele County, from Franklin County, Mass., in 1857, and located on section 12, in Merton Township. August 14th, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged June 2, 1865. After being mustered out he went to Massachusetts, and remained a few months, then returned to his Steele County home. Mr. Taylor now has a valuable farm and lives on section 5, carrying on general farming and raising Holstein and other blooded stock. Mr. Taylor was married January 1, 1869, to Miss Ellen Hulet, a native of Wisconsin. They have five children: Berthold W., born March 12, 1871; Lewis S., born November 17, 1873; Eliza,

born September 14, 1877; Ina, born November 10, 1882, and Chester A., born July 17, 1884. Mr. Taylor is a Republican in politics and takes an active interest in public matters calculated to benefit town or county.

John Young is a native of the State of New York, and was born March 7, 1839. At eleven years of age he began caring for himself and followed farming for six years, when he came West to Indiana. From there he went to Iowa and worked in a saw-mill for a number of years. He then for four years was in Dakota County, Neb., part of the time carrying the United States mail from Dakota City to a point about 130 miles distant. From there he went back to Iowa, and later settled at Canon City, Rice County, Minn., remaining there six years, from where, in 1867, he removed to this township. In January, 1865, Mr. Young enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery and was discharged at Chattanooga, Tenn., August 15, 1865. On the 10th of March, 1861, Mr. Young was married to Miss Ruth A. Munger, who was born in Dorchester, near London, Canada, May 31, 1844. She had lived in Canada until twelve years of age and then removed to Waterloo, where she married Mr. Young. Mr. and Mrs. Young have four children, as follows: Minnie M. born May 17, 1862; Jared S., born August 15, 1870; Jessie D., born March 17, 1872, and Frederick W., born Sept. 9, 1874. Mr. Young is a Republican in political matters. He was one of the organizers of school district No. 41, and held the office of clerk of that district for sixteen years. He is one of the deacons in The Richland Baptist Church, and all of the family are members of that religious organization.

Henry Maw is a native of England, born in the town of Darfield, December 15, 1828. His parents were James and Mary M. (Booth) Maw; his father being a toll-gate keeper, his business kept him moving from one station to another about every year. When Henry

was fourteen the family came to America and located in Jefferson County, Wis., where they claimed government land. At that time the townships of that county were not organized, but were the next spring, and their claim was in what became Palmyra Township. The parents remained on the place until their deaths some years later, the mother dying when Henry was nineteen and the father when he was twenty-four years of age. Henry remained upon the homestead until he was thirty years old, when he sold the farm and drove overland to Steele County, Minn., accompanied by his brother-in-law, wife and children. They drove three teams, and the stock, all told, consisted of eight cows, one pair of oxen, and a team of horses. They were one month on the way and arrived here June 13, 1858. He had previously bought his present farm, on which was a "shell of a log house." It was moved to where his present residence is located, was repaired somewhat and in a few days they were living in their own house. Mr. Maw at once commenced breaking land, and put in what crops he could that season. He has lived on the place ever since, now having 400 acres of land, and fine buildings, and carries on farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale. In the fall of 1858, after getting through breaking, Mr. Maw returned to Wisconsin and brought back a thrashing-machine, with an eight-horse power. They began threshing as soon as they crossed the Mississippi at La Crosse, and continued to do jobs all along the road, until they arrived at home in February, 1859. This was the first thrashing-machine brought into Steele County. Mr. Maw was married in April, 1849, in Jefferson County, Wis., to Miss Elizabeth Mosher, a native of New York. Their union was blessed with children, as follows: Charles N., born December 10, 1853; Henry, born December 13, 1855; Ellen J., born December 28, 1857; Rose M., born June 1, 1862, and Lilley Viola, born July 15, 1864; Mrs. Maw died August 1, 1866.

On the 25th of April, 1867, Mr. Maw was married to Louisa O. Reynolds. They have had two children: Frederick J., born July 13, 1868, and Flora Louise, born October 10, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Maw are members of the Methodist Church, he having joined forty-seven years ago; she thirty-one years ago. Mr. Maw has always taken an active interest in town affairs and educational matters, and has held an office in his school district for twenty years past.

Henry Maw Jr. came to Steele County with his father in 1858. He was born in Jefferson County, Wis., December 13, 1856. When twenty-six years old he began farming on his own account on section 22, Merton Township, where he has since been engaged in farming and stock-raising, devoting considerable attention to breeding Norman horses. On the 11th of November, 1881, he was married to Miss Ida Jane Burns, a native of Steele County, Minn. They have two children: Pearl Eva, born October 13, 1883, and Flossy M., born November 3, 1886. Mr. Maw is a Prohibitionist in political matters, and is, with his wife, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

W. H. Wilson was born in the State of New York, March 27, 1842. At an early day he became a resident of Dane County, Wis., where for some eighteen years he followed agricultural pursuits. In 1863 he came to Steele County, Minn., and purchased 100 acres of land in section 18, township 108, range 19. In 1864 he enlisted in the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, and was in the service about eleven months, being mustered out in 1865. After this he went to Wisconsin, and after a few months returned to Minnesota for the third time, bringing his family. Mr. Wilson was married to Miss Mary Partridge, a native of Nova Scotia. They have four children: Jessie E., Harry G., Dora M. and Mary E. In political matters Mr. Wilson is a Republican; he has been school director and held various other local offices. He has now a large,

well cultivated and improved farm, with magnificent farm buildings, and is one of Merton's most substantial and prominent citizens.

Edward Smith came to Steele County, Minn., from Dodge County, Wis., in 1863. His people were natives of Germany, but he had moved to Wisconsin from New York State, and spent some thirteen years in farming in Dodge County, Wis. In his father's family there were four children: Sophia, Elizabeth, Frederick and Edward. Sophia married Frederick Ribstein. Elizabeth first married Mr. Scherneing (deceased), and afterward married Herman Purfeest. Edward Smith began life for himself when about twenty-four years of age, and for three years farmed in Wisconsin. Upon coming to Minnesota he located on section 11, in Merton Township, where he now has a splendid farm. He was married to Miss Maggie Butsch, a native of Germany. They have six children: Anna, born October 1, 1869; Elizabeth, born January 4, 1871; Edward, born March 27, 1873; Frederick, born June 1, 1877; Lucy, born May 30, 1879, and William, born May 29, 1883. Mr. Smith is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Lutheran Church. He has held the offices of school director and town supervisor, besides others of a local nature.

Dexter Lane is a native of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and was born November 14, 1832. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, his mother (formerly Miss Elizabeth Hurlbut) of New York State. They came here at an early day, and the Lane family figure prominently in the early history of the county. The father and mother remained until the times of their death, and are buried in the Merton cemetery. In the father's family there were nine children: Elias, Eliza, John, Licena, Dexter, Laurinda, Leander H., Matilda and Louisa. John, Dexter, Leander H. and Louisa (now Mrs. C. B. Baker), are still residents of Merton Township. Dexter began life for himself when twenty-one years of age, and was engaged chiefly at

farming until the spring of 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He saw much hard service. On September 20, 1863, he was taken prisoner of war and was taken to Atlanta, Ga.; thence to Richmond, Va.; thence to Danville, where he remained until exchanged, and was then placed in the convalescent camp at Columbus, Ohio. From there he was transferred to the Chicago Invalid Corps, and was finally honorably discharged at Chicago in July, 1865. He then came to Merton Township, Steele County, Minn., where he has since lived. Mr. Lane was married February 21, 1855, to Miss Carrie Chamberlain, a native of Trumbull County, Ohio. She died July 18, 1885, being in her forty-ninth year. Her death was sadly mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives. They had three children: Eva Jane, born December 18, 1855; Arthur W., born December 12, 1859, and Bessie E., born October 23, 1871. The two daughters are at home. Arthur is practicing law at Lincoln, Neb. Dexter Lane is a Republican in politics and has held various local offices, including that of school district treasurer, and is among the most prominent citizens of the township.

Captain Leander H. Lane, who has been referred to, is a native of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, where he was born May 10, 1840. When the Civil War broke out, in the spring of 1861, Mr. Lane enlisted as a private in Company D, Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service until April, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. Step by step he was promoted until when mustered out he had become captain of Company I, Twenty-third Ohio Infantry. After receiving his discharge he came to Steele County, Minn., and located in Merton Township, where he still lives. He now has 500 acres of land, mostly under a good state of cultivation, with good improvements, where he carries on general

farming and stock-raising, devoting considerable attention to blooded stock. In political matters Capt. Lane is a Republican, and has taken an active interest in all political and public matters. He has held various offices of importance, including those of county commissioner, township supervisor, road supervisor, school director and others. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and may justly be termed one of Steele County's most prominent farmers.

P. Lynch became a citizen of Merton Township in 1865. He is a native of Ireland, born March 21, 1836. He came to the United States at an early day, lived for a time in New Jersey and then settled in Lafayette County, Wis., where he was engaged in farming for about eight years. Upon coming here he first located on section 34, but about two years later he removed to section 29, where he now has a splendid farm, and carries on extensive stock-raising and farming, generally keeping from thirty to forty head of cattle. Mr. Lynch was married to Miss Anna Gayner, a native of Ireland. Her people were natives of the same country, who came to America in 1857; the mother died in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Lynch have four children: May Ann, born in 1864; Thomas A., born in 1865; Ally A., born in 1870, and Elizabeth J., born in 1872, all of whom are living at home except May, who married John Malone, now a resident of Berlin Township. Mr. Lynch is a Democrat in political matters. He and his wife are members of the Catholic Church.

George Hunter, a prominent citizen of Merton Township, was born in Canada, on the 15th of April, 1834. At the age of twenty-one he left home to care for himself, and for several years followed farming near Northfield, in Rice County. He then returned to Canada, and for two years was engaged in the lumbering business. His next move—in 1866—was to come to Steele County, Minn., where he has since been

engaged in farming and stock-raising. Mr. Hunter was married on the 18th of December, 1866, to Miss Elizabeth Naylor, a native of England, who was born April 23, 1845. They have had nine children, as follows: Jessie E., born October 8, 1866; George F., born December 13, 1867; James F., born January 2, 1869; David R., born September 9, 1870; Margaret E., born April 28, 1872; William C., born March 2, 1874; Cora M., born November 18, 1876; Emma J., born November 25, 1879, and John E., born August 2, 1884. In political matters Mr. Hunter is a Republican.

Frederick Ribstein was born in Germany July 13, 1821. He came to the United States in 1847, and lived in New York State for about eight years. He then removed to Wisconsin where he lived for a number of years. In 1867 he came to Steele County, Minn., and located on section 3 where he still resides. He now has a large amount of land, fine buildings and is among the most substantial and well-to-do farmers in the township. Mr. Ribstein began life with nothing. At eighteen he left home and after learning the carpenter's trade he worked at that most of the time until he came to Steele County. He was married in August, 1850, to Miss Sophia Smith, a native of Germany, and they have had nine children, as follows: Amelia, born March 2, 1851; Lewis, born April 7, 1853; Frank, born April 14, 1857; Matilda, born April 14, 1855; Edward, born August 28, 1859; Fred, born September 27, 1861; Sophia, born January 5, 1864; Lizzie, born April 27, 1866, and Flora, born November 10, 1868. Two of the children are dead; three are married; one lives in Dakota, and the others are at home. Mr. Ribstein is a Republican in politics, and belongs to the Lutheran Church, with his family. He has been school director for several terms, and is the present school treasurer of his district, an office which he has held for ten years past.

Thomas Williams, one of the most enterprising farmers of the township, is a native of the Isle of Wales, being born in County Radnor, September 5, 1833. His people were natives of the same country. They came to the United States in 1853, and located, in Racine County, Wis. In his father's family there were eight children: John, Mary, Ann, Thomas, Susanna, James, Sarah and Rice. Three of them, Susanna, Ann and Rice, are dead. Thomas Williams came to the United States in the fall of 1849. For a time he lived in Macoupin County, Ill., and was then engaged chiefly at farming in Racine County, Wis., for a period of about twelve years. From there, in 1867, he came to Steele County, Minn., where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock-raising, now having 240 acres of land on section 22, in Merton Township, besides twenty acres of timber land in Medford Township. He is a Republican in politics. On the 23rd of December, 1872, Mr. Williams was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Maw, a native of Wisconsin, born in March, 1851. They had one child, Henry T., born November 21, 1874. Mrs. Williams died July 23, 1876. Her death was a terrible blow to her husband and family, and was mourned by a large circle of friends, as she was beloved by all who knew her.

J. H. Laughlin, another of Merton Township's substantial and prominent citizens, came here in 1867. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born December 14, 1843; but came here from McHenry County, Ill. Since his residence here he has devoted most of his attention to stock-raising and farming, and now has one of the finest farms in Steele County. He was, however, on the road for a time for the Woods Harvester Works. On the 25th of January, 1867, he was married to Miss Katie Conway, a native of St. Louis. They had six children: Edward, George, James, Maggie, Milford and Vinson. In political matters Mr. Laughlin is a

Democrat, and is a member of the Catholic Church.

Philo J. Tuttle was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., April 19, 1821, his parents being natives of Vermont. When he was eighteen months old, his mother died. When eleven he began life on his own account and began work by the month on a farm, following this occupation for a period of nearly fifteen years. He then purchased a farm in his native county and for a number of years tilled it. In 1869 he sold out his interests there and came to Steele County, Minn., and located on section 19, Merton Township. He now has 240 acres of land on that section, besides thirty acres of timber in Clinton Falls Township. He carries on farming and stock-raising extensively. In 1864 Mr. Tuttle enlisted in the Thirty-ninth New York Volunteer Infantry, and participated in a number of skirmishes. In October, 1845, he was married to Miss Thesta Taylor, a native of New York State. She died in 1846, leaving one child, Thesta, which died in 1850. Mr. Tuttle was again married, on September 28, 1848, Miss Abigail Rice becoming his wife. She was born in Vermont but had been raised in the State of New York. They have six living children, as follows: Frederick, Charles, Alice, Stella, Alton and Floy. Alton and Floy are still at home. Fred is clerking in a music store at Sioux City, Iowa. Charles is farming near Flandrau, D. T. Alice married John Burgess, a carpenter at Spearfish, Lawrence County, D. T. Stella married James Gallea, of Clinton Falls Township. Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle have buried four children: Hattie, Florence E., Ernest L. and Eva A. Mr. Tuttle has taken a prominent part in public affairs, and has held various local offices, including those of chairman of the township board, overseer of roads, and school director a number of terms.

George L. Merrill, Esq., was born in New Hampshire, August 7, 1820. He received a classical education, graduating from Dart-

mouth College in 1840. He then began the study of law, and pursued his studies for three or four years; one year with Judge I. Perry, of Concord, N. H.; then for about two years with M. N. Benton, county attorney, at Covington, Ky. After this he was examined by Hon. J. J. Marshall, State judge, and admitted to the bar. He then engaged in practice at Covington for three years, when he removed to Janesville, Wis., where he dealt in real estate and practiced his profession. In the spring of 1854 he removed to Faribault, Minn., where he lived for some fifteen years, engaged in speculating and law practice. Then worn out by an active and eventful life, he located upon his farm on section 5, Merton Township, Minn., where he has since been engaged at farming and stock-raising. Mr. Merrill was married November 16, 1847, to Miss Mary Young, a native of Alexandria, N. H., born January 1, 1827. They have had eight children, only three of whom are still living. They were as follows: James C. (deceased), born July 17, 1849; Caroline, (deceased), born March 17, 1851; Ann, born April 30, 1853; George L., born March 25, 1856; John E. (deceased), born August 13, 1858; Mary F. (deceased), born January 21, 1861; James J. (deceased), August 21, 1863, and Charles L., born September 18, 1865. Mr. Merrill is a Democrat in politics but has not taken an active part in political affairs, that of justice of the peace being the only office he has held since coming here. The family attends the Methodist Church.

Anders M. Hansen is a native of Denmark, born April 3, 1845. At the age of fourteen he began life for himself. He learned the cooper's trade and followed that, at odd times being engaged at farming for a number of years. In March, 1864, he settled in Illinois, and a few months later went to Wisconsin where he was engaged in farming. In 1869 he came to Steele County, Minn., and purchased eighty acres of land on section 34, Merton Township. He farmed this

for about five years and a half, then rented it and moved to Owatonna, where for six years he was engaged in the machinery business. He then returned to his place, where he has since been engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has a fine brick residence, splendid outbuildings and one of the best farms in Steele County. On the 11th of January, 1867, Mr. Hansen was married to Miss Anna K. Hansen, a native of Denmark. They have had four children, as follows: Molizzie F. (deceased), born May 3, 1868; Herman, born September 16, 1869; Ange Margareta, born April 10, 1872, and Emma Patrina, born May 12, 1874. Mr. Hansen is a Republican in politics. He was elected pathmaster in 1882 and held the office for two years; in 1885 was elected clerk of school district No. 80. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen are members of the Lutheran Church in Havanna, of which Mr. Hansen has been one of the trustees.

Benjamin M. Northup was born in the State of New York, April 13, 1850. At the age of seventeen he began life for himself, and for about two years worked in a barrel factory. He then was engaged for two years at farming in Rice County, Minn., after which he came to Merton Township, Steele County, and located on section 6. A year later he again resumed farming in Rice County. He was then engaged in the mill business at Dundas for two years, after which he again became a resident of Merton Township, purchasing the northwest quarter of section 3, of Hudson Wilson, of Fari-

bault. He now has a well improved farm, and carries on general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Northup was married June 16, 1870, to Miss Anna C. Edsall, a native of Waushara County, Wis. They have three children: Benjamin Edsall, born May 30, 1872; Ismay Temperance, born October 31, 1876, and Arthur Truman, born July 11, 1878; all of whom are living at home. Mr. Northup is a Republican in politics; in 1884 he was elected clerk of school district No. 41, and still holds the office. The family attends the Methodist Episcopal Church.

George W. Strong, deceased, was born March 23, 1822. He came to Steele County, Minn., in 1856 and located in the township of Medford. Nine years later he came to Merton Township. His death occurred at Medford, March 27, 1881. He was a Republican in politics and was well and favorably known throughout this portion of the county. Mr. Strong was married July 4, 1853, to Miss Helen E. Thompson, a native of Monroe County, Mich., who survives him. She has nine living children, as follows: Avelys Z., born April 31, 1855; Helen R. born July 4, 1858; Mary I., born July 23, 1860; George E., born June 7, 1862; William O., born July 6, 1864; Kitsy J., born January 23, 1866; Fred A., born July 21, 1868; Fannie E., born February 1, 1871; Frankie E., born May 28, 1873, and Minnie E., born March 16, 1876. Three girls and one boy are living at home. In 1882 Mrs. Strong moved to section 18, Merton Township, where she still lives.

CHAPTER XX.

MEDFORD TOWNSHIP.



THIS is one of the smallest townships in the county, containing only eighteen sections of land, the north half of township 108, range 20. It is bounded on the north by Rice County; on the east by Merton Township; on the south by Clinton Falls, and on the west by Deerfield. The Straight River passes through the township, just west of the center, on its way northward, and several tributary creeks join it in this township. About one-half of the surface of the township is covered

with timber, nearly all of the land on the east side of the river being covered with a heavy growth of fine timber for lumber or fuel. A good many fine farms have been cleared in the timber, and the prairie lands are dotted with the fine buildings of the many thrifty farmers who have settled there. The soil of the timber land is of a black sandy loam, very deep, with a clay subsoil, adapted to all kinds of cereals or vegetables. On the west side of the river the soil is of a lighter loam, but is also very productive.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement within the present limits of Steele County was made in Medford Township. The first claims were made in the summer of 1853, by A. L. Wright, Chauncey Lull, Smith and Orlando Johnson, and L. M. Howard, who staked off claims, and in September Mr. Howard turned over

the first sod in what is now Steele County. The Messrs. Johnson commenced breaking on their claims that fall, but did not build their house nor remove their families to this place until the following spring.

A. L. Wright took a claim on what afterward became section 5, in Medford Township, and then returned to St. Paul. In September of the same year he hired a team and came back, accompanied by Chauncey Lull, and then erected a cabin on the claim. This was undoubtedly the first house put up within the limits of the county. In this cabin Messrs. Wright and Lull spent the winter, keeping "batch." There were no other whites in the county; but a band of Indians were in winter-quarters within 160 rods of the cabin. This was the extent of the settlement during the year 1853.

During the year 1854 a number of additions were made to the settlement. Those who came were: W. W. Wilkins, William Allen, John Sanborn, William K. Colling, Edwin Drake, Orlando Bartholomew and David Sanborn.

William Allen settled on section 10. He remained there for nearly twenty years, then removed to St. Paul, and has since gone to the Pacific coast.

John Sanborn came with his family early in the spring of 1854 and located on section 16, Mrs. Sanborn, it is claimed, being the first white woman resident of the county. Mr. Sanborn remained for about fourteen years and finally removed to Missouri, where he has since died.

William K. Colling was an Englishman. He located and selected government land, building a house near where the elevator now stands in the village of Medford. He remained here for seven or eight years and finally returned to England.

Edwin Drake located upon what was afterward a portion of the village plat, where he lived until the time of his death, which occurred in 1886.

Sylvester Gillman, in April of this year (1854), settled upon section 33 of Walcott Township, Rice County, just over the county line, where he lived for over twenty years.

Orlando Bartholomew made a claim on section 8. He remained here until the time of his death in 1878.

David Sanborn came this year, but first located in what is now the town of Clinton Falls. About fifteen years later he settled in Medford, finally removing to Owatonna, where he died in March, 1885.

In 1855 the settlement continued rapidly. The following were the arrivals during that year: G. O. Hankerson, Isaac and Jacob Heath, S. M. Freeman, A. Ring, L. Muekey, William Reynolds, Charles Jones, Joel Pound, F. B. Davis, J. Shaw, George Strong, Benjamin Freeman, James McDonald, Chas. Jones, A. L. Kinyon, Mr. Cotton, Robert McDonald, Charles Strong and Luther Lane.

Biographical sketches of many of these pioneers will be found in another department of this work.

Lorenzo Muekey settled on section 14, where he remained until 1885, when he sold out and removed to Montana.

William Reynolds located on section 11 and remained here or about sixteen years, when he removed to St. Paul, then to Alma City, and finally settled in Owatonna, where he still lives.

Charles Jones made his home on section 10. After living there until 1883, he removed to the Mouse River country, in Dakota.

Joel Pound selected his piece of land on

section 11, and remained there until the time of his death in 1865.

F. B. Davis also located on section 12. After a residence of some fifteen years here, he removed to Meriden, and from there has gone to Watertown, Dakota.

J. Shaw settled upon a claim on section 12. When the war broke out he enlisted and remained in the service until death cut him off in 1864.

George Strong selected a claim on section 11, and remained there for nearly twenty years, when he removed to Merton. Later he returned to Medford Township, and died there in March, 1880.

S. M. Freeman first settled on section 13, and remained there some ten years. In the meantime when the war broke out he enlisted in the Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged in 1864. After coming back he farmed it one season, and then moved to Medford.

James McDonald located on section 12. About ten years later he sold to J. Pike and removed to Merton Township. He is now dead.

Charles Jones settled on section 10. He remained there for about twenty years, then sold his place and rented farms until 1883, when he removed to the Mouse River country, in Dakota.

A. L. Kinyon settled to section 2. A few years later he sold and went to Iowa.

Mr. Cotton selected a claim in the northern part of the town, but only remained a few years.

Robert McDonald lived with his brother on section 12. He is now in Merton Township.

Charles Strong took a claim on section 14.

Luther Lane settled on section 4, remained there till 1880, and then located in Medford village.

In 1856 the settlement was again increased by a large number of arrivals, and about all the remaining Government land was taken. Among those who came this

year were: Samuel Ring, Wm. Robinson, W. N. Abbott, W. L. Abbott, Joseph Jawyer, Zacharias Scribner, Charles Scribner, Benjamin Livingstone, B. F. Melvin, W. P. Bissell, R. G. Lincoln and Richard and Chaney Carpenter.

Samuel Ring settled on section 12 and remained there until the time of his death in 1885.

The Richardsons located on section 1.

W. N. and M. L. Abbott settled on section 9. W. N. remained there until the spring of 1887, when he moved to Lincoln, Neb. M. L. Abbott remained here until the fall of 1869, when he removed to Tennessee, where he still lives.

Joseph Sawyer first located on section 17. He died at Owatonna in August, 1886.

Zacharias Scribner located on sections 8 and 9, and lived there until 1863, when he moved to Faribault, and in 1866 to Waterville, Minn. Charles Scribner remained here until the time of his death in 1867. His widow afterward married H. B. Morrison and now lives at Britt, Iowa.

Benjamin Livingston remained here until 1866, when he went to Faribault.

B. F. Melvin settled on section 9. He was later elected county treasurer and removed to Owatonna where he remained until the time of his death in 1880.

W. P. Bissell located on section 9. He is still a resident of the township.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first house in the township was that erected by A. L. Wright and Chauncey Lull in the fall of 1853.

The first birth in the township was that of William Colling, a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Colling.

The first marriage of residents of the township was that of A. L. Wright and Miss Phoebe Hayes. The ceremony was performed in Rice County.

The first death was that of William Wohlford, which occurred July 29, 1859. The re-

mains were buried in what is now known as Wolcott and Medford Union cemetery.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized, August 1, 1855, all the territory in the west two-thirds of the county was organized as Owatonna Township, which included what is now Medford. On the 25th of the same month, however, Medford Township was created by the board of county commissioners and then included what is now known as Medford, Clinton Falls and Deerfield Townships. It was ordered that the first town meeting be held at the house of William Colling, and F. F. Adams, Orlando Bartholomew and William Allen were appointed judges of the first election. On the 7th of April, 1856, the records state that Franklin Township was organized of township 108, range 19, and the east half of township 108, range 20,—which would take of the east half of what is now Medford and Clinton Falls Township. Many of the old settlers claim that this is a mistake, yet it so appears in the records of the board of county commissioners. On the 6th of April, 1857, a change of boundaries was made, and Medford was made to include the territory now forming Medford and Clinton Falls Township. Thus it remained until April 6, 1858, when Clinton Falls Township was set off, leaving the boundaries of Medford Township as they still remain. The organization of the township as it is now formed was not fully perfected until the 11th of May, 1858, when a complete list of township officers was elected as follows: F. B. Davis, J. D. Sanborn and O. Bartholomew, supervisors; A. O. Francis, clerk; W. P. Francis, assessor; Edwin Drake, treasurer; E. Sanborn, overseer of the poor; K. Prescott and Joel L. Pound, justices of the peace.

Among others who were prominent in township affairs in early days and who held leading offices were: B. F. Melvin, W. F. Lewis, Orrin Lee, W. P. Bissell, W. W. Wilkins, R. Miles and Charles Pomeroy.

The following are the present township officers of Medford, elected March 8, 1887: N. Webb, Charles Gardner and E. P. Ring, supervisors; M. Skinner, clerk; W. A. Bailey, treasurer; L. R. Barlow, assessor; Orrin Lee and G. H. Butler, justices of the peace; G. F. Johnson, and S. Curtis, constables.

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

In 1862 the report of the town treasurer, as to the liabilities of the town was as follows: "The town owes not one dollar that we know of and there remains in the hands of the treasurer a balance of \$218.68."

In 1863 a special town meeting was called to vote on the proposition to purchase the schoolhouse on the west side of the river for a "town hall," but the project failed, and in 1867 the building was bought by the Free Will Baptist Society and removed to the east side of the river and fitted up for a church, which by arrangement with other denominations was afterward used as a union church.

In 1862, at the time of the Indian massacres on the frontier, the people of Medford became somewhat excited in regard to their own safety and the town appropriated \$5 to purchase powder. For some time pickets were stationed about the town, but as the Indians never came the powder was finally burned to celebrate the fall of Richmond or the capture of Jeff Davis.

In 1866 the spring floods carried away the bridge across the river, and in May a special town meeting was held to authorize an appropriation to build a new one. A majority decided in favor of the project and a com-

mittee consisting of Smith Johnson, L. M. Howard, George Hankerson, W. W. Wilkins and Alfred Sanborn, was appointed to select a location that would be the most favorable and best accommodate the people. The committee selected a point about forty rods above the old site. The report of the committee was adopted and an appropriation of \$1,500 made to pay the cost; the county appropriating \$1,000, made a total of \$2,500. Another special meeting was held a short time later and the former location annulled, and it was decided to build upon the old site. On motion of Smith Johnson, \$500 was added to the fund. The contract was let to Mr. Alden, who commenced the work, but as he failed to go through with it the town board finished it. Another special meeting was held in July to add \$650 to the bridge fund, and as this was not sufficient \$500 more was appropriated in November following, making a total of \$4,150, when a fine bridge was completed.

VARIOUS MATTERS.

The first schoolhouse at Medford was erected in 1856 near where the highway crosses the railroad south of town. The district was then known as the Sanborn school district. The building was moved into town in the spring of 1859.

The second schoolhouse built in the township was a frame building erected in the fall of 1856, on the west side of the river. It was used for school purposes for about ten years; was finally moved into the village and is now occupied as a dwelling by G. C. Moon. The first teacher in this building was George Lincoln.

The present school building in Medford village was erected in 1867, at a cost of about \$2,500. It is a neat and substantial building.

School district No. 5 was organized in 1855, and the schoolhouse was erected during the following year. It was a frame building which is still standing, and cost about

\$500. This was the first frame school building in the county. The first school in this district was taught by Loduskey Wilkins, in an old claim shanty, which belonged to W. W. Wilkins. The present teacher in this district is Miss Vina Close. Religious services were held here as early as 1854. William Colling, a man of real practical piety, though not an ordained minister, frequently gathered his neighbors together and explained the Scriptures. Bishop Whipple held services at Mr. Colling's house in 1857, when a child was christened.

The Walcott and Medford Union cemetery was first used for burial purposes in 1855, but was not platted until about the close of the war.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Hon. W. W. Wilkins was one of the earliest settlers in Steele County, and is to-day among the most prominent citizens in this part of the State. He is a native of Vermont, born August 21, 1833, his parents being Kendall and Polley (Lafin) Wilkins. W. W. Wilkins was first married in 1856 to Miss Mary E. Johnson, a daughter of Smith Johnson, one of the most prominent figures in the early history of the county. They had two children, Mary E., and Florence E. Mary E. was married November 19, 1885, to W. C. Kern, and now lives in Dakota. Florence is still at home. Mrs. Wilkins died July 21, 1867; and in February, 1874, Mr. Wilkins married Miss Marilla Idell. Mr. Wilkins came to Steele County, Minn., in 1854, selecting a piece of government land in what has since become Medford Township, in October of that year. He has since lived here, taking an active interest in all matters regarding his town or county. Liberal and enterprising, every move brought to his notice which was calculated to benefit his locality or county, has received his hearty support, and his name is indissolubly connected with the growth and development of this portion of the State. In political matters he has taken an active

part, and besides offices of great importance has filled innumerable positions of a local nature. In the fall of 1872 he was elected a member of the lower house of the Legislature; in 1873 he was re-elected, and in the fall of 1878 was elected to represent his district in the State Senate. These were important sessions, and that Mr. Wilkins made an influential representative is attested by many flattering press notices of that time. He served upon a number of important committees, and made a record creditable to himself and satisfactory to his constituents. Since his official term expired he has devoted his time wholly to his farming and stock-raising interests, which are extensive. A portrait of Mr. Wilkins very appropriately appears in this volume.

George O. Hankerson is another of Steele County's representative men. He is a native of Kennebec County, Me.; a son of George and Celia Ann (Atkins) Hankerson. George O. came to Steele County, Minn., in June, 1855, and selected a government claim on section 14, in the township of Medford. His wife came in October of the same year. Mr. Hankerson has since lived upon his original claim. He now has one of the finest farms in Steele County, embracing 350 acres, 150 of which is under cultivation. He also devotes considerable attention to stock-raising. Mr. Hankerson was married in Kennebec County, Me., in October, 1854, to Miss Eliza Ann Barker. They have had four children, as follows: George William, born in January, 1856; Alice L., born in February, 1858; John Frank (deceased), born November 1, 1861 (died February 7, 1872), and Charles F., born in December, 1863. George William, who lives in Medford Township, was married July 6, 1881, to Eliza Ann Gallea, who died May 5, 1887. Alice L. was married in March, 1885, to George Flinn, a resident of section 11, Medford Township. Charles F. is still at home. Mr. Hankerson has been a leading man in township and county affairs. He has filled

a great many local offices. In the fall of 1871 he was elected a member of the board of county commissioners and served through 1872-3-4.

Isaac Heath is a native of New Hampshire, born November 13, 1810. He lived with his parents, David and Tabothy (Clifford) Heath, until twenty years of age when he went to the State of Maine, where he lived for twenty-five years. He then, with a company of fourteen, started West and on April 14, 1855, arrived in Steele County. Mr. Heath selected government land on section 10, in Medford Township, where he has lived ever since. He was married in August, 1836, to Miss Mary Clifford. They had a family of ten children, three of whom are now living: Isaac P., a resident of Grafton, D. T.; John A., a resident of Dodge County, Minn., and George, who still lives at home and superintends the farm.

Samuel Ring was one of the pioneers of Steele County. He came to Medford Township in 1856 from Kennebec County, Me., and located upon a claim which had been selected by his oldest son, Abner, in 1855. Mr. Ring remained upon the farm until the time of his death. He came to Minnesota with a family of seven children: Abner, Sarah, Nathaniel, Eugene, Eumagene, Joseph and Eliza, five of whom are still residents of the county.

Eugene Ring was born in Maine in 1840, and was, therefore, sixteen years of age when he came to Steele County with his father. When the war broke out he enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, under Col. J. H. Baker, and in the summer of 1863 went with Gen. Sibley's Northern Expedition as far as where Bismarek, D. T., is now located. In the fall he returned and joined the regular army and went South, participating in the battles of Tupello, Miss., Nashville, Spanish Fort and others. He received an honorable discharge at Fort Snelling in 1865. In the fall of 1868 he settled upon his present place on

section 18, Medford Township, where he has since lived. He was married in the fall of 1868 to Miss Sophronia Compton, who died in 1871. In the fall of 1872 he was married to Flora Shear. There are seven children in the family: Sarah E., Albert C., May E., Flora, John, Alice and Fred.

Joseph Ring, who still lives on the old homestead, is a native of Maine. He came to Steele County in the summer of 1856, with his father, Samuel Ring, being then only six years old. He was married October 17, 1872, to Miss Clara R. McNitt. They have four children: Merritt M., born March 27, 1875; Randall O., born June 12, 1877; Hiram W., born October 8, 1881, and Arthur S., born August 9, 1884.

William Hayes was born in Essex County, N. Y., January 15, 1841, and came West with his father's family in 1856. His parents were Chester and Elizabeth (Sanders) Hayes. Chester Hayes came to Steele County, Minn., and settled government land on section 16, in Medford Township, where he lived until the time of his death in the fall of 1882. Mrs. Hayes' death occurred in 1879. Their family consisted of the following named: Cornelius, Sanford A., James, William, Phebe A., Doreas and Maria. Cornelius never came West. Sanford and James are dead. Phebe married A. L. Wright. Doreas married Avery Kinney, and lives in Dakota; Maria married C. A. Harris, of Dakota. William Hayes has lived on the old homestead ever since coming to Minnesota. He was married April 16, 1862, to Miss Lucy Anna Jeffrey. They have three children: Chester, Leonard and Lizzie.

D. T. Eastman spent his early days at Clinton, Kennebec County, Me., with his parents, Henry and Lydia Eastman. D. T. Eastman remained in Maine until 1856, when he started west, arriving in Medford Township on the 16th of October. He selected government land on section 7 and remained on it a few years. In the spring of 1857 he started a brickyard about one mile east of

where the village of Medford is now located and manufactured the first brick made in Steele County. The enterprise did not prove satisfactory, as he sustained heavy losses by fire, but with the energy characteristic in those days he tried again, and, in the following spring, established another yard at Geneva. Mr. Eastman has remained in the county ever since his first settlement, having purchased his present farm, on section 17, in 1882. Mr. Eastman was first married before he came west, to Miss Charlotte R. Thomas, who died in May, 1856, leaving one child, Aliston L., who is now married and living at Faribault, Minn. On the 11th of October, 1857, Mr. Eastman was married to Miss Hannah J. Fowler, who came to Medford at an early day with her father's family. They were blessed with three children: Orient N., George and Edward M.

H. C. Gillman, deceased, was one of the pioneers of Steele County. He came here in 1856 and claimed government land in the timber, but did not build upon it. The following year he purchased the homestead where he lived until his death, which occurred March 20, 1882, and his family still occupy the place. Mr. Gillman was an active and prominent factor in the affairs of the township, and was one of Steele County's most substantial citizens. He left a wife and three children to mourn his loss. He was married November 18, 1858, to Miss Jane Babcock. They had three children: Carrie, William, and Fred. Carrie married Charles Headline, January 1, 1884, and lives in Warsaw, Minn. William and Fred are still at home assisting their mother on the farm.

W. H. Miner came to Steele County in October, 1863, from East Randolph, Columbia County, Wis., and bought his present farm on section 17, Medford Township, where he has since lived. He is a native of St. Lawrence County, N. Y., born May 25, 1843. He went to Wisconsin with his parents when about nine years old. He started in life for himself when but eighteen

years old, and followed farming in Wisconsin until he came to Minnesota. He was married to Miss Mary K. Wohlford December 30, 1869. They have one child, George H., born in 1870, who is at home with his parents.

Merritt Webb is a native of Jefferson County, N. Y., born March 21, 1829. His parents were James and Wealthy (Hutchinson) Webb, natives of Massachusetts. They removed to New York at an early day, and in 1849 settled in Sheboygan County, Wis. Merritt remained with his parents until twenty years of age, striking out in life for himself in Wisconsin. He followed farming in that State for fifteen years, then came to Minnesota, and lived in Wabasha County one year, after which for two years he lived in Meriden Township, Steele County. He then purchased his present farm from John Sanborn, who had "claimed" it in 1854. Mr. Webb was married April 17, 1849, to Miss Mary C. Putnam, who was born December 30, 1831, her grandfather being a son of General Putnam, of Revolutionary fame. They have five living children: Frank C., born November 27, 1850; Charles N., born February 8, 1855; Edmund E., born March 22, 1859; Mary A., born September 29, 1863, and Eva May, born January 16, 1870. Frank C. lives in Owatonna; Charles N. and Edmund E., in Watonwan County, Minn.; Mary A. married Homer Demick, of Owatonna; Eva May is still at home.

William Gibson is a native of Granville County, Canada, and a son of George and Jane Gibson. William lived with them until thirty years of age. He came to Steele County, Minn., in 1865, and rented farms in Medford Township until 1875, when he purchased his present farm, which consists of 120 acres on section 10, where he still lives. He was married March 7, 1870, to Miss Mary Hunter, and they have had six children as follows: Jane, William, Mary, Margaret, Barbra and George.

Alex. McDonald is a native of Canada

West, where he was born in 1831. He came to Steele County in 1866 and located on section 2, in Medford Township, where he has since lived, carrying on general farming and stock-raising.

John Hamilton is a native of Scotland, born March 20, 1821. When eight years of age he came to the United States with his parents, Gavin and Isabel (Douglas) Hamilton. They settled in Oswego County, N. Y., where the father died two years later, and the mother eighteen years later. John Hamilton lived with his mother until the time of her death, when he went to California, remaining for a short time and then returned to New York State. He was then for three years engaged in lumbering. Removing to Wisconsin he was there engaged in farming for about nine years. He then located in Goodhue County, Minn., where he remained two years, and, in the spring of 1868, came to Medford Township, Steele County, where he has since lived. He commenced building on his present place in 1883. He owns, however, a number of farms which he rents. Mr. Hamilton is a single man, and has but two relatives in America, a Mrs. Wilson, in New York State, and a Mrs. Dudley, in Iowa, both being nieces of his. He is a Republican, but does not take much interest in political matters.

J. S. Cory was born in Wisconsin, March 24, 1848. His parents, Mr. J. H. and Mrs. M. J. (Palmerton) Cory, came to Steele County, Minn., in June, 1868, and settled upon the farm originally taken by A. L. Wright. J. H. Cory lived there until the time of his death, January 1, 1872, and his widow now lives in Medford Village. J. S. Cory has lived upon the place ever since he came to the county. He was married March 27, 1872, to Miss Jennie A. Bloss, a native of Iowa. They have five children: Jessie G., Jennie E., James E., George H. and Merton E. Mr. Cory's farm consists of 193 acres of land, 100 of which is under cultivation.

Stewart Warren is a native of the town of Wholford, West Canada, born April 6, 1845.

His parents were Matthew and Mary (Ervin) Warren. Stewart remained at home, helping his father on the farm until twenty-one years of age, and then went to New York State, remaining two years. He then came to Steele County, Minn., arriving here March 3, 1869, and has since been a resident of the county. He purchased his present farm on section 10, Medford Township, in 1875, and has since devoted his attention chiefly to bee culture, which he carries on extensively. Mr. Warren was married March 5, 1875, to Miss Cora Heath. There are three children: Nellie C. (adopted); Bertha M., born February 22, 1883, and Jennie M., born March 16, 1885.

D. A. McKinlay was born September 29, 1855; he came to Steele County, Minn., March 30, 1875, and purchased his present farm on section 18, Medford Township. He was married September 24, 1884, to Miss Jennie Daniels of Waseca County. Mr. McKinlay's parents were natives of Scotland. They came to America in 1851, and located in the State of New York. In 1880 they came to Steele County, Minn., and are now residents of the village of Medford.

D. Boynton is one of the pioneers of Blue Earth County, Minn., having located there in 1857, when the settlers were "few and far between." He is a native of Lower Canada, his parents being David and Betsy (Vinton) Boynton. When twenty years old he went to Vermont and remained two years at work in the woolen mills. He then lived in Wisconsin for four years, when he came still farther west and located in Blue Earth County, taking up government land in the town of Mapleton. He lived upon his original homestead for eighteen years, except while he was in the army. In July, 1864, he enlisted in Company B, Fifth Minnesota, and served a year and a half, participating in the battles of Nashville, Montgomery and others, and received an honorable discharge in the fall of 1865, at Des Plaines, Ala. He then returned to his home in Blue



W. W. Wilkins

Earth County. Later he sold his farm and moved to Clinton Falls, where he lived for two years. He then settled in Medford Village and from there moved to his present farm on section 4 in the town of Medford. Mr. Boynton was first married at Manchester, N. H., in 1852, to Miss Julia A. Hancock, a native of Vermont. They had three children: George, Walter and Ellen. George is an artist in New York City; Walter has a farm in Medford Township, and Ellen married S. Freeman, present postmaster at Medford Village. Mrs. Boynton died at Lowell, Mass., in March, 1864. Mr. Boynton was again married, his second wife being Mrs. Sarah F. Parsons. Their union was blessed with three children: Charles S., Ada A. and Bessie E., all of whom are living at home.

G. B. Hosfield, another prominent citizen of the town of Medford, is a native of New York State. When seventeen years old he started in life for himself and came west to Waupaca County, Wis., where he remained for a year. In August, 1863, he enlisted in Company A, Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, under Col. Murphy, and participated in a number of important battles, among which were those of Nashville and Mobile. He was honorably discharged at Madison, Wis., in September, 1865. On the 17th of November, 1866, he landed in Minnesota. Later he located at Faribault, where he remained until March, 1871, when he came to Steele County, and located on section 4, town of Medford, where he still lives. He was married in January, 1870, to Miss Mary M. Cabot, a native of New York. They have had seven children, as follows: Harriet J., Cora L., George F., Alton C., Ralph G., William and Delos.

The Village of Medford

is located on sections 8 and 9, in a beautiful valley through which flows the Straight River. The village was laid out in 1856, on land which had been entered as government

land by Smith Johnson in 1853. The site was surveyed and platted by Rev. O. A. Thomas, for the proprietor, Smith Johnson Sr. At a meeting of the settlers to consult upon a name wherewith to christen the town, Mr. Colling said that he had a son who was born on board the ship Medford, and was named Medford in honor of the ship, and proposed that the town should be named Medford in honor of the boy, which proposition was unanimously adopted. The post-office at Medford was established in the fall of 1855, with Smith Johnson Sr., as the first postmaster. This was the first postoffice established in what is now Steele County. The office was then kept at Mr. Johnson's residence, and he retained the position until the time of his death in 1860. Succeeding him in turn came the following postmasters: Edwin Drake, Albert McKinney, D. C. Hunkins, E. T. Howard, Orlando Johnson, L. S. Fowler, John Bailey and S. M. Freeman. The last named is the present postmaster. The first frame house erected in Medford Village was commenced by Mr. Kinyon, and completed in 1856 by Smith Johnson. It was run as a hotel until about 1867 by A. Stebbins. The building is still standing, now being occupied by John Barney. In 1856 the Abbott Brothers put up a steam sawmill and set it in operation and it furnished most of the lumber for this section of the country. The mill was removed after running a year or two. The same year Messrs. Melvin, Rideout & Hall erected a fine steam sawmill a short distance below the village site. It continued in active operation until about 1860, when it was burned to the ground and has never been rebuilt.

The first store in the village was started in the summer of 1856 by Albert McKinney, on the corner opposite the old hotel. He continued it until July, 1857, when it was rented by W. P. Francis & Co., who put in what was considered a heavy stock of goods in those days. They ran the store for a year or two and then exchanged it for real estate.

In the fall of 1858 Messrs. Sulley & Francis established a paper here, called the *Medford Valley Argus*, removing the material from Owatonna. The publication of the paper was discontinued within a year. Mention of this is made in the general chapters of this work.

In the fall of 1867 an extensive gristmill was erected here by E. T. Howard. It was a valuable acquisition to this part of the county. It had a capacity of 150 barrels a day. Mr. Howard ran it for several years, and was succeeded by White & Baynon, and then Baynon & Mace. In September, 1880, the mill was destroyed by fire and the owners did not rebuild.

In the spring of 1873 Howard & Johnson erected a cheese factory, which is still in successful operation by Orlando Johnson. It now has a capacity for the manufacture of 900 pounds daily during the season, and is among the most important industries in the northern part of the county. The size of the building is 30x50 feet, with 20-foot posts. The cost of building and machinery was about \$2,000.

In July, 1866, the first train of cars was run through the village, on what has since become the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

The Methodist Church in the village was erected in 1875.

The Congregational Church was erected in 1863-4.

The present business of Medford is carried on by the following named gentlemen and firms: Postmaster, S. M. Freeman; general merchandise, John Baily & Sons; hardware, A. F. Baily; drugs, Ira D. Beeman; cheese factory, Orlando Johnson; groceries, S. Gillman, Capt. Heath and B. Smith; lumber, Bissell & Hamilton; blacksmiths, Daniel McKinlev, Michael Cochran and S. W. Godfrey; wagon shop, F. Douglas; harness maker, W. H. Swinton.

On the 20th day of December, 1883, a destructive fire occurred in Medford Village,

destroying five stores and a doctor's office. The losses were reported to the country papers as follows: Capt. Heath, building and pool table, loss \$1,000; G. H. Butler, stock, loss \$550, insurance \$400; A. B. Bryant, drug store, loss \$800, insurance \$600; J. F. Curtis, drug store, loss \$1,500, insurance \$1,000; O. Lee, meat-market, barber shop, doctor's office, store and hall, loss \$2,800 insurance \$1,350; John Baily's loss was about \$1,000 on store.

A Congregational society was organized at a meeting held at Clinton Falls, on the 13th of September, 1856. Rev. O. A. Thomas was chosen moderator and secretary. The following named were present: Nathan and Phoebe Williamson, Minerva Finch, Helen M. Finch, Avery Adams, Emma T. Adams, David Sanborn, Joseph Sawyer, Anna C. Sawyer and Zachariah Scribner. At a meeting held in Clinton Falls on April 10, 1857, S. C. Williamson and Zachariah Scribner were appointed as a committee to hire a minister, and instructed to engage Rev. O. A. Thomas to preach at Medford and Clinton Falls, as the organization embraced both points. This plan was carried out and Nathan Williamson, of Clinton, and Joseph Sawyer, of Medford, were selected as deacons. In 1864 a church was erected at Medford which was dedicated February 18, 1864. The following have served as pastors of this church: O. A. Thomas, C. L. Tappan, John J. Gridley, D. H. Rogan, Dr. Aiken, Edward Brown, Samuel W. Powell, John Powell, A. Graves, D. Stover, C. W. Bird and W. L. Sutherland. The last named is the present pastor.

SKETCHES OF PROMINENT CITIZENS OF THE VILLAGE.

A. L. Wright, son of Daniel and Nancy (Walker) Wright, was born in Franklin County, Mass., March 1, 1828. When ten years of age he started in life for himself, and was engaged at farming for other parties until he was sixteen years of age. He

then entered a boot and shoe store and remained in this for about seven years, when he went to North Hampton, in the same State, and there engaged in the marble trade, which he followed for two years. Then, getting the western fever, he started for Minnesota, landing in St. Paul May 3, 1853. The following August he came to Steele County and made a claim on section 5 of what is now Medford Township. Shortly after this he returned to St. Paul, and in September hired a team in company with Chauncey Lull and returned to his claim. They then erected a cabin, which was the first house erected in the county. After all was finished they again returned to St. Paul and in November of the same year they came back to stay, keeping "bachelor's hall" all winter, their only neighbors being a band of Indians who were in winter's camp about 160 rods from their house. The first plowing in Steele County was done by Mr. Wright in May, 1854, and the first crop consisted of corn and potatoes. On this claim Mr. Wright remained until 1862, when he moved to Cañon City, Rice County, and there passed twenty-two years: then sold all his interests there, and returned to Steele County, locating in Medford Township, on the farm he now holds. March 22, 1855, he was united in marriage to Phœbe Hayes. They have had born to them five children: Willard, Wallace, George, Nettie and Fred. Wallace is married and lives in Medford; Nettie is now Mrs. Henry S. Turner, of Canon City, Rice County, Minn.

Orlando Johnson, one of the substantial citizens of this part of the county, was one of the first settlers in Medford Township. He is a native of Chenango County, N. Y., born in 1831, his parents being Smith and Elizabeth (Carpenter) Johnson. When twenty years old, Orlando went to Wisconsin, and a short time later to Kingsbury Grove, Whiteside County, Ill., where he taught school during the winter of 1851. In the spring of 1852 he went to St. Paul, Minn.,

and a short time later to Faribault. In the summer of 1853 he came with a party of first settlers to what is now Steele County and took a claim for his father, Smith Johnson Sr., on the present site of Medford Village. In 1854 he turned the claim over to his father. He was here "off and on" until 1855, but his home was at Faribault. In 1853 he had bought a claim at Faribault, and in company with Mark Wells erected a cabin. In the summer of 1855 he went to California, where he was engaged in mining and lumbering. In 1861 he enlisted in the First California Volunteer Infantry, which remained in camp at Los Angeles, Cal., during the winter of 1861-2. In the spring they crossed the California desert, reaching the Rio Grande at Fort Thorn. Going down the river they were stationed at Franklin (now El Paso), Tex. The remainder of his service was passed at Santa Fé and Fort Union. During the time he was in Mexico his duty consisted chiefly in gathering Indians on the reservation, and his last act was to so station 113 red-skins. He was honorably discharged at Fort Union, N. M., returned to Medford, Minn., in October, 1864, and settled on the farm now owned by John Hamilton. In 1870 he left the farm and engaged in the general mercantile trade for a short time. In the spring of 1873 he erected the cheese factory which he still carries on, doing an extensive business. Mr. Johnson was married November 1, 1865, to Miss Olive E. Hullett. They have three children: Rollin E., Luke H. and Lloyd B.

Smith Johnson is also among the most prominent and influential citizens in the northern part of the county. He is one of the oldest settlers and has been very prominent in all matters affecting either town or county. We regret that owing to Mr. Johnson's absence from the county during the compilation of this volume we are prevented from presenting a full biography of him.

W. P. Francis, whose first settlement in Steele County dates July 4, 1857, is a native

of Wyoming County, N. Y., where he was born May 18, 1827. His parents, Alfred and Nancy (Deming) Francis, remained in the Empire State until 1845, when they moved to Wisconsin and located in Walworth County, later moved to Rock County, where Mr. Francis Sr. died in 1856. In June, 1857, W. P. Francis, in company with his brother A. B., his sister Ellen M., and James Dremer and family (a brother-in-law) started for Steele County, Minn., arriving July 4, 1857, as stated. Their conveyance was a novel affair: a covered wagon with a box 8 feet wide and 16 feet long—a small house on wheels. In this they had a stove, table, and all necessary utensils to make it convenient. The trip consumed three weeks. Upon the arrival of the little party, Mr. Francis entered the mercantile trade, which he carried on for some time, then went to farming, and has followed this ever since. Mr. Francis on the 2d of July, 1863, was united in marriage to Miss Celia Fredenburg. They are the parents of two children, Anna F., and May A. Mr. Francis has always taken an active part in town and county politics. Has served two terms as county commissioner, and was one of the first elected under that system.

W. P. Bissell is a son of Albert and Adeline (Bishop) Bissell. He is a native of Connecticut, and in this State received his early education. At the age of fourteen years he started for himself, entering a store as salesman at Hartford, which position he held for two years; after which he went to Farmington, where he remained about two years. The western fever then seizing him, he started for Minnesota, arriving at Medford in November, 1856. Here he worked by the month until the war broke out, when in August, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, under Col. J. H. Baker. During the summer of 1863 he was with Gen. Sibley's expedition against the Indians, and was as far west as Bismarek, Dakota. In the fall he returned

and joined the regular army, and served three years, participating in the following battles: Tupello, Nashville, and siege of Spanish Fort. He received his discharge July 10, 1865, and returned to Steele County. This year he was united in marriage to Miss Almira Stebbins. He then entered the hotel business and remained in that a few years, after which he started a general store, which he ran for some time, then sold and purchased a farm. In 1880 he entered the lumber trade, and is now engaged in this line, also handling live stock in connection. Mrs. Bissell died in 1878.

S. Gillman, a native of Oswego County, N. Y., was born November 29, 1817. April 3, 1854, he made a claim in what is now Walcott, Rice County, Minn., and remained there for twenty-one years, when he moved to the village of Medford, Steele County. For three years he was engaged in a mail and passenger route, after which he opened a grocery store in the village, and is still in this line doing a good and growing business. In 1844 Mr. Gillman was united in marriage to Miss Emily Letson, also a native of New York. They had born to them four children: Mary Jane, now Mrs. J. W. Lothian, of Spencer, Iowa; Nancy, a school-teacher; Emma, now Mrs. R. F. Strong, of Spencer, Iowa, and John E., also a resident of Spencer. Mrs. Gillman died October 17, 1868, and in October, 1870, Mr. Gillman was married to Mrs. Mary A. Wilson. Mr. Gillman's parents are both dead. The mother died in 1872; the father in August, 1875, at the age of ninety-one years. Politically, Mr. Gillman is a Republican.

S. M. Freeman, son of Ebenezer and Lucy (White) Freeman, is a native of Kennebec County, Me., and in that State spent his early life. April 1, 1855, he came to Steele County, Minn., in company with his brother, B. A. Freeman. S. M. made a claim in Medford Township. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served three years, re-

ceiving his discharge September 24, 1864, after which he returned to Steele County, and in 1866 came to the village of Medford, where he has remained most of the time, being engaged in the grocery trade. April 14, 1886, was appointed postmaster, which office he now holds. He has always been a staunch Democrat, voting the straight ticket. Mr. Freeman has been twice married—first to Miss Bettie Drake in 1871. They had born to them two children, Fred and Roger. Mrs. Freeman died February 14, 1879. Mr. Freeman was again married in September, 1881, to Miss Ella Boynton, and by this union they have been blessed with one child, Floid, born in May, 1883.

John Barney, a native of New York, was born in Erie County, at the town of Collins, December 9, 1824. His parents, George and Rhoda M. (Luther) Barney, were natives of Massachusetts. They came to the Empire State in 1824, and in 1840 moved to Wisconsin. In 1848 they returned to New York, and in 1880 made a trip west, locating in Iowa, where Mr. Barney Sr. died, September 5, 1882. John Barney lived with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he started for himself and engaged at farming for some four years in Wisconsin. He then returned to New York State and remained until 1854, when he again settled in Wisconsin. In 1856 started for Minnesota and landed in Medford June 15, 1856, traveling from Prairie du Chien to Medford with an ox team, and being ten days on the road. Soon after his arrival he made a claim on section 7 in Medford Township, and on this he remained until 1871, when he sold and moved into the village, where he has since lived. Mr. Barney was married August 23, 1848, to Abigail Allen. They are the parents of five children: George W., who was married in 1875 and now lives in Roberts County, Dak.; Manley H., married in 1876 and now lives in Minneapolis; Hattie, now Mrs. Gibson, was married in 1878 and lives in Deerfield Township, Steele County; Minna,

now Mrs. Charles Johnson, married December 25, 1886, and lives in Minneapolis; and Milton, who lives in Nelson County, D. T. Mr. Barney enlisted in 1863 in Company A, Tenth Minnesota, and during that summer was with Sibley's expedition, and went as far west in Dakota as the Missouri River. In the fall he returned and went south, participating in the battles of Nashville and Spanish Fort. He received his discharge at Fort Snelling in September, 1865, and returned to the old homestead.

D. S. Piper, a native of Sanbornton, N. H., was born September 30, 1833. His parents, Daniel and Nancy Piper, were both natives of the same State, and their family consisted of three children: Abbie K., Mary H. and Daniel S. The latter was with his father in business until he was thirty-six years of age, when in 1869 his father died. Daniel S. then carried on the business alone until he came west in 1877. He first settled in Medford Township and has made this his home. Since coming west he has not entered into active business, but has lived more of a retired life. Mr. Piper's marriage dates December 2, 1862, when he was united to Miss Livona M. Whitney. They have had born to them one child a daughter, Myra A., born November 16, 1873.

G. C. Moon was born in Erie County, N. Y., in 1831. He lived with his parents, Daniel and Nancy (Northup) Moon, until eighteen years of age, when he went to Buffalo, and remained in that city for about four years. He then went to Evansville, Wis., and remained there one year, after which he came to Minnesota, locating in the town of Summit, Steele County, about the 30th of May, 1857. He made a claim on section 29, on which he lived until 1873, when he moved to Owatonna. In 1874 he came to Medford Village, where he has since lived. G. C. Moon and Miss Hellen M. Francis were married in November, 1861. They have one son, born September 3, 1862. He was married in

1881 to Miss Louella Standish, and they are now residents of Montana.

John Baily, son of John and Eliza Baily, was born in Franklin, N. H., and there remained until the spring of 1855, when he came west and located in Waseca County. He was one of the proprietors of the town-site of St. Mary, which made a strong fight for the county-seat of that county. In that place he remained until September, 1862, when he moved to Faribault, and later to the village of East Prairie, remaining at the latter place until 1865, when he came to Medford and entered into the general merchandise trade, and has since remained in the same line. In April, 1876, he was appointed postmaster and held that office about ten years. Mr. Baily was married March 24, 1858, when at St. Mary's, to Miss Elizabeth Erwin. They are the parents of three children: Emily E., born February 2, 1859; William A., born May 28, 1860; Arthur S., born July 21, 1864. Emily E. was married to George O. Lee, February 14, 1877. They live in Medford. William A. married Ella McNitt, December 15, 1882. Arthur S. is at home, and, with his brother William, is in partnership with the father in the mercantile trade.

Alexander Gault is a native of Norton Creek, Canada East, born in that province January 1, 1848. When but twelve years of age Mr. Gault started in life for himself; first engaged on a farm and remained in this capacity for about three years. At the age of seventeen he went to Missouri and worked on the Hannibal & St. Joe R. R., for one year. He then worked on a steamboat for a time. In the fall of 1865 in company with others he went to Mississippi Island No. 63 and there remained eighteen months. He was at this place during the cholera reign of 1866, but fortunately only one of the party died from the dread disease. In the spring of 1867 he went to St. Louis and was engaged with the Iron Mountain R. R. Co.; later worked on a farm and remained at this

until 1868, when he went to work for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R. Co. The year following (June 19) he had his leg run over and so badly injured that amputation was necessary. After this sad misfortune and as soon as he was able to be about, he began to learn the art of telegraphy and after this was accomplished was given Blooming Prairie, Steele County, as his first station. After this he was at various other offices until April 25, 1871, when he came to Medford and has since been in this station. In 1876 he began buying grain, in which he still deals. He was married September 12, 1877.

C. Freeman is another leading citizen of Medford, who has for a number of years been prominently connected with the business interests of this part of the county.

Orrin Lee, Esq., was one of the pioneers of Minnesota. He is a native of Tolland County, Conn., born June 2, 1821, his parents being William and Elizabeth (Harding) Lee. His grandfather was Nathan Lee, who spent his life in Connecticut. His father, William, lived in Connecticut until he had reached the age of sixty-one years, when he removed to Rock Island County, Ill., where he died in 1885. Orrin Lee, the subject of this sketch, left home when eighteen years old and engaged in the manufacturing business. In 1852 he came west and "took up" government land in Lee County, Ill. Early in 1855 he again resumed his westward march, coming by boat and team, and, in April, 1855, landed at Hastings, in Minnesota. Three days after his arrival there, he pushed on with teams to Faribault, accompanied all this time by his family. In Rice County he selected a piece of government land, about four miles from the city of Faribault. Their nearest neighbor was two and a half miles distant. Here they remained for eight years, when Mr. Lee sold out and returned to Illinois. A short time later, however, he retraced his steps to Minnesota, and arrived at Medford, in Steele County, in 1863, where he has since lived.

A short time after his settlement here he was elected justice of the peace and has held the office ever since, attending to about all of the legal business of the northern part of Steele County. He has also taken an active interest in educational matters during all the years of his residence here. In political matters he is a "straight Republican."

Mr. Lee was married October 24, 1847, to Miss Laura Cobb. They have two living children: Frances M. and George O. Frances married Cyrus L. Osborn, and they live in Taylor County, Iowa. George O. married Miss Emily E. Baily, February 14, 1877, and they live in Medford.



CHAPTER XXI.

CLINTON FALLS TOWNSHIP.



CLINTON Falls Township embraces the south half of township 108, range 20, west of the fifth principal meridian. Medford Township lies contiguous on the north, Merton joins it on the east, while on the south and west it is bounded respectively by Owatonna and Deerfield Townships. Straight River crosses the township from south to north, passing through very near the center east and west, while Crane Creek touches the northwest corner of the township on its way to its junction with the Straight River at Medford. The river is skirted by a moderately heavy growth of timber — an abundance to supply the township with material for fuel and fencing for centuries. Back from the river the surface varies, occasionally oak openings and again beautifully rolling prairie. The soil is rich and productive, and Clinton Falls Township is the home of many of the wealthy and most prosperous citizens of the county.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement within the present limits of Clinton Falls Township was made by A. W. and F. F. Adams, in 1854, on sections 28 and 33, where, in November of that year, A. W. Adams erected the first log cabin in the township. In the preceding spring (1854) Dr. Finch, W. W. Arnold and James Huginan had been here and selected claims, but they at once returned to St. Paul. Messrs. Adams first came in August, but returned to St. Paul and did not get back here until in November. Section lines were surveyed in

September of that year. A. W. Adams still lives upon the section where he first settled.

The other settlers who came during the same fall (1854) were as follows: Francis F. Adams settled on section 28, where he lived for three or four years, and then returned to Massachusetts, where he still lives. W. W. Arnold came, selected a claim, and is still a citizen. D. Sanborn took a claim on section 21, and lived there for a number of years, taking an active part in public matters. He moved from this township to Medford, and from there to Owatonna, where he lived until the time of his death in 1885. F. Wilbur Fisk also came in 1854 and claimed government land on sections 23 and 24, where he laid out a village called "Elwood," platting the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 24. Mr. Fisk was a well known character in early times. He remained in the county until the time of his death, which occurred at Medford.

In the spring of 1855 there were a number of arrivals, among them being the following: F. L. Judd selected a claim on section 33, built his cabin and returned to Ohio in the fall of 1855; there he was married, and the following year he brought his wife to his Western home. He remained in the township until the fall of 1859, when he returned to Ohio.

Fletcher Du Bois selected a claim in the timber on section 27, but afterward traded with Judd for a prairie farm on section 32, where he lived until the time of his death, which occurred three or four years later. His remains were taken back to his former home in the State of New York.

Samuel and Isaac Morrison took up their

claims in the western part of the township, and are still residents. Their father, Daniel Morrison, came in the fall of the same year with his wife and family. He died the following spring (1856), this being the first death in the township. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Clinton Falls.

Sylvester McNitt came in 1855, and located on section 24. He remained here for many years and finally removed to Owatonna, where he still lives.

R. R. Stout settled on section 24 in 1855, and remained there until the fall of 1885, when he returned to his former home in Indiana, where he now lives.

In May, 1856, Rev. O. A. Thomas took a claim and settled on section 29. He remained there some eight or nine years and then returned to Michigan, but later went to the Pacific coast. He was a Congregational preacher, and an able and prominent man in early days.

The settlement was rapid all through 1856; among others who came were: James Finch and family, William, Samuel and Nathan Williamson, Charles Deming and Moses Hutchinson.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first building in the township was A. W. Adams' log cabin, erected in November, 1854.

The first frame building was erected by William Williamson in 1856.

The first birth in this township was also one of the first births in Steele County. It occurred April 7, 1855, and was Frank W. Adams who now lives on section 33, Clinton Falls Township, a son of A. W. Adams, the first settler of the township.

The first marriage in the township—and in the county—was that of William Williamson to Lucretia Finch. The ceremony was performed by Elder O. A. Thomas, at the house of James Finch, the event taking place in the fall of 1856.

The first death in the township was that of Daniel Morrison, which occurred in March,

1856. He was buried in the cemetery at Clinton Falls.

A. W. Adams broke the first ground in the township.

VILLAGE OF CLINTON FALLS.

The village of Clinton Falls was laid out in the fall of 1855 by Dr. W. W. Finch. In the village plat a block was platted as a cemetery, free to every one. It was not laid out in lots until after Dr. Finch left. In 1882 the Oak Hill Cemetery Association was formed and Dr. Finch deeded the block to them and it was then platted into lots. This was the first cemetery in the county. The first burial in it was of the remains of Daniel Morrison, who died in March, 1855. His widow, Phœbe, died the following June, and was interred in the same cemetery.

A postoffice was established here in the fall of 1856, with James Finch as postmaster. The postmasters since that time have been as follows: Dr. Finch, S. Houston, and G. W. Knapp. The last named is the present postmaster.

The first frame house in the village was erected by Moses Hutchinson in the fall of 1856.

The first and only hotel ever established here, was started by C. M. Williamson and T. Burns, in the summer of 1857. It was run by them for some time and was known as the Clinton House.

The first religious society organized here was the Medford and Clinton Congregational Society, which was organized by Rev. O. A. Thomas.

The first store at Clinton Falls was started by Cyrus Williamson in 1857, with a small stock of groceries and notions. In 1861 Judge Green went to Milwaukee and secured what was then considered a large stock of goods, which was hauled to this place by teams from La Crosse, that being the nearest railway point. Later the store was owned by Dr. Finch, and on the 1st of July, 1873, it was purchased by G. W. Knapp, who has continued it ever since, it being the only store in the village.

In 1856 Dr. Finch commenced building a dam across Straight River, for the purpose of securing sufficient water-power to operate mill machinery, but one-half interest was to belong to the Williamson Brothers, who were to build a gristmill, and Dr. Finch a sawmill, the gristmill to be completed within a year. When the sawmill was put into operation James Finch had a leg broken by a log rolling upon him. The Messrs. Williamson failing to get their gristmill completed early enough, Dr. Finch sent to Chicago and procured a set of small burrs, or what was called a "portable mill," and put it in operation in his sawmill. This was the first gristmill in this county. It was truly a Godsend to the settlers, who had frequently been under the necessity of resorting to their coffee mills to manufacture their meal for bread. Wheat thus ground was very appropriately called meal, as it could not be reduced fine enough to be called flour. Settlers used to come here from a distance of forty or fifty miles. Williamson Brothers pushed their work on their gristmill and in 1857 Hon. G. W. Green purchased an interest, and later the whole mill, and it was pushed forward to completion under the superintendence of Moses Hutchinson, the only practical millwright this section of the country then afforded. D. R. Morrison was established as miller. Judge Green became sole proprietor and continued to operate the mill for many years. He sold to Van Kirk & Coburn, who operated it some four or five years; they sold out to Sherman, Winship & Kelly. The mill still stands, but, at the present time, is only used as a feedmill. Mr. Green purchased the sawmill in 1863.

A division of the Sons of Temperance was organized here in the summer of 1876, a charter being granted on the 27th of December, 1876. The charter members were Frank W. Sherman, Ella Boynton, Annie McCartney, Matie Brown, Matie Green, Nellie Knapp, Susan Larson, R. A. Shadick, M. Shadick, C. C. Finch, F. H. Church, F. R.

Green, W. H. Boynton and Thomas Griffin. The organization was enthusiastically maintained for some time, and was very successful, as at one time there were twenty-two prohibition votes polled in the township. After a time, however, the interest flagged and it was finally abandoned.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized, in the summer of 1855, the territory which now forms Clinton Falls Township became a part of Owatonna township, which then embraced all of townships 105-6-7-8, and in ranges 20 and 21. This arrangement was made on the 1st of August, 1855. On the 25th of the same month, however, Medford Township was created, including township 108, ranges 20 and 21, thus including what is now Clinton Falls. On the 7th of April, 1856, the township of Franklin was created and it appears from the records that this embraced the east half of what is now Medford and Clinton Falls. This is claimed to be a mistake, yet the records so show it.

On the 6th of April, 1857, a rearrangement of the county took place, and township 108, range 21, was set off as Medford. It remained in this shape until the 6th of April, 1858, when Clinton Falls Township was created, embracing the south half of township 108, range 20, the same territory which it now includes.

The organization of the township was perfected on the 11th of May, 1858, when the first town meeting was held at the "Clinton House," and a full list of township officers was elected as follows: Supervisors—George W. Green, chairman, R. R. Stout and A. W. Adams; clerk, Geo. E. Rex; assessor, B. L. Deming; collector, Charles M. Williamson; overseer of the poor, S. McNitt; justices of the peace, D. Sanborn and F. W. Fisk; constable, W. Barnhardt.

Among others who in early days were prominent in township matters were: W. W. Finch, J. W. Morrison, N. Parker, D. S. Kim-

ball, J. M. Finch, G. W. Knapp, C. M. Houston, David Howe, T. B. Chase and A. C. Finch.

In 1867 the people voted to build a substantial bridge across Straight River, and raised by tax \$2,000, and the county giving \$1,000, a covered bridge was erected with solid abutments spanning the entire width of the river.

The following is a list of the present officers of the township elected in March, 1887: Supervisors—F. W. Adams, chairman, J. F. Carter and R. W. Cheeseman; town clerk, A. C. Finch; treasurer, G. W. Knapp; assessor, E. G. Adams; justices of the peace, A. Samson and O. L. Knapp; constables, G. McCloud and N. Parker.

SCHOOLS.

The first school at Clinton Falls was taught in the summer of 1856, in a board shanty on the farm of Dr. Finch, by Mary Morrison, afterward Mrs. Charles Williamson.

The first frame schoolhouse in the township was erected in the village in the spring of 1857, and was built by subscription. The lot which it occupied was donated by Dr. Finch, on condition that it was always to be open for religious services and moral entertainments. In the spring of 1865 an addition was made to the schoolhouse in Clinton Falls Village, and O. T. Otis, of Wisconsin, was engaged to teach a high school here. It was very successful; scholars attended from all parts of the county, and for several years it was the most advanced and thorough educational institution in the county; but after the high schools in Owatonna were established this again became a common school.

The first schoolhouse in district No. 3 was a log building erected in the spring of 1857. The first school in it was taught by Miss Frances Atwater, now Mrs. Charles Strong. The present schoolhouse in this district was erected in the spring of 1870, at a cost of \$1,020. The first teacher in this building was Fred. Tuttle.

The first school taught in district No. 3 was in the house of S. McNitt in 1855 (or 1856), Mrs. F. W. Fisk being the teacher.

The schoolhouse in district No. 18 is located on section 34. The district was organized in 1876, and the school building was erected during the same season at a cost of about \$300. The first teacher in the district was Miss Mary Cole. The last term of school (1887) was taught by Miss Lizzie Adams.

School district No. 66 was organized in 1868. The first school in the district was held in an old log claim shanty, on section 33, which had been erected by F. Judd. The first teacher was May Smith. The present schoolhouse, which is located on section 32, was erected in 1870 at the cost of \$500. The first teacher in this house was Ella Sanborn, the last (1887) was Frank Buffum.

BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

A. W. Adams is one of the pioneer settlers of Clinton Falls Township. He was born in Worcester County, Mass., October 28, 1826. He lived with his parents until the age of twenty-five years, and then came west to St. Paul, Minn., where for two years he worked at the mason's trade. In August, 1854, he came to Steele County and selected 160 acres of government land on sections 33 and 34, township 10S, range 20, now in the town of Clinton Falls. In November he secured an ox team, drove to his claim and erected a log cabin. His wife joined him in February, 1855, and they lived in this cabin until 1862, when they moved into a new house, which was built of stone from his own quarry. Mr. Adams was married in May, 1854, to Miss Emma Tilton. They have five children, as follows: Frank West, born April 7, 1855; Fred. Tilton, born November 30, 1856; John G., born August 12, 1858; Edward G., born February 17, 1862; Lizzie A., born July 13, 1865, and George F., born March 13, 1871. Their eldest son, Frank West Adams, was the second white child born in Steele County, and is the oldest

native of Steele County now living. G. W. Green had a son born a few hours previous, but he is now dead. Frank W. Adams was married October 3, 1882, to Anna M. Rogers, and they live upon a farm adjoining his father's. All of Mr. Adams' children are still living, except John G., who died October 14, 1859.

W. W. Arnold was one of the earliest settlers in Clinton Falls Township. He was born in Oswego County, N. Y., in 1832, his parents being Samuel and Katherina (Huganin) Arnold. He lived with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he came west to St. Paul, Minn., and from there, in the fall of 1854, came to what is now section 28, Clinton Falls Township, Steele County. He spent several years with exploring expeditions and government surveyors, and later went to Oberlin College, Ohio, where he remained until the war broke out. Enlisting then, in the Seventh Ohio Volunteers, he went into service, participating in many important engagements, but coming out without a wound. After his discharge he went to Hillsdale College, in Michigan, and there on the 17th of October, 1864, was married to Miss Susanna Gossard. They have one child, born July 18, 1876. Mr. Arnold now has 250 acres of land, most of which is under a high state of cultivation. He is one of the substantial citizens of the county.

David Lindersmith, one of the pioneers of Steele County, is a native of Columbiana County, Ohio. His grandfather, Joseph Lindersmith, came to America in 1772 or 1773, when eleven years old, and was bound out as an apprentice to learn the carpenter's trade. He served as a fifer in the Revolutionary War; also followed barbering, and frequently shaved George Washington during those years. After the close of the war he settled in Somerset County, Pa., and in 1804 removed, with his wife and five children, to Columbiana County, Ohio, where he died in 1817. Peter Lindersmith, the father

of David, was a son of Joseph, and at an early day took government land in the town of Hanover, Columbiana County, Ohio. He served as a fifer under Gen. Harrison in the war of 1812. His wife was formerly Susan Ehrhart, and they had children, as follows: Elizabeth, Daniel, Julia, Ann, David, Catherine, William and Isaac. David Lindersmith, the subject of this sketch, lived with his parents until twenty-five years of age, then went to Washington County, Ohio, where he remained until the spring of 1850. He then settled in Williams County, Ohio, and remained until the 2d of April, 1855, when he started for Minnesota with an ox team, bringing his wife and four children, the youngest being only six weeks old. They arrived at what is now Owatonna city, on the 19th of May, having been some seven weeks on the way. Upon their arrival Mr. Lindersmith secured the top of another wagon, and by placing the two together on logs lived in this until the 1st of July, when they moved into their log cabin, using rugs for doors and windows. Thus they got along until a trip could be made to Hastings for the necessary articles. In the early part of 1856 Mr. Lindersmith was appointed by the board of county commissioners as assessor for nine townships, in what is now Steele and Waseca counties. In November, 1856, he was elected sheriff of the county and served for two years. In September, 1857, he collected from William Thomson the first taxes paid in Steele County, the amount being \$6. In 1870 he moved to section 28, in the town of Clinton Falls, where he has since lived. Mr. Lindersmith was married in Carroll County, Ohio, in 1843, to Miss Catherine Simmons. They have six living children: Orlando, Anjeline, Elizabeth, Agnes, Stiles and Emma. Orlando is mentioned at length elsewhere. Anjeline married Mr. Hoadley, a second cousin of Gov. Hoadley, of Ohio, and they live in Dakota. Elizabeth married William Putney, a resident of the town of Clinton Falls. Agnes

married M. Jepson, a resident of Dakota. Stiles is a traveling man, and Emma is now Mrs. Thomas Burns, of Windom, Minn.

Orlando Lindersmith came to Steele County, Minn., in May, 1855, with his parents, being then only eleven years of age. He lived at home until October, 1861, when he enlisted in the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry for three-years' term, and upon the expiration of his term of service reënlisted at Huntsville, Ala., January 1, 1864, and served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge at St. Paul, August 7, 1865. Among the many battles which he participated in were the following: Iuka, Miss., September 19, 1862; Willow Springs, Miss., May 3, 1863; Raymond, Miss., May 12, 1863; Jackson, Miss., May 14, 1863; Champion Hills, Miss., May 16, 1863; he was at the siege of Vicksburg for forty-seven days, and was at Missionary Ridge, November 23, 24, 25, 1863. He was wounded at his first battle, being shot through the leg, and again at Vicksburg. He was with Sherman in his famous "march to the sea," and was at the battle of Altoona, where Sherman signaled the besieged to "Hold the Fort; I am coming," which was the origin of P. P. Bliss's noted song—Bliss being a private soldier in the fort at the time. After Orlando received his discharge he returned home and attended school during the following winter. In the spring of 1867 he bought his first land on section 28, Clinton Falls Township, where he has since lived, increasing his farm until he now has 180 acres of land, on which is a part of the Clinton Falls stone quarries. When Mr. Lindersmith first bought an interest in the stone quarries the other owners were David Lindersmith, A. B. Cornell, R. Sanborn and Mr. Ellis. In 1882 Orlando Lindersmith acquired the whole property. During the present summer (1887) he has employed twelve men, and taken out about 1,100 cords of stone. Mr. Lindersmith was married July 13, 1872, to Miss Ellen Thomson. They have seven children, as follows:

Everett E., David R., Horold II., Albert E., Mary A., Samuel M. and Arthur.

John T. Carter is a native of New York State, born in November, 1839. His father, George Carter, was a native of London, England, and came to the United States in about 1835, settling in New York State. In 1850 they came west to Wisconsin, where they remained until 1856, when they came to Steele County, Minn., and settled on section 36, in the town of Clinton Falls. The father died there in the fall of 1869. The mother, who was formerly Margaret Henderson, is still living with her son, John T. Carter, in this township. George and Elizabeth Carter had a family of eleven children, seven of whom are still living, as follows: John T., George, Charles, Augustus, Wellington, Charlotte and Matilda. Four of them are living in Steele County.

John T. Carter cast his first vote for President Lincoln. On the 16th of September, 1861, he enlisted in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the battles of Mill Springs, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, and so on, with Sherman's army, until the fall of Atlanta. He did not receive a wound, and was honorably discharged November 16, 1864. He then returned to Steele County and lived at Owatonna for four years. In 1868 he moved to his present farm, and has since been engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was married November 29, 1868, to Miss Josephine Fisher. They have four children: Lillie A., Ella J., A. M. and Arthur J. Mr. Carter has been a prominent man in all township and educational matters, and has held many offices of a local character.

James Finch, deceased, came to Steele County, Minn., in 1856, and selected government land on sections 28 and 29 in what is now the town of Clinton Falls, where he lived until the time of his death, December 25, 1873. He took a prominent part in all public matters and was well and favorably known throughout the county. He was

county surveyor for a number of years, and when the postoffice at Clinton Falls was established, in the fall of 1856, he was appointed postmaster. The first marriage in Steele County took place at his house, the contracting parties being his daughter Lucretia and William Williamson. Mr. Finch's name appears very frequently through these pages.

Cyrus Finch is a son of James and Minerva Finch, and was only nine years of age when they settled in Steele County, in 1856. He remained at home until the fall of 1868, when he went to Mower County and taught school for a year. In the spring of 1869 he was married to Miss Martha Huston, and the same season went West on a prospecting tour. In 1871 he went to Cottonwood County and located in Windom Township. In the fall of 1873, on account of his father's failing health, he returned and has since occupied the original homestead. In political matters Mr. Finch is a Republican. He has taken an active part in public affairs, having held the office of county commissioner for three years. Mr. and Mrs. Finch have three children, Maud, Blanch and Walter.

Fyler D. Finch is also a son of James and Minerva Finch. He was born in Clinton County, N. Y., in May, 1843, and was, therefore, thirteen years of age when his parents located in Steele County. He remained with his parents until eighteen years old, when he began driving on the Burbank stage line, his route being chiefly between Owatonna and Faribault, and remained in that work for five years. He then for two seasons had charge of the Clinton Falls saw-mills, and since that time has been engaged at carpenter work and other pursuits. Mr. Finch was married August 9, 1863, to Miss Anne McCormick. They had two children: George W. and Minnie. George W. married Miss Nettie Tracey and now lives in this township. Minnie married Frank Church. She died August 18, 1887, leaving a little girl, Frankie, and was buried in the Owatonna cemetery by the side of her husband,

whose death occurred a few months previous. Mrs. Finch died in March, 1868. Mr. Finch was again married, in April, 1870, to Miss Amelia Peavey. They have two boys: Arthur, born August 9, 1871, and Ernest, born May 12, 1875.

A. J. Abbott, one of the prominent stock-raisers of Steele County, is a son of William and Lois (Sawyer) Abbott. He was born at Sanbornton, Belknap County, N. H., May 10, 1829. He lived with his parents until April, 1857, when he came to Steele County, Minn., and, in the fall of that year, settled upon his present farm on section 29, Clinton Falls Township. He remained there until December, 1864, when he moved to Faribault, and engaged in the butchering business. In the spring of 1866 he settled in Medford Village, and remained there until 1876, when he again located upon his farm, where he has since lived. He devotes his attention chiefly to raising stock, and now has one of the finest herds of cattle in the State. Mr. Abbott was married April 18, 1853, to Miss Mary H. Piper, who was born March 5, 1830. Nine children have been born to them, as follows: Mary H., born March 9, 1854; Ellen N., born October 21, 1855; Katie A., born August 28, 1857; William D., born July 13, 1859; Asa J., born September 12, 1861; Tinnie, born September 26, 1863; Lillian, born November 21, 1868, and Emma and Ella (twins), born August 23, 1871. All are living except three: Tinnie died October 18, 1865; Ella died September 17, 1872, and Emma died October 10, 1872.

John Virtue was born in Ireland in 1833. He first landed in America in the spring of 1852 and settled in Columbia County, N. Y. He remained there until the spring of 1859, when he came west to Steele County, Minn., and located on sections 23 and 24 in the town of Clinton Falls, where he has since lived, carrying on general farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale. In 1855 he married Mary Dinan, who came west with him. They have six children living, as follows:

Dennis E., born November 28, 1858; Willie J., born July 16, 1860; Leonard, born April 2, 1865; Alice, born April 23, 1868; Emmett, born April 17, 1870, and Emma J., born August 23, 1874. Mr. Virtue has 780 acres of land, making one of the largest and best farms in the county. He has taken an active part in public affairs, having filled the office of county commissioner and many offices of a local nature.

William Gallea was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., November 19, 1829. His parents were James and Polley (Beemis) Gallea. He lived with his parents until the spring of 1859, when he went to Wisconsin, where he remained four years, and then, in the fall of 1863, came to Steele County, Minn., and purchased his present farm on section 23, town of Clinton Falls. He has since lived upon his farm, now having 200 acres, most of which is under cultivation, and devotes considerable attention to raising stock. His early life was spent upon the lakes, so that farming was resorted to for a change. He has been successful and is now one of the well-to-do citizens of the county. In the spring of 1864 Mr. Gallea enlisted in the Second Minnesota Cavalry and remained in the service until the close of the war. He was married January 25, 1852, before leaving New York State, to Miss Polley Gilbert. They have had the following children: James B., born September 28, 1854; William G., born November 10, 1856; Eliza A., born November 4, 1860; Thomas A., born August 19, 1863; Bertha M., born November 18, 1866; Carrie B., born May 25, 1869; George B., born November 23, 1872; Alice G., born February 22, 1875; Peter B., born March 8, 1879, and Pearl, born January 10, 1880. All of these are still living except Peter, who died May 29, 1879, and Eliza A., who died May 5, 1887. The latter had married W. Hankerson, of Medford Township in 1881.

T. H. Griffin was born in Chenango County, N. Y., in 1836. He lived with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he started

in life for himself, following the occupation of a farmer until 1864, when he enlisted in a New York infantry regiment and entered the service. His company was in the front of Petersburg all through the winter of 1864-5, and was at Appomatox when Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant, and he witnessed the stacking of arms of Lee's army. On the morning of President Lincoln's funeral they were ordered to Washington. They passed "grand review," and were among the first regiments to be discharged. Mr. Griffin arrived home in May, 1865, and in August started for Minnesota, arriving here in September of the same year. He bought an interest in the Daniel Morrison estate on section 20, town of Clinton Falls, where he has since lived. He was married December 8, 1859, to Miss Fannie E. Brown. Four children have been born to them: Mark A., George T., Sidney J. and Emma G.

O. Eastman was born in Clinton, Kennebec County, Me., March 28, 1828. He remained with his parents, Henry and Lydia (Quigg) Eastman, until twelve years old when he began life for himself. At that time he began work for a man named John Hern and remained three years. From that time he followed various occupations. On the 22d of October, 1855, he was married to Miss Silvia C. Butler, at Aurora, Hancock County, Me. After this he lived in Kennebec County until the fall of 1863, when he came to Steele County Minn., and settled at Medford. In the spring of 1866 he "took up" eighty acres of government land on section 26, Clinton Falls Township, where he has since lived, doing general farming and stock-raising. Mr. and Mrs. Eastman have seven children, as follows: Ruel S., born February 19, 1856; Vesta M., born July 17, 1857; Vinal H., born September 3, 1862; Lydia M., born May 27, 1865; Robert M., born March 27, 1868; Ambrose B., born September 16, 1870, and Edna O., born June 22, 1881. All are living at home except Vesta M., who married Nathaniel Paul, of Clinton

Falls Township, Minn., July the 11th, 1877.

Richard and Henry Cheeseman are natives of England, their parents being Richard and Maria (Early) Cheeseman. Richard was born in London, November 1, 1858. He was an engineer's draughtsman until two years before coming to America, and was then in the employ of the A. W. Faber Pencil Co. On the 1st of May, 1880, he came to the United States and went to farming. A year later he purchased a part of their present farm on section 29, Clinton Falls Township, and in 1886 added the northwest quarter of the same section, so their farm now comprises 225 acres. On the 15th of March, 1881, Richard was married to Miss Ella F. Duncan, a native of Chenango County, N. Y. They have the following children: Henry, born November 25, 1881; Grace,

born May 21, 1883; Florence, born December 25, 1884, and Asa born August 16, 1886. Henry Cheeseman was born in Kent County, England, April 5, 1861. He served an apprenticeship at the stone sculptor's trade and worked at it until he joined his brother, Richard, in Steele County, Minn., in February, 1882. He has since devoted his attention to their farm. Their father died in London, June 22, 1885. Their mother and sister, Sarah A., came from London in June, 1886, and are now living with them on the farm.

Hon. G. W. Buffum, the present representative from Steele County in the Legislature, is also a prominent citizen of Clinton Falls Township. A biographical sketch of his life is presented in chapter VIII.





Julius Busko

CHAPTER XXII.

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP.



DEERFIELD forms the northwest corner of Steele County, with Rice County on the north and Waseca on the west, while on the east it is bounded by the townships of Medford and Clinton Falls, and on the south by Meriden. It embraces all of congressional township 10S, range 21, west; a total acreage of about 23,040 acres. Its location is very favorable in an agricultural point of view, being ten miles from the city of Faribault

and only seven from Owatonna, with the village of Medford within three miles, which affords a market and freighting facilities. The southwest portion of the town finds an easy and convenient market at Waseca, so that in almost any direction the people may find a market for all their grain and produce at a very short distance from their doors. The soil for the most part is a deep clay loam, rich and very fertile in the production of all the small grains. The population of the town is made up of Germans, Americans and Irish, with a few of other nationalities. There is a good supply of timber for fuel and fencing purposes. In the south part of the town is a belt of timber, bordering on Crane Creek, of about two miles in width, while it is but a short distance to the large timber belt of the Cannon and Straight rivers on the east and north.

In 1857 the township had a population of 192 persons; in 1885 this had grown to 863.

ITEMS REGARDING EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

The first settlement in this township was made about the 12th of May, 1855, by Ed-

ward McCartney, who came from Elgin, Ill., with his family of wife and three children and a brother of his wife. He located on the northwest quarter of section 8 and remained for about two years, when he sold out and returned to Illinois. He soon came back to Minnesota and located at Morristown, in Rice County, but becoming discontented went to California, and after spending a time in the land of gold returned to Minnesota, sold his property and emigrated to Cass County, Neb. Other settlers soon followed Mr. McCartney into the town and a neighborhood was soon established. Within a year or so later the following named all came and selected homes: Andrew Wertzler, Nicholas Stearns, Conrad Reineke, E. Crandall, John and James Condon, E. J. Lilly, H. Hodgson, Arthur McMillen, John H. Morse, Washington Morse, Charles Birch, Mr. Austin, L. Anderson, E. I. Stocker, Shephard Moses and others.

During the Indian outbreak in 1862 nearly all the citizens left the township for safety, but returned within a few days.

Conrad Reineke was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, July 19, 1843. He lived there for ten years, then with his father and mother and two brothers, Christian and Henry, came to the United States, landing at New York. They were eight weeks on the ocean, and encountered much stormy weather. They went to Chicago, and for a year and a half lived at Schonburg, Cook County, Ill. In May, 1855, they all started with ox teams for Minnesota, and, after a tedious journey of four weeks, landed at Conrad Reineke's present farm on section 7, Deerfield Township. Several parties accom-

panied them, but most of them stopped on the prairie east of Faribault. Times were very hard during the first few years of the settlement. At first they went to St. Paul for supplies and market; then to Hastings, but it took four days to make the trip. The Indian troubles also made matters worse, and once the settlers were obliged to leave on account of their hostility. Mr. Reineke's father died twenty-five years ago; his mother is living at an advanced age with a younger brother at Morristown. Conrad Reineke now has a fine farm of 408 acres, 180 of which is under cultivation; has a commodious house, barn and other farm buildings, and devotes considerable attention to raising stock. Mr. Reineke enlisted, in 1863, in Company F, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry; went to Arkansas; was in several skirmishes in that vicinity; did duty at Little Rock and Duvall's Bluff; and was in the Red River expedition. He was mustered out in 1865 on account of sickness. Mr. Reineke was married in 1865 to Miss Otelia Wilkowske. They have nine children, as follows: Henry, Anna, George, William, Albert, Louis, Hulda, Ernst and Rudolf.

Christian Reineke was born in Hanover, Germany, March 19, 1846. In 1853 the family came to the United States, going by way of New York to Cook County, Ill. From there, in 1855, they came to Steele County, Minn., and the father preëmpted the "quarter section" in Deerfield Township now owned by Christian and Conrad Reineke. There were but very few settlers in this region at that time—many more Indians than whites. The Indians were very friendly up to the time of the outbreak, but during the outbreak, at one time, nearly all the settlers left for safety. St. Paul first, and later, Hastings, were the trading places in early times. Christian Reineke was married in 1870 to Ernestine Turk. Mrs. Reineke's father died in the old country, but she has several sisters and brothers in this country. Mr. and Mrs. Reineke have the following children: Frede-

rick, Edward, Wesley, Amelia, Christian, Ida, Arthur and Laura. Mr. Reineke now has a fine farm of 352 acres, a good share of which is under cultivation, and the buildings are substantial. He devotes considerable attention to raising stock.

James F. Brady was born in Canada, April 2, 1849. He came to Steele County, Minn., and located in the town of Deerfield, September 1, 1856, and has since been a resident. Mr. Brady was married January 7, 1873, to Louisa Parsons. They have five children, as follows: Charles, James F., Alice M., George and Arthur. Mr. Brady is a supervisor of the township and has held various offices of importance. He has an excellent farm of 240 acres, the most of which is under cultivation. Mr. Brady's father, Charles Brady, is still living with James, at the advanced age of eighty-seven. The mother died July 20, 1885, aged eighty-four. Mr. Brady is mentioned frequently in this volume.

Mrs. Margretta Lilly was born in Bucks County, Pa., November 22, 1823. Her father died August 24, 1844. Her mother lived in Indiana until the children were married, then went to Iowa and lived with her youngest daughter. She died at Brooklyn, Poweshiek County, Iowa, August 1, 1885. Margretta was married to Elijah Lilly at New Lisbon, Henry County, Ind., July 30, 1840. In 1856 with ox teams they came through to Morristown, Minn., being some six weeks on the way. They were accompanied by Mr. Lilly's brother-in-law, niece and family. Mr. Lilly's earthly possessions at that time consisted of fifty cents in money, two yoke of oxen and a wagon. One yoke of oxen and the wagon were traded for their claim of 160 acres. Mr. Lilly remained here until the time of his death January 3, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Lilly were blessed with the following children: Samuel, George W., Joseph, Sarah Ann, Willie (deceased), David (deceased) and Tacy Ellen (deceased). Mrs. Lilly's son, David, in

1864, enlisted in Company D, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served principally in Arkansas, being at Duvall's Bluff and Little Rock. He was finally taken suddenly sick, and died, as was thought by his comrades, from the effect of poison purposely administered by the hospital steward, a rebel sympathizer. Samuel was also in the service. He enlisted in Company G, First Minnesota Infantry, and served three years, being in the army of the Potomac. He participated in many battles and skirmishes and was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, where his canteen saved him from being killed. Sarah Ann was married June 29th, 1881, to G. W. Lewis, of Deerfield, and they are living on the farm with Mrs. Lilly. They have two children, Myrtle M. and Nellie M. One incident in the history of Mr. Lilly's ancestry is worthy of mention. His grandfather when quite a small boy, together with about a dozen others, was stolen from England and brought to America. Being without money, when they arrived in Maryland they were sold to service for their passage. He was so small he could not tell where they came from.

Rudolph Eisert was born in the town of Deerfield, Steele County, Minn., March 8, 1862. His parents were natives of Germany. They came to the United States in 1859, landing at New York, and coming to Steele County the same year from Milwaukee. They came with ox teams, and were six weeks on the way. Once, in 1862, they were obliged to leave on account of the Indian outbreak, but came back the next day. For three years after coming here they rented a farm, and then bought the present place on section 6. The father died November 3, 1886. Rudolph Eisert was married March 25, 1886, to Miss Amelia Saufferer, whose parents reside in Waseca County. They have one child, an infant boy. Mr. Eisert has 200 acres of land, 100 of which is under a high state of cultivation. He has fine buildings upon the farm.

H. Lamson was born at Maria, Rensselaer

County, N. Y., June 23, 1825. He lived there one year; then, in company with his parents and sister, moved to Cavendish, Windsor County, Vt., where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. Mr. Lamson then moved to Rutland County, Vt., living there ten years, after which he removed to Fall River, Columbia County, Wis. He enlisted in Company B, Seventh Regiment (Columbia County Cadets), under Capt. Huntington. He participated in the second battle of Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg and all the battles with Grant in the Wilderness, and was mustered out on the 19th of August, 1864, having been in the meantime transferred to the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin. Mr. Lamson was married, March 7, 1849, to Miss Hannah P. Chamberlain. They had four children; Carrie M., Sarah Celestine (now Mrs. Lincoln), Emma Louisa (deceased) and Henry H. Mrs. Sarah Lamson died, and Mr. Lamson subsequently married again, his second wife being formerly Miss Lucretia C. Williamson. Mr. Lamson now has a fine farm of 234 acres, a good share of which is under a high state of cultivation. He has good buildings and a comfortable home. He has taken an active interest in public matters, and has filled many offices of importance. He is the present chairman of the township board, having held that office for four terms. He has also been justice of the peace and assessor. Mr. Lamson has been a resident of Deerfield Township for over twenty years.

Henry H. Lamson was born in Sherburn, Vt., August 21, 1854. He came west with his parents to Wisconsin, and attended the high school at Fall River in that State for several years. From there he came with his parents to Minnesota. Mr. Lamson was married November 8, 1877, to Miss Olive L. Glines. Her parents were former residents of Vermont, but now live in Rice County, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Lamson have no children of their own, but have taken an orphan girl, Abbie Wheeler, whom they love as a daughter. Mr. Lamson purchased his present

farm, which consists of eighty acres, in December, 1875. Half of the farm is under a good state of cultivation. Mr. Lamson takes an active interest in all public and educational matters and is the present treasurer of school district No. 75.

Julius Busho, one of Steele County's most substantial and thrifty farmers and stock-raisers, was born February 4, 1844, in Prussia, Germany, where he lived for fifteen years with his parents, who died before he came to America. In 1859, in company with his brother-in-law, Julius Popke, and wife, he came to the United States, landing in New York. He then came west to Princeton, Marquette County, Wis., where for several years he worked upon farms. In 1864 he enlisted in the regular service (cavalry branch) and was sent with other recruits to Carlisle Barracks, Pa., for drill. He remained at the barracks only a few days, when he with others from there were transferred to the Third Regular Cavalry, which was at St. Louis. From the latter place the regiment was ordered to Little Rock, Ark., from there to Fort Smith, and later, across the plains to Santa Fé, N. M., where the regiment was divided and distributed for detached service at the several frontier posts. Col. Howe was the regular officer in command, but, as he was temporarily absent, Col. Hall assumed command. Mr. Busho was finally discharged at Santa Fé, in 1867, upon the expiration of his term of service. The solicitor and writer of this sketch (J. W. Coapman) happily and unexpectedly found this comrade very nicely enjoying an abundance of the comforts of this life, upon one of the finest farms in the State, and possessed of an unusual amount of landed and personal property, a noble wife, and a family of bright children. We enlisted in the army at about the same time, at the same recruiting office at Madison, Wis., but were separated at Carlisle Barracks, he going to the Third Regiment, and I being transferred to the permanent company at the barracks.

When Mr. Busho came to Minnesota, he first located at Wilton, in Waseca County, where he remained two years. He then moved to his present farm on section 30, Deerfield Township, where he has since lived. He was married, in 1867, to Miss Lydia Fie, of Pennsylvania. They have the following children: Charles, John, Eddie, Fred., William, Elmer and Mary, all of whom are living at home. Mrs. Busho's father and mother are living at Morrystown, Minn. Mr. Busho has taken an active interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the township, and is one of the leading farmers of Steele County. He has been school district treasurer for six years, and has held various other local offices of importance. He has 400 acres of land, about 200 of which is under good cultivation, and has a large amount of stock. A portrait of Mr. Busho will be found in this volume.

II. Hodgson, deceased, was one of the old settlers of Steele County. He was born at High Crosby, County Cumberland, England, January 19, 1814, and lived in his native country until 1843, when he came to the United States, landing at New York. From there he went successively to New Jersey, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and in the last named States remained for a short time, after which he came west. In 1861 he made a claim of 160 acres in the town of Deerfield, Steele County, Minn., where he lived until the time of his death, in July, 1887. He had taken an active part here, having held at different times the offices of supervisor, treasurer, justice of the peace and various school district offices. Mr. Hodgson was married in 1836 to Miss Rebecca Smithson, of Cumberland County, England. She died February 19, 1865, leaving eight children, as follows: Richard, Elizabeth, William, Jennie, Hetherington, Thomas, Mary and Sarah R. Mr. Hodgson was again married, in February, 1867, to Lucy Anna Evens, who still survives him.

William Fehmer was born at Mecklen-

burg-Schwerin, Germany, May 14, 1841. He lived in his native town until eighteen years of age, when with his father, mother and four sisters he came to America. Two brothers, Henry and John, had preceded them. The family landed in New York City in 1861, and pushed westward to Waukesha County, Wis., where his father and mother remained with one of their sons on a rented farm. William worked at different places. In October, 1867, he located upon his farm on section 9, Deerfield Township, Steele County, Minn., where he has since lived. When crossing the ocean, Mr. Fehmer states that they were eight weeks and two days on the way, encountering very rough weather and many icebergs. In 1863 he was married to Amelia Bobzein, in Waukesha County, Wis. They have six children living, as follows: Caroline, George, Hattie, Albert, Amelia and Bennie. Five children have died: Josephine, Carl, William, Edward and Arthur. Mr. Fehmer's father died July 2, 1880, at William's residence, his age being eighty-two years. His mother died in Deerfield Township July 26, 1887, aged eighty-three. William Fehmer has a most desirable farm of 160 acres, 100 of which is under cultivation and has fine farm buildings.

August Hoffmann was born in Prussia, April 1, 1841. He lived there until he was twelve years of age, when he came with his father's family to America. They landed at New York City, and came west to Wisconsin, locating on a farm near Sauk City. They remained there for eleven years when they moved to Steele County, Minn., and located upon their present farm on section 26, town of Deerfield, which has since been their home. The father is still living, with August's family, but the mother died in 1875. The father was a soldier in the regular service in the old country. August Hoffmann was married in Wisconsin, in 1866, to Miss Augusta Radel. They have six living children, as follows: Julius, Ame-

lia, Matilda, Herman. Yetta and William. They have lost five children by death, as follows: Minnie, Gusta, Amel, Bertha and Ida. Mr. Hoffmann has a good farm of 240 acres, 120 of which is under cultivation. He has held the office of town supervisor, and is the present treasurer of the Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Co., of Steele County, Minn.

Christian Yust was born in Switzerland, January 8, 1843. He lived there for three years, and then with his parents came to the United States. They landed at New Orleans, and from there took a boat up the Mississippi River to Galena, Ill. They remained upon a farm in Illinois for seventeen years. The father died in 1850. The mother lived with the children, finally married a second time, and died in Deerfield Township in 1880. Christian Yust first settled on section 23 upon coming here, but is now on section 13. He has a good farm of eighty acres, sixty of which is under cultivation. Mr. Yust's first wife was Miss Mary Jane Meinder. They were married at Lansing, Iowa. By this marriage they had nine children, as follows: George, Elizabeth, William, Caroline, Minnie, Peter, Herman, Josephine and Harvey. His first wife died in Deerfield Township in 1880. Some time later, Mr. Yust married Ernestine Putzke. This union has been blessed with three children: Emma, Anna and Ella. Mr. Yust has been prominent in township affairs. He has held the office of town clerk eight years, assessor three years and justice of the peace three years.

EARLY EVENTS.

The first birth in the township was a daughter in the family of Mr. Hobaugh, who lived on section 26. This occurred in September, 1856. She was christened Caroline Hobaugh.

The first death was that of a Miss Austin, a young lady of some seventeen or eighteen years of age.

The first marriage in Deerfield Township was that of Stephen Birch to Precilla Coe.

The ceremony was performed in June, 1858, at the residence of the bride's father, by Washington Morse, a justice of the peace. Another early marriage was that of W. B. Evans to Miss Frederica C. Williams, June 16, 1859, by 'Squire Morse.

The first school in the town was taught in the summer of 1857, by Miss Elizabeth Hodgson.

The first religious service in the township was held at the funeral of Mrs. Anderson, and was conducted by Rev. Washington Morse, a minister of the Seventh-day Advent creed, who took the occasion to enlighten his audience as to the particular and distinctive tenets of his religious views.

OFFICIAL.

The territory which now comprises Deerfield, when first associated with an organized township became a part of Owatonna Township, which was created August 1, 1855, embracing all of the west two-thirds of Steele County as it is now formed. On the 25th of August, 1855, a change was made, creating Medford Township, which included all of the present townships of Deerfield, Clinton Falls and Medford. Thus it remained, so far as Deerfield was concerned, until the 6th of April, 1857, when Deerfield Township was created of township 108, range 21. It was reorganized, however, in the spring of 1858, and the organization has since been maintained.



CHAPTER XXIII.

MERIDEN TOWNSHIP.



MERIDEN Township is composed of township 107, range 21, forming one of the western tier of townships. It is bounded on the north by Deerfield Township, on the south by Lemond Township, on the east by Owatonna Township, and on the west by Waseca County. The surface of this township is wholly made up of a rolling prairie, interspersed with oak openings. Crane Creek flows through the northern part, on its way to Straight River. The southern portion of the township is, or at least was originally, covered to some extent with oak openings, while the north and central portions are made up of as fine prairie land as can be found in the State. The population of this township in 1857 was about 193. This has steadily increased until at the time of the last census, in 1885, it had reached 833.

ITEMS OF INTEREST REGARDING EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

The first settlement in this township, it is claimed, was made in June, 1855, by A. M. Fitzsimmons, who located on section 36. A. C. Harris also came during the same year and settled in the northeastern part of the township, where he still lives. Among others who came during that year and the year or two immediately following were: C. H. Wilker and family, including his sons John H. and Conrad H. Wilker; Lysander House, Anton Shultz, William Shultz, Henry Abbe, William Mundt, John Drinking, F. J. Stevens, John Wuamett, Thomas Andrews, David House, A. F. Tracy and others.

The settlement progressed rapidly until all

of the government land in the township was taken, and the early settlers here, as in other portions of the county, underwent many hardships and disadvantages.

Lysander House, an early pioneer, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., May 31, 1833. His parents, Daniel and Catherine (Nestle) House, were natives of New York. They had ten children: David, Henry (deceased), Betsie, George, Ann (deceased), Jackson, Lysander, Sylvester (deceased) and Edwin (deceased). Ann married Richard Whitlock, a native of New York. Their home was in Minneapolis. Ann died in June, 1887. Jackson married Miss Lucy Strong. George married Clarissa Ackerman. Betsie married Mr. Peter Palmer. David resides in Meriden Township. Susan died in January, 1876. At the age of twenty-one, Lysander started out for himself. His parents came to St. Paul, Minn., in 1851, where they remained three years. Then, in 1855, they removed to Steele County, locating in Meriden Township on section 34, where they resided until the time of their death, the father dying January 10, 1873, the mother dying July 6, 1878. Our subject located on section 26, Meriden Township, where he still resides, being engaged in farming and stock-raising. Mr. House was married November 20, 1865, to Miss Phylena Pierce, who died May 10, 1867. Mr. House later married Mrs. Sarah C. Gotham, who was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., November 29, 1837, her first husband having died in 1865. Mrs. House had one child by her first husband, Calvin Henry, born June 25, 1860, and died May 11, 1882. Mr. House is a Democrat in politics, and one of Meriden's most prominent men.

John H. Wilker is a native of Iowa. He was born August 17, 1852. His parents, Christopher and Louisa (Ribbe) Wilker, were natives of Prussia. They had ten children, four of whom are dead. His parents, after coming to America, located in Ohio, where they remained a short time. They then removed to Clayton County, Iowa. In 1855 they came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Meriden Township, where they remained until 1879; then retired from farming and moved to Owatonna, where they still reside. Mr. Wilker, our subject, began life for himself when twenty-one years of age, locating in Meriden Township, on section 27, where he is still engaged in farming. Mr. Wilker was married to Miss Amelia Welk, who was born March 18, 1856. They had six children, four of whom are dead. John, born June 19, 1876, and Albert, born February 4, 1878, are the only living children. Mr. Wilker is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the Lutheran Church. He was elected side supervisor in 1882 and held that office one year, after which he was chairman of the board for three years. In 1879 he was elected clerk of school district 39, which office he held for three years.

John O. Wuamett, one of Steele County's most extensive farmers and stock-raisers, was born in Montreal, Canada, December 20, 1830. His parents, John and Mary (Barrel) Wuamett were also natives of Canada. They had four children: Anton, Ralph, Sophia and John. The father died in Canada in 1864. When thirteen years of age John O. Wuamett started out for himself, clerking in a store in Canada for five years; then went to Connecticut, where he also remained five years. He then returned to Canada, remaining one winter, thence to Champaign County, Ill., where he was engaged in farming until 1856, when he came to Steele County, Minn., locating on section 3, in Meriden Township. Mr. Wuamett has at present 500 acres of land on sections 2, 3, 10, 16 and 27 and does an extensive farming and stock-raising business. He was

married March 30, 1865, to Miss Sarah Glover, who was born in Greene County, Wis., April 22, 1848. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania and Illinois. There were seven children in her father's family. Mr. Wuamett and wife have five children: Ellen, born February 14, 1866; Ida, born June 15, 1869 (died January 20, 1871); Frank, born August 16, 1871; Clara, born July 10, 1875, and Clifford, born August 13, 1879. Mr. Wuamett is a Republican in politics. He has been chairman of the board of supervisors for some four years; has also been town treasurer, town assessor, school director and county commissioner.

Thomas Andrews, deceased, was born in Columbia, Ohio, February 20, 1829. His parents were natives of Ireland and New Hampshire. Mr. Andrews came to Minnesota in 1854, locating in St. Paul. In 1856 he came to Steele County and settled on section 8, in Meriden Township, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising. Mr. Andrews was married May 19, 1856, to Miss Margret Blong, who was born in Ireland March 29, 1836. The result of this union was seven children: Cleos Francis, born July 25, 1857; Mary Ellen, born October 11, 1858; Robert Stewart, born January 19, 1860; James Watson, born July 22, 1867; Jennie R., born August 25, 1869; Arthur Thomas, born February 23, 1870, and Clarence Centennial, born July 4, 1876. Cleos Francis was killed in the "St. Cloud Cyclone," April 14, 1886. He had been a member of the Baptist Church for five years. Robert was married November 20, 1881 to Miss Ellen Safford. They reside near Fergus Falls, Minn. They have three children: Margret Maud, William and Ellen. The rest of the children are living at home. Mr. Andrews died May 4, 1887, and was buried in the Owatonna cemetery. He was a Republican in politics, and was a man who was highly respected by all who knew him. He had held the office of school director two years.

David House was born in New York,

January 15, 1821. His parents were also natives of New York. Mr. House came to Minnesota in April, 1857, locating at once on section 27, Meriden Township, Steele County, engaging in farming and the raising of stock. Mr. House was married September 29, 1844, to Miss Sarah Chapin, who was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., January 10, 1822. Her parents, Gad and Sally (Kelsy) Chapin, being natives of the same State. There were five children in her mother's family: Cloe, Anna, Eri and Sarah, the last named having been named after a sister who had died. Anna and Sarah are still living. Anna married David Stoddard (deceased). She was married to her second husband, John A. Robbins, a native of New York. Mr. House and wife had two children: Elwin, born March 8, 1851, and Lavonzo, born in April, 1856. Elwin married Miss Dorothy Bunyon, a native of St. Lawrence County, N. Y. They are located in Yellow Medicine County, Minn. Lavonzo married Miss Lizzie Ross, who was born in Ohio, November 20, 1853. Her parents, Reese G. and Susan (Mattox) Ross, were natives of Pennsylvania. They are both dead. Our subject, Mr. House, is a Republican in politics. He was elected school director of district 29 at an early day, and held the office for ten years. He has also been clerk of district for five years. He is a prominent citizen of the township.

Joseph Grandprey, one of the pioneer settlers of Steele County, was born in Canada, April 22, 1818. His parents, Alexander and Margaret (Genereux) Grandprey, were also natives of Canada. Joseph Grandprey began life for himself when twenty-two years old. In 1857 he came to Steele County, Minn., first locating in Lemond Township. From there he removed to Meriden Township, settling on section 22, where he still lives, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Grandprey was married September 15, 1844, to Miss Marinda Middaugh, who was born in New York, in November,

1824. The result of this union was seven children: Sarah E., Andrew M., Mary A., Rose E., John R., Samuel E. and Fannie M. Mr. Grandprey is a Republican in politics. He has held the office of school clerk and school treasurer of district No. 43, and at present holds the office of justice of the peace.

Robert Andrews was born in Columbia, Ohio, May 2, 1834. His parents, William and Ellen (Watson) Andrews, were natives of Ireland and New Hampshire. They are both dead. There were four children in the father's family: Francis, Rebecca, James and Robert. The subject of this sketch, Robert Andrews, began life for himself at the age of thirteen, working-out on a farm for two years. Then he went to Poland, Ohio, where he worked in a mill for three years. He was then in the lightning-rod business for Baker & Co., of Cincinnati, for two summers, and finally came to Minnesota, locating in St Paul, where he remained for nine years. He came to Steele County, April 1, 1865, and settled in Meriden Township, on section 4, where he still resides, engaged in general farming. Mr. Andrews was married October 21, 1858, to Miss Louisa Baseman, who was born in Germany, February 19, 1838. They have three children: Emma, Archie and Helen, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Andrews is a Republican in politics.

J. D. Backus, farmer residing on section 12, Meriden Township, Steele County, was born in Washington County, N. Y., May 9, 1843. His parents, John and Electa (Congdon) Backus, were natives of Connecticut and New York. His father was born July 16, 1793, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. His mother was born March 1, 1803. There were fourteen children in the family. He, in company with his parents, came to Steele County, Minn., in 1866. The parents located on section 12, Meriden Township, remaining there one year and then retired, moving to Owatonna, where they remained

until the time of their deaths, the father dying November 1, 1878; the mother dying November 18, 1884. Our subject enlisted August 2, 1862, in the One Hundred and Twenty-third New York Infantry, and was discharged June 8, 1865, having been under Capt. Anderson. He was in the following battles: Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Dalton, New Hope Church, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw, Peach Creek, Ayersboro and Bentonville. After being discharged Mr. Backus went to New York, where he remained a few months, then returned to Steele County, where he has since lived. October 27, 1867, he was married to Miss Emma G. Ring, who was born in Maine, November 27, 1847. They have three children: Carrie E., born December 4, 1869; Flora E., born July 16, 1871, and Electa L., born December 9, 1880, all of whom reside at home. Mr. Backus is a Republican in politics. He has been justice of the peace, school director, and clerk of school district No. 10, and is at present one of the town supervisors.

William F. Hobbins, town clerk, and one of Meriden's most prominent farmers, was born in Gloucester, England, October 14, 1839. His parents were also natives of England. His mother died when he was three years of age, leaving two children, Ella and himself. His father came to America, locating in Wisconsin, where he married his second wife. Ella was married to Mr. Jeffers, a native of England. Mr. Hobbins first located in Milwaukee, Wis., after coming to America, where he remained for some time. May 1, 1866, he came to Steele County, Minn., locating on section 35, Meriden Township, where he still lives, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. September 18, 1862, Mr. Hobbins was married to Miss Rosaltha Reynolds, who was born in Wisconsin, September 18, 1844. Her parents were natives of New York, and were farmers. There were seven children in her mother's family. Mr. Hobbins and wife have

nine children, as follows: Loretta, born September 17, 1865; Nellie, born November 8, 1867; Emma, born August 14, 1869; Cora, born August 22, 1871; Zada, born August 9, 1873; Fred., born September 30, 1876; Jessie, born February 22, 1879; Nettie, born April 23, 1881, and Lura, born April 24, 1883, all of whom are single, and six reside at home. Mr. Hobbins is a Democrat in politics. He has been on the board of supervisors two years; was assessor for eight years, and was clerk of school district No. 36 some seventeen years. In the spring of 1887 was elected town clerk, which office he still holds.

Herman Rosenau was born in Germany, November 18, 1843. His parents, Godfred and Anna (Stendel) Rosenau, were natives of Germany. There were nine children in his father's family: August, Minnie, Fred., Caroline, Hattie, Herman, Rudolph, Gus, and William. In May, 1866, Herman Rosenau came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Meriden Township, on section 18, where he remained one year, then moved to section 21, in the same township. On February 6, 1865, Mr. Rosenau enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, being under Capt. James P. Allen, of Company L. He was discharged September 15, 1865. He went to Faribault, Minn., where he remained a few months, and then came to Steele County, Meriden Township, where he has since resided, engaging in farming and stock-raising. Mr. Rosenau has been twice married. First on November 24, 1866, to Miss Augusta Welk, who was born in Germany, June 14, 1850. Mrs. Rosenau died February 15, 1880, and was buried in Meriden Township. She left three children: Albert, born May 11, 1868; Milie, born October 11, 1869, and Hattie, born June 17, 1871. Mr. Rosenau was married to his second wife, Miss Otelie Zellmer, October 24, 1880. They have three children: Ottelia, born September 18, 1881; Elda, born January 2, 1884, and Arthur, born March 19, 1886. Mr. Rosenau is

a Republican in politics. In 1870 he was elected school district treasurer of No. 43, which office he held for three years; was elected in 1886 as one of the board of supervisors, which office he still holds. Mr. Rose-nau and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Lewis Reiter, a farmer residing in Meriden Township, was born in Germany, October 16, 1836. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Reiter) Reiter, were also natives of Germany. Lewis, in company with his parents, came to America in June, 1854, remaining for some time in New York and Wisconsin. In 1868 he came to Steele County, locating in Havanna Township, where our subject remained a year or two. He then removed to section 13, Meriden Township, where he still resides. In 1865 Mr. Reiter was married to Miss Julia Heller, who was born in Germany, August 7, 1845. They have seven children, as follows: Emma, born July 17, 1866; Matilda, born October 13, 1867; Albert, born March 1, 1869; Edward, born February 28, 1871; Bertie, born January 10, 1873; Sophia, born February 29, 1876, and August, born June 21, 1884. Emma was married October 15, 1885, to Chas. Finger, a native of Wisconsin. They have one child, Louisa, born December 24, 1886. Mr. Reiter is a Democrat in politics. In 1882 he was elected school director of district 34 and still holds the office; was also elected road overseer in the spring of 1887. Mr. Reiter and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Carl Radke, came to Steele County, Minn., in 1868. He was born in Prussia, January 23, 1845. His parents, William and Charlotte Radke, were also natives of Prussia. Their family consisted of seven children, all of whom are dead with the exception of Carl, our subject. He, in company with his parents, came to America in 1868, locating in Michigan for a few months. In May, 1869, they removed to Steele County, locating in Owatonna, where they remained for six years. Carl Radke is now engaged in farming and

stock-raising on section 13, in Meriden Township, having removed here from Owatonna city. In November, 1868, he was married to Miss Caroline Grunz, who was born in Prussia, December 8, 1844. They have five children: Olga, born August 8, 1869; Lewis, born February 10, 1872; Anna, born April 3, 1874; Carl, born January 19, 1876, and Martha, born August 9, 1879. All of the children live at home. Mr. Radke is a Republican in politics. In 1880 he was elected school district treasurer of No. 43, which office he still holds. Mr. Radke and family belong to the Lutheran Church.

G. Bosshard, farmer, residing on section 2, Meriden Township, was born in Switzerland, February 15th, 1841. His parents were also natives of Switzerland. His father's family consisted of the following children: Elizabeth, Godfred, Gustaf and Emilie. Gustaf is engaged in farming in Dodge County, Minn. He was married when a young man to Miss Katie Solmey. They have four children: Emma, Ada, George and Eddie. Emilie married Alfred Beardon. They have three children. Their present home is in Wisconsin. Gertrude was married in May, 1878. Elizabeth was married to Mr. Alfred Gattiker. They have three children: Emma, Edwin and William. In December, 1866, Mr. Bosshard, our subject, was married to Miss Fredericke Wolf, who was born in Germany, July 19, 1849; she died January 19, 1876, leaving five children, as follows: Herman, born June 23, 1868; Bertha, born November 7, 1869; Louisa, born March 7, 1872; Fred, born June 13, 1874, and Max, born March 13, 1876. February 12, 1877, Mr. Bosshard married his second wife, Miss Caroline Theile, who was born in Germany, May 4, 1841. They have one child, Armin, who was born November 25, 1878. Miss Bertha was married May 16, 1887, to Mr. Louis Kuchenbecker. They also live in Meriden Township. Mr. Bosshard is a Republican in politics.

Thomas Kujawa, who resides on section 2,

Meriden Township, was born November 11, 1852. He came to America in 1869, locating in Indiana, where he remained seven years. He then went to Chicago and worked in a tannery for a few months, and then came to Steele County, Minn., and began working on a farm. He was then engaged in the saloon business for one year. Mr. Kujawa was married April 23, 1877, to Miss Antonna E. Granoski, a native of Prussia, now deceased. He married his second wife, November 11, 1878. She was a Miss Constancy Schymanski, who is also deceased. On January 10, 1887, Mr. Kujawa was married to his present wife, formerly Miss Mary Nowaczski, a native of Prussia. Mr. Kujawa has five children: Rosalia, Celia, Wladislaw, Simon and Alex. He is a Democrat in politics, and is a member of the Catholic Church, as is also his family. Mr. Kujawa has been engaged in farming since he quit the saloon business in Owatonna, having moved from Owatonna to his present farm in Meriden Township.

August Grunz was born in Germany, January 27, 1852, his parents, Daniel and Louisa (Manke) Grunz, both being natives of Germany. There were six children in his father's family: Lena, Huldena, August, Charley, Hulda and Tilda. Hulda died September 1, 1853, and Tilda died when three years of age. The family came to America in 1873, coming to Steele County, Minn., and locating in Owatonna, where they lived for fourteen years. They then moved to Meriden Township, buying the northeast quarter of section 24, where they have since lived, engaging in farming. December 27, 1871, our subject, August Grunz, was married to Miss Ulrike Taske, who was born in Germany, July 25, 1851. They have six children: Herman, born November 28, 1872; Mary, born March 19, 1874; Gusta, born May 17, 1879; Charles, born April 21, 1882; Frank, born August 22, 1884, and an infant boy born September 2, 1887. Mr. Grunz is

a Democrat in politics. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Henry Stendel was born in Germany, October 30, 1845. He came to Steele County, Minn., in 1874, locating on section 15, in Meriden Township, where he has since lived. He carries on a general farming and stock-raising business. Mr. Stendel was married February 1, 1874, to Miss Sophia Oldenfendt, who was born in Germany, July 4, 1855. Her parents, Fred. and Caroline (Reiter) Oldenfendt, were natives of Germany. They came to America in 1869, locating in Clayton County, Iowa, where they remained five years. They then came to Steele County, locating in Meriden Township. The father has since died. Mr. Stendel and wife have four children: Minnie, born December 2, 1875 (died November 17, 1884, and was buried in Meriden Cemetery); Herman, born January 4, 1878; Louis, born December 2, 1880, and John, born September 2, 1885. Mr. Stendel and family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Stendel is a Democrat in political matters.

Norman G. Seely, farmer, came to Steele County, Minn., June 10, 1875, locating on section 14, Meriden Township. He was born in New York, November 18, 1842. His parents, John D. and Sybil (Gilmore) Seely, were natives of New York and Vermont. His father was born July 25, 1801, in Orange County, N. Y. His mother was born August 1, 1807, in Vermont. There were nine children in his mother's family: Agnes, John D., Thankful, Mial W., Sarah A., Norman G., Lura D., Emba J. and Laura E. John D., died June 8, 1875; Emba J. is also deceased. Norman G. Seely was married November 19, 1882, to Miss Lura E. Francis, who was born in Wisconsin, April 30, 1853. Mr. Seely has a fine farm of 200 acres, and is one of the prominent men of the township. He is a Democrat in political matters.

C. W. McVieker was born in Miami County, Ohio, December 18, 1843. His parents, Archibald and Susan (Custer) Mc-

Vicker, were natives of Virginia. Their family consisted of ten children: John D., George D., Elizabeth A., Mary C., Martha J., William H., Joseph P., Margaret S., Robert O. and Charles W. The parents are both deceased; the father died August 12, 1869. The mother died in August, 1878. When twenty-one years of age, C. W. McVicker started out in life for himself. He engaged in farming in Marshall County, Ill., for twelve years and on September 20, 1877, he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna, where he remained for one year. He then moved to section 12, Meriden Township, where he lives at the present time, engaged in farming. Mr. McVicker was married on February 4, 1867, to Miss Dorcas Johnson, who was born in Ohio, August 24, 1842. They have three children: Allen, born December 12, 1869; Mabel, born December 24, 1876, and Pearl, born March 12, 1880, all of whom reside at home. Mr. McVicker is a Republican in politics; has been school director of district 55 for four years; was elected road supervisor in 1879 and served two years, and has held various other local positions.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first birth in the township was that of a daughter of Mr. C. H. Wilker and wife, which occurred in March, 1856. The child grew up to womanhood, and is now Mrs. John Scholljerdes, of Lemond Township.

The first marriage in this neighborhood was that of W. T. Drum to Miss Roxie Henshaw, which took place at the residence of Austin Vinton, just across the line in Waseca County, September 24, 1856, Rev. H. Chapin of Owatonna, performing the ceremony. Oxen were used in conveying the guests to and from the party. Another early marriage, and probably the first within the limits of the township, was that of Daniel Root to Rebecca Williams.

The first death was that of Edwin House,

which occurred May 3, 1858. It is thought that the next was that of Mr. Simmons, a son-in-law of Mr. Fitzsimmons, the first settler of the township. He was killed by lightning while sitting in his house, in the summer of 1858. Another early death was that of Andrew Cook.

The first school in the township was taught in the summer of 1857, by Miss Leroy, a daughter of Henry Leroy. One of the first schoolhouses in the township was erected in 1857 by the citizens, on the northeast corner of section 10, now in district No. 52. At about the same time a log schoolhouse was built on section 30. There are now six school districts in the township.

The first religious service was held at the house of Mr. Wilker, in the summer of 1857, by a German Methodist preacher.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized in August, 1855, the territory of which Meriden is now formed became a part of Owatonna Township. It remained thus until the 6th of April, 1857, when the board of county commissioners set off and authorized the organization of township 107, range 21, as Meriden. The organization, however, was not fully perfected until the spring of 1858. Among those who were prominent in official matters in early days, and who filled the most important of the township offices were: F. J. Stevens, A. F. Tracy, Samuel Reemsnyder, J. O. Wnannett, T. P. Jackson, E. L. Scoville, W. F. Drum, W. T. Drown, Joseph Grandprey, Henry Leroy, E. L. Crosby, Robert Stevenson, L. G. Green.

The present officers of the township are as follows: Supervisors, Fred. Walter, chairman, J. D. Backus and H. Rosenau; treasurer, F. W. Goodsell; clerk, William F. Hobbins; constable, Henry Stendel; justices of the peace, Joseph G. Grandprey and F. W. Goodsell; assessor, R. G. Rosenau.

CHAPTER XXIV.

OWATONNA TOWNSHIP.



O a great extent the early history of this township is identical with that of the city. The township includes territory in township 107, range 20, but the incorporate limits of the city embrace nine sections of land in this congressional township, leaving only twenty-seven sections for the civil township. Straight

River traverses the township from south to north, and is skirted by a moderately heavy body of timber. The land, away from the region of the river, is made up generally of oak openings and rolling prairie, dotted with schools and residences, and diversified by the many groves which have been grown by the thrifty settlers. In 1857 the township, including the village, had a population of 614; in 1885 it had, including the city, 3,830; or, outside of the city, 550.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement within the present limits of this township was made in the fall of 1854, by A. B. Cornell and W. F. Pettitt, who located within the present limits of Owatonna city. G. W. Green, J. W. Park and S. B. Smith also came the same fall and winter. All these parties receive extended notice elsewhere.

During the year 1855 the following named came and made homes in this township, or near by: Addison Phelps, Nelson Morehouse, E. M. Morehouse, Alson Selleck, Joel Wilson, B. L. Arnold, Dexter and Parker Carlton, N. Winship, John Wileox, two of the Schimeks, David Lindersmith, Leonard and Simeon Case, Bazil Meek,

Obed Gaines, Miner Prisbey, Adolphus Town, E. Reed, Lucius Lewis, Philo Sanford, Charles Ellison, John Hand, Ezra Abbott, C. G. Hayes, John Moon and a man named Ward. Many of these parties brought their families with them, and at once selected claims and began making homes. The city history in another chapter details the growth in business matters.

In 1856 the following named all came and settled in this township: J. W. Morford, J. G. Morford, G. W. Morford, Dr. Harsha and John Odell. Besides these, a few others located in the southern portion of the township. After this the settlement continued gradually until all of the government land in the township was taken. Many of these, besides other early settlers, are noticed at length in connection with the biographical department.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first white child born in this township was also the first born in Steele County. It was a son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Green, born April 6, 1855, and was named George K. Dr. W. W. Finch was the attending physician.

The first death in the township occurred in August, or September, 1855, and was a child of Miner Prisbey's. The remains were interred in the cemetery north of town.

The first marriage took place in the summer of 1855, the parties being John Wileox and Clara Brooks. They were married at Faribault, by Elder Town. The event was heartily celebrated by the young people in the settlement.

The first building erected in the township was A. B. Cornell's log cabin.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized in the summer of 1855, it included all of the present county of Waseca and the two western tiers of townships now forming Steele. On the 1st of August, 1855, the board of county commissioners organized Owatonna Township, embracing all of the west two-thirds of Steele County, as it is now formed. August 25, 1855, Medford Township was organized, leaving Owatonna six congressional townships. April 6, 1857, the balance of the government townships were organized civilly, and Owatonna was left in the shape in which it has since remained. In the spring of 1858, the matter was readjusted to make it conform to a change in the law.

The following is a complete list of the gentlemen who have filled the various township offices during each year, as far as can now be learned from the records :

Elected April 5, 1859 — Supervisors, G. B. Hall, chairman, A. Selleck and Gordon Watson ; clerk, W. R. Kinyon ; collector, J. G. Morford ; assessor, John Odell ; overseer of the poor, A. Town ; constable, J. G. Morford.

April 3, 1860 — Supervisors, John Odell ; chairman, A. Selleck and Gordon Watson ; clerk, W. R. Kinyon ; assessor, L. E. Rawson ; treasurer, J. G. Morford ; justices, L. F. Babcock and Addison Phelps ; constables, C. R. Hutchins and J. G. Morford ; superintendent of schools, W. F. Drum ; overseer of the poor, Anton Schimek.

April 3, 1861 — Supervisors, Geo. W. Shaw ; chairman, Luther Torrey and Hiram Greenwood ; clerk, L. F. Babcock ; assessor, Addison Phelps ; treasurer, J. G. Morford.

April 1, 1862 — Supervisors, Geo. B. Hall, chairman, Dexter Carlton and L. C. Woodman ; clerk, W. R. Kinyon ; justices, M. A. Dailey and L. F. Babcock ; constables, G. B. Twiss and J. B. Crooker ; treasurer, L. R. Hunnewill ; assessor, L. E. Rawson ; overseer of poor, Adolphus Town.

No record of election in 1863.

April 5, 1864 — Supervisors, W. F. Pettit, chairman, D. Furman and L. C. Woodman ; assessor, L. E. Rawson ; clerk, A. M. Kinyon ; treasurer, D. S. Harsha ; constables, J. B. Crooker and H. A. Burr.

April 4, 1865 — Supervisors, Gordon Watson, chairman, Alson Selleck and L. R. Crooker ; assessor, G. B. White ; treasurer, Joseph Kaplan ; justices, J. L. Landon and William Thompson ; clerk, T. C. S. Minthorn ; constables, George Thom and Peter Hill.

April, 1866 — Supervisors, Gordon Watson, chairman, Daniel W. Wells and Frederick Mathwig ; clerk, Alson Selleck ; treasurer, John Thom ; constable, Joseph Young.

April 2, 1867 — Supervisors, Daniel Bliss, (died and J. B. Smith elected chairman, to succeed him) ; C. F. Mathwig and Samuel Bellig, Jr. ; assessor, Francis Thom ; clerk, Alson Selleck ; treasurer, John Thom ; justices, J. Landon and E. O. Walden ; constable, Hiram Robinson.

April 7, 1867 — Supervisors, J. B. Smith, chairman, Francis Thom and George Morford ; treasurer, John Thom ; clerk, Alson Selleck ; assessor, Gordon Watson ; justice, Harrison Greenwood ; constable, George W. Kinyon.

April 6, 1869 — Supervisors, Geo. W. Morford, chairman, W. B. Norman and John Pichner ; treasurer, John Thom ; clerk, Alson Selleck ; assessor, Francis Thom ; justice, J. W. Landon ; constables, J. B. Norman and Geo. W. Morford.

April 5, 1870 — Supervisors, G. W. Morford, chairman, J. Young and Francis Thom ; clerk, Alson Selleck ; treasurer, John Thom ; assessor, J. W. Landon ; justice, H. R. Thomson ; constables, J. B. Essex and Julius Town.

March 14, 1871 — Supervisors, H. Robinson, chairman, Joseph Young and W. B. Norman ; clerk, Alson Selleck ; treasurer, John Thom ; assessor, Francis Thom ; justices, L. Town and J. W. Landon ; constables, G. W. Morford and Robert Davison.

March 12, 1872 — Supervisors, J. Q. Ellis, chairman, J. Young and J. B. Smith ; asses-

sor, Francis Thom; justice, J. E. Barker; clerk, Alson Selleck; treasurer, John Thom; constable, M. Robinson.

March 11, 1873 — Supervisors, J. Q. Ellis, chairman, C. F. Mathwig and J. B. Smith; clerk, Alson Selleck; treasurer, John Thom; assessor, Francis Thom; justices, J. W. Landon and George Morford; constables, W. E. Kimball and Nathan Stone.

March 10, 1874 — Supervisors, J. B. Smith, chairman, C. F. Mathwig and W. E. Kimball; clerk, Alson Selleck; treasurer, John Thom; assessor, George Morford; justices, H. Robinson and J. W. Landon; constables, J. Q. Ellis and S. Case.

March 9, 1875 — Supervisors, J. B. Smith, chairman, Philip Iunker and John Thom; clerk, Alson Selleck; assessor, Francis Thom; treasurer, Joseph Kubat; justice, W. E. Kimball.

March 14, 1876 — Supervisors, N. S. Dwinell, chairman, G. W. Degner and J. W. Landon; clerk, O. D. Selleck; treasurer, Robert Thom; assessor, D. K. Johnson; justice, J. W. Landon; constable, N. Stone.

March 13, 1877 — Supervisors, R. De Long, chairman, George Kinyon and J. F. Bickner; clerk, O. A. Buckland; treasurer, A. Kubat; assessor, Don. Johnson; justice, R. De Long.

March 12, 1878 — Supervisors, G. W. Kinyon, chairman, J. F. Pichner and Martin Cook; clerk, O. D. Selleck; treasurer, Anton Kubat; assessor, Francis Thom; justice, J. W. Landon; constable, S. Case.

March 18, 1879 — Supervisors, G. W. Kinyon, chairman, Frank Sikora and Casper Zimmerman; clerk, O. D. Selleck; treasurer, Anton Kubat; assessor, R. De Long; justices, Alson Selleck and J. W. Landon; constable, Charles Sette.

March 9, 1880 — Supervisors, G. W. Kinyon, chairman, Philip Iunker and R. C. Thom; clerk, O. D. Selleck; treasurer, John Pichner; assessor, R. De Long; justice, Joseph Kaplan; constable, Casper Zimmerman.

March 8, 1881 — Supervisors, G. W. Kin-

yon, chairman, Philip Iunker and G. W. Degner; clerk, J. W. Landon; treasurer, A. Kubat; assessor, Joseph Kubat; justice, Alson Selleck; constables, Frank Sikora and Thomas Stephenson.

March 14, 1882 — Supervisors, G. W. Kinyon, chairman, Philip Iunker and Joseph Kaplan; clerk, J. W. Landon; treasurer, Anton Kubat; assessor, Joseph Kubat; justices, R. C. Thom and J. W. Landon; constables, John Pichner and John Gladback.

March 13, 1883 — Supervisors, G. W. Kinyon, chairman, John Pichner and G. W. Morford; clerk, J. W. Landon; treasurer, Anton Kubat; assessor, R. C. Thom; justice, Alson Selleck; constable, J. Gillett.

March 11, 1884 — Supervisors, A. R. Jones, chairman, A. M. Thom and Joseph W. Kaplan; clerk, J. W. Landon; treasurer, John Pichner; assessor, R. C. Thom; justice, J. W. Landon; constable, John Pavek Jr.

March 10, 1885 — Supervisors, A. R. Jones, chairman, S. Kinney and O. D. Selleck; clerk, G. W. Kinyon; treasurer, John Pichner; assessor, R. C. Thom; justice, A. Selleck; constable, J. M. Thompson.

March, 9, 1886 — Supervisors, A. R. Jones, chairman, Joseph Kaplan and S. Kinney; clerk, Joseph W. Kaplan; treasurer, John Pichner; assessor, R. C. Thom; justices, S. B. Williams and A. Selleck; constables, John Pavek and Seth Temple.

March 8, 1887 — Supervisors, A. R. Jones, chairman, S. Kinney and Samuel Kubat; clerk, J. W. Kaplan; treasurer, John Pichner; assessor, R. C. Thom; justices, A. Selleck and J. W. Landon; constables, John Pavek and Robert Lennon; judges of election, A. R. Jones, S. Kinney and Joseph Kaplan.

BIOGRAPHIES OF OLD SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Alson Selleck was born in New York State, December 20, 1823. In 1850 he came to Wisconsin, where he remained for five years. In 1855, while the settlement here was in its infancy, he came to Steele County, Minn.,



Francis Thorn

where he has since lived. Mr. Selleck was married September 17, 1850, to Miss Mary A. Kent. They have three children: Oliver D. born June 19, 1854; William A., born May 30, 1857, and Susan E., born September 8, 1862, who died June 11, 1864, and was buried in the Owatonna cemetery. Mr. Selleck is a Republican in politics, is a member of the Owatonna Congregational Church, and also belongs to the Owatonna I. O. O. F. He has for many years been prominent in all public matters and has held many offices of importance.

John Pichner was born in Bohemia, January 6, 1844. He left there in 1853 for the United States and went direct to Illinois. He remained there until the year 1855, when he came to Steele County, Minn., settling in Owatonna Township, where he now resides. Mr. Pichner was married in the year 1867 to Rosa Jirsonsek, and the fruits of their union were eight children, as follows: John, born October 16, 1868; Anna and Rosa (deceased), born October 27, 1873, twins; Hattie, born February 24, 1876; Lottie (deceased), born January 19, 1878; Maggie, born January 6, 1882; George born February 29, 1884; Robert, born March 12, 1886. Mr. Pichner belongs to the Bohemian Society in Owatonna, and in politics is a Democrat.

G. W. Morford was born in New York State, September 17, 1831. In 1853 he came to Wisconsin, where he remained till 1855. He then returned to New York State, where he remained some time, and then came back to Wisconsin, and after visiting in New York once more came to Steele County, Minn., in 1856, locating in Owatonna Township, where he now lives. Mr. Morford was married December 23, 1857, to Sarah Weller. They have been blessed with two children: Alice, born June 8, 1861, and Hattie, born June 4, 1871. Mr. Morford is a Republican in politics, has been prominent in political and official matters ever since he came to the county, and is one of the enterprising citizens of the township.

A. R. Jones was born in McHenry County, Ill., February 28, 1849. In 1856 he came to Steele County, Minn., where he has since resided. Mr. Jones was united in matrimony December 5, 1869, to Miss Alzina Coon. The fruits of this union were two children: Mary L., born December 15, 1876, and Charles L., born December 14, 1880. Mrs. Jones died August 6, 1886, and was buried in Havanna cemetery. Mr. Jones has been engaged in farming since he came to Steele County. In politics he is a Republican. He has held many offices of importance as will be seen in other chapters, and has been a leading man in the official history of the township.

Joseph Kaplan was born in Bohemia, in the year 1829. He left there in 1856 for the United States, and came direct to Steele County, Minn., where he now resides. Our subject has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in the year 1855 to Barbara Zeduk, who died on the 27th of October, 1881. The fruits of this union were ten children; their names and ages were as follows: Joseph, born September 20, 1856; Agnes, born April 20, 1858; Rosa, born June 29, 1860; Godfrey, born November 12, 1861; John, born December 30, 1863; Joslin, born May 1, 1866; Emil, born April 24, 1868; Lewis, born April 18, 1870, and Albert and Mary, deceased (twins), born December 28, 1873. The daughter Mary was killed by the cars, while coming home from school, June 13, 1881. His second marriage occurred May 22, 1883, to Anna M. Kaplan. The fruits of this union were two children, as follows: Anna L., born February 22, 1884, and Bedrich, born November 30, 1885. Mr. Kaplan belongs to the Catholic Church and in politics is a Democrat. He has been prominent in township affairs, and is a leading citizen.

J. W. Kaplan was born in Steele County, Minn., September 20, 1856, and has always resided here. He was married February 2, 1882, to Fanny Slavik. The fruits of the

union were three children, as follows: Emil, born December 1, 1883; Grace, born July 26, 1884, and Mabel, born January 15, 1887. Mr. Kaplan belongs to Bohemian Lodge, No. 67, C. S. P. S., of Owatonna. In politics he is a Democrat.

Samuel Kubat was born in Bohemia in the year 1846. He left there in 1854 for America and settled in Illinois, where he remained until the year 1856, then came to Steele County, Minn., where he now lives. He was married in 1869 to Matilda Blazak, the fruits of this union being six children. Their names and ages are as follows: Samuel A., born June 20, 1870; Anna M., born April 14, 1872; William A., born April 3, 1874; Henry L., born July 25, 1876; Matilda A., born February 5, 1879, and Josie I., born April 16, 1881. Our subject is a member of the Catholic Church in Owatonna, and in politics a Republican.

G. W. Degner was born in Prussia, October 25, 1836. He left there in 1855 for the United States and settled first in Wisconsin, where he lived until 1857; then came to Steele County, Minn., where he now resides. He was married November 7, 1867, to Sophia Alborn. The fruits of the union were eleven children: Louisa, born September 10, 1868; Emma, born April 4, 1870; Ernest, born September 16, 1871; one child died at birth, born May 10, 1873; Louis, born September 16, 1874; Edward, born September 24, 1876; Bertha, born April 14, 1878; Helen, born January 15, 1881; Edith, born July 6, 1883; William, born April 9, 1885, and Sophia, born February 11, 1887. Mr. Degner belongs to the Lutheran Church and is a Republican in political matters.

Francis Thom was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, July 8, 1808. He left his native country in 1856 for the United States, and first settled in Wisconsin. He remained there until 1858, when he came to Steele County, Minn., where he has since lived. Mr. Thom was married June 17, 1832, to Margaret Cragian, who died October 2, 1885,

and was buried in Owatonna cemetery. She was a lady of high Christian character and was beloved by all. The fruits of their union were twelve children, as follows: Anna, born August 7, 1833 (died March 22, 1885, was buried at Racine, Wis.); William, born Sept 9, 1834; George, born Aug. 24, 1836; Elizabeth, born Sept. 26, 1838; James, born Oct. 10, 1840; John, born June 19, 1842; Daniel, born July 8, 1844; Robert, born January 12, 1847; Maggie, born February 8, 1849; Frank, born June 11, 1851; Alexander, born March 15, 1854, and Mary, born June 25, 1855. Mr. Thom belongs to the Congregational Church at Owatonna. In politics he is a Republican, and has held a great many local offices of trust and importance, discharging the duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to the citizens of the township. No man in Steele County has led a more exemplary life than Mr. Thom, nor is held in higher esteem or respect by his fellow men. A portrait of Mr. Thom adorns another page in this volume.

R. C. Thom was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, January 12, 1847. He left there in 1856 for the United States, and first settled in Wisconsin, where he remained until 1858. He then came to Steele County, Minn., where he has since lived. He was married in 1875 to Mary J. Kerr. They have had three children, as follows: Elsie M., born May 1, 1876; Ada B., born September 12, 1879, and Daniel A., born September 16, 1882. Mr. Thom belongs to the Congregational Church of Owatonna. In politics he is a Republican.

R. Beaumont was born in England, October 1, 1817. He was a shepherd while living in England. In 1856 he came to America, first settling in Wisconsin, where he remained until 1858, when he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna Township, where he now lives. Mr. Beaumont was married in 1840 to Susan Mann, who died in 1854, and was buried in England. Mr. Beaumont was again married, in 1856,

to Mary Kidmann, the second wife dying in 1856, in Wisconsin, and he was again married in 1858 to Mary Elliott. Mr. Beaumont has nine children: Emma, born November 22, 1842; Isabella, born January 1, 1844; Susan, born March 30, 1846; Sophia, born March 5, 1848; Mary, born October 4, 1849; Charles, born June 12, 1851; William (deceased), born January 3, 1853; Lumean, born February 19, 1859, and Martha (deceased), born August 11, 1863, the first seven being by the first wife and the others by the third wife. In politics Mr. Beaumont is a Republican, and is also a member of the Baptist Church of Owatonna.

Anson Titus was born in New York State, January 22, 1814. In 1856 he came to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1859, and then came to Steele County, Minn., locating first on Straight River, in Owatonna Township, where he remained for three years, and then settled upon the place where he still lives. In 1840 Mr. Titus was married to Nancy B. Spencer. They have ten children as follows: Angnette (deceased), born January 11, 1841; Elhannan (deceased), born December 19, 1843; George, born March 23, 1845; James, born June 6, 1847; Harriet, born March 23, 1850; Mary (deceased), born June 17, 1851; Adell, born August 23, 1854; Ida, born March 23, 1857; Ezra, born April 15, 1859, and Clara, born August 11, 1861. Mr. Titus is a Republican in politics, and one of the prominent men of the township.

S. B. Williams was born in Massachusetts, June 26, 1822. In 1830 his parents moved to Ohio. In 1852 he went to California, where he remained until 1858, when he moved to Wisconsin. He remained there six months, then went to Illinois, and finally in 1860 came to Steele County, Minn. Mr. Williams was married in 1864 to Sarah Jane Domay. They had one child, Samuel B., born December 15, 1876, who died December 27, 1883, and was buried in the Owatonna cemetery. Mr. Williams belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and

also to the Masonic order in Waseca. In politics he is a Republican, and he is among the most prominent and influential citizens of the county.

Joseph Belina was born in Bohemia, in the year 1861. He left there in 1862 and came direct to Steele County, Minn., where he still resides. He was married in 1884 to Rosa Kaplan. Mr. Belina belongs to the Catholic Church and in politics is a Democrat.

William A. Wiggins was born in Barton, Vt., June 10, 1846. In 1862 he came to Iowa, where he remained one year. In 1863 he came to Steele County, Minn. In 1872 he moved to Mountain Lake, Cottonwood County, Minn., where he resided until 1876, then returned to Steele County, where he now resides. Mr. Wiggins was married in 1872 to Miss Emma McFall. They have four children: Millie M., born September 11, 1875; Ray W., born February 14, 1879; Loie A., born June 11, 1881, and Alice M., born October 26, 1884. In politics Mr. Wiggins is a Republican. He is also a member of the Methodist Church of Owatonna.

G. W. Kinyon, county commissioner, is a native of Jefferson County, N. Y. In 1864 he came to Steele County, Minn., where he resides at the present time. Mr. Kinyon was married in 1862 to Miss Frances Hanchett. They have four children: Nettie M., born July 1, 1865; Mary D., born November 10, 1867; Stella M., born October 28, 1869, and Nellie J., born August 10, 1871. Mr. Kinyon has been engaged at farming since he came to Minnesota. He is a Democrat in politics and belongs to the Congregational Church of Owatonna. As will be seen from reading Chapter V., Mr. Kinyon is the present county commissioner from this district. He is an efficient and careful officer and is making a creditable record.

Edgar B. Sanders was born in Fond du Lac County, Wis., March 22, 1851. In 1865 he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in

Owatonna Township, where he has since been engaged in farming, being among the prominent and thrifty farmers of the county. Mr. Sanders was married in April, 1886. In politics he is a Republican.

William J. Sahler, one of the thrifty farmers of the township, was born in Sauk County, Wis., April 9, 1855. In 1866 he came to Steele County, Minn., where he now lives. On the 10th of March, 1881, he was married to Miss Emelia Mathwig. They have been blessed with three children: Ida E., born November 17, 1882; Anna M., born January 12, 1884, and Lidia C., born December 24, 1885. Mr. Sahler is a Republican in politics and is a member of the German Methodist Church.

J. R. Morley was born in New York, November 19, 1850. In 1860 he came to Wisconsin, remaining there until 1868, when he moved to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna. In the fall of 1872 Mr. Morley went to Chicago; in 1873 removed to Jefferson, and in 1883 he again moved to Steele County, Minn., settling in Owatonna Township, where he is now among the most prominent farmers. In 1872 Mr. Morley was married to Miss Emma C. Searl. They have four children: Mary C., born June 9, 1874; Ida M., born October 29, 1875; Alice E., born December 25, 1877, and Edna C., born Novem-

ber 4, 1884. Mr. Morley has been engaged in farming since he came to Minnesota, and is among the most enterprising men of the county. In politics he is a Republican, and is also a member of the Congregational Church of Owatonna.

William Iunker was born in Dane County, Wis., March 5, 1860. In 1868 he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna Township, where he still lives. Mr. Iunker was married in 1885 to Agnes Pischkey. They have one child, Samuel W., born October 18, 1886. Mr. Iunker is one of the thrifty farmers of the township. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, his wife being a Catholic. Politically Mr. Iunker is a Democrat.

T. H. Frazer was born in Ireland, February 1, 1840. He came to America in 1859, locating in Illinois. In 1863 he removed to Minnesota, and in 1878 he removed to Owatonna Township, where he is living at the present time. Mr. Frazer was married in 1880 to Miss M. A. Johnson. The fruits of their union were two children: Henry S., born October 1, 1881, and Hubert L., born December 5, 1882. Mr. Frazer has been engaged in farming ever since he came to Minnesota. He is a member of the Episcopal Church of Owatonna, and in political matters is a Republican.



CHAPTER XXV.

HAVANNA TOWNSHIP.



HIS forms one of Steele County's eastern tier of townships. It is bounded on the east by Dodge County; on the north by Merton Township; on the west by Owatonna, and on the south by Aurora. The Chicago & Northwestern Railway traverses the township from east to west, and a station called Havana has been located on the corner of sections 17, 18, 19 and 20. Rice Lake covers a considerable area of land in the northwestern part of the township, and Maple Creek flows from the lake to the Straight River, crossing the northern tier of sections. Quite a body of timber is found in the region of the lake and stream; but, aside from this, the township is made up of prairie and oak openings. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway touches the southwest corner of the Township, and Pratt Station is located upon the township line. In 1857 this township had a population of 222; in 1885 this had grown to 865. Havanna is among the wealthiest and most prosperous localities in Steele County, and is the home of many substantial and well-to-do farmers. The surface of the township is diversified by the many groves which have been set out by the thrifty settlers, and is dotted with fine buildings, schools and churches.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement within the limits now comprising Havanna Township was made during the year 1855. John and Robert Adair located in the northwestern portion of this township in July, 1855. Among others who settled here during the same year, were

Charles McCarty, William Burns, Robert Page, George Squires, George Baird and Mr. Johnson.

In 1856 the following named arrived and selected homes in this township: Mr. Sherman, George Dennis, William Ellis, Agrim Johnson, Andrew Thompson, Ole Johnson, L. K. Johnson, Newton Parker, James Soper, Mr. McCaslin, N. Easton, Silas Euston, J. and Elisha Eldridge, Ole Hoggenson, Daniel Potter, J. Nelson and others. Among many others, who came at an early day and should be mentioned, are the following, who settled here in 1857 and 1858, although it has been impossible to learn their initials, or how their names were spelled: Messrs. Conway, Bloom, Ewer, Brehmer, McNary, Hammond, Jones and D. C. Tiffany.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first death in the township was that of Mrs. Newton Parker, which occurred in November, 1856. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Wetzel, and it is believed that this was the first religious service held in the township.

The first birth that occurred in the township was that of Esther Adair, a daughter of Robert Adair. This took place in October, 1855.

The first marriage was that of Mr. Frank Hickok to Miss Elizabeth McCaslin, in the fall of 1857. D. C. Tiffany, a justice of the peace, performed the ceremony.

The first school in the township was taught in the summer of 1857 by Miss Elizabeth McCaslin.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized in

August, 1855, all of the territory which now comprises the eastern tier of townships belonged to Dodge County. Early in 1856 a change was made in county lines and this tier of townships became a portion of Steele County. On the 6th of April, 1857, the territory which now comprises Havanna (township 107, range 19) was set off and named Lafayette Township by the board of county commissioners, and its organization was authorized. In September, 1858, the name of the township was changed to Freeman, but in October of the same year the name was again changed, this time to Dover. Thus it remained until 1869 when the present name, "Havanna," was given to supersede Dover.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF EARLY SETTLERS
 AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

John Adair was born in 1818, in Islay, Scotland. He left there in 1848 and came to Canada, spending one year and a half near Toronto. He then came west to Wisconsin. About five years later he came to Steele County, Minn., coming here by team from Racine County, Wis., and arriving July 15, 1855.

Henry Langerher was born in Hanover, Germany, September 9, 1817. In 1851 he came to America, locating in Illinois, where he remained until 1856, when he came to Steele County, Minn., where he still resides. Mr. Langerher was united in the holy bonds of matrimony in 1847 to Miss Darete Schultz. Two children blessed their union: Lena (deceased) and Mena, born November 16, 1850. Early in 1868 his wife died, and was buried on the farm where she had spent so many years. In the latter part of 1868, Mr. Langerher was married to Miss Johanna Teaman. They have five children: Herman (deceased), born August 15, 1869; Emma, born October 13, 1871; August, born May 9, 1874; Evena (deceased), born March 23, 1876, and Henry (deceased), born February 15, 1878. In Germany Mr. Langerher was engaged at the carpentering trade, but has been

farming since he came to America. He received his education in Germany where his parents resided until their death. He is a Democrat, and a member of the German Lutheran Church.

Agrim Johnson was born in Norway, in 1826. He left there for the United States in 1854, and landed in Quebec. He remained there three days, then went to Stoughton, and later to Dar Creek, where he remained two years. From there in 1856, he came to Steele County, Minn., where he still lives. He was married in 1854 to Julia Johnson, the fruits of their union being the following children: James, Ole, Betsy, Ann, Eliza, Joseph and John. Mr. Johnson belongs to the Lutheran Church and is a prominent citizen of the township.

William Ellis was born in England in 1820. His father was a captain and boat owner, and William was brought up at a sea-faring life, serving as a sailor in the coasting trade, Spanish, Portugese, etc., experiencing many hardships and having an adventurous time. When twenty-five years of age he came to America (although as a sailor he had previously been here), and finally settled in Du Page County, Ill. In 1856 he came to Steele County, arriving in June, and settled in Havanna Township where he still lives. Mr. Ellis was married in 1843 to Sophia Gillot. Their children were: William Thomas (deceased), and William J., the latter a resident of Steele County.

William J. Ellis, was born in Illinois in 1850, and in 1856 he came with his parents to Steele County, Minn., where they have all since lived. William J. was married to Betsy Hemmerson, and they have the following children: Chrissa Ann, born December 19, 1874; Sophia J., born November 4, 1876; Fannie E., born August 29, 1878; Mary Cornelia, born October 30, 1880; Charles F., born April 21, 1884, and William J., born March 2, 1886. In politics Mr. Ellis is a Democrat. He is a member of the Episcopal Church.

Fred. Mussman was born in Hanover,

Germany, in 1838. He left there in 1852 and came to America, settling in Illinois, where he remained until 1856, when he came to Steele County, Minn., where he still lives. Politically Mr. Mussman was a Republican until the Greeley campaign in 1872, since which time he has been a Democrat. He was married on the 14th of September, 1864, to Barbara Thompson. They have had seven children, as follows: Ferdinand, born October 15, 1865; William, born January 28, 1867 (died in 1883); Lena, born May 12, 1869 (died in 1873); Theodore, born April 10, 1871; Sophia and Thursta (twins), born April 10, 1873, and Fred., born October 15, 1883. It should be mentioned that after coming to Steele County, Mr. Mussman worked at his trade (shoemaker) for two years at Hastings, Minn., but has always called Havanna Township his home.

O. M. Jones was born in McHenry County, Ill. He left there in 1857 for Steele County, Minn., where he now lives. He was married in the year 1879 to Mary Morford. They have two children: Ethel, born February 7, 1883, and William, born November 5, 1885. Mr. Jones' market is Havana. In political matters he is Republican.

W. M. Jones was born in Pennsylvania, in 1837. When he was four years old his parents removed to Wisconsin, and later settled in Illinois. In the spring of 1857 the family came to Steele County, Minn., where W. M. Jones has since lived. The father died in the spring of 1879. He was a man of high character, and held the esteem and respect of all who knew him. W. M. Jones was married in 1864 to Alvira Curtis, and they have three children as follows: Nellie, born in January, 1865; Ray, born in April, 1868, and Roy, born in December, 1879. Mr. Jones is a Republican in politics, and is one of the leading farmers in this part of the county.

Andrew Thompson was born in Norway, in 1840, his parents being Lewis and Velda Thompson. He lived there thirteen years,

and in 1853 settled in Dane County, Wis., stopping for awhile in Jefferson County, Wis., where he worked at various pursuits. He made his home there, until 1857, then started for the west, and came to Steele County, Minn., settling in Havanna Township. He was married to Anna Peterson; the fruits of their union were ten children, six of whom are now living.

Conrad Engbard was born in Germany in 1833. When twenty-three years old he came to America, locating in Pennsylvania, where he lived for five years. In 1855 he came to Minnesota, locating in Winona. In 1860 he settled in Havanna Township, Steele County, where he still lives. In 1861 Mr. Engbard was married to Fredarickia Baker. The fruits of this union were eight children: Augusta, born July 20, 1864; August (deceased), born August 12, 1867; Threse, born February 2, 1870; Charles, born August 28, 1872; Adolph, born March 17, 1875; William and Sofa (twins), born November 8, 1878, and Celia, born March 17, 1882. Mr. Engbard is a Democrat in politics, and is a member of the Lutheran Church.

Geo. L. Chambers was born in the North of Ireland in 1825. He lived there until 1853, then came to Washington County, N. Y. Remaining there four years, he then settled in Allegany County, where he was foreman of the Genesee Valley canal, while it was being constructed. In 1859 he came to Winona, Minn., and from there, the same year, came to Steele County, where he still lives. He was married in 1860 to Emma Burns. The fruits of their union were seven children, as follows: Belle, born July 7, 1862; Minnie, born September 18, 1864; Maggie, born in July, 1867; Evelandaria, born January 16, 1872; William J., born March 7, 1875; George, born September 5, 1877, and Frank, born June 10, 1883. Minnie married Mr. E. Reynolds, principal of the Appleton, Wis., high schools. Mr.

Chambers in politics is a Republican; he belongs to the Presbyterian Church.

William Wagner was born in Germany in 1834. In 1859 he came to America, locating in Illinois, where he remained for two years. He then removed to Missouri, and located at St. Louis where he remained for nearly three years. In 1863 he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Havanna Township, where he still lives, now having a valuable farm of 229 acres of land. Mr. Wagner was married to Miss Sophia Gills, and they have had five children, as follows: William, Martin, Alvina, Edo and Tilda. In political matters Mr. Wagner is a Democrat.

James Cotter was born in New York; from there he went to Cook County, Ill., where he lived for four years, then he went to Wisconsin and from there, in 1863, came to Steele County, Minn., where he now lives. He was married in 1883 to Aurelia Patterson. They have six children. In politics he is a Democrat.

Mrs. Anna Erdmann was born in Germany, May 14, 1842. She resided there until 1848 when she came to America, locating in New York, where she remained till 1850; then removed to Wisconsin, where she lived for fourteen years. In 1864 she came to Steele County, Minn., settling in Havanna Township, where she still lives. On November 17, 1862, she was married to Andrew Erdmann. The fruits of this union were eight children: William, born July 26, 1863; Charles, born March 23, 1865; Mathelina (deceased), born July 28, 1867; Edward, born June 24, 1870; Andrew, born August 14, 1874; Caroline, born July 14, 1876; Mary, born July 9, 1879, and John, born September 15, 1884. Mr. Erdmann died in 1885 and was buried in the Havanna cemetery. He was highly respected by all who knew him, and his death was a sad blow to the faithful wife and children who were left to mourn for the departed husband and father. Mr. Erdmann was a Democrat, be-

longed to the Lutheran Church, and was a prominent man in public affairs. Mrs. Erdmann is a member of the Lutheran Church.

John Widrick was born in New York. He left there in 1862 for Minnesota, settling at Morristown. In 1864 he came to Steele County, where he now lives. He was married to Harriet Quackenbush. They have had two children, Spencer and David, one of whom is living. Mr. Widrick's parents were born in New York State. His father died in the year 1862 and was buried in Wisconsin. His mother at the present time is living in Morristown, Minn. Mr. Widrick enlisted in the service at Owatonna in 1864 and was mustered out in 1865; he belonged to "Company E," whose first captain was Mr. Corkins and last captain was Mr. Bradford. He is a Republican.

Andrew Anderson, deceased, was born in Norway in 1832. In 1856 he came to America, locating in Wisconsin. In 1865, he removed to Steele County, Minn., where he lived until his death, which occurred in the summer of 1887. Mr. Anderson was married twice; first in 1849 to Carrie Sieve, who died in 1877. In 1886 he was married to Agnet Johnson. Mr. Anderson had six children, five by his first wife and one by the second. Their names were: Andrew, born in 1850; Siever (deceased), born in 1852; Caroline (deceased), born in 1856; Betsy, born in 1859; Sophia, born in 1862, and Charles, born July 9, 1886. Mr. Anderson was a Republican and a member of the Lutheran Church.

Isaac Jones was born in Illinois in 1844. He left there in 1865 for Minnesota, lived one year in Goodhue County, and then came to Steele County, where he still lives. He is a single man and is a Republican in politics.

Joseph Von Ruden was born in Prussia, May 6, 1837. In 1864 he came to America, locating in Wisconsin, where he remained until 1866, when he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna. There he re-

mained for three years. He then removed to Havanna Township, where he still resides. In 1868 he was married to Miss Minnie Langerher. They are the parents of eight children, as follows: John, born May, 31, 1870; Francis, born May 30, 1872; Joseph, born February 20, 1874; George, born September 20, 1875; Mary, born October 15, 1877; Alvenia, born September 9, 1880; Lena, born February 20, 1882, and William, born July 29, 1885. Mr. Von Ruden was engaged in farming in Prussia. While he resided in Owatonna he was engaged in the butchering business. He received his education in Prussia, attending school for eight years. In political matters he is a Democrat, and is a member of the Catholic Church. His parents died in Prussia.

Fred. Ahrens was born in Germany, June 17, 1850. In 1867, in company with his parents, he came to America, coming direct to Steele County, Minn., where he still lives. Our subject was married June 6, 1875, to Miss Dora Miller. The fruits of their union were five children, as follows: Alvina, born October 3, 1876; Edward (deceased), born November 21, 1871; Hulda, born December 16, 1881; Bertha, born March 28, 1883, and Mary, born September 15, 1885. Mr. Ahrens is a strong Democrat in politics, and is also a member of the Lutheran Church. He is one of the prominent citizens of the township.

Hans N. Christenson was born in Denmark, September 2, 1836. He worked at the shoemaker's trade until July 1, 1864, when he came to America, locating in Wisconsin. There he remained four years, when, in 1868, he came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Havanna Township, where he still lives. In 1863 he was married to Miss Matilda Hanson. They have been blessed with three children, as follows: Hans, born December 7, 1863; Charles R., born September 29, 1867, and Peter E., born August 28, 1876. Mr. Christenson was the first Dane that settled in Havanna Township, and was the means of

bringing thirty-two families of Danes to Steele County. He is a strong Republican, and also a member of the Lutheran Church.

Hans Markson was born in Denmark in 1843. In 1865 he came to the United States, locating in Wisconsin, where he remained four years. In 1869 he came west to Steele County, Minn., where he resides at the present time. In 1870 he was married to Anna Maria Smith. They have six children: Mark Nelson, born October 3, 1871; Millde, born November 8, 1873; Alice C., born March 23, 1876; Albert, born July 18, 1878; Elnora, born September 11, 1880, and Clara, born April 3, 1883. In politics Mr. Markson is a Republican, and is also a member of the Lutheran Church.

Henry Hartle was born in Worcestershire, England. He came to the United States in 1869, and came direct to Steele County, Minn., locating upon a fine farm in Havanna Township, where he lived until the time of his death in 1878, and where his family still reside. Mr. Hartle was a man of high standing among his acquaintances, and held the respect and esteem of all. His remains were buried in Havanna cemetery. His wife was also a native of England, and she died in Minnesota in 1879. Their family consisted of nine children, who still carry on the place, and they are among the most prominent and well-to-do citizens of the township.

Henry Wacker was born in Germany in 1847. In 1867 he came to America, locating in Baltimore, where he remained two years. He then, in 1869, came to Steele County, Minn., where he is still living. He was married in 1867 to Lotta Nuller. Five children blessed this union, as follows: Mary, born November 17, 1867; Deetrich, born November 20, 1869; Fred., born June 10, 1872; Louisa, born October 14, 1875, and Augusta, born December 14, 1877. Mr. Wacker was engaged at the blacksmith's trade in Germany for eighteen years. He received his education in Germany, where his parents resided until the time of their deaths. Mr. Wacker

is a Democrat in politics and is also a prominent church member.

B. P. Chapin, one of the prominent citizens of the township, was born in New York State, March 2, 1850. In 1870 he came to Steele County, Minn., and located in the township of Havanna, where he still lives, carrying on general farming and stock-raising, having a well tilled farm of 190 acres of land. He was married in this county to Kate Landon in 1877. They have three children, as follows: George R., born May 20, 1882; Clara, born April 5, 1884, and Frank, born January 11, 1886. Mr. Chapin is a Prohibitionist in politics, and is a member of the Free Methodist Church.

Peter Jansen Synskov was born in Denmark, May 1, 1844. In 1874 he came to America. After spending one summer in Wisconsin he came to Steele County, Minn., in 1875, locating in Merton Township, where he remained for five years. He then moved to Havanna Township, where he now lives. He was married in Denmark in 1871 to Miss Mary Yule. They have seven children: James P., born April 20, 1872; Christ, born July 24, 1874; Andrew P., born May 25, 1876; Mary P., born March, 27, 1878; Hans P., born April 9, 1880; Anna P., born April 12, 1882, and Henry P., born June 30, 1884. Mr. Synskov is a Republican, and is a member of the Lutheran Church. He received his education in Denmark, where his parents lived until their deaths.

L. L. Inman was born in New York State. When two years old he left there with his

people for Bradford County, Pa., and, when he was eight, they removed to Wisconsin. He remained there until he was thirty-six years old, when he went to Nebraska. Two years later, in 1875, he came to Steele County, Minn., where he still lives. He was married in 1869 to Elizabeth J. Warren. Their children were as follows: Bertha M., born June 10, 1871; George Frederick, born March 8, 1875; Luther L., born October 31, 1876, and John J., born July 30, 1884. When the war broke out Mr. Inman entered the service, enlisting in a cavalry brigade at Baraboo, Wis. He was seriously wounded in the battle of Dallas; was taken to field hospital; then transferred to Nashville; later to Evansville; then to Keokuk hospital, and was finally mustered out in 1865. He has not fully recovered from his wounds yet. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of James A. Goodwin Post, Grand Army of the Republic.

Frank L. Thamert was born in Freeborn County, Minn., September 13, 1860. In 1876 he came to Steele County, Minn., where he resides at the present writing. Mr. Thamert has been engaged in farming since he came here, and is one of the enterprising young men of the county. He is a prominent politician, being a strong Democrat. Mr. Thamert has four brothers in Minnesota, three of them being in Steele County and the other one in Freeborn County. Mr. Thamert is one of the active young members of the Catholic Church of Owatonna.

CHAPTER XXVI.

AURORA TOWNSHIP.



TOWNSHIP 106, range 19, is organized civilly as Aurora Township. It forms one of the eastern tier of townships in the county, and is bounded on the north by Havanna Township; on the south by Blooming Prairie Township; on the west by Somerset, and on the east by Dodge County. The soil here is made up of a rich dark loam, which is very fertile. In early days considerable of the land here was marshy and wet, but in later years this has been making the most profitable and productive farming land in the county. The other portions of the township are made up chiefly of oak openings, interspersed with fine tracts of prairie land, just enough undulating to make it of easy tillage. The population of the township in 1857 was only 138, including what is now Blooming Prairie Township, and in 1885 this had grown to 727.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad traverses the township, having been constructed through here in 1867. The same year a station was located here called Aurora. This furnishes the inhabitants with easy market and shipping facilities. The village consists of several dwellings, a station, Aurora postoffice, etc. In addition to this, the station called Pratt is located in the northeast corner of this township, and has about the same line of business as is represented at Aurora.

EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

The first settlement in Aurora Township was made on May 19, 1856, at which time

quite a party came and selected government land. The party consisted of Charles and A. C. Adsit, George W. and B. J. Grimshaw, John Ball and John Perham. None of these parties except Charles Adsit are now residents of the county, but two of them live in the State. A. C. Adsit is now assistant United States attorney of the western district of Michigan; John Ball became prominent during the war, coming out of service as colonel of the Eleventh Minnesota Regiment; John Perham now lives in Michigan and has been a member of the Legislature of that State several terms.

When this party arrived in Aurora, May 19, 1856, there was not a single settler within the limits which now comprise the township. The only traces of settlement was a little piece of breaking on the southeast quarter of section 27. A stage driver named Baker had taken a claim there early in the spring of 1856, but had made no settlement. His, it is thought, was the first claim taken in the township, and the only one prior to the arrival of the "Adsit party."

About all of the government land was taken during the summer of 1856 and the town filled with settlers very rapidly. But very little was raised in the way of crops and vegetables, only a little sod corn and potatoes, and Charles Adsit sowed a little patch of land to oats. A severe hailstorm visited this portion of the county in August of this year, and proved disastrous in many instances to the few fields sown.

Among others who settled in this township during the years 1856 and 1857 the following are remembered: A. B. Clark, John

George, Henry and J. S. Bixby, Oscar King, S. A. Sargent, Hon. Amos Cogswell, August Miller, Christopher Dickinson, I. D. Beeman, Hon. G. C. Pettie, Moses Bentley, David Bentley, Mr. Hoggerfield, William Deppin, F. Krueckerberg, Rufus Waterman, the Stapletons, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Grover, Mr. Montgomery, H. Eastman and Mr. Barrett, besides a number of Germans.

Charles Adsit, one of the pioneer settlers of Steele County, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., April 29, 1833. He remained with his parents until twenty-three years old, then joined a party coming west, consisting of A. C. and Geo. W. Adsit, B. J. Grimshaw, John Ball and John Perham, coming to Minnesota and taking up government land, our subject, Charles Adsit, locating on section 35, Aurora Township, Steele County, where he still resides. Two of the party still reside in Minnesota. A. C. Adsit is at present assistant United States attorney of the western district of Michigan. John Ball was colonel of the Eleventh Minnesota, when the war closed. John Perham resides in Michigan and has been a member of the Legislature of that State several terms. Mr. Adsit, our subject, was married May 10, 1860, to Miss Jennett Woodruff, a native of Jefferson County, N. Y. Her parents were also natives of Jefferson County, N. Y. Her father, in his younger days, followed landscape and portrait painting and attained great skill in his chosen profession. Ultimately, he was connected with the Woodruff Sleeping Car Company, and was the inventor of the car now being used and manufactured by that corporation. Mrs. Adsit departed this life October 2, 1878, leaving four children to mourn her loss: Charles W., born February 11, 1863; Will B., born March 21, 1865; John Waldo, born December 12, 1868, and Nettie P., born March 13, 1877. There were seven children, three of whom are dead. Mr. Adsit was the first postmaster in Aurora Township, having been appointed in the fall of 1856, and held the office

for fifteen years. He has also held all the local offices of the township at various times. Mr. Adsit is a Republican in politics, and is a representative man of the county.

John Bixby located on section 33 in the fall of 1856, and is still engaged in farming and raising stock. He was born January 28, 1814, in Vermont. In 1839 he left home and was engaged in farming in Vermont for twenty years. He removed to Wisconsin and subsequently came to Minnesota. He married Miss Schagel, a native of Canada, born April 10, 1817. They had five children: Jacob S., born November 8, 1840; Hattie, born September 28, 1844; Henry, born December 4, 1847; George, born June 15, 1851, and Addie, born February 5, 1861. Hattie married George Curtis, a native of Illinois, and lives in Aurora Township. Henry married Miss Lydia Block, a native of California; they are living in New Mexico. George married Miss Alice P. Schagel, a native of Canada, and they are located in Aurora Township. Addie married Mr. Upham, a native of New Hampshire, who is a geologist in the employ of the government. Mr. Bixby is Republican in politics. His family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He has filled the offices of justice of the peace, school treasurer and town clerk.

J. S. Bixby came to Steele County, Minn., October 24, 1856. He was born in Vermont, November 8, 1840. When he started in life for himself he engaged in farming. He enlisted August 11, 1862, in the Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and was discharged September 16, 1865. Mr. Bixby was in sixteen skirmishes and battles, the first one being at Big Mound under Gen. Sibley. The second battle was that of Stoney Hill. After being discharged, Mr. Bixby came back to Steele County. He was married November 29, 1866, to Miss Lizzie Eichlar, a native of New York. She died March 24, 1879, and was buried at Blooming Prairie. Mr. Bixby and wife had five children: Katie M., born Sep-

tember 22, 1869 (died February 10, 1871); Lottie A., born December 26, 1871 (died January 24, 1872); Jennie S., born March 12, 1872; Henry N., born May 9, 1874, and Jessie M., born May 1, 1876. Mr. Bixby was married to his second wife, Miss Gertie C. Liveson, who was born in Norway, March 3, 1856. They have two children: John, born December 26, 1882, and Jacob, born August 16, 1885. Mr. Bixby is located on section 34, where he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He is a Republican in politics. He was elected chairman of the board of supervisors March 20, 1862, holding the same until in August, when he joined the army. In 1885 he was elected justice of the peace, which office he held two years. He has also been clerk of school district, and in many other ways been prominent in public affairs.

Corydon King came to Steele County, Minn., in 1856. He made the first claim, south of what is now Rice Lake, on section 13, Havana Township. He remained there seven years, then removed to section 34 in the same township. In 1869 he came to Aurora Township, and located on section 11, his present home. He was born May 24, 1830, in Cattaraugus County, N. Y. His mother was a native of Massachusetts, and his father of Vermont. His father died in Claremont, Minn., in December, 1863; he held a commission in the war of 1812, which was signed by Gov. Clinton, of New York. October 12, 1856, Corydon King was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Bartlett, who was born in Maine, April 23, 1837. She is now deceased; was buried in Havana Township. She left one child, Augusta Belle, born August 25, 1857, who married Mr. Sylvester Bell, a native of Iowa, and now resides in Aurora Township. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have one child, Floyd Lee. Mr. King is a Democrat, and at various times has been honored by the nomination of his party for important offices. In 1871 he was elected chairman of the board of supervisors, and held the office for a number of years.

Fred. Kruekerberg has a fine farm of 520 acres on section 36, Aurora Township, and is industriously engaged in stock-raising and farming. He was born in Germany, March 17, 1831; emigrated to America when a young man. He married Miss Sopha Meyer, a native of Germany. They have eleven children: Sopha, Henry, John, Fred., Wilhelmine, Anna, Ernest, Ida, Lizzie, George and Herman. When he landed in New York he worked there for two months, then made his way to Illinois, where he labored two years, then removed to Steele County, Minn. He is a Republican in politics. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

David C. Hunkins is engaged in the mercantile business at Pratt Station in Aurora Township. He was born in New Hampshire, September 14, 1827, and came to Minnesota in the spring of 1853. He engaged in his present business in St. Paul and remained about a year and a half. Afterward in 1854 he removed to Rice County, and farmed it for six years. He then sold his farm and moved to Medford, Steele County, Minn.; opened a store which he continued there fifteen years; also was postmaster for six years. Then moving his family to Owatonna, he transferred his goods to Claremont where he was in business a number of years. Then for about five years he was in business at Owatonna, and then established a store at Pratt Station. December 20, 1852, he married Miss Weltha A. Sanborn, who was born in Massachusetts in 1823. They have seven children: George E., born March 9, 1854; William S., born December 2, 1856; Frank A., born August 13, 1859; Josephine M., born March 30, 1861; Myra F. born April 2, 1863; Adelbert B., born April 25, 1864, and Fred. C., born December 23, 1867. Myra is living at home. George married Miss Lura Barlow, a native of New York. They live at Medford. William married Miss Dora Williamson, also a native of New York. Mr. Hunkins is a Republican. His family are all members of the Baptist Church. His parents

were Stephen S. and Hannah D. (Clark) Hunkins. His father died in 1847. His mother still lives with him, being eighty six years of age.

George Gabriel, residing on section 36 Aurora Township, was born in France, October 13, 1832. At the age of twelve he began life for himself, and learned carpentering, wagon-making and blacksmithing, which he afterward followed in Wisconsin for ten years. He came from Washington County, Wis., to Steele County, Minn., in 1862. In April, 1854 he was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Amy, a native of Ohio, who died March 29, 1878, and was buried in Aurora cemetery. They had three children: Madora, born July 4, 1857; Lillie, born August 24, 1858, and George, born January 10, 1868. Madora, was married July 5, 1875 to Charles F. Ellis, a native of Massachusetts. Lillie and George are unmarried. Mr. Gabriel married his second wife, October 18, 1879, Miss Martha Day, a native of Canada. They have three children: Matilda, born December 12, 1880; Elijah, born November 5, 1881, and Kittie, born June 25, 1884. He is a Republican in politics, has been school treasurer for several terms, and is one of the most substantial citizens of the township.

J. K. Bucklin, is a well known farmer of Aurora Township. He is a native of Jefferson County, N. Y., born March 31, 1837, and came to Steele County, Minn., in 1864. He now has a fine farm on section 25, and also forty acres in Dodge County, on section 31. He was favored with a good education and off and on followed the profession of teaching for twenty years. He taught the first school in the village of Blooming Prairie in 1869-70. He was married to Mrs. Augusta Pettie, a native of New York. She was the daughter of Diantha (Robbins) and William Lamphier. Her former husband was Hon. Geo. C. Pettie, who was born April 23, 1828, and died January 18, 1865. He was a prominent man, took an active inter-

est in the affairs of his county. He was a member of the first Legislature of Minnesota, serving in 1857-8. He was married to Miss Lamphier October 24, 1852. They had six children: George R., Viola E., Willis, Ann J., Lewis L. and David C. George, Viola and Willis are married. Ann died in September, 1878, and was buried in Blooming Prairie. Mr. and Mrs. Bucklin have five children: Wayne K., born January 21, 1868; John W., born November 30, 1870; Effie M., born January 9, 1873; Frank W., born October 20, 1875, and Lottie E., born December 5, 1880. Mr. Bucklin enlisted, August 12, 1862, in the 5th Heavy Artillery, of New York (Company M) and was discharged December 17, 1862, on account of disability contracted in the service. He was elected town clerk in 1866, serving four years. He was chosen justice of the peace in 1879 and served six years. In 1887 he was again elected, and still retains the office. He is a Republican in politics.

Peter McCrady was born March 16, 1808, in Scotland. In 1867 he located on section 15, Aurora Township, Steele County, Minn., and is engaged in stock-raising and general farming. His parents were natives of Ireland. At the age of sixteen he left home to do for himself. In 1826 he enlisted in the British army, 79th Cameronian Highlanders, in which he served for three years. He emigrated to America and located in Clinton County, N. Y., where he engaged in farming about seven years. He removed then to St. Lawrence County, N. Y.; subsequently to McHenry County, Ill.; thence to Wisconsin, and finally to Steele County, Minn., as stated. In 1830 he married Miss Margret Nirlson, a native of Glasgow, who died in 1836, leaving two children. He was again married to Miss D. Blowels, a native of Montgomery County, N. Y., who died and left five children. In October, 1854, he married Miss Ellen Shea, a native of Ireland. They have seven children: Delia, Nancy, Michael, William, Theresa, Marian and Hellen. Delia and

Nancy are married. He is a Democrat in politics. He has held the offices of justice of the peace and school director for the last sixteen years. He belongs to the Catholic Church, and is esteemed as an excellent citizen.

George H. Curtis is one of the pioneers of Steele County. He is a native of Canada, born June 10, 1840. He emigrated to Rock County, Wis., where he worked seven years, and then came to Minnesota in November, 1857. He enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Infantry; was under Capt. Ambler for one year, then under Capt. Babcock until the close of the war. The principal battles he participated in, were Nashville, Tupello and Spanish Fort. He was discharged August 19, 1865, and located on section 32, Aurora Township, where he lived five years. He then moved to Owatonna, and engaged in collecting; from there removed to Blooming Prairie, where he engaged in the hardware and machinery business. After six months he sold out to D. Giddings, and removed to his present home, where he carries on stock-raising and general farming. He was married to Miss Hattie M. Bixby, who was born in Canada, September 28, 1844. They have four children: Fred E., born November 13, 1866; Frank H., born March 18, 1871; Herbert R., born March 24, 1873, and Walter N., born June 23, 1876. Mr. Curtis belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, and is a Republican in politics. He has held the office of assessor, took the United States census in 1880, and in other ways taken an active part in public matters.

Jonas G. McLoud is located on section 33. He was born in Vermont, August 6, 1821. He left home at fourteen, to do for himself, working on different farms. August 18, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Fourth Vermont, and was discharged June 29, 1865. Mr. McLoud was taken prisoner June 23, 1864, at Petersburg, and realized all the horrors of Richmond, Libby, Belle Isle and Andersonville prisons. He was released December,

1864. He then returned to Vermont and remained until 1868, when he came to Steele County, Minn. He was joined in marriage October 13, 1839, to Miss Abbie Ann Morey, a native of Vermont, who died of consumption, in Burlington, Vt., leaving six children: Henry H., Marilla G., Clarissa, Lucina, Samuel and Mary. On December 20, 1851, he married Mrs. M. Fisher, who was born March 21, 1813, her first husband having died March 7, 1845, leaving two children. Mr. McLoud has three children by this union: Abbie Ann, Phila P. and George W. Their daughter, Abbie, married Henry Henderson, and resides in California; George W., married Miss Clara Ellis, a native of Illinois, and lives in Clinton Falls Township. Phila married Warren Reynolds, of Wisconsin, and they also live in Clinton Falls Township. Mr. McLoud is a Democrat in politics.

Henry J. Cassidy purchased his present home on section 30, in Aurora Township, in 1882, and is now engaged in general farming. He was born in Kenosha City, Wis., August 31, 1853, and came to Steele County, Minn., June 1, 1870. He settled in Lemond Township, where he lived twelve years; then sold out and went to Dakota, where he was engaged in shipping horses. His parents located in Somerset Township, Steele County, where his father's death occurred October 24, 1878. He was buried in the Owatonna cemetery. His mother still lives in Owatonna. Henry J. Cassidy was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. McCauley, who was born in Ireland, January 4, 1854. They are blessed with three children: Ellen, born May 29, 1885; Alice, born April 30, 1886, and Henry James, born April 19, 1887. Mr. Cassidy is a Democrat, and belongs to the Catholic Church.

W. C. Lieb is the present postmaster and station agent at Pratt's Station in Aurora Township. He was born in Germany, June 3, 1849, and came to Minnesota in 1880. He remained in Owatonna for a few months, then removed to Somerset Station, which was afterward named Pratt. He has held his

present position since 1882. In 1876 he married Miss Matilda Schofferle, who was born in Austria, June 6, 1859. They have four children: William, born July 1, 1877; George, born October 28, 1879; Charlotte, born May 26, 1882, and Eva, born December 19, 1884. Mr. Lieb is a Republican in political matters. His family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Christian Johnson is located on section 14, Aurora Township. He was born in Denmark, July 9, 1859, and emigrated from Denmark in 1878 to Owatonna, Steele County, Minn., where he remained a few months. He then went to Havanna and spent two years, at which time he settled on his present place. He was married to Miss Emma Engelking, who was born in Illinois, March 11, 1866. They have two children: Clara Florence, born July 18, 1884, and Luella Emily, born March 6, 1886. Mr. Johnson is a Republican in politics. The family belong to the Seventh-day Adventists.

EARLY EVENTS.

The first birth in the township was that of G. E. Dickinson, a son of Christopher Dickinson and wife, born February 23, 1857. The boy grew to manhood, and is now a druggist at Nunda, Ill.

The second birth occurred on the 6th of March, 1857, when Helen, a daughter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Amos Cogswell.

The first marriage of residents of the township was that of David Bentley to Jane Hill, which occurred as early as 1858. The couple borrowed Mr. Stapleton's yoke of oxen and went to Owatonna, where the ceremony was performed.

Another early marriage was that of Joseph Branning and Miss Laura Pettie, July 7, 1861. They were married in Winona County.

The first death was that of Mrs. Stephen A. Sargent, which occurred on the 1st of September, 1856. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Harvey Chapin. This

was the first religious service in the township.

The first school was taught in the summer of 1858, in a log schoolhouse near Amos Cogswell's, by Miss Jane Arnold, afterward Mrs. W. Odell, of Owatonna. There are now seven schools located in the township.

Charles Adsit and G. W. Grimshaw built the first house and done the first breaking in the township. The house was built on Charles Adsit's land. The breaking was begun on the line between their claims.

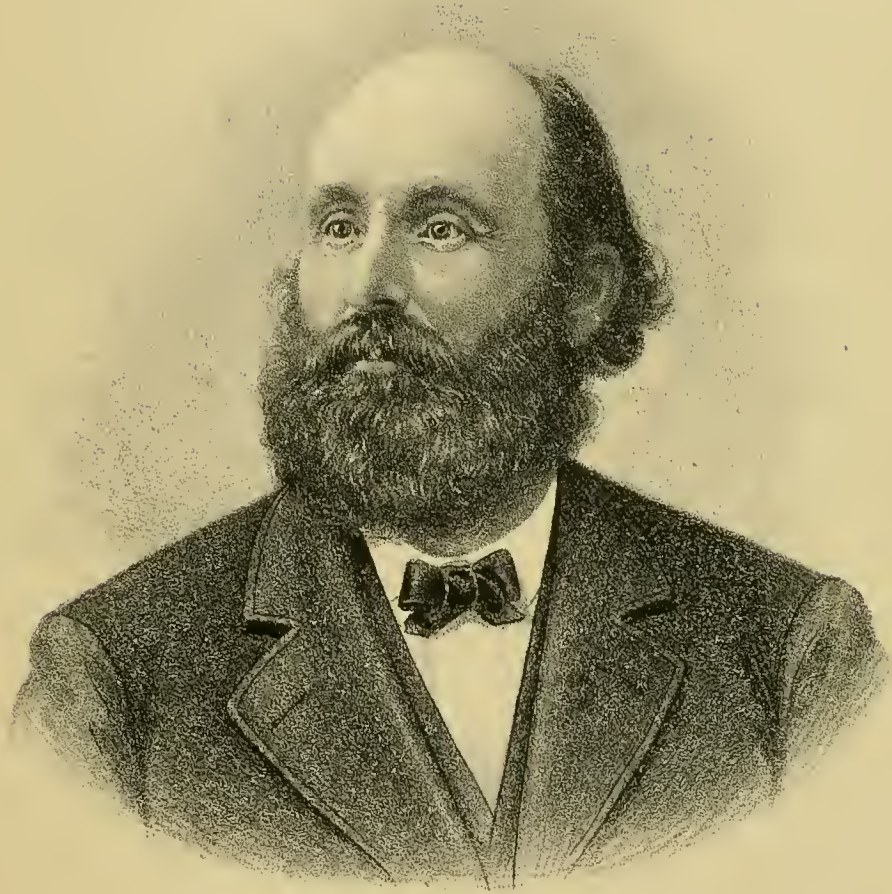
The first postoffice in the township was established at the residence of Charles Adsit, in September, 1856, under the name of Aurora. It was moved into Oak Glen Township, then back to Mr. Adsit's place, where it remained for some fourteen years, and was finally located at Aurora station, where it still remains. John J. Gnthrie is the present postmaster. Charles Adsit planted the first corn and potatoes in the township.

Pratt postoffice- was established later. W. C. Lieb is the present postmaster.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized in the summer of 1855, the territory which now forms the eastern tier of townships was a part of Dodge County, and it did not become connected with Steele County until February, 1856. On the 6th of April, 1857, the board of county commissioners set off township 106, range 19, named it Aurora, and authorized its organization. The first election was held at the house of A. B. Clark on section 22. The organization of the township was not fully perfected until the 11th of May, 1858, when a full set of officers were elected.

One incident in relation to detaching this tier of township from Dodge and annexing it to Steele County is remembered. The territory was annexed to Steele County in February, 1856, and in the winter of 1856-7. Dodge County parties came through Aurora with a petition, asking that the territory be



Jacob J. Harris



re-attached to Dodge. About all the citizens of Aurora refused to sign the petition; but at the following session of the Legislature the same petition was presented, and strange to say, it appeared signed by nearly all the citizens of Aurora, some one having forged them.

The official history of the township has been uneventful, the offices having without

exception always been filled by capable and honest men.

The present officers of the township (1887) are as follows: Supervisors, Patrick Keenan; chairman, Frank McCauley and Iver Anderson; assessor, Ole Prestagaard; treasurer, August Lindsey; clerk, J. J. Guthrie; justices, P. McCrady and J. K. Bucklin; constable, John Hogan.



CHAPTER XXVII.

SOMERSET TOWNSHIP.



THIS civil township embraces congressional township 106, range 20. It is bounded on the north by the township of Owatonna; on the east by Aurora; on the south by Summit and on the west by Leonard. Straight River traverses the western portion of the township and Turtle Creek flows across the northern portion. The river is fringed by a moderately heavy belt of timber, and heavy timber extends from Turtle Creek northward. Originally about all of the township was made up of timber and oak openings. The timber is composed mainly of oak, popple, black oak, and a little black walnut. The soil is generally a black loam, which is rich and fertile, and very productive, being well adapted for raising all the cereals common to this latitude. The population here is mixed, the present settlement being principally composed of Germans, Bohemians and a few Irish, Americans, Scandinavians, and other nationalities. The earlier settlers were mainly Americans. In 1857 the township had a population of 207. In 1885 this had grown to 833.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The earliest settlement in Somerset of which we can find any trace was made in 1855 by Thomas Thompson, who located on section 1. He remained here until 1881 when he removed to near Fargo. He erected the first log cabin in the township, and was the only settler who came that year.

In 1856, — on May 27, — three brothers, Levi, William and Albert Bailey came, and

Levi took his claim on the 1st of June. During the same year the following named all came: Jesse Healey, William B. Higgins, Jacob J. Harris, Thomas Kenyon, E. Lagro, Joseph Irvin, Dexter Smith, O. Fisher, Charles Dunster, J. Leslie, Cornelius Dunham, Mr. Hartshorn, Samuel Greenwood, C. Borchart, F. Borchart, H. Borchart, Charles Wilcox, Phelps Case, William Case, George Vincent, Gilbert Gross, Calvin Gross, Oscar Gross, Daniel Gross, Elias Hahn, T. J. Clark, O. A. Barnes, David Barnes, Henry and John Catlin, Charles Ellison, Charles R. Knowlton, John A. Knowlton, Warren Fisher, James E. Hughes, T. C. Minthorn and others.

Nearly all the settlers of that year in Somerset were natives of New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin or the New England States.

The township filled up very rapidly and nearly all of the choice government land was taken was during 1856.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first marriage in the township occurred in July, 1858. The parties were Alexander Hissam and Miss Rachel Bill.

The first birth in the township was a daughter, Ellen, born to Mr. and Mrs. T. Jefferson Clark, in 1856.

The second birth in the township occurred on the 11th of April, 1857, when John J. Healey, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Healey, was born.

The first death in the township was that of Mr. Manna Case, which occurred in July, 1858.

The first school was taught in the summer of 1856 by Miss Phoebe Kenyon, in the attic

of the residence of Dr. Thomas Kenyon, and by virtue of the elevated position of the room it was denominated the "high school."

The first schoolhouse was erected in district No. 40, in 1857, and Eliza Sawyer taught the first school in the house. There are now six school districts in the township.

The first postoffice in the township was established in 1857 with Dr. Thomas Kenyon as postmaster. It was then called Somerset Postoffice. Succeeding Dr. Kenyon the following were postmasters in the order named: Charles Ellison, Mr. Bill, Dr. W. H. Twiford, Lewis Robinson, W. R. Catlin and D. M. Smith. The last named is the present postmaster. A number of years ago the name of the office was changed to "River Point," which it still retains.

A postoffice was established a number of years ago under the name of "Steele Center." M. D. Whitman is the present postmaster of this office.

VILLAGES.

A village called "Somerset" was platted on section 20 in this township, in 1856, by John and William Catlin and Charles Ellison. They divided a forty-acre tract into streets, lots and blocks, and the establishment of a postoffice under the name of Somerset was secured. A store building was erected but was never occupied as a store, and finally, after considerable effort on the part of those interested, the project was abandoned and the site reverted to farm property.

In 1857 a village named "Elmira" was laid out on section 18 near the township line by Thomas Twiford, who platted about eighty acres of land. A company was formed through which a dam was thrown across Straight River and a sawmill was erected. A frame hotel was erected, which in those days was considered a credit to the county. Mr. Twiford also established a store. An earnest and determined effort was made to start a town here, and considerable stress was laid upon the pro-

spects of the embryo city as to county-seat honors. Five or six thousand dollars was expended in placing the village on a good foundation; but as it failed to get the railroad, the proprietor gave up hope and finally vacated the plat.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized in August, 1855, the territory which now forms Somerset became a part of Owatonna Township. It remained in this connection until April 6, 1857, when the board of county commissioners set off and authorized the organization of Somerset. The act was repeated in the spring of 1858. A complete organization was not effected until the 11th of May, 1858, when a full list of officers was elected including T. C. Minthorn, chairman of supervisors, and W. H. Sherman, town clerk. Among others who, in early days, were prominent in township affairs and held important township offices, were: Thomas Thompson, W. H. Sherman, J. W. Doolittle, Seth Hotchkiss, Thomas Kenyon, H. M. Bill, F. B. Doolittle, Augustus Theile, Dexter Smith, Phelps Case, Manley Curtis, Charles Ellison and John Anderson.

The present officers of the township are as follows: Supervisors, W. A. Pratt, chairman, James J. Healey and James Marion Jr.; clerk, Jacob J. Harris; assessor, L. F. Pike; treasurer, Dexter Smith; justice of the peace, L. F. Pike.

A REMINISCENCE.

Dexter Smith, Esq., in 1868, wrote the following in regard to the history of this township: "The prevailing characteristics of the inhabitants are honesty, industry and independence in thought and deed. The medical profession was at one time represented by Drs. Thomas Kenyon and W. H. Twiford, but owing to the 'alarming healthfulness' of this locality their 'pill bags' were early consigned to the cabinet of antediluvian curiosities, and they took to farming as a more lucrative business. Dr. Twiford however,

afterward resumed practice and now has an extensive business at Geneva, Minn. The legal profession, has no representative; the people have too much sense to spend their substance in litigation for the benefit of that fraternity.

"The pioneers in this town were without exception poor men, and suffered all the privations incident to the opening up of a new country. For several years our wardrobes and larders seldom contained anything but the absolute necessities of life; and I might cite you to more than one case where to 'keep the wolf from the door,' we subsisted ourselves and our little ones, on forage only suited to the cattle on the hills; but in hope and faith, and trust in the promises, and the vigorous strokes of our good right arms, we struggled on, and the seasons as they came and went never wholly failed to leave some token for the encouragement of renewed effort."

EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Levi Bailey was born in Pennsylvania, October 17, 1832. His parents were also natives of Pennsylvania, and were engaged at farming. They had five children, Levi being the oldest. He took his claim in Steele County, Minn., June 1, 1856, where he still resides. In August, 1853, Mr. Bailey was married to Miss Sarah Card, who was born in Pennsylvania, August 11, 1832. They have twelve children: Leander, born April 4, 1854; Melvin, born September 3, 1855; Edgar, born September 2, 1857; Alice, born January 24, 1859; Maria, born March 15, 1860; Ida, born October 3, 1861; Nelson, born June 29, 1863; Hiram, born March 15, 1865; Lemuel, born December 21, 1867; Cleos, born September 8, 1869; Elmer, born August 11, 1870, and Fred, born April 30, 1875. Alice, Maria, Ida and Nelson are married. Mr. Bailey is a Republican in politics. He has been supervisor of the township for six years; he has also been school district treasurer of district No. 12 for six-

teen years, and he still holds the office, and in many ways has been prominent in public affairs. Mr. Bailey is at present engaged in general farming and stock-raising, devoting his attention chiefly to short-horned Durham cattle and Percheron horses. He has two half-blooded Percheron stallions and some six or eight half-blooded Percheron mares. His cattle grade from one-half to seven-eighths short horn. He also does an extensive business in Cotswold sheep, and is among the most prominent stock-raisers in the county.

Jesse Healey was born in England, February 18, 1832. When nineteen years of age he came to America, locating in Jefferson County, N. Y., where he engaged in farming for two years. He then came to Wisconsin, where he remained for two years. In 1856 Mr. Healey came to Steele County, Minn., locating on his present place on section 21, Somerset Township, where he is still carrying on general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Healey was united in marriage to Miss Mary Lee, who was born in Ireland, December 21, 1834. They have four children: James Harris, born September 8, 1855; John Jesse, born April 11, 1857; George Jacob, born August 29, 1858, and Mary Ann, born November 29, 1859. In 1878 James married Miss Martha Thompson, a native of Iowa. They located at once in Somerset Township, where they engaged in farming. They have two children: Lawrence and Laura. George was married in 1886 to Miss Mary A. Marion, also a native of Iowa. They reside in Somerset Township, and are also engaged in farming. Mary was united in marriage in June, 1885, to Mr. James Marion, of Iowa. They are at present residing in Somerset Township engaged in farming. Jesse Healey, our subject, is a Republican in politics. He has been chairman of the town board. He was elected as one of the county commissioners in 1881; reelected in 1884, and served till 1887. Mr. Healey has also been treasurer of his township, besides hold-

ing many other local offices, and has always taken a prominent part in public affairs.

Dexter Smith, one of the pioneer settlers of Somerset Township, was born in New York, September 13, 1822. His father was a native of Massachusetts, and his mother a native of New Jersey. Mr. Smith left home at the age of twenty-one to care for himself. After teaching school for eight years, he engaged in farming, which business he still follows. In 1856 Mr. Smith located on section 21, in Somerset Township, Steele County, Minn., where he still lives. He has been twice married. First on November 19, 1848, to Miss Jane McMillen, who was born in Ohio in 1830, and is now deceased. She left three children: Dwight, born March 21, 1850; Abbie, born January 5, 1853, and Hortense, born January 22, 1858. Mr. Smith was again married, October 14, 1859, to Miss Berthania Butterfield, a native of New York. They have one child, Dexter M., born September 19, 1862. In 1876 Dwight was married to Miss Annie Stewart, a native of Wisconsin. They reside at present in Dakota. They have three children. Abbie married Walter Kenyon, a native of New York. They have one child, Robert R. Their home is in Big Stone County, Minn. Hortense was married in 1883, to Alexander Young. They reside in Dakota. Dexter Smith, our subject, is a Prohibitionist in politics. He has been a member of the town board for four years; is at present town treasurer, and has taken an active interest in public matters, all through the many years he has lived here.

Oscar Gross was born in Pennsylvania, December 3, 1836. His father was a native of Vermont, and his mother a native of New York. His father was a farmer. Oscar Gross came to Steele County, Minn., in 1856, locating on section 9, in this township. In May, 1861, he enlisted in Company G, First Minnesota (Second Army Corps), and was discharged in September, 1861. He was under Capt. McKune for some three months, afterward under Capt. Messick. Mr. Gross

participated in the battle of Bull Run, where he received three gun-shot wounds in the left limb, hip and arm. After having the main artery of his arm severed, he walked some thirty-six miles before he could receive the necessary medical treatment. He then entered the hospital. After being discharged he returned to Steele County, Minn., locating again on section 16, where he had moved before enlisting. He has since resided in Somerset Township, on the same section. Mr. Gross was married April 7, 1863, to Miss Mary P. Stewart, who was born in Canada, July 25, 1843, her parents being natives of New York. They have three children: Carrie, born May 15, 1864; Julia, born March 27, 1867, and Daniel, born May 19, 1870. Julia, married L. P. Clements, a native of Wisconsin, and they reside in St. Paul. Carrie married Henry Langdon, a native of Franklin County, N. Y. They are located in Wisconsin. Daniel is living at home. Mr. Gross is a Republican in politics, and also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, at Owatonna.

Gilbert Gross was born in New York, June 20, 1830. His parents, Daniel and Maria Gross, were natives of New York. In July, 1856, Gilbert came to Steele County, Minn., where he has since been engaged in general farming. In his father's family there were four children, three boys and one girl: Calvin, Gilbert, Oscar and Malvina. Malvina married Chester Newton, a native of Ohio. Oscar has already been mentioned. Gilbert Gross was married May 2, 1852, to Miss Sarah V. Wall, a native of Ohio, who was born June 18, 1830. They have seven children, as follows: Adaline, born July 31, 1853; Gilbert, born February 13, 1855; Perry, born September 12, 1857; Wallace, born March 5, 1859; Adalade, born February 6, 1862; Martin, born May 22, 1867, and Henry, born March 17, 1872. Three of them are living at home, Adaline, Adalade and Gilbert being married. Mr. Gross enlisted December 1, 1863, in the Second

Minnesota Cavalry, and was discharged November 21, 1865. He is a Democrat in politics; was elected school director in 1866 and served one year, and has been otherwise active in local matters.

Jacob J. Harris, one of the most prominent citizens of Somerset Township, is a native of the town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, N. Y., his birthday being December 23, 1834. His ancestors were English, and his forefathers for four or five generations back had borne the name of John Harris. His father, John Harris, was born at Hanley, Parish of Witney, Oxfordshire, England, on the 10th of March, 1810. He grew to manhood there, and about 1832 was united in marriage to Ann Faulks, who was the mother of the subject of this sketch. John Harris learned the trade of a "millwright," and worked in and about the famous Witney mills during his younger days, early in this century. In the summer of 1834 he came to America with his family and located in the town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, N. Y. He continued at his trade in that portion of the country, working in the mills at Oswego, Washingtonville, Camps mills, Brownsville, and erected a mill at Wolfe Island, Canada. He moved the family from Hounsfield to Stoney Island, at the foot of Lake Ontario, remained there about two years, then located at Point Peninsula, in the same county. Here they remained for a number of years, then removed to Dexter, at the foot of Black River, and after a number of years settled at Wolfe Island, where they were living when the father died, in June, 1882. In the meantime the family had been growing in size, as their union had resulted in the following sons and daughters: Caroline, a daughter, was born in England, January 10, 1834; she married John Fawdrey, and they are now living in the town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, N. Y. John Jacob (or Jacob J.), the subject of this sketch, was born in Hounsfield, N. Y., December 23, 1834; now a resident

of Somerset Township. Luther, born September 26, 1836, and now living on the old homestead on Long Island, the mother living with him; Christopher, born May 24, 1838, now living at Dog Lake Mills, Canada; Maria Amelia, born November 23, 1839, now Mrs. James Hunter, living at Lake Opinecon, Canada; William, born January 10, 1841, died on Long Island when about thirty-five years of age. This comprises the father's family.

Jacob J. Harris remained at home until sixteen years of age, working the farm—all labor and little or no schooling being his lot. During these years times were very hard, money was scarce and as is usual in such times, the more mouths in a family to feed and the more bodies to clothe, the heavier is the burden thrown upon the father. Realizing this, in about the year 1850, Jacob Harris set out to provide for himself, his worldly possessions consisting of a home-made suit of clothes and one of the old "thin York shillings" in his pocket; but he had a stout heart and willing hands. Within a few days he brought up at Sackett's Harbor, where he got a place as common sailor on board the sailing vessel "Herbridge," and began life on his own account as a sailor on the great lakes. He remained with that vessel until it was burned at Oswego, July 6, 1851. He continued for ten years to sail in different vessels, sometimes as a sailor and again as mate, now on a sailing vessel and again on a propeller. Late in the "fifties," getting tired of working for others, Jacob, in company with his oldest brothers, built a sailing vessel. He afterward purchased his brothers' interests and operated the vessel for nearly seven years, when he sold out. He soon built another sailing vessel, the "Mary Fox," which he owned and commanded for seven years; and then sold it. In the meantime, in 1856, he had left his vessel long enough to come out to Steele County, Minn., and preëmpted 160 acres of land on section 22,

Somerset Township. Occasionally, during these years, he had been here, but only remained a short time. After selling the "Mary Fox," Capt. Harris decided to live for a time upon land instead of water, and accordingly on the 14th of May, 1874, he moved to Minnesota, and on that day located upon his farm in the town of Somerset, having all these years held his land. On the 30th of August, 1871, he had married Mrs. Catherine Harkin, widow of William Harkin, whose maiden name was Catherine Miller. She had two children by her first marriage: Sarah Jane, who is now Mrs. William Mullenhaeur, a resident of section 16, Somerset Township, and Lizzie, now Mrs. Dwight Hunter, of Medford Township. Mr. and Mrs. Harris still live upon their farm in Somerset Township, and are widely known and respected. The farm is among the best in the township, fitted with its large red barns, capacious granaries and elegant and comfortable dwelling. While abundantly able to rest from their labors, yet they continue from force of habit to sow and reap. Mr. Harris has been prominent in all public matters, and is the present clerk of the township.

Dr. Thomas Kenyon, deceased, was born in New York, November 29, 1812. His parents were natives of New York and followed farming. There were thirteen children, Thomas being the oldest. Our subject came to Steele County, Minn., in 1856, and located on section 20, in Somerset Township, where he engaged in farming and the practice of medicine. He was married August 18, 1833, to Miss Mary Smith, who was born in New York, August 14, 1818. Her parents were also natives of New York. Dr. Kenyon and wife were the parents of ten children: Marion, Phebe, Eliza, Edgar, Lois, Walter, Willis, Frank, Darwin and Fred. Marion married J. Clark, a native of Pennsylvania; Phebe, married Geo. Crooker, of Owatonna; Eliza married L. Robinson, also of Owatonna; Edgar married Miss Al-

lecia Twiford, a native of Indiana; Lois married S. Anderson, also of Indiana; Walter married Miss Abbie Smith, of New York, and Willis married Miss Ann Swezel, a native of Minnesota; Frank married Miss Sarah Hurlbert, a native of Missouri; Fred. married Miss Minnie Swezel. Dr. Kenyon followed farming and the practice of medicine until his death, which occurred April 17, 1882. Rev. Tanner, of Owatonna, preached his funeral sermon, which was held in the Bailey schoolhouse and was largely attended. He was buried in Somerset Township. He was a man highly respected by all who knew him, and in his death Steele County lost one of its most prominent citizens. His widow still survives him.

John J. Graif was born in Chicago, Ill., October 29, 1854. His parents were Mr. M. and Tracia (Hackle) Graif. Mr. Graif Sr. and family came to Steele County, Minn., at an early day, locating on section 8, Somerset Township, engaging in general farming and stock-raising, which business they have since followed. John J. Graif was married July 12, 1881, to Miss Mary A. Frenen, a native of Oshkosh, Wis. They have one child, Mary, born March 15, 1886. Mr. Graif is a Democrat in politics. The family are members of the Catholic Church.

William Addison Pratt was born in Stockbridge, Windsor County, Vt., November 20, 1829. His parents were Liberty and Mary Pratt, both natives of Massachusetts, his father being a farmer. There were four children in the father's family: Martha, Caroline, Lucy and William. The three sisters are dead, William being the only living child. His mother died during the year 1847, and his father in 1873. Wm. A. left home when about seventeen years of age to care for himself. He served as an apprentice for three years at the shoemaker's trade, driving a team on the road during the summer months. He was married November 4, 1853, to Miss Sarah Gertrude Seger, who was born in Vermont, October 23,

1829. Her parents were natives of Vermont and Connecticut, and there were seven children in her father's family. Mr. and Mrs. Pratt had five children: Mary Susan, born December 15, 1856; Frank A. (deceased), born December 30, 1858; Vinton W. (deceased), born December 31, 1860; Carrie S., born June 18, 1866, and Ray A., born August 25, 1868. Mary was married February 2, 1876, to Mr. McDougall, of Green Bay, Wis. They have four children: Effie, born June 9, 1877; Edith, born January 20, 1879; Roy, born September 15, 1880, and Ross, born November 12, 1885. William A. Pratt came to Steele County, Minn., June 18, 1860, and located on section 12, Somerset Township, where he still lives. He is a Republican in politics; has been chairman of the board of town supervisors for six years, besides having been supervisor a number of times before. Mr. Pratt has held the office of school district director and clerk for some fifteen years, and has taken an active part in public matters..

Julius Kabage, a prominent farmer located on section 22, Somerset Township, was born in Sac County, Wis., November 1, 1855. His parents were natives of Prussia. His father died in May, 1876, in Steele County, Minn., and his mother is still living. Our subject, at the age of twenty-two, left home to make his own way in the world, and located on a farm in Owatonna Township, Steele County, Minn., in November, 1864. After remaining there for some time he moved to Somerset Township. Mr. Kabage was married June 24, 1877, to Miss Barbara Kovars, a native of Bohemia. Her mother is dead, and her father is still living. There were eight children in her father's family. Mr. Kabage and wife have six children: Henry, born December 26, 1878; Mary, born January 20, 1880; Josephine, born February 28, 1881; Katie, born June 24, 1882; Joseph, born October 26, 1883, and Rosia, born May 20, 1884, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Kabage is a Republican in politics and a member of the Catholic Church.

John L. Turk was born in Prussia, November 1, 1836. His parents were also natives of Prussia. There were nine children in his father's family, six of whom are living at the present time. Two reside in Prussia, the other four live in America. Mr. Turk came to America June 6, 1864, and after remaining a few days in Baltimore and Chicago, came to La Crosse where he remained from June 16, until the following December. He then came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna, December 21, 1864. After remaining there for two years, he removed to Somerset Township, locating on section 16, where he has since remained, engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has at the present time a good farm of 192 acres. Mr. Turk was married June 8, 1868, to Miss Henrietta Chandler, a native of Prussia, who died, leaving one child: Willie, born August 18, 1869. Mr. Turk's second wife was Miss Augusta Miller, who was born in 1851. They have five children: John, Eda, Bettie, Celia and Huldah. Mr. Turk is a Democrat in politics, and he and his family belong to the Lutheran Church.

Frederick E. Degner, came to Steele County, Minn., in 1865. He was born in Prussia, April 4, 1838. His father was a shoemaker in Prussia. Fred. E. Degner left home when about eighteen years of age, and came to America in 1855, locating in Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming until August 16, 1862, when he enlisted in Company II, Twenty-third Wisconsin Infantry. July 25, 1865, he was discharged, having participated in the battles of Fort Hineman, Vicksburg, Mobile and Spanish Fort. After the close of the war Mr. Degner came to Steele County, Minn., locating on section 11, Somerset Township, where he has since remained, engaged in farming and stock-raising. Mr. Degner was married November 19, 1868, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Grass, a native of Denmark. They have six children: Mary Ida, born December 13, 1869; Albert William, born February 12, 1872; Augusta

Ellen, born October 14, 1874; Ernest Otto, born April 30, 1877; George Edward, born December 7, 1882, and Alma Julia, born July 4, 1886, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Degner is a Republican in politics, and is one of Somerset's most prominent men. He has been chairman of the town board one year, town supervisor four years, and also school director of district twenty-five for nine years, and still holds that office. Mr. Degner and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Elias Hahn came to Steele County, Minn., in June, 1856. He was born in Ohio, September 19, 1828, his parents being William and Mary (Centz) Hahn, natives of Maryland. There were nine children in his father's family, all of whom were farmers. Our subject, Elias, when twenty-one years of age, began life for himself, learning and working at the carpenter's trade for seven years. He then came to Minnesota, locating at Northfield, where he remained for one year. He then, in 1856, came to Steele County, locating on section 3, Somerset Township, where he has since lived, engaged in general farming. Mr. Hahn was married August 21, 1853, to Miss Elizabeth Hahn, a native of Ohio. They have two children living: Mary, born June 10, 1858, and Edna, born September 15, 1860, both of whom are living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Hahn have lost three children: Milton, who died November 8, 1854; Howard, who died February 7, 1863, and Sarah, who died August 6, 1865, all of whom died in infancy. Mr. Hahn is a Republican in politics. He has been town treasurer for seven years, town supervisor for one year, and has held the office of road overseer for seven or eight years. The family are members of the Congregational Church.

Fred. Sette was born in Wisconsin, April 19, 1855. His parents, Carl and Minnie (France) Sette, were natives of Prussia. There were twelve children in his father's family, five boys and seven girls, three of

whom are dead. Two of the boys reside in Dakota; the other remaining brothers and sisters live in Minnesota. Mr. Sette left home when twenty-seven years of age, to make his way in the world. June 1, 1865, they came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Owatonna Township. In 1879 Fred. removed to section 32, Somerset Township, where he has since remained, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Sette was married October 22, 1879, to Miss Hattie Panzer, who was born in Prussia, October 15, 1857. They have three children: Edna, born July 28, 1880; Albert, born October 15, 1881, and Frederick, born April 17, 1885. Mr. Sette is a Republican in politics. He and his family belong to the Lutheran Church.

Frederick Ost is a native of Germany, born February 1, 1834. His father was a shepherd in Germany, and died in February, 1850. His mother died in about 1845. Frederick Ost came to America, August 2, 1864, and went to Quebec, Canada, where he remained a short time. He then came to Chicago, Ill., and thence to Wisconsin, where he worked on a farm for eight months. He then went to Rochester, Minn., and on May 8, 1865, he came to Steele County, locating in Owatonna, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for five years. He then removed to section 4, Somerset Township, where he is now living, engaged in general farming. Mr. Ost was married September 14, 1867, to Miss Augusta Sette who was born in Wisconsin, June 28, 1849. They have eight children: Mary, born January 1, 1869; Augusta, born November 30, 1873; Charles, born November 6, 1875; Albert, born August 26, 1877; Anna, born November 25, 1879; Bertie, born August 15, 1881; Gustaf, born May 9, 1885, and Alma, born May 31, 1887, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Ost is a Republican in politics. He and his family belong to the Lutheran Church.

Christian Peterson was born December

27, 1835, in Denmark. His parents are both dead, his mother having died while our subject was nine years old, and his father died in 1877. There were eight children in his father's family. Mr. Peterson came to America in 1867, coming to Steele County, Minn., in June of that year, locating at once on section 10, Somerset Township, where he lives at the present time, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Peterson has been twice married, first to Miss Jennie Jensen in October, 1860. She was born in Denmark in April, 1832, and died October 1867, leaving four children: Mary, born April 9, 1861; Anna, born January 2, 1862; Louis, born January 20, 1865, and Sena, born in January, 1868. Two of the children are married: Mary married Christian Rasmusson in 1877. Anna married Louis Rasmusson in 1879. The gentlemen are brothers, and natives of Denmark. Mr. Peterson was married to his second wife, Miss Julia Hanson, July 13, 1873. She was born in Denmark, December 24, 1841. They have three children: Hannah, born May 3, 1874; Ida, born April 28, 1876, and Estie, born April 28, 1883. Mr. Peterson is a Republican in politics. He and his family are members of the Baptist Church.

W. R. Knickerbocker, one of Somerset's most prominent men, came to Steele County, Minn., in 1868, locating on his present place on section 20, Somerset Township, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising. He was born in New York, January 11, 1830. When nine years of age his father died, and our subject made his home with an uncle, until he reached the age of twelve. He then worked out at farming, until twenty-eight years old, when he began for himself. He has been twice married, first to Miss Caroline Lyon, a native of New York, in January, 1858. She died in 1852, leaving two children: William R., now dead, and Charles L. born October 3, 1861. Mr. Knickerbocker's second wife was Miss Helen E. Burgess, who was born in New York, Sep-

tember 15, 1844. They have four children: Irene, born August 22, 1869; Nellie, born January 13, 1872; Clarence, born August 11, 1874, and Eleanor, born September 11, 1880. Chas. L. was married, in 1884, to Miss Irene Wilkinson, a native of Wisconsin. They are located in Lemond Township. Mr. Knickerbocker is a Republican in politics, and a representative man of the township.

Fred. Stange was born in Prussia, March 27, 1838. His parents were natives of Prussia, and there were six children in his father's family, four girls and two boys. When eleven years of age our subject left home to earn his own living, being first engaged as a shepherd boy for a few years. He then came to America, remaining a short time in New York. Then came to Wisconsin, when he worked on a farm for five years. He then in 1873, came to Steele County, Minn., first locating in the western part of Somerset Township, where he remained a few weeks and then moved to his present place, on section 9. Mr. Stange was married June 6, 1865, to Miss Wilhelmine Gohlke, who was born in Prussia, July 22, 1844. They have had eight children: August, born December 10, 1866; Wilhelmine, born March 27, 1871; Gusta, born September 28, 1873; Herman, born June 18, 1879; Anna, born August 15, 1884; Rudolph, born November 10, 1885. The other two children are dead. The living children are all at home. Mr. Stange is a Republican in politics. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Church.

M. D. Whitman, was born in Vermont, October 8, 1841. His parents, Daniel and Rebecca (Freeman) Whitman, were natives of New Hampshire, and were farmers. Mr. Whitman enlisted August 15, 1862, in the Twelfth Regiment Vermont Volunteers, and was discharged July 20, 1863. The principal battle he was in was that of Gettysburg, July 23, 1863. After being discharged he went to New Hampshire where he worked on a farm for three years. In February, 1865, he went to Illinois, locating in Winnebago County,

where he worked at farming for some eight months, after which he went to Wisconsin and remained four months, and finally came to Steele County, Minn., in 1869, locating on section 16, Somerset Township, where he still lives engaged in general farming. Mr. Whitman was married October 8, 1867, to Miss Anna Bryant, who was born in Wisconsin, May 11, 1847. They have five children: Clarence L., born October 11, 1868; George N., born November 6, 1870; Frank M., born July 29, 1875; Arthur J., born November 26, 1877; Hattie A., born March 13, 1882, and Charles E., born June 28, 1887, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Whitman has been postmaster of the postoffice, located at his residence, since 1877. In the spring of 1870 he was elected school district clerk. Mr. Whitman is a Republican in politics.

Edward Kuekenbecker was born in Prussia, March 22, 1830. His father and mother were both natives of Prussia, and were farmers. There were eight children in his father's family, one of whom is dead. Mr. Kuekenbecker came to America in 1864, locating in Wisconsin, where he remained three years. He then removed to Rochester, Minn., where he remained three years. In 1870 he came to Steele County, locating on section 29, Somerset Township, where he is still engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Kuekenbecker was married to Mrs. Tina Wolf, whose first husband was deceased. She was born October 8, 1839. Mr. and Mrs. Kuekenbecker have three children: Amanda, born August 13, 1879; Bennett, born August 17, 1881, and Edward, born May 13, 1883. The children are all living at home. Mr. Kuekenbecker is a Democrat in politics. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Villars Larson was born in Denmark, December 13, 1835. His parents, Lars and Hannah (Jensen) Larson, were both natives of Denmark. There were nine children in his father's family, five boys and four girls. Our subject came to America in 1859, locat-

ing in St. Louis, where he remained one year working on a farm. He then enlisted in the Second United States Infantry, and was in service in the regular army until the close of the war, being under Capt. Sulley (afterward Gen. Sulley) one year, and under Capt. Drum the remainder of the time. He was discharged August 18, 1865. M. Larson was in fifteen different battles, including those of Yorktown, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Cole Harbor, second battle of Bull Run, Antietam, etc. Mr. Larson came to Steele County, Minn., April 17, 1870, locating on section 10, Somerset Township, where he has since lived, being engaged in farming. Mr. Larson is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Lutheran Church.

William Sannemann was born in Hanover, Germany, August 8, 1846. His parents, Henry and Maria (Blohm) Sannemann, were both natives of Germany. When thirteen years of age William left home to do for himself. He worked on a farm till he was twenty-eight years old. Then he came to America, locating in Marion County, Ill., where he bought eighty acres of land. He remained there a few years, and then came to Steele County, Minn., locating in Somerset Township, on section 12, where he has since been engaged in farming. Mr. Sannemann was married September 7, 1871, to Miss Maria Stangler, who was born March 20, 1855. Her parents reside at present in Havanna Township, Steele County. They have had four children, one of whom is dead. Mr. and Mrs. Sannemann have two children: Arthur, born December 6, 1874, and Ordellia, born February 20, 1879. Both of the children live at home. Mr. Sannemann is a Democrat in politics, and has been school treasurer of his district for some term. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Gardner Storer, farmer, residing on section 33, Somerset Township, was born in Maine, May 1, 1841. His parents, Joseph and Betsey Storer, were natives of Maine.

Their family consisted of eight children, four boys and four girls. When twenty-one years of age Gardner started in business for himself, farming in Goodhue County, Minn., for seven years. From that place he moved to Faribault County, Minn., where he was also engaged in farming, remaining there some five years. Then, in 1873, he came to Steele County and in the fall settled on section 33, Somerset Township, where he still lives. Mr. Storer was married June 9, 1860, to Miss Rosia Zimmerman, a native of Illinois. Her parents were natives of Germany, and there were twelve children in her mother's family. Mr. Storer and wife have eight children living: Amanda, born August 22, 1862; Mary Louisa, born March 31, 1864; Eva Lillian, born May 22, 1866; John William, born December 17, 1868; Joseph Fred-

erick, born September 11, 1871; Sarah, born December 29, 1873 (died August 9, 1875); Albert Ernest, born September 28, 1876, (died July 29, 1879); Gny Earl, born October 12, 1878; Inez Addie, born September 11, 1881, and Aaron, born February 28, 1885. Amanda married T. McFall, a native of Pennsylvania, March 1, 1882. The other children all live at home. Mr. Storer was in the army. He enlisted August 7, 1864, in a Minnesota regiment and was discharged in May, 1865. He is Republican in politics; a member of the Seventh day Advent Church. In 1873 he was elected school director and held the same for three years; in 1875 was elected school treasurer and served six years, and has otherwise taken an active interest in public affairs.



CHAPTER XXVIII.

LEMOND TOWNSHIP.



LEMOND is composed of township 106, range 21. It forms one of the western tier of Steele County's townships, being bounded on the west by Waseca County; on the north by Meriden Township; on the east by Somerset, and on the south by Berlin. The soil here is about the same as characterizes the balance of the county—rich and fertile, and produces excellent crops. The surface of the township is well watered by numerous creeks and runs, and there are many fine farms here. In 1857 the township had a population of ninety-six. At the latest census, — 1885 — this had grown to 689 inhabitants.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in this township was made in 1856. During this year, Samuel Thompson, John Thompson, W. F. Manson, Sandford Kinney, E. Teed, and E. J., J. B. and E. B. Coon, all selected homes. Messrs. Kinney and Coon sowed the first wheat in the township, in the spring of this year, on section 2. John Thompson remained here less than a year, when he returned to Ohio. W. F. Manson lived here for about twenty years, when he removed to Blue Earth County, and has since returned to his former home in Canada. A son of his still lives in the county. Sandford Kinney is dead. E. Teed moved from here to Clinton Falls, and finally went to Cottonwood County. All of the Coon family left the county a number of years ago. S. M. Kinney, who came here with his father's family, in November, 1856, is still a resident of the township. In 1857, a number of pioneers arrived and located in

this township, among the number being Martin Hanson, Cornelius Moran, Henry Ludkins, Henry Mondt, Alvin Bragg, Neils Johnson, Oscar Murphy, Samuel Hastings, James Reynolds, Peter Nelson, Mr. Brandenburg, E. Dampier, Mortimer Gould, Mr. Ketchum, J. M. Gibbons, Thos. Hughes, Mr. Hobbs, Wm. Manson (who died here), Ruel Wilcox, Wm. Parcher and Thomas Houston. In 1858 among those who came were Aaron S. Bragg, William Stover, Mr. Deffenbacher, Ira Richardson, Benjamin Wollet and others. Mr. Bragg is still a prominent citizen of the township. William Stover went to California with Ketchum, in 1859. Mr. Deffenbacher settled on section 1, but only remained a couple of years. Mr. Richardson still lives in the township. Mr. Wollet located on section 1, where he remained until 1862, when he went to Fairbault, where he died. A man named Kipp came at about this time, and bought one of the Coon claims on section 1, and remaining a short time. In the year 1859 a few more came, but about all the government land had been taken, and the settlement from this time on progressed slowly, until after the close of the civil war.

In 1857, Thomas Twiford put up a log building on section 12, put a dam across the river and set a sawmill to operating. He ran it about a year when Mr. Hughes operated it for some time. Finally it ran down, and the machinery was sold and moved away. A history of the village which was laid out in this neighborhood will be found in the chapter relating to Somerset Township.

In this connection we present biographical

sketches of many of the old settlers and prominent citizens of the township.

S. M. Kinney, who resides on section 2, Lemond Township, is a son of Sanford and Louisa (Moulton) Kinney, natives of Vermont, who emigrated to Minnesota in 1856, locating in Lemond Township. His father died in August, 1869, and was buried in Lemond Township; his mother died January 20, 1887, and was buried beside her husband. Our subject was thus among the first settlers, and experienced all the varied changes through which the country has passed. He taught the first school in the township in a little log dwelling which was used for a schoolhouse. August 10, 1862, he enlisted in the Tenth Minnesota Infantry and was discharged May 29, 1865, being under Capt. Ambler one year, then under Capt. Babcock until the close of the war. He was engaged in a number of battles the principal ones being Big Mound, in August, 1863, and Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864. After being discharged he returned to Steele County, where he has since resided, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He was united in marriage, March 11, 1885, to Miss Charlotte Weber, a native of Wisconsin, born July 6, 1861. They have one child, Stillman Warren, born January 23, 1886. Mr. Kinney has taken an active part in public affairs, having been town clerk, supervisor and assessor, and at present is treasurer of school district No. 36, having been elected in 1880. He is a Republican in politics, and is an active member of the Baptist Church.

C. R. Knowlton on section 14, Lemond Township, a pioneer settler, was born in Rhode Island, March 10, 1826. He was the oldest son of John A. Knowlton, a native of Rhode Island and Eliza G. (Wood) Knowlton, a native of Massachusetts. His father's occupation was farming. The family removed to Steele County, Minn., in 1856, locating on section 13, Lemond Township, where the father's death occurred June 10, 1870, and the mother's November 10, 1879. The

parents had five children: Charles R., Ann E., Elmira, Emeline (deceased) and Caroline. At the age of seventeen, Charles R. left home to care for himself, working for six years in a cotton factory, then was employed in a tan-yard for two years. He then removed to Massachusetts, and worked five years in a cabinet shop. Emigrating to Illinois, he was engaged in a reaper factory, and the following year (1856), came to Steele County, Minn., locating first in Somerset Township. In 1859 he removed to his present home. He married Miss Harriette E. Rhodes, April 15, 1846. She was born in Massachusetts, October 22, 1825, and died September 1, 1883, leaving six children, two of whom are unmarried: Ellis, born September 19, 1847; Charles E., born February 8, 1849; John H., born March 14, 1854; George W., born April 6, 1856; Frank M., born October 16, 1861 (died February 28, 1870); Lemuel, born August 27, 1858 (died November 9, 1863); Wallace, born November 14, 1864, and Delbert, born March 20, 1868. Mr. Knowlton was afterward married to Mrs. Henriette Russell, whose husband died December 21, 1884. He was a native of St. Lawrence County, N. Y., who had settled in Lemond Township in 1865. They had six children: Ella Gertrude, born July 23, 1866; Minnie J., born June 27, 1869; Orpha O., born October 7, 1871; Henrietta, born April 15, 1873; Cora Belle, born January 16, 1875, and Gilbert E., born April 9, 1877. Mr. Knowlton enlisted in Company E, First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, March 16, 1865, and was discharged August 2, 1865. He has been justice of the peace two years, chairman of township board of supervisors one year. In politics is an earnest Prohibitionist.

Aaron S. Bragg, a pioneer of the township, located on his present home on section 32, Lemond Township, in 1865. He was born in Maine, October 31, 1838. His parents were natives of Massachusetts and Maine.

His father died in 1866 in Lemond Township. His mother is still living. They had seven children. A. S. Bragg married Miss Mary Graham, who was born in New York, September 12, 1848. They had four children: Cynthia N., born February 5, 1868—now a successful teacher; Alice L., born April 4, 1873; Sarah J., born December 14, 1880, and Louis, born February 4, 1867 (died December 1, 1881; was buried in Lemond cemetery). In the fall of 1861 Mr. Bragg enlisted in Company I, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged in 1865. He participated in the battles of Iuka, September 19, 1862; Corinth, Miss., October 3 and 4, 1862; Ft. Pemberton, March, 1863; Forty Hills, May 3, 1863; Champion Hill, May 15, 1863; the assault of Vicksburg, May 22 to July 4, 1863; Mission Ridge, November 24 and 25, 1863; Altoona, Ga., October 5, 1864; siege of Savannah, December, 1864, and Little Salkehatchie River, S. C., February 6, 1865. He was promoted to first corporal before discharge. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is Republican in politics. He has taken an active interest in public affairs, having been supervisor, justice of the peace and constable several terms. At present he is clerk of school district No. 53, which office he has held since the organization of the district.

Oscar Murphy, ex-county commissioner, and one of Lemond's most prominent citizens is a native of the State of Pennsylvania. His parents were Selim W. and Hannah M. (Townsend) Murphy, both natives of the same State. His ancestry, on his mother's side, traced back to Yates County, N. Y., and on the father's side to Bradford County, Pa. In the father's family there were the following children, two of whom are now deceased, viz.: Sarah, Oscar, Henry, Wilson, George, Harriet E., Polly, Eugene, Alice and Charles. When nineteen years of age, Oscar Murphy, the subject of this sketch, left home to begin life for himself, and took a trip to St. Croix Falls, Wis. He remained there

for about three years, working the first season in the pineries, and the balance of the time being engaged in teaching school. In the meantime, from that place he had made a trip to Steele County, Minn., and took a claim in Lemond Township, remaining only a short time, however. In 1859 he organized a band of boys or young men, and went to Pike's Peak in search of fortune, remaining there until the outbreak of the civil war, when he returned to St. Croix, Wis. He then, on the 11th of September, 1861, enlisted in the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, under Col. C. C. Washburn. They were moved to St. Louis and then to Helena, taking part in the war movements in the southwest. They participated in the following battles: Helena, Fayetteville, where the battalion captured 150 Confederates; Prairie Grove, Ark., December 7, 1862 (where Commissioner Black lost an arm), and Springfield, Mo., where they defeated the forces of Gen. Marmaduke, the present Governor of Missouri. This completed their work in that region, and then the First Battalion (of which Mr. Murphy's company had become a part) was transported from St. Louis to Memphis. When just below Island No. 10, in the Mississippi River, their transport boat, the "John J. Roe," ran onto a sunken coal barge, and went to the bottom. It contained the men, supplies and about 500 head of horses. The men escaped and succeeded in saving all except about 150 of the horses. Upon arriving at Memphis the regiment was made a part of Grierson's Cavalry Division, and took an active part in fighting Gen. Forest's (Confederate) cavalry. While connected with this division Mr. Murphy's regiment participated in the battles of Yazoo City, December 1, 1864; Black River and Bayou Sara. During this summer (1864) the regiment veteranized and had a thirty-day furlough. During the winter of 1864-5 they took part in the engagements at Egypt Station (December 28, 1864,) and Lexington, when Grierson's famous raid was made on Hood's rear, coming out at Vicksburg in

January, 1865. Over sixty miles of the Ohio & Mobile and the Mississippi Central railroads, over which Hood's supplies were passing, were destroyed, and a large amount of the supplies was captured. This marked the downfall of Hood's army. In February, 1865, the regiment was transported to Memphis, and, after some unimportant service, was sent to the Rio Grande, where, under Gen. Custer, it became a part of the army of observation. In October, 1865, the regiment was sent on transports, *via* New Orleans, to Madison, Wis., where they were mustered out in October, 1865. Mr. Murphy's company was but a remnant of what it had been. In 1861 it numbered 105 strong, able-bodied young men; but only seventeen answered to the roll-call when mustered out in 1865. Mr. Murphy had enlisted as a private, but had been promoted through the various grades until, when mustered out, he was first lieutenant of his company. He never missed an engagement, nor failed to respond when duty called, nor was he ever sick a day during the years of active and perilous service in which he participated. It is worthy of mention in this connection that C. E. Graham, of Waseca,—of whom a biography will be found elsewhere in this volume—was also a member of the same regiment. To return to Mr. Murphy's private life. After the close of the war, in 1865, he came to Steele County, Minn., where he still lives carrying on general farming and stock-raising. In 1877 he went to the Black Hills on a prospecting tour, but only remained a short time. On the 22d of February, 1866, he was married to Miss Rebecca Ross, who was born in Wisconsin, March 9, 1850. They have had two children: Bert, born December 3, 1866, and Ray (deceased), born April 24, 1871, died April 8, 1885. Mr. Murphy has taken an active and prominent part in public matters. He was a member of the board of county commissioners from 1880 to 1887, and for five years was chairman of that body; he was elected assessor of Lemond

Township in 1870, and served until 1873; and was one of the town supervisors from 1873 to 1880. In political matters he is a Republican, and is a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

George W. Hastings, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser, lives on section 14. He was born July 3, 1855, in Rockford, Ill. In the year 1857 his parents came to Steele County, Minn., first locating in the western part of Lemond Township, but subsequently removed to section 14. At the age of twenty-three the subject of our sketch settled on section 24, where he lived three years, then removed to his father's place on section 14. He was united in marriage April 28, 1880, to Miss Alice De Long, who was born in New York, May 17, 1857. They are blessed with two children: Fannie E., born November 20, 1881, and Blanche L., born September 14, 1885. Mr. Hastings is a Democrat in political matters.

Amos Ross is the oldest man living in Lemond Township. He came from Wisconsin, where he had lived fifteen years, and located on section 12, in 1857. He was born June 18, 1803, in Saratoga County, N. Y. His parents, Dorothy (Ernsburg) and David Ross, were also natives of New York. They had eight children, four girls and four boys. On the 10th of January, 1828, Mr. Ross married Miss Experience Fairbank, who was born in New York, February 24, 1806. She is now deceased, leaving eight children: Dorothy, born October 5, 1828; Lucy, born September 3, 1834; William C., born January 16, 1841; Susan J., born June 16, 1846; James W., born September 10, 1830; Ermina, born May 31, 1843 and Rebecca, born March 9, 1849, all of whom are married. Mr. Ross is a Republican, and a member of the Methodist Church.

L. B. Gould, is one of the extensive farmers of Steele County, having 405 acres, located on sections 14, 15 and 23, in Lemond and section 35 in Meriden Township. Mr. Gould was born July 4, 1839, in Edwards

County, Ill. His parents were Joel Gould, a native of Massachusetts, and Electa (Phillips) Gould, a native of New York, whose death occurred in Edwards County, Ill., in June, 1853. They had six children, two of whom are dead. When L. B. Gould was twenty-one he left home to provide for himself, and emigrated to Wabasha County, Minn., where he lived four years. In 1865 he removed to his present home. He was married to Miss Sarah A. Barrier, February 19, 1862. She was a native of North Carolina, born November 21, 1841. Her parents were also natives of North Carolina and had seven children, four girls and three boys. Mr. and Mrs. Gould have two children: Luella, born February 16, 1864, and Chester N., born October 1, 1872. The elder is a graduate of the "Minnesota Baptist Academy" at Owatonna (June, 1884). Mr. Gould is a Republican and takes an active interest in public affairs. He is the present town treasurer, having been elected in 1885. He is also school district treasurer, having held the office for nine years. He was elected assessor in 1876. His father resides with him. The family are members of the Congregational Church.

Lars Larson came to Steele County, Minn., in 1866. He is the eldest son of Gunnild Larson and Hans Larson, who were natives of Norway. They had nine children: Lars, Lena, Betsie, Hattie, Minda, Matilda, Henry, Laura and Josie. They came to America in 1866. They spent one summer in the western part of Lemond Township, then located on section 16, where they now reside with three children. Lars Larson was born in Norway, July 29, 1855. On March 8, 1883, he married Miss Julia Hendrickson, a native of Waseca County, Minn. They had two children: Harry Oscar, born December 12, 1884, and Jesse Loyd, born September 7, 1886. He is a Republican in politics, and, with his family, belongs to the Lutheran Church. He served one year as supervisor.

Thomas Annett is engaged in general farming and stock-raising, on section 28, Le-

mond Township. He was born in County Down, Ireland, August 4, 1832. His father, John Annett, was a native of Scotland. His mother, Elizabeth (Russell) Annett, was a native of Ireland. They had ten children: Hugh, William, John (deceased), John, Thomas, Jane, Sarah, Mary, Catherine (deceased), and Eliza. Thomas and John came to the United States July 12, 1855, and located in Oneida county, N. Y., where they remained fourteen years. Thomas came to his present home February 14, 1869. December 22, 1857, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Moran, who was born May 24, 1837, in Rutland County, Vt. Her parents were natives of Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Annett have ten children: John W., born May 1, 1861; Nellie M., born April 6, 1865; Sarah E., born September 15, 1868; Thomas Charles, born January 5, 1871; Frank C., born May 21, 1874; Nettie L., born July 12, 1872; Minnie E., born July 25, 1878; May M., born January 5, 1880; Pearl M., born January 5, 1883, and Elizabeth, born May 21, 1863, all of whom are unmarried and at home. Mr. Annett is a Republican. He was elected supervisor in 1883, serving one year. He is the present school treasurer of his district, having been elected in 1884. He has one of the best farms in the township.

Nels Knudson settled on section 31, Lemond Township, in 1869. He was born in Norway, June 24, 1840. He and his parents, Knut and Carrie Olson, emigrated to America in 1869. They located in Wisconsin, remaining there four years, then removed to Waseca County, Minn. The father died in New Richland, Minn., in 1880. There were three children: Ole, Cornelia and Nels. Ole lives in New Richland. He married Miss Margret Knudson, a native of Norway, and has two children, Knut and Carrie. Carrie married Andrew Johnson, also a native of Norway, and they are located in Waseca County. Knut is living at home. Nels Knudson married Mrs. Ole Knutson,

August 20, 1869. She was born in Norway in 1847. Her first husband died April 10, 1862, and left five children: Bert, Knut, Chris, Lena (deceased), and Anna. Mr. and Mrs. Knudson have one daughter, Caroline, who is living at home. Mr. Knudson is Independent in politics. His family all belong to the Lutheran Church.

Peter Olson has a fine farm, well improved, on section 8, Lemond Township. He began for himself at the age of seven, by herding cattle, since which he has depended on his own exertions. He was born in Norway, August 24, 1851, and came to America in 1869. His father died November 11, 1868. His mother and step-father, Peter Nelson, emigrated to Minnesota and settled in Lemond in 1872. Peter Olson, in 1884, married Miss Ellen Larson, a native of Norway. In politics he is Republican. The family are devout members of the Lutheran Church.

Hans Olson has 250 acres of choice land, on section 4, Lemond Township. He came to Steele County, June 2, 1869, remaining the first six months in Owatonna, at which time he purchased eighty acres of land on section 4, in the town of Lemond. He was born in Denmark, October 22, 1835. He was united in marriage, in March, 1863, to Miss Margaret Christianson, who was born in Denmark, May 3, 1845. Her father, Christian Lorrenson, a native of Denmark, died in 1853. Her mother, also a Dane, is still living. They had five children. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have had two children: Peter C., born May 4, 1864 (died in June, 1869); Emma, born October 3, 1873 (died November 6, 1874). Mr. Olson's parents are dead. His father died in November, 1867; his mother in March, 1850, leaving six children to mourn their loss. Mr. Olson is an independent Republican. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church. He was school treasurer three years, and has held various other local offices.

E. C. Bryant resides on section 2, Lemond

Township, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He located, when twenty years of age, on his present home. He is a native of Butternuts, Otsego County, N. Y., born March 20, 1850. His parents, John Augustus and Colstia (Sage) Bryant, both natives of New York, came to Minnesota in January, 1870, and located on section 36, in Meriden Township, where his mother still lives. His father died, aged sixty-four, and left eight children to mourn his loss. E. C. Bryant was married May 3, 1878, to Miss May Davis, who was born August 18, 1859, in Steele County, Minn. Five children have been born to them: James A., Earl C., Bessie G., John A. and Hattie, all of whom are living at home. Mr. Bryant is a Republican in politics.

Henry Ribbe resides on section 33, Lemond Township. He is the oldest son of Eliza (Baker) and Frederic Ribbe, natives of Hanover, Germany, who were married November 22, 1854, and had nine children: Henry, Anna, Louis, Herman, Christian, Eliza, Minnie, John and Lena. Two are married. Henry Ribbe and Miss Pauline Stelter, who was born in Germany, April 17, 1861, were married April 14, 1886. Henry was born in Clayton County, Iowa, November 24, 1856. They have one child, Louis William Henry, born January 14, 1887. Henry Ribbe is a Republican. They are members of Lutheran Church.

Henry Müller, living on section 7, is also engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He came to Lemond Township in 1870. He is a native of Iowa, born in 1853. His parents were Germans. His father resides in Waseca County, Minn., and his mother is dead. Mr. Müller married Miss Wilhelmina Ost, who was born June 17, 1857. They have five children: Henry, Mary, Helena, August and Elvena (who died March 22, 1885). The family all belong to the Lutheran Church. Henry Müller is a Democrat in politics. He has been school clerk three

terms, and takes an active interest in all public matters.

Ellick A. Ellickson was born November 1, 1850, in Wisconsin. He located on section 29, Lemond Township, in June, 1875. His parents were natives of Norway. His father, Amos Ellickson, died in Wisconsin in 1880. His mother, Mary (Johnson) Ellickson, is still living. They had five children: three boys and two girls. Mr. Ellickson married Miss Martha Nelson, June 1, 1872. She is a native of Norway. They are blessed with four children: Aaron M., born June 3, 1873; Harriet M., born October 29, 1874; Esther Josephine, born March 23, 1878, and Amos C., born March 3, 1882. They are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Ellickson is a Republican. He is engaged in farming and stock-raising.

William Smith settled on section 8, Lemond Township, in 1879. He is the son of Fredricka (Berg) and Fritz Smith, natives of Germany, who emigrated to America in 1867. They located in Clayton County, Iowa, where the mother died on May 15, 1872. In 1879 they removed to Steele County, Minn. They had ten children, six boys and four girls, five of whom are still living. William Smith was born in Germany, February 5, 1856. He married Miss Anna Ribbe, November 28, 1849. She was born in Clayton County, Iowa, April 18, 1859. They have two children: William, born August 29, 1881, and Louis, born February 3, 1882. Mr. Smith is a Republican. He was elected school treasurer in 1880, and served six years, and is at present one of the town supervisors. His family all belong to the Lutheran Church.

John Scholljegerdes, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser, is located on section 6, Lemond Township. He has 600 acres of well improved land, excellent buildings and a fine grade of Holstein cattle. He was born in Germany, January 3, 1852. He came to Steele County in 1876. His parents, Margret (Renken) and George D. Scholljegerdes,

emigrated to the United States in 1872, and settled in Waseca County, where at present they are doing an extensive business in cattle and farming. They have three children; John, Lena and George. Lena was married in 1880, and resides in Waseca County. George is unmarried. John Scholljegerdes was married to Miss Anna Wilker, November 14, 1876. She was born in Steele County, March 20, 1857. John first purchased 120 acres on section 5, from A. Miller, after which he bought and removed to his present home. They have four children: Ida, born September 12, 1877; Emma, born July 28, 1879; John, born April 2, 1881, and Anna, born February 9, 1883.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first school in the township was taught by Stillman Kinney, in 1858, on section 2. H. G. Mosier, who then lived in Waseca County, was one of the next teachers. There are now six school districts in the township.

The first marriage in the township was that of Daniel Tasker and Miss Cornelia Davis. The ceremony was performed in May, 1859, by Sandford Kinney, a justice of the peace.

The first birth occurred in the family of Thos. Hughes.

The earliest death in the township of which we can learn occurred in November, 1860, when William Manson died.

The first religious services were held in January, 1858, Rev. Mr. Moses being the officiating clergyman.

ORGANIZATION.

When Steele County was organized, in the summer of 1855, the territory which now forms Lemond became a portion of Owatonna Township. In April, 1857, the board of county commissioners set off township 106, range 21, and authorized its organization as a civil township, naming it "Lemond." The organization, however, was not fully perfected until April, 1858, when the following officers were elected: Supervisors, S. M.

Hastings, chairman, E. D. Teed and Sandford Kinney; clerk, E. Dampier; assessor, J. E. Hughes; collector, Jerome Coon; overseer of the poor, E. J. Coon; justices of the peace, S. M. Hastings and Sandford Kinney.

The following named were all prominent in township matters in early days and filled

the most important offices: S. M. Hastings, S. G. Townsend, S. M. Kinney, Hugh Murray, C. G. Hersey, Charles Knowlton, Oscar Murphy, E. Dampier, S. F. Gould and Sandford Kinney Jr.

The first town meeting was held at Twiford's Mills.



CHAPTER XXIX.

BERLIN TOWNSHIP.



THE southwest corner township in Steele County is Berlin—composed of township 105, range 21. It is bounded on the north by Lemond Township; on the east by Summit; on the west by Waseca County, and on the south by Freeborn County. It is one of the finest agricultural towns in the State, and is not excelled by any for the beauty of its natural scenery. Near the center of the township is Beaver Lake, a perfect gem of beauty, with a sandy beach and bottom, and water clear as crystal. The soil here is a dark loam, rich in the production of the cereals and indigenous grasses. Many fine farms are located here, and, as a whole, the citizens are to-day, and have been in the past, as prosperous as any community in this part of the State. In 1857 the township had a population of 193. At the time of the last census—in June, 1885—it had 707 inhabitants.

EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

The first settlement within the present limits of Berlin Township was made in 1856.

In this connection we make brief mention of most of the early settlers, together with biographical sketches of a number of the leading citizens of Berlin.

Hiram Pitcher came in 1856, and located on section 15. He remained about nine years when he removed to Fond du Lac, Wis., and has since died. He was a prominent man in early days, and was the first justice of the peace in the township.

Nathan Cheeney, another settler of 1856,

located on section 2, where he remained until the war broke out, when he enlisted and went into the service. Upon his return he located on section 9, and lived there until six or eight years ago, when he removed to Huron, D. T.

Charles W. Gardner came in 1856 and settled upon section 13. In 1863 he went into the army, and after the close of the war settled in Blooming Prairie. He has since returned to the eastern States.

James S. King came here in 1856 and located on section 13. He remained here until 1880, when he left for Dakota.

Mr. Warren also came to this township in 1856 and settled on section 12. After remaining here for two or three years he removed to California, where he still lives.

S. Hull came in 1856 and located on section 11. He left here in about 1865 for the northern part of the State.

Joseph Gordon came in the spring of 1856 and located on section 28, where he lived until his death in 1868. His wife died November 30, 1859.

John Dock came in the fall of the same year and settled on section 21. About three years later he removed to California.

Barney Banks was another of the "settlers of '56." He located on section 21. He was frozen to death in a terrible blizzard while on his way from Geneva to his home. His oxen returned home without him, and his body was soon afterward discovered.

William Shea came the same year and located on section 30. He was in his one hundred and fifth year at the time of his death.

Thomas Brick was a son-in-law of Mr. Shea. He located on the same section and remained there until 1877, when he removed to section 14, where he still lives.

Halver Howen came in 1856 and located on section 23. In 1868 he was frozen to death while on his way home from Faribault.

Enfin Enfinson came in 1856 and settled on section 27, where he still lives.

M. Wright came during the same year and located on section 32, where he still lives.

E. Johnson came in 1856 and is still a resident.

Philo Sawyer, in company with M. Warren and J. O. Colver, came to Steele County, Minn., and took up government land in Berlin Township in 1856. Mr. Sawyer is a native of Vermont, born August 22, 1830. In 1844 his parents, A. and Demarius (Well) Sawyer, removed to Wisconsin, where the father died in 1848. The mother died in 1863 in Minnesota. After securing his land here in 1856, Philo returned to Wisconsin, remaining until 1857, when he came here to stay. In 1864 he enlisted in Company D, Eleventh Minnesota Infantry, under Col. Ball, serving until the close of the war. He received his discharge in Gallatin, Tenn., since which time he has followed farming on his original homestead. He has been identified with the interests of his township, having been a township officer for a number of years, and is an active and highly respected citizen.

Thomas Brown is the second son of C. V. Brown, a pioneer settler of Berlin Township, who came in 1856 and located on section 27, where his death occurred. There were four children: Charles, Thomas, John and Mary. The father was one of the first supervisors of the township; was postmaster for a number of years. His death occurred July 1, 1868. When twenty-one years of age, Thomas left home and began life for himself. He settled in Berlin Township on his present farm on section 22, in 1875, where he is still

engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He was born in New York in 1847, and in 1875 was married to Miss Mary Hare. They have five children: Mary Sedate, Hellen Elizabeth, Thomas Franklin, Jefferson Newton and Eva Corrinne, all of whom are living at home.

Francis J. Trowe was one of the settlers of 1856. He was born in Sullivan County, N. H., February 14, 1830. He emigrated to McHenry County, Ill., where he only remained a short time. From there he went to Du Page County, Ill. At Marengo, Ill., he married Miss Clara E. Mitchell, and in the spring of 1856, with their oldest child, they started with an ox team for the far west, coming by way of McGregor, where they found the waters of the Mississippi so high at the lower wharf that with difficulty they gained a landing. After undergoing all the vicissitudes of such an overland journey they arrived in Steele County, Minn., in July, 1856, and located in Berlin Township. Mr. Trowe enlisted in 1863 in Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry, under Gen. Sibley in the campaign against the Indians. He was mustered out of the service at Fort Snelling in 1865. He is a Republican in politics. He is the present township assessor, which office he has held for many consecutive terms. He has nine children: Edwin F., George H., Charles H., Willis L., Lillie N., Julia E., Frank S., Clara V. and Fred S. They were called to mourn the loss of Frank S., who died June 7, 1887, of scarlet fever, aged eighteen years. He was a promising and estimable young man and had been a member of the Good Templars since the organization of the lodge.

Robert H. Reynolds was born in Pittsburg, Pa., June 12, 1844. He immigrated with his parents to Steele County, Minn., in 1856, from Fond du Lac, Wis. His father, Robert Reynolds, located on sections 13 and 23, Berlin Township, where he lived until the time of his death, August 23, 1884. On August 14, 1862, Robert H. enlisted in Company

E, Tenth Minnesota Regiment, and was in the service three years. He was with Gen. Sibley the first year fighting Indians; the remaining time was in the south. After being discharged at Fort Snelling he returned home, and later he went to Waseca County, Minn., where he lived seven years, then removed to his present home in Berlin Township. He was married in 1869, and they have five children: Frank, Fred, Pearly, Edith and an infant.

John Culver settled on section 11, in 1856. He remained there until 1877, when he removed to New Richland. In 1885 he went to Nebraska.

J. Winchell came in 1856 and selected a claim on section 24. This continued to be his home until 1879, when he "pulled up stakes" and removed to Wisconsin.

Levi Chase was another of the arrivals in 1856. The tract which he chose for a home was on section 21, and he remained here until 1866, when he removed to Owatonna and in 1880 went to Madison, Wis.

A. Ingerson came in 1857, and settled on section 27. He held the office of county surveyor while living here, and is mentioned at length elsewhere.

Morris O. Sullivan came either in 1856 or 1857, and located on section 30, where he still lives.

William Lonergan Sr. came in 1857, settled on section 17, and remained there until the time of his death in 1877.

A. Miller came in 1857 and located on section 18.

J. B. Smith settled on section 11, in 1857. In 1864 he enlisted in the Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and went into the service. After the close of the war he settled in Owatonna. In 1877, he removed to the northwestern part of the State.

George W. Goodrich also came in 1857. In 1872 he removed to Dakota, where he died in 1885.

Henry D. Bingham resides on section 2, Berlin Township, where he has 120 acres,

fifty of which is under cultivation. He was born in Susquehanna County, Pa., October 26, 1831. In 1850 he married Miss Serlinda L. Chamberlain in Pennsylvania. In 1851 they moved to Waushara County, Wis. They immigrated in 1862 to Steele County, Minn., with an ox-team and wagon, containing all their worldly effects. They went through the Winnebago agency, then occupied by Indians, and witnessed quaint customs and dances of the Indians. They halted at Garden City, Blue Earth County, Minn., but were driven from there by the Indians, and then came to Owatonna. A few years later they removed to their present home. Their eldest daughter, Edith A., died in the autumn of 1869, at their present home, aged seventeen. There are still living Ada R. (now Mrs. Farnsworth), Clarence A. and Claude E. In 1863 Mr. Bingham enlisted in Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry, being sergeant of his company. He was mustered out at Fort Snelling, in November, 1865. The campaign, which was principally against the Indians, is remembered as one of extraordinary hardship and interspersed with many incidents.

Hon. Horace A. Finch settled on section 9, Berlin Township, in the fall of 1868. He was born in Turin, Lewis County, N. Y., December 17, 1842. His father and mother died when he was four years old. In 1849 the children, James, Caddie, Minnie and Horace, moved to Fond du Lac, Wis., where Horace lived until 1861, when he enlisted in Company G, Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry, under Capt. John R. Wheeler, Col. Allen being in command. They were ordered at once to Pittsburg Landing. Their first engagement was at Shiloh, after which Mr. Finch was sick in the hospital three months. He joined his regiment near Iuka, Miss., from thence to Vicksburg; then on to Lake Providence, La.; thence to Redbone, Miss., where they "laid up" till February, 1864. There Mr. Finch reënlisted and received a

veteran's furlough. He went to Cairo, Ill., and joined Sherman's army, then at Dalton, Ga., on its "march to the sea." He was in the Seventeenth Army Corps, and was engaged in all its battles and skirmishes. He was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., September, 1865. He married Miss Irene Hazen, of Wisconsin, in 1867. She died June 6, 1881. They had six children: Herbert, Fred., Calvin, Minnie, Chester and Mertie, only two of whom are living, Fred. and Mertie. In 1883 he married Miss Katie R. Davis in Waupun, Wis. They have two children, Ray C., and Hattie Isabel. Mr. Finch was elected representative to the Legislature, from the twelfth district, in 1882, and served one term very acceptably to his constituents. He served on several special committees, and was chairman on committee of public lands.

T. R. Sheldon came to Steele County in February, 1869, and settled on his present farm on section 12, Berlin Township. He is a native of New York, born December 16, 1820. In 1843 he immigrated to Waukesha County, Wis., where he lived for eighteen years. He then removed to Olmsted County, Minn., and remained there eight years. He married Miss Elizabeth Scott, of New York, in 1841. She died in 1852, leaving two children to mourn her loss: Hudson B., who married and is living in Grand Meadow; and Adelaid L., married to L. P. Case, and living near Chatfield, Olmsted County. Mr. Sheldon was again married, to Miss Parnelia B. Simons. They have one son, Frank, who lives near his father in the town of Summit.

W. R. Ellis was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1849. His parents, Samuel and Mary (Robinson) Ellis, emigrated to America in 1852, and went first to Lower Canada. In 1854 they removed to Illinois, remaining there fifteen years, when they came to Steele County, Minn. W. R. Ellis came with them, and for two years worked on a farm. He then learned the blacksmith trade, which he

has since followed. He married Miss Annie McLaughlin of Illinois. They have three children; Rosie, Benjamin and Veenie. They are active members of the Baptist Church. Samuel Ellis enlisted in Company D, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry, in 1861, and again in 1864, in Company E, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry. After being discharged he resided with his son, W. R., until fall, 1887, when he removed to Tyler, Minn., and now lives with his youngest son, Edward Ellis.

Ole Olson has a fine farm of 140 acres on sections 2 and 4, and is engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He was born in Norway, July 19, 1843, and came to America in 1865. He settled first in Lemond Township, Steele County, Minn., and in 1871 removed to Berlin Township. August 10, 1865, he was joined in marriage to Miss Annie Johnson, who was born in Norway, May 26, 1846. They have eight children: Anna Matilde, born April 23, 1866; John William, born December 14, 1867; Lora Olivia, born April 21, 1870; Jean Mary, born December 8, 1872; Ola Martin, born February 20, 1876; Emma Julie, born April 7, 1879; Minnie Josephine, born October 15, 1883, and Albert Emil, born September 7, 1885. His family are all members of the Lutheran Church.

Theodore Chambers, a prominent farmer of Berlin Township, is located on section 11. He has an excellent farm of 360 acres, 250 of which is under good cultivation. He was born in Du Page County, Ill., in October, 1844. When eight years of age his parents moved to McHenry County, Ill., subsequently to Owatonna, Steele County, Minn., where the mother still lives. The father was city treasurer at the time of his death, which occurred in 1881. Theodore moved to the Town of Meriden, where he lived four years, then came to Berlin. Later he removed to Owatonna and spent five years, then returned to his present home. He was married in Faribault, Minn., in September, 1866, to Miss Emily Arnold of Owatonna. They have

five children : Edward W., James L., Frank, Marion and Grace F. He enlisted in 1862 in Company F, Ninety-fifth Illinois Infantry, under Capt. N. H. Stewart, Col. Church being in command at first, but was soon relieved by Col. Thomas Humphrey. The regiment remained in camp two months at Rockford, Ill., when they were ordered to Jackson, Miss., and joined the Third Division Seventeenth Army Corps at that place. He served during the entire campaign, participating in all the battles and skirmishes, and realized all the hardships incidental to a soldier's life. After the engagement at Oxford, Miss., they returned to Holly Springs, and took a forced march to Ripley to head off Van Dorn and Price. They were then ordered to Holly Springs, by land and rail to Memphis, then by boat to Lake Providence, La., where they remained two months, then overland to Vicksburg, and remained on duty in the rear of that city until its surrender. From Natchez, they were ordered on the Red River expedition in Arkansas and Missouri against Price, took part at Fort Du Russey, Old River, Clouterville, Yellow Bayou, Gun Town, etc.; the campaign against Hood in Tennessee; thence to Mobile, siege at Spanish Fort in 1865, and Fort Blakely. Also participated in Sherman's Georgia campaign, at Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee River, Atlanta, Jonesboro, etc., the regiment traveling during service 9,960 miles. In the engagement at Guntown they met with a reverse and Col. Humphreys was killed, a loss sadly deplored by his men. The regiment afterward reorganized at Memphis. On their first raid to Greenville and Woodville, they destroyed large quantities of flour, bacon, sugar, hams and commissary stores of the enemy, tore up the railroad track, took 300 head of horses and mules and a large herd of Texas cattle. In their second raid from Brownsville to Sedalia, in pursnit of Price, whom they failed to capture, they destroyed large quantities of his supplies. At the expiration of his term of enlistment, he

was mustered out at Springfield, Ill., in August, 1865.

ORGANIZATION

When Steele County was organized in August, 1855, the territory which now comprises Berlin Township (and for that matter the whole of the county), became a part of Owatonna Township. It remained in this shape until the 6th of April, 1857, when the board of county commissioners set off township 105, range 21, and authorized its organization as a civil township, to be called "Berlin." The name was derived from the town of that name in Wisconsin. The proper spelling of the name is "Berlin," as it is commonly used at this day, although in the earlier county records the name appears Burlin.

The organization of the township was not fully perfected until the spring of 1858, when, on the 11th day of May, a full set of township officers was elected, as follows: Supervisors, C. V. Brown, Thomas McCormick and M. Warren; assessor, Otis Bathrick; clerk, H. Lawson; justices of the peace, Michael Wright and George Goodrich; collector, John O. Shea.

The following is a list of the present township officers, elected March 9, 1887: Supervisors, H. A. Finch, H. Bradley and J. Torgesen; clerk, D. M. Betchen; treasurer, J. Malone; assessor, F. T. Trowe; justices, J. M. Cusick and A. Gales.

VARIOUS EVENTS.

The first marriage in the township was that of John O. Culver to Miss Jane Gordon. The ceremony was performed by Hiram Pitcher, Esq., a justice of the peace, in 1857. This being the first time the justice had performed the ceremony, he varied a little from the usual form, and the groom was made to promise to obey the bride instead of the bride obeying the groom. The first birth was that of Fred Brown, who now lives in Waseca County. It occurred in January, 1857. The first death was that of Mrs. J.

V. Gordon, which occurred Nov. 30, 1859. The remains were buried in Berlin cemetery.

The first ground broken for a crop was done by Levi Chase, in the summer of 1856.

The second marriage in the township was that of Ashbel Ingerson to Sarah A. Chase. The ceremony was performed by Rev H. Chapin, in August, 1875.

About the first fatal accident which occurred in the township, was the drowning of John Brown, a lad of eighteen or nineteen years of age, in Beaver Lake. His body was secured a few hours after death had claimed him.

RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services in the township were held at the residence of Levi Chase, in the fall of 1856, when prayer meetings and a Sabbath school were established. In the fall of 1857, Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick and Rev. S. N. Phelps commenced preaching on alternate Sabbaths.

A Methodist organization was effected in 1858, by Elder Phelps.

On the 27th of August, 1859, a Baptist Church was organized by Elder Town, of Owatonna. The last preacher was Rev. B. K. Dye, of Clinton Falls.

SCHOOLS.

The first school in the township was taught in the winter of 1857-8, by D. T. Gordon, in an old log blacksmith shop, which stood on the edge of Beaver Lake, on section 16. The following year the present log schoolhouse was erected by the citizens. The same party taught the first school in

the house. That was the only school building in the township at that time.

POSTOFFICES.

The first postoffice in the township was established in 1856, under the name of Adamsville, with Hiram Pitcher as postmaster. He also carried the mail from Owatonna, many times going on foot, and, in the winter, using snow-shoes. In 1857 the name of the office was changed to Berlin. C. V. Brown was the second postmaster, and held the office until the time of his death. Succeeding him in turn came S. A. Gordon, G. W. Sawyer, Peter Betchen, C. W. Fox, D. McLaughlin and S. Ellis. The one last named is the present postmaster, having taken the office in 1884.

BUSINESS.

In 1871 a cheese factory was started on section 12, at a cost of some \$5,000, by a company formed for that purpose, composed of citizens of the township. After being in operation for a time, the plant was sold to Mr. Sloan, and later Mr. Miller became interested. After a few years the enterprise was abandoned, as it had not proved a profitable investment.

About 1875 a store was started by Miller & Sloan in a part of the cheese factory building, and the postoffice was also kept there. L. Barrett also started a store on section 13, but both concerns were closed out by their creditors, after running a few years.

W. R. Ellis started a blacksmith shop on section 22, in April, 1875, which he still operates.

CHAPTER XXX.

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP.



SUMMIT forms the center of the southern tier of townships, embracing congressional township 105, range 20. On the north it is bounded by Somerset Township; on the east by Blooming Prairie Township; on the west by Berlin Township, and on the south by Freeborn County. The northwest corner of the township has considerable timber. A branch of the Straight River runs across the northwest corner, in a northeasterly direction, while another branch, taking its rise in a little lake lying partly in the town of Blooming Prairie, flows, in a northwesterly course, across the entire town, furnishing an abundant supply of water. The surface here is somewhat rolling, and the prairie is diversified by the many groves which have been set out by the settlers. The soil here is of a light but productive nature—of about the same character as is found in the other portions of the county. In 1857 Summit Township had a population of 45. In 1885 this had grown to 551 inhabitants.

ITEMS OF INTEREST CONCERNING OLD SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

The first settlement within the limits now comprising Summit Township, was made in the summer of 1856, by John Bennett and a man named Dribilibus, both single men. Bennett selected a claim on section 9, and his companion on section 4. The former remained here for several years, then removed to Dakota, where he still lives. Dribilibus, after a year or two, sold out and left.

Later in the same season (1856), Hiram Fredenburg, H. W. Ruliffson and D. A. Loomis came with their families, and also a

man named Heath, and all selected claims. Mr. Fredenburg was a native of New York, and a man of prominence in early days. He selected a claim on section 20 and remained in the township until 1880, when he removed to Owatonna.

Mr. Ruliffson located on section 30, where he lived until 1880, when he removed to Dakota.

Mr. Loomis settled on the same section and remained until late in the "seventies," when he removed to Dakota Territory, where he still lives.

G. W. Knapp located here in June, 1856, pitched his tent and at once went to "housekeeping."

William Cooley came in 1856 and is still a prominent citizen. Mr. Cooley is a native of Massachusetts. He was born June 1st, 1812. His parents, Moses and Lucretia (Graves) Cooley, died before our subject arrived at manhood, his father dying in 1815, and his mother in 1826. When sixteen years of age William Cooley went to Geneva, Seneca County, N. Y., where he remained five years, learning the carpenter's and wagon-maker's trade. In the summer of 1833, he came to Chicago, Ills., where he remained until 1854. He then came to Minnesota, locating in Chatfield. Finally, on the 7th of September, 1856, he came to Steele County, settling at once in Summit Township, on section 25. At that early day Mr. Cooley had charge of the postoffice and stage station, which was named Cooleysville, in honor of him. Mr. Cooley had charge of it for six years, at which time the stage route was changed. Our subject was offered \$25 to sign a petition to have the postoffice moved four miles farther west, which he did, refusing to take the money.

He remained on section 25 for nine years, then removed to section 14, where he still lives. Mr. Cooley has been twice married: first, on December 25, 1833, to Rebecca Warner, who died November 12, 1851, leaving two children: Mary E., born October 6, 1834, and Delia, born February 22, 1837. Mary E. married W. V. Johnson. They reside in Chicago, Ill. Delia was married in 1852, to Julius Moffit. Their home is in Nickerson, Kan. Mr. Cooley was married December 31, 1852, to Catherine Cull.

A. C. Colquhon came here in 1856, and located on section 24, where he remained until the death of his wife, which occurred three or four years later. After this, he spent some time in Wisconsin, and then returned to his old home. A few years later he removed to Blooming Prairie Township, where he still lives.

Mr. Dunlavy came in 1857, and settled on section 14. After a few years he sold out his interests here and left.

John W. Smith was also among the pioneers of '57. Mr. Smith was born in Virginia, November 1, 1817. He remained in his native State until twenty years of age, then in company with his parents settled in Ohio, where they resided for seventeen years. J. W. Smith came to Minnesota in September 1854, locating in Chatfield, Fillmore County, where he remained three years. In June, 1857, he came to Steele County, locating on section 35, in Summit Township, where he lives at the present time. Mr. Smith was married in 1841. They had three children: William L., James A. and David. William was married and lived in Summit Township, on section 34, until the time of his death, which occurred in January, 1880. He left a large family to mourn his loss. James A. lived with his parents until 1862, when he enlisted in Company E, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, at that time being but eighteen years of age. He was wounded in the battle of Tupelo and died soon after in the hospital. David lived with his parents until 1864

then enlisted in Company D, Eleventh Minnesota Infantry, remaining in service until the close of the war. He then returned home, and died three years later of a disease contracted in the army. Mrs. Smith died in 1850. Mr. Smith was married to his second wife, Elizabeth Erat, in 1852.

William Goolsby settled in Summit Township in 1858, selecting his share of government land on section 14. He remained here until a few years ago, when he removed to Dakota Territory, where he still lives.

T. E. Kenyon, in company with his parents, Thomas and Mary L. (Smith) Kenyon, came to Steele County, Minn., from Otsego County, N. Y., in 1856, locating in Somerset Township, our subject, at that time, being only ten years of age. The father resided in Somerset until the time of his death. T. E. Kenyon remained with his parents until 1863, when he enlisted in Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry, under Col. Thomas, remaining in the service until the fall of 1865, when he was discharged at Fort Snelling. He then returned home, where he remained one year. He then started out in life for himself. In 1877 Mr. Kenyon located on his present place in Summit Township, on sections 5 and 6, where he has since resided. Mr. Kenyon was married in 1870, to Alliecia Twiford. They have two children: Arthur and Mary E.

Edward Darmody was born in Ireland in 1845. When five years of age he came to America in company with his parents, Michael and Bridget Darmody. They located in Rock County, Wis., where they remained until 1862. They then, in company with P. P. Thimsen, Mrs. Thimsen, Pat. Fallon and John Anderson, came to Minnesota, traveling by team. Mrs. Darmody died on the journey, and was buried at Spring Valley, Minn. Mr. Darmody at once settled in Steele County, taking up government land on section 10, Summit Township, where Mr. Darmody Sr. remained with his son Edward until the time of his death, in 1866. Our subject, Ed-

ward Darmody, was married in 1867 to Mary Welsh. They have eight children; Bridget, Katie Ellen, Michael, Thomas, Edward, Margaret, Eliza and Mary. Mr. Darmody has always taken an active interest in town affairs. He was elected supervisor in 1868, and has held some town office ever since.

A. Hemingway was born in Canada in 1843. In 1844, his parents, Josiah and Elizabeth (Lawrence) Hemingway with their family removed to Wisconsin, where Mr. Hemingway Sr. died. Mrs. Hemingway came to Minnesota in the spring of 1866, to live with her sons, Clinton and George, who reside on section 18, in Summit Township. A. Hemingway, our subject, came to Steele County in 1866, locating on section 19, in Summit Township, where he remained four years. He then returned to Wisconsin. He remained there until 1878, and then returned to his original farm in Steele County, where he has since resided. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Thirty-second Wisconsin Infantry, under Col. Howe, remaining in service until the close of the war. He was in a number of battles, among which were Three Rivers, Columbia, S. C., the taking of Savannah, Ga., with Sherman, on his march to the sea, and was also at the grand review, at Washington. Mr. Hemingway was married in Fond du Lac, Wis., in January, 1867, to Miss Olive Nickerson. They have five children: Elsie, Lula, Myrta, Elwin and Eva.

A. C. Tennis, who resides on section 28, in Summit Township, Steele County, Minn., was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1835. He remained in his native town until twenty-three years of age, and then came to Minnesota, locating in Wabasha County, where he remained one year. In April, 1867, Mr. Tennis removed to Steele County, locating at once on the place where he now lives. His parents were Samuel and Jane Tennis. Mrs. Tennis died while our subject was quite young. Mr. Tennis Sr. came west with his son A. C., and settled with him.

Scott Hayes, who lives on section 6, in Summit Township, was born in Hartford County, Conn., October, 15, 1829. He resided with his parents until eighteen years of age, then served as an apprentice for three years at the blacksmith's trade. He then worked at his trade for a few years. In June, 1859, he came to Steele County, Minn., taking up government land on section 6, in Summit Township, where he remained until he proved up on the land. In the fall of 1859 Mr. Hayes returned to Hartford, Conn., remaining there until 1869. He then returned to Steele County, locating on the land taken up ten years before, where he has since remained. Mr. Hayes was married in 1864 to Mrs. Elvira Elder. They had one child, Nellie A., who married Mr. James Cassady. She died December 26, 1885, leaving a small family.

E. Coggins was born in Ireland in 1835. He remained in his native land until twenty years of age, then came to America, landing in New York, May 10, 1855. He remained in that State two years, then went to Pennsylvania, where he worked one year in the iron works. He then returned to New York, where he remained until 1859, then removed to Racine County, Wis. After remaining there for some time, he went south to Carson's Landing, Miss., where he remained a short time. He then returned to Racine, Wis., and engaged in farming. In 1870 Mr. Coggins came to Steele County, Minn., and was employed on the farm of Dr. Morehouse for two years. He then bought his present farm on sections 12 and 13, in Summit Township, where he has since lived, engaged in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Coggins was married May 2, 1861, to Bridget Tolher. They have nine children. Mr. Coggins was elected town supervisor in 1880; was reelected in 1881, and again in 1883. He is one of the leading men of Summit Township and a prominent citizen of Steele County.

John Ryan, a prominent farmer residing

on section 20, in Summit Township, was born in Durham, England. He came to America when six years of age, with his parents, John and Margret Ryan, locating in Ohio. Our subject lived with his parents until fourteen years of age, then started out in life for himself, going to New Orleans, La., where he remained two years. In October, 1855, he came to Minnesota, locating in Freeborn County, remaining there until the war broke out. He then enlisted, October 15, 1861, in Company F, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, remaining in the service three years and three months. He was in the following battles: Inka, Corinth, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill, siege of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Altoona Pass and also with Sherman on his march to the sea. Mr. Ryan received his discharge January 14, 1865, at Savannah, Ga., and returned to Freeborn County, Minn., where he again engaged in farming. In 1865 he sold his farm and came to Steele County, locating on his present place, where he has since lived. He was married November 16, 1861, to Julia Fitzsimmons. They have six children: Huldah, Patrick, Martha, Margret, James and Mary Ann.

D. P. Sawyer was born in Vermont in 1839. He remained with his parents, Otis and Mary Anna (Bickford) Sawyer, until twenty-one years of age. He lived in Vermont until the war broke out, enlisting in June, 1861, in Company B, Third Vermont Infantry, being under Col. Hyde for three years. Mr. Sawyer was in forty-seven battles, the first being the battle of Bull Run. Mr. Sawyer received his discharge in the fall of 1864, at Burlington, Vt. He then returned home, where he remained two years, and then came to Minnesota, locating in Freeborn County, where he lived for ten years. He then came to Steele County, locating on section 21, in Blooming Prairie Township. Six years later he removed to Summit Township, settling on section 20, where he resides at the present time. Mr. Sawyer was married in

1876 to Melinda McFall, a native of Pennsylvania. They have four children: Ira, Mabel, Floid and Elwin. Mr. Sawyer is engaged in farming and stock-raising, and is among the representative citizens of this part of the county.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first birth in the township was that of Adelbert Heath, son of Roswell Heath, who was born in 1857.

The first marriage took place in December, 1858, the parties being Benjamin Wheeler and Miss Delia Fredenburg.

The first death was that of Mrs. Delora Fredenburg, wife of Jeremiah Fredenburg, which occurred in 1860.

A postoffice called Cooleyville was established in 1858. The postmasters have been as follows: William Cooley, II. Fredenburg, M. Hitchcock, M. Fredenburg, John Curtis, A. D. Felton and Julia A. Ryan.

SCHOOLS.

The first school in district No. 38 was taught by Celia Fredenburg, now Mrs. P. Francis, of Medford, in the summer of 1862, occupying an old log house, which had been previously used by Paul Miller. Several terms were held here.

The first schoolhouse erected in district No. 38, was built in 1864, a frame structure, which cost about \$300. The district then embraced half the township.

The first school in district No. 51 was held in a log schoolhouse, which was erected in 1867. The first teacher was Ellen Donaldson. In 1875 a new schoolhouse was erected, about half a mile east of the old site, at a cost of about \$600.

The first school meeting in district No. 74, was held in September, 1876, when the organization of the district was effected. A schoolhouse was erected the following year at a cost of about \$325. The first teacher was Nora Loomis.

ORGANIZATION.

Like all other townships in the two western

tiers, the territory which now forms Summit became a part of Owatonna Township when the county was organized in 1855. It remained in this shape until April 6, 1857, when the board of commissioners set off township 105, range 20, and authorized its organization, under the name of Summit Township. The organization, however, was not perfected until the 10th of May, 1858, when a town meeting was held at the house of Hiram Fredenburg, and the following township officers were elected: Supervisors,

Hiram Fredenburg, chairman, H. M. Davis and G. W. Knapp; clerk, N. S. Kingsley; assessor, William Cooley; constables, Daniel Loomis and George Mitchell; justices of the peace, Hiram Fredenburg and G. W. Knapp.

The present officers of the township were elected March 8, 1887, viz: Supervisors, H. C. Borchert, C. E. Clark, A. C. Tennis; clerk, E. Darmody; treasurer, Joseph Voith; assessor, W. E. Kenyon; justices, T. C. Clark and D. P. Sawyer.



CHAPTER XXXI.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.



BLOOMING the southeastern corner of Steele County is Blooming Prairie Township, embracing township 105, range 19. The township was originally called Oak Glen, a name derived from a glen in the northern part, in which is a little lake surrounded by a heavy growth of oak. There are three of these lakes, one covering somewhat over a section of land, and each of the other two about 100 acres. About one-third of the township in the northwest portion, is covered with scattering oak or oak openings, while the balance is rolling prairie. The soil here is about the same as is found in other portions of the county, rich and productive. The township is becoming well settled, the population having a heavy foreign element, but as a whole the inhabitants are as thrifty, intelligent and prosperous as any community in the State.

EARLY SETTLERS AND PROMINENT CITIZENS.

The first settlement within the limits now comprising Blooming Prairie Township was made in July, 1856, by John Blythe, who selected 160 acres of government land on sections 19 and 30 and put up a log cabin.

In October of the same year, Dennis Moran arrived with his family, consisting of wife and two sons and a sister-in-law. Mr. Moran located on section 29. He died on the same section. Thomas Bray came in January, 1857, and it is thought that Mr. Whaley and his son-in-law, Mr. Ewers, settled in the northern part of the township at about the same time. These were the only families who settled in the township that winter although many passed through.

After this, the township settled up very slowly. The financial panic of 1857 coming as it did, checked travel very much, and times became very hard. Early in the sixties the number of settlers became more numerous, although the outbreak of the rebellion prevented the town from filling up very rapidly.

Among others who came at an early day and settled here are the following named: J. H. McDaniels, James Carey, Joseph Branning, George Topliff, Andrew Cole, Thomas Sweeney, Miles Flannagan, G. Stoddard, S. Roberts, C. E. Hancock, Patrick Fallon, John Anderson, P. P. Thimsen, N. P. Thimsen, T. Feeny and others.

In this connection we present biographical sketches of many of the pioneers and other leading citizens of the township.

The honor of being the first settlers of the territory which now forms the town of Blooming Prairie, undoubtedly belongs to John Blythe and family. John Blythe was a native of England, and was born in 1828. His father, Richard Blythe, died when he was a child, and his mother married a Mr. Bishop. She died when John was eleven years of age. John Blythe came to the United States when quite young and lived at Milwaukee, Wis., until 1851, when he located at Chicago, Ill. At that city, on the 20th of October, 1852, he was married to Miss Eliza Jane Patton, by Rev. R. H. Clarkson, afterward Bishop of Nebraska. They remained in Chicago until the spring of 1856, when they determined to seek their future home on the sunset side of the Mississippi, and secure a farm. Mr. Blythe had followed the active and adventurous



John Blythe
(DECEASED)

business of a sailor on the lakes. In coming west, they came by railway and steamboat to Winona, where a team was hired to bring the goods and the family (which then consisted of the parents and two children) to Cooleysville, in Summit Township. They paid \$42.50 in gold for the trip, besides \$12.50 incidental expenses from Winona to their new home. Early that fall Mr. Blythe selected government land on sections 19 and 30, in Blooming Prairie Township, this being the first claim taken in the township. Here they built at first a little cabin 14x16 feet in size and lived on the place for nine years, when in the spring of 1866, they purchased the farm of David Bagley, on section 26, where the family still live. On the 26th of September, 1864, Mr. Blythe enlisted in Company B, First Regiment Heavy Artillery, and served until June 11, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Chattanooga, Tenn. With the exception of this absence, his home remained in Blooming Prairie Township from the date of his settlement in 1856 until the time of his death, April 1, 1886. He had taken an active part in all public matters, and was well-known throughout all this portion of the county as an upright, honorable and enterprising citizen. In his death the family lost a kind father and the county lost one of its earliest pioneers and most esteemed citizens. A portrait of him will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Blythe, who survives her husband, was a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Tucker) Patton, natives of Ireland. In 1832 they settled at Kingston, in Upper Canada, where the father was engaged at boot and shoe making until the time of his death. In 1852, as stated, Mr. and Mrs. Blythe were married at Chicago, and in 1856 settled here. They were blessed with eight children, who are living, as follows: William H., born July 9, 1854; Robert N., born April 21, 1856; Richard H., born March 29, 1860; Mary A., born February 23, 1862; Grace J., born March 28,

1864; Frank D., born March 25, 1868; Annie M., born October 2, 1870, and Albert J., born February 9, 1873. Mrs. Blythe is, and Mr. Blythe was until his death, a prominent member of the Episcopal Church. Mrs. Blythe is in good circumstances, so far as this world's goods is concerned, and carries on her large farm in a profitable manner.

Thomas Bray is another pioneer, whose name is indissolubly connected with the early history and development of Steele County. Being one of the very earliest settlers of Blooming Prairie Township, he witnessed and participated in all the hardships and disadvantages which attended the early part of Steele County's existence. Mr. Bray was a native of England, but came from there when eighteen years of age, and lived in Racine County, Wis, until 1856. He then came west, and for a short time stopped in the southwestern part of Dodge County, Minn. In January, 1857, he crossed the county line and took up government land on section 35, Blooming Prairie Township. Here he built a cabin and made a home. Settlers were very few and far between in those days, markets were only to be found at Hastings or Winona, and many a time the settlers almost gave up in despair, as the trips had to be made overland, camping by the wayside, and fording or swimming the sloughs and streams. In early times prices were also very low, money was very scarce, and not a few were the times when starvation seemed almost to stare them in the face. Such were the disadvantages which the pioneers had to contend with, but they struggled on, and finally, success and competency crowned the efforts of those who were enterprising and frugal. Mr. Bray was married in 1857, to Miss Agnes Thorborn, a native of Scotland, who came to the United States when very young. They had eight children: James, who is married, and lives in Mower County; Jennie, Lizzie, William, George, Albert, Allen and Richard. Mr. Bray died upon his original homestead on

the 10th of November, 1876. He always took an active and prominent part in all public matters affecting this part of the county, and was widely known and respected as a man of the highest worth and integrity. His death was sincerely mourned, not only by his family, but by all who knew him. A portrait of him very appropriately appears in this work. Mrs. Bray, who survives her husband, with the aid of her children carries on extensive farming and stock-raising. The farm is one of the best in the township containing 320 acres.

Hon. A. Colquhoun, residing on section 30, is also a pioneer of Steele County. He was born in Nova Scotia, September 2, 1835. His parents were John and Margret (Peterson) Colquhoun. His father was a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, and his mother was also of Scottish descent. Our subject, A. Colquhoun, came to the United States when eighteen years of age, and in November, 1856, came to Steele County, Minn., taking up government land on section 24, in Summit Township, where he remained until he proved up on his land. He then went to Wisconsin, where he engaged in the lumber business for five years. In 1862 Mr. Colquhoun returned to Steele County. In 1864 he enlisted in Company D, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, remaining in the service until the close of the war, receiving his discharge at Fort Snelling, in July, 1865. He then returned to Steele County, and, in 1866, selected government land on section 30, Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, where he has since lived. Mr. Colquhoun was elected as first assessor of the township after Oak Glen and Aurora were divided, and held the office for two years. He was also elected as chairman of the board of supervisors in the spring of 1872, serving until fall, at which time he was elected to the State Legislature. He was again elected representative in 1880 and served until 1882. Mr. Colquhoun has taken an active part in all educational matters, having been one of

the school board for twenty successive years. His name appears frequently in these pages.

C. B. Pettie, one of Steele County's most prominent men, was born in Westford, Otsego County, N. Y., December 8, 1834. He remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, and then started out in life for himself. He came to Steele County, Minn., October 7, 1856, taking up government land on section 25, Aurora Township. He remained there until 1859. At that early date times were so hard that Mr. Pettie became discouraged and returned to Wisconsin, where he worked out on a farm for a year, at the end of the time taking a small pair of cattle for payment. He then went to work and made a wagon entirely of wood, with the exception of the draw bolt. He then started again for Steele County, Minn., driving through in about two weeks, and locating on section 24, Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, where he resides at the present time. In August, 1862, Mr. Pettie enlisted in Company A, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, remaining in the service until June, 1865. He then returned to his farm, where he has since lived. Mr. Pettie was married in 1868 to Frances A. Farrington. They had three children, two of whom are still living, Eddie and Lizzie. Mr. Pettie was elected chairman of the board of supervisors for the town of Oak Glen, in April 1867, and has always taken an active part in town matters. Among Mr. Pettie's possessions is the old wooden wagon, which he retains as a relic of former days.

A. B. Clark was born in the State of New York and came to Steele County, Minn., June 12, 1856. He took up government land on section 22, in the town of Aurora, where he found five settlers who had been on the ground about one week. The only now remaining settler of those five is Charles Adsit. Mr. Clark came by railroad and steamboat from his home in the east to Winona, Minn., and there procured a yoke of oxen and drove to his new home in Min-

nesota. After arriving, the first thing he did was to build a log house for the accommodation of his wife and family, who came about a month later. The following year Mr. Clark was one of three men who assessed what was at that time Steele County, now Steele and Waseca counties, he having to assess the south tier and the south half of the second tier of towns, making in all nine townships. The work was not as pleasant at that day as it is now, the settlers being scattered, roads bad or none at all. Mr. Clark remained on his original farm until 1876, at which time he moved to his present place in Blooming Prairie, where he has since lived. In the fall of 1880, he put in a stock of goods in the village of Blooming Prairie, and carried on merchandising in connection with farming for four years; then sold out his merchandise, and since that time has devoted his attention especially to the breeding of fine horses, so that to-day some of the best blooded horses in the county can be seen at his stables. Mr. Clark was married in 1848, while in New York, to Esther M. Waterman. They have had six children: George W., born March 11, 1850; Clara M., born May 2, 1852; Mary E., born October 31, 1854; Rosalind, born December 7, 1857; Frank B., born May 18, 1861, and Amy N., born June 29, 1865.

C. E. Hancock purchased his present farm in the spring of 1862. He is a native of Jefferson County, N. Y., and came to Steele County, Minn., in the spring of 1859, when he took up school land in Aurora Township. He afterward sold out and removed to his present farm in Blooming Prairie, where he is engaged in general farming and stock-raising. In those pioneer days Winona was his nearest trading point, to which place settlers hauled their grain and produce. Their loads would average thirty and forty bushels, and were drawn by two pair of oxen. The trip would require from seven to nine days and they could then only get from forty-five to sixty cents per bushel for their wheat. At one time he took some excellent

butter to Red Wing and could get only five cents per pound for it. He has witnessed all the varied changes that have taken place, and has undergone the privations of an early settler. In 1864 he enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, under Col. Thomas, and served until he was honorably discharged June 19, 1865, at Nashville, Tenn. He then returned to his present home. He was united in marriage to Pamela Hanson, in New York, in 1856. They have four children: Lucy B., Fred., May and Albert. May was married to Mr. C. R. Ellis, and resides in Minneapolis.

J. H. McDaniels was born in Vermont, June 12, 1822, and at an early day went to Canada. From Canada he went to Wisconsin, and was one of the pioneers of Waupun in that State, having settled in that town about the year 1848. He remained there until he came to Minnesota in about 1860. On first coming to this State he located on a farm on section 9, of Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, Steele County. On this farm he remained until his death, which took place April 2, 1884. Mr. McDaniels was one of the earliest settlers in that part of the town, his nearest neighbor being four miles distant. His first house for himself and family was built of poles and hay. As soon as possible he erected a more substantial building, which still stands on the farm. While in Canada Mr. McDaniels was married to Julia Ann Carey. They have eight children: Robert, Mary, Celestia, John, Frank, Charles, Margaret and Sarah. Frank McDaniels was born in Waupun, Wis., October 4, 1858, and came to Steele County, Minn., with his parents when he was about two years of age. He lived with his parents till the time of their death. He was married May 24, 1886, to Julia E. Carey, a native of Wisconsin. He still lives on the old homestead taken originally by his father in 1860. Frank McDaniels brought the first steam thrashing machine into the town of Blooming Prairie.

P. P. Thimsen came to Steele County, Minn., in 1862. He was born in Denmark, April 3, 1831. His father was Nis Thimsen. Our subject came to America in 1858, locating in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he remained a short time; he then removed to Rock County, Wis., where he lived until 1862, when he came to Steele County, Minn. He at once took up government land on section 8, Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, where he has since resided. Mr. Thimsen was married in 1863 to Julia A. Aekley, a native of Lafayette, N. Y. They have four children: Marion M., aged twenty-two; Hattie F., aged twenty; John F., aged eighteen, and Katie M., aged thirteen. Marion married Hans Johnson; they reside in Blooming Prairie. Hattie married James C. Peterson; their home is in Colorado. The other children live at home. Mr. Thimsen has a very fine farm of 400 acres, 300 of which are under cultivation.

Patrick Fallon, a prominent farmer, residing on section 22, in Blooming Prairie Township, was born in Ireland, January 25, 1833. His parents were Martin and Hanora Fallon. When twenty-one years of age, Patrick came to America, landing in New York, May 5, 1854. He remained in that State a year, and then came to Wisconsin, locating in Rock County. In 1862 he came to Minnesota, and took up government land on section 22, in Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, where he has since lived. Mr. Fallon was married in New York, September 2, 1855, to Bridget Conley. They have seven children: Sarah E., Mary, Libbie, Jennie, George, Frank and Maggie. Sarah married J. Sorenson, a blacksmith, of Blooming Prairie. Mary married Mr. O'Brien; their home is in Owatonna. The other children live at home. Mr. Fallon has been prominent in public matters affecting the township, and has held various offices, including that of township treasurer and others.

Michael Fallon, residing on section 22,

Blooming Prairie Township, was born in Ireland, December 10, 1836, and came to America when twenty years of age. He located in Rock County, Wis., where he lived for five years. He then removed to Minnesota, taking up government land on section 22, Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, Steele County, where he still lives. Mr. Fallon was married in 1865 to Martha Jane Powers. They have four children: Michael J., Ella, Stephen and Gusta G. Mr. Fallon was elected town supervisor in 1875; was reelected in 1876, and was again elected in 1878.

H. A. Dunton is one of the prominent and prosperous farmers of Blooming Prairie Township. He was born in Hampden, Me., in 1840. In 1857 his father, John Dunton, settled in Mower County, Minn., where he was one of its earliest settlers. In 1863 they moved to Oak Glen, Steele County, and kept the stage station for some four years. He then went into business in the village of Blooming Prairie, which he continued until his death in July, 1876. H. A. Dunton remained at home until 1863, then went to the Montana gold fields, where he remained a year or so, then returned to Blooming Prairie. He is actively interested in all that pertains to the good of his township, and is present chairman of the board of supervisors. He was joined in marriage in April, 1874, to Emma Cary, a native of New York. They have five children: Bertha E., George, Jessie C., Mary and Allen Henry.

A. Dies is a native of Canada West. He was born January 4, 1823. His parents were Matthew and Olive (Lenan) Dies. A. Dies resided in Canada until 1853, when he removed to the United States, coming to Chicago by boat, and from there to Olmsted County, Minn., by team. He located in the town of Pleasant Grove, where he remained ten years. He then came to Steele County, taking a homestead on section 22, Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, where he has since lived. Mr. Dies

was married in Canada to Alice Clargo, who was born June 10, 1827. They had eleven children: Luey J., born September 9, 1850; James W., born May 15, 1857; Olive A., born July 9, 1859; Mary E., born June 12, 1861; Arthur, born May 30, 1863; Lewis E., born July 16, 1865, and Elmer M., born September 16, 1868. Four children are dead: Geo. H., born August 23, 1848, died in May, 1875; James, born April 1, 1853, died October 15, 1853; Elizabeth, born February 23, 1855, died August 2, 1858, and Luther E., born July 16, 1865, died June 2, 1869. Elmer and Luey live at home. Mr. Dies has taken an active interest in public matters, and has held various local offices, including those of town supervisor and justice of the peace.

James W. Smith came from West Virginia, where he was born, in July, 1842. His parents were George and Sarah (Wallace) Smith, with whom James W. lived until he was fifteen years of age. At this age he started out to make his own way in the world. At the age of twenty he went to Pennsylvania, and engaged in farming until 1864, when he came to Steele County, Minn., and took up government land on section 14, Blooming Prairie Township. Here Mr. Smith engaged in tilling the soil, proving himself a successful farmer, and has remained on the original claim ever since he came here. Mr. Smith was married August 11, 1864, to Jane Bridendolph, who is a native of Maryland. They have seven children: Amanda, Carey A., May E., Jennie, Calvin, Nellie and Cora. The children are all living at home.

N. L. Dutton first came to Steele County, Minn., in 1865. He was born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., December 23, 1829. His parents were Ephram and Harriet (Starkweather) Dutton. Mr. Dutton, our subject, remained in his native State until twenty-two years of age. In 1852 he came to Waupun, Wis., where he remained eight years. He then moved to Rosendale, where

he remained until 1862. He enlisted at that time in Company H, Thirty-second Wisconsin Infantry. He remained in the service until September 25, 1865, receiving his discharge at St. Louis, Mo. He was under Col. Howe. Mr. Dutton then returned to Wisconsin, and in October of the same year came to Minnesota, remaining, however, only a short time. Returning to Wisconsin, he procured a team and again started for Minnesota, being two weeks on the way. He at once located on sections 25 and 26, in Summit Township. In September, 1879, he removed to Blooming Prairie Township, settling on sections 23 and 26, where he still lives. Mr. Dutton was married October 20, 1850, to Mary Brooks, a native of New York. They have six children: John, Franklin, Dwight, Will, Sarah and Mattie.

James Dugan came with his parents, Dennis and Mary (Ryan) Dugan, from New York his birthplace, when eleven years of age. He lived with them until 1885, when they removed to Owatonna, since which time he has operated the farm. He was married in February, 1884, to Margret Bergen. They have one child, Mary Margretta.

Nels Johnson was born in Denmark, August 16, 1850. At the age of twenty-four he came to America, and settled in Blooming Prairie Township, Steele County, Minn. When he came he bought a farm on section 28, where he has since resided. During his residence here Mr. Johnson has taken a commendable interest in the affairs of his county and town. He was elected supervisor of his town in 1879, and again in 1886 and 1887. He was married April 3, 1875, to Anna Olson. This union has been blessed with four children: James, George, Nels P., and Henry, all of whom are living.

A. J. Zwiener, a prominent farmer, residing on section 15, Blooming Prairie Township, is a native of Germany. He was born March 16, 1846. He remained in his native land until eight years of age, then came to America with his parents, living

with them until seventeen years old. In February, 1863. Mr. Zwiener enlisted in Company F, Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry, under Col. Green, and served until July 1864, when he received his discharge while in a hospital at New Orleans, La. In 1865 Mr. Zwiener came to Minnesota, locating in St. Paul, where he remained three years, then removed to Winona County. Five years later he removed to Wisconsin, where he lived two years, and then again came to Minnesota, locating on section 15, Blooming Prairie Township, where he still lives. Mr. Zwiener was married to Bertha Menzel. They have five children: Mary, Frank, Lena, Tracey and Lawrence. Mr. Zwiener was elected assessor in 1880, serving two years. In 1883 he was elected town clerk, which office he still holds. Mr. Zwiener has always taken an interest in town matters, and is one of the most prominent citizens of Blooming Prairie Township.

Fred. Nelson came to Steele County, Minn., in 1875. He was born in Denmark, November 1, 1851. His parents, Peter and Anna Nelson, were also natives of Denmark. Fred. Nelson remained in Denmark, working on a farm, until twenty-four years of age, and then came to America, coming direct to Minnesota, and locating on section 14, Blooming Prairie Township, Steele County, Minn., where he remained four years. He then sold that farm and bought a place on section 3, where he has since lived, with the exception of the year 1886, when he had charge of the poor-farm. In 1878 Mr. Nelson was married to Annie Nelson, who was also a native of Denmark. They have three children: Ellen, Peter and Carroll. Mr. Nelson has a very good farm of 160 acres, 100 of which is under cultivation.

Peter Peterson was born in Denmark in 1844. When twenty-eight years old he came to America, locating in Illinois, remaining there for a short time. He then came to Steele County, Minn., where he remained during the winter of 1872-3. Mr. Peterson

removed to Iowa the following spring, locating in Howard County, where he lived for three or four years. Then returning to Steele County, Minn., he located on section 21, Blooming Prairie Township, where he still lives. In 1876 Mr. Peterson was married to Miss H. M. Shaw, a native of Denmark. They have five children: Thomas, Mary, Hans, Annie and Emma, all of whom are living.

A. P. Smith was born in Wyoming County, N. Y., in September, 1842. His parents were William and Sarah Hodges Smith. A. P. Smith remained in New York until seventeen years of age, at which early period of life he determined to come west. He first located in Hennepin County, Minn., and remained there until in March, 1861, at which time he moved to Pope County, Wis., remaining there two years, when he again started for Minnesota and located in Goodhue County, between Zumbrota and Pine Island. Here he remained until 1876, and then came to Steele County, Minn., purchasing the farm on which he has since lived, on section 12, Blooming Prairie Township. Mr. Smith is a practical and successful farmer. He was married in 1861 to Susan M. Dickinson, a native of Maine. They have six children: Adeline O., Elsie, Georgiana, Alice M., Wilmar L. and William P. Adeline O. married William Ferrington and resides in Blooming Prairie. Elsie E. married Charles Forbes, of Iowa. They are now living in Mitchell County, Iowa. The rest of the children are still at home with their parents.

T. C. Smith came to Steele County, Minn., in 1877. He was born in Genesee County, N. Y., January 10, 1836. His father, Elisha Smith, came to Indiana when our subject was quite young. In 1869 he removed to Steele County, locating on section 12, Blooming Prairie Township, where Mr. Smith Sr. remained until the time of his death, which occurred in 1884. Our subject, T. C. Smith, remained in Indiana until 1864, then came to Minneapolis, Minn., where he engaged in

business. Mr. Smith remained there until 1877, and then came to Steele County, locating on section 11, Blooming Prairie Township, where he still lives. Mr. Smith was married at Bloomington, Minn., in 1860, to Eliza M. Scone. They have five children: Ira J., Leroy, Charles Frederick, Henry J. and George. Ira J. was married and resides in St. Paul, where Leroy also lives. The other children live at home. Mr. Smith has a good farm consisting of 160 acres, 110 of which are under cultivation. He is one of the leading citizens of the township.

VARIOUS MATTERS.

The first birth in the township was that of Walter John Blythe, a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Blythe, which occurred on the 22d of August, 1858.

Another early birth was that of James, a son of Thomas Bray, who was born in 1859.

It is thought the first marriage was celebrated in 1860, the parties being Ira Foster and Mrs. Scott, a widow lady.

The first school in the township was taught in 1861 by Miss Hattie Layton, afterward Mrs. Joseph Carey.

ORGANIZATION.

The territory which now comprises Blooming Prairie Township was a portion of Dodge County, until February, 1856, when it was separated from Dodge and annexed to Steele County. This was the case with the entire eastern tier of townships. On the 6th of April, 1857, the board of county commissioners set off township 105, range 19, and named it Oak Glen. It was attached to Aurora Township and was not organized as a township until March, 1867, when the county board authorized a separate organization. The name was changed to Blooming Prairie in January, 1873. The organization of the township was perfected on the 2d of April, 1867, when the first township meeting was held, and a full set of officers elected for Oak Glen Township, as follows: Supervisors, C. B. Pettie, P. Haley, and G. M.

Topliff; assessor, A. Colquhoun; clerk, A. J. Snyder; treasurer, A. J. Pettie; justices of the peace, Giddon Stoddard and Aaron Pettie; constables, Andrew Magoon and John Eastman.

The first officers for Blooming Prairie Township were elected on the 11th of March, 1873, and were as follows: Supervisors, W. Bowman, chairman, G. A. Peterson and F. Carey; clerk, Lewis Ellington; assessor, H. A. Gleason; treasurer, C. Whitten; justice of the peace, C. W. Gardner.

The following is a list of the present (1887) officers of the township: Supervisors, H. A. Dunton, P. Nelson and N. Johnson; clerk, A. J. Zwiener; treasurer, Nels Nelson; assessor, George Johnson; justices of the peace, V. Vencl and R. C. Page.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS.

By C. B. Pettie.

Blooming Prairie Township was first named Oak Glen, and was known by that name from 1856 to 1868, when it was changed to Blooming Prairie, as that name was given to the village by the general superintendent of the railroad company.

John Blythe was the first to settle in the township, soon followed by Mr. Moran, Ira Foster, Thomas Bray, Levi Annis, William Greene and David Bagley. They remained some three years, when another colony came along in which was Joseph Branning, C. B. Pettie, A. J. Pettie, D. T. Pettie and C. E. Hancock, all of whom settled on section 24.

In 1861-2 there came quite a number of settlers from Wisconsin, including R. T. Carey, J. C. Carey, James Carey, George M. Topliff, Andrew Meehan, Patrick Fallon, Michael Fallon, John Anderson and Thomas Feeney, and all took claims and went to farming.

The first reaper used in the south part of Steele County was purchased by Joseph Branning, who drew his wheat to Winona, sold it at forty-five cents per bushel, and paid some \$300 for his reaper — a "McCormick hand-rake." The grain was all cut with

oxen ; would change teams about every two rounds in an ordinary field, the chain being dropped and another team put on in about the twinkle of an eye. I remember one day we cut twenty acres in the German settlement in Aurora, then moved four miles, and started in to cut a field for William Johnson after dark. About ten o'clock we struck a stump, broke a guard and had to leave the field till daylight. While in the German settlement the reaper was followed by about twenty binders. Most of them would twist the band like a hay rope, put the rope on the ground, take up the gavel, place it on the band, then tie it very firmly. Among the binders was a German girl of about sixteen or seventeen years. I took the liberty to leave the reaper a moment to show the girl how Yankees made the band and bound the bundle. She got the knack very quick, and in a short time was one of the fastest binders in the field. When cutting on the prairie near where the village of Blooming Prairie now stands, we had one lively day. Commenced cutting for William Thorburn in the morning, and, as we had to change teams often, Mr. Thorburn, or "Billy," as he was called, said he would put his team on a while. He took the driver's seat, whip in hand and started. As soon as the reels began to play, the oxen began to go; and as they began to go fast, the oxen tried to go faster and left a cloud of dust behind them; D. T. Pettie raking off grain with a vengeance. After going about eighty rods "Dave" thought he had grain enough on the platform, so he threw the machine out of gear. That brought on a heavy side-draft, which threw the cattle in the grain and left a large circle of down-grain uncut. Before noon the steers thought they had rather stand still than go. In the afternoon we were cutting for William Greene, where the cemetery now is. Mr. Greene, "Little Billy," as he was called, had "imbibed" quite freely. Levi Annis came with his oxen to put on the reaper

when needed. "Little Billy" had some old grudge against Annis. He wouldn't have Annis on his farm, nor his oxen. Mr. Annis insisted that he was hired by Mr. Branning to help run the harvester, and he was going to stay. Words brought blows, and blows brought bloody noses, before Mr. Branning could reach the field to quell the row.

About the first of October, 1856, a terrific prairie fire came sweeping over the country from the southwest, and burnt over several counties. Among the sufferers was a family by the name of Lake. Report soon reached our settlement that Mr. Lake and son were badly burned and needed help. Stephen Sargent, one of the first settlers of Aurora, volunteered to take his oxen and carry all that would go to complete Mr. Lake's house which was in course of erection. I think Charles Adsit, G. W. Grimshaw, John Perham, John Ball and several others were in the party. The distance was ten or twelve miles, but we arrived quite early and found other neighbors there; so we made quite an improvement to his home. Mr. Lake's place was in the eastern part of Westfield, Dodge County. During the fire he and his son were out on the prairie with their oxen and wagon. The fire came rushing on with a tremendous roar; overtook them; the boy fell by suffocation into the flames, and the father springing to his rescue, both were terribly burned. By the kindness of C. Dickerson, who was keeping the "Bracket Station," or stage house, at Oak Glen, we were furnished with a basket of dinner. When we returned to the station in the evening word came out for all to stop for supper. The boys jumped out thick and fast; Mr. Sargent sat quiet for a few moments, then started up his team, and as he did so he turned to me and said: "Do you know why I didn't stop for supper?" "Why," says I, "I suppose you wasn't hungry." "Hungry! I am hungry enough to eat a raw dog, but they didn't notice my oxen." I

saved a four-mile walk by remaining with the wagon.

The first log house erected in the township of Blooming Prairie was by John Blythe.

The first frame building was Bracket's Station, the lumber being hauled from St. Paul.

The first frame dwelling house was C. B. Pettie's.

The first enlistment from Blooming Prairie was that of David T. Pettie, in Company F, Third Minnesota Infantry.

The first town meeting of Aurora was held in the spring of 1857, at the house of A. B. Clark. At that early day there was considerable strife for the town offices, especially for that of supervisor, as everybody wanted a road, to get the travel to pass their door. I was sent out quite late in the day, to gather up a load of Germans that were living in the northeast part of the town. I started in post haste almost without a track. I could not speak a word of German, and they could hardly speak a word of English; but by signs and motions I gathered up nearly a wagon-box full. I stood up and drove while they sat in the bottom, and of all thumping a set of men ever got, fell to that lot of men; for I go over grub-land, across marshes and through timber at a rapid rate. But I "fetched" in and reached the polls three minutes before closing time. How they voted I never knew, and I don't believe they ever did, for there was hauling and pulling, grabbing and talking, as they were hurried to the ballot-box, with a ticket in each hand.

The next schoolhouse was located on section 25. It was 10x12—5½ feet high, with a sod roof. Here the first school was held in the township, Miss Hattie Leighton, now Mrs. J. C. Carey, teacher. This was in the summer of 1862.

This house was used for meetings, Sabbath-schools and the like, until 1866, when the settlement had increased and they called for a larger house. Then came the strife for

another location. This time it was pulled to the west, and planted on the northwest quarter of section 26—land owned by Andrew Meehan. This time they built a larger log house, size 16x20 feet, with board roof. The town was divided into two school districts, running north and south, known as the McDaniel district and the Prairie district. This house, being so large, was used for quarterly meetings, elections, political meetings and almost all other kinds of meetings. The village of Blooming Prairie was laid out in 1868, and in 1869 was too proud to look toward a log schoolhouse, but built a substantial frame house, which stood on the ground now occupied by the Episcopal Church.

The village grew, and the scholars became more numerous. Then they called for the present brick structure, which is an ornament and an honor to any town. Thus we see the old log house giving way for something better.

We also see the old "Pioneer" giving way for the rising generation, and may they go on until they are as far in the advance as the brick and stone structures are ahead of the "old sod roofed school-house" that once decked the prairie of Blooming.

The Village of Blooming Prairie.

During the year 1867 the Minnesota & Cedar Valley Railway was built south from Owatonna, to which place it had been completed during the preceding year. A station was located on section 25 of this township, and it was given the name of Blooming Prairie. A village was also platted and business development commenced immediately.

The first store was started by Capt. A. C. Hawley and Mr. Wadworth on the ground now occupied by Brainerd's lumber-yard. A short time later the first warehouse was built and a portion of it was partitioned off, and Capt. Hawley, then being the sole proprietor, moved his stock of general merchan-

dise into this. C. W. Gardner soon purchased the business, and L. Ellington entered into his employ as a clerk. Mr. Gardner erected a store building which now forms a part of the Ferrington House. The business soon changed hands again and Octave Ganiefy became proprietor, and Mr. Gardner moved onto the farm now owned by R. J. Fuller. Mr. Ganiefy conducted the business for six or seven years, when the stock was closed out.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS MEN.

Shortly after Capt. Hawley had started his store, E. B. Sprout erected a store building and opened a stock of general merchandise. He sold to J. N. Dunton & Sons. The original building was afterward sold to A. Mayo and finally burned. J. N. Dunton died while in business, and the sons continued it for a number of years, when the stock was closed out. During this time they had erected a building facing on Fourth street.

L. Ellington, as stated, had been clerking at different times for Capt. Hawley, C. W. Gardner and Octave Ganiefy. In about the year 1870 he, in company with F. C. Brown (afterward his brother-in-law), opened a general merchandise store in T. Feeney's building. They at once erected a building (in which the postoffice is now located) and soon moved into it. The firm remained thus for about one year when F. C. Brown sold his interest to Mr. Peterson, and the firm of Ellington & Peterson continued the business for about two years, when Mr. Peterson became sole proprietor. A few years later J. A. McConnell bought the stock, and later John Lennon became interested, and the business is still prospering under his management—although the firm is now A. G. Lennon & Co.

In 1871, T. Feeney established a general merchandise store in the building which he now occupies as a hardware store. He continued in the general merchandise trade for about seven years, when he sold to Veb-

lin & Jensen. They remained in the same building for about one year, and then removed to the Dunton building on the opposite side of Fourth street. About two years later they purchased stock and building of Wilson & Lucklon, consolidated the stocks and moved into the latter building. In the meantime, the firm had become Veblin & Co. (O. A. Veblin, N. Evans and G. Jensen). The last named member has since sold his interest, and Veblin & Evans still conduct the business.

The next general merchandise store was started by A. Mayo in a building which he had purchased of J. N. Dunton. The building had been used for various purposes and finally he opened a stock of clothing, boots, shoes and gents' furnishing goods. He continued the business for several years and finally closed out the stock.

P. N. Nelson & Bro. in 1879 started a general store in a building opposite the Western Hotel. This stock was a bankrupt one which they had purchased of M. Guthrie. Originally it had belonged to the Paulson Brothers, who had been in trade here for a short time. Nelson Brothers remained in the building mentioned for about one year, then moved into T. Feeney's building. About a year later the firm was dissolved, P. N. Nelson buying his brother's interest, and a few years later he removed the stock to Lake Benton, Minn.

The next general merchandise store was started in 1880 by A. B. Clark, one of the oldest settlers in the southeastern part of the county. Ole Ecker conducted the business for him, and Mr. Clark continued as proprietor until 1884, when the business was purchased by Mr. Ecker. About one year later the building was burned to the ground. The stock was saved and was purchased by M. Guthrie, who consolidated it with a stock which he was then keeping, and he still continues in the trade.

In 1882 L. E. Hatch opened a general store in the building which he now occupies.

These changes in the history of this line of trade—general merchandise—leaves the present (1887) dealers as follows: Lennon & Co., Veblin & Evans, M. Guthrie, G. Jensen and L. E. Hatch.

J. G. Lennon was born in Minneapolis, Minn., September 2, 1857. His younger days were spent in school. At the age of six he went with his parents to Lansing, Mower County, Minn., thence in 1865 to Dodge County, Minn., where they were engaged in farming. In 1871 he moved to Blooming Prairie, and during the three following years attended school in Owatonna, Minn. In 1876 he engaged in the furniture business with Mr. Marshall, under the firm name of Marshall & Lennon, continuing in this business about three years. In 1882 he engaged in his present business, that of general merchandising, in which he has prospered. On December 26, 1877, Mr. Lennon was married to Amy Giddings. Their only living child is Bertie, born February 26, 1884. In politics Mr. Lennon is a staunch Republican.

George Jensen was born in Norway and came to Steele County, Minn., in 1872. After coming here he taught a Norwegian school for one year, and, in 1873, entered the store of G. A. Peterson of Blooming Prairie, as clerk. He remained with Mr. Peterson as clerk until he sold out to J. A. McConnell. Mr. Jensen was then employed in Mr. McConnell's store for some time. After his engagement with Mr. McConnell terminated, Mr. Jensen, in company with O. A. Veblen, bought out the stock of T. Feeney, and has continued the business up to this time. In 1881 Mr. Jensen was married to Carrie A. Peterson, who was born in Wisconsin. They have one child, Gena.

M. Guthrie, postmaster and a prominent business man, is a native of Ireland, where he was born in 1848. He came to America in 1867, being then about nineteen years old. His first home was in Dubuque, Iowa, where he lived until September, 1875, at which time he came to Blooming Prairie and took

charge of the elevator. The next year he purchased a half interest in the elevator, and in 1877 he handled about 200,000 bushels of wheat, paying an average price of ninety-five cents per bushel. He continued in this business until the present season, having now rented his elevator for a time. In the year 1883 he went into the general merchandise business, and for the past three or four years he has engaged in the hay trade, pressing and shipping to northern markets. His shipments have been very heavy. In the last year he has also handled about \$20,000 worth of live stock, shipped chiefly to eastern markets. In 1878 he became proprietor of the Western Hotel, which he still conducts, also running a livery stable in connection with the hotel. All these different branches of business Mr. Guthrie has conducted with ability and success. In 1882 he was nominated by the Democratic party as a candidate for representative to the State Legislature, but was defeated by about 100 votes. He was again nominated in 1886, but was again beaten by the Republican candidate. He was appointed postmaster on May 1, 1886. Mr. Guthrie has always taken an active interest in political matters, and is at this time president of the village board. He was married October 24, 1883, to Amelia Volhardt. They have two children: Florence K., being three years old, and Lulu, being eighteen months old. Mr. Guthrie owns five good farms, comprising 560 acres, only eighty acres of which, however, lie in Steele County.

The first drug store in Blooming Prairie was started by Dr. Hatch in the spring of 1871, in the same room in which L. Ellington was carrying on his general merchandising. The stock of drugs changed hands a number of times after that, and was finally moved away.

The second drug store here was established in 1874, by C. W. Williams and Dr. Johnson, in a building belonging to Mr. Morton which had been erected for a furniture store. They

moved the building to near Feeney's hardware store, where the business was conducted by this firm for several years. Then Mr. Williams bought his partner's interest and several years later moved the stock across the street into one of the Dunton buildings. Finally he sold to C. Peterson, and the stock was moved to Owatonna.

Olson & Johnson started the next drug store in a building now owned by Peterson & Hogan. The same firm is still in business, but has moved the stock into a building on the south side of Fourth street, which they erected.

Anton Olson is a native of Norway, where he was born in 1853. His parents were Ole and Annie Olson. Anton came to America when eighteen years of age, arriving at Owatonna, Minn., in 1871. Here he remained about one year, when he went to Rochester, Minn., where he was engaged in a drug store, remaining about five years. In 1877 he came to Blooming Prairie, and for some two years was with Charles Williams in a drug store, and, in January, 1880, in company with Dr. Johnson, he put in a stock of drugs, and has since devoted his time to that business.

The first hardware store in the village was started in 1873 by Dunton & Curtis, in a building belonging to Mr. Dunton. About a year later they sold to Mr. Giddings, who in turn made a sale to Ed. Morton. Mr. Morton is still in trade, having erected the building which he now occupies.

The second hardware store was established by Mr. Douglas, in 1876, in the restaurant building opposite the Western Hotel. About two years later he sold to Ira Jones, who remained in the same building something less than a year, when he removed the stock to Austin.

In March, 1881, T. Feeney established a hardware store in a building now occupied as a restaurant, opposite the Western Hotel. He remained there for about one year, when he removed to his present quarters.

These changes in the hardware trade have brought the present business—in 1887—into the hands of Ed. Morton and T. Feeney.

Edward Morton was born in England in 1849. He came to this country with his parents, George and Elisabeth (Sharples) Morton, when he was three months old. The family first settled in New York City, remained there about seven years, then came west and settled at St. Charles, Minn., which place they made their permanent home. The subject of this sketch remained at home with his parents until he was fifteen years old. Later he learned the tinner trade, and in February, 1873, settled in Blooming Prairie, starting the hardware business, which he has carried on ever since. In 1874 he added to his business a full line of farm machinery, and in 1885 he became an equal partner with A. G. Lennon in general merchandising. Mr. Morton is a successful business man and conducts with ability these lines of business. He has always taken an active part in village and town interests; was elected president of the village board, being the second to hold that office. He held this position for six successive terms, then dropped out for two years, after which he was again elected. Mr. Morton was married, August 20, 1873, to Mabel Johnson, a native of St. Charles, Minn. By this union they have three children, all living: Mabel, aged twelve; Edna, aged ten, and George, aged three.

Thomas Feeney is a native of Ireland, and born in Roscommon County, November 22, 1832. He came to America when he was eighteen years of age. His parents were John and Mary (Conlan) Feeney, who remained in the old country. When Thomas Feeney came to America he first settled in New Jersey, where he lived until 1856, when he started for the west and located in Janesville, Wis. Here he remained until 1863, at which time he again moved westward, arriving in Steele County, Minn., September 28, 1863. Here he took up land on section

22, Blooming Prairie (then Oak Glen) Township, and engaged in farming. He remained on his farm about eight years, at which time he moved into the village of Blooming Prairie and opened a stock of general merchandise, remaining in that business for seven years, when he closed out his stock. In 1881 he opened a hardware store, in which business he has been engaged ever since. While Mr. Feeney was in Janesville, Wis., he was married to Maria Fallon, in 1862. By this marriage there were six children, four of whom are now living: William E., born February 25, 1866; Eliza J., born July 12, 1867; Isabel M., born December 25, 1877, and Lena E., born April 13, 1879. These four children are at this date all living at home. Mrs. Feeney, the wife and mother, is deceased.

C. Hartley opened the first blacksmith shop in the village, in 1867. Messrs. Wheeler, Sprout and others have at different times run shops here. The present blacksmiths are Thomas Morton, C. Saxton and J. Sorenson.

HOTELS.

The first hotel in Blooming Prairie was the Union Hotel, erected by C. Volhardt in 1867. The building is now owned by Andrew Pettie, and is occupied by George Camp's harness shop. The hotel changed hands a number of times. Mr. Volhardt opened it to the traveling public and among others who afterward occupied the position of "mine host" were Messrs. Dunton, Hartley and A. Pettie.

The second hotel opened was the Western House. It was built by C. Hartley at about the same time as the Union hotel. Several additions were made. Hartley sold to Mr. Dutcher, he to Mr. Volhardt, and then Frank Carey became proprietor. M. Guthrie next became proprietor and is the present one, although it has been rented at various times.

The Ferrington Hotel was built by Mr. Ferrington in 1882. He ran it for about one year when he sold to J. A. McConnell, the

present owner. He ran it for some time, and since then it was at different times rented to J. Laird, then A. J. Pettie, then Mrs. O'Toole and Daniel Keefe. The last named is the present landlord.

POSTOFFICE.

A postoffice was established here in 1868, under the name of Blooming Prairie, with C. W. Gardner as the first postmaster. He held the office for two years, when he was succeeded by L. Ellington. He continued in the office until July, 1876, when A. Mayo was appointed. Mr. Mayo held the office for about ten years, when in May, 1886, M. Guthrie received the appointment and is the present incumbent.

Asaph Mayo, deputy postmaster, and for ten years postmaster, of Blooming Prairie, was born in Massachusetts, June 7, 1825. His parents, Asaph and Polley (Smith) Mayo, were natives of the same State. Asaph, the subject of this sketch, went to sea when he was thirteen years of age, and was a seaman until twenty-one. He then learned the locksmith's trade, which he followed for fourteen years. Later he came west, and in 1862 took up government land in Udolpho, Mower County, Minn. In July, 1864, he enlisted in Company A, Second Minnesota Infantry, under Col. Bishop, and served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged at Fort Snelling in the fall of 1865. Mr. Mayo remained in Mower County for about twelve years and then came to Blooming Prairie. After settling here, for the first two years he carried the United States mail twice per week from Blooming Prairie to Waltham, he being the first contractor under the Star Route system. On the 1st of June, 1876, he was appointed postmaster at Blooming Prairie, which office he held until May 1, 1886, and since then he has continued in charge of the office as assistant postmaster. While in Boston Mr. Mayo was married, May 2, 1850, to Rachel C. Crosby. They had seven children, only two of whom are now living: A. H., who now resides in

St. Paul, and Rachel A., now living in Minneapolis. The mother, Mrs. Mayo, died in 1866, and later Mr. Mayo married his second wife, Miss Margaret Pettie, of Steele County, Minn. They have three children: Laura E., Mary E. and Jennie, all of whom are at home.

SCHOOLS.

The first schoolhouse was erected in the village in 1868, at a cost of \$700. It was a one-story building, which stood where the Episcopal Church now stands. J. K. Bucklin taught the first school in this building. This building was used for about five years, when it was sold to G. E. Skinner. It is now occupied as a meat market. The school building which is now in use, was erected in 1873, and cost \$3,000. It is a neat two story building. Mr. Fate was the first teacher in this building. The present teachers engaged for the winter of 1887-8 are B. F. McMillan, principal, and Miss Lizzie Bray, primary.

RELIGIOUS.

Religious services were held here as early as 1867, shortly after the site of the village was located. In 1887 there were four organizations here: Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran and Methodist Episcopal.

A Catholic society was organized here in 1867. For some time services were held in the building now occupied by Thomas Feeney as a hardware store; but in 1868 a church was erected at a cost of \$500. This building was used for about ten years, when the present edifice was erected at a cost of \$4,000. Father Kellar, from Faribault, came here to hold services at an early day; then Father Pribyl, of Owatonna, had charge of the parish for about five years. Father Rawley from Owatonna, also served for some time. Father Murray, the present pastor, is really the first resident priest.

Rev. D. L. Murray is a native of Providence, R. I. His parents were Laurence and Mary (Kenneally) Murray. D. L. Murray remained in Rhode Island until he was

eighteen years of age. He then went to St. Lawrence College at Montreal, Canada, where he remained six years receiving an education. He then entered the Grand Seminary of Montreal, where he pursued his theological course for three and a half years. Having completed his studies in the college and seminary he came to St. Paul, Minn., where, on September 25, 1882, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Ireland. After his ordination he came to Blooming Prairie, where he has since remained. Rev. D. L. Murray is highly esteemed by all who know him, for his Christian character and gentlemanly deportment. He has charge of the church here and also of the one at Newry, Freeborn County, Minn.

The first Lutheran services were held here by Rev. C. L. Clausen, of St. Ansgar, Iowa, who organized the society and remained until 1871. He was succeeded by Rev. P. G. Ostby, of Austin, who remained until 1878. At that time Rev. Mr. Clausen again took charge, making his home in Blooming Prairie. He remained one year when, his health failing, Rev. S. Strand became his assistant and it continued in this shape until July 1885, when Mr. Clausen resigned and Rev. S. Strand has since that time filled the pulpit. He has charge of three congregations. The present Lutheran Church edifice in Blooming Prairie was erected in 1876 at a cost of \$3,500.

The Methodist Episcopal society was organized here a number of years ago, and a church building was purchased of the Lutheran denomination, for about \$500, which was refitted for their own use. The present (August, 1887) pastor is Rev. W. S. Chase.

The Episcopal Church was organized here early in the "seventies" by Rev. G. C. Tanner, of Owatonna. Shortly afterward the society erected the church edifice which they still use, at a cost of about \$1,400. Services have always been held by pastors from abroad.

OTHER BUSINESS MEN.

Thomas Morton was born in England in 1840. When he was ten years of age he came to America with his parents, George and Elisabeth (Sharples) Morton. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-two years of age, at which time he enlisted in Company K, Ninth Minnesota, under Col. Wilkins. He served in the war three years, and was in the battles of Guntown, Tupelo, Spanish Fort, Nashville and some other engagements. He was discharged at Fort Snelling in 1865. He came to Blooming Prairie in 1870, and for some time worked at the blacksmith trade for Edward Wheeler, but in 1871 he went into the same business for himself in a shop that stood on the site now occupied by the dwelling-house of J. Brainerd. Some time afterward he built his present shop, and has devoted himself to his trade ever since he settled in the village. In 1873 Mr. Morton was married to Miss Adelia Johnson, a native of Wisconsin. This union was blessed with two children: Byron, aged eleven, and Anna, aged four.

Another prominent and worthy business enterprise of Blooming Prairie is the creamery, of which H. L. Zwiener is manager. Mr. Zwiener was born in Wisconsin, March 20, 1855. He remained there with his parents until September, 1876. His parents, Frank and Tracy (Bartsch) Zwiener, were natives of Germany. They came to America in 1854, locating in Milwaukee, Wis., for a short time, and afterward removed to Jefferson County, Wis., where they resided until 1876, when they came to Steele County, Minn., and purchased a farm in Blooming Prairie Township. When H. L., the subject of this sketch, first came to this county he bought a farm on section 14, where he remained until he came to the village of Blooming Prairie to take charge of the creamery. He still owns and manages his farm. He has always shown a laudable interest in town and county matters, and has held several positions of responsibility. He has been

chairman of the town board of supervisors for four successive years, and was elected county commissioner in 1886, for the full term. Mr. Zwiener was married in 1878 to Nancy McCrady, who was born in Wisconsin. They have had four children: Jessie F., aged seven; Wallace P., aged five; Almond H., aged three, and Eugene P., who died June 5, 1887, and was buried in Blooming Prairie cemetery.

The first physician to locate at Blooming Prairie Village was Dr. Saulsbury, who came here from Owatonna in 1867, and remained for about two years. Among others, who at different times have been engaged in practice here, but are now gone, are Drs. Hatch, Goudy, Hadley and Way. At the present writing (1887) the medical profession is represented here by Dr. Johnson and Dr. Cooley.

Dr. J. P. Johnson came originally from Windham County, Conn., where he was born February 22, 1839. His parents were Royal and Sarah (Winchester) Johnson. At the age of sixteen, he began learning the trade of carpenter and joiner, at which he spent three years. When the war broke out he responded to the first call for troops, enlisting in April, 1861, for three months. He reënlisted for three years, but the quota being full he was discharged. He then came west and located in St. Charles, Minn. Here he remained two years and then enlisted in Company A, Second Minnesota Cavalry, under Capt. J. R. Jones, serving till the war closed, when he again returned to St. Charles. He embarked in the drug business, where he remained about eight years, at the same time reading medicine. From St. Charles he went to Dover Center, where he continued to carry on the drug business. Later he attended the Rush Medical College, at Chicago, Ill., and graduated in 1876. From Dover Center he removed and settled in Blooming Prairie, about 1874, where he has since resided, engaged in the practice of his profession. In February, 1872, Dr. Johnson was married to Anna R.

Hawkins. By this marriage there were two children, only one of whom is now living, Charles B., aged thirteen.

The first harness shop here was started by George Camp, in 1874. He is still in business, although at one time his shop was run by George Gage for a short period.

Capt. A. C. Hawley and Mr. Ford were the first to buy grain here, in 1867. The present grain buyers are M. H. Hitchcock and J. A. Beatty. Mr. Hitchcock buys for Pratt & Co. This firm have a large elevator, erected in 1877, which has a capacity of about 15,000 bushels. J. A. Beatty buys for Hunting & Co., who also have a large elevator here. This was erected in 1875, and has a capacity of some 25,000 bushels.

In addition to the various lines of trade represented here, already referred to, there are the following: J. C. Brainerd & Co. have for a number of years carried on a lumber, agricultural implement and light banking business; Mr. Keller is proprietor of a restaurant; Mr. Ingersoll is a practicing attorney; L. E. Hatch has a livery stable; and Geo. H. Johnson a meat market.

Michael Dugan, another prominent resident of the village, is a native of the State of New York. He was born September 16, 1859. His parents, Dennis and Mary (Ryan) Dugan, came to Steele County, Minn., in 1867, making Owatonna their home for a few years; then they removed to their farm in Blooming Prairie Township, where they remained six or eight years, at the end of which time they again settled in Owatonna, where Mr. Dugan died October 15, 1886. Mrs. Mary Dugan still resides in Owatonna. Michael Dugan, the subject of this sketch, commenced life for himself when only thirteen years of age, going first with a surveying party to Devil's Lake, and the following year he went west on the Winona & St. Peter Railroad. At that time there was no settlement of whites west of the site where Sleepy Eye now stands. He remained out there about two years, then worked on the

railroad for eight years, and in October, 1883, he settled in Blooming Prairie, where he has since lived. He was elected marshal of the village in the spring of 1884, and the following fall he was appointed deputy sheriff, holding both these positions since his first appointment. On the 23d of November, 1886, Mr. Dugan was married to Mary Cummings, a native of Iowa.

William Trotman, liquor dealer, was born in England, December 11, 1852. At the age of eighteen he came to New York City and for one year was in the employ of Kelly, once the Democratic leader of that city. After remaining in New York, a year he came farther west, and for some time was engaged upon the lakes, sailing out of Buffalo. After this he came to Detroit, Mich., where he made his home for three years. In 1877 he came to Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minn. Here he has since resided, having been engaged in the liquor business. In 1884 Mr. Trotman was married to Jane Farrell. By this marriage they have two children.

M. J. Keenan, liquor dealer, was born in Victoria County, Canada, in 1851, where he was brought up on a farm till the age of eighteen. His parents, Bernard and Anna (Byron) Keenan, came from Canada to Iowa in 1868, purchasing a farm in Winneshiek County, where they remained until their death. M. J. Keenan having come with his parents to Iowa, remained there until 1882, at which time he came and located in the village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minn. Here he has since resided, being engaged in the liquor business and also running a billiard hall. Mr. Keenan, in connection with his liquor business, runs a farm of eighty acres within the corporate limits of the village. He was married, October 4, 1874, to Ella T. Cummings, who is a native of Iowa. By this union there were nine children, five of whom are now living: Lauretta, aged ten years; Joseph A., aged eight; Eugene, whose age is six; Anna J.



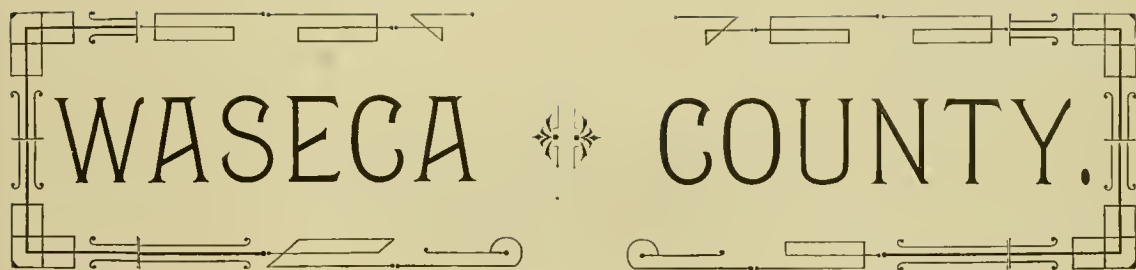
Thomas Bray
(DECEASED)

aged four years, and Rose F., aged one year.

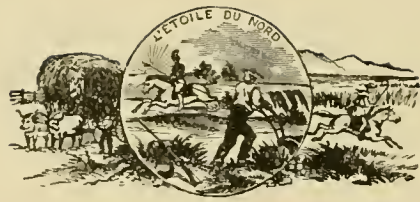
There is also an organization of a Blue Lodge of the Masonic order here—Prairie Lodge, No. 123, which was organized several years ago. The present officers of the lodge,

elected in December, 1886, are as follows: J. C. Brainerd, W. M.; George Reynolds, S. W.; A. Olson, J. W.; N. Evans, treasurer; T. M. Hitchcock, secretary; W. S. Chase, chaplain; T. S. Morton and L. E. Hatch, stewards, and C. W. Treat, tyler.





WASECA COUNTY.



CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.



THE study of the annals of the past has at all times and in all climes claimed a large share of the attention of the more intelligent of men. The sage and ripe scholar, poring over some vast and ponderous tome, dusty with age, and in some almost forgotten tongue; the new beginner with his eyes skimming his short and comprehensive compilation, suited to his early years,—each draw much pleasure in its perusal. Men eminent in the domain of letters have, however, divided this history of the past into several classes, the most prominent of which are: first, that which treats only of events, and second, of that which treats of men—the living actors in the world's great drama. The first of these is but the dry bones of a fossil age, reft of all life, and is, at best, but a synopsis of the more important actions that have crowded upon the stage of the past a list of kings, rulers, dynasties and their acts, in which their people play but a secondary part. The second treats of the people—of men in their broad humanity, and is an ever living reality, clothed in the flesh; and the story of their deeds has in its relation all the fascination of romance, enchaining the reader to its pages until the volume is finished and laid down with a sigh. This form of history, warm and palpitating, as it is, with the busy lives of men, who, like ourselves, have lived and moved upon the world's broad surface, is the model after which it has been the endeavor to compile these pages. No narrow attempt to paint with partisan

pen the workings of any party or creed, but setting out in broad and comprehensive detail the action of those brave men and heroic women who, in the early days of this country's existence, played so well "their parts upon the mimic stage." Brave, hardy pioneers, who, departing from the parent roof-tree, plunged into the great wilderness west of the Mississippi, there to carve out for themselves homes upon the prairies of Minnesota. Heroic women, who, leaving the home and association of childhood, where surrounded with ease and comfort they had passed their youthful days, followed their husbands to this then wilderness, and cheered their weary hours, sharing their joys and sorrows. Men and women who lived true lives while here on earth, and many of them departed, leaving "footprints in the sands of time" that cannot help but make the world brighter, richer and truer.

The times move on apace, and these, the pioneers of Waseca County, are already passing away to their reward beyond the "dark river," and it behooves the historian to hasten in his task that he may note down, from the lips of those who still remain, the account of the trials, the labors, the joys of those early days, to preserve within the pages of history their deeds, so that when they have all been called to the better land, the sure annals of their pioneer days may not be lost in oblivion.

In casting a backward glance "adown the misty corridors of time," the thinking mind cannot but wonder at the comparatively few years that have elapsed, since these now fruitful fields and busy towns were but the

waste and grassy desert, the roaming-ground of wild beast and wilder Indian. Where is now located the beautiful town or village, then was reared, perhaps, the lonely tepee of the savage; where is now heard the hum of busy industry or the whirl of machinery, then reëchoed only to the howl of prowling wolf, the hoot of the night-seeking owl, or the horrid whoop of the fiendish savage. But the white man came, civilized man, and with the characteristic energy of the Caucasian race, made these waste places to give place to cultivation and refinement. The savage gave place to industry and thrift, and farms and villages began to dot the virgin surface of the country.

But little more than thirty years have passed since first the tide of emigration flowed over the bounds of Waseca County, and one can hardly help but look round and contrast the difference between the then and now. The early pioneer, to reach this locality, was forced to make long journeys in his wagon or on horseback, over undulating prairie, through swamp and slough, with no road to guide or make the way smooth. No bridges spanned the streams, and his only alternative was to make a long detour to find a ford, or swim the creek or river. Then the destination reached, the humble cabin was to be raised, often by the unaided efforts of his own hands, that he and his might be sheltered from the elements. He was cut

off, to a certain extent, from mail communication with the outside world; and when he had by infinite toil succeeded in raising his little crop, he had no means of disposing of the surplus, except by hauling it to far distant markets. But now neat frame cottages adorn the land, and the pioneer sits in his easy chair surrounded by every comfort and luxury that he knew in his old cherished home in the older States; the iron horse snorts at his front door, and he can have his daily paper, yet damp from the press, and watch the current of events of but yesterday.

Let us then pay honor to these pioneers of Waseca County, these adventurous forerunners of our present prosperity and civilization. The present and the future generations can hardly repay them for the trials, the sorrows, the strife against adverse elements and times of those early days. Let us then honor and love them as they should be honored and loved, as far above the common herd.

When the statesman saves the nation, soldiers stand
the burning test,
Then the nation pays them gladly, with a medal at the
breast.
But the pioneer, with ax and plow, clears the way for
coming race,
Shall he then be forgotten, dying leave no lasting
trace?
His reward? Nor cross nor medal, but all others high
above,
They may wear more splendid symbols, these have
gained a people's love.

CHAPTER II.

GEOGRAPHY, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.



WASECA COUNTY is in the southern portion of the great State of Minnesota, in the second tier of counties from the Iowa line, and is the fifth one west from the Mississippi River, which there forms the eastern boundary of the State. It embraces all of congressional townships 105, 106, 107 and 108 north, ranges 22, 23 and 24 west of the fifth principal meridian. It is intersected about its center by the forty-fourth parallel of north latitude and is in about the ninety-third degree of longitude, west. It is bounded on the north by the counties of Rice and Le Sueur; on the east by Steele; on the south by Freeborn and Faribault, and on the west by Blue Earth. It is in area about 437 square miles, and contains 279,685 acres, of which 11,524 acres are covered with water.

The Le Sueur River, which has its course in the southeastern part of this and Steele and Freeborn counties, runs in a general north-westerly course through the county, and with its tributaries, the principal of which are the McDougal and Boot creeks, drain the central part of this subdivision of the State. The southwestern part sheds its waters into the Big and Little Cobb, and Bull run. The northwestern part is drained by the way of lake Elysian and its outlet. Iosco and Silver creeks are the principal water-courses in this part of the county. The northeastern portion, including northeastern Iosco, Blooming Grove and the north part of Woodville are in the basin of the Cannon River.

Lake Elysian, the largest body of water in the county, is five miles long, and from one-

third of a mile to a mile wide. It lies mainly within the township of Janesville, but its north end is crossed by the county line. Rice and Willis lakes lie west of Elysian in the same township. Lily, Reed's and Toner's lakes are in Iosco, Helena lake lying on the boundary of these two townships. Four small lakes, a quarter to a half mile in length, lie in Blooming Grove Township. Rice Lake, covering about a square mile, is crossed by the south line of Blooming Grove, its greater part being in Woodville, and close to its east side is Watkins Lake, half as large, lying mainly in section 3, Woodville. Four other lakes lie in this latter township. The first of these in the east is Goose Lake, about one and a half miles long from northeast to southwest, three miles east of Waseca; Clear Lake is next, one and a half miles long and half as wide, about half a mile east of the county seat, while just south of it is Gaiter Lake, about a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide; Loon Lake lies adjacent to the town plat of Waseca, on the west, with about the same area as Gaiter. Other noteworthy lakes in the county include lake Canfield, in the northeastern part of Otisco; Thompson Lake, in New Richland; Silver Lake in Wilton; Wheeler, in Vivian; one in Freedom; Mud Lake in Alton, and Buffalo Lake, the largest in the county except Elysian, near the center of Alton. The last named is about two miles long, covering an area of about a thousand acres.

The surface of the land is of great diversity, part being nearly flat or gently rolling, and part consisting of steep ridges and round or irregular hills, somewhat strewn with

boulders. A more particular account of the peculiarities of each subdivision of the county is given in the story of each township.

Estimates of the average height of the land above the sea level, place the various townships of Waseca County, as follows: Blooming Grove, 1,150 feet; Woodville, 1,150, Otisco, 1,160; New Richland, 1,190; Ioseco, 1,100; St. Mary, 1,120; Wilton, 1,110; Byron, 1,150; Janesville, 1,060; Alton, 1,060; Freedom, 1,070 and Vivian, 1,100, or a mean for the county of 1,120 feet.

The whole face of the country is covered with the fine black, fertile, gravelly clay, with occasional boulders, with an excellent subsoil of till, both colored by the decay of vegetation through countless centuries. It contains a considerable amount of limestone, in a pulverized condition, as well as in pebbles, which contributes, in an important degree, to the productiveness of the soil. Wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, flax, sorghum, and all the crops that belong to this latitude, are here successfully cultivated, while indigenous grasses form a succulent food for grazing herds.

Timber covers the greater part of Janesville Township, the west half of Alton and northwestern Ioseco, this being the southeast edge of the Big Woods. About half of Blooming Grove is also wooded, and numerous large groves occur in the townships of St. Mary, Woodville and Otisco, and in the northeastern part of New Richland. The Le Sueur River is bordered by timber, which attains a width of one to one and a half miles at the east side of this stream in southeast Wilton and the adjoining edge of Otisco. The lakes are bordered by wood, as are the smaller streams. White and red elm, bass, sugar and red maple, box-elder, black and burr oak, butternut, white and black ash, ironwood, wild plum, Juneberry, crab-apple, poplar, cottonwood and willow are the principal trees that make up this timber.

GEOLOGY.

Says the state geologist in speaking of the

geological structure of Waseca County, in his exhaustive report:

No outcrop of the strata underlying the drift occurs in this county, but they have been reached by wells at three localities. One of these near Janesville, after passing through 200 feet of blue clay, reached a sandstone, said to be identical with the St. Peter in appearance. An abundance of good water, which rose to within thirty feet of the surface, was found between the clay and the sandstone.

At the town of New Richland, a well at Dunwoody & Corson's mill reached a depth of 110 feet, finding the following section: soil, 2 feet; yellow till, with streaks of sand, yielding water, 30 feet; blue till, softer and sticky, 66 feet; sand, 2 feet; and hard, straw-colored sandstone, 10 feet. At this depth water was struck, and rose in two minutes to within thirty feet of the surface. Another well at this mill, 149 feet deep, gives the following: drift, 107 feet; yellow calcareous sandstone, 40 feet, and a similar rock of a blue color, 2 feet. A very large supply of water was obtained, rising to the same height as the last. The well at the depot, about forty rods north of the foregoing, and on land of the same height, is 129 feet deep, and found the soil 2 feet thick; yellow till, spaded, 10 feet; blue till, mostly very hard, picked, 115 feet; and yellowish sandstone similar to that of Dunwoody & Corson's well, 2 feet and extending lower. Water found in this sandstone rose eighty feet. It is noteworthy that the top of the bed rock in these wells, only an eighth of a mile apart, differs about 25 feet in height, probably on account of erosion in a formation horizontally stratified. About three miles northwest of New Richland, a well 110 feet deep on S. W. Franklin's farm, went 10 feet into this rock, after penetrating a hundred feet of drift, obtaining water in the rock which rose to within ten feet of the surface. At Owatonna on the northeast, and at Wells in Faribault County, on the southwest, simi-

lar formations of sandstone, with associated layers of shale and limestone, encountered by deep wells, appear to be of the cretaceous age; and very probably these beds and the sandstone of New Richland, belong to the same horizon.

The whole surface of the county is deeply covered with the deposit called drift, which has been the despair of scientists to explain, hence the invention of the so-called glacial theory, but which seems to be doubted by the more inquiring minds among our geologists. The thickness of the drift varies from one to two hundred feet over this county and the adjoining region. Says the state geologist. "This formation is principally the unstratified, gravelly and stony clay called till, boulder-clay, or hard pan, with which are associated beds of modified drift, which were gathered from the melting ice, assorted and deposited by water."

MATERIAL RESOURCES.

The agricultural capabilities of Waseca County, its fertile and almost inexhaustible soil, have been spoken of in previous parts of this chapter, and it only remains to look into the mineralogical resources, to bring this chapter to a close. No water-power has been utilized in the county as yet. Drift boulders are the only stone found for the construction of foundations, walls of cellars and wells, culverts, etc. These boulders occur quite commonly upon what is called the morainic belt, and sparingly in all other parts of the county. They are mostly varieties of granite, syenite, and gneiss, with occasional blocks of limestone. In size they reach to five feet, and rarely to ten feet in diameter.

Lime has been burned by E. R. Tuttle for many years past, in Janesville, from the

boulders of magnesian limestone in the drift. The annual product of this necessary article has been from one to two hundred barrels. The greater part of these boulders, say about three-fourths or more, make a fine white lime; while the remainder yield lime of a yellowish or darkish gray color.

Brick have been and are being made at several places in the county, some of which are of an excellent quality. For many years Mr. Tuttle, at Janesville, has produced from 100,000 to 400,000 per year. He is said to use a stratified yellow and gray clay, which contains sandy layers, so that it needs no more admixture of sand. These bricks are of a red color and good quality.

On section 2, Ioseco, close to the county line, and about one and a half miles south of Waterville, red brick have been made for some years. This yard produced about two to three hundred thousand annually, of excellent quality. The clay used is stratified. It contains no sand in its upper four or five feet; but its layers below are separated by little seams of sand, occasionally with a thin film of iron rust. This clay bed extends to a depth of at least thirteen feet, and is sufficient to make many millions of brick.

There is also found in the county many springs, some of them medicinal. Some in section 9, Otisco, are of a chalybeate character, and possibly of a salty nature, as they are resorted to by the cattle. Another, of an iron nature, somewhat resorted to by the people of the vicinity, and from Waseca, because of its medicinal properties, alterative and tonic, is situated northwest of the foregoing, in the southeast quarter of section 5, Otisco Township. Many others are of the same general character, but no general analysis of their waters has been attempted as yet.

CHAPTER III.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.



THE annals of the early settlement of any country, while it is the most difficult part to collate, is yet the most interesting and entertaining to the general reader, and of absorbing interest to the pioneer himself. Here the early settler, noble forerunner of the present civilization, sees the graphic picture of those early days when first he pitched his tent in the wilderness, when first he reared his humble cabin in the grove, or on the wind-swept prairie. As he pores over these lines, busy memory recalls the recollections of those by-gone days, and he lovingly lingers over the pages, while in meditation the picture grows, and he lives once more those hours of frontier life. He loses the present, and enjoys again the halcyon days when he had youth and health and strength, and in the bright glamour that memory throws around those distant days, sees the little cabin and the homely hearthstone, around which gathered wife and little ones when the labors of the day had been finished, and night had drawn her sable curtain around the world. Anon comes up the somber side of the picture, the trial, the hardship, the almost penury and want, when the gaunt wolf, starvation, lay close beside the cabin door. The life of the heroic pioneer was not all a bed of roses. In his day dreams he sees himself starting with the patient, but slow plodding ox team, or scarcely more active horses, for the far distant settlement seventy-five miles away or more, for the necessaries of life, through a new country unsupplied with roads. The loved ones at home man-

aged to keep life in them by feeding upon a scanty supply of hulled corn, and perchance a little milk, if the only cow had not succumbed to the rigors of a hyperborean winter.

But times grow brighter and better, and as memory pursues the train of thought, he sees the country gradually filling up with whole-souled, hospitable people, the trading points grow nearer and nearer, until they are almost at his very door; sees thriving towns and flourishing villages spring up around him, where he found only waving grass and unsightly weeds. Thus it is that this part of local history is doubly dear to all that remain of that little band of pioneers who first located upon the soil of this county. Many of them have been gathered to their reward, and others have sought distant localities, but to those who do remain, these pages may prove the solace of a weary hour.

For several years prior to the advent of any white settlers, it is more than probable that white trappers and hunters pursued their calling upon the banks of the streams and in the woods and groves of Waseca County; but if this is so, tradition fails to preserve the record of it, and the dead ashes of oblivion cover it from human ken.

The first white man to come here with the intention of making a permanent settlement was Asa G. Sutlief. On a bright and beautiful day in August, 1854, slowly over the southern part of this county, then an uninhabited wilderness, the bright sun beaming down upon a vast sea of green, the air perfumed with the scent of many gorgeous flowers, came a little cavalcade. Foremost

a canvas-topped wagon, bearing the pioneer, tall, dark and slender, his raven hair and keen black eyes denoting his descent from Gallic ancestry. 'Neath the flapping sides of the wagon tent, could have been seen the form of his wife, and the laughing faces of his two children, Delaney and Rhoda. With them they had some sheep and about thirty head of cattle. Looking around him, Mr. Sutlief, one of the best judges of land that ever came to this part of the county, determined to settle here. He was a native of the State of Ohio, and being of a naturally adventurous disposition, he had hardly attained the age of nineteen years, when he made a trip into the wilds of Michigan. After returning to his home, he removed to McHenry County, Ill., where he settled down for a while.

Becoming restless, however, he left there and became one of the hardy pioneers who, about that time, had commenced to plant the banner of progress in the wilds of what is now Dodge County, Wisconsin. Here he remained until June, 1854, when he fitted out three wagons for a trip into the then wilderness of Minnesota. Besides his wife and children he was accompanied by three hired men, who took care of about sixty sheep and thirty or more head of cattle. After crossing the river at La Crosse, on the second day from that place they were overtaken by Judge Green and Messrs. Boomer, Bentley and Hollingsworth, the latter the father of Mrs. Sutlief; all were from Dodge County, also. This little company traveled across the prairie for fifteen days without meeting with a single person. Arriving at Mankato on the 3d of July, they rested there the Fourth, but soon pressed on west, and seven miles west of the Minnesota River, on the old Fort Ridgely road, Mr. Sutlief made a claim, the other parties returning home. In August, after having put up a claim shanty and breaking some land, he concluded to sell his claim and make a settlement on the rich lands on the Le Sueur

River. Therefore we see him returning in this direction. He selected some land on section 35, on the south bend of that river in the southern part of what is now Wilton Township. On this spot he erected a cabin, going to Mankato for boards to cover it. He then broke up the sod over a few acres, and cut enough grass to make hay with which to feed his stock through the coming winter. In the latter part of November, of the same year, he employed Luther Barrett, formerly of Horicon, Wis., but then of Mankato, to live in his shanty and tend his stock, and putting his wife and children into one of his wagons drawn by an ox team, started for his home in the Badger State, where he still owned a farm. They camped in the wagon at night until they reached La Crescent. There they had to wait for the freezing of the river so that they might cross, and on the fourth day after their arrival there, although the ice was barely thick enough to bear up a man, in his rash, impetuous way he started to cross. After a thorough examination of the way, obtaining help he cast the oxen, and tying their feet together, drew them across on the slippery ice. The wagon was pulled over the same way, and then the family escorted over.

In January, 1855, returning to Waseca County, Mr. Sutlief was accompanied by James E. Child, then a young man; his brother, Simeon P. Child, a stripling of nineteen, and a man by the name of Plummer, who had joined them at or near La Crescent. A history of their journey is given by J. E. Child in a personal reminiscence in this work, and it is not necessary to repeat it here. Arriving here on the second day of January, 1855, they found the shanty of Mr. Sutlief in the charge of Barrett, and were glad of shelter from winter's cold and freezing breath. They settled down in the Sutlief cabin, but in a few weeks Mr. Sutlief returned to Wisconsin to settle up his affairs. He returned once in June, 1855, but it was November when he came here to stay, at

which time his family came with him. In the fall of 1867 Mr. Sutlief left here, going to Wisconsin, and from there to Texas, returning in about four years later with a drove of Texas cattle. He died here October 13, 1871, one of the wealthiest men in the county. Few men were better calculated by nature and experience to overcome the obstacles and hardships incident to pioneer life than he. Fertile in resources, although his actions might have seemed rashness to a less dauntless man, he was, nevertheless, a cautious and safe guide on the frontier.

Luther Barrett, whom he left in charge of his stock, was a cooper by trade, and unmarried. He was a great hand for hunting, and followed that more than anything else. He lived at Mankato, where he built what is now called the Minneopa Hotel, but later went to the mineral regions of the Rocky Mountains.

Plummer took up a claim and lived on it the next summer, but when the leaves began to fall, he left here and returned to Wisconsin, whence he had come.

James E. Child is still in Waseca County, the oldest resident settler, and is noticed at length in the chapter devoted to the Press, he having been connected with that engine of civilization for over twenty years.

Simeon P. Child is a native of Ohio, born in 1835, and remained in his native State until 1838, when his parents removed to New York, where they had formerly lived. Six years later the family returned to Ohio, but in a year emigrated to Wisconsin, then a new country. In 1855 he came to this county. On the breaking out of the Indian massacre, he enlisted in Company B, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and was made seventh corporal. After taking part in the Sibley expedition, he was discharged with the regiment, and was connected with the supplying of provisions, trains, etc., for that part of the army, continuing until the close of the war. Coming back here he stayed only one year, and then moved to

Blue Earth City, where he started a bank in company with H. D. Baldwin. Becoming involved at the time of the failure of the Baldwin & Kittredge bank at Waseca, this was closed. Shortly after he started a brickyard at that place. He was one of the leaders of the Republican party in Faribault County, and was a member of the lower house in the Legislature during the sessions of 1872-3. In the session of 1874, he was in the State Senate, and in 1877 again in the House. He was appointed assistant postmaster of the United States Senate the next year, and while there, was made United States postoffice inspector, which position he held until the year 1886, when he was suspended from active service. He is still a resident of Faribault County, engaged in farming.

Scarcely a week had elapsed from the date of the arrival of the first settlers, when Christopher Scott with his family made his appearance. Having no cabin built they, rather than camp in the snow and cold, took up their quarters in the shanty of Mr. Sutlief, which, although but 14x16 feet in size, at that time was fully occupied by twelve people. Scott took up a claim about a mile north of Mr. Sutlief's, where he put up a cabin. This house, so called, was covered with "troughs," the crevices between the logs of the side walls and the "troughs" of the roof being chinked in with dried prairie grass, cut in February, and daubed with mud. The floor was the frozen ground, and for warmth it was banked up with snow, of which there was an abundance. Christopher Scott remained here a few years and then removed to Kansas, where he has since died. He was a Pennsylvanian and came here from what was then called the "Straight River settlement," now Owatonna, where he had located the previous fall. Andrew Scott came the same spring and lived on his claim on section 13, for a while and then removed to Wilton, where he died. His son Charles is still a resident of the township.

In the month of April two brothers, George and William Robbins, came to this county and located on the east side of the Le Sueur River, in what is now Otiseo Township. In the summer of 1856, they sold their claim and moved west to what was then called the Blue Earth country.

The next to settle in the county were Abraham and Joseph Bird, John White, Gottlieb, Martin and J. Fred. Krassin, Gottlieb and Frederick Preehel, Frederick Wubschall and Bernard Gregory.

Abraham Bird and his brother were English by birth. On coming to this county, in June, 1855, they located in what is now St. Mary Township. Joseph remained here until about the year 1870, when he removed west to Oregon. Abraham Bird died in this county about the year 1867. John White, a native of the Emerald Isle, was a brother-in-law of the Birds, and settled with them in St. Mary, locating near what was afterward the site of the village of that name. He is still a resident of the county, dwelling in Josco Township.

Gottlieb Krassin Sr. was an old man, born in Prussia, Germany, and lived with his son Martin, but took up a claim as most of the early settlers did in those days. His land also lay in what is now St. Mary. About the year 1860 he died in this county.

Martin Krassin, his son, was also a native of Prussia. On coming here he settled on what was then Indian lands inside the limits of the reservation, but in a few weeks found out his mistake, and removed to St. Mary Township, and made a claim upon which he resided until May 15, 1877, when he was called away by the angel of death. His family are still residents of the county. He had a family of six children, one of whom is the present sheriff of the county.

John Fred. Krassin was a bachelor, and settled in St. Mary, and is still living in single blessedness at Wilton. He is of German birth, and a son of Gottlieb Sr. also.

Gottlieb Preehel, brother-in-law of Martin

Krassin, a Prussian by birth, made a settlement in St. Mary, where he still resides.

Fred. Preehel located also in St. Mary. He was a member of one of the cavalry regiments sent from this State to aid in suppressing the rebellion. He is now a resident of Wilton Township.

Frederick Wubschall, also a German by birth, settled in the same town, where he located in June, 1855, and is still a resident.

Bernard Gregory, an American by birth, made his claim in the town of St. Mary, and settled there with his family. He had a wife and four children at that time; one son is now in Dakota, and one is a resident of this county. Both daughters are dead. Mr. Gregory died here in 1877, his wife in 1883. A daughter of his, Louisa by name, was one of the parties in the first marriage celebrated in the county. She died August 15, 1878, at Decoria, Blue Earth County, this State.

David and John Jenkins came to the county in the same summer, locating in Wilton Township. They were natives of the State of New York. David settled near the site of the village of Wilton, and is now a resident of Blue Earth County. John was the first justice of the peace, appointed by the Governor, for this part of what was then Steele County. In 1862 he enlisted in the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, and died at Iuka, Miss., August 21, 1862.

In the spring of 1855 four young men came to this county, and building a log cabin on section 4, in what is now Blooming Grove Township, commenced life as gay young bachelors. Their names were: Michael Johnson, Jonathan Howell, A. J. Bell and S. F. Wyman. These were the first settlers in that part of the county. They kept "bach" in their cabin, living after a fashion, cooking part of the time without a stove, for about two years, when Wyman and Bell left the company, setting up for themselves. The remaining portion of the outfit kept up bachelors' hall for about seven years longer, when Johnson was married and is

still a resident of the township. Mr. Howell died here, a single man, in 1880; Bell removed to Faribault, and Mr. Wyman lives at Waseca.

J. M. Blivens came here early in 1855, and taking up a farm on the west half of section 32, in Blooming Grove, gave his name to the settlement that soon grew up around him. He lived here for many years, finally, in 1866, removing to Missouri, where he is now living.

In June, Simeon Smith and his son Alfred C. with their families came to this county. Simeon took up a claim on sections 31 and 32, in Blooming Grove. Alfred located his land on section 5, of Woodville Township, but on account of the fear of the Indians that prevailed at that time, he resided with his father until the following year, when he removed to a cabin which he built on his own land. Simeon lived on his place until his death, in November, 1872. Alfred is now living on his father's place.

In June, this same year, Ole Knutson, now a resident of Renville County, came to the Blooming Grove settlement, and taking up a claim, commenced to open up a farm, and remained a resident of this county for many years.

During the same summer a settlement was commenced in what is now Iosco Township. Early in July of that year, Luke B. Osgood came here with his family and erected the first shanty within the bounds of the town of Iosco. All that summer the family lived in this make-shift house, built of rough logs, a hole cut in it for a doorway, but no door swung; no windows, and a dirt floor. In the fall, however, he got up a more comfortable place. Some years' residence in this place was terminated by his selling out and moving to Michigan, where he died about the year 1883.

Daniel McDaniels and John H. Wheeler came to Iosco with Mr. Osgood. McDaniels finally removed to Missouri. John H. Wheeler resided here until 1886, when he

sold out the farm he had on section 29, the place of his original settlement, to Julius Mittelstadt, and removed to Nebraska.

Michael Anderson made a settlement in what is now Otisco Township, in July, 1855. He is now a resident of Lyons County, this State. He was a Norwegian by birth.

John Davis and Alfred Holstein, John Rowley, Patrick Moonan, John, James and Patrick McCue, George Merrill and John Cunningham made settlements in Janesville Township, and J. W. Hosmer and N. E. Strong in what is now Iosco. John Davis went back to his Carolina home; Holstein went to the penitentiary for horse-stealing; Patrick Moonan is still a resident of the county; James McCue died here in 1885, and John and Patrick removed from the county some years ago; George Merrill is still living in the county; J. W. Hosmer lives at Janesville Village, and N. E. Strong is in California.

William M. Gray, a native of New York State, came to Blooming Grove in the summer of 1855, and took up a claim. He was a resident of the county at the time of his decease, in 1872.

Burgeff Oleson, Knute Hanson and Halvor Thorson, three Norwegians, settled in Otisco in this same year. All are now residents of the old homesteads established at that time.

George Merrill, now of Alton, made a settlement in Janesville in this year, where he lived many years.

Aaron Hanes and Joseph Madrew settled in Iosco during the year 1855. Hanes died here in 1859, and Madrew sold out his claim shortly after locating it, and returned to Wisconsin.

Robert and Hugh McDougal, two Scotchmen, came to Waseca County from Canada, where they had lived, in the fall of 1855, and took up claims on section 6, Otisco Township. In a few years Hugh returned to Canada, where he lives. Robert, after a trip to the mountains and a stay of a few years in Canada, where he was married, returned

here and died on his place January 15, 1887.

John G. Greening came in 1855, and, settling in Otisco Township, made it his home for many years. From here he removed to Minneapolis, where he died.

Ferdinand Turnaer and his sons, Jackson and Delevan, made settlements in this same township during the same year, and are still numbered among the pioneer citizens of the county.

John Wind, R. Dreever and John Bradish all settled in Janesville Township in this same year. Wind died here long since; John Bradish is still a resident of the township; Dreever removed to Iosco Township, where he died in 1885. George Dreever also settled here at the same time, and is now a resident of Iosco.

The Remund brothers came to Blooming Grove in 1855, and made settlements, where they are still living. Their claims were located on sections 8 and 9.

David and A. H. Coddington were among the settlers of Iosco in 1855. David was called by the angel of death in 1878; A. H. removed to Kansas.

Jeremiah Hogan came to Waseca County from his native State, Kentucky, in this same year, and located on section 21, Janesville. A few years since, after a long residence, he was found dead in his house, the summons having come upon him suddenly. With him came James Thomas and John Hogan, all of whom are yet living in the county.

Austin Abell, in September, 1855, came to Otisco Township and made a claim, where he resided for some years. He was a native of New York State, and resided here until during the war when he enlisted in the Eleventh Minnesota Infantry, and is now a resident of Winona.

Bernard Bunchell, now of Portland, Ore., was also a settler of the year 1855 in Otisco Township.

Samuel and Luther Dickenson came in the fall of 1855, and located in the northwestern part of Blooming Grove. Three years later

Luther returned home to the Green Mountain State. In 1860, Samuel removed to Le Sueur County.

Curtis Hatch, a blind man, settled with his family in Blooming Grove, in the fall of 1855. He died in Moody County, D. T., in 1884. M. P. Ide settled here the same time.

Daniel C. Davis located upon section 33, Byron Township, this year. He is still a resident of that portion of the county. He came here with his father, Jeremy Davis, who was the first to build a house in the town named above. The elder Davis died here, September 13, 1863. He was a native of New Jersey, as is his son Daniel.

In 1856 quite a tide of emigration swept across the country, and many came to what is now Waseca County. Among those now called to memory, were: B. F. Weed, E. A. Rice, Isaac Hamlin, A. Kellogg, William Wells, Jesse I. Stewart, Jacob and George E. Brubaker, Tarrant Putnam, H. P. Norton, Nathaniel Garland, John C. Ide, Thomas L. Paige, Michael O'Brien, N. Duane Baker, Alexander Henderson and others, who located in Wilton; E. R. Conner, George Dean, John and James Walker, William Donaldson, Patrick Healy, Lewis McKune, John L. Saufferer, Cornelius Hand, J. N. Power, Philo Woodruff, John Gibson, Daniel Riegle, Patrick Murphy, Andrew Nelson, Joshua, Josiah, Henry and Samuel Smith, Jacob Oory, W. H. Young, B. Sharp and Joseph Churchill, who located in the northeastern part of the County, in Blooming Grove Township; W. H. Chamberlain, John Bailey, Christian and Gottlieb Krassin Jr., John Worden, H. S. Loveland, Buel Welsh of St. Mary; H. A. Mosher, J. A. Canfield, H. G. Mosher, Silas Grover, William Smith, W. S. Baker, H. Williams, P. Young, E. B. Stearns and others, who located in Otisco; Obediah Powell, Nathaniel Wood, Eri G. and Loren Clark Wood, Henry Watkins, C. B. Lyman and Jacob Myers, who all chose locations in what is now Woodville; H. P. Chamberlain, John F. Allen, John Minske, Gottfried

Kanne, William Martzahn, Dano Hutchinson, John J. Fell, H. W. Peck, G. L. Leonard, Daniel Tripp, Hial D. Baldwin, B. W. Gifford, A. A. Cotten, S. W. and George W. Long, M. S. Green, S. J. Willis and others, who settled in Iosco Township; John Put, William Cahill, John, James and Patrick McCue, Caesar DeRegan, W. H. Crawford, Charles Colestock, R. Brown, Alexander Johnston, W. N. Backhout and many others, in Janesville precinct; Anthony Sampson, H. H. Sunde, K. O. Rofegard, H. T. Handgrud, O. K. Hagen, W. Anderson, K. Knudson, E. O. Strenge, Erick Christianson, J. S. Rice and others, who found homes in what is now New Richland.

These old settlers are mentioned merely as an index of what will be furnished in detail in the histories of the various townships, where the settlement of these and many more is related at full length. The list is but a partial one of all those who came after the first year, but all are mentioned elsewhere, none being forgotten or overlooked that are remembered by the pioneers of the county.

CLAIM JUMPING.

During the winter of 1855-6, ill-feeling having arisen between the proprietors of the town site of Wilton, and the surrounding settlers, the former employed some parties to jump the claims of the McDougal brothers and the Robbins brothers, just east of the Le Sueur River. These last named parties, all four, were Canadians, who had come here and had honestly taken up claims in good faith, but who had neglected to declare their intentions, legally, of becoming citizens of the United States, thinking that it could be done at the time of proving up their claims. This reason, and that of claiming more land than they were entitled to were the excuses given by the "jumpers." The scheme would not work, however. As soon as it was understood throughout the little settlement, an impromptu meeting was held and a decision quickly reached. It was, that,

they go in a body and interview the "claim jumpers" and give them to understand that such proceedings could and would not be allowed in the settlement. Accordingly they proceeded to where the culprits were, who under the direction of the town owners were putting up a cabin on one of the "jumped" claims. In very few words their wishes were communicated by the settlers assembled, but the "claim jumpers," being under legal advice, conducted themselves accordingly. Says a local writer: "There was none of that blunt, outspoken honesty common to our western pioneers, but a studied purpose to overreach the boys in a legal point, and preserve themselves from physical harm." More words were exchanged, when the exasperated settlers invited the interlopers to step one side, while the owners of the land tore down the building then in course of construction. This they did, not wishing to bring down upon themselves the signal vengeance of the determined men who surrounded them. After witnessing the tearing-down operation they retired from the field.

But the end was not yet. A short time after this, the discomfited "claim jumpers" swore out warrants before the authorities at Owatonna, as this was then a part of Steele County, for the apprehension of five of the settlers who had been foremost in the work, and that, and a peremptory subpoena for nearly all the other settlers on the Le Sueur River, was brought over by the proper officers, the arrests made and summons served. Forthwith appearing at the bar of the court in Owatonna, the accused were placed on trial and three of the five found guilty. The other two were discharged on the motion of the prosecuting attorney. Those whom the verdict proclaimed guilty entered an appeal to the district court, and were discharged on account of some error in the proceedings. A lawsuit about the same time was commenced in Winona, before the United States land officers, in order to settle the rights of the parties in interest. During the next



W. Smith

year, both parties and many witnesses made several trips to Winona, but about the end of that time the matter was settled by a compromise, and all were again happy.

HARD TIMES.

The following, quoted from an article from the pen of James E. Child, one of the participants in the scenes he so graphically describes, recalls the hardships of pioneer days:

"The summer of 1858 will long be remembered by the early settlers of the county, as the most disastrous of any up to the present time. Nearly or quite one-half of the people of the county had settled along the Le Sueur River. Many of the farmers had no crops except on the bottom lands, while nearly all had more or less, on these lands adjoining the river. During the early part of the season the crops looked well; but in the latter part of July heavy and oft repeated storms swept over the whole country. During the first week in August storm succeeded storm, until the whole country was inundated. The waters of the rivers and streams were increased to such an extent that their banks were overflowed. The bottom lands looked like great inland seas. Fences were torn down and carried away; hay and grain stacks were torn to pieces and carried down stream; trees were washed out by the roots, and wheat, corn and potato crops were destroyed in a day.

"Whole families stood by in astonishment, with despair depicted in every feature, and witnessed the destruction of their only means of subsistence for the coming year. Most of the settlers had spent their limited means in purchasing their lands and improving them, and were entirely dependent upon their growing crops for a supply of food. The crops on the bottom lands, nearly or quite one-half of the whole, were almost a total loss, while those on the highlands were badly injured.

"Many gave up in despair, and, with what they had left, 'pulled up stakes' and left the

country. A general depression rested upon the whole country, and the succeeding year was a season of 'hard times.' A whole chapter of incidents might be written of the hardships endured by the settlers during the winter of 1858-9 and the following spring. Many farmers lived for months on corn-bread, milk and butter; some lived for weeks, in the spring, on milk and wild roots; some lived on fish, and all suffered more or less deprivation.

"During the spring many cattle died of starvation, and the people who lived here at that time are seldom heard to call the present 'hard times.'"

Says Hon. William Brisbane, in speaking of hard times in early days: "Speaking of graham bread, I can assure you that twenty-eight years ago a loaf of graham bread or a corn dodger, with a very thin sprinkling of molasses, would have been thankfully received and no questions asked. Those were the days that tried men's stomachs as well as their souls, but we lived and hoped for better days, for we had faith in the resources of Waseca County. Thanks to the industrious energy of the people, our expectations have been fully realized; as the good Book says: 'The rain is over and gone, and the time of the singing of birds has come;' yet I never knew or saw a tragedy acted but there was always some comical or ludicrous scenes interlarded with it. . . . The following is a fact, although it smacks of the improbable: A family out in the Big Woods, beyond Janesville, were sorely pressed, for gaunt Famine was wagging his bony finger in their faces. Almost in despair they went into the woods and tried to find some roots, whereby they might satisfy the cravings of hunger. They were successful in unearthing the sought-for roots, but were afraid that they might be poisonous. Something must be done; they would try an experiment. As luck would have it, there was a crazy sort of fellow in the family; so they thought they would try it on him. If

he died it would be no great loss, and if he lived, why couldn't they. You see that they were excellent logicians. Well, the crazy fellow lived, but you can bet that he never fared so well again as he did on the day the life or death experiment was tried."

HISTORICAL ITEMS.

The first birth in the county was that of a child born to Mr. and Mrs. Plummer, in the township of Wilton, born in July, 1855.

The first death is believed to have been that of the wife of Josiah Smith, of Blooming Grove, who died in the fall of 1856.

William Wells, of Wilton, had a child die in 1856, also, probably the second death in the county.

The first marriage was that which united the destinies of a Mr. Ballard, of Mankato, and Louisa A. Gregory, of this county, which took place at the house of the bride's parents, on the 2d of January, 1856. It is recorded of this interesting event, that great preparations had been made, and invitations issued to friends, both far and near, John Jenkins, the only justice of the peace, being duly secured to tie the hymeneal knot. On the evening in question the 'Squire, hiring a man to take him to the house of Mr. Gregory in a sleigh, started. The weather was intensely cold, the snow deep and badly drifted. They got along very well until the darkness overtook them, when they lost their way, and wandered around over the cold, bleak prairie the whole night, trying to reach the appointed place. About four o'clock in the morning they managed to return to the place from which they had started, where they soon warmed themselves up with hot coffee, hot cakes and fried pork, which restored their exhausted frames. Breakfast eaten, they again started for the scene of the wedding. In the meantime the folks at the house of Mr. Gregory had been waiting expectantly for the arrival of the 'Squire; the bride was ready, the groom on hand, each with his or her best friend to help them pass through the ordeal, but

still no 'Squire appeared. Expectation grew into anxiety as the night wore on, and the question as to what was the matter, was bandied about among the waiting guests. All night the assembled company kept watch, but he came not. With the morning came the 'Squire, but on his arrival he found that a party had sallied forth to look after him, so the ceremony had to be deferred until they had returned. About dark the searchers returned, but it was so late that it was thought necessary to have supper before proceeding to the business of the day. Many were the jokes and laughs about the first marriage ceremony to be performed by the bachelor justice. The supper over, the table was cleared away, the 'Squire called up the wedding party. Says our informant, "the ceremony was short and to the point." After joining the hands of the young couple Squire Jenkins turning to the groom, asked "Mr. Ballard, do you take Miss Gregory to be your wife?" The answer came promptly, "Yes, sir." Then to the blushing bride, "Miss Gregory, do you take Mr. Ballard as your lawful husband?" In a low tone came the expected answer, "Yes, sir." "All right," said the 'Squire, "then you're man and wife." This finished the ceremony, and the relieved company began to enter upon the festivities usual at that time.

The second marriage took place upon the 19th day of April, 1856. At that time James E. Child and Justina Krassin pledged themselves "to cleave unto one another until death do them part," before John Jenkins, justice of the peace.

The first school was opened in what is now Blooming Grove Township, in 1857, and was taught by Mrs. Lina Hughes. This was in what is now district No. 7, then No. 1.

The first religious services were held at the house of Christian Remund, in Blooming Grove, by Rev. Mr. Groechtenmeyer, in 1856. This was by the German Methodists and an organization was then effected that exists to this day.

The first postoffice was established at Swaversey, in Blooming Grove Township, in 1857, with Mrs. William Gibbs as post-mistress, on section 5 of that town.

ORIGIN OF THE COUNTY'S NAME.

In 1856, some Winona parties laid out a town in the southwestern part of Woodville

Township, which they called Waseca, which is a Sioux word denoting rich, especially in provisions. Lobbying in the Legislature to have a new county set off and their town made the county-seat, they failed to carry their point, but the euphony of the name seemed to strike those interested, and the county was thus christened.



CHAPTER IV.

REMINISCENCES AND INCIDENTS.



It is the intention to group under this head the personal experiences of the pioneers and others of the county of Waseca. Many of them are written by the early settlers themselves, and others related and written up from their oral relation. In compiling, the editor has not attempted to change the style of the writer, it being the design to leave them as they were penned, a record not only of the facts narrated, but preserving the individuality of the writer and the view he took of the matter. These reminiscences are interesting and well worthy a perusal.

BY JAMES E. CHILD.

Thirty-three or four years ago the present county of Waseca was a portion of the territory known as Blue Earth County. Not a single white man then had a habitation within its borders. The solitude of nature was broken only occasionally by the hunter and trapper, or by wandering bands of Sioux Indians. Buffalo, elk and deer had for ages roamed its prairies and woodlands. Fish basked undisturbed in its lakes and streams. The muskrat, the otter and the mink gambled upon the ice in winter, with no one to molest or make them afraid. Ducks, geese and other aquatic fowl covered the waters in summer, and chattered and squawked in all their native glory. The prairie wolf howled upon each little hillock, and coward-like was always ready to pounce upon the weak and defenseless. Pocket gophers went on with their interminable mining operations, all unconscious of the inroads soon to be made upon their dominions by the husbandman.

Grouse and prairie chicken crowed, drummed and strutted in all their pride, and the winds and blizzards and cyclones swept unheeded across its solitary waste. The autumnal prairie fires, in all their terrible grandeur and beauty, lighted the heavens by night and clouded the sun by day. Age after age had added alluvial richness to the soil, and prepared it, as one of the richest fields in the world, for the abode of the husbandman and for the uses of civilized man. It furnishes food for reflection to the inquiring mind at times, that an overruling Providence should have sent the Pilgrim Fathers to the rock bound and stormy coast of New England and reserved the rich prairie lands of the west for their descendants and followers.

In the month of June, 1854, Asa G. Suttieff, his wife and three children, left Dodge County, Wis., in covered wagons, taking with them quite a drove of cattle and sheep, to seek a home in the land of "Laughing Waters."

They passed over the Mississippi at La Crosse, and taking across the country in a westerly direction, struck the Minnesota River at Traverse or St. Peters, locating on a claim some five or six miles west of there. He had been there only a few days, however, before he was offered \$100 for his claim and accepted it. He then proceeded to Mankato, where he left his family, and sought a new location, "far from the haunts of men."

After a thorough and extensive tour of inspection, he finally selected a portion of section 32 in what is now the town of Wilton, where most of his family still reside. He reached this place with the family in the

month of August, and at once broke about two acres of land, and set about providing hay and shelter for his cattle and sheep. A "shanty" for himself and family was at once reared. It was a work of some magnitude to prepare for winter, but his energy and industry overcame all obstacles, and by the latter part of November he was ready to return to Wisconsin with his family, leaving his cattle and premises in charge of Luther Barrett, formerly of Horicon, Wis. Mr. Sutlief and family made their return trip in a covered ox-wagon, arriving at Herman, Wis., in the early part of December, 1854.

On the 9th of January, 1855, Mr. Sutlief and James E. Child left Herman for Minnesota with three yoke of oxen, a wagon and a sled. At Fox Lake they were joined by S. P. Child, then a boy of nineteen, from Waupun, Wis., whose whole capital consisted of a trunk of clothes, three hogs and considerable "sand." He was to assist in driving the teams and hogs belonging to Mr. Sutlief, for his board while on the road.

Nothing of striking importance occurred on the journey until their arrival at La Crosse. At this point they crossed the river in the dark and on ice which had formed since the January thaw. The act of crossing was a dangerous one and a less venturesome man than Mr. Sutlief would, at least, have taken daylight for the undertaking. About 9 o'clock in the evening they stopped at a small house on the west side of the Mississippi, occupied by a Mr. Plummer and his wife. Here a couple of days were spent while Mr. Plummer was getting ready to join the company. It took nearly all the first day after starting to get the loaded vehicles to the top of the river bluff, and the party returned to the shanty for the night.

Early next morning all hands turned out, and the first rays of the sun found them on the trail, going westward. The day turned out cloudy and stormy, but the drive was short, and just before dark they stopped at a little frame house near the road, about

five miles east of the site of the present village of St. Charles. The next morning an early start was made so as to reach Rochester, then called Zumbro Falls, that night. The day was pleasant, but the snow had drifted in many places, which made traveling very slow. It was necessary in some places to shovel out, or unhitch the teams and drive them back and forth through the drifts, before attempting to get through with the loads, and although the teams were urged forward as fast as shouting and whipping could do it, yet it was eleven o'clock at night before they reached a stopping-place. The night was cold, and Mr. Sutlief frosted his cheeks, ears, nose and feet, and Mr. Plummer and S. P. Child, their feet slightly. The house was filled with travelers; the beds were all full; the floor was nearly covered with sleepers, and there was no room for these last arrivals except in a log shanty "lean-to" with its Dutch fireplace. This afforded about the poorest protection from cold that could well be imagined, even by a western man. The roof was made of oak shakes, the crevices were not plastered or daubed, and the prairie blizzard whistled through it with a lavish liberality altogether unpleasant. Our travelers made a huge fire, and passed the night in turning first one side, and then the other to it, after the old fashion of roasting spare ribs before the fire.

The next morning the wind blew a gale, and the thermometer indicated twenty-eight degrees below zero, rendering travel across the prairies simply impossible. All parties were compelled to remain over during the day. There were over forty travelers thus detained. This place being on the stage road from Dubuque to St. Paul accounted for so many being there. Many a good story, and some not so good, were told that day, and jokes passed among them in a manner peculiar to the west. One fellow, a liquor peddler, was quite chagrined at finding his whiskey keg bottom end up, the bung-hole

open and its contents spread out on the snow. The crowd insisted that he had been on a spree, and had left the keg in that condition himself, and as no one pretended to know anything to the contrary, he was obliged to smother his pent-up wrath, and make the best of the matter. His attempt at the retail business in the morning was, without doubt, the primary cause of his sad loss, at least some of the ladies intimated as much.

The wind lulled during the night, and the next morning was bright and pleasant. Our "first settlers" "tackled up" early and started across the prairie for Mantorville. That village was then less than a year old and contained only three or four small, log cabins. This was the last settlement on the road of our travelers until they reached their destination. Did you ever see a treeless, uninhabited prairie in midwinter? Imagine, if you will, that four men, a woman and her small child are about to start across a prairie wilderness without an inhabitant, without a road, destitute of a tent, the temperature ten degrees below zero, to spend three days and two nights with no shelter save the starry canopy of heaven. Such was the reckless and foolhardy undertaking of the first settlers of this county, on the morning of the 30th of January, 1855. The atmosphere was cold and filled with frost, though the sky was cloudless.

They left Mantorville, after loading on what hay they could take with them, bearing south of west until they struck the south tier of sections in township 106, and then kept due west, guided by the section posts set the fall before, by the United States surveyors. About noon they came near losing one of their teams in a deep narrow creek, but finally succeeded in crossing without serious damage. About sunset, they arrived at a small grove of burr oaks, near the source of one branch of the Zumbro River, where they concluded to camp. The oxen were soon unyoked and fed, a large

camp-fire built, supper prepared and consumed, stories told and songs sung. The evening was very pleasant, with a slight breeze from the west.

About 9 o'clock they spread their hay beds upon the snow, under the wagons, and laid themselves down for the night, covering themselves, head and ears, with quilts and blankets. They slept soundly until 3 o'clock the next morning, when all hands were aroused by the cry of "fire!" coming from Mr. Sutlief, who had been "warmed out." Upon awakening, it was ascertained that the wind had changed during the night, blowing briskly from the south, and had thrown the fire upon Mr. Sutlief's bed. It took some time to extinguish the fire in the bed clothing, and when that was accomplished, and they had fairly recovered from the excitement, it was discovered that their cattle had left them, taking the back track to the settlement. Two of the men started in pursuit with furious feelings and at a furious rate of foot speed. The cattle were overtaken about five miles from camp, and ordered back in the forcible language peculiar to the ox-teamster of the west. They returned to camp half an hour before daylight, partook of a hearty breakfast with the rest of the company, and just as the sun made its appearance, all hands started in a due westerly course.

The day was intensely cold, and it required considerable activity to keep from freezing. There was a hard crust on the snow, which impeded progress and cut the cattle's legs so badly that blood was left in their tracks. Several deep snow drifts were encountered during the day. That night they encamped in a thicket of hazel brush and poplar trees, with some oaks, about six or eight miles south of what is now Owatonna. This was a splendid place. The brush and trees formed a thicket which was a great protection to both man and beast. The great difficulty was want of food for the cattle. They had no hay except what was in the

beds, and but a small allowance of grain. The cattle were secured by head-ropes that night.

The men cleared away the brush and snow, and soon made a large camp-fire, and Mrs. Plummer prepared a warm supper, which was eaten with a relish. The members of the company were not quite as much given to songs and stories and funny jokes as on the previous evening. The romance of camping-out in winter had lost somewhat of its charms to them after two days' experience. They piled high the camp-fire with fuel, and retired early to beds, which were made on the snowy ground. The wind came up from the northwest in the evening, and before morning the weather was very cold. Long before daylight they had arisen, fed the cattle what hay was in the beds and eaten breakfast. As soon as there was daylight enough to enable them to keep their course, they renewed their journey. They crossed the Le Sueur River, in what is now the town of New Richland, with some difficulty, the banks being very steep. They then took for their guide a large oak tree standing alone on section 36, in Wilton Township, about a mile from the Sutlief shanty.

They reached Mr. Sutlief's place about 4 o'clock p. m., where they found Mr. Barrett who had been trapping and taking care of Sutlief's cattle during the winter. To say that every member of the company was thankful for a safe resting-place would but faintly describe the feelings of the first settlers, on their arrival.

The condition of the country at that time, however, was not very inviting. The prairie was covered with snow and ice; the trees looked short and scrubby; the weather was severely cold; not a postoffice nearer than thirty-five miles, no letters, no newspapers; no houses nor barns, nor fences, nor human beings met the gaze in any direction. At that time Mr. Sutlief's shanty was the only human habitation between the Winnebago

agency and Owatonna; the only one within the present limits of Waseca County.

THE INDIAN MASSACRE.

By William Brisbane.

The following from the pen of William Brisbane has been published in the *Waseca Herald*, but as a picture of the exciting days of Indian massacre of 1862, it is needed to the completeness of these annals, and therefore no apology is necessary for its insertion in this place:

Wilton was soon to be aroused from her Rip Van Winkle slumber, with this difference: that instead of waking up after the war, she awoke to find the nation engaged in a hand to hand struggle for existence. One day the citizens had met to bid good-by to a number of the boys who were starting for the front, some of whom never came back, but offered up their lives a willing sacrifice upon the altar of their country. The last wagon was barely out of sight when the stage from the west brought us the terrible news of the Indian massacre. The people were so confounded that they couldn't be brought to realize the fact that such a bloody tragedy had been enacted. About mid-afternoon, when the excitement had somewhat cooled, it was suddenly kindled again into fever heat, by the appearance of two men in a covered buggy, one a white man, the other an Indian grasping a rifle. The white man said they were from the agency and that the Winnebagoes were making very warlike demonstrations, and that they had come to solicit immediate help. Here then, we thought, was war at our very doors, and most all of our young men gone south. A meeting was held and volunteers called for. All seemed chock-full of patriotism, and spoiling for fight. It was agreed that the volunteers should secure what arms they could and meet at the Globe Hotel, at 8 o'clock that night. On my way to Wilton, I called upon Peter Van Dyke, who in the afternoon seemed to have no other thought

but just to kill two at a blow; but a change had come over his dream of military glory, for I found Peter in bed groaning with neuralgia. His wife (the better man of the two) shamed him and called him a coward. Very few came at the time appointed, and I began to think that neuralgia had become epidemical. If memory serves me right, three wagons started about 11 o'clock. The night was pitch dark, with a heavy, drizzling rain falling, and the roads almost impassable. We had taken with us all the ammunition Wilton could furnish, not forgetting a little drop of the "craithur," but on such a night the supply was not equal to the demand, and the men began to doze, but were suddenly startled into life again by the second wagon running into the one ahead, which had stopped. Upon inquiring what the matter was, the teamster said that he had heard an Indian war whoop, and refused to go on. While deliberating upon the situation, the loud crowing of roosters broke the stillness of the scene around us. So, after a not very hearty laugh, we started ahead again, and arrived at the agency, as the day began to break, wearied and jaded enough. Balcombe, the agent, received us with apparent gratitude, and thanked us for responding so promptly to the call for aid. A few bales of Indian blankets were ripped open and spread down as couches for us to lie upon and rest, but our nerves were too much excited by the novelty of our surroundings to get the rest we so much needed; so, getting up and performing our ablutions, we thought we would take a stroll and reconnoiter a little; but here we were met by a difficulty we were hardly prepared for. Col. Ide and Balcombe objected to our taking our guns with us, as it might excite the Indians, they said. I remarked that if the Indians had any hostile intentions they would be more apt to attack unarmed men than if they had arms in their hands. The Colonel didn't think that there was any danger. Then if there is no danger, I said, why are we here? I saw I had no influ-

ence, and finally gave in, leaving our guns in a room of the government store-house. While sauntering along, a few Indians passed us. One of them complimented us by calling us — whites. He could swear in English, anyway. We concluded that things presented a rather warlike aspect, and that we had better go and secure our guns; but to our surprise we found the door of the room in which we had left our guns locked, and nobody could tell who had the key. I said I would find a key, grasping a stick of cordwood. Just then a man by the name of Dyer came running with the key. He said that he had gone out on the prairie for a load of hay and taken the key with him. At night we were doomed to another surprise. The storekeeper, Jim Hubbell, Col. Ide and Agent Balcombe proposed dividing the men and stationing one party at Hubbell's store and the other party at the government storehouse. This I strenuously opposed, as there were so few of us; however, I told Balcombe if he would assume the responsibility of command, I would willingly serve under him until troops arrived. He said he would assume no responsibility, though he distributed a few flasks of powder amongst us. Here then we found no one to act as leader, and with no plan of action, so that in case of an attack it would be every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. It looked to me as if we were running with eyes open into a trap, and I began to wish myself well out of it. The next day was distribution day, but few Indians were around; they were down in the woods holding a pow-wow. The squaws came for the provisions and they cut a very ludicrous figure as they waddled away with a bag of flour and a chunk of pork strapped on their backs. In the afternoon the Indians came from the woods, dressed in all their toggery and war paint. A sort of council was held; the Indians formed in a circle, with the chiefs and interpreter in the center. The chiefs, according to the interpreter, complained of

unfair dealing by the agent. The scene, with its surroundings, was extremely picturesque. While walking around in the evening along with a man by the name of Burgess, we saw two squaws leave a store carrying something between them. They kneeled down on the prairie, applying their hands in quick successive movements to their mouths. I felt a curiosity to see what they were doing. I found them engaged in the delectable employment of eating sugar. They motioned me to kneel and partake with them. I did so, but I believe I forgot to ask a blessing, my mind being too much engrossed by the novelty of the scene.

The next morning dawned amid great excitement. A report had come in that the Indians had burned Mankato, and the stage being some two hours behind time gave color to the report. John Greening started on horseback for Mankato to make a reconnaissance and report as quickly as possible. John started off in gallant style, an excellent caricature of Don Quixote charging windmills. Shortly after, he came galloping back shouting, "Mankato all right; no burn, and stage a-coming!" A few of us promptly seized the stage when it drove up, and demanded to be taken back to Wilton. This caused considerable flutter. One woman said that she wouldn't give that (snapping her fingers) for her life if we went away. Dyer, bare-headed and excited, came and told me that Balcombe wanted to see me. I told him to tell Balcombe to go to —. Col. Ide said: "You will be very sorry when you hear that we are all killed." "Yes," said I, "very." You can judge of our surprise when we came to Wilton to find Mrs. Balcombe and Mrs. Hubbell waiting for the stage. I learned long after that they had taken a team early in the morning and gone by what they call the timber road.

As no troops had yet arrived at the agency, and our own homes were exposed to danger, a military company was formed called the Wilton home guards. Warren

Smith was lieutenant, and J. E. Child drilled us in the manual exercise, assisted by Col. Ide when difficult military maneuvers were to be executed. I often thought that I would die from laughing when the Colonel was teaching us how to march through narrow defiles. We had to march almost sideways, which gave us such a limping kind of gait that a stranger would have thought that we had all been wounded in battle, and crippled for life. We were dressed in blue jean jackets and pants. I am sure that if such a military company were to appear on the streets of Waseca to-day they would be taken for military cranks, or foolish school-boys playing soldier for the fun of the thing.

THRASHING BY MOONLIGHT.

H. P. Chamberlain relates that the first thrashing he had at his place took place in January, 1858. Machinery to do this work was scarce in the county and those who could not secure the services of the thrasher early, had to wait. One bitter cold night in January, when the thermometer indicated that it was twenty degrees below zero, the men who had agreed to do this work for Mr. Chamberlain made their appearance at his house and announced that they must do the job then and there, as they had to return to Wilton, where they lived, to attend a dance the very next evening.

Reasoning or expostulation was in vain, go to that dance they would; so Mr. Chamberlain, making a virtue of necessity, sallied out and with some difficulty mustered up a sufficient crew, and all hands went to work. All night long they toiled in the intense cold, and by morning they had the job done, and after a warm meal went on their way rejoicing, and tradition tells that they reached Wilton that evening in good time to join the festive dance, the work of the past night not seeming to affect their iron frames or to detract from their enjoyment.

BLOODY TRAGEDY.

Anonymous.

A dark and bloody tragedy stains the

annals of the early settlement of Woodville Township, although the deed was justified at the time and has passed from the minds of all but a few of the participants therein.

It was upon a clear, cold night in the winter of—well, never mind the year, but to be exact enough, say it was when Wascea County was in its extreme infancy. The snow, with fleecy mantle covered all the earth to the depth of a couple of feet or more, and the twinkling stars gleamed down through the frosty air upon the peaceful cabin of a pioneer in Woodville Township. This man, E. K. Carlton, with his family had retired to their couches to court the god of sleep, believing with the poet that

"Night is the time to sleep,
To draw around an aching breast
The curtain of repose."

Sounds proceeded from the house like the prolonged howls of the hungry cayote, and demonstrated the fact that the tired farmer and his sons were deeply plunged in lethean slumber. Suddenly a terrible outcry arose upon the still, midnight air, which roused the sleepers from their couches, and with dis-tended eyes and lifting hair, they asked each other, "What's the matter?" The robust pioneer, nothing daunted, plunged out doors in the undress uniform in which he had tumbled out of bed, and waded through the snow toward his chicken house, whence there proceeded such a terrible din, such a clatter and such an outcry as has seldom been heard before on so prolonged and extensive a scale. Trembling with wrath, he quickly threw open the door and introducing his huge proportions, after a short chase, with iron hand he grasped the graceless intruder upon his preserves. Vengeance dire flashed from his eyes,

"And shook his very soul with ire."

Suddenly he heard the sound of footsteps rapidly approaching, and turning to meet his new antagonist, never loosening his tight hold upon the thief he had secured, however, he discovered, to his great joy that it was only

his friend, Obediah Powell, who boarded with him, and who hearing the noise and observing the

"Confusion dire and worse confounded," had hastened to his assistance. No word was spoken, but with ruthless hands these sturdy pioneers, in answer to the rough teachings of the frontier code, proceeded to coolly destroy the life of the scamp whose strong love for the poultry of his neighbor had led into such fearful straits. While Carlton compressed his victim's frame with bands like those of steel, Powell calmly and collectedly as if he were performing a benevolent action, cut the throat of the wretch with the sharp knife which he carried in his hand. A moment after, the bleeding corpse dropped upon the ground, his life-blood crimsoning the pearly whiteness of the glistening snow. Recalled at length to himself by the intense cold, which penetrated the scanty attire in which Carlton was clad, the two men passed on to their house, and as a last "good-night" was said, one remarked, "That's the largest mink I ever saw."

FIRST SAD MISFORTUNE.

We are also indebted to J. E. Child, Esq., for the following account of the first sad misfortune:

Shortly after the arrival in this county of the company of "first settlers," Messrs. Barrett, Sutlief and S. P. Child started for Mankato with a portion of their cattle, in order to have them kept there until spring, as provender was running short. Mr. Sutlief returned in a few days, leaving Child at Van Brunt's sawmill to get in logs for lumber. Owing to some misunderstanding, Child, after remaining there a few days, started to return to Sutlief's, intending to stop over night at the shanty of Mansfield and Callen, about four miles south of the Winnebago agency. On his arrival at that place, finding the house deserted and the door locked, he concluded to push on to Sutlief's that day. The snow was deep, especially in low places, often taking a man in waist deep.

During the middle of the day it was quite warm, melting the snow, some of which worked into his boots, making both them and his socks quite wet. Toward evening the weather became colder, and, despite all his efforts, his feet began to freeze soon after dark. There was no track or road that could be followed, and he was only enabled to keep his course by a star, which he selected as his guide. One can better imagine than describe the emotions of this boy, for he was scarcely more, thus toiling on amid the shades of night, over an uninhabited prairie, among wolves and other wild animals, spurred on to reach a place of shelter or to perish miserably of cold and fatigue. Hour after hour wore away, for he could travel but slowly; his feet to his ankles frozen hard; drowsiness came over him, and yet no signs of the cabin could he discover. Exhausted and discouraged, still he struggled on until, finally, he saw a light. It beamed across the snow from the window of the shanty he was in search of. He had passed it to the south, and but that fortunately the inmates were at work much later than usual that evening, the light would have been put out and he would not have seen the cabin, but would have passed on to death in the cold and snow.

He reached the shanty between ten and eleven o'clock, more dead than alive. His boots and socks were frozen tight to his feet and ankles. Some time and much labor were required to remove them, but it finally was accomplished. The sufferings he endured for many weeks cannot be described. No medical aid could be obtained, and the flesh on his feet literally rotted away, leaving the blackened bones of his toes exposed. Many weeks passed before he could step on his feet, and it was months before he could walk without the aid of crutches. Most of the bones of his toes were taken off by his brother who used a razor for the purpose.

In the latter part of the following April he was conveyed to Mankato, where surgical

aid was obtained and more bones removed. In July he had so far recovered the use of his feet that he took the position of cook for the employés of the government at the Winnebago agency, among the Winnebago Indians, who had been brought to this reservation during the month of June, that year.

THE GREAT SNOW STORM.

Perhaps no annals of the county of Waseca would be complete without some mention of the great snow storm of January 7, 1873, that was totally unparalleled in this part of the country in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. To quote from the *Waseca Weekly News* of that date:

The morning opened comparatively pleasant, and as the day wore on, the growing moisture of the atmosphere caused many to hope that the severity of the winter had passed, and that we were entering upon the mild season known as the January thaw. In the afternoon, however, dark clouds gathered in the west, and about 3 o'clock the wind commenced blowing a gale, producing a rapid change in the temperature, and at the same time the air was filled with snow, which was driven with great force into every opening, however small, by the terrific fury of the howling blast. The sun soon withdrew his light, and soon an almost impenetrable darkness settled upon the earth like a funeral pall, bringing with it intense cold, made doubly so by the driving, penetrating force of the wind. This continued without interruption throughout the night, and Wednesday morning opened upon us, one of those intensely furious days which once in a while visits this high northern latitude, and the remembrance of which is retained by the old settlers and constitutes the theme of their conversation upon each succeeding occasion.

The sun was shut out by thick clouds, and throughout Wednesday, Wednesday night and Thursday until about midnight, the fierce blasts of the storm king drove the

snow in vast quantities over the whole north-west, making a winding sheet for the many men, women and children that were caught in its icy embrace. No pen can fully describe the terrific death chill of the fifty-six hours during which this storm raged.

Fortunately Waseca County had not a death to chronicle among her inhabitants, although many had narrow escapes from following the hundred or more of wretched mortals all over this and adjoining States, who were forced to succumb to the grim king of terrors clothed in this hideous mantle of snow.

One incident has come to our knowledge in regard to a narrow escape from death, and is well worth the recital.

As has been shown above, the day was a pleasant one, and many people had taken advantage of it to go to town, to go over to the "other place" or to visit neighbors. It so happened that Alfred Smith, then living on section 5, in Woodville Township, had gone over to the farm where his father had settled, about a mile away, with his team. About the time that the storm had got well under way, his daughter Lovica, then a girl of about seventeen years of age, who had been washing out the clothes, threw a shawl over her head, and taking a little brother with her, went out and up the road looking for her father. For part of the way the grove on the west side of the road shut off the gale, and she did not realize that the

storm was of any unusual character. Coming to the end of the grove the brother ran back, but she pushed on, nothing daunted, thinking that she must soon meet her father. But thinly clad, no wrap around her except a light cotton shawl thrown over her head and held together by her naked hands, she soon became aware that she must turn back or perish from the cold, for the wind that swept down upon her from the west was of arctic severity. Retracing her steps, blinded by the whirling, drifting snow, confused by the savage fury of the wind, she took the wrong road where the two crossed and wandered on across the bleak prairie, death staring her in the face. Battling bravely she pushed on, her limbs chilled by the cold, her form growing faint beneath the merciless pelting of the storm, until she reached the grove near the house of Obediah Powell, where she halted but a moment, when knowing that it was death to stop, she pushed on, and spying a light she made her way to Mr. Powell's house. So confused was she, so bewildered by the blizzard, and unhinged by the tension upon her nerves, that she did not know for a few moments where she was nor who were the friends she had stumbled upon. Soon the genial hospitality of Mrs. Powell, the light and warmth of the room, restored her, and she was made comfortable. She suffered but little inconvenience from her terrible experience except a soreness, the flesh having been chilled, but not frozen.

CHAPTER V.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.



THE territory now embraced in the county of Waseca was at the time of its settlement a portion of Steele County, and so continued until the Legislative Assembly of the territory of Minnesota, of 1857, which passed an act, separating "so much of the county of Steele as is comprised in the following boundaries, to-wit: townships 105, 106, 107 and 108 north, ranges 22, 23 and 24 west," and declared that such territory should be organized and known as the county of Waseca. This act was approved and became a law, February 27, 1857, and was signed by John W. Furber, speaker of the house, and by John B. Brisbin, president of the council. It was also enacted that on the first Monday in June following, the legal voters of said county should hold an especial election in their established precincts, for the purpose of locating a county-seat, and for the proper election of officers. Until that time, and for the purpose of organizing the county, Gov. Gorman appointed the following officers to establish the precincts, select election precincts, appoint judges of election and other officers for carrying on the machinery of county government: J. C. Ide, J. M. Blivens and H. W. Peck, county commissioners; Nathaniel Garland, sheriff, and Tarrant Putnam, register of deeds. These officers were to hold their offices until their successors had been duly elected, and been qualified. They all entered upon the discharge of the duties of their office, and thus came into existence the county of Waseca.

The first meeting of the county commissioners was held at the village of Wilton, March 16, 1857. After being duly qualified they elected J. C. Ide chairman, and proceeded to business. The bonds of the register of deeds and sheriff being duly presented, were approved, and a seal was adopted for temporary purposes, which consisted of a circle of yellow paper with the name of the county printed thereon. W. S. Baker was, by them, appointed treasurer of the county, and filing his official bond, on its approval at once entered upon the duties of his office. The commissioners then proceeded to form the election precincts, according to law, and to appoint the necessary officers.

The first precinct was called Swaversey, and embraced all of township 108 north, range 22 west, and the north half of township 107 north, range 22 west. The election was ordered to be held at the house of Ole Knutsen, and Lewis McKune, Patrick Healey and Ole Knutsen were appointed judges. Until said election the commissioners appointed W. H. Young and Lewis McKune as justices of the peace; Clark Wood and S. F. Wyman, constables for this precinct.

The second precinct was called Empire, and embraced all of townships 108 north, ranges 23 and 24 west, except so much as was within the bounds of the Indian reservation, and the north half of township 107, range 23. The election was to take place at the residence of John Wheeler; N. E. Strong, C. R. Miller and James Haynes being appointed judges. M. S. Green was

appointed justice of the peace, and George L. Leonard, constable.

Precinct No. 3 was to be called Wilton, and contained the south half of township 107, ranges 22 and 23, except those portions that were included within the reservation, and the north two-thirds of township 106, ranges 22 and 23, except the Indian lands. The election was ordered to be held at the hotel of A. J. Woodbury, in the village of Wilton. Jesse I. Stewart, W. H. Chamberlain and E. A. Rice were appointed judges. George W. Tremper was made constable in and for this precinct.

Otisco precinct, for so the fourth was named, consisted of all of township 105, ranges 22, 23 and 24, and the south one-third of township 106, ranges 22 and 23. Election polls were to be set up at the house of Silas Grover, Ebenezer B. Stearns, Calvin Chapman and Daniel Grover being appointed judges.

At this meeting the commissioners appointed James Haynes, county coroner, and H. W. Peck, county surveyor, and as Mr. Peck resigned his position as one of the commissioners to accept this office, the proper officers were called upon to fill the vacancy.

On the 21st of March, this same year, a meeting was held by N. G. Garland, sheriff, Tarrant Putnam, register of deeds, and W. S. Baker, treasurer, who duly appointed David Smith, of Empire, to fill the vacant commissionership.

N. N. Norcutt, James E. Child and E. B. Stearns were appointed the assessors.

The second meeting of the commissioners was held at the same place April 6, 1857, at which time Benjamin Northrup and Silas Grover were appointed judges of election in Otisco precinct in place of Calvin Chapman and Daniel Grover. John Bradish was appointed county attorney, and a number of school districts organized. Other business of the county, such as road matters, etc., was transacted. Henry Thiving, of Empire,

and John J. Greening, of Wilton, were appointed constables.

The third meeting of the commissioners was convened on the 4th of May, 1857, and organized a fifth election precinct embracing all the territory in Waseca County lying west of Lake Elysian, which was to be known by the name of Elysian. J. C. York, C. M. Barnard and Abram Jaqua were appointed judges of the election, which was to be held at the house of E. H. Loomis. J. M. Stoddard was appointed justice of the peace; Abram Jaqua, constable, and J. C. York, road supervisor. The commissioners also made the following appointments for Swavesey precinct; Asa Conner, justice of the peace; S. F. Wyman, constable, and Ezra Southworth, road supervisor. It was ordered that the register of deeds be instructed to transcribe from the records of the county of Steele as much of them as related to the land embraced within the limits of the new county of Waseca.

The fourth meeting of the commissioners was held on the 2d of June, and nothing seems to have been transacted but the business of auditing the accounts of the county officers, which amounted to \$92.80.

An account of the election which located the county seat, is given under its proper head in the chapter relating to the political matters of this county, in this volume.

The board of commissioners that held their meeting on the 6th of July, 1857, was composed of the newly elected members: E. B. Stearns, of Otisco; L. C. Wood, of Swaversey, and David Smith, of Empire. After being duly qualified and taking their seats, they elected David Smith as chairman. The official bonds of J. W. Crawford, register of deeds, and Nathaniel Garland, sheriff, were then presented and approved. The following named men then presented road petitions: C. L. Lovell, Alonzo Heath, J. A. Canfield and John McKune.

The sixth session of the board was held August 10, 1857, and the bond of H. W.

Peck, the newly elected county surveyor, having been presented, was approved. The regular routine business was then transacted.

The seventh session convened a short time later. A sixth election precinct was organized, and called Vivian.

At the ninth meeting there was no business of any special importance transacted.

The stringency of the money market all over our country during the dark days of 1857, was felt very severely in these new settlements, and this is best shown by the following record:

“At a special meeting held October 20, 1857, the board borrowed of Byron L. Clark the sum of \$100, for which a joint note signed by E. B. Stearns and L. C. Wood was given, payable one year from date thereof, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per month.”

Tenth meeting was a special one, held November 11. Two hundred dollars was borrowed of George Snyder for county expenses, for which E. B. Stearns and L. C. Wood gave their joint note, payable fifteen months from date, with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per month.

November 16, at the eleventh meeting, there were present E. B. Stearns and L. C. Wood. The following appears upon the record:

“The treasurer being absent, the funds in the hands of the commissioners were appropriated by them to pay the most urgent bills against the county. The following named individuals received the amounts set against their respective names, for services rendered, as per bills and receipts filed with the clerk:

L. C. Lowell.....	\$ 5 00
E. A. Rice.....	51 85
N. Garland.....	120 70
J. W. Crawford.....	29 00
Total.....	\$206 55

The new board of county commissioners who met for the first time, January 4, 1858, consisted of the following named: E. B. Stearns, L. C. Wood and John Bailey. Mr.

Stearns was elected chairman for the ensuing year. The bonds of the new officers were presented and approved. By a financial statement presented to this board, it was shown that the indebtedness of the county amounted to \$1,258.52.

The fourteenth meeting of the board of county commissioners was convened at Wilton, April 5, 1858. At this session of the board the following towns were organized: Township 108, range 24, to be known by the name of Okaman. Two polling places were appointed, one at Okaman, at the house of A. Tuttle, where Alexander Johnson, C. H. Bishop and W. N. Buckhout were to preside as judges; and at Janesville, at the house of Caesar De Regan, the judges of election in this latter place being R. Brown, John Cunningham and C. De Regan.

Township 108, range 23, was named Iosco. The place of holding elections was appointed at the house of Daniel Tripp. H. W. Peck, G. L. Leonard and David Smith were appointed judges of election.

Township 108, range 22, was set off and called Blooming Grove. The polling place was to be at the residence of Patrick Healey; James Isaac, P. Healey and J. M. Bliven being named judges of election.

Township 107, range 22 was henceforth to be known as Woodville; the place of election was designated as at the house of E. G. Wood; J. K. Meyers, William M. Green and E. G. Wood being appointed judges.

Township 107, range 23 was to be known as St. Mary. The polling place was fixed at the tavern of J. W. Clark; B. M. Morrill, Warren Smith and A. W. Chamberlain were designated as judges of election.

Township 106, range 23 was named Wilton, with the polling place located at the Washington House, and I. C. Price, L. Curtis and J. C. Ide appointed judges.

Township 106, range 22 was to be known by the name of Otisco. The place of holding elections was located at the house of Owen Salisbury. H. G. Mosher, S. S. Griggs

and Owen Salisbury were named judges of election. All of township 105, range 22, and the east half of township 105, range 23, were joined to Otisco for voting purposes.

Township 105, range 24, was named Vivian, and the place of election located at the house of J. B. Hill. Mr. Hill was appointed one of the judges of election, the other names are not recorded. For voting purposes, the west half of township 105, range 23, was attached to Vivian.

At the fifteenth meeting of the board, held on the 17th of May, 1858, a petition was presented, asking that the name of the town of Okaman be changed to that of Janesville, which was granted.

The first Legislative Assembly of the State of Minnesota having, by an act, substituted the system of county supervisors for that of commissioners, this change was made in the county of Waseca in the fall of 1858, and the first meeting of the new board of county supervisors was convened on the 14th of September of that year, at Wilton. It consisted of the following named: W. W. Robinson, E. B. Stearns, C. W. Johnston, N. E. Strong, J. W. Davis, Philo Woodruff, and Obediah Powell. The meeting having been called to order, elected E. B. Stearns chairman for the ensuing year. An act of the Legislature having authorized the boards of supervisors to borrow money and give the bonds of the county therefor, it was ordered that the county of Waseca issue its bonds for \$3,000 to be made payable March 1, 1862, and to draw interest at the rate of 15 per cent per annum, and payable annually. The said bonds to be in the dimensions of \$50 and \$100. These bonds were to be printed, and signed by the chairman of the board, and countersigned by the county auditor, with the seal of the county, and approved by the county treasurer. William W. Robinson and E. N. Rice were appointed a committee to have the bonds printed and negotiate the sale of them, provided that the said bonds should not be sold for less than

ninety cents on the dollar. It was further ordered that the amount of the county bonds be increased \$500 more than was first ordered. The parties appointed to negotiate the sale of the bonds were required to give approved bonds in the sum of \$5,000 each, and to file the same with the county treasurer.

The second meeting of the board was convened Monday, November 1, 1858. At this session it was ordered that township 105, range 22, be organized and that it be named Norway, and that township 105, range 23, be organized and the name Byron to be borne thereby. E. B. Stearns, W. W. Robinson and Philo Woodruff were appointed a committee to select a site for and contract with some responsible party or parties for the erection of a county jail; provided that it would be found that the board were authorized by law so to do. The said jail was not to exceed \$700 in cost, and was to be completed by September 1, 1859. If on consultation with the proper authorities it was found that the board could build the said jail, the expense of building it was to be defrayed partly by the issuance of county bonds to the extent of \$500, to be made payable in not less than two years, or more than five, from the 1st of February, 1860.

Monday, December 20, 1858, the board met for the third time. At this session it was ordered that the order in regard to the bonds of the county, passed at the September term be changed, so as to read as follows: "That the dimensions of the said bonds be issued in \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100; and that \$5,000 of said bonds be printed in \$50 and \$100 dimensions and the balance in \$5, \$10 and \$20."

It was also decreed that the county treasurer procure the government survey plats from the land office, and he was directed to pay the price asked for them, out of any money in his hands not otherwise appropriated.

At a meeting of the board, held on the



LEWIS M^C KUNE.
(DECEASED)

26th of February, 1859, E. B. Stearns and E. A. Rice were appointed a committee to rent rooms for the accommodation of the county officers for the ensuing year.

The board of supervisors for the year 1859, met, for the first time, on the 24th of May. It consisted of the following named: Philo Woodruff, of Blooming Grove; James Barrie, of St. Mary; O. Powell, of Woodville; G. W. Ayers, of Byron; J. W. La Paul, of Janesville; John Thompson, of Richland, (late Norway); H. G. Mosher, of Otisco; M. S. Gove, of Wilton; H. D. Baldwin, of Iosco, and T. West, of Vivian. On taking their seats, the board proceeded to the election of a chairman, which resulted in the choice of M. S. Gove. Most of the transactions at this term were of a routine character, of which none are worthy of interest. At the term commencing September 13, it was ordered that the proper officers be instructed to pay the two notes held by George Snyder, "with county bonds, of ninety cents on the dollar; interest on the notes to be 5 per cent per month." Other bills were also ordered to be paid in the same way. At the session held October 12, M. S. Gove, H. G. Mosher and J. W. La Paul were appointed a committee to purchase the store building owned by Thos. L. Paige, in the village of Wilton, for a court house with the certificates of tax sales of lands sold in 1858, and bid in by the county. The amount of said purchase was not to exceed \$700. The register of deeds was ordered to make the proper assignments of such certificates, on the order of the said committee. The building was purchased for the amount named, and was used as a courthouse until destroyed by fire in 1869.

On the 11th of January, 1860, the board met in regular session, with Philo Woodruff as chairman *pro tem*. W. W. Cowles appeared and was admitted to a seat to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of J. W. La Paul; John R. Wood was admitted to fill the place of H. D. Baldwin, also removed

from the town of Iosco. At this session the office of county treasurer was declared vacant, Jesse I. Stewart, the occupant of that office, having been elected member of the State Legislature. J. S. Rice was appointed to fill the vacancy. At the March session it was ordered that the sheriff be instructed to build a jail in the rear of the courthouse; to be at least 16x18 feet in size, one story high; to be built of lumber, lined with sheet iron, and the sum of \$300, in tax certificates of 1858, was appropriated for the purpose. A license was granted Hall & Johnson, of Wilton, for the sale of strong and spirituous liquors and wines, to be drunk in the Wilton House; this license was given for one year, from March 21, 1860. A license was also granted for the same purpose to G. H. Woodbry, the business to be carried on at the Washington House in the same village. These licenses were each for \$50.

The Legislative Assembly in 1859-60 having repealed the law in regard to county government, and restored the system of commissioners, the new board met for the first time April 26, 1860. W. T. Kittredge, George H. Bishop and John Powers were the gentlemen intrusted with the control of county affairs. On taking their seats they elected W. T. Kittredge chairman for the ensuing year. At the June session the board divided the county into commissioner's districts, for election and other purposes as follows:

District No. 1, to consist of the towns of Janesville, Iosco and Blooming Grove, with 239 legal voters. District No. 2, to consist of the towns of St. Mary, Woodville and Otisco, with 182 legal voters. District No. 3, of the towns of Richland, Byron and Vivian, with 192 legal voters. It was also ordered that H. P. Powers, the deputy county surveyor, be employed to construct a proper map of the county, the cost of such labor not to exceed \$75, which amount was appropriated for that purpose. In September, John Powers resigning his position as

county commissioner, was succeeded by D. L. Whipple. M. S. Green also resigned the office of county attorney, the board appointing H. D. Baldwin to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, with the salary of \$12 per month.

The board for the year 1861 consisted of B. A. Lowell, P. Healey and Isaac Hamlin. But little of general interest is to be found in the transactions of this board.

The board of commissioners for the year 1862 composed the following named: B. A. Lowell, J. G. Honor and J. B. Jackson. On organization Mr. Lowell was elected to the chair.

In 1863 the board was made up as follows: B. A. Lowell, chairman, J. B. Jackson and John G. Honor.

The board of county commissioners for the year 1864 embraced the following gentlemen: J. B. Jackson, J. S. G. Honor and W. G. Kennedy, Mr. Jackson in the chair. At a meeting held March 8, E. S. Smith was appointed county superintendent of schools for the year, with the salary of \$100 per annum. At the same session it was ordered that townships 106 and 107, range 24, be organized as one civil town, and that at the first election held therein, a name should be adopted to hold until such time as it was found necessary to separate the two townships, and that when such separate organization took place, township 106 should retain the old name.

In 1865 W. G. Kennedy, chairman, C. S. Luce and John S. McKune constituted the board.

In 1866 it embraced the same gentlemen, with Mr. Kennedy still in the chair.

Nor was there much change in 1867, James Isaac taking the place of W. G. Kennedy on the board. C. S. Luce was chairman this year.

In 1868 James Isaac, R. F. Stevens and J. S. McKune made up the board for a time, but at a meeting held on the 22d of April, James Isaac handed in his resignation, as he

was about to remove from the district which he represented, which was accepted, and S. S. Phelps appointed to fill the vacancy. While Mr. Isaac was a member of the board he acted as chairman, he having been elected thereto, but on his retirement R. F. Stevens was chosen his successor.

The board for the year 1869 consisted of the following named: R. F. Stevens, J. S. McKune, William Byron, Robert Earl and John Buckhout, Mr. Stevens being chairman. At a special meeting held April 12, it was announced that as the courthouse had been destroyed by fire, it was necessary to make some provision for the county offices. Therefore some proceedings in the matter were had, but as this is mentioned at length elsewhere in regard to the county-seat contest, it is omitted here.

The gentlemen comprising the board during the year 1870, were William Byron, Robert Earle, O. Powell, John Buckhout and R. F. Stevens, the latter being chairman. On the 10th of September this board met in session at Wilton for the last time, and on the 17th of November held court at the new courthouse at Waseca, the latter place having been made the seat of county government.

The board in 1871 consisted of Robert Earl, O. Powell, William Byron, William Lee and H. G. Mosher. Mr. Powell was duly elected chairman for the year.

In 1872 the board of commissioners contained the following named gentlemen: O. Powell, H. G. Mosher, William Byron, William Lee and S. K. Odell. Obediah Powell was chairman.

In the beginning of the year 1873 the board was constituted the same as the last year, but at a meeting held July 15, R. F. Stevens was appointed to fill the place lately occupied by H. G. Mosher.

O. Powell, William Byron, H. K. Stearns, R. O. Craig and S. K. Odell, made up the board for the year 1874. William Byron was the chairman.

At the first meeting of the board for 1875, held on the 5th of January, H. K. Stearns, R. O. Craig, William Burke and C. H. Newell appeared and took their seats, and it appearing that O. Powell had resigned his place on the board, William C. Young was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The board for 1876 embraced the following named: H. K. Stearns, C. H. Newell, William Burke, H. Vincent and R. O. Craig, the last named being chairman.

In 1877 it was the same, except that H. Vincent filled the chair.

In January, 1878, met the new board for that year. It was composed of the following named: H. Vincent, R. O. Craig, William Burke, H. K. Stearns and John Brady. On due organization, R. O. Craig was elected chairman. The auditor was instructed at this session to obtain sealed bids for the erection of a county jail, at the county-seat. At the March term the bids were presented, and that of W. B. Craig & Co., for \$9,334, having been adjudged the lowest, the contract was let to them, with the understanding that the edifice should be completed on or before the first day of October following.

The board for 1879 was R. O. Craig, chairman, H. K. Stearns, John Brady, Thomas K. Bowe and William Burke.

In 1880 it was composed as follows: Will-

iam Burke, chairman, Thomas K. Bowe, John Brady, Philip Purcell and N. M. Nelson.

Philip Purcell, chairman, Thomas K. Bowe, N. M. Nelson, W. D. Armstrong and A. J. Jordan, constituted the board of commissioners in 1881.

The board for 1882, now increased to six members, consisted of Philip Purcell, chairman, G. W. Soule, N. M. Nelson, A. J. Jordan, W. D. Armstrong and Ira C. Trowbridge.

In 1883 the board was composed the same as the previous year.

The board for the year 1884 was composed as follows: Philip Purcell, N. M. Nelson, A. J. Jordan, G. W. Soule, M. F. Connor and I. C. Trowbridge. Mr. Purcell was chairman.

The board in 1885 consisted of Philip Purcell, N. M. Nelson, A. J. Jordan, M. F. Connor, M. Craven, Austin Vinton. Mr. Purcell was again chosen to fill the chair.

In 1886 the board was the same as last year, with the same chairman.

The present board is composed of the following named gentlemen: Austin Vinton, Philip Purcell, Jonas B. Sunde, James Conway, Charles Deyling and Oliver Peterson. Mr. Purcell is still chairman.

CHAPTER VI.

POLITICAL.



HERE is something fascinating about an election in a country where the will of the people is the supreme law of the land; where all are equal in the eyes of that law, and where the most lowly, be he rail-splitter, tanner or driver of the team that hauls the canal boat, may aspire to the highest office. Merit, and that alone, must win. Many of our ablest men in the halls of Congress, on the bench or elsewhere, are bright and living examples of it, and hold out bright beacons to guide the rising generation to fortune and fame. The policy of our nation justly encourages political ambition and fosters its children in their attempt to scale the ladder of preference. Nearly every man has some aspirations to a higher position, and each feels that if he does not reach its highest pinnacles, his children may.

It is for this reason that a political campaign yields an excitement pleasurable to nearly all, and although personalities are indulged in, yet, as a general thing, all yield gracefully to the verdict of the people when it is pronounced, by the majority vote, and submit quietly. In this chapter it is proposed to sketch a synopsis of the issues as far as possible, and the local complexion of the various campaigns since the organization of the county.

Waseca came into existence as a separate county in 1857, as has already been stated.

The first election in Waseca County was the special one for perfecting the organization of the same and the selection of a county-seat, and was held on the first Monday in June, 1857. The vital issue of the

campaign was the question of county-seat, and this seemed to swallow up every other consideration. Wilton, St. Mary and Empire each aspired to be the seat of county government, and each had its partisans. Men from other parts of the territory came here just before election, to become citizens of one of the three rival towns, and money and promises were lavishly expended by the champions of each to carry their point. The county gained rapidly in population, to lose it again after election, but for the time excitement ran riot. Speculation was rife and towns on paper sprang into existence full fledged. Had the fate of the nation hung upon the result of an election, the feeling could not have reached a more feverish state. But the appointed day came round, and the friends of Wilton being the most numerous, carried their point, and thus that town became the seat of government for Waseca County. The following is an abstract of the vote: Whole number of votes cast, 665, of which Wilton received 332. St. Mary 207, and Empire 126. Elysian cast 29 votes; 23 for Wilton, 4 for St. Mary and 2 for Empire. Empire in a total vote of 160, polled 11 for Wilton, 49 for St. Mary and 100 for Empire. Swaversey had 107 votes, of which Wilton received 51, St. Mary 33 and Empire 23. Wilton polled 309 votes, 189 of them for Wilton, 119 for St. Mary and one for Empire. In Otisco Wilton had 58 votes and St. Mary 2.

In the fall campaign of 1857 considerable excitement was displayed over the choice of county officers. Both Republican and Democratic parties worked hard for the ascendancy in the new county. The Democrats

elected E. A. Rice register of deeds, and H. P. Norton, clerk of the courts; the Republicans E. B. Stearns, L. C. Wood and John Bailey, county commissioners; N. Garland, sheriff; A. E. Smith, surveyor; Jesse I. Stewart, treasurer; James E. Child, county attorney; J. A. Canfield, judge of probate, and W. S. Baker, assessor. Neither party had a very large majority.

In 1858 the election had but local features, and but little interest seems to have been found outside of the particular friends of the candidates, and strong party adherents.

The election which was held in October, 1859, was one of intense excitement. The question of bond and anti-bond disturbed the current of political strife, and bade fair to break up both great parties. The State Republican Convention nominated Alexander Ramsey for governor, and the Democratic party was headed by George L. Becker, candidate for the same office. The Republicans succeeded in carrying the State by a small majority.

In this, as in nearly all cases for many years, the Republicans were in the majority in this county, but in many cases the county offices were given to the best men irrespective of party; that is, although both parties had tickets in the field, only the better part of each were chosen, none being tied to party.

The questions which were the forerunners of the great campaign of 1860 were such as have never stirred the popular heart before. Ever since the repeal of the Missouri compromise the conflict in Kansas had roused all the feelings of the Northern people, and John Brown, in his futile attempt at Harper's Ferry, had skillfully enlisted Northern sympathy, and roused the anger of the South. A large part of the population of the northern States were sternly determined that the territories should never be defiled with the curse of slavery, and that the boundaries of that "peculiar institution" should not be ex-

tended any further. On the other hand, the South, seeking to perpetuate their institution and enlarge their political power, determined that they should have their share of the territories in which to extend, not to restrict, themselves. The questions dividing parties were chiefly sectional, and pointed directly to war. The Republican party met in national convention, at Chicago, to place in the field candidates for the offices of President and Vice-President. The names of Seward, Chase, Blair and Lincoln were in the mouths of all, for the first place. But three ballots were taken. On the last Abraham Lincoln, having received a majority of all votes cast, was made the unanimous choice of the convention. Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, was nominated for the second place on the ticket.

The Democratic National Convention met at Charleston, S. C., April 23, 1860, but the claims of Stephen A. Douglas and his northern partisans being stoutly contested by the southern faction of the party, after a ten days' session the convention broke up without making any choice. July 19 the convention again met, but this time at Baltimore, but no agreement between the factions could be made. After six days spent in useless endeavor to heal the breach, Stephen A. Douglas and Herschel V. Johnson, of Georgia, were chosen standard-bearers in the approaching conflict.

That portion of this convention which had not concurred in this choice had seceded, and holding a convention of their own, nominated John C. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, and Joseph Lane, of Oregon, for the offices of President and Vice-President, respectively.

A union conservative convention was also held, at which John Bell, of Tennessee, was nominated for the presidency, and Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, for the vice-presidency.

With four presidential candidates in the field, the exciting questions growing out of slavery, and the threats of secession made by the South, in the event of Lincoln's elec-

tion, tended to make the campaign one of intense excitement. Large and enthusiastic meetings were held in all the cities and towns of our wide-spread land, and small indeed was the village which did not have its share in the enthusiasm. The people of Minnesota, having no gubernatorial candidates in the field, calmly walked to the polls and gave a majority for the Republican nominee. In Waseca County the Republicans elected their whole ticket, including State senator, representatives, auditor, attorney, court commissioner, etc.

1861 brought with it another contest for the governorship which resulted in the reelection of Alexander Ramsey, the Republican candidate for that office. In this county the regular nominees of the Republican party captured all the offices, although a determined effort was made to defeat the candidate for register of deeds.

In 1863 another gubernatorial contest was, as usual, decided in favor of the Republicans. In the county H. P. Norton, Democratic nominee for the office of register of deeds was elected by a majority of but seven, the only one on that ticket.

In 1864 and 1865, the election was simply a repetition of those going before, the Republicans carrying nearly everything before them with larger or smaller majorities.

In 1866 the Democrats succeeded by a hard effort in electing one candidate, William Brisbane, to the Legislature by a majority of but five, although that gentleman ran about fifty ahead of his ticket.

1867 was but a repetition of the foregoing years and without much interest.

The year 1868 brought with it another presidential campaign. The Republican National Convention met in Chicago and placed in nomination Ulysses S. Grant and Schuyler Colfax for President and Vice-President. The Democrats placed in nomination, Horatio Seymour and Francis P. Blair Jr., for the same offices. The financial question began to be a leading issue,

especially with reference to the payment of the bonds, the Republicans favoring their being redeemed in gold, the Democrats in greenbacks. In Waseca County excitement ran high, as several local questions were to be solved; member of Congress, State Senator, member of Legislature, besides county officers were to be chosen. After a hard conflict the Republicans carried their point on all questions except on several of the commissoiners.

The year 1869 was another gubernatorial election, which was carried by the Republicans. In this county that party had a majority ranging from 100 to 150 on the State ticket. On the county ticket they swept the field.

In 1870 party lines seemed to have been badly broken up, C. F. Buck, the Democratic nominee for member of Congress, receiving a majority in Waseca County of 63, while on State senator the Republican nominee had a majority of 402. The Democrats captured the offices of member of Legislature, county auditor and court commissioner.

In 1871 party spirit again ran high, the Republicans of the State nominating Horace Austin for governor, and the Democrats, Winthrop Young. In Waseca County a full ticket was placed in the field, and after the contest it was found that although the Republicans carried most of the offices, still the vote showed some demoralization in that party.

In 1872, being again a presidential campaign, considerable excitement was infused into politics. At the election on the 5th of November, U. S. Grant received a majority of 274 votes in the county. The Republicans elected two members of the Legislature, but the Democrats captured the offices of State senator and county auditor.

In 1873 the Republicans seemed to make a rally and succeeded in electing nearly all their candidates, Peter McGovern, the Democratic nominee for county attorney, taking

that office by storm, having 898 votes to his opponent's 502.

The election of 1874 was a surprise to most people, the Democrats of Waseca County taking the offices of county auditor, State senator and one representative for their share.

With the election of 1875 a new party came upon the stage of action, and became quite a factor in the politics of this county; this was the Prohibition, or people's reform party. This had a large following in Waseca County, and this campaign, being a gubernatorial one, was quite an animated one. The Republicans managed to carry the county on State ticket by very small pluralities, that of governor being but one, and all less than a hundred. On the county ticket Kelsey Curtis, being endorsed by the new party and the Democrats, was elected with Robert Earl, a Republican, to the Legislature. Warren Smith, the candidate of the Republicans and Reform party for county treasurer, was also elected. The Republicans carried all the other offices except that of clerk of the court.

The year 1876 was again that of a presidential campaign. The Republicans, on national and State questions were in the majority, but the Democratic nominees for the offices of auditor and court commissioner and one representative, were successful.

In 1877 four parties were in the field, Republican, Democratic, Prohibition and Greenback. James E. Child was this year the candidate for attorney general on the reform ticket. The Democratic party came to the front and elected their nominees to the office of members of the Legislature, county attorney, sheriff and coroner, besides giving a handsome majority for the State ticket.

The Republicans of Waseca County regained their ascendancy in the campaign of 1878, giving small majorities on the State ticket. On the congressional ticket William Meighen, the Democratic candidate, had a

majority in this county of 137. S. B. Williams, the Prohibition candidate for State senator, and John S. Abell for the House of Representatives, were both elected. Politics from this time out were somewhat mixed. In 1879 the Democrats having a majority on their State ticket, elected all their candidates for county offices, by fair majorities in most cases. In 1880, the Republicans had large majorities in favor of all their candidates. In 1881 on State ticket they were again successful, but for the offices of treasurer, register of deeds, superintendent of schools and coroner the Democratic nominees were successful, and thus it fluctuates from year to year. On questions of State or national politics the county of Waseca has about 300 majority on the side of the Republican party, but in county affairs local causes disturb the certainty of an election, as will be seen by a close perusal of the following summary of the official vote of the county from 1860 to the present. It was found impossible to obtain the official record of any returns prior to those given, and in one or two instances of complete ones for those of later date, although no pains have been spared to procure them.

OFFICIAL VOTE.

Election, November 6, 1860.

President.

Abraham Lincoln, R.....	304—161
Stephen A. Douglas, U. D.....	143
John C. Breckenridge, S. D.....	
John Bell, U. C.....	

Member of Congress.

William Windom, R.....	337—149
Cyrus Aldrich, R.....	337—185
James George, D.....	188
John M. Gilman, D.....	152

Auditor of State.

Charles McIlrath, R.....	337—149
Herman Trott, D.....	188

Clerk of Supreme Court.

A. J. Vanvorhes, R.....	337—149
Jacob J. Noah, D.....	188

State Senator.

George Watson, R.....	299— 80
Henry Thornton, D.....	219

Member House of Representatives.		Clerk of District Court.	
James E. Child, R.....	292—62	H. P. West, R.....	228—177
Geo. W. Greene, R.....	273—48	H. P. Norton, D.....	151
W. F. Pettitt, D.....	230—5	Scattering.....	10
A. E. Smith, D.....	225	Sheriff.	
County Auditor.		D. L. Whipple, R.....	194—79
S. J. Willis, R.....	346—190	Isaac Hamlin, D.....	115
John Power, D.....	156	J. W. Clark, I.....	82
County Attorney.		Judge of Probate.	
H. D. Baldwin, R.....	335—162	H. D. Baldwin, R.....	227—125
P. B. Enos, D.....	173	P. B. Enos, D.....	102
Court Commissioner.		W. W. Cowles, I.....	62
W. T. Kittredge, R.....	231—62	County Attorney.	
John Bradish, D.....	169	H. D. Baldwin, R.....	228—134
County Commissioners.		P. B. Enos, D.....	94
P. Healey.....	57—4	John Bradish, D.....	61
J. B. Powers.....	53	W. W. Cowles.....	3
B. A. Lowell.....	111—59	Surveyor.	
Enoch Plummer.....	52	G. P. Johnson, R.....	212—76
Asa Francis.....	38	J. B. Powers, D.....	62
Isaac Hamlin.....	80	H. G. Mosher, R.....	136
William Brisbane.....	45	Court Commissioner.	
<i>Election, October 8, 1861.</i>		J. A. Canfield, R.....	224—48
Governor.		John Bradish, D.....	176
Alexander Ramsey, R.....	244—99	Coroner.	
E. O. Hamlin, D.....	145	J. H. Wightman, R.....	52
Lieutenant Governor.		Nathaniel Wood, R.....	220—92
Ignatius Donnelly, R.....	246—103	Peter Eckert, D.....	128
Thomas Cowan, D.....	143	County Commissioners.	
Secretary of State.		John G. Honor.....	92—38
J. H. Baker, R.....	246—103	W. G. Mathes.....	54
Daniel Buck, D.....	143	B. A. Lowell.....	81—41
Treasurer of State.		Austin Vinton.....	10
Charles Scheffer, R.....	246—103	William Byron.....	30
C. P. Fisher, D.....	143	J. B. Jackson.....	61—8
Attorney General.		Nicholas McGrath.....	53
Gordon E. Cole, R.....	243—99	John Thompson.....	21
William Peckham, D.....	144	Scattering.....	4
State Senator.		<i>Election, 1863.</i>	
A. B. Webber, R.....	208—25	Governor.	
E. C. Stacy, D.....	183	Stephen Miller, R.....	292—143
Member House of Representatives.		W. Wells, D.....	149
P. C. Bailey, R.....	215—84	Lieutenant Governor.	
H. C. Magoon, R.....	190—112	Charles B. Sherwood, R.....	290—143
W. G. Mathes, D.....	129	James S. Norris, D.....	147
J. I. Stewart, D.....	78	Secretary of State.	
A. B. Cornell, R.....	69	David Blakeley, R.....	291—144
County Treasurer.		Amos Cogswell, D.....	147
Geo. T. White, R.....	229—64	Scattering.....	53
Patrick Kennehan, D.....	165	Treasurer of State.	
Scattering.....	4	Charles Scheffer, R.....	290—147
Register of Deeds.		Joseph Estebrook, D.....	143
Alex. Johnston, D.....	76	Scattering.....	1
Samuel T. Isaac, R.....	59	Attorney General.	
Tarrant Putnam, R.....	175—82	Gordon E. Cole, R.....	290—143
John N. Powers, I.....	93	W. H. Grant, D.....	147
		Auditor of State.	
		Charles Mellrath, R.....	290—145
		John McKenney, D.....	145

Clerk of Supreme Court.
 George F. Potter, R..... 265—170
 Jacob Mauser, D..... 95

State Senator.
 F. J. Stevens, R..... 282—173
 Amos Coggsweil, D..... 58
 Jacob Mail, I..... 51

Member of House of Representatives.
 Philo Woodruff, R..... 262— 11
 J. L. Gibbs, R..... 262— 11
 William Brisbane, D..... 251
 Scattering..... 1

County Treasurer.
 P. C. Bailey, R..... 286— 52
 Enoch Plummer, D..... 234
 Scattering..... 1

Register of Deeds.
 Tarrant Putnam, R..... 241
 H. P. Norton, D..... 267— 26
 James E. Child, R..... 1

Sheriff.
 D. L. Whipple, R..... 268— 22
 N. McGrath, D..... 245
 Scattering..... 1

Judge of Probate.
 H. D. Baldwin, R..... 251
 P. Brink Enos, D..... 258— 7

County Attorney.
 James E. Child, R..... 255— 3
 P. Brink Enos, D..... 252
 Scattering..... 1

Court Commissioner.
 James E. Child, R..... 217— 31
 John Bradish, D..... 166
 P. Brink Enos, D..... 20

Coroner.
 W. S. Baker, R..... 274— 36
 Peter Eckert, D..... 238

County Surveyor.
 H. G. Mosher, R..... 509—509
 County Commissioner.
 W. G. Kennedy..... 76— 7
 William Byron..... 69

Election, 1866.

Member of Congress, First District.
 William Windom, R..... 405—216
 Richard A. Jones, D..... 189
 R. A. Jones..... 85
 Will Windom..... 22
 Richard Jones..... 56

Auditor of State.
 Charles McIlrath, R..... 426—104
 Nelse E. Nelson, D..... 322
 Nelse Nelson..... 14

Clerk of Supreme Court.
 Sherwood Hough, R..... 349— 9

Dennis Cavanaugh, D..... 340
 Sher. Hough..... 21
 Sherwood How..... 51

Court Commissioner.
 James E. Child, R..... 417— 78
 John N. Power, D..... 339
 James Isaac..... 2

State Senator.
 Augustus Armstrong, R..... 408—399
 Hial D. Baldwin, R..... 3
 William Brisbane, D..... 2
 H. D. Baldwin..... 4

Member House of Representatives.
 Hial D. Baldwin, R..... 380
 William Brisbane, D..... 385— 5

County Auditor.
 C. C. Comee, R..... 402— 37
 Samuel T. Isaac, D..... 365

County Commissioners.
 Eri G. Wood..... 75
 E. G. Wood..... 72
 James Isaac..... 99
 Eri Wood..... 6
 Patrick Kenehan..... 62

County Attorney.
 William T. Kittredge, R..... 424— 72
 Thomas Hulland, D..... 352

Election, 1868.

President.
 Ulysses S. Grant, R..... 817—299
 Horatio Seymour, D..... 518

Member of Congress.
 Morton S. Wilkinson, R..... 799—262
 George W. Bateholder, D..... 537

State Senator.
 J. B. Crooker, R..... 706— 79
 M. F. Lowth, D..... 627

County Commissioners.
 J. S. McKune..... 246—144
 E. W. Hawthorn..... 102
 C. P. Pratt..... 68
 John Buckhout..... 157— 29
 S. S. Phelps..... 78
 William Byron..... 128
 Robert Earl..... 188—108
 Asa Francis..... 51
 Kelsey Curtiss..... 80

County Auditor.
 C. C. Comee, R..... 804—280
 H. G. Mosher, D..... 522
 G. H. Mosher..... 1
 — Mosher..... 1

Election, 1869.

Governor.
 Horace Austin, R..... 538—101
 George L. Otis, D..... 437
 Daniel Cobb, G. B..... 35

Lieutenant Governor.	
W. H. Yale, R.....	544—112
J. A. Wiswell, D.....	432
J. H. Stevens, G. B.....	32
Secretary of State.	
Hans Mattson, R.....	536—159
T. J. Fladeland, D.....	377
J. E. Childs.....	19
T. G. Flandrew.....	17
Auditor of State.	
Charles McIlrath, R.....	529— 94
Lewis A. Evans, D.....	435
J. S. Randolph, G. B.....	367
Treasurer of State.	
Emil Munch, R.....	540—141
Caspar Baberich, D.....	399
Robert Stewart, G. B.....	36
Attorney General.	
F. R. E. Cornell, R.....	542—108
Seagrave Smith, R.....	434
J. Ham Davidson, G. B.....	36
Clerk Supreme Court.	
Sherwood Hough, R.....	546—115
W. T. Bonniwell, D.....	431
A. P. Connelly, G. B.....	21
Member House of Representatives.	
William C. Young, R.....	585—165
Kelsey Curtis, D.....	420
County Treasurer.	
G. R. Buckman, R.....	550— 93
Philo Hall, D.....	457
Register of Deeds.	
Hiram A. Mosher, R.....	609—209
H. G. Mosher, D.....	400
Sheriff.	
J. B. Hill, R.....	338
Seth W. Long, D.....	665—327
Scattering.....	1
County Attorney.	
Lewis Brownell, R.....	443
B. S. Lewis, D.....	547—104
County Surveyor.	
C. E. Crane, R. and D.....	978—978
Judge of Probate.	
J. A. Canfield, R.....	533— 94
John Bradish, D.....	439
Coroner.	
M. S. Gove, R. and D.....	976—975
Scattering.....	1
County Commissioner, 1st District.	
O. Powell, R.....	210—126
Peter Eckert, D.....	84
<i>Election, November 8, 1870.</i>	
Member of Congress.	
Mark H. Dunnell, R.....	740
C. F. Buck, D.....	803— 63

State Senator.	
William C. Young, R.....	968—402
James Jones, D.....	566
Scattering.....	1
Member House of Representatives.	
William Brisbane, D.....	878—233
S. C. Dow, R.....	645
County Auditor.	
Fred. Kittredge, R.....	596
Edgar Cronkhite, D.....	920—324
Scattering.....	1
Court Commissioner.	
J. B. Smith, D.....	832—182
H. P. Norton, R.....	650
Scattering.....	6
County Commissioners.	
J. O. Chandler.....	148
William Lee.....	174— 26
H. G. Mosher.....	145— 64
R. F. Stevens.....	81
Scattering.....	1
On the Question of Removing the County Seat to Waseca.	
For Removal.....	870—215
Against Removal.....	653
Scattering.....	2
<i>Election, November 7, 1871.</i>	
Governor.	
Horace Austin, R.....	839—263
Winthrop Young, D.....	576
Lieutenant Governor.	
W. H. Yale, R.....	814—214
D. L. Buell, D.....	600
Secretary of State.	
S. P. Jamison, R.....	826—237
Erik Nelson Falk, D.....	589
Treasurer of State.	
Barney Vosberg, D.....	597
William Seager, R.....	816—219
Attorney General.	
F. R. E. Cornell, R.....	814—213
J. L. McDonald, D.....	601
Justices of Supreme Court.	
S. J. R. McMillan, R.....	818—244
John M. Berry, R.....	815—217
Daniel Buck, D.....	574
William Mitchell, D.....	598
Constitutional Amendment on the Question of Borrowing Money for the Erection of Public Buildings.	
Yes.....	54
No.....	822—768
Constitutional Amendment on the Question Relating to Taxes Upon Railroads.	
Yes.....	1162—1142
No.....	20

Judge, 5th Judicial District.
 Samuel Lord..... 645— 645
 State Senator.

James E. Child, R..... 856— 342
 William Brisbane, D..... 514
 Scattering..... 2

Member House of Representatives.
 John Thompson, R..... 850— 228
 John S. McKune, R..... 622
 Kelsey Curtis, D..... 739— 160
 E. P. Latham, D..... 579

County Treasurer.
 R. O. Craig, D..... 697— 3
 George R. Buckman, R..... 694
 Scattering..... 1

Register of Deeds.
 H. A. Mosher, R..... 789— 186
 George Hoffeld, D..... 603

Clerk of District Court.
 James Hayden, D..... 696— 22
 S. J. Willis, R..... 674

Sheriff.
 M. B. Dolson, R..... 511
 S. W. Long, D..... 878— 367

Judge of Probate.
 J. A. Canfield, R..... 742— 97
 William Huse, D..... 645

County Attorney.
 Frank A. Newell, R..... 677
 B. S. Lewis, D..... 724— 47

Coroner.
 L. D. McIntosh, no opposition..... 677— 677
 Surveyor.

C. E. Crane, no opposition..... 817— 817

County Commissioners.
 William Byron..... 108— 14
 L. D. Smith..... 94
 S. K. Odell..... 124— 4
 Alex. Miller..... 120
 Otis Baker..... 6

Election, November 5, 1872.

President.
 Ulysses S. Grant, R..... 923—274
 Horace Greeley, D..... 649

Member of Congress.
 Mark H. Dunnell, R..... 937—292
 Morton S. Wilkinson, D..... 645

State Senator.
 A. W. Jennison, R..... 778
 W. G. Ward, D..... 802— 44
 Scattering..... 1

Members House of Representatives.
 John Thompson, R..... 840
 J. L. Saufferer, R..... 966
 J. O. Chandler, D..... 636
 Patrick Kenehan, D..... 706
 A. W. Jennison..... 1

County Auditor.
 F. D. M. Orcutt, R..... 748
 Edgar Cronkhite, D..... 835— 81
 County Commissioner.

Obediah Powell.....273—273

Election, November 5, 1873.

Governor.
 Cushman K. Davis, R..... 787—166
 Ara Barton, D..... 621
 Samuel Mayall..... 3

Lieutenant Governor.
 Alphonso Barto, R..... 779—147
 Ebenezer Ayers, D..... 632

Secretary of State.
 S. P. Jennison, R..... 777—144
 J. H. Stevens, D..... 633

Treasurer of State.
 Mons Grinager, R..... 746—96
 E. W. Dyke, D..... 650
 I. N. Sater..... 4

Attorney General.
 George P. Wilson, R..... 782—161
 W. P. Clough, D..... 621

On the Question of Holding Biennial Sessions of the
 Legislature.

Yes..... 75
 No..... 394—319

On Amending Constitution, Preparatory for Biennial
 Sessions of Legislature.

Yes..... 55
 No..... 396—341

On Amendment to Section 12 of Article IX of the
 Constitution.

Yes..... 311—162
 No..... 149

Member House of Representatives.
 L. D. Smith, R..... 967—489
 James E. Child, R..... 765—166
 Kelsey Curtiss, D..... 478
 David Wood, D..... 599

County Treasurer.
 Warren Smith, R..... 986—605
 Michael Sheran, D..... 381
 George McDermott, I..... 24

Register of Deeds.
 H. A. Mosher, R..... 845—283
 Louis Krassin, D..... 562

Sheriff.
 George H. Woodbury, D..... 512
 S. W. Long, R..... 696—184
 Chas. Cunningham, I..... 196

Judge of Probate.
 J. A. Canfield, R..... 774—157
 Neri Reed, D..... 617

Court Attorney.
 F. A. Newell, R..... 502
 Peter McGovern, D..... 898—396

Court Commissioner.	
J. B. Smith, no opposition,.....	1403—140
Coroner.	
L. D. McIntosh, R. and D.....	1402—1402
County Commissioners.	
R. O. Craig.....	193— 82
H. C. Packard.....	112
Halvor K. Stearns.....	217—148
Frank McLane.....	69

Election, November 3, 1874.

Chief Justice, Supreme Court.	
S. J. R. McMillan, R.....	693
Wescott Wilkins, D.....	772— 79
Associate Justice, Supreme Court.	
F. R. E. Cornell, R.....	674
William Lochren, D.....	790— 116
Member of Congress.	
Franklin H. Waite, D.....	602
Mark H. Dunnell, R.....	1032— 430
County Auditor.	
Edgar Cronkhite, D.....	955— 257
H. J. Wadsworth, R.....	698
State Senator.	
Peter McGovern, D.....	875— 155
James E. Child, R.....	720
Pat. Child.....	1
Members of House of Representatives.	
H. P. Packard, D.....	748
Joseph Minges, D.....	968— 302
Morris H. Lamb, R.....	827— 79
John Thompson, R.....	666
For County Commissioners.	
William Burke.....	93— 23
Christian Melehior.....	49
William Byron.....	70
George Hofeldt.....	104
C. H. Newell.....	110— 6

Election, November 2, 1875.

Governor.	
John S. Pillsbury, R.....	547— 1
D. D. Buell, D.....	546
R. F. Humiston, P.....	334
Lieutenant Governor.	
J. B. Wakefield, R.....	570— 20
E. W. Durant, D.....	550
J. B. Tuttle, P.....	314
Secretary of State.	
J. S. Irgens, R.....	558— 3
Adolphus Bierman, D.....	555
John H. Stevens, P.....	300
Auditor of State.	
O. P. Whiteomb, R.....	568— 28
P. H. Rahiley, D.....	540
A. B. Hutchinson, P.....	318
Treasurer of State.	
William Pfender, R.....	602— 93
Albert Schefer, D.....	509

H. D. Brown, P.....	299
E. W. Dike.....	6
Attorney General.	
G. P. Wilson, R.....	579— 76
R. A. Jones, D.....	503
C. M. McCarthy, P.....	346
Railroad Commissioner.	
W. R. Marshall, R.....	554— 14
W. T. Bonniwell, D.....	540
A. M. Greeley, P.....	332
Chief Justice, Snpreme Court.	
James Gilfilian, R.....	713— 196
L. Emmett, D.....	517
A. A. McLeod, P.....	2
Clerk of Snpreme Court.	
S. H. Nichols, R.....	572— 25
A. M. McLeod, D.....	547
P. A. Jewell, P.....	307
Sherwood Hough.....	2
On the Question of Amending Section 4, Article VI of the Constitution.	
Yes.....	16
No.....	1208—1192
Amendment to Article VII of the Constitution.	
Yes.....	1068— 905
No.....	163
Amendment to Article VIII of the Constitution.	
Yes.....	1140—1065
No.....	75
Amendment to Section 3 of Article X of the Constitution.	
Yes.....	60
No.....	1169—1109
Members House of Representatives.	
Kelsey Curtis, P. and D.....	820
William Brisbane, D.....	541
Gulliek Knutson, R.....	562
Robert Earl, R.....	587
S. Hawks, P.....	266
Scattering.....	8
County Treasurer.	
Warren Smith, P. and R.....	886— 363
Thomas White, D.....	523
Scattering.....	3
Register of Deeds.	
H. A. Mosher, R.....	821— 368
George Hofeldt, D.....	453
E. G. Pierce, P.....	145
Scattering.....	2
Clerk of District Court.	
James Hayden, D.....	646— 272
B. A. Lowell, R.....	374
James Van der Made, P.....	302
Sheriff.	
J. D. Andrews, D.....	429
S. W. Long, R.....	466— 37
Daniel Murphy, I.....	399
M. F. Connor, P.....	127
Judge of Probate.	
J. A. Canfield, R.....	694— 68

Caleb Halleck, D.....	626	
Scattering	1	
County Attorney.		
M. D. L. Collester, R.....	712—	32
Lewis Brownell, P.....	680	
Scattering	9	
County Surveyor.		
C. E. Crane, P.....	937—	448
Frank Hoffstadt, D.....	489	
Scattering	3	

Coroner.		
J. C. McMahon, D.....	1098—	776
L. D. McIntosh, P.....	321	
Scattering	1	
County Commissioner.		
H. Vincent.....	281—	67
Patrick Haley.....	214	

Election, November 7, 1876.

President.		
Rutherford B. Hayes, R.....	1130—	372
Samuel J. Tilden, D.....	758	
Peter Cooper, G. B.....	76	

State Senator.		
P. C. Bailey, R.....	729	
William Brisbane, D.....	561	
James E. Child, P.....	700	

Member House of Representatives.		
Anthony Sampson, R.....	816	
Selma Dane, R.....	691	
John Buckhout, D.....	738	
Fenton Keenan, D.....	828	
T. D. M. Orcutt, P.....	517	
Gulick Knutson, P.....	411	

County Auditor.		
Edgar Cronkhite, D. and P.....	1042—	111
A. E. Dearborn, R.....	931	

Court Commissioner.		
J. B. Smith, R.....	736	
C. G. Park, D.....	1138—	300
A. G. Chapman.....	102	

County Commissioners.		
R. O. Craig.....	328—	328
H. K. Stearns.....	203—	117
R. F. Stevens.....	91	
H. C. Woodford.....	88	
B. J. Chapman.....	4	

Special Election, June 12, 1877.

On the question of appropriating 500,000 acres Internal Improvement Lands for payment of Minnesota State Railroad Bonds.		
Yes.....	57	
No.....	1642—	1595

Election, November 6, 1877.

Governor.		
John S. Pillsbury, R.....	495	
Austin Willey, P.....	595	
William L. Banning, D. and G. B.....	817—	322

Lientenant Governor.		
J. B. Wakefield, R.....	605	
P. A. Jewell, P.....	488	
A. A. Ames, D.....	800—	95
William Meighen, G. B.....	9	

Secretary of State.		
John S. Irgens, R.....	620	
M. T. Anderson, P.....	482	
P. T. Lindholm, D.....	790—	170
A. E. Rice, G. B.....	6	

State Treasurer.		
William Pfaender, R.....	655	
J. F. Meagher, D.....	750—	95
W. W. Slocum, P.....	478	
Isaac Staples, G. B.....	6	

Attorney General.		
George P. Wilson, R.....	606	
James E. Child, P.....	490	
J. R. Jones, D.....	799—	193
S. L. Pierce, G. B.....	6	

Railroad Commissioner.		
William R. Marshall, R.....	608	
T. G. Carter, P.....	487	
H. W. Hill, D.....	799—	192
E. Ayres, G. B.....	11	

Representative to Legislature.		
Mark L. Devereaux, P.....	553	
John F. Preston, P.....	590	
J. R. Davison, R.....	280	
A. Bishman, R.....	623	
Fenton Keenan, D.....	800—	520
J. O. Chandler, D.....	925—	302

Register of Deeds.		
H. A. Mosher, R.....	1026—	437
Ed. Bennett, G. B.....	284	
R. Jacoby, D.....	589	

Judge of Probate.		
Caleb Hallack, P.....	706—	105
J. A. Canfield, R.....	601	
H. C. Woodbury, D.....	584	

County Attorney.		
J. E. Child, P.....	768	
P. McGovern, D.....	1031—	263

Superintendent of Schools.		
H. G. Mosher, D. and P.....	1428—	961
George N. Annes, R.....	467	

County Treasurer.		
Warren Smith, R. and P.....	1013—	150
William Leo, D.....	863	

Surveyor.		
C. E. Crane, no opposition.....	1885—	1885
Court Commissioner.		
F. A. Newell, R. and P.....	1066—	267
J. A. Roemer, D.....	799	

Sheriff.		
M. Craven, P.....	495	
S. W. Long, I.....	458	
H. Wilson, R.....	407	

M. Keeley, D. 547— 52
 Coroner.

L. D. McIntosh, R. 683
 J. C. McMahan, D. 1207—524

County Commissioners.

William Burke 136— 55
 A. J. Jordan 61
 Michael Madigan 44
 D. N. Ackerman 111
 William Hoover 53
 John Brady 135— 24

Election, November 5, 1878.

Auditor of State.

O. P. Whitcomb, R. 670— 186
 Mahlon Black, D. 584
 T. G. Carter, P. 398
 O. H. Page, G. B. 270

Associate Justice, Supreme Court.

John M. Berry, R. and P. 1074— 558
 W. H. Mitchell, D. 516
 O. M. Mead, G. B. 262
 Scattering 4

Clerk Supreme Court.

S. H. Nichols, R. 665— 44
 Dillou O'Brien, D. 621
 William Copp, P. 404
 W. J. Webb, G. B. 229
 Scattering 6

Judge, 5th Judicial District.

Samuel Lord, R. and P. 933— 397
 Lafayette Emmett, D. 361
 Lewis Brownell, I. 536
 Scattering 2

Member of Congress.

M. H. Dunnell, R. 556
 William Meighen, D. and G. B. 743— 137
 George H. Green, P. 586

State Senator.

S. B. Williams, P. 729— 265
 P. C. Bailey, R. 464
 Fenton Keenan, D. 443
 W. D. Armstrong, G. B. 274

Members of House of Representatives.

John Thompson, R. 553
 H. P. Packard, R. 488
 H. C. Chase, D. 531
 M. Sheeran, D. 485
 John S. Abell, P. 570
 Ira D. Beeman, P. 505
 John Byron, G. B. 503
 Edward Bennett, G. B. 140

County Auditor.

Edgar Cronkwhite, D. and P. 745— 231
 H. J. Wadsworth, R. 514
 J. A. Roemer, I. 233
 Martin E. Cogley, G. B. 417

County Commissioners.

Eri G. Wood. 229

Thomas Bowe. 300— 71
 Hugh Wilson. 22

Election, November 4, 1879.

Governor.

John S. Pillsbury, R. 868
 Edmund Rice, D. 992— 124
 W. W. Satterlee, P. 481

Lientenant Governor.

Charles A. Gilman, R. 878
 E. P. Barnum, D. 951— 73
 S. B. Williams, P. 512

Secretary of State.

Fred. Von Baumbach, R. 859
 Felix A. Borer, D. 1043— 184
 I. C. Stearns, P. 447

State Treasurer.

Charles Kittleson, R. 939
 L. E. Cowdry, D. 966— 27
 J. M. Durnan, P. 440

Attorney General.

Chas. M. Start, R. 917
 P. M. Babcock, D. 982— 65
 A. W. Bangs, P. 450

Railroad Commissioner.

W. R. Marshall, R. 904
 William Colville, D. 987— 83
 Charles Griswold, P. 484

County Treasurer.

H. K. Stearns, R. 716
 C. McKenna, D. 969—245
 Warren Smith, P. 724

Sheriff.

B. F. Roddle, R. 496
 Mathew Keeley, D. 712—216
 J. L. Claghorn, P. 343
 Oliver Peterson, I. 483
 G. Buchler, I. 304

Register of Deeds.

G. F. Johnson, R. 684
 Chas. San Galli, D. 1047—361
 C. E. Crane, P. 686

County Attorney.

M. D. L. Colleston, R. 881—194
 A. J. O'Grady, D. 777
 James E. Child, P. 683

County Surveyor.

O. L. Smith, R. and D. 2087—2078
 C. E. Crane. 9

Clerk of the Court.

Lewis Kluge, R. 451
 J. B. Hayden, D. 901—230
 E. E. Verplank, P. 671
 Henry Murphy, I. 335

Judge of Probate.

J. A. Canfield, R. 796
 H. C. Woodbury, D. 1015—219
 Caleb Hallack, P. 528

Superintendent of Schools.	
F. D. Seaman, R.....	468
M. V. Hunt, D.....	723—118
E. W. Young, P.....	605
H. G. Mosher, J.....	547
Coroner.	
D. C. Cummings, D, and P.....	1840—1849
L. D. McIntosh, R.....	491
County Commissioners.	
L. Wallace.....	108
Philip Purcell.....	256—112
August Minske.....	144
N. M. Nelson.....	274—105
Peter Echternach.....	169
J. W. Cleland.....	33
Wm. Brisbane.....	110
Amendment to Article 9 of the Constitution.	
Yes.....	1797—1786
No.....	11

Election, November 2, 1880.

President.	
James A. Garfield, R.....	1381—418
Winfield S. Hancock, D.....	963
Congress.	
W. G. Ward, R.....	1366—882
M. H. Dunnell, R.....	484
H. R. Wells, D.....	467
Judge of District Court.	
Thomas S. Buckman.....	2347—2347
On the Text Book Act.	
For the Act.....	909
Against.....	883
State Senator.	
R. L. McCormick, R.....	1552— 771
R. O. Craig, D.....	781
B. C. McCormick.....	4
Members House of Representatives	
Christopher Wager, R.....	1358— 412
D. J. Dodge, R.....	1398— 438
Thomas Barden, D.....	946
Joseph Schmid, D.....	960
County Auditor.	
C. E. Craue, R.....	1281— 213
E. Cronkrite, D.....	1068
Court Commissioner.	
F. A. Newell, R.....	1192— 264
H. C. Woodbury, D.....	928
County Commissioner.	
A. J. Jordan.....	109— 12
William Byron.....	97
G. G. Pride.....	78
H. A. Mosher.....	3
W. D. Armstrong.....	221— 102
Ernest Miller.....	119

Election, November 8, 1881.

Governor.	
Lucius F. Hubbard, R.....	1250— 504
R. W. Johnson, R.....	746

C. H. Roberts.....	8
I. C. Stearns.....	5
Lieutenant Governor.	
Charles A. Gilman, R.....	1172— 366
E. P. Barnum, D.....	806
Scattering.....	40
Secretary of State.	
Fred. Van Baumbach, R.....	1172— 366
A. J. Lamberton, D.....	806
Scattering.....	40
State Treasurer.	
Charles Kittelson, R.....	1165— 350
John F. Russell, D.....	815
Scattering.....	39
State Auditor.	
W. W. Braden, R.....	1174— 369
R. L. Lehmicke, D.....	805
Scattering.....	42
Attorney General.	
W. J. Hahn, R.....	1174— 339
G. N. Baxter, D.....	835
Scattering.....	11
Railroad Commissionr.	
James H. Baker, R.....	1168— 328
B. F. Cook, D.....	840
Scattering.....	13
Associate Justice, Supreme Court.	
Charles E. Vanderberg, D.....	1017
William Mitchell, R.....	1652— 635
D. A. Dickinson, R.....	1652— 865
Greenleaf Clark, D.....	787
Clerk of Supreme Court	
Samuel H. Nichol, R.....	1173— 339
J. J. Thornton, D.....	834
Scattering.....	11
County Treasurer.	
Charles McKenna, D.....	1321— 638
Robert Earl, R.....	683
Scattering.....	9
Register of Deeds.	
Charles San Galli, D.....	1111— 225
H. A. Mosher, R.....	886
Scattering.....	6
Sheriff.	
Hugh Wilson, R.....	843— 255
Fred. Bettner, D.....	588
M. Keeley, I.....	364
D. Murphy, I.....	214
Scattering.....	4
County Attorney.	
W. R. Kinder, R.....	995— 2
P. McGovern, D.....	993
Scattering.....	10
Judge of Probate.	
S. D. Crump, R.....	1038— 81
H. C. Woodbury, D.....	957
Scattering.....	13
County Surveyor.	
Orson L. Smith, R. and D.....	2020—2020

Superintendent of Schools.	
D. S. Cummings, D.....	1100— 196
E. B. Collester, R.....	904
Scattering.....	5
Coroner.	
R. O. Craig, D.....	1995—1983
M. V. Hunt.....	8
C. Cunningham.....	4
County Commissioners.	
G. W. Soule.....	126— 55
A. H. Brandt.....	67
Scattering.....	4
I. C. Trowbridge.....	182— 47
G. Buckler.....	135

Election, November 7, 1882.

Member of Congress.	
James B. Wakefield, R.....	1048— 198
Felix A. Borer, D.....	850
Scattering.....	4
Chief Justice, Supreme Court.	
James Gilfillan, R. and D.....	1901—1901
State Senator.	
A. W. Jennison, R.....	682
R. O. Craig, D.....	1201— 519
Scattering.....	8
Members House of Representatives.	
Anthony Sampson, R.....	893
John C. White, D.....	986— 83
Scattering.....	6
County Auditor.	
C. E. Crane, R.....	1008—118
George Hofeldt, D.....	890
Coroner.	
H. J. Young, R.....	890— 57
Carroll Corson, D.....	833
County Commissioners.	
Phillip Purcell.....	244—109
A. P. Wilson.....	135
N. M. Nelson.....	227—106
Michael Murphy.....	121

Election, November 6, 1883.

Governor.	
L. F. Hubbard, R.....	1044
A. Bierman, D.....	1247
C. E. Holt, P.....	12
Lieutenant Governor.	
Chas. A. Gilman, R.....	1205
R. L. Frazee, D.....	1082
C. B. Shore, P.....	12
Secretary of State.	
Fred. Van Baumbach, R.....	1226
J. J. Green, D.....	1061
E. G. Paine, P.....	13
State Treasurer.	
Chas. Kittelson, R.....	1216
John Ludwig, D.....	1074
C. M. Anderson, P.....	12
C. McKenna.....	1

Attorney General.	
W. J. Hahn, R.....	1219
J. W. Willis, D.....	1070
Francis Cadwell, P.....	12
Railroad Commissioner.	
James H. Baker, R.....	1215—132
A. Lindholm, D.....	1071
S. Meeker, P.....	12
On Amending Section 5, of the Constitution.	
Yes.....	277
No.....	888—611

County Treasurer.	
Charles McKenna, D.....	1399—500
C. Wagner, R.....	899
Clerk of District Court.	
M. B. Keeley, D.....	1147— 21
A. J. Lohren, R.....	1126
Register of Deeds.	
Walter Glendenning, R.....	631
C. Mertons, D.....	325
H. A. Mosher, I.....	663— 10
Charles San Galli, I.....	653

Sheriff.	
Hugh Wilson, R.....	1288—288
D. Welch, D.....	1000

Judge of Probate.	
S. D. Crump, R.....	902—185
Joseph Finley, D.....	717
F. A. Newell, I.....	395
H. C. Woodbury, I.....	266

County Attorney.	
M. D. L. Collester, R.....	1060
P. McGovern, D.....	1198—138
W. R. Kinder.....	1

Court Commissioner.	
B. A. Lowell.....	1155
H. P. Norton.....	816
W. G. Ward.....	69
C. E. Leslie.....	242

County Surveyor.	
O. L. Smith, R and D.....	1161—1160
W. G. Ward.....	1

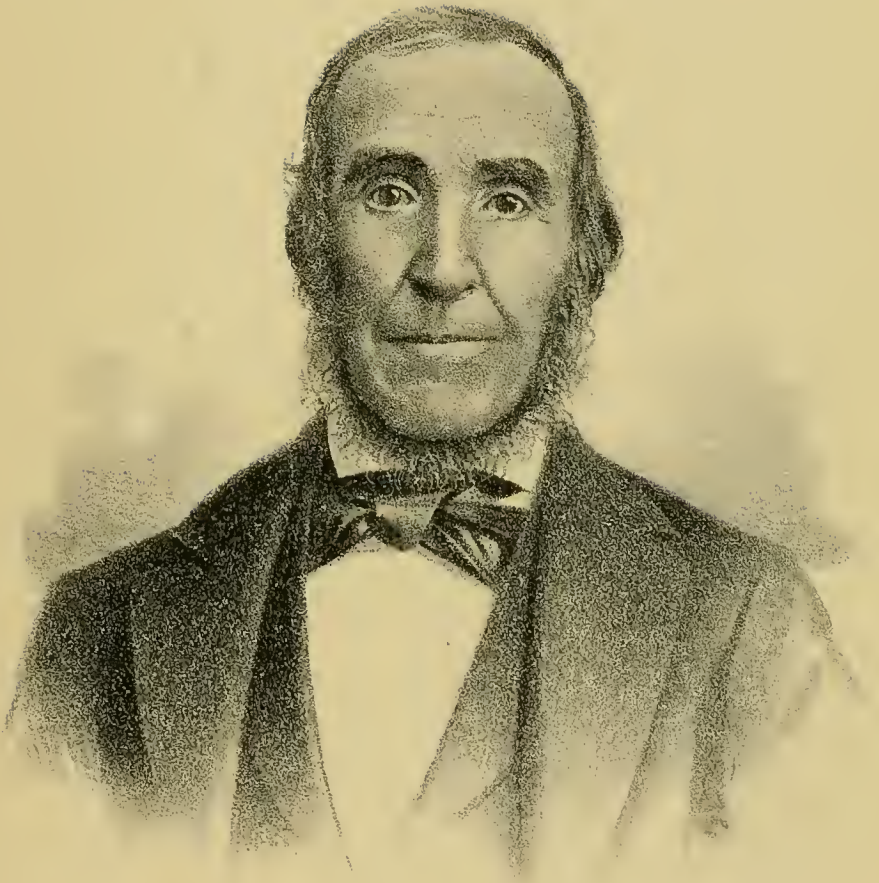
Coroner.	
H. J. Young, R.....	1170—204
M. V. Hunt, D.....	966

Superintendent of Schools.	
J. B. Dye, R.....	987
D. S. Cummings, D.....	1342

County Commissioners.	
A. J. Jordan.....	168
C. Melchoir.....	12
G. W. Dunham.....	111
J. L. Shaw.....	89
M. F. Counor.....	111

Election, November 4, 1884.

President.	
James G. Blaine, R.....	1189—322



William Brisbane

Grover Cleveland, D.....	867
John P. St. John, P.....	97
Benj. F. Butler, L.....	9
Belva Lockwood, W. S.....	1
Member of Congress.	
J. B. Wakefield, R.....	1197—312
J. J. Thornton, D.....	885
William Copp, P.....	70
Associate Justice, Supreme Court.	
J. M. Berry, R.....	1555—1555
Member House of Representatives.	
M. D. L. Collester, R.....	1115—255
Michael Shearan, D.....	860
Ebenezer Thompson, I.....	144
County Auditor.	
S. Swenson, R.....	1261—368
Charles San Galli, D.....	893
C. Mertens, I.....	9
County Commissioners.	
Austin Vinton.....	176— 92
J. P. Wheelan.....	84
M. Craven.....	278— 74
M. H. Helms.....	204
<i>Election, November 2, 1886.</i>	
Governor.	
A. R. McGill, R.....	938
A. A. Ames, D.....	1442—504
J. E. Child, P.....	421
Lieutenant Governor.	
A. E. Rice, D.....	1442— 56
John Frank, R.....	1386
J. P. Piukham, P.....	313
Secretary of State.	
Hans Mattson, R.....	1188
Lute Jager, D.....	1342—154
O. A. Pierce, P.....	241
State Treasurer.	
Joseph Bobleter, R.....	1189
Henry Pochler, D.....	1341—152
P. J. Kniss, P.....	281
State Auditor.	
W. W. Braden, R.....	1189
A. G. Lundburg, D.....	1342—153
H. W. Allen, P.....	274
Attorney General.	
M. E. Clapp.....	1190
J. N. Ives.....	1344—154
W. M. Hatch.....	279
Associate Justices, Supreme Court.	
William Mitchell, R. and D.....	2531—2253
D. A. Dickinson, R. and D.....	2530—2252
C. E. Vanderburgh, R. and D.....	2531—2253
C. E. Shearman, P.....	278
J. McKnight, P.....	278
J. W. Cochran, P.....	278
Clerk of Supreme Court.	
J. D. Jones, R.....	1189
T. O'Leary, D.....	1326—137

C. A. Fossnes, P.....	281
G. T. Gardner.....	3
Judge of District Court.	
T. S. Buekham, R.....	2584—2584
Member of Congress.	
John Lind, R.....	1195
A. H. Bullis, D.....	1345—150
George J. Day, P.....	269
State Senator.	
W. G. Ward, R.....	1300—276
R. O. Craig, D.....	1024
Samuel Hawkes, P.....	459
H. Hawkes.....	1
Member House of Representatives.	
Samuel Hodgkins, R.....	1193
M. W. Ryan, D.....	1220— 27
County Auditor.	
S. Swenson, R.....	1816—1047
P. A. Lilly, D.....	769
County Treasurer.	
L. C. Remund, R.....	1037
Chas. McKenna, D.....	1732—695
Register of Deeds.	
A. F. Kruger, R.....	1762—993
R. Jacoby, D.....	769
S. H. Drum, P.....	181
Tarrant Putnam, I.....	35
Clerk of District Court.	
Walter Child, R. and P.....	1074
M. B. Keeley, D.....	1724—650
Sheriff.	
W. J. Baker, R.....	1006
A. C. Krassin, D.....	1598—592
D. J. Bickford, P.....	176
Judge of Probate.	
W. C. Young, R.....	1559—648
J. Madden, D.....	911
W. H. Hover, P.....	309
Scattering.....	1
County Attorney.	
E. L. Maddox, R.....	1125
P. McGovern, D.....	1376—251
C. E. Leslie, P.....	279
W. E. Young.....	1
Superintendent of Schools.	
J. B. Dye, R. and P.....	1445— 7
D. S. Cummings, D.....	1438
Court Commissioner.	
G. R. Buekman, R.....	1247— 17
H. C. Woodbury, D.....	1230
B. A. Lowell, P.....	299
County Surveyor.	
O. L. Smith, R.....	1968—1968
Coroner.	
M. V. Hunt, D.....	1306—118
H. J. Young, R.....	1188
N. C. Davis, P.....	294
County Commissioners.	
A. Vinton, R.....	205—108

Thos. McGuire, D.....	97	Adam Bishman, P.....	46
W. H. Kidney, R.....	235	C. G. Pride, R. and P.....	52
Philip Purcell, D.....	271— 36	P. Champion, D.....	155
A. P. Wilson, P.....	78	James Conway, D.....	159— 4
Jonas O. Sunde, R.....	252— 56	John Wilkinson, R.....	190
A. J. Stensvad, D.....	196	Chas. Deyling, D.....	269— 79



CHAPTER VII.

OTHER OFFICIAL MATTERS.



GROUPED together in this chapter will be found the various matters gathered from the county records and various other sources, that fill no special place in history, but which if left untold would mar the completeness of these annals.

POPULATION.

The census of 1885 gives Waseca County a total population of 13,343, which is divided as follows:

Woodville Township.....	603
City of Waseca.....	2,513
Otisco Township.....	876
Janesville Township.....	839
Village of Janesville.....	1,054
Wilton Township.....	737
St. Mary Township.....	743
Freedom Township.....	964
Iosco Township.....	1,069
Blooming Grove.....	784
Alton Township.....	1,051
Vivian Township.....	522
Byron Township.....	421
New Richland Township.....	710
New Richland Village.....	457
Total.....	13,343

In 1860, the county contained but 2,601 people, and by the census of 1870 it had increased to 7,854. In 1880, a close and accurate account made the number of inhabitants in Waseca County 12,385, with the increase in the succeeding five years as above given.

SUBDIVISIONS OF THE COUNTY.

The county of Waseca is divided into twelve civil townships, as follows:

Janesville, embracing all of congressional township 108 north of range 24 west.

Iosco, congressional township 108 north of range 23 west.

Blooming Grove, township 108 north of range 22 west.

Alton, township 107 north of range 24 west.

Saint Mary, township 107 north of range 23 west.

Woodville, township 107 north of range 22 west.

Freedom, township 106 north of range 24 west.

Wilton, township 106 north of range 23 west.

Otisco, township 106 north of range 22 west.

Vivian, township 105 north of range 24 west.

Byron, township 105 north of range 23 west.

New Richland, township 105 north of range 22 west.

TOWN PLATS.

A list is herewith given of the various town plats that have been recorded from time to time in the books of Waseca County, with the date of filing, names of original proprietors, etc.

Waseca — laid out and established by Ira C. Trowbridge, in July, 1867; J. H. Jenkins, surveyor.

First addition to Waseca — laid out by Ira C. Trowbridge and H. P. Norton in September, 1867.

Barney's addition to Waseca — filed for record on the 21st of October, 1867.

Lakeside addition to Waseca — laid out by Nathaniel and Eri G. Wood, in October, 1868, C. E. Crane, surveyor.

Bennett's addition to Waseca — laid out in January, 1872, by Edward Bennett; sur-

veyed by C. E. Crane. Subdivision of the same platted in July, 1875.

McNamara's addition to Waseca—laid out in May, 1872, by Francis McNamara. It was surveyed by F. McNamara, and the plat acknowledged before F. Bloodgood, commissioner for Minnesota, at Milwaukee, Wis.

Trowbridge's addition to Waseca—laid out by Ira C. Trowbridge in June, 1873. A subdivision was platted in September, the same year.

Jenkins' addition to Waseca—laid out by J. H. Jenkins, who was also the surveyor, in August, 1875.

Ward's addition to Waseca—laid out by William G. Ward in May, 1885; surveyed by O. L. Smith.

South addition to Waseca—laid out by William G. Ward, in October, 1881; E. W. Fiske, surveyor.

South side addition to Waseca—laid out in September, 1885, by Ira C. Trowbridge.

Jenkins' second addition—laid out in May, 1885, by J. H. Jenkins.

Clear Lake City—laid out by George W. Watkins in August, 1867.

New Richland—laid out in August, 1877, by Henry T. Wells.

Zieger's addition to New Richland—by Charles Zieger, April, 1878.

Wells' addition to New Richland—by H. T. Wells in June, 1878.

McClane's addition to New Richland—laid out in May, 1882, by Jane McClane.

Zieger's second addition to New Richland—laid out by Charles Zieger, in May, 1886.

St. Mary—was laid out and platted in February, 1857, by W. H. Chamberlain and others; surveyed by H. W. Peck.

Alma City—platted June, 1865, S. M. Larabee, proprietor; S. E. Stebbings, surveyor.

East Janesville—laid out by J. W. Sprague, in August, 1869; S. H. Mott, surveyor.

First addition to East Janesville—laid out by J. W. Sprague in November, 1874.

Allyn's addition to East Janesville—laid out in November, 1874, by W. G. Allyn.

Allyn's second addition to East Janesville—laid out in October, 1875, W. G. Allyn, proprietor.

Allyn's third addition to East Janesville—laid out by W. G. Allyn, in October, 1876.

Allyn's fourth addition to East Janesville—laid out in October, 1877, by W. G. Allyn.

Carpenter's first addition to East Janesville—laid out and platted by Adna Carpenter in September, 1875.

Carpenter's second addition to East Janesville—laid out in March, 1878, by A. Carpenter.

French's addition to East Janesville—was laid out in June, 1870.

Gosper's addition to East Janesville—laid out by Edwin H. Gosper in November, 1877.

Okaman—was laid out in May, 1857, the owners being W. P. Mathes, B. S. Hall, S. M. Cooley, F. E. Roberts and G. H. Bishop.

Robert's addition to Okaman—laid out by Frederick E. and James Roberts, and the plat filed for record May 26, 1857.

Smith's Mill—laid out by Angeline and B. H. Lane in May, 1885.

Wilton—was laid out by John C. Ide in December, 1856, it then being in Steele County.

Wilton addition to Wilton—laid out by J. D. Pattee and I. Wilcox in October, 1857.

Mayfield—laid out in July, 1857 by Harvey Abbott.

Otisco—laid out and platted in July, 1857, by Warren Bundy and S. S. Goodrich.

Griggs and Obert's addition to Otisco—laid out June, 1858, by S. S. Griggs and W. W. Obert.

These matters are treated at length in the township and village histories.

MATRIMONIAL.

The first marriages in Waseca County are not all recorded in the books of the county, and hence some may be missing in this record, but no efforts have been spared to make it complete.

The first marriage took place on the 2d

of January, 1856, and was that of Mr. Ballard, of Mankato, and Louisa A. Gregory, John Jenkins, justice of the peace, officiating.

The second was that of James E. Child and Justina Krassin, which took place on the 19th of April, 1856, John Jenkins, justice of the peace, performing the ceremony.

The first marriage recorded upon the books after the organization of Waseca County was that of Gottlieb Pfeifer and Magdalena Remund, on the 17th of October, 1857, Rev. H. Roth performing the ceremony.

Then follows that of George Nicholas and Janet Hagadorn, on October 31, 1857, Mathew S. Green, J. P., officiating.

A few more are here given in their sequence to show that even in that early day there was "marrying and giving in marriage."

William F. Armstrong and Sarah F. Farrington, who were united by Rev. John Quigley, on the 2d of July, 1858.

George Gilmore and Emma Walker, July 11, 1858, by P. C. Bailey, J. P., at the house of A. G. Sutlief.

Baptist Rochsenbaek and Lisa Kammerer, by P. C. Bailey, J. P., July 29, 1858.

Bastian Rochsenbaek and Johanna Metter, by P. C. Bailey, J. P., July 29, 1858.

Simeon P. Child and Clarissa A. Northup, August 8, 1858, by J. B. Jackson, J. P.

W. H. H. Jackson and Mary Eckert, by Daniel Riegler, J. P., August 8, 1858.

Alexander Miller and Margaret Gould, before Squire Bailey, September 30, 1858.

L. Clark Wood and Cornelia C. Isaac, October 3, 1858, by Daniel Riegler, J. P.

Thomas Johnson and Maria Oleson, before Daniel Riegler, J. P., November 4, 1858.

Jens Olson and Brila Kissloffsdatter, October 17, 1858, by Lans Larun, a Lutheran minister.

Jacob P. Lopher and Grace G. Goodrich,

on the 30th of October, 1858, by P. C. Bailey, justice.

The marriages for 1859 are as follows:

John S. G. Hosmer and Annette Greene, February 17, by H. P. Chamberlain, J. P.

James Ruath and Emma Greene, February 17, by H. P. Chamberlain, J. P.

John A. Magill and Margaret Magill, April 8, by Rev. S. M. Rogers, a Methodist Episcopal minister.

Gothlul F. Knud and Albertine Welheltone Steller, June 14, by Rev. Schmitt.

Albert Taringson and Mary Ann Anderson, August 1, by P. C. Bailey, J. P.

Joseph Peasley and Cynthia Hanes, July 31, by Hubert P. Chamberlain, J. P.

Andrew W. Hicks and Laura A. Scott, August 20, by A. Matson, deacon.

John Peters and Caroline Larson, November 6, by Sevenus Farrington, J. P.

James A. Root and Hannah Brisbane, November 8, by J. B. Jackson, J. P.

Wilhelm Brivoie and Emilia Auguste Brerhel, December 26, by Rev. John Schnell.

The following table shows the number of marriages contracted from the year 1857 to 1886, inclusive:

1857	..... 2	1872	..... 65
1858	..... 10	1873	..... 58
1859	..... 10	1874	..... 73
1860	..... 18	1875	..... 65
1861	..... 21	1876	..... 71
1862	..... 20	1877	..... 83
1863	..... 18	1878	..... 87
1864	..... 29	1879	..... 80
1865	..... 33	1880	..... 96
1866	..... 40	1881	..... 80
1867	..... 40	1882	..... 68
1868	..... 61	1883	..... 83
1869	..... 67	1884	..... 99
1870	..... 45	1885	..... 117
1871	..... 54	1886	..... 104
Total		.....	1697

A glance at the foregoing figures shows that the market matrimonial has its rises and depressions the same as the monetary one. The state of the times is more or less reflected in the number of marriages contracted. The war caused a large falling off from what

it should have been, but in 1864, 1865 and 1866, when the "boys in blue" "came marching home," then there is a large increase in the number of life partnerships. Some falling off is also noticed in 1873, owing to the stringency of the money market.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

As has already been stated, before its organization Waseca County was a portion of Steele County. The first transfers of land were, therefore, recorded in the books of that county, and were afterward transcribed into Waseca County books.

The first entry affecting land in this county, was the record of the location of a land warrant by Marcus T. C. Flowers, claiming title to the east half of the north-west quarter and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 1, in township 106, north of range 22 west, containing 120 acres. This was dated November 26, 1856. The date of filing for record, unfortunately, is not given.

The first deed was that in which George W. Tremper and his wife, Matilda S. Tremper, convey, for the consideration of \$600, the northwest quarter of section 14, township 106, north of range 23, to Henry C. Lowell, of Wilton. This is acknowledged before Charles L. Lowell, a notary public, on the 30th of March, 1857.

After the county of Waseca was organized, books were procured and records kept at Wilton, Tarrant Putnam being the first register of deeds.

There are now twenty-seven books of deed records, the register now using No. 1, having run through the alphabet, and then commenced with numbers. There are, also, twenty-two books of mortgages, that bearing the letter V being now in use. The whole number of record books in the office at present is seventy-two.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The following is an abstract of the report of the auditor in regard to the assessment in county of Waseca, for the year 1886:

Lands, exclusive of town property, value...	\$2,599,442
Town and village lots.	379,649
Value of personal property.....	585,991

Total assessed value.....	\$3,565,082
Total tax levied.....	\$64,156.19

The value of realty in the several towns of the county, as per the assessment of 1886, is as follows:

Woodville.....	\$213,701
City of Waseca.....	216,535
Janesville.....	196,975
Village of Janesville.....	67,041
Iosco.....	224,311
Blooming Grove.....	229,856
Alton.....	214,052
St. Mary.....	245,908
Freedom.....	235,689
Otisco.....	233,030
Wilton.....	231,314
Vivian.....	172,418
Byron.....	161,371
New Richland.....	228,201
Village of New Richland.....	25,154
Cattle assessed in the county, 10,801,	Value \$147,416
Horses and Mules.....5,895,	" 301,563
Sheep.....3,601,	" 5,386
Swine.....5,989,	" 8,588
Valuation of live stock.....	\$462,903

TREASURER'S REPORT.

By the last report of C. McKenna, treasurer of Waseca County, the following is a summary of cash on hand for the county and credited to the various funds on the 1st of June, 1887, as follows:

State Fund.....	\$4,613.18
County Current Fund.....	8,785.07
County Poor Fund.....	3,826.71
County Road and Bridges.....	2,306.90
County Commission Fund.....	103.22
Town of New Richland.....	1,345.55
Village of New Richland.....	96.18
Town of Byron.....	363.13
Town of Vivian.....	359.54
Town of Otisco.....	60.75
Town of Wilton.....	549.46
Town of Freedom.....	315.18
Town of Woodville.....	325.14
Town of St. Mary.....	367.55
Town of Alton.....	384.57
Town of Blooming Grove.....	362.99
Town of Iosco.....	247.44
Town of Janesville.....	401.20
Village of Janesville.....	155.38
The several school districts.....	1,056.44
	<u>\$26,025.58</u>

CHAPTER VIII.

STATE AND COUNTY REPRESENTATION.



IN all countries the men who hold the public offices are more or less looked upon merely as the representatives of the masses. This truism applies equally to the despotic monarchies of the old world as well as to free America, for when they cease to truly represent the people, they cease to exist. In our land and day where the office holder is merely the servant of the will of the people, who will dispute the right of the term representative, to such as figure in an official capacity? As a people we must give him the respect, in his official relations, that we owe to the will of the people, for he stands there the embodiment of their power. While in this connection it has been attempted to give some slight pen pictures of the many parties who have represented the citizens of Waseca County in official positions, many of them fall short of doing full justice to the subjects, inaccessibility of material being the chief of many reasons, and which should not, therefore, be laid at the door of the compiler.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Under this head it is not necessary to enter into detail in this place, as most of the gentlemen who have served the people of this district in the halls of Congress, are mentioned in the history of Steele County.

The first to represent this, the 1st Minnesota district, was William Windom, elected in 1860, previous to this the State being represented by two members at large. He held this position until 1869, when he was succeeded by Morton S. Wilkinson, then a

resident of Mankato. He served the people as their representative one term, being succeeded by Mark H. Dunnell, of Steele County.

This latter gentleman was elected in the fall of 1870, and served as representative in the XLIIId Congress. He was re-elected his own successor, until 1882, thus having been a member of the XLIId, XLIIIId, XLIVth, XLVth, XLVIth and XLVIIth Congresses. A sketch at length of him is given in the history of Steele County, to which the reader is referred.

J. B. Wakefield was the successor to Mr. Dunnell, being elected to represent the 2d Minnesota district in the XLVIIIth Congress, and was re-elected in 1884 by a handsome majority; served his constituents in the XLIX Congress. He was an old settler of Blue Earth County, and had been lieutenant governor of this State. As a lawyer he is quite an able man, and as a legislator, of considerable talent.

In 1886 the people of this district chose John Lind to represent them in the Lth Congress. Mr. Lind is a resident of New Ulm, Brown County, an early settler of that part of the State, and was at one time connected with the United States land office. He has been quite prominent in politics, and is a representative man.

LEGISLATIVE.

On the adoption of the State constitution in 1857, the counties of Waseca and Steele, then constituting the 15th senatorial district was represented in the first Legislature, which assembled December 2, 1857, by Sen-

ator Lewis McKune, and Representatives H. M. Sheetz, G. C. Pettie and Smith Johnson.

Hon. Lewis McKune was born in Meriden, Susquehanna County, Pa., July 22, 1821, and was reared and educated among the rocks and hills of the "Old Keystone State," living there until he had reached the age of twenty-five years, when he started west in search of a home and fortune, and settled for a time in Illinois. When the gold fever broke out in 1849 and '50, he, like many others, at that time, left the homes of civilization and sought the golden sands of California. Fortune, in his case, proving propitious, he, in 1854, returned to Illinois with a fair amount of means, enough to give him a good start in life. In 1856 he came to Waseca County, coming all the way from his home in the "Sucker State" by team. He made a claim on the northeast quarter of section 2, and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 1, Wilton Township. He at once became one of the leaders and prominent men of this county, and was elected a member of the constitutional convention that drew up the fundamental law of this State. This convention met in July, 1857. In the first State Legislature which assembled in December, 1857, Lewis McKune represented this district in the Senate. But it was not to be that he should live long enough to enjoy his honors, and the competence he had gained. The civil war breaking out in 1861, he enlisted in the old First Minnesota Infantry, and was commissioned captain of company F, and proceeding to the front, went down in the awful slaughter at Bull Run, July 21, 1861, being killed by a rebel bullet. A better hearted, more liberal, hospitable man it were hard to find, and he enjoyed the esteem and respect of all who knew him, and his loss was a great one to the community.

At the election of 1858, Buell Welch, of this county, was chosen representative. He had this empty honor, for there was no session in the winter of 1858-9, mainly owing to the protracted session of 1857-8.

The IId Legislature convened December 7, 1859, and adjourned March 12, 1860. W. F. Pettit represented the 15th district in the Senate, and Amos Coggsell, G. W. Greene, G. T. White and Jesse I. Stewart, in the House. The last two named were residents of Waseca County, but having held the office of treasurer therein, are mentioned in that connection.

By the apportionment of 1860, Steele, Waseca and Freeborn counties were erected into a district known as the 16th, which was represented in the IIIId Legislature by George Watson in the Senate, and James E. Child and W. F. Pettit in the House. Mr. Child is mentioned at length in connection with the press of this county, with which he has been identified nearly ever since the foundation of a paper within its precincts. This Legislature assembled January 8, 1861, and continued in session until March 8.

The IVth Legislature, which assembled January 4, 1862, contained in the Senate A. B. Webber, and in the House H. C. Magoon and P. C. Bailey, as representatives. Mr. Bailey was and is a resident of this county, and has served the people in several capacities. A sketch of him is found under the head of State Senator, farther on.

The Vth Legislature assembled January 6, 1863, and adjourned March 6. In that body M. A. Daily represented this district in the Senate, and Asa Walker and Philo Woodruff in the House.

The VIth Legislature convening January 5, 1864, contained as the representatives of this district, F. J. Stevens in the Senate, and Philo Woodruff in the House. This session continued until March 4, when it adjourned.

In the VIIth Legislature that came together January 3, 1865, this district was represented by B. A. Lowell in the Senate, and J. L. Gibbs and J. B. Crooker in the House. The session lasted until March 3.

On the 2d of January, 1866, the VIIIth Legislature convened. In this body, as representatives from the 16th district, was B. A.

Lowell in the Senate and J. B. Crooker and Augustus Armstrong, in the House.

There was no change as to this county under the apportionment of 1866, and when the IXth Legislature met, January 8, 1867, Augustus Armstrong from this district was found in the Senate, and William Brisbane, W. H. Twiford and James E. Smith in the House, the district having been given one additional representative.

Hon. William Brisbane is a native of the city of Glasgow, Scotland, born December 11, 1811. His father was a soldier in the British army and was stationed at that place at the time; but our Mr. Brisbane, having been reared at the town of Hawick, calls himself a native of that city, and wishes to be termed a Hawick man. He resided in "Bonnie Scotland" until the spring of 1839, when he sailed for the shores of America, settling at the town of Andes, Delaware County, N. Y. At this place he remained some ten years, and while in that section of the country was mixed up in the anti-rent troubles of that time, and suffered the penalty of the misdeeds of others. In 1849 he started for the West, and located at Alto, Fond du Lac County, Wis., but ten years later, in 1859, moved to Minnesota and settled in Wilton Township, Waseca County, where he now lives, and where he owns a large and well tilled farm of 252 acres of land on section 23. January 20, 1832, he was united in marriage with Janet Scott, a native of the parish of Minto, Scotland, born September 10, 1810. They have been the parents of twelve children: Isabel, born in Hawick, Scotland, January 5, 1833; Catherine, born Hawick, October 26, 1834; Helen, born Hawick, June 21, 1836; James, born Hawick, June 22, 1838; Hannah, born Delaware County, N. Y., August 18, 1840; Janet, born Delaware County, N. Y., May 5, 1842; Alexander, born Delaware County, N. Y., March 6, 1844; William Robert, born Delaware County, N. Y., June 5, 1845; Margeret, born Delaware County, N. Y., Decem-

ber 12, 1847; Mary, born Alto, Wis., May 14, 1849, died February 10, 1850; John, born Alto, January 29, 1850, and Thomas, born Alto, July 26, 1853. Mr. Brisbane has twice represented this county in the legislative halls, the first time in this the IXth Assembly, and later in the XIIIth, in 1871. He is one of the sterling, thrifty farmers of the county, and a fair representative of the land of Scotia, honest, upright, and of unimpeachable integrity, and drawing to the close of a long life of usefulness and honor.

The Xth Legislature assembled January 7, 1868, and adjourned March 6. Augustus Armstrong still represented the district in the Senate. In the House William R. Kinyon, J. E. Smith and George A. La Dow represented us. Mr. La Dow is noticed at length in the chapter entitled "Bench and Bar," he having been a prominent attorney of the county.

J. B. Crooker, in the Senate, and Augustus Armstrong, E. Easton and Warren Smith in the House, were the representatives from the 16th district in the XIth Legislature. This assembly convened January 5, 1869, and adjourned March 5.

Hon. Warren Smith is the son of Amasa Smith, and was born in Barnstable County, Mass., November 15, 1821. He was reared in the county of his nativity within sound of the wild Atlantic's surf, and at the age of sixteen years commenced to learn the trade of boat builder. Between that and wrecking, a calling much followed on the iron coast of New England, he passed his time until 1856, when he came west to Minnesota, locating at the time in Faribault, where, in company with J. S. Fuller, he engaged in the mercantile business. In the winter of 1856-7 he came to this county, and purchasing the stock of goods of Chamberlain, Bailey & Co., of St. Mary, entered into business at that infant village. He remained here until 1862, when he removed to Wilton, where he, with his partners, carried

on the general merchandise business until 1870, when he removed to Waseca, his present residence. In 1862 Mr. Smith was appointed assistant sutler of the Tenth Minnesota Infantry, then engaged in the Sibley expedition against the Indians, and, after the successful termination of that campaign, he returned to his home in Wilton, and the peaceful paths of commerce. In the fall of 1868 he was elected to the Legislature, and occupied a seat in the lower house of the XIth Assembly. In 1870, on the retirement of Mr. Comee from the office of county auditor, Mr. Smith was appointed by the county board of commissioners to fill out the unexpired term, which he did. In the fall of 1873 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, with a majority of 605 votes out of a total ballot of 1,391, and over two other candidates. On the expiration of his term of office he was twice reelected and thus served six years in that responsible position. In 1881 he was elected mayor of Waseca, on its incorporation as a city. In 1853 Mr. Smith and Susan E. Johnson, also a native of the Old Bay State, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony, and they have been the parents of four children: Minnie M., Mary L., George W. and Charles A. Mr. Smith is one of the prominent, public spirited citizens of Waseca, and considerably interested in everything that is conducive to the best interests of his adopted home. He is a member of Tnscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Waseca Chapter No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, and Cyrene Comuandery, No. 9, Knights Templar.

The XIIth Legislature met for the first time on the 4th of January, 1870. J. B. Crooker was in the Senate, and W. C. Young, H. W. Ruliffson and Dr. A. C. Wedge in the House as representatives of this district. Mr. Young was the gentleman to whom Waseca County had committed her interests. He is the present judge of the

probate court of the county, in which connection will be found a sketch of him.

W. C. Young, in the Senate, and William Brisbane, A. C. Wedge and F. B. Davis in the House, were found as the representatives of the 16th district in the XIIIth Legislature, which assembled January 3, 1871, and adjourned March 3.

Under the apportionment act of 1871, Waseca County was made a senatorial district by itself, and entitled to a senator and two representatives. In accordance with this, when the XIVth Legislature assembled, January 6, 1872, there were found as representatives of Waseca in that body, James E. Child, in the Senate, and Kelsey Curtis and John Thompson in the House. Kelsey Curtis is still a resident of the county; John Thompson was an old settler of New Richland Township and is now a resident of Albert Lea.

The XVth Legislature contained within itself, on assembling on January 7, 1873, Senator W. G. Ward, and Representatives John Thompson and J. L. Saufferer.

Hon. John L. Saufferer was born in Württemberg, Germany, January 20, 1821, where he lived until the age of twenty-four years, when he sailed for America, landing in New York City. He then went to Lawrence County, Ohio, where he remained four years working on a farm. After this he went to Clay County, Ill., and purchased a farm. In 1851 he returned to Germany and was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta Müller and again sailed for America. They remained on the farm he had purchased about six years, then sold and came to Waseca County, Minn., in 1857, where he still resides on a large farm. They have had born to them twelve children, as follows: George, born October 25, 1852; Henrietta, born November 14, 1853; John Carl, born March 19, 1855; Maria Anna, born January 26, 1857; Caroline, born April 9, 1859; Matilda, Willhelmina, born December 1, 1860; Henry, born October 12, 1862; Amelia J., born

September 19, 1864; Lydia E. born October 23, 1866; John George, born February 25, 1869; Benjamin, born January 6, 1874, and Louis, born June 27, 1876. Two of these are dead: George died in Illinois, August 9, 1853, and Matilda W. died September 16, 1884.

The XVIth Legislature convening January 6, 1874, kept in session until March 6, when it adjourned. W. G. Ward was still in the Senate, and L. D. Smith and James E. Child were in the House as representatives from Waseca County.

L. D. Smith at that time was one of the leading agriculturists of the town of Alton, but is now a resident of Albert Lea, where he is engaged in the cooper business.

In January, 1875, the XVIIth Legislature convened. Peter McGovern represented Waseca County in the Senate, and Morris H. Lamb and Joseph Minges in the House. Mr. Minges was a native of Bavaria, born in 1817. He came to this country in 1847, and to Otisco Township in 1858, where he died Monday, June 21, 1886, of paralysis, at the age of sixty-nine.

Hon. Peter McGovern, the present county attorney, is one of the leading lawyers of Waseca. His large and growing practice is a sufficient index of his success and increasing popularity. He is a native of Watertown, Wis., born October 9, 1845, and is the son of Edward and Rose McGovern. He was reared among the scenes of his nativity, and there received an academical education, thus laying the foundation for his legal studies. Entering the law school at Madison, Wis., he graduated therefrom in 1871, and the following year came to Waseca and commenced the practice of his chosen profession, and has remained here ever since. In the fall of 1874 Mr. McGovern received the nomination of the Democratic party for the position of State senator, to represent this district in the XVIIth Legislature, and was duly elected by a handsome majority. Mr. McGovern was first elected to the office

of county attorney, which he now holds, in the fall of 1873, and filled it for the ensuing two years. In 1877 he was again inducted into this office by the will of the people, and held it for another two years. At the election of 1881 he was defeated for the same office by but two votes, but in 1883 he was again elected to fill the place, and reelected in 1886. In 1883 Mr. McGovern and Minnie Gilmore, a native of Canada, were united in marriage. They are the parents of two children: Florence and Ambrose.

Hon. Morris H. Lamb is a native of Medina County, Ohio, born January 2, 1837, and is the son of Morris and Sebrina (Hopkins) Lamb, who were the parents of six children: Lurinda R., Morris H., Francis M., Anna M., Clara A. and Harry R., all of whom are living. Mr. Lamb, the elder, died December 31, 1869; his wife in 1859. Morris H., at the age of twenty-one, commenced life for himself as a farmer, and has followed that vocation ever since. In the fall of 1854 the whole family moved to Cumberland County, Tenn., where the elder Mr. Lamb was engaged in farming. There they lived until 1861, and they, being of the undeniable Union stripe, fled from their homes with the other refugees of those days, loading three wagons with such of their personal effects as they could carry, seeking more congenial quarters. Crossing the Ohio River, their haven of safety, they came right on to Minnesota, and in 1864 to Waseca County. August 15, 1864, Morris H. enlisted in company F, Eleventh Minnesota Infantry, under Capt. J. W. Plummer. He remained in the service until July 11, 1865, when he was discharged at Fort Snelling, and came back to this county, locating on section 36, Alton Township, where he now lives. He carries on, at present, a more extensive dairy farm than any party in Waseca County, commencing this branch of his business in 1880. He has from thirty to forty head of full-blood Jersey cattle, besides a large number of grades. His large barn, built in 1887, is 42x90 feet on the

ground, and capable of holding 120 tons of hay, and also contains three silos, holding about 350 tons of green fodder, he being the first in Waseca County to commence the system of ensilage. October 20, 1870, he and Harriet Oldfield were united in marriage. She is a native of Steuben County, N. Y., born August 20, 1844, and a daughter of Samuel and Lucretia (Jaynes) Oldfield. The former raised six children: Mary Ann, Reuben, Thomas H., William M., Jessie and Harriet. Mr. Oldfield died in 1868; the mother is still living in Williamsport, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb are the parents of two children: Walter E., born August 12, 1878, and Ina E., born January 20, 1881. In 1874 Mr. Lamb was elected to the Legislature on the Democratic ticket, and has served in several township offices, always with credit and honor.

In the XVIIIth Legislature, that met in 1876, Peter McGovern still represented Waseca County in the Senate, Robert Earl and Kelsey Curtis in the House.

In 1877 the XIXth Legislature held its session. P. C. Bailey was our representative in the Senate; F. Keenan and Anthony Sampson in the House.

Hon. Philo C. Bailey is a native of Onondaga County, N. Y., born October 15, 1828. He was reared and educated in the place of his nativity, where he remained until 1856, when he came west to Minnesota, locating first at Faribault, where he remained until the following year, when he came to Wilton, where he engaged in the hardware business. In 1861 he was elected to the lower house of the State Legislature, and sat in the session of 1862, representing the 16th district. In the fall of 1863 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, which he filled for two years, to the satisfaction of all. When the town of Waseca was started in the summer of 1867, Mr. Bailey removed to that place, putting up the building where he now is, and, in company with George W. Watkins, opened the first hardware estab-

lishment in the rising young village, and is still the leading merchant in that line. In 1876 he was elected to the State Senate, and served during the session of 1877 and 1878. In June, 1857, P. C. Bailey and Airs Slocum were united in marriage, and they were the parents of two children: Kate and Gertrude. Mrs. Bailey died September, 1865; and December 27, 1867, Mr. Bailey was again married, this time to Lorinda Dodge. They are the parents of two children: Fred and Lena. Mr. Bailey is prominently identified with the business interests of Waseca, and takes rank with the leading public spirited citizens of the city. He is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; and of Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar, of Owatonna.

Hon. Anthony Sampson was born in Seansvard, Norway, August 21, 1827, and was reared in that country. November 14, 1846, he was united in marriage with Anna Thovsdatter, the officiating clergyman being Rev. Romka, of the Lutheran Church. The bride was a native of Norway, born August 12, 1825. They left their native land May 15, 1853, and on landing in America at once proceeded to Rock County, Wis., where they arrived July 10 the same year. They remained there three years, and finally concluded to remove to Minnesota. Eight families started together, as detailed in the history of New Richland Township, and overcoming all obstacles, reached the above town June 10, 1856, where Mr. Sampson took up a claim on section 14, where he now resides. Mr. and Mrs. Sampson are the parents of seven children, the two oldest of whom were born in Norway: Sophia, born in the year 1847; Olave, February 14, 1852; Carl A., November 22, 1854; Aliana, December 17, 1856; Sinna, November 6, 1861; Andrew, March 13, 1866, and Julian, December 26, 1867. Mr. Sampson's pioneer house, like many others, was built of logs, with a sod roof, and was but 14x16 feet in

size, but he now has good buildings on his productive and well tilled farm of 120 acres of land. He represented this county in the Legislature in 1877, as detailed above.

In the XXth Legislature, which assembled January 8, 1878, P. C. Bailey was still the senator from this county; and J. O. Chandler and Fenton Keenan were the representatives in the House.

Hon. J. O. Chandler came to Waseca County in 1866. He located in the old town of Janesville, where he entered the mercantile trade. He was appointed postmaster there the next year (1867) and retained the office until 1870. When the new town of Janesville started, Mr. Chandler was the first to take advantage of the new location, and erected the first store in the town, moving his goods from the old village. He continued in the general merchandise trade for two years after that. In 1873, in company with Dr. R. O. Craig, he put in a complete drug stock, which they have continued since that time. In February, Chandler & Craig purchased the interest of Henry Chase, of the firm of Chase & Cordrey, general merchants, and since that time have been in that line of trade also. Mr. Chandler was elected to the State Legislature in the fall of 1876, serving that winter and the following fall at the extra session. Mr. Chandler is a native of the State of Maine, being born in Dexter, Penobscot County, September 21, 1837. His parents were John C. and Lucey B. Chandler. At the age of fifteen, Mr. Chandler went into the store of his father and uncle, who were partners in business, and two years later started for himself, running a peddler's wagon, which business he followed for a time. In 1857 he came to Minnesota and located in Pleasant Grove. In 1858 he went west to Idaho, but not liking it there, returned to Minnesota after a year's absence, settling in Winona, where he remained until 1863. He then entered the United States service as paymaster's clerk, and served as such until 1865, when he again returned

to this State and went on the road as salesman for J. D. Blake & Co., of Rochester. He came to Janesville one year later as already detailed. Since coming here Mr. Chandler has always taken an active interest in whatever would be of any advantage to the village or the interests of the people, and is to-day one of Janesville's most enterprising and substantial men.

January 7, 1879, the XXIst Legislature was convened. In the Senate, S. B. Williams, elected by the Prohibition party, represented Waseca County, and in the House, John Thompson and J. S. Abell. Mr. Williams was an old settler of the county of Steele, and had located at the village of Waseca among the first comers, where he engaged in the lumber business, and afterward in grain-buying. He is now a resident of Steele County. John Thompson, a pioneer of Waseca County, having settled here in 1856, was a farmer at the time of his election to the Legislature, living at that time in New Richland Township. He now resides near Albert Lea.

Hon. John S. Abell is a native of Oswego County, N. Y., born July 22, 1834. His father died in 1841, and John lived with his grandfather for a few years, when he had to get a living for himself. He remained in the county of his birth until 1856, when he came to Winona County, Minn., where he remained about two months and then came to Otisco Township, Waseca County, where he has lived ever since.

Mr. Abell was married in Winona County August 11, 1859, to Miss Hannah Harshman, she being a resident of that county. They have had born to them eight children, six girls and two boys, as follows: Marie, Sarah, Permelia, Helena L., Emma and Jennie, the two latter being twins. The boys' names are John H. and Irving O. Sarah was born July 13, 1861; Permelia, born May 20, 1867; Irving O., born January 3, 1872; Helena L., born April 23, 1874; Emma and Jennie, born July 13, 1876, all of whom are living and at

home with their parents except Marie and John II. Marie was married to Charles Scouton, November, 1878, and John II. died January 16, 1882.

Mr. Abell's mother's maiden name was Permelia Park, and she was married to Harley O. Abell in October, 1833, and after her husband's death she married Joseph Gallop in 1843, and died in 1847. J. S. Abell has been town clerk for twenty years, chairman supervisors, one year, assessor, two years, and has been elected justice of the peace twice, and now holds the office of justice of the peace, and was representative in the Legislature in 1879, being elected on the Prohibition ticket. He owns 240 acres of land, about all of which is under cultivation, has made the improvements himself, and has a fine grove, which surrounds the buildings, that he started from seeds and slips or cuttings, and some of the trees are now over two feet in diameter. Mr. Abell's brother, Irving L., was born February 23, 1837, and was the first book-keeper in the penitentiary at Stillwater, in 1855, and was afterward clerk in the Stillwater postoffice. He went from there to Michigan and was distributing clerk there about one year, when he was transferred to St. Louis and remained there till some time in 1864, when he went to Tennessee, and from there he went to Oakland, Cal., where he engaged in the publishing business for a few years and then went to Colfax, Whitman County, W. T., where he is now publishing the *Colfax Commoner*. His sister Jennie is now in Oakland, Cal., engaged in the poultry business, and is doing well. His brother, William H., came to Minnesota in 1860 and enlisted in First Minnesota Infantry, served four years and six months and died in Winona in February, 1885. The widow and three children (two boys and one girl) are still living in Winona.

Hon. R. S. McCormick was the senator from this district, and Christoph Wagner and D. J. Dodge, the representatives in the

XXIIIrd Legislature, which met January, 1881. This was the first assembly under the biennial session clause. Senator McCormick came to the village of Waseca in its infancy, and was here engaged in the lumber business. After his term of office had expired he sold out his interests in this county and removed to Hayward, Wis.

Hon. Christoph Wagner, of the firm of Wagner Brothers, of New Richland, is a native of Prussia, Germany, and was born on the 7th day of November, 1842. When he was but five years of age, his parents, Jacob and Margaret (Morton) Wagner, emigrated to America, and settled in Sheboygan County, Wis. There he was reared and there received his education, remaining with his parents until 1861, when the dark cloud of war gathering over our fair land, he enlisted in Company A, Ninth Wisconsin Infantry, and served for three years and three months, and was discharged in December, 1864, and then returned to the Badger State. On the 10th of December, 1867, he was united in marriage with Mary Zieger, while in Wisconsin. In 1869 he came to Waseca County, locating at that time on section 18, New Richland Township, on a farm, where he remained until January, 1885, when he bought out the interests of A. J. Newgard, in the lumber business. Mr. Wagner was a member of the Legislature during the session of 1881 and the extra one of the same year.

Hon. D. J. Dodge came to Waseca County in 1857 when he was twelve years of age. His parents, who were Samuel and Maria A. (Zuba) Dodge, came from Tioga County, N. Y., and settled in the town of Wilton. The elder Mr. Dodge remained there until 1862, when, with the family, he moved to Steele County, and in 1864 started for Missouri, but died on the way there. D. J. remained with his father until eighteen years of age, when he went to Rochester, Minn., where he remained for a time. Later he went to Wabasha, where he stayed a little

while, but soon returned to Steele County. November 1, 1863, he enlisted in Company C, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and served in the army until November 17, 1865, when he was discharged. After that he returned to Steele County, and in the spring of 1866 went to learn the tinner's trade at Wilton, serving three years apprenticeship. When the town of Janesville started in 1869, he came here and has been in the hardware business since that time. Mr. Dodge was elected to the Legislature in the fall of 1880, taking his seat in January, 1881, and serving at the extra session that was called the following fall. July 31, 1870, he was united in marriage with Flora L. Long. They are the parents of five children: Edith L., Ethel M., Myra A., Seth Edmund and Harley D., deceased.

Under the apportionment act of 1881, Waseca was erected into the 11th district and given one senator and one representative. In January, 1883, the Legislature met, at which time Dr. R. O. Craig, of Janesville, represented the district in the Senate. J. C. White was the member of the lower house.

Dr. R. O. Craig came to the county of Waseca in 1866, and located in the old village of Janesville, where he engaged in the practice of medicine. When the new town first started he came there, in the fall of 1869, and followed his profession for many years. In 1874, in company with J. O. Chandler, he started in the drug business, which he still continues. He is a native of New York State, born in 1834, and is the son of John and Mary (Ballagh) Craig. The Doctor commenced the study of medicine at Ogdensburg, N. Y., when eighteen years of age, and graduated from Albany Medical College, in 1855. He entered into practice in the city of Albany, N. Y., and remained there until 1856, when he was appointed assistant surgeon in the United States army and served five years on the Pacific coast. This position he then resigned and went back East. He was later on com-

missioned surgeon of the Tenth New York Infantry, serving until the close of the war. In 1882 he was elected to the State Senate and represented this county for four years. He is one of the leading, substantial citizens of his town and county, and is doing his part toward the advancement of Janesville and the community, and merits the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen and the people of the county in general.

J. C. White came to Waseca in 1870 and engaged in the hardware business for about a year, and then sold a part interest to A. C. Krassin, and under the firm name of White & Krassin, they carried on the business until December, 1882, when he disposed of his remaining interest to Thos. Boucher. Mr. White has lately been devoting his attention to the manufacture of a patented article of his own invention. Mr. White was born in Ireland in 1837, and was brought to the United States when some four years old by his parents, who settled in Wisconsin. In July, 1865, he came to Minnesota and located at Faribault. Shortly after that he removed to Owatonna, but in about a year went to Austin, from whence he came to Waseca. He was married in 1876, to Anna Tropey, of Watertown, Wis., and they are the parents of two children, Anna and May. He was elected to the State Legislature, and served during the term for which he was chosen.

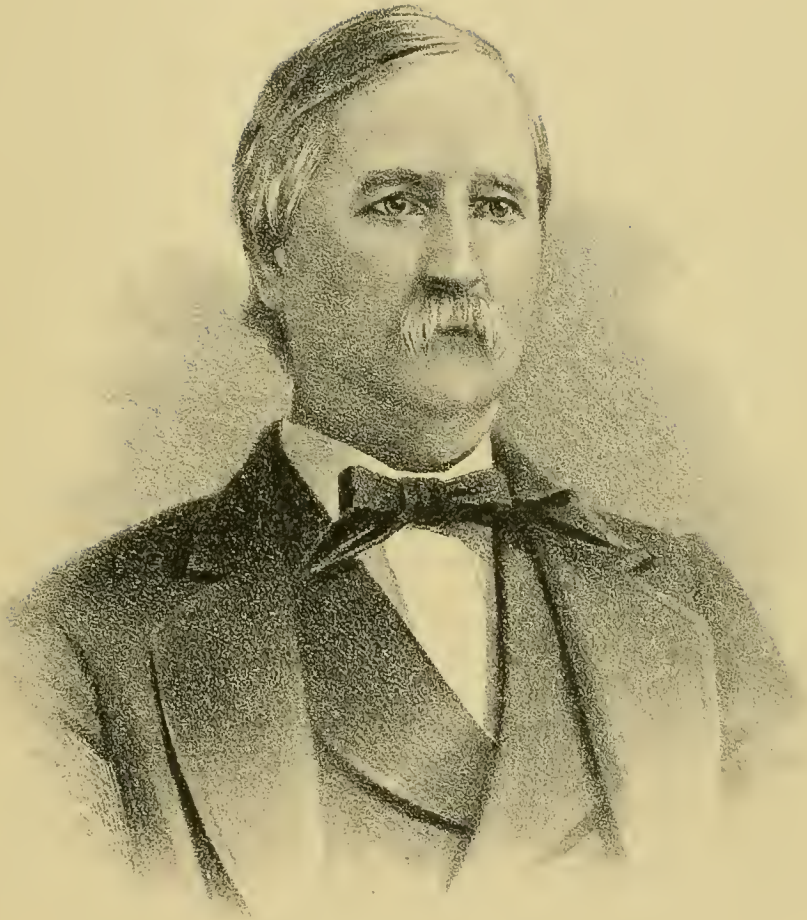
In the XXIVth Assembly of the State Legislature, held in January and February, 1885, R. O. Craig still continued to represent this county in the Senate. M. D. L. Collester, then a prominent attorney of the village of Waseca, represented this county in the House. The latter is mentioned in connection with the bar of the county, in the chapter devoted to that profession.

William G. Ward took his seat in the XXVth Legislature, in January, 1887, as the Senator representing the 11th district. In the House, M. W. Ryan was

intrusted with the interests of Waseca County.

Hon. W. G. Ward, the present State Senator, is a native of Oneida County, N. Y., born December 27, 1830. He was reared upon a farm, attending a private school in Booneville, from which he graduated. He spent some eight years in the study of Greek and Latin, although mathematics was his favorite study, and in which he was, and is remarkably proficient. He held a tutorship in this academy for some years, thus paying for his own tuition, by teaching the younger scholars. When he had reached the age of seventeen years, he commenced his career as civil engineer, with S. B. Williams, on the Black River canal, remaining with him, and his successor, D. C. Genney, for five years and three months, and was then dismissed on account of his politics, he being a Whig. He then formed an engagement with the Long Island Railroad, as chief engineer and road-master. In these and other capacities he remained two years, during which time he built two branches of the road, viz.: the Hempstead and the Hicksville. He was then appointed superintendent of car and engine repairs for the whole road, with his office located at Brooklyn, although the shops were at Jamaica Plains. In December, 1852, Mr. Ward was united in marriage with Martha E. Dodge, and they were the parents of two children: Clarence T., now of Redwood Falls, and Emma L., now Mrs. Hendrickson, of St. Paul. After two years spent by Mr. Ward as superintendent of the repair shops, he left this road and engaged with the Lake Ontario & Auburn Railroad, where he was first assistant engineer to his former employer, S. B. Williams. About a year passed here, and then he transferred himself to the Utica & Black River Road, as first assistant engineer, under D. C. Genney, where he remained until 1856. Resigning on account of ill health, he came west, during that year, and took charge of the work as chief engineer on

what was then known as the Watertown & Madison Railroad, now a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system. He then had charge of the construction of the Oconomowoc & Columbus Railroad. Soon after this, the crisis of 1857 precipitating everything into financial ruin, and in 1858 all railroad work stopping, Mr. Ward seeing that for a time his business must be suspended, began the study of law with Wood & Blake, of Madison, where he remained some six months. He afterward pursued his studies with Geo. B. Smith, Matt. Carpenter and others, and was admitted to the bar, Harlow S. Orton being judge and Lucius Fairchild clerk of the court. He then commenced the practice of his profession in Madison, and was engaged in defending a client who had killed a man in a cranberry marsh, when the tocsin of war was sounded throughout our fair land. Sumter was fired on, and the court adjourned to go to the front. The man was on trial when this occurred, and Mr. Ward's only plan was to get the man pardoned, which he did, thus ending his law practice. Late in 1861 Mr. Ward was appointed chief clerk in the postoffice at Madison, under E. W. Keyes, and held that position for three years. Recruiting men for all the batteries and regiments sent from Wisconsin next occupied his attention. At the close of the war, in company with Major Blake, he built and operated a sawmill on the Little Wolf River, which fourteen months later they sold to the Wisconsin Manufacturing Co. His wife having died in Jefferson, Wis., in November, 1865, he took his two children, Clarence and Anna, east, where he left them with relatives, and came back west. On his arrival here he took charge of the construction of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad as chief engineer, and pushed it to a completion in 1868. December 14, 1867, he and Ella C. Trowbridge were united in marriage, and they are the parents of four children: Mattie E., Roscoe Percy, Florence



Edgar Couckite

T. and Earl W. Since his connection with the Winona & St. Peter road, Mr. Ward has made his home in Waseca, he being identified with it from its first inception, being one of the original proprietors and projectors, and having large real estate interests here. Through force of character and great native ability Mr. Ward has pushed himself through adverse circumstances, until he stands to-day one of the leading citizens of this section of the State. In the fall of 1872 Mr. Ward was elected to a seat in the XVth and XVIth Legislatures as State Senator, and in 1886 was again chosen to fill the same position and is now the incumbent of that office. In 1880 he was the candidate of the Republican party for Congress, but owing to a split in the party he failed of an election, although carrying Waseca County.

Hon. Michael W. Ryan, the present member of the lower house, was born in Northfield, Minn., May 1, 1862, and is the son of Michael Ryan, a native of Tipperary, Ireland. His father was born in 1826, and came to America in 1851, and worked in several States on various railroads. In 1863 the family came to Waseca County, and located in Byron Township, where the family now reside. The father was the parent of four children: Alice, born February 9, 1859; Thomas, born August 31, 1860; Michael W., born May 1, 1862, and Elizabeth, born September 18, 1865. Michael W. has held the office of township clerk, and in the fall of 1886 was elected to the State Legislature, being the youngest member of the same in the assembly of 1887. He introduced some twelve bills, the most important of which was that compelling insurance companies to pay the full face of their policy in case of loss. He owns a good farm on section 8, in Byron Township.

COUNTY AUDITORS.

The first to occupy this office in the county of Waseca was S. J. Willis, who

entered upon its duties January 1, 1860, and held it for three years. Mr. Willis was for some years connected with the office of clerk of the district court, and is mentioned in that connection.

John C. Ide was the next to occupy this office, being appointed thereto in January, 1863, on the resignation of Mr. Willis, and entered upon the discharge of his duties at once. Colonel Ide, as he was called, was a New Yorker of New England parentage, and came to Minnesota in an early day. Previous to leaving the East he had been employed in teaching music and giving concerts. He first located in Rice County, which he represented in the VIIth Territorial Legislature, in 1856. In the fall of that year he came to Wilton, having been appointed one of the commissioners to organize this county. During this same year he was the candidate for the office of lieutenant governor on the Republican ticket, which was defeated. On account of his political prominence, he was made part owner of Wilton, and was instrumental in building up that village. He was very unfortunate in his financial affairs, but everywhere respected for his social qualities and accommodating disposition. He was an active and zealous member of the Episcopal Church, and contributed liberally toward the erection of the church of that denomination in Wilton. In the fall of 1866 he died of heart disease while holding the office of auditor.

On the death of Col. J. C. Ide, the board of county commissioners appointed C. C. Comee to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. At the following election in November, 1866, he was chosen by the people to fill the same office, and re-elected his own successor for several terms, holding it until 1870. He was succeeded by Warren Smith, who was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Comee, and filled it for the balance of the term.

Edgar Cronkhite was elected auditor at the election of 1870, and entered upon the

duties of the office, March 1, 1871. He was reelected in 1873, 1875, 1877 and 1879, thus holding the office for ten years, and was an active and able officer.

Edgar Cronkhite is a son of George and Parmelia Cronkhite, and was born at Glens Falls, N. Y., January 20, 1826. He was fitted for college, after receiving his preliminary schooling at Glens Falls Academy, and entered Williams College as freshman in the fall of 1845. After leaving college he spent the following four years in the city of Washington and in travel in the South. In 1852 he returned home, and later in the year began the study of law in Buffalo and was duly admitted to the bar in that city in the fall of 1853. He then removed to Neenah, Wis., where he was engaged in the practice of his profession, and served as register of deeds in Winnebago County, Wis., at Oshkosh where he also was engaged in practice. He subsequently removed to Rochester, Minn., and hanging out his shingle, practiced law there. During his residence at that place he took part, as lieutenant of a cavalry company, in the Sibley expedition after the Sioux Indians in 1862, and was adjutant at Forts Snelling and Ridgely. In 1867 he came to Waseca County, where he has made his residence since. In 1870 he was elected county auditor and served ten years. He has retired from active business, except loaning his money and that of other parties, and is very comfortably fixed on one of his farms near Alma City, in Freedom Township. He is a talented man and a fine speaker, and in his boyhood days took the first prize for declamation at Williams College in 1846. He has delivered many public speeches since coming here, and is among the best known men in the county.

C. E. Crane was the next to fill the office of auditor, being inducted into that office, January 1, 1881. In the fall of 1882 he was reelected and thus served the people of the county for four years.

S. Swenson, the present auditor, was elected November 4, 1884, and reelected in 1886.

S. Swenson, the present auditor, is a native of Norway, born at Fredericksvoern, September 3, 1849. In the spring of 1864 he shipped as sailor on board of a vessel bound for Belfast, Ireland, and afterward made many voyages to various ports on the Atlantic and up the Mediterranean Sea. In 1868 he came to America, and worked as blacksmith and wagonmaker, until he came to Waseca in 1877, where he carried on the latter business until 1881, when he became deputy auditor, and in 1884 became auditor. In 1882 he was married to Julia Anderson. They have one adopted child, Clara.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

At the time when the organization of the county was ordered, the governor of the Territory appointed Tarrant Putnam to fill the office of register of deeds until the election of a successor. He entered upon his duties in March, 1857, and held the office until June following, when he was succeeded by J. W. Crawford, who had been elected at the special election held in the latter month. Mr. Crawford was a New Englander, and, shortly before the late war, left the county and located elsewhere in the State. He enlisted in the army during the late war, and after that settled in Chicago.

January 1, 1858, E. A. Rice took possession of this office, and served the people two years. This gentleman had come to Waseca among the early settlers, and was quite popular. On the organization of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, early during the late civil war he enlisted, became captain of Company G, of that regiment, and afterward rose to the rank of major in the United States service. He is now the county treasurer of Pipestone County, this State. He is a native of New Hampshire.

Tarrant Putnam, being elected to fill the office of register of deeds in 1860, commenced

the duties of that office at the beginning of the following year, and filled it for four years.

H. P. Norton succeeded Mr. Putnam in the duties of this office. He served during the years 1864 and 1865.

H. P. Norton is a native of Yates County, N. Y., born May 26, 1823, removing with his parents the following year to Richford, Tioga County. He remained at home until he had reached the age of twenty-one years, learning the trade of his father, who was a blacksmith. On reaching his majority, he left home and for two years labored at this trade and then started West. On arriving at Woodstock, Ill., about the 1st of June, 1846, he went to work and remained there several years, then removed to Chicago. Being employed at that place and at Michigan City, Ind., in the railroad shops, he passed his time until 1856, when he came to Minnesota, arriving at Owatonna in July. He worked at the forge there for Joel Wilson until fall, when he removed to Wilton, and opened a shop on his own account. In company with a younger brother, who joined him the next year, he ran this business until 1859, when he was elected clerk of the district court to fill the vacancy occasioned by the removal of Thos. L. Paige, who had been elected to that office. After the expiration of this term he was appointed postmaster at Wilton, and held it for two years. In 1863 was elected register of deeds and for two years served in that capacity. During the first year he was made agent for the American Express Company and held that position many years. On leaving his public office he entered the banking house of Baldwin & Kittredge, remaining with them, making abstracts of land, until he removed to the village of Waseca, since which he has devoted his attention to real estate. He was married at Woodstock, March 2, 1863, to Anna G. Kimball; they have one son, Charles N., now agent for American Express Co., at Tracy, Minn. Mr. Norton's father, Amzi, was born in Connecticut, February 12, 1783,

his mother being a native of the same State. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom are living. Mr. Norton was made a Mason in the Woodstock Lodge thirty-nine years ago, and is a prominent member of that fraternity. In 1884 he retired from active business on account of ill health, and is passing his last years in a quiet way.

On the 1st of January, 1866, Hiram A. Mosher, a one-armed ex-Union soldier, on being duly qualified, entered the office as register of deeds, and serving the people of the county to their satisfaction was reelected several terms, performing the duties of the office until January 1, 1880, when he gave way to a successor.

Charles San Galli was the next incumbent of this office, being elected thereto in the fall of 1879. On the 1st of January, 1880, he entered upon the duties of the office, and fulfilling them to the satisfaction of the people, was reelected in 1881, serving in all four years.

Charles San Galli is a native of Prussia, Germany, born July 9, 1822. His parents were Carl and Henrietta (Lubeke) San Galli, natives of the same place, and who were the parents of six children: five boys and one girl. Our Mr. San Galli began life for himself when about twenty-two years of age, first in the mercantile business in Prussia, and then came to the United States in the year 1849. On arriving here in the spring of that year he first located in New York City, where he remained for about twelve years, and then returned to his native land. Eight years later he returned to America, settling at Albany, N. Y. From there he came to Minnesota and to Waseca County. This was in the year 1869. He located in Woodville Township, where he now lives. In 1859 he was united in marriage with Emily Shephard, a native of Albany, N. Y., who died in February, 1869. They were the parents of four children: Elizabeth, Theodore, Carl and Emily, all of whom are living at home. Mr. San Galli is a Democrat in politics and a

Lutheran in religion. He is a widely known and highly respected citizen.

At the beginning of the year 1884 H. A. Mosher again entered this office and served until November 13, the same year, when he died, leaving a vacancy. He was one of the old settlers of Otisco Township, having settled there in 1856. During the late war he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and bravely gained for himself the name of an excellent soldier, and returning to his family, his empty sleeve showed that he, like others, had been compelled to leave his arm upon the field as his offering upon the altar of his country.

On the death of Mr. Mosher the board appointed August F. Kruger to fill the vacancy, although he had not solicited it. His pleasant manners and accommodating disposition being appreciated by the people, he was elected his own successor, and is the present incumbent of the office. Mr. Kruger is a native of Germany, born September 20, 1851. He remained at home in the fatherland until he had reached the age of sixteen, when, crossing the ocean, he came to America, first settling in Marquette County, Wis. After remaining there for about a year he removed to Ripon, the same State, where he entered a store as clerk and salesman, and gained his first insight into mercantile affairs. Four years later he went to Eau Claire County, Wis., where he was engaged in the same business, and remained two years. In 1875 he came to Waseca County and located at the village of Janesville, where he entered the store of Chase & Condry. In November, 1884, on the death of H. A. Mosher, while Mr. Kruger was standing behind the counter engaged in business, without any solicitation on his part the board of county commissioners appointed him to the office of register of deeds. In the fall of 1886 he was reelected by the people to the same position. April 10, 1879, he was united in marriage with Miss Emelie Thiese, of New Ulm.

COUNTY TREASURER.

At the first meeting of the board of commissioners, on the 16th of March, 1857, they appointed W. S. Baker to the office of treasurer of the county, who immediately entered upon the duties of the office, not very arduous at that time, as the county treasury was empty as yet. He, however, held the office until the beginning of 1858. He was a native of the State of Maine, where he was born April 28, 1808. In early life he emigrated to Ohio, and while at Marion, that State, was united in marriage with Clarissa B. Mosher, December 30, 1841. He removed with his family to Dodge County, Wis., in 1844, and was among the pioneers of that region. In 1856 he moved farther west, coming to Otisco. He was a man in delicate health in some respects, and by some of a hardier nature judged somewhat harshly. He was quite active in public affairs. He died at Waseca, March 6, 1887, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. It has been remarked of him: "It is safe to say that no man or woman ever went hungry from his door, when he had anything to spare."

Jesse I. Stewart, elected at the fall election of 1857, was the next incumbent of the office, and was reelected in the fall of 1859, but having been, also, chosen as the member of the lower house of the State Legislature, at the same time, on the 11th of January, 1860, the county commissioners, after declaring it a violation of the law of the State for a man to hold both these offices, resolved that a vacancy existed in the office of county treasurer, and appointed J. S. Rice to fill the same. Mr. Stewart was one of the prominent men of the early days of this county and lived here for some years. He removed to Rice County from here many years ago, and in 1879 emigrated to the Sinlaw Valley, Ore.

J. S. Rice was a native of Ohio, and came to this county in 1856 or 1857, and settled in what is now New Richland, close to the Otisco line, afterward removing to the vil-

lage of Wilton. During the war he entered the service of the United States, and after gallantly serving his country, on his discharge moved to the State of Iowa. He held the office of Waseca county treasurer for two years.

He was succeeded by George T. White in March, 1862. In August of the same year he enlisted, but the board of commissioners instead of declaring the office vacant by the books and records of the courthouse, seem to have allowed him to remain treasurer, although absent, doing his work by deputy. Mr. White was a native of New Hampshire, and came to Minnesota on attaining his majority. He first settled in what is now St. Mary Township, and in the fall of 1859 was chosen to represent this county in the State Legislature, with Jesse I. Stewart. Enlisting in 1862, while county treasurer, he was chosen captain of Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry Regiment, and with his company was ordered to the frontier to repel the Indian attacks of that year. The next season he, with a portion of his command, accompanied General Sibley across the plains. Returning in the fall he was ordered South, and was in active service until the battle of Nashville, where he fell, pierced by many balls. His body now lies near his boyhood's happy home, among the granite hills of New Hampshire. A young man of ability and affable manners, he had many friends here among the old settlers.

P. C. Bailey was the next incumbent of the office, entering upon the duties of the same at the beginning of the year 1864, and serving two years. He is still a resident of the county, engaged in the hardware business at Waseca, and is mentioned at length in this chapter under the head of Legislative Representation.

With the beginning of the year 1866 George R. Buckman, now a resident of Waseca, entered upon the duties of this office. In 1867 and 1869 he was reelected to the same position. At the election of 1871 the

official returns showed that Dr. R. O. Craig had a majority of three, but on contesting the matter on account of some illegality in some votes, the court decided that G. R. Buckman was duly elected to the office of county treasurer, and he was accordingly sworn in. He thus served the people eight years in this responsible position, to the entire satisfaction of the people of the county.

George R. Buckman, one of the old settlers of Waseca County, is a native of Crown Point, N. Y., born December 23, 1832, and is the son of Silas and Huldah (Sisson) Buckman. He remained in the place of his birth until he had attained the age of seventeen years, when he went to Manchester, N. H., where his time was employed in working in a store and attending school alternately, for about four years. In 1855 he came west to Minnesota, locating at first at Winona. In 1857 he came to Waseca County, and settled at St. Mary, where he worked at the carpenter's trade until May 23, 1861, when he enlisted in Company G, First Minnesota Infantry Regiment, the "Old First," as it is familiarly called, and with that famous body of men participated in all the bloody battles, from the first battle of Bull Run to Bristow Station, Va. He was mustered out with the regiment May 5, 1864, and returned to Minnesota. The same year he was nominated for the office of county auditor, but declined to serve. In 1865 he was elected to the position of county treasurer, which he retained for eight years. On the expiration of his last term he entered into the real-estate business at Waseca, whither he had removed on the transfer to that place of the county-seat from Wilton. He was the founder of the People's Bank, of which he is the present cashier. He was united in marriage, March 12, 1867, with Isadore A. Wood, and they have been the parents of three children: Marion, Royal and Harley, who died January 23, 1869.

Mr. Buckman is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter No. 26, Royal Arch Masons; Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar, and of Lewis McKune Post, No. 27, Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Buckman was succeeded, in 1874, by Warren Smith, who held the office of county treasurer for four years. Mr. Smith is noticed at length under the legislative heading, he having served the county in the XIth Legislature.

Charles McKenna, the present county treasurer, was first elected to that office in the fall of 1879, and has held it ever since, being reelected twice. Charles McKenna, the present treasurer, is a native of Canada, having been born in 1837. He is the son of Daniel and Anna (Flanegan) McKenna. Remaining at home until 1868, Mr. McKenna struck out for the West, coming to Faribault, Rice County, Minn., where he entered the store of L. Barber, as salesman. After a year's service he, in company with C. L. La Grave, established a business stand of their own, carrying a stock of general merchandise. Six years later he sold out, and coming to the city of Waseca formed the copartnership of Forbes & McKenna, dealers in general merchandise, which after about two years was dissolved, Mr. McKenna carrying on the business alone. This store he still operates. In the fall of 1879, such was his popularity that he was elected county treasurer, and has been reelected his own successor.

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

At the first court held in Waseca County, in 1857, F. L. Paige acted as the clerk, but only acted a short time when he went back East and H. P. Norton was appointed to this office, and at the fall election of that year, H. P. Norton was duly elected to this office and held it for four years.

H. P. West entered upon the duties of this office in 1862, and for that and the succeed-

ing year filled it to the satisfaction of all.

N. E. Strong was the next incumbent of the office of clerk of the court, taking possession January 1, 1864. He was reelected and served in all four years. He was one of the early settlers in this county, locating in what was called Plum Valley in 1856. He was a native of Ohio, and is now a resident of the State of California.

S. J. Willis was the successor of Mr. Strong as clerk of the court, serving four years. Mr. Willis came to this county in 1856 and located at Wilton, where he engaged in business. He was a native of Pennsylvania, and is now a resident of Washington, filling some clerical position in one of the departments of the general government.

James B. Hayden was the next to fill this important office. Entering upon its duties with the beginning of the year 1872, he was retained there by an appreciative people until the end of 1879.

J. B. Hayden was born in Ireland November 30, 1840, but left his native home when but two years of age and came to Canada with his parents, who were Peter and Anna Hayden, where they remained until 1849. From there they moved to Portage City, Wis., at that time a new country, Mr. Hayden coming from Milwaukee to his new home. He remained in Portage City some two years, when he removed to Marquette County. J. B. Hayden lived with his parents until 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Seventeenth Wisconsin Infantry, under Col. J. L. Doran, and served for three years, being mustered into service January 2, 1862, and receiving his discharge May 5, 1865. He was in a number of battles, among others the battle of Atlanta, where he was struck on the wrist by a spent minie ball, which caused the loss of the use of his arm. He still has the bullet in his possession, and retains it as a valuable relic of his army life. On the 7th of June, 1865, Mr. Hayden came to Waseca County, and in July of the same year located in the town of Alton, where he farmed until

January, 1872. He then took charge of the office of clerk of the district court, having been elected to the same the preceding fall, and retained possession for twelve successive years. In 1884 he went to California, but only remained a short time, returning to Waseca. Since May 1, 1885, he has had charge of American Express Company's business.

M. B. Keeley, the present clerk of the court, was first elected in the fall of 1879, and has been reelected twice. He is a native of Ireland, born in 1852, who was brought in 1856 by his parents, who located in Canada. In 1866 he came to Rock County, Wis., where he remained until coming to Waseca in 1873, when he engaged in the grocery business which he still continues. He was married May 1, 1876, to Mary A. Delaney. They are the parents of five children: James W., Mary A., Lena G., Emma and Arthur H. All are members of the Catholic Church.

SHERIFF.

Nathaniel Garland, the first sheriff of Waseca County, was appointed by the Governor to act in that capacity during the organization of the county, in the spring of 1857. At the special election, held in June of that year, he was elected to fill that office, and held it until the close of the year 1859. He, soon after the expiration of his term of office, removed to Iowa, where he engaged in raising sheep, but returned to Wilton in the spring of 1864, and engaged in the mercantile business with John Forest. In 1868 he sold out there, and together with J. A. Claghorn, entered into the butcher business at the village of Waseca. He was united in marriage in 1863 with Miss L. D. Dodge. July 26, 1880, he was found dead under the waters of Clear Lake, drowned in less than five feet of water.

In 1860 D. L. Whipple succeeded to the office of sheriff of the county. He was reelected, and served until the beginning of the year 1866. Mr. Whipple was a carpenter by trade, and worked at that both

before and after his term in office. He was a prominent member of the Anti-Horse Thief Association, and a very popular man throughout the county. He died here February 4, 1872.

E. M. Broughton, elected in the fall of 1865, entered upon the duties of the office of sheriff with the beginning of 1866, and served the people for two years.

Seth W. Long was chosen by the people, at the election of 1867, to fill the office of sheriff, and was reelected in 1869, 1871, 1873 and 1875, serving in all ten years. He is still a resident of the county.

Mathew Keeley served as sheriff from January, 1878, until January, 1882.

Mr. Keeley was succeeded in 1882 by Hugh Wilson, who retained the office until the 1st of January, 1886.

At the fall election of 1885 A. C. Krassin was chosen by the people of Waseca County to represent them in the office of sheriff, and is the present occupant of that position.

August C. Krassin, the present sheriff, is also one of the hardware firm of Krassin & Boucher, and is a son of Martin Krassin, one of the earliest settlers of this county. August was born in Wisconsin, and when he was but a small child was brought by his parents to this county in June, 1855. They located in what is now the township of St. Mary, where August was reared. In 1880 he came to Waseca City, where he engaged in business with J. C. White, but in 1882 Thomas Boucher purchased the interest of Mr. White and the present firm was formed. They carry all lines of hardware, and are very heavy dealers in agricultural implements.

JUDGES OF PROBATE COURT.

The first to occupy this office was J. A. Canfield, who was elected at the fall election of 1857. He continued to hold this office until 1860, when he made way for a successor.

Job A. Canfield was born in Knox County, Ohio, January 20, 1824, and July 27, 1845.

was married, and came west to Dodge County, Wis., in October of the same year. He there took up a claim, but it was "jumped" by another party, and to avoid trouble, he left that part of the country and settled at Rolling Prairie, in the same State, where he located on eighty acres of school land, which he purchased. This he sold out in the spring of 1856, and came to this county, settling on section 3 of Otisco Township, taking up a claim of 160 acres of land. He afterwards purchased some sixty acres more land on sections 3 and 4. August 12, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and did excellent service in defense of his country and his country's flag, participating in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged, and was discharged at Memphis, Tenn., May 17, 1865, when he returned to this county. He held the office of judge of the probate court for many years in this county, and died here January 28, 1884. He and his wife, Mary A. Canfield, were the parents of seven children: Nancy B., born July 27, 1846, who was married January 2, 1875, to George W. Soule, of this county; Henry O., born April 23, 1848, married January 21, 1877, to Josephine L. McKinster, and is a resident of Waseca; Viola A., born August 2, 1850, married December 25, 1876, to George A. Onn, now in Le Sueur County, Minn.; John M., born December 10, 1852, married August 26, 1876, to Frances S. Morrison, resides in city of Waseca; Lillie G., born August 6, 1855, died August 18, 1859; Eunice, born April 13, 1858, died October 10, 1875, and Ida May, born April 30, 1861. The widow, Mrs. Mary A. Canfield, resides on the old homestead with her daughter, Ida May, although she rents the farm to a tenant. She is a member of the Methodist Church.

H. D. Baldwin filled the office of probate judge during the years 1860 to 1863 inclusive. A sketch of Mr. Baldwin occurs elsewhere.

P. Brink Enos was the judge of probate

during the years 1864 and 1865. A slight sketch of this gentleman is given among the early attorneys of this county, further on, in its proper place.

Mr. Enos was succeeded in 1866 by James E. Child, who held the office until the last of 1867, when he, too, "threw off the restraint of official life," and passed the office to his successor, H. D. Baldwin, who again occupied the office until January 1, 1870, when he, in turn, was succeeded by J. A. Canfield. This second term of Judge Canfield lasted for eight years.

At the beginning of the year 1878 Caleb Hallack entered upon the duties of this office, and served two years.

In 1879 and 1880 S. D. Crump filled the position of probate judge. Mr. Crump is one of the leading attorneys of the county, a very talented man; is noticed elsewhere.

H. C. Woodbury was the successor of Mr. Crump in this office, and filled the position for one term of two years.

January 1, 1886, W. C. Young, the present judge of the probate court, entered upon the duties of his office, and fills it to the satisfaction of the people of the county.

Hon. William C. Young came to the county of Waseca in 1866, and purchasing a farm in Woodville Township remained there but a short time, when he removed to the new village of Waseca, where he followed the occupation of contracting and building until January 1, 1876, when being appointed postmaster, he gave much of his time to that office, which he held for ten years. He is a native of Madison County, N. Y., born August 10, 1826, and is the son of Henry and Philena Young. In 1854 he came west, locating at Fitchburg, Wis., where he was engaged in building, and made that his home until 1861. When the dark cloud of civil war lowered over the heads of this nation, he raised a company of men for the service of the general government, which was mustered in as Company E. of the Eighth Wisconsin Infantry, he receiving a commis-

sion as captain. Participating in the fortunes of that gallant regiment, he saw considerable service and was in many of the battles that took place in the southwest. He it was who took the only boat through the bayou and canal in the rear of Vicksburg, that could be so forwarded, the water falling after its passage, not permitting any to follow. In July, 1864, he was commissioned major of his regiment, and in that capacity served until the close of hostilities. He then returned to his Wisconsin home, where he remained until 1866, when he came to Waseca County, as detailed above. In the fall of 1869 he was elected to represent this district in the State Legislature, and occupied a place in that august body in the XIIth Assembly. In the XIIIth Assembly he was in the Senate. In 1885 he was elected to the office of judge of the probate court, of Waseca County, and is now filling that position. He is a member of Comee Lodge, No. 25, and of Golden Rule Encampment, No. 13, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of Lewis McKune Post, No. 27, Grand Army of the Republic. July 12, 1846, he was united in marriage with Caroline Kingsley, a native of Chautauqua, N. Y., and a sister of Bishop Kingsley. They are the parents of four children: William Henry, Eugene W. and Mabel A., living, and Luna E., deceased.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

At the second meeting of the county commissioners' court, held April 6, 1857, John Bradish was appointed county attorney, with the munificent salary of \$100 per year. He only held it for one year, when he made way for his successor.

M. S. Green was elected to fill this office in the fall of 1857, and probably served a year.

J. E. Child was county attorney in 1859 and 1860, and was succeeded by Hial D. Baldwin. The latter held the office for three years, and then in turn gave way for Mr.

Child, who again filled it for about three years.

In 1867 W. T. Kittredge became county attorney, and for two years served the people in this office.

B. S. Lewis entered upon this office January, 1869, and continued therein, being reëlected his own successor until the last of 1873.

Peter McGovern was the incumbent of the office during the years 1874 and 1875, and was succeeded by M. D. L. Collester, who in 1882 gave way for W. R. Kinder. The latter served two years.

In 1884 Peter McGovern became the county attorney by the will of the people, and is the present incumbent of the office.

Most of the gentlemen mentioned above are among the attorneys of the county, or have held more important official positions, and are mentioned in connection therewith.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

The first surveyor of the county was H. W. Peek. This gentleman came to Waseca County in 1856, and was appointed one of the commissioners to organize the county, but resigned the same to accept the position of county surveyor, to which office he was appointed March 16, 1857. He held this position until the first of 1858, when he rotated out of office. He shortly afterward returned to Ohio, whence he had come.

He was succeeded by A. E. Smith.

On the 1st of January, 1862, G. P. Johnson became the county surveyor.

H. G. Mosher was the county surveyor from 1864 until the last of the year 1865. Mr. Mosher has been noticed previous to this in this chapter.

O. S. Canfield served two years as county surveyor from January 1, 1866.

At the beginning of the year 1868, C. E. Crane commenced his long term of office as surveyor, which lasted until the first of 1881, when he entered the office of county auditor as already mentioned. He was succeeded by O. L. Smith, the present county surveyor.

CHAPTER IX.

COUNTY-SEAT CONTESTS AND COUNTY BUILDINGS.



THE act of the Legislature that authorized the organization of Waseca County in 1857, ordered that the people of the said county should determine by ballot upon the location of the seat of justice in and for said county, at a special election to be held for that purpose.

Excitement ran riot, for three several towns within the limits of the new county aspired to the honor of being the county-seat, Wilton, Empire and St. Mary. To quote from the pen of "The Oldest Settler," published in 1869 in the *Weekly News*:

"Men from Faribault, Owatonna and other parts of the then Territory, suddenly became permanent residents of Waseca County. Wilton, Empire and St. Mary attained large proportions some ten days before the election. Their streets literally swarmed with black coats, satin vests and plug hats. Money and promises were as plenty as house flies in August. There was 'hurrying to and fro,' among the paper city lots and town site speculators. Loafing young men played euchre on the prairie green, or lounged upon the corners of imaginary magnificent future business blocks in the would-be cities heretofore mentioned.

"Alas, poor human foresight. Man soweth, but God giveth the increase. In this case there was a sudden decrease immediately after the election.

"The whole number of votes cast was 736. Was not that a fair sized election for a county of only two years settlement?

"The precinct of Elysian cast 29 votes: 23 for Wilton, 4 for St. Mary and 2 for En-

pire. Empire cast 160 votes: 11 for Wilton, 49 for St. Mary and 100 for Empire. Swaversey cast 107 votes: 51 for Wilton, 33 for St. Mary and 23 for Empire. Wilton cast 309 votes: 189 for Wilton, 119 for St. Mary and 1 for Empire. The 'oldest settler' has never found out who that fellow was. Otisco cast 60 votes: 58 for Wilton and 2 for St. Mary.

"Wilton therefore received 332 votes, St. Mary 207, and Empire 126."

And as the village of Wilton had received but two less than a majority of the whole vote cast, it was declared the legal seat of justice for Waseca County, and so continued for many years.

After the advent of the railroad in Waseca County and the birth of the new town of Waseca in 1867, some talk was indulged in in regard to the re-location of the county-seat at the latter place. Nothing of any moment was done at that time; but in the latter part of 1868 the subject being again agitated, it began to crystalize, and a petition was sent to the Legislature for action authorizing the submission of the question to the people of the county. This was met by a remonstrance from the friends of Wilton. Nothing definite seems to have come of this.

The remonstrance brought out, of course, attacks from the partisans of Waseca, and counter attacks from Wilton's friends. The war waxed warm and the people of the county were divided upon the issue. But Waseca having the railroad, and Wilton being without that necessary adjunct, and the courthouse and vault at the last named place being miserably unfit for the use to which they were put, Wilton had extreme difficulties to

overcome to compete with the newer town.

Finally, to add to the discomfiture of the Wilton people, the old courthouse, a miserable affair at the best, was destroyed by fire, about 8 o'clock Saturday morning, April 3, 1869. Fire was discovered about that time in the courthouse, caused either by the overheating of a stovepipe, or by a prisoner confined at the time in the jail. When first discovered it had spread throughout the building between the ceiling and walls and had reached the roof. After brave exertions to save the building on the part of some present, and hard work in removing part of its contents, it was found that the edifice was doomed, and all hands turned to and carried out the county books, papers, records and furniture, and soon but little was left but the empty shell, which lasted but a short time. Several other buildings in the same block suffered at the same time being all swallowed up by the flames. Immediately after the fire the county officers took up their quarters temporarily in a wagon shop, formerly occupied by B. Bundsho.

On the 12th of the same month, a special session of the board of county commissioners was held at Wilton, for the purpose of providing a suitable place for the county offices and records, and in which to transact public business. There were present at this meeting: R. F. Stevens, chairman; John S. McKune, Robert Earl, William Byron and John Buckhout. They appointed a committee to rent a building for their use, but they reported that but one place could be rented, and that was one owned by G. P. Johnson, who wanted \$250 per year for it. Thereupon the board appointed another committee to see for what price they could purchase a building. This consisted of John Buckhout, Robert Earl and J. S. McKune. After a time they returned and reported that the building formerly occupied by John Winters could be bought for \$500, whereupon the chairman was empowered to complete the purchase of the same and pay for it out

of the insurance money that would be received for the old courthouse. This was accordingly done, and the old building fitted up for use until such time as the county could or would erect a proper edifice, and the county officers moved into it.

This was in use when, in January, 1870, W. C. Young, the representative from this county in the State Legislature, presented a bill authorizing the voters of the village of Waseca to vote for or against the issue of bonds for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings for the use of the county. The act was passed and signed by the Governor in February, 1870. Under this act, the board of village trustees presented to the legal voters of Waseca the following resolution, to be balloted on either for its acceptance or rejection. Omitting the preamble it read thus:

"That . . . the bonds of the village of Waseca, with interest coupons attached, be issued for the purpose named in the act, in the sum of \$5,000, and bearing annual interest at the rate of 12 per centum.

"That the denominations of such bonds, and the time or times when the same shall be payable, be such as this board may hereafter direct.

"Provided, that no bond shall be issued running more than ten years from the date thereof."

Accordingly, at the March election the people of the village gave a hearty assent to the matter, and the courthouse was built during that summer. During its erection considerable discussion went on about the new building, the enemies of the village saying that Waseca was only going to rent the building to the county, if the county-seat was changed there, and other remarks of that nature. But the people of the growing railroad town went on with their work, and in the fall of the same year it was completed.

This being done the trustees of the village executed a warrantee deed of conveyance to the county, of the grounds and buildings, the only condition of the gift being that the

people of the county, at the fall election, would locate the county-seat at the village of Waseca, and use the building as a courthouse.

Then the fun began, Janesville entering the contest as an aspirant for the honor of being the shire town. Aspersions and defamations were as freely bandied back and forth as if they were the most honied compliments. As a specimen of the literature of the times the following is quoted from a newspaper article, of that eventful summer:

“Some fellows at Wilton got up an electioneering document, which appeared at this place on Thursday last, which is remarkable mostly on account of its great length and breadth, and dearth of truth. It is not worth while to expend any time over the grammarless jargon and senseless twaddle which it contains about the county-seat, but it contains one broad falsehood which it may be as well to simply deny; namely, that the people of Waseca are trying to kill off the other villages of the county.” After showing the folly of that course of proceeding, and disclaiming any intent at all in that direction, the article concludes thus: “But no sensible man wants to pull down any locality, and the soul that cannot desire the prosperity of the whole county, could easily find room inside a flea’s bladder for a cotillion party.”

But any vituperation, abuse or chicanery could not alter the inevitable, and at the regular election, held on the 8th of November, 1870, the people of the county agreed to accept the offer of the village of Waseca, take the courthouse and remove the county-seat to that town. The following is the vote:

For the removal of the county-seat.....	870
Against the removal.....	653
Majority in favor of removal.....	217

It was hoped that on the decision of the majority for the re-location of the county-seat at Waseca, that the matter would end there, but it seems that some parties interested in its retention at Wilton intended to contest the matter in the courts, and to save

a long, bitter and expensive lawsuit, the people of Waseca, with the full coöperation of most of the county officers, took measures to learn the result of the election at an early hour. About 10 o’clock on the evening of the election the matter was definitely known, and men and teams were started for Wilton to assist the officers in removing the county property to the new county-seat. Arriving there about 1 o’clock the records, books, papers and other property of the county was loaded at once on the wagons and taken to the new seat of justice, in the village of Waseca. This was with the exception of the county auditor’s office. Warren Smith, who had been appointed auditor, refused to move the office in the night, but transferred it the next day to its new quarters.

In its issue of November 9, 1870, the following item appeared in the columns of the *Waseca News*, under the caption, “The County-seat Has Come:”

“At an early hour this morning, the sound of music by the band and the huzzas of the people, aroused our slumbering (?) citizens and it was soon ascertained that the register of deeds, the clerk of the court, the sheriff and the treasurer had moved their books, papers and records from the rotten old hulk at Wilton to the new county-seat of Waseca County, and ‘set up shop’ at the new and elegant courthouse in this place.

“The ‘thing is did.’ That big lawsuit over the removal of the county-seat will be held at Waseca—when it comes off.

“Any one having business at the county-seat will find the ‘machine’ in full blast at the courthouse.”

Some of the more hasty of the partisans of Wilton, feeling aggrieved, both at the re-location of the county-seat and the hasty removal of the records, etc., to the new courthouse, threatened a contest at law, but on due reflection gave it up, as it was useless to attempt to override the decision of so large a majority of the qualified electors of the

county, and the prosecution was abandoned. Considerable asperity was engendered between the rival towns and their faction, but time, the great ameliorator of such disputes, has wiped it all away, most of the Wiltonites having removed to Waseca or Janesville.

The present courthouse which was thus donated to the county, is a fine brick structure 40x50 feet in size on the ground, and two stories in height. The first floor contains four offices, two on each side of a corridor that extends through the entire building from east to west. From the west end of this hall way there extends a flight of stairs which leads to the courtroom in the second story. The building is a good specimen of the architecture of the present day, with but little ornamentation, but substantial in appearance. In the rear of the office occupied by the register of deeds is a capacious vault, that holds all the records, books and papers of the county.

COUNTY JAIL.

The board of county commissioners, on January 7, 1875, passed a resolution, asking the necessary authority to issue the bonds of

the county, in a sum not to exceed \$10,000, to raise the funds with which to build a jail, and to levy a tax to meet the payments on the said bonds. After some delay, the authority being granted, the auditor was, January 4, 1878, by order of the board, authorized to advertise for bids for the erection of the building.

On March 20 the various bids were opened, and it was found that W. B. Craig & Co., whose bid was for \$9,334, were the lowest and the contract was accordingly let to them, they agreeing to finish the building by October 1, 1878. Work was at once commenced, and the building soon began to assume shape under the supervision of C. G. Maybury, of Winona, the architect. The jail was completed on time and accepted by the board of county commissioners, who were so well pleased that they passed the following resolution at a session held October 14, 1878:

Resolved, That C. G. Maybury, architect, is entitled to the thanks of Waseca County for his ability and diligence displayed in drawing plans and specifications for, and in superintending the erection of, the jail building in this county."



CHAPTER X.

JOURNALISM.



WASECA County is well supplied with newspapers, and no county in the State has been more benefited by this means. It would be difficult to select a county in the Northwest more widely known than Waseca, and this fact can be directly attributed to its local papers, which have, week after week, month after month and year after year, continued to spread intelligence and record events relating to this locality.

The pioneer journal of Waseca County was

THE HOME VIEWS.

This paper, a small six-column folio, first made its appearance at Wilton, then the county seat, on the 13th of March, 1860. It was edited by J. W. Crawford, but was published by A. B. Cornell, of Owatonna. Thus it ran for awhile, but in the fall of the same year the publication of the paper was transferred to the office of the *Central Republican*, at Faribault. About this time W. T. Kittredge became associated with Mr. Crawford in the editorial management, and under their joint efforts it was kept running until the latter part of the year 1860, when it passed away into that land that has received so many journalistic ventures.

THE WASECA HOME VIEWS.

About the 1st of March, 1861, Alexander Johnston and S. J. Willis commenced the paper with the above heading. It was a seven column folio, and printed on their own press at Wilton, really the first paper printed in the county. Here they ran

the *Home Views* until in the fall of 1861, when they removed the press and material to Faribault, though still publishing the *Home Views* from that place. In the latter part of October, 1863, Alexander Johnston became the sole proprietor, and, removing it entirely to Faribault, changed its politics to Democratic.

THE WASECA COURIER.

A small paper with the above name was started in the town of Wilton, early in 1863, the initial number bearing date of January 21. It was a five column folio edited by John C. Ide, but printed at Owatonna, by Mrs. A. B. Cornell, at first, but later by L. H. Kelley. It had but a sickly existence at best, and about the first of December of the same year that saw its birth, it died.

WILTON WEEKLY NEWS.

About the beginning of November, 1863, the press and other material that had been used to print the *Home Views*, at Faribault, became the property of H. D. Baldwin, then a resident of Wilton, who determined to utilize it. James Mowatt was employed as printer and publisher and James E. Child as editor. On the 8th day of December, 1863, the first issue of the *Wilton Weekly News* made its appearance. It was a small, six column folio, and Republican in politics. At the close of a year, the press and outfit of the office were purchased by Mr. Child, the editor, who assumed entire control. On the 8th of March, 1866, the paper was enlarged to a seven column folio, in which form it continued for many years. This journal continued to be published at Wilton, until the latter part

of October, 1867, when the office was removed to Waseca, then a new town, laid out on the coming of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad. On its arrival here the name was changed, and it made its appearance as the

WASECA NEWS.

Mr. Child continued the sole proprietor until in November, 1868, when William J. Graham, formerly of Brownsville, Pa., purchased a half interest in the *News*, thus forming the firm of Child & Graham. The first issue under the new copartnership bears the date of November 4, and contains a notice to the public of the change, signed by Mr. Child, marking out the future course of the paper, and formally introducing his partner to the patrons of the *News*. He concludes in the following words:

"We (i. e. 'Pat') are already a fixture of this section. You all know us — at least you know the hard side of us. You know, too, that we have made the *News* live, notwithstanding hard times, and some pretty strong opposition. We shall continue our efforts to make it one of the most reliable and spicy of the many good papers of the West. We shall continue to battle for the right, and against the wrong. We shall work for the building up of the whole country. We shall work particularly for the advancement of the State of Minnesota, and forever herald forth the praises of Waseca County, believing, as we do, that God hath not made a better spot — all things considered — anywhere on this great earth."

Mr. Graham, in the same number, makes his salutatory to the people of the county, in a bold, manly style. In speaking of the political course of the paper, he said:

"Reared in the political faith of the Republican party, we shall give it an earnest and consistent support, recognizing its principles as being founded on truth and right, having for its ends the elevation of mankind, the perpetuity of the union on an enduring basis, and the fulfillment of all national obli-

gations according to the spirit and letter of the law. While we shall render true allegiance to the great principles of the party, we claim the right to criticise the acts of our leaders, and to express freely and candidly our opinion on all questions of the day. 'With malice toward none, with charity toward all,' we shall seek to do our duty at all times, 'unawed by influence and unbribed by gain.' As the sum of our political action we accept the Augustine maxim: 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'"

In October, 1869, Mr. Graham assumed the greater burden of the editorial work of the office. On the 31st of May, 1871, he severed his connection with the *News*, which then passed into the hands of J. E. Child as sole proprietor. Just previous to the change the form of the paper was altered to that of a six column quarto.

On the 1st of August, 1871, John F. Murphy became associated with Mr. Child in the *News*, and was connected with this journal until the 29th of May, 1872, when the name of Mr. Child appears alone at the head of the paper. This well-known gentleman continued at the head of the *News* until January 6, 1875, when he changed the name of the paper to that of the

MINNESOTA RADICAL,

and made it the organ of the temperance and prohibition movement. Its motto was "temperance, anti-monopoly, anti-corruption, and a new party—the Radical Reform party." The stated object of this change was to enlarge the field of his paper, making it a State journal and making it the champion of the above causes. In the first number the editor thus speaks:

"This paper will aim to be radically right on all questions of public policy and will advocate the truth about men, parties and principles. Some of the old party papers will probably insist that the *Radical* is a 'crazy' sheet, but as that is the argument

which has been used against every reform movement since the world began, our friends should not be alarmed."

In May, 1878, Walter Child, a son of the proprietor, became associated in the publication of the paper, the elder Mr. Child still having editorial control. In October, the same year, W. W. Satterlee, then candidate for governor on the temperance ticket, became joint editor of the *Radical*, although he had no pecuniary interest therein, it being brought about by the consolidation of the *Liberty Blade*, of Minneapolis, with the *Radical*. The united papers were printed simultaneously at Waseca and Minneapolis, and was the exponent of the temperance and anti-monopoly cause. Under these auspices the *Radical and Liberty Blade* continued until July, 1880, when it was purchased by William G. Ward, then a candidate for congressional honors. He restored the old name of *Minnesota Radical*, or rather cut off the name of *Liberty Blade* from it, and changed its politics to that of the Republican party. For a short time he continued to edit the paper himself, but afterward employed E. B. Collester as editor, who continued to occupy the editorial chair until August, 1881, when the paper was purchased by C. E. Graham, the present proprietor. About a year after becoming its owner, Mr. Graham changed the name to

THE WASECA RADICAL,

under which head it is now known. On the 9th day of September, 1885, the journal made its appearance as a six column quarto, in a new dress, and is a neat and tasty exhibition of the printer's skill.

Clarence E. Graham, the editor and proprietor of the *Waseca Radical*, was born at Windsor, Broome County, N. Y., December 22, 1841, and is a son of John L. and Emma L. (Hermans) Graham. His father comes of a noted Scottish house, and his mother is of German descent. C. E. was reared in the county of his birth until February, 1860, when he went to Perryville, Perry County, Mo., where he engaged as carpenter on the court

house then building, and while there, saw what they termed Lincoln men ridden upon a rail for their opinion's sake. In the winter of 1860-61, he was taken sick and returned to New York, where he did a little work on the farm. In the spring of 1862, his father and brother came west to Minnesota, and he and his mother followed the same fall, all locating in Houston County. In 1863, he enlisted in Company D, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, known as Washburn's Cavalry, and remained in the service until December 12, 1865, when he was mustered out and came to Waseca County. January 9, 1866, he settled on a farm in Freedom Township, where he remained until 1873. He then removed to the village of Janesville and established the *Argus*, and was made postmaster of the village. He continued at the head of this paper until 1881, when he disposed of it to J. A. Henry, the present owner, and came to Waseca, and in August of that year purchased the *Radical* and has been engaged in editing it ever since. January 3, 1869, he was united in marriage with Rocepha Helen Stone, a daughter of Hiram and Ann (Comstock) Stone. They are the parents of four children: Aretas Earl, Frederick Comstock, Clarence Charles and George Stone. Mr. Graham is a member of McKune Post, No. 27, Grand Army of the Republic. As a writer Mr. Graham has an easy, graceful style, and conducts his paper in an able and business-like manner.

WILTON COURANT.

After the removal of the *News* from Wilton to Waseca, in the fall of 1867, the county-seat was left without a newspaper, and so continued until the spring of 1869. On the 6th of March of that year the initial number of the *Wilton Courant* made its appearance, with the name of W. D. Palmer at its head as editor. After but two issues had been printed A. J. Clark's name was substituted, and under his editorial management the paper continued until with the number bearing date of August 17, 1869, the venture



James E. Child

came to an end. The outfit of the office was removed to Sherburne County, this State.

LANTERN.

An advertising sheet with the above name was issued at Janesville, October 25, 1871, by H. P. Packard, of that village. It was not a newspaper in the true sense of the word, being printed for general distribution. Only a few numbers were issued.

THE INDEPENDENT.

A paper was established at the village of Janesville during the spring of 1873, with the above name. The citizens of that place, desiring a journal of their own, purchased the press and material for an office, and sold the same to John L. Barlow, taking therefor, a chattel mortgage as security. After about twelve papers had been issued, the people becoming dissatisfied with the way it was conducted, closed the affair up under the mortgage and brought the paper to a stand-still.

THE RECORD.

In the fall of 1873 a paper was published at the village of Waseca, under the above title, the initial number bearing date of October 14, with W. J. Graham as proprietor, and Graham & Carman editors. It was a three column folio, and neatly gotten up. On the 15th of November following, Mr Graham's name was taken from the head of the columns, A. H. Carman continuing to act as editor until the following spring, when it suspended. The material was sold to the *Kasson Republican* and moved to that city. Mr. Carman is now engaged in preaching at St. Charles, Minn.

JANESVILLE ARGUS.

This venture in the newspaper world first saw the light in the fall of 1873. The *Independent*, then published at the village of Janesville, not meeting the expectations of those interested, C. E. Graham, although without

any previous knowledge of journalism, undertook to establish a paper at that point. Purchasing an outfit, on the 2d of November he issued the first number of the *Argus*. It was a neatly printed and well gotten up sheet, five-column quarto in size, and justly met the approbation of the people of the northwestern part of the county. Mr. Graham continued to occupy the editorial chair and remained sole proprietor until August, 1881, when he purchased the *Waseca Radical*, and disposed of the *Argus* to John A. Henry, the present proprietor.

J. A. Henry, the editor and proprietor of the Janesville *Argus*, is a native of Crawford County, Pa., born May '25, 1855, and is the son of J. N. and Diana (Merchant) Henry. When he was quite small his parents removed to the State of New York, where they remained until 1872, when they came to Blue Earth County, locating near Mankato. Mr. Henry, the elder, was both a graduate in medicine and a Methodist minister, and is now a resident of Anoka, Minn., where he is engaged solely in healing bodies. Before J. A. left New York, he attended the Griffith Institute at Springville for a term and after coming to Minnesota he attended the State normal school at Mankato for three terms. Later, he commenced the study of law with S. D. Crump, then of Janesville, meantime acting as clerk in the postoffice here, and absorbing all the knowledge of local newspaper that he could from C. E. Graham, who was then postmaster and editor of the *Argus*. When the latter moved to Waseca in 1881, Mr. Henry purchased the paper and has since continued to manipulate the editorial pen, and control its entire machinery. In the fall of 1881 he was appointed postmaster and held that office until March, 1887, when Mr. Tefft was appointed, although Mr. Henry still has charge of the office as deputy. Mr. Henry holds strictly to the Republican principles, but in local matters supports the man for the place, rather than party.

WASECA LEADER.

Early in the spring of 1876 T. F. Hollister came to the village of Waseca from Chipewewa Falls, Wis., and instituted the paper with the above name. The first number was issued on the 8th of April, 1876. Mr. Hollister is said to have been a Democrat, but on coming here commenced the publication of a Republican sheet. This paper continued in his hands until May 7, 1880, when it was sold to G. W. Morse and A. F. Booth, who consolidated it with the *Herald*, the material of the office being removed to Sparta, Wis.

WASECA HERALD.

In the fall of 1877 Lem. Reeves and A. J. Fullerton commenced the publication of this live paper. The initial number was issued October 5. It was a seven column folio, and straight Republican in politics. Reeves was a young man who had been reared at McGregor, Iowa, learning his trade as printer in the office of the *North Iowa Times* of that place. For a year the paper was an "all at home printed" sheet, but on the 4th of October, 1878, the form was changed to that of an eight column folio with "patent inside." In December of the same year Mr. Fullerton retired from the firm, and the sole management fell upon Mr. Reeves. Becoming involved in some libel suits, on the 2d of May, 1879, he disposed of the paper and office to G. F. Booth, who on the 1st of July following associated with himself, in the control of the paper, H. F. Pond, formerly of Trempealeau, Wis., and they, under the firm-name of Booth & Pond, carried on the journal until April 23, 1880, when by the retirement of Mr. Pond, Mr. Booth again became sole owner. On the 7th of the following month he purchased the subscription lists and good-will of the *Leader*, and consolidated it with his own paper, and at the same time forming a copartnership with G. W. Morse. The new firm was of but short duration, for with the next issue, that

of May 14, 1880, is heralded a new firm, Mr. Booth selling his interest to S. M. Rose, late of Mantorville, the firm name being Rose & Morse. Under the management of these gentlemen the *Herald* was conducted until March 13, 1883, when Mr. Rose died. He was a native of New York, born in 1832, and had come to Minnesota in 1868, locating, at first, in Dodge County, where he was united in marriage with Abbie F. Bunker. He was a practical printer of ability, and was early in life connected with the journalism of this State. Noted for his energy, honesty of purpose, and general integrity, he left many friends. After his death his widow continued with Mr. Morse as a partner, and the latter as editor, to conduct the paper until December, 1883, when John F. Murphy purchased her interest, forming the new firm of Morse & Murphy. On the 15th of October, 1885, James E. Child, the former well-known editor of the *News*, and later of the *Radical*, became the owner of the interest of Mr. Morse. Owing, however, to the fact that Mr. Child could not yet give his attention to his editorial duties, Mr. Morse consented to act as such until such time as, former businesses being settled, Mr. Child could again take up the "broken thread of life's duties" in the sanctum. In the issue of December 4 following, we find this greeting to his friends, over the signature of the incoming editor, and under the heading "Back Again":

"The undersigned, having spent the last five years as a Jackson County granger, and made a fortune (?) by tilling the soil, returns to his 'first love'—the rich hunting-grounds of the Le Sueur Valley—and among his old friends and neighbors, and again takes up the editorial pencil for better or worse. The kind greeting and friendly words which meet him on every hand, encourage him to again commence the difficult task of editing a newspaper. The *Herald*, so far as the writer shall be able to aid in its publication, will continue to be a first-class local newspaper, and will put forth every effort to ad-

vance the local interests of this city and county. Politically it will be about as independent and outspoken as any newspaper in this newspaper land of ours. 'With charity for the erring, and malice toward none,' the writer invites the coöperation of every citizen to aid in making this paper the *Herald* of news, and the promoter of education, industry and sobriety."

Under the firm name of Child & Murphy the *Herald* has continued to flourish, and it has become one of the leading journals of this portion of the State of Minnesota.

James E. Child, the veteran journalist of Waseca County, is the son of Zabina and Orilla (Rice) Child and was born in DeKalb, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., December 19, 1833. His father was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and worked at that and farming. In the spring of 1834 the family removed to Medina County, Ohio, where they remained some three years and then returned to St. Lawrence County, where the head of the family purchased a small farm on which they remained until about 1843, when they again returned to Ohio, but one year later emigrated to Dodge County, Wis., and were among the early settlers of that region. About 1854, the family removed to Outagamie County, Wis., near Appleton. James E. taught three terms of school in Wisconsin, following farming in the summer. In September, 1854, he went to the pineries of the great Badger State, and returning from thence in December, shortly afterward started with A. G. Sutlief for Minnesota, as detailed elsewhere, arriving in Waseca County, February 2, 1855. He came to take charge of the Sutlief farm and stock, which he did, taking up a claim for himself, however, on section 24 and 25, putting up a shanty in the fall of 1855, in the latter section. He remained with Sutlief until November, 1855, breaking some land and cutting some hay on his own place that summer, however. He remained on this farm until the spring of 1863, when he rented it

and moved to Wilton and commenced the practice of law. Shortly afterward he was appointed deputy United States marshal, which office he held for about a year. In the fall of 1863 he commenced his labors as editor of the paper as above mentioned, and has been in the journalistic harness nearly all the time since. In the fall of 1867 he removed to Waseca, where he practiced law in addition to his editorial duties, and has held the offices of county attorney, court commissioner, superintendent of schools and justice of the peace, besides numerous minor offices. He was elected to the Legislature in 1860, and took his seat in the IIIrd Legislature in January, 1861. In the XIVth Legislature, in 1872, this county was represented in the Senate by Mr. Child, and in the lower house of the XVth Assembly, in 1874, he was a member. He represented the district composed of Martin and Jackson counties in the XXIIIrd Legislature—1883. At the gubernatorial election held November 2, 1886, James E. Child was the Prohibition candidate for the office of governor. On April 19, 1856, Mr. Child and Justina Krassin were united in marriage, and they have been the parents of eight children: Walter, a resident of Waseca; S. M., now in Jackson County, Minn.; Annie, now Mrs. F. A. Wood, of Waseca; Orilla, now Mrs. George H. Goodspeed, of the same place; Dora M., a teacher in Jackson County, this state; George E., at home, and Avery and Marcia, deceased. Mr. Child is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. His life has been a busy one, and while he has "of necessity" made some enemies, he has a host of warm friends. A keen and trenchant writer, he is extreme in all his views and does not fear to give utterance to his belief on all occasions.

John Fiske Murphy, "the printer," is a son of William and Sophia (Fiske) Murphy, and was born in Philadelphia, Pa., January 7, 1850. His father was a native of county Armagh, Ireland, who came to America

when three years old, and was a homeopathic physician, a graduate of the Hahnemann College, of Philadelphia, and practiced his profession in that city. In 1857 the family came to Minnesota and located at Wilton, after stopping a few months in Steele County. Dr. Murphy did not live long after coming here, dying May 14, 1859. John remained at Wilton until the fall of 1862, when he went to Iowa with Nathaniel Garland, and herded sheep for him. He was but a boy, but the oldest of the children, his elder brother having died, and he had to hustle to help support the family. In the fall of 1863 he returned to Wilton and entered the office of the *Wilton News*, and remained until January, 1864, when he went to Philadelphia. After a time he entered the office of the *Daily News*, of that city, edited by J. R. Flanagan, as proof-taker and copyholder. Afterward he was employed as errand boy in the toy store of G. A. Schwartz, 1008 Chestnut street, of the same city. He came back to Wilton, July 15, 1865, and went to work again in the *News* office, where he remained until 1869, when he went to Davenport, Iowa, where he worked on the *Gazette*. From there he went to Monona County, Iowa, and took up a homestead in Grant Township, but shortly after moved to Omaha, and was employed on the *Republican*. In 1870 he was in charge of the mechanical department of the *Pilot*, of Blair, Neb., during the summer, and from there returned to Omaha, where he "held cases" on the *Tribune*, and later was employed in a job office in that city. In 1871 he returned to Wilton, and, after a short time spent as part owner of the *News* in Waseca, put in a job office, the first in this county, he being the first to bring a job press to Waseca County. This was a Liberty, eighth medium. He then ran a Liberal-Republican-Democratic campaign sheet in the interest of Horace Greeley Democrats, and sold out the office in 1873 to W. J. Graham, of the *Record*. For several years following he worked at his trade in this place,

and in January, 1878, went to Baltimore, and had charge of the mechanical department of the *Presbyterian Weekly*, of Baltimore. On March 5, 1879, came back here, and worked at his trade for W. G. Ward, who was running the *Radical*. In the fall of 1881 he rented the office, but, on finding that C. E. Graham wanted to buy it, canceled his lease and worked for Mr. Graham for a year. In December, 1883, he purchased a half interest in the *Herald*, and has been connected with that paper ever since. November 15, 1871, he was united in marriage with Emma J. Hiller, daughter of Henry and Lydia Hiller, and they have one child, Martha Inez, born November 7, 1872. Mr. Murphy is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77. Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and of Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons.

CHRONICLE.

A paper bearing the above name was established at New Richland, in the fall of 1878, by R. P. Child, the paper being published in the office of the *Radical*, at Waseca. It was of but short life, lasting only some six months.

THE TOWN TALK.

On the 9th of October, 1879, a small, three column folio paper, under the above heading was issued at Waseca, with the name of T. White as editor. The second number bearing date of October 23, seems to have been the work of several hands, and this was the end of it.

NEW RICHLAND REVIEW.

An eight column folio paper was started in the fall of 1884, the initial number bearing date of September 24. It was published by Morse & Murphy, of the *Herald*, with L. M. Paschall as local editor, and, as its name of *New Richland Review* denotes, was a fair exponent of the business of that thriving town. It was neatly and tastefully gotten up, full of good advertisements and a credit to any village. The support it drew, however, was not consonant with the

wishes of the publishers, so they ceased its issue, on the 7th of October, 1885.

THE NORTH STAR.

February 4, 1886, witnessed the birth of the youngest of the newspapers of Waseca County. On that day, at the village of New Richland, S. K. Gregg and M. E. Goodwin launched this paper upon the journalistic sea. In their salutatory they give their reasons for establishing the new paper: "For the purpose of deriving some pecuniary benefit therefrom, and to aid, to the best ability in our possession, in the development and prosperity of the inhabitants of New Richland and the vicinity." The paper was a neatly gotten up five column quarto, a form which it still preserves. On the 15th of April, 1886, Mr. Goodwin retired from the firm, leaving S. K. Gregg the sole proprietor. In August, 1887, Mr. Gregg disposed of his interests in the *North Star*, to Bronson & Holland, and with O. H. Bronson, in the chair editorial, it launches out on its new career, with renewed life and with every promise of a successful future. The first paper issued under the new administration bore the date of September 5, 1887.

O. H. Bronson, the editor of the *North Star*, is a native of West Monroe, Oswego County, N. Y., and was born September 17, 1853. In 1859 his parents removed to Watertown, Wis., where he was reared. He attended the usual district schools and the

college at Ripon, Wis., for several terms. His father was interested in a saw, stove and heading mill with a man by the name of Sanford, and he remained with them in that business until he had reached his majority. He then started out for himself and landed in Chicago, where he was a clerk in a store for five years, then was in business for a short time on his own account, but later went on the road selling goods for Leonard, Thompson & Bates, afterward C. T. Leonard, of Minneapolis. In March, 1887, he came to New Richland, and took charge of the Washburn House, one of the leading hotels, which he is still running. At Henderson, Minn., December 17, 1882, he and Lois M. Stearns were united in matrimonial bonds. September 5, 1887, Mr. Bronson took charge of the *North Star*, in connection with Mr. Holland, and is the present editor. He is a son of Royal P. and Antoinette Eliza (Duerden) Bronson.

NEW YEAR.

An amateur journal bearing the name given above made its appearance at Waseca, January 1, 1877, edited by Carl and Cad Young. It was a small two column folio, well printed and neatly gotten up. It was furnished for 50 cents a year, published bi-weekly. It was of but a short life, however, not outlasting the cold weather. The senior editor is now the deputy auditor of Waseca County.



CHAPTER XI.

BENCH AND BAR.



THE fundamental principle underlying all law has been recognized from the beginning of the world. The Divine command to our first parents, "In the day thou eatest thou shalt surely die," is as much a law with the penalty for its violation attached, as is a statute enacted by the Legislature of a State, or the Congress of the United States. Man in a state of semi-barbarism had but little need of written law, for his possessions were but few and the people so scattered as to make courts impracticable. But with the first dawn of civilization, came a different state of affairs. Tracing back through the dim corridors of time to the oldest civilization known, that of Egypt, we find them with a complete code of laws, and all the machinery of regularly appointed courts. And from thence up to the present time courts presided over by judges, and advocates to prosecute or defend cases have always existed in almost every land and clime. Almost the first thing in this bright land of ours when a settlement is made; is the appointing of the proper law officers, that disputes may be adjusted, life and property be protected, and criminals be punished. In view of this fact, the framers of our State constitution instituted certain courts of justice, each with well defined powers. Changes have been constantly made in the laws, and some in the jurisdiction of the courts, from time to time, but the rights of all, be they high or be they low, have been carefully protected. Some of the ablest men in the State have adorned the bench from time to time. In many a court

has been heard the brilliant pleading of some legal light for some wrong sustained by his client, or listened to the scathing, withering denunciation of some criminal act. A history of the courts of a county, of its judges, and of its lawyers, is an important component of the whole and should not be neglected.

THE FIRST LAWSUIT IN WASECA COUNTY.

The first lawsuit in what is now Waseca County, took place in the summer of 1856. The history of the case was about as follows: Two brothers, William and John Jaques, came here from Iowa, some time in June, and made a pretense of looking for some government land. Their first camp was in the neighborhood of Mr. Sutlief's cabin. They were eternally asking questions about claims; who had preëmpted; who claimed more land than the law allowed; who had claims to sell; who had lived up to the requirements of the law, and who had not; and numerous others of the same tenor. Passing along through the settlement they plied these questions to all they came in contact with. In what is now St. Mary Township they thought they found just the case that suited them.

It seems that a small German settlement had been made here in 1855, and among them, one Gotlieb Prechel, who had taken a farm about three-quarters of a mile below St. Mary village, on the line of the Winnebago reservation. During the winter of 1855-6, he had entered his land and received his papers therefor. During the summer he had erected a log cabin and broken up some five or ten acres. He had a crop in, and was fencing it, when these two broth-

ers came that way, and as it was not generally known that Prechel had paid for the land, and judging from what they heard, they determined to jump this claim. Nobody but a Dutchman claimed it; he could be driven or frightened off. There was a house ready to their hands, breaking and fencing begun; there was a fine piece of land, prairie, timber and water; why not enter into possession.

They accordingly moved into the cabin, Mr. Prechel, on account of the proximity of the Indians and a natural timidity on the part of his family, not having yet occupied it, but boarded with Martin Krassin, three miles distant. As soon as Prechel heard of the unwarrantable seizure of his place, in company with his brother-in-law, Krassin, took a team, and proceeding to the farm, commenced chopping and getting out fencing. The Jaques boys heard the sound of the axe, and soon came to see about it, and ordered the Germans off the premises rather roughly. Neither of the Teutons could speak or understand much English, but tried hard to make the intruders understand that the land was theirs, and that it had been paid for. This they would not believe, or failed to catch the meaning of, and again ordered them off. Prechel, being a timid man, kept quiet, and was for going away and taking counsel on the matter, but Martin was made of a sterner stuff, stood boldly to the front, and in turn ordered the intruders away, as they, Prechel and himself, had the best right there. This brought on hostilities, John Jaques immediately making an assault upon Krassin, and pounded the poor German about the face and eyes, that soon he was hardly able to see. The Germans then withdrew, and being quite indignant, started off to invoke the majesty of the law. John Jenkins, then justice of the peace, was duly consulted, but as lawyers were then an unknown quantity in the new settlement, some difficulty was had; but after some study, an affidavit to the facts was made,

and a warrant for the arrest of the aggressors placed in the hands of John G. Greening, then acting constable, who, summoning a posse, started for the apprehension of the culprits, and found William alone, his brother being absent. Going to a neighbor's they caught sight of him, but he fled. They pursued him and he took refuge in the river. On one side of it stood the posse, on the other the constable. Being ordered to surrender he refused, whereupon the officer drew a pistol, but Jaques threw a club which he had in his hand at his would-be captor, who shut his eyes and dodged. Taking advantage of this, Jaques jumped to the land, rushed past the constable, and took to the woods. After spending some time in search of him, the discomfited official started back, taking William Jaques with him, and brought him before the court. But he being the wrong party, was discharged. Considerable search was made for John, but he could not be found.

A suit was now brought for willful trespass upon the premises, as the brothers had considerable property with them, and Mr. McCarty was employed to prosecute. William Jaques was again arrested and required to plead to the charge of trespass. He set up the plea of not guilty, and defended his own case; but the prosecution was too much for him, and made out a clear case, and judgment for damages was rendered against him.

John Jaques, in the meantime, was skulking about the county to avoid arrest, but on the conclusion of the trial they did not want to settle in this county, so shook the dust off their feet and departed. They settled in Brown County, on the Minnesota River, and became the terror of the people in that section of country. They afterward made a trip to this county and stole a horse, but on being arrested settled with Mr. Patrick McCullough, the owner of the beast.

DISTRICT COURTS.

At the village of Wilton, then the seat of

justice of Waseca County, on the 12th day of October, 1857, Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, at that time associate justice of the supreme court of the Territory of Minnesota, opened the first district court in this county. From the records it may be learned, that, on the first day of the court, "the grand jury being absent, and no civil business appearing," the court adjourned until afternoon, when, on reassembling, the grand jury was impaneled.

After due deliberation, the grand jury, on the morning of the 14th, returned an indictment against William H. Chamberlain, *et al.*, on which the judge ordered that a bench warrant be issued for the apprehension of the parties, and that they be held in the sum of \$250 each, as bail. This was a trivial case, and at a subsequent term the indictment was quashed.

An indictment against Peter Farrell, for murder, was by the grand jury returned, and the court ordered that a bench warrant be issued for the apprehension of the guilty party. It seems that on the day previous, at an election held in the precinct of Empire, now Iosco, there was some kind of a drunken row. Peter Farrell having imbibed a large quantity of "corn juice," grew pugnacious. A fracas occurred, during which Farrell stabbed Jacob Hagadorn, a neighbor, with whom he had been on the best of terms. Many stories are rife in regard to this, but it is generally believed that his intention was to kill some other person, but in his drunken fury mistook his man, or that, in the melee, could not distinguish friend from foe. Indictments were also presented against John H. Wheeler and Richard Toner, as accessories to the murder. Farrell was arrested and sent to Stillwater to be put in the jail, but managed to escape and left the country, and was never seen here again; but it is reported that during the war some of the residents of this county saw and recognized him, at New Orleans. Wheeler and Toner were put upon trial, but were finally acquitted by the jury

and discharged by order of the court.

At this term of court, John Bradish applied for admission to practice as an attorney in the courts of the Territory, and his suit was granted and his name enrolled as an attorney by the court.

On the 2d of September, 1858, the second term was commenced, with Hon. N. M. Donaldson, judge of the 5th judicial district, on the bench. At this session Alfred B. Weber and P. Brink Enos, on application were recognized as practicing attorneys in the courts of this State. The first civil suit tried in Waseca County came before this court. It was that of Joseph T. Dexter *vs.* David A. Springer, a case of appeal from justice court. At the April term, Alexander Johnston and Hial D. Baldwin were admitted to the bar, as full-fledged lawyers.

At the April term, 1859, the first petit jury was impaneled to try the case of Richard Toner, spoken of above. It consisted of the following names: A. J. Watton, John McCue, L. P. Stowell, Caleb Northup, Michael Kinney, Daniel Riggle, J. A. Wheeler, C. O. Norton, C. E. Williamson, F. Glover, J. M. Blivens and Ole Knutson.

Hon. N. M. Donaldson, the first judge over the 5th judicial district, of which Waseca County has always formed a part, held this position until 1872.

At the February term, 1872, Hon. F. M. Crosby appeared at Waseca and held court; but this was but temporary, for at the session held in May of the same year, Hon. Samuel Lord took the position of judge, and remained in that capacity until 1880.

On the 16th of March, 1880, the court was opened with the new judge, Hon. Thomas Buckham, on the bench. Mathew Keeley was the sheriff and James B. Hayden clerk. The judge has continued to occupy this exalted position until now, being the present incumbent.

ATTORNEYS.

Probably the first resident lawyer in Waseca County was John Bradish, who was

duly admitted to practice in the courts of the Territory of Minnesota at the first term of the district court, held in October, 1857, at Wilton. He is still a resident of the county, being engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Janesville. Mr. Bradish was somewhat of a retiring disposition, and seldom if ever did much practice in the district court, confining his practice to justice courts.

Alfred Webber and P. Brink Enos were the next lawyers, having been recognized as such at the September term of court, 1858. Webber was a resident of Faribault at the time and afterward.

P. Brink Enos came to this county from Woodstock, Ill., early in 1858, and located at Wilton. He was a talented man, full of fun but reckless, and soon got into bad habits. He left here and went to Nebraska, where he died.

Hial D. Baldwin and Alexander Johnston applied to the court in April, 1859, for admission to the bar, and upon motion the judge, Hon. N. M. Donaldson, appointed P. B. Enos, H. C. Lowell and A. J. Tanner a committee of examination. The two latter gentlemen named were residents of Faribault, Rice County, at that time. They having returned a favorable report, the two applicants were brought into court and duly declared authorized to practice before the courts of the State.

H. D. Baldwin was officially connected with the county and mention of him is made in the chapter devoted to county representation.

Alexander Johnston came to this county with his father-in-law, W. N. Buckhout, from New York State, in 1856, and settled for a time in Janesville. Later he removed to Wilton, and in company with S. J. Willis commenced the journal known as the *Waseca Home Views* in the spring of 1861. About a year or two later Mr. Johnston removed to Faribault, and from there to St. Paul, where he now lives.

W. T. Kittredge was probably the next attorney to locate in this county. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where his father was an eminent physician. He was considerable of a scholar, being a graduate of one of the leading colleges, and on attaining his majority, came west and located at Wilton. On the breaking out of the war, he entered the Fourth Minnesota Infantry as a lieutenant, and afterward rose to the rank of captain, assistant adjutant general, and major. After the close of hostilities he returned to Wilton, and, in company with H. D. Baldwin, opened a law office and banking institution, which they afterward removed to Waseca. There they failed; as is detailed in the annals of that city. He is now a resident of the West.

James E. Child, so long connected with the journalism of Waseca County, was admitted to the bar at the February term of court, 1863. A sketch of this gentleman is given in the chapter devoted to the history of the press of the county.

At the August term, 1863, George La Dow was, on motion of H. D. Baldwin, admitted to practice in the courts of the State of Minnesota. He had studied law with Judge Stroud, of Illinois, and, on being admitted to the bar, went to Waupaca, Wis., where he commenced practice. In the summer of 1863 he, in company with Edgar Cronkhite, came through Wilton, on their road to Mankato, where they calculated to open offices. Meeting H. P. Norton at Wilton, they were induced to stay here. Mr. La Dow was an excellent speaker, good lawyer and excellent company, and, being quite portly, was the subject of many jokes. In 1867 he was interested in the town of Clear Lake City, which did not materialize to his satisfaction, so he left this county and went to Oregon, where he was elected to Congress, but died of heart disease before taking his seat.

P. H. Swift, one of the first attorneys to locate in the rising town of Waseca, in February, 1868, entered into a partnership

with C. E. Lewis, but before May of the same year they dissolved. In the early part of 1870 Mr. Smith removed from here to Renville County, which district he has since represented in the State Legislature.

J. N. Powers, mentioned elsewhere, was a practicing attorney for a little while at Wilton in an early day.

W. E. Young, a young and able attorney, for several years was in practice in Janesville, but in 1887 left there, going to Mankato, where he is one of the firm of Brown & Young.

M. D. L. Collester, a practicing attorney, settled at Waseca in 1872, and remained in that city until 1885, when he moved to Mankato, where he is following his profession. He was born in Marlboro, N. H., in January, 1839. He fitted for college at Power's Institute, Bernardstown, Mass., graduated from Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1865, and read law at Newport, N. H., where he was admitted to the bar. He came West in 1867, remaining for a while in Minneapolis, but during the following year moved to Faribault, where he was engaged in teaching in the Shattuck School, and from there came to the city of Waseca.

W. R. Kinder came to this county about the year 1877, from Hamilton, Ohio, where his father was engaged in the practice of law. He first located at or near Janesville, but later came to Waseca, where he studied law with Lewis Brownell, and after a course or two at the Cincinnati Law School, was admitted to the bar in this county and practiced here until 1884. On the 13th of August of that year he died.

John Carmody practiced law for several years in Waseca, settling there about 1870. He is now a resident of Hillsboro, D. T. He was the first to occupy the office of municipal judge in Waseca.

In the fall of 1884, the legal firm of Washburn & Maddox opened an office in Waseca, and practiced their profession. In June, 1887, the firm dissolved, Washburn removing

to Austin, Minn., where he is the proprietor of the *Austin Transcript*. Maddox remained until the last of July, 1887, when he, too, left to look up a place in which to pursue his profession.

James Quirk was among the attorneys of the county, having been located at Waseca for several years. He is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Waterville, Minn.

The present bar of Waseca County is represented by the following named attorneys, who are all engaged in practice: P. McGovern, W. G. Ward, E. B. Collester, Lewis Brownell, B. S. Lewis, S. D. Crump, C. E. Leslie, W. D. Abbott and John Moonan, of Waseca, and A. J. O'Grady and L. D. Rogers of Janesville.

Benedict S. Lewis was born in Cortland County, N. Y., December 20, 1839. His parents, in the year 1851, removed to Columbia County, Wis., and in the latter State, B. S. received the most of his education, although well grounded before he left his native State. He attended the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, and Union College, State of New York, graduating from the latter in 1864. After that he taught school for about two years, and then began the study of law at Madison, Wis., with Gregory & Pinney, and was admitted to the bar in 1867. For about a year he practiced his profession at Lodi, Wis., but in 1868 came to the then young village of Waseca, and commenced the duties of his chosen profession, and has been identified with the history of the bar of this county ever since. July 7, 1869, B. S. Lewis and Mary Eaton, a native of Wisconsin, were united in marriage, and they have been the parents of three children: Harlow E.; Esther Irma and Mary E. In 1884, in addition to his otherwise large practice, Mr. Lewis was made attorney for the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad for this and several adjacent counties. He is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and of Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons. Close attention to

his business and to the interests of his clients, has won for him an enviable reputation, both as a man and as a lawyer, and he enjoys the respect and esteem of all.

Eugene B. Collester was born in Gardner, Mass., December 20, 1847, and received his early education in the excellent schools of his native city. He entered Amherst College, from which he graduated with honors in 1873, and later moved to New London, Conn., where he became principal of Bulkeley high school, and remained in that capacity until 1880, when he came to the city of Waseca and entered upon the practice of law, he having read for that profession previously. April 6, 1875, he and Sarah Jane Hollande, a native of Connecticut, united their destinies in marriage, and they are the parents of one child, Alice M., born September 26, 1877. In the spring of 1887, Mr. Collester was elected mayor of the city of Waseca, and now fills that onerous office. He is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and of Comee Lodge, No. 25, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. A comparatively young man, blessed with a liberal education and great native talent and energy, he is one of the rising attorneys of this part of the State and has a bright future before him.

W. D. Abbott, of the firm of Sawyer, Abbott & Sawyer, is one of the prominent attorneys of Waseca. He is a native of Clinton Falls, Steele County, Minn., and is the son of Asa J. and Mary (Piper) Abbott. He was reared on his father's farm, attending the district schools when his help was not required at home. Entering the Pillsbury

Academy of Owatonna, he graduated therefrom in 1879, and then attended the Carleton College. In September, 1883, he commenced reading law with Sawyer & Sawyer, of Owatonna, and applying himself diligently to his studies was duly admitted to the bar, in Steele County, June 5, 1884. He remained in that city until March, 1886, when he came to Waseca, and opened the present office of the firm, the other members of which remained in Owatonna. October 7, 1886, he was united in marriage with Lorena M. Adams, of Rice County, this State. Mr. Abbott is a member of Waseca Lodge, No. 44, Knights of Pythias, of which he is the present chancellor commander.

A. J. O'Grady, an attorney of Janesville, came to that village in May, 1878, opened an office and has remained there ever since. He is a native of Ireland, born in July, 1847, but came to this country with his grandparents, in 1849. They located in the State of New York, where they lived until 1855, when they moved to Wayne County, Pa. In 1858, they came west and settled in St. Mary, Waseca County, where the old people died. A. J. resided with them until January, 1864, when he enlisted in Company H, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, under Col. J. H. Baker, and was with the corps commanded by Gen. A. J. Smith, until his discharge August 19, 1865. Then returned to Waseca County, and in 1876 commenced to read law, and March 23, 1878, was admitted to the bar, and then came to Janesville, hung out his shingle, and commenced the practice of his profession.

CHAPTER . XII.

EDUCATIONAL.



WHEN upon that cold and stormy day in December, 1620, the noble band of pilgrims landed upon the bleak and desolate shore of New England, their first thought was of religious duty, the second of schools and academies. They came fleeing from the religious intolerance of the old world, to found a commonwealth of their own in the wilds of America. Scarcely had they landed when all were assembled, and prayers and religious services were held, the echos of which still reverberate around the world; for in their prayers they sought the Divine assistance to found a colony where freedom and education could go hand in hand; and, if in after years their stern creed of morals and religious asceticism led them into intolerant acts toward their neighbors, still the general movement was toward the light of liberty and education.

There, on the stony soil of old Massachusetts, these stern and rigid moralists first planted the seed of our grand system of educational facilities. There they originated the district school that has outlasted them and their other institutions, seen governments wax old and pass away, and survived the throes of revolution, when these colonies revolted from the galling yoke of Britannia. In the land of its birth the system of district schools, with its board of selectmen, still survives, with but little change from that of the original plan that was planted two centuries and a half ago. The sons and daughters of New England, in their journey toward a home in the West, carried with them the precious seed, and planting it in fruitful soil,

it flourished and grew until it far overshadowed the parent tree. In Minnesota such has been the fostering care of our government, it has reached the very acme of perfection. In the constitution of the State is distinctly declared, that "The stability of a Republican form of government depending mainly upon the intelligence of the people, it shall be the duty of the Legislature to establish a general and uniform system of public schools." In accordance with this, laws have been passed, amended, repealed, others passed, until the present school-law of the State stands unequalled in the world, a monument to the care and labor bestowed upon it.

When the county was first organized the system of a superintendent of town schools was in vogue, but that proving unreliable and too cumbersome, it was soon changed to the present system of

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

The first to occupy this important and responsible position in Waseca County, was Rev. Elijah S. Smith, a Baptist clergyman, then laboring in the village of Wilton. He was appointed to the position on the 8th of March, 1864, and was to receive for his services the sum of \$100 *per annum*. Mr. Smith had come to this county from Illinois in 1856 or 1857, and had built up a church, and now he wanted to try his hand at religion's twin-brother, education. He did his work well, and was succeeded in 1867 by James E. Child, who ably carried on the work of his predecessor. He held it for only one year, however, his other business interests interfering with its successful advancement.

In the spring of 1868 Jesse Poland came into this office, but did not continue therein for any length of time, for in the month of September of the same year the board of commissioners, finding it vacant, appointed the Rev. S. T. Catlin, a Baptist clergyman, to the place, at a yearly salary of \$300. On the expiration of the time for which he was appointed, in the fall of 1869, he was elected to this office, but declined to serve, although the board offered to raise the salary, so much had he pleased them and the people. He removed to Wisconsin.

At their April session, 1870, the board of county commissioners seeing that Mr. Catlin refused to qualify for the office, appointed Dr. R. O. Craig to fill the vacancy, and he served until the expiration of the term.

In 1871, at the regular election, Dr. M. S. Gove was chosen to fill this position, but declining to serve, the board appointed H. G. Mosher one of their number to the vacancy. This gentleman, filling the office to the satisfaction of the people of the county, was elected and reelected to the position, occupying it until 1880.

Dr. M. V. Hunt, one of the leading physicians of the county, was elected to the office of superintendent in the fall of 1879, and fulfilled the duties of that position through the years 1880 and 1881.

In 1882 Dr. D. S. Cummings, another of the prominent members of the medical profession of Waseca County, became the occupant of this responsible office, and served the people in the capacity of superintendent for four years.

J. B. Dye, the present efficient superintendent of schools of Waseca County, entered upon the duties of his office with the beginning of the year 1886. He is a native of Montgomery County, N. Y., born July 13, 1834. He is a son of Rev. E. P. and Lovina (Bailey) Dye, both natives of the Empire State. Rev. E. P. Dye was the pastor of several Baptist Churches for a number of years in New

York State, then in Hebron, Jefferson County, Wis., then in New York again. Rock County, Wis., Sheboygan, the same State, Steele and Dodge counties, Minn., were each the scene of his labors for Christ. He is now at Clinton Junction, Rock County, Wis. J. B. remained with his parents until he was sixteen years old, when he learned the trade of wagon-making at North Brookfield, Madison County, N. Y. When his parents returned to Wisconsin he came with them, and for a time was in a store at Hebron. Not liking his situation he secured a place as school teacher and taught four months, and then decided to follow and fit himself for that profession. He then attended the Milton College, entering the teachers' class, and remained there several terms, teaching during the winter and going to school during the summer. In the spring of 1855 he came to Minnesota and bought a quarter section of land in Rice County, paying \$200 for it. He returned to Wisconsin and resumed teaching, and in the following spring came back to Faribault. Selling his land in 1857 for some \$900 more than he paid for it, he returned to Wisconsin and took charge of the high school at Palmyra for one term. From there he moved to Centerville and remained there teaching until 1873, when he came to Waseca. He taught the school in the city for one year and then removed to Dodge County, where he taught school and carried on a farm he had purchased there. Four years later he sold out there and came back to Waseca, where he has since resided, teaching every year but one. In November, 1886, he was elected county superintendent of schools. Mr. Dye and Georgianna Chesebro were united in marriage April 3, 1862, and they have four children: Alice L., born May 10, 1864; Burt U., born January 18, 1868; Nellie G., born May 26, 1877, and John E., born April 6, 1880. The eldest, Alice L., is the wife of John C. Young, of Waseca. Rev. E. P. Dye was born in Onondago County, N. Y., in November.

1810. His wife died at Clinton Junction, Wis., in September, 1878.

THE DEVELOPMENT.

From the time of the first settlement of the county, and the time of the organization of the 1st district, the number of school districts increased very rapidly, and educational facilities became more and more efficient. Every decade showed a marked contrast to the preceding one. The following abstract will show the status of educational matters of the county in 1871, sixteen years after its first settlement, and just sixteen years ago :

No. of school districts in the county.....	71
No. of children of school age in county.....	3,095
No. of pupils enrolled, winter.....	1,807
Average daily attendance, winter.....	1,039
No. of teachers, winter.....	64
Average wages, winter.....	\$23.28
No. pupils enrolled, summer.....	1,680
Average attendance, summer.....	840
No. of teachers, summer.....	59
Average wages, summer.....	\$22.81
No. of schoolhouses, frame.....	39
No. of schoolhouses, brick.....	1
No. of schoolhouses, log.....	24
Value of all school buildings.....	\$25,335.00
Amt. of money rec'd from State.....	\$ 4,109.08
Amt. of money rec'd from tax from district.....	\$12,444.76
Amt. paid for schoolhouse property.....	\$ 4,712.74
Amt. paid teachers.....	\$11,576.57
Amt. contingent expenses.....	\$ 1,302.69
Amt. on hand.....	\$ 1,715.14

One of the county superintendents of this county in his report, uses the following language in speaking of the matters committed to his charge :

“ The most interesting feature of improvement is the fact that teachers are more fully awake in a common-sense matter, viz : That their pecuniary interests demand better qualification ; that demand is ever regulated by supply, and that the world is not indifferent to the result of skilled labor ; and that the interest our school officers are evincing in our school work increases. Where last spring one director said to me : ‘ She will do to teach our summer school ; we can get her cheap,’—the same man said to me this

spring, ‘ Recommend us a good teacher, money is no object.’ And I am fully convinced that in many districts of this county a known poor teacher cannot get employment at any price, while a known good and faithful one will be secured regardless of cost. This is progress ; the laborer is worthy of his hire, and in no department more than ours.”

PRESENT CONDITION.

From the last statistical report a number of items have been collected, which will show conclusively the present condition of educational matters in Waseca County :

No. of scholars entitled to apportionment..	3,740
No. of scholars not entitled to the same....	137
No. enrolled, winter.....	2,452
No. enrolled, summer.....	2,389
Average attendance, winter.....	2,010
Average attendance, summer.....	1,866
Average length of school, months.....	5½
No. of teachers employed, winter, males...	20
No. of teachers employed, winter, females..	86
No. of teachers employed, summer, males..	4
No. of teachers employed, summer, females..	98
Average monthly wages, males.....	\$39.05
Average monthly wages, females.....	\$24.68
Teachers graduates of normal school.....	3
No. common school districts.....	89
No. independent districts.....	2
No. schoolhouses, frame.....	82
No. schoolhouses, brick.....	5
No. schoolhouses, log.....	6
Value of school houses and sites.....	\$75,235.00
Value of school fixtures, etc.....	\$7,620.00

SCHOOL FUND.

Cash on hand at beginning of year.....	\$8,608.03
Rec'd from school fund, fines, estrays, etc..	6,829.68
Rec'd from 1 mill tax, collected.....	3,947.81
Rec'd from special tax collected.....	22,656.53
Rec'd from bonds sold.....	1,750.00
Rec'd from other sources.....	2,517.88

Total.....\$46,309.93

CONTRA.

Paid for teachers' salary and board.....	\$22,699.25
Paid for wood and school supplies.....	2,986.40
Paid for repairs and improving grounds....	3,933.22
Paid for new schoolhouses and sites.....	1,204.81
Paid for interest and paying bonds.....	3,485.29
Paid for other purposes.....	1,516.68
Cash on hand at end of year.....	10,484.28

Total.....\$46,309.93

CHAPTER XIII.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.



THE county of Waseca is ranked among the most prosperous of the agricultural counties in the State. Its people are, as a rule, awake and keep step in the progressive march of the times.

Its future possibilities may be set high in the bright galaxy of sister stars in the golden diadem of Minnesota. The early pioneers did not come loaded with wealth, in fact few had more than enough to barely get settled upon their lands; but they came with that which was, in those days, equal to it, training in agricultural pursuits, brawny hands that were able and not ashamed to do hard work, and in connection with industrious habits, the energy and determination of success. The country was new, and there was no alternative but that success must be wrought from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only hope. In spite of all the obstacles and hardships to be encountered, success has attended their efforts, and the transformation from the primitive wilderness to the present comfortable condition of affairs accomplished. Nor is the end yet reached, for the county still has a mine of agricultural wealth undeveloped, which, as years roll on, will grow more and more valuable, and when a cycle of cultivated maturity shall dawn to transform the yet unsubdued lands, to waving fields of nodding grain, Waseca County will occupy a place among the foremost ranks of Minnesota's banner counties.

A little pamphlet published by the *Wilton Weekly News*, in 1867, from the pen of the editor, gives a comprehensive view of the history of the agriculture of the county at

that time, and the compiler of these annals is of the opinion that nothing can show the early condition of that branch of the county's history like the article in question, hence it is freely quoted from. Says the little book: "Wheat is the principal cereal raised in the county. Spring wheat is raised generally throughout this district, and winter wheat in the timbered portions. The writer has made considerable exertion to obtain facts and figures by which to make a statement of the amount produced per acre, on an average, throughout the county each year, but has only been able to find reliable reports for the years 1859, 1860, 1862 and 1865. In 1859 the yield per acre was 20 bushels; in 1860 22 bushels; in 1862, 22½ bushels, and in 1865, 21 bushels. These figures are taken from the compiled reports, as found in the auditor's office, and are certainly low enough. The reports of the other years were never made out, or, at least, cannot be found. The writer, however, having been a resident of the county ever since its first settlement, is enabled to state, as his opinion, that the average yield for the past seven years, has never been less than 18 bushels to the acre. A yield of 25 or 30 bushels to the acre is considered nothing very extraordinary. It should be borne in mind by the reader, that the average yields above given include all kinds of wheat growers, good, bad and middling.

"The superior quality of the wheat grown in this county is shown by its weight, when compared with the same in other localities. The wheat of this county, except that of 1866, weighs from 61 to 65 pounds to the bushel, whilst in Ohio and Pennsylvania it

only averages from 58 to 60, and in Illinois from 54 to 58 pounds to the bushel. As a wheat producing county it is not excelled.

"Oats, so far, has only been cultivated for home consumption. The yield of this grain for the year 1862, as shown by the assessors' lists, was 35 bushels to the acre; and for the year 1865, 40 bushels per acre. When sowed on high uplands, oats yield remarkably well; but on low or wet lands they generally lodge, do not fill, and turn out a failure.

"Rye is not generally raised here, although a few crops grown by some of the Germans of the county have shown that it can be successfully raised here.

"Barley up to this time has received but little attention in this county. The total amount raised in 1865, as appears by the assessors' lists, was only 3,366 bushels, at an average yield per acre of 27 bushels.

"In regard to corn: the oft repeated question, 'Can you raise sound corn in Minnesota?' has been emphatically answered in the affirmative by the experience of the farmers of Waseca County. It is true there have been seasons in which the corn crop failed; but during the eleven years which have elapsed since the first settlement, there have been only two general failures of this crop: one in 1863, the other in 1866. The corn crop in this county for the year 1860 averaged 34 bushels to the acre; in 1861 and 1862, 35 bushels; and in 1865, 37 bushels to the acre. It should be borne in mind that this average is from the amount saved, which, as a rule, does not exceed four-fifths of the actual amount raised.

"Potatoes are only raised here as yet for home consumption, and are of superior quality and excellence. The average yield per acre is about 140 bushels.

"Sorghum has been quite extensively raised in this county, yielding from two to three hundred gallons per acre. Undoubtedly its cultivation will be continued with more or less success, so long as sugars shall command their present high price.

"The absence of the choice, cultivated fruit of the more eastern States is, in a measure, supplied by the variety and great abundance of wild fruits which abound in every thicket throughout the county. Crab apples are everywhere present; and a species of wild plum, scarcely inferior to the cultivated fruit, abounds everywhere in the county. The wild grape-vine grows luxuriantly and yields profusely, in every wooded glen. Strawberries grow and thrive on the prairies. Gooseberries and wild currants abound in the woodlands along the Le Sueur River, and blackberries and red and black raspberries spring up in the outskirts of every grove and woodland. Numerous young apple-tree orchards have been planted in the county, two of which have already borne fruit. The gentlemen who have succeeded in raising apples in the county are Philo Woodruff, of Blooming Grove, and W. G. Allyn, of Janesville.

"In regard to vegetables, the annual vines, squashes, pumpkins, etc., thrive remarkably well, and nowhere are finer melons to be found than in the patches which constitute a part of every garden and homestead in the country. The wild fruits, with the tomato and pie plant, form a good substitute for the apple and other fruits of the older States.

"There is no other State or country which can excel Waseca County in raising turnips, rutabagas, beets, carrots, cabbages, parsnips, etc. The yield of these useful vegetables is so enormous as scarcely to be credited by those who have never witnessed it. Rutabagas are raised very extensively by some farmers for feeding stock.

"There is no lack of native nutritious grasses in the county, both for pasture and for hay. Even the highest prairie can be mowed, yielding one ton of hay to the acre and often two, while the bottom lands along the streams frequently yield three and sometimes four tons to the acre. The prevailing grass in the county is what is called red-top blue-joint, a variety that is almost, if not quite,



C. A. Hoff

(DECEASED)

equal to the best varieties of cultivated grasses. Persons arriving here from the East any time in August with cattle to provide for, will always find sufficient grass from which to make any needed quantity of hay, as the grass retains its nutriment until the frost strikes it. The county is already noted for being one of the best in the State for stock-raising.

“The general excellence of the grasses of the county is manifested in the fine quality and general healthfulness of all kinds of stock, which forms so large a portion of the farming capital of the county. The number of horses in the county on the 1st day of June, 1866, was 1,473; assessed value, \$78,091. The whole number of cattle on the same date was 4,985; assessed value, \$74,863. Official reports of dairy productions in the county show an average yield of 72 pounds to each cow, while in Iowa shows an average of only 47 pounds, and Illinois 42 pounds.

“There are no better cattle raised, on an average, than are to be found among the native stock of Waseca County.

“Quite a number of our farmers have turned their attention to sheep-raising. According to official reports, the number of sheep in the county June 1, 1866, was 1,925; assessed value, \$9,169. The average of wool per sheep is 4 pounds, which would give 23,700 pounds at a cash valuation of \$11,850. The general dryness and healthfulness of the climate, the abundant supply of pure water, the vast extent and richness of free pasturage, make this one of the finest locations in the world for raising sheep.

“The number of hogs in the county, as reported in June, 1866, was 1,658, at an assessed value of \$4,207. Hogs, like all other animals in Waseca County, are healthy and thrive well. Pork fattened here is peculiarly sweet and healthy.”

Since the data of the above, wonderful advances have been made in the line of agricultural productions, and the county has a large surplus of nearly every farm commodity

to ship to other markets. The State reports for 1886 show that there was raised in Waseca County the previous year, 651,566 bushels of wheat on 46,681 acres, an average of nearly 14 bushels to the acre; 382,690 bushels of oats on 11,333 acres, or an average of nearly 34 bushels to the acre; 279,727 bushels of corn on 8,791 acres of ground, or about an average of 32 bushels to the acre. There were raised the same year, 24,536 bushels of barley; 2,030 of rye; 55,065 of potatoes; 80 bushels of beans; 4,842 gallons of cane syrup; 4,608 tons of cultivated hay; 967 bushels of flax-seed; 73,684 tons of wild hay; 656 bushels of timothy seed and 1,357 bushels of clover seed are reported for the same time; and also 55,065 bushels of potatoes. Only some 634 pounds of grapes were raised, and 3,621 bushels of apples. Dairy products for the year 1885 aggregated: butter 332,030 pounds, and 100 pounds of cheese, from 4,586 cows; while in 1886, 13,830 pounds of wool was shorn from 2,694 sheep, in the spring alone, although some 10,000 pounds came off the backs of the same animals the fall previous. There were in 1886, 1,523 farms in the county.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Several efforts have been made to sustain agricultural societies, or those of a kindred nature previous to the formation of the present one, with variable success. The first effort in this line was in 1870. During the summer of that year an organization was formed known as the Waseca County Agricultural Society, with William Brisbane as president, and B. S. Lewis, secretary.

At a meeting held on the 3d of September, the same year, it was decided that a county fair should be held that fall under their auspices, and having determined the date, the society appointed E. Bennett, S. B. Williams, O. Powell, H. Vincent and P. McDermott as a committee to propose the general arrangements for the said fair. On

the 6th and 7th of October, 1870, the first county fair in Waseca County was held. There was a large attendance the second day, and considering the short time employed in getting it up, and the extremely limited notice the people had to prepare articles for exhibition, it was a decided success. The exhibits were moderately numerous, except in the matter of cattle, which was rather slim. President Brisbane delivered an address to the people in his usual happy vein, the usual speeding of horses took place, and the brass band, for whom conveyance through some mistake had been neglected, rode into the grounds on a one-ox wagon, and joy and pleasure beamed on every face.

The following year a second fair was given, but the thing proved a failure and the association, growing discouraged, abandoned their further efforts in that line. A few of the members, however, some years later organized farmers' fairs and farmers' societies, both with the idea of following the European fashion of having a fair or market day once a month, but somehow it never proved much of a success. Some years later a sort of agricultural society was formed, but no fairs were held. In September, 1886, however, at a meeting held then, H. H. Corson being president, the name was changed to that of the Agricultural, Mechanical and Industrial Society of Waseca County. The membership fee was fixed at one dollar. At this time Charles San Galli was treasurer and Michael Sheeran secretary. On a motion made it was decided that stock of the association, should be issued in five dollar shares and a committee appointed to solicit subscriptions.

On the 25th of September a meeting was held, and it was then decided to hold a county fair on the 13th and 14th of October following. Dr. H. J. Young and William Everett were appointed a committee to see to the construction of fence, stalls, sheds, etc.; H. H. Corson and John McWade, as committee to arrange premium list; Edward Castor

and I. C. Trowbridge, committee on track; and the following ladies committee on floral hall: Mrs. William Everett, Mrs. I. C. Trowbridge, Mrs. E. E. Dunwoody, Mrs. D. J. Bickford and Mrs. J. O. Chandler. John McWade, Obediah Powell and Austin Vinton were detailed as committee on privileges, and Thomas Bohem, Harry Bird and Charles McKenna on trotting. The fair was held as advertised and was a success, the attendance being quite encouraging, and the society intend to repeat the experiment this year (1887). Edward Bennett was superintendent of cattle and horses; Patrick Murray, of swine, sheep and poultry, and John S. Abell, of farm machinery.

ANTI-HORSE THIEF ASSOCIATION.

The Waseca County Anti-Horse Thief Association was organized in February, 1864, the meeting for that purpose being held at the courthouse, in Wilton, on the 16th of the month above named. William Brisbane was called to the chair, and E. A. Smith made secretary. Settling down to business, the chair appointed D. L. Whipple, B. A. Lowell and E. B. Stearns, a committee of three to draw up and present a constitution for the society. Shortly after the said committee presented a draft of their labors, which was adopted with some slight amendment. Organization having thus been effected they proceeded to an election of officers, which resulted as follows: Dr. M. S. Gove, president; William Brisbane, vice-president; E. A. Smith, secretary.

The first members of the association were Asa G. Sutlief, William Brisbane, George Brubaker, Noah Lincoln, B. A. Lowell, Eri G. Wood, J. A. Heath, William Roddle, W. H. Young Sr., Joseph Bird, D. L. Whipple, Henry Watkins, Myron Blackman, J. K. Myers, E. A. Smith and M. S. Gove.

Dr. Gove was for many years the president of this society, and on his death the association passed the following resolutions:

"In memory of Brother M. S. Gove, presi-

dent of the Waseca Anti-Horse Thief Association, who died December 1, 1874. His devoted and unswerving attachment to our society during its entire existence has endeared him to its members; and in his death his estimable family have lost a loving hus-

band and father, the community and State a valuable, self-sacrificing, public spirited citizen, and our society one of its most influential and leading members, and one who was loved most by those who knew him best."



CHAPTER XIV.

WASECA COUNTY IN THE WAR.



THE causes that led to the irrepressible civil war between the States in 1861 to 1865, inclusive, have been detailed at length in the history of Steele County, in this volume, and it were but waste of valuable space to repeat it in this connection. Our only duty is to glean together the effects it had upon Waseca County, the action of the people, all loyal to the core during the nation's trial, and enroll the names of the defenders of the Union from Waseca, that posterity may know the heroes of that unholy rebellion against the best government ever established on the face of the earth.

Looking at Waseca County to-day we can scarcely realize the fact that, when the war broke upon the people of this country, arraying more than a million of men in arms, and which made our ship of State reel and stagger as if smitten by thunderbolts and dashed upon the rocks, that this county had been settled but about seven years; and Minnesota, as a State of the American Union, but in its infancy. But, notwithstanding its own soil had not been fully subjugated to man's use, aid was promptly offered in subduing the seceding States. The feeling throughout Minnesota, although not quite as intense as in some of the older States, was universal that the Union must be preserved, and the sights and sounds that were so noticeable in every village and hamlet north of Mason and Dixon's line, were duplicated here, and men came forward to lay down their lives in defense of freedom and freedom's flag freely, and pa-

triotism throbbed in every bosom. As a county, Waseca was not called on in an official way to provide funds to encourage enlistments, but several of the town boards did levy a tax for that purpose, issuing bonds and borrowing money with which to give bounties to the volunteers. Meetings were held throughout the county, and money was raised to encourage enlistments and pledges made by private citizens to care for the families of the soldiers in this county.

With a population in 1860 of only 2,601, Waseca County responded nobly to the call of the general government for men, furnishing fully her share toward the suppression of the Rebellion.

Appended is a list of the gallant heroes who participated in the war. If any comrade has been omitted from the list it has been done unintentionally, and rather the fault of defective muster rolls than that of the historian, than whom a more ardent admirer of the "boys in blue" is not to be found.

Roster.

OLD FIRST MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

COMPANY G.

Capt. Lewis McKuene,	Sergt. Irvine W. Northup,
G. R. Buckman,	Michael Harrusauer,
Martin Healy,	Philo Hall,
Ludwell J. Mosher,	John McKinster,
Neri Reed,	Walter S. Reed,
E. E. Verplanck,	Luman S. Wood,
C. C. Davis,	Norman B. Barron,

Adam Areman.

COMPANY I.

John M. Churchill,	Amos Canfield,
George Kline.	O. H. Suttief,
	Jens. T. Dahl.

FIRST MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

H. P. Chamberlain, Nathaniel Reed,

THIRD MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

COMPANY H.

Hugh Donaldson, S. M. Jones,
George W. Peasley, C. A. Peasley,
C. W. Preston, James Broderick,
W. H. H. Jackson, David Lilly,
Hugh B. Withrow.

COMPANY I.

S. F. Wyman, H. B. Withrow.

FOURTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY

Lieut. W. F. Kittredge, adjutant; afterward captain
and A. A. G. and major.

COMPANY D.

Captain S. T. Isaac.

COMPANY C.

John Teas.

COMPANY H.

Myron S. Sheldon, Charles Parvin,
Ebenezer M. Broughton.

COMPANY I.

Capt. D. L. Wellman, Loren C. Wood,
Augustus Pintler, Waldo Lyon,
S. T. Isaac, Samuel Alexander,
Aaron Bragg, Orin Coates,
James S. Camp, James L. Conner,
Erastus Fish, N. T. Foster,
James Haines, Silas Hubbell,
Jonathan Isaac, T. B. Jackson,
S. A. Norris, Moses Norris,
J. N. Powers, Corwin W. Quiggle,
D. P. Stowell, Jonas Whitecomb.

FIFTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

COMPANY F.

Capt. E. A. Rice, Lieut. G. W. Johnson,
Melmoth P. Ide, G. R. Loveland,
Alex. Wentworth, J. W. Pierce,
William Blaisdell, G. H. Bishop,
G. F. Rice, E. M. Atwood,
John Barden, Patrick Burns,
Moses Camp, S. W. Franklin,
Edward Guise, W. H. Gray,
William Harding, E. R. Horton,
John Jenkins, Harvey Lawrence,
S. M. Merrill, John Murphy,
E. H. Stiles, David Skiuner,
B. F. Weed, H. H. Wallace,
P. Davis, William Douglas.

COMPANY C.

Peter Oleson, Christopher Sampson.

COMPANY D.

James E. Crook.

COMPANY E.

Jonathan Hardy.

COMPANY O.

A. Davis.

TENTH MINNESOTA INFANTRY.

COMPANY F.

Capt. George T. White, Lieut. Isaac Hamlin,
H. A. Mosher, C. W. Roberts,
David McDaniels, M. A. Francis,
John A. Wheeler, S. A. Goodwin,
J. R. Whitman, Richard Ayers,
Robert Beith, William Blivens,
George E. Brubaker, Edward Brossard,
Nels Bergosen, Samuel Gleason,
Charles Grover, S. M. Grover,
James Glendening, A. D. Gregor,
J. A. Canfield, Chas. Chadwick,
George Dreever, Thomas Eldredge,
Fred. Emery, James Gallagher,
Knut Hanson, Christian Hatsaul,
G. W. Ives, H. A. Jones,
August Krieger, John King,
L. A. Lafayette, G. W. Lee,
M. M. Morgan, Jacob Newkirk,
Charles Olebaugh, Hans Oleson,
John Pickitt, Samuel Preston,
J. S. Rice, M. V. B. Storer,
Benjamin Swan, S. P. Satterly,
Martin Spankley, W. W. Taylor,
Barney Vosburg, P. J. D. Wood,
G. H. Woodbury, Ole Johnson,
William Brisbane, Henry Yarigan,
Hans Hanson, A. H. Coddington,
Isaac Lyng, Roht. Quiggle,
J. B. Hill, Francis Lincoln.

COMPANY D.

G. W. Ives, John King,
Nathan Satterly, S. P. Satterly,
Frederick Emery, Martin Spankley.

FIRST MINNESOTA HEAVY ARTILLERY.

COMPANY A.

Granville Barnes, Josephus Blevins,
George F. Long.

COMPANY C.

Charles Christman, H. A. Christman,
A. M. Roberts, Fred. Rosenau.

COMPANY G.

William A. Flowers.

COMPANY D.

Joseph Davidson.

COMPANY E.

James Hand.

FIRST MINNESOTA MOUNTED RANGERS.

COMPANY B.

Lieut. T. F. West,	J. H. Elliston,
S. P. Child,	W. M. Fay,
John Cunningham,	L. W. Krassin,
Gulleck Knuteson,	John Murphy,
Egle Oleson,	Jordan Smith.

COMPANY H.

L. F. Preston,	A. J. Williams,
	Jonas Whitcomb.

BRACKETT'S CAVALRY BATTALION.

COMPANY B.

J. R. West,	Fred. Prechel.
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SECOND MINNESOTA CAVALRY.

Major E. A. Rice.

COMPANY A.

E. A. Erwin.

COMPANY C.

C. G. Scott.

SECOND MINNESOTA BATTERY, LIGHT ARTILLERY.

James W. Clark,	Austin Peck,
	John O'Brien.

THIRD MINNESOTA BATTERY, LIGHT ARTILLERY.

Joshua Downing,	I. W. Johnson.
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CHAPTER XV.

THE INDIAN MASSACRE.



THE following account of some thrilling personal experiences during the Indian massacre of 1862, portraying in graphic language the suffering and trials of the early settlers on the frontier, is from the pen of the senior editor of the *Waseca Herald*. Many of the scenes and incidents were detailed to him by William Everett, now a citizen of Waseca, a participant in, and eye-witness to them.

It seems that in the fall of 1860 William Everett, his family, and a man by the name of Wright, made a settlement at the south end of Lake Shetek, where there were at that time but three or four other settlers. The families of Wright and Everett each consisted of a wife and two children. In the spring of 1861 Charles Hatch, a brother of Mrs. Everett, a single man, came to the lake and made a settlement there.

In May, 1862, Messrs. Hurd and Jones, two of the settlers, concluded to visit the Big Sioux River and look over that section of country. Hurd told his wife that if they did not return by a certain time in June, she might know that something unusual had happened them. The time came, but Hurd and Jones came not. There was considerable anxiety on their account in the settlement, and Everett, Wright, Duly, Smith and Eastlick took two horse teams and started to look for them. These parties drove as far as Split Rock Creek, and camped for the night. The next morning it was decided to

leave Duly with the teams in the camp, while Everett and Wright should follow down the creek, and Smith and Eastlick should go in the opposite direction and search for the missing men, both parties agreeing to return to camp that night. Everett and Wright soon discovered a buffalo, shot and wounded him. They forgot all else in their desire to kill the buffalo, and chased him until late in the afternoon. They then began to think of returning, but having given no heed to the direction they had traveled, and night coming on, they soon discovered that they were lost. They camped in a slough, covering themselves with grass cut with their knives, the better to protect themselves from the swarms of mosquitoes and the chilly night air. They hoped to get their direction by the sun next morning, but when morning came there was a heavy fog, and thick clouds shut out the sun, so they were compelled to guess as to the proper course to travel. As usual under such circumstances, they traveled in the wrong direction. Not having anything to eat they felt weary, but were encouraged by coming onto the trail leading from Sioux Falls to Shetek. Again they took the wrong direction and traveled until they came in sight of the timber along the Sioux River. Then realizing that they were going wrong, they turned about and retraced their steps, reaching the Split Rock camp near night, to find it deserted. They found a piece of paper pinned to a post, on which was written: "We suppose Everett and Wright have been killed by Indians—we have gone home."

As they had had nothing to eat since the

day before, and were very much exhausted with traveling on foot, the outlook was discouraging. Just at night, however, they had the good fortune to shoot a duck, which they ate raw. They camped on the ground, in the shelter of some large rocks, for the night. They were awakened just before midnight by the sound of voices—at first supposing that Indians were coming upon them. They were gladly disappointed, however, to find the voices proceeded from a squad of soldiers and the mail carrier. The soldiers had with them plenty of provisions, and, after a bountiful supper, all camped there during the remainder of the night. The next day they arrived at Lake Shetek, just as the settlers were getting ready to send men to the agency for soldiers to look them up.

Hurd and Jones were never heard of afterward, but at the time of the massacre, Mrs. Hurd saw one of Hurd's horses, as she believed, ridden by one of the Indian savages.

From that time to the time of the outbreak nothing occurred at the settlement to arouse any suspicion of danger. That settlement was so isolated from others that they seldom heard from the larger towns. Everything was quiet and peaceful, and no one had a suspicion of the horrible scenes of bloodshed that were soon to follow.

About the 17th of August, 1862, "Pawn" and five or six other Indians, with squaws and children, came to the lake and camped, not far from Everett's place. Nothing was thought of this, as roving bands often came that way, and especially as these were the Indians whom the settlers had fed the winter before, and were supposed to be friendly.

Notwithstanding the fact that here and there a slight suspicion existed that the Indians were preparing for war, yet, as a rule, few, if any, believed that there was any real danger.

But on the 20th of August, 1862, the murderous assault commenced all along the line. Men, women and children, regardless

of age or condition, were murdered, mangled and outraged in the most cold-blooded and barbarous manner.

The people of the little settlement at Lake Shetek were industriously pursuing their avocations on that fatal day, and were entirely unprepared for the murderous attack which commenced near the head of the lake at daybreak.

The first outrage was at the farm of Myers, near the head of the lake. On account of Mrs. Myers' sickness, Myers arose at an early hour. As he went out of the house he discovered the Indians, who had torn down his fence and were riding through his corn, breaking it down and destroying it. He called to them saying he would whip them if they did not leave, and asked them if he had not always treated them well. They admitted that he had and finally rode away. They proceeded at once to the farm of Mrs. Hurd, whose husband, with Jones, disappeared in the spring. A German, named Voight, was working on the farm. When the Indians arrived Mrs. Hurd was milking cows, and on seeing them hastened into the house. The Indians followed her, and with pretended friendship asked for some tobacco. Voight gave them some, and they commenced to smoke. Mrs. Hurd's babe awoke and began to cry, when Voight took it up and walked out into the yard. Just as he was turning to go into the house again, one of the Indians stepped to the door, raised his gun and shot him through the breast, killing him almost instantly. They then plundered the house of all its contents, and told Mrs. Hurd that if she made any noise they would kill her also, but if she remained quiet they would permit her "to return to her mother." They destroyed nearly everything about the house and then ordered her to leave, telling her which way to go, and informing her that if she should attempt to go to one of the neighbors or make an outcry to warn them they would kill her. Mrs. Hurd was compelled to leave by an unfrequented path with her

two children, the elder about three years old and the younger less than a year old.

We must now return to the lower or south end of the settlement. Early that morning Everett's brother-in-law, Charles Hatch, started on horseback to go to Hurd's place to get a yoke of oxen to put into a breaking team. It was about six miles between the two places. When Hatch reached Cook's place he hitched his horse and went across a marsh, impassable for a horse, to save the time and trouble of going around the marsh or slough. When he reached Hurd's house, a horrid sight presented itself. Voight lay stark dead upon the ground, covered with blood; everything about the house was broken and destroyed, and Mrs. Hurd was nowhere to be seen. The tracks at once disclosed the fact that Indians had been there. Looking to the east, he saw the Indians making around the marsh. He started at once to retrace his steps and warn the settlers; but the Indians arrived at Cook's place ahead of him. They found Mrs. Cook in the cornfield with her husband's gun, keeping birds from the corn, and Cook at the house. They divided, part going to the cornfield and part to the house. Those who went to the cornfield asked to see her gun. Not suspecting murder, she let them take it. As soon as they got possession of the gun, they told her she might "go to her mother," for they were going to kill all the white men in the country. Those that went to the house asked for a drink of water. As there was none in the house, Cook took the pail to go to the spring. He had proceeded but a few steps when one of those cowardly villains, without the least warning, shot him in the back, killing him at once. Hatch was in sight of the house when Cook was shot, and saw his horse break loose and run off. Hatch managed to get past the place unperceived, while the Indians were plundering Cook's place, and went from house to house as fast as he could travel warning the settlers. When he reached Eastlick's house he was nearly exhausted.

Mrs. Eastlick, in her account of the massacre, says: "My husband and Rhodes had just sat down to breakfast, when my eldest boy, Merton, came to the door saying, 'Charley Hatch is coming, as fast as he can run.' Hatch was a young man living with his brother-in-law, Everett, and thinking that perhaps some one was sick or hurt, I went to the door. As soon as he came near enough to me I saw that he was very pale and out of breath. 'Charley, what *is* the matter?' I asked. He shouted — 'The Indians are upon us.' 'It cannot be possible,' said I. 'It *is* so,' said Charley, 'they have already shot Voight.' He then related the other facts he had witnessed, and asked for a horse that he might ride quickly to the lower end of the lake to warn the rest of the settlers. Rhodes let him have one of his horses. He asked us for a bridle several times, but we were all so horror-stricken and mute with fear and apprehension that we stood for some time like dumb persons. At last I seemed to awake as from a horrible dream and began to realize the necessity of immediate and rapid flight. I sprang into the house and got the bridle for him, urging him to hurry away with all speed. He started off and bade us follow as fast as we could to Smith's house.

Returning to Mrs. Cook, we learned that she remained concealed about the premises until the Indians, tired of plundering the house, departed. She then went to the house to find her husband murdered, and all her household goods destroyed. Notwithstanding her bereavement and the dangers surrounding her, she bravely resolved to warn the other settlers of what had transpired. After traveling on foot through brush and timber, and wading in water along the shore of the lake, she reached the lower settlement the same day a little in advance of the murderous savages. Hatch had lost no time in notifying every settler of what had transpired. Every house was soon deserted, leaving cattle, horses, household goods, every-

thing to be plundered by the merciless savages, and the settlers all assembled at the house of Wright—being thirty-four in number, men, women and children.

“Old Pawn” and his band who had camped there the Monday before, were at Wright’s place and pretended great friendship for the whites. They even went so far as to help bring in Mesdames Ireland and Duly, with their children, who had been left behind in the flight. The men at once prepared Wright’s house as well as they could, for defensive operations. They opened crevices here and there between the logs, as port-holes for their guns; and not having entire confidence in “Pawn” and his Indians, told them that they could take their stand in the stable. The women were armed with axes, hatchets and butcher-knives, and sent up-stairs with the children. These hasty preparations were not fully completed when the murderous savages, whooping and yelling like pandemonium, made their appearance at Smith’s house, in full view of Wright’s place where the settlers were assembled.

One would suppose that the whites would have remained at the house and defended themselves to the last; but when it is known that the only supply of water was some distance from the house; that they had no provisions for more than a day or two, and that they were surrounded by some two hundred Indians, we can easily understand that any chance of escape, however slim or dangerous, would be eagerly accepted.

The murderous Indians had assembled at Smith’s house and plundered it. From there they sallied forth in squads, mounted on ponies, firing guns and yelling like demons. Occasionally they would shoot a cow or an ox, and then ride back to Smith’s house. After spending some time in this way, they advanced toward Wright’s house. Everett noticed about this time one of Pawn’s band skulking around to the Indians who were advancing. He held a short consultation

and sneaked back again. Old Pawn, who pretended to be friendly, said he would go and see them and find out what they wanted. He started out to meet them, and had only proceeded a short distance when several of the war party came riding toward him on a gallop. He soon halted. As soon as they noticed this, they also stopped and called to him. He then went to them and talked for some time, after which he came running back as though excited, and said there were 200 warriors coming, and if the whites would quietly go away the “braves” would not harm them; but if not they would burn the house and kill them all.

By this time, Everett and many of the others were satisfied that Pawn and his band, notwithstanding their pretended friendship, were in a conspiracy to murder the settlers.

The men held a hurried consultation, and the majority decided to leave the building and take their chances. Rhodes and Hatch were sent to Everett’s place, half a mile away, to get a wagon for the conveyance of the women and children, and to get some flour, quilts, etc. Without waiting for the return of the team, the whole company started across the prairie on foot. Rhodes and Hatch overtook them with the wagon by the time they had proceeded half a mile, and the women and children, except Mesdames Wright and Eastlick, got into the wagon. Mrs. Wright bravely shouldered her husband’s rifle, he being absent from the settlement, below Mankato, at the time of the outbreak. They had proceeded a little over a mile when they discovered the Indians following them as fast as they could come, yelling like so many fiends. Old Pawn and his band, who had pretended to be friendly, had joined the others in the work of murder and plunder. All was terror and consternation among the settlers, and they attempted to urge the horses to a run, but the poor creatures were so loaded down that they could not go faster than a walk. On came the savages riding at full speed. All

got out of the wagon that could run, and hurried on as fast as possible, but all to no purpose—the savages were soon upon them. The men marched at the head of the team, with their guns, in order to protect the women and children who were in advance. The men thought at first that perhaps all they wanted was the team, and for that reason sent the women and children ahead. As the Indians approached almost to within gunshot, they spread out in a long, single line, and came on yelling like demons. When at long range they fired a volley, but no one was hurt. Two of the men, Rhodes and Smith, deserted the company, and ran for dear life, leaving the balance to their fate. They escaped without a scratch. One went to Dutch Charley's and warned his family, and the other went to the Walnut Grove settlement.

As soon as the Indians fired the first round they rushed for the team, and one of them seized the horses by the bits and turned them around. At this juncture, some of the white men fired upon the Indians, and the one having hold of the team fell dead.

It was now evident that there was to be a deadly conflict. The men directed the women and children to a slough near by, and told them to conceal themselves as well as they could in the tall grass, the men covering their retreat. All started amid a shower of shot from the Indian guns.

Mrs. Eastlick received a ball in one heel; Ireland's youngest child was shot through one leg; Emma Duly received a wound in the arm, and Willie Duly received a shot in the shoulder. They soon reached the slough, and although concealed from view, it afforded little protection. There were about two hundred Indians and only six white men left. For two hours the cowardly savages, keeping out of sight as much as possible, poured volley after volley into the slough. They would skulk behind the hills, crawl to the top, rise and fire, then drop out of sight. It was dangerous for one of the

white men to fire his gun, for immediately there would be a volley fired into the grass where he was. One after another of the whites were wounded or killed. Eastlick, after doing brave work, was killed. Mrs. Eastlick received a scalp wound and another in the side. Mrs. Everett received a shot in her neck. Everett received a bullet in the thigh which struck the bone, followed around and lodged under the knee. Charles Hatch was wounded in the hand and arm, and Bentley in the arm. There was little chance for further resistance by the settlers. The firing ceased. Three of the skulking Indians, one of them old Pawn, then came forward and called upon the women to come out of the slough. Everett answered them. Pawn who knew the voice, commanded him to come out of the slough. Everett told him he could not for he was wounded. Pawn said: "You lie; you can walk if you want to."

Two of the Indians then fired into the grass where Everett was, one of the bullets striking his arm near the elbow and shattering the bone and a buckshot entering his foot. Mrs. Everett, forgetting all fear, bravely arose and in the most piteous manner told them her husband was dead, and they had killed him.

Pawn then told her that he would not hurt the rest of them, but that they must come out of the slough, for he wanted her and Mrs. Wright for his squaws. Mrs. Wright could speak the Sioux language, to some extent, and under the advice of Everett, who was now helpless, the two women concluded to go out and confer with the Indians. While this hurried conference was going on between Mrs. Wright and Everett, Uncle Tommy Ireland, a short distance from them, arose out of the grass and begged of the Indians to spare the women and children. Two of the murderous Indians, only a few rods distant, fired upon him, and he fell to the ground with a groan, saying: "Oh God! I am killed!" He received seven buckshot,

two of which passed through his left lung, one through his left arm, and others lodged in various parts of his body.

Mesdames Wright and Everett, having been advised by Everett that perhaps by going out to the Indians they might be able afterward to make their escape, and that refusal would be certain death to all, ventured to go to the Indians. After a short talk with the villain, Pawn, they returned and reported that he said he would spare all the women and children if they would come out of the slough. After a short consultation the women concluded to go forth with all the children.

Ah, the sad parting! Mrs. Eastlick's husband was dead. Mrs. Ireland bent over the prostrate form of her husband, whom she would never see again, to receive, as she supposed, his dying words, and husbands and fathers felt deep anguish as wives and children went forth to death or to a time of suffering worse than death.

Many of the prisoners as they came forth were wounded. Mrs. Smith, whose husband fled at the first fire, was wounded in the hip. Next to the youngest of Mrs. Ireland's children was shot through the bowels and died in a short time.

Shortly after the surrender, the fiendish brutality and devilish cruelty of the Sioux were fully demonstrated. A little boy, five years old, son of Mrs. Eastlick, while following his mother, who was being led away by an Indian, was attacked by a squaw, beaten over the head with a club, and finally ripped open with a knife. Another of her children, Frank, was shot and murdered before her eyes. Mrs. Duly's boy, Willie, was shot in her presence, and left in a suffering, dying condition on the prairie. Mrs. Ireland and Mrs. Smith were murdered in cold blood, and left near each other; and near by was the corpse of Mrs. Eastlick's third child, Giles.

Shortly after the Indians left the slough with their prisoners, one of the redskins shot

Mrs. Everett's little boy, which so excited her that she broke loose from her captor, and was running back to her boy, when she was shot through the body and mortally wounded, dying during the night.

Mrs. Eastlick in her account says: "The Indians sent Mrs. Wright back to the slough to gather up and bring out the guns. I found that I was quite lame and could hardly walk. . . The sky soon became overcast with heavy clouds, and a furious rain-storm, accompanied with thunder and lightning, was coming on. Soon the rain descended in torrents. The Indians caught their ponies, and made all preparations for starting away. We expected to be all taken along as prisoners, but we were disappointed; for, as it afterward proved, some were taken, while others were put to death, or left in a dying condition. Those of us who afterward escaped, were, for a long time, in such a plight that death seemed inevitably to stare us in the face."

After giving an account of the death of three of her children, she continues: "Old Pawn came along with Mrs. Wright and her children. He brought along a horse which belonged to Charley Hatch, and ordered her to put her children on it, which she did. He then gave her the halter strap and sent her along, telling me to go along with her. . . I asked him what he intended to do with me, and if he meant to kill me? He replied in the negative, then stopped, leaned on his gun, and told me to hurry on. . . I limped along at a rapid pace, but looking back I saw old Pawn standing where I had left him, loading his gun, and I instantly feared that, in spite of all his protestations, he was going to shoot me. I had a small slough to cross, and when about half way through it, some one, probably Pawn, shot me again, making four bullets which I had received that day, in all. The ball struck me in the small of the back, entering at the left side of the spine, and coming out at the right side, just above my hip — also passing

through my right arm, between the elbow and wrist. I fell to the ground upon my face, and lay there for some minutes, . . . expecting the Indians would ride over me, as I had fallen in the trail. Finding that I could move I crawled about a rod from the trail, and laid down again on my face. In a few moments more I heard the step of an Indian, and held my breath, thinking he might pass me, supposing me dead. But I was sadly mistaken. He came close beside me, stood a moment, then commenced beating me on the head with the butt of a gun. He struck me many times so hard that my head bounded up from the sod, and then gave me three severe blows across the right shoulder. I did not lose all presence of mind, although the blows fell heavy and fast. . . I was so nearly smothered with my face beaten into the grass, that I caught my breath several times. He probably supposed me to be dying, and threw down his gun. I thought he was preparing to scalp me. I expected every moment to feel his hand in my hair and the keen edge of the scalping-knife cutting around my head. But for once I was happily disappointed, for he went away, thinking no doubt I was dead.

"I laid here some two or three hours, not daring to stir. . . The rain had continued to fall all of this time; my clothes were wet through, and I was very cold and chilly. About 4 o'clock p. m., on trying to get up, I found that I was very weak, and that it required a great deal of painful effort to raise myself to a sitting posture. . . I then found that the blood had run down from my head and coagulated among my fingers; hence I knew my head had bled quite freely, or the rain would have washed it away. . . I was insensible to pain, but by turning my head back and forth, I could plainly hear and feel the bones grate together. I thought my skull must be broken, and this afterward proved to be true. My hair was very thick and long, and this, I think, saved my life by breaking somewhat

the force of the blows. Here I sat, wet and cold, not daring to move from the spot. I had heard the cry of a child at intervals during the afternoon, and thought it Johnny (her son). I thought Merton (an elder son) must have taken him to the wounded men (in the slough) to stay with them. So I determined to try and go to them, thinking we could, perhaps, keep warm better, for the rain was still falling fast, and the night was setting in cold and stormy. I rose up on my feet and found that I could walk, but with great difficulty. I soon heard Willie Duly, whom I supposed dead long before this, cry out, 'Mother, mother?' but a few steps from me. . . Having to pass close by him as I left the slough, I stopped and thought I would speak to him, but on reflecting that I could not possibly help the poor boy, I passed him without speaking. He never moved again from the spot where I last saw him; for when the soldiers went there to bury the dead, they found him in the same position, lying on his face, at the edge of the slough. I was guided to the place where my children and neighbors were murdered during the day, by the crying of a child, which I supposed to be Johnny; but on reaching the spot where it lay, it proved to be Mrs. Everett's youngest child. Her eldest child, Lilly, aged six years, was leaning over him, to shield him from the cold storm. I called her by name. She knew my voice instantly, and said: 'Mrs. Eastlick, the Indians haven't killed us yet.' 'No, Lilly,' I said, 'not quite, but there are very few of us left.' Said she, 'Mrs. Eastlick, I wish you would take care of Charley.' I told her it was impossible, for my Johnny was somewhere on the prairie, and I feared he would die unless I could find him and keep him warm. She then begged me to give her a drink of water, but it was out of my power to give her even that, or to assist her in any way, and I told her so. She raised her eyes, and with a sad, thoughtful, hopeless look, asked, 'Is there any water in

heaven!' 'Lilly,' I replied, 'when you get to heaven you will never more suffer from thirst or pain.' On hearing this, the poor, little patient sufferer, only six years old, laid herself down again by her baby brother and seemed reconciled to her fate."

Mrs. Eastlick then continued her search for her missing children far into the night, and then determined to go to the settlements to procure the help she stood so much in need of.

Mrs. Eastlick goes on to say: "I knew the road to be about two miles due east of this place. This night I kept the right direction by the north star, but did not travel far, for I could go but a short distance before I was obliged to lie down and rest. Just at daybreak I reached the road, having made the distance of two miles in the whole night! This, I thought, was slow traveling, but I was quite encouraged now that I had found the road and was sure of going right. I lay down and slept until after sunrise; then, after eating some green corn, I started again. Often did fatigue force me to sit down and rest, and each time after resting I could scarcely put my foot to the ground. My heel, which had been shot through, was badly swelled and very sore, but I still pressed onward till I reached Buffalo Lake, at about 11 o'clock a. m. Here I found that I must cross the outlet of the lake on a pole, and when I trusted my weight upon it, over the middle of the stream, it broke and I fell into the water. After laborious and repeated efforts I got out and passed on, but I was soon obliged to stop and repair damages. I took off and wrung out some of my clothing and spread them in the sun to dry. I also laid the meat in the sun to dry, for it had become so slippery that I could not eat it. After this I lay down among the bushes that grew around the lake, and slept very soundly. I arose at length, put on my skirt, coat and apron, dressed my feet again, ate some corn and forced down some meat. Just as I finished

my lonely meal, a flock of ducks flew off the lake and soon a crane followed them. This was proof that something had disturbed them, and fearing that Indians were upon my track and close at hand I hid behind a tree and watched the road in the direction I had just come.

"Presently the head of a horse was seen to rise over the hill near by. Indians, without doubt, thought I, and shrank down among the bushes, and watched to see a dozen or more savages file along before me!

"But oh! what a change from fear to joy! It proved to be the mail-carrier from Sioux Falls to New Ulm. I crept out of the brush and addressed him. He stopped his horse, and, staring at me in the utmost astonishment, asked, in the Indian tongue, if I was a squaw. I answered yes, not understanding him, and told him the Indians had killed all the white people at the lake. 'Why,' said he, 'you look too white to be a squaw.'"

"I am no squaw,' I replied, 'I am Mrs. Eastlick; you have seen me several times at Mrs. Everett's house; I am very badly wounded.' He then inquired as to the extent of my wounds, and I showed him my wounded arm and the place where my head was broken. He then helped me on to his sulky, and walked along leading the horse.

"At about 4 p. m. we came in sight of Dutch Charley's, when he drove the horse into a ravine away from the road, helped me to the ground, telling me to conceal myself in the grass, and he would go to the house and see if there had been any Indians about. He returned presently, saying there had been none there: that the family had deserted the premises, but that there was an old man there who came from Lake Shetek. He helped me to mount the sulky again, and we were soon before the door. As soon as I had got to the ground, the man made his appearance at the door, and, wonderful to tell, it was poor 'Uncle Tommy Ireland.' I hardly knew him, for he looked more like a corpse than a living being. His face was deathly

pale, his eyes deeply sunk, and his voice reduced to a whisper. I hurried to greet him, rejoiced to find, still living, my old friend and neighbor who had witnessed the same heart-rending sights with myself. He clasped his arm around me and we both wept like children at the sight of each other.

"He told me that Merton had left the scene of the massacre on the same day, carrying little Johnny, and he thought, perhaps, they had reached the house before Dutch Charley's family had left and so gone along with them. I was filled with hope and joy to think that, perhaps, two of my children were spared."

Mr. Ireland, after following Mrs. Eastlick's boys half a mile from the scene of the first massacre, laid down entirely exhausted, expecting to die. He laid stretched upon the ground through all that rainy, stormy night, unable to turn over. All the next day and the next night he remained there without food or drink. The following morning, Friday, feeling a little better he made his way to Dutch Charley's, where the mail-carrier and Mrs. Eastlick found him on Saturday. So far he had been unable to get any food or drink. The mail-carrier furnished some water, and finally found a cheese which he fed to the wounded man and woman.

After feeding the horse and resting a short time, the mail-carrier took Mrs. Eastlick on the sulky, put some turnips and cheese aboard, and started east again, Mr. Ireland accompanying them. At first, the wounded man made slow progress, but after awhile was able to walk as fast as the horse. After following the road about eight miles, they went about half a mile from it and camped for the night, eating turnips and cheese for supper. The mail-carrier had a quilt and an oil cloth blanket, and, notwithstanding a heavy rainstorm during the night, the parties did not suffer severely.

At early dawn, Sunday morning, the parties again took the road and traveled eastward. About noon they espied some persons

a long distance ahead of them, and suspecting they were Indians, the mail-carrier went cautiously ahead to reconnoiter, his two companions slowly following. After a while he discovered that the objects they had seen were a woman and two children, and, upon overtaking them, found them to be Mrs. Hurd and her two children.

Mrs. Hurd and children, and Merton and Johnny Eastlick had left Dutch Charley's place on Friday morning. Merton and Johnny were only a short distance ahead of Mrs. Hurd, and the mail-carrier and Mrs. Eastlick, as may be well imagined, lost no time in overtaking them. Merton had then carried his little brother about fifty miles, with very little food or sleep. He looked like a skeleton, while the babe was so sick that he did not know his mother. His face was a complete scab where the mosquitoes and flies had bitten him.

The little company soon arrived at a Mr. Brown's place, found it deserted, and the door of the house fastened. The mail carrier crawled through a window into the house, where he found some bread on the table, brought it out and distributed it among the weary, hungry refugees. After feeding his horse, he started for New Ulm alone, advising the parties to remain about the premises, and telling them he would send a team and men to bring them to New Ulm.

The parties being afraid to stay about the house, went to the bank of the Cottonwood, some eighty rods from the house, and secreted themselves in a thicket till night. About sunset they returned to the house and crawled in through the window. Here they found bedding and clothing, some forty pounds of pork and a crock of lard. Mrs. Hurd gathered some potatoes and onions from the garden and cooked a meal, which was the first warm meal they had eaten since the Tuesday before. Here they remained in constant fear of Indians until Wednesday night, when the mail-carrier returned with sad news of the situation.

He reported that all the settlers on the Cottonwood River were driven away by the Indians or killed; that he had gone in sight of New Ulm, on foot, leaving his horse hidden some miles behind; that he could see the ruins of many burnt houses there, and people of some kind walking about the streets, but could not determine whether they were Indians or whites; that, as he was traveling along on foot, he suddenly came upon six Indians, two of whom fired upon and pursued him; that he fled and concealed himself in a slough till his pursuers were tired of hunting for him and gave up the search.

All felt that there was no safety in the house, and they again repaired to the thicket—taking with them bedding and clothing. The kind mail-carrier then shook hands with them all, bidding them good-by, saying that he would return to Sioux Falls and send soldiers to their rescue. When he reached Sioux Falls he found that the settlers had all been killed, and also all the soldiers but two, who managed to escape. After many hardships and dangers, he reached Fort Clark in safety.

Mr. Ireland, the women and children, after great suffering for two days and nights, from mosquitoes and flies, returned to the house, preferring the risk of discovery by Indians to their sufferings in the thicket. . . .

We now return to the camp at Little Creek, where we left Mr. Everett and his companions. The next morning, they started as early as possible. Mrs. Meyers was no better, and Everett, if possible, suffered more than the day before. They drove as far as Leavenworth that day. On every hand there was evidence of the murderous footsteps of the savages. The houses were all deserted and the fields laid waste.

After looking at several houses they finally went to one a quarter of a mile from the road just at dusk, and took possession. They unloaded Mrs. Meyers and the children, and had just dragged Everett into the house (for by

this time he was almost totally helpless), when they heard loud talk not far off. Bentley and Hatch crept out through the corn field, and saw three Indians going past toward a house not far off, where the whites first thought of stopping. Bentley and Hatch then came back. The men took Mrs. Meyers and children, and hid in the brush some distance from the house. Everett could not well be moved so far, so he crawled and dragged himself along through a fence, and out into a buckwheat field. He had only just laid down in a hollow when the three Indians came to that house, looked around, and finally sat down on the fence, not far from him, and in full view. They stayed around the house about three-quarters of an hour, and finally departed without discovering any of the whites. It was a very close call, however.

All hands remained concealed during the night, Everett staying in the buckwheat patch. In the morning they started again, having nothing to eat except flour wet up with water and dried in the sun. They crossed the Cottonwood, and drove toward Mankato as rapidly as possible. During the forenoon they could hear the booming of cannon at New Ulm, which was the day of the battle there.

At noon they stopped in a ravine out of sight of the road. They were not very far south of New Ulm, but the firing in that direction, and all the indications surrounding them, made them believe that the Indians were in possession of all the country around New Ulm, at least. Meyers decided to leave them there, and make his way to New Ulm, if possible, hoping to bring a party to their relief. He told them if he did not return or send relief, by the next day at noon, to drive on to Mankato.

The situation was indeed critical. Bands of murderous Indians were prowling over the country in every direction. There was no safety anywhere. This little band of settlers was now entirely defenseless. The three men were all wounded, Everett so badly



Mr. Swett

injured that he was almost entirely helpless. Mrs. Meyers was so very sick that there was little hope of her recovery. They had no food except a little raw corn and uncooked flour. They were worn out with constant watching and excitement. Tormented by an army of flies by day, and myriads of mosquitoes by night, sleep was almost impossible. A few gopher knolls on a distant hill-side looked like a band of Indians — every rustle of the tall grass brought a startled glance for the cause — every clump of weeds and each little grove might cover the presence of a murderous foe. The situation was enough to bring terror to the strongest heart in a robust man, and what must have been the feelings of persons half-starved, wounded, weak and worn out with constant watching and excitement, as they were compelled to wait and watch for twenty-four hours, with no assurance of relief even then?

After Meyers left for New Ulm the hours wore slowly away, and at noon the next day he had not returned or been heard from. There was no choice left, and the wounded and sick must reach Mankato or perish on the prairie.

The oxen were put to the wagon; Mrs. Meyers and William Everett were lifted into it, and again they started eastward. They drove till night and camped near a deserted house. Bentley and Hatch found some potatoes, which were eaten raw, as they still feared to build a fire lest the Indians should discover them.

As soon as daylight the next morning, they again started East, driving as rapidly as possible. When within eight or ten miles of Crystal Lake they discovered men in the distance, on horseback, whom they supposed to be Indians. The horsemen discovered them about the same time and came directly toward them.

Bentley and Hatch at once drove to a slough of tall grass near by, and hid Mrs. Meyers, her children and Mr. Everett in different places; drove the oxen and wagon

some distance away and then secreted themselves in the tall grass. Their fear of Indians overpowered every other feeling. They had no doubt whatever that the horsemen were Indians, and that if they were discovered they would be tortured and murdered.

The horsemen came on rapidly and soon reached the place where the frightened, wounded and starved settlers were hidden. They searched the ground thoroughly and soon found one after another of the settlers until all were found except Charley Hatch.

William Everett was so sick and weak that he could scarcely speak, but he urged Capt. Dane (for he it was with a squad of soldiers) to keep up the search for Hatch. They searched long and called often, but could not find him, and were finally compelled to go on to Lake Crystal without him.

Poor Charley Hatch heard them plainly enough, but he believed them to be Indians and half-breeds who were calling him, seeking to murder him, and he refused to answer or stir from his hiding-place. He remained hidden in the grass all night. The next morning Everett prevailed upon the soldiers to renew their search for Hatch. They returned to the slough, and, after much time spent in looking and calling, finally rode on to his hiding-place. His joy at finding them friends instead of murderous savages quite overcame him. The wounded and nearly famished settlers from Shetek were at once removed to the hospital at Mankato. If we are correctly informed Mrs. Meyers died the day after her arrival at Mankato. Meyers finally reached Mankato in safety. Bentley and Hatch soon recovered from their wounds and suffering, but Everett's life hung in the balance for a long time. His wounded leg, by constant irritation, was fearfully swollen and terribly painful. His shattered arm was in an equally bad condition. Nothing short of an iron constitution could have brought him from death's door back to life and strength.

He remained in the hospital at Mankato

until the following February, when he had so far recovered that he could hobble around on crutches, with his arm in a sling; and in that condition he went to Arena, Iowa County, Wis., where he remained for some time.

We must now return to follow briefly the history of those made captives at the time of the massacre. These were Mrs. Wright, her little boy and girl, Mrs. Duly and two children, Lillie Everett, two of Ireland's girls and Mrs. Cook. The prisoners were first taken from the camp on Cottonwood River to Yellow Medicine, where they remained some time. At this place, Mrs. Wright's boy and other captives, including Mrs. Cook, were ransomed by Gen. Sibley. About that time, "Old Pawn" took the other Shetek prisoners and started across the country for the Missouri River. The children, especially, were badly treated. An old hag of a squaw seemed to take particular delight in torturing them. On two or three occasions Lillie came near being killed by this old squaw. She pounded her with a club most brutally. They were finally taken into winter quarters on the Missouri River, some four hundred miles above Fort Randall.

Their final release was somewhat remarkable. Early one morning Mrs. Wright was down at the bank of the Missouri, getting a pail of water, when she discovered two white men in a boat, going down the river. She hailed them and told them the story of her capture, and that of the others. She said there were two women and six children, and she implored them to rescue the captives. They hesitated some time, but finally concluded that it would be impossible for them to do so. They told her however, that they would make all haste to report the facts to the government officers. True to their word, they did so, and the result was published by the Fort Dodge (Iowa) *Times* some years ago. We learn from this report that an Indian chief, Ma-to To-pa, Four Bear, who was friendly to the whites, was requested to go

to the hostile camp and rescue the captives, either by force or treaty. He called a council of his braves, and it was determined that they would make an effort to rescue the captives. He selected ten of his best braves, and with eight good horses started for the hostile camp. They took their rifles, bows and arrows, as if going to war. They started in November, 1862, and traveled seven days—snow falling nearly every day. They at last reached the camp of the hostiles, near the mouth of Grand River. The next morning the hostile Indians invited them to a council. They tied their eight horses close to the tepee and went in. Both parties were armed. Four Bear was asked what urgent business had brought him and his braves so far from home at that time of year.

He replied that he had heard they had been on the war path and had taken some prisoners. He made quite a speech, and told them he and his party had come for the captives and would not return without them.

One of the hostiles said: "You are all Indians, and belong to the same confederation that we do, and instead of being friendly to the accursed pale face you should unite with us and help slay them as long as there is a Dakota on the face of the earth."

Four Bear replied that he and his braves were friendly to the whites, and always would be—that they would never lift a hand against the women and children of the whites, and that the hostiles must give up the captives.

The council was a stormy one, lasting all day; but finally one of the hostiles said they had the captives and they were worth money, and nothing less than \$1,000 in ponies would get them. Near night they finally agreed that the hostiles should exchange their eight prisoners for the eight horses and saddles. The exchange was made that night, and then they smoked the pipe of peace.

The hostile band on their retreat from Minnesota, were so afraid of being overtaken by the whites that they took no time to hunt,

and in consequence the prisoners were nearly starved to death. The first square meal for some time was indulged in that night, and it consisted of venison and coffee. Four Bear was of the opinion that the women and children relished his cooking that night.

The prisoners were so destitute of clothing, that they were compelled to divide their wardrobe with them. The weather was intensely cold, but the homeward march began. The six children had to be carried every step of the way, and the two women the greater part of it. Some of the Indians would go ahead and kill game, and get the camp ready at night when they arrived. In consequence of the great depth of snow it was a slow, laborious tramp. At Swan Lake they met some of their people and traded some ammunition and blankets for sugar and coffee for the captives, and in the morning they all contributed everything they could spare for the use of a big horse to get home with. They made a "travoy," which is two long poles, one end of each fastened to the saddle, extending backward on each side of the horse with cross-pieces lashed on. The six children were bundled on this vehicle and they got along splendidly. They arrived at last at their camp, and the next day they took the captives across the river and turned them over to the officer in command, who gave Four Bear the following:

FORT PIERRE, D. T., Dec. 12, 1862.

The bearer, Ma-to To-pa, is one of the eleven Indians that recovered Mrs. Julia Wright, Mrs. Emma Duly and six children from the Ih-Sanu-Ta, near the Grand River, in November, 1862. He deserves to be kindly treated by all.

[Signed]

JOHN PATTEE.

Major 1st Iowa Cavalry

Expedition in Search of Prisoners.

In course of time the captives were sent down the Missouri River, and across the country to Fort Dodge, Iowa.

William Everett saw a report in the Chicago papers that the captives would soon be

at Cedar Falls, Iowa. He left Arena, Wis., on crutches, his wounded arm still useless, to meet them at Cedar Falls. He was doomed to disappointment, for on his arrival there he learned they had not yet arrived, and that he must go to Fort Dodge to meet them. He took the stage for that place, but on his arrival there could hear no news of them. There he was taken sick and confined to his bed for two weeks. In the meantime the captives arrived, and among them his child, Lillie. Wright also met his wife and little daughter at that place.

Mr. Everett, as soon as he was able to travel, returned again to Wisconsin with his little child. He remained at Arena until 1867. He lost all his property at Lake She-tek, amounting to \$5,000, and only received from the government for his loss \$800.

It will be remembered by our readers that the mail-carrier, after his failure to reach New Ulm, returned to Brown's house, where he left Mrs. Hurd and her two children, Mrs. Eastlick and two children, and "Uncle Tommy Ireland." After the mail-carrier left, these parties remained at Brown's house for nine days, living upon the vegetables growing on the farm.

Thomas Ireland gradually recovered from his wounds, while Mrs. Eastlick was as yet unable to walk. Mr. Ireland proposed at last to make a trip to New Ulm, and get assistance to remove the women and children. During their stay there two large dogs had come to them and remained there.

On Monday morning, the ninth day they had been there, Ireland, taking two cooked chickens as a supply of food, started for New Ulm, saying that he should try and reach New Ulm that night, and would send relief on Tuesday. Mrs. Eastlick says:

"All the afternoon of Tuesday we looked long and eagerly for some one to come to our relief, until after dark, when I retired and slept some hours. At about midnight we were awakened by the loud barking of the dogs. Mrs. Hurd arose and went to the

window, but could see nothing. The dogs, however, barked more savagely than before, running out a short distance and then back to the door. This frightened us very much, as we thought it must be Indians, or the dogs would not act so. But, thought I, whether it be friends or enemies, I must arise and dress, though it may be the last time. So I began putting on my clothes, still asking Mrs. Hurd if she saw anything, when, just as I was about dressed, she exclaimed, 'My God! Cook, is that you?' Then I realized that it was some one whom she knew. It proved to be a young man named Cook, who lived at Lake Shetek, and some time before the outbreak had gone to Crystal Lake to work in harvest, and my neighbor, Wright, who was also gone at the time. They came into the house and greeted us with tears in their eyes, while Mrs. Hurd and I wept aloud for joy. They were accompanied by a squad of soldiers, who also came into the house. The soldiers stationed guards about the house, to prevent a surprise. We now learned that 'Uncle Tommy' had succeeded in getting into New Ulm about noon on Tuesday, and at once made known our condition to Capt. Dane, who ordered fourteen men under Lieut. Roberts to prepare to start as soon as possible to our relief. It was almost sunset before they were ready to start, when Wright and Cook came into town and, learning the facts, volunteered to attend them as guides. They reached our place at midnight, and fearful that the sight of them all at once would frighten us, Wright and Cook came on alone to rouse us. The soldiers brought some tea and crackers, killed some chickens, gathered some vegetables and prepared a good meal. At daylight they placed the feather bed, some quilts and a buffalo robe in a light, two-horse wagon. I was then helped in with Mrs. Hurd and our children.

"When about five miles on the road, Lieut. Roberts rode back and ordered the driver to turn out of the road, pointing a

little distance ahead of us. I looked in the direction he pointed, and beheld the body of a gray-haired man lying in the road. This was the body of Brown, who owned the house where we had stopped. We soon crossed a run where stood his wagon, the goods thrown out and scattered upon the ground. There were two feather beds which the soldiers took along. Near the wagon was the body of Mrs. Brown, with her head split open. As we started out in the morning, one of the soldiers, Gilfillan, tarried behind, got lost from the company and his body was found next day some six miles from New Ulm, shot through the breast and his head severed from his body."

All along the route the houses had been plundered, and several dead bodies were found.

These parties remained for some time in New Ulm and were kindly nursed and cared for. About the 5th of September they went to Mankato under escort. As soon as Mrs. Eastliek was able to travel she went to friends in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Cook was taken with some of the other prisoners back to the settlement at Lake Shetek, to Ireland's house, where a large number of Indians were camped for the night. They held a big war dance that night, notwithstanding the storm. The Indian who claimed her told her to stay in the "tepee" or the other Indians would kill her. They kept up the pow-wow nearly all night, and their chief having been killed during the day, they chose "Old Pawn" to succeed him.

Next morning some of the Indians brought in Lillie Everett, so chilled and wet that she could hardly speak. Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Duly wrapped her in a shawl and sat her down close by the fire. This so enraged the savages that they fired at them, one bullet passing through the skirt of Mrs. Duly's dress, and another piercing the shawl worn by Mrs. Cook, just below her shoulders. Fortunately neither one of them was hurt.

While returning to the lake Mrs. Cook was leading little Belle Duly, five years old, when the murderous old squaw that killed Fred. Eastlick came along, snatched the child away, whipped her over the face with a raw-hide, raised her as high as she could and threw her upon the ground with all her force; next, tied the child to a bush, stepped back a few paces, threw knives at her, hitting her in various parts of the body until life was extinct, while the mother was forced to behold the sight, with no power to shield her child.

The Indians gathered together quite a drove of cattle, loaded several wagons with plunder, and compelled the women to drive the oxen that drew the wagons, and also the loose cattle. They went to the Cottonwood, and thence across the prairie to the Yellow Medicine country.

Mrs. Cook was with the savages seven weeks. For three or four weeks she had plenty to eat, but was finally sold to an old Indian who was very good to her sometimes, and at other times very cruel. One day he told her he was going to another band of Indians at some distance, and some of the squaws told her that where they were going there was hardly anything to eat. He finally started off, compelling her to go with him. She made no resistance, but after going some five miles, she offered to carry his gun for him. He gave it to her. She managed to take off the cap and throw it away, then spit in the tube to make sure the gun would not go off, and then told him she should go no farther with him. He seized his gun from her hands and told her to go on or he would shoot her, at the same time raising his gun. She boldly told him to shoot for she would not go with him, and bared her breast as if to be instantly killed. He was amazed, and dropped the butt of his gun in astonishment. He probably thought her the bravest squaw he ever saw. At least he concluded to return with her.

That night she intended to escape with a

squaw who had married a white man, and who was also a prisoner; but their plan was defeated by the sickness of the squaw's babe. The next morning the child was better, and all the Indians left the camp except the one who claimed to own Mrs. Cook. This was an opportunity not to be lost. Mrs. Cook stole away to the river unperceived, and the squaw rode a pony in the same direction, pretending to be going to water him. She let him go at the river and started with Mrs. Cook. They traveled as rapidly as possible, crossed the Minnesota River ten times that day in order to hide their trail if followed. They traveled, they thought, about thirty miles, when they came upon "Red Iron's" band of Indians, whom they joined. After remaining three or four days with this band they were surrendered, with a great many other captives, to Gen. Sibley's command by Red Iron. Mrs. Cook afterward married and settled in Mankato.

Thomas Ireland recovered from his wounds and has since lived in Mankato. He was married again some time ago. Both daughters remained with him until recently one of them was married.

Charley Hatch is married and lives in Faribault County.

Mrs. Hurd was living at La Crosse at last accounts.

Mr. Duly joined the Mounted Rangers and became captain of scouts. He it was who cut the drop that sent the thirty-eight condemned Indians into eternity on the 26th of December, 1862. The last heard of him he was in Iowa.

Mrs. Geo. P. Keeney, *nee* Lillie Everett, resides with her husband in California.

The young people of to-day, and the older people of the more eastern States, can have but a faint idea of the real situation of the people of this State at the time of the Indian outbreak. The State had then raised 5,000 troops for service in the war of the rebellion. The people were all poor, many of them in destitute circumstances.

Men were without suitable arms, destitute of ammunition and entirely unorganized. The Indians came like a thief in the night, and before the settlers were aware of it they had murdered and plundered all the frontier settlements. To add to the general fear in this section, the Winnebago tribe of Indians was located on a reservation occupying portions of Blue Earth and Waseca counties, between Mankato and Wilton. The wildest stories were in circulation everywhere, and everybody believed them, more or less, because they had no means of knowing the contrary.

Many people took teams and wagons, with a few household goods, perhaps, and fled, leaving cattle, crops and everything else to go to destruction. The wildest excitement prevailed almost everywhere. At one time a strong guard was stationed on the bridge at Wilton to arrest the stampede of settlers, long after all danger was over. The loss of property and crops was immense throughout the State, and the consequent suffering the ensuing year was wide-spread on the frontier.



CHAPTER XVI.

WILTON TOWNSHIP.



CONGRESSIONAL township 106 north, range 23, constitutes what is known as Wilton. This is one of the most level, beautiful tracts of country in Waseca County. It is but very slightly undulating, the difference between the highest and lowest portions of the surface, connected by slopes from a quarter of a mile to a mile in length, is but from five to ten feet.

The soil is rich, alluvial, clayey loam, enriched by decay of vegetation for countless centuries, and is peculiarly adapted for the wants of agriculture. All the small grains, corn, vegetables and small fruits do exceedingly well, and return a rich harvest to the industrious tiller of the soil.

The Le Sueur River enters this township on the east side of section 36, and flowing in a general northerly direction, sometimes in this and sometimes in the adjoining town of Otisco, fully waters the eastern side of Wilton. In the western part lies Silver Lake, a superb sheet of water into which little runs and streamlets carry the drainage of the western portion of the territory.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement in the county was in the township of Wilton. In August, 1854, Asa G. Sutlief came to this place and made a settlement on section 35, as detailed at length in the history of the early settlement of the county in the former portion of this work. He remained here until November, when leaving his cattle, shanty and claim in charge of Luther Barrett, of Mankato, and

taking his family into his wagon, he returned to Wisconsin. In January, 1855, he returned here and made this his residence, except about four years spent south, until his death, which occurred October 13, 1871.

Byron G. Sutlief, a son of Asa G. Sutlief, the first settler of this county, was born in the town of Wilton, Waseca County, September 10, 1858, and still resides on the pioneer farm taken up by his father on the banks of the Le Sueur River, previous to the government survey of this part of the State, the surveying party while working here boarding with A. G. Sutlief's family. On this farm was built the first house in Waseca County. This was of primitive style, erected of logs, and stood about sixty rods southeast of Byron Sutlief's present residence. The latter gentleman owns 200 acres of excellent land, all situated in section 35, in Wilton Township. He was married December 18, 1884, to Lavenne Kerr, who was born in St. Mary Township, this county, October 1, 1864. Asa G. Sutlief, the father, was born in New York State and died in Wilton, October 13, 1871. The mother of Byron is a native of England, and is residing with her son on the old homestead.

In January, 1855, on the return of Mr. Sutlief to this county, James E. Child, his brother, S. P. Child, and a man by the name of Plummer, came with him. They made claims in Wilton Township and settled there, where they resided for years. J. E. Child is the senior editor of the *Waseca Herald*; S. P. Child is a resident of Faribault County and both are spoken of fully elsewhere. Plummer lived here only about ten months.

and then returned to Wisconsin, from whence he had come to this country.

Christopher Scott and his family were the next to locate in this little settlement. They came here in January, 1855, and put up with Mr. Sutlief until they could get their cabin built, into which they then removed. Scott came here from what was then called the "Straight River Settlement," where he had been staying since the previous autumn. He took up a claim about a mile north of Mr. Sutlief's. He was a native of Pennsylvania. He died in Kansas, whither he removed after living here a few years.

The spring of 1855 had scarcely dawned when he was followed by his father and brother, Andrew and Charles D. Scott. Andrew took a claim on section 13, and opened up a farm where he dwelt for a few years, when he removed to Wilton where he died about 1865. Charles D. lived with his father until the removal of the latter, when he continued to farm on the old homestead. Finally he abandoned this, but is still a resident of the township.

During the summer of the same year, David J. and John Jenkins came to this county and made claims in Wilton Township.

John Jenkins was the first justice of the peace in the new settlement, and performed the first marriage ceremony in the county, as related elsewhere. He was a native of the State of New York. In 1862 he enlisted in Company F, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, and while in the service of the United States died at Iuka, Miss., August 21, 1862, of disease brought on by exposure and camp life.

David Jenkins erected the first house in the immediate vicinity of the village of Wilton. He is still a resident of the county.

In January, 1856, William Young and Ambrose Kellogg came here from Jackson County, Iowa, and made claims. Young located on section 26, in this township, on the farm now occupied by George T. Dunn. He was

a single man at that time, and remained here, off and on, for some five or six years, when he went to Fillmore County, where he was married. Afterward he removed to Iowa where he is still living. Kellogg was a doctor, but never practiced while here. He took up a claim on section 35, which he soon sold; prospected around for coal, etc., and finally went back to Iowa, but is now in Kansas.

Early in the spring of this year (1856), William Wells came here from Wisconsin, and took up a claim. He was unfortunate in his marriage relations, and his wife leaving him, he finally, after five or six years residence, removed back to the Badger State. He was known throughout this region as "Nucky Wells."

Benjamin F. Weed, at the present a resident of the town of New Richland, made a settlement on section 23, in 1856, where he made his home for many years. A sketch of him is given in connection with the history of the township in which he is living. With him came Silas O. Kellogg, who remained but a short time; he is now a resident of Jackson County, Iowa.

E. A. Rice and Isaac Hamlin located claims here during the year 1856. Mr. Rice was identified with the official life of the county, and is noticed in that connection in Chapter VIII.

Jesse I. Stewart came to this township in 1856, and located in the village of Wilton. He was a member of the Legislature of the State at the session commencing January, 1860, having served the county previous to that as treasurer for two years. Early in the "sixties," he removed to Morristown, and in 1879, emigrated to far away Oregon.

Jacob Brubaker and his son G. E. came to this township and located upon section 28. Jacob Brubaker died in August, 1878, at Waseca.

Tarrant Putnam located at the village of Wilton in 1856, and was closely connected with the organization of the county

in 1857, being the first register of deeds. He is still living, dividing his time between this and Faribault County.

H. P. Norton, now a resident of the city of Waseca, made a settlement in this town in 1856. He was prominently identified with the office of register of deeds, which he held in 1864 and 1865, and is mentioned in that connection.

Nathaniel Garland, the first sheriff of Waseca County, came to the little settlement in Wilton, in 1856, where he located. He was, after holding office, engaged in the mercantile business in the village of Wilton, and afterward at Waseca, where he died.

Col. John C. Ide in the fall of 1856 came to Wilton bringing with him a steam saw-mill, owned by himself and A. B. Cornell, of Owatonna. One of the leading men of his day, he was a recipient of the favor of the people and chosen to fill the office of county auditor. He is mentioned in that connection in the chapter devoted to State and County representation.

In October, 1856, Michael O'Brien located a claim on a part of section 12, where he made a residence. He was and is a single man, and lives in Wilton Township, at this writing.

Nathan Duane Baker made his appearance in the township in 1856. About the same time came Thomas L. Paige. Both these gentlemen are spoken of in connection with the village of Wilton, further on.

Abraham Jaque made a settlement in Waseca County in 1856, also, and remained a resident until May, 1872, when he passed over to the land beyond the grave.

Patrick Kenehan came to this township in 1856, and is still a resident. He was born in Ireland on St. Patrick's day, March 17, 1825. He lived in the Emerald Isle, until March 18, 1849, when he started for America, landing in New York on the 1st of May, 1849. He came to Geneva, Wis., and from there removed to Peoria, Ill., and from there to Lacon, in the same State and from the latter

place came to Waseca County in 1856, settling on section 9, this township. During the Indian troubles in 1862, Mr. Kenehan belonged to the home organization for protection, and was one of three men detailed to visit the Winnebago agency to interview the agent, and found his house guarded by a company of soldiers and the Indians kept down through fear of the same. October 24, 1849, Mr. Kenehan and Bridget Martin were united in marriage at Geneva, Wis., by Rev. Father McKiernan. They have been the parents of nine children, of whom six are now living: James born August 31, 1850, died in 1851; John, born February 13, 1852; Margeret, born July 4, 1854, died October 27, 1860; Patrick Henry, born October 9, 1856; Michael, born December 3, 1858, died November 17, 1865; Elizabeth, born December 4, 1860; Mary Ann, December 15, 1862; William Pius, January 15, 1865, and Agnes, March 7, 1867.

Noah Lincoln was also one of the settlers of the same year. He was born in New York State, June 16, 1822, and came here from Cass County, Mich. He was united in marriage with Emma S. Davis, December 7, 1844. She was born December 19, 1826. They had a family of eight children: Maria W., born October 13, 1845; Francis M., born July 4, 1847, died in the army, at Mound City, Ill., April 7, 1865; Charles F., born September 9, 1849; Friend A., December 11, 1851, died August 28, 1852; Elva V., July 13, 1853; Louisa J., November 20, 1855, died July 8, 1887; Mina A., November 19, 1859, died March 30, 1862, and Ida V., born April 4, 1862. The family came through from Michigan with a team of oxen, consuming nine weeks on the way. During the winter of 1856-7 they were compelled to put up with many hardships, having to exist a greater part of the time on buckwheat ground in a coffee mill. Finally Mr. Lincoln bought a bushel and a half of corn for which he had to pay five dollars. On coming here he took up a government claim, but soon

sold out and purchased nearly 219 acres on section 1, Wilton, and moved to the village of Wilton, where he died March 23, 1875. His son Charles F. carries on the farm.

Charles F. Lincoln was born in Cass County, Mich., September 9, 1849, and is the son of Noah and Emma S. (Davis) Lincoln. He came to Minnesota with his parents in 1855, and to Wilton Township, Waseca County the year following. April 9, 1885, C. F. Lincoln and Mary Pomroy were united in marriage at Jackson, Mich.. She was born January 23, 1858. They have had one child which is now dead.

Alexander Henderson was also an arrival of the year 1856.

Early in the spring of 1857, several settlers made their appearance in this vicinity, among whom were George H. Woodbury, who settled on section 28; George Barclay, who located a claim on part of section 21; David Weaver, on section 11, and Robert Gibson who "stuck his stakes" on the northwest quarter of section 29.

Frank Hadley and Eugene A. Smith came to the township this year, also.

Among the settlers of the year 1857, was Edwin E. Verplanck. In the spring of that year, he came to Wilton Township and took up a claim southwest of the village, where he lived for a short time, then abandoned it and moved back to Faribault. After his discharge from the United States service, in Company G, First Minnesota Infantry, he came back to Waseca County and settled in New Richland, where he is at present a resident.

M. F. Conner was born in Ireland, December 24, 1846, and came with his parents to America when but a child. The family settled in the State of Illinois, in 1848. In 1857, they came to Waseca County, and settled in the town of Wilton. During the years 1866, 1867 and 1868, M. F. was in Montana Territory, where he was engaged in mining, but at the end of that time re-

turned to this county. November 2, 1873, he was united in marriage with Alice Dolan and they have been the parents of eight children: George F., born July 13, 1874; Nellie E., born November 11, 1876; Arthur E., born May 14, 1877; Charles M., born January 29, 1879; William, born February 14, 1881; Gertrude, born November 13, 1883; Leo S., born April 13, 1885, and James Walter, born August 8, 1887. Mr. Conner owns and cultivates a fine farm of 160 acres on section 16, Wilton Township, and is a prominent and representative citizen of the county. He has held the offices of county commissioner, township trustee and member of the school board. He and his family are members of the Catholic Church.

On the 2d of November, 1857, William Murphy and his family left their home in Philadelphia, and journeyed toward Minnesota, first stopping in Steele County, but in December of the same year changed his residence to the village of Wilton. While there he was connected with the seminary, as teacher, and died at that place May 14, 1859.

C. O. Norton was among the settlers of 1857. He located in the village of Wilton, where he carried on the blacksmith trade. On the founding of the village of Waseca he removed there, where he died July 22, 1868.

B. A. Lowell Sr., now a resident of Waseca, located in Wilton during the year 1858, among the early settlers.

Thomas Bardon, Patrick Madden and Thomas Bowers are among the early settlers of Wilton Township that are still left in this locality.

Jackson Turnacliff, proprietor of "Town-Line Farm," was born in the State of New York, May 6, 1835, and while a child the family moved to Ohio, where he was reared until he was about twenty years of age, when he came to Iowa and settled in Jackson County, but only remained there a short time, when he started for Minnesota, walk-

ing the whole distance, arriving in this State the last day of the year 1855. He took up a claim on section 7, in the town of Otisco. He subsequently purchased the land on section 12, Wilton Township, where he now lives, in 1867, and has erected an exceedingly fine residence and barns. His farm contains 160 acres of land located on both sides of the Le Sueur River. August 25, 1858, Mr. Turnacliff and Lucia Elvira Barber were married in Ohio. She was born in that State, February 6, 1839. They have been the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living: Minnie Dora, born June 6, 1859; Lolah Mina, born January 26, 1861; Elsa Lavern, October 26, 1863; Linna May, December 6, 1865, died October 6, 1866; Laura Meria, August 9, 1867; Ferdinand, April 26, 1872; Walter D., May 1, 1876; Jay B., September 5, 1880; Rill, May 1, 1885.

Ferdinand Turnacliff, the father of Jackson, was born in Otsego County, N. Y., September 11, 1813, and is now a resident of Waseca County, and one of its early settlers. His wife, Maria, was born in New York, April 4, 1812, and died December 6, 1862. They were the parents of five children: Amelia Ann, born January 2 1837; Delevan, September 30, 1838; Sally M., August 27, 1842, died June 13, 1860; Matilda, born March 16, 1848, and Seymour, born May 8, 1851, died January 17, 1854.

S. A. Farrington was born in Kennebec County, Me., August 27, 1826, and in an early day removed with his parents to what is now Green Lake County, Wis., where he remained until 1857, when he came to Waseca County, Minn., settling in Otisco Township, from whence he moved to Woodville Township, and in 1884 to this present location on section 15, in Wilton. November 26, 1855, he was married to Mary Foster, who was born November 26, 1840. The young people shortly after their marriage, came with a colony of twelve families from Green Lake County by team, spending some five weeks on the trip. All these

people settled within the radius of six miles, and Mr. and Mr. Farrington had to live in their wagon until they completed a house. This was a hard year for the new arrivals, and the first experience Mr. Farrington had was dividing the necessaries of life with their more needy neighbors. During the Indian troubles twelve neighboring families congregated at Mr. Farrington's houses, for he had two, and he generously provided them with shelter. All were badly frightened by a report of the coming of their savage foes, and hiding their most valuable articles in a stone jar, concealed it in a corn-field. Mr. and Mrs. Farrington have had born to them eight children, seven of whom are now living: Minnie E., born September 7, 1857, died December 11, 1875; Howard S., born October 31, 1859; Rosetta S., born June 30, 1861; Sarah C., July 20, 1863; Warren A., October 11, 1866; Edith M., May 30, 1870; Frank W., February 5, 1875, and Guy A., October 18, 1878. Mr. Farrington's farm consists of 160 acres in Wilton Township and 40 acres near the town of Waseca. He has a herd of fine grade short-horn and Holstein cattle, and is giving considerable attention to stock-raising.

P. Burns is a native of Ireland, born in the year 1837, who emigrated to the shores of America and settled in the State of Ohio in 1851. There he remained until 1856, when he came to Minnesota. In 1865 he moved to the farm which he now occupies. On the 11th of June, 1862, he was united in marriage with Ann Howlan, and they have eight children, all living; Mary Elizabeth, born April 27, 1863; Margaret, December 20, 1864; George, December 18, 1866; Catherine Ann, April 5, 1869; Martha, July 4, 1871; Martin, July 29, 1873; Peter, November 30, 1878, and William, January 15, 1882. Mr. Burns is making a specialty of breeding short-horn cattle and has a herd of forty head of grades. In early times, like all old settlers, he had some tough experiences, but

by courage and perseverance got through them all and is now one of the most prosperous farmers in the county. He has held the office of treasurer of the township.

James A. Root, the proprietor of the "Willow Grove Farm," is a native of Jefferson, N. Y., born February 26, 1832. With his parents he removed to Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County, N. Y., where his mother died. In 1859 they removed to Minnesota, settling on the farm where James A. now lives, on section 34, in this township. His father, Joseph N. Root, came later and died here April 12, 1869, aged 68 years and eight months. James A. Root and Hannah Brisbane were united in marriage December 12, 1859. She is a daughter of Hon. William Brisbane and born August 18, 1840. They have been the parents of ten children of whom eight are now living; Charles E., born February 27, 1861, married to Ella M. Roddle February 2, 1883, who was born in Wilton, January 12, 1863, and who is the mother of one child, Oren E., born February 4, 1884; William L., born January 29, 1863; Joseph S., born April 16, 1865; Cora B., August 26, 1867; Hattie M., March 4, 1870; James A., May 22, 1872; Maggie J., May 31, 1873; Freddie, July 2, 1877, died August 24, 1877; Dora E., born March 14, 1879, and Marvin L., born October 9, 1880, died February 22, 1882. Mr. Root's farm comprises some 270 acres of fine land and is well tilled, and his residence is surrounded by a thrifty plantation of fine trees containing nearly all the varieties that will grow in this climate. Besides, he has a fine orchard of fruit trees and a garden of small fruit.

John Doran was born in Ireland, June 20, 1829. On the 11th of December, 1851, he left the Emerald Isle and came to America, and for awhile after his arrival here drifted about the State of New York, but finally settled in Erie County, that State. From there he came west, and locating in Wisconsin, remained there about ten years,

coming to Waseca County in 1865 and settled on section 27, in this township. He subsequently removed to his present location in section 33. March 16, 1855, in the State of New York, John Doran and Catherine Kohl were united in marriage, and they have been the parents of fourteen children, nine of whom are now living: Peter, born February 27, 1856; James and David, (twins) born and died in November, 1857; Annistacia Mary, born November 5, 1858; Margarette Ann, born March 28, 1861; James A., June 15, 1863; Mary C., June 27, 1865, died July 6, 1887; Catherine A., September 29, 1867; John M., January 8, 1869; George W., born March 28, 1871, died August 8, 1874; Agnes E., born June 26, 1874, died August 15, 1886; George William, March 2, 1877; Lurina M., November 7, 1880, and Nellie G., July 7, 1882.

H. B. Allen is a native of Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., born May 1, 1836. From there the family moved to Pennsylvania and finally to Wisconsin. On the 16th of November, 1860, he was united in marriage with Elizabeth Ackerman, in Columbia County, Wis. The date of her birth was January 13, 1839. In June, 1863, Mr. and Mrs. Allen came to Minnesota, settling in Faribault County. While there Mr. Allen enlisted in Company G, 1st Minnesota Infantry, and served until the close of the war, being discharged at Washington, in April, 1864, viewing the body of the murdered president, Abraham Lincoln, as it lay in state in that city, while there. Mrs. Allen had four brothers in the service during the war, one of whom spent two years in the rebel prison pens and endured hardships that no pen can tell of or words portray. Mr. Allen has a fine farm and is extensively engaged in stock-raising, having several fine short-horn cattle, full bloods. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have had born to them the following children: Benjamin C., born September 12, 1861; Willie D. W., born October 25, 1867; Merritt H. C., born August 6, 1871; Josie

Gladys, born July 30, 1873, and twins that died in infancy. They came to Waseca County in 1876 and settled on section 25, in this town, where they now live.

R. Nelson was born in Crawford County, Pa., December 16, 1837. When he was twelve years of age his parents moved to the State of Wisconsin, where they lived for years. In 1857 Mr. Nelson made a tour of inspection through a part of Minnesota and then returned to the Badger State. On the 9th of August, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-second Wisconsin Infantry, and served one year, when he was discharged, in October, 1863, but remained at the front until some time in December in the same year, when he came to Wilton and made a settlement. February 2, 1865, he reënlisted, this time in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and went to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he remained until the close of the war. March 18, 1866, he was united in marriage with Rhoda A. Sntlief, a daughter of Asa G. Sntlief, the first settler of this county, born in Dodge County, Wis., September 18, 1848. They are the parents of seven children, six of whom are living: Lee B., born December 31, 1868; Rezin Jr., born February 15, 1871; Clarence W., born April 13, 1873; Mary, born January 22, 1876, who died February 22, 1882; Roy, born September 23, 1878; Volney F., born February 10, 1881, died February 5, 1882; Nellie D., born August 20, 1884, and Rex G., born March 5, 1887. Mr. Nelson settled upon his present place in 1874.

E. M. Atwood was born at Littleton, N. H., December 24, 1839, and moved with his parents to Wisconsin in the fall of 1849. He resided in various places in the Badger State but finally, in 1859, left Grant County, that State, and came to Waseca County, first settling in the town of St. Mary. In 1866 he located in Wilton Township, where he at present resides. In 1862 he enlisted in company F, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, and served three years, being discharged at Point Look-

out, Md., January 25, 1865, and is a member of Lewis McKune Post No. 29, Grand Army of the Republic. March 11, 1869, Mr. Atwood and Mary Frances Reibeling, a native of Philadelphia, were united in marriage at Wilton, by Elder Smith. They are the parents of five children: Eva Valeria, born February 27, 1870, died January 13, 1877; Eliza Frances, born December 26, 1871; Laura May, born January 2, 1873, died January 19, 1877; George Edwin, born March 9, 1879, and Anna Lolah, born April 4, 1884. Mr. Atwood's father was born in New Hampshire, October 31, 1811.

William Roddle is a native of England, born June 2, 1822, and came to America in 1840, first locating in Cayuga County, N. Y., From there he moved to Onondaga County, and finally to Tompkins County, in the same State. In 1844 he journeyed to Ohio, and from there subsequently to Kenosha County, Wis., where he remained until the fall of 1860, when he came to this county, and purchasing a farm on section 12 in this township, took up his residence in the village of Wilton, where he now lives. His place contains 120 acres of finely cultivated land. In 1849, at Bristol, Wis., Mr. Roddle and Mary Green were united in marriage, and they were the parents of three children: William Henry, born December 28, 1850; B. F., born April 9, 1854, and Ella, born January 12, 1863. Mrs. Roddle died at Wilton, June 19, 1876. December 17, 1879, Mr. Roddle and Emily A. Loder were united in marriage. She was born in Fond du Lac County, Wis., October 26, 1852. Her father, John W. Loder, enlisted in the army and died in the service of his country, in 1862; her mother is still living. Her brother, S. T., died in Steele County, Minn., May 17, 1864.

George T. Dunn, proprietor of the River Side farm, was born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., February 7, 1845, and removed with his parents to Illinois in 1856, where he was engaged in farming. In 1867 he removed to Waseca County, Minn. In the year 1881

purchased his present farm of four hundred acres in sections 26 and 27, town of Wilton. Mr. Dunn is giving particular attention to raising Norman Percheron horses, cattle and grain. His farm is well adapted to stock-raising, being located directly on the banks of Le Sueur River. Mr. Dunn's father, Thomas Dunn, was born in Dumfrieshire, Scotland, March 8, 1813, and emigrated to America in the year 1839. He died in Lee County, Ill., September, 1862. Isabell Dunn, the mother of George T. and wife of Thomas Dunn, was born also in Dumfrieshire, Scotland, June 25, 1812, and is still living, a member of Geo. T. Dunn's family.

FIRST ITEMS.

The first birth in the township of Wilton was that of a child of Mr. and Mrs. Plummer, born in July, 1855.

The first death was that of a child of William Wells, that departed this life in the summer of 1856.

The first marriage was that of James E. Child and Justina Krassin, April 19, 1856, John Jenkins, justice of the peace, performing the ceremony.

The first ground was broken by Asa G. Sntlief, who planted the first grain.

The first sawmill put up in the county was probably that of Col. J. C. Ide and others, which was hardly a success.

The pioneer religious meeting was held in 1856 at the house of C. Northup, a Rev. Mr. Hicks conducting the services.

The first schoolhouse was erected in 1858, at Wilton, and Miss Angeline Krider was the pioneer teacher.

ORGANIC.

The first town meeting was held, as the records state, on the 11th of May, 1858, at the house of Joseph Doty. The assembly was called to order, with P. C. Bailey in the chair. The object of the meeting being stated, Buel Welsh was made moderator and T. L. Paige, clerk. On motion of A. J. Woodbury, the name of the township was

made that of Wilton, and the following officers chosen: W. W. Robinson, chairman, John Brand and A. J. Woodbury, supervisors; Tarrant Putnam, town clerk and collector; L. Curtis, assessor; J. B. Jackson and P. C. Bailey, justices of the peace; A. Miller, overseer of the poor, and P. Van Dyke and L. Curtis, constables. The present officers of the town are as follows: G. Gehering, chairman, T. Bardon and A. Schulz, supervisors; William Brisbane, clerk; Thos. Bowers, treasurer; Henry Buck, assessor; William Brisbane, justice of the peace.

The Roman Catholics have a church edifice on the southwest corner of section 31, which was erected by that denomination in 1881. Rev. Robert Hughes is the pastor here and attends to the spiritual wants of more than sixty families, or 350 members. The congregation live in all four townships, the church standing at the corner where Byron, Vivian, Freedom and Wilton join.

VILLAGE OF WILTON.

In the autumn of 1855 a village plat was surveyed and laid out by A. B. Cornell, J. H. Abbott and W. F. Pettit, of Owatonna, and James E. Child, John Jenkins and D. J. Jenkins, of this county. Shortly after, James Child and John Jenkins gave up their claim to the town site and others took their place. Says a local writer in speaking of these days, of which he is fully cognizant:

"During the winters of 1855 and 1856, the first claim jumping commenced. The avarice of some of the town proprietors, and the land and town site fever of that time, caused some unprincipled ones to trespass upon the just rights of some of the early settlers, and caused such a feeling of opposition to the town of Wilton, that for the first year after it was laid out, no building was completed.

"Like all other towns of that day, it was expected, like Jonah's gourd, to grow in a day, but unfortunately the prime movers of the enterprise so managed their affairs that

the people of the county, even up to the boundary line of the village plat, refused to countenance the building of the new city, and even went so far as to oppose the erection of buildings on the town plat by force and arms.

"In the month of April, 1856, several horse bodies made of logs, found standing in the village, were discovered one Sunday morning and razed to the ground. As to who did the evil deed, probably no one knows except those engaged in it. This occurrence, and the general opposition to the persons having control of the village, by the surrounding settlers, prevented any further growth during the summer."

In the fall of 1856, John C. Ide and A. B. Cornell brought in a sawmill, and Mr. Ide becoming part owner of the town site, the difficulties between the proprietors and the settlers were adjusted and during that winter the place began to grow. During the coldest weather stores, shops, hotels and residences were put up, so that by spring it had the appearance of a very fair village.

Among those who came to the infant village during this year, 1857, may be mentioned the following: Buel Welsh, Alva B. Hough, A. T. Peck, Micajah C. Wright, Owen C. Waters, W. B. Burbank, L. Curtiss, Lorenzo P. Stowell, Alva C. Walker, Smith Lapham, Newell Morse, A. B. Wattles, R. F. Lawton, Byron F. Clarke, H. P. West, Asa Wait, George W. Watkins and others.

Buel Welsh, came to the State in 1855, and located at Faribault, pursuing his trade of carpenter. He came there from Wisconsin. In the fall of 1856, he removed to Wilton, where he remained for many years. He was a kind-hearted man of but little education, but had picked up considerable knowledge of law and other subjects, and had practiced for about twenty-five years in the various justices' courts. On Saturday, April 24, 1886, he fell dead in a neighbor's wagon, while going from Alma City to his home in Freedom Township.

Dr. M. S. Gove, one of the pioneer physicians, came to Wilton in 1858, from his native State, Vermont, and remained in practice in Waseca County until December 1, 1874, when he passed to "that land from whose bourne no traveler ever returns," in the very prime of life.

A. J. Woodbury came to Wilton in 1856 and put up a hotel which he called the Washington. This place he ran for many years, up to 1882, except some six or eight months when it was rented and operated by Joseph Doty. He is a native of Beverley, Mass., born in 1808. In 1855, he came west, after having been to Texas, New Orleans, etc., and in the spring of 1856 came to Wilton as already detailed. About 1830 he married Elizabeth Stratton, by whom he had two children: Henry C. and George H. both of whom came with their father. All three have been identified with the history of the county since. George H., however, is now a resident of Jamestown, D. T. Henry C. is the municipal judge of the city of Waseca, and his father, A. J. lives in the same city.

Another hotel, afterward called the Globe was put up and run by E. A. Rice, about this same time. Welsh and Smith were the next proprietors of the tavern, and were then succeeded by Tyrrell. Hall, Long and Gray all in turn played the part of host in this hotel, which was one of the institutions of Wilton, but, alas, the old building stands in forlorn loneliness, in the almost deserted village.

The first store was opened by Paige & Baker, in a small log shanty, in the winter of 1855-6. They came here about this time from Oswego, N. Y. Thomas L. Paige acted as the first clerk of the court, but about 1858 sold out and returned to York State. His partner, Nathan Duane Baker, stayed but little longer, when he, too, returned east. Both are now among the dead.

About the same time a Scotchman, by the name of McLauren, built a one-story store, and opened a saloon and grocery establish-

ment. John C. Hunter who came to Wilton about this time, afterward was in partnership with him. They sold out to Isaac Hamlin, who ran it until the war broke out.

A. E. Smith put up a store building next, and opened a stock of general merchandise. This store was afterward run by Luther & Chase.

N. E. Strong ran a drug store here in an early day, as did J. D. Andrews.

P. C. Bailey opened up in the hardware business in 1857, and ran the same for some years alone, when J. H. Wightman went in with him, but his interest was finally purchased by George Watkins, and the firm of Bailey & Watkins formed. This was afterward moved to Waseca, where it is continued to-day.

J. W. Johnson & Co. opened a store here about 1858, which continued for many years and finally removed to Waseca.

J. W. Clapp in the fall of 1857 put in a stock of goods, but within a year sold out and quit.

John C. Hunter was in business here, also, in 1858.

The first blacksmith shop was put up and operated by H. P. Norton, in 1856.

The first wagonmaker was A. T. Peck, who commenced business here in the spring of 1857.

Many other stores were started after that, many changes were made in the ownership of those mentioned, but to-day there is not one store left. At one time there were some twenty stores and saloons in the place, but the glory of the place has departed. On the foundation of the city of Waseca, many of the inhabitants of Wilton removed thither,

and when the seat of justice was transferred to the former place, the rest of the merchants moved there too, and the village of Wilton relapsed into an apathy that is premonitory of its real demise. Silence reigns in its streets where once resounded the noise of busy commerce, and desolation broods over it.

A Masonic lodge was organized at the village of Wilton under dispensation granted June 1, 1857, with the following officers: Jesse I. Stewart, W. M.; J. C. Ide, S. W.; H. P. Norton, J. W.; E. A. Rice, T.; H. S. Edmondson, S.; T. L. Paige, S. D.; Buel Welsh, J. D. and John Magill, Tyler. For the after history of this lodge in full detail the reader is referred to the annals of Alma City, where it was transferred, under dispensation, November 21, 1883, and where it now is located. It is one of the oldest lodges in the State, being known as Wilton, No. 24.

Waseca Lodge No. 17, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized at Wilton, in 1866 or 1867, and continued for many years. In 1883 it was consolidated with Comee Lodge of Waseca, most of the members having removed thither.

The first bridge built in the county was put up by James E. and S. P. Child, in this township, for which they received the enormous sum of \$5, and it was not much of a bridge, either.

About the year 1862, a Presbyterian Church was organized, and lingered along for several years, when it naturally died out. Rev. William McClelland was the last pastor.

The Methodists and Baptists both have houses of worship in the village, and both hold services therein.



S. S. Phelps
(DECEASED)

CHAPTER XVII.

ST. MARY TOWNSHIP.



THE subdivision of the county bearing the appellation of St. Mary embraces all of congressional township 107 north of range 23 west, and contains about 23,000 acres of fine land. Some of the best arable soil in this county is found here. The surface of the country is gently undulating, some of the swells rising almost to the altitude of hills, but the long and gentle slope destroying any idea of height.

This township is well watered, the Le Sueur River entering it on the southern line of section 36, and in its westward course traversing sections 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 36, and this with its affluent, a creek having its source on sections 16 and 22, afford ample drainage to this territory. The soil is a rich, black loam that is unexcelled for fertility and productiveness. Small grain, corn and vegetables bear an uncommon yield, and the native indigenous grasses on the unbroken sod affords pasturage for the many herds of cattle. The people of St. Mary are entirely agricultural, there being no village within its limits, although the north half of it is traversed by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The pioneer settlers of the precinct of St. Mary came here in the spring and summer of 1855, and were: Abraham and Joseph Bird, John White, Gottlieb Sr., Martin and John Fred Krassin, Fred Prechel, Bernard Gregory and Fred Wubschall. Of these, Abraham Bird died here February 12, 1869;

Joseph removed to far away Oregon; Martin and Gottlieb Krassin Sr., have "crossed the dark river to a better land beyond;" Bernard Gregory passed away also about the year 1877, and John White is now a resident of Iosco Township. All these old settlers have been mentioned at length already in the chapter on the early settlement of the county.

Gottlieb and Fred. Prechel and Fred. Wubschall are still residents of the township.

John Bailey came to this precinct in 1856, and located for a time, but, with Mr. Chamberlain, purchased the town site of St. Mary, and was for some time connected with the growth of that place as well as interested in the mill. He is now a resident of Medford, Steele County, and a biographical sketch of him will be found in that department of this volume.

Christian and Gottlieb Krassin Jr. came here in the summer of 1856. Christian died here April 22, 1876; Gottlieb is still a resident of the township.

Johan Gottlieb Krassin is a son of Gottlieb Krassin Jr. and Augusta (Sommer) Krassin, his wife, who were among the earliest settlers in Waseca County. Johan Gottlieb Krassin was born in Marquette County, Wis., September 6, 1855, and came to Waseca County an infant in his mother's arms. The family have been largely identified with the growth of St. Mary Township, and are extensive farmers and stock-raisers. Gottlieb Krassin is as yet unmarried. He owns some 480 acres of land, and cultivates a large share of it. He is engaged also in raising short-horn Durham cattle, and Norman Percheron horses. His farm, of which he is justly

proud, is located on section 27. In 1880 Mr. Krassin was elected to the office of school director, and held the same for three years. He is a Democrat in politics, and in religion a member of the Lutheran Church.

John Worden came to this precinct also in 1856, purchasing a farm, where he lived for a few years. He sold out here finally and removed to Iosco, where he bought a place and lived until death called him away. His son, Henry, is now a resident of Iosco.

Joseph Mantie was among the earliest settlers of St. Mary, coming here August 5, 1856, and settling on section 27, where he now lives. He is a native of Prussia, and came to the United States in the year 1853, first locating at Princeton, Wis., where he followed the blacksmith trade, after which he came to Waseca County, where he did the first work in that line within its limits. In December, 1855, he was united in marriage with Minnie Krassin, daughter of Gottlieb and Augusta Krassin, a native of Prussia, born March 29, 1841. They are the parents of nine children: Samuel, married to Matilda Buke, a native of Prussia, July 4, 1883; Henry. John, William, Frank, Mena, married Frank Zickerick, June 2 1879; Melia, married Fred King, October 3, 1883; Emma; and Elizabeth married Amel Martin, November 16, 1886. Mr. Mantie is a Republican, has held many township and school district offices, and is one of the representative men of the township. He is a member of the Catholic Church.

John Jordan came to this town in the year 1856, and located on section 16, where he has since resided. He was born in Ireland, June 4, 1835, and is the son of James and Mary (Malia) Jordan. His parents raised a family of seven children: Michael, Martin, Mary, John, Ann, Austin and Thomas, all of whom are living but one. The family came to America in 1849, landing at St. Johns, N. B., but after a short stay there, moved to Clintonville, Mass., where they remained one year. Their next place of residence was in New York State, where they dwelt some

seven years. Both of the old people are now dead. John Jordan was engaged in running a canal boat in New York for a few years, and then came to Waseca County. He is a Democrat in politics and a Catholic in religion.

Anthony Gorman was also a settler of the year 1856 in this township. He is a native of Ireland, and is the son of Charles and Mary Gorman, both of whom are now dead. They were the parents of nine children, five boys and four girls. Anthony Gorman came to the United States in 1848, landing in New York City. From there he went to Orange County, in the same State, and remained there a short time, when he went to Illinois; but a few months later came to Minnesota, stopping a short time in Wabasha County; from there to Hastings and then to St. Mary in 1856. He located on section 28, where he has since resided. He is a single man, a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Catholic Church. He has held the office of chairman of the town board for ten years, justice of the peace for nine years, and other town offices, and is a representative man of the township.

Michael McGonagle, one of the pioneers of the year 1856, still resides on the old homestead established by him in those early days. He is a native of Ireland, born September 10, 1825, and is the son of Neil and Mary (O'Donnell) McGonagle, who had three children: Hugh, Michael and Neil. The subject of this sketch has one of the finest places in Waseca County, on section 15, where he follows general farming and stock-raising. October 10, 1855, he and Margeret Gill, the latter a native of Ireland, were united in marriage and they have been the parents of nine children: Michael, Mary Ann, Katie, Neil, Maggie, Hugh, John, William and Lizzie. Michael was married to Bridget McBride, a native of Ireland, in 1881, and they have five children; Maggie was married in 1886 to Daniel Murray, of Iosco, and Hugh was married in April, 1887,

to Katie Kelley and lives on section 16, this township. Mr. McGonagle is a Democrat in politics and has held some of the more important offices connected with the educational department of the town government, and is a representative man of this part of the county. He is a member of the Catholic Church.

George H. Reibeling Sr. came to this township in 1856, and settled on section 10, where he died, and where the family still reside. G. H. Reibeling is a native of Germany, born November 18, 1854, and is the son of George H. and Eliza (Nebhul) Reibeling, natives of the same empire, who had a family of eight children: May, Anna, George H., Caroline, Theodore, Katie, Cornelius and Laura. Caroline died June 26, 1865, and Laura May the 31st of July, 1866. The family came to this county in 1856. The elder Mr. Reibeling died and the mother was again married November 20, 1867, to William Harding, and is the mother of three more children: William, Everhardt and Isabella, all living at home on section 10, this township. George H. is a single man and own 120 acres of land on the same section. He is a Republican in politics.

Holder S. Loveland, in 1856, made a settlement on part of section 25. He afterward sold out the farm which he had taken and removed from the county. His son George was in the army during the late rebellion, and died September 29, 1863, at Black River bridge.

Charles W. Johnston and family were among the pioneers of the year 1857.

Mrs. Jane C. Johnston is the daughter of Samuel and Louisa (Clark) Scribner, the former a native of Washington County, N. H., and the latter of Orange County, Vt. They had a family of five children, as follows: Charles, who married Emma Horn, in 1855, living at Lowell, Mass.; George F., who married Abbie Chapman, now living in Massachusetts; Alzoa married S. D. Osterhout, living at Lowell, Mass.; Mary A. and

Jane C. The latter was born at Chelsea, Vt., February 5, 1833, and was united in marriage April 5, 1857, with Charles W. Johnston, a native of Montpelier, Vt., born March 9th, 1834. They were the parents of five children: Nellie M. L., born August 7, 1858; Alma S., May 22, 1860; Charles F., April 17, 1863; Willard C., June 29, 1866, and George S., May 28, 1869. Charles F. died March 25 and George March 31, 1873, of scarlet fever and diphtheria, and are buried in Waseca cemetery. Mrs. Johnston and her family came here in 1857 and settled on the place on section 13 where she now lives. Her son Willard carries on the farm.

August Priebe was born in St. Mary Township, Waseca County, July 31, 1864, and is the son of John and Caroline (Vondrie) Priebe, natives of Prussia, who came to this county in an early day, being among the first settlers of St. Mary. John Priebe was a farmer and settled on section 10, where he died August 25, 1872; his wife died in 1880; both are buried in Iosco Township. August commenced life for himself on his farm on section 10 in the spring of 1887, he having 282 acres from his father's estate, where he carries on farming and stock-raising. June 16, 1887, he was united in marriage with Molvena Krienke, also a native of this county, born September 7, 1868, and a daughter of August and Henrietta Krienke, farmers in this town. August Priebe has a sister and a brother living; Amelia, the sister, is the wife of Julius Mittelstadt; married April 4, 1883; lives in Iosca; the brother, William, works for August. August and his wife are members of the German Lutheran Church.

OTHERS.

The following are a few more of the leading representative people of St. Mary Township who deserve a place in history:

S. S. Phelps (deceased), was a native of the State of New York, and was born April 5, 1840. He was the son of John and Nancy

(Woodruff) Phelps, the former a native of Connecticut, the latter of New York. John Phelps was a farmer all his life, and died in 1877; the mother still survives. They raised a family of four children, three boys and one girl. In the spring of 1865 S. S. Phelps came to Waseca County from Portage County, Wis., and purchased a farm on section 11, St. Mary Township, where his family reside, but that year spent part of the time in Owatonna and the balance in Portage County, whither he had returned. In the spring of 1866 he built a house on this place on the site of the present splendid mansion. The first house was but 12x14 feet in size, and in this the family lived, two small additions being built in the meantime, until their new residence was built. This latter was erected by Mr. Phelps during the year 1869, and is one of the finest in the county, having cost \$11,000. It is a brick-veneered structure, 40x47 feet on the ground, two stories and a half with the foundation and trimmings of cut Kasota stone, and is fitted with all the modern conveniences. The same year he put up a residence on a place he owned in Blue Earth County, near Eagle Lake, at a cost of \$1,400 and another near Janesville at a cost of \$1,000. Mr. Phelps was a large land-holder, at one time owning some 2,200 acres of land in this and Blue Earth Counties. In 1867 when the railroad had reached Waseca, Mr. Phelps took a contract to haul all the freight from that point to St. Peter, Mankato and New Ulm, and this he held until the road had reached those points, having from four to ten teams engaged. He had also a contract with the railroad company to distribute ties along the roadbed from Waseca to Janesville. In 1869 he entered into a contract with the railroad company to furnish them with 60,000 cords of wood, and purchased machinery to saw it with, which business he pursued for seven years. He fitted up seven small saws run by horse power and one large one which cost \$1,200, run by steam. These with the

boarding car were arranged to move along the track and operated all the way from Madison, Wis., to St. Peter and New Ulm. After his large expense the company began burning coal, so that Mr. Phelps sustained heavy losses, having to sell his machinery at a great sacrifice. Mr. Phelps was one of the enterprising men that have so materially helped to build up Waseca County, and a man that united great energy of character with rare business ability. October 13, 1861, Mr. Phelps and Elspa Sutherland were united in marriage. She is a native of New Brunswick, born July 8, 1842. They were the parents of six children: Ellen E., born February 15, 1864; Nancy H., born April 5, 1868; Sethie J., born December 31, 1870; George R., born January 8, 1873; Jessie E., born February 4, 1875, and Joseph D., born June 27, 1877. Sethie died October 16, 1880. Ellen married Carl S. Fitch, December 31, 1885, and is living in Dakota. All the rest of the family are at home with their mother. Mr. Phelps met his death on the evening of the 11th of March, 1884, while crossing the railroad track about a mile west of Waseca. He was driving his team home, and while on the track was struck by the engine and instantly killed. His body lies in Waseca cemetery. Thus was cut off in the prime of life one of the most active business men of this county. A portrait of Mr. Phelps will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Daniel T. Ballard was born in England, October 16, 1839, and is the son of Samuel and Mary (Ashby) Ballard, who had a family of five children: Ann Elizabeth, Elizabeth, Isaac, John, and Daniel T. The last named came to the United States in 1856, with two brothers, landing in New York City, and worked in Crawford County, Pa., farming in the summer, and in the winter following, doing chores for his board, and went to school. The next summer he went to Ohio, but in that fall came to Waseca County. This was in 1858. He located at first in

Iosco. In the fall of 1862, he enlisted in Company F, Eighth Minnesota, but was discharged the same year at Fort Snelling. He then went to Dakota County, this State, where he lived three years, and from there he returned to Iosco Township, Waseca County. In May, 1866, he and D. A. Erwin started for Montana with ox teams, and joined a train going that direction, which consisted of fifty-three wagons and about three hundred persons. He returned in November, 1872, to this county, where he has since remained. June 17, 1873, he was united in marriage with Josephine Brossard, a native of Wisconsin. They are the parents of three children: Sylvester E., born February 22, 1874; Ida B., born April 26, 1883, and Wesley E., born February 26, 1885. Mr. Ballard is a Republican in politics.

Isaac Ballard came to Waseca County in 1856. First located in Iosco, where he remained for about ten years. Then purchased a farm on section 1, St. Mary, where he still lives. Mr. Ballard is a native of England, born December 16, 1834, where he lived until 22 years of age, and then sailed for America. His first stop was in Pennsylvania, where he remained but a short time, and then came on to Illinois, where he remained but a few weeks, and then came to Waseca County, in the fall of 1856. On October 6, 1864, was united in marriage to Carrie Erwin, daughter of P. A. and Jane Erwin, natives of New York State. She was born January 11, 1836. They are the parents of eight children: Arthur, Clifton, Carrie, Walter, Marshall, Sidney and Mand. Six are still at home, one, Arthur, in Minneapolis working for a glass firm. Mr. Ballard is a Republican in politics. He also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Hans Paulson came to Waseca County in the spring of 1869, and at that time purchased 160 acres of land in this township, to which he has added eighty acres, now having 240 acres on section 11. He gives his attention to general farming and raising

short-horn cattle and blooded horses. He is a native of Norway, born January 27, 1833. His father and family came to the United States in 1868, and located in Fillmore County, this State, where he died at the age of seventy years. Hans came to this country in 1856, and for four years thereafter was a resident of Iowa. He then removed to Fillmore County, Minn., where he lived until coming here in 1869. April 5, 1862, he was united in marriage with Osse Fingerson, a native of Norway, born February 16, 1845. Her parents came to the United States in 1852, and settled in Wisconsin. In a few years they removed to Fillmore County, Minn., and in 1865 to Waseca County, locating in Blooming Grove, where her father remained until his death in 1873. The mother is still a resident of the same town. Mr. and Mrs. Paulson have a family of eight children: C. William, Alfred, Oliver, Austin, Eddie, Carl, Anna and Tilda. Mr. Paulson and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

William Mittelsteadt, is an enterprising farmer on section 9, where he carries on quite an extensive business in general farming and stock-raising. He came to Waseca County in 1867, settling where he now lives. He is a native of Prussia, born February 15, 1848, and is the son of Gottfried and Gustiva Mittelsteadt, who were the parents of eight children, seven boys and one girl. Gottfried died in the old country. William came to the United States in 1867, and came directly here, as already detailed, his mother, who lives with him, coming in his company. Mr. Mittelsteadt has been thrice married. December 26, 1872, he was united in marriage with Caroline Priebe, born in Prussia, in 1848, and who died June 19, 1880, leaving two children: Gustof, born December 12, 1876, and Emma, born December 7, 1878. January 13, 1881, he was married to Augusta Fisher, a native of Prussia, who died March 20, 1884, leaving one child, Martha, born May 11, 1883. He was married to Willmina

Leeck, September 12, 1884, and they are the parents of three children: Freddie, born June 12, 1885; Eddie, born June 8, 1886, and Herman, born August 18, 1887. Mr. Mittelsteadt is a Republican in politics, and has held the office of town supervisor for three terms.

Charles Gorman is a native of Ireland, born May 11, 1836, and lived in that country until 1852, when he came to the United States. Landing in Boston he proceeded to Dutchess County, N. Y., where he remained some three years, after which he came to Anrora, Ill., and made that his home for about one year. He then came to Winona County, Minn., where he made a stay of about three years, when he went to Memphis, Tenn., and remained until 1861. He again came to Minnesota, locating in Waseca County, purchasing a farm in St. Mary Township, where he has since made his home and it is a most pleasant one. Mr. Gorman has a fine farm on section 20, with good buildings, and his land in a high state of cultivation. May 12, 1864, he was united in marriage to Bridget McNickle, also a native of Ireland, who died October 10, 1869. She was mother of three children, all of whom died in infancy. He was married again October 10, 1876, to Catherine Gallagher, a native of Ireland. She is also deceased. They had a family of eight children: Mary, Bridget, Winford, Johannah, Thomas and Anthony, and two died in infancy. Mr. Gorman is a Democrat in politics, and belongs to the Catholic Church with his family.

D. A. Erwin, who resides on section 2, where he has a fine farm, was born August 4, 1839, in New York State, and is the son of P. A. and Jane Erwin, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of Ireland. Mr. Erwin the elder was born in 1797, and was in the service of his country during the war with Great Britain in 1812-15, and is still living in this county with his son, D. A. Mrs. Jane Erwin died here in September, 1867. In Septem-

ber 1862, D. A. Erwin enlisted in Company D, Ninety-eighth New York Infantry, and served until May, 1863, when he was discharged for disability. He then returned to New York State and engaged in farming for about a year, when he came west to Waseca County in 1864, joining his parents, who had located here about a year previous. In 1865 the gold fever seized upon Mr. Erwin and he crossed the plains to Montana, in search of the precious metal; but fortune proving but a fickle goddess, was not propitious, and after three years' efforts there he returned to this county, where he has made his home ever since. He was united in marriage with Orrilla Ketcham, a native of Wisconsin, and they have been the parents of seven children: Sidney, born September 15, 1871, died October 11, 1873; Claude, born March 26, 1873; Stanley, born May 1, 1875; Grant, April 26, 1877; Roland, January 27, 1879; Eugene, January 17, 1882, and an infant boy, born November 29, 1886, not named. In politics Mr. Erwin affiliates with the Republican party.

Patrick Farley, a leading farmer and stock-raiser, living on section 2, where he has 160 acres of fine land, is a native of Ireland, and was born March 16, 1836. He is the son of Thomas and Mary (Garrett) Farley. His mother died in 1847, leaving a family of eight children, five boys and three girls. Patrick came to America in 1855, and for the first year lived at Albany, N. Y. From there he moved to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1865, when he came to Waseca County, first locating in Alton Township. He lived there for twenty-one years, but in the spring of 1887 came to St. Mary, and bought his present place of E. Brosard. February 2, 1870, he was married to Mary Ann Hagearty, a native of Wisconsin, born in November, 1848, and a daughter of Richard and Mary Hagearty, the former a native of Ireland, the latter of Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Farley are the parents of eight children: Emma May, born Novem-

ber 26, 1870; Thomas P., born December 9, 1873; William H., November 24, 1875; Edward, January 5, 1877; Nellie J., August 5, 1879; Katie, August 6, 1882; James, December, 1884, and Sarah, January 5, 1887. Mr. Farley is a Democrat politically, and the family are members of the Catholic Church.

Julius Papke, a prominent farmer and stock-raiser, living on section 26, this township, was born in Prussia, September 1, 1838. He is a son of Michael and Ellaura (Block) Papke, who had but two children. Julius came to the United States in 1861, and for four years lived in Wisconsin, and then came to this county, locating on the section where he now lives. February 15, 1857, he and Eliza Boscho were united in marriage. She was born in Prussia, December 19, 1837. They are the parents of eleven children: Adolph, Melia, Augusta, Fred, John, Julius, Sarah, Mary, Edward, Lewis and Elia. Adolph married Maggie Criptner, December 22, 1884, and lives in Blooming Grove; Melia married A. A. Robinson, December 1, 1884, and lives in Freeborn County, this State, and Augusta married Lewis Priebe, February 12, 1885, and lives in Woodville. Mr. Papke was elected township assessor in 1882 and held that office for two years. Is school director for district No. 44, and has held that position since 1881, and has been school treasurer and clerk of the same district.

Michael Gallagher was born in Marquette County, Wis., February 22, 1858, and is the son of Michael and Maria (Foley) Gallagher, both natives of Ireland. His parents came to America in 1847, and remained for the first seven years in New York State, and then moved to Marquette County, Wis. They remained there until 1863, when they came to Waseca County and the 1st of July located upon the northwest quarter of section 22, where the elder Mr. Gallagher followed farming until 1886, when he removed to the city of Waseca, where he now lives a retired life. He and his wife had a

family of six children: Bernard, Rose Ann, John, Michael, Maria and Celia. The last named was burned to death when eleven years old, at the time her father's house was destroyed by fire; the rest of the children are married. In 1886 Michael began life for himself, farming on the old homestead, having been married on the 20th of October, 1886, to Ellen Lynch, a native of this county, born January 16, 1861. Her family were among the first settlers of this township and county. They are both members of the Catholic Church.

Roger Geraghty, one of the prominent and representative citizens of St. Mary, is a native of Ireland, born July 4, 1833, and is the son of Peter and Mary Geraghty, both natives of Ireland. The latter raised a family of six children, named as follows: Roger, Thomas, Peter, Mary, Bridget and Julia. During the year 1849 Roger Geraghty came to America, and for two years remained in Marquette County, Wis., whither he had gone on landing. From there he went south, where he remained until 1865, when he came to Waseca County and settled upon the farm on section 32, this township, where he now lives. November 16, 1856, he was united in marriage with Catherine Madden, daughter of Thomas and Honora Madden, a native of Ireland, born August 5, 1833, and who had come to the United States in 1849, the same time Mr. Geraghty had. Their married life has been blessed with a family of five children: Peter, Thomas, Mary, Honora and Kate. Peter died March 23, 1884, and Kate, March 11, 1874; the rest are living at home. The family are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. Geraghty is a Democrat in politics and has held the offices of town clerk, school clerk and treasurer of school district 15.

HISTORIC CRUMBS.

The first marriage in the township was at the house of Bernard Gregory on the 2d of January, 1856, when Louisa Gregory was united with Mr. Ballard, of Mankato, in the holy bonds of matrimony.

VILLAGE OF ST. MARY.

In the month of February, 1857, a village was laid out on the west half of section 33, by Chamberlain, Bailey & Co., which at one time was quite an important point, vying with Empire and Wilton for the honor of being the county seat of Waseca County, in 1857. Patrick McCarthy was the original proprietor of the land upon which the village was platted, but sold it in May of the above year to the firm mentioned. His house was the pioneer building of the new town.

Other settlers who were also among the first to locate at the new village may be mentioned: Amos H. Morris, W. H. Chamberlain, John Bailey, George T. White, T. C. McClure, James F. Elliott, Edward Lang, G. R. Buckman, H. B. Morrison, Harvey Bailey Mr. Clark, and Dennis McCarthy.

Amos H. Morris was a notary public at this place in 1857. He came up here to make out papers, bringing his family, but only remained three months, going to Hastings, Minn.

W. H. Chamberlain settled in this village in May, 1856. He was one of the proprietors of the town site. He remained in this place for some years. While here his wife died, about 1859 or 1860, and he then sold out and moved to New York.

John Bailey moved here in the spring of 1857. He is now a resident of Steele County.

Capt. George T. White was connected with the official life of the county, and is noticed in that connection in the chapter entitled State and County Representation.

Edward Lang came here from Lowell, Mass., and put up a house south of the village, across the river, where he lived about a year, and then returned to the "Old Bay State." He is remembered by his by-word, "By fire."

G. R. Buckman is now identified with the city of Waseca, and is noticed at length elsewhere.

Dennis McCarthy was of Irish birth, and

came to this place and opened a saloon. He was in the habit of freely indulging in his own whiskey, and making himself obnoxious to the citizens generally on such occasions. One day a number of the boys, led by James Plummer, took possession of the place, and finding about two barrels of "the ardent" emptied it upon the ground. The sheriff soon arrested about twenty-five of those implicated, and they were taken to Wilton for trial. The case was adjourned from term to term, until in the end Isaac Price, acting as their attorney, got them cleared at an expense to each one of about seventy-five cents. McCarthy some time previous to this had frozen both his feet, while laboring under too great a load of "benzine," and was made a cripple for life.

Whitney Wheeler came to St. Mary about 1856, and was interested in the sawmill, being head sawyer. He died in Wilton about 1869. He ran a farm while here, and practiced a little as farrier. His widow is still a resident of the county.

Warren Smith was also a new comer of the year 1857. He was elected by the people, in after years, to fill the office of county treasurer, and has been already mentioned in that connection.

J. William Johnson, now of Waseca, settled in St. Mary in 1857, and entered into mercantile business with Warren Smith. Later they removed to Wilton, where they remained in trade until the removal of the county-seat to Waseca, when they removed to that place. Smith afterward retired from business, and the firm now is Johnson & Claghorn.

George Johnson came to this village about the same time, with the sawmill of which he was part owner. After the establishment of Wilton, business declined at this point, and he removed to Wilton, where he entered into the mercantile business as a member of the firm of Johnson Brothers & Smith. He died at Waseca.

Charles Hale, A. M. Diekey, N. B. Barron,

Charles Davis, Mr. Parker, Mr. Palmer and Frank Danforth should also be mentioned in connection with the early history of the village.

Soon after the laying out of the village, a man by the name of Crossman opened a boarding-house, the first house of entertainment in the place. He ran it but a few months, for he died before the settlement of the place. His death was caused by exposure while duck-hunting.

The first frame building in the village was erected by W. H. Chamberlain, in the spring of 1857, and is now in the city of Waseca, having been removed thither about the year 1877, and is owned by J. E. Cragin.

During the fall of 1856 the proprietors of the town site started the erection of a saw-mill, with which they did sawing all the following summer, but did not complete until the winter of 1857-8. This mill was of great utility to all the surrounding country, such establishments being rare in southern Minnesota at that date. It was afterward moved down to the river, and a shingle and flouring mill attached, and continued in operation until about 1862 or 1863, when it was destroyed by fire.

The pioneer store was opened by Warren Smith in 1857 in a building which he erected for the purpose, carrying a stock of general merchandise. Shortly after this a copartnership was formed between Smith and the Johnsons as related elsewhere. This firm carried on business here for a few years and then removed to Wilton.

A man by the name of Wright opened a drug store here in the spring of 1857. After continuing this business for a few years he closed up and removed from the county.

The first cemetery was laid out by the Roman Catholic Church at St. Mary Village about the year 1857.

The first burial was that of Crossman, who died about the time of the laying out of the cemetery, from consumption.

The first religious service was held at the

house of Latin Fitzgerald by a Catholic priest from Mankato, in the year 1857.

After the location of the seat of justice at Wilton, St. Mary ceased to grow and soon it began to decay and pass away. Like Auburn it soon became a "Deserted Village," and one by one the buildings were removed to other places, and on the 5th of October, 1873, the site was vacated by a decree of the district court and the ground reverted to its original condition of farm land.

St. Mary's Catholic Church was organized by Rev. Father Keller, of Faribault, in the year 1856. The first religious services of this denomination of Christians, and doubtless the first in the township, were held at the dwelling of Andrew Lynch, and after that in the schoolhouse in the vicinity. The church edifice was erected in 1858, but with the lapse of years this building becoming too small for the growing congregation, they erected a large, fine church in 1880 at a total cost of \$12,000. The building was 44x86 feet upon the ground and 26 feet high, and was a most beautiful edifice. On the afternoon of Sunday, December 20, 1885, the entire structure was destroyed by fire, but very little of its contents being saved. A fine statue of St. Joseph, presented to the church but two months previous by Peter Burns and Christie Hefferan, and the figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary, were taken out of the burning building comparatively unhurt. The chalices and some of the altar furniture were also saved through the instrumentality of Thomas Geraghty and James Byron. The church had an insurance upon it of \$7,000, divided between the Continental and Hecla companies. A contract for the rebuilding of the church edifice has been let the summer of this year, (1887) to J. T. Lee, and a contract for the erection of a parsonage to Thomas Flynn. Rev. Father R. Hughes is the present pastor in charge. The membership embraces about 420 individuals.

CHAPTER XVIII.

IOSCO TOWNSHIP.



WHEN Waseca County was first organized, in 1857, the territory now called Iosco was, together with about all of Janesville, known as the precinct of Empire; and at the first election, which took place in June, 1857, the polling place was fixed at the hotel of John H. Wheeler, in the village of Empire.

N. E. Strong, C. R. Miller and James Haynes were the judges of election. M. S. Green was the first justice of the peace.

At a meeting of the board of county commissioners held April 5, 1858, congressional township 108 north, range 23 west, was set off and organized into the town of Iosco. The place of holding the election was at the house of Daniel Tripp, in the village of Empire, and H. W. Peck, George L. Leonard and David Smith were the election judges.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The pioneer settlers in what is now Iosco township, were Lake Osgood, Daniel McDaniels and John H. Wheeler. These gentlemen came to Waseca County early in the summer of 1855. In July of that year Mr. Osgood, who had his family with him, erected the first shanty in the town. It was made of rough logs and covered with shakes: a doorway was cut, but no door was swung in the opening, nor were there any windows or floor. His family resided in this until fall, and having lived in a canvas-covered wagon, found it a very comfortable change. Before cold weather set in, however, he put up a better cabin, into which he moved. He sold out some years afterward and moved back east, where he died about 1883. Daniel

McDaniels removed to the State of Missouri, where he is now living.

John H. Wheeler is a resident of Nebraska, whither he removed in the year 1886. His first settlement was on section 29, and there he resided until he sold out, as above stated, to Julius Mittelstadt.

Buell Welsh located in this township in August following, but did not remain here long, going to St. Mary.

David Wood was the next to settle here after Osgood, McDaniels and Wheeler, coming here in 1855, and is still a resident of section 2, where he first located.

David Wood was born in Sutherland, Scotland, in 1820, and came to America in 1848, having spent the time up to that period in the land of his nativity. He landed at Quebec, and from there went through to St. Lawrence County, N. Y. During that summer he was employed on the American Mail Packet Company's steamers, between Ogdensburg and Lewiston, on Lake Ontario. He then journeyed to New Orleans, from there he returned to northern country, and was employed on the Cleveland & Pittsburg Railroad, laying track, and for four years was section boss. Taking a contract to build some two miles of road on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad, he was seized with the ague and came to Minnesota, locating on the land he now lives on, preempting the same. He came all the way by ox team, being six weeks on the road. In 1853 he was united in marriage with Susan Somerville, formerly of Virginia, who has been the mother of five children: David W., now living at home; Mary Ann, now Mrs. O'Leary, of Waterville; Victor R. and

Horatio S., both at home, and Alvin, who died August 28, 1868. David W. was the first child born in the township, as is told elsewhere.

Mr. Wood has held the position of chairman of the town supervisors for about twenty years, and various school-district offices, assisting in organizing the district, and has always taken a prominent part in the town's history.

Aaron Hanes came to this county and selected a claim in 1855. He died here in 1859, leaving a wife and four children. James, the eldest son, lives in Le Sueur County; John died many years ago; the younger girl, Charlotte, died about 1884. The other daughter, Elizabeth, was married when they came here.

Joseph Madrew also settled here in 1855, but did not remain very long, selling his claim and returning to Wisconsin, whence he had come.

Jacob Conrad was a German lad who worked for J. H. Wheeler. He took up a claim, but in 1858 sold it to J. H. Wheeler, and left. His parents resided in Ohio, from whence he had come.

J. W. Hosmer, now of the village of Janesville, came to Waseca County in 1855 and settled in this township, but the following year removed to the adjoining township west.

Hubert P. Chamberlain came to Iosco in March, 1856, and making a settlement, has remained a resident ever since. H. P. Chamberlain was born in Sparta, Livingston County, N. Y., April 13, 1833. His parents emigrated from there to Florence, Erie County, Ohio, when he was but a year old. When he was but nine years of age he started for himself. He worked out by the month and day in Ohio until he was about twenty years of age, when he went to Grand Island, Lake Superior, where he worked about one year. He also worked in the Michigan pineries one winter, and started for Minnesota early in the spring of 1855. He came

through from Michigan accompanied by his brother Orlando, arriving at what is now the city of Rochester, Olmsted County, April 13, 1855. His personal property consisted of one horse and a small amount of money for his expenses. He made a claim south of Rochester, near Root River, put up a cabin, and eight days afterward sold his claim and improvements for \$200 to a man named Wilson. Then in company with several others he came to Le Sueur County and located about a mile north of Okaman, taking a claim. Mr. Chamberlain was married in February, 1857, to Sarah E. Hatch, daughter of Curtis Hatch, one of the pioneers of Blooming Grove. They have had born to them nine children: Alma, born February, 22, 1858; Adelia, August 29, 1860; Rosia, February 15, 1861; Effie, February 18, 1864; Angeline, November 5, 1866; William, December 15, 1868; Lafayette, March 4, 1871; Edgar, March 24, 1875; Edward, November 9, 1880, all of whom are living, six being residents of this county.

John F. Allen made a settlement in Iosco on the 16th of June, 1856.

William Lee is one of the pioneers of this portion of the county, making his first appearance here in March, 1856. He came here from Hastings, Minn., hunting land. Shortly after this, making a second trip, he found what he wanted and settled here, locating upon the portion of section 6 where he now lives. He is a native of County Wexford, Ireland, born October 15, 1831, and resided in that "beautiful isle of the sea," until 1851, when he left his home for the United States. Landing in New York on the 17th day of March, he only remained in that vicinity about two months and then came west to Milwaukee, and spent about a year in that neighborhood, engaged in farming, railroading and blacksmithing. From there he drifted to Chicago, where he still followed the railroad business. Next we find him at Rockford, Ill., where he was employed running a stationary engine,

which he followed for eight months. In August, 1854, he was united in marriage with Catharine Beahan at Freeport, Ill., after which event he came to Minnesota. This was in the fall of 1855. He remained at Hastings all that winter, coming here in the spring as mentioned above. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have been the parents of eight children: Mary Ann, single, at home, engaged in teaching; Catherine, single, engaged as dressmaker; Ellen J., now Mrs. Truman, lives at Hector, this State; John, section foreman Cannon Valley Railroad, lives at Belle Creek, Goodhue County; Maggie, Susan, James and Emma, at home. Mr. Lee was county commissioner for three years, town clerk, assessor, town supervisor and held several school district offices, now serving as clerk of district 27. He is also trustee of the Catholic Church of Iosco, and a member of the Farmer's Alliance of the county.

John Minske, with his two sons, August and Fred., located here in 1856. The elder Mr. Minske died a resident of this town in 1862, after a long and painful illness, brought on no doubt by the exposure and hardship incident to a new settlement, and to which he was not accustomed in early life. His sons are still living in the township.

With the Minskes came Gottfried Kanne, his three sons, Fred., August and Gottlieb, and his son-in-law, William Martzahn. These all settled in the northeastern part of the town. Mr. Kanne the elder, died here in 1886, the balance are still living. They reached this place on the 25th of May, 1856, and at once broke some sixty acres, twenty on each of the three claims.

Fred. F. Kanne is a native of Germany, born February 10, 1846. When he was but eleven years of age he lost his mother, and the father, with his little family consisting of four children, left the fatherland to come to the shores of the great republic, in 1856, landing at Baltimore after a passage of seven weeks and two days. They came right

through to Minnesota, locating near Waterville, Le Sueur County, where the old gentleman took up a claim, and where Fred. lived for ten years. On the 21st of July, 1865, Fred. F. Kanne and Augusta M. Richter, were joined in wedlock, and some time later came to Iosco Township, settling upon section 1, where he now resides. Mrs. Kanne's father and brother were killed by the Indians in the outbreak of 1862; her mother is also dead. Mr. Kanne has a large farm of 270 acres of fine land, good buildings and is one of the thrifty and prosperous farmers of whom any county may well feel proud. He has held the office of town supervisor and various others in the school district. He is the inventor of a patent collar pad for horses, which received honorable mention at the New Orleans exposition in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Kanne are the parents of eleven children: Albert J., Otto F., Anton, deceased; Emma L., Anna M., Lydia M., Theodore E., Martha A., Wesley B., George G. and Karl H. Albert is at Waterville and is a clerk in the bank. All the others live at home except Emma, who is attending school and lives with her grandfather in Waterville.

David Hutchinson, Thomas Bishop and Thomas Gibson made settlements within this precinct in 1856. Mr. Hutchinson is now a citizen of Red Wing, this State; Mr. Gibson, who located on section 28, after living there for a few years moved back to Illinois, where he died. Mr. Bishop emigrated to Colorado.

John Reed, after whom Reed's Lake in this township was named, was a veteran of the war of 1812-15, who came here in 1856. He was the father of seventeen children by two wives, five boys of whom were in the service during the late war. He died at Morristown not many years since.

John F. and William Allen located claims, which they improved, in 1856; the former is now living in Nebraska, the latter in Missouri.

John G. and Silas Ward were, also, among

the pioneers of this year. John died in Missouri, where he had moved in 1872, and Silas returned to Illinois, where he is now living.

John J. Fell, still a resident of Iosco, settled on section 33, in 1856.

Richard Toner settled on section 16, in the fall of 1856. He was mixed up in the Hagadorn case, but there being no evidence against him the jury acquitted him. He was born about 1813. On the 27th of August, 1878, his house was burned to the ground, and in spite of the strenuous efforts made by his son and others, he could not be rescued, and miserably perished in the flames. A daughter of William Kanne was also burned at the same time. She was a young girl and was living there at the time as a domestic.

During this year (1856) quite a number of settlers arrived in this part of the county, among whom were H. W. Peck, George L. Leonard, Daniel Tripp, H. D. Baldwin, Benjamin W. Gifford, A. A. Cotten, Nelson and Henry Thwing, William Long and his sons, Seth W. and George; M. S. Green, Almeran Wilsey, James Chadwick and Spencer J. Willis.

Henry Peck, who was the first to hold the office of county surveyor, was interested in the town site of the embryo village of Empire, but after the failure of that place to secure the seat of justice for the county and its subsequent downfall, Mr. Peck went back East.

George W. Leonard was a resident of the village of Empire. About the year 1860 he returned to Ohio.

Daniel Tripp, who ran the hotel at Empire, removed to Rice County after some years.

Benjamin Gifford was also one of the proprietors of the town site of Empire. He finally went back to Wisconsin. Later he returned to this county and remained a short time, then moving to Elysian, Rice County, where he died about 1885.

A. A. Cotten was one of the leading spirits in the village of Empire town site, he doing

the larger part of the selling, no small job, for this was quite an extensive town on paper. On the collapse of the enterprise he left the county.

Henry Thwing after a few years' residence here removed to the western part of the State, where he is now living. Nelson Thwing is a resident of Janesville Township now.

M. S. Green owned a farm adjoining the town site of Empire, and resided there for many years. Later he sold out and moved to Iowa, where he died.

Spencer J. Willis lived at the village of Empire working at his trade, that of carpenter. He afterward removed to Wilton, and for four years filled the office of clerk of the court. Some years ago he removed to Washington, where he has been in one of the departments as clerk ever since.

Jacob Hagadorn, the victim of the first murder in the county, came here in the fall of 1856 and settled in the village of Empire. After his death, in October, 1857, his family moved away.

Peter Farrell, the murderer of Hagadorn, came here in the spring of 1856. He was a man given to drink, and, when full of the intoxicating fluid, apt to grow boisterous. At the election of 1857, being full of whiskey and frenzy, he killed Mr. Hagadorn, a quiet and inoffensive neighbor, against whom he had no grudge. It was said at the time that it was his intention to slay some one else, and that, blinded by drink, he made a mistake. He was arrested, sent to Stillwater for security until he could be tried, but broke jail and left the country. He was seen or thought to have been seen at New Orleans, during the war. It is thought now that he is a resident of Chicago, and has been for some time.

David Coddington and his son A. H. came to this township from New York State, in 1857, and took up claims, and remained here until 1861, when they moved over into Janesville. David Coddington died a resi-

dent of that township in 1878; A. H. is a resident of Elmdale, Chase County, Kan.

G. Wash. Mathews and Fred. E. Roberts made settlements in 1857, on section 6, where they remained but a short time, returning to Le Sueur County.

Charles Green made a claim on section 30, where he lived for many years, finally emigrating to Missouri.

Hiansel Giles made a settlement in the same year, on section 1, and James Babcock on section 30.

Jane Babcock located a claim on section 2, where she still lives.

Myron S. Sheldon came to this township in 1857. He was born in Monroe, Vt., in 1831, and was united in marriage at North Adams, Mass., December 25, 1855, with Mary E. Babcock. They were the parents of four children; Inez, died in infancy; Edwin R., also deceased; Ida B. and Arthur M., living at home with their mother. Mr. Sheldon lived here from the time he made his settlement until 1864, when he enlisted in Company H, Third Minnesota Infantry, and went to Fort Snelling. From there they were ordered south, and at Little Rock, Ark., was taken sick, came home on furlough and died at Waterville, January 21, 1865. His son, Arthur M., is second lieutenant of Hancock Camp, No. 20, Sons of Veterans.

Martin Miller is also among the settlers of the year 1857, coming to this township, where his father preëmpted some land, where Martin now lives. Martin Miller was born in Prussia, April 7, 1837. In 1856, the family, consisting of the father and four children, the mother having died years previous, left the old home beyond the sea, and came to America, to make a new home in "the land of the free." They landed at New York but came straight west as far as Chicago. Martin worked for one year in Lake County, Ind., and then the family came to Minnesota, and to Waseca. In 1864 Martin Miller and Mary Kaplisky were united in marriage. She was a native of the empire of

Bohemia. They have had eleven children: Barbara, Joseph, Lizzie, Mary, Mollie, Anna, Henry, Charles, Clara, John and Ellen, all of whom are at home except the eldest, who lives at Faribault. His father died in Indiana, July 23, 1883; his brother Joseph lives near by him, and all of his sisters have left here, one being in Germany, one in Chicago and one in Indiana. His daughters are liberally educated, Mary having attended the central high school at Faribault.

Hugh Healey came to this township in 1857, and made a settlement on section 7. He is a native of County Mayo, Ireland, born in September, 1821. He lived in that island with his parents for some twenty-eight years on a small farm, but in 1849 he left his native shores and came to America, landing in New York, March 31 of that year. From that port he went to Pike, Luzerne and Wayne counties, Pa., where he lived several years. December 14, 1852, at Honesdale, Wayne County, he was united in marriage with Sarah Coleman, whose parents were natives of Ireland. From the last named place he came to this county, and settled in this town as detailed above, in April, 1857. After living on the piece of land on section 7, he sold it, and bought his present place on sections 15 and 16. He has been closely identified with the educational interests of the district in which he lives, having held many of the school offices, and was town treasurer for two years. He has a fine farm of 160 acres of land, 100 of which is under a high state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Healey are the parents of eleven children: Thomas, living in Dakota; John, at home; Mary, Mrs. Dreever, living in this town; Catherine, Mrs. Lansing, of Waseca; Sarah, at home; Francis, at La Crosse, Wis.; Josephine and Sidney at home; Luke died 1871; Elizabeth, died 1873, and Maggie, who who is home.

REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

The following are a few of the leading agri-

culturists of Iosco Township, given to show the class of people who make up this part of the county :

Philip Purcell, the present chairman of the board of county commissioners, is a native of Ireland, born in the County Tipperary, December 15, 1840. Six years later the family, consisting of his parents, two brothers, two sisters and himself, left the "Emerald Isle," and came to the United States. Landing at New York, they came right through to Milwaukee, in the county of which name in Wisconsin the elder Mr. Purcell made a settlement, where his wife died in 1856, and where the old gentleman still resides. Philip was reared in that county on a farm, receiving his education at the usual educational institutions, and later in life taught school there for some ten or twelve years. February, 1870, he and Mary A. Flynn were united in marriage, and shortly after came to Waseca County, where he has since lived, and been closely identified with the official life of the county, serving eight years on the board of commissioners, six of them as chairman. He has also held the office of town supervisor for several years, and is the present clerk of the school district in which he lives. Mr. and Mrs. Purcell are the parents of three children: Mary Agnes, born May 11, 1874; Ellen Theresa, February 14, 1876, and Anna Margaret, November 15, 1879, all living at home. He and family are members of the Catholic Church.

Samuel A. Minor was born in Coleraine, Mass., February 8, 1843, and resided in the "Old Bay State" for twenty-three years, when he came west, locating at Waterville, Le Sueur County. He was united in marriage at Wilton, with Mrs. Mary E. Sheldon, widow of Myron S. Sheldon, one of the old settlers of Iosco, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere. There have been no children by this marriage, which took place February 23, 1869. His father is still living in Coleraine, where his mother died in 1876. His brothers were: Everett W., married and

lives at Turner's Falls, Mass.; Cyrus H., died in 1863; William H., now of Waterville, Minn.; James B. and Joseph C., residing in Massachusetts; Winfield S., at Waterville, Minn.; Uriah D. of Starke, Fla., and Charles D. on the homestead, Massachusetts. His sisters were: Sarah E., died 1870; Fannie E., Mrs. Martin, of Massachusetts. September 2, 1862, Mr. Minor enlisted in Company B, Fifty-second Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and served his country in the ranks of her noble defenders. He was in the siege of Port Hudson, and was held in reserve in front of that place twenty-seven days, but was in no open battle. He is a member of N. B. Barron Post, No. 93, Grand Army Republic, of Waterville. He taught school in 1866, in the same town, and was the clerk of the First Baptist Church of that village. He has 270 acres of land under fine culture, and owns considerable fine graded stock, and has a fine residence.

Martin Plath was born in Germany, December 29, 1825, and resided in that country until he had attained the age of thirty-five years. When he was twenty-three years old he and Caroline Batke were united in marriage, and they have been the parents of nine children: Edward, Charles, Bertha, Pauline, Herman, Otelia and Mollie, twins; Martin and Alvina, all of whom were born in Germany except Alvina, who was born in Waseca County. His parents are both dead, and he was an only child. Mr. Plath and family sailed for America in 1865, landing in Quebec. While crossing the long bridge across the St. Lawrence River, at Montreal, the draw being open to permit the passage of a vessel, the train ran through the opening and Mrs. Plath was severely injured, having her jaw bone broken, and their child, Martin, then but nine months old, was killed. They came to Wisconsin and settled in Marquette County, where they remained three years and then came to Waseca County, when he purchased the farm on section 26, in this township, where they now reside.

Christian Koester is a native of Alsace, France, born July 31, 1832. He remained a resident of "La Belle France" until he had reached his majority, in 1853, when he emigrated to the United States, his father having died when he was but eight years of age. On landing in this country he proceeded to Philadelphia, and after some stay there and in the vicinity, came west as far as Milwaukee. From there he went to Muskegon, Mich., where he worked for a short time in the first sawmill erected in that place. Soon after we find him on a farm near Watertown, Wis., but ten months later he went to Columbia County, in the same State, and rented a farm and finally bought forty acres of land and lived on it for about six years, when he sold out and came to this county, and in 1864 purchased his present farm on section 29, where he now owns 260 acres of land, 150 of which are under cultivation. He has a good and commodious dwelling and other farm buildings. Mr. Koester was married in 1858 to Catherine Eppingler, who died March 9, 1873, leaving five children: Louis, Laura (now Mrs. Pingel), Frank, Willis and Clara. On March 22, 1874, he was married to Anna Rudolph, who is the mother of three children: Eddie, William and Emil, all of whom are at home.

Ludwig Walter is a native of Schwerin Mecklenburg, Germany, and was born August 10, 1832. He remained in the land of his nativity until his marriage. In 1854 the young couple embarked for the far-away shores of America. Arriving at New York he went at once to Detroit, Mich., and from there went into the pinerics and labored the following winter. In the spring he went to Milwaukee, Wis., to see his parents, who had followed their son across the ocean. From there he moved to Waukesha, Wis., and from there to Appleton, and from the latter place came to Owatonna, where he rented a farm in the vicinity and engaged in agricultural pursuits for a year, when he purchased eighty acres of land in

the town of Meriden, Steele County, where he remained until 1875, when he purchased the farm on section 21, Josco, in this county, where he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Walter are the parents of twelve children: Albert, married and living near; Emma, Mrs. Wendland; Ida, Mrs. Frederick; William, Sophia, Minnie, Martha, Hannah, Sarah, Lydia, Ella and Lewis, the latter of whom is dead. Mr. Walter has three brothers, all farmers of the town of Meriden, Steele County: Frederick, John and Henry; his sister Minnie, Mrs. Peter, is the wife of the pastor of the Evangelical Society of the same place; the other sister, Sophia, Mrs. Hensel, lives at Sleepy Eye. His father died at Meriden in 1871, but his mother still lives there. His wife's family consisted of two brothers, John and Christian, and two sisters, Mary, Mrs. Jarcho, and Minnie, Mrs. Walter. Mr. Walter has a fine farm and a handsome residence, with pleasant surroundings to make him happy.

John McWade came to Josco Township in 1856, and making a claim on section 25, remained there, proved up and still resides on the old homestead. He is a native of Ireland, born in County Tyrone, December 25, 1829, and remained there until twenty years of age. Then with his sister Ella, set sail from the green shores of the Emerald Isle for America, and after seven weeks and three days spent on the passage, landed at Boston. He remained in that city and at Lowell, Mass., for about five years, when he came to this place. In 1855, at Lowell, he was united in marriage with Ann Lynch, whose parents had also come from Ireland. They have been the parents of five children: Frank, living at home; Margaret, Mrs. James Bowe, living near Waseca; Catherine, deceased; Theresa, died in infancy, and Mary A., at home. Mr. McWade has filled the offices of town supervisor, town clerk, justice of the peace and all the various offices of the school district. He has a farm of 280 acres of land and a fine residence. He

gives considerable attention to fine stock, running to graded cattle, Poland-China and Victoria hogs, etc. Mrs. Ann McWade is the daughter of Patriek and Ellen Lyneh, who were the parents of six children: Mary, Hannah, Ann, Aliee, Kate and John, all of whom are living in Massachusetts except John, who is in the Soldiers' Home at Logus, Me., and Ann, who is the wife of John McWade, of this township. John Lyneh enlisted at Lowell, Mass., in October, 1861, in Company B, Twenty-sixth Massachusetts Infantry, and fought bravely in many of the battles of the late war, especially at that of Cedar Creek in 1864, in the Shenandoah Valley. He reënlisted on the expiration of his term of service, serving to the end of the war, and was honorably discharged.

August Bathke and his family settled in Waseca County in 1864, on section 22, Ioseo Township, where Mr. Bathke now has 210 acres of fine land. He is a native of Germany, born May 25, 1825. He resided in the country of his birth for many years, and there he was united in marriage with Caroline Roesky, and they have had born to them eleven children: Charles, August, William, Gusta, Albert, Herman, Fred, Amelia, Martha and Lydia. Fred is now dead, dying in Minnesota. When they came to America they landed at Quebec, Canada, and from there proceeded to Detroit, where they stayed only two days and then went to Princeton, Wis., where he worked on a farm that summer, and then bought a farm of sixty-five acres of land, and lived there five years. Selling out at the end of that time, he came to Minnesota, and after spending six months at New Ulm, came to this county.

James E. Jones is a native of England, born in the parish of Minsterworth, Gloucestershire, May 20, 1827. Beginning life for himself at the early age of twelve years, his time has been filled with many adventures. Having a longing for the sea that girts his

native land, he shipped on board of a vessel as ship's boy, and followed a sailor's life for nearly a quarter of a century, making many voyages; at one time was pressed into the service of the British East India Company, and served in the military contingent in Hindoostan for four years. In 1860 he came to America to stay, and located at Milwaukee, which he made his home, being engaged in the duties of seaman on the lakes. Shortly afterward he came to Ioseco, Waseca County, where he still resides. June 11, 1863, Mr. Jones and Mrs. Louisa Lafayette were united in marriage. Mrs. Lafayette, who was a widow, had at that time two children: Edgar Lafayette, now at Casselton, D. T., and Minnie L., now Mrs. Brossard. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have had nine children: Fayette, born June 3, 1865, and died at the age of four years; Alice A., born September 3, 1867, and died at the age of sixteen months; Fayette, born May 20, 1869; Wesley, September 3, 1871; Frank, October 6, 1873; Aliee, January 14, 1875; George, February 17, 1878; Willie, July 27, 1880, and Roy, February 27, 1882. James E. Jones purchased the place where he now lives, in 1860. It is very pleasantly situated and under a high state of cultivation. Notwithstanding his early education as a seaman, he has made a success of farming, and has achieved a competency.

Henry S. Ballard is a native of Ioseo Township, Waseca County, Minn., born September 10, 1862, and has been a resident nearly all the time ever since. Determined to get an education, he attended the Wesleyan Methodist Seminary, at Wasioja, Dodge County, for nearly eight terms, working there at whatever he found to do to pay his tuition and keep, and attending the school whenever he could. He was away from home thus most of the time, from the time he was eighteen until he was twenty-four years old; but August 31, 1886, his father was hurt by his horse running away, by which he received such injuries that he died after six weeks of

suffering. Henry then came home and took full charge of the farm. He has delivered a number of public lectures, including one on the use of tobacco and six on the prohibition question. His mother, Huldah A. (Wright) Ballard was united in marriage with John Ballard, his father, August 31, 1861. They had a family of eleven children: Henry S., Mary A., Charles B., Emma M., David L., Chandler J., Lovell A., deceased; Benjamin L., Nellie Mae and Ellie J. (twins) and Anna H.

Mary Newman was born in Milwaukee, Wis., December 6, 1845, where she lived with her parents until twenty-six years of age; in 1871 was united in marriage to John Newman, a native of Germany, born May 7, 1831. Soon after their marriage they came to Waseca County, Mrs. Newman's parents having come some time before. Mr. Newman died November 4, 1885. They had born to them eight children: Fred, Anna, William, Gustave and Herman, all living and at home, and three died in infancy.

August Kaiser is a native of Germany, born November 4, 1849. He came to America when nineteen years of age, landing at New York City, and from there went to Wisconsin and worked in Green Lake County about one year; then came to Waseca County, Minn., and worked out for a few years. In 1874 he purchased the farm on which he now resides. The same year he was united in marriage with Augusta Wunderliech in Rice County. They have had born to them six children: George, Rachel, Adolf, Almon, Eddie and Orlando. Mr. Kaiser has about 315 acres of land, of which 150 is under cultivation. He has four brothers and two sisters living in Minnesota. His farm is in a high state of cultivation and has fine buildings.

James Slattery was born in Montreal, Canada, October 4, 1833, where he lived for many years. In 1878 he settled in Iosco Township, Waseca County, Minn., where he purchased a farm on section 20. In 1863 he

was united in marriage to Mary Murphy, also a native of Canada. They have had born to them four children: Lizzie, Katie, Bridget and Mary A. Mr. Slattery has a brother, a resident of Iosco; a sister, now Mrs. Blanchfield, lives in Moorhead, Minn. His father and mother both died in Canada some years ago. Mrs. Slattery's parents are both dead. She has two brothers, Henry and Thomas, neither of whom are residents of Waseca County, however.

August Wendland came to Waseca County in 1868 and located on section 21, where he now resides. He is one of the prosperous farmers of Iosco, and has a fine farm under good cultivation. He is a native of Prussia, born March 4, 1826, and was reared in that country. Like most youths of Germany, he served in the army of his fatherland. January 3, 1850, he was united in marriage with Justina Wendland, by whom he had seven children: Julius, deceased; Herman, deceased; August, born December 27, 1857, married to Emma Walter and resides in this town; Henrietta, born May 27, 1860, now Mrs. Keiser, also of Iosco; Amelia, deceased; John, born December 6, 1862, and Mary, born November 14, 1864, now Mrs. Draham, of Waseca. In 1853, in company with his wife and one child, Herman, he left his native land and came to the United States, and for some years made his home in Wisconsin; coming to Waseca County in 1868, he has made it his residence ever since. His first wife died in 1868; he was again married to Justina Block, of Marquette, Wis., who bore him one child, Henry, September 8, 1869, who is still at home. Both his parents and those of his wife are dead, having died in the old country.

FIRST THINGS.

The first school in district No. 12 was held at the house of John M. Minske, during the winter of 1858-9. Sallie Norcott was the teacher.

The first religious services were held at the

house of J. M. Minske in the spring of 1857, by the German Methodists.

RELIGIOUS.

The German Methodist congregation of Iosco Township is a part of the church at Waseca, but hold independent meetings at the residence of August Minske, who usually presides. This class was initiated at a series of meetings held at the house of John Minske, in the spring of 1857. No society was formed at that time, they belonging to the church organization in Blooming Grove, but in 1876 this was set off and called Waseca Mission. The class at Mr. Minske's numbers about twenty-five. Sunday school was instituted in 1865 and now has about thirty members.

St. Jarlath Roman Catholic Church is located on section 17, and was erected in 1868, at a cost of about \$1,800, but has since been remodeled and finished until it represents a cost of \$4,000. It is a very pretty specimen of church architecture and reflects credit upon the community that put it up. The first meeting of the Catholics of Iosco was held at Okaman, in 1858, mass being celebrated by Rev. Father Somersing. This was at the house of John Bradish. The people of this township attended mass at Elysian for the most part, going there to their duties. In 1865 meetings were held at the Murray schoolhouse on section 9. Missionary services were held from this time on until 1868 when the church here was built. At that time the church had some 140 members taking in a part of the Waseca, Janesville and Waterville missions, but now has but about forty members. Rev. Father P. J. O'Neil comes here from Janesville twice a month to attend to the spiritual wants of the community and celebrate mass.

The cemetery in connection with this church was laid out in 1868. The first interment here was that of John Oaks, in the winter of 1868-9; the second, that of John Haley, in April, 1869.

There is a German Methodist Church on section 13, that was built in 1880-81. The first meeting of this society was held at the house of Gottfried G. Kanne, on section 12, in the year 1858. This and subsequent services were held by Rev. Goechtenmier, at various houses, and the society organized. In 1872, when the schoolhouse was built, meetings were held in that until the building of the church.

VILLAGE OF EMPIRE.

In the spring of 1856 N. E. Strong, George L. Leonard, Daniel Tripp, Benjamin W. Gifford and A. A. Cotten, conceiving that a town in this part of the county would be a good thing, laid out the village of Empire, on the southeast quarter of section 20. H. W. Peck, afterward county surveyor, laid it out and platted it. High hopes were indulged in regard to the new village, and anticipations of having the county seat located there dazzled the eyes of the owners and residents; but when the seat of justice was located at the rival village of Wilton, Empire gradually lost its prestige and waned and melted away into nothingness. In the language of a local writer, "It rose, reached its zenith and faded away all in the course of two years." Where once the imagination of its partisans expected to see rise stately buildings filled with merchandise, hear busy factories make the air throb with beat of machinery, naught now is seen but nodding grain or bending corn; streets they hoped to have seen pressed by the feet of hurrying multitudes, now resound to the tread of cud-chewing cattle or whistling ploughmen.

The first hotel in this embryo village was built by John H. Wheeler, in the spring of 1856. It was a log building, two stories high and thirty feet square on the ground.

Mr. Long, the father of Seth W., the ex-sheriff, brought a sawmill to this village, which was very useful and a great accommodation to the settlers. It remained here for many years, finally being removed to Janesville

Township. Mr. Long, the elder, died here about two years after his settlement.

Thomas Tripp came to this village from Faribault, in 1857, and erected another hotel, which was run partly by himself and partly by Daniel Tripp.

The first store building was erected by

Hial D. Baldwin, who ran it about a year and then closed it out.

Almeran Wilsey ran a blacksmith shop here which he put up in 1856. A year later he tore down the building and took up a claim.



CHAPTER XIX.

BLOOMING GROVE TOWNSHIP.



THE town of Blooming Grove comprises all of congressional township 108 north, range 22 west. It is bounded on the north by Rice County, on the east by Steele County, and on the south and west by the townships of Woodville and Josco. Some of the finest portions of the county are included in its limits. It is well drained by the small creeks and streams that flow into its several

lakes; mention is made of these latter in the former part of this history. The east half of the township is almost level, gently undulating, but as it approaches the west line the "rolls" become more abrupt and knolly. Nearly one half of the town is covered with timber, alike valuable for fuel and for protection from the searching winds of winter.

The first settlers in what is now Blooming Grove Township were Michael Johnson, Jonathan Howell, A. J. Bell and S. F. Wyman. These young men, in the spring of 1855, built a log cabin on section 4. There they kept "bach," being all single men, for about two years, when Wyman and Bell quit. The others kept right along, and for seven years longer lived the life of "single blessedness," doing their own cooking, part of the time without a stove. At the expiration of that period Mr. Johnson married, but Mr. Howell remained single until the day of his death. Mr. Johnson is still a resident of the township; Mr. Howell, who was a native of England, died here in 1880 as stated; Mr. Bell removed to Faribault, and Mr. Wyman is a resident of the city of Waseca.

In June, 1855, Christian Remund with his family made a settlement in this subdivision of the county, on sections 8 and 9, where they still reside.

Christian Remund, proprietor of the Blooming Grove Stock Farm, is a native of Switzerland, born November 21, 1830. He resided in his native country until about twenty years of age, when, in March, 1850, he, in company with Jacob Bumgerdner, sailed for the shores of America, and landed in New York. From there they went to Joliet, Ill., by way of Chicago, where they worked out in that vicinity for about one year. Then, still in company, they rented a farm and raised and harvested one crop. Mr. Remund then left this place and rented another near by. October 21, 1851, he married his partner's sister, Anna Bumgerdner, who was also a native of Switzerland, and had come to America a year earlier. After their marriage he remained on the place he had rented one year, then rented another in same neighborhood, where he lived until the spring of 1855, when he started for Minnesota, arriving in Waseca County, June 28, 1855. He immediately located a claim on section 9, Blooming Grove Township, the site of his present home. The first summer they lived in their covered wagon until October, when they moved into the cabin which he had built. At this time the country was full of Indians, and only one cabin was near where Mr. Remund erected his. When he came to this county his property invoiced as follows: one ox-team, two yoke of three-year-old steers and a span of yearling colts, a few cows, and not one dollar in money. He now has 370 acres of land in a high state

of cultivation, a nice residence and good barns, and a large quantity of stock about him; is a breeder of thoroughbred short-horn cattle, and also owns the two noted horses, Amateur No. 10 and Bruno No. 2101. When his son Lewis was married he gave him 160 acres of land, and about \$1,500 in money and personal property. Mr. and Mrs. Christian Remund are the parents of seven children, three of whom are living, four dying in infancy. Those living are: Lewis C., born April 18, 1858, now in Minneapolis studying for a veterinary surgeon; Carrie A., born December 3, 1861; George H., March 8, 1866. The last two still remain at home with their parents.

W. M. Gray with his family also settled here in 1855. He was a native of Allegany County, N. Y. This was his residence until about 1872, when he died. His settlement was on section 33.

J. M. Blivens, after whom one of the settlements in this township was called, came here with his family in 1855. He lived here for many years, finally emigrating to Missouri, where he is still living. His settlement was upon the west part of section 32.

In June, 1855, Ole Knutson made a settlement here, and remained many years. He is now a resident of Renville County, this State.

Samuel and Luther Dickenson made a settlement during the fall of 1855 in the northwestern part of Blooming Grove. About 1858, Luther growing tired of pioneer life returned to Vermont, their native State. Samuel remained here until 1860, when he moved to Le Sueur County.

Curtis Hatch, a blind man, with his family settled in this precinct in 1855. He died in Moody County, D. T., in 1884.

M. P. Ide settled here in the same year.

Simeon Smith, who came from Fayette County, Iowa, with his family, made a claim just west of the lake on sections 31 and 32 in June, 1855. He lived on this place many years and died there in November, 1872.

With him came Alfred C. Smith, his son, who lived with his father until the following year, when he removed to Woodville Township, where he resided until sometime after his father's death, when he returned to the elder Smith's farm, where he now lives.

The year 1856 witnessed everywhere an immense tide of immigration setting westward, and the county of Waseca received many new settlers. Among those who located in this township during that year were: E. R. Conner, George Dean, John and James Walker, William Donaldson, Patrick Healy, Lewis McKune, John L. Saufferer, Cornelius Hand and his sons, J. N. Powers, Philo Woodruff, John Gibson, Daniel Riegle, Patrick Murphy, Andrew Nelson, Joshua, Josiah, Henry and Samuel Smith, Jacob Oory, William H. Young, B. Sharp and Joseph Churchill.

E. R. Conner was a native of Indiana, from whence he came to Minnesota with James and John Walker, all bringing families. Mr. Conner settled on eighty acres of land in the northwest quarter of section 10, to which he laid claim on the 11th of June. He lived on this place until 1883, when he removed to Faulk County, D. T., where he is still living.

John Walker enlisted during the war in the Third Minnesota Infantry, and died at Pine Bluff, Ark., in September, 1864.

William Donaldson died here in 1860.

Capt. Lewis McKune was quite prominent, politically, in the early days of the county's history, representing this district in the constitutional convention and in the senate. He was afterward killed, at the head of his company, at the battle of Bull Run. A detailed sketch of him is given in the chapter entitled State and County Representation.

J. N. Powers lived here but a short time, removing to Wilton, where he practiced law. He afterward moved to Rice County, and represented that district in the State Legislature.

Daniel Riegle served as justice of the peace for this town in 1858. He is now a resident of Kittson County, this State.

Joshua Smith lives in Greenland, Le Sueur County, Minn.; Josiah Smith, in Nebraska; Henry Smith, in Montana, and Samuel Smith in California.

Jacob Oory did not remain here long, and is now a resident of Kansas. He was a young man when he came here, and without any family.

William H. Young was an original character, well known among the old settlers.

Joseph Churchill left this part of the State and settled in Renville County, Minn., where he died several years since.

John L. Saufferer is still a resident of the township, and a sketch of him is given in the chapter entitled State and County Representation, he having served the people of Waseca County in the legislative halls of the State.

William J. Wheeler, Cyrus Ross and Andrew Oleson all took up claims and commenced opening up farms in the fall of 1856.

Gottlieb Petrich, a German by birth, came to this town in June, 1856, and settling down upon a farm, there dwelt until January, 1887, when he was called hence by the death angel.

Fred. McKune is the son of Lewis McKune, one of the most prominent leaders of early days in Steele and Waseca counties. Fred. was born in Illinois, where his parents had settled on coming from Pennsylvania, on the 10th of February, 1854. In the year 1856 Capt. McKune brought his family to Waseca County and located on section 1. Here Fred. was reared, growing up among the scenes that now surround him, one of the old settlers of this locality. His sisters—Mrs. McBride, now resides in Milbank, D. T., and Laura, Mrs. Vogel, at Marietta, D. T.—were raised in this county. His mother died at Morristown in 1863. In 1883 Mr. McKune was united in marriage with Clarissa C. Gore, of Indiana, and they are the parents

of two children: Lewis and Edna. His wife's father is a resident of Morristown, but her mother was called away from this world by the angel of death during the winter of 1886. Mr. McKune has a farm of 200 acres of land, 125 of which are under a high state of cultivation, and owns a handsome residence and some excellent graded stock.

In February, 1856, Christian Remund went as far as Dunleith, Ill., to meet his folks, and brought from there his father, Samuel Remund, and his brothers, John, Samuel, Rudolph and Albert, and sister Lina. John and Samuel were married, and with their father brought their wives with them. They took up claims on coming here. John settled on section 15, and is now in Wilmot, D. T.; Samuel located on section 9, and is a resident of the same section; Rudolph took a claim on 8, and is now in Wilmot, D. T.; Albert on section 9, and is still in the county. The elder located on the claim of Rudolph.

Samuel Remund, one of the pioneers of Waseca County and one of the representative citizens, is a native of Canton Berne, Oberamt, Switzerland. He was born January 26, 1833, at Laupen, Mühlberg, Bottenreid, and resided among those Alpine heights until April, 1855, when he and his wife emigrated to the shores of the United States, in company with his father's family, landing in New York on Christmas day. From the latter point they journeyed to Dubuque, by way of Buffalo, Cleveland and Chicago, and remained there until about the 15th of January. Leaving there by sleigh, when they reached Dunleith Mr. Remund was taken sick, and he and his wife remained at that place until February, when they finished the journey, reached the point for which they had made their long journey, as before mentioned, in February, 1856, and located a claim on section 9, where he now resides. When they came here this part of Minnesota was a wilderness, only one frame house standing in Faribault, the hotel—and nothing but log and pole cabins in Owatonna, and but five or six

settlers were in this town, and Indians abounded in this section of country. Before starting for this country, Mr. Remund, on the 21st of July, 1855, was united in marriage with Anna Jüine, by whom he had four children; Samuel, who died at the age of six years; Lana, now Mrs. David Newhart, of St. Paul; Anna, now Mrs. Andrew Brooker, of Colorado, and Rosina, now Mrs. Davison, of Waseca. His first wife dying in 1861, he was again united in marriage with Elizabeth Newhart, in the fall of 1861. They had six children: Samuel, Lizzie, Henry, David, Mary and Eddie. Again, in 1874, Mr. Remund was bereft of his wife, and in the summer of 1874, was married to Mrs. Orsala Rover, by whom he had no family. Mr. Remund has held the office of town assessor and clerk of school district, and was elected town supervisor, but declined to serve. He is one of the leading farmers of the town, owning 450 acres of land, 220 of which are in a high state of cultivation. He has also a fine lot of cattle.

Albert Remund, another brother, was born in Canton Berne, Oberamt, Laupen, Mühlberg, Buttenreid, in July, 1836, and came to America with the family, as above mentioned, in 1855. On coming to Waseca County he took a claim, as was the custom in those days, on section 9, and proved up on the same. In June, 1859, he was united in marriage with Frances Winter, a native of Germany, born March 26, 1844, and moved on the place on section 9, where he now lives. They are the parents of eleven children: Emma L., born June 3, 1869; William, August 13, 1874; Louisa, January 23, 1877; Sarah, September 1, 1880; Laura, July 12, 1883; Mabel, May 13, 1886; Philip, who is dead, and four who died in infancy. His wife is the daughter of Fred. and Louisa Winter, who both died in Iowa. They have several children yet living besides Mrs. Remund: Edward, who lives in Iowa; Henrietta, now Mrs. Rief, on a farm near Des Moines, and Augusta, Mrs. Flackman, whose husband is connected with the

police force of Burlington, in the same State. Mr. Remund for twenty years has held the office of clerk of this town, and at present (1887) is justice of the peace and school director. He has 110 acres of very fine land, 80 of which is under a high state of cultivation, and has some very fine stock, chiefly short-horn cattle and Victoria swine.

James Hand was born February 22, 1835, and is the son of Cornelius and Rebecca Hand. His grandfather, Cornelius, also a native of New Jersey, was a soldier of the war of 1812-15, who later in life removed to Ohio. The father of James, who was born February 27, 1812, resided in Holmes County, Ohio, when James was born. In 1840 the family removed to Kosciusko County, Ind., settling on a farm, where the mother and Elizabeth, one of the daughters, died. In 1855 the family came to Minnesota and spent one winter, and in the spring of 1856 came to Waseca County and located on east half of the northeast quarter of section 5, this township, where James now lives. August 24, 1856, James Hand and Lydia Ann Sprague were united in marriage, and they are the parents of three children: Ella, now Mrs. M. E. Millen; Stephen T., living in the township, and Manerva, deceased. In November, 1864, Mr. Hand enlisted in Company E, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and was ordered to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he was engaged in provost duty until September 25, 1865, when he was mustered out. He has a good farm in excellent state of culture. He has been honored by his fellow citizens by having conferred upon him the office of town supervisor for three different terms, and has held school district offices besides.

Kyes Swift was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., where he lived until two years of age. While he was quite young his father died, and he was thrown upon his own resources, and through hard labor and steady habits he has accumulated a fair amount of this world's goods and a fine home. He came to Waseca

County in 1856, and at that time the Indian trail passed near his door. Five hundred Indians have been at his well at one time for water. Mr. Swift's father was a native of New York State. His mother died in Cattaraugus County, that State, in 1865. At Morristown, Minn., July 3, 1874, Mr. Swift was married, and is the parent of three children: Clara A., born April 28, 1875; Clarence C., June 26, 1878, and Homer J., November 4, 1883, who died March 22, 1884.

Mrs. Margeret Hackett, whose maiden name was Phelan, is a native of County Tipperary, Ireland, and resided in that county until she attained her twenty-seventh year. One year previous to that she had been united in marriage with John Hackett. They sailed for America about a year after marriage, landing at New York City, and from there went to Milwaukee, but after a residence there of six months moved to Rockford, Ill., where they remained some eight years, he working by the day at any work that he and his team could find to do. In 1856 they came to Waseca County, settling on the place on section 13, where they now live. They have had ten children born to them: Martin, Pierce, Julia, Patrick, William, John, James, Mary, Maggie and William. Five of the children are living and five are numbered with the dead. Two boys are in St. Paul, Julia lives near Hastings, this State, and two are at home with their parents.

Knut Ericksen, sometimes called Saltvold, a native of Norway, came to this township in June, 1856, and made a settlement. He was a resident of this township until his death in 1869. His widow and children are residents here still.

Gullick Knutsen was born at Roldat, Bergenstift, Norway, May 25, 1840, and came to America, with his parents, Knut Ericksen Saltvold, and Ragnhild (Gullicksdatter Berge), in the spring of 1851, settling near Marshall, Dane County, Wis. After remaining there five years, they removed to Minnesota, and in the latter part of June, 1856,

settled in Blooming Grove Township, this county. In the fall of 1862, during the Sioux war, Gullick enlisted in Company B, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, under Capt. Horace Austin, which were with the Sibley expedition in the summer of 1863, participating in several engagements with the Indians. He was mustered out at Fort Snelling, November 9, 1863, on account of expiration of term of service. In 1866 he returned to Wisconsin, and while there, June 25, 1866, he was united in marriage with Martha Johnson, of Lodi, Columbia County, Wis., who was a native of Haugs, Bergenstift, Norway, born August 20, 1844, and who had come to America with her parents in 1850. Mr. and Mrs. Knutsen are the parents of eight children: Regina, now Mrs. John Knutsen, of Waseca; Valetha, now Mrs. O. T. Hagen; Cora J., Jennie O., Alice S., Martha J., Joseph K. and Emma R. The last named died at the age of eighteen months, in 1883. After his marriage Mr. Knutsen returned to Minnesota, and settled in Iosco Township, and remained there until 1878, when he sold his farm there and removed to Blooming Grove, on section 18, where he now lives. His father died here in 1869 as stated elsewhere; his mother is still a resident of the township. Mr. Knutsen has held the office of town supervisor one year, town treasurer three years, town clerk, in Iosco, for four or five years, and is now clerk of the school district in which he lives. His farm consists of 120 acres of land, eighty of which is under a high state of cultivation, and his improvements in the shape of buildings are fine. He has also considerable good stock.

Joseph Churchill in the summer of 1857, located on section 30, where he made a long residence, finally removing to Renville County, this State, where he died several years ago.

Among the settlers of 1857 was James Isaac, who purchased a farm and remained on it about five years, and then sold out and

a short time later moved to Missouri.

Samuel Isaac, who came here with his father, James, remained at home until 1862, when he enlisted in the Fourth Minnesota Infantry, and served during the war. He was promoted to the position of captain sometime before he received his discharge. His brother Jonathan, who enlisted at the same time, was killed at the battle of Altoona Pass.

Andrew Nelson was born in Sweden, August 29, 1829, and made that country his home until he was twenty-four years old, when he came alone to America, landing at Quebec, Canada. From there he went to Moline, Ill., where he remained until fall, and spent the winter in Albany, the same State. In the spring of 1855 he came to Red Wing, Minn., where he was employed some two years. In 1857 he came to this county and settled where he now lives, having preëmpted and proved up his claim the same year. In 1861 he was united in marriage with Christena Evanson, and they had five children: Anna Sophia, born August 6, 1863; Nels, born March 22, 1865; Betsy, born September 9, 1866; Charles, born July 14, 1868, and Rebecca, born May 4, 1870. His first wife dying in 1872, he married Anna Jameson, by whom he has had six children: Tilda C., born June 23, 1874; William Oscar, born May 21, 1876; Joseph M., born September 4, 1878; Henry C., born January 17, 1882; Minnie J., born May 24, 1885, and Nellie L., born May 17, 1887. Mr. Nelson is the son of Nels and Anna Nelson who both died in Sweden as did three of his brothers. He has one brother and three sisters still living in their native land. Mr. Nelson is one of the early settlers of this county, and was quite prominent in the organization of this township. He has a very fine farm of 340 acres of excellent land under a good state of cultivation, and well stocked. He has been town supervisor and is and has been for many years, treasurer of the school district.

Carl Johnson came to Blooming Grove Township and took up a claim on section 19, on the 17th of May, 1857, and is still a resident of the same. He is a native of Sweden, born September 22, 1825. In 1853, when he was about twenty-eight years of age, he determined to emigrate to America, and crossing the ocean, arrived at New York, October 22, of that year, where they had to endure some days' quarantine on account of the cholera on board their vessel, some twenty-one having died during the passage over. From New York he went to Milwaukee, and from there to Rockford, Ill., remaining two years at the latter place, employed in railroad work. Being there laid up by a long sickness, on his recovery he went to the Wisconsin pineries, where he remained two years longer, and then came to Waseca County, as above mentioned. In 1859 he went back to Wisconsin for a short time, and also, in 1860, made a trip to Arkansas, and remained there until the breaking out of the war. Returning to his home in this town, he was united in marriage with Julia Johnson, on the 16th of July, 1862, and they are the parents of two children: John C. and Christina. Mr. Johnson has held the office of town supervisor, and is school treasurer, director and clerk. He has 160 acres of land, eighty of which is under cultivation, and owns some fine stock. Mrs. Johnson was born in Norway, in February, 1825, and came to America in 1853, landing in New York. From there she proceeded by canal to Buffalo, and from there by boat to Sheboygan. Proceeding by team to Fond du Lac, Wis., she remained there until 1858, when she came to Vivian Township, this county, by team with her brother-in-law. From there she went afoot to Faribault, where she worked for some time. In 1862 she was married. She has never yet ridden on the cars.

Thomas B. Jackson settled in this township in May, 1858, with his three sons, W. H. H., Caleb and Thomas B. Jr. The elder

Mr. Jackson purchased a farm of Mr. Walker, which he afterward sold and removed to Morristown, Rice County, where he died in 1877. Caleb, his son, was a member of Capt. McKune's company, First Minnesota Infantry, and after his discharge from the service removed to Morristown, Minn., where he now resides. Thomas B. Jackson enlisted in the Fourth Minnesota Infantry, and was wounded at the battle of Altoona Pass, and died of the effects thereof in 1864. W. H. H. Jackson is still a resident of the township.

W. H. H. Jackson, the son of Thomas B. and Margaret Ann Jackson, was born in Centerville, Warren County, Ind., March 23, 1840. When he was about two years of age the family moved to Tipton County, in the same State, on a farm, where they resided until 1855, when they removed to Webster County, Iowa, but two years later, or to be exact, in May, 1858, they came to this town and bought of James Walker eighty acres of land on section 4, the place of residence of W. H. H. Jackson. Here the latter has resided ever since, except during a part of the civil war, he having enlisted in 1863, in Company H., Third Minnesota Infantry, and saw considerable service, and was mustered out at the close of the war in 1865, when he returned to this county. August 8, 1858, Mr. Jackson and Mary Ann Eckert, daughter of Peter and Mary Eckert, were united in marriage, and are the parents of six children: J. W., who is a merchant at Morristown; Florence Emma, now Mrs. Rev. Robertson, of Morris, Minn.; William E., Linda E., Harmon F. and Erwin E. J. W. and Florence E. both attended Hamlin University. The father of Mrs. Jackson, who was a native of Pennsylvania, died about 1881, but her mother resides with her, a remarkably well preserved old lady of eighty-four years. Mr. Jackson now has the old homestead of eighty on section 4, and an adjoining eighty in Rice County.

William Reinhardt was born in Berlin,

Germany, February 10, 1850, where he lived until 1855, when his people, consisting of father, mother, two brothers and two sisters, sailed for America, landing at New York City. From there they went to Illinois, where they remained two years, after which they came to Waseca County, and purchased the farm on section 12, where William still resides. Mr. Reinhardt's father died in 1876, in Blooming Grove. His mother is living with her son, Justus. The two sisters, Amelia and Mary, are both married. Mr. Reinhardt was united in the holy bonds of matrimony, in 1878, to Caroline Kruger. They have been blessed with five children: Benjamin W., born January 12, 1880; Emma B., January 12, 1882; Estella, October 29, 1883; Ervin F., June 4, 1885, and George, January 19, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. Kruger, the parents of Mrs. Reinhardt, are residents of Deerfield Township, Steele County. Justus, a brother, is also a resident of same town; Carl, the other brother, is not a resident of this section of country.

Justus Reinhardt is a native of Henry County, Ill., born October 12, 1857, but when he was but about one year old, the family emigrated to the great and growing State of Minnesota, and settled on a farm on section 12, Blooming Grove, where Justus was reared. He resided with his parents until his father died in 1876, and then was one of the remaining stays of his mother, remaining with her until 1883, when he was united in marriage with Helen Fehmer, and purchased the farm on section 14 where he now lives, when his mother came to live with him and is still an inmate of his house. Mrs. Reinhardt is the daughter of John and Sophia Fehmer, of Deerfield Township, Steele County, where they are now living. Mr. Reinhardt has one of the finest farms in the town; it contains some 240 acres of land, seventy of which is well tilled and cultivated. Mr. and Mrs. Reinhardt are the parents of two children: Louis Henry, born July 28, 1884, and Mabel Anna, born October 19,

1886. He is the present town supervisor, and holds the office of clerk of the district school board.

FIRST ITEMS.

The first birth in the township was that of Lovica, daughter of Alfred C. Smith, who was born October 15, 1855. She is living in Woodville Township, this county, and is the wife of H. N. Carlton.

The first death was that of Mrs. Josiah Smith, who died in the fall of 1856, and was buried in what is known as the Old Settlers' cemetery, the first to be interred therein.

The next deaths to occur were those of John and Martin Hand, of this township, who died in Rice County, in the fall of 1856, where they were at work. Maklen Riegle died also in this township in 1856. Another death in the township under peculiar circumstances was that of Henry Howell, a brother of Jonathan, in the winter of 1858. He was returning from Faribault, where he had been stopping in company with his brother, in a sleigh, and getting out to warm himself by walking, his brother drove on to Hersh's mill, a short distance away, where he remained for a time. Not knowing of his stopping, Henry passed right on, and not arriving at his destination search was instituted, and after some trouble and difficulty found his body. He had frozen to death.

The first furrow was ploughed by Johnson Bell, Wyman and Howell, in 1855.

As near as can be ascertained W. H. H. Jackson and Mary Eckert were the first to assume the marriage vows in Blooming Grove Township, on August 8, 1858, Daniel Riegle, justice of the peace, officiating. On his first election to this office, he had given it out that the first parties married by him should get off without any fee; but as circumstances alter cases, when called upon it was too hard times and the little fee was very acceptable, nor did Mr. Jackson begrudge the little amount on that occasion.

A school building was erected in the spring

of 1857, in this part of the district, which comprised a portion of the two townships of Woodville and Blooming Grove, then known as No. 1. It was put up on the subscription plan, each man hauling so many logs and contributing some money to purchase nails, glass, etc. When all the materials were on the ground, a bee was made which put up the structure. That summer a twelve-week school was taught by Mrs. Lina Hughes. This is now district No. 7, but was the first district organized in the county.

The schoolhouse in district No. 3 was erected in 1857, of logs, the whole district taking a part in building it. Nails, glass, etc., were procured by subscription. This building was in use until 1875, when it was rebuilt and enlarged to its present capacity, and now has two rooms, being a graded school with two teachers.

The first religious organization was made by the German Methodist Episcopal Society in 1856. The first services were held at the house of Christian Remund by Rev. Mr. Groeectenmeyer.

The cemetery adjoining on the north was instituted in 1860, and the first burial there was that of the body of Samuel T. Remund.

The first postoffice in the township was that known as Swaversey, established about 1857, with Mrs. William Gibbs as postmistress. It was located on the land of William Gibbs, at his residence on section 5. Mr. Gibbs was carrier of the mails. The office passed finally into the hands of James Davidson, who removed it to his residence, and the name changed to Blooming Grove. It was discontinued in 1880.

ORGANIC.

What is now Blooming Grove was organized with a portion of Woodville, in the early part of 1857, under the name of Swaversey precinct. The first election was held at the house of Ole Knutson, and Patrick Healey, Lewis McKune and Ole Knutson were the judges of election.

In April, 1858, the board of county commissioners set off what is now included in the township, and ordered its organization under the name of Blooming Grove. Election took place at the house of Patrick Healey, and that gentleman and James Isaac and J. M. Blivens were the judges of election.

RELIGIOUS.

The German Methodist Church located on section 9 was put up by that congregation in 1885, at a cost of \$3,000. This society is the outgrowth of the first religious services held in the township at the house of Christian Remund, in 1856. They held services at that place until 1860, when they erected a church on the site of the present large one. The various pastors that have ministered here were: Revs. Groechtenmeyer, Henry Boettcher, Frederick Hermsmeier, Henry Schmittker, F. W. Buchholz, George Hoerger, William Rottert, Adam Müller, Charles Hollman, William Pagenart, Daniel Pfaff, John Spiker and J. C. Jahn, the present one.

The German Methodist Church on section 1 was erected in 1873, and was then a brick-veneered structure. This remained for some years, but finally began to break off and crumble down; so in 1885 it was remodeled and altered into a frame building. It is 32x48 feet in size with a fine spire about 75 feet high. Previous to the building of the church the society held services at the residence of John L. Saufferer, and continued to do so for some eight years. After this they held meetings in the schoolhouse until the erection of the church. The society was organized in 1858. The pastors have been the same as the above church, both being one charge.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church, on section 19, was erected by this congregation in 1864. At that time the frame was gotten up and the building enclosed and finished at a later date. The first meeting in the township held by the Lutherans was at the house of Alex. Herlugsen, on the 17th of October,

1858, and a society was organized at that time. Then there were some twenty-seven families connected with the church. Rev. Lauer Larsen was the first pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. B. J. Muus, and he by Quammen. Rev. O. A. Mellby, of New Richland, is the present pastor.

PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Among other representative citizens of this township who have helped to develop its resources, are the following mentioned:

Weston Mosher was born in Genesee County, N. Y., and with his parents resided there until he was nine years of age, when they removed to Erie County in the same State. While there he was united in marriage with Lucy Bishop, and later removed to Ohio. After this he came west, living some time in Illinois, in Kenosha, Wis., and again in Lake County, Ill. He at that time followed blacksmithing and wagonmaking. He removed from there to Fillmore County, Minn., where he practiced medicine for several years, when he came to his present location, on section 6, and took up agricultural pursuits. In 1855, in Fillmore County, his wife died, leaving ten children: Orpha, Iva, Juliette, George, Laretta, Marietta, Lucy, Weston, Austin and Emily. In 1859 he again entered the marriage state with Adelia Yarrington, and they are the parents of six children: Adelia, Alice, Ellen, Ida, Edwin and Cora. Mr. Mosher has a farm of some fifty acres of land.

Francis Brossard is the son of Augustus and Agatha Besoncon, of French ancestry. He was born at Lennox, Mass., November 18, 1833, and resided there until he had reached the age of eighteen, when the whole family removed to Fall River, Columbia County, Wis., but after a residence of eight years there, they came to Waseca County. Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Brossard were the parents of ten children: Francis, Augustus, Edward, Charles, Joseph, Julia, now Mrs. O. James, of Waterville; Adele, Mrs. Constant Bross-

ard, of Wisconsin; Rosalie, Mrs. O. P. Smith, of Tennessee; Louise, Mrs. J. E. Jones, of Iosco, and Josephine, Mrs. D. T. Ballard. When the Brossards came to this county, in 1859, this was a new country, and they can give some very pathetic anecdotes in regard to the hardships of the early pioneers. On the 4th of May, 1863, Francis Brossard and Mary E. Brossard were united in marriage, in Blooming Grove. They are the parents of one child, Florentine E., who was married February 1, 1886, to Minnie L. Lafayette, and they are the parents of one child, Mabel A.

Jens T. Dahle, a native of Norway, was born on a farm, March 25, 1839, and lived with his parents until he had reached the age of fourteen, and then worked for other parties for about four years. In 1858 he emigrated to America, landing at Quebec, Canada. From there he made his way to Rice County, Minn., where he worked for various parties, usually at extremely low wages. January 22, 1862, he enlisted in the second company Minnesota Sharpshooters, who were attached to Col. Berdan's command. With them he participated in the engagement at Hanover Courthouse, after which he was transferred to the First Minnesota Infantry, joining them at Fair Oaks in June. He participated in all the bloody battles of the Chickahominy swamps, and in all others in which the famous First Minnesota was engaged, except Antietam and Fredericksburg, up to the time he was taken prisoner at Ream's Station, August 24, 1864. He was also in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Deep Bottom and Petersburg. He was an inmate of the rebel prison pens of Libby and Belle Isle, Va., and Salisbury, N. C., and was then taken back to Richmond and paroled, reaching the Federal lines March 13, 1865, nearly three months after his time of enlistment had expired. He was then in a shocking state of health, and was sent to Annapolis, Md., to the parole camp, and from there

to Columbus and St. Louis in a box car. There getting a furlough he came as far as Chicago, where he became much worse in health, entered the hospital and lay there very low. Recovering to some extent he reached St. Paul, where he received his discharge. For two years succeeding the war he was engaged in the grocery business at Faribault, Minn., and then came to this county and engaged in farming, he having lately purchased the farm of Philo Woodruff, and now has 160 acres of land, fifty of which is under cultivation. February 7, 1886, he was united in marriage with Anna Olena Seim, whose parents are natives of Norway. They are the parents of one child, Theodore, born March 22, 1887.

E. J. Wolf was born in Wheeling, Cook County, Ill., April 5, 1858, and resided there until he was some four years old, when his parents removed to Goodhue County, Minn., settling upon a farm, where his father still lives, the mother dying December 20, 1886. In 1879 E. J. Wolf went to Lincoln County, this State, and took up a claim of 160 acres of land, which he afterward sold and then came to Waseca County and purchased the farm on section 2, where he now lives. In March, 1883, he was united in marriage with Barbara Bollenbach, born in Rice County, Minn., August 5, 1859. They have had born to them one child, Alice, now two years of age. Mr. Wolf has seven brothers and two sisters living, and his wife six brothers and five sisters. Her parents are still living in Rice County, both having passed their half century in age. Mr. Wolf has a most excellent farm, and thoroughly understands handling it to attain the best results.

Julius Schuette was born in Prussia, Germany, November 26, 1848, and resided in his native land until he was some five years of age, when the family came to America, and for a time lived in Warsaw, Minn., and then came to Blooming Grove Township. The mother of Julius died here in 1868, the father in 1883, and they are buried in the

cemetery of the German Methodist Episcopal Church, together with two of their children: Augusta, who died in 1870, and Charles, who was killed in 1885 by a load of timber falling on him. Rev. Edward Schuette, a brother of Julius, was ordained a minister at the early age of twenty, and is now in charge of the German Episcopal Church at Charles City, Iowa. In 1878, at the residence of the bride's father, Hon. John L. Saufferer, Julius Schuette and Henrietta Saufferer, the eldest daughter, were united in holy matrimony, and they are the parents of two children: Arthur and Mabel, deceased. They have a very pleasant farm, and the land evinces a high state of cultivation.

Rev. J. C. Jahn was born in Prussia, July 1, 1839. At the age of seventeen he came to America, landing at Baltimore. From there he went to St. Paul, Minn., and engaged in a general store as salesman, which occupation he followed for several years. In 1861 he enlisted in the First Minnesota Cavalry, and was ordered from Fort Snelling to St. Louis. This regiment acted as body-guard to Gen. Halleck, and participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donaldson, Shiloh and Granville, in the latter of which he was wounded by a saber-cut on the left leg and taken prisoner. Was taken to Jackson, Miss., and Corinth, and there paroled. He was discharged in July, 1863. He then engaged again as salesman, and worked one year. In 1864 he was married to Christina Hartung, and for a few years thereafter followed farming. He then studied for the ministry, and was ordained a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1870, and took the Blooming Grove charge in 1886, after labors elsewhere. He is a graduate of the Erfurt high school and military school of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Jahn are the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, they having lost the other four in one winter, by diphtheria.

Henry Behne was born on a farm in Hanover, Germany, April 29, 1839, and resided

in the country of his birth until 1853, when he and his sister, Mena Lotweizer, and her husband started across the ocean for America's shore. Landing in New York, they proceeded to Will County, Ill., where Mr. Behne worked out for two years, and then came to Minnesota and was employed at several places in the vicinity of Faribault. March 28, 1860, he and Hannah Müller were united in matrimony, and immediately after he rented a farm and tilled the soil thereof for two years, and then purchased the farm on section 15, in this town, where he now lives. Mrs. Behne is the daughter of Frederick and Minnie Müller, both of whom died in the fatherland. Mr. Behne has a fine farm of 280 acres of land, and has fine buildings, making his surroundings very pleasant and agreeable, and, being only six miles from the city of Waseca, is quite convenient to market and store. Mr. and Mrs. Behne are the parents of eight children: Henry W., Emma, now Mrs. Henry Beck; George, August, Mary, Ida, Willie and Louis. The last named died at the age of eleven years. Mr. Behne's parents, William and Sophia Behne, came to America in 1855, and located in Will County, Ill., but later came to Steele County, where the father died in 1876, and where the mother is still living with her youngest son, August.

Henry Singenstrue was born in Oelber, Germany, November 16, 1821, where he lived until 1852, when he sailed for America, landing in New Orleans. From there he went to Cincinnati, and stayed about six months, then to Newport, Ky., where he remained one year. In 1854 he came to Red Wing, Minn., and bought a claim that had been taken up, and remained on this, making improvements, for about two years. He then rented it for two years, he having obtained the appointment as missionary of the German Methodist Episcopal Society. This latter he followed for sixteen years, his work calling him part of the time to Wisconsin, and as far north in Minnesota as the Indian

agency, which was at that time near what is now the village of Redwood Falls. Mr. Singenstrue was married in September, 1861, to Salome Bider, a native of Switzerland. They have had born to them three children: Amelia born September 11, 1862; Berta, who died at the age of eleven months, and Lydia, born November 23, 1866. Amelia and Lydia are still at home. Mr. S. during the summer of 1857 assisted Rev. Groechtenmeyer in his labors in the vicinity.

C. W. Knauss is the son of Christian and Margaret (Popp) Knauss, and was born in Cook County, Ill., March 25, 1867. His father was a native of Alsace, France, born May 28, 1834. The parents of Christian Sr. were engaged in the culture of grapes and making of wine in France, but about 1846 they emigrated to America, settling in Cook County, Ill., where they died. Christian Sr. came to Minnesota about 1881. He was the father of nine children: John, Charles, Christian W., Henry, William, Bertha, Carrie, died in Illinois; Benjamin and Edward. John, the eldest son, was married to Anna Wolf in 1884, and they have one child, Esther; Charles is a blacksmith in St. Paul; C. W. has the general management of the home farm, and resides with his father and mother in a fine brick residence built in 1876, and surrounded by a fine barn and other farm buildings. They have 280 acres of land, 180 of which are under cultivation.

Christian Sutter, an enterprising agriculturist who owns some two hundred and nine acres of fine land on section 8, Blooming Grove Township, was born in the village of Bergen, in the canton of Berne Oberamt, Arrsberg, Switzerland, May 6, 1842. In 1851 the family, consisting of the father, mother and six children, came to the United States, landing in New York. From there they came west as far as Joliet, Ill., where they settled and where the old folks died, the father in 1852, the mother in 1872. Christian remained at home until August 13, 1862, when he en-

listed under Capt. H. P. Goddard in Company H, One Hundreth Illinois Infantry, and participated in all the marching and engagements of that celebrated regiment. Among the latter may be mentioned those of Stone River bridge, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Hatchie River, Missionary Ridge, Dalton, Resaca, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Lovejoy's Station, Columbia, Franklin and Nashville. He was mustered out at Nashville, June 12, 1865, and at Chicago, Ill., on the 3d of July following, received his pay and final discharge, and returned to Will County, Ill., where he followed farming for a year, and in 1866 came to Waseca County. March 16, 1868, he was married to Caroline F. A. Canne, who was born March 16, 1849, by whom he has had ten children: Ida A., born April 28, 1871; Charles F., born June 2, 1872; Emma H., born September 21, 1873; Albert J., born February 6, 1875; Edward O., October 19, 1876; Christian B., born June 27, 1878; Clara L., born March 26, 1880; Amelia P., born January 6, 1882; Benjamin F., January 7, 1884, and Caroline, born December 30, 1885.

John Leonard Bahr was born in Saxony, Germany, August 18, 1847, where he lived until 1853, when he, with his parents and two sisters, sailed for America and located in Waukesha County, Wis., where they lived until 1867, when they immigrated to Minnesota, locating in Deerfield Township, Steele County, his father purchasing a farm on section 18 of that town. John L. remained at home until 1873. March 26, 1872, he married Julia Reineke, the ceremony taking place at the residence of Henry Reineke, the bride's brother. After leaving home in 1873, Mr. Bahr purchased a farm on section 18, in Deerfield Township, where he lived four years and then purchased the 160-acre farm on section 15, Blooming Grove Township, Waseca County, where he still resides. They have had born to them six children: Matilda, born February 17, 1873; Henrietta,



Moses Plummer
(DECEASED)

born March 7, 1875; George, born October 8, 1876; Lydia, born September 21, 1878; Carl, born February 12, 1881, and Amanda, born February 20, 1885, all of whom are living.

While on the road from New York City to Waukesha County, Mr. Nicholas Bahr, father of John, on the train had the misfortune of losing by death a small daughter two and one-half years old. When the officers of the road found that the child was dead they stopped the train, after they had left Detroit about five miles, and insisted on his leaving the train with the child, which he did, carrying the dead body to Detroit, and there buried it the next day.

Mr. J. L. Bahr's parents are both living and are residents of Deerfield, Steele County, on the farm where they first located. Mr. Bahr had two sisters, and one brother who was born in Waukesha County, Wis., April 7, 1858, and who is now a resident of section 18, Deerfield Township, Steele County. The remaining sister is also a resident of Deerfield, now the wife of Geo. Gleichmann. Mrs. John L. Bahr has three brothers living; two are residents of Deerfield and the other is living in Morristown, Rice County. Her mother lives with the brother in Morristown. The father died in Deerfield in 1862, and is buried in the Methodist Episcopal cemetery at Blooming Grove.

Ernest Nordmier is a native of Hesse, Germany, born March 2, 1843. He resided in the country of his birth until he was fifteen years old, when in company with his sister Mena, now Mrs. Christopher Rommal, of Iowa, he came to America. His mother died in Germany in 1860, and is buried at Bassingfeld. The father came to America and died in Lake County, Ill., in 1864, and is

buried there. Mr. Nordmier has three brothers still in the old country, as is also one sister; two brothers, William and Fred., live in Big Stone County, this State; another brother, Henry, lives in Lake County, Ill. Mr. Nordmier was married in 1868 to Gottlieben Oehler, a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, and they have been the parents of eight children: Ernest, Willie, Lydia, Bertha, Ameha, Mena, Louisa, Emma, and one that died in infancy. Mr. Nordmier has a fine farm of 180 acres of land, 100 of which is under cultivation. He is also the owner of some fine grade stock, and is nicely fixed.

Louis Beisner was born in Hesse, Germany, January 25, 1837, where he lived until seventeen years of age. Then he and his brother Henry and two sisters sailed for America. Landing in New York, they came to Cook County, Ill., where they did a farming business for ten or twelve years. During this time, in the year 1861, he was united in marriage with Minnie Roper. In 1866, he and his family moved overland to Waseca County, locating in Blooming Grove Township, purchasing a farm on section 11, where he still resides. They have had born to them eight children: Henry, born February 9, 1863; Charles, November 30, 1864, died June 2, 1880; Louis, born June 13, 1868, died May 19, 1880; Emar, born March 13, died April 11, 1867; Mena, April 11, 1871, died May 12, 1880; Emma, born November 25, 1873, died May 9, 1880; Willie, born May 24, 1876, died May 18, 1880, and Eddie, born May 1, 1880. Mr. Beisner's father died in Germany. He has two brothers in Kansas; one sister, Mrs. Mena Kruger, in Cook County, Ill., and one sister died in Illinois, at the age of twenty-two.

CHAPTER XX.

OTISCO TOWNSHIP.



THE territory embraced in the township of Otisco is designated on the survey plats as township 106 north, range 22 west. It lies upon the eastern line of the county, the second from the south edge. The most of the surface of this portion of the county is moderately rolling, although it sometimes becomes quite hilly. Scattered drift hills and mounds of the morainic belt are largely predominant throughout a portion, and in part these tracts are pretty well sprinkled with boulders, remains of the glacial period.

The soil, the rich, dark loam of southern Minnesota, yields abundantly to a generous cultivation, and some of the finest land in this part of the State is to be found here. Well drained by the Le Sueur River and its tributaries, ample facilities are also afforded by these streams and the smaller affluents for the purpose of watering stock. Groves of timber dot its surface and follow the course of the rivers and creeks, diversifying the view and adding materially to the wealth and natural resources of Otisco.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In April, 1855, two brothers, William and George Robbins by name, came to the little settlement in this county, and took up claims on the east side of the Le Sueur River, opposite the site of the village of Wilton, but in this township. These were the first settlers in Otisco. In the summer of 1856 they sold their claims to Watters and Chamberlain. In a short time after this they removed west to the Blue Earth County, where one of them still lives.

Michael Anderson settled in what is now Otisco, in July, 1855. Mr. Anderson was a native of Norway, a fine man, and a leader among his countrymen here. About eight years ago he left here and is now in Clay County.

Burgiff Oleson was the next to make a settlement in the territory now known as Otisco, coming here in the fall of 1855, and settling on section 32, where he preempted 160 acres of land, where he now lives. He has added many improvements to the place in the way of a fine residence, good out-buildings and an excellent barn 46x64 feet in size. He is a native of Norway, born February 21, 1828, and came to America in May, 1851. Settling in Dodge County, Wis., at first, he was there married, September 16, 1855, to Julia Anderson, who was born in Norway, March 14, 1837. They then came to this county as above stated. They have lived here ever since, and have been the parents of twelve children: Ole, born July 6, 1856; Andrew, born November 19, 1858, died October 7, 1861; Christian, born March 6, 1865, died March 12, 1865; Julia, born February 4, 1861, died February 6, 1861; Christian, born April 22, 1866, died March 8, 1874. Andrew, born August 29, 1862; Sarah, November 9, 1868; Julia, September 4, 1870; Mary, October 19, 1873; Christian, November 4, 1876; Sophia, October 10, 1879, and Julius, June 16, 1883. The first year Mr. Oleson spent in this county, his shanty, which was covered with a hay roof, was burned down a bitter cold day in the middle of that cold winter, and his wife froze her hands severely in going to her neighbor, Michael Anderson's. During the war Mr. Oleson

was drafted into the army, but the town raising the requisite number of men by substitutes, he was not compelled to go to the front.

The next to make a settlement here were Robert and Hugh McDougal, who came here in the fall of 1855, and took up their claims on the northwest quarter of section 6, where they put up a cabin and kept "bach."

Robert McDougal was born amid the highlands of Scotland, March 26, 1821, but when he was as yet but a small boy, his parents left their native home and settled in Canada, near where the present town of Guelph now stands. In this vast wilderness Robert was reared and inured to the hardships of a pioneer life. In 1854 he and his brother Hugh came to Iowa, and in the fall of 1855 to this place. Each entered a claim where the present McDougal farm now is, and commenced baching, for they were both unmarried. They, as well as their neighbors, the Robbins boys, had filed their claims without thinking of declaring their intentions of becoming naturalized citizens of the United States, believing that it could as well be done at the time of proving up their claim. But this was not strictly legal, so some parties proceeded to jump their claim, with the result, as is related elsewhere at length, of being compelled to quit, themselves. A few years after this they proved up their claims and Hugh returned to Canada, where he still resides. Robert, packing up his traps, and with a horse and wagon started for the western mountain mines. He spent a year at the mines at the head of the Saskatchewan River, then crossed over the Rocky Mountains into Washington Territory, where he remained until about 1860. After a short visit here he returned to Canada, where he remained several years. On the 6th of April, 1866, he was united in marriage with Annie McKersie, at Toronto, and immediately afterward came to their farm in this county. They were the parents of nine children: Catherine L., born December

7, 1866; Annie R., July 22, 1868, married Frank Erfurth, January 1, 1886, and is the mother of one child, Anna M., born March 10, 1887; Jeannette C., March 26, 1870; William W., August 12, 1872; Robert B., June 15, 1874; Maggie G., May 6, 1876; Bessie C., March 1, 1878; Isabella M., November 4, 1880, and Hugh P., April 27, 1882. Mr. McDougal gave his name to one of the creeks of this county. On the 15th of January, 1887, he was called by death to his reward beyond the grave, and his remains lie buried in Wilton cemetery. His wife has a fine farm of some two hundred acres, about seventy of which are under cultivation.

Ferdinand Turnaer and his sons, Jackson and Delevan, came to Waseca County in 1855, and settled in this township. All are still residents of the county, living in Wilton Township.

G. Goetzenberger settled on section 21 in this township, in November, 1855, bringing his family with him from Galena, Ill. He was a native of Wittemburg, Germany, born in 1814, and came to the United States in 1853. He is now a resident of the city of Waseca.

Bernard Bunchell, now in Portland, Ore., came to this place in 1855, and remained many years.

J. G. Greening made a settlement here in 1855, and remained here until his death.

Austin Abell, a native of New York, came to this township in September, 1855, and made a claim. During the war he was a member of the Eleventh Minnesota Infantry. He took up his claim on section 11, the place now owned by his cousin, John S. Abell. He is now a resident of Winona.

On the 9th of June, 1856, H. A. Mosher landed in Otisco, where he took up a claim. He was afterward identified with the official life of the county, and a sketch of him is given in the chapter relating to the office of register of deeds, which he filled for many years, dying while an incumbent of the same in 1884.

E. B. Stearns came to this township in 1856 and made a settlement, and is still a resident.

Ebenezer B. Stearns, one of Waseca County's successful farmers, is a native of Reedsboro, Vt., born October 1, 1812. In February, 1817, the family removed to Onondaga County, N. Y., where he was reared. When he had attained manhood he adopted the trade of carpenter and joiner and built several mills and other buildings while in New York State. In 1847 he went to Belleville, Canada where he was engaged in erecting a mill. In June, 1853, he came with his father's family to Fond du Lac, Wis., and from there came to Minnesota in 1856, arriving here on the 5th of August. He settled on 160 acres of land on section 29 and lived there for ten years, when he sold his farm to J. B. Chapman, and moved to Lemond Township, Steele County, but after one year's residence there, returned to this town and purchased 210 acres of land, on section 19, where he now lives. He has since added eighty acres to his farm, and now has 290 acres in all. August 2, 1851, he was united in marriage with Emily Garrett, who was born in Albany County, N. Y., September 7, 1829. They have had six children as follows: Susan Ellen, born September 5, 1852, who married Frank W. Weed, January 7, 1878, and died October 13, 1883; George B., born December 26, 1854, married Jennie R. Weed, July 18, 1877; William H., born May 26, 1859, married Sarah Armitage, a native of Yorkshire, England, May 14, 1884, born December 17, 1857, and came to the United States in 1882; Mary E., born July 9, 1862, married Rev. Melvin R. Baldrige, July 11, 1882; Cora Isabel, born April 2, 1865, and Charles Albert, born May 11, 1878. Mr. Stearns has held the office of county commissioner three terms, that of town supervisor for three terms, and justice of the peace three terms. He is a strong Prohibitionist.

J. A. Canfield came to Waseca County in 1856, and settled in Otisco. He came here from Dodge County, Wis., and arrived on

the 9th of June. He served for many years as judge of the probate court of this county, but died in January, 1884, and is noticed at length in the chapter relating to State and County Representation.

Silas Grover came to what is now the town of Otisco in 1856, and taking up a claim, settled there and remained a resident for many years. April 12, 1870, in Waseca, he passed over to the land beyond the grave, at the advanced age of seventy-seven years.

William Smith, now a citizen of Dixon, Ill., came here in the fall of 1856, and lived here some years.

W. S. Baker, afterward the first treasurer of the county, settled in Otisco on coming to Waseca County, in 1856. A sketch of him is given in Chapter VIII.

Harlow Williams and James Wells, two young men and unmarried, came here in 1856 and took up claims, and after proving up the same, sold out and left this county.

Mr. Flowers, the father of Mark D. Flowers, the State adjutant-general, was a settler here in 1856. He resided here but a short time, when he removed to Meriden, Steele County, and later to St. Paul.

Parselus Young came here in 1856 and made a claim, but moved away a few years later. During the war he enlisted among the "brave boys in blue," and rose to the rank of colonel of a colored regiment.

H. G. Mosher made his first appearance on the stage of Waseca County on the 10th of October, 1856. Mr. Mosher resided here for many years, filling several important public offices, and is mentioned at length in that connection. The first winter after Mr. Abell brought his family here, H. G. Mosher, his wife and two children lived in the cabin of J. S. Abell, who also had a wife and two children. This cabin was but 16x20 feet in size and was considerably crowded.

Adam Bishman, still residing here, located in Otisco in 1856. He is a native of Germany, born March 27, 1824, and came to this country in 1846.

Benjamin, John and George Northup came to Otisco in 1856, and for many years resided here.

Zachariah Holbrook made a settlement here in 1856. He was a native of western New York. He was one of the few men who although comparatively uneducated was a most excellent financier. He died in this township in March, 1886.

Ole Peterson, a native of Norway, made a settlement here in 1856, and is now a resident of the township.

Charles Johnson was another of the Norwegian emigrants that founded a home in Otisco Township in 1856, and is still a resident here.

John S. Abell, came to Otisco Township in January, 1857, and made a claim. He, however, went back to Winona, and came here again in the spring of 1858, and made a permanent settlement. He was a native of New York State, and represented this district in the State Legislature, under which head a sketch of him in detail is given.

Edward Smith came here in the spring of 1857, and made a settlement.

On the 10th of May, 1857, a party consisting of S. A. Farrington and wife, his father, mother and sister, Franklin Farrington, Mrs. Lincoln, a widow with five children, Volney DeWitt and wife and Michael Quiggle, a young man, a blacksmith by trade, left Green Lake County, Wis., for the wilds of southern Minnesota. This little company of emigrants were embarked in five wagons drawn by nine yoke of oxen, and drove with them some cows and other cattle. Traveling westward through the western part of the "Badger State," near La Crosse, they fell in with another band of wayfarers, who joined company with them. These latter were Daniel Styles and wife, and their son Elijah and his wife. After a hard and laborious trip they all reached Otisco safely on the 14th of June, and at once commenced to occupy the land. S. A. Farrington settled on section 25, where he resided for many

years. He is living in Wilton Township at the present writing.

Franklin Farrington located on section 24 and opened up a farm. He is now a resident of Minneapolis. Their father is still living in Owatonna.

Volney DeWitt put up a cabin on a portion of section 24, but afterward removed to Iowa, where he now lives.

Michael Quiggle put up a blacksmith shop on section 26, the first in the township.

Elijah Styles settled down to a farmer's life on his claim on section 15, and lived here until, during the war, he enlisted among our nation's defenders, and fills a soldier's grave 'neath the green sod of the Sunny South, dying February 16, 1863. Daniel Styles, his father, died in 1879, and his body rests peacefully in the Otisco cemetery.

During the same spring of 1857 Philip Quiggle, the father of Michael, heretofore mentioned, came here from Wisconsin to go to work in the shop of his son, for he, too, was a blacksmith by trade. The next year the shop caught fire and burned to the ground. The old man, who had but limited means, thought it best to go to Owatonna to work at his trade, which he did, and the next year moved back to Wisconsin.

Owen Salisbury located here in 1857. He was an old and feeble man, and did not attempt to do any farming, but kept the postoffice at Otisco. About the year 1860 he removed to Warsaw, Minn., where he kept a hotel. Later he moved to Wabasha County, where he died.

Ole Anderson came to Otisco Township at an early day, and preëmpted 160 acres of land on section 35, and afterward purchased eighty acres more on the same section. He is a native of Norway, born May 16, 1832, and came to the United States, bringing his mother with him, in 1853. He first settled in Wisconsin, where he remained until coming here. In 1863 he was married in New Richland Township to Mary Knutson, who was born in Norway, August 13, 1843, and

came to America in 1853. They have been the parents of thirteen children: Ernest, born March 15, 1864, married to Barbara Knutson; Julia, February 26, 1865, married Bank Evenson; Knute, born October 1, 1866; Betsey, July 29, 1868; Ole, February 25, 1870; Sarah, February 24, 1872, died in infancy; Severt, January 7, 1873, died in infancy; Severt, June 11, 1874; Nina, May 7, 1876, died aged ten months; Olena, January 1, 1878; Elbert, March 23, 1880; Clara, July 19, 1882, and Minnie, September 13, 1885. Mr. Anderson and family are members of the Lutheran Church. He is a Republican in politics.

John Peterson came to the town of Otisco in the spring of 1857, where he purchased eighty acres of land and homesteaded forty more. In addition to this he has bought forty acres and now has a farm of 160 acres, all on section 28. He is a native of Sweden, born February 6, 1828, and came to America in 1853. For the first six months after landing he was doing general work in Chicago, and from there he went to Indiana, where he remained until he came to Waseca County, Minn. Our subject was united in marriage in Otisco Township with Caroline Larson, a native of Sweden, born March 11, 1843, and came to America with her parents in the spring of 1853. Mr. Peterson's parents died in the old country previous to his leaving there; Mrs. Peterson's parents live in this township. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have been the parents of nine children: Victor Edward, born November 3, 1860, and died July 14, 1861; Carl L., April 22, 1862; Mary A., October 8, 1865; P. Victor, July 22, 1867; John August, April 5, 1871; Helena Sophia, March 3, 1874; Oscar Theodore and Otto Herman, June 23, 1876; and Lief, August 18, 1879. Mr. Peterson is a Republican in politics, and has held the offices of supervisor, assessor and treasurer, the last two for many years. He had the misfortune to lose his right arm in a thrashing machine in October, 1875, but manages to carry on his extensive

farming operations successfully nevertheless.

John Anderson came to Otisco in the year 1857, and made a settlement on section 16. He is a native of Sweden, born November 6, 1831. He came to the United States in 1853, and settled in Indiana, where, March 29, 1855, he was united in marriage with Mary Peterson, by whom he had one child, Albert, born January 10, 1856. The next year after the birth of his son, he came to Waseca County. In 1863 he went to Rochester, and enlisted in Company D, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. He was with the regiment until October, 1865, when he was mustered out at Nashville, Tenn., and was discharged at Fort Snelling. December 28, 1881, his wife died, and on the first Sunday in October, 1884, he was again married, this time to Anna Johnson. He belongs to the Lutheran Mission Church.

Moses Johnson came to Otisco in 1857, and bought 120 acres of land on section 27, where he now lives. He was born near Stockholm, Sweden, December 14, 1831, and came to the United States in August, 1855. He at first located at Lafayette, Ind., where he remained until coming to this place. In December, 1860, he was united in marriage with Christina Larson, daughter of Lars Hogenson, of this township. She was born in Sweden, June 10, 1840. They have been the parents of the following children: Carl Otto, born August 26, 1861; Tina, September 15, 1863; Lars Edward, March 1, 1866; John Alfred, September 17, 1869; Emma Matilda, January 26, 1872; Herman Theodore, December 15, 1874, and Oscar Renhalt, June 12, 1880. Mr. Johnson has held the offices of town supervisor and road master. He is a Republican in politics, and in religion a Lutheran. He carries on his farm now, but for some thirteen seasons ran a thrashing machine, which business he has turned over to his eldest son, Otto.

Orrin and Warren Bundy came to this township in the early part of 1857, and in July of the same year, in company with S.

S. Goodrich, laid out the town site of Otisco. Orrin enlisted during the war, and died in the service.

S. S. Goodrich and his two brothers came here in 1857, and in July of that year S. S. was one of the parties engaged in laying out the village of Otisco. They were also connected with the store in the village, but removed from here to Lyons County, Minn.

A man by the name of Vosberg settled here in 1857, and while here married a Miss Goodrich, and when his father-in-law removed to Lyon County, went with him.

Among the others who came to this township in 1857 was a man by the name of Wyman, who resided here but a few years, when he removed to McLeod County.

William Ashley Jones, a South Carolinian, took up a claim on section 5, at a very early day, but never made any improvements, and soon removed to Winona.

Two Germans by the name of Michael Wanka and Wilhelm Wilke, came here in 1857, and purchased land on section 16, where they lived some years. They are both now in Olmsted County.

Peter Lindsay took up some land in this town in 1857, but his residence was erected in Woodville.

S. S. Griggs was one of the pioneers of the year 1858. He, in connection with Obert, at one time owned the sawmill at Otisco. About the year 1861 he removed to Kasota. He never was a farmer while here, being engaged only in the lumbering business.

John Nelson came to this township in 1858 and settled on section 28, on which he now lives. He is a native of Sweden, born March 6, 1830. He came to the United States in 1853, and remained in Indiana for some years, working among the farmers of that State. From there he came to Cannon Falls, Minn., where he arrived May 25, 1858, and remaining in that place until the 24th of the following October, he then came here, taking up eighty acres of land with a land warrant, to which he has added forty

acres more on section 21, purchased of the railroad company. He was married in Sweden, in the year 1852, to Annic Johnson, and they were the parents of one child, Hattie, born April 27, 1853, now the wife of Frank Lombard, living in this town. On the 1st of February, 1854, his wife departing this life, he lived alone until October, 1856, when he and Charlotte Peterson were united in marriage. They have had born to them the following children: P. August, born in 1863; Charles, born April 1, 1871, died February 6, 1873; Caroline, born 1873, and William in 1874.

Joseph Minges made a settlement in this township in 1858, and is still a resident of the same. He is noticed at length in Chapter VIII of this work.

J. D. Andrews came to Waseca County in 1858, and on the 3d of July of that year settled in Otisco. Some time after this he entered into the drug business at Wilton, buying the E. A. Smith store. In later years he was engaged in the drug business in Duluth, but he came back to this county and was in the same line in Janesville, among the pioneer merchants of the new town of that name. He died at Madison, D. T., June 11, 1887, having removed to that Territory in the fall of 1878.

Edwin S. Weed, who does a general farming and stock-raising business on the eighty acres of land which he owns on section 31, in this township, is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in Fond du Lac County, September 20, 1858, and came to this county with his parents the same year, when but an infant six weeks old. He has remained in this county ever since. Here he was reared, here he was educated, and here, March 16, 1885, he was married to Lida Kellogg, and here their child Jennie Laura was born. Mrs. Weed was born in Jackson County, Iowa, April 18, 1857. Mr. Weed is a Republican in politics, and is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens.

Albert Anderson, who has a fine farm of

160 acres of land on section 11, is a native of Indiana, born January 10, 1857. His parents were both born in Sweden, the father in December, 1830, and the mother in January of the same year. When Albert was but two or three years of age the family came to Otisco Township, and here he grew to manhood. In the year 1878, he was united in marriage with Ida Christine Johnson, who was born in Sweden, July 8, 1859. They are the parents of three children: Joseph Alpha, born May 5, 1879; Arnst Walford, October 19, 1880, and Johanna Maria, April 6, 1882. They belong to the Lutheran Church, and Mr. Anderson is a Republican in politics.

Moses Plummer, whose sketch is given below, made a settlement here in the spring of 1860.

Moses Plummer (deceased), one of the early settlers of this township, and one of the industrious, intelligent and thrifty farmers who have done so much to develop the resources of the county, was born among the granite hills of New Hampshire, in the town of Sanborn-ton, Belknap County. The date of his birth was December 23, 1817. He was reared in that county, farming part of the time in his native town, and part of the time in the adjoining one of Meredith. On November 11, 1844, he was united in marriage with Matilda S. Cate, a native of Meredith, N. H. Shortly after their marriage they moved to a farm near Sanbornton, where they resided a few years and then removed to another place near by, where they lived until 1859. Mr. Plummer then sold out there and moved to Minnesota and located at first in Clinton, Steele County, where they remained that winter, in order to allow their son George to attend school. In March, 1860, they came to Otisco Township, this county, where Mr. Plummer purchased the farm on sections 3 and 4, where Mrs. Plummer now resides, and which contains 180 acres. In 1850 Mr. Plummer was in the town hall at Meredith, N. H., when part of the floor gave way, pre-

cipitating a part of the 300 people present into the abyss, killing several and injuring many, among the latter Mr. Plummer, who then received injuries that eventually killed him. For some five years previous to his death he was completely paralyzed and totally helpless, until released from suffering by death on the 20th of September, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Plummer were the parents of three children: George C., born October 17, 1845, who died March 17, 1865; Charles M., born March 1, 1866, and died November 21, 1866, and Georgia born January 20, 1870, now in Owatonna attending school. Mr. Plummer's death was sadly mourned by not only the family, but a large circle of acquaintances. He was a man of high moral character, and patiently bore sufferings which would have shaken the faith of other men. In his day he was an active and influential citizen, and in his affliction the county lost the services of a worthy man.

Knud Hanson was also one of the settlers of the year 1860. He is a native of Norway, born August 24, 1824. He resided in the land of his birth until he was thirty-six years old. March 15, 1860, he was united in marriage with Mary Tollifson, and the 29th of the following July sailed for America and came direct to Otisco Township and settled, as above stated, and bought 160 acres of land on section 35, where he now lives. In 1862 Mr. Hanson enlisted in Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and participated in the Sibley expedition. During the winter of 1862-3 they were stationed at the Winnebago agency, and in the spring started after the Indians, defeating them five times. In October he, with the regiment, went to St. Louis to guard prisoners, and from there to the front, where Mr. Hanson participated in the battles of Guntown, Miss., and Nashville, Tenn. After the last battle he was taken sick, contracting rheumatism, which troubles him much to the present time, and was confined to the hospital until he was discharged, when he

came back home. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson had born to them nine children: Hans, married in June, 1882, to Anna Hanson; Peter, Mary, Barbara, Annie, Caroline (deceased,) Matilda, Caroline and Tollef M. Barbara was married December 3, 1886, to Ernest Oleson. Mrs. Hanson died May 22, 1886. Mr. Hanson is a Republican in politics.

Halvor Thorson was also a settler of 1860.

HISTORIC ITEMS.

The first birth in the township was that of a child of Michael Anderson, born in July, 1856.

The first marriage was that of William F. Armstrong and Sarah F. Farrington, which took place July 2, 1858.

The first death was that of Lillie J. Canfield, who died August 18, 1859.

ORGANIC.

At the first organization of the county, in the spring of 1857, all the territory now embraced in the townships of New Richland, Byron and Vivian, together with the south one-third of what is now Wilton and Otisco, was organized into one civil town under the name of Otisco, but on the 5th of April, 1858, what now constitutes the town was set off and retained the name it bears. The first election was held at the house of Owen Salisbury, and that gentleman, H. G. Mosher and S. S. Griggs were the judges of the election.

WATERLYNN.

Early in the summer of 1856, Watters and Chamberlain, taking advantage of the trouble between the settlers and the proprietors of the town of Wilton, purchased the claims of William and George Robbins, on the east side of the river, and there laid out a town which they christened by the above name. This was right opposite the site of Wilton and the owners expected it would prove a formidable rival to the prospective town above named. A store and a hotel were erected that summer, the latter part frame

and part log. But it never amounted to anything; the hotel was burned down in 1858, while occupied as a residence of William Murphy, and a fine farm is now found upon the site of this embryo town.

VILLAGE OF OTISCO.

A village of the above name was laid out in July, 1857, by Warren Bundy and S. S. Goodrich, but it never amounted to very much. Although, doubtless, the proprietors indulged in golden dreams of the prospective importance and business prosperity of the place, its history can be summed up in a few words. Where once they hoped to hear the busy whir of machinery, or the ceaseless hum of commercial activity, now resounds only to the low of kine or whistle of the plow-boy at his work, and is covered with nodding corn or bending grain. In its infancy it was nothing, and at its prime it had but the sawmill, a store and the postoffice.

The sawmill was erected in the fall of 1857 by Daniel and Gould Grover, two sons of Silas Grover, who ran it but a short time, when it was purchased by Griggs & Obert. After a time it again passed into the hands of Gould Grover, who was killed in the mill, when it became the property of Eno & Beatty, but they becoming unpopular left it, and the dam going out, the mill fell into decay and went to pieces.

A small store, the stock consisting of groceries, clothing, etc., was started by the Goodriches, at Otisco, in the latter part of 1857. It was but a small affair and did not last any length of time.

The postoffice was established in 1857, and Owen Salisbury was the first postmaster.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

Sketches of some of the more prominent representative people of Otisco Township are given here as indicative of the general population.

Roger B. Wood, one of the enterprising and intelligent agriculturists of this township,

resides on section 31, on the farm, part of which he purchased in 1869, and which contains 354 acres, he having sold some six acres to the railroad company. He is a native of Stormont County, Ontario, born June 1, 1842, and was reared in the country of his birth. In 1862, he came to the United States, and for two years remained in Riga, Monroe County, N. Y. From there he removed to Oil City, Pa., where he was engaged in the blacksmith trade for some two years, when he came west and worked at his trade in Owatonna, for Philip Shuester, but only stayed one month, coming to Waseca Village where he opened a blacksmith shop of his own and there lived until April 1, 1871, when he moved on his farm. December 15, 1869, he was united in marriage with Parmelia Smith, in Byron Township. She was born at Oak Grove, Dodge County, Wis., February 1, 1852, and came to Minnesota with her parents in 1866. The family settled in Goodhue County, but a year later came to Byron Township, this county, where the father died in February, 1881; the mother lives near Alma City. Mr. and Mrs. Wood have been the parents of the following children: Jessie J., born August 27, 1871; Benjamin W., born January 19, 1873; James A., January 13, 1875; John W., born October 26, 1881, died November 12, 1883; Roger G., born March 28, 1878; Edna Jennie Grace, July 1, 1883, and Robert A., December 7, 1885. Mr. Wood is engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He and his wife are members of the Wesleyan Church, and are ardent prohibitionists.

Samuel Leslie, one of the leading farmers of this town, is a native of Essex County, N. Y., born September 9, 1837. He came to Minnesota in November, 1866, and helped plat the city of Waseca in the spring and summer of 1867, and lived in that beautiful city until about 1870, when he moved to Otisco Township, on section 4, where he now resides, and where he has 240 acres of very fine land. His buildings are first class, and

are surrounded with a fine grove and orchard. All this prosperity is the result of his own industry, he having settled here on the wild prairie, and by labor and perseverance he has made a beautiful home. He was married September 23, 1860, to Mary E. Sisson, and they have been the parents of ten children, seven of whom are living: Jennie M., born December 6, 1861, married to C. G. Mosher, February 10, 1886, and has one child, Ruth F., born in December, 1886; Frank J., born October 6, 1863; Herbert J., February 7, 1866; Ralph B., April 7, 1869; Mark P., June 6, 1871, and Ella, July 12, 1875.

Joseph T. Dunn, who resides on his highly cultivated farm on section 4 in this township, is a native of Park County, Ind., born November 21, 1855. He is the son of William and Mary J. (Baird) Dunn, both natives of Ireland, the former born March 31, 1823, and died March 20, 1884; the latter born in 1819, and died in September, 1871. When Joseph was but one year old the family came to this county, settling on section 35, Woodville Township, where they were among the earliest settlers. In this county he was reared, and he remained at home with his parents until after the death of his mother, when he commenced life for himself. March 21, 1877, he and Lena Beck were united in marriage, at Owatonna. The following summer he rented a farm in Wilton Township, where he raised one crop, and then bought eighty acres of land in Woodville Township, where he lived until the spring of 1881. He then purchased 120 acres on section 24, Otisco, but five years later he bought the place where he now lives, selling the farm on section 24 to James M. Dunn. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn are the parents of three children: Joseph H., born January 9, 1878; Anna, December 31, 1879, and Martha, November 2, 1883. Mr. Dunn does a general farming and stock-raising business, and owns a fine horse of the Norman Percheron breed.

H. O. Robbins was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., April 15, 1844, and re-

sided with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age, when he moved to Wisconsin, but after five years' residence there he came to Wilton, Minn., where he spent about eighteen months. From there he went to the city of Waseca, where he remained two years and a half. The next three years were spent on his father's farm on section 16, this township. He then removed to Meriden, Steele County, but two years later came back to the farm, which he is now working for his father on shares. He is doing a general farming and stock-raising business, and has a herd of some twelve head of cattle, two horses, besides other stock. He was united in marriage July 20, 1871, in Waseca with Sarah Ellis, who was born November 21, 1852. They have been the parents of three children: Cora A., born April 19, 1872; Edwin H., October 4, 1873, and Erskine A., August 14, 1882. Mr. Robbins has filled the offices of school director and clerk, and constable and road overseer, and is a Prohibitionist.

Asa Robbins, father of H. O. Robbins, was born in the State of New York in 1811. On the 5th of February, 1838, he was married to Hulda A. Chapman. She was born January 9, 1815, and died on the 10th of December, 1885.

William Kugath was born in Germany, April 27, 1857, and came to the United States in 1873. He came to Chicago on first landing, and there he remained for six years, and then came to Waseca County, and worked for different parties in Otisco Township until 1883, when he purchased 160 acres of land on section 12, in this town, where he now lives. His parents came to this country in 1881, and are now keeping house for him. He was a poor man when he came here but he now has a good farm, well improved and well stocked, and is in good shape financially. He is a Republican in politics and a Lutheran in religion.

Gustaf Johnson was born in Sweden, November 25, 1831, and lived in that coun-

try until coming to the United States. He was united in marriage with Johanna Johnson, a native of Sweden, born in 1831. They came direct from their native land to Otisco Township, where Mr. Johnson purchased eighty acres of land on section 2, where he now lives. They are the parents of six children: Christina, born July 6, 1859; Charles, born April 24, 1861; Osear, born January 28, 1864; Hilda, born August 21, 1866; John, born February 5, 1871. and Edwin, born December 15, 1872. All are living in this township except Osear, who is in Idaho. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Lutheran Church, and a Republican in politics.

Otto Hanson was born in Norway, March 16, 1850, and came to the United States with his parents in 1867. His father died here October 1, 1885, his mother in 1869, and both are buried in Otisco cemetery. He was married in Wisconsin, March 15, 1874, to Ellen Thompson, when he moved to eighty acres of land on section 24, that he had previously bought. He lived there awhile and then sold it and purchased 360 acres on sections 14 and 23, on which he has put up a fine house and a barn 32x88-feet in size, with a wing to it 16x24 and granary and other outbuildings. When he came here he was a poor man, having nothing and owing \$35 for his passage over the water, but he went to work for a farmer and worked three weeks for \$5. He then hired out to work through haying and harvest for \$13 per month, and from that on up until he is now in good comfortable circumstances, brought about mainly by his own industry and thrift. He and Mrs. Hanson are the parents of five children: Martin, born July 7, 1875; Helena Sophia, born September 27, 1876; Emil, born May 19, 1878; Mena, born January 16, 1880, and Henry Osear, born January 13, 1884. He and his family belong to the Lutheran Church.

James Irwin was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in May, 1828, and came to the

United States for the first time, in 1849. He worked on a farm in New Jersey, near Had-donfield, for five years, and then returned to Ireland, but one year later came back, and came west to Wisconsin, where he bought a farm of John G. Pease, at La Prairie, south of Janesville. April 31, 1860, he was married at Watertown, Wis., to Sarah Fitz-patriek, and moved to his farm, where he had built a house and sunk a well eighty-one feet deep. He lived there awhile when he sold out and purchased eighty acres of land near Watertown, where he lived for a number of years. He enlisted in the Sixteenth Illinois Infantry and went to the front. While at Chickasaw, Ala., they lost fifty-two men by the close fire of the rebels, but he escaped scot-free. He was discharged in April, 1865, and having no money Capt. Warren of his regiment took his discharge and an order on the paymaster, and let him have the money, promising to send his discharge, which he has failed yet to do. He came home, arriving there about a week before the assassination of President Lincoln. He remained on his farm in Wisconsin until 1870, when he came to this county, arriving here April 18, and purchased the northwest quarter of section 25, this town. They have had five children born to them: George, born May 3, 1861; William John, born February 20, 1863; Mary Ann, born October 8, 1865, died July 29, 1880; James, born January 28, 1868, and Patrick Thomas, born March 14, 1870. These were all born in Wisconsin. The family are all members of the Catholic Church, and he is a Democrat politically.

Johnny Larson was born in Sweden, April 2, 1849, and came to the United States with his parents in 1853. They remained for a short time at West Point, Ind., and then removed to Attica, in the same State. From the latter place they moved to this county, where the father purchased some forty acres of land on section 21, this township. Here Johnny Larson lived with his father, working on the farm until he was

twenty-one years of age, when he was married to Clara Matilda Johnson, and purchased 160 acres of land where he now lives. At that time the place was but little improved, but he now has nearly ninety acres under cultivation, with a good house, barn, granary, etc., and the buildings are surrounded by a fine grove. Mr. and Mrs. Larson have one child, Charles Arvid, born March 14, 1871. Mr. and Mrs. Larson are members of the Lutheran Church. He is a Republican.

C. Bauman who has a fine farm of 200 acres on sections 19 and 20, this township, is a native of West Prussia, Germany, born August 12, 1833. He lived in the land of his nativity for many years, and there, July 2, 1860, he was united in marriage with Wilhelmina Tesch, who was born in the same part of Europe, February 7, 1837. They immigrated to America in 1871, and came at once to Waseca County, and rented a farm for some three years, when he bought his present place. When they came over to this country, many of the passengers had cholera, and some eighty-five of them died, three of their children, John, Anna and Mary, among them. Mrs. Bauman died June 3, 1885, leaving six children: Otto, born December 2, 1861; Frank, born October 4, 1863; Carl, born March 4, 1873; Elizabeth, born July 2, 1876; Clara Augusta, born August 2, 1878, and Gustave, born September 2, 1886.

Mrs. Christine Spoonburg, widow, whose maiden name was Johnson, was born in Sweden, February 4, 1837. She came to America in 1869, with her brother and sister, the former of whom lives in Davenport, Iowa, and the latter in Waseca. Christine Johnson was married to John Spoonburg, in New Richland. He, also, was a native of Sweden, born October 12, 1838, and came to this country in 1869, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 34, where his widow still resides. They had born to them six children: Abbie Althie, born September 17,

1871; John Andrew, born February 21, 1873; Ellen, born October 12, 1874, died April 6, 1882; Caroline Virginia, born July 17, 1876; Oscar Emil, born March 1, 1878, died June 6, 1882, and Herman L., born March 24, 1880. Mrs. Spoonburg is a member of the Lutheran Church.

John A. Tolin was born in Sweden, April 29, 1859, and came to the United States in 1881, coming directly to Waseca County, on landing on the shores of this great republic. He remained in the city of Waseca, about a week, and then went to St. Peter where he remained two years, and then came to this township and bought eighty acres of land on sections 1 and 2, and built him a house on the last named. Mr. Tolin was united in marriage with Hilda Johnson, and they have one child, Hannah. Mr. Tolin carries on his farm and works at the trade of carpenter, when there is a demand for that kind of labor.

Frederick Lundquist was born in Sweden, July 3, 1837, where his parents died. He came to the United States in 1866, and for the first year made his residence in Illinois, after which he came to Otisco Township, this county, and purchased 125 acres of land on section 2, where he now lives. January 3, 1869, he and Sophia Maria Larson were united in marriage, and they are the parents of four children: Ida Melvina, born February 21, 1870; Simon Ludwig, January 4, 1872; Adla Lyustina, November 3, 1876; Hannah Albertina, September 17, 1881. Simon Ludwig died November 4, 1882. When Mr. Lundquist came to America he was a poor man, but by industry and energy he has acquired a fine property, and is on the high road to an easy competency. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and a Republican.

John Youngberg was born in Sweden, October 5, 1844, and when, in 1866, he immigrated to America, he came direct to Otisco Township, Waseca County, and worked as a farm hand for different parties until 1868,

when he bought 120 acres of land on section 27. He has since sold eighty acres of this, but purchased the same amount, and still owns 120 acres, on which he now carries on farming operations. Mr. Youngberg was married to Mary Hanson, who was born in Norway, June 15, 1852, and came to this country with her parents. They have had a family of twelve children: August John, born June 12, 1870, deceased; Alfred, born April 1, 1871; Hulda Christina, born February 23, 1873; Agnes Josephine, born February 19, 1875; Carl Oscar, born May 12, 1877; Ludwig, born December 13, 1879, deceased; Otto Larson, born December 19, 1880, deceased; Lena, born December 13, 1881; Samuel, born February 9, 1882, deceased; Tena, born May 10, 1883, deceased; Theodore, born July 6, 1885, and Victor, born October 9, 1886, deceased. Mr. Youngberg's parents are still living in the old country. Their name is Larson, but Mr. Youngberg changed his name owing to there being so many of the name of Larson in the vicinity, and the confusion in mail and other matters. He has three brothers and one sister in America, August J., in Nebraska, the others in the Black Hills, Dakota. Their names are Gabriel, Otto and Mary.

Mrs. Louisa Peterson, widow, whose maiden name was Anderson, was born in Sweden, October 16, 1827. During the year 1856 she was united in marriage with John P. Peterson, a native of that country, born in 1828. In 1857, they, in company with Mrs. Peterson's mother, came to the United States, settling in Princeton, Ill., where they lived for seven years, Mr. Peterson being engaged in working on farms for others. They then came to this county and settled on section 28, where he bought eighty acres of land, afterward adding 160 acres to it. In December, 1867, their house was burned down, so they dug a hole in the ground, in which they lived some six years, then built a good house, in which she now lives with two of her children, and carries on her farm, her hus-

band having been killed by the cars in February, 1883, close to his home. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were the parents of seven children: Andrew Oscar, born in Sweden, January 27, 1857, married and lives in this county; Mary Louisa, born in Illinois, January 6, 1859, married; Carl, born in Illinois, October 10, 1861, died in Princetown, July, 1857; Frank Victor, born October 2, 1862, married, and lives in Minneapolis; Emma Sophia, born in Minnesota, October 1, 1865; Charles Leander, born December 6, 1867, and Anna Charlotte, born June 10, 1871, married.

Charles Gustafson was born in Sweden, April 17, 1845, and came to the United States in 1868. The same year he came to Waseca County and worked for different parties at farm work, which he followed for two or three years, when he purchased 120 acres of land on section 35, in Woodville township, on which he built a house, barn, etc., and where he lived for a time. He then sold part of this and purchased eighty acres in section 2, of this township, where he now lives. His father died in this town in June, 1876, but the mother is still living here. Mrs. Gustafson is also a native of Sweden and they have a family of seven children: Charles Emil, born April 10, 1876; Emma Otilia, born April 19, 1877; Alfred Theodore, born December 2, 1878; Joseph F., born June 27, 1880; Johanna Christine, born February 4, 1882; Frank Ludwig, born November 21, 1884, and Oscar Simon, born January 5, 1887. Mr. Gustafson is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Lutheran Church.

Frederick Zell and his brother Louis have a very fine farm of some 240 acres of land in this township, and although they were poor men when they came here, yet by per-

severance and industry they have acquired property worth about \$8,000. Frederick was born in Prussia, January 12, 1846, and with his brother came to America in 1872. For a year they remained in New York, and then came to this county, settling in Otisco Township. They are Republicans in politics and are members of the Lutheran Church. Louis was married in the fall of 1884, to Otilia Platt, and they are the parents of one child, Elfrida, born September 15, 1885. The brothers carry on farming and stock-raising on an extensive scale, and they deserve to be ranked among the wealthy farmers of Waseca County.

Lars Peterson was born in Sweden, September 28, 1830, and lived in that country until he was some thirty-six years old. April 9, 1855, he was united in marriage with Mary Oleson, and the following children were born to them in their native land: Sophia, born January 14, 1856; Alfred, April 23, 1858; Hadvig, May 13, 1860; Christina, March 27, 1862, and Halga, February 7, 1865. In 1866 Mr. Peterson and his family crossed the ocean to America, and all came direct to this place and settled on section 28, where he owns 160 acres of excellent land. Since coming to this country they have been the parents of four children: August, born September 25, 1869; Ida, December 10, 1872; Leonard, August 4, 1874, and Hildur, December 18, 1875. Sophia, their eldest child, married John Melvin, April 1, 1877, and resides in Swift County, this State. Mr. Peterson is a Republican in politics. The family are members of the Lutheran Church, the mission church building of that denomination standing on his farm not ten rods from his dwelling.

CHAPTER XXI.

JANESVILLE TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.



THE township of Janesville is in the northwestern corner of the county, and embraces all of congressional township 108 north, range 24 west. It contains the least amount of tillable land of any in Waseca County, a large proportion of its surface being covered by the waters of Lake Elysian, a beautiful sheet some five miles long, and in some places a mile and a half wide. The land is fertile and productive, yielding a rich return to the enterprising husbandman. The soil is the rich, dark mold characteristic of this portion of the State and apparently inexhaustible. The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad crosses the town from east to west, affording ample facilities for the transportation of produce and of travel. Janesville Village, a flourishing place, lies within its borders and is the trade center of the precinct. The several small creeks and streamlets that flow into the lakes afford ample drainage to the country, and the large amount of timber, primeval in its source, that still covers a great portion of its surface, supplies an almost inexhaustible amount of fuel, both for home consumption and for sale abroad.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The land of Janesville Township lay basking beneath the blazing sun of summer or clothed with the snowy mantle of winter, in pristine beauty and loveliness, until the year 1855. Roamed over by parties of the redmen of the north, in search of the game that abounded in its forests or the fish in its

lakes, its soil lay untilled by the hand of the white man until the year spoken of, when the tide of emigration that at that time flowed over this fair land, came this way and seekers after locations finding that the land was fair to look upon began to take up claims and make a home.

Probably the first to make a settlement here was John Douglas, who in the summer of 1855 made a claim and opened up a little farm. From this he removed to Elysian, and from there to Nebraska. With him came a man by the name of Hughes.

Early in 1855 John Davis and Alfred Holstein came to this part of the county and located claims, Davis on part of section 28, and Holstein on portion of section 27. These two men were traders and sold goods, especially whiskey, to the Indians then on the reservation. Davis is said to have been a peculiarly truthful man, never exaggerating anything, and in telling a story, even if it reflected upon himself, he would tell it just as it was. He was a great hunter, and approached in that line the Indians,—a genuine backwoodsman. He lived here for some years until his folks sent him tickets to come home with, they having sent him money several times before for that purpose, which he spent for drink, and he finally left here for one of the Carolinas.

Alfred Holstein was a partner of John Davis, and they were engaged in a store in Janesville. Holstein was deemed a straightforward, honest man, and was well liked by all the settlers. But in their log store building they sold goods to the Indians, trusting many of them, expecting to get their pay when the

annuities were paid from the paymaster, which they did for several times; but an order was issued that only authorized traders on the reservation should have their money held back this way, and the non-payment of this debt broke the firm up. Sometime after this the government gave the Indians a lot of horses, and Holstein in company with a man from Missouri, to get even with the Indians, put up a scheme and stole the horses, some forty or fifty head, and made off south safely and disposed of them. But through the influence of his friend, he was induced to help steal some more, and was caught, and languished in prison for the offense.

John Rowley made a settlement in 1855 on section 9, west of the lake, where he lived many years.

Jerry Hogan came from the State of Kentucky in the year 1855, and made a settlement on section 21. He lived here for many years, but a few summers ago he was found dead in his house, having died from heart disease while alone.

James, Thomas and John Hogan, also came at the same time, all of whom are still resident in Waseca County, Thomas in Alton, and James in Janesville. John returned to Kentucky, but after a time returned here and is now a citizen of this town.

Patrick Moonan, now a resident of the city of Waseca, came here in 1855, and made a settlement near the lake.

John, James and Patrick McCue came to this locality in 1855, and "stuck their stakes." James died in 1885, and Patrick is a resident of Parker's Prairie, this State. John removed to Missouri, and has grown quite wealthy. He was a very peculiar and whimsical man, always wanting to be addressed as Mr. McCue, and gave them all to understand that he was not poor, but a wealthy farmer.

George Merrill, now an inhabitant of Alton, came to Janesville in 1855, and lived here many years.

John Cunningham made a settlement

in this township on section 29, in the year 1855, where he resided until his death, which occurred August 30, 1870. October 4, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and did excellent service in the Sibley campaign against the Sioux Indians, until the expiration of his term of service, and was discharged November 9, 1863. He was united in marriage with Mrs. Mary Crawford, the widow of W. H. Crawford, one of the early settlers of this township, who was murdered in Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham were the parents of two children: James and Maud. Mrs. Cunningham resides on the farm made by Mr. Cunningham in early days.

Early in January, 1856, W. G. Allyn came to this part of Waseca, and took up a claim on section 24. He is now a resident of the village of Janesville, and owner of some four additions to the town site thereof.

W. G. Allyn is a native of Martinsburgh, Lewis County, N. Y., born June 13, 1822, and is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Greene) Allyn. In 1851 the family removed to Otsego, Columbia County, Wis., where W. G. remained until the fall of 1855, when he started from there with a team and drove to Faribault, Rice County, this State, arriving there December 2, being some three weeks on the road. Making his home for a time with a Mr. Haines, who lived about four miles south of that town, he got up a house on his claim on section 24, in this county, where he removed in January, 1856. This house was of rough logs, and the roof composed of the covering of his two wagons, with a quilt hung up for a door. Neither had it any windows, or any floor other than mother earth. He remained on the original claim some eighteen years, and then purchased 120 acres of land adjoining the town site of Janesville, on sections 33 and 34, and there laid out a portion of it into what is known as Allyn's first addition to the town of Janesville. Since that time he has laid out three more additions. Of late

years he has attended to his farm, and the sale of his lots, but for one year was in business in the village. He was united in marriage with Laura A. Williams, and they have three children: William Henry, George W. and Fannie J. Mr. and Mrs. Allyn are active members of the Methodist Church, having been members of the same for over forty years.

Paul Wandrie and his son Charles, came to this township in 1856, and took up claims. Both of them are now dead.

With them came William and Martin Stanke, who also took up claims, and lived here some time. They afterward removed to Blue Earth County where they are living now.

These all settled at the old town of Janesville, and were the first real settlers of that place when the town was started. It is told of Martin Stanke, that, during the war, he enlisted in the service, but could not learn to march or keep step, even if tried in an awkward squad of two or three, and after trying for some time he was discharged as incompetent for a soldier.

Michael Silkey, a German by birth, came soon afterward, in the same year, and made a settlement at the old town also.

In 1856 J. W. Hosmer, the present commodore of the Lake Elysian fleet, made a settlement at the old village of Janesville, then but a town on paper, and became half owner thereof.

J. W. Hosmer came to this county in 1856, and located in what is now the town of Iosco, opening a store there, where he remained but a short time, when he came to this town and purchased the half interest in the old town site of Janesville as mentioned. He there built a large sawmill, which was of great utility to the settlers. He afterward was engaged in the mercantile trade at that point, and traded some with the Indians, of whom there were plenty around here in those days. After the new village was laid out and the business removed there

Mr. Hosmer remained on the old place and ran the mill until it was burned, and then devoted his attention to bee culture, producing one season some nine tons of honey. He is now engaged, principally, in stock-raising and during the summer months in running his steamboat on the lovely waters of Lake Elysian, or hauling sand from its banks in his sand-barge, from whence he derives his nickname of "Commodore." He is a native of Genesee County, N. Y., born May 19, 1824, and is the son of Elisha and Clarissa (Rowley) Hosmer. About the year 1826, the family removed to Chautauqua County, N. Y., where J. W. was raised, and where he lived until he was some eighteen years of age, when he went to Wisconsin and remained there until coming here.

W. G. Mathes came to Okaman in 1856. He was one of the owners of the town site of that village and resided there for some years, when he moved to Minneapolis, where his death occurred some years afterward.

N. E. Strong, now of California, came here from Iosco in 1856. He remained here for some time, interested in the sawmill at Janesville, and was identified with the official life of the county, and the business interests of Waseca, before he left the county.

John Put made a settlement in 1856.

Thomas McHugo was among the hardy pioneers of the year 1856, he having come from the State of Ohio to a new-found home in Minnesota. He is still a resident of the township, living just east of the village of Janesville.

Cæsar DeRegan, a Frenchman, made his appearance here in 1856, and located a claim on what was afterward the site of old Janesville. He laid out a town site, part of it on the ice of Lake Elysian, which was sold to non-residents, and taxes were paid on those "water lots" for some years. It was at his house that the polls for the southern part of the township were fixed at the first election on the organization of the town. DeRegan left here shortly after the starting of the

town, but later returned but made no extended visit, owing to some transactions he was mixed up in.

W. H. Crawford came to Waseca County in 1856 and settled on the west bank of Lake Elysian, where he remained two years, when he removed to Texas. At that time the feeling against Northerners was quite strong, and upon some one examining Mr. Crawford's mail and finding therein a Waseca County paper which advocated Republican principles, the self-styled vigilance committee called upon Mr. Crawford, without warning, and killed him in sight of his wife without compunction, nor had she any recourse. He was a native of Bath, Me., and in 1852 was united in marriage with Mary Furfey. They were the parents of three children: William, John and Jennie. After his death Mrs. Crawford returned to Wilton, where she remained one year, and then returned to her people in Maine. In 1866 she returned to Waseca County and was united in marriage with John Cunningham, an early settler of this township, whose history has already been given. She is still living on the Cunningham homestead, where her husband died in 1870.

Shortly after these came quite a number of others, prominent among which were the following: William Wind, now dead; John Bradish, who occupied the position of county attorney in an early day, and is still a resident of Janesville; Richard Dreever, who afterward removed to Iosco Township, where he died in 1885, and George Dreever, still a resident of the town.

Thomas Cahill came to this township in 1857, and settled where he now lives. He was born in Ireland in November, 1825, and remained in his native land until 1847, when he came to America. On arriving here he first settled in Kentucky, but from there moved to Webster County, Iowa, where he purchased a farm, but only remained a short time, when he came to this locality, and on April 9, 1857,

took up a claim on section 27, and where he now owns on that and adjoining sections 795 acres of most magnificent land, all located near Lake Elysian, well supplied with timber, and is one of the best adapted for stock farming of any in the county. In March, 1855, he was united in marriage with Mary Harney, at New Albany. She was born in Ireland, August 15, 1831. They have had a family of five children, one of whom is dead. Those living are: John, born June 22, 1859; Bridget, June 8, 1861; William R., November 6, 1862, and Thomas Edward, June 8, 1864. The family are members of the Catholic Church.

James Roberts, one of the owners of Okaman, located there in 1857, and resided in that place for about two or three years.

R. C. Wilkins was another early settler. In a few years he removed from here to Northfield, where he lives at the present.

John Brown settled here about the year 1857. In a drunken frolic at Elysian, whither he had gone, he killed a man and was sent to the penitentiary, and having served out his term, is now a resident of St. Paul.

B. S. Hall, a son-in-law of John Buckhout, came to Okaman in 1857 with that gentleman, and was concerned in the planting of that village. He resided at the village for some years, and then went to St. Paul.

George H. Bishop, also an owner of the town of Okaman, settled at the village in 1857. He entered the army during the late war, and died at the siege of Vicksburg in 1863.

Frederick Roberts lived at Okaman for a time. He was interested in the town, but left here about 1859 or 1860. He settled here in 1857.

Nicholas Allen made a settlement here in 1857. He was an Irishman by birth. He finally started for California, and it was rumored perished with his family during the horrible massacre at Mountain Meadow, but it is believed that the report is not true.

J. W. Crawford, G. M. Bernard and Charles Colestock came here during the year 1857. Crawford settled on section 10, but removed from this county in a very early day; Bernard did not remain long, nor did Colestock.

Among others who located here in 1857 were: R. Brown, Alexander Johnston, John Buckhout, Frank Johnson, Gottlieb Grams, James Heming, James and David Colledge and Patrick Hackett.

Alexander Johnston was connected with the early history of the press in this county, and is noticed in that connection.

John Buckhout, an old conductor on the New York & Erie Railroad, came to what was afterward Okaman, and put up a saw and grist mill, which became quite famous afterward as one of the best gristmills in the county. When he died, October 21, 1881, the mill ceased running and is now idle.

Frank Johnson is still a resident of Janesville village.

Gottlieb Grams came to this township in the fall of 1857, and made a settlement on section 8, where he still resides. He is a native of Prussia, Germany, born September 7, 1828. He was reared in that country, and there received his education. When he had attained the age of manhood, he was called upon to serve in the army, and during the two years and a half that he spent thus, saw some active service. In 1853 he immigrated to America, locating at first in Milwaukee, Wis. He resided there for some four years, and then came to this county. He has a fine farm of 173 acres of land; the fine brick residence where he lives is upon the banks of Lake Lily. His home is a most pleasant one. October 16, 1855, Mr. Grams and Louisa Wandrie were united in marriage. She is a native of Prussia, also a daughter of one of the old settlers of this township, and was born in 1843. They have a family of four children, born as follows: Charles, born June 22, 1863; Ottila, born July 4, 1865; Eliza, born March 15, 1868,

and Pauline, who was born August 2, 1873.

James and David Colledge did not remain here long, removing to a more southern locality.

ORGANIC.

The most of the territory now embraced within the limits of the township of Janesville was included in that of Empire, organized in March, 1857, and it continued to form a part of that precinct for about a year. In May, 1857, however, that portion of the town lying west of the lake was organized into a separate precinct, under the name of Elysian. On the 5th of April, 1858, the county commissioners, however, organized the present township and gave it the name of Okaman. At this time the board appointed two polling places, on account, no doubt, of the distance from one settlement in the town to the other, and the rivalry between the two parts of the town. The one at Okaman, at the house of H. Tuttle, where Alexander Johnston, G. H. Bishop and W. N. Buckhout presided as judges of election; the one at Janesville, at the residence of Caesar DeRegan. Here the judges were R. Brown, John Cunningham and C. DeRegan. By some misunderstanding the two rival towns, both of which then expected to become large places, each elected a full set of officers, but this being declared illegal, those chosen in the north half of the town never qualified. The first officers of the township were; John Davis, chairman, and Thomas Cahill and Gottlieb Grams, supervisors; M. S. Green, clerk; J. W. Hosmer, treasurer; Richard Dreever and John Bradish, justices of the peace; James Heming and Alfred Holstein, constables. Richard Dreever, when he attempted to try his first suit, became disgusted, and resigning his office, J. W. Hosmer was appointed justice in his place.

OTHERS.

Following are given sketches of many of the representative men of the township, biography being the pith of history.

C. Hover is a native of Chemung County, N. Y., born February 21, 1831. He lived in that State until 1864, when he came to Minnesota, locating on section 29, Janesville Township, this county, where he still resides. His place is on the west bank of that beautiful sheet of water, Lake Elysian, across whose pellucid waters the view extends from his house. The buildings on his farm are commodious and even elegant, and are among the finest in the county. October 21, 1852, Mr. Hover and Maria English were united in the bonds of matrimony. She is a native of Bradford County, Pa., born April 5, 1833. They are the parents of one son, N. D., who was born October 10, 1854, and who, on the 1st of January, 1873, took unto himself a wife in the person of Anna Morse, and they have a family of four children: Cora I., born December 12, 1875; Clarence I., born March 16, 1877; Earl C., born August 25, 1879, and William D., April 30, 1881. N. D. Hover lives on section 28, this township.

Joseph Warner is a native of Northamptonshire, England, born February 9, 1847. He came to the shores of America with his parents in 1855, and they settled in Columbia, Wis., where he remained until 1865. That year the family removed to Le Sueur County, this State, where he made his home until 1873, the date of his coming to Waseca County. He purchased the farm on section 4, where he still resides, at that time. The same year, in July, he was married to Evaline Swann, who was born in 1851, and who died in 1879, leaving two children: Blanche, born January 19, 1876, and Thomas, born July 23, 1878. Mr. Warner's father, Thomas, was born in England in 1812, and died in Le Sueur County, this State, in 1872; his mother, Martha, is now living with her son. She is also a native of England, born in 1812. Joseph Warner's place comprises some 216 acres of land in this and Le Sueur counties, and on it he has a fine sugar bush of some three hundred trees.

W. Talmadge was born in Grant County,

Wis., December 31, 1857. He lived there until 1872, when he came to Minnesota, locating in Watonwan County, and remained there about four years. He then went to Le Sueur and engaged in the drug business, which he continued for about two years. In 1887 he came to Waseca County, locating in Janesville Township. On July 23, 1877, he was united in marriage with Nellie Jewison, a native of the Badger State, born December 19, 1860. They have two children: Myrette Ella, born August 9, 1879, and Grace E., born October 19, 1882. Mr. and Mr. Talmadge are both members of the Episcopal Church.

A. Willis, one of the old settlers, was born in Connecticut, August 15, 1816, where he lived for many years. For twenty-two years he worked in a woolen factory in the State of New York, after which he came to Illinois, where he lived for several years. He then came to Waseca County, Minn., locating in Janesville Township, taking a claim on section 8. Here he remained and made improvements, then moved his family to the homestead, where he now lives. In 1836 he was united in marriage with Hulda Treat, who died in 1842. June 5, 1847, he was united in marriage with Hannah Allen, a native of Otsego County, N. Y., born April 22, 1824. They are the parents of ten children: Emily A., born October 24, 1848; Annette, born March 6, 1851, died in June, 1854; Ellen, born March 10, 1852, died August 31, 1880; Eliza, born November 24, 1853; Mary J., born February 14, 1856; Edward, born April 20, 1857; Anna E., born May 19, 1860; John A., born January 12, 1862, and Frank and Fred., twins, born September 20, 1863. When Mr. Willis came to the county they had their household goods shipped from Illinois, but as railroads were things of the East instead of the West, by some means or another all these goods were lost.

Edward Willis, the sixth child of A. and Hulda (Treat) Willis, was born in Iowa,

April 20, 1857, while his parents were on their journey from Illinois to this place. Coming to Waseca, an infant in arms, he has been reared and educated among the familiar scenes that first awakened his childish ideas. Here he attended the rough log schoolhouse, around whose hallowed walls fond memory throws so many halcyon thoughts. Here on the 26th of December, 1880, he and Emma Record took upon themselves the marital vows. Here have been born to the couple: Bessie May, born October 11, 1881; Arthur Adrian, born March 23, 1883; Herbert Allen, December 19, 1884, and John Sherwood, January 13, 1887. Here with his young family growing up around him, in the quiet and beautiful modern cottage which he has erected near his father, on the same piece of land, he lives happy and contented. The farm, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, lies on the banks of beautiful Lake Willis, a charming situation, and most excellent land. Mrs. Willis is a member of the Baptist Church, and a sincere Christian woman.

Floyd Martin came to this part of Waseca County in 1862, and carried on the cooper trade, until October, 1886, when he retired from that business and purchasing a farm on section 29, near the site of the old village of Janesville, took up the "trade" of farmer. He is a native of Antwerp, Jefferson County, N. Y., born June 30, 1843. He was united in marriage, January 13, 1878, with Maggie Haubries, a native of Kenosha County, Wis., born July 28, 1855, and a daughter of Hubert Haubries, one of the early settlers of the county. They are the parents of two children: Hubert, born January 9, 1879, and George E., born September 29, 1885. Mr. Martin is the son of John Preston Martin and his wife. The former was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., December 10, 1818. Mrs. Martin's father, Hubert Haubries, was born in Germany, June 18, 1831, and came to this county in an early day, and reared a family of fifteen children, all of whom are living.

Thomas Savage came to the township of Janesville in the year 1866, and settled where he now lives, on section 15. He was born in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, December 9, 1841, and remained in his native land until 1855, when he came to the United States, locating for the time near Oconomowoc, Wis., where he remained until coming to this county. He has a fine farm of 160 acres of land, on sections 10, 11, 14 and 15. His residence stands upon the east bank of the beautiful Lake Elysian. In Mapleton, Wis., November 11, 1868, he and Elizabeth Hicks were united in marriage. She is a native of Devonshire, England, born October 11, 1844, and came to this country, with her parents, when but a small child. They have been the parents of four children, all living: Thomas H., born October 3, 1869; Mary E., November 19, 1872; William W., August 24, 1874, and Emma Alice, October 17, 1876. When Mr. Savage settled here this land was extremely wild, but with his own hands he has cleared it up and now has a fine farm, one that is always productive. Mrs. Savage, who is quite artistic in her tastes, gave considerable attention to painting in her younger days, and distinguished herself in that line, and from an inspection of her work one is compelled to regret her neglect of its pursuit, as artists of her ability are far from plentiful.

S. F. Shephard came to Waseca County in 1874, and settling in the village of Janesville, entered into the grain business, which he continued for the succeeding ten years, when he purchased the interest of A. W. Jennison, in the firm of Miner & Jennison, general merchants, of Janesville, and in company with F. H. Miner, carried on that business until 1886, when he sold out to his partner, and removed to the farm where he now resides, on section 36, just across the line in Blue Earth County, the road lying between his place and this county. He is a native of New Hampshire, born among its granite hills, November 23, 1837. In 1860 he went to the Rocky Mountains, where he re-

mained some eleven years. While there he was engaged in mining and stock-raising, and, in 1868, was the first to winter cattle in the Wind River Valley, Wyo. T. Coming back he located at Worthington, Minn., in 1871, where he was one of the very first settlers. He ran a feed store there until 1874, when he came to Waseca County. August 2, 1876, he was united in marriage with Helen Comstock, a native of Chautauqua County, N. Y. They are the parents of five children: Helen, George, John, May and an infant. Mr. Shephard is a member of Janesville Lodge, No. 124, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, and Mankato Commandery, No. 4, Knights Templar.

William Jewison is a native of Yorkshire, England, born January 1, 1846. In 1848 the family immigrated to America, and settled at Mapleton, Waukesha County, Wis., where William was reared and educated, also attending the schools at Appleton and Horicon, in that State, fitting himself for a teacher, which profession he followed for some years. In 1865, he went to the Lake Superior regions, where he remained some three years, and in 1868 came to this county. When he was but nine years of age, he had the misfortune to lose a leg, but notwithstanding that, has labored so diligently that he has acquired a fine property, and an excellent home. November 14, 1870, he was united in marriage with Ellen Hughes, of Mapleton, where she was born, April 18, 1848. They are the parents of five children: Olive, who died when quite young; Grace S., born September 12, 1872; Pearl, born July 4, 1879, died January 2, 1883; Fannie M., born October 12, 1883, and William, born January 2, 1886.

G. W. Faught was born in Indiana, April 28, 1821. He remained in that State until 1863, when he came to Minnesota, settling in this county. He has a beautiful place on the west bank of crystal Lake Elysian, where he devotes his time to the cultivation of sorghum²cane, and the manufacture of sy-

rup from the same; the quality of the latter being extremely fine, and in which he takes a just pride. January 28, 1842, he was united in marriage with Miss Lloyd, a native of Kentucky, born September 19, 1828. They were the parents of eleven children: Eliza J., born November 14, 1844; Taylor, March 18, 1847, died December 21, 1847; Aurelius, December 8, 1848, died June 4, 1886; Elijah, May 27, 1851, died June 11, 1851; Mary E., May 20, 1852; John H., March 15, 1855; George W., July 12, 1858; Lenora, February 11, 1861, died December 14, 1881; Abraham L., born October 1, 1863; Laura F., December 19, 1865, and Isabel, September 28, 1869.

William Burnett is a native of the Dominion of Canada, born in 1842. He is the son of Henry and Annie Burnett. When he had attained the age of fifteen years he thought to start in the world for himself, commenced farming and has followed that line of occupation ever since. In 1862 he was united in marriage with Charlotte Raven, who was also a native of Canada, and they were the parents of four children. In 1865 they came to Waseca County and located in the old village of Janesville, where they lived about three years, when, in 1869, he purchased the farm on section 31, where he now resides. After the death of his wife in 1882, he returned to his Canada home, where he spent two years, and then returned to this place, and took up his residence on his homestead, where he has a pleasant place.

THE OLD VILLAGE OF JANESVILLE.

During the year 1854 a government surveyor, then employed in his vocation in this portion of the State, laid out the plat of a town on section 28 for Father La Valdo, a French Catholic priest, which the owner called Peopolis. This was on the north half of what was afterward the town site of old Janesville. According to the custom of the day Father La Valdo advertised his town in Eastern papers to some extent and sold some lots, but the place never had an inhabitant,

except wild animals. Like many others in that time of mad speculation in real estate that helped bring on the financial crisis of 1857, it was but a town on paper, and was a prototype of those so graphically drawn by Dickens, and which were the theme of many writers of that day.

In 1856, Caesar DeRegan, a Frenchman, who at that time came here, laid out a town site upon the ground occupied by the old village of Janesville, and upon the waters of Lake Elysian, which, at first, he called St. Caesar's but changed the name afterward to New Albany. Shortly after this J. W. Hosmer came here and purchased a half interest in the town site, and in a short time a new name, Janesville, was given it by Mr. Hosmer, after the town of the same name in Wisconsin, from which he had come. The village was located upon the west half of section 28, in a beautiful situation on the banks of Lake Elysian. Here quite a village sprang into existence and flourished for years.

Previous to the time when Mr. Hosmer took hold of the place, but one building was upon the town site, and that was but a pole shanty placed there by the owner to hold the claim, and in which he lived. In 1858 Mr. Hosmer built a store building and a residence. This was the pioneer business house of the town. In the winter of 1861-2 Mr. Homer and N. E. Strong put up a steam saw mill, which was the only one "for many miles around," and settlers came often from fifty to seventy-five miles after lumber.

As an instance of the lack of sawmills it is told that, on the opening of the Winnebago reservation in 1863 or 1864, a man hastened there, staked out his claim, and leaving his family in his wagon-box upon the ground, covered only by its canvas, tent-like covering, started off for lumber to put up a cabin. He first went to Mankato, then on up to Faribault, and from thence to other places, but could not even hear of any lumber to be had, and when finally he did reach Hosmer

& Strong's mill, he had been nearly two weeks on the hunt, and had not secured a single board. He filled up his wagon and started for his claim, which he found all right, and his family patiently awaiting his return.

This mill was a very large one for the time and the country, being 32x60 feet in size, and two stories in height, besides the basement. They had finished the upper floor for a hall, and in it were held the first religious services in the village. These were conducted by a man by the name of W. G. Alexander. On the day in question, there being a large sugar camp in operation run by Mr. Alexander, and the sap running freely, the dishes and troughs soon filled, and as it was necessary to gather it or lose a large amount of the sugar-making sap, the settlers, rather than have him sustain the loss of his sugar, to induce him to work on Sunday told him that they would not go to church until they had collected the sweet, and although he was a man very rigid in his religious ideas, he was compelled to suspend the service until that was accomplished or have no congregation; so making a merit of the necessity, he gracefully gave in, and the sap was gathered. When that was finished, all filed into the building and the church service held, with a full attendance. So strict was Mr. Alexander in his ideas of the observance of the Sabbath, that a story was current that he had shut up his bees in their hives on that day, that they might not violate the commandment against working.

The first store in the village was put up by J. W. Hosmer, as has been already related. Shortly after this, a merchant of Waterville, by the name of Tidball, put in a branch store of the general character usual in new settlements, where the "store" sold nearly every thing from a needle to a crowbar, sugar, calico, whiskey, quinine, etcetera, particularly the latter. "Elder" Perkins was the manager of this emporium. Davis & Holstein were the next merchants, deal-

ing largely with the Indians as already related. Several saloons were started, and at one time this branch had as many as eighteen representatives in existence.

J. O. Chandler opened a general store there in 1866, which was the most extensive the town ever had, up to that time.

Dr. R. O. Craig was the pioneer physician of the village, "hanging out his shingle" at that place in 1866.

Besides the sawmill spoken of, another was erected west of the bridge just over the hill, by a man by the name of Waterbury. This was afterward bought by James Cummins and his brother, who ran it for some time. It was destroyed by fire, as was the Hosmer mill.

J. W. Hosmer was the postmaster here for many years, but in 1867 J. O. Chandler held that office, and in 1869 removed it to the new village that has just sprung into existence.

In 1869 and 1870, the whole of the little hamlet removed to the present village of Janesville, the presence of the railroad at that point drawing trade there, and the old site is left in loneliness now.

OKAMAN.

The now extinct village that bore the name of Okaman was laid out on the north-east quarter of section 1. The site of the town was laid out by W. P. Mathes, B. S. Hall, S. M. Cooley, F. E. Roberts and G. H. Bishop, in May 1857. F. E. and James Roberts laid out an addition to the town site the same month. Much was expected of the new town at that time, but it, alas, has passed away, and is numbered with the things that were.

ELYSIAN.

A small part of the village of Elysian lies on a portion of the northwest quarter of section 2. Nearly all the town lies in La Sueur County, but little of it lying in Waseca. A history of that village will be found in the annals of the county in which it lies.

East Janesville,

or the new town of Janesville, is situated on the east half of section 33 and the west half of section 34, and was laid out originally by J. W. Sprague, general manager of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, in August, 1869, S. H. Mott being the surveyor. Nine additions to the town plat have been made since by J. W. Sprague, W. G. Allyn, Adna Carpenter, E. H. Gosper and George French. This is official and taken from the records of the county.

On the foundation of this town, at the time of the building of the railroad through here, most of the business men of the old town moved to this point.

The first building was erected by H. D. Baldwin, in August, 1869, the first load of lumber for which was hauled by J. W. Cummins. This building, in an unfinished condition, was used as a boarding-house and a hotel by the "Judge" for a year or two, when it was purchased by Frank Johnson, who finished it, made considerable additions and improvements, and after its remodeling opened it as a hotel with the name of the Johnson House displayed, a name that it bore until it was destroyed by fire in 1887. Mr. Johnson leased the building afterward to James Fisher, who was landlord until succeeded by B. H. Hanaford. W. W. Day was the next host of this hostelry, and was succeeded by John Church, the genial proprietor of the DeGraff House, who was the occupant of the old hotel at the time of its destruction.

J. O. Chandler came to the new town in the fall of 1869, and, putting up a building, removed his stock of goods from the old town and adding to it opened the first store in the town. This stock was of the miscellaneous character that is known by the name of general merchandise. The second was put up by A. W. Jennison and F. H. Miner. D. J. Dodge & Co., J. D. Andrews and Denzil Vars were among the pioneer busi-

ness houses of the town. D. J. Dodge & Co. dealt in hardware and goods of that description; J. D. Andrews dispensed drugs, medicines, paints, oils, etc.; and Denzil Vars ran a butcher shop.

These were the pioneers in their respective lines.

All, or nearly all, of the buildings in the old village were removed to the new one during the winter of 1869-70, and when spring had come, in the latter year, the place had already put on the looks of a thriving village, and promised a good healthy growth. From that time on it has gradually increased both in size and business importance, until to-day it ranks only second to the city of Waseca, in the county. In 1885, by the census then taken, it had a population of 1,054, and has probably added another hundred to that since that time.

With the spring of 1870 building commenced, and rapidly, as if by magic, edifices of all kinds sprang into being; although lots were, by the good judgment of the proprietors kept at reasonable figures, still the town had a "boom," to use a current expression.

Dr. R. O. Craig was the first physician in the village of Janesville. Dr. M. J. Taylor is the present leading physician, R. O. Craig no longer practicing his profession.

John Bradish was the pioneer attorney of the town. This profession is represented at present by A. J. O'Grady and L. D. Rogers, both of whom are mentioned in the chapter devoted to bench and bar of the county, in this volume.

The present business interests of the town of Janesville are represented by the following firms, who nearly, if not quite all, are doing a flourishing business: J. F. Cordry & Co., F. H. Miner, Chase & Day and Finley Bros., in general merchandise; Bailey & Watkins and F. L. Hagen, hardware; Craig & Chandler and Emerson & Emerson, drugs; J. G. Smith and W. Merrill, jewelry; H. D. Cameron, furniture; E. Dieudonne, J. A. Tyrholm and Carpenter & Morrill, deal-

ers in agricultural implements, etc.; F. M. Long and the Laird-Norton Co., lumber; Gutfleisch & Britton, clothing and gents' furnishing goods and custom tailoring; H. J. Cummins, grocery; E. H. Gosper, meat market; F. A. Selover and J. F. Gilday, restaurant.

F. H. Miner came to this county in the fall of 1863, and for the first four years was a citizen of New Richland, but at the expiration removed to the then new village of Waseca, where he was engaged in the wheat trade and the sale of agricultural machinery for some two years. On the laying out of the new village of Janesville, he came hither, and entering into partnership with A. W. Jennison, put up the second store building in the town, and put in a general stock of merchandise, under the firm name of Jennison & Miner. They remained together for fourteen years, when Jennison sold his interest to S. F. Shephard, and the firm of Miner & Shephard carried on the business for two years, since which time Mr. Miner has been carrying on the business alone.

Mr. Miner is a native of the State of New York, born in 1840. When quite young the family removed to Vermont, where they resided but about two years, and then moved to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1863, when he came to Minnesota as above mentioned. He married Addie Wookey in 1869.

Charles Gutfleisch, of the firm of Gutfleisch & Britton, is a native of Germany, born in 1856. When about seventeen years of age he emigrated to America, and came direct to the city of Waseca, where he worked at the tailor's trade from 1872 until 1878, when he removed to the village of Janesville and opened a tailor shop for himself, being one of the sufferers by the fire of 1887. He shortly afterward formed a partnership with R. L. H. Britton, and they erected the brick building where they carry on the clothing and men's furnishing goods trade, Mr. Gutfleisch having charge of the merchant tailoring department.

R. L. H. Britton came to this county November 18, 1871, with his father, who located on section 16, Alton Township. He remained with him until the spring of 1886, when he came to the village of Janesville and engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, which business he continued until the spring of 1887, when the present firm of Gutfleisch & Britton was formed. Mr. Britton is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, born February 24, 1854. When he was about a year old the family removed to Kentucky, on Hunter's Bottom, opposite Madison, Ind., where they lived five years, and then returned to Hamilton County, Ohio, where they resided until coming here. His mother died there February 13, 1879. She was a native of Long Island, born in February, 1809. His father is a native of New Jersey, born January 20, 1803, now living in Alton.

James Cummins was born in Bristol, Kenosha County, Wis., March 5, 1840. He remained in that locality until 1857, when he came here, and for a time was backward and forward between this and Blue Earth counties. In 1858 he had a government contract to break 100 acres of land on the reservation for the Indians, part in each county. He then came to the old town of Janesville, and for a time worked in Hosmer & Strong's sawmill, and later, with his brother, bought another mill, just west of the former, and ran that for a while. He has been extensively engaged in railroad contract work, getting out timber and ties, and other work. In 1876 he came to the new village of Janesville and entered in the meat-market business. Later he ran a hardware store, but is now in the grocery trade with its accompaniments. June 19, 1862, he was united in marriage with Miss H. J. Coddington.

Henry Chase came to the county of Waseca in the year 1863, and settled in the town of Freedom, on section 33. On the starting of the village of Janesville he came here and for a time ran a dray line, and later opened a livery stable which he carried

on for a time. He then sold out and went East, but in 1875 returned here, and in company with J. E. Cordrey, went into the general merchandise trade. In 1884 he sold out his interest there to Chandler & Craig, and the same season, in partnership with Fred. Williams, opened another store in the same line. In the fall of 1887 the present firm of Chase & Day was formed. Mr. Chase is a native of Vermont, born in 1842, and is the son of Jacob and Mary (Morse) Chase, both born in Vermont. He remained with his parents until 1862, when he enlisted in Company E, Ninth Vermont Infantry under Col. Stannard, but in the first engagement, at Winchester, Va., he was taken prisoner, and after four months in Libby prison, was released on parole. He received his discharge in February, 1863, and the same year came to Minnesota.

W. W. Day came to Waseca County in 1878, settling in the village of Janesville, buying out the livery business of Hubbard & Cummins, and five years later the stable of Chandler Bros., combining the two into one. This he ran until March, 1887, when he sold out the same, together with his dray line, to J. C. and P. J. Murphy, and, building a neat brick building on the west side of the main street, formed the copartnership with Henry Chase, and under the firm name of Chase & Day opened a general merchandise store. Mr. Day is a native of Michigan, born in July, 1856, and is the son of W. C. and Alma L. Day. He remained with them until coming to Minnesota. March 19, 1875, he was united in marriage with Lois J. Lobdell, a native of Buffalo, N. Y. They have two children: Arthur and Mabel.

E. H. Gosper came to the county of Waseca in 1869, and located in the then new village of Janesville, where for a time he had charge of a lumber yard and a sawmill in the old village. In connection with these businesses he had charge of the sale of the town lots here, and had the control of them until 1873. In 1872 he opened a general

merchandise store and continued in that line until 1882. In 1883 he opened the meat-market which he is at present running. E. H. Gosper is a native of the State of New York, born in 1842. He is the owner of a farm, which he carries on in connection with his other business.

Joseph Davidson came to Waseca County in 1862, locating in Byron Township. Later he enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, Battery D, and served in the war under General Thomas, until September, 1865, when he received his discharge at Chattanooga, Tenn. He then returned to Waseca County. When the village of Janesville started, in 1869, he came to this place and helped to erect some of the first buildings. Joseph Davidson is the son of James and Ella Davidson. He was born in the State of New York in 1834, and there he remained with his parents until twenty-one years of age, when he went to Green Lake County, Wis., and worked at carpentering, being a contractor and builder. There he remained until he came to Waseca County in 1862.

James C. Murphy is a native of Dodge County, Wis., born July 14, 1861. When he was some four years of age, in 1865, his parents, Patrick and Ellen (Campbell) Murphy, came to Waseca County and they purchased a farm on sections 21 and 22, Alton Township, where they still reside. There James was reared and educated. He taught school for some three winters in district No. 66, working on the farm in the summers. In the spring of 1887 he and his brother, Patrick J., purchased the livery business of W. W. Day, of Janesville, and are now running the same, James having charge. James C. Murphy and Margeret L. Callahan were united in marriage, May 25, 1887. She was born near Montello, Marquette County, Wis., and came with her parents to St. Mary, this county, where they now live.

Patrick J. Murphy was born in Dodge County, Wis., December 20, 1864, and came

with his parents to this county in November, 1865, and now resides with them on the farm in Alton Township, although engaged with his brother James in the livery business.

The first bank in the village was established by Hill Bros. in 1879, and continued by them for about three years. It was then purchased by O. P. Smith, who managed it until 1884, when it passed into the hands of Jennison Bros. & Co. The latter firm were burned out in the great fire of April 12, 1887, and for a time carried on their banking business at the office of the mill. They are now the occupants of a neat and tasty brick building, erected by themselves in the summer of 1887, on the east side of Main street. It is quite commodious and fitted up with counter, safes, etc., in excellent shape. John W. Jennison is cashier.

A. W. Jennison, one of the firm of Jennison Bros., bankers, millers, etc., is a native of the State of Vermont; born in 1839, and is the son of Jason H. and Lydia (Gage) Jennison. He remained in the Green Mountain State until 1860 when he came west and located in Green Lake County, Wis., where he purchased a farm and operated that until 1866, when he removed into the village of Kingston and entered into mercantile trade. In 1868 his store was burned out, he meeting with a loss of some \$5,000. The fall of that year he came to the village of Waseca, where he remained until October, 1869, when he removed to the rising village of Janesville, and, in company with F. H. Miner, put up a store building, the second in the place, and putting in a stock of merchandise, continued a member of the firm of Jennison & Miner until 1883, when he sold out. Previous to this, however, he had taken charge of the lumber yard of Laird, Norton & Co., and had the management of that until 1886. In 1883 he purchased an interest in the Banner flouring mill, and since that time has devoted his time to the mill and banking business as already related.

The Banner flouring mill was erected in

1873 by the firm of Stokes, Kimball & Co., who operated it for some time, when it passed into the hands of Stokes Bros. & Co. In 1886, the latter firm disposed of it to Jennison Bros., the present owners.

The Diadem flouring mill was removed to Janesville from Taopi, Mower County, this State, by Harn, Snyder & Co., about the year 1877, and rebuilt in a substantial manner. After operating it here for about two years, misfortune overtook them, and failing in business, the mill was allowed to stand idle for about three years, when it came into the possession of Hillyer & Tillotson, who ran it for some eighteen months, and then disposed of it to J. S. Sutcliffe, who is now in Minneapolis engaged in the grain commission business. December, 1886, it was purchased by the present owners, Jennison Bros., who now operate both mills. These two manufacturing enterprises under one management are turning out about 450 barrels of flour per day, which they ship to eastern markets. They are both fully equipped with roller machinery, with all the necessary adjuncts that go to make up first-class mills, and are a credit to the business enterprise of the able firm of Jennison Bros.

J. M. Gordon, the miller of the Banner flouring mill, came to Waseca County with his parents in 1867. They settled about half a mile south of the village of Janesville on section 5, where they still live. J. M. remained at home with them until he was about fifteen years of age, when he went to Dodge County, this State, where he worked on a farm. Later he was employed in a brickyard at Mankato, but in October, 1881, came into the Banner mill, then operated by Stokes Bros., where he has since remained, taking charge of the same as head miller and superintendent in October, 1886. He is the son of William and Mary Gordon; was born June 6, 1860, and was married October 1, 1881, to Eudora Clark, a daughter of Joel and Lavina Clark. Mr. and Mrs.

Gordon are the parents of two children: Guy and Vern.

A gristmill was put up at this place in 1876-7 by Waterbury & Wagoner, who ran it for a time, when A. Carpenter purchased the interest of Mr. Waterbury. The new firm of Carpenter & Wagoner repaired it and remodeled it and operated it for a short time, when it became the property of A. Carpenter, who managed it a little while by himself, but in 1880 it was destroyed by fire. It is said to have been a very fine little mill and well equipped with excellent machinery.

About the year 1872 Hurd Bros., erected a sawmill at this point and ran it for a time. One of the proprietors being killed by an accident it was sold to H. P. Paekard, now of Redfield, D. T., who added a stave factory to it. It was afterward sold to Jennison Bros., and finally swept out of existence by fire. On its site Mills Gilmore erected a sawmill and wood-bending works. He sold it to Richard Ash, the present owner.

Hosmer, Gosper & Paekard at one time ran a mill for the manufacture of broom-handles, oak staves and clothes pins, but they discontinued the business, and the buildings went to rack and ruin.

A barrel and tub factory was put up by L. V. B. Welch, who ran it for awhile, when he was succeeded in the business by S. C. L. Moore, but in the course of time it became again the property of Mr. Welch, who finally closed it up. The building is now used as the cooper shop connected with the flourmills.

The upright part of the elevator was erected by the Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company, on their reaching this point in 1869. This was added to, in 1874, by the then owners, Shabut & Lewis, of Mankato. Shephard & Sanborn purchased it next and operated it until S. F. Shephard bought out his partner and ran it alone. The next firm was Jennison Bros. & Co., who operated it for about four years, but in May, 1886, Jen-

nison Bros. obtained complete control and are now the owners. P. M. Enright is the superintendent and manager.

P. M. Enright came to this county in 1874, and settled in the village of Janesville, where he still lives, engaging in the wheat business for G. W. Van Dusen & Co., of Rochester City, Minn., and has been in that line of trade ever since. He was born in Montreal, Canada, December 23, 1848, and is the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Sullivan) Enright. He lived with his parents, working on a farm until 1870, when he came to the United States, locating at that time at Fort Wayne, Ind., where he worked for the railroad company for about two years. From there he removed to Columbus, Wis., at which place he was in the grain business for about a year and a half, and then came to Janesville. February 3, 1876, he was united in marriage with Miss A. W. Hofelman. They are the parents of five children: Hattie, Barney, Minna, Amy and John. He held the office of street commissioner of Janesville for two years, and is now a member of the board of education.

The De Graff House, the only hotel in the village, was built during the summer of 1887. John Church, who was running the Johnson House at the time of the fire, put up the present fine structure, which deserves more than a passing notice. It is a brick veneered building having a handsome portico in front, and is finished in a tasty manner, both inside and outside. It contains a large and commodious reception room and office, sample rooms, dining room, wash room, parlor and twenty bedrooms, and will be well furnished throughout as soon as Mr. Church, the genial and efficient landlord, can get the furniture into the new building.

The postoffice was removed to this village from the old town in the fall of 1869 by J. O. Chandler, who was the postmaster at that time. The following year he was succeeded by J. W. Vars, who held it for a

time, when he was followed by D. A. Randall. In 1873 Clarence E. Graham was made the postmaster, which he ran in connection with the *Argus* until October 24, 1881, when he was succeeded by J. A. Henry. J. W. Tefft is the present incumbent of the office, but it is under the management of Mr. Henry, who is the able editor of the *Argus*.

The first schoolhouse was erected in 1871 at a cost of \$2,800, and it is still used for educational purposes. This structure was sufficient for the needs of the village until 1877, when another was built. This is now used by the Good Templars as a hall of meeting. The present brick schoolhouse was erected in 1885, at a total cost of about \$7,000; in this are four schoolrooms and a library. All three of these structures are on one block. Prof. Wheaton, from Caledonia, Houston County, with a corps of four teachers, Misses Coy, Saekitt, Baker and Haginau preside over the elevation of the youthful minds.

The first church building in the village was erected by the Free Will Baptist Society in 1870, and is still in use by the same congregation. The church cost some \$3,000. Rev. Mr. McElroy is the present pastor.

The next to put up a building were the Episcopalians in 1877, at a cost of about \$2,000. Rev. Mr. Cornell is the rector at this writing.

The Roman Catholic congregation erected a fine church edifice here in 1876, at an expenditure of about \$6,000. At that time Rev. Father Herman had charge of the parish, and continued here until 1879. Rev. Father P. J. O'Neil, the present pastor, is a native of the north of Ireland, born in 1858, and is the son of Francis and Ellen (Higgins) O'Neil, natives of that country. He received his education in the seminary in Langford, remaining there the years of 1877 and 1878, in classic studies, and in All Hallows foreign missionary college, where he remained for five years. He then came to America,

locating at Minneapolis, this State, where for one year he acted as assistant to Rev. Father James McGulrick, and then was appointed to his present charge, coming to Janesville in August, 1885.

In 1880 the Methodist Episcopal denomination erected a fine brick structure for religious purposes, at a cost of \$4,000.

The Lutheran Evangelical Church was erected at a cost of \$2,500, during the year 1885.

A large building 45x100 feet in size, was erected in 1878, and is used as a town hall. It is a fine building of brick, and cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

Janesville Lodge, No. 124, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized under dispensation, August 10, 1875, with the following officers: R. O. Craig, W. M.; E. H. Gosper, S. W.; F. H. Miner, J. W.; R. M. Redfield, S. D.; J. W. Tefft, J. D.; S. C. L. Moore, S. S.; C. H. Younglove, J. S.; R. Heritage, Tyler. Besides these officers there were the following members at the date of organization: R. N. Sackett, Kelsey Curtis, Darling Welch, and J. O. Chandler. The charter was issued to this Lodge February 11, 1877, and the following officers installed: R. O. Craig, W. M.; E. H. Gosper, S. W.; F. H. Miner, J. W.; C. Hallack, T.; J. W. Tefft, S.; S. C. L. Moore, S. D.; C. H. Younglove, J. D.; A. Carpenter, S. S.; D. Welch, J. S.; R. Heritage, Tyler.

The lodge has a present membership of forty-three brethren of the square and compass, and holds regular communications on the second Wednesday evening in each month. The officers for 1887 are the following named brethren: W. J. Baker, W. M.; D. J. Dodge, S. W.; P. M. Enright, J. W.; J. W. Jennison, S.; J. V. Kee, T.; W. W. Day, S. D.; J. A. Willis, J. D.; L. D. Rogers, S. S.; W. F. Gottschalk, J. S.; J. W. Tefft, Tyler.

The village of Janesville was incorporated May 10, 1870, when the following officers were elected; R. O. Craig, J. O. Chandler,

and A. W. Jennison, trustees; H. D. Baldwin, justice of the peace. This election was held at the hotel of the last named individual. At the first meeting of the village board, at the office of R. O. Craig, William Huse was chosen town clerk, H. D. Cameron, treasurer, and Henry Chase, marshal. The present officers are as follows: E. Dieudonne, president; D. J. Dodge, treasurer; W. H. Kidney, recorder; Paul Ayers, marshal; M. J. Gordon, commissioner, and George A. Wilson, justice.

FIRE!

On Tuesday evening, April 12, 1887, a large share of the beautiful village of Janesville was laid waste by fire, which has no parallel in the history of the county. Says the *Argus* of April 18: "In the short space of two hours, the homes and property of over one hundred people were swept away, leaving a scene of distressing desolation.

"At five minutes past nine, the sound of the Banner mill whistle and the ringing of bells was heard, bringing people out, all centering in one direction—toward the rear of the Northwestern Hotel, where a vast sheet of fire and smoke were pouring from the top of the building. The fire was located in the loft, which was pretty well filled with hay, and it was only a few moments ere it had spread, with almost lightning rapidity, to adjoining buildings, the Northwestern Hotel, Kleeman's building, Tom Moonan's building, occupied by Mr. Gorman, and the Johnson House.

"Efforts to stay the progress of the fire were useless. Everything on that side of the street was doomed. The flames spread over the block, reaching their fiery tongues in every direction. On the north from the Johnson House and across the street, is located Emerson's drug store. For a short time it seemed as if this too must succumb, but by dint of hard work it was saved, and with it the block. From the south the flames communicated to the McCabe building, burning with it Tyrholm's machinery, from thence to

Diendonne's store and warehouse, where sad havoc was made. Machinery of all kinds was drawn into the street, only to be licked up by the devouring flames. Hogan's saloon next succumbed, followed by Charles Gutfleisch's building and the lumber yards. In the meantime, barns and outhouses were in flames, to which no attention was paid. The livery stable barn was saved, but how, and by what means, seems to be a miracle. Fortunately for that and the elevator, the direction of the wind favored them.

"But ere this, the flames had leaped across the street and were wrapping everything in their deadly embrace. The first to feel its effects was F. L. Hagen's large hardware store. To the north, Chandler & Craig's building, occupied by Haggerty & Fitzgerald, and south, Powell Ayer's grocery, occupied by W. G. Allyn, went quickly. South of Allyn's came C. Guior's saloon, the postoffice and *Argus* office, Kruger's saloon, Hallack's building, occupied by Chas. Hohen as a harness shop, the bank, and Britton's office. From Chandler & Craig's building the flames leaped and struggled and roared, in a vain endeavor to penetrate the brick hardware. Several times the windows were on fire, the flames reaching inside, but as many times they were extinguished. They reached over the building almost from the Johnson House, setting fire to Miner's store and Gilday's saloon. But here was stationed a large bucket

brigade, and the hand engine, and it was by prompt and efficient work that the progress of the fire was stopped.

"To the rear of these buildings were several ice houses, Dodge's large warehouse, and several outbuildings that went up. Peters' wagon and blacksmith shop was saved, by earnest and persistent work. The town well was located here, and by this means the building was saved.

"The loss was extremely heavy, aggregating some \$46,000, on which there was the trifling insurance of about \$6,200."

"Too much praise cannot be accorded the women of the town, for their heroic and energetic efforts in saving goods and material. They were out in force and labored like Trojans.

"The origin of the fire is unknown. It was discovered in the loft of the barn, as previously stated, but just what was the cause, no one knows. A small bonfire had been kindled during the day in the vicinity of the barn, but it was stated positively that it was thoroughly extinguished."

But what was a great, and to some extent an irreparable loss, has been the gain of the community, for on nearly all of the lots left vacant by the fire have risen brick buildings, that give a look of substantiality to the village that, together with its beauty of location and bright business outlook, will attract those seeking a home, to this place.

CHAPTER XXII.

WOODVILLE TOWNSHIP.



THE territory known as Woodville lies in the second tier of townships from the north line of the county, on its eastern margin. It embraces all of congressional township 107 north, range 22 west, and contains about 23,000 acres, 2,000 of which are covered with the pellucid waters of the lakes that dot its bosom. The surface is most beautifully diversified; gently undulating in some places, it becomes nearly flat in others; prairie interspersed with timber, and in some places, notably in the vicinity of the lakes, heavy groves make up a picture of great natural beauty. The lakes, most of them of considerable size, are generally of clear water and enhance the peaceful loveliness of the scenery. The principal of these bodies of water, Clear Lake, lying partially in sections 8, 9, 16 and 17, is about a mile and a half long by about three-quarters of a mile wide. Loon Lake, half in section 7 and half in section 18, is less in size. Goose Lake occupies part of sections 11, 14 and 15, and Rice Lake, part of which, only, is in this township, fills up a portion of sections 3 and 4; Watkins Lake on sections 2 and 3, Gaiter Lake, on the corner between sections 16, 17, 20 and 21, and two smaller ones lying between sections 20 and 29, make up the complement. The soil, equal in productiveness and fertility to any in the State, is the dark, rich loam that predominates in this portion of Minnesota.

Woodville has the best railroad facilities of any township in the county, the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad crossing it from east

to west, on sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, and the Minneapolis & St. Louis from north to south, on sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31, intersecting on the northeast quarter of section 18, at the city of Waseca.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Obediah Powell came to this county from Rice County, arriving on the 6th of May, 1856. The next day he picked out a piece of land upon which he filed his claim on the 9th of the same month. This was the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter, and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 5, and the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 4. Only a forty of the original homestead is now included in his fine farm of 160 acres, on section 5.

Obediah Powell is a native of the State of New York, born February 1, 1828. He is the son of Hiram and Mary (Carpenter) Powell, both natives of the Empire State. His father died in January, 1859, but his mother is still living. Mr. Powell started out for himself about 1850, first as a farmer in his native State, then in Pennsylvania. In 1855, he emigrated to the State of Minnesota, locating for a few months in Rice County, when he came to this county as above mentioned. On the 5th of July, 1857, he and Miss Mary Jane Gray were united in the bonds of holy matrimony. Mrs. Powell is also a native of New York, born March 22, 1836. They are the parents of nine children: George, born May 11, 1858; Norton, born July 25, 1860; Amalyor, born March 5, 1863; Julia, May 7, 1865; Hiram, June 10, 1868; Frost, December 15, 1870; Augusta,



James M. Dune,

March 30, 1867; Elmer, April 20, 1873; Rutherford, March 4, 1877; Hattie, June 8, 1879; Mary, May 23, 1875. Of these two are deceased. Augusta, died April 11, 1867, and Mary February 26, 1876. Mr. Powell has been quite prominently identified with the interests of Waseca County, was chairman of the board of supervisors of the county in 1858 and 1859, and has served for five years as county commissioner for the 1st district. He is one of the leading Republicans of this county, and merits and retains the respect and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

Eri G. Wood and his brother, Loren Clark Wood, came here early in 1856, and took up claims. The last named, enlisting in the army for the suppression of the rebellion, contracted disease from the effects of which he died.

Eri G. Wood, a native of Franklin County, N. Y., was born in 1832, and is the son of Nathaniel and Almada (Cochrane) Wood. His parents removed to Iowa in 1845, and settled in Clayton County. Eleven years were spent there, and in 1856, when he was some twenty-four years of age, in company with his brother Loren he came to what is now Woodville Township, taking some good land. A portion of this claim is that upon which considerable additions to the city of Waseca are laid out and built upon. In point of fact Mr. Wood lives upon the same spot where he first built his pioneer cabin. He was, while a resident of Iowa, united in marriage with Mary L. Stevens. They are the parents of seven children: Loren G., who was born August 5, 1856, who is now married and resides in Waseca; Sumner E., Luman L., Isabel, Robert Q., Florence A. and Nellie, born August 6, 1878, died February 7, 1879.

Henry Watkins also made settlement in this town in the same year, coming here with the Wood family, and working for them during the summer of that year, and afterward taking up a claim on section 3, on

the banks of the lake to which he gave his name—Watkins' Lake. Later he opened up a farm south and east of this. During the early part of the "seventies" he removed from this locality and is now living in Iowa.

In the summer of 1856 C. B. Lyman came here and took up some land on section 18, it being lots along Loon Lake. Before cold weather set in, however, he sold his claim and returned to New York.

Alfred C. Smith, who had come to Waseca County in 1855 with his father and located in Blooming Grove Township, although he had taken a claim in Woodville, moved to this town in 1856, and took up some land on section 5, opened up a farm where he lived until after the death of his father in November, 1872, when he removed back to Blooming Grove, where he now lives.

Another very early settler was E. K. Carlton, who came here with his family in May, 1856, and took up a claim on sections 5 and 6, where he immediately built a cabin and moved. This shanty was, undoubtedly, the first one in the township covered with shingles. However, before this, the family had managed to live in it through a dry spell with a bark roof, but the first rain drowned them out, and shingling was deemed necessary. E. K. Carlton is a native of Otsego, N. Y., born February 5, 1811, and resided there and in that neighborhood and in Connecticut until coming to Minnesota. He was married in 1842 to Mary Burdick, of Hornellsville. They have had seven children: Mary Eliza, Gertrude C., Horatio N., Lucaba, Lucius, Edgar and Emily. Mrs. Carlton died July 27, 1878, but her husband is still a resident of the county.

Jacob Myers came here in the fall of 1856 and made a claim on sections 17 and 18, the site of the city of Waseca, which he afterward preëmpted. In 1867 he sold this piece of property to Ira C. Trowbridge, who laid out the town, and emigrated to the golden shores of the Pacific, and is now living in California.

William Dunn, a native of the Emerald Isle, came to this part of Waseca County from Indiana in 1856, and settled on section 35. He died in this county in March, 1884; his wife died in September, 1871.

Daniel Egan, a native of Ireland, came to this place and located in 1857. He took up a claim and opened up a farm, where he died many years ago.

Patrick Farrell came to Woodville Township in 1857, and made a settlement on section 6, where he still resides. He is a native of Ireland, born March 17, 1832, and is the eldest son of William and Julia Farrell, who were the parents of eight children. For many years Mr. Farrell remained in the land of his birth, but finally concluded to seek his fortune in the new world, so accordingly set sail, and landed in New York. June 9, 1857, he was united in marriage with Julia Agen, born in 1832. They have been the parents of ten children: Lewis, Mary, Julia, William, Mary, Daniel, Mary Ann and Maggie. Of these the two first Marys are dead, the others are all living. Mr. and Mrs. Farrell are members of the Catholic Church, and he is, politically, a Democrat.

Luman S. Wood came to the town of Woodville about 1857. He was a brother of Eri G. Wood, and a native of St. Lawrence County, N. Y., born in 1836. He resided with his parents until about twenty-five years of age when he enlisted in the First Minnesota Infantry. On the expiration of his term of service, he re-enlisted in the heavy artillery and served until the close of the war. About 1867 he was married to Fannie Lansdale, and prior to leaving for Oregon, in 1872, where he now resides, one child, Edith, was born to them.

William M. Green, a millwright by occupation, came to Waseca County about the year 1857. He located in this township, and during his stay here followed his trade and ran a sawmill for about two years. He then removed to Warsaw, Rice County, and later to Wasioja, Dodge County, this State.

Quite a number of settlers made their appearance here in 1857, among whom were James Nitcher and W. H. Houek, the latter locating on section 2; John Morton, on the southwest quarter of section 30; Andrew Jackson, who settled in the eastern part of the town; Frances Corr, Charles Domey, Austin Vinton still a resident of the town, located on section 36; S. H. Drum and Samuel Knutson, who settled on what is now known as the Roessler farm.

FIRST ITEMS.

The first birth in this township was that of Loren G., son of Eri and Mary L. Wood, born August 5, 1856.

Probably the first religious services in the town were held at the house of E. G. Wood, in 1857, by Elder Moreland.

A school was held in a log shanty close to Clear Lake, on section 17, during the summer of 1859, of which Emma Cook was the teacher.

The first cemetery was instituted on the east side of section 17, where some few were interred before the ground was surveyed. Andrew Hiels who did the surveying being the first to be buried there after it was laid out.

ORGANIZATION.

Woodville was organized as a separate civil township, at a meeting of the county commissioners on the 5th of April, 1858.

The first election was held at the house of Eri G. Wood, on section 17, that gentleman assisted by Jacob Myers and William Green, acting as judges of election.

WASECA.

A village was laid out upon section 31, in this township, early in 1856, by some Winona parties who gave it the Indian name of Waseca. They undertook to lobby in the State Legislature to have it made the seat of county justice, but failed in their object, although the name was given to the county. There never was any building on the town site except a pole claim shanty.

OAK HILL STOCK FARM.

In speaking of the results of the development of Waseca County, we must not neglect to mention this, one of the leading stock farms of this part of the State. It lies upon sections 35 and 36, of Woodville Township and sections 1 and 2, of Otisco, and contains 700 acres of land. It is devoted to the breeding and raising of Percheron and French coach horses and Durham cattle. The place is laid out with great judgment for convenience in carrying on the business for which it is intended, and the buildings are all that could be desired in that line. The house, a model in its way, was erected in 1882, to replace one built by Mr. Dunn on coming here in 1867, which although but 16x24, was then the best house in the county. It is used by James M. Dunn, the proprietor, as a granary. On the place are two large barns, one being 32x72 feet upon the ground, with 18 foot studding; the other is 32x42 feet in size, 20 feet high, with basement underneath. Besides this are machinery sheds, etc. Mr. Dunn is the owner of Brilliant, No. 2,831, an imported Norman Percheron horse which weighs some twenty-three hundred pounds, and for points, is deemed one of the best of his class in the State; Apollo, No. 1,505, also an imported Norman Percheron, and Le Due, an imported French coach horse that excellent judges pronounce the equal of anything in the line of horse flesh of that character in Minnesota; besides a number of other thoroughbred and high-grade horses and mares, numbering some thirty-five head.

In the way of short-horn Durham cattle, Mr. Dunn has a herd of about thirty-five head of thorough and high grades with Lone Star, a bull of fine strain and imported stock, at the head. At the county agricultural fair of 1887, Mr. Dunn took some seven first and two second premiums, being about all for which his stock was entered for competition.

James M. Dunn, the proprietor of Oak

Hill Stock Farm, is a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and was born March 5, 1839. He is the son of Thomas Dunn and Isabella (Lindsay) Dunn, both natives of the same place, who had a family of ten children: Ann, James, Isabella, William, George, Walter, John, Eliza, Andrew and Isabella. The first named Isabella was drowned, hence the repetition of the name. All are living except John and Isabella. In 1840 the family came to the United States, first locating in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., where the father was engaged in farming and lumbering. In 1856 the family removed to Lee County, Ill. While living there, September 16, 1862, the father of the family was killed by a stroke of lightning. The mother and the balance of the family came to Minnesota in the fall of 1866, and in the spring of the following year J. M. purchased eighty acres of land on section 36, in Woodville Township, part of his present extensive farm. From this humble beginning has grown the Oak Hill Stock Farm. Mr. Dunn was the leader in the movement to raise the grade of stock to a higher standard, bringing into this county the first imported stallion and mare. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar. July 18, 1868, J. M. Dunn and Matilda Turnacliiff were united in marriage. She is a daughter of Ferdinand Turnacliiff, one of the pioneers of this county, and is a native of Ohio, born March 16, 1848. They are the parents of six children: Thomas, born July 5, 1871; Mary, born April 11, 1873; John, born March 13, 1879, and Isabella, born June 29, 1881, all living; and Addie May, born April 25, 1879, died June 27, 1886, of scarlet fever, and an infant.

MAPLETON STOCK FARM.

This is one of the institutions of the township, and is headquarters for finely bred

stock. It contains some 262 acres of land situated on sections 16 and 21, and is but a mile and a half from the city of Waseca. It is the property of H. J. Young, M. D., one of the leading physicians of the latter place. He has a fine place here and is continually improving it. He has here a fine herd of short-horn cattle of some of the finest and best strains known, and particular attention is given rather to quality than to size, as the proprietor deems that paramount. At the head of the herd is the bull, Knight of Maplewood. He has one of the best thoroughbred trotting stallions in the State, Mambrino Eclipse, who has a record of 2:34, and a trial record of 2:30, and unites in himself some of the best blood in the world, being descended from Mambrino Chief, the sire of Lady Thorn, and from Abdallah and imported Messenger. He is pronounced by excellent judges to be the peer of any horse in the State. Besides him the Doctor has other stock, all of a valuable nature, and calculated to do the county a large amount of good in raising the grade of the stock therein. Poland China hogs of pure strains are here carefully raised and brought to perfection. Take it altogether the place is a great credit to any community, and although the proprietor is in full practice as a physician, he manages to give his stock farm a good deal of personal attention.

REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

A few biographical sketches of some of the leading agriculturists are here given as representing the people of the township.

N. J. Leavitt, the proprietor of Lake View Stock Farm, is a native of Washington County, Vt., born November 19, 1841, and is the son of Jonathan and Sarah C. (Gilman) Leavitt. His father was born in Vermont, and his mother in New Hampshire, and they were the parents of six children, two boys and four girls: Zelotus, Sarah Jane, Nehemiah J., Phylura, Agnes and infant daughter. Nehemiah J. was but eleven years old

when he began the world for himself, working at farm work, afterward learning the trade of carpenter, which he followed for about four years. On the 20th of November, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, Eighth Vermont Infantry, under Capt. Foster, as private. He participated in the battles of Fort Bissland, those of the Red River campaign, Alexandria, Port Hudson and others, and was discharged September 4, 1863, for disability, with the rank of sergeant. He returned to Vermont and engaged in wagon-making for about a year, when he took up farming. Four years later he emigrated to Wisconsin, and in one year from that time, to Waseca County, Minn. May 1, 1864, he was united in marriage with Lizzie P. Sterling, who was born in Vermont, August 10, 1845. They have two children: Herbert, born August 30, 1865, and Frank, born June 5, 1870, both of whom are living with their parents. Mr. Leavitt is an extensive raiser of thoroughbred Holstein cattle, and has a very fine herd of those animals on his extensive farm on section 16. He is a Republican politically.

William H. Gray was born in Lake County, Ill., July 22, 1840, and his parents were old settlers of Waseca County. The family removed to West Union, Fayette County, Iowa, in 1853, and in June, 1855, came to this county, settling on section 35 of the town of Blooming Grove, where the father died in 1872. William H. remained at home with his parents until April 25, 1862, when he enlisted in the Fifth Minnesota Infantry, under Captain E. A. Rice, and with his regiment participating in many engagements, among which were the siege of Corinth, battle of Corinth, Jackson, siege of Vicksburg, battle of Mechanicsburg, Fort De Russay, Clarksville, Bayou Roberts, Nashville, Spanish Fort, Tupelo, etc. After his discharge he came back to Waseca County, and in June, 1865, he was united in marriage with Rosalia E. Ketcham, who was born in Ohio, May 24, 1846. They have been the

parents of six children: Lura, born November 11, 1866; Isora, March 6, 1870; Emer W., March 11, 1873, died when nine months old; Orrilla Orlett, November 15, 1874; Fred. W., May 9, 1877, and Lelace Henrietta, January 2, 1881. Mr. Gray is a member of McKune Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and is a Republican in politics.

George H. Wood, an intelligent and thrifty farmer living on section 22, this township, is a native of Wisconsin, born September 29, 1849. He is the son of Ezra H. and Catherine (Gamble) Wood, the former a native of Massachusetts, born May 1, 1814; the latter of New York, born September 15, 1820. They had a family of six children: Theodore, Emma, George Henry, Orry E., Ella A. and Alfred A. Mr. Wood's father died October 11, 1885, of consumption; his mother September 29, 1886. George H. began life for himself when he was twenty-one years of age, engaging in farming on the place where he now resides. He was united in marriage July 4, 1877, with Jennie Deverell, who was born in Wisconsin, December 22, 1857. They have a family of three children: Casper A., born February 2, 1879; Augusta A., January 6, 1883, and Frank G., September 29, 1885. Mr. Wood was elected clerk of school district No. 45, in 1870, and held that position for twelve years.

John Curran was born near Milwaukee, Wis., November 28, 1847, and is the son of John and Mary (Roney) Curran, natives of Ireland, who came to this country in 1837, first locating in Milwaukee, but a year afterward moved to Michigan. Later they returned to Milwaukee, where the father died May 12, 1860. In March, 1874, the family came to Waseca County, Minn., locating on section 29, this township, where the mother still resides with her son James. When John Jr. had reached the age of eighteen years he started out in life for himself, engaging first in the sawmill business, which he followed for seven years. He then came to Waseca County and visited for about two

months, going from here to Minneapolis. Later he went to the Red River country, where he was engaged in the lumbering business, and then came back to this county and settled on section 28, where he now resides. He carries on general farming and stock-raising. November 9, 1876, he and Mary Carmody were united in marriage. She was born December 21, 1857. They are the parents of five children: Arthur, born September 20, 1877; John, September 23, 1879; Thomas, March 1, 1882; Harry, May 6, 1884, and Mary, February 28, 1887. In 1884 Mr. Curran was elected school district treasurer, which office he still holds.

James Curran, another son of John and Mary (Roney) Curran, resides on section 29, in this township. A sketch of his parents is given above, as a part of the personal history of the elder brother. James was apprenticed at and learned the carpenter trade, which he occasionally follows now. He devotes the greater part of his time to the various details of general farming and stock-raising. Mr. Curran is a native of Wisconsin, where he was born September 11, 1857, and where he resided until 1877, when he came to Waseca County. He is unmarried, his mother living in the same house with him since her husband's death, and attending to the household duties thereof. In 1883, Mr. Curran was elected town supervisor and still holds that office.

Andrew L. Dunn, whose farm of 104 acres lies on section 35, of this township, came to this county in 1866. He was twenty-two years of age when he began life for himself on his present place, as a farmer, and that vocation he has followed ever since, giving considerable attention to stock-raising. March 8, 1883, he was united in marriage with Carrie Rens, a native of Marion County, Iowa, and a daughter of John and Sarah (Fettgather) Rens, who were natives of Germany. Her father died in 1871, but her mother is still living in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Rens were the parents of four children:

Edith, Carrie, Arthur and Frank. Mr. Dunn is a Republican in politics.

Lorin A. Gage, an enterprising farmer living on section 4, this township, is a native of the State of New York, born April 11, 1838. In 1852 he with his parents removed to the State of Illinois, where they lived for many years and then came to Waseca County. His father died at the advanced age of eighty years. His mother has also been called to her rest beyond the dark river. They had a family of six children: Clarissa, Mary Jane, Jackson, Lorin, Olive and Harriet. Lorin A. Gage's wife is a native of Ireland, Catherine Collins by name. They have a good farm in an excellent state of cultivation and Mr. Gage shows by close attention to business that he understands how to farm to obtain the best results for his labor.

William Hover, who has a fine farm on section 8, in this township, is a native of the State of New York, born April 30, 1824, and is the son of Cornelius and Eunice Hover. He resided in the Empire State until 1854. In 1863 he came to Waseca County and located on a farm on section 27, Vivian Township. On the 5th of November, 1863, he enlisted in Company G, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, participating in most of the engagements in which that regiment was employed. He served his country at the front until September, 1865, when, receiving his discharge, he came back to his home in Vivian Township, where he remained until 1886, when he sold out there and purchasing his present place, removed thither. November 8, 1845, he was united in marriage with Susan Hill, who was also a native of New York, born August 21, 1826. Mrs. Hover died in Vivian, January 8, 1878, having been the mother of two children: Lucina D., born August 27, 1846, and Lewis D., born December 25, 1847. In politics Mr. Hover's views coincide with those of the Republican party, which ticket he usually votes.

Thomas Kennedy was born in Ireland, May 28, 1848, and is the son of Patrick and Mary Kennedy. The same year he was born the family emigrated to America and settled at St. Johns, N. B., where they remained some three years, when they removed to Vermont. Two years later they came west to Wisconsin, where Patrick Kennedy engaged in farming. Thomas Kennedy started out for himself at the age of twenty-two, and has always followed farming. October 11, 1862, he was united in marriage with Rose Reynolds, also a native of Ireland, born December 28, 1844, and is the daughter of Bernard and Catherine Reynolds. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy are the parents of eight children: John, Mary, Rose, Thomas, Bernard, Joseph, William and Edward, all of whom reside with their parents. The family are members of the Catholic Church.

Henry Buker is a native of Germany, born May 14, 1837, and is the son of Henry and Gertrude (Gotmon) Buker, who had a family of five children: Christopher, Eliza, Henry, Jerry and Mary. His father died in the old country, and in 1861 the mother with her family came to America, first settling in Clayton County, Iowa, where they remained some ten years. Henry Buker commenced life for himself at the age of fourteen years, and has always followed farming. In October, 1865, he was united in marriage with Lena Make, who was born October 8, 1849. In 1874 they moved to Waseca County, where they settled on section 33, in Woodville Township, where they now live, and where Mr. Buker owns some 510 acres of as fine land as lies out doors. He and his wife are the parents of six children: William, born June 24, 1866; Katie, October 16, 1867; Henry, August 15, 1870; John, March 15, 1871; Mary, October 23, 1872, and Anna, December 19, 1877. All the children live with their parents. The family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Buker is a Republican in politics.

Henry F. Lewer is a native of Germany, born December 6, 1853, and is the son of Henry and Margeret (Orns) Lewer, who had a family of seven children, three boys and four girls, only one of whom is dead; the rest are living in the United States. In 1866 the family came to America, locating at La Crosse, Wis., where they only remained a few months, after which they came to Steele County, but seven months later moved to this county, settling in Vivian Township, where they mostly still live, engaged in farming and stock-raising. Henry F. commenced life for himself on his marriage, November 14, 1879, to Lena Scholljegerdes, who was also a native of Germany, born December 4, 1855. He moved to the farm on section 27, this township, where he now lives. In 1885 Mr. Lewer was elected township assessor and still holds that office. He is a Republican in politics. Mr. and Mrs. Lewer have a family of two children: Henry, born October 28, 1883, and John, born February 9, 1886. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Isaac Vickere, an enterprising agriculturist on section 33, this township, is a native of Somerset County, Me., and was born March 12, 1834. He is the son of Joseph and Susan (Small) Vickere, both natives of the same county and State. The father died November 18, 1876; the mother who was born in 1806, is still living. At the age of twenty-one years Isaac began the world for himself, first engaging in the lumbering business in Wisconsin, which he followed for some eighteen years. From there he came to Waseca County, locating on the farm on section 33, this town, where he now resides, and where he has some 240 acres of well improved land under high state of cultivation. September 15, 1869, Mr. Vickere and Addie Seager were united in marriage. She was born in the State of New York, July 19, 1849. They have a family of two children: Albion, born March 8, 1875, and Mont R., born March 26, 1879. Mr. Vickere is a Republican in politics and a representative man of this township.



CHAPTER XXIII.

NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE.



THE township of New Richland lies in the extreme southeastern corner of Waseca County, and embraces all of congressional township 105 north, range 22 west, and contains 22,653.47 acres of land, most of which is capable of use for agriculture and 7,925 acres of which is now improved. None of the land is too level, and in the east two ranges of sections, being included in what is called the morainic belt, is mostly covered with mounds, swells and hills, thirty to fifty feet above the intervening hollows. The western part is gently undulating, with prolonged, smooth swells, the highest of them being ten to thirty feet above the neighboring sloughs and lakes. The Le Sueur River intersecting this township, with its tributaries, affords ample drainage, which is largely assisted by the contour of the ground. The soil is the black, unctuous, alluvial loam so common to southern Minnesota, which under favorable circumstances yields such a large return to the laboring agriculturist. Some of the best land in the county is found in this township, the rich lands of the valley of the Le Sueur having become almost proverbial.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

On the 6th of May, 1856, a band of Norwegian emigrants left Rock County, Wis., bound for the North Star State and new homes in the, then, wilderness. These were Anthony Sampson, H. H. Sunde, K. O. Rotegard, H. T. Handgrud, Ole K. Hagen, W. Anderson, Christian Knudson and E. O.

Streng. They had all left their home in Norway for a home in the "land of the free," and had settled in Rock County, but at the above date started out anew. They had with them twelve yoke of cattle, thirty cows, about fifty head of young cattle, and about \$600 in gold. Slowly toiling on, on the 10th of June they came, after a tiresome journey, to what is now the town of New Richland, then an uninhabited land. Only a few Indians hunting the game that abounded were to be seen.

They at once commenced their labors toward a permanent occupation of the territory, each taking up 160 acres of land, and making up two breaking teams of working cattle each consisting of four yoke, began breaking up the virgin sod. In this manner four acres were prepared for each family, which they immediately planted with flint corn, but when it had come up the gophers and blackbirds took it nearly all. For two years they had a hard time, for they could raise but little and flour was \$11 a barrel, and then they had to go seventy-five miles after it. But still they persevered and succeeded in establishing themselves. One of the mainstays of life among them was the fish that abounded in the lake and river, and had it not been for this food supply, living had been almost impossible for a time.

Of this colony it may be said that they never had any great dissension among them. Whenever there chanced to arise any difference among any of them, two or three would get together and settle the matter satisfactorily to all concerned. There never has been one of them in a lawsuit in this county.

Ole C. Knudson is a native of the town of New Richland, Waseca County, Minn., born November 12, 1857. He is unmarried, and lives on his farm on sections 13 and 15, where he has about 115 acres of land. His father, Christian Knudson, was born in Norway, but came to America in 1853, and was one of the party who made the first settlement in this township in 1856, as given. He took up a claim on sections 13 and 24. He died here, October 11, 1883. Ole's mother is now Mrs. Margaret Christianson, wife of Nels Christianson. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Knudson were as follows: Betsy Sorenson, born October 11, 1845; Knudt Christianson, born in 1852, died in 1881; Julia Oleson, born in 1855; Ole C., born in 1857; Christian, born in 1859, now deceased; Mary born in 1863; Gustaf, born March 2, 1865; Nena, in 1868, and Teena in 1871, died in December, 1886. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Ole Oleson Hagen is a native of this township, having been born on the farm where he now lives, on section 2, October 29, 1858. His father, Ole K. Hagen, a native of Norway, came to this county in 1856, as stated, and settled on this, the well known Pioneer Farm, putting up one of the first houses in the township. The farm now comprises some 240 acres of land on sections 2 and 3, on both sides of the Le Sueur River, and includes some 20 acres of fine timber. His house is a good comfortable modern cottage, and his barn is an immense one, with good stone basement. Grain, cattle and horses are the principal products of the place. July 16, 1880, Ole Oleson Hagen and Ingeberg Christofson were united in marriage. She was born in Norway, January 29, 1853. They have a family of five children: Sielie, born May 24, 1881; Bereth Olenia, May 19, 1882; Clara, January 22, 1884; Marit, June 6, 1885, and Olda Emilia, February 22, 1887. They are members of the Lutheran Church.

N. C. Koffstad, Martin Anderson and August Miller came to this county about

two weeks after the arrival of the Sampson colony. Koffstad is still a resident of the township; Miller, after a residence here of five years, removed to Berlin, Steele County, where he now lives; Anderson migrated to Albert Lea, after living here about seven years.

Knute Christenson came here in the fall of 1856, and resided here until September 1, 1871, when he died.

Nels Christenson was also a settler of this year.

Nels Christenson was born in Norway, September 16, 1828, and emigrated to America in 1853. He settled in Illinois, near Chicago, where he remained until 1856, when he came to this township, and took up a claim on government land, where he still resides. He now has, besides his farm, about thirty acres of good timber land, and has a never failing spring of excellent water. He has a herd of about sixty head of cattle, and eight horses, and is one of the county's solid farmers. He has also a fine residence, and spacious barn, with excellent surroundings. He has been twice married, his first wife being Miss E. Johnson, who was born in Norway, June 15, 1843, to whom he was married in 1859. She died in 1876, having been the mother of eleven children, three dying in infancy, and eight are now living, whose names are: Christiannia, born May 11, 1861; Johm, May 28, 1863; Randine, December 29, 1864; Eline, November 19, 1865; Peter, February 18, 1867; Mary, March 4, 1870; Otto, March 28, 1871, and Nena, April 1, 1875. Mr. Christianson's second wife was Mary Knudson, born in Norway, January 10, 1826, to whom he was married July 29, 1885. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

In the spring of 1857, Halleck Peterson settled near by, and continued there until 1862, when he removed from the county.

April 1, 1857, Hans O. Sunde came to New Richland Township, and made this his home until December 16, 1874, when he died of old age, being ninety-two years old.

J. S. Rice was a settler of the year 1857, also. He at first located in this town, but afterward removed to the village of Wilton, about 1860. He was about that time appointed county treasurer, and served two years. On the expiration of his term of office, he entered the service of the general government, to aid in suppressing the rebellion, and on his discharge, settled in Iowa.

In 1858 Ole Hogaas made a settlement in this township, and lived here until his death, in June, 1885.

John Benson is a native of Norway, born in March, 1833. He came to the United States in 1853, and settled in Rock County, Wis., where he remained until 1858, when he came to this county and settled where he now lives, on section 26, where he has most excellent improvements in the way of residence, barns, granary and a fine grove. He was united in marriage with Marie Olson in 1855. She was born in Norway, December 26, 1833. They have been the parents of six children: Peter, born January 22, 1856; Anna Marie, March 22, 1860; Henry, November 7, 1863; Martin, August 1, 1866; Theodore, April 6, 1868, and Betsy Oline, June 21, 1881. Mr. Benson now owns and cultivates one of the finest farms in this section of the county, having 400 acres of land. He is giving much attention to stock-raising, having some forty head of cattle, eleven horses and eighty sheep. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Nels Tyrholm, now a resident of the village of New Richland, came here in 1858 and settled on a farm, the place now owned by E. E. Verplank. He is the present furniture dealer of the village.

Torkel Lund and Ole H. Sunde, both still residing here, made their settlement in 1858.

H. J. Hanson came to this township in 1858 with his parents, who settled on section 11, near the Lutheran Church. He is a native of Norway, born September 27, 1848. In 1856 his father brought the family to Amer-

ica, and for two years thereafter they resided in Rock County, Wis., and then came here. Mr. Hanson bought part of the farm where he lives, on section 32, in 1868, but now owns land in all three sections—32, 33 and 29. May 2, 1869, he was united in marriage with Anna P. Hedenstadt, who was born in Norway, February 10, 1848. They have been the parents of nine children, only four of whom are living: Paulina Amelia, Alfred Julian, Paulina Sophia, Olave, Carl Oliver, Peter, Carl Martin, Gearhard and one that died in extreme infancy. His father, Ole H. Sunde, was born in Norway in November, 1816, and is still living in this county. Mr. Hanson enlisted in Company L, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, and was in active service until the close of the war, participating in many battles, and was discharged October 9, 1866, at Nashville. He had three comrades who enlisted with him, and of the four he only survived. Mr. Hanson has an excellent place, good dwelling, barn, etc., surrounded with a thrifty grove. He has twenty-four head of cattle, four horses, besides over thirty swine.

S. W. Franklin was among the pioneers of New Richland, coming here in 1857. He is still a resident of this town. He is a native of Essex County, N. J., born February 18, 1823. He was reared in Pennsylvania, and came here from Illinois, and settled on section 5, of this township. November 19, 1866, he married Eva Melissa Free-love, of Manchester, Iowa.

David Skinner, one of the pioneers of this settlement, located in New Richland Township during the year 1858. He resided here until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in Company F, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, and while in the service, died at St Louis, January 13, 1863.

John Thompson made a settlement in New Richland Township in 1858, and resided here until about 1880, when he removed to Albert Lea. He represented this district in the Legislature two terms.

In the fall of 1858 came Eric Christianson, A. N. Berg, A. J. Stensvad and Ole Johnson. The latter died here on his farm in 1870.

J. E. Christianson was born in New Richland Township, on section 28, on the 27th of August, 1858, and was reared here. He was united in marriage, June 21, 1879, with Otilda Peterson, who was also a native of this county, born June 18, 1860, but who died July 21, 1883, leaving one child, Josephena Cecelia, born August 9, 1880. Mr. Christianson is by trade a mason and plasterer, doing all kinds of work in that line in all their various branches, and is an adept at it. He is a consistent member of the Lutheran Church, like many others in this township, and is a straightforward business man.

Andrew N. Berg, the proprietor of Oak Hill Farm, is a native of Norway, born November 12, 1835. He came to the United States in 1855, and settled in Rock County, Wis., and from there removed to Fillmore County, this State. Later he came here and made a permanent settlement, and now has a magnificent farm of 740 acres of land under excellent cultivation, and with an elegant residence, fine spacious barns and other fine buildings, all located in a beautiful grove. He has 110 head of fair grade cattle, and twenty-one head of horses, and is in excellent circumstances in every way. April 28, 1861, he was united in marriage with Isabell Johnson, who was also born in Norway, June 12, 1843. They are the parents of fourteen children: Anna Jorgine, born February 1, 1862; Ingeborg Sophie, July 10, 1863; Andrew, December 23, 1864; Inge Maria, April 21, 1866; Lyverine Matkea, January 3, 1868; Elise Nicoline, July 3, 1870; Syvert, March 10, 1872; Otto, May 11, 1873; Nils Edward, February 5, 1875; Martin, September 24, 1878; Ingoburg Allette, February 13, 1879; Thea Johanne, September 2, 1881; Darthea Elizabeth, May 13, 1884, and Christian August, September 11, 1886. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

PROMINENT CITIZENS.

Sketches, more or less biographical, are given here of some of the leading citizens of this town, they being good representatives of the population of the same.

J. H. Wightman is a native of the State of New York, born February 3, 1822, and is the son of Rufus and Mary (Potter) Wightman. His father died when J. H. was about a year old, and he resided with his mother until 1849, when he went to Chicago, where he learned the tinner's trade, and since that time has been engaged in business on his own account. In July, 1857, he came to Waseca County from Wisconsin, driving through, bringing with him his wife and family, then consisting of three children. He then settled on section 24, in the town of Byron, where he remained until the spring of 1863, when he removed to the village of Wilton, where he went into the hardware business with P. C. Bailey. Two years later he sold out to G. W. Watkins, and bought out a boot and shoe store and carried on that line of trade for five years, when he closed out and removed to a farm in Otisco Township. After two years spent there, he bought the dry goods and grocery store of Forrest & Stevens, at Wilton, and returned to that village and carried on that business at that point until the village of New Richland had commenced, when he removed the stock to the latter place, bringing also a full line of hardware. He continued here in business until 1885, when he sold out to A. J. Newgard, and moved to his farm on section 16, where he now lives. He was married in 1853 to Mary Robinson, a native of New York. They have been the parents of fourteen children.

J. F. Hunt, a true representative of the refined and thrifty farmer of his native State, was born in Niagara County, N. Y., November 19, 1848. When but a boy the family removed to Wisconsin, where he remained until the fall of 1881, when he came here and settled on the southeast quarter of sec-

tion 9, where he now lives. April 20, 1878, he was united in marriage with Ettie Boardman, at Fairwater, Fond du Lac County, Wis., where she was born January 22, 1857. They are the parents of three children: Albert E., born February 22, 1879; Cora May, born October 12, 1881, and Jessie L. born January 4, 1886. Mr. Hunt is giving considerable attention to the raising of stock, in addition to his other farming operations. He and his excellent wife are members of the Congregational Church.

Andrew Breilein is a native of Washington County, Wis., born December 22, 1845. He came to Minnesota in the year 1873, and settled on a farm on section 9, near where he now resides. He now has a beautiful place of 200 acres of excellent land, within a mile of the village of New Richland, whither he looks forward to taking up his residence in the near future. He is the father of nine children, eight of whom are living: Mary, born July 3, 1870; Peter, born December 20, 1871; Elizabeth, born July 13, 1873; Frederick, born February 11, 1875; Lena, born September 10, 1876; Ida, born October 9, 1878; George, born April 7, 1880; Catherine, born February 11, 1882, died October, 1882, and Henry, born June 27, 1883. Their mother was formerly Mary Laudert, to whom he was married in Wisconsin in October, 1868. She was born in Wisconsin May 16, 1851. Mr. Breilein runs a thrashing machine in season, and also owns and operates a feedmill in the village of New Richland. He is a member of the Christian Church.

Paul O. Qverna was born in Norway, October 22, 1849, and worked in the silver mines and on his father's farm in that country until he had reached the age of seventeen years, when he emigrated to America, landing in this country in 1867, and coming direct to Waseca County. From here he went to Olmsted County where he remained some four years and then returned here and purchased 120 acres of land on

sections 15 and 16, building his residence on the latter. July 28, 1875, he was united in marriage with Sophia J. Nelson, of Yellow Medicine County, who was born in Norway, October 1, 1851. They have a family of three boys: John Olaf, born May 1, 1876; Carl, born August 18, 1877, and Rudolph, born February 1, 1879. His father, Ole Sornson, worked in the silver mines for the government in Norway for forty-nine years and now enjoys a pension in his retirement. Mr. Qverna has a fine herd of twenty head of graded cattle, and six head of horses, and has one of the finest farms in the township.

John Peterson was born in Sweden, May 10, 1845, and came to America in 1859, settling in Wabash County, Ind. He remained there about four years, and then came to Red Wing, Minn., and from there to this county, and settled upon section 4, of this township, in 1863, on government land. His mother resided with him while he was perfecting his title. In the year 1859 he was united in marriage with Anna Lawson, and they are the parents of three children: Charles Alfred, born May 24, 1860; Edwin Walford, born June 12, 1866, and Hulda Lucetta, born November 14, 1880. During the Indian outbreak he was a member of the Independent Company of Volunteers who went to Fort Ridgeley, and where they passed through many exciting experiences, and while on this trip saw and picked up many crippled and mutilated people and many more that were dead. He has a fine farm of 240 acres of land under excellent cultivation. He and family are Lutherans.

Nels J. Anderson, one of the solid farmers of New Richland Township, has a fine place of some two hundred acres of land on section 2, of which he has over one hundred acres in grain and forty acres of grass, besides twenty-five acres of fine natural timber. He is giving some attention to stock-raising, having a herd of twenty head of cattle, all good strains, and eight head of fine horses.

He is a native of Sweden, born April 6, 1842, and was reared and educated in his native land, living there until the year 1869, when he came to the United States, and on first arriving, settled at Albert Lea, Freeborn County, this State. In 1882 he purchased the place where he now lives, and moved to it in the year 1885, and has made it his residence ever since. This is one of the best farms in this locality.

E. E. Verplank was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., October 22, 1835, and was reared in that locality. In his early manhood he worked in a woolen factory there, but in 1855 came west to Bradford, Iowa, but in the fall of the same year came to Minnesota, locating at Faribault, where he was engaged in the trade of painting. While a resident there, April 22, 1861, he enlisted in Company G, First Minnesota Infantry, and was mustered into the service at Fort Snelling. The regiment being ordered to the front, he was struck down with a sunstroke near Washington, and on the 14th of July, 1861, he was discharged for disability and returned home. October 22, 1864, he was united in marriage with Sophia Hanson Sunde, who was born in Norway, August 1, 1844. They have been the parents of seven children, six of whom are alive: Edwin, born August 18, 1865, died September 10, 1865; Edwin, October 20, 1866; Leida Olevia, February 6, 1869; Willie, October 23, 1871; Hannah Maria, May 29, 1874, Oscar, June 5, 1877, and Albert Martin, September 12, 1883. Mr. Verplank made a claim in this county in 1856, but abandoned it and returned to Faribault. He now owns some eighty acres of land where he now resides.

Joseph D. Young is a native of Holland, born February 17, 1845. In 1853 the family came to the United States and settled in Wisconsin, where he remained until 1873, when he removed to this State, and in 1875 came to Waseca County, and now has a good farm on section 18, where he moved in 1880. January 14, 1880, he was united in marriage

with Mrs. Anna Dietling, formerly Anna Launder, who was born in Wisconsin, July 15, 1845, and who had married John Dietling, October 15, 1868, and whose husband had died December 27, 1879, leaving her with a family of six children, one having died. Their names are: Theresa S., born July 31, 1869; Mary Catherine, July 21, 1871; John, November 17, 1872; Jacob, August, 1874, died August, 1875; Caroline, August 19, 1877, and Elizabeth, April 2, 1879. The family are members of the Catholic Church. Mr. and Mrs. Young are the parents of four children: Joseph, born October 14, 1881; Peter J., March 11, 1883; Agnes Mary, July 4, 1885, died May 14, 1887, and Georgie, August 12, 1887.

Ole Knudson Rekke is a native of Norway, born April 14, 1839. He came to America in 1852 with his parents, who settled at Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis., where they remained until 1856, when they came to this county and township. March 2, 1863, he was united in marriage with Margeret Knudson Hagen, who was born in November, 1838. The same year they moved to the farm on section 2, where they now reside, and where Mr. Rekke owns 160 acres of good land, and where he carries on general farming and stock-raising, having sixteen head of cattle and six head of horses. Mr. and Mrs. Rekke are the parents of two children: Carra, born November 26, 1863, and Knud, October 31, 1865. They are members of the Lutheran Church.

Thomas Lajord is a native of Norway, born February 26, 1842. He was educated for a teacher, and being a Lutheran, was confirmed at Hamarstiff in 1857, and that year attended school to complete his education for his life work as teacher. He began his career in his native land January 10, 1859, and followed teaching there until April 4, 1870, when he immigrated to America and landed at New York. Ten days after his arrival he came to Goodhue County, this State, and from there to Dakota County,

where he occupied his time in teaching until 1875, when he came to this county and purchased forty acres of land on section 12, New Richland Township, where he still resides. He held the position of teacher and choir leader in the church here until 1885, when some of the members thinking that he was too outspoken in his manner in regard to his views as to the way Christian people should live, and dissensions creeping into the church, he resigned his stewardship. June 26, 1869, Thomas Lajord and Maren Kattvold were united in marriage, and they have been the parents of four children: Thorstein, born October 27, 1876; Ingeborg, June 6, 1879; Clara, July 8, 1882, and Hannah, March 3, 1887. Mrs. Lajord is a native of Norway, born December 24, 1850, and with her husband is a consistent member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Lajord was the doorkeeper in the Legislature at the session of 1887. He is an upright Christian and a worthy citizen.

Knudt Olson Hagen was born in Norway, September 12, 1851. In July, 1852, his parents brought him to this country, and settled at Rock Prairie, Wis., but four years later moved to Minnesota, among the old settlers of this township, and located on section 3, where Mr. Hagen now lives. Here he was raised and educated, and here, November 19, 1874, he was united in marriage with Ella Tollefson, who was born in Norway, December 14, 1853. They were the parents of three children: Salma Mary, born August 31, 1875; Henry Otto, born October 22, 1876, and Tena Cecilia, born in July, 1877, died same month. Mrs. Hagen died November 15, 1883. On the 25th of June, 1887, he was again united in marriage, this time with Marreth Swenson, who was born in Norway, May 29, 1861. His farm consists of 240 acres of land under high state of culture, with good house, barn and other buildings, and he has a herd of some forty head of fine grade cattle. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Torkel Lund was born in Norway, Decem-

ber 7, 1829. He immigrated to America in 1850, and settled in Rock County, Wis., where he remained four years, then removed to Fillmore County, this State, and after four years spent there, came to this township and county, and settled on section 22, where he now lives. Before leaving his native land, in 1850, he was united in marriage with Gerete Berg, who was born on December 25, 1830. They have had a family of nine children: Tidman, born January 2, 1851, died three weeks later; Andrew, born in 1852, deceased; Tidman, born June 4, 1853; Amelia, born October 1857, died February, 1863; Alfred, born November 15, 1860; Martin, born October 5, 1862; Sophia, born December 15, 1864; Amelia, born October 19, 1867, and Emma, born November 17, 1869, died May 12, 1886. Mr. Lund owns, in connection with his sons, 320 acres of land under a good state of cultivation. They have some fifty head of cattle and five horses. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Ole O. Bommengen is a native of Norway, born August 8, 1834, and came to America in 1867, coming direct to this county and town, settling on section 23, where he now lives, and where he owns a fine farm of 200 acres of land under a good state of cultivation, fifty-four head of cattle, eight horses, besides other stock. He was married in Norway, in 1855, to Carrie Mary Hanson, by whom he had three children; Louis Olson, born in Norway, May 1, 1859; Cassa, born in Norway, February 11, 1865, and Edwin, born in Minnesota, March 25, 1871. He married his second wife, Martha Oleson, February 20, 1877. The family are members of the Lutheran Church. He is one of the good, substantial farmers of this township, and is striving to achieve, what he merits by his industry and energy, an easy competence.

Rev. O. A. Mellby was born in Aurdal, Norway, January 9, 1843. He received his education in his native land, graduating from the university of Christiania in 1872,

and was ordained a minister of the Lutheran Church by the Bishop of Christiana, in October of that year. He started immediately for the scene of his labors in New Richland, having had a call from this parish while yet a student. He landed in New York on the 15th of December, 1872, and a few days later was installed as pastor of the New Richland Church, and is the present incumbent of that position. January 9, 1867, he was united in marriage with Sigrid Grundt, who was born in Norway, February 18, 1839. They have had seven children: Carl August, born January 5, 1869, now at the college, Decorah, Iowa, class of 1888; Agnes Theodora, born September 25, 1870, now at Northfield College; Oscar Michael and Marie Eliza, born April 23, 1873, and died September 4, 1873; Marie Elizabeth, born November 5, 1875; Oscar Frederiek, born May 11, 1876, and Gisle Bernhard, born May 24, 1879. Mr. Mellby has improved the parsonage farm since coming here, setting out a fine grove of 4,000 trees and cultivating the land highly.

N. M. Nelson was born in Sweden in the year 1848, and came to the United States in 1868, settling in this county at that time, and for the last twelve years has been a continual resident here. He located on a farm of 160 acres in section 9, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and has a good comfortable dwelling and good outbuildings. He has held the office of county commissioner for seven years and enjoys the confidence of all. He was married to Lottie Johnson, in Waseca County, March 9, 1884. She was born in Indiana, and died January 8, 1885, leaving one child who was born January 2, 1885. Mr. Nelson carries on general farming and stock-raising and is in good, comfortable circumstances.

Edward C. Sybilrud is the son of Christian C. Sybilrud, who was born in Norway, December 1, 1817, and Anna Mary, his wife, who is a native of the same country, born January 8, 1822, and both of whom reside

with their son, Edward, who has a fine farm of 240 acres of land on section 25. He has a fine modern cottage, where he resides surrounded by a fine natural grove some seven or eight acres in extent. He is a native of Norway, born July 1, 1851, and came to America in the year 1870, settling where he now lives. December 25, 1877, he was united in marriage with Renegarde Burtnes, who was also born in Norway, December 25, 1861. They have been the parents of five children: Anna Mary, born February 25, 1879; Christian, born October 27, 1880; Thea Carrenia, born October 23, 1882, who died January 20, 1883; Oscar, born December 11, 1883, and Theo Knute, born February 2, 1886. The family are active members of the Lutheran Church.

Olave Anderson owns 160 acres of land on section 36, this township, and 175 acres in the adjoining county of Freeborn. He has about twenty head of cattle, including eleven milch cows and eleven horses. He is giving much attention to grading up his stock, and has among them some full-blood short-horns. His horses are one-half or better of Norman, or Clyde stock. He also owns and operates a steam thrashing machine. He is a native of Norway, born April 20, 1847. He left the country of his birth for the United States in 1867, and on his arrival came to Fillmore County, this State, and settling there remained for two years, and then removed to the farm where he now lives, in the year 1869. June 8, 1872, he was married to Lora Olson, who was born in Norway, July 1, 1852. They have had born to them five children: Anton, born January 24, 1877; Nena, born October 14, 1879; Netka, born January 12, 1881; Emma, born August 22, 1884, and Ida, born August 24, 1886. Mr. Anderson's mother, Mrs. Mary Anderson, lives with him. She was born in Norway, in 1815. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Henry Schwenke, a thrifty intelligent farmer, who has an excellent farm of 160

acres of land on section 21, is a native of Germany. He was born September 10, 1850, and remained in the fatherland until 1873, when he immigrated to the United States, and for a time lived in Wisconsin. In 1874 he was married to Mary Steinhaus, a native of Wisconsin, born July 22, 1853. Later he removed to this county. He had learned the trade of miller in the old country, and for a year after coming to America he followed that occupation. He has a fine place, with excellent buildings and good stock. Mr. and Mrs. Schwenke are the parents of five children: Emil, Ida, Henry, Mada and Rowland.

Carl Rotegard was born in New Richland Township, Waseca County, Minn., on the place where he now lives, on section 12, July 27, 1863. His father, Knudt Oleson Rotegard, was a native of Norway, born April 14, 1813, died here November 19, 1878. His mother, Barbara (Oleson) Rotegard, was also a native of Norway, born September 7, 1820, and still resides on the old homestead. Carl was reared here, and on the 29th of October, 1883, was united in marriage with Hannah Kittelson, who was born in Norway, August 13, 1861. They have one child, Christian Olaf, born October 18, 1885. Carl has a farm of eighty acres of land which he cultivates. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Julius A. R. Kruger was born in Germany, December 18, 1852, and was brought to America by his parents in 1856. They settled at first in Jefferson County, Wis., where they remained until 1861, when they moved to Freeborn County, this State, where his parents still live. Mr. Kruger came to the place where he now lives, on section 34, in 1884. March 11, 1885, he was married to Mary Goertz, a native of Germany, born December 1, 1864. They have been the parents of two children: Martha Louisa, born March 22, 1886, and died April 9, 1886, and Louis Robert August, born May 22, 1887. Mr. Kruger's father, Frank Kruger, was born

in Prussia, May 22, 1823, and his mother in the same principality, November 15, 1833. Part of the father's farm of 430 acres is in this and part in Freeborn County. Julius owns 160 acres where he lives, has a good new dwelling in modern style, surrounded by a grove of young, thrifty trees.

FIRST ITEMS.

The first birth was that of a daughter of Ole K. Hagen, in July, 1856. She is now the wife of Even Tostenson, a resident of the village.

The first death was that of Samuel S. Sampson, who died August 22, 1861.

The first school district was organized in 1860. John Larson was the first clerk of the district; Anthony Sampson director, and T. Tidmanson Lund, treasurer.

The first school meeting in the township was held at the residence of Nels Tyrholm.

In 1862 the first schoolhouse was erected of logs, on a half acre of ground donated for that purpose by Anthony Sampson. Miss Northup was the first teacher. A special meeting of the district was held July 6, 1861, which voted a tax of \$100 to build this house, which was on the southwest corner of section 14, on Sampson's land.

The first church organized was of the Lutheran denomination, in 1861.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church on section 11, of this township, was built during the years 1875 and 1876, at a cost of about \$5,000. It is 36x60 feet in size upon the ground, and 20 feet high. An addition upon the rear is 20x20 feet in dimension. The spire is 16 feet square at the base, and has an altitude of 96 feet. The edifice has a seating capacity of 550.

The society was organized in the spring of 1861, and in 1862 a place of worship was erected of logs. This was 20x26 feet in size. Rev. B. Muse, the pastor of a Goodhue County congregation, was the first to minister to these people. After about two years, he was succeeded by Rev. N. A. Qvame, who

officiated for seven years. In 1872 the Rev. O. A. Mellby was called from his far-away home in Norway, and is the present pastor. The first trustees were H. Halvorsen, Anthony Sampson and H. Taraldson. The society own a fine parsonage on section 12; with it is a fine farm of eighty acres of land, the land and building costing some \$1,800.

The first meeting of this society was held at the house of Ole Arneson, on section 2, in the spring of 1858, by Rev. Laurs Larson. The same people held meetings in different places until the organization.

ORGANIZATION.

At the first meeting of the board of county commissioners on the 16th of March, 1857, the three townships of New Richland, Byron and Vivian, and the south one-third of Otisco Township, as constituted to-day, were thrown into one precinct and called Otisco. But on the 2d of November, 1858, the board set off and organized congressional township 108 north, range 22 west, into a civil town under the name of Norway, but that was afterward changed to Richland, the New being added subsequently. The first town meeting for the purpose of organizing the township, was held on the 5th of April, 1859, at the house of John Larson. John Thompson was chairman, and on the meeting being called to order J. S. Rice was chosen moderator and S. W. Franklin, clerk. The polls were duly opened at 10 o'clock. The first officers chosen were the following named: John Thompson, chairman; J. S. Rice and David Skinner, supervisors; S. W. Franklin, clerk; Anthony Sampson, assessor; Nels Christianson, collector; J. S. Rice and John Larson, justices of the peace; George W. Legg and Andrew Johnson, constables, and Ole Johnson, overseer of the poor. The present officers are as follows: W. F. Discher, chairman, and E. C. Sybilrud and E. O. Rotegard, supervisors; Christof Wagner, clerk; T. T. Lund, assessor; J. O. Sunde,

treasurer; E. E. Verplank and W. F. Discher, justices of the peace, and George Plagman and Fred Heckes, constables.

CORSONDALE STOCK FARM.

No annals of this town would be complete without some reference to the noted stock farm owned by Messrs. Dunwoody & Corson, the enterprising owners of the model roller mill in the village of New Richland. This farm, one of the important factors in the development of this township, is composed of 880 acres of land, embracing the south half of section 20, the north half of section 29, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 29, and the northwest quarter of section 32, all in this township. Their farm buildings are located on the eastern part of this tract, about one mile due south of this village, upon a beautiful site, and were built with special attention to the care and comfort of their fine Norman horses and thriving herds of thoroughbred short-horns, Jerseys, grades and other stock.

At the time this farm passed into the hands of Dunwoody & Corson it was comparatively wild prairie land, but since that time it has been improved and cultivated, and is now divided into fields which are enclosed with strong wire fences. What portion is not required for the raising of feed for the stock (for no produce is marketed from this place) is seeded to clover and other tame grasses, which thrive exceedingly well in this country, the soil being peculiarly adapted to the growing of such.

This noted farm was opened up in 1882 and stocked in 1883 at an outlay of from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Their original purchase of short-horns was forty head; since that time (less than three years) they have sold eighteen head for \$3,000, and now have on hand sixty-five head of as fine looking thoroughbred short-horns as can be found in any herd in the Northwest, besides a large number of valu-

ble grades, crosses with their common stock and their imported Baron Glencoe.

In 1883 they placed on their farm six half-blood Norman and two common mares, and since that time each of them have raised colts from Bon Homme, their imported stallion. They also have two fine carriage horses bred to DeGraff's Alexander. In the past year they have sold three colts for \$450 and now have sixteen grade colts of both sexes, one half blood and one three-quarter blood Norman stallion, besides several colts of a recent purchase. Among these colts is an exceedingly promising trotter sired by Commodore Kittson's Blackwood Jr., dam, Mary Lane.

The house and barns are large, roomy and commodious, and are well adapted for the convenience of George Stearns, the superintendent, his help and their four-footed charges.

On this place Messrs. Dunwoody & Corson have their imported Norman stallion, Bon Homme, brought from France by them in 1882, and weighing 1,750 pounds, and other fine horses; Baron Glencoe, an imported short-horn bull, than whom there is none better in this country, and many mares, cows, Poland China and Jersey Red hogs and Plymouth Rock chickens, and in fact a large quantity of high grade animals of all kinds and descriptions. Among some of the most noted cows on this model farm, are Orange Blossom of Cedar 2nd; Tuberose of Brownsdale; several representatives of Miss Wiley of Brownsdale; Arabella, and many others, besides about twenty thoroughbred Jersey cows and grades, among them Sunny Sister and Sunny Morn.

To Messrs. Dunwoody & Corson, too much praise can hardly be given for their efforts in improving the stock in this part of the State, and anyone can at a glance see the incalculable value a few such model farms throughout the State would be to the rest of the farming community. The magnificent farm is well worth a visit.

Village of New Richland.

The thriving village that bears the name of New Richland lies upon the southeast quarter of section 17, and was laid out and platted in August, 1877, by Henry T. Wells. Four additions to the town plat have been laid out subsequently by Charles Zieger, H. T. Wells and Jane McClane. The village is beautifully situated, and neatly and well kept, and is a growing and thriving village. With abundant forethought, many of the residences are deeply embowered in trees, which lend beauty to the aspect of the place, and help shelter them from the icy blasts of winter.

The first building in the new town was put up by a man by the name of Buncho, in July, 1877, who opened up a saloon in it and ran it for about eight months, and then sold the building to James Murphy, who converted it into a residence and about a year later sold it to M. Murphy, who rented it to other parties a few years, and then disposed of it to Fred. Laudert, who uses it for a dwelling.

Thomas Lynch put up a building in the fall of 1877, which he rented. In it a saloon was opened, and during that winter was continued. The building is now occupied by Mrs. M. P. Lofty, as a millinery establishment.

In the fall of the same year J. H. Wightman erected a store building, and putting in a stock of hardware, ran it for about eight years, when he sold out to A. J. Newgard, the present proprietor, who carries a stock of general hardware, pumps, barbed wire and Summit washing machines, and does a large and growing business.

A. J. Newgard was born in Gjovik, Norway, February 10, 1844, and is the son of Gorgenson G. and Agneta (Gulbranson) Newgard. Reared among the scenes of his childhood, the free spirit that dwells in the hearts of all mountaineers led him in 1869 to leave his home and seek a new one in free America. For about a year after coming here

he remained in Chicago, and then came to Waseca County, locating in this township on a farm belonging to A. J. Stensvad, where he remained some two months. He then took a farm, which he worked on shares for a year, after which he purchased some improvements on some railroad lands of Anton Christianson, of Steele County, where he spent some eighteen months, selling out at the end of that time, and working at the carpenter's trade some eighteen months. He then removed to Owatonna, Steele County, where he was engaged in the lumber trade, as salesman for Thomas Kelly, for six months, and other employment in that line, and working at the carpenter or tinner's trade. In the fall of 1877 he came to the newly started village and opened up the lumber yard as detailed elsewhere, and continued in that line until 1885, when he sold out and took a pleasure trip to Europe, to visit the scenes of his happy childhood's days, and to live over once more the old life. After spending some six months in this way, he returned to New Richland, purchased the hardware stock and business of J. H. Wightman, commenced trade in that line, in which he is now engaged. During the year 1865 he was united in marriage with Marie L. Stenseth. They have been the parents of the following children: Ingulf, born July 29, 1866; Carl, March 10, 1868; Gulbran, born January 2, 1872, died the 22d of the same month; Andrew, born April 21, 1874; Emma, June 29, 1876; Lars, April 15, 1879, and Georgine, July 26, 1883.

The same year (1877) C. H. Hooper put in a stock of drugs and medicines and operated it for a few years, when the goods were closed out, and about 1880 the building was sold to Henry Jæhning, who is engaged in the furniture business and sale of undertaking goods.

The same autumn a store building was moved to this town from Wilton, by Hugh Wilson, who rented it to Mee Bros., from

Faribault, who put in a stock of general merchandise. They continued this business but a short time, when they closed out the stock. The building was occupied for several months with machinery, but in the fall of 1878 H. K. Stearns purchased the building and put in a well assorted stock of general merchandise, commencing business here January 1, 1879, and still continues in the same old stand, doing a lucrative business, and drawing trade from a large scope of country.

Halvor K. Stearns came to Waseca County in 1862, and settled on a farm, on section 15, on the Le Sueur River, about two miles east of the present village of New Richland. He is a native of Nomedal, Norway, born December 25, 1836. He remained in his fatherland until he had passed the age of seventeen years, when he came to this country and settled in Rock County, Wis. This was in 1854. While a citizen of that place, he was united in marriage April 20, 1860, at Rock Prairie, Rock County, Wis., with Betsy Sevets, who was born in Norway, June 10, 1840. Three years before coming to this county he had purchased the farm where he made his first settlement, and when he was ready to come to this State he took a team and wagon and drove the whole distance, taking some six weeks to make the trip. He had his wife and one child, all his his family at that time, with him, and on his arrival here about the 1st of June, settled at once on the farm. He did some plowing that summer and fall but did not raise any crops that season. He remained on his farm until March, 1880, when he removed to the village of New Richland, having opened a general merchandise store there in January previous, and has remained in that line of business ever since. Mr. Stearns served the county on the board of commissioners from January, 1874, until December, 1879, and always with credit to himself and the satisfaction of his constituents. Among the foremost business men of New Richland, he is a true representative of her better class of

citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Stearns are the parents of six children: Knudt, born May 7, 1861, at Rock Prairie, Wis., died November 28, 1882, in New Richland; Sophia, born in New Richland, August 19, 1868; Martin, born June 12, 1871; Gustav, born March 23, 1874; Henry, born February 25, 1878, died August 22, 1883; Kaia Henryetta, born September 16, 1885.

Johnson & Murphy started in the hardware business in September, 1877, and are still engaged in that line, in the same building. They are handling all the lines of goods that go to make up a first-class hardware stock, and their business has grown to goodly proportions by strict attention to business.

The firm of Murphy & Johnson was formed in the summer of 1877, before there was any building in New Richland, or the railroad track had reached here. Anticipating the wants of those about to settle in the future village, they ordered a stock of building hardware, which they hauled from Waseca by team. Not having any building in which to set up store, they opened shop on a lumber pile, weighing out nails in a market basket, on an old-fashioned steelyard. When night had come they laid down by their stock to protect it from marauders. Soon, however, they got up a building and from their small beginning have by energy and ability worked up a fine trade. They also carry on an extensive business in farm machinery, coal, wire, pumps, etc. They have also an establishment of the same kind at Hartland, Minn.

Michael Murphy was born October 1, 1849, in Davis County, Ind., and is the son of Patrick and Margaret Murphy. He remained in the Hoosier State until July, 1855, when, with his parents, he came to Waseca, settling in Blooming Grove Township. In this county he was reared, and approaching manhood he learned the trade of tinner, which he followed as journeyman until he came to this place and opened up this business, except during the years 1872 and 1873

when he was engaged in civil engineering on the Northwestern Railroad. May 1, 1872, he was united in marriage with Lizzie Delaney, a native of Toronto, Canada, born October 1, 1849. They are the parents of six children: Lettie, born March 14, 1873; Elain, July 5, 1875; Irean, December 25, 1879; William, January 1, 1877; Georgia, May 19, 1882.

Nels Johnson, who was born on a farm in Denmark, August 26, 1843, resided in the country of his birth until 1865, when he came to America. He is the son of John and Maggie Johnson. On landing in the United States he came to Minnesota, locating at Faribault, Rice County, where he remained until 1874, when he came to Waseca County. For about three years he was engaged in the hardware business at Waseca, when he came here. On September 27, 1869, he was married to Mary Erickson, a native of Norway, born on a farm there in 1848. They are the parents of six children: Minnie, born May 21, 1871; Henry, June 11, 1874; Albert, February 20, 1876; Nellie, October 7, 1880; Freddie, May 25, 1884, and an infant, born August 26, 1887.

In the same month—September, 1877—C. H. Brossard put up a store building, and putting in a general stock, continued in that line of trade for about two years, when he closed out the stock at public sale. The building was then sold to F. G. Schneider, who had come here from Dodge County, Wis., and who opened up a harness-making shop, therein. It is now occupied by F. G. Schneider & Co., a new firm formed in 1887, composed of Mr. Schneider and John Kreuzer. They handle harness, boots and shoes, trunks, etc., and are building up a fine business by attention to the wants of their customers.

About the same time the firm of Clark & Swann put up a building and filled it with a finely assorted stock of drugs, medicines, fancy toilet articles, etc., and still continue to cater to the wants of the public in that line. J. R. Swann is the managing partner,

Mr. Clark being a druggist at St. Paul, Minn.

John R. Swann is a native of Sweden, born January 13, 1853, and came to the United States with his parents when he was eleven years of age. They settled in St. Paul, but are now residents of Chisago County, Minn. John R. lived with them until he was some sixteen years of age, when he entered the drug store of H. W. Robinson, of St. Paul, where he remained almost three years. From there he went to Wilmar, this State, and was in the employ of his present partner for about five years, when he bought an interest in the concern. One year later they removed to this place. December 1, 1877, he was united in marriage with Sophia B. Quale, of Hudson, Wis. They have a family of four children: Ella, Richard, Sarah and Walter.

Nels Tyrholm & Son put up a building at about the same time in 1877, which they immediately stocked with furniture, and are engaged in the same line of business at the present.

The same fall (of 1877) a building was erected by John Larsen, who opened in it a stock of general merchandise. In this store was kept the postoffice, Mr. Larsen being the first postmaster. He continued in this building for about eight years, when, having erected the new brick store on the west side of the street, the goods were moved into that, and is now occupied by his son, M. C. Larsen, who carries on a general merchandise business.

The old building formerly occupied by John Larsen was sold to M. A. Larsen, a barber, who put in a stock of general merchandise. He runs the barber shop in connection with the store.

M. A. Larsen came to Waseca County in 1873, settling on section 15, this town, where he remained until 1878, when he purchased a farm in Berlin Township, Steele County, where he moved. After one year's residence there he came to the village of New Richland and opened a barber shop, which he

ran for about three years, and then removed to Minneapolis, where he spent a year, and then returned to this place and reopened his barber shop. He afterward, in connection with it, put in a stock of confectionery. He now has a stock of general merchandise, as related above. He is also local agent for six large steamship lines plying between this country and Europe, supplying tickets, drafts on Europe, etc., having been in that line of business since 1873. He was born in Christiania, Norway, February 22, 1846, and came to the United States in 1872. He was married March 21, 1877, to Anna S. Mork, a native of Soleur, Norway, who died July 17, 1882, leaving one child, Guia Adina.

The same fall (of 1877) a building was put up by Fenton Keenan, which he rented to W. Blake & Son, who put in a stock of ready-made clothing. These parties ran it but a short time, when they moved the stock to Waseca. From this time for several years it was used as a saloon by different parties. It then passed into the hands of the present owner, who rents it to Peterson & Peterson, general merchants, and who have the post-office.

About the year 1881 Peterson Bros. put up a brick building in which they opened up their saloon. This is now owned and occupied for the same purpose by Peter Peterson.

I. Sorenson, about the same time, put up a building, and put in a stock of groceries and crockery, and for a short time continued the business, finally closing out. The village afterward purchased the building, and now uses it for an engine house for the fire department.

Joseph Smith & Co. put up a building in the latter part of 1877, and opened a stock of dry goods, clothing, groceries, etc., and continued in business for about seven years, when they moved the stock to Red Lake Falls. This building is now occupied by Johnson & Sunde, as detailed elsewhere.

E. E. Ellifson put up a building in 1877 also, in which he carried on the tailoring business for five or six years, when the building was sold. It is now the property of Emma Bettner, who carries on the harness-making business, the mechanical work being under the management of her father, Fred. Bettner.

A building was put up by Hunt Bros. in the fall of 1877, and it was used as a saloon for about a year, when it passed into the hands of Fred. Bettner, who uses it at present as a residence and ice cream parlor.

Fred. Bettner erected a building on the east side of the town, and ran a saloon in it for a while, finally removing the building on to the main street. He used it for a residence for a time, when he sold it to Gill Gorgan, who uses it as a residence and grocery store.

About the year 1875, J. Torgerson & Co. opened a store for the sale of general merchandise, on section 1, of this township. This firm continued in business for about sixteen months, when C. B. Johnson purchased an interest of one of the partners, and the business was thereafter carried on, until the starting of the New Richland, by the firm of Torgerson & Johnson. In October, 1877, they removed both building and stock to this place. In the following spring, Torgerson sold his interest to Paul O. Sunde, and the firm name changed to its present one of Johnson & Sunde. A few years later they made additions to the old building they occupied and remained there until the spring of 1885, when they purchased the store building of Joseph Smith & Co., and are now the occupants of that edifice. They carry on a general merchandise trade, which draws a liberal support from the surrounding country.

Charles B. Johnson is a native of Sandsvar, Norway, born September 5, 1852, and came to this country with his parents when he was but eighteen months old. The family settled in Wisconsin, where they remained for three years and then removed to Berlin

Township, Steele County. Charles remained with his parents, growing to manhood there, until he started for himself on a farm of his own in Steele County. In 1875 he started the store on section 1 with James Torgerson, as already mentioned. He was united in marriage October 8, 1877, with Tena Sunde. They have a family of three children: Olaf, William and Selmer. Mr. Johnson is one of the leading business men of the village, and is also one of the most popular merchants, owing to his steady adherence to strict integrity in dealing with all his customers and his invariable good nature.

Paul O. Sunde is a native of Norway, born July 25, 1851, but when he was but five years of age was brought to this country by his parents, O. H. and Annie M. Sunde, in 1856. When they came here they settled in Rock County, Wis., where they remained for about two years, and in 1858 came to this county, locating upon section 11, of New Richland Township, where the father still lives. The mother died there in May, 1886. P. O. Sunde began life for himself in 1874, working at the carpenter's trade in summer and spending the winter in school. This he followed the next year, and then was employed in a lumber yard. In 1878 he was in the firm of Torgerson & Johnson, dealers in general merchandise, and is now one of the firm of Johnson & Sunde, among the leading merchants of the village. February 26, 1880, he was united in marriage with Lizzie C. Tyrholm, and they have a family of four children: Minnie, Harry, Cora and Ella. Mr. Sunde was town clerk of New Richland for seven years, recorder of the village two years, and is the president of the village board this year, 1887.

In October, 1877, a lumber yard was opened by Randall, Botter & Co., A. J. Newgard being the "company." The latter being the resident partner, had the management of the business at this point. Six months later the interests of Randall & Botter were purchased by Charles Zeiger,

and the firm name changed to Newgard & Zeiger, who continued in the business for about sixteen months, when Mr. Zieger died. Four months from then A. J. Newgard purchased his deceased partner's interest, and continued the business alone for about one year. About 1880 the lumber yard then run by C. D. Haven & Co. was consolidated with his, and the new firm formed, which was known by the style of A. J. Newgard & Co. This continued until about eighteen months had passed, when Mr. Newgard purchased the interests of his partners, and for two years ran it alone, when he associated with himself C. A. Wagner, and they remained in the business about two years, when he sold to his partner the entire business, including all the real estate in that vicinity, and the latter associating with himself his brother Christoph, formed the present firm of Wagner Bros. They do an extensive business in this line, handling lumber, sash, doors, blinds, etc. They have also a yard at Hartland, Minn., under the management of J. C. Sybilrud.

In the latter part of 1877, also, a lumber yard was started by Isaac Lincoln & Co., who continued the business about six months, when they sold out to A. J. Stensvad, who eighteen months later sold out to C. D. Haven & Co., who ran it until its consolidation with the yard and business of A. J. Newgard, as already stated.

The first and only bank in the town was initiated by Dunwoody & Corson in the autumn of 1880, in their office at the mill, where they do a general banking business.

On the 5th of July, 1877, O. P. Olson started a blacksmith shop on the farm of Peter Ecternock, in this township, and continued at that place until the village was laid out in the fall, when he removed thither and opened the first smithy in the place. He ran this for about five years, when he sold it to John Kreuzer. Olson then removed to Preston, Fillmore County, but three years afterward returned here and

purchased his old stand, where he is now carrying on the business.

T. Thompson, in the fall of 1877, opened a blacksmith shop in the new village. This was in what was known as Zeiger's addition. About eight years he carried on the business, when he sold out to John Restvedt, who immediately formed a partnership with Alexander Blyhl, which firm is now carrying on the business.

At the time of the foundation of the village, in 1877, P. A. Holt started a wagon-making shop, and continued in that line until 1884, when he closed out all his material, and forming a partnership with others, under the firm name of Holt, Anderson & Co., opened a small lumber yard. This firm added to their business a sash and door factory, and continued together for about six months, when Anderson sold his interest to G. N. Husely. The firm of Holt, Husely & Co. continued together for about a year, when Mr. Husely sold out to his partners. P. A. Holt & Co., the present firm, are doing quite an extensive business in the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds and "Favorite" washing machines. They have never handled lumber very extensively, but are able to fill all orders on short notice.

P. A. Holt is a native of Norway, born May 8, 1847, and came to America in June, 1861; came at once to New Richland Township, where he went on a farm. From here he went to Decorah, Iowa, and then back to Owatonna, where he learned the carriage-making trade. In 1877 he came to the village of New Richland and started a wagon-shop and carried on that business until 1885, when the present business was inaugurated. He enlisted in November, 1863, in Company G, Twelfth Iowa Infantry, and saw considerable service with that gallant regiment. He was married November 23, 1875, to Carrie Olson. They have two children: Enma and Anna.

Ole S. Bokke is a native of Norway, born October 21, 1854. He came to America in

1876 in company with his brother George, locating at first in Faribault, Rice County, this State, where he attended school for about a year, and afterward was employed as clerk in a hardware store. He came to New Richland in 1877 and opened a boot and shoe store, remaining in that line for six years. After that he was engaged in selling farm machinery for about a year. When the firm of P. A. Holt & Co. was formed he was one of the company, and has since continued in this business. He was united in marriage with Mary Larsen in New Richland, December 25, 1878. She is a daughter of John and Petrie Larsen. They have two children: Oscar Henry, born October 11, 1879, and Anna Helena, October 21, 1882. Mr. Bokke is the present village recorder, having been elected to that office March, 1887.

The pioneer jewelry establishment was opened in the fall of 1877, by O. A. Tiffany & Bro., who did all kinds of repairing in that line, in connection with a general stock they had.

The present business in this line is represented by A. S. Boice, who established the stand in May, 1887.

The Washburn House was built in the latter part of 1877 by N. J. Robbins, who ran it about a year and then disposed of it to J. O. Culver. This gentleman continued in the hotel business in this building for about six years, when it was sold to Alex. Brisbane, who, after but a few months' hotel-keeping, rented it to Thomas Rice. This party kept it for about eighteen months, when Brisbane sold it to its present owner, Sophronia Wilson. The Washburn House is kept in a most excellent manner by the present landlord, O. H. Bronson.

What is known as the Commercial House was erected in the latter part of 1877, by Ole Johnson Moe, who ran it for a few years as a hotel. It was then sold to F. B. Hanks, who kept it open for three or four years, when he disposed of it to Christian Hanson,

but after a short time this landlord sold it to its present proprietor, Patrick Kelley.

The American House was built by Charles Brunell in the fall of 1877, who rented it to Goldsmith & Johnson, who opened and ran a saloon in it for about a year, and to others afterward. It was sold finally to Mrs. Gibson, the present owner, and is occupied as a residence.

New Richland, also, has a neatly printed and ably conducted weekly newspaper, known as the *North Star*, a history of which is given in connection with the annals of the journals of the county in this volume.

One of the leading institutions of the village, and one that first strikes the eye of a visitor, is the Model Roller Mill. This, which is one of the finest in this part of the State, was erected by the present proprietors, Dunwoody & Corson, in the fall of 1879, at an expense of \$40,000. It is 40x60 feet in size, three stories high, exclusive of the basement, and is surmounted by a cupola. In addition to this is the engine and boiler house, 30x60 feet in size. In this latter is a very fine engine of 200 horse power. The mill is one of the most complete exponents of the system known as that of rollers, having twenty-two pair of rolls and two 4-foot stones, and has in addition all the latest improved machinery in the way of purifiers, bolters, etc., that go to make up a first-class establishment of this kind. The mill, which has been constantly improved and added to since its first erection, manufactures about three hundred barrels of the finest grades of flour, running night and day.

In addition to the main building there are several others grouped about it, among which are: the storehouse, 28x48 feet on the ground, two stories high; baghouse, 12x18 feet in size; cooper-shop, 30x50; barrel-house, 24x28; stockhouse, 16x24; elevator, 40x40; warehouse, 40x60, and an office, 16x28, the latter neatly and tastefully fitted up, and supplied with all the necessary conveniences for doing business.

The elevator and warehouse spoken of above were put up by this firm in the fall of 1877, on their coming here, and they have a combined storage capacity of 60,000 bushels of wheat. Large quantities of the product of this mill are exported to London, Liverpool, Glasgow, while the markets of Philadelphia and the principal cities of Iowa furnish a nearer market for its sale.

During the year an average of two car loads a day is shipped from this mill. The firm gives employment to about fifteen or twenty men, and puts into circulation about \$150,000 annually.

The firm, which is composed of E. E. Dundwoody and H. H. Corson, was formed in the fall of 1877. Mr. Dundwoody came first, quite early in the season, and started to put up the elevator, when he was joined by Mr. Corson, and the elevator and a feed-mill was built. Shortly after this a feed and flour mill was put up by them where the cooper-shop now stands, but this they tore down to make way for the present elegant and finely equipped merchant mill. At first this had only a capacity of turning out about 140 barrels a day, but by remodeling it and additional machinery its capacity is more than doubled.

E. E. Dundwoody, the senior member of the firm, was born in Delaware County, Pa., April 30, 1848, and is the son of James and Hannah (Hood) Dundwoody. He was reared among the hills and valleys of the old Keystone State, around which many loving memories linger, and remained there on a farm until he had attained the age of twenty-four years, when he went to Chicago. In that city he was engaged in the grain, seed and druggist glassware business for about eighteen months. After that he made a tour through most of the eastern States, and then returning west, located, in the fall of 1875, at Benson, Swift County, Minn., at which point he was engaged in buying and shipping wheat. In the fall of 1877 he came to the new village of New Richland and entered

into partnership with H. H. Corson, and the firm thus formed has been carrying on business ever since. It can truthfully be said that to no other two men in the village is it indebted in so great a degree for its growth and development as to the members of this firm. September 12, 1883, he was united in marriage with Susannah E. Lewis, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Lewis, and a native of the same county as her husband. Her parents were also natives of the grand old Keystone State.

H. H. Corson, the junior partner, is also a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Montgomery County, September 19, 1847. He is the son of Elias H. and Emily H. (Harris) Corson, and was reared in the county of his birth until he had attained his eighteenth year, when, having studied and graduated as a civil engineer, he commenced life in the practice of that profession. After coming west, in 1869, he was engaged as civil engineer on the Northern Pacific Railroad, and was city engineer for the city of Minneapolis during the years 1871, 1872 and 1873. For two years succeeding that he was engaged in building mills and other edifices. In 1875 he removed to Wilmar, Minn., where he commenced banking operations. In 1877 he came to this village, and has been identified with it and its interests ever since. December 18, 1872, Mr. Corson was united in marriage with Sallie Abraham, the daughter of Jonathan and Sarah T. Abraham, who had come from Delaware County, where Mrs. Corson was born, to Minnesota, in 1857, and located in Minneapolis. Her parents are dead; two sisters live at the old homestead in the latter city.

One of the promising and growing institutions of New Richland, which has been and will be of great benefit to the community, is the cheese factory, which was started in the spring of 1886, and which took the first premium for the excellence of its product, at the State Dairymen's Association, at Albert Lea, in the fall of the same year that it was insti-

tuted. This speaks well for the high grade of goods put on the market by the energetic and business-like proprietor, Henry Jaehning.

In the spring of 1878 A. H. Laughlin and C. M. Palmer, under the firm name and style of Laughlin & Palmer, opened an agricultural implement depot, and continued in that business for about five years, when the business was closed up by John Laughlin, a brother of A. H., the firm having removed to Lisbon, D. T., where they have grown quite wealthy. T. W. Laughlin, who had charge of this business here after the firm left this place, was killed here by the cars, on April 13, 1883.

M. C. Larsen started a hay-press here in 1885, which is run by horse power, and is capable of baling ten tons of hay per diem. It gives employment to ten men.

A. J. Stensvad started a steam hay press in the fall of 1886, which also gives employment to about ten men, and can turn out about ten tons of baled hay in a day.

Benjamin F. Weed, who is the principal dealer in wood for fuel in the village, was born in Rupert, Vt., April 3, 1834, and while but a child, moved with his parents to Genesee County, N. Y., and from there to Oswego County. There he lived until he was twelve years old, when he went to work, driving on the Erie Canal, and remained at that employment some three years, and at other business in his native State until 1854. He then came to Jackson County, Iowa, and engaged to work for Silas O. Kellogg on a farm for a year, for eighty acres of land and \$25 in money. December 6, 1855, he and Nellie Brisbane were united in marriage, and in the spring of 1856 he came to Waseca County, settling in Wilton Township, on section 23. There were not many settlers here at that time, and Mr. Weed is claimed to have taken the first prairie claim in the township. On going to Winona to enter his claim, he found that he had to have his wife on his land, and consequently went

after her to Jackson County, Iowa, Kellogg coming back to this vicinity to keep any one from jumping the claim. He resided here until December, 1861, when he enlisted in Company F, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, and was mustered into the service January 24, 1862, and served three years and four months, and was in some twenty engagements. He was discharged from the service March 23, 1865, and returned to his Minnesota home, where he lived until 1877, when he sold out and moved up the river, and in 1884 moved to the village of New Richland, where he now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Weed are the parents of five children: W. Frank, born November 28, 1856, married Susan R. Stearns, January 7, 1878, who died October 13, 1883, leaving one child, Margaret Jennie; Edwin S., born September 20, 1858, married March 10, 1885, to Lida Kellogg; Jennie R. born August 22, 1860, married George B. Stearns, July, 1877; George L., born September 16, 1866, married Ella Brown, July 31, 1887, and Alexander, born December 11, 1876. Mrs. Weed was born in Scotland, June 22, 1836.

B. H. Schlosser, who deals in wines, liquors, cigars, etc., and has a real neat and tastily fitted-up establishment, came to the county of Waseca in 1875, and settling on a farm on section 22, of New Richland Township, remained there tilling the soil, sowing and reaping the fruits of his labors until 1884, when he removed to the village of New Richland and opened his present business place, where only good goods are kept and everything is done for the accommodation of his many customers. Mr. Schlosser is a native of Washington County, Wis., although of German extraction. He was born January 21, 1857, and was reared and educated in the place of his birth until early manhood, when starting out in the world for himself he came to this county and has since resided here.

Edward Steinhaus, who has in operation an excellent restaurant and saloon, came to Waseca County in the spring of 1880, and

was engaged in carpentering for about two years, that being his trade. At the expiration of that time he opened the place where he is now doing business. He has a large, fine room, well supplied, and is always ready and willing to meet his customers and supply their wants. He is a native of Germany, and came to this country with his parents when some fourteen years of age. He remained with the old folks until 1862, when he commenced to learn the carpenter trade, which he followed up to the time of opening his saloon.

Martin Laudert came to this township in 1871, and settled on a farm, on section 17, where he lived for seven years. He then rented his place and removed to the village of New Richland. Two years later he started a meat market which he continued for two years, when he was elected city marshal, and held that position for three years. He then bought another farm on section 17, and moved there, but eighteen months later rented it and moving back to town started his present meat market. He is a native of Germany, born in 1849, and came to this country in 1871, and, on landing, came directly to this county as mentioned above, and has ever since been a resident here. He is an able, energetic man, of good business talents, and is doing his part toward the development of this section of country.

S. E. Christianson was born in Minnesota, January 29, 1860, and was reared in this vicinity. He was united in marriage in 1880, with Olenia Peterson, who was also a native of this State, born June 17, 1864, but who died April 28, 1881, leaving one child, Samel Olein, born April 21, 1881. Mr. Christianson is the owner of the New Richland dray line, and employs his time in that business. May 8, 1883, he was united in marriage with Sophia Hanson, born in America, April 27, 1869. The family are members of the Lutheran Church.

D. B. Sparks, who is the village justice,

and is also acting as insurance and collecting agent in this vicinity, came to this place in the fall of 1877, when the village was in its infancy, and commenced business as a millwright, putting in the machinery in the elevator and mill for Dunwoody & Corson, and remained with that firm for three years, and then started in business for himself. In 1883 he was elected justice of the peace, and has filled that office ever since. For the last year or so has also handled farm machinery in addition to his insurance and collection business. He is a native of the State of Pennsylvania, born in the year 1833, and is the son of Ozias and Wealthy Sparks. When D. B. had attained the age of seventeen years he commenced to learn the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed until he came to this place. In 1869 he was united in marriage with Clara West, of Illinois.

William Lauder was born in Washington County, Wis., January 1, 1852, where he resided until 1876, when he came to Minnesota and settled on section 19, New Richland Township. After some residence there he sold that farm and purchased some eighty acres of land on section 8. He made his home there until recently, but now lives in the village of New Richland. July 28, 1875, he was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Bertha Joeeks, who was born in Germany, February 23, 1854. They have been the parents of six children, five of whom are now living. The names of the children are as follows: Mary E. M., born November 9, 1877; William F., born October 30, 1879; Charles F., born November 27, 1881; Ida Elizabeth, born May 26, 1883, died October 24, 1883; Clara Anna, born September 5, 1884, and John F., born October 23, 1886. The family of Mr. Lauder, with himself, are active members of the Lutheran Church.

The postoffice was established at the village of New Richland in the fall of 1877, with John Larsen as postmaster. He con-

tinued in this position until 1886, when he was succeeded by N. L. Peterson, the present incumbent of the office. The office was made a money-order office in July, 1879, and the first order issued on the 7th of that month to O. A. Tiffany, payable to Little & Beresford, St. Paul, for \$8. On the same day two others, each for the sum of \$50, were issued to John Larsen, payable to Andrew Wilson, Rochester, Minn. One for \$9 was issued the same day to Frank Kruger, to Continental Insurance Company, Chicago.

The first church erected in the embryo town was by the Congregational denomination, in the fall of 1882. It was put up at a cost of about \$1,500. The first meetings of this society were held at the waiting-room of the depot, Rev. Wilbur Fisk officiating. This gentleman continued to hold services for some time, and it was due to his labors that the society was organized in 1882. Meetings were held in empty store buildings and at the school building until the church was erected. It has always had a light membership, even from the start, and has not increased materially. The church building is a very pretty one, and handsomely and tastefully fitted up inside, manifesting the culture of those who were foremost in the good work in putting it up and finishing it. The present pastor is Rev. Baker.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church was erected in the summer of 1883, at a cost of \$2,500. The first meeting of this society in the village was held at H. Larson's hall, in the fall of 1877, Rev. O. A. Mellby presiding. He continues to preach in the church to this day. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse, prior to the building of the church.

The school building was erected in the north part of town, during the summer of 1878, at a cost of about \$1,200. It remained in that locality until the autumn of 1886, when it was removed to its present location, nearer the center of the town. It

was then remodeled and additions made, until the total cost of the building is about \$3,700. The first teacher in the schoolhouse was O. A. Tiffany.

The first school in the village was held in Larson's hall, and it was taught for about four months by Miss Marian Dunbar, at a salary of \$25 per month. The schoolhouse can accommodate some two hundred scholars in its four rooms, but only three rooms are in use, three teachers being employed.

The depot at the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad at this village was erected in the fall of 1877, and E. Davis was the first agent. He remained for about five years. The position is filled, at present, by S. V. L. Meigs.

Strangers Refuge Lodge, No. 74, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted January 4, 1880, with the following charter members: C. G. Cheesebro, Henry Jæhning, F. G. Schneider, E. Steinhaus and William Luff. The first officers were: C. G. Cheesebro, N. G.; E. Steinhaus, V. G.; F. G. Schneider, S.; Henry Jæhning, T.; C. Hooper, R. S. N. G.; Chas. Brossard, L. S. N. G.; W. Smith Jr., W.; Charles Brunell, C.; W. Luff, I. G.

The present officers are: C. A. Wagner, N. G.; J. Kreuzer, V. G.; O. S. Bakke, S.; F. G. Schneider, T.; C. A. Wagner, R. S. N. G.; Archie Johnson, W.; O. H. Bronson, C.; Morris Holbrook, I. G.; L. F. Meigs, R. S. V. G.; John McGary, L. S. V. G.

The lodge is in good shape and in very flourishing condition, and has a full membership of eighteen.

Lincoln Post, No. 26, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized in the fall of 1882, with the following officers: Chris. Wagner, P. C.; B. F. Weed, S. V. C.; O. H. Sutlief, J. V. C.; Fenton Keenan, O. D.; E. E. Verplank, A.; H. J. Hanson, V. M.; P. A. Holt, O. G.

The officers are at present: Z. M. Patridge, P. C.; O. H. Sutlief, S. V. C.; E. E. Verplank, A.; Chris. Wagner, Q. M.; J. W. Pierce, Chap.

In the spring of 1885 a fire company was organized at this village, under the name of Rescue, No. 1, with D. B. Sparks as engineer and M. Murphy, captain. In July of the same year a hand fire engine was pur-

chased, which has places for eighteen men on the levers, and has done excellently well, paying for itself within a year from its purchase, at the fire that occurred at the planing mill of P. A. Holt & Co.



CHAPTER XXIV.

VIVIAN TOWNSHIP.



TOWNSHIP 105, north of range 24 west, constitutes the subdivision of Waseca County known as Vivian. It lies in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, and is bounded on the north and east by the townships of Freedom and Byron; on the south and west by the counties of Faribault and Blue Earth.

The surface of the land in this portion of Waseca is nearly flat, with only a slight inclination to undulation. The difference in elevation between the highest and the lowest portions, connected by slopes in some instances a mile in length, is only about five or ten feet. This no doubt is the most level land in the county, but is by no means marshy, or in any way unfit for cultivation; in fact, some of the best farms in the county are located in this town.

The Big Cobb River flowing in a generally westerly course through the southern part of the precinct, and an affluent of the Little Cobb River in the northern part, constitute the principal drainage system of Vivian. The soil, a rich, warm, dark alluvial loam, is noted for its quick fertility and ample productiveness; while, in such places as are yet untouched by the plow, native indigenous grasses cover the ground, affording excellent pasturage for stock.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The town of Vivian was one of those in the county that was settled up slowly, probably owing to the general flatness of the land and its consequent wetness. Still, by

persistent hard work, much of it has been brought into subjection to the uses of man, and some of the finest places in the southern part of the county are found in this township.

The pioneer settler of Vivian was undoubtedly E. S. Woodruff. He had formerly lived near Green Bay, Wis., with the Indians, and had a squaw wife and a half-breed son. He came here from Iowa in the summer of 1856, and settled upon section 27, where he lived until the spring of 1865, when he died.

About the same time came B. F. Haines, who located a claim on section 33. He had formerly lived at Bennington, Vt., and was a man of high culture, but extremely diffident, and somewhat of a recluse in his habits of life. He was, however, one of the most upright, honorable men that is possible to find, and leaves behind him the warmest esteem and respect of all who knew him. He died here in 1872.

A man by the name of E. A. Clark came with Mr. Haines and "bached" with him, for these men had no wives or families with them. Clark afterward married and returned to Wisconsin in 1858. Haines bought his claim on section 28.

Two men by the name of Edgerton came here from Wisconsin in the summer or fall of 1856, and located claims on section 28, and remained long enough to preempt the same, when they returned to the Badger State. One of them, Fred., died at Portage City, where he was practicing law.

The next settler was J. B. Hill, who on the 2d of July, 1857, located on section 31, on the Cobb River. He was born at Smithboro,

Tioga County, N. Y., July 7, 1824, and when eleven years old removed with parents to Chemung County. In 1850 he and his wife, Myanda E. (Stevens) Hill, whom he had married in August, 1846, removed to Green Lake County, Wis., where they lived until coming here. Mrs. Hill has the honor of being the first white woman to settle within the bounds of the present town of Byron. Mr. Hill enlisted in February, 1864, in Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and participated in the engagements at Tupelo, Nashville and Spanish Fort. He is now living at Minnesota Lake. When he came here the season for breaking was past, and but little could be done in that line, and the year bringing but little encouragement to the new settlers, in 1859 Mr. Hill opened a blacksmith shop in St. Mary, but the next year returned to his farm in this township.

Within a few days after Mr. Hill, S. L. Daggett made his appearance in this locality and settled here. He was one of nature's noblemen, and enjoyed the respect and esteem of all. He left here some years afterward, and died at Blue Earth City about the year 1863.

Four brothers by the name of Shanahan made a settlement here in 1857 and remained until the Pike's Peak excitement, when they went to that land of golden hopes.

An Irishman by the name of Sweeney, and his brother, came here about the same time. One of these men married a sister of the Shanahan brothers, and was frozen to death shortly afterward, in November, 1857, as detailed further on.

Richard or Dick Whiting, a young man, took up a claim on section 31, in the summer of 1857, but sold out the same fall and left.

George T. White, although not entitled to be called a settler in this township, came here in 1857, and made a claim on the southwest of section 30, residing on it long enough to preëempt it. He was one of the coolest men imaginable, and his presence of mind

and composure while at the head of his company of the Tenth Infantry, and while mortally wounded, was remarkable.

Joseph Thurston, in the fall of 1857, came to Vivian Township and bought out the claim of Richard Whiting on section 31. He came here from Waushara County, Wis., and about 1860 went back to that place.

W. H. Harmon came to Minnesota in 1857, from Green Lake County, Wis., and after a year spent in Blue Earth County, came to Vivian Township and settled on section 32, where he still lives. He is a native of Berkshire County, Mass., born January 27, 1827. He was united in marriage in 1849 with Esther Smith, and the following year moved to Wisconsin. His wife died May 14, 1873, having been the mother of eleven children. Mr. Harmon has done much toward the development of this part of the county, and has a very fine place. Mr. Harmon's present wife is Ellen, daughter of Aiken Mycuc Sr.

William and Irvine Clark, two young single men, came from the State of New York, in 1858, and settled on sections 18 and 19, where they lived for a time, and then returned to the place of their nativity.

Ichabod West with his family came here and located in this township in 1858. He settled on the southwest quarter of section 9, where he resided many years. He died some five or six years ago. His son, J. F. West, settled on the southwest quarter of section 8, and made that his home until a few years ago, when he removed to Kittson County, this State. Ammi West, another son, located on the northwest quarter of section 17. He removed from here to a place near Janesville, but has since left the county. Some of the family still live here.

John Dwyer made a settlement on section 10 of this town, in 1858, where he lived for some years, but subsequently moved to Rice County. He was a native of the Emerald Isle.

John Dineen, now of Byron Township, came here and made a settlement in 1858.

Thomas Ryan, a native of Ireland, settled on section 15 during the year 1858. He is now dead.

John A. Wheeler, who had settled at St. Mary some time previous, came to this township in 1858 and took up a claim on section 4, but did not move on it for some time afterward. He, during the war, was a member of Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and afterward served as a captain in a colored regiment. He was quite a genius in his way, and considerable of an inventor. He built the sawmill near his property, and gave his name to the lake in the northern part of Vivian, that is known as Wheeler Lake to this day. He died about 1876 or 1877.

Nels Sorenson, commonly known as Sanderson, made a settlement on the southwest quarter of section 21, where he now resides.

Ole Johnson, still a resident of this town, settled here in 1858, taking up a homestead of 160 acres on section 21, where he now lives. He was born in Norway, January 4, 1824. February 8, 1852 he was married to Betsy Nelson, who was born October 3, 1826. They came to the United States in 1855, and for three years lived in Wisconsin, from whence he came to this place. He was a member of Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, during the war. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the parents of seven children, as follows: Mary, born in Norway, November 26, 1854, died August 9, 1882, buried in Waupun cemetery; Carl, whose history follows this; Harriett, born April 6, 1859, died June 10, 1877, buried in Medo cemetery; Ella, born August 2, 1861; Louis, born February 5, 1864, died April 16, 1866; Louisa, born March 12, 1867; Jennie, April 3, 1869, and Matilda, February 26, 1871.

Carl Johnson is the son of Ole and Betsy (Nelson) Johnson, and was born in Waupun, Wis., March 12, 1856. He came with his parents to this county in 1858, they settling on section 21. There Carl grew to manhood, there he received his education, and

there he continued to work for his father until March 10, 1882, when he was united in marriage with Carrie Thompson, and the young couple went to live on a farm of eighty acres on section 21, that his father had given him. They are the parents of one child, Eva, born February 26, 1883. Carl has filled the office of town supervisor two years, that of town clerk three years, and school district clerk nine years.

Quite a number of Norwegian families came here in the summer and fall of 1858, but left here in the following spring, not making any permanent settlement.

Mark Moore also came in 1858 and located on section 19. He was a resident of the county at the time of his death, which occurred some four or five years since.

Montraville Sias came to Vivian from Waupun, Wis., in 1858, and settled on section 18, where he lived until about 1871, when he removed to Kansas.

Owen M., David and Samuel Jones, three Welshmen, made settlements here in 1858. O. M. located on section 17, where he lived until the summer of 1887, when he left the county. David located on section 20, where he resided some years and then moved to Douglas County, Minn. Samuel's settlement was on section 19. He, too, has removed to Douglas County.

OTHERS.

There are a few other leading agriculturists in this township who are worthy of notice in these annals, and sketches of them are given in this connection:

Andrew J. Henderson, one of the leading stock farmers of this part of the county, is a native of Scotland, born August 15, 1849. In 1854 he was brought to the United States by his parents, who settled in Dane County, Wis. He remained there until the fall of 1871, when he removed to Nebraska, where he took up a homestead and engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was among the pioneers of the region where he settled

at that time. He lived there until 1882, when he came to this county and township, where, purchasing the west half of section 34, he settled down to his present business. He has been extensively engaged in raising cattle, but is now devoting himself to the breeding and raising of fine draft horses, now owning five imported stallions and one imported mare, all of the Lord Lyon strain of the Clyde breed, which is said to be the best of that stock in the world. He intends to increase these to twenty head. His success in this line is marvelous, and the thrifty, industrious nature inherent in people of his country is making him rapidly a wealthy man. He was married in Wisconsin, May 10, 1876, to Elizabeth Muir, a native of Scotland, born August 13, 1853. They are the parents of five children, born as follows: Andrew, June 30, 1877; James, January 24, 1879; William, September 10, 1881; Susan, January 27, 1883, and Joseph, March 15, 1886. The three eldest were born in Nebraska, the others here. Mr. Henderson is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and is a Republican politically.

Rodney E. Hanks is a native of Allegany County, N. Y., born December 13, 1836. While he was young the family removed to Wisconsin, where he continued to work for his father until the day after he was twenty-one years old, when he commenced teaching school, pursuing that profession during the winters, and farming in the summers for the next ten years. He was united in marriage with Matilda Margeret Poland, September 2, 1861, and the young couple came to the county of Waseca in 1864, and made a settlement here. He now has a fine farm here on section 24, this town. Mr. and Mrs. Hanks have had born to them five children, as follows: Herbert E., born April 8, 1870; Albert Fisk, November 27, 1872; George Spencer, July 2, 1874; Jesse Earl, March 6, 1881, and May Bell, May 14, 1886. Mr. Hanks has held the offices of town supervisor, justice of the peace and clerk of the school

district. On the 7th of January, 1873, during the great storm of that day, he was exposed to all its fury. He had started from Janesville for home, with a load of wood, but when he was about two miles south of Alma City the snow and wind came down upon him with a rush. The mules which he was driving wandered from the road, and finally refused to face the storm, so making a virtue of the necessity, he unloaded the wood, and standing it on end managed to make it a shelter. There he remained a day and two nights, with nothing to eat and exposed to the worst storm Minnesota has ever seen in the memory of man. On the second morning the snow abated a little, and although his feet were badly frozen, he managed to reach a house about a mile distant. He then learned that there was a house not more than sixty rods from where he had kept his sad, cold and lonely bivouac. When he was facing the storm he had tied an empty grain sack on his head, and the snow being damp when the storm first came up, wet it, as well as his clothes, and this freezing kept out the piercing wind, and hence part of the cold. He has been unfortunate in more ways than that, as the roof of his house was taken off and landed about twenty-five feet away, in a storm on the 17th of July, 1870, which came up about 10 o'clock at night. The very next fall the prairie fire, driven by a strong wind, came racing down toward him, and burned up his hay and stables, while his father-in-law, Jesse Poland, just across the road had house, barn and everything destroyed by the same devastating element.

Aiken Mycue Sr. is a native of Canada, born November 16, 1807. In 1864 he came to the county of Waseca, and settling in the village of Wilton, remained there for about sixteen months, when, purchasing 160 acres of land on sections 29 and 32, in this township, moved thither, and has made this his home ever since. He has given eighty acres of this farm to his son Aiken, who carries on farming there. Mr. Mycue was united in

marriage with Mary McDonald, in the year 1830, who departed this life March 10, 1875. They were the parents of nine children, born as follows: Caroline, born March 10, 1831, married Loren Harmon, and resides at Anoka, this State; Ellen, born January 25, 1835, who married Thomas Simpson, but he dying, she is now the wife of W. H. Harmon, living in this township; Elizabeth, born February 13, 1840, now Mrs. Joel Headley, of Laverne, this State; an infant, born December 11, 1847, died the 22d of the same month; Elijah, born September 21, 1837, married Ada Preston, and lives in Mankato, Minn.; Daniel, born November 8, 1842, died August 26, 1845; Henry M., born May 25, 1845, married Louisa Butler, and lives in Minneapolis; Aiken Jr. born November 25, 1848, married Ida Harmon, and lives in this township; Levi, born September 17, 1851, and died February 22, 1853, and Jesse.

Herman Baldwin was born in Germany, January 10, 1847, and came to the United States in 1869. He at first settled in Pennsylvania, where he was engaged laying slate for about six months, and came west as far as Milwaukee. Two years later he removed to New Orleans, spending a year in the latter place. He then came to Owatonna, Steele County, and worked at whatever he could find to do for some eight or ten years. About 1877 he came to this county, and now has a fine farm of 240 acres of land, well stocked and improved. April 5, 1878, he was united in marriage with Augustina Dumpka, in Dunbar, Faribault County, this State. They have been the parents of five children: Edith, born June 6, 1879, who died in October, 1880; Leinhardt, born December 25, 1880, and died in February, 1881; Eliza, born August 24, 1883; Martha, August 5, 1885, and Emma, May 31, 1887. Mr. Baldwin's mother died in Germany, and he sent for his father to come out and spend the remainder of his days with him, but the old gentleman only lived six months after coming to the United States. He and his

family are members of the Lutheran Church.

Charles Beyer, an enterprising agriculturist of this township who has a small but highly cultivated farm on section 30, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising, is a native of Germany, born September 4, 1854, and was brought to the United States by his parents in the year 1856. He remained at home with the old folks until 1875, when, having attained the age of twenty-one years, he started out in the world for himself. He then came to this county, and for about two years worked for several farmers in this vicinity, and in 1877 bought the place where he now resides. October 31, 1878, he was united in marriage with Louisa Peper, and they have been the parents of three children: Leona, born November 3, 1880; Emma, May 3, 1882, and Ida, November 16, 1886. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and a Republican in politics.

Mrs. Honora Dwyer, who maiden name was Honora Conlin, first saw the light in Ireland in 1837. She remained in the land of her birth until 1869, when she came to America, and to the State of Minnesota. Here in July, 1871, she was united in the holy sacrament of marriage with Thomas Dwyer, who died January 20, 1881, leaving her with two daughters: Bridget, born June 26, 1872, and Ann, born August 17, 1874. Both are living with their mother. She owns a good farm of 160 acres of land on section 3, of this township, on which she lives, although she rents the use of the land.

ORGANIZATION.

Vivian was organized as an independent civil township, after being a portion of Otisco precinct, at a meeting of the county commissioners held April 5, 1858. The first election was held at the house of J. B. Hill, that gentleman and E. Woodruff and S. L. Daggett acting as judges. The officers chosen at that time, according to the memory of the old settlers, no record being found, were: J. B. Hill, chairman, S. L.

Daggett and E. S. Woodruff, supervisors; Irvine Clark, town clerk. The present officers are: Marshall Fowler, chairman; Henry Bluhm, clerk; William Fisher, treasurer.

FIRST ITEMS.

Probably the first birth in the town was that of a child of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Daggett, born shortly after their coming here in the summer of 1857. This infant died in the fall of 1858. A child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sweeney about the same time, but as the dates of both births cannot be had, it is a question which preceded the other.

The first death was that of the Irishman, Sweeney, which occurred in November, 1857. He had been to St. Mary; there came on a snow storm, and being thinly clad and becoming confused and bewildered, he was

frozen to death, having lost his way, although his body was found but a short distance from his home.

The first marriage was that of the man Clark, who came with Haines, to Ann Stocker.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1859, and here the first religious services were held by Elder E. S. Smith, of Wilton, a Baptist clergyman.

In the early days a post route was laid out through the town of Vivian, and J. B. Hill was commissioned postmaster under Buchanan's administration, and held that office for many years.

Vivian cemetery was laid out in 1869, but burials had taken place there as early as 1858; the first interment was that of a child of S. L. Daggett, that died the fall of that year.



CHAPTER XXV.

BYRON TOWNSHIP.



LIVING on the central part of the south line of the county is the township of Byron. It comprises all of congressional township 105, north of range 23 west, and contains about the usual 23,040 acres of land. The surface, which is nearly level, with gentle undulations, has yet sufficient pitch to drain well, carried off by the waters of Boot Creek, in the eastern part of the township. The soil is a dark, warm, clayey loam, and, for fecundity and fertility, not surpassed by any in the county for some kinds of crops.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Owing to several causes, the settlement of Byron Township was not as rapid in an early day as in some other parts of the county. The land being more level, in the wet seasons the soil was damp and cold, and until the surrounding country was broken up and occupied, immigrants sought more congenial places, except a few hardy pioneers whose foresight told them that the natural resources of this country could be brought out by persistent work, and who have been rewarded for their pains.

The pioneer settler of this subdivision of the county was Jeremy Davis, a native of New Jersey, who located on the northwest quarter of section 34, in the spring of 1855, and built the first house in the township. This was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1857. Mr. Davis resided here until September 13, 1863, when he died, and his body lies in the Trenton cemetery, in Freeborn County, Minn. His first wife, Phoebe (Bowen)

Davis, died in Cumberland County, N. J. in 1837. His second wife, Keziah (Davis) Davis, is now living in Chicago. He had two sons in the army during the war in the famous Fifth Minnesota, one of whom died in the service.

Daniel C. Davis, a son of Jeremy and Phoebe (Bowen) Davis, came to what is now Byron Township, in 1855, and made a settlement. He pre-empted one farm and took another as a homestead on sections 28 and 33, where he now lives, his buildings being on the latter section. He was born in Cumberland County, N. J., May 13, 1834. At the age of nineteen years he commenced work in a painting and carriage trimming establishment at Shiloh, N. J., and remained there some four years. He then moved to Walworth County, Wis., where he worked one year on a farm, and the next year delivered brick at the kiln of Coleman & Davis, in Rock County, Wis. In 1855 he came here as above mentioned. July 18, 1861, he was united in marriage with Frances Parvin, the daughter of Benaiah and Elizabeth Parvin, who came to Minnesota in 1860. They have been the parents of three children: Charles, born July 6, 1863; Mary, July 13, 1865, and Hattie L., April 13, 1874. Charles died February 21, 1865, and his body is interred in Trenton cemetery. Mary was united in marriage, September 5, 1885, with Fred. Herrington, and lives on her father's farm in the house he built on coming here. Mr. Davis has devoted most of his time to his farm until within the last two years, during which time he has been writing life insurance, and has been very successful indeed in that line.

Christie McGrath, now a resident of the township, made a settlement here in 1856 on section 4, where he now lives.

William and David Beavins, in 1856, made settlements on sections 23 and 26. David is now a resident of Freedom Township, and William is still living on the old homestead. They came here from Wisconsin.

Isaac Lyng came to this township in 1856, also, and settled on part of section 26. During the war he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and died during the year 1865, and is buried at Dauphin Island. His wife died here at home about the same time.

C. S. Weed came to Waseca County in 1856, and made a settlement here, and is still a resident of the township.

J. H. Wightman, one of the representative citizens of New Richland, is one of the pioneer settlers of this township, coming to this part of the county in July, 1857, and locating on section 24. With him came Ira Dane.

Richard Ayers, from New Jersey, came to this township in 1857, and located on section 34. He died at Janesville, whither he had removed, about three or four years ago.

William Philbrook came to Byron Township in 1857, and made a settlement.

Mrs. Sarah Tibbets Philbrook was born in Brooksville, Me., May 6, 1807, and was married to William Philbrook in 1835. They came to Waseca County in 1857, and Mr. Philbrook bought the southeast quarter of section 14, in this township, where they lived till in 1865, when he was called from this world "to a mansion not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." The widow still lives on the old homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Philbrook were the parents of five children, born as follows: Rowena, born in October, 1837; Roscoe, June 16, 1839; Byron, January 19, 1841; Lyman F., February 19, 1842, and George, October 31, 1846. When they settled in this place there was not a house in sight, and their nearest neigh-

bor was a long distance away. Her son, Roscoe, lives with his mother, and carries on the farm, which is a most excellent one, and very productive. On the place is a very neat cottage, and a good commodious barn. Roscoe Philbrook was one of the nation's defenders in the late civil war, enlisting in the United States navy in the autumn of 1864, and served until July, 1865, when he received an honorable discharge.

Jacob W. Pierce came to Byron Township in April, 1857, and took up a claim on section 35, where he now lives.

Jacob W. Pierce was born in Cumberland County, N. J., October 15, 1833. He remained in the State of his birth until he had reached his majority, when he commenced the world for himself, doing farm work and carpentering work. In 1855 he came west and settled in Walworth County, Wis., where he remained some eighteen months, and in December, 1856, he returned to New Jersey and stayed there until March, 1857, when he came back to Wisconsin, where he purchased some ox teams, and came through to Freeborn, Freeborn County, this State, where he followed carpentering, although he took up a claim on section 35, of this town, where he now lives. He resided in Freeborn until 1862, when he enlisted as a private in Company F, Fifth Minnesota Infantry. He was a participant in many engagements, and was wounded at the second battle at Corinth. He served until September, 1865, when he was mustered out as first lieutenant and discharged at Fort Snelling. He returned to Freeborn and was a clerk in a store there until 1866, when he returned to New Jersey to visit his father and spent eight months there. Returning to Freeborn he took up his trade of carpenter and followed it for some years, and then turned his attention to his farm, of which he now has 365 acres, with a beautiful grove surrounding his house and other buildings. January 1, 1867, he was united in marriage with Sarah Horning. They are the parents of five

children, born as follows: Clarence E., January 4, 1868; Albertus M., March 12, 1869; Vilmer E., March 20, 1872; Bertrice M., March 19, 1874, and Claude A., August 18, 1877.

Mrs. Pierce is a lady of unusual courage and presence of mind, as the following incident will show: They had been annoyed by tramps from time to time, and as she had heard of several dastardly acts those gentry had committed, she was determined to stop their coming to her house if cool and determined receptions would keep them away. She did not have long to wait, for one day, when she was alone, a burly, villainous-looking tramp came to the door and ordered her to get him something to eat. She quickly stepped into another room and picked up a shot-gun, which she aimed at his head, and told him if he did not leave instantly she would feed him in a way he would not like. He could see by her determined look that she meant what she said, and did not wait for a second invitation to leave. She has not been troubled in that way since.

Garret Hope's settlement in this township dates from 1858. He is still a resident on the place where he first located.

Garret Hope owns one of the finest farms in the town, on the southeast quarter of section 6, where he has an excellent dwelling-house, a horse barn, cattle barn, two granaries and a machine shed. He has an artesian well on his place, and an orchard from which he has raised one year some forty bushels of apples, besides a large quantity of small fruits. Mr. Hope was born in County West Mayo, Ireland, August 15, 1840, and is the son of James and Ann Hope. When he was twelve years old, in 1852, he came to the United States, locating in Bridgeport, Conn., where he remained until 1855, learning the carpenter's trade. He then moved to Beloit, Wis., where he remained until 1857, when he came to this county, and in 1858 settled in this township, where he now lives. The first year he was here he fol-

lowed his trade, and for a time after locating on his farm did something at carpentering at odd times. On the 27th of May, 1861, he was united in marriage with Mary McGrath, daughter of Patrick and Catherine McGrath. They have been the parents of ten children, born as follows: James, April 16, 1862; Catharine, September 4, 1863; Patrick, March 5, 1865; Ann, October 16, 1866; Garrett, June 4, 1868; Maria, July 12, 1870; Julia, November 5, 1872; Agnes, September 22, 1875; Mary, February 20, 1878, and Charles, November 6, 1880. All are living at home except Ann, who is one of the Dominican sisters at Chicago, Ill. Mr. Hope has been town supervisor and school clerk, and is otherwise prominent in town affairs.

Omer H. Sutliff made a settlement in this county in 1858, but did not come to Byron until 1861, as related below.

Omer H. Sutliff was born Warren County, Pa., May 2, 1837. When he was only sixteen years of age, he left home to seek his fortune, and that summer worked on the Erie canal, in New York. The next year he spent on a farm in the same State, and then came west to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1856, when he came to this State, where he remained all winter, in the spring returning to Black River, Wis., where he was engaged in teaming for the mills. In 1858 he came to Waseca County, and helped erect the sawmill at the village of Otiseo, and when it was finished, worked there for about a year. December 11, 1860, he was united in marriage with Mary Holbrook, and renting his father-in-law's farm in Otiseo Township, cultivated that for a year. He then made a claim on the southwest quarter of section 24, this township, where he now lives, and there he built him a shanty of two wagon-loads of poles and a few slabs, and as they lost the legs of their stove in moving, Mr. Sutliff drove stakes in the ground for it to rest on. In April, 1861, he enlisted in company I, First Minnesota Infantry, in which he served three years and three months. He was in

twenty-one pitched battles, besides skirmishes, and had his thumb shot off. He was at the banquet given at Washington, and there received the reward of merit granted to all that had served through their term of service. He was mustered out and discharged at Fort Snelling, in June, 1864, and returning home, purchased a house and moved it on his farm. Mr. and Mrs. Sutliff are the parents of five children: Amanda, born September 9, 1864, married Dwight Hatch, in August, 1882, and now lives in Otisco Township; Minnie, born April 2, 1867, married in December 1884, to Fred. Heckes, living now in New Richland Township; Morris, born May 28, 1869; Viola, born October 1, 1872, and Dora, born August 15, 1877. Mr. Sutliff has now a fine farm and a fine modern cottage, in which he lives, and excellent surroundings.

Benaiah Parvin, a native of New Jersey, made a claim in this township, on section 33, and settled here in 1860. He drove the stage, and carried the mail from Alma City to Janesville for a number of years. Charles Parvin, a son of his, was a member of the Fourth Minnesota Infantry during the war, and died in the service. Benaiah emigrated to Arkansas a few years ago and died there. Mrs. D. C. Davis is a daughter of his.

Jesse R. Weed was born in Angelica, Allegany County, N. Y., May 23, 1819, and came to Waseca County, in October, 1860, settling on the northwest quarter of section 34, in this town, which he purchased previous to coming here, on which he still lives. The north part of his house, one of the first built in this neighborhood, is the only one of the old buildings left. Mr. Weed has also eighty acres of land on section 27. When he was nineteen years of age, he started out in the world for himself, engaging in farming, which occupation he has followed ever since. June 7, 1838, he was united in marriage with Clarinda Maxon, and they have been the parents of five children, born as follows: Lorenzo, August 29, 1843, died October 12,

the same year; Henry Spencer, May 31, 1845; Lucy, June 30, 1847, died July 7, the same year; Harriet, March 31, 1850, died July 11, 1850; Susan L., May 27, 1854, died January 30, 1883. Mr. Weed is the son of James and Susan (Rogers) Weed, the father a native of New York, the mother of Connecticut. Mr. Weed was here during the Indian troubles of 1862, and went to the Winnebago agency, and helped guard that place, and both nights he was there the savages had a war dance.

ORGANIC.

In 1857 when the first board of county commissioners were districting the county for the first time, what is now Byron Township was made a part of Otisco, and so remained until November 1, 1858, when the board ordered the organization of it as a separate civil town. The first officers elected, according to the best recollections of the oldest inhabitants, there being no records accessible, were: J. H. Wightman, chairman of board of town supervisors; John McGrath, side supervisor, and David Beavins, clerk. The present officers are: Christie McGrath, chairman, Garret Hope and Michael Heffernan, supervisors; C. S. Weed, clerk.

REPRESENTATIVE PEOPLE.

Sketches of some of the most prominent and enterprising people of this town are given here, as an index of the people who inhabit Byron.

Mrs. Calista J. Wilson was born in Madison County, N. Y., December 11, 1831, and with her parents, whose names were Campbell, moved to Rock County, Wis., where, December 11, 1849, she was united in marriage with Edwin A. Crumb. They remained there about eight years, and then removed to Winneshek County, Iowa, but after three years' residence there, they came to this township and took up a homestead of 160 acres of land, the northeast quarter of section 32. Since coming here they lived some

time in the village of Wilton, where Mrs. Crumb carried on a millinery establishment, and her husband a wagon-making shop. After three years spent there they returned to Wisconsin for Mr. Crumb's health, which was failing. Eighteen months later they returned here, and on the 20th of January, 1878, death claimed her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Crumb were the parents of five children: Xevonia A., born May 15, 1851, married Truman Davis in 1870, and now resides at Cartright, Wis.; John M., born December 3, 1853, married Ada Cummings, and now lives in Freeborn County, Minn.; Lovell A., born February 12, 1857, died October 12, 1877; Carlross H., born March 8, 1858, married Elizabeth Erb, and lives in this town, and Mary A. born October 12, 1864. When they came to Byron Township, in 1864, Mr. Crumb was drafted, and as he had no shelter for his family but a rough shanty, and nothing to cover his teams, his distress was great, but on examination he was pronounced unfit for the service, and returned here. After her husband's death, she remained on the farm with those of her children that were unmarried, and carried on the business. On the 28th of February, 1880, she was united in marriage with John N. Wilson, who was born in Canada, September 1, 1833, who, when he was twenty-one years of age, came to "the States," and settled in Rock County, Wis., where he engaged in farming. From there he removed to Colorado, where he enlisted in Company G, First Colorado Regiment, and served to the end of the war. At the time of his marriage with Mrs. Crumb, he was a widower with two children: Claude S., born February 19, 1869, and John M., born April 2, 1872. In December, 1881, the family removed to Dodge Center, this State, in order to send the daughter, Mary, to school, but she being taken sick, they brought her back, as she was anxious to see her old home once more, and here she died, April 24, 1882.

Zalmon M. Partridge is a native of Berk-

shire County, Mass., born January 15, 1834. He remained at home with his parents among the hills of his native place, where he was reared until he was fourteen years of age, when he commenced life for himself. In 1857 he came to Minnesota, locating in Dakota County, where he worked at farming and carpentering for about three years. He then removed to Virginia, where he followed the occupation of brick molder until August, 1861, when he enlisted in Company H, Fourth Loyal Virginia Infantry, and served a little over three years, and was mustered out in 1864. On the 2d day of November, 1864, he was married to Narcissus Samples in Kenawha County, W. Va. He remained in that State for two years, and then removed to Dakota County, Minn., where he resided until 1870, when he came to this county and settled on the 160 acres of land on section 36, of this township, that he had purchased the year previous, where he is now living. At the time of his coming here the land was without improvement, but he has now a fine residence and other buildings, and has 115 acres of land under cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Partridge have been the parents of five children: William S., born in Virginia, July 28, 1865; John Henry, born March 18, 1867, died April 3, 1867, and is buried at Castle Rock, Minn.; Ulysses, born May 30, 1868; Philip S., born March 9, 1870, and Mary V., born December 14, 1875.

Harvey Cummings was born in Bureau County, Ill., September 20, 1834. He remained a resident of the Sucker State until 1870, when he removed to Farmington, Dakota County, Minn., where he rented a farm and resided there until 1874, when he came to Waseca County, and purchased 160 acres of land, the southeast quarter of section 31, Byron Township. At that time he did not build any house on his land, but renting the adjoining farm, which had a house on it, cultivated both places. In 1876 the grasshoppers came here in great num-

bers, and besides devastating the land, deposited their eggs in the ground in such numbers that Mr. Cummings, fearing that there would be no crops the next year, returned to Illinois, where he remained until 1880, when, returning here, he built his residence and other buildings, and has made this his home ever since. June 29, 1856, he was married to Mary Donaldson, and they have had a family of eleven children, all of whom are living, except one: Ada, born in Illinois, April 10, 1857, married J. M. Crumb, in 1877, and lives a near neighbor; Francis, born January 12, 1859; Lilian, born October 14, 1860, married Warren Ladd in 1882, and lives in Nebraska; Viola, born March 16, 1863, and died the following September; William Henry, born January 6, 1865; Charles Henry, born November 8, 1866; Clara, born October 31, 1868; Melvin Ellsworth, born in Dakota County, Minn., February 19, 1871; Rilla Mabel, born December 27, 1872; Edna, born December 22, 1874, and Pearl Evalina, born in Illinois, October 17, 1879. Mrs. Cummings is a native of Mason County, Ky., born April 2, 1834.

Peter Bumgarten was born in Prussia, June 27, 1832, and lived in his German home until 1857, when he came to the United States, settling in Wisconsin, where he was engaged in farming for twelve years. He then came to Waseca County, and purchasing eighty acres of land in St. Mary Township, lived there for about six years, and then purchased 160 acres of land on section 16, Byron Township, where he now lives. He has since added to his farm, 160 acres on section 20, and has now a fine place of 320 acres well improved and well stocked, and has a fine frame barn 28x48 feet in size, 16 feet studding, which was the first frame one in the town. When he came to this country he was almost penniless, but by energy, industry and thrift, he has accumulated quite a fine property. In the early days of his struggle with the world he cradled and thrashed grain for twenty-five cents per day,

and in the winter worked for his board. December 13, 1864, he was married to Mary Schultz, and they have had a family of eight children: Peter, born September 17, 1866; Lena, born December 5, 1867; Tena, May 5, 1868; Michael, June 24, 1870; John, February 14, 1872; Meda, January 10, 1874; Maggie, August 14, 1882, and William, January 20, 1885.

Lawrence W. Concanon was born in Ireland, July 20, 1827, and came to the United States in 1851. He landed in New Orleans, where he remained until the following spring, and then went up the river to the State of Illinois, where he was engaged in farming some twenty-four years. In 1877 he came to Waseca County, locating in St. Mary Township, but three years later he removed to Byron Township, purchasing 160 acres of land on section 19, where he has a good house, and a well improved farm, and a beautiful grove of cottonwood, maple, willow and box-elder trees. He does a general farming and stock-raising business and is one of the solid men of the town. He was united in marriage, April 11, 1856, with Bridget Broderick, and they have been the parents of eight children: Mary, born July 4, 1858; William, born October 11, 1859; Catherine, born March 27, 1861, died March 18, 1868; Lawrence, born February 15, 1863; Bridget, born April 9, 1865; Ellen, born May 11, 1867; Margeret, born May 10, 1869, and Honora, born April 9, 1871. His daughter Margeret is a school-teacher and Honora is fitting herself for the same profession. Mr. Concanon being a great believer in education, has given his children every advantage he could in that direction.

John Dinneen was born in Ireland, in June, 1828, and lived in the country of his birth until 1850, when he came to the United States. He remained in the State of New York, where he worked on the railroad for a time, and then purchased a farm, which he tilled until 1875, when he sold out there and came to Waseca County, and took a home-

stead of 160 acres on section 20, where he is still living. He has purchased since then 320 acres of land on sections 20 and 29, and has a fine farm of 480 acres, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising, giving considerable attention to the breeding and rearing of fine cattle. He has a fine cottage and several convenient buildings in which to shelter his horses and cattle, and fine machinery sheds. In February, 1856, he was united in marriage with Mary Burke. They have been the parents of nine children: Maggie, born December 25, 1856, who died June 1, 1860; Ellen, born June 15, 1858, who died June 1, 1860; James, born May 15, 1862; Timothy, born January 7, 1864, died January 22, 1879; Daniel, born October 31, 1865; John, born January 7, 1867; Nicholas, born November 31, 1869; Mary E., born February 8, 1873, and Catharine, born March 23, 1876. Mr. Dinneen has held the office of chairman of the town supervisors one year, side supervisor three or four years, school director ten years and school treasurer ten years.

Peter Obrine was born in Ireland, June 29, 1837, and remained a resident of the Emerald Isle until 1863, when he came to the United States, and after a few months'

residence in Wisconsin, in 1864 came to Waseca County, and settled on the north-east quarter of section 17, in this town, where he now lives. He was united in marriage with Mrs. Margaret Dwyer, *nee* Ryan, who was the widow of Thomas Dwyer, and had at the time of this last marriage two children: Alice, wife of Thomas Ryan, living in Waseca, and Honora, born April 10, 1847, wife of Barney Agnew. Mr. and Mrs. Obrine have but two children living: Catherine, born November 25, 1859, now the wife of Emmons Smith, of Waseca City, and Mary, married November 22, 1868, to Frank Smith, but who, having separated from her husband by divorce, resides with her parents with her two children: George Edward, born August 26, 1881, and Maggie, born August 29, 1883. In the winter of 1864, Mrs. Obrine started to visit a neighbor distant about four miles, and was caught in a snow storm and got lost on the prairie. She wandered around from Wednesday until Friday evening, when she arrived at her sister's house. She was so badly frozen and so exhausted that she could not get into the house without help. She lost about one-half of each one of her feet, and was injured otherwise.



CHAPTER XXVI.

ALTON TOWNSHIP.



ALTON Township embraces all of congressional township 107, north of range 24 west, and contains the usual 23,040 acres of land. The surface is gently undulating, and exceedingly fertile is the soil, a deep, rich, warm loam, that, with intelligent culture, is practically inexhaustible. This portion of the county is well drained, the Le Sueur River traversing sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 25, besides slightly touching several others. Buffalo Lake, covering nearly all of section 21, and parts of sections 16, 17, 20 and 28, with its affluent creeks and runs, make up the drainage system of the central and northern part of the town. A large part of the township was originally covered with timber, much of which remains here to-day.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Lucius Kyes, now of the city of Waseca, was probably the pioneer settler in this township, coming to this part of the county during September, 1863, and taking up a claim on section 32, where he lived until 1871. He is now a resident of the city of Waseca, he having gone there from his farm, and is engaged in carpentering and building. He was born in Medina County, Ohio, in 1837.

William Wager, in 1863, came to Waseca County and located in the town of Alton, on section 32, and when the land came into market bought it of the government, and resided there until 1873, when he removed to Freedom, where he now lives.

Elijah Hills came at the same time and took a claim on what is now the northeast corner of Alma City, and when that village was laid out it received its name from his daughter, Alma Hills. When these two families came here there were but two families within a radius of six miles. Both these two families of Wager and Hills spent the winter in one cabin, 14x16 feet in size, and built of poles and bark taken from the old Indian tepees and some basswood boards.

Morris Lamb came to this township in 1864, and located on section 36, where his son, M. H. Lamb, now lives. Mr. Lamb was one of the unfortunate Union refugees, who, at the time of the breaking out of the war, had to leave their "sunny southern home" for their opinion's sake. He resided in Cumberland County, Tenn., and on the 17th of June, 1861, was compelled to seek more congenial quarters. He therefore packed all he could on three wagons and fled for the Ohio River, his port of safety. He came to Minnesota in 1861, and in 1864 to this county and township. He died here December 31, 1869. He was a native of Vermont. A sketch of him is given in connection with his son in Chapter VIII.

Morris H. Lamb, a native of Ohio, whose sketch is given in detail in connection with legislative representation in Chapter VIII, came to Alton Township in 1864 with his father and made a settlement, and still remains one of the leading citizens of Alton. Perhaps it would be as well to mention in this connection that Mr. Lamb is one of the largest dairy farmers in this county, and the first one to appreciate the merits of the

ensilage method of preparing fodder for wintering his stock. He has a large barn, second only in size to that on the De Graff place in the township, 42x90 feet in size, capable of holding a large quantity of hay and three silos of a total capacity of 350 tons, besides his large herd of cattle. Mrs. Lamb is famed throughout the county as being one of the best, if not the best butter maker in the State. Their dairy produced in 1886 the enormous amount of 6,535 pounds of butter, which was sold for \$1,601.35. The quality is unsurpassed and readily finds a market.

Mathew Casey came here in 1864, and made a settlement on section 2, but shortly after removed to section 15, which latter piece of land he sold the following year to August Kruger, after breaking some of it, and removed to section 26. He after this removed to Janesville, and from there to Tracy, Minn.

Patrick Hayden made a settlement here, on section 13, in 1864, and is still a resident of the township.

A man of the name of Hert came to this settlement among those who located here in 1864. He died here in the fall of 1885.

In the spring of 1864, Jefferson Davis made a settlement on section 34, this town, where he lived for several years, and finally removed to Alma City, and put in a general stock of merchandise in what is now the Red front store, which was called Jeff Davis' Headquarters. There he remained a few years, and then moved to Vivian, and remained about three years, thence to Amboy, where he now runs a hotel and livery.

C. M. Campion, with his two sons, John and Patrick, made a settlement in Alton, in 1864. The elder Mr. Campion located upon the southeast quarter of section 13, where he resided until his death; John took a claim on the northeast quarter of the same section, and Patrick on the northeast of section 24. Both of the latter still reside on their original claims.

Col. Chas. Long made a claim on sections

15 and 22, in 1864, where he resided for a time, and then returned to Ohio, where he now lives.

"Uncle Sam" Larabee came to this township in the fall of 1864. He was the owner of the town site of Alma City, and is mentioned in that connection.

William Maloney, who drove the stage through this country in an early day, made a claim here in 1864. He is now a resident of Janesville.

Terence Lilly, who had come to Waseca County from Illinois some years previous, in 1864 removed to this township, and located on section 1, where he now lives.

In 1864 M. L. Devereaux made a settlement on section 34, and resided in this town for some time and then removed to the north part of this State. Later he came back here and lived in Alton until his death. He was a member of one of the Minnesota regiments during the late civil war.

H. A. Clark purchased a farm on section 9, this town, in 1865, and proceeded to make a settlement as detailed below. He came to what is now Alton Township, in 1865, and bought the farm on section 9, where he now lives, of Willard & Barney, of Mankato, and made a settlement. He is a native of Oneida County, N. Y., born January 26, 1826. He is a son of Herman and Martha (Warner) Clark, of English and Welsh descent, but both natives of the State of Connecticut, and who had a family of thirteen children, eight of whom are still living. H. A. came west in an early day, settling in Walworth County, Wis., where he remained some twelve years engaged in farming and carpentering. From there he went to California, where he made a stay of three years, and then made the voyage to China, and after a stay there returned by way of England, having completely circumnavigated the globe when he got back to his old home in Wisconsin. After a few years spent in roving about, he came to this township and has been here ever since, engaged in farming and stock-raising.

November 2, 1865, he was united in marriage with Harriet Bennett, who was born in New York, July 22, 1830.

Timothy Colby came in the fall of 1864, and resided in this town until 1886, when he was removed by death.

M. Powers made a settlement on section 22, in 1865, and lived here until his death. He was an Irishman, who came to this place from Waterloo, Wis. He died here about 1879.

Patrick Farley, now a resident of St. Mary town, was one of the settlers of Alton in 1865. He resided here until 1886, when he removed to his present location.

Richard Haggerty, in the spring of 1865, came to this place from Dodge County, Wis. He was a native of County Mayo, Ireland, and died in this township, on his farm on section 12, in the latter part of 1882. His wife died in 1881.

Michael Lang in 1865 settled on section 1, on the place where he now lives.

Michael Kearney in 1865 made a settlement on section 13. He afterward removed to Faribault, where he is now living.

Charles Lockwood came to Waseca County in September, 1865, from Wisconsin and made a settlement on section 15, this township, where he now resides. He is a native of Fairfield County, Conn., born December 2, 1824. He is the son of Ephraim and Mary (Hendrickson) Lockwood, natives of Connecticut, also, both of whom are now dead. They had raised a family of seven children: Sarah Ann, Aaron, Charles, Jane, Melvina, Frank and Samantha. When Charles was seventeen years, he commenced a seafaring life, which he followed for ten years, and then relinquished that, and moving to Dodge County, Wis., began farming, which vocation he has followed ever since. He made his home in the last named place for about ten years and then came here, as above mentioned, where he is devoting his attention to general farming, and raising short-horn cattle, in which he is very successful. September

3, 1855, he was united in marriage with Louisa Merrill, who was born in Erie County, N. Y., May 9, 1832, and is a daughter of Samuel and Rachel Merrill, natives of New Hampshire and New York, who had raised a family of six children. Her parents had settled in Wisconsin in an early day, where they lived some twelve years, and came to Waseca County in 1859, where the mother died, January 28, 1875; the father resides with his daughter, Mrs. Lockwood. Mr. Lockwood has been a member of the town board for four years, and director of school district No. 66, for eight years, and is one of the prominent farmers of the township. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood are the parents of four children: Mary, born June 10, 1857, who wedded Fred. Dickenson in 1878, and lives in Janesville Township; Frances, born October 30, 1860, married to Frank Dickenson, and lives in the village of Janesville; Aaron, born September 3, 1872, at home, and Laura, born August 11, 1874, also at home. Mr. Lockwood is an Independent in political matters and has taken a prominent part in public affairs of the township.

Terence McBride made a claim on section 12, on coming here in 1865, where he still lives.

Jeremiah Vaughn came from the neighborhood of Montello, Marquette County, Wis., in 1865, and settled on a farm on section 14. This place he afterward sold to his brother, James A., who still owns it. Jeremiah removed to Rock Island, Ill., and from there back to Montello, Marquette County, Wis., where he is now living.

E. H. Skilling was also among the settlers of the year 1865. He was a native of Portland, Me. When he came here, he made a claim on section 20. He is still a resident of the township.

Patrick Murphy, William Stewart and L. C. Bonner were among the settlers of the year 1865. William Stewart located on section 15, where he lived many years, but is now in the western part of the State. L. C.

Bonner's place was a part of section 19; he moved from here to Nebraska. Patrick Murphy is still a resident here.

Emerson Gates came to Waseca County in 1866, and entered into mercantile pursuits at the village of Alma City, at first by himself, but in a short time formed a partnership with W. E. Loekwood, and continued in business there until 1881, when he sold out to his partner and moved to his farm, on section 32, forty acres of which he had purchased of E. G. Pierce, in 1874. He now has 160 acres of land, including some ten or eleven acres of timber, and his residence and barns, which are of a high class, are located about eighty rods west of Alma City. Emerson Gates is a native of Erie County, N. Y., born February 27, 1842. He is the son of Abel and Mary (Peabody) Gates, both natives of Massachusetts. His father was a chairmaker by trade and followed that business all his life. The parents had a family of six children, three boys and three girls. Emerson began life for himself when nineteen years of age, by enrolling himself among the nation's defenders, enlisting October 7, 1862, in Company A, One Hundredth New York Infantry, and participated in the battles of Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines, and others of the Chickahominy campaign, siege of Charleston, S. C., and of Fort Wagner, battles of Fort Walthal Junction, Drury's Bluff and siege of Petersburg, Va., and many others. He entered the service as a private, and was mustered out of it as sergeant, at Buffalo, N. Y., January 30, 1865. He then came west to La Crosse, Wis., and the next year to this township, as related. February 5, 1865, he was united in marriage with Emma J. Gray, a native of Erie County, N. Y., born February 5, 1844. They have been the parents of six children: Caspar A., born November 18, 1865, died in 1875; Clarence L., born December 19, 1867, died in July, 1875; Edith, born February 20, 1876; Alice, born July 25, 1878; Laura E., born November 22, 1880, and Cassius E., born April 26, 1886.

George W. Dunham came here in 1866, and made a settlement on section 23, purchasing the place of Daniel Shellock. He is still a resident of this place. He is a native of Fairfield County, Conn., born November 24, 1837, and is the son of Peter and Maria (Peck) Dunham. His father was a hatter by trade, and died in 1839; the mother is living in Wisconsin with a daughter. They had a family of five children, viz: Mary, who married Joseph Hooker, but died at the age of twenty-two; Bessie Maria, now Mrs. C. A. Loekwood, living in Wisconsin; Sarah Ann, now Mrs. Oliver Wood, of New Jersey; Martha, now Mrs. Ezra G. Wildman, and George W., the topic of this biography. When he was but nine years of age, on account of the death of his father he commenced struggling against the world, working out on a farm, and liking that business, has ever since followed it. September 23, 1857, he was united in marriage with Mary J. Lyon, who was born in Massachusetts in 1836. Her parents were natives of New England, but had come west to Wisconsin in an early day, where Mr. Dunham and she were married, he having moved there from his native State. They are the parents of six children, born as follows: George Harrison, August 9, 1859; William D., February 22, 1862; Oliver, April 18, 1864; Charles, March 4, 1866; Bessie J., January 21, 1870, and Nellie Mary, March 4, 1882. All of them are living at home. Mr. Dunham is a Democrat in politics, and is a representative man of Alton Town. He has held the office of town assessor, supervisor of the town and clerk of the school district, and is the present town clerk.

Terence Hammel first made his appearance in this county in 1864, but did not locate here until 1866, which latter is the date of his settlement. He is a native of Ireland, born in 1845, and is the son of James and Alice (McCue) Hammel, who came to America in 1850, remaining in New Jersey some eight years, then, in the year 1859, coming to Le Sueur County, Minn., where the mother died

March 26, 1887, and where the father still lives. Terence commenced life for himself in Le Sueur County, at farming, which vocation he has always followed. June 2, 1865, he and Mary Smith were united in marriage. She was a native of Ireland, born in 1847, whose parents had settled in Le Sueur County in 1858, where they remained until their death. Mr. and Mrs. Hammel have had a family of ten children, born as follows: William, January 17, 1868; James, August 26, 1869; Mary, January 9, 1873; Alice, March 15, 1874; Rosella, December 25, 1876; Anna, July, 1878; Grace, December, 1880; Jennie, November, 1882; Gertrude, May, 1883; Varonica, October, 1885. All are single and living at home. Mr. Hammel is the present town assessor, having been elected in 1885.

William Burke came to Waseca County in the year 1867, and settled on section 34, Alton Township, where he purchased eighty acres of William Lambert. He lives at present on section 23, in the same town, where he has a fine farm and modern style dwelling. He was born in Oneida County, N. Y., February 15, 1844. He is the son of Michael and Catherine (Kelly) Burke, both natives of County Roscommon, Ireland, both of whom are now dead. They raised a family of ten children: Patrick, John, Mary, Michael, William, Edward, Kate, Maggie, James and Timothy. At the age of seventeen, William Burke enlisted in Company E, Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry. This was in 1861. He was discharged in June, 1862, on account of disability, but on recovering from his illness, he reënlisted in the same regiment and participated in all of the battles in which that regiment made such a glorious record, among which were: Shiloh, siege of Atlanta, Jonesboro, Dalton, Resaca and Corinth. He was finally discharged July 16, 1865. He then went to Wisconsin, where he remained but a short time, and then went South, but in 1867 returned to the northern country and settled in Alton Township, where he has since re-

mained. January 28, 1867, he was united in marriage with Joanna Quirk, a native of Middletown, Conn., born Nov. 25, 1845. Her parents were natives of Cork and West Meath, Ireland, who came from Connecticut to Wisconsin in an early day. Her father was a member of Company D, Seventeenth Wisconsin Infantry, and died in the hospital at St. Louis; her mother died in 1846. Mr. and Mrs. Burke have been the parents of seven children, born as follows: Thomas, May 24, 1869; Anna, April 18, 1871; William, February 1, 1873; Mary, February 16, 1875; Rose, July 9, 1877; Agnes, May 27, 1879, and Josie, August 1, 1884. Mr. Burke was elected chairman of the board of supervisors and served three years; in 1877 was chosen county commissioner and held that office for six years, and has held the positions of town assessor for one year, and director of school district No. 61, for eleven years. He is one of the leading prominent men of the town, and is a Democrat in politics.

Patrick Markham came to Waseca County about the year 1867, and settled where he now lives, on section 34, Alton Township, where he carries on general farming and stock-raising. After these twenty years of good, steady work, Mr. Markham has accumulated quite a competence, and can now retire from the more active part of farm life and enjoy the comforts of living, which his energy and ambition have honestly won him. Mr. Markham is a native of Ireland, born December 25, 1805, and when but a young man came to America, first locating in Canada, and from there removed to the State of Massachusetts, where he spent a number of years. While there he was united in marriage with Dorcas Bliss, a native of Massachusetts, who died after about seventeen years of married life. In 1857 he was again united in marriage. He is the parent of three children: John, James and Jane. James died in 1882; Jane married John Murphy, and John married Nellie Doyle, and lives in this town. The family are members of the Catho-

lie Church, and Mr. Markham is a Democrat in politics.

M. S. Hopkins, and his wife, Alma (Norton) Hopkins, with their family came to the town of Alton in 1867, and settled on section 25. They were natives of the State of New York and Vermont, who had emigrated to Ohio, from whence they had come here. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins resided here until their death, which occurred, Mr. Hopkins, September 25, 1871, and Mrs. Hopkins, the 3d of June, 1882. Both are buried at Peddler's Grove. They were the parents of six children: George R., born in Summit County, Ohio, December 27, 1840, died December 14, 1863; Mary E., born in the same place, September 9, 1842, who married Albert Chapel about 1866, and has three children; they live at Farmington this State: Helen L., born in the same place, January 30, 1844, living in Alton Township, and is unmarried; H. M. whose sketch follows this; Gertrude, born in Ohio also, October 10, 1854, married J. Randall in 1875, and lives in Minneapolis, where he is a machinist; and Sarah E., born in Ohio, August 9, 1857.

H. M. Hopkins, whose father's sketch is given above, was born in Summit County, Ohio, November 15, 1845, and came to this county with the family in 1866. He has followed the vocation of farmer ever since he was old enough to do anything in that line, and understands it thoroughly in all its branches. Since his father's death he has been the main one to carry on the farm, and is the chief maintenance of his two unmarried sisters and a sister of his mother, who lives with them. He is one of the representative men of the township, and has held the office of town clerk therein. He is a Republican in politics.

Patrick Seymour came to the county of Waseca in 1856, and is therefore one of the oldest of settlers. He was born in Ireland, March 20, 1840, and is the son of Patrick and Joanna (Ryan) Seymour, who had a family of six children, two boys and four girls. His

parents died in the old country, and Patrick came to this country in early youth, first settling in New Jersey, where he remained about a year, and then came west, spending three years in Chicago, and then coming to this county, as above stated, where he has since remained. He was married to Mary Hederman, a native of New York, born in 1847, by whom he has had six children, all of whom are at home with their parents. Mr. Seymour is one of the solid farmers of this section of the county, having a fine farm on section 13, where he is residing.

At an early day, Dr. Morrison located at Peddler's Grove. He was an eclectic physician.

The lands now embraced within the limits of Alton Township were, until 1863, a part of the Winnebago agency, and on their being thrown open to settlement, or shortly after, the people from all parts of the country flocked in and took up claims. The number in 1864 and 1865 probably equaled the entire population of the township at present, hence it is impossible to give all of the early settlers.

Among others who came here early, not mentioned before, were: W. B. Morris, George Watson, C. G. Pride, B. F. Crump, O. P. Satterlee.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

The annals of Alton would be incomplete without some mention being made of other citizens, who have been so largely instrumental in developing and building up this part of the country, so sketches of some of them are inserted here.

Andrew De Graff is a native of Schenectady County, N. Y., and was born October 21, 1811. He is the son of Nicholas and Nellie (Thomas) De Graff, who were both natives of the Empire State, the father being engaged in farming there until called to his reward. Since 1832 Andrew De Graff has been more or less engaged in the construction of railroads, both in the eastern, middle and western States. In 1857 he had



Mr H Lamb

a contract to build the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, and had commenced operations when the great financial panic of that year came on and swept like a tidal wave over the land, and compelled the cessation of all work of that kind. Hardly had the financial crisis spent its force when Col. De Graff again commenced work and finished it, and since that time he has carried on that business with his late son, Charles A. De Graff. Col. De Graff married Rachel Pomeroy, who was a native of Massachusetts. They were the parents of three children: Minnie, now Mrs. John A. Berkey, living in St. Paul, where her husband is engaged in mercantile and banking business; Frankie, a single man who died in 1875, at the age of twenty-one years, living at home with his parents at the time of his death, and Charles A., whose sketch follows this. Col. De Graff, by the energy of his nature and the ability with which he is gifted, has raised himself until he now stands one of the most prominent figures in the history of railroad construction and financial undertakings in this great republic.

Charles A. De Graff (deceased) was the son of Col. Andrew and Rachel (Pomeroy) De Graff, and first saw the light in Alexander, N. Y., November 20, 1843, and died at St. Paul, July 20, 1887. He was truly one of the representative men of the United States. When but a boy he came with his father to Minnesota, and shortly after they engaged in railroad construction, which resulted in the accumulation of a large and handsome fortune. In 1864 he served in the Union army for the salvation of our country. Like many other wealthy men throughout the Union, he became fascinated with the breeding problem, and the amusement of his life was his splendid Lake Elysian stock farm. Here he loved to retire from the busy hum of commerce, and surrounded by his champion herd of Jerseys, or in the paddocks of his excellently bred trotters, spend many peaceful days. Mr. De Graff was a

member of the National Short-Horn Association of America, a director of the Southern Minnesota fair, a director in the Breeders' Association of Trotting and Pacing Horses, and at one time vice-president and member of the board of managers of the State Agricultural Society. He was also a member of the Winona Commandery of Knights Templar. His large circle of friends will ever keep his memory green, as a man of the highest personal character, a generous and faithful friend, an honorable and brilliant business man, and one who was always first and foremost in every good work and deed.

In regard to Mr. De Graff's place, it is unsurpassed by any in the United States, and the buildings which have been erected by Mr. De Graff's untiring ambition gives it the appearance of a little town of a couple of hundred inhabitants. The hundreds of beautiful trees which have been set out by his own hands afford abundance of shade, and make it the handsomest grove in the Northwest. The barns which stand on the place are enormous, one of them being 60x120 feet, and several more nearly as large; two fine and handsome tenement houses, and many buildings which are too numerous to mention. The farm, which lies in one body, covers 2,400 acres of land. It numbers from 125 to 160 head of horses, a great many of which are imported stock, and their record competes with any in the Northwest, Mr. De Graff paying for some as high as \$3,000 apiece. The herd of cattle which are kept within the boundaries of this large farm numbers about two or three hundred of the finest Jersey and short-horn stock which can be produced.

The following beautiful tribute to the memory of Charles A. De Graff, written by Bishop Whipple, sums up the lovable traits in the character of his deceased friend, and fittingly closes his eulogium upon the dead:

"May I bring a few flowers to lay on the new-made grave of our friend Charles De Graff. I have known him almost a quarter

of a century, and loved him as one of the truest friends. Others can speak better than I of his business life—of the benefits he conferred on the impoverished wheat-growers by showing them the marvelous adaptation of our fair State to the growth of stock. He was the first to introduce the Kentucky blue grass, and from the day he left railway building he was a model farmer and stock-breeder. I loved him for the tender sympathy which was always given in sorrow. His heart was as gentle as a woman's and yet strong and manly, true as steel. I never knew one more ready to respond to the calls of duty. In every walk of life he had learned 'to do justly and to love mercy.' As a son, a brother, a friend, he loved with his whole heart. I never knew a son with deeper filial love. It was his devotion to his mother which first won my admiration and regard. No lover ever watched and waited to anticipate its loved one's unspoken wishes more than he his father's. He knew men. His friends were of the best. With him it was a law, 'If he cheats me once, he is to blame; if he cheats me twice, I am to blame.' When I saw him on his beautiful farm, looking so lovingly into the faces of his dumb friends, I thought of Webster's advice to John Taylor: 'Look into their large eyes and kindly faces and be an honest man.'"

E. F. Nettleton was born in Oneida County, N. Y., July 7, 1830, and is the son of Lemon and Naney (Rose) Nettleton. The former of these was a farmer and attained the advanced age of eighty-seven years before he died; his wife died at the age of eighty-three. They had a family of fifteen children, seven boys and eight girls. In 1857 E. F. Nettleton came to Minnesota and settled in Le Sueur County, where he engaged in farming. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company G, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and participated in all the hardships and battles with that famous regiment; was in the battles of Tupelo and Spanish Fort,

and served until August 19, 1865, when he was discharged and returned to Le Sueur County, where he lived until 1874, when he removed to this town and county. When he first returned he was under the physician's hands for some time for a sunstroke received in the army. He lives on section 32, where he settled on first coming here. March 29, 1851, he was united in the holy bonds of matrimony with Elizabeth Stone, who was born in New York State, October 19, 1832. They have been the parents of four children: William, born November 29, 1854; Theron S., born in April, 1858, married Mary Gates, and is a harness maker in Alma City; George, born March 19, 1859, married Emma Hodge and is a professor of penmanship in St. Louis; Luella, born in September, 1856, married Joel Southwick, a carpenter of Alma City.

William Thompson is one of the old settlers of Blue Earth County, this State, his parents locating in 1855 about a mile from what is now Garden City, when there was not a house in that village. He is a native of Waukesha County, Wis., born October 10, 1844, and is the son of William R. and Anna (Brown) Thompson, natives of New York and Vermont, who had come west to Wisconsin in 1844, and in 1855 to this State, as above stated, where they remained until their deaths. When William was but thirteen years of age, he commenced work on his father's farm, and has always followed farming. September 26, 1867, he was united in marriage with Henrietta Killmer, a native of Upper Canada, born December 3, 1846. Her parents were also natives of Canada, who came to Wisconsin in 1854, and remained there ten years, then moved to Blue Earth County, Minn., where her mother died in 1866, the father being still a resident there. They had a family of eight children in their family. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of nine children, born as follows: William Freeman, May 2, 1868; John C. March 19, 1871; Lois Ann, May 23, 1874;

George Curtis, November 17, 1873; James R., November 26, 1875; Raymond, January 21, 1877; Lee Coleman, February 1, 1879; Frank Ellis, January 18, 1881, and Jevena Pearl, February 12, 1885.

Andrew Hogan is a native of Ireland, born in 1835, and came to the United States in the year 1856, and for some nine months remained in New York City, and then proceeded to Ohio, but in 1858 came to Waseca County and settled on section 29, of Janesville Township, where he lived until 1874, and then removed to section 3, this town, where he still lives. In the year 1860 he was married to Mary Handerman, a native of the Emerald Isle. They are the parents of six children, three boys and three girls. One of the latter is married to Patrick Mulcahy, a farmer of Alton Township; the rest live at home with their parents.

James A. Vaughan was born in Ireland in 1831, and is the son of Edward and Mary Vaughan, who were farmers in the old country and who had a family of fourteen children, seven of whom are dead. The parents came to the United States in 1838, bringing their family with them, and for some three years remained in New York City. From there they moved to McHenry County, Ill. where they resided until called away by death, the mother in 1861, the father in 1866. James A. Vaughan came to Waseca County in 1873, and settled on section 14, Alton Township, where he still lives, carrying on his farming pursuits. He is a Democrat in politics, but seeks no public preferment. In 1859 he was united in the holy bonds of marriage with Catherine O'Locklin, daughter of John and Honora (Clary) O'Locklin, who was born July 26, 1843, in Ireland. Her parents came to this country in 1863, but both are now dead. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan are the parents of eight children: Hannah, James, John, Mary Jane, Agnes, Eddie, Sylvester and Katie.

ORGANIC.

Alton, until the spring of 1863 a portion

of the Winnebago Indian agency, was organized in May, 1864, as a part of the town of Freedom. It remained thus until April 27, 1866, when it was ordered by the board of county commissioners that it be organized as a separate civil township, under the name of Alton, under the township organization act of the State, approved February 21, 1860. The first election was held at the house of M. L. Devereaux.

Alma City.

In June, 1865, as the townships of Alton and Freedom filled up with an enterprising class of agriculturists. S. M. Larabee proceeded to lay out a town site with the assistance of S. E. Stebbings, as surveyor, to which he gave the name of Alma City.

On this site he put up a hotel known then as the Larabee House. "Uncle Sam" and his wife, "Aunt Patty" Larabee, kept this hotel for many years. He was rather an eccentric genius, and was somewhat deaf, but it is said of him that he could always hear even a whisper, if it concerned money or a horse trade. "Aunt Patty" was killed in 1885 by being thrown out of a buggy; "Uncle Sam" resides with a daughter in Blue Earth County.

In the fall of 1865 Chase & Ames, of Rochester, Minn., erected the first store building here. The people of this vicinity gave them a lot, where now the store of Smith & Hofeld stands, on which they put up the building. In this they opened up a stock of general merchandise. After remaining about a year the stock was removed to Peddler's Grove.

Mary Ann Johnson, about the same time, opened up a small stock of the same character.

A. H. Davis was the next merchant, opening in what is now the red front building, in the spring of 1866.

In the same spring O. P. Smith opened a stock of general merchandise in the store

building now occupied by Smith & Hofeld.

Rineerson & Morton were the first blacksmiths in the village of Alma City, opening their smithy in the latter part of 1865.

The business of this thriving little burg is now represented by the following firms: Smith & Hofeld, Gates, Crump & Co. and Lau Bros. in general merchandise; D. D. Smith, drugs; Baldwin Bros., furniture; Theron S. Nettleton, harness; D. J. Bickford and Iver Moen, blacksmiths; J. Benjamin and Warren Gates, wagon-makers. The Runnells House, formerly the Larabee House, is now kept by Thomas Donahue.

George Hofeld was born in Germany, March 4, 1838, and resided in that country until he had finished his education. In 1854 he came to the United States and remained until fall in the State of Ohio, and then moved to Indiana. In 1856 he removed to Michigan, and remained there until 1863, when he first came to Minnesota. He returned to Indiana that fall, but in 1865 came to this county, and purchased a farm in Freedom Township in the month of June, 1866, but did not settle down on it until August, 1868. He resided on it until the fall of 1877, when he sold his place and moved to Alma City, where, January 7, 1878, he entered into the mercantile trade, where he now has a general stock of merchandise. He taught school for thirteen winters in Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota, working at farm work during the summers of those years. He has held the offices of chairman of town board five years; town assessor, two years; town clerk, two years; notary public, eight years, and postmaster, three years, the last two of which he holds now. He was married July 5, 1868, in Michigan, to Anna Huff. They are the parents of five children: Henry, born May 7, 1869; Carl, April 24, 1870; Frank, January 21, 1872, died September 26, 1874; Maud, August 24, 1877, and Edna, September 2, 1884.

Warren Gates came to Waseca County in the fall of 1865, locating at Alma City, and is

the oldest resident of that place. He engaged in the wagon-making business on first coming here, and still continues in that line. In 1869 and 1870 he was engaged in the manufacture of pumps here, but closed out that branch of his business. He is a native of Bennington County, Vt., born January 31, 1828, and is the son of Abel and Mary (Peabody) Gates. The father was a cabinet-maker by trade, and died in 1872, the mother died in 1880. They had a family of six children. Warren began the business of wagon-making in 1849, in Erie County, N. Y., where he remained many years, and came to La Crosse, Wis., in the spring of 1864, where he engaged in farming. He remained there until he came to this county, as already mentioned. April 25, 1852, he was united in marriage with Helen M. Canfield, who was born January 1, 1832, in Erie County, N. Y. They have had a family of six children: Lawrence E., who married in 1882, and is engaged in the mercantile business at Elgin, Minn.; Mary, the wife of T. S. Nettleton, married in 1877, and Carrie, Susan, Blanche and Emma, all single and living at home. During the years 1870 to 1873, inclusive, Mr. Gates carried the mail from this place to Janesville.

The mill at Alma City is in the hands of a stock company composed of Kelsey Curtis, J. D. Morris E. S. Taylor, John Markham, John Wilkinson and Frank R. Field. Mr. Field has the general management and superintendency of the mill, which turns out an excellent quality of flour, and is noted throughout this part of the country. The mill was built by John T. Fisher in 1875, and after running it for some time he sold it to W. H. Ketzback, and for nine years he ran it, part of the time in company with others, among whom were Frank Field and Smith & Hofeld. In February, 1886, the present company was formed and have run it ever since. The mill is well equipped with all modern machinery, has three sets of stones, five sets of rollers, excellent engine, and all necessary adjuncts that go to make up a first-class mill. It has a

capacity of turning out some seventy-five barrels of excellent flour per day.

Frank Field was born in Rockford, Ill., November 1, 1855, and is the son of John H. and Rosie Woodberry. His father was born in North Bridgewater, Mass., March 19, 1834. His mother was a native of Pennsylvania. They came west in 1853, first stopping in Illinois, from there to Mower County, this State, and then to Rochester, Olmsted County, were the next moves. June 6, 1864, they came to this county and settled in Freedom Township, where they still reside. They had a family of thirteen children, six boys and seven girls, four of whom are now dead. Their son Frank, in 1876, entered the Banner mill at Janesville, where he got his first insight in the milling business, and remained there one winter. A short time was spent in the same line in Madelia, and then he came to Alma City and entered the employment of W. H. Ketzeback & Co., who were running the mill, and remained with them two years. He then engaged with his brother under the firm name of Field Bros. in the hardware business in the same place. Eighteen months later he formed a partnership with William Altenburg to carry on the same line of trade, and still continues a member of that firm. In the fall of 1886 Mr. Field was instrumental in forming the stock company who purchased the mill of Smith & Hofeld and are running it as mentioned above. In the year 1880 Frank Field and Martha A. Boston were united in marriage. She is a native of Racine County, Wis., born February 23, 1850.

D. P. Young was born in Massachusetts, May 11, 1838. In 1850 he went with the family to Eric County, N. Y., where he remained several years, and then removed to Dodge County, Wis. In 1864 he came to this county, and located in Freedom Township, among the first settlers in that part of Waseca County. He took up farm there, and followed the vocation of farmer until 1875, when he removed to Alma City, where,

in company with Fisher and Wilkinson, he built the flouring mill and ran it for about two years and then disposed of it. He then went into partnership with W. E. Lockwood, in the mercantile business and has followed that ever since. May 27, 1858 he was united in marriage with Ruth Lockwood, daughter of Hezekiah and Caroline Lockwood, who was born October 8, 1838. They have been the parents of two children: William, born in 1861, now an attorney of Mankato, who attended the law school at Iowa City, Iowa, and was admitted to the bar at Waseca when but twenty-one years of age. He is married to Nettie Shingler, and has one child, John Paul. The other son, Arthur Young, was born in 1871. Mr. Young's father was a native of Massachusetts, and a carpenter by trade, but now dead; his mother, who is living with him, was born in Connecticut.

C. W. Remington came to Waseca County in 1882, from Blue Earth County, where he had been living for some years, and settled on a farm in Freedom Township, where he remained until 1886, when he removed to Alma City, where he now resides. He was born in Vermont, December 11, 1828, and is the son of William and Beersheba (Packard) Remington, natives of Massachusetts and Vermont. His father was a large manufacturer of shoes in New England. C. W. is a carpenter and joiner by trade, although he no longer follows it, but in his time had few superiors in that line of business, as many of the finest edifices in New England can attest, he having been employed in their erection. For the past eighteen or twenty years Mr. Remington has given his attention to the improvement of horses in this and adjoining counties, and is now the owner of three of the best imported Norman Percheron horses in this section of the country: Victor Hugo, Blackhawk and Success. Mr. Remington's wife, Mary Jane (Wright) Remington, is a native of the State of New York. They have two children: Charles I.,

mentioned elsewhere, and Emma, now Mrs. Daniel Mandigo, of Freedom.

Dr. C. I. Remington was born in Buffalo, N. Y., May 7, 1853, and is the son of C. W. and Mary Jane (Wright) Remington, both natives of the Empire State. Dr. Remington received a classical education in his youth, and in 1876 commenced the study of medicine with Dr. E. J. Davis, of Mankato, with whom he remained three years, after which he attended lectures at the medical college at Keokuk, Iowa, for two years, and finding himself well fitted for the profession, in 1879 commenced practice at Alma City, where he has since remained. February 14, 1882, he was united in marriage with Lury Clark, a daughter of Archibald and Margeret Clark, born in Winona County, Minn., October 6, 1860. Her parents are Scotch, the mother having been born in Paisley, Scotland, the father being of Scottish descent also. The latter was a hardware merchant and farmer until his death in 1866, he falling from a load of hay and striking a pitchfork that was standing against the load, resulting fatally. Dr. and Mrs. Remington are the happy parents of one child, Everett C., born December 18, 1882. The Doctor has a large and increasing practice, and is ranked high in his chosen profession.

Milo Baldwin was born in Litchfield County, Conn., March 22, 1818, and is the son of John and Lucy (Strong) Baldwin, both natives of the same State. They were of English origin, and had but two children, Flora and Milo, the former born in 1829, and married in 1852 to W. W. Ramsey, now of Lake Benton, this State. When Milo had reached his majority, he engaged in the painting business in New York, and while there was united in marriage with Rosetta Wright, September 12, 1839, who was a native of New York, born February 26, 1816. They had a family of three children: Mary Eliza, born July 3, 1840, married to Abram T. Borden, a merchant; John W., born Jan-

uary 10, 1842, who enlisted March 1861, in Company D, Eighth Regiment Volunteer Infantry, and died of wounds received at Port Hudson, July 31, 1863; and George W., born June 28, 1843, who enlisted in Company G, Fifth Infantry, and is now a resident of Washington Territory. Mr. Milo Baldwin was engaged in the painting business but a short time, when he went to Medina County, Ohio, where he followed farming for six years, and then removed to Indiana, where he was engaged both in farming and cabinet-making. His first wife dying, he was married to his second wife, Joanna Taylor, May 27, 1849. She was born April 27, 1824. They were the parents of four children: Lucy, who married John Rush, a farmer of Janesville, October 9, 1870; William, who is the Methodist minister at Mapleton, Minn., having begun his ministry in 1883, and who married Mary Cooley in 1870, who died in 1874, and in 1882 William married Abbie Dunham, who was born in Winnebago City, this State, August 11, 1861; Orlo, who was born May 11, 1856, now in the mill at Alma City, and Robert, an insurance agent, born May 22, 1858. Mrs. Baldwin died February 20, 1860. Mr. Baldwin's third wife was Mrs. Amy L. Moore, who was born in New York State, December 11, 1822, and who was a widow with three children, as follows: Eber L., born in 1849, married to Mary Maynard, now at Motley, Minn.; George W., born March 23, 1844, enlisted in 1861 in Company D, Tenth Wisconsin Infantry, and died in the service March, 25, 1862; and Olivia V., born September 27, 1845, married to George Smith in September 1865, and now living at Germania, this State. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin have had by the present marriage three children: Elmore Y., born December 1, 1862; Milton J., born January 1, 1865, and married January 1, 1886, to Martha Larrabee, who was born in Minnesota, August 16, 1864, and is engaged in business in Alma City, and Homer E., born May 24, 1861. Mr. Milo Baldwin is a Pro-

hibitionist in politics, and is a leading member of the United Brethren Church, of Alma City.

Christopher Mertens, Esq., is a native of South Germany, born February 13, 1843. He came to the United States in 1867, and settled in Dunkirk, N. Y., where he was engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes for about one year, and then removed to Two Rivers, Wis., where he followed the same line of trade. From there, two years later, he removed to the vicinity of Algona, Kossuth County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming, and remained there six years. He then came to Minnesota, and locating in Blue Earth County, engaged in the insurance business. In 1878 he removed to Alma City, where he now resides. He was elected justice of the peace shortly after coming here and has held the same ever since. In addition to his official duties, he is the principal insurance and collection agent in this part of the country. He was united in marriage with Genevieve Geiger, July 16, 1868. They have been the parents of five children: John, born July 18, 1869; Elizabeth, born August 20, 1871, died February 20, 1872; Clara, born July 17, 1873; Emma, born March 11, 1875; Louise, born February 17, 1877. He represents some of the best insurance companies in the United States, including the *Ætna*, of Hartford, Conn.; *Phoenix*, of Hartford; *State*, of Des Moines, Iowa, and *Live Stock*, of St. Paul. He belongs to the collection agencies of *Dunn*, of St. Paul, *Wilbur*, of Chicago, and *Northwestern*, of Crookston.

William Orett, veterinary surgeon, was born in Ohio, March 17, 1840, and is the son of Caleb and Helen Orett. He commenced to do business for himself at the early age of twelve years, his first venture being to buy two yoke of oxen, paying for one and getting time on the other, and commenced teaming, which he followed for about three years. He was then variously employed until June 29, 1861, when he enlisted in Company C, Second Minnesota Infantry, and served three

years, being always with the company except three months in the hospital, he having been wounded. He was mustered out of the service in June, 1864, and returned to Dodge County, Minn., where he had been living. In the fall of that year he was married to Sophia Donaldson, by whom he had two children: Lula, born September 25, 1865, and James, born December 19, 1867. September 26, 1865, he removed to this county and made a claim on a part of section 12, Freedom, where he now owns about 150 acres of good, well-improved land. In 1873 his wife died, and in 1877 he gave up farming and moved to a fine residence he owns in Alma City, where he practices as a veterinary surgeon. June 15, 1875, he was married to Louise Connor, and they have had born to them two children: Dora Belle, born April 31, 1876, and Anna Louise, born May 1, 1878.

Iver A. Moen is a native of Norway, and immigrated to the United States in 1866, and settled in Dane County, Wis., where he was engaged for about nine years in farming. He then commenced to learn the blacksmith trade, serving there as apprentice for two years and then came to Mankato, Minn., where he finished his trade. From there he moved to Medo, Blue Earth County, where he opened a blacksmith shop, and remained there three years. In August, 1881, he moved to Alma City, where he is at the present. He has an excellent trade, as he is a good mechanic, and has all the work he can attend to. He owns his shop, which is well supplied with tools, and has a nice comfortable dwelling. July 9, 1879, he was married to Johanna Lee, and they have had four children: Maritte, born June 13, 1880; George Ehmer, May 30, 1882; Benedict, March 25, 1884, and Stephen Leon, February 11, 1886.

Wilton Lodge, No. 24, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, is one of the oldest in the State. It was organized at Wilton, in the upper story of the mill of John C. Ide, under dispensation June 1, 1857.

with the following officers: Jesse I. Stewart, W. M.; John C. Ide, S. W.; H. P. Norton, J. W.; E. A. Rice, T.; H. S. Edmondson, S.; T. L. Paige, S. D.; Buel Welch, J. D., and John Magill, tyler. The charter was granted to this lodge, and a number assigned it, January 8, 1858, when the following brethren were elected to the respective offices and duly installed: John C. Ide, W. M.; Thomas Paige, S. W.; Buel Welch, J. W.; P. C. Bailey, T.; H. P. West, S.; J. C. Price, S. D., and D. D. Stevens, tyler. For many years this was one of the most prosperous lodges in this part of the State, and when the lodge in Owatonna was about to be organized, Dr. Morehouse and others of that city came over to Wilton to be made Masons, that they might have enough to form their lodge. After the decline of Wilton, and the removal of so many of the brethren of the "mystic tie" to Waseca, Janesville and Alma City, the lodge declined until November 21, 1883, when, under a dispensation signed by C. H. Benton, G. M. and A. T. C. Pierson, G. S., the lodge was removed to Alma City and received new accessions to its membership and is once more in flourishing condition. The following is a list of the present officers: George Hofeld, W. M.; F. R. Field, S. W.; W. E. Lockwood, J. W.; D. D. Smith, S.; F. D. Seaman, T.; John Wagoner, S. D.; William Orcutt, J. D.; Samuel Hodgkins, S. S.; Fred. Dow, J. S.,

and D. J. Bickford, tyler. They have a very neat hall, where they hold their meetings, and the members all take an interest in the masonic work.

There is but one church organization in the village, and that is of the United Brethren. It was instituted in the fall of 1864 by Rev. Joel Steiner, who was a very able and energetic man and who probably did more for the upbuilding of this church than any other man. He was pastor for the first two years, when he was succeeded by Rev. Daniel Reed, who served two years; Rev. Joel Steiner again served two years, then Rev. Mr. Nield for one year, and Rev. O. O. Rundle for two years, to be again succeeded by Rev. Joel Steiner. Rev. E. Clow, one year; Rev. Samuel Kemerer, one year; Rev. J. M. Tresenriter, one year; Rev. E. Clow, two years; Rev. H. J. Hindman, one year; Rev. Joel Steiner, one year; Rev. Mr. Kerr, one year; Rev. S. George, one year; Rev. E. Carter, one year, and Rev. A. Fairchild, one year, succeeded to the pastoral labors here. A year ago Rev. I. N. English, the present pastor, came here and is building up the church. The church has a membership of about a hundred souls, and is in a very prosperous condition. The neat, tasty and commodious church edifice was built in 1874, and the spire contains a fine bell, to call the worshipers to service.

CHAPTER XXVII.

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP.



THE subdivision of the county of Waseca known as Freedom, embraces all of congressional township 106 north of range 24, and contains 36 square miles or 23,040 acres. Its surface, generally speaking, is quite level. The State geological report says, that: "The difference in elevation between the highest and

lowest portions of the surface, connected by slopes from a quarter of a mile to a mile in length, is only five to ten feet." It is well drained however by the Little Cobb River and Bull Run, both of which cross its entire width from east to west, passing into Blue Earth County, the former on section 31, the latter on 18.

Settlement in this township was considerably later than in other parts of the county owing to the fact, that, at the time the settlers were taking up their claims in the other townships, the territory now embraced in this, together with that of the town of Alton, and parts of St. Mary, Wilton and Janesville was then comprised within the Winnebago Indian reservation. This fine tract of land remained in the hands of the nomad savages until the summer of 1863, when they were all removed and the land thrown open to white settlers, to the evident satisfaction of those who had located in other parts of the county, who, after the outbreak of 1862, dreaded the near neighborhood of the Indians.

Luke Chase was the first settler in this township, taking up a claim and locating thereon, in the fall of 1863. He is still a resident of the county.

Edward Steele and Stephen Robinson came next. The latter settled on the north half of section 3, and from his avocation of peddler the hamlet that sprang up north of there took its name of Peddler's Grove. He is now a resident of Mendon, Neb.

Three brothers by the name of Bean came here in the spring of 1864, bringing with them some six hundred head of sheep, and one of the brothers remained here some time, but finally returned to Iowa.

Henry Chase, now a merchant in the village of Janesville, came to this township during the year 1864, and resided here until 1869, when he removed to his present location. His settlement was on section 33.

Fletcher D. Seaman settled in this township in April, 1864, taking up a claim where he now lives. He is the oldest remaining resident.

Fletcher D. Seaman, one of the leading agriculturists of this town, is the son of Buckland K. and Charlotte (Meade) Seaman, and was born in Essex County, N. Y., September 8, 1843. He remained a resident of the Empire State until 1855, when he came west, locating at Appleton, Wis., where he followed the trade of iron molder for about a year, and other employment. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in Company G, First Wisconsin Cavalry, and served for about a year, when he was discharged for disability, and returned to Wisconsin, where he taught school that winter. In the spring of 1863 he came to this State, and worked on a farm that summer and taught school in the winter in Hennepin County. April 1, 1864, he came to this county, and settled on section

18, Freedom Township, a portion of which he preëmpted. In the fall of 1864 he again enlisted, this time in Company A, Second Minnesota Infantry, and participated in the march to the sea with General Sherman, and was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 11, 1865, and returned to his farm, where he has made his home ever since, except two years spent in Dakota. September 23, 1868, he was united in marriage with Phoebe Chase, who was born in Orleans County, N. Y., September 24, 1849. They have had a family of eight children: Maud C., Meade T., Fletcher W., Ernest B., P. May, Charlotte H., Susan and Dollie, all of whom are living at home except Dollie, who died April 20, 1886. Mr. Seaman was the first town clerk of Freedom and has been prominently identified with the development of this part of the county. On the 15th of May, 1885, Mr. Seaman was, in a short half hour, stripped by fire of house, furniture, barn, grain and everything but his family, the clothes they had on, his land and stock. But he was not without friends, and good warm ones at that, Mr. Rollins taking in the family and keeping them until they could get up a new house. Neighbors by the score flocked here without a word and helped Mr. Seaman rebuild his house, and grain and other necessaries were poured in on him by sympathizing friends. He cannot express his feelings when speaking of this unwonted kindness, but feels it all the more deeply.

D. P. Young, now a resident of Alton Township, came here in 1864, one of the first to settle on these lands. He remained until 1875, when he removed to his present residence.

William Davidson Jr., still living in the town, came here and made a settlement in 1864.

William Davidson Jr., son of William and Mary Davidson, was born in Thompsonville, Conn., July 18, 1838. His father, William Davidson Sr., was born in Musselburgh,

Scotland, October 22, 1810 and his mother, Mary (Stevenson) Davidson, was born in the parish of Denny, Scotland, January 25, 1805. In 1850 William moved to Iowa with his parents, and there remained until 1858, when he removed to Winona County, Minn. He remained there until 1859, when he went to California, and soon after removed to Nevada, where he was engaged in mining until September, 1863. He then came back to Minnesota, and, in the course of a year, purchased the southeast quarter of section 19, in Freedom Township, Waseca County. He has since that time spent most of his time there, carrying on general farming and stock-raising. William was married December 1, 1867, to Miss Mary E. Vars, of Blue Earth County, Minn. She was the daughter of John W. Vars, who was born October 10, 1821, and Livinia (Brown) Vars, born February 8, 1820. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson have been blessed with five children: Rolla B., born October 23, 1868; William G., born June 26, 1870; Traca A., born March 8, 1874, and died September, 1887; Ralph D., born August 22, 1876, and Livinia, born March 7, 1878.

Willet Tolles made a settlement in this part of the county in 1864 with his father and brother. He is no longer a resident of the county, however, living now in Mankato.

O. S. Canfield, now of Janesville, came here in 1864.

Daniel Pierce, S. C. Brooks, Amos Waring, William Reed, Mr. Moon, Luther Ackerman, Ira Abell and a man by the name of Hoisington came into this township during the year 1864. Daniel Pierce is now a resident of the city of Waseca; S. C. Brooks is in Mapleton; Amos Waring is in Dakota; William Reed moved to California; Mr. Moon and his five or six sons have all left the county; Luther Ackerman emigrated to Colorado; Ira Abell about a dozen years ago moved back to the New England States, and Mr. Hoisington died here some years ago.

A man by the name of McDowell came

here in 1864 and made this his residence until his death.

Simon Sackett, now of Janesville, came here in 1864 and located a claim, and lived here for years.

John H. Fields made a settlement upon the northeast quarter of section 9, the same year. He is a native of Massachusetts, who first came west in 1853, and settled in Mower County, this State, and from there moved to Olmsted County, and then here. He is the father of Frank Field, of Alma City, and a sketch of him is included in the mention of the latter.

Harry Scoville, a keen, nervous, ambitious man from the State of New York, located here. He has since died, and the family has removed from the county.

Just as soon as the grass had come in 1864, a tide of emigration swept over this part of the county and filled up nearly every part of it. So great was their number that it is an almost impossible task to mention all of them. The many that are named are all that could be remembered by the old settlers. Many stayed but a short time, but those that remained here have nearly all prospered, and have become well off in this world's goods. Many of the first settlers were young men, unmarried, who has just come out of the army, and who returning to their old homes had found their places filled by others, and pushed out in search of a new home.

W. D. Armstrong took up land on section 1, of this town, where he moved his family two years later, and where he lived until 1883, when he moved to Waseca, where he now lives.

In October, 1865, John J. Wilkins, with his family, settled here and has remained a citizen ever since.

John J. Wilkins is a native of the State of New Jersey, born July 13, 1827, and is the son of James and Hannah (Ferguson) Wilkins. He lived with his parents until he was about twenty years of age, when he came to Wisconsin, and worked in the pineries dur-

ing the winters and on farms in the summers until December 9, 1849, when his marriage with Zilpha M. Borst took place, when he bought a farm in Green Lake County, Wis., where they remained until October, 1865, when he came to this town and county and settled on section 26. In 1862 he enlisted in company H, Fifth Wisconsin Infantry and served three years with that famous regiment throughout all the bloody campaigns which the army of the Potomac was called to endure. Antietam, Frederickburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and a great many others are inscribed on the flag of the gallant Fifth. Mr. Wilkins was mustered out at Hall's Hill, Va., June 22, 1865, and received his discharge July 8, following, and returned home. He is the parent of four children: Richard S., born April 1, 1851; Charles H., born June 24, 1852; Charlotte J., born April 16, 1854, and Ernest G., born June 5, 1868. Mr. Wilkins has held the office of chairman of the town supervisors, town assessor, justice of the peace and clerk of the school district.

William Orcutt, whose sketch is given in connection with Alma City came to Waseca County in September, 1865, and made a settlement in this township.

Darling Welch, made a settlement in this town in 1865. He is now a resident of Waseca.

John L. Graham, a native of the State of New York, came to this township in 1865 and made a settlement. He had been a canvasser in his early days in New York and Pennsylvania. He is the father of Clarence E. Graham, of the Waseca *Radical*, and Arthur Graham, of this town. He is a resident of Janesville at the present writing.

Arthur Graham, his son, made a settlement in Freedom in 1865. Arthur is a native of New York, born September 12, 1845. He came to Waseca County with his parents in 1865, and settled on the southwest quarter of section 6, Freedom Township. He afterward purchased the farm of his father, who

now resides in Janesville. He was united in marriage in Waseca County, October 20, 1869, to Miss Barbara Elmore, born in Wisconsin, July 27, 1850. Her father died May 21, 1883, and was buried in Alma City cemetery. Her mother now lives in Janesville. They have had four children: Byron, born September 13, 1870; John, born December 16, 1871; Arthur, born June 8, 1875, and Emma, born April 7, 1878.

Robert Earl, now a resident of Alton Township, settled in Freedom in 1865. He is a native of Crawford County, Pa.

Among the other settlers of the year 1865 may be mentioned: Joseph Griffiths, now in the township; Isaac Westover, in Illinois at this writing, William Oldfield, who returned to New York State, and Nelson Witts, now a resident here.

Nelson Witts is the son of Nelson and Catherine Witts, and was born in England, February 6, 1832. He came to the United States in 1855, and settled in Green County, Wis., where he remained a year, and then moved to Kansas. Four years and a half were spent there, when, returning to Wisconsin, he lived there two years and then came to Minnesota, and a little later to Waseca County. He settled where he now lives, and at present has some 480 acres of rich land. He has always been engaged in farming and stock-raising, and ever since he has been here has made large quantities of sorghum syrup, he having fitted up a factory for that purpose, which is a success financially. He has invented and patented an evaporating pan for this purpose, which has proven, also, a wonderful thing, large numbers of them having been sold and always proved satisfactory. He has also secured a patent for a railroad snow-plow. He is indebted to himself and his own exertions for the wealth he has, as he was quite a poor man when he came here. He was married in Wisconsin, November 2, 1862, to Esther Flanagan, who was born in Canada, in 1833. They have been the parents of four children:

Frank, born May 9, 1864; Nettie, born December 2, 1866, died April 3, 1874; William Grant, born May 19, 1872, and Samuel N., born April 24, 1876.

Among the settlers of the year 1866 were, Samuel S. Rollins, Franklin W. Bromaghin, John Wilkinson, John Davis, Clarence E. Graham.

Samuel S. Rollins is a native of New Hampshire, born May 1, 1836, and the son of Reuben and Lavina Rollins. When he was about eighteen years of age he commenced work in a bobbin factory in his native State, where he remained until 1855, when he came to Minnesota, and, purchasing a farm in Houston County, settled in that place. In 1866 he came to this town and county, and purchasing a farm on section 8, lived there until 1878, when he removed to the farm on section 7, where he now resides. November 8, 1860, he was united in marriage with Martha M. Elmore, who was born October 31, 1843. They are the parents of six children: Martha Lavina, born August 16, 1861, died January 18, 1864; Edith A., born May 22, 1865; Henry C., born December 1, 1866; Lillian Grace, born December 5, 1871, and Nora May, born July 21, 1876. Edith A. is married to John Harmon, of Vivian Township. The others are with their parents yet. Mr. Rollins is one of the representative New Englanders that have made their impress upon all the West, men of sterling worth, indomitable perseverance and unsurpassed ability. He has held a few town offices here, not that he craved political preferment, but as the duty of an American citizen. Among others, he held that of school treasurer for over eighteen years.

Franklin W. Bromaghin was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., June 29, 1820. He came to Waseca County in 1866, and settled on section 8 of this township, where he lived for some five or six years before he could pay for it. When he came he had a very sick wife, a feeble old father and eight children, and had no house or shelter for them

and only \$19 in money with which to buy lumber and live on, and flour \$18 per barrel, potatoes \$1 per bushel and butter 50 cents per pound. He finally bought a little board shanty of a man for \$50, on time, tore it down and moved it to his claim and there reërected it. He had served in the Union army prior to coming here, having enlisted February 27, 1864, in Company D, Thirty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry, and served until July 27, 1865, when he was mustered out and discharged, having participated in several battles. He, as second duty sergeant, had the command of the company, the officers of which were absent. January 8, 1843, he was married to Sarah M. Taplin, who was born March 2, 1827. They are the parents of eight children: George W., born August 4, 1844, married Angeline Benjamin, and lives in Alma City; Mary Jane, born February 16, 1848, married and living in Wisconsin; Sarah Ann, born April 22, 1850, married and living in town of Alton; Martin J., born March 8, 1852, married Dora Carr, living in this town; William H., born May 11, 1854, married Eva Johnson, lives in Alton; Ella F., born April 19, 1856, married N. O. Canfield, now in Moody County, D. T.; Emer M., born October 11, 1858, married William Tew, lives in Alton, and John A., born October 3, 1860, now in Dakota.

John Wilkinson was born in the State of Wisconsin, February 28, 1846. In 1866 he came to Waseca County, where he has buried both father and mother. He bought a farm on section 4, Freedom Township, which he sold the same year. He then took up a claim on the southeast quarter of section 5, and is still residing there engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He is also a stockholder of the steam flouring mill at Alma City, which has a capacity of 125 barrels per day. Mr. Wilkinson was married June 1, 1869, to Miss Mary Morrinson, who was born August 1, 1851, and daughter of John and Parmelia Morrinson, both of whom died in Wisconsin. They have had four children:

Lydia, born May 19, 1870, and died December 22, 1874; Musey, born July 15, 1874; Emma, born May 11, 1879, and Everett, born November 25, 1886.

Mrs. Maria Davis, widow of the late John Davis, is a daughter of William and Catherine Cora. She was united in marriage with John Davis, December 27, 1853, and in the year 1866, they removed to this county, first settling about three miles east of Peddler's Grove, where they made their home for many years. In 1877 they sold out this place and purchased a farm on section 25, in this township, where she now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Davis were the parents of seven children: Charles T., born May 29, 1855, now in St. Cloud, Minn., selling agricultural implements; Helen Eliza, born April 12, 1856, wife of Augustus Bakkedahl, and a resident of Colman, D. T., Adelia, born December 18, 1858, wife of David Powers, of Colman, D. T., Estella, born October 21, 1861; Frederick, born May 3, 1867; Burton, born March 5, 1870, and Frank, born April 26, 1872. The last named four are at home with their mother. Mr. Davis was called from this world January 2, 1886. The widow and children have a very fine home, the farm being well improved and well stocked.

Sanford Hydorn was born in Morristown, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., July 24, 1841, and resided among the hills of his native land until he was of age, when, August 5, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Sixth New York Infantry, and participated in all the engagements in which that regiment was found, until July 9, 1864, when at the battle of Monocacy Junction he was wounded, and when he had recovered from that was transferred to the Eighteenth Veteran Corps. On his discharge he returned to his home in New York, but in the spring of 1866 he came to Minnesota, and for about two years remained in Goodhue County, and then came to this town and county, settling on a farm, the northwest quarter of section 30, which he had purchased previously.

He is now living on the old homestead, and has a fine home. When he first came here, like all new settlers he had to put up with many hardships, and was thankful that they were no worse. Dry bread and sour milk was often his noonday meal while breaking the prairie sod, for he came here before he brought his wife to the farm, and boarded out, but provisions were scarce and money more so. January 3, 1869, he was united in marriage with Abbie Woodward, and they have been the parents of four children: Fred., born July 2, 1871; Millie, born September 18, 1873, and died November 2, 1874; Mabel, born September 15, 1881, and Lara, born November 23, 1882. Mr. Hydorn is one of the representative men of the township. He is the son of Adam and Margaret (Bonesteel) Hydorn, the former of whom died in October, 1868; the latter is living on the old homestead, in New York State.

Henry Converse was born in the State of Connecticut, July 31, 1825, and is the son of Benjamin and Hannah Converse. When he was about nineteen years old he commenced work in the foundry at Stafford Hollow, Conn., where he remained some three or four years. From there he moved to Worcester, Mass., where he followed the profession of molder for some ten years. At the expiration of that time he came west, and took up a claim in Winona County, where he commenced farming. There he remained some four years, when he moved to the city of Winona, and resumed his old trade. Smith & Dean, the foundrymen of La Crosse, Wis., then wanted him, so he moved to that city, and was foreman of their foundry for four years. He next kept a billiard hall in North La Crosse, but two years later came to this town and county. This was in November, 1868. He then bought the farm on section 27, where he now lives. Mr. Converse was first married in 1844, to Caroline Ona, by whom he had two children: Julia, who afterward died in Washington Territory, and Clarence W., living in Janesville, this county.

His second marriage took place in February, 1863, with Mrs. Mary (Haley) Hayden, who had one child by her former marriage, Katie, born June 16, 1861, and died in January, 1863. Mrs. Converse had an experience during the Indian troubles in 1862 that is well worth hearing her repeat. It seems that she and her husband, Hayden, lived in Renville County at that time, and hearing that the savages were murdering people within five miles of them, they all fled from the house, and their neighbors from theirs. When they had gone but a short distance, Mr. Hayden returned to the house for something or other, but was killed by the red fiends, who had just come up. She and the neighbors pushed on, but were overtaken by the Indians, the men with them butchered, the women taken prisoners, but she, leaping from the wagon with her child in her arms, hid in the woods till night, then walked to Fort Ridgeley, eighteen miles distant. Mr. and Mrs. Converse have had three children born to them, viz.: Hattie Belle, born October 16, 1865; Mark Wallace, born November 16, 1868, and Mildred Elizabeth, born October 16, 1874.

John Oien is a native of Norway, born December 11, 1838. He remained in the country of his birth until he was seventeen years of age, and, in 1855, came to America, and settled in Kewaunee County, Wis., where he was engaged in farming for some thirteen years. He was married there to Anna Christiansen March 13, 1862, and there their four children were born, as follows: Ole, December 26, 1862; Morris, May 10, 1865; Carl, October 20, 1866, and Minnie Caroline, July 2, 1868, but died November 14, 1868. In the fall of the last named year he came to Minnesota and spent the winter, and the following spring moved to his farm, the southwest quarter of section 32, where he now lives. In 1881 he put up a store building and carries it on, in partnership with Charles Dedrick. They have a full line of general merchandise. Mr. Oien has been postmaster here for nine or ten

years. September 7, 1886, Mrs. Oien was taken from her family by death, and is deeply regretted not only by them but by the whole neighborhood, as she was a most estimable lady. She acted as assistant postmaster until her death, and her son Carl succeeds her in that place.

Charles Dedrick was born in Kewaunee County, Wis., April 13, 1856. In his boyhood days he attended school in winter and during the summer months worked on the farm with his father. At fifteen years of age he started out into the world for himself. Most of his time was engaged in working in sawmills until he came to Freedom Township and was employed by his uncle, John Oien, who has been in the mercantile business since 1881. Mr. Oien, finding his health failing, wanted an honest and trustworthy partner to take charge of his business, so prevailed on Mr. Dedrick to take an interest in the concern. At the present they carry a full line of goods such as is generally kept in this line of business, and have a growing and prosperous trade.

ORGANIC.

In March, 1864, the board of county commissioners ordered that townships 106 and 107, range 24, be organized as a civil township, and it was made a part of the order that the people, at the first town meeting, should select a name for the same, with the understanding that when it should be divided town 106 should retain the name chosen at this time. The first election was held in May following. F. D. Seaman and Messrs. Robinson and Bean were chosen a committee to name the town, and two having each a name left it to Mr. Seaman, who decided to call it Freedom.

CHURCHES.

Pursuant to public notice a meeting was held at the house of Rev. R. S. Armstrong, November 3, 1878, for the purpose of organizing a Congregational Church. The meeting was called to order by Rev. R. S. Arm-

strong, and S. O. Garlick was chosen scribe. The expediency of forming a church in this place was then stated by Rev. Armstrong, when the following resolution was presented for adoption :

Resolved, That we, the respective members of the First Congregational Church of McPherson, having letters of dismission from said church, with a view of becoming members of a Congregational Church to be formed at the county line do hereby constitute ourselves a Congregational Church, to be known as and by the name of the Congregational Church of Freedom."

After deliberate consideration the aforesaid resolution was unanimously adopted and signed by the following named persons : S. O. Garlick, Alice Garlick, Lizzie Garlick, Robert Fields, Wm. Fields, Thomas Fields, John E. Geary, Eliza Geary, Rachel Wallace, R. S. Armstrong, Harriette E. Armstrong. J. E. Geary was chosen deacon, and S. O. Garlick, clerk.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That we invite a council of Congregational Churches to convene at the county line schoolhouse on the 12th day of November, 1878, at 2 o'clock p. m. to receive our action and recognize us as a Congregational Church."

Robert S. Armstrong, the first pastor, was installed November 12, 1878.

He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph S. Rounce, and he by Rev. Wilbur Fisk.

March 21, 1887, at a church meeting it was decided to locate the site of their church edifice on section 18, and the erection of the building was commenced July 9, 1887.

A meeting was held at the county line schoolhouse, February 22, 1887, for the purpose of organizing the First Congregational Society as a body corporate. The meeting was called to order by Rev. W. Fisk, and A. P. Runnells was elected chairman and G. B. Wallace, clerk.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Inmanuel, which stands on the northeast quarter of section 16, was erected in 1874, under the ministry of Rev. Andrew Mueller, who has charge at the present time.

Rev. Andrew Mueller is a native of Germany, born July 13, 1850. He came to the United States in 1864 with his father, who settled at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where Andrew remained until 1873, when he entered the theological college at Springfield, Ills., graduating therefrom in the year 1879. He labored in the cause of Christ in southern Dakota, in the home mission field, for about six years, when he received a call from his present congregation, and came to this portion of the Lord's vineyard, where he has done much good work. May 13, 1880, he was united in the bonds of matrimony with Otilie Krumbholz, and they have been the parents of four children, born as follows: Alwine, October 9, 1881; Andrew, May 21, 1883; John, April 5, 1885, and Otilie, July 13, 1887. His father and brother now reside in Iowa.

OTHER PROMINENT CITIZENS.

In addition to the parties who have already been noticed at length, we here present biographies of a number of prominent citizens who should receive notice in the annals of Freedom.

John E. Geary was born in Scotland, July 28, 1840, and was brought to the United States in 1842 by his parents, who settled in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., where he remained until August 15, 1862, when he enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-second New York Infantry, and served in the front some three years, and was discharged at Albany, N. Y., June 15, 1865, when he returned to his parents' home. He remained there until November, 1877, when he came to Freedom Township and purchasing a farm of 120 acres, on section 18, where he now lives, settled down as a farmer and stock-raiser. March 14, 1867, he was united in marriage with Eliza Fields, and they have had a family of six children:

George Edgar, born April 15, 1868; Albert James, February 13, 1872; Myron Fields, October 10, 1874; Lilian May, July 1, 1880; Anna Luella, September 4, 1882, and Stella, June 17, 1886.

Charles Cunningham was born in Vermilion County, Canada, July 14, 1820. He was left an orphan at an early age and drifted from one occupation to another until 1836, when he came to Chicago, where he followed the occupations of peddler, mail carrier and often Indian trader. From there he went to Wisconsin, where he chopped wood in the fall and winter of 1838. In the following year he drove a stage in Indiana, and in 1840 followed the same vocation in Ohio. A few years later we find him in the lead mines at Galena, Ill., but from there he drifted back to Milwaukee, where he ran a dray line for some time. This he sold out and then went to work for Levi Blossom, of the Eagle brewery, and who, as he had no education, sent him to the high school at Paris, Ill. When he returned from there he sold beer for the brewery all day, and attended school during the evening. In this way he obtained considerable education, and being qualified for the position, was made traveling agent for the brewery, and continued in that capacity for several years. He then was a member of the police force, and also kept an eating-house for several years. After this acted as deputy United States marshal. During the war was engaged in the South as government cotton and cane gatherer, and for other parties raised cotton, bought mules, etc. In 1865 he purchased a farm in Racine County, Wis., where he lived until 1870, when he removed to this town and county, where he has a fine large farm of 439 acres of well improved land. July 2, 1850, he was married to Bridget Hanly, and they have now living seven children: Sarah Jane, Mary, Charles H., John R., Anna, Frank and James A. Mr. Cunningham is a director in the proposed Alton, Mankato & St. Cloud Railroad.



W. G. Ward

Ole O. Oien was born in Norway, October 3, 1837. On coming to America he settled in Wisconsin, where he engaged in fishing for two years and then worked on a farm one year. He then removed to Minnesota and spent seven weeks in looking around and trying to find a suitable place to live. He at last settled on the northeast quarter of section 32, this township, where he now has a large house beautifully situated on his farm, and carries on farming and stock-raising. Mr. Oien was united in marriage, October 7, 1874, to Torbgoer Torgerson, who died June 11, 1883. They were the parents of two children: Oscar Olson, born February 11, 1878, and Ida Bardine, born December 10, 1881.

Abner E. Comstock was born in New York State, July 2, 1852 and is the son of Orsini and Martha Comstock. He was reared and educated in the old Empire State, and resided there until he was seventeen years old. His father died there February 2, 1861, and in 1869 Abner came to Minnesota, bringing with him his mother, and settled in Blue Earth County, where he lived until 1879, when he removed to a farm on section 7, in this town, which he had purchased in 1873 of his brother Hiram. In 1886 he added to this farm some eighty acres, and now has a fine farm of 220 acres, well improved and thoroughly stocked. He has been quite successful in his farming operations, for intelligent tillage in Minnesota always brings a full reward. May 24, 1874, he was united in marriage with Sarah Earl, and they have been the parents of five children: Lena Earl, born January 17, 1876, died January 18; Deward E., born March 24, 1878; Henry B., October 2, 1882; Daisy L., born May 30, 1883; Ray F., born May 9, 1885.

Samuel Hodgkins was born in the State of New York, June 15, 1839, and is the son of William and Almira Hodgkins. He remained at home with his parents until May 1, 1861, when he enlisted in Company K,

Eighteenth New York Infantry, and served until May 28, 1863, when he was honorably discharged. He returned to his father's house, where he remained until the 7th of August of the same year, when he re-enlisted in Company C, Fourteenth New York Heavy Artillery, and while in that regiment received injuries from which he will never recover. He received his final discharge in September, 1865, when he again returned home. December 28, 1865, he was united in marriage with Lucretia Aekerman, and then rented his father's farm, where he remained some four years. Selling what he had he then came to this town and county, arriving here April 7, 1870. He purchased an eighty-acre piece of wild land for \$500. He rented a farm the first year, but his crop was a total failure, and it is said of him that the sum of his earnings for eighteen months was about \$2.00. He has now a finely cultivated, well improved farm of 320 acres of land, all paid for and free from any incumbrance. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgkins are the parents of seven children, born as follows: Smith, April 23, 1867; Charles, August 14, 1869; Milo, August 15, 1871; Samuel, August 19, 1874; David, July 10, 1876; an infant in March 1878, died the next month, and Nelly J., February 14, 1873.

Jeremiah Mackey is a native of County Clare, Ireland, born in 1813. He lived in the land of his birth until 1841, when he crossed the ocean to America, and, on landing here, remained in New York for a couple of months, and then went to Boston, Mass., where he kept a grocery store and ran a job wagon for some fourteen years. He then came west, locating at Watertown, Wis., where he worked on the railroad until the year 1874, when he came to Waseca County, and settled on the farm on section 29, in this township, which he had purchased previous to his moving here. He has now one of the finest places in the town, with excellent buildings, all surrounded with fine groves. He was married in 1843 to Catherine Man-

ning, and they have been the parents of four children: Mary Ann, deceased; John, married to Mary O'Leary, living in this town; Michael and Catherine (deceased).

Daniel N. Mandigo was born in Canada, July 15, 1840. He came to the United States in 1862, and settled at Medo, Blue Earth County, this State, where he preëmpted land on section 14 of that town. In 1869 he sold out there and came to this county, settling on section 30, where he now lives. When he came to this State he had \$1 as the sum of his earthly possessions, but by earnest work and thrift he has acquired a fine property. In 1863 he enlisted in Company F, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery,

and was in active service until the fall of 1865, when he was discharged. On returning to this State he ran rafts on the Mississippi River for about two years, and then freighted provisions to Fort Thompson for the Indians. He was fired on several times by the savages, but was lucky enough to escape unhurt. November 10, 1867, he was united in marriage with Janet Remington, who was born May 25, 1850. They have a family of six children: Geneva, born August 9, 1869; Lettie, born October 29, 1871; Clara, August 23, 1873; Mary Jane, March 14, 1882; Charles, November 2, 1885, and Guy, June 17, 1887.



CHAPTER XXVIII.

CITY OF WASECA.



THE city of Waseca, the seat of justice of the county, and the largest and most important town within its limits, lies in Woodville Township, on sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, the greater part in the last two named. On the coming of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad to this part of the State in 1867, Ira C. Trowbridge laid out and platted a portion of land on sections 17 and 18, known as the Myers farm, into town lots, giving it the name of Waseca. The survey of this was made in July of the above-named year by Joseph H. Jenkins, surveyor. In September following, Mr. Trowbridge, in company with Mr. H. P. Norton, laid out what is known as the First addition on the northern part of the east half of the northwest quarter of section 17, north of the railroad. H. G. Mosher was the surveyor.

In October, 1867, J. H. Jenkins, a surveyor, laid out and platted what is known as Barney's addition.

In August of the same year, however, George W. Watkins laid out the site of a town south of the track, which he called Clear Lake City, on section 18. H. G. Mosher was the surveyor. This is now a part of Waseca, the greater having absorbed the less.

Lakeside addition, on section 17, was surveyed April 17 and 18, 1868, by C. E. Crane, for Nathaniel and Eri G. Wood; and Bennett's addition was placed on record January 27, 1872, Edward Bennett being proprietor,

and C. E. Crane the surveyor. McNamara's addition, laid out in April, 1873; Trowbridge's addition, surveyed in June of the same year; Jenkins' addition, in August, 1875; Ward's addition, in May, 1885; South addition, by W. G. Ward, October, 1885; South Side addition, by I. C. Trowbridge, in September, 1885; and Watkins' Second addition in May, 1885, with several smaller ones, go to make up the present incorporated city of Waseca.

It lies upon a beautiful slope of ground between the two lakes, Clear and Loon, both charming sheets of pellucid water, and is embosomed in trees and groves. No more lovely spot for a town could be desired, and the pride the citizens have in their lovely city is plainly evinced by the care taken of their surroundings, their dwellings and grounds. But few old buildings appear, nor tumbled-down rookeries give an air of insolvency to the place; all is neat as paint and care can make them. The class of buildings is far in advance of towns of a like population in this or other States, and the people are cultivated, intelligent, and above all, public spirited.

Prior to the laying out of the town in the fall of 1866, William McVeigh opened a store near where the brewery now stands, and there dispensed from a stock of general merchandise. After the commencement of the new town he removed thither, where he erected a store building and opened business. About a year subsequently he sold out and removed from here.

Almost as if by magic the town sprang into being; house after house, several of them at a time, were raised, stores were

opened, and although the first edifice was commenced in the latter part of July, before snow flew quite a respectable village had gathered at this point.

The following, quoted from the *News*, under date of December 6, 1867, will give a very graphic picture of the sudden growth of the embryo city. Remember, this was written when the place was only about four months old:

"On the north side of the track, the original Waseca, there are eighty-two buildings; on the south side there are twenty, in all 102, built in the short space of four months. Of those north of the elevator there are some twenty-five, two stories high; one, two and a half stories high; five, one and a half stories high, and the others are smaller buildings.

"There are about eleven mercantile establishments, eight liquor dealers, four hotels, two livery stables, two cabinet and furniture rooms, two harness shops, two shoemaker shops, two banks, two real estate offices and several carpenter shops, blacksmith shops and meat markets. . . .

"It is almost incredible that so much work could have been done in so short a time, and still there are many who are yet engaged in building. . . . We doubt if any village in the State can show such a rapid and substantial growth as this."

Let us try and trace the rise of the town and its present status, giving the first institutions of each kind and the present state of that line of trade, interwoven with the personal history of prominent business men.

To begin with, then:

About the first of August, 1867, William Everett erected a store building, the pioneer business house of the town, which was occupied by Lord, Addison & Co. with a stock of general merchandise. These parties continued in business for a few years, when the firm name was changed to Addison & Everett, who operated it until 1875, when they were succeeded by Everett & Ecken-

beck. This firm, composed of William Everett and S. C. Eckenbeck, is still in existence, doing business in a fine large brick block on the main business street.

In 1867 an establishment known as the "Norwegian Store" was opened by C. Sonstebly and ran for some years.

H. S. Swift & Co. opened a stock of general merchandise in the fall of 1867, in a building put up by Williams & Washburn. In June, 1868, this establishment passed into the hands of W. G. Ward, they having made an assignment. Mr. Ward ran it about a year, when he removed the stock to a supply store at old Janesville, where he was engaged in railroad work.

This line, dry goods, groceries, etc., is now represented by McLoughlin Bros., C. McKenna, F. Voigt, A. E. Jay & Co., A. M. Johnson, S. C. Eckenbeck & Co. and R. Miller. Some of these, however, are exclusively engaged in the sale of dry goods.

T. F. McLoughlin, the junior partner in the firm of McLoughlin Bros., was born in Oneida County, N. Y., in 1860, and was brought to Minnesota by his parents in 1863. They settled at Cannon City, where he was reared. He came to Waseca in 1881, and entered into partnership with his brother Dennis, the present postmaster, and has continued ever since a member of the firm, and is a prominent business man. He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church of this city.

In the fall of 1867 a clothing establishment was opened by Samuel Friend, with John Mollin as manager, in the building put up and used by H. P. Norton as an express office. This store, however, was not of long duration, closing out about the first of February, 1868.

This line of trade has the following firms as its exponents, in 1887: W. H. Gillis, G. Buchler, Bird Bros., Shubeime & Meinstein, Nicholas Ott and John Shea.

The first furniture store was opened by A. Grapp in the summer of 1867. The building

that he occupied at that time was on the lot just north of the fine brick store which he erected in 1875, and where he now transacts the same line of trade.

Comee & Young's furniture rooms were put up and opened but a few days after that of Mr. Grapp. A full history of this institution is given further on in connection with that of the Waseca Furniture Company, into which it has grown.

This line of trade is represented by the following firms: A. Grapp, Thomas Flynn, and the Waseca Furniture Company.

A. Grapp, the pioneer furniture dealer of Waseca, is a native of Prussia, Germany, born June 26, 1841, and is the son of A. F. and Lena (Wineke) Grapp, natives of the same country. He remained at home attending school until he had attained the age of fourteen years, when he commenced to learn his trade. After serving and working as an apprenticeship of three years, as is customary in the fatherland, he carried on the business for himself for about eighteen months, when he entered the German army, taking part in the Schleswig-Holstein campaign between Prussia and Denmark. He participated in the attack on the forts at Diebel, on the 22d of December, 1864, and in the battle at the village of Diebel, in which engagements the loss was something like 4,000 men. In December, 1865, he was discharged, and shortly after emigrated to America, arriving in Wisconsin August 8, 1866. For a little time he remained in that State, and then came to Owatonna. In the summer of 1867 he came to Waseca, as detailed elsewhere, and entered into his present business. December 14, 1870, he was united in marriage with Libbeline Wresloo, a native of Indiana. They have been the parents of the following children: Wilhe, Otto, Albert, Freddie, Lydia, John and an infant not named. Freddie died in April, 1885.

Hon. O. D. Sawin came to Waseca in the spring of 1883, and helped form the Waseca

Manufacturing Co., of which he was secretary and treasurer until the present company was formed, and became the successor of the old company. He was then elected to the same offices in the furniture company, and now has charge of the company's store. He was born at Gardner, Worcester County, Mass., April 18, 1834, and is the son of Joseph D. and Marcia M. (Seribner) Sawin. He started in the dry goods and grocery trade in Baldwinsville, Mass., where he remained in trade for a number of years. He was also president of the Templeton Savings Bank for some nine years, taking the first deposit ever paid in there. In 1881 he was elected to the State Legislature of Massachusetts, from his native county, and took his seat therein in January, 1882, and also served his constituents at the extra session in the fall of that year. In February, 1881, his establishment was destroyed by fire, but he did not replace his business there upon its footing, but came west in the spring of 1883, as already stated. August 19, 1858, he was united in marriage with Martha Comee.

Thomas Flynn established his furniture store in the fall of 1886, in connection with Mr. Lansing, and they carried on the business until June, 1887, when Mr. Flynn became the sole proprietor. Mr. Flynn is a native of Waukesha County, Wis., born in 1851. He is the son of Michael and Johanna Flynn. Thomas lived with his parents until about seventeen years of age, and then went to Milwaukee, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for four years. He then went to Chicago, where he remained one year. From there he went to Little Rock, Ark., where he stayed two more years, still following the same trade. After a short stay in Milwaukee he commenced building and contracting in his native county, where he remained until 1877, when he came to Waseca. Since then he has done considerable building throughout the county, and still contracts in that line. He was united in

marriage in the fall of 1880, with Almira G. Healy, of Wasceca. They have two children; Robert and Leo.

Bailey & Watkins were the pioneers in the hardware line of business, opening their store in the building now occupied by P. C. Bailey, and erected by him in August, 1867. This firm continued until 1876, when J. M. Robertson & Co. bought in, and the above firm name was adopted. On the death of Mr. Robertson, in January, 1885, P. C. Bailey, purchasing all the other interests, became the sole owner of the store.

Hardware and its various adjuncts is represented (1887) by the following named firms: P. C. Bailey, Trowbridge & Dale, Pugh & Goodman and Krassin & Boucher.

The pioneer drug store in the new village was started in the fall of 1867 by Strong & Wilsey, who removed here from Wilton as soon as the town commenced. After running for several years, Fred. Kittredge purchased the interest of Mr. Wilsey, thus forming the firm of Strong & Kittredge, which lasted until the death of the latter, which occurred January 4, 1875. He was a native of Ohio, born in 1840, and came to this State in 1860. His interest was purchased by C. A. Wright, and the firm of Strong & Wright operated the business until April, 1885, when Mr. Wright acquired the interest of his partner and has continued the business ever since. The building which he now occupies was the original one where Strong & Wilsey first opened the stand.

In 1868 a drug store was established by Knappen & Eddy, but in the early part of that year Mr. Eddy retired from the firm and it was run by P. L. Knappen alone until January, 1869, when E. P. Latham became a partner. On the 1st of January, 1870, Mr. Latham bought out his partner and continued the business until the year 1876, when he disposed of it to Hall & Cummings. John Lock purchased the interest of Edward Cummings, and the firm of Hall & Lock for some time handled the establishment. After

this Lock purchased the interest of his partner and ran it until 1885, when he died, when Dr. D. S. Cummings ran it about a year, as administrator, when it was sold to W. D. Belden, the present proprietor.

In 1876 Middaugh & Tarbell initiated a drug store which they continued until April, 1878, when it was purchased by the present proprietors, Sudduth & Preston. The building they occupied at that time was located opposite the Waseca County bank, but they moved into their present quarters in the fall of 1886. This firm, composed of H. H. Sudduth and S. H. Preston, carry on quite an extensive business in drugs, medicines, fancy goods, etc.

S. H. Preston, of the drug firm of Sudduth & Preston, is a native of Vermont, born September 11, 1842, and is the son of Lucius and Rebecca H. Preston. He remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, when he enlisted in company G, Fifth Vermont Infantry, under Col. Smalley, and served with that gallant band of heroes, through the campaigns of the army of the Potomac. September 24, 1864, he received his discharge, but re-enlisted in the First Regiment, of Hancock's First Veteran Reserve Corps, and participating in all the engagements with that body of picked men until the close of the war, receiving his final discharge January 24, 1866. The same year he went to Sheboygan, Wis., where he engaged in the drug trade, and where he remained one year. He then came to this county and located in the town of Woodville. Five years later he moved into Waseca, and has since been a resident, engaged in the drug business. October 8, 1866, he was united in marriage in Sheboygan, with Emily Durkee. They have a family of two children: Josie E. and Lutie, both at home.

A lumber yard was opened by W. W. Johnson, in 1867, the first in this line. Mr. Johnson remained in business here for a few years, when he sold out to Laird, Norton & Co., of Winona, the present proprietors.

Charles Eckenbeck opened a depot for the sale of coal, salt and lumber, in the fall of 1867, near the depot.

Williams & Washburn were also among the pioneers in the lumber business here, locating in the fall of 1867.

At present the lumber trade is in the hands of the following firms: Winona Lumber Co., under the management of Elling Johnson; Laird, Norton & Co., under the superintendency of A. D. Goodman, and the Waseca Lumber Co., E. W. Fiske, manager

The Winona Lumber Company's lumber yard was started by J. J. Elliott when Waseca was but a small village, and was operated by him until 1877, when he failed and Will Johnson became the proprietor thereof. Five years later he sold out to the present proprietors, who put it under the present management.

Elling Johnson, manager of the Winona Lumber Company's yard at Waseca, is a native of Norway, who was born in 1840. He came to the United States when a youth of about sixteen and settled in McHenry County, Ill., where he remained some four years, working as a mechanic, and then moved to Dodge County, Minn., where, in 1864, he enlisted in Company H, of the Eleventh Minnesota Infantry, under Col. James B. Gilfillan, and served for one year, receiving his discharge at Gallatin, Tenn., June 26, 1865. He then returned to Dodge County, where for seven years he followed farming. In 1876 he took charge of the lumber yard of Horton & Hamilton, at Kasson, that county, and remained there for six years, and then moved to this place as above stated. He was married while in McHenry County, Ill., to Miss G. Anderson.

E. W. Fiske, the manager of the Waseca Lumber Company's interests, was born in Oneida County, N. Y., March 8, 1851, and is the son of John and Elizabeth A. Fiske. He remained until he had reached his majority, and then started west. This was in the spring of 1872. He remained here but a

short time, going with an engineer corps of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad west, and remained two years. He then returned to Waseca, and engaged in the wheat trade, and afterward as book-keeper for the flouring mill, then operated by W. G. Ward. Minneapolis was the next place he went to, but only remained there a short time, when he returned here and took charge of the mill and continued therein some two years. He relinquished that and went to the Rocky Mountains on an expedition, and while there helped to build Fort Custer. Returning to Waseca, he took up the business of building and contracting, which he followed here until 1884, when he removed to Athol, D. T., where he was engaged in the same business. He then took charge of the Dakota Central Railroad station and express business, which he held for about a year, and then coming back to Waseca, became manager of Robinson & Co.'s lumber yard, and when they sold out to the present company, was continued in the same position. December 21, 1880, he was united in marriage with Kate I. Bailey. They are the parents of two children: Avis and Kenneth.

Boots and shoes are sold at present by A. Hayward and several of the general merchandise dealers.

Devannah & Reynolds were the pioneer liverymen of the town, starting here in the fall of 1867.

J. R. Whitman almost immediately after opened a stable of the same character.

The two livery stables are kept at the present by George L. Arentsen and Thomas Connelly.

George L. Arentsen, proprietor of one of the livery, sale and boarding stables, and of the omnibus line, is a native of Sheboygan County, Wis., born March 16, 1851. He is the son of George W. and Lucretia E. (Campbell) Arentsen, who came to Waseca County in 1869, and locating in Woodville Township, remained here until 1880, when they removed to Jackson County, this State. In

1887 they returned to this county and are now residents of this city. George L. lived with his parents until 1875, when he started for himself and followed farming for two years, when he moved to Waseca in the fall of 1880 and set up a dray line, and in 1885 purchased the livery and omnibus business of Widger & Knowles. February 28, 1875, he was married to Ellen A. Wood. They have been the parents of five children: Edith M., Guy, Grace E., Roy and Ruth. Edith and Ruth are living, but the other three died in infancy.

Thomas Connelly, proprietor of one of the livery, boarding and sale stables of Waseca, is a native of Ireland. He came to America in 1850, and for six or seven years thereafter, resided in McHenry County, Ill. From there he removed to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where he lived until about 1870, when he moved to the State of Nebraska. Six years later he returned to Iowa, and located in Palo Alto County, where he was engaged in the hotel and livery business for four years. He came to Waseca, December 9, 1885, and opened the livery stable which he now owns and operates. He was married while in Fort Dodge to Kate Owens. They are the parents of three children: Joseph W., Emelia A. and Zeta.

Hans J. Lund was the first to embark in the jewelry trade in Waseca, opening in the building next to the postoffice, in February, 1868.

The jewelry trade is well represented by Ed. Castor, Oliver Peterson and E. Preston. The last named is also engaged in the sale of organs and sewing machines.

A. E. Dearborn was the pioneer of the meat-market business in Waseca, setting up his establishment there in the autumn of 1867. This line of business is now in the hands of Smith & Myers, C. Fischer and C. Nitsehke.

Among those who are identified with the grocery and provision business are the following firms: Johnson & Claghorn. Joseph

Gatzman, Mr. Simons, Jerome Madden Sr., M. B. Keeley and P. J. Dean.

John W. Johnson, of the firm of Johnson & Claghorn, retail grocers and provision dealers, was born in Provincetown, Barnstable County, Mass., March 31, 1832. On the sea-girt peninsula of Cape Cod, he grew to manhood, and in 1856 he started west to Chicago, and from there went to Bloomington, Ill., where he was engaged in various pursuits until the fall of that year, when he came to Minnesota and located at Faribault, where he was employed as a clerk by Fuller & Smith. In the spring of 1857 he came to the village of St. Mary, in this county, and entered into the mercantile trade under the firm name of J. W. Johnson & Co. In 1858 they removed to Wilton, then the county-seat, where they erected a new store building and opened their stock of goods. There Mr. Johnson remained until 1868, when he removed to Waseca, where he has since remained. In 1871 the partnership between him and his brother George was dissolved and some time afterward the present firm was formed. Mr. Johnson was united in marriage, June 27, 1866, with Mary A. Marston, a native of the "Old Bay State" also. They are the parents of two children: Edward P. and William M. Mr. Johnson is a member of Tuscan lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, and Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar.

Joseph Gatzman came to the city of Waseca early in 1868 and opened a grocery store and saloon on the site of his present building. He is a native of Baden, Germany, born May 1, 1837. He remained in the old country until 1857, when he came to the United States, first locating in Scott County, Minn., where he remained until 1861, when he removed to Faribault, Rice County. While there, in October, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, Fourth Minnesota Infantry, under Col. Sanborn, and served for four

years and nine months. He was in fourteen pitched battles, and at Mission Ridge was wounded and sent to the hospital. He was discharged at Santa Fe, N. Mex., and returned to Faribault, where he resided until coming to Waseca in 1868. On the 14th of March, 1868, he was married to Miss G. Ressler, a native of Michigan City, Ind., and they are the parents of three children: Emma, Edith and Kate. Mr. Gatzman is a member of Lewis McKune Post, No. 27, Grand Army of the Republic, and of Comee Lodge, No. 25, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the latter of which he is the present Vice-Grand.

H. P. Norton established the first real estate office in the village in the fall of 1867, coming from Wilton here for that purpose.

The pioneer dealers in agricultural implements and farm tools were Allen & Dearborn, J. W. La Paul and F. H. Miner, all of whom commenced operations in February, 1868.

This line of trade is followed now by Hawkes & Clement, Krassin & Boucher, Parmlee & Wright and Collins Bros.

Samuel Hawkes, of the firm of Hawkes & Clement, agricultural implement dealers, is a native of Windham, Cumberland County, Me., born September 13, 1838. He is the son of Samuel R. and Hannah (Morrill) Hawkes, with whom he remained until eighteen years of age, when he started out in the world for himself, coming west to Iowa in 1856, and to Minnesota the year following. He purchased a claim in Meriden, Steele County, on coming to the State, from a man by the name of Hatch, and remained there two years, and then returned east again. In 1865 he came back to Steele County, and settled on his farm, where he lived some nine years. He then sold it and bought a place about a mile and a half north of Waseca, in this county, where he resided until 1883, when he moved to this city. He commenced the sale of agricultural implements in 1878, Mr. Clement becoming a

partner in 1883. October 1, 1865, Mr. Hawkes was united in marriage with Miss C. M. Skellings, and they are the parents of five children: Hannah, Allan S., Charles M., Annie and Julia.

R. B. and W. B. Wood and A. Zimmer were the first blacksmiths and wagon-makers, opening places for carrying on that trade in the fall of 1867. The trade is in the hands of N. J. Breen, P. Bowe, G. A. Roland, Schlicht & Prechel, W. Kreuzer, A. Zimmer and others.

Nicholas J. Breen was born in the city of Dublin, Ireland, January 29, 1830. In the spring of 1842, his parents having died, he went to live with an uncle living in the County Wexford, where he lived seven years, and while there commenced learning the trade of blacksmith. When he was nineteen years of age he came to America, and for a short time worked at Binghamton, N. Y., but in the fall of 1849 he came west, locating in Milwaukee, where he stayed two years. He removed in 1851 to Franklin, in the same State, where he started a smithy for himself, and there remained until 1868, when he came to Waseca, then just started, and now is one of the largest manufacturers in his line in this section of country, building all kinds of wagons and carriages, besides doing all kinds of regular blacksmith work. In 1857 he was united in marriage with Rosanna McAnanny, a native of New York City. They are the parents of the following children, all still at home: Margaret M., John J., Thomas Francis M., Agnes C., Rose Mary and Alice. The family are members of the Catholic Church.

The Waseca Plow Works was established by P. A. Bowe in 1882, who still carries on the business, making a specialty of making and repairing plows for local trade.

Patrick A. Bowe is a native of Milwaukee, Wis., born May 1, 1853. He remained in that city until 1867, when he came to Waseca with his parents, Dennis and Ellen Bowe, who settled in the town of Blooming Grove.

Patrick lived with them until 1873, when he commenced to learn the trade of blacksmith, and after serving a three-years' apprenticeship, worked at the trade until 1882, when he started for himself in his present business.

In the fall of 1867 the first millinery establishment was opened by Miss C. A. Jones. The business is represented to-day (September, 1887,) by Mrs. Myrick, Anna Maeklin and C. Sutter. Miss Forbes and the Misses Swift do dressmaking and millinery.

During the summer of 1869 the brewery was established, and the building erected by Edward and Samuel Ginsberg. It is operated at the present writing by Anthony Guyer.

Anthony Guyer came to Waseca in May, 1883, and first engaged in the saloon business. Later, he and John Beierwalter formed a partnership and now are carrying on a saloon in this city. In March, 1886, he rented the brewery here and has since that time carried on that business. He brews some twenty to twenty-five barrels of beer per week, most of which he sells here, although he ships some to other points. He is a native of Bohemia, Austria, born January 7, 1860, but was brought to America when but nine years of age by his parents, who first settled in Oshkosh, Wis., where they remained one year and then removed to Janesville, this county, where they still live. Anthony remained with them until he was twenty-one years of age, when he became bartender for William Kleeman, of Janesville, and remained in that village until 1883, when he came to Waseca. He was married September 20, 1883, to Carrie Marker, a native of Prussia. They have two children: William and George.

A brickyard was also established in the immediate vicinity of the village in April, 1868, by M. S. Green, and bricks supplied to those in the new town that used them.

The Waseca Iron Works is one of the manufacturing institutions of the city, and does a large amount of business in its line. Cast-

ings of any and all kinds are made here. It is operated by Crane & Veness. This was established by Paddock about the year 1877.

Bowe & Fairchild are running a feedmill put up in 1887.

A. H. Ranney is engaged in the sale of books, stationery, papers, wall paper, fancy articles, etc.

As soon as the town had started, H. P. Norton brought over here the agency for the American Express Company, and was the pioneer express agent of this town. The company still has its agency at Waseca, under the management of J. B. Hayden, a sketch of whom has been given in Chapter VIII.

The United States Express agency was established December 1, 1884, with A. G. Bush as the first agent. The business is still in the hands of the same accommodating, genial gentleman.

A. G. Bush is a native of West Virginia, born September 27, 1848. He is the son of Abraham and Rachel (Goff) Bush, and remained at home with them until March 14, 1867, when he moved to Texas, but only remained there about a year, when he went to Lee's Summit, Jackson County, Mo. There he stayed a short time, and then returned to the "Lone Star State," but six months later again trod Missouri soil. September 27, 1870, he started for Minnesota, and on arrival here settled in Waseca, where he commenced as clerk in a hotel. In the winters of 1871-2 and 1872-3 he was the village night watchman, having been appointed to that office. In 1873 he entered the store of E. Preston as clerk, where he remained a year or two. In 1876 he opened a restaurant, which he carried on for about three years, and then sold out and was made baggage-master on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. In the spring of 1880 he returned to this city, where for eighteen months he was engaged as janitor of the schoolhouse and other occupations, and then entered the store of Mr. Preston again, where he remained

until 1884, when he was appointed United States Express agent. In January, 1876, he was married to Ida Taylor, of Rochester, Minn.

C. E. Lewis and P. H. Swift were the pioneers of the legal fraternity, locating here in February, 1868, in an office over the McVeigh store. There are now eight attorneys in the city, as follows: E. B. Collester, P. McGovern, Lewis Brownell, S. D. Crump, B. S. Lewis, C. E. Leslie, W. D. Abbott and John Moonan, nearly all of whom are mentioned in the chapter devoted to the bench and bar.

The first physicians to locate in the rising young village were H. J. Young and C. T. Peck. The medical profession is represented at the present writing by Drs. H. J. Young, D. S. Cummings, George Christie, A. M. Hutchinson, F. A. Swartwood, M. V. Hunt.

H. J. Young, M. D., the pioneer physician of the city of Waseca, and one of the leading ones of the county, came to this place in the fall of 1867, when there were but few buildings here. He is a native of Windsor County, Vt., born June 9, 1831. He remained in that place until he was some twenty-four years old, receiving his preliminary education in the excellent schools of his native town. In 1851 he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. E. A. Knight, of Springfield, Vt. He attended one course of lectures at Woodstock, Vt., and then went to Pittsfield, where he spent another term at the Berkshire Medical College, and then returned to Woodstock and graduated from the college at that place, in June, 1854. For about eighteen months thereafter he practiced his profession with Dr. Knight, his preceptor. He then removed to Temple, N. H., where he spent a year in practice, and then, taking the advice of Horace Greeley, came west and settled in Sheboygan, Wis., where he was engaged in the duties of his profession until 1862, when he was commissioned as assistant surgeon of the First Wisconsin Cavalry, and proceeded with them to the

front. After a year's service he was compelled to resign on account of sickness, and returned to Sheboygan, where he remained until the fall of 1864, when he accepted the commission of surgeon of the Forty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry, but was detailed as examining surgeon at Madison, where he remained until spring, when he rejoined the regiment. On the close of hostilities and discharge of the regiment, he was placed in charge of the general hospital at Tullahoma, Tenn., where he remained until he had discharged all the patients, and had advertised and sold out the entire equipment to the people of that country, having as guard there at the time a part of a colored regiment only. Before he left there, it is no more than justice to say that he was offered a surgeon's commission in the regular army, being warmly recommended thereto by high officials, but declined the honor. He then returned to Sheboygan, where he remained in medical practice until coming here in 1867. In January, 1855, he was united in marriage with Lucy H. Preston. They are the parents of two children: Carl H., deputy county auditor, and John C., late of Curtis' Business College, St. Paul.

M. V. Hunt, M. D., one of the leading physicians of Waseca, was born in Darke County, Ohio, in 1848, and received his early education in Anderson, Ind., where his parents removed when he was yet a child. He pursued his studies in Earlham College at Richmond, Ind., from which he graduated in 1867. He then matriculated at the medical college of Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he graduated March 4, 1872, and commenced practice at Anderson, Ind. After a few months he removed to Janesville, Waseca County, Minn., and there remained about eighteen months and then came to the city of Waseca, where he has resided ever since, and where he has a large and growing practice. In the fall of 1879 Dr. Hunt was elected to fill the office of county superintendent of schools, and filled that position for two years to the satisfaction of all. A man of

great natural ability, heightened by a superior education, as the head of the educational department of the county government he was in his proper sphere, and but for his practice he should have been continued in that office. In March, 1876, he was united in marriage with Addie A. Andrews, who died in July, 1887, leaving one child, Montague Volney. The Doctor is at present the county coroner.

A. M. Hutchinson, M. D., the only homeopathic physician in Waseca, was born in Le-Roy, Genesee County, N. Y., in 1847. When he was but five years of age the family removed to Fond du Lac, Wis., and there he was reared. In 1867 he came to Austin, Minn. He commenced the study of medicine at an early age, he having a natural bent in that direction, and later attending the Hahnemann Medical College at Chicago, graduated from that institution, one of the best in the United States, and in 1877 commenced the practice of medicine. He came to the city of Waseca in April, 1885, and already has a large and increasing practice. While attending college, it is a matter of record that he took the first prizes on the theory and practice of medicine, and on diseases of the heart and lungs. In 1872 he was united in marriage with Libbie P. Otis, a native of Wisconsin. They have been the parents of five children: Eva M., deceased; Edith A., deceased; Mabel P., Harry and Clarence. The Doctor is a member of the Minnesota Homeopathic Institute, and also of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Dr. McIntosh came to Waseca in 1867 and remained here until 1880. He was a native of Bethel, Vt., and studied medicine with Dr. William Huntington, of Rochester, that State. He was also a graduate of the medical college at Castleton, Vt., and moved to Sheboygan, Wis., in 1860, which year he married Rebecca Preston. When Dr. Young entered the army, McIntosh took charge of his patients, but when the former was appointed surgeon of the Forty-

seventh Wisconsin, Dr. McIntosh became assistant surgeon. He has invented some useful articles for the medical fraternity.

Drs. M. M. Davidson and E. A. Lyman Jr. are engaged in the practice of dentistry.

Besides those mentioned as being in business, there are in Waseca at the present time the following representatives of various businesses: G. A. Smith and C. Weyrauch, merchant tailors; R. Reichel, paints, oils, etc.; Anhorn & Butsch, A. E. Wollschlaeger and others, harness-makers; C. Anderson, John Gutfleisch and others, shoemakers; Ira Horton, marble works; C. C. Orange, Gus. Schildknecht and Thomas Gillfoyle, cigar manufacturers; Adolf Witt, Gus. Schildknecht, L. Maire, and Thomas Gillfoyle, restaurants.

Robert Reichel, who is *the* house and sign painter of the city of Waseca, is also the proprietor of a paint and oil store, where is kept all manner of painters' material, either for house painting or for artists' uses. He came to Waseca in 1881, and in 1882 put in a paint shop, although he commenced working at his trade when he first located in the place. In 1887 he opened his present place of business, with a full and complete stock, paints, oils, varnishes, brushes, etc. He is a native of Germany, born in 1857. He remained in his fatherland until he was about twenty-four years of age, when he immigrated to this country, coming direct to Waseca, where he has since remained. His wife was Mary Beman, of this county, previous to their marriage which took place in 1884.

The pioneer hotel was the Trowbridge House, erected in the summer and fall of 1867, and opened by Ira C. Trowbridge, the original owner of the town plat, in the fall of the same year. It was a frame building, two stories high. Mr. Trowbridge kept the house until April following, when it passed into the hands of J. B. Reynolds. In November, 1868, it was again kept by Mr. Trowbridge, but some time thereafter it was closed, and never used for hotel purposes again.

The Vincent House was another pioneer

hotel, erected in the fall of 1867 by H. Vincent, on the corner of Second and Wood street. On its completion it was thrown open to the traveling public by the owner, as host. The building was 55x60 feet in size, and cost about \$3,000. Mr. Vincent, in the spring of 1871 sold the place to M. E. Priest, who ran it for some years; finally it was cut up into various rooms, and rented to several parties, and is now occupied by saloon, meat-market, cigar factory, etc.

The house now known as the Stevens House, on Wood street, opposite the postoffice, was erected in 1867 also. Its first landlord was Daniel Grover.

The Waseca House, now so called, was erected in the fall of 1867, and under the name of the Clear Lake House, ran for a short time under the management of "Doc" La Dow. The Traveller's Home was another hotel south of the track, in the winter of 1867, kept by Augustus Grahleke.

The hotel business is well represented in the city of Waseca, the following being the list of the various ones running in 1887: Grant House, Sheridan House, Stevens House, Arcade Hotel, Waseca House, Clayton House, Nora House, Crystal Hotel, Minnesota House, and railroad eating house.

The Grant House, the leading hotel of the city, was erected in 1882. In the spring of that year a few of the leading, public-spirited citizens raised a bonus of \$5,000 to induce some one to put up a first-class hotel. That amount and the site upon which to erect the edifice were given to W. L. Grant, he agreeing to put up a hotel building to cost \$15,000 or more. Too much praise can hardly be given to the citizens who inaugurated this enterprise and gave so liberally from their funds, especially Ira C. Trowbridge, who donated the site, which was part of the block reserved for his family residence, and some \$1,500, besides. The building was constructed by Mr. Grant, with Mr. Maybury, of Winona, as architect, and Craig & Davis, contractors. It is located on the corner of

Second street and Lake avenue, having a length on the former of eighty feet, and on the latter of seventy-four feet. It is a brick veneered building, three stories high, with a handsome veranda surrounding it on two sides. It contains about forty sleeping-rooms, parlors, sample-rooms, reading and baggage-room, office and reception-room, kitchen, dining-room, etc., and is supplied with all the modern conveniences. W. L. Grant is still the proprietor.

Maurice S. Collins, the proprietor of the Arcade Hotel, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, in 1832. When he was some fifteen years of age he came to Milwaukee, Wis., with his parents, and entered the employ of the Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien Railroad Company, and later on that of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company. He came to Waseca in the fall of 1867, and ran a construction train, aiding in building the road from here to Watertown. He subsequently was in the employ of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Company. In 1881 he built the structure known as the Arcade Hotel near the Union depot, which he has kept in good style since then. Although bred a railroad man, or perhaps because of that he makes a most excellent host, and his hospitality is well patronized by the traveling public. The building is new and well furnished throughout, and affords the comforts of a home to the wayfarer. Mr. Collins was married in 1863 to Margaret Ahern, and they are the parents of three children, living: Maurice, Rosella and Mary A.

The railroad eating house was started as a lunch counter only, but in November, 1885, it was purchased by W. C. Wentworth, who added largely to the building and now has a complete dining-room and one of the finest lunch counters on the lines of the Chicago & Northwestern or Minneapolis & St. Louis railroads.

W. C. Wentworth was born in Jefferson County, Wis., December 22, 1845, and remained in the county of his birth until Sep-

tember, 1862, when he enlisted in Company H, Twenty-first Wisconsin Infantry, under Col. Hobart, and remained with that regiment for three years. They were in service in the army of the Cumberland, and were with Gen. Sherman in his famous march to the sea, and Mr. Wentworth participated in some twenty battles. In the spring of 1865 he was taken prisoner on the line between North and South Carolina, and for a short time languished in Libby prison, in Richmond, Va., but was released just before the surrender of Gen. Lee, at Appomattox. Returning from the front, he entered the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, and after that went to Atchison, Kan., where he remained some four years and then returned to the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company again, with whom he has spent some sixteen years of his life as conductor. He then came to this place and started in his present business. He was married in Janesville, August 10, 1871, to Mary E. Moran, and they have a family of four children: Guy, Gertrude, Addie and John.

BANKS.

The pioneer banking institution in the city of Waseca was that of Mills & Follett, who occupied a two-story building on Second street, put up and owned by George L. Tarbell. They came here and commenced operation in the fall of 1867, but in January, 1868, discontinued the business and removed to other climes.

About the same time that they removed from Waseca, Baldwin & Kittredge brought their bank from Wilton to this place, and commenced business. Everything seemed prosperous until on the 29th of January, 1869, it became known that the firm was bankrupt. William Everett was made assignee of the assets of the defunct firm, and did the best he could for the interests of the creditors. The building occupied by Baldwin & Kittredge was the small one now used as an office by Hawkes & Clement,

but which at that time stood on the site of the present Bank of Waseca building.

A bank was next opened by Kinyon Bros. at this place on the 24th of August, 1870. The bank was broken into by burglars, who blew open the safe by means of gunpowder and rifled it of about \$3,000. Some little time after this the firm wound up its business at this point. This bank was located in a one-story building which stood where the People's Bank now stands.

George W. Newell, of Faribault, and his brother, Frank A. Newell, who had been in Waseca about a year, on the 28th of February, 1872, opened a banking establishment in the building north of the courthouse, on Second street. This continued until January, 1875, when it was merged into the corporation known as the Waseca County Bank, an institution organized under the laws and chartered as a State bank with a capital of \$25,000. The incorporators were the following named individuals: P. C. Bailey, G. W. Watkins, J. W. Johnson, William Everett, R. M. Addison, Charles Eckenbeck, G. P. Johnson, Lewis Brownell, W. H. Young Sr., C. A. Wright, Edward Bennett, J. E. Child, G. W. Comee, J. A. Claghorn, N. Garland, N. E. Strong, H. A. Mosher, E. G. Wood, H. Vincent, Joseph Gatzman, S. S. Phelps, E. H. Gosper, Kelsey Curtis and F. A. Newell, all of Waseca County, and L. Emmet, L. R. Weld, K. B. Braley, F. A. Berry, H. Wilson, T. B. Clement, A. Renslow, J. W. Parmeter, H. M. Matteson, W. B. Brown, and G. W. Newell, of Faribault. G. W. Newell was elected president; F. A. Newell, cashier; H. M. Matteson, W. B. Brown, L. Emmet, P. C. Bailey, J. W. Johnson, R. M. Addison, S. S. Phelps, J. A. Claghorn and E. G. Wood, directors. The bank built the edifice now occupied by the People's Bank, on Second street, into which they moved on its completion. It continued in successful operation until the summer of 1885, when it went into liquidation, and winding up its business, surren-

dered its charter on the 1st of January, 1886. The building was sold at that time to W. G. Ward, who is still the owner.

The People's Bank was organized in December, 1880, with the following named stockholders: W. G. Ward, C. H. Smith, A. F. Kelly, I. A. Buckman, Mrs. W. G. Ward, E. B. Collester, M. Madden, E. M. Broughton, W. J. Jameson, M. A. Green and C. M. Starr. The first officers were: G. R. Buckman, president; A. F. Kelly, vice-president; C. H. Smith, cashier, and A. F. Kelly, W. G. Ward, G. R. Buckman, E. M. Broughton and C. H. Smith, directors. The building occupied by them at first was about the center of the block, near where they are now located. The capital was at that time \$25,000, but, in 1884, this sum was increased to \$40,000. The present stockholders are as follows: G. R. Buckman, C. Taylor, Mary E. Mathews, Joseph Clayton, C. M. Starr, C. H. Parker, M. Madden, O. D. Sawin, Joseph Haight, H. H. Sudduth, M. A. Green, E. B. Collester, W. G. Ward, L. L. Wood, C. E. Graham, I. A. Buckman, Willard Baker, M. A. Wilson, G. W. Fish, Mrs. W. G. Ward, John Byron, J. H. Jenkins and A. F. Kelly. The present officers are: W. G. Ward, president; O. D. Sawin, vice-president, and George R. Buckman, cashier.

The Bank of Waseca was founded by C. Hardin & Sons, in June, 1874, in a building that at that time occupied the site of the present one, with A. P. Jamison as manager, coming here from Kasson, Dodge County, Minn. The firm at present consists of C. Hardin, president of the Second National Bank at Monmouth, Ill.; C. D. Hardin, J. D. K. Smith, who is manager of the City Bank at Eldora, Iowa, also belonging to this firm, and A. P. Jamison. The individual responsibility of the members of the firm reaches the enormous sum of \$600,000. The building now occupied by them was erected in 1882, by W. G. Ward.

A. P. Jamison is a native of Henderson County, Ill., and is the son of William R. and

Margaret (Giles) Jamison. He first attended the Madison College at Antrim, Ohio, after receiving his preliminary education at home. Later he attended the Knox College at Galesburg, Ill., but graduated from Monmouth College, Monmouth, Ill. When he was twenty-three years of age he entered the hardware store of C. Hardin & Sons, at Monmouth, and remained with them some five years, and then went to St. Louis, Mo., where he was the secretary and treasurer of the Missouri Granite Company for one year, and then returned to Monmouth. The year following he came to Waseca and started the present bank, where he now is. Mr. Jamison was married in Henderson County, Ill., September 18, 1860, to Miss A. Hardin. They have a family of eight children: Harry, Hattie, Arthur C., Flora M., William R., Nellie, Earl P. and Roscoe C. Hattie is now the wife of Charles E. Hasey and lives in Minneapolis, the others live with their parents.

POSTOFFICE.

The mail facilities are among the first things to be attended to in any new community, and especially so if it is a mercantile or commercial one. Hardly had Waseca started before the postoffice was established with G. N. Taylor as postmaster. He continued in office until 1876, when he was succeeded by Maj. W. C. Young, the present probate judge of the county, who held the position until March, 1886, when he gave way to his successor, Dennis McLoughlin, the present efficient and genial incumbent of the office. His commission is dated March 29, 1886, and bears the signature of the present president of the United States.

This was made a money order office in July, 1879, the first order drawn bearing the date of the 14th of that month. It was issued to W. W. Satterlee, of Waseca, for \$17.45, and made payable to I. F. A. Studart, of St. Paul.

Dennis McLoughlin, the present postmaster of Waseca, and senior member of the

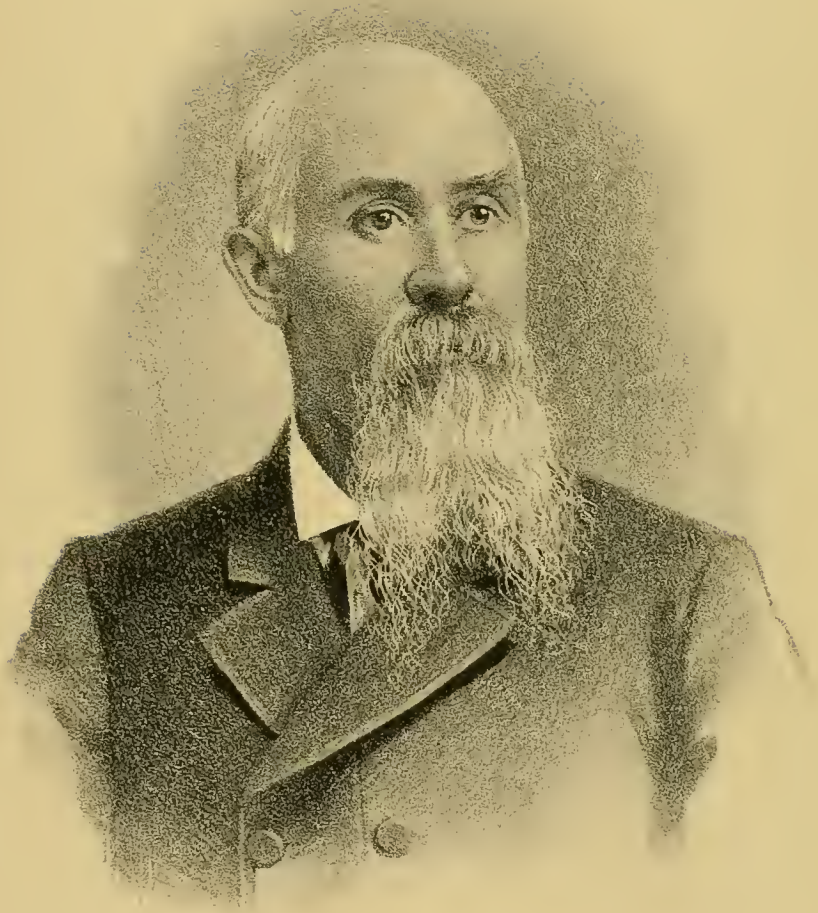
firm of McLoughlin Bros., general merchants, came to this city in the spring of 1878, and, purchasing the interest of A. E. Dearborn, in the firm of Dearborn & Haley, formed the new firm of Haley & McLoughlin. Two years later he purchased the interest of his partner, and carried on the business alone until 1884, when he sold a one-third interest in the same to his brother, Thomas F., and the present firm formed. He is a native of Ireland, born about 1850 and was brought to this country by his parents, Dennis and Judith McLoughlin, when but about eighteen months old. The family first settled in Clinton, Oneida County, N. Y., where they lived until September, 1862, when they came to Minnesota, locating in Faribault, Rice County, for a time, and then removed to Cannon City, in the same county, where they still live. He lived with his parents, and acquired an education by going to school during the winters and worked on his father's farm in summers from 1867 to 1870. In January, 1871, he entered the hardware store of J. W. Wood, of Faribault, where he remained a year. After that he followed teaching in the winter months and acting as clerk during the summers until 1877, when he was united in marriage with Emily Haley, of Waseca, and a year later came here as told above. May 3, 1881, at the first election held under the city charter, Mr. McLoughlin was elected alderman from the second ward. In March, 1886, he was appointed to his present office of postmaster, he being a staunch Democrat in politics, always voting the straight ticket. Mr. and Mrs. McLoughlin are the parents of four children, all girls: Annie, Katie, Gertrude and Emma.

OTHER BUSINESS INTERESTS AND BUSINESS MEN.

The Winona & St. Peter Railroad round-house and repair shops were erected at Waseca in the fall of 1881, at a cost to the company of some \$80,000. They are situated west of the city, near the south bank of

Loon Lake and within the city limits. The round-house is quite large and commodious, having stalls for twenty engines. The repair shops are well equipped to do all the light repairing that is sent to this point, although much might yet be added in machinery to make it complete. Fifty men are given steady employment here in this line. In connection with the shops the railroad company has here very extensive wood and coal yards, supplying all engines running between Winona and Tracy. The old round-house, built at the time of the first coming here of the railroad, is in the eastern part of the city, and is now used as a car repair shop. The pay roll at the various shops here averages about \$3,000 monthly.

H. J. Gerlicher is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, born in 1859, and is the son of J. F. and Eva Gerlicher, who were both natives of Germany. They came to the United States in 1855, and resided in Cleveland until about 1865, when they removed to Winona, Minn., where the father was employed as general foreman in the shops of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad. He remained there for some six or seven years and then came to Waseca, where he had charge of the shops of the same company, and remained about three years, when he moved to Marshall, Lyon County, where he looked after the repair shops of the railroad there. Later he returned to Winona, where he now resides. H. J. remained at home until some fourteen years of age when he entered the railroad shops at Winona. A year later he was sent to Lyon County, to the town of Marshall, in the railroad shops there, but in six months came to Waseca. He remained in the shops here, under his father, who then had charge for two years, and then went on the road as fireman, which he followed for about eighteen months and then returned to the Winona shops. He after this was on the road as fireman again. At the age of nineteen he took charge of an engine as engineer and continued as such for two years, and



G. A. Bushman

then took charge of the engine in the saw-mill of the Winona Lumber Company, which he ran for a year or so. Then once more upon the road as locomotive engineer. In 1882 he was put in charge of the shops at Waseca, when but twenty-three years of age. He was married in 1881 to Rosie Lauer, of Winona. They have one child.

M. R. Pierce was born in Walworth County, Wis., in 1848. He is the son of Daniel and Louisa (Bromaghin) Pierce, who came to Waseca County in 1864. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years old, helping work the farm. He then commenced farming for himself, which he followed until 1879, when he had his arm injured in a thrashing machine and had to relinquish farming. That fall he moved to the city of Waseca, and the following spring commenced the sale of agricultural implements, musical instruments and sewing machines, and continued that business until October, 1881, when he entered the employ of the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, in the repair shops here, remaining here until 1884, in different branches of the work. He then was given charge of the machine shop, where he now is. He was married October 16, 1869, to Alma J. Woodward. They have a family of four children: Charles A., Clarence, Carrie and Frank.

Waseca Furniture Co. is the outgrowth of a furniture store started in 1867 by George W. Comee, who at that time erected a building on the lot where Andrew Johnson's store now stands. William C. Young soon after entered into partnership, and the firm of Comee & Young continued for two or three years, when the latter sold out to M. H. Helms. Comee & Helms remained in business until 1873, when the junior partner disposed of his interest to Samuel Comee, thus forming the firm of Comee Bros. In November, 1882, a stock company was formed by them and others called the Waseca Manufacturing Company, to make collars, caskets, etc., but that not proving a

successful venture, in January, 1886, a new company was formed, called the Waseca Furniture Company, with Warren Smith, C. A. Wright, O. D. Sawin and George W. Comee, as stockholders. They have a capacious factory, where they make all kinds of furniture, on the line of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad, and a large retail store on the main business street.

George W. Comee, one of the members of the Waseca Furniture Company, is a native of Henderson, Jefferson County, N. Y., and was born June 9, 1838. He resided in the place of his birth with his parents until 1864, when he went to Ashburnham, Mass., where he made his residence for some three years. In the spring of 1867, the western fever seizing him, he, taking the advice of the venerable Horace Greeley, came to Minnesota, and the new town of Waseca seeming to meet his views as a proper location, he engaged here in the furniture trade as detailed in the history of the city. He has since that time been fully identified with the mercantile and manufacturing interests of this thriving young city, and is ever ready to do his part toward advancing its interests. December 26, 1877, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Elizabeth L. Kittredge, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, who was the mother of three girls: Mary Abbie, married September 28, 1887, to Henry S. Kennedy, of St. Peter; Laura E. and Jessie C. Mr. Comee is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons; Comee Lodge, No. 25, and Golden Rule Encampment, No. 13, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

The first wheat buying was for the new elevator, which was built by the Winona & St. Peter Railroad, south of the track in 1867. This building afterward passed into the hands of a party from Winona, and from them to Bonner & Wheeler in 1876, who two years afterward sold it to McCutchen & Co., the present owners. George

Tallen, the junior member of the firm, is the manager here. The capacity of the building is about 30,000 bushels.

The next party to buy grain at this place was probably George L. Tarbell, who put up a warehouse here in the latter part of the summer of 1867, and commenced the buying and shipment of wheat for G. W. Van Dusen & Co., of Winona, at once. Mr. Tarbell died at Waseca, March 13, 1868, the first death in the place.

The elevator on the north side of the track was built as a grain warehouse by the grange in 1876, and used by them for about a year, when it was sold to P. C. Bailey, who after using it, in the fall of 1878, sold it to George W. Van Dusen & Co., the present owners. By the latter it was converted into an elevator in 1886. It has a present capacity of 8,000 bushels. Nicholas Jacobs is the manager here.

Nicholas Jacobs came to Waseca County in 1870, and for a short time worked on a farm in Woodville Township. In 1874 he came to this city and commenced buying wheat, and has been in that business nearly all the time since. For the past nine years he has had charge of that business here for Van Dusen & Co., of Rochester, Minn. He is a native of Germany, born in 1851, and came to America when but sixteen years of age, first making his home in Kane County, Ill., remaining with one party there for three years. He came here when but nineteen years old. He was married in 1882 to Dora Pester.

The elevator operated by Everett, Aughenbaugh & Wood was erected by the Millers' Association, of Minneapolis, and run by them until 1883, when it was purchased by the present proprietors. It has a present capacity of 35,000 bushels. Eri G. Wood is the managing partner.

The warehouse near the last named elevator was put up in 1887 by W. D. Armstrong, the present owner.

W. D. Armstrong came to Waseca County

in 1864, and took up a claim on section 1, Freedom Township, where he moved his family in 1866. They resided there until 1883, when he came to Waseca City and purchased a small place adjoining the town site, where he now lives. In the summer of 1887 he put up a grain warehouse, in the interest of the Waseca County Farmer's Alliance, which he will operate in the near future. He is a native of Canada West, born in 1826, and is the son of John and Martha Armstrong, both natives of England, who emigrated from Great Britain in an early day. W. D. lived in Canada until he was twenty-three years old, when he removed to the "States," and settled in Wayne County, Ohio, where he resided some six years, three of which he was engaged in the mercantile trade. In 1856 he moved to St. Anthony, Minn., then but a small village, and Minneapolis scarcely anything. Two years later he left there, moving to Camden, Carver County, and was one of those who organized and established that village. He took up a claim in that county, and made the necessary improvements, and lived there for two years, but his wife's health failing he returned to Minneapolis to be within reach of medical aid. There he remained until 1864, when he came here, as mentioned above. He was married at St. Thomas, Canada, to Miss Kinney, who died in Minneapolis, leaving one son, Benjamin, who now lives on his father's place in Freedom Township. In 1866 Mr. Armstrong was married to Margaret O'Neill, of Hennepin County, at Faribault, Rice County. They have one son, William J.

The elevator north of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad station was built about 1879, by J. M. Robertson and P. C. Bailey, as a warehouse. Three years later it was converted into an elevator. The widow of J. M. Robertson owns an undivided half interest in the building, and P. C. Bailey the other half. Capacity, 15,000 bushels.

M. H. Helms is a native of Cattaraugus

County, N. Y., born December 19, 1831, and is the son of Henry and Mahala Abbie Helms. In 1845 the family removed to Wisconsin, settling in Dane County, near Madison, where Mr. Helms remained with his parents until the breaking out of the war in 1861, when he enlisted in Company E, Eighth Wisconsin Infantry, and was commissioned second lieutenant. The regiment at that time was under the command of Col. Murphy. Lieut. Helms served in the army for three years and four months, enjoying all the various fortunes and participating in different engagements in which that famous regiment took part. Among the principal battles were: Fredericktown, Mo., Island No. 10, Corinth, and others. He was mustered out at Nashville, December 12, 1865, and, receiving his discharge, returned to Wisconsin, where he remained until 1868, when he came to Waseca, and entered into partnership with G. W. Comee in the furniture business, and continued in that line for about seven years, when he sold out his interest and for the following five years carried on a grocery store. Since that time he has been in the business of buying and shipping wheat. November 30, 1870, M. H. Helms and Eleanor M. Dodge were united in marriage, and were the parents of two children: Vinnie M. and Jessie R. Mrs. Helms died June 30, 1877. Mr. Helms is a member of Comee Lodge, No. 25, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of Lewis McKune Post, No. 27, Grand Army of the Republic, of which he is the present commander.

Ward's Opera House was erected about the year 1875, by the Turners' association of Waseca. It was used by them for gymnastic exercises, and for an amusement hall, until 1880, when it became the property of W. G. Ward, who made additions to the building and fitted it up in a proper manner for a place of holding meetings, for theatrical performances and amusements generally. It is located on lots 1, 2 and 3, in block 10,

Jenkins' addition to the city of Waseca, and is a fine brick edifice, well fitted up for the purpose.

The flouring mill was erected by W. G. Ward, Thomas White and H. Willyard in 1870. This firm continued in business but a short time, when Mr. Willyard disposed of his interest to his partners. About the year 1872 Mr. Ward purchased the interest of the remaining member of the firm, and for about three years operated it alone. In 1874 William Everett purchased a half interest therein, forming the firm of Ward & Everett. Two years later Mr. Everett rented the interest of his partner for ten years. Associating with himself J. W. Aughenbaugh, the firm name was changed to Everett & Aughenbaugh, which continue to run the mill at the present writing, they having re-leased the interest of Mr. Ward, in 1886. Since it was built it has been much improved, additions built, completely remodeled and new machinery put in, until now it is one of the finest in this part of the State. It has a capacity of 200 barrels of flour per day and is kept running night and day to supply the demand for the high grade of flour produced. Early in September, 1887, Ed. Everett was admitted a member of the firm and the firm name changed to that of Everett, Aughenbaugh & Co. The mill is fully equipped, is a complete roller mill with fourteen sets of rolls, and an eighty horse-power engine to furnish the power. They ship flour, among others, to the following places: Owatonna, Dodge Center and Albert Lea, Minn.; Lake Mills, Forest City, Humboldt, Fort Dodge, Garner, Britt, Corwith, Dayton, Estherville, Livermore, Augus, Des Moines, Clear Lake, Mason City, Iowa Falls, Ackley, Algona, Emmetsburg, Spencer, Rockford, Clarksville, Marble Rock, Greene, Charles City, West Bend and Shellsburg, Iowa; Danville and Monmouth, Ill., and Indianapolis, Ind.

William Everett, the senior partner of the firm of Everett, Aughenbaugh & Co., mer-

chant millers, is a native of Sussex County, N. J., born July 6, 1829. He was reared on a farm in his native State, and there received his education. When he had reached the age of twenty-one he, taking Horace Greeley's advice, came west and located in Iowa County, Wis., where he engaged in the lumber business. In 1859 he left that locality and came to Minnesota and settled in Murray County, near Lake Shetek on a farm, where he remained until the eventful August of 1862, when the peaceful settlers became the prey of the fiendish Sioux in the general massacre of that summer. The people of that little settlement where Mr. Everett lived were nearly all cut off, his wife and children captured and all murdered the same day except one child, Lillie, who was taken prisoner by the red fiends, and himself wounded and driven from home. Such experiences beset the pioneer in early days. A full account of the suffering of these families is given in Chapter XV in this volume. After recovering from his injuries and obtaining possession of his child Lillie, he returned to Wisconsin, where he made his home until 1867, when he came to the newly laid out village of Waseca, and was one of the pioneer business men of the place in the general merchandise trade. A history of this enterprise is given in detail elsewhere. In 1874 Mr. Everett turned his attention to milling, as related above and since that time has been identified with that interest in Waseca, and is half owner of the well and widely known Waseca City Roller Mill. November, 1858, Mr. Everett and Almira Hatch were united in marriage, and they were the parents of three children: Lillie, Eddie and William. The two latter with their mother were killed as above mentioned; Lillie, now Mrs. Keeny is a resident of California. Mr. Everett and Amelia S. Addison were united in marriage October 29, 1865, and they are the parents of three children: Edward, Grace and Guy. Mr. Everett is a member of Tuscan Lodge No. 77, Ancient

Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, and of Cyrene Commandery No. 9, Knights Templar. He is one of the leading business men of Waseca and has contributed a large share toward the development of the city and county, and is ranked among the representative citizens of this part of the State.

John W. Aughenbaugh, another member of the merchant milling firm of Everett, Aughenbaugh & Co., was born in Meigs County, Ohio, December 25, 1846. His parents removed, in about 1854, to Vandalia, Fayette County, Ill., where they remained two years. In 1856 they came to Minnesota, settling in Freeborn County, where the father was engaged in farming, and John W. was there reared. During the late civil war John W. enlisted in the United States navy, and was assigned for duty to Commodore Porter's fleet, and served until 1864, when he was discharged. He then enlisted in Company B, First Minnesota Infantry, and participated in the fortunes of that celebrated regiment, until it was mustered out at the close of hostilities. Coming back to Minnesota, he located in Faribault, where he engaged in the milling business, and continued there some four years. After that he was in the same line in Red Wing, Waterville and Warsaw. In 1879 he came to Waseca, and formed a partnership and engaged with his present partner in the business in which he is now engaged. November 18, 1868, John W. Aughenbaugh and Carrie Koehler were united in marriage, and they are the parents of two children: Daisy and Jennie. Mrs. Aughenbaugh is a native of Minnesota. Mr. Aughenbaugh is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, and Cyrene Commandery, No. 9, Knights Templar. He is a practical miller and thoroughly understands his business, and the high reputation enjoyed by the output of the mill is his best recommendation.

Among the other prominent citizens not

already mentioned at length, are the following gentlemen, whose sketches are here given:

Ira C. Trowbridge is a native of Lyle, Broome County, N. Y., born March 16, 1823, and is the son of Harry and Betsey (Lockwood) Trowbridge. The former was born in Pennsylvania, the latter in York State. The father was a tanner, and with him Ira remained until he had reached his majority, when he went to Chicago, then but a small city. All his friends said that he would be back to his old home in a short time, shaking with the ague. But arriving in that town, he engaged as salesman with Gregory & Robertson, in the boot and shoe trade, on Lake street, and made Chicago his home until 1846. In the spring of the last mentioned year he moved to Woodstock, Ill., and opened a boot and shoe store for himself, the county-seat of McHenry County having just been located at that place, and remained there some twenty years. As soon as he was fairly established there, in the fall of 1846, he returned to Lyle, and there was united in marriage with Judith Church, a native of that part of the Empire State, born September 28, 1826. The young couple then came to Woodstock, where Mr. Trowbridge carried on business for so many years, in the last few years handling real estate as well as foot gear. In the fall of 1867 he came to Minnesota, and as soon as he got possession of the farm owned by Myers, and purchased by him in July, 1866, came to what is now Waseca, and put up a house, which constitutes part of the one he now lives in. Mr. and Mrs. Trowbridge have had born to them four children: Augusta M., born September 27, 1847, united in marriage December 9, 1867, with J. H. Jenkins, a former resident of this county, but now living in Winona; Adolphus H., born April 24, 1849, died April 21, 1873, and is buried in Waseca cemetery; Ella C., born January 13, 1851, married to W. G. Ward, December 9, 1867, and residing in Waseca, and Edgar C., engaged in the hardware

business in the city of Waseca. In enterprises looking to the benefit of the town or the community, Mr. Trowbridge is one of the leading spirits, and his liberality in such matters is well and widely known. Although his hair is silvered with the snows of many winters, he is still young in heart and feeling, and takes a great interest in the active business of life.

J. L. Claghorn, who is engaged in the insurance, loan and real estate business, came to Waseca in October, 1868, and was employed in a butcher shop, which business he followed for two years, and then commenced his present business, having his office in Comee & Helms' furniture store. He now represents some twelve fire insurance companies and one life company. He is a native of Erie County, N. Y., where he remained until he was eighteen years of age, when he went to work for a railroad construction company and followed that business until, by an accident, he had both legs crushed, which laid him up for some time. On recovering he went to Milwaukee, Wis., where he entered into the drug business with a partner, under the firm name of L. F. Lake & Co., but only continued at this some eighteen months, when he went to Janesville, Wis., and built the city bridge, by which he lost a large sum of money through mishaps, and feeling somewhat discouraged he returned to western New York, and went on the road as general agent for a publishing house, which he followed for a time and then was general agent for Wood's mowing machine. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Sixteenth New York Infantry, under Col. E. P. Chapin, but shortly after was commissioned as lieutenant and quartermaster of the Eighteenth United States Infantry, which was commanded by Col. J. B. Weber, at present a member of Congress, and remained with that regiment until October, 1864, when he resigned and returned to New York State. Some time later he went to the Pennsylvania oil regions,

but not meeting with much success, engaged as commercial traveler for a New York house. He after this traded for some property in Superior and on going to see it, not liking the country, came to this place, where he has since remained. August 2, 1854, he was married to Jennie Lake, of Hamburg, N. Y. They have had a family of seven children: Charles, Dwight, Agnes, Max, David, Frank and Kate. The last named died while Mr. Claghorn was in the service. Frank died in infancy. Besides these Mr. and Mrs. Claghorn have two adopted children: Isabel D. and Lillie.

George E. Brubaker came to Waseca County with his parents, Jacob and Rachel (Curry) Brubaker, in 1856, his father taking a claim on section 28, in the town of Wilton, where he remained until 1862, when he sold out and moved into the village of Wilton, where he lived until 1883, when he removed to this city and is at present a resident thereof. George E., the son, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1838. In his younger days he enjoyed excellent educational advantages, of which he availed himself, attending college at Annville, Lebanon County, and White Hall, Montour County, both in his native State. About 1859 he took up a claim on government land, on section 4, Byron Township, this county, which, after making some improvements, he sold. In 1862 he enlisted in Company F, Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and served with that gallant regiment until April, 1863, when he received his discharge and returned to this county. In 1864 he opened a butcher shop in the village of Wilton, which he carried on for about two years. While there, in 1865, he was married to Isabel Lindsay. In 1872 he removed to Polk County, Iowa, where he purchased a farm, where he remained until 1882, when he came back to this county, and purchased a farm in Byron Township which he still owns, and is raising stock, which he makes a specialty. In 1884, in company with Mr. Smith, he opened the

meat market in Waseca, but a year or so later sold out his interest to Mr. Myers, and at present is only looking after his farm and stock interests. Mr. and Mrs. Brubaker have only one child living, Anna Bell.

George W. Watkins was born in Orange County, N. Y., May 27, 1820, and resided in his native State until 1847, when he came west and settled at Elgin, Ill. In 1850, during the gold excitement, he went to California, but a few months spent in the mining regions of that El Dorado proving sufficient, he returned to New York State, and after a short time to Illinois. He was for a time after this engaged in railroad construction in Wisconsin, and in grain buying in Batavia, Ill. In the fall of 1855 he came to Minnesota, bringing a sawmill with him, and, settling at Faribault, operated the mill. In the spring of 1856 he preëmpted a piece of land on Lake Elysian, in this county, and then returning to Batavia, Ill., was there united in marriage with Annette Ward, a native of Michigan, and returning to this county in 1857, engaged in the real estate business, having acquired an interest in the town site of Wilton. While there he says that he saw times when money was so scarce, that it was difficult to get enough to buy postage stamps. He entered into a partnership with P. C. Bailey, in the hardware business at Wilton, and continued in that business for three years. His wife died at Wilton, leaving one child, George, now in Redfield, D. T. When the city of Waseca was started, Mr. Watkins, with others, laid out Clear Lake City, now a part of Waseca, and the hardware firm of Watkins & Bailey removed to the new city of Waseca. He was united in marriage with Anna F. Green, a native of New York City, in 1863, who is the mother of one child, Mary L. When Waseca was made the county-seat, he removed to this place and is still a resident. He is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

Edward Bennett, a stock dealer of Waseca,

was born in Strongsville, Cayuga County, Ohio, August 17, 1839, and is the son of M. O. and Esther (Carpenter) Bennett. His father was a native of Rutland, Vt., and his mother of Brattleboro, the same State. When Edward was but a child his parents moved to Kenosha, Wis., where his father was largely engaged in pork packing. In 1856 they removed to Mankato, this State. In 1860 Edward attended the college at Oberlin, Ohio, and the year following, while at Buffalo, N. Y., enlisted in Company A, Forty-fourth New York Infantry, and remained with that regiment for a while, and was then transferred to the One Hundred and Forty-Sixth New York Infantry, participating in nearly all of the great battles of the army of the Potomac, and was discharged as lieutenant at Washington, with the Provisional Army Corps, July 26, 1865. He was wounded at People's farm, five miles from Petersburg, September 30, 1864. After the war he returned to Blue Earth County, and in 1867 came to Waseca, then but a little village, where he has since been engaged in buying and shipping live stock. He is also the owner of Bennett's addition to the city of Waseca, which he laid out as already detailed. August 22, 1865, he was married at Portsmouth, N. H., to Eliza J. Brackett, a native of that State. They are the parents of three children: Georgiana, Jennie and Edward. Mr. Bennett is a member of Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons; Comce Lodge, No. 25, and Golden Rule Encampment, No. 13, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

S. F. Wyman, one of the first settlers in the town of Blooming Grove, where he still owns the pioneer farm, and where he lived until 1873, is a native of Cambridge, Mass., born February 4, 1832. He is the son of Samuel F. and Susan (Smith) Wyman, both natives of the "Old Bay State," where they lived and died. Samuel F. Jr. remained

with his parents until some fourteen years of age, when he went to live with his uncle, with whom he remained some four years. He then commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, and followed that for four years, and then starting west, arrived at the village of St. Anthony, Minn., in the fall of 1854, and in the spring of 1855 came to this county as above stated, where he has lived ever since, except during the war for the Union, he having enlisted in Company I, Third Minnesota Infantry, and served some four years. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and a few days after was released on parole. He came north and joined the force under Gen. Sibley against the Indians, he being under parole not to serve against the Confederates until exchanged. In the fall of that year the exchange was made, and he returned to his regiment, and remained with them until 1865, when he received his discharge and returned home. He was in seven pitched battles, besides skirmishes, and never received a wound or was sick a day. Christmas day, 1860, S. F. Wyman and Josephia Davis, a native of Nova Scotia, were united in marriage. They have been the parents of seven children: Charles S. F., born December 22, 1862; George N., October 31, 1866; Otis A., November 22, 1868; Ina H., September 8, 1870; Gertrude G., January 25, 1875; Bertha P., May 24, 1878, and Wallace J., May 25, 1883.

George P. Johnson (deceased), for many years engaged in business in St. Mary, Wilton and Waseca, was a native of Provincetown, Mass., born in 1836. He came west in 1858 and settled at the village of St. Mary, and became one of the firm of J. W. Johnson & Co. He was engaged in the general merchandise trade in Wilton, but on coming to Waseca sold agricultural implements and machinery. He died here October 17, 1880.

J. B. Smith is a native of Erie County, N. Y., and in 1854 he with his family started west, traveling from their home in western New York to Green County, Wis., during

the cold winter months, being from January 17 to February 22 making the journey. He had his wagon fitted up so as to live in it comfortably, with a stove to heat it up and to cook by, so that they did not suffer much from the inclemency of the weather or from hunger. They remained some nine years in Green County, and then started west again by team, as before, and after traveling some two weeks arrived in Owatonna, Steele County, early in November, 1863, and remained in that county until 1867, when he came to the new town of Waseca, and built the first house south of the track, and where he has a really elegant place.

D. Pierce came to this county in 1864, and took up a claim on section 6 in what is now the town of Freedom, where he remained until 1881, when he removed to his present home in Waseca, where he has since been employed in market gardening, or to use a New Jersey phrase, "been raising garden truck." He is a native of Washington County, N. Y., but when but six years of age was taken by his people to Genesee, Walworth County, Wis., where he remained with his parents until he had reached the age of twenty-two years, when he started out in the world to seek his fortune. He went to the northern part of the Badger State, where he remained until 1864, when he came to this county. He was married in 1848 to Laura Bromaghin, a native of the State of New York. They are the parents of three children.

Chancey Parker was born in Ohio, February 18, 1843, and when but six years of age his parents removed to Chicago, where they lived until 1856, when they went to Fond du Lac County, Wis., where he lived for about four years, and then returned to Chicago. In 1862 he enlisted in Company I, Seventy-second Illinois Infantry, under Col. F. A. Staring. He served in this regiment three years, and was present in twenty-six battles, and was several times wounded, the last one of which caused the loss of the use of his

arm. He was discharged at Montgomery, Ala., June 6, 1865, and returned to Chicago, but for years was unable to do anything as a result of his wounds and exposure while in the service. From Chicago he went to Waupun, Wis., when he had somewhat recovered, and later to Ripon, the same State, staying at the latter place for seven years, and then came to Waseca in June, 1877. He was married at Waupun, June 18, 1866, to Mary E. Conklin. They have a family of three children: Charles E., Clyde C. and Bessie. The eldest is a postal clerk at Albert Lea, the others are at home.

C. Hansen came to Waseca in 1872 and put up the first house west of what is now the Minneapolis & St. Louis track. He was variously employed until 1876, when he took charge of the bar room of the Turner hall, but in March, 1879, opened a saloon for himself, where he now continues the same business. He was born in Denmark in 1845, and remained in that country until 1869, when he came to America, and located at Faribault, Minn., where he remained until coming here. He is popular, and having many friends is doing a large and lucrative business.

John Beierwalter came to Waseca in 1867, among its first settlers, and has made this his home ever since. In 1869 he was appointed village watchman, the first one the incipient city had. About 1870 he opened a saloon, and has been in that line of business ever since, excepting during 1879-80, when for a year he had charge of the brewery, having rented it of the owners, and operated it. He is a native of Bavaria, Germany, born June 19, 1824. He came to the United States when twenty-eight years of age, and settled in the city of Pittsburg, Pa., where he remained some twelve years. He then went to Portage County, Ohio, where three years of his life was spent, after which he came to Waseca County, and settled in Blooming Grove Township, but six months later moved to the village. March 3, 1854, he was married to Katrina Brown, at Pitts-

burg, who died in this city August 27, 1884, leaving six children: Lizzie, Clara, John, Joseph, Anna and Thomas.

MUNICIPAL.

At a meeting of the citizens of the village of Waseca, held January 18, 1868, called for that purpose, it was decided to make an application to the Legislature of the State for an act of incorporation. W. T. Kittredge, George L. Tarbell and S. B. Williams were appointed to draft the necessary articles and forward the same to the proper parties. The Legislature passed the act petitioned for at its general session in February, 1868, and appointed I. C. Trowbridge, H. P. Norton and P. H. Swift inspectors of the first election. April 7, 1868, the said election was held, and J. Shaw, S. B. Williams and W. G. Ward were elected trustees, and P. H. Swift, justice of the peace. At a subsequent meeting the board appointed the following officers: A. E. Dearborn, clerk; W. T. Kittredge, treasurer; H. P. Norton, marshal; Charles Dunn, street commissioner; F. Y. Hoffstott, fire warden, and O. T. Royce, assessor.

During the session of the Legislature in the winter of 1881, a bill was introduced authorizing the incorporation of Waseca as a city, and in March of the same year the act was passed and approved by the governor. The first election was held on May 3, 1881, when the following officers were chosen: Warren Smith, mayor; H. G. Mosher, assessor; B. A. Lowell and John Carmody, city justices; S. J. Stevenson, constable; Darling Welch, street commissioner, and H. H. Suduth, D. McLoughlin, Theodore Brown and Thomas Coleman, aldermen. The first meeting of the new council was held in a few days thereafter, when the mayor appointed the following officers to fill up the full complement of the offices of the municipal government: L. E. Keyes, marshal; C. E. Leslie, city attorney; F. A. Newell, treasurer, and J. E. Madden, recorder.

The present city government consists of the following named gentlemen: E. B. Colleston, mayor; E. P. Latham, recorder; G. R. Buckman, treasurer; H. C. Woodbury, municipal judge; C. E. Leslie, city attorney; and W. G. Ward, J. W. Aughenbaugh, Henry Murphy, William Cronkhite, and B. S. Lewis, aldermen.

SCHOOLS.

For a short time after the settlement of the village of Waseca there were no public schools the education of the rising generation being entrusted to several private schools that had been established. In the spring of 1868, however, a movement was put on foot to extend the school privileges. School meetings were held during the month of June, and a small school opened under the auspices of the school district in the latter part of that month, with Miss Hall as teacher.

During the month of March, 1869, at the annual school meeting, the question as to the advisability of bonding the district for the purpose of raising funds with which to build a schoolhouse, came up for discussion. By an almost unanimous vote it was determined to thus raise the sum of \$1,500, and appointed the following committees: On schoolhouse site, Messrs. Williams, Alden and Dearborn; on plan and specification for building, Messrs. Ward, Child and Willyard.

At a meeting held on the 8th of April following it was reported that lots 1 and 2 in block 3, in the first addition to the village of Waseca, were selected for the site of the schoolhouse. Additional bonds to the amount of \$500 were voted to be issued, and the officers of the district ordered to advertise for bids for building an edifice upon the site selected. Matters were soon arranged and a building erected during the summer, and on Monday, October 4, 1869, school was opened in the new edifice, with Prof. A. H. Carman and Miss Lizzie Smith as teachers. The building is a two-story one, 24x40 feet in size, with a schoolroom

on each floor, and is located a few rods back from the sidewalk on Wood street.

An addition to this was erected some two years later, which was nearly of the same size.

The buildings used for educational purposes growing too confined, in the fall of 1878 it was concluded to build a large and handsome schoolhouse on the site of the other. Accordingly the old building was removed, and a contract let for the erection of a new brick edifice on the site of the old one. This contract was dated August 20, 1878. W. B. Craig being the builder and the price agreed upon was \$7,535.

On the 30th of April, 1881, at a school meeting, it was decided by a vote of 76 to 1 that the district should issue its bonds to raise money to build additional school room, the bonds to run ten years and draw 6 per cent. interest. Accordingly, money was so raised, and the contract for building the same let to W. B. Craig, of Mankato, G. R. Maybury, of Winona, being the architect. The building was finished in the early winter of that year, and is one of the finest in the State, costing nearly \$20,000 in all. It is located on a half block of ground, which is well laid out with fine walks and planted with shade trees. The building is the shape of the letter H, and is 102x70 in size on the ground. The first story contains five rooms and four halls, the second, three rooms, including the high-school room in the south section, which is 34x70 feet in size. On this floor are also two apparatus rooms, and by glass sash a recitation room can be cut off from the high-school room 16x34 feet in size. The entire building is built of cream colored brick, trimmed with cut stone, the windows having inside blinds, and the doors covered with hoods. All the finishing of the building is in first-class style, the floors being hard wood, and great blackboards four and a half feet high encircling each room. It took some 500,000 brick, 145 cords of rough stone, 2,000 feet of cut stone,

150,000 feet of lumber, two and a half tons of nails, 500 yards of sand and 800 barrels of lime to complete it. Among the apparatus it would be well to mention a very fine telescope, solar microscope, air pump, electrical battery, etc., all of which cost in the neighborhood of \$1,000 or more. The citizens of the town may well feel proud of the building.

RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services were held in the summer of 1867 in the building now occupied by P. C. Bailey as a hardware store. The building was about finished, but the front was not in, when Mr. Bailey started for Chicago to buy goods, leaving carpenters to put up shelves, etc. The first stock to arrive was some boxes of glass. A Presbyterian clergyman by the name of Lyon used it for a Sunday to hold services in, and the people sitting on the boxes played some havoc with the glass.

The Congregational Church was organized at a meeting held at the Presbyterian Church on the 11th of May, 1869, at which Ezra Wood acted as chairman, and A. E. Dearborn as secretary. Rev. E. H. Alden was pastor, and A. Vinton, J. H. Stevens, L. Humiston, E. Bennett and C. A. Rowland were chosen the first trustees. Meetings were held for a time in the building now occupied by Sudduth & Preston, but in the fall of 1869 the church edifice was built from plans drawn by Mayberry, of Winona, but not dedicated until March 30, 1871. The building is of the following dimensions: Main structure, 30x50 feet; extreme length, including projection of tower in front, 57½ feet; extreme width, 32 feet; height of tower, 80 feet. D. L. Whipple had charge of the building. When the society was organized it had but about fifteen members, but now numbers about 156. There have been seven pastors in charge of this church: Revs. E. H. Alden, T. A. Wadsworth, E. C. Starr, L. Loring, C. W. Merrill, L. W. Chaney and J. A. Steman, the present occupant of the

pulpit. The original members were the following: Frederick Stevens, L. Hummiston, W. H. Vinton, G. Henshaw, Mrs. Lucy P. Stevens, Mrs. Lydia H. Vinton, Mrs. Eliza Hummiston, Miss Julia Hummiston, Samuel Hawkes, Mrs. C. M. Hawkes, Wilfred Vinton, Edward Bennett, Mrs. Edward Bennett, Ezra Wood and Mrs. C. G. Wood. The Sunday school was organized February 13, 1870.

The Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the oldest societies in Waseca. Before the village was a year old Rev. W. W. Satterlee, made a survey of the prospect of organizing a church of this denomination there. At that time Rev. A. G. Perkins was presiding elder. After a year's work Mr. Satterlee found that he could report some sixty-eight members for Waseca, Wilton and South Wilton, and an organization was effected. The enrollment of this society in Waseca Village was but twelve. The first meeting was held at the residence of Eri G. Wood, and afterward at a schoolhouse near Clear Lake. Before the erection of any church edifice, worship was held at various places, among them were the Zeller building, Philbrick's Hall and the Baptist Church. In 1874 a church building was erected at a cost of \$5,000. It was 36x52 feet on the ground. I. C. Trowbridge donated a lot on which to put it up. It was dedicated as a place of worship during the winter of 1875-6, Bishop Merrill, Rev. J. E. Chaffee, Rev. G. W. T. Wright and Rev. Alfred Cressey officiating. This building was destroyed by fire on the 25th of December, 1879, only the organ, pulpit chairs and a few other things being saved. The origin of the fire is unknown. On the night following the fire, when scarcely the building had ceased to flame and while the embers were still hot, a meeting was held and subscriptions to the amount of \$1,000 were raised with which to erect a new building. There was an insurance on the burned building of \$2,000 in the Phoenix Insurance Co., which was promptly paid. For some time

afterward, meetings were held wherever convenient in other churches. But all this time the new edifice was being put up. This is one of the handsomest in the town and cost above \$5,000. A spire 100 feet high surmounts the building. The following have been the pastors since the organization: Revs. W. W. Satterlee, S. T. Richardson, F. A. Reggin, E. S. Bowdish, Alfred Cressey, Robert Forbes, M. D. Terwilliger, Robert Forbes, second term; Levi Gilbert, H. C. Jennings, H. Frank and R. M. Carter, the present one, whose term expires in October, 1887. The present membership is 121.

The first services of the Catholic Church were held in 1869. At that time mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Bowman, in the vacant Madden store. In 1870 Rev. Father A. Hurley attended to the spiritual wants of the Roman Catholics of Waseca, and organized the present parish, and under his administration was the church of the Sacred Heart built. Among those who took an active part in the first meetings, were: Jerome Madden Sr., John Collins, Thomas White and G. Buchler. In 1872 Father Wisler took charge here, and in 1874 was succeeded by Father Herman. Father Prybil was next, taking charge in 1876, and was succeeded by Rev. Father A. Christie, the first resident pastor and the present priest. The church numbers nearly one thousand members at this time. The convent and academy of the sisters of the Holy Child Jesus was commenced in 1886, at which time the west wing was erected. This is 40x70 feet in size and well constructed of brick. The center of the edifice was built during the summer of 1887, and is 30x60 feet in size, and is surmounted by a handsome belfry. It is the intention to complete the building in 1888, with a wing the exact counterpart of the other. The academy is in charge of the sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, an English order, of which there are only four or five communities in the United States. The church has also a fine parson-

age, where Father Christie resides at present.

Rev. Father A. Christie, pastor of the church of the Sacred Heart, is a native of Franklin County, Vt., born in 1851. He received his early education in the schools of Adams County, Wis., whither his parents had moved when he was yet a child. In 1866 the family came to Minnesota and located at Austin, Mower County, where he pursued his studies, and later attended the college at St. Joseph, near St. Cloud, Stearns County, this State, but finished his education at Montreal, Canada. He was ordained and set apart for the ministry, December 22, 1877, and then came to Waseca and took charge of this parish. Father Christie has a large congregation, which is still increasing, and he is highly popular with all.

The Swedish Lutheran Church was organized May 4, 1885. At the first meeting the following were present and enrolled themselves as members: E. M. Oleson, C. V. Hanson, Andrew Hanson, John Holmburg, A. Lind, Samuel Anderson, A. Helgren, C. Engstrom, A. M. Johnson and T. W. Johnson. John Holmburg and Samuel Anderson were chosen the first trustees. Rev. Samuel Anderson was the first pastor, and still administers to the spiritual wants of this flock. Before the organization, meetings were held at private houses and occasionally at the Baptist Church. Their own church edifice was erected in the fall of 1885.

St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized August 10, 1885, at a meeting where there were the following present: Robert Chandler, chairman; Wilhelm Slicht, secretary; Charles Fink, Christian Slicht. Peter Stearns, C. Neidt, C. Weber, Adolf Ciegslski, W. L. Herbst and Gottlieb Wiland. The following were chosen as first trustees: A. Ciegslski, W. L. Herbst and G. Wiland. Rev. Mr. Schoolenberg was the pastor at the time of organization. Previous to this, for three or four years they had held services, occasionally,

at various places. The church edifice was built in 1885, and completed September 15, that year. Rev. Mr. Staling is the present pastor.

Calvary Episcopal Church originated from a meeting held at the residence of Ira C. Trowbridge early in the spring of 1868, the Rev. H. B. Whipple officiating. Other meetings were held in halls or vacant buildings for a time, Rev. George C. Tanner, of Owatonna, conducting service. On the evening of March 7, 1868, a meeting was held at the house of H. S. Teall for the purpose of organizing an Episcopal Mite Society for the purpose of furnishing aid toward fitting up a church at this place. H. D. Baldwin was chairman. After some preliminary business the following officers were chosen: Mrs. H. S. Teall, president; Mrs. P. L. Knappen, vice-president; Mrs. E. P. Latham, secretary, and Mrs. H. D. Baldwin, treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth, Mr. Teft, Miss Hall, Mrs. Bailey and Mr. P. Smith were appointed a committee on entertainments. Some twenty members joined the society the first evening. Religious services from this time out were held with considerable regularity. Most of the members of the church, some thirty, had been connected with the church at Wilton, and on removing here wished to enjoy the services of the church of their predilections. Rev. Mr. Tanner, George W. Dubois and E. C. Bill officiated at these meetings. The latter was a young man in the ministry, not yet ordained, sent into this field as a missionary. The first service held by him was in the Congregational Church. In 1875 the church edifice was erected and dedicated December 12, the same year, with appropriate ceremonies, Rev. Mr. Bill appearing for the first time as a regularly ordained minister. Services for some time after this were held once a month, with one or two exceptions, until June 3, 1877, when with the assistance of Rev. G. C. Tanner, of Owatonna, and Rev. M. T. Pise, of Faribault, they managed to

hold weekly services for a time, but that was soon abandoned. In 1878 a Sabbath school was organized in connection with the church. The society owned a church building at Wilton, which they sold in the fall of 1886. The following is a list of the clergymen of this denomination of Christians who have officiated at this point, from first to last, as near as can be ascertained: Revs. H. B. Whipple, Geo. C. Tanner, G. W. Dubois, E. C. Bill, M. T. Pise, B. T. Hall, D. Knickerbocker, E. G. Hunter, Mr. Irvine, W. R. Powell, W. B. Hamilton and R. E. Metcalf, the present rector. The church has a membership of about 30.

The Baptist Church was organized June 6, 1868, with the following members, who signed the articles of faith and covenant: G. N. Taylor, S. H. Talbut, W. J. Burner, Mrs. H. Bucknan, Mrs. H. Vincent, Mrs. A. L. Taylor, Miss Hattie Jones, Miss Olive Foster, Mrs. G. H. Talbut and Mrs. Haines. G. N. Taylor was elected clerk, and S. H. Talbut, deacon. The first baptism that took place in the infant church, according to the records, was that of S. W. Burns. The first received into the church by letter were, on the authority of the same, Lucius Taylor and Orvis Child. The church edifice where they worship was erected by the Presbyterian society, which disbanded in 1873, and sold the building at that time to the Baptist. Rev. S. T. Catlin, the founder of this church, came here early in June, 1868, and commenced his ministry. He continued his spiritual counsel and work here until the spring of 1870, when he removed to Wisconsin. He was succeeded by Rev. E. Thompson, and he by Rev. G. N. Annes. The next to fill the pulpit was A. H. Carman, who had formerly been the principal of the public school and at this time was conducting a private educational institution. He was followed by Rev. Mr. Cox, and on the expiration of the term for which he was employed, the church was for some time without any regular pastor, services being held when-

ever convenient; the Sunday school was kept up without intermission, however. Following this interregnum came Rev. H. S. Davis, who was succeeded by A. M. Torbet. In the summer of 1886 A. H. Ballard, a student at Morgan Park Baptist Seminary, filled the pulpit for three months. September 1, 1886, Rev. W. D. Athearn became pastor and is the present shepherd of the flock, which consists of about sixty-five members.

The German Methodist is part of a society organized as early as 1857 in the three precincts of Iosco, Blooming Grove and Woodville. In 1875 the church here was formed with some thirty-five members, under the ministrations of Rev. W. F. Buckholz, their first pastor. This gentleman labored in this vineyard for three years and was succeeded by Rev. F. Hermsmeier, who remained two years. Rev. Charles Schoenheider was the next to preach here, and after three years' service, was followed by Rev. G. Reihle, who stayed only one year. Three years ago the present pastor, Rev. F. Hogrefe, took charge. They have a membership at present of some seventy, twenty-five of whom belong to the Minske class in Iosco.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Waseca fire department was organized by an ordinance of the city council, approved December 30, 1881. On the 26th of January, 1882, the engine company met for organization with the following members: Jesse Reese, John Lortis, Peter Coles, E. Morrison, H. V. Davis, Sumner Wood, Charles Platt, C. Ebbinghausen, John Roland, Allan Goodspeed, S. Swenson, John Maloney, Walter Child, Samuel Strohmiere, C. Christopherson, E. Goodspeed, E. B. Colchester, G. W. Smith, J. M. Robertson, W. Anghenbaugh, Thomas Breen, William Schlicht, M. D. L. Colchester, Fred. Clayton, Gus. Staak, C. M. Oster, D. McLoughlin, W. Kritzer, A. J. Lohren, J. A. Lilly, Wilham Miller, J. F. Murphy and M. V. Hunt. On

organizing they elected the following officers: Jesse Reese, engineer; J. M. Robertson, first assistant engineer; Peter Stearns, second assistant engineer; Walter Child, secretary; H. V. Davis, treasurer, and E. B. Collester, Charles Barr and M. V. Hunt, finance committee. The city purchased the engine in Winona, and it arrived here and was housed on the 11th of February, 1882, and was tested on the 8th of March following, and proved entirely satisfactory. The officers in 1887 were as follows: Nicholas Jacobs, engineer; August Smith, first assistant engineer; P. H. Kenehan, second assistant engineer; G. E. Child, secretary; W. Herbst, treasurer, and John Mayer, wardrobian.

The hose company was organized at a meeting held on the 24th of January, 1882, with the following members: John Locke, E. Ramsdale, Edward Forbes, Edward Cummings, Edward Goetzenberger, E. L. Fiske, A Schildknecht, E. W. Fiske, J. E. Madden, H. E. Strong, D. S. Cummings, C. D. Ward, J. Neibles, M. O. Forbes and Ed. Castor. H. E. Strong was elected first foreman; August Schildknecht, first assistant foreman; Max Forbes, second assistant foreman; Ed. Castor, secretary; Ed. Cummings, treasurer, and E. Ramsdale, wardrobian.

The present officers are: E. W. Fiske, foreman; Charles Grant, first assistant; William Blowers, second assistant; E. L. Fisk and C. A. Hark, tipmen; D. Devine, secretary; Ed. Castor, treasurer, and Frank Forrest, wardrobian.

A hook and ladder company was organized March 4, 1884, with Ed. Goetzenberger as foreman, but which was suspended from the department in 1887. while Dr. Christie was foreman.

The entire fire department is in a very satisfactory condition, and is under the command of a chief engineer and a fire warden from each ward. The present officers are: Ed. Goetzenberger, chief engineer; B. S. Lewis, fire warden from the First ward; W. G. Ward, Second ward; Henry Murphy,

Third ward; J. W. Aughenbaugh, Fourth ward, and W. T. Cronkhite, Fifth ward.

SOCIETIES.

Tuscan Lodge, No. 77, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized under charter bearing date of January 14, 1869, although meetings were held previous to this, under dispensation, being organized under dispensation, on December 9, 1868. The following is the list of the charter members: W. G. Ward, Lewis Brownell, B. S. Lewis, Philo C. Bailey, H. P. Norton, N. E. Strong, W. T. Kittredge, J. O. Chandler, James E. Child, H. D. Baldwin, Eri G. Wood, E. M. Broughton, Jonathan Shaw, Frank Miner, O. T. Roice, J. W. Tefft and H. Willyard. The first officers given on the charter were: W. T. Kittredge, W. M.; E. M. Broughton, S. W. and N. E. Strong, J. W. and James E. Child, Sec.

The lodge is in a highly prosperous condition in every particular, and has a large membership. The following are the officers in 1887: M. O'Brien, W. M.; N. S. Gordon, S. W.; E. A. White, J. W.; George Webb-S. D.; Harry Britten, J. D.; G. R. Buckman, T.; E. B. Collester, S.; William Tyson-S. S.; Frank Wood, J. S., and H. O. Canfield, tyler.

Waseca Chapter, No. 26, Royal Arch Masons, was duly organized under dispensation, December 12, 1873, with the following named members: P. C. Bailey, E. A. Jordan, J. A. Claghorn, B. S. Lewis, E. M. Broughton, G. W. Comee, G. P. Johnson, H. W. Zeller, S. T. Lewis, J. W. Johnson, N. E. Strong and H. P. Norton. On the 4th of November, 1874, a charter was granted them, and they have been working under that ever since. P. C. Bailey was the first High Priest, and continued in that office until 1876, when he was succeeded by R. L. McCormick, who reigned three years. B. S. Lewis was the next, and was followed by L. Z. Rogers, and he by E. G. Wood, the present one. The chapter is in a most healthy condition, with everything

in its favor, and its work is pronounced most excellently "good and true." It has a present membership of fifty-four brothers. The officers for 1887 are: Eri G. Wood, M. E. H. P.; J. A. Claghorn, E. K.; G. R. Buckman, S. E.; M. O'Brien, C. H.; S. S. Washburn, P. S.; N. S. Gordon, R. A. C.; J. W. Johnson, T.; J. L. Claghorn, S.; George Webb, G. M. T. V.; John F. Murphy, G. M. S. V.; Theodore Brown, G. M. F. V. and G. W. Comee, Sent.

Comee Lodge, No. 25, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized at a meeting held in what was called the Radical building, then just south of where the Grant House now stands, December 8, 1868, with the following charter members: W. C. Young, G. W. Comee, H. D. Baldwin, L. E. Wallace, and H. P. Norton. The first officers, installed Tuesday, January 14, 1869, were: H. D. Baldwin, N. G.; Warren Smith, V. G.; H. A. Mosher, S.; W. C. Young, T. The present officers are: N. J. Leavitt, N. G.; Joseph Gatzman, V. G.; S. Swenson, P. G.; A. J. Lohren, S.; O. Powell, T.; V. Butsch, W.; E. B. Collester, C.; L. Larson, I. G., and J. Gutfleisch, O. G. They have now a membership of fifty-one, and, jointly with the Masonic Lodge, rent a hall in which to hold meetings. Financial condition is most excellent, and the lodge is doing much good in this community.

Golden Rule Encampment, No. 13, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized under charter, October 27, 1873, with the following charter members: P. V. Smith, G. W. Comee, H. C. Woodbury, R. F. Stevens, J. S. Abell, Joseph Miller, M. S. Collins, John G. Greening, S. F. Phelps and John Craven. The first officers chosen were the following: G. W. Comee, C. P.; R. F. Stevens, H. P.; H. C. Woodbury, S. W.; John S. Abell, J. W.; John Craven, S.; P. V. Smith, T. and Jos. Miller, Sent. Besides the charter members, there were present the night of organization, Brothers W. C. Young, V. Butsch, Edward Bennett, S. S. Comee,

and W. H. Young Sr. The camp, which is in quite a flourishing condition, has a present membership of twenty-four, and has a beautiful hall, which is rented jointly between the Masonic and Oddfellow fraternities. The present officers are: O. Powell, C. P.; H. Myers, H. P.; G. W. Comee, S. W.; E. P. Latham, J. W.; H. C. Woodbury, S.; W. C. Young, T.; V. Butsch, I. S.; Edward Bennett, F. W.; A. J. Lee, S. W. and John S. Abell, G.

A post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized on Monday, March 16, 1868, with the following officers: W. T. Kittredge, P. C.; P. H. Swift, S. V. C.; H. A. Mosher, J. V. C.; A. H. Wellman, Q. M.; Dr. H. J. Young, Surg.; A. E. Dearborn, S. M.; Rev. Mr. Starr, Chap.

Among the members not included among the above named officers were: Edward Bennett, M. H. Helms, Joseph Gatzman, Benjamin Philbrick, Henry Zeller and Jonas Whiteomb.

The post ran for about one year, and then, so many of its members removing, it was allowed to die out.

Lewis McKune Post, No. 27, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at a meeting of the veterans of the civil war, held at the courthouse, April 9, 1883, when the following officers were chosen: C. C. Comee, P. C.; J. A. Canfield, S. V. C.; J. A. Smith, J. V. C.; C. E. Graham, A.; G. R. Buckman, Q. M.; Dr. H. J. Young, S.; Edward Bennett, C.; J. B. Hayden, O. D.; W. H. Helms, O. G.; George White, S. M. and M. Craven, Q. M. S. The post is in excellent condition financially and otherwise, and the meetings held on the first and third Saturday evenings of each month are well attended. They always have money in the relief fund on hand, and carry out all the precepts of the order in a fraternal manner. There have been some eighty comrades mustered in, in this post, and the membership is now about sixty-two. The present officers are: M. H. Helms, P. C.; J. B. Hayden, S.

V. C.; Preston Martin, J. V. C.; G. A. Smith, A.; J. H. Murphy, Q. M.; Edward Bennett, S.; J. L. Claghorn, C.; L. E. Wheelock, O. D.; M. E. D. Whitted, O. G.; Geo. White, S. M.; H. Van Buren, Q. M. S.

Catholic Knights of Waseca have a lodge here, organized January, 1886, with Thomas Coleman, president; Thomas Flynn, vice-president; John Moonan, secretary; P. A. Bowe, treasurer; E. W. Lansing, Thomas McLaughlin and William Swift, executive committee, and Rev. A. Christie, spiritual director. The officers for 1887 were: Thomas Coleman, P.; Thomas Flynn, V. P.; Francis Maloney, S.; P. A. Bowe, T.; Thomas Flynn, Thomas Connolly and E. W. Lansing, executive committee; J. T. Lee, sergeant at arms; and Rev. Father Christie, spiritual director.

The Young Men's Christian Association was organized March 4, 1887, with a membership of forty-eight, in the hall of the Good Templars. The officers chosen on organization were: W. D. Belden, president; Dr. A. M. Hutchinson, first vice-president; M. E. Parmalee, second vice-president; H. E. Smith, secretary; M. M. Davidson, treasurer; H. H. Suddeth, H. C. Monroe, W. C. Stegner, E. W. Fiske, F. A. Wood and A. E. Jay, directors. These officers are the present ones, except that J. L. Claghorn has taken the place of W. C. Stegner on the board of directors. The society has a very fine hall, over the Bank of Waseca, which they rent of the owner, W. G. Ward.

Waseca Lodge, No. 44, Knights of Pythias, was organized Friday evening, September 30, 1887, with the following charter members: K. A. Holbrook, H. H. Sudduth, F. A. Swartwood, W. D. Abbott, B. U. Dye, H. P. Bird, Charles Smith, E. A. Everett, S. E. Ranney, D. A. Kinney, D. E. Tenney, Harry A. Read, John Evans, E. M. Helms, Frank Tripp, C. H. Lippett, J. W. Veness and H. F. Gilson.

The following officers were chosen: W. D. Abbott, C. C.; K. A. Holbrook, V. C.; F. A. Swartwood, P. C.; H. H. Sudduth, M. of

E.; H. P. Bird, M. of F.; E. A. Everett, P.; B. U. Dye, K. of R. and S.; Charles Smith, I. G.; S. E. Ranney, O. G.

Fort Ridgely Lodge, No. 65, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, was organized at Sleepy Eye, in June, 1880, and moved from that place to Waseca in October, 1883. The first officers were as follows: Thomas Burke, master; W. W. Williams, secretary; John Boyle, financier. The lodge is in quite a flourishing condition, with a present membership of seventy-two. The officers at present are: J. B. Newcomer, master; H. H. Richardson, secretary; W. D. Grimes, collector; John A. Robinson, receiver.

There is also in the city a division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, a lodge of railroad conductors, a lodge of brakemen and an assembly of the Knights of Labor, all of which are quite prosperous societies.

Waseca Lodge, No. 128, Independent Order of Good Templars, was organized February 15, 1868, with the following officers: W. W. Satterlee, W. C. T.; Mrs. L. A. Hicks, W. V. T.; A. E. Dearborn, W. S.; William McVeigh, W. F. S.; John F. Murphy, W. M.; Etta Taylor, W. D. M.; Mary Douglas, W. I. G.; N. W. Scott, W. O. G.; G. N. Taylor, W. C. and E. G. Wood, P. W. C. T.

The above was the first lodge of the kind in the city. The order has had varying success in this community, lodges being started, running a few years, then dying out, only to start again shortly after.

Company A, Third Regiment Minnesota National Guards, was organized at Waseca, August 5, 1886, with about thirty members, and already manifest considerable efficiency in the drill and manual, principally owing to the excellence of the material upon which able officers have to work. The company is officered as follows: H. A. Leavitt, captain; D. Devine, first lieutenant; Carl H. Young, second lieutenant, and H. A. Smith, orderly sergeant.

MAPLEWOOD PARK.

This is one of the attractive features of

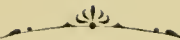
the beautiful scenery that surrounds the city of Waseca. Located upon a lovely wooded peninsula that juts boldly out into the crystal waters of Clear Lake, it is one of the favored spots on earth. Standing among the lofty trees, whose trunks stand like columns in the grand aisle in some noble cathedral, through the leafy covering that sweeps down to the water's edge, we catch here and there the diamond sparkle of the lambent waves when the sunlight plays upon the surface of the lake, or when the quieter light of the moon plays over its tranquil bosom, gather rest to our souls in the quiet enjoyment of its beauties. It is largely due to the energy of two men, Messrs. Jamison and Quirk, that Waseca is the possessor of such a lovely spot. In 1882 the place was the wood-lot of Moses Plummer, who sold it to A. P. Jamison and James Quirk, who employed T. P. A. Howe, a civil engineer of St. Paul, to lay it out into lots and blocks. Accordingly on the 19th of November, 1883, he did so, and under their management and the auspices of the Methodist conference, it was carried on until July, 1886, when it was disposed of to the Maplewood Park Association, a society just organized. Here, yearly, meets the Chautauqua Assembly, that "feast of reason and flow of soul," where meet many of the intellectual people of the southern part of Minnesota, and enjoy the delights of culture amid the works of nature.

The Maplewood Park Association was incorporated August 13, 1883, with the following members: C. A. Van Anda, C. N. Stowers, Caleb Hallack, F. H. Tubbs, J. P. Oakey, C. M. Smith, C. A. Wright, E. G.

Wood, N. S. Gordon, Hugh Wilson, E. M. Broughton, J. H. Parker, William Everett, I. C. Trowbridge, A. P. Jamison, H. C. Jennings, James Quirk, R. W. Beebe and John Stafford. These gentlemen incorporated themselves for the purpose of fitting up the park, and for the purpose of holding grove or camp meetings, Sunday-school assemblies, meetings for religious instruction or worship, or mutual improvement in moral, literary or social culture. The capital stock of the association was, by the articles of incorporation, fixed at \$10,000 divided into 1,000 shares of \$10 each, and the indebtedness of the same was limited to \$3,000. The first officers were: C. A. Van Anda, of Minneapolis, president; C. N. Stowers, of Fairbault, vice president; H. C. Jennings, of Waseca, secretary; A. P. Jamison, of Waseca, treasurer; and Robert Forbes, of Minneapolis; John Stafford, of Rochester; William Everett, of Waseca; E. A. Knowlton, of Rochester; James Quirk, of Waseca; R. W. Beebe, of Mankato, and J. H. Parker, of Albert Lea, were directors.

A daily paper called the *Daily Chautauqua*, during the time of assembly each summer, which gives all the news of the same. Rev. H. C. Jennings is the editor.


The present officers are: Rev. J. F. Chaffee, D. D., president; William Everett, vice-president; Rev. H. C. Jennings, secretary; A. P. Jamison, treasurer, and a board of direction consisting of the following parties: Rev. R. Forbes, D. D., E. A. Knowlton, George B. Arnold, G. R. Buckman, J. Quirk, J. A. Pugh and Rev. A. H. Gillet, D. D.



HISTORY

OF

MINNESOTA.





HISTORY OF MINNESOTA.

CHAPTER I.

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GENERAL REMARKS.



MINNESOTA is located in the geographical center of the continent of North America — midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and also midway between Hudson's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It embraces territory extending from latitude 43 degrees 50 minutes, to 49 degrees, and from 89 degrees 29 minutes to 97 degrees 5 minutes west longitude. As to its area,

it can only be estimated, as portions of the State are as yet unsurveyed; but as near as can be arrived at, the area is 85,531 square miles, or about 53,760,000 acres. In size Minnesota is the fourth State in the Union. From its southern boundary to the northern is about 400 miles, and from the most eastern to the extreme western point about 354 miles. In altitude it appears to be one of the highest portions of the continent, as the headwaters of the three great river systems are found in its limits — those of streams flowing northward to Hudson's Bay, eastward to the Atlantic Ocean, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico.

Nearly three-quarters of the surface of the State is made up of rolling prairie, interspersed with frequent groves, oak openings and belts of hard-wood timber, watered by numerous lakes and streams, and covered with a warm, dark soil of great fertility. The balance, embracing the elevated district

immediately west of Lake Superior, consists mainly of the rich mineral ranges on its shores, and of the pine forests which extend over the upper Mississippi country, affording extensive supplies of timber. But a very small portion is broken, rocky or worthless land; nearly all is arable. But few States are so well watered as Minnesota, and the numerous rivers and water-courses give excellent drainage. A number of the rivers — the Mississippi, the Minnesota, the St. Croix, the St. Louis, the Red and the Red Lake rivers — are navigable, and nearly all of the balance afford water power. The lakes of Minnesota are among its principal physical characteristics. The estimate of 10,000 lakes in the State is not an unreasonable one.

With all these natural advantages, favorable climate and rich soil, Minnesota has become one of the most successful agricultural States in the Union, and stock-raising and dairying is rapidly becoming a leading industry. Lumbering is also carried on very extensively, and the manufacturing branch is rapidly becoming large. While at first it was supposed that this State was destitute of valuable minerals, recent discoveries prove to the contrary. Inexhaustible quantities of the best iron ore exist, and is now being mined and exported in large quantities. Silver veins have also been found near the boundary line; copper ore has also been found, and it is known that plumbago and gold quartz exist. Building material, gran-

ite, brownstone, limestone, sandstone and brick and potter's clay are abundant.

A few words as to railroads and history relating to their construction will also be interesting. Twenty-five years ago (1862), there were only ten miles of railway in operation in the State. At the close of 1885 there were 6,721 miles in operation. The general government has granted to railroads within this State 12,151,527 acres of land, and the State has given 1,811,750 acres of swamp and other lands, making a total of 13,933,277 acres of land within the State given to railroads, valued on the average at \$5 per acre, making \$69,666,385 thus given. In addition, local, county and State bonds have been given them amounting to over \$6,680,000, making in lands and cash a total gift of \$76,496,385, or about \$19,345 for

every mile completed. There is material in these facts for an extended political essay, and they certainly furnish food for thought.

In concluding these general remarks it may justly be said that the outlook for the State is most gratifying. Its population is rapidly increasing, and its taxable wealth increasing in similar ratio. Every year sees an enormous area of its rich soil brought under cultivation, while there are still millions of acres awaiting the plow of the settler.

The following table of census returns will show the growth of the State as to population: 1850, population 6,077; 1860, population 172,023; 1865, population 250,099; 1870, population 439,706; 1875, population 597,407; 1880, population 780,773, and in 1885 the population was 1,117,798.



CHAPTER II.

HISTORY OF MINNESOTA—FROM 1660 TO 1887.



THE first exploration by whites of the territory which now comprises the State of Minnesota dates back early into the seventeenth century. It is claimed by good authority that Jean Nicolet (pronounced Nicolay), one of Champlain's interpreters, was the first to spread knowledge of the country west of Lake Michigan. As early as 1635 he set foot upon the western shores of Lake Michigan, and traded near Green Bay, also roaming over various portions of Wisconsin at about that time. In December of the same year he returned to Canada. It is very doubtful whether Nicolet ever set foot on Minnesota soil, although it is certain that his visit to the country west of Lake Michigan was the means of spreading knowledge of this country, and of the aborigines of Minnesota. It was said of him that he penetrated far distant countries, and in a letter bearing date of 1640, it is stated that "if he had proceeded three days more on a river which flows from that lake (Green Bay), he would have found the sea." The death of this explorer occurred at Three Rivers in 1640.

After Nicolet's visit to Wisconsin, for a quarter of a century history brings no trace of any explorations concerning this region. At the end of this time, in 1660, the first white men of whom there is any reliable record, set foot on Minnesota soil. They were Medard Chouart, called Groselliers, and Pierre d'Esprit, who was known as Sieur Radisson. Both were Frenchmen who had come to Canada when young men to engage

in the fur trade. About the middle of that century several important changes had been made in the location of Indian tribes. The Hurons and their allies, the Ottawas, after successive battles, had drifted to the west of Lake Michigan. In former times they had been located in the St. Lawrence region. Finally reaching the Mississippi they found the Iowa River. Later, returning to the Mississippi, they settled upon an island in the river near where the city of Hastings is now located; but becoming involved in battles with the Sioux, we finally find the Hurons located about the headwaters of the Chippeway, and the Ottawas on the shores of Lake Superior, near where Bayfield is now situated. It was to trade with the Indians that the two Frenchmen mentioned, Groselliers and Radisson, made their trip to this wild region. They passed the winter of 1659-60 among the Sioux villages in the Mille Lacs country, and the following spring and summer was spent in the region of Lake Superior. In August, 1660, they returned to Montreal, and their report of the country they had visited created much excitement. Within a few weeks an exploring and trading party was formed, and accompanied by six Frenchmen and two priests, one of whom was the Jesuit, Rene Menard, they again started westward, and on the 15th of October, 1660, they reached the Ottawa settlement on the shores of Lake Superior. The objects of this party were various, some bent on exploration, others on trading, while Father Menard went as a missionary. Groselliers (pronounced Grosay-ya) and Radisson, accompanied by others,

pushed on through the country to the northwest of Lake Superior and at length reached Hudson's Bay. They returned to Montreal in May, 1662. The names of all the members of this party have not been preserved. Groselliers and Radisson proceeded to Paris, thence to London, where they were well received by the nobility and scientific men. A vessel was fitted out and placed at their disposal, in the hope of finding a northwest passage to Asia. In June, 1668, they left England and made an extended voyage, reaching a tributary of Hudson's Bay and returning to England, where, in 1670, the famous trading corporation, the "Hudson's Bay Company," was chartered.

Now to return to the venerable Father Menard, who had been left among the Ottawa Indians on the shores of Lake Superior in October, 1660. For nearly a year he lived there in a cabin built of fir branches. In the summer of 1661 he decided to visit the Hurons, who had fled eastward from the Sioux of Minnesota and were located among the woods of northern Wisconsin, as stated. He was accompanied by one Frenchman, whose name has been lost in the mist of years. They became separated, and Father Menard was lost, as Perrot says, "in the labyrinth of trees." This was the last ever positively known of him, although his breviary and cassock were said afterward to have been found among the Sioux Indians. Whether this good and venerable man starved or was murdered or captured by the Indians will forever be shrouded in mystery.

These were the earliest explorations of the Northwest of which any record has been left, but after that period this region was visited by various parties at long intervals, and many interesting documents have been preserved giving accounts of their journeys and discoveries.

About the year 1665 several French traders and the Jesuit, Allonez, visited the country off the western shore of Lake Superior.

Early in 1679 we find Daniel G. Du Luth west of Lake Michigan, and it is believed he planted the French arms on Minnesota soil. His records state that "on July 2d he caused his Majesty's arms to be planted in the great village of the Nadousioux, called Kathio, and at Songaskieous and Honetbatons, one hundred and twenty leagues distant from the former." Rev. E. D. Neill in his thorough work relating to early explorers of Minnesota, locates this as being "one hundred and twenty leagues beyond Mille Laes." Du Luth states that at one point on Minnesota soil he found upon a tree this legend: "Arms of the King cut on this tree in the year 1679." He established several posts, carried on trading with the Indians, and was probably the most prominent of the early explorers. Later he was stationed near Lake Erie and died in 1710. His reports furnish much interesting information regarding the early explorations in the Northwest.

La Salle was given a commission by the King of France in 1678 to "explore the West," and do limited trading. He visited various parts of the Northwest. His jealousy of Du Luth appears to form a considerable portion of his official reports, but it is stated on good authority that he wrote the first description of the upper Mississippi Valley, August 22, 1682, some months before the publication of Father Hennepin's first work, "Description de la Louisiane." He must, however, have obtained his information from one of Hennepin's men.

Father Louis Hennepin's explorations and adventures through the Northwest form an interesting chapter in the earlier history of this region. He was a native of Ath, an inland town of the Netherlands, and had early assumed the robes of priesthood. In 1676 he came to Canada, and two years later was ordered to join the La Salle exploring expedition. A ship was rigged, and on August 7th, 1679, its sails caught the breezes of Lake Erie—the first European vessel

launched on the great lakes. La Salle conducted his expedition to Green Bay, thence along the coast of Lake Michigan, and about the middle of January, 1680, landed it on an eminence near Lake Peoria, on the Illinois River, where he commenced the erection of Fort Crevecoeur. On the last of February of the same year, Father Hennepin, in company with Michael Accault (Ako) and Angelle, left the fort to ascend the Mississippi River. On the 11th of April, 1680, after having reached a point north of the Chippewa River, they were met and taken charge of by a party of over a hundred Sioux Indians. They then proceeded with the Indians to their villages, nearly sixty leagues north of St. Anthony falls. They remained with the Indians some time, being well treated, and on the 25th of July, 1680, they were met by Du Luth, who was accompanied by his interpreter, Faffart, and several French soldiers. They then proceeded to Mille Lacs, arriving, according to Father's Hennepin writings, on the 11th of August, 1680. In the latter part of September they started to return to the French settlement, passing by St. Anthony falls. Father Hennepin published two works relating to his discoveries, the first, "Description de la Louisiane," in 1836; the second, "The New Discovery," in 1697. These works called forth much criticism, as there can be no doubt Hennepin greatly magnified his own importance, and exaggerated his services and discoveries. For instance, he claims to have descended the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, before proceeding northward, then returned and proceeded on to the St. Anthony falls. This in the face of his own stated facts — leaving Fort Crevecoeur the last of February, he claims to have made this wonderful trip, and arrived two miles south of where the city of St. Paul is now located, late in April, giving the 11th of April as the date of their capture by the Indians. However this may be, Father Hennepin's work was not in vain, and his memory is entitled to the credit for that

which he did. His publications hastened and facilitated exploration, and his failing — if such it was — should be treated with charity. La Salle speaks of him highly, but charitably says, "it was his failing to magnify those adventures which concerned him."

During 1684, Nicholas Perrot and Le Sueur visited Lake Pepin, and the following winter the French traded with the Indians on Minnesota soil. Perrot had been appointed by the governor of Canada as the commandant for the West, and was accompanied by twenty men. Upon his arrival he caused a stockade to be built on the east bank of Lake Pepin, which bore his name for many years. He discovered a number of lead mines, and his name figures conspicuously in the history of the early French explorations and frontier work. Perrot remained for some time after building the fort, then, in 1686, returned to Green Bay. He passed much time in collecting allies for the expedition against the Iroquois in New York, and in the spring of 1687, was with Du Luth and Tonty with the French and Indian allies in the expedition against the Senecas of the Genesee Valley in New York. The following year he was sent with a company of Frenchmen to reoccupy the post on Lake Pepin, in Minnesota, and it was in 1689 that Perrot, in the presence of Father Joseph James Marest, a Jesuit, Boisguiblot, a trader on the Wisconsin and Mississippi, and Le Seur, made a formal record of taking possession of the Sioux country in the name of the King of France.

Le Sueur, who accompanied Perrot in his first trip to Lake Pepin in 1684, was intimately connected with that explorer's movements. In 1692 Le Sueur was sent by Gov. Frontenac, of Canada, to the extremity of Lake Superior to maintain peace between the Indian tribes. Entering the Sioux country, in 1694, he established a post upon a prairie island, nine miles below where Hastings is now located. He was accompanied by Penicaut and others. Here they estab-

lished a fort and storehouse and passed the winter, as game was very abundant. On July 15, 1695, Le Sueur went back to Montreal accompanied by a party of Ojibways, and the first Dakotah brave that ever visited Canada. Le Sueur then visited France, and in 1697 received a license to open certain mines that were supposed to exist in Minnesota. The ship in which he was returning was captured by the English, and he was taken to England; when released he returned to France and secured a new commission, but it was afterward suspended. Fortunately, D'Iberville, a kinsman of Le Sueur, was appointed governor of the new territory of Louisiana, and in December, 1699, Le Sueur arrived from France with thirty workmen to proceed to the mines. During the next year he ascended the Minnesota River with his expedition, and in October, 1700, built a fort on the Blue Earth River, which he named L'Huillier. This was occupied by Le Sueur's men until 1702, when it was abandoned because of the hostility of the Indians. Charlevoix, who visited the valley of the lower Mississippi in 1722, says that "Le Sueur spent at least one winter in his fort on the banks of the Blue Earth, and that in the following April he went up to the mine, *about a mile above*, and in twenty-two days they obtained more than 30,000 pounds of the substance—lead." Le Sueur estimated the Sioux Indians at that time as being four thousand families.

In 1703 a little volume was published in France and England by Baron La Hontan, giving an account of his "travels," in which he claimed to have penetrated and pursued explorations through the territory which now forms Minnesota, farther than any of his predecessors. He states that he found a river tributary to the Mississippi, and describes a journey of 500 miles up this stream, which he named Long River. His wonderful story was believed at the time and the river was placed upon the early maps; but in later years it was discredited

and is now by the closest students and ablest historians treated as fabulous.

In September, 1727, Fort Beauharnois was erected and a French post established on the shores of Lake Pepin, under the directions of Sieur de la Perriere. An extensive trade was carried on with the Indians here, and it was occupied for a number of years. In 1728 Veranderie, who had been placed in command of a post on Lake Nepigon, began laying plans for finding a communication with the Pacific Ocean. An expedition was fitted out which left Montreal in 1731, under the management of his sons and a nephew, De la Jemeraye, he not joining the party until 1733. A fourth son joined the expedition in 1735. In the autumn of 1731, the party reached Rainy Lake, at the foot of which a post, called Fort St. Pierre, was erected. The next year they reached Lake of the Woods, and established Fort St. Charles on its southwest bank. A few miles from Lake Winnepeg they established a post on the Assinaboine, and a fort was established on the Maurepas (Winnepeg) River. In June, 1736, while twenty-one of the expedition were encamped on an isle in the Lake of the Woods, they were surprised by a band of Sioux Indians hostile to the French allies, and all were killed. The island on this account is called Massacre Island. The remaining portion of the expedition progressed as best they could. October 3, 1738, they built an advanced post called Fort la Reine on the Assinaboine River. They came in sight of the Rocky Mountains on the 1st of January, 1743, and, on the 12th, ascended them. In 1744, after planting a leaden plate of the arms of France in the upper Missouri country, they returned, reaching Minnesota soil late in June, and after establishing several posts in the extreme northern frontier country they finally returned to Montreal. Expeditions were afterward fitted out, one of which again reached the Rocky Mountains, but the clash of arms between France and England put

an end to the explorations so far as the French were concerned.

In 1763, by the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota east of the Mississippi to England and west of it to Spain. In 1766 Capt. Jonathan Carver, the first British subject, although a native of Connecticut, visited the Falls of St. Anthony. He spent some three years among the different tribes of Indians in the upper Mississippi country; found the Indian nations at war and succeeded in making peace between them. As a reward for his good offices, it is claimed that two chiefs of the Sioux, acting for their nation, at a council held with Carver at a great cave, now within the corporate limits of St. Paul, deeded to Carver a vast tract of land on the Mississippi River, extending from the Falls of St. Anthony to the foot of Lake Pepin, on the Mississippi, thence east one hundred miles; thence north one hundred and twenty miles; thence west to the place of beginning. This pretended grant, however, was examined by our government and totally ignored.

At the beginning of the present century there were no white men in Minnesota, except the few engaged in the fur trade, and the posts were chiefly held by the Northwest Company, which corporation in 1794 erected a stockade at Sandy Lake. In 1802 we find William Morrison trading at Leech Lake, and two years later at Itasca. In the meantime, in 1796, the laws of the ordinance of 1787 had been extended over the Northwest, and on May 7, 1800, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi had become a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio. On the 20th of December, 1803, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for forty years in the possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain. In 1804 Upper Louisiana Territory was constituted. During the following year the United States for the first time sent an officer to Minnesota, in the person of Lieut.

Z. M. Pike, who established government relations and obtained the Fort Snelling reservation from the Dakotahs. He remained here for some time, but the war of 1812 coming on postponed the military occupation of the upper Mississippi by the United States for several years. Pike afterward fell in battle at York, in Upper Canada.

In 1817 the Earl of Selkirk, a nobleman, visited the Scotch colony on the Red River, established in 1812, and created quite an excitement on the part of some of the United States authorities. The same year Mayor Stephen H. Long, of the United States Engineer Corps, visited Minnesota and made a report recommending the bluff at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers as a site for a fort.

In 1819 Minnesota east of the Mississippi River became a part of Crawford County, Mich. During the same year Fort Snelling was established and the site of Mendota was occupied by the United States troops, under Col. Leavenworth. Major Taliaferro was appointed Indian agent.

During the year 1820 much of interest transpired on Minnesota soil. Early in the spring Jean Baptiste Faribault brought Leavenworth's horses from Prairie du Chien. On the 5th of May Col. Leavenworth established summer quarters at Camp Coldwater, (Hennepin County). In July Gov. Cass, of Michigan, visited the camps. In August Col. Joshua Snelling succeeded Leavenworth in command, and on the 20th of September the corner-stone of Fort Snelling (then Fort St. Anthony) was laid. On the 15th of April the superintendent of farming for Earl Selkirk left Prairie du Chien, having purchased seed wheat; he ascended the Minnesota River to Big Stone Lake, where the boats were placed on rollers, dragged a short distance to Lake Traverse, and reached Pembina June 3. This year the first marriage in Minnesota occurred, Lieut. Green to a daughter of Capt. Gooding. The first birth of a white child in the State occurred this

year, a daughter to Col. Snelling; died the following year.

In 1821 Fort St. Anthony (Snelling) was sufficiently completed to be occupied by troops. During this year a sawmill was constructed at St. Anthony Falls for the use of the garrison under the supervision of Lieut. McCabe.

Nothing of particular interest transpired during 1822. In 1823, however, the first steamboat, the *Virginia*, arrived at the mouth of the Minnesota River on the 10th of May, and created consternation among the Indians. Beltrami, the Italian, during the same year explored the northernmost sources of the Mississippi, and Maj. Long, of the United States army, visited the northern boundary by way of the Minnesota and Red rivers. Millstones for grinding flour were sent to St. Anthony to be placed in the sawmill.

In 1824 Gen. Winfield Scott visited Fort St. Anthony, and at his suggestion the name was changed to Fort Snelling.

After this time events crowd rapidly one after the other to fill in the time. From 1825 on, the arrival of steamboats became more frequent. During this year a heavy flood visited the Red River, and a portion of the colony were driven to Minnesota and settled near Fort Snelling.

In 1832 Schoolcraft explored the sources of the Mississippi River, and during the following year Rev. W. T. Boutwell established the first mission among the Ojibways on Leech Lake. About the same time E. F. Ely opened a mission school at Atkins, a trading post on Sandy Lake.

That portion of Minnesota lying west of the Mississippi River was attached to Michigan in 1834. During this year Gen. H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota as agent for the fur company, and Samuel W. and Gideon H. Pond, missionaries among the Sioux, arrived. They were followed the next year by T. S. Williamson, J. D. Stevens and Alexander G. Huggins, and in June, 1835, a Presbyterian Church was organized at Fort

Snelling. Late the same year Maj. J. L. Bean, in accordance with the treaty of 1825, surveyed the Sioux and Chippeway boundary line as far as Otter Tail Lake.

In 1836 the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, embracing all of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River; that territory west of the river being attached to Iowa. A number of steamboats arrived during this year, a passenger on one of them being the distinguished French astronomer, Jean N. Nicollet.

In 1837 Gov. Dodge, of Wisconsin, made a treaty at Fort 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 Dakotahs for their pine lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements in the State. The treaty was ratified by Congress in 1838. At about this time Franklin Steele made a claim at St. Anthony Falls; Pierre Parrant took a claim and built a cabin on the present site of St. Paul; Jeremiah Russell and L. W. Stratton made the first claim at Marine in the St. Croix Valley. During the year 1838 a steamboat arrived at Fort Snelling with J. N. Nicollet and J. C. Fremont on a scientific expedition. Development begins in the St. Croix Valley. The next year the chapel of "St. Paul" was built and consecrated, giving the name to the capital of the State.

Henry M. Rice arrived at Fort Snelling in 1840, others came and in November, 1841, St. Croix County was established with "Dakotah" designated as the county-seat.

On the 10th of October, 1843, a settlement was commenced on the present site of the city of Stillwater, and the erection of a sawmill was immediately commenced. The names of the town proprietors were: John McKusick, from Maine; Calvin Leach, from Vermont; Elam Greeley, from Maine and Elias McKeane, from Pennsylvania.

Dr. E. D. Neill in his "Explorers and Pio-

neers of Minnesota," says that in 1846 "the site of St. Paul was chiefly occupied by a few shanties, owned by 'certain lewd fellows of the baser sort,' who sold rum to the soldiers and Indians." On the 6th of August, 1846, the Wisconsin enabling act was passed.

In 1847 St. Croix County was detached from Crawford County, Wis., and reorganized for civil and judicial purposes with Stillwater as the county-seat. The town of St. Paul was surveyed and platted, and recorded in St. Croix County. During this year the Wisconsin constitutional convention was held.

On the 29th of May, 1848, Wisconsin was admitted to the Union, leaving Minnesota (with its present boundaries) without a government, and on the 26th of the following August a convention was held at Stillwater to take measures for a separate territorial organization. On the 30th of October, 1848, Henry H. Sibley was elected delegate to Congress, and he was admitted to a seat January 15, 1849. March 3d, 1849, a bill was passed organizing Minnesota Territory, and on the 19th of the same month territorial officers were appointed. June 1st Gov. Ramsey issued a proclamation declaring the territory organized, and on September 3d the first territorial Legislature assembled. In 1851 the capital of the State was permanently located, as was also the penitentiary. In June, 1854, the first line of railway was completed to St. Paul.

On the 23d of February, 1857, an act passed the United States Senate, to authorize the people of Minnesota to form a constitution, preparatory to their admission to the Union. In June a constitutional convention was held, and the State constitution was framed. This was adopted on the 13th of October, 1857, and a full list of State officers was elected. On the 11th of May, 1858, the President approved of the bill admitting the State, and Minnesota was fully recognized as one of the United States of America. The first State officers were sworn in on the 24th of May.

From this time on we can only briefly review the most important events that have transpired. A great tide of immigration had set in early in the "fifties," which rapidly filled up portions of the State, until in 1857 a census gave the State a total population of 150,037. During that year, however, real estate speculation reached a climax, and the terrible financial panic occurred, which greatly retarded the settlement.

In 1858 the State loan of \$250,000 was negotiated; five million loan bill was passed, being voted on April 15; great stringency in money market.

During 1859 the hard times continued to intensify. "Wright County War" occurred; "Glencoe" and "Owatonna" money was issued; work on the land grant roads ceased; collapse of the five million scheme; first export of grain that fall; hard political struggle, in which the Republicans triumphed.

Another warm political canvass occurred in 1860; the census taken this year gave the State a total population of 172,123.

In 1861 war cast its gloom over the country; on April 13th the President's proclamation for troops was received; the first regiment recruited at once, and June 22d it embarked at Fort Snelling for the seat of war.

In 1862 occurred the memorable Sioux outbreak; August 17th, massacre at Acton; August 18th, outbreak at Lower Sioux Agency; 19th, New Ulm attacked; 20th, Fort Ridgely attacked; 25th, second attack on New Ulm; 30th, Fort Abererombie besieged; September 1st, the bloody affair at Birch Coolie; 19th, first railroad in Minnesota in operation, between St. Paul and Minneapolis; 22d, battle of Wood Lake; 26th, captives surrendered by the Indians at Camp Release; military commission tried 321 Indians for murder, 303 condemned to die; December 26th, thirty-eight hung at Mankato.

In 1863 Gen. Sibley conducted an expedition to the Missouri River; July 3d, Little

Crow was killed; July 24th, battle of Big Mound; 26th, battle of Dead Buffalo Lake; July 28th, battle of Stony Lake.

In 1864 the civil war was still in progress, and large levies for troops were made in Minnesota; expedition to Missouri River, under Sully; inflation of money market; occasional Indian raids.

In 1865 the war closed and peace returns; Minnesota regiments return and are disbanded; in all, 25,052 troops were furnished by the State; census showed 250,000 inhabitants.

After the close of the war, and from 1866 until 1872, "good times" prevailed; immigration was very heavy, and real estate and all values were inflated. The western portion of the State received many settlers. Railway construction was very active.

In 1873 the famous grasshopper raid began throughout the western part of the State, and continued about five seasons. January 7-8-9 of this year, a terrible storm swept over the State, in which seventy persons perished. In September of the same year, the financial "panic of 1873" began.

In 1874 and 1875 nothing of especial importance occurred.

On the 7th of September, 1876, an attack was made on the Bank of Northfield by a gang of armed outlaws from Missouri; three of the latter were killed, and three were captured.

In 1877 biennial sessions amendment was adopted.

In 1878 (May 2), three flouring mills at Minneapolis exploded, and eighteen lives lost.

On November 15th, 1880, a portion of the hospital for the insane, at St. Peter, was destroyed by fire; eighteen inmates were burned to death, seven died subsequently of injuries and fright, and six were missing. Total loss was \$150,000.

In 1881 the State capitol at St. Paul was destroyed by fire.

In 1884 the State prison, located at Stillwater, was partly burned.

In 1886 (April 14), a cyclone swept over St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, demolishing scores of buildings, and killing about seventy people.



CHAPTER III.

THE INDIAN MASSACRE.



THE outbreak of the Indians in 1862 furnishes one of the most interesting chapters in Minnesota's history. At the time of this sad tragedy there were scattered throughout the State various bands of Sioux Indians, a powerful and warlike nation. They included the Medawakontons (or Village of the Spirit Lake); Wapatons, (or Village of the Leaves); Sissetons (or Village of the Marsh), and Wapakutas (or Leaf Shooters). These four tribes, numbering about six thousand and two hundred persons, comprised the entire annuity Sioux of Minnesota. All these Indians had from time to time, from the 19th of July, 1815, to the date of the massacre in 1862, received presents from the government, by virtue of various treaties of amity and friendship. From the time of the treaty of St. Louis in 1816, these tribes had remained friendly to the whites, and had by treaty stipulations parted with all the lands to which they claimed title in Iowa; all on the east side of the Mississippi River, and all on the Minnesota River in Minnesota, except certain reservations. One of these reservations lay upon both sides of the Minnesota ten miles on either side of that stream, from Hawk River on the north to Yellow Medicine River on the south side, thence westerly to the head of Big Stone Lake and Lake Traverse, a distance of about one hundred miles. Another of these reservations commenced at Little Rock River on the east and a line running due south from its mouth, and extending up the river westerly to the eastern line of the reserva-

tion first named, at the Hawk and Yellow Medicine rivers. The last also had a width of ten miles on each side of the Minnesota River.

Early in 1858 a scheme was devised by the authorities at Washington for the civilization of these annuity Indians. A civilization fund was provided, to be taken from their annuities and expended in improving the lands of such as should abandon their tribal relations and adopt the habits and modes of life of the whites. To all such, lands were assigned in severalty, eighty acres to the head of each family, on which should be erected the necessary farm buildings, and farming implements and cattle furnished him. At the time of the outbreak about one hundred and seventy-five Indians had taken advantage of the provisions of this treaty and become "farmer Indians." A great majority of the Indians, however, disliked the idea of taking any portion of their general fund to carry out the civilization scheme. Those who retained the blanket, called "blanket Indians," denounced the measure as a fraud, as it was slowly but surely destroying what was, to them, their God-given right to the chase. The result, in brief, of this civilization scheme was this: After the chase was over the "blanket Indians" would pitch their tents about the homes of the "farmer Indians" and proceed to eat them out of house and home, and when the ruin was complete, the "farmer" with his wife and children, driven by necessity, would again seek temporary subsistence in the chase. During their absence the "blanket Indians" would commit whatever destruc-

tion of fences or tenements their desires or necessities would suggest. In this way the annual process continued, so that when the "farmer Indian" returned to his desolate home in the spring to prepare again for a crop, he looked forward to no different results for the coming winter. It will thus be seen that the civilization scheme was an utter failure.

The treaty referred to, of 1858, had opened for settlement a vast frontier country of the most attractive character in the valley of the Minnesota River, and on the streams putting into the Minnesota on either side, such as Beaver Creek, Sacred Heart, Hawk and Chippewa rivers, and some other small streams, there were flourishing settlements of white families. Within this ceded tract, ten miles wide, were the scattered settlements of Birch Coolie, Patterson Rapids, and others as far up as the upper agency at Yellow Medicine, in Renville County. The county of Brown adjoined the reservation, and was at that time settled mostly by Germans. Here was also the flourishing town of New Ulm, and further on was a thriving settlement on the Big Cottonwood and Watonwan. Other counties, Blue Earth, Nicollet, Sibley, Meeker, McLeod, Kandiyohi, Monongalia and Murray, together with others somewhat removed from the direct attack of the Indians, as Wright, Stearns and Jackson, and even reaching on the north to Fort Abererombie, thus extending from Iowa to the valley of the Red River of the North, were severally involved in the consequences of the warfare of 1862. This extended area had a population estimated at over fifty thousand.

Early in the fifties complaints began to be made by the Indians, and dissatisfaction began to be manifest. By the treaty of Traverse des Sioux, dated July 23, 1851, between the United States and the Sissetons and Wapatons, \$275,000 was to be paid their chiefs, and a further sum of \$30,000 was to be expended for their benefit in Indian im-

provements. By the treaty of Mendota, dated August 5, 1851, the Medawakantons and Wapakutas were to receive the sum of \$200,000, to be paid to their chief, and a further sum of \$30,000. These several sums amounting in the aggregate to \$550,000, these Indians, to whom they were payable, claim they were never paid, except perhaps a small portion expended in improvements. This led to great dissatisfaction, of which the government was fully apprised. Several parties were at different times sent out by the Indian department of the government to investigate into the causes, but the rascality of the agents and officers who had defrauded the Indians had been carefully covered up, and as usual in such cases the guilty parties were exculpated. This was one of the leading and most important causes which led to the massacre of 1862.

Another cause of irritation among these annuity Sioux arose out of the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857—known as the Inkpadutah massacre. Inkpadutah was an outlaw of the Wapakuta band of Sioux Indians, and his acts were entirely disclaimed by the "annuity Sioux." He had committed murder in his own tribe some twenty years previous, and since had led a wandering and marauding life about the headwaters of the Des Moines River and westward to Dakota. Finally his outrages reached a climax, when early in 1857 with a few of his followers, he proceeded to murder every family in the little settlement about Spirit Lake, Iowa, except four women whom they bore away captives. From there they went to the Springfield settlement (on the present site of Jackson, Minn.), where they murdered seventeen people, making a total of forty seven persons killed. They then retreated westward. Shortly after the massacre at Springfield (now Jackson) a company of regular soldiers under Capt. Bee was stationed at that place, and had the officer been a zealous or capable one might easily have overtaken and punished them. As stated the "annuity Sioux" disclaimed the

acts of this outlaw ; but for a time the government refused to pay the annuities until they should deliver up the murderers. In a short time, however, the government let the matter drop, and continued to pay the annuities as before. Some thought that this was a great error, and that the Indians mistook it for a sign of weakness.

However that may be, as time went on the Indians became more and more insolent, and Little Crow, together with a few leaders among the annuity Sioux, from the time the government ceased its efforts to punish Inkpadutah, began to agitate and plan the great conspiracy to drive the whites from the State of Minnesota. Little Crow was one of the "farmer Indians," whose headquarters was a short distance above the Lower Agency, who is credited with being the leader in the outbreak against the whites.

The antecedent exciting causes of this massacre are numerous. The displaced agents and traders find the cause in the erroneous action of the government, resulting in their removal from office. The statesman and the philosopher may unite in tracing the cause to improper theories as to the mode of acquiring the right to Indian lands. The former may locate the evil in our system of treaties, and the latter in our theories of government. The philanthropist may find the cause in the absence of justice which we exhibit in all our intercourse with the Indian races. The poet and the lovers of romance in human character find the true cause, as they believe, in the total absence of all appreciation of the noble, generous, confiding traits peculiar to the native Indian. The Christian teacher finds apologies for acts of Indian atrocities in the deficient systems of mental and moral culture. Each of these different classes are satisfied that the great massacre of August, 1862, had its origin in some way intimately connected with his favorite theory.

Maj. Thomas Galbraith, Sioux agent, says, in writing of the causes which led to

the massacre: "The radical, moving cause of the outbreak is, I am satisfied, the ingrained and fixed hostility of the savage barbarian to reform and civilization. As in all barbarous communities in the history of the world, the same people have, for the most part, resisted the encroachments of civilization upon their ancient customs, so it is in the case before us. Nor does it matter materially in what shape civilization makes its attack. Hostile, opposing forces meet in conflict, and a war of social elements is the result — civilization is aggressive, and barbarism stubbornly resistant. Sometimes, indeed, civilization has achieved a bloodless victory, but generally it has been otherwise. Christianity, itself, the true basis of civilization, has, in most instances, waded to success through seas of blood. . . . Having stated thus much, I state, as a settled fact in my mind, that the encroachments of Christianity, and its handmaid, civilization, upon the habits and customs of the Sioux Indians, is the cause of the late terrible Sioux outbreak. There were, it is true, many immediate inciting causes, which will be alluded to and stated hereafter, but they are subsidiary to, and developments of, or incident to, the great cause set forth. . . . But that the recent Sioux outbreak would have happened at any rate, as a result, a fair consequence of the cause here stated, I have no doubt.

"Now as to the existing or immediate causes of the outbreak: By my predecessor a new and radical system was inaugurated; practically, and in its inauguration, he was aided by the Christian missionaries and by the government. The treaties of 1858 were ostensibly made to carry this new system into effect. The theory, in substance, was to break up the community system which obtained among the Sioux, weaken and destroy their tribal relations, and individualize them, by giving them each a separate home. . . . On the 1st day of June, A. D. 1861, when I entered upon the duties of my

office, I found that the system had just been inaugurated. Some hundred families of the annuity Sioux had become novitiates, and their relatives and friends seemed to be favorably disposed to the new order of things. But I also found that, against these were arrayed over five thousand 'annuity Sioux,' besides at least three thousand Yanktonais, all inflamed by the most bitter, relentless and devilish hostility.

"I saw, to some extent, the difficulty of the situation, but I determined to continue, if in my power, the civilization system. To favor it, to aid and build it up by every fair means, I advised, encouraged, and assisted the farmer novitiates; in short I sustained the policy inaugurated by my predecessor, and sustained and recommended by the government. I soon discovered that the system could not be successful without a sufficient force to protect the 'farmer' from the hostility of the 'blanket' Indians.

"During my term, and up to the time of the outbreak, about 175 had their hair cut and had adopted the habits and customs of the white men.

"For a time, indeed, my hopes were strong that civilization would soon be in the ascendant. But the increase in the civilization party and their evident prosperity, only tended to exasperate the Indians of the 'ancient customs,' and to widen the breach. But while these are to be enumerated, it may be permitted me to hope that the radical cause will not be forgotten or overlooked; and I am bold to express this desire, because, ever since the outbreak, the public journals of the country, religious and secular, have teemed with editorials by and communications from 'reliable individuals,' politicians, philanthropists, philosophers and hired 'penny-a-liners,' mostly mistaken and sometimes willfully and grossly false, giving the cause of the Indian raid."

Maj. Galbraith enumerates a variety of other exciting causes of the massacre, which our limit will not allow us to insert in this

volume. Among other causes, . . . that the United States was itself at war, and that Washington was taken by the negroes. . . . But none of these were, in his opinion, the cause of the outbreak.

The Major then adds:

"Grievances such as have been related, and numberless others akin to them, were spoken of, recited, and chanted at their councils, dances and feasts, to such an extent that, in their excitement, in June, 1862, a secret organization known as the 'Soldiers' Lodge' was founded by the young men and soldiers of the lower Sioux, with the object, as far as I was able to learn through spies and informers, of preventing the 'traders' from going to the pay-tables, as had been their custom. Since the outbreak I have become satisfied that the real object of this 'Lodge' was to adopt measures to 'clean out' all the white people at the end of the payment."

Whatever may have been the cause of the fearful and bloody tragedy, it is certain that the manner of the execution of the infernal deed was a deep-laid conspiracy, long cherished by Little Crow, taking form under the guise of the "Soldiers' Lodge," and matured in secret Indian councils. In all these secret movements Little Crow was the moving spirit.

Now the opportune moment seemed to have come. Only thirty soldiers were stationed at Fort Ridgely. Some thirty were all that Fort Ripley could muster, and at Fort Abercrombie, one company under Capt. Van Der Horck was all the whites could depend upon to repel any attack in that quarter. The whole effective force for the defense of the entire frontier, from Peurbina to the Iowa line, did not exceed 200 men. The annuity money was daily expected, and no troops except about one hundred men at Yellow Medicine, had been detailed, as usual, to attend the anticipated payment. Here was a glittering prize to be paraded before the minds of the excited savages. The

whites were weak ; they were engaged in a terrible war among themselves ; their attention was now directed toward the great struggle in the South. At such a time, offering so many chances for rapine and plunder, it would be easy to unite at least all the annuity Indians in one common movement. Little Crow knew full well that the Indians could easily be made to believe that now was a favorable time to make a grand attack upon the border settlements.

A memorable council convened at Little Crow's village, near the lower agency, on Sunday night, August 3, previous to the attack on Fort Ridgely, and precisely two weeks before the massacres at Acton. Little Crow was at this council, and he was not wanting in ability to meet the greatness of the occasion. The proceedings of this council, of course, were secret. The council matured the details of the conspiracy. It appears that the next day, August 4, a party of ninety-six Indians in war paint and fully armed, rode up to Fort Ridgely and requested permission to hold a dance and feast in the fort. They were allowed to hold the dance outside the fort, but Sergeant Jones, with singular foresight, mounted a howitzer charged with shell and canister-shot and guarded the entrance, having it pointed toward the Indians. After finishing the dance the red-skins left without making the attack, which had undoubtedly been meditated. Only thirty soldiers occupied the post at Fort Ridgely, and this was deemed amply sufficient for times of peace.

On the same day a great many Indians were encamped about the Upper Agency. They were afraid they would not get their annuity money, which had not arrived as yet. They had been complaining bitterly of starvation, and on this day made an attack on the warehouse, carrying off a great deal of flour and other provisions. The matter, however, was finally adjusted, and the agent issued rations, promising to distribute their money as soon as it should

arrive. None of the Indians, however, were punished for their attack on the supply house.

We now come to the massacre itself, the first blow of which fell upon the town of Acton, in Meeker County, about thirty-five miles northeast of the Lower Sioux Agency. On Sunday, August 17, 1862, six Sioux Indians brutally murdered a man named Jones, with his wife and a daughter, and a man named Webster and Howard Baker.

On the next day, Monday, the massacre at the Lower Agency occurred, where many were killed and fearfully mutilated. A few escaped and made their way to the eastern settlements. The Indians declared it to be their intention to kill or drive off all the whites to the east of the Mississippi River, and to spare none. All that day the work of plunder went on at the lower agency, and when the stores and dwellings had been emptied, they were fired. So complete was the surprise and so sudden and unexpected the terrible blow that not a single one of the host of savages was slain. In thirty minutes from the time the first gun was fired not a white person was left alive. All were either weltering in their gore or had fled in fear and terror from that place of death. It seems that hundreds of the Indians had gathered here and then dispersed through the scattered settlements for their murderous work.

On the same morning—of August 18—the massacre began on the north side of the Minnesota River, from Birch Coolie to Beaver Creek and beyond, and the region was strewn with the mutilated bodies of the dead and dying men, women and children. So the terrible warfare continued, murdering and burning ; none were allowed to escape who could possibly be discovered. The outbreak extended over a vast scope of country, and the Indians numbered well up into the thousands. The entire length of the Minnesota and its tributaries, and out into Dakota, together with all the western part

of this State was the scene everywhere of a carnival of blood. The counties affected have already been named.

On the 18th of August the Indians attacked New Ulm, and after several battles and skirmishes were defeated. A few days later the whites evacuated the town and moved toward Mankato.

On the 18th of August the battle at Lower Agency Ferry was fought.

On the 20th, seeing they were foiled in their attack on New Ulm, they made a furious assault on Fort Ridgely. A number of whites were killed and wounded, but the Indians were defeated. The attack was renewed on the 22d and another severe battle occurred, which was ended by night coming on.

Numerous engagements were also fought in the northern part of the State.

Throughout all the Minnesota River country many women and children were taken prisoners. In the meantime companies had been raised and were everywhere following up the Indians and guarding the various posts at which the settlers had gathered. These various companies had also picked up a great many wounded found on the prairies, and also buried the dead. On the 1st of September, Company A, Sixth Regiment Minnesota Volunteers, under Capt. H. P. Grant, fought the battle of Birch Coolie, a most terrible and bloody engagement. The noble little band of soldiers were relieved on September 3, by an advance movement of Col. Sibley's forces at Fort Ridgely. The signal defeat of Little Crow at this battle, in effect, ended the efforts of the Indians in subduing the whites on the border. After this battle all of the Indian forces under Little Crow began a retreat up the valley of the Minnesota toward Yellow Medicine; and on September 16, Col. Sibley, with his whole column, moved in pursuit of the fleeing foe, and on the 23d they came up with the Indians and defeated them in the battle of Wood Lake. This put an end to the hopes of Little Crow.

On the same day as the battle of Wood Lake, the Wapeton band of Indians surrendered later and turned over to Col. Sibley all the captives—107 whites and 162 half-breeds. This place has since been known as "Camp Release."

After the disaster at Wood Lake, Little Crow retreated in the direction of Big Stone Lake, with those who remained with him. The chief was never captured, but is said to have been killed at Scattered Lake in 1863. Col. Sibley continued to pursue the deserting Indians, and demanded the surrender of all bands. By the 8th of October, 1862, prisoners had come in and surrendered to the number of 2,000. Scouting parties were sent over various parts of the West, and, until all danger of further depredations was past, soldiers were stationed at all of the frontier posts and settlements.

A military commission was soon after inaugurated to try the parties charged with murder of white persons. On the 5th of November, 1862, 321 Indians and their allies were found guilty, and 303 were recommended for capital punishment, and the others for imprisonment. They were immediately removed under a guard of 1,500 men to South Bend, on the Minnesota River, to await further orders from the government. The final decision of the President was rendered on the 17th of December, 1862, ordering that forty of these be hung on Friday, December 26. One of these died a short time before the day set, and one other, a half breed, had his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life just before the fatal day. As to the other thirty-eight the sentence was executed at Mankato on the day set.

On the 16th of February, 1863, the treaties before that time existing between the United States and these "annuity Indians" were abrogated and annulled, and all lands and rights of occupancy, and all annuities and claims then existing in favor of said Indians, were declared forfeited. Thus ended the saddest chapter of Minnesota's history.

CHAPTER IV.

TERRITORIAL AND STATE OFFICERS.

TERRITORIAL OFFICERS.



THE first governor of the Territory of Minnesota was Alexander Ramsey, who served from June 1, 1849, to May 15, 1853. Willis A. Gorman succeeded him, and held the office until April 23, 1857. Samuel Medary was the next territorial governor, and held the office until the State officers were sworn in, May 24, 1858.

The first secretary of the Territory was Charles K. Smith, who served from June 1, 1849, until October 23, 1851, when Alexander Wilkin qualified and held the office until May 15, 1853. Joseph Travis Rosser was the next, and served until April 23, 1857. Charles L. Chase, the last territorial secretary, qualified on the date last named and served until succeeded by the newly chosen secretary of state, May 24, 1858.

The office of territorial treasurer was first filled by Calvin A. Tuttle, who served from November 3, 1849, to July 2, 1853. George W. Prescott came next and retained the position until February 24, 1854. Succeeding him Charles E. Leonard served until May 7, 1857, when George W. Armstrong was appointed and served until the State officers qualified, May 24, 1858.

J. E. McKusick was the first territorial auditor, qualifying November 3, 1849, and serving until November 30, 1852. A. Van Vorhees succeeded him and held the office until the 15th of May, 1853, when Socrates Nelson qualified. January 17, 1854, Julius Georgii took charge of the office and served until succeeded by the State auditor, May 24, 1858.

During the existence of the Territory of Minnesota, Lorenzo A. Babcock and then Lafayette Emmett were the only ones to hold the office of attorney general. The first named served from June 1, 1849, until May 15, 1853, and the latter from 1853 until May 24, 1858.

In territorial times there were no district judges, but the justices of the supreme court attended to all judicial matters now within the jurisdiction of the district bench. The first chief justice of the territorial supreme court was Aaron Goodrich, who served from June 1, 1849, to November 13, 1851, when Jerome Fuller was appointed and presided until December 16, 1852. Henry Z. Hayner was next appointed, but never presided at a term of court. William H. Welch was appointed April 7, 1853, and served until May 24, 1858.

David Cooper and Bradley B. Meeker were the first associate justices, and served from June 1, 1849, until April 7, 1853. Their successors were Andrew G. Chatfield and Moses G. Sherburne, who retained the positions until April, 1857, and were followed by R. R. Nelson and Charles E. Flandrau, who served until the State officers qualified.

The clerks of the territorial supreme court were: James K. Humphrey, Andrew J. Whitney and George W. Prescott, in the order named. The reporters were: William Hollinshead, Isaac Atwater, John B. Brisbin, M. E. Ames and Harvey Officer.

Henry H. Sibley was the first delegate from the Territory to Congress, serving from January 15, 1849, to March 4, 1853. Henry

M. Rice was the second, serving from December 5, 1853, to March 4, 1857, when he was succeeded by W. W. Kingsbury, who qualified December 7, 1857, and whose term expired May 11, 1858.

STATE OFFICERS.

The governors of the State of Minnesota, in their order have been as follows: Henry H. Sibley, from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; Alexander Ramsey, to July 10, 1863; Henry A. Swift, to January 11, 1864; Stephen Miller, during 1864-5; William R. Marshall, during 1866-7-8-9; Horace Austin, during 1870-1-2-3; Cushman K. Davis, during 1874-5; John S. Pillsbury, during 1876-7-8-9-80-81; Lucius F. Hubbard, during 1882-3-4-5-6, and A. R. McGill, the present governor, who assumed the duties of the office January 5, 1887.

The lieutenant governors since the organization of the State have been as follows: William Holcomb, from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; Ignatius Donnelly, to March 3, 1863; Henry A. Swift, to July 10, 1863; Charles D. Sherwood, during 1864-5; Thomas H. Armstrong, during 1866-7-8-9; William H. Yale, during 1870-1-2-3; Alphonzo Barto, during 1874-5; James B. Wakefield, during 1876-7-8-9; C. A. Gillman, during 1880-1-2-3-4-5-6, and A. E. Rice, who qualified January 4, 1887.

The office of secretary of State has been filled successively by the following gentlemen: Francis Baasen, from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; James H. Baker, to November 17, 1862; David Blakely, to January 8, 1866; Henry C. Rogers, during the years 1866-7-8-9; Hans Mattson, during 1870-1; S. P. Jennison, during 1872-3-4-5; John S. Irgens, during 1876-7-8-9; Fred. Von Baumbach, during 1880-1-2-3-4-5-6, and Hans Mattson, during 1887-8.

The State treasurers have been as follows: George W. Armstrong, from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; Charles Scheffer, during 1860-1-2-3-4-5-6-7; Emil Munch, during

1868-9-70-1; William Seeger, from January 5, 1872, to February 7, 1873; Edwin W. Dyke, to January 7, 1876; William Pfaender, during 1876-7-8-9; Charles Kittelson, during 1880-1-2-3-4-5-6, and Joseph Bobleter, the present treasurer, who was elected for 1887-8.

The auditors of State have been as follows: W. F. Dunbar, from May 24, 1858, to January 1, 1861; Charles Mellrath, to January 13, 1873; O. P. Whiteomb, to January 10, 1882, and W. W. Braden, who is the present incumbent of the office.

The office of attorney general has been filled as follows: Charles H. Berry, served from May 24, 1858, to January 2, 1860; Gordon E. Cole, served during 1860-1-2-3-4-5; William Colville, during 1866-7; F. R. E. Cornell, during 1868-9-70-1-2-3; George P. Wilson, during 1874-5-6-7-8-9; Charles M. Start, from January 10, 1880, to March 11, 1881; W. J. Hahn, to January 5, 1887, and Moses E. Clapp, the present attorney general.

The present board of railroad commissioners is made up of Horace Austin, John L. Gibbs and George L. Becker. Those who have composed the board in the past were: A. J. Edgerton, W. R. Marshall, J. J. Randall, J. H. Baker and S. S. Murdock.

Edward D. Neill was the first superintendent of public instruction for Minnesota. He was appointed in March, 1860, and on the 1st of July, 1861, was succeeded by B. F. Crary. From 1862 to 1867 the secretary of State was *ex-officio* superintendent, but on April 1, 1867, M. H. Dunnell was appointed superintendent, and served until August, 1870, when he was succeeded by H. B. Wilson. April 3, 1875, David Burt was appointed superintendent, and retained the office until succeeded by the present incumbent, D. L. Kiehl, who was appointed September 1, 1881.

The office of insurance commissioner has been held in turn by Pennoek Pusey, A. R. McGill and Charles Shandrew; the last named gentleman having been appointed

January 6, 1887, is the present commissioner.

The commissioners of statistics have been as follows: J. A. Wheelock, Pennoek Pusey, C. F. Solberg, J. B. Phillips, T. M. Metcalf, J. P. Jacobson, F. Sneedorff, Oscar Malmros, A. F. Nordin, Victor Hjortsberg and Herman Stockenstrom.

The following is a list of the gentlemen who have filled the office of adjutant-general: Alex. C. Jones, W. H. Acker, John B. Sanborn, Oscar Malmros, John Peller, H. P. Van Cleve, M. D. Flower, H. A. Castle, H. P. Van Cleve, A. C. Hawley, C. M. McCarthy and F. W. Seeley.

JUDICIARY.

The first chief justice of the supreme court of the State was Lafayette Emmett, who was sworn in May 24, 1858, and served until January 10, 1865. Thomas Wilson succeeded him and served until July 14, 1869, when he was succeeded by James Gilfillan. Christopher G. Ripley was the next, holding the position from January 7, 1870, until

April 7, 1874, when he was followed by S. J. R. McMillan, who served until March 10, 1875. At that time James Gilfillan became chief justice, and is the present incumbent.

The following statements will show the associate justices, together with the date of qualification of each: Charles E. Flandran and Isaac Atwater served from May 24, 1858, to July 6, 1864; S. J. R. McMillan from July 6, 1864, to April 7, 1874; Thomas Wilson from July 6, 1864, to January 10, 1865; George B. Young from April 16, 1874, to January 11, 1875; F. R. E. Cornell from January 11, 1875, to May 23, 1881, and Greenleaf Clark from March 14, 1881, to January 12, 1882. The present associate justices are John M. Berry, who first qualified January 10, 1865; D. A. Dickinson, since June 27, 1881; William Mitchell, since March 14, 1881, and C. E. Vanderburgh, since January 12, 1882.

As to districts courts, the State is now divided into thirteen districts.

CHAPTER V.

REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, AND THE CREATION OF COUNTIES.



SENATORS. The first United States Senators from Minnesota were James Shields and Henry M. Rice, who took the oath of office May 11, 1858. The former was succeeded on March 4th, 1860, by Morton S. Wilkinson, who served the full term. Daniel S. Norton was sworn in to succeed Wilkinson, March 4, 1867, and died while in office, July 14, 1870. O. P. Stearns was appointed, and served out the few weeks left of the term. William Windom came next, and retained the office until March 12, 1881, when he was succeeded by A. J. Edgerton, who resigned, however, in October of the same year, and William Windom was again chosen, serving until suc-

ceeded by one of the present Senators, D. M. Sabin, March 4, 1883.

Henry M. Rice, who was mentioned as a colleague of James Shields, served as United States Senator from May 11, 1858, to March 4, 1863, when Alexander Ramsey succeeded him, and retained the position until March 4, 1875. S. J. R. McMillan became United States Senator on the day last named, and occupied the position for two full terms—twelve years—being succeeded March 4, 1887, by Cushman K. Davis, one of the present Senators.

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

The territorial delegates have already been spoken of. When the State of Minnesota was organized, it was entitled to two representatives in the House of Representatives of

the United States. This state of affairs continued until 1871, when a reapportionment was made, and the State was allowed three members of the House. At that time the State was divided into three congressional districts—No. 1, embracing the southern, No. 2 the central and No. 3 the northern portion of the State. In 1881 another apportionment was made, by which the State secured five Representatives. This is the present status of the representation. The State is divided into five congressional districts, as follows: The first district includes Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona and Wabasha counties; the second district includes Faribault, Blue Earth, Waseca, Watonwan, Martin, Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Nicollet, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Sibley and Le Sueur counties; the third district embraces Goodhue, Rice, Swift, Dakota, Scott, Carver, McLeod, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Renville and Chippewa counties; the fourth district includes Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Wright, Pine, Kanabec, Anoka, Chisago, Isanti and Sherburne counties, and the fifth district includes Mille Lacs, Benton, Morrison, Stearns, Pope, Douglas, Stevens, Big Stone, Traverse, Grant, Todd, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Carlton, Wadena, Otter Tail, Wilkin, Cass, Becker, Clay, Polk, Beltrami, Marshall, Hubbard, Kittson, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake and Cook counties.

The following is a list of the various gentlemen who have represented Minnesota in the lower house of Congress, with the years during which they served. With one or two exceptions, the term of office began and closed March 4th.

W. W. Phelps, 1858-9; J. M. Cavanaugh, 1858; William Windom, 1860-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8; Cyrus Aldrich, 1860-1-2; Ignatius Donnelly, 1864-5-6-7-8; M. S. Wilkinson, 1869-70; E. M. Wilson, 1869-70; John T. Averill, 1871-2-3-4; M. H. Dunnell, from 1871 to 1883; H. B. Straight, 1874-5-6-7-8; William S. King;

1876; J. H. Stewart, 1878; Henry Poehler, 1879-80; H. B. Straight, 1881-2-3-4-5-6; W. D. Washburn, 1879-80-1-2-3-4; Milo White, 1883-4-5-6; J. B. Wakefield, 1883-4-5-6; Knute Nelson, 1883-4-5-6-7-8; J. B. Gilfillan, 1885-6; Thomas Wilson, 1887-8; John Lind, 1887-8; John L. McDonald, 1887-8; Edmund Rice, 1887-8.

CREATION OF COUNTIES.

In this connection we present a list of the counties of Minnesota, together with the date on which they were created by the territorial or State Legislatures, viz.:

Aitkin, May 23, 1857,	Marshall, February 25, 1879,
Anoka, May 23, 1857,	Martin, May 23, 1857,
Becker, March 18, 1858,	Meeker, February 23, 1856,
Beltrami, F'br'y 28, 1866,	Mille Lacs, May 23, 1857,
Benton, October 27, 1849,	Morrison, Febr'y 25, 1858,
Big Stone, F'br'y 20, 1862,	Mower, February 20, 1855,
Blue Earth, March 5, 1853,	Murray, May 23, 1857,
Brown, February 20, 1855,	Nicollet, March 5, 1853,
Carlton, May 23, 1857,	Nobles, May 23, 1857,
Carver, February 20, 1855,	Norman, Nov'mb'r 29, 1881,
Cass, September 1, 1851,	Olmsted, February 20, 1855,
Chippewa, F'br'y 20, 1862,	Otter Tail, March 18, 1858,
Chisago, September 1, 1851,	Pine, March 31, 1856,
Clay, March 2, 1862,	Pipestone, May 23, 1857,
Cook, March 9, 1874,	Polk, July 20, 1858,
Cottonwood, May 23, 1857,	Pope, February 20, 1862,
Crow Wing, May 23, 1857,	Ramsey, October 27, 1849,
Dakota, October 27, 1849,	Redwood, February 6, 1862,
Dodge, February 20, 1855,	Renville, February 20, 1855,
Douglas, March 8, 1858,	Rice, March 5, 1853,
Faribault, F'br'y 20, 1855,	Rock, March 23, 1857,
Fillmore, March 5, 1853,	St. Louis, March 1, 1856,
Freeborn, F'br'y, 20, 1855,	Scott, March 5, 1858,
Goodhue, March 5, 1853,	Sherburne, Feb'y 25, 1856,
Grant, March 6, 1868,	Sibley, March 5, 1853,
Hennepin, March 6, 1852,	Stearns, February 20, 1855,
Houston, Feb'y 23, 1854,	Steele, February 20, 1855,
Hubbard, Feb'y 26, 1883,	Stevens, February 20, 1860,
Isanti, February 13, 1857,	Swift, March 4, 1870,
Itasca, October 29, 1849,	Todd, February 20, 1862,
Jackson, May 23, 1857,	Travers, February 20, 1862,
Kanabec, March 13, 1858,	Wabasha, October 27, 1849,
Kandiyohi, March 20, 1858,	Wadena, July 11, 1858,
Kittson, February 25, 1879,	Waseca, February 27, 1857,
Lac qui Parle, Nov. 3, 1871,	Washington, Oct. 27, 1849,
Lake, March 1, 1856,	Watonwan, Nov. 6, 1860,
Le Sueur, March 5, 1853,	Wilkin, March 6, 1868,
Lincoln, March 6, 1873,	Winona, February 23, 1849,
Lyon, November 2, 1860,	Wright, February 20, 1855,
McLeod, March 1, 1856,	Yellow Medicine, Novem- ber 3, 1871.

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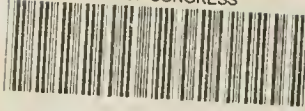
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