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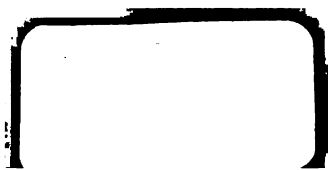
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IN MEMORY

Of Those Killed in the Springfield and Belmont Massacres. Erected at  
Jackson in 1909.

— AN —  
ILLUSTRATED HISTORY  
— OF —  
JACKSON COUNTY  
MINNESOTA



BY

ARTHUR P. ROSE

Author of The History of Nobles County,



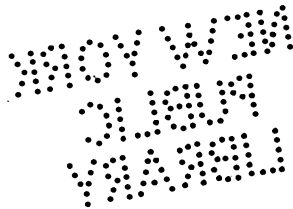
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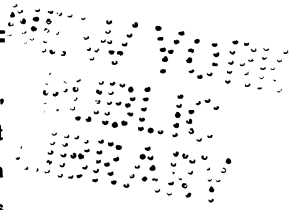
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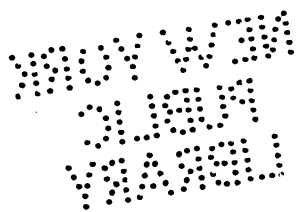
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**T**O THE memory of the twenty men,  
women and children who met death at  
the hands of the Indians in Jackson county in  
the massacres of 1857 and 1862, this volume is  
respectfully dedicated.

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## FOREWORD

OF ALL the counties of Southwestern Minnesota Jackson has the most interesting history. Settled as it was years before inhabitants came to other portions of Southwestern Minnesota, its early history is more replete with stirring events than that of its neighbors. On its soil was enacted the first Indian outbreak in Minnesota, in which a number of hardy pioneers who had pushed out onto the frontier met death. Later, during the Sioux war, the soil of the county was again crimsoned with the blood of those who were endeavoring to found homes on the frontier. Such was the price paid by those who came to live in Jackson county a half century ago.

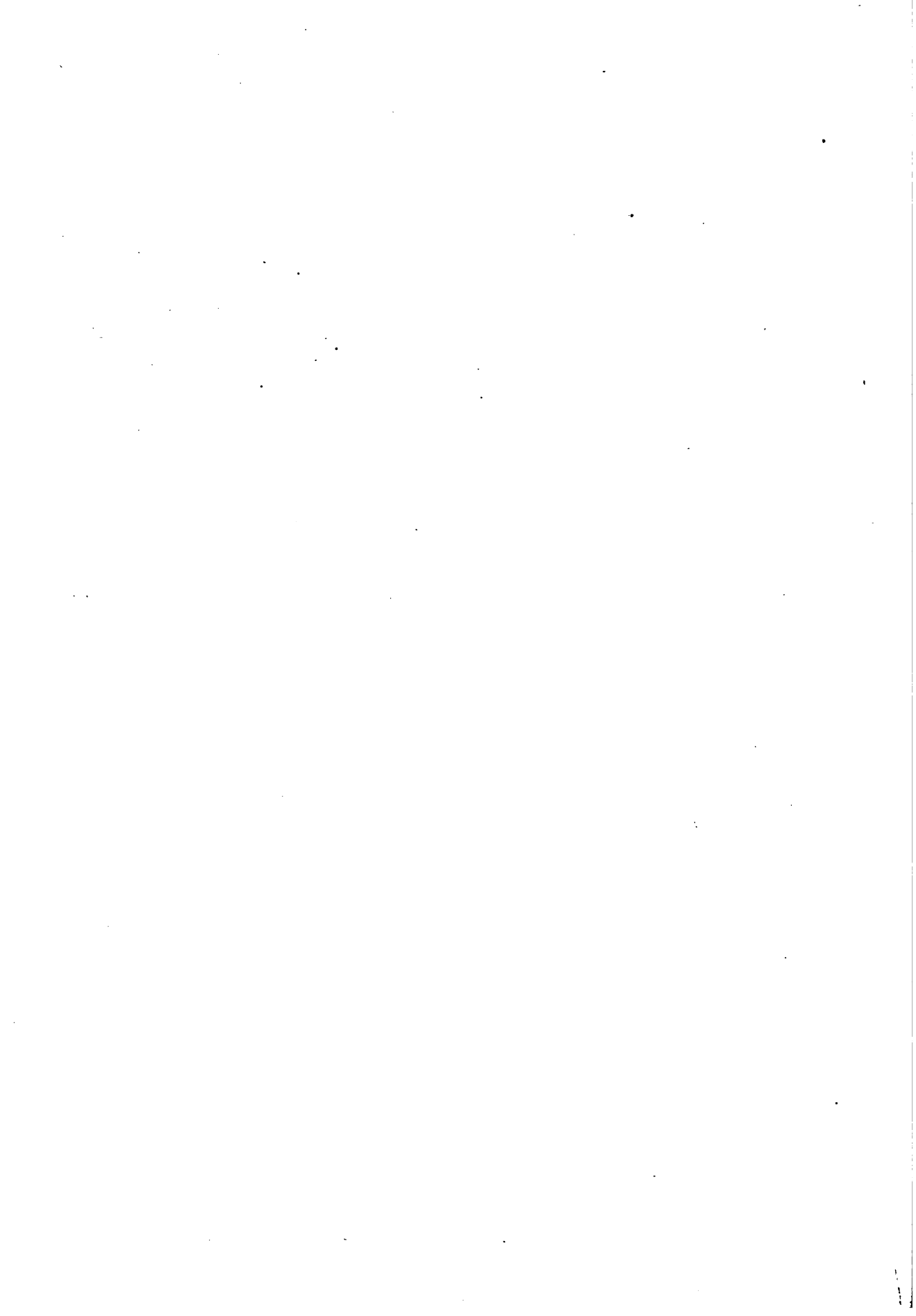
With this volume is presented the first Jackson county history, the material for its compilation having been obtained almost wholly from original sources. Friendly coadjutors have assisted materially in its preparation. From Mrs. Sharp's "History of the Spirit Lake Massacre," "Minnesota in Three Centuries," recently published, and the writings of Honorable Warren Upham, secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, the author has made liberal quotations, and other authorities have been consulted. To the editorial fraternity of Jackson county the author is under obligations. The files of their publications have been of inestimable value in furnishing authentic data. Especially valuable were those of that pioneer journal, the Jackson Republic, of which liberal use has been made, and without which much of historical importance must have remained unrecorded. Due acknowledgment is made to county officials, who assisted in the hunt for early day records, and to scores of citizens in private life, who interested themselves in the work to the extent of devoting time to the detailing of early day events.

Special mention is due the assistance given by Captain Jareb Palmer, without whose help the account of the county's very early settlement and of the Springfield massacre would have been woefully incomplete; Mr. Ole Anderson, to whom must be given the credit for much of the information relating to the early Norwegian settlement and the Belmont massacre; Mr. T. J. Knox and Mr. John S. Woolstencroft, who assisted the author in many ways and who, with Captain Palmer, served as the committee to review and revise the work before it was put to press. In the work of gathering the data the author has been ably assisted by Mr. P. D. Moore.

Probably no historical work was ever put to press which entirely satisfied its author. There are so many pitfalls in the path of him who seeks to record the events of the past; the human mind is so prone to err in recalling dates and names of a former day. So it happens that the writer of local history, compiling his story from data of which only a part can be verified, knows that there must be errors in his work, albeit he may have exercised the greatest care. With no apologies, but with this brief explanation, and the realization that the work is not perfect, this history of Jackson county is put forth.

Jackson, Minnesota, January, 1910.

ARTHUR P. ROSE.



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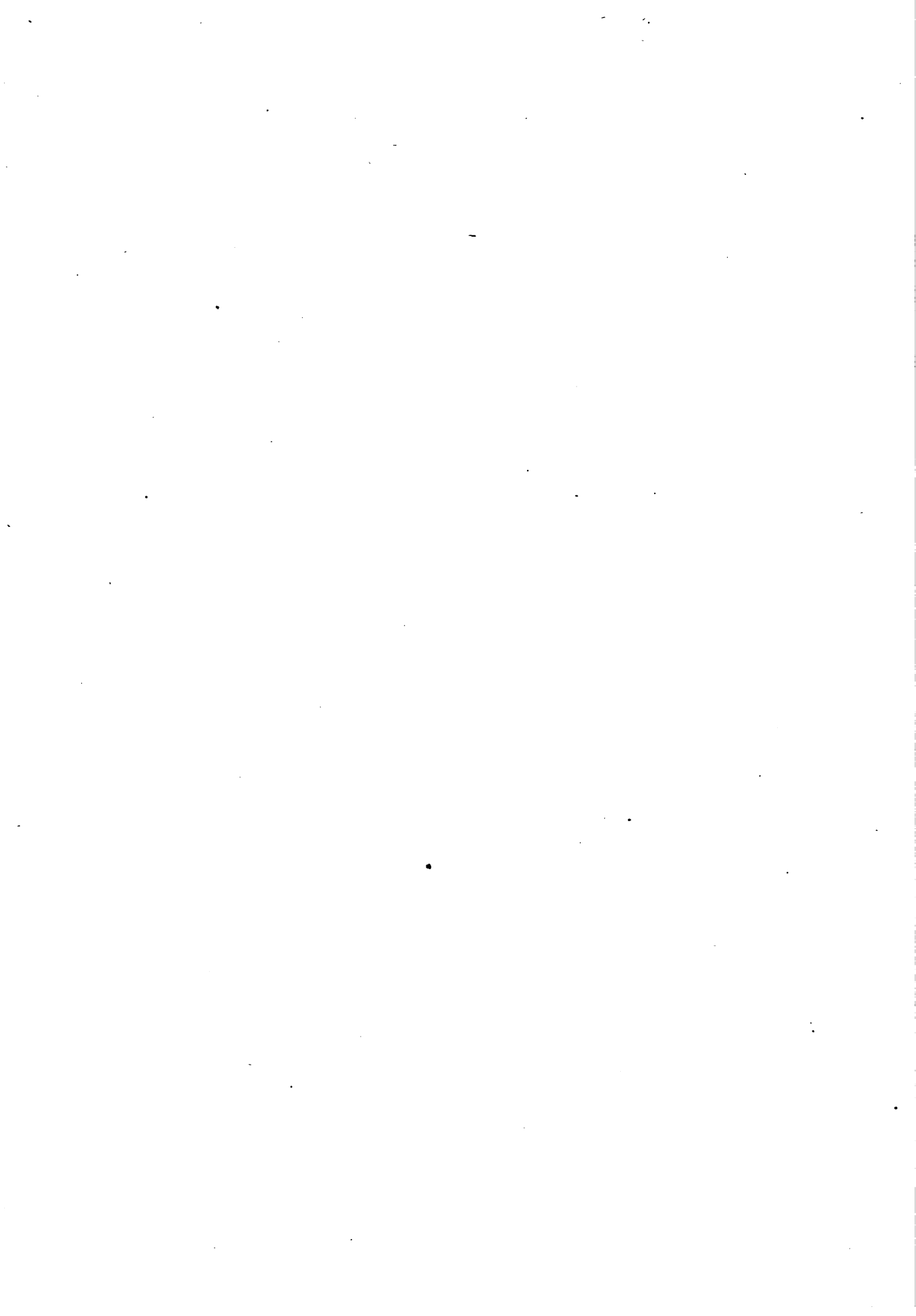
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**JOSEPH NICOLAS NICOLLET**

**The First White Man to Set Foot on the Soil of Jackson County.**

## CHAPTER I.

### ABORIGINAL DAYS—1834-1855.

IT WAS only a few hundred years ago that Christopher Columbus discovered America. That was a modern event in the history of the world—and Jackson county—according to the measurements of time employed by the archaeologists and geologists. We can, in imagery, go back to that time and let our fancy tell us what the Jackson county of that day was like. Its topography was practically the same as we find it today. There were the same broad, rolling prairies, stretching as far as the eye might reach, presenting in summer a perfect paradise of verdure, with its variegated hues of flowers and vegetation; in winter a dreary and snow-mantled desert. The rivers and creeks flowed in the same courses as now; the lakes occupied the same banks.

But to get at the beginning of the history of Jackson county we must consider events that antedate the discovery of America by periods of time measured in eons—events which the most vivid imagination cannot conceive, events which were never witnessed by mortal eye. We are informed that ages before man was made our earth was a mass of molten, seething fire; that in time this huge ball of fire cooled and the earth's crust was formed. This transformation occurred, so geolo-

gists estimate, 100,000,000 or more years ago during the Archean or Beginning era, which extended over a period of time roughly estimated at 50,000,000 or more years. The early part of this period is termed Azoic, from the absence of any evidence that the earth or the sea had either plant or animal life. Following this came the Paleozoic time, covering a period of something like 36,000,000 years, an era characterized by ancient types of life, unknown today.

The next period of time is known as the Mesozoic time, covering the comparatively short period of 9,000,000 years. Our county was land area during the greater part of this time. The floras and faunas of this age were gradually changing from their primitive and ancient character of the Paleozoic time, but had not yet attained the comparatively modern forms of the succeeding era. In late Mesozoic days the greater part of Minnesota was again depressed beneath the sea, as it had been in ages past.

The Cenozoic time, some 3,000,000 years in length, followed, during which that part of the earth's surface now known as Minnesota was lifted from the sea, and it has ever since remained above the water. During this time there came into existence the present types of life,



replacing those of the early periods. Man was created, dispersed over the earth, and developed into the several colors and races.

Most wonderful and most recent of the wonders occurring in the making of our earth was the Ice age, which began some 75,000 or 100,000 years ago and ceased only from 6,000 to 10,000 years ago. Prior to the beginning of this time the earth had been uniformly warm or temperate, but about the time mentioned the northern half of North America and northern Europe became enveloped with thick sheets of snow and ice, probably caused by the uplifting of the land (the surface was then from 2,000 to 3,000 feet higher than now) into extensive plateaus, which received snowfall throughout the year. The lower latitudes retained the temperate climate, thus permitting the plant and animal life to survive until the melting of the ice sheets again permitted the occupancy of the northern latitudes. Under the weight of the vast glaciers the land sank to its present level, the surface was ground down and evened off and made practically as we find it today. With the sinking of the land came the rapid melting of the glaciers, though with numerous pauses and probably slight readvances.

During these millions of years many interesting things happened in Jackson county. From a part of the seething, molten mass that composed the earth during the millions of years about which even the geologist dare not venture a guess it became a part of the earth's surface in the process of cooling. Thereafter it was successively covered with the waters of the sea, was raised from the depths to a high altitude, and was crushed back by the weight of the vast ice sheets. During these various periods its topographical features were formed, many changes resulting before nature had them fashioned to her

liking. Ridges and hills were formed by the action of the ice; depressions were left in which are now lakes; the water from the melting ice sought avenues of escape and formed the rivers and creeks; soils, rocks and minerals were spread over the surface; plant and animal life came into existence.

When Jackson county was first inhabited by the human species is unknown. Archaeologists cannot even hazard a guess when the American continent was first inhabited. There has been discovered evidence that man lived upon North American soil during the decline and closing scenes of the Ice age,<sup>1</sup> some 6,000 to 10,000 years ago, and probably had done so for a much longer period. Concerning the original peopling of North America, Warren Upham, A. M., D. Sc., in Minnesota in Three Centuries, says:

The original peopling of America appears to have taken place far longer ago by migration from northeastern Asia during the early Quaternary or Ozarkian epoch of general uplift of northern regions which immediately preceded the Ice age, and which continued through the early and probably the greater part of that age. Then land undoubtedly extended across the present area of Bering sea.

During Ozarkian time and the long early part of the Glacial period, wandering tribes, migrating for better food supplies or to escape from enemies, could have crossed on land from Asia to Alaska, and could advance south to Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, occupying all the ground (excepting the ice covered area) that is now, or was in pre-Columbian times, the home of the American race. It is not improbable, too, that another line of very ancient migration, in the same early Pleistocene or Quaternary time, passed from western Europe by the Faroe islands, Iceland, and Greenland, to our continent.

When civilized man first came to the new world he found it peopled with a savage race which he called Indians. They had no knowledge of their own ancestry nor of any peoples who may have preceded them. Whether or not this race supplanted one of a higher civilization is a question up-

<sup>1</sup>Traces of man's presence during this period have been found in a flood plain of the Mississippi river at Little Falls, Minnesota, and in other parts of the United States.

on which archaeologists disagree.<sup>2</sup> The only sources of information available concerning the early inhabitants are the implements of warfare and domestic use they made, found in burial places and elsewhere in the land. The Mississippi valley is prolific in mounds—the burial places of these ancient peoples—many having been found and excavated in Minnesota. Scattered through the Des Moines valley and around the lakes of the vicinity have been found many of these interesting works of prehistoric days.

At least one such mound in Jackson county has been excavated. In 1871 a solid stone ball, about two inches in diameter, made round by primitive tools, was plowed out of the ground on the farm of Mr. Hans Chesterson, a short distance west of Jackson. A mound in the vicinity was excavated by Jackson people two years later. The mound was semicircular and several feet high, the outer line of the embankment being broken in several places. In one of the larger mounds a part of a man's leg bone was found. The excavation was not pursued extensively and nothing else of interest was unearthed.<sup>3</sup>

While we have little knowledge of the very early peoples who inhabited our state, from the middle of the seventeenth century, when white men first came to the northwest, we can trace the history quite accurately.

The two principal tribes that inhabited

<sup>2</sup>"It was formerly thought by many archaeologists, twenty-five to fifty years ago, that the mounds of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys were built by a prehistoric people, distinct from the Indians and further advanced in agriculture and the arts of civilization. To that ancient people the name of Mound Builders was given, and it was supposed that they were driven southward into Mexico by incursions of the Indian tribes that were found in our country at the first coming of white men. This view, however, has been generally given up. The researches of Powell and other specialists, including Winchell and Brower in Minnesota, have well referred the building of the mounds to the ancestors of the present Indians."—Warren Upham in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*.

<sup>3</sup>Jackson Republic, August 30, 1873.

Minnesota from the time of our first knowledge of the country, until they were supplanted by white men, and whose hunting grounds long included all this area, until ceded by treaties, were the Ojibways, ranging through the northern forest region, and the Sioux or Dakotas, who originally inhabited the southern and western prairie portions of the state. Bands from four other tribes of Indian peoples have temporarily lived in the state, these being the Hurons, Ottawas, Winnebagoes and Crees.

The Sioux tribe, which chiefly concerns us, came originally from the Atlantic coast, in Virginia and the Carolinas. Several centuries before the discovery of America they migrated from that eastern country, by way of the Ohio river, and eventually located on the prairies west of the Mississippi river. The name of this nation is a contraction of Nadouessis or Nadouesioux, which is the name used for the tribe by the very early explorers, and which was given to these people by the Ojibways and other Algonquins. The original name is a term of hatred, meaning snakes or enemies. Naturally the Sioux disliked this name, and they called themselves, collectively, Dakotas, which means confederates or allies.

When knowledge was first gained of the Sioux or Dakota Indians there were three great tribal divisions, namely, the Isantis, residing about the headwaters of the Mississippi; the Yanktons, who occupied the region north of the Minnesota river; and the Tetonwans, who had their hunting grounds west of the Yanktons.

When white men began making homes in this frontier country they gained more definite knowledge of the natives than had been secured by the infrequent explorers. We, being chiefly interested in that branch of the Sioux nation which partially inhabited and wholly claimed the southern

part of the state, are fortunate that definite and reliable information of these bands was secured and has been preserved. General H. H. Sibley, who was an authority on Indian affairs because of his intimate relations with the natives in his capacity as head trader for one of the big fur companies, has described the Indian bands of this section as he found them in 1834.

The M'daywakantons, or People of the Leaf, comprised seven bands who could bring into the field about six hundred warriors. Their summer residences were in villages, the lodges being built of elm bark upon a frame work of poles. These villages were situated at Wabasha Prairie, where the city of Winona now stands; at Red Wing and Kposia, on the Mississippi river; on the lower Minnesota, below Shakopee, where there were three bands; and on lake Calhoun, near Minneapolis. The Wahpakootas, or People of the Shot Leaf, were in villages on Cannon lake, a short distance from the present city of Faribault, and a few other points, and they numbered about one hundred fifty warriors. The lower Wahpatons were located at Little Rapids, Sand Prairie and on the banks of the Minnesota not far from Belle Plaine. The lower Sissetons occupied the regions around Traverse des Sioux (near St. Peter), Swan lake and the Cottonwood river, their possessions extending to the *Coteau des Prairies* of extreme southwestern Minnesota. It was this branch of the Sioux which claimed jurisdiction over and title to the present day Jackson county, although they did not have their permanent homes here. The upper Wahpaton tribe had its villages on the shores of the Lac qui Parle. The upper Sissetons were on Big Stone lake and Lake Traverse.

These tribes also claimed a generous part of northern Iowa and portions of

South Dakota. It was never entirely clear by what right the Sioux claimed this part of Iowa or even the extreme southwestern part of Minnesota. They had never made permanent location thereon, and, indeed, the only occasions when they had visited these districts were at the times of their excursions against the Sacs and Foxes of the upper Des Moines, or when they were in search of buffalo in that region or about lake Shetek.<sup>4</sup> Their muniments of title were vague and imperfect. After having been driven from the country east of the Mississippi by the Chippewas, they had crossed to the west bank and driven a band of Iowa Indians from the country about Fort Snelling and established themselves along the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers.

In addition to the tribes of the Sioux nation mentioned above as inhabiting and claiming southern Minnesota was another small, outlawed band of Sisseton Sioux ancestry, under the leadership of Inkpaduta, with whom we shall become well acquainted before this history closes. Inkpaduta and his band occasionally visited southwestern Minnesota, his favorite haunts during these visits being the Des Moines river country and the country about the Okoboji lakes. They were outlaws from the Sioux, were not participants in any treaty, and had no rights of possession to land in any part of the country more than a pack of wandering, ravenous wolves might have to the same land. The band had no permanent abiding place or home, but roamed over northwestern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota from the present location of Des Moines, Iowa, to that of Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

At the time of the earliest settlement of Iowa and Minnesota this band was under the leadership of Sidominadota, a Sisse-

<sup>4</sup>Warren Upham in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*.

ton Sioux. Sidominadota was known far and wide for his audacity, bravery and disregard of the restraints of the white man's law and the rights of the Indians. This reputation caused the discontented and lawless element of the other bands to flock to his standard, until at one time the band numbered three hundred. But when treaties were made with the United States and annuities were to be granted most of those who had forsaken the other bands returned to them, so as to be sure of their annuities, so that at the time of the settlement of northwestern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota the band of outlaws did not exceed fifty warriors.<sup>5</sup>

The whole of the state of Minnesota west of the Mississippi river was in undisputed possession of the aborigines until 1851. The fine, fertile expanse of country of southern Minnesota was ground upon which the white man dare not locate. But the tide of immigration to the west set in and settlers were clamoring for admission to the rich lands west of the Mississippi. In time the legal barrier was removed.

In the spring of 1851 President Fillmore, at the solicitation of residents of Minnesota territory, directed that a treaty with the Sioux be made and named as commissioners to conduct the negotiations Governor Alexander Ramsey, ex-officio Indian commissioner for Minnesota, and Luke Lea, the national commissioner of Indian affairs. These commissioners completed a treaty with the Sisseton and Wahpaton bands—the upper bands, as they were usually called—at Traverse des Sioux (near the present site of St. Peter) during the latter part of July, 1851. Immediately afterward the commissioners proceeded to Mendota (near St. Paul), where they were successful in making a treaty

with the Wahpakoota and M'daywakanton bands.

The treaties were ratified, with important amendments, by congress in 1852. The amended articles were signed by the Indians in September, 1852, and in February of the next year President Fillmore proclaimed the treaties in force. By this important proceeding the future Jackson county passed from the ownership of the Sioux to the United States government, and the former owners took up their residence on the north side of the Minnesota river.

The territory ceded by the Indians was declared to be:

All their lands in the state of Iowa and also all their lands in the territory of Minnesota lying east of the following line, to-wit: Beginning at the junction of the Buffalo river with the Red River of the North [about twelve miles north of Moorhead, in Clay county]; thence along the western bank of said Red River of the North to the mouth of the Sioux Wood river; thence along the western bank of said Sioux Wood river to Lake Traverse; thence along the western shore of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line to the juncture of Kapeska lake with the Tehan-ka-sna-du-ta, or Sioux River; thence along the western bank of said river to its point of intersection with the northern line of the state of Iowa; including all islands in said rivers and lakes.

The territory purchased from the four Sioux bands was estimated to comprise about 23,750,000 acres, according to Mr. Thomas Hughes' computation, of which more than nineteen millions acres were in Minnesota, nearly three million acres in Iowa, and more than one million, seven hundred fifty thousand acres in what is now South Dakota. The ceded lands in Iowa were north of Rock river, and also included the country around Estherville, Emmetsburg and Algona, extending eastward by the town of Osage almost to Cresco, the county seat of Howard county. The aggregate price paid was about twelve and one-half cents per acre.

White men first penetrated the northwest country to the present state of Min-

<sup>5</sup>Jareb Palmer in Lakefield Standard, February 8, 1896.

nesota in the middle of the seventeenth century (1655-56). In 1683 the first map on which physical features of Minnesota are pictured was published in connection with Hennepin's writings. This map is very vague and demonstrates that very little was known of the northwest country. Five years later, in 1688, J. B. Franquelin, a Canadian French geographer, drafted for King Louis XVI. of France a more detailed map of North America, making use of information gathered by Joliet and Marquette, LaSalle, Hennepin, DuLuth and others. Some of the principal streams and lakes are marked and more or less accurately located, among others the R. des Moines (Des Moines). There is no evidence to show that any of these had visited the upper Des Moines river country, and the data for the greater part of the map were doubtless secured from the Indians.

A few French explorers, named above, had penetrated to several points within the present boundaries of our state, but none of them had explored the southwestern portion. In 1700 LeSueur ascended the Minnesota river and furnished data for a more or less authentic map of southwestern Minnesota, so far as the larger and more important physical features are concerned. This map was made by William DeL'isle, royal geographer of France, in 1703. For the first time the Minnesota river appeared upon a map, being labeled R. St. Pierre of Mini-Sota. The Des Moines also has a place on the map, being marked Des Moines or le Moingona R., and its source was definitely located. There is nothing in the writings of Le Sueur, however, to lead to the belief that he had visited the Des Moines river country, his explorations having been confined to the country along the Minnesota. Another map, made by Buache in 1754, was compiled from data furnished Sieur

de la Verendrye by an Indian. The river which flows through Jackson county was thereon marked Moingona.

After LeSueur had penetrated to the southwestern part of the state in 1700 that portion of the country was not again visited by white men until 66 years later, so far as we know. In November, 1766, Jonathan Carver ascended the Minnesota river and spent the winter among the Sioux in the vicinity of the present city of New Ulm. He remained with the Indians until April, 1767, and learned their language. It is possible, but not probable, that Carver during this time may have visited the country which is now included within the boundaries of Jackson county, for he hunted with the Indians over some of the great plains of southwestern Minnesota which, "according to their account [the Indians], are unbounded and probably terminate on the coast of the Pacific ocean."

From the very earliest days wandering and adventurous white traders, bartering weapons and trinkets of civilized manufacture for the prized beaver furs of the Indian hunters, had penetrated to the wilds of the northwest, closely following the explorers. So early as 1700-01 when LeSueur was on the Minnesota river a number of these adventurers were reported as having been encountered. It seems highly probable that some of these reckless frontiersmen had penetrated to the upper Des Moines region before the country was known to the world through the published reports of the explorers of this region. But these men were trappers and traders, not historians, and left no records of their doings. What wonderful tales of adventure could be recorded of the early history of Jackson county if the lives of these men could be learned!

When Joseph Nicollet visited the upper Des Moines in the late thirties he

mentioned having found evidence, or having been informed by the Indians, that the fur traders of an earlier day, after having wintered on the upper Des Moines, had departed from a point within the limits of the present Jackson county with their furs. It was their custom to leave the Des Moines near the northern line of Jackson county and strike the headwaters of the Watonwan, follow down that stream, the Blue Earth and the Minnesota to the Mississippi.<sup>6</sup> When the first permanent settlers came to Jackson county in 1856 there was very little evidence of the operations of these former day trappers and traders.<sup>7</sup>

While a number of explorers had visited other parts of Minnesota, and a few settlements had been established, during the early part of the nineteenth century, none of them penetrated to the southwest corner. In 1835 a government expedition, commanded by Lieutenant Albert Miller Lea, of the regular army, traversed the area of what is now the state of Iowa and advanced into the south edge of Minnesota, although he did not visit Jackson county. With him were three companies of infantry, five four-mule teams and several pack horses. Lieutenant Lea traveled northward along the divide between the tributaries of the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers, passed the site of the Minnesota city which now bears his name, and continued to lake Peppin. From there he started on the return trip, going in a southwesterly direction across the headwaters of the Cedar and Blue Earth rivers to the Des Moines river, which he came to south of the Jackson county line. Lieutenant Lea proceeded down the river in a canoe to ascertain if it were practicable

<sup>6</sup>Report Minnesota Geological Survey, 1884.

<sup>7</sup>The Jackson Republic of March 19, 1870, stated that when the first settlers came there was evidence to be found of an old French trading post, located about six miles up the river from Jackson, but I have been unable to find other sources of information to confirm this statement.

to bring supplies up that stream for a fort. He sounded, meandered and platted the river, and after his return to winter quarters published a book and map, giving the history of the journey. His trip led to the improvements that were afterward made in the Des Moines river by the government.

It was not until the late thirties that our immediate vicinity became known and was mapped. Catlin, Schoolcraft, Featherstonhaugh, Allen, Keating and Long were early explorers to the wilds of Minnesota, but they confined themselves to the ready routes of travel, passing through the country in a single season. But in 1836 appeared one who crossed the upper Mississippi country in all directions, spending several years, winters included, in preparing data for his map, which was published after his death in 1843. This was Joseph Nicolas Nicollet,<sup>8</sup> who was the first white man, of record, to set foot on the soil of Jackson county.<sup>9</sup> The principal aid of Mr. Nicollet in his explorations in Minnesota was Lieutenant John C. Fremont, later the nominee of the republican party for president of the United States.

Nicollet gave names to many lakes, streams and other physical features or adopted those which were current, and the map shows the scope of his explorations. The country of which Jackson county forms a part was labeled "Sisseton Country," he finding that branch of the Sioux in possession. He specially mentions a visit to the red pipestone quarries, which he made in July, 1838. He found that the region west of the Mississippi had

<sup>8</sup>Do not confound with Jean Nicollet, an American pioneer from France, who visited the country nearly two hundred years earlier.

<sup>9</sup>It is possible that Nicollet did not in person visit Jackson county, but certainly some of his party did. Owing to his premature death much of a historical nature concerning this region was lost. He had notes for a work of several volumes, relating principally to what is now Minnesota, and he had only fairly started the work when he died.

several plateaus, or elevated prairies, which marked the limits of the various river basins. The most remarkable of these he called *Plateau du Coteau des Prairies* (plateau of prairie heights) and *Coteau du Grand Bois* (wooded heights). Nicollet described the *Coteau des Prairies* as a vast plain, elevated 1916 feet above the level of the ocean and 890 feet above Big Stone lake, lying between latitudes 43 and 46 degrees, extending from northwest to southeast for a distance of two hundred miles, its width varying from fifteen to forty miles. On the map he marks it as extending from a point a short distance northwest of lake Traverse in a southeasterly direction into Iowa, and including the western part of the present Jackson county. The explorer described it as a beautiful country, from whose summit grand views were afforded, said that at the eastern border particularly, the prospect was magnificent beyond description, extending over the immense green turf that forms the basin of the Red River of the North, the forest clad summit of the *Hauteurs des Terres* that surround the sources of the Mississippi, the gigantic valley of the upper Minnesota, and the depressions in which are lakes Traverse and Big Stone.

That Nicollet or some of his party visited Jackson county is evidenced by the fact that several natural features of the county with which we are familiar were given names and quite accurately located. That he did not visit all parts of the county is also evident from his failure to find Heron lake, that big body of water in the northwest part. His map locates quite accurately the Moingona (Des Moines) river and locates the source of that stream. He gives prominence to a lake which he calls Tchan-Shetcha, or Dry Wood lake (undoubtedly Fish lake),

which is just to the east of the Des Moines river.<sup>10</sup>

Mr. Nicollet calls attention to the hydrographical relation of the Des Moines river with the Blue Earth, the Minnesota and the Mississippi. He stated that the Blue Earth, by means of its tributary, the Watonwan, had one of its sources in lake Tchan-Shetcha and that the land separating this lake from the Des Moines was not more than a mile or a mile and a half in width.<sup>11</sup> Thus, he stated, a short canal would bring the Des Moines into communication with the Minnesota. He learned that this interesting fact had formerly been taken advantage of by the fur traders, who, after wintering on the headwaters of the Des Moines, found it convenient to bring their peltries by water communication through the Watonwan valley and the Blue Earth to the Minnesota and thence to the mouth of that river. On the map the space between the river and the lake is marked "portage."

On this remarkable map of 1843 Spirit lake is shown with its present name. One or two of the lakes in Minneota township are shown but are not named. Other lakes in the vicinity which are shown and named are Okebene (Okabena), Ocheyedan, Talcot and Shetek. Nicollet's work was of inestimable value to Minnesota, by reason of the thoroughness of his exploration and the reasonable accuracy of his map, which became the official map of the country.

The next record we have of white men visiting Jackson county was in 1844, when Captain J. Allen passed through it, up the Des Moines river. Upon approaching the region of the line separating Iowa from Minnesota Captain Allen speaks of becoming

<sup>10</sup>The location of this lake as given by Mr. Nicollet is latitude 43 degrees, 45 minutes, and longitude 95 degrees, 12 minutes, which is the location of Heron lake according to the surveys. However, he could, by no possibility, have meant Heron lake.

<sup>11</sup>Fish lake is about one and three-quarters miles from the Des Moines.

ing penned among numerous lakes and of being compelled to cross a narrow strait by swimming two hundred yards. This place was probably a narrow spot in Swan lake, in Emmet county, Iowa. From there he sent a party to examine the country to the east, and they proceeded to Iowa lake, on the boundary line, and explored its outlet toward the east and into the east chain of lakes in Martin county. They reached the conclusion that the water of these lakes was tributary to the Blue Earth.

Allen and his party continued north through Jackson county, camping at Eagle lake and at Independence lake. When he reached what is now Christiania township, near Windom, he described the country as a "wonderfully broken surface, rising and falling in high knobs and deep ravines, with numerous little lakes in the deep valleys, some of them clear and pretty and others grassy." A party visited the Blue Mounds and found an artificial mound of stone on the highest peak.

At lake Talcott Captain Allen left his men in camp for a rest while he himself visited lake Shetek, which he named lake of the Oaks. By observation of the sun with a small sextant he located this lake in latitude 43 degrees, 57 minutes, 32 seconds, but as a matter of fact it is somewhat above latitude 44 degrees. He described the lake as being remarkable for a singular arrangement of the peninsulas running into it from all sides and for a heavy growth of timber that covered these peninsulas and the borders of the lake. Allen pronounced lake of the Oaks to be the highest source of the Des Moines worth noticing as such, though he also mentions an inlet coming in from the north, "but of no size or character."

From lake Shetek the expedition continued northward thirty-seven miles, crossing the Cottonwood and Redwood

rivers, and then proceeded eastward to the St. Peter's (Minnesota) river. From the mouth of the Redwood the southern shore of the St. Peter's was explored for a distance of several miles each way. Returning to lake Shetek, the expedition set out for the west, reached the Big Sioux river and proceeded down that stream to its mouth.

Concerning the big game found on the upper Des Moines and other parts of the country visited, Captain Allen wrote:

From Lizard creek of the Des Moines to the source of the Des Moines, and thence east to the St. Peter's, is a range for elk and common deer, but principally elk. We saw a great many of the elk; they were sometimes seen in droves of hundreds, but were always difficult to approach and very difficult to overtake in chase, except with a fleet horse and over good ground. No dependence could be placed upon this game in this country for the subsistence of troops marching through it.

Twenty-five miles west of the source of the Des Moines we struck the range of the buffalo and continued in it to the Big Sioux river and down that river about eighty-six miles. Below that we could not see any recent signs of them. We found antelope in the same range with the buffalo, but no elk and very seldom a common deer. While among the buffalo we killed as many as we wanted and without trouble.

This completes the record of early exploration of our county, and we find that when Minnesota territory was created in 1849 the southwestern portion of the territory was a veritable terra incognita. The land was still in undisputed ownership of the Sioux bands, and white men had no rights whatever in the country. Return I. Holcombe, in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, tells of the conditions in southern Minnesota at the time the territory was formed:

Westward of the Mississippi river the country was unexplored and virgin. There were wide expanses of wild and trackless prairie, never traversed by a white man, which are now the highly developed counties of southern and southwestern Minnesota, with their fine and flourishing cities and towns and the other institutions that make for a state's eminence and greatness. Catlin had passed from Little Rock to the pipestone quarry; Nicollet and his surveying party had gone



over the same route and had traveled along the Minnesota. Sibley and Fremont had chased elk over the prairies in what are now Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties; the Missouri cattle drovers had led their herds to Fort Snelling and up to the Red river regions, but in all, not fifty white men had passed over the tract of territory now comprising southern and southwestern Minnesota when the territory was organized in 1849.

The treaty with the Sioux Indians, made in 1851, ratified in 1852, and proclaimed early in 1853, threw open to settlement the whole of southern Minnesota, and soon thereafter settlements began to make their appearance in the eastern portion, although it was some years later when white settlers penetrated to the future Jackson county.

The line between the state of Iowa and the territory of Minnesota was surveyed in 1852. The engineers began at the southwest corner of Minnesota about the first of August and ran their line eastward, reaching the southwest corner of Jackson county on August 8.<sup>12</sup> They located the line along the southern boundary of Jackson county and proceeded on their way eastward.

In 1853 Captain J. L. Reno executed a survey for a military wagon road from the mouth of the Big Sioux river, at Sioux City, to Mendota, at the mouth of the Minnesota, but the map of his survey was not published. He crossed the Des Moines river in Iowa and after traveling ten miles farther entered Minnesota and possibly touched Jackson county. He crossed branches of the Watonwan and Blue Earth rivers and laid out his road along the west bank of the Blue Earth to its union with the Minnesota, thence to Mankato and on to Mendota.

The years 1854, 1855 and 1856, were remarkable ones in Minnesota territory by reason of the immense tide of immigration pouring in and the consequent activity and legitimate and "wild cat" real

estate operations. So early as 1852 the real estate speculative era had commenced in St. Paul and the older settlements along the eastern border of the territory. Illustrative of the times in St. Paul at that early date is the following, which was written by a correspondent of the Pittsburgh Token who was in St. Paul in the fall of 1852:

My ears at every turn are saluted with everlasting din. Land! Land! Money! Speculation! Saw mills! Town lots! etc., etc. I turn away sick and disgusted; land at breakfast, land at dinner, land at supper, and until eleven o'clock, land; then land in bed until their vocal organs are exhausted, then they dream and groan out land, land! Everything is artificial, floating, the excitement of trade, speculation and expectation is now running high, and will perhaps for a year or so, but it must have a reaction.

During 1853 and 1854 there were large accessions of population to the eastern part of the territory; roads were constructed; farms were opened in the wilderness; villages sprang into existence in many parts of the frontier. During these years the settlements did not extend to the western and southwestern parts of the territory, but during the next few years the human flow poured in and spread out into nearly all parts of Minnesota. The fever of real estate speculation, which had been only feebly developed before, now attacked all classes. Enormous and rapid profits were made by speculators who had the foresight and courage to venture. Thousands of acres of Minnesota lands which had been secured from the government in 1854 for \$1.25 per acre sold the following year for \$5.00.

Not only to Minnesota, but to all parts of the upper Mississippi valley, came the grand rush of homeseekers, who spread out over the rich lands of Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. These hordes of immigrants did not take all the lands as they went along but were constantly pushing out onto the frontier. The reason of this is easily understood. Nearly all

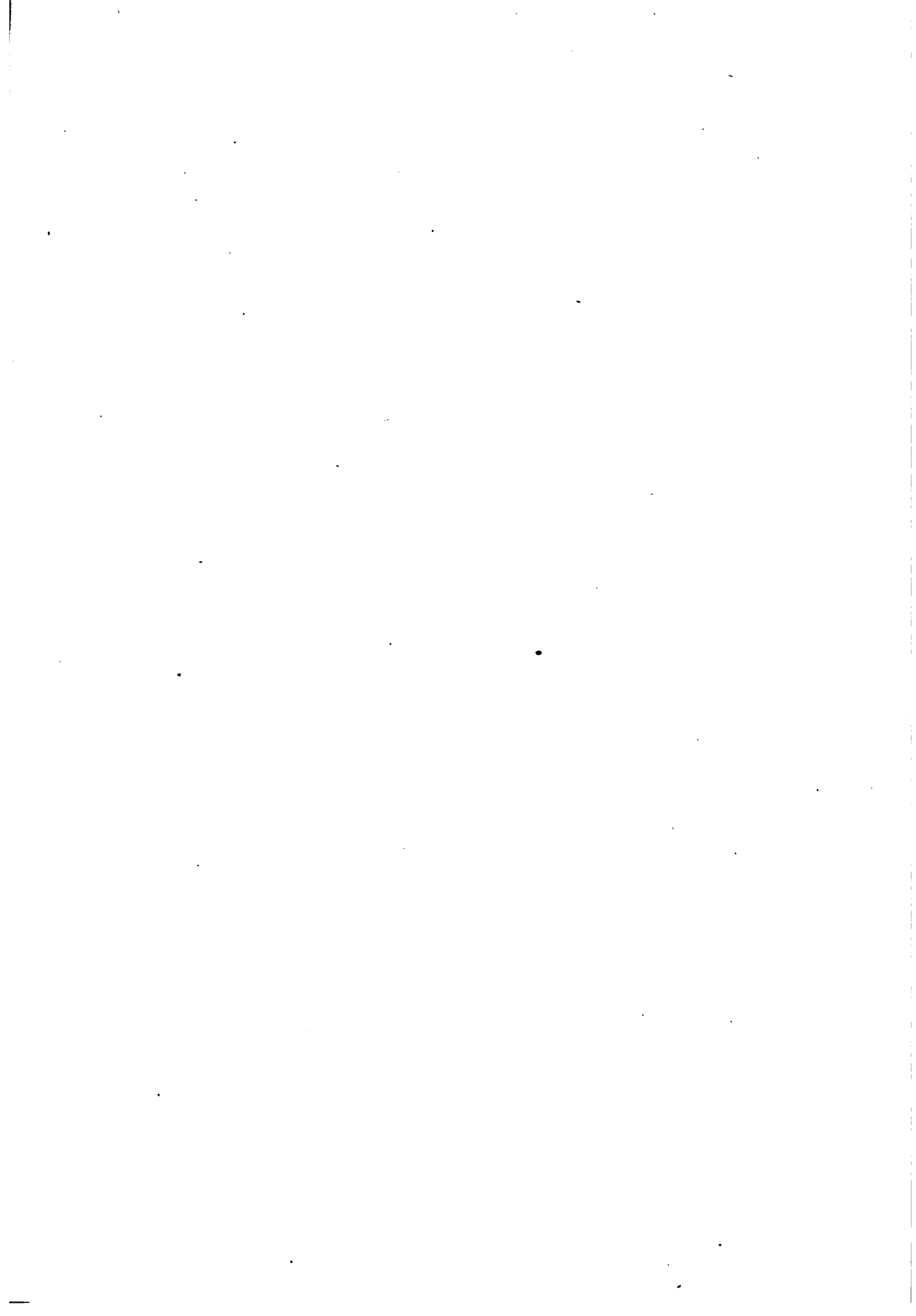
<sup>12</sup>Surveyors' Field Notes.

who were coming out to the northwest country were from the eastern and central states, where timber was abundant, and they were loth to settle on the prairie very far from timber and water. In fact, so discriminating were they that few were willing to settle where they could not have timber and prairie land adjoining!

In consequence the settlements in the new country were confined to narrow belts along the streams and around the lakes, where groves of timber were usually found. So soon as the desirable claims were taken in one locality some adventurous immigrant would strike out across the trackless prairie in search of a place where he

could have first choice of claims. He would soon be followed by others and a new settlement would be founded. By reason of this the settlements were often thirty or forty miles apart, while the different inhabited portions of the same stream were often ten or fifteen miles apart. In this way settlers were constantly pushing out onto the extreme frontier in search of suitable places to build homes for themselves and their families, many times not waiting for the Indians to leave, but moving among them.

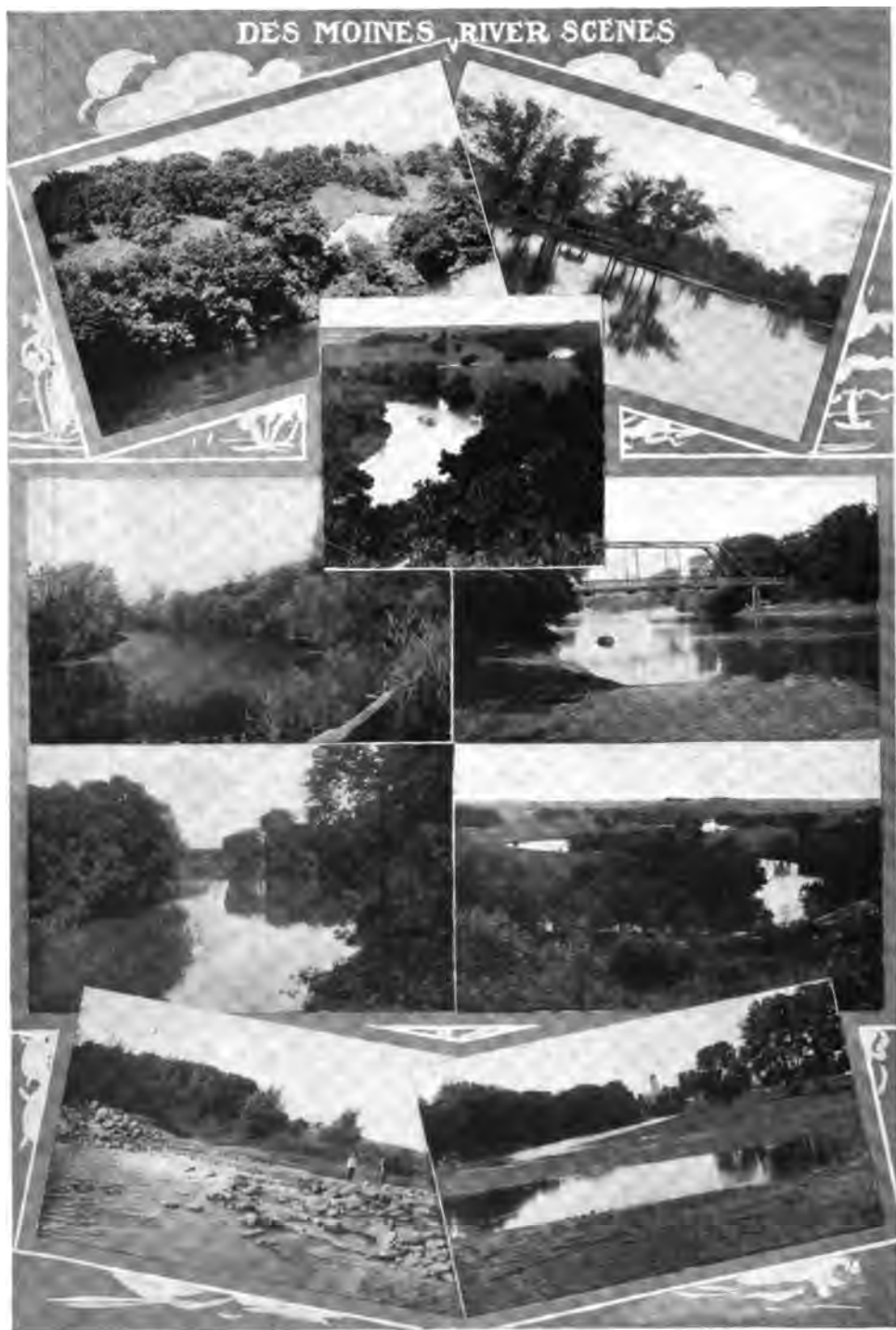
Under conditions such as these Jackson county received its first settlers.



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DES MOINES RIVER SCENES



## CHAPTER II.

### EARLY SETTLEMENT—1856.

**H**UNDREDS of immigrants had come to the upper Mississippi valley during the first half of the fifties, suitable places of residence had been found to the east and south of the present Jackson county but none had penetrated to the sightly locations on the upper Des Moines. Jackson county was without a permanent settler until the summer of 1856.<sup>1</sup> That year, from July to December, some forty people, including women and children, came to the Des Moines river country of Jackson county. They erected about a dozen log cabins along the river, extending from a point a few miles south of the present village of Jackson to a point seven or eight miles north of the village (most of the cabins being in the timber in the vicinity of Jackson) and settled as permanent residents.

<sup>1</sup>Mr. D. S. Crapper, in an interview in the Jackson Republic of August 30, 1873, claimed to have been the first white settler to locate in Jackson county, stating that he had come from the Boone river country, in Iowa, squatted on a claim just east of the Des Moines river near the Michael Miller farm on section 30, Wisconsin township, resided there three years, and left in December, 1856. He said that he broke up ground and raised crops and that when the settlers of 1856 came he assisted them in building their cabins. He recounted many a tussle he had had with the Indians who infested the country and stated that buffalo and elk were here in abundance. The reason I have not incorporated this data in the text is because there is good cause to doubt its authenticity. If Mr. Crapper resided in Jackson county when he is made to say he did, the fact was unknown to the settlers who located in the vicinity in 1856. He may have been in Jackson county in an early day but that he ever resided here is doubtful. He was known as a resident of the Boone river country.

The credit of becoming the first white settlers of Jackson county is generally (and rightfully) given to three brothers, William, George and Charles Wood, who came during the month of July, 1856,<sup>2</sup> and located on land which now comprises the principal business and residence section of the village of Jackson. William Wood seems to have been the leading spirit of the brothers.<sup>3</sup> Early in the fifties he had left his Indiana home and gone to the new village of Mankato, where he joined Robert Wardlow, a dealer in general merchandise. Much of the trade of these days was with the Indians and William Wood had ample opportunity to become acquainted with the aborigines, frequently making trips to the interior country.

On one such occasion, in 1854, Mr. Wood, in the discharge of his duties as Indian trader, and also while cruising and looking about for a location in which to make a future home for himself and his mother's large family, came upon the sightly location of the present village of Jackson. Early in 1856 he returned to his mother's home in Ridgeville, Randolph

<sup>2</sup>"I think Mr. [William] Wood was the first to take a claim in what is now Jackson county, for some time during the winter [of 1856-57] he told me that he had selected his claim some time in July."—Jareb Palmer in Lakefield Standard, December 7, 1895.

<sup>3</sup>See biographical section for sketches of the lives of the Woods.

county, Indiana, and proposed that George Wood, who was then the head of the family, and Charles Wood, who was a boy of fifteen or sixteen years of age, should go with him to the new and promising country which he had discovered and there prepare a home for themselves and their aged mother and her family. The suggestion was approved by the other members of the family, and in July the three brothers arrived on the banks of the Des Moines river to make their homes.<sup>4</sup>

Believing that the site was one favorable for trading with the Indians who roamed over the country and with white settlers who would in time be sure to spy out and locate in this beautiful spot, the brothers decided to establish a trading post. In accordance with the custom of the times in Minnesota, it was also deemed the proper thing to lay out a town. William and George Wood each took land claims. As the land had not yet been surveyed it is impossible to tell exactly the boundaries of their claims, and it is doubtful if the brothers themselves had more than an indefinite idea of where their land was. A man by the name of Baker, who came through the country about the time the brothers were locating their claims, said that he was a surveyor, and having a compass he ran a line north from the state line between the townships of Middletown and Petersburg and between Des Moines and Wisconsin, and from this line were located all the early day claims. In after years it was learned that this line was not within eighty rods of its proper location. The bulk of the Wood brothers' land was on the west side of the river and included portions of sections 24, 23, 26 and 25, Des Moines township. The two brothers entered upon a full section of government land, each

<sup>4</sup>Mr. E. B. Wood, a brother of the Woods mentioned, is my authority for these statements.

an individual farm claim under the pre-emption law (there was no homestead law at the time) of 160 acres, and in partnership a half section for a townsite. The townsite included the whole of the second bench—the residence portion of the present village—and the farm claims included the business portion of the present Jackson village and extended across the river.<sup>5</sup>

The Woods named their proposed town Springfield because of the fact that there was a spring on it near where they built their cabin. The townsite was not platted by surveyors, but was simply held in anticipation of the time when settlers should come in sufficient numbers to warrant the building of a town. A large, one-room log building was erected at a point near the river in the northwest part of the present day village upon what is now the Frost property. In this first building erected in Jackson county the three brothers lived and conducted their store, carrying a stock of goods of such kind and character as was most salable to the settlers, who came soon afterward, and the Indians.<sup>6</sup>

Almost immediately after the Wood brothers had located at Springfield (but not because of that fact) quite a number of settlers—all American born—came to the vicinity. Some selected claims and erected log cabins, intending to become permanent settlers. Others, in the speculative spirit of the times, selected claims and returned to their homes, intending to dispose of them later and thus realize on their visit to the frontier. It is impossible to give the dates of arrival of those who came during the summer and fall of 1856, extending over a period of time from July to December, but much

<sup>5</sup>Jareb Palmer in Lakefield Standard, December 7, 1895.

<sup>6</sup>"They kept a very good assortment of goods for a pioneer store, but a large part of it was intended for the Indian trade, as the Indians fished, trapped and hunted all over the adjacent country and of course had much fur and hides to sell at figures allowing the trader fabulous profits."—Jareb Palmer.

of a historical nature concerning these pioneers has been preserved, which makes the history of the early settlement of Jackson county interesting. The greater part of the settlers of this year came from Webster City, Iowa, and the vicinity, and the causes that led to their settling here, together with the story of their settlement and incidents of the early days, will now be recorded.<sup>7</sup>

In the spring of 1856 a party of explorers and homeseekers left the vicinity of Webster City in search of a desirable place to make a new settlement, most of the best claims in their vicinity having been taken. They proceeded northward and discovered Spirit and Okoboji lakes. On the banks of those lakes they staked claims and then returned for their families and other adventurous homeseekers whom they thought would accompany them on their return and assist in settling up the beautiful country they had found.

Accompanied by others, as had been anticipated, these men returned, only to find that a party of men from Red Wing, Minnesota, had come during their absence and "jumped" their claims. As the Red Wing party were armed and declared their intentions of fighting for the claims if necessary, the Webster City people concluded to look elsewhere for homes. They had not long to search or far to go. They proceeded north and east and came upon the beautiful country of magnificent groves and rich prairie along the Des Moines river in Jackson county. Those who had families and some who did not staked claims and erected log cabins, the logs being cut from the woods along the river. Among the party were speculators, who did not intend to permanently locate but who picked out the best claims they could get and waited for some

<sup>7</sup>Compiled largely from the writings of Jareb Palmer.

one to come along and buy their rights. Usually, if they had a good claim, they did not have long to wait, for claim hunters were plentiful. Before winter set in several of the claims had changed hands.

Some of those who had come to the Springfield settlement, as it was called in honor of the Woods' townsite, returned to Webster City in the fall, sold their claims, and induced a few others to locate in the new settlement.

Among the first and most prominent of the settlers of 1856 was James B. Thomas,<sup>8</sup> who came from Webster City with his family, consisting of a wife and six children, in August. Of all the settlers Mr. Thomas made the best preparation for winter. His claim was on the east side of the river, probably on the southeast quarter of section 25, Des Moines township, where he built a comfortable two-room log cabin with a fireplace in each room. He had a number of cattle and put up sufficient hay to keep them through the winter.

John Dodson and Joseph Chiffin, bachelors, were trappers who were also holding land claims. They lived in a little cabin on Dodson's claim, a couple of miles northwest of Woods' store, probably on section 22. These men were partners and kept a few goods for the Indian trade. Chiffin's claim was on the east side of the river, northeast of the present day railroad bridge and on section 11. He built a cabin there, in which, during the first part of the winter, lived Robert Smith, an Englishman, and his wife and John Henderson, a Virginian, about whom the reader will learn more later in this chapter. During the latter part of the winter they lived in the Wheeler cabin farther down the river. They took adjoining claims on the west side, above Woods' store, but did not build.

<sup>8</sup>See biographical section for a sketch of the life of James B. Thomas.



J. B. Skinner and wife located on the west side of the river, in the timber only a few rods from the river bank, probably on section 3. There Mr. Skinner erected a log cabin in which he and his wife resided during the early part of the winter, later moving down the river and moving into the Wheeler cabin. Farther up the river than Mr. Skinner, on the east side and probably on section 34, Belmont township, was the home of William Nelson, with whom lived his wife and one child. This family also spent the latter part of the winter in the Wheeler cabin, in the more thickly settled part of the settlement.

William Church and family early came to the settlement from Webster City, and he erected a cabin on the east side of the river, a few rods south of where the elevators along the Milwaukee road now stand. In this cabin lived Mr. and Mrs. Church, their one child, Mrs. Church's sister, Miss Drusilla Swanger, and a young German, Henry Trets by name, who was employed by Mr. Church. Late in the fall Mr. Church went to Webster City to lay in supplies for the winter, but on account of the heavy snow he was unable to return and was absent all winter.

Another one of the early settlers was Joshua Stewart, who with his family, consisting of a wife and three children, resided in a cabin about one-half mile north of the Thomas home, and there he had his land claim. Adam P. Shiegley, a trapper of French descent, came to the claim and lived in a cabin in a large grove in a ravine a short distance east and south of the Thomas cabin. He showed his French proclivities by being quite friendly with the Indians. He was a widower and brought to the settlement with him his boy of about two years of age. The child spent the greater part of the winter with the family of William Church

and later was cared for by Mrs. Skinner.

Among the other settlers who came to the Springfield settlement in 1856 were E. B. N. Strong (sometimes referred to as Dr. Strong) and family, who had a claim and lived in a cabin in a large grove on the west side of the river on what is now the southeast quarter of section 36, Des Moines township. Here lived Mr. and Mrs. Strong, their one child, two or three years old, (during the winter a second child was born to them) and Miss Eliza Gardner, who had accompanied the family from the Okoboji settlement.<sup>9</sup>

Two other settlers of some prominence in the community were David Carver and John Bradshaw, who were among the first to come from Webster City and build in the frontier settlement. Both these gentlemen erected cabins on the east side of the river, on section 19, Wisconsin township, north and east of Mr. Stewart's cabin, Mr. Carver's being the farther north. Messrs. Carver and Stewart commenced building a dam across the Des Moines river (near the point where Major H. S. Bailey afterwards started a brick yard) but it was not completed. These gentlemen expected to sell the improvements to parties of means when they were completed. Both Carver and Bradshaw spent part of the winter in Webster City, but returned on foot early in the spring. During their absence their cabins were unoccupied.

<sup>9</sup>"On one occasion, while on a trip to Fort Dodge, father fell in with a Dr. Strong and prevailed upon him to visit the lakes with a view to settlement; but after stopping with us a few days he decided to locate at Springfield. His family consisted of himself, wife and one child (two years old). His wife being in delicate health, and he necessarily being away much of the time from home, she persuaded my sister, Eliza, to whom she became attached, to accompany them. This was in the month of October, and owing to a heavy fall of snow on the first of December, followed by others in quick succession, until the snow on the level was four or five feet and in the drifts sometimes fifteen or twenty, traveling was impossible. Eliza was thus unable to return and so escaped the fate of the rest of the family."—Abbie Gardner-Sharp in *History of the Spirit Lake Massacre*.

On November 27 Messrs. Jareb Palmer, Nathaniel Frost and Bartholomew McCarthy drove into the Springfield settlement from Webster City and became identified with the early history of the place, they being the last to arrive during the year 1856. As Mr. Palmer has written so entertainingly of this trip and of the events upon his arrival, I here give his account as it was published in the Jackson Republic of September 19, 1884:

I was then residing at Webster City but was not a member of the parties that left there in the spring and summer of 1856, though I was acquainted with some members of each party, but cannot pretend to give a complete list of their names. Late in the fall some of them returned to Webster City, and among them was Joseph Elliott, a young man who had taken a claim in Jackson county, then known as the Springfield settlement. As he wanted to sell his claim Nathaniel Frost and myself bought it and began making preparations for the long and lonesome journey to Springfield. Bartholomew McCarthy had also bought a claim of J. Griffith.

We all three set out at the same time and journeyed together until the 27th day of November, 1856, we arrived at the house of James B. Thomas. . . . The next day we set about hunting up our claims. Mr. Frost's and mine was found to be the grove next south of the large grove, being, I think, on section 1, Middletown.

Mr. McCarthy found his up the river, being the grove where Ole E. Olson, of Belmont, now lives. But he found that a half-breed Indian by the name of Gaboo had built a shanty on it and was keeping an Indian trading post there. He also claimed the grove. Mr. Frost accompanied Mr. McCarthy when he went to take possession of his claim. Gaboo was unwilling to give up the claim, but he invited Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Frost to remain over night with him, which invitation they gladly accepted.

Gaboo had a number of Indians camped out near his shanty, and in the evening they set up a great hubub of shouts and cries and lamentations and curses and imprecations. The two lonely white men began almost to feel their hair rise, and inquired of the half-breed what it all meant. They were informed that the Indians were mad because the white men were trying to get his claim away from him and that they were talking of killing them before morning. Whether the whites were really alarmed or not I cannot say, but McCarthy finally compromised with Gaboo and entered into an agreement with him to pay him a certain amount of money on his removing from his claim, which he agreed to do in

the spring. After the claim dispute was thus satisfactorily settled the Indians quieted down and the white men were glad to seek their repose. Whether their dreams were disturbed by visions of tomahawks and scalping knives I have never learned. In the morning the half-breed told Mr. Frost of a claim up the river that had quite a good grove of timber on it; and so Frost and McCarthy hitched up their team and drove up to view it. Mr. Frost liked it and concluded to take it, giving up to me his half of the claim we had bought. His grove is the one near John Monson's, on section 6, Belmont township.

Of these three arrivals Mr. McCarthy returned to his home in Webster City early in December, with the intention of coming back in the spring and taking possession of his claim. Mr. Palmer built a small cabin on his claim on section 1, Middletown, but made his home with Mr. Strong, working part of the winter for James B. Thomas and for the Wood brothers. Mr. Frost, who finally selected his claim up the river, did not build or live thereon during the winter but worked in the settlement further down the river.

In addition to these white settlers there were in the settlement two Indian camps. One of these, already mentioned in Mr. Palmer's account, was located on the east side of the river on what is now section 22, Belmont. This camp consisted of three or four families gathered about the trading house of Joseph Coursalle, or Gaboo,<sup>10</sup> as he was generally called, a well known half-breed Sioux who had come to the country from Traverse des Sioux. Another camp of four families was located on the west side of the river a short distance above Woods' store and directly east from Dodson's cabin. This camp was presided over by Smoky Moccasin, or Um-pashota,<sup>11</sup> his Indian name, a medicine man with the authority of a sub-chief. The Indians of both these camps were annuity Sissetons and off-shoots from Sleepy

<sup>10</sup>Return I. Holcombe, in Minnesota in Three Centuries, states that the name Gaboo, is a corruption of Godbout.

<sup>11</sup>Hamp-pah-Shota is the spelling given by Mr. Holcombe.

Eye's band, whose headquarters were then at Swan lake.

Besides the white settlers who had become permanent residents of the Springfield community and spent the winter in the new country, quite a number of others had been here during the summer and fall. Some of these came with the intention of becoming permanent settlers, erected cabins, and then returned to their former homes to spend the winter. Others came for the purpose of staking claims to be disposed of later and had no intention of living in the country.

William T. Wheeler, a lawyer from Jasper county, Iowa, was one who was in the settlement during the summer of 1856. He came and selected a claim with the intention of laying out a townsite and built his claim cabin a little south and west of the present location of the Milwaukee depot. This claim and cabin were afterwards purchased by Joseph Thomas. Mr. Wheeler remained only long enough to erect his cabin. As has been stated, the Wheeler cabin was occupied during the latter part of the winter by several of the settlers from up the river.

Others who came but did not remain were Bartholomew McCarthy, already mentioned; Joseph Elliott, who sold his claim to Jareb Palmer and Nathaniel Frost; J. Griffith,<sup>12</sup> whose claim Mr. McCarthy had bought; William Searles, who came from Iowa with his brother-in-law William Nelson; and possibly a few others.

A recapitulation shows us that there were the following named forty-two people residing in Jackson county during the fall and winter of 1856:<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup>Griffith was a professional claim trader and was quite an advertising medium for the Springfield settlement.

<sup>13</sup>It will be remembered that of these William Church was absent nearly all winter; Eliza Gardner was not a permanent resident, but was a visitor with the Strong family; David Carver and John Bradshaw were absent the greater part of the winter.

William Wood.

George Wood.

Charles Wood.

James B. Thomas, wife and six children.

John Dodson.

Joseph Chiffin.

Robert Smith and wife.

John Henderson.

J. B. Skinner and wife.

William Nelson, wife and one child.

William Church, wife and one child.

Drusilla Swanger.

Henry Trets.

Joshua Stewart, wife and three children.

Adam P. Shiegley and one child.

E. B. N. Strong, wife and two children.

Eliza Gardner.

Jareb Palmer.

Nathaniel Frost.

David Carver.

John Bradshaw.

The settlement consisted of thirteen cabins, of which four or five were unoccupied the greater part of the time. All the cabins were built of logs, cut from the nearby timber, and were covered with "shakes," lumber being used only for doors. Some of the cabins had floors made of punch-logs, while others had earth floors. Most of them had at least one small window. All of the settlers were poor so far as this world's goods are concerned. The Wood brothers and James B. Thomas were the most fortunate in the possession of property and were domiciled in the best cabins of the settlement.

All had come to the settlement too late in the season to raise a crop or even to plant gardens, and only one or two had so much as plowed a furrow of ground. A few, but not all, had put up enough hay for the few head of stock they brought with them. In consequence of these con-

ditions all kinds of provisions had to be hauled in from the nearest settlements, which were long distances away. These were mostly brought in from Webster City, Iowa, and from Mankato, Minnesota, where the mail for the settlers was also secured. In the early part of the winter flour sold for \$8.00 to \$10.00 per hundred weight, later went to \$15.00 and in the spring was not to be had at any price. Potatoes were \$3.00 per bushel, beef 15 to 20 cents per pound and other staples in proportion. The last team arrived from the outer world on November 27, and from that time until the last of March the people of the Springfield settlement were isolated.

The winter of 1856-57 was one of the most severe that was ever experienced in the northwest country and will always be remembered by those who were at the time living on the frontier, by reason of its bitter coldness, deep snows and violent storms. On the first day of December began a terrific blizzard which continued with unabated fury for three days and three nights. It left the level ground covered with two feet of snow and all the hollows and ravines extending into the prairie were drifted full, in places to a depth of from twenty to thirty feet. The storms followed each other in quick succession all winter and into the spring. The snow accumulated on the sides of the bluffs along the river until it would break off and fall in an avalanche to the bottom. It was absolutely impossible to get about with a team except on the ice on the river bed. The settlers were illy prepared for any winter, much less such a one as this, and there was much suffering during the long dreary season.

It was during, and as a result of, this severe winter that the first death occurred in Jackson county. During the summer of 1856 a military mail route had been

established between Mankato and Sioux City. This was a connecting link of a route extending from Fort Ridgely, in Minnesota, to Fort Randall, in Dakota, and traversed a practically uninhabited country. The contract for carrying the mails over this part of the route was let to Marsh and Babcock, of Mankato, to whom were given, in addition to a money consideration, a half section of land every twenty miles along the route, upon which they were to build and maintain stations for the convenience of the carrier. There were no postoffices along the route. In the fall the contractors mapped out the route, selected their lands and built small cabins thereon, in which were stored hay for the carrier's pony and small supplies of provisions for the carrier. One of these stations was built on the river on section 17, Belmont township; another was on Round lake, in the southwestern corner of Jackson county. No one lived in these cabins and the carrier had to secure his fuel, make his fire and prepare his meals after having traveled, perhaps, thirty or forty miles through the winter storms. A man by the name of Hoxie Rathban was employed as carrier, making the trip on a pony twice a month.

Mr. Rathban met his death at the station in Belmont township on December 26, 1856, after having been exposed to the terrible storms since early December. He had been gone so long on the trip that the contractors feared there must be something wrong, so they sent two men to look for the missing carrier. The story of the finding of this unfortunate man is told in the language of Mr. Jareb Palmer:

Arriving at the mail station on the Des Moines river in this county on the 26th of December, they found the mail carrier there, but in a dying condition, being badly frozen, starving and unable to speak or move. He died a few minutes after he was found. He had evidently been there some time, but had not been able to build a fire, probably being too badly frozen when he reached the cabin

to have sufficient use of his hands to do so. He had lost his pony, probably in some snow drift, but had the mail sack all right, and in it was a letter postmarked at Sioux City on the 6th day of December. From this circumstance it was evident that he had been out twenty days before he was found. His sufferings during those dreary days must have been terrible indeed, without the company, assistance or solace of a single human being. He had a wife and family in Mankato who were left to mourn his terrible death.

The men who found Rathban had come through with a horse and jumper. They remained in the cabin over night and next morning commenced to retrace their lonesome and perilous journey, taking the frozen corpse with them. As it happened, William Wood and Nathaniel Frost had started to Mankato the same day with ox teams to bring in supplies. The two parties met near Elm creek, about twelve miles northeast of Springfield. They camped together for the night, and before morning another terrible storm set in and they had to lay over all of the next day and night without a fire, the storm putting it out, but on the morning of the second day the storm had abated sufficiently for them to make their way back to Woods' store, and not till then did any of the settlers know of the death of the mail carrier.

The party laid over at Woods' store until the 31st day of December, when they once more commenced their toilsome journey across the prairie and through the deeply drifted snow, taking the corpse with them. They were four days in reaching Mr. Slocum's, on the Watonwan, twenty-five miles this side of Mankato, his being the first house on the route. The weather was intensely cold and the party suffered severely, some of them freezing their hands and feet. Mr. Frost was among the number that suffered from frost bites. Mr. Wood reached Mankato and procured his supplies, but was unable to haul them through the deep snow, even with ox teams. So he left Mr. Frost to care for the teams and returned alone and on foot to Springfield.

William Wood, who was a man of extraordinary grit and endurance, made two trips alone across the prairie to Mankato during this winter, in addition to the one mentioned. While on one of these journeys he was overtaken by a storm at Cedar lake which put out his fire and drifted him under, covering him with snow to a depth of two feet. In that condition he lay two days and two nights. The experience was very painful as he was unable to turn over, but was compel-

led to remain in one position until the storm abated. Then with great difficulty he dragged his benumbed and stiffened limbs from under the snow, made a fire, dried his clothes and blankets, prepared and ate a frugal meal, and hastened on his journey. It is such incidents as these that show what these pioneers of Jackson county endured.

Another incident of the winter illustrates the terrible conditions of the settlers about Springfield and brought forth an act of heroism by a self-styled doctor, who performed several successful amputations with improvised instruments.

About the first of February Robert Smith and John Henderson, who, it will be remembered, were living in the Chiffin cabin some distance up the river from the principal settlement, ran short of hay, and rather than see their stock perish for want of food, decided to drive them to a settlement on the Watonwan river near Mankato. Preparing themselves as well as they could, they started out on foot one bright sunny morning, carrying the necessary provisions and a few blankets, driving the cattle ahead of them. Their progress was slow and they did not make more than ten miles when night came upon them. The cattle were somewhat weak and were unable to wallow through the deeps drifts, so Smith and Henderson often had to go ahead and break a path for them.

At night the men made camp on the bleak prairie and were without shelter and fire. To their dismay there came up one of those ever dreaded blizzards—the terror of the prairie. So violent had the storm become by daybreak that they abandoned their cattle, nearly all of which perished, and sought to save themselves. They endeavored to find their way back to the settlement, but owing to the blinding snow they could not tell in which way to pro-

ceed. They became completely lost and wandered about the prairie all that day and all the following night. They attempted to secure shelter by digging into the drifts of snow with their hands. Realizing that their only hope lay in traveling until the fury of the storm abated, they kept on, "going by guess" most of the time.

On the morning of the third day from the time they had left home the weather cleared and the unfortunate Smith and Henderson were able to discern the timber on the Des Moines river. This gave them new hope and they struggled on until, about two o'clock in the afternoon, they arrived at the Wheeler cabin, badly frozen and completely worn out. Fortunately Mr. J. B. Skinner, whose home was up the river, had just moved down to the Wheeler cabin and was on hand to render what assistance he could to the poor men. Everything was done that kindhearted neighbors could do. It was found that one of Mr. Smith's feet was badly frozen, as well as both of Mr. Henderson's, whose hands were also badly frozen.

There was no regular physician in the settlement and it was out of the question to attempt to send for one. Both Mr. Skinner and Mr. Strong bore the title of "doctor," though neither had practiced the profession. The latter cared for the unfortunate men as best he could for about three weeks, when it became apparent that if the men's lives were to be saved amputation of the limbs must be made at once. Mr. Strong had only a rudimentary knowledge of surgery, but he did not hesitate to take the only course which offered a possibility of saving life. Concerning the operation Mr. Jareb Palmer has written:

Dr. Strong had a large medical work and a few common drugs but no surgical instruments. However, he seemed equal to the occasion and never seemed to doubt his ability

to perform the necessary operations and set about preparing the instruments. He was a wagonmaker by trade and had a chest of tools, and out of these he manufactured some instruments which he thought would answer the purpose. The back was taken off a carpenter's bucksaw, knives and nippers were made, thread prepared for tying arteries, etc. He talked freely of the ways and wherefores of the different steps in the operation.

Finally, everything being in readiness, on the night before he was to undertake the operations, he administered to each patient a large dose of laudanum, as he said, to deaden the nerves and alleviate the pain. Everything being in readiness, we repaired to the house where the patients were staying and proceeded to undertake the unpleasant, painful and dangerous operations. The doctor had called to his assistance Mr. Stewart and Mr. Nelson. I also assisted by holding the tourniquet. It was about the most unpleasant experience of my life. However, what must be done had to be done. With our assistance the doctor amputated Mr. Smith's leg below the knee, also one of Mr. Henderson's, but concluded the latter could not endure another without a season of rest, so he postponed the further operations till the next day, at which time Henderson's other foot was amputated. Henderson's hands were so badly frozen that he lost about one-half his fingers. We hardly expected he could survive the double operation, but he did, owing probably to youth and a strong constitution. From the time of the operation both men seemed to get along as well as could be expected and they ultimately recovered, Henderson becoming a minister of the gospel and Smith a baker in a hotel at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

It was here in the month of February, 1857, on the banks of the Des Moines and in the midst of these primeval solitudes and such unpropitious surroundings that the first white child was born in Jackson county. The child was Grace Strong and was born to Dr. and Mrs. E. B. N. Strong.<sup>14</sup>

Of the residents of the Springfield settlement only William Wood and Adam Shiegly had any extensive knowledge of the Indians and their ways; the others were ignorant of Indian customs. None of the settlers had the least fear of the Indians camped near the whites or of those small bands which occasionally pas-

<sup>14</sup>Grace Strong became a temperance worker of national prominence and was the author of "The Worst Foe," a novel of more than ordinary merit. She died at Atlanta, Georgia, in 1890.

sed through.<sup>15</sup> One such band passing through during the winter was led by that noted chief Sleepy Eye, who with a few warriors of his band took dinner at the home of Dr. Strong. None of these parties had ponies with them as the snow was too deep for them to travel. Whenever these roving bands stopped at the settlement the whites invited the red visitors to share their shelter and food and invariably treated them with kindness. Nor did the Indians appear in worse than their normal mood.

Inkpaduta and his outlaw band passed through the settlement on their way south during the fall and camped on the river bottom near the site of the lower bridge in Jackson. The members of the band visited from house to house and were everywhere received kindly by the settlers,

<sup>15</sup>"The few settlers trusted the friendship of the Sioux implicitly, as they [the Sioux] at that time boasted that they had never shed white man's blood. During the whole winter I never heard a single expression of fear or doubt of their friendship."—Jareb Palmer.

who shared with them their scanty fare, which had previously been transported over many weary miles of trackless prairie. The chief and his warriors were acquainted with the Wood brothers and during their stay they bought some goods at the store, promising to make payment in the spring.

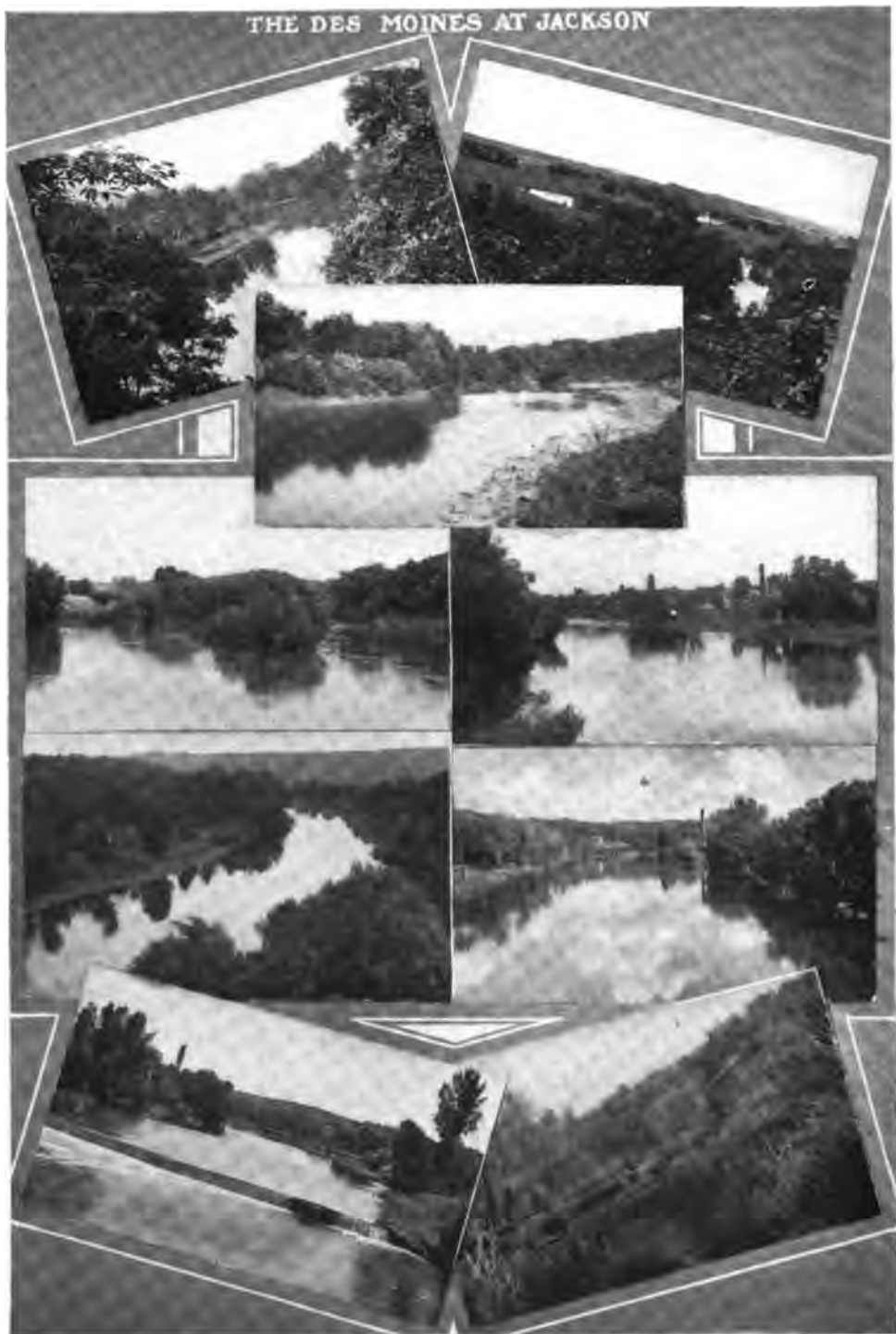
The story of the Springfield settlement has been brought up to the month of March, 1857, at which time the little community was still snowbound, but hoping and expecting that spring would soon appear so that the work of farming and improving their claims might begin. Let us now interrupt the story of events at Springfield long enough to consider events that were taking place in other parts of the country—events which were to prove of terrible importance to our little band of frontiersmen, but of which they were at the time ignorant.

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THE DES MOINES AT JACKSON



## CHAPTER III.

### THE. SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE—1857.

**T**O PROPERLY understand the conditions that preceded, and the causes that led up to, the outbreak of Inkpaduta's little outlaw band of Sioux Indians, culminating in the massacres at the Okoboji lakes and at the Springfield settlement in March, 1857, it is necessary to go back to a very early day for some of our information. While the Indians who participated in the massacres were Sioux, they were members of an outlaw band of that nation, and the outrages of 1857 cannot properly be charged to the Sioux nation.

Except for a brief time during the war of 1812 the Sioux of Minnesota had been faithful in their friendship toward the whites from the time of the treaty made with Lieutenant Pike in 1805. This was true with only a few individual exceptions,<sup>1</sup> which can not be charged to the nation as a whole or to any individual tribe. Although all of the recognized Sioux tribes were on friendly terms with the whites until the great outbreak of 1862, in the thirties there separated from the other tribes a lawless band which were enemies to all other Indians and in time came to be troublesome to the whites. This

was the beginning of the band which conducted the horrible butcheries at Okoboji lakes and at Springfield. The story of the origin of this band and its early history is interesting.

During the thirties the greater part of the Wahpakoota branch of the Sioux lived in the Cannon river country, and its head chief was Tah-sah-ghee, or His Cane. Under him was a sub-chief named Black Eagle, who frequently had a small village in the Blue Earth country. Black Eagle's band was composed largely of desperate characters who frequently made incursions against the Sacs and Foxes in Iowa. The latter retaliated by raiding not only Black Eagle's village on the Blue Earth, but also the main body of the Wahpakootas under Tah-sah-ghee in the Cannon river country.

About 1839 Tah-sah-ghee was murdered by some members of his own band. It was commonly believed that the murder was done by Inkpaduta;<sup>2</sup> at any rate that warrior was an accomplice. The killing of their chief caused great consternation and indignation among the Wahpakootas, and Inkpaduta and his accomplices were forced to flee. They went to the Blue

<sup>1</sup>The Sisseton Sioux murdered two drovers near Big Stone lake in 1846; the same tribe killed Elijah S. Terry near Pembina in 1852; a drunken Indian killed a Mrs. Keener near Shakopee in 1852.

<sup>2</sup>Inkpaduta, also spelled Inkpadoota, has been variously translated to mean Scarlet End, Red End and Scarlet Point. He was born on the Cannon river about 1800. Mrs. Abbie Gardner-

Earth country, where Black Eagle and his little band were then located, and took temporary refuge there. The murderers were soon chased out, however, by the Cannon river Wahpakootas, who vowed vengeance. The coming of Inkpaduta and his fellow murderers broke up the band of Black Eagle and that chief with some of his warriors fled with Inkpaduta to the northern Iowa country.

The band was now outlawed and all Indian tribes were its enemies. Black Eagle became chief and led his band to many adventures and over a large territory, they seldom comingling with other tribes. From time to time additions were made to the band by the arrival of some desperate character from one of the several Sioux tribes, who fled his own country by reason of some crime committed, and sought refuge with the outlaws. Among those who so joined the band at an early date was Si-dom-i-na-do-ta,<sup>3</sup> or All Over Red, who fled from Sleepy Eye's band of Sisseton Sioux. Black Eagle was murdered after he had been chief only a short time and was succeeded by Si-dom-i-na-do-ta, the second in command being Inkpaduta.

When the outlaw crew began its career it is said to have consisted of only five lodges. The band gradually gained strength by the acquisition of disorderly and turbulent characters until at one time it is said to have numbered above Sharp, who was taken prisoner by him, says in her History of the Spirit Lake Massacre: "As I remember Inkpaduta, he was probably fifty or sixty years of age, about six feet in height, and strongly built. He was deeply pitted by smallpox, giving him a revolting appearance and distinguishing him from the rest of the band. His family consisted of himself and squaw, four sons and one daughter. His natural enmity to the white man, his desperately bold and revengeful disposition, his hatred of his enemies, even of his own race, his matchless success on the war path, won for him honor from his own people, distinguished him as a hero, and made him a leader of his race. By the whites—especially those who have escaped the scenes of his brutal carnage, to wear, within, the garb of deepest mourning, from the severing of social, parental and filial ties—Inkpaduta will ever be remembered as a savage monster in human shape, fitted only for the darkest corner of Hades."

<sup>3</sup>Also spelled Sinomminee Doota.

five hundred and to have had eighty lodges. They were almost constantly at war with neighboring bands, notably with the Pottawattomies, the Sax and the Foxes, and had several bloody battles with these tribes.<sup>4</sup> This constant warfare greatly reduced the renegade band, and when white settlers began to gather in their territory they had not the power of former years. Later wars with the Winnebagoes reduced their fighting force still more.

Of all the Sioux bands this was the only one that made trouble for early day white settlers, and they were uniformly hostile to all with whom they came in contact, fear of punishment being the only restraint upon their lawlessness.<sup>5</sup> The first instance of its hostility to the whites was in 1846, when the band broke up, plundered and drove away a party of government surveyors. Two years later an attack was made on another party of surveyors under Mr. Marsh, who was running a correction line across the state of Iowa.

<sup>4</sup>Fulton's Red Men of Iowa tells of some of these battles:

"Before the removal of the Pottawattomies and the Sax and Fox Indians this band had several bloody battles with these tribes. The most noted of which, and that which proved most disastrous to the Sioux, took place near the headwaters of Raccoon river. The Sioux had waylaid and massacred a party of Delawares who were on their way to visit their friends, the Sacs and Foxes, who were then holding a great dance and festival near the site of the present city of Des Moines. Only one Delaware escaped. He hastened to the camp of his friends. An avenging party led by that noted chief, Fash-epa-ha, then eighty years old, was soon on the war path. After a journey of a hundred miles they overtook the Sioux and slew, it is said, three hundred of them with a loss of only eight of their own braves.

"The band also had several battles with the Pottawattomies. One of these took place at Twin lakes, about fifty miles west of Fort Dodge, and another on the South Lizard, in what is now Webster county. The last battle between Indian tribes known to have taken place on Iowa soil was fought in 1852 between a part of this band and a band of Musquakies. The battle field is not far from the present town of Algona. There the Sioux were again defeated."

<sup>5</sup>" . . . a small band of savages, renegades and outlaws from the Sioux, owing neither allegiance nor obedience to any chief or band, or other authority, white or red. They were Ishmaelites whose hands were against all other men, and who were particularly hated by their own kindred and nation."—Minnesota in Three Centuries.

The surveyors of this party had just crossed to the west side of the Des Moines a little below the present site of Fort Dodge when they were met by Si-dom-i-na-do-ta and a portion of his lawless band. The Indians forbade the surveyors to proceed and ordered them back to the east side of the river, declaring that the land on the west side belonged to them. After making this declaration the Indians left while the whites continued with the work. They had gone but a short distance when the red men returned and broke the instruments and wagons and robbed the surveyors of their horses and provisions. Marsh and his men then made the best of their way home.

After this the few settlers along the Des Moines river were made the victims of repeated robberies and outrages. Such conduct on the part of Si-dom-i-na-do-ta led the government to establish the post at Fort Dodge, which was done in 1850. For a time peace resulted along the Des Moines, but farther west, on the Raccoon and Boyer rivers, the savages continued their old game. In October, 1852, they attacked and robbed a family on Boyer river and took a young man and young woman prisoners. A detachment of troops from Fort Dodge overtook a portion of the perpetrators of this outrage and made prisoners of Inkipaduta and Umpashota, whom they held as hostages until the captives and stolen property were returned. At another time two or three white prisoners were taken by the renegades, but were forced by the troops to release them.

In July, 1853, Fort Dodge was abandoned as a military post, the troops going north and establishing Fort Ridgely in what is now the extreme northwest corner of Nicollet county, Minnesota, on the Minnesota river above New Ulm. Si-dom-i-na-do-ta and his band were not slow to take advantage of the absence of the sol-

diers and they became very troublesome to the settlers along the Des Moines, both above and below Fort Dodge. Retribution overtook the red handed leader of this gang of outlaws in 1854. An excellent account of his taking off and the tragic events which preceded it has been given by Mr. Jareb Palmer.<sup>6</sup>

There were also wicked and dissolute white men who lived off the appetites and baser passions of the savages. Among these was a man by the name of Henry Lott, who in the fall of 1846 was living and conducting a small trading station on the Des Moines river a short distance below the mouth of Boone river, about twenty-five miles south of where Fort Dodge now is, and I suppose his principal stock in trade was "firewater" or whiskey.

Late in the fall of this year a party of Winnebagoes came to his place with a span of Indian ponies which they wanted to sell, and they finally made a trade with Lott, who got the ponies, presumably, for what is usually termed a song. Lott's family at this time consisted of his wife, a stepson, about eighteen years old, an own son, thirteen years old, and probably two or three small children. After the Winnebagoes had gone Lott took the span of ponies and started for Fort Des Moines to get supplies for his family and for trade with the Indians. A few days after he went a party of Sioux under Si-dom-i-na-do-ta came there and demanded the ponies, saying the Winnebagoes had stolen them, and when told that the ponies were not there they refused to believe it and ordered the oldest boy to go out and get them. The boy left and immediately started down the river in the hope of meeting his stepfather. After waiting an hour or two and the boy not returning, the Indians ordered the younger boy to go and get the ponies, and he, like his brother, started down the river to meet his father.

By this time it was nearly night, and darkness soon setting in and a blinding snow storm coming on, the boy became confused and perished by freezing to death. The older boy succeeded in reaching his father and they soon reached home and found the younger boy gone. They, in company with some neighbors, immediately started a search and soon found the lifeless body stark and cold in death. Lott seems to have taken the loss of his son very deeply to heart, and although there is no evidence of his seeking immediate revenge, he seems to have brooded over it and awaited a favorable opportunity to do so.

In the meantime [in 1853] the soldiers had been removed from Fort Dodge to Fort Ridgely, and Lott himself, soon after that event, moved from the mouth of Boone river to near the mouth of Lott's creek, on the east

<sup>6</sup>Compiled from Fulton's Red Men of Iowa and from personal interviews.

branch of the Des Moines river (in Humboldt county, Iowa), where he was living in the winter and early spring of 1854. His wife had died previous to the time and the small children were given in charge of his old neighbors, only his stepson, now a young man, accompanying him to his new home. He was still intent on trading with the Indians, taking with him a small stock of goods and two or three barrels of whiskey. Upon his arrival he learned that there was a family of Indians encamped a few miles above him on the river and conceived the idea of murdering the whole family in revenge for the Indians having unintentionally caused the death of his son.

So, taking his stepson, he proceeded to the Indian camp, which was occupied by Si-dom-i-na-do-ta and wife, mother and six children. On reaching the camp he told Si-dom-i-na-do-ta that there was a drove of elk feeding only a short distance away. The unsuspecting Indian took his rifle, mounted a pony, and followed the white men up on to a prairie, where, sure enough, there was seen a herd of elk not far away. The Indian rode gladly away, anticipating a rare treat in killing a fine elk and thus replenishing his larder. He had gone but a few rods when both men raised their guns and fired, killing the Indian instantly. They then returned to the camp and proceeded to murder the whole family, as they supposed, with the exception of one girl, some seven or eight years old, who slipped out under the walls of the tepee and made her escape. She hid in the bushes not far away until Lott and his son had completed their bloody work and left; then she returned to the tepee and found her relatives all murdered. However, in looking them over, she discovered signs of life in her oldest brother, and, bringing some water, she threw it in his face and brought him to. He had been knocked in the head with an ax or hatchet, but was not seriously injured. The boy and girl remained two or three days at the tepee in the hope that some of their friends would come and find them, but none coming, they struck out for a family of white people whom they knew lived on the west fork of the Des Moines, some fifteen miles distant. They reached this place in safety and told their terrible story. It was not long until the Indians became aware of the murders and they demanded that the whites deliver Lott and his son over to them, to be dealt with according to the Indian idea of retribution.

The settlers for thirty miles or more around engaged in a hunt for Lott and his son, but they were unable to find them, for Lott well knew what would be his fate if he fell into the hands of the enraged red men. So, immediately after committing his atrocious deed, he hitched up his team and started for Fort Des Moines. There he joined a party of Mormons who were about to start across the plains for Salt Lake, and as he had several

days start before the murders became known he had no difficulty in making his escape.

I afterward learned from reliable authority that Lott finally reached Oregon, at that time a very sparsely settled territory, inhabited by several tribes of Indians who waged almost incessant warfare against the white settlers. There he joined a band of Indians and fought the whites with his red brethren. After one of the many fights the whites had with the Indians, in the spring of 1857, in which the latter were defeated, there was found left among the dead the body of Lott, it being recognized by a young man who had known him while he lived on the Des Moines. The manner of his taking off seemed to be the execution of a not unrighteous judgment.

After the murder of Si-dom-i-na-do-ta in 1854 Inkpaduta became the recognized leader of the outlaw Sioux<sup>7</sup> and continued operations in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa, and was very annoying to the settlers on the frontier.

In July, 1854, there was a big scare among the settlers of the whole of northern

"There is a conflict of authority in regard to these outlaws and especially in regard to their leaders, Si-dom-i-na-do-ta and Inkpaduta. Iowa authorities convey the impression that there was at all times only one band, of which Si-dom-i-na-do-ta was the leader, with Inkpaduta as second in command, and that the latter assumed the chieftanship upon the death of the former. Minnesota authorities state that after the removal of the Sacs and Foxes from Iowa in 1846 there were two bands, one operating in Iowa under Si-dom-i-na-do-ta, while a few others remained on the upper Des Moines under the leadership of Inkpaduta. Mr. Holcombe, in Minnesota in Three Centuries, very clearly explains the relationship between the two notorious outlaw leaders, and calls attention to errors made by Iowa historians:

"Now, certain misinformed people have been led to believe that the Spirit Lake and Springfield murders were perpetrated by the Indians in retaliation for the murder of Sintomminee Doota [Si-dom-i-na-do-ta] and his family by Henry Lott and his son. It is asserted by some Iowa historians (Major Williams, before mentioned, seems to have started the story) that Sintomminee Doota and Inkpaduta were brothers, and that the latter when he slew the people at Spirit lake and cut off their heads, dashed out the brains of the little ones against trees and houses and ravished the women and girls of the Iowa settlement, was merely taking vengeance for the loss of his brother.

"The truth is, Inkpaduta was a Wahpakoota Sioux, his family were all members of that band, from southeastern Minnesota, while All Over Red [Si-dom-i-na-do-ta] was a Sisseton, from the upper Minnesota. It is doubtful whether Inkpaduta ever heard the particulars of All Over Red's murder; it is certain that he would not have been concerned if he had. With him it was every man for himself, he never had a sentiment so noble and dignified as that of revenge, and would not turn on his heel to retaliate for the slaughter of his nearest friend. Of all the base characters among his fellow outlaws, his nature seems to have been the vilest, and his heart the blackest. He murdered his own people—even those of his own band. He killed one of his companions to have his wife in safety."

Iowa, the trouble originating at Clear lake, where a party of three or four Winnebagoes met a young Sioux alone and killed him. The murderers sought protection at the homes of two white settlers at Clear lake, Messrs. Hewitt and Dickerson, who had settled there in 1851. These settlers were friendly to the Winnebagoes and assisted in getting them to a place of safety. The Sioux under Inkpaduta were in an ugly mood over the occurrence, searched the house of one of the white settlers, and threatened vengeance. The whites became alarmed and gathered at the home of Mr. Dickerson. It was decided to form a company and drive the Sioux from the neighborhood. Accordingly twenty-five whites, under the leadership of a man by the name of Long, proceeded to the Sioux camp and demanded that the Sioux leave the vicinity at once, which the Indians reluctantly agreed to do and did.

After having been so summarily driven from the Clear lake country, Inkpaduta and his band returned to his old hunting grounds on the upper Des Moines and about the lakes in Dickinson county, Iowa. They continued to annoy the few settlers along the Des Moines and its tributaries during the summer of 1855. During the year 1856 they were comparatively peaceful, and no fear seems to have been felt by the whites of the older settled portions of the country or by those who pushed farther out on the frontier—among them those who came to the Springfield settlement.

Now, having told of the origin and having given a brief history of this outlaw band from the time of its organization, let us take a look at it as it was when the settlement at Springfield was founded in 1856 and then consider some events that led to the terrible massacres in the spring of 1857. In 1855 Inkpaduta and his war-

riors appeared at the Sioux agency and received annuities for eleven persons, although they were not identified with any regular band or a party to any treaty. They appeared again in 1856 and demanded a share of the money to be paid to the Wahpakoota tribe. This time they were refused and made a great deal of trouble, but were forced to return to their haunts on the Bix Sioux river.<sup>9</sup> At the time of the massacre the band consisted of about a dozen warriors and their women and children.

After having spent the summer of 1856 in the Big Sioux country, Inkpaduta and his band set out on a trip to their old hunting grounds and, as has been previously stated, appeared at the Springfield settlement in the fall. From their camp at Springfield they proceeded to the lakes in Dickinson county, where they fished and hunted and visited the homes of the whites settlers, as they had done at Springfield, partaking of the whites' hospitality and thus gaining accurate knowledge of the number in each house, and making themselves familiar with the conditions and surroundings. From this settlement they proceeded to the Little Sioux river, camping a few days at each of the large groves.

The Indians spent several days in the vicinity of the home of the Wilcox brothers, bachelors, who lived on the Little Sioux, and then went down the river to what was known as the Bell and Weaver cabin, situated near the present location of Sioux Rapids, and occupied by Mr. Weaver and his wife and his brother-in-law, Mr. Bell. From that point they continued down the river, stopping at each settlement a few days to hunt and trap and enjoy the hospitalities of the whites. They passed the settlements at Peterson and Cherokee and the few settlers between

<sup>9</sup>Paper read by Judge Charles E. Flandreau before the Minnesota Historical Society.

them until they finally reached the town of Smithland, which was located on the bank of the Little Sioux, just above where it merges from the bluffs and flows out into the wide Missouri bottom. Smithland was then a little town of about a dozen buildings. It was an older settlement than those the Indians had before visited and the whites there knew, or at least had heard, something of the doings of this band in former years, so they did not extend hospitality, as had been done by the newer settlements.

Inkpaduta and his outlaws camped near the town and commenced begging and stealing food for themselves and their ponies, much to the annoyance of the people of Smithland. For the first time on the trip the Indians were not received kindly and for the first time they became insolent. A number of incidents occurred which aroused the wrath of the whites and caused the Indians to become more sullen and disagreeable.<sup>9</sup> Relations between the white and red men had reached this stage when the settlers decided to order the Indians to leave.

Four or five determined men armed themselves and proceeded to within a few rods of the Indian camp, when to their surprise they found Inkpaduta and his warriors armed and prepared to fight. They ordered the settlers not to approach and when the order was not heeded the Indians fired their guns over the heads of the whites, who then returned to town. The subject of the actions of the Indians was discussed and the settlers concluded

<sup>9</sup>One morning Mr. Smith, the founder of the town, caught an Indian stealing corn from his crib and gave the redskin a sound cuffing. The Indians alleged that at another time while they were in pursuit of elk they had some difficulty with the settlers, claiming that the whites interrupted the chase. It is said that an Indian was bitten by a dog belonging to one of the settlers, that the Indian killed the dog, and that the owner of the dog then gave the Indian a severe beating and took his gun from him. Another time, it is said, the settlers drove off a party of squaws who were stealing hay and corn.

that they did not care to feed so many Indians when it was difficult to get enough food for their own families, and that notice should be given that they must leave. Accordingly all the men gathered together and went to the Indian camp and disarmed the band, telling them they must leave the next morning, and that they might call for their guns then. The Indians did not call for their weapons, but left without them.

The Indians, who claimed that they were on their way to visit their friends, the Omahas, who at that time lived just across the Missouri river, now changed their plans entirely and returned over the route by which they had come. Their fracas with the people of Smithland had put them in an ugly temper and they at once began depredations upon the exposed and scattered settlements, although they did not shed human blood until they were on the extreme frontier.

At the first house they came to after leaving Smithland, the occupants being ignorant of the troubles at the latter place, the Indians seized the guns of the inmates. They then ransacked the cabin, taking all the money they could find and what trinkets pleased their fancy. Inkpaduta and his warriors and squaws continued in a northeasterly direction toward Cherokee, helping themselves to provisions and in some places killing cattle to supply themselves with meat. As the settlers along this route were from ten to twenty miles apart, and as the snow was of enormous depth, preventing travel, one settler did not know what was happening to his neighbor, so each in turn fell easy prey to the vagabonds and none offered resistance.

Some fifty miles above Smithland was a little settlement of about a dozen houses, founded by a colony of adventurous men from Massachusetts and named Cherokee.

The people of this village had, in some manner, learned of the outrages committed below and had hidden their guns, provisions and such valuables as the Indians would be likely to take.<sup>10</sup> This action caused the Indians to become very angry and they threatened to take the lives of the settlers unless the hidden property was produced. Only by a narrow margin was a massacre averted. The whites were generally firm and the Indians got but little from the settlement. They had the satisfaction, however, of killing most of the stock before leaving.

At one cabin in Cherokee three bachelors who lived there did not hide their guns, nor did they propose to give them up. This action resulted in threats to shoot by both parties and bloodshed was narrowly averted. When the whites refused to give up their weapons the Indians cocked their guns and pointed them at the men, sticking the muzzles almost in their faces. The whites acted instantly and brought their weapons to bear upon the reds in the same way. For a time it looked as though some one would surely get hurt, but neither party fired and finally the Indians lowered their weapons. Before they left they succeeded in getting hold of one of the men, dragged him from the cabin, wrenched his gun away from him, and beat and kicked him severely, breaking several of his ribs. His companions finally got him inside the cabin and fastened the door. This so enraged the Indians that they fired several shots through the door, but none of the occupants was hit. The whites did not return the fire.

<sup>10</sup>"At this place the whites had heard something of the trouble before the arrival of Inkpaduta and his band, and, I presume, had they gathered together in one of the log houses, they might easily have defended themselves against this small band, but they were in the midst of an Indian country, and should they fire upon and kill any of the redskins, it was supposed that it would precipitate the whole Sioux nation upon themselves and other defenseless settlers. I might here remark that the same idea and feeling prevailed among nearly all the people on the frontier at that time."—Jareb Palmer.

As the savages proceeded up the Little Sioux they became still bolder and more insolent, stealing all the horses from the settlers, destroying all the property that was too bulky for them to take with them, and in several instances ravishing white women. From Cherokee they proceeded to Peterson, in Clay county, where the story of their outrages having preceded them, the settlers had secreted their weapons, provisions and valuables. But by bullying and abusing the settlers the Indians compelled many to produce their hidden stores, of which the outlaws took what they wanted. At this place they took two girls, aged seventeen and twelve years, to their camp. The younger they released the next day, but the older girl they kept in their camp more than a week. When they were ready to leave the young lady was permitted to return to her home.

From Peterson the red devils proceeded to the cabin of Bell and Weaver. Here they committed all kinds of deviltry, some so revolting as to be unfit to print. Among other things, the Indians amused themselves by compelling Mr. Bell to stand against the wall while they threw their long knives and stuck them in the wall around his head. After the redskins had left, Mr. Bell and Mr. and Mrs. Weaver started out on foot across the trackless and snow-covered prairie in seeming futile attempt to reach Fort Dodge, fifty miles away. After enduring the most intense suffering from fatigue, hunger and exposure, the fugitives reached Fort Dodge and were the first to bring intelligence of the dangerous situation on the frontier.

Major William Williams, of Fort Dodge, had been authorized by the Iowa legislature to take measures for the protection of the frontier should he deem it to be in danger. Therefore he at once organized a company of fifty men and was soon on his



way to the settlements on the Little Sioux. Upon his arrival he found that the Indians had gone. After learning the particulars of the atrocities committed, Major Williams, instead of following the Indians, as it would seem it was his duty to do, gave what relief he could to the people who had suffered at the hands of the Indians and then returned home.<sup>11</sup>

From the Bell and Weaver cabin Inkpaduta and his Indians went to the Wilcox cabin, where they continued their depredations, but fortunately there were no women there. They took three horses belonging to the Wilcox brothers and then proceeded eastward to the Okoboji lakes settlement.

Such was the gang of desperadoes approaching the exposed settlements and the unsuspecting settlers on the extreme frontier at Okoboji lakes and at Springfield. No warning had they that Inkpaduta and his ruffian band, who had been peaceably inclined on their visit in the fall, was returning in a far different mood, bent on murder.

The Indians arrived in the vicinity of Okoboji lakes on the evening of March 7<sup>12</sup> and went into camp near the cabin of Mr. Mattock, where Arnold's Park is now. The band consisted of fifteen warriors,

<sup>11</sup>It is barely possible that Major Williams did not know that there were white settlers in the direction in which the Indians had gone. Mr. Jareb Palmer has written of this possibility as follows:

"On reaching the Little Sioux he [Major Williams] found that the Indians had left, they having gone in the direction of Spirit lake. The settlement at Spirit lake was of so recent date that I presume the major was ignorant of its existence and it is possible that he had never even heard of Spirit lake itself, as it was only just beginning to be talked about."

<sup>12</sup>This is undoubtedly the date of their arrival and is the one given by Mrs. Sharp. Judge Flandreau says they must have arrived on the 6th or 7th. R. A. Smith, in his history of Dickinson county, gives an earlier date and says: "A letter found upon the ground written by Dr. Harriot, dated March 5 (two days before the massacre), referred to the fact that the Indians were camped there, that they were on friendly terms with them and that they had done some trading with them. Other matters were referred to in the letter which showed that they had no suspicions of danger." It is very probable that the Indians who arrived before the 7th were members of some other band, or, possibly, scouts from the renegade band.

including Inkpaduta, with the squaws, papooses and the usual complement of ponies, dogs and other appurtenances of an Indian camp. On the morning of the 8th began the awful massacre. No white person knows the particulars of the beginning of the butchery, for at the Mattock home, where it began, all were killed. The killing of the settlers continued for several days, at the end of which time every white person in the Spirit lake country, with the exception of four women captives, was murdered, while none of the Indians, so far as is known, was harmed.

It is not my intention to go into the details of this butchery at Okoboji lakes, commonly called the Spirit lake massacre,<sup>13</sup> but to simply give a few facts concerning it, that the reader may gain an idea of the temper of the Indians when they attacked Springfield. In fact, the only approach to an authentic account of the massacre is that given by Mrs. Abbie Gardner-Sharp, and her story is confined principally to the events at her father's house.

When the Indians appeared in the settlement on the morning of March 8 they continued the insolent, overbearing manner they had employed on the Little Sioux, those of the whites who came in contact with them noticing that they displayed their sullenness and insolence to an unusual degree. Some of the settlers became alarmed, but others professed to believe that the Indians were simply in one of their peevish moods, and scouted the idea of any serious trouble. At breakfast time an Indian came to the home of Rowland Gardner, one of the prominent settlers of the place, and was given his breakfast. He was followed by others

<sup>13</sup>Out of about forty people killed in this massacre only one was killed on Spirit lake; the others had their homes on the Okoboji lakes. At the time the whole lake country of Dickinson county was known as the Spirit lake country; hence the commonly applied name of the massacre.

until the whole fighting force, including Inkpaduta and his fourteen warriors, with their squaws and papooses, were in the house, and all were fed. Suddenly they became sullen, demanding ammunition and numerous other things, and not having all their requests granted, attempted to shoot one of the inmates. They prowled around the place until noon and then went away, taking Mr. Gardner's cattle with them and shooting them on the way back to camp.

The Indians returned to this home in the afternoon, took Miss Abbie Gardner, then fourteen years of age, prisoner, and murdered the rest of the family. Miss Gardner (now Mrs. Sharp) has graphically described the murder of her family in her *History of the Spirit Lake Massacre*, from which I quote:

About three o'clock we heard the report of guns, in rapid succession, from the house of Mr. Mattock. We were, then, no longer in doubt as to the awful reality that was hanging over us. Two long hours we passed in this fearful anxiety and suspense, waiting and watching, with conflicting hopes and fears, for Mr. Luce and Mr. Clark [who had gone to warn some of the neighbors] to return. At length, just as the sun was sinking behind the western horizon, shedding its brilliant rays over the snowy landscape, father, whose anxiety would no longer allow him to remain within doors, went out to reconnoiter. He, however, hastily returned, saying: "Nine Indians are coming, now only a short distance from the house, and we are all doomed to die." His first thought was to barricade the door and fight till the last, saying: "While they are killing all of us, I will kill a few of them with the two loaded guns still left in the house." But to this mother protested, having not yet lost all faith in the savage monsters, and still hoping they would appreciate our kindness and spare our lives she said: "If we have to die, let us die innocent of shedding blood."

Alas, for the faith placed in these inhuman monsters! They entered the house and demanded more flour; and, as father turned to get them what remained of our scanty store, they shot him through the heart; he fell upon his right side and died without a struggle. When first the Indian raised his gun to fire, mother or Mrs. Luce seized the gun and drew it down; but the other Indians instantly turned upon them, seized them by the arms, and beat them over the head with the butts of

their guns; then dragged them out of doors and killed them in the most cruel and shocking manner.

They then began an indiscriminate destruction of everything in the house; breaking open trunks and taking out clothing, cutting open feather beds, and scattering the feathers everywhere. When the Indians entered the house, and during these awful scenes, I was seated in a chair, holding my sister's baby in my arms; her little boy on one side, and my little brother on the other, clinging to me in terror. They next seized the children, tearing them from me one by one, while they reached their little arms to me, crying piteously for protection that I was powerless to give. Headless of their cries, they dragged them out of doors and beat them to death with sticks of stovewood.

All this time I was both speechless and tearless; but now, left alone, I begged them to kill me. It seemed as though I could not wait for them to finish their work of death. One of them approached, and roughly seizing me by the arm said something I could not understand, but I well knew, from their actions, that I was to be a captive. All the terrible tortures and indignities I had ever read or heard of being inflicted upon their captives now arose in horrid vividness before me.

After ransacking the house and taking whatever they thought might be serviceable, such as provisions, bedding, arms and ammunition, and after the terrible scalping knife had done its terrible work, I was dragged from the never-to-be-forgotten scene. No language can ever suggest, much less adequately portray, my feelings as I passed that door.

With a naturally sensitive nature, tenderly and affectionately reared, shuddering at the very thought of cruelty, you can, my dear reader, imagine, but only imagine, the agony I endured when so suddenly plunged into scenes from which no element of the terrible or revolting seemed wanting. Behind me I left my heroic father, murdered in a cowardly manner in the very act of extreme hospitality; shot down at my feet, and I had not the privilege of impressing one farewell kiss upon his lips, yet warm with life and affection. Just outside the door lay the three children—so dear to me—bruised, mangled and bleeding; while their moans and groans pierced my ears and called in vain for one loving caress which I was prevented from giving them. A little farther on lay my Christ-like mother, who till the very last had pleaded the cause of her brutish murderers, literally weltering in her own blood. Still farther on, at the southwest corner of the house, in a similar condition, lay my eldest sister, Mrs. Luce, who had been so intimately associated with me from earliest recollections. Amid these scenes of unutterable horror I took my farewell look upon father, mother, sister and brother and my sister's little ones.

Filled with loathing for these wretches

whose hands were still wet with the blood of those dearest to me, and at one of whose belts still hung the dripping scalp of my mother, with even the much coveted boon of death denied me, we plunged into the gloom of the forest and the coming night; but neither the gloom of the forest, nor the blackness of the night, nor both combined, could begin to symbolize the darkness of my terror-stricken heart.

Another place of butchery was at the home of Mr. Mattock, where an abortive attempt at defense had been made. Apparently the whites had been in the house, and the Indians, to drive them out, had fired the cabin—the only instance in which a cabin was burned. A few weapons were found near the bodies of some of the slain men, leading to the belief that a fight had been made. Mrs. Sharp describes the scenes at this point as she remembers them:

A tramp of about one mile brought me to the camp of my captors, which was the home of Mr. Mattock. Here the sights and sounds that met the eye and ear were truly appalling. The forest was lighted by the camp fires and also by the burning of the cabins, and the air was rent with the unearthly war-whoop of the savages and the shrieks and groans of two helpless victims confined in the burning cabin, suffering all the agonies of a fiery death. Scattered upon the ground were a number of bodies, among which I recognized that of Dr. Harriot, rifle still in hand; as well as the bodies of Mr. Mattock, Mr. Snyder and others, with rifles near them, some broken. All gave evidence that an attempt at resistance had been made, but too late.

A few others were murdered during the day, making a total of twenty lives taken on that 8th day of March. In the language of Mrs. Sharp:

All this must be celebrated by the war-dance—that hideous revelry that seems to have been borrowed from the lowest depths of Tartarus. Near the ghastly corpses and over the blood-stained snow, with blackened faces and fierce uncouth gestures, and with wild screams and yells, they circled round and round, keeping time to the dullest, dreariest sound of drum and rattle, until complete exhaustion compelled them to desist.

On the 9th the demons completed their work of carnage in the immediate vicinity by the murder of the four remaining families and the taking of two more wom-

en prisoners, Mrs. Lydia Noble and Mrs. Elizabeth Thatcher. At one home they seized the children by the feet, dragging them from their mother's arms, and dashed their brains out against an oak tree. On the 10th they broke camp and crossed West Okoboji lake on the ice, traveled to the west a distance of three miles, and went into camp. The savages broke camp again on the 11th and moved northwesterly to the Marble grove on the west side of Spirit lake. They were ignorant of the fact that there were any more whites in the vicinity and did not find it out until the 13th, when they murdered Mr. Marble and took his wife, Mrs. Margaret Marble, prisoner. This was the last butchery in the vicinity and the event was celebrated by a war dance.

From this camp on Spirit lake, on the 13th, Inkipaduta and his bloodthirsty warriors, with the booty and captives, set out in a northerly direction and entered Jackson county. They traveled in a leisurely manner, camping in the groves along the streams and by the little lakes, never stopping more than one night in a place, feasting upon the provisions taken from their victims. During this journey they were planning the attack on the Springfield settlement and, according to Mrs. Sharp, were negotiating with the Indians of Umpashota's and Gaboo's camps for assistance in the work. On the 26th of March camp was pitched on the bank of Heron lake, some fifteen miles from the Springfield settlement.

Let us, for the time being, leave this red-handed band of murderers at their camp on Heron lake, making preparation for future crimes, and again take up our story of the Springfield settlers as we left them, anxiously waiting for the opening of spring.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE SPRINGFIELD MASSACRE—1857.

**T**HE massacre at Okoboji lakes had occurred without warning; the settlers there had no inkling that the redskins were on the warpath. At Springfield ample warning had been given.

During the winter the Indians of the Springfield settlement seem to have known, or at least expected, that there was soon to be trouble between Inkpaduta's band and the whites. Some time during the winter Adam P. Shiegley, the trapper who made his home near the other whites of the settlement, had asked the daughter of Umpashota to marry him, but she declined his offer, saying that there was going to be war between the whites and Indians and that if she were to marry him the Indians would kill both of them. Mr. Shiegley did not mention the fact until after the massacre, and the information would probably have been considered of little importance if he had.

The first intimation that the people of Springfield had that there was a possibility of trouble came from a member of Inkpaduta's band. It was one day early in March, only a few days before the Spirit lake massacre, that Black Buffalo, one of the outlaw Indians with whom the Wood brothers were acquainted, came to the store at Springfield when George Wood and Jareb Palmer were there. In-

stead of going up the river to the Indian camp, as most wandering Indians were in the habit of doing, Black Buffalo remained at the store and spent the night there. He came from the direction of Spirit lake and said the band was camped near there. The Indian bought a few cheap trinkets and a half bushel of potatoes, borrowed a sack to put them in, and promised to return the sack full of feathers to pay for his purchases. Before leaving, Black Buffalo told Mr. Wood that war had been declared against the whites and Mr. Wood told Mr. Palmer after the Indian had departed.

Black Buffalo was undoubtedly a spy, come to investigate conditions in the little settlement, but why he told Mr. Wood of the intentions of the Indians is hard to understand, unless he personally was friendly to the storekeeper and desired to give him an opportunity to escape. At any rate the warning was not heeded. Mr. Wood seemed to place no confidence in the statement and treated the incident lightly. Mr. Palmer, in after years, wrote: "I must confess that for myself I regarded it merely as an Indian lie, or as we would call it, a canard, and I do not think that I ever thought of it again until subsequent events brought it vividly to my mind."

On March 9 (the Spirit lake massacre had commenced the day before) three Indians with their squaws and three or four papooses, came to the settlement from the direction of Spirit lake, all appearing to be very excited, to be in great haste and much fatigued. They came first to Dodson's cabin and a little later, after having been fed, they went to Umpashota's camp. A little girl, seven or eight years of age, was completely worn out and fell down exhausted outside Mr. Dodson's cabin. She was unable to rise until a squaw gave her several energetic kicks, when she managed to get up and go into the cabin. These Indians probably came from Spirit lake after the massacre had started, either because they did not want to take part in it or for some other reason. They said nothing of the doings at Okoboji lakes to the whites, although they doubtless told their red brothers at Umpashota's.

So far as I am able to learn, these were the only suggestions the people of Springfield had that conditions were not normal—and these could not properly be construed as warnings, except in the light of later events—until March 11. In this day of railroads, telephone and telegraph, with a home on every quarter section of land, such an event as the Spirit lake massacre would be known in the uttermost parts of the world within a few hours. Then the butchery of over forty people less than twenty miles distant was unknown in the Springfield settlement until three days afterward, and it was only by chance that they learned of it then.

On the eleventh of March<sup>1</sup> there appeared in the Springfield settlement Morris Markham, George Granger and a trapper, whose name is unknown, bearing the awful intelligence that the entire Spirit

lake settlement had been wiped out by the Indians, that not one was left to tell of the awful carnage.<sup>2</sup> Now, strange as it may seem, this news did not create any great consternation or alarm at first, and by some it was not even believed in its details. Those living on the frontier in the early days were accustomed to frequent startling rumors of uprisings which had no foundation in fact, and all tales of Indian atrocities were received with allowance for future corrections.

The Wood brothers, particularly, did not place full confidence in the report, and as they were best acquainted with the Indians, their judgment was given due consideration.<sup>3</sup> George Wood expressed the opinion that, although most people laid the Spirit lake murders to the Indians, he thought it likely the whites had got in a quarrel over the claims and some

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit lake massacre was first discovered by Morris Markham on the evening of March 9 and he bore the tidings to the Springfield settlement. On March 15 the work of the Indians was discovered by O. C. Howe, R. U. Wheelock and B. F. Parmenter, who carried the news to Fort Dodge.

Morris Markham was a trapper, who, late in the fall of 1856, had settled in the Spirit lake country. Soon after his arrival his two yoke of oxen strayed and he was not able to get any track of them until early in March. He then learned that they were in the vicinity of Mud lake, in Emmet county, and went after them. He found his oxen, made provision for their care by two bachelors who lived in the vicinity, and then returned to his home. There he found the dead bodies of the settlers, whom he correctly believed to have been murdered by the Indians, and his belief was soon verified, for he ran into the Indian camp. Fortunately he succeeded in retracing his steps without attracting the attention of the savages, who were then in their tepees, and made his escape. He visited several cabins, in all of which he found dead bodies. Not feeling like spending the night in any of the cabins, Markham took a piece of board with which to build a fire and spent the night in a nearby ravine. He did not lie down during the night, but passed the weary hours standing upon his already frozen and still freezing feet.

In the morning Mr. Markham returned to a trappers' camp where he had been looking for his cattle and there spent the next night. On the morning of the 11th he and two trappers went to the cabin of George Granger, who lived about six miles north of the present site of Estherville. The same day Mr. Markham, Mr. Granger and one of the trappers went up the river to the Springfield settlement. It is awful to think what might have happened had not this warning been given.

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Holcombe, in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, says that Mr. Markham did not arrive in the settlement until the seventeenth, but in this he is mistaken.

<sup>3</sup>Besides William had known and traded with the renegade Sioux, Inkpaduta, whose band was then reported to be committing crimes against the whites. . . . In ad-

of them had been killed.<sup>4</sup> There seemed to be some plausibility for this in that it was generally known at Springfield that there had been considerable quarreling about claims at the lakes.

But the majority of the settlers believed the story of Mr. Markham and that the murders at the lakes was the work of the Indians. The necessity of doing something for their own safety and of rendering aid to any who might be left in the Spirit lake settlement became apparent and the whole settlement was aroused. All of the able bodied men except George Wood,<sup>5</sup> who remained to care for the store and to look after the women and children, gathered at the Granger cabin, down the river, on the morning of the 14th, intending to go to the Spirit lake settlement to the assistance of any who might be alive and to bury the dead. At Granger's the party was reinforced by the two trappers already referred to and a man by the name of Hashman, making the party fourteen in number. They crossed the river on the way to the lakes, and then abandoned the project and returned to Springfield. They had talked the matter over and decided it would not be prudent to make the trip, as it was impossible to know how many Indians they might encounter. They deemed it best to return and make arrange-

dition to this William had treated Inkpaduta, as well as the other Indians, with uniform kindness, and, indeed, familiarity; such as indulging them in tobacco and joining them in their amusements occasionally. William, from his remarkable physical proportions, with dark features and eyes and hair as black as that of the Indians themselves, and with his courage and facility in speaking their language, and being well schooled in all their ways, was well calculated to inspire them with an admiration for him. They familiarly called him Pa-sa-pa, which in English means Blackhead; and frequently called to him at his cabin to come down the river, a distance of perhaps over one hundred yards, to talk and visit them when the river was too high for fording, as they would be passing upon their trail upon the opposite bank of the river."—Extract from letter written by Mr. E. B. Wood, brother of William and George Wood.

<sup>4</sup>Jareb Palmer.

<sup>5</sup>There were absent from the settlement William Wood, Nathaniel Frost and Jareb Palmer, who were on a trip to the Mankato country.

ments for the safety of themselves and their families.

After returning to their homes from the trip to Granger's the settlers of Springfield held a consultation. The advisableness of removing from the settlement was discussed, but it was decided it would be impossible to move the families on account of the difficulty in traveling because of the great depth of snow. Then it was decided to draw up a petition, stating the conditions, and send it by courier to Fort Ridgely, asking that soldiers be sent at once for the protection of the settlement. The petition was prepared, signed by the settlers, and was carried to its destination by Joseph Chiffin and Henry Trets. They started on their perilous journey on the 16th or 17th,<sup>6</sup> being accompanied as far as the Watonwan by Charles Wood.<sup>7</sup>

As the days passed the settlers at Springfield became more apprehensive, and the suspense became awful. After the departure of Chiffin and Trets the settlers began to make preparations for defense, that they might be prepared if an attack should be made before the soldiers arrived. It was decided that if the troops did not come the women and children should be removed to a place of safety so soon as the snow should melt sufficient to permit travel. Most of the people gathered in the cabin of James B. Thomas and the Wheeler cabin, while the Woods re-

<sup>6</sup>These couriers arrived at Fort Ridgely, after traveling one hundred miles, on the 18th, after incredible hardships, and almost blind from exhaustion and the effects of the snow, and reported the conditions on the frontier. Judge Flandreau has written:

"At any rate the people of Springfield sent two young men to my agency with the news. They brought with them a statement of the facts as related by Mr. Markham, signed by some persons with whom I am acquainted. They came on foot and arrived at the agency on the 18th of March. The snow was very deep and beginning to thaw, which made the traveling extremely difficult. When these young men arrived they were so badly affected with snow blindness they could hardly see at all and were completely wearied out."

<sup>7</sup>Charles Wood came back to the settlement with the soldiers, but soon after returned to his old home in Indiana.

mained at their store and Mr. Shiegley continued to occupy his cabin. The Thomas house, which was the largest in the settlement and where were gathered the greater number, was put in a fair state of defense.

An incident which occurred on the 19th and information secured the next day left no doubts in the minds of the people of Springfield that Inkpaduta's band was on the warpath—if any had existed before—and added to the belief that an attack was intended. On the afternoon of the 19th there came to Woods' store (George Wood, Nathaniel Frost and Jareb Palmer were there at the time) two of Inkpaduta's Indians, big, ferocious looking bucks. They were fully armed and acted strangely, carrying their knives in their hands all the time they were in the store. They appeared sullen and not inclined to talk. They purchased a keg of powder, a sack of shot and a few Indian trinkets. For these goods and to settle an old account the Indians paid Mr. Wood \$82 in gold coin, which had undoubtedly been taken from their victims at the lakes. These Indians may have come to spy out the situation at Springfield or they may have come with the intention of murdering George Wood.<sup>a</sup>

While the Indians were still at the store Umpashota came in and commenced talking to, or rather haranguing, the strange Indians. He was greatly excited and exhibited considerable emotion, seeming so absorbed in what he was saying that he paid little attention to the white men present, who could not understand what he was saying. The local Indian had just come from the Thomas cabin, where he had been told the soldiers were on their

<sup>a</sup>"These Indians had very likely come to kill George Wood, as he had been staying alone since the departure of his brother, Charles, but as they did not find him alone, they concluded to make some purchases for the purpose of disarming suspicion, and wait for a more auspicious occasion to commit their nefarious crimes."—Jareb Palmer.

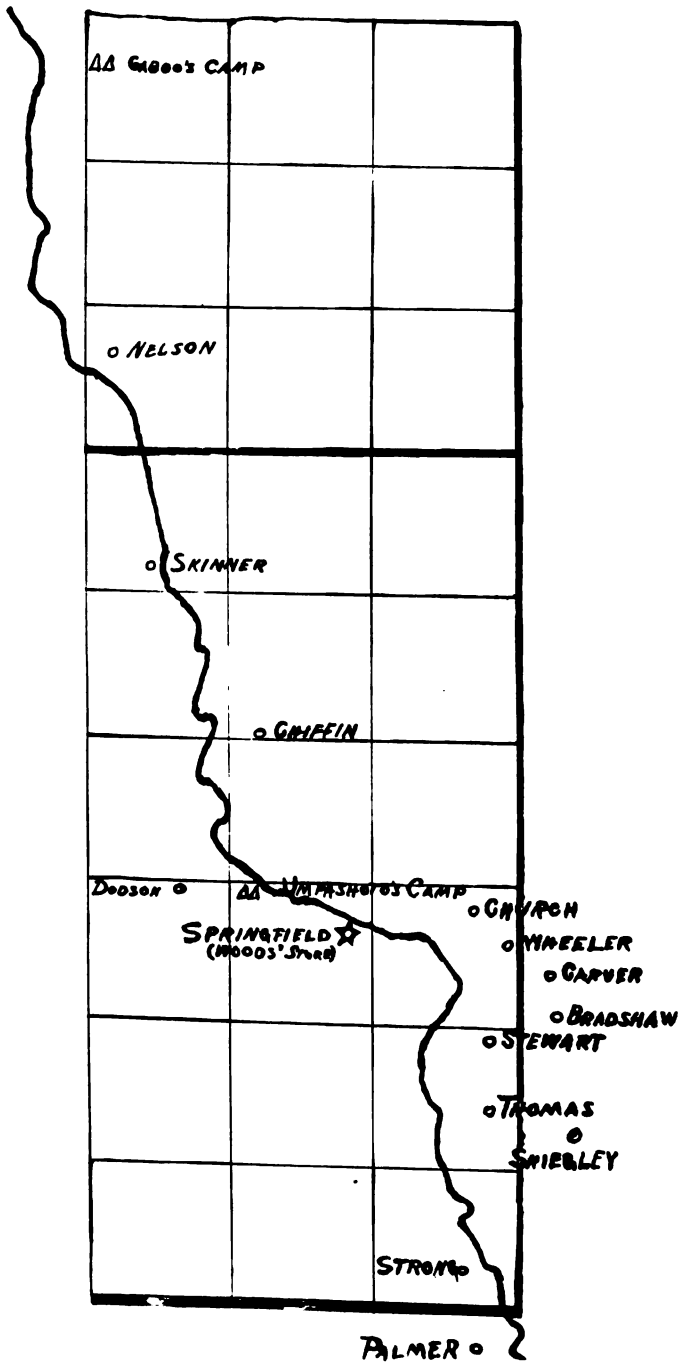
way to the settlement. One can imagine that Umpashota was telling this to the other Indians and giving them some good advice. Upon the arrival of William Wood, who understood the Sioux language, the three Indians left, going in the direction of Umpashota's camp. That same evening Umpashota and his Indians moved from their old camp, just above the store, farther up the river to Gaboo's camp. This move may have been made through fear that the whites might do as the Indians were in the habit of doing—wreak vengeance upon the first of the race they came upon.

On the 20th, the day after the strange Indians had been at the store, William Wood went up the river to the camp of Gaboo and Umpashota. The latter admitted that the two Indians with whom he talked the day before had been engaged in the massacre of the people at Spirit lake, but said that those Indians claimed it had been a fair fight, starting over a dispute in regard to some hay which the redskins had taken without leave. The savages boasted, so Umpashota said, that they had killed over thirty people and taken four women prisoners without the loss of a single warrior. The local Indian did not say what were the intentions of the savages as to the future—whether they were to continue their bloodthirsty work or whether their thirst for blood had been satisfied.

Not knowing whether or not the Indians had attacked the Marbles, who were known to have located on the west bank of Spirit lake, and desirous of giving warning to them if still alive, Mr. Morris Markham and Mr. Jareb Palmer set out from the Springfield settlement on the 21st to investigate. The gentlemen reached the Marble cabin and found evidence that the Indians had been there ahead of them, but did not find the dead body of Mr.

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THE SPRINGFIELD SETTLEMENT

Map Showing Location of Cabins at the Time of the Springfield Massacre. The east half of Des Moines and the south east quarter of Belmont Townships are Shown.

Marble, which the Indians had buried in the snow. Moccasin tracks, apparently only a few hours old, were found near the cabin and the hieroglyphics picturing the massacre at the Okoboji lakes were found blazed on a tree. The gentlemen returned the same day and reported their discovery. Mr. Palmer made a trip to the Granger cabin on the 23rd, expecting to find the inmates murdered, but there he found Mr. Granger and the Hashmans safe and prepared for attack. The finding of these people alive raised the drooping spirits of the Springfield settlers and led to the hope that the hostiles had left the vicinity and that they might yet be spared.

The fighting force of the community was reduced on the 24th by the departure of Nathaniel Frost and William Nelson, who went to Slocum's, on the Watonwan, to try to bring in the load of provisions which William Wood had been obliged to leave on the prairie near there.

At a conference of the settlers it was decided to organize a party to go to the lakes and bury the dead, as it seemed to them almost inhuman to leave the bodies uncared for and exposed to the ravages of wolves and other wild beasts. Umpashota volunteered, through William Wood, to become one of a party to perform this duty.<sup>9</sup> It was decided to make the trip on Thursday, March 26, but on the evening before the start was to have been made the expedition was abandoned, largely on the advice of Umpashota. That Indian, who seems to have played an important part in the affairs of the little community at this critical time because of his influence over William Wood, had been down to the store on the 25th and

<sup>9</sup>"The Woods seemed to have implicit confidence in him [Umpashota] and thought it would be a good thing to have him go along, but most of the rest of us had less confidence in him and prepared to make the trip without his presence—but they did not make this fact known to the Woods."—Jareb Palmer.

gave notice to Mr. Wood that he would not accompany the whites to the lakes and advised against going. He stated that he thought Inkipaduta's band was still in the vicinity of the lakes, engaged in drying beef from the many head of cattle they had slaughtered, and that it would be unsafe to make the trip. Concerning this advice Mr. Jareb Palmer has written: "Why Umpashota told this story is not quite clear, unless he wanted us to remain that we might all be massacred, for he surely knew that the band was at that time at Heron lake, not more than eight or ten miles from Gaboo's camp, where Umpashota was staying." The Woods refused to accompany the other settlers after receiving this advice and the trip was abandoned.

When the morning of Thursday, March 26, dawned it had been just fifteen days since word of the massacre at the lakes had been brought to the settlement. They had been fifteen days of suspense to most of the settlers, but so long a time had now elapsed that hope was expressed that the Indians had left the country and that an attack was not to be made. The vigilance that had been employed at first was relaxed to a certain extent; soldiers were expected to arrive from Fort Ridgely at any time; a more optimistic view of the situation was being taken.

On the fateful day there were eleven able bodied men in the settlement, divided as follows: William Wood and George Wood at the store; Adam Shiegley at his own cabin; Joshua Stewart at his own cabin;<sup>10</sup> James B. Thomas, Jareb Palmer, David Carver, John Bradshaw<sup>11</sup> and Mor-

<sup>10</sup>The Stewarts had at the first alarm gone to the Thomas cabin, but owing to fear, the excitement and confusion consequent on so many being huddled together in one small house, Mrs. Stewart had become mentally deranged, and she and her husband and children had returned to their own cabin, where they were on the day of the massacre.

<sup>11</sup>Messrs. Carver and Bradshaw had returned from Webster City a little while before the massacre.

ris Markham at the Thomas cabin; Dr. E. B. N. Strong<sup>12</sup> and J. B. Skinner at the Wheeler cabin.<sup>13</sup> All the women and children of the settlement, except the Stewart family, were at the Thomas and Wheeler cabins. The only house in the settlement which had been put in condition to withstand attack was that of Mr. Thomas.

That immediate attack was not anticipated is evidenced by the fact that on the morning of the 26th all the men at the Thomas cabin took their axes, went to the woods nearby and cut enough fire-wood "to last through the war," as one of their number expressed it. Their guns had been left at the cabin, and had the attack been made during that time there can be no doubt that the twenty people who were temporarily living at the Thomas cabin would all have been massacred. It was during this morning that Dr. Strong went to the Wheeler cabin to make a settlement with Messrs. Smith and Henderson for the surgical operations.

To return to the Indians camped at Heron lake. On the morning of the 26th the warriors painted themselves in their most fierce and hideous fashion. They took special pains to communicate to the women captives, by signs and in their jargon, that they were about to attack the Springfield settlement. With rifles in their hands and with scalping knives in their belts they set out on their murderous mission. So far as Abbie Gardner, one of the captives, can remember, the names of the warriors comprising the band at this time were<sup>14</sup> Inkpaduta, or

<sup>12</sup>Dr. Strong's family was at the Thomas cabin; he happened to be at the Wheeler cabin at the time of the massacre.

<sup>13</sup>Of the other men who were residents of the settlement at the time, Robert Smith and John Henderson were in a crippled condition at the Wheeler cabin; Charles Wood had gone to the Watonwan; Joseph Chiffin and Henry Trets had gone to Fort Ridgely to notify the soldiers; William Nelson and Nathaniel Frost had gone to Stocum's; William Church had been absent all winter.

<sup>14</sup>As published in Mrs. Sharp's History of the Spirit Lake Massacre.

Scarlet Point; Mak-pe-a-ho-man, or Roaring Cloud; Mak-pi-op-e-ta, or Fire Cloud (twin to Roaring Cloud); Taw-a-che-ha-wa-kan, or His Mysterious Father; Baha-ta, or Old Man; Ke-cho-mon, or Putting-on-as-he-walks; Ka-ha-dat, or Ratling (son of Inkpaduta); Fe-to-a-ton-ka, or Big Face; Ta-te-li-da-shink-sha-man-i, or One - who - makes - a - crooked - wind - as - he - walks; Ta-chan-che-ga-ho-ta, or His Great Gun; Hu-san, or One Leg.

Inkpaduta and his warriors came down to the Springfield settlement by way of Gaboo's camp and halted, a little after noon, on the east side of the river opposite Woods' store. Just what took place there will never be definitely known, except that both William and George Wood were murdered, as no whites except these two were witnesses. But various clues give us an idea of the circumstances. Apparently, William Wood had not even yet lost confidence in the bloodthirsty demons, for when they appeared upon the trail across the river he started to go to them—perhaps in answer to a hail—as was his custom. While on the river bank he was shot from behind at close range with buckshot. Whether he had crossed the river and talked with the Indians and was shot as he returned or whether he was shot by Indians concealed in the grass on the west side, is not known. So close had been his murderer that burnt powder stains were afterward found upon his clothing. After the shooting the body was cut open with a tomahawk or a knife from between the shoulders, down the back, to between the hips.<sup>15</sup>

George Wood, from his position in the store, had seen his brother shot down and had started to run to warn the other settlers and to seek protection for himself.

<sup>15</sup>The conduct and actions of the Wood brothers, particularly William Wood, during the days of suspense before the massacre have at times been unfavorably commented upon. The Woods did not join the other settlers in their efforts to fortify one or two of the cabins, but re-

He succeeded in getting across the river on the ice, but, exhausted from running several hundred yards through the deep drifts, he sought a place of concealment and crawled under a brush pile at a point a few rods from the river bank and some twenty or thirty rods above the location of the present upper bridge in the village of Jackson. This point was near the Indian trail, upon which the Indians were running in pursuit, but because of a bend in the trail, surrounded by trees, brush and weeds, he was temporarily out of sight of his pursuers. The unfortunate man was soon found in the brush pile and shot. So close was the muzzle of the gun that the whole top of his head was blown off and powder stains were left on his cap.<sup>16</sup>

mained at the store, where all their earthly possessions were. Believing, as they certainly did, that the massacre of the whites at Okoboji lakes was the result of a quarrel and that the murders would not be continued, they saw no reason why they should desert the store. Of course, we can now see their mistake; their confidence in the red men led to their death.

One or two of the settlers who did not like the Woods pretended to believe that they were over friendly with the Indians, that they believed that even if the other settlers were attacked, their friendship would save them. Major Williams, of the Iowa volunteers goes so far as to intimate treachery, saying that the Indians were informed of the contemplated arrival of the soldiers by Wood and Gaboo. I can find no evidence that would indicate treachery on the part of the Woods and believe that they were sincere in their actions.

Mr. E. B. Wood, who often talked with his brother, Charles Wood, after the massacre and who made every effort to ascertain the facts, wrote to Mr. Jareb Palmer under date of November 23, 1897, as follows:

"I do not and never did believe that George or William ever gave information to the Indians of the coming of the soldiers. I believe that my brothers watched and expected each hour of the later hours of their lives for the soldiers to come, that they aimed to let the Indians believe that they trusted them implicitly, thinking this safest. Now, my friend and comrade, for forty years myself and my family have had our hearts pained not only by the thought of their deaths and the damnable manner of their taking off, but mainly by this story of the possible treachery of my brothers in telling these Indians of the coming of the soldiers so as to receive benefits and safety for themselves to the possible damage of the other settlers. My brothers were noble hearted fellows and I do not think them capable of this and I do not think there is a particle of truth in it. That Gaboo, the half-breed, may have told them is possible."

"Another version of the killing of George Wood is to the effect that after he was shot the Indians piled brush on his body in an effort to burn it, but the best evidence points to his taking off as I have described it.

After the killing of the Wood brothers the Indians replenished their stock of ammunition from the store and then proceeded to attack the other inhabited cabins of the settlement. At the Thomas cabin, where were gathered the greatest number of settlers, a determined fight was put up by the white men (with the possible exception of the Mattock cabin at Okoboji lake, the only place in either settlement where the Indians met with resistance) and they succeeded in standing off the redskins. This was due to the preparations that had been made and to the fighting qualities of the men and women there.<sup>17</sup>

After the midday meal at the Thomas cabin all who were temporarily living there were sitting in the north room talking, while two of Mr. Thomas' children, aged seven and ten years, were playing in the yard. About half past two o'clock Willie, the younger of the boys playing outside, came running into the house with the announcement that an Indian was coming down the road from the Wheeler cabin, which was to the north. As the people of the cabin were hourly expecting the return of Joseph Chiffin and Henry Trets from Fort Ridgely, some one of the party exclaimed, "I'll bet it's Henry," meaning Henry Trets. From their location in the north room, the door of which faced the timber, the people could not see anyone coming from the direction

"The Thomas house stood on the edge of the timber, being surrounded on three sides by woods full of logs, brush and stumps of trees; on the other side was prairie. Within six or eight rods of the cabin were a log stable, an old fashioned hay rack for feeding stock and a cattle yard made of logs and poles. A log partition divided the cabin into two rooms, connected by a door; at opposite ends of each room was a fireplace. The south room had a door and a window, both facing the prairie, while the north room had a door and a window, facing the timber, and a window looking upon the prairie. The window on the timber side had been secured by nailing two thicknesses of oak stakes across it, leaving a space about four inches wide to serve as a port hole; on the prairie side the windows had been covered with shutters that could be taken out and put in as occasion required. The doors were fastened with pins stuck in holes in the logs.

indicated without going out doors. So there was a rush for the door. Miss Swanger, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Carver went outside, where the two boys still were. Miss Swanger was the first one out and when she got to a point where she could see the person approaching she cried joyfully, "Yes, it's Henry." But when Mr. Carver got out where he had a good view he replied, "No, it's an Indian."

No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a tremendous volley, fired at short range from rifles and shotguns, was poured into the little company in front of the house; the Indians had crawled up and hidden themselves behind trees, outbuildings and other places of concealment. Little Willie Thomas was killed instantly. James Thomas received a musket ball in his left arm just below the elbow, which broke both bones and made necessary the amputation of the member. David Carver was wounded by a buckshot, which passed through the fleshy part of his arm above the elbow and penetrated his lung. Miss Swanger was wounded by a rifle ball, which passed through the upper part of her shoulder, inflicting a painful but not dangerous wound. Of those outside, Mr. Palmer and the older Thomas boy were the only ones unharmed; it is a wonder that all were not killed, and can be accounted for only by the poor markmanship of the Indians.

All succeeded in getting into the cabin, those who had received wounds being unaware of the fact until they were inside. Although the surprise had been complete there was no confusion. Each seemed to know instinctively what was to be done and commenced doing it. Had the Indians followed their first volley with a rush they would probably have succeeded in massacreing the whole houseful with little, if any, loss to themselves. The

doors and windows were closed and barred, while Mr. Markham and Mr. Bradshaw, who had remained in the house, seized their rifles and commenced firing at the Indians, whose guns could be seen protruding through the hay rack. The battle was on.

I shall let Mr. Jareb Palmer, one of the defenders of the cabin and the historian of the massacre, tell of the interesting events that took place in the Thomas cabin during the next hour:

At first I busied myself in barricading the south room, and, as the shutters for the window in this room had unfortunately been left on the outside, we had to improvise something in its place. For this we used a table and some chairs. Having attended to this, I seized a gun, of which, fortunately, we had plenty, and looked around for a place to get a shot at the redskins, but found no chance, as they seemed to be all on the southwest side of the house, and there was no porthole in either the south end of the house or the west side of the south room, I seized an ax which was in the room and knocked out a piece of chinking from between the logs on each side of the fireplace in the south end of the house. I watched the hole on the west side of the fireplace and the Thomas boy the east side. It was not until I had completed these preparations for defense that I learned the full extent of our loss, and my heart fairly bled for Mrs. Thomas.

When we rushed into the house at the Indians' first fire we did not notice that the Thomas boy was killed, and when he was missed and we ascertained that his body lay in front of the door, the lamentations of his mother were truly heartrending. Her husband was seriously wounded and bleeding profusely, her boy killed outside, and she was not able to have even the poor consolation of having his body brought into the house, for it would have been certain death for anyone to venture out to get it. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Carver were soon obliged to lie down, but Miss Swanger continued to render all the assistance in her power and never once laid down during the time we were in the house.

As it happened, we had plenty of guns and ammunition and kept busy blazing away at anything we could see that looked like a face or a hand, a gun or a piece of blanket, and I assure you we burned a lot of powder and made a big noise whether we hurt anybody or not. The Indians continued to fire volley after volley at the house, some of the balls coming through the door, we protecting ourselves by taking up a portion of the puncheon floor and standing it against the door. At only one time did I have a fair view of any

of the savages, and that was doubtless after they had concluded to abandon the attack. Then I saw three at one time with their backs toward the house and going as fast as their legs would carry them, and I was able to get only one shot at them before they were out of sight. As my duties kept me busy in the south room I didn't know much about what was going on in the north room except as I could hear the crack of the guns in the hands of Bradshaw and Markham.

However, I passed into that room two or three times during the fight, once, I remember, to make a porthole in the end of the house, and once to get a supply of ammunition, as the guns and ammunition were all kept in that room. Once when I was in there I saw Mrs. Church fire through the east window at what she said was an Indian, and she said she saw him fall." This was no doubt the one first seen by the boys, as he was in nearly the same place as that one when seen.

I suppose I ought to tell you that after the excitement caused by the surprise had somewhat abated, some of the ladies be-thought themselves of the arm that is all-powerful to save and engaged themselves in earnest supplication to Him for help; and as there seemed nothing better for them to do, I think we were all glad to see them thus engaged, for I am sure none of us had much hope of ever leaving the house alive, as we were but three able bodied men, contending, as we supposed, against the whole Sioux nation, and with but faint hopes of any human help being able to reach us.

After a while—probably an hour after the attack was begun—the fire of the enemy began to slacken, and then we saw sticks and clubs flying in the air toward the three head of colts which were kept there. In this way the Indians succeeded in driving them up the road and out of sight of us people in the house. They accomplished this without exposing themselves to our view. We had no thought at the time why they had done this, unless merely to see the horses run; but, as it afterward proved, they were about to abandon the attack and took this way to get the horses out of our sight that they might catch them and take them away.

I presume the Indians left soon after, although we had no thought they were going to abandon the attack, and when the fire abated we supposed they were lying in wait for some of us to expose ourselves that they might shoot us down. Notwithstanding the fire had abated, we did not abate our vigilance, but continued to watch through the portholes for lurking savages, expecting momentarily a renewal of the attack with larger force and in some unexpected manner. But the fire finally stopped entirely. The Indians had slunk away as secretly and silently as they had come; but we had no idea they had gone until just before nightfall, when we saw

"It was afterwards learned that none of the Indians was wounded.

someone coming from toward the Wheeler cabin.

We at first supposed it to be an Indian and were holding ourselves in readiness to fire as soon as he came within gunshot, but before he came near enough to fire we discovered it was a boy dressed in white man's clothes. We still thought it might be another trick to draw us out of the house, so we remained inside and hallooed at him through a porthole. He answered us and upon inquiring who he was, he told us he was Johnnie Stewart. We called to him, opened the door and took him in. He was frightened nearly out of his wits, and well he might be.

During the time that the attack on the Thomas cabin was being made other members of the outlaws were meeting with better success in another part of the settlement. An Indian came to the home of Mr. Stewart, who seems to have been ignorant of the attack on the settlement, and was bargaining for the purchase of a small hog, displaying a number of gold coins to be given in payment. Mr. Stewart was shot down and killed by other Indians who were lying in wait for him. His wife, who had been sitting in a chair in the house, holding the baby, rushed to the door with the baby in her arms and with a three year old child clinging to her skirts. On reaching the door she was shot down and the baby and little girl were knocked in the head with tomahawks. While the mother and two little children were being murdered, little Johnnie Stewart, seven or eight years of age, slipped out of the house and eluded the Indians, hiding behind a log, three or four rods from the cabin, where he remained until the Indians had completed their atrocious work and departed. Then he came out of his hiding place, viewed the dead bodies of his parents and little sisters, and made his way to the Wheeler cabin. Inside he heard voices, and, supposing the cabin was full of Indians, the little boy left and went to the Thomas cabin, as has been stated.

The Wheeler cabin, which was occupied at the time of the massacre by Dr.

E. B. N. Strong, J. B. Skinner, Robert Smith, John Henderson, Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. William Nelson and baby, Mrs. Robert Smith and Mr. Shiegley's two year old boy, had not been put in a state of defense, but it was fortunately located, being on the edge of the prairie. There were no shutters for the solitary window of the cabin, which, however, fortunately, faced the prairie, nor had any portholes been made. The Indians appeared at the cabin, fired several shots through the door, but did not make any determined attack. The bullets passed through the thin boards of the door and into the wall opposite, one of them barely missing Mr. Henderson. An ox was killed near the cabin and the rest of the stock was driven off. Neither Dr. Strong nor Mr. Skinner, the only able bodied men there, fired a shot from the cabin. It is said the inmates attempted to protect themselves by ringing bells and beating on tin pans, which seems to have answered the purpose, for no one was injured.

The cabin of Adam Shiegley was not attacked and that gentleman knew nothing of the attack until later in the day, when he went to the Thomas cabin. He was much surprised to learn of the fighting.<sup>19</sup>

The bloody work was completed and the Indians returned to their camp near

<sup>19</sup>Although Mr. Shiegley did not learn of the fight until after it was over, he was inclined to give evidence in regard to it, as well as every event of which he had heard, and he often made himself the hero of startling situations. In 1895 he is reported to have said to a reporter for the Mankato Morning News:

" . . . When the Indians attacked the [Thomas] house they must have crossed the river not a hundred yards from where I was. But I couldn't see them because there was a bend in the river between us. The first thing I knew was when I heard them yelling and the shooting. Then I ran up the bank, which was thickly wooded, and lay down flat on my face in the snow. There were about twenty of the Indians yelling and dancing and firing into the house. They didn't care about the people in there, though. What they wanted was the four horses in the stable and they just fired to keep the folks inside. . . . Well, I saw them off and out of the way and then I went up to the house."

Heron lake. Owing to the knowledge that the Indians were on the warpath and the determined fight put up by the men and women of the Thomas cabin, the results were not nearly so disastrous as they had been at the lakes. For the first time in the Indians' mad career since leaving Smithland they encountered men who were not afraid to fight for their lives, and the attempt to wipe out the settlement failed. At that, only at the Thomas cabin was any resistance made, and but for the opposition they encountered there, there can be no doubt the Indians would have persevered until every white in the settlement was killed. But, baffled in their attempt to massacre those in the Thomas house, ignorant of the damage their first volley had done and of the weakness of the fighting force left, anxious to take part in the looting of Woods' store, perhaps fearing the early arrival of the soldiers, they gave up the attack.

The losses in the Springfield settlement were:

#### KILLED

William Wood  
George Wood  
Joshua Stewart  
Mrs. Joshua Stewart  
Two Stewart Children  
Willie Thomas

#### WOUNDED

James B. Thomas  
David Carver  
Drusilla Swanger

It is impossible to say just how many Indians were engaged in the massacre—probably not more than the fifteen of Inkpaduta's band.<sup>20</sup> It is not probable that Umpashota and his Indians took part in the actual killing, but there can be no question that that nominally friendly Indian assisted Inkpaduta in his designs and preparations. Nothing more was seen of Umpashota or any of his Indians; they had gone to more congenial climes. Concerning the part this crafty Indian may have taken in affairs, Mr. Jareb. Palmer has written:

<sup>20</sup>Major William Williams, the leader of the Iowa volunteers, among several other mistakes in matters of fact and conjecture in his official report, says of the number of Indians taking part in the Spirit lake and Springfield massacres:

"As near as I could ascertain, the Indian force was from 150 to 200 warriors, judging from their encampments, etc. The number of Indians must be fifteen or twenty killed and wounded. From the number seen to fall killed, and judging from the bloody clothes and clots of blood in their encampments, the struggle at the lakes must have been very severe, particularly the one at the house of Esquire Mattock. . . . I am satisfied that the greater number of these Indians were from the Missouri, as they were strangers to the settlers where they appeared, and a portion of them were half-breeds."

Major Williams seems to have prepared his report with very little data to work from.

"It has been reported that the Indians who had camped near the settlement during the winter were engaged in the attack and massacre at Springfield. Whether this is a fact or not I am unable to say. Some of those in the Thomas house with me say they saw and recognized Umpashota, but I did not see any Indian that I could recognize as one I had ever seen before. When Captain Bee arrived Umpashota and his band were gone and he found some of the goods that were taken from Woods' store in the possession of Gaboo's Indians, but they claimed to have bought them of Inkpaduta's Indians, and this might have been the case, as Mrs. Sharp says when the Indians returned from the attack, they brought eleven horses and ponies with them, and I know they only got three from the whites at Springfield, so that it may be that Inkpaduta's band had traded goods for ponies. I have never since seen any of the Indians with whom I became acquainted during that winter"





## CHAPTER V.

### FLIGHT OF THE FUGITIVES—1857.

**T**HE Indians had done their heli-lish work and returned to camp near Heron lake. The settlers did not know that they had gone, however, believing them to be still in the neighborhood, awaiting a favorable opportunity to complete the work of butchery. All the living persons in the Springfield settlement were now gathered at the Wheeler and Thomas cabins. The people at each house believed that all the others had been killed and that they themselves were the only living whites in the settlement; each party considered the case almost hopeless. The story of their flight and the hardships they endured has seldom been equaled in frontier history.

When little Johnnie Stewart arrived at the Thomas cabin the garrison there were led to believe that the savages had left the immediate vicinity. When a little later Adam Shiegley was seen going across the prairie from his cabin toward the Wheeler cabin and, in response to a hail, came to Mr. Thomas' place unharmed, the belief was verified. From the Stewart boy's account of the killing of his family and his report that the Wheeler cabin was full of Indians, and from the announcement of Mr. Shiegley that he had heard firing in the direction of

Woods' store, this little band of defenders now thought that they were the only ones spared. Although they assumed that the Indians had gone for the time being, they had no doubt they were still in the settlement, ready to renew the attack as soon as sufficiently reinforced or when a favorable opportunity offered.

So the vigilance maintained during the attack was not lessened. The men and women in the cabin continued to watch through the portholes for lurking savages. From what they knew of the character of the enemy they had reason to suspect that the silence was only a scheme to draw the defenders out. The women of the party prepared something to eat and passed it to those who were on watch at the portholes, and these ate their supper out of their hands. When darkness came on they feared to keep a fire or light in the house.

The situation of the beleaguered people and the possibility for deliverance were discussed. Some thought best to remain at the cabin in the hope that the soldiers from Fort Ridgely would soon appear, believing that it would be better to remain behind the sheltering logs of the cabin than to risk an encounter with the redskins in the open. Others (and they were

in the majority) favored flight. Those who most strongly favored departing argued that there was no certainty that relief would ever come; it was not known whether the couriers had succeeded in reaching Fort Ridgely, and if they had there was no assurance that their story would be believed or any help sent; they feared the Indians would creep up during the night and fire the cabin. To realize the utter demoralization the people must have been in to attempt flight, let us look at conditions and try to understand what such a decision meant.

The nearest settlement that could provide safety was Mankato, seventy-five miles away. The point next nearest that seemed to offer a refuge was Fort Dodge, Iowa, nearly a hundred miles away. The snow was so deep and traveling so difficult that it seemed impossible that a team could make any headway. Of the twenty or more people who comprised the party contemplating flight, only four were able-bodied men; the rest were women, children, babies and wounded men. Believing, as they did, that the Indians were still in the vicinity and determined to wipe them out, not knowing how many savages they might have to encounter, handicapped with so many incapacitated, knowing that the route was well nigh impassible, it is hard to conceive by what process of reasoning these people decided to leave. But that is what was done. As many of the settlers had originally come from the vicinity of Fort Dodge, that was the point of refuge selected.

As the Indians had not killed the cattle at the Thomas place, and as the snow had settled somewhat during the preceding few days, it was decided to try traveling by team, although few thought there was much hope of getting through. John Bradshaw and Frank M. Thomas, the elder son of James B. Thomas, were the

first to venture from the cabin. They went out to the barn, so lately occupied by the savages, hitched the oxen to a sled and drove up to the east door, which was the one facing the prairie.<sup>1</sup> The women, children and wounded men were hastily loaded into the sled, the dead body of Willie Thomas being left where it had fallen, and at nine o'clock in the evening the refugees set out on the perilous journey. No baggage, no clothing except what was worn, no provisions were taken. The only thought was to get away from the scene of the disasters of the day.

Great haste was made at the start to get out onto the prairie away from the timber, the fear being great that the savages would return and shoot them down before they could get out of gunshot from the timber's edge. Although the day had been fair and pleasant, there came up a thick fog about dark, which made it impossible to see more than a few feet away. Over most of the course it was necessary for the men to beat a path before the oxen could make any headway.

After having traveled in this manner for a couple of hours the fugitives became completely bewildered and knew not in which direction they were going. It was then decided to stop and wait for daylight. They found a knoll which was bare of snow, and there they unhitched the oxen and passed the rest of the night. There was no rest for this poor, cold,

<sup>1</sup>This is given on the authority of Mr. Palmer. Mrs. Sharp gives the credit of performing this service to Morris Markham and says:

"Naturally no one wished to be the first to venture outside the door, where little Willie's body lay cold in death, the sad reminder of the consequence of a former venture. But some one must be the first. So, with true heroic courage characteristic of the man, Mr. Markham volunteered to go to the stable, where the murderous Sioux had so lately been and where they perhaps were secreted, and hitch the oxen to the sled and bring them to the door, while the others made hasty preparations for flight. So, alone in the darkness, he sallied forth, over the blood-stained snow, carrying his gun to fire as a signal should be find the enemy there, groped his way through the stable, silently brought out the patient oxen, put on the yoke, hitched them to the sled and drove up to the door."

sleepless and panic-stricken band of fugitives that night. When morning dawned they found themselves to be about three miles from their starting point and not much out of their proper course. The fog had disappeared and no trouble was now encountered in keeping a true course. They could see the different groves along the river, including the one at Granger's, where they wished to strike first.

The snow proved to be so deep that the oxen could scarcely pull the heavy load of those unable to walk and about noon the cattle became so exhausted that they could not proceed farther. It was then proposed that Mr. Palmer should go on to Granger's for help while the rest of the party camped with the team. Mr. Palmer reached the Granger cabin in safety, stated the conditions to Mr. Granger and Mr. Hashman, and those gentlemen started back with their oxen to the assistance of the Springfield refugees.

The three men had not proceeded far on the back track when they saw some persons on the prairie approaching from the direction of Springfield. They were too far away to make out whether they were Indians or whites, but the men proceeded on their way. After a while they noticed that one was nearer than the rest of the party and that he was running for dear life, going in the direction of the Granger grove. Believing him to be an Indian and fearing that if he reached the Granger cabin he would massacre the women, who were left without male protection, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Hashman started out on a run to head him off. Mr. Palmer outran Mr. Hashman and succeeded in getting between the fleeing man and the grove. When he got within hailing distance the runner, who proved to be Dr. Strong, hallooed to Mr. Palmer, giving the friendly salutation of the Sioux language. The doctor had mis-

taken Mr. Palmer for an Indian and so had accosted him in, perhaps, the only Sioux word he knew. When he had first come in sight of the men he had taken them for Indians, and had pulled off his boots and thrown them away that he might run the faster.

Dr. Strong joined the other men of the party, who now anxiously awaited the coming of the people they saw in the distance. These proved to be the fugitives who had been left with the team. After Mr. Palmer had departed they saw a party of people pursuing them, whom they, of course, took to be Indians. Life is a precious thing to most people and the sight of approaching Indians—as they supposed—caused them to make an almost superhuman effort to escape. Abandoning the oxen and sled, all set out on foot in a mad plunge through the drifts toward Granger's. Messrs. Carver and Thomas, the most severely wounded, found themselves able to walk; the men and women carried the children.

The fugitives were again united, their force having been added to by Dr. Strong, Mr. Granger and Mr. Hashman. But they did not consider themselves safe by any means. There now came into view the party of five or six persons who had so alarmed those left at the sled, but they were too far away to tell whether they were friends or foes. So the refugees held themselves in readiness for action should they prove to be Indians. Fear lends fleetness to the limbs and in a short time the party came up. They proved to be Mr. and Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Nelson with her year and a half old babe—a part of those who had been at the Wheeler cabin.

Let us interrupt the story of the flight long enough to tell what had happened at the Wheeler cabin. The night after the massacre had been spent in apprehension

and terror; in the morning the situation was not relieved. Dr. Strong, one of the two able-bodied men in the cabin, who had proved himself a hero in caring for the frozen men a month before, now proved himself a veritable coward. During the forenoon of the day after the attack he began to worry about his family, who had been at the Thomas cabin, and tried to get someone to go down to try to ascertain their fate. Finally he declared he could stand the suspense no longer and that he intended to learn the fate of his family. He left the house with the avowed intention of going to the Thomas cabin, but no sooner was he out of the house than his valor departed and he struck out across the prairie, running for dear life, without a thought, apparently, for the safety of his family or anyone else except himself.

The desertion of Dr. Strong left the people of the Wheeler cabin in a deplorable condition. There was now left only J. B. Skinner to care for and protect two crippled men, three women and two small children. He was not equal to the occasion. There can be no question that the action of Mr. Skinner and the women there on that 27th day of March was cowardly. Perhaps their actions should be treated with lenity and a less harsh term than coward applied, for no one knows exactly what he or she would do in a like circumstance; the fear of death in most of us is stronger than any other human emotion. The occasion called for heroic action, but there was no response.

Whether the desertion of Dr. Strong increased the fears of the remaining inmates by reason of lessening their number and making them more easy victims of the savages, or whether his ability to get away from the timber unharmed determined them also to make the attempt is not known, but it was decided to make

a swift run for safety in an effort to get to the Iowa settlements. As the Indians had killed all the cattle on the place it was necessary to go afoot. Poor John Henderson, who was in bed with both feet off from recent amputation, was abandoned to whatever fate might overtake him, even without preparation being made for his food. Mrs. Nelson said she could carry her child and did so. One of the party also carried the Shiegley child for some distance. Robert Smith, who only a short time before had one leg amputated, decided to accompany the others and stumped along on his one leg for a few hundred yards of the distance to Fort Dodge. His wound soon began to bleed and he was unable to go farther.

When Mr. Smith was obliged to give up, the party grew tired of carrying the Shiegley child and the two—a man in such condition that he ought to have been in bed, and a two year old child—were abandoned to their fate on the snow-covered prairie.<sup>2</sup> The reader may in imagination realize the feelings that surged through the breast of this poor victim left to his fate by one who was supposed to be bound to him by ties stronger than the fear of death—the wife who, to save her own life, must abandon her husband to what appeared almost certain death. Mr. Smith and the little boy crawled to the Thomas cabin in the hope of finding some one to care for them, but in this, of course, they were disappointed. They remained in the cabin until found by the soldiers from Fort Ridgely.<sup>3</sup> After the abandonment the party, now consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Nelson and child and Mrs. Smith, proceeded on

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Holcombe, in *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, says: "Smith's wife wished to remain with her husband, but he bade her save herself, saying that she could do nothing that would be of so much service to him as to hurry forward to the Iowa settlements and send him relief."

<sup>3</sup>The Shiegley child was adopted into the family of Major William Williams.

their way and joined the other refugees, as has been related.

The newcomers told of their adventures and of the abandonment of Mr. Smith and the Shiegley child on the prairie. Upon learning the particulars, Mr. Shiegley at once declared his intention to go back to take care of his boy, the love of his child overshadowing the fear of his own danger. The rest of the party tried to dissuade him, but to no avail, and after having been wished a hearty Godspeed, he set out for the north at about the middle of the afternoon. So well satisfied were the fugitives that the Indians were still at Springfield that they expressed the belief that they would never again see Mr. Shiegley alive.

It is to be regretted that no reliance can be placed in the statements of this man, for he might have left recorded much of historical value instead of the improbably stories he did leave. He returned to the settlement and visited the Wheeler cabin, but did not find his boy or Mr. Smith, and came back to join the refugees. He spent the night with Mr. Henderson in the Wheeler cabin, and before he left the next day cut a piece of meat from one of the oxen slain by the redskins and carried the meat in to the wounded man that he might not starve. He stated that he visited the Thomas cabin in his search for the missing boy, but if he had he surely would have found him.<sup>4</sup>

After Mr. Shiegley left, the fugitives proceeded to the home of Mr. Granger to seek much needed rest after the terrible suffering incident to the trip. Food was supplied and then the thirty people

<sup>4</sup>Mr. Shiegley also told of having met an Indian in the settlement. He said that after having a talk with the Indian both agreed to turn their backs and walk away without turning around to look at one another. Mr. Shiegley said he broke the agreement by wheeling suddenly and shooting the Indian in the head, remarking that the aborigine "jumped like a rabbit with his head cut off."

endeavored to get a night's sleep in the one small room the cabin boasted. Some were able to lie down, while others were obliged to secure their rest in whatever position the conditions afforded. The next day, the 28th, Mr. Markham and Mr. Palmer went back and brought in the oxen, which were found quietly feeding on the dead grass within a few rods of the sled.

The Springfield refugees remained at the Granger cabin that day and the next night, getting a much needed rest and awaiting the return of Mr. Shiegley. On Sunday morning, March 29, they set out again on the way to Fort Dodge. The snow had by this time melted sufficiently to leave many bare spots, so the sled was left and two yoke of oxen were hitched to Mr. Granger's lumber wagon. The wounded, women and small children were loaded into the wagon, and all, including George Granger and the Hashman family, set out on the supposable long journey, most of the party going afoot. With fatigue and suffering they traveled all day. The wounds of those shot by the Indians had not been dressed, and, inflammation having set in, every motion of the wagon caused excruciating pain. Of this day's trip Mr. Palmer has written:

The snow had settled so much that we did not have much difficulty on account of the drifts, but all the small ravines and sags were filled with slush two or three feet deep, which had to be waded by those who walked. Some two or three of the women and all of the men were compelled to walk, as the oxen were not able to haul all of the women even. It was heartrending to see the poor women plunge in and wade the cold slush, sometimes nearly to their waists; but when it is life or death we can make heroic efforts to save the former.

Only twelve or fifteen miles were made that day. Camp was made on a slight elevation of ground on the bank of a small lake near Mud lakes, in Emmet county, Iowa. There were a half dozen

small, scrubby oak trees which were cut down for firewood, the branches being used for beds. The ground was covered with water from the melting snow and the accommodations were anything but comfortable. A fairly restful night was passed, however, and on the morning of the 30th the journey was resumed. That day was a repetition of the preceding one so far as discomforts were concerned. In addition, the party now began to feel the pangs of hunger, for they had had nothing to eat since leaving the Granger cabin, excepting a handful or two of sugar; all the vituals had been consumed while staying at the cabin.

About three o'clock in the afternoon the refugees sighted a party in the distance in the direction in which they were going, and again did the terror-stricken people believe that they were to be attacked by Indians. The guns were examined and preparations made for a fight. Six men of the party went ahead to investigate, leaving one man with the team. To their great joy they found the party to be the advance guard of an expedition recruited by the people of Fort Dodge and vicinity to come to the relief of the frontier settlers.<sup>5</sup> The point of meeting was near the north line of Palo Alta county,

<sup>5</sup>The Springfield refugees were, of course, ignorant of the coming of this expedition; they did not even know that news of the trouble on the frontier had been carried to the Iowa settlements. On the 14th of March, when the Springfield settlers had gathered at Granger's to go to the lakes, a Mr. Hashman, father of the young man mentioned in the text, became alarmed and set out on foot for Fort Dodge. There he told the story of the Spirit lake massacre as it had been related by Morris Markham, but he being a stranger and having his information second hand, very little credit was given to the story by the people of Fort Dodge. The news of the massacre was confirmed in that Iowa town on the 22nd, when O. C. Howe, R. U. Wheelock and B. F. Parmenter came in and reported what they had found at the lakes on the 15th. The people were still skeptical, but after these men had sworn to their statements they bestired themselves.

The direful news created intense feeling. Three companies of volunteers were quickly recruited in Fort Dodge, Webster City and Homer, and on the 25th, under command of Major William Williams, they set out for the frontier. They proceeded up the Des Moines river, and after terrible hardships came upon the Springfield refugees on the afternoon of the 30th.

Iowa. The advance guard was under the command of William Church, a Springfield settler and the husband of one of the refugees. The joy of the hungry, weary, bleeding fugitives on meeting the volunteers was indescribable. Not until then, from the time of attack, had they for a moment felt safe from their foes. They knew that had they been attacked on the route they would have fallen an easy prey.

The main body of volunteers, consisting of about 115 men, soon came up. The refugees accompanied them to their camp, four or five miles away, and for the first time since early in the morning of the day before had something to eat. Dr. Bissell, the surgeon with the volunteers, dressed the wounds of Mr. Thomas, Mr. Carver and Miss Swanger. As the injuries had been received four days before and had gone that length of time without surgical attention, the wounds were in bad condition and were terribly inflamed. All remained in the camp of the soldiers that night. The next morning Major Williams made the necessary arrangements for the care of the wounded and the women and children. Accompanied by Messrs. Granger, Hashman, Strong and Skinner, they went to the "Irish colony," a few miles below, and in course of time arrived safely in Fort Dodge and other Iowa towns.<sup>6</sup>

Of the refugees, Messrs. Bradshaw, Markham, Shiegley and Palmer did not go to the Iowa towns, but joined the volunteers.<sup>7</sup> They became members of a scouting party and scouted over quite a

<sup>6</sup>The fallacy of some of Major Williams' conclusions is illustrated in the following from his report of the expedition:

"About eighty miles up we met those who had escaped the massacre at Springfield. . . . They were about exhausted and the Indians on their trail pursuing them. Had not our scouts discovered them and reported, there can be no doubt they would have been murdered that night."

<sup>7</sup>J. Griffith and William Church were also former Springfield residents who had joined the volunteers at the time of recruiting.

large tract of territory. Although they found fresh Indian signs, they were unable to run across any of the savages. The main body of the volunteers proceeded north to the Granger cabin. There they learned that United States soldiers had arrived at Springfield, and they decided to return home, and after detailing a party to bury the dead at the lakes, they departed. Some of the former Springfield settlers who had joined the volunteers went up to the camp of the regulars and assisted in straightening up affairs in that disordered settlement.

Let us now consider the part played by the United States soldiers from Fort Ridgely, whose coming had been so anxiously awaited by the people of Springfield, and whose earlier arrival would have saved seven lives and prevented the hardships endured by the refugees.

When Joseph Chiffin and Henry Trets arrived at the lower agency with the petition on the 18th of March, Agent Charles E. Flandreau was fully satisfied of the truth of the report that murders had been committed\* and took prompt action. He at once drove to Fort Ridgely, fourteen miles distant, and conferred with Colonel E. B. Alexander, of the Tenth infantry, then commanding the post, which contained five or six companies of that regiment. With commendable promptness Colonel Alexander ordered D company, commanded by Captain Bernard E. Bee, with Lieutenant Alexander Murry second in command, to be ready to start for the scenes of the trouble at once for the purposes of protecting the settlers and to punish the Indians.

Captain Bee received his orders at nine o'clock on the morning of March 19, and within three and one-half hours he was on his way with forty-eight men, transported in sleighs drawn by mules. It was

\*Speech of Charles E. Flandreau at unveiling of Spirit Lake monument in 1895.

found impossible to march the troops in a direct line to the scene of the outbreak on account of the difficulty in traveling through the deep snow with the army wagon and mules. The route traversed was down the Minnesota by way of New Ulm to Mankato, and thence up the Blue Earth and Watonwan to Isaac Slocum's cabin, a few miles southwest of the present town of Madelia. It was hoped to find a trail from that place to the exposed settlements, but for the last forty or fifty miles of the journey it was necessary for the soldiers to break a road for the mules.

Agent Flandreau and his interpreter, Philander Prescott, accompanied the troops as far as Slocum's; then, believing it useless to proceed farther, they turned back. At Little Rock a half-breed guide named Joseph LaFramboise, who was well acquainted with the country, was secured, but it was almost impossible for him to follow a road or trail covered with four feet of snow.

So great were the difficulties of travel that Agent Flandreau advised Captain Bee to turn back, also, stating that he would justify such action before his commanding officer. Captain Bee was a plucky officer, however, and replied: "My orders are to go to Spirit lake and to do what I can; it is not for me to interpret orders, except to obey them. I shall go on until it become physically impossible to proceed farther."<sup>9</sup> So the plucky captain continued on his way. At Slocum's the command was joined by Nathaniel Frost, William Nelson and Charles Wood.

The little command waded through snow drifts up to their waists, often cutting through them with spade and shovel; extricated mules and sleighs from sloughs and drifts; dragged sleighs up steep hills and over bare spots; marched in close rank through the deep snow to break a

<sup>9</sup>Charles E. Flandreau in The Inkpaduta Massacre of 1857.



road for the teams; were up from early morning until late at night; camped, ate and slept in the snow. It was after such a trip as this, on the evening of March 28, nine days from the time he had started from Fort Ridgely and two days after the butchery at Springfield, that Captain Bee at the head of his command arrived at the trading post of Gaboo and the little Indian village there.

Gaboo and his Indians professed friendship for the whites,<sup>10</sup> and the half-breed was employed as guide.<sup>11</sup> He gave the information that Inkpaduta and his Indians had cleaned out the Springfield settlement and had retired to their camp on Heron lake. Learning this, Captain Bee decided to pursue the Indians at once, although his men were nearly exhausted from the long and wearisome journey. With the sounding of retreat on the evening of the arrival Captain Bee called for twenty volunteers to start early the next morning for the Indian camp, and the whole company promptly stepped forward.

So, early on the morning of Sunday, March 29, the whole force of soldiers, accompanied by the two half-breed guides, set out for Heron lake. The teamsters accompanied the soldiers, leading the thirteen mules of the company for use in case the Indians attempted flight. Guided by Gaboo, they went straight across the country to the site of the recent Indian camp, which they surrounded. Said Captain Bee in his report: "The camp was there with all its traces of plunder and rapine—books, scissors, articles of female

<sup>10</sup>It has been alleged that the soldiers found goods at Gaboo's camp that had come from the settlers at Springfield. Of the charge that Gaboo's Indian wife was seen wearing a shawl belonging to Mrs. Church, Captain Bee said it "only existed in the imagination of one or two settlers." He stated that all the Indian squaws were robbed in Indian blankets.

<sup>11</sup>"We procured two half-breed guides, Joe Coursalle, better known as Joe Gaboo, and Joe LaFramboise, both of whom I knew well and felt no hesitancy in trusting on such a mission."—Charles E. Flandreau at Spirit Lake monument unveiling in 1895.

apparel, furs and traps." The marks of seven tepees were found. Although this camp had been deserted at three o'clock that same morning (the soldiers reached the place in the afternoon) the half-breed guides were of the opinion that the camp was two days old.

From this circumstance some have formed the opinion that Gaboo did not want the soldiers to continue the pursuit of the Indians and that he deceived the officer in command. Captain Bee did not think so at any rate, for in a communication to the Pioneer and Democrat of St. Paul of May 14, 1857, he said: "Gaboo was in front of my men, his double-barreled gun in his hand; his whole demeanor convinced me that he had come out to fight; his life, he told me, had been threatened by the Indians."

The guides pointed out another grove four miles to the northwest, where they said the Indians might be. Lieutenant Murry took ten men and Gaboo and searched the grove, but found no Indians. Upon receiving this report from the lieutenant, Captain Bee, believing that the Indians were two days' march away and knowing that his men were in no condition to make a long campaign, decided that under the circumstances he would give up the pursuit. This he did and the command returned to the Des Moines river.<sup>12</sup>

Now, as a matter of fact, the soldiers were within a very short distance of the Indians on this trip and created great alarm among the savages. To get a thorough understanding of the events that succeeded the massacre, let us keep the company of the Indians for a while.

The looting of Woods' store was a great event with the savages and the warriors returned in triumph to the camp

<sup>12</sup>Major William Williams, of the Iowa volunteers, with his usual careless handling of the truth, said of this campaign of the regular soldiers:

near Heron lake, loaded down with plunder. Mrs. Sharp says the Indians returned after an absence of two days. Camp was then moved from a small lake, believed to be Boot lake, to the creek near the south end of Heron lake.<sup>13</sup> The Indians brought with them as a result of the raid twelve horses, heavily loaded with dry goods, groceries, powder, lead, bed quilts, wearing apparel, provisions, etc. The white captives were informed that the Indians had been repulsed, but were given no particulars of the fight, except the statement that only one white woman had been killed.

The return of the savages to camp is interestingly told by Mrs. Marble, one of the captives:<sup>14</sup>

Perhaps you remember that while we were

"On Friday, in the afternoon, the troops from Fort Ridgely arrived, all well mounted on mules. Those troops lay at Springfield all day Saturday and assisted in burying the dead. Their officers counseled with the half-breed, Gaboo, who was the only one unharmed, and known to be acting with, and identified with, the Indians, and whose squaw (he is married to a squaw) was at the time wearing the shawl of Mrs. Church, with other articles taken from the citizens. Said officers lay over from Friday evening till Sunday morning without pursuing or making any effort to overtake the Indians, who, they must have known, had taken off four white women as prisoners.

"On Sunday morning he, the commanding officer, set out on their trail, and followed them half the day, finding their campfires, overtaking three or four straggling squaws, let them go, and finding all sorts of goods thrown and strewn along their trail to lighten their load and expedite their flight. When he could not have been over half a day's march from them he stopped and returned the same evening (Sunday) to Springfield. When he ordered the men to return, they expressed a wish to follow on, and said they would put up with half rations if he would allow it. His reply was that he had no orders to follow them.

"On Monday he set out for Spirit lake to bury the dead, etc. He went to the first house, that of Mr. Marble, found one dead body, buried it and returned to Springfield.

"It is certain such troops, or rather, such officers will afford no protection to our troubled frontier settlers. Think of his conduct! His men, all well mounted, turning back when he was not a half day's march off them; they loaded down with plunder and horses and mules, and carrying off with them four respectable women as prisoners."

"Heretofore it has been generally believed that the Indian camp was on Heron lake when the attack on Springfield was made, but the camp at that time was doubtless on what is now known as Boot lake. The camp was moved to Heron lake immediately after the return from Springfield. Early settlers of Jackson county reported finding large quantities of boots and other goods from the Woods store on the bank of this lake; hence the name.

camped at a little lake the Indians went to Springfield and massacred the people and robbed the place. I do not know the name of the lake, but I remember it was surrounded with large oak trees, in which there were a number of eagles' nests. I do not know whether you recollect their arrival in camp that evening or not, but I remember it well, and so long as reason retains her throne I shall never forget it. It was just about sundown, and I had stepped out of the tent, when through the opening of the oaks my eyes caught the sight of a long line of dusky objects coming across the prairie. A second glance and I recognized the Indians of our camp. They came single file to the number of some twelve or thirteen. Each one led a horse, which with their drag-poles, on which they carry their loads, made a long line of men and horses. The horses were loaded with all kinds of goods and plunder. It was evident a dry goods store had been robbed. For, if you remember, each Indian wore a full suit of new, dark clothes, and with the new dark cape drawn closely down over their brows they presented a singular and really gloomy appearance. Many of them even wore new gloves. They brought blankets, groceries of all kinds, and whole bolts of prints. I with my own hands made up dozens of garments of the calico; dresses for their papooses and shirts for the men, as well as dresses for the squaws. They had also, many of them, a young animal strapped to their horses. I soon perceived that they were young calves. You doubtless remember they feasted about this time on veal cooked with the hair and hide on.

Mrs. Sharp also tells of the events in camp after the arrival of the warriors from Springfield:

Among this plunder were several bolts of calico and red flannel. Of these, especially the flannel, they were exceedingly proud, decorating themselves with it in fantastic fashion. Red leggings, red shirts, red blankets, and red in every conceivable way, was the style there as long as it lasted. Could anything have amused me in those sad days, it would have been to see their grotesque attempts to wear the habiliments of the whites; especially the attempts of the squaws to wear the tight-fitting garments of the white women. They would put in one arm, and then reach back to try to get in the other; but, even if they succeeded in getting both arms into the sleeves at the same time, they were too broad shouldered and brawny to get the waist into position or fasten it; so after struggling awhile they would give it up in disgust. They were altogether too much the shape of a barrel to wear the dress of white women. So they cut off and threw

<sup>14</sup>Letter from Mrs. M. A. Silbaugh (formerly Mrs. Marble) to Mrs. Sharp, dated February 25, 1885, and published in Mrs. Sharp's History of the Spirit Lake Massacre.

away the waists and made the skirts into loose-fitting sacks after the squaw fashion. All this amused them greatly; they would laugh and chatter like a lot of monkeys.

In the midst of the celebration of the sacking of Woods' store and the murders at Springfield came an alarm that the soldiers were coming. The wildest excitement prevailed. The squaws at once extinguished the fires by pouring on water, that the smoke might not be seen and that the ash heaps would not have a fresh appearance if the soldiers came upon them. The tents were torn down, the goods hastily packed, and all proceeded down the creek upon which they were camped.

While the description of the camp as remembered by Abbie Gardner, the captive, is rather indefinite, it is believed to have been on the little creek which flows into the extreme south end of Heron lake, just northwest of the present village of Lakefield. She says the camp was on low ground and by a small stream of water, and that there was a high rolling prairie close by, and this corresponds with the high land upon which Lakefield is built. Some rods from the camp, so Miss Gardner said, was a large tree, to which an Indian crept. From the branches of this tree the warrior watched the movements of the soldiers and reported to his comrades. This would seem to further establish the location, for it is highly probable that the tree mentioned is the famous "Lone Tree," still standing a short distance from Lakefield and visible for many miles.

When the alarm was given the savages prepared themselves for attack. First they discharged their guns into the earth to empty them of the loads of fine shot, firing into the earth deadening the sound; then they reloaded with bullets. The savages hastened down the creek, "skulking like partridges among the willows," as the captive-historian expresses it. One warrior was detailed to stand guard over

the four women prisoners, with instructions to kill them if an attack was made by the soldiers. I quote again from Mrs. Sharp's history:

"The excitement manifested by the Indians for a little while was intense. . . . After an hour and a half of this exciting suspense, in which the squaws were skulking in the willows, the sentry watching from the tree-top, the warriors lurking among the openings of the willows on the banks of the stream, and we cowering beneath the muzzles of the loaded rifles—a sudden change came to us. The soldiers, it seems, just here decided to turn back."

Such was the situation of the Indians that the soldiers, had they followed the trail, would not have discovered the presence of the enemy until in their midst—and then they would have discovered it with a volley. The captives would surely have been murdered. But events did not so shape themselves. The half-breed guides were either deceived themselves or they deceived the officers, and the soldiers turned back. After the turning back of the troops, the Indians did not hesitate a moment, but set out in all haste for the west.

On the return from the pursuit of the Indians, Captain Bee and his command went down the river to Springfield, and on Monday, March 30, the dead bodies of the victims were buried. It was found that all the goods had been carried away from the store. William Wood was buried near where he was found, on the west bank of the river, just above the old ford, the exact spot being now unknown. The soldiers failed to find the body of George Wood, which was concealed in the brush pile, but it was subsequently found and buried near the spot where he was killed. The Stewart family and Willie Thomas were buried near the Stewart cabin. In



**"LONE TREE"**

**Historic Landmark Near Lakefield.**

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his report Captain Bee said: "It was one of the saddest moments of my life when I saw the Stewart family dead by their cold hearthstone, but then and there my conscience told me that they had met their fate by no fault of mine." At the Wheeler cabin, Mr. Henderson was found alive, not having been molested by the Indians. Mr. Smith and the Shiegley boy were found at the Thomas cabin.

While Captain Bee and his forces were still at Heron lake he detailed Lieutenant Murry and eight men to go to Spirit lake to bury the dead. The party went to the Marble grove, buried the body of Mr. Marble, and then returned to Springfield. The rapid melting of the snow and the consequent rapid rise of the streams made progress difficult and he did not go to the Okoboji lakes. The dead there were afterward buried by the Iowa volunteers, on April 3.

While in Springfield Captain Bee expressed much feeling over the massacre of the settlers. He said he was sorry Major Williams had not continued his march over the state line and taken summary vengeance on the Indians of Gaboo's camp, who professed such great friendship for the whites, remarking that the major was not tied up with orders as he was.<sup>15</sup> The commander of the regular soldiers expressed the hope that the fugitive families would return, and went so far as to send a messenger after them with the information that the Indians were out of the country and that a guard of soldiers would be left at Springfield for their protection; that all might now return in safety.<sup>16</sup>

Captain Bee detailed Lieutenant Murry

<sup>15</sup>Jareb Palmer.

<sup>16</sup>"On the strength of these assurances some returned and reported that if the guard was to be permanent all would return. I could give them no information on that head, but stated that I would take the responsibility of leaving an officer, two non-commissioned officers and twenty-six privates, but that further action must come from my military superiors."—Report of Captain Bernard E. Bee.

and seventeen men to remain in the settlement for the protection of any who wished to remain and those who might come in. Mr. Jareb Palmer, who was in the camp when the order was read, says: "I remember that the order stated that there should not be any unnecessary bugling, and I heard him afterward remark while in conversation with the lieutenant that the less bugling they had the better, all of which went to show that he didn't think the danger was over." The next morning after the detail was announced Captain Bee and the main part of his command departed for Fort Ridgely, where he arrived April 8.<sup>17</sup>

Lieutenant Murry<sup>18</sup> and his seventeen men pitched their camp just south of the Wheeler cabin and not far from the Carver cabin. This force remained at Springfield until about April 20. Then it was relieved by Lieutenant John McNab with a force of twenty men, who remained until fall.

The subsequent history of Inkipaduta and his band can be told in a few words. Although all the damage had been done by a dozen or fifteen warriors of the outlaw band, it was feared the whole Sioux nation was up in arms. There was great

<sup>17</sup>Captain Bernard E. Bee was a South Carolinian and was about forty years of age in 1857. He was a West Point graduate and a brave and determined officer. Soon after the expedition to Springfield his regiment went west to help suppress the Mormon uprising and he was in the west until the beginning of the civil war. When South Carolina seceded from the union Captain Bee resigned from the army and was made a brigadier general in the confederate army. He was killed in the first battle of Bull Run while endeavoring to hold his brigade in line. But before he was killed he did much to turn the tide of battle and bring about a confederate victory.

During the hottest part of the battle, while his men and those of several other commands were fleeing in disorder, noting how firmly stood the brigade of General Thomas J. Jackson. General Bee shouted to his men: "For God's sake, stand, men; stand like Jackson's brigade on your right; there they stand like a stone wall." General Beauregard and other officers, overhearing the remark, remembered it, and from this came the famous soubriquet of "Stonewall Jackson."

<sup>18</sup>Lieutenant Murry was a Pennsylvanian by birth. He had attended West Point, but failed to graduate, and was appointed to the army from civil life. He remained true to the northern cause.

alarm all over southern Minnesota, although there was not a hostile Indian in the vicinity.

Immediately after the soldiers under Captain Bee had given up the pursuit, the Indians made all haste to get out of the country. They traveled westward into Dakota, taking the women captives with them. Of the four unfortunate women, Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Noble were cruelly murdered, Mrs. Marble and Miss Gardner were ransomed after considerable delay.

Inkpaduta and his band of murderers were never properly punished, owing to a combination of circumstances. The chief himself became totally blind within a

few years and did not participate in more butcheries. He and two surviving sons fled with Sitting Bull to Canada, finally locating at the Canadian red pipestone quarry, in southwestern Manitoba. Here in 1894 Dr. Charles Eastman, a well-known Indian authority, found the descendants of Inkpaduta, who gave him much interesting information. The bloody-minded old savage himself had died miserably some years before.<sup>19</sup> Two of Inkpaduta's sons, Roaring Cloud and Fire Cloud, were killed during the summer of 1857. Two other members of the band were killed by Little Crow's Indians. Probably the rest took part in the great Sioux outbreak of 1862.

<sup>19</sup>Minnesota in Three Centuries.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### RESETTLEMENT AND ORGANIZATION—1857-1859.

**I**T SEEMS strange that in less than two months after the terrible Inkpaduta massacre—at a time when only a handful of men were braving the dangers of the Indian country by remaining in what was then known as the Springfield settlement—the legislature of the territory of Minnesota should see fit to create the political division known as Jackson county and make provision for its organization. But such is the case, and Jackson county was for the first time entitled to a place on the map of Minnesota on May 23, 1857, when Governor Samuel Medary attached his signature to the bill creating it.

Conditions in Minnesota territory at the time were unique. Thousands of people were pouring in and building themselves homes in the frontier sections. Elaborate schemes for big ventures were planned; nothing was done in a niggardly manner; frenzied finance reigned supreme. Railroad rumors filled the air, and it was indeed an out-of-the-way place that did not look forward to the coming of the iron horse in the immediate future. Paper roads covered the territory from one end of the territory to the other, and southwestern Minnesota was no exception to the rule. The territorial legislature caught the fever and granted bo-

nuses to various contemplated railroads. The townsite boomers carried their schemes to the legislature and largely for their benefit the Minnesota law making body indiscriminately created counties in all parts of the territory—in many of which there was not at the time a single resident. And Jackson county came into existence under these conditions.

Investigation shows us that in addition to the Indian title, which was quieted by treaty in the early fifties, the land now comprising Jackson county has been in the possession of three different civilized nations and has formed a part of six different territories of the United States and of three different counties of Minnesota.

Our county formed a small part of the new world possessions claimed by France by right of discovery and exploration. In 1763, humbled by wars in Europe and America, France was forced to relinquish her province known as Louisiana, and all her possessions west of the Mississippi river were ceded to Spain in that year. Amid the exigencies of European wars Spain, in the year 1800, ceded Louisiana back to France, which was then ruled by Napoleon Bonaparte. On April 30, 1803, negotiations were completed for the purchase of Louisiana by the United States



for the sum of \$15,000,000. On that date the future Jackson county became a part of the United States.

Soon after the United States secured possession—in 1805—that part of the mammoth territory of Louisiana which had been called Upper Louisiana was organized into Missouri territory, and had our county then had settlers they would have been under the government of Missouri. Missouri was admitted as a state in 1820, and for several years thereafter the country beyond its northern boundary, comprising what is now Iowa and all of Minnesota west of the Mississippi river, was without organized government. But in 1834 congress attached this great expanse of territory to Michigan territory. Two years later Wisconsin territory was formed, comprising all of Michigan west of Lake Michigan and for the next two years we were a part of that territory.

Congress did a lot of enacting and boundary changing before Jackson county got where it belonged. We became a part of Iowa territory when it was created in 1838, because we were included in "all that part of the [then] present territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi river and west of a line drawn due north from the headwaters or sources of the Mississippi to the territorial line." Jackson county was a part of Iowa territory until Iowa became a state in 1846. During this time settlers began to locate in portions of what later became Minnesota, and they were put under the jurisdiction of Clayton county, Iowa.<sup>1</sup> Before this the Minnesota country had been practically a "no man's land." The only laws enforced were the rules of the fur companies and the law of the sword administered by the commandant at Fort

<sup>1</sup>Henry H. Sibley, who lived at Mendota, was a justice of the peace of that county. The county seat was 250 miles distant, and his jurisdiction extended over a region of country "as large as the empire of France."

Snelling. By the admission of Iowa as a state in 1846 our county again became actually a "no man's land;" we were a part of no territory or state. That condition existed until Minnesota territory was created in 1849.<sup>2</sup>

When the first legislature convened after the organization of the territory in 1849 it divided Minnesota into nine counties, named as follows: Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Cass, Pembina, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago and Wabasha. The whole of southern Minnesota was included in Wabasha and Dakota, and of these two, Dakota had the bulk of the territory. Wabasha included that part of the territory "lying east of a line running due south from a point on the Mississippi river known as Medicine Bottle village, at Pine Bend [near St. Paul], to the Iowa line." Dakota county (created October 27, 1849) was "all that part of said territory west of the Mississippi and lying west of the county of Wabasha and south of a line beginning at the mouth of Crow river, and up said river and the north branch thereof to its source, and thence due west to the Missouri river."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup>It may be of interest to know that only an unfavorable act of congress prevented Jackson county from being divided—part to go to Iowa and part to the future Minnesota. In 1844 a constitutional convention prepared a constitution for the state of Iowa which provided for boundaries in part as follows: From a point where the Sioux or Calumet river enters the Missouri, in a straight line to a point where the Watonwan enters St. Peter's (Minnesota) river (which it does not, but rather the Blue Earth), and thence down the St. Peter's to the Mississippi and down that river. This line defining the northwest boundary would extend, on a present day map, from Sioux City, Iowa, to Mankato, Minnesota, and would pass through Jackson county. Had congress ratified this constitution, which it did not, the present Jackson county would have been partly in Iowa and partly in Minnesota.

<sup>3</sup>Minnesota territory then extended to the Missouri river. In this mammoth county of Dakota there were the following present day counties (or parts of counties) in Minnesota, in addition to many in what is now the state of South Dakota: Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Steele, Waseca, Blue Earth, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Nicollet, Lesueur, Rice, Dakota (part), Scott, Sibley, Renville, Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, Chipewewa, Kandiyohi (except small corner), Meeker (part), McLeod, Carver, Hennepin, Wright (part), Stearns (small part), Pope (part), Swift, Stevens (part), Big Stone and Traverse (part).

Although Dakota county was larger than many of the eastern states its population was almost nothing, and it was declared "organized only for the purpose of the appointment of justices of the peace, constables and such other judicial and ministerial officers as may be specially provided for."

The future Jackson county remained a part of Dakota county until March 5, 1853, when there was a readjustment of Dakota and Wabasha county boundaries, and Blue Earth county came into existence. The boundaries of the latter were described as follows: "So much territory lying south of the Minnesota river as remains of Wabasha and Dakota counties undivided by this act." As the boundaries of the two older counties as defined by the act were very indefinite, it is impossible to state exactly what the dimensions of Blue Earth county were. It is known, however, that it included all of southwestern Minnesota.

For two years the unknown Jackson county country remained a part of Blue Earth county, and then came another change. By an act approved February 20, 1855, the county of Blue Earth was reduced to its present boundaries, Faribault county was created with the boundaries it now has, except that it extended one township farther west than now; and the new county of Brown came into existence. It was described as follows: "That so much of the territory as was formerly included within the county of Blue Earth, and has not been included within the boundaries of any other county as herein established, shall be known as the county of Brown." All of the territory lying south of the Minnesota river and west of a line drawn south from the western boundary of the present day Blue Earth county now became Brown county, and Jackson remained a part of this un-

til two years later, when it became a political division of itself.<sup>4</sup>

Jackson county was only one of nine counties in southwestern Minnesota created by the act of May 23, 1857.<sup>5</sup> Section two of the act described the boundaries:

That so much of the territory of Minnesota as lies within the following boundaries be, and the same is hereby, established as the county of Jackson: Beginning at the southeast corner of township 101 north, of range 34 west; thence due north to the northeast corner of township 104 north, of range 34 west; thence due west to the northwest corner of township 104 north, of range 38 west; thence due south to the southwest corner of township 101 north, of range 38 west; thence due east to the place of beginning.

Of the nine counties created only Martin, Jackson, Nobles and Big Sioux were declared to be organized counties and "invested with all the immunities to which organized counties are entitled by law." These four counties were attached to the third judicial district for judicial purposes and to the tenth council district for legislative purposes. Provision was made for the early organization of Jackson county. Residents of the county were to be named by the governor as commissioners to perfect the organization.<sup>6</sup> These commissioners were to meet during the

<sup>4</sup>Brown county was not organized at once, but by an act of the legislature on February 11, 1856, it was permitted to organize. New Ulm was named as the county seat.

<sup>5</sup>Minnesota territory at this time extended west to the Big Sioux river. The other counties created by the act were Martin, Nobles, Murray, Pipestone, Big Sioux, Cottonwood, Rock and Midway. The three first named were given the boundaries they now have. The boundaries of Pipestone county were described as including the present Rock county and the eastern portion of the present Minnehaha county, South Dakota. The boundaries of Rock county were described as including the present Pipestone county and a small part of the eastern portion of the present Moody county, South Dakota. This transposition of the names Rock and Pipestone in the description of their boundaries in the original act of 1857 may have been due to a lack of knowledge of the physical features of this part of the country, or it may have been due to a clerical error. The mistake was corrected later. Big Sioux county took in part of the present Minnehaha county and extended from the Big Sioux river eastward to Pipestone (Rock) county. Cottonwood county had the same boundaries as now, except that it did not then have three townships in the northwest corner which it now has. Midway county included that part of the present Moody county which lies between the Big Sioux river and the western boundary of the original Rock (Pipestone) county.

first week in July, 1857, at the county seat and set in motion the machinery of the government. The county seat was temporarily located at Jackson,<sup>7</sup> the townsite of Springfield having been renamed Jackson a short time before, as will be told later. Provision for the permanent location was made in section twelve, which reads as follows:

On the petition of twenty legal voters in any of said counties, at any time after the passage of this act, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to order the legal voters of any of the said counties to vote at any general election for the location of the county seats of said counties, and the point receiving the highest number of votes shall be the county seat of said county.

Jackson county was named in honor of Hon. Henry Jackson, the first merchant of St. Paul, according to the best authorities.<sup>8</sup> The only dissension from this consensus of opinion is by Hon. William P. Murray, of St. Paul, who was a member of the legislature that established the county. Mr. Murray thinks the county was named in honor of President Andrew Jackson, but as he is not positive of this it is reasonably certain the honor belongs to Henry Jackson.<sup>9</sup>

It is perhaps needless to say that Jackson county was not organized in July, 1857, as the act provided. It is doubtful if there were enough men in the county at the time, excepting the soldiers, to fill the necessary county offices. But within a short time permanent settlers again came to the county and the organization

<sup>7</sup>Section eleven of the act reads: "The governor shall appoint three persons for each of the respective organized counties, being residents and legal voters thereof, commissioners for each of said counties, with full power and authority to do and perform all acts and duties devolving upon the board of county commissioners of any organized county in this territory, the said board of commissioners shall have power to appoint all other officers that may be required to complete the organization of their respective counties."

<sup>8</sup>Section 12: "... and the county seat of Jackson county shall be temporarily established at the town of Jackson in said county."

<sup>9</sup>See article by R. I. Holcombe in Pioneer Press almanac for 1896; Warren Upham's Minnesota County names; Minnesota in Three Centuries.

was duly perfected, as will be told in due chronological order.

The presence of Lieutenant Murry and his seventeen soldiers at Springfield was the only thing that kept Jackson county from becoming entirely depopulated after the massacre. As it was, only a few spent the summer of 1857 in the county. Of the several families who were in the Springfield settlement at the time of the

"On the night of June 9, 1842, there landed from a steamboat at St. Paul's a man named Henry Jackson, whose advent proved to be epochal in the career and history of the place. He was a Virginian and was born in 1811. He had served as orderly sergeant in the 'Patriot Army' of Sam Houston that achieved the independence of Texas. In May, 1838, at Buffalo, New York, he married Angeline Bivins, a model wife for an enterprising and intelligent character, such as he was. Soon after his marriage he moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, and thence to Galena, Illinois, where he engaged in business, but was unsuccessful. He had learned of the situation at St. Paul's and determined to establish himself there and with the remnant of his Galena stock to open a store for the sale of Indian and frontier goods. It was a dark rainy night when he landed, he did not know a single person or a single foot of the territory in the place, and it required much search and effort to find a shelter for himself and wife until the morning. Quarters were finally found at the house of James R. Clewett, although his father-in-law's family, the Perrys, were at the time members of the household. Here Mr. and Mrs. Jackson remained for some days and then Jackson rented of Pierre Parant—'Old Pig's Eye'—a cabin on the levee, which was his residence for some weeks. He soon purchased of Benjamin Gervais about two acres now lying in the block bounded by Jackson and Robert on the east and west and Third and Bench streets on the south and north. The tract was then a high bluff bank, and on a point overlooking the river. Mr. Jackson built a cabin of tamarack poles and opened a stock of goods especially selected for the local demand. In the summer of 1843 he enlarged and sold a half interest in his business to William Hartshorn, and in September of that year the firm took into their employ as clerk and French interpreter Auguste Louis Larpenteur, a native of Baltimore, but of a prominent old French family and who is (1908) yet an honored and honoring citizen of St. Paul.

"Henry Jackson became very prominent and serviceable in the early affairs of St. Paul. His store was a creditable establishment, was independent of the fur company and popular among the settlers and the Indians. In 1843, while the Minnesota country east of the Mississippi belonged to Wisconsin territory, he was appointed by Governor Henry Dodge a justice of the peace for St. Croix county. In 1846 he was appointed the first postmaster at St. Paul's. In 1847 and 1848 he was a member of the Wisconsin legislature, representing the county of St. Croix. He was also a member of the first territorial legislature of Minnesota and of the first town council of St. Paul. In April, 1852, he moved to Mankato, becoming one of the first four settlers of the place, where he died July 31, 1857. Jackson street in St. Paul and Jackson county are named for him and also Jackson street in Mankato. His widow married John S. Hinckley, a pioneer of Mankato, and died in that city January 1, 1894."—Minnesota in Three Centuries.

massacre, only that of Dr. Strong ever returned to live, and Dr. Strong and family did not remain many years. The memory of the awful events was too clear in their minds to tempt back those families who had made settlement along the Des Moines river in the summer and fall of 1856. A few of the unmarried men of the settlement, however, remained during the summer. Among them were Nathaniel Frost, John Dodson, Joseph Chiffin, Henry Trets and Adam Shigley.

A few others came in during the summer of 1857 and took claims or bought from those who had departed. Alexander Wood, a brother of the murdered storekeepers, came to look after the claims. He fell in with a company of townsite sharks, who were operating extensively all over Minnesota at the time, and an agreement was made by the terms of which Mr. Wood was to come and hold down his brothers' claims and they were to secure a half interest in the holdings by reason of improvements which they promised to make. Elaborate plans were made for building a town on the townsite selected by William and George Wood, which was to be called Jackson, instead of Springfield. A sawmill and grist mill were to be built, and work on these improvements was commenced. The townsite company did not fulfil its part of the agreement by making the stipulated improvements, possibly because of the panic of that year, and misunderstandings resulted which were afterwards settled in the courts to the benefit of Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood did not wish to stay on the claim during the winter, so he entered the land as a farm claim, instead of a townsite claim, and spent the winter elsewhere.

Another abortive attempt to found a town in 1857 was made by Joseph Chiffin, John Dodson and James Whitchurch. Their "town" was located on Mr. Chiffin's

claim on section eleven, Des Moines township, and was named Odessa. About this time there was a war between Russia and Turkey, and the name of the Russian city Odessa was much in the public prints. That furnished the name, and the name was all there was to Odessa. No improvements whatever were made, and Odessa as a Jackson county place name will be handed down simply as an interesting relic of the wildcat townsite days in Minnesota's early history. The Norwegian settlers of 1860 report finding Odessa "a village of sticks, but without any buildings." The proprietors of the townsite were trappers; they spent the winter of 1857-58 in the Skinner cabin.

Thomas Johnson came to the county in 1857, took a claim near Jackson, and some time later became a permanent resident. Charles Mead came with Mr. Johnson and became a resident of the county. Ned Lower took a claim on section 6, Belmont, in the summer but did not remain during the winter. Charles Kern, commonly called "Dutch Charlie" (he was a Bavarian), was another arrival of the year 1857, and he spent the following winter in the settlement "holding down" the claim of Alexander Wood. Mr. Kern was a man of considerable ability—a newspaper correspondent and a physician as well as a trapper. He resided in the county several years. As indicated, only a few of these remained in the settlement during the winter; Jackson county was nearly depopulated during the winter of 1857-58.

The mail route between Mankato and Sioux City, which had been discontinued after the death of the carrier, Hoxie Rathban, and which had not been resumed in the spring on account of the massacre, was opened during the summer of 1857. Marsh & Babcock sublet the contract to David Pease, who lived on the Watonwan,

and that gentleman carried the mail over the old route until about November 1. At that time the route was changed to go by way of the Spirit lake settlement, and two carriers were employed, a Mr. Johnson for the northern end and Mr. Jareb Palmer for the southern end. They carried the mail until April, 1858, when Mr. Pease again resumed the duties of carrier.

The departure of the soldiers in the fall of 1857 and the removal of most of the white settlers for the winter left those who remained in some apprehension of Indian attack. Although none of Inkpaduta's band came back, there were occasionally seen other Indians who created some alarm. In Buena Vista county, Iowa, about the last of December, 1857, a party of eleven white men attempted to drive a band of Indians from the country. The Indians led the whites into an ambuscade and wounded one of the attackers, and the whites then withdrew and gave up the chase. A few Indians appeared at the Spirit lake settlement during the winter and caused much uneasiness among the few families who were wintering there. A petition was drawn up, signed by every adult in the Spirit lake settlement, and carried to Des Moines by Jareb Palmer. The petition asked the Iowa legislature to send a force of volunteers for their protection.<sup>10</sup>

Governor Lowe authorized the raising of a company of volunteers to go to the frontier, and Mr. Jareb Palmer recruited a company of thirty men, which was mustered in at Webster City and named Frontier Guard. H. B. Martin, of Webster City, was captain, and William L. Church, the former Springfield settler, was first lieutenant. The Frontier Guard arrived in the exposed settlements on March 1 and was divided into three squads—one at Spirit lake, one on the Des Moines, seven miles above Estherville, and

one on the Little Sioux, in Clay county.

The guard remained on the frontier until the last of June, and then, as there appeared to be no Indians near the settlements, the soldiers returned to their homes. The country had been thoroughly searched, but no Indians found. On one occasion, at Skunk lake, in Sioux Valley township of Jackson county, there was found the dead body of an Indian laid upon the nearly horizontal branch of a large but somewhat scrubby oak tree. From the profusion of ornaments found on his person he was supposed to have been a chief or warrior distinguished among his fellows.

Owing to the presence of these Iowa

<sup>10</sup>"Spirit Lake, January 9, 1858. To the Honorable, the General Assembly of the State of Iowa. The undersigned citizens, residing in the vicinity of Spirit lake, would respectfully present for the consideration of your honorable body the condition of the people on the frontier in the northwest part of the state. We are exposed to the attack of Indians under circumstances affording little hope of relief. The settlements are sparse and widely scattered, with but little or no communication with each other. A hostile incursion has already been made and depredations committed in the vicinity where the outrages were committed last winter, and with a result to encourage renewed attempts. At any hour this may be repeated at points utterly unprotected and but poorly supplied with means of defense. Some of the surrounding settlements have already been abandoned for the winter, and all are much weakened in numbers by persons who have left. Many of the settlers remaining cannot leave without abandoning their all and cannot collect in sufficient numbers to withstand attack, and depending—as nearly all the remaining settlers do—upon their own exertions for sustenance, must either endure great suffering or remain exposed to danger. If we apply to the general government, relief, if obtained, would be too late. Help for us, to be efficient, must be prompt. A small body of soldiers placed near the Little Sioux river, in the vicinity of the state line, would afford protection to all the settlements on the Little Sioux, about Spirit lake, and on the west fork of the Des Moines river and their vicinity. We would respectfully pray that a law be passed authorizing the raising of one hundred volunteer troops for the term of three months, to be stationed in the north part of the state. Your petitioners also pray for such other means of protection as circumstances demand."

The petition was signed by Orlando C. Howe, William P. Graylord, Jareb Palmer, William D. Carsley, Joseph Miller, H. H. Packard, Dan Colwell, T. S. Rttf, C. L. Richardson, Rosalve Kingman, W. B. Brown, Charles F. Hill, Joseph M. Post, William Lamont, Lawrence Foa-leer, Levi Daugherty, George Rogers, E. E. Longfellow, James L. Peters, E. Thurston, Thomas Miner, James D. Hawkins, George S. Post, R. U. Wheelock, William Donaldson, Roderrick A. Smith, George Detrick, Agnes I. Kingman, Melissa A. Peters, Mrs. M. W. Howe, Elizabeth Thurston, Mrs. K. Massey.

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# SOME OLD TIMERS



THE THOMAS HOUSE



JOSEPH THOMAS



JANE THOMAS



JACKSONS FIRST BUILDING



DUGOUT - M. Q. GILLIE FARM



BUFFALO SKULL FOUND IN PETERSBURG

guards there was quite a large immigration to the Spirit lake country, to Jackson county, and to other nearby settlements in the spring of 1858. The appearance of small bands of Indians about the first of September again created apprehension, and the guard returned to the frontier about the middle of November and remained all winter.

During the spring and summer of 1858 many who had been in the county the year before returned to make permanent settlement and several new settlers arrived. Among the more prominent of the settlers of this year was Joseph Thomas, who became one of the best known men of Jackson county.<sup>11</sup> It was during the month of March that Mr. Thomas, accompanied by his son, Lansing, then a youth of nineteen years, James Palmer, his son-in-law, and P. P. Holland, drove into Jackson county by ox team from Newton, Iowa. Mr. Thomas had bought the Wheeler claim and cabin from a man named Kellogg, and made his home there until his death. He returned to Newton for provisions and household goods, but came back at once. Lewis Thomas arrived at the new home in July. The rest of the family came the next spring. James Palmer took as a claim the southwest quarter of section 19, Wisconsin township, and continued a resident of the county until his death.

Nathaniel Frost came back early in the spring to become a permanent settler. George Bradbury came from Newton, Iowa, and took as his claim the north half of the south half of section 30, Wisconsin township, upon which he lived until his death that fall. James Townsend also came from Newton with his family and located on the southeast quarter of section 25, Des Moines township, making his home in the James B. Thomas cabin. During the winter of 1858-59 he went to Man-

kato with two yoke of oxen for provisions. On his way back, while near Elm creek, his wagon became stuck in a slough so that the oxen could not pull it out. Mr. Townsend unhitched the oxen, turned them loose, and camped in the slough for the night. In the morning he started out to look for his oxen, but a storm came up and he lost his way. When nearly exhausted from wandering about on the prairie, he came upon an empty cabin near the west chain of lakes, in Martin county, and sought shelter there. He was too badly frozen to make a fire and perished in the cabin. His body was found ten days later by trappers. In the spring of 1859 Mrs. Townsend and the children returned to their old home in Newton.

James Meddleson was another unfortunate man who came to the settlement early in 1858, only to meet a violent death. Soon after his arrival he started down the river in a canoe to take a few traps to John Dodson and Charles Kern, who were trapping in Emmet county, Iowa, and never returned. He had been murdered and his head severed entirely from the body. From this circumstance it was thought that he had been murdered by Indians.

Benjamin Hill, with his family of a wife and three children, came from Mankato early in the spring, took a claim on the river in Belmont township, and remained several years. Charles Kern was also in the county in 1858 and remained for several years. John McEwen took a claim on section 30, Des Moines township, remained only a few months, and then sold to a Mr. Miller, of Newton, Iowa. The latter remained only a short time. Adam Shiegley, one of the trappers who had come before the massacre, was in the county again in 1858, and was an intermittent resident for several years. Frank Wagner also came to the settlement from Webster City and remained a few years.

<sup>11</sup>See biographical section.



Messrs. Dodson, Chiffin and Whitchurch, of "Odessa," continued to hold their land claims and engage in trapping during the year. James Haughton and wife came during the summer and located on section 36, Des Moines township, but remained only about one year. Bartholomew McCarthy, who had been to the Springfield settlement before the massacre, returned in the spring of 1858 and became a permanent resident.

Israel F. Eddy, who had previously selected a claim near where the Milwaukee depot in Jackson is now, came with his family in April, 1858, and became a permanent resident. Charles Clark came from Newton, Iowa, and took a claim in Belmont township. Morris Lester came from Mankato in the spring and took a claim on the west side of the river in the southern part of the county, but remained only a short time. Elisha Hill took a claim in Belmont, but departed from the county in the fall. Dr. E. B. N. Strong and his family continued to reside in the county during 1858 and for some time afterward. Joseph Muck and his large family located near the present site of Jackson, where he lived until 1862.<sup>12</sup> Alexander Wood returned to look after his interests.

Probably a few other people came during the year 1858 to take claims and become permanent settlers, but as there is now none of the settlers of 1858 living in the county the record for the year must remain incomplete.

The townsite schemers of Minnesota appeared before the legislature early in 1858 and succeeded in inducing that body to provide for the establishment of over ninety state roads in different parts of

<sup>12</sup>In 1862 Mr. Muck and his family moved to Spirit Lake. There his wife died and his son, Stephen, became blind. The same year he enlisted in the Sioux City cavalry and served in the army until 1864. In 1867 Mr. Muck located in the Graham lakes country, Nobles county, and became the first resident of that county.

the new state, most of them leading to towns which existed only in the minds of the promoters. The provision for the establishment of these roads was incorporated in one bill, approved by Charles L. Chase, acting governor, on March 19, 1858. Mr. Wood and his associates in the scheme for the building of a town at Jackson were not forgotten. Section 86 of the act reads as follows:

That E. E. Smith, J. S. Fisher and Alexander Wood are hereby appointed commissioners to survey, locate and establish the following state roads, viz: From Blue Earth City, via Fairmont, county seat of Martin county, to Jackson, county seat of Jackson county; also a road from Mankato, via Arcadia, in Brown county, to Jackson, in Jackson county; also a road from Fairmont in a southerly direction to the state line of Iowa

It was during the year 1858 that a company of promoters from Owatonna, Minnesota, founded the town of Belmont on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 34, Belmont township, and the northeast quarter of section 3, Des Moines township, on a flat on the east side of the river. To such an extent had real estate speculation, especially townsite speculation, progressed at this time that some wit of the time suggested a petition be sent to congress asking that a law be passed providing for the reservation of some of the government domain for agricultural entry. To illustrate the condition that permitted the founding of Belmont and other towns on the frontier and their more or less successful exploitation, I quote from a Minnesota state history:

The real estate speculation reached its crisis in the early part of 1857; everybody seemed inoculated with the mania, from the capitalist to the humble laborer. Townsites and additions to towns were laid out by the score. Many were purely imaginary, never having been surveyed, and lots in these paper cities were sold by the hundreds in the east at exorbitant prices. Agriculture was neglected, farmers, mechanics and laborers forsook their occupations to become operators in real estate. The number of real estate dealers was innumerable, but many of them were shysters, having no offices but the sidewalk, their stock in trade being a roll of townsite

maps and a package of blank deeds. These operators, by sharp maneuvering, would manipulate unsuspecting strangers and fleece them of their means by selling them lots in moonshine towns for several hundred dollars each that were not actually worth as many cents. Such operations were repeated again and again until St. Paul and Minnesota had a name abroad that was anything but enviable.

In such times and under such conditions the town of Belmont was founded. While Springfield and Jackson and Odesa had made no material progress, Belmont did, boasting a number of buildings and one or two business enterprises—probably to the greater loss of lot purchasers. Charles Mead and D. P. Cornell seem to have been the leading spirits of the enterprise, although a number of others were interested with them.

The Belmont townsite boomers went farther with their schemes than most of the speculators of the day, and secured the incorporation of their town by the legislature, the act being signed by Governor Henry H. Sibley July 27, 1858. The first two sections of the bill read as follows:

An act to incorporate the town of Belmont.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota:

Section 1. That so much land as is contained in the town of Belmont, according to the survey and plat of said town, as made by C. C. Mead, for the proprietors of Belmont, and situated in the county of Jackson, and state of Minnesota, shall be a town corporate by the name of Belmont.

Sec. 2. That for the good order and improvement of said town, Joshua Dyer<sup>22</sup> is hereby appointed president, S. B. Westcott, D. P. Cornell, George A. Bardwell and Frederick Noble be and are hereby appointed trustees, Charles G. Berry, secretary, E. W. Northrup, attorney, and S. A. Farrington, treasurer, and George E. Leary, marshal. The president, trustees and secretary shall constitute the council of said town.

Some of the officers of the town—perhaps all of them—located in the new town. At least two of them became permanent settlers of the county, for we find the names of Joshua Dyer and Frederick Noble listed as residents of Jackson county when the federal census of 1860 was taken.

<sup>22</sup>Joshua Dyer.

Section three of the charter provided that the officers named in the act should enter upon their duties on the first Wednesday in January, 1859, and made provision for the holding the first town election at the next general state or county election. The fourth section stated the duties and defined the corporate powers of the officers. Among other items:

The officers of said town shall have a right of action against all trespasses on the property of said town; and any person trespassing upon any lands within the limits of said town, or occupying said lands without a conveyance from the proprietors of said town, or their trustees, agents or assignees, shall forfeit all improvements he may make on such lands, and shall be liable to pay damages to twice the amount of actual injustice done to said lands.

Other sections of the charter provided for keeping a record of the proceedings of the council, for filling vacancies, defined the powers of the council, provided for authority to assess and collect taxes for municipal purposes, and for the delivery of records to successors in office. The charter does not definitely locate the town, and, as the county had not yet been surveyed, neither the legislature nor the townsite proprietors knew the exact location as it would appear on a present day map. The land was still government property, but provision was made for securing title under the townsite act of 1844. Section eleven of the incorporating act reads:

It shall be the duty of the said council of said town to apply for a preemption of the land within the limits of said town, not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres, under the provisions of an act of congress, entitled an act for the relief of citizens of towns upon lands of the United States, under certain circumstances, approved May 23, 1844; and as soon as the title to said land shall be obtained as aforesaid, to ascertain the persons entitled to the various lots and blocks within said town, who may have a valid right to the same, either by original claim, or by transfer by the person having made such original claim, and to deed under hand of the president and secretary, and to seal with the seal of said corporation, to such persons so entitled, the lots or blocks to which such person may be entitled; provided that no street or alley, or other public ground

shall be so deeded; and provided also, that every person or persons to whom such lots or blocks shall be deeded as aforesaid, shall first pay to the treasurer or secretary of said town, for such lots or blocks the cost of entry, and incidental expenses of the same.

The proprietors of the village of Belmont were successful in inducing quite a number of people to locate on their land and actually spent considerable money in an effort to build a town. The people who located in Belmont were trappers, traders and farmers. A number of patches of prairie land were broken up in the vicinity and sown to crops; surveyors' stakes covered over a quarter section of the finest farming land.

That the promoters were sincere in their intentions to build a little city on the frontier is evidenced by the number of enterprises put under way. Among the first improvements was the building of a dam across the river at what later became the Holsten Olson place. It is said that this dam was built during the winter on top of the ice. In the spring, instead of sinking and forming the dam, as the builders expected, the materials were swept away. A dam was then built across the river lower down, but the promoters decided to install a steam mill, and, at great expense the machinery for the county's first sawmill was brought overland with ox teams from St. Paul. The mill was set up on the east side of the river, very close to the center of section three and just west of the residence which was the home of the late Judge Simon Olson for so many years.<sup>14</sup>

It was, of course, proposed to make Belmont the county seat of Jackson county, and to this end a two story log court house, about 18x26 feet, with roof of shakes, was built on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section three.<sup>15</sup> Near

<sup>14</sup>This mill was standing when the settlers of 1861 arrived. Later it was removed to Spencer, Iowa, and later still to Emmet's Grove.

<sup>15</sup>At this late day some of the logs that formed the court house building are to be found in the vicinity.

the court house was a store building, and just over the line in Belmont township was a hotel. It is believed that a brick yard was located on the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 3, for there was found a large quantity of burned brick. Besides the saw mill, court house, brick yard, store and hotel, there were a number of log houses on the townsite. All the buildings were of log, nearly all of which had floors of sawed lumber. There is evidence to show that the inhabitants of the town moved out of their houses during the winter and took refuge from the cold weather in caves dug close to the river in the timber. A number of these caves were found which had the appearance of having been occupied by the Belmont villagers, so settlers of a few years later reported.

When the enumerator took the census of 1860 he reported finding six unoccupied buildings in the town of Belmont. The Norwegian settlers who came in 1860 found most of the buildings standing. There were also one or two of the promoters present who exerted every effort to sell the new comers lots. But as they had all out-doors to select from the Norwegians did not invest in Belmont town lots, and were accordingly coolly received by the townsite agents.

Like its rival, Jackson, Belmont was able to secure the passage of an act by the legislature providing for the establishment of state roads to the town. On August 5, 1858, a bill was approved providing for, among others, the establishment of three roads to Belmont with commissioners to oversee the work, as follows:

Blue Earth City to Belmont; D. P. Cornell, C. G. Berry and O. N. Gardner, commissioners.

South Bend, in Blue Earth county, to Belmont; J. T. Williams, S. B. Westcott and F. W. Northrup, commissioners.

Vernon, in Blue Earth county, to Belmont; James Cornell, Frederick G. Noble and D. P. Cornell, commissioners.

The payment for this work was to be made by the several organized counties through which the roads would run.

Despite the efforts of the promoters, Belmont was doomed, and within a few years not a sign of the village was to be seen; it had passed into history.<sup>16</sup>

The boundaries of Jackson county were surveyed in September, 1858, but township and section lines were not run until later. The mail route during the latter part of this year was under the management of Orrin Nason and a Mr. Bedow, of Mankato, under the firm name of Nason and Bedow, and those gentlemen carried the mail between Mankato and Sioux City from that time until 1862, when the service was abandoned. The route was across Jackson county by way of the little settlement of Jackson.

During the year 1858 Jackson county was organized under the act of the legislature of May 23, 1857. John B. Fish, Alexander Wood and a gentleman by the name of Britton were chosen commissioners by the citizens to perfect the organization, but owing to some informality the governor, who had the appointing power, did not recognize these commissioners, but appointed others.<sup>17</sup> The commissioners appointed other residents to fill the various county offices and the machinery of county government was set in motion. These appointees served until their successors, elected in the fall of 1858, qualified.

This county organization was maintained until August, 1862, when it was discontinued because of the Sioux outbreak

<sup>16</sup> Belmont for a time promised to outstrip its competitors, Odessa and Jackson, down the river, but its metropolitan march was brief, and better wheat cannot be grown than John and Andrew Olson now raise on these same lots and avenues of the old townsite of Belmont.—Jackson Republic, March 19, 1870.

<sup>17</sup>Jackson Republic, March 19, 1870.

and the consequent depopulation of the county. It is greatly to be regretted that so little is known of the county government under this first organization. With a very few exceptions, all records have been lost, only a few miscellaneous records having been preserved—just enough to make certain that the government was maintained during these years.

There was another Indian scare during the winter of 1858-59. Scouts of the Frontier Guard, which was stationed at the Spirit lake settlement all winter, found a few Indians near the head of Spirit lake, and a detachment of troops was sent out to capture them. The soldiers found two warriors and a half-breed with their families camped in a grove on the east shore of Little Spirit lake, in Minneota township, Jackson county, and took them with their camp equipage to the soldiers' camp. The Indians made no resistance and professed friendship for the whites and intense hatred for Inkpaduta and his Indians.

A few of the settlers at Spirit lake believed they recognized in these Indians former followers of the noted outlaw, and the captives were kept under guard. Governor Lowe of Iowa ordered the Indians to be taken to Des Moines for trial for the Spirit lake murders. In charge of a non-commissioned officer and two privates the Indians were started on their way to trial. When Palo Alta county was reached both Indians made their escape and were never seen afterward. Although the captives had now gotten away, their arrest had a salutary effect upon the Sioux of the vicinity. Straggling bands of Indians were occasionally seen in the country after that, but they never pitched their camps in the vicinity. The Iowa guards returned home in May, 1859, and were disbanded.

The year 1859 was not an eventful one

in the history of Jackson county. Among the new settlers of the year was a party who came during the summer, consisting of D. Mortimer West, wife and sons—Stiles M., M. F., and H. F.,—James R. West, a brother of D. Mortimer West, Edward Davies and Henry Pease. All except the two younger West boys took land claims, Mr. Davies in northern Des Moines

township, the others south of the present site of Jackson. A few other settlers came and took claims, but others moved away, and at the close of the year there were probably not one hundred men, women and children in the county. The settlements were confined solely to the country along the Des Moines river.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE NORWEGIAN SETTLEMENT—1860-1862.

**F**ACTS supplying the context of preceding chapters lead to the conclusion that fear of the treacherous red man was responsible for the slow settlement of Jackson county. Had it not been for the uprising of Inkpaduta's little band of renegade Indians in 1857, there can be no question that by the beginning of the year 1860 Jackson county would have boasted considerable population. As it was, only a few were found willing to brave the dangers incident to building homes in the Indian country. But by degrees the fear of Indian attack was lessened, and during the first three years of the decade beginning with 1860 quite a number pushed out onto the frontier to become permanent settlers of Jackson county and other favored sections of southwestern Minnesota.

Prior to 1860 nearly all the settlers of the county were American born and came from Iowa and the older settled portions of Minnesota. The larger part of the settlers of the early sixties were Norwegians, who came in small colonies and settled along the Des Moines river in what are now Des Moines and Belmont townships. The first of these came in 1860, upon the representations of Anders Olson Slaabaken, who was generally known as Anders Olson or Anders Belmont.

Alone and on foot, with his pack on his back, Anders Olson Slaabaken, who was a sort of leader of the Norwegian immigrants who had come from the old country and settled in Wisconsin, set out from Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1858 to explore the great western country and locate a suitable place for himself and friends to build homes. He traveled through parts of Minnesota, Nebraska and Dakota, and then returned to his friends and advised them to move farther west. It has been stated that Mr. Slaabaken, in his travels in 1858, visited the Belmont country and was charmed with the location, but the best evidence is to the effect that he did not visit Jackson county. But he did return home and pilot his friends to the Jackson county country.

In the spring of 1860 a party of ten or a dozen of these Norwegian families started out in covered wagons drawn by oxen from their Wisconsin homes. They went first to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and then pushed on westward to Jackson county, where they arrived during the summer. The names of the men of this colony and the locations they selected for their homes were as follows:

Anders Olson Slaabaken,<sup>1</sup> sw $\frac{1}{4}$  34, Belmont (east of river).

Burre Olson and family,<sup>2</sup> sw $\frac{1}{4}$  11, Des Moines.

Knute Midstad and wife, ne $\frac{1}{4}$  28, Belmont (west of river).

Ole O. Fohre and family, nw $\frac{1}{4}$  22, Belmont.

Lars Furnes, nw $\frac{1}{4}$  16, Belmont.

Taral Ramlo and family, section 15,<sup>3</sup> Belmont.

Lars Askelson and family, sw $\frac{1}{4}$  21, Belmont.

Lars Bradvold and family, se $\frac{1}{4}$  3, Des Moines.

Ole Peterson and family, sw $\frac{1}{4}$  2, Des Moines.

Hans H. Lien and family, sw $\frac{1}{4}$  15, Des Moines.

Englebret Olson Slaabaken and family,<sup>4</sup> se $\frac{1}{4}$  22, Belmont.

When these families came they had their pick of the lands in that part of the county in which they located. Most of the white settlers at the time lived farther down the river, in the vicinity of the present village of Jackson, only a few townsite boomers and trappers having located so far up the river. Indians were occasionally seen in the vicinity, but they

<sup>1</sup>Anders Olson Slaabaken became one of the most highly respected citizens of the settlement. He devoted his time and energy largely to looking after the interests of the people whom he had advised to build homes in the frontier country and others who came later. He assisted his people in locating desirable claims, gave many favors, and was always satisfied with a "thank you" for his pay. Mr. Slaabaken was a single man when he came to Jackson county, but he later married the widow of Mikkel Olson Slaabaken. His eldest son, Peter Olson Slaabaken, now resides upon the old Belmont homestead. Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Mikkel Olson Slaabaken, Olava, Christiana and Karina, are now married and residents of Jackson county.

<sup>2</sup>One of the sons of Burre Olson is Rersvend (William) Burreson, who resides upon the old homestead. Of all the Norwegians who came to the county in 1860, only William Burreson and wife and Mrs. Burreson's sister, Mrs. Gillie, are living.

<sup>3</sup>In 1861 Mr. Ramlo took as his claim the southwest quarter of section 34, Belmont, on the west side of the river, and removed to that location.

<sup>4</sup>Two of Englebret Olson Slaabaken's daughters are still residents of Jackson county. They are Mrs. William Burreson, of Des Moines, and Mrs. Olof Gillie, of Belmont.

gave the new arrivals no trouble. The new-comers builded their log cabins in the woods along the river, prepared their lands for cultivation, and became a valued addition to the population of Jackson county. Another settler of 1860 who became quite prominent in the county was Rev. Peter Baker, who came in the fall and began preaching to the scattered settlers, taking a claim in Petersburg township.

In the fall of 1860 the settlers, feeling that they were insecure from the ravages of the Sioux Indians, organized a company of home guards, of which nearly all the men became members. David M. West was chosen captain, the state furnished arms, and the guards drilled every week.

The federal census of 1860, taken by Assistant United States Marshal Elius D. Bruner on July 13 and 14,<sup>5</sup> showed the county to have a population of 181 people.<sup>6</sup> The enumerator visited 60 houses in the county. He found 52 families and eight unoccupied dwellings, most of the vacant houses being in the village of Belmont. The only township in the county at the time was named Jackson, and all the residents lived therein. Of the total population only two persons had title to real estate. These were Samuel Brown, who placed a value of \$700 on his real property, and Thomas Johnson, who valued his at \$150.

Following are the names of the inhabitants of 1860, their ages, occupations, birthplaces and the value of their personal property:<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Only those were listed who were residents on June 1; consequently the names of only a few of the arrivals of 1860 appear.

<sup>6</sup>Other southwestern Minnesota counties in 1860 had populations as follows: Blue Earth, 4,803; Faribault, 1,335; Watonwan, 0; Martin, 151; Cottonwood, 12; Murray, 29; Nobles, 35; Pipestone, 23; Rock, 0.

<sup>7</sup>This list was obtained from the director of the census at Washington through the kindness of Hon. W. S. Hammond.

NAME	Age	Occupation	Property	Birthplace
*Samuel Brown.....	51	Farmer	\$200	Maine
Amelia Brown.....	21			Prussia
Joseph Kester.....	25			Ohio
Eliza Kester.....	21			"
John Kester.....	5-12			Minnesota
*Truman Wolbridge.....	25	Farmer		New York
*Frederick Noble.....	24	Farmer		"
*Joshua Dyer.....	24	Farmer		"
*Israel Eddy.....	36	Farmer		Vermont
Adilia Eddy.....	21			New York
William Eddy.....	13			"
Francis Eddy.....	10			"
Perry Eddy.....	3			Iowa
*Benjamin Hill.....	45	Farmer		Wisconsin
Hannah Hill.....	36			"
William Hill.....	15			"
Mary Hill.....	12			"
Franklin Hill.....	10			"
Andrew Hill.....	6-12			Minnesota
Mary Davy.....	48			Wisconsin
Buchanan Davy.....	3			"
*Charles Kern.....	49	Trapper		Bavaria
*Samuel Bartel.....	22			New York
*John Byers.....	26	Farmer		Germany
Vallina Byers.....	21			Michigan
*Allen Day.....	30	Farmer		Wisconsin
Sarah Day.....	22			Ohio
William Day.....	5			Wisconsin
Franklin Day.....	3			"
LeRoy Day.....	6-12			Minnesota
*Senior Kingsbury.....	30	Farmer		New York
Maria Kingsbury.....	25			"
*Henry Thomson.....	27	Laborer	100	"
Mary Thomson.....	24			"
*Charles Mead.....	28	Farmer	100	"
*James Witchurch.....	27	Farmer	100	Canada
*John McBee.....	42	Trapper		Indiana
*John Dodson.....	28	Trapper		England
*Joseph Chiffin.....	26	Trapper	50	Maryland
*George Hoffman.....	28	Farmer	150	Germany
Eliza Hoffman.....	23			"
Matilda Hoffman.....	3			Minnesota
Eliza Hoffman.....	1			"
*Thomas Johnson.....	28	Farmer	100	New York
Amy Johnson.....	23			"
*Nathaniel Frost.....	36	Farmer		Pennsylvania
*Adam Shiegley.....	50	Farmer		Indiana
Nancy Shiegley.....	46			New York
*Frank Waggaman.....	28	Farmer		Pennsylvania
*Jarvis Harton.....	50	Farmer		"
Polly Harton.....	50			"
*Joseph Muck.....	49	Farmer	100	Kentucky
Sally Muck.....	45			"
William Muck.....	18			"
Mary Muck.....	15			"
Stephen Muck.....	13			"
Martha Muck.....	11			"
Elizabeth Muck.....	9			Missouri
Sarah Muck.....	7			"
Simmon Muck.....	5			"
Richard Muck.....	3			"
Arminta Muck.....	2			"
*Joseph Thomas.....	50	Farmer	300	New Jersey
Jane Thomas.....	49			New York

\*Heads of families.



## HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY.

NAME	Age	Occupation	Property	Birthplace
Lansing Thomas.....	20		\$	New Jersey
Elizabeth Thomas.....	19			"
John Thomas.....	17			"
Roxanna Thomas.....	15			"
Joseph Thomas.....	13			"
Mary Thomas.....	11			"
*Lolan Stevens.....	28	Farmer		Vermont
Louisa Stevens.....	25			New Jersey
Jennie Stevens.....	4			Illinois
John Stevens.....	4			"
Carrie Stevens.....	2			Iowa
Louis Stevens.....	2-12			Minnesota
*Bartholomew McCarthy..	27	Farmer	200	Ireland
Jane McCarthy.....	52			"
*James Palmer.....	24	Farmer		Connecticut
Armina Palmer.....	22			New Jersey
George Palmer.....	2			Iowa
*David West.....	45	Farmer	350	New York
Edward Davies.....	28	Farmer		England
William Daffield.....	24	Farmer		Pennsylvania
Stiles West.....	21	Farmer		New York
Henry West.....	15			"
*Ezra Strong.....	40	Farmer	300	Ohio
Mary Strong.....	25			"
James Strong.....	6			Illinois
Grace Strong.....	3			Minnesota
Auther Strong.....	1			"
*Harrison Andrews.....	24	Farmer		Ohio
Anna Andrews.....	22			Canada
Eliza Andrews.....	3			Illinois
Daniel Andrews.....	1			"
*Ira Camfield.....	30	Farmer		Canada
Levi Camfield.....	25	Farmer		"
Elizabeth Camfield.....	55			"
Mary Camfield.....	84			"
Eliza Camfield.....	20			"
Nancy Camfield.....	16			"
Eugenia Camfield.....	8			"
George Camfield.....	4			"
*Rosanna Fuller.....	38			New York
Elizabeth Fuller.....	21			"
Ezra Fuller.....	16			"
Emeline Fuller.....	12			"
George Fuller.....	10			"
Daniel Fuller.....	6			"
*David Rogers.....		Farmer		Pennsylvania
*George Hogan.....	29	Farmer	300	New Jersey
Ann Hogan.....	26			"
Charles Hogan.....	3			"
*George McMath.....	24	Farmer		Michigan
Nancy McMath.....	19			Wisconsin
Minnie McMath.....	1			Minnesota
Nettie McMath.....	2-12			"
*Knute Olson.....	45	Farmer	200	Norway
Betsy Olson.....	65			"
*Thomas Hanson.....	26	Farmer		"
Mary Hanson.....	30			"
Hans Hanson.....	2			Iowa
*Burre Olson.....	50	Farmer	250	Norway
Julia Olson.....	46			"
John Olson.....	7			"
Ole Olson.....	20			"
William Olson.....	26			"
*Hans Johnson.....	28	Farmer	175	"

\*Heads of families.

NAME	Age	Occupation	Property	Birthplace
Julia Johnson.....	25		\$	Norway
John Johnson.....	2			Iowa
Burre Johnson.....	2-12			Minnesota
*Benjamin Johnson.....	26	Farmer	150	Norway
Jane Johnson.....	26			"
John Johnson.....	2			Iowa
John O. Johnson.....	1			"
*Ole Peterson.....	46	Farmer	200	Norway
Betsy Peterson.....	40			"
Ole Peterson.....	2			Wisconsin
*John Swenson.....	25	Farmer		Norway
Caroline Swenson.....	27			"
Mary Swenson.....	1			Iowa
*John Trunson.....	30	Farmer		Norway
Alvina Trunson.....	4			"
Betsy Trunson.....	10			"
*John Larson.....	30	Farmer		"
Ann Larson.....	30			"
*Ole Larson.....	40	Farmer		"
Caroline Larson.....	35			"
Ole Larson.....	12			"
Ole Larson.....	10			"
Martha Larson.....	4			"
John Larson.....	2			"
*Andrew Anderson.....	40	Farmer	250	"
Maria Anderson.....	39			"
Ole Anderson.....	18			"
John Anderson.....	15			"
Elizabeth Anderson.....	11			"
Marie Anderson.....	6			"
Andrew Anderson.....	4			Iowa
Ann Anderson.....	1			"
*John Johnson.....	28		100	Norway
Mary Johnson.....	24			"
Henry Johnson.....	4			Wisconsin
Betsy Johnson.....	1			"
*Peter Pomerson.....	39	Farmer		Norway
Ann Pomerson.....	32			"
Peter Pomerson.....	9			"
Ole Pomerson.....	7			"
Callie Pomerson.....	3			"
William Pomerson.....	1			Iowa
*James Westerwelt.....	27	Farmer		Sweden
Ann Westerwelt.....	21			"
Henry Westerwelt.....	2			Wisconsin
*George Pompell.....	32	Farmer	150	Norway
Christina Pompell.....	30			"
Maria Pompell.....	6			"
Jane Pompell.....	4			Wisconsin
Even Pompell.....	2			"
*William Evans.....	24	Farmer		New York
Ann Evans.....	20			Ohio
Thomas Evans.....	2-12			Wisconsin

\*Heads of families.

In 1861 the Norwegian colony was joined by others of the same nationality. The first to arrive were Anders O. Kirkevoldsmoen<sup>s</sup> and family, who located on

the northwest quarter of section 3, Des Moines township; Anders Monson and family, who took a claim on the southeast quarter of section 13, Des Moines, just

<sup>s</sup>Anders O. Kirkevoldsmoen died while in the army, and his widow later became the wife of Englebret Olson Slaabaken. Many of his descendants are now residents of Jackson county.

One son, Ole Anderson, resides in Jackson; another son, Anders Olson Slaabaken, is dead. Bertha, who became the wife of Simon Olson Slaabaken, and Christiana, who married Ole E.

west of the Milwaukee depot at Jackson; and K. Torreson and family, who settled on the northwest quarter of section 14, Des Moines. Several more of the name of Slaabaken, commonly known by the name of Olson, came in 1861. These included John Olson Slaabaken,<sup>9</sup> Mikkel Olson Slaabaken and Tollef Olson Slaabaken with their families and Simon<sup>10</sup> and Peder, single men. Part of these drove through from Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin, with ox teams, the voyage taking two months' time. The others drove through from Fillmore county, Minnesota. Mikkel settled on the northeast quarter of section 28, Belmont, on the west side of the river; Peder took as his claim the northwest quarter of section 23, Des Moines; the others took claims in Belmont, the exact location of their first claims being unknown. Others who came during 1861 were Ole Estenson and Ole Torgeson and their families, who located on sections 6, Belmont, and 31, Christiania;<sup>11</sup> Lars Olson and family, who settled on the northeast quarter of section 30, Christiania—the most northern settler

Olson Slaabaken, oldest son of Englebret Olson Slaabaken, are dead. The only living daughter of Anders O. Kirkevoildsmoen is Bertha, who now lives with her husband, Mellan Johnson, in Belmont. Her first marriage was to Ole E. Olson, Jr., son of Englebret Olson Slaabaken, and her second marriage to Anders Olson Slaabaken, also a son of Englebret Olson Slaabaken, both of whom died.

<sup>9</sup>The widow of John Olson Slaabaken still lives in Belmont township, and many of his descendants are now residents of Jackson county. His daughter, Anna, married Ole Brown, who built the mill at Brownsburg, and now lives in Tennessee. Another daughter, Lena, is the wife of P. H. Berge, of Jackson. Ole J. and Peter live upon the old homestead in Belmont. Two daughters, Petria and Engebera, are married and live in Wisconsin.

<sup>10</sup>After coming to the county Simon Olson Slaabaken married Bertha, the daughter of Anders O. Kirkevoildsmoen. The living children of these parents are Christina (Mrs. George Omberson), of Murray county; Maria (Mrs. H. H. Berge), of Minneapolis; Helen, of Jackson; Emma (Mrs. Martin Olson), of Jackson; Obert, of Jackson. During his life Simon Olson Slaabaken held several different county offices and was a prominent man in the early days of Jackson county history.

<sup>11</sup>The claim of one of these men was the northeast quarter of section 6, Belmont; the other was the southeast quarter of section 31, Christiania, both on the east side of the river. Their cabins were close together, but it is unknown which had the Belmont property and which the Christiania.

at that time; Hans Kgestolson (Chester-son) and family, who built a cabin on the southwest quarter of section 15, Des Moines; Lars G. Jornevik and family, who settled in Belmont; Lars Halverson and family, who took as a claim the southeast quarter of section 25, Des Moines—the southernmost of the Norwegian settlers; Holsten Olson and family, who settled on the northwest quarter of section 34, Belmont; Knud Langeland and family, who took up their residence on the southeast quarter of section 16, Belmont.<sup>12</sup> A few American born settlers also came to Jackson county in 1861 and located at different points along the river.

The breaking out of the civil war in 1861 vitally affected the people in this frontier settlement and gave Jackson county a reputation for patriotism equalled by few communities. Nearly all the able bodied men in the county enlisted and fought with the union forces during the war. Captain D. M. West, of the home guards, enlisted twenty-two of his company in the United States army in September. As only thirty-three votes were cast in the county at the fall election, it will be seen that this withdrawal left the people of the frontier settlement in poor circumstances to withstand an Indian attack, as they were called upon to do the next year. The company, partly enrolled from Jackson county and commanded by D. M. West, served for a time as the second company of Minnesota cavalry, but later became company I of the Fifth Iowa cavalry. Of the twenty-two enrolled from Jackson county following are the names of nineteen of the number:<sup>13</sup> D. M. West, captain; Ole Burreson, Edward Davies, Hans

<sup>12</sup>Among the Norwegian settlers of 1861 no one of the heads of families is living in Jackson county, although many of their children are.

<sup>13</sup>The list is furnished me by Stiles M. West, now of Faribault, Minnesota.



**A PIONEER HOME**

Built by John Olson, in Belmont Township, in 1867. The People Shown in the Picture (Reading from Left to Right) are Mrs. Engebret Olson, Ole Anderson, Annie Olson, Christine Olson, Petria Olson, Simon Olson, Carina Olson, Mrs. Holsten Olson, Mrs. Hans Stall, Mrs. John Olson, Mrs. Melian Johnson, Ole E. Olson.

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Johnson, Ole Larson, Bartholomew McCarthy, Andrew Monson, Andrew Olson, Andrew Olson (Kirkevoldsmoen), Tollef Olson, Peter Olson, Simon Olson, Ole E. Olson, William H. Pease, Henry R. Trowbridge, James R. West, Stiles M. West, M. F. West and H. F. West.

Rev. Peter Baker held protracted religious services in the log house of Joseph Thomas during the winter of 1860-61, and afterwards organized a Methodist class. During the summer of 1861 he organized a Sunday school in the Wood brothers' store building. For many years this good man attended to the religious wants of the people of Jackson county and became a highly respected and influential man in the community. This he did largely without pay. In after years he stated that during the first two years of his service his only recompense was the kitting of a pair of socks!

There are very few items of interest to record for the year 1861. Except the enlisting of so great a proportion of the able bodied men, nothing occurred to interrupt the even tenor of the lives of the frontier settlers. The new arrivals of the year selected their claims, built log cabins and engaged in agricultural pursuits on a small scale. At what was known as Evans' ford, on the southwest quarter of section 14, Des Moines township, the erection of a sawmill was commenced, but it was never finished.<sup>14</sup>

An interesting historical document is the assessment list of Danby township, which included the whole settled portion of the county, for the year 1861. The total tax levied was \$161.68 and was divided as follows:

State taxes .....	\$ 26.13
Interest on public debt.....	15.55
School tax .....	26.13
County tax .....	31.29
Township tax .....	31.29
Other special tax.....	31.29

Total .....\$161.68

The names of those who were assessed, the value of the property owned and the amount of the individual taxes were as follows:

PROPERTY OWNER	Assessed Value	Total Tax
D. P. Cornell.....	\$ 685	\$ 10.64
S. T. Johnson.....	570	8.84
E. D. Shore.....	684	10.60
Alex Wood.....	695	10.80
S. D. Brown.....	907	14.06
B. McCarthy.....	192	2.99
A. L. Crane.....	85	1.34
Ira Camfield.....	187	2.13
Gelden Carter.....	165	2.57
Marcellus Clough.....	69	1.08
Joshua Dyer.....	13	.20
Louis Eskerson.....	431	6.68
Ole Eskerson.....	101	1.56
Lewis Estenson.....	152	2.37
Nathaniel Frost.....	23	.36
Lewis Halverson.....	107	1.66
Knud Halverson.....	176	2.73
Thomas Holston.....	146	2.27
Add Halverson.....	178	2.75
Hans Johnson.....	149	2.32
Lewis Jameson.....	129	2.01
John Knudson.....	81	1.25
L. H. Landaker.....	289	4.49
Lewis Lewison.....	54	.83
Joseph Muck.....	196	3.04
Andrew Monson.....	70	1.09
Jacob Nelson.....	40	.62
Knud Nelson.....	322	5.00
Burre Olson.....	277	4.29
Englebret Olson.....	172	2.68
Simon Olson.....	9	.15
Ole Olson.....	243	3.77
F. Andrew Olson.....	117	1.81
John Olson.....	70	1.09
Tollef Olson.....	164	2.54
Jared Palmer.....	222	3.45
Ole Peterson.....	360	5.58
William H. Pease.....	43	.67
D. S. Perkins.....	90	1.40
John Swenson.....	111	1.71
Joseph Thomas.....	250	3.88
H. L. Thomas.....	18	.27
Christian Torreson.....	70	1.09
Ole Torreson.....	128	1.97
H. R. Trowbridge.....	175	2.73
John Trunson.....	222	3.45
D. M. West.....	417	6.46
S. M. West.....	22	.35
Ole Anderson.....	121	1.87
I. F. Eddy.....	271	4.19
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>\$10,518</b>	<b>\$ 161.68</b>

<sup>14</sup>At this point, in 1862, was held the first fourth of July celebration in the county. The work of constructing the mill was in progress at the time, and many of the settlers were assisting with the work. On the open ground, on the east side of the river, a few of the neighbors gathered in honor of the nation's birthday. A flag pole was erected and the American colors were flown.

Tax paying seems to have been out of fashion in that early day, for we find among the records a settlement sheet dated February 28, 1862, signed by Ole Peterson as county treasurer and Joseph Thomas as county auditor, in which it is stated that out of the total tax of \$161.68 levied only \$47.08 had been paid, while \$114.60 was delinquent.<sup>15</sup> The treasurer's fees of \$2.35 were deducted from the taxes collected, leaving the magnificent total of \$44.73 as the amount of taxes received by Jackson county for the year 1861!

The assessment for the year 1862 was made by James E. Palmer. He found 57 people in the county possessed of personal property, and the total amount of the taxable property was found to be \$12,792—a small gain over that of the year before. In the county of Jackson there were at the time (so the assessor reported) three watches, manufacturing industries to the value of \$40, no pianos, twelve head of horses, no mules, 29 sheep, 134 hogs, 320 cattle, 43 wagons, and moneys and credits to the value of \$1,351. Following are eight of the names appearing on the list and the assessed value of their property:

Edward Davies .....	\$ 64.40
Nathaniel Frost .....	123.00
Lewis Halverson .....	106.30
Englebret Olson .....	77.50
Simon Olson .....	109.00
James E. Palmer.....	62.00
Jared Palmer .....	331.30
Joseph Thomas .....	349.50

The year 1862 opened auspiciously. A few more settlers came and located claims

<sup>15</sup>Those who had paid their taxes in full before this settlement were S. T. Johnson, Bartholomew McCarthy, Marcellus Clough, Lewis Estenson, Nathaniel Frost, Lewis Halverson, Thomas Holston, Add Halverson, Knud Nelson, Ole Olson, F. Andrew Olson, D. S. Perkins, John Trunson and I. F. Eddy.

along the Des Moines river. Crops of wheat, corn and vegetables were planted, the rich virgin soil, warm sun and copious rains hastened the growth of vegetation, and the prospects for a bounteous harvest were favorable. The people were happy and contented in their new found homes. Had a census of the county been taken that year there would have been found between 200 and 300 people. The residents had little communication with the outside world. There was no postoffice, no telegraph line, no stage lines. The nearest settlements were at Estherville and Spirit Lake, Iowa, and the nearest point from which most of the supplies could be procured was Mankato.

Along the river from the present site of Jackson down were American born families. Along the river above the site of Jackson, in Des Moines, Belmont and Christiania townships, the settlers were all Norwegians, arrived only a few years before from their native land, understanding and speaking very little English. They had few dealings with the outside world and very little intercourse with their American born neighbors down the river; their interests were centered in their homes. Although these Norwegian settlers had located on the exposed frontier, almost in the heart of the Indian country, they knew nothing of the Indian customs or Indian warfare. They were unaccustomed to the use of firearms and many of them had probably never fired a gun in their lives; many of the able bodied men were absent, fighting their adopted country's battles.

So much for the condition of the people of Jackson county in 1862, before the outbreak of the terrible Sioux war.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE BELMONT MASSACRE—1862.

**I**T IS not my intention to tell of the Sioux war of 1862, except so far as Jackson county enters into the history. But it may be of interest to learn the magnitude of this famous Indian war. The outbreak was the most remarkable and noteworthy incident of the kind in American history. More white people perished in that savage slaughter than in all the other massacres ever perpetrated on the North American continent. Add the number of white victims of the Indian wars of New England during the colonial period to the list of those who perished in the Wyoming and Cherry valleys, and to the pioneers who were killed in the early white occupation of the middle west and the south, and the aggregate falls far short of the number of the people of Minnesota who were slain by the Sioux in less than one week in that memorable month of August, 1862.<sup>1</sup> About eight hundred people were killed within a few days, before any effective resistance could be brought against the red demons. Only two Indians were killed outside the battles and legitimate skirmishes. One of these was at a point below Jackson, near Spirit Lake, where three settlers were attacked by a superior force but won the fight by their bravery and

drove off the savages. They killed an Indian named Big Head and wounded three others. The testimony of the Indians was that they found the Minnesota settlers "as easy to kill as sheep."

The attack on the Norwegian settlement of Jackson county occurred on Sunday, August 24, 1862, and for the second time in its history the soil of Jackson county was crimsoned with the blood of its citizens as the result of Indian attack; for the second time the county was abandoned by white men. Thirteen whites were murdered, a few others were wounded, and many narrowly escaped with their lives.

So early as June reports reached the Belmont settlers that there was likely to be trouble with the Indians. On only one occasion, however, did the Indians who sometimes visited the settlement show any signs of hostility; the exception was the wanton killing of an ox belonging to Ole Larson, of Christiania township. Finally the rumors of an outbreak were confirmed. A German fleeing from New Ulm brought news of the attack on that village, which had occurred only a few days before. He could not impart the details of the tragedy on account of his inability to speak English, but the settlers could understand enough to know that

<sup>1</sup>Minnesota in Three Centuries.



New Ulm had had trouble with the Indians.

The Belmont settlers seem to have been undecided what course to pursue. Nights they gathered at the different cabins that seemed to offer better protection or where the firearms and ammunition were kept; their fears were not so great during the day time, and generally they returned to their homes in the morning to attend to the farm work. A decision was finally reached that stockades should be built, and Monday, August 25, was the date set for the settlers to get together and select the sites. On the day before this was to have been done the attack was made and there had been enacted the drama of brutal and beastly bloodshed which depopulated the county.

It was a few days after the attack on the Lower Agency and four days after the massacre at Lake Shetek, in Murray county, that about fifty of White Lodge's band of Sisseton Sioux proceeded down the Des Moines river, apparently to repeat the performance of Inkpaduta of five years before.<sup>2</sup> They proceeded as far south as Englebret Olson Slaabaken's home on the southeast quarter of section 22, Belmont township, without making their presence known.<sup>3</sup> Then instead of proceeding down the river, they began the at-

<sup>2</sup>The route of the Indians into Jackson county is not known definitely, but it is supposed they came by way of Fish lake, Lower's lake and Independence lake. Had they followed the river bank, it is almost certain they would have been discovered before reaching the point where the attack was begun.

<sup>3</sup>So far as is known, Lars Olson was the only man in the settlement who saw the Indians in a body; consequently he was the only competent authority as to the number participating. He estimated the number at fifty. Mr. Olson, who was an old man living on section 30, Christiania, had been down into Belmont township on Sunday, and while returning, when a little north of the Ole Fohre home, he came upon the party of savages in the woods, before the attack was begun. He was not seen by the Indians, nor were the Indians recognized as such by him. He supposed they were soldiers, come to the defense of the settlers, and was accordingly thankful for their arrival. Mr. Olson continued his journey home, and neither he nor his wife saw the Indians afterward, although the red men must have passed close to his house.

tack and retraced their steps up the river. The attack was begun at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

The attacking savages divided into small parties, and, going swiftly from cabin to cabin, they took the inmates by surprise and encountered no resistance except in one instance. The men, women and children were shot down without warning and without an effort to save their lives except in flight.

At the Ole Fohre home, on the northwest quarter of section 22, Belmont, several families had gathered, namely, Johannes Axe and wife, Lars G. Jornevik and wife, Mrs. Carrie Fohre, the wife of Ole Fohre, and her twelve year old son, Ole Olson Fohre, and eight small children belonging to the several families. Here the massacre was begun at ten o'clock in the forenoon. When the Indians were seen approaching, Mrs. Fohre, Mrs. Jornevik and Mrs. Axe with the eight small children went into the cellar, the trap door was closed, and twelve year old Ole Olson Fohre piled clothing, boxes and trunks over it. The others remained upstairs. They barricaded the doors, but being without arms, their efforts to guard the cabin were futile.

The Indians approached the cabin from the east and burst in the east door. All who were in the cabin, except the boy, were instantly killed, and no one knows the particulars of their taking off. Johannes Axe was evidently pounded to death, as no bullet wounds were found on his body. Lars Furnes and Lars G. Jornevik<sup>4</sup> were shot.

<sup>4</sup>Lars G. Jornevik was a man with a violent temper and in some particulars lacking in judgment. When he was advised, some days previous, that it was probable the Indians would come and to prepare himself, Mr. Jornevik flew into a violent rage, stating that he was ready for the Indians any time they wanted to come. He filled his pockets with stones and considered himself amply protected. When his dead body was found, his pockets were filled with the missiles which he had not opportunity to use.

When the east door was broken down and the Indians entered the cabin, Ole Olson Fohre, the boy, who was standing guard at the west door, bolted out that door and ran down a trail that led to a spring. Hearing the door slam, the boy looked over his shoulder while running and saw an Indian taking aim at him. With presence of mind he made a quick jump to the left into the brush. He dodged just in time to save his life, for the bullet struck him, tearing away the tip of his right elbow. Ole hid in the brush, and the savage who had fired followed and searched for him. When the Indian was only about three feet from the boy's hiding place, he gave up the search and returned to his companions at the cabin—the Indian's love of "firewater" saved a life. One of the first acts of the savages was to search the wagons, which had been brought from Mankato the day before, loaded with provisions, and just as the Indian was about to discover the boy in the brush, the others at the cabin found a jug of whisky in one of the wagons and raised such a shout of joy that the one after the boy gave up the hunt and hastily rejoined the others. Safe from immediate pursuit, Ole ran through the timber down the river to find a place of refuge and to notify the other settlers of their danger.

About the time these events were taking place at the Fohre home, Ole Fohre, the owner of the cabin, was found by the Indians in the timber, between his house and the river, and killed. The place of this murder was on section 21.

The anxiety of the fugitives in the cellar while the murders were being committed over their heads cannot be described; so still were they they scarcely breathed. Their fears were made worse by the crying of the two year old babe of Mrs. Lars G. Jornevik. That lady, with heroism seldom equaled in the annals of Indian

warfare, knowing that the painted demons surrounded the house, deliberately came out of the cellar to accept her fate. To the other ladies she said: "I understand my time has come; I must go up again. Your children are smaller than mine and they keep quiet; if I stay here the Indians will find us." She came up from the cellar with the child and was killed, her body being horribly mutilated. Fortunately the Indians were busy with their whisky and did not learn from whence Mrs. Jornevik had come.

The child was unharmed, but soon it began to cry. The door of the cabin had been left open, and the baby was frightened at the hogs, which came into the cabin. One of the ladies came up, found the child in its mother's blood, and took it back into the cellar and cared for it. Then it was learned for the first time that the savages had left the vicinity. For the time being let us leave the two women and the children in the cellar, debating the course of action to pursue, while we consider events that were taking place in other parts of the settlement.

Close to the Fohre home, Mikkol Olson Slaabaken was killed and his nephew, Anders Olson Slaabaken, the thirteen year old son of Englebret Olson Slaabaken, was seriously wounded and left for dead. The Englebret Olson Slaabaken home was half a mile south of the Fohre home, and also on section 22. About the time the attack was begun, Mikkol and his nephew started from that place for the home of Ole Fohre. They heard the firing but thought nothing of it, as they supposed the neighbors were shooting blackbirds. They soon became aware of the seriousness of their condition. The Indians were stationed along the trails in the timber, and the unfortunate white men were soon discovered. The savages fired and the white men set out on a run

through the timber. Mikkel was hit at the first fire and exclaimed: "I am wounded and cannot run any farther." Immediately he was hit again and killed instantly.

A bullet from the first volley passed through the hat brim of the boy, and a moment later another one inflicted a slight scalp wound, plowing a furrow through his hair. Anders was not stunned or badly hurt, but he was so scared that he fell and lay with his face to the ground. The savages came up and one of them plunged a knife into his left side and, as the victim described the event in after years, "twisted it around before he pulled it out." The Indians left him for dead and Anders lost consciousness. When he came to his senses he crawled to his father's home. There was no one there; the Indians had visited the place and taken everything in the line of provisions. The wounded boy made his way to the log stable and hid in a manger, where he remained three days with nothing to eat except two raw eggs. When the cows came home at night he tried to milk them, but they would not allow him to approach them on account of the blood on his clothes. From the time of the attack on Sunday until Wednesday Anders remained in the manger; then he was found by a rescuing party and taken to Estherville, where he slowly recovered from his wounds.<sup>5</sup>

From the Fohre house the Indians went to the home of Englebret Olson Slaabaken, a half mile south, but all the whites there, except the two mentioned, had gone to church. Here, after ransacking the premises, the Indians gave up the idea of going farther south, and began their trip to the north. Had it not been for the fact

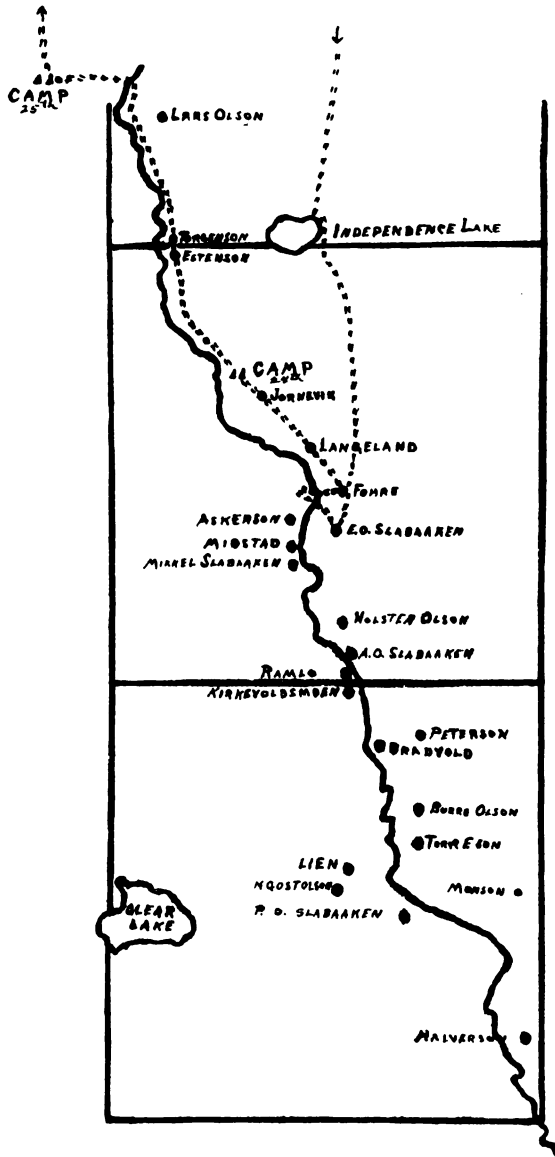
that many of the settlers were away from home, gathered at the Ramlo house and other places in religious worship, there is every reason to believe that the massacre would have been much more terrible than it was. When the murdering savages came to the house of Englebret Olson Slaabaken and the houses of others who were at the meeting and found them unoccupied, they feared the settlement was aroused and that the people had gathered at some place to put up a fight. As an Indian detests a fair fight more than anything else, they decided not to go farther south, but to begin their bloody work and make their escape before it became necessary to fight.

On their trip north (probably), at a point a few rods west of the Ole Fohre home, the Indians came upon Knud Midstad and his wife Breta and murdered them. These unfortunate people lived on the west side of the river, and were on their way to Ole Fohre's when they were ambushed on the trail.

To return to the women and children in the cellar of the Ole Fohre cabin. When it was learned that the Indians had left the immediate vicinity, Mrs. Fohre and Mrs. Axe decided to seek another place of concealment. Accordingly they came forth with the children and hid in a cornfield. The savages, returning from their visit to the Slaabaken home below, again came to the place of the original attack, and when they found that refugees had been hidden in the cellar at the time of the first attack but had now escaped, they were very angry and spent considerable time searching for them. After the murderers had gone the second time the women started out with the children for the south and spent Sunday night in a blacksmith shop on the Englebret Olson Slaabaken farm. The next morning, not having had anything to eat since the attack,

<sup>5</sup>Anders Olson Slaabaken later returned to Jackson county, and after his father's death became the owner of the Belmont farm. He became a respected resident of the county and died on the old homestead on September 26, 1885.

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**THE NORWEGIAN SETTLEMENT**

Map Showing Cabins of Norwegian Settlers at the Time of the Belmont Massacre and the Route of the Indians. Des Moines, Belmont and part of Christiania Townships Shown.

they started out again for the south in an endeavor to find a place of safety. They had proceeded to a point southwest of the present site of Jackson when they met Knud Langeland returning from Spirit Lake, and were piloted to a place of safety.

After the second visit to the house of Ole Fohre, the Indians (at least a part of them) crossed the river to the west side, but did not encounter any whites and returned.<sup>6</sup> Then the band proceeded up the river to the home of Knud Langeland, who resided with his family on the southeast quarter of section 16. There no warning had been received, and five human lives were taken. Mr. Langeland was down by the river rounding up his cattle at the time of the attack and so escaped. At the house his wife, Anna Langeland, and four children, Anna, Aagaata, Nicolai John and Knud Langeland, were murdered. Martha Langeland escaped the fate of the rest of the family by hiding in a corn field. Two of these children who were killed were hid in the corn field at the time of the attack, but when they saw the Indians attack their mother they rushed out to her assistance and were murdered. Mr. Langeland went to the house after the Indians departed and viewed the terrible work of the monsters. He thought he witnessed signs of life in two of his children. Gathering them in his arms, he carried them all the way to Spirit Lake. One of the children died soon after his arrival; the other recovered.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>It must not be understood that the movements of the Indians are given from definite knowledge or that the chronological order of events is strictly observed. It is known to what homes the savages came, but the exact time at which they appeared and the definite course they took are unknown. For instance, the only evidence we have that the Indians crossed to the west side of the river is the fact that one of their guns was found at a point opposite the Fohre home, twenty rods from the river. As it is known that none of the homes on that side was visited, we conclude that the red men soon after returned to the east side.

<sup>7</sup>The name of the child who recovered is unknown, and may have been included with those

From the Langeland home the Sioux proceeded on their way up the river to the homes of Ole Estenson and Ole Torgenson, where they arrived in the evening about dark. These men were the only ones in the settlement to make any effort to save their lives except in flight; they had the old Berserker blood in them and put up a good fight. Messrs. Estenson and Torgenson barricaded one of their houses situated on the southeast quarter of section 31, Christiania township, and made other preparations to defend their families. They had guns and ammunition and the knowledge and disposition to use them. When the Indians appeared, they called to the white men to come to them. Instead, the white men ordered their families to lie down and returned the fire of the enemy so successfully that they fought off every attack. Volley after volley was poured into the house, and the bullets penetrated the walls and roof, knocking down several articles that were on shelves.<sup>8</sup> The white men loaded their army muskets with slugs, and, as it had become dark, they fired only at the flashes of the Indians' guns. No one within the cabin was hit, and the attackers finally departed. The defenders did not know whether or not they hit any of the savages, and had no evidence that they did.<sup>9</sup>

mentioned as having been killed. If that is a fact, only twelve met death in the Belmont massacre. Mr. Ole Anderson, who has furnished me much of the data concerning the massacre, places the number killed at thirteen, but is uncertain in regard to the Langeland children.

<sup>8</sup>An amusing feature of this attack was the rage of one of the Norwegian women. A cooking utensil was knocked from its place on the shelf, and the lady of the house became so angry she jumped up vowing vengeance on the redskins. Had she not been restrained it is possible she would have rushed out and put the savages to flight.

<sup>9</sup>This statement is made on the authority of Ole Anderson, who interviewed Messrs. Estenson and Torgenson a short time after the massacre. The author of *Minnesota in Three Centuries*, recently published, was incorrectly informed in regard to the result of this fight, for he said the defenders believed that they had wounded several of the savages and knew that they had killed one, because his carcass lay fifty yards from the cabin for anyone to see.

After their repulse the Indians went down the river and made camp Sunday night on the southeast quarter of section 8, Belmont township.<sup>10</sup> The next day they proceeded up the river on the east side without renewing hostilities. The Des Moines river was crossed, and Monday night camp was made on the southwest quarter of section 24, Delafield township. Thence the Indians continued their journey to the north and out of Jackson county.

The Belmont massacre was over. Thirteen innocent people had been murdered in cold blood. Several of the bodies were mutilated, but no scalps were taken. None of the cabins and no property was burned. The savages carried away much property, and some of this was abandoned or destroyed on the march out of the country; otherwise there was no destruction of property.

A recapitulation gives us the following as the losses in the Belmont massacre:<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup>The statement has been made that the attack on the Christiania home was not made until Monday, after the Indians had left this camp, but the best evidence is to the effect that the attack was made Sunday evening.

<sup>11</sup>For some reason no authentic account of the Belmont massacre has heretofore been written, and there is a wonderful lack of general knowledge of the details of the terrible affair. There are differences of authority even as to the date of the massacre in Jackson county. The inaccuracies of the printed accounts of the affair are shown in the following extract from Norwegian Settlers History, published in the Norwegian language in 1908 by J. M. Holland, A. M., of Ephraim, Wisconsin:

"On Sunday morning, August 24, 1862, before any preacher ever found his way to this wilderness, the new settlers, after having an abundant harvest, felt thankful and happy to God and gathered to a prayer meeting in Mrs. Holsten Olson's house. She had a sweet voice and had just finished a hymn when the door flew open and a half-grown boy, the son of Ole Forde, entered, dripping with sweat and blood. 'Hurry up! Hurry up!' he screamed, gasping for breath, 'the Indians are coming!' They were so astonished and frightened that they rushed to the door to escape, but were too late. The Indians had surrounded the cabin. Then followed a hopeless fight with bare fists against the Indians' bright tomahawks and bullets. The women's praying for mercy was mixed with the Indians' yells of exultation over

### KILLED

Johannas Axe  
Lars Furnes  
Lars G. Jornevik  
Mrs. Lars C. Jornevik  
Ole Fohre  
Mikkel Olson Slaabaken  
Knud Midstad  
Breta Midstad  
Mrs. Anna Langeland  
Anna Langeland (child)  
Aagaata Langeland  
Nicolai John Langeland  
Knud Langeland

### WOUNDED

Ole Olson Fohre  
Anders E. Olson Slaabaken  
Langeland (girl)

Fortunately some of the settlers were gathered in religious worship at the house of Taral Ramlo, on the southwest quarter of section 34, on the west side of the river, and so escaped the awful carnage, as the Indians did not go farther south than section 22.<sup>12</sup> Holsten Olson was presiding over the meeting. The congregation was just beginning a hymn when Ole Olson Fohre, the boy who had been wounded but who had escaped from the savages, arrived with the startling intelligence that the Indians were murdering the settlers on the east side of the river.<sup>13</sup>

their victory. The women were compelled to stand while the Indians took the children by their heels and crushed their skulls against the trees."

<sup>12</sup>This meeting had been called at the instance of Holsten Olson and was for the purpose of attempting a consolidation of the two religious factions in the Norwegian settlement. Holsten Olson was the leader of one faction and Burre Olson of the other. Burre Olson did not attend, but he and a few of his friends held another meeting at his house on the southwest quarter of section 11, Des Moines township, at the same time.

<sup>13</sup>Ole Anderson, now a resident of Jackson, was a playmate of the Fohre boy and was the first to see him as he came running to give the alarm. He met him some distance from the

The bloody condition of the boy added to the alarm his words conveyed, and all was confusion. The people were panic stricken and huddled in groups around the log building. Excepting one gun, they were without arms or ammunition.

Like the pioneers of the Springfield settlement had done five years before, the panic stricken people decided on flight to the Iowa settlements. Some of the people had come to the meeting with ox teams. These were quickly hitched up, the elderly people, the little children and the wounded boy were loaded into the wagon boxes and hay racks, and the start for the south was begun. The main party was preceded by Ole E. Olson Slaabaken, son of Englebret Olson Slaabaken, and Sigur Chesterson, son of Hans Chesterson (Kgostolson), who ran ahead and notified the settlers on both sides of the river, thus performing a daring and (if the Indians had come) valuable service. The boys spent Sunday night at the home of Henry Olson, on the state line, and Monday carried the news of the massacre to Estherville.

When the party had proceeded only a short distance on the way south, at some point on section 3, Des Moines, they saw someone in the distance to the north, and their fears were redoubled. Holsten Olson, the only grown man in the party, deserted the others at this point and started off across the prairie alone.<sup>14</sup> Simon Olson, who in later years was Jackson county's judge of probate, went from Mr. Ramlo's house to that of Holsten Olson, three-quarters of a mile north, secured what guns and ammunition were there, and then hastened south, going down the

east side of the river. When he had proceeded on his way nearly a mile he discovered that he had forgotten the percussion caps. Although haunted by the fears of danger from lurking savages, he bravely retraced his steps, secured the caps, and again hastened on his way.

When Holsten Olson left those who were going down the west side of the river, that party consisted of three or four women and many children, and it was a badly frightened, terror stricken little band of refugees that sought safety in flight that Sunday afternoon. They continued their journey to a point where the business center of Jackson is now located; then forded the river and arrived at the house of Joseph Thomas. Before the party went up to the Thomas home, Mrs. Kirkevoldsmoen sent her two children, Ole (Anderson) and his little sister, to reconnoiter while the rest remained hidden in a ravine. The children silently climbed the hill through the woods and when they came in sight of the premises were overjoyed to see Simon Olson, who had arrived a little before, on top of one of the buildings on the watch for Indians. The children returned to the others and all proceeded to the house.

Other settlers of Belmont who had escaped the tomahawk and rifle of the Indians made their way south on the east side of the river in little groups. On the way through Des Moines township other settlers, till then ignorant of the danger that threatened, joined the fleeing groups, all instinctively going to the Thomas home. Most of these parties had arrived by four o'clock. A few of the settlers farthest up the river did not get out of the country until the next day, and, as has been told, the women and children who had been at the Fohre home spent Sunday night at the Englebret Olson Slaabak-

meeting house and ran with him to warn those gathered at the house. When they got within hailing distance it was Ole Anderson's lusty voice that gave the alarm.

<sup>14</sup>A little son of Holsten Olson followed his father and overtook him. Mr. Olson and the boy went first to his house and then struck off across the prairie and in time reached Mankato.



en farm, and then started out on foot for Spirit Lake.

When the fleeing refugees reached the Thomas place that gentleman advised them to stop there, offering to turn his house into a fort and to help build a stockade. He believed they had enough arms and ammunition to hold the place until soldiers who were stationed at Estherville could be summoned. Mrs. Thomas dressed the wounds of the injured boy and distributed food to the hungry and frightened people. After supper had been eaten the Norwegians decided to continue the journey south. As Mr. Thomas could not hope to defend his place alone if the Indians came he decided to accompany the others. Accordingly they helped him hitch up his oxen to a wagon, a few goods were loaded in, and the whole party set out down the river a little before dark, traveling together. Darkness came upon them when they were in Petersburg township, and a rain came up. Camp was made near the state line and a restless night was passed in the rain. The next morning they proceeded on their way to Estherville and met a rescuing party near that town. None of the refugees got as far as Estherville on Sunday.

News of the hostility of the Indians and the massacre in Belmont township was carried to Spirit Lake, and on Monday, August 25, a detachment of mounted men proceeded to the Indian scourged country.<sup>15</sup> After reaching the Des Moines river this party was joined by another which had started from Estherville on the same mission,<sup>16</sup> and all proceeded to the scene of the massacre, which was reached either Monday evening or Tuesday.

The sight that met the eyes of this re-

<sup>15</sup>Among the party from Spirit Lake were R. A. Smith, Daniel Bennett, John Phippin, Judge Congleton, John Gilbert, L. F. Ring, O. C. Howe and several others.

<sup>16</sup>Lansing Thomas, James Palmer, Simon Olson and John Olson accompanied this party.

lief expedition beggars description. Lying here and there on the prairie and in the woods, just as they had fallen, were the bodies of the victims. The dead were buried where they were found,<sup>17</sup> and the twelve or fifteen men, women and children who had been unable to get away were cared for. These were found hiding in various places, almost too frightened to recognize their friends. The grief and distress of the survivors was heart rending. Of one family only one helpless child, too young to fully realize its condition, was left; of another, only the father, who had escaped by being in some distant field, had returned to find his dear ones lying about, murdered and horribly mutilated; of one or two families not one was left to tell of the awful deeds.

The relief party scouted the country for Indians, but found none. They spent a few days hunting for and assisting the frightened survivors out of the country. Some of the stock was rounded up and driven to the owners at Estherville and Spirit Lake. When it was learned that the savages had left the vicinity a few of the settlers came back for their live stock and goods, but they made haste to again get out of the country, leaving everything that was not easily moved. Many of these stopped at the home of Rev. Peter Baker, in Petersburg township, on their way to the Iowa towns. Phina Baker, in a letter written January 19, 1899, said:

Many of these were very hungry, especially those whom the soldiers found hiding in the woods. A party of nine who were

<sup>17</sup>In November, 1899, the bodies of the victims were disinterred by Ole Anderson and reinterred in the city park in Jackson. Through the efforts of Mr. Anderson and other residents of Jackson county and of Representative John Baldwin and Senator H. E. Hanson the Minnesota legislature of 1909 appropriated \$2,000, available July 31, 1909, for the erection of a monument in the village of Jackson to the memory of those killed in this massacre and those in the massacre of 1857. Ole Anderson, T. J. Knox and Henry Anderson were named a commission to superintend the erection. The monument was erected in the fall of 1909.

in the cellar when the Indians came and looked down, but who were so still that they were not found and escaped, came to our house; some that were in hiding fled from the soldiers, thinking they were Indians. For the first two days I think mother's table was never cleared, for as soon as one lot left another took its place. Field corn was just large enough to cook, and the big wash boiler was kept full and boiling all the time.

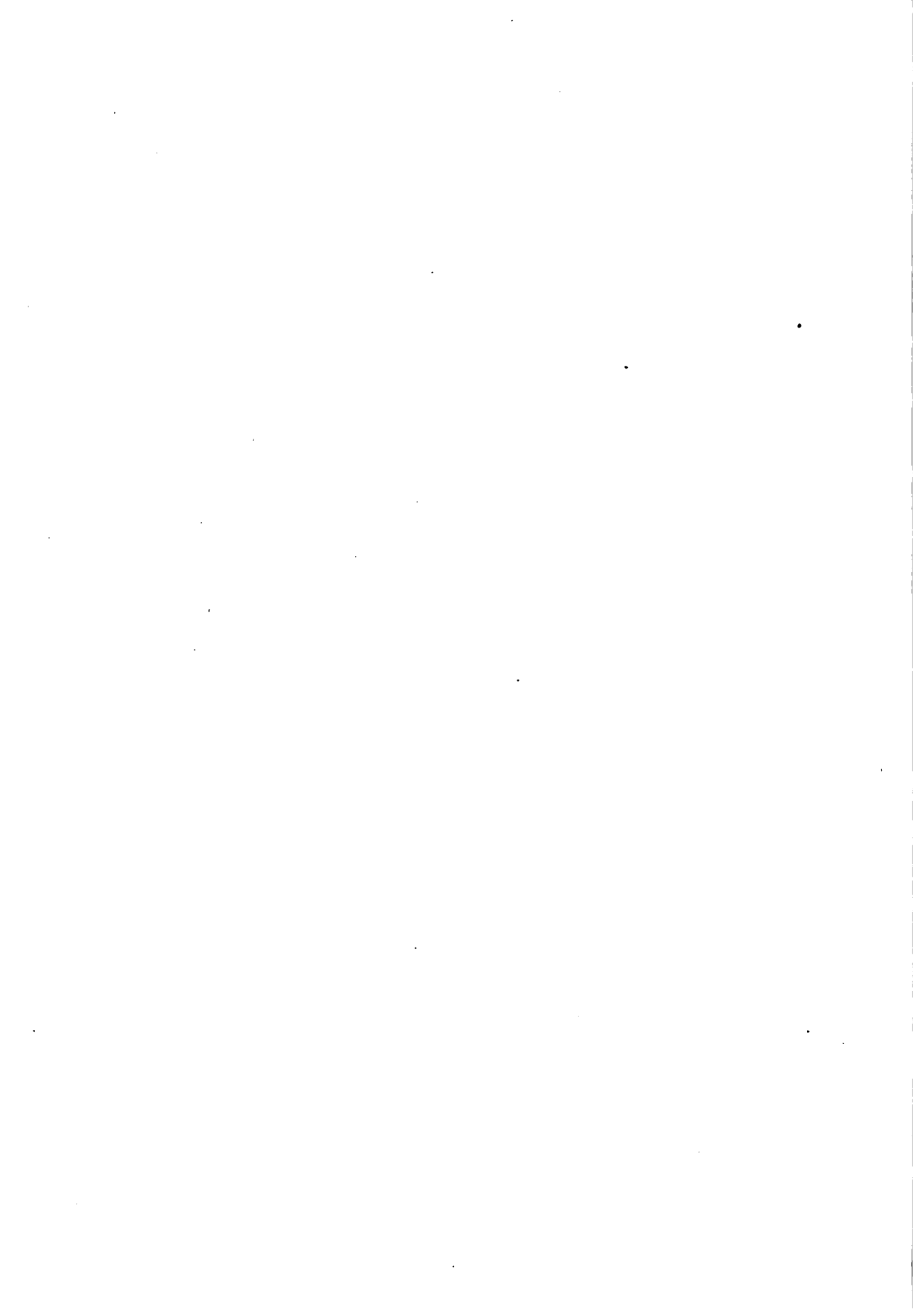
For a short time the county was entirely deserted; not a human being had his habitation within the boundaries of Jackson county. The county government was suspended, the officers fled, and most of the records were lost. Jackson county was put back to where it had been before 1856. Most of the Norwegian families went to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and Houston county, Minnesota; the other settlers made temporary homes at Spirit Lake and in other nearby settlements. News of the great Sioux war, which was being carried on in all parts of Minnesota, came to the settlements on the frontier and the greatest alarm prevailed. Concerning conditions in the Spirit Lake settlement, Mr. H. L. Bennett in 1885 wrote:

This intelligence created the most intense excitement. The settlements in the county [Dickinson] at this time were Spirit Lake, Tusculum, Okoboji and two or three families

on the Little Sioux, southwest of Milford. Messengers were soon sent to all these points, and the settlers, greatly alarmed, hastily gathered their most needful and valuable articles and hastened to Spirit Lake, where preparations were already being made for defense against the Indians. The court house windows were bricked up, leaving portholes to shoot through. All guns and ammunition were gathered up and everything was done to make the defense as complete as possible considering our numbers and the limited means at our disposal. A company was organized for defense, composed of every man capable of bearing arms. Officers were chosen, and everything was done in as military a manner as possible. Pickets were kept out at all times at various distant points to prevent a surprise.

The people of this county remained at the court house most of the time for about three weeks. The loss to settlers in various ways by this mode of living was very great. A good deal of stock was left to run at large, and as a consequence nearly all the crops were destroyed, causing considerable suffering. In doing chores, looking after stock, etc., two or more young men would make the tour of the various neighborhoods, being careful to be well mounted and armed and to keep a good lookout to prevent surprise from any Indians who might be lurking about.

One or two families attempted to leave the county during these trying times, but were detained, as it was determined that all should stay and help make a defense till help came from some direction. About this time the soldiers . . . arrived from Sioux City, and a blessed relief it was to the settlers, who now returned to their homes. Quite a number of families left about this time, and but few came in.



## CHAPTER IX.

### RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD—1862-1867.

**T**HUS struggled the pioneers of Jackson county. They not only had to endure the ordinary hardships and privations of frontier life, they had to experience the horrors of Indian wars. Many met death at the hands of the bloodthirsty savages, homes were pillaged and laid waste, all were compelled to flee for their lives. For the second time in its history Jackson county was depopulated. The few years succeeding the Belmont massacre constitute a reconstruction era. In it the county was again reclaimed from the savages; the white man became the undisputed possessor.

Despite the terrors of living in a country exposed to Indian attack, there were several of the former settlers who would not give up their homes in the new country. Joseph Thomas, who had moved with his family to Spirit Lake, came back to take care of his crop, but returned to Spirit Lake so soon as that was done. A number of the Slaabaken or Olson family did not accompany the other Norwegians to Winneshiek county, Iowa, but remained at Estherville until the latter part of October. Then Englebret, John, Simon and Holsten Olson Slaabaken, accompanied by their families and the widow of the murdered Mikkel Olson Slaabaken, set out to take possession of their deserted

homes in Belmont, traveling in a little caravan of ox teams. Their return was brought about largely for the purpose of taking care of the cattle, which were reported to be roaming about without food. Most of the cattle had been driven off by the Indians, but the stock got away and returned to Belmont.

Disaster overtook the little company when it had reached a point a little south of where the Milwaukee depot in Jackson now stands—on land now owned by Matt Tollefson. When that point was reached it was decided to make preparations for the night's camp, and, because of fear of possible lurking savages, the camp was to have been pitched on the prairie, instead of in the woods. The teams were left on the trail in charge of the women while the men went to get water. While they were gone a terrific prairie fire swept down from the northwest at race horse speed and enveloped the little caravan. The oxen whirled and overturned the wagons, and before the men could reach the danger point the women were in a perilous condition, all of the wagons being on fire.

When the oxen whirled, Miss Olava Olson (now a resident of Jackson), the twelve year old daughter of the murdered Mikkel Olson Slaabaken, was thrown from one of the wagons into the flames. The

girl was badly burned about the knees and hands, but a heavy soldier overcoat saved her life. Mrs. Englebret Olson Slaabaken with her baby jumped from one of the wagons and became separated from the rest of the party. Holsten Olson Slaabaken was burned so badly that the flesh fell off his hands and face, and he bore the marks of his injuries until his death. Miss Lena Olson, now the wife of P. H. Berge, of Jackson, was in the fire, but was uninjured.

With the wagons on fire a retreat was made to the Thomas home, where, fortunately, the family was living for the time being. Seeing the danger the unfortunate people were in, Mrs. Thomas ran with water and extinguished the flames on the first wagon to approach, which was that driven by Simon Olson Slaabaken. Mr. Thomas and his son started back to assist the others. They upset the wagon of John Olson Slaabaken and extinguished the flames, thus saving the running gear; the rest of the wagon was destroyed. Hastening still farther back to where it was known that Mrs. Englebret Slaabaken had jumped from the wagon, Mr. Thomas found her dead body. On her breast, still living, was the baby. The infant lived until midnight and then passed away—one more victim to the dangers of frontier life. The dead were buried in the Michael Miller cemetery.<sup>1</sup>

The Thomas homestead was thrown open to the sufferers, and there the mournful band tarried two weeks. Mrs. Thomas nursed the injured back to life, and then all pushed on to their former homes. They found nearly everything except the cabins destroyed and all the loose property removed. White men from other settlements had completed the ravages begun by the Indians. Wagon load

after wagon load had been hauled from the deserted cabins. Clothing, cooking utensils, machinery, grain and everything that could be moved had been taken. A threshing machine had been brought up to Belmont from Spirit Lake and much of the small grain had been threshed and hauled away. The Slaabakens made what improvements they could and spent the winter of 1862-63 there. Possibly some trapper pitched his tent temporarily along the river or on the bank of some lake; otherwise these were the only ones to brave the dangers of the county.

Again in the spring of 1863 came Indian alarms; a trapper was killed and another wounded by the hostile Sioux some sixteen miles up the river. The Slaabakens again deserted their homes and took refuge at Spirit Lake, where they lived under the protection of the soldiers until the spring of 1864. Joseph Thomas returned again in the spring of 1863, but remained only a short time. Jared Palmer<sup>2</sup> came at the same time, took a claim a little south of the Thomas home, but left temporarily the same year. During the summer of 1863 they were the only settlers in the vicinity. In the fall of that year came Ira Camfield with his mother and a few orphan children. He took a claim a couple of miles south of Jackson, in Middletown township, and spent the winter of 1863-64 there, being the only residents of Jackson county that winter.<sup>3</sup>

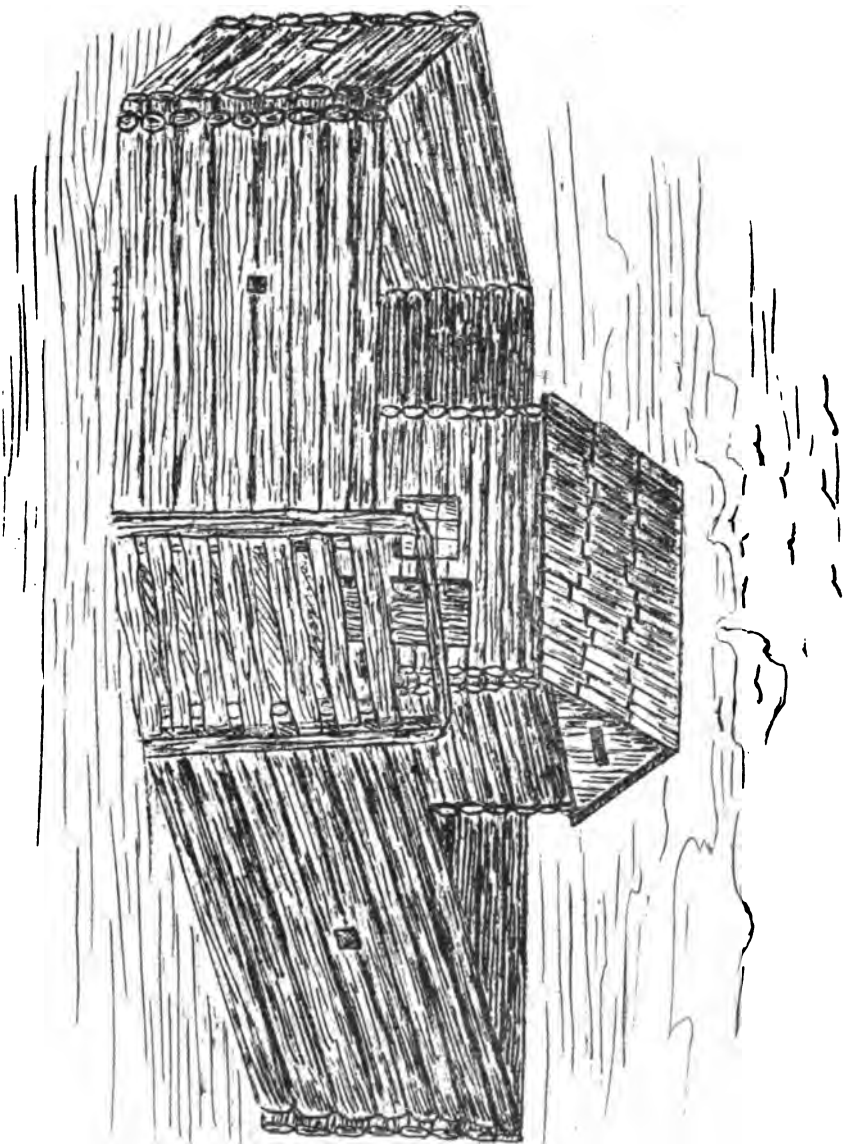
Before military protection was given Jackson county a small party of Norwegian settlers returned to reside permanently in their former homes. They came early in June, 1864, and were the first to

<sup>1</sup>Two men with similar names took part in the early history making of Jackson county. Jared Palmer was one of the Springfield settlers, fought at the Springfield massacre, and now lives at Lakefield. Jared Palmer came as described in the text and was one of the first county officers.

<sup>2</sup>The account of this disaster is written largely from an article written by the late Judge Simon Olson in May, 1890.

<sup>3</sup>Major H. S. Bailey in Republic, March 10, 1888.

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**OLD FORT BELMONT**

From a Pen and Ink Drawing by Margie Malinda Lee from Specifications Furnished from Memory  
by B. H. Lee and Others.

make permanent settlement after the massacre. The party drove through from Houston county, Minnesota, and was composed of the following people: Anders O. Slaabaken (single), who had just been discharged from the army; Simon Olson Slaabaken and wife;<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Anders O. Kirkevoldsmoen and her three small children, Ole (Anderson), Christina and Bertha. Without having knowledge that steps were being taken to protect Jackson county, they decided to push on to their former homes in the frontier regions. The first night in Jackson county they camped at a point a little south of the present site of Jackson. There they met a small party of men, including some of the Slaabaken family, who were on their way from Spirit Lake to Mankato for provisions, and were informed that Lars Halverson and family intended to move immediately onto their claim, near their camping place.

The little party from Houston county continued the journey the next morning and arrived at the claim of Simon Olson Slaabaken, who had earlier in the spring bought of Taral Ramlo that gentleman's claim to the southwest quarter of section 34, Belmont. A lesson had been learned, and now all carried guns and were prepared to make defense against the Indians. On the second night after their arrival a child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Simon Olson Slaabaken—the first child born in the county after the massacre.<sup>5</sup> At the time of this event came an Indian scare. All night long the dogs barked, and the people were in constant fear of attack by Indians. The men of the party

stood guard all night, but they failed to discover any Indians.

Two days after the birth of the child, their fears continuing to increase, the alarmed people could stand the suspense no longer, and all set out for the settlements. They proceeded down the river to Lars Halverson's place, where they found that gentleman and his family. After a few days spent there, the whole party went to Spirit Lake. A little later, accompanied by several others of the Slaabaken family, the return to Belmont was made.

Bravely they determined to hold their claims and made such preparation for defense against attack as best they could. A fort, the main building of which was 18x26 feet, surrounded by a stockade, was erected on the southwest quarter of section 34, Belmont. The stockade was built of logs and covered with sods, through which holes were left to serve as portholes. For two summers all the settlers of the community lived within its protecting walls, spending only such time outside as was necessary to work the farms; during the winter months the settlers generally lived in their own cabins. At no time during this period were they entirely free from fear of attack.

Except for the cabins, most of which were yet standing, these settlers of 1864 found the country in practically a wild state, and were obliged to begin again at the beginning to improve their claims. When the sudden departure had been made in 1862 most of the hogs of the settlement had been left. The people returning found these roaming the woods in a wild state. For several years the hunting of wild swine furnished sport for the settlers, and many of the former domestic animals were killed.

It will be seen that the Belmont massacre resulted in the practical abandon-

<sup>4</sup>Simon Olson Slaabaken had departed from Spirit Lake in the fall of 1863 and gone to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minnesota, where some of the Norwegian refugees had gone, and there married Bertha, the daughter of Mrs. Anders O. Kirkevoldsmoen.

<sup>5</sup>This child was named Christina and is now Mrs. George Omberson, of Murray county.



ment of Jackson county for nearly two years, only a few having the hardihood to attempt resettlement, and they only intermittently. But events were so shaping themselves that protection was to be afforded and the county again made safe for settlement.

During the year 1863 United States soldiers continued operations against the Sioux Indians, driving them beyond the Missouri river. In the fall of that year most of the Minnesota regiments were sent south to fight the battles of the civil war, but the Sixth regiment of Minnesota volunteers remained in the state to hold the land that had been freed from savages. To protect the immediate vicinity Major (then Captain) H. S. Bailey's company of that regiment was stationed at Fairmont and at Elm creek, in Martin county. They were supplied with horses and were instructed to scout and patrol as much country as they could cover. In the month of March, 1864, some of the scouts came so far west as the Des Moines river, and upon their return reported that they had found as nice a country as they ever saw. Major Bailey accompanied another party to Jackson county the same month and was so well pleased with the location that he selected a claim just south of the present village of Jackson proper, filed his claim in the land office, and decided to make his home there as soon as he should leave the army. Sergeant John Hutchinson and possibly other soldiers selected claims at the same time.

Many of the former residents of Jackson county were anxious to return and were ready to do so if military protection were given. In the month of April, 1864, Joseph Thomas took a petition, signed by several of the former residents, to Fairmont and presented it to Major Bailey. They asked that a force of soldiers be stationed at some point in Jackson coun-

ty. Major Bailey endorsed the petition and forwarded it to his commanding officer, General H. H. Sibley. The general referred the matter back to the company commander with instructions to send part of his company to Jackson county and establish a post if he thought it advisable. Major Bailey accordingly sent a force of twelve men, commanded by a sergeant, to the present location of Jackson. The soldiers took possession of a vacant house, which was used for quarters, and christened it Fort Bailey. The soldiers remained at Fort Bailey only a few weeks. Then orders were received for the company to proceed to Fort Snelling to join the regiment, preparatory to going south. Fort Bailey was abandoned and never heard of afterward.<sup>o</sup>

Upon his arrival at Fort Snelling Major Bailey had a conference with General Sibley in regard to the Jackson county country, and as a result the company which relieved Major Bailey was ordered to take its station on the Des Moines river. Lieutenant H. J. Phillips was the commanding officer of this company. He erected a log stockade with a building at either end at a point on the hill on the east side of the river about eighty rods southeast of Joseph Thomas' house. This stockade was occupied by the soldiers until September, 1865.

About the same time, or a little later than, the troops were stationed on the Des Moines, two small bodies of United States troops were stationed in other parts of Jackson county. Part of a company of the Second Minnesota cavalry took post on the west shore of Little Spirit lake, one-quarter mile north of the state line. They came late in the fall of 1864 or early in the spring of 1865 and remained about a year. The post was established on a little peninsula and was nearly sur-

<sup>o</sup>From the writings of Major H. S. Bailey.

rounded by water. The headquarters were in a large log house which was erected for the purpose.

The other post was established in 1865 on the east shore of Heron lake, on section 13, West Heron Lake township. The fort building was 22x24 feet and was built of large logs. It contained one door and two small windows. There were also five smaller buildings, built of logs and all located some forty rods from the lake shore. The fort was occupied by a few soldiers until danger from the Indians was past.<sup>7</sup>

The presence of these troops resulted in the return of a few of the former residents late in 1864. A number of the Norwegian families came back and reclaimed their lands in Belmont, a few others reclaimed their homes along the river farther south, and a few new settlers came in and took claims.

A new era in the history of Jackson county began in 1865. The Indians had been driven from the country; the civil war was brought to a close and thousands of soldiers had been discharged from the service and sent forth to engage in peaceful occupations. It is a noticeable trait of discharged soldiers that they are not content to accept the quiet lives they enjoyed before their army service, but invariably push out into new countries. All parts of the great northwest were rapidly settled, and to Jackson county came many of the discharged soldiers looking for new homes.

A census of the county, showing the number of inhabitants on the first day of June, 1865, discloses the fact that there were 234 residents,<sup>8</sup> divided among 47

families. Of these 123 were males and 111 females. The census was taken by Joseph Thomas.<sup>9</sup> Following are the names of the inhabitants as listed by him:<sup>10</sup>

Joseph Thomas,  
Jane Thomas,  
H. L. Thomas,  
E. G. Thomas,  
E. J. Thomas,  
Joseph Thomas, Jr.,  
M. A. Thomas,  
William Webster,  
John McConnie,  
Aaron Hollenback,  
Frances Hollenback,  
John R. Hollenback,  
James Hollenback,  
Ransom Woodard,  
Ursula Woodard,  
Emily Woodard,  
Ellen Woodard,  
May Woodard,  
Bennett Woodard,  
Charles Belknap,  
Lydia Belknap,  
Minnesota Belknap,  
Sarah Bland,  
Henry Haley,  
Harriett Haley,  
Alexander Haley,  
William C. Haley,  
Martha E. Haley,  
George R. Haley,  
E. A. Haley,  
O. O. Haley,  
Henry K. Evans,  
Elmira Evans,  
George Evans,

Rock, 23. In Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles and Pipestone there were no inhabitants.

<sup>8</sup>"County auditor's office, Fairmont, August 4, 1865.

<sup>9</sup>"I, Albert L. Ward, auditor of the county of Martin, state of Minnesota, do hereby certify that Joseph Thomas, the within named assistant assessor, was by me appointed as such on the 24th day of June, 1865, for the county of Jackson, the same being attached to the county of Martin for judicial purposes. And I do further certify that the within is a true and correct duplicate of census rolls as returned by the said Joseph Thomas to me, and that he is entitled to three cents for each person enrolled. Total, 233x3 cts., \$6.99.

<sup>10</sup>"Witness my hand and seal of office.

"ALBERT L. WARD."

<sup>10</sup>The list is obtained from the office of the secretary of state. On it many of the names are improperly spelled; in some cases to such an extent is the spelling incorrect that the name is hardly recognizable. Through the kindness of Mr. Ole Anderson and other residents of 1865, I have changed the orthography of such and give the list as revised. In addition to the names contained in the census return, I am informed that there were living in Jackson county at the time of the enumeration Mr. and Mrs. Nels Larson and their family of nine children, named as follows: Ole, Lewis, Levina, Marie, Bertha, Isabel, John, Lena and Caroline. It is said also that Thora Halverson, wife of Lars Halverson, should be on the list.

<sup>7</sup>When Abraham Johnson took the site of the post as a homestead claim about 1870 the buildings were still standing. He tore down the fort building and used the logs in the erection of a stable, which was put up on the lake shore.

<sup>8</sup>Other counties in southwestern Minnesota had population as follows: Blue Earth, 9,201; Faribault, 4,735; Watonwan, 248; Martin, 1,430;

Laura Evans,  
 May Evans,  
 Emily Evans,  
 Benjamin Dayton,  
 Alina Dayton,  
 Laurie Dayton,  
 Edmund W. Dayton,  
 Spencer Dayton,  
 William Dayton,  
 Samuel Hall,  
 Louisa Hall,  
 Enoin Hall,  
 Lucretia Hall,  
 James E. Palmer,  
 Arminda Palmer,  
 George Palmer,  
 Leonidas Palmer,  
 Andrew Monson,  
 Betret Monson,  
 John Monson (Anderson),  
 Mons Monson,  
 Dorethy Monson,  
 Mary Monson,  
 Anna Monson,  
 Christena Monson,  
 Berret Monson,  
 Frederick Lyman,  
 Martha E. Lyman,  
 Naomia Lyman,  
 Lewis Lyman,  
 Israel F. Eddy,  
 Rolly D. Eddy,  
 William D. Eddy,  
 Francis Eddy,  
 Perry E. Eddy,  
 Emma M. Eddy,  
 Clark Baldwin,  
 Martha Baldwin,  
 Solomon Dickenson,  
 May J. Dickenson,  
 Catherine Peters,  
 Sanford Peters,  
 Stephen Dickenson,  
 David Dickenson,  
 Sarah Dickenson,  
 Electa Dickenson,  
 Harris Dickenson,  
 Lydia Dickenson,  
 John Dickenson,  
 James S. Peters,  
 Stenrench Wood,  
 Anna Wood,  
 William S. Wood,  
 Marquis Loucks,  
 David Bright,  
 May A. Bright,  
 Jumer Bright,  
 Martha Bright,  
 Nancy Bright,  
 Noah Bright,  
 Victoria Bright,  
 Frederick Bright,  
 Charles Brown,  
 Minnie Brown,  
 George Brown,  
 May William,  
 Oliver Lee (Brynildson),

Martha Lee,  
 Brownell Lec,  
 Henry Lee,  
 Martin Lee,  
 John Lee,  
 Peter P. Haverberg,  
 Marion Haverberg,  
 Engebor Haverberg,  
 Marguerite Marren,  
 Andrew Olson,  
 Engebret Olson,  
 Kristi Olson,  
 Ole E. Olson,  
 Andrew E. Olson,  
 Anne Olson,  
 Kristri Helgeson,  
 Simon Olson,  
 Betsey Olson,  
 Anna C. Olson,  
 Oliver Stall,  
 Helen Stall,  
 John Olson,  
 Anna Olson,  
 Kristi Olson,  
 Anna Olson,  
 Lena Olson,  
 Ole Olson,  
 Pethria Olson,  
 Peter Olson,  
 Lars Halverson,  
 Sarah Halverson,  
 Halvor Halverson,  
 Anna Halverson,  
 Lars Halverson, Jr.,  
 John Halverson,  
 Kair Halverson,  
 Arthur Halverson,  
 Ann Olson,  
 Christina Olson,  
 Bertha Olson,  
 Ole Olson (Anderson),  
 Peternilla Olson,  
 Olive Olson,  
 Kistrie Olson,  
 Karena Olson,  
 Isabella Olson,  
 Ole Olson,  
 Kistri Olson,  
 Mille Olson,  
 Nube Olson,  
 Ann Olson,  
 Orin Belknap,  
 Naomia Belknap,  
 Henry Lyman,  
 Isaac Belknap,  
 June Belknap,  
 Elijah Belknap,  
 John J. Belknap,  
 Edmund Belknap,  
 Isaac Belknap,  
 Elizabeth M. Canfield,  
 John Canfield,  
 Lewis A. Canfield,  
 Nancy Canfield,  
 Ugenia Tailor,  
 George Tailor,  
 Baldwin Kirkpatrick,  
 Minebab Kirkpatrick,

Thomas Kirkpatrick,  
 Amanda Kirkpatrick,  
 Adaline Kirkpatrick,  
 Milo Kirkpatrick,  
 Jute Kirkpatrick,  
 James Palmer,  
 Nancy M. Palmer,  
 Joseph Palmer,  
 George Palmer,  
 Eliza Palmer,  
 William Palmer,  
 Miles J. Metcalf,  
 Fanny M. Metcalf,  
 Emery G. Metcalf,  
 Harriet K. Metcalf,  
 Arnold S. Metcalf,  
 Charles H. Metcalf,  
 Joseph Price,  
 Sarah Price,  
 Almea Price,  
 Peter Baker,  
 Marion C. Baker,  
 Lon J. Baker,  
 Sofronia N. Baker,  
 Harriet E. Baker,  
 May J. Baker,  
 Eliza A. Baker,  
 Daniel Baker,  
 Eliza Baker,  
 Cheeny M. Cormick,  
 Lafayette Cormick,  
 Emma Cormick,  
 Ervin Helberon,  
 Hogan Gilbert,  
 Engebret Olson,  
 Carney Olson,  
 Ole Olson,  
 Landen Olson,  
 Holsten Olson,  
 Ingebri Olson,  
 Ole H. Olson,  
 Enor H. Olson,  
 Nels H. Olson,  
 Tina H. Olson,  
 Cornelius H. Olson,  
 Martinus H. Olson,  
 Julia H. Olson,  
 Betsey H. Olson,  
 Nelson O. Huron,  
 Len Olson,  
 Ole Nelson,  
 Lor Nelson,  
 John Nelson,  
 Levena Nelson,  
 May Nelson,  
 Betsey Nelson,  
 J. Mabella Nelson,  
 Lena Nelson,  
 Cornelia Nelson,  
 Nicholas Olson,  
 John N. Olson,  
 Samuel N. Olson,  
 Lenah Olson,  
 Betsey C. Olson,  
 May A. Olson.

Many more came during the summer and fall, and the choice lands along the

Des Moines river were all staked. A few families took claims this year on the banks of Loon lake and the other lakes in that vicinity, being the first to locate any distance from the river. Quite an addition to the county's population this year were Major H. S. Bailey and family and twenty men of his company.<sup>11</sup> The newcomers favored the lands upon which there was timber, as had the earlier settlers, and the greatest population was along that part of the river which sustained the most timber. Consequently the most thickly settled portion of the county was in the vicinity of the present village of Jackson. At that point, in 1865, William Webster began the erection of a sawmill, which, however, was not finished until the next year.<sup>12</sup>

Despite the large increase in population and the presence of the soldiers, apprehension of Indian attack was again manifest in the spring of 1865. Indians appeared in the north part of the county and attacked two trappers in their shanty.

<sup>11</sup>The company had left Fairmont in June, 1864, with 101 vigorous and healthy men. It went south and was stationed at Helena, Arkansas. Within six weeks the health of nearly everyone was ruined by malaria, and eighteen men later died from its effects. Of the eighteen, seven were among those who located in Jackson county.

<sup>12</sup>George C. Chamberlin, writing in 1888, gave the following history of this pioneer sawmill:

"In these historical sketches we must not forget Jackson's first enterprise. I allude to the old sawmill that so long did duty at the eastern end of the mill dam.

"It was in 1864 or 1865 that a man by the name of Webster commenced its construction, but so many obstacles intervened that he soon sold out to Mr. Welch Ashley, who in 1866 put it in condition for duty. He and B. W. Ashley operated it for two or three years, and here from morning until night would farmers await their turn for a few rough boards and dimension lumber, which readily sold for \$25 per thousand. Here the neighbors became acquainted, discussed with newcomers as they appeared upon the scene, and talked of the prospective town, the crops and the country.

"Mr. Ashley sold the mill to Philemon Farr, a brother of O. S. Farr, and Mr. Farr sold to an eccentric old bachelor named David Cardwell, who afterwards was found dead upon the prairie near Le Mars, Iowa, and it is supposed committed suicide. When railways neared the vicinity the occupation of the old mill was gone, and the site was purchased by Hunter & Strong for a flouring mill, and the ancient structure, I presume, was converted into stove wood."

The alarm was given by a boy named Kirkpatrick, who had been trapping in northern Belmont township with a man named **Haskins**, of Estherville. Haskins was shot through the hip, but managed to crawl into hiding in the brush above Brownsburg. The boy made his escape and notified the soldiers down the river. A scouting party found Haskins and brought him in, but no Indians could be found. The soldiers notified the settlers and assisted them to the stockade, where most of them remained for a few days. Then, being satisfied that the Indians had left, all departed for their homes. A personal incident of the alarm has been told by Mrs. Clark Baldwin (now Mrs. A. B. Allen):

The spring [of 1865] also brought an uneasiness about the Indians, as this was on the extreme frontier. We had the soldiers stationed here, to be sure, but the stockades were far apart and there were so few settlers that we were but a handful in comparison with the hordes that might come upon us. And at one time we thought they were upon us. I think it was in May. About three o'clock one morning we heard a rap at the door and on inquiring found it to be a squad of soldiers who had been sent out to warn and take into the stockade all the settlers for protection from the Indians, and it was supposed there were many in the vicinity. When the warning came to us we were not long in responding. One of the soldiers afterward said he had always heard it took a woman so long to dress, but he knew of one that wasn't long about it. After that knock on the door it wasn't three minutes before I was ready and on the horse behind a soldier, ready to march to the stockade, where it was thought best we stay for a few days, which I did.

The population of Jackson county had reached such a point in the fall of 1865, with such excellent prospects of a continuation of immigration the following year, that it was decided to bring about the reorganization of the county government. The legislature had, early in the year, attached the county to Martin county for judicial purposes,<sup>13</sup> but there was

necessity for other branches of government than the judicial.

At the request of some of the residents, Governor Stephen Miller named Israel F. Eddy, Charles Belknap and Jared Palmer commissioners to call and preside over an election for the purpose of choosing county officers. The election was held at the home of Jared Palmer on November 7, thirty-six ballots were cast, and a set of county officials was chosen.<sup>14</sup> Owing to difficulties in having the returns canvassed and election certificates issued, it was not until January 27, 1866, that the machinery of county government was set in motion. On that date the first meeting of the board of county commissioners was held at the home of Major H. S. Bailey.

The second meeting of the board was held on March 13, when the county was divided into commissioner districts and the three most thickly settled townships were authorized to begin township government. These townships were Petersburg, Jackson (Des Moines) and Belmont. The first township meeting was held April 2, 1866.

Petersburg township was named in honor of Rev. Peter Baker, the pioneer minister of the gospel and a settler of 1860. To it were attached, for township and election purposes, the other four, sparsely settled townships of the southern tier. Among the early residents of Petersburg township who secured land patents from the government, with the year in which the patents were issued, and the number of the section upon which the settler had his claim, were the following:<sup>15</sup>

The act was approved by the governor February 16, 1865.

<sup>14</sup>For the names of the first officers and other items concerning the organization the reader is referred to the political chapters of this volume.

<sup>15</sup>The year the patent was issued precedes the name; the section number follows the name and is in parenthesis.

<sup>13</sup>All judicial officers of Martin county were granted full jurisdiction over Jackson county, the same as if it were a part of that county.

1866, Isaac Belknap (6); 1868, M. W. Thompson (6-7), Charles W. Belknap (18); 1869, Menzo L. Ashley (18); 1870, Ira Camfield (6-7), Samuel Hall (7), Miles J. Metcalf (27), Joseph Price (27), Peter S. Baker (27-28), Daniel Baker (28); 1871, Ole Johnson (2), Ephriam Eby (14), John C. Hoovel (33), Hogan Gilbert (34); 1872, Stephen E. Ford (6), John Logue (8), Eric Sevaton (34), Even Herbrandson (34); 1873, Albert D. King (4), Edward F. Mather (4), J. N. Thompson (6), James W. Dunn (6), Jesse A. Patterson (7), Andrew J. Patterson (8), John L. Ashley (12), Chancy W. Cornish (20), John Hanney (24), George D. Stone (34); 1874, Solomon Mid-  
daugh (20), George L. Fortner (28), Edward Gruhlke (30), Bottol Olson (32), Bjorn Bjornson (32); 1875, Samuel Clayton (12), Lyman W. Seely (22); 1876, Edward Bolter (14), Nelson Graves (20), Hebrand Bjornson (22), James N. Newton (24), Eugene Logue (26), Martin Logue (26), August Gruhlke (30); 1877, Jared Haskin (24), James H. Baker (28); 1878, Assor Olson (26); 1880, Sever Knudson (26).

Jackson township (renamed Des Moines by act of the board of county commissioners May 16, 1866) had the other townships of the tier attached to it at the time of organization, as well as the tier north of it. It lost the northern tier early in 1867 by the organization of Belmont township, Wisconsin in 1869, and the townships to the west in 1872. Following are the early settlers of Des Moines who received titles from the government and the years the patents were issued:

1860, Daniel P. Cornell (2-3), Alexander Wood (24); 1862, Joseph Arthur (14-22-23), Israel F. Eddy (24); 1863, James E. Palmer (24-25); 1864, Stephen F. Johnson (13-23-24); 1865, Hans Johnson (15-22), Joseph Muck (15-22), Joseph Thomas (24), Stiles M. West (25), D. M. West (25); 1866, Arthur L. Crane (23), Bartholmew McCarthy (24), Isaac Wheeler (27), Wilson C. Garratt (34); 1867, Ann Olson (3), Edward Davies (10-11), Nathan J. Woodin (10), Ole Larson (12), Henry Haley (22), Henry K. Evens (34); 1868, Simon Olson (3-4), Ole Bureson (10-11-14-15), Heirs of John Olson (11), Palmer Hill (14), Abram Kalder (20), Lewis L. Miner (22), Nathaniel Frost (23-24); 1869, John Olson (3), Mary D. Ashley (26); 1870, Clark Baldwin (13), Otis S. Farr (26), Jeremiah Prescott (30), Benjamin W. Ashley (34), James S. Williams (35); 1871, Oliver Stall (2), William Bureson (11-14), Sylvester Kingsley (19), Thaddeus Rucker (20), Alonzo Blake (21), Ahimaaz E. Wood (23-26), Lars Halverson (25), Philip Yates (28-29); 1872, Halver B. Lee (2), Darby Whelan (4), George W. Woodin (10), Andrew Monson (13), William A. Stewart (18), Henry A. Wil-

liams (20), Hiram S. Bailey (23-24-25), Benjamin D. Dayton (26), Charles H. B. Greene (29), Matthew Smith (29); 1873, Milton Mason (4), Martin L. Bromaghim (12), Alpheus C. Marshall (12), Welch Ashley (12), Hans Chesteron (15), Stanton F. Stone (18), Hiram H. Stone (18), Emmet Miner (20-21), Joseph E. Fields (26-27), Horace L. Trumbull (27), Levi Bennett, Jr. (28), Henry Blakey (28), Edward J. Orr (29), Jesse E. Prescott (30), Orson Cook (30), Michael Smith (30), William R. Maddock (33), Edward Davies (34); 1874, Hans Stall (2), Hans Hanson (2), Erick Christianson (2), Edward Blakey (27-28); 1875, Harvey Page (4), Patrick Dailey (14), James Kerr (28); 1876, Alfred H. Cady (4), Hiram Samson (10), Michael Riley (20); 1877, George P. Lee (35); 1878, John H. Willing (18); 1879, Jacob Bastedo (18).

Belmont township was created by the board of county commissioners March 13, 1866, at the same time as Jackson and Petersburg, but the organization was not perfected until January 5, 1867. At the time of organization the other townships of the tier were attached to it, and on April 10, 1869, all of the townships of the northern tier were given it for township purposes. The name was given in honor of the old Belmont townsite. Almost without exception the early settlers were Norwegians. The following were granted land patents in Belmont in the years named:

1860, Edward S. Love (6); 1868, Heirs of Lars Larson (8-17), James Murry (32); 1869, Simon Olson (33-34), John Olson (34); 1871, S. Amundson (22), Nicholas Olson (28), Holsten Olson (34); 1872, Ole Johnson (8), Milo Larson (28), Anders Olson (34); 1873, Ole Anderson (4), Thomas Larson (4), John Hanson (4), Paul Hanson (4), Knud Johnson (6), Nube Olson (8), Peter Amundson (8), Lars I. Bratager (20), Englebret Olson (21-22-27), Peter Larson (22), Peter Johnson (22), Thron Thomson (26), Peter P. Haverberg (34); 1874, Heirs of Joseph Thompson (14), Samuel Nelson (14), Andrew Johnson (20), Anders R. Kilen (20), Iver Thompson (24), Christian Olson Lilleberg (28), Ole O. Sandager (30), Even Larson Kjelsven (32), Hans Stall (34); 1875, Nils Larson (2), Ole Peterson (12), Anders L. Kjelsven (20), Erick Rasmusson (20), Johan Fransen (20), Ole Olson (24), Beret Olson (26); 1876, John Johnson Scrove (2), Claus Hanson (2), Lars Larson (2), Kriste Olson (22); 1877, Englebret L. Thomson (12), Segar H. Chester (18); 1878, Marie Halverson (20), Ole E. Olson, Sr. (22); 1880, Ole S. Sogge (10), Andreas Johnson (18), John H. Johnson (24); 1881, Thore O. Fladgard (14), Bereth Olson (22);

1883, Ole H. Lee (24), Paul H. Paulson (30); 1885, G. Tollefson (18); 1886, Thron L. Thronson (26).

Minneota township was quite early settled on account of the numerous lakes within its borders. The residents petitioned for township government, and on October 15, 1866, the commissioners granted the request. By the same act there were attached to it the west half of the present Middletown township and all of the present townships of Sioux Valley and Round Lake. Minneota is a Sioux word meaning "much water," and was so named because of its group of lakes. An early settler by the name of Chandler suggested the name. Titles to land in Minneota were issued to the following early settlers in the years indicated:

1869, Martin D. Metcalf (25); 1870, George Ellet (14), James S. Peters (24-25); 1871, Ebenezer B. Millard (10), Samuel W. Burgess (14-23), Osman Burgess (23), John Richardson (23-26), Timothy C. Johnson (24), Samuel Brown (34-35), Abner B. Stimson (35); 1872, Gideon K. Tiffany (8), Isador A. Moreaux (10), Francis Ingraham (34); 1873, Walter A. Davis (12), Isaac Greenwood (24), Herman P. Wilber (26), Lucius Bordwell (26); 1874, Samuel Davis (12), Henry Shapley (22), William C. Bates (22); 1875, Henry S. Graves (4), Nathaniel B. Fletcher (4), H. P. Ballard (14); 1877, John Lucas (22), Hiram H. Simonds (26), Ole Wilson (28), John Amo (34); 1878, John F. Baker (6), Hans C. Overson (28), John Gilfillan (28), Abram Gilfillan (28), Ole Olson (32); 1879, John E. Bunker (20), Jacob Larson (30), Lars Christenson (32); 1881, Lodawick Fader (2). Lyman Wilcox (30); 1884, Charles L. Stoddard (18); 1885, George Baker (18).

There was a large immigration in 1866, and Jackson county received new settlers from all parts of the east. Nearly all of these were poor people who came for the purpose of bettering their condition in the new country, where they might become land owners. Conditions were as unlike those of the present time as night is from day. There were no wagon roads, and traveling was a difficult and often dangerous undertaking. The newcomers found only three or four schools in the whole county and no churches, al-

though traveling ministers of the gospel occasionally preached at private houses. Frame buildings were scarce. In the timbered districts log houses were built; in the prairie sections sod houses or dugouts<sup>16</sup> furnished the homes. Ox teams, or perhaps an ox and a cow, attached to a lumber wagon provided the means of conveyance. The scythe corresponded to our mower and the cradle and rake to our binder. There were no railroads, no telegraph and telephone lines, and only one postoffice in the county. The people were not blessed with the advantages they now enjoy; their energies were exerted in the strife for existence; their ambition was to become the owner of a piece of land. John Davies, a pioneer settler, in after years recalled early day conditions and said:

How well do I remember seeing them clothed in dilapidated garments and out at their toes, driving their ox teams hitched to rickety buckboard vehicles to town and elsewhere, and whenever I see their old roads which meandered over these undulating plains (over which they mugged along, often with lumps in their throats, but large hopes in their hearts) being obliterated by the plow I can hardly refrain from tears.

The records of the county government for the year 1866 furnish us many interesting items of the conditions and times. We learn from these that the first school district was created on March 13, 1866, and included part of Des Moines township east of the river and several sections in Wisconsin township.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup>"To the pioneers of those days that word [dugout] would explain itself, but to the readers of this worthy paper, who live in elegant city homes and have never seen or been familiar with frontier life, perhaps a word of explanation will be necessary as to how these were built. First a cellar was dug with steps leading therefrom; then logs were laid about the tops of this and a roof placed on the top of those; gable ends and a door were made; a square was dug into the side of the walls and a dry goods box inserted for a cupboard; another made an excellent clothes press. No need of a fire escape in a house like this! The roof itself was of dirt."—Thomas Goodwin in Republic, March 1, 1895.

<sup>17</sup>The first twelve school districts were organized on the dates given and with boundaries as follows:

No. 1—March 13, 1866. Commencing at the northeast corner of section 17, Wisconsin; thence running west on that section line to

The total taxable property in 1866 was less than \$36,000, and was assessed in the names of 73 owners. The tax levied amounted to \$718.59. The names of those assessed and the amount of each one's tax, as equalized by the county board, were as follows:

PETERSBURG.<sup>18</sup>

Peter Baker	\$6.82
W. C. Garratt	3.45
Samuel Hall	3.82
Even Herbrandson	6.60
Samuel Brown	1.50
Solomon Dickenson	2.83
Hogan Gilbert	2.39
Levi Camfield	1.06
John Hoovel	7.10
James S. Peters	5.06
M. J. Metcalf	
Martin Metcalf	
Erwin Hall	2.66
Ira Camfield	3.21
Charles W. Belknap	1.77
Joseph Price	.62
L. H. Lyman	7.97
	<hr/>
	\$56.86

the Des Moines river; thence running in a southerly direction, following the river, to the section line of 25 and 36; thence east to the southeast corner of section 29; thence north to the place of beginning.

No. 2—September 4, 1866. All that territory in Des Moines township which lies west of the Des Moines river.

No. 3—September 4, 1866. Commencing at the northeast corner of section 32, Wisconsin; thence running south to the southeast corner of section 17, Petersburg; thence west to the southwest corner of section 14, Middletown; thence north to the township line between Des Moines and Middletown; thence east on the township line to the Des Moines river; thence following the river in a northerly direction to the section line of sections 25 and 36, Des Moines; thence east to the place of beginning.

No. 4—November 7, 1866. The south half of Petersburg township.

No. 5—March 17, 1867. The townships of Belmont, Enterprise, Heron Lake, West Heron Lake and Alba.

No. 6—May 25, 1867. Sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36, Minnesota township.

No. 7—September 20, 1867. Sections 15, 16, 21 and 22, Des Moines township.

No. 8—September 25, 1867. Sections 17, 18, 19 and 20, Des Moines township.

No. 9—December 21, 1867. The east half of sections 20, 29 and 32 and all of sections 21, 28 and 33 and the west half of sections 22, 27 and 34, in Wisconsin township, and the north half of section 4 and the northwest quarter of section 3 and the northeast quarter of section 5, in Petersburg township.

No. 10—December 24, 1867. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12, Des Moines township.

No. 11—January 7, 1868. Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, Des Moines township.

No. 12—March 10, 1868. The west half of Minnesota township.

<sup>18</sup>It will be remembered that Petersburg and Des Moines were the only townships in which the township organization had been perfected in the summer of 1866, the other territory be-

DES MOINES.

H. S. Bailey	\$32.66
A. E. Wood	27.10
Nathaniel Frost	14.40
Asa Southwell	16.00
H. R. Trowbridge	17.60
H. K. Evans	4.52
A. Miner	50.48
E. S. Love	20.80
D. P. Cornell	16.00
Clark Baldwin	20.68
Welch Ashley	110.80
I. F. Eddy	38.46
M. Clough	29.72
F. R. Lyman	4.71
Joseph Thomas	43.88
B. H. Johnson	16.60
James E. Palmer	16.24
D. M. West	16.80
Jared Palmer	3.06
P. P. Haverberg	1.96
I. Wheeler	2.00
Lewis Lyman	.90
R. N. Woodward	.86
Hans Stall	2.96
Simon Olson	4.40
Edward Orr	4.30
H. L. Thomas	14.38
Holsten Olson	6.80
John Young	4.22
H. H. Stone	4.22
Knute Johnson	.96
Nicholas Olson	17.86
B. W. Ashley	2.56
Orrin Belknap	7.30
Lars Halverson	5.20
Henry Haley	4.28
Englebret Olson	17.86
H. A. Williams	1.20
Anders Monson	5.26
Peter Johnson	2.20
John Hanson	4.14
John Olson	3.32
Oliver Stall	5.40
John Johnson	2.48
J. N. Thompson	8.20
Andrew Olson	.28
Englebret Olson	4.96
Nels Larsman	3.28
Peter A. Aas	9.98
Thomas Larson	3.50
Nube Olson	3.28
George Palmer	2.44
B. Kirkpatrick	1.84
Lars Rasman	3.64
N. J. Woodin	.80
J. H. Lyman	3.00
	<hr/>
	\$661.73

Total for county.....\$718.59

According to the return of products as

ing attached to them. The lists for these two townships include the names of all the tax payers in the county, the southern tier of townships being listed under Petersburg and the rest of the county under Des Moines.



prepared by Auditor Clark Baldwin from returns made by the township assessors, there were only 270 acres of land put into crop in Jackson county in 1866. The abstract of the acres under cultivation and the yield by townships of the various crops is shown in the next column.

An act of the national congress in 1866 had a disastrous effect upon the far off county of Jackson—an act which resulted in retarding the settlement of the county to a great extent and for a great many years. By the act, approved July 4, 1866, entitled “an act making an additional grant of lands to the state of Minnesota, in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of railroads in said state,” certain lands were granted to the state of Minnesota for the purpose of aiding in the construction of the Southern Minnesota railroad from its then western terminus, Houston, to the west line of the state. The Minnesota legislature on February 25, 1867, accepted the trust created by this act of congress and granted the lands to the Southern Minnesota Railroad company, binding the company to complete the road to the state’s western boundary by February 25, 1877. As soon as the bill became a law, the railroad company put surveyors in the field and located a line. Then the company selected the odd numbered sections for a distance of ten miles on each side of the surveyed line, and the land was withdrawn from homestead and preemption entry. About the same time another large grant was made to assist in building the Sioux City & St. Paul road, the two grants taking from the government nearly one-half the territory of Jackson county. The same year 60,000 acres of internal improvement land was selected by the state. The lands in Jackson county which were left for the homeseekers were therefore greatly reduced. Had the granted lands been placed

TOWNSHIP	Acres Cultivated	Wheat		Oats		Corn		Barley		Potatoes		Sorghum		Beans		Maple Sugar		Hay		Wool	Butter	Cheese	
		*Acres	*Bus.	Acres	Bus.	Acres	Bus.	Acres	Bus.	Acres	Bus.	Acres	Bus.	Acres	Gals.	Acres	Bus.	Pounds	Acres	Tons	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Des Moines.....	160	38	676	19	475	75	2745	1	30	25	2085	1	50	1	10	300	718	1883	78	8595	400		
Belmont.....	65†	34	581	5	212	21	400	...	...	5	581	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	96	2180	100	
Petersburg.....	44	18	116	...	...	18	465	...	...	7	511	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1000	...	
Minnesota.....	†	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1/2	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	270	90	1373	24	687	114	3610	1	30	37 1/2	3217	1 1/2	75	2	18	300	919	1966	174	11,775	800		

\*Under the “acres” columns is given the number of acres sown; in the columns immediately following is given the number of bushels, pounds or other units of measurement of the products raised.

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COUNTRY SCENES



CROSSING THE DES MOINES



LOWERS LAKE



LAKE MINNESEKA



SWASTIKA BEACH, FISH LAKE



THE OLD BRIDGE

upon the market at a reasonable price the results would not have been so disastrous. The railroad lands were not placed on the market until years afterward.

By 1866 the settlement had reached such a point that its permanency was assured. Not again could a handful of Indians cause the abandonment of Jackson county. The most thickly settled community was along that part of the Des Moines river which flows through Des Moines township, and here, in the latter part of the year, was founded the village of Jackson by Welch Ashley and Major H. S. Bailey. The sawmill began operations, a store was started, stage lines began operations, and a few of the conveniences of the outside world came to the heretofore isolated settlers.

Time is required to put a new country on a self-sustaining basis, and the product returns for the year 1866 show that Jackson county had not yet reached that point. The bulk of the immigration had come in 1866 and the big majority had, of course, not raised a crop. Supplies were from necessity brought in from the outside—principally from Mankato and Garden City—and as there were no roads or bridges and the streams almost impossible to cross in time of high water, much difficulty was encountered in providing the necessary supplies. What is known as the "starvation period" in Jackson county's history resulted.

The snow was very deep and the weather severe during the winter of 1866-67, and the new settlers were illy prepared for it. Many had come late in the season, bringing but few supplies with them and with small means to purchase more. During the fall and early winter most of the provisions that had been brought in were exhausted, and on account of the difficulties of travel it was almost impossible for

even people who had the means to obtain the necessities of life. Starvation stared many in the face. The abundance of fish, which the lakes and streams supplied, saved many from actual starvation. For weeks some families lived on absolutely nothing but fish and milk. Major H. S. Bailey has written of the conditions that winter:

I know of some families who became so weak they could scarcely move around. One woman was so weak before relief came to her that she could not even sit up, and one William McClelland, who lived on the state line near Spirit Lake, when going past, saw the condition of this woman, acted the part of the Good Samaritan, and took her to his own home and had her nursed and supplied with such food as her appetite craved, and thus saved her life.

The state came to our rescue and furnished us some flour and provisions, but the conditions of the road were such that it was almost impossible to get supplies here, as they all had to be hauled from Mankato and Garden City. However, we got something they called flour from lake Shetek that was destined to starve Indians upon; but it got left there and our commissioners sent teams and got some of it. It was not much of a luxury, but it kept soul and body together until we could get something else.

George C. Chamberlin also told of personal experiences during the starvation winter:

What provisions were brought in were left at Mr. Thomas' on the east side of the river, and the settlers on the west side brought their little parcels in a boat. Every day, and nearly every hour of the day, I [who was living on the Jackson townsite] went over to help across parties in a small boat and often encountered danger in the swiftly running water.

Around Loon lake was quite a settlement, and I shall never forget the disconsolate look of the lank and cadaverous man from there as he emerged from the boat, held up his sack and remarked, "Twenty-five pounds of flour, seven children—nine of us in the family—and I know not where the next mouthful is coming from." Buffalo fish without salt was a frequent meal during that starvation season. Although many came out "spring poor" that season, there were no cases of actual starvation.

When the snow went off in the spring, traveling was even worse than it had been in the winter. All the streams were swollen and out of their banks, and the ground

was so soft that even empty wagons mired. Realizing that something must be done to prevent starvation, the settlers held a meeting, raised money to purchase flour and other supplies, and sent teams and men to make an effort to get them into the county. Jesse F. Ashley, who was one of the men to undertake this difficult task, tells of the trip:

Lant Thomas, Pete Kingsley and myself started for Garden City for flour April 20, 1867. The snow being about four feet deep but melting rapidly, we went with wagons. When we got to the Blue Earth river, the ice had gone out on the west side, so we drove to the center and cut a channel through for our teams to cross, all getting wet to our waists. We reached Shelbyville about eight o'clock with our clothes frozen. Pete and I roomed together that night, and he piled into bed with his breeches on, giving me knowledge of how to dry clothing without a fire. He said he learned that in the pinery. We reached Garden City next day, and the next morning loaded our wagons and started home. When we got back to the Blue Earth river it was nearly half a mile in width and full of floating ice. Here we camped with our teams and wagons three days, waiting for the ice to move and for the ferry boat, which was at Blue Earth City, to come down. While there we saw a man on the opposite side trying to cross in a row boat. When quite a way from shore his boat capsized near a tree. He was able to grasp a limb and saved himself by climbing the tree. This was in the afternoon, and he was there all night calling for help. The next morning another man was seen going out to him. When he was near the tree the current became so swift that it upset his boat, too, and he climbed the same tree. By this time the first man had nearly perished from hunger and cold. When up the tree No. 2 cut a whip and began whipping No. 1, which he continued until the other was aroused and warmed. They were rescued by two men going up the stream in a boat with another boat tied behind. After securing their own boat to a tree, they let the other float down to the captives, holding it by lines. The lines were cut after the captives had got into the boat, and the men rowed themselves ashore. The ferry boat came down that evening and ferried us over, one team and wagon at a time, the work taking nearly all day. The remaining part of the trip was rough, crossing creeks without bridges, taking thirteen days for the round trip.

Then I went back for another load. By this time the ferryman had a rope across the river, so I had no trouble in crossing. I got through very well and my flour was put in grain sacks, the weight, varying from 125 to 130 pounds

per sack, being marked on the sacks in red chalk. I had no trouble until I got near Vernon. There the country was flat and the frost was coming out of the ground, so that I soon got stuck in a slough. I managed to get the team through the mud and water. I then unloaded my flour and carried it on my back to a dry place. I had this to do seven times before I reached Winnebago. I was a lad of seventeen and weighed ninety pounds. When I got to Winnebago City I found A. Miner there after a load of seed wheat; then I had company the rest of the way home. He had a balky team, so we could not double teams, and both had to unload and carry the loads through the sloughs. The flour cost \$13 per hundred laid down in Jackson.

Better times came, and a short time after, the starvation period of 1866-67 was only a bitter memory. New settlers came in 1867 and selected claims, some venturing onto the prairie lands away from the river and lakes. Many hardships were endured by the new settlers during the late sixties—hardships which are incident to the settlement of any new country. Owing to the long distance from railroads, staple articles as well as luxuries ruled high in price. Following were the prices paid for some staple articles during the years 1867-68-69, as recorded in the diary of an early day settler:<sup>19</sup>

Four pounds brown sugar, \$1.00.  
 One pound tea, \$2.50.  
 One gallon kerosene, \$1.20.  
 Flour, per cwt., \$11.00.  
 One gallon syrup, \$1.60.  
 One paper corn starch, 10c.  
 One pound raisins, 40c.  
 One clothes line, 75c.  
 One paper pins, 15c.  
 One spool thread, 10c.  
 One package envelopes, 25c.  
 One pound salaratus, 20c.  
 One pound nails, 12½c.  
 One bar soap, 15c.  
 One pound rice, 20c.  
 Lamp chimney, 20c.  
 One pound salt, 6c.  
 Calico, per yard, 33c.  
 Beef, per pound, 17c.

January 5, 1867, the county's first church was organized. It was officially named the Evangelical Lutheran Congre-

<sup>19</sup>M. S. Barney in Jackson County Pilot, 1895.

gation in Jackson and it was located in Belmont township.

In October, 1867, the report of the county superintendent of schools shows us that there were eight organized districts in the county. The amount of money apportioned for school purposes was \$156.49. Of this the permanent school fund provided \$102.81 and the county two mill tax gave \$53.68.

The tax levied in 1867 was \$884.86, divided as follows: State, \$247.98; county, \$495.96; school, \$99.21; township, \$28.87; special school, \$12.84. Of the total tax levied, \$543.86 had been collected at the date of settlement on April 11, 1868. On January 8, 1868, the board of county commissioners examined the accounts of Jackson county and found in the county treasury the sum of \$30.83.

For the first time in its history Jackson county furnished jurors for the district court in 1867, the drawing being made April 1. Following are the names of the residents selected for this duty:

Grand—William V. King, Welch Ashley, H. S. Bailey, B. W. Ashley, H. A. Williams, Simon Olson, H. H. Haley, A. Miner, Joseph Thomas, Edward Davies, J. C. Hoovel, C. W. Cornish, Erwin Hall, George W. Woodin, A. C. Marshall, C. H. Heth.

Petit—P. P. Haverberg, Holsten Olson, Martin Bromaghin, Marcellus Clough, J. C. Young, H. L. Thomas, L. E. Porter, Charles Tuttle, Ira Camfield, R. N. Woodward, A. E. Wood, H. R. Lyman, Nathaniel Hall, A. L. Blake, E. Henkley, J. J. Smith, Mitchel Barney, Miles Metcalf, J. E. Palmer, Richard Band, R. D. Lanud, L. Rucker, J. N. Woodin, H. L. Evans, C. W. Belknap, J. N. Thompson, J. E. Fields, James Williams, Emmett Miner, Wesley Adamson, J. Chandler, George Palmer, Jared Palmer, Henry Ashley.

The statistical return of products for 1867 is an interesting document. It is learned that nearly four hundred acres of land were under cultivation that year. Following is the complete return as certified to by Auditor George C. Chamberlin:

TOWNSHIP	Acres Cultivated		Wheat		Buckwheat		Oats		Corn		Potatoes		Sorghum		Beans		M. Syrup		M. Sugar		Hay		Wool		Butter		Cheese		Misc.			
	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Gals.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Gals.	Lbs.	Acres	Tons	Lbs.	Lbs.	Acres	Lbs.	Acres	Lbs.	Value			
Belmont	72	1104	11	535	17	495	6 1/4	161	1	144	1/4	11	20	1	152	1/4	24	20	380	88	211	229	1450	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		
Des Moines	103	1050	25	1150	78	1787	13	548	1	8	13	11	20	1	152	1/4	24	20	380	88	211	195	1860	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		
Minnesota	5	6	.....	.....	10	315	2 1/4	219	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85	110	102	599	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Petersburg	37	285	2	50	12	16	4	77	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	110	52	110	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	217	2445	38	1735	112	2563	25 1/2	1005	1	152	1/4	24	20	1	152	1/4	24	20	380	178	321	578	4019	980	980	3	8	3	8	\$694		



## CHAPTER X.

### ERA OF DEVELOPMENT—1868-1872.

**T**HAT agriculture was not the principal industry during the late sixties is attested by the poor showing disclosed in the returns of products. During the era of which we are writing flouring mills and markets were long distances away. It was not profitable to raise crops for which there was no market, so each settler raised vegetables and grain for his own use only, and as a means of income turned his energies in another direction.

The country was literally alive with small fur-bearing animals, including muskrats, skunks, mink, foxes, martens and badgers, and the taking of their furs offered profitable employment. So the farmer settlers became trappers. Inexperienced at first in the art of trapping, they had no easy task. They were often caught in the blizzards miles from home, sometimes being on the prairie during a storm of several days' duration, where nothing but courage and physical strength could save them. But in time all became expert trappers. Generally the market for fur was good, and the pelts passed as legal tender. Thousands of dollars worth would be taken during the season.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>On the 14th day of May, 1870, there were shipped from Jackson to Mankato 68,000 muskrat and mink hides. The shipment was made by a man named Barkman, of Spirit Lake.

The value of all taxable property in the county in 1868 was \$57,293, divided among the four organized townships as follows: Belmont, \$9,132; Des Moines, \$34,408; Minneota, \$7,876; Petersburg, \$5,877. The taxes levied that year amounted to \$1,781.21, divided among the different funds as follows: State, \$279.88; school, \$111.96; county, \$577.91; township, \$194.21; special school, \$617.25.

A healthy increase is noted in the agricultural products for 1868, which were as shown on the following page.<sup>2</sup>

Jackson county made rapid strides forward in 1869. There was a large increase in population, many of the new settlers penetrating to theretofore unsettled portions of the county. It became known that the country would produce bountiful crops of wheat, and the prairies became dotted with the sod shanties and dugouts of the new settlers. The increase in the cultivated area was large, 2,549 acres being listed as sown to crop. The organized townships had cultivated areas as follows: Belmont, 332; Des Moines, 1,200; Minneota, 121; Middletown, 342; Petersburg, 244; Wisconsin, 355. The taxable property in 1869 was valued at over \$73,000.

The western part of township 102,

<sup>2</sup>Although Middletown and Wisconsin townships had not yet been fully organized their reports are included in the return.



TOWNSHIPS	Acres Cultivated		Wheat	Oats		Corn		Barley		Potatoes		Sorghum		Beans		M. Syrup		M. Sugar		Hay		Wool		Butter		Cheese		Misc.	
	Acres	Bush.		Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Gals.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Bush.	Acres	Tons	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Acres	Value	
Belmont	156	2656	24	956	24	775	45	8	591													569	5545			1 1/2	\$ 30		
Des Moines	393 1/2	6108	100 1/2	3452	149 1/2	3990	111	31	3463	7	499	42	10	415	666	1243	855	9900	1750	31	148	355	9900			3	148		
Middletown	84	404	3	200	23	275		12	664	1	41	5			150	354	60	3275			180	50			1 1/4	92			
Minnesota	6 1/2	130			30	860		6 1/2	415	3 1/2	334	2	1		83	210	15	1450			146	227	24	660			1	35	
Petersburg	83	8 1/2	11	391	25	600		4 1/2	415	1 1/4	50	1			146	227	24	660			146	227	24	660			1	35	
Wisconsin	252 1/2	2106	27	1021	41	870	3	10 1/2	699	3	212	2	14	450	214	494		1790			214	494	1013	22,620			87 1/4	\$745	
Total	1412	814 1/2	12,229	165 1/2	6020	7870	159	72 1/4	6247	14 1/2	1136	72	25	865	1259	2528		2320			2320	87 1/4	23,200			87 1/4	\$745		

range 34, lying to the east of Des Moines township, received many of the settlers of the sixties, the majority of them coming from the state of Wisconsin. This township had been attached to Jackson, or Des Moines, township at the time of the organization of the county, but in the spring of 1869 its residents believed their population had reached a point where they could support a separate organization. They, therefore, petitioned the county board, and on April 10 were granted a separate organization under the name of Wisconsin township, the name being given in honor of the state from which so many of the settlers had come. Those who received land patents from the government in Wisconsin township in the early days were as follows:

1862, Jared Palmer (10); 1865, Joseph Thomas (19), D. Mortimer West (30-31); 1866, Ahimaaz E. Wood (19-30), George Chueriston (19), Bartholomew McCarthy (19), Isaac Belknap (31); 1867, George F. Cornish (17), Christian Englebretson (30); 1868, Richard Bond (20), Robert H. King (28), George H. King (29); 1870, Frederick R. Lyman (18), Edward C. Hinkley (22), Irving B. Porter (29), Henry S. Lyman (29), Orrin Belknap (30-31); 1871, Rollin K. Craigie (2), Stillman E. Trask (18), Ransom N. Woodard (18), Marcellus Clough (18), Israel F. Eddy (20), Mitchell S. Barney (32); 1872, Ellen M. Porter (33); 1873, John A. Myers (6), Lucius E. Marshall (6), John C. Young (7), William S. Knowlton (8), John Isherwood (10), Andrew J. Borland (17), Richard E. Bowden (20), Charles H. Heath (21), William S. Curtis (21), Freeman T. Beers (24), Emerson P. Beers (24), William King (28), Alexander Hall (31), John J. Smith (32), Knud M. Peterson (34); 1874, Hiram Simpson (6), Alex Galbraith (6), Amos N. Tompkins (26), Harrison L. Thomas (30), Charles H. Sandon (30), John K. Johnson (34); 1875, Francis J. Ridgway (14), Allen S. Brooks (20); 1876, Robert L. Hincliffe (4), Myron Cutting (6), Charles B. Tuttle (22), Elijah M. Lindsley (26), John W. Miller (30); 1877, David Hardman (10), Isaac N. Hubbard (14), John M. Utter (21); 1878, Sam F. Russell (6), James Isherwood (10), Joseph C. Davis (12).

Middletown township was also organized in 1869, the commissioners taking the necessary action on May 10. This political division had originally been attached to Petersburg township, but when Min-

neota was organized in the fall of 1866 the west half had been bestowed upon that precinct while the east half remained under the jurisdiction of Petersburg. The commissioners named the township in accordance with the expressed wish of the petitioners. The fact that the township was situated between the two older organized townships suggested the name. The following were granted government patents to land in Middletown in the years indicated:

1866, Isaac Belknap (1); 1869, William B. Norman (2), William H. Ashley (3), Simon Jenson (10), Salmon Dickinson (19-30), Martin B. Metcalf (30); 1870, Ira Camfield (1), Orlando E. Bennett (8), John M. C. Patterson (12), William Miller (22), Walter Davies (26), John Brigham (34); 1871, Levi A. Camfield (1); 1872, Joseph B. Walling (4), Gilbert Olson (10), Nathaniel B. Hall (12), George A. Bush (19), Ermead Bordwell (20); 1873, Lewis Parker (1), Edward P. Skinner (2), George G. Ashley (2), Rufus D. Larned (4), Thomas Goodwin (6), Isaac S. Barrett (8), Marion C. Dunbar (12), John Chandler (20), Andrew Muir (22), Oliver J. Russell (24), Sylvenus Allen (30), Thomas T. Brooks (32), William Allen (32); 1874, William P. Lecocq (6), Robert Muir (22); 1875, William Henderson (4), James C. Henderson (4), Samuel Metcalf (28), Horace Chandler (30); 1876, Clark Lindsley (24), John Davies (26); 1877, Lydia Houghton (18), George Beimas (18), Joshua Kidney (28); 1880, Walter Withers (2), Robert W. Kidney (22).

The winter of 1869-70 was an exceptionally severe one and "lingered in the lap of spring." The scattered settlers suffered many hardships during the long winter. Two Jackson county residents met death in the storms, and others had narrow escapes. The severest blizzards occurred during the month of March. Tuesday and Wednesday, the 15th and 16th of that month, were the stormiest days of the season. The roads became blockaded and impassable, many of the houses were drifted over with the snow, the winds howled and the snow blew over the bleak prairies. All who could remained in doors; the merchants of Jackson closed their shops. This storm was fol-

lowed on March 21 and 22 by another blizzard of frightful violence.

One of the victims of the storm was Ole Sime. He had a claim in Enterprise township, and on Monday, March 14, started from the timber along the river, where he had spent the winter, for a load of hay on his claim. He secured the hay and returned with it to a point in Des Moines township near the home of Clark Marshall. There he was overcome by the storm and perished. The oxen were found dead about forty rods from Mr. Sime's body. The body was found on the 17th by M. L. Bromaghim and Clark Marshall. Its condition gave evidence that the unfortunate man had suffered terribly before succumbing to the storm.

Another who lost his life that month was Archic Lee, who lived on Heron lake. He started from Jackson with a load of timber on his way home on the 11th in an intoxicated condition. He arrived within a few miles of his home, and then all trace of him was lost. The day was stormy, but not exceptionally so. He is supposed to have abandoned his load and tried to reach home with his team, but in the storm and darkness wandered from his course and was lost. His horses were found a few days later, but his body was not found until the 25th. He had wandered way to the south, and his body was found lying on a snow drift twelve miles southwest of Jackson.

Eighteen hundred seventy was a banner year. During the spring months many who had come the previous year and filed on claims and then gone away for the winter came back to take possession of their land, make improvements and begin farming. Many new settlers came to make Jackson county their future homes. Prairie schooners began to arrive early in the spring and continued to bring in the new settlers all summer. The new arriv-

als generally brought cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and farming implements with them, prepared to at once begin the cultivation of the soil. A fair crop of wheat and other grain was raised. The weather was ideal for crops in the spring, but in July a drought reduced what had promised to be an enormous yield. Corn was an excellent crop, and wheat was quite up to the average.

The census of 1870 gave the county a population of 1,825, an increase of nearly 800 per cent in five years.<sup>3</sup>

Three new townships were organized during the year 1870—Heron Lake, Round Lake and Delafield. Heron Lake township had received its first settlers in the spring of 1869,<sup>4</sup> but so great was the settlement on its fertile lands that the question of detachment from Belmont and its organization as a separate township was taken up in the spring of 1870. The matter was postponed until later in the year, and on September 7 the county commissioners officially declared the township organized. To it were attached for township purposes the two townships lying to the west. The name was supplied by the immense body of water which penetrates the township.<sup>5</sup> The organization of the township was perfected September 24, when the first town meeting was held at the home of D. F. Cleveland. Following were the first officers of Heron Lake township: F. Ebert, chairman; Abram Johnson and D. F. Cleveland, supervisors; W. H. Ashley, clerk; William Wiley, treasurer; C. B. Rubert and Charles Malchow, justices of the peace; Newton F.

West and John B. Johnson, constables. Following is the list of those who early received patents to land in Heron Lake township:

1872, Daniel F. Cleveland (30), David A. Cleveland (30); 1875, Michael Fisher (6), Albert Hohenstein (6), Fred Ebert (8), Ole N. Larson (24); 1876, William Doll (4), Fred Bretzmann (4), Carl Stetler (6), John A. Visconti (6), Carl Hohenstein (8), Charles Malchow (8), Anders Kirkeby (12), Christopher B. Rubert (32); 1877, William Rossow (4), John Hohenstein (6), John Leifson (14), John Robson (18), John Olsen (24), Magnus Johnson (28), Hans Peterson (28), Gjorgen Helgeson (28), Edward E. Bergh (32); 1878, Carl Bretzmann (4), Joseph Mangold (18), Ole P. Johnson (24); 1880, Martin O. Sandager (2), Peder I. Brakke (2), John Hansen Nestrud (20), Hans Hanson (20), Hans Christianson (20), Leif Leifson (22), Olai Johnson (24), Mathias H. Hoveland (34); 1881, Peter Anderson (12), Thomas Johnson (30), Carrie Tronson (30), Rasmus Larson (32), Neils Englebretson (34); 1882, Nils Jacobsen (14), Johannes H. Hoveland (34); 1883, Ingvald Erneron (10), Christian Lewis (10), Knudt Olson (12), Bernt H. Hovel (22), Lars Olson Aas (26); 1884, Edwin N. Golpin (34); 1885, Hans H. Knudson (22), Hans Gundersen (26), Trond O. Tronson (30); 1886, Ole Simenson (14), Hans Hudmunsen (26).

Round Lake township was another whose settlement was rapid and which early prepared itself for organization. J. N. Dodge was the first settler, locating on the north bank of Round Lake in the spring of 1869, when there was not another settler in the whole southwestern portion of the county. In the spring of the following year only three claims were taken in the township, but a few months later nearly every quarter was filed upon.<sup>6</sup> The township was organized in October and named Round Lake, after the beautiful sheet of water within its boundaries. The following received patents to land from the government in Round Lake:

1873, Henry Hall (20); 1874, Charles Seek (8), William A. Anderson (14), William H. Skinner (18); 1875, Elbridge G. Lord (22), Herbert W. Kimball (31); 1876, Jacob N.

<sup>3</sup>The population of other counties of southwestern Minnesota in 1870 was as follows: Blue Earth, 17,302; Faribault, 9,940; Watonwan, 2,426; Martin, 3,867; Cottonwood, 534; Murray, 209; Nobles, 117; Pipestone, 0; Rock, 133.

<sup>4</sup>The first settlers were Charles Malchow, Fred Ebert and Albert Hohenstein, who located on lake Flaherty.

<sup>5</sup>On June 21, 1871, the township was enlarged by the addition of that portion of West Heron Lake township which lies east of the lake, and it is the largest township in the county.

<sup>6</sup>"We understand that nearly all the vacant claims in range 38, town 101—the southwest corner township in this county—have been taken. The citizens are about petitioning for township organization and are also about bridging the Little Stouix."—Jackson Republic, October 8, 1870.

Dodge (8), Hiram Barrett (8); 1877, William W. Bailey (4), Ole Halverson (12), Everett W. Scoville (20), Judah Phillips (20), Lewis Henshaw (28), H. J. Phelps (30), William A. Mosher (30); 1878, Thomas L. Twiford (10), Osmund T. Handelan (26), Joseph C. Carter (32), Ezra W. Hopkins (34); 1879, Matthew Riley (2), Samuel Edwards (4); Daniel W. Lounsbury (32); 1880, Hugh Riley (2), George Morgan (6), Andrew L. Skoog (6), Endre Olsen (12); 1881, Hans Hanson (24), Ole Ausham (26); 1882, Thore Johnson (24); 1885, Joseph Clark (20), Knud Olson (28), Samuel Fenstermaker (33); 1888, Eilert A. Louen (35).

When the county's first townships were organized, township 104, range 36, had been attached to Belmont, and it was under Belmont's jurisdiction until October 11, 1870, when the county commissioners organized it into a separate political division under the name of Pleasant Prairie. This name had soon to be changed because it was learned that there was a township of the same name in Martin county, and law or custom forbade two townships in the state to bear the same name. Orwell was then decided upon as the name, but this had to be changed for the same reason. On January 4, 1871, the commissioners named the township Bergen, but soon it was learned that McLeod county had a copyright on that as the name of a township, and the name Delafield was finally designated on March 4, 1871. Fortunately, no previously organized township in the state had thought of that name, and the township was at last permanently named. Titles to land in Delafield township were granted to early day settlers as follows:

1870, Henry S. Pomeroy (18); 1871, Aaron G. Chatfield (10), Sylvester Chandler (12), Anton Michelson (18); 1872, Edward Savage (4), Hans Olsen (8); 1873, Abram B. Frisbie (4), Charles Mickels (22), Christian Nelson (28); 1874, Willis W. Cotton (6), James W. Hayes (6), Charles Miller (22), Gertrude E. Orwelle (22), Christian Carlstrom (28), Ole Hanson (30), Hans Christianson (30); 1875, Isaac M. Moss (4), Orin Phelps (6), John Frederickson (8), Andrew Laird (12), John Olsen (20), Anders Larsen (24); 1876, John Baureson (2), Edward F. Fjelset (2), Olous Olson (2), James M. Moore (8), Svendt Vi-

bery (10), Ebenezer B. Millard (10), Hans O. Elstad (24), Lars B. Sathe (24), Joseph Aupperle (26), Norbert Kromer (26), August Lorenz (32), Stefan Rehnel (32), Ignatz F. Blumburg (32), John P. Brakke (32); 1877, Martin Hansen (12), Jens J. Johnson (12), Peter Christianson (12), Ole Nelson (12), Gund Johnson (18), Michael A. Foss (18), Gustaf Thornblom (20), Gabriel Olson (20), Lars Matriassen (24), Erick Johnson (24), Knudt Saxwig (24), Annie E. Ukestad (24), Henry Riese (30), Wilhelm Schwartz (32), Ferdinand Hohenstein (32), Benjamin F. Semmans (32); 1878, Ingra Andres Dotter (10), Hans Johnson (12), Andrew Swenson (18), Andrew Anderson (18), Lars Anderson (20), John P. Esklund (20), Anders C. Quevli (22); 1879, Ernst W. Pietz (28), Jonathan W. Rost (34); 1880, Peder Olson (2), Ole Frederickson (8), Anders Olson (8), Hugh M. Clark (10), Ole J. Hofland (14), Andrew Larson (14), Andrew Johnson (14), Adoniram J. Frost (26), August Lindstrom (28), Ole Hansen Nestrud (30), Frederick Malchow (32); 1881, Daniel Gallagher (6); 1882, Hans Olson (8), Maria Hammerstad (28); 1883, John Svendsen (10), Lars Johnson (14), Sackariah Swanson (26), Charles Mickelson (28); 1885, John J. Swesind (30); 1886, Lars Larson (14); 1888, Lars Thronson (14).

The following items from the report of the county superintendent of schools for the year 1870 give an idea of the school conditions at that early date:

Whole number of organized districts, 18.  
 Number reporting, 14.  
 Whole number of persons between 5 and 21 years, 455 (233 males, 222 females).  
 Pupils enrolled in winter schools, 74.  
 Average daily attendance winter schools, 39.2.  
 Number teachers winter schools, 2.  
 Pupils enrolled in summer schools, 210 (101 males, 109 females).  
 Average daily attendance summer schools, 105.  
 Number teachers summer schools, 10.  
 Whole number school houses in county, 7 (2 frame, 5 log).  
 Value all school houses, \$867.  
 Money received from state funds, \$440.38.  
 Money received from tax, \$964.03.  
 Money paid for teachers' wages, \$711.68.  
 Money on hand, \$44.99.

The assessed valuation of the county, as left by the board of equalization, reached a total of \$128,342 in 1870. This was divided among the precincts<sup>7</sup> and between

<sup>7</sup>Heron Lake, Delafield and Round Lake townships had not been organized when the assessment was made. The assessment for the first two was included in that of Belmont and the Round Lake assessment was included in that of Minneota.

the real and personal property as follows:

PRECINCT	Real Estate	Personal Property
Belmont.....	\$ 4,860	\$28,308
Des Moines.....	24,701	29,066
Minnesota.....	488	7,669
Middletown .....	2,579	6,941
Petersburg .....	3,007	10,141
Wisconsin .....	3,955	6,627
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$39,590</b>	<b>\$88,752</b>

The products returns for 1870 give a total of 4,220 acres cultivated. This acreage was divided into precincts as follows:<sup>a</sup> Belmont, 543; Christiania, 74; Des Moines, 1,705; Enterprise, 77; Heron Lake, 77; Minnesota, 263; Middletown, 395; Petersburg, 526; Round Lake, 31½; Wisconsin, 557.

By an act of the legislature, approved March 7, 1870, Jackson county was detached from Martin county, to which it had been attached for judicial purposes since 1865, and was separately organized for judicial purposes. Provision was made for holding court at Jackson, and the counties of Nobles and Rock were attached to it for such purposes. These counties were detached in 1873, when Nobles county was organized for judicial purposes.

From the time of reorganization early in 1866 until 1872, Jackson county did not have a court house. During these years the duties of the county officers were not many, and what business it was necessary to transact was done in the homes of the various officials. The first agitation for the erection of a court house was made in 1870. Then the population had increased to such a size and the county business had reached a stage where many people believed the primitive ways of pioneer days should be discarded, that Jackson county was rich enough to build a

<sup>a</sup>Although Christiania and Enterprise townships had not yet been organized in 1870 they are included in the report, which, apparently, was not tabulated until the year following.

court house. Accordingly a bill was presented to the legislature and became a law March 1, 1870, authorizing the commissioners of Jackson county to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the purpose of building a court house and jail. But there was a proviso to the act, to the effect that the people of the county by their ballots must ratify the act before it became effective. The people of Jackson, the county seat, were naturally heartily in favor of the project, and Jackson people offered to donate free rent for all county offices until October 1, 1871, should the people ratify the act.<sup>9</sup> But in other parts of the county there was strong opposition to the measure, and at the election held in April the bonds were defeated.

The county officers were still obliged to transact the county's business at their homes or in rented buildings. That they did not squander a great deal of the county's money for office rent is evidenced by the fact that on May 11, 1871, the board of county commissioners unanimously passed the following resolution: "Resolved that we shall allow no more than one dollar and fifty cents to each county officer entitled to rent for office rent per month."

During its entire early history Jackson county anxiously awaited the coming of a railroad, and much of the settlement of the early days came as the result of the belief that a railroad would soon be built into such a promising territory. In 1870 hope ran high. The Southern Minnesota, which was acquiring the lands under the generous grant of 1866 as fast as its line was extended, that year completed its road to Wells, and Jackson county people be-

<sup>9</sup>"Parties stand ready to donate to the county FREE RENT for all county officers until October 1, 1871, in case the voters ratify the law authorizing the county commissioners to issue bonds for county buildings."—Jackson Republic, April 2, 1870.

lieved that the line would be extended immediately.

But they did not pin their faith to a single road. During the summer railroad enthusiasm was rife, owing to the proposed building of the Des Moines Valley railroad, which was to come from the south and continue up the Des Moines river, by way of the village of Jackson. Mass meetings were held and promises of financial support were made should the promoters decide to build. Prospects for the road coming seemed favorable, and everybody was happy. But, as is so often the case with proposed railroads into a new country, it did not come.

While a railroad did not come in 1870, in the fall of the next year one was builded into and beyond the county. When it became definitely known that the road was to be constructed there was a rush of landseekers, who soon filed claims to all the government land in that part of the county through which the road was to run. In May, 1871, the immigration began, and from then until fall prairie schooners were to be seen every day wending their way to the choice locations in the western part of the county. The new arrivals invariably brought live stock and farming implements with them, indicating that they intended to become permanent settlers. The Jackson land office was overwhelmed with the work of attending to the filings. The center of attraction was along the right of way of the proposed railroad in the northwestern part of the county, but in all parts of the county where there was still government land open to entry the newcomers located.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>"On Thursday last [June 1], from nine o'clock in the morning until noon, thirty immigrant wagons passed through Jackson, having with them 156 head of stock of different kinds. There has been a continual rush during the entire week, and probably it will continue during the month. The western part of Jackson county is receiving a good portion of this immigration."—Jackson Republic, June 3, 1871.

While the Des Moines river country was by this time a comparatively old settled country, the western part of Jackson county was still frontier land. Because there was an enormous immigration in 1871 and the whole order of things changed, it must not be imagined that the country was subdued in a day. Most of the settlers arrived too late to get a crop in the ground, and very little was raised the first season. Except that the prairies became dotted with the homes of the settlers, it was largely the same virgin country it had always been.

The game lover found himself in a paradise. Birds abounded. There were ducks, geese, brant, curlew, pelicans and prairie chickens. Occasionally glimpses were caught of some of the big game that formerly roamed the prairies in vast numbers. The summer was fine. The days and nights were frequently glorified by thunder storms of terrific and ineffable grandeur. The newcomers often sat till midnight watching the frolic of sheet-lightning playing over miles of cloud banks, vividly suggesting the possible glories of another world. Vegetation grew rank. The farmer rode along the creek bottoms or on the edges of the lakes and sloughs through seas of wild bluejoint grass up to the horses' backs.

It was the experience of a lifetime, this breaking up of virgin lands and building a community from the ground up, and many have been the probable and improbable stories told of those days. Letters went back to the old homes in the east, telling how the residents of Jackson county planted corn with an ax and caught fish with a pitchfork, and how the pianos were set up in the shanty and the libraries stacked up under the beds.

During the first part of the year, as the result of the immigration, three townships gained population sufficient to war-

rant the residents asking for township organization. These were Christiania Enterprise and Weimer.

Christiania township had been attached to Belmont township on April 10, 1869, and remained under its jurisdiction until March 4, 1871, when the county commissioners declared it an organized township, with the township to the east (Kimball) under its jurisdiction. The action was taken in accordance with a petition of the residents dated January 25, 1871.<sup>11</sup> Nearly all the residents were Norwegians, and they selected the name of the capital city of their native country as the name of their township. The government granted patents to land in Christiania to the following persons in an early day:

1869, Hinram M. Doubleday (22); 1872, Ole Johnson (18), Anne J. Rasmuson (32), Lars Rasmuson (32); 1873, Arne Anderson (4), Leonard Miller (14), Christopher J. Bejerkey (30); 1874, Ingborg Olson (30); 1875, Nils Larson (2-12), Karl Olsen (2-4), D. M. Sheldon (6), Halvor Halvorson (8), Ole Anton (8), Ole Erickson (18), John Olson (20), John Amunson (30); 1876, Bjorn Olson (4), Lars Anderson (10), Anders Tobinsson (10), James W. Jacobs (12), Ingeborg Christenson (12), Christen Svendsen (12), John T. Mitchell (14), Gilbert S. Bell (14), George F. Davidson (14), Ezra B. Miller (22), Ole A. Wood (22), Frederick Hafason (26), Ole H. Lokken (32), Ole Erickson (34); 1877, John P. Aasnas (22), Peter Gunderson (24), Sivert Olsen (24); 1878, Sumner W. Jacobs (14), John H. Homnes (22), Arnt Olsen (24), Andrew Peterson (22), Peter Olsen (34); 1879, Luny Greenfield (6), James Greenfield (6), Thomas Larson (8), Ole Siverson (26), Thomas Johnson (26); 1880, Caroline Johnson (2), Halvor Olson (2), Gilbert Hanson (2), Charles R. Ingalls (6), Gundmand Syverson (8), Simon McCall (10), Ryar Olsen (12), Lars Erickson (18-28), Henrika Olsdatter (20), Hans Tollefson (20), Petter O. Pedersen (20), Sarah E. Farley (22), Svend O. Moe (28), Ole Jacobson (28), Amund Johnson (30), Engeborg Peterson (30), Thomas H. Chesterson (30); 1881, Elling N. Ellness (20), John Frederickson (24), Ole Olson Solaas (30), Peter Anderson (34); 1883, John Franson (4), Betsy Swenson (8), Elling Olsen Myhra (10), Frederick Olson (18), Betsy T. Olsen (34); 1884, Mons Anderson (30); 1885,

<sup>11</sup>The petitioners were Hans Knudson, Ole Erickson, Arne Anderson, Ole Anton, Halvor Halvorson, Karl Olson, Bjaren Olsen, Halvor Olson, Jacob Olson, Gilbrand Hansen, G. Syverson, Ole A. Wold, Halvor Christianson and Lars Erickson.

Johan Lepp (2), Johan Tiessen (2), John A. Johnson (2), Kornelius Wiens (14).

Enterprise, like all the northern townships, had been attached to Belmont in the early days. It was organized March 4, 1871, in response to a petition of the residents dated February 12.<sup>12</sup> The original petition asked that the township be named Loud Lake, but many objected to the name because there was no lake of that name or any other name in the township. Messrs. Samuel D. Lockwood and Anders Roe suggested Enterprise, and after some wrangling that name was decided upon. The first township board consisted of Joseph Benjamin, Samuel D. Lockwood and J. J. Tagley, supervisors; Charles B. Lillie, clerk. Following were among the township's early settlers who took claims and received patents from the government:

1872, John P. Ford (26); 1873, Lewis Eckel (2); 1874, Jacob Klein (2), George Benjamin (14), Halvor Thompson (20), Thomas Clipper-ton (22-26), Ole Johnson (32); 1875, Hiram L. Benjamin (10), Elijah Benjamin (10), Charles B. Lillie (12), Joseph E. Benjamin (22), George R. Moore (26), Levi Horn (26), Levi H. Chandler (26), Peter Peterson (28), Anders Roe (30), Otto Thompson (30), Nils Nelson (32), Ole Olson (32), Ole Johnson (34); 1876, Arnt Moen (6), Samuel D. Lockwood (10), Elizabeth Skrove (30), Cecelia Slim (30); Ole Olson Nesvold (32), John J. Birkland (34); 1887, Herman Erickson (6), Olin Johnson (14), James Randall (22), Erick Paulsen (28), Thore Olsen Stetner (28); 1878, Nils Olson (6), Thomas Olson (6), Andrew Johnson (30), Johan A. Krogstad (30); 1879, John Engan (6), Guttorm Ingebrigtson (24), James Taylor (26), Martha Taylor (26), Peter Gunderson (28); 1880, Bersvend Thoreson (18), John Simpson (22), Hans Rolfson (30), John C. Authen (32); 1881, Lars N. Hagen (4); 1882, Eli N. Hagen (4); 1883, Criness LaRue (8), E. L. Brownell (24); 1885, Gunerius Tollefson (18), Gunder Anderson (18), John Tagley (30).

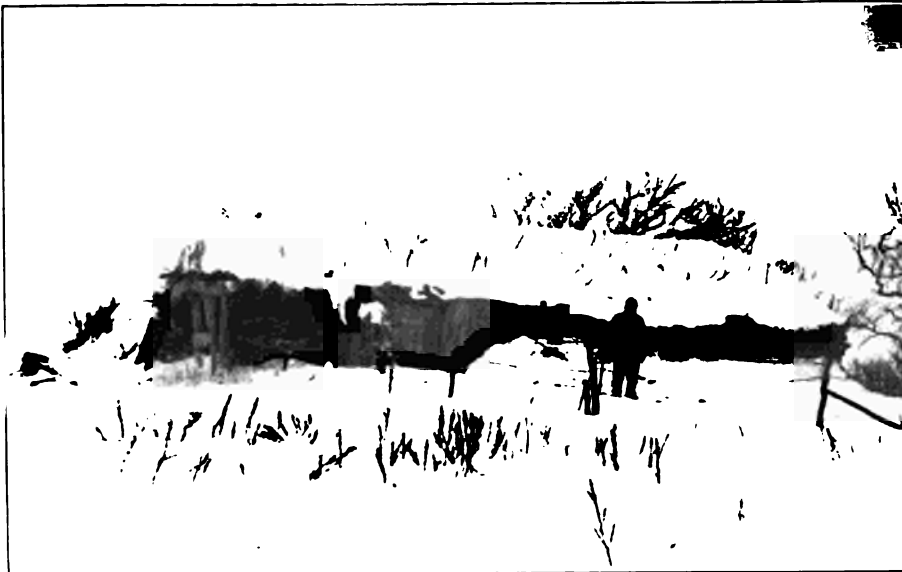
Early in May residents of township 104, range 37, petitioned the board of county

<sup>12</sup>The signers to the petition were S. D. Lockwood, Samuel A. Lockwood, Ellza Benjamin, Joseph E. Benjamin, George Benjamin, Charles B. Lillie, Adolph Matter, Lewis Eckel, Jacob Klein, Hiram Benjamin, Martin Thompson, Halver Thompson, Thomas Olson, Toris Skrove, Otto Thomson, Erick Paulsen, Peter Paulsen, J. J. Tagley, Stephen Benjamin, William Montague and Richard Shanon.



**A PIONEER'S HOME**

**Log Cabin Erected by John Johnson Egge in 1868 and Still Occupied by Him and His Wife. It is the Oldest Building in Christiania Township.**



**THE BARN**

**Also Erected by Mr. Egge in 1868. It is a Typical Building of Pioneer Days.**



THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

commissioners for township organization under the name of Eden, and the board took the required action on May 11. The organization of Eden township was perfected on May 27, when the following were selected as the first precinct officers: Charles Winzer, chairman; William Peter and Peter Johnson, supervisors; L. O. Beck, clerk; Andrew Peterson, assessor; Christian Knudson, treasurer; Henry Knudson and Nels Johnson, justices of the peace; Siborn Rugland and Otto Johnson, constables. It was soon learned that a township in Brown county boasted the name of Eden, and the citizens petitioned that the name be changed to Weimer, which was done by the commissioners October 20, 1871. Charles Winzer, the township's first settler, selected the name in honor of his home town in Germany—Saxe-Weimar. On the petition asking that this name be bestowed the spelling of the name was Weimar (which is correct), but through a mistake the official spelling of the name of the township was Weimer. Following are the names of the early settlers of Weimer township who received patents to land and the dates the titles were secured:

1873, Stener Bilstad (4), Henry Knudson (10), Anders Nilson (20); 1874, John Finney (4), Thomas Garvin (18), Theodore B. Casterline (30); 1875, Jonathan Myers (2), Charles Krause (8), Brede Evenson (18), Ethermer V. Foster (28); 1876, Emma M. Passmore (2), John Heern (6), Jergen Schovlen (6), Chancy W. Greenman (14), James A. McSchooler (18), Christopher Dobreiner (26), Johannes Anderson Torp (30), William McDonald (32); 1877, James C. Vought (4), Christian Knudson (12); 1878, Ranson A. Nichols (6), Sigar Larson (10), Ann J. Buckeye (18), Jens A. Moe (22), Lemik Larson (30), John T. Smith (30), Lewis Tagland (30), George Cope (32); 1879, Johan Just (6), August Peter (14), Otto Hanson (20), Peter Johnson (20); 1880, Florian Nimerfroh (6), Louis Olson Beck (10), Alhert Nichols (10), Tollef O. Beck (10), Anders Peterson (22), John Olson (24), Johan Fielder (24), Charles Winzer (26); 1881, M. A. Berg (4), Franz Jarmar (8), George Erbes (24), George H. Freemire (32); 1882, Monroe McLaird (2), Ole O. Selves (24); 1883, Martin Blixseth (4), Hoovel Iverson (8), Ole O. Homme (18); 1885,

Franz Nimmerenichter (8), Susanna Gjermunson (12), Joseph B. Price (12), Adelia A. Pratt (14), Christian Borgerson (22), Mary O. Rognas (22), Zebina Judd (32); 1886, Josef Warschotka (8), Lewis C. Wood (32); 1888, George Albert Winzer (22).

The survey for the line of the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad through Jackson county was made early in April, 1871, grading was commenced during the summer and track laying was begun in September and completed to Worthington in October. It had been the intention of the company to begin the operation of trains at once, but the heavy snows kept the line covered all winter, and it was not until April, 1872, that regular train service was established. The road was opened to Sioux City in the fall of 1872.<sup>13</sup> As a result of the building of the county's first railroad the village of Heron Lake was

<sup>13</sup>This line of railroad—now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha—is one of the oldest in the state of Minnesota. Its construction was begun in 1865 by the Minnesota Valley Railroad company, which was organized under an act of the legislature approved March 4, 1864. Ten sections of land per mile of road was granted the company as a bonus. Its authorized capital was \$500,000, of which \$473,000 was at once subscribed and paid in. The first board of directors and principal stockholders were H. H. Sibley, Russell Blakeley, R. H. Hawthorne, George Culver, W. F. Davidson, E. F. Drake, H. M. Rice, J. L. Merriam, Horace Thompson, Franklin Steele, J. E. Thompson, J. C. Burbank, T. A. Harrison, John Farrington, W. D. Washburn and C. H. Bigelow.

In 1865 the road was located and construction commenced between Mendota and Shakopee. That part of the road was opened for traffic November 16, 1865. In 1866 the line was completed to Belle Plaine, in 1869 to Lake Crystal, and in 1870 to St. James.

At the time of the organization of the Minnesota Valley Railroad company, and at the instance of its incorporators, there was organized the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, to build a railroad from Sioux City to the south line of Minnesota. On April 7, 1869, the name of the Minnesota Valley Railroad company was changed to St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad company, organized with a capital stock of \$2,400,000. In 1871 a contract was made between these two companies by the terms of which the Sioux City & St. Paul company completed the line of road from St. James to LeMars, Iowa, where connection was made with the Iowa Falls & Sioux City railroad for Sioux City. For several years the line was operated by the two companies—from St. Paul to St. James by the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad company, and from St. James to Sioux City by the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company—both companies controlled by the same interests. May 25, 1880, a reorganization was brought about and the line, together with others, became known as the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha. In December, 1882, the line became a part of the Northwestern system.

founded in the fall of 1871 and the northwest part of the county was rapidly settled and developed.

Efforts were made to have a branch line of the new road built into eastern Jackson county. On February 6, 1871, a mass meeting was held at Jackson to discuss the advisability of issuing bonds for the purpose of aiding in the construction of a branch line from Bingham Lake or some point in the vicinity to Jackson. Almost a solid affirmative vote was given. In May E. F. Drake, president of the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, went to Jackson and submitted a definite proposition. He gave the choice of two lines—one from Bingham Lake, the other down the west side of the Des Moines river—and stated that his company was ready to commence building such a line when a bonus of \$80,000 was raised. The money was not raised and the road was not built.<sup>14</sup>

The year 1871 was a prosperous one, due to the immense immigration and the bountiful harvest. The wheat crop had never been better, oats and barley were an extra crop, and corn was far ahead of that of any previous year. With the coming of the railroad came markets for the grain, and all the claim holders turned their attention to farming. In the fall a few farmers were damaged to some extent by prairie fires. The state legislature appropriated money for the relief of the sufferers from hail and fire in the frontier counties, and in January, 1872, Jackson county officials received \$100 of this money, which was divided among those who had sustained loss. According to the assessors' figures for 1871 there were 19,057 acres of land subject to taxation. The

total assessed valuation of the county was \$111,543.

From the report of the superintendent of schools it is learned that in 1871 there were nineteen organized districts, of which thirteen reported. There were 465 children of school age in the county, and there were enrolled in the summer schools 231 pupils, while 156 were enrolled in the winter schools. Six teachers were employed to conduct the winter schools and eleven the summer schools. In the county there were three frame school houses, one of stone and four of logs. The value of all the school buildings was \$1,589.

The unwise legislation which withdrew from homestead entry nearly one-half of Jackson county's lands began to have its effect in 1872. The bulk of the government lands had been taken before, and now homeseekers passed through Jackson county on their way farther west, whereas many would have stopped could they have secured free lands. To Nobles county thousands came in 1872 as the result of the operations of the National Colony company, which had secured thousands of acres of the railroad lands and was selling them at low prices.

Despite the lack of immigration, rapid strides forward were made. Those who had come in 1871 broke out their land, erected buildings, and added to the prosperity of the county. The number of acres of taxable land in 1872 was 44,014. The assessed valuation reached \$202,845—nearly twice the assessment of 1871.

Four new townships were organized during the year, namely: Hunter, Kimball, Alba and LaCrosse.

Hunter township, which since March 13, 1866, had been attached to Des Moines township, was created February 13, 1872, and to it were attached for township purposes the present townships of Rost and Ewington. The precinct was named in

<sup>14</sup>"Drake offered to furnish us a road for \$80,000, but we didn't have quite that amount lying around loose, so we didn't get the road."  
—M. A. Strong, 1880.

honor of J. W. Hunter, a pioneer merchant of Jackson and county treasurer at the time the township was created. Among the early settlers of Hunter were the following, who received patents to land in the years mentioned:

1870, M. Ware (28), John S. Ware (28); 1871, Daniel O. Reed (26), Ira G. Walden (30); 1872, Solon C. Thayer (32), Charles H. Stewart (26); 1873, George A. Truax (4), Wilbur S. Kimball (18), Milton B. Parker (22), Robert H. Rucker (22), Margaret Topping (24), Edward Orr (24), Enoch S. Ware (26); 1874, Otis B. Rhodes (2-14), Andrew Simmons (10), Alexander Fiddes (18), Thaddeus Rucker (20), William Greer (34); 1875, James W. Forrest (4), Hartson H. Bryant (8); 1876, John Gallagher, Jr., (6), Daniel Harrington (14), Francis Brannick (14), James E. McMillen (20); 1877, James H. Robinson (10), Levi A. Larned (12), S. D. Sumner (34); 1878, John Gallagher (6), Isaac G. Reed (30); 1879, Martin Pulver (2), Amos D. Palmer (30); 1880, Lansing W. Crowl (2), Alfred Bedient (8); 1881, William V. King (26); 1883, Louis J. Lecocq (12); 1885, Isaac S. Barrett (12), Helge K. Rue (30).

The northeast corner township was created on the same day as was Hunter, it being detached from Belmont and made a separate political division under the name of Rosendahl. The organization was perfected in March. The name was changed to Kimball by action of the board of county commissioners on March 23, 1872, it being named in honor of W. S. Kimball, the pioneer hardware merchant of Jackson. Land patents were issued to Kimball settlers in an early day as follows:

1873, Charles Kressler (14); 1874, George R. Hall (4), John W. Garner (12), George Kellogg (26); 1875, Edgar Stacey (2), John S. Porter (4), John Middlebrook (6); 1876, Hiram S. Schlott (2); Joseph DeLong (2), Christian Sorgerson (6), William C. Nourse (10), George S. Kendall (12), Carl J. Erickson (14); 1877, Charles W. Phelps (2), Sarah J. Mitchell (6), James E. Mitchell (6), Ole Olson (8), Charles Kellogg (10), Carl C. Frovorp (14), Antoin Storkerson (14), C. A. Rakkestad (14), John Peterson (18), Peter Gunderson (18), Robert H. Wade (24), Christian Erickson (28), Nicolas S. Julin (28), Erick Erickson (28), Just H. Erickson (32); 1878, Joseph Hastings (8), Ole Johnson (18), John J. Slind (18), Elias S. Julin (32), Gustave Kossach (34); 1879, Carrie Peterson (18), Otto Erickson (32); 1880, John Peterson (8), Ole Bjornsen (20), Edward

Schoewe (26); 1881, Carl Gustav Erickson (12); 1882, Peter Thompson (18), Ellef Benson (20).

Township 103, range 38, was authorized to begin township government September 3, 1872, the commissioners naming the township Baldwin. The name was changed to Alba a few days afterward, and the first town meeting was held Saturday, September 21, at the home of the first settler, Ole Thompson. Following were the names of the first officers: Samuel Umphrey, chairman; William Blaisdell and Ole Thompson, supervisors; Torge Omberson, treasurer; Dr. J. F. Force, assessor; George Umphrey and Dr. J. F. Force, justices of the peace; Ole Thompson and Lawrence Readle, constables. The following were early day settlers of Alba township who received title to lands from the government:

1872, William Blaisdell (30); 1873, Ole Knudson (2), James W. Nelson (4), Henry Humphrey (10), Cornelius Johnson (20), Amanda J. Merrian (30); 1874, John E. Lyons (2), George Kline (10), Ole E. Thompson (20), John A. Olsen (22); 1875, William N. Strong (4), James T. Clark (8), Ezekiel C. Bickford (12), Abram Freer (24), Calvin R. Gray (30), Burns Wiltse (32); 1876, James M. McNair (4), James L. Howie (6), Jacob F. Force (8), Samuel Umphrey (18), John Wilson (22), Silas G. Smith (28); 1877, Ole Olson Rognas (2), Edward Rogers (14), Henry Umphrey (18), Johannes D. Freer (24); 1878, Kjale Hermansen (2), Joseph Readle (6), Lawrence Readle (8), Clark A. Wood (10), John Benson (14), Hallick Severson (20), Obed Omberson (22), Newton Freer (24), Peter F. McNair (26), Armond R. Bechand (28), Julia Severson (32); 1879, Gudman Johnson (12), Hellick Anderson (18), Emma Anderson (20), Hans Charleston (24), Terge Armson (28); 1880, George Umphrey (18); 1881, Peter Vogt (8), John W. Benson (14), Obed Ormson (22), Anna M. Rindy (32); 1882, Joseph W. Lidick (10), Henry Schumacher (12), Donald Montgomery (32), Duncan McNab (32); 1883, Anna Fritscher (6); 1884, Walter L. Freer (24); 1885, John Olson (14); 1887, Sever Severson (32); 1888, Samuel Lord (2), Johann Fritscher (6), John Peterson (12), John Besser (14).

LaCrosse township was also organized in September, 1872. In the early days a party of claim seekers, among whom was Benjamin J. Svennes, moved from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to the northwest cor-

ner township of Jackson county and became permanent settlers. When the township was organized the name of the Wisconsin town from which many of the settlers had come was bestowed upon the new township. Following are the names of many of the early settlers of LaCrosse township and the dates they received land patents from the government, with the number of the sections upon which they had their claims:

1871, Johan Maixner (20); 1873, James W. Mackinson (14), James Hopkins (28), Jacob Drill (30), John B. Allen (32); 1874, Jul Gilbertson (20), Oliver Paup (32), Michael Fremmer (34), Eber S. Osborn (34), Ben C. Sanborn (34); 1875, John O'Neil (10), Samuel B. Estes (22); 1876, John Johnson (8), Peter Peterson (10), John Halford (10), John Linhard (12), Christopher Kunsman (14), Christian Anderson (18); 1877, Karine Wikstrom (10), Ferdinand Powlitschek (12); 1878, Don J. Handy (4), Daniel E. Fish (6), Jule J. Svennes (10), Ferdinand Haberman (12), Ben J. Svennes (24), Albert Gilbertson (26), Ole A. Fauskee (guardian) (26); 1879, Orman W. Fish (6), Nils Dahl (8), John Behrenfeld (30), Franz Pieschel (32); 1880, Edward J. Thew (6), Franz Heger (12), Johan Gehr (12), Joseph Servus (14), Johan Powlitschek (14), Frank Nimerfroh (28); 1881, Joseph Wenkler (2), John McCall (8), Franz Prosser (8), Anton Heger (12), Franz Haberman (12), Joseph Schreiber (20), John P. Peterson (26), Ferdinand Haberman (30); 1882, Johan Heger (2), Franz Zellner (8), John Rostomily (10), Ferdinand Haberman (20), John Haberman (20), Henry A. Parker (32); 1883, Franz Liepold (2), Joseph Jann (4), Katarina Haberman (18), Ignatz Haberman (18), Godfred Haberman (18), Johan Maixner (20), Ole G. Malaas (24), Ole Fodness (26), Peter Hohbaum (26), Benjamin Liepold (28), Joseph Haberman (28), Franz Pelzl (28), Josef Pelzl (34), Alois Fried (2), Johan Jones (6), Alois Sontag (8); 1885, Ignaz Zellner (8), Johan Hedrich (18), Franz Winkler (22), Christine Nelson (24); 1886, Johan Haberman (26), Johan Bartos (28), Edward Prosser (28), John F. Behrenfeld (30); 1888, Ferdinand Powlitschek (2), Mary Sullivan (4), Frank Pelzl (10), Apolina Winkler (18), Victor G. Mott (22).

The ever-dreaded winter storms claimed five victims early in 1872. In the southeastern part of Delafield township C. D. Carlestrom and his son, Clarice, met death in a blizzard on January 12 while hauling wood. The body of Mr. Carlestrom was found three days later. The

boy's body was not found until the next spring.

On Tuesday, February 13, 1872, the county experienced the most severe blizzard since the terrible storm of March, 1870. The storm raged from four o'clock on Monday afternoon until midnight Tuesday. On Monday the weather was warm and fine. In the afternoon a warm snow fell until four o'clock. Then the wind instantaneously whipped around to the northwest and came in freezing gusts, filling the air with blinding snow and making it impossible to see more than a few yards. The change was so sudden that many were overtaken and lost in the blinding storm. Three human lives were sacrificed to the fury of the storm, and many were the narrow escapes.

One of the unfortunate men was Mr. Garner, of Enterprise township, who was overtaken by the storm while on his way home from Cedar lake with a load of wood. He was unable to find his house, although he passed within a hundred rods of it. At that point he unloaded his wood and began traveling with the storm. His dead body was found on the Jackson-Winnebago City stage road. Mr. Garner's team was found in the vicinity of Twin lakes, one of the animals frozen to death.

Terrible suffering must have preceded the deaths of John Johnson Buckeye and Ole Rognaes, of Heron Lake. They were on the way home from their timber lot when struck by the storm, within two miles of Heron Lake station. Unyoking their oxen, the men started out on foot for the nearest house, traveling with the storm. The tracks of the unfortunate men found by a searching party Wednesday disclosed the fact that they had passed house after house, sometimes going within four rods of a house, but unable to see it through the wind-driven snow. The body of Mr. Rognaes was found near Boot

lake, a distance of sixteen miles from the point where the men started. The appearance of the snow showed that Mr. Buckeye had carried his companion some distance after the latter had given up. Mr. Buckeye pushed on with the wind. After traveling a long distance, he became so badly frozen that he was unable to walk; then he crawled for a considerable distance farther. His body was found in a thicket near the Des Moines river at the foot of a hill, down which he had slid. Unable to rise, he perished there. This was at a point about four miles northwest of Jackson and twenty-four miles from the place where he began his wanderings. The body was found on Friday.

Several other people were known to have been caught in the storm. On Wednesday morning, which dawned bright and clear, searching parties were sent out to look for them. The driver of the Winnebago City stage was one of these, but he had been able to secure shelter for himself and team. The storm resulted in many deaths in other parts of southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.

The progress made in Jackson county during 1872 is illustrated by the increase in school facilities and school attendance. According to the county superintendent's report for the year, there were twenty-six organized districts, of which twenty-one made report. There were 610 children of school age. Of these 82 were enrolled in winter schools and 223 in summer schools. Four teachers were employed during the winter and fourteen during the summer. There were six frame and five log school houses, the total value of which was \$1,864.

A question of vital importance, relating to the diminution of the county's area, was decided at the general election in November, 1872. The legislature, on February 29, passed a bill providing that the

townships of LaCrosse, Alba, Ewington and Round Lake should be detached from Jackson county and given to Nobles county. At the same time another bill was passed which provided that the four western townships of Nobles county should be given to Rock county. The proposition was to enlarge Rock county at the expense of Jackson county. The act was not to be put in force until both Jackson and Nobles county should ratify it by ballot. The election on the question was almost a farce. Nobles county decided in favor of the proposition by a vote of 121 to 109, but Jackson county naturally voted no. Only thirty-six voters in Jackson county registered in favor of the surrender of territory, and all except one of these resided in Alba and Round Lake townships—townships which were closer to Nobles county villages than they were to those of Jackson county. The result by townships was as follows:

TOWNSHIPS	For Giving Range 38	Against Giving Range 38
Alba .....	14	2
Belmont .....	.....	49
Christiania .....	.....	51
DeLafield .....	.....	51
Des Moines .....	1	103
Enterprise .....	.....	40
Heron Lake .....	.....	39
Hunter .....	.....	25
Kimball .....	.....	17
La Crosse .....	.....	17
Middletown .....	.....	27
Minnesota .....	.....	16
Petersburg .....	.....	36
Round Lake .....	21	.....
Weimer .....	.....	66
Wisconsin .....	.....	36
Total .....	36	575

Jackson county's first court house was built in 1872. After the defeat of the court house bonds in 1870 the matter was

allowed to rest two years. Then, on February 12, 1872, citizens of Jackson met at the office of Anderson & Tiffany to take steps to secure a county building. A petition was drawn up and forwarded to St. Paul asking the legislature to enact another law allowing the commissioners to issue bonds for this purpose. In an informal manner it was agreed that Jackson people should donate part of the necessary funds. In accordance with the expressed wishes of the people who signed the petition, an act was passed and approved February 27, 1872. It authorized the commissioners to issue bonds not to exceed \$6,000, but, again, the act to become operative must be ratified by the electors.

A special election for this purpose was held March 12, when the act was approved by a vote of 226 to 156. Owing to severe weather, a light vote was polled, and no elections were held in the townships of Weimer, LaCrosse and Rosendahl (Kimball). The north part of the county was almost solidly against the bonds, as the vote shows:

TOWNSHIPS	For Bonds	Against Bonds
Belmont .....	20	28
Christiania .....	.....	45
Delafield .....	.....	30
Des Moines .....	98	5
Enterprise .....	26	2
Heron Lake.....	.....	21
Hunter.....	6	.....
Middletown .....	20	7
Minneota .....	8	7
Petersburg.....	25	2
Round Lake.....	.....	7
Wisconsin.....	23	2
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>156</b>

To assist in the erection of the building the people of Jackson bound themselves to the county by promissory note to

pay the sum of \$1,480, providing the court house should be erected during the year 1872.<sup>15</sup> All of this amount was not paid into the county treasury, however, and suit was brought to collect some of the contributions. A statement of the standing of these accounts made December 26, 1878, shows the standing at that late day: Amount paid, \$865; partly paid and considered collectable, \$160; in suit \$85; uncollectable, \$370.

The \$6,000 bonds were quickly disposed of, and on June 10 the contract for the erection of the building was let to T. L. Twilford, of Spirit Lake, on a cash bid of \$5,800.<sup>16</sup> The building was rushed to completion and was accepted from the contractor December 28. Faulty construction was alleged, and there was considerable trouble over the matter before a final settlement was made. For thirty-four years this building erected in 1872 served as the county court house, and was displaced by the handsome edifice recently dedicated.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup>Those who so bound themselves and the amount each agreed to contribute were as follows: Anderson & Tiffany, \$100; W. Ashley, \$150; W. S. Kimball, \$100; Chamberlin & Ashley (cash), \$50; Chamberlin & Ashley (block 25, Jackson), \$400; M. A. Strong, \$25; James W. Hunter, \$50; J. W. Cowing, \$50; Edw. P. Skinner, \$50; I. A. Moreaux, \$25; R. M. Woodward, \$25; Simeon Avery, \$25; Michael Miller, \$10; A. E. Wood, \$10; C. Baldwin (in work), \$25; H. Miner, \$25; W. C. Garratt, \$25; H. M. Avery, \$25; A. H. Strong, \$25; John H. Grant, \$25; H. S. Bailey, \$150; B. H. Johnson, \$25; S. M. Clark, \$25; Alexander Fiddes, \$25; J. E. Thomas, \$25; S. E. Ford (in work), \$5; Menno Eby, \$5.

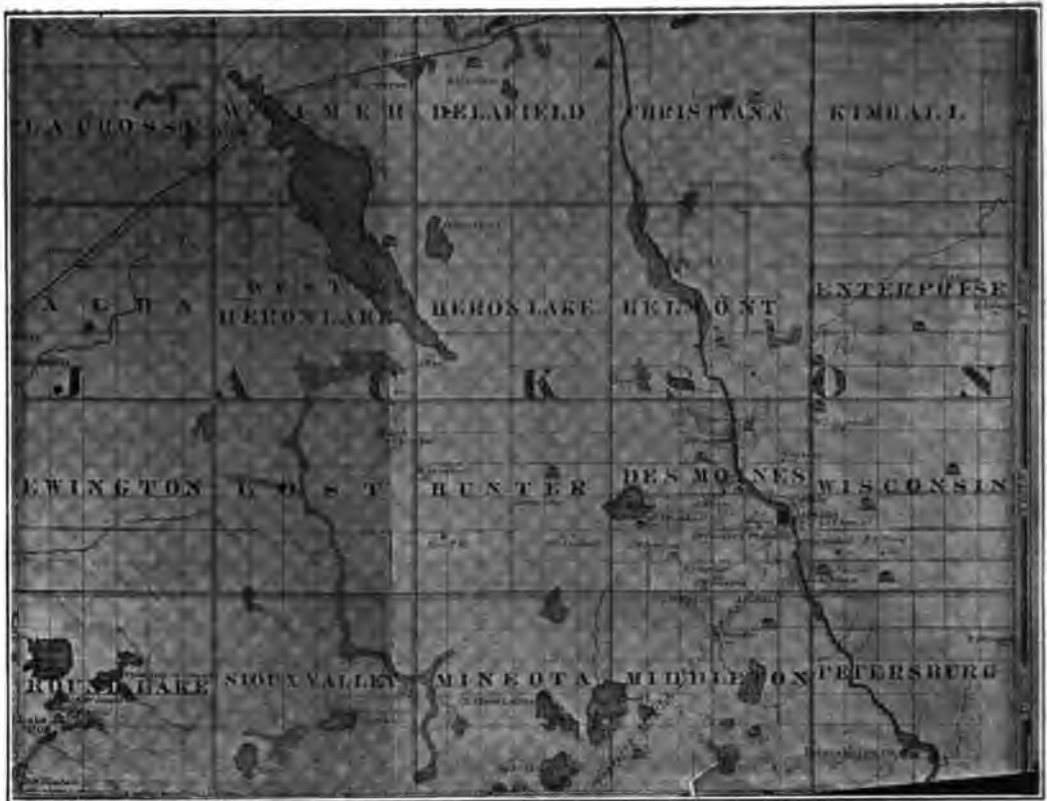
<sup>16</sup>Other bids submitted were: W. S. Kimball, cash, \$6,000, bonds, \$6,500; H. S. Bailey, cash, \$6,500, bonds, \$7,000; Farmer & Hallett, cash, \$6,200.

<sup>17</sup>Among the judges who held court in this old building were Franklin H. Waite, Daniel A. Dickinson, afterwards for many years a justice of the supreme court; J. L. McDonald, Charles M. Start, the present chief justice of Minnesota; M. J. Severance, A. D. Perkins, P. H. Brown, Lorin Cray and James H. Quinn. Among the eminent lawyers who practiced at its bar were T. J. Knox, who tried the first and last lawsuits in the building; John B. Sanborn, W. H. Sanborn, Young & Lightner, W. B. Douglas, Savage & Purdy, J. W. Losey, H. H. Field, James A. Tawney, M. J. Severance, John Lind, B. F. Webber, John A. Lovely, Lorin Cray, Andrew C. Dunn and Daniel Rohrer.

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**JACKSON COUNTY IN 1874**  
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**A SOD SHANTY**  
In Buildings Such as These Many of Jackson County's Pioneers Had Their Homes.

## CHAPTER XI.

### THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE—1873-1877.

**N**OW come the dark days of Jackson county history—the grasshopper days. For several years, beginning with 1873, grasshoppers, or Rocky Mountain locusts, swept down upon the country in countless millions, devouring the cultivated crops and bringing disaster to nearly every citizen. The people of Jackson county, in common with those of all southwestern Minnesota, suffered as few pioneer settlers in any country ever suffered. Adversity followed adversity. The frowns of fortune overwhelmed those who had come with such high hopes in the preceding years and cast them into the slough of despond. The picture cannot be painted too dark.

The country became bankrupt. Immigration ceased; migration began. All who could mortgaged their property and many left the county. Some got into such straightened circumstances that they were actually without the means to pay their railway fare out of the country. It was impossible to make a living from the farm, and many sought work during the summer seasons in their old homes in the east; others attempted to earn a livelihood by trapping. In time land became valueless; it could not be sold or mortgaged.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Arthur W. Dunn, a former Jackson county boy, now the famous Washington correspondent, has added his testimony to the conditions.

After the first or second year eastern capitalists refused to consider loans in the grasshopper infested country.

Before taking up the story of the first grasshopper invasion, let us consider a few other events that occurred during 1873, and look at the country as it was before the devastation came.

The population had increased to perhaps between 3,000 and 4,000 people, and every part of the county was settled. All except four townships were organized. A line of railroad was operated through the county, and many stage lines carried mail and passengers to and from all the neighboring communities.<sup>2</sup> Two villages, Jackson and Heron Lake, were enjoying prosperous times and a healthy growth as a result of the immigration and the development of their trade territories. The fer-

He has written: "Many a time have I seen a farmer who came to Jackson full of hope, who had taken a homestead, acquired title and seemed ready to enjoy prosperity, sell as fine a hundred and sixty acres of land as the sun ever shown upon for a broken down team and wagon and enough money to get back beyond the hoppers."

<sup>2</sup>In August, 1873, seven stage lines were operated from the village of Jackson, as follows: Windom (daily), B. W. Ashley, contractor; St. James (twice a week), William Barnes, contractor; Winnebago City (three times a week), Tom George, contractor; Blue Earth City (three times a week), O. S. Farr, contractor; Estherville (weekly), Welch Ashley, contractor; Spencer (daily), L. E. Holcomb, contractor; Worthington (twice a week), William Greer, contractor. All of these lines had been in operation a year or two before this date and some of them longer.

tility and value of the farming lands had been proven by excellent crops. The prospects seemed good for Jackson county continuing its onward march to prosperity.

Ewington township was organized in the spring of the year. A petition was circulated in March, and on the 28th of that month the board of county commissioners passed a resolution declaring the township organized under the name of Ewington, in honor of the Ewing family, the township's first settlers.<sup>3</sup> The first town meeting was held at the home of Nancy Ewing on April 15, when the township's first officers were chosen. They were as follows: G. R. Perry, chairman; E. K. Dunn and Orsemus Farnham, supervisors; T. C. Ewing, clerk and treasurer; Frank Grim, assessor; W. F. Ewing, justice of the peace; Thomas Fitzgerald, constable. Early day land patents were granted to the following in Ewington township:

1872, Walter S. Bradford (14), Alson L. Bailey (24); 1873, Mathew Smyth (6), Charles W. Curtis (14), Eady J. Stiles (28); 1874, Franklin Grim (2), Rudolph Becker (12), James H. Weed (24), Cornelius Johnson (26); 1875, Robert G. Deathe (12); 1876, Orsemus Farnham (2), George Perry (6); 1877, Thomas E. Fitzgerald (4), Thomas C. Ewing (30), William F. Ewing (32); 1878, James W. Mathews (10), Aage Christianson (18), John A. Spafford (26), Fred A. Barton (34); 1879, Christian Olsen (8), Hans Olsen (10), William N. Davies (22), Susan E. Barton (28); 1880, Soren Iverson (10), Arthur N. Jordan (30), Peter Whipkey (34); 1881, John McCall (8); 1882, Hans Sorenson (8); 1883, Charles P. Randall (20), Andrew Gorrie (30), James Walker (32); 1884, James H. Ewing (22); 1886, Herman Pinz (4).

With the possible exception of the winter of 1856-57, that of 1872-73, was the most severe in the history of Jackson

county. Concerning this memorable season, Mr. T. J. Knox, of Jackson, has written:

The winter of 1872-73 will long be remembered as the longest and severest that this country has ever experienced. It began on the 12th day of November with a blizzard that continued for three days, during which time snow fell to a great depth, probably not less than two feet, but which was so blown about and drifted by the wind that in some places there were drifts of twenty feet or more. The newly constructed railway was hopelessly blockaded, and remained so until the following spring. From the time winter so set in there was little let up in the severity of the weather. One storm followed another, and when not storming the weather was cold and severe, while the deep snows, almost constantly drifting, made travel difficult and sometimes dangerous. . . . During that long winter the inhabitants of this part of the state were practically shut out from the world. At times there were no mails for three weeks at a stretch. Many people suffered for want of necessary food, clothing and fuel. The sufferings and horrors of that long and dreadful winter will never be effaced from the memories of those who experienced them.

The ill-fated year 1873 began with the most violent winter storm in the history of the state from the time of its first settlement to the present date. For three days, beginning January 7, the blizzard raged, extending over the whole northwest. The temperature was about eighteen degrees below zero during the whole period of the storm. The air was filled with snow as fine as flour. Through every crevice, keyhole and nailhole the fine snow penetrated, puffing into the house like steam. Seventy human lives were lost in the storm in Minnesota, but by a miraculous turn of fate none of these was in Jackson county. It was the only county in the vicinity that escaped without loss of life.

The forenoon of Tuesday, January 7, was mild and pleasant; the sky was clear and there was no wind. It seemed as though a "January thaw" was imminent. The pleasant weather had induced many farmers to start to town on business or to the neighboring farm houses with their

<sup>3</sup>"Along in March Filmore Ewing came to our house in town with a petition to have the township organized, naming it after the family, who were the first settlers—and the honor was not misplaced, for they were a very worthy family, intelligent, neighborly, hospitable, and we have always been sorry they could not have abided where their early residence created so favorable an impression and their unfortunate departure kindled so many regrets."—J. A. Spafford in Jackson Republic, March 1, 1895.

families to visit. A little after noon a change was apparent. The sky lost its crystal clearness and became a trifle hazy. Toward two o'clock a white wall was seen bearing down from the northwest. The front of the storm was distinct and almost as clearly defined as a great sheet. In a few minutes a gale, moving at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour, was sweeping the country; a full-fledged blizzard had supplanted the bright sunshine in a few moments. The air was so completely filled with flying snow that it was impossible to see objects a short distance away.

The storm began with such fury that nearly all who were in the villages or at neighbors' homes abandoned the idea of reaching their own firesides and found shelter with friends or at the hotels. Even some who were caught away from home in the villages, only a few blocks away, did not attempt to brave the dangers of getting home. All Tuesday night, Wednesday and Wednesday night the storm raged with unabated fury. Not until Thursday was there any perceptible let-up, and not until Friday was the storm over. Several Jackson county residents were caught on the prairie in the storm, but there was not a single case of severe freezing. Some were obliged to spend two or three days in deserted claim shanties, but all were found alive after the storm.

Anders R. Kilen, of Belmont township, had a narrow escape. He was returning home from Heron Lake when the storm struck, and when about three miles from his house he took refuge in a board claim shanty. The furniture of the shanty consisted of a coffee pot partly filled with screenings, a plow, a hammer and a little hay. From Tuesday afternoon until Friday morning Mr. Kilen battled for his life in the lonely cabin. He tried to kindle a fire by striking sparks from the plow

with the hammer, but the plow was too hard and he was unsuccessful, so he kept from freezing by physical exercise, spending three days pacing back and forth within the narrow confines of the cabin. He utilized the hay to fill the cracks in the shanty and to make hay ropes, with which to bind his benumbed limbs. He ate the screenings and used snow for dessert. When the storm broke he found his way home, not much the worse for his experience.

A large acreage of small grain and corn was sown in the spring of 1873, and the grain grew luxuriantly during the spring months. Everybody was enthusiastic over the prospects—a state of mind which was soon to be turned to gloom.

The first grasshopper invasion of Jackson county was on Saturday, June 14, 1873. People noticed something floating through the air from west to east, at a great height and apparently drifting with the wind. At first sight it was taken to be the fluff that comes from cottonwood trees, but before long a few scattering objects began coming to the earth from the floating clouds, and they were found to be grasshoppers—fore-runners of a scourge that for several years devastated this part of the country and resulted in the retardation of the county's progress for many years.

The flight kept up for several days, and then the pests took their departure. A great many came down and feasted on the growing crops and deposited their eggs in the ground.<sup>4</sup> Great damage was done to the crops, but not so great as in later years, and a light harvest was gathered.<sup>5</sup> The story of the invasion was told by the

<sup>4</sup>Eggs were deposited preferably in solid ground and to a depth of from one-half inch to one inch. The tail of the female grasshopper is a hard, bony, cone-shaped substance, and this was easily bored into the solid ground and the eggs deposited.

<sup>5</sup>The damage to crops in Minnesota in 1873 was officially estimated at \$3,034,000.

Jackson Republic in its issue of June 21 :

Our curiosity is satiated. We have always had a desire to see one of those "clouds" of grasshoppers, of which we have read from time to time. They have been here for a week in countless millions and yet we have failed to discern any diminution of strength of the sun's rays. To be sure there were plenty of them in the air, but were only visible in a small radius around the sun. As a matter of course, some of the timid settlers want to sell and get away, taking it for granted that their crops will all be eaten off and a famine ensue. Many fields of wheat and barley were mercilessly gobbled by the hoppers, at least to judge from appearance, but careful examination shows that the injury is comparatively slight. The pests have taken their departure and the fields are making rapid progress in gaining the growth the crops lost.

A farmer residing in the northern part of the county told of the ravages of the pests in his neighborhood and the attempts to protect the grain :

The all engrossing subject in this vicinity at present is the grasshopper question. They made their appearance here last Saturday afternoon and immediately began their aggressive movements. Next day they ate five or six acres of my wheat. Their numbers rapidly increased, the air seeming to be full of them. They resembled large flakes of snow in a snow storm, and they soon took possession of all the grain fields in the neighborhood. Breaking teams had a general holiday; men traveling their fields, not knowing what to do, so sudden and unexpected was the general onslaught. A few with small fields and large families marshaled all their available forces, who, with long poles and switches, walked their fields a few rods apart and thus tried to chase off the invaders, but their numbers increased so fast that the ceaseless efforts proved of little avail. A few of the more despondent are offering their claims for sale at ruinous figures and starting in search of some region where grasshoppers are unknown. But it is really encouraging to see how cheerful and courageous the great majority are. The earlier sown oats, so far as I have heard, are as yet comparatively safe.

Grasshoppers were seen in the air again on August 2, but they passed over without stopping to feed. At harvest time it was found that those fields which had not been molested yielded abundantly. The hoppers seemed to prefer wheat, and the oats were not badly damaged. Corn that had been well put in was a fine crop.

On August 23 the Jackson Republic said of the harvest :

Some men have no grain worth cutting, while their neighbors' fields lying alongside have a large yield, and on other farms some pieces or parts are poor and the rest good. As a general rule, those who have high rolling land on their farms have heavy crops, while some whose farms are wet were unable to get their seed put in well in the spring, and, being backward, was nice and tender for the hoppers. Those who have lost their crops must not despair, but rather profit by the experience and give more attention to stock raising.

In addition to the grasshopper devastation, the panic, which held the country in its grip in 1873, added to the hard times which followed. The loss of their crops left many families in destitute circumstances, and there was much suffering. When winter came it was known that some measure for the relief of the destitute must be taken. During the closing days of December mass meetings to discuss the situation were held at Heron Lake and at Jackson.

The Heron Lake meeting was held December 26. Dr. R. R. Foster was the chairman and John T. Smith secretary. A committee composed of J. W. Benson, John T. Smith, J. P. Prescott, John Weir and R. Johnson was named to make an investigation as to the needs of the citizens. Ex-Governor Stephen Miller arrived at Heron Lake the next day and left some funds which he had obtained from the relief committee at St. Paul to relieve the immediate wants of the destitute. On the 29th the committee divided \$61—one-half the amount in the treasury—among ten residents who applied for aid. A Heron Lake citizen, writing on that date, said: "Today there were ten persons here for aid. Some of them were in actual starving condition. They did not know where the bread to eat was coming from two days hence."

The mass meeting at Jackson was held December 29. T. J. Knox was chairman

and Alexander Fiddes was secretary. A central committee was appointed, composed of the following named gentlemen: W. S. Kimball, M. A. Strong, E. L. Brownell, G. B. Franklin and George C. Chamberlin, of Jackson; J. T. Smith, of Heron Lake; H. J. Phelps, of Round Lake; Ole E. Olson, of Belmont. The committee was instructed to correspond with parties in St. Paul and elsewhere with regard to obtaining relief for those in want and to ascertain how much seed wheat was needed for the next season.

The committees at once entered upon their duties. They canvassed the county east and south of Heron Lake, where there was the greatest suffering, and reported finding 86 persons in need of aid. The authorities in St. Paul were notified and asked to send supplies at once. The articles asked for were mostly clothing for women and children. Three articles of food were found necessary—flour, pork and beans. About the middle of January the first consignment of supplies was received and distributed by the committee at Heron Lake. Part of the relief was in cash, the balance in clothing. On the 21st of January the Jackson committee received 19 sacks of flour and three boxes of clothing sent by the citizens of Stillwater. The supplies were distributed the next day.

Petitions were poured into the legislature from all the stricken counties, asking for appropriations. Realizing the gravity of the situation, the legislature, late in January, appropriated \$5,000 for relief in the frontier counties, and in February appropriated \$25,000 to be expended for seed grain to be furnished to those unable to procure seed. Of the cash appropriation, \$540 was Jackson county's share. John Weir and J. T. Smith were named as the parties who should conduct the distribution in the northern and west-

ern portions of the county, and Alexander Fiddes and J. W. Hunter who should make the distribution in the southern and eastern portions. Each committee received \$270.

General H. H. Sibley, the head of the state relief work, reported on July 9, 1874, that he had turned over to Jackson county committees the sum of \$1,007 for the relief of settlers up to that time. The dates, amounts and parties to whom he had sent the money were as follows:<sup>6</sup>

Dec. 24, 1873: Heron Lake committee, J. T. Smith, secretary .....	\$107
Jan. 2, 1874: Heron Lake committee, J. T. Smith, secretary .....	150
Jan. 10, 1874: Heron Lake committee, J. T. Smith, secretary .....	100
Jan. 27, 1874: Heron Lake committee, G. H. Carr, secretary pro tem .....	100
Jan. 30, 1874, Heron Lake committee, G. H. Carr, secretary pro tem .....	150
Apr. 16, 1874: Heron Lake committee, J. Weir, treasurer .....	50
Apr. 16, 1874: Heron Lake committee, J. Weir, treasurer .....	100
June 24, 1874: Heron Lake committee, J. Weir, treasurer .....	50
Jan. 30, 1874: Ole Tollefson, postmaster, Belmont .....	50
Apr. 16, 1874: Major H. S. Bailey, Jackson .....	100
June 27, 1874: Major H. S. Bailey, Jackson .....	50
Total .....	\$1,007

The Heron Lake committee, composed of J. W. Benson, chairman; J. T. Smith, secretary; John Weir, treasurer; and J. P. Prescott, reported the division of its share of this amount as follows: Two hundred dollars were spent for garden seeds, flour and corn meal and distributed to 533 different persons; \$606.89 was distributed in cash. Major Bailey spent the \$150 sent to him for flour and pork. In July he reported the distribution of these articles to the value of \$111.07 and that he had on hand \$38.93.

In the latter part of March, 1874, the seed wheat distribution was made. Jackson county's share was 3,500 bushels, and

<sup>6</sup>Letter H. H. Sibley, July 9, 1874.

there were so many applicants that the average to each person was only seven and one-half bushels, and many had to go without.<sup>7</sup> Part of the wheat was distributed by the committee at Heron Lake and part by Major H. S. Bailey and Hans Knudson at Windom.

During the harrowing times in the winter of 1873-74, when hundreds of Jackson county citizens were living on charity, the last three townships of the county began township government.

During the fore part of the winter residents of township 103, range 37, petitioned the county commissioners, asking that they be detached from Heron Lake township and granted a government of their own. The petition was granted January 7, 1874, and the new township was named West Heron Lake, its geographical location suggesting the name. In the latter part of the same month the township was organized with the following (partial) list of officers: Robert Johnson, chairman; John Christie, clerk; Johannes Tollefson, treasurer; Evan Pederson, justice of the peace; Nils Olson, constable.

Owing to the fact that Heron lake divided the township into two parts, those living in the northeast corner—to the east of the lake—were not so closely associated with the people of the rest of the township as they were with those of Heron Lake township, and they petitioned, early in February, 1874, to be attached to the latter township. No action was taken at that time, but in April, 1875, another petition was presented to the county board, asking for the same legislation. On June 21 the desired action was taken, and the northeast corner of West Heron Lake

township was given to Heron Lake township.

The following were early day residents of West Heron Lake township who secured land from the government in that precinct:

1872, Charles Fischer (12), John Robson (24); 1873, Robert Johnson (22); 1874, Herman Peter (2), George H. Carr (6), Romaine Sheire (6), Charles C. Langworthy (10), William Wiley (12); 1875, William H. Ashley (12), Thomas C. Dixon (22); 1876, Newton F. West (2), Claus Larson (8), Christopher B. Rubert (12-32), Andrew L. Jackson (18), David F. Cleveland (34); 1877, Isaac Christy (4), Christen Isakson (8); 1878, John Christy (18), Sever Severson (20), Johan L. Hauge (30), Severt A. L. Hauge (30); 1879, Henry B. Johnson (6), Martin B. Johnson (6); 1880, Carl G. Peter (2), Ole O. Seleen (8), Ole Hanson (18), Even Peterson (20), Andrew C. Serum (28); 1884, George Schneider (2), George Johnson (12-34); 1885, Nils Olson (4), Iver Haarelson (18); 1886, Tollef Michaelson (8), Halvor Hendrickson (24); 1888, Kari Tollefson (8).

Rost township came into existence February 3, 1874. It was named in honor of Frederick Rost, who was one of the early day settlers of the precinct, locating there in 1869.<sup>8</sup> The names of some of the early homesteaders of Rost township, as shown by the patents to land granted, were as follows:

1872, Charles Smith (22), Francis G. Raymond (24); 1876, Charles Rost (26), William Kromroy (34), Charles Boss (34); 1877, William Rust (14), Herman Rost (22), Frederick Rost (26), Helmut Rust (28), Albert Rust (28), Henry Weyner (30); 1878, Julius Dreger (6), Frederick Schultz (12), Ludwig Weyner (30), Wilhelm Radke (32); 1879, James B. Rabbitt (6), Franz Meister (20); 1880, Frederick Mittlestadt (18), Louise Ludtke (20), Louisa Milbrath (32); 1881, Richard Sucker (2); 1883, August Webber (2); 1884, Ludwig Lueneburg (10), Wilhelmine Knoapp (10); 1885, George Heiser (8); 1888, Ferdinand Milbrath (18); 1889, Gustave A. Anderson (4).

Sioux Valley was the last Jackson county township to begin township government. In accordance with the prayer of petitioners, the commissioners created the

<sup>7</sup>"These are busy days in Heron Lake. The relief committee, Messrs. Benson, Weir and Smith, have received over 3,000 bushels of wheat to be distributed in Jackson county, and the people are coming in in great numbers after it. The amount each will receive will be quite small, there being so many applicants."—Heron Lake Correspondent, March 25, 1874.

<sup>8</sup>The official proceedings of the board of county commissioners show that the township was created as "Rust." In fact, that was the accepted spelling of the name for several years. Later, without any official procedure, the correct spelling was adopted. The name of the family was also often spelled "Rust."



**THE ANDREW MONSON CABIN**  
One of the Oldest Log Cabins in Jackson County.



**PIONEERS**

The Engraving is Reproduced from a Tintype Taken During Grasshopper Times. The Men shown are (Back Row, Standing, from Left to Right) Wallace Bailey, L. F. Ashley, Menzo L. Ashley, Than Hall, Jr., Joseph E. Thomas, Jr., John Tagley, A. D. King, L. P. Cook, Thad Rucker, M. S. Barney, O. F. Alexander, B. W. Ashley; (Lower Row, Sitting), Clark Baldwin, C. H. Sandon, J. F. Ashley, A. C. Wood (Between Rows), William V. King, J. J. Smith, Henry Blakey, Than Hall and Ira G. Walden.



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township February 27, 1874, naming it Sioux Valley after the river which flows through it. The early day homesteaders who received title to their lands from the government were:

1873, Levi M. Bridell (10), Washington Shaffer (12), John Spencer (26); 1874, Ichabod Dyer (10-12), Jareb Palmer (10); Kerney C. Lowell (32); 1875, Edwin E. Myrick (24), Abednego Davis (26); 1876, Levi H. Stratton (34); 1877, Reuben Tivey (14), Charles H. Greer (14), Nelson Willcox (24), William Barnett (31); 1878, John Butterfield (2), Julius Dreger (6), Charles E. Reiter (8), Ezra A. Hopkins (18), Carlos M. Hardy (20); 1879, Martin Reiter (8); 1880, George A. Johnson (32); 1881, Gustaf Nystrom (31); 1883, Frank Benoit (2), George O. Bordwell (4), Carl Lidberg (28), Anna Moberg (31), Abraham McCulla (34); 1884, Francis M. Horton (12); 1885, Detlef Hollmer (10), Helge Torsen (30), Bengt Staaff (30); 1888, Elizabeth L. Stone (4), Fred Mead (28).

If there had been a belief that the grasshopper scourge was to be only a temporary blight on the prospects of Jackson county, it was rudely dispelled. The visitation of 1873 was as nothing compared with what followed. The story of the years to follow is one of heartrending misery. From Manitoba to Texas the grasshoppers brought desolation and suffering in 1874, the visitation being general along the whole frontier. Especially destructive were they in southwestern Minnesota and in Kansas and Nebraska.

In Jackson county the eggs which had been deposited by the visiting hordes in 1873 began to hatch during the first days of May.<sup>9</sup> While the pests had been considered numerous the year before, there were now more than ten times as many. The appetites of the youngsters were good, but no great damage was done until the

<sup>9</sup>The process of hatching was interesting. In each nest, a half inch or more below the surface of the ground, were from twenty to fifty eggs. When the sun warmed the ground sufficiently to hatch the eggs, the pithy covering of the nest popped off and a squirming mass of little yellow hoppers poured out. Each was encased in a sort of shell or skin, which it immediately began to pull off. Then, after taking a moment's view of the world, each little hopper hopped away in search of something to eat. At birth they were about a quarter of an inch long and had no wings, but these developed rapidly.

last days of May. Said the Jackson Republic on May 30:

It was not until this week that the devastation by this scourge commenced in earnest, but in the few days they have been harvesting the crops, they have put in full time and done clean work. Whole fields in many places have been stripped of the growing grain and in others large spots have been scooped out. Not satisfied with eating the green leaves, they eat right down in the ground to the roots.

It was at this stage of the proceedings that many people left the county. In many instances those who had not secured title to their farms deserted them, never more to return. Many who had title sold for what they could get or mortgaged their farms if they could locate an easterner unsophisticated enough to loan money on such security. These, too, left the county. The greater number of the able bodied men who decided to stay sought work in the eastern part of the state to earn enough money to carry them and their families through the winter. The local paper on June 6 said: "Settlers are turning back to the older counties to get work to support their families, and the ruling question is, 'Are you going east to get work?'" The general land office made a ruling that homesteaders in the grasshopper infested counties might desert their claims for certain lengths of time to earn a livelihood without taking the chance of losing the claim.

During the latter part of June the damage was great, and in the parts of the county most numerous infested little was left growing but the wild prairie grass. The wings of the young hoppers became fully developed on June 19, and three days later they began their flight out of the country. For several days, from ten o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon, the air was filled with the winged immigrants, all traveling in a northeasterly direction. It was hoped that they would go and leave the little

that had escaped, but it was not to be. The Jackson Republic, which had always before spoken encouragement, on July 4 gave up hope for any crop and said:

All gone! Not the grasshoppers, as was hoped, but the oats, corn and potatoes that had been left until this week. The changing winds have brought back all the grasshoppers, with myriads of reinforcements, and they have mowed down about everything before them. Now that all hope for a crop is gone, the only prayer of the people is that they may be taken away before they commence depositing their eggs, which will no doubt be not long hence.

The destroying agents remained in Jackson county until the middle of July, and then all took their departure. They did not deposit eggs in the county, although they did in many other parts of Minnesota. Before their departure the county became literally alive with them. So thick was the air with the flying pests that at times the sun was partially obscured. They appeared to the people below like a vast cloud, sweeping sometimes in one direction, sometimes in another—always going with the wind. At evening, when they came down near the earth, the noise they made was like a roaring wind. After gorging themselves with the crops, the hoppers became stupid and piled up in the fields and along the roads, often to a depth of one or two feet. Horses could hardly be driven through them. Stories have been told of railway trains becoming blockaded by the pests so as to be unable to move until the insects were shoveled from the track. Concerning the losses the Republic, in the latter part of July, said:

The actual loss from the scourge in this year's crop will aggregate more than \$200,000,<sup>10</sup> while the loss arising from abandoned farms, removal of settlers with their personal property, and the stagnation given to farming pur-

<sup>10</sup>According to the report of the commissioner of statistics, the loss of the several crops in twenty-eight counties of Minnesota in 1874 was as follows: Wheat, 2,646,802 bushels; oats, 1,816,733 bushels; corn, 738,415 bushels; barley, 58,962 bushels; potatoes, 221,454 bushels; flax seed, 52,833 bushels.

suits for years to come can only be represented by millions of dollars. Taking Jackson county in whole, wheat will probably not average two bushels per acre, or one-eighth of a crop; oats will not be much better, while barley is an entire failure; corn may be half a crop and potatoes about the same.

This second successive crop failure was a terrible blow. A great many who had not been hard pressed by the conditions in 1873 were now reduced to the common level; their savings had been spent and they had no income. Those who were not compelled to live on charity were compelled to practice the most rigid economy. Hay furnished the fuel; potatoes, pumpkins and squashes—a few vegetables left by the hoppers—supplied the bulk of the food. Meat was not on the bill of fare except for those who could use a gun and bag the prairie chickens and ducks that were in great abundance. The people bore their trials more cheerfully than might have been expected and made preparations to try their luck again the next year. In plowing for their next year's crop, the farmers nearly ruined their horses, being without the necessary grain to feed them.

As has been stated, money and supplies for relief were sent to Jackson county during the whole winter of 1873-74 and into the spring months. In addition to those items mentioned, on January 17, 1874, the county commissioners received from Governor Davis 190 sacks of flour and ten barrels of pork, which were distributed at once.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, in the midst of the devastation of 1874, Governor Cushman K. Davis issued a stirring appeal, stating the conditions and the need of large contributions to prevent many of the residents of the state from perishing. His appeal was addressed to the Grange organizations and was as follows:

State of Minnesota. Executive Department, St. Paul, July 1, 1874.

To the Granges: I am compelled to ask the cooperation of each grange of your powerful organization in relieving the destitution of our fellow citizens in southwestern counties. That region has been traversed by trustworthy men, sent out by me for that purpose, and they report unanimously a destitution which has no parallel in our history as a state. The time for silence as to the condition of affairs has passed by, and the time for prompt and liberal action by all who are willing to do as they would be done by has arrived.

The counties of Martin, Murray, Jackson, Cottonwood, portions of Nobles and Watonwan, and possibly to some extent in other communities, have been swept by grasshoppers of all crops as completely as by fire.

Women and children are suffering for food. The implements and stocks of the settlers are under mortgages given to tide over the privations of last year.

I have told these people that their fellow citizens, whom a kind Providence has blessed with abundance, will stand by them in this, their dire extremity.

Contributions in money are most desirable. Provisions and clothing scarce less so. Send contributions to General H. H. Sibley, St. Paul, Minnesota. C. K. DAVIS, Governor.

The board of county commissioners took charge of the relief funds in 1874. A distribution of cash was made in July. Also 19,610 pounds of flour and 1,935 pounds of pork were apportioned by the commissioners to the needy in every precinct in the county. The distribution averaged six pounds of flour and ten ounces of pork to each needy person, which certainly could not have gone far toward meeting the demand.<sup>11</sup> Those two

had departed to work in the harvest fields in the eastern part of the state returned in August. The conditions in their homes led many to take their families and depart for more congenial surroundings. Some secured work during the fall and winter and remained away from Jackson county until the next spring.

On the 1st day of September the commissioners received \$300 from General H. H. Sibley. This was invested in supplies, which were distributed among the needy. The same was done with \$500 received on December 12. Eighteen barrels and twenty-nine sacks of flour were received December 21, and the commissioners turned that over to those in the most destitute circumstances. Clothing and other relief supplies were frequently received during the winter from private parties—supplies which meant much to suffering settlers. The United States government, in a small way, assisted in the care of the unfortunate people of the grasshopper devastated counties by the distribution of army rations and clothing. Lieutenant J. F. Huston was in the county April 30 and May 1, dealing out provisions, boots and overcoats to the most needy.

In all, Jackson county received \$2,817.82 as its share of the state appropriation, all of which was distributed by the board of county commissioners.<sup>12</sup> The legislature granted an extension of time for the payment of taxes in some of the counties, and, of course, Jackson was among the number. Times not improving, the extension was of little benefit. People who had not money to buy food and clothing could not pay taxes.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup>The supplies were divided among the several townships as follows:

	Flour Lbs.	Pork Lbs.
Petersburg .....	1,008	105
Middletown .....	816	35
Minnesota .....	648	67
Hunter .....	660	68
Des Moines .....	2,800	187
Wisconsin .....	900	94
Belmont .....	1,202	128
Enterprise .....	978	100
Kimball .....	750	78
Christiania .....	1,374	143
Heron Lake .....	660	68
Delafield .....	1,374	143
Stoux Valley .....	426	42
Rost .....	560	60
West Heron Lake .....	714	74
Welmer .....	1,314	137
LaCrosse .....	732	76
Alba .....	756	78
Ewington .....	978	102
Round Lake .....	960	100
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>19,610</b>	<b>1,935</b>

<sup>12</sup>The total amount of state funds distributed as a result of the 1874 appropriation was \$15,751.56, divided among the devastated counties as follows: Pinewood, \$200; Martin, \$1,363.87; Rock, \$1,400; Cottonwood, \$3,237.02; Watonwan, \$1,808.83; Jackson, \$2,817.82; Murray, \$1,902.82; Nobles, \$1,952.82; Brown, \$300; Others, \$768.38.

<sup>13</sup>The act was passed March 1, 1875, and provided for the extension of time of payment of personal property taxes to November 1 in the

The question naturally arises: Why did the people of Jackson county stay in a country in which the grasshoppers wrought such damage? It is doubtful if many would have remained could they have looked ahead and foreseen what they still had to go through, for this was not the end of the scourge by any means. But the majority did stay with their claims, and they weathered the storms of adversity. Hope was abundant that each year's visitation would be the last. The fertility of the soil had been demonstrated, and it was known that once the country was free from the pests, it would become one of the richest spots in the west. The settlers had invested all their accumulations of former years in improvements, and to desert the country meant that they must go as paupers. Many were literally too poor to pay transportation charges out of the country.

Notwithstanding the terrible experiences of the two preceding years, the farmers determined to put in a crop in 1875. The ground had been prepared, but the farmers were without seed grain and without the means to purchase it. The legislature came to their rescue with an appropriation of \$75,000, the act providing for the distribution of seed grain to that amount, with certain provisions for its repayment. A state board of commissioners was appointed to conduct the distribution, and a local board was named in each of the stricken counties to assist in the work. The money market was tight, and the state was not able to procure the money to purchase more than \$50,000 worth of grain. With the grain received from the state and that which was in the country, there was enough to

counties of Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Rock, Murray, Cottonwood, Watonwan, Renville, Lyon and parts of Blue Earth, Faribault and Brown. In order to secure the extension it was necessary for the residents to give proof that they were unable to pay their taxes because of loss of crop in 1874 from grasshoppers or hail.

seed a large part of the prepared land.<sup>14</sup> The seed grain furnished by the state was a Godsend. Said the Jackson Republic on May 15, 1875: "That the grasshopper plague for the last two years in this vicinity has sapped the life blood out of the hard working farmers of the county is admitted, we think, on all hands; that a good portion of the people could not have remained to cultivate their farms without aid from abroad is also generally conceded."

A severe blizzard visited Jackson county on March 15 and 16, 1875, and added another victim to those who have perished by winter storms. The unfortunate man was Heinrich Tubbike, an insane man who lived in Heron Lake township. He had been pronounced insane by the probate court, and his removal to the asylum had been delayed on account of the blizzard. Mr. Tubbike escaped from the members of his family on the 16th after a hard fight and wandered off on the prairie. He perished in the storm, and his body was found the next day about three miles from the house.

That there had been a marvelous increase in the population of Jackson county during the two or three years of the decade before the grasshoppers came is shown by the census returns of 1875.

<sup>14</sup>The number of acres sown to crop in 1875, according to the figures obtained by the various township assessors, was 21,710, divided among the townships as follows:

Alba .....	640
Belmont .....	1,698
Christiania .....	1,721
Delafield .....	3,214
Des Moines .....	2,260
Enterprise .....	892
Ewington .....	380
Heron Lake .....	1,170
Hunter .....	380
Kimball .....	702
LaCrosse .....	1,532
Middletown .....	847
Minnesota .....	604
Petersburg .....	1,118
Round Lake .....	605
Rost .....	659
Stoux Valley .....	403
Welmer .....	1,368
West Heron Lake .....	759
Wisconsin .....	758
Total .....	21,710

In spite of the fact that there had been no immigration since 1873 and that a great many had moved away, there were found to be 3,506 permanent residents in 1875—a gain of nearly 100 per cent in five years. The population of the various townships was as follows:

Alba .....	142
Belmont .....	287
Christiania .....	310
Des Moines .....	388
Enterprise .....	166
Ewington .....	89
Heron Lake .....	125
Hunter .....	61
Kimball .....	159
LaCrosse .....	265
Middletown .....	139
Minnesota .....	112
Petersburg .....	167
Rost .....	105
Round Lake .....	104
Sioux Valley .....	80
Weimer .....	287
West Heron Lake .....	117
Wisconsin .....	118
Total .....	3,506

The free seed grain was sown in the spring of 1875; it germinated and appeared above the ground. Then came the days of anxiety. Would the grasshopper scourge again come with its ruin and desolation? As the season advanced the people with deep concern scanned the skies for the appearance of the pests. As eggs had not been deposited in Jackson county the preceding season, there were no young hoppers, and the only apprehension was in regard to an invasion of "foreign" hoppers. Blackbirds and gophers were quite numerous early in the season and did a lot of damage to crops, especially corn, but not a grasshopper put in an appearance.

Tidings of approaching invaders came on Monday, June 28. It was reported by wire that a vast army was on the way to the northwest from Iowa, that a number of them were passing over Sioux City and that they extended as far north as Sheldon. A few stragglers on the right flank

of this army passed over Jackson county, but as a general thing they kept high in the air. Only a very few alighted—not enough to do any damage.

The county was free of the pests until Saturday, July 10. Then they came in great droves out of the northeast. They were not full grown and were those which hatched in the Minnesota river valley. They attacked the growing grain with their old time voracity and brought despair to the hearts of the settlers.<sup>15</sup> They feasted on the green fields Sunday and Monday, but their numbers were not nearly so great as they had been the year before. Many farms swarmed with them, while upon others there was none at all. Even some of those fields upon which the grasshoppers were the thickest were not entirely destroyed. Monday the hoppers showed signs of a desire to migrate, but unfavorable winds and tempting grain were sufficient reasons for their lingering another day. About eleven o'clock on the forenoon of Tuesday they took up their line of flight to the north; the county was again free of the pests.

The settlers kept track of the movements of the grasshoppers in different parts of the country as they would have those of an invading army of soldiers. So far, a large part of the crop was saved, but they knew that only by chance could they escape total destruction. They felt as though the sword of Damocles was suspended over them, ready to fall at any moment.

The respite was not long. The hoppers appeared in the north part of the county

<sup>15</sup>"Had an earthquake shaken up our people, or a cyclone swept destruction over our community, neither would have excited and discouraged our citizens so much as it did to see those hungry, hopping pests slashing away at the grain fields. After two years of destruction the sight of luxurious crops had been a fascinating one, and now to see the third crop going was certainly enough to make strong men surrender. It was a discouraging moment to farmers and an anxious one to business men."—Republic, July 17, 1876.

on Tuesday, July 22, about noon. In the Heron Lake country they lighted in the fields and commenced eating voraciously. The farmers, who were becoming well acquainted with their mode of warfare, took a defensive attitude and began plying them with smoke, fire and brimstone.<sup>16</sup> The hoppers slowly worked southward, and on Friday, July 23, had entered the second tier of townships. As they proceeded they deposited their eggs. This invasion was confined almost entirely to the north half of Jackson county, only a few getting into the southern townships, and those doing but little damage.

The hoppers remained in the northern part of the county until early in August; then they departed. Considerable damage was done in Christiania township and in the country about Heron Lake. They also entered the townships of Enterprise, Belmont and Heron Lake. But these hoppers were not so numerous as they had been formerly. It was a ragamuffin, Falstaffian army compared with that of 1874. Their appetites appeared to be poor, and they were of a degenerate breed; bushels died after laying their eggs, and the exhausted remnant departed from the county. A big percentage of the crop was saved, and the farmers eagerly began the harvest. On August 7 the Republic sized up the situation as follows:

Our farmers are now engaged in harvesting

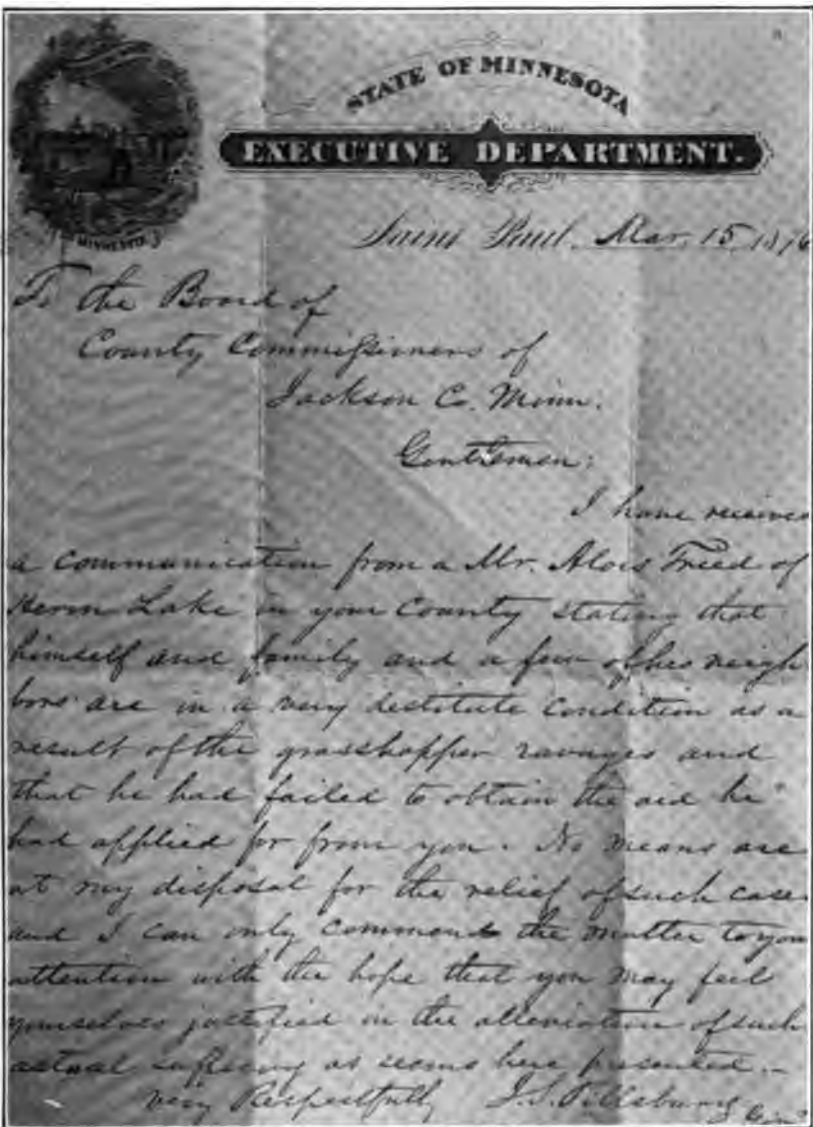
<sup>16</sup>There was really very little that the settlers could do to destroy or check the pests, although many schemes were tried. Nothing availed against the invading hordes, but in the case of the native hoppers the farmers waged a more or less successful war by the use of tar. "Hopperdozers," a sort of drag, made of sheet iron and wood, would be covered with tar and dragged over the ground. The young hoppers would be caught in the tar and destroyed. Another scheme was to prevent prairie fires during the summer and fall, conserving the grass until after the hoppers had hatched in the spring. Then on a given day the county would be burned over and the pests destroyed. Ditches would be dug and the hoppers driven into them and destroyed; scoop nets were used, but little headway could be made with them. In some of the counties bounties were paid for them. In seven such counties 53,019 bushels were captured, upon which bounties aggregating \$76,788.42 were paid; still no difference was noticed in the damage done.

the finest crop ever grown in Jackson county. This township [Des Moines], and perhaps others, will undoubtedly the present season produce as much as was ever before raised in one year in the entire county. True, in several towns the hungry hoppers have injured the crops, but in the county at large there is a bountiful yield. We may be wrongly informed as to the amount left, but by frequent inquiries in regard to crops in the localities the worst devastated we find that portions of the crop are saved and in instances fields are not injured at all. But if there is an approach to a total loss in any township we have yet to learn of it. Not only wheat and oats are immense, but corn, to use Donnelly's favorite word, is "enormous."

The crop was well secured, all working with a will in gathering the yield. It was a new experience—the harvesting of a crop. But the anxieties of the season were not yet over. During the entire week beginning August 31 there was a continual downpour of rain, which did much damage to grain in shock and stack. That in the shock sprouted, and all was more or less damaged. Blight damaged some of the wheat, and instead of grading No. 1, it was second and third grade.

The conditions during the winter of 1875-76 were so much better than they had been during the two preceding winters that very little relief was needed, and the county was able to supply its own seed for the next crop.

In 1875 for the first time a united effort was made to fight the grasshoppers. On August 24 a county grasshopper convention was held at Jackson to devise means of fighting the common enemy the next season. H. H. Stone was chairman of the convention and E. P. Skinner was secretary. A general committee was named, composed of the following named gentlemen: Alexander Fiddes, Edward Orr, Hans Knudson, Henry Knudson, H. J. Phelps, J. P. Prescott and E. B. Millard. These gentlemen were delegated with power to have general supervision of the campaign and to appoint three persons in each township to work with them. The



A REMINDER OF GRASSHOPPER DAYS



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principal object to be attained was the preservation of the prairie grass until the following spring.

The year 1876 opened auspiciously. Despite the forebodings of disaster from another grasshopper visitation, the people were in good spirits. This was caused largely by the prospects of the extension of the Southern Minnesota railroad into and through the county, from Winnebago City to Worthington. Surveyors appeared in the field during the closing days of 1875 and ran a line to Jackson and from that point westward. It was generally understood that the railroad company would ask a bonus, and on December 28, 1875, a mass meeting was held at Jackson and largely attended. It seemed to be the unanimous desire of those attending that the people should give a liberal bonus and furnish the right of way.

Officials of the road went to Jackson February 27, 1876, and stated that if the ten townships of the southern half of the county would issue bonds to an amount equal to ten per cent of their assessed valuation to aid in the construction of the road, the line would be built to Jackson by December 31, 1876, and to Worthington by September 1, 1877.<sup>17</sup> The question of issuing the bonds was voted upon at the regular March township elections. Petersburg, Wisconsin, Middletown, Des Moines and Sioux Valley townships returned majorities in favor of the bonds; Hunter, Minnesota, Rost and Round Lake voted against them; in Ewington the vote was a tie. During April special elections were held in Minnesota, Hunter and Ewington, and each of the townships then

gave a majority for the bonds. But the road was not built that year, and the bonds were not sold. During the summer the financial affairs of the railroad company got in a bad way, and the promoters found themselves unable to proceed with the extension.

In the northern part of Jackson county, where grasshopper eggs had been deposited in 1875, very little grain was sown in 1876, but in the southern townships, where no eggs had been deposited, the usual acreage was put in. Late in April the pests began to hatch, and the hatching continued until in June. So soon as they attained sufficient size the young hoppers attacked the fields. The farmers drew up in battle array against them, and many of the pests were destroyed. The ravages were confined to the northern townships until July 5. Then a gentle wind from the north swept clouds of them to the other portions of the county, and every precinct reported damage. There was no further movement of the hoppers until July 13. On that date another breeze from the north gathered immense numbers of them and wafted them over the line into Iowa. On July 24 came the worst visitation of grasshoppers ever known in Jackson county. Vast clouds of them came down from the northwest and destroyed all small grain left and injured the corn. They remained two or three weeks and deposited their eggs.

It was not until the fore part of August that the county was entirely free from the destroying agents. During this time they feasted continually and deposited their eggs.

The prospects were discouraging. Many who had fought the scourge so long gave up and quit trying to raise crops. The Jackson Republic voiced the feelings of the people when it said on July 29:

That the grasshopper question has assum-

<sup>17</sup>The bonds to have been issued by the Jackson county townships would have amounted to about \$37,000, the assessed valuation of the townships at that time being: Petersburg, \$34,594; Wisconsin, \$38,478; Des Moines, \$100,749; Middletown, \$40,336; Minnesota, \$55,314; Hunter, \$23,082; Rost, \$5,712; Sioux Valley, \$33,346; Round Lake, \$9,949; Ewington, \$8,687. The counties of Martin and Nobles were also asked to vote subsidies.

ed a more serious aspect than ever before there is no denying. Four successive crops have been destroyed in a good portion of southwestern Minnesota and the fifth assured of destruction. It is useless to recapitulate the trials our people have passed through, or tell how patiently they have waited with the vain hope that the pest would leave us forever; it is useless to theorize or moralize on the past—it is the dark future with which we have to deal and most interests our stricken people. We know that our crops have been nearly all destroyed and that eggs are deposited in every direction sufficient to hatch grasshoppers another year to cover every inch of ground in the county, and that is all that need be said on that point.

Many did not give up, however, but renewed the fight. A mass convention was called to be held at Jackson August 23,<sup>18</sup> to "have a general interchange of ideas as to the best policy to pursue in our present unfortunate circumstances caused by the ravages of grasshoppers." The convention adopted the following resolutions:

Resolved that the state and general governments be petitioned to make appropriations to reimburse us for money expended to prevent prairie grass from burning and in catching young hoppers in the spring.

Resolved that the county commissioners be requested to make an appropriation not exceeding \$1,000 for the purpose of making a fire guard sufficient to preserve the grass in each town.

Resolved further that a committee be appointed to correspond with the governor and with parties in other counties to the end that a general organization be had for the purpose mentioned in the above resolutions.

Resolved that we recommend a general convention for the grasshopper district be held at Worthington at an early day, to be called by the governor of the state, who is hereby invited to be present.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Jackson county convention, a grass-

<sup>18</sup>The call was signed by A. D. Palmer, W. V. King, J. J. Johnson, Henry Knudson, Edward Orr, Dr. E. L. Brownell, Ira G. Walden, Jareb Palmer, G. C. Chamberlin, J. W. Cowing, G. K. Tiffany, Lucius Bordwell, W. Burreson, W. Ashley, Eugene Logue, Thomas J. Knox, C. H. Sandon, M. A. Strong, James W. Hunter, John J. Smith, William A. Fields, James E. Palmer, H. A. Williams, Alexander Fiddes, Milton Mason and John Jungbauer. The mass convention was called largely through the efforts of Captain Jareb Palmer. He and several others were in the office of the county auditor one day, discussing conditions, when he suggested holding a convention to discuss ways and means of overcoming the pests. A petition was drawn up by County Auditor William V. King and was circulated by Mr. Palmer.

hopper convention, containing delegates from all the devastated counties of southwestern Minnesota, met at Worthington September 20, 1876. Methods of fighting the common enemy were discussed and plans made for reducing the ravages. Relief from the United States government was asked.

The legislature of 1877 appropriated money for the relief of the destitute and \$75,000 for the purchase of seed grain. The law provided for the repayment of this money by those receiving the grain; in case it was not paid back the county was bound to make payment to the state. Applicants were obliged to furnish affidavits as to their condition, and the county commissioners and county auditor acted as a board to determine the worthiness of the applicants. Two hundred eleven applications were granted in Jackson county and thirty rejected. From LaCrosse township came 31 applications—the largest number from any one township. There was none from Hunter. On March 29, 1877, the county auditor received a check for \$4,431—Jackson county's share of the appropriation—and this was distributed in grain, giving \$21 worth to each successful applicant.

Every plan to rid the state of the locusts having failed, Governor John S. Pillsbury named a day for fasting and prayer, and by proclamation requested every citizen to observe Thursday, April 26, as a day on which to hold religious meetings and ask for deliverance from the scourge. In Jackson the day was appropriately observed, the Republic reporting the services as follows:

Fast day (Thursday, April 26) was duly observed in town by a general recognition of the governor's proclamation. In the forenoon quite a large congregation assembled at the church, where the services were conducted by Rev. E. Savage.

In the afternoon there was an interesting social meeting at the church, in

which many of our leading Christian citizens participated, and which was attended by a large number who ought to be Christians. Certainly the governor's fast day was well observed in Jackson by our business men not only, but by our citizens generally. Two large congregations were present, many of whom are seldom seen inside the church.

The annual dread was felt again in the spring of 1877—and this time the settlers were agreeably disappointed. The season was admirably adapted to two ends: the best possible development of small grain and the worst possible development of the locusts. The cool rainy weather of the spring and early summer seemed to have been sent on purpose to give wheat and other small grain a rapid and healthy growth, and at the same time give the grasshoppers a slow and feeble development.

The hoppers hatched during the month of May and began eating on a few fields, but not enough to do any great damage. The farmers early commenced fighting their enemy with kerosene oil and the tar "hopperdozers." But the most satisfactory destroying element proved to be a little red parasite, which attacked and destroyed the eggs in the fall and early spring and later the young hoppers, loading down their frail wings and carcasses until it was almost impossible for them to fly. Bushels of the pests died as soon as their wings were grown.

Early in June the press reported little damage to small grain, but that the corn was suffering to some extent. Cool weather continued until the middle of June, having the effect of keeping the hoppers quiet and off the fields. Said the Republic on June 16: "Many people begin to take courage and actually are hopeful of a part of a crop." In the latter part of June the grasshoppers became more active and did some injury to small grain, they having confined themselves almost exclusively to corn and garden truck be-

fore. But about the first of July they began taking their departure, flying generally to the northwest, and within a few days all had left the county. None but the Jackson county hatch had visited the county, and it became apparent that unless there was a raid of "foreign" hoppers, the bulk of the crop was safe. And the invaders did not come. Swarms of them were occasionally seen flying high in the air afterwards, but they did not alight. The cheering situation was reported by the local press on July 21:

Certainly the situation about us is cheering. The grasshoppers have gone, and there is a feeling apparent that they have left us permanently. Crops are in the main good. We do not think there are a half dozen farmers in the county who have lost their crops during the season, though of course more than that number have been damaged more or less. But generally wheat, oats, barley, peas and potatoes are looking well, but corn is backward.

It is truly encouraging to have such cheering reports come in from the farmers and we gladly make note of their success.

It was a year of jubilee. Every resident seemed to be imbued with new life. Business men began increasing their stocks of goods; farmers began getting their lands in readiness for the next year's crop and putting up hay for the increased herds of stock that grasshopper times compelled.

Yet conditions were not so rosy as one might imagine. The several years of devastation had discouraged the farmers of Jackson county to such an extent that each year saw less and less grain sown. The spring of 1877 witnessed the planting of a very limited acreage, and the comparatively big yield per acre did not result in the bountiful times that would have come had the farmers sown as in former years.

Of the sixty-one counties Minnesota contained at that time, Jackson ranked thirteenth in the yield of wheat per acre. Sixteen hundred forty-one acres were

sown; 33,208 bushels, or 20.22 bushels per acre, were harvested. In the production of oats the county ranked fourth, being surpassed only by Goodhue, Polk and Steele counties. The total yield of oats was 66,005 bushels, or 43.33 bushels per acre. The corn crop amounted to 77,623 bushels, or 19.63 bushels per acre.

Because of the bettered condition, in the fall of 1877, a few land seekers—the first in five years—came to the county to spy out and purchase choice tracts of land. A seed grain appropriation was again made in 1878, and Jackson county people received 1,575 bushels.<sup>19</sup>

So far as Jackson county is concerned the terrible grasshopper scourge was practically ended. In its whole history up to this time there had been only a few years when the county had been free from

sources of devastation. For years the savage red man laid a heavy hand on the county and retarded its settlement; for another period of years the grasshoppers performed a like service. Hundreds of good citizens had been forced to leave; other hundreds had been prevented from coming.

The condition of the county at the close of the year 1877 has been told by a gentleman who made a trip over the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad in November. He said:

The country gives evidence of the sad effects of the grasshopper plague in the thousands of acres of land that have once been broken and perhaps a crop or two taken from them. The owners have left them to grow up to weeds, not daring to risk the chances of harvesting their crops. Nothing so forcibly brings to the mind of the visitor the reality of the grasshopper scourge as the sight of these desolate, weed-grown fields, with occasionally a deserted home standing cheerless and lone in the midst of the broad prairies.

The history of Jackson county's dark days are ended. Henceforth the story is one of advancement.

<sup>19</sup>Neighboring counties received seed grain in bushels as follows: Cottonwood, 4,600; Watonwan, 2,790; Martin, 2,300; Nobles, 3,443; Murray, 800.

## CHAPTER XII.

### PROSPEROUS TIMES—1878-1894.

**A** NEW era in the history of Jackson county begins with the year 1878. Three events of that year mark the turning point to better times: the disappearance of the grasshoppers, the building of the county's second railroad, and the revival of immigration.

It will be remembered that so early as 1866 preparations had been made for extending the Southern Minnesota railroad from Houston to the west line of the state. The United States government had granted large areas of land to the state of Minnesota to aid in the construction of railroads, and the state had in turn given these lands to the Southern Minnesota Railroad company, in consideration that it should extend its road to the west line of the state on or before February 25, 1877. Owing to financial embarrassment and the terrible grasshopper scourge, the railroad company had not been able to complete its line, although it had builded a considerable distance to the westward, and many of the lands were about to revert to the state as forfeiture for non-compliance with the terms of the grant. For many long years the people of southern Jackson county had anxiously awaited the coming of this road, which meant so much to them.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Every now and then surveyors of railroads have come and gone, railroad officials from dif-

The road was built to Winnebago City, and late in 1877 it was announced that the company had sufficient funds and the inclination to extend the road 45 miles further, to Jackson, providing the lapsed land grant were renewed. Nearly everybody was in favor of renewing the grant, and on March 6, 1878, the Minnesota legislature, in a memorial to congress, asked for a four years' extension of the grant.<sup>2</sup> The sentiment of the people of Jackson county is shown by the following resolu-

ferent lines have come and made propositions to supply us a road, and they would go. Thus the long years have rolled away, and our little town and struggling community have survived without a road, our merchants have hauled in their goods on wheels, slow coaches have brought our mails and transported passengers and express packages."—George C. Chamberlin in Republic, November 30, 1878.

"That if said grant is extended to this state for the purposes aforesaid, this state will be able to secure the speedy construction of said entire line of railroad, and thereby meet the just expectations of the settlers who have purchased said even numbered sections, and afford to the people of the counties of Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Murray and Pipestone the means of transportation from the large and increasing products of their industry.

"Wherefore your memorialists respectfully urge upon congress an extension of said grant for four years to the state, and not to such defaulting company or any other railroad company, to the end that the speedy construction of said entire line of road may be assured; and we hereby urgently request our senators and representatives in congress under no circumstances to permit any extension of said grant to be made which does not vest the same in the state of Minnesota, with full authority to convey the same to such company as it may see fit, subject to such conditions as it may desire to impose, consistent with the objects of the original grant."—Extract from Memorial to Congress, March 6, 1878.

tion, which was adopted at a mass meeting held at Jackson January 26, 1878:

Resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that an act be passed continuing the Southern Minnesota Railroad land grant with said road or its auxiliary, the "Southern Minnesota Extension company," and that our delegation in the legislature be requested to favor said act and urge its passage during the present session, provided that said road be built to the village of Jackson by the first of January, 1879.

The legislature took the action which seemed to be desired by the people of southwestern Minnesota, and on March 6, 1878, passed an act transferring and granting the lands to the Southern Minnesota Railroad Extension company, on condition that the line of road be completed to Fairmont before September 1, 1878, to Jackson before the close of the year 1879, and to the west line of the state before the close of the year 1880.

Construction was begun at once. The company still asked a bonus from Jackson county, and at a railroad meeting held at Jackson, called at the instance of J. C. Easton, president of the Southern Minnesota, it was the sense of those present that the township of Des Moines should vote bonds to an amount of ten per cent of the assessed valuation, provided the road should be in operation and the Jackson depot built that season. The line was extended to Jackson without the aid of bonds, however. The road was completed to Fairmont and train service established on July 1. The construction work progressed rapidly, and on November 27, 1878, the iron horse reached Jackson, thereby causing great rejoicing. Jackson was the terminus until the next year, when it was extended to the northwest.

A country into which it is known a railroad is to be built is always a goal for immigrants. The belief that the grasshopper scourge was a thing of the past also added to the inpouring of new settlers. Early in March the immigrants be-

gan arriving, looking for land, and they continued to pour in during the whole spring and summer.<sup>3</sup> As a general thing the newcomers were a well-to-do class. They came, not to take homesteads, but to purchase land and make improvements. Owing to the removal of so many settlers during the grasshopper years, there was much land on the market at reasonable prices, and all were given opportunity to become permanent settlers. Thousands of acres of wheat and other grain were sown that spring. The old sod shanties were replaced by frame structures, and in other ways the advancement was marked.

Not only in the southeastern part of the county was the revival noticed, but all parts of the county responded to the changed conditions. A gentleman writing from Heron Lake in April said:

The amount of freight received at this depot is surprising. Car load after car load continues to come, and there seems to be no end of it. Old settlers as well as new are coming and shipping in their household goods, and merchants are receiving freight almost daily. Altogether it makes business lively around the depot every time the eastern freight comes in.

Although grasshoppers in diminished numbers visited Nobles county and some other portions of southwestern Minnesota in 1878, Jackson county was free from them. But the county was not destined to harvest the mammoth crop to which it was entitled. Two weeks of excessive hot weather in the first half of July, followed by a week of excessive rains, injured the wheat crop so that the yield was not up to expectations. Some fields yielded an ordinary crop, but others fell as low as a half crop.

More railroad building in 1879 added to the activities and prosperity of Jackson county. From the first it had been the intention of the Southern Minnesota

<sup>3</sup>"Still they come—new men hunting new homes. We see new faces all around us until we begin to feel as though we had got away from home."—Republic, March 30, 1878.

Railroad company (now the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul) to extend the line due west from Jackson to the state line, passing through the village of Worthington,<sup>4</sup> but early in the spring of 1879 the plans were changed and the line run to the northwest, diagonally across the county. The survey was made, the point of crossing the Sioux City road designated as the southwest quarter of section 35, LaCrosse township (Miloma), and on April 22 work on the extension from Jackson was begun. Tracklaying was completed to the junction on August 1, and regular train service was begun to Fulda November 3. As a result of the extension many new settlers located in the central and western parts of the county and the village of Lakefield was founded.

The Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company resented the encroachment on what it considered its own territory by the extension of the Southern Minnesota to the northwest. In an effort to head off the Southern Minnesota, the Sioux City road, in May, made a hurried survey for a branch line from Heron Lake to Pipestone, paralleling the survey of the other road. Then began a lively race in construction. Side by side the construction crews of the two roads worked. At times violence was narrowly averted between the workmen, so bitter had become the strife between the two companies. It was admitted that it was a cut-throat policy to continue the building of the parallel roads, but neither would give in.

"It is still a question of doubt where the Southern Minnesota railroad will cross the Sioux City road, and we understand the company itself is undecided upon this point. The officers are already discussing the question and investigating the 'lay of the land.' We are quite certain it is the desire of the company to cross at Worthington, and if engineering obstacles do not intervene we are inclined to think that will be the point; then the road will strike a due northwest course for Pipestone county."—*Republic*, June 8, 1878.

Late in May a conference was held in St. Paul between representatives of the Milwaukee and Sioux City & St. Paul interests, when an attempt was made to come to an understanding and to reconcile differences. The conference served only to make matters worse, and the work of construction on both roads was rushed to completion. Not only did they run their roads side by side; they laid out their towns almost within a stone's throw of each other.

During this activity in railroad building the village of Heron Lake and its surrounding territory advanced with rapid strides. Being guaranteed ample railroad facilities and good markets, people improved many farms which had theretofore been unbroken.

In the extreme northwest corner of the county grasshoppers did some little damage in 1879 but other parts were entirely free from the pests. About the middle of July they departed, never to appear again; grasshoppers had eaten their last Jackson county grain. While grasshoppers, hail and storms fortunately passed the county by, crops were only fair. In some localities wheat was blighted; corn and oats were good.

The federal census of 1880 gave Jackson county a population of 4,806,<sup>5</sup> a gain of 1,300 in five years. Of the total population, 2,920 were native born, while 1,886 were foreign born.<sup>6</sup> The population was divided by precincts as follows:

<sup>5</sup>Population of other southwestern Minnesota counties: Blue Earth, 22,889; Faribault, 13,016; Watonwan, 5,104; Martin, 5,249; Cottonwood, 5,533; Murray, 3,604; Nobles, 4,435; Pipestone, 2,092; Rock, 3,669.

<sup>6</sup>Of the native born the classification by principal states of birth was as follows: Minnesota, 1,703; Wisconsin, 352; New York, 275; Illinois, 94; Pennsylvania, 82; Ohio, 79. The countries which furnished the bulk of the foreign population were as follows: Sweden and Norway, 1,084; Germany, 186; British America, 89; England and Wales, 52; Ireland, 40; Scotland, 21; France, 4.



Alba .....	139
Belmont .....	369
Christiania .....	435
Delafield .....	325
Des Moines .....	295
Enterprise .....	179
Ewington .....	88
Heron Lake .....	226
Heron Lake Village .....	163
Hunter .....	80
Kimball .....	239
LaCrosse .....	373
Middletown .....	154
Minnesota .....	119
Petersburg .....	243
Rost .....	124
Round Lake .....	116
Sioux Valley .....	89
Weimer .....	296
West Heron Lake .....	96
Wisconsin .....	157
Jackson .....	501
Total .....	4,806

Jackson county harvested an excellent crop in 1880, sufficient in many cases to clear up the debts contracted during grasshopper days. More No. 1 wheat was harvested in southern Minnesota that year than had ever been the case before. The days of adversity became but a memory; the prospects were bright, indeed.

One of the dates from which time is reckoned in Jackson county is the winter of 1880-81—the season of Siberian frigidity. There have been worse storms than any that occurred that winter; for short periods of time there has been colder weather. But there never was a winter to compare with this one in duration, continued severity, depth of snow and damage to property—possibly excepting those of 1856-57 and 1872-73.

While the grass was yet green and the insect world active, winter set in. On the afternoon of Friday, October 15, 1880, a heavy thunder storm began. During the night a strong, chilling wind came down from the north, turning the rain into a fine snow. A severe blizzard then took the place of the rain, and winter weather continued three days. It was the first and only blizzard ever experienced in the

county in October. All day Saturday the blizzard raged; Sunday the weather was calmer, but cold and wintry. When the storm subsided great drifts of snow filled the roads and other places, which did not disappear until the following May. All Jackson county railroads were blockaded, and the Sioux City road did not get a train through until Tuesday, the 19th. Stock in different parts of the county became lost and frozen.

For a month after the initial storm, nice weather prevailed; then winter set in in earnest, and from that time until late in April, it was winter every minute of the time. Friday, November 19, a cold snap set in, and on the night of the 20th the thermometer went to 19 degrees below zero. A blizzard struck the country December 3, which blockaded the Sioux City railroad from the east until the 5th. Another blizzard began Sunday noon, December 26, and continued its boisterous ways until Wednesday night. Cold weather accompanied the storm, the thermometer during the three days ranging from 10 to 24 degrees below zero. The Sioux City Milwaukee was closed until January 3. road was blockaded until the 30th; the Three hundred men and a half dozen engines were required to break the Milwaukee blockade.

Thereafter the winter was an extremely severe one, the thermometer frequently registering 30 to 33 degrees below the zero mark. Blizzard followed blizzard. The railroads were closed for weeks at a time. Fuel and food became nearly exhausted. People burned hay and grain and went without lights. In some places there was suffering for lack of food. Wagon roads remained unbroken all winter, and the farmers obtained their supplies from the villages by means of hand sleds.

Following is the story of the winter, told in brief chronological order, from the

beginning of the year 1881 until the breakup in the spring:

January 3. Milwaukee road opened.

January 4. Rain.

January 5. Terrific blizzard. Milwaukee blockaded.

January 18. Milwaukee road cleared.<sup>7</sup>

January 19. Snow storm. Milwaukee blockaded.<sup>8</sup>

January 21. Snow storm. Sioux City road tied up till the 23rd.

January 26. Blizzard. All trains stopped.

January 29. Last train of the winter over the Milwaukee.

February 1. Sioux City road tied up. Weather changeable—from one stormy day to one a little more stormy.

February 3. Longest snow storm of season begins, coming from the southeast and lasting four days. Fifteen days' blockade on Sioux City road begins. Milwaukee road buried from Wells to Dell Rapids.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup>"Last Tuesday night [January 18], blockade No. 3 was effectually and expensively removed. Hundreds of men were employed in the work, thousands of dollars were spent, and almost the entire enginery of the road was on the snowy field of battle against the blizzards. The prospects were again encouraging for a resumption of work along the line."—Republic, January 22, 1881.

<sup>8</sup>"Wednesday night [January 19] the trouble began again, and drifts upon drifts once more enveloped the railroad. The state of affairs is indeed discouraging. The company had resolved to hasten forward the tons of delayed freight as rapidly as possible, and five heavily loaded freight trains put in an appearance at this point within one day after the blockade had been lifted. The earliest train left Jackson for the west at about eight o'clock Wednesday evening, the 19th, but a drift about one mile west of the bridge prevented further progress. Three trains followed in rapid succession, but were unable to move the one ahead or back down to the station, and at this writing, Friday night [January 21], are wedged in north of town, with a fair prospect of staying there for several days. Another freight and one passenger train are laid up at the Jackson depot and two passenger trains are at Fulda. Fortunately, through the indefatigable energy of the hardy knights of the throttle, all of these snow bound iron horses are yet alive and snorting."—Republic, January 22, 1881.

<sup>9</sup>"The storm which commenced on Thursday of last week [February 3] and continued with scarcely an intermission until last Monday came from the southeast—blinding in its fury, powerful in windy force, and awful in its aspect—but, thank heaven! lacking the one element which would have made it terribly and, perhaps,

February 8. Lakefield short of provisions.

February 11. One of the worst blizzards of the season begins. Lasts two days.

February 12. Many farmers reported out of fuel.<sup>10</sup>

February 16. First train from the east in fifteen days reaches Heron Lake.

February 18. Blizzard. Last eastern train reaches Heron Lake.

February 22. Snow storm.

March 1. Mild weather for two days.

March 4. Fierce blizzard all day.<sup>11</sup>

March 5. Fair weather, lasting five days. Sioux City road opened except between St. James and Windom.<sup>12</sup>

March 11. Terrible blizzard, lasting two days, coming from the east. Heaviest snowfall of the season. All railroads blockaded worse than ever.

to some of God's creatures, fatally complete. The storm was one of miraculous warmth, and throughout its dreary prevalence the thermometer did not register below 20 degrees above zero.

"During those three days the fall of snow was the heaviest ever known in this section of the state. It swooped down in vast clouds which fairly darkened the air and blanketed the level of the earth to a depth of nearly two feet. Drifts almost mountainous in size sprang up like mushrooms over fences and groves, stables and stacks, rail and wagon roads, completely suspending all travel across the prairies.

"On Monday [February 7] a sudden halt was called on the elements, and then followed four days of warm pleasant weather, beautified with occasional glimpses of Old Sol's smiling face, and the universal prophesy was that there had come a permanent 'let-up.'"—Republic, February 12, 1881.

<sup>10</sup>"Scores of prairie farmers are known to be without fuel, and the present storm will drive them to dire extremities to protect their families from the cold. It is a bad—a terrible—state of affairs and is made worse by the fact that it is impossible to send help to the needy."—Republic, February 12, 1881.

<sup>11</sup>"As we go to press on Friday [March 4] the elements are actively engaged in getting up the biggest blizzard of the year. The air is thick with snow and the wind is blowing a perfect gale. Of such things as these are blizzards made, and so well developed is this one that at times it is impossible to see across the streets of the village, so dense are the clouds of snow."—Republic, March 5, 1881.

<sup>12</sup>"The depth of snow was very great. It was estimated that the average depth in the cuts on the Milwaukee line between Jackson and Fulda was ten feet. During the winter the Minneapolis Tribune printed letters from Heron Lake correspondents, telling of the wonderful depth of snow. One said it would be impossible to give an idea of the appearance of the prairie country except by imagining that the ocean, when lashed by a terrible tempest,

March 19. Milwaukee opened east of Fairmont.

March 30. Sioux City line clear east of Worthington and first train in six weeks (lacking two days) reaches Heron Lake.

March 31. Storm. Three hundred shovelers attack drifts on the Milwaukee.

April 1. Milwaukee road open.

April 5. First train from Sioux City arrives. Carries letters dated February 21. Road open three days.

April 7. Fuel and food staples meager at Heron Lake. Reports only one train in five weeks.

April 8. Snow. All railroads again blockaded.

April 11. More snow.

April 12. North wind drifts snow and completely fills railroads.

April 13. Thermometer registers zero.

April 16. Train reaches Heron Lake from the east.

April 17. Sioux City road opened whole length. First freight train in eleven weeks delivers freight at Heron Lake. Milwaukee road opens and freight is received at Jackson and Lakefield.<sup>13</sup>

For a few days there was fairly regular traffic on the railroads. Then came the floods, caused by the melting snow, and traffic was again suspended. For ten days not a train ran over the Sioux City & St. Paul road and it was May 2 before regular train service was established. Nearly 1,000 feet of the Milwaukee track was swept away by Okabena creek, but the Des

could be suddenly congealed—waves, breakers and flying spray—and held white and icy. The same writer said that a grove of trees near his place (the trees being nearly 25 feet high) was completely covered by a great snow drift, which was so heavily crusted that his children coasted down the drift and had high frolics over the buried trees. Another correspondent told of houses along the Des Moines river being buried in snow so that the occupants had to cut holes in the roof for ingress and egress.

<sup>13</sup>"Freight is plenty now. Merchants have been out of nearly all kinds of supplies. At one time they were out of oil, candles, sugar, soap and many more useful articles. It has been almost impossible to get meat."—Lakefield Correspondent, April 23, 1881.

Moines river bridge stood the test, and train service was established after a few days.

The Des Moines river suddenly became a raging torrent, leaped out of its banks, and inundated and destroyed valuable property. The river began to rise Sunday, April 17, and continued to increase in volume until Saturday, April 23, when it was 24 feet above low water mark—the highest point in its history. It left its channel to sweep over meadows and fields, covering with a terrific current nearly one-half the valley, and in some places lapping the very foothills a quarter of a mile from its former bed.

The greatest damage was done in the village of Jackson. The 100-foot iron span bridge that had been erected two years before at a cost of \$2,000 was broken from its mooring on the night of the 21st by the immense cakes of ice that were battered against it. It was reduced to a mass of broken timbers and bent steel, but was rescued and anchored in the south part of town. A wild waste of raging water lapped the very dooryards in the eastern part of the village. Several houses had to be vacated, and many barns were entirely flooded. Colman's lumber yard was in many places covered with eight feet of water, and hard work was done to save the stock. Paul's lumber yard was also damaged with water to some extent. On Saturday and Sunday Jackson had the appearance of a lumbering camp. Thirty or more men were engaged at the bayou hauling out lumber and piling it on shore.

Bridges at Brownsburg, Okabena and in Sioux Valley were carried away by the raging waters. Skinner's mill was also harmed to some extent. Otherwise the damage caused by the floods was not great; there were a few losses in Jackson, besides those mentioned, of a few hundred dollars each.

An average crop was raised in 1881, and the farmers were placed in better condition than they had been, perhaps, at any previous time in the county's history. Prices ranged good and there was a market for everything raised.

The last built railroad to touch Jackson county soil was the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern (now the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific), which was built from Spirit Lake to Worthington during the summer of 1882, the road reaching Worthington October 7. The road passes through the extreme southwestern corner of the county, only about four miles being in Jackson county.

There was a healthy increase in population during 1882. There was no rush, such as characterized the early seventies, but each week during the spring and summer months witnessed the arrival of a few settlers. A county immigration association was formed in the spring, which set forth the advantages of the county in printed matter and resulted in bringing a few new settlers. The 1882 crops was a good one, and all parts of the county enjoyed prosperous times. Thirty-six hundred sixty-six acres were sown to wheat that year, from which were harvested 46,361 bushels, an average of twelve and two-thirds bushels per acre. Sixty-five hundred seventy-four acres were planted to corn.

Another death in the winter storms—the first since the fatalities of 1872—occurred in Wisconsin township January 19, 1883. The victim was Henry Curtis, an aged man who made his home with Mrs. Miles Lindsley. He was proceeding home from John K. Johnson's place, three-quarters of a mile distant, when he evidently became fatigued, and, lying down to rest, was overcome by the cold and perished.

Scores of land buyers visited Jackson county in the fall of 1883, and invested

and became permanent residents. Crops were good. Corn was slightly injured by an early frost, but small grain and vegetables yielded abundantly. According to the official returns, the cereal acreage for 1883 was as follows: Wheat, 5,009; corn, 5,043; oats, 6,977; barley, 1,452; flax, 4,262.

In the whole history of Jackson county, up to the late nineties, there never was such a year for advancement as 1884. It was a jubilee year. Several causes added to the effect. Principal among them was the rapid settlement caused by throwing on the market the railroad lands and other lands withdrawn from settlement in 1866. There can be no doubt this boom would have occurred years before and the county become thickly settled and divided into small farms had these lands been available. The lands were placed on the market at a reasonable price, considering their eligible location and the richness of the soil. The Jackson Republic of August 15, 1884, told of the changed conditions:

Land is no longer a drug in the market but is rapidly rising in value and is passing from the ownership of the state and of railroad companies into the hands of hundreds of settlers; farms are no longer deserted, but new estates are being opened in every township; people are not leaving—they are locating in this county daily and by the score; big crops are the result of better farming by encouraged farmers; thousands of cattle and sheep graze on the prairies, and nearly every farmer yearly sells enough fat stock of some kind to give him plenty of cash; mortgages are being lifted from the farm and new houses and barns built thereon; creameries and hay presses are returning splendid profits to the farmers from sources which have hitherto yielded them little or nothing; beautiful groves surround their homes and diversify the surface of a once unbroken prairie.

The rush for the newly opened lands of Jackson county began early in the spring, the buyers spreading out into every township. Go where one might, one found farms, once deserted on account of misfortunes, showing fresh furrows, found smoke arising from chimneys of new houses,

found landseekers spying out choice pieces of land. Sioux Valley township, which had been one of the least densely populated townships, was especially fortunate in securing settlers; the township became rapidly settled with progressive German families. Very little of the land passed into the hands of speculators; nearly all buyers were farmers who at once took possession and made improvements. As a writer of the time expressed it: "The growth of Jackson county this year is based upon the healthful pulsations of natural and genuine merit and appreciated resources. It is a hearty bloom of vigorous youth, not a feverish bloom of fickle speculation. It has come to stay."

Adding to the prevailing prosperity was an enormous crop, which commanded a big price. It had been found that exclusive wheat farming could not be depended upon, and farmers had turned their attention largely to the raising of flax, hay and livestock. Flax growing became one of the big industries, and it yielded a big profit in this year of jubilee. Hay also ruled high in price, and large quantities were put up. Hundreds of car loads of flax, hay and livestock were exported during the year.<sup>14</sup>

The rush of landseekers continued during the fall months, and the land agents were kept busy until winter piloting prospective buyers over the county.<sup>15</sup> Over 70,000 acres of land, equivalent to more than three full townships, were put on the tax rolls for the first time in 1884. The 70,000 acres of added lands were divided as follows:

<sup>14</sup>The acreage sown in 1884 was as follows: Wheat, 4,815; corn, 3,848; oats, 8,546; barley, 2,351; flax, 7,241.

<sup>15</sup>W. T. Hansen, of Chicago, became the owner of large tracts of Jackson county land, and the bulk of the sales in 1884 were made by him through his agent, G. A. Albertus.

	Acres.
Internal Improvement lands sold.....	30,786
School lands sold.....	9,268
Final entries government lands.....	4,085
St. Paul & Chicago Ry. lands deeded.....	80
Southern Minnesota Ry. lands deeded..	2,681
St. Paul & Sioux City Ry. lands deeded..	21,324
Sioux City & St. Paul Ry. lands deeded..	104
Southern Minnesota Ry. contracted lands	1,680
St. Paul & Chicago contracted lands.....	40
Total .....	70,048

The results of prosperous times were seen in building improvements in all parts of the county and in the prompt payment of debts. The farmers were at last firmly on their feet, and the high road to wealth was henceforth open. The recovery from the grasshopper scourge was almost complete. In December, 1884, the Jackson Republic said of the progress during the twelve-month just closing: "The year 1884 is dying. Let it pass away honored and beloved by the people of Jackson county. It has brought them more peace, prosperity and happiness than any cycle since the county was organized."

In July, 1884, came the promise of another railroad. This was the Iowa & Minnesota Northern, which agreed to build a road from some point in northern Iowa to the village of Jackson. Secretary Hubbel, of the I. & M. N., stated on behalf of the corporation that the road would be built provided the townships of Petersburg, Middletown, Des Moines and Wisconsin would vote the company a bonus of five per cent of their assessed valuation for 1883, less the amount of their indebtedness. This would make the amount each would have to furnish as follows: Petersburg, \$3,000; Middletown, \$4,000; Des Moines, \$9,200; Wisconsin, \$4,000. Elections were held and the bonds voted in three of the townships. In Des Moines the bonds carried, 95 to 3; in Middletown, 22 to 6; in Petersburg, 13 to 9; while they were defeated in Wisconsin, 26 to 35. For lack of capital or some other reason, the

company failed to carry out its plans, and nothing more was heard of the road.

The year 1885 was noted for its improvements. Those who had purchased land in the fall of 1884 built their houses and began farming the next spring. A good crop was raised, adding to the financial standing of Jackson county farmers. The crop statistics for the year were as follows:

Grain	Acres	Bushels	Average
Wheat .....	4813	76,323	15 85
Oats .....	9013	347,167	38 40
Corn .....	3748	97,561	26 03
Flax .....	8259	105,393	12 72
Barley .....	2338	56,033	23.96
Total .....	28,171	682,277	

The population in 1885 was 6,110, a gain of 1,304 in five years. By precincts the population was as follows:

Alba .....	136
Belmont .....	419
Christiania .....	485
Delafield .....	401
Des Moines .....	348
Enterprise .....	163
Ewington .....	61
Heron Lake .....	440
Heron Lake Village .....	280
Hunter .....	216
Jackson .....	608
Kimball .....	295
LaCrosse .....	374
Middletown .....	281
Minneota .....	138
Petersburg .....	358
Round Lake .....	153
Rost .....	171
Sioux Valley .....	208
Weimer .....	278
West Heron Lake .....	96
Wisconsin .....	201
Total .....	6,110

Prosperous times continued during the first half of 1886. During the spring months many new settlers came and bought Jackson county farms, the western part of the county receiving the bulk of

the immigration. The Minnesota Citizen (Lakefield) said on March 26, 1886:

More settlers are coming in this spring than any two before. It seems that almost every freight train brings from two to three car loads of goods. And the new arrivals are the very best farmers. A goodly number of them are from Illinois, and they are bringing with them good teams, farming implements and considerable money. Load after load of lumber is being hauled from this place this spring, and the building boom is lively.

The county received a set-back that fall—the first in a number of years. Owing to a drought only about a half crop was raised. Not since the grasshopper days had the cry of hard times been so general. In addition to the crop failure, what was raised had to be offered on a low market. The cattle and hog market was also ruinously low.

The first contest for the removal of the county seat from Jackson to Lakefield—the beginning of a twenty years contest for county seat honors—came in 1886. It was the forerunner of some of the most bitter contests ever waged for county seat removal in Minnesota, contests which engendered ill feeling between the people of the two towns interested and caused a division between the east and west ends of the county in many things.

Prior to 1885 there had been no satisfactory county seat removal law on the Minnesota statute books. That year, on March 5, the legislature passed an act providing that when a majority of the freeholders who were legal voters and residents of a county should present to the county commissioners a petition asking for a change in the location of the county seat it became the duty of the county board to submit the question at the next general election. If a majority of all electors voting cast their ballots for removal, the county seat should be moved. If the question of removal was not decided in the affirmative, the question could not be voted upon again for five years, and

if the question should once be decided negatively it required a three-fifths vote to accomplish a removal at any subsequent election.

Soon after the passage of this bill the people of Lakefield began to agitate the matter of removal to their town. During the early eighties the bulk of the immigration had been to the western part of the county, and Lakefield, situated almost in the exact center of the county, had grown to be a village of considerable importance. The first mention in the press of a possible attempt being made to remove the county seat was made on July 31, 1885, when a writer signing himself "Brutus" published an article in the Minnesota Citizen (Lakefield), calling upon the people of the north and west parts of the county to bestir themselves in an attempt to secure the county seat for Lakefield under the provisions of the new law. Among other things, "Brutus" said:

Now, you that are interested in Lakefield want to go to work and organize a society to put this thing through, make arrangements with your heavy landowners to secure the county from loss on buildings, have the fool-killer to operate on anyone who proposes an underhand measure of any kind. Meet sophistry and cries of delay with sound reasoning and patient but determined explanation; in due time, when the question has been thoroughly discussed and understood, circulate your petitions and present them to the commissioners at their meeting next January, showing such a majority in favor of the change that the matter is practically settled at once.

From the very earliest days, until the eighties, Jackson had been the county's center of population and business life. On its townsite the first settlement had been made, and for years practically all the settled portions of Jackson county were in close proximity to that village. While in later years the bulk of the settlement had been made in other portions of the county, Jackson continued to hold the position of leading town in the county. Therefore, when removal agitation was

begun the people of Jackson did not become much alarmed. The Republic treated the matter in a spirit of levity and said (July 31, 1885):

The Lakefield Citizen, it is reported, will come out this week with a vigorous fight in its columns for the removal of the county seat, and about 1,000 copies will be circulated throughout the county. If this is true, the Citizen is cruel beyond expression of words. What are the sweltering Jacksonites down in this breathless valley going to do with a county seat fight on their hands and the thermometer 100 in the shade? Be merciful, Brother Seely.

Formal action was not taken until the spring of 1886. On February 20 a meeting was held at Lakefield, at which it was decided to try for the honor. On March 9 the townships of Hunter and Heron Lake, in which the then unincorporated village of Lakefield was located, each voted to issue and donate \$1,000 bonds to aid in the construction of a court house at Lakefield, the same proposition being lost in Rost township by a vote of 17 to 10. The Citizen of March 12 reported that the owner of the Lakefield townsite offered to donate \$3,000 for the same purpose and that other citizens of the village would give \$1,500.

During the month of May petitions were circulated, asking that the county commissioners submit the question of the removal of the county seat at the general election on November 2, 1886. The petition received 604 signatures, and it was presented to the board of county commissioners July 27. Two days later the commissioners considered the petition. A petition asking that the board do not take favorable action was presented, and John K. Brown, of Jackson, presented a written objection to having the petition filed with the county auditor—a necessary step if the question were to be submitted at the November election. The commissioners, by a vote of three to two, decided to deliver the petition to the county auditor for

publication. Those who voted in the affirmative were Christian Lewis, J. G. Fodnes and A. E. Kilen; those in the negative, J. W. Cowing and John Baldwin. The last two named explained their reasons for so voting as follows: That no proof had been produced to show that the petition had been signed by a majority of the county's freeholders who were legal voters.

The filing of the petition did not close the question, however, and the matter was again taken up in September. The Jackson people decided to contest the petition before the board of county commissioners and prevent the question from coming to a vote, using the argument that many of the signers were men who were not freeholders, but men who held land under contract; that as a matter of fact the petition did not contain the names of a majority of the freeholders, as the law provided. For three days of the week ending September 24 there was a lively discussion before the county board. Attorney T. J. Knox appeared for the Jackson people and analyzed the weak points of the petition. Attorney Betzer appeared for Lakefield in defense of the petition. The situation was complicated by the resignation of Commissioner A. E. Kilen. H. C. Sether was appointed to the vacancy, and an adjournment taken to September 28.

On the 28th the commissioners decided that the petition did not comply with the law, in that it was found that only 330 freeholders who were legal voters had signed the petition, while 433 had not signed. On the final vote Commissioners Lewis and Fodnes voted to have the question submitted, while Commissioners Cowing, Baldwin and Sether voted not to submit it at the general election.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>The official proceedings of the board for September 28 are as follows:

"4:30 p. m. Moved by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Fodnes that the board now proceed to count the names of the legal voters and freeholders on the list for and against the removal of the county seat."

Not much of historical importance occurred in the county during the late eighties. The people were blessed with good crops, and prosperous times resulted. A few new settlers arrived each year, new farms were put under cultivation, and the country otherwise improved.

One event that should be recorded for this period was another—and the last—severe blizzard. In the history of the northwest there have been a few winter storms of such unnatural severity that they stand out as events of historical importance. The most severe of these awful storms was the blizzard of January 7, 8 and 9, 1873, an account of which has been given. Ranking second was the terrible blizzard of January 12, 1888, when scores of people perished in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Fortunately, there was no less of life in Jackson county, although several were caught in the storm. The Lakefield Standard of January 19, 1888, told of the blizzard:

Thursday of last week [January 12] one of the worst snow storms known for years raged over the entire northwest. All day long there was a heavy snow-fall and a mild wind from the south. In the evening the wind suddenly changed to the northwest, and the temperature grew colder. The air seemed filled with all the snow banks of the country and it was not safe to venture out of doors, as objects could

"The motion was lost.

"8 p. m. All present.

"Two petitions, containing the names and signatures of 26 freeholders who had signed the petition for the removal of the county seat from Jackson to Lakefield, were presented, withdrawing the names of said 26 freeholders from said petition for all purposes whatever. Said petitions, after being presented, were taken by the attorney representing Lakefield and subsequently lost. All parties admit that such petitions were so presented and contained the names of such number of freeholders withdrawing their names from said petition for the removal of said county seat.

"The board then proceeded to count the names on the lists of freeholders and legal voters within the county for and against the petition to remove the county seat from Jackson to Lakefield and found that 330 legal voters and freeholders had signed the petition for the removal and 433 who had not signed said petition.

"It was moved by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Fodnes that the question of the removal of the county seat from Jackson to Lakefield be submitted to the voters of Jackson county at the next general election, November 2, 1886.

"The motion was lost."



not be distinguished twenty feet away.

Jackson county, so far as heard from, escaped luckily, as no human lives have been reported lost. A number of farmers were overtaken on the prairie by the storm but escaped alive.

The county seat removal question was not again opened during the late eighties, but preparations were made to take up the fight again at some future time. The legislature on April 13, 1889, passed a law authorizing the townships of Heron Lake and Hunter to issue bonds, in sums not exceeding five per cent of the assessed valuation, for the purpose of raising funds to apply on the erection of a court house at the point the voters of the county might select as the location for the county seat.<sup>17</sup> As the people of Heron Lake and Hunter townships had no intention of furnishing money to build a court house at Jackson—where the county seat remained—the bonds were not issued.

The federal census of 1890 gave Jackson county a population of 8,924. This was a gain of 2,814 in five years, the largest gain in numbers during any previous five year period. Prosperous times continued during the first few years of the decade beginning with 1890. Good crops were raised, and many new settlers from the middle states came to Jackson county to purchase the comparatively cheap lands. Said the Jackson Republic of August 14, 1891:

A little inquiry among the real estate men develops the fact that the outlook for Jackson county was never brighter than at the present time. The bountiful crops have attracted the attention of eastern people, and the demand for wild land is unprecedented. The greater portion of this land is being sold to newcomers for actual settlement next spring and the balance is taken by resident farmers who desire to increase the size of their farms—a sure in-

dication of prosperity. . . . Register Baldwin says the number of transfers is increasing rapidly, while the number of mortgages filed shows a healthy decrease.

There was a slight ripple in county seat removal matters during the winter of 1892-93. In Nobles county the village of Adrian was trying to wrest the county seat from Worthington, when someone developed a plan to settle the matter in both Nobles and Jackson counties. The plan was to form three counties from the two, with Jackson, Worthington and Adrian as the county seats. That would have given both Nobles county towns county seat honors, and, by taking part of western Jackson county for the new county, it would undoubtedly have given Jackson such an advantage that the question of removal to Lakefield would never have been brought up again. Nobles county people seriously discussed the question of taking such a proposition to the legislature of 1893, but Jackson county people never seriously considered the matter, and the project "died a bornin'."

An event of the year 1893 was a cyclone which visited the county on the evening of Wednesday, July 5, and which resulted in the destruction of many thousand dollars' worth of property. The principal damage was in the villages of Heron Lake and Lakefield and in the townships of Heron Lake, West Heron Lake and Hunter. Barns, outhouses, fences, chimneys and, in some instances, houses were demolished by the fury of the storm.

In the summer of 1893 came the memorable panic, followed by a few years of hard times. Business was for a time paralyzed, several business houses failed, and a period of depression followed, which was not entirely broken until the latter part of the nineties. But this period of hard times was not so keenly felt in Jackson county as it was in many of the less

<sup>17</sup>A proviso of the law was as follows:

"Said board of supervisors shall not put such bonds upon the market, nor sell any part thereof, until the site of said court house is legally established at the location designated in such petition. And if said court house site be not established at such place within two years after such bonds are voted such bonds shall become null and void and shall be cancelled by such supervisors."

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THE RIVALS



THE OLD COURT HOUSE



LAKEFIELD CITY HALL

avored portions of the country. The panic was preceded by a decade of flourishing times. Nearly all had prospered and were in a position to weather the financial crash and its resultant period of depression.

The second contest for the removal of the county seat to Lakefield came in the spring of 1894. The Minnesota county seat removal law at that time (as it does now) provided that the petition for removal must contain the signatures of at least sixty per cent of the number of electors voting at the last preceding general election; that if the board of county commissioners found that the required number of signatures had been obtained they should call a special election to vote upon the question; that if fifty-five per cent of the voters at such special election should declare in favor of removal, the county seat should be changed. Ever since the contest of eight years before the people of Lakefield had been making preparations and laying their plans for renewing the conflict when the conditions were propitious. They believed the time had come in 1894.

The opening gun was fired in February, when a number of prominent citizens of Lakefield and vicinity issued a call for a mass meeting to decide upon the advisability of reopening the conflict. The meeting was held at Lakefield February 24, at which time it was unanimously decided to proceed. The following were chosen an executive committee to have charge of the campaign: N. J. Scott, John Frederickson, H. J. Hollister, M. R. Cluss, C. Young, William Searles, George Sawyer, C. Gove, John Crawford and C. Trade-well. In a platform adopted it was stated that the removal forces intended to conduct a clean and honorable campaign and on the merits of the issue. The official notice to circulate the petition was drawn up on February 24 and signed by

John Crawford, N. J. Scott and W. A. Funk.

The work of circulating the petition was begun on March 12, and on the 27th the petition, containing the signatures of 1,431 voters, was filed with the county auditor. The board of county commissioners, composed of Henry Thielvoldt, J. W. Cowing, H. K. Rue, George Erbes and Thomas Chesterson, met in special session April 16 to determine the standing of the petition. No united effort was made by the people of Jackson to secure withdrawals from the petition or to fight the instrument at this meeting of the board, although W. B. Sketch, of Jackson, filed objections to each and every affidavit contained in the petition, maintaining that there was no evidence that the names on the petition constituted sixty per cent of the legal voters at the last general election, or that the notices of publication had been legally published. On the seventeenth the board took favorable action and issued the necessary certificate, calling the election for May 15.

So soon as the action was taken that made an election certain, the people of Lakefield opened the campaign with a clever piece of work—the building of a court house at Lakefield. A special meeting of the Lakefield village council was held on the evening of April 17, when it was decided to build at once a city hall of brick and stone, the free use of which should be given to Jackson county for court house purposes in the event of the removal of the county seat. Lots one and two, in block five, were purchased for a site. Architect Thayer, of Mankato, was telegraphed for, and he arrived on the evening of the 18th. Plans for a building, 50x60 feet, 30 feet high, were drawn, and the contract, calling for the completion of the building by May 10, was made with A. W. Schweppe & Company, of St.

James. Construction was begun on the morning of the 19th, and it was rushed to completion. After the work was started a special village election was held and bonds to the amount of \$8,000 were voted to pay for the building. This structure, much praised, much maligned, played an important part in the history of Jackson county. With the possible exception of the old court house, it is the most thoroughly discussed building ever erected in the county.

That the offer of this building for court house purposes should be known to be made in good faith, a quit claim deed to the lots upon which the building was being erected was given to H. J. Hollister, G. G. Sawyer and N. J. Scott, and these gentlemen executed a bond and signed a lease to the board of county commissioners, binding themselves to provide the Lakefield court house for county purposes for a term of ten years for a nominal rental price of one dollar per year. The majority of the board of county commissioners agreed to accept the lease in case the county seat was moved. The offer of this building doubtless won many votes for Lakefield in the election. One of the principal arguments of Jackson had been that removal would necessarily cause the expenditure of considerable money to build a court house.

The campaign which followed was an exciting one and very close. When the votes were counted on the evening of May 15, it was found that Jackson was the victor by forty votes. The total vote was 2,803, of which Lakefield received 1,502 and Jackson 1,301. To have won, Lakefield must have received 1,542, or fifty-five per cent of the total vote. The vote by precincts was as follows:

PRECINCT	Lakefield	Jackson
Alba .....	60	.....
Belmont.....	47	103
Christiania .....	58	68
Delafield.....	138	7
Des Moines.....	10	119
Enterprise .....	8	96
Ewington .....	66	1
Heron Lake Township.....	150	1
Hunter.....	98	22
Kimball.....	12	98
LaCrosse.....	81	31
Middletown.....	17	95
Minneota.....	56	27
Petersburg .....	9	135
Rost .....	93	1
Round Lake .....	87	9
Sioux Valley .....	99	6
Weimer .....	82	8
West Huron Lake .....	68	.....
Wisconsin .....	5	94
Jackson .....	3	322
Lakefield.....	159	2
Heron Lake Village.....	96	44
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1502</b>	<b>1301</b>

## CHAPTER XIII.

### CURRENT EVENTS—1895-1910.

**T**HE progress of a community is reflected to a considerable extent in its census returns. That Jackson county's progress had been steady is attested by the fact that from 1860, when enumerators found inhabitants in Jackson county for the first time, up to the present time, each five year census had shown a gain in population. The greatest increase during any of these five year periods occurred from 1890 to 1895. According to the state census for the last mentioned year, the population of Jackson county was 12,324. This was an increase of 3,400 in five years. During the decade the county had more than doubled in population. Divided by precincts the population of 1895 was as follows:

Alba .....	308
Belmont .....	680
Christiania .....	629
DeLafield .....	279
Des Moines .....	605
Enterprise .....	463
Ewington .....	395
Heron Lake Township .....	608
Heron Lake Village .....	646
Hunter .....	452
Jackson .....	1,356
Kimball .....	501
LaCrosse .....	510
Lakefield .....	519
Middletown .....	553
Minneota .....	431
Petersburg .....	659
Rost .....	400
Round Lake .....	457
Sioux Valley .....	496
Weimer .....	391

West Heron Lake .....	258
Wilder .....	252
Wisconsin .....	476
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>12,324</b>

Considerable railroad history was made in Jackson county during 1895 and 1896, but no railroads were built. For many years the people of the county had tried to secure the building of a north and south road; they had approached every company in the country to the south—both those with lines of railroad and those without; they had offered inducements to company after company, but none was found who would build into the Milwaukee territory. Finally, several capitalists of Jackson formed a company and obtained a charter with the hope of some day being able to make arrangements to build a north and south road. The proposed road was named the Jackson Southern.

In 1895 the promoters decided to undertake the work of building the first section, from Jackson south to some point on the Burlington. Several of the precincts in the southwest corner of the county, which would be most benefited, were asked to issue bonds to aid the work, and on October 8 the following voted bonds: Des Moines, \$8,000; Wisconsin, \$8,000; Middletown, \$9,000; Jackson, \$11,000. Bonds did not carry in Petersburg, which was

asked to give \$9,000. A meeting of the stockholders was held October 11, when preliminary arrangements for securing right-of-way and commencing grading were made. Another meeting was held at Jackson October 19, which was reported by the Jackson County Pilot as follows:

On last Saturday, October 19, the board of directors of the Jackson Southern railroad held an important session in this city. Among those present were Messrs. J. K. Brown, E. E. Carpenter, Alexander Fiddes, P. H. Berge, J. W. Cowing, T. J. Knox, of Jackson; J. J. Bell, of Des Moines, Iowa; and Malcolm Johnson, of Galveston, Texas.

Among other important business transacted, an assessment of ten per cent was made on the stockholders, which it is presumed will meet with a hearty response, as it is necessary to have funds to carry on the work. Arrangements were also perfected for building the road, work on which has already begun, and dirt will be flying along the line by next week.

The company has made arrangements to push the work to completion at as early a date as possible, and if December shall be an open month, like last year, the iron horse will neigh upon the suburbs of Jackson before the dawning of the new year.

The road will not prove so great a blessing to Petersburg township as it would have done had the bond proposition carried in that town. It is the intention of the company to locate a station in Middletown and build up a little village there. This will certainly prove a boon to the farmers of Middletown and will amply repay them for the aid voted.

Before the close of October a large part of the right-of-way had been secured and surveyors had run the line. Early in November the contract for grading five of the eight miles between Jackson and the state line was let, and by the middle of the month a large force of graders was at work. The winter was an open one, and the making of the roadbed was continued nearly all winter, and most of the heavy grading was completed. The company was handicapped for lack of funds, but early in March, 1896, a contract for the sale of \$25,000 worth of the township bonds was made, and the work was continued. In May the grading was completed, and the next month tracklaying

was begun. Then, suddenly, the work ceased; lack of paid-up capital was responsible for the failure.

On the evening of Friday, August 19, 1898, the county was visited by a destructive wind storm, which resulted in two deaths and destruction to property to the value of \$100,000. The storm came from the north and did its first damage in the village of Wilder. There the roof of the main building of Breck college was blown off, the church and Woodman's hall were demolished, and D. L. Riley's lumber shed was wrecked, as well as several other buildings damaged.

The storm then lifted, going over Delafield and Heron Lake townships, but dropped down again at Lakefield. There the Jackson County State Bank building was partially unroofed, the Norwegian Lutheran church was moved from its foundation and wrecked beyond repair, William Searles' brick store building was struck by lightning and damaged, Charles Nelson's house was completely demolished, many outhouses and barns were blown down. At Okabena a box car was blown from a sidetrack onto the main line and thence eastward on the main line of the Milwaukee eleven miles. The wind then seemed to change to the opposite direction, for the car was blown back the same distance, without any damage whatever having been done it.

From Lakefield the storm proceeded south through Hunter and Minneota townships. Much damage was done along its course through those precincts, some farms being swept entirely clear of buildings. In Minneota the tornado turned east, at right angles. Nearly every bit of property along the course of the storm in Middletown was destroyed. In Petersburg the damage also was great, and in that township occurred the deaths. The victims were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Eggen-

stein, who were temporarily living in the upper part of their barn, their house being under construction. The barn was completely blown to pieces, and Mr. and Mrs. Eggenstein were killed instantly. Neighboring counties suffered some loss as a result of the storm, but its main strength seems to have been expended in Jackson county.

After the hard times period following the panic of 1893, Jackson county entered upon a prosperous era—the most prosperous in its whole history, before or since. During the years 1897 to 1902, inclusive, excellent crops were the rule, and hundreds of new settlers came to share in the bounteous times. Land values jumped several hundred per cent; farm lands that had sold for \$10 to \$20 per acre advanced to \$35 to \$100 per acre. It was a time of unprecedented prosperity, and continued until the disastrous year 1903.

The census of 1900 showed the county to have a population of 14,793, divided among the several precincts as follows:

Alba .....	411
Alpha .....	209
Belmont .....	714
Christiania .....	500
Delafield .....	453
Des Moines .....	688
Enterprise .....	520
Ewington .....	478
Heron Lake Township .....	589
Heron Lake Village .....	928
Hunter .....	572
Jackson .....	1,756
Kimball .....	597
LaCrosse .....	517
Lakefield .....	862
Middletown .....	570
Minnesota .....	506
Petersburg .....	773
Rost .....	491
Round Lake .....	513
Sioux Valley .....	593
Weimer .....	419
West Heron Lake .....	375
Wilder .....	174
Wisconsin .....	525
Total .....	14,793

The third struggle for the possession

of the county seat of Jackson county came in 1900. The five years which the law provided should intervene between elections for the removal of county seats had then passed, and the people of Lakefield and their friends in the western and northern parts of the county believed they stood an excellent show of securing the removal from Jackson, basing their belief on the fact that Lakefield was located in almost the exact center of the county, while Jackson was far from the geographical center and no longer could claim to be the center of population.<sup>1</sup>

Early in the spring some preliminary work was done in the way of finding out the sentiment of the people, and on Wednesday evening, April 4, the business men of Lakefield met and formally started the contest. The next day a committee composed of H. J. Hollister, M. H. Evans and E. T. Smith gave notice that the petition for removal would be circulated on April 23. This was published officially April 7, and the contest was started. On April 10 the people of Jackson, represented by T. J. Knox, Alexander Fiddes, Niels Handevitt, J. C. Edlin, R. S. Robertson, B. W. Ashley, G. G. Arentson, C. Tichacek and M. B. Hutchinson, gave notice that they would contest the removal, this notice being published April 13.

For a month the Lakefield workers canvassed the county securing signatures to the petition and were very successful. On Tuesday, May 22, the petition was filed with the county auditor. It contained 1,648 names—321 more than the number required to bring the question to a vote.<sup>2</sup> Notice was at once given of a special ses-

<sup>1</sup>The center of population at the time was on the northwest quarter of section two, Hunter township. The census of 1900 showed that there were 7,118 people in the north half of the county and 7,675 in the south half. In the two western tiers of townships the population was 4,725; in the two eastern tiers, 6,912; in the middle tier, 3,156.

<sup>2</sup>The total vote in 1898 was 2,211, and sixty per cent of that was 1,327—the number required by law.



sion of the county board to be held June 11, to take action in the matter of the petition.

When the commissioners met, W. B. Sketch, of Jackson, filed a written objection to the consideration of the petition on the ground that the notice of intention to circulate petition was not in the form required by law. He filed further objection on the ground that Commissioner Crawford was disqualified from sitting as a member of the board of county commissioners; also on the ground of bribery having been offered by the village of Lakefield; also that County Attorney E. T. Smith was disqualified from acting as legal advisor to the board on account of being directly interested in the removal of the county seat. The commissioners decided that they had jurisdiction, and, after having stricken three names from the petition, they held that the required number of signatures had been obtained and that it was in accordance with the law. The proper certificate was made and filed, and July 10 was named as the date for holding the election.

The campaign which ensued was spirited. Workers for both towns canvassed the county thoroughly. Ill feeling developed between the two communities, and mud slinging was not barred; in many instances personal abuse was used in place of argument. Again the people of Lakefield offered their public building to the county for a rental price of one dollar per year, providing the people voted them the county seat. A bond in the sum of \$30,000 guaranteeing this was executed July 3.<sup>3</sup>

Jackson was again successful at the polls, winning by the narrow margin of

<sup>3</sup>The makers of the bond were M. H. Evans, John Frederickson, William Searles, J. W. Daubney, H. J. Hollister, Thomas Crawford, C. M. Gage, G. W. Curtiss, A. F. Hanf, Adolph Bettin, G. H. Wood, George Britsch, C. S. Beall, S. Searles, W. F. Timm, D. L. Riley, F. L. Leonard, H. A. Rhodes, A. A. Fosness and William Kauder.

twenty-seven votes. The total vote counted was 3,558,<sup>4</sup> of which Lakefield received 1,930 and Jackson 1,628. To have won Lakefield must have received 1,957 votes—the 55 per cent of the total vote. Following is the result by precincts:

PRECINCT	Lakefield	Jackson
Alba .....	89	10
Belmont .....	70	96
Christiania .....	84	47
Delafield .....	157	9
Des Moines .....	15	137
Enterprise .....	4	120
Ewington .....	98	13
Heron Lake Township ..	145	.....
Hunter .....	108	25
Kimball .....	44	86
LcCrosse .....	71	34
Middletown .....	9	115
Minneota .....	84	29
Petersburg .....	13	156
Rost .....	116	2
Round Lake .....	91	27
Sioux Valley .....	108	16
Weimer .....	101	10
West Heron Lake .....	94	12
Wisconsin .....	22	154
Jackson .....	-	459
Lakefield .....	265	.....
Heron Lake Village .....	135	71
<b>Total.. . . . .</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>1628</b>

A celebration in honor of the victory was held at Jackson on July 14, when the exercises were held in a downpour of rain. Fifteen hundred visitors were present to assist in the jollification.

The vote had been so close that the people of Lakefield decided to take the matter into the courts, and on August 10 notice of a contest was served on the board of county commissioners. It was alleged on the part of Lakefield that the form of ballot used was misleading and did mislead voters, that voters were required to vote the Australian system when the law did not provide for so voting, that sev-

<sup>4</sup>The total number of ballots cast was 3,579, but several were improperly marked, so that only 3,558 were counted. If the per cent should be figured from the total number of ballots put in the ballot box, Lakefield was short thirty-eight votes of winning.

eral electors were kept from voting because of threats and intimidations, that in Middletown township voters were allowed to take ballots away from the polling place before voting, that in some precincts the judges counted fewer votes for Lakefield than had been cast for that town, that money was paid certain specified persons for voting against removal. A recount was demanded, and the people of Lakefield asked the court to declare the election void if it was found that fraud had been practiced.

In their answer to the charges the people of Jackson, by M. B. Hutchinson, filed in August, denied all the charges and alleged irregularity and fraud on the part of the people of Lakefield.

The case came to trial in the district court before Judge James H. Quinn on November 27. Attorneys George W. Wilson and H. G. Latourell appeared for Lakefield and Attorneys T. J. Knox and George W. Somerville for Jackson. A few witnesses were examined, and the case was submitted by briefs.

In his decision dated January 30, 1901, Judge Quinn dismissed the proceedings and said:

Upon the trial no evidence was offered in support of the allegations contained in the notice of contest or answer of the contestee as to fraud, bribery or other misconduct upon the part of the electors or others interested in said election. But the contestant urges that the election in question is void, for the reason that the ballot used was not such a ballot as the law provides shall be used in case of a removal of a county seat; that the Australian system is not the law under which the vote for the change of a county seat should be conducted, and that there has never been a legal canvass of the votes polled at such election, and that therefore the election so held should be declared null and void by an order of this court, for the reasons above set forth.

The contestant further insists that if the foregoing referred to order is refused, that section one of article eleven of the constitution is still in force, and that under it a bare majority vote is sufficient to change a county seat, notwithstanding the several amendments thereto, and that an order should be made for that

reason changing the county seat from the village of Jackson to the village of Lakefield.

The last contention on the part of the contestant, I am satisfied, is not well taken, and that the legislature has power to pass an act fixing the number of votes required to remove a county seat.

As to the proposition that such election should be declared void, it appears from the petition, as well as the evidence and admissions of the parties, that the election was duly called, and that it was held under and pursuant to chapter one of the general statutes of this state; that the ballot used was such as is provided for in that chapter and that it clearly informed the elector for what he was voting, and I am unable to see how he could have been misled or in any manner deceived by the use of such ballot, nor is the manner of the return by the judges of election to the county auditor questioned.

The county commissioners canvassed the vote on the 13th day of July, three days after the holding of the election, presumably under the provisions of section 650 of the general statutes of 1894.

No claim was made upon the trial that any fraud was perpetrated at any stage of the election or in canvassing the returns, and it clearly appears from the evidence had upon the trial that there was a total of 3,579 votes cast at such election, less than 55 per cent of which, viz: 1931, were cast in favor of the proposition to change the county seat.

It is therefore found as a conclusion of law that the contestant is not entitled to the relief asked for, and that such proceeding should be dismissed.

Let judgment be entered accordingly.

There was talk of appealing the case to the supreme court, but for several months no action was taken. Then exigencies arose, in connection with the campaign against the erection of a jail building, which demanded an appeal, and in July, 1901, Lakefield gave notice of appeal. The case was disposed of in the supreme court January 22, 1902, the decision being favorable to Jackson.

The construction of the county jail building at Jackson in 1901 and 1902 was an event of importance because of its bearing on the county seat removal question and because of the fact that it paved the way, to a certain extent, for the future construction of a court house. That those who favored the removal of the county seat to Lakefield realized its importance

is attested by the strenuous fight put up against its construction. Several injunctions were secured and a bitter fight continued until the building actually passed into the hands of the county.

The people of Jackson, realizing that the construction of a jail building would have a favorable influence upon the next county seat contest—which was sure to come—donated to the county a site for a jail building, with the proviso that title should revert to the village of Jackson in case the site should ever cease to be used for county jail purposes. The first official step toward erecting the building was taken early in July, 1901, when the county commissioners (Commissioners P. H. Berge, John M. Olson and Henry Thielvoldt voting yes, and Commissioners David Crawford and George Erbes voting no) passed a resolution that a jail be built according to plans furnished by Architect Kinney. On the same day a contract was made with the Pauly Jail & Manufacturing company, of St. Louis, for the erection of the building, to be completed March 1, 1902, and to cost \$17,450.

This procedure brought the friends of Lakefield to immediate activity. It was then that the appeal of the county seat removal case was made to the supreme court. An injunction, prohibiting the county commissioners from building a jail, was asked from the district court,<sup>5</sup> and Judge Quinn granted a temporary restraining order. The defendants moved to dissolve the writ of injunction, and on July 27 Judge Quinn did so.

After the court had removed the legal barrier, the county commissioners, in special session July 30 and 31, made arrangements to proceed with the work. It was decided to raise \$10,000 by bonding.

<sup>5</sup>The case was entitled *A. M. St. John, plaintiff, vs. P. D. McKellar, county auditor, David Crawford, P. H. Berge, Henry Thielvoldt, George Erbes and John M. Olson, county commissioners, defendants.*

and to utilize cash in the treasury for the balance. The former contract was rescinded and bids were called for, to be opened September 11. Again the Lakefield people appealed to the district court. Early in September they went before Judge Quinn and asked for an injunction restraining the commissioners from spending county money for a jail building and for other relief. This hearing was held at Fairmont September 10 before Judge Kingsley. His decision was to the effect that the commissioners had perfect legal authority to carry out their proposed plans; the injunction was refused.

Bids for the construction of the jail building were opened, and on September 12 a new contract was made with the Pauly Jail & Manufacturing company at a price of \$14,200. On January 7, 1902, the specifications were changed and \$3,200 was added to the contract price. The supreme court decision of January 22, 1902, on the matter of bonds furnished by the Lakefield people, effectually disposed of the claim that the injunction against the commissioners building a jail was still in force. For the time being all legal objection to proceeding with the jail building was removed.

Having received nothing but unfavorable decisions in their efforts to prevent the building of the jail, the Lakefield people next demanded an injunction prohibiting the commissioners from issuing the \$10,000 bonds, and in this they were successful. The case was entitled *William D. Hill vs. the county commissioners*, and was brought before Judge Quinn in March, 1902. On the 28th of that month the judge made an order, holding, among other things, that the county seat was at Jackson, that the county commissioners were vested with authority to contract for the building of a jail to the extent of all money in the treasury available for that

purpose, but that they must not enter into any contract that required the expenditure of more money than was so available. This, of course, prevented the bond issue, but the majority of the county board found a way out of the difficulty. On April 18, in special session, on the proposition of the Pauly Jail & Manufacturing company, the commissioners abrogated the contracts before made and entering into a new contract with the same company for the erection of the building (without the steel cells, etc.) at a price of \$9,600, which amount was available. The building was completed, accepted by the commissioners July 24, 1902, and a warrant drawn for the contract price. On September 23 the contract for the cell work was let to the same company for \$7,800, that amount then being available. The completed jail was accepted July 13, 1903, and a full settlement was made at that time.

As has been stated previously, prosperous times continued in Jackson county until the year 1903. That was a year of disasters and marked the beginning of a short era of depression, due to partial crop failures because of excessive rainfall.

The disasters of the year began May 22. For several days succeeding there were continual and awful rain, wind and electric storms that did great damage in all parts of the county, as well as in all southwestern Minnesota. Creeks and rivers overflowed and sloughs became vast lakes. Bridges were washed away, telephone and telegraph lines were destroyed, and the railroad lines were put out of commission. The damage to crops was great, and many buildings were wrecked by the wind.

The most disastrous wind storm, in the matter of loss of life and destruction to property, in the history of Jackson county occurred Tuesday evening, June 30,

1903. The death dealing tornado traversed portions of LaCrosse and Weimer townships and entered the northeast corner of Delafield, killing seven people and destroying property to the value of \$100,000. The killed were:

Mrs. Joseph Fritscher  
 Miss Aurelia Fritscher  
 Mrs. Fritscher's baby girl  
 Joseph Mathias  
 Daniel Gallagher  
 Ellen Gallagher  
 Nettie Gallagher

The Jackson County Times of July 4, 1903, tells of the storm as seen from Heron Lake:

About seven o'clock Tuesday evening a dense black cloud was seen to form on the lower horizon northwest of town that was perfectly stationary, but almost immediately after its formation a white cloud, which appeared to come from beyond the vision somewhere in the northeast, started towards it and was apparently engulfed in the heavier mass. This process continued for about ten or fifteen minutes, when all at once the dense black mass appeared to leap upward, leaving a clear space of a bright red tint between it and the horizon. After this sudden move it again became stationary for a few seconds, when it started again at a terrific speed directly towards Heron Lake, but in less time than it takes to describe it, in fact one might say the twinkling of an eye, it changed its course to almost direct northeast, when the work of destruction to life and property commenced.

The tornado struck the earth at the farm of Jerry Sullivan, on the southeast quarter of section 15, LaCrosse township, three and one-half miles northeast of Heron Lake. There the only damage was the destruction of a windmill and a hen house. Jerry Sullivan and Martin Larson, who were in the barn at the time, stated that the air was as hot as a blast from a furnace. From the Sullivan farm the storm traveled northeast to John Beichner's place, where it demolished the barn, granary, engine house, three bug-

gies and farm machinery and did considerable damage to the house. The family were in the house but escaped injury. The home of Chris Krieger, on the Powlitcheck farm, was struck, but the damage there was not great. The hog house was torn to pieces and the barn moved off its foundation. The family sought shelter in an out-door cellar.

The tornado had gained great force when it reached the farm home of John Mathias, and nothing but splinters of ruin were left of the barns, granaries and other outbuildings, while the large residence was almost a total wreck, although it was left on the foundation. A number of hogs were killed. With one exception all the members of the family were in the house during the storm and escaped injury. Joseph Mathias, twenty years of age, was in the field when the storm came up and was killed when on his way to the house by being struck by flying timbers. The Hager school house, nearby, was entirely destroyed and its ruins scattered over a large area. At Henry Meyers' home all sought shelter in the cellar. The house was not injured, but all the other buildings were destroyed. Cottonwood trees, 12 to 15 inches in diameter, were twisted off and hurled in all directions.

Three human lives were lost at Joseph Fritscher's home on the Louis Hager farm, where the storm next appeared. Here the house, barns and sheds were blown to pieces and all the machinery on the place piled in one heap, while many of the trees in the grove were twisted off. The Fritscher family saw the storm approaching and were preparing to seek safety in the cellar, but the storm struck the house before they got down. Mrs. Fritscher was killed instantly, her head being nearly severed from her body. Her little baby girl was also killed, its skull having been

crushed. Aurelia Fritscher, another child, had her back broken and died soon after found. Mr. Fritscher's father, who was in the barn at the time of the storm, had his jaw broken and was badly injured. The children of the family, excepting the two killed, were not badly hurt. Mr. Fritscher was rendered unconscious by injuries received, and when he came to his senses found himself lying in a grove.

From the Fritscher home the storm crossed the township line into Weimer and struck Bernard Miranowski's home, blowing down the barn and corncribs and tearing some of the shingles off the house. Mr. Miranowski received a slight gash in the head and was the only one on the place injured. When he saw the storm approach he sought safety by lying flat on the ground in a driveway between the corncribs. At Mrs. Chepa's place the house and all the other buildings were entirely destroyed and some stock was killed. Mrs. Chepa and a daughter sought shelter in the grove, where they clung to a tree. Miss Chepa was struck by a flying board, which tore off a piece of her scalp and a braid of hair. The braid was later found a half mile away.

After leaving the Chepa place the storm broadened its course. It destroyed a barn and hog house at Frank Stenzel's and broke most of the windows out of the residence. About a half mile from there, at Clement Stenzel's, the barn was destroyed. At E. E. Streator's farm a new barn and granary were destroyed and several cattle killed, some of them being carried to the Little Des Moines river, a half mile away. The bridge over the Des Moines east of Streator's was destroyed.

About a mile east of the bridge the storm struck the home of Dr. Westerman and demolished everything on the place excepting a threshing machine engine. This was an exceptionally fine farm home,



JOSEPH FRITSCHERS

THE CYCLONE  
OF 1903



MRS. CHEPAS



JOHN MATHIAS



BERNARD MIRANOWSKIS



THE JOSEPH FRITSCHER HOME



THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

and the losses amounted to over \$20,000. Eight buildings were entirely demolished, much machinery and several vehicles were destroyed, several head of stock were killed, and the fields were stripped as clean as though they had been plowed. The twelve people who were on the place escaped injury by crouching in the cellar.

The next place to feel the hand of the destroyer was the home of Daniel Gallagher, on the south bank of String lake, and here the three inhabitants on the place were killed. The house was blown into the lake and the other buildings torn to pieces. Mr. Gallagher and his daughter, Ellen, were blown into the lake and drowned. Nettie Gallagher, another daughter, was found on the bank of the lake, a mutilated corpse. Wilder, a mile south of the scene of this disaster, was unharmed. From the Gallagher place the storm continued eastward toward Windom, but soon lost its force.

While the whole season of 1903 was rainy, it was not until September that the deluge came. Beginning with Friday, September 11, and continuing several days, came an awful downpour of water, the greatest in the history of the county, and thousands of dollars worth of damage was done. The Des Moines river and the many creeks rose to great heights, carrying away bridges in all parts of the county. Heron lake was reported to be rising at the rate of eight inches an hour on Sunday, the 13th—something entirely without precedent. Two thousand feet of Milwaukee track were washed out between Okabena and Miloma, and the grade at the bridge at Okabena was washed down from three to eight feet. Whole sections of the county were under water, the north part of Alba township and the south part of LaCrosse township being a vast lake. Grain and hay stacks in many parts of the county were under water, and in

places the water was so high the stacks floated away. Heavy winds accompanied the rains in some townships, and many wrecked buildings resulted. The losses from all causes were enormous and had a disastrous effect on the county's prosperity.

The first official step toward the erection of Jackson county's new court house was taken July 23, 1903, when the board of county commissioners in special session resolved to raise the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of erecting and furnishing the building and provided for holding a special election to vote on the question of bonding for that amount. The division of the voters on the question was about the same as it had been on the county seat removal question. The west side of the county and the country tributary to Lakefield voted almost solidly against the bonds, while the people favorable to Jackson retaining the county seat voted as solidly for the bonds. The bonding proposition was defeated by a vote of 1,551 to 1,316: By precincts the vote was as follows:

PRECINCT	For Bonds	Against Bonds
Alba .....	3	87
Belmont.....	72	43
Christiania .....	46	32
Delafield .....	1	105
Des Moines .....	122	6
Enterprise.....	104	9
Ewington.....	8	74
Heron Lake Township .....	1	138
Hunter .....	19	90
Kimball .....	54	7
LaCrosse .....	13	47
Middletown.....	100	5
Minneota.....	22	58
Petersburg .....	113	7
Rost.....	.....	119
Round Lake .....	1	46
Sioux Valley.....	17	70
Weimer .....	2	94
West Heron Lake.....	5	85
Wisconsin .....	93	5
Jackson .....	453	5
Lakefield .....	6	237
Heron Lake Village.....	27	143
Wilder .....	.....	30
Alpha .....	34	9
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>1551</b>



Although the bond proposition was defeated, the majority of the county board, sustained by the sentiment of the people of Jackson and southeastern Jackson county, decided to go on with preparations for securing the county building. The people of Lakefield (who had not given up the idea of trying again for county seat honors, by any means) and of other portions of the county naturally did everything in their power to block the moves made by the county board, and a lively contest ensued. In July, 1903, the commissioners had voted a tax of \$16,000 for court house purposes, but when County Auditor P. D. McKellar extended the taxes on the tax books he did not include this court house tax. The commissioners on January 5, 1904, took action to compel him to do so, asking a writ of mandamus from the district court. On March 3 Judge Quinn denied the motion for mandamus, holding that it was proper that the county auditor should not extend the \$16,000 upon the tax books.

In consequence of this decision, the county was without court house funds, and the matter was of necessity dropped temporarily. In July, 1904, the commissioners passed a resolution declaring the old court house unsuitable and inadequate for the purposes for which it was used, and providing for the erection of a new building to cost not over \$65,000 and for the procuring of plans and specifications for such a building.<sup>6</sup> Keeping within the amount provided by law, the commissioners in 1904 levied a tax of \$9,000 for court house purposes and the next year levied \$14,000 for the same purpose, so that when the matter was brought up

<sup>6</sup>Commissioners Henry G. Anderson, Henry George Erbes in the negative. This was the Thielvoldt and J. M. Olson voted in the affirmative, Commissioners David Crawford and vote always recorded in court house matters while this board was in office.

again early in 1906 there was available \$23,000.

During the period of stagnation caused by the unfavorable crop conditions during the few years of the last decade, the census of 1905—the last before the publication of this volume—was taken. The population was then 14,838, a gain of only 45 in five years—the only five year period in the county's history when a substantial gain was not recorded.<sup>7</sup> Of the total population, 7,844 were males and 6,994 females. By townships the division was as follows:

Alba .....	441
Alpha .....	241
Pelmont .....	677
Christiania .....	549
Delafield .....	491
Des Moines .....	605
Enterprise .....	534
Ewington .....	458
Heron Lake Township.....	648
Heron Lake Village .....	898
Hunter .....	570
Jackson .....	1,776
Kimball .....	550
LaCrosse .....	485
Lakefield .....	916
Middletown .....	550
Minneota .....	487
Petersburg .....	750
Rost .....	532
Round Lake .....	554
Sioux Valley .....	596
Weimer .....	429
West Heron Lake .....	394
Wilder .....	121
Wisconsin .....	526
Total .....	14,838

In the matter of length of residence in the state the census showed Jackson county to be well represented with pioneers. There were 105 persons who had resided in Minnesota since before it was admitted as a state in 1858—a period of over 47 years. There were 1,849 who had been continuous residents of Minnesota for be-

<sup>7</sup>The population of Jackson county in census years since the date of settlement has been as follows: 1860, 181; 1865, 234; 1870, 1,825; 1875, 3,506; 1880, 4,806; 1885, 6,110; 1890, 8,924; 1895, 12,324; 1900, 14,793; 1905, 14,838.

tween 25 and 47 years, 8,415 for between five and 25 years, and 3,569 who came less than five years before.

The places of birth of the residents of Jackson county enumerated in the 1905 census are shown in the following table:

PRECINCT	Native Born	Minn. Born	Germany	Sweden	Norway	Canada	Ireland	Denmark	England	Bohemia	Russia	Scotland	Austria	All Other Countries	Total Foreign Born
Alba	191	142	66	2	13	3	1	5	6			3	8	1	108
Alpha	75	124	22		3	3		4					3	2	42
Belmont	113	308	21	5	196			9					27		258
Christiana	96	295	8		125			4	1	3	13				158
Delafield	96	263	36	23	62		1	3	5						130
Des Moines	156	328	25	3	54	1		5	3	84			2	4	141
Enterprise	165	240	30	5	38	1		26	2	24				2	128
Ewington	200	153	69	4	5	2	1	11	4			5		4	105
Heron Lake Twp.	148	305	113	11	59	1			1	3				5	195
Heron Lake Vill.	176	504	19	12	70	18	6	15	5	2	1		65	5	218
Hunter	194	219	40		10	2		4		48	1		51	1	157
Jackson	553	857	67	22	125	21	2	36	18	55	3	8		9	366
Kimball	100	287	48	22	45			7		21	17			3	163
La Crosse	98	281	24	4	7	2	1	2	1				65		106
Lakefield	316	437	66	18	47	8	3	5	2	2	1	3		10	183
Middletown	210	245	61	4	9	1		7	3	2				8	95
Minnesota	101	102	15	8	6	6		11	2		1		85	7	134
Petersburg	237	294	76	8	68			4							219
Rost	171	218	132	3	1		1							7	143
Round Lake	239	156	98	20	53			2	9					2	156
Slox Valley	184	212	178	1	10		1			1				2	200
Welmer	95	218	41	12	31		1	4		2		4	18	2	115
West Heron Lake	124	177	50	6	18	2	1	4	1	1	3			7	93
Wilder	38	99		3	7	2			1			1			14
Wisconsin	177	223	42	12	9		1	23	1			2	33	3	126
Total	4345	6717	1317	212	1071	78	26	225	58	269	42	26	362	90	3776

The building of the court house again became a live issue at the beginning of the year 1906. The commissioners then had \$23,000 in the court house fund and decided to begin the work. At the first meeting of the board that year—on January 4—it was resolved that a court house should be built at once which should cost, including furnishings, not over \$100,000. The resolution was carried by the affirmative votes of Commissioners Anderson, Thielvoldt and Olson, Commissioners McNab and Crawford voting no. Arrangements were made to secure plans and specifications, and on February 2 the board accepted the plans of Buechner & Orth, who estimated the cost of the proposed building at not over \$80,000, not including vault fixtures, electric light fixtures or decorations.

The action of the county board in declaring for immediate construction of the building precipitated another county seat removal contest,<sup>9</sup> which proved to be one of the most bitter and hardest fought contests for county seat honors ever waged in Minnesota. Over five years had elapsed since the question had been voted upon and there was no legal barrier to bringing another contest.<sup>10</sup> The people of the west end of the county had been successful in delaying the commencement of work on a new court house until such

<sup>9</sup>"This movement is the logical result of the action of the majority of the members of the board of county commissioners at their annual meeting a month ago, when they passed a resolution for the erection of a new court house at Jackson to cost \$100,000. It is very apparent that the taxpayers of the county do not approve the action of the board; and as we said three weeks ago, the only way to prevent them from carrying out their plans is to move the county seat to Lakefield."—Lakefield Standard, February 1, 1906.

<sup>10</sup>Duncan McNab had succeeded George Erbes as commissioner.

<sup>10</sup>The Minnesota law governing county seat removals provides that five years must elapse after a vote has been taken on the question before it can again be brought to a vote.

time as they were free to try again for removal to Lakefield.

Immediately after the commissioners resolved to proceed with the building the contest was started. On January 23 the following notice was served on the county board:

To the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Jackson, State of Minnesota:

We, the undersigned, legal voters of the county of Jackson, state of Minnesota, pray that the county seat thereof be changed to the village of Lakefield, in said Jackson county.

#### NOTICE.

To all whom it may concern:

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned legal voters of Jackson county, Minnesota, that the foregoing petition will be circulated, beginning not earlier than February 13, 1906, nor later than February 15, 1906, in said Jackson county, Minnesota, for signatures of the legal voters of said county for a change of the county seat thereof to the village of Lakefield, Jackson county, Minnesota.

Dated at Lakefield, Minnesota, this 23rd day of January, 1906.<sup>11</sup>

The people of Jackson on February 1 gave legal notice of their intention to contest the removal of the county seat,<sup>12</sup> and the bitter contest was on. In two of the former contests the question had been brought to a vote without much effort on the part of Jackson to prevent it. In this conflict tactics were changed, Jackson determining to fight the petition and prevent, if possible, the question from being submitted to the voters, by securing withdrawals of signatures from the original petition and by attacking the validity of the petition.<sup>13</sup> Jackson's line of action

<sup>11</sup>This notice was signed by L. F. Lammers, G. C. Buckeye, Jerry Sullivan, G. E. Morrison, John Besser, S. Dahl, August Scheppman, J. C. Ruthenbeck, F. C. Ahrens, Ferdinand Milbrath, C. F. Rossow, G. B. McMurtry, S. R. Dubetz, Fred W. Eder, John Fredericksen, Joseph F. Golltko, Henry Hohenstein, Charles Winzer, William A. Bieter, E. J. Grimes, F. J. Stenzel, C. R. J. Kellam, J. F. Lepold and F. A. Cooley.

<sup>12</sup>The notice was signed by W. C. Portmann, Henry Cook, H. G. Anderson, Louis Iverson, John L. Dann, W. D. Hunter, H. H. Berge, M. D. Ashley, O. M. Ashley, Dan McNamara, Joseph Smykal, Leon Davis, Harry Sandon, Charles L. Colby, John L. King, W. E. Manchester, P. C. Nelson, A. C. Serum, C. W. Withers, Raymond Bartosch, F. J. Hruby, J. S. Fiddes and A. H. Strong.

<sup>13</sup>Under the law, sixty per cent of the number who voted at the last general election must

in the early part of the contest was to prevent people favorable to Jackson from signing the Lakefield petition. "Refuse to sign the petition," was the slogan. "If you refuse to sign, there will be no vote." An agreement, of no legal standing, however, was drawn up and circulated for the signatures of those who would agree not to sign the Lakefield petition, and many so bound themselves.<sup>14</sup>

The workers for each town declared their intentions of conducting an honorable campaign, but each seemed to think the other side was not going to. Early in the campaign—on January 30—the people of Lakefield offered a reward of three hundred dollars for evidence that would lead to the conviction of any parties for bribery or corrupt practice in the election, the offer being signed by many of the leading men of Lakefield. The people of Jackson countered by proposing that the people of each town deposit five hundred dollars in a Windom bank, to be paid on the order of the district judge after the conviction of anyone for bribery or corruption in connection with the contest. There were no convictions.

Again Lakefield offered its city hall for court house uses if the removal should be accomplished. This was done by resolution of the village council February 3. The building was offered for a term of ten years at an annual rental of one dol-

sign the petition in order to bring the question to a vote. At the general election in 1904 there had been cast 3,055 votes; therefore it was necessary for 1,821 legal voters to sign the petition before the commissioners were authorized to call an election and submit the question.

<sup>14</sup>The agreement was as follows:

"In view of the fact that Jackson county has already had three contests for the removal of the county seat to Lakefield, and that such contests are a cause of heavy expense to the taxpayers of the county and stir up strife, engender bitter feelings and tend to demoralize the people, we, the undersigned, legal voters of Jackson county, Minnesota, hereby state that we are not in favor of another county seat contest, and for that reason we hereby promise and agree with each other that we will not sign a petition for the change of the county seat, notice of the intention to circulate which is now being published.

"Dated January 29, 1906."

lar, with privilege of renewal for another ten year period at the same price. Private parties also agreed that "if the vaults in the above mentioned building are not sufficient to contain all the records of said Jackson county, we will build onto the above mentioned building additional vaults, fire-proof and water-proof, necessary for the use of the officers of Jackson county, Minnesota, without any cost to Jackson county."<sup>15</sup> This offer was characterized as bribery by the opposing workers, and authorities were cited to show that such an offer constituted bribery of the voters.

The Lakefield workers covered all parts of the county in their campaign for signatures. The newspapers waged a mud-slinging campaign, full of personalities, and charged rank corruption and irregularity on the part of the opposing forces.<sup>16</sup> On March 20 the Lakefield workers completed their campaign and filed the petition with the county auditor. It con-

tained the names of 2,060 persons—239 more than the sixty per cent required by law to bring the matter to a vote. April 9 was the date set for the consideration of the petition by the county board.

With the filing of the petition came the campaign of the Jackson workers to secure withdrawals from the petition.<sup>17</sup> They also went to all parts of the county in their efforts to secure enough withdrawals to beat the petition. These workers were openly charged with bribery by the press favorable to Lakefield.<sup>18</sup>

When the board of county commissioners met on April 9 to act on the petition intense excitement prevailed; the nerves of everyone were at high tension. George W. Somerville appeared before the board for the petitioners and T. J. Knox and H. H. Dunn for the contestants. The

<sup>15</sup>The withdrawal is a legal document provided for in the county seat removal law. It is acknowledged before a notary public, justice of the peace or other public official, and when presented to the county board at the consideration of the original petition removes the name of the signer from the petition. After the withdrawal is presented it may be revoked by the proper legal procedure. Following was the form used by Jackson in this contest:

"Having heretofore signed the petition praying that the county seat of Jackson county, Minnesota, be changed to the village of Lakefield in said county, the circulation of which petition was begun on or about February 13, 1906, I desire to and do withdraw my name from said petition and request the county board of said county to strike my name therefrom, and I hereby authorize.....to appear for me before the county board of commissioners of said county and in my name and stead and as my attorney but without expense to me, to withdraw and strike my name from said petition and to act in and about said matter as fully to all intents and purposes as I could do if personally present, hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said attorney shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

"Witness my hand this.....day of.....  
.....1906.

"Witnessed by .....

<sup>16</sup>Said the Lakefield Standard: "The Jackson workers are out through the country using the most dishonest tactics to get the voters to withdraw their names from the petition. If you know of anyone who has been induced by Jackson's dishonest tactics to sign a withdrawal, bring him to Lakefield AT ONCE, or let us know who it is, so he can have a chance to sign a paper putting his name back on the petition. . . . Out in Round Lake township the Jackson canvassers have tried to make the signers of the Lakefield petition believe that it is against the law to pay more than five dollars for withdrawals. We have consulted the revised statutes, but can find no such provision."

<sup>17</sup>The offer was signed by J. M. Putman, S. R. Dubetz, Thomas Crawford, C. B. Edwards, H. M. Clark, Fred W. Eder, R. Artman, G. R. Van Dike, A. Jackson, H. A. Rhodes, George Milburn, A. Bettin, E. Schumacher, A. J. Sparks, Gilbert Rue, M. McGlin, Hans J. Hauge, J. G. Hellen, August Blankenburg, Sr., R. D. Pietz, J. W. Daubney, E. Erickson, Emil Zarling, Henry Albers, Albert Armstrong, E. E. Collins, C. M. Gage, L. J. Britsch, George J. Britsch, C. M. Tradewell, Ross W. Daubney, Joseph Kolash, E. Lewis, James D'Arcy, J. A. Anderson, L. R. Anderson, John G. Gage, George Payne, Martin Dahl, Lars J. Johnson, William Lockner, Joseph J. Jones, William Frees, J. W. Crisman, Andrew J. Johnson, F. R. Hansen, Lo Fader, John Frederickson, Edward Kolander, A. L. Bachus, D. Crawford, J. A. Mansfield, H. L. Bond, B. Weppler, B. W. Payne, M. B. Hofstad, J. G. Christie, John G. Miller, J. C. Caldwell, H. P. Thompson, Joseph F. Golltko, A. A. Fosness, William Hecht, Claus Wiese, August Lockner, G. B. McMurtry, Henry Connick, August Blankenburg, Charles Blankenburg, F. F. Riley, William Rost, A. M. St. John, O. Thoreson, E. P. Maldaner, Ed. Arnold, J. A. Levensick, S. Searles, John McGlin, E. A. Gage, George Winzenburg, George A. Wesner, Z. M. Turner, John Grein, D. L. Riley, A. S. Foslie, Herman Schultz, James Rost, F. B. White, H. P. Stone, C. A. Bell, Henry Tank and G. H. Wood.

<sup>18</sup>Said the Jackson County Pilot on February 22: "Well founded reports of men known not to be voters being urged and in many instances induced to sign the petition for removal are common. In several instances men have deliberately been made intoxicated and while in that condition induced to sign. Bulldozing seems to be a favorite method and has become so common as to almost cease to excite comment."

attorneys for the people of Jackson offered to prove fraud and bribery in obtaining signatures to the petition and revocations of withdrawals; the attorney for Lakefield offered to prove fraud and bribery in securing withdrawals. But this evidence was not introduced, the board ruling that it had power only to consider those matters committed to its consideration by the statute and that it had not power to consider matters not so defined.<sup>19</sup> For one week the board was in session determining the standing of the petition. Five hundred twelve names were stricken from the petition for various reasons,<sup>20</sup> leaving 1,548, or 273 less than the sixty per cent of voters as required by law. The commissioners denied the prayer of the petitioners; another county seat contest was ended.

No sooner did it become evident that the petition would fail before the board of county commissioners than steps were taken to circulate a new petition and reopen the contest. Official notice to this effect was given April 18, it being announced that the petition would be circulated beginning not earlier than May 7 nor later than May 9.<sup>21</sup> While this new petition was being circulated during the months of May and June the county board was taking steps to let the con-

tract for the new court house. On the 9th of May a resolution was passed by the board to advertise for bids for the erection of the building in accordance with the plans selected, the bids to be opened June 11. On that date, there being no satisfactory bids, the board re-advertised for bids, to be opened July 9. Before the new bids were opened the courts again took a hand in the proceeding.

On June 9 papers were served on the board of county commissioners, giving notice of injunction proceedings, brought in the name of John Nestrud, asking that they be forbidden to let the contract for the erection of a court house. The case came to trial June 25 before Judges James H. Quinn and Lorin Cray, sitting together. In a decision dated June 29 and filed July 5 the injunction was dissolved, the court holding that the commissioners would not be exceeding their rights in proceeding with the building of a court house or any part of it, so long as they did not make the pecuniary liability of the county exceed \$23,000, the amount then available for the purpose; that beyond that amount they could not contract until more funds were available.

Court house building and county seat removal matters were complicated at this stage of the proceedings by the temporary suspension from office of Commissioner Henry G. Anderson. Charges were filed against Mr. Anderson before Governor John A. Johnson on July 5,<sup>22</sup> and the

<sup>19</sup>Section 398 revised code reads as follows: "Duties of the county board at the time and place specified in the notice, proof of its service having been filed; the board shall meet to act on said petition and shall inquire and determine which, if any, of the signers thereof were not, at the time of signing the same, legal voters of said county, and which, if any, of the signatures thereto were not attached within sixty days preceding the filing thereof; and which, if any, have been withdrawn, all such signatures shall be stricken from the petition and deducted from the count, and a list thereof, certified by the board, shall be filed forthwith with the county auditor."

<sup>20</sup>These 512 names stricken off were tabulated as follows: 195 duplicate signatures, 228 withdrawals, 88 minors, non-residents and aliens, 1 woman.

<sup>21</sup>The notice was signed by John Nestrud, G. T. Juyeland, Herman Pohlman, N. A. Johnson, Jan Stinar, John Koch, John M. Hovelsrud, F. E. Murphy, B. M. Hovelsrud, Ole O. Sandager, Trond O. Trondson, B. P. Elverum, W. L. Frost, Wilhelm Hohenstein, August Hubner, Matt Gentry, Axel Sandberg and C. F. Rossow.

<sup>22</sup>Jackson people contended that the filing of the charges against Mr. Anderson was a deliberate attempt on the part of Lakefield to attain advantages which the court denied them. The Republic on July 13 said:

"After the Lakefield county seat removal schemers failed in their ambition to induce the courts to interfere by injunction to prevent the building of a new court house, they proceeded to carry out a prearranged scheme to carry the matter before the governor and under the guise of filing charges against County Commissioner H. G. Anderson, and securing his temporary suspension from office until after the regular July meeting of the county board and the meeting called for July 23 to consider and act upon the second removal petition, they at-

same day the governor suspended Mr. Anderson, pending the determination of the charges in a final hearing August 1. On July 6 a delegation went from Jackson to St. Paul and interviewed the governor, with the result that the state executive revoked his order and reinstated Mr. Anderson. At the hearing of the Jackson county officer before Commissioner Powers on July 13 the proceedings were dismissed on the motion of George W. Somerville, Lakefield's attorney.

The bids for the construction of the court house were opened July 9. Charles Skooglum, of St. Paul, was the successful bidder, his bid for the building complete being \$91,082. Because of the injunction of the court not to contract for a greater sum than was available in cash for the purpose, the commissioners let the contract only for the foundation, up to and including the water table, the bid for this part of the building being \$10,330.<sup>23</sup> July 10 another levy for court house purposes of \$13,000 was made. The work of tearing down the old court house was begun July 25, the county officers utilizing the Jackson city hall for offices. Excavation work for the new building was begun September 4.

Before the court house program had been carried this far, however, the last county seat contest had been brought to a close. The county seat removal people filed their petition July 3. It contained 1,881 names—sixty more than the number required by law. The date of considering the petition was July 23. The Jackson forces again canvassed the county for withdrawals and were successful in se-

tempted and nearly succeeded in ending the decision of the court and securing the same results that they attempted to secure in their injunction suit."

<sup>23</sup>Owing to failure to post the proper notices, the letting of the contract was found to be invalid. Bids were again called for, and on August 18 a new contract was entered into with Charles Skooglum on a bid of \$10,225 for the foundation.

curing more than enough to defeat the petition.

At the meeting of the county board on July 23 to determine the sufficiency of the petition Attorneys J. A. Mansfield and Ole Thoreson represented Lakefield and Attorney T. J. Knox represented Jackson. The work of striking names from the petition because of withdrawals was continued until the 24th. Then it was announced that 106 names had been taken off, leaving 1,775 on the petition—not enough to warrant bringing the question to a vote. Proceedings were discontinued. The twenty years county seat war was at an end.

There not being enough funds available to complete the court house building, on January 7, 1907, the county commissioners decided to again put the question of issuing bonds to the people.<sup>24</sup> The special election was held February 19, the question at issue being the issuance of \$65,000 worth of bonds. A majority of 129 in favor of the proposition was given, the precincts voting as follows:

PRECINCT	For Bonds	Against Bonds
Alba .....	....	65
Belmont.....	87	52
Christiania .....	70	35
Delafield .. . . .	4	87
Des Moines.....	135	7
Enterprise.....	126	5
Ewington.....	18	70
Hunter.....	34	66
Heron Lake Twp . . . .	2	142
Kimball .....	90	6
LaCrosse .....	6	86
Middletown .....	111	1
Minnesota .. . . .	27	64
Petersburg .....	154	4
Rost.....	2	119
Round Lake .....	20	29
Sioux Valley.....	39	39
Weimer .....	7	77
West Heron Lake . . . .	12	81
Wisconsin . . . . .	100	3
Jackson . . . . .	434	16
Lakefield .....	2	227
Heron Lake Vil.....	18	121
Wilder .....	9	14
Alpha .....	41	3
Total.....	1548	1419

<sup>24</sup>A similar resolution was passed July 25.

From that time all was smooth sailing. Contracts were let April 16, 1907, as follows: Charles Skooglum, court house above basement, \$74,438; Cuddy & Cavanaugh, heating plant and plumbing, \$7,317; Nemis & Nemis, electrical work, \$740; Diebold Safe & Lock company, vault doors and shutters, \$1,760. March 3, 1908, a contract was let to Crown Electrical Manufacturing company for electric light fixtures, on a bid of \$1,475. This brought the contract price up to a little less than \$100,000. When the building was finally completed and furnished the total cost, excluding sidewalks, was \$117,435.22.<sup>25</sup>

The corner stone of the court house was laid with ceremonies July 9, 1907, United State Senator Moses E. Clapp and Hon. T. J. Knox being the principal speakers.

1906, but on the same day the resolution was revoked.

<sup>25</sup>Statement of cost made by Henry G. Anderson, chairman of the board of county commissioners, at dedication, June 22, 1909.

The building was finally completed early in 1909 and the dedicatory exercises were held June 22, 1909. The dedicatory address was delivered by Judge P. E. Brown and the other speakers were Judge James H. Quinn, T. J. Knox and Henry G. Anderson.

The events of the last few years of Jackson county's history can be told in a few words. For three or four years following 1903 the comparative dull times continued. Then came better times. A bountiful crop was raised in 1907, good prices prevailed, and the financial flurry that fall caused no anxiety among the people of Jackson county. A good crop was raised in 1908, and in 1909 the most bountiful harvest of a decade was gathered. The year 1910 opens with the people of Jackson county happy, contented and prosperous. They inhabit the best county the bright light of heaven ever shown upon.

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JACKSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

## CHAPTER XIV.

### POLITICAL—1858-1882.

**J**ACKSON county's political history covers a period of time from 1858 to the present, excluding the years 1862 to 1865. The county was organized in 1858 and its organization continued until the Sioux massacre of 1862; then the county became deserted and, of course, the government was discontinued. The second organization was brought about in 1865 and has continued without interruption to the present.

As has been stated before, very little is known of the first organization or of the government under that organization. With only a few exceptions, all its records have been destroyed, and there is no one now living who was intimate enough with the local political affairs of that day to give us any reliable data; we must content ourselves with the meager records that have been saved.

When the first settlers came and founded the Springfield settlement they were under the local government of Brown county, but there is no evidence to show that these pioneers had any county business to attend to, and it is doubtful if the county officials at New Ulm, the county seat, even knew of the existence of the little settlement on the extreme southern edge of their county. The act of the legislature of May 23, 1857, created Jackson

county and removed it from the jurisdiction of Brown county.

There were only a few residents of Jackson county at the time of its creation, and no effort was made to bring about its organization until some time in 1858. Then the people of the new county chose John B. Fish, Alexander Wood and a Mr. Britton to act as commissioners to perfect the organization under the act of 1857. But that act had provided that the governor should name the commissioners, and the state official did not recognize the commissioners named, but appointed others, and these, in turn, named the other county officers, and the political machinery of Jackson county was started. Who the first officers of the county were is unknown; in fact, the names of only a few of the officers under the first organization are known.

The first election was held in the fall of 1858, when a full set of county officers was chosen, who succeeded those holding office by appointment. Of these officers the name of only one is known—Charles W. Clark, the sheriff.<sup>1</sup> By the time the presidential election of 1860 came, there were thirty-two electors in the county

<sup>1</sup>Jackson county order No. 89, dated September 9, 1862, a short time after the massacre, was for \$28.50 and was drawn in favor of Charles W. Clark "for services as sheriff of said county for 1859."

who voted (out of a total population of 181)—and all were cast for Abraham Lincoln for president.<sup>2</sup> The polling place was at the village of Belmont, which then served as the county seat. A full set of county officers was chosen at that time, including the following: H. R. Trobridge, chairman of the board of county commissioners; Edward Davies, commissioner; Simon Olson, commissioner; Stiles M. West, sheriff (although he was only nineteen years of age); C. O. Whitney, clerk of the board; and James E. Palmer, assessor of Danby township. Those officers, according to a scrap of record preserved, were serving during the summer of 1861. The same record would indicate that the following were the election officers for the 1860 election: D. M. West, H. R. Trobridge, James E. Palmer, B. McCarthy and C. O. Whitney, judges; Edward Davies and C. O. Whitney, clerks. Another election seems to have been held in 1861, for during the months of November and December of that year bills were paid to Ole Bureson and Joseph Thomas for services as judges of election, and to S. T. Johnson as clerk of election. During 1862 Joseph Thomas was county auditor and Ole Peterson was treasurer.

When the massacre occurred in August, 1862, the county officers fled with the other settlers, and their records were either lost or destroyed. At the time of the attack the treasurer buried the county's money in the timber and fled without it. However, he returned at night and secured it. From that time until late in the fall of 1865 (when there were 234 people in Jackson county, according to the census of that year) the residents of the county were without local government.

Before taking up the story of the sec-

ond organization, let us consider the legislative history of Jackson county.

Under the legislative apportionment of 1860 the counties of Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock and a part of Brown were made to form the twentieth district, entitled to one senator and one member of the house. The district was so constituted until 1866 and was represented by the following legislators:

1861—Senate, Guy K. Cleveland; house, A. Strecker.

1862—Senate, Guy K. Cleveland; house, B. O. Kempfer.

1863—Senate, D. G. Shillock; house, J. B. Wakefield.

1864—Senate, D. G. Shillock; house, J. A. Latimer.

1865—Senate, D. G. Shillock; house, J. A. Kiester.

1866—Senate, D. G. Shillock; house, J. B. Wakefield.

A slight change was made in district No. 20 in 1866, it being then made to comprise the counties of Faribault, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone and Rock,<sup>3</sup> and entitled to one senator and one representative. This apportionment was in force until 1871. Under it the district was represented as follows:

1867—Senate, J. B. Wakefield; house, A. Andrews.

1868—Senate, J. B. Wakefield; house, A. B. Colton.

1869—Senate, J. B. Wakefield; house, J. W. Hunter.

1870—Senate, J. A. Latimer; house, M. E. L. Shanks.

1871—Senate, C. W. Thompson; house, A. L. Patchen.

In 1871 the counties of Martin, Jackson, Nobles, Rock, Watonwan, Cottonwood, Murray and Pipestone were formed into the thirty-eighth district and so remained until 1881. The district was given one senator and three representatives and was served by the following gentlemen:

1872—Senate, William D. Rice; house, E. Berry, W. W. Murphy, George C. Chamberlin.

<sup>2</sup>Simon Olson in Jackson Republic, August 21, 1891. Stiles M. West.

<sup>3</sup>Nobles county is not named in this apportionment, but it became a part of the district.

1873—Senate, William D. Rice; house, J. W. Seager, E. Berry, Stephen Miller.

1874—Senate, E. P. Freeman; house, J. F. Daniels, Ole O. How, N. H. Manning.

1875—Senate, E. P. Freeman; house, Charles F. Crosby, E. Berry, Thomas Rutledge.

1876—Senate, I. P. Durfee; house, J. A. Everett, Lee Hensley, W. H. Mellen.

1877—Senate, I. P. Durfee; house, H. N. Rice, Lee Hensley, C. H. Smith.

1878—Senate, C. H. Smith; house, Frank A. Day, L. H. Bishop, Alexander Fiddes.

1879—Senate, A. D. Perkins; house, M. E. L. Shanks, T. Lambert, P. J. Kniss.

1881—Senate, A. D. Perkins; house, J. A. Armstrong, W. D. Rice, P. J. Kniss.

The apportionment of 1881 created Jackson and Martin counties into the sixth district, entitled to one member of each house. They remained in this district until 1899 and were represented as follows:

1883—Senate, R. M. Ward; house, J. E. Child.

1885—Senate, R. M. Ward; house, Alexander Fiddes.

1887—Senate, Frank A. Day; house, E. Sevaton.

1889—Senate, Frank A. Day; house, E. Sevaton.

Jackson and Cottonwood counties were made to form the eighth district in 1889, and that district was represented as follows:

1891—Senate, E. Sevaton; house, Henry F. Tucker.

1893—Senate, E. Sevaton; house, John Paulson.

1895—Senate, E. Sevaton; house, E. J. Meilicke.

1897—Senate, E. Sevaton; house, George M. Laing.

The present fourteenth district, comprising Jackson and Cottonwood counties, was formed in 1897, is entitled to one senator and two representatives, and has been represented by the following:

1899—Senate, E. J. Meilicke; house, D. L. Riley, John E. Johnson.

1901—Senate, E. J. Meilicke; house, D. L. Riley, W. A. Potter.

1903—Senate, W. A. Smith; house, A. M. Schroeder, J. D. Schroeder.

1905—Senate, W. A. Smith; house, L. O. Teigen, R. H. Jefferson.

1907—Senate, H. E. Hanson; house, Charles Winzer, R. H. Jefferson.

1909—Senate, H. E. Hanson; house, John Baldwin, D. A. Stuart.

In the fall of 1865 the population of the unorganized county of Jackson had reached nearly three hundred people, and prospects for a large immigration the following year were so good that steps were taken to bring about a reorganization under the original act of 1857. Another reason that led to the undertaking at that time was the desire of the voters to participate in the state and district elections that fall. Upon the petition of the residents, Governor Stephen Miller appointed Israel F. Eddy, Charles Belknap<sup>4</sup> and Jared Palmer commissioners, vested with authority to call an election for November 7, 1865, for the purpose of choosing county officers and of voting for state and district officers. These commissioners were not to act as a law-making body; their duties were simply to call and preside over the first election.

Events so shaped themselves that election day very nearly passed without an election being held. So isolated was this settlement in Jackson county that it actually did not know the date of the general election, and only for a fortunate circumstance were the people of the new county kept from being disfranchised. Major H. S. Baily has written of this circumstance:

... but instead of calling the election for the 7th, as the governor directed, they called it for the 17th of November. I happened to go down to Winnebago City in the first week in November and learned that out in civilization the election was to be held on Tuesday, the 7th. I arrived home on Saturday evening, the 4th. On Sunday I went to see Mr. Eddy and asked his authority for calling the election for the 17th, and he replied that the governor directed it. He brought the governor's letter and was surprised to find that he had read it wrong. So on Monday he went through the settlement and notified the voters that there would be an election the next day.

<sup>4</sup>Major H. S. Baily, in an article written in 1888, stated that I. N. Belknap was the commissioner; the records show that Charles Belknap served as judge of the election, indicating that he was the commissioner.

Many difficulties beset these pioneers in their efforts to organize the county. The election was to be held at the home of Jared Palmer, who lived on a farm a short distance south of the present village of Jackson. When it came time for the opening of the polls, Mr. Eddy, one of the commissioners, was absent. In his place Major H. S. Bailey was chosen by the other commissioners to act as one of the judges; W. C. Garratt was selected clerk of the election board. In the whole of Jackson county there was not a man who had authority to administer an oath, and the judges were confronted with the serious question of how to qualify. Some time previous Major Bailey had held the office of justice of the peace in another county, and he took the responsibility of swearing in the other two judges and clerk of election, although he had no legal authority to do so. One of the other judges then administered the oath to Major Bailey.

No convention had been held, no canvass made, and the election was a quiet affair. Thirty-six votes were cast and the following officers elected: H. S. Bailey, Simon Olson and M. S. Clough, county commissioners; Clark Baldwin, auditor; William Webster, treasurer; W. C. Garratt, register of deeds; Orin Belknap, judge of probate; I. F. Eddy, sheriff; James E. Palmer, surveyor; John McCormick, county attorney; Joseph Price, clerk of court; Peter Baker, coroner.

After the election the question of what to do with the returns arose. No provision had been made for canvassing the returns or issuing certificates to the successful candidates. There was no person in Jackson county authorized to do so, and, as the county had once been organized, it was now attached to no other county, the officers of which might perform this service. It was finally decided to send the returns to Martin county, and Major

Bailey was chosen to take them to the county officials at Fairmont. The auditor of Martin county, Galiten Brown, at first refused to accept them, but he was persuaded to do so, and Jackson county's vote for state and district officers was counted. The auditor, however, refused to issue certificates of election for the new officers of Jackson county, believing that such a course would be exceeding his authority.

There was nothing to be done but wait, and the formal organization of the county was postponed until there had been legislative action. James B. Wakefield, who had been elected to the lower branch of the legislature, was informed of the situation, and he promptly introduced a bill to legalize the election of November 7 and to authorize the auditor of Martin county to issue the necessary certificates. The bill was passed and became effective in January, 1866, being among the first bills passed by the Minnesota law making body that session. Upon receiving notice of the passage of this bill Major Bailey made another trip to Fairmont, took the oath of office as commissioner, and brought back with him the election certificates of the other officers.

So, after many discouraging setbacks, everything was in readiness for the formal beginning of county government. The first meeting of the board of county commissioners was held at the home of Major H. S. Bailey, dated Des Moines, Minnesota, on January 27, 1866. Major Bailey presided as chairman. The only business transacted at this initial meeting was the appointment of a few officers "to fill vacancies of the officers not yet qualified." Nearly all the officers elected took the oath and entered upon their duties, but a few did not. William Webster, who had been elected treasurer, refused to have anything to do with so responsible an

office, and F. R. Lyman was appointed to the position, holding the office two years under the appointment. Joseph Price did not qualify as clerk of court, and B. H. Johnson was appointed to the office. Peter Baker did not qualify as coroner, and Jared Palmer was named.

There were but few duties for many of these first county officials, and some of them had absolutely no duties during their entire term. One blank book was purchased for county use, and that sufficed for all the records. The principal duties fell upon the county commissioners, Clark Baldwin, the auditor, who drew a salary of \$50 for his services for 1866; I. F. Eddy, the sheriff; James E. Palmer, the surveyor, who took the oath of office February 12, 1866; W. C. Garratt, the register of deeds, who gave bond on February 22, 1866; and the justices of the peace, H. S. Bailey, Martin D. Metcalf and Simon Olson, who took their oaths early in April.

The second meeting of the board of county commissioners was held March 13, 1866, at which time the county was divided into three commissioner districts. The first district was composed of the southern tier of townships; the second, the tier just north of it; the third district comprised the whole north half of the county. When the division was made it was found that all three of the commissioners were from the same district. They continued to serve, however, until the first of the year 1867.

To choose new commissioners and a few officers who were then elected in even numbered years, provision was made for holding an election on November 6, 1866. A county convention was held at Joseph Thomas' hotel on the hill in September, when a partial set of candidates was put in nomination. At the election Rev.

Peter Baker,<sup>5</sup> of Petersburg, was chosen commissioner from the first district;<sup>6</sup> B. H. Johnson, of Des Moines, from the second; and Simon Olson, of Belmont, from the third. Mr. Johnson became chairman of the board and served during 1867 and 1868; Mr. Olson served a two year term; Mr. Baker resigned after serving less than one year and John Richardson, of Minnesota, was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Johnson's election as commissioner caused a vacancy in the office of clerk of court, and Joseph Price, who had been elected in 1865 but had failed to qualify, was named for that office. H. S. Bailey was appointed "examiner of teachers and visitor of schools" for the year 1867, and thus became the first superintendent of schools for Jackson county, the office not being an elective one at that time.

As the majority of county officers were chosen in odd-numbered years during the early days, the election of November 5, 1867, was an important one, and many

<sup>5</sup>"I well remember the first time I ever saw that good man [Rev. Peter Baker]. Where, friends, do you think it was. Actually presiding at a political convention instead of a prayer meeting. It was up at the old log hotel in Jackson. I remember him as he sat by the table—had on his blue army overcoat with brass buttons, I presume all the coat he had in the world. There were but four organized towns in the county—Petersburg, Minnesota, Des Moines and Belmont. Major Bailey was making the motions, the elder putting the questions, and they were conducting the convention by very fair parliamentary principles or rules. The delegates occupied the chairs and benches, and the rest of us stood up or sat on the floor. I remember I sat flat upon the floor, close to the muddled-up fireplace, when, imagine how suddenly puffed up I became—actually nominated for county attorney of Jackson county. Three weeks a resident of the county, and knew just about as much of law as Allen of the Republic knows of theology; and Jackson county at that time needed a county attorney about as much as a Methodist minister needs a safe."—George C. Chamberlin in speech delivered September 5, 1889.

<sup>6</sup>"In after years Rev. Peter Baker told of this board (his memory failed him in regard to some of the facts):

"As I was the first settler in the town of Petersburg. I well remember when the county was organized. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Wood and myself were the first commissioners. As Mr. Baldwin was auditor, we met at his house to transact business. How wise and dignified we 'county dads' looked. I must confess that I knew nearly as much about law as a horse does about grammar."

new county officers were chosen. Those elected were: George C. Chamberlin, auditor; Joseph Thomas, treasurer; Joseph S. Eaton, register of deeds; William V. King, judge of probate; A. Miner, sheriff; James E. Palmer, surveyor; W. S. Kimball, clerk of court.

There were a few changes in administration during the next two years. George C. Chamberlin resigned the office of auditor October 9, 1869, and M. A. Strong was appointed to complete the short unexpired term.<sup>7</sup> Owing to the removal of Joseph S. Eaton from the county, the office of register of deeds became vacant, and John W. Cowing was appointed September 22, 1868, to serve until the first of the next year. William V. King served by appointment as superintendent of schools during 1868, and Rev. E. Savage during 1869.

At the election on November 3, 1868, an entire change was made in the board of county commissioners. O. J. Russell was elected from the first district; Nathaniel Frost, who served as chairman in 1869 and 1870, from the second; and P. P. Haverberg from the third. W. C. Garratt, who had been the first register of deeds, was chosen for that office at this election, the election being held in an even numbered year on account of the removal of Joseph S. Eaton.

Many new men took office at the beginning of the year 1870 as a result of the election of November 2, 1869. There were two tickets in the field at that election, and the result on some of the principal offices was close. Those elected were: M. A. Strong, auditor; J. W. Hunter, treasurer; W. C. Garratt, register of deeds;

<sup>7</sup>There had been a contest between Mr. Chamberlin and William V. King for the office of county auditor, which was tried under the title, Chamberlin vs. King. The commissioners declared the office vacant March 5, 1868, and appointed Mr. King, but a little later Mr. Chamberlin was seated. On June 27, 1868, Mr. King's bill of \$74.50 "for disbursements in contesting title to auditor's office" was allowed.

Anders Roe, sheriff; William V. King, judge of probate; James E. Palmer, surveyor; W. S. Kimball, clerk of court; P. P. Haverberg, commissioner third district. Of these officers, all served their terms of two years except Anders Roc. He resigned September 5, 1870, and A. E. Wood was appointed sheriff September 16, to serve until the first of the year. Of the appointive offices, Dr. C. P. Morrill was chosen superintendent of schools January 4, 1870. He served under the appointment until May 11, 1871, when he resigned; then William V. King was appointed and served nearly one year. J. W. Seager was named county attorney by the commissioners February 1, 1870, to serve the balance of the year. He resigned before that time, however, and on September 16, 1870, Emery Clark was appointed and served under the appointment until he took the office at the beginning of the year 1871 as a result of the election of 1870. There having been previously no court commissioner, G. K. Tiffany was appointed in May, 1870.

During the entire early political history of Jackson county there was only one political organization maintained, and not until 1886 was there organized opposition to it. Nearly all the first settlers were republicans, as were the first settlers of all the neighboring counties. At most of the early day elections there were two tickets in the field, one nominated by the regular republican organization, the other put up by bolters, the candidates being either nominated in an independent convention or placed on the ticket by those interested. Many exciting contests for political honors occurred under this arrangement. The few democrats generally allied themselves with the independents and were occasionally rewarded with a county office.

In 1870 the democrats formed an or-

ganization and named candidates for a few county offices, but the organization was not made permanent. This was accomplished on July 16, 1870, when a few of the minority met at Jackson. Milton Mason was chairman of the meeting and J. J. Porter was secretary. The following county central committee was named: R. N. Woodward, of Wisconsin; George D. Stone, of Petersburg; R. D. Larned, of Middletown; H. M. Doubleday, of Belmont; I. A. Moreaux, of Minnesota; J. A. Myers and William Norman, of Des Moines.

At the 1870 election 393 votes were cast. The republicans were successful in carrying the county for congressional and legislative officers and elected their county ticket with one exception. The official vote:

Congressman—M. H. Dunnell (rep.), 329; Daniel Buck (dem.), 64;

Senator—G. W. Whallon (rep.), 208; C. W. Thompson (dem.), 165.

Representative—G. C. Chamberlin (rep.), 265; A. L. Patchin (dem.), 102.

Sheriff—B. W. Ashley (rep.), 123; Michael Miller (dem.), 76; E. Sevaton (ind.), 176.

Clerk of Court—W. S. Kimball<sup>8</sup> (rep.), without opposition.

Court Commissioner—H. S. Bailey (rep.), 274; Milton Mason (dem.), 98.

County Attorney—E. Clark<sup>9</sup> (rep.), without opposition.

Coroner—A. E. Wood, without opposition.

Commissioner First District—William C. Bates<sup>10</sup> (rep.), 50; George D. Stone (dem.), 21.

<sup>8</sup>Clerk of court is elected for four year term. Mr. Kimball resigned in 1874, and on October 7, of that year, Alexander Fiddes was appointed to complete the short unexpired term.

<sup>9</sup>County Attorney Clark was arrested at Jackson February 17, 1871, and taken to Wisconsin to answer the charges of forgery and jail breaking. He was exonerated and returned to his duties early in March. He served until October 4, 1871, when he resigned; his successor was elected the next month.

There was a large increase in the vote in 1871, there being 531 votes polled. The dominant party carried the state and legislative tickets by overwhelming majorities. In county politics there were several close contests, although the organized party again elected all but one officer. Nearly all the independent candidates were republicans; their names were placed on the opposition ticket by their friends and they were not nominated in convention. The result according to the official canvass:

Governor—Horace Austin (rep.), 447; Winthrop Young (dem.), 48.

Senator—William D. Rice (rep.), 430; C. C. Sylvester (dem.), 94; O. Nason, 7.

Representative—G. C. Chamberlin (rep.), 315; O. Nason (dem.), 175.

Auditor—M. A. Strong (rep.), 360; L. O. Beck (ind.), 162.

Treasurer—J. W. Hunter (rep.), 268; E. P. Skinner (ind.), 243.

Register of Deeds—W. C. Garratt (rep.), 309; J. A. Myers (ind.), 198.

County Attorney—William V. King, (rep.), 234; G. K. Tiffany (ind.), 283.

Sheriff—Henry Knudson (rep.), 358; C. H. Sandon (ind.), 160.

Judge of Probate—William V. King (rep.), 423; J. C. Hoovel (ind.), 64.

Surveyor—J. M. Tanner<sup>11</sup> (rep.), 397; James E. Palmer (ind.), 117.

Commissioner Second District—W. A. Fields<sup>12</sup> (rep.), 87; J. V. Tompkins, 15.

The political complexion of the county at the time is well shown in the result of the presidential election of 1872, when out of a total of 620, Horace Greeley received only 56 votes. For county offices there was no opposition to the republican ticket. The vote:

<sup>10</sup>Was chairman in 1871-72-73.

<sup>11</sup>Resigned October, 1872, and successor elected next month.

<sup>12</sup>Was chairman during 1874.



President—U. S. Grant (rep.), 564;  
Horace Greeley (dem.), 56.

Congressman—M. H. Dunnell (rep.),  
566; M. S. Wilkinson (dem.), 53.

Representative—Stephen Miller (rep.),  
283; H. Anderson, 284.<sup>13</sup>

County Attorney—G. K. Tiffany (rep.),  
607.

Coroner—J. F. Force (rep.), 613.

Surveyor—James E. Palmer (rep.),  
508.

Commissioner Third District—Hans  
Knudson<sup>14</sup> (rep.), 308; W. Jacobs, 14.

The opposition to the republican machine had gained such strength by 1873 that the organized party met with a partial defeat in the election of that year. The independents elected four of the principal county officers and the other candidates gave a good account of themselves at the voting. Five hundred sixty-five votes were polled, a slight falling off from the last election. Following is the vote each candidate received:

Governor—C. K. Davis (rep.), 475;  
Ara Barton (dem.), 90.

Senator—E. P. Freeman (rep.), 552.

Representative—N. H. Manning (rep.),  
499; Warren Smith (dem.), 16.

Auditor—M. A. Strong (rep.), 197;  
William V. King (ind.), 359.

Treasurer—Henry Knudson (rep.),  
381; Clark Baldwin (ind.), 171.

Sheriff—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 231; A.  
C. Serum (ind.), 329.

Register of Deeds—Edward Orr (rep.),  
240; W. C. Garratt (ind.), 120; Hans  
Knudson (ind.), 205.

Surveyor—E. P. Skinner (rep.), 274;  
James E. Palmer (ind.), 281.

Judge of Probate—John Davies<sup>15</sup>  
(rep.), 559.

<sup>13</sup>Mr. Miller was elected.

<sup>14</sup>Was chairman during 1875.

<sup>15</sup>Resigned January 7, 1874. In June, 1874, T. J. Knox was appointed by Governor Davis to complete the term.

Court Commissioner—John Davies  
(rep.), 559.

Commissioner First District—J. W.  
Dunn (rep.), 37; H. J. Phelps<sup>16</sup> (ind.),  
39.

The grasshoppers and the prevailing hard times had an effect on the politics of the county in 1874. Owing to these causes and the fact that only a few officers were to be chosen, not a great deal of interest was manifested, and there was another falling off in the vote—551 being the highest number cast for any one office. Two independents were elected; otherwise republicans were chosen for county office. In place of the democratic ticket, for congress and the legislature appeared the ticket of the anti-monopoly party, which made a fair showing against the republican forces. The vote:

Congressman—M. H. Dunnell (rep.),  
379; F. H. Waite (a-m), 164.

Judge Sixth District—D. A. Dickinson  
(rep.), 431; Daniel Buck (a-m), 120.

Senator—E. P. Freeman, 149; Neill  
Currie, 112.

Representative—Charles F. Crosby  
(rep.), 346; L. Aldrich (a-m), 166.

County Attorney—T. J. Knox (rep.),  
239; William V. King (ind.), 308.

Court Commissioner—W. W. Hamilton  
(rep.), 485.

Probate Judge—Henry Knudson (rep.),  
505.

Clerk of Court—Alexander Fiddes  
(rep.), 247; O. A. Brown (ind.), 304.

Coroner—J. F. Force (rep.), 530.

Commissioner Second District—A. D.  
Palmer<sup>17</sup> (rep.), 82; William A. Fields  
(ind.), 48.

Political conditions were unique in 1875. For several years many republicans had refused to affiliate with the regular party organization and had been responsi-

<sup>16</sup>Was chairman during 1876.

<sup>17</sup>Was chairman from July 16, 1877, to January 1, 1878.

ble for the independent candidates that made the race each year; in 1875 the party organization refused to affiliate with itself. After the committee on credentials of the republican county convention, which was held at Jackson in September, had made its report, the convention broke up in a row, without naming a candidate. The Jackson Republic, in its report of the convention, said:

Upon that report commenced a disgraceful and disreputable wrangle as to the admission of a set of contesting delegates from several towns, and as to who is the guilty party or parties for this we for the present remain silent. Suffice it to say that, after a long fight over the admission of delegates, the convention adjourned sine die, and candidates are free to go in on their muscle as independents.

From that time on it was each one for himself. Many announced themselves as candidates for the several offices, no one of whom had an organization back of him or the prestige that goes with a party nomination. Six hundred twenty-three votes were cast—the largest number ever voted in the county up to that time. The republicans had their old time majorities for state officers. Following is the vote.

Governor—J. S. Pillsbury (rep.), 563; D. L. Buell (dem.), 52; R. F. Humiston (reform), 8.

Senator—I. P. Durfee (rep.), 568; G. S. Thompson (reform), 54.<sup>18</sup>

Representative—W. H. Mellen (rep.), 322; E. L. Brownell (reform), 290.

Auditor—William V. King, 358; G. B. Franklin, 257.

Treasurer—Henry Knudson, 436; Hans Knudson, 183.

Register of Deeds—Edward Orr, 463; W. H. Ashley, 156; Ira G. Walden, 4.

Sheriff—Jens J. Johnson, 293; William Rost, 147; H. A. Williams, 36; I. A. Moreaux, 78; John Richardson, 62.

<sup>18</sup>Mr. Durfee received a majority of the votes in the district, but owing to the failure of some of the county auditors to make return to the state authorities Mr. Thompson was seated. Mr. Durfee began a contest before the senate, and in January, 1876, was given the seat by a unanimous vote.

Surveyor—James E. Palmer, 609.

Court Commissioner—Carl Hirdler, 419; Charles Winzer, 188.

Commissioner Third District—A. C. Serum,<sup>19</sup> 278; A. Quivili, 90; Charles Winzer, 2.

The presidential election of 1876 was a very quiet one in Jackson county, owing largely to the hard times caused by the grasshopper invasion. Only 591 votes were cast. The result in figures:

President—Rutherford B. Hayes (rep.), 522; Samuel Tilden (dem.), 69.

Congressman—M. H. Dunnell (rep.), 520; E. C. Stacy (dem.), 64.

Representative—C. H. Smith (rep.), 474; B. N. Carrier (ind.), 97.

County Attorney—W. W. Hamilton (rep.), 535.

Judge of Probate—W. A. Fields (rep.), 164; Anders Roe (ind.), 369; Hans Rolfsen (ind.), 12.

Coroner—J. F. Force (rep.), 551.

Court Commissioner—G. R. Moore (rep.), 498; A. H. Strong, 18.

Commissioner First District—A. B. Stimson<sup>20</sup> (rep.), 69; Jareb Palmer (ind.), 25.

Five hundred forty-three votes were polled in 1877. A few independent candidates made the race against the republican nominees. An independent commissioner and county treasurer were elected, there being no republican nominee for the latter office. The official vote:

Governor—John S. Pillsbury (rep.), 512; William L. Banning (dem.), 31.

Senator—C. H. Smith (rep.), 437; W. R. Bennett (dem.), 67.

Representative—Alexander Fiddes (rep.), 497; C. T. Clifford (dem.), 6.

Auditor—G. B. Franklin (rep.), 291; William V. King (ind.), 251.

Treasurer—John Paulson (ind.), 314;

<sup>19</sup>Was chairman from January 1, 1877, to July 16, 1877, and during the year 1878.

<sup>20</sup>Was chairman during 1879.

Ole E. Olson (ind.), 187; Jareb Palmer (ind.), 36.

Register of Deeds—Edward Orr (rep.), 540.

Sheriff—J. J. Johnson (rep.), 342; Charles Michelson (ind.), 147; P. H. Paulson (ind.), 18.

Surveyor—James E. Palmer (rep.), 523.

Superintendent of Schools<sup>21</sup>—J. F. Force (rep.), 515.

Commissioner Second District—H. S. Bailey (rep.), 33; M. S. Barney (ind.), 9; John Cowing (ind.), 34; C. P. Randall<sup>22</sup> (ind.), 49.

In 1878 the republicans were again generally successful, electing the whole county ticket with one exception. Five hundred forty-six votes were cast, and the vote in detail was as follows:

Congressman—M. H. Dunnell (rep.), 412; William Meighen (dem.), 55.

Senator—A. D. Perkins (rep.), 533; William V. King (greenback), 10.

Representative—P. J. Kniss (rep.), 470; J. H. Brooks (greenback), 43; William V. King, 27.

County Attorney—E. D. Briggs (rep.), 318; W. W. Hamilton (ind.), 228.

Clerk of Court—George R. Moore (rep.), 228; E. W. Davies (ind.), 245.

Judge of Probate—Simon Olson (rep.), 536.

Coroner—L. I. Tidball (rep.), 536.

Commissioner Third District—Christian Lewis (rep.), 81; A. E. Kilen (ind.), 116; Obed Omberson (ind.), 47; Ole Tollefson (ind.), 52; Charles Winzer (ind.), 35.

There were independent candidates for

<sup>21</sup>The office of superintendent of schools had now become an elective one. Upon the resignation of William V. King as superintendent March 23, 1872, Dr. E. L. Brownell had been appointed and served until the first of the year 1876. Then Dr. J. F. Force received the appointment and served under the appointment until after this election of 1877.

<sup>22</sup>Was chairman during 1880.

most of the county offices in 1879, and an interesting election was the result. There was a large increase in the vote, 802 ballots being cast, although the highest number for any one office was 796. This was a larger vote than that cast by any other county of the thirty-eighth legislative district. With the exception of the nominees for superintendent of schools and county commissioner, the republican ticket was elected. The vote:

Governor—J. S. Pillsbury (rep.), 723; Edmund Rice (dem.), 60; Scattering, 12.

Auditor—William V. King (rep.), 528; E. P. Skinner (ind.), 267.

Treasurer—John Paulson (rep.), 795.

Register of Deeds—Edward Orr (rep.), 382; Obed Omberson (ind.), 317; Samuel LaRue (ind.), 97.

Sheriff—Charles Malchow (rep.), 487; Michael Miller (ind.), 306.

Superintendent of Schools—J. F. Force (rep.), 315; T. J. Knox (ind.), 468.

Surveyor—James E. Palmer (rep.), 752.

Court Commissioner—H. S. Bailey (rep.), 753.

Commissioner First District—Peter Baker (rep.), 24; H. W. Chandler (ind.), 37; Martin Logue (ind.), 36; Jareb Palmer (ind.), 22.

The law provided that when a county polled 800 votes it should have five county commissioners. As that number had been cast at the 1879 election, the board of county commissioners, on July 23, 1880, redistricted the county in accordance with that law, as follows: No. 1, Petersburg, Middletown, Minneota, Sioux Valley and Round Lake; No. 2, Des Moines and Wisconsin; No. 3, Hunter, Rost, Ewington, Alba, West Heron Lake and Heron Lake; No. 4, LaCrosse, Weimer and Delafield; No. 5, Belmont, Christianity, Kimball and Enterprise. At the

succeeding election an entire new set of commissioners was elected.

There was another increase in the vote in 1880, and 914 votes were counted for presidential electors. In national politics the county was found to be again strongly republican. In local politics the party did not fare so well. Of the five commissioners elected, three were independents, and an independent was also elected judge of probate. The result:

President—James A. Garfield (rep.), 767; Winfield S. Hancock (dem.), 126; James B. Weaver (greenback), 11.

Congressman—W. G. Ward (ind.), 154; H. R. Wells (dem.), 125; M. H. Dunnell (rep.), 619.

Representative—P. J. Kniss (rep.), 270; M. A. Strong (peoples), 586.<sup>23</sup>

Judge of Probate—W. W. Hamilton (rep.), 355; Simon Olson (ind.), 517.

County Attorney—J. D. Bowditch<sup>24</sup> (rep.), 845.

Court Commissioner—Jareb Palmer (rep.), 857.

Coroner—E. P. Gould (rep.), 875.

Commissioner First District—H. W. Chandler (rep.), 60; Martin Logue (ind.), 66.

Commissioner Second District—A. C. Whitman<sup>25</sup> (rep.), 119; Joseph Thomas (ind.), 79.

Commissioner Third District—William Rost (rep.), 56; Christian Lewis (ind.), 86.

Commissioner Fourth District—L. O. Beck (rep.), 94; J. G. Fodnes (ind.), 113.

Commissioner Fifth District—A. E. Kilen (rep.), 124; J. J. Tagley (ind.), 85.

The election of 1881 almost went by

<sup>23</sup>Mr. Kniss was elected.

<sup>24</sup>Resigned November 1, 1881. L. W. Seely was appointed January 4, 1882, to complete the term.

<sup>25</sup>Was chairman from 1881 to 1885, inclusive.

default and was the quietest one ever held in the county. There were only two independent candidates against the nominees of the republican convention, and only 489 votes were cast. Although state officers were voted for, in only one precinct (Ewington) was there a vote cast for the democratic nominee for governor. The vote follows:

Governor—L. F. Hubbard (rep.), 467; R. W. Johnson (dem.), 7.

Judge District Court<sup>26</sup>—M. J. Severance (rep.), 477.

Auditor—William V. King (rep.), 482.

Treasurer—John Paulson (rep.), 483.

Sheriff—Charles Malchow (rep.), 478.

Register of Deeds—A. C. Serum (rep.), 303; Samuel LaRue (ind.), 126.

Superintendent of Schools—T. J. Knox (rep.), 470.

Surveyor—James E. Palmer (rep.), 447.

Commissioner First District—Martin Logue (rep.), 53; H. W. Chandler (ind.), 43.

For the first time in history Jackson county gave a democratic nominee for congress a majority in 1882. There was no opposition to the republican county ticket. Six hundred fifty votes were cast, as follows:

Congressman—J. B. Wakefield (rep.), 238; J. A. Latimer (dem.), 392; Felix A. Borer (pro.), 19.

Senator—R. M. Ward (rep.), 308; J. B. Dukes (ind.), 340.<sup>27</sup>

Representative—James E. Child (rep.), 638.

Clerk of Court—George R. Moore (rep.), 394; E. J. Orr (ind.), 249.

<sup>26</sup>Judges were elected for six year terms, but the legislature of 1885 created a new district—the 13th—composed of the counties of Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood and Jackson. In March, 1885, Governor Hubbard appointed A. D. Perkins judge of the new district, and Judge Severance served only until that date.

<sup>27</sup>Mr. Ward was elected.

County Attorney—L. W. Seely (rep.),  
632.

Judge of Probate—Simon Olson (rep.),  
641.

Coroner—E. P. Gould (rep.), 650.

Court Commissioner—C. L. Campbell  
(rep.), 634.

Commissioner Second District—A. C.  
Whitman<sup>28</sup> (rep.), 163.

Commissioner Third District—Chris-  
tian Lewis (rep.), 109.

<sup>28</sup>Resigned October, 1885, and left the county.  
J. W. Cowing was then appointed and served  
as chairman during 1886 under the appointment.

## CHAPTER XV.

### POLITICAL—1883-1910.

**A**NOTHER abortive attempt was made to organize the democratic party of Jackson county in 1883. A call for a mass convention was issued by a few of the party leaders on October 11,<sup>1</sup> and the convention was held in Jackson Tuesday evening, October 23. D. M. DeVore was chairman of the meeting and F. L. Driggs was secretary. A county committee was named, but no candidates were placed in nomination.

The election of 1883 was quite hotly contested for the few offices for which there were independent candidates. A pretty four cornered fight for the office of sheriff developed among independent candidates. The republican convention had deadlocked over the nomination and had adjourned without selecting a nominee for that important office. Seven hundred forty-four votes were cast. Under the new plan of holding elections only on even-numbered years, the officials elected in 1883 served three years. The vote:

Governor—L. F. Hubbard (rep.), 560;

<sup>1</sup>"The democrats of Jackson county are hereby called and requested to meet in mass convention at Owens' hall in Jackson, Minnesota, on Saturday, October 20, 1883, at one o'clock p. m., for the purpose of organizing for the coming campaign. Let every democrat who has the love of his country at heart rally and lend his voice to strengthen and upbuild his party in Jackson county. (Signed) F. L. Driggs, D. M. DeVore, R. K. Craigie, M. Miller, G. A. Albertus."

Adolph Bierman (dem.), 173; Charles E. Holt (pro.), 11.

Auditor—William V. King (rep.), 713.

Treasurer—John Paulson (rep.), 727.

Sheriff—Charles Malchow (ind.), 332; C. A. Wood (ind.), 174; H. W. Peck (ind.), 141; F. E. Bailey (ind.), 78.

Register of Deeds—A. C. Serum (rep.), 721.

Superintendent of Schools—T. J. Knox (rep.), 706.

Surveyor—James E. Palmer (rep.), 709.

Court Commissioner—M. A. Strong (rep.), 724.

Commissioner Fourth District—Jul G. Fodnes (rep.), 106; John P. Brakke (ind.), 56; Charles Winzer (ind.), 25.

Commissioner Fifth District—A. E. Kilen<sup>2</sup> (rep.), 148.

James G. Blaine carried Jackson county over Grover Cleveland for president by a large majority in 1884. There were 859 votes cast, and with one exception, the republican ticket was elected. The vote as officially canvassed:

President—James G. Blaine (rep.), 652; Grover Cleveland (dem.), 146; Benjamin F. Butler (a-m.), 43; John P. St. John (pro.), 18.

<sup>2</sup>Resigned September 20, 1886, and H. C. Sether appointed in his place September 23.

Congressman—J. B. Wakefield (rep.), 681; J. J. Thornton (dem.), 158; William Copp (pro.), 6.

Representative — Alexander Fiddes (rep.), 660; Eric Olson (ind.), 147.

County Attorney—E. D. Briggs (rep.), 322; D. M. DeVore (ind.), 514.

Judge of Probate—Simon Olson (rep.), 800.

Coroner—E. P. Gould (rep.), 848.

Commissioner First District—C. M. Hardy<sup>3</sup> (rep.), 170.

For the first time in the political history of the county, in 1886 the democrats had reached a point where they believed they had sufficient strength to warrant entering the field of county politics and put up a ticket. Accordingly a convention was convened at Lakefield October 2 and organized. Then it was found that there were many present who did not care to participate in a democratic convention, labeled as such, but who were opposed to the republican organization and would take part in the deliberations of the convention if another name were given. So the following resolution was adopted:

That, inasmuch as there are many independent voters present and many persons not identified with the democratic party, but who are united with us in our opposition to rings and ring rule, now be it resolved that we do not, as a democratic convention, nominate anyone for county office, but that we invite all independent voters and all such as are in sympathy with the common people and against rings and bossism, to join with us in nominating a proper ticket, laying aside all political partisanship.

After the passage of this resolution the democratic convention adjourned and immediately reconvened as the "peoples" convention. A full county ticket was placed in nomination, a permanent organization made, and a determined canvass made. The election was hotly contested and exciting. All the nominees of the new party polled fair votes and three

<sup>2</sup>Resigned and John Baldwin appointed March 4, 1886, to complete the term.

of them were elected. By far the largest vote ever polled was cast, 1,326 being the highest for any one office. The story in figures:

Governor—A. R. McGill (rep.), 936; A. A. Ames (dem.), 352; J. E. Child (pro.), 36.

Judge District Court—A. D. Perkins<sup>4</sup> (all parties), elected.

Congressman — John Lind (rep.), 1,065; A. H. Bullis (dem.), 257; George J. Day (pro.), 1.

Senator—Frank A. Day (rep.), 663; W. H. Gilbert (dem.), 631.

Representative—Erick Sevaton (rep.), 1,088; Elder Berry (dem.), 226.

Auditor—William V. King (rep.), 908; J. A. Spafford (peo.), 410.

Treasurer—John Paulson<sup>5</sup> (rep.), 912; John Frederickson (peo.), 413.

Sheriff—C. A. Wood (rep.), 795; Ole Anderson (peo.), 530.

Register of Deeds—A. C. Serum (rep.), 880; L. B. Lerud (peo.), 446.

Judge of Probate—Simon Olson (rep.), 415; Henry Knudson (peo.), 532; H. S. Bailey (ind.), 362.

County Attorney—T. J. Knox (rep.), 853; D. M. DeVore (peo.), 460.

Surveyor—L. L. Palmer (rep.), elected; John G. Miller (peo.)

Coroner—E. P. Gould<sup>6</sup> (rep.), elected.

Clerk of Court—A. H. Strong (rep.), 769; John P. Brakke (peo.), 551.

Court Commissioner—S. C. Rea (rep. and peo.), elected; R. D. Larned (ind.)

Superintendent of Schools—L. F. Lammers (rep.), 518; Flora J. Frost (peo.), 433; W. B. Sketch (ind.), 194; Joseph J. Jones (ind.), 163; J. W. Dunn (ind.), 156.

<sup>4</sup>Resigned February, 1891, and P. E. Brown appointed by Governor Merriam to finish the term.

<sup>5</sup>Resigned in November, 1888.

<sup>6</sup>Removed from the county and W. C. Portmann appointed January 6, 1887. The latter also removed from the county, and on March 21, 1888, W. W. Heffelfinger received the appointment.

Commissioner First District—John Baldwin (peo.), elected.

Commissioner Second District—J. W. Cowing<sup>7</sup> (rep.), elected.

Commissioner Third District—William Rost (rep.), elected; A. D. Palmer (peo.)

Commissioner Fourth District—J. J. Johnson (rep.); John Powlitschek<sup>8</sup> (peo.), elected.

Commissioner Fifth District—H. C. Sether (rep.), elected; Gustav Meilicke (peo.)

Fifteen hundred seventy-eight votes were cast in Jackson county for president in 1888. For national, state and district officers the democrats made the best showing in the county's history up to that time, Grover Cleveland receiving 475 votes for president. The republicans, democrats and prohibitionists each had tickets in the field of local politics, the prohibitionists having for the first time met in convention at Lakefield September 2. The republicans were generally successful, although a few met defeat. The vote:

President—Benjamin Harrison (rep.), 1,017; Grover Cleveland (dem.), 475; Clinton B. Fisk (pro.), 86.

Governor—William R. Merriam (rep.), 932; Eugene M. Wilson (dem.), 519; Hugh Harrison (pro.), 120.

Congressman — John Lind (rep.), 1,025; Morton S. Wilkinson (dem.), 464; D. W. Edwards (pro.), 88.

Representative—Erick Sevaton (rep.), 1,029; C. W. Hall (dem.), 330; Babcock (pro.), 95.

Auditor—William V. King (rep.), 924; J. A. Spafford (dem.-pro.), 652.

Treasurer — Christian Lewis (rep.), 805; H. H. Berge (ind.), 655; Anders Roe (pro.), 100; H. J. Hoovel (dem.), 5.

Register of Deeds—S. O. Hagen (rep.),

680; John Baldwin (dem.), 761; E. J. Orr (pro.), 113.

County Attorney—T. J. Knox (rep.), 848; W. A. Funk (ind.), 717.

Sheriff—C. A. Wood (rep.), 1,078; M. Miller (dem.), 487.

Judge of Probate—Henry Knudson (rep.), 848; A. D. Palmer (dem.-pro.), 360; Simon Olson (ind.), 358.

Superintendent of Schools—L. F. Lammers (rep.), 886; Flora J. Frost (dem.), 804.

Coroner—W. W. Heffelfinger<sup>9</sup> (rep.), 883; W. C. Portmann (dem.), 603; Nathaniel Frost (pro.), 80.

Surveyor—L. L. Palmer (rep.), 1,431; J. G. Miller (pro.), 94; G. A. Albertus (dem.), 24.

Commissioner First District—Orrin Jones<sup>10</sup> (rep.), 159; Robert Gruhlke (dem.), 126.

Commissioner Third District—William Rost (ind.), 47; Matt Tollefson (pro.), 6; Richard Suker (dem.), 49; H. K. Rue (ind.), 114; Olson, 30; Luftron (ind.), 73.

Commissioner Fourth District—J. E. Jones (dem.-rep.), 137; Frank Wazlahowsky (ind.), 84; Henry Hohenstein (ind.), 71.

Commissioner Fifth District—Hans Sether (rep.), 278; B. A. Brown (pro.), 6.

There was a political revolution in 1890, caused by the entrance into politics of the farmers' alliance. The result was the almost complete overthrow of the republican party, which had been in control since the organization of the county. The alliance candidate for governor carried the county; the alliance candidates for state senator and representative carried the county and were elected; the alliance candidate for congress lost the county by

<sup>7</sup>Served as chairman from 1886 to 1894, inclusive.

<sup>8</sup>Died February 23, 1887. J. E. Jones appointed to the vacancy April 6, 1887.

<sup>9</sup>Resigned and W. C. Portmann appointed coroner April 30, 1889.

<sup>10</sup>Resigned and Walter Withers appointed July, 1891.



only a small plurality. Of the county officers only two or three were elected who had not been nominated or endorsed by the alliance party. The legislative situation was complicated by a bad split in the republican convention. The delegates from Cottonwood county, which was then for the first time districted with Jackson county, refused to participate in the convention. The Jackson county delegates proceeded to place in nomination T. J. Knox for senator and Silas Blackman for representative. The Cottonwood county delegates met and nominated Erick Sevatson for senator and H. F. Tucker for representative, and these were later endorsed by the alliance party. Fifteen hundred sixty-eight votes were polled. The result:

Governor—William R. Merriam (rep.), 434; Thomas J. Wilson (dem.), 504; Sidney M. Owen (all.), 595; J. P. Pinkham (pro.), 35.

Congressman—John Lind (rep.), 781; James H. Baker (all.), 754; Ira Reynolds (pro.), 26.

Senator—T. J. Knox (rep.), 594; Erick Sevatson (all.), 737; W. C. Portmann (dem.), 219; J. I. Wallace (pro.), 7.

Representative—Silas Blackman (rep.), 563; Edward Savage (dem.), 314; H. F. Tucker (all.), 680.

Auditor—A. C. Serum (rep.), 591; William V. King (all.), 937.

Treasurer—Christian Lewis (rep.-dem.-all.), 1,567.

Sheriff—C. A. Wood (rep.), 699; S. J. Moe (all.), 843; L. O. Beck (pro.), 22.

Register of Deeds—John Baldwin (dem.-rep.-all.), 1,565.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 739; J. G. Miller (dem.), 189; Ole O. Engen (all.), 607.

County Attorney—W. A. Funk (rep.-all.), 1,267.

Surveyor—L. J. Palmer (rep.-dem.-all.), 1,531.

Coroner—C. R. J. Kellam, 696; W. C. Portmann, 826.

Clerk of Court—A. H. Strong (rep.), 803; H. J. Hollister (dem.-all.), 757.

Court Commissioner—J. A. Goodrich (all.-dem.), 1,333; T. A. Alexander (rep.), 220.

Superintendent of Schools—Eugene Rucker (rep.), 716; Flora J. Frost (dem.), 1,180.

Commissioner Second District—J. W. Cowing (rep.), 127; J. W. Hunter (ind.), 97.

An outgrowth of the alliance party was the peoples party, otherwise known as the populist party, which made its first appearance in Jackson county politics in 1892. Now only a memory, the peoples party was an important factor in the politics of the county during the nineties. Its strength was such that during several campaigns, by forming alliance with, and endorsing nominees of, the democratic party, it was able to dominate county politics.

The county was carried by the republicans in 1892 for president by the smallest plurality the nominee of that party ever received, before or since. The nominees of that party for governor and congressman also carried the county by small pluralities. Fusion between the democrats and peoples party was affected for representative, and the nominee of those parties carried the county and was elected.

In county politics the democrats and peoples party also combined, their conventions being held on the same day. By mutual understanding the democrats named the nominees for register of deeds, superintendent of schools, judge of probate, coroner and county commissioners from the first and fourth districts, while the peoples party selected the nominees for auditor, treasurer, county attorney, sheriff, surveyor and commissioners from

the third and fifth districts. At the election the fusion forces elected auditor, sheriff, register of deeds, surveyor, coroner and commissioners from the first, third and fifth districts. The republicans elected treasurer, judge of probate, county attorney and commissioner from the fourth district. The nominee for superintendent of schools was endorsed by all parties.

The vote had now increased to 2,096, a far greater number than had ever before been cast. The Australian ballot system was employed for the first time in this election. The vote in detail:

President—Benjamin Harrison (rep.), 900; Grover Cleveland (dem.), 852; James B. Weaver (pp.), 270; Silas Bidwell (pro.), 74.

Governor—Knut Nelson (rep.), 839; Daniel W. Lawler (dem.), 680; Ignatius Donnelly (pp.), 312; Dean (pro.), 54.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 883; W. S. Hammond (dem.), 690; L. C. Long (pp.), 344.

Judge District Court—P. E. Brown<sup>11</sup> (non-partisan), 1,239.

Representative—John Paulson (rep.), 923; E. J. Meilicke (dem.-pp.), 1,017.

Auditor—J. D. Wilson (rep.), 814; William V. King (dem.-pp.), 1,156.

Treasurer—Christian Lewis (rep.), 1,116; Charles Malchow (dem.-pp.), 825.

Sheriff—D. S. Stoddard (rep.), 652; Ole Anderson (dem.-pp.), 856; S. J. Moe (ind.), 431.

Register of Deeds—Jareb Palmer (rep.), 644; John Baldwin (dem.-pp.), 1,301.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 1,142; E. Babcock (dem.-pp.), 785.

County Attorney—W. A. Funk (rep.), 982; W. B. Sketch (dem.-pp.), 975.

<sup>11</sup>In 1897 the legislature changed the boundaries of the judicial districts, and Jackson county became a part of the 17th. James H. Quinn became judge of the 17th and presided over his first Jackson county court in April, 1897.

Surveyor—A. C. Serum (rep.), 749; C. W. Gove (dem.-pp.), 810; L. L. Palmer (ind.), 377.

Coroner—Scott Searles (rep.), 779; W. C. Portmann (dem.-pp.) 1,143.

Superintendent of Schools—Flora J. Frost (rep.-dem.), 1,797.

Commissioner First District—W. H. Austin (rep.), 124; Henry Thielvoldt (dem.-pp.), 224.

Commissioner Third District—W. C. Bauer (rep.), 139; H. K. Rue (dem.-pp.), 316.

Commissioner Fourth District—George Erbes (rep.), 181; J. E. Jones (dem.-pp.), 141; G. T. Juvland (ind.), 58.

Commissioner Fifth District—Thomas Chesterson (pp.), 283.

The election of 1894 was one of great excitement in local circles, and the campaign was one of the most bitter ever waged in the county. All three parties were in the field with tickets, the democrats and peoples party combining on only a few officers. In addition to the regular party nominees there were a number of independent candidates, who added their share to the bitterness of the strife. The republican county ticket was generally successful, although a few offices went to the other parties. The peoples party nominees for senator and representative carried the county and were elected. Twenty-four hundred nineteen was the highest number of votes cast for the nominees of one office. The result:

Governor—Knut Nelson (rep.), 1,242; George L. Becker (dem.), 428; Sidney M. Owen (pp.), 701; Hans S. Hilleboe (pro.), 43.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,195; James T. Baker (dem.), 416; L. C. Long (pp.), 685; H. S. Kellam (pro.), 52.

Senator—H. F. Tucker (rep.), 1,086; Erick Sevaston (pp.), 1,226.

Representative—C. R. J. Kellam (rep.), 997; E. J. Meilicke (pp.), 1,281.

Auditor—V. E. Butler (rep.), 637; Joseph J. Jones (dem.), 403; J. A. Spafford (pp.), 528; William V. King (ind.), 707.

Treasurer—John Paulson (rep.), 580; G. A. Albertus (dem.), 559; Matt Tollefson (pp.), 358; Christian Lewis (ind.), 560; Charles Malchow (ind.), 362.

Register of Deeds—John P. Brakke (rep.), 555; John Baldwin (dem.), 1,103; C. W. Gove (pp.), 729.

Sheriff—Clark A. Wood (rep.), 999; M. Miller (dem.), 489; Ole Anderson (pp.), 930.

Clerk of Court—Eugene Rucker (rep.), 1,081; John M. Voda (pp.-dem.), 712; A. H. Strong (ind.), 494.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 1,521; Marvin Hollister (dem.), 535; Isaac Durham (pp.), 300.

Surveyor—J. L. Holst (rep.), 1,018; John G. Miller (dem.), 587; James Palmer (ind.), 748.

Coroner—W. C. Portmann (dem.), 1,693.

County Attorney—W. A. Funk<sup>12</sup> (rep.), 1,049; T. A. Alexander (dem.), 386; W. B. Sketch (pp.), 975.

Superintendent of Schools—Lizzie A. Price (rep.), 1,350; Flora J. Frost (dem.-pp.), 1,543.

Court Commissioner—J. A. Goodrich (rep.), 1,345; S. D. Sumner (dem.), 826.

Commissioner Second District—Alexander Fiddes<sup>13</sup> (rep.), 426.

In 1896 the free silver issue gained many adherents in Jackson county, and William Jennings Bryan, the democratic standard bearer, received a large vote, although William McKinley had a majority. The democratic and peoples party

nominee for governor came within two votes of carrying the county; the congressional and legislative offices were also carried by the republicans. Twenty-eight hundred fifty-eight votes were cast.

As in 1892, the democratic and peoples party combined on their county ticket. The nominees for representative and sheriff were named in joint convention; the other nominees were selected by separate conventions, the democrats naming candidates for register of deeds, judge of probate, county attorney, coroner and commissioners from the first and fourth districts, and the peoples party candidates for auditor, treasurer, superintendent of schools, surveyor, court commissioner and commissioners from the third and fifth districts. The fusion forces elected register of deeds, coroner, superintendent of schools and two of the four commissioners; the other offices were captured by the republicans. The vote as canvassed:

President—William McKinley (rep.), 1,558; William J. Bryan (dem.), 1,150; Levering (pro.), 29; Palmer (nat. dem.), 21; Matchett (soc.-dem.), 0.

Governor—David M. Clough (rep.), 1,328; John Lind (dem.-pp.), 1,326; William J. Dean (pro.), 26; A. A. Ames, (ind.), 5; William B. Hammond (soc. lab.), 4.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,555; Frank A. Day (dem.-pp.), 1,216; Richard Price (pro.), 38.

Representative—George M. Laing (rep.), 1,438; E. J. Meilicke (dem.-pp.), 1,368.

Auditor—V. E. Butler (rep.), 1,430; William V. King (dem.-pp.), 1,428.

Treasurer—John Paulson (rep.), 1,477; H. K. Rue (dem.-pp.), 1,377.

Register of Deeds—G. T. Juvland (rep.), 1,344; John Baldwin (dem.-pp.), 1,512.

<sup>12</sup>Left the county in November, 1895, and L. F. Lammers was appointed to the vacancy in January, 1896.

<sup>13</sup>Was chairman from 1895 to 1898, inclusive.

Sheriff—C. A. Wood (rep.), 1,615; Ole Anderson (dem.-pp.), 1,230.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 1,843; George C. Cooley (dem.-pp.), 970.

Surveyor—J. L. Holst (rep.), 1,514; F. E. Stanley (dem.-pp.), 1,299.

Coroner—C. R. J. Kellam (rep.), 1,228; W. C. Portmann (dem.-pp.), 1,524.

County Attorney—E. T. Smith (rep.), 1,623; F. B. Faber (dem.-pp.), 1,205.

Superintendent of Schools—Lizzie A. Price (rep.), 1,663; Flora J. Frost (dem.-pp.), 1,664.<sup>14</sup>

Commissioner First District—T. J. Russell (rep.), 250; Henry Thievoldt (dem.), 256.

Commissioner Third District—D. Crawford (rep.), 438; Alex Brown (pp.), 272.

Commissioner Fourth District—George Erbes (rep.), 455.

Commissioner Fifth District—Thomas Clipperton (rep.), 214; Thomas Chesterson.<sup>15</sup> (pp.), 268.

The off-year 1898 showed a falling off in the total vote, the number being 2,145. The two free silver parties again combined their forces against the republican ticket, but they were not very successful at the polls. The fusionists carried the county for representative and elected the register of deeds; otherwise the republicans were successful. Following was the vote:

Governor—William H. Eustis (rep.), 1,502; John Lind (dem.-pp.), 964; George W. Higgins, (pro.), 35; William B. Ham-

mond (soc.-lab.), 11; L. C. Long (middle of the road populist), 8.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,188; D. H. Evans (dem.-pp.), 803; T. P. Grout (pro.), 61.

Judge District Court—James H. Quinn (rep.-ind.), 1,270; Andrew C. Dunn (ind. and non-partisan), 789.

Senator—Alexander Fiddes (rep.), 970; E. J. Meilicke (dem.-pp.), 1,142.

Representative—D. L. Riley (rep.), 1,320; James Manning (dem.-pp.), 740.

Auditor—V. E. Butler (rep.), 1,340; William V. King (dem.-pp.), 805.

Treasurer—John Paulson (rep.), 1,099; H. K. Rue (dem.-pp.), 1,041.

Sheriff—M. B. Dunn (rep.), 1,422; John W. Muir (dem.-pp.), 703.

Register of Deeds—S. N. Olson (rep.), 1,017; John Baldwin (dem.-pp.), 1,115.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 1,360; V. B. Crane (dem.-pp.), 760.

County Attorney—E. T. Smith (rep.), 1,162; W. B. Sketch (ind.), 921.

Coroner—F. J. Ledbrook (rep.), 1,045; W. C. Portmann (dem.-pp.), 1,018.

Clerk of Court—Eugene Rucker<sup>16</sup> (rep.), 1,360; J. F. Laumann (dem.-pp.), 1,018.

Superintendent of Schools—David Brown (rep.), 1,303; Flora J. Frost, (dem.-pp.), 1,181.

Court Commissioner—J. A. Goodrich, (rep.-dem.-pp.), 1,733.

Surveyor—J. L. Holst (rep.), 1,723.

Commissioner Second District—P. H. Berge<sup>17</sup> (rep.), 255; J. I. Wallace (dem.-pp.), 223.

Commissioner Fifth District—J. M. Olson (rep.), 206; Charles Tichacek (dem.-pp.), 161.

The high mark in total vote cast, in the entire history of the county, was reached

<sup>14</sup>Resigned and William D. Hunter appointed by Judge Quinn in June, 1902.

<sup>15</sup>Was chairman from January, 1899, to July, 1904.

<sup>16</sup>Miss Price served notice of a contest for the office of superintendent of schools on November 23, 1896. The case came to trial before Judge P. E. Brown of the district court on Monday, December 27. Attorney W. A. Funk appearing for the contestant and Attorney T. J. Knox for the contestee. Over thirty witnesses were examined and many votes were thrown out as illegal. Twenty ballots that had been cast for Miss Price were thrown out and five or six that had been cast for Miss Frost met the same fate. After the case had reached this stage Miss Price asked that the contest be dismissed, which was done.

<sup>17</sup>In February, 1898, Charles Tichacek was chosen commissioner from the fifth district to succeed Mr. Chesterson.

in 1900, when 2,988 ballots were cast for the candidates for one office. The republicans carried the county against the fusionists for all state and district officers and elected the county ticket with the exception of treasurer, register of deeds and one commissioner. The vote:

President—William McKinley (rep.), 1,757; William J. Bryan (dem.-pp.), 993; John G. Wolley (pro.), 83; Eugene V. Debs (soc. dem.), 24; Malloney (soc. lab.), 7.

Governor—S. R. VanSant (rep.), 1,433; John Lind (dem.-pp.), 1,302; Bernt B. Haugen (pro.), 45; S. M. Fairchild (middle of the road), 6; Thomas H. Lucas (soc.-dem.), 39; Edward Kriz (soc. lab.), 4.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,799; M. E. Matthews (dem.-pp.), 1,059; S. D. Works (pro.), 72.

Representative—D. L. Riley (rep.), 1,609; William V. King (dem.-pp.), 1,241.

Auditor—P. D. McKellar (rep.), 1,526; Joseph J. Jones (dem.-pp.), 1,421.

Treasurer—John Paulson (rep.), 1,475; H. K. Rue (dem.-pp.), 1,513.

Sheriff—M. B. Dunn (rep.), 1,911; S. J. Moe (dem.-pp.), 1,070.

Register of Deeds—T. A. Dieson (rep.), 1,358; John Baldwin (dem.-pp.), 1,608.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 2,444.

County Attorney—E. T. Smith (rep.), 1,803; W. B. Sketch (ind.), 1,042.

Surveyor—J. L. Holst (rep.), 1,659; J. J. Babcock (dem.-pp.), 1,209.

Coroner—F. J. Ledbrook<sup>18</sup> (rep.), 2,243.

Superintendent of Schools—Laura T. Olson (rep.), 1,404; Flora J. Frost (dem.-pp.), 1,386; David Brown (ind.), 901.

<sup>18</sup>Removed from county and office declared vacant July 10, 1901. W. C. Portmann appointed to complete the term.

Commissioner First District—Dennis Stoddard (rep.), 240; Henry Thielvoldt (dem.-pp.), 289.

Commissioner Third District—David Crawford (rep.), 445; Herman Tank (dem.-pp.), 291.

Commissioner Fourth District—George Erbes<sup>19</sup> (rep.), 309; Jerry Sullivan (dem.-pp.), 185.

The primary election law went into effect in 1902, and since that time party nominations have been made by direct vote of the people instead of the old style county conventions. This has resulted in revolutionizing county politics. Jackson county being normally strongly republican, the principal campaign is now made for the republican nomination. Under the law anyone can become a candidate by paying a small fee and filing his name, and there are often several candidates for one office. Generally there are only a few contests for county office at the general election.

At the first primary election, held September 16, 1902, the following were named on the republican ticket without opposition: Congressman, James T. McCleary; representative, L. F. Lammers; register of deeds, Ole E. Olson; judge of probate, C. H. Sandon; commissioner second district, P. H. Berge; commissioner fifth district, J. M. Olson. The result where there was more than one candidate was as follows:

Senator—D. L. Riley, 722; W. A. Smith, 621.<sup>20</sup>

Auditor—P. D. McKellar, 879; E. O. Hanson, 459.

Sheriff—M. B. Dunn, 711; C. M. Tradewell, 647; R. H. Austin, 38.

Clerk of Court—William Crawford, 722; R. H. Lueneburg, 519.

<sup>19</sup>Resigned April 18, 1904. T. J. Egge named to complete the term.

<sup>20</sup>Mr. Smith carried the district.

Superintendent of Schools—Laura T. Olson, 1,111; W. E. Bertels, 298.

All the democratic nominees were chosen without opposition, as follows: Congressman, Charles N. Andrews; representative, A. M. Schroeder; treasurer, H. K. Rue; register of deeds, John Baldwin; clerk of court, John M. Voda.

At the general election 2,350 votes were polled. The republicans elected their ticket with the exception of representative, treasurer and register of deeds, and carried the county for state and congressional candidates by big majorities. The peoples party went out of existence, so far as county politics was concerned, with the election of 1900. The vote of the 1902 general election in detail:

Governor—Samuel R. VanSant (rep.), 1,493; Leonard A. Rosing (dem.), 690; Thomas J. Meighen (pp.), 26; Charles Scanlon (pro.), 70; Jay E. Nash, 4; Thomas Van Lear (soc. lab.), 9.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,536; Charles N. Andrews, (dem.), 737.

Senator—W. A. Smith (rep.), 1,712.

Representative—L. F. Lammers (rep.), 899; A. M. Schroeder (dem.), 1,422.

Auditor—P. D. McKellar (rep.), 1963.

Treasurer—H. K. Rue (dem.), 1,859.

Register of Deeds—Ole E. Olson (rep.), 797; John Baldwin (dem.), 1,134; J. E. Foss (ind.), 382.

Clerk of Court—William Crawford (rep.), 1,191; John M. Voda (dem.), 1,159.

Judge of Probate—Charles H. Sandon (rep.), 1,834.

County Attorney—E. T. Smith (rep.), 1,864.

Sheriff—M. B. Dunn (rep.), 1,839.

Superintendent of Schools—Laura T. Olson (rep.), 1,792.

Surveyor—J. J. Babcock (ind.), 1,621.

Court Commissioner—J. A. Goodrich (ind.), 1,578.

Coroner—D. P. Maitland (ind.), 1,623.

Commissioner Second District—P. H. Berge<sup>21</sup> (rep.), 446.

Commissioner Fifth District—J. M. Olson (rep.), 323.

At the 1904 republican primary election the following were chosen without opposition: Judge district court, James H. Quinn; auditor, P. D. McKellar; county attorney, E. T. Smith; commissioner second district, Henry G. Anderson; commissioner third district, David Crawford. The result for those offices where there were more than one candidate:

Congressman—James T. McCleary, 1,135; H. J. Miller, 747.

Representative—L. F. Lammers, 432; B. P. St. John, 629; L. O. Teigen, 788.

Register of Deeds—Ole E. Olson, 738; O. J. Wagnild, 897.

Judge of Probate—B. P. Elverum, 739; C. H. Sandon, 1,085.

Superintendent of Schools—E. B. McCole, 508; Laura T. Olson, 1,080; Elizabeth Rouse, 879.

Sheriff—M. B. Dunn, 1,050; Dan McNamara, 218; C. M. Tradewell, 659.

Coroner—H. L. Arzt, 728; D. P. Maitland, 1,005.

As in 1902, there was no opposition to those who filed for the democratic nominations, and the following were chosen: Judge district court, Frederick A. Mathwig; congressman, George P. Jones; auditor, Joseph J. Jones; register of deeds, John Baldwin; treasurer, H. K. Rue; surveyor, J. J. Babcock; commissioner first district, Henry Thielvoldt.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup>Resigned July, 1904, and Henry G. Anderson was appointed to serve until January 1, 1905. He was chosen chairman July 11, 1904.

<sup>22</sup>The highest number cast for any one office on the democratic ticket was 73. The smallness of this vote is easily accounted for. There being no contests in their own party, the democrats assisted the republicans in the selection

Two thousand nine hundred forty-six votes were cast at the general election of 1904. Theodore Roosevelt received a record-breaking majority for president, and the republicans carried the county for all state and district officers. Of the county offices only treasurer and one commissioner went to the democrats. The vote:

President—Theodore Roosevelt (rep.), 2,032; Alton B. Parker (dem.), 554.<sup>23</sup>

Governor—Robert C. Dunn (rep.), 1,505; John A. Johnson (dem.), 1,190; Charles Dorsett (pro.), 43; J. E. Nash (pub. own.), 13; A. W. M. Anderson (soc. lab.), 13.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,871; George P. Jones (dem.), 1,001.

Judge District Court—James H. Quinn (rep.), 1,817; Frederick A. Mathwig, (dem.), 1,000.

Representative—L. O. Teigen (rep.), 1,460; A. M. Schroeder (dem.), 1,413.

Auditor—P. D. McKellar (rep.), 1,638; Joseph J. Jones (dem.), 1,308.

Treasurer—H. K. Rue (dem.), 2,330.

Register of Deeds—O. J. Wagnild (rep.), 1,728; John Baldwin (dem.), 1,178.

Sheriff—M. B. Dunn (rep.), 2,408.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 2,365.

County Attorney—E. T. Smith (rep.), 2,270.

Surveyor—J. J. Babcock (dem.), 2,007.

Coroner—D. P. Maitland (rep.), 2,181.

Superintendent of Schools—Laura T. Olson (rep.), 2,257.

Commissioner First District<sup>24</sup>—Henry Thielvoldt (dem.), 323; Charles Fried (ind.), 125.

Commissioner Second District—Henry G. Anderson<sup>25</sup> (rep.), 485.

Commissioner Third District—David Crawford (rep.), 555.

Commissioner Fourth District—Duncan McNab (rep.), 180.

The 1906 republican primary resulted in selecting the following without opposition: Treasurer, H. K. Rue; register of deeds, O. J. Wagnild; judge of probate, John Woolstencroft; county attorney, L. F. Lammers; coroner, D. P. Maitland; clerk of court, William Crawford; commissioner second district, Henry G. Anderson. Those selected with opposition were as follows:

Congressman—James T. McCleary, 835; Gilbert Guttersen, 799.

Senator—L. O. Teigen, 934; Henry E. Hanson, 494; C. W. Gillam, 213.

Representative—Charles Winzer, 876; John E. Kilen, 531.

Auditor—P. D. McKellar, 1,117; A. H. Strong, 502.

Sheriff—G. W. Eveland, 453; Emory Olson, 282; Henry Beck, 352; J. J. Egge, 371.

Superintendent of Schools—J. A. Mansfield, 873; Gilbert Hovelsrud, 530.

Commissioner Fifth District—A. C. Olson, 330; A. J. Lindberg, 182.

The democrats chose the following without opposition: Congressman, W. S. Hammond; representative, A. P. Vandam; treasurer, Bruno Poppitz; sheriff,

of their nominees, and under the primary law they are legally entitled to do so. For instance: The law provides that a primary voter shall vote the ticket of that party, the majority of whose nominees he supported at the preceding general election. A democrat might have voted for every nominee of his party in the general election of 1902 (also voting for the republicans who had no opposition) and yet vote the republican ballot at the primary election of 1904.

<sup>23</sup>Vote of other candidates not given.

<sup>24</sup>The county commissioners on July 22, 1904, redistricted the county into commissioner districts as follows: No. 1, Sioux Valley, Minnesota, Middletown, Petersburg, Wisconsin and Alpha; No. 2, Des Moines, Hunter and Jackson; No. 3, Rost, West Heron Lake, Welmer, Heron Lake township, Lakefield and Wilder; No. 4, Round Lake, Ewington, Alba, LaCrosse and Heron Lake village; No. 5, Delafield, Christiania, Kimball, Belmont and Enterprise.

<sup>25</sup>Has served as chairman from July 11, 1904, to the present time.

Henry TerHaar; clerk of court, A. M. Schroeder; surveyor, J. J. Babcock.

The prohibitionists selected David A. Tucker for congressman, and Charles M. Forman for representative.

So far as county politics were concerned, party lines were ignored at the election of 1906. The election closely followed the bitter county seat contest, and the political affiliations of the candidates had little weight with the voters. But the actions and sympathies of the various nominees during the fight and their geographical location had considerable weight; residents of the north and west parts of the county voted almost solidly for men who had been in sympathy with Lakefield in its attempts to remove the county seat, while those of the east and south part of the county voted as solidly for men who had favored Jackson. Many political obligations were paid at the election of 1906; friends were rewarded, enemies were punished.

For the first and only time in the history of Jackson county a democrat carried the county for governor, John A. Johnson receiving a plurality of 102 over A. L. Cole. The republicans carried the county for the other state and district offices. In the county election the republicans elected seven nominees, the democrats three, and two independent candidates were chosen. Twenty-seven hundred forty-seven votes were cast. The official vote was as follows:

Governor—A. L. Cole (rep.), 1,253; John A. Johnson (dem.), 1,355.

Congressman—James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,469; W. S. Hammond (dem.), 1,149.

Senator—Henry E. Hanson (rep.), 2,194.

Representative—Charles Winzer (rep.), 1,422; A. P. VanDam (dem.), 1,037; C. M. Forman (pro.), 191.

Auditor—P. D. McKellar (rep.), 1,549; John Baldwin (ind.), 1,198.

Treasurer—H. K. Rue (rep.), 1,452; Bruno Poppitz (dem.), 1,198.

Register of Deeds—O. J. Wagnild (rep.), 1,380; L. J. Dostal (dem.), 1,333.

Clerk of Court—William Crawford (rep.), 1,138; A. M. Schroeder (dem.), 1,548.

Sheriff—Henry TerHaar (dem.), 1,403; M. B. Dunn (ind.), 1,310.

Judge of Probate—John Woolstencroft (rep.), 1,311; C. H. Sandon (ind.), 1,375.

County Attorney—L. F. Lammers (rep.), 1,377; E. T. Smith (ind.), 1,335.

Superintendent of Schools—J. A. Mansfield (rep.), 1,117; J. B. Arp (ind.), 1,830; Laura T. Olson (ind.), 773.

Coroner—D. P. Maitland (rep.), 2,047.

Surveyor—J. J. Babcock (dem.), 1,999.

Commissioner Second District—Henry G. Anderson (rep.), 457.

Commissioner Fifth District—Andrew C. Olson (rep.), 397.

At the primary election of 1908 the following republicans were nominated without opposition: Auditor, P. D. McKellar; sheriff, O. C. Lee; superintendent of schools, J. B. Arp; commissioner fourth district, Duncan McNab. Where there was more than one candidate for the same office the results were as follows:

Congressman—Paul A. Ewert, 317; Gilbert Guttersen, 582; James T. McCleary, 687.

Representative—A. A. Fosness, 966; Charles Winzer, 541.

Treasurer—Henry Knudson, 486; H. K. Rue, 1,131.

Register of Deeds—A. J. Nestrud, 824; Peter J. Reinen, 693.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon, 950; T. H. Stall, 597.

County Attorney—L. F. Lammers, 622; J. A. Mansfield, 955.



Coroner—H. L. Arzt, 713; Iver S. Benson, 635.

Commissioner Third District—David Crawford, 258; William Rost, 157.

Again a few democrats filed for the nomination and were selected without opposition. They were: Congressman, W. S. Hammond; representative, John Baldwin; sheriff, Henry TerHaar; register of deeds, L. J. Dostal; surveyor, J. J. Babcock; superintendent of schools, Mrs. Della Best; commissioner first district, Henry Thielvoldt.

At the last general election held in Jackson county before the publication of this history, that held in November, 1908, 2,821 was the highest number of votes cast for any one office. The republicans carried the county for the national and state tickets and elected the auditor, treasurer, judge of probate, county attorney, superintendent of schools, coroner and two commissioners; the democrats carried the county for congressman (the second time in the county's history) and elected the representative, register of deeds, sheriff, surveyor and one commissioner. The official vote of the general election of 1908:

President—William H. Taft (rep.), 1,575; William J. Bryan (dem.), 1,013.<sup>2\*</sup>

Governor—Jacob F. Jacobson (rep.), 1,364; John A. Johnson (dem.), 1,289.

Congressman — James T. McCleary (rep.), 1,187; W. S. Hammond (dem.), 1,626.

Representative—A. A. Fosness (rep.), 1,340; John Baldwin (dem.), 1,481.

Auditor—P. D. McKellar (rep.), 2,433.

Treasurer—H. K. Rue (rep.), 2,352.

Register of Deeds—Albert J. Nestrud (rep.), 1,337; L. J. Dostal (dem.), 1,438.

Sheriff—O. C. Lee (rep.), 1,099; Henry TerHaar (dem.), 1,709.

Judge of Probate—C. H. Sandon (rep.), 1,863; Rafdahl (ind.), 810.

\*The vote is given for only the two leading candidates.

County Attorney—J. A. Mansfield (rep.), 2,278.

Surveyor—J. J. Babcock (dem.), 1,919.

Superintendent of Schools—J. B. Arp (rep.), 1,885; Mrs. Della Best (dem.), 1,772.

Coroner—H. L. Arzt (rep.), 2,077.

Commissioner First District—Henry Thielvoldt (dem.), 384.

Commissioner Third District—David Crawford (rep.), 474.

Commissioner Fourth District—Duncan McNab (rep.), 375.

And now the political history of Jackson county is brought to a close. It covers a period from the time in 1858 when the first county official took the oath of office—when there was a mere handful of men in the county who availed themselves of the privileges of voting—up to and including the last general election before the date of publication of this volume, at which time the total vote reached nearly 3,000. A brief summary of the conditions during this time may not be out of place.

The county has always been normally republican. In the early days it was considered a disgrace, and almost a crime, to have other political affiliations. There have been county elections held when every vote was for the republican ticket. Although the party of Jefferson polled 1,150 votes at one election, it has never carried the county for the national ticket; the nearest it came was in 1892, when the Cleveland electors were only 48 votes behind those of Harrison.

During the entire early history of the county and up to 1886, the republican party was the only one maintaining an organization. But during this time there was a strong independent movement, kept alive by one faction of the republican party and the few democrats, which opposed the republican organization and on sev-

eral occasions gained control of county politics.

With the later settlement of the county came the organization of the democratic party—in the middle eighties—and since that time it has been a factor in county politics, although always as the minority party. On one occasion it carried the county for its candidate for governor; at two elections it has returned majorities for its nominees for congressman; on several occasions it has secured majorities for legislative candidates.

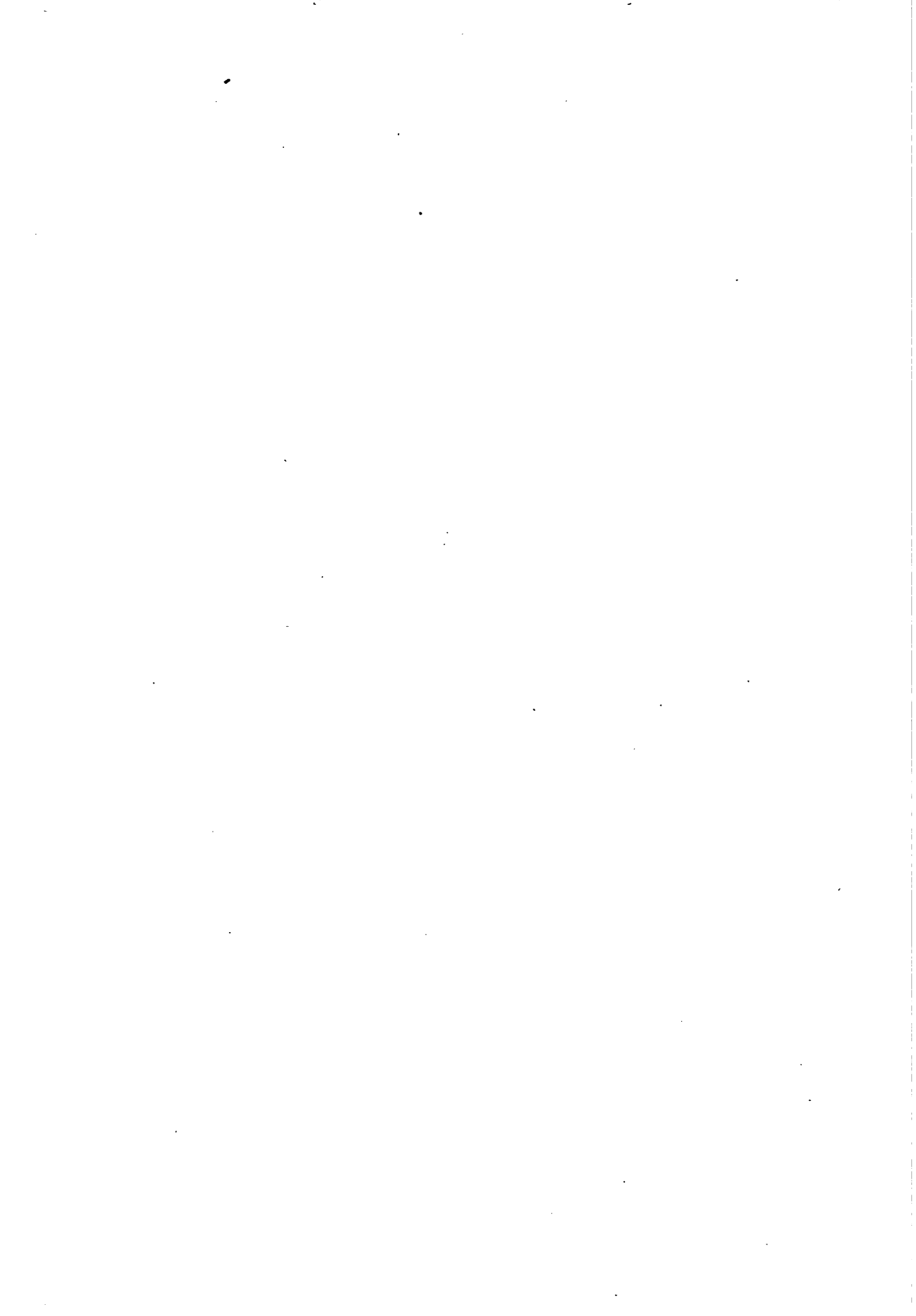
During the free silver days of the nineties the peoples party came into existence, and for a few years was a power in county politics. When its power began to wane, fusion was accomplished with the democrats, and for some time longer the combined forces furnished strong opposition to the dominant party.

The prohibitionists have never been

very strong in Jackson county. In one or two campaigns they placed nominees for county offices in the field, but they have not maintained a permanent organization. The socialists and other minor parties have little or no strength in the county, and have never had organizations.

While the county is normally republican, normal conditions are rarely normal (if such an expression may be used). There is a strong independent vote, not bound to any party, which sways the county from the dominant party frequently when it is believed better candidates appear upon another ticket.

Jackson county has been fortunate in its selection of county officers. During its political history of 51 years, there has not been a defaulting county officer, so far as I am able to learn. Nor has there been a removal because of criminal action or incompetence.



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**JACKSON IN 1882**

**From an Old Pen and Ink Drawing. The Railroad shown in the Picture will be Built Later**

## CHAPTER XVI.

### JACKSON—1856-1869.

**J**ACKSON, the capital of Jackson county, is the oldest and largest town in the county. It is located on the Des Moines river, and its elevation above sea level is 1,353 feet.<sup>1</sup> It is on the Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and is a division point of that road. Otherwise described, Jackson is in the southeastern part of Jackson county, the business center of the village being fifteen and one-half miles from the northern boundary, eight and one-half miles from the southern boundary, six and three-quarters miles from the eastern border, and twenty-three and one-quarter miles from the western boundary line of the county.

The population of Jackson, according to the census of 1905, was 1,776, but there has been an increase since that, and a census today would show a population of about 2,000. Jackson is one of the progressive and prosperous towns of southwestern Minnesota. All lines of business that are to be found in the towns of the agricultural communities of the upper Mississippi valley are represented. It is noted for its schools, churches and social organizations, and in this respect it is the peer of any town of its size in the state.

<sup>1</sup>This is the elevation of the business part of town. The elevation of Depot hill is 1,446 feet, while the Des Moines river at Jackson is 1,288 feet above sea level.

The location of Jackson, considered in its natural state, is one of unusual beauty; southwestern Minnesota has not a more lovely spot. Here the Des Moines river forms a semi-circle, and on the hills and benches on either side of that stream is builded the city. On the east side are hills and bluffs, covered with a heavy growth of natural timber; on the west side are a succession of benches. On the lower bench is the business part of the city, while on the higher ground of the next rise is the residence portion. The bluffs and hills surrounding protect the little city from the wintry winds of the prairies.

In the summer season, when the beautiful natural parks that surround the town are clothed in emerald foliage, even he who has not the esthetical nature is moved. The lover of landscapes, as he stands upon one of the tree-crested hill tops of the east side and gazes upon the little city of Jackson, nestling in the valley and perched upon the sunny hillsides, with the sparkling water of the Des Moines flowing below him, sees a picture of beauty and is led to exclaim, "What a beautiful sight!" In its natural state and with the embellishments added by the hands of man, Jackson stands at the present time as one of the prettiest little cities of a state distinguished for its pretty towns. Especi-

ally is one charmed with its loveliness in the summer. Then the broad avenues and parks are clothed in brightest green. Trees are everywhere.

One can hardly realize that only a little over a half century ago this spot was an uncharted wilderness, practically unknown to white men; yet such is the case. Time was when the dusky red man pitched his tepee where now our churches are located; vast herds of bison inhabited the Des Moines river country and made their wallows where now our courts are held; timid deer browsed where now the pupil studies his natural history; elk in countless numbers roamed the adjacent prairies and saw their antlers reflected in the clear waters of the Des Moines as they bent down to drink.

When the first white man set foot on the soil of the present site of Jackson is unknown. Probably he was some adventurous trapper who had pushed out beyond his associates in an endeavor to locate new grounds in which to ply his trade. Possibly he was one of the early explorers of southwestern Minnesota.

When the first permanent settler came to Jackson county he selected the spot upon which Jackson now stands as a townsite, having practically the whole of southwestern Minnesota to choose from. It was during the summer of 1856 that the Wood brothers—William, George and Charles—selected their claims, built a cabin, opened a store and christened the site of their proposed town Springfield. The store was built in the northwestern part of the present incorporated town, but their claims took in practically all of the present Jackson west of the river and a part of that on the east side. The same year other pioneers settled along the Des Moines river in Jackson county, but none of them located on the Wood brothers' claims. A few, however, took claims and built their cab-

ins within the present corporate limits of the town, on the east side of the river. Among these were William Church, who located with his family just south of the present location of the elevators; Joshua Stewart, who with his family lived in the southeastern part of the present town; William T. Wheeler, who erected a cabin south of the Jackson depot and then departed.

It is not necessary to tell again of the tragedies that occurred on the Jackson townsite on that eventful 26th of March, 1857—of the murder of the Wood brothers and the sacking of their store, of the other murders in the vicinity, and of the flight from Springfield. On that day the soil of Jackson was drenched in human blood. Very soon after the massacre Alexander Wood, a brother of the murdered storekeepers, came to take possession of his brothers' claims. He formed a partnership with a company of townsite boomers, with the intention of building a town on the land. Elaborate plans were made for the new town, which was to be named Jackson. Mr. Wood was to hold the land claim, the other members of the company were to make certain stipulated improvements, and they were to acquire a half interest in the site. On the strength of these proposed improvements, Jackson—then only a name—was designated the county seat of Jackson county when it was created by act of the legislature on May 23, 1857. Despite the prestige this legislation gave, the townsite company did not fulfil its promises by making the improvements. Mr. Wood did not care to endure the hardships incident to a winter passed on the frontier, so he gave up the idea of becoming the founder of a town and filed on a quarter section only of his brothers' claims, not as a townsite claim but as a farm claim.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>This claim included the north part of the present business and residence part of Jack-

For several years thereafter immigration to Jackson county was not great, and, although the belief was often expressed that a town would some day be built on the site, no attempt to found a town was made until after the war. Mr. Wood continued to hold his claim and made some improvements on it. It is said that the first plowing on the townsite was done by Stephen Muck, who afterwards became

blind. He was the son of Joseph Muck and was employed by Mr. Wood.

During the late fifties and the sixties all of the land now included in the corporate limits of the village was filed on, but title was not received from the government to the last tract until early in 1873. Following are the names of those who received patents to the land, the date of the patents, the description and acreage of the claims:

NAME	DATE OF PATENT	ACRES	DESCRIPTION
Stephen F. Johnson.....	Sept. 15, 1864	40	nw ¼ of nw ¼ 24
Nathaniel Frost.....	June 1, 1868	40	sw ¼ of nw ¼ 24
James E. Palmer.....	May 1, 1863	40	se ¼ of sw ¼ 24
Joseph Thomas.....	Dec. 1, 1865	80	n ½ of se ¼ 24
Hiram S. Bailey.....	Aug. 1, 1872	40	sw ¼ of sw ¼ 24
Israel F. Eddy.....	April 20, 1862	160	ne ¼ 24
Bartholomew McCarthy	May 1, 1866	80	s ½ of se ¼ 24
Alexander Wood.....	Sept. 1, 1860	160	n ½ of sw ¼ and e ½ of nw ¼ 24
Stephen F. Johnson.....	Sept. 15, 1864	40	ne ¼ of ne ¼ 23
Arthur L. Crane.....	April 2, 1866	40	nw ¼ of se ¼ 23
Nathaniel Frost.....	June 1, 1868	120	s ½ and nw ¼ of ne ¼ 23
Hiram S. Bailey.....	Aug. 1, 1872	80	s ½ of se ¼ 23
State of Minnesota		40	ne ¼ of se ¼ 23
Stiles M. West.....	March 4, 1865	160	s ½ of ne ¼ and s ½ of nw ¼ 25
James E. Palmer.....	May 1, 1863	120	n ½ of ne ¼ and ne ¼ of nw ¼ 25
Hiram S. Bailey.....	Aug. 1, 1872	40	nw ¼ of nw ¼ 25
Benj. D. Dayton.....	Aug. 1, 1872	80	e ½ of ne ¼ 26
Wilson C. Garratt.....	Feb. 1, 1873	80	w ½ of ne ¼ 26

During the time these claims were being filed upon and before Jackson was platted a few cabins were erected. On the east side of the river stood the old fort which had been erected by the soldiers after the massacre of 1862; the Joseph Thomas cabin, which had been erected by William T. Wheeler in 1856; and the cabin of Israel F. Eddy on Depot hill. The first building erected on the west side, except Wood brothers' store and a cabin built

near by in 1858 by Dr. E. B. N. Strong, was a house built by Major H. S. Bailey in 1865, on his claim just south of the town proper.

After the civil war there was quite a large immigration to Jackson county, nearly all settling along the river. Among those who came to the immediate vicinity of Jackson was William Webster, who constructed a dam across the river and began the erection of a saw mill in 1865. Owing to lack of capital, he did not complete it that year, but in 1866 Welch Ashley took over the property and completed it. In this mill was sawed nearly all the lumber used in the construction of Jackson's first buildings.

Two arrivals at the site in 1865 who were to play an important part in the ear-

son, described as the north half of the southwest quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 24. Mr. Wood received his patent from the government September 1, 1860.

\*The oldest deed on record in Jackson county is dated May 28, 1864, when James E. Palmer and his wife, Aminda Palmer, conveyed this land to Jane R. Bailey for a consideration of \$500.

\*This tract was conveyed by the state of Minnesota to the Southern Minnesota Railroad company as a part of the grant.



ly history of Jackson were Major Hiram S. Bailey, who filed upon a claim now lying within the corporate limits of the town, and Welch Ashley, who came from Pennsylvania looking for a location in the western country. They were impressed by the beauties of the site and decided that the prospective immigration to the vicinity would warrant the founding of a town. Accordingly they bought the Alexander Wood farm, platted it in the fall of 1866, and named their town Jackson.<sup>5</sup>

The dedication, which was acknowledged December 1, 1866, and recorded a few days later, was made in the following language:

The townsite of Jackson, in Jackson county, in the state of Minnesota, as it is laid out and platted by Messrs. W. Ashley and H. S. Bailey is described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at a point (35) thirty-five rods west of the center of section No. (24) twenty-four, in town No. (102) one hundred and two north of range No. (35) thirty-five west; thence running south (110) one hundred and ten rods; thence west 75 rods; thence north (110) one hundred and ten rods; thence east (75) seventy-five rods to place of beginning, containing (51 9-16) fifty-one nine-sixteenths acres, all on land owned by W. Ashley and H. S. Bailey. The above described land is divided into (35) thirty-five blocks of (8) eight lots each. Each lot is (3 by 5) three by five rods. The streets between the blocks are four rods wide. There are also alleys between the lots running north and south of one rod in width.

WELCH ASHLEY,  
H. S. BAILEY,

Proprietors.

Jackson, Minn., December 1, 1866.

I hereby certify that the within is a correct description of the townsite of Jackson, in Jackson county, and state of Minnesota, as it is surveyed and platted.

HIRAM S. BAILEY,

Notary Public, Jackson County, Minnesota.  
Recorded December 10, 9 o'clock a. m., 1866.

<sup>5</sup>The name of the county was probably responsible for the name of the town. It will be remembered that so early as the spring of 1857 Alexander Wood had named the site Jackson and that the Minnesota legislature of that year had designated "Jackson" as the county seat of Jackson county, so that the name of the townsite is, in fact, older than the county. Possibly the fact that a township near Welch Ashley's old home in Pennsylvania was so named had its influence in the selection of the name by Messrs. Ashley and Bailey.

The original plat consisted of thirty-five blocks. The streets running east and west were named Sheridan, Grant, Sherman, Ashley, White, Bailey and South. Those running north and south were named River, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth. A stone was set in the ground to mark the center of the southwest quarter of section 24, and this was at the intersection of Fourth and White streets.<sup>6</sup>

Some two or three months before the plat became of record the first building was put up and the Jackson townsite boasted its first inhabitants. These were Thomas H. White and George C. Chamberlin. They first came to the site one day in the month of August, 1866,<sup>7</sup> investigated the prospects of the new town,

<sup>6</sup>Additions to Jackson have been platted as follows:

Bailey's—Surveyed by C. Chamberlin; dedicated by Hiram S. Bailey October 27, 1869.

Dumont's Subdivision—Surveyed by James E. Palmer; dedicated by John B. Dumont September 11, 1884.

P. Brown's—Surveyed by L. L. Palmer; dedicated by P. Brown August 13, 1885.

Ashley & Moore's Subdivision—Surveyed by L. L. Palmer; dedicated by Benjamin W. Ashley and George R. Moore October 8, 1892.

Anderson & Lindsley's—Surveyed by J. L. Holst; dedicated by H. G. Anderson and F. W. Lindsley June 19, 1895.

Krause's—Surveyed by J. L. Holst; dedicated by William Krause June 21, 1895.

Highland Park—Surveyed by J. L. Holst; dedicated by George W. Priest and William C. Portmann September 30, 1895.

Owens'—Surveyed by J. L. Holst; dedicated by Even Owens October 17, 1899.

Louis Kiesel's Second—Surveyed by J. L. Holst; dedicated by Louis Kiesel January 9, 1900.

Ashley & Moore's Second—Surveyed by George E. Sawyer; dedicated by B. W. Ashley and George R. Moore December 4, 1900.

Central Park—Surveyed by J. L. Holst; dedicated by John Paulson July 8, 1901.

Brown's Terrace—Surveyed by J. L. Holst; dedicated by J. K. Brown June 16, 1902.

" . . . Previous to making Jackson my home I had resided for a short time at Blue Earth City, and it was here I first met my friend Chamberlin in Minnesota, although I had known him for several years in the east. During our first interview I told him of a recent trip to Jackson and of my determination to locate there. I described the townsite as one of nature's wonders—the surroundings as all that could be desired—and expressed the opinion that Jackson would at no distant day be a prosperous and growing town. I also informed him that I had engaged Jim Pratt to take out a load of building material and that I would return in four or five days to erect a building and prepare for winter. It was soon arranged that he should accompany me to the promised land."—Thomas H. White in Jackson Republic March 9, 1888.

and returned to their temporary homes at Blue Earth City the next day.\* Mr. Chamberlin was absent two weeks and then came back to Jackson on September 1. He tells of the new town as he found it on that date:

I found that during my absence, by virtue of the surveyors' chain, Jackson had made a wonderful advancement toward metropolitan proportions. It now actually contained 150 or 200 corner lots, several hundred lot stakes, street stakes and alley stakes.

Mr. White returned to his new home some time in September, bringing with him more stock for the store which he proposed to open. He also brought a wife, having been married since his previous visit to Jackson. Welch Ashley's saw mill having been put in operation by this time, Mr. White at once began the erection of his store building, the first load of lumber having been hauled to the site by Menzo Ashley. For temporary quarters a shelter was made by taking four joists and nailing rough boards around them six or seven feet high; two shelter tents provided the roof. When this was completed Mrs. White prepared supper, a table was made by placing a board on a tool chest and box, and Mr. and Mrs. White and Mr. Chamberlin sat down to partake of the first repast served in the village of Jackson.

The store, which was erected at the corner of Second and White streets, where Robertson's implement house now stands, was completed in October. It still stands, forming a part of the implement house. It

"We [Chamberlin and White] arrived in Jackson the next afternoon [in August, 1866] and stopped at Thomas' old log hotel, the only stopping place of the kind in the country. The next morning we went down through the timber, crossed the river to Jackson—yes, to Jackson. All there was then of Jackson was tall prairie grass, but we pronounced the surroundings and situation good and left. The next day we set out on our return to Blue Earth. Somewhere on the prairie after we started out we met a company of engineers on their way to survey a line for the Southern Minnesota railroad. I was unsophisticated then and supposed that surveying a railroad meant a railroad in the near future, and right then and there decided to cast my lot in the new town."—George C. Chamberlin in a speech delivered September 5, 1889.

is built entirely of native lumber and is about 18x20 feet in size, with a small up-stairs room. The store was opened as soon as the building was completed, and soon customers came with their muskrat, mink and other pelts to exchange for calico and groceries.<sup>9</sup> Mr. White conducted the store until February, 1868. Then J. W. Hunter bought the stock at sheriff's sale and continued the store.

The White store was the only building erected in Jackson in 1866, and during the following winter Mr. and Mrs. White were the only residents on the town, Mr. Chamberlin having spent the winter in St. Paul. Upon his return to Jackson he took charge of the store while the proprietor and his wife spent two months visiting in the eastern part of the state. Mr. Chamberlin has written: "Hence from the 22nd of March to the 22nd of May, 1867, I was

\*Concerning events of this time Mrs. W. L. White in 1895 wrote:

"Twenty-eight years ago last September I left my old home in Faribault county for the wilds of the west—even as far out as Jackson county. We took but few household goods with us, expecting to have them come later with a small stock of goods for the store. It was our intention to board at Mr. Thomas' hotel until our store and dwelling combined could be built; but when we arrived we learned to our disappointment that the lumber was not all sawed yet. I have forgotten now what was the cause, but think it was either the great demand for lumber or they were waiting for the timber to grow. Anyway, our plan of getting plenty of help and rushing the building right along had to be given up. After staying at the hotel a few days, we decided to go to house-keeping in a tent pitched on the beautiful townsite of Jackson.

"The weather favored us, being perfectly delightful during October. Not having been in the house-keeping business very extensively for some time previous, and necessarily having very few conveniences in so small quarters, I did not find it the all-absorbing pleasure it is supposed to be—by the men. Of course, if I could have washed windows and doors and scrubbed floors, and so kept real busy all the time, I might have enjoyed tenting better than I did. Finally, after taking the boards as they dropped off the logs as the saw plowed through them, we got our building enclosed, the roof on, the loose boards down for the floor, and moved into the up-stairs of the first building in Jackson. But in spite of our late fall, the whole structure was so very green that it was badly frost-bitten. I wonder quite frequently at the present time how we managed to exist in the building that winter, unfinished, as it was; but I remember how our sheet-iron stove used to blaze with heat, and I presume the parties who sold us the wood we burned realized that we were not at all economical in that line.

"There was no necessity for night-watchmen

the only inhabitant of Jackson. Certainly society circles were select during those two months, waiving all claims to respectability." During these early days of Jackson's history Mr. Chamberlin acted in the capacity of advertising agent, and quite a number of the town's early residents came as a result of his representations. He opened up a correspondence with thirteen newspapers in different parts of the country from Minnesota to the far east, telling of the vacant government lands to be secured and advantages in the new country, with a view to attracting new settlers.

During the winter of 1866-67 the first bridge at Jackson, located where the lower bridge is now, was built. It was built of oak piles and hewn lumber, furnished by Welch Ashley, and the work of building the structure was donated. The bridge was not long in commission, for the ice took it out in the spring of 1867.<sup>10</sup>

In those days. We had quite a number of boxes of goods outside our tent (from which we sold to an occasional customer through the day), and they never were disturbed in any way. Jackson in those days was noted for one thing—scarcity of money—and as a consequence too much credit was asked to insure a successful business. While some asked credit with the assurance of millionaires, once in a while a man offered some security. I have in mind one case; a man with a large share of the alphabet for initials came into our store one day and asked for a few things on time, insisting on leaving as security a couple of plated wine goblets. They might have cost \$2.50 wholesale. After this, on one promise or another, he ran that little bill up to \$25.00, and the goblets were all we ever had for it. As soon as he ran out of securities he left the county. And yet in many other cases men were not able to give any security. So, as some of the present residents well know, our venture in business was not a success.

"In the spring of 1867 we went off on a sort of a wild goose chase and left our jolly friend Chamberlin to look after our interests during our absence; and he did it well, too, judging from one item I now remember we found on the book: 'To one darning needle, ten cents.' I do not recall other mistakes, if there were any, and being 'booked' could easily be corrected, and our few cash customers did not suffer to any great extent. Mr. Chamberlin used to tell the joke on himself, so probably remembers it. Having lived there three and one-half years, I became attached to the people and place and was loth to leave."

<sup>10</sup>The second bridge over the Des Moines river at Jackson was put up during 1869 and 1870 where the upper bridge is now. It was a bent bridge and the stringers were whipped out by hand. The county stood part of the expense of its construction and residents of Jackson the rest. It was in commission about ten

. In the spring of 1867 Thomas H. White was appointed postmaster of Jackson, and at once entered upon his duties. Previous to this time the postoffice had been at the Thomas hotel on the east side of the river, and Joseph Thomas had been the postmaster. During those times the office was supplied by weekly mail from Emmet (Estherville), the carriers being Major H. S. Bailey and his son, Frank Bailey. At the old hotel on the hill the settlers were wont to congregate every Thursday to witness the arrival of the mail, which contained the St. Paul Weekly Press, two weeks old, as the latest intelligence from the outside world. What letters and papers were not handed out on the spot to the owners would be laid back on a shelf to await the call of the owners. Mr. White has written of his appointment as postmaster:

It was a lamentable fact that while we lived in the city we had to go three-quarters of a mile into the country for our mail. A friend of Mr. Aiken Miner, from Fillmore county, had stopped at my place for an hour or so during the winter and had comprehended our wants. On his return to Fillmore county he immediately took steps to have the writer appointed postmaster, and this was against my wishes at that time. However, the appointment came, and in due time the office was moved to town.<sup>11</sup>

Jackson's second building was erected in the spring of 1867. It was built by Welch Ashley for his son-in-law, Palmer Hill, on the site of the present Jackson National Bank building on Second street. It was a

years. A combined iron and wood bridge took its place, and that was washed away during the high water of 1881. From its wreck another was constructed. The present upper bridge was put in ten or more years ago by the county and township. The present lower bridge was built by the county and village about 1889.

<sup>11</sup>Mr. White served as postmaster until 1868. Then J. W. Hunter received the appointment and conducted the office at his store until 1870. On April 16 of that year Moses A. Strong became postmaster and served until October 4, 1877. In May, 1871, the Jackson office was designated a money order office, but it was not until July that this department began operations. Alexander Fiddes succeeded Mr. Strong and served until March, 1886. That month John Fiddes became the Jackson postmaster. He served until his death, which occurred May

two-story building, built of native lumber, and was occupied by Mr. Hill for a wagon shop for three or four years. The family lived up-stairs. It was in this building that Jackson's first bank was started. It now stands on Third street and forms a part of one of the buildings of the R. S. Robertson lumber yard.

The season of 1867 was wet and backward, and it was not until July or August that the little saw mill could furnish sufficient lumber for the few contemplated buildings of that year. Every board was taken possession of almost as soon as it left the saw. The cause of the activity in the building line was the arrival of two families in July, who came to engage in business and become permanent residents of the village. These were the families of W. S. Kimball and Samuel M. Clark, who increased the population of the Jackson townsite from three to eleven—a gain of over 200 per cent in one day.

Owing to the scarcity of lumber, these new arrivals were obliged to take temporary quarters in an improvised board shanty located where the Ashley house now stands. George C. Chamberlin, who was about to erect a building, generously surrendered lumber and carpenter privileges, and those gentlemen began the construction of business houses. Mr. Kimball, who later became one of the best known business men of the village, erected a store building on the corner south of the Ashley house and opened a hardware store. His was a two-story building, and he and his

family resided upstairs.<sup>12</sup> Mr. Clark erected a dwelling house on the site of the present Cowing block, and a blacksmith shop just to the east of his house. Another building erected in Jackson in 1867 was the office and dwelling house put up by Mr. Chamberlin. This stood at the corner of Second and Ashley streets. When it was moved in 1889 to make room for the Berge block, Mr. Chamberlin gave the history of the building, as follows:

Consequently this was number four in the order of architectural enterprises during the starvation season of 1867. The half inch bass-wood boards used as siding were unloaded on the grass just south of Cowing's old store, and nearby stood a carpenter's bench, where one side of those boards was smoothed by the acting carpenter. I suppose one hundred teams now pass to and fro within the time then occupied by that brevet carpenter in dressing one-half dozen boards, but he gave as a reason for the slow progress that the boards should be thoroughly seasoned before using.

<sup>12</sup>Mrs. Frances M. Kimball, wife of W. S. Kimball, in 1895 wrote of her arrival to Jackson:

"The little cottage in the village of Austin had been sold, the last goodbyes spoken, and we had started on our westward journey in the good, old-fashioned way, hoping to build our fortune by supplying the early settlers with the stock of hardware that had been purchased for the new town. On the outskirts of the city which had been our home for years, we were joined by the family of an honest blacksmith, familiarly known as Sam Clark. The season was an unusually rainy one, the newly laid out roads almost impassable and the streams unbridged. Only those who have traveled in like manner can realize the joy we felt as our train drew up before the log cabin of Uncle Joe Thomas, and, although almost twenty-eight years have elapsed since we reached the wooded bluffs on the Des Moines, I remember still the good warm meal that was set before us, and that bed! It may not have been down, but it seemed as such to us after those long nights of camping.

24, 1887. D. M. DeVore served under appointment by President Cleveland from August, 1887, to August 1, 1889. From that date until November, 1893, Alexander Fiddes was again in charge of the office. From that time until November 2, 1897, the office was under democratic administration and V. B. Crane was the postmaster. Herman Strom then became the postoffice official and served until February 1, 1902. He resigned and Alexander Fiddes again received the appointment. Mr. Fiddes has since conducted the office. He has served nearly twenty-three years as Jackson's postmaster.

"But where was Jackson? This was the question I asked my husband as we stood on the banks of the bridgeless river. Silently he pointed to the little sawmill at our feet and the small, unfinished dwelling in the valley. These were the only signs of habitation as far as the eye could see; not a roadway to tell of neighboring villages; only the redman's path, a too vivid reminder of the terrible massacre that had so recently swept our borders. Trees were felled, and soon the little mill had provided us with boards enough for a small one-room shanty, which we shared in common with the blacksmith. September came, and the north half of the building now owned and occupied by Ole E. Olson was ready for occupancy, and the two families were moved to the second story. To be sure it was neither lathed nor plastered. There were no partitions, and the roof rose like the dome of a church over our heads, but we did not complain though the winter was long and severe, for such is the life of pioneers."

It was the home of the writer for several years; county officers and county commissioners here transacted their duties; different business gatherings were wont to convene within its walls; social chit-chats, town gossiping, and local loafing generally seemed for a time to drift to that building as headquarters.

At one time Rev. Peter Baker held protracted meetings there, and the tunes and psalms sung on that occasion were far more sacred than those sung by the carpenter boys, who almost every evening during the autumn of 1868 assembled there for interchange of songs and stories. That was a busy season, and every room was occupied. The boys would not only remain during the evening, but brought in their blankets and covered the floor during the night.

Justice courts were frequently held in this building, and in this connection many curious coincidents have already been recorded. The first land trial after the United States land office was moved to Jackson in 1869 was held in this building and lasted until long into the night. As rather a strange circumstance in this connection, the one before whom the trial was had, the two contestants and the half dozen or more witnesses have all left for distant parts. The two who acted as attorneys, however, are still residents of Jackson—one of whom can appear on your streets only with the aid of two crutches, while the other is infirm and blind.

In the autumn of 1869 another building formed an addition to this structure, where early in 1870 the Republic was born and flourished until 1874. The old quarters were then used for a justice office and peanut stand—as a gentleman crossing the street read the sign, "Justice and Peanuts for Sale!"

In 1869 this building was the office of county auditor and register of deeds; in 1889 it serves the same purpose for court commissioner and county surveyor; and I suppose in 1909 it will be occupied by whoever may be the scholastic and cultured persons filling the offices of superintendent of schools and county attorney, and the same oak shingles split and shaved by M. S. Clough in 1867 will protect them from rain and storm.

Milton Mason has described Jackson as he found it in the fall of 1867:

In October, 1867, myself and family landed at Jackson, on the 20th. The first persons whom I met were Joseph Thomas, Jr., and R. D. Larnard. They assisted me down the steep embankment just below the mill. We crossed the river and made straight for Aiken Miner's. I found quite a change in the townsite. I found a general store, well stocked, W. S. Kimball's hardware store, Clark's blacksmith shop, and Joseph Thomas' hotel near by. I also found the following families living near by: Major H. S. Bailey, Welch Ashley, Clark Baldwin, R. N. Woodward, W. V. King, Darby

Whalen, Ben Johnson, Benjamin Dayton, Wilson Garratt, Simon Olson and S. S. Gregg.

During these pioneer times every addition to the town was cause for much comment and congratulation. The residents would gather around the carpenters as they would begin some little building, and that would be the principal resort until the building was completed.

An important addition to the community in the spring of 1868 was John W. Cowing, who founded the town's second general store, erecting a building in the middle of the block between the present locations of the Robertson implement house and the Albertus clothing store.<sup>12</sup> Another arrival in 1868 was John A. Myers, who opened a store in a building situated where the First National Bank now stands. This building was one and one-half stories high and was erected during the summer by Welch Ashley. It was the first lath and plastered edifice erected in Jackson county, the lime and lath having been hauled by ox team from Mankato by Menzo L. Ashley. This old store building still stands, to the east of the First National Bank.

During the late sixties rivalry sprang up between the communities of the east and west sides of the river. It was learned that the original plat as laid out by Messrs. Ashley and Bailey was defective for some cause or other, and in May, 1868,

<sup>12</sup>"Thirty years ago last spring a slim young man drove over the brow of the hill in front of the Thomas place and took a look at the townsite of Jackson. He had been traveling in a covered wagon and camping by the roadside, looking for a location to commence life for himself. The sight was a pleasant one, and before descending the steep hill to the ford he had decided that this was the place he had been looking for. He had five hundred dollars in cash and some personal property. Securing a lot he unloaded his plunder, and, buying an ax, he started out to buy trees enough to build a store. Cutting and hauling the logs himself, he soon had enough lumber to put up a small building, 16x24 feet, on the lot now occupied by A. E. Olson's store. It was an immense store building at that time, and John W. Cowing soon had a small stock of goods displayed, and his career as a merchant commenced."—Republic, October 14, 1898.

Joseph Thomas platted a townsite on the east side of the river, which he also named Jackson. Thereafter for a year or more there was some feeling between the two communities and much speculation as to which would finally become "the town." The plat of the east side Jackson was dedicated in the following language:

I, Joseph Thomas, do hereby certify this May 26, 1868, that I have caused a survey and plat to be made of lands belonging to me and situated on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 24, town 102, range 35, to be called the town of Jackson.

JOSEPH THOMAS,  
Proprietor.

The plat was surveyed by James E. Palmer. It extended from the Des Moines river to the Wisconsin township line and consisted of eight blocks, in addition to a homestead reservation by Mr. Thomas and small unplatted areas in the names of P. Brown and C. Chamberlin. The east and west streets were named Front street and Oakland avenue; those running north and south were River, First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth. The plat was filed for record May 26, 1868.

To rectify the errors of the original plat of the west side Jackson, Messrs. Ashley and Bailey had a new survey made on October 30, 1868, by J. A. Dean. It was practically the same as the old plat, but it complied with the law, and was filed in the office of the register of deeds November 4, 1868. That there might be no question as to the validity of town property titles, the matter was taken before the state legislature, and on March 3, 1869, an act was approved which legalized all deeds and conveyances made by the townsite proprietors under the old plat.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Section one of the act reads as follows:

"That the plat of the town of Jackson, in the county of Jackson, as offered for record by Welch Ashley and Hiram S. Bailey and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of said county on the first day of December, 1866, and as resurveyed and corrected by a plat made by John A. Dean on the 30th day of October, 1868, and filed for record in the office of the register of deeds of said county on the 4th day

Moses A Strong, who came to the village in January, 1869, has entertainingly described the town as he found it at that time.<sup>15</sup>

There was then strife between east and west Jackson, and it was mixed which would come out ahead. The east side had the hotel, and the west side the postoffice. In some respects it looked as if the west side had the advantage and a little blue for the east siders.

After dinner we went "over the river;" they did not call it "over town" then. On the way I took in the towns. On the east side was—or, rather, had been—a store kept by one Radford, then retired, played out, closed out, locked out. He still lived in an old house near by, waiting for something to turn up. Charles Chamberlin, a big mugwump of the east side, had an unfinished house in the suburbs. One Arkle was a shoemaker and pegged away in a small house at the foot of the hill. Philander Brown owned a patch of land on each side and didn't care which way the cat jumped. Down at the river at the end of an old mill dam was an old saw mill, and the proprietors, Cardwell & Wiltsie, lived in an old house near by. This was about all there was to the east side [except Joseph Thomas' hotel].

We crossed the river on the ice, there being no bridges then. When there was no ice and the water was low they crossed at the ford below the pond; when it was high they didn't cross at all.

Up on the west side, toward where the bridge is now located, was a house owned by B. W. Ashley. Next, the house of Palmer Hill; across the way, Sam Clark's residence and blacksmith shop; then a small store kept by J. A. Myers, a one-armed ex-soldier; across the street was the hardware store of W. S. Kimball. His family—wife, two young daughters and wife's sister—lived over the store. Then came George Chamberlin's little office and bedroom combined. It was occupied by Chamberlin and Garratt, as county auditor and register of deeds office, and when both were in there was no room for others. Mr.

or November, 1868, be, and the same is hereby, legalized and established and declared to be of the same force and effect in the law as if the same was in strict conformity with the statutes upon the subject of the laying out of towns and the survey thereof, and of the making, certifying and recording of the plats thereof; and the said plats are hereby declared to be lawful and competent evidence of the contents thereof in all courts and places in the same manner and with the same force and effect as if the same had been in all respects certified, acknowledged and recorded in strict conformity with the statutes upon that subject in force at the time when said plats were respectively made. Provided, that whenever the said two plats differ from each other in any respect, the said plat made by the said John A. Dean for the said Welch Ashley and Hiram S. Bailey, town proprietors, shall be deemed paramount, and shall to that extent supersede the former plat."

<sup>15</sup>Published in Jackson Republic April 25, 1889.

Chamberlin was then in St. Paul, a clerk in the legislature.

Across on the opposite corner was the store of Hunter Brothers—J. W. and David. The family, then consisting of J. W., David, Agnes and their mother, lived in an addition to the store. James W. Hunter was postmaster. Elder [Edward] Savage assisted David and had a room over the store. Dr. Foster had a little drug shop across the way and he and his wife lived in one end. A little farther along was the store of Cowing & White. They lived over the store. Then came the residence and photograph gallery of T. H. White and wife. Across the way was the feed store and harness shop of Hale & Munger and wife. Down at the end of the street lived Alex Hall, who ran the Jackson & Blue Earth City stage. Down by the bayou was the 7x9 frame school house. Nearby lived Chris, a half-crazy Norwegian. This love-cracked old man lived alone and made furniture.

A little out of town lived Major Bailey and family in a log house, and Wilson Garratt and the Dayton families a little farther up the creek. Philander Brown and wife lived on the bench, and Nathaniel Frost and family near by.

This, if I remember correctly, was all there was to the west side.

An event of the greatest importance occurred in the spring of 1869; then the United States land office was moved from Winnebago City to Jackson upon an order issued by Commissioner Wilson.<sup>16</sup> That event brought happiness to the hearts of the people of the little community; they knew then that Jackson was to become a town. It also settled the matter of the supremacy of the two towns of Jackson, as the office was located in the west side village. A number of new residents were

<sup>16</sup>This office had been opened at Brownsville, on the Mississippi river, in 1854, with Messrs. McKinna and Welch in charge. In 1856 it was moved to Chatfield, and in 1861 to Winnebago City. When the last named change was made Mr. Holley was receiver and Mr. Bullis register. When the office was moved to Jackson in 1869 E. P. Freeman went in as register and J. B. Wakefield as receiver. After the colony immigrants began to arrive and settle in the Worthington country, the bulk of the business was in the west end of the district, and in the spring of 1874 the government ordered the removal from Jackson to Worthington.

Soon after the removal Mr. Freeman retired as register. He was succeeded by Dr. Leonard, of Rochester, who held the office for a time. The latter's appointment was not confirmed, however, and Captain Mons Grinager became register in August, 1874. He resigned June 1, 1886, having held the office nearly twelve years. In January, 1875, J. P. Moulton took the place of Mr. Wakefield as receiver, and held it until June, 1881. C. H. Smith was the next receiver,

added to the town in 1869. Among them were Moses A. Strong, who opened a drug store; Dr. C. P. Morrill, the town's first doctor; Alexander Fiddes and several others.

During the year Jackson became the trading center of an immense territory. Settlers from twenty miles up the river and the same distance down came to Jackson for their mail and to do their trading; from the numerous lakes and streams to the west and northwest, around which homesteaders were locating, came the settlers from long distances; those on Heron and Graham lakes did all their trading in Jackson; from beyond the west line of the state they came. The few people living in the Sioux Falls country came to Jackson to mill, and it is said that Philo Hawes, who then lived on the present site of Luverne, once made the little trip to Jackson to have a sickle repaired. Jackson became a great market for fur, which was practically the only medium of exchange in the country and brought good prices.

W. S. Kimball was the leading business man of the town, and he carried on an enormous hardware trade. His goods were shipped to the end of the railroad, at Owatonna, Mankato or Winnebago City, in car-load lots. From those points they were hauled to Jackson by ox or horse teams, it taking a week or more to make the trip. The freighting teams would arrive at their destination, looking like a

occupying the office until September 1, 1885, when August Peterson, of Albert Lea, took the office. He held it until after the removal from Worthington. C. P. Shepherd succeeded Captain Grinager as register in June, 1886, and held the position while the office was located in Worthington. The land office was closed February 28, 1889, there having been a consolidation among the offices in Minnesota. Those at Benson, Worthington and Redwood Falls were discontinued and the papers turned over to the office at Tracy. The Tracy office was then moved to Marshall. The land office was under democratic management from 1854 to 1861; the republicans were in charge from 1861 to 1885. Then each party had one official in the office until 1886, when Mr. Shepherd took office; thereafter it was democratic.

circus procession. Moses A. Strong, in a speech made at a Masonic banquet in Jackson in January, 1884, told of Mr. Kimball's business:

People wondered where he sold so many goods, but to those who knew him it was no wonder. A settler from Graham or Heron lake, or somewhere away up north or west, would hitch up a yoke of steers to an old wagon, pile in a lot of fur, and start for Jackson. Where he came in sight of town over the hill Mr. Kimball would see him and commence striking up a trade, and the first thing you knew he would have the wagon loaded with hardware, a stove, plow, coffee mill, jack knives, etc., take all the money he had and notes for the balance. He would embrace his customer heartily, shake his hand warmly, ask him to come again, send his love to all the neighbors, and bid him adieu.

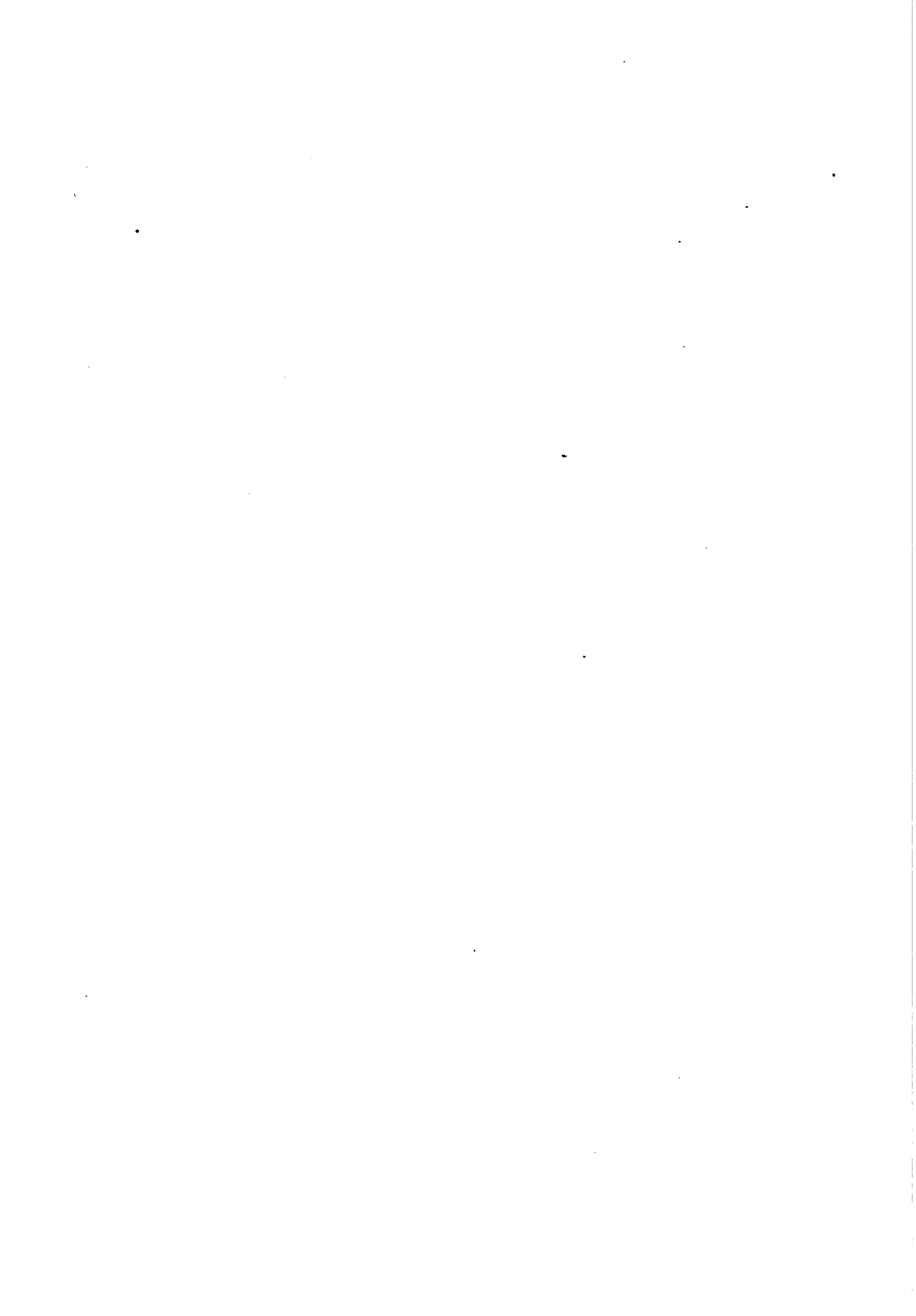
When the first number of the Jackson Republic was issued on February 26, 1870, the following local business and professional firms were represented by advertisements:

M. A. Strong & Co., drug store.  
 Hunter Brothers, general store.  
 W. S. Kimball, hardware.  
 H. S. Bailey, general store.  
 J. W. Cowing & Co., general store.

Chamberlin & Avery, Jackson Republic.  
 J. W. Myers, general store.  
 J. W. Seager, attorney.  
 G. K. Tiffany, attorney.  
 C. P. Morrill, doctor.  
 John H. Grant, notary public.  
 James E. Palmer, surveyor.  
 G. C. Chamberlin, notary public.  
 Charles Frisbie, cabinet maker.  
 Joseph Thomas, Jackson House.  
 William C. Jackson, livery stable.  
 I. A. Moreaux, saloon.

In addition to this list there were in the little village a feed store, two blacksmith shops, a second eating house, a shoe shop, a meat market, a saw mill, the United States land office, a school house and a church. Several mail and stage routes were operated to the town, as follows: The through line from Blue Earth City to Yankton, the line from Winnebago City, another from Madelia, connecting with one from Sioux City and forming a through route from Mankato to the Union Pacific railroad.





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COUNTY JAIL

# JACKSON SCENES



BIRD'S EYE VIEW



ON DEPOT HILL



HIGH SCHOOL

## CHAPTER XVII.

### JACKSON—1870-1910.

**D**URING the first six years of its history Jackson was the only town in Jackson county. During this time it was also without a rival in many neighboring counties. Thousands of settlers were pouring into the country and locating upon the government lands. Because of this extensive settlement, because of the fact that it was the only town within many long miles in all directions, and because of the progressive spirit of the founders and first business men (nearly all of whom were American born), Jackson developed into a place of importance. During the years 1865 to 1869 its growth had been slow, but beginning with 1870 it took a start, and its growth continued until the beginning of the terrible grasshopper scourge.

The year 1870 was a lively one in all lines of business. Several new business houses were started and many new buildings were erected. The improvements for the year footed up to \$17,650, itemized as follows:

J. A. Myers, store.....	\$ 800
Dr. C. P. Morrill, residence.....	750
Miss T. M. Rice, residence.....	450
Hunter Brothers, improvements.....	200
E. P. Freeman, improvements.....	100
W. S. Kimball, store.....	1,500
J. W. Cowing & Co., improvements.....	200
Ashley & Co., hotel.....	3,500
Ashley & Co., stable.....	200
H. S. Bailey, store.....	1,700

I. A. Moreaux, improvements.....	350
Methodist church, parsonage.....	700
S. M. Clark, improvements.....	150
Chamberlin & Avery, improvements....	150
Dr. R. R. Foster, hotel and improve- ments .....	2,200
D. Cardwell, improvements on saw mill	1,500
J. H. Grant, improvements.....	300
Griggs & Chubb, steam mill.....	1,500
St. Paul & Sioux City Ry. Co., office..	150
I. G. Walden, improvements.....	50
D. Kirkpatrick, residence.....	200
Freeman & Wakefield, improvements..	250
Nathaniel Frost, improvements.....	100
P. Brown, residence and stable.....	250
Welch Ashley, improvements.....	50
R. K. Craigue, residence.....	250
Milton Mason, stable.....	100
Total .....	\$17,650

Business was better in 1871 than it had been the year before, and several new enterprises were put under way. We gain an idea of the size of the little town that year from the writing of a resident, who declared that in June the village contained a total of about fifty buildings, including residences, shops and public buildings.

With the building of the St. Paul and Sioux City railroad in the fall of 1871 and the founding of the towns of Windom, Heron Lake and Worthington, the immense trade territory of Jackson was greatly reduced. This was offset, however, by the rapid settlement and development of the immediate surrounding country, and Jackson continued to advance

during the year 1872. Real estate sales had never before been so lively. Forty or fifty residence and business lots were sold during the summer. The building improvements for the year amounted to over \$23,000, many of the structures erected being superior to those of former years. The improvements of 1872 were as follows:

Jackson County, court house.....	\$ 6,400
W. S. Kimball, residence.....	5,000
J. W. Cowing, store and hall.....	3,000
Simon Avery, residence.....	1,500
I. A. Moreaux, billiard hall.....	1,500
Dr. E. L. Brownell, residence and stable	850
F. M. Smith, residence and granary....	800
S. M. Clark, blacksmith shop.....	500
J. F. Ashley, residence.....	500
School Dist. No. 2, furniture.....	450
A. B. Tompkins, residence.....	400
J. H. Grant, improvements.....	350
Alexander Fiddes, warehouse and stable	325
H. Anderson, improvements.....	300
Clark Marshall, residence.....	300
Simon Avery, barn.....	300
Other items .....	965
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$23,440</b>

So far the history of Jackson had been one of progress. Each year, from the date of founding, there had been additions to the population and to business enterprises. Beginning with 1873 came a complete reversal of conditions. From that time until 1878 there was not only a cessation of progress, there was retrogression. This change was brought about wholly by the terrible conditions caused by the ravages of the grasshoppers. A town depending solely upon an agricultural country for its support is left in pretty bad circumstances when the country has had a succession of nearly total crop failures, and Jackson was no exception to the rule. The country was close to the starvation point, and Jackson soon came to the same condition. Business men extended credit until they lost their own; several failed and moved away. The depression continued several years, and Jackson received a setback which it took years to overcome.

However, Jackson suffered less severely than many of the neighboring towns. It was the center of an older settled country than were most of the towns of southwestern Minnesota, and many of the farmers had lived in the country long enough to make some headway toward financial independence. The other towns had been founded as a result of the immigration of 1872, and not one crop had been harvested before the devastation. Therefore Jackson withstood the awful calamity better than those towns less fortunately situated. As the story of the grasshopper times has been told in previous chapters, I shall not enter into its details in this history of Jackson.

Although the hard times had not disappeared, in 1878 came a revival of business in Jackson. This was caused by the building of the Southern Minnesota railroad (now the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul), which reached the county seat November 27. It was a time of rejoicing. All fall times were lively in the little village, due to definite knowledge that the road was coming. The arrival of the iron horse caused the Jackson Republic (November 30, 1878) to exult as follows:

After twelve long years of waiting Jackson has a right to exult over the auspicious opening of so excellent a line of road. Situated on one of the grandest thoroughfares in the west, surrounded by as fine a country as was ever inhabited by men, environed by its grand old bluffs, in easy reach of a succession of bewitching lakes, containing a population noted for industry, intelligence, thrift and responsibility, it is sure to march off in rapid strides to prosperity. In adversity, even, we have been reasonably prosperous, and now, with the brightest outlook, let everyone rejoice that his lines have fallen here and put forth renewed efforts to make our town surpass in every feature that goes to make up a lively, moral, enterprising, cooperating, happy, benevolent, peaceful and industrious community.

Owing to the topographical features of the town's location, difficulty was encountered in getting the road built into the town, and the depot was located nearly

a mile from the business center. It was later moved still farther away. The railroad extended from Jackson in 1879.

The coming of the road proved a great like-awakening agency. Before, the town had been scattered over a large area, with several vacant lots intervening between the business houses and residences. Many of these vacant places now became filled with new buildings. The sound of the saw and hammer was heard all day long; the streets were thronged with new arrivals. During the five months from September 1, 1878, to February 1, 1879, the following new buildings were erected: Sargent & Collins, store building; Lars Nelson, saloon building; Vandaworker & Seip, blacksmith shop; Brewster Bros., store building; F. T. Brayton, livery barn; C. L. Colman, lumber office, sheds and barn; John Paul, lumber office and sheds; A. N. Tompkins, John Paulson, F. A. Chittenden, George C. Chamberlin, E. Owens, Jesse Wood, W. J. Case, Mr. Moe, Welch Ashley and H. White, residences; Thomas O'Neill, boarding house; M. H. Smith, harness shop; Dr. Tidball, office building; E. A. Hatch, ice house; railroad company, engine house; Bonner & Hyde and Cargil & Van, warehouses.

During the same season the following new business enterprises were started in Jackson: M. H. Smith, harness shop; Vandaworker & Seip, blacksmith shop; Clark & Hartness, hardware store; Sargent & Collins, clothing store; Olson Bros., general store; Ole Rognas, furniture store; Brewster Brothers, grocery store; J. A. Rhodes, photograph gallery; Thomas O'Neill, boarding house; W. E. Powers & Co., saloon; Ira Walden, butcher shop; E. A. Hatch, saloon; A. Haskins, barber shop; A. N. & I. D. Converse, real estate and insurance office; W. N. Brayton, meat market; O. A. Sathé, wheelwright's shop; F. T. Brayton, livery barn; John K.

Brown, bank; C. L. Colman and John Paul, lumber yards; M. B. Odell, jewelry store; O. L. Patch, paint shop; F. Quentin, F. M. Smith, F. A. Chittenden, R. Hanson, carpenter shops.

So great had been the increase in population that at the beginning of the year 1879 steps were taken to bring about the incorporation of the village. On January 6 a mass meeting was held at the court house to take the preliminary steps. The meeting was presided over by Major H. S. Bailey, and George C. Chamberlin was the secretary. When the question was discussed, it was found that there was considerable opposition to taking the important step at that time. It appeared, however, that a majority was in favor of beginning municipal government. A committee, composed to T. J. Knox, J. W. Cowing, Alexander Fiddes, P. Brown and Joseph Thomas, was selected to draft a charter. A charter was drawn up and reported to another meeting held January 11.

The matter was placed before the legislature, and on March 6, 1879, the Minnesota law making body enacted into law a bill providing for the incorporation of Jackson, with the boundaries it now has. The act provided that before it should become operative it must be ratified by a vote of the people residing within the proposed limits of the village. For the purpose of calling and presiding over such election the act named J. W. Hunter, B. W. Ashley, M. A. Strong, Alexander Fiddes and J. W. Cowing as commissioners.

There the matter was allowed to rest for two years, and the village of Jackson was governed by the board of county commissioners and the Des Moines township board of supervisors until 1881. Why immediate action was not taken is lucidly explained by the Jackson Republic of March 20, 1880, as follows:

Why such meeting was not called is all on account of the condition upon which our town bonds were voted for the Des Moines river bridge and in consequence of a decision of the supreme court, holding that when towns [townships] had voted bonds and subsequently a municipal incorporation was created within such town limits, the township outside of the incorporation was compelled to pay the full amount of the bonds so voted. Now, the village has no desire to shirk the obligation of its portion of the bonds voted and we make this public explanation.

The building activity continued during 1879. From early spring until late in the fall carpenters were busily engaged in erecting the new structures. Unlike the cheap structures sometimes put up in mushroom towns following the coming of the railroad, many substantial edifices, costing several thousand dollars, were added to the village. The improvements for the year amounted to \$37,650, itemized as follows:

John K. Brown, brick bank building...	\$ 4,000
J. W. Cowing, house.....	3,650
A. C. Whitman & Co., brick store building.....	3,000
Southern Minnesota Railway Co., depot	2,500
Des Moines river bridge.....	2,200
Collis & Lamont, addition to Ashley house.....	1,500
E. Owens, business block.....	1,400
Mrs. M. B. Bowditch, house.....	1,000
M. A. Strong, addition.....	1,000
Olson Bros., store building.....	1,000
Ole Rognas, store building.....	800
M. H. Smith, harness shop.....	800
T. J. Knox, house.....	725
O. E. Olson, house.....	700
C. A. Campbell, house.....	700
H. S. Bailey, improvements at brick yard.....	700
J. B. Lindsay, house.....	600
Jesse Wood, house.....	600
Thomas O'Neill, improvements on hotel	575
Alexander Fiddes, postoffice building..	550
J. W. Hunter, improvements grist mill.	500
O. A. Sathe, house.....	500
B. W. Ashley, improvements and stable	500
Bonner & Hyde, warehouse.....	500
Cargill & Van, warehouse.....	500
Fred Quentin, house.....	600
G. Gunderson, house.....	400
C. Seip, house.....	400
Brewster Bros., improvements on store.	400
Mrs. C. Baldwin, house.....	325
E. A. Hatch, barn.....	300
P. Brown, house.....	300
Peter Evenson, house.....	250
Rev. J. K. Alexander, parsonage.....	300
W. S. Kimball, house.....	300

I. D. Converse, house.....	275
George C. Chamberlin, improvements..	250
J. F. Ashley, house.....	250
F. T. Brayton, improvements.....	200
Mrs. E. B. Wilson, restaurant.....	200
George D. Stone, addition.....	200
Ashley Bros., livery barn.....	200
Charles Cutting, house.....	150
A. N. Tompkins, improvements.....	150
F. A. Chittenden, improvements.....	150
Dr. E. P. Gould, addition.....	125
Mrs. Rost, addition.....	125
John Paulson, improvements.....	125
Nathaniel Frost, barn.....	125
Moore & Kummer, improvements.....	110
Other items.....	1,190
Total.....	\$37,650

According to the federal census of 1880—the first in which the population of Jackson was enumerated separately from the township—the town was found to have a population of 501, making it rank fourth among the towns of southwestern Minnesota.<sup>1</sup>

The matter of incorporation again became a live issue during the winter of 1880-81. A mass meeting was held on the last day of the year 1880, of which M. A. Strong was chairman and J. W. Hunter secretary. There was more unanimity of opinion than there had been two years before, and it was the sense of the meeting that immediate steps should be taken to incorporate. George C. Chamberlin, T. J. Knox and J. T. Bowditch were appointed a committee to draft a charter, and J. W. Hunter, J. W. Cowing, H. S. Bailey, W. S. Kimball, B. W. Ashley, Joseph Thomas and H. H. Hughes, a committee to decide on the boundaries.

A charter was prepared, and, in order to obtain the views of the citizens an informal election was held at the postoffice on January 12, at which time 55 votes were registered in favor of incorporation under the charter, while ten voted against it. The charter was introduced as an act in the legislature. It passed both houses,

<sup>1</sup>Population of other towns in the vicinity was as follows: Windom, 443; Fairmont, 541; St. James, 434; Madella, 489; Heron Lake, 226; Worthington, 636; Luverne, 697; Pipestone, 222.

and then, in some unaccountable manner, the secretary of state and was never seen again. It is possible that it was burned in the capitol fire, which occurred about that time.

The disappearance of the bill put matters back to where they had been before the legislature took action, but the people of Jackson were determined to incorporate as a municipality and took other measures. Messrs. Hunter, Strong, Fiddes and Cowing, of the commissioners named in the act of 1879, posted notices for an election to be held April 12, 1881, to decide the question as to whether or not Jackson should be incorporated under the provisions of the general law provided for incorporating villages. There was no electioneering either for or against the question, and of the 80 votes cast, 68 were in favor and 12 against incorporating.

The first village election was held on April 19, when a set of village officers was chosen. Those who were chosen at this initial election and at each succeeding election were as follows:

1881<sup>2</sup>—President, J. W. Cowing; trustees, J. W. Hunter, Ole E. Olson, C. A. Campbell; recorder, M. A. Strong; treasurer, John K. Brown; justice, H. S. Bailey; constable, Ira G. Walden.

1882—President, M. A. Strong; trustees, G. C. Chamberlin, Paul H. Berge, J. W. Hunter; recorder, C. L. Campbell; treasurer, John Paulson; justice, M. A. Strong; constable, R. P. Matteson.

1883<sup>3</sup>—President, M. A. Strong; trustees, J.

<sup>2</sup>Eighty votes were polled at the first election. There were contests for only two offices: C. A. Campbell defeated M. A. Strong for trustee by a vote of 42 to 35; M. A. Strong defeated A. C. Whitman for recorder by a vote of 44 to 35.

<sup>3</sup>Before the incorporation of the village the matter of licensing saloons had been in the hands of the county commissioners. Some years they had granted license for the operation of saloons in Jackson; some years they had refused license. After incorporating, up to 1883, the matter had been left in the hands of the village council, which had granted license during 1881 and 1882. In 1883 the question was submitted to the voters for the first time. Thereafter up to the present time, it has been voted on nearly every year. The following shows the results of these elections, a vote not having been taken in the years not given, but license having been granted during those years:

W. Cowing, Alexander Fiddes, John Paulson;<sup>4</sup> recorder, C. A. Campbell; treasurer, John K. Brown.<sup>5</sup>

1884—President, Alexander Fiddes; trustees, A. C. Whitman, Ole Rognas, C. A. Campbell; recorder, E. P. Skinner; treasurer, John Fiddes; justices, H. W. Peck, J. A. Goodrich; constable, F. Quentin.

1885—President, J. W. Hunter; trustees, H. H. Hughes, A. C. Whitman,<sup>6</sup> S. Swenson; recorder, Ole Rognas; treasurer, John Fiddes; justice, H. S. Bailey.

1886—President, Paul H. Berge; trustees, S. Swenson, F. Quentin, H. H. Hughes; recorder, Burt W. Day;<sup>7</sup> treasurer, J. W. Hunter; justice, H. W. Peck; constable, M. L. Ashley.

1887—President, Alexander Fiddes; trustees, Ole E. Olson, J. W. Cowing, George C. Chamberlin;<sup>8</sup> recorder, E. J. Orr; treasurer, J. W. Hunter; justice, J. A. Goodrich; constable, R. J. Henderson.

1888—President, Alexander Fiddes; trustees, H. H. Berge, Jr., A. H. Strong, G. A. Albertus; recorder, F. Quentin; treasurer, J. W. Hunter; justice, H. W. Peck; constable, Henry Olson.

1889—President, Alexander Fiddes; trustees, W. A. Conrad, H. H. Berge, G. A. Albertus; recorder, E. J. Orr; treasurer, J. W. Hunter; justices, Joseph Bushnell, J. A. Goodrich; constables, R. J. Henderson, Rasmus Hanson.

1890—President, J. W. Cowing; trustees, H. G. Anderson, B. W. Ashley, George R. Moore; recorder, M. B. Hutchinson; treasurer, J. W. Hunter; assessor, W. R. Ellsworth; justice, A. C. Serum.

1891—President, Alexander Fiddes; trustees, H. G. Anderson, J. K. Brown, Henry Hoovel; recorder, M. B. Hutchinson; treasurer, J. W. Hunter; assessor, W. R. Ellsworth; justices, J. A. Goodrich, V. B. Crane; constables, R. Hanson, I. S. Barrett.

1892—President, M. B. Hutchinson; trustees, A. E. Olson, H. H. Berge, W. R. Ellsworth; recorder, Henrik Strom; treasurer, J. K. Brown.

1883—For, 46; against, 64.

1884—For, 65; against, 67.

1885—For, 59; against, 53.

1886—For, 86; against, 48.

1887—For, 62; against, 56.

1888—License by 4 majority.

1889—License by 5 majority.

1890—For, 73; against, 110.

1891—For, 81; against, 94.

1892—License by big majority.

1894—For, 164; against, 64.

1896—For, 200; against, 115.

1897—For, 132; against, 103.

1899—For, 208; against, 87.

1901—For, 242; against, 63.

1902—For, 202; against, 104.

1903—For, 243; against, 94.

1909—For, 192; against, 171.

<sup>4</sup>Resigned June 5, 1883. No successor selected.

<sup>5</sup>Did not qualify. John Fiddes appointed June, 1883.

<sup>6</sup>Removed from county. C. B. Tuttle appointed December 15, 1885.

<sup>7</sup>Resigned January 10, 1887, and E. J. Orr appointed.

<sup>8</sup>Resigned June 7, 1887, and O. A. Sathe appointed.



1893—President, W. C. Portmann; trustees, H. G. Anderson, W. H. Jarvis, O. A. Sathe; recorder, Henrik Strom; treasurer, J. W. Hunter; assessor, C. H. Sandon.

1894—President, H. G. Anderson; trustees, G. W. Priest, George Burnham, W. B. Sketch; recorder, Alexander Fiddes; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, Neils Ludvigsen; justice, J. I. Wallace; constable, A. J. Patterson.

1895—President, W. B. Sketch; trustees, Oliver Brown, H. H. Berge, Jr., F. W. Lindsley; recorder, Alexander Fiddes; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, A. H. Strong; justices, James Burnham, J. A. Goodrich; constables, J. W. Muir, Ole Anderson.

1896—President, W. B. Sketch; trustees, Oliver Brown, F. W. Lindsley, H. H. Berge, Jr.; recorder, Alexander Fiddes; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, C. H. Sandon.

1897—President, John L. Dann; trustees, Frank Phillips, James Lowe, A. H. Strong; recorder, F. B. Faber; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, C. H. Sandon; justices, J. A. Goodrich, Mark D. Ashley; constables, J. W. Muir, Joseph Treca.

1898—President, John L. Dann; trustees, A. H. Strong, James Lowe, Charles Washburn; recorder, F. B. Faber; treasurer, J. K. Brown.

1899—President, John L. Dann; trustees, G. H. Sawyer, F. F. Harlow, John Voda; recorder, F. B. Faber; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, William V. King; justices, J. A. Goodrich, Mark D. Ashley; constables, Benjamin Harrison, J. W. Muir.

1900—President, M. B. Hutchinson; trustees, F. F. Harlow, John Voda, T. H. Stall; recorder, Mark D. Ashley; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, William V. King; constables, Joseph Treca, M. L. Frost.

1901—President, John M. Voda; trustees, F. F. Harlow,<sup>10</sup> H. H. Berge, Chris Ludvigsen; recorder, Mark D. Ashley; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, William V. King; justices, J. A. Goodrich, C. J. Wethe; constable, Ben Matteson.

1902—President, W. B. Sketch; trustees, H. H. Berge, H. M. Burnham, F. H. Phillips;<sup>11</sup> recorder, W. H. Miller; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, William V. King; constable, M. L. Frost.

1903—President, E. E. Stubbs; trustees, M. L. Frost, H. M. Burnham, John Peterson, Jr.; recorder, W. H. Miller; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, William V. King; justices, J. A. Goodrich, C. J. Wethe; constables, Ben Matteson, V. W. Avery.

1904—President, H. M. Burnham; trustees, H. B. Gillespie, John Peterson, Jr., M. L. Frost; recorder, W. H. Miller; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, William V. King; justice, W. P. King.

1905—President, C. L. Mickey; trustees, H. B. Gillespie, C. A. Auten,<sup>12</sup> F. B. Faber; recorder, John Burnham; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, R. A. Gruhlke; justice, Joseph Smykal; constable, Ben Matteson.

1906—President, C. L. Mickey; trustees, H. B. Gillespie, F. B. Faber, A. S. King; recorder, John Burnham; treasurer, J. K. Brown; assessor, R. A. Gruhlke; justices, W. P. King, Joseph Smykal.

1907—President, E. T. Smith; trustees, John McMartin, Clarence Greenwood, George Kelsey; recorder, John Burnham;<sup>13</sup> treasurer, W. D. Hunter; assessor, John Baldwin;<sup>14</sup> justice, Joseph Smykal; constables, M. B. Dunn, Frank Gillespie.

1908—President, H. M. Burnham; trustees, John McMartin, C. W. Greenwood, Frank Phillips; recorder, J. G. Robertson; treasurer, W. D. Hunter; justice, W. P. King; assessor, William V. King.

1909—President, Chris Ludvigsen; trustees, John McMartin, C. W. Greenwood, W. H. Annis; recorder, J. G. Robertson; treasurer, W. D. Hunter; assessor, J. V. Beyer; justice, F. E. Bailey; constables, M. B. Dunn, O. C. Lee.

The Jackson village government was begun at nine o'clock in the morning of Friday, April 22, 1881, when the council met for the first time. The first official act, after taking the oaths of office, was to appoint F. T. Brayton, street commissioner. A committee was appointed to notify the saloon keepers that they must cease selling intoxicating liquors until licensed by the village council. At a second meeting of the council, held on the evening of the same day, ordinance No. 1, fixing liquor licenses at \$200 per annum, was passed.

The first village financial statement shows the receipts and expenditures from the date of organization, April 22, 1881, to December 30, 1881, and is as follows:

#### RECEIPTS.

Ferry fees .....	\$242.90
Sale of boat.....	30.00
Liquor license .....	243.25
Peddler license .....	6.00
Butcher license .....	20.00
Dog license .....	30.00
Auctioneer license .....	2.00
	<hr/>
	\$589.15

<sup>10</sup>Resigned March 14, 1900, to accept office of recorder. C. J. Wethe appointed March 27, 1900.

<sup>11</sup>Resigned, and on May 31, 1901, F. H. Phillips appointed.

<sup>12</sup>Resigned June 20, 1902, and Andrew Nelson appointed June 24, 1902. Mr. Nelson resigned January 5, 1903, and John Peterson, Jr., was appointed.

<sup>13</sup>Died in June, 1905, and on June 6 A. S. King appointed.

<sup>14</sup>Resigned and Gordon Robertson appointed September 3, 1907.

<sup>15</sup>Resigned in April, 1907, and R. A. Gruhlke appointed.

EXPENDITURES.

Books and blanks .....	\$ 3.51
Ferry boat .....	50.00
Running ferry boat.....	110.50
Rebuilding bridge .....	250.00
Saving old bridge.....	3.50
Planks for bridges.....	47.09
Lumber and nails for crossings.....	71.39
Work on streets and crossings.....	44.50
Attorney's fees .....	5.00
Doctor's fees .....	5.00
Recording .....	7.50
Cash overpaid by Heuter.....	12.00
	\$610.59

There was not such great activity in building operations during 1881 as there had been for a few years preceding, and the town settled down to a normal basis. Good times came upon the country, and Jackson developed into an excellent trading point in consequence. An indication of the town's business is shown by a statement of the imports and exports by rail. During the year 1881 there were imported 2,892,912 pounds of freight. This included 42 cars of coal and 169 cars of lumber. The exports reached a total of 3,302,774 pounds, including 40 cars of wheat, 32 of oats, 8 of barley, 5 of flax, 31 of hogs, 27 of cattle and 3 of butter. The following table shows the exports by pounds:

Wheat .....	842,830
Barley .....	171,340
Oats .....	672,040
Grass seed .....	2,800
Flax seed .....	106,370
Flour .....	11,350
Eggs .....	13,260
Butter .....	61,237
Tallow .....	1,530
Wool .....	10,045
Hides .....	32,226
Horses .....	3,500
Cattle .....	546,000
Hogs .....	632,000
Sheep .....	32,000
Other items .....	119,844
Total .....	3,302,774

Over \$17,000 worth of building improvements were made in 1882, as follows:

John K. Brown, five cottages.....	\$ 4,500
J. Gould, millinery store.....	1,000
S. Swenson, residence.....	1,000

Ole Anderson, residence.....	1,000
Jackson mill, addition.....	700
Ely & Brooks, improvements on mill...	2,000
Berge Bros., store.....	1,800
G. W. Stone, residence.....	1,000
R. M. Ward, residence.....	900
Erick Olson, cottage.....	225
R. J. Henderson, blacksmith shop.....	200
F. W. Lindsley, barn.....	200
W. F. Turner, barn.....	500
School District, improvements.....	250
R. P. Matteson, addition.....	200
B. W. Ashley, improvements.....	450
O'Connell & Joyce, saloon.....	500
W. A. Pepper, residence.....	300
O. A. Sathe, addition.....	150
Levi Davis, improvements.....	60
M. S. Clough, residence.....	400
Total .....	\$17,535

A business and professional directory of Jackson, prepared in the spring of 1884, was as follows:

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

- J. W. Cowing.
- O. E. Olson.
- Berge Brothers.
- J. W. Hunter.
- H. W. Peck.

GROCERIES.

- A. C. Whitman.
- A. E. Olson.
- William Smith.

DRUG STORES.

- A. C. Whitman.
- J. W. Cowing.
- Berge Brothers.

HARDWARE.

- Alexander Fiddes.
- E. P. Skinner.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS.

- Swenson & Sathe.
- R. J. Henderson.
- John Jungbauer.

HOTELS.

- Ashley House, William Lamont.
- American House, Jacob Hoesli.

LUMBER YARDS.

- Colman Lumber Company, H. H. Hughes, Agent.
- Paul Lumber Company, C. A. Campbell, Agent.

IMPLEMENT DEALERS.

- F. W. Lindsley.
- Alexander Fiddes.
- E. P. Skinner.
- A. H. Strong.

REAL ESTATE DEALERS.

- George R. Moore.
- Fredericksen & Company.
- W. T. Hansen.
- Horton, Gillerup & Horton.
- Willis Drummond.

ATTORNEYS.

- T. J. Knox.
- D. M. DeVore.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

John K. Brown, Bank of Jackson.  
 E. P. Gould, physician.  
 Brooks & Ealy, flouring mill.  
 Fonthil Creamery Company, creamery.  
 Miss E. H. Gould, millinery.  
 Ole Rognas, furniture.  
 Swenson & Sathé, wagon factory.  
 G. W. Arentson, shoe shop.  
 George A. Stark, cooper shop.  
 Levi Davis, tailor shop.  
 I. G. Walden, meat market.  
 G. A. Albertus, harness shop.  
 H. White, dray line.  
 F. L. Brayton, livery and bus line.  
 I. Evenson, paint shop.  
 Fred Quentin, carpenter.  
 Burt W. Day, newspaper.  
 Henry Hoesli, barber shop.

During the middle and later eighties Jackson continued to grow slowly, and prosperous times were enjoyed. The improvements for the year 1884 amounted to a little over \$15,000. The population in 1885 was 608.

Early in 1888 Jackson became a division point of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and thereby added to its importance. This event was brought about largely through the efforts of Jackson citizens, particularly, J. K. Brown, Alexander Fiddes, P. H. Berge, T. J. Knox and J. W. Cowing. Over \$100,000 worth of railroad buildings were erected, including an eight-stall round house. The securing of the division point was not accomplished without a concession on the part of the village. This was the permission given the railway company to move the passenger and freight depots from the original location to a point farther from the business part of town.

By the terms of an agreement made in 1879, incorporated in a legislative act, the railroad company had agreed to forever maintain its depot on the spur track where it had been originally located, but when the proposition of establishing a division point at Jackson arose, the company demanded the right to move the depot to the main line. A mass meeting of the citi-

zens of Jackson decided to permit this, and on August 7, 1887, the village council passed an ordinance granting the demand of the railroad company, provided the town be made division headquarters and an eight-stall round house built and maintained. The next spring the Minnesota legislature legalized the municipal act, and the depot was moved.

Among the improvements of the early nineties was the water works system, which was put in during 1892. The year before the legislature had authorized the village to vote on the question of issuing bonds for the purpose, and at the election on November 3, 1891, by a vote of 81 to 19, the electors authorized the council to issue \$10,000 bonds. The bonds were sold in the fall of 1892 at a premium of \$359, and the system was installed.

Prosperous times came upon the village in 1892, and great strides forward were made. More building improvements were made that year than in the five years preceding and were of a total value of \$93,475. A few of the principal items were as follows: Water works system, \$12,000; Ashley house, \$10,000; Harlow house, \$9,000; Boston block, \$6,500; P. H. Berge, residence, \$4,000; C. L. Colby, residence, \$3,500; G. B. Paddock, residence, \$3,000; Catholic church, \$3,000; C. A. Portmann, residence, \$2,200; J. V. Makovicka saloon building \$2,100; Presbyterian parsonage, \$1,600; William V. King, residence, \$1,500; Sakolik & Co., store building, \$1,500; P. P. Haverberg, residence, \$1,400; Henry Hoovel, residence, \$1,200.

In 1893 the improvements amounted to \$71,200, and among the principal items were the State Bank of Jackson building at \$15,000 and the J. W. Hunter brick block at \$7,000. In the summer of 1893 came the memorable panic and the resultant hard times period, and the village

was at a standstill for a few years. Business was paralyzed; the town was without life. The setback proved only temporary, and within a few years, owing to the raising of magnificent crops and the big rise in real estate values, Jackson was again on the forward march.

The town had reached a population of 1,356 when the census of 1895 was taken. Despite the fact that complete recovery from the hard times period had not been reached and that times were considered dull, the record of improvements for 1895 was flattering. An estimate made by the Pilot placed the total at \$81,230. This included \$31,000 for two new school buildings, \$11,000 for the Jackson Queen mill, \$7,400 for the Livengood & Co. mill and \$3,500 for city improvements. Business depression and commercial stagnation continued during 1896. The improvements for the year were valued at \$35,800. By 1898 times had become much better. That year were erected the Anderson & Lindsley block at a cost of \$14,000 and the M. B. Hutchinson block at a cost of \$11,000. Other improvements brought the total to \$58,275.

The years 1899 to 1902, inclusive, constituted a most prosperous era in Jackson, as well as in the county and the whole northwest country. Land values soared and hundreds of new settlers came to Jackson county. The effect on Jackson was a healthy growth in all lines of business. New enterprises came into existence and prosperity abounded. The first year of this era was the most prosperous one in the history of the village and almost took the nature of a boom. Many brick blocks were erected and the main street was in a state of confusion all summer as a result of building operations. In addition to other enterprises, a municipal electric lighting system was installed, a telephone system was put in, and a system of

sewerage begun. The improvements for the year amounted to \$103,065. Among those who contributed to this amount were:

Jackson Village, light plant.....	\$15,000
Louis Kiesel .....	10,000
Oliver Brown .....	8,000
Hieleman Brewing Company.....	7,000
Ben Matteson .....	6,000
Raymond Bartosch .....	6,000
Alexander Fiddes .....	5,000
R. S. Robertson.....	4,000
Joseph Berry .....	3,500
Berge Brothers .....	3,000
Herm Miller .....	2,500
Jackson Village, city sewer.....	2,000
Ross Livengood .....	2,000
Mrs. Hamlon .....	2,000

The first steps toward installing the electric lighting system were taken on March 16, 1899, when, at a special election, by a vote of 194 to 38, it was decided to issue \$10,000 bonds for the purpose. The contract for the construction of the plant was let September 8, 1899, to the Northwestern Electric Light company of St. Paul, and to the Ideal Engine company of the same city. The plant was completed within a few months, and Jackson was lighted by electricity for the first time in January, 1900.

Building operations were not prosecuted so vigorously in 1900. The principal buildings put up that year were the M. J. Olsen block, \$9,000; the H. G. Anderson block, \$3,000; the Oliver Brown block, \$2,000; and several fine residences. The population in 1900, according to the federal census, was 1,756.

Nineteen hundred one was a good year in the building line, the expenditures amounting to \$84,400. Some of the principal items were as follows: Presbyterian church, \$12,000; J. K. Brown, business block, \$10,000; A. C. Serum, residence \$5,500; W. E. Manchester, residence, \$5,000; Lindsley & Anderson, business block, \$4,500; H. H. Berge, residence, \$4,000; V. W. Avery, residence, \$3,500; Episcopal church, \$3,000; F. B. Faber, residence,

\$3,000; John Muir, residence, \$3,000; John Vacek, shop and residence, \$2,000; Ross Livengood, mill improvements, \$2,000; T. I. Thompson, residence, \$2,000; Frank Koffran, residence, \$2,000.

In 1902 the money expended in Jackson on new buildings was \$95,600, some of the larger items being: Jackson county, jail, \$17,750; Jackson flour mill, \$15,000; H. M. Burnham & Co., brick block, \$12,000; T. J. Knox, residence, \$10,000; Jackson Telephone company, \$6,000; H. B. Gillespie, residence, \$3,400.

The prosperous times which Jackson had been enjoying for a number of years terminated in 1903, and for a few years

thereafter the advancement was slower. Due to an abnormal rainfall, there were a few years of partial crop failures, and but little progress was made. The census of 1905 gave a population of 1776, a gain of only twenty in five years. This was a better showing than most towns of southwestern Minnesota made during those five years, many showing a loss.

Conditions returned to a normal basis in 1908, and in this year of our Lord 1910 Jackson is again in prosperous circumstances. Among the events of recent years is to be recorded the completion of the Jackson county court house in 1909 at a cost of over \$117,000.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### JACKSON'S ENTERPRISES.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

ONE of the first institutions to be provided after the founding of a town is the public school. In Jackson the school came two years before the town. The first school conducted within the limits of the village was taught by Miss Anna Thomas, daughter of Joseph Thomas, in 1864. The term was a short one, just long enough to secure the money of the state appropriation. The students who attended this initial school were Halvor Halverson, Lewis Halverson, Annie Halverson, John Halverson, Joseph Thomas, Mary Thomas, Alice Tucker, Weda Woodard, Mary Woodard, Lucina Woodard and George Palmer.

During 1865 and 1866 quite a number of families located in the vicinity, and in the latter year the village of Jackson was founded. Although the platted town was on the west side of the river, for some time the Jackson school was conducted in district No. 1, on the east side.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. B. H. Johnson taught the school during the winter of 1866-67 at her home in the old stockade, south of the Thomas home. The

pupils attending were Ida Clough, Joe Clough, Joe Thomas, Johnnie Halverson, Leonard F. Ashley, Halvor Halverson, Lewis Halverson, George Palmer, Perry Eddy, Frank Bailey, Wallace Bailey, Rollin Johnson, John Charles Ashley, Lee Palmer, Mary Larned and Will Dayton. The next winter William V. King taught the school at his home on the east side of the river.

In the fall of 1868 a school house was built on the west side of the river, near the bayou at the foot of Third street. It was built of native lumber and its dimensions were 16x18 feet, with eight foot posts.<sup>2</sup> Major H. S. Bailey provided the money to build it, and he was later reimbursed by the school district. School was taught in the building during the winter of 1868-69 and the summer of 1869 by Miss Mandy Mario, who received a salary of \$15 per month. The winter term was of three months duration, and there were enrolled thirty-four pupils—nineteen boys and fifteen girls; the average daily attendance was twenty-five. There was also three months school during the summer, and the total enrollment was twenty-eight—nineteen boys and nine girls—with an

<sup>1</sup>The county commissioners created district No. 1, including several sections in Wisconsin township and in that part of Des Moines east of the river, on March 13, 1866. No 2, including all of Des Moines west of the river, was created September 4, 1866.

<sup>2</sup>This building still stands in the village and is now used as a chicken house.

average daily attendance of twenty.<sup>3</sup> There were 113 children between the ages of five and twenty-one years in the district at the close of the school year in September, 1869, according to the report of the clerk, W. S. Kimball.<sup>4</sup> The financial statement for the first year of the school's history, made by W. S. Kimball, clerk, September 30, 1869, is an interesting document. It is as follows:

Amount on hand September 30, 1868 .....	\$ 00.00
Received from county treasurer .....	00.00
Received from tax voted by district .....	191.42
General sinking fund.....	54.42
Amount received from other sources .....	8.05
<b>Total amount received.....</b>	<b>\$250.17</b>

<sup>3</sup>According to a list of property owners in the district made by the school clerk September 15, 1869, there were fifty-two residents liable to school district tax. They were as follows: B. W. Ashley, Menzo Ashley, P. Brown, H. S. Bailey, C. Baldwin, Orin Belknap, A. J. Borland, Richard Bowden, S. M. Clark, J. W. Cowing, G. C. Chamberlin, M. S. Clough, Edward Davies, B. D. Dayton, Henry K. Evans, I. F. Eddy, Nathaniel Frost, S. E. Ford, R. R. Foster, W. C. Garratt, Palmer Hill, J. W. Hunter, Lars Halverson, B. H. Johnson, W. S. Kimball, Baldwin Kirkpatrick, F. K. Lyman, Lewis Lyman, George P. Lee, H. Lyman, J. M. Miller, Michael Miller, J. A. Myer, Munger & Hale, Andrew Monson, J. E. Palmer, Jared Palmer, C. H. Redford, Edward Savage, C. H. Sandon, Joseph Thomas, H. L. Thomas, A. B. Tompkins, H. T. Trumble, Joseph E. Thomas, S. E. Trask, A. E. Wood, Willard Wiltse, T. H. White, Isaac Wheeler, B. N. Woodard, J. C. Young.

<sup>4</sup>The names and ages of these were as follows: Rolla Johnson 10, Joseph Thomas, Jr. 20, Alonzo Wilsey 9, Edwin Wilsey 11, Elmer Wilsey 6, Lewis Halverson 16, Halvor Halverson 20, Alva Clough, George Palmer 11, Lee Palmer 8, Harry Fields 8, John Fields 5, Ben Woodard, I. H. Barnes 18, John Halverson 12, Arthur Halverson 5, William Smith 6, Perry E. Eddy 8, Joseph Palmer 17, Frank Bailey 15, Wallace Bailey 12, Nett Wood 6, Rollin Trumbull 7, R. Trumbull 12, Orin Lindsley 12, Leonard Ashley 16, William C. Trumbull 14, George Evans 17, John Davis 12, Oscar Alexander 7, J. B. Frost 5, F. W. Lindsley 18, Delanny Lindsley 9, W. W. Topin 12, W. S. Dayton 17, S. F. Dayton 19, Louis Miner 20, Gus Wood 16, David Reed 16, Elias Reed 12, Adelbert Reed 11, Grisham Foster 19, D. K. Bard, Richard Bowden 14, Daniel Bowden 10, Samuel Peter Bowden 8, Ira A. Walden 16, Mary Thomas 18, Ida Clough 12, Maggie Baldwin 5, Mary Woodard, Doratha Monson 7, Mary Monson 11, Anna Monson 7, Christina Monson 5, Anna Halverson 18, Carrie Halverson 10, Lorinda Fields 15, Marian Fields 12, Kate Fields 10, Emma Lee 13, Hattie Lee 8, Flora Frost 7, M. E. Trumbull 15, Winifred Lindsley 8, Edith Lindsley 6, Mary Lindsley 5, Eva Eddy 7, Mary A. Miller 5, Agnes Dayton 20, Ida Peterson 17, Laura Evans 10, May Evans 8, Emma Evans 6, Frances Davis 10, Jane Davis 8, F. A. Lindsley 16, Laura Lindsley 14, A. B. Lindsley 12, Alice Lindsley, Ada Linds-

Paid for teacher's wages during year .....	60.00
Paid for repairs on school house and premises .....	49.71
Paid for fuel, etc.....	59.41
Paid for all other purposes.....	42.50

Total paid during year.....\$212.12

Money on hand .....\$ 41.75\*

For several years after the little building (the seating capacity of which was about 25) had outgrown its usefulness it was used for school purposes. In the fall of 1869 Miss Theresa Rice was employed as teacher, and in 1870 A. H. Strong was employed to conduct the school. As is so often the case, efforts to provide ample school facilities met with discouragement. On December 4, 1870, the voters of the district decided to build a new school house at a cost of not over \$4,000. On the 26th of the same month another meeting was held, when a building committee was named to construct a school house at a cost of not more than \$4,500 or less than \$1,500. But for various reasons, the principal one being the opposition of some of the tax payers, the work was not prosecuted. As a result no school was held during the winter months, the old building being declared unfit for school purposes.

Early in 1872 the question of building a school house again became a live issue. The building committee named in 1870 made preparations to begin construction, but at a school meeting held in February the voters reconsidered the action taken and decided to postpone the work. The action was taken on account of strong opposition because of dread of increased taxes. When the court house was completed in December, 1872, arrangements were

ley 5, Ella Topin 8, Ida Topin 6, Amelia Kellogg 15, Hattie Benton 15, P. M. Kimball 11, Lizzie Kimball 5, Minnesota Freeman 5, Hattie Garratt 5, Hanna Cowing 19, Luenea A. Foster 18, Laura B. Hill 20, Sarah Bard 16, Anna S. Bard 14, Ruhmina Bard 8, Bard 10, Sarah A. Bowden 6, Jenta Lyman 19, Freeman Sweden 12, Emma Gilbert 6.

\*The ability of the clerk to add and subtract is open to doubt.

made to occupy one of the rooms in it, but dissensions arose, and the idea was abandoned. Then the hall over J. W. Cowing's store was rented and school was begun there December 30, 1872.

Again in the spring of 1873 the district decided to build a frame house at a cost, including grounds and furniture, of not more than \$4,000, but because of the stringency of the money market, funds could not be obtained, and the work was postponed. Favorable action was again taken February 5, 1874, when the school officers were authorized to bond for \$3,600 for the purpose of providing Jackson with a suitable school house, and this time the work was accomplished. The contractor was J. O. Grout, and he completed the building (now used as the city hall) late in November. Its cost was \$3,600, and it is said to have been the finest school building in southwestern Minnesota, outside of Mankato, at the time.

By act of the legislature in 1881 school district No. 2 was made an independent district, and it was organized May 10, 1881.<sup>6</sup> The first board of education, chosen on that date, consisted of J. W. Hunter, H. H. Hughes, J. W. Cowing, Alexander Fiddes, B. W. Ashley and A. H. Strong.

For twenty-one years the building erected in 1874 served as Jackson's school house. Then the population had so far outgrown the accommodations that a new building became necessary, and the handsome brick structure now in use was erected. The matter of a new school house was first officially discussed in June, 1893, but on account of the panic then in force it was decided to postpone building until the next year. In March, 1894, the voters decided against bonding for \$25,000 for a new school house by a vote of 62

to 91, but there was a change of sentiment the next year, for at the regular school meeting in March, 1895, bonds to the amount of \$25,000 were carried by a vote of 131 to 29. The structure was erected during the summer of 1895 by Deeks & Company, contractors. The same season a ward school house was built on Depot hill, the cost of the two buildings being \$28,500.

A high school course was added to the common branches taught, and the Jackson schools rank among the best in the state of Minnesota.

#### THE CHURCHES.

Of the many church organizations in Jackson, the oldest is that of the Methodist Episcopal. So early as 1860 or 1861 Rev. Peter Baker, that pioneer preacher of the gospel, organized a Methodist class from the scattered settlers residing in the vicinity of the present day village of Jackson, and ever since the organization has been maintained. For years the class was without a regular pastor and without a house of worship. For a time in the late sixties services were held only every third Sabbath, the pulpit being occupied by Rev. Richardson, of Okoboji.

A quarterly conference was held at Jackson on May 1, 1869, presided over by Norris Hobart, presiding elder, with T. H. White acting as secretary, at which time the following persons were named trustees of the First Methodist church of Jackson: Aiken Miner, H. S. Bailey, Welch Ashley, M. S. Clough, Stillman S. Barrett, Chancy W. Cornish and William C. Campbell. From that time a strong organization was maintained, and in the spring of 1870 the church had a membership of over one hundred. During its entire early history the Methodist church was without a house of worship, but after

<sup>6</sup>The district included all of sections 13, 24, 25, 26 and 35 and parts of sections 12, 14, 23, 27, 34 and 36, all in Des Moines township.



the Presbyterian church was erected in 1869 the Methodists worshipped there.

Not until 1880 was the Methodist church building erected. In the spring of that year the church members solicited money from the people of Jackson,<sup>7</sup> the building was erected during the summer, and the dedication exercises were held October 3. The cost of the building was \$2,000.

Jackson's second oldest church organization and the first to erect a house of worship in the village is the First Presbyterian church, which was organized in 1868. During the summer of that year the Presbyterian Synodical missionary, Rev. David C. Lyon, accompanied by Rev. Edward Savage, who had just been graduated from college and who was looking for a location, came to the little village of Jackson. Here, in J. W. Cowing's unfinished store building, on June 14, 1868, the first Presbyterian sermon was preached.<sup>8</sup> Rev. Savage made preparations for

the early organization of a church society, and on August 30, 1868, the First Presbyterian church of Jackson was formally organized. At the time there was not another church of the old school west or south of Waseca and none of the new school west of Blue Earth City.

Rev. David C. Lyon, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, then pastor of the Presbyterian church of Rochester, and Rev. Edward Savage conducted the organization services. John W. Cowing was ordained ruling elder, and the following persons were received into membership: John W. Cowing, William Miller, Mrs. Mary Miller, M. A. Seymour, Mrs. Mary Seymour, Mrs. Sally M. Bailey, all by letter; Mrs. Frances M. Kimball, Miss Helen A. Dunn, Miss Euphrasia A. Cook and George H. Vinall.<sup>9</sup>

The early services of the church were held in the little school house which stood near the bayou in the south part of town,<sup>10</sup> but in 1869 the congregation raised money and erected Jackson's first church

<sup>7</sup>Following is the list of contributions received in March, 1880: Welch Ashley, \$150; "Friend of the Cause," B. W. Ashley and J. A. Russell, \$100; Simeon Avery, \$75; A. C. Whitman, F. M. Smith, E. Owens and H. H. Hughes, \$50; Edward Orr, J. W. Hunter, T. J. Knox, Alexander Fiddes, H. M. Avery, S. F. Erskine, P. F. Brown & Son and William V. King, \$25; H. A. Morgan, V. W. Smith, \$20; G. C. Chamberlin, B. F. Chandler and E. P. Gould, \$15; C. A. Campbell, W. J. Case, John Jungbauer, A. H. Strong, John Paulson, H. W. Chandler, G. R. Moore, Alfred Ashdown, O. I. Lindsley and M. L. Ashley, \$10.

<sup>8</sup>Rev. Edward Savage, in 1895, wrote as follows of his coming to Jackson and the beginning of his service:

"My coming to Jackson was, to use a Hibernicism, almost 'unbeknownst to meself.' Rev. D. C. Lyon, then Synodical missionary for the old school of the Presbyterian church, had visited me at the theological seminary at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, and had talked Minnesota to me. As he was an old friend of our family and called himself one of my father's boys, I naturally notified him when I was ready with my mustang pony and buggy for a field of labor. Under his directions I was to meet him at LaCrosse and strike west until we came to unoccupied ground. This was about January 1, 1868. Mr. Lyon, having other work, rearranged to meet me later at Austin, which he did, and together we journeyed on in the course of the star of the empire, finding Presbyterian or Congregational organizations until we passed Fairmont. Mr. Lyon renewed each day Greeley's counsel, 'Go west, young man.' We reached Jackson on June 11, 1868, and found J. W. Hunter in a modest store, with Thomas White residing up-stairs. G. C. Chamberlin, as I remember, was the principal legal light. Mr. Lyon, in his happy way, sounded the char-

acter of the place. . . . Mr. Hunter was found to be a United Presbyterian. The hotel keeper, Mr. Hall, stated that Mr. Cowing, a young man who had started a store building and was then away after goods, was a Presbyterian. Major Bailey was a Free Will Baptist, but had a christian sympathy for a tired horse and loaned us a large bay mare to canvass the country west of town.

"On Sabbath, June 14, our first service was held in Mr. Cowing's unfinished store building, Mr. Cowing not yet having arrived. Mr. Lyon preached in the morning and the subscriber in the afternoon. After service Mr. Lyon stated that the young man he proposed leaving had nothing but himself and his mustang pony, and he hoped the people would stand by him in his work. The next morning he said to me: 'Here, Ed, is your place. It is a clear field. The Methodist brother comes only once in three weeks. Occupy the vacant Sabbaths. Do your best, and the Lord be with you.' And leaving me ten dollars, he took the stage for Winnebago."

<sup>9</sup>James W. Hunter and family were members of another Presbyterian church and had not received their letters of dismissal at the time. A little while after the organization the following were received into membership: Mrs. Agnes Hunter, Miss Agnes Hunter (now Mrs. Alexander Fiddes), David Hunter and James W. Hunter.

<sup>10</sup>"One more word for the inspiring environment that I neglected to mention. It was the pulbit. It was a boot case that Mr. Cowing and I (the session of the Presbyterian church) gobbled from the front of Mr. Hunter's store one Sunday morning on our way to church, carried it between us to the school house, stood it on end and covered it with a copy of the



EPISCOPAL



PRESBYTERIAN



CATHOLIC

# JACKSON'S

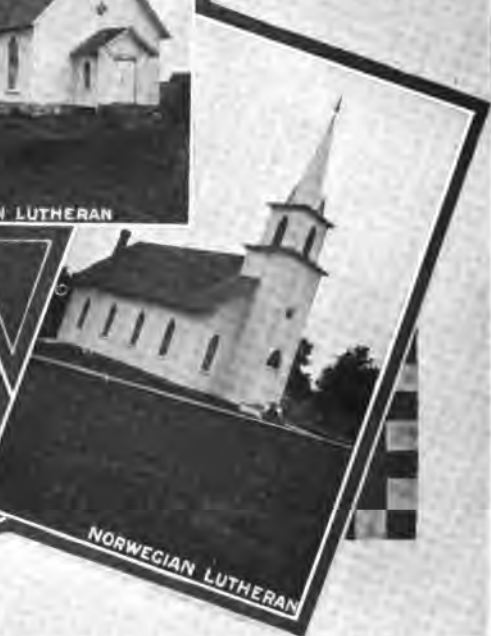
# CHURCHES



GERMAN LUTHERAN



METHODIST EPISCOPAL



NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

building. In this building (now transformed into the D. W. Pulver residence) the members of the Presbyterian church worshipped until the present beautiful church took its place in 1902. The building was put up largely through the untiring efforts of Rev. Savage, assisted by J. W. Cowing, J. W. Hunter and others.<sup>11</sup> The board of trustees at the time the church was built consisted of James W. Hunter, John W. Cowing, W. S. Kimball, George C. Chamberlin, Everett P. Freeman and John H. Grant.

At the time the church was built all finished products, such as shingles, brick and other building material, had to be hauled from Mankato at an expense of \$1.00 to \$3.50 per hundred pounds. Native lumber was used, and was cut in the woods along the Des Moines river. A single walnut log furnished the sills of the entire building—40x24 feet. This log was cut just north of the R. S. Robertson farm, about two miles from town, and it took Rev. Savage and Elder John W. Cowing two days to roll this log up the steep ravine. Five ox teams were required in performing this feat. The cost of the building was \$2,500, and it was dedicated September 18, 1870. Ten years later improvements to the value of \$500 were made.

The Presbyterian church society was incorporated February 12, 1877, at which time the following trustees were elected: James W. Hunter, Thomas J. Knox, M.

Northwestern Presbyterian, a Chicago paper edited by Rev. Ebenezer Erskine. Mr. Hunter came to church and got his return for lost property (indeed it was quite valuable as a seat for the politicians of the day, outside the store) in the improved sermons."—Rev. Edward Savage, 1895.

<sup>11</sup>"He [Rev. Savage] succeeded in securing funds for building the church. He gave notice one Sunday that he would preach no more for a time, but proposed to go to work and help build the church. . . . He 'rigged up' for work, got a yoke of oxen and an old wagon and went to hauling material for the building."—M. A. Strong, April 18, 1888.

A. Strong, Alexander Fiddes, George C. Chamberlin and A. H. Strong.

Rev. Savage remained the pastor of the church for eleven years, with the exception of one year while he was in Wisconsin. During that year, 1872-73, the church was served by Rev. Edward J. Hamilton, a professor of Hanover college, Indiana. In 1879 Rev. Savage was succeeded by Rev. J. K. Alexander, who was pastor four years. In 1883 Rev. H. C. Cheadle became pastor and served the church eight years, until the close of the year 1891, when he resigned. During the next five years, from 1891 to 1896, the following three pastors served the church in the order named: Rev. W. E. Morgan, Rev. W. Weatherstone and Rev. E. S. McClure. During Mr. Morgan's pastorate the manse was erected. In 1896 Rev. Russell B. Abbott, D. D., was called to the pastorate, and he remained until the summer of 1900. During the five years pastorate of his successor, Rev. T. N. Weaver, the present beautiful brick church edifice was constructed at a cost, including furnishings, of about \$16,000. It was built in 1901 and was dedicated free of debt June 22, 1902. In the fall of 1905 Rev. Weaver resigned, and March 1, 1906, the present pastor, Rev. Walter M. Swann, began his ministry in Jackson.

At the present time the Presbyterian church of Jackson has an active membership of 138, and the Sunday school 180. The trustees are Fred D. Sawyer, president; H. L. Arzt, secretary; W. D. Hunter, treasurer; George R. Moore, A. H. Strong and J. E. Barrett. The elders are John W. Cowing, Joseph Bushnell, W. A. Pepper, J. B. Arp, clerk of session; C. C. Baker and H. R. Laugen.

The Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical church was organized May 5, 1880, and several years later a church edifice was erected at a cost of \$2,500.

The Norwegian Lutherans, early in 1886, decided to erect a building in Jackson on a lot owned in the western part of town. Enough money was raised by subscription to warrant beginning work, which was done in the summer. The hard times prevailing that year prevented its furnishing, but the bare building was used as a house of worship so soon as it was completed—in November, 1886, for the first time.

St. Wenceslaus Catholic church was built in 1893. So early as 1882 Catholic services were held in Jackson, and in 1885 the first efforts to raise money to put up a building were made. In April, 1889, it was announced that a church would be built that year, but it was not. Again in May, 1891, a meeting was held at Jackson, presided over by Fathers Legday, of Winona, and Reichel, of Heron Lake, when it was decided to commence building operations at once. A finance committee, composed of Father Reichel, Frank Motl and Frank Skalisky, and a building committee, composed of William Huffman, Martin Klarner and Tom Vancura, were appointed. The foundation was laid that fall, but work on the superstructure was not begun until the spring of 1892. On June 15, of that year, a wind storm blew down the building, then in course of construction, entailing a loss of about \$500. The Catholic church was finally completed in the spring of 1893. The church edifice is valued at \$2,400 and the parsonage at \$1,500.

The German Lutheran church was erected in 1898.

The Episcopal church was erected in 1901 at a cost of \$3,000. In 1898 the Ladies Guild of Christ church was organized with ten members, with the object of purchasing a lot upon which to build so soon as a church should be organized. Bishop Whipple organized the mission and

appointed the bishop's committee, composed of the following: R. F. Robertson, A. E. Serum, F. B. Faber, W. V. King and Eugene Rucker.

#### THE LODGES.

The first secret order to be organized in Jackson was the Masonic. On February 23, 1871, a number of Masons met and took the preliminary steps toward organizing, selecting as the name of their lodge Des Moines Valley Lodge. Over twenty members were enrolled, and the following were chosen officers to serve while the lodge was working under dispensation: E. P. Freeman, W. M.; Alexander Fiddes, S. W.; G. C. Chamberlin, J. W.; H. White, treasurer; J. W. Cowing, secretary; S. C. Thayer, S. D.; Harvey Klock, J. D.; William King, Thomas Humphrey, stewards; W. S. Kimball, tyler. The dispensation arrived in April, the lodge being named Good Faith Lodge No. 90, and having thirteen members.

The charter for Good Faith Lodge was granted in February, 1872, and on February 15 the following officers were installed: E. P. Freeman, W. M.; Alexander Fiddes, S. W.; J. B. Wakefield, J. W.; J. J. Porter, treasurer; J. W. Cowing, secretary; William King, S. D.; Thomas Humphreys, J. D.; M. A. Strong, S. D.; C. B. Tuttle, J. S.; W. S. Kimball, tyler.

The Grand Army of the Republic also began its local organization in 1871. August 15 veterans of the civil war met and decided to petition the authorities for the establishment of a post in Jackson. The post, named Wadsworth Post No. 30, was mustered in by Major J. C. Hamilton, commander of the department of Minnesota, Tuesday evening, September 5, 1871. There were thirty-two charter members, and the post was the largest ever before mustered in by Major Hamilton in the state. Following were the first officers

and charter members: John A. Myers, commander; H. S. Bailey, senior vice commander; W. A. Fields, junior vice commander; William King, adjutant; M. A. Strong, quartermaster; Dr. E. L. Brownell, surgeon; Charles Frisbie, chaplain; C. H. Sandon, sergeant; Henry Knudson, quartermaster sergeant; W. S. Kimball, officer of the day; A. E. Wood, officer of the guard; O. F. Alexander, A. S. Brooks, R. E. Bowden, G. C. Chamberlin, S. M. Clark, S. E. Ford, A. O. Hoovda, Alex Hall, N. B. Hall, C. H. Heath, J. K. Johnson, A. D. King, M. Miller, H. Miller, I. A. Moreaux, J. J. Smith, I. G. Walden, Walter Withers, M. L. Ashley, J. J. Patterson, M. S. Barney.

Wadsworth post flourished for a time and rapidly increased its membership. Then interest lagged in the organization and it became dormant. A reorganization was effected February 7, 1875, the lodge was active a short time, but the organization was disbanded in 1877. Commanders of Wadsworth post were John A. Myers, E. L. Brownell, M. A. Strong, H. S. Bailey and G. B. Franklin.

Interest in G. A. R. matters was revived during the prosperous days of the early eighties, and during that period a local organization came into existence which has ever since been maintained. The initial meeting was held December 29, 1883, when it was decided to organize a lodge to be named John A. Myers post, in honor of the first commander of the earlier organization who had since died. John A. Myers Post No. 60 was mustered in January 23, 1884, by Commander L. M. Lange, of Worthington. Following were the first officers and charter members: H. S. Bailey, commander; G. C. Chamberlin, senior vice commander; C. H. Sandon, junior vice commander; M. A. Strong, adjutant; M. L. Ashley, quartermaster; E. J. Orr, chaplain; I. G. Walden, surgeon;

Fred Quentin, officer of the day; O. F. Alexander, officer of the guard; W. S. Kimball, sergeant major; H. W. Peck, quartermaster sergeant; W. V. King, William Lamont, J. A. Goodrich, N. Hall, W. A. Fields, John Paulson, Levi Davis, I. S. Barrett.<sup>12</sup> During the twenty-six years the post has maintained an active organization, the officers have been prompt in the discharge of their duties, and the post has frequently been mentioned by the department officers and its officers commended. The post has a membership at present of about thirty-five.

John A. Myers Corps No. 34, Woman's Relief Corps, was organized August 23, 1887, with the following officers and charter members: Mrs. Lizzie M. Dunn, president; Mrs. A. Wilson, senior vice president; Mrs. A. Sandon, junior vice president; Mrs. E. A. Barney, secretary; Mrs. A. L. King, treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Bushnell, chaplain; Mrs. Anna Dunn, conductor; Mrs. O. Alexander, assistant conductor; Mrs. Ann Miller, guard; Miss Lelia Nourse, assistant guard; Mesdames E. H. Pepper, Anna L. Smith, Martha V. Allen, Ruth R. Orr, Helen A. Logue, Thomas Clipperton, Anna Thomas.

Among the pioneer secret societies of Jackson is Jackson Lodge No. 49, Ancient Order United Workmen, which was organized July 8, 1879, with the following first officers and charter members: Alexander Fiddes, past master workman; Robert Sergant, master workman; T. J. Knox, foreman; A. H. Strong, overseer; A. C. Whitman, recorder; L. O. Randall, financier; P. H. Berge, receiver; E. P. Gould, guide; G. K. Tiffany, inside watch; Frederick Quinlin, outside watch; J. A. Rob-

<sup>12</sup>Others who became members within a few months after the organization were M. L. Bromaghin, W. A. Pepper, J. A. Wilson, G. Cole, Edward Gruhlke, J. A. Patterson, Jareb Palmer, S. Middaugh, Charles B. Rouse, M. S. Seely, C. M. Hardy, Walter Withers, George Blewer, J. C. Davis, H. S. Schlott, William Ballard, J. B. Moses, M. S. Barney and Alexander Spencer.

inson, O. F. Alexander, H. H. Hughes, F. M. Smith, Evan Owens, E. A. Hatch, M. H. Smith.

The present membership of A. O. U. W. lodge is sixty. Following are the officers: J. H. Nourse, P. M. W.; John Randall, M. W.; E. W. Bromaghim, F.; R. W. Brown, O.; John Qualey, recorder; Alexander Fiddes, financier; V. W. Avery, receiver; Charles R. Gee, guide; Robert Bartosch, I. W.; G. A. Husby, O. W.

Des Moines Valley Lodge No. 156, Independent Order Odd Fellows, was organized May 20, 1889, with six charter members as follows: A. B. Allen, W. A. Funk, W. A. Conrad, A. J. Patterson, R. Van Orman and H. Andrewsen. The following were chosen as the first officers: A. B. Allen, noble grand; W. A. Conrad, vice grand; H. Andrewsen, secretary; R. Van Orman, treasurer. At the present time the lodge has a membership of forty-seven. It owns real estate and lodge property to the value of \$3,500.

Maple Grove Camp No. 1069, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized February 5, 1891, with seventeen charter members. Following were the first officers: V. B. Crane, consul; H. H. Hughes, advisor; John Muir, banker; E. C. Wilson, clerk; William Trumbull, escort; A. Gruhlke, watchman; A. O. Berg, sentry; Douglas Pulver, H. H. Hughes and T. T. Gronland, managers.

Holy Trinity Court No. 694, Catholic Order Foresters, was granted a charter June 27, 1897, and it has ever since maintained an organization. The first officers and charter members were as follows: J. M. Voda, C. R.; Joseph Klemm, V. C. R.; Rev. P. P. Kloss, P. C. R.; J. J. Pribyl, R. S.; Wensel Motl, F. S.; Martin Arndt, treasurer; John Magyar, Louis Kiesel, J. A. Timko, John Hassing, William Motl, Bernard C. Lilly, Frank Benda, Frank J. Bertels, Emil Calta, Henry J. Hassing,

Frank Svoboda, Henry Wilhalm, Edward Wilhalm, J. V. Makovicka, John Steiner. The lodge has a present membership of sixty-two.

Jackson Lodge No. 160, Knights of Pythias, was instituted March 22, 1900, with the following first officers: V. E. Butler, C. C.; W. P. King, V. C.; W. C. Hartson, P.; Charles F. Albertus, M. W.; Bert Gillespie, K. R. S.; Mark D. Ashley, M. F.; Frank Phillips, M. A.; William Ballard, I. G.; Joe Treca, O. G.

#### THE BANKS.

In Jackson are three banking institutions, all organized under the national banking laws. These are the Brown National Bank, the First National Bank and the Jackson National Bank.

The first financial institution to begin business in Jackson—and in Jackson county—was the Bank of Jackson, a private institution opened by John K. Brown, who had formerly been connected with the Southern Minnesota Railroad company, late in January, 1879.<sup>13</sup> Mr. Brown was sole owner of the Bank of Jackson until March 1, 1892, when the owners became John K. Brown & Company, Cashier Henrik Strom having taken an interest. In 1901 Herman L. Strom purchased the interests of Henrik Strom, the firm name remaining the same. In 1905 the institution was reorganized under the name of Brown National Bank, with a capital stock of \$40,000, and began business under the new title July 1. The officers at that time were John K. Brown, president; J. W. Cowing, vice president; H. L. Strom, cashier. The present officers of the Brown

<sup>13</sup>"The Bank of Jackson, is now one of our proud institutions and is by far the neatest and noblest establishment in town. It may be found in the building north of the Ashley house, where the good looking, courteous and gentlemanly presiding genius, Mr. John K. Brown, will be glad to accommodate patrons in his line and transact a strict banking business on strict business principles."—Jackson Republic, February 1, 1879.

National Bank are J. W. Cowing, president; T. J. Knox, vice president; H. L. Strom, cashier; J. J. Pribyl, assistant cashier.

Jackson's second bank was a private bank opened by George R. Moore December 1, 1887, under the title, G. R. Moore, Banker. J. K. Skarberg was the cashier. It was reorganized as the State Bank of Jackson with a capital stock of \$25,000 April 1, 1890, beginning business under the new style May 15. The incorporators were George R. Moore, P. H. Berge, J. W. Cowing, T. J. Knox, Alexander Fiddes, G. A. Albertus, A. H. Strong, F. W. Lindsley and M. B. Hutchinson. The State Bank of Jackson was reorganized as the First National Bank in June, 1901, with the following board of directors: George R. Moore, O. B. Olson, T. J. Knox, Alexander Fiddes and P. H. Berge. The capital and surplus of the First National is \$45,000. The present officers are George R. Moore, president; P. H. Berge, vice president; A. B. Cheadle, cashier; O. B. Olson, assistant cashier.

The Jackson National Bank was organized in 1903, beginning business January 4, 1904, with the following officers and board of directors: H. G. Anderson, president; W. C. Portmann, vice president; A. W. Quinn, cashier; W. D. Hunter, assistant cashier; F. W. Lindsley, J. H. Quinn and H. H. Berge. The officers at present are H. G. Anderson, president; W. C. Portmann, vice president; W. D. Hunter, cashier; Asher O. Nasby, assistant cashier.

Another financial institution of Jackson is the Jackson Building and Loan Association, which was organized in 1891, and which has been instrumental in the building of many of the beautiful homes of Jackson.

#### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Prior to 1883 Jackson was absolutely without protection from fire. Then the village council began to consider the matter of affording protection. The Jackson Republic of October 13, 1883, reported a meeting of the village council as follows:

At the meeting of the village council last Tuesday [October 9] the subject of fire protection in Jackson was discussed at length. Councilman Fiddes was requested to correspond with dealers as to the cost of buckets, hooks, ladders, etc., and W. S. Kimball was appointed fire warden with instructions to examine chimneys and enforce the provisions of ordinance No. 8. Upon motion of Councilman Cowing it was proposed that the residents or owners of every block who would put in a well be supplied with a pump and hose by the village.

From this legislation developed the Jackson fire department. In 1885 more advanced measures were taken. In April the contract was let for the digging of four wells on Second street, at the corners of Grant, Sherman, Ashley and White streets, and in May the council purchased of Baldwin Brothers, of Winona, a hand fire engine, 300 feet of common hose and 25 feet of suction hose, the total cost of which was \$627. To handle this equipment a fire company with 48 members was organized July 23. The first officers of this pioneer company were as follows: H. H. Hughes, fire warden; A. C. Serum, captain; S. Swenson, chief engineer; Gilbert Seilstad, hose foreman; J. W. Jensen, secretary. The company was given official recognition August 8, when the village council approved the officers. This organization was not long maintained. With few duties to perform, the members soon lost interest, and the company was finally disbanded.

When the water works system was installed in 1892 came the demand for an up-to-date fire department. The village authorities purchased new equipment, and on January 2, 1893, there was organized



the present department. Following were the first officers and the charter members: H. G. Anderson, foreman; George Burnham, assistant foreman; O. A. Sathe, second assistant foreman; S. J. Dunn, secretary; H. O. Brown, treasurer; V. W. Avery, L. Lecocq, H. M. Burnham, Ed. Boehl, Albert Gruhlke, M. L. Ashley, Sam Woolworth, D. P. Maitland, Henry Hoegli, Clarence Ellsworth, Art Ellsworth, Frank Gerlach, John Qualey, Lewis Iverson and Nels Ludvigsen. Entire new equipment was bought in March, 1895, including hose cart, hook and ladder truck, hose and uniforms.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The agricultural society of Jackson is one of the oldest in southwestern Minnesota. It was organized in 1869, when the first county fair was held. For years the society was maintained with meager financial support, and the annual fairs were primitive affairs, held generally in some vacant building in the village.

A reorganization was brought about in 1897, and an effort was made to put the society on a sound financial footing. Life memberships were sold at fifteen dollars, and over one hundred people subscribed,

but only a small number were paid for. The same year twenty-five acres of land were purchased from B. W. Ashley and George R. Moore, south of the depot, buildings were erected, and a race track was built, the total cost of which was about \$2,500. The society went into debt for nearly all the improvements and the land, hoping to wipe out the indebtedness later by successful fairs. Weather conditions were unfavorable, and as a result no headway was made. The conditions had reached such a stage at the beginning of the year 1908 that bankruptcy threatened, and then it was the new society was formed.

The agricultural society was reorganized and incorporated in May, 1908, with a capital stock of \$20,000 and with the following officers and board of directors: W. W. Wold, president; Noah Ramey, vice president; H. B. Gillespie, secretary; H. L. Stock, treasurer; George Weise, Harry M. Burnham, C. P. Nissen, Hans Sether, H. J. Yeadicke and H. L. Strom. The society is now on a sound financial basis, recently improvements have been made at the grounds, and the fairs in recent years have been highly successful.

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MAIN STREET, LAKEFIELD



SOUTH MAIN STREET, LAKEFIELD

## CHAPTER XIX.

### LAKEFIELD—1879-1910.

**R**ANKING second in size, according to the last census, among Jackson county towns is Lakefield. The village is situated in Heron Lake and Hunter townships and is in almost the exact geographical center of the county, its business center being less than one mile from the central point. It is only a short distance from the head of Heron lake, that great expanse of water which is noted the country over as a hunters' paradise. Lakefield is on the Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and is twelve miles west and north of Jackson. The population in 1905 was 916, but the census of 1910 will undoubtedly show an increase.

As regards trade territory, Lakefield has a strategic location, drawing its trade from an immense area of exceptionally prosperous country. To the north, northeast, south and southwest there are no towns for many miles, and to Lakefield comes the trade from long distances in those directions. The town is compactly built and presents an attractive appearance. It has broad streets, lined with substantial business houses and handsome residences.

No more beautiful site for a town could be found. It is located on high, rolling ground, of a greater elevation than the surrounding country, exactly on the divide

or watershed which separates the two great watercourses of the west—the Mississippi and the Missouri.<sup>1</sup> There is plenty of room for the town to grow without taking in a foot of low or swampy ground. All the improvements to be found in Minnesota towns of its size are in Lakefield. It has an excellent waterworks system, electric light plant, good schools and churches.

Of the three principal towns of Jackson county, Lakefield was the last to come into existence. Jackson had been founded in 1866, Heron Lake in 1871, as a result of the building of the Sioux City road; Lakefield did not take its place on the map until 1879, when the Southern Minnesota (later the Milwaukee) railroad extended to the northwest from Jackson.

During the early seventies quite a number of homesteaders had located upon the government lands surrounding the future town of Lakefield, but during the terrible grasshopper days no improvements were made, many people moved away, and the actual settlement of that part of the county may be said to have begun only in the late seventies. In 1878, when it was be-

<sup>1</sup>"Nearly seventeen years ago [1867] we first traveled the road between Graham lakes and Jackson, and on the route, about one and one-half miles from lake Heron, was a piece of country elevated above that surrounding it and known as 'the first mound.' We little thought that it would be as it is today the site for a flourishing little village."—Judge B. W. Woolstencroft in Fulda Republican, June, 1884.

lieved the grasshoppers had left the country for good and it was known that the railroad was to be pushed on to the west, come a change in conditions. New settlers poured in, bought lands in the theretofore thinly settled townships, made improvements and became permanent settlers. When, in the spring of 1879, the line for the extension west of Jackson was definitely made, came more settlers, who located upon the choice lands along the right-of-way. The work of grading the roadbed was begun April 22, the track was laid to the junction with the Sioux City road August 1, and regular train service was established November 3. But some months before the road was completed two towns had been founded near the head of Heron lake.

Henry Knudson, who owned the northwest quarter of section 32, Heron Lake township, which was crossed by the surveyed line of the new road, laid out a town on his land early in May, which he named Jackson Center.<sup>2</sup> The plat of the townsite was drawn on paper, but the land was not surveyed. Mr. Knudson made preparations for building a little town at that point, expecting that the railway company would put in a side track and establish a station there. He erected a store building, in which he opened a general store, and built a residence, which were the only building improvements made on the site, and he and his family and Knud Thoreson and his family were the only inhabitants. Late in September the Jackson Center postoffice was established with Mr. Knudson in charge. The postoffice was maintained until the spring of 1880; then the Lakefield office was established and Mr. Knudson resigned, the office being then

discontinued. In the spring of 1882, Mr. Knudson moved his store building to the new town of Lakefield, and the history of Jackson Center came to an end.

Differences between Mr. Knudson and the Southern Minnesota railway officials were responsible for the failure of the company to locate a station at Jackson Center and also the building of a town at Lakefield, a mile southwest of Mr. Knudson's site. J. C. Easton, of the railroad company, was willing to locate a station at Jackson Center providing he could purchase Mr. Knudson's 210 acre farm for five dollars per acre. The owner refused to sell at that figure, but he offered to deed to Mr. Easton and the other officials a half interest in forty or eighty acres for railroad purposes free of charge, the balance of the farm to be divided into lots to be owned jointly by Mr. Knudson and the officials. These terms were refused, and negotiations were brought to a close early in the summer.

A. R. Kilen, who was in the vicinity, learned of the rupture between Mr. Knudson and the railroad officials and was not slow to take advantage of the conditions. He looked over the ground and decided that the west half of the southwest quarter of section 33, Heron Lake township, would make an excellent location for a townsite. Not knowing who was the owner of the slightly eighty acre tract, Mr. Kilen walked to the county seat, consulted the records, learned in whose name the land was assessed, and then walked to Windom, where he boarded a train for St. Paul. There he located the owner of the site, bought the property, and returned with the deed in his pocket.

The prospective town founder made terms with the railroad officials, and in the latter part of July the company located a side track on the land.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Kilen

<sup>2</sup>"Henry Knudson has commenced platting a town at the south end of Heron lake, near the Southern Minnesota railroad. It is located on the northwest quarter of section 32, Heron Lake township. We learn he is about to erect a hotel building on the plat."—Jackson Republic, May 10, 1879.

<sup>3</sup>"The side track next west of Jackson has been located on the west half of the southwest

at once set about having the land surveyed, and in a short time a little village appeared on the prairie.

The original townsite of Lakefield, located on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 33, was surveyed by James E. Palmer September 2, 1879, and the dedication was made by Anders R. Kilen September 5. It consisted of eight blocks only, the streets running north and south being named Bush, Main and Plum, and the east and west streets, Broadway, Second and Third.<sup>4</sup> The land upon which it was located was a part of the grant to the St. Paul & Sioux City Railway company.<sup>5</sup>

Before the site was surveyed there was considerable activity at the new station and several had made arrangements to enter into business in the new town. The name first selected for the village was

quarter of section 33 and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 32, in Heron Lake township. It is on land belonging to Anders R. Kilen, about a mile east of the head of Heron lake, and about twelve miles from Jackson. A town is already being platted, and soon a good business point will spring up at that station."—Jackson Republic, July 26, 1879.

<sup>4</sup>Additions to Lakefield have been platted as follows:

South Lakefield, November 28, 1882; surveyed by James E. Palmer.

Griffin's, by Joshua H. Brady November 17, 1885; surveyed by L. L. Palmer.

Funk's, by Louis F. Menage August 10, 1892; surveyed by L. L. Palmer.

Frederickson's Addition to South Lakefield, by John Frederickson April 5, 1894; surveyed by C. W. Gove.

Hollister's, by H. J. Hollister June 17, 1895; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

A. R. Kilen's, by A. R. Kilen September 17, 1898; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

Park, by W. A. Funk August 8, 1899; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

Mrs. Bergh's, by Mrs. A. M. Bergh May 13, 1901; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

<sup>5</sup>Titles to lands embraced within the present boundaries of Lakefield were received from the government as follows: Rasmus Larson homesteaded the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 32, Heron Lake township, and received his patent December 20, 1881. Christopher B. Rubert received his patent to the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section October 10, 1876. Edward E. Bergh received his patent to the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section March 1, 1877. The west half of section 33 was railroad land, granted to the St. Paul & Sioux City company. The northwest quarter of section 4, Hunter township, was homesteaded by James W. Forrest, and he received title June 20, 1875. The northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 5 was received by the St. Paul & Sioux City company from the commissioners of the state land office March 31, 1876.

"Bethania," by which it was known for only about one week, however.<sup>6</sup> Then "Lakefield" was substituted by the town proprietor, and that was the name used in making the dedication. So early as the latter part of July the Colman Lumber company and the Paul Lumber company selected sites for lumber yards, and several others made arrangements to build and engage in business.

The first building erected was the office of the Colman Lumber company, which was put up in August. E. W. Davies was the first local manager. This first building was also used as the telegraph office until the depot was erected. A few other buildings were started about the same time, and before the close of the year 1879 there were five or six business houses in operation. The Paul Lumber company had its sheds completed early in September, and both companies had lumber in stock to supply all the demands. Lewis Chesterson and Charles Chesterson opened a general store in September, which they conducted under the firm name of Chesterson Brothers. John Kilen put up a building and engaged in the hotel business. Bonner & Hyde built a warehouse and engaged in the grain business. The railroad company erected a depot. M. A. Foss erected a store building late in the fall, but did not open his general store until the next spring. This concludes the list of improvements for the year 1879, and Lakefield did not assume metropolitan proportions that year. John Davies, writing from the little town October 21, 1879, said: "There are only two ladies in the town to absorb the smiles of about twenty bachelors."

The people of Lakefield petitioned for a postoffice in the fall of 1879, and an of-

<sup>6</sup>"A change has come over the dreams of Bethanians. It has been decided to call the new town out west Lakefield."—Jackson Republic, August 16, 1879.

office was granted them the next spring. It was opened in April with M. A. Foss as postmaster.<sup>7</sup> A few new business enterprises were started in 1880: M. A. Foss opened his general store, Johnson & Hohenstein started the town's third general store, Cargill & Van built the second grain warehouse, Obed Omberson engaged in the general merchandise and hardware business, Barney Froelinger opened a saloon, a blacksmith shop was started, and R. B. Woodworth was installed as the depot agent.

The growth of Lakfield during the first three or four years was not great, but each year witnessed the opening of one or two new business houses, and the small growth was healthy. Conrad & Snure engaged in the general merchandise business in 1882, and Larud, Morland & Company engaged in the hardware business the same year. Among the other improvements of the same year were the hay pressing and tow manufacturing establishments of M. A. Foss. In 1883 N. J. Scott started a hardware store, and the same year witnessed the founding of the town's first newspaper, the Minnesota Citizen by Carl S. Eastwood. There were several changes in the proprietorship of the several stores and shops, and we find the business houses on

<sup>7</sup>Mr. Foss served as Lakefield's postmaster until March, 1882, when he was succeeded by Henry Knudson, who moved down from Jackson Center. Mr. Knudson sold out his business a short time later and resigned the office, being succeeded in July, 1882, by H. G. Conrad. The latter served until November, 1883, when E. Lewis received the appointment. There was quite a contest for the honor in 1884, which was won by Carl S. Eastwood, the editor of the Minnesota Citizen, he receiving the appointment in June. Mr. Eastwood sold his paper and removed from Lakefield in the latter part of 1885, and from that time until his successor was named in February, 1886, the office was in charge of Deputy L. W. Seely. John G. Miller succeeded Mr. Eastwood as postmaster and served until January 17, 1888. On that date S. J. Moe became Lakefield's postmaster, serving until January, 1890. Then W. L. Funk was appointed and held the office until 1893. H. J. Hollister served from that time until October, 1897, under the democratic administration. John Crawford was appointed at the expiration of Mr. Hollister's term and held the office until his death, which occurred by drowning in June, 1904. Mrs. John Crawford was then appointed and has ever since conducted the office.

November 30, 1883, as represented in the advertising columns of the first issue of the local paper, to be as follows:

General stores—A. Hohenstein, E. Lewis, William Snure, O. Omberson.

Hotel—J. D. Stone.

Implement dealer—John Frederickson.

Newspaper and real estate—Carl S. Eastwood.

Livery—A. Hohenstein.

Blacksmiths—R. P. Pietz, T. A. Sanders.

Harness shop—W. H. Randall.

Lawyer and real estate—L. Walter Seely.

Hay press—Omberson Brothers.

The general prosperity which blessed Jackson county in 1884 brought rapid advancement to the little town of Lakefield. It was a season of solid and prosperous growth. A resident of Jackson who visited the village in July wrote as follows: "A few hours spent by the writer in Lakefield this week convinced him that Jackson's sister village is up to the times. New buildings are going up, a large acreage of prairie turf is being reduced to a state of cultivation near by, and prosperity prevails. Within the past year Lakefield has seen a newspaper, a creamery, a hardware store, a drug store and doctor 'spring up in her midst.'"

Factors in the increased activity were the purchase of the townsite by James T. Griffin and the platting of South Lakefield by John Frederickson. These gentlemen placed lots on the market at reduced prices and induced men with capital to locate and invest in the new town. The Lakefield Citizen boasted that more new buildings were erected in Lakefield that year than in any other town in the county, and that the business interests and population more than doubled in the twelve months. Despite the showing made, an estimate of the town's population in 1884 placed the figure at between seventy-five and one hundred. A business directory for 1884 listed the following business houses in operation:



LAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



MAKING A COUNTY DITCH



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ACTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

- William Snure, general merchandise.
- E. Lewis, general merchandise.
- Obed Omberson, general merchandise.
- Albert Hohenstein, general merchandise.
- E. J. Viall, Viall hotel.
- J. D. Stone, Lakefield hotel.
- N. J. Scott, hardware store.
- J. M. Strickler, drug store.
- John Frederickson (Colman Lumber Co.), lumber and machinery.
- C. M. Tradewell, agricultural implements.
- Charles Randall, harness shop.
- L. W. Seely, land agent.
- Carl S. Eastwood, newspaper.
- Robert Pietz, blacksmith shop.
- Thomas Sanders, blacksmith shop.
- Miss Tilda Hamerstad, millinery store.
- John Barber, coal dealer.
- Omberson Brothers, hay dealers.
- G. A. Stanton, Lakefield nursery.
- W. W. Heffelfinger, physician.
- John G. Miller, contractor.
- S. Christenson, contractor.
- B. Johnson, contractor.

Lakefield's first conflagration occurred February 12, 1884, when the depot with all its contents was burned to the ground.

The progress in 1884 was only the beginning of the forward movement in Lakefield's history. During the later eighties every year was one of increase. In 1886 building improvements to the value of \$19,160 were made, the items of this amount being as follows:

F. E. Wesner, residence.....	\$ 800
E. D. Briggs, improvements.....	1,100
A. M. Johnson, warehouse.....	300
Standard office .....	700
C. L. Colman, addition.....	725
Fred Nestrude, feed mill.....	425
A. W. Ward, residence.....	365
Julius Broeger, residence.....	400
John Lueneburg, furniture store.....	1,100
Rhoda Pollock, residence.....	450
N. J. Scott, residence and barn.....	1,075
Jackson County Bank.....	1,800
E. J. Viall, barn.....	600
Burgess Jones, residence and coal house	1,150
Frank White, residence and barber shop	700
T. A. Sanders, residence and barn.....	500
William Britsch, residence.....	400
Ludwig Lueneburg, residence.....	775
C. M. Tradewell, office and machine shop .....	700
J. H. Luse, hardware store.....	800
E. D. Briggs, improvements.....	175
H. P. Stone, addition.....	250
Matt Schram, addition.....	100
O. Omberson, addition.....	800
Minor improvements .....	2,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$19,160</b>

A census of Lakefield, taken July 14, 1887, showed a population of 260. It was then the residents petitioned the board of county commissioners for incorporation.<sup>8</sup> The county board took favorable action on the petition July 25, 1887, when it provided for holding a special election September 1 to vote on the question of incorporation. The election was held in the Lakefield school house,<sup>9</sup> and "for incorporation" carried by a vote of 26 to 2.<sup>10</sup> The first election for the selection of village officers was held October 1, when forty-five votes were cast. The council elected at that time met and organized October 21, and the municipal government of Lakefield began on that day.<sup>11</sup> Following is a list of those who have been elected to municipal office in Lakefield from the date of incorporation to the present time.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup>The petitioners were L. J. Britsch, H. J. Hollister, M. E. Lawton, N. J. Scott, Burgess Jones, William Britsch, E. Lewis, W. W. Heffelfinger, S. Christianson, Carl Omberson, Gust Goplin, D. Crawford, R. A. McUmber, C. O. Tradewell, F. E. White, William Snure, T. A. Sanders, H. P. Stone, Hans J. Hauge, S. J. Moe, J. N. Edwards, John Hale, James Keenan, R. H. Lueneburg, A. Hohenstein, A. Ellison, J. I. Anderson, A. Norgrant, J. H. Luse, C. H. Young, L. W. Crowl, E. J. Viall, Robert Pietz, R. S. Luse, John Frederickson, F. E. Wesner, W. A. Funk, W. L. Funk, F. W. Weeks, T. Omberson, C. M. Tradewell.

<sup>9</sup>John Frederickson, John G. Miller and N. J. Scott were the inspectors of the election and F. W. Weeks was the clerk.

<sup>10</sup>John Frederickson, John G. Miller and N. J. Scott, H. J. Hollister, W. W. Heffelfinger, W. L. Funk, W. A. Funk, C. L. Bratager, Alfred Ellison, Andrew Norgrant, John Miller, R. H. Lueneburg, C. P. Carlson, M. E. Lawton, L. J. Britsch, R. A. McUmber, C. H. Young, Burgess Jones, John Frederickson, F. W. Weeks, William Snure, David Crawford, William Viall, R. S. Luse, E. J. Viall, T. A. Sanders, Frank White, August N. Goplin, S. J. Moe, Robert Pietz.

<sup>11</sup>Lakefield remained a part of Heron Lake and Hunter townships for assessment and election purposes until 1889. On April 22 of that year the legislature provided for its separation for all purposes.

<sup>12</sup>At many of the annual village elections the license question has been submitted to the voters. Following is the result in those years when the question was submitted, the question not having been voted upon in the years omitted:

- 1888—For, 40; against, 19.
- 1889—For license by 9 majority.
- 1890—For, 51; against, 15.
- 1892—For, 53; against, 20.
- 1894—For, 71; against, 20.
- 1895—For, 67; against, 70.
- 1896—For license by 26 majority.

1887—President, W. A. Funk;<sup>13</sup> trustees, N. J. Scott, William Snure, Burgess Jones;<sup>14</sup> recorder, R. H. Lueneburg; treasurer, John Frederickson; justices, E. Lewis, W. L. Funk; constables, E. Erickson, John I. Anderson.

1888—President, L. W. Crowl; trustees, F. E. Wesner, E. J. Viall, W. W. Heffelfinger; recorder, R. H. Lueneburg; treasurer, M. E. Lawton; justices, E. Lewis, John G. Miller; constables, R. P. Pietz, E. D. Sanders.

1889—President, H. J. Hollister; trustees, John Frederickson, Nels Olson, S. J. Moe; recorder, Frank White; treasurer, N. J. Scott; justices, E. Lewis, John G. Miller; constables, H. P. Stone, R. P. Pietz.

1890—President, John Frederickson; trustees, J. N. Cox, C. M. Tradewell, Nels Olson; recorder, George Sawyer; treasurer, N. J. Scott; assessor, S. J. Moe; justices, John G. Miller, G. H. Spofford; constables, George Winter, H. P. Stone.

1891—President, John Frederickson; trustees, M. H. Evans, William Searles, Nels Olson; recorder, R. H. Lueneburg; treasurer, N. J. Scott; constables, George Winter, E. Erickson.

1892—President, L. W. Crowl; trustees, S. D. Sumner, C. W. Gove, Joe Winter; recorder, J. W. Calta;<sup>15</sup> treasurer, N. J. Scott; assessor, E. J. Viall; justices, N. B. Spicard, G. G. Sawyer; constable, R. P. Pietz.

1893—President, L. W. Crowl; trustees, W. F. Timm, A. A. Fosness, F. E. Wesner; recorder, John Crawford; treasurer, John Frederickson; assessor, A. Park; constables, S. J. Moe, Ed Hanson.

1894—President, N. J. Scott; trustees, W. F. Timm, A. Norgrant, F. B. White; recorder, John Crawford; treasurer, John Frederickson; assessor, D. Crawford; justices, John G. Miller, George Sawyer; constable, James Kula.

1895—President, N. J. Scott; trustees, William Searles, Henry Winter, W. D. Hill; recorder, F. E. Wesner; treasurer, John Frederickson; assessor, D. Crawford; constable, L. M. White.

1896—President, N. J. Scott; trustees, William Searles, W. C. Bauer, N. P. Heintz; recorder, F. E. Wesner; treasurer, John Frederickson; assessor, D. Crawford; justices, John G. Miller, Jareb Palmer; constable, James Kula.

1897—President, M. H. Evans; trustees, S. D. Sumner, W. F. Timm, J. E. McGill; recorder, Thomas Crawford; treasurer, John Frederickson; assessor, F. B. White; constable, L. M. White.

1898—President, David Crawford; trustees, A. D. Palmer, S. D. Sumner, E. Erickson; recorder, J. M. Thompson; treasurer, John Fred-

erickson; assessor, S. J. Moe; justices, William Crawford, Jareb Palmer; constables, A. L. Bachus, August Milbrath.

1899—President, David Crawford; trustees, N. J. Scott, John Frederickson, J. E. McGill; recorder, S. R. Dubetz; treasurer, William Searles; assessor, S. J. Moe; constable, Henry Wood.

1900—President, A. M. St. John; trustees, C. M. Gage, Emil Erickson, W. F. Timm; recorder, G. W. Curtiss; treasurer, William Searles; assessor, S. J. Moe; justices, M. Hollister, Jareb Palmer; constables, J. L. Rakerd, Milton Morse.

1901—President, A. M. St. John; trustees, C. M. Tradewell, A. A. Fosness, August Olson; recorder, Charles Norgrant; treasurer, William Searles; assessor, S. J. Moe.

1902—President, David Crawford; trustees, H. J. Hollister, A. A. Fosness, C. M. Gage; recorder, Charles Norgrant; treasurer, F. L. Leonard; justices, M. Hollister, John G. Miller; constables, J. L. Rakerd, George H. Winter.

1903—President, David Crawford; trustees, C. M. Gage, A. A. Fosness, James Rost; recorder, Charles Norgrant; treasurer, A. Bettin; assessor, S. J. Moe; constable, F. L. Grannis.

1904—President, H. J. Hollister; trustees, James Rost, S. R. Dubetz, G. B. McMurtrie; recorder, Charles Norgrant; treasurer, Adolph Bettin; assessor, S. J. Moe; justices, John G. Miller, Jareb Palmer; constable, Albert Rue.

1905—President, D. L. Riley; trustees, George Winzenburg, J. C. Caldwell, James Rost; recorder, Ed Arnold; treasurer, Adolph Bettin; assessor, S. J. Moe; justice, Henry Wood; constables, Ed Collins, H. G. Latourell.

1906—President, J. W. Daubney; trustees, George Wood, George Britsch, John Anderson; recorder, W. I. Alcott; treasurer, Adolph Bettin; assessor, S. J. Moe; justices, John G. Miller, Jareb Palmer; constables, Ed Collins, George Milburn.

1907—President, A. M. St. John; trustees, M. McGlin, James Rost, H. L. Bond; recorder, W. I. Alcott; treasurer, Adolph Bettin; assessor, S. J. Moe; constables, Charles Blankenburg, Henry Tank.

1908—President, M. McGlin; trustees, J. A. Anderson, J. J. Jones, John Grein; recorder, Ed Arnold; treasurer, Adolph Bettin; assessor, S. J. Moe; justices, John G. Miller, Jareb Palmer; constables, J. B. Wagner, G. R. VanDyke.

1909—President, M. McGlin; trustees, John Grein, J. M. Putman, William Hecht; recorder, Ole Thoreson; treasurer, Adolph Bettin; assessor, S. J. Moe; constables, Charles Blankenburg, H. A. Rost.

Lakefield continued its forward movement until the panic year 1893. During these years it advanced from the little hamlet of pioneer days to one of the important towns of Jackson county. The

1897—For, 77; against, 49.

1898—For, 99; against, 47.

1899—For, 106; against, 70.

1901—For, 105; against, 79.

1902—For, 120; against, 60.

1903—For, 128; against, 43.

<sup>13</sup>Resigned and M. E. Lawton appointed.

<sup>14</sup>Did not qualify; L. W. Crowl appointed.

<sup>15</sup>Did not qualify; H. J. Hollister appointed.

year 1892 was one of exceptional progress. Many new buildings were erected and several new enterprises were put under way, principal among them being the flouring mill. The panic put a temporary stop to the progress of the town, and for a few years there was little advance. The population in 1895 was 519.

Beginning with 1896 came improved conditions, and the town once more took up its forward march, entering upon the most prosperous era in its history. The building improvements in 1896 amounted to nearly \$50,000, and the next year they exceeded that amount, the items of improvement for 1897, being as follows:

High school building.....	\$23,000
Norwegian Lutheran church.....	1,800
E. Schumacher, brick building.....	2,000
St. John Brothers, elevator.....	3,000
Leonard & Company, furniture store...	1,700
Pietz & White, livery barn.....	1,200
M. E. church, addition.....	800
M. E. church, parsonage.....	1,500
L. L. Stewart, residence.....	1,300
C. M. Gage, residence.....	1,800
D. L. Riley, residence.....	2,000
Thomas Crawford, residence.....	1,200
O. Orleski, residence.....	600
H. J. Hollister, residence.....	600
E. T. Smith, residence.....	1,200
A. E. Skillingsstad, residence.....	800
John Milbrath, residence.....	700
S. D. Sumner, residence.....	600
Fred Bergman, residence.....	2,000
Milton Morse, residence.....	1,200
V. McColm, residence.....	500
F. B. White, residence.....	1,300
J. F. Montman, residence.....	1,400
Mrs. S. H. Beall, residence.....	1,800
Henry Wood, residence.....	1,200
A. J. Johnson, residence.....	500
W. F. Timm, residence.....	1,200
L. N. Duchaine, office and residence....	300
August Olson, addition.....	200
William Rost, addition.....	200
George G. Johnson, machine shed.....	500
C. L. Colman, addition.....	300
Lakefield village.....	600
Sidewalks.....	600
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$59,600</b>

Again in 1898 the residents of the village spent large sums in erecting new homes and business houses. In 1899 the total amount so expended was nearly \$70,000, divided as follows:

Citizens State Bank, building.....	\$ 8,567
L. J. Britsch, business block.....	4,800
N. J. Scott, business block.....	4,800
Frederickson & Gage, business block....	3,500
Baptist church.....	1,800
John Grussing, residence.....	800
P. E. Olson, residence.....	1,500
H. A. Rhodes, meat market.....	800
John Wefel, residence.....	1,400
A. E. Norgrant, residence.....	1,200
H. Schultz, residence.....	800
A. E. Guertien, residence.....	1,300
Eugene Bedient, residence.....	800
Rev. D. Swanson, residence.....	1,200
J. N. Bradley, residence.....	1,600
Norwegian Lutheran church.....	2,500
Ole Sandager, residence.....	1,800
Henry Timm, residence.....	1,500
J. K. Turner, residence.....	1,800
Lakefield Village, electric light plant..	10,500
Joe Winter, residence.....	1,200
W. F. Timm, residence.....	1,500
D. Timm, residence.....	1,500
J. Kalash, residence.....	1,200
Henry Rost, residence.....	1,500
Mrs. J. B. McClintock, residence.....	1,000
Globe Milling Co., addition.....	500
S. R. Dubetz, addition.....	400
William Lochner, residence.....	1,500
William Bertels, residence.....	600
M. Sandager, barn.....	200
A. Hagerson, addition.....	500
Albert Rue, residence.....	1,000
L. Lueneburg, addition.....	500
Julia Johnson, residence.....	600
C. L. Colman, addition.....	200
George Britsch, improvements.....	300
A. Hohenstein, improvements.....	400
German Lutheran parsonage.....	1,500
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$69,267</b>

In May, 1899, by a vote of 96 to 44, the electors declared in favor of bonding for the installation of an electric lighting and water works plant. The electric lighting plant was installed, and the lights turned on for the first time in January, 1900. The water works system was added in 1902. The population of Lakefield, according to the federal census of 1900, was 862.

At two o'clock on the morning of December 1, 1900, a fire was started that did considerable damage and threatened the destruction of the town. The town had no fire department, and the flames were fought with bucket brigades. After heroic work the conflagration was subdued. The losses were as follows:

Lakefield Mercantile Company (S. R. Dubetz, Manager), stock.....	\$14,000
E. Schumacher, store building.....	4,000
E. Schumacher, saloon building and stock	1,000
Jacob Kalf, saloon building and stock..	350
A. Hoass, tailor shop.....	600
Total loss .....	\$19,950

Again on July 25, 1904, fire visited the town, destroying the building occupied by Otto Brothers, general merchants, and an \$18,000 stock of goods.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

In the fall of 1881, while Lakefield was yet in its infancy, Messrs. John Frederickson, Anders Roe, M. A. Foss, John G. Miller and Ole Anderson called a meeting for the purpose of taking steps towards the organization of a school district at Lakefield. Their efforts were successful, and that same fall school district No. 38 was organized. Among the first members of the school board were M. A. Foss, John Frederickson and John G. Miller. A one-room school house, 24x36 feet, was erected and Lakefield's first school was taught during the winter of 1881-82 by Miss Warner, only a few pupils being in attendance.<sup>16</sup> The little one-room building served as Lakefield's school building until 1890, when a two-story, four-room building was put up, which was used until the handsome brick structure now in use was erected.

The district was reorganized as an independent district at a school meeting held April 20, 1895, the change being made by a vote of 67 to 6. On May 3 the following were chosen as the first school board under the new organization: D. L. Riley, chairman; F. E. Wesner, clerk; William Searles, treasurer; A. A. Fosness, John Frederickson, John G. Miller.

The old building proving inadequate to

<sup>16</sup>Other early day teachers of the Lakefield school were L. Walter Seely, Dora M. Child, Julia Stone, Jareb Palmer, John G. Miller, Miss Standwick, Julia Hammerstock, Will Marouse, Warren Funk, Elmer Best, Maria J. Schreiner and Laura Cooper.

meet the demands, a special election was held early in June, 1896, to vote on the question of issuing \$20,000 bonds for the erection of a new building. The vote was 72 in favor of the bonds to 69 against, but as it required a two-thirds majority to carry the proposition it was lost. On June 25, 1896, the question was again submitted, and this time it carried by a vote of 267 to 48. The contract for the erection of the new building was let August 15, 1896, to Fred Norlander, of St. Paul, at a contract price of \$15,625. The work of construction was begun in April, 1897, and the new building was dedicated November 19, 1897. In August, 1900, a high school course was added.

#### THE CHURCHES.

Lakefield supports seven church organizations, one to each 131 inhabitants. They are, in the order of their organization: Swedish Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, German Lutheran, Norwegian Lutheran, Norwegian Lutheran, Baptist and Catholic. All have church edifices. During the first ten years of its existence Lakefield was without a church building, although religious services were frequently held in the school house.

The first religious society to perfect an organization in Lakefield was the Swedish Lutheran, which was organized under the direction of Rev. S. C. Franzen, of Worthington, November 23, 1887. It was decided to begin the erection of a church edifice the next spring, but it was in May, 1890, before Lakefield's first church building was dedicated.

About the first of September, 1890, a meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the organization of an English speaking church in Lakefield. A vote being taken, it was found the sentiment was almost unanimous in favor of a Presbyterian church. A request for the or-

# LAKEFIELD'S CHURCHES



BAPTIST



NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN



PRESBYTERIAN



CATHOLIC



METHODIST



GERMAN LUTHERAN



SWEDISH LUTHERAN

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ganization of a church of that faith was signed by nineteen persons who declared their desire to unite with such a church. About thirty other people signed an agreement to aid a Presbyterian church with their moral and financial support and to identify themselves with a society connected with the church. The state organization was conferred with, and on November 7, 1890, the Presbyterian church was formally organized by Rev. R. N. Adams, assisted by Rev. H. C. Cheadle and R. F. Sulzer. The following members were admitted by letter on the day of organization: Mrs. Sallie H. Beall, W. A. Funk, Mrs. Nettie L. Funk, Mrs. Hattie Evans, Emil Erickson, Mrs. A. Erickson, Hart N. Douglas. W. A. Funk was ordained elder. The first election of trustees was held November 11, 1890, the meeting being presided over by M. H. Evans, with W. A. Funk as secretary. The board of trustees chosen at that time was composed of Emil Erickson, Hart N. Douglas and M. H. Evans.

Funds were raised by subscription, and on January 21, 1891, the following building committee was appointed to superintend the erection of a church edifice: N. J. Scott, M. H. Evans and Emil Erickson. Building operations were begun in June and the building was completed in October, the total cost, with furnishings, being \$1,880. The dedication of the house of worship occurred February 28, 1892, conducted by Rev. N. H. Bell, of Minneapolis, assisted by Rev. H. C. Cheadle, of Blue Earth City.

Following are the names of the pastors who have supplied the Presbyterian pulpit at Lakefield with the dates of their ministry: H. C. Cheadle, November 7, 1890, to December, 1894; Hugh Alexander, 1894-95; M. B. Myers, 1895-96; J. F. Montman, 1896-98; O. G. Dale, 1898-99; C. C.

Hoffmeister, 1899-03; S. E. P. White, 1903-05; J. S. P. Pinney, 1907-08.

The next church organized in Lakefield was the Methodist Episcopal, which erected a church building in 1892. The building was dedicated May 28, 1893, the services being conducted by Presiding Elder Hare, of Mankato. The building was dedicated free of debt.

The German Evangelical Lutheran society was organized during the nineties, and the church building was erected during the summer of 1896. It was dedicated September 27, 1896.

Another religious organization that came into existence in the nineties was the Norwegian Lutheran church. For several years the members worshipped in the other church edifices, but in October, 1897, the contract was let for the erection of a building at a cost, excluding furnishings and heating plant, of \$1,300. The building was destroyed by a cyclone in August, 1898, but it was rebuilt in 1899 at a cost of \$2,500.

The Baptist church society was organized May 11, 1898, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Milton Meltchert, Mr. and Mrs. James Kilen, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Palmer, Mrs. Frederickson, Mrs. Z. M. Turner, Rev. and Mrs. George MacDougall. In September, 1898, the call of recognition and ordination was issued, and in June, 1899, the church was admitted to the Minnesota Valley association. For a year services were held in the council room of the city hall; then in March, 1899, it was decided to erect a house of worship. The building was erected that summer and was dedicated October 22. The cost of the building was \$1,620.50. The following have served as pastors of the Baptist church of Lakefield: George MacDougall, 1898-00; F. C. Peck, 1900-02; Charles



Walsh, 1902-03; Rev. Pengally, 1903-04. Owing to the removal of so many of the members, church services are not now held, although the Sunday school is still maintained.

The Catholic church was the last to organize in Lakefield. So early as August, 1898, steps were taken to bring about the erection of a house of worship, Messrs. Hugh Gallagher, Albert Vancura and Joseph Cirhan being appointed a committee to solicit funds. Services were held in the city hall for several years, and in the spring of 1902 the church edifice, costing \$2,500, was completed. It was dedicated by Right Rev. Bishop Joseph B. Cotter, of Winona, September 26, 1902.

#### THE LODGES.

In the matter of secret societies Lakefield is well represented. The following societies maintain organizations: Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Workmen, Modern Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, Maccabees, Modern Brotherhood, Masons and Eastern Star.

Lakefield Lodge No. 178, Independent Order Odd Fellows, was organized February 19, 1891, with twenty members. A prosperous Rebekah lodge is also maintained, it having been organized July 19, 1905, with 20 members.

Lincoln Lodge No. 164, Ancient Order United Workmen, was organized March 9, 1893, by Deputy Grand Master Workman O. H. Mason with the following first officers and charter members: W. A. Funk, P. W. M.; N. J. Scott, M. W.; John Frederickson, foreman; A. A. Fosness, overseer; C. W. Gove, recorder; C. M. Tradewell, receiver; A. Park, financier; Joe Winter, guide; N. B. Spiccard, I. W.; E. E. Collins, O. W.; A. Bedient, S. M. Child, Sam Fader, C. M. Gage, W. A. Ludtke, H. K. Rue, Scott Searles, Fred Winter, Calvin Young. The first trustees were C. M. Gage, Fred Winter and H. K. Rue.

Prairie Camp No. 1970, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized May 13, 1893, with the following first officers and charter members: Mrs. F. J. Ledbrook, M. White, advisor; Henry Winter, banker; Thomas Crawford, clerk; C. H. Young, watchman; R. Willing, escort; M. C. Bedient, sentry; Scott Searles, physician; N. J. Scott, M. R. Cluss and C. M. Tradewell, managers; W. V. Boutwell, John Crawford, A. E. Holmberg, Erick Kilen, W. F. Ludtke, A. Phelps, H. A. Rhodes, William Searles, A. J. Solomonson, G. G. Sawyer. The camp has a present membership of 106 with the following officers: S. J. Moe, consul; William Bertels, advisor; J. A. Mansfield, banker; A. Dahl, clerk; H. Sucker, escort; J. B. McMurtrie, sentry; George Steiner, watchman; William Taylor, Mike McGlin and C. M. Tradewell, managers.

Prairie Lilly Camp No. 808, Royal Neighbors, was organized November 26, 1897, with the following first officers and charter members: S. J. Moe, consul; L. oracle; Mrs. Calvin Young, vice oracle; Mrs. J. T. Johnson, recorder; Mrs. J. M. Thompson, receiver; Mrs. C. M. Tradewell, chancellor; Mrs. George Sawyer, marshal; Mrs. J. E. McGill, inner sentinel; Mrs. H. J. Hollister, outer sentinel; D. F. Ledbrook, physician; Mrs. Frank White, Mrs. Albert Nieman and J. E. McGill, managers; J. T. Johnson, H. J. Hollister, George G. Sawyer, J. M. Thompson, C. M. Tradewell, William Searles, Thomas Crawford, Mrs. Thomas Crawford, Mrs. Fred White. Only three of the charter members are residents of Lakefield at the present writing.

Lakefield Tent No. 44, Knights of the Maccabees, was organized August 15, 1901, by State Commander I. N. Chellew. Following were the first officers and charter members: Charles M. Tradewell, past commander; Robert H. Lueneburg, Sir

Knight Commander; William Kerr, lieutenant; S. R. Dubetz, record keeper; James W. Daubney, finance keeper; Joseph Cirhan, chaplain; Orma R. Nevitt, physician; Edward S. Lader, sergeant; Charles E. Cooper, master at arms; Otto Weise, first master of guard; Fred H. Healey, second master of guard; Henry W. Rost, sentinel; F. E. Peffer, picket; James W. Daubney, A. R. Dubetz and R. H. Lueneburg, trustees; F. W. Weise, Martin J. Frederickson.

The Masonic order was organized in 1902, was conducted under dispensation one year, and received its charter March 26, 1903. There were twenty-six charter members. Following were the first officers: F. L. Leonard, W. M.; W. E. Hankey, S. W.; E. A. Gage, J. W.; D. L. Riley, treasurer; W. D. Hill, secretary; Ed. Arnold, S. D.; M. M. Moore, J. D.; B. W. Payne, S. S.; Hoken Ramsborg, J. S.; A. A. Fosness, chaplain; S. D. Summer, tyler. An eastern Star lodge is also maintained.

#### THE BANKS.

Two banking institutions are conducted in Lakefield. They are the Jackson County State Bank and the First National Bank. The town's banking history antedates the founding of either of these institutions, however, by several years. The Jackson County Bank, a private institution, was the first to open its doors. It began business September 8, 1886, with the following officers: J. S. VanWinkle, president; T. F. Barbee, vice president; M. E. Lawton, cashier. Mr. Lawton was in charge of the bank and conducted it until April, 1889, when it went out of business. In August, 1889, the Bank of Lakefield was opened by Graves, McClintock & Company, with Wyatt H. Graves in charge. It did not have the confidence of the people, and its life was short.

The first permanent banking institution

organized was the Jackson County Bank (succeeded by the Jackson County State Bank), which opened its doors September 2, 1890, with subscribed and pledged capital of \$50,000. The officers and board of directors consisted of the following named gentlemen: A. L. Ward, president; H. J. Hollister, vice president; M. H. Evans, cashier; E. Sevaton, N. J. Scott, John Frederickson, James Kilen. The incorporators and stockholders were W. A. Funk, David Crawford, C. M. Tradewell, N. J. Scott, H. J. Hollister, James Kilen, Calvin Young, James Kula, John Frederickson, A. R. Kilen, L. J. Britsch, E. Sevaton, A. L. Ward and M. H. Evans.

The Jackson County Bank was conducted as a private institution until May 8, 1893, when it was reorganized as the Jackson County State Bank, with a paid up capital of \$25,000. The officers and board of directors under the new organization were A. L. Ward, president; N. J. Scott, vice president; M. H. Evans, cashier; David Crawford, H. J. Hollister, Calvin Young and John Frederickson. There was a change in management in May, 1895, when the following officers and directors were chosen: N. J. Scott, president; Calvin Young, vice president; M. H. Evans, cashier; F. L. Leonard, assistant cashier; John Frederickson, David Crawford, D. L. Riley, William Searles. The handsome brick building, which is still the home of the bank, was erected in 1896.

In July, 1901, Messrs. J. M. Putman and H. L. Bond bought the majority stock of the bank from M. H. Evans and have since had the active management. The present officers are J. M. Putman, president; A. A. Fosness, vice president; H. L. Bond, cashier; J. G. Brauch, assistant cashier. That the business of this financial institution is increasing is shown by the fact that in 1901 the deposits were

\$133,000, while according to the statement of February 5, 1909, they were \$229,193.08.

The Citizens State Bank (succeeded by the First National Bank) was organized May 20, 1899, with a paid up capital of \$26,000 and with the following officers and directors: F. W. Thompson, president; J. W. Daubney, cashier; N. J. Scott, H. J. Hollister, Scott Searles, B. Bear and C. J. Weiser. The Citizens State Bank was the name of the institution until January, 1903, when it was re-

organized as the First National Bank of Lakefield. January 17, 1907, J. C. Caldwell was made president and P. W. Blankert cashier, the latter being succeeded by A. J. Nestrud a year later. Through the efforts of the president most of the stock passed into the hands of farmers residing in the vicinity of Lakefield, so that it is now practically a farmers' bank. From the date of Mr. Caldwell's accepting the presidency, the deposits have increased from \$180,000 to about \$250,000.

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HERON LAKE, WINTER OF 1908-09

## CHAPTER XX.

### HERON LAKE—1871-1910.

**H**ERON Lake, an incorporated village of about 1,000 inhabitants (898, according to the 1905 census), is the second oldest town in the county. It is in the northwestern part of the county, in Weimer township, not far from the foot of the lake after which it is named. It is on the main line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad and is the terminus of the Black Hills branch of that line. As a railroad point Heron Lake surpasses every other town in Jackson county. The village is surrounded by a very fertile farming country, and it has always been a prosperous municipality.

While the country along the Des Moines river in Jackson county was settled in a very early day, the prairie country remained unsettled until long afterward. In fact, only a few had builded homes in that part of the county surrounding the future village of Heron Lake until a year or two before the town was founded. When, in 1870, there was great activity in railway circles and it was rumored that the St. Paul & Sioux City road would extend its line through southwestern Minnesota, passing just to the north of Heron lake, some far sighted people began to locate homesteads in the prairie country about Heron lake. Said the Jackson Republic

of April 2, 1870: "At Heron lake, in the northwest corner of the county, there is quite a settlement; the prospect of the early completion of the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad and the possibility that it will pass in this vicinity have called here a good number of settlers."

The track of the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad was not laid through Jackson county until the fall of 1871, but in the spring of that year the route was selected and sites for stations chosen. It was apparently the first intention of the company to locate the principal town on section 9, Alba township, which was to be called Sibley. The first mention the press makes of this site was on June 10. A little later the Heron Lake site was chosen and the intention of establishing the Sibley station was given up.<sup>1</sup> The Heron Lake site was selected late in June,<sup>2</sup> but nothing was done toward platting or building a town there until a short time before the tracklaying was completed in the fall.

The roadbed was graded to the site in

<sup>1</sup>"At Sibley, the new railway town on section 9, township 103, range 38, we learn a store has been built and filled with a stock of goods. Thus is the 'wilderness made to blossom as the rose.'"—Jackson Republic, July 29, 1871.

<sup>2</sup>"West of Heron lake, three miles, another station has been located, and from here it is expected will be accommodated the Graham Lakes community, and the large settlements that are now, and destined to be, made west and northwest will make an important town here."—Jackson Republic, July 1, 1871.

September, and surveyors appeared late in that month to survey the townsite, although the plat was not put on record until the next spring. The town was surveyed by Alex L. Beach and the dedication was made by the Sioux City & St. Paul Railway company, by Elias F. Drake, its president. The dedication was made April 22, 1872, the original plat consisting of eleven blocks.<sup>3</sup> It was located on section 19, Weimer township, which was included in the land grant to the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company.<sup>4</sup>

While the surveyors were yet dividing the land into blocks and lots and before the railroad was completed to the prospective town, in the month of October, the first inhabitants came. They were John T. Smith and C. H. Carroll, who had been conducting a store at Big Bend, in Cottonwood county, to which place it had been believed the railroad would build. The route having been changed and Heron Lake selected as a site for a town, Messrs. Smith and Carroll abandoned their location at Big Bend and came to engage in business in the new town. They found the site raw prairie land, without a stick on it, and had to burn a strip of prairie grass to get a place to pile their lumber. Mr. Smith bought a lot on Main street—the first lot sold in the new town—but had to

wait for the surveyors to subdivide block seven before he could locate his lot, which was number fifteen. The partners hauled lumber from Mankato to start their store building, but before it was finished the railroad was completed and lumber was shipped in.

Almost simultaneously the three first buildings were put up. These were the general store of Smith & Carroll, the drug store of Dr. R. R. Foster, which was located on lot fifteen of block seven, and the depot, which occupied the present location of the Heron Lake depot. Only two other business houses were started before the close of the year 1871. The lumber yard of Crocker Brothers & Lamoreaux, with J. A. Town as manager, was opened for business early in November. A little office building was erected, but the lumber stock was piled in the open. The other enterprise was the Pioneer hotel, which was built by John Robson on the present site of the Farmers State Bank building and which was opened for business late in the fall. The Heron Lake postoffice was established in November. John T. Smith was the postmaster, and he conducted the office in his store.<sup>5</sup>

The village of Heron Lake had been founded too late in the fall to make much progress during 1871, and the four business houses before mentioned were the only enterprises started in the year of founding. But in 1872, when train service was established on the new road and the surrounding country was rapidly settling with new arrivals, the little village was the scene of much activity. During the summer months nearly every train

<sup>3</sup>Additions to Heron Lake have been platted as follows:

First, by the S. C. & St. P. Ry. Co. July 15, 1880; surveyed by John O. Brunius.

Smith's, by John T. Smith January 30, 1894; surveyed by L. L. Palmer.

Drake's First, by Harry T. Drake, Alex M. Drake and William H. Lightner, as executors of the will of Elias F. Drake, November 7, 1894; surveyed by Orrin Nason.

Benson's, by John W. Benson August 31, 1895; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

Wood's, by Clark A. Wood May 19, 1896; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

Smith's Subdivision of Blocks 1, 10 and 11, First Addition, by John T. Smith May 4, 1897; surveyed by Orrin Nason.

<sup>4</sup>The boundaries of Heron Lake now include the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 30, as well as the whole of section 19. That forty-acre tract was homesteaded by John T. Smith, who received his patent December 30, 1878.

<sup>5</sup>John T. Smith served as postmaster from November, 1871, to May, 1877. He was succeeded by Dr. J. F. Force, who served several years. George C. Cooley was the next postmaster, holding the office until E. D. Briggs took charge September 1, 1885. Carl S. Eastwood was appointed in August, 1889, served several years, and was succeeded by B. Popnitz. C. A. Wood became postmaster in March, 1889, and served until Carl S. Eastwood was appointed on his present term.

brought new comers to locate upon the fertile lands in the vicinity, and the town grew in proportion. A correspondent to one of the twin city papers, writing in September, said: "This village, which sprang into existence last fall, is rapidly growing and becoming the center of trade for a large tract of country. New buildings are constantly being erected, and the place bids fair to be a town of considerable importance ere long."

Knute Thompson opened a small hardware store—a branch for H. L. Parker, of St. James—in the spring of 1872, which was under the management of Mr. Thompson for a time and later of Mr. Graves. The stock was bought by Smith & Carroll in September. J. W. Benson & Company erected a commodious two-story building during the summer and opened a general merchandise store in September. Smith & Carroll built a fourteen foot addition to their store to meet the increasing demands of their trade and erected the town's first warehouse, which was ready to receive grain in September. Pixley & Stone opened a saloon where the First National Bank building now stands in August, Mr. Pixley becoming sole owner next month. Dr. Foster bought the Pioneer house and made improvements on it. Mr. Jones became the landlord. Ralph Town became the manager of the Crocker Brothers & Lamoreaux lumber yards. George Hubbs opened the town's second lumber yard in November and erected a residence. J. B. Pixley opened a furniture store. H. J. Bosworth, the station agent, took the agency for agricultural implements and vehicles and put in a small stock. William Dahl built a residence and ran a boarding house. John Weir erected a building next to John T. Smith's store late in the fall and engaged in the hardware business. So far as I am able to learn this completes the

list of private improvements in the youthful town during 1872. During the year a mail route was established between Heron Lake and Currie, by way of the Graham Lakes country, which was in operation until 1879. The citizens dug a public well in the middle of Main street, which was considered quite an improvement at that early date. The first birth in the village occurred in 1872, when a child was born to Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Bosworth. Heron Lake had a population of about fifty people when it was one year of age.

The number engaged in business and the population of the town during the first year of its history does not convey a truthful idea of its importance as a trading point. Its merchants drew trade from an immense territory. For long distances north and south Heron Lake was the only railroad town, and retail trade came there from countries now tributary to Slayton, Avoca and Fulda, from half way to Worthington, half way to Windom, half way to Jackson, and for a time from the Big Bend country. In addition to having the retail trade of this large territory, Heron Lake was the distributing point for a much larger territory, much of the goods sold to merchants of Jackson, Spirit Lake, Iowa, and other interior points coming by way of Heron Lake. During the first two years of the town's history its merchants did an immense business and prospered.

Several new business houses were founded in 1873. N. Dahl opened a saloon in the hotel building. Mrs. Fremer opened a photograph gallery. John Jungbauer started a blacksmith shop in July. Johnson & Dieson started the third general store in August. A directory of the business houses in September, 1873, listed the following:

John T. Smith, general store.  
J. W. Benson & Company, general store.  
Johnson & Dieson, general store.



John Weir, hardware.  
 R. R. Foster, drug and furniture store.  
 R. E. Town, lumber yard.  
 Mr. Larson, lumber yard.  
 J. P. Prescott, hotel.  
 J. F. Force, physician.  
 J. B. Pixley, saloon.  
 Mr. Johnson, shoe shop.

As did the other towns of southwestern Minnesota during the terrible grasshopper scourge, Heron Lake suffered severely. During these years—1873-1878—no progress was made; the town was at a standstill and the merchants lost their profits of former years. In 1875 the population was estimated at nearly 100, and the following lines of business were represented: Three general stores, one hardware store, two hotels, warehouse, photograph gallery, shoe shop, furniture store, machinery depot, two lumber yards, one fuel yard.

The year 1879 marked the turning point to better times. The disappearance of the grasshoppers and the building of two new lines of railroad in the vicinity were the causes of the return of prosperity and advancement. The failure of the Southern Minnesota railroad to cross the Sioux City road at Heron Lake was a disappointment,<sup>6</sup> but the building of the Black Hills branch of the Sioux City & St. Paul from Heron Lake to the northwest more than offset this. While the roads were building new settlers came to locate upon lands along the new roads, and the effect upon the town was good.

<sup>6</sup>"It has been suggested that should the Southern Minnesota railroad cross between this place and Hersey [Brewster] the two towns would be moved to the crossing. As for Hersey we are not able to say, but as for Heron Lake, we think the idea absurd, and we are quite sure it will not affect the town in the least. It will cut off but a small amount of the trade now tributary to this town, which will be more than supplied by the increase in settlement. The country surrounding is fertile, and we think this town will be sustained, and whether the Southern Minnesota crosses here or not this town will hold its own at least and will undoubtedly increase in importance."—Heron Lake Correspondent, April 19, 1879.

A Heron Lake correspondent, writing in November, 1879, said:

Twelve new buildings to represent nearly as many departments of business are now in process of construction. Never in the history of this place have its merchants experienced such business activity as the past summer and present fall. Week in and week out since early spring have they been taxed to their utmost to procure help and stock to supply the immense demand for merchandise.

During the last half of the year 1879 nearly \$25,000 were spent in building improvements, as follows:

Chapman & Drake, hotel building.....	\$ 8,000
J. T. Smith, hay pressing establishment	3,500
J. W. Benson & Co., hay pressing establishment .....	3,000
St. P. & S. C. Ry. Co., depot, engine house, etc. ....	3,500
H. S. Graves, hotel building.....	1,000
J. P. Prescott, residence.....	1,000
E. D. Briggs, residence and office.....	1,000
M. Hazelton, residence and shop.....	1,000
Mikelson, residence and barn.....	800
B. J. Svennes, residence and shop.....	300
George Cope, residence.....	300
Catholic church .....	300
Sidewalks .....	300
J. F. Force, improvements.....	250
L. C. Wood, improvements.....	250
T. A. Dieson, store.....	165
Grading streets .....	100
R. R. Foster, improvements.....	75
Total .....	\$24,740

In 1880 a census of the town showed a population of 163. The building improvements kept pace with the growth in population. It was reported in July, 1880, that twenty new buildings had been erected since spring opened. One of the most important events in Heron Lake's history occurred in the fall of 1881, when John T. Smith built the first tow mill in the state of Minnesota and established a business which has added much to the town's prosperity. The main building was 84x100 feet, and it was said to have been the largest tow mill in the world.

Although their town was yet a mere hamlet, the citizens of Heron Lake, in the fall of 1881, asked the legislature for a charter granting them municipal gov-



**THE HERON LAKE SCHOOL HOUSE**



**DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD BUILDING**

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ernment. An act was approved November 17, 1881, providing for the incorporation of section 19, Weimer township,<sup>7</sup> and naming T. A. Dieson, C. A. Wood and J. F. Force commissioners to conduct the preliminaries. The first village election was held January 3, 1882, and the first village council met and organized January 9.

Following is a list of all who have been elected to village office from the date of incorporation to the present time:<sup>8</sup>

1882—President, E. J. Graves; trustees, G. H. Perry, John Weir, E. D. Briggs; recorder, S. S. Haislett; treasurer, L. F. Lammers; justice, J. E. Jones; constable, B. J. Svennes.

1883—President, C. A. Wood; trustees, E. D. Briggs, Ole Seleen, J. W. Benson; recorder, Miles Hazelton; treasurer, L. F. Lammers.

1884—President, E. D. Briggs; trustees, B. J. Svennes, A. J. McShooler, W. S. Freer; recorder, T. A. Dieson; treasurer, L. F. Lammers; justices,\* C. A. Wood, P. F. McNair; constable, R. E. Dickens.

1885—President, E. D. Briggs; trustees, E. J. Graves, A. J. McShooler, A. A. Lommerland; recorder, T. A. Dieson; treasurer, L. F. Lammers; constable, A. J. McShooler, Joseph Knott.

1886—President, E. D. Briggs; trustees, E. J. Graves, T. A. Jones, A. A. Lommerland; recorder, G. C. Cooley; treasurer, T. A. Dieson; justices, C. R. J. Kellam, J. E. Jones; constable, J. F. Knott.

1887—President, T. A. Jones; trustees, J. D. Wilson, C. A. Wood,<sup>9</sup> A. A. Lommerland; re-

recorder, C. S. Eastwood; treasurer, T. A. Dieson, assessor, J. E. Jones; constable, W. S. Freer.

1888—President, J. D. Wilson; trustees, Henry Knudson, H. J. Arnold; John Trimble; recorder, C. S. Eastwood; treasurer, T. A. Dieson; justices, C. R. J. Kellam, J. E. Jones; constables, W. S. Freer, Mike Larson.

1889—President, J. D. Wilson; trustees, Henry Knudson, H. J. Arnold, John Trimble; recorder, C. S. Eastwood; treasurer, T. A. Dieson; constable, W. S. Freer.

1890—President, J. D. Wilson; trustees, T. A. Jones, Henry Knudson, H. J. Arnold; recorder, C. S. Eastwood; treasurer, T. A. Dieson; justices, John E. Jones, Joseph J. Jones; constable, D. N. Miller, W. S. Freer.

1891—President, H. J. Arnold; trustees, T. A. Jones, B. Poppitz, W. J. Jones; recorder, C. S. Eastwood; treasurer, T. A. Dieson; constable, D. N. Miller.

1892—President, Joseph J. Jones; trustees, B. Poppitz, W. J. Jones, T. A. Jones; recorder, Henry Knudson; treasurer, T. A. Dieson.

1893—President, Joseph J. Jones; trustees, T. A. Jones, B. Poppitz, John McGlin; recorder, T. A. Alexander; treasurer, T. A. Dieson; justice, John McCarvel; constable, John Norton, R. H. Kidney.

1894—President, John L. Gessel; trustees, B. P. St. John, J. F. Humiston, W. N. Williams; recorder, W. J. Jones;<sup>11</sup> treasurer, J. S. Kibbey; justice, G. C. Cooley; constables, C. A. Wood, E. O. Auberg.

1895—President, John McGlin; trustees, P. D. McKellar, B. P. St. John, W. N. Williams; recorder, F. A. Steuert; treasurer, C. H. Cabot; justice, John Woolstencroft.

1896—President, John McGlin; trustees, Joseph J. Jones, John McCarvel, B. B. Sontag; recorder, F. A. Steuert; treasurer, C. H. Cabot; justice, C. R. J. Kellam; constables, W. E. Spaulding, E. O. Auberg.

1897—President, D. Brown; trustees, J. F. Humiston, G. A. Fairfield, B. B. Sontag; recorder, William J. Jones; treasurer, C. H. Cabot; justices, W. E. Spaulding; constable, Elmer Spaulding.

1898—President, B. B. Sontag; trustees, B. P. St. John, W. N. Williams, John McGlin; recorder, W. J. Jones; treasurer, C. H. Cabot; justices, G. A. Fairfield, W. H. Kessler; constables, Elmer Spaulding, Erick Auberg.

1899—President, John McGlin; trustees, B. P. St. John, B. B. Sontag, Frank Humiston; recorder, W. J. Jones; treasurer, Bruno Poppitz; justices, W. H. Kessler, John Woolstencroft; constables, Elmer Spaulding, E. O. Auberg.

1900—President, J. J. Jones; trustees, B. B. Sontag, B. P. St. John, E. J. Grimes; recorder, W. J. Jones; treasurer, B. Poppitz; assessor, W. L. Callison; justice, C. R. J. Kellam; constables, Mike Wood, Elmer Spaulding.

1901—President, B. P. St. John; trustees, B.  
<sup>10</sup>Resigned April 17, 1887; T. E. Hill appointed April 19.

<sup>11</sup>F. A. Steuert appointed recorder February 19, 1895, W. J. Jones having left town.

<sup>7</sup>At a special election held June 27, 1899, the corporate limits were increased by the addition of Smith's addition—the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 30. The vote was ten in favor of annexation to six against.

<sup>8</sup>The license question has often been voted upon at the annual village elections under the local option law. With the exception of the year 1883 license was granted during all the early history of the town. Since 1893 the vote has been as follows:

1893—For, 73; against, 55.  
1894—License carried.  
1895—License carried.  
1896—For, 91; against, 69.  
1897—For, 62; against, 73.  
1898—For, 64; against, 104.  
1899—License carried by 36 majority.  
1900—License carried by 6 majority.  
1901—For, 135; against, 72.  
1902—For, 111; against, 73.  
1903—Tie vote; license granted.  
1904—For, 115; against, 92.  
1905—For, 95; against, 80.  
1906—For, 96; against, 108.  
1907—For, 84; against, 78.  
1908—For, 123; against, 74.  
1909—Not an issue.

<sup>9</sup>At a special election in May, 1884, C. R. J. Kellam and J. E. Jones were elected justices.

B. Sontag, C. H. Cabot, F. R. Hansen; recorder, J. E. Foss; treasurer, B. Poppitz; justice, G. A. Fairfield.

1902—President, B. P. St. John; trustees, B. B. Sontag, C. H. Cabot, William Bieter; recorder, J. E. Foss; treasurer, C. A. Robson; assessor, W. L. Callison; justice, C. R. J. Kellam; constables, M. M. Wood, W. S. Freer.

1903—President, C. H. Cabot; trustees, B. P. St. John, William Bieter, B. B. Sontag; recorder, J. E. Foss; treasurer, C. A. Robson; assessor, Frank Humiston; justice, J. J. Jones; constables, Peter Mikkelson, E. F. Bartholomew.

1904—President, V. E. Butler; trustees, J. J. Jones, E. J. Grimes, B. Poppitz; recorder, F. J. Humiston; treasurer, J. F. Liepold; assessor, Albert Dieson; justices, C. R. J. Kellam, C. S. Eastwood; constables, G. J. Alexander, W. S. Freer.

1905—President, L. F. Lammers; trustees, John L. Gessell, B. Poppitz, Joseph J. Jones; recorder, Frank Humiston; treasurer, J. F. Humiston; assessor, Chris Johnson; justice, C. R. J. Kellam; constable, J. E. Rider.

1906—President, L. F. Lammers; trustees, B. B. Sontag, T. A. Behrenfeld, S. H. Berkness; recorder, J. W. Young; treasurer, C. A. Robson; assessor, Chris Johnson; constables, W. S. Freer, Elmer Spaulding.

1907—President, L. F. Lammers; trustees, C. H. Cabot, John Woolstencroft, B. B. Sontag; recorder, Fred Cooley; treasurer, Albert Robson; assessor, Chris Johnson; justice, C. R. J. Kellam; constables, W. H. Myers, Max Hartneck.

1908—President, J. F. Liepold; trustees, A. J. Moe, W. J. Ross, B. B. Sontag; recorder, F. A. Cooley; treasurer, Albert Robson; assessor, Chris Johnson; justice, John Woolstencroft; constables, G. J. Alexander, Ernest Rippon.

1909—President, J. F. Liepold; trustees, A. J. Moe, B. B. Sontag, Will Drews; recorder, F. A. Cooley; treasurer, Albert Robson; assessor, Chris Johnson; justice, C. R. J. Kellam; constables, F. Jarmer, Max Hartneck.

The establishment of the tow mill and the prevailing prosperous times made the year 1882 a memorable one in Heron Lake's history. Said a writer who visited the town in March: "We were considerably surprised at the many evidences of thrift, enterprise and go-aheadativeness displayed in Heron Lake, and we doubt if any town of like size in southern Minnesota can surpass or even equal the town in these respects. Many new buildings have made their appearance within the past year and evidences of thriving trade are plentiful." The building improve-

ments completed during the year amounted to over \$17,000 and were itemized as follows:

J. W. Benson & Co., creamery (including fixtures) .....	\$ 5,000
John T. Smith, fourteen tenement houses .....	4,200
T. A. Dieson, residence .....	1,500
L. F. Lammers, residence .....	600
L. F. Lammers, millinery store .....	300
John Robinson, residence .....	600
John Woolstencroft, billiard hall .....	850
J. F. Force, store .....	1,500
Mrs. Nelson, residence .....	300
T. A. Dieson, tenement house .....	500
J. F. Force, tenement house .....	600
E. D. Briggs, addition .....	200
Johnson & Dieson, store improvements .....	300
C. R. J. Kellam, drug store improvements .....	200
J. T. Smith, improvements .....	200
P. McNair, residence .....	500
L. Readle, barn .....	100
N. Edhamer, barn .....	100
J. E. Jones, improvements .....	200

Total .....

\$17,750

But the amount expended in improvements gives little idea of the volume of business done. Three thousand tons of flax straw were marketed in the village, manufactured into tow, and shipped to the eastern markets, while four thousand tons of hay were baled and shipped. The volume of business done during the year (not including professional business) amounted to a quarter of a million dollars, divided among the several firms as follows:<sup>12</sup>

John T. Smith, general merchandise, baled tow, hay, etc. ....	\$100,000
J. W. Benson & Co., general merchandise, creamery, hay, etc. ....	60,000
Johnson & Dieson, general merchandise .....	20,000
J. F. Force, drugs and general merchandise .....	15,000
Hazelton & Freemire, general merchandise .....	6,000
C. R. J. Kellam, drugs, notions, etc. ....	2,500
E. J. Graves & Co., lumber .....	18,000
J. E. Jones, grain .....	2,000
J. S. Titus, saddlery .....	2,000
Wood & Freer, livery .....	1,000
C. E. Marsh, Chapman hotel .....	6,000
C. A. Wood, Pioneer hotel .....	3,500
John Woolstencroft, billiard hall .....	5,000
C. O. Michelson, meat market .....	3,000
L. Sitzer, meat market .....	2,500

<sup>12</sup>As prepared by a Heron Lake resident in December.

B. J. Svennes, shoe shop, boarding house .....	1,000
T. A. Jones, blacksmith shop.....	900
John Robson, blacksmith shop.....	900
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$249,300</b>

During the entire decade of the eighties Heron Lake prospered, as did the country at large. There was no feverish boom, but the growth was steady and of a substantial character—keeping pace with the progress of the surrounding country. In 1884 the following were engaged in business in Heron Lake: John T. Smith, general merchandise and tow mill; J. W. Benson, general merchandise and creamery; Johnson & Dieson, general merchandise; John Weir, hardware; Lammers & Wood, general merchandise; J. F. Force, drug store; C. R. J. Kellam, drug store; E. J. Graves, lumber and real estate; C. E. Marsh, Chapman house; W. S. Freer, Pioneer house; B. J. Svennes, La Crosse house; E. D. Briggs, attorney.

In 1885 the population of Heron Lake reached 280. That year there was some advance, the building improvements amounting to \$9,500. Comparative dull times prevailed in 1886, but the next year the Heron Lake News reported the expenditure of \$48,000 in new buildings in the village. The hard times period following the panic of 1893 temporarily checked the growth of the town, but the recovery was quick, and we find that in 1895 the population had increased to 646. During the next five years there was another increase, the census of 1900 giving the town a population of 928. There has been but little increase since that census, but in a business way Heron Lake has prospered and today ranks as one of the most progressive little cities of southern Minnesota.

In the history of the town there have been two bad fires. The first of these occurred Tuesday afternoon, November 10, 1898, when the John T. Smith tow

mill and a hay barn, coal sheds, stock yard and oil house burned, entailing a loss of \$75,000, of which only \$20,000 was recovered in insurance. The fire was a fierce one, and only the favorable direction of the wind saved the town from destruction. Some of the buildings on the north side of the track took fire from flying sparks, but the flames were extinguished before damage resulted. The second disastrous fire occurred in October, 1904, when the losses amounted to about \$65,000. The St. John elevator, the Benson elevator and the Western Implement company's storehouse were entirely destroyed with all their contents. Eighty thousand bushels of grain and sixteen freight cars were also burned.

THE SCHOOLS.

During the first year of its history Heron Lake had only a private school. On December 17, 1872, a meeting of citizens was held at John Weir's store to take steps toward the organization of a district and the building of a public school house. Rev. John Benson was chairman of the meeting and John Dalziel was secretary. As a result of this meeting the next session of the legislature passed a bill authorizing the organization of an independent district at Heron Lake—the first independent district in Jackson county. The organization of the district was perfected in March, 1873, when the following named gentlemen were elected as the first board of education: E. C. Sanders, George Hubbs, A. McSchooler, Ralph Town, John Weir and Zebulon Judd.

A school election was held at Jones' hotel April 12, 1873, at which time a majority of the voters declared in favor of bonding the district in the sum of \$2,000 to raise funds for the immediate construction of a school house. The bonds were issued and a building erected, in which,

however, the Baptist church society had an interest.<sup>13</sup>

In the spring of 1886 the district decided to sell the old school house to the village and issue bonds to the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of erecting a suitable building on the lots donated by E. F. Drake. At an election in June the bonds were voted, 67 to 52. A school building costing about \$5,000 was put up during the summer of 1887. It was used as a public school house until 1896, when it was sold to the Catholic church society, and it is now utilized, with additions, as a parochial school building by that church.

By a vote of 258 to 59, at a special election April 1, 1896, bonds to the amount of \$20,000 were voted for a new school house. The contract for the erection of the building was let May 19, 1896, to J. D. Carroll on a bid of \$18,447, the corner stone was laid with ceremonies July 18, and it was dedicated in November. This handsome brick structure, one of the finest public school buildings in southwestern Minnesota, was totally destroyed by fire December 31, 1901, together with about \$5,000 worth of equipment. It was insured for \$18,300. Thereafter for several months school was conducted in the various churches, halls and store buildings. The school house was rebuilt during the summer of 1902 and was occupied for the first time late that year.

#### THE CHURCHES.

Four church societies maintain active organizations in Heron Lake, namely: Methodist Episcopal, Catholic, Salem Lutheran and Norwegian Lutheran. Several other church societies have been formed

<sup>13</sup>"The Baptist church is all enclosed and is a fine building. It is to be used as a school house for three years, when it will become exclusively a church. All denominations will worship in it for the present, though it is controlled by the Baptist society."—Heron Lake Correspondent, July 9, 1873.

at different times in the town's history, but are now dormant. Very soon after the founding of the village the residents took steps to secure religious worship, and in the summer of 1872 some money was raised to help build a church, but it was the next year before a house of worship was erected.

The oldest church organization is the Methodist Episcopal. Services were held as early as 1872, conducted by Rev. W. M. Bear, but it was not until June 9, 1873, that an organization was perfected. On that date, Presiding Elder G. W. T. Wright appointed as trustees Rev. J. Benson, P. M. Jones, J. F. Force, G. H. Hubbs and John T. Smith, "they to be a body corporate under the name and style the First Methodist Episcopal church of Heron Lake." Among the charter members were C. A. Wood, Lucinda Wood, J. T. Smith, Sarah J. Smith, J. F. Force, Sarah J. Force, J. Benson, Mrs. J. Benson, David W. Edwards, Martha Edwards, Sarah Gibbs, Elizabeth Parish, Mrs. Rupert, George Aldrich, V. G. Mott, Edward Rodgers, Martha M. Rodgers, Eli H. Bowman and Elroda Bowman.

For several years the society worshipped in the Baptist church building, which was the first erected in the town. Through the efforts of Rev. H. S. Eldred and others, \$1,000 toward the erection of a church edifice had been raised in January, 1886. One-half of this was secured by subscription, the balance from the church extension society. In June, 1887, the building was completed, and the Methodists had a home of their own. A parsonage was erected in 1895. The old church building answered the purposes until 1902, when it was replaced by the present handsome building, which cost \$8,000. The corner stone of the new structure was laid July 21, 1902, and the dedication services were held December 7, 1902, conducted

# HERON LAKE'S CHURCHES



UNITED LUTHERAN



METHODIST AND PARSONAGE



CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND PARSONAGE



SALEM LUTHERAN



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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

by Bishop I. W. Joyce. The Methodist society has prospered and has a large membership. It maintains a Sunday school, Epworth League, Ladies' Aid Society and Womens' Foreign Missionary society. Rev. W. H. Irwin is the present pastor and the following constitute the board of trustees: J. W. Benson, J. D. Wilson, E. L. Ecker, C. A. Wood, C. K. Willard, B. B. Sontag, B. P. St. John, Milo Smith and Pascal Vought.

Following is a list of the pastors who have supplied the pulpit of the Methodist Episcopal church of Heron Lake and the dates of their appointment: W. M. Bear, 1872; W. H. Mock, 1873; D. Stone, 1874; W. M. Bear, 1876; H. J. Vanfossen, 1877; W. L. Demorest, 1878; J. C. Ogle, 1879; F. Smith, 1880; W. M. Bear, 1881; L. Gleason, 1882; W. Wilkinson, 1883; H. S. Eldred, 1884; M. J. Godfrey, 1886; J. Haubridge, 1887; D. P. Olin, 1888 (part); William Gibson, 1888; E. W. Haley, 1891; G. W. Burtch, 1893; L. A. Wilsey, 1894; J. F. Porter, 1896; J. W. Raveille, 1897; J. F. Van Camp, 1900; D. C. McCole, 1903; C. W. Morse, 1904; W. C. Sage, 1905; W. H. Irwin, 1908.

The Baptist society was the second to perfect an organization. On July 21, 1873, a meeting was held, presided over by R. E. Town, at which the organization was completed with the selection of E. C. Sanders, John Weir and R. E. Town as trustees. The society erected a church building the same year, which was used as a house of worship by all denominations, as the public school building, as a place for public entertainment, and by all societies. The church society was maintained for several years.

The Scandinavian Lutherans had a church organization in Heron Lake in the early seventies, but it was later when the organizations were perfected. In 1886

money was raised for the erection of a church building. For several years the Salem Lutheran and Norwegian Lutheran congregations, although maintaining separate organizations, worshipped in the same church alternating Sundays. This continued until September 3, 1894, when the Norwegian Lutherans separated from the other church and selected Candidate O. C. Myhre as their pastor. Shortly after its organization it was admitted as one of the congregations of the United church of America. A church edifice was erected in 1898. The church society now consists of about thirty families. Services are held every other Sabbath, conducted by Rev. H. H. Holte. Sunday school is held every Sunday with an attendance of about thirty-five.

The Catholic church was organized in the early eighties, and the church building was erected in the fall of 1884. In connection with the church is maintained St. Cyril's parochial school, which was established in 1896 by Rev. Fr. Von den Berg. It is conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis, of Rochester, and is in a flourishing condition.

The Episcopal church also maintained an organization in the eighties.

#### THE LODGES.

The Grand Army post at Heron Lake, No. 148, was mustered in March 31, 1886, by the chief mustering officer, General Mark D. Flower. Following were the post's first officers: C. R. J. Kellam, commander; William McNair, senior vice commander; John Behrenfeld, junior vice commander; John Woolstencroft, quartermaster; C. M. Merly, adjutant; Rev. H. S. Eldred, chaplain; B. J. Svennes, officer of the guard; A. H. Freer, officer of the day; V. G. Mott, sergeant.

A Womans Relief Corps was organized April 2, 1887, of which Mrs. Kellam was president and Miss Beede secretary.

Heron Lake Lodge No. 93, Ancient Order United Workmen, was organized October 16, 1886, with twenty-eight charter members and the following first officers: J. D. Wilson, master workman; W. E. Daniels, overseer; H. A. Robinson, foreman; L. F. Lammers, recorder; T. A. Dieson, financier; J. W. Benson, receiver; John Huber, guide; W. J. Jones, inside guard; Lawrence Readle, outside guard; C. A. Wood, past master workman; B. A. Swartout, J. T. Smith, C. D. Ure, trustees.

Manzanita Camp No. 1256, Modern Woodmen of America, was instituted February 17, 1891, with twenty-six charter members and the following officers: A. H. Clark, V. C.; L. F. Lammers, W. A.; T. A. Dieson, E. B.; C. S. Eastwood, C.; J. E. Foss, E.; T. A. Alexander, watchman; W. R. Kiessel, sentry; A. H. Clark, physician; T. E. Hills, L. B. Lerud, and J. Trimble, managers.

Columbian Lodge No. 210, A. F. & A. M., began its organization under dispensation in 1893. On February 14, of that year, a petition was forwarded to the grandmaster asking for a dispensation. It was signed by thirteen persons, namely, L. F. Lammers, John L. Gessell, John F. Humiston, LeRoy Brown, C. R. J. Kellam, W. N. Williams, L. B. Lerud, S. A. Pease, C. M. Doughty, G. C. Cooley and David Brown. The petition was approved by the grandmaster April 24, and the dispensation was issued the next day. On July 13, 1893, a special session was held for the purpose of organizing under dispensation, Deputy Grandmaster John Hutlass presiding. The following were chosen as the first officers: LeRoy Brown, W. M.; J. S. Kibbey, S. W.; J. F. Humiston, J. W.; L. F. Lammers, secretary; L. B. Lerud, treasurer; C. R. J. Kellam, S. D.; C. M. Doughty, J. D.; G. C. Cooley, tyler; J. L. Gessell, S. S.; W. N. Williams, J. S.

The charter was granted and the lodge was instituted March 1, 1894. The following have held the office of pastmaster: LeRoy Brown, John L. Gessell, John F. Humiston, J. H. Dudley and C. R. J. Kellam.

St. Cyril Court No. 970, Catholic Order Foresters, was organized April 20, 1899, by William A. Bieter. Following were the first officers and charter members: William A. Bieter, C. R.; John McGlin, V. C. R.; F. W. Lynch, recording secretary; Herman J. Rader, financial secretary; George G. Gehr, treasurer; John McCarvel; P. C. R.; Frank Haas, Jerry Sullivan and Frank Liepold, trustees; Joseph Thomas, Nicholas Weinant, Joseph J. Birgel, William N. Klaur, Edward D. Flanagan, Joseph E. Fritscher, H. C. Berreau, John G. Liepold, N. J. Henkels, Richard Burke, Alex Sullivan, Joseph H. Knott, Joseph F. Hartman, Adolph Reichel, F. R. Heger, N. J. P. Murphy, Edward Wienicke. The order has a present membership of about fifty-five.

#### THE BANKS.

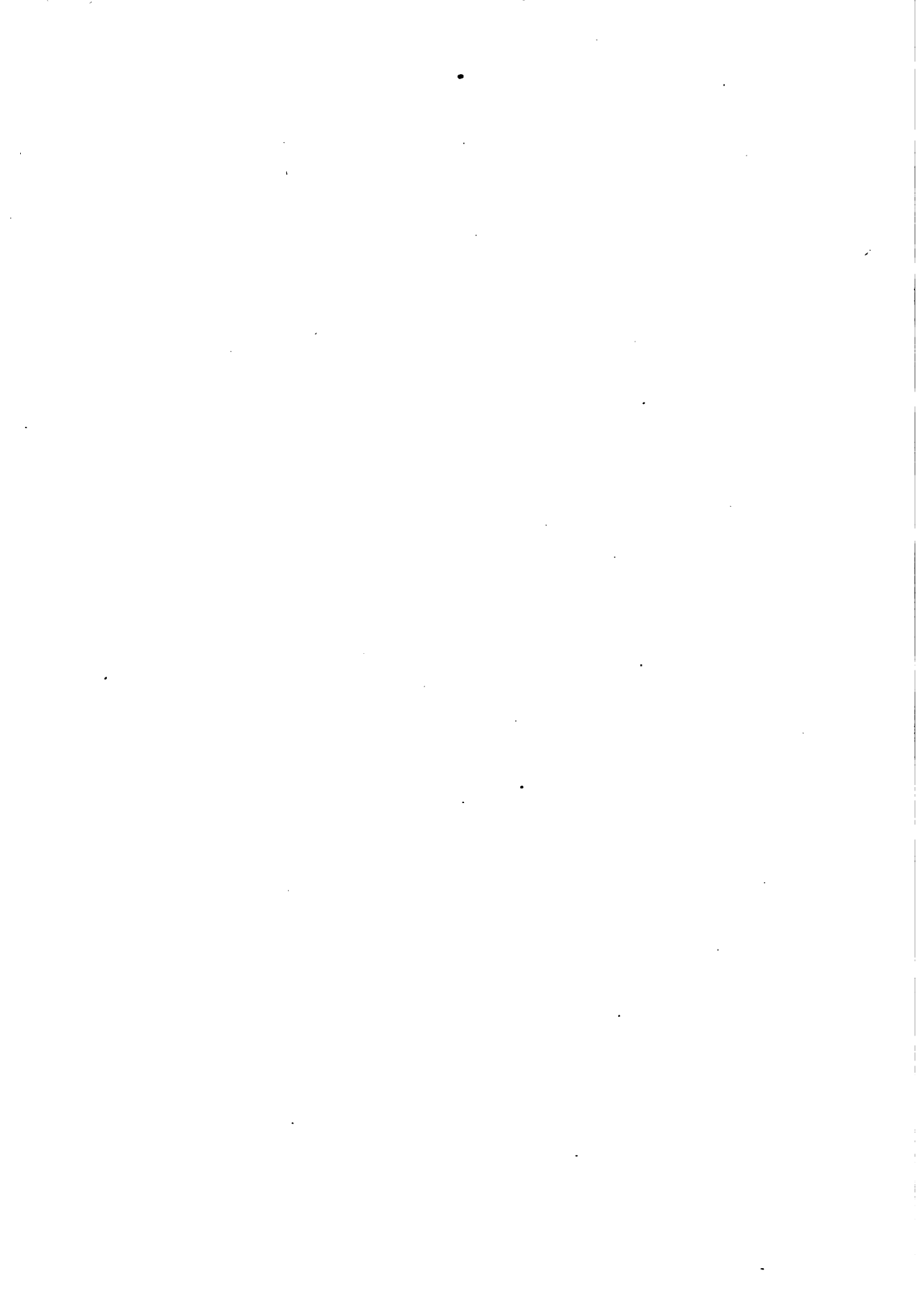
Heron Lake has two banking institutions, the Farmers State Bank and the First National Bank. The former is the older, having been organized as a private bank by P. E. Hill in the fall of 1886—the first financial institution of the town. It continued to be conducted as a private bank until June 1, 1892, when it was reorganized under the state banking laws as the bank of Heron Lake, with a capital stock of \$25,000. T. A. Dieson was president and J. S. Kibbey vice president at the time of reorganization. January 1, 1894, there was a change in management when J. N. McGregor became president, B. Poppitz, vice president, and E. J. Grimes, cashier. In 1896 B. Poppitz became president, and J. N. McGregor vice president. L. F. Lammers was made

president June 1, 1898, and one year later B. Poppitz became vice president. The name of the institution was changed to State Bank of Heron Lake July 30, 1900, and on January 1, 1901, W. P. St. John became president and held the office until his death, October 21, 1905. John T. Smith was made vice president June 1, 1901. After the death of Mr. St. John, W. A. Bieter became president and W. F. Drews was made assistant cashier.

The State Bank of Heron Lake was reorganized in July, 1906, when the majority stock, which had been held by Mr. St. John, was bought by the farmers of the surrounding country and the business men of Heron Lake and the name of the institution changed to the Farmers State Bank. The profits and surplus were paid over to the old stockholders, and the new owners took over the business of the bank, continuing it under the old charter. The officers remained the same except that John Mathias succeeded John T. Smith as vice president. January 1, 1907, officers were chosen as follows: John Mathias, president; O. E. Dieson, vice president; W. A. Bieter, cashier; W. F. Drews,

assistant cashier. One year later the following officers were chosen: Jerry Sullivan, president; N. J. Henkels, vice president; W. F. Drews, cashier; P. W. Moore, assistant cashier. From the date of reorganization into the Farmers State Bank the deposits have increased from \$60,000 to \$150,000 and a surplus of \$3,000 has been accumulated. The bank was moved into its present commodious quarters in June, 1901, the cost of the building and furnishings being \$12,000.

The First National Bank was organized as the Peoples State Bank in September, 1892, with J. W. Benson as president. The organization into the First National Bank was made June 9, 1900. The new institution started with a capital stock of \$25,000, but this was later increased to \$35,000. The capital and surplus at the present time are \$45,000. The officers are: J. W. Benson, president; C. M. Doughty, vice president; W. H. Jarmuth, cashier; Paul Benson, assistant cashier. The bank building now occupied was erected in 1901 at a cost, including fixtures, of about \$15,000.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### ALPHA, WILDER, OKABENA, ETC.

#### ALPHA.

**I**N WISCONSIN township, on the east line of Jackson county, is the little village of Alpha, an incorporated town of about 250 inhabitants. It is on the Milwaukee railroad and is five and one-half miles east of Jackson. Several lines of business are carried on here, and its merchants enjoy a prosperous trade from a limited area of Jackson and Martin counties. Alpha is the youngest of Jackson county towns.

In 1892 a country postoffice named Earl was established near the point where the village of Alpha was afterwards built, but it was not until the closing days of 1894 that it was announced a town would be founded in the vicinity. Then the Milwaukee road placed the name Wisconsin on its time card as the name of a new station on section thirteen, Wisconsin township. At the same time it was announced that Messrs. Williamson and Paddock, the owners of the site, were about to survey a townsite and that preparations had been made to build an elevator and establish a lumber yard. Not much progress toward town building was made during the winter, but early in the spring of 1895 several buildings were put up, a few business houses were established

and the town—known for a time as Wisconsin—came into existence.

The name of the Earl postoffice was changed to Irwin, in honor of the superintendent of the Southern Minnesota division of the Milwaukee road, in April, and for a few months the town was known by that name.<sup>1</sup> During the spring and summer the following gentlemen engaged in business at Irwin: Charles Randall, grain buyer and lumber dealer; Edward Schoewe, general store; Rackness & Ellis, general store; M. A. Rhodes, general store; I. D'Mersseman, elevator. In August the postoffice was reestablished and named Alpha, with P. O. Rackness as postmaster, and late in the year a school house and church were built.

The plat of the townsite, also named Alpha, was put on record November 27, 1895. It was surveyed by Arthur Gibson for George B. Paddock, who made the dedication. The original plat was on the north side of the railroad track and contained only eight blocks. The streets running north and south were named Hunter,

<sup>1</sup> . . . . . We visited the little town of Irwin, six miles east, and found it small but busy. The city has six families at present. The town has no postoffice. One was established a short time ago, but the postmistress is at present teaching school thirty miles west of town."—Jackson Republic, May 31, 1895.

Knox, Main, Palmer and Beach; the east and west avenues were named Railroad, Paddock and Williamson.<sup>2</sup>

During the next three years the growth of Alpha was not great, although a few new enterprises were started. But beginning in the fall of 1898 and continuing during the year 1899 the village enjoyed a boom, due to the prosperous times and bountiful crops, and advanced rapidly to the front. Many new buildings were erected and many new business enterprises were started. An Alpha correspondent stated that the building improvements for the year 1899 amounted to over \$35,000, itemized as follows:

Christ Keacher, store.....	\$ 2,800
Alpha Bank building.....	3,000
A. Groth, hardware store.....	2,500
L. Cobb, hardware store.....	1,500
W. L. Cobb, blacksmith shop.....	400
W. L. Cobb, addition.....	800
Bohlander & Boehl, addition.....	600
L. H. Hageman, livery barn.....	1,000
J. D. Young & Co., improvements.....	200
Frey & Klein, store.....	4,000
C. C. Norgren, store.....	1,000
S. M. Olson, butcher shop.....	300
C. H. Whissemore, wagon shop.....	300
L. Hageman, Sr., residence.....	800
L. Hageman, Jr., residence.....	1,000
Henry Behm, residence.....	1,000
Charles Combes, residence.....	1,200
Henry Gustafson, residence.....	800
E. Erickson, residence.....	1,200
I. D'Mersseman, residence.....	1,500
William L. Hull, residence.....	1,200
William Hinthorn, residence.....	1,100
William E. Carr, residence.....	300
Conrad Freeman, residence.....	600
John Wachter, residence.....	600
R. Rodeck, improvements.....	500
A. D. Packard & Son, improvements.....	600
A. D. Packard & Son, two stores.....	1,800
P. O. Rackness, improvements.....	200
Theodore Jasper, improvements.....	100
Depot.....	2,000
Frey & Klein, improvements.....	200
Total.....	\$35,100

So great was the growth of Alpha that the residents believed the time had come to incorporate. In April, 1899, a petition

<sup>2</sup>Additions to Alpha have been platted as follows:

Louis Kiesel's First, by Louis Kiesel September 26, 1896; surveyed by Orrin Nason.

A. D. Packard's, by A. D. Packard & Son May 5, 1899; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

Packard's, by A. D. Packard and G. D. Packard July 12, 1899; surveyed by J. L. Holst.

was circulated asking the county commissioners to take the necessary steps to bring about the desired change in government. The petition was granted May 25, it was ordered that a special election to vote on the question of incorporation be held July 3, and P. O. Rackness, J. S. Rhodes and Charles P. Randall were named as the inspectors of the election. "For incorporation" carried,<sup>3</sup> and the first village officers were chosen at another election held July 25.

Following is a list of all who have been elected to office during the time Alpha has been a municipal corporation:

1899—President, Charles Combes; trustees, William Carr, August Groth, L. Hageman; recorder, William Kruger; treasurer, E. A. Boehl; justices, P. M. Getty, J. S. Rhodes; constables, L. Cobb, Theodore Jasper.

1900—President, C. L. Combes; trustees, William Carr, Theodore Jasper, L. Hageman; recorder, E. C. Kruger; treasurer, E. A. Boehl; justice, L. Cobb; constable, C. H. Gustafson.

1901—President, F. J. Hassing; trustees, Theodore Jasper, Henry Behm, L. Hageman; recorder, P. M. Getty; treasurer, E. A. Boehl; assessor, H. E. Bohlander; justices, Nels Nelson, I. D'Mersseman; constables, R. Cormack, Oscar Rackness.

1902—President, I. D'Mersseman; trustees, L. Hageman, C. P. Hartwig, Henry Behm; recorder, P. M. Getty; treasurer, H. E. Bohlander; assessor, George Becker; justices, W. H. Hassing, C. A. Portmann; constables, H. Leverson, Gust Bork.

1903—President, I. D'Mersseman; trustees, F. J. Hassing, C. P. Hartwig, Theodore Jasper; recorder, P. M. Getty; treasurer, H. E. Bohlander; assessor, A. A. Kruger; justices, C. M. Packard, L. Burton; constables, Gust Bork, C. H. Gustafson.

1904—President, I. D'Mersseman; trustees, H. H. Hageman, Theodore Jasper, Otto Borchardt; recorder, P. M. Getty; treasurer, John Waswo; assessor, Charles Evers; justice, Christ Geddie; constables, A. K. Simms, Tom Fisher.

1905—President, B. K. Ellis; trustees, J. J. McNamara, Theodore Jasper, Frank Matson; recorder, W. F. Auten; treasurer, John Waswo; assessor, Charles Evers; justices, C. M. Packard, John Diers; constable, Gust Bork.

1906—President, F. J. Hassing; trustees, Theodore Jasper, C. H. Gustafson, J. L. Obermeyer; recorder, P. M. Getty; treasurer, John Waswo; assessor, Charles Evers; justices, Otto

<sup>3</sup>By a vote of 50 to 11, in 1901, the village was separated from Wisconsin township for all purposes.

Rackness, J. S. Crawley; constables, A. K. Simms, John Steiner.

1907—President, F. J. Hassing; trustees, C. H. Gustafson, Theodore Jasper, E. A. Boehl; recorder, H. E. Bohlander; treasurer, John Waswo; assessor, Charles Evers; justice, Carl J. Swenson; constable, L. A. Dorr.

1908—President, E. C. Klatt; trustees, E. A. Boehl, Gust Bork, E. H. Vickerman; recorder, H. E. Bohlander; treasurer, E. A. Boehl; assessor, Charles Evers; justice, Otto Rackness; constables, A. K. Simms, Carl J. Swenson.

1909—President, F. J. Hassing; trustees, E. A. Boehl, John Steiner, C. Whismore; recorder, H. E. Bohlander; treasurer, J. S. Crawley; assessor, P. M. Getty; justice, J. J. Kukluk.

The federal census of 1900 gave Alpha a population of 209; five years later the number of inhabitants had increased to 241. Since its boom days Alpha's growth has been slow, but there have been a number of additions. For several years a newspaper was supported, and a bank has been conducted there for several years. This was founded as the Bank of Alpha, but in July, 1904, it was reorganized as the State Bank of Alpha, with a capital stock of \$10,000 and with George R. Moore as president and J. S. Crawley as cashier. Bonds to the amount of \$4,000 were voted in 1904 for the purpose of installing a water works system.

#### WILDER.

Wilder is an incorporated village on the main line of the Omaha railroad, seven miles northeast of Heron Lake. It is located on section seven, Delafield township, near the north line of Jackson county. Here is a little town of perhaps two hundred inhabitants, in which are carried on several lines of business. It is situated on a slight elevation, sloping in all directions, and is surrounded by an excellent farming country.

The village of Wilder is about a quarter of a century old, but Wilder as a Jackson county place name was bestowed in 1871. During the month of June of that year, while the grade for the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad was being made, the

officials selected the site of the present village of Wilder as a station on the new line of road. The Jackson Republic of July 1, 1871, said of the selection of this point for a station:

In the township of Delafield, in the north part of this county, a sidetrack has been graded where it is no doubt intended to plat a town. No better farming country can be found in our whole state than in the same township of Delafield and the townships adjacent. The Heron lake community, Big Bend and even to lake Shetek, in Murray county, are naturally tributary to the station to be located here. Excellent roads in every direction tend to draw business to this point, and although the settlement in the vicinity is of comparative recent date, the farms already being opened and in contemplation will make this one of the most important shipping points on the line.

We predict here will grow up one of the best towns on the road.

The sidetrack was laid during the month of September, but no depot was put up, and the railroad officials made no effort to found a town at that point. For a short time the station was known as Timber Lake, but in November it was officially designated Wilder, in honor of A. H. Wilder, who was connected with the new railroad. For fourteen years Wilder was nothing but a name, and retained that only by virtue of the railroad company's time card.

The awakening came in 1885. Then it was announced that a farm college was to be built at Wilder by the Episcopal church and that a town was to be founded under the management of Close Brothers & Company. The effect of this announcement was to make Wilder a magic word; it was on everybody's lips.<sup>4</sup> The activity was brought about through the efforts of Rev. D. G. Gunn, of the Episcopal church, who had for several years had in mind the founding of a farm school. Early in 1885 Colonel John L. Merriam, A. H. Wilder and Mrs. Carrie Thompson

<sup>4</sup>Wilder is the magic word we often hear now. It is to be the shrine to which pilgrims to the northwest will wend their way and find rest and plenty in its happy precincts.—Heron Lake Correspondent, June 26, 1885.



offered to donate two-thirds of their land holdings on section seven, Delafield, to the Episcopal church of Minnesota, on condition that a college be built there. A corporation was formed with Bishop Whipple as president and Rev. Gunn as secretary, and the secretary at once set about raising money to build the school. The execution of the plans for the founding of the town of Wilder was placed in other hands. Concerning the selection of the site and the early history of the movement, the Windom Citizen in June, 1885, said:

Rev. D. Griffin Gunn, who has within the past five years built and had direct charge of six churches in the Blue Grass region, has ever since his arrival among us been laboring for the establishment of a home and farm school for his boys. His first idea was to build the school on Cottonwood lake, adjoining Windom, but upon pricing the land found that east of the lake to be \$10 per acre and that on the west \$25. He soon afterward bought the Pomeroy tree claim, the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 6, Delafield township, and took occasion to look over Wilder while waiting for a train. He was struck with the beauty of the northeast quarter of section 7, and upon inquiry found it to be held by Messrs. Merriam and Wilder and Mrs. Thompson, of St. Paul. The price was put at \$9 per acre, but when it was known for what purpose it was intended they promptly and generously offered not only this but all their interests in section 7 free. But Bishop Whipple did not feel justified in accepting at that time.

After this nothing was done for about two years; then the matter was again brought before the bishop, who approved it, but nothing was to be done before his return from Europe. Since his return the friends have been busy preparing for the work.

The site for the school and farm contains 353 acres on Timber lake, and the donors are well known here as extensive land owners in Cottonwood and Jackson counties. The spot selected for the school building is on a beautiful rise of ground, which overlooks the whole surrounding country, including the picturesque Timber lake. From the summit can also be seen the village of Heron Lake, six miles distant, and on clear days Lakefield, twelve miles distant.

The school building when completed is to cost \$15,000. The main or upright part is to be completed before December 31, work to be commenced at once. The trustees are Bishop Whipple, Rev. E. S. Thomas, rector of St. Paul's church, St. Paul; Rev. James Dobbins, rector of the Shattuck school, Faribault; Rev. D. G. Gunn, S. M. Carey, of the firm of

Robinson & Carey, St. Paul; George H. Christian, of the Minneapolis mills.

Mr. Gunn will be resident supervisor and general superintendent of the school. Besides the school building there will follow—belonging to the Episcopal church—the associate mission school, Episcopal church and rectory.

The movement is now ready. F. B. Close & Company will look after the business interests, while Mr. Gunn goes ahead with the school building. Mr. Gunn has been appointed by the trustees to select the school building and town site. The town will be platted and depot grounds located in a few days.

We are authoritatively informed that the following business buildings, besides numerous residences, are only awaiting the platting: hotel, harness shop, bank, elevator, general store, shoe shop, hardware store and land office.

The parties interested in the town besides the donors (who reserve one-third of the gift lots) are: Frank M. Bookwalter, of the Bookwalter Engine company, Springfield, Ohio; Fuller Trump, Springfield, Ohio; Senator A. M. Crosby, Adrian, Minnesota; F. B. Close & Company, Pipestone, and a host of others.

Mr. Gunn attributes his success at Wilder mainly to the efforts of Messrs. J. J. Kendall and E. S. Thomas.

The building of the school and of the town was begun in the summer of 1885, and times were lively.<sup>5</sup> The foundation of the college was completed in the fall, and work on the superstructure was begun early in December. Before the close of the year the following had erected buildings and engaged in business: Dufour & Findley, general merchandise; J. F. Cass, restaurant and boarding house; W. H. Bigelow & Company, lumber and wood; H. Moede, shoe shop; Cyrenius, blacksmith shop; Klock & Day, feed store; Juveland, meat market. The postoffice was established late in the year.

The growth of Wilder during 1885 and 1886 was checked to some extent because of the inability to secure title to lots. Deeds to the site were not turned over to

<sup>5</sup>"Reports from Wilder say that it is the liveliest burg in a hundred miles and that mechanics can get steady employment until it freezes up; that the college building is being rushed with a large force of workmen; that J. J. Kendall's house and Bigelow & Company's store buildings begin to loom up in mammoth proportions; that more than forty new buildings are already planned."—Lakefield Citizen, July 31, 1885.



BRECK SCHOOL



HENDALL BUILDING



COLLEGE BUILDINGS



THE DEPOT



MAIN STREET

WILDER

SCENES



METHODIST CHURCH



PUBLIC SCHOOL



THE BUSINESS CENTER

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

Bishop Whipple and the trustees until late in 1886, and prior to that time clear title could not be given to lot purchasers. The town was platted December 7, 1886, by John W. Merriam, it having been surveyed by Orrin Nason in the spring of that year, and was recorded in January, 1887. The plat consisted of 72 blocks, divided into 638 lots. The platted town included the north half of the northeast quarter, the east half of the northeast quarter, the east half of the northwest quarter, lot one, the northeast quarter and lot two, of section 7, Delafield.

A few new business enterprises were added during 1886. In June it was reported that there were about a half dozen houses in the town and that the population was about fifty. At the close of the year there were about thirty buildings, including the college, the depot, a general store, hardware store and a hotel. The Breck school was incorporated in December, 1886, by the following persons: D. G. Gunn, of Jackson county; E. S. Thomas, S. M. Carey, V. M. Watkins and Harvey Officer, of Ramsey county; James Dobbins, of Rice county; George H. Christian of Hennepin county. The school opened and entered upon a prosperous career, but there was not much advance in the town for a decade after its founding. It simply held its own as a little trading point until the prosperous times of the late nineties caused it to develop into a bustling little village.

On the last day of the year 1898 a census was taken which showed a population of 195 people. The taking of the census was the first step toward incorporation. On the same day a petition was prepared asking for the incorporation of all of section 7, except the south half of the southeast quarter—560 acres—into the village of Wilder. The petition was pre-

sented to the board of county commissioners,<sup>6</sup> and that body took favorable action, naming March 28, 1899, as the date for voting on the question. The election was held at the office of D. L. Riley, and "for incorporation" carried. Soon afterward municipal officers were elected and qualified, and local government began.

There were 174 inhabitants in Wilder when the federal census of 1900 was taken, and in 1905 the population was 121. The town is a good trading point, and while it has not attained great size, it is numbered among the prosperous communities of Jackson county.

Wilder supports one bank, the Farmers State Bank. It was organized with a paid up capital of \$10,000 October 1, 1900, with the following officers: M. H. Evans, president; E. P. Coleman, vice president; F. H. Vail, cashier. The institution continued under this management until 1902, when the controlling interest and majority stock was bought by Charles Malchow, F. E. Malchow and William G. Malchow. The officers then became August Wolf, president; Charles Malchow, vice president; William G. Malchow, cashier. The only change in management since then occurred in 1906, when August Wolf was succeeded as president by W. J. Clark. The directors of the Farmers State Bank of Wilder are Charles Malchow, John T. Powell, F. E. Malchow, Charles Winzer, Charles B. Cheadle, W. J. Clark and William G. Malchow.

#### OKABENA.

Okabena is an unincorporated little village located on the Milwaukee railroad and on section 7, West Heron Lake township, four miles south of Heron Lake.

<sup>6</sup>The petitioners were H. F. Tucker, F. G. Riley, W. G. Malchow, S. L. Rank, J. A. Thom, W. L. Trowbridge, F. H. Vail, E. P. Colman, C. L. Moodin, J. J. Iutz, John Hall, W. S. Price, F. D. Silliman, John McQuigg, W. B. Fry, Ezra Winslow, I. G. Reed, O. A. Patter, A. Egeland, H. R. Trowbridge, George Koontz, F.

Okabena makes no pretense of metropolitan greatness, but it is a prosperous little hamlet, boasting a dozen or more business enterprises. In the town are a bank, school, church, general store, hardware store, creamery, lumber yard, hotel, livery barns, blacksmith shop, implement dealers, elevators, restaurant, billiard hall, etc.

Okabena was founded as a station of the Southern Minnesota railroad in September, 1879, and when the tracklayers reached that point they laid a sidetrack. The same fall a warehouse was built, and the next February a postoffice was established with K. C. Jackson as postmaster. Mr. Jackson opened a small store in November, 1880, which he conducted until the summer of 1884. Okabena did not develop into a town until the nineties. The townsite was surveyed in May, 1892,<sup>7</sup> although the records show that the plat was not put on record until October 30, 1897. It was surveyed by J. L. Holst and platted by Henry J. Schumacher. The plat consisted of six blocks located on the north side of the railroad. East and west streets were named Jackson, Exchange and Market; those north and south were named Front, Minnesota, Grove and Okabena. With the prosperous times of the late nineties and of the present decade came the building of the town, which is recognized as an excellent trading point by those residing in the vicinity.

#### MILOMA.

Miloma is the railroad center of Jackson county—and that's all. Here, three miles southwest of Heron Lake and the

G. Betts, T. Goodwin, Bruce Bumgardner, E. R. Henderson, Howard Winslow, G. Crotzer, Charles D. Gibb, E. B. Wells, F. N. Fry, A. B. Phillips, J. F. Case, J. L. Holst, William Crotzer, H. C. Bliss, H. A. White, H. L. White and A. Iverson.

"A townsite is to be platted at Okabena this spring. No doubt we shall see a great city there some day. Such enterprise is liable to bust the commercial business of its neighbor. Prairie Junction."—Jackson County Pilot, April 28, 1892.

same distance northwest of Okabena, on section 35, LaCrosse township, the main line of the Omaha railroad and the Southern Minnesota division of the Milwaukee road cross. A union depot is maintained; the other enterprises consist of a post-office, a small store and eating house, combined, and a warehouse.

In the early days, when railroads were building through the virgin country of southwestern Minnesota, the location of towns depended upon the routes the railroads took, and years before the Southern Minnesota was extended it was predicted that the principal town of southwestern Minnesota would be at the point of crossing of the Sioux City & St. Paul and the Southern Minnesota railroads—but the prediction did not come true.<sup>8</sup> It was in April, 1879, that officials of the Southern Minnesota railroad gave out the information that their road would cross the Sioux City road on the south half of section 35, LaCrosse township. Tracklaying was completed to that point August 1 of the same year.

The building of a metropolis at the junction did not eventuate; in fact for over a year absolutely nothing was there,<sup>9</sup> and the place did not even boast a name, being referred to as "the Sioux City junction" or "the junction." The monotony of the place was broken during the winter of 1880-81 by the erection of a joint depot, and in August, 1881, arrangements were made for transferring the mails at

"The Worthington Advance of January 13, 1876, said: "The Southern Minnesota is Worthington's opportunity. If the road comes here, Worthington becomes from that day a railroad center and an important inland city. If it goes north of us, the railroad center for this section of country will be at the point of crossing the Sioux City road."

In the light of present conditions, this prediction is amusing. The Southern Minnesota railroad did build north of Worthington; the point of crossing the Sioux City road is at Miloma; and anyone who has spent his time there waiting for trains will corroborate the statement that it is not a metropolis.

" . . . Then comes the 'junction' with its—nothing."—Jackson Republic, November 1, 1879.

that point. Then came an official name—Prairie Junction. In the spring of 1885 James H. Drake, who owned forty acres of land at the junction, set out the grove of trees which is located just to the east of the depot. It was rumored at the time that a site was to be platted there and a town founded, but if anyone had such intentions he abandoned them. J. W. Barber became postmaster in 1886, and two years later Thomas Sweeney built the little store building near the depot and opened a restaurant. The depot at Prairie Junction was struck by lightning on the night of Sunday, May 21, 1893, and burned to the ground together with all the contents. Agent Cooper and family barely escaped with their lives. The depot was rebuilt. In recent years the name of the station and postoffice was changed from Prairie Junction to Miloma, the first syllables of the names Milwaukee and Omaha being used to form the name.

#### PETERSBURG.

Petersburg is a little inland hamlet located near the center of Petersburg township, boasting a creamery, a store, school house and a few residences. In the sixties a postoffice named Petersburg was established on section 28, with Rev. Peter Baker as postmaster. Like most country postoffices it had an intermittent existence, being discontinued and reestablished several times. Andrew Everson became postmaster in December, 1876, and at another reestablishment in July, 1888, O. W. Edgecombe became postmaster. The office was discontinued for good in 1904, and beginning with October the patrons were supplied by rural free delivery.

Some of the farmers of Petersburg township in 1897 organized the Petersburg Dairy association, purchased a site, erected a creamery building and started a

creamery under the management of Chris Sorenson. The next year B. A. Kittle-son erected a building and opened a store, which he conducted until the spring of 1902, when he sold to the Nasby Mercantile company. The townsite was platted April 13, 1898, by William Schroeder.

#### BERGEN.

Bergen, named after a city in Norway, is a little hamlet located on sections 23 and 26, Christiania township, where is a store, creamery and blacksmith shop. It was founded in 1895 and for several years maintained a postoffice.

#### OTHER PLACES.

Before the days of rural mail delivery there were several country postoffices in Jackson county. At other places in the county abortive attempts have been made from time to time to found towns. Among the number were Springfield, Belmont and Odessa, the history of which have been given in preceding chapters.

Des Moines City, located on the river in the north part of Des Moines township, was another early day village. Here was located the only grist mill in the county and a sawmill. Griggs & Company, the owner of the mills, platted a town in the spring of 1870, and for a time the village was a weak rival of Jackson.

Belmont was a country postoffice located in the township of the same name. It was first established in April, 1872, and Ole Tollefson was postmaster. The office was not on a stage line but was supplied by special carrier. In March, 1875, the office was discontinued, and the one at Brownsburg took its place. The Belmont office was reestablished in April, 1877, when Peter A. Sandvold was named postmaster, but it was later discontinued. Again in February, 1883, a postoffice named Belmont was established at a point

two miles north of Brown's mill, with Ole Kilen as postmaster. He was succeeded by Robert Kilen. The postoffice was discontinued in December, 1886. The name is still preserved in the Belmont Creamery association, incorporated, which has its plant on section 27. The company was organized in 1898 by farmers in Belmont, Enterprise and the northern part of Des Moines townships. Following are the officers and directors: A. J. Lindberg, president; John Elfson, vice president; L. O. Teigen, secretary; John Lilleberg, treasurer; William Johnson, Lewis Anderson, J. K. Ofstad.

The Round Lake postoffice, in the township of that name, was established in July, 1872, with W. A. Mosher as postmaster. The office was supplied from Worthington. W. N. Davis and J. N. Dodge later held the office, and it was discontinued when the office of the same name was established at the railroad station in Nobles county.

In 1872 parties in the interest of a French colony attempted the founding of a town on section 15, Petersburg township, but were unsuccessful.

Eldora postoffice was maintained in Enterprise township for a short time. It was discontinued in July, 1873.

Orr postoffice, in Hunter township, had an existence of many years. It was established in July, 1873, and Thad Rucker was the first postmaster.

Williamsburg was the name of a Jackson county village on the south shore of Loon lake which had a brief existence in the seventies. A townsite was surveyed on the southeast quarter of section 25, Minneota township, in October, 1874, for William McClellan. It was announced that later the site would be made to include land belonging to Messrs. Rathban and Read and that several business enterprises would be started. Mr. McClellan

opened a store there in May, 1875, and maintained it for a time. The Williamsburg postoffice was established the same spring.

Brownsburg was a little village on the Des Moines river in southern Belmont township that gained some importance. The Brownsburg postoffice was established in March, 1875, having been moved from Belmont, and Ole A. Brown was the first postmaster. Brown & Company's mill was located at that point. Brede A. Brown became postmaster in 1880 and held the office several years. A store was started in the eighties, and in 1888 it was learned the village consisted of a flouring mill, cheese factory, school house and church.

Namsos was the name of a postoffice in Kimball township which existed many years. It was established in June, 1875, and Carl Frovarp was the first postmaster.

Somerset postoffice was established in Christiania township in September, 1875, with J. W. Jacobs as postmaster. It was discontinued January 1, 1876, but was re-established in March of the same year.

Sioux Valley postoffice was established in the township of that name January 1, 1880, with C. M. Hardy in charge.

Loon Lake consisted of a store and postoffice started in Minneota township in 1882. Mr. Creed was the first postmaster. The office was discontinued in September, 1885, but was later reestablished.

Elaborate plans were made for the founding of a town, Trebon by name, on the south shore of Clear lake in 1885. The plan was developed by a colony of Bohemians, headed by Joseph Treca, of Chicago. Money was raised to start the town and to build a brewery, which was to be the principal industry.<sup>10</sup> A plat was

<sup>10</sup>The Bohemian village on the eastern shore of Clear lake, four miles west of Jackson, will doubtless this spring materialize into a visible

surveyed in the spring and a few buildings were put up. The brewery enterprise was abandoned, and the townsite before very long reverted to farming lands.

Another Bohemian colony laid out the town of Arlington on the southwest quarter of section 27, Kimball township, in 1885, but this did not advance so far as did Trébon.

N. C. Frederickson platted the town of Karlin October 13, 1888, on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section one, Belmont township. Over 4,000 acres of land in the vicinity had

fact. Joseph Trca, of Chicago, is proprietor of the townsite. He is now preparing to have the ground platted. In the center of the town will be a public square, 600x600 feet. The business lots will be 30x100 feet and residence lots eight rods square. A large number of families are preparing to become citizens of the new village, and the frugal and hard working Bohemians will doubtless build up a thriving and lively community. It is intended to make the manufacture of Bohemian beer an extensive industry."—Jackson Republic, March 27, 1885.

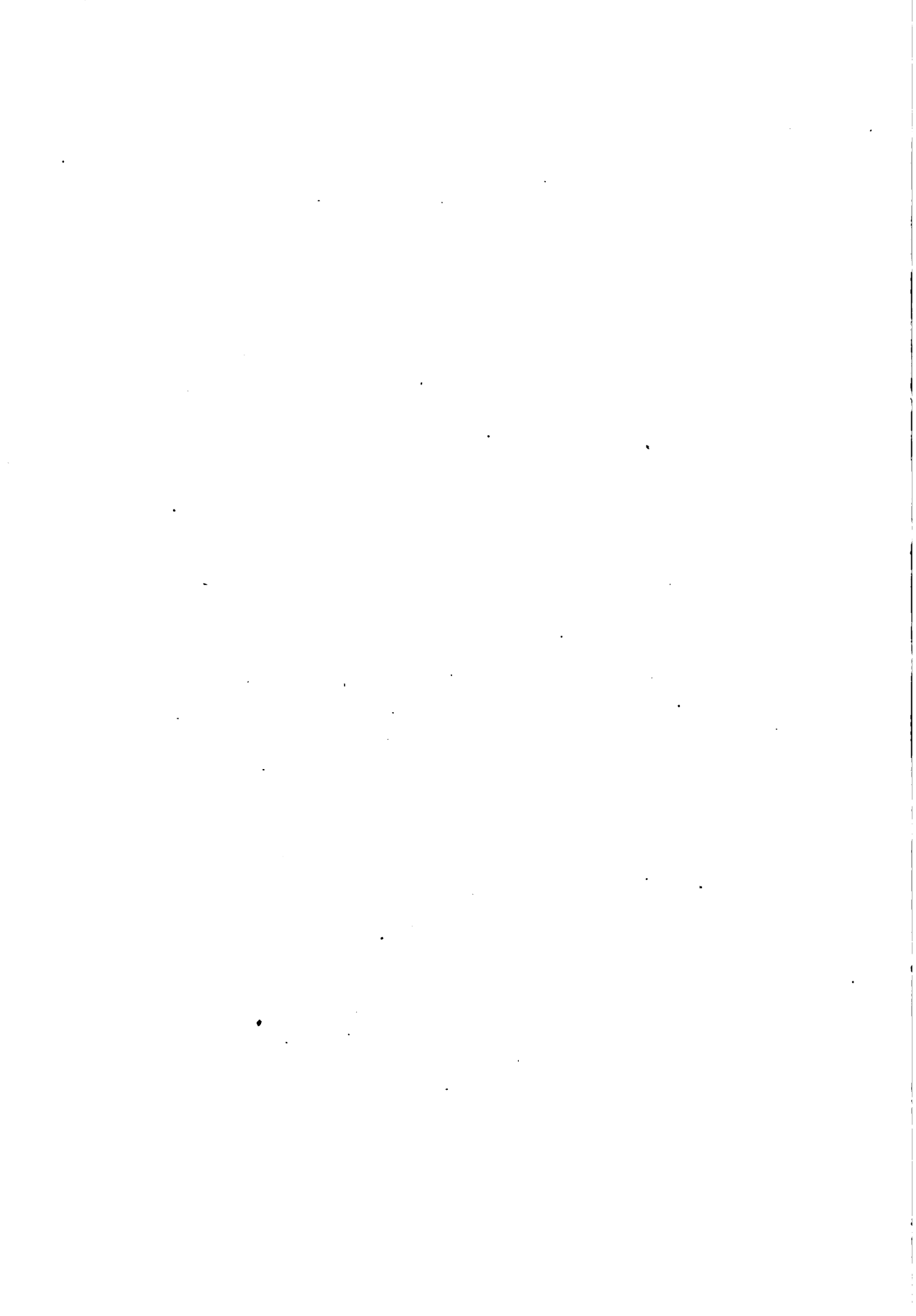
been sold by Frederickson & Company to Bohemians, and the platting of the town was for their benefit. The town did not materialize.

Gold Leaf postoffice was opened in Kimball township in November, 1888, and had a short life.

Elm postoffice was established on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 10, Enterprise township, in February, 1894, with Peter M. Getty as postmaster. The office was later moved and had a life of several years.

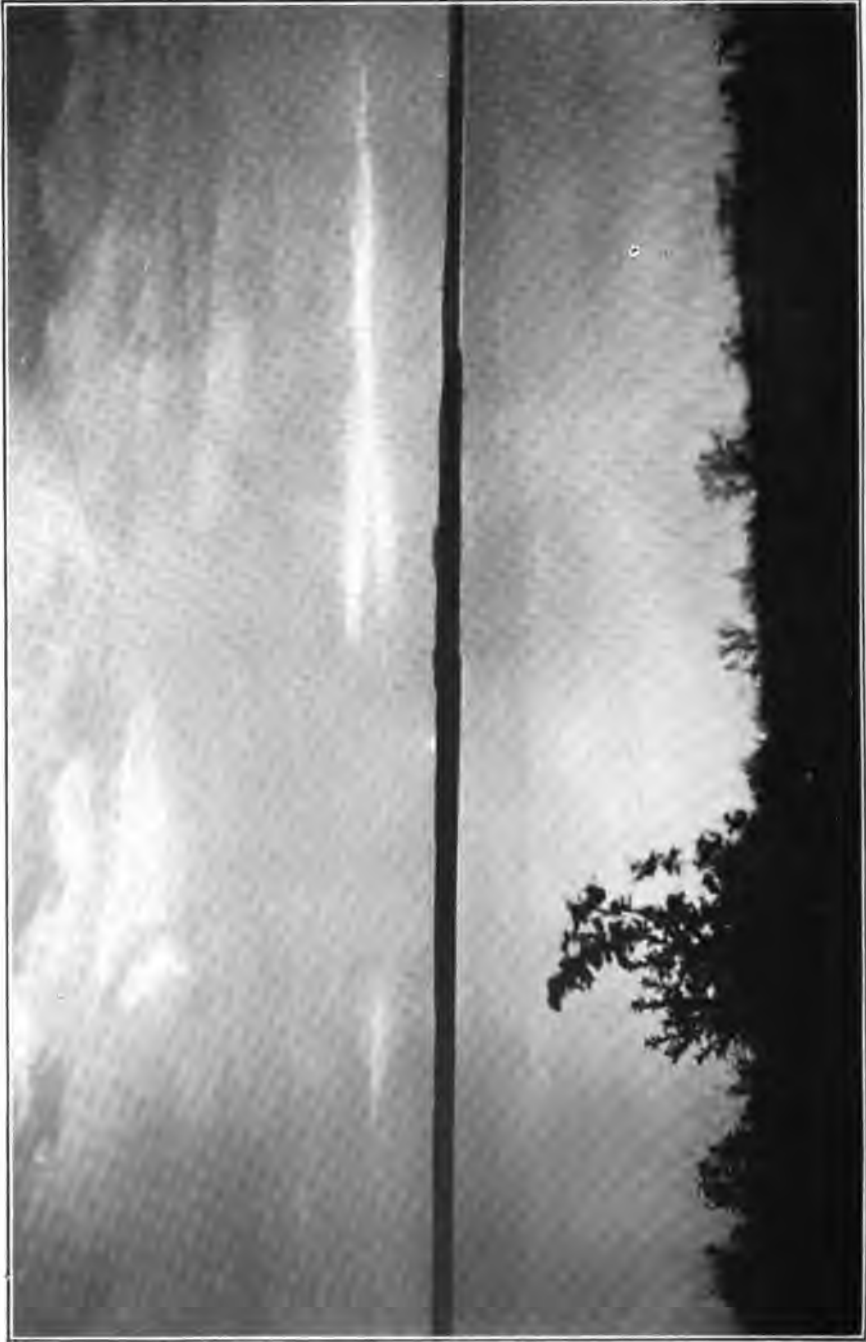
Spofford postoffice, on the northwest quarter of section 26, Ewington township, was started in January, 1895, with J. A. Spafford as postmaster. A little later Mr. Spafford opened a store there, which he conducted several years. In the spring of 1909 Mr. Spafford again opened a general store on his farm.





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**HERON LAKE**

**Largest Body of Water in Southwestern Minnesota and a Hunter's Paradise.**

## CHAPTER XXII.

### DESCRIPTIVE.

**J**ACKSON county is situated in the southern tier of Minnesota counties, and only two counties intervene between it and the South Dakota line. It is bounded on the north by Cottonwood county, on the east by Martin county, on the south by the counties of Dickinson, Emmet and Osceola, Iowa, on the west by Nobles county. The geographical center of the county is in latitude 43 degrees, 47 minutes and 30 seconds north and in longitude 95 degrees and 7 minutes west of Greenwich. Jackson county is rectangular in form, contains twenty townships, and its dimensions are twenty-four by thirty miles. Its area is 722.66 square miles, or 462,501.20 acres—over one-half the area of the state of Rhode Island. Of its total area 696.98 square miles, or 446,066.45 acres, are land; 25.68 square miles, or 16,434.75 acres, are water.

A glance at the map of Minnesota and the political division designated thereon as Jackson county will furnish the information above given. But there will be found nothing to distinguish Jackson county from the other divisions in the vicinity except that there are many lakes and watercourses, indicating excellent possibilities for drainage. The lithographed piece of paper does not convey much idea of the country; a personal inspection

is required to learn what it is and what it may become.

The general surface of Jackson county is a high, gently undulating plateau, though considerably diversified by streams and lakes, which have bluff shores and more or less natural timber. While this describes the general contour, it varies considerably in different parts of the county. The whole surface is so deeply covered by the glacial drift, deposited thousands of years ago, that there are no outcrops of the underlying rocks; there is no stony, waste land. The county is crossed through the center, north and south, by a belt of knolly and hilly and more prominently rolling land. This is from three to six miles in width and includes nearly all of the townships of Delafield and Heron Lake and about one-half of Hunter and Minncota. The same knolly and broken contour is also found in the southern parts of Sioux Valley and Round Lake townships. Excepting these higher and more rolling stretches of country, known to geologists as moraine tracts, the county is smoothly undulating, and in a few places noticeably quite flat, ascending with a very gentle slope from east to west, enclosing lakes here and there in the depressions, slightly channeled by creeks and deeply cut by the Des Moines river.

The mean elevation of the county above sea level is 1,430 feet. The highest altitude is attained in the hilly belt which extends across the county from north to south and in the belt in the southwest corner, which in places rises to 1,475 to 1,550 feet above the sea. The lowest altitude in the county is 1,250 feet and is at the point in Petersburg township where the Des Moines river leaves the county. The mean elevations of the several townships are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Kimball .....	1,350
Enterprise .....	1,375
Wisconsin .....	1,400
Petersburg .....	1,375
Christiania .....	1,400
Belmont .....	1,410
Des Moines .....	1,420
Middletown .....	1,425
Delafield .....	1,440
Heron Lake .....	1,460
Hunter .....	1,475
Minneota .....	1,460
Weimer .....	1,450
West Heron Lake.....	1,420
Rost .....	1,440
Sioux Valley .....	1,460
LaCrosse .....	1,425
Alba .....	1,450
Ewington .....	1,500
Round Lake .....	1,520

The elevations of the several villages are as follows:

Wilder .....	1,448
Heron Lake .....	1,417
Jackson (Depot hill).....	1,446
(Main street) .....	1,353
Lakefield .....	1,463
Okabena .....	1,410
Miloma .....	1,414

Concerning the drift and contour of Jackson county and the creation of its physical features, I quote at length from the writings of Hon. Warren Upham in the geological and natural history survey of Minnesota, edition of 1884:

The drift spread over Jackson and Cottonwood counties is principally till, in part morainic, being accumulated in knolls and hills, or with a prominently rolling surface in massive, smoothly sloping swells, but for the greater part it is only gently undulating in contour. Its thickness on the quartzite ridge [in Cotton-

wood county] varies from nothing to probably fifty feet or more, and in other portions of these counties it probably varies from one hundred to two hundred feet in depth. The moraines to be described were formed at the western border of the ice sheet of the last glacial epoch, the first when this ice covered its maximum area, and the second after it had receded considerably from its farthest limits, when its retreat was interrupted by a halt and perhaps even by some readvance.

**First Terminal Moraine.** The outer or western morainic belt of the coteau des prairies extends into the south edge of this state along its course next west of Spirit lake, where the greater part of its width lies in Iowa. From the Little Sioux river at the west side of Minneota, through Sioux Valley and Round Lake townships, to Indian lake in southeastern Nobles county, the part of this formation in Minnesota is characterized by numerous small ridges, hillocks and swells of till, and is from one and one-half to five miles wide, reaching north to Skunk lake, to a half mile beyond Rush lake, to Plum Island and Round lakes, and to the northeast of Indian lake. Its greatest extent north in this distance is at the north side of Round lake; but south of this a tract about two miles wide and three miles long to the east from State Line lake is smooth and only slightly undulating, though enclosed by rolling or knolly morainic areas.

**Second Terminal Moraine.** The inner or eastern of the two terminal moraines upon the coteau des prairies extends from the west side of Spirit lake north through the central range of townships in Jackson county. The width of this belt is from three to six miles. Its surface is prominently rolling, mostly in massive swells, twenty to forty feet above the depressions, but at many places in small, steep knolls and hillocks of similar height. The elevation of the range above the general level is from forty to seventy-five feet. Its material is till, which here contains more gravel and boulders than on its smooth, slightly undulating areas which extend at each side beyond the limits of the county. In Minnesota this morainic belt is about three miles wide, reaching from Little Spirit lake and Clear lake west to the Little Sioux river. It here has many knolls and short ridges, which continue into Hunter and are crossed seven to ten miles west of Jackson by the road to Worthington. Farther to the north the moraine forms a prominently rolling tract, about six miles wide, between the Des Moines river and Heron lake, rising in smooth, massive swells fifty to seventy-five feet above the general level at the top of the bluffs of the river and seventy-five to one hundred feet above the lake.

East of the second moraine, the country extending from it to the Des Moines river in southern Jackson county is till, nearly flat through the central part of Middletown for five or six miles northeast from Spirit lake; moderately undulating in the eastern half of

<sup>1</sup>As given by the geological and natural history survey of Minnesota, 1884.

Minneota; and in the western part of Des Moines township massively rolling, in parallel swells that trend nearly from the north to south, sloping gently down on their east and west sides to the intervening depressions which are thirty to fifty feet lower, the distance between the tops of these undulations being from a half mile to one or two miles.

The surface of the part of Jackson county east of the Des Moines river is a smooth, nearly flat, but everywhere more or less undulating, sheet of till, sloping eastward ten to twenty feet per mile. Its descent on the line of the Southern Minnesota railroad is 173 feet in eleven and one-half miles from the junction of the branch to Jackson, at the top of the eastern bluff of the Des Moines.

West of the second moraine, the eastern shore of Heron lake mainly rises in gradual slopes of till, reaching the summits of the morainic belt at a distance of three or four miles; the south end of this lake, lying within the edge of the moraine, is enclosed by banks about forty feet high; but on the west and southwest is a very flat expanse of till, ten to twenty feet above the lake, only undulating five to ten feet in slopes a mile long, stretching with slowly increasing height as far as the view extends westward. On the Sioux City [C., St. P., M. and O.] railroad, in the ten miles southwest from Heron Lake to Hersey [Brewster], the ascent is sixty-eight feet; in eight miles on its branch from Heron Lake northwest to Dundee, twenty-six feet; and on the Southern Minnesota railroad northwest from its intersection with the Sioux City line to DeForest [Kinbrae], is thirty-two feet.

This smooth plain of till continues south through Rost and Ewington townships, having the same slight ascent to the west, and crossed from north to south or southeast by occasional watercourses and sloughs ten to twenty feet below the general level.

**Interglacial Drainage.** Heron lake lies in the continuation of the southeast course of the upper Des Moines river below lake Shetek. There seems to be good reasons for believing that lake Shetek, this part of the Des Moines, Heron lake and Spirit and Okoboji lakes in Iowa resemble the chains of lakes in Martin county, in occupying portions of what was originally a continuous valley excavated by interglacial drainage in the thick till of the earlier and severer glacial epoch, before the time of the last ice sheet by which the terminal moraines in this and adjoining states were formed. It is possible that the Des Moines river then continued southeast where Heron lake is now, and onward in the same course through Hunter, where the rolling and hilly drift of the second terminal moraine now forms a watershed one hundred feet above Heron lake; thence southward at the east side of Minneota to Spirit lake and the Okoboji lakes; [and thence on, reentering the present valley of the Des Moines at Emmetsburg.]

**Drainage During the Last Glacial Epoch.** Very significant changes in the drainage of

this region have been produced by the lobe of the ice sheet which covered these counties and a width of about a hundred miles eastward during the last glacial epoch. From the south end of Heron lake to Okoboji township, in southern Dickinson county, Iowa, the interglacial channel of the Des Moines has been principally lost by being filled with the drift of terminal moraines, accumulated at the west border of the ice. The outer border of these deposits extends in Iowa from Storm Lake, in Buena Vista county, northward through eastern Clay county to the Okoboji lakes, and thence westward to Ocheyedan mound in Osceola county. Thence passing into Minnesota, it reaches northwesterly through the central part of Nobles county, western Murray county to the most northeasterly township of Pipestone county, forming there and farther northwest the highest part of the coteau des prairies. The present basin of the Des Moines river from central Iowa northward was entirely covered with this ice sheet; but a small portion of its interglacial valley, in southern Dickinson and northern Clay county, Iowa, and most of the basin of Ocheyedan creek, here tributary from the northwest, were outside the ice lobe, by which they were dammed and their drainage in the old course to the east and southeast was made impossible. A lake about one hundred fifty feet deep and covering the greater part of Clay county was thus formed at the west side of the ice lobe, until its overflow cut the deep, trough-like valley or channel in which the Little Sioux river now flows along the south side of Clay county and in northeastern Cherokee county, one hundred fifty to two hundred feet deep, and in some places only a quarter of a mile wide between the tops of its bluffs, which consist wholly of glacial drift. This outlet was so deeply excavated while the ice sheet lay as a barrier on the east that after the departure the stream continued to flow by this passage to the Missouri through a broad area of till which has its surface one hundred to one hundred fifty feet higher than the divide between the Little Sioux and Des Moines rivers east of Spencer.

In northern Clay county, where the Little Sioux river takes the place of the interglacial Des Moines, the broad and deep valley eroded by that stream before the last glacial epoch has become nearly filled with modified drift, which forms an extensive plain, ten miles long and two to four miles wide, bordering the Little Sioux river through Summit, Riverton and Spencer, reaching west to Stony and Ocheyedan creeks. These fluvial beds of gravel and sand were deposited after the excavation of the channel of the Little Sioux river, by which the lake that previously existed here had been drained into the Missouri; and they are thus shown to have been supplied during the latter part of this epoch, while the ice sheet, in which they had been held, was being melted away.

The decline and departure of this ice was

interrupted by a halt and probably by a re-advance, forming a second or inner line of terminal moraine, which reaches through Murray, Cottonwood and Jackson counties, from the east side of lake Shetek southeast to the Blue mounds west of Windom, and thence south to Spirit lake, and continues southeast in Iowa within a few miles west of the Des Moines river to Pilot Mound and Mineral ridge. At this time the drainage from the head of the Des Moines basin in Murray county and the waters of Heron lake and its tributaries went southward through West Heron Lake, Rost and Sioux Valley townships and were carried by the Little Sioux to the Missouri river, instead of going southeast as now to the Mississippi. Heron lake stood about twenty feet higher than now, probably covering three times its area. The shallow channel of its overflow has become partly filled by the silt of tributaries and contains a suggestion of sloughs and small reedy lakelets, connected at time of high water by a stream which is the head and most northern source of the Little Sioux river.

Further recession of the ice gave to the waters of Heron lake and the upper Des Moines river a lower outlet by the present course northeast across the second terminal moraine at the north side of the Blue mounds, and thence southeasterly along the east side of this moraine. This avenue of drainage became marked by a considerable valley eroded while the ice yet lay as a barrier upon the east part of Cottonwood and Jackson counties; for the top of the bluffs and the general surface of the country bordering the Des Moines in eastern Jackson county are slightly higher than the watershed between Heron lake and the Little Sioux river; and, furthermore, the natural slope in eastern Cottonwood and northeastern Jackson county is eastward, so that this river could not flow here to the south-southeast unless its valley had been thus formed before the ice sheet was melted at its east side, being excavated sufficiently deep to hold the stream afterward in its course.

As has been stated, the soil of Jackson county is a drift deposit. It has the same nearly uniform fertility that characterizes all southern and western Minnesota, Jackson and Martin counties having a trifle more sandy soil than those counties adjoining them on the east, north and west.

The surface soil is a black sandy clay, with some intermixture of gravel, colored to a depth of from a few inches on the bluffs to two and three feet in other parts by decaying vegetable matter. The deposit contains many fragments of mag-

nesian limestone, red quartzite, granite and crystalline schists. Its fine detritus is a mixture of these rocks pulverized, presenting in the most advantageous proportions the mineral elements needed by growing plants. It produces abundantly each year without perceptibly losing any of its fertility. The sub-soil is the same as the surface soil, except that it is not enriched and blackened by organic decay. It is of a yellowish-gray color to a depth of from ten to twenty feet, and of a dark bluish color below.

The great depth of soil contributes to its durability, and its fertile properties appear almost inexhaustible. One of its peculiarities is its remarkable ability to resist droughts. In time of exceedingly dry weather, a thin crust forms on the surface and retards evaporation below without being firm enough to interfere seriously with the growth of vegetation. The loam is free from surface water and ready for cultivation as soon as the frost leaves the ground in the spring.

Several scientific analyses of the soil have been made, and by all authorities it has been pronounced as containing elements of extraordinary fertility. Years ago David Dale Owen, after an examination of Jackson county soil, described it as of "excellent quality, rich as well in organic matter as in those salts which give rapidity to the growth of plants and that durability which enables it to sustain a long succession of crops." Another scientist, who examined the soil before its fertility had been proven, said: "It is a dark colored, fine-textured soil, abounding in organic matter and highly fertile. It has, in fact, a large amount of natural manures mixed with soil and cannot fail to produce great and permanent fertility."

But the magnificent crops which the soil of Jackson county produces speak more eloquently than the scientist can.

The testimony of farmers who have accumulated wealth and independence affords unquestionable proof of the richness of the soil.

There is no section of country in the United States which has a smaller proportion of waste lands. Except for the area actually taken up by the waters of lakes and creeks, all is tillable, even to the tops of the hills and knolls and in the bottom lands. Jackson county has not the rocky, untillable land of many of the eastern states; it has not the marshy, untillable lands of other parts of the country.

Sand and building stone are found by digging into the bluffs of streams and lakes. Good clay for the manufacture of brick and tile is found in many parts of the county.

The climate is healthful. Owing to the more perfect drainage afforded by the Des Moines and Little Sioux rivers, Jackson county surpasses the neighboring entirely prairie counties in point of healthfulness as a result of the dryness of the atmosphere. This natural drainage not only prevents an accumulation of stagnant water, which breeds disease germs, but it purifies the air as only rapid streams can.

While Jackson county is classed as a prairie county, in places it supports a heavy growth of natural timber, and thereby has the advantage over all the counties of extreme southwestern Minnesota. This timber is not a mere fringe of trees along the banks of the streams, but in many places it extends back over the bluffs and forms dense woods. It was this character of the county's physical features that led to its early settlement and gives Jackson county a historical importance above any of the exclusively prairie counties. About three thousand acres are covered with natural timber, which in-

cludes black walnut, sugar and soft maple, ash, elm, oak, linden, iron-wood, box elder, cottonwood and poplar.

Jackson county has one of the most perfect and complete systems of drainage of any section of the west. It is located on the great divide or watershed separating the Mississippi and Missouri systems of rivers. The southwestern portion of the county is drained by the Little Sioux and tributaries to the Missouri; the eastern and northern portions are drained by the Des Moines and its tributaries and by Elm creek, by way of the Minnesota river, to the Mississippi.

The most important stream is the Des Moines river. It rises in lake Shetek, in Murray county, and flows in a general southeasterly direction to its junction with the Mississippi, 385 miles from its source. Of this length a little less than one-fourth is in Minnesota and about 26 miles in Jackson county. About 420 square miles of Jackson county land lie its basin. There is no stream of any consequence flowing into it within Jackson county and its only important affluent in the vicinity is the outlet of Heron lake, which enters it nine miles west of Windom. The descent of the Des Moines in the county is estimated to be eighty feet—from 1,330 feet at the north line to approximately 1,250 feet where it crosses the state line. The river provides a number of good water powers, several of which are utilized.

The valley of the Des Moines is one hundred to one hundred fifty feet below the average height on each side and is between one-third and two-thirds of a mile wide between the tops of its bluffs. In the north part of the county these bluffs take the form of knolly and irregular slopes of morainic drift, but at Jackson and southeast from that town they have generally the nearly straight course



and steep ascent characteristic of fluvial erosion. At Jackson the immediate river bluffs are about one hundred feet high, but there is a further rise of moderately undulating expanse of till on each side, amounting to fifty or seventy-five feet within a mile or less from the top of the bluffs.

About ninety square miles of the northeast part of the county are drained by Elm creek, which has its sources in Belmont and Christiania townships, only two to four miles from the Des Moines river. Elm creek flows eastward through Martin county and enters the Blue Earth after a course of forty miles.

The northwest part of the county is drained by Jack and Okabena creeks, which flow into Heron lake, and whose waters ultimately join the Des Moines by way of Heron lake outlet.

Some two hundred ten square miles of Jackson county, lying in the southwest part of the county, are in the basin of the Missouri river, being drained by the headwaters of the Little Sioux, which rise near the center of the county and flow southwesterly, joining the Missouri thirty-eight miles north of Omaha.

The sixteen thousand odd acres of Jackson county that are water surface are taken up by about seventy-five lakes, great and small. Many of these are beautiful bodies of water, clear and sparkling, abounding with fish.

Of the lakes of any importance to the east of the Des Moines river, all are in Christiania township: Fish lake, two miles long, is in the extreme north part of the county, half of it being in Cottonwood county; lake Otto, one-half mile long, is on the boundary between Christiania and Kimball townships; Independence lake, a half mile long, is on the boundary between Christiania and Bel-

mont; Lower's lake, of similar size, is in the center of Christiania township.

The largest body of water in Jackson county and the largest in the whole of southwestern Minnesota is Heron lake, located in the northwest part of the county, in Weimer, West Heron Lake and Heron Lake townships. Heron lake is eleven miles long and has a width of two and one-half miles in its central part, diminished to one-half or one-quarter of a mile at either end, giving it an area of about fourteen square miles. The water of Heron lake is mainly clear, but it has some portions that are reedy and covered with a dense growth of wild rice, with marshy shores. This affords a paradise to geese, ducks and other wild water fowl, as well as to the hunter of this game. Heron lake has a reputation far and wide as a hunters' paradise, and each season hundreds of sportsmen visit it.

There are a number of pretty little lakes in north central Jackson county, among them being: Lake Carroll, one-half mile long from northeast to southwest, in northern Delafield; Minneseka lake, a mile long from east to west, located just south of Wilder; Flaherty's lake, named in honor of an Irish trapper who operated in the vicinity in the early days, located in sections six, seven and eight, Heron Lake township, over a mile in length from north to south and over a half mile wide from east to west; Boot lake, located in section 31, Belmont. A few miles west of Jackson, in the west part of Des Moines township, is Clear lake, having dimensions of about one mile each way.

In the southeast corner of Minneota township, extending into Middletown, is a group of pretty little lakes, on the shores of which some of the early day settlers located. The principal one of these bodies of water is Loon lake, nearly two miles across from north to south. Others in

the vicinity are Rush lake, Pearl lake and Little Sprit lake.

In Sioux Valley township are two lakes of size. Skunk lake, a mile long from east to west, is in sections 22 and 27; Rush lake, smaller in size, is in the southwestern part of the township. Round Lake township has a number of pretty little bodies of water, the principal one being Round lake, a mile and a half in diameter, situated in the northwest part of the township. The others are Plum Island lake in sections 10 and 15; Illinois lake, about the center of the township; and a portion of State Line lake, in the extreme southwest corner of the county.

Jackson is an agricultural county. The principal products are corn, barley, oats, wheat, rye, flax, hay, livestock, dairy products, poultry, fruit and vegetables. In the early days the settlers confined their energies almost exclusively to grain farming and largely to wheat raising. Now diversified farming is the rule. Every farmer raises stock and many engage in dairying on a large scale. While agriculture is the principal pursuit, manufacturing occupies an important place among the county's industries. The manufacturing include tow mills, grist mills, brick and tile factories, creameries and garment manufacturing plants.

With transportation facilities Jackson county is not so well supplied as it should be. The Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad traverses the county from southeast to northwest, passing through the townships of Wisconsin, Des Moines, Belmont, Hunter, Heron Lake, West Heron Lake, Alba and LaCrosse, on which line are located the villages of Alpha, Jackson, Lakefield, Okabena and Miloma. The main line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad passes through the northwestern part of the county, pene-

trating the townships of Delafield, Weimer, LaCrosse and Alba. On this line are the villages of Wilder, Heron Lake and Miloma. A branch of the Omaha road extends northwestward from Heron Lake. Through the extreme southwestern corner of the county and of Round Lake township passes the line of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, upon which there are no stations within the county.

Local and long distance telephone lines form a complete network over the county, and every community is reached. There are about fifteen rural free delivery mail routes from Jackson county postoffices, and lines from several outside towns penetrate the county. There are few farms to which mail is not delivered daily.

The soil of the county is uniformly fertile and productive. Owing to better drainage and the configuration of the land a few of the townships surpass the others in the value of the farming lands. This is particularly true during seasons of abnormal rainfall. The following is a very brief description of the physical features of each of the townships:

Kimball, the northeast township, is moderately rolling, with broad, dry and fertile prairies. A branch of Elm creek flows across the southern part.

Enterprise is composed of rather level land, especially the southern part. Elm creek flows across the township and carries off the surplus water.

Wisconsin is drained by small tributaries of the Des Moines and a branch of Ten-Mile creek. Part of the surface is rolling; the rest is flat.

Petersburg, the southwestern township, is rated as one of the county's best townships, and it supports the largest farming population. Every acre of its surface is drained by the Des Moines river, which flows diagonally across the township, and its tributaries. Several creeks of good

size and perpetual flow diversify the surface, which is generally very dry and rolling. The broad Des Moines valley, with its timber-crowned bluffs and fertile bottoms and benches of table land rising back from the river shores, is a magnificent feature.

Middletown is another good township. The surface is gently rolling, and there is no waste land. It is drained chiefly by tributaries of the Des Moines, although a portion of the township slopes toward the west, and the watercourses of that portion empty into the group of lakes near its western boundary.

Des Moines is the oldest settled township and one of the most prosperous. The Des Moines river flows through it, affording several water powers within the township. There is a considerable wooded tract on the east side of the river. The land is high and dry.

Belmont is crossed diagonally by the Des Moines river, upon the bluffs of which are heavy growths of natural timber. It is in every respect a township made rich by the hand of providence and was one of the first settled portions of the county. The land is rolling and fertile.

Christiania is the northernmost of the river townships, and, like those farther south, is rich in all that nature contributes. The river valley diversifies the western part. The surface is gently rolling but has some bottom lands. Within the township are a number of fine little lakes.

Delafield is quite rolling and is drained by tributaries of the Des Moines, which flows close to its eastern border.

Heron Lake township ranks fourth in population, and its land is high and rolling. Heron lake penetrates the township; another fine body of water is lake Flaherty in the northwestern part.

Hunter is located on the ridge that ex-

tends across the center of the county. From some of its hills water runs to the west and finds its way into the Missouri river; from others it flows to the east and by way of the Des Moines reaches the Mississippi. The system of drainage is unsurpassed, and the land is all rolling.

Minneota, by reason of its many charming lakes, is one of the most picturesque townships of Jackson county. The lakes were responsible for Minneota becoming one of the early settled townships. The Little Sioux river flows through the western part. The farming land is rolling.

Sioux Valley is rated among the best and most prosperous townships. It is drained by the Little Sioux river and contains broad and abundant acres. It is very rich and fertile.

Rost is well drained by the Little Sioux, which runs through the center of the township. The land is generally rolling.

West Heron Lake is the smallest township in the county. In addition to the loss of several sections taken out of its farming land by Heron lake, that portion of its natural boundaries lying east of the lake has been given to Heron Lake township. The land is the most level of all the townships.

Weimer loses much of its farming land by reason of Heron lake and the village of the same name. Portions of the surface are undulating; other portions are bottom lands.

LaCrosse, the northwest corner township, has more miles of railroad within its boundaries than any other of the twenty townships. The surface is moderately rolling and is drained by Jack and other creeks flowing into Heron lake.

Alba township is crossed diagonally by Okabena creek, which furnishes good drainage. The land surface is level.

Ewington has no lakes, no streams and no waste land. It is strictly a prairie

township of rich, tillable land. The surface is level.

The total taxable valuation of the county, according to the figures for 1908, is \$8,065,052, of which \$7,067,044 is on real property, while \$998,000 is on personal property. These amounts are divided by precincts as follows:

more than the difference in price to bring those countries up to the condition of this.

The farmer in the older states east and south can dispose of an eighty acre farm, and with the proceeds purchase a quarter section in Jackson county, and in making the change will lose none of the advan-

PRECINCT	Total Value	Real	Personal	Av. Val. Per Acre
Alba .....	\$347,356	\$315,365	\$ 31,990	\$14.05
Belmont .....	369,797	333,909	35,888	14.48
Christiania .....	363,961	328,631	35,330	14.47
Delafield .....	367,364	330,111	37,253	14.94
Des Moines .....	339,561	307,288	32,273	14.56
Enterprise .....	360,577	331,755	28,822	14.40
Ewington .....	360,714	333,285	27,429	14.58
Heron Lake.....	387,044	352,109	34,935	14.91
Hunter .....	359,179	329,161	30,018	13.95
Kimball .....	360,304	331,799	28,505	14.48
LaCrosse.....	343,648	312,173	31,470	14.15
Middletown .....	360,634	324,572	36,062	14.28
Minneota .....	329,509	301,112	28,397	13.93
Petersburg.....	380,966	342,490	38,476	14.85
Rost .....	367,185	332,179	35,006	14.31
Round Lake.....	342,488	308,590	33,898	14.52
Sioux Valley .....	373,166	330,118	43,048	14.58
Weimer.....	283,838	260,738	23,100	14.47
West Heron Lake.....	282,364	242,847	39,517	13.96
Wisconsin.....	353,143	319,964	33,179	14.46
Jackson.....	479,267	328,748	150,519	
Heron Lake Village .....	198,728	123,561	75,167	
Lakefield.....	250,255	180,910	69,345	
Wilder .....	38,369	25,831	12,538	
Alpha.....	65,635	39,793	25,842	

Round Lake, the southwest corner township, is supplied with a number of beautiful lakes. The surface is high and quite rolling.

Jackson county land can be purchased at from \$40 to \$115 per acre, according to improvements and proximity to markets, and, considering the richness of the soil, the excellent markets and the educational and social advantages offered, it is not easy to understand why any home-seekers pass through this country to the bleak prairies of the Dakotas or Canada. Jackson county land, at the price at which it can now be obtained, is cheaper, all things considered, than the Dakota or Canada land at the present prices, for the settlers there will be compelled to spend

tages and conveniences enjoyed. There will be no frontier hardships to endure, no years of lonely toil in a sparsely settled country, nothing lacking in the way of social pleasures or the advantages of schools and churches.

Another advantage of Jackson county that must not be lost sight of is its proximity to the great primary markets. It is within easy reach of the great Minneapolis, St. Paul, Sioux City, Omaha and Chicago markets. Their nearness and the low freight rates in effect insure high prices for farm products sold there and low prices for commodities purchased there.

Jackson county holds most alluring

prospects for farmers who are in search of rich and productive lands close to markets, where they may establish homes amid schools and churches and congenial surroundings. There are a few tracts yet to be put under cultivation, and there are large farms that may be subdivided, while other farms that are now in the hands of renters might be improved by resident owners.

The county is capable of supporting more than three times as many farmers as it now has. The local creameries want more cream, the merchants want more eggs and poultry, the elevators want more grain, the stock buyers want more cattle and hogs, and all around is a demand for the products of Jackson county—a demand that cannot be taken away.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### THE PRESS.

**D**URING the forty years of Jackson county's newspaper history only nine papers have been established—a remarkably small number when compared with neighboring counties. Of these nine, five are still published, as follows: Jackson Republic, by the estate of the late C. F. Mallahan; Lakefield Standard (founded as the Minnesota Citizen), by R. H. Lueneburg and J. W. Daubney; Jackson County Pilot, by John L. King; Heron Lake News (founded as the Heron Lake Wave), by Carl S. Eastwood; Jackson County Times (Heron Lake), by John S. Woolstencroft. The newspapers which have been discontinued were the Heron Lake Guardian, Lakefield Herald, Jackson County Argus (Alpha) and the Jackson Tribune.

The first newspaper to be taken from the press in Jackson county was the Jackson Republic. Its establishment was due largely to the removal of the United States land office from Winnebago City to Jackson and the consequent rise in importance of that little town. George C. Chamberlin and Henry M. Avery were the founders and the date of the first issue was February 26, 1870.

Considerable difficulty was encountered in getting the paper started. Jackson was then the only town in the county, and

there was not a railroad within many long miles of the place. Mr. Chamberlin set out from Jackson in November, 1869, on his way to select the material. He made a hundred mile stage ride to the railroad at Janesville, went to Chicago, selected his material, and in due time the plant arrived. The "ready-prints" were made in Chicago and sent by express, but failed to arrive in time and a man had to be sent to find them.<sup>1</sup> The birthplace of the Republic was a little building of native lumber which stood on the corner where the P. H. Berge & Company's store is now, one of the first buildings erected in Jackson.

The Republic was established as a seven column folio, of which two pages were printed at home. Every family in the town and vicinity subscribed and all the business men gave it support.<sup>2</sup> The peo-

<sup>1</sup>"It was a cold and stormy week and snow drifts were almost insurmountable. Railways were one hundred miles away, and mails and stages were irregular and uncertain. Our ready-print package failed to arrive and J. F. Ashley was dispatched for it, with instructions to meet it if he had to go to Chicago. He found the paper at Albert Lea and in due time arrived home, richly earning the \$25 that the printing paper for the first issue cost us for bringing from that point. . . . All night long did we work to get the first number ready for the press, warming pieces of boards on which to stand as we worked, and placing a kettle of live coals under the press while printing."—George C. Chamberlin in Republic, March 21, 1890.

<sup>2</sup>The local subscribers to the Republic during the first year of its existence were as follows: Jackson—Hon. J. B. Wakefield, Hon. E. P.

ple seemed to be as much interested in the success of the venture as did the proprietors. Messrs. Chamberlin & Avery, in their introductory, said:

We this week present our readers the first number of the Jackson Republic. We enter upon its publication not entirely ignorant of the cares and responsibilities of an editor—not wholly unfamiliar with the many perplexing duties with which an editor must contend. Not even the most ripe in editorial lore can suit all his readers, yet faithful efforts are always appreciated and honest exertions will meet their reward.

In making our bow we do not propose to lumber up our valued columns with promises impossible to fulfil, but prefer to let our paper from week to week speak for itself. If we succeed in making the Republic a live, local paper, a credit to Jackson and Jackson county, our object will have been accomplished. That will be our chief aim and to that end we pledge our earnest efforts.

Politics will not be entirely ignored but touched upon as lightly as circumstances will permit. What few words we may venture in this direction will most certainly be viewed from a republican standpoint, yet we will endeavor to not advocate them in such vehemence as to offend even the most fastidious of the twenty-five democrats who have cast their

lot in the republican county of Jackson.

Our paper will be the organ of no one individual, clique or faction, and its aim will be to faithfully chronicle passing events in Jackson county—to lay before its readers from week to week the beauties and advantages of our broad prairies, and to contribute its portion to directing hither our full share of westward immigration.

All we ask is a support commensurate with our desires. If the people of our youthful town and county duly appreciate the advantages to them of a good local paper and will give us the patronage and cooperation they indicate, to make such will be the uniting efforts of

THE PUBLISHERS.

Chamberlin & Avery published the Republic until December 7, 1872, when the junior partner became the sole proprietor. Mr. Avery conducted it until April, 1875, when he sold out to his former partner. Mr. Chamberlin was the editor and proprietor until January 1, 1881, and under his management it was enlarged to an eight column folio. Mr. Chamberlin was one of the ablest journalists that ever

Freeman, Dr. C. L. Morrill, J. W. Cowing & Co., M. A. Strong, S. M. Clark, W. S. Kimball, W. Ashley, Major H. S. Bailey, J. B. Reynolds, J. A. Myers, Isadore A. Moreaux, W. C. Garratt, Mrs. C. A. Bishop, J. W. Seager, J. N. Thompson, David Evans, Jr., Harvey Klock, K. M. Peterson, E. T. Mather, O. E. Bennett, P. P. Haverberg, Simon Olson, A. L. King, Christian Ingbertson, Halver L. Halverson, A. E. Wood, W. S. Curtis, Alex Hall, J. E. Palmer, Isaac Wheeler, Benjamin Harrison, Michael Miller, D. A. Reed, Anders Roe, W. A. Stewart, E. P. Skinner, Charles Frisble, S. W. Burgess, O. Burgess, A. Mirer, Nathaniel Frost, Lewis Parker, George P. Lee, Joseph Thomas, Rev. E. Savage, Rev. J. Door, J. W. Hunter, Alex Fiddes, R. B. Norton, M. S. Barnev, Holsten Olson, Clark Marshall, L. E. Marshall, S. E. Trask, S. S. Barrett, M. J. Clough, I. F. Eddy, Hans Knudson, G. G. Ashley, Samuel Davis, William King, J. K. P. Ivon, Jared Palmer, James Kerr, Calvin Chandler, W. P. Card, John Utter, G. K. Tiffany, Milton Mason, Dr. O. M. Burhans, Samuel Hall, William W. Wiltse, A. N. Thompkins, C. H. Sandon, C. H. Heath, J. K. Johnson, A. J. Borcland, John Richardson, Thad Rucker, Ira G. Walden, I. B. Greenwood, L. W. Seely, Palmer Hill, Philip Yates, W. H. P. Lecocq, Stephen Ford, James W. Thorn, Andrew Laird, George W. Woodin, Dr. R. R. Foster, S. L. Pitcher, M. Fisher, William C. Bates, J. J. Porter, C. Chamberlin, J. P. Prescott, A. Gruhlke, Hans Stall, Clark Baldwin, Lars Rasmussen, Ole E. Olson, J. W. Dunn, S. C. Thaver, O. J. Russell, B. H. Johnson, Nath. B. Hall, B. W. Ashley, Peter Bersaw, B. D. Davton, James Clayton, R. K. Craigue, J. M. Henry, John Logue, Rev. W. F. Rase, A. E. Wheeler, L. J. Wilxon, Henry S. Graves, L. Bordwell, H. P. Wilbur, George A. Bush, A. Galbraith, E. H. Klock, G. E. Stewart, O. F. Alexander, R. N. Woodward, Herman Miller, George W. Stevens, J. W. Benjamin, Allen Gardner, Jr., Clark Lindsley, E. Sevaton,

A. J. Frost, L. O. Beck, L. W. Whitney, Charles Malchow, Walter Withers, Francis Ingraham, George Elliott, E. C. Houston, C. B. Rubert, J. D. Chubb, N. E. Arms, R. K. Johnson, R. E. Bowden, Charles F. Sheldon, E. Clark, B. A. Brown, Julia I. Chandler, D. Cardwell, Henry Blakey, George R. Moore, Laura L. Orwolle, Barney Laughran, Rev. A. H. Sinton, William Gray, J. W. Ray, John Robinson, O. Cooke, W. H. Ashley, Ezra Winslow, S. S. Johnson, D. D. Finch, George D. Foss, L. L. Thompson, H. T. Trumball, E. L. McQuillan, C. D. Denison, John Davies, Levi Camfield, H. Haley, R. D. Larned, William Blaisdell, H. M. McGaughey, Orrin Nason, Darby Whallon, James Thacker, J. H. Willing, Anders R. Kilen, Thomas Goodwin, Charles Holmes, T. Rucker, Menno Eby, Martin L. Bromaghin, A. O. Hovda, John Iefson, Lewis Eckel, T. C. Richmond, A. G. Hall, H. W. Chandler, Frank Parso, Thomas Brooks, C. Gummerson, Ira Camfield, Charles F. Sheldon.

Summit—H. A. Williams, H. H. Stone, L. W. Whitney, Mrs. M. J. Topping, H. Haley, J. H. Willing.

Minnesota—O. Burgess, John Richardson, I. B. Greenwood, William C. Bates, L. Bordwell, George Ellet, H. P. Wilbur, H. P. Ballard, S. W. Burgess, A. B. Stimpson.

Graham Lakes—John Crapsey, Benjamin Harrison, H. C. Hallett, Charles Drury, S. R. Harris, L. W. Oakes, F. A. Doore, B. F. Tanner, H. L. Wallace, J. H. Cunningham, E. W. Hesselroth, W. H. Brown.

Norwegian—A. A. Soule, M. F. Higgins, Rozell Seager.

Petersburg—J. H. Baker, C. W. Cornish, A. Gruhlke, Ezra Fortner, George D. Stone, Rev. P. Baker, J. A. Middaugh, S. Middaugh, J. C. Hoovel.

Big Bend—Orrin Nason, H. M. McGaughey, George D. Foss, S. S. Johnson, Ezra Winslow, William Gray, Charles Sheldon, R. K. Johnson, Allen Gardner, Jr., C. Chamberlin, David Evans, Jr., Barney Laughran.

published a paper in southwestern Minnesota. Under his management the paper was always bright and newsy, sparkling with good humor, bringing cheer to the frontier settlers.

Burt W. Day owned and edited the Republic from January, 1881, to April 1, 1887. It then passed into the hands of A. B. Allen, who presided over its destinies over twelve years. Soon after taking control he enlarged the paper to a six column quarto, and during part of the time it was an all home print paper. Sherman J. Dunn bought a half interest from Mr. Allen the first of the year 1893, and was a part owner until June, 1894.

W. C. Hartson bought the Republic October 1, 1899. In 1902 he increased the size to a seven column quarto, and on May 5, 1903, began the publication of a semi-weekly, issuing Tuesdays and Fridays. The ownership of the paper passed into the hands of O. C. Gould, of Fairmont, in September, 1903, and Nelson P. G.-Wright was installed as manager. The semi-weekly was discontinued at that time. Mr. Wright left the paper in June, 1904. From Jackson he went to Mountain Lake and then disappeared from the face of the earth; nothing has even been heard of him since.

Mr. C. F. Mallahan, who had been publishing the Jackson Tribune, bought the paper from Mr. Gould in June, 1904, consolidated the two plants, and was the publisher and editor of the Republic until his death, which occurred August 29, 1909. Mr. Mallahan was a publisher of many years experience and published a very creditable paper. The Republic has been republican in politics during its entire life of forty years.

Jackson county's second newspaper was the Heron Lake Guardian, which was founded by S. S. Haislet early in October, 1880. It was a little five column

paper and started out with considerable patronage, but Heron Lake was a small place in which to successfully conduct a newspaper, and after many trials and tribulations it was discontinued. It was published until April, 1883. Mr. Haislet shipped the plant to Adrian and commenced the publication of the Adrian Guardian, with which paper he was identified many years.

The third paper to begin life in Jackson county was the Minnesota Citizen, started at Lakefield by Carl S. Eastwood, now of the Heron Lake News, on November 30, 1883. The Citizen was a seven column folio, was independent in politics and sold for \$1.50 a year. Mr. Eastwood published a very good paper and it was heartily welcomed by the little village of Lakefield. On July 1, 1885, Mr. Eastwood sold to L. W. Seely, and that gentleman conducted the publication until October 9, 1885.

R. H. Lueneburg became the editor and publisher on the last named date. On April 14, 1886, he changed the name to Lakefield Standard and the form from a seven column folio to a five column quarto. Mr. Lueneburg sold the Standard September 25, 1890, to H. N. Douglas and W. A. Funk, but bought it back again December 11, of the same year. John and Thomas Crawford became the owners October 15, 1891, and conducted the paper as partners until January 1, 1895, when John Crawford withdrew and Thomas Crawford became the sole publisher. William Crawford bought a half interest August 21, 1897, and the firm became Crawford & Crawford, William Crawford being editor and Thomas Crawford business manager. There were many changes in the form of the paper under the management of the Crawfords. They published an excellent paper and took a leading part in looking after Lakefield's



interests during the county seat fights.

Crawford Brothers retired September 1, 1906, and were succeeded by R. H. Lueneburg and J. W. Daubney, the present proprietors. Mr. Lueneburg is the active member of the firm and issues a good paper. It is a seven column, six page paper and is printed entirely in the home office. The plant from which it is issued is a model one.

The Heron Lake Wave was founded by H. L. Frost January 22, 1886. It was started as an independent paper and was a seven column quarto. Mr. Frost published an able paper but he and his patrons could not agree, and he sold out in August, 1886. Carl S. Eastwood was the buyer of the good will and subscription list of the Wave, the former publisher removing the plant. Mr. Eastwood put in a new plant, changed the name to Heron Lake News and the politics of the paper from independent to straight republican. The next June he enlarged the News to an eight column folio and added to the equipment of the office.

August 15, 1893, Mr. Eastwood bought the Worthington Advance and moved to that city. From that date until March, 1894, the News was conducted by C. F. Mallahan, late of the Jackson Republic, under a lease from Mr. Eastwood. The paper was then bought by G. A. Fairfield, who continued its publication until December, 1902, when Mr. Eastwood, the former owner, again moved to Heron Lake and purchased the plant. The News is republican in politics and is one of the strong papers of the party. A linotype was installed in the office in January, 1908, from which is set the matter for many of the papers in the vicinity.

For a short time in 1887 the Wilder Globe had an existence. It was edited by Rev. D. Griffin Gunn, of Wilder, and was printed in the office of the Heron Lake

News. The first number was issued in June.

The next paper to consider in the chronological order of founding is the Jackson County Pilot, which was started at Jackson by V. B. Crane on September 12, 1889. The plant was brought from Spirit Lake, where Mr. Crane had been publishing the Spirit Lake Pilot. At the time of its founding it was a seven column folio and democratic. It was enlarged to an eight column paper in October, 1891. Mr. Crane conducted the Pilot until April 12, 1894, when W. Stanley Kimball became the owner and publisher. He made the paper a five column quarto and presided over its destinies until August 8, 1895. On that date James Manning became the editor and publisher. On March 26, 1896, he enlarged the journal to a six column quarto, a form it has ever since retained.

John L. King and J. C. McCroden bought the Pilot from Mr. Manning November 26, 1896, and conducted it as partners until November 10, 1900, at which time Mr. King bought his partner's interest. Since that date Mr. King has been sole publisher. He conducts an excellent journal and receives good support from the people of Jackson county. The Pilot is democratic and has been ever since its founding.

The first number of the Jackson County Times was taken from the press at Heron Lake September 20, 1895. It was founded as a democratic paper, was a seven column folio, and Harry G. Maxfield was the proprietor. John S. Woolstencroft bought the paper January 24, 1896, and continued to conduct it as a democratic journal. C. L. Wing was managing editor for a time, but in July Mr. Woolstencroft assumed full management. The paper was made a five column quarto in February, 1896, and in May,

1899, was enlarged to a six column quarto, the form it still retains. From February 21, 1903, to September, 1908, O. C. Hansell owned a half interest in the Times, the firm name being Woolstencroft & Hansell during this period. Mr. Woolstencroft again became the sole owner and has since managed it alone. He wields a trenchant pen and has made the Times a factor to be reckoned with in the affairs of Jackson county.

The Lakefield Herald was founded November 15, 1895, by Louis N. Duchaine as a republican paper. R. H. Lueneburg became the publisher in May, 1900, and put in a new office. Clifford S. Bell bought the Herald September 1, 1902, and conducted it until May, 1904. At that time Crawford & Crawford, publishers of the Standard, bought the Herald and consolidated the two plants.

For a few years the little village of Alpha supported a newspaper. This was

the Jackson County Argus and was founded May 30, 1901, by W. H. Hassing. A. A. Kruger became the editor and proprietor in May, 1902, and conducted the paper until March, 1905. On that date G. E. Robinson bought the plant. He conducted it until October, 1905, when publication was suspended, the field proving too small to properly support a newspaper. The subscription list and good will were bought by the proprietor of the Jackson Republic, and the plant was moved away.

The Jackson Tribune was the name of a paper which had an existence of one year. It was a six column quarto and was founded June 5, 1903, by C. F. Mallahan, who conducted it as an independent republican journal. One year later Mr. Mallahan purchased the Republic, consolidated the two and continued publication under the name of Jackson Republic.



## XXIV.

### REMINISCENT.

**I**N GATHERING data for a volume of this kind one runs across many stories of the early days for which no place can be found in the historical part but which are truly interesting and in many instances throw vivid light on early day conditions. These have been preserved and are here incorporated under the chapter heading "Reminiscent." Most of these stories have been written by early day residents and published in the local newspapers in years gone by; others are original, prepared by the author from data gathered from various sources.

#### INKPADUTA'S INDIANS.

After the massacre at Springfield Inkpaduta and his Indians proceeded west into Dakota, taking with them their white women captives. One of these was Abbie Gardner (now Mrs. Gardner-Sharp), the fourteen year old girl taken from the Spirit lake settlement. She was with the Indians over three months before being ransomed and had opportunity for gaining insight into the customs, manners and beliefs of this ruthless band of savages. In her valued History of the Spirit Lake Massacre, she tells of many things learned during this enforced sojourn which proved of great value to those interested in gaining intimate knowledge

of this bloodthirsty band. I quote at length from Mrs. Sharp's history:

"A male Indian never does anything that can be called labor; it is against his principles, and would lower his dignity. Work is only fit for women. Such is an Indian's sense of honor. The women are only slaves; and we, poor captives, were slaves of the slaves.

"The Indians have no equal as gormandizers; they are perfectly devoid of anything like delicacy of appetite or taste or decency in the matter. Every part of an animal is devoured, cooked or raw, clean or unclean; the smaller game is sometimes cooked without opening; and if the entrails are taken out they are thrown on the fire and roasted and eaten by the squaws, this being considered the right of the cook. Animals that have lain dead until putrescence has well begun are devoured with avidity. Fish found along the beach that have lain until the flesh was actually dropping from the bone were eaten without even being cooked, and pronounced 'wash-ta-do!' (very good!). It was no unusual thing indeed to see the most delicate belles in Inkpaduta's train picking from the head of a papoose vermin—such as Burns saw on the lady's bonnet at church—and cracking them in their teeth.

"They have no regularity about their meals. It is always dinner time if they have anything to eat. They will eat until they can eat no longer; and then lie down and grunt and puff like cattle gorged with grass in the spring time, or like overfed swine. Thus they will lie and sleep and snore for an hour or two; then get up and smoke, and eat again. This is especially the habit of the 'gentlemen' of the party; the 'ladies' contenting themselves with what their lords cannot eat, and resting their weary bodies by cutting wood and backing it up; or by preparing something more to please the taste of their 'better halves.'

"The Indian is an inveterate smoker, and if he had whisky would go to the same extremes with that. They got a large quantity of tobacco from the whites, more especially at Springfield; but all this would not have lasted long if they had not extended it by a free use of kinnikinick—a species of red willow that grows abundantly on wet soil throughout the northwest. They frequently smoke the leaves, but prefer the bark, which is much stronger. It acts as a narcotic. The squaws prepare the bark by scraping it off the twigs and drying it, in the winter by the fire on a grate made of strips of bark woven across a frame, and in summer on a piece of buckskin in the sun. We were frequently compelled to help prepare it.

"Their lodges or tepees are conical tents and vary in size from fourteen to twenty feet or more in diameter; they are made of the thickest, heaviest kind of cloth, or skins, and kept in shape by nine poles. The fire is built in the center, and the smoke escapes through an aperture at the top, made for that purpose. They make their beds of straw, mats, blankets, buffalo robes, etc. These they arrange around the fire, and on them they not

only sleep, but eat and sit to smoke through the day.

"The dress of the males, ordinarily, consists of deer-skin leggings, having the resemblance of the lower half of pantaloons; moccasins cover the feet and complete the dress of the lower extremities. A belt or girdle surrounds the waist, and under this is drawn a piece of blue broadcloth, about a quarter of a yard in width and a yard and a half in length, or long enough to pass between the lower extremities, and the ends fall over and form a flap in front and on the back of the lower portion of the body. A short skirt of buckskin—sometimes fringed around the bottom—and a blanket complete the outfit of the men. In addition to this, however, may be seen a fathom of scarlet or blue cloth, worn around the waist as a sash, and another of like material, or a shawl, around the head as a turban.

"With the female a calico chemise covers the arms and body a little below the waist; a skirt of blue broadcloth is confined around the waist by a belt or girdle and extends nearly to the ankles; a pair of red or blue pantalets and moccasins complete the under dress. To this is added a blanket or fathom of red or blue broadcloth, to be used as an outer garment or wrap. With this the usual dress of the squaw is complete. Their blankets are white, red, blue or green, composed of fine wool and of superior fabrication.

"The principal root we had was wild artichoke. They also got two or three other kinds of roots; one, although growing in the ground, resembled beans; another being longer and more irregular in form, and of a light color, nearly white. All these were roasted, boiled or eaten raw, as fancy or convenience led them to do. Unpalatable as these roots were, but for them we must have famished.

"Among the game killed and greedily

devoured were geese, ducks, swans, brants, pelicans and cranes of the fowl kind; and of quadrupeds there were beaver, otter, muskrat, skunk, etc., and fish. The fowls were prepared for the kettle by simply pulling off the roughest of the feathers, without washing or dressing. They were eaten without salt or seasoning. Beaver and otter were singed to free them of the thickest of the fur, pitched into a pot and boiled.

"When cooked these savory meats were dished out into wooden bowls, each bowl holding a quart or more, and eaten with spoons made of buffalo horns. Most savory among these savory meats was the polecat or skunk.

"Each Indian has his place in the wigwam, into which he drops as regularly as cattle into their stalls in a stable. The squaws dish up the food into these bowls and hand them to their lordly masters, who sit and eat at the meat and drink the soup and pass up their dishes for more until the supply is gone.

"We were absolutely compelled to eat whatever was given to us, or to dispose of it unknown to them. Frequently they would give me things I could not possibly swallow, for instance, fish of which the flesh was so decomposed it was falling from the bone. In such cases I would watch my opportunity and drop it inside my blanket, from which I would throw it away when on the march. Possibly skunk meat might not be so bad if properly dressed, but singed and boiled entire it was almost too savory to suit my taste.

"The long poles used in the construction of their tepees are made into small bundles by being bound together at the ends. Then two of these bundles are attached to a strong thong of rawhide long enough to go around a horse's neck where the collar usually goes. The poles are so attached as to be a foot or more apart,

and when the thong is fastened at the horse's neck, the smaller ends of the poles will be at his shoulders, while the others will drag on the ground. The travies, a large hoop, oval in shape and woven across with bark or buckskin, are attached to the poles, just back of the horse's heels. On this were placed such articles as they did not choose to carry or such persons as were not able to walk. The loads which even ponies were made to haul in this awkward manner were immense. Besides these heavy loads on the travies, it is not unusual to see an Indian on the back of the pony and heavy laden baskets at the sides. Even the dogs were made to haul smaller travies, yet large enough to be perfectly barbarous. The creatures would pull as if for dear life until perfectly exhausted, when they would drop to the ground, as if dead, and lie there a few minutes, then get up and trudge on again. Thus, day after day, these half-fed animals were made to toil to the utmost limit of possible endurance for their lazy masters.

"Their death song is a wild, hideous succession of cadences, utterly unlike the plaints of despair or grief, but rather a wild, unearthly sound, expressive of only savage passion, impressive to witness and startling to hear. Every night at the same hour, for several weeks, this passionate wailing was repeated. The mother would begin; then others, one after the other, would break out in the wild wail, until not only those in the tepee where the death occurred, but also those in other tepees who were related to the deceased, had joined in the lamentations. Thus, for weeks, the twilight hours were made hideous by these horrible sounds, which once heard can never be forgotten.

"After death the body was still borne on the travies for several days, closely wrapped in a blanket. When we reached

the desired grove, a platform was constructed of poles laid across two horizontal limbs of a large oak tree, and, by means of strips of bark tied to the body, it was hauled up for burial. There the poor emaciated body was laid to rest, after having been dragged around so long. And thus the Sioux bury their dead.

"A Sioux mother binds her infant to a small board when a few hours old. It is first imbedded in the feathery heads of the cat-tail flag (picked to pieces), and wrapped around with strips of cloth or buckskin, commencing at the feet and extending upward until all but the head is enveloped. It is then placed on a board and firmly bound with a blanket. This keeps it straight, protects it from injury in the rough treatment it receives, and is altogether more convenient for their mode of living than any other arrangement. From this confined position they are relieved only for a few minutes at a time, and this only at long intervals.

"When old enough to run alone it is relieved of its swathing bands, and if the weather is warm it is turned loose, without an article of clothing to protect or impede the action of its limbs. In the tepees the papooses are stood up against the wall, even from the first, and are almost no trouble at all. On the march they are stuck in the panniers on the horses, or on the backs of the squaws, inside of their blankets, or in any manner convenience may suggest.

"When I came to see how the children were educated and what was the early home training (if home they can be said to have), I ceased to wonder at their savagery. From their earliest childhood they are taught that fighting and killing are the highest virtues. The war-dance is a school eminently adapted to this end. There all the fierce and cruel deeds in

which each has participated are recited in a manner that might

'Stir a fever in the blood of age  
Or make an infant's sinews strong as steel.'

Not only this, but the private recitals, around the fire in the tepees, and all the intercourse of the children with each other, their sport (if sports they may be called), tend to the same end.

"Occasionally there would be a day so stormy and cold that even a Sioux would not travel. These were to me more dreaded, even, than the wearisome marches, because of being crowded in the tepee by the side of the young scions, with their dirty faces and noses, who here had a good opportunity of developing their true nature. There were 'wars and rumors of wars' from morning till night. They would fight, pull hair, scratch and bite until their faces were smeared with blood, the squaws not only making no attempt to restrain them, but actually cheering and urging them on, laughing in great glee when they got in some lucky hit, or if they showed fierce or revengeful dispositions. With such training is it strange that they grow to be what they are? 'As the twig is bent the tree is inclined.'

"The highest ambition of the young warrior is to secure the 'feather,' which is the testimonial of his having murdered some human being; but securing one feather only whets his zeal for more, as his rank or standing depends upon the number of his feathers. These are worn in the hair until enough are obtained to make a cap or headgear. No one would be allowed to wear a feather which did not represent a life taken, any more than in our regular army a captain would be allowed to wear the shoulder straps of a colonel. The head-dress, filled with these eagle feathers and other insignia of blood, is regarded as 'Wakan' (most sacred),

and no unhallowed hand of man or woman dare touch it.

"The Sioux believe in one great spirit, the maker of heaven and earth. They also believe in subordinate spirits, both good and bad, and in the immortality of the soul. The great spirit, they believe, created everything except wild rice and thunder. The rice they believe to be beneath the workmanship of the great one, and attribute it to chance. Thunder they believe to be the sound of the wings of an immense bird.

"They believe that somewhere in the heavens are cities and villages where the spirits of the departed remain at war with their enemies, and where the Sioux will always find plenty of game. They believe the spirits of the dead have power to inflict injury. They therefore offer sacrifices to appease them.

"They adore the great spirit, although they have distorted conceptions of the attributes of the deity. Various objects, animate and inanimate, are worshipped. Sometimes they think the great spirit angry with them, as when storms do them harm. They then make sacrifices of animals and other things to pacify him, that they may prosper in life.

"They support a non-hereditary sacerdotal order, the same person being both priest and medicine-man. They have also what may be termed jugglers, who, they believe, have power to confer blessings or curses. They have little conception of rewards and punishment after death.

"In cases of sickness they perform ceremonies, which are expected to cure the sick. They also believe in dreams and omens. When they have a good dream, they suppose some friendly spirit has been near them; but bad dreams indicate that of an enemy. The bat they regard as an evil omen, and dread the *ignis*

*fatuus*, believing it a certain sign of death in the family of the one who sees it.

"In war and hunting they are directed by signs and dreams. The signs may be the running of animals, flying of birds, or sounds at night. They think some animals have souls and that the bear has four, but do not believe in the transmigration of souls as do some of the people of Asia.

"Their fabled monsters are Haokuk, the giant, and Unkatahe. The giant could stand astride the tallest pine tree or the broadest river, lives on the fat of animals, and is armed with a huge bow and arrow. They believe he yet lives and can kill them with a look from his piercing eye. The Unkatahe is an animal of two kinds, one of the water and one of the land. They are supposed to possess great power and can even kill the thunder. They also believe in fairies who inhabit all strange places, in rivers, lakes, cliffs, mountains and forests.

"The manners, customs and institutions of the Dakotas have many of the patriarchal features of the ancients. They strictly observe the feast of the first fruits, and all animals offered in sacrifice must be the best. In some of the feasts they are obliged to eat all that has been cooked. After a religious feast incense is offered, the host taking a large coal from the fire, upon which the foliage of the cedar is laid, and with this the vessels are perfumed. Certain animals they regard with great veneration, among these the serpent, turtle, wolf, grizzly bear and eagle."

#### A TRIP TO SLOCUM'S.

Illustrative of the hardships endured and the dangers encountered by the Springfield settlers during the long and severe winter of 1856-57 is the following account of a trip to the home of Isaac Slocum, who lived on the Watonwan, written by Mr. Jareb Palmer. The events



described occurred just prior to the massacre:

"Bright and early on the morning of the tenth of March John Dodson and I started on our long and lonely journey of more than fifty miles across the trackless prairie, covered with at least three feet of snow. We had discarded our boots and put on Indian moccasins that our feet might be the lighter for the long tramp. There had been a slight thaw a few days before, and now there was a crust on the snow that bore our weight most of the time, and we were able to make pretty fair progress notwithstanding the great depth of snow.

"Soon after we started a brisk wind arose from the northwest, but the hard crust prevented the snow from flying much. Dodson proved to be a swift walker and I was kept busy trying to keep up with him, but I managed to do it, not without great effort. About one o'clock we passed to the north of Cedar lake, but did not stop as we were anxious to press on, in order to reach a vacant cabin situated on the Watanwon, about twelve miles from Cedar lake. A short time before sundown we reached the cabin. It was one of the cabins built for the accommodation of the mail carrier, and if all of them were of the same character as this one it is no wonder that the carrier perished. It was built of small logs with large cracks between them, which had not been chinked, and no attempt at plastering had been made. The roof was of hay, supported by brush. There was a doorway but no door to close it. There was no chimney or other place to build a fire, except what little might be made in the middle of the cabin, and then there was danger of setting fire to the hay overhead.

"By the time night had fairly set in the wind was howling at a terrible rate,

driving the snow through the cracks of the cabin like water through a sieve, nearly putting out what little fire we dared to keep. There we prepared to pass the night as best we might. We prepared our fuel for the night, cooked and ate our supper, and then wrapped our blankets tightly around us and sat around our diminutive fire watching with sleepless eyes the slow hours as they sped silently into eternity; and it looked as though we might be called to follow them to that silent shore. Sleep was out of the question, as we had all we could possibly do to keep from freezing—in fact, in all my experiences on the frontier and during three years in the army, I do not think I put in a more disagreeable night. But it finally wore away, as all nights will, be they ever so terrible, and morning came at last. The wind still blew at a terrible rate and the snow was blowing so badly that travel was out of the question. So we set about improving the conditions of our surroundings, expecting that we would be obliged to pass the day and another night where we were. About nine o'clock the wind subsided and we continued our journey, and about noon reached the home of Mr. Slocum.

"I must admit I was pretty badly used up and did not care to go any farther. The sun reflected from the snow had affected my eyes so that I could scarcely see at all. Here was where we were to have found the traps, there being a blacksmith here who was to have made them, but they were not ready. The next morning Mr. Dodson went on to Mankato, while I remained at Slocum's.

"We had reached Slocum's on Tuesday, and on Thursday evening William Wood and Nathaniel Frost came along with Mr. Wood's two yoke of oxen, another team and a span of horses and a sleigh. Two teamsters accompanied the Springfield

men. Mr. Wood intended to attempt to get his goods home, for he knew that the people were almost on the verge of starvation for the want of them. Mr. Wood had attempted this some time before, but had only succeeded in getting them a mile or two this side of Slocum's, where he had left them for several weeks in a covered sleigh, without any other protection. Mr. Wood desired me to return with him, which I concluded to do.

"So, on Friday morning we all started to make the attempt. Mr. Frost had recovered from his frozen feet, so that he was able to accompany us. On reaching Wood's sleigh we divided the load, placing it on three sleighs or sleds, and commenced our journey. By dint of shoveling snow, beating roads, and other devices, we succeeded in moving the load about two miles before nightfall. The hired men became disgusted with the undertaking, and, taking their teams, made their way back to Slocum's. Wood, Frost and myself replaced the load on Wood's sleigh. Then we made our camp by the side of the sleigh and passed a very comfortable night, for Wood had quite a stock of blankets for the Indian trade, upon which we drew for bedding. In the morning we also returned to Slocum's, and during the remainder of the day busied ourselves making handsleds and getting ready to renew the journey on foot.

"The next morning we started out, each dragging a handsled, upon which was bound a hundred pound sack of flour. We also took an axe, a shovel, blankets, some bread and meat, a coffee pot and frying pan. During the fore part of the day we were able to make good progress, but during the afternoon the crust got soft and we could make but little headway, for, although the snow held up the sleds fairly well, it didn't hold us up. We made only about ten miles the first day, and at night

camped on a small creek, a branch of the Watonwan. The next morning we continued our journey, intending to reach Cedar lake; but a blinding snow storm set in and for a time it looked as though we would not be able to keep our course at all. At one time, I, being somewhat fatigued, lagged a little behind the others and they were soon out of sight, and the wind blew so hard it covered their tracks almost as soon as made. Still, although I could neither see them nor their tracks, I supposed I was following after them till Mr. Frost came to me and told me that I was going in the wrong direction. He, looking with the storm, had been able to see farther than I, looking against it, and had looked back and discovered me traveling quite out of my course. Mr. Wood then remained stationary and Mr. Frost came after me; then, by Mr. Wood's hallooing occasionally, we were able to find him again. When once more together we proceeded on our way, Wood piloting us, as it seemed to me, by instinct as I could see nothing by which to keep our course. But then, he had been over the route several times and was probably able to recognize an occasional landmark.

"We finally reached Cedar lake, where we made our camp in the south side of a grove. We got there some time before nightfall and had ample time to prepare for the night. We cut down quite a large tree and then shoveled the snow away on one side for some fifteen feet back from the log and made a good fire against the log. With plenty to eat and plenty of blankets to keep us warm, we were for once quite comfortable.

"The next day we started for the Des Moines, but had not gone over a mile when we found that we could not keep on on account of the snow flying so thick. As we could still see the timber we had left, we retraced our steps and soon reoccupied

the camp we had so recently left. We remained until the next morning, when, the weather being fair, we resumed our journey. As the crust was hard during the early part of the day, we made good progress for some time, but before noon it got soft, and we were unable to proceed with our heavily laden sleds, so we left them and made our way toward the timber. We left the sleds about four miles from the settlement and must have been two hours in making the four miles, the snow being so soft and deep that it was almost impossible to make any progress in wading through it. Before reaching the timber Mr. Wood left Frost and myself and went by the way of Church's house, as he had some mail for them. Frost and I went north of the grove and crossed the river opposite Woods' store, where we arrived about two o'clock p. m. on the 19th of March."

#### THE PRAIRIE FIRES.

Those who lived in Jackson county during the years of its early settlement, and up into the eighties, will never forget the alarm caused by the approach of a prairie fire. Many of the present generation are skeptical of the dangers to life and property from this source. Others can but marvel at the conditions that made a prairie fire dangerous or even possible. But conditions in the early days differed greatly from those of the present day. Then there were vast stretches of sparsely settled and unbroken prairie, covered with a dense growth of rank grass, which in the low places often grew to a great height. In the fall the grass died and formed a thick covering of highly inflammable material, which "burned like a prairie fire" when it became ignited.

When a heavy wind accompanied one of these conflagrations the effect was thrilling. The flames would race over the

prairie with the speed of the wind, leaping, bounding, rushing on their fiery way. By day the air would be filled with smoke and cinders and the atmosphere would become hazy; at night the heavens would be illumined by the blaze, and the bright lines of the raging fires could be seen, often miles in length. After the passing, the prairie would be left a blackened waste.

The few scattered settlers were in the greatest danger when one of these fires approached. Many settlers lost their whole belongings, and but few escaped without loss from this source. "Firebreaks," made by plowing furrows around the buildings or hay stacks, sometimes served as a check to the flames, but with a strong head wind the flames often jumped hundreds of feet, and in such cases the breaks were no protection. The favorite method of fighting fire was by "back-firing." When one of the terrors of the prairie was seen approaching with the wind, a fire would be set near the property to be saved. This, small at first, could be controlled and whipped out on the leeward side, leaving the flames to slowly eat their way windward to meet the oncoming lurid destroyer. Sometimes a space of sufficient width would thus be burned over in time to prevent the destruction. In case of a big conflagration fire fighting companies would be organized to go out and contend with the flames, using dampened sacks, quilts or whatever was handy, to whip out the blaze.

Prairie fires continued a menace to the people of Jackson county many years, or until the county had become quite thickly settled and subdued. Seldom did an autumn pass in the early days without one or more disastrous conflagration in some part of the county. Several times the villages were threatened with destruction, and companies had to be formed to go out

and fight the approaching fires. One such occasion was on October 4, 1872, when a fierce prairie fire approached Jackson from the north. Fire fighters overcame the flames before any serious damage was done, however.

Early in October, 1873, was a mammoth prairie fire which raged four days. There had been an immense growth of grass during the summer and the fires burned fiercely. The air was full of falling cinders and smoke for days. Although the fire was the largest that had been known for years and the wind was high, there was, fortunately, little loss to crops and buildings. The editor of the Jackson Republic, October 11, 1873, described the magnificence of the scene:

"The fire was continually coming nearer, until on Wednesday evening it rushed over the hill a mile or so south of town and ended its forward course in the ravine and skirting roads leading into town. On going out a mile or two from the village at a late hour we were favored, upon reaching the brow of the bluffs overlooking the prairie, with one of the most magnificent sights ever beheld. There before us lay the prairie as far as the eye could scan, a perfect sea of fire, with only here and there a dark spot where the flames were checked by the protected premises of some settler, around which might be seen moving, like some wierd specters before the blaze, the settler and his family as they watched and fought the fire."

A bad fire raged in LaCrosse township on January 16, 1876, that came near wiping out the village of Heron Lake. It was started two or three miles west of the village, and, driven on by a terrific wind, spread rapidly and in a few minutes assumed alarming proportions. The greatest excitement prevailed and many narrow escapes were reported. In the village anxious groups watched the progress of the

fire, which, fortunately, was overcome before it reached the village.

October, 1879, will be remembered as the date of the most disastrous prairie fires that ever visited the county, so far as property loss is concerned. Fires raged in all parts of the county for two weeks and baffled the efforts of the settlers to overcome them. They swooped down upon what was supposed to be well protected property, which, under ordinary circumstances, would have kept back the flames, but a high and continued south wind proved too powerful a fan and large losses resulted.

In Petersburg township, on the 5th and 7th, the settlers were out in full force, and by almost superhuman efforts only were they able to save their homes. As it was, E. T. Mather lost 17 tons of hay and Mr. Russell a grove of young timber. In Wisconsin Herman Miller and John Gerlach lost 26 tons of hay. In Enterprise James Taylor lost 25 tons of hay and Darius Benjamin 30 tons. The grove of young trees belonging to Dr. Brownell was also burned. The fires raged fiercely in Kimball. They burned a stable belonging to Charles Erickson and a number of hogs belonging to the same farmer. Charles Kendall lost several small pigs in the same fire. A stable and hay belonging to John Peterson were burned, as well as 15 tons of hay belonging to Mr. Schoewe and several tons belonging to R. H. Wade.

In Minneota Mr. Gilfillan lost several stacks of hay. In Hunter Fred Bedient lost all his property except the house. A. D. Palmer and H. K. Rue each had hay destroyed. The village of Lakefield, then just founded, was threatened with destruction, but the citizens turned out and set back-fires and saved the town. Charles Malchow, of Heron Lake township, lost 700 bushels of oats, 120 bushels of wheat, some corn and a hen house. In West Her-

on Lake Evan Peterson lost his stable, grain and hay.

Fred Schuldt, of Rost, lost 300 bushels of oats, 75 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of barley and his granary and his reaper. In Sioux Valley the loss was large and came with crushing effect on several parties. A flock of 94 sheep owned by Frank Benoit and others was burned to death while penned in a yard. The flames came with such fury that they could not be checked. The hay, grain and stable of Mr. Benoit were also burned. Jareb Palmer lost all his hay and a young grove. Charles H. Greer lost everything except his house. In Ewington Sorem Iverson lost his stable and all his hay.

Four human lives were lost in one of the ever-dreaded prairie fires which visited Sioux Valley township on November 2, 1888. Mrs. Mollie O'Connor and her baby and her sister, Mrs. Katie Porter, were three of the victims. They were visiting at the home of F. E. Murphy when they saw the fire and decided to hurry home. When about a half mile on their way the wind suddenly changed and drove the fire down upon them. They were unable to escape and were burned to death on the prairie.

Miss Julia O'Connor, who was teaching school in the Sawyer district, saw the fire approaching, and, realizing the danger, took her pupils out onto a nearby piece of plowed ground, where she kept them until the danger was past. Henry Ray was fighting fire near the school house. Noticing the flames approaching some unprotected stacks, he mounted a horse and set out to back-fire. The next that was seen of him was when he was coming toward the party of school children with every particle of clothing except his boots burned off. He was horribly burned and died the next day.

Such were the dangers encountered

from the dreaded prairie fire by the pioneers of the county. With the later settlement came the breaking up of the prairie, and the dangers were a thing of the past.

#### THE EDITOR ARRIVES.

(By George C. Chamberlin.)<sup>1</sup>

I remained at Blue Earth City a week or two and then set out for my new home, Jackson, about the last of August, 1866. At that time the only public conveyance into this country was the Blue Earth City and Spirit Lake weekly or semi-weekly stage, by way of East Chain, Center Chain, Tenhassen and Emmet, to Spirit Lake. I was switched off at Emmet, where a weekly line commenced for Jackson. The next day was Thursday, the day for the Jackson stage. It not only rained, but it poured—it was before it had forgotten how to rain in this country. I looked anxiously for that stage, when—imagine my disappointment—Frank Bailey, then a mere boy, rode up with the mail on horseback. That settled it for me for another week unless I could procure private conveyance, and horse teams were then out of the question.

The postmaster, a Mr. Mattson, owned a pair of steers and some wagon wheels and I negotiated with him to take me to Jackson, sixteen miles distant. The next morning he took two boards and put on those wheels, placed my trunk thereon, and I mounted that for my seat. Mr. Mattson sat on the boards in front with a gad eight or ten feet long extended over his shoulder. He must have cut that gad in Emmet timber, and if it had remained until the present time I will warrant there would have been two cords of wood in that tree. As poor as I am today, I would give ten dollars for a picture of that rig

<sup>1</sup>In an address delivered before the old settlers association at a picnic in Petersburg township September 5, 1889.

SOME COUNTRY CHURCHES.



ROST



EAST BELMONT



PETERSBURG



DELAFIELD



CHRISTIANIA



WEST BELMONT

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

as we set out on our trip through the tall prairie grass. Had any of you, twenty-three years ago last Saturday [September 1, 1866], been out here on some high point in this beautiful town of Petersburg you would have seen that little procession moving majestically along through the tall grass, your humble servant perched upon that trunk, fighting flying ants with both hands and emitting them by the mouthful.

We passed Mr. Barber's, just across the Iowa line, and that was the last house until we reached Mr. Belknap's, a mile or two this side [southeast] of Mr. Thomas'.

Through the entire town of Petersburg, where now are fine farms with large wheat and corn fields on every hand, elegant residences and magnificent groves, there was not a single settler on the east side of the river. On the west side resided Rev. Peter Baker, Mr. Price, Mr. Cornish and perhaps one or two others. Farther up lived Mr. Samuel Hall, then the Camfields, and then Mr. [Jared] Palmer. This included at that time about all the settlers between the state line and Jackson.

#### ADVENTURE IN A BLIZZARD.

A volume could be filled with the stories of adventures in the terrible prairie winter storms in Jackson county alone. Many experiences are on record and hundreds more are retained in the memory of those who participated in them. Many people have lost their lives in blizzards in Jackson county, and many others escaped only because of pluck, endurance and luck. Of the many stories told I shall here reproduce only one or two, illustrative of the many.

The following account of an adventure in one of the storms of the early seventies is told by a lady who was at the time a child and lived with the family six miles

south of Jackson. The head of the family and the older children were away from home working, and before the blizzard struck, the mother went to one of the neighbors, a mile away. The story continues:

"Soon after four o'clock we began to do our evening chores. We had only begun when the wind suddenly turned into the northwest and began to blow a perfect gale. Allie and I were told to hasten and bring up the cattle that were feeding in the cornstalks a short distance away. Before we had reached the field they seemed to have become conscious of danger, too, and, raising their heads and sniffing the air a moment, they stampeded for the stable, bellowing and snorting, running past us, each one trying to be the first under shelter. Before we reached the house again the wind was blowing furiously and the cold increasing. The horses and cattle were now driven to their places and tied as quickly as possible; then we began to carry hay from the hay stack to fill the hay pen in the stable, for now we knew that a blizzard was upon us and we would need hay enough to feed the cattle for two or three days. Father usually kept the hay pen filled with hay in case of a storm, but for some reason he had neglected to fill it since the last storm, and it was with great difficulty and considerable suffering that we got it again filled.

"When the chores were all done and everything made as comfortable as possible out doors, we went to the house and gathered around the warm fire, while Dell, the oldest, began to prepare the evening meal. This she left every few minutes to go to the window to peer out into the storm for father and mother, whom she hoped a merciful Providence would guide home through the dreadful storm. Supper was at last ready and we gathered



about the table, every eye to the vacant places, and each heart filled with additional fear. The meal was scarcely tasted, except by Allie and I, and we were not as yet old enough to fully realize the fearful circumstances. After supper was over the lamp was set in the window, so that father or mother or some of our neighbors, whom we knew to be away from home, might see it and thus find their way to the house; then we sat down by the fire to listen.

"Twice the wind forced open the door, and we were compelled to prop it with heavy sticks of cordwood to keep it shut. Twice we thought some one was trying to force an entrance through the door, and with white and terrified faces my brother and Dell unbarred it, to find nothing but the storm and the night—and, oh, what a night! The air was so completely filled with snow, and it was so fearfully cold.

"One who has never been in a blizzard can have but the slightest conception of how dreadful they are. Before midnight we had burned all the wood that was cut and we were compelled to cut up the dry cordwood that had been saved for this purpose. This, together with the saw and 'horse,' had been brought in when we did the chores. The work of converting this into stove-wood fell to my brother. It is many years since then and he died many years ago, but how plainly I can see him as he looked that night, his dark blue eyes filled with anxiety and his delicate face filled with fatigue and excitement.

"It is only natural that our imaginations should become peopled with fearful fancies on such a night; these chased away all thought of sleep until after midnight, and then, too tired and sleepy to sit in my chair, I was soon fast asleep on the floor. Dell discovered me, and I was awakened and told to go upstairs with Allie, whereupon I set up a wail of re-

monstrance, pleading to be allowed to sleep in mother's bed down stairs. As she was no longer expected home that night, I was finally allowed to do as I wished, and Allie and I were soon nestling in mother's feather bed, while brother and Dell kept the fire burning and the light in the window all night.

"Morning came at last, and our first thoughts were of father and mother, who might be lying stiff and cold beneath the drifts of snow like the one piled up against our window. The wind had abated somewhat during the night, and we could catch glimpses of the trees that stood in front of the house a few feet away. As soon as we had breakfast my brother and Dell said they would try to find their way to the stable and feed the stock. So the door, which was drifted partly to the top, was opened and they climbed out over the drift into the storm. I was filled with a feeling of dread when I saw them go, for I feared they would never find their way back to the house; but my fears were needless, for they soon returned and said that the snow was drifted over the stable so they could not get in, as the shovel was inside. One of us soon thought of the fire shovel. It seemed an endless undertaking to shovel through a huge drift with a fire shovel, but the drift was found to be only a couple of feet through at the top of the door, and they decided to gain an entrance there instead of at the bottom. This was done by pushing the boards, which were stood up on end to form a door, to either side, after the snow had been shoveled away. The snow, piled over and above the straw stable, made it doubly warm, and the cattle were lying down, chewing their cuds, seemingly perfectly unconscious of the storm that raged without. Their mangers we filled with hay. Then we left them until three o'clock, when the fire

shovel was again brought into use, the door shoveled out a second time, and the stock cared for for the night.

"It was ten o'clock the next day when we heard some one at the door, and father walked in. His clothing was blown full of snow, his beard, eyebrows and eyelashes filled with snow, and his face and some of his fingers frozen. When he entered he asked for mother, and when told where she was he wanted to go at once to see if she were still there or had started for home and been lost in the storm. But we persuaded him to first sit down and warm himself and tell us where he had been during the night. He then told us how the storm had overtaken him when but one-half a mile from the timber and how he had kept on, hoping to reach home, until the storm became so dense he could not see his oxen nor tell where he was. Knowing he was lost, he unhitched his team, and, taking hold of the near one's bow, let them go where they would, trusting to the animals' instinct to lead him to shelter. On and on they went, blinded with snow, plunging through drifts that were growing larger each minute—yet father clung to the bow with his frozen fingers, for he knew it would be death to let go even for a moment. They had traveled thus for an hour or so when the oxen suddenly stopped, and, feeling about him, father found that they had stopped on the sheltered side of a straw stack. Rubbing some of the ice and snow out of his eyes, father looked around for buildings; but it was impossible to see more than a few feet away, except when there was a lull in the storm. It was during one of these that he thought he could discern the outline of a building a short distance away. During a longer lull he saw it more plainly, and, running toward it, he reached it in safety before the storm again shut it from sight. The storm gradually

grew worse, and when night came on you could see nothing for the whirlpool of snow that filled the air. The building proved to be a straw stable, partly drifted under. Knowing that a house must be near, father rubbed the snow from his eyes again and waited for a momentary abatement of the wind, to see if he could discover the outline of a building. He soon saw it standing a short distance away. Here he found a woman with three small children and scarcely anything to eat or burn. The husband had gone to town in the morning for provisions and fuel and had failed to return. Father stayed with them and cared for the dumb animals until the second day of the storm, when he left his team and started home, a distance of three miles, on foot.

"As soon as father had warmed himself he went to see if he could find mother, and with what an agony of suspense we awaited his return! Our hearts stood still when we heard him at the door, but as soon as we saw his face our fears were all removed, yet no one could find words to ask him if he had found mother all right. Not waiting long for us to ask, he told us she was safe and well, and that Mr. G. would bring her home the next day if the storm were then over.

"By the next morning the wind had entirely abated, and now that the storm was over everybody was astir. Those that had been kept away during the storm were going home, while others were leaving home to search for friends that had not returned. Not one in our neighborhood perished, though nearly all the men and some of the women were away. But throughout the whole frontier many lives were lost, for the storm was one of the worst we ever knew. Nearly every week brought to us the accounts of some newly found bodies, though most of them that perished were not found until the snow

melted. Considerable stock was lost. Teams were found frozen not far from their drivers.

"Mother's home-coming was awaited with much impatience by myself. I ran to the window every time I heard a sleigh, but in spite of my vigilance Mr. G.'s sleigh was at the door before I saw it. Mother came in with face radiant with gladness, and I know our faces reflected back that gladness if they were faithful mirrors of our hearts."

#### A NIGHT IN A SNOW BANK.

(By Robert Muir).<sup>2</sup>

Thirty years ago this March [1869] I was in Jackson with oxen after a load of wood. I started home just at night, when suddenly one of those storms which the country is noted for came up, and by the time I got out of Lee's place you could not see ten feet ahead. I had faith in the team and believed that they would keep the road, but the storm grew worse, and soon it became impossible not only to see but even to feel. I unhitched the oxen and we started to find the road, but I had to give that up, so I fell in behind the oxen and trusted to luck to bring up somewhere.

After we had traveled until I began to give out, I stopped and tried to fasten the oxen with the chain to a snow crust. Then I dug a hole in the bank and turned in. Soon I heard a movement, and, crawling out, discovered the oxen were gone, but as I could not tell which way they had gone, I again sought my downy couch. I lay on my back and worked both legs, striving to keep my feet from freezing, until I was nearly used up. When I got outside again the storm was still doing business, but I could see the moon was just up, so it must have been three o'clock, and back I went under the

snow. At daylight I started on again and soon ran into a stake; then I knew where I was, and, starting straight west, I struck the little log house in just a mile. That day, after rest and a good breakfast, I struck out and found the team coming home. They were about two miles southeast of where we camped.

That same night my brother, who had a claim adjoining mine, came over in the evening to see how the family fared and in going home missed the house and wandered all night in the slough just east of where Pearson now lives. When we found him in the morning his mouth and beard were solid ice, and he had hardly room to breathe.

#### A WEDDING JOURNEY.

(By Alex Fiddes).

Having made up my mind to go to St. Paul, the next thing was to get there. The nearest railway station was Mankato, seventy-five miles from here, and there was not a bridge across any of the rivers or streams between here and Mankato, and no regular traveled road, only a trail across the prairie. I sometimes think when I hear some of the people finding fault with the roads we have at the present time that if they had been here in those days they might have had good reason to complain. At that time B. W. Ashley was mail carrier between here and Madelia, and a Mr. Vogt, of Madelia, carried the mail from Madelia to Mankato. Having made arrangements with Mr. Ashley to leave here at six o'clock in the morning of September 16, 1869, and having some very important business to attend to that morning before leaving (viz: getting married), I got out of bed very early. When my wife and I got down to the river we found a boat ready to take us across, as, on account of the heavy rains, the river was high and teams were

<sup>2</sup>As published in the Jackson Republic of April 14, 1899.

unable to cross at the ford. On crossing the river we found two teams awaiting us—B. W. Ashley, who took the five passengers, with one team; Menzo Ashley, who carried the baggage, mail and a boat, with the other.

We got along fairly well until we reached Elm creek. Then we had to launch our boat, and Menzo took one passenger across at a time. When all were across Ben and he tied their wagon boxes down to the axles of the wagons and swam their teams across. It was a dangerous undertaking, as the water was running at the rate of at least ten miles an hour, but they got everything across safely. After we got to Long lake they thought they would have no more use for the boat, as there was a horse boat on the Watonwan, just this side of Madelia. When we reached the river we learned that the water had carried the boat house away, so we drove to a farm house to see if we could stay there over night, as it was after sundown by this time. They informed us that they could find a place for the teams but not for the passengers. We were in a pretty fix. We could see the lights in Madelia, about a mile away, but no way to get there. In the meantime, Menzo had gone down the river, and, seeing a boat tied up at the sawmill on the opposite side, he swam across and brought the boat up to where we were waiting. He then took us across, and we walked to Madelia. The ground between the river and town was rather low and there was considerable water on the ground; every little while you would hear some one say "oh!" when they stepped into a hole up to the knees in water. We all had wet feet before we got to town, about ten o'clock at night. So much for the first day of our wedding trip.

Next morning after breakfast we started for Mankato. We were not troubled

with water, but from Lake Crystal to Mankato it was mud up to the axles nearly all the way. Every few rods we would get stuck in a mud hole, and I would have to get out and help pry the wheels out with a fence rail. We carried two rails with us, and I walked nearly all the way from Lake Crystal to the river. When we reached the river we found that the horse boat was unsafe, so we left the team on this side and walked across the river on some plank that were laid on a bridge that was being built. The mail carrier told me it was only a short distance to town and that we could walk up, or if we would wait he would return with a team and take us to town. Seeing I had paid him to take us to Mankato, I told him we would wait until he returned with a team. He tried, as the saying is, to freeze us out, but I got a good seat on the lee side of a brewery, and in that situation my staying qualities were good in those days. In some two hours he returned with a team, and we arrived in Mankato all safe and in good time for supper. Next day we got on board the cars and arrived in St. Paul without any further difficulties.

#### WILD AND WOOLLY DAYS.

(By W. C. Logue).<sup>2</sup>

Pluck was the chief capital of the people of that locality in the early times, and fur was the medium of exchange. Prime muskrats passed current at an undisputed value of twenty-five cents, and it required eight of those pelts, deposited in advance, for one year's enrollment on the subscription list of the paper whose majority we celebrate today. The pelt of an adult skunk was worth forty cents, but would not be accepted at the Republic counting rooms unless thoroughly disin-

<sup>2</sup>Written in 1891 and published in the Jackson Republic of February 20, of that year, the number celebrating the 21st birthday of the pioneer paper.

fect; in fact, Postmaster Strong would not receive them in exchange for stamps unless similarly treated. . . .

Yes, those were woolly days, and Judge Sandon—we called him Charlie then—will vouch for the fact that when Doc Edwards and Tommy George failed to connect, either as the result of foul weather or from what sometimes affect statesmen as well as stage drivers, the supply of tobacco would become exhausted. It was then the boys were wont to raid Old Man Monson's sheep pen and pluck the fibre from his flock, which, rumor said, had been saturated with the narcotic to destroy insects peculiar to the sheep. In connection with those hard times and early struggles, J. J. Smith will inform inquiring tenderfeet why so many slippery elm trees yielded their bark to the needs of the first settlers, and why the wild onion became an almost extinct plant along the head of Dunbar creek. M. Miller, veterinary surgeon, will testify to the fact that a more healthy and more rigorous class of people never fell under the fostering care of a medical practitioner than the yeomanry who read the first number of the Republic.

M. B. Dunn could prove by the records of Petersburg that originality is not a recent importation, but existed with the township board which laid out a road "from John Hoovel's house to the place where George Stone kicked Chauncey Cornish, and thence in a due line to the place where Tom Russell's mare died, and continuing in a northwest course to the spot where Jim Palmer camped when he stole Fred Lindsley's traps." He could tell you of the personal encounter between Thomson and Al. King; of the closing of the polls while the judges of election proceeded to "put a head" on each other before resuming the statutory duties of their office. . . .

We cite Attorney Dunn as an intelligent witness to prove that an absolute similarity of sex is not conducive of the best results in stock raising, as shown by the signal failure of Jack Greer and his ten head of masculine cattle. . . .

But all is changed since the cars have come and scared away the game. The blizzard-cap has given way to the less comfortable derby. The fur coat has been retired in favor of some dudish garment worn in the interests of doctors. Dan's old fiddle has gone to join the musical instrument of the historic Ned. Judge Sandon has always got "tobacco in his old tobacco box;" the heartless stranger has plowed up our best hunting grounds; democrats have moved in and settled in the county; so-called social parties are held at neighboring villages and the people of Jackson are not present at the feast; the Jackson Protective society has long since abandoned its vigilant care of Eph's old brewery; wisdom no longer sits on the bench where Judge Mason held the scales of justice; the old thousand dollar bill has been retired from local politics; all tidings from the outside world no longer filter in as in the days of stage and pony lines; ox teams have disappeared from the streets of Jackson; the prairie schooner is less known to the present population than its namesake in a "dry" town.

The present manager of the Republic would not know a prime pelt from a September kit. But the subject is becoming painful; let the curtain drop.

#### OLE ANDERSON'S ORANGE.

The Jackson county settlers of the early sixties lived in an isolated community, so far as the world at large was concerned. For years their nearest trading point was Mankato, nearly one hundred miles away, and trips to that frontier town were events

to be remembered. The children were brought up without much general knowledge of the world or its customs. They were given plentiful religious and meager educational instruction; the boys could ride, hunt, trap, drive oxen, fight Indians and do a man's work, but their knowledge of the minor things of life was not picked up until years later.

So it came about that Ex-Sheriff Ole Anderson, of Jackson, then a boy entering his teens and residing with his widowed mother on the Belmont township homestead, learned many things that in more settled communities are known without being learned. Among the delicacies that did not come to the homes of the frontier Norwegian families was fruit, and Ole was quite a lad when he saw his first orange.

It was on a trip to Winnebago City, whither he had gone with his ox team, that he first became initiated to the delicacies of the southern-grown fruit. There he saw a man eating an orange with the greatest enjoyment. Ole was interested and watched the performance closely. He wondered if they were as good as the man's enjoyment would seem to indicate. He decided to find out from a personal trial and sought a store where he saw some of the fruit displayed. Not knowing if he would like the fruit, he purchased only one. Then he ate it. He was disappointed with the flavor and wondered how the man whom he had seen eating could have developed such an abnormal taste.

Ole Anderson had bought a lemon. But it would take a smart man to hand him any of that fruit now.

#### GOODBYE, HOPPERGRASS.

The following song of triumph upon the departure of the grasshoppers was

written by George C. Chamberlin and published in his paper, the Jackson Republic, August 18, 1877:

"Fare thee well, and if forever,  
Still, forever fare thee well."

He's gone!

Gone for good, we hope.

They sometimes call him a lo-cust.

But the last we saw of him he was a high-cus.

And he was scooting for furrin' parts.

Let him scoot.

Hallelujah!

Four seasons he tarried with us and was healthy.

And the fifth did he linger, but he was sick.

Perhaps we ought to be pathetic over the departure of so numerous a family, but we can't be.

Good riddance, you pest!

You ate our wheat, you did.

You ate everything.

You are small and insignificant, but you can eat more than fourteen elephants.

You will lay more eggs to the square inch than any carnivorous, herbivorous, bug-ivorous bug we ever saw.

As a multiplier you are a success.

You can winter in a refrigerator in Manitoba and come out fresh and hungry in the spring.

Or,

You can sit at the top of a spliced two-story thermometer and eat the mercury as serenely as if it was ice water.

But then you are no more in these parts.

We've gone out of the hopper business.

And intend to keep out.

It is not profitable.

It is not pleasant.

We tackled him with fire, smoke and brimstone, and they availed nothing.

But tar-dozers and Fast Day fetched him!

The last hopper has crawled up our trousers' leg for the last time, we hope.

That is a peculiarity peculiar to hoppers, and they don't seem to care whether one is in company or in church.

But he is now beyond the confines of hopperdom, and that's what makes us happy.

Sound the tom-tom.

Blow the hew-gag.

Or vice versa if you want to.

Locusts and wild honey may do for a diet in case of emergency, but no man hereabouts will of his own choice take locusts in his'n hereafter. We have no doubt he is a blessing in disguise, but there is no disguising the fact that our people privately prefer a different disguise.

But he is gone.

Fare ye well, you gluttonous, voracious gormandizer!

Warble the doxology.



## CHAPTER XXV.

### REMINISCENT (Continued).

#### MUSKRATS, POLITICS AND RELIGION.

(By George C. Chamberlin).

**Y**OU know in those early days almost everybody caught muskrats—ministers, lawyers, and if we had happened to have had doctors they would have been compelled to catch muskrats in order to have made a living. Rev. Peter Baker may or may not have caught muskrats, but if he did it would have been regarded as honorable, legitimate, if not absolutely necessary.

It is said that on a certain Sunday an appointment had been given out for a meeting at his house, and the settlers had gathered from far and near until the little house was completely filled. He was about to open the exercises when some of his family stepped up and quietly informed him that there was a mink in his trap. Now, mink skins were worth three or four dollars at that time, and for once the good elder halted between two opinions—whether to immediately supply spiritual food to that audience, or bread and butter to his family. He concluded he could supply both, asked to be excused for twenty minutes, and proceeded to his trap, not far away, dispatched the mink, reset the trap, and returned to his waiting audience. When he left he was about to give out the familiar hymn:

This is the day I long have sought,  
And mourned because I found it not.

And he continued to turn the leaves to the hymn, but before he found it commenced:

This is the day I long have sought,  
And now rejoice that mink is caught.

Yes, nearly all caught muskrats in those days. County officers caught muskrats, and it was almost necessary that they smell of muskrat in order to be elected. Why, I happened to be elected to the legislature one year, and when I got down to St. Paul they doubted whether I ought to be sworn in because my certificate of election didn't smell of muskrat; and do you believe it, when the session was about half elapsed, Clark Thompson, who then owned the Southern Minnesota railroad and about half the land in southern Minnesota and wanted to scoop in what there was left for the railroads, brought down a trapper from the southern part of Martin county, whose credentials were perfectly saturated with muskrat, and they actually unseated me, sent me home, and gave him my seat. Of course he was placed upon committees where I had served; consequently the trapper was chairman of the committee on printing for the remainder of the session. The next year I



took the precaution to make my credentials solid, and I was permitted to remain the entire session.

AN EARLY MARRIAGE.  
(By Major H. S. Bailey.)

I want to relate one little incident to show how prompt our officers were in performing their official duties. At the first town meeting held in Des Moines, April 2, 1866, there was one Simon, whose surname was Olson, who was elected a justice of the peace. Upon the same evening of the election he took the oath of office and filed his official bond, and, being furnished with a copy of the statutes of Minnesota, he went home a full-fledged squire. Whether he slept any that night or whether he sat up all night to study law we are not informed; but the next Monday he ate his breakfast as usual, donned his best suit of store clothes, and, after looking in the glass to make sure that he was the right man, took the statute under his arm and started to find a job.

He had not far to go before he found a woman who seemed perfectly willing to sacrifice herself upon the hymeneal altar, providing a suitable man could be secured. After some difficulty, he found a man that, to all appearances, was eligible to fill the responsible position of husband, and, after using some very persuasive arguments, the man came to the conclusion that it was not best for man to live alone, and, accordingly, accompanied the squire to the residence of the lady aforesaid. Whether the squire read the constitution of the United States or the declaration of independence, or what the ceremony was, we are not informed, but it concluded by his pronouncing them husband and wife according to the form of the statute in such cases made and pro-

vided and against the peace and dignity of the state of Minnesota.

This was the first marriage celebrated after the organization of the county, on the ninth day of April, 1866.

TROUBLES OF A JUSTICE.

Many ludicrous, as well as distressing, events occurred in Jackson county during the hard times that occurred soon after the county was organized.

When the first town meeting was held in Petersburg, in April, 1866, two justices of the peace were elected, one living in Petersburg township proper, the other living near Loon lake in what is now Minneota township. As everybody was peaceably inclined, there was not much for a justice to do that year. But about Christmas time the Loon lake justice was overwhelmed with work. Six people came to him desiring to be made into three, and such a wholesale order was not to be cast aside. He proceeded to perform the marriage ceremonies in his best style, and the newly married went away happy.

Three or four weeks later some one informed the justice that he had made himself criminally liable for marrying people who had not first secured a license. He became alarmed and sought advise as to the best way out of the scrape. Some one advised him that the best way would be for the parties to procure licenses and be married over and thus legalize the affair. This struck the justice as the proper way out of the dilemma, and he proceeded to notify the parties accordingly. The first couple thought so, too, and wanted the job done up strong. The second couple were satisfied and said they would risk the former marriage. The third couple lived just over the line in Iowa, and when the justice broke the situation to them, the man said: "Good; I am glad of it; I've had enough of married life; I'll quit

and don't want to be married again." The woman chimed in: "All right; if you're sick of it, I am, and if you want to leave, leave, so now." And they separated. This is the only instance on record where a justice of the peace granted a divorce.

#### EARLY JUSTICE COURTS.

The duties of early day justices of the peace were not entirely taken up with performing marriage ceremonies, and sometimes the courts were attended with ludicrous scenes and results. George C. Chamberlin, in the Jackson Republic of January 27, 1888, tells of his recollections of some of these events:

"I recall the first justice court held in Jackson, or on the original townsite. It was early in the spring of 1867, and was held in T. A. White's store. A Mr. Blackmer was building a mill up the river and refused to pay the farmers in the vicinity who had labored in the construction of the mill and dam, and naturally they commenced an action to recover. Mr. Blackmer brought M. E. L. Shanks from Fairmont to attend to his interests, and the boys here secured one of our citizens to prosecute the case, there not being at that time a lawyer in the county. Major Bailey was the justice, and he and the unlearned and unlicensed home attorney beat Blackmer and Shanks, but Blackmer beat on execution.

"That little building on the corner of Second and Ashley streets is replete with scenes and incidents of early days in Jackson. It was the first building lathed and plastered in the county. Commissioners held sessions there; Rev. Peter Baker held services there, and during the winter of 1867-68 school was taught in the building. Major Bailey was holding court there on one occasion when Evan Herbrandson led up a smiling damsel, and, looking square in at the door, announced

matrimonial intentions; whereupon the Major suspended proceedings, and right then and there made two hearts beat as one inside of five minutes, and then went on with his court.

"There were occasionally assault and battery cases in those days that never came to trial. I recall one case where the doctor who was called to attend one of the parties to a scrimmage reported hardly a strong enough case to warrant an arrest. A slight wound was inflicted by one of the assaulters and a physician was called to dress it. The doctor was reputed to be not particularly skillful in surgery, but he had stowed away in his memory a few medical and anatomical phrases, to be used as occasion might arise. He returned from the scene of the fracas, and of course there was a rush to the buggy to learn the result. He made the affair out not a serious matter and remarked that there were 'but a few scratches by a knife about the diaphragm and the epiglottis.' A bystander turned to go, and answered further inquiries by stating that the doctor said there was no trouble, only that the 'diaphragm was up and the epaminondous was down.' The diagnosis was accepted, and that was the last of the case."

#### A WIFE AS A JAILOR.

The primitive condition of Jackson county under its first organization led to many a queer official proceeding, viewed in the light of present conditions. The story is told that in 1861 Joseph Muck, who with his large family had come to Jackson county and settled near the present site of Jackson in 1858, had a row with a traveling minister and struck him with a club. Muck was promptly arrested and taken before Judge Simon Olson, then a justice of the peace, who fined the prisoner ten dollars or ten days in jail.

Muck chose the latter. It is stated that at the time the nearest jail was at St. Paul, and that Israel F. Eddy, who was the county sheriff, was too busy catching muskrats to think of making such a trip; so he appointed Mrs. Muck deputy sheriff and made her her husband's jailor. Mrs. Muck, so the story runs, worked her prisoner in the garden ten days and then put in a bill for ten days' board, which was allowed by the county commissioners.

A partial verification of this story is found among the few county records of the first organization which have been preserved. In a little book containing a record of county warrants issued, I find that warrants numbered 58 to 62, inclusive, were drawn in favor of Joseph Muck, all under date of October 4, 1861. These were for a total of \$14—the first four for three dollars each, the last one for two dollars. The form of the entries is as follows:

No. 58. Oct. 4, 1861. Joseph Muck, for wife's services as jailor and prisoner's board, \$3.00.

Muck had had the satisfaction of beating the minister, had settled his ten dollar fine, had received fourteen dollars from the county and had got his garden hoed; and the court was ready for the next case.

"A CLODHOOPER."  
(By Tom Mather.)

We still have a vague recollection of our first communication for the Republic over the non de plume of "A Clodhopper," protesting against accepting aid from the state and advertising to the world ourselves as "grasshopper sufferers." The very first article stirred up a veritable hornet's nest, and a shower of indignation from half a score of correspondents, among whom were John Davies, Jareb Palmer and "Bluejoint" [John A. Spafford.] All hurled hot shot at us through

the Republic with a vindictiveness that required lively imagination on the part of "A Clodhopper" to prepare the next week's article of defense.

We were down on father's old homestead in Petersburg in those days, a bare-footed boy who prided himself on being an expert driver of the meanest yoke of oxen that ever heard "Gee, Buck." The only time we could devote to the newspaper controversy was out in the field, and we penciled our notes on the plow beam a few minutes at a time while Buck and Bright panted at the end of the furrow. Of course it was impossible to keep the manuscript clean, but good-natured Editor Chamberlin said, "no matter so long as my devil can read it."

Arthur Dunn was the "devil" alluded to. He had been an apprentice in the Republic office for about six months and was then able to put on the customary village boy airs, wear cowhide shoes, "store-made" overalls, a calico shirt, a pair of suspenders made of blue denim and a ten cent chip hat that certainly looked more swell, if not as durable, than the ones mother used to braid from wheat straw. His sun-burned countenance was bleaching out, several of the largest of his numerous freckles had disappeared, and he was quite a stylish looking fellow and the envy of us neighbor boys. Arthur had not forgotten how a few months before he, too, was out on a farm punching his father's steers around a forty acre field like every other farmer boy in those days, working from daylight to dark, shoeless, and with feet so calloused as to be impervious to thorns and thistles. He encouraged us by saying, "Your article was all right, Tom; hit 'em again," and we did.

We don't remember much as to the general character of our boyish contributions, but it is a wonder they ever got into

print. We long since learned that newspaper correspondence was not our long suit, and we rarely attempt it.

#### A POLITICAL DEAL.

(By George C. Chamberlin.)<sup>1</sup>

I cannot refrain from commencing by supplying a sort of addenda to Mr. Strong's mention of early county officers, alluded to in his last letter. It was the first time he (Mr. Strong) was elected county auditor and in the campaign of 1869. The county convention was held comparatively early and a full ticket was placed in nomination, which apparently gave satisfaction. No one seemed particularly displeased, and no grumbings of cliques were apparent on the corners. Certainly, for once, the campaign indicated a monotonous and one-sided affair. Election day came, and in this town [Des Moines] polls were opened at the old school house, then standing near the bayou, at the southern terminus of Fourth street. Regular tickets were supplied, and not a single opposition ticket was visible to the naked eye. I remember meeting Mr. Joseph Thomas returning from the polls, who took occasion to speak of the quiet and peaceful election, saying: "I tell you, George, they have got to put you and me on the ticket in order to have any fun—they have, sure's you'm here."

The hour of five o'clock was announced. The box was turned and canvassing commenced, when utter astonishment was depicted on numerous countenances as the canvassers were confronted with neatly printed opposition ballots, following the regulars in nearly equal proportion. The result was announced, and I remember that indignation and joy were both choked down on that occasion.

The opposition tickets displayed the names of M. A. Strong for county audi-

tor, J. W. Hunter for treasurer, Anders Roe for sheriff, and other names I do not recall. There were then but five organized townships in the county, and no opposition tickets were distributed in either Wisconsin or Minnesota. Belmont at that time included the entire north half of the county, and early the day after election Ole E. Olson brought the result to Jackson, announcing the vote of that town solidly for the opposition, which demonstrated a majority in the county of about thirty for Hunter and Roe, but Strong lacked two of being elected. Soon George Stone appeared on the scene with the vote of Petersburg, which also developed a majority for the dark lanterns, thus electing Strong by a majority of two or three.

Stone rather let the cat out of the bag when he remarked in the presence of two or three of the regular candidates: "By Jock, we shouldn't have known anything about it if Tom White hadn't brought down those tickets just before the polls were opened."

The regular ticket may have been a good one, but opposition seemed the life of elections in those days. At the same time I must say with all due deference to the good officers we had before and have had since, none has been truer or more faithful and honest than those elected on the occasion mentioned.

#### JOHN DAVIES AND THE CRANE.

(By John Davies.)

Being ignorant at first as to the contingencies and casualties attendant upon pioneer life, of the very many ludicrous scrapes I encountered I will relate just two. Observing a large crane with a broken wing lingering on the west side of my farm one day and having never seen one at close quarters, I proposed to capture him alive to serve as a pet for diversion around my cot on the prairie lea. I

<sup>1</sup>Published in the Jackson Republic January 27, 1888.

started in the chase afoot in great glee; but when about half way to Muir's, imagine my horror at the hideous picture, taller than myself, with eyes like two red buttons, and a beak like a pointed mill-pick, wheel around and lunge at me with the vigor of a fiend. Horrified at the idea of being murdered right there in cold blood, I instinctively grabbed its long neck with a death grip, and, happily, when I recovered consciousness, I found that I was the victor, but I carried a big bunch on the top of my head from the ruthless swing of its titanic beak for weeks after.

At another time, while mowing hay with a scythe near the upper end of Stony brook, a litter of polecats, a little bigger than full grown mice, came scattering around my feet. From a sense of pity for the poor creatures in so desolate a country, and thinking them too young to make a disturbance, I tenderly picked one up by the tail to show it to my son, who stood in the distance, when "Hwcheo!" the little villain let me have one smack in the face, and while I was hopping up and down like a scalded fiend, yelling for a pitchfork, Ed lay limp and helpless on the ground from laughter.

#### EARLY DAY MAIL FACILITIES.

All mail to Jackson county in the early days was carried by pony express and by stages. Not until 1872 did a railroad penetrate the county, and it was not until 1878 that the people of the county seat village had their mail brought to them by railway. As the county had received considerable settlement prior to these dates, the stage and mail lines became important institutions. The Jackson Republic of April 29, 1871, told of the mail facilities of that time and compared them with those in days gone by:

"The three or four hacks that we see

almost daily come and go to and from the postoffice in Jackson have led us to retrospect of late. Less than four years ago all the mail that reached us was that by the way of Emmet, Iowa, carried once a week by Frank Bailey on horseback. Each recurring Thursday did a large community assemble at Joseph Thomas' old log hotel for a week's supply of letters and papers, St. Paul papers being nearly two weeks old when they reached us. The dozen or two letters were poured out of the little canvass sack upon the counter, and nearly the entire number passed out to the several owners, while a few were laid quietly back on a small shelf to be called for by their owners. The salary of the postmaster then aggregated the enormous sum of \$36 annually.

"Things are somewhat changed now. At the present time Postmaster Strong makes up and distributes twenty-two mails per week, and instead of one circuitous route, six different mail routes center here. The little canvass horseback sack has given place to a dozen or so mammoth leather ones, and instead of Frank coming in on his galloping horse, we see, on the five new routes that have been established since that time, hacks loaded down with passengers and express matter."

Although during the early seventies mail routes were in operation from several different points, during the winter and spring months mail facilities were not always the best, being often put out of commission because of storms and poor roads. Said the Republic of February 1, 1873:

"Although most of our stages on the different routes have made frequent, and, in many instances, regular trips, yet their mail sacks are brought in devoid of any mail matter, and the once welcome stages now lose their attraction. St. Paul pa-

pers have not reached us since those of two weeks ago, and all other mail is delinquent accordingly. Of the stage routes, the Spencer stage has been most regular of any of the tri-weekly routes, and has lost but few trips. The Blue Earth City stage comes next in order, and has made nearly the required number of trips. The Windom stage makes frequent trips, but seldom brings us even a stray letter. The Winnebago stage occasionally comes in with a few papers that have been from two to three weeks on their way from the offices of publication to their destination; that route which we once felt safe to bet on has now become the most provoking and dilatory, though perhaps the maneuvers of the Southern Minnesota railroad are mainly to blame for this imposition on our community. The St. James stage makes a trip semi-occasionally, and sometimes brings in a copy of the *Madelia Times*. The Estherville stage makes its regular weekly trips, but of course has no mail to carry.

"We have exhausted our last year's stock of almanacs in getting copy for our compositors, and, unless we get a mail, shall make a raid on our scrap book and dictionary next week. We should feel disconsolate did we not have evidence that other places were less favored than ourselves."

For some time after the editor thus bewailed the fate of the mail-deprived community conditions did not improve. But on February 15, the newspaper reported the end of the blockade:

"The Winnebago City stage came in Monday evening and brought a regular old-fashioned mail. Four large sacks were filled, the whole weighing 156 pounds. We [the *Republic*] received just 153 packages by actual count. We were, of course, glad to get it, but would prefer to take it more frequently and in smaller doses."

#### INDIAN SCARES.

From the time of the Belmont massacre in 1862 down to 1876 there was an occasional Indian scare in Jackson county, although none of them originated with Indians. But the settlers, living in a sparsely settled country and having the details of the two terrible attacks that had been made, were apprehensive when the occasional rumors of Indian outbreak were circulated. One such scare, of a local nature, came in August, 1866. The story is told by F. E. Marshall, an early settler, who wrote on December 29, 1894:

"We saw the Des Moines river for the first time about the middle of May, 1866, and camped in the grove a few rods southwest of Mr. Thomas' house. There we remained a couple of weeks, until a bark and puncheon shanty could be erected on the southeast quarter of section 12. We enjoyed life as only new settlers can, until about the middle of August, when an incident occurred, which I shall try to relate.

"All being tranquil, about the middle of August the men went back to the eastern part of the state to work through harvest and bring back the winter's supplies, leaving their families in quiet possession of their bark shanties. The weather was fine, and all went well until that day in the middle of August. On the afternoon of that day a family who had a claim in section 8, Wisconsin township, made a visit at the bark shanty, stayed to tea, and about sundown started for their home. The favorite driving team of this man from section 8 was a yoke of three-year-old stags, which he was wont to call his 'bull-pouts'; the carriage was the running gear of a lumber wagon, with a board from one bolster to the other for a seat. The man had a defect of eyesight that made it impossible for him to distinguish objects after sundown.

"The visitors had been gone half an hour or so when an unusual racket, coming from the east, brought the occupants of the shanty to the outside. The first glance showed our lately departed visitors returning in great haste. The tongues of the 'bull-pouts' nearly reached the ground, and the man from section 8 was applying the 'persuader' as only a frightened man could. At the sight a panic struck those at the shanty, and, thinking their late visitors had met with some terrible accident, rushed to meet them, all asking at once, 'What has happened?' It was several seconds before they could get breath sufficient to gasp out.

"'Indians?' was the incredulous inquiry.

"'Yes, six of them. They are hiding in the grass by the slough on section 7.'

"'Are you sure? It can't be possible!'

"'Oh, I saw them as plain as day. They have on gray blankets, and all have guns.'

"This was the blood-curdling story of the lady from section 8. A council was hurriedly held, and it was decided that we could not defend the shanty. Flight was our only hope. But where to go? Some one suggested Mr. Baldwin's; he had a log house. The suggestion was instantly adopted. Should we take a team? No; it would make too much noise. Hastily gathering up the firearms that were left in the defense of the shanty, consisting of an old rifle that couldn't be fired and a Colt's revolver that had a disagreeable habit—if you fired one chamber the rest would follow suit—we stole out into the now dark night. Your correspondent, leading and carrying the weapons, and Mr. Man from section 8, carrying their little kid, and carefully led by Mrs. Lady from section 8, bringing up the rear, swiftly and silently took the track across the peaceful prairie to Mr. Bald-

win's. Arriving there, we knocked at the door, at first gently, then louder; but there was no response. They were gone. They had been warned and had fled. What should we do next? Try Monson's? They, too, had a log house.

"Again we were tramping through the dew-wet grass, this time in the direction of Monson's. We were soon there, and found them peacefully sleeping the sleep of the tired. Arousing them, we quickly tell the story of our danger. The boys, who are sleeping in out-buildings, are hastily summoned, the log shanty quickly put in condition for defense, the old rusty guns and revolvers loaded in a way that means trouble for the man who shall fire them off. An hour or so passes, and, no Indians showing up, our fright subsides; we camp down on the floor to try to get a little sleep, while one of the Monson boys stands guard.

"The night passed at last, and, although we were not attacked by Indians, we had to fight an army of little red bugs. At the first break of day one of the Monson boys went out on a scout, and meeting no Indians, went over to Mr. Thomas' place and gave the alarm. Five or six men quickly mounted horses and armed themselves, and, led by Jim Palmer, rode out to the slough on section 7.

"A careful search revealed not the least trace of an Indian. But they did find six gray sand-hill cranes. So ended our first and last Indian scare."

In August, 1872, there was another scare which had less excuse for its origin than even a flock of cranes. The scare is said to have originated with three Windom men, who on the night of August 10 went from Jackson to their homes, scattering the news along the way that half the people of the community had been killed by Indians. They reported having

seen one or two of the bodies of the murdered men a few miles north of Jackson. To add to the alarm and give more show of fact, the men frequently fired their guns along the road as they proceeded. Some of the settlers of Belmont, through which township the men took their way, had gone through the Indian attack of ten years before, and they were quick to take flight.

Messengers were hastily started out to notify the settlers, and in consequence there was a general stampede from some sections for safety. Quite a number from the northern part of the county went to Windom; others congregated at Independence lake to make preparations for defense. As a result of the false alarm many people were badly frightened. As an instance of the result of the scare the following letter, written by one of the settlers to George C. Chamberlin, is given:

Editor Jackson Republic: Tuesday night, between twelve and one o'clock, I was awakened by some one calling me to the door. I arose and looked out and saw four men on horses, each having a gun. I asked them what they wanted and they told me they wanted to see me. I know it did not look very pleasant to see those men there at that time of night; I did not know but that they were Ku-klux or Greeley men; but I knew there were but few Greeley men around. I went to the door, and they asked if I were not excited. I informed them I was not. They said the Indians were coming; that they had killed three or four families east of Jackson, and that the people there were all packing up and leaving for Windom; that you (George C. Chamberlin) had telegraphed to St. Paul for troops. They got the report about sundown Tuesday and were very much excited; the women and children were so frightened that they would not go to the door, and they were waiting for their men to return, to leave or try to defend themselves. As I had been in Jackson all the afternoon, I told them it could not be so, and after a long time they returned to Heron Lake, but they were very much excited. Please say through your paper that there has been no one killed by Indians, that the people are all quiet on that score, and oblige your friend,

J. H. WILLING.

The last Indian scare occurred in 1876

and affected the northwestern part of the county only. It was during the month of July, when the country was full of the news of the terrible Custer massacre on the Little Big Horn in Montana, that the news was spread that the Sioux were again on the warpath, determined to wipe out the settlements in southwestern Minnesota. Needless to say, there were no Indians within a long distance of Jackson county and no hostiles within several hundred miles.

The scare originated with a boy named Hemphill, in the southern part of Murray county. He had been sent out to rake hay, but, not being of a very enterprising nature, he conceived a plan to escape the work. He rushed to the house, crying that the Indians had attacked him. A man named Hampton, who was preparing to leave the country, spread the alarm, and within a very short time a full fledged Indian scare was under way. In southern Murray county and northern Nobles county whole townships were deserted, the people fleeing to the railroad towns for protection. Worthington was full of refugees, and a few deserted their farms and hastened to Heron Lake for protection.

Scouting parties were sent out from Worthington and from Heron Lake. No Indians were found, but the scouts soon located the origin of the scare. When it was learned that there were no Indians in the country, the refugees returned to their homes.

#### A JOKE ON KIMBALL.

(By Thomas A. White.)<sup>2</sup>

During the summer of 1867 bands of horses and cattle had gathered around my place nights, until it had the appearance of being headquarters for all the loose

<sup>2</sup>Thomas A. White erected the first building and started the first store in Jackson. This article was written by him in 1888.



stock in the county. These animals brought swarms of mosquitoes with them; in fact that was our mosquito yard, and we were sure to have it full every night. The animals would stamp, hook, paw and fight mosquitoes all night long; they fairly made the night hideous, and sleep was almost out of the question. We had thought that when Kimball's building was up that he would at least divide the stock with us, but nary a hoof would leave. At first we could not understand why all stayed and Kimball had none.

One day Mr. Chamberlin came in and said he had solved the mystery. "It is your infernal salt barrels you are throwing out that holds the stock here. Kimball has none and, of course, no stock." A day or two later I came out of the cellar with two pails of brine, which I intended to throw out. Mr. Chamberlin's quick eye caught sight of the brine, and, learning my intentions, asked me to set it aside until night, saying he had use for it. That night, after Kimball's folks were all snug in bed, he carried the brine over and poured it out around Kimball's place, where it would do the most good. It had the desired effect, and Kimball took care of the stock after that.

One day Kimball came in after his mail, looking care-worn and disgusted. He spoke of the stock and said: "I have taken my cow thirty rods away to salt her and have been particularly careful that there should be no salt scattered about my place, and yet the cattle are eating the ground to a depth of four inches." Of course I could offer no explanation, other than that the stock had undoubtedly become tired of my place and had decided to try him for a while.

#### NEAR-CAPTURE OF THE YOUNGERS.

(By Thomas E. Mather.)

There was one exciting incident which has probably been forgotten. That was

the attempt on the part of Jacksonites to capture the Northfield bank robbers. Everybody in the west is familiar with the dashing raid made by the Fords and Youngers on the bank at Northfield in the fall of 1876, when they shot the cashier and several citizens, who made it exceedingly hot for them, dropping two of the robbers and following the others until the trail was lost in the woods. The bandits' course was southwest, and it was believed they crossed the Des Moines river in the vicinity of Jackson. The Ford brothers, the only two robbers escaping capture, forded the river a few miles above town. The other desperadoes were shot or captured within thirty miles of Jackson.

To say that the citizens of the village slept on their arms doesn't half express it. They didn't sleep at all from the first intimation of the outlaws' approach until they were captured, but guarded every ford, bridge and cross-road in the locality.

Toward midnight, one night during this exciting period, as I mounted my horse to ride to my home down in Petersburg, the boys jokingly remarked, "Look out for the robbers, Tom." I galloped up Main street to the bridge, and there my horse suddenly halted as several dark figures retreated beneath the bridge, over which passage was impossible, owing to the numerous ropes and wires strung across the same. I had heard nothing of there being a guard stationed anywhere to prevent the passage of the robbers, and I supposed some of the boys were putting up a job on me. I remarked: "I am onto you kids, hiding under the bridge." All was still as death for a moment, then a trembling voice demanded: "Who is it?" "It's me," I replied, boy fashion. "Who in h—'s 'me'? Give the countersign." I did not know it; but I gave my name, after which about twenty of

the most disappointed men you ever saw showed up. Menzo Ashley was captain of the squad. "You blamed little fool," he said, "don't you know any better than to be galloping around the country these nights, when the robbers are expected every moment?" His old shot gun was loaded to the muzzle with buckshot, and he declared he had a "bead" on me, though I never could figure it out, judging from his position under the bridge. The crowd advised me to ford the river below the mill, but to be cautious, as another party guarded that point.

Jim Palmer, the veteran surveyor, who had fought Indians in the war of Independence, was in command. Al Strong, Bromaghim, Hunter, Chamberlin, Major Bailey and perhaps a dozen others, whose names I have forgotten, were members of this company. I gave them my name, and they allowed me to cross. I supposed I had passed all the guards and now breathed easier. When I reached the hill-top I chirped to "Billy," whose mettle I had often tested in moonlight horse races with Marshall Dunn and the Logue boys, and he was speeding along at a brisk canter at the crossroads on the Thomas farm, when a sharp "Halt! Halt!" greeted my ears.

I stopped very suddenly, half frightened out of my wits, believing I must have encountered the robbers. I was much relieved when the unmistakable voice of Auditor King demanded my name. When I recovered my breath I told them. Then you should have heard them laugh, as several tried to explain why they had retreated to the corn field when they suspected the approach of a lone bandit. I believe King, Cowing, Ben Ashley and Sandon were about the only ones to stand their ground and level their guns, awaiting the order of their commander to shoot.

Mose Strong was the captain of this

"brigade," and after finding that it was only a badly frightened farmer boy they had captured, he emerged from the depths of the corn field, remarking, "Well, boys, all I told you about helping Grant lick the rebels at Gettysburg, and of pulling the throttle of the first gun fired on Sumpter was true, but when I heard this horse galloping down the road I made up my mind I owed a duty to my family and the creamery business, and that the safest place for me was in the middle of the corn field."

Mose delivered himself of this explanation in his characteristic humor, and anyone who has ever heard him make a speech can appreciate his style of delivery and imagine how he tickled the crowd. Tuttle had actually gone so far into the corn field, in his frantic efforts to conceal himself, as to get lost, and it took him some time to get his bearings. It appears C. B. had amused the watchers all evening by relating stories of his hairbreadth escapes and encounters in his four years of army service. When he found his way out of the corn field, the boys naturally guyed him about brave guerilla hunting exploits in Texas. He said: "Oh, you fellows may laugh, but if you had been through my experience with sharpshooters in Missouri you wouldn't want to rub up against Cole Younger, either." Well, it cost Tuttle the cigars to suppress the story. The sheriff didn't find his way out of the tall corn until daylight.

However, I don't believe the bandits could ever have passed the guarded points alive, for the frontier Minnesotans were crack shots, and it only took the sniff of a little burned powder to nerve them to the greatest bravery, as was proven a few days later, when the most reckless desperadoes ever known were captured in an open fight.

## RAFTING THE DES MOINES.

Heavy rains in the spring of 1873 made the wagon roads of Jackson county almost impassable, and, as all goods had to be "freighted" into the village of Jackson, much annoyance and inconvenience was caused. Alexander Fiddes and Major H. S. Bailey had long been awaiting the arrival of lumber with which to erect their business houses, and they conceived the idea of rafting the lumber down the Des Moines river from the railroad at Windom. The river had risen to a great height in May, and during that month the first cargo ever landed at Jackson arrived. The contract for bringing the lumber down was let to J. Dupuis and James Hubbs, who went to Windom, made their raft and loaded the lumber, and arrived with it in safety May 24.

Thereafter during that spring and summer rafting became popular, and many loads were brought down the river to Jackson.

## SNOW BOATS.

The difficulties of travel on account of the deep snow during the never-to-be-forgotten winter of 1880-81 led to the invention of a unique craft to sail the snow-covered prairies, known as snow boats. A boat of this kind was built with three keels, each about the size of a Norwegian snow shoe—seven feet long and six inches wide. The middle keel was fastened in front, but was not made fast behind, and so served as a rude rudder. The passengers sat on a platform attached to the other keels. A sail about eight feet square was made fast to a mast, and this completed the details of the vessel.

Boats of this kind could attain a speed of eight or ten miles an hour under favorable circumstances, one trip from Lakefield to Jackson having been made in one hour and ten minutes. As the steering

apparatus was primitive, the boats were driven along in about the direction the wind decreed; the navigators could not "bout-ship" or bear up against the wind to any considerable extent. When they had a definite course laid out they often had to "land" and haul their vessel back to its proper course. Such craft sailed unimpeded over corn fields, fences, hay racks and occasionally over houses and stables, so deep was the snow. The pioneers sometimes referred to their country as the "prairie ocean," and after it had been navigated by sailing vessels the name was quite appropriate.

As the railroads were blockaded nearly all winter and the train crews tied up at different out-of-the-way stations, the railroad men took this means of conveyance to reach their homes. In some parts of southwestern Minnesota they were put into service to bring in provisions and fuel to the snow-bound communities.

## IN GRASSHOPPER DAYS.

If one had the time and inclination to gather the data, a volume of this size could be filled from cover to cover with stories of the grasshopper days in Jackson county. The early seventies constituted a pathetic era in our county, the details of which will never be known to those who did not reside here during those perilous times. Some living outside the stricken area who were asked to aid those who were at the point of starvation pretended not to believe the stories of the sufferings of the people of the grasshopper belt.

To enlighten himself as to the true conditions, Governor John S. Pillsbury, during the winter of 1876-77, personally and incognito visited many parts of southwestern Minnesota, and as a result of his investigations, provisions, fuel and clothing were shipped direct to many who otherwise would have suffered severely.

Of the governor's visit to Jackson county D. W. Edwards, then of Heron Lake, wrote as follows in January, 1877:

"Quite a large quantity of relief goods, mostly provisions, have been shipped to this station during the last week for parties near here who were in needy circumstances. They were all from the governor, who has been around among the people looking after the needy ones. The distribution of this relief is conducted on a very different plan from that pursued in any previous year. There are no goods sent out promiscuously to be quarreled over or to encourage or assist any who are unworthy or can in any possible way help themselves. Our governor first goes over the ground himself and ascertains the true condition of those to whom this relief is sent. This week he got off the train here and went on one of his trips into the country, where he is passing around among the sufferers as any traveler unknown to them, searching out in his quiet way those reported to be in the most destitute circumstances, and where he finds such a family he books them for provisions enough to carry them through the winter. And all this is done in so quiet and unassuming a way that the recipient does not know whom to thank for his kind offices until he is gone.

"The poor farmer opens his door to the stranger and sets before him his scanty fare. He finds himself drawn out until he frankly tells this kind-hearted stranger his condition, and, with tears in his eyes, admits that he knows not from whence the next sack of flour is to come to keep starvation from his door, little dreaming that he is telling his sad tale to Governor Pillsbury. That poor widow, who one week ago with a sad heart broke sparingly, loaf by loaf, among her five hungry babes, looking ahead with a nameless fear as she prayed 'give us this day our

daily bread,' now has 'bread and to spare;' her prayer has been heard; that kind-hearted stranger knocked at her door—and now, linked with her petition and thanksgiving, is a prayer for God's blessings upon him who sought out and fed the hungry. These kind deeds are simply the noble acts of a noble man who has the welfare of his fellowmen at heart. In all his intercourse with the people not one word is said to encourage the asking for assistance, not one word that might break down that independent, self-reliant spirit which is the prop and stay of all frontiersmen and without which we would be little (if any) better than the lazy red man."

#### SWEARING OFF.

(Jackson Republic, December 30, 1882.)

We append the following list of men, citizens of Jackson who are total abstainers from the "filthy weed." The list comprises thirty-two persons, nearly all of whom at some time in their lives have been addicted to the habit, and who are a good example to those who "want to quit but can't."

T. J. Knox,  
George R. Moore,  
Andrew E. Olson,  
Rev. George Merritt,  
John K. Brown,  
A. C. Whitman,  
Rev. J. K. Alexander,  
Major H. S. Bailey,  
W. S. Kimball,  
H. White,  
J. A. Willson.  
W. D. Smith,  
B. W. Ashley,  
George C. Hill,  
F. W. Lindsley,  
George W. Arentsen,  
W. A. Pepper,  
C. A. Campbell,

R. J. Henderson,  
 J. B. Babcock,  
 Levi Davis,  
 John Cowing, Sr.,  
 F. C. Abbott,  
 J. G. Day,  
 Ole Anderson,  
 J. Gould,  
 H. H. Hughes,  
 H. S. Schlott,  
 M. L. Ashley,  
 F. L. Driggs,  
 Nathaniel Frost,  
 O. A. Sathe.

(Jackson Republic, January 13, 1883.)

Our reporter has discovered a couple of backsliders among those it published as non-tobacco users. They abandoned the weed for about three weeks, but the visions of fragrant cigars and sweet quids were too much for human nature. It is no "fool" trick to quit tobacco—don't forget it.

#### RACE FOR A FARM.

An amusing incident of pioneers days was an unseemly scramble for a fine quarter section of land in Wisconsin township, about two miles east of Jackson, which occurred in November, 1870. At the time there were whole townships open to settlement in the western and northern parts of the county, but the people of the south-eastern portion would consider nothing so far from the center of population. The race for the farm in question was started from the report circulated in Jackson that the claim had been abandoned and consequently was open to preemption or homestead entry.

The report flew like wildfire, and in no time there was a general stampede for the coveted property. A foot race, horse back race, buggy race and stage coach race was held, resulting in a large diminution of the population of Jackson.

Stakes were driven; holes were dug; claim shanties were put under way; wives and children were hurried off to take possession; parties of a speculative turn of mind were there in the dead hours of the night, hoping to turn an honest penny; lawyers, merchants, mechanics, all were there, and for a time were full-fledged citizens of the enchanting town of Wisconsin.

But the dreams of real estate possessions were doomed to be brief. All of a sudden it was discovered that the better half of the former claimant still tarried in the humble cabin, in actual possession of the premises. Being of Irish extraction and witty withal, the young deserted wife made considerable sport for the little throng of impromptu squatters. One of the prominent citizens of Jackson discovered a few bones partially buried, and fearing foul play, inquired how they happened to be there.

"Och, sure," said she, "I brought two sets with me whin I came, thinking surely I might be afther nading them whin I got these worn out."

The gentleman from Jackson had no further "bones to pick" after this reply. The holder of the claim appeared delighted to see the ladies who called to preempt, and of one she requested that she "be afther callin' again." There was less calling in the future, however, and the Irish lady continued in possession of the claim.

#### THE WRONG DOSE.

(By A. B. Allen.)\*

Now we want to tell a story of Dr. Kellam, of Heron Lake. The doctor is justice of the peace, and his income is about equally divided between physicist and marrying. So when he is sent for in a hurry, day or night, he grabs both valises, one loaded with medicines, the other with the

\*Published in the Jackson Republic, November 9, 1894.

statutes of Minnesota and marriage certificates.

Last week about eight o'clock he received a message from Brewster to come at once, the location being given as four miles south from town. The doctor harnessed his flyers and lit out, and when he arrived at the house it was nearly twelve o'clock. A young lady was sitting there, and, the doctor having a political canvass on hand, was in a mighty hurry, for he was billed to speak at Brownsburg the next night and wanted to rest. So, rushing up to the young lady, he felt her pulse. It was two hundred to the minute; her face was flushed and her eyes betrayed symptoms that were alarming. The genial doctor shook his head and said the case was serious. Then he asked her to run out her tongue. She thought it mighty strange but let a lot of it out.

"Black the whole length," said Kellam, "and it looks like cholera."

She had been eating grapes, but she supposed Dr. Kellam knew his business and kept quiet. The doctor put his head down to listen to her heart beat, but the beats came so fast he could not count them. Then came the sentence:

"Put mustard on your feet and take this powder every two hours."

Just then a big good-looking fellow came in and said:

"Now, hurry up, Doc, and marry us, for we want to catch the two-forty train to Sioux City."

Say, you could have knocked the doctor down with a straw. And the girl felt so relieved. She never had been married before and supposed the physical examination was a preliminary to the ceremony; but you don't fool Kellam again on fever.

#### GAME IN EARLY DAYS.

In the days before white men came, Jackson county was the home of several

species of big game. The last to disappear were the deer, which remained in some number until twenty-five or thirty years ago. These were occasionally bagged by the early settlers and frequently seen. Concerning the deer in the county during the seventies and early eighties, I quote a few items from the files of the Jackson Republic:

Heron Lake Correspondent, June 24, 1876: Several wild deer have been seen near here recently. Knud Thompson saw three about a mile east of town the other evening. They ran down toward the lake and are probably lurking around among the tall rushes and timber belts along the lake.

D. W. Edwards, Heron Lake Correspondent, May 5, 1877: Martin Johnson, a small boy living on the east side of the lake, was out with his dog one evening last week after the cows when they came upon those deer that have been around that locality for some time. The dog (a small shepherd dog) flew at them and injured the hind legs of one so badly that the boy succeeded in tying its fore legs with his whip lash, thus securing his game until he could go for help to dispatch it.

Heron Lake Correspondent, September 13, 1879: The people of this community express their indignation regarding the practice of chasing the few deer seen in the vicinity, and many express their determination to shoot the first dog seen in pursuit of a deer.

February 5, 1881: Mr. T. E. Mather, of this place, while rustivating in the country about midway between Jackson and Spirit Lake, saw two of the finest deer ever seen in this section. Mr. Mather says they have been frequently seen near the same place and along the Des Moines timber. Here is a chance for some of our "crack shots" to display their skill.

February 19, 1881: Jackson county bids fair to become a hunters' paradise, in addition to the many other paradisaical features she already boasts of. Big game in the shape of numerous herds of deer are frequently seen roaming over our prairies, and every year seems to increase their number. It has been supposed that these handsome animals wandered during the fall down into the Des Moines valley from the big woods in the northern part of the state, but there are good reasons for believing that they are "old residents of the county," and that this is their breeding place. It is said that they have their summer haunts in the vast area of rushes and wild rice which surround Heron lake, in the north part of the county, and residents of that vicinity inform us that they are occasionally seen thereabouts, although the habits of the animal are usually to secrete itself and remain within its haunts during the summer or breeding season. During the winter they are

driven from the brakes about the lake by the drifting snow and are thus found wandering on the prairies. Nearly fifty have been killed about Heron lake this winter, and they were seen in large numbers after the October snow storm, which goes to prove the theory that their summer haunts are about Heron lake.

#### SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Illustrative of the times, there are found in the files of the Jackson Republic many interesting items. Under existing conditions the events recorded could not possibly have happened. In many respects the residents of Jackson county of thirty and forty years ago lived in a different world; any one of the little items quoted below was not considered extraordinary at the time, but they would be if published in the same paper today. "The world do move."

**A Breech-Loading Gun (January 20, 1872)**—We were recently shown a very fine double-barreled, breech-loading shot gun recently purchased in Chicago by Mr. H. Anderson, of this place. The gun is loaded with a cartridge, and dispenses with the ordinary percussion cap, being discharged by a sort of needle acting upon a stationary cap in the cartridge. The gun can be loaded and discharged in a very short space of time and will make sad havoc among the chickens next summer.

**Caught a Beaver (October 10, 1874)**—Last Saturday Mr. Cady and his partner found in one of their traps on the river above Skinner's mill a large beaver which would weigh about seventy pounds. These animals are getting scarce in these parts, though indications prove that they were once more numerous. The tail and foot of this beaver can be seen at Squire Mason's office.

**Tax-Paying Not the Fashion (January 16, 1875)**—Treasurer Knudson and his deputy, Milton Mason, Esq., have been on their tramps to the different towns during the week, carrying around the tax duplicates and permitting people to see how much taxes are wanted. Of course no one is expected to pay any taxes when there isn't a cent of money in the county.

**Geese Visit Heron Lake (June 26, 1875, Heron Lake Correspondent)**—A flock of eight young wild geese, about half grown, marched into town Monday morning in single file and in as fine order as a body of regulars on dress parade. They were probably attracted here by the rustic appearance of our sidewalks (they are enough to make a goose laugh).

**Attacked by a Panther (May 27, 1876)**—One day last week a lad about thirteen or fourteen years old, a brother of Gust Thompson, of this town, was riding through the timber near Skinner's mill. A ferocious animal, supposed to be a panther, sprung from a tree to the horse he was riding, evidently intending to make the lad his prey. He missed his aim, however, and the boy having a shot gun with him, shot the animal in the mouth. This checked him for a time and the boy made his escape. It then attacked a colt belonging to Mr. Thompson, injuring it seriously, but not killing it. Tuesday night it made a raid on Menzo Ashley's setting turkey and destroyed it. The next day it (or what was supposed to be it) was seen by Mr. Holmes and others a few miles this side of Windom. We understand that a party are hunting the creature, and it is hoped they will speedily capture it. How it found its way into these parts is a query.

**Hay Twister (September 30, 1876, D. W. Edwards, of Heron Lake, correspondent)**—Mr. Albert D. Foster, of Yankton, D. T., was in town Tuesday with a sample machine for twisting hay and straw into compact rolls for fuel. The machine is a perfect success and is just what any farmer needs who finds it necessary to burn hay, as it makes the rolls in any length required and does it up neat and compact, making hay fuel as clean, as far as litter is concerned, as wood. The machine is durable and simple in its construction. Children can prepare the fuel as well as anyone, and it retails at the moderate price of \$10. We are prepared to take orders for them and will give time for one-half if desired.

**Wolves in Enterprise (December 8, 1877)**—Out in the town of Enterprise prairie wolves are getting to be a source of annoyance. They have killed turkeys for Thomas Clipperton and sheep for Darwin Lester. One attacked Mr. Lester's boy recently and tore his clothing, but otherwise no serious damage was done. We notice wolf hunts are quite common in some localities, and if their incursions this way are becoming common it will be well to inaugurate the sport here.

**Railway Reduces Fare (advertisement January 5, 1878)**—Another Reduction in Fare! The St. Paul & Sioux City and the Sioux City & St. Paul railroads will celebrate the coming of the new year by a general reduction of local ticket fares from FIVE CENTS to FOUR CENTS per mile on all divisions of their roads, to take effect January 1, 1878.

**First Telegram to Jackson (December 21, 1878)**—The lightning machine is here, too, and in working order. The following was the first telegram to come over the wires:

"Fairmont, Minn., December 19, 1878—To George C. Chamberlin, Jackson. Give us a good square electric shake.—Frank Day."

A "Live" Wolf (March 29, 1879)—A live wolf followed Jareb Palmer and C. H. Greer a good portion of the way to their homes in Sioux Valley the other day. He trotted along by their wagon, under the wagon and beside the wagon, ate crackers and was apparently happy, and all because they didn't happen to have a gun along.

Don't Spit on the Floor (May 24, 1879)—Good for the ladies who have scrubbed and cleaned and rendered the inside of the church more attractive and healthful. Woe be to the vandal who now squirts tobacco juice on the clean floor.

Rumors of the Telephone (December 13, 1879)—Why doesn't some telephone company come out along the line and supply towns those convenient little machines? They would

readily find a market in Jackson for one or two.

Fight With a Wolf (January 3, 1880, Heron Lake correspondent)—Mr. Svennes, while walking to town one night last week, had his attention attracted by a sudden jerk at his clothing, and, turning quickly around, found himself confronted by a large timber wolf. Mr. Svennes, who was totally unarmed, attempted to frighten the brute off by striking at him with his scarf, but the wolf seized the scarf and tore it from his hand. Next he brought one of his No. twelves to bear with such force that the wolf became discouraged and gave up the attack. Our hero then backed into town and concluded to buy a double-barreled shot gun, a revolver and two dozen steel traps before going home.



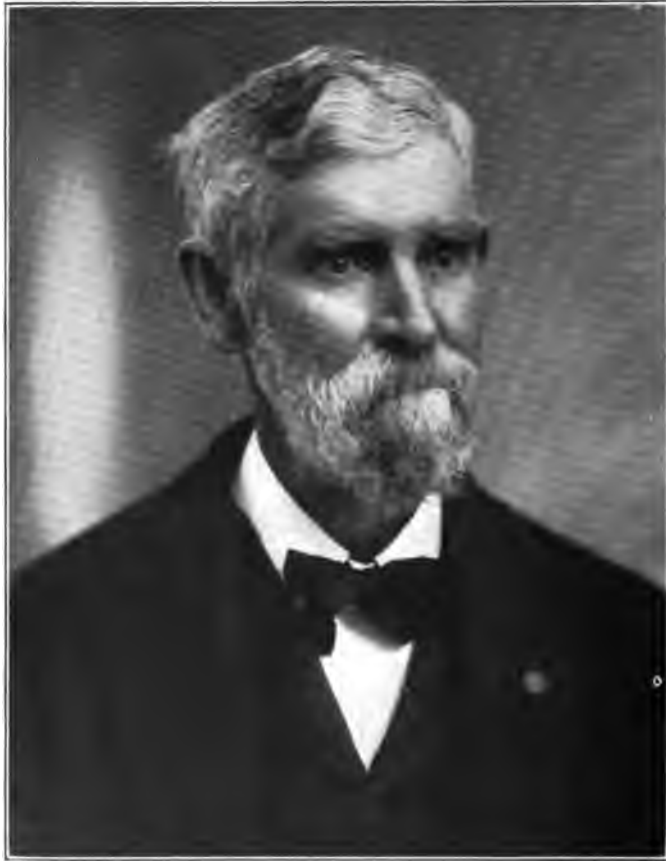


# BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY



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**CAPTAIN JAREB PALMER**

**Oldest Settler of Jackson County and a Survivor of the  
Springfield Massacre.**

## BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY.

CAPTAIN JAREB PALMER, (1856).<sup>1</sup> To Captain Jareb Palmer, of Lakefield, belongs the honor of being the oldest settler of Jackson county now living in the county. It was only a few months after the first white man established a home here fifty-three years ago that Jareb Palmer came and took part in the stirring events that marked the efforts of a little band of pioneers to establish a settlement along the Des Moines river near the spot where the village of Jackson now stands. In the annals of frontier settlement and Indian warfare there are few instances of intense suffering and thrilling events as characterized the attempts of the little band of men, women and children to obtain a foothold in the Indian country along the upper Des Moines river, and Jareb Palmer was one of the principal actors in these events. When the Indians swooped down on the settlement in the early spring of 1857 and enacted the terrible butchery of the Springfield massacre—Minnesota's first Indian massacre—it was Jareb Palmer who rallied the terror stricken settlers and directed the fighting that prevented the total annihilation of the settlement as was the case at Spirit Lake—and it was Jareb Palmer who led the refugees to safety after the massacre.

Not only did this pioneer play such an important part in the early days of Jackson county's history, he preserved the details of the massacre and the less tragic events for future generations. He has written much concerning the early days of Jackson county and he has been referred to as the "historian of Jackson county." To him the author of this volume is under many obligations for data

<sup>1</sup>The date in parenthesis following the name of each subject is the year of arrival to Jackson county.

used in its preparation. Had it not been for his writings this history of Jackson county must have lacked many of its most interesting features.

The life story of Captain Jareb Palmer is one of interest. He was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, February 29, 1828, descending from old American stock. His parents were Nathan and Matilda (Griffin) Palmer. Nathan Palmer was born in Vermont June 12, 1800, and moved with his parents to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, at the age of thirteen years. In 1836 he located in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming, trapping and hunting. He died in Tioga county in April, 1885. Matilda (Griffin) Palmer was born and married in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and died in Tioga county in 1858. They were the parents of eleven children, Jareb being the third in line of age and the eldest of the four now living. The living children are: Eber, of Clear Lake, Iowa; David, of Jenny Lind, Arkansas; Jareb, of this sketch; Mrs. Anna Thomas, of Tioga county, Pennsylvania. The father of our subject was married again in the early sixties to Elizabeth Grey, who was born in Delaware county, New York, and who died in 1907. Two children were born as a result of this marriage: U. G. Palmer, a state senator of Maryland; Jessie, deceased.

Jareb Palmer lived with his parents in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, until he was eight years of age and then moved with them to Union township, Tioga county, Pennsylvania. Upon his father's farm in that township he was brought up, making his home with his parents until 1851. From 1851 to 1854 Mr. Palmer engaged in farming and teaching school near his old home. In April, 1854, he

came west, lived with an uncle at Cedar Falls, Iowa, one year, and then located at Webster City, Iowa, where he made his home until November, 1856.

In company with Nathaniel Frost and Bartholomew McCarthy, Mr. Palmer drove to the little settlement that had just been founded and named Springfield in the southern part of Brown county, territory of Minnesota, arriving during the month of November, 1856. The headquarters of this settlement was at a point within the present corporate limits of the village of Jackson. Although the land was then unsurveyed and no provision had been made to secure title to the lands, Mr. Palmer took a claim by "squatter's right" on what is now section 1, of Middletown township, and erected a little cabin thereon. He did not live on the claim during the following winter, but made his home with a neighboring family, engaged in working for the Wood brothers and other settlers. It is not necessary to repeat here the story of the memorable massacre of March 26, 1857, that led to the abandonment of Jackson county. Mr. Palmer left with the others and sought safety in the older settled portions of the country to the south. For a few months after the massacre Mr. Palmer lived in Hardin county, Iowa, with the family of the uncle who had formerly lived at Cedar Falls, and then again pushed out to the frontier, locating at Spirit Lake.

On November 11, 1857, Mr. Palmer took a contract from a sub-contractor to carry the United States mail between Spirit Lake and Sioux City. He made the first three trips on foot, using that mode of travel because of the snow blockades; each trip took about ten days' time. On the third trip, while passing through Clay county, Iowa, a small band of Indians was encountered, and Mr. Palmer became one of a company of eleven men, who set out with the determination of driving the redskins from the country. The whites had an unsuccessful encounter with the Indians and were forced to retreat. After this interesting divergence from his official duties Mr. Palmer continued on his way. He served in the capacity of mail carrier until the following spring.

The encounter with the Indians referred to above caused the white settlers of Spirit Lake and other exposed settlements great uneasiness and there was fear that the Indian troubles of the year before were to be repeated.

They accordingly drew up a petition to present to the Iowa legislature asking for the enlistment of state troops to protect the frontier. Jareb Palmer was chosen to take this petition to the Iowa law making body, and through his presentation of the case the necessary law was passed and Mr. Palmer was authorized to recruit a company of thirty mounted men. This he did, enlisting himself as one of the number of the "Frontier Guard." The command was divided into three squads and stationed in Clay, Dickinson and Emmet counties. The guards were in active service until July, 1858, and were then temporarily out of service until that fall. Then they were again called into active duty and served until May, 1859.

After the discharge of the Frontier Guards Mr. Palmer organized another small cavalry company upon the order of the governor of Iowa and was elected and commissioned captain. He led his little command of soldiers on several scouting expeditions and made possible the settlement of the frontier regions. They did no fighting and served without pay until their discharge in 1861.

Owing to the massacre of two citizens of Sioux City by Sioux Indians in July, 1861, a scare was created throughout the whole northwest. Sioux City was then a little village of 300 or 400 people, and for its protection and the other exposed settlements the war department at Washington authorized the organization of a special company of United States soldiers. Mr. Palmer went to Sioux City and enlisted as a private in this company November 14, 1861, and served a three years' enlistment. This special company was first known as the Sioux City cavalry; later it was made company I, of the Seventh Iowa cavalry. It served as a frontier guard to the exposed settlements of Iowa and was in a several months' campaign against the Indians along the Missouri river, going as far north as nearly to Bismarck. Mr. Palmer took part with his company in the battle of White Stone Hill, where the savages suffered a loss of twenty or thirty killed and all their camp equipment. The company served as Brigadier General Sully's body guard in this battle. Mr. Palmer received his discharge November 26, 1864.

After his army service Jareb Palmer located in Spirit Lake, where he resided until 1871. That year he again became a resident of Jackson county, taking a preemption claim to the

northeast quarter of section 12, Sioux Valley township. He engaged in farming that land until the spring of 1882, when he moved to Rost township and bought the northeast quarter of section 26. He continued his farming operations in Rost until 1895, when he retired from active pursuits and located in the village of Lakefield.

During his residence in Iowa Captain Palmer served as county superintendent of schools, prosecuting attorney, clerk of court and chairman of the county board of supervisors. He was also assistant internal revenue collector from 1866 to 1870. After moving to Jackson county he served as township clerk and justice of the peace. He has served as village justice in Lakefield for the last eleven years. In 1892 he received the republican nomination for register of deeds, but was defeated by John Baldwin. Mr. Palmer is a member of the Grand Army post at Jackson.

Jareb Palmer has been twice married and he is the father of seven living children, as follows: Mrs. Louise Strait, of Tennessee; Nathan J., Herbert C. and Bennie C., all of Glenburn, North Dakota; Mrs. Minerva B. Ware, of Bismarck, North Dakota; John G., of Echo, Minnesota; Francis L., of Lakefield.

**WILLIAM WOOD** (1856), deceased. The first white man to make a permanent home in Jackson county was William Wood, who came during the month of July, 1856, and in partnership with his brother, George Wood, built a home and established a trading post on the Des Moines river where the village of Jackson is now located. Here also, in a primitive way, they laid out a townsite, which they called Springfield. As the story of the lives of William and George Wood after they came to Jackson county is told in an earlier part of this work, this sketch will briefly outline their earlier history.

William Wood was one of a family of fifteen children born to Samuel and Elizabeth (Thomson) Wood, and the date of his birth was about 1830. He descended from colonial stock. One of his ancestors was a Holland Dutch patroon of the then New Netherlands; another was Smith Thompson, secretary of the navy and a judge of the supreme court; his paternal grandfather, James Wood, was a revolutionary soldier, his maternal grandfather, Smith Thompson, was a veteran of the war of 1812.

The father of William and George Wood died in 1847, leaving his wife and a large family of children. Being thus early thrown upon his own resources, William Wood became self-reliant. Early in the fifties he left his mother's home in Ridgeville, Randolph county, Indiana, and located at the little village of Mankato, Minnesota, where he took a position as Indian trader with Robert Wardlow, a merchant. While engaged in his work he had occasion to visit the Des Moines river country and selected the site now occupied by Jackson village as a place to make his future home.

During the month of July, 1856, William Wood, accompanied by his brothers, George Charles, came to the site, engaged in business with a small stock of Indian trinkets and supplies, and made his home there until he was killed by the Indians in the massacre of March, 1857.

George McElroy Wood, who also took a prominent part in the affairs of the little community about Springfield before the massacre, was born in 1827. After his father's death he became the head of the family and assisted his mother in supporting the family in various ways. He engaged in school teaching, which in that early day and country was considered quite an accomplishment. He was a religious and serious minded young man and was devoted to church and Sabbath school work. He came to Jackson county with his brother in 1856 and was killed on the same day his brother met his fate. Both brothers were buried where they fell.

Charles Wood, the younger brother who also came in the fall of 1856, was sixteen or seventeen years of age at that time. He had gone to Mankato a few days before the massacre and so escaped the fate of his brothers. He later enlisted and fought for the union cause during the war of the rebellion, meeting his death at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, in the line of duty. Five of the Wood boys took part in the war.

**JAMES B. THOMAS** (1856), deceased. In the account of the early settlement of Jackson county and of the Springfield massacre, in an earlier part of this work, is frequent mention of James B. Thomas, at whose cabin occurred the fight with the Indians during the



famous massacre. It is the purpose of this sketch to give a few items concerning his earlier and later life.

James B. Thomas was born in Licking county, Ohio, in the year 1813. In that county he was brought up and resided until he was twenty-six years of age. Then he located in Cass county, Illinois, where he engaged in the milling business and where he was married. Three years after making his home in Illinois he moved to Iowa and settled near Fairfield, in Jefferson county. A few years later he and his family pushed out farther onto the frontier, locating near Webster City. There he bought and improved an eighty acre farm and prospered financially, working at the millwright's trade while improving the farm.

In the year 1856 Mr. Thomas sold his farm in Iowa and came to that part of Brown county, Minnesota, which is now Jackson county and settled with his family near the "town" of Springfield. There he staked a claim (located on the east side of the river at Jackson), built one of the best cabins in the settlement, and started in to make a new home for himself. At the massacre on March 26, 1857, his youngest child, Willie, was killed outright, Mr. Thomas received a severe wound in the arm which necessitated two amputations, and from the effect of which he died in 1866, and in escaping from the scene of the fight his little daughter Mary contracted a cold which resulted in her death six weeks later.

Mr. Thomas and his family did not return to Jackson county, but located near Marshalltown, Iowa, where he secured a 160 acre farm and where he died in 1866.

Mr. Thomas was married in Cass county, Illinois, to Irma A. Clark, who was born November 22, 1824. They were the parents of several children. One son, Frank M. Thomas, who has before been mentioned in connection with the massacre, later, at the age of nineteen years, enlisted in the Second Iowa cavalry and served two years in the war. He was wounded in the left ankle and the limb was amputated in Andersonville prison. Blood poison set in, resulting in his death in 1873. The Grand Army Post at Marshalltown, Iowa, was named in his honor.

**NATHANIEL FROST (1856)**, deceased, was one of the very first residents of Jackson

county, having located here when the country was a part of Brown county. He took part in many of the stirring events of the early days and after the county became settled became a prominent citizen.

Mr. Frost was born in Pipe Creek, Tioga county, New York, January 14, 1832. During the first year of his life the family moved to Covington, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, and there our subject spent his youth and early manhood. In 1854 he came west, locating in Michigan, where he lived eight months. He then moved to Hardin county, Iowa, where he lived nearly two years. Going to Webster City in Hamilton county, Mr. Frost met an old friend, Jareb Palmer, and with him drove to the future Jackson county, settling near the present site of the village of Jackson. He arrived in the county in company with Jareb Palmer and Bartholomew McCarthy on the twenty-seventh day of November, 1856. Some of the life history of Mr. Frost during these early days is told in the historical section of this work, and in a brief biographical sketch of this kind we can only touch on the principal events.

The massacre of 1857 drove Mr. Frost temporarily from the county. In 1862 he enlisted in company K, of the Fourth Minnesota volunteer infantry. He was ordered to St. Louis, where he was about two years. After his term of enlistment had expired he reenlisted as a veteran and served until the close of the war. He took part in sixteen important engagements of the civil war and was with General Sherman on the march to the sea. With the exception of the four years spent in the army, two years spent at Kasota, Minnesota, and four years in Caldwell county, Missouri, Mr. Frost was a resident of the county until his death, which occurred at Jackson, December 21, 1899.

Mr. Frost was married January 2, 1861, to Maryette Root, of Benson, Vermont, and to them were born three children: Flora J. (Mrs. Wagner), John and Moses.

**JOSEPH THOMAS (1858)**, deceased. For a number of years, in the very early history of Jackson county, there was one man known far and wide, who could have justly claimed title to being the "most prominent" man in Jackson county. This was Joseph Thomas, who came to the county in 1858 and settled on

what has ever since been known as Thomas hill, on the east side of the Des Moines river in the village of Jackson. For years he was the only business man in Jackson county, during the time when there was not a railroad or a town in the county. He kept a hotel and postoffice on the hill, and to his place came all who were passing through the country. The hospitality of Joseph Thomas and his estimable wife were known far and wide. He played a prominent part in the county's early history.

Mr. Thomas was born in New Jersey in 1810, and after several westward moves came to Jackson county in the spring of 1858. He and his son and one or two others drove up from Newton, Iowa, carrying their own bridges with which to cross the streams. He selected a site for his home, upon which was a deserted log cabin. The small children were brought up to the new home in 1859, and a permanent home was established. Mr. Thomas conducted a hotel for the accommodation of the few travelers, and a little later secured the establishment of a postoffice, of which he was the postmaster.

He and his family were obliged to desert their home in 1862 on account of the Indian massacre and subsequent hostility of the savages, and for a time he lived in Spirit Lake. Mr. Thomas continued to reside at the old home until his death, which occurred February 28, 1891.

In 1831 occurred the marriage of Mr. Thomas to Jane Van In Wegin, to whom were born nine children.

JAMES E. PALMER (1858), deceased, was one of the very early settlers of Jackson county, having settled in the county nearly fifty-two years ago. He was born in the state of Connecticut July 27, 1832, and in an early day moved with his parents to Pecatonica, Illinois, later moving to Freeport, Illinois.

In the fifties Mr. Palmer took up his residence at Newton, Iowa, and in the spring of 1858 came to the new Jackson county country. He settled upon land upon which a part of the village of Jackson is now built and continuously lived in that village until his death on May 1, 1896. This was with the exception of two years spent in Spirit Lake during the Indian troubles of the early six-

ties. Mr. Palmer served as surveyor of Jackson county twenty-five years.

Mr. Palmer was married in Freeport, Illinois, to Minda Thomas, daughter of the late Joseph and Jane Thomas.

OLE ANDERSON (1861). There are only a few people living in Jackson county whose arrival antedates that of Ole Anderson, of Jackson. For nearly fifty years he has lived in the county, playing a part in many of the events described in the historical section of this volume. More than any person living is he acquainted with the details of the early Norwegian settlement of Jackson county and the terrible times during and succeeding the Belmont massacre of 1862. He has always taken an interest in preserving the accounts of the early times, and except for his interest in the matter, much of historical interest contained in this volume must have remained unrecorded. It was largely through Mr. Anderson's persistence in demanding an appropriation from the Minnesota legislature that the handsome shaft in memory of the killed in the Indian massacres has recently been erected in the village of Jackson.

Mr. Anderson was born in Norway June 11, 1852, the son of Anders Olson and Annie (Engebretson) Olson. When five years of age he came to America with his parents and located at Spring Grove, Houston county, Minnesota, where he lived until the spring of 1861. In the month of June of that year he arrived in Jackson county, the family having driven through by ox team. The head of the family preempted a claim on section 3, Des Moines township, and on that place the family lived until the following summer, Anders Olson having died there in April, 1862.

The Belmont massacre took place in August, 1862, and the Olson family, together with all other residents of Jackson county, were forced to flee for their lives. Ole, accompanied by his mother and three sisters, returned to their old home in Houston county. After hurriedly leaving their home in Jackson county they stopped for a short time in Estherville, Iowa,—long enough for some of them to come back and secure their personal effects, which had been left. After securing these, they resumed their journey, making the trip by ox team and deviating considerable from a direct course because of fear of Indians, who were supposed

to be in great numbers all over southern Minnesota.

The family remained in Houston county until the spring of 1864 and then returned to Jackson county, being the first and only family in the county at the time. They located on the land claim Mr. Olson had taken and the mother of our subject proved up on the place. Ole made his home with his mother until 1866, when he was fourteen years of age. Then his mother remarried and he started out in life for himself. From that time until his marriage in January, 1872, he made his living by hunting, fishing, trapping and teaming.

After his marriage Mr. Anderson moved onto his mother's old claim, built a house on it and engaged in farming. There he remained until 1880, with the exception of eighteen months during the grasshopper times, when he lived in Capron, Boone county, Illinois. His health failed in 1880 and he was obliged to give up farm work. He then located in Lakefield, then just founded, where he resided two years. In 1882 he bought a farm on section 16, Des Moines township, where he engaged in farming until he was elected sheriff of Jackson county in 1892. Then he moved to Jackson, where he has since lived, having been engaged in several different business enterprises.

Anders Olson, the father of our subject, was a shoemaker in his native land. He came to America in 1857, lived in Houston county, Minnesota, until 1861, and then came to Jackson county. He enlisted in the union army in 1861 and served until his death, which occurred in hospital at St. Louis, Missouri, in the spring of 1862. His widow remarried and lived in Jackson county until her death, which occurred in 1904 at the age of 84 years. There were four children in the family: Bertha, Christina, Bertha and Ole, of whom the first two named are dead.

Mr. Anderson was married in Belmont township January 23, 1872, to Eliza Hanson, who was born in Boone county, Illinois, November 17, 1847. Her parents were Hans and Eliza (Triam) Hanson, who were born in Norway and who came to America before their marriage and settled in the (then) village of Chicago. They were married in Chicago, later moved to Boone county, Illinois, where they died.

To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born

five children, all born in Jackson county. They are: Ella (Mrs. C. A. Stromme), of Kenyon, Minnesota, born December 4, 1872; Hannah (Mrs. A. B. Frederickson), of Balfour, North Dakota, born September 30, 1874; Hattie (Mrs. F. A. Brown), of Fairmont, Minnesota, born September 25, 1878; Wallace, who is married and a resident of Wilbur, Washington, born August 25, 1881; Pearl, who resides at home, born January 31, 1887.

SIMON OLSON (1861), deceased, was one of the pioneers of the county and a gentleman worthy a place in its history. He was born in Tolgen, Norway, June 14, 1837, and came to America in 1856. From that date until 1861 he lived at Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1861 Mr. Olson, in company with a colony of Norwegian settlers, came to Jackson county, then very sparsely settled, and took a homestead in Belmont township. In the summer of 1861 he enlisted in Brackett's battalion of the Second Minnesota and served in the army nine months.

He again took up his residence in Belmont in 1862, only to be driven out in August by the Indians. He went to Spring Grove, Houston county, Minnesota, in 1863, was married there, and came back to his former home in Belmont in 1864, being with the first party to return to Jackson county after the massacre. Mr. Olson engaged in farming from that date until his death on April 27, 1907. During his long residence in the county he held several offices of trust, among them being county commissioner and judge of the probate court.

Judge Olson was married at Spring Grove, Houston county, Minnesota, in 1863, to Bertha Olson. She died April 17, 1877, and in 1883 he married Anna Minde. He was the father of ten children.

HOGAN GILBERT (1864). There are very few residents of Jackson county whose arrival antedates that of Hogan Gilbert, of Petersburg township, and perhaps none has lived upon his original land claim for a greater length of time. For over forty-five years he has lived upon the northeast quarter of section 34, which he took as a homestead claim during the civil war. He has witnessed the development of Jackson county as few other men have had an opportunity to.

Mr. Gilbert is a Norwegian by birth and was born February 6, 1838, in Hallingdal, aals Prestegeld, the son of Gilbert and Bertha (Olson) Gilbert. He came to America in the spring of 1852 at the age of fourteen years and after spending one year in Wisconsin, he moved west and became one of the very earliest pioneers of southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. He located in Martin county in 1853 and made his home there three years. He then located at Estherville, Iowa, where for some time he was a member of the Iowa home guards. He enlisted in the fall of 1862, immediately after the Belmont massacre, which occurred late in August, and for some time was with the Iowa guards scouting the country up to the Minnesota line. His headquarters during this time was at Fort Defiance, at Estherville, Iowa. On the first day of June, 1864, Mr. Gilbert became a resident of Jackson county, taking a homestead claim on section 34, Petersburg, and on that farm he has ever since resided.

Mr. Gilbert owns 440 acres of land. He has stock in the Jackson Telephone company and in the Petersburg Creamery company. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

On September 27, 1869, Mr. Gilbert was united in marriage to Mary Olson and to them have been born five children: Gilbert H., Albert, Bertha, deceased; Esther and Louis.

**MAJOR HIRAM S. BAILEY** (1865), deceased. In the early days of Jackson county's history there were few men who took a more important part than did the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. In political matters he was a leader and played a most important part in the organization of the county.

Major Bailey was born in Montgomery, Vermont, in 1829. He received a common school education in the towns of Montgomery and Waterville and completed his education in an academy at Bakersfield. In 1853 he came west and located in Dodge county, Wisconsin, residing on a farm near Waupun until 1856. That year he settled on a farm in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he resided until the breaking out of the civil war. He enlisted in 1861 in company A, of the Second Minnesota infantry, and served four years and three months in the army. He enlisted as a private, but promotion was rapid and he was

mustered out of the service as major. Major Bailey took part in some of the important engagements of the civil war and in the Indian campaigns. He assisted in the trial of the four hundred Sioux at Mankato in 1862 and was present at the execution of the thirty-eight who were hung.

In 1865, after his discharge from the army, Major Bailey came to Jackson county, where he resided until his death. Earlier in his career he had assisted in the organization of Mower county, Minnesota, and when he came to Jackson county, he, more prominently than any other, assisted in the reorganization of Jackson county. The first county election was held at his home, in his log cabin, near the village. In partnership with Welch Ashley he platted the town of Jackson and was active in the promotion of enterprises and the settlement of the county. Among the offices he held were county commissioner, court commissioner, superintendent of schools, member of the board of education and justice of the peace. Major Bailey died at Jackson April 20, 1901.

Major Bailey was married at Bishford, Vermont, March 10, 1852, to Jane Wheeler. They had five children: Sidney, who died at the age of one year; Frank E., of Jackson; Wallace M., who died at the age of twenty-one; Freddie, who died at the age of eighteen; Brownie H. (Mrs. W. H. Dunstan), of Spokane, Washington.

**WILLIAM V. KING** (1866). One of the best known residents of the county is William V. King, a pioneer of forty-three years standing, who now lives a retired life in the county seat village, after having spent many active years in public life.

In Oldham, England, on September 26, 1831, our subject was born, the son of John and Hannah (Hilton) King. On the first day of April, 1835, the family set sail for the new world and upon their arrival located near Utica, New York. There until he was ten years old William lived with his parents, attending school and working for a short time in a factory. In 1841 he went to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and that was his home until his thirtieth year. During these years he was engaged in farm work and teaching school. Moving to Crawford county in 1861, he engaged in farming, and the same year, upon the out-

break of the civil war, he took a position with the government as enrolling officer. In 1864 he enlisted in the 43rd Wisconsin volunteer infantry and served as first sergeant of his company until his discharge from the army, which occurred at Nashville, Tennessee, in July, 1865.

In the fall of 1865, soon after leaving the army, Mr. King took up his residence at Austin, Minnesota, and in May, of the following year, became a resident of Jackson county. He located in what is now organized as Wisconsin township and took as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 28, upon which he lived until 1873. Having been elected to the office of county auditor that fall, he moved to Jackson to assume the duties of the office. With the exception of two years spent in Hunter township, Jackson has been the home of Mr. King ever since.

During thirty-one years of his residence in the county Mr. King has held county office—a record held by no other man. Prior to his removal to Jackson he held the office of judge of probate six years; he was superintendent of schools two years; was county attorney two years; and held the office of county auditor twenty-one years. He owns property in the village of Jackson and eighty acres of land in section 24, Hunter township. Fraternaly he is associated with the Masonic and Grand Army of the Republic organizations.

Mr. King was married in Walworth county, Wisconsin, March 27, 1856, to Antonette L. Porter, who died in Jackson March 26, 1896. To this union were born the following named children: William P., Nellie G. (Davies), S. S. and John L. The second marriage of Mr. King occurred June 22, 1898, when he wedded Leonora E. Chittenden at Fairmont, Minnesota.

**GEORGE C. CHAMBERLIN** (1866), deceased. In many respects George C. Chamberlin was one of the most prominent men of Jackson county during the pioneer days. He had a large acquaintanceship, was popular and beloved by all who knew him. He played a leading part in the county's political and social life.

Mr. Chamberlin was born in Newbury, Vermont, February 25, 1837, the son of Abner and Mary (Hazelton) Chamberlin. He was educated in Newbury seminary and learned the

printer's trade, later engaging in business at Bradford, Vermont. He enlisted in the union army at the outbreak of the civil war and served until its close.

In 1866, just as the little town was being founded, Mr. Chamberlin located in Jackson, and on February 26, 1870, he founded the county's first newspaper, the Jackson Republic. Later he sold out and bought a paper at Mankato, but because of failing eyesight he was obliged to give up newspaper work, and he retired from active pursuits. He became entirely blind. He represented Jackson county in the Minnesota senate, was county auditor, prosecuting attorney, and held other county offices. He lived in Jackson until 1893; then he returned to his boyhood home, Bradford, Vermont, where he died in November, 1896.

**THOMAS GOODWIN** (1866) and wife, who now reside in Wilder, have lived in Jackson county for the last forty-three years and are among the few surviving pioneers who came as early as 1866. Mr. Goodwin was born in Liverpool, England, November 12, 1839, the son of Thomas and Mary (Bowin) Goodwin. These parents came to America in 1840, lived in Elmira, New York, four years, in Williams-ville, Pennsylvania, four years and then in Farmers Valley, McKean county, Pennsylvania, in all of which places they were engaged in the hotel business. The mother died in Farmers Valley January 12, 1897, aged 81 years; the father in August, 1906, aged 89 years.

When his parents came to America in 1840 our subject did not accompany them but was brought up in the family of his grandfather, at New Town, Wales. At the age of fifteen years he left the home of his grandparents and crossed the Atlantic. He joined his parents in McKean county, Pennsylvania, and until his twenty-fifth year, in 1864, he was employed on a farm owned by his father.

Mr. Goodwin was married May 3, 1864, at Portville, New York, to Betsy Elizabeth Barrett, who is the daughter of Thornton and Rebecca (Brewer) Barrett, and who was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, January 24, 1843. They are the parents of the following named children: Mary (Mrs. W. F. Ridgeway), of Jackson, born January 25, 1866; Lewis L., of Mosier, Oregon, born June 28, 1868; Cora A., born December 3, 1869, died November 27, 1897; Elmira A., born May 14,

1873, died September 10, 1874; Fred L., of Leland, Washington, born October 3, 1877; Laura E., of Parkston, South Dakota, born August 16, 1880.

In October, 1866, Mr. Goodwin came to Jackson county and took as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 6, Middletown township, and the next year moved onto the place with his family. At the time the nearest railroad point was Owatonna, 120 miles away, and neighbors were scarce. There were only three families between his place and the present site of Luverne, in Rock county. The first three years of the residence of this family in Jackson county were spent living in a "dugout," and thereafter for several years in a log cabin. Incredible were the hardships endured in this frontier country during the "starvation period" and the terrible grasshopper scourge. Mr. Goodwin remained on the claim and weathered the storms of adversity. He lived on the farm until 1890, when he retired from active pursuits and moved with his family to Wilder.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Goodwin served as a member of the school board in Middletown township several years, and has served as a member of the Wilder village council several terms.

CHARLES H. SANDON (1866), judge of the probate court of Jackson county, is one of the pioneers of the county and one of its best known residents. He is an Englishman by birth, having been born in Northampton October 7, 1845, the son of Thomas and Eliza (Goodwin) Sandon.

When the subject of this biography was four months of age the family emigrated to America and located at Burke, in Dane county, Wisconsin, and there our subject grew to manhood. At the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in company G, of the First Wisconsin cavalry, and served until November, 1864, having been discharged at Calhoun, Georgia. After the war Mr. Sandon returned to his old home at Burke and made his home there until the fall of 1866. He then came to Jackson county, bought land in Wisconsin township, and returned to spend the winter in his old home. He came back to Jackson county with his family in the spring of 1867 and has ever since been a resident of the county.

From the spring of 1867 until 1891 Mr. Sandon engaged in farming in Wisconsin township. In November, 1889, he was elected judge of probate and has held the office ever since, having been reelected nine times. His present term expires January 1, 1911. While a resident of Wisconsin township Judge Sandon served in various official capacities. He was the first assessor of the township, serving during the years 1867-68; was township clerk sixteen years, and was justice of the peace from 1886 to 1890. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Odd Fellows and the Workmen lodges. He owns 205 acres of land in Jackson county and real estate in other parts of the country.

Judge Sandon was married November 23, 1865, to Miss Sarah J. Fields. To this union have been born the following named children: Elbert J., born December 22, 1867, died December 5, 1886; Ethel H., born June 8, 1870, died January 2, 1889; Viola A., born April 27, 1873, married October 12, 1898, died in 1899; Stella A., born September 18, 1875, married December 29, 1897; Nettie F., born November 4, 1878, married October 28, 1908; Harry H., born February 6, 1881; Samuel E., born December 24, 1883; William A., born March 30, 1886; Robert Cassius, born August 8, 1888.

WILBUR S. KIMBALL (1867), deceased. In the early days of the history of the village of Jackson no man had a wider acquaintanceship or took a more prominent part in the affairs of the village than did W. S. Kimball, one of the pioneer merchants.

He was born in Chelsea, Vermont, in 1835, and early in life moved with his parents to Illinois. After reaching his majority he moved to Austin, Minnesota, where he engaged in the hardware business. He enlisted in the Fourth Minnesota regiment of volunteers in 1861 and served until the close of the war. At the close of the war Mr. Kimball returned to Austin, and during the summer of 1867 came with his family to the new village of Jackson. He erected the town's second building and opened a small hardware store. Beginning with a small business, he prospered and was soon doing an enormous business. He was a most liberal and enterprising citizen and devoted much time to the upbuilding of the little city. He was in business many years.

With the building of the St. Paul & Sioux

City railroad much of the trade territory from which he had before drawn was cut off; then came the hard times during the grasshopper period, and Mr. Kimball failed. After retiring from business he took a position as a traveling salesman, and some time before his death he retired and lived a quiet life at Jackson. Mr. Kimball died at Jackson December 13, 1892.

WELCH ASHLEY (1865), deceased, was one of the founders of the village of Jackson and one of the town's prominent men in the early days. The Ashley family is one of the old American families, Robert Ashley having come to the new world from England in colonial days and settled in Massachusetts. Welch Ashley's grandfather, David Ashley, was born in Westfield, Massachusetts. He was a soldier in the French and Indian war, serving eighteen months. He also served seven years in the revolutionary war and was with Colonel Ethan Allen at the capture of Ticonderoga. He rose to the rank of major. Welch Ashley was born in Hancock, Delaware county, New York, on the first day of the year 1807, the son of Forest and Harriett (Welch) Ashley. Forest Ashley was born June 2, 1771, at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and died in Mainesburg, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1856. He was married in Hancock, Delaware county, New York, in 1794. He was a carpenter by trade.

At an early age Welch Ashley moved with his parents to Troy, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, where he lived a number of years. He served as sheriff of Bradford county a number of years. Later he moved to Tioga county, in the same state, where he was married and where he lived until he came west and settled in Jackson county. Mr. Ashley was always very patriotic and a strong union man during the civil war. He contributed to the cause and three of his sons were in the union army.

It was during the month of September, 1865, that Welch Ashley came to Jackson county and bought the old Wood homestead, upon which had been enacted the tragedies of the Inkpaduta massacre more than eight years before. At the time there were only a few families living in the whole of Jackson county, and these only recently returned after the fear of the Indians had been removed.

In 1866 Mr. Ashley and Major H. S. Bailey laid out the town of Jackson, Mr. Ashley being

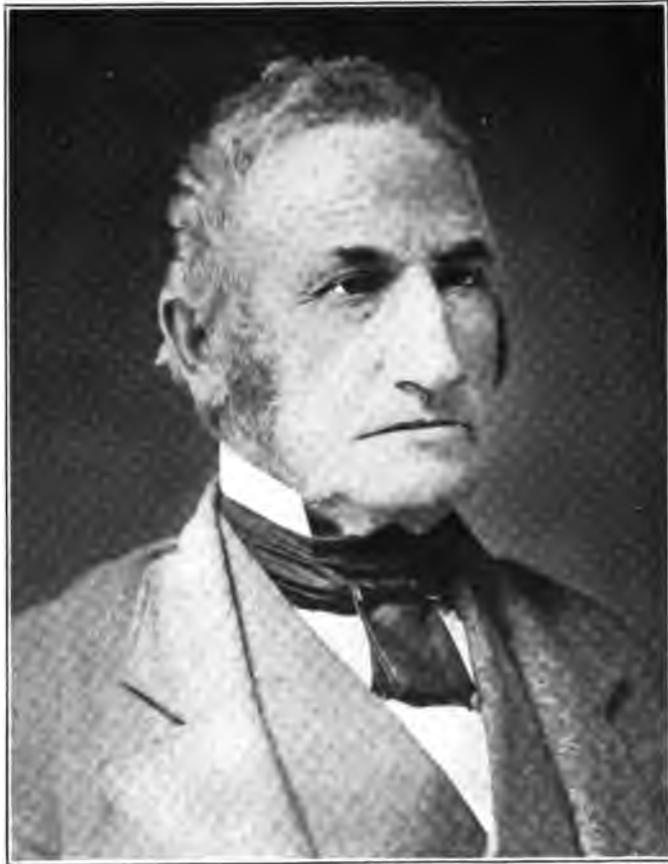
the proprietor of all that portion of the town included in the original plat lying north of White street. About the same time he built the first saw mill erected in the county, which was located on the east side of the river at the site of the present dam. At this mill much of the lumber used for the construction of the first buildings erected in the new town was sawed and prepared.

From the first Mr. Ashley entered into the business life of the town, taking an active part in every movement for the advancement of its interests. In company with his son, B. W. Ashley, he built the Ashley House, which ever since has been the principal hotel of the village and is now owned by his grandson, M. D. Ashley, and, for many years he was its owner. Much of the material used in the construction of this hotel was hauled by team from Mankato. He was also engaged at various times in the mercantile business and in farming. He retained his mental vigor, and in great degree his physical strength until a few days before his death, and his interest in the town which he had founded continued to the last. Mr. Ashley died at his home in Jackson February 23, 1885.

Mr. Ashley was always a strong friend of religion and was a member of the Methodist church. For many years the local Methodist church was largely supported by him and his excellent wife. It was mainly through his efforts that the present church building of that denomination was erected, he being not only the largest individual contributor to the fund subscribed for its erection, but also devoting much of his time to looking after its construction and in the collection and management of the funds subscribed for that purpose, in which matters his experience and sound judgment were invaluable.

Welch Ashley was married in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, to Margaret Smith, who survived her husband nearly twenty years and died February 17, 1905. To these parents were born seven children, as follows: George G., Benjamin W., Mrs. Margaret Hill, Menzo L., Jesse F., Mrs. Julia F. Downey and John C., all of whom are living except Benjamin W. and George G.

ANDERS ROE (1868), ex-sheriff and ex-judge of probate of Jackson county, now engaged in farming in Enterprise township, is



WELCH ASHLEY (1807-1885.)

One of the Founders of Jackson and a Settler of 1865.



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ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

one of the county's very early settlers and a man who has taken a prominent part in the affairs of his county.

Mr. Roe was born in Norway September 13, 1844, the son of Osborn and Ragnilda (Roe) Roe. In 1852, at the age of eight years, he came to America with his parents and for short periods of time lived in Dane county, Jefferson county and Columbia county, all in Wisconsin. He then located in Portage county, Wisconsin, where he took up government land and where he lived until coming to Jackson county.

Our subject served one year in the union army during the closing days of the war, being a member of the Fifth Wisconsin volunteers, having been mustered in at Madison, Wisconsin, in September, 1864. With his regiment he took part in the battle of Petersburg, Virginia, on April 2, 1865, and on April 6 he participated in the battle on Sailors creek. In this latter engagement he was slightly wounded but did not leave the ranks. He also assisted in the closing days at Appomattox court house, when General Lee and his army of twenty-five thousand men surrendered. He was mustered out at Hall's Hill, near Washington, June 20, 1865.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Roe returned to his old Wisconsin home, and in the spring of 1868 came to Jackson county. The trip was made by ox team and took four weeks time. Mr. and Mrs. Roe journeyed with three other families as far as St. Charles, Minnesota, when the party divided, all going in different directions. At the time there were on the route taken only two houses between Fairmont and Jackson. One of these was between Fairmont and the present location of Sherburn and the other was near the present location of Sherburn. This point was twelve miles and forty rods east of the old Thomas cabin and was known as Lone Cedar postoffice. On one occasion the team mired in Ten-mile creek and the only way Mr. Roe could get out of the mire was by unloading. They lost their way and had traveled as far south as the present town of Tenhassen before they realized they were off the proper course. They arrived in Jackson county on the 28th day of June, 1868.

Mr. Roe on July 9, 1868, took as a homestead claim the west half of the northwest quarter of section 30, Enterprise township, land which he still owns and upon which he now resides.

He engaged in farming there for a number of years. During the latter part of the grasshopper scourge he worked for the John Paul Lumber company at their yard in Jackson. In the fall of 1879, when the railroad extended and the town of Lakefield was founded, Mr. Roe moved there and took charge of the John Paul lumber yard, which he conducted until the office there was discontinued. He then went to Sherburn, where he conducted the company's yard three years. Mr. Roe again located on his farm, where he has since resided.

In the early days of the county's history Mr. Roe served as sheriff of the county and he was also judge of probate two years. He is a member of the Lutheran church of Jackson.

On November 27, 1866, Mr. Roe was united in marriage to Elsie Frederickson. To them were born five children, as follows: Julian, born August 15, 1868, died September, 1887; Alfred, born February 2, 1871; Emma, born December 15, 1872; Albert, born November 8, 1876; Richard H., born January 24, 1884.

ANDREW C. OLSON (1868) is county commissioner of Jackson county and one of the most successful farmers of Christiania township. He is one of the oldest settlers of the precinct and has resided there since he was two years of age. He owns and farms 240 acres of land on sections 8 and 9 and has other business interests.

Mr. Olson was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, March 30, 1866, the son of Carl Olson, who died December 21, 1881, and Ingeborg (Simonson) Olson. His parents came to the new world from Norway in 1858 and located in Iowa, from which state his father enlisted and fought with the union forces during the civil war. He was with General Sherman on his famous march to the sea and was wounded in the service. Andrew accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1868 at the age of two years, and his home has ever since been in Christiania township. His father homesteaded land on the south bank of Fish lake, and there our subject lived until he was twenty-two years of age, securing an education and working on the farm.

At the age of twenty-two Mr. Olson was married and began farming on his own account, locating on a farm on the west side of Fish lake. In 1890 he bought the farm he now owns and in 1897 he moved onto the place.

He has a fine home and a well improved farm. He has large interests in the creamery company of Bergen and the Farmers Elevator company of Windom and other cooperative concerns. He is a director of the Farmers State Bank of Windom. During his long residence in the county Mr. Olson has many times been called upon to serve in an official capacity. He is at present a member of the board of county commissioners, was chairman of the Christiania township board twelve years, clerk of his school district twenty-two years, and township assessor five years.

Mr. Olson was united in marriage to Carolina Anton, of Christiania township, December 13, 1888. To this union have been born eleven children, as follows: Ella C., born October 21, 1889; Eva M., born January 10, 1891; Clinton O., born May 15, 1892, died July 19, 1893; Bert M., born December 23, 1893; Cyril, born October 3, 1895; Irvin, born August 7, 1897, died September 5, 1897; Morris, born August 7, 1897, died September 3, 1907; Marion, born February 21, 1901; Kermit, born December 29, 1903; Grace, born November 18, 1905; Alvin C., born May 20, 1909. The family are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Olson is a member of the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen lodges of Windom.

JAMES W. HUNTER (1868), deceased, was an early day merchant of Jackson and a man who took a prominent part in the affairs of the county. He was a native of Scotland and was born August 16, 1837, the son of James and Agnes Hunter.

When eighteen years of age, in 1855, Mr. Hunter came to America. He spent three years clerking in Dubuque, Iowa, was a short time at Wilton, Minnesota, and then returned to Scotland for a short visit. Returning to America, he located at Waseca, Minnesota, where he built a store and engaged in business with his brother. Selling out there, he engaged in business in Estherville, Iowa, two years, and in 1868 located in the new town of Jackson. In partnership with a brother he engaged in the general merchandise business under the firm name of Hunter Brothers. He continued to live in Jackson until his death, which occurred August 13, 1900.

Mr. Hunter served two terms as county auditor, having been elected first in 1870, and was a member of the Minnesota legislature

from Jackson county. He was married in Scotland August 19, 1870, to Bessie Ross. There are three children in the family, namely: Mrs. H. B. Gillespie, William D. Hunter and Agnes Grace.

PETER P. HOLDEN (1868), of Petersburg township, is one of the oldest settlers of that precinct, having resided there nearly forty-two years. He is a Norwegian by birth and was born August 30, 1845, the son of Peter and Lilly (Olson) Olson.

Our subject resided in his native land until he reached his majority. Then he emigrated to America, arriving in May, 1866, and located in Lafayette county, Wisconsin. He spent two winters working in the pineries of northern Wisconsin and then came to the new country of Jackson county, where he arrived in March, 1868. He located on land in Petersburg township, and that has been his home ever since. For several seasons he spent his winters on his place and his summers working in Fillmore and Winona counties. He suffered many hardships during the trying times of pioneer days, in storms and the terrible grasshopper scourge. Like everyone else he endeavored to raise a crop every year during the time the grasshoppers were here, thinking that each year must be the last of the pests, and each year lost his crops. Fortunately he early turned his attention to stock raising, and so weathered the storms of that never-to-be-forgotten period.

Mr. Holden owns the northwest quarter of section 36, Petersburg, and has stock in the Jackson Telephone company and in the Petersburg Creamery company. He has been a member of the township board of supervisors and of the school board and has held the office of road overseer. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

On September 14, 1874, Mr. Holden was married to Annie Bottleson, of Petersburg. This union has been blessed with the births of the following named children: Olef B., born October 23, 1876; Ida, born August 14, 1879; Genton P., born June 23, 1881; Lillie, born September 22, 1875, died January, 1908; Esther, born March 16, 1883; Henry, born September 1, 1888.

BEN H. JOHNSON (1865). One of the very earliest of the settlers of Jackson county who

now reside in the county is B. H. Johnson, who lives a retired life in the village of Jackson. During the early days Mr. Johnson took an active interest in the affairs of the new county and participated in its organization.

Mr. Johnson was born in Plymouth, Litchfield county, Connecticut, August 1, 1834, the son of Louis and Nancy (Marsh) Johnson. He received a public and academic education in Watertown, Connecticut, and at the age of eighteen years came west and located in Baraboo, Wisconsin. He farmed in the vicinity of that town ten years and then enlisted in the army. The date of his enlistment was December 4, 1862, when he became a member of company F, of the Third Wisconsin cavalry. He served in the union army until September 29, 1865, when he was discharged at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Immediately after his discharge Mr. Johnson returned to his old home in Baraboo. He immediately made preparations to seek a home in the new country of Jackson county, and on Christmas day, 1865, landed on the Des Moines river. He bought sixty acres of land, partly in Des Moines township and partly in Wisconsin township, and also filed a homestead claim to land in Wisconsin adjoining his sixty acres. His life during this pioneer period was full of hardships, as were those of nearly all the settlers of that day. In January, 1868, while he was away from home, his house and everything in it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Johnson and his family then moved into a little log house which was located on another part of his farm.

Until September, 1873, Mr. Johnson continued to farm in Jackson county. Then, on the fifteenth of the month, he set out with a team for Kansas to make his future home in that country. He located at Burr Oak, in Jewell county, bought an eighty acre farm near town, and engaged in agricultural pursuits about five years. He then moved to town and for about fifteen years was engaged in the drug business. He was street commissioner of the village for three years and during the rest of the time he was a resident of Burr Oak he lived a retired life. In 1903 Mr. Johnson returned to his old home in Jackson county, and since that time has made his home in Jackson.

Upon the organization of Jackson county in January, 1866, Mr. Johnson received the appointment of clerk of the district court and served until his successor was elected and

qualified. As there were practically no duties to perform the office was a nominal one only. He was a member of the board of county commissioners in 1867 and 1868, and during those years served as chairman of the board. He held the office of justice of the peace four years and was assessor in both Wisconsin and Des Moines townships. Mr. Johnson is a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge.

Mr. Johnson has been married twice. His first marriage occurred at Reedsburg, Wisconsin, November 9, 1859, when he wedded Emma T. Cornish. She died October 3, 1871, aged 29 years. To this union two children were born: Rollan W., born December 4, 1860; Irving V., born January 16, 1870. His second marriage occurred April 3, 1873, in Jackson, when he wedded Martha Moore. As a result of this marriage the following children were born: Louis L. and Lloyd W., twins, born October 6, 1879; Ethel W., born January 31, 1881; Gretla H., born May 16, 1886, died May 20, 1891; Alice C., born September 3, 1887.

MENZO L. ASHLEY (1866). With the exception of a little less than three years the gentleman whose name heads this sketch has lived in the village of Jackson over forty-three years and has seen it grow from a grass-covered prairie to the substantial city it is today. During these many years spent in Jackson Mr. Ashley has taken a prominent part in the affairs of his village and county and has participated in many of the stirring events of pioneer days.

On July 5, 1847, in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, Menzo L. Ashley was born to Welch and Margaret (Smith) Ashley. In that county he passed his boyhood days, attending the district schools winters and working on the farm during the summer months. At the age of sixteen and one-half years he entered the army and took part in the closing events of the war of the rebellion. Being under age he was required to secure the consent of his parents before enlistment. January 7, 1864, he enlisted in the Seventh Pennsylvania cavalry, and later became a member of company B, of the 97th Pennsylvania volunteer infantry. He served until his muster out at Weldon, North Carolina, August 28, 1865, being finally discharged at Philadelphia a little later.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Ash-

ley returned to his old home in Tioga county, remained there ten months, and then came to the site of the village of Jackson, arriving during the month of July, 1866. Here he joined his parents, who had come out the year before. Soon after his arrival Mr. Ashley was engaged in carrying the mail between Jackson and Estherville, Iowa, over the first route opened in the county after the Sioux war. When the second mail route was opened into the county—from Madelia to Jackson—he carried the mail on contract with the government three years. In those days there were no bridges or beaten paths on the routes and it was necessary to ford streams and undergo other hazardous risks in the discharge of his duties. In the way of a pioneer "tree blazer" he was considered among the best, and many tales are still told of his exploits and deeds of heroism in those days. After giving up the Madelia route Mr. Ashley carried the mail for some time between Jackson and Sioux City. When the Sioux City and St. Paul railroad was built through to Windom, B. W. Ashley, our subject's brother, took the government contract to carry the mail from Windom to Jackson, and Menzo Ashley opened and operated the line.

In 1869 Mr. Ashley bought an eighty acre farm in Des Moines township and later bought an additional ninety acres in the same township, property which he still owns. In addition to his other occupations he engaged in farming these tracts part of the time. After giving up his mail contracts Mr. Ashley devoted his time to teaming, farming and other occupations. He resided at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a little less than three years, from 1889 to 1891. He owns his home in the city in addition to his farming land. Mr. Ashley served as deputy sheriff of Jackson county five years during the eighties. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was the captain of Jackson's first fire department, organized in 1874, and he has been a fireman ever since. He is an honorary member of the Minnesota State Fire Department association.

Mr. Ashley was married in Jackson July 5, 1872, to Hattie O. Benton, a native of Columbus, Ohio, and a daughter of Porter W. and Harriet Benton. To Mr. and Mrs. Ashley have been born four children. Of these Porter W. lives in the state of Washington and Benjamin H. lives at home. Alice B., the eldest child, died March 22, 1895, aged 20

years and 11 months; Dallas C. was born May 15, 1876, and died April 11, 1901.

**HANS C. SETHER (1869).** Among the old time residents of Jackson county and one of the most successful farmers of Belmont township is Hans C. Sether, who has resided upon his present farm more than forty years. He is an extensive stock raiser and his farm embraces 440 acres in Belmont and Christiania townships, the home place being on section 2, Belmont.

Mr. Sether was born in Norway April 23, 1854. His father, Claus H. Sether, died December 31, 1898, aged 72 years and 4 months. The mother of our subject died in 1896, aged over 81 years. Her maiden name was Gure H. Bjerken. Hans was brought up on a farm in his native land, and when fourteen years of age came to America with his parents. The family left the old country in April, 1868, and after a journey of three months and three weeks arrived in Goodhue county, Minnesota, which was the family home until the next spring.

During their residence in Goodhue county a Lutheran minister named Hanson visited the Jackson county country and upon his return reported that there was an excellent country open to homestead entry along the Des Moines river. The Sethers decided to make their future home there, and they came to the new country, driving through with oxen hitched to covered wagons, arriving on May 3, 1869. The family were very poor. When they landed in America they had absolutely nothing in the way of earthly possessions and owed \$170 for passage money. Arriving in Jackson county, their possessions consisted of one two year-old heifer. But they set to work with a will to carve out a home in the new land. The head of the family took as a homestead claim the north half of the northwest quarter of section 2, Belmont, the present home of our subject.

During the first summer the family lived in the covered wagon in which they had come from Goodhue county. Then they built a dugout in a side hill and completed their first domicile in Jackson county with "Minnesota bricks;" in this primitive structure they lived three years. The sod shanty and dugout was replaced with a log building, 16x16 feet with addition, which was made from logs cut

from the timber along the river. The log house answered the purpose until 1898, when Mr. Sether erected his present commodious house—one of the finest in Belmont township. Very hard times were encountered during the grasshopper period, but the family had at once engaged in raising stock on a small scale, and as they were not entirely dependent upon their grain crops, did not suffer as did many who did not engage in raising stock.

Hans Sether took the management of the home place after his marriage in 1875 and has ever since conducted it. He has an excellent farm, improved with excellent buildings and one of the finest groves in the neighborhood. He has added to his original farm by purchase, the land costing him from \$7 to \$33 per acre.

In school, township and county affairs Mr. Sether has taken an active part. He was appointed county commissioner from the Fifth district September 23, 1886, to succeed A. E. Kilen and was elected to the same office on the republican ticket in 1886 and again in 1890, serving over eight years. During his incumbency two of the county seat fights took place and Mr. Sether took part in those history making times. He served as clerk of Belmont township several years and he has been treasurer of school district No. 100 for many years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Sether was married in Belmont township July 9, 1875, to Minnie Anderson, daughter of the late John Anderson, of Enterprise township. Mrs. Sether was born in Norway and came to the United States in 1869, arriving in Jackson county on the same day her husband-to-be did. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sether, of whom eight are living, as follows: Clarence, born August 12, 1876; Just, born February 8, 1878; Gea, born January 21, 1880, died September 9, 1881; Ingman, born March 12, 1882; Gea, born September 15, 1884; Martha, born September 9, 1887; Clara, born February 28, 1890, died December 10, 1905; Henry, born May 3, 1893; Harry, born January 3, 1896; Helen, born July 30, 1898.

CHARLES MALCHOW (1869), ex-sheriff of Jackson county and secretary of the Delafield Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance company, resides on his farm in Delafield township, just

east of the village of Wilder. He is a pioneer, having spent over forty years of his life in Jackson county, and was one of the very first to locate in Heron Lake township.

Mr. Malchow is a native of Prussia and was born June 25, 1846, the son of Frederick and Henrietta (Kuhn) Malchow. He came to the United States with his parents when quite young and located with them in Wau-shara county, Wisconsin. He resided at home until February, 1865, when he enlisted in company F, of the Fiftieth Wisconsin volunteer infantry. He served in the army until June, 1866, the longest part of his service being spent in Dakota territory under Colonel John G. Clark in frontier warfare against the Indians.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Malchow spent a few years working on farms in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In the spring of 1869 he moved to Jackson county and in May of that year filed a soldier's homestead claim to the southwest quarter of section 8, Heron Lake township, being one of the three first settlers of that precinct. The others were Fred Ebert and Albert Hohenstein and all settled on the banks of Lake Flaherty. On this farm he lived twenty-nine years, passing through the grasshopper days and other trying ordeals of pioneer life and witnessing the development of Jackson county from a wilderness to the prosperous condition of the present time. In 1898 Mr. Malchow moved to his present location just outside the village of Wilder and has since made his home there.

During his long residence in the county Mr. Malchow has held many offices of trust. He was sheriff of the county from 1879 to 1887 and has many times been called upon to serve as township officer. He is secretary of the Delafield Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance company, which was organized May 10, 1888, and began business September 1, 1888. In January, 1909, the company had in force \$1,619,894 of insurance. The assets of the company on that date were \$2,546.70 and the disbursements for the past year were \$2,135.56. For the past ten years the company has maintained a record of levying an assessment of only one and one-half mills on the dollar. The officers of the company are Herman Rossow, president; C. F. Morley, vice-president; Charles Malchow, secretary; August Pohlman, treasurer; August Wolf, John Nestrud, T. J. Egge, August Milbrath and John P. Koster, direc-

tors. Mr. Malchow is the owner of 480 acres of Jackson county land, a quarter section in Colorado, and town property in Armstrong, Iowa.

The marriage of our subject occurred in Jackson county March 4, 1872, when he wedded Christina Kilen. She was born in Norway and died in March, 1893, at the age of thirty-eight years. Nine children were born to this union, as follows: William G., born May 1, 1873; Hannah B. (Mrs. S. A. Smith), born September 7, 1874; Fred E., born February 16, 1877; Lydia C., born December 6, 1878; Blanch, born December 12, 1880; Edith R. (Mrs. Chauncey Hamlon), born March 16, 1882; John C., born August 17, 1884; James S., born January 9, 1886; Otis M., born January 14, 1888.

Mr. Malchow's second marriage occurred at Mason City, Illinois, October 5, 1897, when he married Katie A. Skinner. She was born in Long Island, New York, moved to Illinois when a baby, and resided in that state until her marriage. Mr. Malchow is a member of the Evangelical church; his wife belongs to the Presbyterian church.

**BROWNELL H. LEE (1865)**, of Jackson, has lived in the county ever since he was five years of age and during his long residence here has been engaged in many different business enterprises. He was born in Madison, Wisconsin, January 29, 1860, the son of Halvor and Martha (Hansen) Lee.

When Brownell was one year old the family moved to Primrose, Wisconsin, and after a residence of four years left there on May 26, 1865, by ox teams for Jackson county, arriving June 17, 1865. During the first four months of the residence here the family lived in old Fort Belmont, and in the spring of 1866 the head of the family took a homestead claim on section 2, Des Moines township. Brownell lived at home until he was twenty-two years of age, receiving his education in Belmont and Des Moines townships. His parents both died on the old homestead, aged 60 and 58 years, respectively.

In 1883 Mr. Lee set out in life for himself and moved to Charles Mix county, South Dakota, where he took a homestead claim and where he remained about one and one-half years. Returning to Jackson county in 1884, he spent two years on the old homestead. In

1886 he moved to Jackson and was employed as cream buyer for the Wilson & Avery creamery, and two years later bought the creamery, conducting it one year. He then sold an interest in the creamery and started a brewery, which he managed a year, and then sold out. In 1890 Mr. Lee purchased a building on Main street, one door north of Berge's store, and for the next twelve years was in the restaurant business. In 1895 he purchased the old brick yard and a little later in the same year took in John Stroble and William Finnern as partners, was interested in the business two years, and then sold out to his partners. After disposing of the restaurant business in 1902, Mr. Lee was not engaged in active business for a couple of years, but in 1904 he leased the West hotel and was its landlord three years. He then took charge of the hotel at the north end of Main street and conducted it one year. Leaving the hotel he started a feed barn, in which business he has since been engaged and in breeding Percheron horses. Mr. Lee is a member of the Episcopal church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Lee was married in Jackson to Miss Eva Simpson. As a result of this union three children have been born, named as follows: Margie M., Ruth S. and Hubert B.

**CHARLES WINZER (1860)**. Among the substantial and influential farmers of Jackson county and one of the county's pioneer settlers is the gentleman whose name heads this biography, who resides in Weimer township on the east bank of Heron lake. He has an elegant home and is one of the large landowners of the vicinity, owning over a section of fertile land in one body. He has lived on his present place over forty years and was the first to file a homestead claim to land in Weimer township as well as the first to make settlement in that precinct.

Mr. Winzer was born in Saxe-Weimar, Germany, June 14, 1845, the third of a family of eight children. His father, Christopher Winzer, was a weaver by trade. He died in his native land in 1867, aged 56 years. The mother of our subject, Barbara (Hoffman) Winzer, was one of an old German family whose ancestry can be traced back to the thirteenth century. She died in 1893 at the age of 76 years.

Charles Winzer spent his boyhood days in

his native land, attending the mechanical school at Weimar and learning the carpenter's trade. At the age of seventeen he left home and came to America. He showed his patriotism for his adopted country by enlisting from the city of New York, one week after his arrival, in the union forces. He was mustered in as a member of company K, 173rd regiment of New York volunteer infantry, and was in the service until after the close of the war. His regiment was ordered south and he participated in a number of severe engagements in Louisiana under General Butler. During the second day of the engagement at Port Hudson, on May 27, 1863, Mr. Winzer was so severely wounded that he was in hospital nine months. After a partial recovery he was transferred from the New York regiment to the Invalid corps, and later, being of a musical turn, he was transferred to the famous Twenty-second regiment veteran reserve corps band, and as such served the balance of his enlistment. He was honorably discharged November 2, 1865, at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio.

After his army service, early in the year 1866, Mr. Winzer located at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he was married the same year and for a few months worked at the carpenter trade there. He then moved to Chicago and in partnership with his father-in-law, Carl Peter, engaged in the grocery business. In 1869 he gave up that business and started on a prospecting trip through the west, touring Missouri and Kansas and finally landing at Duluth, then just starting, where for a few months he assisted in erecting some of the first buildings of that future city.

In the fall of 1869 Mr. Winzer came to Jackson county and decided to make his future home here. He filed a homestead claim to the southeast quarter of section 26 of what is now Weimer township, on the east bank of Heron lake, his being the first entry made to land in that township. He did not pass the winter of 1869-70 on his claim, but returned with his family the next April and became the first resident of the precinct. For two years he and his wife lived in a dugout in the bank of the lake, and there on June 29, 1871, their first child, and the first while child born in the township, was given birth and named Charles. Very hard times were encountered during the first decade of his residence in Jackson county, but he weathered

the storms of adversity, and is today rated as one of the substantial men of the county.

In 1873, other settlers having located in the vicinity, Mr. Winzer circulated the petition asking for the organization of the township and did all the preliminary work incident to the township beginning an existence, and to him was given the honor of naming the new township. He gave it the name Weimar, in honor of his old German home. The spelling of the word was changed to Weimer through error, although the name was correctly spelled on the original petition.

In addition to his other interests, Mr. Winzer is a director and stockholder of the First National Bank of Heron Lake and is a director of the Farmers Bank of Wilder. He was one of the first to make use of the lake front as a hunting resort, Heron lake having a state wide reputation as a hunter's paradise.

During his long residence in Weimer township Mr. Winzer has been often chosen to responsible positions within the gift of his neighbors and he has taken an active interest in all matters pertaining to the public welfare. He was chosen the first chairman of the Weimer township board and served two terms. For many years he has served as either a member of the township board, township clerk or justice of the peace. For many years he was clerk of school district No. 30. Mr. Winzer is associated with a number of lodges. He is the commander of the G. A. R. post at Heron Lake and has held the office for a number of years. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W., the I. O. O. F., the M. B. A. and the D. of H.

At Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, May 20, 1866, Mr. Winzer was united in marriage to Ida Peter, who was born in Germany March 22, 1848, and came to the United States and to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, when seven years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Winzer have been born the following named children: Charles, proprietor of the Winzer hotel of Sibley, Iowa, born June 29, 1871; Ernest, who manages the home farm, born February 22, 1875; Minnie (Mrs. Gerhard Kuhnau), of Weimer, born May 17, 1879; Dasie (Mrs. Rudolph Kuhnau), of Weimer, born September 21, 1885; Lena, born October 14, 1887.

FRANK E. BAILEY (1865) came to Jackson county when a boy ten years of age and



ever since that date his home has been on land that now is within the corporate limits of the village of Jackson. He is the son of the late Major Hiram S. Bailey and Jane R. (Wheeler) Bailey. He was born in Waupun, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, on April 11, 1855.

At the age of one year Frank Bailey was taken with the family to Hamilton, Mower county, Minnesota, and in September, 1863, came with them to Jackson county, the father taking as a homestead land which he afterward platted as a part of the townsite of Jackson. Frank was educated in the schools of Jackson and in Carleton college, of Northfield, Minnesota, where he was a student during the years 1872-73. After securing his education he engaged in farming until 1875. Then he took up teaching as a profession and during the winter of 1875-76 taught in Martin county. He taught in Olmsted county during the summer of 1876 and during the next three years was employed in teaching in McHenry county, Illinois. He then returned to Jackson county and continued in that line of work.

Mr. Bailey owns village property, eighty acres of land in Des Moines township and 160 acres of land in North Dakota. On his land in the south part of the village is an immense sand pit which he opened a few years ago and from which he supplies the needs of the village. Mr. Bailey served as deputy sheriff of the county in 1884 and 1885, and was elected justice of the peace in the spring of 1909. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen lodges.

On the first day of the year 1880 Mr. Bailey was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Bromaghim, and as a result of this union have been born the following children: Frank E., born March 13, 1881; Herbert B., born July 2, 1883; Earl W., born November 10, 1886; Helen, born May 14, 1889, died November 27, 1892; Linden R., born July 22, 1897.

JOHN T. SMITH (1871), president of the Minnesota Fibre company and manager of that company's tow mill at Heron Lake, is the oldest resident of that village and a man in whom both the village and county take pride. He came to Heron Lake before the railroad was builded and when the site was raw prairie land. For thirty-eight years his home has been in the village he helped to found, and none has taken a more active part in the busi-

ness life and in public enterprises than has Mr. Smith. So closely identified is he with the interests of the town that when one thinks of Heron Lake one thinks of John T. Smith.

John T. Smith was born in Wales October 3, 1843, the son of William L. and Sophia (Thomas) Smith. At the age of seven years, in 1850, he came to the United States, locating in Herkimer county, New York, where he resided ten years. There he attended the public schools, completing his education in Lyons, Clinton county, Iowa, to which place he moved in 1860. From that place Mr. Smith enlisted in company B, of the First Iowa cavalry, in January, 1864, and served with the union forces until his discharge at Memphis, Tennessee, in October, 1865.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Smith returned to Lyons for a short time and then went to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he resided about three years. In 1868 he went to Whalan, Fillmore county, Minnesota, and there for one year was engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with John Carr. About the first of September, 1869, Mr. Smith and C. H. Carroll, of LaCrosse, formed a partnership and a little later started a general store at Big Bend, Cottonwood county, to which place it was rumored the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad would build. Cottonwood county was then very sparsely settled, and the store was the first one in the county. Mr. Smith also has the distinction of having been the first postmaster in that county and of having issued the first marriage license there. The railroad failed to come to Big Bend, but was built to the south of that place, and after conducting the store two years Messrs. Smith and Carroll moved to the point where Heron Lake was to be founded.

It was during the month of October, 1871, that Mr. Smith and his partner first set foot on the site. They at once erected a store building, hauling the lumber from Windom, and started the first store. The following year our subject bought out his partner's interest, and in 1874 took as a partner George Carr. For several years times were prosperous in the little village of Heron Lake, and the pioneer merchant built up a marvelous business. He opened a branch store at Brewster in 1873, one at Adrian in 1876, and one at Fulda in 1878. Mr. Smith continued in the mercantile business until 1885.

Of more benefit to the people of Jackson

county than any other business enterprise ever founded there was the tow mill, which Mr. Smith erected in Heron Lake in 1881. It was the first tow mill ever built in Minnesota, and at the time it was the largest industry of the kind in the United States, if not in the world. He conducted the mill until 1898, when the plant was destroyed by fire, bringing a loss of \$75,000. After that event he helped to organize the Northwestern Tow company (now the Union Fibre company), of which Mr. Smith owned thirty-eight per cent of the stock and of which he was general manager until he sold out in 1902. In 1902 he organized the Minnesota Fibre company, built a new mill, and has since been president and general manager of the company.

In addition to the manufacturing plant, Mr. Smith is the owner of 1,000 acres of Jackson and Cottonwood farming lands. He has never sought political preferment and the only public office he has ever held was postmaster of Heron Lake, which he held from the time of organization in 1871 until 1878. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

Mr. Smith was married at Heron Lake March 9, 1875, to Miss Jennie Weir. To this union have been born three children, Alice C., born in 1877; Morton W., born in 1878; Jennie M., born in 1884.

PETER A. OLSON (1866), Belmont township farmer, has spent the entire forty-three years of his life on the farm upon which he now lives, having been born in the old fort located on the farm, which was built by the early settlers as a protection against the hostile Indians.

Peter Olson's parents were Anders Olson Slaabaken and Patnella (Peterson) Olson Slaabaken. The former piloted the first Norwegian families to Jackson county and for many years was the most influential man in the Norwegian settlement—a man who had the respect and confidence of all his neighbors. Much of his life's history is to be found in the chapters in the first part of this volume. He and his wife were both born in Norway and came to the United States when young. They resided several years in Wisconsin, a short time in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and came to Jackson county to reside permanently in 1860 with the vanguard of the Norwegian settlers. Anders Olson Slaabaken, also known by the name

of Anders Belmont, homesteaded the north half of the southeast quarter of section 34, Belmont—part of the site of the old town of Belmont—and upon that farm he lived until his death in 1895. He was a veteran of the civil war, enlisting from Jackson county, and was with the army at the time of the Belmont massacre. His wife also died in 1895. They were the parents of three children, of whom only our subject is living.

Peter A. Olson was born May 23, 1866. He helped his father work the home farm until the latter's death. Then he bought the place and has since been engaged in farming it. In addition to the home farm he now owns eighty acres on section 27, Belmont, and eighty acres in Enterprise. He engages extensively in general farming, raises Holstein cattle and feeds hogs for the market. He served several years as treasurer of school district No. 5. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Olson was married in Belmont township June 4, 1897, to Lena Ree, a native of Norway and a daughter of Hans J. Ree, a Belmont settler of 1870. Three children have been born to this union, namely: Albert, Harry and Alma.

BENJAMIN W. ASHLEY (1866), deceased. Among the men who took the lead in affairs in Jackson in the early and later days, and one whose name is inseparably linked with that of the county seat village, was Benjamin W. Ashley, who came to the little village at the time of its birth and continued to make his home in it until his death, which occurred December 19, 1905.

Benjamin W. Ashley was born in Sylvania, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, June 16, 1839. He came to Jackson county in 1866 and in company with his father built the first saw mill that was operated. In 1870, in company with his father, he erected the Ashley house and was its proprietor many years. Mr. Ashley was a man held in the highest esteem and had a host of friends.

In 1864 Mr. Ashley was united in marriage to Juliet Robbins. She died August 29, 1904, aged over sixty-two years. They were the parents of the following named children: Mark D., Otis M., Mrs. Maud Wold, Virginia, Will W., Mrs. Neva Burnham, Benjamin W., Jr.

HANS TOLLEFSON (1870) is one of the early day settlers of Christiania township and one of the best known residents of that precinct. He has a farm of 400 acres, well improved with fine buildings, and has made a success of his agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Tollefson was born in Norway April 5, 1835, the son of a carpenter, Tollef Christopherson by name. His mother was Ingebor (Hansen) Christopherson. He received a common school education in the land of his nativity and after growing to manhood worked at the stone mason's trade. He came to America in 1868, resided one year in Wisconsin, one year near Estherville, Iowa, and in June, 1870, arrived in the county of Jackson, which was destined to be his home ever after. Upon his arrival he took as a homestead claim 80 acres of his present farm, and upon that place he has lived nearly forty years. Besides his farming interests, Mr. Tollefson has stock in the Christiania Creamery company, the Farmers Elevator company of Windom and the company which owns the store at Bergen. He served two years as a member of the township board of supervisors, is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Christiania and is a member of the Sons of Norway order.

Mr. Tollefson was married in March, 1865, to Vil Nelson. To them have been born the following named children: Tollef, who is in the mercantile business in Spokane, Washington, born June 6, 1866, Ingebor (Mrs. Claud Stofer), of Duluth, Minnesota, born February 2, 1871; Nettie (Mrs. Peter Ryan), of Minneapolis, born January 24, 1874; Mary (Mrs. James Morrison), of Spokane, born June 5, 1877; Hannah J. (Mrs. Henry Chester), of Christiania, born October 30, 1879; Henry, who resides at home, born November 7, 1881; Anna, a school teacher, born December 4, 1883; Christian, of Spokane, born January 15, 1886.

DUNCAN McNAB (1871) is a member of the board of commissioners of Jackson county and one of the large land owners and prosperous farmers of Alba township, as well as one of the early day settlers of western Jackson county. He owns 800 acres of land in southern Alba and northern Ewington townships and his home has been on his present place nearly thirty-nine years,

Mr. McNab is of Scotch birth, having been born April 17, 1837. When ten years of age he left his native land and came to America with his parents, the family locating in Ontario, Canada. Duncan received a common school education in that province and until he was twenty-two years of age lived in Canada, working in the lumber camps and on farms. For several years after he was twenty-two he divided his time between Michigan and Ontario. He married in 1866 and three years later located in Minnesota. Near the village of Sleepy Eye, in Brown county, he bought an eighty acre farm, which he conducted two years.

It was in the month of November, 1871, that Mr. McNab came to Jackson county. Upon his arrival he took as a homestead claim the northeast quarter of section 32, Alba township, and the northwest quarter of the same section as a tree claim. He moved to his claim and began the erection of his first house the same day carpenters began the erection of the depot in Hersey (now Brewster). The house was a little one, 16x20 feet, and it stood on the place until 1908. Mr. McNab weathered the hard times period of the seventies, making a living by shooting and shipping prairie chickens, which were then in great abundance. He has prospered and is rated among the most successful men of the vicinity. He has been prominent in an official and social way ever since coming to the county.

Mr. McNab has represented the Fourth district on the board of county commissioners for the past five years and his present term will not expire until 1913. He has served as a member and as chairman of the Alba township board and he was assessor of the precinct for twenty-one years. For the past twenty years he has been clerk of school district No. 34 and he has served as justice of the peace. He was census enumerator in the federal census of 1900.

Our subject is the son of Finley and Jannet (McArthur) McNab. They came from Scotland to Canada in 1847, the mother dying in quarantine below Quebec soon after landing. Finley McNab lived in the province of Ontario many years, dying there about twenty years ago. There were seven children in the family, of whom the following three are living: Margaret, Duncan and Jennet Montgomery.

The subject of this biography was married

in Ontario, Canada, January 18, 1866, to Catherine Montgomery, a native of Scotland and a daughter of Godfrey and Jennie (Thompson) Montgomery. To Mr. and Mrs. McNab have been born the following named eleven children: Jessie, John, Findley, Katie, Godfrey, Dan, Arthur, Hugh, Archie, Willie and Andrew. The family are members of the Presbyterian church of Brewster.

**JOHN B. HABERMAN (1872).** Among the oldest settlers of LaCrosse township and one of the most successful farmers of that precinct is John B. Haberman, whose home is on section 19. He owns 400 acres of land on sections 19 and 20, 240 acres on section 25, Graham Lakes township, Nobles county, and 160 acres in Cottonwood county. He farms three-quarters of a section of his land and rents out the rest.

Mr. Haberman was born in Austria March 31, 1855, being one of a family of children born to John and Annie (Hager) Haberman. The father of our subject, who is now 79 years of age, resides in LaCrosse township. The mother of our subject died in her native land when John B. Haberman was six years of age.

The subject of this biography was brought up on a farm and received his education in Austria. At the age of seventeen years he accompanied his father to the new world, arriving in America on August 10, 1872. After spending one month in Watertown, Wisconsin, he and his father came to Jackson county and they have ever since been residents of LaCrosse township. When he reached his majority our subject took as a homestead claim the west half of the southwest quarter of section 20, and when twenty-three years old he began farming the place, having worked for his father and other farmers before that time. He met with success in his ventures and later added to his holdings by purchase.

Besides his farming operations Mr. Haberman is interested in other lines of business. He is a stockholder of the First National Bank of Heron Lake, of the Heron Lake creamery and of the Sontag Lumber company of Heron Lake. For twenty years he served as a member of the township board of supervisors and was chairman of the board for twelve years of that time. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Kinbrae.

**JOHN W. BENSON (1872).** Soon after the founding of the village of Heron Lake John W. Benson came to the little town and engaged in the mercantile business in a modest way. That village has been his home ever since. From the modest beginning thirty-seven years ago the business operations of Mr. Benson have advanced to such an extent that he is now interested in concerns capitalized at several hundreds of thousands of dollars and is one of the wealthiest men of Jackson county. He is president of the First National Bank of Heron Lake and of the First National Bank of Westbrook. He is president of the Benson Grain company, having a line of elevators in Minnesota and Nebraska and capitalized at \$150,000. He is president of the Benson-Cabot company, incorporated, which does a general merchandise business at Heron Lake. He is secretary and treasurer of the Western Implement company, whose headquarters are at Heron Lake and which has several branch houses. He is president of the Sontag Lumber company of Heron Lake and Wilder. He is president of the Karamin Lumber company of Republic, Washington. In addition to his interests in these companies Mr. Benson owns, in partnership with a sister, Mrs. F. M. Southwick, 5,000 acres of farming lands in Jackson, Cottonwood and Murray counties.

John W. Benson descends from colonial stock. The American branch of the Benson family was founded in 1620, when his ancestors, who were seafaring men, came from England and settled along the coast of Massachusetts. On his mother's side Mr. Benson is of Scotch-Irish descent. His great grandfather, John Moore, was granted land near Madison, Maine, by the government, in recognition of services during the revolutionary war.

The father of our subject was John Benson, a Methodist minister, who was born on the island of Martha's Vineyard, off the coast of Massachusetts. He located in Maine in an early day, and prior to 1852, when he moved to Minnesota, had no permanent location, being located in different towns where his duties as minister called him. Coming to Minnesota in 1852, he located a claim on land that had been ceded to the government by Little Crow. Thereafter until his death in October, 1889, he was a resident of Minnesota. Our subject's mother was Margaret (Moore) Benson, who

was born near Madison, Maine, and who was the daughter of Goff Moore and Betsy Moore. She died in Minneapolis in October, 1906, at the age of 91 years.

To these parents John W. Benson was born at Dixmont, Maine, on the 15th day of March, 1849. He accompanied his parents to Minnesota in 1852 and lived on the claim in Dakota county five years. The next two years were spent in Red Wing, and from then until he arrived in Jackson county he resided on his father's farms in Goodhue and Dakota counties. During the month of July, 1872, Mr. Benson arrived in the little hamlet of Heron Lake and engaged in the mercantile and grain business and in farming. In September, 1892, he organized the Peoples State Bank, of which he was president, and when that was reorganized into the First National Bank he continued to hold the chief office. As the country developed and his capital increased Mr. Benson engaged in other lines of business until today he has interests as above mentioned.

In Rice county, Minnesota, March 22, 1877, Mr. Benson was married to Hattie M. Cabot, a native of Dane county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of John and Mary (Partridge) Cabot. She came to Minnesota with her parents in 1857, the family first locating in Goodhue county and later in Murray county. Mrs. Cabot died in Murray county; Mr. Cabot in Heron Lake in December, 1897.

Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Benson. They are Elsie, wife of Prof. H. S. Kirk of the Heron Lake schools; Lois Benson, who resides at home; Frances (Mrs. C. A. Kirby), of Kansas City, Kansas; Paul, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Heron Lake; John C., a student at Hamline university.

Mr. Benson is a member of the Methodist church. He served as treasurer of the board of education for a number of years. Mr. Benson's sister, Mrs. F. M. Southwick, who is interested with her brother in the many enterprises, came to Jackson county with her brother in 1872 and homesteaded in Alba township.

THOMAS J. KNOX (1872). There is, perhaps, no man in Jackson county who is better known within the county and in the state at large than is Thomas J. Knox, attorney at

law of Jackson. He has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in that village for the last thirty-seven years, and as a lawyer has gained a state-wide reputation. During this long period of residence here he has taken an active and prominent part in the political, social and business life of the county and is one of its most honored citizens.

T. J. Knox is a Pennsylvanian by birth and a descendant of revolutionary stock, his ancestors having come originally from Scotland and England. The paternal grandfather of our subject, George Knox, was born September 27, 1757, and died March 10, 1834. He was a member of the Colonial army during the greater part of the struggle for independence, and was a tanner by trade, and followed that occupation from the close of the war until his death, having built and operated the first tannery built in Covington, Pennsylvania. His wife, Ann Knox, was born November 23, 1764, and died June 21, 1808. The maternal grandfather of T. J. Knox, Royal Cole, was also a veteran of the revolutionary war, as well as the war of 1812. His home was in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

The parents of our subject were George and Ruth (Cole) Knox. The former was born in Pennsylvania December 22, 1805, and was a tanner by trade. In the spring of 1854 he moved with his family to Wisconsin, locating on a farm near Geneva, and from that time engaged in agricultural pursuits. In the autumn of 1855 he became a resident of Fillmore county, Minnesota, preempting a claim in Bristol township. There he lived until after the close of the war, when he moved to Mower county. He died in that county November 11, 1867. His wife, Ruth (Cole) Knox, also died in Minnesota.

To these parents at Covington, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, on February 16, 1846, Thomas J. Knox was born. At the age of eight years, in the spring of 1854, he accompanied his parents to the new home in Walworth county, Wisconsin, and in the fall of the following year to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he grew to manhood on a farm. His early school privileges were limited, but he was naturally studious and had access to a good library in his father's home. Thus his education was obtained largely under the parental roof, supplemented by a year's attendance at a private academy.

Mr. Knox decided to make the law his pro-



**THOMAS J. KNOX**

**Who has Practiced Law in the Village of Jackson since 1872.**

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fession and in 1868 began reading law in the office of C. T. Benedict, of Rochester, Minnesota. The next year he became a student in the office of Stearns & Start, both members of which firm have become prominent in the affairs of the nation, the former as United States senator, the latter as chief justice of the supreme court of Minnesota. Mr. Knox was admitted to practice before the state courts on October 14, 1871, and before the United States courts on December 12, 1876. For four months after his admission to the bar Mr. Knox remained in the office of Stearns & Start, and then decided to seek a location in Dakota territory.

In the month of November, 1872, Mr. Knox set out for the western country, but was caught in the great blizzard that swept over the country on the twelfth of that month, becoming snow-bound in the new village of Windom, Cottonwood county. The roads were blockaded and it was impossible to proceed farther. Mr. Knox decided to visit the village of Jackson, which was then connected with Windom by a stage line, and from thence to return home, giving up his western trip for the season. At Jackson he met some friends of former years who urged him to locate in that frontier village. This he decided to do and became a permanent resident of the village and county on November 17, 1872. He at once opened a law office and ever since has been engaged in the practice of his profession in that village.

The terrible grasshopper scourge came upon the country the year following the location of the young attorney in Jackson county and for several years Mr. Knox had a severe struggle to maintain his position during the early years of his practice; but by perseverance and close attention to business he eventually succeeded in building up a lucrative clientage. He is gifted by nature with a good delivery, is a fluent and forcible speaker, and his services as a public speaker are frequently in demand. In 1900 Mr. Knox admitted Mr. F. B. Faber as a partner in the law business and that gentleman has since been associated with Mr. Knox. In January, 1903, John C. Knox, a son of the senior member of the firm, became a member of the firm which then became Knox, Faber & Knox, which it remained until the death of the junior partner on June 10, 1904.

During his long residence in the county Mr. Knox has been called upon to serve in re-

sponsible positions on several occasions. He was appointed judge of probate by the governor in June, 1874, to complete an unexpired term; served as county superintendent of schools from 1880 to 1886, inclusive; and was county attorney from 1887 to 1890, inclusive. He became a member of the Minnesota state board of examiners in law by appointment in May, 1891, and served in that capacity until 1900, when he resigned. In 1900 he was appointed a member of the board of state railway commissioners. Mr. Knox was appointed in May, 1901, by the state supreme court as one of the commission to revise and codify the general laws of the state of Minnesota and he was occupied with these duties until April, 1905.

Fraternally Mr. Knox is associated with several worthy orders, holding membership in the A. F. & A. M., I. O. O. F. and A. O. U. W.

On September 3, 1877, Mr. Knox was united in marriage to Miss Jane Cowing, a native of Adams county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Davidson) Cowing, pioneer residents of Jackson. To Mr. and Mrs. Knox have been born the following named children: Elizabeth, born September 23, 1878, died January 27, 1879; John Cowing, born January 7, 1880, died June 10, 1904; Ruth, born June 6, 1884; Thomas Start, born September 19, 1888.

CLARK A. WOOD (1872), ex-sheriff of Jackson county and ex-postmaster of Heron Lake, is a resident of thirty-six years standing and now lives a retired life in Heron Lake. He is of English descent, his grandfather having come from the mother country and settled in New York state. Both his parents, Nelson and Elizabeth (St. John) Wood, were natives of the Empire state. The former died there in 1878; the latter moved to Jackson county a few years after the death of her husband and made her home with her son until her death in 1900.

Clark Wood was born in Schoharie county, New York, October 25, 1843, and made his home with his parents until 1866. During the civil war he served twenty-two months as a member of company B, Sixth New York heavy artillery. After his discharge from the army Mr. Wood engaged in farming one year in Rensselaer county, New York. Then he and a brother, Louis C. Wood, engaged in the



coal and lumber business at Stillwater, New York, for five years. He came west in 1872 and has ever since that date been a resident of Jackson county. He took as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 10, Alba township, and resided there until 1875, engaged in farming for a few years and in the hotel business in Heron Lake for a time.

After leaving the farm in 1875, Mr. Wood located in Heron Lake, and that village has since been his home. He has taken part in county affairs and has several times been called upon to serve in an official capacity. He was the first justice of the peace chosen in Alba township, and when the village of Heron Lake was incorporated he was chosen to serve as the first president of the council. He also served on the board of education for several years in the early days. Mr. Wood was elected sheriff in 1884 and was reelected two years later. Again in 1894 he was chosen to the same office and was reelected in 1896, making a total of eight years he served as Jackson county's executive officer. He was appointed postmaster of Heron Lake in 1900 and held the office eight years, retiring from active pursuits at the expiration of his last term. Mr. Wood owns a quarter section of land in Aitkin county, Minnesota, and village property. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias lodges.

In Schoharie county, New York, on the 15th day of April, 1866, occurred the marriage of Mr. Wood to Lucinda O. Briggs. She died in 1882. As a result of the marriage five children were born, as follows: Nettie J., Bertha M., Frank N., Leroy C. and Hattie G., all of whom are living. Mr. Wood's second marriage occurred at Stillwater, Minnesota, December 25, 1884, when he wedded Mary E. Lammers, a native of Taylor's Falls, Minnesota, and a sister of Attorney L. F. Lammers, of Heron Lake. To Mr. and Mrs. Wood has been born one child, Mable E.

ALBERT H. STRONG (1870), deputy clerk of the district court of Jackson county, is one of the very early pioneers of the village of Jackson, having made his home in that village nearly forty years. He is a native of Barre, Orleans county, New York, where he was born March 4, 1844, the son of Samuel B. and Susan L. (Casterline) Strong.

Mr. Strong was educated in an academy at Barre and early in life engaged in teaching as a profession, which he followed in his native county nine years. In May, 1870, Mr. Strong left home and moved to Jackson, Minnesota, where he was employed to teach the village school. In 1870 he gave up teaching and, in partnership with his brother, M. A. Strong, went into the drug business under the firm name of Strong Bros. In this business he was engaged until 1880. During the next six years after going out of business he was employed as deputy in different county offices, and in 1886 was elected clerk of the district court. He served eight years in that office, having been reelected in 1890. He served as deputy county auditor from 1896 to 1900, and in 1902 was appointed a member of the state board of equalization, serving in that capacity two years. He was appointed deputy clerk of the district court in 1907 and has since served in that capacity.

Mr. Strong owns 320 acres of land in Wisconsin township, one-half mile east of the Jackson depot. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Masonic lodge.

On January 31, 1876, Mr. Strong was married to Lois M. Robbins. To these parents have been born the following named children: Mary E., born March 6, 1879, died September 16, 1900; Lois Alberta, born August 14, 1882; Seward D., born October 20, 1885; Harry W., born June 4, 1886.

J. C. JOHNSON (1869) is one of the well known and successful farmers of Jackson county, having resided here since he was a boy seven years of age. He now resides in Belmont township.

Mr. Johnson is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Houston county February 13, 1862. He is the son of John K. and Susan (Swanson) Johnson, who now reside on their old homestead in Wisconsin township. The former came from Norway in 1841 and until he became of age lived at Muskego, Wisconsin. He then located in Houston county, Minnesota, where he enlisted in the mounted rangers of Minnesota volunteers and served in the campaigns against the Indians. He took his homestead in Wisconsin township in 1868 and located on the place the next spring. The mother of our subject came from Sweden in 1854.

J. C. Johnson accompanied his parents to Jackson county in the spring of 1869 and until he was eighteen years of age lived with his parents on the Wisconsin township farm, receiving a common school education and assisting with the farm work. From the time he was eighteen years old until 1886 Mr. Johnson worked at the miller's trade in Jackson and Brownsburg. Then he bought land in Wisconsin township and engaged in farming there until 1901. He then sold out and bought his present farm of 200 acres on sections 23 and 21, Belmont township. He has a well improved farm and has prospered. He engages extensively in the raising of cattle and hogs. Mr. Johnson has stock in the Belmont Creamery company and in the Farmers Cooperative Store company of Lakefield. He has held township and school offices during nearly all the time since he became of age. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge of Jackson, No. 1069.

Mr. Johnson was married January 10, 1885, to Sina Larson, a native of Dane county, Wisconsin and a daughter of Nels Larson. Her father took as a homestead claim the farm now owned by Mr. Johnson in 1865. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born the following named children: Nellard, born February 9, 1886; Millie S., born April 6, 1888; Albert M., born August 23, 1889; Sibyl J., born March 1, 1891; Louis E., born December 8, 1892; Benton H., born November 20, 1894, died November 28, 1894; Charles B., born October 27, 1896; Robert W., born September 20, 1898; Julius K., born December 30, 1899; Susan A., born May 7, 1901; Allen F., born April 19, 1903.

LARS O. TEIGEN (1879), ex-member of the Minnesota house of representatives from Jackson county and a prominent farmer and business man, resides on the Des Moines river a short distance above Jackson. He is an early day resident of the county, having resided here over thirty years, and one of its best known citizens.

Mr. Teigen is a native of Norway and was born November 27, 1864. His parents, Ole and Bertha (Brakke) Teigen, came to the United States from Norway in 1868, lived in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, eleven years, and came to Jackson county in 1879, settling upon the farm now owned by their youngest

son—one of the old farms of the county. The United States patent to this farm is signed by President Andrew Johnson and was given under the provisions of the soldiers' bounty act to Charlotte E. Bump, a minor child of Liberty Wood, a private in the Vermont militia during the war of 1812. The patent was assigned to John Olson, and in 1868 the land came into possession of a Mr. Raasmussen, from whom Mr. Teigen secured title. Ole Teigen lived on this farm on section 11, Des Moines township, until the spring of 1905; then he moved to Jackson and died in that village March 25, 1906, aged seventy-two years and one day. His wife lives in Jackson at the age of seventy-five years. Lars is one of a family of nine children, of whom six are living. They are Lars, Julia, Bessie, Martin, Anton and Emma.

Lars accompanied his parents to America when four years of age, lived with the family in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, until May 19, 1879, which was the date of their arrival to Jackson county. Until he reached his majority Mr. Teigen resided on the home farm in Des Moines township, assisting with the farm work and attending school. At the age of twenty he engaged in teaching school in the country districts and made that his exclusive occupation until he was twenty-six, making his home on the farm. He married in 1891 and located upon a farm on section 32, Enterprise township, which he bought at that time, and upon which he lived until the death of his wife on July 24, 1898. During this period of residence Mr. Teigen taught school four years besides carrying on his farming operations. After the death of his wife he broke up housekeeping and lived one year with his parents. Then he built his present home on the northwest quarter of section 11, Des Moines township, which he has since occupied. Mr. Teigen's real estate holdings include his tract of fifty acres on section 11, forty acres on section 1, Des Moines, and two hundred acres on section 32, Enterprise.

Besides his farming Mr. Teigen is interested in several other business enterprises. He was one of the chief promoters of the Farmers Cooperative association of Jackson, an organization effected for the purpose of dealing in grain, live stock, etc. He drafted the articles of incorporation and the by-laws and was made secretary of the company. He has been the secretary and manager of the Belmont

Creamery company for a number of years, and has always taken a prominent part in promoting the creamery interests of the county.

In a political way Mr. Teigen has often been called upon to serve his people. In 1904 he was elected a member of the Minnesota legislature from Jackson county on the republican ticket and served one term. He introduced the original resolution providing for the establishment of a harvester factory at the state prison and his resolution was adopted. He served as chairman of the joint committee which considered the proposition and upon whose report favorable action was taken by the legislature. Mr. Teigen, while a member of the house, gained the reputation of voting more "noes" than any other member of the body that session. In his township Mr. Teigen has often been called upon to serve in an official capacity.

Mr. Teigen has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Jackson county May 24, 1891, when he wedded Tilda Olson, a daughter of the late Simon Olson. She died July 29, 1898. As a result of this marriage four children were born, as follows: Bertha, born April 14, 1892, died September 8, 1895; Oscar S., born November 17, 1893; Bertha M., born August 4, 1895; Albert E., born March 16, 1898. The second marriage of Mr. Teigen occurred in Jackson county June 2, 1903, when he wedded Emma Roe, daughter of Anders and Elsie Roe, who came to the county in 1868. Two children have been born to this union: Elsie T., born March 12, 1904; Andrew L., born August 5, 1906.

LEONARD F. ASHLEY (1866), who owns and conducts a farm just south of the corporate limits of the village of Jackson, has made his home on that farm since he was thirteen years of age. His parents were Leonard and Mary Jane (Wilbur) Ashley, both natives of Pennsylvania and both deceased. In the year 1853 these parents started from their Pennsylvania home for Illinois, where they intended to make their future home, a homestead claim having been previously entered through a brother, Frank Ashley. While traveling through Michigan, enroute to their new home, Mr. Ashley died. Mrs. Ashley continued the journey and made her home on the homestead, upon which her brother-in-law was living.

On this homestead, near the town of Peoria, Illinois, on June 19, 1853, Leonard Ashley, of this sketch, was born. When he was six months old his mother returned to her old home in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and there Leonard lived until the fall of 1866. On the second day of October, 1866, he and his mother arrived in Jackson county to make their future home, an uncle of our subject, Welch Ashley, having preceded them six months. For a couple of years he attended school—the first season in the school taught by Mrs. B. H. Johnson at the home of her husband, a log building on the east side of the river.

In 1868 Leonard began working on the farm of his step-father, Isaac Wheeler, his mother having remarried. This farm is the one now owned by Mr. Ashley and is on the southeast quarter of section 26, Des Moines township. When Mr. Wheeler became too feeble to care for the farm Leonard took the management and conducted it on shares. Before he had yet reached his majority Leonard purchased a forty acre tract of the 240 acres of the original farm, and upon the death of his mother he became the owner of the rest of the home place, except 80 acres which had been sold.

Mr. Ashley was married in Jackson January 13, 1879, to Mary Thomas who, with one exception, is the oldest living settler of the county. She is the daughter of the late Joseph and Jane Thomas, who became residents of the county in 1858. Mrs. Ashley was born in Montague, Sussex county, New Jersey. To Mr. and Mrs. Ashley have been born the following children: Louis W., Leslie N., Solon, who died at the age of nineteen years; Henry, Allison, Mary, Arthur, who died at the age of eleven months.

ROBERT H. WADE (1871). Among the earliest settlers of Kimball township is Robert H. Wade, who has lived on his present farm thirty-nine years. He is not only a pioneer of Jackson county, but of Minnesota as well, having come to Minnesota in territorial days and having fought in the union army with a Minnesota regiment.

Robert H. Wade is a son of David and Johanna (Wade) Wade, both natives of New Jersey. They came west in 1854 and died at Trempealeau, Wisconsin. There are four living children of this family—William T., of Sumner,

Iowa, aged 90 years; Robert H., of this sketch, aged 80 years; Stephen T., of Trempealeau, Wisconsin, aged 75 years; Edward F., of Fairmont, Minnesota, aged 70 years.

The subject of this biography was born in Essex county, New Jersey, May 18, 1830. There he lived until twenty-four years of age, learning the carpenter's trade and following that occupation during his residence there. In 1854 he moved to Johnstown, Wisconsin, and two years later located in Dakota county, Minnesota territory, where he worked at his trade until 1871. On March 1, 1864, Mr. Wade enlisted in the Third Minnesota light artillery and served until February 27, 1866.

After the war Mr. Wade located at Shakopee, Scott county, where he followed carpentering until he came to Jackson county in 1871. Arriving in this then new country, he took as a homestead claim the northeast quarter of section 24, Kimball township, and as a tree claim the southeast quarter of the same section, and that farm has been his home ever since. Very hard times were encountered during the great grasshopper scourge, and during a part of this time Mr. Wade was obliged to be at Shakopee, working at his trade. For a number of years after coming to the county he worked at his trade as well as engaging in farming, and many of the buildings in the neighborhood in Kimball township and Martin county were erected by him. For his own home Mr. Wade hauled the lumber from Shakopee and erected a 14x16 foot building with a lean-to.

During his long residence in the county Mr. Wade has always been held in high esteem, and he has often been called upon to hold offices of trust. He served on the jury during the years from 1875 to 1879, inclusive, and has seen jury duty before every judge holding court in the county. He took the government census of Kimball, Belmont and Enterprise townships in 1880, the state census of 1885, the government census of 1890 and the state census of 1895. He served as chairman of the Kimball board of township supervisors five years, was township treasurer one year, justice of the peace twenty years and was clerk of his school district from the second year after its organization until a few years ago. He is a member of the society of Minnesota Territorial Pioneers, of the John A. Myers Post No. 60, G. A. R., of Jackson, and of the Presbyterian church of the same village.

Robert H. Wade was married at Newport, Minnesota, in October, 1859, to Hannah Parker, who was born near Rutland, Vermont, April 29, 1829. She died May 26, 1897. To them were born three children, as follows: Charles H., William F. and Frank H.

The last named has charge of his father's farm. He is married to Mary A. Allen, a native of Minnesota, and they have seven children: Sylvia M., Lucy A., Mabel A., Henry A., Susan H., Frank H., and Helen E.

JOHN P. BRAKKE (1871)—spelled in Norwegian would be Johannes Pedersen Brakke—is one of the oldest settlers of Delafield township and is one of the precinct's most successful and best known farmers. He came with the vanguard of those who pushed out into the frontier country, when a young man just coming of age, and he has seen Jackson county develop from a wilderness into the fine farming country it is today.

John P. Brakke was born in Ringsakers parish, Hedemarkens, Norway, March 22, 1850. His parents were Peder Johanesen Brakke and Anne (Svendsdatter Olesveen) Brakke. His father, who was a carpenter and farmer, was born in the same place as was his son November 10, 1824, came to America in 1866 and located at Houston, Minnesota. He came to Jackson county in 1872 and located in Heron Lake township, but made his home with his son in Delafield most of the time until his death, which occurred June 7, 1879. The mother of our subject was born early in the year 1820, was married to Peder Brakke in Norway and died in her native land January 9, 1908.

Until he was seventeen years of age Mr. Brakke lived in his native land. At the age of twelve years he began working at the cabinet making and carpenter trades, which he followed in Norway until his arrival to America in 1867. Coming to the new world, he located at Houston, Minnesota, and there he worked at his trade until the spring of 1871. At that time he was twenty-one years of age and took a fancy to locate in some frontier section of the country and grow up with it. His father had visited Jackson county so early as 1868 and was pleased with the country, although he did not locate here at that time. His report on the country to the west decided young Brakke to visit the county. He did so, and on March 20, 1871, set foot on the

soil of Jackson county for the first time. Two days later, on his twenty-first birthday, he made filing on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 32, Delafield township, as a homestead claim.

When he arrived in the county he had practically nothing in the way of property or money, but he set to work with a will to make his fortune. He at once erected a frame house, 12x14 feet with eight foot posts, and engaged in farming on a small scale. When the grasshoppers came in 1873 Mr. Brakke was obliged to temporarily desert his claim, and from that date until 1878 he worked at his trade in Houston county. He returned to his Jackson county home in the spring of 1878 and again engaged in farming.

In 1889 Mr. Brakke received the appointment as a deputy state weighmaster, under the first administration of Governor Merriam, and he held the office eleven years, serving under Governors Merriam, Nelson, Clough and Lind. During these years he resided in Minneapolis, his family remaining on the farm. Returning to the farm in 1901, he again took up the duties of an agriculturalist. He now owns 360 acres of land in one body and has one of the finest homes in the neighborhood, his grove being one of exceptional merit. The grove was started in 1878. In the summer of 1909—thirty-one years later—Mr. Brakke sawed 10,000 feet of cottonwood, maple and ash lumber from it, without apparently diminishing the grove.

Besides his other accomplishments, Mr. Brakke is a violin maker of more than a local reputation. When he was a boy in the old country he engaged in violin making as a recreation. When he came to America at the age of seventeen he gave up the work, but when forty-seven years of age he again took it up and has spent odd moments at the work ever since. He has a number of the instruments on hand, all the work of his handicraft. Many of the instruments have been decorated by his daughter.

Besides holding the state office for eleven years, Mr. Brakke has held many minor offices. He was chairman of the board of supervisors of Delafield township three years, was township assessor three years, was township clerk nine years and he has held the office of clerk of school district No. 29 for many years. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

Mr. Brakke was married at Blackhammer,

Houston county, Minnesota, March 24, 1878, to Mari Guttormson Tyribakken, who was born in Houston county December 26, 1857. She is the daughter of Knudt Guttormson Tyribakken, who was one of the early settlers of Houston county, locating there in 1854. To Mr. and Mrs. Brakke have been born the following children: Albert Marius, born May 22, 1880; Anna Elisa, born April 4, 1882; Clara, born October 30, 1883; Peander Cornelius, born October 10, 1885; Gustav, born January 8, 1888.

MARSHAL B. DUNN (1867), who is engaged in the machine and engine business at Jackson, is one of the pioneers of Jackson county, having resided here since he was ten years of age. Mr. Dunn was born in Bangor, Maine, September 29, 1857, the son of James W. and Elizabeth M. (Seeley) Dunn, pioneers of Minnesota.

Our subject moved to Minnesota with his parents in 1860 and for two years lived on a claim in Meeker county. The father enlisted in the union army in September, 1861, being first sergeant of company B, Fourth Minnesota volunteers. He was wounded in the battle of Iuka, Mississippi, by a bullet in the leg, which he carried until his death. In 1862, while the head of the family was in the army, Mrs. Dunn took her three children and sought refuge in Fort Ridgely and was present during the attack on that fort. Her name appears on the monument erected in memory of the defenders of the fort. In the fall of 1862 the family moved to St. Paul, and there Marshal B. Dunn lived until he came to Jackson county. He accompanied the family to this county, arriving June 6, 1867, and grew to manhood on the farm in Petersburg township.

Mr. Dunn was made deputy sheriff of Jackson county in 1894 and served in that capacity four years. He was elected sheriff in 1898 and held the office eight years. He has been deputy game warden at large the past two years, and is village constable. He owns 160 acres of land in Petersburg township, eighty acres in Minneota and village property. He is a member of the K. P., I. O. O. F., M. B. A. and M. W. A. lodges.

At Windom, on October 1, 1879, Mr. Dunn was married to Anna L. Nourse. To them have been born the following named children:

Elizabeth L., born in Jackson county October 10, 1886; Ney M., born July 23, 1888, died June 15, 1908; Donald S., born November 3, 1893; Kenneth S., born May 3, 1895. Mr. Dunn and family are members of the Presbyterian church. The son, Ney M., was captain of the state university football team at the time of his death.

ERICK KILEN (1867), in partnership with his brother, John Kilen, owns and farms 240 acres of land on sections 16, 21 and 20, on the west side of the river in Belmont township, where he has spent nearly his entire life. His parents were Erick R. and Johanna Kilen. They were born in Norway, came to America in the early sixties, lived in Wisconsin a short time, in Fillmore county, Minnesota, several years and came to Jackson county in 1867. They took a homestead claim in Belmont township, where they resided until their death, he dying in 1897 and she four years later. There were thirteen children in the family, of whom six boys and two girls are living.

It was while the family were living in Fillmore county, on the second day of September, 1864, that Erick Kilen was born. When three years old, in 1867, he accompanied the family to Jackson county, and Belmont township has been his home ever since. He worked for his father on the farm until the latter's death in 1897; then he and his brother, John, conducted the home place for their mother until her death four years later. After the death of their mother Erick and John bought the entire real estate holdings of the family and have since farmed in partnership. Besides his farming interests Mr. Kilen has interests in the Lakefield-Belmont Telephone company, in the Jackson Telephone company and in the Belmont Creamery company. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Kilen was married in Des Moines township June 13, 1891, to Betsey Teigen, a native of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, and a daughter of Ole Teigen, one of the pioneer settlers of Jackson county. To Mr. and Mrs. Kilen have been born four children, as follows: Peter, born March 29, 1892; Clara, born March 12, 1894; Edwin, born December 15, 1896; Ole, born October 7, 1902.

PETER J. VOGT (1872). Among the very earliest settlers of Alba township is Peter J.

Vogt, who has lived in the precinct since he was a boy eighteen years old. He owns 300 acres of land and farms it all.

Mr. Vogt was born on board ship on the Atlantic ocean while his parents were on their way from Mecklenberg, Germany, to America. The date of his birth was September 17, 1854. His father was Peter Vogt, who died in Missouri fourteen years ago; his mother, Annie (Schuldt) Vogt, lives in Missouri.

Upon their arrival to the new world the family located near Toledo, Ohio, where they lived eight years, and then resided in Monroe county, Michigan, until they came to Jackson county in 1872. Peter was brought up on a farm and had only meager educational advantages. He accompanied his parents to Minnesota, arriving during the month of September, 1872. The family spent the winter of 1872-73 in the village of Hersey (now Brewster), then just founded, and in the spring moved onto a farm on section eight, Alba township, which the elder Vogt took as a preemption claim. This farm is now owned by our subject.

Until he was twenty-eight years of age Peter lived at home and worked for his father. During the grasshopper scourge the family experienced very hard times and our subject was obliged to work on the section part of the time to earn money to support the family, the father being a cripple. At the age of twenty-eight years Mr. Vogt married and engaged in farming and has prospered.

Mr. Vogt was married in Alba township January 12, 1882, to Matilda Toball, who was born in Prussia June 3, 1866. To this union have been born the following four children: Emma, born March 18, 1885; Lydia, born February 6, 1887; Theodore, born May 24, 1889; Ernest, born July 28, 1900. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Brewster. Mr. Vogt served two years as a member of the board of supervisors of Alba township and he served as a director of school district No. 86 for sixteen years, giving up the office in July, 1909.

ANDREW C. SERUM (1873), builder of concrete structures, of Jackson, is an early day settler of the county and one who has taken an active part in the affairs of the county. He was born in Norway September 28, 1845. His parents, Christian Hermansen Serum and Mar-

tha (Johnson) Serum, came to America in 1862, the year after their son arrived, but returned after one year's residence here and died in their native land.

Andrew lived with his parents in Norway until he was past sixteen years of age and then, in 1861, came to America. Locating in Dane county, Wisconsin, he worked on a farm during two summers and then went to Madison, where he secured employment in a drug store for nine months. He then went to Goodhue county, Minnesota, where he lived until the spring of 1873. During those years he was engaged in various occupations. For three years he was on the police force of Red Wing, and for a time was engaged in buying grain.

Mr. Serum came to Jackson county in 1873 and for the first year made his home in Heron Lake. He then took a homestead in West Heron Lake township and upon that place he lived eight years. Selling his farm at the end of that time, he moved to Jackson, and that village has since been his home. He was employed as register of deeds of the county from 1882 to 1889 and after that went into the abstract business, which he was engaged in until 1907, when he sold out on account of poor health. Since the last named date he has been engaged in the concrete business.

Mr. Serum has held office during many years of his residence in the county. During the time he was living in West Heron Lake township he served as township clerk and justice of the peace. He was elected sheriff in 1873 and served two years. It was during his incumbency that the grasshoppers came, and the first year of his term the office fees amounted to only \$90, and of these he collected only \$75. He was elected county commissioner from the third district in 1875 and served three years. Of this time he was chairman of the board from January to July, 1877, and during the year 1878. He was elected register of deeds in 1881 and was reelected in 1883 and 1886. Mr. Serum owns two Jackson county farms, one in Belmont township and one in Des Moines township. He is a member of the Episcopal church and of the Odd Fellows and Workmen lodges.

Mr. Serum has been married three times. His first wife was Maren Severson and his second Rikke Severson. On December 3, 1883, he was married to Helona Brakke. To them have been born the following children: Philip, Marie, Mark and Reuben.

TROND O. TRONDSON (1869) has lived on his present farm on the south bank of Heron lake, on the southwest quarter of section 30, Heron Lake township, for the past forty years, and he is one of the oldest settlers of the township. In addition to the quarter section upon which he lives he owns a half of section 25, West Heron Lake township, and is one of the big farmers of the community.

Mr. Trondson is a Norwegian by birth, and first saw the light of day August 1, 1853. His parents were Ole and Carrie (Olson) Trondson, whom he accompanied to America in 1865. After a residence of four years in Allamakee county, Iowa, the family decided to push on still farther west, and in 1869, accompanied by four other families, a journey to Canton, Dakota territory, was begun. When Swan lake, Iowa, was reached Mr. Trondson, the elder, died, and the trip to Dakota was abandoned. The other families of the party settled in the vicinity of Esterville, while Mrs. Trondson and her family came north into Jackson county. She bought from a Mr. Cleveland a homestead right to the southwest quarter of section 30, Heron Lake township, and there she established her family home. For eighteen years their only habitation was a sod shanty, which stood where Mr. Trondson's home is now.

Mr. Trondson's mother died eleven years ago in Campbell county, South Dakota, where she had made her home with a son. In the early seventies Mr. Trondson homesteaded a tract of land nearby, and later he acquired his mother's homestead. Ever since locating in the county in 1869 his home has been on section 30. He added the tract in West Heron Lake by purchase about 1893.

The first marriage of Mr. Trondson occurred in Heron Lake township January 6, 1879, when he wedded Helena Rongstad, who was born in Norway November 6, 1861, and who was the daughter of Andrew Rongstad. As a result of this union the following children were born: Clara, born April 7, 1881; Albert, born May 10, 1883; Theodore, born October 20, 1885; Ole, born December 29, 1888, died May 19, 1909. Mr. Trondson's first wife died, and on January 6, 1892, he was united in marriage to Mary Mone, a native of Norway and a daughter of Ole Mone. Mr. and Mrs. Trondson are the parents of nine living children, as follows: Hilda, born April 15, 1893; Hannah, born July 27, 1894; Thea, born

October 16, 1895; Christena, born January 6, 1897; Carrie, born January 31, 1899; Constance, born November 11, 1901; William R., born August 1, 1904; Walbag R., born August 1, 1904; Joseph, born December 19, 1906. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Trondson has been treasurer of school district No. 81 since it was organized.

**WILLIAM H. GRUHLKE** (1860), Petersburg township farmer, is one of the early day settlers of that precinct. He was born in Waseca, Minnesota, March 21, 1866, the son of August Gruhlke, who died January 8, 1895, and Wilhelmina (Roesler) Gruhlke.

William accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1869 at the age of three years. His father took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 30, Petersburg township, and our subject has lived upon that land ever since—a period of continuous residence of forty years. When the family located there Mankato was the nearest railroad point and to that point they hauled what grain they had to sell. William received a common school education and assisted with the farm work. After growing to manhood he engaged in farming for himself.

Mr. Gruhlke owns 100 acres of land in Jackson county and a quarter section in Dakota. He has stock in the Petersburg creamery, the Jackson Telephone company, the Middletown Telephone company and in the Jackson Fair association. He served as treasurer of his school district for nine years and is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

On June 8, 1893, Mr. Gruhlke was married to Hattie Wolff. They are the parents of four children, born as follows: Claron, born August 27, 1894; Gordon, born February 20, 1898; Roy, born December 23, 1901; Kermit, born November 3, 1903.

**ROBERT A. GRUHLKE** (1869), stock buyer and shipper of Jackson, has spent forty years of his life as a resident of Jackson county. He was born in Marquette county, Wisconsin, October 4, 1858. He is the son of the late August Gruhlke and Wilhelmina C. (Roesler) Gruhlke, who resides in Jackson and is 77 years of age.

Both parents were born in Hamburg, Prus-

sia, came to the United States in the early fifties and located in Marquette county, Wisconsin. August Gruhlke engaged in teaching school in the fatherland, and after coming to America engaged in agricultural pursuits and ministerial work, being a German Lutheran minister of the gospel. About 1860 the family moved to Waseca county, Minnesota, and located upon land upon which the town of Waseca was afterwards built. In 1869 they came to Jackson county and the head of the family took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 30, Petersburg township, upon which they lived until 1892. August Gruhlke died in Jackson in 1895 at the age of 76 years. Robert is one of a family of five living children.

The subject of this biography lived with his parents until he was twenty-seven years of age. At that age he married and engaged in farming the home farm six years. He acquired one hundred acres of the home place and later added to the farm by the purchase of 120 acres adjoining. Later still he bought an interest in his wife's father's farm on section 2, Middletown. In 1891 Mr. Gruhlke left the farm and went into the butcher business in Jackson. He conducted a meat market three years, and since that time has been engaged in buying and shipping stock.

Mr. Gruhlke was married in Middletown township on Christmas eve, 1885, to Fannie M. Withers, daughter of the late Walter and Jane E. (Allen) Withers. She was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, January 28, 1862. To these parents one child has been born, Evelyn Mae, born July 22, 1902. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gruhlke are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Eastern Star lodge. Mr. Gruhlke is a Mason.

**ROBERT MITTELSTADT** (1870) is one of the very oldest settlers of Rost township, having lived in that precinct ever since he was two and one-half years of age. His parents, Fred and Dorothea Mittelstadt, were born in Germany. They came to Jackson county with their family in 1870 and took as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 18, Rost township. They encountered many hardships in the early days, notably during the grasshopper times, but they stayed with the country and eventually weathered the hard times. For many years they lived in a typical sod



house and had a sod barn for their stock. During the memorable winter of 1880-81 their house was entirely covered with snow. There were seven children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mittelstadt, as follows: William, of Seattle, Washington; Julius, of Heron Lake; Mrs. Tina Trosin, of Heron Lake township; Robert, of this sketch; Minnie Dolly, of Lake Wilson, and Bertha Beyer Kahler, of Ewington township. Fred Mittelstadt died in 1907; his wife still lives on the home place and is 80 years of age.

Robert Mittelstadt was born in Wisconsin November 16, 1867, and accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1870. He lived on the old homestead until 1896; then he moved onto his own place, where he has since lived. His farm consists of 160 acres of land on section 18, and all the improvements on the place were made by him.

Mr. Mittelstadt was married in Rost township on November 30, 1893, to Bertha Schulz, a native of Germany. To them have been born the following named seven children: Dorothea, born March 4, 1895; Edna, born September 13, 1896; Oleta, born March 20, 1898; Hattie, born March 9, 1900; Leah, born May 2, 1903; Edmund, born November 24, 1904; Adolph, born October 1, 1906. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

**EDSON FADER** (1872) is a retired farmer living at Lakefield. He was born in Calmar, Winneshiek county, Iowa, February 13, 1857, the son of Ludwig and Jane (McNeil) Fader. One year after his birth the family moved to New Oregon, Iowa, and five years later, in 1863, to Fillmore county, Minnesota.

Edson Fader came to Jackson county with his parents in September, 1872, and for the next six years lived on the farm in Minneota township, nine miles south of Lakefield. He went to the vicinity of Madison, South Dakota, in 1878, took a claim there and resided upon it until 1889. Returning to Jackson county that year, he bought a farm in Minneota township and resided in that precinct ten years. We next find Mr. Fader at Wentworth, South Dakota, where he engaged in farming two years. He moved to Polk county, Minnesota, in 1901, farmed two years, and then took up his residence in Lakefield, where he has since resided.

During his residence in Minneota township

Mr. Fader was often called upon to serve in an official capacity. He was assessor two years, served as a member of the board of supervisors, and was town clerk six years. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Rebekah lodges. He owns six blocks of land in the southern part of Lakefield village.

Mr. Fader has been married three times. The first was on July 5, 1880, when he wedded Louisa Welch at Jackson. She died May 24, 1890, after having borne six children, named as follows: Vivian V., born July 24, 1881; Vira V., born April 13, 1883; Cleveland C., born December 13, 1884; Leland L., born June 3, 1886; Mabelle, born March 4, 1888; Maggie, born December 25, 1889, died August 13, 1890.

His second marriage occurred October 8, 1892, to Sarah Nicely at Evansville, Indiana. To this union four children were born: Perninna F., born July 4, 1892; Wahnetta, born May 30, 1894; Ula, born June 6, 1896; Ingra, born August 9, 1898. Mrs. Fader died December 16, 1901.

Mr. Fader married his present wife, Dora M. Starkey, at Princeton, Indiana, February 10, 1903.

**JOHN K. BROWN** (1879), deceased. Among the men who entered prominently into the business and social life of Jackson mention must be made of John K. Brown, the founder of the first bank in the county.

John K. Brown was born in Canada in 1827, of Scotch, English and Dutch descent. He lived on a farm until eighteen years of age and then moved to St. Thomas, where for four years he was a salesman in a retail store. He moved to London, Ontario, in 1851 and engaged in the dry goods and millinery business. While a resident of that city he served as a member of the city council. Mr. Brown moved to New York in 1860, was with Arnold, Constable & company one year, and then entered the freight office of the Rome & Watertown Railroad company. From 1865 to 1870 he was a traveling salesman, with headquarters at Montreal, his territory including parts of both the United States and Canada.

In 1870 Mr. Brown located at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he entered the general office of the Southern Minnesota Railroad company and became assistant paymaster. A little later he entered the land department of the same road and served as land commissioner

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**MRS. CHRISTINE KNUDSON (Deceased)**  
First Wife of Henry Knudson.



**IDA MAY KNUDSON (on Left)**  
Daughter of Henry and Christine Knudson.



**MR. AND MRS. HENRY KNUDSON**  
of Heron Lake.



**MR. AND MRS. L. T. CHRISTENSON**  
Daughter and Son-in-Law of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Knudson.



**CHRISTIAN OSCAR KNUDSON (Deceased)**  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Knudson.



**WILBUR CHRISTENSON**  
Grandson of Henry Knudson

eight years. When the Southern Minnesota railroad was constructed to Jackson Mr. Brown gave up his position with the railroad company and in 1879 founded the Bank of Jackson, the first bank in the county. He was the head of that institution (later it became the Brown National Bank) until his death, which occurred April 16, 1908.

Mr. Brown was married in November, 1883, to Pluma M. Kimball. Two children were born to this union: John K. Brown, Jr., and Gordon Brown.

JOSEPH H. NOURSE (1871) owns a tract of land in the wooded district along the Des Moines river, a short distance up the river from Jackson, where he engages in farming on a small scale, in gardening and wood cutting. He is one of the early residents of the county, having come first when he was a boy ten years of age. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Goodhue county January 8, 1861.

Our subject descends from New England stock, his father, William H. Nourse, having been born in Massachusetts and his mother in New York state, her maiden name having been Rosemond C. Stuart. These parents came to Minnesota in 1856 or 1857 and took a pre-emption claim in Goodhue county. Mr. Nourse, senior, was a veteran of the civil war, having enlisted from Red Wing in company F of the Second Minnesota cavalry. The family came to Jackson county in 1871 and Mr. Nourse took a soldier's homestead claim on section 10, Kimball township, where they resided until the ravages of the grasshoppers caused them to leave. Mr. Nourse took his family to Rice county and he later went to Kansas. He died in the soldier's home at Morrow, Indiana, in 1906. There were eight children in the family, of whom the following seven are living: Anna (Mrs. M. B. Dunn), of Jackson; Joseph, of Des Moines township; Lelia (Mrs. S. J. Dunn), of Grant county, Minnesota; Gilbert F., of Jackson; Walter, of Rice county; Zella (Mrs. Charles Swan), of Wood Lake, Minnesota; Mark R., of the Minnesota soldiers' home at Minnehaha, he having been disabled at Porto Rico during the Spanish war.

Joseph lived with his parents in Goodhue county, Minnesota, until June, 1871. Then he accompanied his parents to Jackson county and until the grasshoppers came a few years

later he resided on the Kimball township homestead. He accompanied his parents to Rice county and resided there until 1884. That year he again took up his residence in Jackson county, where he has ever since resided. He engaged in farming and dealt in hay for four years; then he married and farmed a rented place two years. The next three years of his life were spent in the village of Jackson, after which he bought a timber lot on section 10, Des Moines township, and since that time he has resided in the country a short distance from Jackson. Several years after locating on his present place he added to his holdings by the purchase of other tracts in the vicinity.

During his residence in the county Mr. Nourse has often been called to serve in an official capacity. He was deputy sheriff under Sheriff M. B. Dunn, has been township clerk for the past five years, was treasurer of school district No. 10 for three years and has held the offices of road overseer and township assessor. He was census enumerator of Des Moines township in 1905. He is a director and secretary of rural telephone line No. 7. Mr. Nourse is a member of the Methodist church. He belongs to the A. O. U. W. lodge and he and his wife are members of the Degree of Honor lodge.

In Lake Fremont township, Martin county, Minnesota, on November 29, 1888, Mr. Nourse was united in marriage to Flora P. Celley, who was born at Wilton, Maine, December 23, 1864. She is the daughter of John C. and Sarah B. (Hall) Celley, both deceased. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nourse, as follows: J. Walter, born August 30, 1889; Winifred B., born November 21, 1892; Wilma J., born October 3, 1895; Warren K., born March 8, 1898; Isabelle W., born March 14, 1900.

HENRY KNUDSON (1870), ex-sheriff, county treasurer, and judge of the probate court of Jackson county, who now lives at Heron Lake, is an early day settler of the county and one who has played an important part in public affairs.

Mr. Knudson was brought up on a farm, having been born in Nordre (or Northern) Aurdal, Valdres, Norway, September 26, 1843. His father was Knud Chestenson Klevegaard (the latter being the farm name), a farmer

and tailor by occupation. He was born in Northern Aurdal, Valders, Norway, came to the United States in 1852, lived respectively in Rock, Walworth and Iowa counties, Wisconsin, and in Bellecreek, Goodhue county, Minnesota, where he died in 1870 at the age of 59 years. Our subject's mother was Anna Hendrickson Fuglien (the latter being the farm name). She was also born in Nordre Aurdal, Valders, Norway, and died near Maxonville, Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1854 at the age of 37 years.

Henry is the second of a family of five children, of whom the only one besides himself now living is Ole, whose name has been changed to William Christen. He is the president of a mining corporation of Cripple Creek, Colorado. The deceased children of the family were Christen Knudson, who came to Jackson county in 1870 and resided on his farm near Wilder until his death in 1898; Knud Knudson, who died in 1863 at the age of about twelve years; Anna Knudson, who died in Denver, Colorado, at the age of about 40 years. Besides his full brothers and sisters Mr. Knudson has the following half sisters and brothers by his father's second wife, namely: Esther (Mrs. Ole Tollefson), wife of a prosperous farmer of Arville, North Dakota; Mrs. Mary Erickson, of Cannon Falls, Minnesota; Stark Christy, a farmer of Bellecreek, Goodhue county, Minnesota; Elias Knudson, deceased, of McIntosh, Minnesota.

When Henry Knudson was nine years of age he had to go out and make his own living, as his parents were poor. In November, 1861, at Moscow, Iowa county, Wisconsin, he enlisted in the union army, and on December 8 was mustered into company E, Fifteenth Wisconsin infantry, known as the Scandinavian regiment, all being Norwegians from the colonel down. The regiment was in several engagements while he was in it, the principal ones being at the capture of Island No. 10, at Union City, Tennessee, and at Perrysville and Danville, Kentucky. On November 24, 1862, he reenlisted for three years in company K, Fourth United States cavalry, and was transferred thereto by order of the war department. The first battle he was in after being transferred was Murfreesboro, or Stone River, Tennessee. He was in a number of engagements in the vicinity of Murfreesboro and one time was cut off from his command by a body of confederate cavalry at Spring Hill,

Tennessee, and was reported killed or captured, but his fleet horse and long range revolving rifle saved him.

Mr. Knudson served on General Rosecrans' body guard and was orderly to General Elmer Otis. He was one of twenty picked men of the regiment chosen to charge on twenty confederate cavalymen who were stationed on what is known as Round Top, in Wilson county, Tennessee. In this charge four men were killed and two were taken prisoners. On February 18 and 19 the regiment had an engagement between Auburn and Liberty, Tennessee. During this time Mr. Knudson was acting as sergeant and led the advance. When about two hundred feet from the enemy he was struck by a rifle ball near the right nipple, the ball passing through the lungs and coming out near the spinal column. Being escorted to the rear by two comrades, he was left on the battlefield all night and the next day was taken in an ambulance to Murfreesboro, a distance of about thirty miles, over a rough road. Mr. Knudson was discharged for disability at Louisville, Kentucky, July 18, 1863.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Knudson went back home, near Moscow, Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1865 went to Red Wing, Minnesota. There he clerked in a general merchandise store, bought wheat, ran a warehouse and sold machinery. For a time he was also engaged in farming near Bellecreek, Goodhue county. He came to Jackson county in the spring of 1870 and took a homestead claim on section 10, Weimer township.

On January 10, 1871, Mr. Knudson was appointed deputy sheriff of Jackson county by Sheriff E. Sevaton and at the election that fall he was elected sheriff. He was elected county treasurer in the fall of 1873 and took possession of the office March 4, 1874; he was reelected in the fall of 1875 and served until March, 1878. In the fall of 1874 he was also elected to the office of judge of the probate court and held the two offices for two years.

On the 24th day of December, 1876, Mr. Knudson was united in marriage to Christine Tollefson, of Christiania township. She was born in the town of Belmont on the 3rd day of February, 1861, and was the daughter of Tollef Olson Slaabaken and Ingebor Slaabaken. She was a twin sister of Ole Tollefson, who now lives on a fine large farm near Arville, North Dakota. During the Indian massacre

in August, 1862, Mrs. Tollefson had to carry these twins in the flight from the Indians, Mr. Tollefson being in the army. To Mr. and Mrs. Knudson were born two children: Ida Anna, born March 18, 1879, and Christian Henry, born October 16, 1880. Mrs. Knudson died October 17, 1880, and Christian Henry died August 14, 1882.

In the spring of 1879 Mr. Knudson moved to a farm he owned on the south shore of Heron lake. During his residence there he founded the town of Jackson Center and was appointed postmaster. In 1882 he moved to Lakefield and was appointed postmaster there March 23, 1882, an office which he soon resigned.

The second marriage of Mr. Knudson occurred June 19, 1882, at Lakefield, when he wedded Jennie Olson, daughter of Ole Isakson and Inga Isakson, of Nordre Aurdal, Valdres, Norway. Mrs. Knudson was born in the same place as were her parents, the date of her birth being October 6, 1859. She came to the United States in 1880. To these parents have been born two children: Emma D. (Mrs. L. T. Christenson), of Minneapolis, and Christian Oscar, who died September 18, 1889.

In 1886 Mr. Knudson moved to Heron Lake and in the fall of that year was again elected to the office of judge of the probate court, which office he held for the full term of two years. During this time he was also a member of the Heron Lake village council and village justice of the peace, which offices he resigned in 1893 on account of ill health and too much business. Mr. Knudson was the founder, owner and editor of the Southwestern Minnesota Farmer, a monthly publication which he started in 1888. Besides the offices mentioned Mr. Knudson has held at one time or another nearly all the township offices. He has been a notary public and has been engaged in the insurance, real estate and loaning business. On September 1, 1891, he was authorized to act as agent before the department of the interior.

Mr. Knudson went to the Puget sound country for his health in 1893, but returned home to Heron Lake in the latter part of that year. In 1894 he went to California for his health and lived in Los Angeles until 1899. Then he returned to Heron Lake, where he has ever since resided.

JESSE A. PATTERSON (1866), deceased, was one of the pioneer settlers of Jackson county and resided in Petersburg township for forty years. He was born in Grant county, Indiana, October 30, 1848.

He joined the army when less than fourteen years of age, enlisting as a member of company C, of the 89th Indiana infantry, on August 8, 1862, and serving until his discharge at Mobile, Alabama, July 19, 1865. Six months after leaving the army Mr. Patterson moved from Indiana to Chatfield, Minnesota, and during the summer of 1866 he located in Jackson county. For several years he worked at different occupations. He worked out during the summer seasons, the first year in Fillmore county; he chopped wood at Jackson for Major H. S. Bailey, and he hauled groceries to the new settlement from Winnebago City, which was then the nearest railroad point. For several years he operated a stage between Spirit Lake and Jackson and between Fairmont and Jackson. Mr. Patterson secured a quarter section of land, by homestead, in Petersburg township in 1866 and engaged in farming for many years, his widowed mother and five sisters residing with him. He suffered many hardships incident to the grasshopper period and pioneer days. On one occasion he lost his barn and live stock from the ever-dreaded prairie fire. Mr. Patterson died at his home in Petersburg township January 4, 1906.

On August 8, 1875, Mr. Patterson was united in marriage to Maggie Jungbauer, who survives her husband and makes her home on the farm in Petersburg. To Mr. and Mrs. Patterson were born two children, as follows: Martin Henry, who died at the age of two years, and Ida May.

ANDERS OPPERUD (1870), deceased, was a pioneer settler and one of the best known farmers of Delafield township, his home being a short distance south of Wilder. He was born in Norway April 21, 1845, the son of Anders Anderson and Annie Anderson. These parents came to America during the eighties, but soon moved back to their native land and both are now deceased.

Anders came to the United States in 1868 and located in Fayette county, Iowa. After residing there two years he came to Jackson county and took as a homestead claim the

southwest quarter of section 18, Delafield township. For two years he and his family lived in a combination sod shanty and dug-out, 14x14 feet in size, and his barn was built of straw. Later a small frame building was put up, and in time this was added to, resulting in the present house. Hard times were encountered during the grasshopper times, and Mr. Opperud was obliged to spend the greater part of his time for six years working in the vicinity of Albert Lea, while his wife and mother kept up the farm as best they might. Mrs. Opperud remembers that one year the only crop they harvested was five bushels of wheat and a few potatoes.

Mr. Opperud was a hard worker and a splendid farmer. He prospered and when he died on June 29, 1908, he left his family in comfortable circumstances. During his lifetime he always took an active part in local political and business affairs. For eighteen years he was a member of the Delafield township board and in the early days was identified with the public school of his district, having served on the board. He was one of the directors of the National Bank of Windom. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and was instrumental in the building of the first church erected in Delafield township. For a number of years he served as treasurer of the church society.

Mr. Opperud was married at Elkader, Iowa, April 8, 1869, to Johanna Gilbertson, who was born in Norway October 17, 1850, and who came to the United States in 1865. Her parents were Gilbert Berge and Gunela (Opperud) Berge. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Opperud, of whom the following named six are living: Josephine (Mrs. Sam Juleson), of Texas; Mrs. Anna Fawcett, of Wilder; Mrs. Hilda Potter, of Springfield, Minnesota; Mrs. Inga Schield, of Fall Creek, Wisconsin; Mrs. Matilda Fuller, of Lambertton, Minnesota; John Arthur Opperud, of Delafield township.

JOHN FREDERICKSON (1870), one of the members and officers of the Lakefield Tile & Drainage company, cement tile manufacturers, has been a resident of Lakefield ever since the founding of the village. He is a native of Norway and was born September 9, 1846, being the son of Frederick and Mary (Kulungstad) Frederickson.

Our subject spent the first twenty-three

years of his life in his native land. He was educated in the public schools and later studied the English language under a private tutor. In 1869 he emigrated to America and during the first three years of his residence in the new world lived at several different places, working on the railroad. He spent one month in Madelia and then worked on the Omaha road a short time at Mankato. Next he took a position with the Milwaukee road, but a little later went to St. Paul and for two years worked for the Northern Pacific. He spent one harvest season working near Hastings, and then again took a position with the Northern Pacific.

In 1872 Mr. Frederickson located in the new town of Windom, where he secured a position in a lumber yard. Later he built a boarding house there, which he conducted several years. While living at Windom he took a homestead claim near Wilder station. On the first day of September, 1879, while the town was being founded, Mr. Frederickson located in Lakefield and that village has ever since been his home. For seven years he was manager of the Colman lumber company's yard and then engaged in the machinery business. He conducted the machinery business alone for ten years, then sold a half interest to Charles M. Gage, and later sold his remaining interest to E. A. Gage. After going out of the machinery business he opened a land office, which he has conducted ever since. In 1908 he formed the Lakefield Tile & Drainage company and began the manufacture of cement tile. The officers of this company are Anders Qivli, president; John Frederickson, secretary; John Grein, treasurer.

The subject of this biography, in partnership with Walter L. Seely, platted the addition to Lakefield known as South Lakefield. He has been a member of the board of education ever since the district was formed. He has served as a member of the village council a number of times, has been president of the council two terms and has served as village treasurer a number of years. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

Mr. Frederickson was married at Windom April 12, 1872, to Karen Foslie. To this union have been born the following named children: Fred, born December 21, 1874; Martin, born January 21, 1876; Charles W., born 1877; Ida, born November 17, 1878; Samuel, born April 18, 1880; Emma, born Septem-

ber 19, 1881; Marcus, born December 25, 1882; Lucy M., born May 22, 1884; Clara J., born July 7, 1887; Benjamin F., born February 28, 1889.

WILLIAM F. RIDGEWAY (1869), of Des Moines township, is one of the early settlers of Jackson county, having resided here since he was eleven years of age. He owns twenty-two and one-half acres of land on the Des Moines river a short distance up from Jackson. He does very little general farming but he is a successful chicken raiser and deals in wood.

The father of our subject is Francis J. Ridgeway, who lives in Jackson and is 75 years of age. He was born in Ohio and moved to Indiana when young, where he was married and lived until 1857. That year he settled in Goodhue county, Minnesota. He enlisted in company F, of the Second Minnesota volunteer infantry, served two years in the army and was discharged on account of disability. Later he reenlisted and fought the Sioux Indians in the Black Hills country one year. During one of the Indian campaigns Francis Ridgeway camped at the Joseph Thomas home where Jackson is now located. After his discharge from the army he lived in Goodhue county until 1869. Then he and family came to Jackson county, took a homestead on section 14, Wisconsin township, and a tree claim on section 10, of the same township, and resided on the farm until 1880. Since then he has resided in Jackson. Francis Ridgeway's first wife, the mother of our subject, was Martha Jane Druley, who was born in Ohio. She died several years ago at the age of 70 years. Francis Ridgeway later married Mrs. Anna Ridgeway, his brother's widow.

William Ridgeway was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, November 12, 1858. He accompanied the family to Jackson county in 1860, and until he was twenty-one years of age lived on the farm on section 14, Wisconsin township. After his marriage, which occurred in 1879, he farmed four years in Wisconsin township and then moved to Jackson. In 1890 Mr. Ridgeway bought the land he now owns on sections 10 and 11, Des Moines, and that has since been his home. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Mercantile company of Jackson. For three years he was treasurer of his school district.

Our subject was married at Mankato, Min-

nesota, February 15, 1879, to Cora L. Fancher. She was born in Indiana and died February 20, 1884. One child, Cora, was born to this union. She was married to William H. Blakeley and died January 22, 1904. Mr. Ridgeway was married the second time to Mary R. Goodwin, who was born in McKean county, Pennsylvania, and came to Jackson in 1868, and is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Goodwin, of Wilder, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway are members of the Modern Brotherhood of America, and Mrs. Ridgeway is also a member of the W. R. C. and R. N. A. orders.

ABRAHAM JOHNSON (1869), deceased, was one of the very early settlers of Heron Lake township. He was born in Norway January 7, 1830, the son of George and Gro Johnson. He came to America at the age of twenty-four years and settled in Houston county, Minnesota, where he resided until 1869. He served one year in the civil war, enlisting from Chicago in company F, of the twenty-third regiment of Illinois volunteer infantry.

Mr. Johnson came to Jackson county in 1869 and bought railroad land in Heron Lake township. He lived on that place fourteen years and then bought school land on section 36, West Heron Lake township, upon which he resided, engaged in farming, until his death, which occurred October 4, 1908. At the time of his death he owned 160 acres of land on sections 36 and 25, where he had builded a fine home. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and for several years was an officer of his school district.

Mr. Johnson was married in Heron Lake township November 1, 1872, to Rachael Timrud, who was born in Norway November 2, 1852, and came to the United States when eight years of age. Her parents were Ole and Tone Timrud, who settled in Houston county, Minnesota, before the civil war, and who later moved to the Red River valley, where they died. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born five children: Tilda, born November 20, 1874; Olof, born July 30, 1877; Gena, born November 7, 1879; Julius, born January 10, 1881; Henry, born March 15, 1887. Mrs. Johnson resides on the home farm, which is managed by her sons, Julius and Henry.

George Johnson, a brother of Abraham Johnson, resides near the home of his late brother,



where he owns six acres of land. He was born in Norway in 1823, came to the United States at the age of twenty-nine years, and located in Houston county, Minnesota. He served one year in the union army during the civil war. He came to Jackson county in 1873 and homesteaded in West Heron Lake township. He engaged in farming until seventeen years ago, when he retired from active pursuits.

JESSE P. PRESCOTT (1868), of Heron Lake, is one of Jackson county's pioneers, having resided here nearly forty-two years. He was born in Penobscot county, Maine, June 7, 1840, the son of Jeremiah and Mary (Miles) Prescott. The mother of our subject was born at Newport, Maine, December 3, 1804, and was married to Mr. Prescott December 16, 1823. The family moved to Illinois in 1847 and seven years later to Allamakee county, Iowa. There, with the exception of two years spent in California and Oregon, the parents of our subject spent the rest of their lives.

Jesse P. Prescott accompanied his parents from Maine to the west when seven years of age, and he resided with them until the early sixties. In 1861 he engaged in farming, having previously bought land in Allamakee county, Iowa, but a year and a half later enlisted as a member of company A, Thirteenth Iowa infantry, and served until the close of the war. He farmed two years after the war, and in the spring of 1868 moved to Jackson county, taking as a homestead the southwest quarter of section 30, Des Moines township. Mr. Prescott engaged in farming his homestead five years and then located in the village of Heron Lake, where he has since resided, engaged in various occupations.

At Lansing, Allamakee county, Iowa, Mr. Prescott was married in 1861 to Sophronia Topliff. To them were born four children, as follows: Edah M., born July 5, 1863, died August, 1888; Iva B., born November 10, 1867, married Henry Conrad, died April 3, 1909; Alvah P., born September 29, 1872, married Lillie Long; Lelah B., born December 14, 1881, married C. A. Kellam June, 1907. The second marriage of Mr. Prescott occurred at Sibley, Iowa, October 7, 1889, to Mary McNair, a native of Ulster county, New York. One child has been born to this union, Harvey H., born October 14, 1890, a graduate of Mankato col-

lege, and now a clerk in the First National Bank of Heron Lake.

MARK D. ASHLEY (1867), proprietor of the Ashley house, Jackson, came to that village with his parents when less than one year of age and the greater part of his life of forty-two years has been spent there. He was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, August 21, 1866, son of the late Benjamin W. and Juliet (Robbins) Ashley. The next spring he came with his mother to the site of the future village, his father and grandfather having come out the year before and platted the village.

In the pioneer village Mark grew to manhood. He was educated in the Jackson public schools, completing his studies with a two years' course in the Curtis Business college of Minneapolis and Bowers' Shorthand school of the same city. For a number of years after graduation he was employed in different parts of the country. His first position was with George M. VanLeuven, pension attorney at Lime Springs, Iowa. Later he went to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where he was a clerk in a lumber, mining and milling company's office. His next position was with the C. B. & Q. railroad, holding a clerkship for a time in the offices at Burlington, Iowa, and later being transferred to the offices at Hannibal, Missouri. From this work he returned to the twin cities and for a number of years held clerkships in different offices in St. Paul and Minneapolis, during the last five years of his residence there being cashier for the Lehigh Coal & Iron company.

In 1898 Mr. Ashley returned to Jackson and for three years engaged in the real estate and insurance business. In 1901 he leased the Ashley house for a term of three years and at the expiration of the lease bought the property and has since conducted the business. The Ashley house is one of the oldest and best known hostleries of southwestern Minnesota. The original Ashley house was built by Benjamin W. Ashley and his father in 1870. It was then a frame building, constructed of native lumber. The Ashley house of today is a handsome brick building, well appointed and modern in every way. Mr. Ashley is the owner of the hotel property and Jackson county farm lands. He has held the office of village recorder and for a number of years was jus-

tice of the peace. Fraternally, he is a Mason, Workman and K. P.

In Waseca, Minnesota, on May 13, 1903, Mr. Ashley was united in marriage to Miss Dora M. Child, daughter of the Honorable James E. Child, of that city. To Mr. and Mrs. Ashley have been born two children, Juliet Marcia and Miriam Constance.

OTTO HANSON (1871) is one of the very earliest settlers of Weimer township. He was born in Norway June 12, 1842, the son of Hans Olson and Marian Olson, both of whom died in their native land. Otto is the oldest child in a family of three boys and one girl, all living in the United States. The others are A. C. Hanson, of Mendora, Wisconsin; Matt Vaunebo, of Montana; Hannah Knudson, of Mendora, Wisconsin.

Until he was a young man Otto lived with his parents in his native land. He then took a position on a farm, where he was employed until he came to America at the age of twenty-seven years. He worked on a farm near LaCrosse, Wisconsin, two years and then, in 1871, came to Jackson county. He took as a tree claim the southwest quarter of section 20, Weimer township, located on the place at once and began its improvement, erecting a little shack, 12x18 feet, in which he lived for several years. He has ever since resided on the place.

Mr. Hanson was married in LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, in December, 1870, to Annie Lornsen, also a native of Norway. Three children were born to this union: Peter, a machinist at Okabena; Anker, a Weimer township farmer; Hans, of Minneapolis. Mr. Hanson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

GILBERT H. GILBERT (1869), farmer and thresher of Petersburg township, is a native of the county, having been born in Petersburg township August 22, 1869, the son of Hogan and Mary (Olson) Gilbert.

Gilbert lived on the home farm until the summer of 1892, when he located in Estherville, Iowa. The next summer he went to Sherburn, Minnesota, and took a position as clerk in a general merchandise store. In 1894 he went back to Estherville, remained there about a year, and then went back to Sher-

burn. After spending eight months in the latter place he returned to Jackson county and for three years made his home on his father's farm. Then in 1898 he bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 35 and has since lived there. During the last twelve seasons he has been engaged in the threshing business as well as conducting his farm. The first three seasons he operated with horse power; since that time he has had steam power. Mr. Gilbert owns stock in the Petersburg Creamery company and was a member of the board of directors for three years. He also is interested in the store at Petersburg. He was assessor of his township for six years and justice of the peace two years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

On July 6, 1898, Mr. Gilbert was married to Randena Mickelson, of Wallingford, Iowa. To these parents have been born five children: Howard M., born May 11, 1899; Olof B., born July 31, 1902; Mabel A., born December 24, 1904; Gilmore R., born October 1, 1906; Clarence J., born February 28, 1909.

JOHN NESTRUD (1870) is one of the most prosperous farmers and an early settler of Heron Lake township, having resided upon his present farm nearly forty years. He owns and farms 320 acres on sections 20 and 21. When he located there in 1870 there was not a building or stick of timber on the place; now he has a fine home, surrounded by a beautiful grove, which was planted in 1877.

Mr. Nestrud is a Norwegian by birth, having been born July 16, 1845, the son of Hans C. and Johanna A. (Whem) Nestrud. John is the youngest of a family of six children born to these parents. His parents came to America in 1869 and made their home with their son until their death, the father dying in 1898, at the age of 89 years, his mother in 1891, at the age of 88 years.

Our subject resided in Norway until he was twenty-three years of age. During this time he attended school and worked on his father's farm and at outside work. He came to America in 1868 and for two years resided in Houston county, Minnesota. He arrived in Jackson county in June, 1870, took as a preemption claim the northeast quarter of section 20, Heron Lake township, and that has ever since been his home. Later he bought the north-

west quarter of section 21, and he farms the whole half section.

During his long residence in the county Mr. Nestrud has taken an active part in its business, social and political life. He has been justice of the peace of his precinct during nearly all of the time he has resided in the county, was township treasurer eleven years, assessor nine years, township clerk since 1890 with the exception of two and one-half years, and road overseer for many years. He held the office of clerk of school district No. 56 before the reorganization of the districts because of the increase of territory of the Lakefield district, and he has been treasurer of district No. 66 for ten or twelve years. Mr. Nestrud owns stock in and is one of the directors of the First National Bank of Lakefield and owns stock in the Farmers Elevator company and the Jackson County Cooperative Store company. He was one of the organizers of the East Heron Lake Creamery company, furnished the plans and specifications for the building and was secretary of the company the first four years of its existence. He is one of the stockholders of the Delafield Farmers Insurance company and has held an office in the company since it was organized in 1889.

Mr. Nestrud was married in Jackson county June 14, 1873, to Miss Inge Maria Peterson, who was born in Norway December 25, 1857. Her parents are Hans and Pernile (Arneson) Peterson, who reside in Heron Lake township upon land they homesteaded in 1870. Sixteen children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nestrud, as follows: Hans P., born December 23, 1873, died September 13, 1874; Josephina, born November 22, 1874; Petria, born December 24, 1875; Hannah C., born April 20, 1877; Helen M., born May 20, 1878; Adolph, born October 14, 1881; Olof, born February, 1883; Julia, born January 3, 1880; Laura, born November 10, 1886; Clara, born September 25, 1888; Emma, born January 10, 1891; Alta, born July 11, 1893; Inga, born January 10, 1896; Jalmar, born September 29, 1898, died October 5, 1898; Lloyd W., born June 8, 1901. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Lakefield.

HALECK K. RUE (1871) is treasurer of Jackson county and resides at the county seat. He is a native of Norway and was born June 21, 1847, the son of Knute and Beckie Rue.

At the age of nine years, in 1856, Mr. Rue emigrated to America with his parents and located with them in Allamakee county, Iowa. There he resided on his father's farm, attending the country schools and assisting with the farm work, until 1871. That year he started out in life for himself and came to Jackson county, taking as a homestead claim the north-east quarter of section 30, Hunter township. There he resided, engaged in farming, until the beginning of the year 1901, when he moved to Jackson to accept the position of county treasurer, to which office he was elected the preceding fall, and in which capacity he has since served.

In an official capacity Mr. Rue has served many years. He was a member of the board of county commissioners eight years, was chairman of the board of supervisors of Hunter township a number of years, was postmaster at Orr eighteen years, was clerk of school district No. 52 during the entire time of his residence in the district, and has served as county treasurer nine years. He owns 640 acres of land in Hunter township.

Mr. Rue was married in Allamakee county, Iowa, November 18, 1870, to Isabelle Smaby, a native of Wisconsin. To this union were born the following named children: Hiram C., Benton O., Lensing W., Elmer B., Edith, Milo, Lottie, Mabel, May and Irvin.

HANS O. GILLIE (1878) is one of the well known farmers of Belmont township, his farm consisting of 220 acres on the west half of section 16, where he has resided for the past thirty-two years. He is a native of Norway and was born July 23, 1843, the son of Ole Halverson and Sarah (Thorstenson) Halverson. The former died in Norway at the age of 96 years; the latter aged 50 years. Hans has three brothers and one sister living.

Until he was twenty-four years of age Hans Gillie lived with his parents, working on the farm and at the carpenter's trade and serving one year in the army. He came to the United States in 1867, landing in Minneapolis on the nation's birthday. Minneapolis was his home eleven years, during seven years of which time he was employed in a sawmill and during four years of which he was employed as a teamster in a paper mill.

Mr. Gillie gave up city life in 1878 and came to Jackson county. At that time he

bought forty acres of his present farm in Belmont and engaged in farming. He built a typical "dug-out" in which he lived several years and which is still on the farm. After having lived in this pioneer abode seventeen years, he erected his present fine home. Prosperous times came upon Mr. Gillie and he has added to the dimensions of his farm until he has today a place of 220 acres, all well improved. Besides his farming operations Mr. Gillie has other business interests. He is a stockholder of the Farmers Mercantile company's store of Jackson, of the Belmont Creamery company and of the new elevator company and a telephone line. He has been assessor of his township for twenty-three years and has held several other offices. He was one of those instrumental in the formation of school district No. 89, known as the Gillie school, and for seven or eight years was clerk of the district. Mr. Gillie is a republican and is active in political affairs of his township. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Gillie has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Minneapolis in 1869, when he wedded Annie Thompson, a native of Norway. She died in June, 1876, after having borne him three children, named as follows: Sarah (Mrs. Louis Anderson), Oscar and Henry, the last named being killed by lightning April 28, 1896, aged 22 years. The second marriage of Mr. Gillie occurred in Jackson county May 1, 1880, when he wedded Louisa Grimerud, who was born in Norway and who died December 17, 1908, aged 71 years.

OLE SEVERSON HARSTAD (1871) is a homesteader and one of the very early settlers of Christiania township. He was born in Norway July 22, 1831, and spent the first thirty-six years of his life in that country. He received a common school education and learned the mason's trade. Later he engaged in the fishing business and while so employed made trips as far as the Russian coast.

In 1867 Mr. Harstad came with his family to America and located in Minneapolis. There he worked winters building piers and booms, while he engaged in farming during the summer months. In May, 1871, he drove from Minneapolis to Jackson county, being nine days on the road with his yoke of oxen. He took a homestead claim on section 26, Chris-

tiania township, upon which he has ever since lived. He owns a farm of 260 acres and has stock in the Jackson Telephone company and in the Christiania Mercantile company. He has served as road overseer and as supervisor of his township. He and his family are members of the United Lutheran church.

Mr. Harstad was married in Norway in July, 1858, to Mary Engan, who died in 1900. There are five children, named as follows: Betsy and S. O. Harstad, who reside on the home farm; Julia (Mrs. Gilbert Sogge), of Christiania township; Tom O., who for several years has been manager of the Christiania Mercantile company's store; Anna Mabel (Mrs. Peter Schjei), of Christiania township.

S. J. MOE (1878), ex-sheriff of Jackson county, resides at Lakefield, where he has been engaged in the well drilling business for many years. Mr. Moe was born in Norway April 1, 1850, the son of Jens and Severne (Bronken) Moe.

When our subject was one year of age the family emigrated to America and located in Potter county, Pennsylvania. One year later his mother died and he was adopted into a family by the name of Solburg, with whom he lived until 1867. When S. J. Moe was five years old he moved with his adopted parents from Pennsylvania to Albert Lea, Minnesota, and that was his home until 1861. That year another change in residence was made, when the family located in Blue Earth county, sixteen miles west of Mankato, and there he resided until 1867. Jens Moe, our subject's father, had in the meantime been discharged from the army, married again, and located in Blackhawk county, Iowa, and to that place S. J. Moe moved in 1867. There he worked on farms and attended school during the winter months until his father's death, which occurred in 1869. He remained in Blackhawk county one year after his father died, and then, in company with a brother and Geo. Morgan, who now resides in Worthington, he started north with a view to homesteading and making his home in Minnesota.

The trip to Minnesota was made by team, by way of Spirit Lake, Jackson and Madelia, to Brown county. There the brothers filed on claims and then took employment with the construction forces on the St. Paul & Sioux City railroad, which was at the time being

constructed from Lake Crystal to St. James. He spent the next winter in Iowa, working on the Burlington & Cedar Rapids railroad, and the following spring returned to his claim. There he lived four years, passing through the terrible grasshopper scourge, cyclones and other unpleasant experiences incident to pioneer life in southwestern Minnesota.

In 1876 Mr. Moe gave up farming and took a sub-contract for grading on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad in Scott county, Minnesota. The next year he took a contract with the Blue Earth & St. James Railroad company, a "wildcat" concern, and received no compensation for his season's work. In the spring of 1878 he secured employment as grading foreman on the Southern Minnesota railroad, working out of Winnebago City, and in the fall of that year finished the line to Jackson. Continuing in railroad work, he the next year worked for the Dakota Central railroad (now the Chicago & Northwestern), which was building in Dakota territory to Fort Pierre.

In the fall of 1879 Mr. Moe returned to Jackson county, took a position at Jackson as track foreman, and remained in that position one year. He then went to Lakefield and for three years was section foreman on the Southern Minnesota. Mr. Moe went to Lamberton, Minnesota, in 1883, and for two years ran the Exchange hotel. Returning to Lakefield in 1886, he has ever since made his home there. He received the appointment of postmaster in 1886 and served four years. In 1890 he was elected sheriff of Jackson county and served one term. He was village marshal several years and has held other village offices, being assessor at the present time. After serving his term as sheriff, he engaged in the well drilling business and has been engaged in that ever since. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the I. O. O. F. and M. W. A. lodges.

Mr. Moe was married at Waterloo, Iowa, May 16, 1870, to Isabelle Goldbrunsen, who was born in Norway and who came to the United States when sixteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Moe are the parents of ten living children, as follows: Clarence M., Howard J., Albert, Edward, Ernest, William, Arthur, Minnie, Jennie V. and Mabel.

JULIUS F. LIEPOLD (1875), mayor of Heron Lake and a druggist of that village, was born in Germany September 15, 1870. He is the son of Franz Liepold and Beatrice (Winkler) Liepold, who came from Germany in May, 1875, and homesteaded in LaCrosse township. They remained on the farm until 1903, when they moved to Heron Lake, where Mr. Liepold still lives at the age of 68 years, and where Mrs. Liepold died in February, 1906 at the age of 67 years.

Julius is one of a family of six children, all living. He crossed the ocean with his parents in 1875, and until he was eighteen years old lived on the farm in LaCrosse township, then moving to Heron Lake. He was educated in the schools of LaCrosse township and Heron Lake village, in the Mankato normal, the Breck school at Wilder, where he took a commercial course, and the College of Pharmacy of Minneapolis.

After removing to Heron Lake Julius attended school and worked at various occupations. In 1897 he bought out the drug store of G. C. Cooley, for whom he had worked as a clerk, and has ever since conducted the store. Mr. Liepold was elected president of the village council in 1908 and was reelected in 1909. He is a member of the I. O. O. F., the K. P. and the M. B. A. lodges.

Mr. Liepold was married in Heron Lake June 1, 1905, to Miss Lizzie Svennes, a native of LaCrosse township and a daughter of Benjamin J. Svennes, one of the pioneer settlers of that township. Her father died in July, 1908. Her mother, Isabelle Svennes, resides in Heron Lake.

OLE NELSON (1872) is one of the early day settlers of LaCrosse township, his farm being only a short distance west of the village of Heron Lake. He owns the southeast quarter of section 24, LaCrosse, and a quarter section of land in Lamoure county, North Dakota. He is one of a family of five children. His brother John died in 1882 and his eldest sister, Julia, died in 1890. Two sisters, Lena and Mary, are living.

Mr. Nelson was born in Norway July 31, 1856, the son of Nels Johnson and Christina (Olson) Johnson. Both his parents died in Jackson county, his father in the spring of 1881 and his mother in the spring of 1908.

Ole was eleven years of age when he accompanied his parents to the new world and located in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. In the old country the father of our subject had been a small storekeeper, stock buyer and an employe in a factory, and when he located in the Wisconsin town he and his son worked out for farmers in the vicinity. The family came to Jackson county in June, 1872, and bought the farm now conducted by our subject, the farm being known as the Ole Rognaes place, it having been owned by one of the first men to meet his death in the terrible winter storms of Jackson county.

During the grasshopper times the family encountered hard times, and only for the fact that our subject and his brother were able to obtain work on the section would have suffered greatly. Ole lived on his father's farm and worked on the section until 1886; then he married and moved to Heron Lake, having been promoted to section foreman. In all Mr. Nelson worked on the railroad fifteen years, but in 1890 he gave up railroad work and has since been engaged in farming and raising stock.

Our subject served six years as a supervisor of LaCrosse township, was road overseer two years and for many years was a director of school district No. 45. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Heron Lake and is one of the church trustees.

Mr. Nelson is a man of family, having been married at Okabena May 26, 1886, to Annie Christy, a native of Goodhue county, Minnesota. Her parents were John and Jane (Halderson) Christy, early settlers of the county. Both parents died in the spring of 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are the parents of the following named children: Clara Johanna, born May 16, 1887; John Nellard, born April 22, 1890; Orville Goodwin, born August 20, 1893; Olga Addie, born May 30, 1896; Leland Arthur, born December 6, 1899; Ella Josephine, born December 20, 1905.

HENRY H. LEE (1865), Des Moines township farmer, is one of the oldest settlers of that precinct, having resided in Jackson county since he was four years of age. He is the son of Halvor B. and Martha (Hansen) Lee and was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, June 4, 1861. He is next to the eldest of a family of eleven children, of whom the five named

are living: Brownell H., Henry H., Martin H., Martinus and Emma (Mrs. Ed. Olson).

Henry accompanied the family to Jackson county when they made the trip by ox team from Wisconsin in 1865, the date of his arrival to the county being June 18, 1865. On account of Indian alarms the family spent the first four months of their residence in Jackson county in "Fort Belmont." Halvor Lee took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 2, Des Moines township, and upon that farm Henry grew to manhood, residing there continuously until he was twenty-seven years of age. At that age he bought a farm in Belmont township, which he conducted a short time. He sold out in 1899 and moved to Jackson, where for the next two years he engaged in the grain and stock business. Then he bought the old homestead, and with the exception of a short time spent in Jackson, he has resided on the place ever since. During the past ten or eleven years he has been engaged in the stock and grain business as well as farming. Mr. Lee owns a residence in the village of Jackson. He has held the office of director of school district No. 13 and he and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Lee was married in Jackson county September 6, 1891, to Lena Anderson Rod, who was born in Normay May 20, 1875. She is the daughter of Hans Anderson Rod, now a resident of Enterprise township, and Andrena Anderson Rod, deceased. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lee, as follows: Mabel A., born July 26, 1892; Emily H., born January 13, 1894; Agnes J., born December 1, 1895; Henry O., born February 6, 1898; Hilda M., born April 26, 1900; Edward J., born June 1, 1903; Evelyn O., born August 28, 1909.

JOHN BALDWIN (1879), now a resident of Spirit Lake, Iowa, was for over thirty years a resident of Jackson county and one of its best known citizens, having been in public life during nearly the whole of that time. At the time of his removal from the county in the fall of 1909 he was a member of the Minnesota legislature, representing Jackson and Cottonwood counties.

Mr. Baldwin was born in Ontario, Canada, December 30, 1844, the son of William and Mary (Schlichter) Baldwin, natives of New York state and Canada, respectively. His fa-

ther was of Irish descent; his mother was of old Pennsylvania Dutch stock. The family moved from the British Possessions to the United States in 1846, when our subject was less than two years of age. From 1846 to 1853 the family lived in Saginaw City, Michigan, and then the home was made in Dubuque county, Iowa. William Baldwin died there in 1859 at the age of 47 years; his widow died in 1885, aged 69 years. John is one of a family of ten children born to these parents, of whom five are living. The children are Isaac W., deceased; Samuel, deceased; Jacob E., deceased; Caroline, John, William, Elizabeth, Charles M., Jared, deceased, and Stephen D., deceased.

John Baldwin was brought up on his father's farm, upon which he lived until the latter's death in 1859. From that time until 1874 he was engaged in various occupations in Dubuque and Jackson counties, Iowa; then he located in Olmsted county, Minnesota, of which county he was a resident until he came to Jackson county in 1879. Upon his arrival he bought a farm on section 25, Minneota township, and was engaged in farming until the fall of 1888. Then he moved to Jackson to take the office of register of deeds and resided in the county seat until the year 1905. Returning to the farm, Mr. Baldwin engaged in farming two years, then sold out and again took up his residence in Jackson. He continued to reside in the county seat village until October, 1909, when he took up his residence in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Twenty-one years of Mr. Baldwin's life have been spent in public office, he having been successful in ten contests. For several years immediately following his twenty-first birthday he served as township clerk in Jackson county, Iowa, and was also postmaster in the same county two years, serving under appointment by President Andrew Johnson. He was chosen county commissioner of Jackson county, Minnesota, in 1885 and served a three year term. In the fall of 1888 he was elected register of deeds on the democratic ticket and held the office continuously sixteen years, having been reelected on the democratic ticket each two years. In the fall of 1908, he was chosen representative from the fourteenth legislative district and his office had not yet expired when he removed from the county and state. To Representative Baldwin and Senator H. E. Hanson, of Windom, Jackson county is indebted for the appropriation of \$2,000

expended in the erection of a monument to the memory of those slain in the Inkpaduta massacre of 1857 and that of 1862. Mr. Baldwin is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows orders of Jackson.

On December 23, 1896, Mr. Baldwin was united in marriage to Mrs. Irena E. Gillis, a native of Michigan. They have no children.

GEORGE R. MOORE (1868), president of the First National Bank of Jackson, is a pioneer resident of Jackson county and one of the county's best known citizens. For over forty-one years he has lived in the county and nearly all of that time he has resided in the village of Jackson. During these years he has taken a prominent part in the business, social and political life of the county.

The subject of this biography descends from New England stock and is of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Samuel Moore, great grandfather of our subject, the founder of the American branch of the family, came from county Antrim, Ireland, in colonial days and settled in Vermont. The maternal great grandfather of our subject, Abijah Smith, was a resident of Lexington and went out from his own home to fight in the battle of Lexington and was in the service throughout the revolutionary war.

The parents of George R. Moore were Samuel and Abigail (Wyman) Moore. Samuel Moore was born in the Green Mountain state and was a farmer by occupation. He was married to Abigail Wyman February 22, 1841, and died when his son was fifteen years of age. George R. Moore was born to these parents at Barnet, Caledonia county, Vermont, March 16, 1849.

In the public schools of his native state George R. Moore received his education. He left his eastern home in July, 1867, when eighteen years of age, and located in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where he lived and worked on the farm of an uncle, George J. Bean, until the following spring. It was during the month of May, 1868, that Mr. Moore came to Jackson county. His uncle had purchased a farm in Wisconsin township, two miles east of the new village of Jackson, and upon that farm he resided two years. Taking up his residence in Jackson, he taught school one year, and then for several years worked at various employments. In the spring of 1875 he entered the county treasurer's office,



**GEORGE R. MOORE**

President of the First National Bank of Jackson and a  
Settler of 1868.



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where he worked in various capacities for a time, serving one year as deputy treasurer. He was elected court commissioner in 1876 and served one term. He was elected clerk of the district court in the fall of 1878 and was reelected in 1882, serving eight years.

During the years he served the county in an official capacity Mr. Moore acted as financial agent for different concerns and individuals and developed ability in that line. Upon retiring from official life, he opened a real estate office, which he conducted for a time. In 1887 he engaged in the banking business, founding Jackson's second financial institution, a private bank under the name of George R. Moore, Banker. He conducted this until May, 1890, when he organized the State Bank of Jackson, the stockholders of which were nine of the leading business men of the village, namely: George R. Moore, Paul Berge, T. J. Knox, J. W. Cowing, M. B. Hutchinson, G. A. Albertus, A. H. Strong, F. W. Lindsley and Alexander Fiddes. Mr. Moore was president of the bank. A reorganization was brought about in 1901, when the state bank gave place to the First National Bank of Jackson, of which Mr. Moore has since been the president. He is also the president of the Jackson Land Credit company, capitalized at \$35,000.

Besides the county offices Mr. Moore has served as a member of the Jackson village council and of the Jackson board of education. He owns a beautiful home in the city and has many broad and fertile acres of Jackson county land. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Masonic and M. W. A. lodges.

**MICHAEL MILLER (1868).** Among the pioneers of Jackson county who have a continuous residence of over forty years to their credit is Michael Miller, of Jackson, who has taken an active and interesting part in the county's history.

In Rushbach, Germany, Mr. Miller was born on February 24, 1841, his parents being John and Margaret (Klinefeller) Miller. At the age of six years, in 1847, he came to America and located at York, Dane county, Wisconsin. There he received his education and grew to manhood on a farm. During the month of November, 1868, he left the county where he had lived so long and came to the pioneer settle-

ment of Jackson county. He secured a farm in Wisconsin township, two miles southeast of Jackson, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits many years. In 1884 he moved to Jackson, resided there two years, spent the next year on the farm, and then moved to town to reside permanently.

During his long residence in Jackson county Mr. Miller has taken an active part in the politics of the county. In the township he held the offices of constable and assessor and was deputy county sheriff from 1891 to 1897. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In York, Wisconsin, on April 11, 1863, Mr. Miller was united in marriage, to Anna Gerlach. To them have been born the following named children: Mary, born March 17, 1864; Herman A., born August 14, 1866; John W., born November 19, 1868; Laura A., born June 19, 1874; William H., born October 11, 1876; Daisy, E., born March 9, 1884, died January 1, 1894.

**JONAH H. WOOD (1874)** is one of the early day settlers of Des Moines township. He owns the northeast quarter of section 27, a short distance west of Jackson.

The parents of J. H. Wood were Ahimaaz E., and Mary (Salmons) Wood, of old New England stock and of Scotch and German descent, respectively. The father died in Onondago county, New York, in 1845, aged 45 years. The mother came to Minnesota in the fall of 1856 and made her home with her sons. She died at the home of her son, J. H. Wood, in March, 1885, at the advanced age of 96 years. Six children were born to these parents. Mary E., the eldest, died in 1906. Those living are Ardell (Mrs. Marcus Wescott), of Syracuse, New York; Jonah H., of this biography; Jesse S., of Fargo, North Dakota; Carrie J. Loop, of Eureka, Wisconsin; Ahimaaz E., of Fargo, North Dakota.

The subject of this biography was born in Onondago county, New York, December 8, 1833. He was brought up in the county of his birth and resided with his parents until his father died when he was twenty years of age. After his father's death he lived with his mother and worked at the trades of carpenter and joiner until he was twenty-two years old. In 1855 he came west, stopping one year near Delton, Wisconsin, with an uncle, Peter Fenton,

and the next year locating in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and for several years worked at his trade in Fillmore and Mower counties. When Windom was founded he moved to that town and was engaged in the lumber business there until the fall of 1874.

Selling out his interests in Windom in the fall of 1874, Mr. Wood came to Jackson county and located on the farm of his brother, A. E. Wood, on section 23, Des Moines township. He lived there several years and then moved onto the farm upon which he now resides—a farm which he had bought previous to coming to the county. Since then he has resided on the farm engaged in farming and working at his trade. Mr. Wood is a member of the Masonic order.

In July, 1865, Mr. Wood was married in Jackson county to Helen Wheeler, a native of New York state and a daughter of Isaac Wheeler, who came to Jackson county in an early day and homesteaded the land upon which Leonard Ashley now lives, just south of Jackson. Mrs. Wood died May 5, 1878, at the age of thirty years. They were the parents of three children: Evalina (Mrs. William Rew), of South Dakota; Emmogene (Mrs. Bert Wilford), of Jackson county; Elmer, who lives in northern Minnesota.

JOSEPH E. THOMAS (1858), now a resident of Windom, was one of the very earliest residents of Jackson county, and there are few men living who gazed upon the country of Jackson county before he did. It was in the spring of 1858 that our subject, then a boy nine years of age, accompanied his parents to the all but deserted Jackson county country and settled on the Des Moines river within the present incorporate limits of the village of Jackson. He grew up with the country and took part in many of the thrilling events of pioneer days.

Joseph E. Thomas was born in New York state March 11, 1849, the son of those well known pioneers of the county, Joseph and Jane (Van In Wegin) Thomas. When he was three years of age the family moved to Freeport, Illinois, and in 1855 they came farther west and located at Newton, Iowa. In 1858 they pushed out farther onto the frontier and settled on what is now known as Thomas hill, across the river from the business section of Jackson. For a number of years the family

lived in a cabin, which had been deserted by an earlier settler.

Our subject grew up amid the surroundings of typical frontier life. Four years after the family had established their home came the Sioux war and the Thomas family were obliged to temporarily desert their home, living one year in Spirit Lake. Joseph received a meager education in the frontier school and at the age of fifteen years began driving stage. For two years he drove the Jackson-Blue Earth City stage, and for six years drove the stage between Jackson and Madelia. During these years he gained a reputation as a stage driver excelled by no one. On only one occasion did he miss a trip, and then it was not his fault, but owing to the inability to cross Elm creek in the early spring.

After growing up Mr. Thomas engaged in farming. In 1890 he moved to the vicinity of Windom, where he engaged in farming until 1906, when he retired from active life, since which time he has lived in Windom. For ten years Mr. Thomas served as constable of Jackson and for two years he was a school director. He is a member of the Episcopal church.

Mr. Thomas was married September 22, 1878, to Ella M. Miner, a native of New York state and a daughter of Aiken Miner, a pioneer resident of Jackson and later of Worthington. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have been born the following named children: Lulu, deceased; Edgar, Nellie, deceased; Mae, Alice, deceased; Eva, deceased; Francis.

DR. CHARLES R. J. KELLIAM (1879), proprietor of a Heron Lake drug store and a medical practitioner, is one of the well known residents of Jackson county, having been engaged in business at Heron Lake for thirty years. He was born at the Choctaw agency in Indian territory August 16, 1837, the son of Rev. Charles R. Kellam and Elizabeth (Person) Kellam, natives of Vermont and Massachusetts, respectively. The father was sent in 1836 as a missionary to the Choctaw Indians soon after their removal from Georgia.

The subject of this biography received his early education from his parents, there being no public schools at the agency. When twelve years of age he entered a school which is now known as the University of Arkansas, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and was a student there

two years. The death of his father caused young Kellam to leave school in order to support himself, and for several years he did this by teaching school. Afterwards he took up the study of medicine under a local physician.

Anticipating the impending conflict between the north and south and his sympathies being with the north, Mr. Kellam, in the fall of 1859, left Arkansas and located at Peacham, Vermont. He conducted a book store there for a time and later worked for the Fairbanks Scale company at St. Johnsbury, Vermont. On April 15, 1861, he enlisted as a member of company C, of the Third Vermont regiment of infantry, and took part in nearly all the battles of the army of the Potomac up to the evacuation of the peninsula. Because of illness he was discharged October 6, 1862, but later enlisted in the Ninth Vermont infantry. He was promoted to the position of hospital steward and served in that capacity until he was discharged on November 6, 1865.

Mr. Kellam spent the rest of the year 1865 and part of 1866 as a student in Harvard Medical college, of Boston, and later practiced medicine in Vermont and New Hampshire. He was graduated from Dartmouth Medical college in 1868 and soon after moved to Lynn, Massachusetts. Dr. Kellam was broken down in health, and in 1876 came west, locating at St. Charles, Minnesota, where he practiced his profession until November, 1879. At that time he located at Heron Lake, since which time he has been engaged in the practice of medicine and in the drug business. Eleven years ago, owing to a breakdown in health, Dr. Kellam gave up active practice and confined his energies to the drug trade.

Dr. Kellam is a member of the state medical society and an ex-president of the Minnesota Pharmaceutical association. He has been a member of the Heron Lake board of education for the last twenty-five years and has served as a justice of the peace for the same length of time. Politically he is a republican, and in 1894 was the nominee of his party for the state legislature, but was defeated by the fusion candidate. He was the first commander of B. F. Sweet Post No. 149, G. A. R., is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Eastern Star and of the Odd Fellows lodge.

Dr. Kellam has been married three times. His first marriage was on August 16, 1856, when he wedded Sarah E. Carter, of Peacham, Vermont. Five children were born to this union, of

whom the following three are living: W. I. Kellam, druggist of Kilkenny, Minnesota; T. H. Kellam and A. C. Kellam, a grocer of Lynn, Massachusetts. Dr. Kellam's second wife was Emma M. Noyes, of Chelsea, Vermont. One daughter, Mrs. Alice E. Brooks, now residing at Springfield, Massachusetts, was born to this union. Dr. Kellam was married to his present wife January 1, 1880. She was Mary C. Schermerhorn, of Albany, New York. To them were born the following named eight children: Ansel B., of St. Paul; Alex S., of Duluth; Maud, a Jackson county school teacher; William H., mate on a Columbia river steambot; Clarence W., of the United States navy; Herbert K., Ruth and Charles R. J. Kellam.

GUNDER A. HUSBY (1868), member of the firm of T. H. Stall & Co., which owns one of the general merchandise stores of Jackson, is an early day settler of the county. He was born in Trondjam, Norway, January 22, 1863, the only son of a family of five children born to Gunder and Sarah (Kyllo) Husby. The father died in 1882; the mother now lives on the old farm in Belmont township and is eighty-two years old.

The family emigrated to America in 1866, and located in Goodhue county, Minnesota. They came to Jackson county in the year 1868, and the father took a homestead claim on the north half of section 26, Belmont township. On that claim our subject grew to manhood. He received an education in the district school and upon the death of his father when the son was eighteen years of age he took the management of the farm. He conducted that until he moved to the village of Jackson and entered the mercantile business, having purchased an interest in the store two years previous.

Mr. Husby was married in Belmont township October 7, 1885, to Lena Peterson, who was born in Norway and who came to the United States when a young woman. She is the daughter of Peter Peterson, an early Jackson county settler. To this union have been born seven children, as follows: Mark, Sena, Plume, Gilmore, Alice, who died at the age of one year; Blanch and Hazel.

Mr. Husby owns a farm in Belmont township and property in Jackson. He served four years as clerk of school district No. 79. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the

A. O. U. W., the E. F. U. and the Sons of Norway lodges.

HANS O. SKINRUD (1870) is a homesteader and one of the pioneer settlers of Delafield township, having made his home on the farm he now occupies for the last forty years. Mr. Skinrud is a native of Norway and was born February 14, 1848, the youngest of a family of seven children born to Ole and Martha Skinrud. The father of our subject died when Hans was one and one-half years old; his mother died when he was eight years old.

Hans grew to early manhood in Norway, attending school and working on a little farm. When eighteen years of age he came to America and spent the first few years of his life in Lafayette county, Wisconsin. He came to Jackson county in 1870 and took as a homestead claim the northeast quarter of section 8, Delafield township, upon which he has ever since lived. He hauled lumber from Mankato and St. James and erected a little frame building on the claim, building a sod addition to it. He experienced hard times during the terrible grasshopper times that came upon the country soon after his arrival and several summers was obliged to desert his claim to work in the eastern counties to earn enough money to meet the expenses of living. He remained with the country and has prospered, adding to his holdings about twenty years ago by the purchase of an adjoining quarter section of land.

Mr. Skinrud was married in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, in May, 1870, to Louisa Tollofsrud, also a native of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Skinrud are the parents of five children, three of whom are living: Tillie (Mrs. Paul Molden), born December 11, 1876; Helen (Mrs. Albert Nestrud), born January 12, 1880; Henry, who conducts the home farm, born April 29, 1884, married May 5, 1909; Bessie, born March 26, 1871, died May 5, 1883; Olaf, born February 13, 1875; died March 27, 1875. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. In the early days Mr. Skinrud served as a member of the township board of supervisors.

L. A. FOSS (Furuseth) (1869) is one of the pioneer settlers of Delafield township and one of the best known residents of that precinct. He owns a fine farm on the bank of Minne-

seka lake, one mile south of the village of Wilder. The home farm consists of 148 acres on the northwest quarter of section 18, and he owns in addition eighty acres on section 17 and a quarter section of land in Norman county, Minnesota.

Mr. Foss was born in Land, Norway, February 11, 1852, the son of Anton Mikkelsen Furuseth and Martha (Larson) Sveom. The former died March 5, 1886; the latter October 10, 1898. Until he was sixteen years of age L. A. Foss lived in his native country, securing a good education and working on the farm. He accompanied his parents to America in 1868 and located in Olmsted county, Minnesota. There young Foss continued his schooling, taking a course in English, and working on a farm. In May, 1869, the family came to Jackson county, and the father of our subject took as a homestead claim eighty acres of his son's present farm, taking another eighty acres as a preemption claim. At this early day the nearest neighbor was seven miles away, on Heron lake, and lumber for the pioneer cabin of the Minneseka lake country had to be hauled from Lake Crystal. Wild game was plentiful in the neighborhood and the Fosses made their living for several years principally by trapping.

The rest of the family remained to make their permanent home in Jackson county, but L. A. Foss went back to his old home in Olmsted county, where for two years he worked on a farm. Returning to Jackson county in 1871, he took employment with the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad company, which was then extending its line through this part of the county, and for two years worked for that company. He again returned to Olmsted county, was married there in 1875, and for two years engaged in farming on rented land. Again he came back to Jackson county, this time to remain permanently. He bought 120 acres of land on the northeast quarter of section 18, Delafield township, and engaged in farming. That was his home until 1905, when he located upon the present place—his father's old homestead. He purchased the eighty acre tract on section 17 in 1897 and his present farm in 1899. Mr. Foss rents most of his land and farms only a small part of it himself, having retired from hard work and active business.

Mr. Foss is interested in several lines of endeavor besides his farming operations. He owns

stock in the creamery company of Wilder, in the Sontag Lumber company of Heron Lake and in the Jackson County Cooperative company's store at Lakefield. He served as treasurer of school district No. 28 for twelve years and was a Delafield township supervisor four years. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Delafield.

In Olmsted county, Minnesota, on May 24, 1875, Mr. Foss was married to Anne C. Evenson, who was born in Olmsted county December 17, 1858. To these parents have been born a large family of children, named as follows: Albert, born August 20, 1876, died December 23, 1894; John, of Weimer township, born October 16, 1878; Oscar, of Delafield township, born December 9, 1880; Mary Ella (Mrs. Otto Bailey), of Berlin, North Dakota, born December 11, 1882; Tillie Bertina (Mrs. Martin Endeward), of Watertown, South Dakota, born August 28, 1885; Walter Levi, born December 23, 1887, died June, 1889; Walter L., born August 20, 1889; Lillie Amanda, born December 3, 1891; Elmer, born January 30, 1894; Albert Clifford, born April 27, 1896, died December 21, 1896; Manton, born January 30, 1898; Verna C., born March 31, 1901.

ROBERT H. LUENEBURG (1878) is the editor and publisher of the Lakefield Standard and an early day settler of Jackson county. He first saw the light of day in Krakow, Germany, on March 16, 1863. His parents, Ludwig and Caroline (Wicher) Lueneburg, are both dead, the former having died March 16, 1906, aged 80 years; the latter on April 8, 1900, aged 76 years.

Robert accompanied his parents to the new world in 1872 and for two years lived at Hermann, Missouri. From 1874 to 1878 the family home was near Spring Valley, in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and in the year last named they came to Jackson county and located on section 10, Rost township, about six miles west of the present village of Lakefield. Robert remained on his father's farm until 1883 and then he went to Jackson and entered the office of the Jackson Republic as an apprentice, the paper then being under the management of Burt W. Day. One year later Mr. Lueneburg went to Edgerton, bought a half interest in the Enterprise and conducted the paper one year.

Early in October, 1885, Mr. Lueneburg moved

to Lakefield and bought the Minnesota Citizen. The next spring he changed the name of the journal to Lakefield Standard, presided over its destinies until the fall of 1891, and then sold out to Crawford Brothers. He ran a paper at White Bear a short time after moving from Lakefield and then went to Brownton, McLeod county, and founded the Bulletin. He disposed of his interests at Brownton, in the spring of 1896 and established the Free Press at Elgin, Wabasha county. He returned to Lakefield in the spring of 1900 and bought the Lakefield Herald, which he ran about two and one-half years, and then sold to C. S. Bell. He conducted a job office in Lakefield for about two years, and then in September, 1906, returned to his first love and purchased the Lakefield Standard, which had been consolidated with the Herald in May, 1904. At the time of making the purchase J. W. Daubney secured a half interest.

Mr. Lueneburg served as recorder of Lakefield village from 1887 to 1890 and in 1895 he held a clerkship in the Minnesota state senate.

The subject of this biography was married at Spring Valley, Minnesota, October 31, 1886, to Emma Kummer, a native of that village. Four children have been born to Mr and Mrs. Lueneburg, of whom the following two are living: Raymond, born October 27, 1890; Lois, born April 25, 1905.

WILLIAM SCHUMACHER (1872), of West Heron Lake township, is a native Minnesotan and he has resided in Jackson county since he was two years old, moving at that age with his parents from Brown county, where he was born December 9, 1869. His parents are Henry and Caroline Schumacher, natives of Germany. The former came to the United States in 1853 and the next year took up his residence in New Ulm, Minnesota. There he was married and engaged in farming until 1872. That year he moved to Jackson county, took a homestead and tree claim in Alba township, and resided on the farm until 1905, when he moved to Heron Lake village. There he and his wife now reside. They are 77 and 73 years of age, respectively, and are the parents of seven children.

William Schumacher resided on the old homestead in Alba township with his parents until 1892, working on the farm and attending the

district school when a boy. In 1892 he married and moved to West Heron Lake township, where he bought the northwest quarter of section 7, and where he has since lived. He has made all the improvements on the place, and by industry and frugality has prospered.

Mr. Schumacher was married on his father's old homestead on May 11, 1892, to Bessie Severson, a native of Wisconsin. They have five children, as follows: Clayton, born February 17, 1893; Sadie, born June 25, 1895; Herby, born April 29, 1899; Alice born May 6, 1902; Roy, born February 12, 1904.

Mr. Schumacher is a member of the A. O. U. W. and M. W. A. lodges.

FERDINAND K. HABERMAN (1872) is one of the successful farmers and pioneer settlers of LaCrosse township. He owns a 280 acre well improved farm on section 20 and has given to his sons 320 acres of farming land in the vicinity. Having had absolutely nothing when he arrived in the county, by hard work and frugality he has accumulated a small fortune and is in prosperous circumstances.

Mr. Haberman was born in Austria April 7, 1853, the son of John and Anna Haberman. The former lives in LaCrosse township; the latter died when Ferdinand was seven years of age. Our subject learned the weaver's trade in Austria and in 1872 came to America. After stopping a few weeks in Wisconsin he came to Jackson county. While on the road here he ran out of money and was obliged to walk from Winnebago City to Heron Lake, arriving in the latter village on the third day. He at once went to work in the harvest fields and by saving his money was soon on his feet again.

The first two years Mr. Haberman lived with his parents on section 30, LaCrosse township; then he married and took as a homestead claim the east half of the northwest quarter of section 20—a part of his present farm—erected a sod shanty thereon, and began farming. Later he built a sun-dried brick house with a straw roof. Because of crop failures during the grasshopper times he was obliged to work out in neighboring counties to make a living for himself and family. Staying with the country through the dark days, he weathered the storms of adversity and in time came upon prosperous times, and today is rated as one of the well-to-do farmers of the neighborhood.

Mr. Haberman served as treasurer of school district No. 33 for sixteen years. He and his family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake.

Our subject was married in Nobles county in the fall of 1874 to Mary Ninnerzhter, also a native of Austria. To this union have been born the following named children: Florian, born 1875; William, born 1877; Carl, born 1878; Mathilda, born 1881; Mary, born 1884; Regena, born 1886; Ferdinand, born 1891; Frederica, born 1897.

JESSE F. ASHLEY (1866), a retired business man of Jackson, is a gentleman whose name is inseparably linked with the early history of the village in which he has lived so many years and with Jackson county. From the 29th day of June, 1866, when he first came to the county, up to the present time he has had continuous residence here and has taken part in many of the incidents of pioneer history.

Jesse Ashley was born in the county of Tioga, Pennsylvania, on the 14th day of August, 1849, the son of Welch and Margaret Ashley. Up to his seventeenth year he resided on his father's farm in his native county, where he secured an education in the common schools. Coming to the little settlement of Jackson in the summer of 1866, he took a position in his father's saw mill, at which he was engaged until he became of age. When his father platted the Jackson townsite, Jesse assisted the surveyor, James E. Palmer, in the work. In company with Lant Thomas and Peter Kingsley he went to Garden City, sixty-two miles distant, in 1867 for the purpose of bringing back flour to relieve the suffering of those who were in need. The country was flooded by melting snows and the party experienced much suffering on the trip. At Blue Earth it was found necessary to construct a boat to ferry the teams over the swollen stream. The party was gone thirteen days, but was successful in bringing back the much needed article of food. The flour sold for thirteen dollars per hundred weight, which was the actual cost of getting it in.

Upon reaching his majority the subject of this biography purchased a farm in Middletown township and engaged in farming several years. Three years of this time he had a government contract and carried the mail be-

tween Jackson and St. James. During the time he lived on the farm he held the offices of township clerk, assessor and other offices.

Giving up his farming operations, Mr. Ashley moved to Jackson and for about ten years conducted a store and meat market. Later he engaged in other mercantile pursuits and became the local agent for the Standard Oil company. A few years ago he gave up active participation in business affairs and now lives a retired life.

JOHN BESSER (1876) is one of the pioneer settlers of Alba township and owns the southeast quarter of section 14. He is a native of Ohio and was born July 16, 1858. He was brought up and educated in his native state. His father died when he was a child and John worked out for neighboring farmers until he was nineteen years of age.

Mr. Besser came to Minnesota in 1876 and for a year worked on a farm near Brewster. He was married in 1877 and took as a homestead claim eighty acres of his present farm and has ever since lived on the place. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Brewster and for several years served as treasurer of school district No. 102.

The marriage of Mr. Besser occurred at Brewster, Minnesota, in 1877, when he wedded Catherine Barton, who was born at Chaska, Carver county, Minnesota, October 30, 1855. Three children have been born to this union, as follows: Andrew, born November 24, 1879; Frank, born January 16, 1882; Fred, born August 21, 1894.

Frank Besser, the second son, was born in Hersey township, Nobles county, January 16, 1882, and has spent his entire life on the farm. He was educated in the school of district No. 102 and spent his early years assisting his father with the farm work. In 1907 he acquired eighty acres of land from his father and engaged in farming for himself, and in the spring of 1910 he rented and took the management of his father's farm. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and is treasurer of school district No. 102. He is not married.

CARL FRANTSEN (1873), Belmont township farmer, was born in that precinct February 2, 1873, the son of John and Johanna

(Halverson) Frantsen. His parents were born in Norway and came to America when young. They were married a year before their arrival and in an early day came to Jackson county and homesteaded in Belmont township, where they lived until their death. There are seven children of the family living: Ferdinand, Mrs. Nels Holsten, Carl, Mrs. George Lilleberg (deceased), William, Mrs. Paul Olson, Mrs. Obert Olson.

Carl was brought up on his father's farm in Belmont township, living with his parents on the old homestead on section 20 until he was twenty years of age. Then he started in life for himself and farmed rented land for about six years. In 1898 he bought his present farm, the west half of the northwest quarter of section 29, then entirely unimproved, and has since made his home there.

Mr. Frantsen was married on the old Slaabaken farm in Belmont December 29, 1898, to Obena Olson, who was born in Belmont and who is the daughter of Ole Olson, deceased. Her mother is now Mrs. William Johnson. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Frantsen: Juit, born December 20, 1901; Bert, born January 30, 1905. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and Mr. Frantsen is a director of school district No. 18.

ALBERT A. GRUHLKE (1869), cement worker of Jackson, has lived in the county since he was a boy eight years old. He was born in Princeton, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, February 6, 1861, the son of August and Wilhelmina (Reisler) Gruhlke.

When Albert was a few months old the family moved to Waseca county, Minnesota, and there they remained until 1869. On June 20 of that year Albert accompanied his parents to Jackson county, and from that time until 1891 he lived on the farm in Petersburg township. Moving to Jackson, he engaged in the implement business four years and in the plumbing business nine years. Since then he has been engaged in the cement manufacturing business. During 1907-08 he was superintendent of construction of the Jackson county court house. Mr. Gruhlke owns property in Jackson. He is a member of the M. B. A. lodge.

Mr. Gruhlke was married in Petersburg township November 24, 1887, to Miss Rieck



Helmke. Four children have been born to this union, as follows: Elvin A., born February 17, 1889; Nellie D., born June 17, 1892; Daisy M., born March 9, 1896; Milton C., born July 21, 1900.

HENRY THIELVOLDT (1883), county commissioner of Jackson county, representing the first district, and a prominent farmer of Middletown township, has been a resident of the county twenty-six years. He owns the southeast quarter of section 11, four miles south of Jackson.

Mr. Thielvoldt is of German birth, having been born in the fatherland on the first day of December, 1849. His father, Hans Thielvoldt, was a bookbinder and printer by trade and after coming to America in 1855, worked at his trade in Davenport, Iowa, until his death four years later. Our subject's mother was Katrina (Muhs) Thielvoldt. She died in 1891. Henry is the only living child of eight children.

At the age of five years, in 1855, Henry Thielvoldt came to the new world with his parents and located at Davenport, Iowa. His father dying when he was nine years old, Henry was obliged to begin his struggle to help support the family at that tender age. In 1867 he moved with his mother to Walcott, Iowa, and later to Durant, Iowa. He made his home with his mother until he was twenty-two years of age, and then married and established a home of his own. He farmed rented land in Muscatine county, Iowa, two years and then moved to Scott county of the same state, where he engaged in farming nine years. Mr. Thielvoldt arrived in Jackson county in 1883, bought a farm on section 25, Sioux Valley township, which was his home for many years. He sold out there in 1904 and bought his present farm in Middletown, where he has since lived.

Henry Thielvoldt has served as county commissioner for the last seventeen years, and during that time has taken an active part in the history making of the county. Politically he is a democrat. He has frequently held township and school offices. He is a member of the M. B. A. lodge and was a charter member of the lodge at Jackson.

The first marriage of Mr. Thielvoldt occurred at Davenport, Iowa, December 10, 1871, when he wedded Abel Puck, who was born in

Germany and came to America when a child. She died December 24, 1892. Seven children were born as a result of this marriage, as follows: John, born April 5, 1873; Willie, born February 2, 1875; Amanda, born February 14, 1879; Emma, born August 12, 1882; Amelia, born January 3, 1887; Laura, born December 24, 1888; Hulda, born February 4, 1891. Mr. Thielvoldt was married the second time in 1895 to Mrs. Dora Wiese, also a native of Germany. To them have been born three children, as follows: Harry, born February 13, 1896; Clara, born June 10, 1898; Leonard, born May 2, 1900. By her first marriage Mrs. Thielvoldt is the mother of two children: Howard, born February 12, 1891, and Emil, born February 20, 1893.

SYVERT H. BERKNES (1875), proprietor of a restaurant and confectionery store at Heron Lake, has resided in the county since he was a boy. By birth he is a Norwegian, the date of his arrival upon this earth being October 21, 1863. His parents were Hans G. and Annie (Gudmunsen) Berkness. The father came from Norway in September, 1872, and was followed by the family the next year. The family located in South Minneapolis and there the mother of our subject died one month after her arrival. Hans Berkness continued to make his home in Minneapolis until 1876; then he moved to Jackson county and homesteaded the east half of the northeast quarter of section 26, Heron Lake township. He died in the county March 25, 1888, aged 55 years.

Syvert came from the old country with his mother and the other children when ten years of age. He lived in Minneapolis until the spring of 1875 and then came to Jackson county. He worked one year on a farm in Heron Lake township and the next year in Mower county. Returning to Jackson county, he made his home with his father on the farm until the latter's death in 1888. Then he bought the farm and conducted it until 1893, when he sold out.

Mr. Berkness moved to Heron Lake village in the fall of 1893 and during the following winter worked at the carpenter trade. Thereafter until the spring of 1896 he worked at various occupations in Heron Lake. Then he rented a farm on section 25, Heron Lake township, which he conducted until the fall of

1902. Again taking up his residence in Heron Lake, he bought the Nels Larson restaurant, known as the Corner restaurant, and has since managed it.

While living in Heron Lake township Mr. Berkness held office frequently. At the age of twenty-one he was made road overseer and held the office a number of years. Later he served as a supervisor for several terms and was township assessor one year. He was a member of the Heron Lake village council during the year 1906. Mr. Berkness is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, holding membership in the Salem church of Heron Lake, and has held nearly all the offices in that society. He is now a trustee and treasurer and president of the Sunday school and young peoples' society. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., holding the office of receiver at present.

Mr. Berkness was married in Heron Lake township November 6, 1886, to Mary Johnson, a native of Norway. To them were born five children, of whom the following four are living: Henry, Carrie, Anna and John. The youngest child, Minnie, was born May 3, 1894, and died August 3, 1894. Mrs. Berkness died September 30, 1894, at the age of 37 years. Mr. Berkness was married the second time in Heron Lake village June 27, 1900, to Mrs. Sophia Robson, who was born in Norway and came to the United States in May, 1881. She is the mother of one child, Julius, of Minneapolis, who was born under her first marriage to John Robson.

JOHN H. REE (1872) owns 240 acres of land on sections 26 and 25, Belmont township, and is an extensive grain farmer. He has lived on that farm ever since he was a baby five months old. His parents are the late Hans J. Ree and Bergetta (Kyllo) Ree, who came from Norway in 1872 and made their home in Belmont township. The father died there in 1900 at the age of 70 years; the mother lives with her son and is 72 years of age. There are five living children of these parents: Mrs. N. P. Alness, of Clark, South Dakota; Mrs. P. A. Olson, John H., Mrs. O. Lillevik and Mrs. Ole Haugen, all of Jackson county.

John H. Ree was born in Norway December 4, 1871, and when five months of age arrived in Jackson county with his parents and has

ever since made his home on section 26, Belmont. He worked for his father until the latter's death in 1900; then bought the farm and has since conducted it. He holds the office of school treasurer of district No. 79. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Ree was married at Farmington, Minnesota, June 20, 1908, to Miss Matilda Strate, a native of Rice county, Minnesota, and a daughter of the late Ebrahat and Karen Strate.

FRED J. SELEEN (1870), manager of the Heron Lake branch of the Western Implement company, has resided in Jackson county since he was an infant. He is a native of Sweden and was born December 7, 1868, the son of Ole and Stina (Anderson) Seleen.

These parents were born in Sweden. The father came to the United States in 1868 and the mother the following year. For a short time the family home was in Emmet county, Iowa, but in 1870 the family came to Jackson county and took a homestead claim in West Heron Lake township. Ole Seleen died in August, 1894, at the age of 60 years. His widow lives in Heron Lake and is 70 years of age. The subject of this sketch is the eldest of a family of nine children, of whom seven are living. The other children are Herman, who died at Pocatella, Idaho, November 28, 1899; Emil, of Spokane, Washington; Emma (Mrs. Emil Peterson), who died in July, 1901; Erick, of Minneapolis; Oscar, of Weimer township; Palmer, of Minneapolis; Nate, of Heron Lake.

Fred Seleen accompanied his mother to America when less than one year of age. After one year spent in Emmet county, Iowa, he came with the family to Jackson county in 1870. Until he was of age he lived with his parents on the farm in West Heron Lake township and in Heron Lake, securing his education in the Heron Lake public schools and working on the farm. He married in 1889 and engaged in farming four years on rented property. Then he moved to Oktibbeha county, Mississippi, engaged in farming in that southern state one year, and returned to Jackson county. He worked in the implement house of Frank Day, Heron Lake, four years, and then bought the west half of the north-west quarter of section 31, Weimer township, and engaged in farming. During the past four years he has been the manager of the

Western Implement company's house at Heron Lake, while his sons conduct the farm. The officers of the company are Richard Lamb, president; B. B. Sontag, vice president; J. W. Benson, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Seleen was married in Jackson county January 2, 1889, to Annie Johnson. She was born in Clay county, Iowa, November 2, 1868, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson, both natives of Norway. Eight children have been born to this union, named as follows: Elmer, born September 11, 1891; Carl, born December 2, 1893; Stella, born June 19, 1897; Emma, born February 19, 1899; John, born January 13, 1901; Paul, born December 25, 1903; Ruth, born August 25, 1905; Lester, born June 18, 1909.

The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in which organization Mr. Seleen has held all the offices at various times. He is a member of the M. B. A. and I. O. O. F. lodges. For two years he served as a member of the board of supervisors of West Heron Lake township.

MOSES L. FROST (1871), of Jackson, is a breeder of thoroughbred stock. He was born in Jackson county on August 25, 1871, and is a son of those pioneer settlers, Nathaniel and Maryette (Root) Frost.

In 1874 the Frost family moved from the old homestead in Jackson to Mirabile, Missouri. After engaging in farming there four years, they returned to Jackson in 1878, and since that date Moses has made his home there. He was educated and grew to manhood in Jackson, and after reaching manhood engaged in the stock business. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred O. I. C. hogs and Shorthorn cattle and has large herds. At the world's fair at St. Louis in 1904 Mr. Frost exhibited his "Jackson Chief," No. 4759, Vol. 4, O. I. C., and that animal won the grand championship prize of the world for the best boar of any age.

Mr. Frost owns 100 acres of land in the limits of the village corporation and eighty acres in section nine, Des Moines township. He served as a member of the village council from 1903 to 1907 and has held the office of constable. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge.

The village of Springfield was located on the home place before Jackson was founded,

and here one of the Wood brothers met his death in the Indian massacre of 1857. He was buried sixty rods north of the Frost home by Nathaniel Frost.

ALEXANDER FIDDES (1869). A pioneer resident of Jackson and a man held in the highest esteem by the residents of that village is Alexander Fiddes, the postmaster. For over forty years he has been a resident of the town and during all of that time has been engaged in business. His life's history is full of interest.

Mr. Fiddes was born in Campsie, Shropshire, Scotland, on March 15, 1840, the son of James and Jessie (Nisbet) Fiddes. Until he was sixteen years of age he resided in his native village, securing an education. In 1856 he went to the city of Glasgow and served a five years' apprenticeship to the trade of engineer. The next five years were passed on the sea, cruising among the East Indies. At the time of the war between England and Abyssinia Mr. Fiddes was engaged in carrying dispatches between India and Abyssinia and was in the latter country at the time of the capture of King Theodore. Leaving his ship at Bagdad, on the river Euphrates, he proceeded to Bombay, thence up the Red sea to Suez, and across the desert to Alexandria. Taking ship there, Mr. Fiddes went down the Mediterranean to Marseilles, thence to Paris and London and his home in Campsie, Scotland.

Early in the year 1869 Mr. Fiddes left home and crossed the sea to Canada. After visiting there a short time with two brothers, he moved to the little village of Jackson, arriving in July, 1869. He took a homestead claim in Hunter township and very soon after his arrival went into the general merchandise business in partnership with J. W. Hunter. He sold out in 1872 and started a hardware store, which he conducted until 1890, selling out at that time to W. B. Gillespie. Since that time he has devoted his time entirely to his duties at the postoffice. Mr. Fiddes owns his home in the city and 400 acres of land in Des Moines and Wisconsin townships.

During his long residence in the county Mr. Fiddes has often been called upon to serve in an official capacity. He served as postmaster of Jackson from October 4, 1877, to March, 1886; from August, 1889, to November, 1893, and from February 1, 1902, to the present



**ALEXANDER FIDDES**

Postmaster of Jackson and a Pioneer of that Village.

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writing. He was elected to the Minnesota legislature in 1877 and again in 1884. He was elected a member of the board of county commissioners in 1894 and served four years as chairman of the board. He was clerk of the district court a short time in 1874, having been appointed to fill a vacancy. Mr. Fiddes was a member of the republican state central committee, having been chosen to that position in 1895. He served four years as president of the village council and for twenty-five years was treasurer of the Jackson school board.

Mr. Fiddes is a member of the Presbyterian church. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and a Knight Templar. He was made a Mason in Renfrew, Scotland, in 1865, becoming a member of Prince of Wales lodge No. 426, and five months later was made junior warden. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

Soon after his arrival to Jackson, on September 16, 1869, Mr. Fiddes was united in marriage to Agnes Hunter. To them have been born five children, all living. They are: Jessie (Mrs. A. B. Cheadle), of Jackson; James H., of Minneapolis; John S., of Jackson; David H., of Colfax, Washington; Alexander T., of Jackson.

JOHN M. OLSON (1872), ex-county commissioner and a prominent farmer of Belmont township, is a native of Norway and was born October 12, 1845, one of a family of six sons born to Ole H. Mosand and Kari (Storbudalh) Mosand, both deceased.

Our subject resided with his parents in Norway until he was twenty-two years of age, and during this time he received his education and worked in his father's tannery. He came to America in 1867 and first located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he spent the summer. During the next five years Mr. Olson worked in the pineries of Wisconsin and on railroads and farms in different parts of Iowa. He arrived in Jackson county in 1872 and homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 10, Belmont township, upon which he has ever since lived. A number of years later he bought the south half of the southwest quarter of section 10, he now has a farm of 240 acres.

Mr. Olson has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the county. He served as county commissioner from the fifth district from 1899 to 1906, inclusive, during which time two of

the hotly contested battles for the possession of the county seat were waged. During his incumbency the contract for the present handsome court house was let. He is clerk of the township board, an office he has held for many years, and for several years he was clerk of school district No. 39. Mr. Olson is a life-long republican, having cast his first vote for U. S. Grant for president.

The marriage of Mr. Olson occurred in Allamakee county, Iowa, September 10, 1872, when he wedded Mary Anderson, a native of Norway. They are the parents of eight living children, named as follows: Cora (Mrs. N. H. Strand), Obert, Christie (Mrs. John L. Strom), Peter, Julia, Ida, James and Mebel. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Christiania township.

GEORGE E. NELSON (1876) is a member of the firm of Nelson Bros., clothing merchants and tailors of Heron Lake. He was born in Norway August 3, 1876, the son of Herman and Bertha (Olson) Nelson. Herman Nelson was a carpenter and cabinet maker and followed those occupations all his life. He emigrated to America and to Jackson county in 1876 and died in Heron Lake in 1882, at the age of 34 years. The mother of our subject lives in Heron Lake and is 61 years of age. They were the parents of four children, of whom Mrs. Gilbert Johnson died September 18, 1906, aged 34 years, and George, Hugbert and Julia are living.

George came to Jackson county when an infant and this has been his home ever since with the exception of a year and a half, in 1901 and 1902, when he was engaged in farming in Becker county, Minnesota. He was educated in the schools of Heron Lake. After his school days he worked on the farm until after his marriage in 1907. Then he engaged in farming on his own account on rented land. He bought the southwest quarter of section 24, Weimer township, in January, 1902, and has since added to his holdings by the purchase of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the same section. He engaged in farming until 1908. In February, 1909, he formed a partnership with his brother, Hugbert Nelson, and embarked in the clothing and tailoring business in Heron Lake.

Mr. Nelson was married in Jackson April 29, 1897, to Minnie Selnes, a native of Iowa

and the daughter of Ole Selnes, a pioneer settler of Weimer township. Mr. Selnes secured title to the southwest quarter of section 24, Weimer, under the first tree claim law. He now resides in his native country (Norway), where he went a year ago and where he expects to make his future home. To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson has been born one child, Gordon, born in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Lutheran church. He served as road overseer of Weimer township one year.

D. W. PULVER (1871) is an implement dealer of Jackson and carries one of the largest lines of implements in Jackson county. He is a pioneer of the county and has lived here since he was ten years of age. He is the son of Martin V. Pulver, who died in 1884, and Sarah (Wolcott) Pulver, who died at her home in Lakefield, May 28, 1909, aged 80 years.

D. W. Pulver was born to these parents in Jackson, Michigan, May 14, 1861. In 1865 the family moved to Oakfield, Wisconsin, and one year later to Martin county, Minnesota. Two miles east of the village of Fairmont the family located on a preemption claim and resided there until July, 1871. At that time the father of our subject located a homestead claim on section 2, Hunter township, two miles east of the present village of Lakefield, and in a sod shanty on that claim D. W. Pulver began life in Jackson county. In 1884 he left the farm and moved to Jackson, taking a position as local and traveling salesman for the Huber Manufacturing company, in which capacity he served four years. The next four years he held a like position with the Dowagiac Drill company. He severed his connection with that company in 1892 and for several years following was engaged in buying, selling and operating threshing machinery. In 1901 he opened a store of general implements and has built up an excellent business. Mr. Pulver owns 200 acres of land in Hunter township and property in Jackson. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Pulver was married August 7, 1887, to Carolina M. Arnesen. To them were born four children, only one of whom is living, Grace L., born January 11, 1889. The second marriage of Mr. Pulver occurred February 15, 1906, when he wedded Bedina Volden.

WILLIAM CARLESTROM (1871) is the proprietor of a general merchandise store at Wilder. He has spent his entire life in Jackson county, having been born in Delafield township October 21, 1871, the son of C. D. and Mariah Christiana Carlestrom. His parents, who were both natives of Sweden, came to Jackson county in 1871 and took a homestead on section 28, Delafield township. There C. D. Carlestrom and a ten year old son, Clarence, met death in a blizzard on January 12, 1872. The mother of our subject married August Linstrom and now resides in Wilder.

William Carlestrom was educated in the district schools of Delafield township and in the Breck school at Wilder, in which institution he was a student one year. In 1894 he left his mother's home and for three years worked out on the farm. He then rented a farm, which he conducted three years. In 1899 Mr. Carlestrom moved to the village of Wilder and has since made his home there. He conducted a dray line three years and then for three and one-half years was manager of the D. L. Riley lumber yard. In the spring of 1907 he engaged in business on his own account, opening a general merchandise store. In August of the same year he was burned out, but immediately bought his present place of business and put in a new stock.

Mr. Carlestrom was married in Weimer township in 1897 to Anna A. Knudson, who was born in Sweden and who came to the United States when six years of age. At the age of seven she was adopted into the family of Chris Knudson. To Mr. and Mrs. Carlestrom have been born five children: Clarence, George A., Ansel, Velma J. and Myrtle. The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. Carlestrom was a member of the Wilder village council two years and served as street commissioner the same length of time.

JAMES B. MOSES (1877) is an early day settler of Jackson county and a pioneer of Minnesota, having come to the commonwealth in territorial days. He owns a 240 acre farm in Middletown and Petersburg townships, three miles south of Jackson, his residence being in the former precinct.

Mr. Moses descends from Pilgrim and revolutionary stock. His parents, Shepherd and Sarah (Hering) Moses, were born in the state of Maine, came to Minnesota with their fam-

ily in 1855, and lived to advanced ages, his father dying at the age of 95 years and his mother at the age of 92 years. Of nine children of this family five were veterans of the civil war. Seven of the children are still living.

The subject of this biography was born in Piscataquis county, Maine, on the second day of January, 1843. He lived in his native state until twelve years of age, and all the education he received in schools was obtained during the first twelve years of his life. In 1855 he accompanied his parents to Steele county, Minnesota territory, where his father took a preemption claim. His early ambition was to become a school teacher, but because of the lack of school facilities he was unable to secure the education he craved. But by home study and diligent reading he acquired a fair education, and after reaching his majority took up teaching as his profession.

In 1862 Mr. Moses enlisted at Faribault, Minnesota, as a member of company H, of the First Minnesota cavalry, and served until his muster out at Fort Snelling in December, 1863. He saw service on the frontier at Fort Ridgely and was in General Sibley's Indian expedition to Bismarck.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Moses began teaching school and was so engaged fifteen years. During the summer months for a large part of this time he was engaged with a government surveying party, his crew being engaged in making the survey of Chippewa, Lyon, Nobles and Rock counties in 1868. In 1871 Mr. Moses married and took a homestead claim in Cottonwood county, where he resided until 1877. After having passed through the terrible grasshopper scourge of the seventies, he sold his claim and in 1877 came to Jackson county. He preempted the northwest quarter of section 12, Middletown township, and has made his home on that place ever since. Upon his arrival to Jackson county he engaged in farming and teaching school, having taught four terms in district No. 3.

Mr. Moses was married at Owatonna, Minnesota, November 7, 1871, to Lavinia Martin, a native of New York state and a sister of Mrs. G. A. Albertus, of Jackson. They are the parents of seven children, named as follows: Bert, Gertrude, Millie, Ernest, Cora, Roy and Gaylord. Mr. Moses served as township clerk for fifteen years and was clerk of his school

district for twenty years. He is a member of the G. A. R. post.

CARL F. ROSSOW (1877) is one of the prosperous farmers of Heron Lake township, having a fine home on his 240 acre farm on section 15. He was born in Germany May 24, 1868, the son of Carl and Fredericka (Berlin) Rossow. His father is now a resident of Heron Lake township; his mother died in 1886.

Carl came to the United States and to Jackson county with his parents in 1877 and until he was twenty-two years of age resided on the farm with his parents on section 8, Heron Lake township. He attended the district school and grew to manhood working on his father's farm. At the age of twenty-two he married and bought his present farm. There were no buildings on the place at that time nor was the land broken, all the improvements on the farm having been made by him. Mr. Rossow has served as a member of the Heron Lake township board of supervisors for the past sixteen years. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

In Heron Lake township, December 10, 1889, Mr. Rossow was united in marriage to Rosa Miller, who was born in Cook county, Illinois. She is the daughter of Fred and Frances Miller, residents of Heron Lake township. To Mr. and Mrs. Rossow have been born the following children: Arthur, born January 7, 1894; Richard, born January 14, 1896; Harry, born February 14, 1898; Paul, born March 16, 1900; Arnold, born June 27, 1904; Rosalia, born March 25, 1902; Lilly, born May 17, 1906; Alma, born January 12, 1909.

FRANK J. STENZEL (1877) is one of the successful farmers of Weimer township. He owns the southwest quarter of section 5 and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20, LaCrosse township. He has a well improved farm and as fine a home as there is in the township. The farm has a fine grove and a splendid orchard. Mr. Stenzel engages extensively in stock raising and has a herd of four hundred sheep.

Mr. Stenzel is a native of Austria and was born April 22, 1871. He accompanied his parents to America in 1877 and grew to manhood on his father's farm on section 8, Weimer.



He lived with his parents, working on the farm, until he was twenty-six years of age. Then he married and bought the farm which he has since conducted. Mr. Stenzel is a member of the Weimer board of supervisors and has served in that capacity four years. He has been clerk of school district No. 32 for the past eighteen years and has been township assessor three years. Mr. Stenzel has other business interests besides his farming. He has been a director of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator company of Heron Lake since its organization and he has been a director of the Farmers State Bank of Heron Lake since that institution was organized. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

The parents of our subject are Frank and Marie Stenzel, both of whom are residents of Weimer township. Frank, of this sketch, is the eldest of a family of nine children, the others being Clem, Mary, Annie, Rudolph, Emma, Julius, John and Eliza.

The marriage of Mr. Stenzel occurred at Heron Lake November 4, 1897, when he wedded Mollie Mixner, who was born in Austria May 1, 1873. To them have been born the following named children: Raymond, born September 23, 1898; Herman, born December 6, 1899; Stephana, born November 27, 1901; Willie, born August 19, 1903; Elmer, born April 16, 1905; Eddie, born February 14, 1907; Frank, born January 27, 1909.

GEORGE WITHERS (1870), Middletown township farmer, has lived in Jackson county since he was a boy twelve years of age. He is a son of the late Walter and Jane E. (Allen) Withers and was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, August 18, 1857.

George lived with his parents in Fillmore county until 1870 and then came with them to Jackson county. Until he was past twenty-three years of age he lived with his parents on the farm—the southeast quarter of section 2, Middletown township—securing an education and assisting with the farm work. In 1881 he married and engaged in farming on his own account, one year on a rented farm in Middletown, one year in Wisconsin township, and then he bought forty acres of his present farm and has since made his home on his present location; his farm consists of 160 acres.

During his long residence in Middletown Mr. Withers has taken an active part in local af-

airs. He was township assessor seventeen years and was a member of the township board two years. He is now town clerk, an office he has held for eight years. For several years he served as clerk of school district No. 60. He is a member of the Yeomen lodge.

Mr. Withers was married in Jackson county February 22, 1881, to Carrie A. Yarns. She was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, January 5, 1860, a daughter of H. B. Yarns, deceased, an early settler of Jackson county. Mrs. Withers died in April, 1898. As a result of this union were born the following named children: Ernest O., born April 25, 1882; Harry W., born November 14, 1883; Jesse A., born June 22, 1887; Robert B., born December 16, 1888; Lillie, born March 16, 1893, died February 25, 1895; Clara E., born April 13, 1898.

The second marriage of Mr. Withers occurred July 26, 1900, when he wedded Mrs. Sophia Thompson, a native of Denmark, who came to the United States in 1881 and located at South Bend, Indiana. By a former marriage she is the mother of two children: Nels Thompson, deceased, and Emma Thompson.

PETER P. ELVERUM (1872), lineman for the Jackson Telephone company, is a native of the county, having been born in Christiania township on July 19, 1872, the son of Peder O. and Beret (Hagen) Elverum, he being the eldest of a family of three children. A sister, Mrs. Clarence Sether, resides in Christiania township, and a brother, Bernt Elverum, lives in West Heron Lake township. His eldest brother, Ole, died in 1894. Two sisters, Beret and Sarah, died when five and three years old, respectively. Our subject's parents were born in Stordal, Norway, were married there and came to the United States in 1870. They lived one year in Minneapolis and then came to Jackson county and homesteaded land in Christiania. The father died in 1879 at the age of 45 years. The mother lives with her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Sether, and is 76 years old.

Peter P. Elverum spent the greater part of his life on the home farm. There he assisted in the farm work and in a nearby school secured his primary education. After quitting the country school he became a student at the Breck school of Wilder, which he attended three terms. After attending that school he

engaged in teaching, which he followed six years. In 1894, after his brother's death, he took the management of the home farm and conducted it several years. In 1902 he opened a blacksmith shop at Bergen and operated that two years. Then, in 1904, he moved to Jackson and took a position as lineman for the Jackson Telephone company. One year later he assisted in the construction of the telephone line between Jackson and Spirit Lake and the one from Blue Earth to Albert Lea. Returning to Jackson after the season's work, he again took a position with the telephone company and has since been employed as its lineman.

Mr. Elverum owns eighty acres of land in Christiania township. For several terms he served as assessor of that precinct. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

JOHN W. MILLER (1868), farmer and breeder of Belgium horses, resides on the farm on section 30, Wisconsin township, upon which he was born and where he has spent the forty-one years of his life. The date of his birth was November 19, 1868, and his parents are Michael and Annie (Gerlach) Miller, now residents of Jackson. He is one of a family of five living children, of whom the others are Mary and Herman, of North Dakota, and Laura and William, of Washington.

John received his education in the school of district No. 14. He lived with his parents on the farm until he became of age and, with the exception of two or three years, has lived with his parents since that time. He bought the property in 1903 and has since made many improvements on the place. He owns 160 acres on sections 30 and 31, Wisconsin, and 40 acres on section 25, Des Moines. He has held the office of road overseer and has been a director of school district No. 14 for a dozen years. He holds membership in the A. O. U. W. lodge.

Mr. Miller was married at Jackson August 20, 1893, to Katie Bunderle, a native of Nebraska. They are the parents of ten children, as follows: Bert, Roy, Johnnie, Daisy, Anna, Laura, Eva, William, Louisa and Katie.

THEODORE E. SCHUMACHER (1872) has been engaged in the meat market business in Heron Lake for the past twenty-two years. He is a native of Brown county, Minnesota,

and was born November 30, 1861. His father, Henry Schumacher, who now resides at Heron Lake and is 77 years of age, is a pioneer of Minnesota. He was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1853. He lived one year south of Chicago and then located in New Ulm, Minnesota. There he was married and engaged in farming until 1872. That year he moved to Jackson county, took a homestead and tree claim in Alba township, and resided on the farm until 1905, when he moved to Heron Lake. Caroline (Hauer) Schumacher, our subject's mother, is also a native of Germany. She is now seventy-three years old.

Theodore is the eldest of a family of seven children. He accompanied his parents to Jackson county in June, 1872, and resided on the Alba township farm until the fall of 1887. He then moved to Heron Lake and opened a meat market, building his present place of business, and has ever since conducted the shop. In 1906 he admitted Chris Johnson as a partner in the business. Mr. Schumacher is a member of the Methodist church and of the Woodmen, Royal Neighbors, Knights of Pythias and Modern Brotherhood lodges.

Mr. Schumacher was married in Jackson county November 3, 1889, to Mary C. King, a native of LeSueur county, Minnesota. Her father, William King, was an early Minnesota pioneer who died when Mrs. Schumacher was six months old. Her mother, Catherine (Chatterden) King, now lives in Jackson county. To Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher have been born six children: Gertrude, Leon, George, Gretchen, Ned and Paul.

GEORGE H. SAWYER (1875), of Jackson, has been a resident of the county thirty-five years. He was born in Piscataquis county, Maine, July 14, 1853, son of Phineas and Adaline (Drake) Sawyer. Both these parents were also natives of Maine and spent their early lives in that state. Phineas Sawyer enlisted at Bangor, Maine, in company H, of the 22nd infantry, and served one year with the union forces during the war of the rebellion. In the east Mr. Sawyer engaged in farming and lumbering. He came west with his family in 1871 and homesteaded in Cottonwood county, Minnesota. The family came to Jackson county in 1875 and for three years lived in Jackson. Then Phineas Sawyer purchased a farm in Middletown township, where he en-

gaged in farming until ten or twelve years ago. Retiring from active pursuits at that time, he located in Jackson and has since lived a retired life. He still owns his old farm south of town. Mrs. Sawyer, the mother of our subject, died September 29, 1907, at the age of 79 years. There are six children in the family, as follows: George H., Lucy (Mrs. J. D. Baughman), Charles Albert, Ethel (Mrs. A. H. Baughman) and Fred. Charles and Albert reside in Nebraska; the others are in Jackson county.

George Sawyer lived with his parents until twenty-two years of age. He received his education in Maine and after coming west for several years worked for his father on the farm. At the age of twenty-two he engaged in farming for himself in Middletown township, buying a farm a short distance south of Jackson. He farmed there until 1892, when he took up his residence in Jackson. In 1894 he engaged in the fuel business, in which he was engaged for ten or eleven years. Since disposing of his business he has been engaged in various occupations, in addition to looking after his Middletown township farm. In the village he owns 65 acres of land, residence property and a business lot.

While a resident of Middletown Mr. Sawyer served as a member of the township board and as a school director for a number of years. In Jackson he served one year as a member of the village council and is now the street commissioner. He is a member of the M. W. A. and the M. B. A. lodges.

Mr. Sawyer was married in Middletown township in October, 1879, to Fannie Russell, a native of Dubuque, Iowa, and a daughter of Thomas Russell, one of the settlers of the late seventies. To Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer have been born five children, named as follows: Ethel C., born September 1, 1880; Frank A., born July 21, 1884; Susie M., born September 23, 1890; Pearl, born July 14, 1894; Howard, born March 18, 1897.

HENRY A. STALL (1879) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 2, Des Moines township. He was born on that farm May 29, 1879, the son of Oliver and Helen (Skogen) Stall, of whom the former is now living in Jackson and the latter died in 1901. Oliver Stall was born in Norway, came to the United States when young and located in Illinois.

He served three years as a soldier in the union army, and immediately after his discharge came to Jackson county, in the spring of 1865, when there were less than 250 residents in the whole of Jackson county. He homesteaded the farm now owned by his son in Des Moines township.

Henry was educated in the district schools of Des Moines township and until he reached his majority worked for his father on the farm. Then he rented the farm and conducted it under the lease until 1907. That year he bought the farm.

Mr. Stall was married in Enterprise township in September, 1903, to Bertha Wiger, who was born in Jackson county February 24, 1880. She is the daughter of the late Ole Wiger, who was one of the early settlers of Enterprise township and who died in 1905. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stall, namely: Hayes, Bert and Gordon. Mr. Stall is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America lodge.

JACOB C. JACKSON (1879) is a Wisconsin township farmer and a Jackson county resident of thirty years standing. He owns 400 acres of land on sections 28 and 29, his home being on the northwest quarter of section 28, and he is one of the big farmers of the township. Mr. Jackson was born in Denmark May 22, 1851, the son of S. C. and Kasten (Nelson) Jackson, both of whom died in their native land. There were seven children in the family, namely, Trena, Peter, Maria, Jacob, Paulsine, Carolina and Carl.

Until he was fifteen years of age Jacob attended the schools of his native country, residing with his parents, and thereafter working six years as a farm laborer. He came to America in 1872 and settled at Racine, Wisconsin; where he lived six years. After one year spent in Olmsted county, Minnesota, he came to Jackson county, arriving in 1879. He worked on Jackson county farms until 1882; then he married and moved to Sherburn, where he resided two years. Returning to Jackson county he worked at farm work until 1889, when he bought a quarter section of his present farm from Mrs. Preston and engaged in farming for himself. He has made all the improvements on the farm and has since added to his possessions by the purchase of the other acres described. He was chairman of

the school board of district No. 9 for four years, and for several years was township treasurer. He is a member of the Danish Brotherhood lodge.

Mr. Jackson was married November 30, 1882, to Maria Mather, who was born in Illinois. Four children have been born to this union: Edward T., born March 15, 1884, died November 28, 1890; Earl C., born May 28, 1887; LeRoy, born January 13, 1892; Jay T., born July 2, 1898.

WILLIAM E. FREEMIRE (1874) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 32, Weimer township, a short distance south of Heron Lake. He is an early day settler of Jackson county and a native Minnesotan, having been born in Fillmore county January 6, 1858—before Minnesota had been admitted as a state. His father, George H. Freemire, is a native of New York state and still lives on the old home farm, aged 87 years. The mother of our subject was Susan Maria (Pease) Freemire. She was a native of Vermont and died in Jackson county August 13, 1900, aged 82 years.

William spent the first seven years of his life in Fillmore county and then accompanied the family to Winneshiek county, Iowa. There he lived until 1874, when he came with the family to Jackson county. From the time of his arrival until 1892 Mr. Freemire resided with his parents on their farm, the southwest quarter of section 32, Weimer township. Then he moved onto his present place, where he has ever since resided. He served nine years as clerk of Weimer township. He is a member of the M. W. A. and A. O. U. W. lodges.

At Windom in February, 1885, Mr. Freemire was united in marriage to Clara Howe, a native of Vermont. To them have been born five children, as follows: Erwin, Henry, Jennie, Frank and Susan.

S. O. HARSTAD (1871), Christiania township farmer, has lived in Jackson county ever since he was five years of age. He is the son of Ole Severson Harstad and Mary (Engan) Harstad and was born in Norway August 8, 1866.

When our subject was eleven months of age the family came to America and from 1867 to May, 1871, he lived with his parents

in Minneapolis; then he accompanied them to Jackson county. He received a primary education in the district school and completed his education in the Breck school at Wilder. He received a second grade certificate and engaged in teaching, being so employed during the years 1896 to 1900, inclusive, and during 1907 and 1908. Mr. Harstad now has the management of the home farm and engages in stock raising quite extensively.

Mr. Harstad has taken an active interest in local business and political affairs. He has been secretary of the Christiania Creamery company for ten years, and has stock in the Farmers State Bank of Windom and in the Christiania Mercantile company. He was the first postmaster of the Bergen office and officiated eight years. He has been clerk of Christiania township for the past eight years, was supervisor two years and constable one year.

ANTON TEIGEN (1879), farmer of Des Moines township, has resided upon the farm he now owns since he was two years of age. He is the son of Ole L. and Breta (Brakke) Teigen. The former died in Jackson March 25, 1906, aged seventy-two years; the latter lives in Jackson and is seventy-five years of age.

Anton was born to these parents in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, February 12, 1877, and was a baby two years old when he accompanied his parents to Jackson county in a prairie schooner. The balance of his life he has spent on the farm which his father bought the year before coming to the county. He was educated in the district schools and in the Jackson public schools, which he attended two terms. Until he was eighteen years of age he worked for his father; then he rented the farm and engaged in business for himself. Several years ago his father moved to Jackson, and the year before that event Anton bought the farm. Since then he has added to the dimensions of his farm by the purchase of ninety acres in the vicinity.

Mr. Teigen was married in Heron Lake township January 16, 1907, to Lena Johnson, a native of the village of Heron Lake and a daughter of Peter and Matilda Johnson, of Heron Lake township. Two children, twins, have been born to this union, namely: Valdemar and Harold, born November 17, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Teigen are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

WILLIAM T. MUIR (1869), of Jackson, has spent the forty years of his life in Jackson county, having been born in Middletown township June 19, 1869, the son of R. C. and Mary (McLain) Muir.

The first twenty-two years of his life William Muir spent on his father's Middletown township farm, receiving his education in the district schools. In 1891 he moved to Jackson and engaged in the dray and transfer business, which he conducted eight years. He then engaged in the land and implement business, and also ran a lumber yard, with which he was identified until 1908, when he sold to Jens Jensen. Mr. Muir now holds the office of boiler inspector. He owns an interest in the Jackson tow mill. He has 160 acres of farming land in Middletown township and 240 acres in Lamoure county, North Dakota. He is a member of the Woodmen lodge.

Mr. Muir was married in the fall of 1894 to Ella J. Davis, and to this union was born one child, Edwill L., born October 7, 1896. Mrs. Muir died March 25, 1897. The second marriage of Mr. Muir occurred June 19, 1899, when he wedded Anna M. Davis. To them have been born three children: Kenneth V., born August 26, 1902; Georgia E., born February 22, 1905; Robert M., born April 19, 1909.

ANDERS R. KILEN (1867). One of the wealthiest and best known farmers of Jackson county is Anders R. Kilen, who has made his home in Belmont township for forty-three years and who has passed through many of the trying times of pioneer days. Coming to the county as a young man not yet of age with practically nothing in the way of earthly possessions, by frugality and strict attention to business, he has accumulated a fortune. His farm consists of one thousand acres of choice land in one body in Belmont township, of which he farms about one section. In addition to his Jackson county possessions he owns a section of Canadian land and has business property in Lakefield. As a grower of choice grain Mr. Kilen is perhaps better known than any farmer of southern Minnesota, because of his success in exhibiting cereals at the world's fairs and carrying away the high-

est awards. He won medals at the world's fair at Chicago, and at the Omaha fair he received the first premium on wheat, oats and barley, thereby receiving the gold medal, of which he is justly proud. Mr. Kilen also exhibited at the Paris exposition of 1900. The grain exhibit of the United States at that exposition was made up of contributions and samples sent in by farmers from all over the United States. Mr. Kilen was invited by the government to contribute to the exhibit and he sent in fifteen samples of different products. The exhibit of which these samples formed a part received the Grand Prix at this exposition, but the government took all the credit and there was no credit given to Mr. Kilen or the other farmers who contributed samples.

Mr. Kilen was born in Norway November 18, 1846, the son of Erick and Johanna Kilen. In the family were thirteen children, of whom eight are living, named as follows: Andrew, Anders R., James, John, Erick, Bertha, Robert and Jennie. The parents of these children came to America in 1858, lived a few years in Dane county, Wisconsin, a few years in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and came to Jackson county in 1867. The father of our subject took as a homestead claim the east half of the northeast quarter of section 20, proved up on that and later bought land on the southwest quarter of section 16, Belmont, where he lived until his death at an advanced age. His wife also died in Belmont township.

Anders R. Kilen came to America with his parents in 1858, he being then eleven years of age. For several years he lived with the family in Dane county, Wisconsin, and later accompanied them to Fillmore county, Minnesota. When he was twenty years old, in 1867, he came with his father and mother to Jackson county, and during the first year lived on his father's homestead. The next year, becoming of age, he took as a homestead claim the west half of the northeast quarter of section 20, adjoining his father's claim, and on that claim he lived as a bachelor eight years. On that claim he started in life for himself and began the accumulation of his fortune. He succeeded through perseverance and hard work. His first work was breaking prairie for the pioneer settlers with his four yoke of oxen, for which he was paid five dollars per acre. Among his early day contracts was that for hauling the lumber for the first church



**ANDERS R. KILEN**

**A Pioneer of 1867 and a Prosperous Farmer of Belmont Township.**

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erected in the country—the Presbyterian of Jackson. During the first year or two after taking his claim Mr. Kilen lived in a little log shack. Then he erected a commodious log house, which was at the time considered a palace, and in which he entertained the early settlers and extended hospitality to wayfarers. In this house he lived until 1891, when he erected his present elegant home just across the road in section 17.

Hard times came upon Mr. Kilen during the terrible grasshopper scourge in the early seventies as it did to all the residents of Jackson county of that time, and during this time he was obliged to go to Faribault county to work in the harvest fields to earn enough money to support himself. He had many experiences worthy of recording of the early days. Once, in the winter of 1873, while returning to his home afoot, he was caught in one of the dreaded prairie storms and came near perishing. He sought refuge in a miserable little hut in Heron Lake township, and there for four days he remained without food or fire. The only thing that kept him from freezing to death was the fact that there was a small quantity of hay in the shack, which he twisted into ropes and wrapped about his limbs, making a covering to protect them from the biting cold.

Mr. Kilen may properly be called the father of Lakefield, for it was he who platted the town in 1879 and started the little town on its way to future greatness. He stills owns land adjoining that village. He engages extensively in stock raising and has large herds. He has a large orchard and has gained more than a local reputation as an apple raiser.

Mr. Kilen is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of West Belmont, and it was largely through his efforts that the church was built some twenty years ago. At that time money was scarce and the Norwegian Lutherans of the vicinity were poor. Mr. Kilen undertook to raise the money for this purpose and was successful. He solicited funds from the governor and other state officials, from the county officers, real estate men and others, and the church now stands as a monument to his loyalty to church. While always active in business affairs, Mr. Kilen has never sought office.

In High Lake township, Emmet county, Iowa, on November 15, 1876, Mr. Kilen was united in marriage to Anna Isaacson, who was born in Norway and came to the United

States at the age of one year. She was the daughter of Erick and Andriana Isaacson, early Iowa settlers. She died July 20, 1905, aged fifty years. The second marriage of Mr. Kilen occurred in Belmont township June 30, 1906, when he wedded Christina Morkie, who was born in Norway and came to the United States just prior to her marriage. She was born October 12, 1877, and is the daughter of Ole Morkie, now living in Norway, and Bertha (Berge) Morkie, who died in her native country. To Mr. and Mrs. Kilen have been born two children: Anna J., born November 17, 1907; Bertha O., born December 25, 1908, died November 28, 1909.

LOUIS F. LAMMERS (1880), attorney at law of Heron Lake, has resided in that village nearly thirty years and is one of the best known men of Jackson county. He is a native Minnesotan and the son of very early pioneers to this commonwealth. His parents came when the Minnesota country was a part of Wisconsin territory, and he himself was born before the state was admitted to the union.

The parents of our subject were Fred W. and Helen C. (Nelson) Lammers. The father was born in the kingdom of Hanover February 22, 1829, and was a graduate of the university of Hanover, being a Greek and Latin scholar. He immigrated to America in 1844, and for three years lived in New Orleans and St. Louis, employed as a bookkeeper for a pioneer lumber company. While in the service of the company he moved to Taylor's Falls, Wisconsin territory (now Minnesota), then an untamed wilderness, and for several years served as bookkeeper and accountant for the Southern Lumber company. He afterwards engaged in lumbering for himself and was so engaged until 1861, when he sold out and engaged extensively in farming near Taylor's Falls. In 1865 the elder Lammers moved to Marine Mills, Washington county, and there he spent the remainder of his life, dying there February 12, 1896. Our subject's mother was born at Rock Island, Illinois, March 2, 1834, and was married to Mr. Lammers September 18, 1852, at Taylor's Falls. They were the parents of fifteen children, of whom the following named are living: Nathan D., George A., Albert J., Charles A., Alice H., Swanson, Louisa A., all of Stillwater, Minnesota; Frank E., of Minneapolis; Mary E. Wood and Louis F., of Heron Lake, and Clarence, of Washington.



Our subject was the third child of this family and was born at Taylor's Falls, Minnesota, December 14, 1855. He received a high school education at Marine Mills and a business education in the St. Paul Commercial college. At the age of twenty he left home and took a position as bookkeeper in the pineries of Wisconsin, working several years for the Schulenburg Lumber company of St. Louis and later for Isaac Staples, the millionaire lumberman of Stillwater. On July 20, 1880, Mr. Lammers arrived in Heron Lake, and the village has ever since been his home.

During the first two years of his residence in Jackson county Mr. Lammers was employed as bookkeeper for John T. Smith. Then he engaged in the general merchandise business in partnership with C. A. Wood, which business he continued until 1888. During the time he was engaged in business Mr. Lammers took up the study of law, and in 1888, at the June term of court at Windom, he made application for admission to the bar. Judge A. D. Perkins appointed a commission consisting of George W. Wilson, of Worthington; John G. Redding, of Windom; and Daniel Rohrer, of Worthington, who conducted the examination in open court. June 23, 1888, an order of the court was made admitting him to the practice of law, which has since been his profession. He has one of the largest and best equipped law libraries in southwestern Minnesota, and he enjoys an extensive and lucrative practice.

On several occasions Mr. Lammers has been an official capacity. In the fall of 1886 he was elected superintendent of schools and was reelected in 1888. In January, 1896, he was appointed county attorney by the board of county commissioners to complete the unexpired term of W. A. Funk, who resigned. He was elected county attorney on the republican ticket in 1906 and served one term. He was president of the Heron Lake village council during 1905, 1906 and 1907, and since the last date has been village attorney. For fifteen years he served as president of the Heron Lake board of education, during which time three school houses were erected.

Sixteen hundred acres of farming lands in Jackson and Cottonwood counties are owned by Mr. Lammers as well as valuable village prop-

erty, including a handsome home in Heron Lake. He is an active lodge man and is a member of all the A. F. & A. M. lodges from the Blue lodge to and including the Shrine, holding membership in Osman Temple, of St. Paul. He has filled all the offices in the Odd Fellows order and holds membership in the Elks lodge No. 225, of Mankato, the M. W. A. and the A. O. U. W.

Mr. Lammers was married at Heron Lake June 30, 1883, to Harriet E. Spaulding, a native of Saratoga, New York, and a daughter of Mary E. Spaulding. They are the parents of three children, as follows: Howard M., born February 9, 1888; Raymond S., born October 3, 1892; Mildred H., born September 15, 1895. Howard M., the eldest, was graduated from the United States naval academy in June, 1908, and is now an officer in the naval service of the United States.

MARTIN HOLSTEN (1874) was born in Belmont township May 5, 1874, and has spent his entire life on the old family homestead on section 34. He is engaged in farming the place for his mother, having 200 acres in sections 34 and 33 in his charge.

Martin Holsten is a son of the late Holsten Olson and Ingebor (Slaabaken) Olson. These parents were born in Norway, came to America when young and were married in Wisconsin. They came to Jackson county with the Norwegian emigrants of 1861 and homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 34, Belmont township. Holsten Olson and his family lived at Spirit Lake one year after the massacre and then returned to his claim. He lived on the old homestead until his death, October 1, 1903, at the age of 73 years. Mrs. Olson lives with her son and is 75 years of age. There were eleven children in the family, of whom four sons and three daughters are living.

Martin assisted in working the home farm until his father's death in 1893; then he took the management of the farm and has since conducted it for his mother.

Mr. Holsten was married at Brownsburg, Belmont township, June 30, 1900, to Mary Lilleberg, who was born in Belmont township June 22, 1874. She is the daughter of Ole Lilleberg, who came to Belmont in 1866 and who still resides in the township. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Holsten. Osmond, the first born, died in infancy. The

surviving children are named Edwin, Osmund and Milton. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

MICHAEL J. GERLACH (1868), of Middletown township, has been a resident of Jackson county almost his entire life, coming here with his parents when less than one year old. He is the son of John and Lizzie Gerlach now residents of Jackson village. They were born in Germany and came to Jackson county with the pioneers, first taking a homestead in Petersburg township and later locating in Wisconsin township.

Michael was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, February 21, 1868, and when an infant in arms came to this county with his parents. He lived respectively in Petersburg, Wisconsin and Middletown townships on farms owned by his father, making his home with his parents until twenty-four years of age. At that age he started out for himself, working out and engaging in farming. In 1902 he rented the southeast quarter of section 14, Middletown, from his brother Frank and has since made his home there.

Mr. Gerlach was married in Jackson county March 6, 1902, to Louisa Buchsen, a native of the state of Iowa. To these parents have been born the following named children: Morris H., born December 1, 1902; Vera A., born December 8, 1903; Emily, born December 10, 1904; Grace G., born December 11, 1906; Eva M., born December 21, 1908. Mr. Gerlach is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

There were five children in his father's family, as follows: Andrew F., Michael, John R., Annie (Mrs. E. A. Cole), Minnie (deceased).

HIRAM C. RUE (1873), deputy county auditor, is a Jackson county boy, having been born and brought up and having spent his entire life in the county. He is the son of County Treasurer H. K. Rue and Isabella (Smaley) Rue, natives of Norway and Allamakee county, Iowa, respectively. Hiram was born on the Hunter township farm March 27, 1873. He grew to manhood on the farm, receiving an education in the district schools and in the Breck school at Wilder, which he attended two years.

After reaching manhood Mr. Rue engaged in school teaching, being so engaged in Hun-

ter and Sioux Valley townships five years, during which time he made his home with his parents on the farm. In 1896 he took a position as clerk in a store at Lakefield and was so engaged until the first of January, 1901. He then moved to Jackson and took a position as deputy county treasurer under his father's administration. One and one-half years later he was appointed deputy county auditor by P. D. McKellar and has since held the position.

Mr. Rue was married at Lakefield June 17, 1903, to Minnie Moe, a native of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, and a daughter of S. J. and Isabella Moe, of Lakefield. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rue as follows: Maynard, born February 7, 1905; Isabella, born June 24, 1907.

Mr. Rue is an active lodge man, holding membership in the Blue Lodge and Chapter of the Masonic orders, in the M. B. A., the M. W. A. and the I. O. O. F.

ALBERT H. GILBERT (1869), of Petersburg township, was born in that precinct and has spent his entire life of forty years there. The date of his birth was August 22, 1869, and his parents were Hogan and Mary (Olson) Gilbert.

Until he was twenty-four years of age Albert resided with his parents on the farm. Then he bought his present farm in section 36 and has since been engaged in business for himself. As a boy he endured many of the hardships incident to pioneer life and painfully remembers the incidents connected with the grasshopper invasions of the early seventies.

In his farming operations he has prospered. He owns 320 acres of land on sections 36 and 35. In addition to farming and raising stock he has other business interests, owning stock in the Petersburg Creamery company, the Jackson Telephone company and the Petersburg Threshing company. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Gilbert was married November 25, 1892, to Miss Bertha Herbrandson, who was born November 20, 1872. To them have been born children as follows: Henry, born October 25, 1893; Herman, born February 8, 1895; Mary, born August 21, 1896; Alfred, born March 4, 1898; Bert, born May 11, 1901; Lloyd, born July 23, 1906.

MICHAEL H. ERPESTAD (1871) is a pioneer of Jackson county and one of the large land owners and successful farmers of Delafield township. He owns 400 acres of land in Delafield and Christiania townships and farms it all.

Mr. Erpestad is a Norwegian by birth and was born January 30, 1851, the only child born to Anna E. Erpestad. His mother came to America in 1870 and died in 1907, aged 80 years. The early life of our subject was passed in his native land. There he secured a common school education and engaged in farm work until 1869. That year he came to America and located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he worked out until 1871. Coming to Jackson county in the year last mentioned, Mr. Erpestad bought the home quarter of his present farm in 1880. During the first nine years of his residence here he lived with his mother on section 24, Delafield; then he moved onto his own farm, and has ever since been engaged in its management. He prospered and his since added to his possessions by the purchase of 240 acres in section 7, Christiania, adjoining his home place in Delafield township.

During his long residence in Jackson county Mr. Erpestad has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. He served as chairman of the board of supervisors for a number of years, was assessor two years and township treasurer three years. He now holds the office of director of school district No. 22. Mr. Erpestad is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Windom.

On December 3, 1881, in Delafield township, Mr. Erpestad was married to Josephine Johnson, who was born in Adams county, Wisconsin, in January, 1863, and who died in the fall of 1896. To this union four children were born: Emma, Joseph, Anna and Sophia. The second marriage of Mr. Erpestad occurred in February, 1899, when he wedded Tomine Skrove, who was born in Jackson county in 1872. To them have been born four children, named as follows: Gea, Albert, Oscar and Anna.

CLARENCE W. GREENWOOD (1872), proprietor of a plumbing shop in Jackson and dealer in heating and electric lighting supplies, has spent the thirty-seven years of his life in Jackson county. He is the son of the

late I. B. and Cynthia (Scott) Greenwood, pioneer settlers of the county. Both parents were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Jackson county in 1867 and homesteaded on the west bank of Loon lake. They resided on that place until 1878, spent two years in Dakota, and then took up their residence in Jackson. The father died September 5, 1892, aged 70 years; the mother died June 7, 1904, aged 72 years.

Clarence is the youngest of a family of seven children born to these parents, the other children being Grace, who died April 17, 1908; Calistia, Thomas, Wilbur, who died November 5, 1871; Charles and Frank. Our subject was born on the farm in Minneota township February 28, 1872. Until his father's death Clarence resided at home, securing his education, and at the age of twenty years started out for himself. For several years he was a Western Union lineman, for three and one-half years he served as the Jackson village marshal, and then he took up the work of an electrician, engaging in the work in Jackson three years. Before giving up that work he had established a plumbing shop on Third avenue and he has been engaged in that business ever since. He owns his home and place of business. Fraternally he is associated with the Masonic and Woodmen orders.

Mr. Greenwood was married in Jackson in November, 1899, to Augusta Seager, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States when twelve years of age. Both her parents died in Milwaukee. To Mr. and Mrs. Greenwood have been born the following named children: Ethel, born July 26, 1901; William C., born April 8, 1904; Louis C., born August 24, 1907.

A. E. JOHNSON (1872), farmer and land owner of Delafield township, has lived in that precinct ever since he was two years of age. He was born at Stoughton, Wisconsin, March 28, 1870. His father, Erick Johnson, was born in Norway and came to the United States about 1865. He located first in Wisconsin and came to Jackson county in 1872, where he died in 1891. The mother of our subject was Ingebor Johnson. She died in 1896.

The subject of this biography came to Jackson county with his parents in June, 1872, and has ever since lived in Delafield township. His father took a homestead claim of eighty

acres on section 24, and on that farm young Johnson grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and worked on the farm for his father. In 1895 he took charge of the home farm, and, his mother dying the next year, he then engaged in farming on his own account. In 1903 he located on his present place, having planted the grove and erected the buildings thereon. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Windom.

Mr. Johnson was married in Belmont township September 11, 1897, to Belle Sogge, a native of Belmont and a daughter of Ole G. Sogge. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, named as follows: Eldon, born June 9, 1898; Gehardt, born August 24, 1899; Benora, born March 3, 1901; Alma, born March 22, 1902; Lillian, born October 24, 1906.

ALBERT S. KNUTSON (1874), farmer and landowner of Petersburg township, has lived in the county his entire life. He was born on the farm in Petersburg township June 7, 1874, the son of Siver and Christie (Kittleson) Knutson. His father died March 28, 1903.

Albert grew to manhood in Jackson county and now owns and farms the land which his father homesteaded in 1874. In addition to the home farm he owns other valuable tracts in Petersburg township. He has stock in the Petersburg Creamery company, in the Jackson Telephone company and in the Elevator company at Alpha. He has been supervisor of Petersburg township for several years.

Mr. Knutson was married December 18, 1907, to Clara Sanderson, of Allamakee county, Iowa. To them has been born one child, Christine A., born January 14, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Knutson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

JOHN C. LUENEURG (1878), carpenter and contractor of Lakefield and proprietor of a summer resort on Heron lake, was born in Germany December 27, 1858, son of Ludwig and Lena (Fischbach) Lueneburg, both deceased. He was thirteen years old when he came to the United States with his parents and located in Morrison county, Missouri. Two years later the family located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and there our subject lived until 1878. He worked on his father's farm and learned the carpenter trade at Hamilton.

John accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1878, and for several years lived with them on the homestead on section ten, Rost township. During these years he assisted with the farm work and worked at his trade. When he became of age he took as a homestead the southeast quarter of section 4, Rost township, which he farmed for a short time. Mr. Lueneburg located in Lakefield in 1885 and engaged in the furniture business four years. He then spent a few months in the state of Oregon, but returned to Lakefield, and has since worked at his trade, engaging in contract work to a considerable extent. In 1899 he bought a small tract of ground on the bank of Heron lake, on section 30, Heron Lake township, and erected a house. He spends the summer months there and resides in the village during the winter months. He operates two pleasure launches on Heron lake for the benefit of pleasure seekers and has a fine place for a resort.

Mr. Lueneburg was married at Wells, Minnesota, January 8, 1883, to Miss Mary Gabriel, who was born in Germany and came to the United States at the age of eighteen years. Four children, named Annie, Ida, Hugo and George, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lueneburg. During the period of his residence in Rost township Mr. Lueneburg served as a supervisor and as a member of the school board.

HANS M STALL (1870) is a Des Moines township farmer who owns the northwest quarter of section 1. He was born on the old Stall homestead on section 2, Des Moines, on March 25, 1870. Oliver Stall, our subject's father, still lives on the old homestead and is seventy-years of age. Helen (Hansen) Stall, our subject's mother, died in 1876.

Hans Stall attended the district school and grew to manhood on his father's farm. At the age of twenty-three years he started in life for himself, working out and engaging in farming. He lived in Jackson nine years, engaged in teaming, to which place he moved in 1899. He bought his present farm from his brother, Edward Stall, in 1908.

On May 27, 1893, in the county of his birth, Mr. Stall was married to Belle Holsten, a native of Belmont township and a daughter of the late Holsten Olson and Engebor Olson. To them has been born one child, Bennerd H., born January 23, 1903.

WILLIE P. KING (1866), photographer and justice of the peace of Jackson, is one of the early day settlers of the county, having resided here forty-three years. He is a native of Adams, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and was born July 9, 1857, the son of William V. and Antonette L. (Porter) King.

When our subject was four years old he moved with the family from Walworth county to Crawford county, Wisconsin. In 1864 he moved back to Walworth county and made his home with his grandparents, his father being in the army at the time. He moved from Wisconsin to Austin, Minnesota, in March, 1866, and on the twelfth day of October following arrived in Jackson county. He resided on his father's homestead in Wisconsin township until 1872, and then moved to the village of Jackson, where he attended the village schools until 1878. That year he moved onto the farm in Hunter township, where he engaged in farming and sheep raising in partnership with his father. In 1882 he bought the farm, his parents at that time moving to Jackson, and conducted it alone until December, 1884.

On the last named date, on account of his wife's poor health, Mr. King moved to Jackson and for the next three years assisted his father in the county auditor's office. In the spring of 1887 he moved to Jasper, Minnesota, where he worked at carpenter work one year. From 1888 to the summer of 1891 Mr. King resided in Windom, working in a photograph gallery and serving part of the time as justice of the peace. He again located at Jasper in 1891 and from that time until the spring of 1896 was engaged in operating a photograph gallery in that town and serving as justice of the peace. He returned to Jackson in 1896 and the next year built on Main street and opened a photograph gallery, which he has since conducted.

Mr. King has often been called upon to serve in an official capacity and has been justice of the peace for a number of years. He was school treasurer in Hunter township from 1882 to 1885 and was elected court commissioner in 1896. He is foreman of Fire company No. 1, and has been a member of the Jackson fire department for twenty-four years.

Mr. King was married to Mary E. Trumbull in Jackson on January 1, 1882. She died February 28, 1887. To this union were born two children, Bessie, who died September 26, 1884, and Geneva M., who is now teaching school in

Pipestone county. Mr. King's second marriage occurred at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, January 1, 1892, when he married Mary Rovang, a native of Iowa. To this union have been born the following named children: Gracie P., William V., James H. P., Rignald G., Nellie T. A., Anna V., Irve R., Wilbur R. C. and Robert D. Mr. King holds membership in the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges. He served as a deputy organizer for the latter order for a number of years.

ANTON PEDERSON (1873), deceased, was one of the wealthy and successful farmers of Heron Lake township. He was born in Norway February 9, 1863, the son of Hans Pederson, who still lives in Heron Lake township.

Anton came to America with his parents in 1871, and for a year and a half lived in Red Wing, Minnesota. The family then moved to Jackson county and located on the northwest quarter of section 28, Heron Lake township, which was homesteaded by Hans Pederson. Anton grew to manhood in Jackson county and after reaching mature years engaged in farming. He became the owner of the original homestead and several other pieces of property, his widow now owning, in addition to the home place, the east half of section 29 and the west half of the northwest quarter of section 22, Heron Lake township, and a quarter section in Cottonwood county. Mr. Pederson was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Lakefield and was vice president of that institution at the time of his death. He was township treasurer several years. Mr. Pederson died February 14, 1907.

Mr. Pederson was married July 20, 1892, to Emma Swenson, who was born in Delafield township July 28, 1872, and who has spent her entire life in Jackson county. She is one of a family of ten children born to John and Tillie (Weberg) Swenson, natives of Sweden and early day residents of Jackson county. They came from their native country, lived two years in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and then located on section 10, Delafield township, where they resided until 1907, when they moved to Windom, where they now live. To Mr. and Mrs. Pederson were born four children: Cora, born March 4, 1894; Hilda, born July 10, 1897; Alvin, born December 1, 1903; Rosella, born November 24, 1905. The family are members

of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mrs. Pederson lives upon the Heron Lake township farm, but has the farm rented.

Since the death of Mr. Pederson, Mrs. Pederson has purchased and now owns one of the finest residences in the village of Lakefield, Minnesota.

JOHN O. SWENSON (1875), in partnership with his brother, Olof, farms 320 acres of land in Delafield township, a mile and a half south of the village of Wilder, the land being the property of their father, Andrew Swenson.

Our subject, is a native of Delafield township and was born December 1, 1875, the son of Andrew and Martha (Skinrud) Swenson. His parents were born in Norway, came to America before their marriage and located in Wisconsin. There they were married in 1871 and the same year came to Jackson county. The elder Swenson took as a homestead claim the southeast quarter of section 18, Delafield township, and upon that place he has ever since resided. By hard work and the practice of frugality he has prospered until today he owns 320 acres of fine farming land and one of the finest farm residences in Delafield township. Andrew and Martha Swenson are the parents of three children: Clara (Mrs. Peter Stokke), of Spokane, Washington; John O., of this sketch, and Olof.

John O. Swenson grew to manhood on his father's farm and has spent his entire life there. He was educated in the district schools and in the Breck school of Wilder. In 1901 he and his brother Olof rented their father's land and have since been engaged in the management of the place. The boys are successful farmers. During the season of 1909 they harvested about 5,000 bushels of small grain and had seventy-five acres planted to corn.

For four years John O. Swenson was secretary and treasurer of the Wilder Cooperative Creamery company. He has held the office of clerk of the township board for the past three years and for the last eight or nine years he has served as clerk of school district No. 115. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

A. A. FOSNESS (1892), member of the firm of Fosness & Hill, doing business as Globe Milling company of Lakefield, was born in Nor-

way August 16, 1856, the son of Arne and Bertha (Erdhal) Fosness.

He came to America in 1874, when eighteen years of age, and settled near Blue Earth City, Minnesota. There he continued his education, which had been begun in Norway, and completed it with a course in St. Olaf's college of Northfield. The first two years of his life in the United States were spent on the farm near Blue Earth City and the next four in the town of Austin, where he learned the miller's trade. He then moved to Blue Earth City, where he remained five years and was employed at his trade. He took up the same work in Winnebago and was employed in a mill there seven years. Mr. Fosness moved to Lakefield in June, 1892, and built the flouring mill. The next year he sold a half interest to W. D. Hill and the firm name has since been Fosness & Hill.

Mr. Fosness was married at Winnebago August 22, 1889, to Miss Laura Williams and to them have been born the following named children: Arthur, born November 18, 1890; Leslie, born June 1, 1898; Ethel, born October 18, 1900; Paul, born May 15, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Fosness are members of the Methodist church. He belongs to the A. F. and A. M., Odd Fellows, Workmen and Workmen orders.

ALBERT WILEY (1868). Among the pioneers of the county is Albert Wiley, janitor of the high school building at Jackson, who has resided in the county since he was fourteen years of age. The parents of our subject were William and Ann (Garvin) Wiley.

William Wiley came to the county and homestead in Heron Lake township in 1867, moving there with his family the following year. He was the first man to file on a claim in that township and when he arrived the only other white man there was a trapper by the name of Benjamin Harrison. Immediately after his arrival, however, quite a number of families came and made their homes in the township. Mr. Wiley, Sr., lived on the farm in Heron Lake township until 1884. From then until 1892 he lived in Jackson and then moved to Boone county, Iowa, where he died in 1894, aged 71 years. His wife died in Jackson in July, 1907, aged 71 years.

To these parents Albert Wiley was born in Ohio on January 25, 1854. When ten years of age he moved with the family to Dane county,

Wisconsin, and in May, 1868, came with them to Jackson county. On his father's farm on section 28, Heron Lake township, Albert lived until he was twenty-two years old. Then he married, bought a farm in the same township, and engaged in farming until 1884. That year he sold out and, after spending several months in Iowa, took up his residence in Jackson, where he has ever since lived. He engaged in carpenter work, which he followed continuously until 1893. That year he was made janitor of the high school building, which position he has ever since held. Until 1906 he engaged in carpenter work during the summer months, but since that date has given up his trade and devotes his whole time to his duties at the school house. During his residence in Heron Lake township Mr. Wiley held a township office from the time he was of age until he moved from the precinct, the offices held being supervisor and clerk. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Wiley was married in Weimer township March 29, 1875, to Carrie A. Willford, who was born in Wisconsin and came to Minnesota when seven years old. Her father, Joseph Willford, was frozen to death in a blizzard at Spirit Lake in February, 1865. To Mr. and Mrs. Wiley have been born the following children: Minnie M., Nellie A., Alice A., Mary E. and Orlie W.

WALTER S. FREER (1874), proprietor of a livery barn at Heron Lake and deputy sheriff of Jackson county, is a native of Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he was born March 29, 1859. His parents were Johannes D. and Anna (Hasbrook) Freer, natives of Ulster county, New York. They moved to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1858, and to Jackson county in 1874. The father took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 24, Alba township, and on that farm the family resided until about fifteen years ago, when they moved to Heron Lake. Johannes Freer died December 24, 1894, aged 76 years; Anna Freer died October 16, 1896, aged 76 years. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the following six are living: Hasbrook, Sarah, Newton, Peter, Mary and Walter S.

Walter Freer came to Jackson county with his parents in 1874 and resided on the home farm until twenty-three years of age, receiv-

ing an education in the Heron Lake school. He then moved to the village and bought the Pioneer hotel and a livery stable, and has ever since been in the livery business. For the past seventeen years he has followed the race circuit and has a fine string of horses. Mr. Freer owns four residences and a business lot in the village. He holds membership in the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen lodges. He is deputy sheriff of the county and has held the office several terms. He also served two terms as member of the village council.

Mr. Freer was married in Heron Lake February 26, 1886, to Nora Parro, a native of Minnesota. She died April 19, 1893, aged 24 years. Two children were born to this union, of which one, Fred W., is living, having been born July 8, 1890. Mr. Freer's second marriage occurred July 10, 1895, to Miss Ida Weld. To them one child has been born, Margaret, born October 10, 1898.

JURGEN SCHWAGER (1883) is one of the large land owners and successful farmers of Sioux Valley township, of which precinct he is one of the early settlers.

Mr. Schwager was born in Germany August 16, 1849, and spent the first eighteen years of his life in the Fatherland. He secured a common school education and learned the shoemaker's trade. He came to America with his parents in 1867 and first located at Davenport, Iowa. The family were without means and Jurgen began working out, his first work in the new world being a job of hoeing onions at seventy-five cents per day. In 1871 his father and a brother rented a farm in Scott county, near Davenport, and for the next two years our subject lived on that farm, working for farmers in the neighborhood. In 1873 our subject and his father rented a farm and in 1875 he married and took over the lease, conducting it on his own account until 1883.

In the year last mentioned Mr. Schwager came to Jackson county. For six years he rented a farm on section 17, Sioux Valley township. Then he bought the northeast quarter of section 8, his present home farm, and has ever since made his home there. At the time of purchase there was not a tree or building on the farm and all the improvements have been made by him. He has prospered exceedingly and now owns 497½ acres of choice land in Sioux Valley township, besides a quar-

ter section of land in McLean county, North Dakota. He has an elegant home and a well improved farm, drained by thousands of feet of tile. He is an extensive stock breeder, making a speciality of Hereford cattle.

Mr. Schwager has been a director of the Sioux Valley creamery since its organization. From 1889 to 1900 he was township clerk and was assessor for ten years. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church.

The parents of our subject were Claus and Anna (Messer) Schwager. They came to America at the same time their son did, resided in Davenport and Durant, Iowa, and died in the latter town. They had three sons, Tim, of Durant, Iowa; Jurgan, of this sketch; Christ, of Martin county, Minnesota.

Mr. Schwager was married at Davenport, Iowa, December 30, 1875, to Anna Wiebener, who was born in Germany and who came to America the year of her marriage. Her parents were Ehler and Margareta Wiebner. The former died in 1875; the latter died at her daughter's home in Sioux Valley township in 1902. To Mr. and Mrs. Schwager have been born seven children, as follows: Emma, born October 19, 1876; Louisa, born November 15, 1877; George, born March 21, 1879, died December 10, 1904; Amanda, born May 7, 1881; Willie, born April 21, 1884; Bernie, born March 18, 1883, died May 4, 1884; Harry, born October 13, 1889.

PETER BORSGARD (1872). farmer and school teacher, owns 160 acres of land on section 28, Christiania township. He is a native of the county, having been born in the precinct in which he now lives March 10, 1872, the son of Severt Olson Borgsard and Kiersten (Krogstad) Olson Borgsard, both deceased.

Peter early decided upon teaching for his profession. After securing a primary education in the district school he attended the college at Wilder. He lived on the home farm until twenty years of age; then he began working out and teaching school, being employed in the latter occupation twelve years. In 1898 he took a course in the Mankato Normal school. Except for a few years spent in Windom, Mr. Borgsard has been a resident of Jackson county all his life. He clerked several years in the store of John Hutton, general merchant of Windom. Mr. Borgsard has

stock in the Christiania Mercantile company, which owns the store at Bergen. He clerked in the store two years and was its manager one year.

Our subject was married to Carrie Kulseth, of Christiania township, May 12, 1900. Three children have been born to this union, as follows: Gertrude, born May 23, 1902; Severt, born July 21, 1905; Thomas Bjarne, born July 5, 1907. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

A. M. SCHROEDER (1878), clerk of the district court for Jackson county and ex-member of the Minnesota house of representatives, is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Winona county September 9, 1859, the son of Martin and Henrietta (Melicke) Schroeder.

The family moved from Winona county to Blue Earth county in 1863, and there our subject resided for the next fifteen years. The family home was made in Christiania township, Jackson county, in 1878. After a residence of three years in that township the family again returned to Blue Earth county. In 1890 Mr. Schroeder took up his residence in Windom, where he lived until 1900 and where, in 1892, he took the position of salesman for the McCormick Harvester company. In the last named year he came to Jackson county as the representative of the International Harvester company, making his headquarters at Lakefield and Jackson. In 1904, he was selected as one of a party of fourteen of the International's salesmen from all parts of the United States to make a tour of Europe. This party visited England, Scotland, Germany and France and was gone five months. Returning he continued with the International company for a time, but in 1905 he went to Canada. For about nine months after his return he held a position with Grandetone Plow company of Dixon, Illinois, and at the beginning of the year 1907 entered upon his duties as clerk of the district court.

Mr. Schroeder has taken quite an active part in local politics. In 1900 he was the democratic nominee for treasurer of Cottonwood county, but was defeated at the election. He was elected a member of the state legislature on the democratic ticket in 1902 and served one term. He was defeated for the same office in 1904 by L. O. Teigen. In Novem-



ber, 1906, Mr. Schroeder was elected to the office of clerk of court, which he has since held. He holds membership in the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and United Commercial Travelers.

On October 2, 1907, Mr. Schroeder was united in marriage to Miss Della Grannis, of Worthington.

JOHN W. COWING (1868). In the early days of its history the village of Jackson was fortunate in the class of business men who were attracted to the little town on the banks of the Des Moines. It was due to the enterprise of these men that Jackson continued to hold its place on the map in the early days and became the prosperous and flourishing city it did in after years. Among the first to come and the oldest to remain of these men is the subject of this biography.

John W. Cowing was born in Hexham, England, on July 21, 1843. His parents, John and Elizabeth (Davidson) Cowing, came to Jackson in the seventies and both died in that city. The family moved from England to the United States in 1852 and settled on a farm in Dane county, Wisconsin. Three years later they moved to Adams county, of the same state, and there they lived until 1868. Our subject received a common school education in Wisconsin and completed it with a commercial course in the Worthington business college of Madison. In February, 1865, Mr. Cowing enlisted in company A, of the 49th Wisconsin volunteer infantry, and served in the army until his discharge in October of the same year.

It was as a young man, twenty-five years of age, that John W. Cowing came to Jackson in 1868, and engaged in the mercantile business, a business in which he was destined to be engaged thirty-eight years, excepting a temporary withdrawal of two years. When the Brown National Bank was organized in 1905 (succeeding the Bank of Jackson) Mr. Cowing was made vice president, and in October, 1906, he became president of the bank, which position he still retains, and disposed of his mercantile business. He owns his home and a business block in Jackson, city property in Minneapolis and farm lands in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and in North Dakota.

On numerous occasions Mr. Cowing has been called upon to serve in an official capacity.

For several terms he was chairman of the board of county commissioners, has been president of the village council and president of the board of education of the village. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the A. F. & A. M. lodge.

Mr. Cowing was married at Preston, Minnesota, August 1, 1870, to Alice G. McMurtrie, a native of Racine, Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Cowing are the parents of the following named children: Mrs. A. R. Albertus, of Worthington; Mrs. J. C. Durfee, of Fergus Falls, Minnesota; Mrs. Malcolm Weikle, of Pelican Rapids, Minnesota; Nell M. Cowing and Lillian J. Cowing.

The following concerning Mr. Cowing's early business career in Jackson is of interest. In 1868 he embarked in the mercantile business alone and two years later took as a partner Harrison White, who remained in the firm but one year. His first store was located in a building on the site now occupied by a millinery store north of the Richardson block. After Mr. Cowing vacated the building M. E. Hay, the present governor of Washington, carried on a general merchandise business there for several years. Mr. Cowing erected, in 1872, the building on the corner north of the Robertson implement house, which is now in decay, and in which he conducted a general store for about fifteen years. In 1889 he built the north half of the business block opposite the Ashley house, and here he ended his long mercantile career prior to embarking in the banking business.

ROBERT C. MUIR (1873), auctioneer. of Jackson, is a native of the county in which he has ever since lived. He is the son of Robert C. and Mary (McLean) Muir, who homesteaded in Middletown township in the late sixties and lived there until a few years ago, when they moved to North Dakota.

Robert was born on the farm in Middletown township March 23, 1873, and on that farm he grew to manhood. He received a limited education in the district school and when a boy ten years old began to herd cattle for his father, which was his occupation until sixteen years old. For several years following he worked as a threshing hand for D. W. Pulver and A. Beck. In 1894 he married and moved from the farm to Jackson, where he has since lived. For seven years he ran a dray in the



**JOHN W. COWING**

**President of the Brown National Bank of Jackson and Ex-Chairman  
of the Board of County Commissioners.**

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATION

village, and then, in 1901, became an auctioneer. Since that time he has been so engaged during the sales period, making a specialty of farm and stock sales. During the summer months he sells insurance in the Modern Woodmen Casualty company and sells sewing machines.

Mr. Muir owns his home in Jackson and real estate in North Dakota. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge. The subject of this biography was married in Des Moines township December 19, 1894, to Miss Lizzie Davies. Mrs. Muir was born June 23, 1875, in Des Moines township and is a daughter of Edward and Ella (Pease) Davies, he being a soldier of the civil war and an early settler of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Muir have been born two children: Robert V. and Garth L.

FRED D. SAWYER (1875) is one of the substantial farmers of Middletown township, and he has made his home in Jackson county since 1875. He is the son of P. H. and Adaline (Drake) Sawyer, natives of Maine, where they resided until 1871. Then they came west and settled in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, where they lived on a farm until 1875, when they moved to Jackson county and bought a farm in section one, Middletown township. Here they resided until a few years ago when they moved to Jackson village, where Mr. Sawyer now makes his home. He is 80 years of age. His wife died September 30, 1907, at the age of 79 years. From this union six children were born. They are: George, Lucy, Charles, Albert, Ether L. and Fred D. Albert and Charles are residents of Knox county, Nebraska.

Fred D. Sawyer was born in Piscataquis county, Maine, December 22, 1866. At the age of five years he moved with his parents to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and four years later came to Jackson county, where he has since resided. The first year of his residence in the county was spent in the village of Jackson; then with his parents he moved to a farm north of the village, where he lived two years. He then moved to section one, Middletown township, where he grew to manhood, working on his father's farm and attending the country schools. Fourteen years ago he rented his father's farm and so continued until 1902, when he bought the north half of section 11, where he has since resided. He

also owns the southeast quarter of section 15 in the same township, and he farms the entire 480 acres. He has built his present fine residence and other buildings at a cost of about \$3,000. He has held various offices of trust in his home township, and has been for the past four years a member of the township board. He is president of the Middletown Telephone company, which is incorporated and is one of the best farmers lines in the county. He is also prominent in social and church affairs.

Mr. Sawyer was married at Estherville, Iowa, December 8, 1898, to Miss Josephine Peterson, a native of Sweden and a daughter of John and Louise Peterson. They are the parents of two children, Mark A., born September 18, 1899, and Maurice F., born February 26, 1901.

Mr. Sawyer and wife are members of the Presbyterian church of Jackson.

ANTHONY A. ARNOLD (1887) is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Sioux Valley township. He owns the southwest quarter of section 32.

Mr. Arnold was born in Jo Davie county, Illinois, December 23, 1860, and resided in that county until he was twenty-one years of age. His father dying when he was six years of age, Anthony made his home with his mother and stepfather until he was fifteen years old. Then he started in life for himself, working as a farm laborer for several years. During the winter of 1880-81 he completed his education with a course in the schools at Dubuque, Iowa.

In the spring of 1882 Mr. Arnold moved to Osceola county, Iowa, was married that fall and then engaged in farming rented land. He soon gave up farming and located in the village of Lake Park. He built the Lake Park house in the fall of 1883 and conducted it two and one-half years. In the spring of 1887 he traded the hotel for his present farm and has since made his home in Sioux Valley township, with the exception of a year and a half when he was on the plains of Commanche county, Oklahoma, (1903-05). When Mr. Arnold located on the farm the improvements consisted of a few primitive shacks left over from homesteader days. All the present up-to-date improvements on the place have been made by the present owner. He is a breeder of pure bred Jersey cattle, Duroc-Jersey hogs and White Plymouth Rock chickens.

Henry and Augusta (Schapp) Arnold were the parents of our subject. Both were born in Germany and came to America when young, having been married in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, and having spent the remainder of their lives there. The father died in 1866; the mother in 1895, aged 62 years.

Mr. Arnold was married in Jo Daviess county, Illinois, October 23, 1882, to Laura Wickler, who was born in the county in which she was married in 1861. To these parents have been born the following named eight children: George A., born November 18, 1883; Clyde B., born June 10, 1886; Carl H., born March 8, 1889; Loretta F., born July 4, 1892; Leona M., born May 21, 1894; Pearl A., born June 23, 1896; Ervin P., born June 22, 1899; Clayton E., born May 30, 1903. Mr. Arnold says that one of the best crops on the place have been his children. He has an interesting family. Loretta and Leona are splendid musicians.

Mr. Arnold has been a member of the school board of district No. 64 for the past eighteen years. He was a member of the township board one year and a justice of the peace two years. He is a stockholder and director of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery company of Lake Park, Iowa, and has stock in the Midland Telephone company of Milford, Iowa, and the Farmers Exchange company of Lake Park. Mr. Arnold is a member of the Methodist church of Lake Park and of the M. W. A. lodge.

**A. FRANK GERLACH (1868).** For over forty years the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, and who now lives in Jackson, has been a resident of the county, having come here as a baby two and one-half years old. He was born in Columbus, Dane county, Wisconsin, March 1, 1866, the son of John and Lizzie Gerlach.

In November, 1868, the family arrived in Jackson county, having made the trip by team. The father took a homestead in Petersburg township and there our subject spent his boyhood days. He received a country school education and at the age of seventeen years left the home farm. For the next five years he was employed at farm work, and then in 1888 moved to Jackson. For two years he worked on a dray line and then bought a half interest in the business, which he conducted

three years. He was appointed village marshal in 1893 and served seven years. He then retired from active pursuits and has since been engaged in looking after his farm property. He owns 120 acres of land in Middletown township and 120 acres partly in Wisconsin and partly in Petersburg townships. For two years he served as chief of the Jackson fire department.

Mr. Gerlach was married in Jackson county November 23, 1890, to Miss Barbara Miller.

**ERNEST A. GAGE (1884),** ex-president of the First National Bank of Lakefield, is engaged in the insurance business in that village. He is the son of the late Solomon and Marion (King) Gage and descends from colonial stock, one distinguished member of the family being Lyman J. Gage, former secretary of the United States treasury.

Our subject's grandfather, Solomon Gage, Sr., was born in New Hampshire in 1788 and immigrated to Kane county, Illinois, in 1846. Our subject's father, Solomon Gage, Jr., was born in Arcade, New York, June 15, 1827, and accompanied his father to Rutland township, Kane county, in 1846. There he grew to manhood, bought property and spent practically all the rest of his life. In the fifties he made two trips overland to California, driving ox teams. From the first trip he returned in 1852 by way of Cape Horn; the second return trip was made by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He came to Jackson county in 1884, bought a section of land in Belmont and Hunter townships, but did not make his home here. Solomon Gage was married three times. His first wife, Susan Hogeboom, died in California March 15, 1857. His second wife and the mother of our subject was Mary E. King, whom he married July 1, 1858. She was born in New Haven, Connecticut, October 4, 1840, and died January 4, 1871. She was the daughter of Madison King and was of English descent. Nine children were born to them, of whom the subject of this biography and John G. Gage, of Lakefield, are the only surviving ones. Solomon Gage was married the third time in 1872 to Mrs. Sylvia Brisbin, a native of Canada. Mr. Gage died in Kane county, Illinois, November 7, 1886.

Ernest A. Gage was born in Rutland township, Kane county, Illinois, February 1, 1866, and grew to young manhood there, attending the dis-

trict schools and working on his father's farm. His education was completed with one term in the preparatory department of Beloit college in 1888. As before mentioned, the elder Gage came to Jackson county in 1884 and purchased land. One of these tracts was the south half of section 31, Belmont township, and upon that farm our subject located in January, 1884. He conducted the farm two years and then returned to his old home. He bought the old homestead and engaged in farming until the year 1901. Then he sold out and again came to Jackson county. Locating in Lakefield, he engaged in the implement business four years, selling out March 6, 1905, to his brother, John G. Gage. On the first day of the year 1905 he bought out the interests of N. J. Scott in the First National Bank of Lakefield, became president of the bank, conducted it until the next year, and then sold out to J. W. Daubney. After his retirement from the bank Mr. Gage lived a retired life until January, 1908; then he opened an insurance business, in which he has since been engaged. He writes policies in the New York Life, the Connecticut and the Williamsburg City Insurance company.

Mr. Gage owns a half interest in the implement buildings occupied by his brother and has his own home in the village. He takes an active interest in lodge matters and holds membership in many worthy orders. Of the Masonic orders he is a charter member of Lakefield Lodge No. 250, A. F. & A. M., and was master in 1905; he is a charter member of lodge No. 73, R. A. M., of Jackson; of the Fairmont Commandry No. 27; and of Osman Temple of St. Paul. He holds membership in the Lakefield lodge No. 178, I. O. O. F.; in the Lakefield chapter No. 185, O. E. S., and in the Knights of the Globe at Hampshire, Illinois.

Mr. Gage was married March 31, 1890, to Emma C. Hemrick, a native of Kane county, Illinois, and a daughter of Philip H. and Caroline M. (Maupton) Hemrick, both born in Kane county, Illinois. The former was born September 25, 1848, and now resides in Flagler, Colorado; the latter was born July 12, 1850, and died January 8, 1898.

LOUIS J. BRITSCH (1885) is a retired business man of Lakefield, which village has been his home for nearly a quarter of a cen-

ture. He devotes his time principally to the management of his farms and city property, but is also engaged in buying and shipping furs. He owns 148 acres of land in section 3, Hunter township, a half section in Ransom county, North Dakota, a drug store building in Lakefield, a residence and other property in that village.

L. J. Britsch was born May 26, 1858, in Niles, Trumbull county, Ohio, the son of Christian and Catherine (Schofer) Britsch. His father was born in Bretten Bathen, Germany, and his mother at Hessen, in the same country. They came to America when young and were married in Ohio. For many years the family lived at Niles, where Mr. Britsch was engaged as a puddler in the iron mills. Later he engaged in farming in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and later still farmed near Spirit Lake, Iowa, where he died October 23, 1886, aged 56 years. Mrs. Britsch is 77 years of age and resides in Lakefield. Louis is one of a family of ten children, of whom seven are living.

Louis Britsch resided with his parents in Niles, Ohio, until six years old, and then accompanied them to Winneshiek county, Iowa. It was seven years later when the family moved to Spirit Lake. Louis was educated in the district schools, and after securing his education learned the harnessmaker's trade at Spencer, Iowa. Later he worked at his trade in Chicago, Youngstown, Ohio, New Castle, Pennsylvania, and at Spirit Lake. He located in Lakefield in 1885 and opened a harness shop, which he conducted nine years. Selling out then, he has since devoted his time as mentioned above.

At Hamilton, Minnesota, on May 26, 1887, Mr. Britsch was married to Miss Ida Hinze, who was born in Cook county, Illinois, January 27, 1869, the daughter of Adolph and Caroline Hinze. To Mr. and Mrs. Britsch have been born four children, as follows: Lillian, a state university student and school teacher, born April 15, 1889; Arthur, a high school student, born November 7, 1892; Elsie, born September 9, 1895; Ludie, born March 15, 1899.

PETER MADSEN (1885) is an extensive stock breeder of Kimball township, where he is also engaged in farming a half section of land. Mr Madsen is of Danish birth and was born February 11, 1853. His parents, Mada

Clausen and Carrie (Larsdatter) Clausen, died in their native land a number of years ago. There are seven living children in the family, as follows: Claus, Lars C., Jens, Julia, Mary, Peter and Carl F.

Until he was twenty-one years of age Peter Madsen lived in his native land, working out after he was fourteen years of age. In 1874 he came to America and located at Peshtigo, Wisconsin. He worked in a sawmill there three years, on a farm in Dodge county, Wisconsin, fourteen months, and then again worked one winter in the timber at Peshtigo. From the Wisconsin town Mr. Madsen went to Chicago, where he was engaged in various occupations until 1885. That year he came to Jackson county and located upon his present farm—the southeast quarter of section 32, Kimball—which he had bought the year before. At the time of purchase the farm was prairie land with no improvements, and the substantial improvements now on the farm are all the result of the labors of Mr. Madsen.

In the city of Chicago on October 5, 1878, Mr. Madsen was united in marriage to Rangnild Olson, who was born in Norway May 12, 1860, and came to the United States when ten years of age. She is the daughter of Tora and Mary Olson. Twelve children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Madsen, of whom eleven are living. Theodore died in Chicago at the age of two and one-half years. The others are: Theodore, born January 21, 1883; Edward, born December 21, 1885; Carrie (Mrs. Wallace Mitchell), born September 18, 1887; Julia, born August 4, 1889; Annie, born September 18, 1891; Peter, born September 5, 1893; Walter, born January 12, 1896; George, born March 4, 1899; Lawrence, born June 2, 1901; Roy, born August 15, 1903; Laurine, born June 24, 1905. Mr. Madsen has been treasurer of school district No. 87 for the past ten or twelve years. He is a member of the Danish Brotherhood lodge.

OLE L. LARSON (1882) is a Weimer township farmer residing a short distance south of the village of Heron Lake. He is a native of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, and was born December 2, 1880. At the age of two years he accompanied his parents to Jackson county, the family home being made on the place now farmed by our subject, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 30, Weimer. With

the exception of the years 1902 and 1903, when he was in Dakota, Mr. Larson has ever since lived in the county.

In 1904 Mr. Larson began farming for himself. He rented farms in the vicinity of Heron Lake until 1907, when he took charge of the home place, where he has since resided, making his home with his mother.

The parents of our subject were Lemick and Sarah (Olson) Larson, natives of Norway. They came to the United States in the sixties and were married at Red Wing, Minnesota. In the early seventies they came to Jackson county and homesteaded the land now farmed by their son. The father died in 1906. There were seven children in the family as follows: Martin, Elmer, Ole L., Minnie (Mrs. Oscar Seleen), Kate (Mrs. Peter O. Mickelson), of Canada; Julius E. and Ida L.

Ole received his education in the Heron Lake public schools. He is unmarried. During the year 1908 he served as road overseer of his district. He holds membership in the Yeomen lodge.

JOHN S. LARSON (1872), Delafield township farmer, has spent his entire life in Jackson county, having been born in a dug-out in Weimer township March 6, 1872. He is next to the youngest in a family of five living children, named as follows: Lena, Annie, Louis, Ludwig and John S. His parents, Segar and Isabella (Johanstadter) Larson, were born in Norway, were married there January 8, 1860, came to America in 1869, resided two years in Boone county, Illinois, and located in Jackson county in the fall of 1871. A homestead was taken on section 10, Weimer township, and there the father of our subject still lives; his mother died May 8, 1906, aged 72 years.

John Larson resided on the old homestead with his parents until he was of age, working for his father and attending school. After completing the common school course, he entered the Breck school of Wilder, being a student of that school two terms. When he reached his majority he started in life for himself, working as a farm laborer for a few years. In 1896 he bought his present farm, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 5, Delafield township, moved onto the place the next year, and that has since been his home. In addition to his own land he farms an eighty acre tract adjoining, the property of his broth-

er, Louis. Mr. Larson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

At St. James, Minnesota, on July 5, 1897, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Helen Grinager, who was born in Norway November 14, 1875, and who came to the United States with her parents when twelve years of age. Her father, Thomas Grinager, died in 1908; her mother, Andrena Grinager, lives in Delafield township. To Mr. and Mrs. Larson have been born five children, of whom the following three are living: Myrtle, born October 20, 1899; Tilden, born February 10, 1904; Alf, born May 24, 1907. Two children, Inga and Palmer, died in infancy.

THOMAS OLSEN (1889) is a Hunter township farmer who resides on the northwest quarter of section thirty-one. He was born in Norway on August 7, 1860, and there resided on a farm with his parents until sixteen years of age. He then became a sailor and followed a seafaring life until 1882. In that year he emigrated to the United States and first located in Kendall county, Illinois, where he worked on farms for a period of two years. He then moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where he made his home until 1889. Then he moved to Jackson county, and took up his residence on section one, in Sioux Valley township, residing on a farm there five years. He then made a trip to his old home in Norway, and returning to Jackson county the next year, he located on his present place in Hunter township, where he has since resided.

Mr. Olsen is the son of Ole and Martha Torresen, both of whom are natives of Norway, where the former now lives, the mother having died about fifteen years ago. They have five children living.

Thomas Olsen was married in June, 1895, to Magdalena Aslaksen, who is also a native of Norway. They are the parents of five children, as follows: Martin, born January 28, 1896; Olga, born April 22, 1898; Thelma, born December 30, 1902; Ardetta, born April 3, 1905; Hilda, born July 15, 1906.

Mr. Olsen has served as director two terms in school district No. 113. He is a stockholder in the Rost creamery and the Lakefield grain elevator. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

H. HENRY HUGHES (1878), real estate dealer of Jackson, is one of the well known residents of that village, having made his home there nearly all the time since 1878. He was born in Oneida county, New York, February 4, 1845, the son of Richard and Anna (Williams) Hughes. His parents were natives of Wales and came to America when children. His father died in Wisconsin October 14, 1872, at the age of 57 years; his mother died October 20, 1892, at the age of 74 years.

When our subject was twelve years old he moved with his parents from New York state to Columbia county, Wisconsin, and was brought up there on a farm. He received his education in the common schools of Columbia county and completed it with a course in a select school at Fox Lake, Wisconsin. After his father's death in 1872 our subject, being the only son and the eldest of a family of five children, took the management of the home farm and conducted it until the fall of 1877.

Mr. Hughes came to Jackson in the spring of 1878 and in October entered the employ of the C. L. Colman Lumber company, and a month later took the position of manager of that company's yard at that point, having superintended the building of the yards. He retained his position with the firm until the summer of 1891—a continuous service of thirteen and a half years. Mr. Hughes had previously invested quite heavily in the implement business and after selling out he moved to St. Paul in the spring of 1892 and for one and a half years was traveling salesman for the Plano Manufacturing company. Then he took a position as traveling representative, with power of attorney for loaning money and collecting, for the First National Bank, of Whitewater, Wisconsin, and was so employed until March 31, 1907, covering four states for the bank. That year he returned to Jackson and engaged in the real estate and insurance business, in which he is still engaged, in addition to looking after his farm lands. He owns 400 acres of Jackson county land, which include two farms. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the A. F. & A. M., I. O. O. F., M. W. A. and M. B. A. lodges.

At Cambria, Columbia county, Wisconsin, on September 19, 1872, Mr. Hughes was united in marriage to Estella Wilcox, a native of New York state. To this union have been born the following named children: Ainslie H.,



Harriett A. (Mrs. Ed. Parker), Clark R. and Arthur B.

FRED ALLERS (1885), who, in partnership with his brother, William Allers, and his son, Edward Allers, farms three quarters of a section of fine land in Sioux Valley township, is a native of Mecklenberg, Germany, and was born February 24, 1848. His father, Fred Allers, was a miller in Germany and a farmer after he came to the new world. He died in Scott county, Iowa, January 9, 1887. The mother of our subject, Inger Allers, died in 1889, also in Scott county, Iowa.

Fred Allers of this sketch came to America with his parents in 1852—when he was only four years of age. Upon their arrival in the United States they set out for the west and arrived in Chicago, beyond which railroads did not at the time extend. The family and Henry Knock, an uncle of our subject, who accompanied them, bought a team in Chicago and set out overland on a three hundred mile journey to Davenport, Iowa. On the trip they came upon only one settler, and when they arrived in Davenport they found it to be a little village of only three business houses.

Upon arriving in this new country the head of the family bought a forty acre tract of land situated one-half mile north of the present site of Walcott, Iowa, paying therefor one dollar per acre. On that farm, which was later increased to 240 acres, our subject grew to manhood. There were no schools in that pioneer country and the only schooling Fred Allers received was obtained one winter in the Davenport school when he was seventeen years of age. After growing up he engaged in farming on his own account.

It was on the first day of March, 1885, that Fred Allers, accompanied by his brother, William, arrived in Jackson county. For three years the brothers rented land in Sioux Valley township; then they bought the northwest quarter of section 25, in that township, which is still the home place. Later they bought other property until today they own 480 acres of choice land. When Edward Allers, the son of our subject, grew up he entered the partnership, and since then the three have conducted the farms in partnership. The land was all unimproved when they bought, excepting a house—14x24 feet—on the home place and a little barn covered with hay. They have

made all the improvements and have fine homes, surrounded by large groves. They raise stock quite extensively and are successful farmers.

Mr. Allers was married at Walcott, Iowa, February 2, 1873, to Catherina Stoltenberg, daughter of the late Jochim Stoltenberg. Mrs. Allers was born in Holstein, Germany, September 1, 1844, and came to the United States in 1872. Two children were born to this union, as follows: Edward, born December 6, 1873; Emelia, born July 22, 1875, died February 22, 1879.

Mr. Allers is a member of the German Lutheran church of Sioux Valley township and of the Germania Verein. He was a director of school district No. 50 during the years 1888-1891.

BEN J. TOLLEFSON (1871), who owns a forty acre timber tract on section 16, Belmont township, is an early day settler of Jackson county. He is a native of Norway and was born May 17, 1852, the son of Tolef and Aletta (Johnson) Tollefson. These parents came from Norway in 1865 and to Jackson county in 1871. The father of our subject homesteaded land in West Heron Lake township in 1875 and made his home there until his death, which occurred in 1885. The mother of our subject made her home with Ben Tollefson until her death in August, 1903, aged eighty-seven and one-half years. They were the parents of four children: Matt, of Jackson; John, who died in 1884; Helen (Mrs. Christian Olson), who died in 1906 at her home in Wisconsin; Ben J., of this sketch.

Ben Tollefson came to America with his parents in 1865, resided five years in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, a short time in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1871. He secured 120 acres of land on section 8, West Heron Lake township, where he resided until 1894. He then sold out and moved south, buying a farm in Oktibbeha county, Mississippi. He did not like the country and a year and a half later returned to Jackson county. He bought 86 acres of land adjoining the village of Jackson on the southeast, where he lived eight years. Disposing of that property, Mr. Tollefson bought the timber tract where he now resides, erected buildings thereon and moved onto the place. He engages in farming

only to a limited extent. During his residence in West Heron Lake township Mr. Tollefson was always honored with township offices.

The gentleman whose name heads this biography was married in West Heron Lake township in June, 1879, to Inga Goplen, who was born in Allamakee county, Iowa, September 13, 1861, and who is the daughter of Nels Gopien. To Mr. and Mrs. Tollefson have been born the following named three children: Nettie (Mrs. Albert Holleck), of Jackson, born January 13, 1881; Alvin, who resides at home, born December 25, 1882; Elmer, of Minneapolis, born March 31, 1887.

HENRY P. STONE (1880) has resided in Jackson county twenty-nine years. He is an auctioneer and makes his home in Lakefield. He is a native of Tioga county, Pennsylvania, and was born February 25, 1860, being one of a family of six children born to J. D. and Julia M. (Smith) Stone. Both parents were born in Connecticut and were of colonial stock, the father being of German extraction, the mother of English.

J. D. Stone, the father of our subject, moved from Connecticut to Pennsylvania when he was twenty-three years of age and for ten years held a government position in the national capitol building at Washington, his family during this time residing in Tioga county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Stone was in the Ford theater at Washington the night President Lincoln was assassinated. He moved to Wisconsin in 1872, bought land and farmed until 1883. That year he moved to Jackson county, engaged in farming until 1889, when he moved to Lakefield and engaged in the hotel business. He died at Lakefield in 1889; his wife died in 1897.

Henry P. Stone, of this sketch, moved with his parents from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin when a boy. There he resided, working on his father's farm, until 1880. That year he came to Jackson county, bought land in Wisconsin township, and engaged in farming on his own account. He left the farm in the fall of 1885 and moved to Lakefield, and that village has since been his home. After the death of his father in 1889 he conducted the hotel for a number of years, and since that time has been engaged in dealing in horses, farming and crying public sales. He first took up the auc-

tioneer's business in 1886, and has followed that calling ever since.

Mr. Stone was married at Jackson August 20, 1885, to Anna Wells, a native of Sheboygan county, Wisconsin. Her father was Matt Sorenson. Her mother dying when she was a child seven years of age, she was adopted into a family named Wells and took that name. To Mr. and Mrs. Stone have been born the following named children: J. D., D. D., C. Leroy, Nina L., Earl, Myron H., Kate, Peter, Mae, Horace. Mr. Stone is a member of the M. B. A. lodge. His wife is a member of the Methodist church and of the Royal Neighbors lodge.

EDWARD A. BOEHL (1887) is the proprietor of the livery barn and of the dray line at Alpha. He is a native of Monee, Will county, Illinois, and his parents were August and Wilhelmina Boehl, both deceased.

Mr. Boehl lived in Will county, Illinois, until he was twenty-seven years of age. Fifteen years of this time he engaged in threshing during the seasons and for fourteen years engaged in stockraising. He arrived in Jackson county March 12, 1887, and has ever since made his home there. During the first twelve years he resided in Jackson, during all of which time he was engaged in the threshing business. For three years he also engaged in farming and from 1890 to 1899 conducted a dray line. Mr. Boehl moved to Alpha in the spring of 1899, and has since been engaged in farming, teaming and threshing. In the fall of 1908 he and his son, Eddy, purchased the livery, dray and feed business of C. J. Swenson. Besides the business enterprises mentioned Mr. Boehl owns stock in the Farmers' elevator company of Alpha.

Mr. Boehl owns property in the village of Alpha. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the M. B. lodge of Alpha. He served four years as chairman of the board of supervisors of Wisconsin township, was a member of the Alpha village council two years and was village treasurer three years. He was also chief of the Alpha fire department three years.

Mr. Boehl was married February 12, 1887, to Miss Emma Bohlander. To them have been born the following children: Francelia, born March 24, 1890; Eddy H., born January 16,

1892; Florence, born March 31, 1894; Blanche, born February 18, 1901.

L. KUMMETH (1887) is one of the large land owners and successful farmers of Alba township. He owns a section of land in one body and farms it all.

Mr. Kummeth is a native of Balvia, Bayern, Germany, and was born January 15, 1851, the son of George and Geneiva (Wagner) Kummeth. His father, who was a mason by trade, died in Germany about twenty-five years ago, aged 85 years. His mother died in Germany ten years ago, aged 80 years.

Our subject spent the first twenty-two years of his life in his native land. He was brought up in the village of Hausen and was educated in the common schools. At the age of fourteen years he began working at the mason's trade, and during the remainder of the time he lived in the old country he followed that trade during the summer months, working as a wood chopper during the winter months. During the month of May, 1873, Mr. Kummeth came to the United States. He spent the first year in New York city, working for a second hand lumber company, tearing down old buildings. After one year spent in the metropolis he moved to Lake county, Illinois, where he resided thirteen years. During the first seven years of this time he worked as a farm hand; the last six he was engaged in farming on rented land.

In the fall of 1887 Mr. Kummeth came to Jackson county and located upon an eighty acre farm on section 10, Ewington township, which he had bought the year before, and started farming. When he arrived in the county he had a team and wagon and just enough money to build a little house and shed. He borrowed money to buy feed for his horses and food for his family, paying twenty-four per cent interest, having raised no crop during the first three years of his residence in the county. Later he came upon better times and has prospered. He lived on the Ewington township farm eight years, during which time he increased it by the purchase of an additional eighty acres.

In 1895 Mr. Kummeth traded his Ewington township farm for the quarter section of land on section 14, Alba, now the home place, and has ever since resided on it. At the time of making the trade the only improvements were

a small house and barn. He now has a fine home and well improved farm. He bought the southeast quarter of section 10 in 1899 and the south half of section 11 in the fall of 1909.

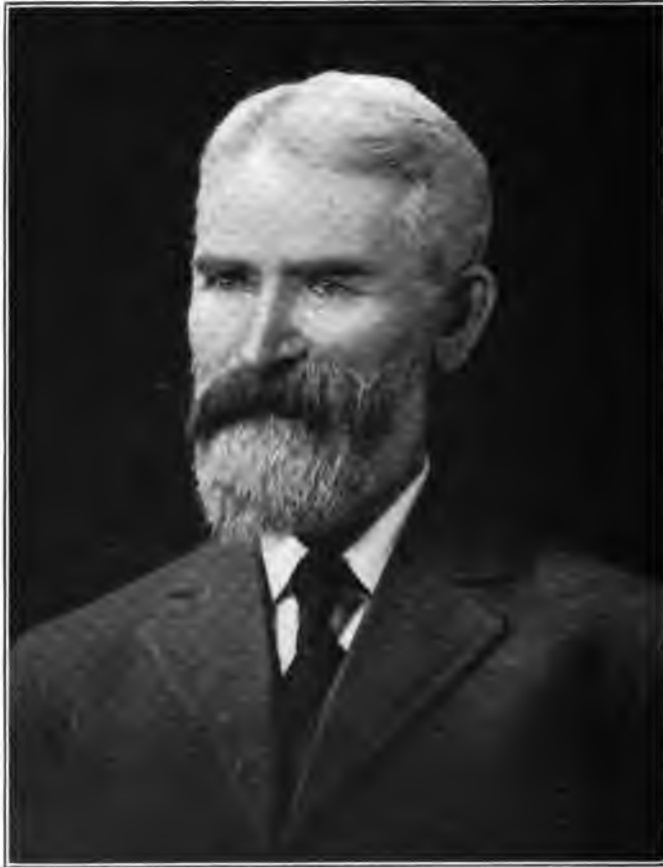
Mr. Kummeth has taken an active part in the affairs of his community and has several times been called upon to serve in an official capacity. He was a member of the Alba township board twelve years and during two years of that time was chairman of the board. He is clerk of school district No. 102 and has served in that capacity twelve years. He and his family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake.

In Lake county, Illinois, in February, 1882, Mr. Kummeth was united in marriage to Wal-purge Isele, who was born in Balvia, Bayern, Germany, and who came to the United States in 1881. To these parents have been born the following named five children: Annie, Frank, Barbara, Lawrence and George, all living at home.

FRANK J. APPEL (1874), agent for the Hamm Brewing company, resides at Heron Lake, in the vicinity of which town he has lived since he was eleven years of age. He is an Austrian by birth and was born June 29, 1863. He is the son of the late Thomas Appel and Tracy (Hager) Appel, who came from Austria in 1874 and settled in LaCrosse township. Thomas Appel homesteaded the south half of the southeast quarter of section 8, and upon that place the family resided until 1904, when they moved to Heron Lake. There our subject's father died on August 12, 1907, at the age of 78 years, and there his mother, who is now 70 years of age, resides. Frank is next to the eldest of a family of seven children, all of whom are living. They are John, Frank, Fred, Louis, Joseph, Vincent and William.

Coming to America with his parents in 1874, Frank lived on the home farm until 1889, attending the country schools and assisting with the farm work. Then he married, bought the northwest quarter of section 16, LaCrosse township, and engaged in farming for nine years. He conducted a saloon in Kinbrae one year and then, in 1899, located in Heron Lake. Starting a saloon at the time he located in the village Mr. Appel conducted it until the spring of 1909, when he sold to Barney Grave.

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**PAUL H. BERGE**

**President of the P. H. Berge Company, Jackson, and Ex-Chairman  
of the Board of County Commissioners.**

He has been the local representative of the Hamm Brewing company ever since he located in Heron Lake. In connection with his saloon business Mr Appel was engaged in the implement business four years, selling out in the fall of 1906.

Our subject was married in Heron Lake September 21, 1889, to Agnes Hager, a native of Austria and a daughter of Frank Hager, a former resident of LaCrosse township, now living at Princeton, Minnesota. To Mr. and Mrs. Appel have been born the following seven children: Hilda, Eda, John, Alma, Elsie, Agnes, Raymond.

The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Appel belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters. While a resident of the country Mr. Appel served five years as township clerk and the same length of time as justice of the peace.

**PAUL H. BERGE** (1878), president of the P. H. Berge Company (incorporated) of Jackson, is one of the pioneer merchants of the county seat village. He is a native of Rock county, Wisconsin, where he was born February 28, 1852, the son of H. H. and Annie (Sanden) Berge.

In his native county Paul H. Berge received his education, completing it with a two years' course in Beloit college. In 1874, at the age of twenty-two years, he came to Minnesota and located in the little village of Windom, where for two and one-half years he was engaged in the butter business. Returning at the end of that time to his old home, he spent the next two and one-half years clerking in a store.

In September, 1878, just before the arrival of the railroad to Jackson, Mr. Berge came to that town and bought an interest in the mercantile establishment of Strong Brothers, the firm name then becoming Strong Brothers & Berge. Two years later Strong Brothers withdrew from the firm and thereafter for twenty-three years the establishment was conducted under the name of Berge Brothers, H. H. Berge, Jr., a brother of our subject, being the junior member. P. H. Berge bought out his brother's interest in 1904 and conducted the store alone for two years. Two years after the last change noted the P. H. Berge Company, with a capital stock of \$20,000, was incorporated. Of this company the following

are the present officers: P. H. Berge, president; A. A. Berge, vice president; H. J. Berge, secretary; O. B. Berge, treasurer.

Besides the P. H. Berge Company Mr. Berge has other business interests. He is vice president of the First National Bank of Jackson, has stock in the First National Bank of Heron Lake and has an interest in a lumber firm in the state of Washington. In a political way he has served in various capacities. He was chairman of the board of county commissioners six years, was a member of the local board of education twelve years, six years as president and six years as secretary, and was president of the village council the second year after incorporation. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the I. O. O. F. and A. O. U. W. lodges.

Mr. Berge was married in Belmont township in November, 1881, to Lena Olson. To this union eight children have been born, as follows: Herbert J., Oscar B., Parker L., Amy A., Irene Luella, Hazel Aliouse, Catherine (died at the age of one year), Nellie E. (McNamara), who died August 6, 1908, at Alexandria, Minnesota.

**SHERRILL BUSHNELL** (1885) is a Des Moines township farmer whose place is on section 14, a short distance north of the village of Jackson. He is a native of Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois, and was born November 24, 1858, the son of Joseph and Elenora (Cobley) Bushnell, now residents of Jackson.

The father of our subject was born in New York state, came west in an early day and settled in Illinois. He located in Jackson in 1885, bought the farm upon which his son now resides in 1886, and has ever since been a resident of the county. His wife was born in Vermont. They are the parents of three children: Jackson, of Kansas City, Kansas; Edith (Mrs. Jabe Norman), of Denver, Colorado; Sherrill, of this sketch.

Sherrill lived in his native county until twelve years of age. Then he moved to Ford county, Illinois, where he attended school and engaged in farm work until he came to Jackson county in 1885. During the first four years of his residence in the county he lived in Jackson and worked on his father's farm north of the village. He spent one year at Iona Lake, one year in Jackson, and then located on his father's farm, where he has since

made his home. He is a director of school district No. 13, is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Bushnell was married in Jackson March 30, 1887, to Annie Davis, daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Farrar) Davis and a native of Maine. Mr. and Mrs. Bushnell are the parents of eight children, as follows: Horace, born January 22, 1889; Andrew, born May 31, 1891; Wallace, born November 5, 1893; Edith, born February 2, 1896; Lillian F., born May 16, 1898; Gordon, born September 12, 1900; Grace, born October 29, 1902; Edwin W., born July 26, 1907.

JAMES M. DALZIEL (1883), a farmer of Weimer township residing on the bank of Heron lake a short distance southeast of the village of the same name, has resided in the county since he was a child. His farm constitutes one of the best game preserves on the lake and he has leased the hunting rights to a Minneapolis club of fifteen members for a term of ten years.

Mr. Dalziel was born near the city of Glasgow, Scotland, on April 28, 1876. His father died when he was one year of age and in 1883 he accompanied his mother to America, the family consisting of three children. The family home was made on the southwest quarter of section 28, Weimer township, and on that farm James has ever since resided. He has rented and conducted the farm for the past six years, the place being owned by his mother.

The mother of our subject, who now lives in Heron Lake, is deserving of a great deal of credit for the success she has made since coming to Jackson county. The trip across the water was made in the old steamer "Bolivia" in a three weeks' trip, the boat being disabled. Mrs. Dalziel arrived in the country with her three children practically penniless, but by hard work and a determination to succeed she has secured a competence for her later years. She owns village property in addition to the farm.

Our subject was married in Heron Lake May 16, 1899, to Stella Anderson, who was born in Illinois July 16, 1883. Three children have been born to this union: Willard, born December 15, 1904; Zola, born May 3, 1901, and baby boy, born December 15, 1909. Mr. Dalziel is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the M. B. A. lodge.

OLE AAS (1872) is a farmer and thresherman who owns 180 acres of land on sections 4 and 9, Belmont township. He is the younger of two sons born to Ole A. and Carolina (Lilleberg) Aas. His parents were born in Norway and came to America before their marriage, becoming early settlers of Jackson county. The father died in Jackson in 1906, aged 80 years; the mother now lives in Jackson and is 77 years of age.

To these parents Ole Aas was born on the Belmont township farm February 13, 1872. There he received his education and there he has ever since lived. Until his father moved to Jackson in 1901 Ole worked on the home farm; then he began farming it on his own account, and after his father's death in 1906 he fell heir to the property. He farms the whole 180 acres and for the past seven years has also been engaged in the threshing business. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Aas was married in the county in October, 1901, to Grace Arnston, who was born in Norway and came to the United States when one year of age. She is the daughter of Olof Arnston, of Belmont. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Aas, as follows: Orville and Gladys.

DAVID CRAWFORD (1886) is the member of the board of county commissioners from the third district and resides at Lakefield. During a residence of over twenty years in the county he has taken an active part in its political and general history. He was born at Woodside, West Kilbride, Ayrshire, Scotland, August 6, 1860, the son of David and Jennie (Hannah) Crawford.

David Crawford received his education and spent his early years in his native country. He came to America in 1880 and located in Canada, where he lived six years, engaged in different lines of business. In October, 1886, he became a resident of Jackson county, locating in Heron Lake and buying a half interest in a meat market there. One year later he sold out and moved to Lakefield, started the first livery barn in the village, and that has been his home ever since. He continued in the livery business seven years, then sold out, and has since been engaged in several different lines of endeavor, for several years being engaged in the grain business. Mr.

Crawford was elected county commissioner in 1896, was reelected in 1900 and again in 1904 and 1908, having a continuous service of over twelve years to his credit. His present term expires January 1, 1913. Besides the county office, he served four years as president of the Lakefield village council.

June 1, 1898, Mr. Crawford was united in marriage to Miss Ella Thompson. To them have been born three children: Elsie, Maurice and Clarence.

JOHN ENGEL (1890) is a prosperous farmer and stock raiser of Sioux Valley township, where he owns a 240 acre farm. He is a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and was born May 1, 1865. His father, Hans Hanson Engel, died in Germany in 1895, aged 61 years. His mother, Helen (Petersen) Engel, died in Germany in 1870.

John was brought up and educated in a farming community and spent the first seventeen years of his life in his native land, working out on a farm during the last two years there. In 1882 he came to America and located in Benton county, Iowa, where he lived eight years, working as a farm hand. In March, 1890, Mr. Engel came to Jackson county and located upon his present farm, which he had bought in 1885. The place was then raw prairie, and the present improvements are all the result of his labors. Mr. Engel raises stock quite extensively and he has prospered since locating in Jackson county.

Mr. Engel has often been called upon to serve in an official capacity. He is clerk of his township and has held the office for the last nine years. He is also a director of school district No. 50 and with the exception of two or three years has served as such since 1891. He was township assessor three years and a member of the board of supervisors two years. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge of Lake Park.

Mr. Engel was married at Jackson July 9, 1891, to Matilda Kruse, who was born in Hamburg, Germany, April 7, 1873, and came to the United States in 1887. Her father, C. F. A. Kruse, died in 1899 and her mother, Maria Kruse, died in 1906. To Mr. and Mrs. Engel have been born the following children: Helmuth H., born June 14, 1892, died November 2, 1908; Alvina, born May 27, 1893; Hannah, born July 12, 1895; Freda, born August

24, 1897; Rudolph, born August 27, 1903; John, born April 14, 1909.

HENRY W. ROBSON (1878), hardware merchant of Heron Lake, has spent his entire life of thirty-one years in Jackson county, having been born in Heron Lake township, three miles northwest of Lakefield, on November 14, 1878. His parents were John and Anna (Foss) Robson.

John Robson was born in Stockholm, Sweden, coming to America when about nineteen years of age. He located first in New York and later in Chicago and other points in Illinois. During the late fifties and early sixties he followed hunting and trapping for a living and led a frontiersman's life. At the outbreak of the civil war he enlisted in company G, 5th Minnesota, on January 5, 1862; was discharged for disability January 15, 1863. He moved to Jackson county in the seventies, took a homestead in Heron Lake township and lived on the farm until about 1881. Then he moved to Heron Lake and conducted a blacksmith and gunsmith shop until his death, which occurred in 1893 at the age of seventy years. His wife also died in Heron Lake.

Henry W. Robson accompanied his parents when they moved from the farm to Heron Lake, being two years of age at the time. He lived with his father until the latter's death, and then he started out in life for himself, working at whatever he could find to do, first on a farm, then in a restaurant and during later years as a clerk in a general store. On October 1, 1906, Mr. Robson bought out the hardware and harness stock of J. F. Humiston, and has since conducted that business.

Mr. Robson was married at Heron Lake April 19, 1903, to Miss Alma Tuberg, a native of Mankato and a daughter of Gus Tuberg, of that city. Mr. Robson is a member of the A. F. & A. M., the Eastern Star, the M. W. A. and the Yeomen lodges.

FRANK A. MUZIKAR (1886), of Hunter township, was born in Moravia, Austria, August 16, 1868, the son of John and Antonia (Ris) Muzikar. These parents were born in 1832 and 1836, respectively, came to the United States in 1874, lived in Chicago several years, and located in Jackson county in 1886,



where they still reside. They make their home with their son, Frank.

Frank came to America with his parents in 1874 and for twelve years lived with them in the city of Chicago. There he received his education, and there he worked at the hardwood furniture finishing business. He arrived in Jackson county with the family March 10, 1886, and until he was twenty-four years of age lived with his parents on the farm in Hunter township. He married in 1892 and took over the management of the home farm—the north half of the southwest quarter of section 22. In 1899 he bought the northwest quarter of that section and in 1909 the south half of the northeast quarter of section 21. He farms 240 acres.

Mr. Muzikar was married in Jackson November 20, 1892, to Mary Motl, who was born in Bohemia, Austria, September 8, 1872, and who came to the United States when three years of age. She is the daughter of Frank and Mary Motl, of Enterprise township. Mr. and Mrs. Muzikar are the parents of one child, Lawrence, born August 1, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church of Jackson and he belongs to the Catholic Bohemian lodge. He has served as township clerk for the last eight years, has held the offices of assessor and treasurer and has been clerk of his school district for a number of years.

PAUL H. PAULSON (1871) is one of the early day settlers of Belmont township, where he has spent nearly forty years of his life. He is a native of Norway and was born on the last day of the year 1845, one of a family of eight children born to Andrew and Mary (Jones) Paulson. His parents came to America in 1852 and in that early day located in Clayton county, Iowa, engaging in farming. They moved to Mitchell county, Iowa, in 1866 and resided there the rest of their lives. His father died in 1878, aged 60 years; his mother died several years later. Of their eight children the following named five are living: Paul, Jane, Harry, Alex and Ole.

Paul crossed to the new world with his parents in 1852, being then a small boy. From that time until he came to Jackson county in 1871 he resided in Clayton county, Iowa, securing an education and making his home with his parents. Arriving in Jackson county, he took as a homestead the north half of the

southwest quarter of section 30, Belmont township, a part of his present farm, and on that place he has ever since made his home. Hard times came upon him during the grasshopper scourge and in order to make a living he was obliged to go to Mitchell county, Iowa, to work in the harvest fields. He encountered many hardships during the pioneer days—hardships to which many succumbed—but he remained with his country and weathered the storms of adversity. Today he has a fine farm of 200 acres and is in prosperous circumstances.

During his long residence in Jackson county Mr. Paulson has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. He was chosen clerk of school district No. 18 in 1871 and served for thirty years. He has held the office of chairman of the township board, has been justice of the peace and constable. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of West Belmont.

Mr. Paulson was married in Clayton county, Iowa, November 18, 1868, to Elizabeth Knutson, who was born in Norway March 1, 1844, and came to America when sixteen years old. She is a daughter of Ole and Ingebor (Tollefson) Knutson. Eight children have been born to this union, as follows: Andrew, of St. Ansgar, Iowa; Mary, deceased; Theodore, of Redwood county, Minnesota; Edward, of Belmont; Peter, living at home; Nettie (Mrs. John A. Williams), of Little Cedar, Iowa; Belle and Ida, who reside at home.

JOHN I. WALLACE (1885), proprietor of a tow manufacturing plant at Jackson, is a native of Spafford township, Onondago county, New York, and was born on August 1, 1843. The parents of our subject were John and Mercy R. (Woodworth) Wallace. The father came from Ireland in 1832 and after a residence of a year or two in Washington county moved to Onondago county, New York, where he engaged in farming for a number of years, later moving to the little village of Spafford Corners, where he died May 24, 1893, aged 82 years. Mercy R. Wallace was born in New York state. Her family was of English descent, her parents having been born in Connecticut. She married Mr. Wallace in November, 1840, and died in August, 1865, aged 43 years.

Our subject lived in his native township in

Onondago county until ten years of age and then moved with his parents to Otisco township, of the same county. There he secured a district school education and worked on his father's farm until the outbreak of the civil war.

On September 25, 1861, Mr. Wallace enlisted in Company A, of the 75th New York volunteer infantry, at Auburn and served until after the close of the war. Early in the war his regiment was sent to Santa Rosa island, off the southern coast of Florida, and from there was transferred to Pensacola, Florida, upon the evacuation of the navy yard there by the confederate forces. In September, 1862, Mr. Wallace accompanied his regiment to New Orleans, Louisiana, and in that state took part in several severe engagements, among others the battle of Camp Bisland. He was on the skirmish line of the forces that captured the gunboat Cotton on Bayou Teche.

After spending the winter of 1862-63 in New Orleans, the forces to which Mr. Wallace belonged started out under command of General Banks on a campaign through the state. They went to Alexandria and then to Port Hudson, where the forces arrived May 26, 1863. The day following Mr. Wallace took part in the charge on Port Hudson. Thereafter for forty-four days the 75th regiment engaged the enemy in siege, fighting almost continually and losing about two-thirds of the command in killed, wounded and captured. On June 1 Mr. Wallace was wounded by being struck in the right hip by a piece of a shell. For the next three months he was off duty, part of the time being in a field hospital and the rest of the time at home, having secured a sixty days furlough. He rejoined his regiment at New Iberia, Louisiana.

His period of enlistment having expired, Mr. Wallace reenlisted in the same regiment on the last day of the year 1863, received a thirty days veteran's furlough, spent that length of time at home, and then reported for duty at Washington. He received orders to report to his regiment, then stationed at New Orleans, and in that southern city remained until July, 1864. Then he accompanied his regiment to Petersburg, Virginia, to become a part of General Grant's army. The latter part of the same month his regiment became a part of the forces under General Sheridan, then stationed at Tanleytown, near Washington. His fighting thereafter was done under

the dashing Sheridan, taking part in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, the last named occurring October 19, 1864. Late in the year 1864 he was ordered to Savannah, Georgia, where he was on provost duty until August, 1865. Then orders were received for the discharge of the regiment, and after a trip to Atlanta and Augusta and back to Savannah, he was mustered out in the last named city, the regiment finally disbanding at Albany, New York, September 24, 1865.

After the war Mr. Wallace returned to Onondago county, New York, and located in Tully township. From that time until 1882 he engaged alternately in farming and working at the cooper's trade. In the last named year he moved to Elliott, Ford county, Illinois, and engaged in the manufacture of tow. His plant was burned in the spring of 1885, and on July 10, of that year, he arrived in Jackson, determined to seek his fortune in Jackson county. During the year of his arrival he erected a plant in the village, and has ever since been engaged in the manufacture of tow. His product is upholstery tow and the capacity of the plant is about one and one-half tons of fine tow per day.

In addition to his other business Mr. Wallace is quite extensively engaged in the cultivation of ginseng and was the first man in the county to begin the cultivation of that product. He began on a small scale in 1901 and has enlarged the ground each year until now he has under cultivation thirty-five square rods. From one square rod of ground he has sold \$109 worth of dried ginseng roots. The crop is a very profitable one, but one hard to raise and it takes time and labor to get results. Mr. Wallace owns his home and business property in the city. He is a member of the Christian church and of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Wallace has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Tully township, Onondago county, New York, in March, 1875, when he wedded Miss Julia Thompson. She died November 1, 1880. The second marriage occurred in the same county June 14, 1883, when he married Miss Eva Donaldson, of French descent and a native of Eastern Canada.

JOHN L. CABOT (1882), manager of the Benson-Cabot company, proprietor of a gen-

eral store at Heron Lake, was born August 11, 1857, at the town of Red Wing, Minnesota territory, the son of J. L. and Mary (Partridge) Cabot.

Two years after the birth of our subject the family moved from the town onto a farm two miles west of Red Wing, and there they resided six years. In 1865 the family home was made in Geneva, Freeborn county. There our subject completed his education. In 1868 he located in Murray county, where his father took a homestead, and where he resided eight years. John Cabot went to Goodhue county, in 1876, lived there one year, spent the next year in Murray county, and then located in Gentry county, Missouri, where he resided four and one-half years.

It was during the month of April, 1882, that Mr. Cabot located in Heron Lake village. He was employed by J. W. Benson for six years, and in 1888 returned to Goodhue county, where he farmed his father's land six years. He returned to Heron Lake in 1894 and engaged in the mercantile business with his brother, Chester H. Cabot. This partnership existed until 1902, when the firm of Benson-Cabot company was organized, and since that time Mr. Cabot has had the management of the store. He owns town property, 160 acres in Washington and an interest in 240 acres of Cottonwood county land. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Modern Brotherhood of America lodges.

Mr. Cabot was married in Lakefield May 11, 1899, to Stella Wood. To them was born one child, John M., born February 17, 1900. The second marriage of Mr. Cabot occurred at Mankato May 12, 1907, when he wedded Nettie J. Wood.

ANDREW H. SWENSON (1882) is a Delafield township farmer, his farm being located on section 10, three miles east of Wilder. He was born at Windom, Minnesota, October 10, 1880, the son of John and Matilda (Beburg) Swenson, who now reside at Windom.

When Andrew was two years of age the family moved onto the farm in Delafield township, which John Swenson had taken as a homestead in 1871. On that farm Andrew grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and later took a course in the Minnesota normal school at Austin. With the exception of the winter of 1901, when he was

employed as an overseer in the pineries of northern Minnesota, Andrew worked for his father on the farm until 1906. Then his parents having moved to Windom, he bought eighty acres of his father's farm, rented the rest of the farm, and has since been engaged in its management.

For several years Andrew and his brothers kept a pack of stag hounds and gained a great local reputation as wolf hunters. Wolves were quite plentiful and large numbers of them were captured by the Swenson brothers. Sheep owners in the vicinity paid them a special bounty for their destruction in addition to the bounty paid by the state.

Andrew Swenson was married in Delafield township August 7, 1907, to Anna Homerberg, who was born in Lyon county, Minnesota, February 9, 1881. She is the daughter of Nels Homerberg, deceased. One child, Oryle A., has been born to this union. He was born June 7, 1908. Mr. Swenson is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

FRANK MOTL (1886) is one of the successful farmers and well known residents of Enterprise township. He owns 280 acres of land in one piece on sections 14 and 23, where he has resided nearly a quarter of a century.

Our subject was born in Bohemia January 31, 1845, and the first thirty-one years of his life were spent in that country. His parents were Bernard and Rosa (Miller) Motl, both deceased. He received a common school education and after growing to manhood became a stock buyer, in which business he was engaged ten years. He is a veteran of the Austrian-German war, having served as a corporal in the army. He enlisted in 1866 and served three years. In 1876 Mr. Motl emigrated to America and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He located first in Dane county, Wisconsin, and that was his home until he came to Jackson county. He first came to this county in 1885 and bought his farm. He came again the next year, and remained during the summer season, breaking up his land, and in 1888 brought out his family and settled permanently.

Mr. Motl owns stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Alpha. He was one of the organizers and trustees of the Catholic church of Jackson and he and his family are members of that church. He also belongs to the

Bohemian Catholic order of Jackson. He has served four years as a supervisor of Enterprise township and for twelve years was a director of his school district. For nine years he was vice president and director of the Enterprise Creamery company, and up to four years ago was a director of the Jackson County Fire and Lightning Insurance company.

The marriage of Mr. Motl occurred in Bohemia April 28, 1870, when he wedded Miss Mary Langer, who was born February 5, 1850. Fifteen children have been born to this union, as follows: Wensel, Enterprise township farmer, born February 12, 1871; Mary (Mrs. F. A. Muzikar), of Jackson county, born September 6, 1872; Anna, born September 17, 1874, died September 27, 1874; Matilda, of St. Paul, born December 1, 1875; Anna (married to Louis Sabatka June 13, 1899), born September 30, 1877, died June 22, 1900; Frank, of Enterprise township, born May 4, 1879; Dorothy, of St. Paul, born February 6, 1881; Bernard, born May 19, 1882, died February 19, 1885; Amelia, born March 23, 1884; Charles L., attending the state university, born November 15, 1885; Joseph, born November 13, 1887; Elizabeth, born November 12, 1889; Agnes, born July 8, 1891; Clara, born March 6, 1893; Albert, born October 8, 1895.

Wensel Motl, the eldest son of Frank Motl, was born in Bohemia and came to America with his parents. He has been engaged in farming for himself for the past twelve years and owns 120 acres of land on the southeast quarter of section 14. He is township clerk and has been for the past four years. He has also served as clerk of his school district for the last ten years. He is a director of the Farmers Elevator company of Alpha and of the Jackson County Fire Insurance company. He has been treasurer of Court No. 694, Catholic Order of Foresters, at Jackson for eight years.

**CHARLES ANDERSON** (1872), Delafield township farmer, has spent all except the first year of his life in Delafield township. He was born at Hastings, Minnesota, March 22, 1871, the son of Lars and Maria (Johanson) Anderson. His father was born in Sweden in 1837, came to the United States in the spring of 1870, and located at Hastings. He came to Jackson county in the spring of 1872, homesteaded the west half of the southwest quarter of sec-

tion 20, Delafield, and resided upon that farm until his death, August 30, 1902. The mother of our subject died in Delafield township when Charles was nine years of age.

The subject of this biography came to Jackson county with his parents in March, 1872, when one year old. He secured a country school education and until he was seventeen years of age, worked on his father's farm. At the age of seventeen he went to Windom, where he lived three years, working in a hotel. When he was twenty years of age diphtheria attacked the family and carried off two brothers, one sister and two half sisters. This disaster necessitated his return home to take the management of the farm. After his father's death Charles rented the home farm, which now consists of the south half of the south half of section 20, and he has since conducted it to his own account. He also rents 25 acres of land adjoining.

Mr. Anderson was married at Jackson June 14, 1905, to Gertie Danielson, daughter of Daniel Hoog and Christina (Hokanson) Hoog. The former resides in Sweden, the latter is dead. Mrs. Anderson was born in Sweden April 23, 1874, and came to America in 1895. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson has been born one child, Wallace Milford, born September 27, 1909. The family are members of the Free Mission church of Windom.

**PETER TORDSEN** (1893) is one of the large land owners of Rost township and one of the township's most successful farmers and stock raisers. He owns 653 acres of land in Rost and Hunter townships. He farms 400 acres of his possessions, while the rest is farmed by his sons.

Mr. Tordsen is a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and was born January 19, 1856. His father, Jacob Tordsen, died in Germany when Peter was nine years of age; his mother, Annie (Struwe) Tordsen, died in Scott county, Iowa, in 1901, having reached the age of eighty years.

In his native land the subject of this biography lived until he was sixteen years of age, receiving his education in a little village and working most of the time on the farm. When he was ten years of age he began working at the weaver's trade and worked nights at that trade for two years. Mr. Tordsen came to America in 1872 and located at Dav-

enport, Iowa, where he resided ten years, working as a farm hand. In 1882 he moved to Ida county, Iowa, and engaged in farming rented land near the town of Holstein eleven years. He came to Jackson county in 1893 and located upon his present farm in Rost township (the home farm is the northeast quarter of section 34), which he had bought the year before and where he has ever since lived. He has prospered since coming to the county and has added the other real estate by purchase.

Mr. Tordsen believes in cooperation among the farmers and is interested in several cooperative companies. It was largely through his efforts that the Rost Cooperative Dairy association was organized, and he has been an officer of the association ever since its organization. He also has stock in the First National Bank of Lakefield, in the Jackson County Cooperative Store company and the Farmers Elevator company of the same town. Of the last named company he is a member of the board of directors. Mr. Tordsen is one of the supervisors of Rost township and is serving his second year. He is clerk of school district No. 49 and has been a school officer since 1894.

Mr. Tordsen has been married twice and has a large family. His first marriage occurred in Scott county, Iowa, December 8, 1876, when he wedded Christina Hendrickson. She died January 26, 1888. As a result of this union the following children were born: Alfred, born June 23, 1877, died December 19, 1900; William, a Rost township farmer, born January 14, 1879; Ella (Mrs. Christ Staffran), of McLean county, North Dakota, born September 23, 1882; John, a Hunter township farmer, born April 3, 1884; Mary (Mrs. Edward Yucker), of McLean county, North Dakota, born August 5, 1885; Herman, of Hunter township, born January 10, 1888.

The second marriage of Mr. Tordsen occurred at Ida Grove, Iowa, August 16, 1889, when he wedded Annie Lamp, who was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, March 17, 1869, and came to the United States when fourteen years of age and resided at Holstein, Iowa. To these parents have been born the following named children: Louie, born January 15, 1890; Ferdinand, born October 1, 1891; Helmut, born July 7, 1893; Laura, born October 20, 1897; Reinhardt, born June 25, 1900; Walter, born September 29, 1903; Wil-

ma, born February 6, 1908; Henry Adolph, born December 10, 1909.

GEORGE B. PADDOCK (1883), a business man of Jackson, has been a resident of Jackson county over a quarter of a century and his life's history is an interesting one. He is of Welsh and English descent and descends from two of the old American families. His great-great-grandfather (Paddock) came from Wales in an early day of the country's history and settled on the Connecticut river below Middletown. His maternal great-great-grandfather (Hall) was the first representative of the town of Meriden, Connecticut. The parents of our subject, Samuel C. and Jennett (Hall) Paddock, were both born in Meriden, Connecticut. Samuel Paddock engaged in farming in Connecticut in his early days, but before the war moved to Alabama and engaged in the mercantile business in several different towns of that state. Upon the breaking out of the civil war he was forced to leave the south on account of his anti-slavery views, and his property was confiscated. Returning to Meriden, Connecticut, he engaged in business, and there he lived until his death, which occurred in 1903 at the age of 86 years.

George B. Paddock was born to these parents in Meriden, Connecticut, February 18, 1843. During the first sixteen years of his life he lived on his father's farm, and during the next two years clerked in a grocery store in his native city. On September 6, 1861, when less than nineteen years of age, he enlisted in company C, Seventh Connecticut infantry, and served a little over three years in the civil war. His first service was with the expedition to Port Royal, South Carolina. He took part in the siege of Port Alaska, at the mouth of the Savannah river, and was present at the capture of the fort. For some time he was stationed at St. Augustine, Florida, and was wounded at the battle of Oulustee, Florida. After some time spent in the hospital, he returned to duty. He took part in the siege of Fort Sumpter and was present at the capture of Fort Wagner.

After this event he came north with the forces under General Butler to Bermuda Hundreds, James river, and was a participant in the siege of Richmond. Mr. Paddock was taken prisoner on the picket line in front of the fortifications at Bermuda Hundreds and

was confined in Andersonville prison three months. He was removed from that famous prison when General Sherman took Atlanta and was removed to Florence, South Carolina. He escaped from the latter place and made his way to the north up through North Carolina. He was recaptured but was rescued the next morning by a New York cavalry troop at Newburn, North Carolina. He was then transferred to the hospital at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. He was mustered out of the service at Hartford, Connecticut, November 23, 1864.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Paddock engaged in business in Meriden, and was so employed until his arrival to Jackson county. In the early eighties George Paddock, accompanied by his father, made several trips to Mower and Jackson counties on hunting expeditions, one of his uncles living in Mower county. He liked the looks of the country and finally decided to locate here permanently. It was on April 7, 1883, that he became a permanent resident of the county. He purchased a farm in Middletown township and engaged in farming five years. He then moved to Jackson and that village has been his home ever since. During these years he has been engaged in the stock, real estate and farm machinery business and looking after his land interests. He owns a farm in Belmont township and lands in Texas. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Grand Army orders and for a time was commander of the John A. Myers Post, No. 60.

Mr. Paddock was married in Meriden, Connecticut, May 21, 1873, to Julia L. Beach, a native of that state and a daughter of Henry B. Beach, who came to Minnesota in an early day and located at Oak Park, now Stillwater. To Mr. and Mrs. Paddock have been born three children. The eldest of these, Julia, died at Meriden, Connecticut, when three years of age. The living children are Blanch J. (Mrs. H. L. Arzt), of Jackson, and Georgia A. Paddock, of Carleton college.

OLE J. WAGNILD (1893), Lutheran minister and ex-register of deeds of Jackson county, is now engaged in farming at his beautiful home on the banks of Heron lake in Heron Lake township. He was born in Norway, June 25, 1859, the son of John and Oloug (Inseth)

Wagnild. His father died in Norway several years ago. His mother still lives at an advanced age at the old home in Norway with her son Sivert. Ole J. Wagnild is one of a family of six children, as follows: Sivert and Oloug, of Norway; Ole and Sarah, of Duluth, Minnesota; John, who died in Duluth, and Ole J., of this sketch.

Our subject received his primary education in his native country, making his home with his parents and working out part of the time. He came to America in June, 1881, and located at Eau Claire, Wisconsin. After working in a saw mill there one year he located in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where for three winters he was employed in a pannery. Mr. Wagnild next located in Minneapolis. There he worked at carpenter work part of the time, and for six winters was a student at the Red Wing seminary, graduating from the theological department in 1890. During these years he taught school at various places during the vacation periods to earn the money with which to continue his studies. In the winter of 1891 Mr. Wagnild attended the Minneapolis academy and was ordained a minister of the gospel in 1890. He received a call from Brainerd and occupied a pulpit there one year.

Rev. Wagnild came to Jackson county in 1893 in response to calls to fill four pulpits, and he served these four churches until 1904. He resided in Jackson for a time and later made his home in Belmont township. In the spring of 1904 he moved onto his present farm in Heron Lake township, which he had bought some time before, and that has been his home since. Rev. Wagnild was elected register of deeds of Jackson county on the republican ticket in 1904 and was reelected in 1906, serving four years. During this time he made his temporary home in Jackson, but moved back to his farm again in the spring of 1909. He is now a member of the board of education of independent school district No 3, Lakefield.

Rev. Wagnild was married in Heron Lake township September 6, 1893, to Miss Josephine Nestrud, who was born in Heron Lake township. She is the daughter of John Nestrud, one of the early day settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Wagnild are the parents of the following named eight children: Palma, Olga, Magda, Selma, Sherman, Juukl, Parker and Harlow.

HERMAN J. YEADICKE (1886), of Petersburg township, is one of the prosperous farmers and stock raisers of that precinct and has been a resident of the county nearly a quarter of a century. He was born in Germany March 23, 1856, the son of Carl and Caroline (Smith) Yeadicke, both deceased. At the age of two years he was brought with his parents to America and the family located in Chicago. A few years later the family moved to Kankakee, Illinois, and there our subject grew to manhood, engaging in farming after growing up.

Mr. Yeadicke came to Jackson county, arriving March 1, 1886, and ever since that date has been engaged in farming and stock raising in Petersburg township. He has taken an active interest in, and invested money in, many local enterprises. He and Ole Mikelson were the principal organizers of the Alpha Creamery company, and from the time of organization until he disposed of his dairy interests Mr. Yeadicke was the heaviest patron of the company. His average yearly checks during this period were as follows: 1897, \$200.79; 1898, \$380.44; 1899, \$432.21; 1900, \$540.32; 1901, \$478.57; 1902, \$438.49; 1903, \$661.71; 1904, \$426.35; 1905, \$549.47; 1906, \$809.26; 1907, \$789.27.

Besides having stock in the creamery company Mr. Yeadicke is interested financially in several other industries. He has stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Alpha and was vice president of the organization four years. He was president of the Jackson Fire & Marine Insurance company seven years, was president of the Alpha Horse company four years and has been a director of the Jackson County Fair association for many years. He owns 400 acres of land.

Mr. Yeadicke was one of the organizers of school district No. 78 and has been clerk of the district twenty-two years. He served as township assessor six years, was town treasurer one year, member of the board of supervisors one year and road overseer eighteen years.

The marriage of Mr. Yeadicke occurred March 30, 1880, when he wedded Mary Miller. They are the parents of the following children: Barbara, born January 1, 1881; Katie, born May 30, 1882; Herman, born September 12, 1883; Annie, born November 23, 1889; Eddy, born September 28, 1899.

R. S. ROBERTSON (1884) resides at Jackson, where he is engaged in the lumber and implement business. He is a native of New York city and was born February 28, 1851, his parents being R. S. and Mary (Matthews) Robertson.

Until he was twenty years of age Mr. Robertson attended school in the city of his birth and was graduated from the Columbia Mining school in 1871. After graduation he went to Pittsburg and took a position as mining engineer with Carnegie Bros. & Co., with which firm he was associated until 1884. In the spring of that year he came to Jackson county, bought a farm in Des Moines township, one and one-half miles west of Jackson, and for the next sixteen years engaged in farming. He then moved to Jackson and engaged in the lumber, fuel and implement business, in which he has since been engaged.

Mr. Robertson owns 346 acres of land in Des Moines township and property in the village. During his residence in the country he served for a number of years as a member of the board of supervisors. He is a member of the Masonic order.

On June 10, 1880, at Pittsburg Mr. Robertson was married to Alice L. McKaig. To them have been born four children, as follows: William B., born October 14, 1882; Clement M., born September 14, 1884; John G., born November 14, 1886; Alice, born August 14, 1888.

CARL W. POHLMAN (1884) is one of the big landowners and extensive farmers of Heron Lake township. He owns the southwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 16, the northeast quarter of section 21, and a half interest in the southeast quarter of 6 and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 5, all in Heron Lake township. He farms 400 acres of this land.

Mr. Pohlman was born in Germany February 14, 1865, the son of Carl and Christina (Geiselman) Pohlman, the second of a family of five sons. His father died in 1902, aged 66 years. His mother, who is now 73 years of age, resides in the county. Carl spent the first seventeen years of his life in the fatherland, securing an education and working out. The family came to America and located in Lakefield in 1884, and there Carl completed his education with a course in

English. He worked in Lakefield one year, for his father one year, on the farm of Hugh Paul four years, and then began farming for himself on the farm upon which he has ever since resided. The home place was originally bought by his father, but Carl later acquired the land and has since added his other holdings.

In Jackson county on May 21, 1891, Mr. Pohlman was married to Augusta Sturmer, daughter of the late Fred Sturmer. To Mr. and Mrs. Pohlman have been born four children, as follows: Elsie, aged 15; Georgie, aged 13; Bennie, aged 9; Erwin, aged 8. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

HARM POST (1892) owns and farms the south half of section 21, Rost township, and is one of the successful farmers of the precinct. He was born in Kreis Aurich, Ostfreesland, Germany, July 30, 1864, the son of Arend and Christina (Schmidt) Post. Both his parents died in Germany, his father in 1905 and his mother in 1908.

Our subject was raised on a farm and after becoming of sufficient age worked out. In 1885, at the age of twenty-one years, he came to America and located in Champaign county, Illinois, where he resided seven years. The first six years of this time were spent as a laborer, the last year as a farmer on rented land. In 1892 he came to Jackson county and has ever since lived on his present farm in Rost township. His wife owned the southwest quarter of the section, and Mr. Post later bought the other quarter adjoining. The land was prairie, without improvements, when he first located on the farm, and all the buildings and other improvements have been made by Mr. Post.

Mr. Post raises considerable stock. He is interested in the Rost creamery, the farmers store and elevator at Lakefield and the First National Bank of the same village. Mr. Post and family are members of the German Lutheran church and he is treasurer of school district No. 88.

Mr. Post's first marriage occurred in Champaign county, Illinois, on the last day of the year 1892, when he wedded Tutter Kuhlmann, a native of Germany. She died in 1900. To them were born two children: Albert, born September 28, 1893; John, born November 17,

1896. The second marriage of Mr. Post occurred in Rost township August 25, 1900, when he wedded Mary Lubben, who was also born in Germany and who came to America when a child. To this union have been born three children, as follows: Freda, born December 6, 1901; Eddie, born August 1, 1904; Louie, born December 22, 1907.

CAPTAIN DANIEL L. RILEY (1893), deceased. One whose life's history is entitled to a place in this history of Jackson county is the late Captain Daniel L. Riley, who for fifteen years resided at Lakefield, taking an active and prominent part in business, political, social and religious matters.

Captain Riley was born at Brasher Falls, St. Lawrence county, New York, January 8, 1837. His parents came from Ireland in childhood and located in New York state. His mother died when our subject was eight years of age and from that date he battled with the world alone. He moved west in 1854 and located at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he worked at the carpenter trade until 1861.

On the 21st day of August, 1861, Daniel Riley joined the army at Ripon, Wisconsin, becoming an enlisted soldier in the First Wisconsin cavalry. For some time he was engaged in the recruiting service near his old home and was later assigned to the Second Wisconsin cavalry, under the command of Colonel C. C. Washburn. After serving in the ranks several months he was commissioned second lieutenant, was later made first lieutenant and was mustered out as a captain, in command of company C, after having seen three year's service. He saw service in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas and fought in the battles of Cascke, Oakland, Cold Water, Vicksburg, Clinton, Jackson, Woodstock and Yazoo City.

Captain Riley returned to Wisconsin after the war and located at Bloomington. In 1872 he went to the new town of Sibley, Iowa, where he engaged in the lumber business. He moved to Spirit Lake in 1882, engaged in the lumber business in that town until 1893, and then took up his residence in Lakefield. There he also was in the lumber business and was actively engaged until two years before his death, which occurred December 14, 1908.

The life of Captain Riley was such as to



leave an unsullied record, both in official and private life. He was a republican of prominence and a speaker of ability and his services as a public official were frequently in demand. He served as mayor of Sibley and was chairman of the board of supervisors of Osceola county. After moving to Lakefield he served two terms as a member of the Minnesota legislature, representing Jackson county. He was a delegate to the republican national convention which nominated William H. Taft for the presidency in 1908 and was prominent in the councils of his party. Captain Riley served as president of the Lakefield village council and was a member of the board of education. He was a member of the Methodist church and was active in church work, having held several offices of trust in the church organization.

As a lodge man Captain Riley was also prominent. He was a member of the Lakefield lodge A. F. & A. M., of the chapter at Jackson and of the commandry at Fairmont. He held his membership in the L. G. Ireland Post of the G. A. R. at Sibley.

On June 5, 1867, Captain Riley was united in marriage at Patch Grove, Wisconsin, to Emma Grant, who survives her husband and now resides at Lakefield. She was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, the daughter of James M. Grant, who died in Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1875, aged 57 years, and Sarah M. (Hickox) Grant, who was born in Vermont and who died in Grant county, Wisconsin, at the age of 82 years. To Captain and Mrs. Riley were born eight children, of whom the four named are living: Cora (Mrs. W. D. Cole), of Cincinnati, Ohio; William P., of Port Arthur, Canada; Mabel (Mrs. H. P. Beckwith), of Fargo, North Dakota; Alice L. (Mrs. J. Levenick), of Lakefield. Of the four deceased children Charles and Catherine died in infancy. Frank and Fred (twins) died in recent years, Frank on August 30, 1907, Fred June 24, 1906.

HENRY G. ANDERSON (1886), president of the Jackson National Bank and chairman of the board of county commissioners, has lived in the village of Jackson twenty-three years and has taken a leading part in the affairs of his village and county. Mr. Anderson first saw the light of day in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, on November 17, 1857. His parents, Gilbert

and Olina (Olsen) Anderson, were born in Norway and came to the United States before their marriage. They are now residents of Dickinson county, Iowa; the father is 74 years of age, the mother 70 years.

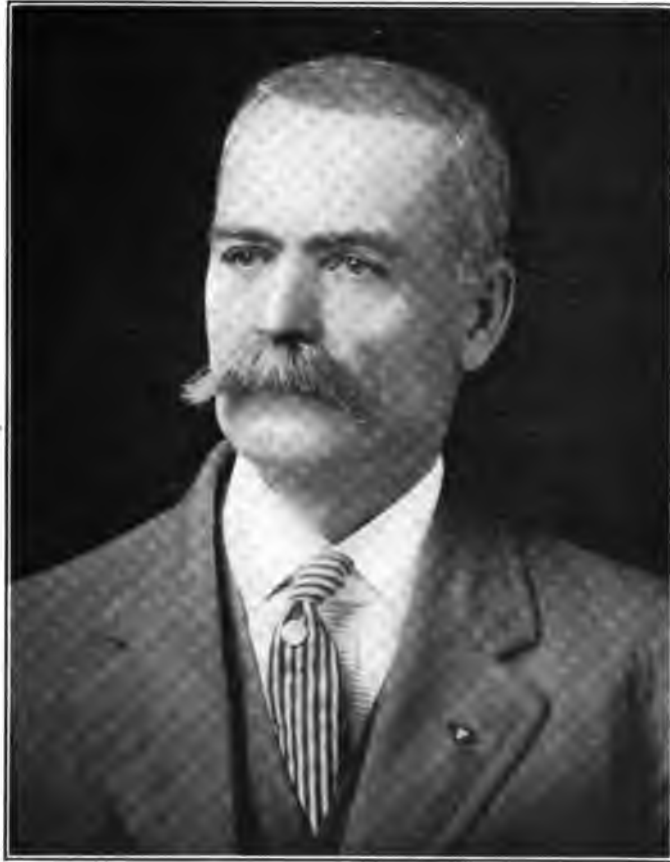
Henry lived on his father's farm in Lafayette county, Wisconsin, until he was fifteen years of age. In the district schools of his native county he was educated, supplementing that schooling with a two years' course in Emmet county, Iowa. In 1872 he accompanied his parents to Dickinson county, and in that county lived on the farm until 1886. He then took up his residence in Jackson and engaged in business, having traded his Iowa farm for a stock of hardware. After having conducted the hardware store eleven years he sold out and engaged in the implement, harness and live stock business five years, in partnership with F. W. Lindsley. For several years thereafter he devoted his time and attention to the management of his farms, which now include 1,400 acres of improved Jackson county soil. In addition to this farming property Mr. Anderson owns considerable valuable village property.

In company with eight others Mr. Anderson organized the Jackson National Bank on January 1, 1904, and has since served as president of that financial institution. The bank is capitalized for \$30,000 and the present officers are: Henry G. Anderson, president; Dr. W. C. Portmann, vice president; W. D. Hunter, cashier; Asher O. Nasby, assistant cashier.

In an official capacity Mr. Anderson has often been called upon to serve. He has been a member of the village council and was president of the council in 1894 and 1895, and is now a member of the board of education. He was elected county commissioner from the Second district in 1906 and was made chairman of the board at the first meeting after he qualified. Each year since that time he has been elected to preside over the county law makers. Fraternally he is associated with the Odd Fellows and Sons of Norway orders.

Mr. Anderson was married at Jackson March 10, 1886, to Julia Berge, daughter of H. H. Berge, one of the county's early day settlers. To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born three children, as follows: Giles H., Anna and Lida.

CARL S. EASTWOOD (1883), postmaster of Heron Lake and editor and publisher of the



**HENRY G. ANDERSON**

**President of the Jackson National Bank and Chairman of the Board  
of County Commissioners.**

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TILDEN FOUNDATION

Heron Lake News, is a veteran newspaper man and an early day resident of Jackson county. He was born at Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, August 21, 1858, the son of Levi and Rachel (Smith) Eastwood, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania.

Carl accompanied his parents from Wisconsin to Shell Rock, Iowa, in 1870, and in that town completed his education. At an early age he began learning the printer's trade in the office of the Shell Rock News, then owned by W. V. Lucas. He remained with that gentleman four years, the first two being passed at Shell Rock and the last two at Mason City, Iowa. Returning to the former place, Carl purchased the paper on which he had learned his trade.

Mr. Eastwood became a resident of Jackson county on September 1, 1883, when he located at Lakefield and founded the Minnesota Citizen, which was later renamed the Lakefield Standard. He conducted the paper three years and from June, 1884, until he left the village he served as postmaster of Lakefield. Selling out his Jackson county publication, Mr. Eastwood went to Mankato and started the Mankato Register. He disposed of that property a little later, and in 1886 bought the Heron Lake News, which he conducted until 1893. Five years of the time of his residence in Heron Lake he served as postmaster and for seven years was a member of the village council.

In the fall of 1893 Mr. Eastwood sold out at Heron Lake and bought the Worthington Advance, which he published three years. He then bought the Mankato Morning News, sold out within a year and moved to the northern part of Minnesota. From that time until December, 1902, Mr. Eastwood was engaged in the newspaper business in Menahga, Minnesota, where he was postmaster, and Homer, Michigan, and on the date last mentioned he returned to Heron Lake, bought back the News, and has since been its publisher. He was appointed postmaster in 1907. Mr. Eastwood is a member of the Masonic and Workmen orders.

At Wilder, Minnesota, on September 12, 1886, Mr. Eastwood was united in marriage to Miss Edith Church. To them have been born the following named children: Hazel, born August 1, 1887; Paul, born May 1, 1892; Frederick, born May 15, 1907.

FRANK FIALA (1889) owns a 240 acre farm on section 3, Belmont township, where he has lived for the last twenty years. He was born in the city of Chicago May 20, 1864, the oldest of a family of five children born to John and Annie (Shimick) Fiala. These parents were born in Bohemia and came to America in 1858. They lived in Chicago until 1860, in Jones county, Iowa, until 1889, and in Jackson county until 1891. They then located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where both died. Frank's brother and sisters are Mary, Annie and Joseph. Lena, another sister, is dead.

Frank accompanied his parents to Jones county, Iowa, in 1869, and there grew to manhood. In 1889 he came with his parents to Jackson county and located upon the farm upon which he now lives. He worked for his father for a few years and then bought the farm, and he has made all the improvements on the place.

Mr. Fiala was married in Belmont township August 3, 1889, to Tony Hurt, who was born in Bohemia and who came to Chicago when a young woman. Seven children have been born to this union, as follows: Edward, born July 15, 1890; Bohous, born January 3, 1892; Frank, born November 30, 1893; Joseph, born March 20, 1896; Henry born, January 24, 1898; Emma, born March 29, 1900; Bessie, born January 10, 1903. Mr. Fiala's family are members of the Catholic church and he is a member of the M. W. A. lodge. He now holds the office of director of school district No. 89.

ELIAS T. BJORNSTAD (1880) is a Des Moines township farmer and well driller. He resides on section 15 on the west side of the river, where he owns seventeen acres of land. Mr. Bjornstad is perhaps better known locally as E. Thoreson, Thoreson being his father's second name and the name by which he is generally known. He is a Norwegian by birth, born September 28, 1855, the son of Peter T. and Bertha (Bureson) Bjornstad.

Elias Bjornstad was educated in his native land, and during the last six years of his residence there was employed as a clerk. He came to America in 1880 and direct to Jackson county. For a year and a half he lived in Belmont township and worked on the railroad. Then he moved to Des Moines township, and for the next ten years engaged in farming on rented land. Then he bought a small tract

on section 15, and has since added to it until he now owns seventeen acres. During the last twenty years, in addition to his farming operations, Mr. Bjornstad has been engaged in the well digging business. He has held several offices in his township, having served three years as a member of the township board in the early nineties. He was elected chairman of the board for a three-year term in the spring of 1909 and is now serving. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the Sons of Norway lodge.

Mr. Bjornstad was married at Finmarken, Norway, August 28, 1878, to Hannah Johnson. To them have been born eleven children, as follows: Bertha, born October 9, 1878, died June 17, 1879; Tory, born March 20, 1880; Peter, born March 20, 1880, died October 6, 1881; Peter, born September 19, 1882; Robert, born August 29, 1884; Emmett, born November 23, 1886, died December 22, 1907; John, born January 23, 1889; Oscar, born July 22, 1907; Carl, born October 4, 1893; Wallie, born August 25, 1896; Amanda, born December 22, 1898.

MARTIN STALL (1877), Des Moines township farmer, was born on the farm he now manages July 13, 1877. He is the son of Hans and Julia (Holsten) Stall. The former is a native of Norway and came to the United States when a boy. He lived in Illinois eight years and then enlisted in the union army in an Illinois regiment and saw three years' service. After the war he came to Jackson county and homesteaded the southeast quarter of section 2, Des Moines township. He resided on the farm until seven years ago, when he moved to Jackson, where he now lives. The mother of our subject died November 17, 1896.

Martin Stall was educated in the district school and grew to manhood on his father's farm. At the age of twenty-two, in 1899, he married and engaged in farming for himself. He rented a farm in Des Moines township, farmed it one season, and then rented his father's place, where he has since lived. He owns an eighty acre tract of land on section 35, Belmont township, which he bought in 1899. He has served two terms as road superintendent and now holds the office of treasurer of his school district. He is also one of five

directors of a large cooperative store in Jackson.

Mr. Stall was married in Jackson December 2, 1899, to Laura Rade, who was born in Norway July 12, 1877, and came to the United States when four years of age. She is the daughter of Jens Rade, deceased. The family are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church of America.

GEORGE B. YARNS (1874) is an early day settler of Middletown township, having come to the county when ten years of age and having spent nearly all of the rest of his life here. He owns a quarter section farm on section 3.

Mr. Yarns is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Fillmore county July 12, 1864, the son of Henry B. and Louisa (Green) Yarns, who were born and married in Broome county, New York. When George was nine years of age the family moved from Fillmore county to Dickinson county, Iowa, and the next year, 1874, came to Jackson county. The head of the family filed a homestead claim to the land now owned by our subject, but on account of the grasshopper scourge the family were obliged to move away for a period of three years and they were unable to prove up on the claim. Returning to the county the land was reentered as a tree claim, but before the time came for proving up Henry B. Yarns died, and the son made a homestead filing to the land and finally secured title.

George worked for his father on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, and then, because of the feebleness of his father's health, he took the active management of the farm. His father died in 1888 and his mother in 1899. Mr. Yarns has conducted the farm ever since becoming of age. Our subject has held a number of local offices in his township. He was elected road overseer when twenty-one years of age, has held the office of supervisor and town clerk and is now township assessor. He is a member of the Yeomen lodge.

Mr. Yarns was married in Jackson county February 19, 1890, to Alice Danby, a native of Rock Island county, Illinois. The following named five children have been born to this union: Maurice D., born November 26, 1890; Harry A., born April 22, 1893; Ethel M., born

April 30, 1895; Brian L., born November 14, 1897; Percy A., born March 14, 1903.

JOHN F. RAASCH (1887), in partnership with his brother, Louis Raasch, farms the east half of section 12, Des Moines township. He is the son of the late Carl Raasch and Albertina (Wilke) Raasch.

Carl Raasch was born in Germany in the year 1855, came to the United States when sixteen years of age, and first located at Tolleston, Indiana, where he resided until 1885. Albertina Wilke was also born in Germany in 1857, came to the new world when nine years old and was married to Mr. Raasch at Tolleston, Indiana. Mr. Raasch died at his home in Des Moines township March 3, 1907; Mrs. Raasch still lives on the home farm. Nine children were born to this union, namely: Amanda, born January 8, 1882; Lydia, born June 23, 1883; Alice, born August 11, 1885; John F., born April 11, 1887; Louis, born November 11, 1888; Carl, born October 8, 1890; Emma, born September 1, 1892; Hilda, born June 3, 1896; Alma, born October 23, 1899.

Our subject was born on the Des Moines township farm April 11, 1887, and has spent his entire life on that farm. He attended the district school and during his father's lifetime assisted with the farm work. After the death of his father he assumed the management of the place and has been very successful. In November, 1909, Louis added the northeast quarter of section 12 to the home farm, and he and his brother farm the whole half section. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred O. I. C. swine. Mr. Raasch is a director of school district No. 13, having been elected in July, 1909. He has stock in the Farmers elevator of Jackson.

HERMAN N. TANK (1887) is a Hunter township farmer who has spent the greater part of his life in Jackson county. He was born in Carroll county, Iowa, February 28, 1877, and is the son of Herman and Anna (Hagge) Tank, now residents of Iowa. His parents came from Holstein, Germany, in their youth and were married in Clinton county, Iowa. Two years after their marriage they located in Carroll county and lived there until they came to Jackson county in 1887. They resided on the farm in Hunter township un-

til November, 1908, and then returned to their old home. Their children are as follows: Herman, Bertha (Mrs. Heme Rouse), George, Otto and William.

Herman Tank of this sketch came to Jackson county with his parents when ten years of age and located on the farm where he now lives. He attended the district school and worked on the farm during his younger years, engaging in farming for himself after reaching manhood. In 1904 he bought eighty acres of land on section 15, the home farm—the southwest quarter of section 14—being still owned by Herman Tank, senior. Mr. Tank was clerk of school district No. 112 one term, serving by appointment.

VIRGIL W. AVERY (1872), undertaker and furniture dealer of Jackson, is one of the early day residents of that village, having come to Jackson county when a boy of fourteen years. He was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, May 7, 1858, the son of Simeon and Martha (Chamberlin) Avery.

From his Wisconsin home Virgil came to Jackson county with his parents, arriving March 20, 1872. From that time until 1884 he lived in the county with his parents, and then went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. After a short residence there he moved to Pipestone, but one year later returned to Sioux Falls and engaged in the grocery business, which he followed several years. One year was spent in Sioux City, and then in 1892 he returned to Jackson. For the next thirteen years he was engaged in the fuel business. He sold out in 1905 and opened a furniture store, which he has since conducted. He holds membership in the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Workmen lodges.

Mr. Avery was married in Jackson in March, 1883, to Marie Davies, who died August 14, 1884. Mr. Avery's second marriage occurred at Sioux Falls in September, 1889, when he wedded Grace Sharp. To this union has been born one child, Eloise, born in 1890.

HENRY JARMUTH (1886) is one of the big farmers of Enterprise township. His farm, which includes 400 acres on sections 19 and 20, is tiled and well improved and is rated as one of the best farms of the township. He

has owned the farm for more than a quarter of a century.

Mr. Jarmuth is a German by birth. His father, John Jarmuth, who was a coachman in the old country for a good many years, came to America in 1854 and engaged in farming. He died in Cook county, Illinois, February 10, 1904, at the age of 73 years. His mother, Christina Jarmuth, is now 76 years of age and lives in Illinois.

To these parents Henry Jarmuth was born November 8, 1853. When one year of age he accompanied his parents to America and until his marriage in 1880 lived on a farm in Cook county, Illinois. After his marriage Mr. Jarmuth engaged in farming on his own account in Cook county, and in March, 1886, came to Jackson county. Upon his arrival he located upon his Enterprise township farm, which he had bought in 1883. Besides his Jackson county farm, Mr. Jarmuth owns thirteen acres of land close to the city of Chicago. He served five years as chairman of the board of supervisors of Enterprise township and was a member of the board fifteen years. He is now clerk of his school district.

Mr. Jarmuth was married November 28, 1880, to Lena Ruesch, of Illinois. Five children have been born to these parents, namely: William H., Louis T., John W., Freda A. and Albert J. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

F. G. HOKANSON (1882) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 28, Delafield township, upon which farm he has lived over twenty-seven years. He was born in Lutarp, Jonkoping lan, Smoland, Sweden, February 28, 1848, the son of H. Monson and Lena (Johnson) Monson, both of whom died in Sweden.

Our subject was brought up on a farm and worked for his father until he was twenty-one years of age. He then came to the United States, landing in the new world May 2, 1869. He spent the following summer in Chicago, worked on the railroad at Effingham, Illinois, six months, and then located at Lafayette, Indiana, where he resided three years, working as a coachman and at other occupations. In 1873 Mr. Hokanson returned to his old home in Sweden and for the next seven and one-half years was engaged in farming. Returning to America in 1882, he came to Jackson county with his family, consisting of a wife and two

children, bought eighty acres of his present farm and his since made his home on the place. Three years after his arrival he bought the other eighty acres of his present farm.

Mr. Hokanson's first wife died in 1893. Eight children were born to them, of whom three have died. Mr. Hokanson was married the second time in Delafield township in the spring of 1902 to Louisa Anderson, who was born in Sweden and who came to the United States in 1883. They have no children. Mr. Hokanson is a member of the Free Mission church of Windom. He served as treasurer of his township three years and was clerk of school district No. 29 for the same length of time.

BRUNO POPPITZ (1887), proprietor of a furniture and racket store at Heron Lake, has spent all except the first six months of his life in Minnesota, having resided here before the state was admitted to the union. He is the son of the late Ernest Poppitz and Augusta (Henschel) Poppitz. Both parents were born in Germany, where they resided until after their marriage in 1849. Then they came to America and settled in Wisconsin, removing to Carver county, Minnesota, in 1857. In that county Ernest Poppitz acquired land and made his home until his death in January, 1900, at the age of 77 years. Mrs. Poppitz still lives in Carver county and is 81 years old. Bruno is one of a family of nine children, the eldest of the five now living.

Our subject was born in Wisconsin February 10, 1857, and when six months old was taken with the family to Carver county, Minnesota. He resided on the farm in that county until twenty-one years of age, attending the local schools and studying in the St. Paul Business college. In 1878 he moved to Nobles county and took a homestead claim in Hersey township, upon which he lived five years. After proving up on his land Mr. Poppitz returned to his old home in Carver county. He worked on the railroad one and one-half years and bought grain two years, and then, in 1887, located in the village of Heron Lake.

Heron Lake has been the home of Mr. Poppitz ever since, and during these years he has been engaged in various business enterprises. He served as postmaster a little over five years. After he had conducted the office a little over a year it was raised to the third class. In 1901 he formed a partnership with

his son, E. H. Poppitz, and opened a furniture and racket store, which they still conduct. Mr. Poppitz owns two farms, one in this and one in Murray county, and city property, including four business blocks and his residence. He has served as president and as vice president of the Heron Lake State Bank and has been a director of the same a number of years. He was a member of the village council four years and a member of the board of education the same length of time. Fraternaly, he is associated with the I. O. O. F., M. W. A., M. B. A., Royal Neighbors and Yeomen lodges.

Mr. Poppitz was married in Nobles county March 27, 1879, to Antonio Berreau, a native of Carver county. Mr. and Mrs. Poppitz are the parents of two children: Ernest H. and Lillian L. One son, the first born, named Edward, died at the age of six years.

ADAM BAUCHLE (1899) is one of the progressive farmers and breeders of thoroughbred stock in Jackson county, his home being in Alba township, where he owns and farms 400 acres of land. He has a nice home and a well improved farm, all the improvements having been made by him. Mr. Bauchle breeds thoroughbred Norman Percheron horses, Short-horn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs. He has two Percheron stallions, Nobleman and Cousin, which took first premiums at the Jackson county fair of 1909 and which are noted throughout the county. Besides his farming and stockraising Mr Bauchle deals extensively in hay, buying, pressing and shipping.

The subject of this biography is of German birth, having been born in the province of Wurttemberg April 10, 1863. His father is Adam Bauchle, a farmer, who lives in Germany and is 72 years of age. His mother, Justina (Schmidgal) Bauchle, died when Adam was two years old.

Adam was brought up on a farm in his native land but was educated in the village school. At the age of nineteen years, in March, 1882, he came to America and located at Morton, Tazewell county, Illinois, where he resided six years. Four years of this time he worked out as a farm hand; the other two years he engaged in farming rented land. In 1888 he moved to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he farmed rented land until 1899. In February, of the last named year, he came to Jackson county and located upon the home quarter

of his present farm in Alba township, which he had purchased six years before coming to the county. He has lived upon the farm ever since, having added to his holdings by purchase until today he has 400 acres, all of which he farms. In addition to his business interests mentioned Mr. Bauchle has stock in the Brewster-Round Lake Telephone company, the Farmers Creamery company of Brewster and the Farmers Elevator company of the same place.

During the eleven years of his residence in Alba township Mr. Bauchle has taken an active part in local affairs. He has served five years as a member of the township board and is now the chairman, having been elected to that office in the spring of 1909. He is also clerk of school district No. 86 and has served continuously since 1900. He and his family are members of the United Evangelical church.

Mr. Bauchle was married in Pekin, Tazewell county, Illinois, February 23, 1886, to Katie Dietrich, daughter of Carl Dietrich, of Germany. Mrs. Bauchle was born in Wurttemberg, January 6, 1866, and came to the United States in 1884. To Mr. and Mrs. Bauchle have been born nine children, as follows: Frank, born January 11, 1887; Pauline, born January 31, 1889; Ida, born January 13, 1891; Willie, born August 27, 1893; Henry, born July 15, 1895; Carl, born October 3, 1897; Leroy, born April 7, 1899; Walter, born September 17, 1901; Alice, born March 26, 1906.

WILLIAM JOHNSON (1881), a Belmont township farmer, was born in Norway August 24, 1862, the son of Mr. John Dalthorp and Mrs. Carolina (Halverson) Dalthorp, the eldest child of a family of five children. The mother of our subject died in Norway; his father came to Jackson county and died here in 1907 at the age of 73 years.

William Johnson lived with his parents in his native country, attending school and working out, until 1881. That year he came to Jackson county, spent the summer here, and then located in Cottonwood county, where he resided three years. He spent the next year in Kittson county, and then came again to Jackson county. He owned land and farmed several years on section 18, Belmont, later on section 29, and in 1899 bought his present



farm on section 22, where he has since resided.

Mr. Johnson was married in Jackson county in August, 1890, to Mrs. Bertha Olson, a native of Norway. Two children have been born to this union: Colman and Cora. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. He is treasurer of Belmont township and has held the office several years. He has also served in various capacities as a school officer.

**SAMUEL FREDERICKSON** (1880), cashier of the First State Bank of Okabena, is a native of Jackson county, having been born in Christiania township April 18, 1880. He is the son of John and Carn (Foslie) Frederickson, of Lakefield.

Our subject was educated in the public schools of Lakefield and in the Breck school at Wilder, where he was a student during 1901 and 1902. In 1903 he attended the Minnesota School of Business at Minneapolis. After securing his education he was manager of a store at Wilmont about one year, bought grain for the W. W. Cargill Elevator company at Oldham, South Dakota, for some time, and for two years was employed in the First National Bank of Lakefield. On October 1, 1906, Mr. Frederickson helped organize the First State Bank of Okabena, and has since been the cashier of that institution. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and holds the office of justice of the peace.

Mr. Frederickson is treasurer of the Okabena Cooperative Creamery association, and secretary of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator company of Okabena.

**JAMES VACURA** (1886) is a Des Moines township farmer. He is a native of Bohemia and was born March 3, 1870, the son of John and Barbara (Lev) Vacura. The family came to America in 1880 and to Jackson county six years later, locating on section 8, Des Moines township, where they resided until Mr Vacura's death on January 5, 1909, at the age of seventy-one and one-half years. The mother of our subject is living at the age of 67 years. There were seven children in the family, as follows: Barbara, James, Annie, Lewis, Joseph, Edward and Rosa. Lewis resides at

Perth, North Dakota; the others are residents of Jackson county.

James Vacura accompanied his parents when they came from the old country and for six years lived with them at Mount Vernon, Linn county, Iowa. He came with them to Jackson county in 1886, and until he was nineteen years of age lived on the home farm in Des Moines township. Thereafter until he was twenty-four years of age he worked out as a farm laborer in the vicinity of Jackson. In 1894 Mr. Vacura married and moved to Linn county, Iowa, and in that county he engaged in farming until the spring of 1909. He then returned to Jackson county and rented from his brother, Joseph Vacura, the southwest quarter of section 8, Des Moines.

Mr. Vacura was married at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 12, 1894, to Emma Shramek, a native of Linn county, Iowa, and a daughter of Wesley Shramek. Six children have been born to this union, named as follows: Godfrey, born March 12, 1895; Emma, born January 29, 1898; Wesley, born February 2, 1900; Frank, born November 29, 1902; Robert, born July 30, 1904; Tillie, born April 3, 1908. Mr. Vacura is a member of the Bohemian lodge.

**OBERT ELMER DIESON** (1880), attorney at law of Heron Lake, was born and raised and has spent his entire life in that village. He is the son of the late T. A. Dieson and Annie (Albertson) Dieson, who were the third or fourth family to locate in the town of Heron Lake after its founding. Both parents were born in Christiania, Norway, and came to the United States when young, having been married at Houston, Minnesota. The father died in Heron Lake in 1900 at the age of 57 years. The mother's home is still in Heron Lake, and she is 56 years of age.

Obert was born June 21, 1880. He was graduated from the Heron Lake high school in 1901 and one year later entered the law department of the Minnesota state university, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1905. He was admitted to the bar in April of that year and has since been engaged in the practice of his profession in Heron Lake. He practices in all state and federal courts. He is a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity of the Minnesota university and of Columbian Lodge No. 210, A. F. & A. M., of Heron Lake.

ANDREW LOKEN (1883) is a Delafield township farmer residing a short distance south of Windom, in which village he was engaged in business for a number of years. Mr. Loken was born in Norway February 18, 1861. His father, Andreas Loken, now 88 years of age, makes his home with his son. His mother, Agneate (Christopherson) Loken, died in Windom in 1894.

Andrew spent the first nineteen years of his life in his native land. His early days were spent on a farm, but four years of his residence in the old country were spent in the city of Christiania, where he finished his education. He learned the painter's trade and in 1880 came to the new world to seek his fortune. For three years he worked for farmers in Watonwan county, Minnesota, and then located in Jackson county. He bought a farm on section 1, Delafield township, which he farmed five years. He then sold out and located in the village of Windom, engaging in the mercantile business there one year. During the next ten years Mr. Loken worked at his trade in Windom, and then, in 1899, opened a paint and wall paper store. He conducted that six years and built up an excellent business, but on account of ill health was obliged to sell. In 1905 he bought his present farm, the south half of the northwest quarter of section 1, and has since made his home there, engaged in farming. Besides his farm Mr. Loken owns valuable property in Windom.

Mr. Loken was married in Delafield township November 2, 1885, to Susan Hofland, daughter of Ole Hofland, deceased, an early settler and homesteader of Delafield. Mrs. Loken was born in Norway September 6, 1863, came to the United States in 1873 and to Jackson county the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Loken are the parents of ten children, all living. They are as follows: Adenia, born December 4, 1886; Oscar, born July 25, 1888; Chris, born February 23, 1890; Carrie, born October 25, 1891; Annie, born November 13, 1893; Sophia, born November 2, 1895; Walter, born July 13, 1898; Theresea, born August 17, 1900; Nomie, born July 23, 1903; William, born September 16, 1908.

AUGUST FREKING (1901) is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of La-Crosse township. He is a native of Oldenberg, Germany, and was born November 23,

1870. His parents, H. A. Freking and Christina Elizabeth (Schulte) Freking, are both dead.

August was brought up on a farm and received his education in the fatherland. At the age of twenty years, in 1890, he came alone to America and located at New Vienna, Iowa, where he resided until 1901. During the first six years of his residence there Mr. Freking worked out as a farm hand and hauling cream. He then rented a farm and engaged in business for himself. In the spring of 1901 he sold part of his interests in Iowa and located upon his present farm in Jackson county, which he had bought the year before. He owns a well improved farm of 240 acres on section 28 and is one of the most extensive stock raisers of LaCrosse township.

Besides his farming and stock raising interests, Mr. Freking is interested in many other lines of business. He is a stockholder and director of the Farmers State Bank of Heron Lake, of the Sontag Lumber company, of the Farmers Elevator company and is president of the Heron Lake Cooperative Creamery company. He is clerk of school district No. 33 and has served for a number of years. For two years he served as township treasurer. He is a member of the Catholic church of Heron Lake and is treasurer of the church organization. He also holds membership in the C. O. F. lodge.

Mr. Freking was married at New Vienna, Iowa, February 11, 1896, to M. Josephine Oberbroeckling, who was born in New Vienna May 24, 1876. To these parents have been born the following named children: Mary Monica, born December 3, 1896; William Arnold, born February 24, 1898; Clementina Elizabeth, born July 14, 1899; Joseph Lawrence, born October 21, 1900; Annie Mary, born February 27, 1902; Aloysius Carl, born August 25, 1903; Lawrence Mike, born January 4, 1905; Rosie Josephine, born August 31, 1906; Leo Clemens, born January 25, 1909.

JOHN COWING KNOX (1880), deceased, was a native of Jackson and the son of Thomas J. and Jane (Cowing) Knox. He was born January 7, 1880, and received his primary education in the Jackson schools. At the age of sixteen years he was graduated from the Jackson high school and although the

youngest member of his class, he was the valedictorian.

After graduating from the local school John Knox became a student in the Minnesota state university and was graduated from the academic department as the youngest member of a class of 157, ranking sixth in his class. He then took up the study of law in the state law school and in his father's office and was admitted to the bar by the supreme court in May, 1903. He then became a member of the law firm of Knox, Faber & Knox, of Jackson, and began the practice of his profession. He was a young man of very unusual promise and during the short time he was engaged in this practice gave marked distinction in his chosen profession. In addition to his professional work he was much interested in ornithology and oology, and it was while on a trip to the wilds of western Manitoba, in search of some rare specimens, that he met his death by accidental drowning in Shoel lake, in that province, June 10, 1904.

**BENONA P. ST. JOHN** (1892), of Heron Lake, is president of the St. John Grain company, one of the largest business enterprises of that town and of Jackson county. He was born in Lyle, Mower county, Minnesota, December 7, 1866, the son of Matthew and Roxaline (Pierce) St. John.

Both the St. John and Pierce families are old American stock. (See St. John and Pierce American Geneologies.) The former is of French origin. In 1632 Mathias St. John (Sention) came to the American colonies from England (the family having previously immigrated to that country), and located in Norwalk, Connecticut. From this ancestor sprang the St. John family of America. The Pierce family is of English extraction, but dates its advent to America early in the seventeenth century. Both parents of our subject were born in New York state, but were early Minnesota settlers, locating in Mower county in 1855. There they resided until 1900. The father died at Lakefield, Minnesota, in March, 1907, at the age of 87 years; the mother died in March, 1903, aged 79 years. They were the parents of five children.

On his father's farm in Mower county B. P. St. John lived until he reached his majority. Then he went to Cherokee county, Iowa, and for the next four years was em-

ployed in a grain elevator. He located in Heron Lake in 1892, and engaged in the grain business, which, largely by his efforts, has developed into the strong business concern it is today. Our subject conducted the business alone one year. Then he was joined by his brother, W. P. St. John, in a partnership, and for the next nine years the business was conducted under the firm name of St. John Brothers. The business grew, and in 1902 the firm of St. John Grain company was incorporated with the following officers: B. P. St. John, president; A. M. St. John, vice president; W. P. St. John, secretary and treasurer. W. P. St. John, who had been a merchant in Heron Lake in the early days and who had returned to that town in 1893 to engage in the grain business with his brother, died October 25, 1905. Since that time the officers have been B. P. St. John, president and treasurer; A. M. St. John, vice president; M. W. Smith, secretary. The board of directors are as follows: B. P. St. John, A. M. St. John, M. W. Smith, Sherman E. St. John, D. H. McKellar, J. B. Nimerfro and S. S. Striker. The St. John Grain company owns twenty grain elevators in Minnesota and Iowa, three of which are in Jackson county. The home office is in Heron Lake. They own membership in the regular grain exchanges at Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago.

Besides his interest in the St. John Grain company, Mr. St. John is associated with the Karamin Lumber company, of Republic, Washington, and is its treasurer. He owns farm lands in Jackson county and village property. He has served as president and member of the Heron Lake village council and for several years has been treasurer of the Heron Lake board of education. He is a member of the Masonic and Woodmen lodges.

Mr. St. John was married at Meriden, Iowa, October 1, 1891, to Miss Emma C. Hovey, a native of Grundy county, Iowa. To them have been born four children, as follows: Kathleen, born August 7, 1892; Clair H., born February 2, 1898; Idella, born September 23, 1900; Matthew, born January 11, 1907, died October 25, 1908.

**CHARLES MAYER** (1894) is one of the prosperous and successful farmers and stock-raisers of Rost township. He owns 400 acres of land on sections 28 and 30, Rost, and 120



**B. P. ST. JOHN**

**President of the St. John Grain Company and a Capitalist of  
Heron Lake.**

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acres on section 25, Ewington, as well as real estate in the village of Lakefield. He and his sons farm all his holdings. The farm is well improved and has a nice grove. On the place is an orchard, of five hundred apple trees, five hundred walnut and butternut trees, plum trees, grape arbor, etc.

Mr. Mayer is a native German, having been born in Rhine, Prussia, March 7, 1855, the son of Valentine and Catherine (Edinger) Mayer. Both his parents are dead, his father having died in Logan county, Illinois, in 1891, aged 70 years, and his mother having died in the same county on Christmas day, 1905, aged 81 years.

Our subject was brought up on a farm in his native land and there received his early training and education. He accompanied his parents to America in August, 1871, and located at San Jose, Mason county, Illinois. From the date of his arrival to the new world, to the year 1894 Mr. Mayer lived in Mason, Tazewell and Logan counties, Illinois. During this time he spent two years securing an English education, several years working for his father on the farm, and after growing to manhood engaged in farming for himself. In 1890 Mr. Mayer bought the half section of land which now comprises the home farm, and in 1894 he moved onto the place with his family. He made all the improvements the farm now boasts and he and his family have lived there ever since.

In addition to his farming and stock raising Mr. Mayer is interested in several other business enterprises, owning stock in the First National Bank of Lakefield, the Rost Telephone company, the Jackson County Cooperative company of Lakefield, the Independent Harvester company of Plano, Illinois, the Lakefield Farmers Cooperative Elevator company and the Rost Cooperative Dairy association. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church of Rost township.

Mr. Mayer was married February 13, 1882, at Emden, Logan county, Illinois, to Sophia Grossweiler, who was born in Switzerland and came to the United States in 1875. To these parents have been born the following children: Frederick Carl, born November 20, 1882; Jacob, born October 8, 1885; Rudolph, born January 18, 1889; Lydia Sophia, born May 26, 1891, died November 9, 1891; Lilly Louise, born July 11, 1896.

FREDERICK H. BERREAU (1884), furniture dealer, cabinet maker and undertaker of Heron Lake, is a pioneer of Minnesota. He is a native of Missouri and was born February 28, 1855. His parents, Herman and Lena (Mackie) Berreau, were born in Germany and came to America soon after their marriage. They lived in Missouri three years and in 1858 moved to Carver county, Minnesota, which was their home until 1871. Then they located in Nobles county, being pioneer settlers of that county, and homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 2, Hersey township. The father died there in 1889 at the age of 55 years. The mother died at the age of 57 years. They were the parents of four living children: Frederick, Antonio (Mrs. B. Poppitz), Otto and Emma (Mrs. H. J. Nelson), all of whom live in Jackson county except Otto, who lives on the homestead in Nobles county.

At the age of two years our subject accompanied his parents to Carver county, Minnesota, and there he resided upon his father's farm, attending the district school, until 1871. That year he accompanied his parents to Nobles county and there resided on the farm until 1875, when he was twenty years of age. The family suffered severely during the terrible grasshopper scourge of the seventies and to alleviate their sufferings and help them through the ordeal, Frederick went to Chaska, Minnesota, and worked at the carpenter trade four years. He was married there in 1882 and then located in Brewster, where he worked at his trade two years. During a part of the season of 1884, Mr. Berreau was at Chaska, straightening up his affairs preparatory to engaging in business in Heron Lake. He purchased a stock of furniture in Minneapolis and brought it to Heron Lake, arriving October 15, 1884, rented a building from T. A. Dieson, and started a furniture store, engaging also in cabinet and carpenter work. The next year he erected a business block of his own and added undertaker's supplies to the stock. Mr. Berreau took out an embalmer's license in 1908.

On the fifth day of September, 1882, Mr. Berreau was married at Chaska to Mary Smith, who was born in Holland and who came to the United States with her parents in 1869. Her parents both died in Carver county, to which place they moved upon their arrival to America. Mr. and Mrs. Berreau are the par-

ents of six children: Tillie (Mrs. John McCarrell, of Anaconda, Montana; Herman, of Heron Lake; Anne (Mrs. Gus Teil), of St. James; Fred, Otto and Albert, of Heron Lake. The family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake and he belongs to the Woodmen lodge. He owns his home in Heron Lake.

EDWARD F. ALLERS (1885) is one of the successful young farmers of Sioux Valley township, where he and his father and an uncle own and farm in partnership three quarters of a section of fine land.

Ed Allers is a son of Fred and Catherina (Stoltenberg) Allers, of Sioux Valley. He was born in Benton county, Iowa, December 6, 1874, and in 1881 moved to near Walcott, Scott county, Iowa, where he resided until coming to Jackson county with his parents in 1885. He secured his education in the schools of Walcott, in the district schools of Sioux Valley township and in the German Lutheran school of Spirit Lake.

In the spring of 1885 the family moved to Jackson county and were among the first of the German families to take up a residence in Sioux Valley township. After Ed grew up he entered into partnership with his father and uncle and has since been engaged in the management of the three farms which they own. He lived with his parents on the home place until 1903; then he married and located upon the northeast quarter of section 26. The Allers engage in general farming and stock raising and farm a half section of land, renting out the other quarter. Ed has stock in the Sioux Valley creamery, the farmer's elevator of Lake Park and the Midland Telephone company. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the Odd Fellows lodge.

Edward Allers was married at Spirit Lake, Iowa, July 9, 1901, to Dina E. Wellhausen, a daughter of Ernst Wellhausen, of Sioux Valley. Mrs. Allers was born in Hildesheim, Hanover, Germany, November 15, 1876, came to the United States and to Eldridge, Iowa, in 1882, and to Jackson county in 1887.

JOHN BORSGARD (1875), of Christiania township, was born in that precinct June 2, 1875, the son of Severt Borsgard and Kiersten (Krogstad) Borsgard, and has ever since made his home in Jackson county. He secured his

primary education in the district schools and later attended the Breck college at Wilder five terms. He completed his education in the Mankato Normal school. He began teaching school in 1895 and was so engaged eight terms. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

EDWARD F. VACURA (1886), Des Moines township farmer, was born in Linn county, Iowa, June 10, 1883, and is the son of the late John Vacura and Barbara (Lev) Vacura.

Edward was three years of age when the family came to Jackson county. They located upon the south half of the northeast quarter of section 8, Des Moines, and upon that farm our subject has spent his life. He was educated in the district school and until the death of his father, which occurred January 5, 1909, he worked for his parents. He has now rented the home place and is engaged in farming on his own account.

Mr. Vacura was married October 26, 1909, to Mary Micklos, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Micklos, of Jackson county, Minnesota. He has served as assessor of his township for the last two years and is also a member of the school board of district No. 8. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

PETER NELSON (1884), superintendent of the electric light and water works plant of Lakefield, was born in Sweden February 10, 1860, the son of Nels Hansen and Mary (Nelson) Hansen. The father died when Peter was two years old and his mother when he was fourteen years of age. He attended school a few terms before he was twelve years of age, but his advantages for obtaining an education were meager, and at an early age he began to work and earn his own living.

Mr. Nelson was employed on a farm in Sweden until 1881, when he came to the United States. The first three months of his residence in the new world he worked on a farm in Kane county, Illinois, and then for six years was employed on the celebrated M. W. Dunham horse farm. Coming to Jackson county, Mr. Nelson bought a farm in Hunter township, upon which he lived until 1895. Owing to bad crops, a fire that destroyed his house and barn, and two hail storms, he was forced to sell, but rented the place one year

after the title had been transferred. The first seven years after moving to Lakefield he was engaged in different kinds of work, and then took a position in the electric light and water works plant, becoming superintendent of the plant on February 1, 1907. Some years after moving to the village where he now lives Mr. Nelson's house was completely destroyed in a cyclone and his wife and two children were quite badly hurt.

Mr. Nelson was married in Jackson county February 28, 1888, to Susie Goplen, a native of Iowa and a daughter of Nels Goplen, one of the early settlers. To Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have been born four children, as follows: Arlie H., Alma M., Mabel S. and Earl R. The family are members of the Methodist church.

WILLIAM G. SCHNEIDER (1884) owns a quarter section farm in Middletown township, a few miles southwest of Jackson, upon which he has lived over a quarter of a century. He was born in Moline, Rock Island county, Illinois, December 29, 1853, son of David and Lena (Kuhl) Schneider. His parents were born in Germany and came to the United States just prior to their marriage. They lived a short time in Davenport, Iowa, and then took up their residence in Moline, Illinois, where they both died. William is the oldest of a family of nine children, of whom six are living.

The subject of this biography received his education and early training in the city of Moline. Until he was past twenty-six years of age he made his home with his parents; then he married and began housekeeping for himself. During the latter part of his residence in Moline he was an employe of the Moline Plow company. In 1884 he came to Jackson county and bought the southwest quarter of section 3, Middletown township, and he has ever since lived there, engaged in farming. The land at the time of purchase was raw prairie and the purchase price was seven dollars per acre. All the improvements on the place were made by him. Mr. Schneider has been a director or treasurer of school district No. 92 for a number of years. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge.

The marriage of Mr. Schneider occurred in Davenport, Iowa, February 26, 1880, when he wedded Theresa LaFranze. She was born near

the city of Sacramento, California, March 15, 1860, and her father was John LaFranze. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schneider, as follows: Lulu (Mrs. William Rosenbrook), Ella, Helen, Wilma and William L.

CARL BRODIN (1888) is a successful farmer of Delafield township, owning the northwest quarter of section 27 and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 28. He was born in Sweden June 27, 1866, the son of Johannes Anderson and Johanna (Andreasson) Anderson, who were born in 1833 and 1831, respectively, and who are still living in their native land.

Carl lived in the old country until twenty-two years of age, working on the home farm. He came to the United States and to Jackson county in 1888, arriving in this county on April 30. Upon his arrival he took the name Brodin, after his old Swedish home, his name in Sweden having been Carl Johnson. This change was made because of anticipated troubles in mail matters incident to the name of Johnson. During the first five years of his residence in Jackson county Mr. Brodin worked out as a farm hand, three years on the farm of Hans Skinrud in Delafield township and two years on the farm of Christ Knudson in Weimer township. He then bought eighty acres of his present farm, then without a building, tree or fence on it, and engaged in farming on his account. In 1902 he bought an additional eighty acres and in 1904 increased his farm to 240 acres by the purchase of eighty acres on section 28. He has a finely improved farm—the result of his labors.

Mr. Brodin was married in Delafield township April 2, 1892, to Ida Linstrom, who was born in Delafield township. She is the daughter of August Linstrom, of Wilder. To Mr. and Mrs. Brodin have been born the following named children: Ernest Arthur and Henry Robert (twins), born October 21, 1894; Gustav Victor, born March 22, 1897; George Elmer, born July 11, 1899. Mr. Brodin is treasurer of school district No. 121.

OLOF O. SWENSON (1884), deceased, was one of the prominent citizens and successful farmers of Petersburg township. His home was the northeast quarter of section 2, and



upon that place his widow still resides. Mr. Swenson was born in Malmo, Sweden, August 27, 1856. He worked during his early years on a farm and in a brick factory, and in 1880 emigrated to the United States. During the first two years of his residence in the new world Mr. Swenson worked in a brick yard near Rockford, Illinois, and for two years more worked in a machine shop in that city.

In 1883 Mr. Swenson had purchased his quarter section farm in Petersburg township, Jackson county, and on March 4, 1884, came to the county to make his future home. There he lived, engaged in farming and contracting until his death, which occurred August 22, 1895, as a result of blood poisoning. He was one of the organizers of school district No. 78 and for ten years held the office of treasurer of the district. He was a member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

Mr. Swenson was married in Rockford, Illinois, October 17, 1881, to Ingar Nelson. Mrs. Swenson was born in Malmo, Sweden, December 3, 1850, the daughter of Sven and Ellen Nelson. She came to the United States and settled at Rockford, Illinois, on May 15, 1881. To Mr. and Mrs. Swenson were born the following named children: Anna C., born August 17, 1882, died October 2, 1882; Carl J., born August 30, 1883; Aaron H., born August 27, 1885; Olof R., born October 7, 1887; Ida M., born December 5, 1889; Enock E., born December 5, 1891.

J. B. ARP (1885), superintendent of schools of Jackson county, since securing his education has devoted his life to educational work. He is a German by birth and was born at Wendtorf, near the city of Kiel, November 13, 1869, the son of Claus and Margarethe (Wellendorf) Arp.

When the subject of this review was fourteen years of age the family emigrated to America and located at Rock Island, Illinois, and one year later, on March 16, 1885, arrived in Jackson county. J. B. Arp received his elementary education in Germany and after arriving in Jackson county attended the district schools, making his home with his parents in Petersburg township. In 1892 Mr. Arp became a student at the Breck school at Wilder and was graduated from that institution in 1895. During his last year in that school he

was an assistant teacher in the business department.

After his graduation from the Breck school Mr. Arp took a position as principal of the public school at Morton, Renville county, Minnesota, which he conducted two years. In 1898 he became the principal of the schools at Morgan, Redwood county, and in 1901 was chosen superintendent of the high school at Breckenridge. Professor Arp was called to Jackson in 1903 to accept the position of superintendent of the Jackson high school and was at the head of that school three years. He was elected county superintendent of schools of Jackson county in the fall of 1906 and was reelected in 1908. Professor Arp owns his home in the city. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

On August 20, 1895, at Estherville, Iowa, Professor Arp was married to Miss Edna Midaugh, and to this union have been born the following named children: Bessie M., born June 20, 1896; Harry E., born February 24, 1898, Mildred M., born June 12, 1900; Gladys L., born September 16, 1904.

HERMAN H. PETERS (1889), farmer and land owner of Sioux Valley township, was born in Germany November 11, 1873, the son of Nicholas and Weipke Peters, now residents of Lake Park, Iowa, they having retired from the farm in the spring of 1906. Nicholas Peters is one of the county's large land owners, having 1,000 acres in Sioux Valley and Rost townships. Herman is the second child of a family of eight.

Our subject accompanied his parents from Germany to the new world when he was eight years of age. The family lived in Davenport, Iowa, one year and then located in Rock Island, Illinois. Herman attended school in the latter city and at the age of ten years began working as a water boy, carrying water to the lumbermen. After being so employed two years he took a position hauling lumber and was so engaged three years. He came to Jackson county with the family in 1889 and until he was twenty-six years of age worked for his father on the farm in Sioux Valley township. Then he married and moved to his own farm, the northwest quarter of section 8, where he has since lived. He has made all the improvements on the place and has an elegant home and an up-to-date farm. He has

been engaged in the threshing business for the past fourteen years and has a threshing machine of his own.

Mr. Peters was united in marriage to Louisa Schwager in Sioux Valley township February 28, 1900. She was born in Scott county, Iowa, November 15, 1875, and is the daughter of Jurgen Schwager, one of the prosperous farmers of the township. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peters, as follows: Elva, born October 12, 1902; Sadie, born April 3, 1905; Mabel, born March 20, 1907. Another child named Sophia died in infancy.

The family are German Lutherans and Mr. Peters belongs to the Hermannson lodge. He has served as clerk of school district No. 46 and is a stockholder in the creamery company of Sioux Valley.

ALBERT W. WARD (1886) owns and farms a half section of land in West Heron Lake township, midway between Lakefield and Okabena. He is a native of Cattaraugus county, New York, and was born June 7, 1858. His parents were Luther and Mary J. (Ward) Ward, also natives of the Empire state, who resided there until they moved to Martin county, Minnesota, in 1871. Mr. Ward, senior, was a stone mason by trade, and worked at his trade in Fairmont until his death, which occurred September 18, 1893, at the age of 67 years. His wife died December 23, 1898, aged 69 years.

Albert attended the school of his native county and resided on his parents' farm until he was thirteen years of age. He then accompanied the family to Martin county, lived with them on the farm two years, and then in Fairmont. After a residence of several years in the county seat town, Albert went to Sherburn and began working for the Milwaukee railroad company, holding the position of section foreman until 1886. That year he moved to Lakefield and for the next five years was foreman of the section at that point. In 1891 he bought the southwest quarter of section 22, West Heron Lake township, and began farming, and he has followed that occupation ever since. When he bought the farm only a limited area had been put under cultivation and the only building on it was a little claim shanty. Later Mr. Ward bought the northwest quarter of section 27, adjoining, and now farms a half section.

Mr. Ward was married at Fairmont July 4, 1883, to Loist M. Wood, who was born in Stark county, Illinois, October 20, 1864. To Mr. and Mrs. Ward have been born four children, as follows: Montie L., born May 10, 1884; Elmer L., born November 9, 1889; George B., born January 1, 1893; Charles H., born January 8, 1902.

Mr. Ward has held various offices of trust within the gift of the people of his precinct. He was chairman of the board of supervisors four years, township treasurer one year, and clerk of school district No. 90 for ten years.

PETER HANSEN (1886) is the proprietor of one of Jackson's department stores. In addition to managing that business he engages in the real estate business and looks after his farms, being the owner of four hundred acres of land on sections 4, 5 and 7, Enterprise township. Mr. Hansen was born in Denmark November 29, 1861, the son of Hans Peterson and Marion (Larson) Peterson.

Both his parents died in Denmark and from the time Peter Hansen was eleven years of age he made his own way in the world. He spent his boyhood days in his native land, attending school and working for wages. At the age of nineteen years, in the spring of 1880, he came to America and located in McHenry county, Illinois. Three years later he moved to Chicago, and in that city he resided until his arrival in Jackson county, in the spring of 1886. The year before his arrival Mr. Hansen had purchased the southeast quarter of section 12, Wisconsin township, and when he arrived he located upon that property. He engaged in farming there five years and then moved to Jackson.

Mr. Hansen at once engaged in the mercantile business in a small way in a little building where the Olsen saloon is now located. His business increased and in 1896 he erected his present handsome store building, in which he conducts his large and increasing business. For nine years Mr. Hansen served as a member of the Jackson board of education. He is a member of the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges.

On May 10, 1885, in Cook county, Illinois, Mr. Hansen was united in marriage to Laurine Larson, also a native of Denmark. To Mr. and Mrs. Hansen have been born seven children. The eldest daughter, Mamie, died in February, 1907. Those living are Henry O., of

Albert Lea; Raymond P., a student at a Mankato school; Lawrence C., a school teacher of Des Moines township; Mabel L., a student in the Jackson high school; Dallas and Arthur, twins.

JOHN G. GRADY (1889) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 18, Ewington township, upon which farm he has lived over twenty years. Mr. Grady is a native of Freeport, Illinois, and was born July 4, 1856. At the age of eight years he accompanied his parents to Grundy county, Iowa, and when twelve years of age started in life for himself.

Until his marriage in 1884 Mr. Grady worked on farms and at other occupations in different counties of Iowa. Then he engaged in farming in Blackhawk county, where he resided five years. He came to Jackson county in 1889 and rented the farm he now owns. Five years later he bought the place and has ever since made his home there.

The parents of our subject were Michael and Rosa Grady, who were born in Ireland and who came to America soon after their marriage. They lived in Chicago a short time and then moved to Freeport, Illinois, where our subject was born and where Mrs. Grady died. Mr. Grady moved to Iowa and later to Chicago, where he died. John is the youngest of five children who are living. The other members of the family are Rose (Mrs. Thomas Cannon), who now lives in Chicago and whose husband, a merchant police, was killed in the Haymarket riots; Peter, of Chicago; Winnifred (Mrs. W. Trost), of Chicago; Katie (Mrs. John Bradshaw), of Chicago.

John Grady was married at Independence, Iowa, February 25, 1884, to Julia Ellen Stevens, who was born at Meriden, Connecticut, March 8, 1854. She is of English descent, her grandparents having come from England. She is the daughter of Lucian and Julia R. (Hill) Stevens, natives of Waterford, Vermont. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Grady, as follows: Julia R., born April 2, 1885; William A., born November 28, 1886; Jesse A., born July 1, 1888; Lulu E., born September 13, 1890; Royal J., born January 28, 1892; Edna G., born November 22, 1894; Ralph G., born May 1, 1898, died October 1, 1905.

Mr. Grady is a member of the Catholic

church; his wife is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Grady served a little over two years as a director of school district No. 119.

MATHIAS NIELSEN (1884), Middletown township farmer, was born in the city of Brooklyn, New York, October 15, 1877, the son of Soren and Mette M. (Thusen) Nielsen. His parents came from Denmark in the early seventies. Mathias is one of a family of six children born to this union, of whom only two besides himself—Carrie (Mrs. H. Sauridsen) and Mettie (Mrs. H. Oisen)—are living. Their father died July 27, 1909; the mother makes her home with her son, Mathias Nielsen.

The first four years of the life of our subject were passed in his native city and the next three in Omaha, Nebraska. He accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1884 and until he was twenty-two years of age resided with his parents on the farm in Petersburg township. He then engaged in farming for himself in Petersburg six years and the next three years farmed a place in Des Moines township. In 1908 he rented the J. A. Sayles farm, the southeast quarter of section 8, Middletown, and has since resided there.

Mr. Nielsen was married in Petersburg township December 29, 1897, to Mary E. Baumgard, a native of Denmark and a daughter of Hans and Sina P. Baumgard. Her mother died December 17, 1901, her father lives in South Dakota. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen; Leonard H., born April 10, 1902; Murrel S., born February 15, 1907, and a baby girl, born June 22, 1909.

FRED S. C. AHRENS (1889), until recently a hardware merchant and manager of the Western Implement company's business at Okabena, is now engaged in the hardware business at Brewster. He is a native of Germany and was born May 23, 1870, the son of Christ and Wilhelmina (Mundt) Ahrens.

Fred came to America with his parents in 1880 and located in Will county, Illinois. On the first day of March, 1889, he arrived in Jackson county and this was his home until July, 1909. Until 1893 he lived with his parents on the farm in West Heron Lake township, one and one-half miles south of Okabena. That year he bought a farm in the same pre-

cinct, and for ten years engaged in farming. In 1902 he located at Okabena and in partnership with several others he engaged in the hardware business. He was one of the organizers of the Western Implement company, which was organized January 28, 1904, and began business March 1 following. The house at Okabena was established at that time. In addition to his business interests, Mr. Ahrens owns a quarter section of land in West Heron Lake township and village property. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and was township assessor five years.

Mr. Ahrens was married at Lakefield July 9, 1892, to Miss Sophia Sievert. They are the parents of the following named children: Rosa, born June 26, 1893; Bertha, born October 29, 1895; Alma, born March 3, 1897; Anna, born January 11, 1898; Albert, born December 9, 1903.

ADOLPH J. NESTRUD (1881), cashier of the First National Bank of Lakefield, is a native of Jackson county, having been born on his father's farm in Heron Lake township October 14, 1881. He is one of a family of fourteen living children and is a son of John and Marie (Pederson) Nestrud, of Heron Lake township.

Both his parents were born in Norway, but came to the United States in their childhood days and were married in Jackson county, to which place they came in the early seventies. The father of our subject took a homestead claim in Heron Lake township and has ever since made his home there.

Adolph grew to manhood on his father's farm, assisting with the farm work and attending the country school until twenty years of age. He then took a business course in Jewell Lutheran college, of Jewell, Iowa. Returning to his old home, Mr. Nestrud resided on the farm a short time and then he and his sister conducted a restaurant in Lakefield for a little over a year. Disposing of his business, he returned to the farm, and a year later moved to Jackson to accept a position as deputy register of deeds under the administration of O. J. Wagnild. He held the position a little over two years and then returned to Lakefield, where he took a position as book-keeper in the First National Bank. Ten months later he was elected cashier, a position he still holds.

Mr. Nestrud was married at Dell Rapids, South Dakota, June 7, 1905, to Carrie Mahre, who was born in Minnehaha county, South Dakota, and who was a school teacher. One child has been born to this union, Inez Adelaide. Mr. and Mrs. Nestrud are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

HENRY ROSSOW (1874) is a stock raiser and farmer of Delafield township, owning 320 acres of land on section 35. He is a native of the county, having been born in Heron Lake township November 8, 1874, the son of William and Alvina (Pietz) Rossow. His father, a native of Germany, died in Jackson county when Henry was five years of age. His mother, now Mrs. Dan Kolander, lives in Heron Lake township.

Henry grew to manhood on his stepfather's farm in Heron Lake township and was educated in the district schools and in the Breck school at Wilder. After growing up he engaged in farming the old home place in his native township in partnership with his stepfather, Dan Kolander, and this arrangement continued until the year 1900. Then he moved onto his present farm, which he and Mr. Kolander had purchased in 1897. In 1900 Mr. Rossow bought Mr. Kolander's interest in the farm and has since been the sole owner.

Mr. Rossow is interested in many lines of business in addition to his farming and stock-raising. He has stock in the First National Bank, the Farmers Elevator company and the Jackson County Cooperative company, all of Lakefield, in the Farmers Elevator company of Windom, in the East Heron Lake Creamery company, of which he is secretary; and in a threshing company. One year he served as treasurer of the Delafield Fire Insurance company. In local politics he has also taken an active part. He was chairman of the Delafield township board of supervisors five or six years and served as a member of the board two years in addition. He was assessor of Heron Lake township in 1897 and 1898, and he is now a director of school district No. 70. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Heron Lake township.

In the township of Delafield, in 1899, Mr. Rossow was united in marriage to Annie Hohenstein, who was born in Delafield township and who is a daughter of Henry Hohenstein. To this union have been born seven children,

named as follows: Alfred, born September 2, 1899; Erwin and Walter (twins), born October 29, 1901; Ella, born April 27, 1903; Esther, born January 27, 1905; Delbert, born January 9, 1907; Leona, born September 21, 1909.

JAMES C. CALDWELL (1899) is the president of the First National Bank of Lakefield and is interested in several other lines of business in that village. He is a native of Columbia county, Wisconsin, and was born June 22, 1864. His parents, John and Esther (Mackay) Caldwell, were born near the city of Glasgow, Scotland. They came to the United States and to Columbia county, Wisconsin, in 1854, where they lived on a farm until their death. John Caldwell died in May, 1878, aged 76 years; his wife died in 1897, aged 76 years.

Our subject resided on the farm with his parents until he was 28 years of age. He received a high school education and early in life engaged in teaching, which he followed in his native county eight years. At the age of 28, in the spring of 1892, Mr. Caldwell married and moved to Dane county, Wisconsin. Near the town of Morrisonville he bought a farm, which he conducted until his removal to Jackson county in 1899.

Upon his arrival Mr. Caldwell bought a farm in Heron Lake township and engaged in farming until 1903. That year he moved to Lakefield and engaged in the real estate business. In 1906 he was chosen president of the First National Bank and has since presided over that financial institution, devoting his entire time to its management.

Mr. Caldwell is a firm believer in the principles of cooperation and has put his ideas into successful practice in Lakefield. Largely through his efforts the bank stock was disposed of to farmers, so that now the bank is practically a farmers bank. To his efforts is also due the organization and success of the Lakefield Farmers Cooperative Elevator company, which was incorporated for \$50,000 on November 4, 1905, and of which he is the secretary. Mr. Caldwell is also president of, and was instrumental in organizing, the Jackson Cooperative company, a corporation organized for handling general merchandise. This company has a paid up capital of \$20,000.

In Arlington township, Columbia county, Wisconsin, on March 15, 1892, occurred the marriage of Mr. Caldwell to Miss Agnes M.

Mair, a daughter of Andrew Mair, a native of Scotland and a large land owner of Columbia county, Wisconsin, where he now resides. To Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell have been born two children, Bessie R. and Esther May. The family are members of the Presbyterian church.

HENRY M. MILLER (1872) has spent his entire life of nearly thirty-eight years in Delafield township, having been born on his father's homestead—the northeast quarter of section 22—on the third day of May, 1872. His father, Charles H. Miller, now a resident of Windom, was born in Sweden, came to America when a young man and homesteaded in Delafield township, Jackson county, in 1871. The mother of our subject was Sarah L. (Michaelson) Miller, who was a native of Wisconsin and who died in 1906 at the age of fifty-five years. Our subject was the eldest of a family of seven children, named as follows: Henry M., Martha, Ida, John, Albert, Emma and Oscar (deceased.)

Until he was twenty-one years of age Henry worked for his father on the old homestead. During this time he received a country school education. When he reached his majority he rented land on section 15 and engaged in farming on his own account. In 1896 he bought the 120 acre farm on section 15, then entirely unimproved, erected the buildings, set out the grove, fenced the land, and made all the improvements the farm now contains.

Mr. Miller is a man of family, having been married in Delafield township October 25, 1894, to Julia Tobiason, who was born in Christiania township March 2, 1874. She is the daughter of Anders and Olena (Anderson) Tobiason. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born the following named children: Lilly, born October 9, 1895; Mabel, born April 1, 1897; Alma, born April 15, 1900; Minnie, born April 19, 1903; Hazel, born June 23, 1904.

JOHN SMITH (1885) is a farmer and land owner of Kimball township and has resided in Jackson county nearly a quarter of a century. He is a native of Monroe county, New York, and was born June 5, 1865, the son of Fred and Mary (Groth) Smith, both natives of Germany, he having been born in Mecklenberg and she in Prussia. They came to America



**JAMES C. CALDWELL**

**President of the First National Bank of Lakefield and a  
Believer in Co-operation.**

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ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

in 1863 and after living in the Empire state nineteen years came to Minnesota and died in Middletown township, Jackson county. They were the parents of six children, of whom the following three are living: Minnie, who lives in New York state; Fred, of Des Moines township; and John, of this sketch.

John spent the first twenty years of his life in his native county, attending school and working at various occupations. He came to Jackson county in 1885 and for thirteen years lived on a farm in Middletown township. Then he moved to Kimball township, where he engaged in farming rented land until October, 1909. At that time he moved onto his present farm, which he had bought the spring before. His farm is the south half of the southwest quarter of section 32. On August 13, 1901, Mr. Smith lost his right arm as a result of a runaway accident. The arm was caught in a wagon spring and literally torn off at the elbow.

Mr. Smith was married in Middletown township October 17, 1891, to Mrs. Lena Hamp, a native of Prussia. To them has been born one child, Albert, born October 22, 1892. By a former marriage Mrs. Smith is the mother of five children: Will, born May 9, 1879; August, born April 3, 1881; Freda, born November 24, 1882; Herman, born November 14, 1887; Emma, born November 14, 1887. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

VERNON E. BUTLER (1891), secretary and treasurer of the Benson Grain company of Heron Lake, and ex-auditor of Jackson county, is one of the leading business men of Heron Lake. He descends from colonial stock and pioneers of the west. His grandfather, Willis R. Butler, a native of Virginia, settled in Iowa in territorial days and became very wealthy, owning many thousands of acres of land. Butler county, Iowa, was named in his honor.

The parents of our subject are the late James Butler and Margaret (Bonwell) Butler. James Butler was born in Coshocton, Ohio. He located in Iowa when a young man and from that state enlisted in company G, of the 32nd volunteer infantry, serving until seriously wounded, which necessitated his discharge. After the war he located in Butler county, where he engaged in the grain, stock and bank-

ing business. He died September 23, 1880, at the age of 39 years. On his mother's side V. E. Butler descends from an old English family which settled in Virginia and North Carolina in colonial days. Mrs. James Butler was born in Indiana, was married to Mr. Butler at Clarksville, Butler county, Iowa, and now makes her home with her son in Heron Lake. She is 68 years of age.

To these parents Vernon E. Butler was born in Butler township, Butler county, Iowa, on the 10th day of July, 1865. He received his education in that county and made his home with his parents until seventeen years of age. Then, being in poor health, he spent two years in Kansas and Colorado. Returning to Iowa, Mr. Butler located in Elma, Howard county, and at the age of nineteen years engaged in the hotel business, which he followed until 1889. That year he married and moved to Blue Earth City, engaging in the mercantile business in partnership with an uncle, A. Bonwell.

Mr. Butler sold out at Blue Earth City in the summer of 1891, and on October 1, of that year, he moved to Heron Lake. He secured a position as bookkeeper for J. W. Benson in that gentleman's general store, at which work he was employed several years. In 1894 Mr. Butler received the republican nomination for county auditor, but was defeated at the election by 32 votes. He made the race again in 1896 and was elected by two votes. He was reelected in 1898 by over 800 plurality. His term of office expiring January 1, 1901, Mr. Butler, having refused to again become a candidate, retired to private life. That year he and J. W. Benson and F. S. Kingsbury organized and incorporated the Benson Grain company, Mr. Butler becoming secretary and treasurer. The company was first incorporated for \$100,000 but later the capital stock was raised to \$200,000. It is the owner of twenty-two elevators and one flouring mill in Minnesota and northeastern Nebraska. In February, 1906, Mr. Butler purchased the Kingsbury interests in this company.

In official life Mr. Butler has taken an active part and has held a number of local offices. He has served as a member of the Heron Lake village council and has been president of that body. He holds the office of president of the board of education and has been a member of the board for five years. Mr. Butler affiliates with the Methodist Episcopal church.



He is a member of the A. F. & A. M., the M. W. A. and the Yeomen lodges.

Mr. Butler was married in Elkader, Clayton county, Iowa, June 20, 1889, to Bessie I. Fairfield, a native of Iowa. Her parents were natives of Massachusetts, settled at Niles, Indiana, and later in South Bend, Indiana, where her father died. Her mother is now 73 years of age and makes her home with her daughter in Heron Lake. To Mr. and Mrs. Butler have been born four children, as follows: James Arthur, Grace Gladys, George Vernon and Kenneth Alfred.

WILLIAM EGGESTEIN (1884), farmer and landowner of Middletown township, was born in Cook county, Illinois, December 4, 1856, the son of Christ and Ricka (Kosdorf) Eggestein. These parents were born in Germany and came to America when young, settling in Illinois. Mrs. Eggestein died there about 1880. Mr. Eggestein came to Jackson county and engaged in farming in Petersburg township, where he died in 1899. William is the eldest of eight children, of whom six are living, as follows: William, Daniel, Benjamin, Sarah, Lydia and Emma.

William was brought up on a farm in Cook county, Illinois, and there he received his education. He resided with his parents until he was twenty-three years of age. Then he married and moved to Chicago, in which city he resided four years, two years of which time he was engaged in the wholesale hay business. He came to Jackson county in 1884, bought his present farm, the northeast quarter of section 35, Middletown, and that has since been his home. During his residence in that precinct Mr. Eggestein has held several official positions. He served as chairman of the township board three years and was a member of the school board of district No. 23 for eighteen consecutive years. He is treasurer of the Middletown Telephone company. He and his family are members of the Evangelical Association.

Mr. Eggestein was married at Park Ridge, Cook county, Illinois, October 9, 1879, to Fredericka Eggestein, a native of Germany. To them have been born the following eight children: Ida, born August 19, 1880; Tilda, born October 17, 1882; William, born March 11, 1884; Alvin, born March 10, 1886; Walter, born August 7, 1888; Edwin, born February 14,

1892; Esther, born April 5, 1896; Alma, born April 25, 1898.

JOHN HAGERSON (1879), grain buyer at Okabena, has been a resident of Jackson county since he was two years of age. He was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, October 14, 1877, the son of Edward E. and Ambue Berg. In April, 1879, the family located in Jackson county, and our subject lived in the village of Lakefield from the time of its founding until 1901. He bought grain at Granada one year, and since that time has been engaged in the same business at Okabena. Mr. Hagerson owns a quarter section of land in northern Minnesota. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

HENRY TER HAAR (1899), sheriff of Jackson county, was born in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, March 23, 1868, the son of Herman J. and Jane (Ruseling) TerHaar. He received his education in Sheboygan county and resided there until twenty years of age.

He left home in 1888 and located at St. Croix, Wisconsin, where for the next five years he was employed in a creamery, making butter and cheese. In 1893 Mr. TerHaar made a trip to the west, visiting Montana, Idaho, Washington, Colorado and Utah. He returned and located temporarily at Alton, Iowa, and later at Luverne. In 1894 he moved to Edgerton, Minnesota, where for five years he was employed in a creamery. In January, 1899, he located in Heron Lake and for the next eight years sold groceries for John Saxton & Co., of Chicago.

Mr. TerHaar was elected sheriff of Jackson county on the democratic ticket in 1906 and was reelected in 1908. His present term expires January 1, 1911. He owns 320 acres of real estate in Hubbard county, Minnesota. He is a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges.

Sheriff TerHaar has been married twice. His first marriage occurred at Baldwin, Wisconsin, February 15, 1890, when he wedded Jennie Demaster. He was married September 15, 1898, to Miss Rose Mulroy, of Adrian. To this union have been born two children: Bertha M., born September 26, 1899; Katherine, born November 29, 1902.

JOSEPH UKOSICK (1891) is a farmer and land owner of Hunter township. He was born in Austria in 1870, the son of John and Katie Ukosick. The former is dead; the latter is the wife of Albert Dunai.

Joseph was seventeen years of age when he came to America and located in New Haven county, Connecticut. The first three years of his life in the new world were spent working in a straw hat and matting factory; then he decided to come west. He came to Jackson county, lived here two months and then went to Chicago, where he was one year. Coming to Jackson county again in 1891 he located permanently. Until 1901 he engaged in farming rented land. Then he bought his present farm, the northwest quarter of section 32, Hunter township, and has since made his home there, making most of the improvements on his farm.

Mr. Ukosick was married in Jackson county in September, 1892, to Tessi Dunai, also a native of Austria. The following named seven children have been born to this union: Katie, born October 29, 1893; Frank, born March 13, 1895; Mary, born March 23, 1897; Annie, born May 18, 1898; Joseph, born August 14, 1899; Francie, born October 20, 1902; Jacob, born July 22, 1905. The family are members of the Catholic church.

PETER D. McKELLAR (1886), county auditor of Jackson county, has resided in the county twenty-three years. He was born near the village of McGregor, Clayton county, Iowa, December 14, 1860, his parents being Archibald and Christine (Nelson) McKellar. The father died in 1903, aged 71 years; the mother lives in Heron Lake.

The subject of this biography was educated in the common schools of Clayton county, finishing his education with a course in the Bayless Business college of Dubuque, Iowa. Until he was twenty-six years of age he resided on the farm with his parents in Clayton county. He came with them to Jackson county in September, 1886, and for two years lived on the home farm in Alba township. Going then to Postville, Allamakee county, Iowa, he worked one year in the employ of an implement dealer and one season for the Warder-Bushnell & Glessner Harvester company.

Returning to Jackson county, Mr. McKellar located at Heron Lake. For one year he worked

in an elevator and then engaged in the implement business in that town in partnership with J. C. Buckeye, the firm name being P. D. McKellar and company. He sold out his interests in the business in 1896 and until May, 1898, devoted his time to the well, pump and windmill business. During the season of 1898 he was in the employ of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine company, but during the season of 1899 and 1900 was again engaged in the well business. Mr. McKellar was elected county auditor in November, 1900, and the first of the following year entered upon his duties. He has since been elected every two years and his present term expires January 1, 1911. He held the office of township clerk of Alba township in 1887 and in 1894 was a member of the Heron Lake village council.

Mr. McKellar was married at Mankato December 17, 1900, to Amanda Veigel, a native of the city in which she was married. To them have been born three children, as follows: Pierre A., Jean and Margaret. He is a member of the Masonic Blue Lodge and Chapter and of the I. O. O. F. and A. O. U. W. lodges.

GEORGE H. SMITH (1887), teacher of the school in district No. 91, Ewington township, is one of the best known educators of western Jackson county and has devoted his entire life to educational work.

Mr. Smith was born in Phoenix, Michigan, April 25, 1866. When four years of age his parents moved to Dodgeville, Iowa county, Wisconsin, and in that town our subject grew to manhood and secured his early education. He was graduated from the Dodgeville high school in 1886 and later took a course of study at the Iowa state normal school, Cedar Falls. He completed his education in the Cherokee (Iowa) Institute, from which he was graduated in 1891.

During the years Mr. Smith was securing his education he spent the summer months working on farms and teaching at intervals. He came to Jackson county in 1887 and for the last twenty years has been engaged in teaching school, having taught in Jackson county during the past fifteen years. He has had charge of the west school in district No. 91 for the last six years. Mr. Smith owns the northeast quarter of section 14, Ewington township, where he

makes his home and where he engages in farming to a limited extent.

Our subject is the youngest of a family of five children. His father, Mark Smith, was an Englishman by birth and a carpenter by trade. He came to the United States in 1865, lived in Michigan and Wisconsin, and finally located in Jackson county, Minnesota, where he died in 1908 at the age of 83 years. Our subject's mother was Thomasine Prideaux, who was born and married in England. She died in Jackson county at the age of 74 years.

Mr. Smith was married in Cherokee county, Iowa, June 19, 1895, to Stella A. Smith, who was born in Scott county, Iowa, in 1869. To this union have been born the following named children: Irene, Jennie, Paul, Clarence and Mildred. Mr. Smith is a member of the Evangelical Association church and is superintendent of the Sunday school of that society. He holds the office of clerk of the Ewington township board of supervisors.

JOHN HARM (1888) is a Belmont township farmer who owns the southwest quarter of section 23, upon which he has lived twenty-one years. He is a native of Germany and was born August 17, 1854. His parents were Fred and Mary (Engelbrecht) Harm, and he is the only living child, a brother and sister, Fred and Reka, having died.

At the age of nine years, in 1863, John accompanied his parents to America and lived with them in Wheeling, Cook county, Illinois, until 1888. That year the family came to Jackson county and located upon the farm Mr. Harm now owns. He lived with his parents until their death, which occurred fourteen years ago. He then fell heir to the farm and has since conducted it.

In Cook county, Illinois, in 1887, Mr. Harm was married to Dora Prihs, a native of Germany, and to them have been born five children: Helen, Millie, Lizzie, Otto and Lillie. The family are members of the German Lutheran church. He served six years as a member of the township board and has been director of school district No. 79 for the past four years.

ADAM VOEHL (1896), Rost township farmer, was born in Kurfersten, Hessen, Germany, October 6, 1846, the son of John and Clara (Hell-

wel) Voehl. His father, who was born in 1802, died when Adam was six years old. His mother was born June 14, 1814, and died in Illinois December 28, 1883.

Adam Voehl lived in Germany until nineteen years of age, receiving an education in the public schools and working on the farm. He came to the United States with a brother in 1867 and settled in Peru, Illinois. There he worked out by the month at farm work six years. At the end of that time he moved to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he lived until coming to Jackson county in 1896. For many years he farmed a rented farm there and during the last eight years of his residence in Illinois owned real estate.

It was in February, 1896, that Mr. Voehl came to Jackson county to reside. Some little time before he had bought the west half of section 23, Rost township, and when he came it was upon that farm that he located. Six years after his arrival he bought the northwest quarter of section 26, of the same township, both of which pieces of land he still owns. The farm was only partly improved when he bought it; today it is one of the fine farms of the township.

Mr. Voehl engages quite extensively in stockraising and has interests in the Rost creamery and the farmers elevator at Lakefield. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Rost township.

Mr. Voehl is a man of family, having been married at Buckley, Illinois, February 3, 1884, to Mary Poppentick, who was born in Illinois April 12, 1861. To these parents have been born seven children, as follows: Clara (Mrs. Herman A. Rost), of Lakefield, born February 7, 1885; Lizzie, born March 17, 1887; John, born January 24, 1889; Mary, born March 10, 1891; Annie, born April 19, 1893; Freda, born August 16, 1896; Willie, born March 23, 1899.

CHARLES MILLER (1887), who is the street commissioner of Heron Lake and who is employed in other official capacities connected with the management of municipal affairs, has resided in Heron Lake twenty-two years and has been a resident of southwestern Minnesota for a much longer period. Germany is the country of his nativity and the date of his birth was October 2, 1848. He accompanied his parents, Charles and Elizabeth Miller, to the new world in 1854, when he was only

six years of age, and until he was twenty-four years old lived with them in Montgomery county, Ohio, where his parents died.

Our subject was educated in Montgomery county and when a boy began working at the milling business under his father's instruction. The flouring mill in which he learned his trade in Ohio was bought in 1873 by parties who moved it to Worthington, the new town founded by the National Colony company of Ohio. Mr. Miller assisted in moving the machinery to its new location and assisted in the reconstruction of the mill at Worthington. After it was put in running order he was retained as one of the millers in charge, and he was so employed until 1877.

That year Mr. Miller moved to Bingham Lake and in partnership with three others built a flouring mill, with which he was connected two years. Selling out to his partners, he moved to Red River, North Dakota, and for a short time had charge of a flouring mill owned by the Hudson's Bay company. From that point he went to Rock Rapids, Iowa, and had charge of a mill until 1887. He then located in Heron Lake and in partnership with his father-in-law, John Behrenfeld, erected the flouring mill in that village. He was in charge of that mill until 1896 or 1897, when he sold out to Pitner & Lynch, who in turn sold to J. W. Morgan. The mill was burned down in recent years.

In 1901 Mr. Miller was made street commissioner of Heron Lake, a position he has held ever since. He also assists in managing the gas plant and has charge of the pumping station and city hall. He is a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Woodmen lodges.

Mr. Miller was married in Montgomery county, Ohio, in the spring of 1872, to Annie Myers, of Dayton, Ohio. She died at Worthington in 1877, aged 27 years. The second marriage of Mr. Miller occurred at Worthington September 7, 1878, when he wedded Bertha Behrenfeld, a native of Carver county, Minnesota, and a daughter of John Behrenfeld. To this union have been born five children: Charles E., born April 2, 1884; Arthur B., born September 16, 1891; Herbert J., born November 17, 1894. Two children, Cora and Emma, died at early ages.

**LAURITZ P. PETERSEN (1887)** is a Petersburg farmer and stockraiser. He owns

and resides upon the northwest quarter of section 25 and owns the southeast quarter of section 16. He was born in Kolding, Denmark, July 19, 1848, the son of Hans P. and Anna M. (Bryda) Petersen.

Mr. Petersen first came to the United States in 1871 at the age of twenty-three years and spent two years in the new world. During this time he resided in various parts of the country—three months in Connecticut, five months in Chicago, three months in Clinton, Iowa, and one year in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He returned to Denmark in 1873, spent seven months there and on the ocean, and then, in 1874, again located in New Bedford, Massachusetts. One year later he went to Boston, where he resided six years.

In 1883 Mr. Petersen moved to Salem, Massachusetts, and six months later came west and located in Omaha. He remained there only two months, moving in July, 1883, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he lived four years. It was in April, 1887, that Mr. Petersen first came to Jackson county. After spending seven months there he returned to Milwaukee. Three and one-half years later he came to the county to reside permanently, and he has ever since been engaged in farming his Petersburg township farm. Besides his farming operations, he is interested in the Petersburg Creamery association and the Jackson Telephone company. He served ten years as treasurer of his township and nine years as a member of the school board of the district in which he lives. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the D. B. S. lodge, of Jackson.

Mr. Petersen was married May 15, 1883, to Miss Hansina Sorenson. They are the parents of three children, as follows: Henry P., born February 19, 1884; Annie M., born August 28, 1886; Arthur, born October 28, 1888.

**JOHN UPTAGRAFFT (1881)** is a resident of Middletown township, Jackson county, engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The grandfather of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania and his grandmother of Ireland. His father was born in Pennsylvania November 26, 1828. In 1834 he moved to Ashland county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming. Nine years later he moved to Monroe county, Michigan, where he again engaged in

agricultural pursuits until 1857. That year he moved to Olmsted county, Minnesota.

John Uptagrafft was born in Olmsted county, Minnesota, in 1857. When he was only six years old his parents took him to Spirit Lake, Iowa, near Orleans. His father lived here until his death in May, 1893. His mother lived with her children until her death in 1905 at the age of 92 years. John Uptagrafft lived at home until about nineteen years of age, spending his time during the winter months roaming over the southern part of Minnesota, trapping and hunting. He was unmolested, as there were no settlers for many miles around, the nearest railroad stations being Mankato, Minnesota; Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Sioux City, Iowa.

In the year 1878, on July 21, Mr. Uptagrafft was married to Miss Mary Etta Waite. He lived with his parents at Orleans, Iowa, until 1882, when he bought eighty acres of land in the northern part of Minneota township, Jackson county. He lived on this place until 1894, at which time he sold his home and bought 160 acres of his father-in-law, in Middletown—the northwest quarter of section 32. On that place he now resides.

Mr. and Mrs. Uptagrafft have a family of twelve children, all living. They are as follows: Sarah Loretta, born August 31, 1879; Leroy, born August 9, 1881; Eurias, born December 7, 1882; Alford Earnest, born May 13, 1885; Abbie, born August 6, 1887; Vernie, born May 31, 1889; Bertha, born August 26, 1890; Alla J. and Alice May (twins), born October 26, 1892; Claud Ray, born October 22, 1895; Ralph R., born August 22, 1897; John Floyd, born May 30, 1902.

HERMAN L. STROM (1887), cashier of the Brown National Bank and ex-postmaster of Jackson, was born in Norway May 7, 1865. He is the son of Feodor and Elizabeth (Larson) Strom and is one of a family of five children, the others being Anna (Mrs. O. H. Smith), of Dell Rapids, South Dakota; Henrik, of St. Paul; Ellen (Mrs. C. C. Bratrud), of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Rebekka. The parents of our subject emigrated to America in 1879 and located at Decorah, Iowa. Later the family moved to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and still later to Milwaukee, where the father of our subject had employment in the office of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad com-

pany. Mr. Strom died in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1897. His wife now resides in Des Moines, Iowa.

Herman came to the United States with his parents in 1879 and for two years lived with them in Decorah, Iowa, during which time he completed his education in the Lutheran college. In 1881 he went to LaCrosse, where for five years he was employed in a stationery store. He located in Jackson in 1887, was employed as clerk in Berge Brothers' store three years, and then entered the Bank of Jackson (now the Brown National Bank) as assistant cashier—a position he held for the next seven years.

Mr. Strom was appointed postmaster of Jackson November 1, 1897, and served until 1901, when he resigned to again take a position in the bank. He became cashier at that time and has ever since held that position. Mr. Strom owns Jackson village property and farm lands in this county and in northern Minnesota. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Odd Fellows lodge.

At Jackson, in August, 1893, Mr. Strom was united in marriage to Emma G. Hill, a native of Minnesota and a daughter of Mrs. Catherine Hill, of Jackson. To Mr. and Mrs. Strom have been born five children, as follows: Bradford H., Harold F., Henrik R., Elizabeth C. and Edward F.

OSCAR FOSS (1880) owns and farms a quarter section farm on section 18, Delafield, one mile south of the village of Wilder. He was born on the farm which he now owns December 9, 1880, the son of L. A. and Anna Foss Furuseth, of the same precinct.

Oscar has spent his entire life on the farm he now conducts. He was educated in the Wilder public school and until he reached his majority worked for his father. Then he rented the home farm and conducted it on shares with his brother until March, 1908. At that time he bought the property from his father. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Delafield township.

Mr. Foss was married in Delafield township December 18, 1905, to Clara Brakke, daughter of John P. Brakke and a native of the township in which she was married. To Mr. and Mrs. Foss have been born two children: Mildred, born March 21, 1907; Luella, born December 16, 1908, died October 6, 1909.

AUGUST WERNER (1893), a farmer and stock raiser of Petersburg township, was born in Bornteen, Germany, December 25, 1853, the son of Carl and Maria (Shueman) Werner, both deceased.

August spent his boyhood days in Germany, but emigrated to the United States with his parents when less than eighteen years of age. The family sailed from Hamberg for the new world on August 28, 1871, and the next year located in the city of Chicago, soon after the terrible fire. During the winter of 1872-73 August worked in the country near Chicago, and then moved to the city, where he resided one year. During the next sixteen years he lived in and in the vicinity of Chicago. Then in March, 1893, he moved with his family to Jackson county and has ever since made his home in Petersburg township.

Mr. Werner owns the southwest quarter of section one and the east half of the southeast quarter of section two, Petersburg. He owns stock in the Farmers Elevator Co., of Alpha, in the Alpha Creamery Co. and in the Alpha Horse company. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

In Chicago, Illinois, on July 9, 1877, Mr. Werner was married to Marie Pasal, who was born July 26, 1852. To these parents have been born the following named children: Paulina, born June 7, 1878, died June 1, 1882; Augusta, born May 28, 1879; Emma, born May 20, 1880; Herman, born November 26, 1882; Martha, born December 5, 1883; Henry, born September 17, 1885; Eddy, born May 1, 1887; Lizzie, born April 13, 1891; Otto, born June 7, 1894. All the children except Otto were born in Evergreen Park, Illinois.

BARBARA READLE (1873), proprietor of the hotel at Miloma and postmistress of that office, was born in Baden, Germany, June 21, 1851, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Cook) Readle.

Joseph Readle and family came to America in 1852, landing at Baltimore in February of that year. He located at Cincinnati, Ohio, lived there one year, spent the next year in Kentucky, and then returned to the Ohio city, where he was engaged in the wood and coal business until 1872. That year he moved to Jackson county and homesteaded in Alba township, where he lived until his death, April 14, 1896, aged 79 years. His wife, the mother

of our subject, died April 7, 1893, aged 68 years. Ten children were born to these parents, of whom the following five are living: Lawrence, Stephen, Joseph, Mrs. Anna Snyder and Miss Barbara Readle.

Miss Readle made her home with her parents in Alba township until her mother's death in 1893. Then she rented the hotel at Prairie Junction (now Miloma) and engaged in the hotel and restaurant business. One year later she bought the property, and in March, 1894, she was appointed postmistress of Prairie Junction, and has resided there ever since. She is assisted by her brother, Joseph Readle, who is deputy postmaster.

Joseph J. Readle was born in Cincinnati March 23, 1856. He left home when sixteen years of age and learned the glazier trade, which he followed five years in Sioux City, Iowa. The next five years he was shipping clerk for the firm with whom he had been employed. Thereafter he was employed at various occupations in different parts of the United States. In January, 1908, he located at Miloma and has since been deputy postmaster. Mr. Readle was married at Sioux City to Nellie Noonan, a native of Marshalltown, Iowa. She died in September, 1901. One child, Ralph, was born to this union.

ARTHUR J. SPARKS (1897) is a farmer and thoroughbred stock raiser who resides within the corporate limits of the village of Lakefield. He owns the old Rasmus Larson homestead adjoining the village of Lakefield and the southeast quarter of section 6, Hunter township. He was one of the first to bring a herd of registered Shorthorn cattle to Jackson county, and he has a fine herd of stock. He also has 400 growing fruit trees on his home farm.

Mr. Sparks was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, January 9, 1873, the son of Joseph and Mary A. (Tomlinson) Sparks. Both parents were natives of England. They came to America when seven years of age, lived one winter in Canada, and then located in Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1837, being very early pioneers of that county. The father of our subject crossed the plains to California in 1849 and was the first to reach the famous Grass Valley. He returned to the states by way of Panama, the gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi river and lived in Grant county, Wisconsin.

ain, until a short time before his death. He died in 1905, aged 78 years. His wife still lives and is 72 years of age. They were the parents of ten children, of whom the following five are living: Mrs. C. E. Buell, of Webster City, Iowa; Mrs. Allie Blank, of North Dakota; Frank T., of Buffalo Center, Iowa; Arthur J., of this sketch; and Clinton A., of Buffalo Center, Iowa.

Arthur lived with his parents in Grant county, Wisconsin, until 1897, and there he received a district school education. In the year last mentioned he came to Jackson county and bought the northwest quarter of section 36, Delafield township, where he lived nearly four years. Selling that, he bought the Larson homestead, on the edge of Lakefield, and there he has since lived, engaged in farming and stockraising. During his residence in Delafield township Mr. Sparks was a member of the school board of his district. He is a member of the Maccabee and M. W. A. lodges.

Mr. Sparks was married in Lakefield February 15, 1899, to Miss Lena D. Larson, who was born on the homestead where she now lives. She is the daughter of Rasmus and Christine B. (Hokansen) Larson, early pioneers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Larson were natives of Norway. They came to America in 1867, lived three years in Goodhue county, Minnesota, and then came to Jackson county and located on their homestead where Lakefield now stands. At that time there was no Lakefield and no railroad. It took one week to get lumber from Madelia with oxen with which to build their abode. On this place they spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Larson died in 1902 at the age of 75 years and Mr. Larson died in 1903 at the age of 67 years.

Lena D., the only child of these parents, was born August 24, 1875. She completed a common school education at Lakefield and then, to fit herself for teaching, she took a course of three terms at the Mankato Normal school. She taught four years in the schools of Jackson county and was married to Arthur J. Sparks in 1899. To Mr. and Mrs. Sparks have been born the following children: Stacey H., Florence C. M., D. Roscoe, D. Ruth, Clarence J., Theodore A. and Eugene L.

**SAMUEL DAHL** (1890) is the proprietor of a general merchandise store at Okabena. He was born in Norway July 18, 1860, son of the

late Amfred Dahl and Alma Dahl. His father died in 1889.

At the age of ten years Sam Dahl emigrated to the United States and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he resided until 1880, securing an education and working at farm work. From 1880 to 1890 he was engaged in farming in Murray county, Minnesota, and in August of the last named year located in the village of Heron Lake. He bought grain there for a number of years and then started in the general merchandise store business at the little hamlet of Okabena. He owns stock in the Farmers Telephone company and has served as treasurer of West Heron Lake township for eight years. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen lodges.

Mr. Dahl was married May 17, 1891, to Mary Rognes. They are the parents of the following named children: Albert M., born August 29, 1893; Lillian O., born November 4, 1896; Nettie A., born December 15, 1899; Sidney M., born April 21, 1902; Edith M., born March 12, 1904; Chester F., born November 4, 1905.

**DR. IVER S. BENSON** (1881), physician and surgeon of Jackson, is a native of the county and the son of pioneer settlers. His parents were Ben and Bertha (Lostegard) Benson, born in Norway April 18, 1826, and February 21, 1835, respectively. They came to America in 1867 and to Jackson county in October of the same year. The head of the family filed a homestead claim to the northwest quarter of section 32, Petersburg township, and he and his wife lived there the rest of their lives. The father of our subject died in the spring of 1906; his mother died in February, 1882.

There were sixteen children in the family, of whom three died in infancy. The thirteen living children are: Ben, born April 18, 1855; Ashley, born September 21, 1856; Sigrid (Mrs. Lars Nelson), born October 9, 1860; Ragnhild (Mrs. F. E. Murray), born November 5, 1863; Peter, born January 30, 1865; Engebret, born February 12, 1867; Berget (Mrs. S. A. Bruns-vold), born January 14, 1869; Andrew, born May 20, 1871; Marget (Mrs. S. H. Darby), born April 6, 1874; Louis, born April 25, 1876; John, born August 25, 1877; Anna, born June 23, 1879; Iver S., born October 3, 1881.



**DR. IVER S. BENSON**

Physician and Surgeon of Jackson and a Native of Jackson County.



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Iver S. Benson, the youngest of this large family, was born in Petersburg township and spent his boyhood days on the farm, attending the district school. In the fall of 1897 he entered Augustana college of Canton, South Dakota, and was a student there until his graduation in the spring of 1901. During the next year he was engaged in teaching school, conducting a six months' term in Iowa and a three months' term in Jackson county. In the fall of 1902 he began the study of medicine at Hamline university and was a student there two years. He entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Chicago, in 1904, from which he received his diploma in the spring of 1906. Immediately after graduation Dr. Benson was appointed resident physician and surgeon of the Norwegian Deaconess hospital in Chicago and served in that capacity one year. He located in Jackson in the spring of 1907 and has ever since been engaged in the practice of his profession.

Dr. Benson now conducts a hospital and has his office and residence in the new Matuska & Skalicky block, opposite the postoffice. Dr. Benson holds membership in the Jackson County Medical society, the Minnesota State Medical society and American Medical association. Fraternally he is associated with the Knights of Pythias, Equitable Fraternal Union, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Sons of Norway. He and his wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

In the city of Minneapolis, on June 14, 1907, Dr. Benson was united in marriage to Katherine Oberg, who was born in Sweden and who came to America and to Minneapolis at the age of six years. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Oberg.

CHARLES H. MEYER (1886) is a farmer and stockraiser of Petersburg township. He was born in Hanover, Germany, October 29, 1861, the son of Henry and Mary (Ludje) Meyer.

Mr. Meyer came to America when sixteen and one-half years of age, landing in New York city April 28, 1878. He located first in DuPage county, Illinois, where for four years he lived on a farm. Then he went to a point west of Chicago and worked at the carpenter trade two years. Then taking up his residence in the city of Chicago, he continued to work at his trade twenty-three months long-

er. On July 2, 1885, he went to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, worked at his trade until February 28, 1886, returned to Chicago, and immediately set out for Jackson county, arriving on March 25, 1886. His total possessions at the time of his arrival were his chest of tools and two sets of clothes. He came with the intention of soon returning to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, but he liked the looks of the country and decided to remain. From the date of his arrival until his marriage in 1891 Mr. Meyer lived with the family of Mr. Schroeder in Petersburg township and worked at the carpenter trade. Then he bought property and engaged in farming, which he has since followed.

Mr. Meyer owns 240 acres of land in section 13, Petersburg. He owns stock in the Petersburg Creamery company and in a threshing company. He is a member of the Petersburg German Lutheran church and holds the office of church treasurer.

Mr. Meyer married Miss Lena Schroeder in 1891. To them have been born the following children: Ida S., born May 2, 1892; Edward, born March 3, 1895; Elmer, born August 19, 1899, died January 13, 1908; Alice, born March 22, 1902; Ellsworth, born June 21, 1904; Lilly, born June 14, 1909.

THOMAS H. GRINAGER (1889), deceased, was a resident of Delafield township nineteen years, having made his home during that time on his farm two and one-half miles south of Wilder. He was born in Westre Toten, Norway, May 3, 1824, the son of Hans Hanson and Helen (Peterson) Hanson.

Early in life Mr. Grinager engaged in farming, later becoming a blacksmith and engaging in that business for several years. He came to America in the fall of 1888 and located at Stoughton, Wisconsin. The next spring he came to Jackson county, and from that time until his death he engaged in farming in Delafield township. Upon his arrival he bought the north half of the northeast quarter of section 30—a farm which is now owned by his widow and conducted by his son, Hans Grinager. Our subject was a member of the United Lutheran church. He died June 16, 1908.

Thomas Grinager was married in Norway April 27, 1859, to Andrena Hanson, who survives her husband. To this union were born the following named children: Hanna (Mrs

John Aker), of Janesville, Wisconsin, born August 21, 1860; Petra (Mrs. Mike Johnson), of Weimer township, born January 20, 1863, died May 3, 1908; John, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, born March 9, 1865; Thea (Mrs. Jacob T. Ullsnes), of Norway, born June 9, 1868; Augusta (Mrs. John Johnson), of Cottonwood county, born February 15, 1871; Helen (Mrs. John Larson), of Delafield township, born November 14, 1874; Hans, who resides at home, born February 20, 1878; Albert, born April 3, 1882, died July 6, 1908.

Hans Grinager has conducted the farm since his father's death and farms in addition the southwest quarter of section 19, which he rents. He is unmarried.

CHRIST BAUER (1883) owns 240 acres of land on sections 12 and 11, Heron Lake township, where he has lived nearly a quarter of a century. He is a German by birth and was born June 24, 1856, one of a family of two boys. Both his parents are dead, his mother having died when he was ten years old, his father twenty years ago.

Christ Bauer lived in Germany twenty-six years, of which the first fourteen were spent at home, the others working on farms. He came to America in 1882, lived one year in Cook county, Illinois, and then came to Jackson county. For four years he worked out and then in 1887 bought his present farm, where he has ever since lived, making all the improvements on the farm. During his long residence in Heron Lake township Mr. Bauer has held several township and school offices. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Bauer was married in Jackson county in April, 1889, to Mrs. Will Bauer, a native of Germany. To them have been born three children, named as follows: Rosa, born June 24, 1890; Herman, born December 6, 1891; Emma, born May 30, 1895. By her first husband Mrs. Bauer is the mother of five children, Frida, Dora, Meta, Ernie and Will.

SAMUEL L. RANK (1896), postmaster of Wilder and proprietor of a general merchandise store in that village, is a native of Fulton county, Indiana, and was born April 4, 1859. His father was Amos Rank, a native of Pennsylvania, who died twenty years ago. His

mother, Sarah H. (Meek) Rank, a native of Virginia, resides in Cottonwood county and is 87 years of age.

Our subject moved from Fulton county, Indiana, with his parents in 1870, to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and made his home on the farm there until he was twenty-six years of age. During the years 1882 and 1883 he was an engineer on a Lake Superior lighter owned by Alex McDougal, the inventor of whaleback freight vessels. During this time his headquarters were at Duluth. In 1885 Mr. Rank left the home farm, rented a farm in Cottonwood county, and engaged in farming it eleven years.

Mr. Rank moved to Wilder in 1896 and built the creamery at that point. This he conducted a number of years and then sold to the Farmers Cooperative Creamery company. After selling the creamery he engaged in the general merchandise business in Wilder and has since conducted the store. He was appointed postmaster of the village May 1, 1902, and still holds the office. He is president of the village council and has served as village treasurer. He holds membership in the A. F. & A. M. and the M. W. A. lodges.

The marriage of Mr. Rank occurred in Cottonwood county May 21, 1885, when he wedded Miss Alice Marie Smith, a native of Mankato. To this union have been born the following named children: Maud E., Ruth M., Clarence E., Robert S., Marie and Spencer.

Mr. Rank is one of a family of seven children, of whom the five named are living: John W., Catherine, Elizabeth, Samuel L. and Elmer.

BENJAMIN MATTESON (1883), proprietor of a Jackson jewelry store, was born in Norway September 16, 1848, the son of Matt and Mariah (Johnson) Matteson. In his native land he secured his education and worked on his father's farm. He came to the United States in August, 1867, and located in Winneshie county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm laborer two years. The next two years were spent in Allamakee county, Iowa, and from there he went to Mason City, of the same state.

Mr. Matteson worked at the carpenter trade in Mason City two years and then moved to Worth county, where he bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits for three or four years. Having traded his Iowa farm for

one in Martin county, Minnesota, Mr. Matteson moved to the latter place and farmed until 1880. He then married and moved to Emmet county, Iowa, whence, after farming two years, he moved to Jackson village in 1883. For three years he worked at the carpenter trade there and then put in three years at his trade in Estherville, Iowa. Returning to Jackson in the fall of 1889, he engaged in the jewelry business, having bought out J. W. Cowing, and for the past twenty years has been so engaged.

Mr. Matteson was married at Superior, Iowa, in 1880 to Jennette Andersen, a native of Yellowstone, Lafayette county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Gilbert and Olena Andersen. Mrs. Matteson's parents came from Norway in an early day and were pioneers of Dickinson county, Iowa, where they both still reside. To Mr. and Mrs. Matteson has been born one child, Mina O., now Mrs. Frank Albertus, of Jackson. Mr. Matteson is a member of the Masonic and M. W. A. lodges.

LORENZ STUMPF (1887), Ewington township farmer, was born in Germany September 12, 1866, the only child born to Kammillius and Johanna Stumpf, both deceased. His mother dying when he was an infant, Lorenz was brought up in the family of a relative. He secured nine years' schooling and when young learned the shoemaker's trade, working at it six years in the old country.

On the twenty-fourth day of July, 1886, Mr. Stumpf landed in the new world. He located in Lake county, Illinois, worked out there one year, and during the month of October, 1887, arrived in Jackson county, which has ever since been his home. Until he was twenty-seven years of age he worked out on farms in Ewington township. Then he married and has since been engaged in farming for himself on rented farms, two years of the time in Rost township, the balance in Ewington. His present location is the northeast quarter of section 15.

Mr. Stumpf was married in Jackson October 26, 1893, to Johanna Janssen, who was born in Germany April 21, 1874. She is the daughter of John G. Janssen, of Ewington township. Her mother is dead. Mr. Stumpf is a member of the German Lutheran church. He served as road overseer two years and has been township assessor for the past two years.

HERMAN POHLMAN (1884), who owns a fine farm in the northwest corner of Heron Lake township—in that part of the township which was formerly a part of West Heron Lake township—came to Jackson county when he was nine years of age and has spent the rest of his life as a resident of this political division. His farm consists of 253 acres on section 2.

Our subject is a German by birth and was born August 15, 1875. His father, Carl Pohlman, died in 1902; his mother, Christina (Gieselman) Pohlman, resides with her son. Herman crossed the water with his parents in the spring of 1884, and on the 24th day of March, 1884, the family arrived in Lakefield. Our subject was brought up on a farm on section 8, Heron Lake township, and received his education in the Jackson county district schools. In 1891 Carl Pohlman bought the farm which is now owned by Herman. The latter worked for his father until 1898; then he bought the home farm and has ever since conducted it. Mr. Pohlman is one of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Lakefield. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Pohlman was married in Heron Lake township July 4, 1897, to Annie Daberkow, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States in 1893. To them have been born the following named five children: William, born May 30, 1899; Helen, born September 8, 1901; August and Herman (twins), born September 4, 1903; Arthur, born February 26, 1907.

ALBERT A. LEV (1890) has been a resident of Jackson county for the past nineteen years and resides on his farm in Des Moines township which was formerly the Ole Anderson homestead, and is located on the northeast quarter of section sixteen. Mr. Lev was born in Bohemia June 13, 1873, and at the age of twelve years accompanied his parents to the United States, and first made settlement in Linn county, Iowa, where he resided five years. Then the family came to Jackson county and located on the south half of the northwest quarter, section 8, in Des Moines township, where our subject lived with his parents and worked on the farm until he was twenty-six years of age. He then married and rented a farm in Hunter township for a per-

iod of four years. In 1901 he purchased the farm on which he has since resided.

He is the son of Albert and Anna Lev. The former resides with his son, Frank, in the village of Jackson. His wife died April 19, 1900, at the age of 70 years. They are the parents of the following children: Mary (Mrs. Frank Viner), Albert, Frank and Anna (Mrs. William Benda).

Albert Lev was married in the village of Jackson on November 9, 1897, to Miss Mary Benda, a native of Iowa. They are the parents of five children, namely: Willie, Anna, Lulu, Julia and Henry.

Mr. Lev now holds the office of director in school district 7, and also is treasurer of the township board, having held both offices the past seven years. He is also secretary of the West Des Moines Telephone line. He is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and of the Catholic church.

CHARLES F. WOLFF (1887), a Middletown township farmer, was born in the city of Chicago September 16, 1873, the son of Charles and Hannah (Lindeburg) Wolff, now residents of Jackson. His parents were born and married in Germany, coming to America soon after their marriage. They lived in Cook county, Illinois, for several years, and since 1887 have been residents of Jackson county. Charles is one of a family of eight children, named as follows: Otto, Anna, Hattie, Charles, John, Frances, Henry and Sophia.

When our subject was about one year of age the family moved from Chicago onto a market garden farm near the city, and that was the home of our subject until he came to Jackson county with his parents in 1887. One year was spent on the farm in Petersburg township, and then the elder Wolff moved to his farm in southern Middletown township, where he resided until 1898, when he located in Jackson. Charles worked for his father on the farm until he was twenty-five years of age. Then he rented the home farm, consisting of a half section on sections 35 and 36, and has since been engaged in business for himself.

Mr. Wolff was married in Jackson January 10, 1906, to Marie Olson, a native of Jackson county. She is the daughter of Andrew and Margaret (Haverberg) Olson, who are pioneer settlers of the county and who now live in Jackson. Two daughters have been born to

Mr. and Mrs. Wolff: Viona, born October 19, 1906, and Margaret, born September 12, 1909.

JOHN KATUS (1894), farmer and land owner of Ewington township, is a native of Hungary and was born November 27, 1852. Until nearly twenty-one years of age he resided with his parents in his native land, attending school and working on the farm. He served one month in the army, just before his departure for America, but his father secured his release and the son came to America.

It was in the year 1873 that John Katus arrived in the new world. He spent the first eight months in Indiana, lived a short time in Livingston county, Illinois, and then took up his residence in the city of Streator. After working eleven years in the coal mines in that city, Mr. Katus met with an accident in the mine which resulted in a broken leg. He then gave up mining and engaged in business. In 1894 Mr. Katus came to Jackson county, bought the northeast quarter of section 22, Ewington township, and has since been engaged in farming the place. The farm was raw prairie land when he bought and all the improvements are the result of his work. Since coming to the county he has added to his real estate holdings by the purchase of the southeast quarter of section 15, and he farms the entire half section.

Mr. Katus has prospered since coming to the county. In the year 1909 he harvested about 3,500 bushels of small grain and 2,000 bushels of corn. For several years past Mr. Katus and John Gerdes have been engaged in the threshing business. Mr. Katus has stock in the Brewster Creamery company, in the grain elevator of the same village and in the Brewster and Round Lake Telephone company. He is a member of the Ewington township board and for nine years served as treasurer of school district No. 99.

John Katus is one of a family of six children living born to John and Anna (Rogola) Katus, the others being Annie, Susan, Mary, Andrew and Michael. The father of these children lives in Streator and is 85 years of age. The mother died in 1907, aged 79 years.

Mr. Katus was married in Streator April 10, 1877, to Annie Bartko, also a native of Hungary. They have six children, as follows: Andrew, born August 21, 1882; Mary, born December 11, 1884; Susie, born February 7, 1887;

George, born August 3, 1889; Emma, born July 20, 1892; Clara, born May 28, 1898. The family are members of the Slovak Lutheran church and Mr. Katus is a member of the Slovak lodge.

**HARRY M. BURNHAM** (1892) is the proprietor of one of Jackson's leading department stores. He is a native of London, England, and was born September 12, 1873, the son of James and Maria (Steele) Burnham.

In his native city Mr. Burnham lived until 1884. That year he came to the United States with his parents and located at Wyckoff, Minnesota. Two years later he moved to Fairmont, and in that village he was educated and grew to manhood. He moved to Jackson in the fall of 1892 and that village has since been his home. He engaged in the dry goods business in 1897 and has built up an excellent trade, having one of the neatest and best appointed stores in the county. He built his present commodious business block in 1903.

Mr. Burnham was married in Jackson in September, 1898, to Miss Mabel Albertus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Albertus. To them has been born one child, Cecil A.

Mr. Burnham is a member of the Masonic order, belonging to the Knights Templar and Commandry of Fairmont, and the Osman Temple of St. Paul. He is at present an officer of the Grand Lodge of the state and is a past master of Good Faith lodge No. 90, of Jackson. He also holds membership in the Modern Woodmen of America lodge. Mr. Burnham has served as president of the Jackson village council and of the board of education.

**FRED REIMERS** (1891) is a Sioux Valley township farmer. He was born in Tama county, Iowa, May 31, 1880, and when seven years of age accompanied his parents to Lake Park. The family lived in that village a year and a half and then moved onto a farm near the town, where our subject resided until 1891, working on the farm and attending the school.

In 1891 the family moved to Sioux Valley township and leased the west half of the southwest quarter of section 26. Fred worked for his father on the farm until 1902. Then he rented the farm and has since conducted it for himself. He is unmarried and makes his home

with his parents. He is a member of the M. W. A. and A. O. U. W. lodges.

The parents of our subject are Peter and Christina (Brest) Reimers. The former was born in Germany and came to America when twenty-one years of age, locating at Davenport, Iowa. He was married at Elkhart, Illinois. Mrs. Reimers was born in Ohio. There are eight children in the family, as follows: Henry, Kate, John, Will, Phoebe, George, Fred and Lucy.

**JOHN BARNETT** (1888), who conducts a lumber yard at Okabena, is a native of the Orkney Islands, where he was born November 23, 1856, the son of James and Margaret (Wallace) Barnett. He spent his boyhood days in his native land, receiving a common school education. He learned the mason's trade and followed that occupation many years.

Mr. Barnett came to America in 1882, lived two years in Canada, and then came to the United States. After residing four years in Sibley, Iowa, Mr. Barnett, in August, 1888, came to Jackson county and located in West Heron Lake township, southwest of the location of the present village of Okabena, where he worked on a farm several years. In 1898 he engaged in the lumber business in Okabena and has since been so engaged. Mr. Barnett owns his home in Okabena. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the M. W. A. lodge No. 7918, of which he has been clerk for nine years. He served as clerk of West Heron Lake township seven years.

On February 23, 1902, Mr. Barnett was married to Miss Alice Cramblit.

**WILLIAM HAMLON** (1892) is a resident of Jackson. He is the son of the late John Hamlon and Mary Hamlon. John Hamlon was born in Albany, New York, September 10, 1841, and when two years old moved with his parents to Chicago, where his father was drowned in 1844, and his mother died in 1848. John Hamlon was then "bound out" for eleven years. In 1856 he started out for the gold fields of California in company with a brother and a party, but before getting out of the state he gave up the undertaking and settled in Mendota, Illinois. There he lived until 1869 and then moved to Ford county, Illinois, where he resided until 1892. Coming to Jackson county

that year Mr. Hamlon made his home here until his death, which occurred December 17, 1896. His wife now makes her home with her son in Jackson.

William Hamlon was born to these parents at Mendota, Illinois, November 28, 1865, one of a family of four children, all living. The other children are Chauncy, a dentist of Lambertton, Minnesota; Minnie (Mrs. William Lynn) and Emma (Mrs. William Baker). When he was four years old William accompanied his parents to Ford county. He spent his winters attending the district schools and his summers working on his father's farm. He came to Jackson county with his parents in the spring of 1892 and located in Middletown township, making his home with his parents. He assisted in the management of the farms—his father having purchased 1040 acres in Middletown and Des Moines townships. After his father's death in 1896 Mr. Hamlon worked part of the farm on his own account, and then moved to Jackson, where he has since resided.

Mr. Hamlon owns the southeast quarter of section 5, Middletown. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge. Mr. Hamlon has never married.

HERMAN FRODERMANN (1890), Rost township farmer and stockman, was born in Holstein, Germany, February 10, 1867, the son of August and Magdalena (Hendricks) Frodermann. His father died at Holstein, Germany, in 1878, aged 43 years; his mother, who was born in 1833, still lives in her native land.

Herman lived in Germany until twenty-two years of age. He was brought up on a farm and after growing up worked as a farm laborer. He came to America in 1889, landing in New York March 28. He spent the first eight months of his life in the new world working on a farm in Clinton county, Iowa, and then went to Holstein, Ida county, Iowa, where he was employed on a farm until the spring of 1891.

Mr. Frodermann first came to Jackson county in the fall of 1890, was here a short time and then returned to Ida county. In March, 1891, he returned to Jackson county to reside permanently. He worked out one year in Rost township, and then engaged in farming on his own account. One year he farmed the Peter Tordsen farm and the next year the Charles Schmidt farm, both in Rost township.

Mr. Frodermann next rented the Fred Plagman farm in Sioux Valley township and farmed it eleven years. He farmed the Stelk farm in Rost two years, and on March 1, 1907, located on the S. M. Richards farm in Rost, where he has since lived. In the fall of 1909 he became a land owner, having purchased a 120 acre farm on section 34, Rost township.

Mr. Frodermann engages extensively in stock raising, shipping his own stock. He has interests in the Rost creamery, the cooperative store at Lakefield and the farmers elevator of the same town. He is a member of the K. O. T. M. and the M. W. A. lodges.

In Sioux Valley township on October 11, 1891, Mr. Frodermann was married to Dora Grimm, who was born in Hanover, Germany, March 23, 1874, and who came to the United States in 1889. To them have been born five children as follows: Lizzie, born April 7, 1892; August, born March 30, 1894; Emma, born December 20, 1895; Mary, born January 26, 1898; Erwin, born February 5, 1900.

OLIVER W. BROWN (1887), foreman of the round house of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company at Jackson, has led an interesting and eventful life, the last twenty-three years of which have been spent in Jackson. He was born at Frederick's Varn, which was at the time the location of the Norwegian navy yards, Norway, on December 7, 1841, the son of Edward and Olevia (Brown) Brown.

When Oliver was a mere child his mother died and he went to live with an uncle at Horten, Norway, to which place the navy yards had been moved from Frederick's Varn. There he received a meager education and served an apprenticeship in the navy yards. At an early age he shipped as a seafaring man in the Norwegian naval mail service and followed that occupation until 1862. For several years thereafter he served in the capacity of ship's machinist and visited many foreign countries.

In the latter part of 1866 Mr. Brown, while at Copenhagen, Denmark, shipped with the American navy, taking service on the United States warship Canandaigua, which had been built during the civil war for a blockade runner, and which at the time was one of a squadron under the command of Admiral Farragut, on a cruise of the world. Over three years were spent on this trip, the squadron visiting every civilized portion of the world,

and landing at the Brooklyn navy yard during the holidays of 1869. Upon leaving his ship at that time Mr. Brown enlisted in the United States navy as a blacksmith, but his skill as a mechanic soon won him promotion to the position of machinist. He was honorably discharged at Brooklyn.

Having saved up quite a sum of Spanish gold, Mr. Brown exchanged it for coin of the realm and went to Newburg, on the Hudson river, where, in partnership with a retired naval officer, he started a machine shop on an extensive scale. The enterprise proved a failure and for a short time thereafter he worked at his trade at Cold Springs, near West Point, New York, and at Jersey City. In the fall of 1871 he turned his face westward and landed in the city of Chicago, where he followed his trade until the big fire of October, 1871. After that never-to-be-forgotten event he went to Milwaukee and entered the employ of the Milwaukee railroad, and with the exception of seven months during the panic of 1873, he has been continuously in the employ of that railroad.

During the seven months he was not in the employ of the railroad company in 1873 Mr. Brown built and put in operation the first steam yacht that ever plied the waters of the Milwaukee river. The vessel was successfully operated as a pleasure boat for three seasons, and then went out of commission in that service because of the carrying away by flood of the Milwaukee dam. The boat was then sold to a fishing firm on lake Michigan. The yacht was supplied with a fourteen horse power upright engine and had a speed of sixteen and one-half knots an hour.

When he entered the employ of the Milwaukee road at Milwaukee in 1871 Mr. Brown served as machinist and later was made foreman of the round house. In 1887 he moved to Jackson to take the position of foreman of the round house of the Milwaukee road at that point and has ever since served in that capacity.

In the month of October, 1871, in the city of Chicago, fourteen days before the big fire, Mr. Brown was married to Ovidia Bay, a native of Norway. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born seven children—two sons and five daughters. Both sons are dead, the elder having met his death by drowning in the Milwaukee river. The daughters are all teachers, Milly being an artist of great ability, and

Birdie (Mrs. Ainsley Hughes), is a talented musician, having studied under old masters in Norway and Chicago. The other living children are Hilda, Grace and Maybelle.

Mr. Brown owns a section of land in Wadena county, Minnesota, and owns considerable property in the village of Jackson. He was a member of the village council two terms and has been a member of the board of education for the last five years.

H. B. GILLESPIE (1891), member of the firm of W. B. Gillespie & Sons, proprietor of a Jackson hardware store, is a native of Osage, Iowa, and was born December 26, 1871, the son of William B. and Alice (Batta) Gillespie. Two years after the birth of our subject the family moved to Traer, Iowa, and at that place H. B. Gillespie was raised. He was educated in the Traer high school.

In 1889 our subject accompanied his parents to Forest City, Iowa, and for two years was engaged in the hardware business. He came to Jackson in December, 1891, and in partnership with his father bought the Fiddes hardware store, in which he has since had an interest. Besides his interest in the store Mr. Gillespie owns stock in, and is a director of, the Jackson National Bank. He owns property in the village and was a member of the village council from 1905 to 1907. He holds membership in the K. P., A. O. U. W. and M. W. A. lodges.

Mr Gillespie was married September 6, 1899, to Miss Bella G. Hunter, and to them have been born three children, as follows: Margaret H., born August 12, 1902, Helen H., born September 8, 1904; Hunter R., born January 16, 1909.

HENRY SCHULTZ (1888), Enterprise township farmer, was born in Cook county, Illinois, January 9, 1874, the son of Christ and Dora (Howe) Schultz. His parents were of German birth and came to America in 1868, locating in Illinois.

Henry came to Jackson county with his parents in 1888 and has lived in Enterprise township ever since, with the exception of the year 1897, when he resided in Wisconsin township. Until he was twenty-six years of age he resided at home, since which time he has been engaged in farming on his own account.



He owns the west half of the southwest quarter of section 3 and an undivided interest in the southeast quarter of section 4, and has stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Alpha.

Mr. Schultz was married November 5, 1902, to Annie Grunst, who was born September 15, 1883. Two children have been born to this union: Alfred, born October 4, 1903; Walter, born December 18, 1907. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Kimball.

ELIAS CEDARBERG (1888), who owns a quarter section farm in Heron Lake township, has been engaged in farming there for the last twenty-one years. He was born in Sweden August 23, 1859, one of a family of fourteen children born to O. T. Falk and Pharnella Falk. The living children are Elias Cedarberg, Annie Johnson, August Olson, Swan Olson, Adolph Olson, Peter Olson, Otto Olson, Nellie Nelson and Hilda Hoah. The parents of these children lived in Jackson county for several years, but the father now resides in his native land; the mother died in 1900 at the age of 59 years.

Elias lived with his parents in Sweden until he was fourteen years of age. Then he shipped as a sailor and for the next five years was on the water, cruising in European waters, in the West Indies and the Americas. He quit the sea in June, 1879, when he landed in New York City, where he was paid off and honorably discharged. He went to Chesterton, Indiana, where for one year he worked for Thomas Blackwell, who was engaged in the flour mill and saw mill business. From Indiana Mr. Cedarberg went to West Union, Iowa, where for one summer he was employed as night miller in a flour mill. He next went to Minneapolis and took the position of miller in the Washburn A flour mill, after it had been rebuilt following the disastrous explosion of 1879. He was with the milling company one year and then had to quit on account of poor eyesight.

Mr. Cedarberg next engaged in railroading. He went to Fargo, North Dakota, as the foreman of a carpenter crew for a railroad contractor. One year later he took charge of a construction crew on the Northern Pacific railroad, but soon gave up that work and located in St. Paul. There he was made emigra-

tion agent for the Union Depot company, a position he held several years. In 1888 Mr. Cedarberg came to Jackson county and located upon his farm on sections 14 and 15, Heron Lake township, which he had bought two years before. He has made all the improvements on the farm. With his own hands he built the commodious home he occupies and set out the trees of the grove.

The subject of this biography was married in St. Paul January 11, 1884, to Alma Olson, who was born at Kalmar, Sweden, March 13, 1864, and who came to America in 1880. To them have been born two children: Allen, born June 11, 1885; Olga (Mrs. P. C. Brakke), of Delafield township, born in 1886. Mr. Cedarberg is a member of the Woodmen and Workmen lodges.

CHARLES M. GAGE (1885), deceased, the oldest son of Solomon Gage, was born on his father's farm in Kane county, Illinois, on the 25th day of December, in the year 1862. He attended a country school that was located near his home and finished his education at a seminary at Elgin, Illinois.

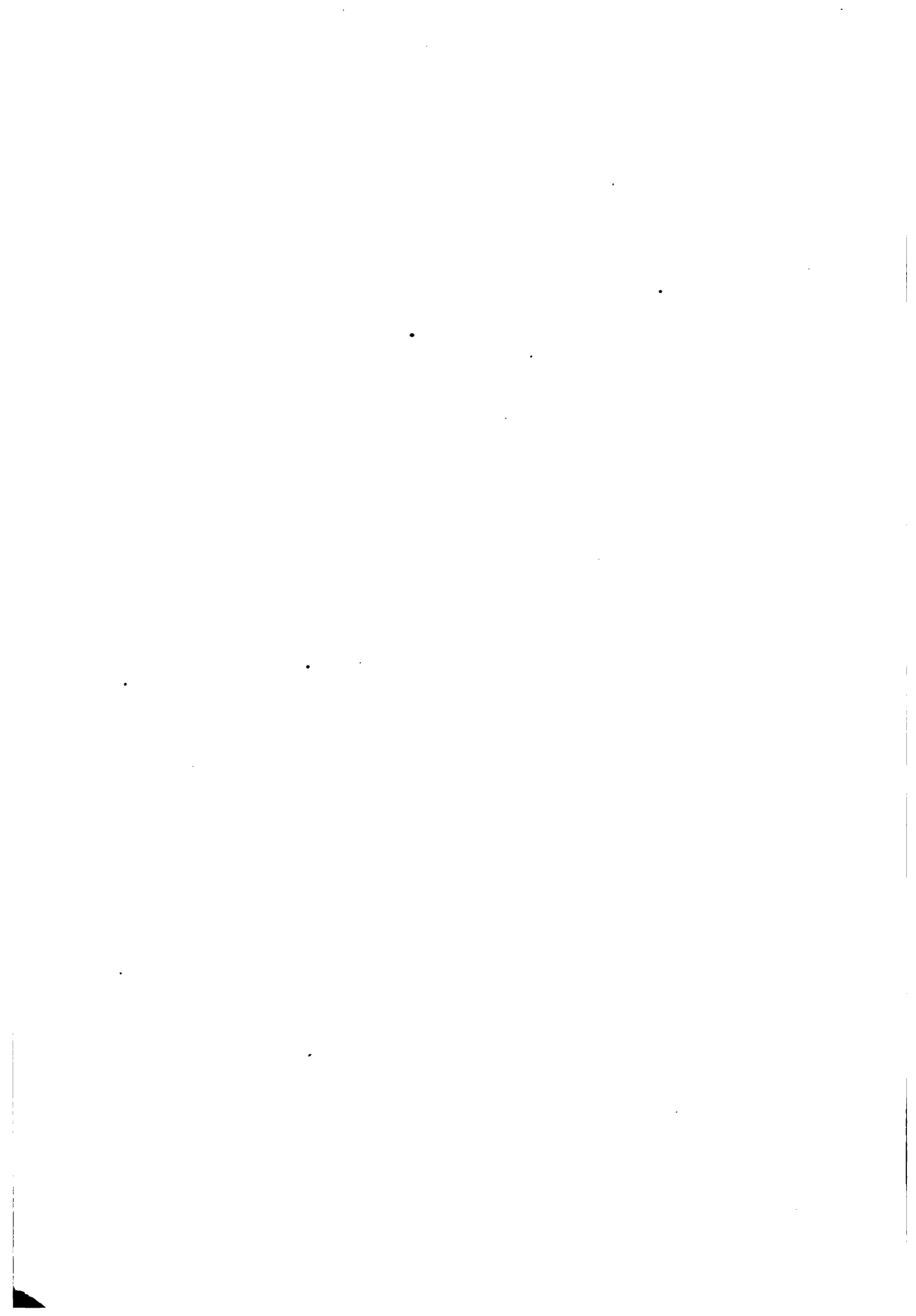
He was a very industrious and model young man and the old farm remained his home until 1885, when he married Estella McClelland and moved to Jackson county, Minnesota, where he purchased the south half of section 31 in the township of Belmont and developed it into one of the best stock farms in the county. While living in Belmont township he served several terms as chairman of the town board and clerk of his school district.

Mr. Gage was the father of seven children. T. Ernest Gage, born November 3, 1885; Fern Gage, born January 18, 1887; Florence M. Gage, born February 2, 1890; Bertie Marie Gage, born April 18, 1894; Elmer Gage, born October, 1896, were born on the above named farm. Harold W. Gage, born October 5, 1899, and Sylvia S. Gage, born May 10, 1903, were born after Mr. Gage had moved his family into their new home he had built in Lakefield, Minnesota, in 1897. Fern Gage died of diphtheria in the winter of 1894 and Elmer Gage only lived to be ten or twelve days old. Mr. Gage left his farm and made his home in Lakefield in order that his children might attend the high school. He entered into the farm implement business in partnership with John Frederickson at Lakefield, which partnership



**CHARLES M. GAGE (1863-1908)**

**Who for Many Years was Engaged in Business in Lakefield.**



continued until 1901, when E. A. Gage bought out Mr. Frederickson's interest in the business, and the firm became known as Gage Brothers. Mr. Gage died at his home in Lakefield, Minnesota, on July 19, 1908, after an illness of some ten days. He left a wife, five children and a great many friends to mourn his death.

Mr. Gage was a thoughtful, loving husband, a generous father and a loyal citizen. He was a member of the A. O. U. W. and the M. W. A. lodges of Lakefield and also a member of the Lakefield Lodge No. 250, A. F. & A. M., Jackson Chapter No. 73, R. A. M., Jackson, Minnesota, and Fairmont Commandery K. T. No. 27, Fairmont, Minnesota.

GUST BENSON (1893) is one of the big farmers of West Heron Lake township, in which he owns 400 acres of land on sections 28 and 22. He was born in Sweden May 5, 1858, the son of Nels and Johanna (Monson) Benson, both of whom died in their native land.

Gust was educated in the Swedish schools and until eighteen years of age lived with his parents. After that age he worked for his own account and in 1883 came to the United States. He located first at Sugar Notch, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he worked at the carpenter trade four years. He then came west and for several years worked at his trade in St. Paul. While a resident of the Minnesota capital city Mr. Benson bought the southwest quarter of section 22, West Heron Lake township, and in 1893 he moved onto the land and began farming. He resided on that farm six years and bought the east half of section 28, and has since made his home on that land, farming the whole 480 acres. He is treasurer of school district No. 90.

Mr. Benson was married in St. Paul December 11, 1886, to Engri Mortenson, who was born in Sweden, the daughter of Morten Nelson, and came to the United States in 1884. To them have been born the following named children: Arthur, born April 28, 1890; Alma, born November 4, 1892; Septer, born September 26, 1899; Herman, born February 3, 1904. The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran church.

JOHN G. O'DONNELL (1892), a citizen and business man of Jackson, was born in the town of New Diggings, Lafayette county, Wis-

consin, April 7, 1870, the son of John and Mary (Rooney) O'Donnell. He received a common school education at New Diggings and resided with his parents until twenty-one years of age.

In 1891 Mr. O'Donnell went to Havelock, Pocahontas county, Iowa, remained there during the following winter and in April, 1892, located in Jackson, Minnesota, where, with the exception of one year spent in Austin, Minnesota, he has ever since resided.

Mr. O'Donnell was married October 28, 1894, to Miss Reka Hagerman. To them have been born two children: Blanche and Edward. The family are members of the Catholic church.

ANDRE M. ST. JOHN (1897), vice president of the St. John Grain company, and manager of the Lakefield branch, is of the ninth generation of the St. John family since its arrival to America from England in the early days of the country's history. His parents were Matthew and Roxaline (Pierce) St. John and he was born in Albany county, New York, May 6, 1846.

Andre lived with his parents on the farm in Albany county, New York, until 1856, and in that year the family moved to the wilds of Minnesota and were among the first settlers of Mower county, the father preempting land twelve miles south of Austin. Owing to the lack of school privileges in Minnesota territory in these early days the early education of our subject was limited. In a log cabin in Mower county he received his early schooling from his father, and at the age of sixteen years he became a student in the Cedar Valley, Iowa, Seminary, where he studied two years.

After securing his education he returned to his father's farm and assisted with the work until he reached his majority. He then bought a farm in Mower county and engaged in agricultural pursuits until the year 1879. That year he moved to Mitchell county, Iowa, and was engaged in general merchandise business until 1897. He then sold out and moved to Lakefield, where he entered into partnership with his two brothers, W. P. and B. P. St. John, and engaged in the grain business. He erected the grain elevator at Lakefield at that time and has since made his home in that village.

The St. John Grain company is one of the big institutions of Jackson county and carries

on an extensive wholesale and retail business in grain, coal and flour. The company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$150,000 in 1907. The home office is in Heron Lake and the company owns and maintains elevators at the following named places: Heron Lake, Wilder, Windom, Bingham Lake, LeSueur, Amboy, Winnebago City, Elmore, Adrian, Brewster, Beaver Creek in Minnesota, and Ledyard, Hoppers and Rock Rapids and other points in Iowa. The officers of the company are B. P. St. John, president and treasurer; A. M. St. John, vice president; M. W. Smith, secretary. The directors are M. W. Smith, A. M. St. John, D. H. McKeller, J. B. Nimerfro, S. S. Striker, S. E. St. John and B. P. St. John. One of the St. John brothers, W. P., died in October, 1905; the other, B. P., resides in Heron Lake.

Mr. St. John was married at Clinton Falls, Steele county, Minnesota, October 24, 1872, to Ella D. Finch, a native of New York state. She is a daughter of the late W. W. Finch, who came to Minnesota in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. St. John are the parents of the following named children: Helen A. (Mrs. Leslie Hill), of Watertown, South Dakota; Alice L. (Mrs. Lester B. Parsons), of Watertown, South Dakota; Wilhelmina (Mrs. Eugene Callan), of Woodstock, Minnesota; Sherman E. St. John, of Republic, Washington.

During the years 1900, 1901 and 1907 Mr. St. John served as president of the Lakefield village council and he has also been a member of the board of education. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the M. W. A. and Yeomen lodges.

ALEXANDER T. FIDDES (1880), junior member of the firm of A. Fiddes & Son, Jackson, and half owner of the drug business of that firm, is a native of Jackson. He was born December 21, 1880, and is the son of Alexander and Agnes (Hunter) Fiddes, pioneers of the village.

The subject of this review secured his general education in the village of his birth, having been graduated from the high school in 1898. He then took a position in his father's drug store, which was purchased that year from C. A. Portmann, and four years later took a course in Drew's school of pharmacy. Later he purchased a half interest in the business from his father and has since been engaged in managing the business. The store is located

in a handsome brick block which was erected by the senior member of the firm in 1899.

Mr. Fiddes is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and of the Chapter. He is now worshipful master of Good Faith Lodge No. 90.

THEODORE E. GAGE (1884), one of the members of the firm of Gage Brothers, dealers in implements at Lakefield, has resided in Jackson county all his life. He is the son of the late Charles M. and Estella (McClellan) Gage.

Charles Gage, the father, was born in Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, in 1863, and he lived on his father's farm near that city until 1884. He then married and moved to Jackson county. He bought a farm in Belmont township, upon which he lived until 1897. He then moved to Lakefield and engaged in the implement business with John Frederickson. One year later Mr. Frederickson sold to E. A. Gage and the firm became Gage Brothers, which it still continues to be, although there have been changes in the ownership since the firm was named. In 1905 E. A. Gage sold his interests to his brother, John Gage. Charles Gage continued in the business until his death, which occurred July 19, 1908. Charles M. Gage was the father of five children, as follows: Theodore E., Florence M., Bertie M., Harold and Sylvia S.

Theodore E. Gage, the eldest of these children and the subject of this biography, was born on the farm in Belmont township November 3, 1884. He received his primary education in the district schools of Belmont township and then attended the graded and high schools of Lakefield, having been graduated from the latter institution in 1902. He completed his education in Hamline university. In the spring of 1905 Mr. Gage took a position as bookkeeper in the Jackson County State Bank, and in 1907 became assistant cashier. He held that position until his father's death in 1908, when he took his father's interest in the implement business, and he has since been an active member of the firm.

Mr. Gage was married in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 17, 1908, to Grace Belle Adair, who was born in Minneapolis May 20, 1884, and who is the daughter of F. D. Adair, a former merchant of Lakefield. They are the parents of a son, Charles Adair, born April 6, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Gage are members of

the Methodist church and he belongs to the Masonic, Eastern Star and Woodmen lodges.

PETER DILLEY (1892) owns and farms a quarter section farm on section 11, Enterprise township, where he has lived for the last eighteen years. He is a native of Huntington, England, and was born June 20, 1860, son of George Dilley, who resides with his son, and Ann (Kay) Dilley, who is dead.

Peter attended school from the age of five to nine years and when a little older learned the blacksmith's trade. He came to the United States at the age of twenty-one years and located at Orland, Cook county, Illinois. There he resided eleven years, spending the first year working at his trade and the rest engaged in farming. In 1885 he bought his present farm in Enterprise township, and in March, 1892, moved to Jackson county and located upon the farm, where he has ever since lived. He is a director and stockholder of the Farmers Elevator company of Alpha and has stock in the Enterprise creamery. He holds the office of chairman of the township board and has served for thirteen years, and for seven years he was a director of his school district. He is a member of M. W. A. lodge No. 6383, Alpha.

Mr. Dilley was married March 22, 1885, to Hattie Troffer. She died April 6, 1891. The second marriage of Mr. Dilley occurred July 30, 1891, when he wedded Jane Beagley, of Orland, Illinois. She was born June 26, 1867. To these parents have been born the following named children: Cecelia, born June 2, 1892; Gordon, born November 8, 1894; Lilly, born March 26, 1896; Mary, born September 17, 1897; Flossie, born April 8, 1899; Bernard, born September 2, 1902; Annie, born October 26, 1903; Leonard, born March 31, 1905; Bessie, born November 29, 1906.

FERDINAND KOEHN (1884) is one of the prosperous farmers and big landowners of Heron Lake township, owning 400 acres in one piece on sections 2 and 3, all of which he and his sons farm. He has resided on his present farm twenty-five years.

Mr. Koehn was born in Germany November 22, 1855, the youngest of a family of five children. His father died when our subject was a child and he spent his early days living with his mother and working on farms. His

mother and the other children came to America in 1879 and for five and one-half years lived in Lapeer county, Michigan. His mother died in 1899, aged 82 years. Our subject came to Jackson county in 1884, bought eighty acres of his present farm, and upon that land has ever since resided.

In the village of Lakefield, on April 26, 1886, Mr. Koehn was married to Henrietta Dally, who was born in Germany in 1859 and came to the United States when twenty years of age. Eight children have been born to these parents, as follows: Otto, born January 23, 1887; Charlie, born March 11, 1888; Fred, born July 11, 1889; Alvena, born July 20, 1891; Minnie, born December 9, 1892; Paulina, born November 6, 1894; Emil, born March 6, 1896; Bertha, born June 7, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Koehn and children are members of the German Lutheran church.

LEONARD A. LIBRA (1887) is a landowner and farmer of Petersburg township who has lived on his present place twenty-two years. He was born in Moravia, Austria, September 3, 1867, the son of Joseph and Josephine (Ambrose) Libra.

Our subject received a common school education in his native country and in December, 1880, emigrated with his parents to America, who located in DeSoto, Iowa. Although not yet a man grown Leonard spent most of the time of the seven years' residence in that place working in a stone quarry. In 1887 Mr. Libra came to Jackson county and located on his present farm in Petersburg township, on section 17, where he has since been engaged in farming. He owns 120 acres of land and has served as a member of the township board since 1906. He belongs to the Workmen, Woodmen and Z. C. B. J. lodges.

Mr. Libra was married April 4, 1885, in De Soto, Iowa, to Mary Zebedee. As a result of this union three children were born; Edward A. and Mary E., born July 17, 1887, and Anna born December 17, 1889. Mr. Libra's second marriage occurred October 16, 1892, when he wedded Josie Najt in Jackson. To these parents have been born the following children: Roy E., born March 15, 1894; William L., born May 28, 1897; Ella J., born June 5, 1900; Lydia, born October 19, 1901; Nettie, born May 12, 1903; Leonard A., Jr., born March 29,

1905; John K., born March 15, 1907; Agnes, born December 1, 1908.

CHRIST STUDE (1895), farmer of Alba township, was born in Livingston county, Illinois, August 19, 1866, the son of Christ and Margaret (Kroa) Stude, of whom the former is dead, the latter living in the state of Washington.

Mr. Stude resided in his native county until the year 1895. That year he came to Jackson county and bought the northwest quarter of section 33, Alba township. He has ever since been engaged in farming the place, making his home with his brother, Henry Stude. He is unmarried and one of a family of five children, the others being Henry, Charlie, Annie (Mrs. Herman Leeck) and Lewis. He is a stockholder in the Brewster creamery and also in the Farmers grain elevator at Brewster.

LOUIS W. ASHLEY (1879), proprietor of a dray line in the village of Jackson, was born in Des Moines township, Jackson county, September 26, 1879, the oldest son of Leonard and Mary (Thomas) Ashley, who reside just south of Jackson, and who are old settlers of the county.

Louis received his education in the Jackson schools. He worked on his father's farm and at different occupations until reaching his majority. He moved to Jackson in 1900 and for two years worked with the telephone company. In 1902 he engaged in the dray business, which he has since followed. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge and of the Equitable Fraternal union.

Mr. Ashley was married in the county June 22, 1907, to Lydia Raasch, daughter of the late Carl Raasch and Mrs. Raasch. One child has been born to this union, Floyd, born January 24, 1909.

MARK HUSBY (1884), of Belmont township, was born in that township May 20, 1884, the son of Gunder and Paulina (Peterson) Husby, of Jackson, and the eldest of a family of seven children. On the farm upon which he was born Mark has spent his entire life. He secured an education in the school in district No. 79 and until he was twenty years old worked for his

father on the farm. Then he married and rented the home farm, which he has since conducted.

Mr. Husby was married in Belmont township December 9, 1903, to Carine Leen, a native of Emmet county, Iowa, and a daughter of Christ and Thora Leen. Mr. and Mrs. Husby are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

FRANCIS O. LEE (1892) resides in the village of Jackson, from which place he farms his Middletown township land, four miles southwest of town. He has been a resident of the county seventeen years.

The parents of our subject are John and Hannah (Spink) Lee. John Lee was born in Haslet, Yorkshire, England, October 18, 1829; Hannah Spink, in Hook, Yorkshire, England, January 28, 1834. They were married November 30, 1852, and in July, 1853, came to the United States. From the time he was sixteen years of age until his marriage John Lee was a sailor. Upon their arrival to the new world Mr. and Mrs. Lee located at East Haven, New York, and eighteen months later moved to Morgan county, Illinois. In January, 1868, they moved to Logan county, Illinois, and the next year to Sangamon county of the same state, where they bought a farm and resided until 1891. They then moved to the town of Buffalo, in Sangamon county, and there they still reside. Mr. and Mrs. John Lee brought up a family of twelve children, of whom eight are living. The children are: George R., born April 21, 1855, died February 18, 1904; William, born September 28, 1856, died May 27, 1908; Mariam, born April 7, 1858; Francis Oliver, born February 12, 1860; Joseph, born August 18, 1861, died April 15, 1863; John Albert, born May 14, 1863; Morris Parker, born January 28, 1865; Minnie Ann, born July 15, 1867; Nora Bell, born June 18, 1869; Anna Adelia, born August 25, 1873; Aldie May, born April 11, 1875; Sarah Elizabeth, born January 10, 1878, died December 20, 1884.

It was while his parents were living in Morgan county, Illinois, on the twelfth day of February, 1860, that Francis Oliver Lee was born. Until he was of age he worked on his father's farm; then he farmed rented land and made his home with his parents until he was twenty-five years old. Then he rented a farm near Curran, Sangamon county, farmed

the place two years, and then located in Logan county, where he engaged in farming until 1891. The next year he spent farming near Illiopolis, Sangamon county, and in March, 1892, came to Jackson county, Minnesota. He farmed in Des Moines township one year, and then located in Middletown township, where he resided ten years. While still a resident of Illinois, Mr. Lee had come to Jackson county and bought the northeast quarter of section 4, Middletown township, which he still owns, but upon which he never lived. In the fall of 1902 Mr. Lee moved to Jackson, bought town property, and has since made his home there, engaged in conducting his farm. During his residence in Middletown Mr. Lee served one term as a member of the township board. He holds membership in the A. F. & A. M., the M. W. A. and the Eastern Star lodges. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Eastern Star and Royal Neighbors lodges.

Francis Oliver Lee was married at Mount Pulaski, Logan county, Illinois, on the first day of the year 1885, to Miss June Alexander, who was born in Waynesville, Dewitt county, Illinois, May 28, 1862, the daughter of Orrin A. and Lockey M. (Parker) Alexander. Her mother died September 2, 1887, aged 56 years, 4 months and 8 days. Her father died October 23, 1908, aged 84 years.

Orrin A. Alexander was a noted photographer of war times and before, and he took several pictures of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas when they were on their memorable debating trip. These pictures are in the possession of Mrs. F. O. Lee. From these originals all the pictures of Lincoln of that time have been copied. Of Mr. Alexander's work as a photographer the Decatur (Illinois) Review of November 29, 1908, said:

"When O. A. Alexander was found dead in Mount Pulaski it was recalled that during the war he was a traveling photographer with a territory comprising Decatur, Bloomington, Clinton and Springfield. When his daughter, Mrs. Oliver Lee, of Jackson, Minnesota, came to dispose of her father's effects she found great quantities of copper plates, mates, frames and cases used in the mounting of daguerreotype pictures. Among them she found many photographs of army officers and fair ladies, but of greater interest were pictures of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, taken at the time of the famous debate."

Mr. and Mrs. Lee have three children: Reuel Parker, born February 18, 1888, in Logan county, Illinois; Mabel June, born October 17, 1890, in Logan county, Illinois; Royal Emory, born March 27, 1894, in Middletown township, Jackson county.

W. L. CALLISON (1896) is the manager of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator company of Heron Lake. He was born near the city of Laporte, Indiana, June 9, 1842, the son of James and Paulina (Phillips) Callison. The father was born in Whiteside county, West Virginia, and moved to Laporte county, Indiana, when quite young. After becoming of age he bought government land there and engaged in farming until 1863. That year he moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1888. Our subject's mother was a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania. She was married to Mr. Callison in Laporte county, Indiana, and died October, 1906, at the age of 86 years. They were the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, our subject being the third oldest.

W. L. Callison resided on the farm in Laporte county, Indiana, until his parents moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1863. He remained under the parental roof one year after the family moved to Wisconsin; then he started out in life for himself. He located in Wineshiek county, Iowa, and for one year was the foreman of the Locus Lane farm. He then went to West Union, Iowa, where he engaged in farming four years. He then engaged in the grain business and that has been his occupation ever since. He bought grain in West Union, Iowa, in Hazelton, in Oelwein, and in Boyden, being a resident of the last named town from 1881 to 1889, and serving as postmaster four years under appointment by Grover Cleveland.

In 1889 Mr. Callison went to Rock Valley, Iowa, where he bought grain four years; then he moved to Hartland, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the grain and hardware business until 1896. In August of the last named year he moved to Heron Lake, where he has since been a grain buyer. The Farmers Cooperative Elevator company, of which he is the manager, is composed of farmers living tributary to Heron Lake, most of them living in Jackson county, a few in Cottonwood county. The com-



pany was organized October 15, 1904, and bought the elevator of the Anchor Grain company. The officers and directors of the company are: Jerry Sullivan, president; Tollef Egge, vice president; L. F. Lammers, secretary; C. F. Morley, treasurer; John Mathias, C. G. Buckley, F. J. Stenzel and N. J. Henkles.

Mr. Callison served as assessor of Heron Lake village four terms. He is a member of the Methodist church and has been superintendent of the Sunday school for the last nine years. He belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge of Heron Lake, to the Encampment at Windom, and to the Iowa Legions lodges.

At West Union, Iowa, on December 22, 1868, Mr. Callison was married to Elizabeth J. Knox, a native of Newark, New Jersey, and a daughter of John and Jennie Knox, natives of Ireland and later residents of New Jersey, and early settlers to Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Callison have been the parents of four children, of whom the following two daughters are living: Jennie (Mrs. J. F. McKellar), of Windom; Mabel (Mrs. M. B. Kellam), of St. Paul. Joseph C. Callison and William E. Callison, sons of these parents, are deceased.

JOHN B. THOMPSON (1893) is a farmer and breeder of thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs and owns the southeast quarter of section 21, Middletown township. He was born in Leaf River, township, Ogle county, Illinois, August 31, 1868, the son of David and Mary (Ballaugh) Thomson.

David Thomson was born in Johnstown, Scotland, and came to the United States in 1849. In the city of New York he worked at the baker's trade until 1852. The next ten years of his life were spent in California; then he returned to New York, lived there a short time, and then located in Ogle county, Illinois, where he bought a farm and where he has ever since resided. He is now 81 years old. His wife was born in Brooklyn, was married to Mr. Thomson in the spring of 1862, and is now living at the age of 70 years. John B. Thomson is one of twelve children born to these parents, of whom the following named eleven are living: Will, Jean, Euphemia, John B., Stewart, a doctor of Byron, Illinois; Alexander, a doctor of St. Louis; Mattie, Nisbet, Edward, Robert and George.

The subject of this biography lived with his parents and grew to manhood in his native county. His education was secured in the

country schools and in a business college of Rockford, Illinois. At the age of twenty he took a position as shipping clerk in the S. B. Wilkins knitting factory at Rockford, but later he returned to his father's home and lived there until 1893. That year Mr. Thomson moved to Jackson county and located upon the farm which he had bought the year before and where he has ever since resided. He established his herd of thoroughbred hogs eight years ago.

Mr. Thomson was married in Jackson October 19, 1898, to Mary Muir, daughter of Robert and Mary Muir, pioneers of the county, who now live at LaMoure, North Dakota. Mrs. Thomson was born in the log house on the old Middletown homestead July 24, 1873. Five children have been born to this union, named as follows: Mary E., born January 26, 1900; Minnie J., born August 7, 1902; Mattie A., born January 25, 1905; Nellie B., born May 5, 1907; Eva M., born July 22, 1909.

H. S. CULBERTSON (1891), manager of the Jackson branch of the Laird-Norton Yards, lumber and fuel dealers, is a native of the Keystone state, having been born in Warren county, Pennsylvania, April 10, 1861, the son of John H. and Jane (Morritt) Culbertson. The father died in 1876; the mother in August, 1907, at the age of 79 years.

When our subject was seven years of age the family moved from Pennsylvania to Clayton county, Iowa, and on a farm in that county Mr. Culbertson lived until 1885. After his father's death in 1876 he took the management of the farm. In 1885 he went to Dakota and other western states and for several years was unsettled as to location. During one year he lived in Estherville, Iowa. Mr. Culbertson moved to Jackson in 1891 and took a position with the John Paul Lumber company, this firm being succeeded by the Lamb Lumber company, and later by the Laird-Norton Yards. He has held the position of local manager of this yard ever since locating in the village.

The Laird-Norton Yards purchased the Jackson branch in 1905. This company was established in 1855 at Winona, which is still the headquarters. Messrs. Laird and Norton, who established the company, are still living and active in the management of the company. The Laird-Norton Yards was incorporated in 1900.

Mr. Culbertson was married in Jackson coun-

ty November 4, 1894, to Miss Anna C. Lewis, a daughter of Ex-Treasurer Christian Lewis. Mrs. Culbertson was born in Jackson county in 1872. To them have been born two children: Gerald H. and Milton Lewis. Mr. Culbertson is a member of the A. F. & A. M.

WALTER L. PIGMAN (1893) is a Ewington township farmer and stock raiser, farming the north half of section 28. He is a native of Montgomery county, Iowa, and was born October 8, 1875. His parents, Alonzo D. and Helen (Chambers) Pigman, are living in the state of South Dakota, aged 66 and 55 years, respectively. His father is a native of Indiana and his mother of Wisconsin.

When Walter was three years of age the family moved from Montgomery county, Iowa, to Webster county of the same state, and there he lived the next twelve years. He was educated in the district schools and was brought up on the farm, moving to Cherokee county, Iowa, in 1890. In 1893 Walter came to Jackson county with his parents. He lived in Lakefield four years, working by the day as a thresherman and in other occupations. He began farming in Ewington township in 1897 and has since been so engaged, having been on the present place—the William Barton farm—for the past four years.

Mr. Pigman was married at Worthington December 29, 1904, to Martha Hoffmeister, a daughter of George and Annie Elizabeth (Schaffner) Hoffmeister. She was born in Boone county, Iowa, October 20, 1886. They are the parents of three children: Leon, born April 19, 1905; Clarence, born January 28, 1906, died August 22, 1907; Lloyd, born March 22, 1908.

EMIL J. SKALICKY (1886) is a member of the firm of Matuska & Skalicky, proprietor of a hardware store, meat market and harness shop in Jackson. He is a native of Wisconsin, having been born in Dane county August 24, 1877, the son of Frank and Sarah (Betlach) Skalicky.

The first nine years of the life of Mr. Skalicky were spent in his native county. On August 24, 1886, he came to Jackson county with his parents and until January, 1900, he resided with them on the farm in Enterprise township. On the date last mentioned he moved to Jackson and took a position as

clerk in the First National Bank. A short time later he gave up his position and went to Mankato, where he took a six months' course in a business college. Returning to Jackson, he again took his position in the bank, and remained with that institution until May 22, 1907. On that date he purchased from his brother-in-law, F. A. Matuska, a half interest in that gentleman's hardware store and meat market, and the firm name became Matuska & Skalicky.

Mr. Skalicky was married November 23, 1898, to Anna Matuska, and to them have been born the following named children: John J., born August 28, 1899; Joe J., born September 4, 1901; Louis E., born November 8, 1904; Anna, born January 8, 1906.

Besides his town property Mr. Skalicky owns 160 acres of land in Enterprise township and a half section of Canadian land. He is a member of the Catholic church, of the C. O. F. and W. B. C. U. lodges.

During the season of 1909 Matuska & Skalicky erected one of the finest business blocks in the city, costing about \$16,000. It is built of Luverne gray brick and Kasota pink stone. The first floor is occupied by the hardware and harness stores of the firm, while the upper floor is occupied by the offices of business and professional men. The building was occupied for the first time in January, 1910.

CHARLES F. JACKMAN (1889), Petersburg township farmer, is a native of Genoa, Dekalb county, Illinois, where he was born June 26, 1882. He is the son of Merton F. and Alice E. (Fenton) Jackman, of the same township.

Charles moved with his parents from Illinois to Sherburn, Minnesota, in the spring of 1889 and in the fall of the same year came with them to Jackson county. He resided with his parents on the Petersburg township farm until 1906, when he married and engaged in farming for himself. He farms the old A. C. Jackman farm on section 24.

On June 20, 1906, Mr. Jackman was united in marriage to Miss Maria E. Sampson, of Clear Lake, Iowa. Two children have been born to this union: Lawrence, born October 14, 1907, died October 17, 1907; Olive F., born October 21, 1908.

HENRY STUDE (1895) is a farmer and land owner of Alba township, where he has resided

for the last fifteen years. He was born in Reading township, Livingston county, Illinois, August 15, 1874, and resided in that county until 1895, growing to manhood on his father's farm and receiving a common school education. He came to Jackson county upon reaching his majority and bought his present farm, the southeast quarter of section 32, Alba, upon which he has ever since lived. He has made practically all the improvements on the place, has all the land under cultivation, well fenced and partly tiled.

The parents of our subject were Christ and Margaret (Kroa) Stude. Both parents were born in Germany and came to America when young, having been married and having resided in Livingston county, Illinois. The father of our subject died there twenty-five years ago. His mother remarried and now lives in the state of Washington. Henry Stude is the eldest of a family of five children.

Mr. Stude was married in Jackson county, October 10, 1898, to Millie Baumgard. She was born in Illinois on March 10, 1880, and is a daughter of Rudolph and Gustie (Leeck) Baumgard, natives of Germany. Her mother is dead; her father lives at Hatfield, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Stude are the parents of three children, as follows: Paul, born February 17, 1901; Walter, born October 10, 1904; Clara, born March 26, 1907.

Mr. Stude is a member of the Alba township board of supervisors. He is a stockholder and a director of the creamery at Brewster and a stockholder in the Brewster Farmers elevator; also a stockholder in the Brewster Horse company.

GEORGE BEHRENFELD (1870), stock buyer and real estate dealer of Heron Lake, is a native of Minnesota and one of the very earliest residents of western Jackson county. He was born August 20, 1861, at a point forty miles west of St. Paul, where is now located the town of Waconia, in Carver county. His parents were John and Anna (Shibley) Behrenfeld, natives of Germany and Switzerland, respectively.

The father of our subject came to America in 1846, lived about six months in Wisconsin, and in 1855 located in Carver county, Minnesota. There he took government land and engaged in farming until the town of Waconia was founded. At that time he moved to the

new village and engaged in the hotel business until 1870. In May of that year he moved with his family to Jackson county and took a homestead in LaCrosse township. He engaged in farming there twenty-two years, and then moved to Heron Lake, where he engaged in the milling business. He died at Heron Lake in 1901, aged 77 years. The mother of our subject immigrated to America and was married to Mr. Behrenfeld in this country. She died about eighteen years ago.

George Behrenfeld accompanied his parents to Jackson county when nine years of age. He received a country school education and lived on his father's LaCrosse township homestead until eighteen years of age. He left home at that age and for seven years was employed in a flouring mill at Rock Rapids, Iowa. Returning to Jackson county at the end of that time, he bought land in LaCrosse township and engaged in farming five years. Leaving the farm, Mr. Behrenfeld located in Heron Lake and for a time was employed in his father's mill. Then he engaged in the stock and real estate business, which he has since followed. He has office rooms in the First National Bank building. He deals in Minnesota and North Dakota lands and buys and ships stock. He owns farms in LaCrosse and Weimer townships and village property. Mr. Behrenfeld is a member of the Catholic church and of the M. W. A., M. B. A., Royal Neighbors and K. of C. lodges.

Mr. Behrenfeld was married in Jackson county October 15, 1886, to Louisa Powletcheck, aged 42 years, a native of Austria and a daughter of John and Eva Powletcheck. She came to Jackson county with her parents in 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Behrenfeld are the parents of the following children: Maybelle L., aged 19 years; Beatrice B., aged 16 years; Eva M., aged 13 years; John C., aged 9 years; Raymond G., aged 7 years; Marrion M., aged 4 years.

EDWARD F. HEWETT (1897) owns a 320 acre farm on sections 12 and 1, Delafield township, a short distance south of Windom. He is the son of an Episcopal minister, Rev. John Prowse Hewett, and Elizabeth (Upcott) Hewett was his mother. Both parents are deceased. Edward is one of a family of five sons and was born in Norton Fitz Warren, near Taunton, the county seat of Somerset, England, March 19, 1869.



**GEORGE BEHRENFELD**

**Stock and Real Estate Dealer of Heron Lake and a Pioneer of 1870.**

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

Until eighteen years of age Edward lived with his parents in England; then he took up the life of a sailor and for the next three years was an apprentice on board ship. On his second trip of eighteen months he made a tour of the world. In 1890 he located in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, and for two years engaged in farming in Lakeside township on a farm left him by his father. Mr. Hewett married in 1893 and returned to his old home in England. A little over three years later, in 1897, he returned to the United States and became a resident of Jackson county. After farming five years in Enterprise township, he sold out and moved onto his present place, where he has since lived with the exception of a year and a half spent in California. This was from the fall of 1907 to June, 1909, when he resided near San Jose.

Mr. Hewett was married in Cottonwood county October 21, 1893, to Carolina M. Christensen, who was born in Delafield township June 5, 1874. She is a daughter of the late Peter Christensen, who was one of the county's early settlers and who died January 28, 1906. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hewett, as follows: Francis F., born December 30, 1894; George E., born June 7, 1896; John C., born March 21, 1898; Arthur P., born June 19, 1900, died April 16, 1902; Clarence W., born August 22, 1902; Lawrence B., born August 20, 1904; Elizabeth A., born November 18, 1906; Ethel M., born February 27, 1909.

Mr. Hewett is a member of the Episcopal church at Windom and of the I. O. O. F. and A. O. U. W. lodges, and Mr. and Mrs. Hewett are members of the Degree of Honor lodge.

JOHN McMARTIN (1893) is the manager of the Jackson yard of the C. L. Colman Lumber company. He was born in Ormstown, in the province of Quebec, Canada. His parents, Finley and Grace (McEwen) McMARTIN, both deceased, were natives of Scotland and came to America before their marriage.

The boyhood days of John McMARTIN were spent on a farm in Quebec. He attended school in the town of Durham and later engaged in clerking in stores in that town. In 1868, at the age of twenty-four years, he located in Faribault county, Minnesota, remained there only a short time and then went to Claremont, Dodge county. There he engaged in farming for a number of years and later became agent

for the Laird Norton Lumber company, which position he held a number of years. In 1888 Mr. McMARTIN located at Clear Lake, Iowa, where for five years he was agent for the Nelson Tenney Lumber company. In 1893 he located at Jackson and since that date has been the manager of the C. L. Colman Lumber company. Mr. McMARTIN owns village property. He served two years as a member of the village council and belongs to the A. F. & A. M. lodge.

In Franklin, Quebec, on December 26, 1869, Mr. McMARTIN was married to Ellen F. Moe, a native of the town in which she was married. To this union have been born the following children: Edward S., Elizabeth G., Marjorie A. and Elsie.

HANS ANDERSON (1881), farmer and landowner of Enterprise township, is a native of Norway and was born August 5, 1841. His parents, who are both dead, were Anders and Oleana (Larson) Ulrickson.

Mr. Anderson lived in Norway until he was forty years of age. He received a common school education, and after growing up engaged in farming. He came to the new world in 1881, and in October of that year arrived in Jackson county. The first four years he lived on section 18, Wisconsin township. Two years after his arrival he took as a tree claim the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20, Enterprise township, and in 1886 moved onto that place, where he has ever since resided. He now owns 120 acres on that section.

In April, 1871, Mr. Anderson was married to Andrena Anderson, who was born September 4, 1845, and died December 10, 1887. Seven children were born to this union, as follows: Alma C., born September 19, 1872; Lena, born May 20, 1875; John and Andrew (twins), born April 17, 1878; Hans, born October 28, 1880; Arthur and Eney (twins), born May 10, 1885. Mr. Anderson and children are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Belmont.

LEWIS STUDE (1895) owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 33, Alba township. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois, May 25, 1882, the son of Christ and Margaret (Kroa) Stude. These parents were born in Germany, came to America when young, and were married in Illinois. The father died

when our subject was a child. His mother remarried and now lives in the state of Washington.

Lewis received an education in the district school of Illinois and in Alba township, Jackson county, to which place he moved with his mother and stepfather in 1895. He lived at home until seventeen years of age; then he began working for his brothers on the farm in Alba township. In 1905 the property was divided and Lewis fell heir to the southwest quarter of section 33. He improved the farm and at once began its cultivation.

Mr. Stude was married December 20, 1905, to Emma Gerdes. She was born in Livingston county, Illinois, May 25, 1882, and is the daughter of John and Hika (Lanus) Gerdes.

LOUIS KIESEL (1884), who is engaged in the saloon business at Jackson, has been a resident of the county just a quarter of a century. He was born at Botkissengen, Bavaria, April 7, 1860, the son of Andrew and Christina Kiesel.

Mr. Kiesel received a common school education in his native country and emigrated to the United States in 1877. He went direct to Chicago and the same year located at Winfield, in Dupage county, Illinois, where he lived seven years, engaging in farming. In October, 1884, Mr. Kiesel came to Jackson county and engaged in farming in Wisconsin township, five miles east of Jackson, for eight years. He moved to Jackson in 1892 and has been engaged in the saloon business ever since that date.

At Turner Junction, Illinois, on January 31, 1882, Mr. Kiesel was married to Angelis Steffes, and to them have been born the following children: Nicholas, born November 7, 1883, died in 1888; Joseph E., born November 15, 1884; John W., born June 15, 1888; Louis, Jr., born August 15, 1891; Frances, born December 2, 1894.

Mr. Kiesel is a member of the Catholic church and of the C. O. F., K. P., Sons of Herman and Redmen lodges. He is the owner of real estate and town property. From 1894 to 1892 he served as a member of the board of supervisors of Wisconsin township.

JOHN G. GAGE (1905), dealer in implements and heavy hardware in the village of Lake-

field, is a native of Kane county, Illinois, where he was born February 28, 1870. His parents were Solomon and Marion (King) Gage, descendants of colonial stock, and natives of New York and Connecticut, respectively. His father was born June 15, 1827, and died November 7, 1886. His mother was born October 4, 1840, and died January 4, 1871.

Our subject's younger days were spent on his father's farm in Kane county, Illinois, where he received his primary education in the district schools. At the age of seventeen he became a student at the Elgin academy, Elgin, Illinois, and later was a student at Drew's Business college of Elgin and the Parker college of Winnebago City, Minnesota. In 1890 he took up the study of pharmacy in the Northwestern School of Pharmacy, of Chicago. Later he entered the Chicago College of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated in 1893. From the date of his graduation until 1897 Mr. Gage was employed as a pharmacist in Chicago. He then embarked in the drug business at Hamshire, Illinois. Selling out two years later, he moved to Chicago and worked as a pharmacist and prescription clerk until 1901. That year he was appointed an instructor of dispensing in the Northwestern Medical school. Later he became a salesman and prescription clerk, and was so employed until 1905.

When a boy fifteen years of age, Mr. Gage first came to Jackson county and resided for a period of six months on his father's farm four miles east of Lakefield. In 1905, on account of ill health, he was obliged to give up his profession, and then it was he came to Jackson county to reside permanently. He located in Lakefield and entered into the implement and heavy hardware business in partnership with his brother, C. M. Gage, and Lakefield has since been his home. Mr. Gage owns the southeast quarter of section 1, Hunter township, and residence property in Lakefield. He is a member of the Methodist church and a prominent lodge man, holding membership in the A. F. & A. M., at Lakefield, Chapter, at Jackson, Commandery, at Fairmont, Osman Temple, at St. Paul, Eastern Star and Odd Fellows, at Lakefield.

Mr. Gage was married in Chicago September 8, 1898, to Clara T. Burke, who was born in Nevada county, Ohio, November 8, 1873. She is the daughter of Charles W. Burke, who died in Chicago in December, 1908, and Henrietta Purke, who now resides in Chicago. One child

has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Gage, Bernice Marie Gage, born November 27, 1899.

BENDICK FREDERICKSON (1876), Christiania township farmer and feeder of cattle and hogs, is a native of that township, having been born on the farm he now conducts December 7, 1876, the son of pioneer residents of Christiania. His parents were John and Engebor Frederickson, who came from Norway soon after their marriage, and, after living a short time in Olmsted county, settled in Jackson county, taking as a homestead claim in 1870 the south half of the southwest quarter of section 24, Christiania township. On that farm they lived until their death, some fifteen years ago. Bendick is the oldest of a family of four children living. The others are Albert, Henry and Anna (Mrs. Gust Thompson).

With the exception of a few years when he was working out Bendick has spent his entire life on the home farm. He bought the farm from the other heirs in 1901 and has since resided on the place. Mr. Frederickson is not married and makes his home with the family of his brother, Albert. Recently he has begun feeding cattle and hogs for the market. In addition to his own farm he farms an eighty acre tract on section 24. Mr. Frederickson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the Sons of Norway lodge. He is a director of school district No. 26.

ALBERT ALBERTSON (1891), Ewington township farmer, was born in Logan county, Illinois, February 18, 1872, and in that county grew to manhood, securing an education and working on his father's farm. In 1891 he came to Jackson county with his parents and for ten years lived with his parents on their Ewington township farm. Mr. Albertson was married in 1901 and engaged in farming, having bought 160 acres of land on section 15. Four years later he sold that farm and bought his present place, the north half of section 16, where he has since lived. He is beginning to breed thoroughbred cattle and hogs and intends to engage in this business extensively in connection with his general farming.

The parents of our subject are Henry and Hannah Albertson. They were born in Germany, came to America when young and were married in Logan county, Illinois. They came

to Jackson county in 1891 and have since lived on their farm in Ewington township. Albert is the oldest of a family of three boys—Albert, Fred and Theodore.

Albert Albertson was married in Ewington township February 28, 1901, to Lena von Behren, daughter of Henry von Behren, of Ewington. Mrs. Albertson was born in Illinois in 1883. Four children have been born to this union: Minnie, born April 3, 1903; Sophia, born November 7, 1906; Mary, born October 21, 1904; George F., born October 28, 1908. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

DR. W. W. WOLD (1894), dentist of Jackson, was born in Luverne, Minnesota, August 16, 1873, the son of B. S. and Margaret (Olson) Wold, natives of Iowa and Norway, respectively. Both are deceased. They were the parents of the following named children: Stephen, Belle, Louis, Carrie, Albert, Lillian and William.

William Wold, the subject of this biography, attended the public schools and grew to young manhood in Rock county. At the age of fifteen he entered Sioux Falls university and was a student there two years. The next two years were spent in collegiate work in Iowa City, Iowa, and he then entered the dental department of the Iowa state university, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1894. Immediately after graduation Dr. Wold located in Jackson and began the practice of his profession, where he has since resided. In 1900 he erected his present neat and commodious building, one block east of the court house, which he has equipped with all modern improvements and appliances for his profession.

Dr. Wold was married at Jackson June 1, 1898, to Maud Emily Ashley, daughter of Benjamin W. and Juliet Ashley, who were among the very first residents of Jackson. Four children have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Wold, named Lillian, Gladys, Edna and William. Dr. Wold is a member of the A. F. & A. M., Royal Arch, Commandry, Shriners, Eastern Star, and M. W. A. orders.

HERMAN J. ARNOLD (1885) has conducted a harness shop in the village of Heron Lake for the past twenty-four years. He is a native Minnesotan and was born near the village of Mankato during the perilous times of the Sioux



war. A few months after his birth the thirty-eight Indians were hung near his home for their part in the massacres.

The parents of our subject are Adam Arnold and Ernestine (Mararaf) Arnold. Both parents were born in Germany and came to America in the late fifties. They located near Mankato, taking a claim that was originally entered by Mrs. Arnold's stepfather, Christian Klotzky. Mr. Arnold still lives upon land adjoining his old homestead and is 77 years of age. Mrs. Arnold died in 1880. To them were born nine children, of which five are yet living, and of these Herman is the oldest. He was born May 25, 1862.

Until he was eighteen years of age Herman Arnold lived on his father's farm, attending the schools during the winter months. He then left home and started learning the harnessmaker's trade in Mankato. He worked at the trade there five years and then, in 1885, moved to Heron Lake, where he opened a harness and repair shop, which he has ever since conducted. Mr. Arnold served as president of the council of Heron Lake one term in the early nineties and was a councilman several terms. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the K. P. lodge.

Mr. Arnold was married at Mankato December 29, 1885, to Josephina S. Lentz, a native of the city in which she was married. Two children have been born to this union, named Verda C. and E. Olive M.

WILLIAM C. DUNLOP (1899) is a farmer and land owner of Hunter township and resides on section 3, one mile east of Lakefield. He has been a resident of the county for the last ten years. He was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, September 27, 1869, the son of William and Jennett (Caldow) Dunlop. His parents were born in Scotland but came to America with their parents when children and were married in this country. They located in Columbia county, Wisconsin, and there the father of our subject still lives, being seventy years of age. The mother of our subject died there in 1891. There were eight children in the family, named as follows: Gabriel, Jennett, William, Joseph and Jane, twins; Robert, died when ten years of age; Lizzie and Annie, twins.

William C. Dunlop lived on a farm with his parents until he reached his majority; then he engaged in farming for himself, which he followed two years. From 1892 to 1896, when

he was married, he engaged in carpenter work and threshing. After his marriage he again engaged in farming and was so occupied in Columbia county until he came to Jackson county on October 18, 1899. Upon his arrival Mr. Dunlop bought the northeast quarter of section 25, Rost township, and rented the southwest quarter of section 30, Hunter township, which he bought two years later. In the fall of 1907 he sold the last named land and bought his present eighty-three and one-half acre farm on section 3, Hunter, still retaining his Rost township farm. During his residence in Hunter township Mr. Dunlop has served two years as a supervisor and three years as chairman of the board. He was also clerk of school district No. 52 for five years, and he is now a director of district No. 112. He is a member of the Masonic and Modern Woodmen lodges.

At Lodi, Columbia county, Wisconsin, on September 24, 1896, Mr. Dunlop was married to Mayme Bullen, who was born in the town of Arlington July 15, 1873. She is the daughter of David and Hannah Bullen. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop, Robert, born March 17, 1898; Ruth, born March 1, 1900.

LEO J. DOSTAL (1899), register of deeds of Jackson county, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, September 1, 1866, the son of Frank and Josephine (Pribyl) Dostal. In his native county he lived twelve years and then accompanied his parents to Worth county, Iowa, in 1878. He completed his education in a parochial school in Worth county, from which he was graduated in 1886.

Mr. Dostal grew to manhood on his father's farm in Worth county. He moved to Jackson county, Minnesota, in May, 1899, and bought an eighty acre farm in Des Moines township, a short distance west of Jackson. He engaged in farming there until the beginning of the year 1909, when he moved to Jackson to enter upon the duties of the office of register of deeds, to which office he had been elected the fall before on the democratic ticket. Mr. Dostal still owns his farm in Des Moines. During his residence on the farm he served in various township offices. He is secretary of the Jackson County Farmers Mutual Lightning Insurance company.

At Manly, Iowa, on February 12, 1892, Mr. Dostal was married to Miss Anna Kloyda, who

died September 13, 1903, aged 31 years, and to this union three children were born, as follows: Adeline H., born April 23, 1893; Lillian K., born November 27, 1895; Augusta A., born August 20, 1901. The second marriage of Mr. Dostal occurred at Jackson July 20, 1907, when he wedded Rosa Dgimela. To them has been born one child, Louis, born April 30, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Dostal belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters.

NELS HANSON (1891), Heron Lake township farmer, was born in Sweden July 3, 1858, the eldest of a family of four children born to Jens and Elna (Nelson) Hanson, now deceased.

Until 1882, at the age of twenty-four years, Nels lived in his native land. He began working out at the age of ten years and followed several occupations. He came to the United States in 1882, lived one year in Connecticut, one year in Livingston county, Illinois, and seven years in Ford county, Illinois, during which time he worked as a farm hand and as an employe of tile factories. Mr. Hanson came to Jackson county in 1891. He farmed a rented place in Heron Lake township two years, and then moved onto his own farm, the west half of the southeast quarter of section 26, which he had bought before coming to the county. He has resided upon that farm ever since. In addition to the eighty acres he owns he farms rented land.

Mr. Hanson was married in Chicago, Illinois, October 5, 1887, to Matilda Bjork, who was born on March 28, 1863. The following four children have been born to this union: Ernest, a graduate of the Globe Business college of St. Paul, now a resident of St. Paul; Ledia (Mrs. Frank Palmer), of Lakefield; Annie, a high school student; Harry, residing at home. Mr. Hanson is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

CHRIST JENSEN (1890), Wisconsin township farmer, owns the north half of the northeast quarter of section 7, upon which he has lived for nearly twenty years. He is of Danish birth and first saw the light of day June 26, 1858. His father, Jens Hansen, died in Denmark in 1895; his mother, Sidsel (Jensdatter), still lives in her native land.

Christ lived with his parents until twelve years of age; then he began hustling for himself, working on farms until he was seventeen. At that age he took up the life of a seaman and followed the sea three years. He came to America in 1880 and spent the first nine months of his life in the new world at New Orleans. He then came to Minnesota and for a year and a half engaged in farming in Brown county. For the next few years he divided his time between working on a homestead in Griggs county, North Dakota, and in the pineries of Pierce county, Wisconsin. Later for eight or nine months he was working on a grading contract in Barron county, Wisconsin, and his next jump was to the state of Mississippi, where he took a contract for levee work near Helena. He was there several months, and then located at Omaha, Nebraska, where for four years he engaged in teaming.

In March, 1890, after having lived in many parts of the country, Mr. Jensen came to Jackson county to make his permanent home. He bought the eighty acre farm in Wisconsin township, and that has ever since been his home. He holds the office of township treasurer and has been clerk of school district No. 1 during nearly the entire time of his residence in the county. He has also held the office of township supervisor. He is a member of the Danish Brotherhood, Danner Lodge No. 96, of Jackson.

Mr. Jensen was married at Omaha July 8, 1891, to Fritzena Jacobsen, also a native of Denmark. To this union has been born one child, Olga, born April 26, 1907.

GUSTAF A. ANDERSON (1896), proprietor of a photograph gallery in Jackson, was born in Sweden September 22, 1873, the son of Andrew and Sophia (Jonason) Anderson. His father died when our subject was three years of age and thereafter during his residence in the old country he lived with an uncle.

In 1891 Mr. Anderson came to the United States and located at Estherville, Iowa, where for several years he lived at the home of an uncle, attending school during the winter months and working on the farm during the summer months. In the fall of 1895 he began learning the photographer's trade in Estherville and the next year moved to Jackson and opened a gallery, renting the Roberts' studio. He remained in that location eight

years and then bought his present property. He built the operating room and made other improvements and now has one of the finest studios in southwestern Minnesota. Miss Louie Babcock has been employed as retoucher by Mr. Anderson for the past twelve years.

The subject of this review was married in Jackson June 22, 1904, to Julia B. Lewis, a native of Jackson county and a daughter of Christian Lewis, of Wisconsin township. Mr. Anderson is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and the Chapter.

LEMEK OLSEN (1888) is one of the extensive and successful farmers of Wisconsin township, residing a short distance southeast of Jackson. He farms 480 acres of land on sections 32 and 33. Our subject was born in Norway October 17, 1859, the son of Ole Larson and Martha (Peterson) Larson, both of whom are past ninety years of age and living in their native country. They are the parents of three children, Lemek, of this sketch; Peter, of Norway; Mrs. Anton Olson, of Norway.

Until he was twenty-seven years of age Lemek resided with his parents, securing an education and assisting with the farm work. At that age he married and for a year or two worked out. He came to America and to Jackson county in 1888, arriving in Lakefield on the first day of October of that year. He worked out two years, then rented land and farmed for himself two years. He then became a land owner, buying an eighty acre tract in Heron Lake township, which he conducted six years. He sold his land, rented a few years, and then sold all his possessions with the determination of making his home in the west. Not being satisfied with the western country, Mr. Olsen returned and for four years engaged in farming in Heron Lake township. In 1905 he rented the H. G. Anderson farm in Wisconsin township, and that has since been his home.

Lemek Olsen was married in Norway to Anna Paulina Hendrickson, a daughter of Henry Peterson. Six children have been born to these parents, as follows: Matilda, born January 19, 1887; Henry, born August 2, 1888; Anton, born January 21, 1890, died March 3, 1906; Linda, born September 16, 1891; Alfred, born January 19, 1895; Palmer, born August 14, 1897. The family are members of the Lutheran church of Jackson.

ANDREW CARLSON (1899), Petersburg township farmer, is a native of Varborge, Sweden, and was born February 3, 1858, the son of Carl and Johanna (Anderson) Carlson. In 1879 he left his native land and located near Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming twenty years. On the twenty-fifth day of November, 1899, he arrived in Jackson county and he has ever since made his home in Petersburg township, where he owns a quarter section of land.

The subject of this biography was married to Miss Annie Simonson, who died in August, 1898, after having borne the following named children: Agnes, born January 12, 1889; Julia, born July 23, 1891; Charley, born September 8, 1893; Bertha, born January 1, 1895; Ella, born June 13, 1897.

Mr. Carlson is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

ADOLPH ANDERSON (1897), blacksmith of Jackson, was born in Sweden March 13, 1874. His parents are Andrew and Christina Anderson, both of whom are living in their native land. Adolph received a common school education in Sweden, and at the age of fourteen years began working at the blacksmith trade, which he has followed all his life. He left home in 1893 and came to the United States, locating first at Howard, South Dakota. He worked at his trade there two years, at Corning, Iowa, one year, and again in Howard, South Dakota. He located in Jackson in 1897 and that village has since been his home. He worked in the shop of Ludvigsen Brothers four years, in that of George Sawyer two years, and in 1903 he bought a shop of L. A. Moon, and has since been in business for himself. He bought his present shop from Gus Thompson.

Mr. Anderson is a member of the Odd Fellows and M. W. A. lodges and of the Consolidated Casualty company. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church. He has been connected with the Jackson fire department for the past eight years.

At Jackson, on September 5, 1902, Mr. Anderson was married to Theresa Weiland, a native of Wisconsin. To them has been born one child, Antonette Anderson.

JOHN McGLIN (1892) is one of a firm which owns a line of elevators in southwestern Min-

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**DR. ANTON J. MOE**

**Founder and Owner of the Southwestern Minnesota Hospital,  
Heron Lake.**

nesota with headquarters at Lakefield. He is a native of Dubuque county, Iowa, and was born June 17, 1861. His parents were John and Jane (Rogers) McGlin, who were born in Ireland and who came to America when children. They were married in New York state and then moved west and located in Dubuque county, Iowa, where they acquired land and lived a number of years. Later they located in Buena Vista county, Iowa, and there our subject's father died September 9, 1882, having reached the age of 64 years. His wife died at Heron Lake April 24, 1900, at the age of 64 years.

The subject of this biography lived with his parents in Dubuque county until eight years of age, and then accompanied them to Buena Vista county. There he resided on his father's farm until 1886, securing his education and helping with the farm work. In the last named year he moved to Rock Valley, Iowa, and in partnership with a brother, Michael McGlin, he engaged in the lumber and coal business six years. The brothers then moved to Heron Lake and engaged in the same business, which they followed eleven years in that village. The next year and a half were spent in Okabena in the same business, and then they sold out and moved to Lakefield. It was in 1905 that the brothers bought the elevator and coal business of the Canton Grain company in Lakefield. They have since increased their business, now owning elevators at Heron Lake, Okabena, Kinbrae and Edgerton, making their headquarters at Lakefield. They are extensive grain dealers, buying, cleaning and shipping.

While a resident of Heron Lake Mr. McGlin served as a member of the village council ten years, and during four years of that time was president of the council. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. McGlin was married at Rock Valley, Iowa, March 2, 1897, to Nora Fahey, a native of Clinton, Iowa. Three children have been born in this union, Eva G., John E. and William M.

DR. ANTON J. MOE (1902), founder and proprietor of the Southwestern Minnesota hospital at Heron Lake, was born at Trondhjem, Norway, February 12, 1868, the son of John Moe, who came to the United States in 1883 and who now resides at Spokane, Washington.

Anton J. Moe received a common school education in his native country and at the age

of fourteen years came to America with his parents and located in Wisconsin. He was graduated from the Sparta high school in 1888 and later became a student in the university of Wisconsin and still later was graduated from Rush Medical college of Chicago. Dr. Moe practiced his profession five years in Wisconsin and then, in 1902, located in Heron Lake. There he founded the Southwestern Minnesota hospital and has since been engaged in the practice of his profession in the hospital.

At the age of twenty-one years Dr. Moe was elected county superintendent of schools of Forest county, Wisconsin, holding the office three terms, and for four years during his residence in Wisconsin was in the postal service. Since moving to Heron Lake he has served two years as a member of the village council. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M., the Elks, the M. W. A., the A. O. U. W., the M. B. A., the Yeomen and the Eastern Star.

Dr. and Mrs. Moe spent the summer of 1909 in Vienna, Austria, in medical study, and in travel in Europe.

Dr. Moe was married at Viroqua, Wisconsin, in 1897, to Fannie Favor, a native of the town in which she was married. To this union has been born one child, Edgar Allen, born at Chaseburg, Wisconsin, May 27, 1900.

The Southwestern Minnesota hospital, which is a commodious three story building of pleasing design, was built by Dr. Moe in 1903. So popular became the institution that in 1903 it was necessarily enlarged. It now has a capacity of fifty beds and is modern in every particular from the basement to the upper story. It is supplied with steam heat, gas and electric lights, a steam ventilating system and high pressure water for fire protection, has electric bells for all beds, lavatories, dispensary, a model operating room with elaborate fixtures and instruments, large waiting rooms, consultation rooms, halls and pretty porticos. Since the establishment of the hospital over twenty-five hundred surgical operations have been performed.

Fifteen hundred of these cases have been appendicitis cases; the others have been hernias, gall stones, cancer, amputations, goiters, eye, ear nose and throat cases, etc. Three assistant physicians, Drs. Torkelson, Stevens and Allen, are employed and there are ten nurses. Mrs. Moe is superintendent of the hospital. Patients are received here from all parts of

Minnesota, northern Iowa, North and South Dakota and Canada.

The hospital supports a training school for nurses, in which instruction by lectures and visitation work in hospital and private bedside nursing is given. The instruction is a two-term course and five pupils are graduated each year. The head nurse is Sister Carrie, who is a native of Denmark, and who has fifteen years experience.

More ground adjoining has been purchased, and, as the business is increasing so rapidly, it will soon become necessary to enlarge the present building.

CHRIS DAILL (1890), deceased, was a Petersburg township farmer. He was born in Chancery, now Clinton, Clinton county, Iowa, March 14, 1885. His father, Jens Dahl, is living; his mother, Annie Dahl, died December 23, 1900.

When he was five years old, in April, 1890, Chris came to Jackson county with his parents. He assisted his father in managing the farm until 1906, when the latter withdrew from the active management and Chris took charge. He engaged in farming the south half of the southwest quarter of section 25, Petersburg. He was a member of the D. B. S. lodge of Jackson. Mr. Dahl died during the summer of 1909.

CHARLES M. HUMPHREY (1893) farms the southeast quarter of section 34, Des Moines township. He was born in Rensselaer county, New York, August 17, 1864, the son of German and Phydalia (Wyant) Humphrey, the former of English birth, the latter a native of the state of New York. His father died when our subject was two years of age; his mother died in 1894. There were eight children in the family: Edward, William, Libbie, Melvina, Cornelia, Mary, Allen and Charles.

Charles lived with his mother in his native county until he was sixteen years of age. In 1880 he located at Masonville, Delaware county, Iowa. For several years he worked as a farm hand and then started learning the barber trade. He worked at the trade three years in Superior and Iowa Falls, and in 1893 moved to Jackson, where he established the Ashley house shop, which he conducted nine years. In 1901 he rented the Albertus farm, where he

has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Humphrey was married at Superior, Iowa, March 29, 1893, to Addie Lush, a native of Waucoma, Iowa. To them has been born one child, Irma, born August 25, 1896. Mr. Humphrey is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

CLAUS E. RIEKEN (1892) owns and farms 320 acres of Wisconsin township land, his property being on sections 21 and 16. He is of German parentage, his father and mother, George A. and Cassie (Saathoff) Rieken, having immigrated from the fatherland in the fall of 1857. They located in Livingston county, Illinois, and later in Iroquois county of the same state. There the elder Rieken bought land and there both he and his wife died. Out of a family of eleven children the following six are living: Nancy, John, Claus, Seve, Rachael and George.

Claus Rieken, of this sketch, was born in Livingston county, Illinois, March 6, 1859. He secured an education and helped with the farm work until he was twenty-five years old. Then he married and rented a farm in Illinois, upon which he lived eight years. He moved to Jackson county in 1892 and bought a part of his present farm. He is a firm believer in tiling and has added greatly to the value of his land by a thorough system of tiling. The farm upon which Mr. Rieken now resides was homesteaded by John M. Utter, one of the county's early settlers, and upon the land was builded one of the early day school houses—a log shanty. Mr. Rieken was treasurer of his township several terms. He has also held the office of director of school district No. 106 and is at the present time school treasurer. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

HENRY WALTER JACKSON (1883), proprietor of a Jackson meat market, is a native of the county, having been born in Middletown township May 15, 1883, the son of John J. and Ida M. (Withers) Jackson.

Our subject resided on the farm until 1890, when he moved with the family to Jackson. He received his primary education in Jackson and spent his early days in that village. In 1900 he went to Brookings, South Dakota,

and took a course in the South Dakota Agricultural school. Thereafter he spent several years at different points in South Dakota and Iowa. Returning to Jackson, he engaged in the meat market business in partnership with his brother. In 1909 he bought his brother's interest and has since been sole proprietor of the business.

Mr. Jackson was married September 17, 1907, to Miss Ida M. Tuftee. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

AUGUST HECHT (1901) is a Ewington township farmer. He was born near Karlin, Germany, December 3, 1864, the son of William and Henrietta (Beuge) Hecht. Both parents died in Illinois, his father in the spring of 1897, his mother in 1895.

Our subject spent the first nineteen years of his life in his native land, having been brought up on a farm and having been educated there. In the spring of 1884 he came to America with his parents, worked in the city of Chicago a little over one year, spent a part of the next year in Livingston county, Illinois, and then located permanently in LaSalle county, of the same state. He lived in LaSalle county until 1898, working out by the month for the first six years of this time and thereafter farming rented land. He located in Clay county, Iowa, in 1898 and lived there three years, engaged in farming rented property. Mr. Hecht came to Jackson county in 1901, rented a Ewington township farm one year and then bought his present place—the south half of the southeast quarter of section 13—where he has since lived. Besides his own land he farms a rented quarter.

In the city of Streator, Illinois, on the twenty-third day of February, 1887, Mr. Hecht, was united in marriage to Amelia Junker, daughter of Frederick Junker, of Ewington. Mrs. Hecht was born in Hintern Pomern, Germany, May 25, 1867, and came to the United States when six years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Hecht have seven children, named as follows: Louisa, born December 28, 1887; William, born June 28, 1889; Caroline, born March 8, 1891; Bertha, born November 29, 1892; Charlie, born July 6, 1896; Mabel, born July 17, 1900; Elmer, born March 6, 1903.

The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Ewington and Mr. Hecht is a director of school district No. 91.

JOHN P. KOSTER (1895) is a West Heron Lake township farmer who owns 240 acres of land on sections 31 and 30. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, November 11, 1870, the son of Otto J. and Maria (Tjoks) Koster. His father and mother, who are now aged, respectively, 87 and 78 years, have been retired from active pursuits fifteen years and reside in Germany. There were ten children in their family, of whom eight are living. The children are: Frederick, Herman (deceased), Otto (deceased), Hajo, Agnes, Maria, Insiene, John P., Warner and Peter. Of this family John P. and Hajo reside in America; the others are residents of Germany.

John P. Koster lived with his parents in Germany seventeen years, working on the farm and attending school. He came to the United States in 1887, worked four years on a farm in Woodford county, Illinois, and then farmed rented property in Livingston county, Illinois, four years. He came to Jackson county in 1895, farmed rented land in Rost township four years, and then bought the southwest quarter of section 31, West Heron Lake township, upon which he has ever since resided. When he took possession the land was unbroken and without building improvements. His farm is now thoroughly tilled and has a fine grove and set of buildings. He bought the south half of the southwest quarter of section 30 four years ago.

Mr. Koster has other than farming interests. He is a stockholder and director of the First State Bank of Okabena, is a director of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance company of Delafield township and is treasurer of the Rost Telephone company. He has been a supervisor of West Heron Lake township for the past ten years and has been treasurer of school district No. 88 for the last three years. Of district No. 73 he was a director six years. He is a member of the Rost township German Lutheran church.

The marriage of Mr. Koster occurred at Flanagan, Livingston county, Illinois, March 15, 1893, when he wedded Bredtji Post, who was born in Flanagan November 2, 1871, the daughter of Albert J. and Antje (Ohling) Post. Seven children have been born to these parents, of whom the following six are living: Otto J., Annie D., Mary A., Albert P., Paulina H. and Freda E.



DR. WILLIAM C. PORTMANN (1886), practicing physician of Jackson, is a native of Switzerland, where he was born June 7, 1858. He is one of a family of ten children born to Urs Victor and Anna Moore (Von Steinmen) Portmann. His father was a contracting and civil engineer and died in 1871. His mother died in 1905 at the age of 83 years. A brother of our subject, Dr. E. O. Portmann, is practicing medicine at Canton, Ohio. He was President McKinley's home physician and after the death of the president was Mrs. McKinley's physician.

When William C. Portmann was ten years old he accompanied his parents to America and grew to manhood in the city of Canton, Ohio. In the common schools of that city he received his early education. His father dying when our subject was thirteen years of age, he was compelled at that early age to turn his attention to the support of the mother and family. However, he did not give up his studies but completed his general education in public and private night schools. At the age of twenty-two years he entered the Western Reserve Medical school, of Cleveland, Ohio, and three years later was graduated as a physician. For the first two years after graduation Dr. Portmann practiced in his home city and then, in 1883, located at Mandan, North Dakota, where he practiced three years. Dr. Portmann located at Jackson in the spring of 1886 and has since devoted his time to the practice of his profession in that village.

Dr. Portmann owns his home in the village and two Jackson county farms. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and of the Chapter and Knights Templar of the same order, as well as holding membership in the M. W. A. For twelve years Dr. Portmann served as coroner of Jackson county. He was a member of the school board eighteen years and was president of the village council one year.

In Canton, Ohio, on September 13, 1883, Dr. Portmann was united in marriage to Emma Ball, a native of Canton and a daughter of Ephriam E. and Levina Ball. Three sons have been born to Dr. and Mrs. Portmann, Urs Victor, Milton C. and Arthur B.

JOHN M. ANDERSON (1882), of Enterprise township, has lived in that precinct since he was a child. He was born in Norway April 17, 1878, the son of Hans and Andrena Maria

Anderson. His mother died about twenty years ago; his father lives in Enterprise township.

Our subject was only two and one-half years of age when the family came to America. They resided in DeSmet, South Dakota, one year and came to Jackson county in 1882. John grew to manhood in Enterprise township, where the family home was made. For five years he lived with his parents on section 18, Wisconsin township; then his father took as a tree claim the north half of the southeast quarter of section 20, Enterprise, and there our subject resided with his father until 1901. That year he married and began farming and has ever since made his home on the farm. He has engaged in threshing eleven years in addition to his farming operations. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Anderson was married January 14, 1901, to Sena Nelson, who was born in Illinois September 8, 1876. To them have been born the following named four children: Clara A., born November 2, 1902; Hans A., born May 12, 1904; Clifford A., born May 28, 1905; Lloyd S., born January 11, 1909.

MICHAEL WAGNER (1899) is a farmer and stock raiser of LaCrosse township. He owns a half section farm, the home place being the southwest quarter of section 26, and he has a nice home.

Mr. Wagner was born in Luxemburg, Germany, September 9, 1853, the son of Philip and Barbara (Thome) Wagner. He is the oldest of a family of seven children and his parents both died in the old country. Michael resided in his native land until he was twenty-four years of age. His father was a carpenter by trade and Michael learned the trade under his father's instruction and worked for his parent until coming to America in 1877. He first located at Dubuque, Iowa. Near that city he worked on a farm several years and at his trade three years. In 1886 he bought a farm in Ransom township, Nobles county, Minnesota, where he engaged in farming until 1899. That year he sold out and located in Jackson county, buying a part of his present farm in La-Crosse township, and has since made his home there.

Mr. Wagner is a man of family, having been married in Grant county, Wisconsin, February 16, 1887, to Mary A. Dietzel, who was born in

Grant county in 1865. Twelve children have been born as a result of this union, of which there are nine living as follows: Catherina, born November 25, 1887; John, born April 16, 1889; Bertie, born December 17, 1890; Dorothy, born December 27, 1892; Julia, born May 12, 1897; Mary, born July 30, 1899; August, born March 18, 1904; Lawrence, born November 25, 1905; Henry, born December 30, 1907. The children who have died are: Helena, born August 21, 1894, died August 26, 1895; Michael and Frank, twins, born July 1, 1901, died July 1, 1901.

The family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake.

RAYMOND BARTOSCH (1886) owns and operates at Jackson one of the best and most up-to-date harness shops and harness manufacturing establishments in southwestern Minnesota. The business is conducted in a handsome brick block on Main street which was erected by Mr. Bartosch in 1899. On the second floor of this building and the one adjoining is located Jackson's opera house.

Mr. Bartosch was born in Bohemia October 2, 1864, the son of German parents, both his parents, Englebret and Rosa (Schmidt) Bartosch, having been native Germans. The family left the old country when Raymond was ten years of age, came to America and settled in Steele county, Minnesota. On his father's farm in that county Raymond resided until he was sixteen years of age, receiving a country school education. He then went to Owatonna and started learning the harness maker's trade under C. Butch, with whom he remained five years. In January, 1886, he located at Jackson and took charge of the G. A. Albertus harness shop. After managing the business for Mr. Albertus five years he purchased the store and has ever since conducted it. During the first two years he conducted it in the building south of Kiesel's saloon, then he purchased an old frame building on the site of his present store, and in 1899 he erected his present handsome structure. In addition to this business property Mr. Bartosch owns a fine home in the city, erected in 1906. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M.

Mr. Bartosch was married in Sauk City, Wisconsin, August 8, 1892, to Dorathea Roeser, a native of that place and a daughter of George

Roeser. To Mr. and Mrs. Bartosch has been born one child, Rita Bartosch.

THEODORE SCHROEDER (1898) is one of the prosperous young farmers of Sioux Valley township, where he controls 240 acres of fine farming land. He is a native of Cedar county, Iowa, and was born February 15, 1874.

In his native county Theodore grew to manhood, making his home with his parents and working on the farm until nearly twenty-five years of age. He was educated in the district schools and in the Wilton Commercial academy. He came to Jackson county in 1898 and located upon the northwest quarter of section 17, Sioux Valley township, then owned by his father, but later purchased by him. The farm was bare of improvements when he located on it in 1898, but he has built the place up until today he has a fine, well improved farm. In 1909 he raised about 2,500 bushels of corn and 1,600 bushels of small grain. He feeds about 100 head of hogs each year. Mr. Schroeder is a director of the Sioux Valley Creamery company and was its president one year. He also has stock in the Lake Park Farmers Exchange elevator and in the Midland Telephone company.

The parents of our subject are John and Sophia (Krohnke) Schroeder, both of whom were born in Germany and who came to America when children, having been married at Davenport, Iowa. They resided in Cedar county, Iowa, many years and later became residents of Scott county. Mr. Schroeder became a heavy land owner and is now living a retired life at Durant, aged 67 years. Mrs. Schroeder died at Durant June 15, 1905, aged 51 years. They had four children, as follows: Theodore and Minnie (twins), Richard and Herman.

Theodore Schroeder was married in Cedar county, Iowa, in the year 1898, to Alvina Miller, who born in the country in which she was married October 22, 1879. She is the daughter of William and Lena Miller, both of whom live in Cedar county. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder are the parents of four children: Harvey, born May 24, 1899; Lillie, born September 24, 1900; Luerna, born May 4, 1902; Irvin, born December 25, 1905. Mr. Schroeder was township supervisor four years and was clerk of school district 72 for seven years.

**WILLIAM H. JARMUTH** (1888), cashier of the First National Bank of Heron Lake, was born in Chicago September 29, 1881, the son of Henry and Lena (Ruesch) Jarmuth. He came to Jackson county with his parents in 1888 and lived on the home farm until 1900. He was educated in the common schools and in the business department of Toland college.

After his graduation from the business college Mr. Jarmuth took a position with the State Bank of Alpha, which he held one year. For several years thereafter he was with the Martin County National Bank of Fairmont, for a time as bookkeeper and for the last three years as cashier. He went to Heron Lake in November, 1907, and has since held the position of cashier of the First National. Mr. Jarmuth is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Royal Arcanum lodges.

At Minneapolis on July 20, 1908, Mr. Jarmuth was married to Myrtle M. Childs, a native of Iowa and a daughter of H. C. and Minnie Childs.

**OLE IVERSON** (1882), Belmont township farmer, residing five miles north of Jackson, is a native of Norway and was born November 26, 1855, the son of Iver and Bertha Skolestad. Both his parents died when Ole was six years of age, and from that age he has made his own living. Until he was nearly twenty-six years of age he worked out in Norway.

In 1881 Mr. Iverson came to America, lived one year in Lee county, Illinois, and then, in 1882, came to Jackson county. For two years he worked out at railroad work and in the harvest fields, and then bought his present farm in section 36, Belmont. The land was all prairie at the time, but he planted a grove, built a house and made other improvements, and in the spring of 1885 moved to his new home. There he has ever since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Iverson was married in Lee county, Illinois, March 25, 1882, to Lena Rondland, who was also born in Norway. They have an adopted son, Oliver, aged seventeen years. Mr. and Mrs. Iverson are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and Mr. Iverson is a member of the school board of district No. 79.

**ERNST SHUMACHER** (1894), deceased, late proprietor of a saloon in Lakefield, was born

in Germany August 15, 1852. His parents were Martin and Ernestina (Urban) Shumacher. They came to the United States in 1876 and located in Faribault county, Minnesota. The father died at Minnesota Lake in 1883, at the age of 65 years; the mother died at Kimball, Minnesota, in 1905, at the age of 73 years.

Our subject lived in Germany with his parents until eighteen years of age and then came to America. He bought a farm in Faribault county, Minnesota, upon which he lived several years, and then moved to Wells, where he engaged in carpenter work. Mr. Shumacher became a resident of Lakefield in 1894, bought a saloon from Tossen & Company, then located in the building which is now occupied by the Standard, and continued in the saloon business until his death, which occurred December 1, 1909. He erected the brick building in which the saloon is conducted in 1896 and two years later erected the brick building which adjoins it on the north. He owned his home in the village.

Mr. Shumacher was married at Lakefield in 1894 to Miss Fredericka Bragger, a native of Germany. To them were born seven children, as follows: Lena, Eliza, Erna, Clara, Harry, Eddie and Emma. Mr. Shumacher and his family were members of the German Lutheran church.

**CHRISTIAN E. LINDBERG** (1882), of Belmont township, was born in Norway May 23, 1852. His mother, Annie Lindberg, resides in Belmont.

Until he was eighteen years of age Christian lived with his parents. Then he began life's battles on his own account. For the next twelve years he was employed as a farm hand and at work in the pineries of his native land. He came to America in 1882 and direct to Jackson county. For five years he worked out on farms in Belmont township and then he bought the west half of the northeast quarter of section 30, Belmont, and that has ever since been his home. When he arrived in the country he was penniless and owed his brother for the passage money across the water. By industry and hard work he has prospered, now owning a 280 acre farm, well improved and stocked. The place was unimproved when he bought it; now he has a splendid grove, a nice house, barns and other buildings—one of the many fine homes of Belmont township.

Mr. Lindberg was married in Jackson county October 30, 1888, to Olena Lindberg, who was born in Norway in 1862. They are the parents of three children: Janetta, born in Belmont township July 1, 1889; Anton, born in Belmont October, 1890; John, born in Belmont January 2, 1893. Another child, Clara Olava, was born December 20, 1900, and died the same day. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of West Belmont, Mr. Lindberg having been secretary of the church society fifteen years. He served as treasurer of school district No. 18 for five years.

PETER HAFER (1902), a farmer and breeder of thoroughbred stock of Ewington township, was born in Germany April 7, 1865, and two years after his birth accompanied his parents to the new world. Until he was twenty-two years of age he worked on the farm for his father in LaSalle county, Illinois.

After his marriage in 1887, Mr. Hafer rented his father's farm and conducted it five years. He then rented another farm in LaSalle county, which he conducted until 1902. That year he came to Jackson county and rented of George W. Patterson the west half of section 11, Ewington township, upon which place he has ever since lived. During the first year of his residence in Jackson county, because of the wet season, Mr. Hafer lost the thousand dollars he brought with him from Illinois, but since that time has encountered more prosperous times. In 1909 he harvested 3,000 bushels of oats, 1,500 bushels of flax and 1,500 bushels of corn.

Mr. Hafer raises full blooded Hereford cattle and has been very successful in their breeding and in getting fancy prices for them at private sale. He also raises thoroughbred Berkshire hogs. He is interested in the farmers' store and elevator at Brewster. He is a member of the Catholic church of Brewster.

Peter is one of a family of two boys, a brother, William, having died at the age of twelve years. The parents of our subject were William and Gertie Hafer, who were born in Germany and came to the United States in 1867. They bought a farm in LaSalle county, Illinois, upon which they lived until their death.

Mr. Hafer was married at Richland, Illinois, October 8, 1887, to Gertrude Shoenenboun,

who was born in Germany in 1866. To them have been born the following children: Francis A., born January 22, 1890; Peter, born April 25, 1892; Henry, born December 17, 1893; William P., born January 30, 1895; Anton, born February 7, 1897; John, born February 7, 1899; Rosy J., born February 7, 1901; Bennie J., born January 22, 1903; Robert A., born February 7, 1905; Dorothy M., born January 30, 1907; Edward W., born September 3, 1909.

In 1892 Mr. Hafer and family made a trip to Germany to visit with the relatives of his wife. They remained five months and visited many of the large cities of Europe. While abroad their son, Peter, died at the age of ten months. Mr. Hafer was called back to the United States by the death of his mother.

MARIUS TONDER (1885), hay dealer and lessee of the Ole Anderson ice plant of Jackson, has been a resident of the county nearly a quarter of a century. He is a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and was born April 17, 1865.

The parents of our subject were Soren and Annie (Top) Tonder, who were also natives of Schleswig-Holstein, having been born in that country when it was Danish territory and before it had been acquired by the German empire. The elder Tonder was a veteran of the war of 1848, serving in the Danish army in its fight against Germany for the possession of Schleswig. After the war he engaged in mercantile pursuits. Marius is one of a family of eight children, of whom the following six are living: Peter, Jens, Marius, Antonia, Annie and Catherina. Both parents died in their native country.

Marius attended school and worked in his father's store and on his father's farm in the old country until he was twenty years of age. Then, in 1885, he came to America, spent that summer in Moline, Illinois, and in the fall came to Jackson county. He bought land in Wisconsin township and farmed it twelve years. Moving to Jackson village at the end of that time, he has since made his home there. For five years he engaged in flax raising on land adjoining the village and then engaged in the hay business. He added to the latter business in 1907 by taking over the ice business formerly conducted by Ole Anderson. Mr. Tonder owns a home in the city. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the Danish Brother-

hood lodge, being treasurer of the latter.

Mr. Tonder made a trip to his old German home in 1892, and there that year he was united in marriage to Annie Christensen, a daughter of Martin Christensen, who still resides in the old country. To Mr. and Mrs. Tonder have been born seven children as follows: Julius, born June 4, 1893; Annie, born August 27, 1895; Mary, born October 8, 1897; Emma, born April 8, 1901; Florence, born June 22, 1903; Thyre, born September 25, 1905; Olga, born April 21, 1908.

HENRY STEFFEN (1900) is a farmer and land owner of Hunter township. Germany is his native country and October 20, 1860, was the date of his birth. His parents were Paul and Marie Steffen. The former died when our subject was one year old and his mother when he was ten years of age.

After his mother's death until he was fifteen Henry lived with a sister. At the age of fifteen he began working out on farms, and when twenty years of age joined the German army and served three years. The next spring after his discharge from the army, in 1884, Mr. Steffen came to America. He worked as a farm hand in Carroll county, Iowa, two years, and then located in Omaha, where for six and one-half years he was employed in a packing house. The next years were spent in farming rented land in Carroll and Crawford counties, Iowa. He came to Jackson county in 1900, farmed rented land in Hunter township two years, and in 1902 bought his present farm. He owns the east half of the southwest quarter of section 15 and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 22, Hunter.

Our subject was married in Germany in 1884 to Paulina Labeck, who was born July 28, 1860. To them have been born the following named seven children: Herman, born December 21, 1885; Emma, born October 4, 1886; Harry, born November 20, 1892; Agnes, born June 27, 1894; Vena, born March 10, 1898; Edward and Edna (twins), born August 5, 1900. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Lakefield.

CHARLES E. PERRY (1898) carries the United States mail on rural route No. 1 out of Heron Lake. He was born at Owego, Tioga county, New York, December 2, 1859, the eldest

of a family of eight children born to Oscar and Frances (Granger) Perry, both natives of the Empire state. The family came west in 1861 and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa. In that county Mr. Perry lived until his death, which occurred in April, 1909, at the age of 70 years. His widow still lives in Winneshiek county and is 67 years of age.

Charles Perry lived in his native county less than two years. In 1861 the family drove through by team from New York state to Winneshiek county, Iowa, the trip being made in thirty-one days. There the head of the family bought land at \$6.00 per acre, and on that farm Mr. Perry of this sketch grew to manhood, making his home with his parents until twenty-five years of age. He then engaged in farming for himself in Winneshiek and Fayette counties, Iowa, for several years, later engaging in the same business in North Dakota. He located in Heron Lake in 1898 and for several years worked at the carpenter trade. In 1902 he received the appointment of mail carrier on the first route established out of Heron Lake and has since been engaged in that capacity.

At West Union, Iowa, on December 22, 1901, Mr. Perry was united in marriage to Caroline A. Brooks. She was born in Lyons, New York, and is the daughter of Charles and Mary Brooks. Four children have been born to this union, of which the eldest, Henry C., died when nineteen months old. The others are Bertha, born July, 1904; Francis, born March 20, 1906; Oscar, born February 22, 1908. Mr. Perry is a member of the A. O. U. W. and Degree of Honor lodges.

JOHN S. WOOLSTENCROFT (1868), editor and publisher of the Jackson County Times of Heron Lake, is a pioneer of southwestern Minnesota and one of the best known residents of Jackson county. He is a native of Clayton county, Iowa, and was born December 23, 1848, the son of Benjamin and Mary Ann (Keer) Woolstencroft. The father of our subject was a soldier of the regular army, being a sergeant of company K, First U. S. infantry, and participated in the Blackhawk war, Florida war, Mexican war and the war of the rebellion. John was raised on a farm in his native county in Iowa. In the spring of 1864, although he was then only a little past fifteen years of age, he enlisted as a union soldier, becoming a



**JOHN S. WOOLSTENCROFT**  
Editor and Proprietor of the Jackson County Times and an Early  
Day Settler.

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member of company L, of the Sixth Iowa cavalry. With his regiment he took part in the memorable campaign against the Sioux Indians in 1864, engaging in two pitched battles with the Indians in the Bad Lands. In 1865 he started again with the forces against the Sioux, but owing to sickness was left in hospital at Fort Rice. While there he was in three engagements with the hostile Indians. Mr. Woolstencroft was mustered out with his regiment at Sioux City, Iowa, in the latter part of October, 1865, and the regiment was disbanded at Davenport.

After his discharge from the army Mr. Woolstencroft returned to his home and engaged in farming. He arrived in Jackson county on the 29th day of May, 1868, and located in the Graham Lakes country in Nobles county, when there were only five or six families in the whole county. He resided in that frontier settlement until June 19, 1869, and then returned to his old home, where he was married. He came north again in 1872 and took a homestead claim on section 34, Belfast township, Murray county, and upon that claim he lived until March 22, 1881.

On the date last mentioned Mr. Woolstencroft located in Heron Lake, where he went to superintend the large farming interests of J. T. Smith. On the 17th day of November of that year he was caught and wound in some shafting and so severely injured that he was incapacitated for physical labor. In May, 1882, he engaged in the saloon business in Heron Lake and was so engaged until 1888. Mr. Woolstencroft then engaged in the hotel business and in 1891 built the Wavertree hotel, which he conducted seventeen years. In partnership with C. W. Schultz he founded the Jackson County Times in 1895 and in July of the next year he took exclusive charge of the management and editorial department. He has ever since been the editor and publisher.

Mr. Woolstencroft was married March 31, 1870, in Clayton county, Iowa, to Elizabeth Ann Abel. Two children were born to this union: Carry D., born July 28, 1877; Mary H., born December 11, 1880.

JOSEPH J. PRIBYL (1884) is the assistant cashier of the Brown National Bank of Jackson and has been a resident of the county since he was five years of age. He is a native of Budweiss, Bohemia, and was born May 19,

1879. His parents are Albert and Mary (Koranda) Pribyl, now living in Jackson, aged 66 and 58 years, respectively.

Joseph Pribyl came to America with his parents in 1883. After ten months spent in Chicago the family came to Jackson county, arriving in March, 1884. The head of the family bought a farm on section 16, Hunter township, and twelve years later one on section 20. Joseph lived on the farm with his parents until 1895, receiving an education in the country schools and in the Jackson high school. Coming to Jackson village, he clerked in Peter Hansen's store eight months and then accepted a position in the Bank of Jackson (now the Brown National Bank), and has been with that institution ever since, for the last eight years as assistant cashier.

Mr. Pribyl is a member of the Catholic church and of the Catholic Order of Foresters. He is one of a family of eight children: Charles, Joseph J., August, Wesley, Frank, Jerry, Mary, Agnes and Bessie.

The marriage of Mr. Pribyl occurred in Jackson May 27, 1901, when he wedded Laura Betlech, a native of Dane county, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Emil and Sarah (Cerhan) Betlech. Mr. and Mrs. Pribyl are the parents of three children: Marie T., Helen F. and Josephine K.

WESLEY WORSHEK (1891) is one of the successful farmers of Belmont township, in which precinct he owns a half section of land—the northwest quarter of section 28 and the northwest quarter of section 36. He is one of a family of five children and his parents were Joseph and Mary Worshek. They came from Bohemia to the United States in 1866 and located in Iowa. Mrs. Worshek died in that state in 1889, and after her death Mr. Worshek came to Jackson county, where he lived until his death, February 28, 1905, at the age of 83 years. The other children of the family are Annie, Joseph, Mary and John.

Wesley Worshek was born to these parents in Bohemia November 1, 1860. At the age of six years he accompanied his parents to America and located in Jones county, Iowa. Six years later the family home was made in Guthrie county, Iowa, and there our subject lived until 1891. That year he moved to Jackson county and bought his present farm of



Nicholas Olson, and that place has ever since been his home. He added to his real estate holdings in 1903 by the purchase of the quarter on section 36. Since buying his farm he has added greatly to its value by the erection of new buildings and other improvements. He is a stockholder of the Belmont Creamery company and of the Jackson County Elevator company. For several years he served as a director of school district No. 5. He and his family are members of the Catholic church of Jackson and he belongs to the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Worshek was married in Guthrie county, Iowa, to Barbara Benda, a native of Bohemia. Nine children have been born to this union as follows: Frank, born May 2, 1887; Tillie, born June 29, 1888; Laura, born August 8, 1891; Joseph, born February 12, 1893; Eddie, born February 18, 1895; Henry, born July 1, 1898; Louie, born April 27, 1901; Blanche, born April 20, 1903; Agnes, born January 24, 1906.

Since this sketch was prepared, Mr. Worshek, on December 7, 1909, sold his place to John Erickson, of South Dakota, after a residence in the county of eighteen years.

WILLIAM TORDSEN (1893) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 22, Rost township. He is the son of Peter Torsen, of Rost township, and Christina (Hendricks) Torsen, who died in Ida county, Iowa, January 26, 1888.

William Torsen was born in Scott county, Iowa, January 14, 1879, and when two years of age moved with his parents to Ida county, Iowa. There he was brought up on his father's farm and received his primary education. He accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1893 and completed his education in the district school in Rost township. He made his home with his father until 1901. That year he engaged in the threshing business in partnership with John Husen until 1903, and two years later sold a half interest to his brother, and has been so engaged ever since. In 1903 he also engaged in farming, renting the Julius Meyer farm in Rost. In the spring of 1909 he moved onto his present farm, which he had bought in 1908. Besides his other interests Mr. Torsen has stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Lakefield. He is treasurer of school district No. 109.

Mr. Tordsen was married in Jackson June 6, 1902, to Bertha Meyer, daughter of Julius and Marie (Steffen) Meyer, of Lake Park, Iowa. Mrs. Tordsen was born in Holstein, Iowa, June 6, 1884, and came to Jackson county with her parents in 1897.

EDWARD SCHUMACHER (1880) is an Alba township farmer and conducts his father's place, the south half of section 12, a short distance west of Okabeña. He is a native of the county, having been born on the farm he now conducts April 26, 1880.

The parents of our subject, Henry and Caroline (Hohena) Schumacher, were born in Germany, but came to America in an early day, settling in Brown county, Minnesota, in the late fifties. There they resided until they came to Jackson county in 1870. They lived on the old tree claim in Alba township until 1903, when they moved to Heron Lake, where they still reside. Mr. Schumacher is a veteran of the civil war, having served in company A, of the Eleventh regiment of Minnesota volunteers.

Edward Schumacher grew to manhood on his father's farm in Alba, attending the district school and working on the farm. In the spring of 1905 he took a homestead in Lyman county, South Dakota, and the next year moved onto his land. After a residence there of over a year he proved up on the claim and then returned to Jackson county. He has since been engaged in farming his father's farm of 320 acres.

Mr. Schumacher was married in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, March 29, 1905, to Josephine Crowell, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, January 3, 1881. Her grandfather was the third settler of Fillmore county, having located there in 1853. Her parents, Edwin and Clara (Geuth) Crowell, now reside in Howard county, Iowa. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schumacher, Russell, born September 17, 1907. Mr. Schumacher is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

JOHN DUNKER (1891) owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 12, Enterprise township, which has been his home for the last eighteen years. Mr. Dunker is a German by birth, having been born in the fatherland May 23, 1858, the son and John and Lizzie Dunker.

Mr. Dunker's parents died when he was seven years of age and he was thrown on his own resources at an early age. He came to America when fourteen years of age, landing in the city of New York May 4, 1872. Locating at Havana, Mason county, Illinois, he grew to manhood there and after reaching mature years engaged in farming. He bought his present farm October 8, 1890, and the following March moved onto it and became a permanent resident of Jackson county. He has been engaged in farming since and for several years was engaged in operating a threshing machine and corn sheller.

Mr. Dunker has been married twice. His first marriage was to Dora Webber, whom he married May 28, 1882. She died September 7, 1891. To this union were born the following named children: Fred, born August 1, 1883; Henry, born January 12, 1886; Mary, born December 20, 1888; Maggie, born March 10, 1890. The second marriage of Mr. Dunker occurred October 28, 1894, to Annie Golz, of Berlin, Germany. To them have been born the following named children: Dick, born September 16, 1895; Lizzie, born February 19, 1897; Bertha, born March 8, 1898; Charles, born November 30, 1901; William, born January 3, 1905; Dora, born May 1, 1908. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Kimball township. He holds the office of clerk of school district No. 20.

KARL NEJEDLY (1886) is a shoemaker and the proprietor of one of Jackson's shoe stores. He is the son of Joseph Nejedly, one of a family of five children, and was born in Vranej, Bohemia, September 14, 1855. His early days were spent in his native land, where he attended the village school and where at the age of eleven years he began working at the shoemaker's trade.

At the age of twenty Mr. Nejedly joined the Austrian army and served a four years' enlistment during the war between Austria and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a result of which war the two last named countries were added to the Austrian empire. During the last two years of his service Mr. Nejedly saw service in the enemies' country. After the war Mr. Nejedly went to Germany, where he worked at his trade until he emigrated to America in 1882. He first located at Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked at his trade for a time. During his

residence there he was frequently called upon to make shoes for the family of President Garfield. After leaving Cleveland, Mr. Nejedly worked at his trade in the following towns: Menominee, Michigan; St. Paul, Minnesota; Mendota, Minnesota; and Owatonna, Minnesota.

In 1886 Mr. Nejedly came to Jackson county and opened a shoe repair shop in the county seat village, and four years later opened a shoe store in connection. These he conducted continuously until 1906, when he sold out and moved to California. He remained in the far west only a short time, and then returned to Jackson and again engaged in business. Besides his business, Mr. Nejedly owns a home in the village. He is a member of the C. S. P. S., the M. W. A. and the Equitable Fraternal Union.

In Cleveland, Ohio, July 24, 1882, Mr. Nejedly was united in marriage to Josephine Simon, who was born in Zop, Bohemia, March 19, 1857, and who came to America a few months before her marriage. To this union have been born six children, as follows: Otto, born September 14, 1883; Olga, born October 25, 1884; Boodie, born April 8, 1888; Rose, born November 25, 1890; Lumer, born August 8, 1892; Mildred, born May 4, 1903.

JOHN V. KRAL (1904), a resident of Hunter township, has lived in the county but a few years, but in that time has prospered, and he owns 440 acres of well improved land. He is a native of Bohemia, where he was born March 13, 1866, and is the son of Frank and Josephine Kral, both of whom live in the old country at advanced ages. They are the parents of three children, John (the subject of the sketch) being the eldest.

John Kral grew to young manhood in his native country, and there he received a fair education. At the age of seventeen years he crossed the Atlantic to seek his fortune in the new country. He settled in the city of Chicago, where he worked a few months in a planing mill. He then became a tailor's apprentice and learned that trade, and worked at it about fifteen years. Having been frugal in his habits, he had saved up a sum of money, and with this he opened a tailor shop of his own and prospered to such an extent that he soon had a large force of men employed in turning out custom work. Mr. Kral conducted

his shop until 1904, when, owing to ill health, he was forced to sell and seek other employment. In that year he came to Jackson county and bought 440 acres of land in Hunter township, the home place being located on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 27. He has spent the sum of \$19,000 on the farm, which includes the improvements made since purchasing the place.

Mr. Kral was married in Chicago, Illinois, on November 6, 1887, to Frances Res, a native of Bohemia, who came to the United States in 1876. To this union twelve children have been born. They are: Jerry, born April 26, 1889; John, born June 28, 1890; Bessie, born October 16, 1891; Fernie, born November 6, 1894; Georgie, born February 23, 1898; Emma, born January 15, 1900; Ella, born March 22, 1901; Charlie, born March 7, 1903; Albe, born July 10, 1904; Mary, born January 4, 1906; Frank, born March 30, 1907; Josie, born March 24, 1908.

Mr. Kral has held the office of treasurer of the township board the past two years, and for four years has been treasurer of school district 84. He is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and of the Catholic church.

EDWARD G. PAGE (1887), of Jackson, was born in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 15, 1876, the son of John M. and Mary J. Page, both of whom are dead. When he was two years old the family moved to Mantorville, Minnesota, and there he lived until his mother died when he was six and one-half years of age. Upon the death of his mother Edward was taken into the family of M. B. Hutchinson, and for several years lived with that family on the farm near Spring Valley, Minnesota. In 1886 he accompanied the Hutchinsons to Chester, Iowa, and one year later came with them to Jackson.

Edward attended the Jackson schools and grew to manhood in that village. After his school days he worked on a farm for several years and later for John Muir in the village. He went to Wyoming in 1899 and worked in Laramie until October 20 of that year, when he enlisted in the United States volunteer infantry and was sent to the Philippines. He served in the army twenty and one-half months, during the greater part of which time he was stationed on the islands of Luzon, Samar and Layte and rose to the position of corporal.

He returned to the United States and was honorably discharged at San Francisco July 5, 1901. Mr. Page returned to Jackson and for several years was engaged in various occupations, during the summer of 1905 working in Wyoming on a cattle ranch owned by John Whitaker and was made foreman of the ranch. In 1907 he took a position as manager of Otis Ashley's barn.

Mr. Page is unmarried. He is the youngest of a family of four children, of whom three are living. He owns the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 20, Enterprise township, which he bought in June, 1908. He holds membership in the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges.

HUGBERT J. NELSON (1879) is a tailor by trade and a member of the firm of Nelson Bros., clothiers and tailors of Heron Lake. He has lived in Jackson county all his life, having been born in Weimer township August 14, 1879, the son of Herman and Bertha (Olson) Nelson. His parents were natives of Norway and came to America and to Jackson county in 1876. His father died in Heron Lake in 1882; his mother still makes her home in that village and is 61 years of age.

Hugbert grew to manhood in Jackson county. In 1898 he started learning the tailor's trade. After he had served an apprenticeship he opened a shop in Heron Lake, which he conducted six years. He then opened a clothing store in connection with the shop, and one year later, in February, 1909, he admitted his brother, George, as a partner, and they have since been engaged in business under the firm name of Nelson Bros.

Mr. Nelson was married in Heron Lake February 21, 1907, to Emma Berreau, a native of Minnesota. She conducts a millinery store in Heron Lake. Mr. Nelson is a member of the Yeomen lodge.

H. O. JOHNSON (1897), of Christiania township, was born in Norway February 19, 1863, the son of Ole and Carrie Johnson. He came to America with his parents when three years of age and has lived, respectively, in LaCrosse county, Wisconsin, until 1874, Swift county, Minnesota, until 1877, Mitchell county, Iowa, until 1881, Rock county, Minnesota, until 1893, Grant county, South Dakota, until 1897, and

in Jackson county since the last named date. He received a good common school education and was brought up a farmer. With the exception of six months in the mercantile business at Luverne, Minnesota, and one year as a photographer in Benson, Minnesota, Mr. Johnson has been engaged in farming ever since he reached manhood.

Mr. Johnson was married December 12, 1889, to Caroline Olson, and to them have been born five children: Ida, born in April, 1891; Alfred, born May 12, 1896; Ernest, born in November, 1897; Mabel, born in April, 1900; Carl, born in April, 1902. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church and Mr. Johnson is a member of the Woodmen of the World. He owns a quarter section of farming land in Marshall county, Minnesota, and has stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Windom.

JOSEPH V. MAKOVICKA (1891), proprietor of one of the saloons of Jackson, is a native of New York city, having been born there March 9, 1873, the son of Joseph and Anna (Tupa) Makovicka. In 1877 he moved with his parents from the city and located at New Prague, Minnesota, where he lived until 1888. He was brought up on a farm and was educated in St. Venslous Catholic school at New Prague.

In 1888 Mr. Makovicka moved to Montgomery, LeSueur county, and for three years conducted a cigar factory there. On the first day of May, 1891, he became a resident of Jackson county, locating at Lakefield. He conducted a cigar factory there one year and then moved to Jackson, engaging in the saloon business and in the manufacture of cigars. He operated the cigar factory six years and has conducted the saloon ever since. During his residence in the county seat village Mr. Makovicka has been engaged in several other lines of business. In 1893 he opened a meat market and conducted it three years. In 1901 he engaged in the marble business as a member of the firm of Jackson Marble Works, the members of the firm being Joseph Makovicka, J. V. Makovicka and Joseph L. Rakard. He bought his partners out in 1902, conducted the business alone four years and then sold a half interest to Ed. Gilbertson.

In 1907 Mr. Makovicka moved to Wells, bought a saloon there, conducted it a short time, and then returned to Jackson. For many

years he was the agent of the Standard Brewing company, of Mankato, and is now agent for the C. & J. Michel Brewing company, of LaCrosse. Mr. Makovicka is a member of the Catholic church and of numerous orders. He joined as a charter member of the Z. E. K. J. in 1897, and on January 1, 1899, organized the first lodge of the Catholic Western Union west of the Mississippi river. He also belongs to the C. O. F. and to the K. U. J., a Catholic Bohemian lodge.

On July 31, 1894, Mr. Makovicka was married in Jackson to Miss Thresa Bunderle, who was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, February 2, 1875. To these parents have been born the following children: Frank, born October 2, 1900, died December 12, 1900; Joseph, born February 19, 1902; Rudolph, born November 1, 1903; Robert, born February 8, 1906; Blanche, born February 15, 1908.

HENRY SAATHOFF (1890) owns a splendid farm on section 28, Wisconsin township, upon which he has resided for the last nineteen years and which he brought up to its present standard. Henry is the eldest of a family of three sons born to Hey and Antie (Woltzen) Saathoff. He was born in Ostfreesland, Germany, August 11, 1860.

The subject of this biography resided with his parents until twelve years of age. Then he joined the crew of a sailing vessel and sailed the seas ten years, during which time he visited nearly all the European and African ports. He came to America in 1881, and from that time until 1890 lived in Champaign and Iroquois counties, Illinois. Mr. Saathoff arrived in Jackson county in 1890, farmed rented property one year, and then bought his present farm of 160 acres in Wisconsin township. The only improvement on the farm at the time he bought it was a little shack, and in this he lived four years; now he has a fine farm, with excellent improvements.

At Danford, Iroquois county, Illinois, on March 7, 1889, Mr. Saathoff was united in marriage to Fredericka Hasbergen, who was born in Germany and who came to the United States in the year 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Saathoff have three children, named as follows: Heyko Rudolph Albert, born February 1, 1891; Wilhelmiene Annette, born February 14, 1893; Alma Margrata Alberdina, born May 10, 1895. The family are German Lutherans.

ALBERT GOHR (1891) owns a 240 acre farm in Kimball township and has been engaged in farming it for the last nineteen years. He was born in Germany July 14, 1855, the youngest of a family of five children. His father, William Gohr, died when our subject was nine months old, and his mother, Caroline (Jaffke) Gohr, died when he was thirteen years of age.

Thrown upon his own resources at a tender age, Albert Gohr early learned to take care of himself. He lived in Germany seventeen years, working at odd jobs and spending the last year of his residence in the old world working at the brick layer's trade. He came to America at the age of seventeen, and for eight months worked on a farm near the city of Chicago. Then he took a position with Henry Batsford & Company, packers, of Chicago, and was in their employ twenty years. In July, 1885, he had paid a visit to Jackson county and had bought the east half of the southwest quarter of section 16, Kimball township, and in 1891 he gave up his position in Chicago and moved to the county, where he has since been engaged in farming. He bought the southwest quarter of section 23, Kimball, four years after his arrival, and he farms all his land.

Mr. Gohr was married in Chicago March 26, 1876, to Minnie Stenke, who was born in Germany in 1858 and who came to the United States when nine years of age. She is the daughter of Anton and Minnie Stenke, both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Gohr have been born twelve children, of whom the following ten are living: Lena (Mrs. Mens Hansen), Albert A., Minnie, (Mrs. Charles Waswo), Dora (Mrs. Theodore Schoewe), Hattie, Olga, George, Leo, Esther and Clara. The five children first named was born in Chicago, the others in Minnesota.

The family are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Gohr was a member of the Kimball township board from 1893 to 1908 with the exception of one year and he was a member of the school board of his district for the same length of time.

ALTON B. CHEADLE (1883) is the cashier of the First National Bank of Jackson and has lived in that village since he was a boy thirteen years of age. He is the youngest of a family of four children born to Rev. Henry Clay Cheadle and Emma K. (Keyes) Cheadle, both natives of Ohio. The father was a Presbyter-

ian minister and came to Minnesota in 1872. He occupied the Presbyterian pulpits at Jackson and Lakefield from 1883 to 1894 and then returned to his former home in Blue Earth, where he lived until his death in February, 1906, at the age of 77 years. Our subject's mother died in Blue Earth in 1899 at the age of 63 years.

To these parents, in Amesville, Athens county, Ohio, Alton B. Cheadle was born on the 12th day of February, 1870. In 1872 he accompanied his parents to Blue Earth, Minnesota, and resided there from that time until 1880. The next three years were passed in Buffalo, Wright county, Minnesota, and then in 1883 he moved with his parents to Jackson. He was educated in the public schools of Jackson and the high school at Cannon Falls, completing his schooling with a two years' course at Macalester college.

At the age of fifteen years he began working, during the vacation periods, for George R. Moore, the present president of the First National Bank of Jackson, but at the time clerk of the district court of Jackson county, and since taking employment at that early age he has ever since been employed by, or associated with, Mr. Moore. When the latter organized his private bank in 1887 Alton Cheadle became an employe a year and a half later, and has ever since been connected with the bank. When that pioneer financial institution was reorganized into a state bank Mr. Cheadle was not yet of age, but the next year he reached his majority and was at once made cashier of the bank. When the reorganization into a national bank was brought about Mr. Cheadle was made cashier, a position which he still holds.

Mr. Cheadle has been a member of the Jackson board of education for several years and is at present treasurer of the board. He is interested in the Jackson Building & Loan association and has held the office of treasurer of that popular institution for eighteen years. Mr. Cheadle is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Masonic blue lodge and chapter and the M. W. A. and A. O. U. W. orders.

In Jackson, on July 19, 1892, Mr. Cheadle was married to Miss Jessie Fiddes, a native of Jackson and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Fiddes. One daughter and one son have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cheadle, Agnes M. and Alexander H.

PETER HANSEN (1891) owns and farms the east half of the northeast quarter of section 15, Wisconsin township, where he has resided for the last eighteen years. He is a native of Denmark and was born September 15, 1868, the son of Hans Christianson and Fredericka (Hansen) Christianson.

Peter Hansen came to America at the age of fourteen years, after having received a common school education in his native country, and settled in Brown county, Minnesota. He came to Jackson county in 1891, bought his present farm, and has since made his home on it. He has a good farm and a fine set of buildings. He owns stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Alpha. He has served four years as a member of the board of supervisors of Wisconsin township. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, of which he has been an elder for two years and a trustee for six years.

Mr. Hansen was married May 2, 1898, to Miss Anna E. Christianson. To them has been born one child, Harold E., born August 15, 1899.

NELS A. JOHNSON (1889) is one of the big farmers of Weimer township and resides just outside of the corporate limits of the village in Heron Lake. He owns 500 acres of land on sections 29 and 30, Weimer township, and section 8, West Heron Lake township, and farms it all. He has a nice home and modern conveniences.

Nels A. Johnson is the son of the late Andrew Johnson and Mary (Kjos) Johnson, the latter a resident of Weimer township. He is the eldest of a family of five children, the other children being named Annie, Dora, Katie and Gilbert. He was born in Lafayette county, Iowa, November 8, 1862, and that was his home until he came to Jackson county in 1889. He was educated in the Norwegian and English schools of his native county and spent his younger years working out on farms, making his home with his parents. Coming to Jackson county twenty years ago, he bought the northwest quarter of section 8, West Heron Lake township, adjoining Okabena station, and engaged in farming there fourteen years. In 1903 he bought the land adjoining Heron Lake village and has since made his home there.

Mr. Johnson is a man of family, having been married in West Heron Lake township March 12, 1892, to Louisa Johnson, who was

born in Chicago in 1868. She is the daughter of M. B. Johnson, who came to Jackson county in 1866 and who is now a resident of Weimer township. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, as follows: Mabel A., Arthur M., Noel K., Ruth L., Fremont L. and Paul J. C. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Heron Lake.

G. E. WIGER (1886). On his father's farm, on the east half of section 18, Enterprise township, G. E. Wiger was born January 15, 1886. His parents came from Norway in 1870 and located in Blue Earth City, Minnesota, coming to M. Johnson, whose wife had just died and who had six small children. Ole Wiger, our subject's father, was a tailor in the old country and his services were useful at this time, for there was no ready made clothing there at that time.

In 1872 the family came to Jackson county and located a homestead in Enterprise township, and on that place Mr. and Mrs. Wiger ever after lived. All the property they owned when they moved to the county was a span of oxen and a cow. They had five dollars, with which they bought lumber to use for the inside of a sod shanty. During the first years they did not raise much because they had no machinery, and the grasshoppers destroyed their crops. In later years misfortunes also came. In 1886 lightning struck the house, killing Gerhard Wiger, ten years of age, and striking Ole Wiger so that he was ill for a half year. Six months later a kick from a horse injured him so that he was blind in one eye ever after. On October 20, 1903, the house and all its contents burned to the ground, and that fall, while the new home was being built, the family were obliged to live in the granary.

Mr. Ole Wiger died September 2, 1905, after an illness of nine months. He left a widow and nine children, of whom one has died. Following are the names of the living children: Mrs. H. H. Stall, of LaMoure, North Dakota; Mrs. H. A. Stall, of Des Moines township; Mrs. P. Peterson, of Minneapolis; Mrs. E. Westgard, of Windom; Gilbert O. Wiger, G. E. Wiger, Miss Christina Wiger and Obert W. Wiger, of Enterprise township.

Our subject received a common school education and was brought up on his father's farm, engaging in farming the home place after his father's death. In partnership with his broth-

er Gilbert and J. Paulson, Mr. Wiger owns a threshing machine. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, in which he was baptised and confirmed.

JOSEPH T. MUZIKAR (1886), bar-keeper of a saloon in Jackson, was born in Zarobic, Moravia, March 13, 1886, the son of John and Antonette (Riss) Muzikar.

In his native land our subject resided until he was eight years of age. He came to the United States and to the city of Chicago in 1874, and in that city worked at the tailor's trade nine years. His next change in location was in 1886, when he came to Jackson county, arriving on the tenth day of March. He lived on his father's farm in Hunter township, eight miles west of Jackson, and resided on that place with his parents until 1892. He then bought a farm in another part of Hunter township and farmed it three years. Moving to the village of Jackson in 1895, he has since been engaged in several different occupations, during the last six years being engaged in the saloon business.

Mr. Muzikar was married June 28, 1892, to Miss Mary Macek, and to this union have been born two children: George A., born April 6, 1893; Mary D., born September 9, 1895. The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Muzikar is a member of the Catholic Workmen and Catholic Western Union lodges.

JOSEPH N. PROKES (1892) is a Des Moines township farmer owning land on section 16, known as the Hillmount farm. He is the son of Jacob and Rosa (Kautnar) Prokes, residents of the same township.

Our subject's parents were born in Bohemia and came to America in 1885. Jacob Prokes followed his trade, brick and stone mason, in the city of Chicago from the time of his arrival to America until 1892. That year he and his family moved to Jackson county and located upon the southwest quarter of section 16, Des Moines township, land which he bought while yet a resident of Chicago. There he resided until 1908, when he retired and moved onto a farm on section 21, where he still lives at the age of 73 years. Besides carrying on his farming operations Jacob Prokes worked at his trade, having erected the following buildings in the village of Jackson: Lindsley-An-

derson block, the Bartosch-Kiesel-Matteson block, the smoke stack of the Livengood mill and other minor buildings. He is the father of three sons and two daughters, all living, as follows: John, of Jackson county; Frank, of Chicago; Marie, of Jackson; Anna (Mrs. Frank Koranda), of Des Moines township; Joseph, of this sketch.

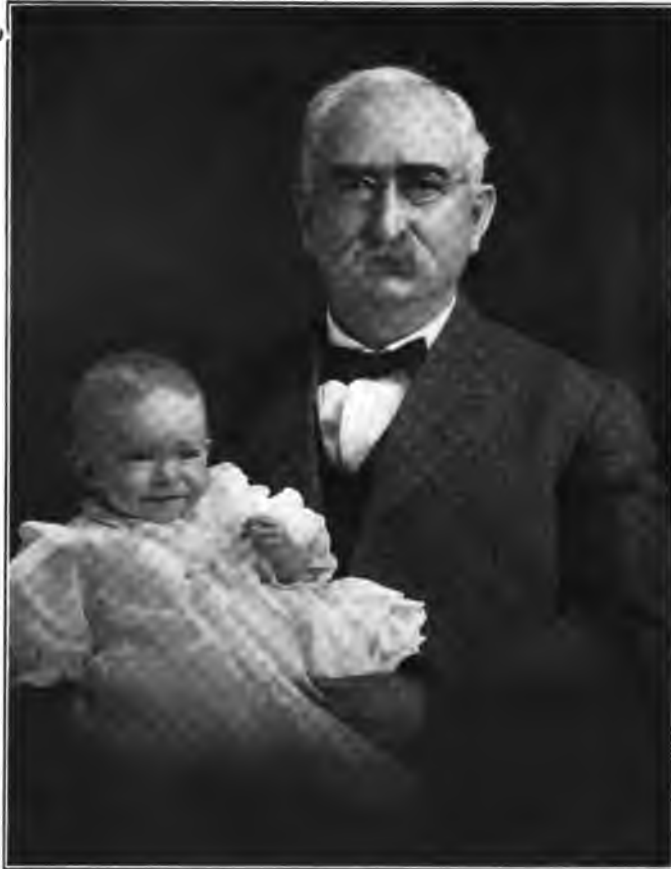
Joseph N. Prokes was born in Bohemia December 29, 1882. He came to America with his parents in 1885, was educated in the public schools of Chicago, and in 1892 came to Jackson county with the family. He worked for his father on the farm until twenty-four years of age; then he bought the farm and has since conducted it.

The marriage of our subject occurred in Jackson February 11, 1908, when he wedded Anna Olivia Cihak, of Alpha, a native of Bohemia, who came to the United States when three years of age. Her parents are Frank and Catherina Cihak, now residents of Wisconsin township. To Mr. and Mrs. Prokes has been born one child, Elenora, born February 20, 1909. Both Mr. and Mrs. Prokes are members of the Catholic church and he is a member of the Catholic Order of Workmen.

J. M. PUTMAN (1901), president of the Jackson County State Bank of Lakefield, was born in Mount Sterling, Illinois, March 30, 1851, the son of James and Letha Ann (Darnell) Putman, natives of Brown county and Hancock county, Illinois, respectively.

Left an orphan when a baby—his father dying when he was four months old and his mother when he was two and one-half years old—he was brought up in the home of his grandfather Darnell. His early education was secured in the village schools before he was seventeen years of age and the year prior to reaching his majority he again studied one year in the schools of Atlantic, Iowa. At the age of sixteen years young Putman left his grandfather's home and started out in life for himself with a capital of \$5.05. He worked at different occupations for a few years and then went into the drug business, first at Holland and then at Gladbrook, Iowa, in which he was engaged seventeen years.

In 1890 Mr. Putman sold out his drug business and went into the banking business, investing his money in the Tama County State Bank, of Gladbrook, an institution which was



**J. M. PUTMAN**

**President of the Jackson County State Bank, Lakefield, and His  
Granddaughter, Henrietta Wilhelmine Meilicke.**



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later organized into the First National Bank. Two years after becoming interested in the bank Mr. Putman was elected president. He still has interests in the bank. In 1899 he moved to Grinnell, Iowa, because of the more advantageous school privileges, and in that city he remained until he came to Jackson county in 1901.

In July, 1901, Mr. Putman moved to Lakefield and in partnership with H. L. Bond bought the interests of M. H. Evans, the majority owner of the Jackson County State Bank, and they have since been the managers of that financial institution, Mr. Putman being president and Mr. Bond cashier. The subject of this biography is a staunch democrat and was one of Mr. Bryan's warmest supporters during the campaign of 1908. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. lodge.

Mr. Putman was married at Braintree, Vermont, November 10, 1881, to Hattie Mand White, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Julian and Harriett (Burgess) White, both natives of the Empire state. Mrs. Putman died November 21, 1904, being 47 years of age at the time of her death. One child was born to this union, J. Mabel, now the wife of Hugo E. Meilicke, son of Honorable E. J. Meilicke, formerly of Windom. Mr. and Mrs. Meilicke now reside at Dundurn, Canada.

Mr. Putman owns a fine residence in Lakefield, and since the death of his wife his mother makes her home with him that she may have the care of her son in her old age.

OLE O. ENGEN (1868), farmer and thresherman of Christiania township, is one of the pioneer settlers of that precinct. He was born in Norway September 19, 1852. His mother, Julia Sivertson, makes her home with her son.

Ole was brought up on a farm in his native country and in 1866 came to America. He lived in Olmsted county, Minnesota, two years, working as a farm laborer, and then in September, 1868, with his mother and father-in-law, Thomas Johnson, came to Jackson county. The first winter the family lived in Belmont township, but in the spring of 1869 they moved to Christiania township, Mr. Johnson taking as a homestead claim eighty acres of the farm on section 26 now owned by our subject.

Ole Engen's home has been on that farm ever

since. The first house on the place was a combination log and sod shanty with a dirt roof, in which the family lived for several years. During the grasshopper days Mr. Engen went to the eastern counties during the harvest seasons to work to earn money to support the family. When he was still a young man he acquired an interest in the farm and in partnership with his father-in-law conducted it. Mr. Johnson died ten or twelve years ago, and since that time Mr. Engen has been the sole owner and manager. His present farm consists of 180 acres on sections 26 and 35. For the past seventeen or eighteen years he has been engaged in digging wells and since 1875 he has been engaged in the threshing business.

Mr. Engen was married in Christiania township to Carrie Peterson Berge, a native of Olmsted county. She died within a year after her marriage. One child was born to this union, Carol Engen, born November 24, 1878. The second marriage of Mr. Engen occurred in Christiania township December 22, 1880, when he wedded Mary Johnson, who was born in Norway and who came to the United States in 1869. To this union have been born the following named children: Gea (Mrs. Alex Elness), of Christiania, born August 23, 1881; Signe (Mrs. Severin Holmen), of Christiania, born March 1, 1887; Thea Olive, who resides at home, born December 6, 1889.

Mr. Engen and family are members of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church. He served eleven years as clerk of his township, was justice of the peace many years, has been a supervisor and chairman of the board for several years and was clerk of his school district for several years.

ISAAC G. REED (1870), a farmer who resides in the village of Wilder, is an early day settler of the county and a pioneer of the west. He is a descendant of colonial stock, a history of the Reed family being the authority for the statement that the founder of the American branch of this family came over from England in the Mayflower and settled in Massachusetts. Bezer and Nancy (Lilly) Reed were the parents of our subject and were natives of Massachusetts. They came west in 1852 and from that time until their demise they resided in Dane county, Wisconsin.

To these parents Isaac G. Reed was born in Otsego county, New York, on the 22nd day

of August, 1835. He was brought up on a farm in his native county and in 1851 came west with a married sister and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin. At the time there were no railroads west of Buffalo and he made the trip to his new home by way of the Erie canal and the great lakes to Racine, Wisconsin, and from thence to Dane county overland. His parents came to the same county two years later and with them Isaac lived until he became of age.

In 1870 Mr. Reed came to Jackson county and took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 30, Hunter township. Upon that farm he lived until 1898. Then in order to secure better school privileges for his children he moved to Wilder. There he bought land and has since been engaged in farming. While living in Hunter township Mr. Reed held various township offices and since becoming a resident of Wilder he has served as councilman and member of the school board several terms, having been elected a member of the council upon the incorporation of the village. Mr. Reed affiliates with the Methodist Episcopal church.

At Spirit Lake, Iowa, on May 18, 1879, Mr. Reed was married to Sarah A. Tuttle, a native of Iowa. To them have been born the following six children: Linton T., Iva, Isaac G., Rolla T., Harry T. and Verne.

JERRY SULLIVAN (1871) is one of the largest land owners of LaCrosse township as well as one of the township's first settlers. The land holdings of Mr. Sullivan and his brother Alex embrace 1,320 acres, of which Mr. Sullivan alone owns 720 acres. His home farm is on the east half of section 15. He is an extensive feeder of hogs and cattle and a large grain raiser.

Our subject is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Sibley county December 24, 1861. At the age of ten years, in 1871, he accompanied his parents to Jackson county and lived in LaCrosse township. He made his home with his parents until thirty-three years of age, engaging in farming after growing up. After his marriage in 1896, Mr. Sullivan located on his present place, where he has ever since resided. He is a successful farmer and has prospered, as his land holdings would indicate.

The parents of our subject were Owen and

Mary (O'Neil) Sullivan, both natives of County Cary, Ireland. They came to America when children and were brought up in Ontario, Canada, where they were married. Later they lived in Chicago, in Galena, Illinois, in Platteville, Wisconsin, and in 1854 located in Sibley county, Minnesota, being the first settlers in that section of the territory. There they homesteaded and resided until 1871. In the last named year they located in Jackson county, taking a preemption claim on section 4, LaCrosse township. There they resided until driven out by the grasshoppers in 1878. They moved to St. Paul, and three days after their arrival there, on September 27, 1878, Mr. Sullivan died at the age of 62 years. His widow, who is now 87 years of age, makes her home with our subject. There were eleven children in the family, as follows: Eugene, Mary (deceased), Margaret (deceased), Kitty, Nora (deceased), Eliza, Alex and Jerry (twins), Alice Mary and Nellie (deceased).

Mr. Sullivan was married in Heron Lake January 4, 1896, to Emma Beaton. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts, May 4, 1876, and is the daughter of Roderick and Mary (McCarvel) Beaton. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, as follows: Mary, Geraldine, Dorothy, Roderick, Genevieve, Elenor and Sylvester J.

Mr. Sullivan and his family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake and Mr. Sullivan served six years as a director of the church society. He is a member of the Yeomen lodge. Mr. Sullivan is president of the Farmers State Bank of Heron Lake and of the Farmers Elevator company of the same village. For the past seven years he has served as director and treasurer of his school district and he has held the office of supervisor of his township.

THOMAS J. RUSSELL (1869) is one of the pioneer settlers of Petersburg township, where he has resided forty years. He owns 200 acres of land and is one of the county's successful farmers.

Our subject was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, April 26, 1848, the son of Thomas and Elesebeth (White) Russell. He resided in his native county until twenty-one years of age, and then came to Jackson county, arriving on the first day of October, 1869. He bought a homestead relinquishment in Petersburg town-

ship, on section 18, and engaged in farming, and that has ever since been his home. He encountered many hardships during the grasshopper days, losing four successive crops, but he stayed with the country and has come upon prosperous times.

Mr. Russell has taken an active part in local affairs during his long residence in the county. He was town supervisor eight years, school clerk 21 years and assessor five years. He has been census enumerator of his precinct three times. He holds stock in the Midletown Telephone company.

On October 26, 1874, Mr. Russell was married to Emma Lee, who was born March 12, 1856. They have a large family of children, their names and dates of birth being as follows: Perry L., born September 2, 1875; Lafayette F., born July 16, 1877; Richard E., born March 22, 1880; Thomas J., Jr., born February 11, 1882; Maud C., born July 10, 1884; Retta, born October 29, 1886; Julia, born May 5, 1889; Ruby, born March 2, 1891; George P., born September 14, 1894; Mara, born January 12, 1897; Grace B., born March 26, 1900.

NELS HOLSTEN (1862), of Heron Lake township, is one of the few residents of Jackson county now living in the county who were present at the Belmont massacre. He came with his parents a few months before that memorable event, and with the exception of a couple of years spent in northern Iowa because of fear of the redskins he has been a resident of the county ever since.

Holsten Olson, the well known pioneer settler, was the father of Mr. Holsten. He came from Norway in 1833 and settled in northern Illinois. There he married his first wife, who died in 1857, and there he engaged in farming until he came to Jackson county. A year after the death of his first wife Holsten Olson married Ingebor Olson Slaabaken, who is now a resident of Jackson county, making her home with her son, Martin Holsten, in Belmont township. Holsten Olson died in Jackson county October 1, 1893, at the age of 73 years. Nels is the youngest of his father's first family and the only other child living is Mrs. Betsy Thompson. Holsten Olson had six children by his last marriage, of whom the following are living: Olosus, Martin, Edward, Tena and Helen.

Nels was born in Illinois, near the Wisconsin line, June 25, 1854. He came to the wilds of Jackson county with his father and step-mother in 1862. The Indian attack of August of that year drove them from the county, and refuge was sought at Estherville, Iowa. The family returned to their home in Belmont in October, spent the winter on the frontier, and then fled to Spirit Lake, Iowa, because of threatened Indian uprisings. They came back again in 1864 and located upon the homestead on the northwest quarter of section 34, Belmont township. Nels resided on the home farm until twenty-three years of age; then he started in life for himself, working at various occupations for several years. In 1891 he married and bought his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 24, Heron Lake township, and upon that he has ever since lived. The farm was wild prairie land when he bought it, and all the improvements it now has are the result of his labors.

In Belmont township, on July 2, 1891, Mr. Holsten was married to Julia Frantsen, who was born on section 12, Belmont township, the daughter of John and Johanna (Halverson) Frantsen. To this union have been born two children: Harry, born August 23, 1892; Josie, born February 2, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Holsten are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

FRANK WAZLAHOWSKY (1874), one of the early settlers of LaCrosse township, was born in Moravia, Austria, October 10, 1855. His father, Frank W. Wazlahowsky, was born in 1829, came to the United States in 1874, and now makes his home in Owatonna, Minnesota. The mother of our subject, Josefa (Elgner) Wazlahowsky, was born in 1828 and died in Jackson county in 1897.

Frank lived in Moravia until he was nineteen years of age. His father was a blacksmith by trade, and he began working in the shop when a child and learned the trade. John Haberman, who came from the same part of Austria as did our subject, had come to America and to Jackson county a year or two before, and it was because of the letters he wrote back that the Wazlahowsky family decided to come to the new world. They came over in 1874, arriving in Jackson county April 30. The father of our subject bought the

northeast quarter of section 32, LaCrosse township, and on that place Mr. Wazlahowsky has ever since made his home. A little frame house was built on the place at the start, and in 1878 our subject erected a frame building—a part of his present house.

Until 1878 Frank worked for his father, then he married and engaged in farming for himself, his father giving him eighty acres of the home farm at that time. Later Frank bought the other eighty and has since added to the dimensions of his farm by the purchase of forty acres adjoining. Mr. Wazlahowsky has held the offices of chairman of the township board, supervisor, town clerk, assessor and other offices. He has always taken an active interest in school matters, he and John T. Haberman building the first school house in the district. He was the first clerk of district No. 33 and served many years.

Mr. Wazlahowsky was married in LaCrosse township November 20, 1878, to Annie Belzl, who was born in Moravia, Austria, and who came to the United States in 1876. They have three children, Fred W., Mary T. and John A. The family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake.

JOHN J. SMITH (1866), of Jackson, has lived in the county over forty-three years. He is a native of Tompkins county, New York, and has born February 27, 1839, the son of Hiram and Lydia (McGowin) Smith.

When a small boy our subject accompanied his parents from Tompkins county to Chautauqua county, New York, and there he lived until 1858, receiving a common school education. That year he came west, driving from his New York state home to Wisconsin. He lived in the Badger state three years and then enlisted in the First Wisconsin regiment. After serving his term of enlistment he returned home and reenlisted in the 35th Wisconsin regiment and served until April, 1866. He received his discharge in Brownsville, Texas, and from that point the regiment proceeded to Madison, Wisconsin, and disbanded.

Immediately after his discharge from the army Mr. Smith determined to locate upon some of the land in the new countries farther west, and on the eleventh day of June, 1866, he arrived in Jackson county, having made the trip overland. He took a homestead claim in Wisconsin township, three miles southeast

of Jackson, and lived thereon eleven years, selling the farm in 1877. He then bought a farm in Wisconsin and Des Moines townships, upon which he resided twenty-one years. He then sold out and moved to Jackson, where he has since resided. Mr. Smith was one of the first settlers of Wisconsin township and upon its organization he was made one of the first members of the board of supervisors. He is a member of the G. A. R.

Mr. Smith was married to Anna T. Fields in April, 1862. To these parents have been born the following named children: William E., born April 14, 1863; James Edwin, born August 2, 1869; Helen, born in 1877; Christie, born February 27, 1879; Susie, born in 1884; Lydia, born in 1886.

TARJE K. OLSEN (1873). Among the pioneer settlers of Alba township is the gentleman whose named heads this sketch, he having resided on his present farm for the past thirty-seven years. He owns 480 acres of land and is in prosperous circumstances.

Mr. Olsen was born in Brigham township, Iowa county, Wisconsin, April 14, 1853. Until May 26, 1873, he lived with his parents and worked on the farm in his native county. On the date last mentioned he came to Jackson county in company with his brother-in-law, E. O. Woiien, and his sister, Kisten Woiien. Upon his arrival he bought the homestead right to the southeast quarter of section 30, Alba township, from Israel Smith, took up his residence on the place, and in time secured title to the land. At the time of taking possession the only improvements was a 12x12 feet shack. This he rebuilt and lived in until 1882; then he replaced it with a part of his present house, completing the building in 1900.

Within a very few days after his arrival came the first grasshopper visitation. Mr. Olsen did not raise anything that year or for several years afterward, and he was obliged to support himself by working at odd jobs, on the railroad section, and threshing in Martin county. After the hopper days Mr. Olsen came upon prosperous times. He added to his holdings from time to time by purchase until he now owns 480 acres of land. Of this he farms 320 acres, renting out the rest. Besides his general farming he engages in the raising of high grade cattle and feeds many head of hogs annually for market. He is the

manager and secretary of the Farmers Creamery company of Brewster and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator company of the same village. Mr. Olsen has held a number of local offices during his long residence in Alba township. He was township clerk ten years and has served on the township board. He has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 34 since 1881. He has also served as assessor and road overseer.

The parents of our subject were Knute and Mary (Ness) Olsen. They were born and married in Norway, coming to the United States in 1850, shortly after their marriage, and located in Brigham township, Iowa county, Wisconsin, where they lived until their deaths in recent years. They lived a married life of over sixty years. Mr. Olsen died in 1901 at the age of 85 years; his wife died November 4, 1907, aged 85 years. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom are living: T. K., Carl, Alec and Adaline.

T. K. Olsen was married in Worthington, Nobles county, May 30, 1879, to Tena Rindy, who was born in Norway November 1, 1860, and came to America in 1868. She is the daughter of John and Susan Rindy. To Mr. and Mrs. Olsen have been born twelve children, of whom the following named eleven are living: John B., born February 25, 1880; Josephine S., born April 29, 1881; Clark M., born October 5, 1882; Cora M., born June 29, 1884; Orville K., born September 24, 1886; Ethel N., born February 8, 1888; Clayton O., born August 18, 1893; Tillie T., born May 26, 1894; Knute E., born August 28, 1896; Hazel M., born June 16, 1900; Paul C., born July 8, 1903. One daughter, Martha M., died in infancy. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Brewster.

FERDINAND MILBRATH (1876) is one of the pioneer settlers of Rost township and one of the township's most successful farmers. He owns 400 acres of land on sections 18 and 20 and is an extensive farmer. Possessed of almost nothing when he arrived in the county in the early days, he has prospered and has one of the fine farms and fine homes of Rost township.

Ferdinand Milbrath was born in Germany June 17, 1857. At the age of twelve years he accompanied his parents to the new world and located with them at Watertown, Wisconsin.

In 1875 the father of our subject came to Jackson county and took a homestead claim in Rost township. Ferdinand came to the new home in 1876, but on account of the grasshoppers he did not remain long, the whole family returning to their old Wisconsin home. In the spring of 1877 he went to Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he worked as a day laborer.

In 1880 Mr. Milbrath again came to Jackson county, this time to reside permanently. As a result of his savings from money earned in Fillmore county, he now had a team of horses, some farm tools and \$20 in cash. With the money he bought a cow in the village of Jackson while on his way to his mother's home in Rost township. His father had been killed in an accident the year before, and Ferdinand came to assist his mother in caring for the homestead. He resided with his mother until she proved up on the claim; then they sold the place and our subject, in 1881, filed a claim to the northeast quarter of section 18, Rost, having bought a relinquishment to the quarter for \$800. On that farm our subject has ever since made his home, having added the other lands by purchase.

In the early days the family dwelling was the usual sod shanty of pioneer times. Later they sold a span of oxen and with the proceeds bought lumber and built a frame house, 14x20 feet, which was considered a palace at the time. In 1884 Mr. Milbrath erected one of the largest barns in the vicinity on his own farm. Besides his farming operations Mr. Milbrath is interested in several other lines of business. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' creamery and elevator at Okabena and in the First State Bank of the same village. He is also a stockholder in the Western Implement company. During his long residence in the county he has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. He was township assessor twenty-seven years, was on the township board a number of times and for four or five years was chairman of the board, was township treasurer several terms and has held a school office ever since the district was organized. He has been treasurer of the school district for the last ten years. Mr. Milbrath is a member of the German Lutheran church and was one of those who organized the Rost township church in 1884.

Our subject is the son of the late Frederick and Louisa (Felt) Milbrath, who were born in Germany and who came to America in 1869

and located at Watertown, Wisconsin. They came to Jackson county in 1875, homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 32, Rost township. The father met his death August 12, 1879, in an accident while cutting grain with a reaper. He was 54 years of age at the time of his death. His widow proved up on the homestead and afterward made her home with her son. She died April 15, 1895, aged 70 years. They were the parents of five children.

Ferdinand Milbrath was married in Rost township December 15, 1881, to Matilda Meister, daughter of Frank and Annie (Pine) Meister, who were the first settlers of Rost township on the west side of the Little Sioux river. Mrs. Milbrath was born in Menominee, Wisconsin, July 31, 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Milbrath have five children, as follows: Frank Edward, born May 7, 1883; Carl Theodore, born October 1, 1885; George Reinhold, born March 27, 1888; Carl August and Anna Clara (twins), born August 1, 1890, died September 16 and 25, respectively, of the same year; Bertha Louisa, born September 18, 1891; Herminia Hulda Theresa, born October 14, 1894.

ANDREW PETERSON (1870), who now lives a retired life in Heron Lake, is one of the first settlers of Weimer township and has been a resident of Jackson county for nearly forty years. He was born in Norway September 19, 1833, the second eldest of a family of five children. His parents were Peter and Bertha Peterson. The former was born in 1798, came to the United States and to Iowa in 1866, and located in Spring Valley, Fillmore county, Minnesota, in 1874. He died at that place aged 84 years. His wife died in Norway in 1866.

Andrew was educated in Norway and learned the shoemaker's trade. He came to the United States in 1866 and located in Fayette county, Iowa. There he resided four years, conducting a farm and working at his trade. In 1870 Mr. Peterson sold his farm and moved to Jackson county, taking as a homestead the northeast quarter of section 22, Weimer township, when the only other permanent residents of the township were Charles Winzer and Nels Moe. During the first summer of their residence in Jackson county Mr. Peterson and his family lived in a stable. Then he built a little log house, 12x16 feet, in which the fam-

ily lived two years, after which he erected a residence which still stands on the farm.

Mr. Peterson lived on his homestead a quarter of a century. In 1896 he moved to Heron Lake, where he bought fourteen acres in the north part of town and where he has lived ever since. During his long period of residence in Weimer township Mr. Peterson served in various official capacities. He was chairman of the board of supervisors four years, was assessor sixteen years and was a director and clerk of the school district for several years. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

In Norway on the second day of January, 1862, Mr. Peterson was married to Betsy Gulekson, who was born January 12, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson now live a retired life in Heron Lake, after having spent nearly a half century of married life together. They are the parents of seven living children: Adolph, born March 29, 1863; Amel; Olof, born May 16, 1872; Julia (Mrs. Oscar Benson), born June 3, 1868; Clara (Mrs. Albert Robson), born May 23, 1877; Ella, born June 9, 1880; Lena (Mrs. Charles Weiland), born March 24, 1883.

JOHN JACOBSON (1872) is one of the pioneer settlers of Christiania township, having resided on the farm on the bank of Fish lake ever since he was nine years of age. He owns lot five on section 4, consisting of thirty-eight acres.

Mr. Jacobson was born in Norway January 29, 1863, the son of Jacob Nelson and Mary (Franson) Nelson. His father died when he was a baby, and in 1868 he came to America with his mother, settling in Dane county, Wisconsin. His mother died there in 1872 and thereafter John made his home with his grandfather, John Franson. In June, 1872, he moved with his grandfather to Jackson county, the latter taking as a homestead the land which our subject now owns. There he grew to manhood, receiving a district school education. After the death of his grandfather in 1889 John became the owner of the farm, and upon it he has ever since lived.

November 24, 1891, Mr. Jacobson was married to Matilda Olson, a native of Norway. To them have been born two children: Clinton M., born June 22, 1893; Grant E., born April 2, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson are members of the

Methodist church of Windom. He has held the office of constable for the last eight years.

JENS J. JOHNSON (1870), ex-sheriff of Jackson county and a successful farmer of Delafield township, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county. He owns a 120 acre farm in Delafield and Christiania townships, on which he has lived many years.

Mr. Johnson was born in Norway July 21, 1842, and lived in his native land until he was twenty years of age. After becoming old enough to earn wages he went to work in a saw mill, making his home with his parents until fifteen years old. At that age he was confirmed and until 1859 made his home with a minister. He again took up his residence with his parents and lived with them until he sailed for the United States in 1862. Arriving in the new world, he located at Stoughton, Dane county, Wisconsin. There he worked two and one-half years and then he located at Grand Rapids, of the same state, where he worked in a sawmill during the winter and rafting logs during the summer. He again returned to Dane county, where he engaged in farming three years.

In 1870 Mr. Johnson came to Jackson county and on October 9 took as a homestead claim the south half of the northeast quarter of section 12, Delafield township. Here he built a house, 14x18 feet, of lumber, in which he and his family lived until it was supplanted by a commodious structure in 1883. In the old shack he passed the early days, fighting grasshoppers and striving to make a living in the devastated country. He planted the groves and has made all the improvements his farm now has.

In 1883 Mr. Johnson conducted a grain elevator at Windom in addition to his farming operations, and in 1887 he moved to Windom, where he engaged in the lumber business ten years. Mr. Johnson was elected sheriff of Jackson county in 1875 and served four years. He has been justice of the peace and clerk of his school district, and was a federal census enumerator in 1880. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

Our subject is the son of Johannes Nilson and Ingeborg (Peterson) Nilson, who came from Norway in 1873. The former died in Windom April 15, 1892, aged 80 years; the lat-

ter died in Jackson county in 1881. Jens is one of a family of eleven children born to these parents, of whom three are now living.

Mr. Johnson has been married three times. His first marriage occurred at Grand Rapids, Wisconsin, June 30, 1866, when he wedded Mary Peterson. She died October 25, 1869, leaving no children. Mr. Johnson's second marriage occurred September 3, 1870, when he wedded Sarah Johnson, who was born in Norway and who came to America when six years of age. She died April 28, 1890, aged forty-three years. The following named eleven children were born as a result of this union: Julia (Koeford), Mary (Peterson), Oscar E., Carl G., Casper E., Sophia (Barber), Albert B. and Jens E. Mr. Johnson was married to his present wife at Windom, Minnesota, January 13, 1894. She was Mary Ann Nelson, a native of Norway. They have no children.

JAMES R. ROST (1871), blacksmith and dealer in farm machinery at Lakefield, comes from one of the well known and pioneer families of western Jackson county and is himself a native of the county, having been born in Rost township December 26, 1871. He is the son of Herman and Augusta (Newman) Rost.

Herman Rost and family came to Jackson county in 1869 and homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 22 in what is now known as Rost township. Frederick Rost, the father of Herman Rost, also came at that early date and homesteaded on section 26, of the same township, and it was in his honor the township was named. The father of our subject was born in Germany and came to America when nine years of age. He still lives on the homestead he took forty years ago. James is one of a family of five children, named as follows: Mary, James R., Herman A., Reinhart R. and Clara M.

Until he was nineteen years of age James Rost attended the district school and worked on his father's farm. He then moved to Lakefield and for four years worked in the blacksmith shop of R. D. Pietz. In 1896 he bought the blacksmith shop of Ernest Tank, and in the fall of the same year moved to the present site, erecting a building, which has since been enlarged until now it covers an area of 42x50 feet. He does a general blacksmithing and repair business and conducts a wagon and machine shop. In 1900 Mr. Rost started in the



farm machinery business in connection with his blacksmith shop and handles a full line of farm machinery, threshing machinery, gasoline and steam engines and automobiles.

Mr. Rost was married in the township which bears his name on December 6, 1893, to Ida C. Webber, a native of Rost township and a daughter of August Webber, a pioneer settler.

From 1902 to 1907 Mr. Rost was a member of the Lakefield village council. He has been a member of the Lakefield fire department since December 5, 1902. He was chief for four years and has held the office of treasurer for the past five years. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

CLAUS WIEBENER (1887) owns and farms a half section farm in Sioux Valley township, where he has lived many years. He is a German by birth and was born July 8, 1865, in the province of Holstein. He spent his early years attending school and helping his father, who was a brick mason by trade.

At the age of nineteen years Claus emigrated to the United States and located in Cedar county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm hand three years. He came to Jackson county in 1887, worked out in Sioux Valley township two years, and then bought the northwest quarter of section 29, of that township, and engaged in farming. He made all the improvements on that farm, which was his home until 1904. That year he bought the southwest quarter of section 20 and moved onto his new place. He still owns his old farm and farms the whole half section. Mr. Wiebener raises considerable stock and is an extensive hog feeder. He raised 2,500 bushels of corn during the year 1909. Mr. Wiebener is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the Masonic and Woodmen lodges. He has held a school office during nearly all the time he has lived in the county.

Claus is the youngest of a family of four children, his brothers and sisters being Gretchen, Fritz and John, all living in Oklahoma. His parents were Peter Christian Wiebener and Anna (Struve) Wiebener. The former died in Sioux Valley township in 1905, his mother having died in 1895.

Mr. Wiebener was married on his farm in Sioux Valley township in 1894 to Mary Diederich, who was born in Germany December 12, 1875. They are the parents of the following

named seven living children: Christiana, born October 19, 1894; Anna, born October 11, 1896; Marie, born September 6, 1898; Lilly, born April 30, 1901; Harry, born March 12, 1902; Elza, born September 19, 1907; Christina, born September 8, 1908. One child, Claus, has died.

WILLIAM PETER (1870) is a homesteader of Weimer township and one of the oldest settlers of that precinct, having resided on his present farm continuously for nearly forty years. He is a German by birth, having been born in the fatherland April 25, 1848, the son of August and Catherine (Matthews) Peter.

At the age of five years William accompanied his parents to the new world and grew to manhood in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, which was his home until he came to Jackson county in 1870. In 1866, at the age of eighteen years, Mr. Peter enlisted in the regular army for frontier service and served an enlistment of three years and six months. The first year of this service was in Arkansas, where troops were stationed to preserve order during the turbulent times following the civil war. The next year was spent in Kansas and Colorado, acting as a detail to escort mail stages over the plains and protect them from the Indians. Nine months were spent in the command of General Brooks, who subjugated the roving bands of Navajo Indians, captured seven thousand of them and placed them on reservations in Mexico and Arizona. After his service in the army Mr. Peter was for a time employed as a government mail carrier on the plains of eastern Arizona and New Mexico, between Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Returning to his old Wisconsin home from the western frontier, Mr. Peter soon decided to make a home for himself in some new country, and being then of age decided to take up government land and engage in farming. In 1870 he arrived in Jackson county and at once filed a homestead claim to the northwest quarter of section 26, Weimer township, where he has ever since resided. The land at the time was, of course, raw prairie and he has made all the improvements on the place. He encountered many hardships in the early days, but successfully weathered the terrible times, and is today in prosperous circumstances. He owns an eighty acre tract adjoining his homestead,

and he and his son John own 400 acres of land in Aitkin county, Minnesota.

Mr. Peter was married in Jackson county in February, 1875, to Kate Dobriner, who was born in Germany in 1857. To this union have been born nine children, of whom the following eight are living: John, William, Eddie, Arthur, Katie, Minnie, Etta and Bertie.

Mr. Peter is one of the members of Weimer township's board of supervisors. He has also served as a director of school district No. 30 and as road overseer. He is a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank of Wilder and of the Farmers Elevator company of Heron Lake. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Heron Lake and of the M. W. A. and Degree of Honor lodges.

CHARLES W. ROST (1870), of Petersburg township, is one of the early settlers of Jackson county and one of the very first in Rost township, which was named after the family. He is of German birth and first saw the light of day October 18, 1844. His parents, Frederick and Rika (Reitz) Rost, are both deceased.

Charles Rost came to America with his parents when a child, and until the year 1860 lived with them in Dodge county, Wisconsin, forty miles west of Milwaukee. From the age of sixteen years until he was twenty-six he engaged in farming. In the early summer of 1870 Charles accompanied his parents on their overland trip to Minnesota and arrived in the county of Jackson in June. They passed through the county and camped one night on the banks of Okabena lake at a point which is now the center of the village of Worthington. There they decided to turn back and locate at a point on the Little Sioux river which they had passed on their way west, and this they did, taking a claim in what is now Rost township. The nearest neighbor the family had lived seven miles away.

During these pioneer days Mr. Rost suffered all the trials of the pioneer settlers. During grasshopper times he suffered severely. He would buy grain each year, plant it, and then would come the grasshoppers and take everything. On season he had a fine ten acre field of barley which he inspected one Sunday. By Monday noon it had entirely disappeared, having been eaten by the ravenous pests. Many stories of the doings of these pests are told by Mr. Rost—how they would dull the

edges of scythes and other sharp instruments left exposed, eat holes in the women's dresses while making a trip to the neighbors, and make the dogs and chickens seek shelter from their onslaughts.

Mr. Rost made his home in Rost township until 1903. He then moved to Martin county, but after a residence there of three years returned and located in Petersburg township, where he has since lived. He now lives a retired life, leaving the working of the farm to his sons. During his residence in Rost he served on the township board twenty years. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Rost was married March 29, 1869, to Miss Mina Wagnuf. Thirteen children have been born to these parents, as follows: Eva, born December 31, 1871; Lizzie, born May 27, 1873; Jeanette, born December 14, 1874; Mollie, born November 18, 1876; Henry, born April 30, 1878; Carl, born September 11, 1879; Alvina, born April 6, 1881; John, born November 7, 1882; William, born January 30, 1884; Etta, born December 24, 1885; Clara, born April 30, 1887; Stella, born May 14, 1880, died May 4, 1904; Eddy, born April 3, 1892.

OLE J. OLSON (1862). There are few residents of Jackson county who have a period of continuous residence of greater length than Ole J. Olson, of this sketch, who owns a farm on sections 34 and 35, Belmont township. He is the son of John Olson and Anna (Ellingson) Olson, whose arrival in the county and adventures in this frontier region have been told in the historical part of this volume.

John and Anna Olson were born in Tolen, Norway, and soon after their marriage in 1851 they came to America. They resided in Rock county, Wisconsin, several years, and came to Jackson county in 1862, where they took a homestead—the land upon which the son now resides. John Olson died in 1879. His wife, who is now 84 years of age, resides with her son on the old homestead. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are now living, as follows: Christie, Anna, Lena (Mrs. P. H. Berge), of Jackson; Ole J., Peter J., Petria (Mrs. Louis Ellingson), of Polk county, Wisconsin; Mrs. Ingebor Hoaas, deceased; Peter, deceased.

Ole J. Olson was born to these parents in Rock county, Wisconsin, December 17, 1858,

and in 1862 he was brought to Jackson county. The head of the family homesteaded the south half of the southeast quarter of section 34, land which had included part of the old Belmont townsite, and on that place Ole J. Olson has ever since resided, excepting one year. For many years the family home was in a log cabin which had been erected by the townsite boomers. Soon after their arrival to the frontier country came the terrible Sioux war and the Belmont massacre. The family were on the west side of the river on that memorable Sunday and escaped the slaughter that took many of their neighbors. One of Ole's uncles was killed and a cousin was badly wounded and left for dead.

After the massacre the family fled south and for a year lived at Spirit Lake. Then they returned to Belmont. Ole was a member of the party which met disaster in a prairie fire on the return while near the present village of Jackson, a detailed account of which is to be found in the historical section of this volume. He continued to make his home with his parents and as a child and young man encountered many hardships and adventures incident to the settlement of a new country. After his father's death in 1879 Mr. Olson conducted the farm a few years for his mother and then bought the place and has since operated it on his own account. Mr. Olson has never married. He makes his home with his mother and a sister. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

PETER E. FREER (1874), of Heron Lake, is an early day settler of western Jackson county. He is the son of Johannes D. and Ann E. (Hasbrook) Freer, descended from pioneer New York state stock, the family originally coming from Germany in colonial days. The mother of our subject was a cousin of John Jacob Astor, the founder of the American branch of the Astor family. The father of our subject moved from New York state to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1856, and settled with his family at Frankville. There he erected and conducted a flouring mill seven or eight years. Later he engaged in farming in Winneshiek county, and in 1874 came to Jackson county and homesteaded in Alba township. He located in Heron Lake in 1889 and died in that village in 1894 at the age of 78 years. His wife died in 1896, aged 78 years,

Mr. and Mrs. Johannes D. Freer were the parents of seven children, as follows: Abraham H., born May 29, 1840; Sarah A., born May 22, 1842; Newton, born October 20, 1844; Peter E., born April 10, 1848; Mary C., born August 23, 1850; Nellie D., born August 11, 1853, died November 9, 1853; Walter, born March 29, 1859.

Peter E. Freer, the fourth child of this family, was born in Ulster county, New York. He accompanied his parents to Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1856 when eight years of age, and in that county he grew to manhood, receiving his education and working on his father's farm and in the flouring mill at Frankville. He came with the family to Jackson county in 1874 and took a homestead claim in Alba township. He remained on the homestead until the fall of 1879, and then took a position as brakeman on the St. Paul and Sioux City railroad, running between Heron Lake and Woodstock. In the fall of 1880 Mr. Freer took a position in the tow mill of J. T. Smith, and operated one of the brakes in the mill the following winter. In the summer of 1881 he was employed on the large farm of Hugh Paul, and that fall operated a threshing machine.

Mr. Freer went to St. Paul in the spring of 1882 and for three months was engaged in teaming there. He was in White Bear Lake for a time and then returned to Jackson county, locating in Heron Lake. In partnership with his brother, W. S. Freer, he rented the Pioneer House, which he conducted for a number of years. He also conducted the Chapman House livery barn until the spring of 1884. Returning to the farm that year, he engaged in agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1889; then he moved to Heron Lake, rented the Pioneer House from his brother Walter, and conducted it eleven years. Thereafter until the spring of 1909 he engaged in teaming in Heron Lake. On that date he rented the Waver Tree hotel, which he conducted until the fall of 1909. Mr. Freer owns his home in the village of Heron Lake. During his residence in Alba township Mr. Freer served two terms as treasurer of his precinct.

Mr. Freer was married to Maggie Golda in Heron Lake March 7, 1893. She was born in Germany and came to America with her father, Joseph Golda, when one year old. They have six children: Milton S., born February 11, 1894; Merlin M., born July 26, 1895; Maud

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JACKSON COUNTY OFFICERS

**P.D. McKellar,**  
Auditor



**H.K. Rue,**  
Treasurer



**C.H. Sandon,**  
Judge of  
Probate



**Henry Ter Haar,**  
Sheriff



JACKSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE



**A.M. Schroeder,**  
Clerk of Court



**L.J. Dostal,**  
Register of  
Deeds



**J.B. Arp,**  
Superintendent  
of Schools



**J.A. Mansfield,**  
County Attorney

A., born June 12, 1908; Myrtle, born December 23, 1901; Raymond, born January 21, 1903; Mary, born August 30, 1905.

PETER BURRESON (1874), whose farm lies in Des Moines township a short distance northwest of the village of Jackson, is a native of the county, having been born on the farm he now conducts November 21, 1874. His parents, William Bureson and Christie (Olson) Bureson, were among the very earliest of the settlers of Jackson county. They were born in Norway and came to Jackson county in 1860 with the vanguard of the Norwegian settlers and were living in the county at the time of the Indian massacre of 1862. William Bureson and his wife still live on the old homestead he took in 1860. Eleven children were born to them, of whom the following seven are living: Burr, Emery, Peter, Belle, Bedena, Obena and Annie.

Peter Bureson attended the Jackson county district schools and grew to manhood on his father's farm. Until he was twenty-three years of age he worked for his father; then he rented the home place on sections 14 and 11 and engaged in farming for himself. In 1909 he bought eighty acres of his father's farm. His place is known as the "Fairview Farm."

JOHN A. MANSFIELD (1904), county attorney of Jackson county, resides at Lakefield. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born at Mankato July 12, 1879. His father, Charles Mansfield, was of English origin and came to Mankato in 1856. He died there in 1884, aged 56 years. The mother of our subject, Louisa (Burchard) Mansfield, is of German birth. She still resides in Mankato.

John A. Mansfield grew to manhood in his native city and was graduated from the high school there in 1899. He then took a three years' course in the law department of the Michigan state university and later read law in the office of Pfau & Pfau, Mankato. In 1903 he began the practice of his profession at Park Rapids, Minnesota, and in the spring of 1904 located at Lakefield, where he has since resided. He was elected county attorney on the republican ticket in 1908 and assumed the duties of that office at the beginning of the year 1909.

During the Spanish-American war Mr. Mans-

field served as a member of company A, of the Twelfth Minnesota volunteer infantry, and was stationed with his regiment at Chickamauga, Georgia. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M., the M. W. A. and I. O. O. F. lodges.

At Park Rapids, Minnesota, on June 12, 1903, Mr Mansfield was married to Miss Myrtle Gibson, a native of Ironton, Ohio.

JOHN A. SPAFFORD (1872), farmer and storekeeper of Ewington township and formerly postmaster of Spofford postoffice, is one of the oldest residents of his precinct. He is one of the best known residents of western Jackson county and a man who has taken an active part in the business, social and political affairs of the community in which he has lived so long.

Mr. Spafford descends from one of the oldest families of America. For several centuries before the American family was founded the Spaffords, or Spoffords, as the name was originally spelled, were a people of high rank in England. So early as 1066 we find the name in the Doomsday Book, which is a book of record of the lands of England as parcelled out after the conquest of William, Duke of Normandy. The American branch of the family was founded by John Spofford, who came to America in 1638 with a colony under the leadership of Rev. Ezekiel Rogers. The colony was composed of many families from Yorkshire and made settlement in April, 1639, between Newbury and Ipswich, in Massachusetts. The name of John Spofford appears on the record of the first division of lands into homestead lots, which was made in 1643. His lot consisted of one and one-half acres, and was located on Bradford street, so called, near the center of the present town of Rowley. In the spring of 1669 he moved to Spofford's Hill, in the west part of the town, and he was without doubt the first settler of Georgetown and the progenitor of all of the name in the United States and Canada. His wife was Elizabeth Scott, who came to America in the ship Elizabeth in 1634, when nine years of age.

The John A. Spafford of this sketch belongs to the eighth generation in this descent. One of the sons of the original John Spofford was also named John. He lived on the site of the original settlement on Spofford's Hill, in what is now Georgetown, Massachusetts, where he died April 27, 1696. Jonathan, son of John,

was a resident of Rowley, where he died January 16, 1772, aged 89 years. Jacob, son of Jonathan, emigrated to Salisbury, Connecticut, where he lived for many years, and where he died. Colonel Solomon Spafford was a son of Jacob Spafford. He moved from Connecticut to Hallowell, Canada, at which place he died February 2, 1837. One of the sons of Colonel Solomon Spafford, was Ira Spafford, who was born in Vermont, emigrated with his father to Canada, and settled at Hallowell, now Athol. One of his sons was Heman Spafford, the father of the subject of this sketch. Heman Spafford was born in Prince Edward county, Ontario, Canada, February 8, 1805, and died in Picton, Prince Edward county, August 26, 1876. He was married to Cecelia Abrams, who was born in Ireland in 1812, and died in Bloomington, Illinois, June 14, 1894.

To Heman and Cecelia Spafford was born John A. Spafford. His birthplace was Picton, Prince Edward county, Ontario, and the date of his birth was August 20, 1837. In his native county he grew to manhood. His early life was spent in securing a common school education and in working on the farm. When twenty-four years of age he left home and sought his fortune in the west. He departed from his native town on the 15th of April, 1861, and arrived in Chicago three days later. There he secured employment in the grain commission house of Baker & Spafford, for which firm he worked two years. In August, 1863, Mr. Spafford moved to Wapella, DeWitt county, Illinois, where for two years he was grain buyer for a Chicago commission house.

During those two years he made considerable money but owing to a general collapse in prices at the close of the civil war, he lost it all, and what was still worse he found himself considerably in debt. During the winter of 1865 he was engaged in buying and sacking corn and oats for the commissary department of the government through a sub-agent, who, at the close of the war, found himself over-stocked with grain for which the government would have no use. Mr. Spafford had contracted for much grain from the farmers, advancing some money on each lot, and when the department's demand was cut off, and the markets in the large grain centers tumbled fifty per cent or more, there was nothing left for him to do but take in the contracted grain at former prices, to-wit: 65 to

70 cents per bushel for oats and 75 to 80 cents per bushel for corn, and put it on the Chicago market at 30 to 40 cents per bushel. In this deal his fortune was swept away, and for six or seven years he knocked about at various occupations until his removal to Jackson county.

With the rush of homeseekers to southwestern Minnesota in the spring of 1872 came Mr. Spafford, the date of his arrival being May 9. For a time he made his home in the new town of Worthington, engaging in teaming for I. N. Sater, the pioneer lumber dealer, and other business men. In June he filed a homestead claim to the northwest quarter of section 26, in Ewington township which is now his home. Three months later he returned to his old home in Illinois, straightened out his business affairs there, and on October 6 returned with his family. He lived in Worthington until the spring of 1873, and then moved onto his homestead. He began farming then, but the grasshoppers took nearly everything, and late in the fall of 1875 he was forced to return to Worthington and seek employment. He secured work in the flouring mill, in the fall of 1876 being promoted to the office of head bookkeeper. His residence was in Worthington about a year and a half, and then he returned to the farm which has been his home ever since.

Mr. Spafford holds a record as a township officer which is equaled by few men. With the exception of the first year he has held a township office ever since Ewington township was organized. He was elected town clerk in 1881 and held the office for twenty-five consecutive years, finally giving up the office in 1906. Still longer service has he seen in the school district. When the district was organized in 1875 he was elected to the office of treasurer and a few years later to that of clerk, which he held for a continuous service of thirty-three years. Besides the offices mentioned he has been township assessor, member of the board of supervisors, and for a short time was chairman of the board.

In 1894 Mr. Spafford applied to the post-office department for an office to be located on his farm. He was successful in his efforts, and in September of that year the office, named Spafford in his honor (although the name was incorrectly spelled), was put in operation, with Mr. Spafford as postmaster. The next year

he opened a general store and operated it in connection with the office. He continued this business six years, and then sold out the store and resigned the postmastership. In the spring of 1909 Mr. Spafford again engaged in the mercantile business, opening a store on his farm in April.

Mr. Spafford was married in Bloomington, Illinois, April 5, 1865, to Mary Stoutz, daughter of George Stoutz, a coach builder in the shops of the Chicago & Alton Railway company. To this union have been born seven children as follows: Edith Cecelia (Mrs. Joel Edward White), Aberdeen, South Dakota; George Walter, Ewington township; William Charles (died in 1874, aged four and one-half years); Frank Addison, Ewington township; Clara Augusta (Mrs. Robert Edward Davis), Worthington; Emma Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles E. Gehrke), Ewington township; John Heman, Ewington township.

Mr. and Mrs. Spafford were both charter members of the Methodist church of Worthington, having brought letters from their church in Illinois.

TOLLEF J. EGGE (1866) has spent the entire forty-four years of his life in Jackson county, having been born in northern Des Moines township on the seventeenth day of March, 1866. His parents are John Johnson Egge and Ingebor (Evenson) Egge.

Tollef grew to manhood on his father's Christiania township farm, attending the district school and assisting with the farm work. At the age of twenty years he went to Wisconsin, spent one year there, and then moved to North Dakota, where he remained only one year. Returning, he worked as a farm hand two years and then married. After his marriage he engaged in farming rented land three years and in 1893 he bought the south half of the northwest quarter of section 24, Weimer township, moved onto the place and began the work of improving it. He now has a fine home and well improved farm. His Weimer township farm consists of 160 acres, and he also owns an eighty acre farm in Christiania, upon which he has a tenant.

The parents of our subject were born in Norway and came to America when young. The first husband of Mrs. Egge was Tollef Olson Slaabaken. They came to Jackson county with the vanguard of the Norwegian settlers and

were living on the Des Moines river at the time of the massacre of 1862. Tollef Olson Slaabaken died in the army and his widow married John Johnson Egge. As a result of the second marriage six children were born, of whom the following four are living: Tollef, Mary, John and Theodor. Eli and Ella are the deceased children.

Tollef Egge was married in Jackson county September 7, 1890, to Mary Selnes, who was born in Iowa June 24, 1866. To this union have been born three children: Ella, born February 19, 1894; Olga, born March 30, 1895; Eli, born August 31, 1896. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Egge has held many offices of trust within the gift of his neighbors. In 1903 he served as a member of the board of county commissioners from the Fourth district. He has been chairman of the board of supervisors of Weimer, has been assessor and is now a school director.

WILLIAM G. MALCHOW (1873), cashier of the Farmers State Bank of Wilder, has spent his entire life in Jackson county, having been born in Heron Lake township May 1, 1873. He is the son of Charles and Christine (Kilen) Malchow, pioneer settlers of the county.

William secured his education in this county, completing it in the academic department of the school at Wilder. After his school days, at the age of nineteen years, he began teaching school, which occupation he followed seven years. He then took a position as grain buyer for the firm of Thom & Christensen at Wilder and was so engaged three years. In 1902 he and his brother and father bought the controlling interest in the Farmers State Bank and since that date he has held the position of cashier.

Mr. Malchow is a man of family, having been married in Heron Lake township January 2, 1895, to Miss Christine Sether, a native of Blue Earth, Minnesota, and a daughter of Hans E. Sether, a Norwegian Lutheran minister and an early settler of the county. To this union have been born four children: Evangeline C., born December 23, 1898; Vivian G., born July 16, 1900; Thelma, born December 1, 1904; Violet, born June 2, 1908.

Mr. Malchow served as president of the Wilder village council two years and was village



recorder four years. He was treasurer of the school board six years. He is a member of the Masonic, Woodmen and Royal Neighbors lodges.

**MARTIN H. LEE** (1865) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 13, Des Moines township, which lies only a short distance to the north of the Jackson depot. He has been a resident of Jackson county ever since he was a baby two years old. He was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, February 8, 1863, the son of Halvor B. and Martha (Hansen) Lee, pioneer residents of the county.

Martin has grown to manhood in Jackson county. Until he was twenty-one years of age he resided on his father's old homestead in Des Moines township. For several years thereafter he worked out part of the time and farmed rented land part of the time. He bought his present farm in 1892, and has made all the improvements on the place. He is a breeder and raiser of sheep and horses and for the last eleven years has been engaged in buying grain and stock. Since buying his present farm he has resided alternately on it, in Jackson, and on the old homestead. He is the third child in a family of five living. He has never married.

**PETER T. HANSON** (1872) is the expert machinist and repair man employed by J. M. Johnson at Okabena. According to the records, he is the second child born in Weimer township, the date of his birth being June 22, 1872. He is the son of Otto and Annie (Lorncen) Hanson, natives of Norway, who were early settlers of Weimer township and who still live in that precinct.

Peter has always made his home in the county of his birth. He was brought up on the old homestead not far from the village of Heron Lake and he was educated in the public schools of that village. Until he was twenty-five years of age he lived on the farm with his parents. Then he married and located in Heron Lake, engaging in the shoe business in partnership with John Rafdal. He was a partner in the business until the spring of 1909, but all his time was not taken up with his duties in the store. He was janitor of the Heron Lake school building two years, was engineer on a steam dredge three years

and was engineer of the Heron Lake brick yard one year.

Mr. Hanson sold his shoe business in May, 1909, having accepted a position the first of the year with the Western Implement company in its branch at Okabena. He moved to Okabena and that has since been his home. The branch at Okabena was bought by J. M. Johnson in June, 1909, since which time Mr. Hanson has been in his employ. Mr. Hanson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

In Weimer township June 2, 1897, occurred the marriage of Mr. Hanson to Minnie Johnson, a native of Iowa, and a daughter of M. B. Johnson, of Weimer township. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, as follows: Odvion, Andrew, John, Palmer, Alta, Mildren and Maurice.

**HENRY W. UDEN** (1892) is one of the extensive farmers and stock raisers of Ewington township. He has a finely improved farm of 320 acres on sections 21 and 22, his stock sheds being rated among the best in Jackson county. He makes a specialty of raising full blooded Shorthorn cattle, Shropshire sheep and Poland China swine and deals in good grade horses. He is an extensive feeder and shipper.

Mr. Uden was born in Woodford county, Illinois, April 8, 1858, the son of George and Elizabeth (Jenson) Uden, of whom the former died two years ago at the age of eighty years, and the latter is living in Livingston county, Illinois. Henry was educated in the district schools of his native county and until he reached his majority resided on his father's farm. He then engaged in business for himself, farming rented land two years, and then taking charge of his father's farm, his parent having retired from active life for eight years. In 1889 Mr. Uden moved to Minonk, Illinois, and for three years was engaged in the mercantile business. He sold out in 1892 and located upon his farm in Ewington township, Jackson county, which he had bought before coming to the county. His farm first included only the northeast quarter of section 21, but eight years ago he added to his holdings by the purchase of the northwest quarter of section 22.

Mr. Uden was married in Woodford county, Illinois, in June, 1873, to Fannie Bentz, who died two years later. One child, now Mrs.

Amel Will, of Round Lake, was born to this union. The second marriage of Mr. Uden occurred in Woodford county in June, 1877, when he wedded Minnie Hendricks. Eleven children have been born to these parents, of whom the following nine are living: George, Rudolph, Theodore, Ellsworth, Herman, Henry, Wilbert, Amelia and Minnie. The family are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Uden has been a member of the school board of district No. 99 for a number of years and is now the treasurer.

THOMAS MADDEN (1872), of Hunter township, residing a short distance west of Lakefield is an early day settler of the county. He was born at Racine, Wisconsin, August 17, 1861, the son of William and Rose (Gallagher) Madden, both natives of Ireland. His father died in 1868. His mother lives at Austin, Minnesota, and is 70 years of age. There are four children in the family.

Thomas Madden was eleven years of age when he and his mother first came to Jackson county in 1872. Until grasshopper times they made their home with Thomas' grandfather, John Gallagher, who had a homestead on section 6, Hunter township. When the hard times incident to the grasshopper invasion came our subject and his mother moved to Mason City, Iowa, where they resided several years. Returning, they took up their residence on the northeast quarter of section 6, Hunter township, which his mother had taken as a homestead in 1871 and to which she subsequently obtained title. Thomas received his education in Iowa and in the Jackson high school, which he attended several years. Our subject has lived on the homestead ever since returning to the county and he now owns the farm.

Mr. Madden was married at Oxford, Iowa, January 4, 1894, to Julia O'Connor, a native of the town in which she was married. She is the daughter of Patrick and Bridget O'Connor. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Madden, as follows: Thomas V., Rose M., Margaret E., Joseph. The family are members of the Catholic church.

CHARLES W. WITHERS (1870), of Jackson, has lived in the county since infancy and has been identified with several different

lines of endeavor. His birthplace was Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he first saw the light of day on October 25, 1869, the youngest child of Walter and Jane E. (Allen) Withers.

Walter Withers, the father, was one of the well known early settlers of Jackson county. He was a native of England and came to the United States at the age of sixteen years. He married Jane Allen and in an early day they located in Fillmore county, Minnesota. Mr. Withers served during the war of the rebellion in the Second Minnesota infantry and was wounded and discharged just before the expiration of his term of enlistment. The family came to Jackson county in June, 1870, and the father took a homestead claim on section two, Middletown township, just a short distance south of the village of Jackson. There the family resided many years, when they moved to Jackson. Walter Withers died there March 3, 1907, aged 78 years. His wife died several years before.

Charles Withers was only eight months of age when he came to Jackson county with his parents. He received a country school education and lived on the farm until he attained his majority. Then moving to Jackson he began learning the butcher trade, working for Gruhlke & Brown six years. He then purchased the meat market now owned by H. W. Jackson and conducted it several years, being engaged in the ice business in connection with the shop. Selling out his interests in Jackson, he purchased farming property in North Dakota, and has since added to his land holdings in that state. He also owns village property on the east side of the river in Jackson. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen lodges.

Mr. Withers was married in Enterprise township on April 5, 1898, to Mary Nissen daughter of C. P. and Mary Nissen, of Jackson. Mrs. Withers was born in Chicago March 19, 1876.

GJERMUND T. JUVLAND (1870) has lived in Weimer township ever since he was twenty years of age and is one of the very earliest settlers of that precinct. He owns 240 acres of land in Weimer township and a quarter section in LaMoure county, North Dakota.

Mr. Juvland is a native of Norway and was born March 11, 1850, the son of Torbjorn and

Susana (Fjone) Juvland. He accompanied his parents from the old country when seventeen years of age and on June 15, 1867, arrived in the village of Red Wing, in Goodhue county, Minnesota. He lived on the farm with his parents there until 1870, and then accompanied them to Jackson county. The head of the family took as a homestead claim the northwest quarter of section 12, Weimer township, built a dugout, in which the family lived for a number of years, and established the permanent home there.

In the early days the family encountered many hardships, notably during the terrible grasshopper scourge, and young Juvland was brought up in the midst of poverty and pioneer surroundings. He did not marry and continued to make his home with his parents during their lifetime. His father died in 1873, at the age of 56 years, and our subject became the head of the family. His mother died in 1898, aged 81 years. With the exception of the year 1900, when he was in Heron Lake, Mr. Juvland has always lived on the old homestead. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

JOHN J. EGGE, JR., (1872), Christiania township farmer, was born in that precinct and has spent his entire life there. He owns fifty acres of land on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 33, on the bank of Independence lake.

John J. Egge, Jr., was born May 14, 1872, and is the son of John J. and Ingebor Egge, natives of Norway. They came from their native land and located in Decorah, Iowa, where Mr. Egge, Sr., worked at the blacksmith trade. The family came to Jackson county in 1865 and took as a homestead claim the south half of the southwest quarter of section 32, Christiania, and on that place the father of our subject still lives in a log cabin erected in 1868. There were six children in this family, namely: Tollef, a Weimer township farmer, born March 17, 1866; Mary (Mrs. Knute Jackson), of Crookston, Minnesota; born November 16, 1867; John J., Jr.; Theodore, of Deltafield township, born August 8, 1879; Ella, deceased, born February 1, 1869; Eli, deceased, born November 1, 1875.

Mr. Egge was married December 21, 1899, to Martha Niemann. To them have been born the following children: Ethel, born January 19,

1901; Elma, born February 8, 1903; Carl, born October 26, 1905. The family are members of the Lutheran church. He has served as a member of the township board three years and is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

RUDOLPH SCHOEWE (1883), in partnership with his brother, Theodore Schoewe, farms 400 acres of land in Kimball township, the home place being the east half of section 26. He is the son of Edward and Augusta Schoewe, who were born in Germany and who are now residents of Kimball township. The former came to America when eleven years of age, lived in Carver county, Minnesota, with his father until twenty-one years of age, and then came to Jackson county and took as a homestead claim the southeast quarter of section 26, Kimball, where he has ever since lived. He is fifty-nine years of age. The other children of the family are Mary (Mrs. William Waswo), of Oklahoma, and Theodore.

Rudolph was born on the Kimball township homestead December 4, 1883, and has passed his entire life on that place. He secured an education in the district schools and worked for his father until the spring of 1908. At that time he and his brother rented the 400 acre farm and have since conducted it. They are extensive feeders of hogs and are making a success. The brothers are members of the German Lutheran church of Kimball.

Theodore Schoewe was born on the home farm in 1885. He was married October 23, 1907, to Miss Dora Gohr, a native of Chicago.

JOHN AMBROSE (1884), Wisconsin township farmer and stockraiser, owns eighty acres in section 33, Wisconsin, and eighty acres in section 4, Petersburg. He is a native of Austria and was born August 8, 1861, the son of Paul and Mary Ambrose.

In 1874 our subject came to America with his parents and located at DeSoto, Iowa, where he received his education. In April, 1884, Mr. Ambrose came to Jackson county with his parents, with whom he continued to reside on the farm until he was twenty-seven years of age. He married in 1889 and then began farming for himself on a place one mile east of the Jackson depot. A little later he bought a farm one mile south of the present location

of the village of Alpha, farmed that place three years and then traded it for his present farm.

Mr. Ambrose was married March 4, 1889, to Miss Fannie Najt, of Jackson, and to them have been born these children: Annie, born December 1, 1889; John, born October 19, 1891; Edward, born January 5, 1893; Elenora, born October 1, 1894; Lloyd, born August 25, 1896; William, born July 14, 1898; Rose, born June 27, 1901; Leonard, born July 24, 1904, died November 21, 1905; Paul, born July 26, 1909. Mrs. Ambrose was born August 12, 1871, and died August 10, 1909.

In addition to his farming Mr. Ambrose has other business interests. He owns stock in the Farmers Cooperative elevator and in the Alpha Creamery association. He is a Methodist and a member of the M. W. A. and Z. C. B. J. of Jackson.

HENRY J. HOOVEL (1865), proprietor of a hardware store at Jackson, is one of the pioneer settlers of the county, having made his home here since he was five years of age. He is the son of John C. and Sophia (Holden) Hoovel, of Petersburg township, and he was born in Wiota, Wisconsin, October 18, 1860.

Henry accompanied his parents in their overland trip to Jackson county in the spring of 1865. His father homesteaded a quarter section of land in Petersburg township, and on that farm Henry lived until he was twenty-one years of age, assisting with the farm work and attending the district school. He left the farm and moved to Jackson in 1881, and during the next five years clerked in a general merchandise store. In 1886 he bought a half interest in the hardware store of H. G. Anderson and for three years was in the hardware business, the firm name being Anderson & Hoovel.

Disposing of his interest in the hardware store in 1889, Mr. Hoovel bought a half interest in the general store of O. E. Olsen and for the next six years he had charge of the store, which was conducted under the name of Olsen & Hoovel. He sold out in 1895 and again went into the hardware business, forming a partnership with Louis Iverson under the firm name of Hoovel & Iverson. Three years later he bought out his partner and has since conducted the business alone.

Mr. Hoovel has served as a member of the

Jackson village council. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the Masonic order. He was married at Spring Valley, Minnesota, December 24, 1885, to Caroline Kummer.

JOHN L. REEVES (1894) is a Weimer township farmer and resides two miles southeast of Heron Lake, his 210 acre farm being located on the bank of Heron lake. On his farm is located one of the club houses conducted by hunters who come to the lake during the shooting season.

Mr. Reeves was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, February 23, 1854. At the age of two years he accompanied his parents to Tazewell county, Illinois, and there spent his boyhood days. At the age of seventeen he accompanied the family to Champaign county, of the same state, and there he made his home on his father's farm until 1877. That year he moved to Primghar, Iowa, where he learned the carpenter's trade and where he resided, working at his trade, until the year 1894. Mr. Reeves came to Jackson county in 1894, bought eighty acres of his present farm, and has ever since been engaged in farming. He added to his holdings later by the purchase of the fractional 130 acres on the bank of the lake.

Our subject is the oldest of a family of four children. His parents, Horace E. and Harriett N. (Sill) Reeves, were both natives of Jefferson county, New York. They moved to Ohio when children and were married in that state. In 1856 they moved to Illinois and lived in that commonwealth until 1902, when they also came to Jackson county. The father died in Jackson county September 25, 1904, aged 77 years; the mother now lives with a daughter in St. Paul.

Mr. Reeves is a man of family, having been married in Weimer township October 31, 1892, to Emma E. Wood, a native of Mechanicsville, New York, and a daughter of L. C. Wood, an early Jackson county settler. Two children have been born to this union: Helen L. and Elizabeth. Mr. Reeves is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge.

OSCAR A. LARSON (1893) is one of the extensive and successful farmers of Delafield township. He rents 640 acres of land on sections 20, 19 and 30, all except forty acres of

which is owned by his father-in-law, John Esklund. He engages in stock raising extensively, having over one hundred head of cattle, besides herds of hogs and horses.

Mr. Larson is a native of Sweden and was born August 21, 1873. His father, Lars Erick Erickson, lives on a farm in the old country; his mother, Ingeborg Katharina (Nelson) Erickson, died in Sweden in December, 1893. Oscar was brought up on a farm and was educated in the country schools of his native land, where he lived until he was nineteen years of age. He emigrated to America in the spring of 1893, and for a few months lived in Carleton county, Minnesota. In the fall of 1893 he came to Jackson county. The first two and one-half years of his residence in this county were spent working on the farm of his future father-in-law, John Esklund, in Delafield township. During the next few years he worked as a farm hand in the vicinity of Windom. He made a six months' visit to his old home in Sweden in 1898, and returning began working at the painting and paperhanging trade in Windom and was so engaged three years. In the spring of 1902 Mr. Larson rented John Esklund's farm and has since conducted it.

At Windom on July 11, 1902, Mr. Larson was united in marriage to Jennie Esklund, daughter of John and Johanna Esklund, who were pioneer settlers of Delafield township. To Mr. and Mrs. Larson have been born three children, as follows: Nellie Geneva, born September 30, 1903; Alfred Alexander, born January 15, 1906; Leonard Jennings, born December 16, 1908.

JOHN A. ANDERSON (1886) is a solicitor for the Woodmen Casualty company and resides at Lakefield. He was born in Norway October 6, 1866, and is the next youngest child in the family of Andrew Johnson and Catherine (Peterson) Johnson. The other children of the family are Jennie, of Belvidere, Illinois, and Johannes and Peter, who still reside in the old country.

John was educated in his native land and resided on his father's farm until twenty years of age. He came to America in 1886 and located in the village of Jackson. Five years later he became a resident of Lakefield, where he has since made his home. During the first eight years of his residence in the new world

and in Jackson county Mr. Anderson worked on the railroad. Then he started a restaurant and confectionery store in Lakefield, which he conducted until July, 1908. Selling out at that time, he took a position with the Woodmen Casualty company, and has since been engaged in securing members for the order. He has served two terms as a member of the Lakefield village council and holds membership in the following fraternal orders: I. O. O. F., M. W. A., Royal Neighbors, Encampment and Rebekahs.

Mr. Anderson was married in Lakefield February 22, 1893, to Nellie Hauge, a native of that village. To them have been born two children, Gertie and Myrtle.

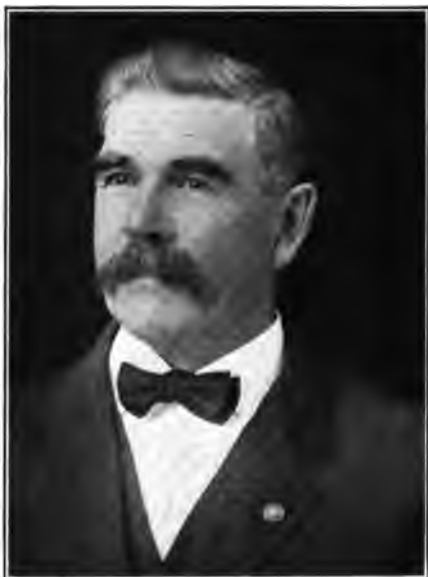
JENS QUINBY (1890) is the manager of and one of the largest stockholders in the Gilbert Mercantile company's store at Petersburg. He is a native of Norway and was born November 1, 1868, the son of Isaac and Dorothy (Holden) Quinby. His father is living; his mother died June 13, 1903.

Jens secured a common school education in his native country and lived there until he reached his majority. He came to the United States and to Jackson county May 10, 1890, and for fifteen years engaged in farming in Petersburg township. He then sold his farm and engaged in the general merchandise and machine business in the little hamlet of Petersburg, buying a controlling interest in the Gilbert Mercantile company. Besides this business he has stock in the Petersburg Creamery company and in the Jackson Telephone company. He owns a house and lots in Petersburg and forty acres on section 27. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the Sons of Norway lodge.

Mr. Quinby was married September 24, 1896, to Esther Gilbert, who was born September 24, 1872. To this union have been born the following named children: Dena M., born September 4, 1899; Mina L., born October 25, 1901; Harry E., born August 28, 1906.

CLEMENT STENZEL (1877), farmer and land owner of LaCrosse township, has been a resident of Jackson county since he was three years of age. He was born in Austria November 16, 1874, the second of a family of nine children born to Frank and Maria (Schaf-

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**MENZO L. ASHLEY**  
A Pioneer of 1866.



**BENJAMIN W. ASHLEY (1839-1905)**  
Who Built the Ashley House.



**H. HENRY HUGHES**  
Jackson Real Estate Dealer.



**RAYMOND BARTOSCH**  
Proprietor of a Jackson Harness Shop.

fer) Stenzel, the other children being Frank, Mary, Annie, Rudolph, Emma, Julius, John and Eliza. His parents reside in Weimer township.

Clement came to America with the family in 1877 and until he was twenty-seven years of age resided on his father's farm on section 8, Weimer. Then he bought a farm of his own on section 1, LaCrosse, and has since been engaged in farming it. He has made all the improvements on the place. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the M. W. A. lodge. He has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 44 for five years and is one of the supervisors of LaCrosse township.

Mr. Stenzel was married at Heron Lake November 8, 1900, to Sabina Pieschel, a native of LaCrosse township and a daughter of Frank Pieschel, one of the early settlers and still a resident of that precinct. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stenzel, Harold and Alfred.

OLE AMUNDSON (1881) is a West Heron Lake township farmer who owns the northwest quarter of section 30, upon which he has resided twenty years. He was born in Norway December 15, 1859, and is one of a family of six living children born to Amund and Mary (Nelson) Amundson. His father is dead; his mother lives in the old country and is 82 years of age.

Ole lived in Norway and worked on farms until he was twenty-one years of age. He came from the old country direct to Jackson county in 1881. The first two years of his life in the new world were spent as a section hand, working out of Heron Lake and Okabena. He then married and rented a farm on section 24, Alba township, and began farming. Six years later he bought a homestead right to his present farm, proved up on it, improved the place, and has ever since made his home there.

Jackson county was the place and May 15, 1883, was the date of the marriage of Mr. Amundson. He was wedded to Jennie Olson, who was born in Norway February 3, 1852. Two children, Alfred and Hans, have been born to this union, both assisting their father in conducting the farm. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Heron Lake.

THOMAS H. STALL (1865), senior member of the Jackson mercantile firm of T. H. Stall & Co., is forty-four years of age and has spent his entire life in Jackson county. He was born on section two, Des Moines township, on October 31, 1865, the son of Oliver and Helen (Hansen) Stall. These parents were born in Norway and came to the United States when young. They were married in Illinois and in the spring of 1865, immediately after the discharge of Oliver Stall from a three years' service in the union army, they came to Jackson county. The head of the family took as a homestead claim the northeast quarter of section 2, Des Moines township, making the filing in May, 1865. A census of the county, taken two months after his arrival, showed a total population for Jackson county of 233. Oliver Stall continued to farm his original homestead until 1906, when he retired from active life and is now enjoying the fruits of a well spent and hard working life at the age of seventy years. Our subject's mother died in the fall of 1876. They were the parents of four children, of whom the three following are living: Thomas H., of this sketch, Martina (Mrs. Jake Johnson), of Windom, and Hans M. Stall, who resides upon the old homestead.

Thomas H. Stall lived with his parents on the farm until he reached his majority. He attended the country schools and completed his education in the Jackson high school. At the age of twenty-one years he bought a farm in Belmont township and conducted it five years. He then moved to Jackson and entered the employ of J. W. Cowing and clerked in that gentleman's store five years. At the end of that time he bought an interest in the store and remained with the firm two years. In 1899 he formed a partnership with H. E. Anderson and G. A. Husby and opened a general store in the building in which he is still located. The firm carries a line of general merchandise, dry goods, groceries, clothing and shoes.

Mr. Stall is a member of the Lutheran church and of the E. F. U. and M. W. A. lodges. He has three sons and two daughters, namely: Norin, Tilford, Theodore, Hazel and Ruth.

JONAS HANSON (1866), deceased, lived upon his farm on the south bank of Independence



lake, on section 4, Belmont township, for forty-three years. He was born in Norway December 23, 1823, the son of Hans Ellingson and Anna (Asskerd) Ellingson.

Mr. Hanson resided in his native land until he was past thirty-two years of age. He came to America in 1856, arriving in the city of Chicago on the nation's birthday. He located in Rock county, Wisconsin, which was his home until his arrival to the wilds of Jackson county. Upon the breaking out of the civil war Mr. Hanson enlisted as a member of company I, of the 22nd Wisconsin volunteer infantry, and served until his discharge on July 9, 1865. During his army service he was injured in a train wreck in Virginia, and drew a pension on account of his injuries.

After his discharge from the army, Mr. Hanson spent one winter in his old home in Wisconsin. In June, 1866, he arrived in the county of Jackson and homesteaded the northwest quarter of section 4, Belmont township, where he resided until his death on December 15, 1909. He built a little cabin on Independence lake, in which he lived until he built the present house. He experienced all the vicissitudes of pioneer life and had many trials to contend with. In his younger years he took part in the local affairs of his precinct and served as a member of the board of supervisors.

Mr. Hanson was married in Jackson county in June, 1872, to Maret Larson, who was born on board ship off the Newfoundland banks while her parents were on the way to the new world from Norway. She died in October, 1907, aged 51 years. Fifteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson, of whom the following eight are living: Mary Ann, Hans T., Elesias, Mondus, Julius, Thore, Tina and Lena.

JOSEPH E. FRITSCHER (1897) is a Weimer township farmer who resides a short distance northeast of Heron Lake. He is an Austrian by birth and first saw the light of day on the last day of October, 1870. He is the second child of a family of four children born to Joseph Fritscher, who makes his home with his son, and Theresa (Hruby) Fritscher.

When fourteen years of age Joseph emigrated to the new world with his parents and from 1884 to 1897 was a resident of Murray county, living near Fulda. He resided at home until his mother's death, which occurred in

1887; then he started in life for himself and until 1892 was employed on farms in the vicinity of his home. He married in 1892 and for the next five years farmed a rented place in Murray county. Mr. Fritscher came to Jackson county in 1897, and during the next eight years engaged in farming rented land in LaCrosse township.

It was while a resident of LaCrosse township—on Louis Hager's farm—on the thirtieth of June, 1903, that the terrible cyclone (the story of which is given in the historical section) swept over his place killing his wife and two children and injuring several others of the family. His wife and one child were killed instantly and the second child died a few hours later. Mr. Fritscher was in the house at the time and was blown a distance of ten rods into the grove, but was not seriously injured. His father was quite badly hurt, but the other children escaped. The buildings were carried away and demolished.

In 1905 Mr. Fritscher moved to Kansas, but a year later returned to Jackson county and rented the Frank Nimerfroh farm, where he has since resided. Mr. Fritscher is a member of the Catholic church and of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

Mr. Fritscher's first marriage occurred at Avoca, Minnesota, October 15, 1892, when he wedded Theresa Schwager, who was born in Austria October 5, 1874. She was killed in the cyclone of June 30, 1903. Six children were born to this union, as follows: Aurelia, who met death in the cyclone; Theresa, Henry, Arthur, Agnes and Mary, who was also killed in the cyclone of June 30, 1903.

The second marriage of Mr. Fritscher occurred in Heron Lake in June, 1904, when he wedded Mrs. Amelia Haberman-Pieschel, to whom three children have been born, as follows: Amelia, deceased; Alphonse and Alfred.

EDWARD E. OLSON (1869), a Jackson grain buyer, was born in Belmont township forty years ago, on December 6, 1869, and with the exception of a few years spent in Cottonwood county has spent his entire life in the county. His father, Ole E. Olson, came from Sweden when thirteen years old, and at the age of nineteen enlisted in the United States army and fought for the preservation of the union. He located in Belmont township in the sixties and took as a homestead a piece

of land that had been taken by one of the settlers who was killed in the massacre of 1862. He was a resident of Belmont township until his death. Our subject's mother was Christina (Anderson) Olson, who was present at the time of the massacre.

Edward Olson, who was one of a family of eight children, lived with his parents until 1890. He worked on the farm and received an education in the district school and in the Breck school at Wilder. He bought a farm in Cottonwood county in 1890 and for eight years lived there, engaged in farming. Selling out in 1898, he located in Jackson and built an elevator in partnership with Lee Brothers, which they conducted three years. Thereafter Mr. Olson bought grain for the Hyde Elevator company five years, for James Lowe one year and since that time for M. H. Lee. Mr. Olson owns a home in the village. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

In Des Moines township March 20, 1897, Mr. Olson was married to Emma J. Lee, a daughter of Oliver Lee and a native of the township in which she was married. Two children, Hayes and Clark, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Olson.

EDWIN SMITH (1869), mail carrier on route three out of Jackson, has been a resident of the county since he was one year old, and is the son of one of the very early settlers of the county. His parents, John J. and Annie (Fields) Smith, were both born in New York state, but located in Wisconsin before the war and were married in Dane county of that state. John J. Smith is a veteran of the civil war, having enlisted in company K of the First Wisconsin regiment and later becoming a member of the Thirty-fifth Wisconsin regiment. He took part in the battles of Gettysburg, Bull Run and other important engagements. In the spring of 1866 the family came to Jackson county and took a homestead claim on section 32, Wisconsin township. After a two years' residence in the frontier country they returned to Wisconsin, but two years later again moved to Jackson county. Mr. Smith now lives in Jackson and is 73 years of age. Mrs. Smith, our subject's mother, died fifteen years ago.

While the family were temporarily living in Dane county, Wisconsin, after having spent two years in Jackson county, on the second

day of August, 1868, Edwin Smith was born to these parents, the next to the eldest of a family of six children. One year after his birth Edwin was brought to Jackson county by his parents, a county which has ever since been his home. He was brought up on the farm and until his mother died he lived at home. After reaching mature years he engaged in farming on his own account and followed that occupation until six years ago. In 1898 he bought six acres of land in the south part of Jackson, where he now lives. In 1901 Mr. Smith received the appointment of rural mail carrier from the Jackson office and has been so engaged since, now ranking as the oldest carrier in point of service in Jackson county. Mr. Smith is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge.

FRANK J. PRIBYL (1886) farms the southeast quarter of section 20, Hunter township, which he rents from his father. He was born on that farm June 4, 1886, and has always made his home there. He is the son of Albert and Mary (Koranda) Pribyl, now residents of Jackson. They were born in Bohemia and after their arrival to America resided in the city of Chicago and a little later came to Jackson county. The head of the family bought the farm in Hunter township where his son now lives, and that was his home until he moved to Jackson.

Frank attended the district schools and grew to manhood on the farm. Until he was twenty-three years of age he worked for his father; then his parents took up their residence in town, and since that time Frank has conducted the home farm. He is unmarried and makes his home with his sister, Mary Pribyl. His brothers and sisters are Mary, Aggie, Bessie, Jerry, Wesley, August, Charlie and Joseph.

HENRY W. AHRENS (1890) is one of the successful young farmers of West Heron Lake township, in which precinct he owns the northwest quarter of section 21 and all of section 16 south of the Milwaukee railroad. He farms all his land and engages quite extensively in stock buying and shipping.

Mr. Ahrens, of this sketch, is a son of Christ and Minnie (Mundt) Ahrens, of West Heron Lake township, and was born in Germany,

January 7, 1873. Henry accompanied his parents to the United States at the age of seven years and lived with the family in Will county, Illinois, until they came to Jackson county. They arrived here in 1890 and until he was twenty-four years of age he lived on the home farm—the northeast quarter of section 19, West Heron Lake township—working for his father. At that age he married, bought the land on section 21, and engaged in farming. Nine years later he moved to Okabena and for two years was engaged in the stock business. Then he returned to the farm, and that has ever since been his home. He bought the property on section 16 in 1901. In addition to his farm property he owns a house and several lots in Okabena.

At the German Lutheran church on section 18, West Heron Lake township, on November 12, 1897, occurred the marriage of Mr. Ahrens to Alvena Lick, who was born in Germany July 28, 1879, and who came to America with her parents in 1881. Her father died in Rost township July 7, 1902; her mother now resides with her daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Ahrens have no children of their own, but they have an adopted daughter, Doris, born July 7, 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Ahrens are members of the German Lutheran church and he is treasurer of the church society. He is also interested in the West Heron Lake Farmers Telephone company.

**AUGUST POHLMAN** (1884) is one of the successful farmers of Weimer township and he has been a resident of Jackson county a quarter of a century—ever since he was a boy thirteen years of age. He owns the southeast quarter of section 36 and a half interest in 177 acres of land in section 6, Heron Lake township. In addition to his own land Mr. Pohlman farms 240 acres of rented land.

August Pohlman is a native of Hausbergen, Westfalen, Germany, and was born May 6, 1871. His father was Carl Pohlman, who came from Germany in 1884 and who was a resident of Jackson county until his death, which occurred in 1901. Our subject's mother is Christina (Gieselman) Pohlman, who makes her home with her son, Herman Pohlman, near the eastern shore of Heron lake. August was brought up in a little village where he was born and began his schooling in his native land. When thirteen years of age he accompanied

his parents to America and the family came direct to Jackson county, arriving on the 6th day of April, 1884. The head of the family bought an eighty acre farm on section 8, Heron Lake township, and engaged in farming. On this farm August lived seven years, completing his education in the district schools and assisting with the farm work. When his father located on section 2, West Heron Lake township, in 1891 August accompanied him and continued to make his home with his parents until 1895.

Mr. Pohlman bought and located upon his present farm in Weimer township in 1895, where he has ever since resided. The farm was unimproved when he took up his residence there, and the improvements the place now has are the results of Mr. Pohlman's labors. He set out the grove and erected all the buildings and has brought the place up to its present standard. In addition to his general farming Mr. Pohlman engages extensively in raising stock and has large herds, including a fine flock of sheep. He also has other business interests. He is a stockholder and director of the First National Bank of Lakefield and has stock in the Farmers Bank of Wilder. He is a director of the Sontag Lumber company of Heron Lake, and has stock in the Jackson County Cooperative company's store of Lakefield, in the Farmers Elevator company of Lakefield and in the Wilder Creamery company. For seven years Mr. Pohlman was clerk of school district No. 30 and he served as a supervisor of Weimer township two years.

Mr. Pohlman was married in West Heron Lake township February 15, 1894, to Amanda Hoyer, who was born in Rolasin, Germany, October 13, 1875, and who came to the United States and to Jackson county in 1893, arriving on July 3. She is the step-daughter of August Lietzow, and her mother is Bertha (Hoyer) Lietzow. To Mr. and Mrs. Pohlman have been born two children, as follows: Emma, born April 18, 1896; Zelma, born February 28, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Pohlman are members of the German Lutheran church of Heron Lake township, and Mr. Pohlman has served as one of the trustees of the church for the last six years.

**MARTIN KUHLMAN** (1887) is one of the early settlers of Sioux Valley township, where he owns a fine farm of 240 acres. He was

born in Holstein, Germany, October 2, 1858. His parents were John Kuhlman and Katie (Hamann) Kuhlman, who died in their native land in 1872 and 1893, respectively.

Martin was brought up on a farm and made his home in Germany until 1882. That year he came to the new world and located in Scott county, Iowa, where he resided until 1887, working out on farms. In March, 1887, he came to Jackson county and rented a farm in Sioux Valley. After conducting that five years he bought his present farm—then raw prairie, absolutely unimproved—and has since made his home on it. His home place is the northwest quarter of section 24 and he owns also the south half of the southwest quarter of section 13. Mr. Kuhlman has served as director and treasurer of school district No. 77 for several years. He is a member of the Sons of Hermann lodge of Sioux Valley.

Mr. Kuhlman was married at Spirit Lake, Iowa, May 17, 1888, to Selma Wellhausen, daughter of Ernst Wellhausen. She died May 24, 1901, having been the mother of five children: Otto, Willie, Eddie, Charlie and Leonora. The second marriage of Mr. Kuhlman occurred in Jackson October 22, 1902, when he wedded Annie Rohr, who was born in Holstein, Germany, April 5, 1878, and who came to the United States in 1881.

OTIS M. ASHLEY (1870), proprietor of a transfer line in Jackson, has been a resident of that village from the time when he was less than one year old. He is the son of the late Benjamin W. and Juliet (Robbins) Ashley, pioneer settlers of Jackson. While his mother, who had come to Jackson county several years before, was visiting at her old home in Mainesburg, Pennsylvania, on the eighteenth day of November, 1869, Otis M. Ashley was born.

The spring following his birth he was brought to the home in Jackson county. Otis was educated in the Jackson public schools and grew to manhood in that village. At the age of twenty years he went to Duluth and for one year worked in a meat market. Returning to Jackson, he worked one year in an elevator and then for two years drove the mail and passenger bus for his father. At the end of that time he bought the bus line and has ever since conducted it. In addition to this business he clerked in the hotel several years during the time his father was the proprietor. For

a number of years he was also the proprietor of a livery stable, but sold out in 1903.

Mr. Ashley was married February 28, 1907, to Stella May Crane, a native of Iowa, and a daughter of the late V. B. Crane, at one time publisher of the Jackson County Pilot and later postmaster of Jackson.

O. T. FLATGARD (1869) is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Christiania township and has lived in Jackson county since he was six years of age. He is the son of T. O. and Ingebor (Valden) Flatgard, of Belmont township, and was born in Norway April 23, 1863.

At the age of five years our subject accompanied his parents to America. The family lived in Fillmore county, Minnesota, one year and arrived in Jackson county in June, 1869. His father took a homestead on section 14, Belmont, and on that farm O. T. Flatgard grew to manhood. He moved onto his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 23, Christiania, in 1905. He owns the quarter section and makes a specialty of raising Short-horn cattle. Mr. Flatgard owns stock in several business enterprises, including the First National Bank of Windom, the Farmers State Bank of Windom, the Farmers Elevator company of Windom, and the Christiania Mercantile company of Bergen. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Flatgard was married April 4, 1887, to Johanna Lean. To these parents seven children have been born, namely: Theodore, born May 14, 1888; Inga, born February 12, 1890; Julia, born January 5, 1892; Anna, born September 4, 1894; John, born November 13, 1899; Oscar, born April 13, 1903; Odin, born August 27, 1905.

GEORGE H. WOOD (1899), deceased, late proprietor of the Wood hotel at Lakefield, was born in Erie county, New York, May 24, 1852, the son of George W. and Martha (Stocker) Wood, natives of England and Connecticut, respectively. Three years after his birth the family moved to Illinois, resided there two years, and then returned to the Empire state.

George was reared in the family of an uncle and lived in New York until 1866. He then came west and until 1869 lived on his father's farm near Rochester, Minnesota. For a short

time he lived in South Dakota, and in 1872 or 1873 moved to Mower county, Minnesota, where for several years he engaged in farming in partnership with a brother. He took a homestead in Richland county, North Dakota, in 1878 and resided on it until 1884. Returning to Mower county, Mr. Wood bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits several years. He next went to Dexter, Minnesota, where he engaged in grain buying two years and in the hotel business several years. Mr. Wood located in Lakefield in 1899 and bought the leading hotel there from Winter Brothers. Two years later he built the brick front and established one of the finest hotels in southwestern Minnesota. He conducted the hotel until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1909.

During his residence in Lakefield Mr. Wood served a part of the time as a member of the village council. He was a member of the Masonic order, of the Elks, Workmen, Modern Woodmen, Modern Brotherhood and Yeomen.

Mr. Wood was married at Grand Meadow, Mower county, Minnesota, February 23, 1882, to Ella Funderhide, a native of Rochester, Minnesota, and a daughter of John M. and Amelia M. Funderhide. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wood, as follows: John H., Martha I. (Mrs. Frank Marrs), of Wolford, North Dakota; Mary E. and Grace A.

JOHN O. HOFLAND (1872) is one of the prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Delafield township, owning 280 acres of land on sections 14, 12 and 13 and farming a rented tract in addition to his own land. He is quite an extensive feeder of cattle and has a herd of 300 sheep.

Mr. Hofland is a native of Norway and was born in March, 1866, the youngest of a family of three children born to Ole and Christie (Hagen) Hofland. The family came to America and to Jackson county in 1872 and the father of our subject took as a homestead claim the north half of the northeast quarter of section 14, Delafield township, the present home of our subject. The father of our subject died on the place May 2, 1896, aged 59 years. The mother, who is now eighty years of age, lives on the farm with her son. The other members of the family are Carrie, who makes her home with her brother, and Susie (Mrs. Andrew Loken), of Delafield township.

John O. Hofland was only six years of age when he came to Jackson county with his parents in 1872. He grew to manhood on the farm he now conducts and was educated in Jackson county. Until his father's death in 1896 he worked for his parents; then he took charge of the place and has since managed it, having added to the original farm by purchase. Mr. Hofland is unmarried.

CHARLES H. WASHBURN (1883) is one of the successful farmers of Wisconsin township and owns a 100 acre farm on sections 18 and 8. He descends from old American stock of English ancestry. According to family tradition a member of the family was one of the passengers of the Mayflower. The ancestry is traced direct back to Hope Washburn, who was born in 1750, married Tabitha Ward of Scotch descent, in 1774, and died in 1827. He had seventy grandchildren. The parents of our subject were Lorenzo and Caroline (McLean) Washburn, both born in Jay township, Essex county, New York, and both dying there.

To these parents Charles H. Washburn was born in Essex county, New York, on the 21st day of January, 1843. He made his home on his father's farm until twenty-six years of age; then he moved to Chicago and that city was his home for a number of years. He came to Jackson county in 1883 and bought the southeast quarter of section 8, Wisconsin township, from the state, paying \$1,200 for the quarter. He lived on the farm a few years and then took up his residence in Jackson. He moved onto his present farm in 1901, but has moved back and forth between the farm and town several times. He owns village property in addition to his farming lands. While a resident of Jackson Mr. Washburn served on the village council, and has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 1. He is a member of the M. B. A. lodge.

Mr. Washburn was married at Au Sable Forks, Essex county, New York, June 27, 1882, to Anna Lewis, who was born in Essex county February 18, 1844. Her father was John Lewis and her mother is Jane (Forker) Lewis, who still lives in Essex county and is 92 years of age. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Washburn, both of whom have died. They were Lewis L., who died at the age of eight years, and Jane, who died in infancy.

FRANK E. DAY (1895), a retired business man of Heron Lake, was born in Salem, Ohio, August 8, 1865, the son of William A. and Nancy (Heisler) Day. At the age of two years he moved with his parents to Newton, Iowa, and there he lived eighteen years, receiving an education in the Newton schools.

In 1883 Mr. Day moved to Marcus, Iowa, and for the next twelve years was engaged in farming. He moved to Heron Lake in December, 1890, bought the machine business of P. D. McKellar, and was engaged in that business many years. He sold a half interest to F. J. Appel in 1903 and in December, 1904, sold the rest of his interests to the same gentleman. During the time of his residence in Jackson county Mr. Day was the traveling representative of the Northwest Thresher company for one year and for two years served as boiler inspector for Jackson and Cottonwood counties. He is a member of the K. P. and M. B. A. lodges.

Mr. Day was married in November, 1889, to Miss Anna A. Cobb, who was born in Belle Plaine, Benton county, Iowa, in November, 1866. They are the parents of the following children: Jessie, J. Frank, Leslie, Elmer, J. William. Four children have died.

JOHN P. EGGE (1865), who owns and farms 200 acres of land on sections 22 and 15, Belmont township, has resided on his present farm forty-four years—ever since he was three years of age. His house is on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 22—historic ground because of its connection with the Belmont massacre of 1862. Here on that memorable 24th day of August, 1862, Mrs. Knute Langeland and her children were murdered by the bloodthirsty Sioux.

John P. Egge was born on the eighth day of November, 1862, near the site of the present city of Yankton, South Dakota, his parents being Peter and Ambger Egge. These parents were born and married in Norway and came to the United States in 1861. They resided one year in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and then pushed out onto the extreme frontier, selecting a homestead in the midst of the Indian country near Yankton. Because of the hostility of the Indians they were forced to abandon their claim in 1865 and located in Jackson county, which was then considered reasonably safe from the ravages of the red-

skins. Upon their arrival Mr. Egge filed on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 22, Belmont, as a homestead claim, and there he resided, engaged in farming until his death, which occurred in 1888 at the age of 69 years. Mrs. Egge is living at the age of 84 years, making her home with a daughter in Heron Lake. There are the following living children of this family: Sarah Halverson, Rosa Peterson, Anna Egge, John P. Egge, Tollef Egge, Sarah Johnson, Ida Tollefson, Christie Twinsberg.

Our subject came to Jackson county with his parents in 1865, and until his father's death in 1883, assisted in the management of the home farm. Then he bought the two hundred acres he now owns and has been engaged in farming since. Besides general farming he is quite a feeder of hogs and cattle. He has held a school office ever since he was twenty-one years of age and is now clerk of district No. 123. He has also served as township supervisor. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Egge was married on the old Belmont homestead September 12, 1897, to Ida Iverson, who was born in Norway May 15, 1871, and came to the United States in 1895. She is the daughter of Bringel and Sophia Iverson, of Belmont township. To them have been born the following named five children: Bennie, born March 22, 1899; Annie, born April 5, 1900; Helen, born August 17, 1902; Clarence, born July 19, 1904; Edwin, born December 1, 1907.

VINCENT BEZDICEK (1888), a farmer of Hunter township, was born in Bohemia January 12, 1884, the son of Frank and Francika (Bezdicsek) Bezdicsek. When an infant he came to America with his parents, lived with them a short time in Nebraska and in Lyon county, Iowa, and then in 1888 came with the family to Jackson county.

Vincent received his education in Jackson county and was brought upon his father's farm. After his mother's death, which occurred in 1903, the home farm—the northwest quarter of section 13—became the property of the children. Vincent has been farming the place on his own account since 1907. He has been a director of school district No. 15 for the past two years. He is a member of the Catholic church of Jackson and of the Catholic Western Union.

Mr. Bezdicek was married at Jackson September 17, 1907, to Annie Dvorak. She was born in Jackson county August 14, 1889, the daughter of the late Frank Dvorak, an early settler. Her father died in 1903; her mother lives in Hunter township. One child has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bezdicek, Theresa, born April 11, 1908.

ANTON CORDES (1892), one of the successful farmer of Ewington township, was born in Germany April 15, 1842, the second of a family of five children born to Gerhard and Martha Cordes, both of whom died in Germany.

Anton received his schooling in the old country and until he was thirty years of age lived with his parents, working on the farm. He came to America in 1872, worked on a farm several months in Jefferson county, Missouri, and then located in Livingston county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming rented property until 1892. That year he arrived in Jackson county, bought his present farm, the north half of section 20, Ewington, and has ever since made his home on the place. When he bought the farm the only improvements on it were a little shanty and a shed. He now has a well improved farm and is installing a complete system of tiling.

Mr. Cordes was married in Livingston county, Illinois, in January, 1875, to Annie Mason, who was born in Ohio. To this union have been born the following named five children: Henry, Andrew, John, Lizzie, Martha. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Ewington township. Mr. Cordes has been treasurer of school district No. 119 for the past seven years.

MICHAEL MCGLIN (1892), of Lakefield, in partnership with his brother, John McGlin, conducts an elevator and coal business at that point and is a joint owner of several other elevators at different points in the vicinity. His parents, John and Jane (Rogers) McGlin, came from Ireland when children and were married in New York state April 4, 1854. Soon after their marriage they moved to Iowa, where they resided many years. The father died in Buena Vista county, Iowa, September 9, 1882, aged 64 years; the mother died in Heron Lake April 24, 1900, aged 64 years.

To these parents Michael McGlin was born

in Dubuque county, Iowa, November 5, 1865. When he was five years old the family moved to Buena Vista county, of the same state, and there Michael was raised, making his home on the farm and attending the district schools. Upon reaching his majority in 1886 he and his brother, John McGlin, left home and located at Rock Valley, Iowa, where for six years they were engaged in the lumber and coal business. He then moved to Heron Lake, which was his home for eight years, being engaged in the same line of business there and at Okabena in partnership with his brother. From Heron Lake Mr. McGlin went to Kinbrae, where he and his brother built an elevator which he conducted two years. He located in Lakefield in 1905 and has since made that point his home, engaging extensively in the grain, seed and coal business. He served two years as a member of the Lakefield village council and was elected president of the council in 1908.

Mr. McGlin was married at Fulda, Minnesota, December 30, 1903, to Miss Eva I. Wright, a native of that village. She is the daughter of Joseph Wright, now a resident of Milwaukee. One child has been born to this union, Leo Michael, born June 3, 1905. Mr. McGlin is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

WILLIAM M. F. SCHROEDER (1886) owns and farms two hundred acres on section 27, Petersburg township, which has been his home for the last twenty-three years.

Mr. Schroeder is a native of Mecklenberg, Germany, where he was born March 16, 1840, and where he lived until he was twenty-four years of age. He landed in New York on the twelfth day of January, 1864, to seek a home in the new world. During the first five years of his residence in America he worked at farm work in Illinois. He married in 1869 and then took up his residence near the town of Niles Center, Cook county, only eight miles from the city of Chicago, and there he engaged in farming until his arrival to Jackson county. During the great Chicago fire of 1871 Mr. Schroeder assisted in removing the homeless from the stricken city, and remembers vividly the tragedies of that great calamity.

On the twenty-fourth day of March, 1886, Mr. Schroeder arrived in Jackson county and located upon the farm where he has ever since resided. His initiation to the county was not of the most pleasant nature. During his first

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Heron Lake's Postmaster and Publisher of  
the News.

year's residence here he was caught in a tornado, was carried a short distance by the powerful wind, and received several very bad flesh wounds on the limbs and chest, from the effects of which he suffers to this day.

In addition to his farming interests Mr. Schroeder owns stock in the Petersburg Creamery company. He served as treasurer of Petersburg township ten years and has held other offices of trust. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Schroeder was married in November, 1869, to Mary Man, who died a little over a year later. His second marriage occurred in April, 1872, when he wedded Mary Kopa. The latter died in July, 1880. His present wife was Maria Meyer. Mr. Schroeder is the father of the following named children: Lena, born September 12, 1870; Mary, Sophia, Annie, William, born December 5, 1881; Charlie, born July 14, 1883; Emma, born July 18, 1885, died March 7, 1890; Henry, born September 25, 1886.

FREDERICK A. COOLEY (1888), who conducts a barber shop in Heron Lake, has lived in that village twenty-one years. He is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Fillmore county September 14, 1877, the son of George R. and Evaline (Houck) Cooley.

The Cooley family is one of the oldest in America, settlement dating back to the Mayflower. Our subject has in his possession relics from that famous vessel which have been handed down from one generation to another. George R. Cooley was born in St. Lawrence county, New York. He moved to Fillmore county, Minnesota, in an early day and there he resided until 1888, engaged in farming and acting as superintendent of the county poor farm. Moving to Heron Lake in 1888, he made his home with a son, George C. Cooley, for several years, and then moved to Washington county, Kansas. He made his home with another son, Sherman G., for several years, and then in 1904 moved to California, where he now lives at the age of 86 years. The mother of our subject was of German descent, her ancestors having come to America several generations ago. She was born in Pennsylvania and died in Fillmore county, Minnesota, in 1881.

Frederick lived on his father's farm in Fillmore county until he was ten years of age.

Six months were spent in the village of Mabel, of the same county, and then, in 1888, he accompanied his father to Heron Lake. There he completed his education, which had been begun in Fillmore county. During his boyhood days he worked on a farm, clerked in his brother's drug store, and then learned the barber's trade. In February, 1895, he engaged in business on his own account, starting a barber shop, which he has ever since conducted. He now has a three-chair shop. Besides this business he now owns and conducts a billiard and pool hall.

Mr. Cooley is now serving his third term as village recorder. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M., having passed the chairs of senior warden and twice as junior warden, and he is now serving his second term as worshipful master. He also holds membership in the Eastern Star, Modern Brotherhood of America and Yeomen lodges.

The marriage of our subject occurred October 8, 1895, when he wedded Pauline Miller, a native of Ohio and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Miller, of Okabena. Four children have been born to this union, Evaline W., Frederick A., Wilbur and a baby boy.

JOHN PETERSON (1872) is one of the pioneer settlers of LaCrosse township, in which precinct he owns a quarter section farm. Mr. Peterson is a native of Modum, Norway, and the date of his birth was March 10, 1837. He is the son of Peter Johanson Hugsted and Christie Hugsted, both of whom died in their native land.

John Peterson, after securing a common school education, early began to earn his own living. From the age of twelve until he was seventeen he worked in a cobalt factory in his native town, and was then employed four years as a clerk in a grocery store at Westfossen. At the age of twenty-one years he moved to Drammen, Norway, where for the next twelve years he clerked in a grocery store.

In June, 1870, Mr. Peterson came to America, landing in the city of Quebec. He located at Dodgeville, Wisconsin, where he resided one year, employed as a shoemaker. From Dodgeville he went to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he worked on a railway a few months, and then in a sawmill at Ocounta, Wisconsin, where he was until March 1, 1872. In June

of that year Mr. Peterson arrived in Jackson county and this has ever since been his home. He took as a homestead claim the south half of the southeast quarter of section 26, LaCrosse township, which is still his home. He has since added to his farm by the purchase of an eighty acre tract adjoining.

When he located on his claim there were only a few settlers in the township and Mr. Peterson has seen his township develop from almost a wilderness to the fine farming country it is today. He built a little board shanty, which he covered with sods, and in that he made his home for a number of years. The grasshoppers took five crops in succession and the first few years were indeed hard ones, he having practically nothing when he came. He has prospered and has a fine home and well improved farm. Mr. Peterson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Heron Lake. For several years he served as treasurer of his school district.

Mr. Peterson was married in Dodge county, Wisconsin, March 1, 1877, to Jane Holgriem, who was born in Norway and came to America when one year old. They have children as follows: Peter Olof and Carl Henrick, of Des Moines, Iowa; Clara Soneva, of Albert Lea, Minnesota; Helmer Orville and Reuben, who reside at home.

PETER T. OLSON (1870) has lived in Belmont township since he was six years of age. He owns and farms 200 acres of land on section 13 and engages quite extensively in stock raising. He is the son of Thore O. Flatgard and Ingebor (Waldon) Flatgard, both past seventy years of age and residents of Belmont. They came from Norway in 1870 and less than a year later to Jackson county, where they homesteaded land on section 14, Belmont. They have nine children, as follows: Ole Peter, Mary (Mrs. J. F. Ellefson), Andrew, Edward, John, Julius, Ida and Lena (Mrs. Ole Eide), of Jackson.

Peter T. Olson was born in Norway November 21, 1864. At the age of five years he came to America with his parents, lived one year in Fillmore county, and then located in Jackson county. Until 1892 Peter resided on his father's homestead, attending school and helping work his father's farm. In the year last named he bought forty acres of his present farm on section 13 and began to improve

it. He was married the next year and moved onto his own farm. Later he bought the other property adjoining. He is treasurer of school district No. 39 and has held the office for eight years. For a period of eleven years he has been a member of the board of township supervisors. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

In the Christiania church on July 8, 1893, Mr. Olson was married to Rosa Peterson, a native of Jackson county and a daughter of Ole Peterson, one of the early settlers of Belmont. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Olson, namely: Tillie, born June 4, 1894; Ida, born January 31, 1896; Clara, born January 31, 1896; Olga, born February 27, 1899; Lillian, born October 4, 1900; Mabel, born February 10, 1903; Josie, born September 14, 1905; Ruth, born March 16, 1908.

HENRY FRANDRUP (1890) is a Weimer township farmer who lives two miles north of Heron Lake. He is a native of Germany and was born July 2, 1855. He is one of a family of five children, all except himself living in Germany. His parents were Fred and Annie (Lousmann) Frandrup, both of whom died in the fatherland.

Henry lived in Germany until twenty-three years of age, attending school and working on his father's farm. In 1878 he came to the United States and located in Carroll county, Iowa, where he farmed rented land until 1890. That year he came to Jackson county, bought his present farm—the southeast quarter of section 7, Weimer,—and has ever since made his home there. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Frandrup was married in Bremen, Germany, July 15, 1878—just before his departure for America—to Dina Reackr, born November 1, 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Frandrup are the parents of five sons and three daughters, named as follows: Barnard, Alouis, Henry, Ferdinand, Frank, Elizabeth, Annie and Margereth. Another child, Eda, died May 26, 1909, aged twenty-three years.

HENRY VON BEHREN (1892) is one of the progressive and successful farmers of Ewington township, where he has lived for the last seventeen years. He owns and farms the south half of section 2 and owns the northeast

quarter of section 11, which is farmed by his son. His farm is well improved, he having laid eight car loads of tile and having the place all fenced with hog tight wire.

Mr. von Behren was born in Germany December 11, 1854, the son of Henry and Mary von Behren. His parents came to America in 1879 and died in Woodford county, Illinois. They were the parents of thirteen children, Henry being next to the eldest. Our subject was educated in his native land, attending school for a total of seven and one-half years, and spending his early years with his parents on the farm.

In 1879 Mr. von Behren came to America and located in Peoria, Illinois. He worked in Peoria for a while and then went to Woodford county, where he worked for his father on the farm one year. During the next year he worked in the coal mines and then spent one year working at odd jobs. He was married in 1882 and then began farming rented land in Woodford county, where he resided until he came to Jackson county in 1892. Two years before coming to the county Mr. von Behren had purchased the south half of section 2, Ewington township, and when he came to reside he erected buildings and began the improvement of the farm. At the time he bought there was not a stick of timber on the place—so scarce was it, in fact, that, as Mr. von Behren expresses it, he had to go to Lakefield to get a stick to whip the children with. He planted the grove and has made all the improvements. He prospered and eight years ago added to his land possessions by the purchase of another quarter section. When Mr. von Behren came to America he was practically penniless and had to take any kind of work he could to get a start. For several years he experienced many hardships. He was naturalized in Woodford county, Illinois, on the tenth day of October, 1884.

In Woodford county, Illinois, on the ninth day of March, 1882, Mr. von Behren was united in marriage to Mina Mang, who was born in Germany September 20, 1862. They have nine children living, Lena, August, Henry, Mary, Louis and Sophia (twins), Fritz, Laura and Walter. Lena and Charlie have died and two other children died in infancy.

Mr. von Behren has been treasurer of school district No. 91 ever since coming to the county, was township treasurer six years and for five years was on the town board. He and his

family are members of the German Lutheran church of Ewington township. He has stock in the creamery company of Brewtser.

GUSTAV H. MOLKENTHIN (1887) owns the northeast quarter of section 4, Hunter township, adjoining the village of Lakefield. He is of German birth and was born December 7, 1866, the son of John and Ernestina (Schultz) Molkenthin. Our subject's mother died in Germany in 1879, and the next year the rest of the family emigrated to America. The elder Molkenthin died in Jackson in 1904 at the age of 66 years.

Gustav lived with his father in Carroll county, Iowa, seven years, and then accompanied him to Jackson county. Arriving here, his father bought land and began farming in Rost township, while Gustav made his home with his grandfather, Ferdinand Seuran, on the farm he now owns. He lived with his grandfather one year and then made his home with his father in Rost six years. He again took up his residence with his grandfather in 1894. The latter died in the fall of 1898 and Gustav fell heir to the farm, which he has since conducted.

May 2, 1894, Mr. Molkenthin was married in Hunter township to Amelia Albers, who was born in Blue Island, Illinois, May 19, 1867. She is the daughter of Henry and Annie Albers, of Lakefield. They are the parents of four children: Willie, Bertha, Eddie and Annie. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Lakefield and he has been secretary of the church organization for the last fifteen years. Mr. Molkenthin was a member of the Hunter board of supervisors one year and was township assessor one year.

CHRISTEN JENSEN (1886) is a Des Moines township farmer residing three miles north of Jackson, on section 1. There he owns a finely improved, well tiled farm of 240 acres. On it is one of the finest groves in Jackson county, which Mr. Jensen set out with his own hands, and also a fine apple orchard.

Mr. Jensen is a Dane by birth and first saw the light of day December 8, 1852. His parents were Jens Larsen and Anna (Peterson) Larsen, both of whom died in their native land. They were the parents of four children,

of whom three sons, Lars, Christen and Hans, are living.

Up to the time Christen was fourteen years of age he lived at home, attending school. He then began making his own living, working out as a farm hand until 1873. That year he came to the United States and until 1886 he resided in McHenry county, Illinois, working out as a farm hand. Several years before the last named date Mr. Jensen had bought the southwest quarter of section 1, Des Moines township, Jackson county, and in 1886 he came to the county and began the improvement of the land. For several years he and another gentleman lived in a little shack on the land. Then he married, built the house, and has since made his home there, with the exception of two years' residence in Jackson. Later he bought the adjoining eighty.

Mr. Jensen was married in Jackson November 26, 1893, to Christina M. Jensen, a native of Illinois and a daughter of J. P. Jensen. They are the parents of the following named four children: George P., Anna C., Emma A., Lillian J. The family are members of the Lutheran church. He belongs to the Danish Brotherhood lodge and has served two terms as road overseer.

PERRY L. RUSSELL (1875), of Jackson, was born in a log cabin in Petersburg township September 2, 1875, the eldest of a family of eleven children born to Thomas J. and Emma (Lee) Russell, who still reside in Petersburg. The other children of the family are Lafayette F., Richard, Thomas, Carrie, Maud, Retta, Julia, Ruby, George, Myra and Grace.

Perry lived on the home farm in Petersburg township until he was of age. Then he engaged in the threshing business, which he followed about twelve years—four seasons in South Dakota, the rest of the time in Jackson county. Since giving up the threshing business Mr. Russell has been engaged in farming, writing insurance and other occupations. He owns the northeast quarter of section 29, Middletown township. In the spring of 1909 he filed upon a homestead claim in Fergus county, Montana. He holds membership in the Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen lodges.

STEPHEN REHNELT (1871), Weimer township farmer, owns the east half of the south-

east quarter of section 25, upon which place he has lived since he was one year of age. He was born in the state of Wisconsin May 31, 1870, the son of Stephen and Theresa (Lawrence) Rehnelt. His father died January 6, 1908; his mother lives with another son in Delafield township.

In the spring of 1871 Stephen accompanied his parents to Jackson county. The father took a homestead claim of eighty acres where the son now lives, and upon that homestead our subject grew to manhood. He was educated in the district schools and worked for his father until 1899. That year he located at Westbrook, where he conducted a pool and billiard hall one year. He then returned to the farm, which was given him by his father, and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Rehnelt was married in Delafield township May 31, 1899, to Julia Hrdena, a native of Austria. To them have been born the following named children: Hilda, born September 17, 1905; Annie, born May 23, 1907; Leona, born April 12, 1909. The family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake.

ETHAN W. ALLEN (1866) is one of the oldest settlers of Middletown township, having lived in that precinct since he was six years of age. His parents were William and Clarinda (Arms) Allen, who were born and married in New York state. Afterwards they lived in Wisconsin and Winneshiek county, Iowa, and came to Jackson county in 1866. The mother died in 1885 and the father in 1890. Ethan is one of a family of eleven children.

To these parents Ethan W. Allen was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, January 25, 1860, and in 1866 he accompanied his parents to Jackson county. The head of the family took as a homestead claim the southwest quarter of section 32, Middletown, and upon that farm our subject lived until 1881. He then sold and bought the southwest quarter of section 28—part of the farm now owned by the son—and upon which Ethan has ever since lived. Upon the death of his parents he fell heir to the farm, and he has since added to his holdings by the purchase of the northwest quarter of section 33. Mr. Allen has been a member of the township board for nine years and has held the offices of director, treasurer and clerk of school district No. 60 for fifteen years. He is a member of the Methodist church.

Mr. Allen was married in Jackson county October 6, 1885, to Miranda Lucas, a native of Emmet county, Iowa, and a daughter of John Lucas. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have a family of five children: George H., born June 23, 1886; Clyde H. V., born February 14, 1888; Albert E., born May 22, 1890; Grace M., born August 23, 1893; Lawrence W., born September 5, 1897. Another child, Bessie, died of smallpox April 19, 1908, aged sixteen months.

MORTON W. SMITH (1878), secretary of the St. John Grain company, is a native of Jackson county, having been born in Weimer township June 21, 1878, the son of John T. and Jennie (Weir) Smith. He was brought up on the farm and attended the graded schools of Heron Lake. He was graduated from the Waupun (Wisconsin) high school, and in 1901 received his diploma from the university of Wisconsin.

Returning to Heron Lake after his school days, Mr. Smith took a position as bookkeeper in the Bank of Heron Lake. In the fall of the same year he took a like position with B. P. St. John, grain dealer. The next year the St. John Grain company was incorporated, and Mr. Smith continued to serve the new corporation as bookkeeper. In 1905 Mr. Smith was made secretary of the company, a position he still holds. He owns land in Weimer township and residence property in Heron Lake. Fraternally he is associated with the Masonic order.

Mr. Smith was married at Heron Lake February 28, 1907, to Ethel D. St. John, daughter of the late W. P. St. John and Minnie E. St. John, still living in Heron Lake. To this union has been born one child, John Morton Smith, born November 7, 1908.

RUDOLPH KUHNNAU (1881), a farmer and land owner of Weimer township, is a native of the county, having been born in Heron Lake township April 5, 1881, the son of Robert and Alvina (Shoeman) Kuhnau.

Rudolph has spent his entire life in his native county. He secured a district school education in Heron Lake township and made his home on his parents' farm until his father's death, which occurred in 1897. From that time until he was twenty years of age he worked out as a farm hand. Then he rented the farm

in Weimer township which he now conducts, and which was then owned by John Dobreiner, and has lived on the farm since. He has other land adjoining, making a farm with a total acreage of 320.

Mr. Kuhnau was married May 23, 1904, to Daisy Winzer, daughter of Charles and Ida Winzer, pioneer settlers of Weimer township. Mrs. Kuhnau was born in Weimer township September 21, 1885. To Mr. and Mrs. Kuhnau have been born two children: Ida, born April 14, 1905; Theodore, born July 4, 1907. The family are members of the German Lutheran church and he is treasurer of school district No. 30. Mr. Kuhnau is a member of the following associations: The Jackson County Co-operative company of Lakefield, the Co-operative Creamery company of Wilder, the Jackson County Fair association of Jackson, the American Chester White Record association. Mr. Kuhnau is a progressive young farmer of his township, and is a booster for the pure breeding of live stock, demonstrating his activities along this line by capturing many first and second prizes and diplomas on his entries of Shorthorn cattle, Chester White hogs and Shropshire sheep at fairs in Jackson and adjoining counties.

P. F. KOEP (1901), Delafield township farmer, was born in Schlesbeck, Germany, August 16, 1861, the son of Claus and Mary (Paulson) Koep. His father died in Benton county, Iowa, September 12, 1890; his mother still lives in that county.

The family emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1867 and located at Davenport, Iowa, where for two years our subject's father worked in a brick yard. The family home was then made in Benton county, Iowa, and on a farm in that county our subject grew to manhood. There he secured a district school education and there he spent his younger years working for his father. In 1883 he engaged in farming for himself and was so engaged in Benton county until 1892. From that time until 1901 he engaged in farming in Plymouth county, Iowa.

Mr. Koep came to Jackson county in 1901, bought the northwest quarter of section 22, Delafield township, and has since made his home there. He has a nice home and rents a quarter section of land adjoining his own property. He engages in the raising of hogs and

cattle extensively, and is rated as one of the successful farmers of the neighborhood. He has stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Windom and is one of the directors of the company. Our subject takes a deep interest in educational matters and has served as clerk of school district No. 121 since the district was organized seven years ago.

Mr. Koep was married in Benton county, Iowa, February, 5, 1889, to Minnie Rutz, who was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, May 22, 1873, and came to the United States when four years of age. She is the daughter of John and Johanna (Bartols) Rutz. Her father lives in Benton county, Iowa; her mother is dead. To Mr. and Mrs. Koep have been born the following named children: John, born February 19, 1890; Herman, born January 27, 1891; William, born December 2, 1892; Elenora, born March 30, 1895; Frank, born February 13, 1897; Walter, born May 27, 1899; Albert, born April 13, 1901; Ida, born June 17, 1903; Bessie, born August 23, 1907.

MERTON F. JACKMAN (1889) is a farmer and stock raiser of Petersburg township, where he owns a three hundred and twenty acre farm—the northeast quarter of section 26 and the southeast quarter of section 23. In addition to his farming operations he is interested in several other lines of business. He owns stock in, and is a director of, the Farmers' Elevator company, has stock in the Jackson Telephone company and is a member of the board of directors of the Petersburg Creamery company, in which he is also financially interested.

Mr. Jackman was born in Dekalb county, Illinois, October 22, 1858. His parents, Charles D. and Eunice (Holliday) Jackman, are both dead. His father was a veteran of the civil war, having served three years as a member of company C, 105th, regiment of Illinois volunteers. Merton grew to manhood on the farm in Dekalb county and after reaching mature years engaged in farming for himself. In the spring of 1889 he moved to Minnesota and located at Sherburn, Martin county. In November of the same year, he moved to Jackson county and located on what is now known as the A. C. Jackman farm, in section 24, Petersburg township. In 1891 he moved onto his present place, where he has since resided. He have served

ten years as clerk of his township and has also been a member of the school board of the district in which he lives. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Jackman was married November 2, 1881, to Miss Alice E. Fenton. To this union have been born the following children: Charlie F., born June 26, 1882; Maud A., born January 13, 1884; Claude E., born October 12, 1886; Ruby E., born October 18, 1895, died February 2, 1896; Amy M., born February 10, 1897; Goldie R., born November 24, 1898; Bernard, born December 6, 1901; Daisy, born May 1, 1903.

CHRIST LUDVIGSEN (1890), president of the Jackson village council and member of the firm of Ludvigsen Brothers, which invented and manufactures the famous welded steel



center toe calk for horseshoes, is a native of Denmark and was born August 20, 1859, the son of George and Agnes (Jorgenson) Ludvigsen. George Ludvigsen was a blacksmith. He came to the United States in 1882 and died at Jackson in 1893 at the age of 64 years. Our subject's mother died in 1891 at the age of 64 years.

Christ received a common school education in Denmark and served one year in the Danish army. He came to the United States in 1880 and located at South Bend, Indiana, where for ten years he was employed in the wagon and buggy factory of Studebaker Brothers. He then came to Jackson county, arriving March 30, 1890, and in partnership with his brother, Nels Ludvigsen, opened a blacksmith shop at Jackson. A little later another brother, Eric Ludvigsen, joined the firm, and some years later Nels sold out to his brothers, and the firm of Ludvigsen Brothers has since been composed of Christ and Eric. They conducted the blacksmith shop until October, 1907, and since that date have been engaged entirely in the manufacture of their patent calks. Besides his interest in the manufacturing business Mr. Ludvigsen owns property in the village of Jackson and 320 acres of land in North

Dakota. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the M. W. A., Danish Brotherhood and Equitable Fraternity lodges.

Mr. Ludvigsen was married July 4, 1890, to Miss Maren Ericksen. To them have been born two children, as follows: Edward, born in 1891; George, born February 22, 1895.

The manufacturing plant of Ludvigsen Brothers is one of the principal industries of Jackson, and the history of the invention and growth of the manufacturing business is worthy a place in this history. While the brothers were engaged in the blacksmith business in Jackson they invented and made by hand, for their own use only, a self sharpening calk to be used on horseshoes. The accompanying cut gives an idea of what this is. The calk consists of a hard plate in the center with a soft iron plate on either side, welded together and forming a sharp calk during the process of manufacture. For several years they made these by hand and used them in connection with their blacksmithing business. Then they put them on the market, the output at the start being about 100 pounds per day. The demand increased and they finally increased the capacity until the output was about one-half ton per day.

The calk was patented in the United States May 7, 1907, and in Canada August 6, 1907. When it became well known the demand so increased that Ludvigsen Brothers, in October 1907, gave up their general blacksmith business and devoted their entire time to the manufacturing business. The triphammers, which they had formerly used, could not turn out the work fast enough, and they invented and patented the calk machine—the only machine of the kind in the world—with which they are enabled to turn out a ton of the finished product a day. Seven men are employed in the factory, and the product goes to every state in the union and every province of Canada where a sharp calk is needed. The manufacturing plant and headquarters are at Jackson, while a branch house is maintained in Milwaukee to supply the eastern markets. Ludvigsen Brothers sell their product to jobbers and wholesale houses.

ERIC LUDVIGSEN (1888) is a member of the firm of Ludvigsen Brothers of the preceding sketch and is engaged in the manufacture of the welded steel center toe calks at

Jackson. He was born in Denmark October 16, 1867, the son of the late George and Agnes (Jorgensen) Ludvigsen.

Eric was educated in his native country and resided there with his parents until 1882. He crossed the water with his parents that year and located at South Bend, Indiana. He came to Jackson county with the family in 1888 and for three years lived on his father's farm in Middletown township. After his mother's death he moved to Jackson and became a partner with his brothers in the blacksmith business. This was in 1891, and since that date he has continued a member of the firm.

Mr. Ludvigsen was married in Jackson April 12, 1895, to Carrie Nelson, a daughter of Danish parents and a native of Streator, Illinois. Three children have been born to this union, Elliot, Esther and Loren. Mr. Ludvigsen is a member of the Danish Brotherhood lodge.

S. E. HEIDLEBAUGH (1890), rural free delivery mail carrier on route No. 1, out of Lakefield, was born in Tama county, Iowa, July 5, 1865, the son of John and Mary (Merick) Heidlebaugh. He received a country school education and lived in his native county until twenty-one years of age. In 1886 he moved to Nobles county, Minnesota, and engaged in farming two and one-half miles northeast of Worthington.

Mr. Heidlebaugh became a resident of Jackson county in October, 1890, when he moved onto a farm in West Heron Lake township, five miles northwest of Lakefield. One year later he moved into Heron Lake township, farmed there a year and a half, and then moved back to West Heron Lake. In 1895 he located on a farm five miles east of the present village of Wilmont, in Nobles county, and lived there a year and a half. Then he went to Legrand, Marshall county, Iowa, remained there two years, and in 1899 located in Lakefield. He remained there only a short time, when he again located on the farm near Wilmont. He sold out there and in 1900 again located in Lakefield, where he has ever since lived. He worked at various kinds of labor for a year, and on December 16, 1901, was appointed to the mail service as carrier for route No. 1.

Mr. Heidlebaugh owns eighty acres of land in West Heron Lake township and eighty acres in Heron Lake township, as well as prop-



erty in the village of Lakefield. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the I. O. O. F. and M. B. A. lodges.

On March 24, 1891, Mr. Heidlebaugh was married to Miss Jennie Johnson in Heron Lake township. One child, John Franklin, was born to this union on March 10, 1898.

ALFRED WATLAND (1897), in partnership with his brother, Bert, owns and farms 540 acres of land on sections 10 and 15, Des Moines township, two and one-half miles northwest of Jackson. The brothers are extensive feeders and shippers of cattle, hogs and sheep and raise thoroughbred Hereford stock.

The father of our subject was Bjorn J. Watland, who was born in Stavanger, Norway, March 12, 1854. He came to the United States with his parents in 1873 and located near Leroy, Mower county, Minnesota, where his parents homesteaded government land. He engaged in farming there until 1886 and then moved to Emmons county, North Dakota, where he conducted a sheep ranch ten years. During his residence there he had a government contract to supply the troops at Fort Yates with meat, wood and hay. He returned to Mower county, lived there one year, and in 1897 took up his residence in Jackson county. He bought the Des Moines township farm where his sons now reside, made most of the improvements on the place and engaged in farming there until his death, which occurred May 13, 1904. While a resident of Leroy, Bjorn Watland was married to Elizabeth Spande, who was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, December 27, 1862, and who now makes her home with her sons on the Jackson county farm. Seven children were born to these parents, as follows: Alfred, born May 4, 1885; Bert, born July 19, 1887; Mamie, born February 22, 1890; Anna, born March 13, 1892; Cecelia, born August 15, 1894; John, born June 24, 1896; Ella, born September 19, 1899.

Alfred Watland is the eldest of these children and was born in Leroy, Mower county, Minnesota. While yet a baby he accompanied his parents to Emmons county, North Dakota, and there he spent his boyhood days. After residing ten years in Dakota the family returned to Mower county and located near Adams. One year later, in 1897, Alfred came with his parents to Jackson county, and has since resided on the farm his father bought at

that time. Until his father's death he worked on the place, and after that event he and his brother took the management of the farm. He has served as clerk of school district No. 7 for the past two years and is president of the Des Moines River Telephone company.

EDWARD ELNESS (1874) is a Christiania township farmer and thresher who owns the east half of the northwest quarter of section 20 and the south half of the southeast quarter of section 17. He has spent his entire life in the county, having been born on the farm he now conducts October 12, 1874, the son of E. N. and Ellen Elness. His father lives in Oregon; his mother is dead.

Mr. Elness received a common school education and assisted his father in conducting the farm. Later he engaged in farming for himself and in the threshing business, which he has followed for the past fifteen years. He owns stock in the Christiania Creamery company and in the Bergen Store company. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the Woodmen lodge of Windom.

Mr. Elness was married May 20, 1900, to Minnie Olson. They are the parents of three children; Clifford, born October 20, 1902; Lloyd, born March 6, 1904; Leland, born May 10, 1906.

GUSTAV WIESE (1895) is one of the progressive farmers of Sioux Valley township, where he owns and farms 200 acres of land. He engages extensively in stock raising and has large herds. He has a nice home and a well improved farm.

Mr. Wiese was born in Schonberg, Holstein, Germany, April 25, 1872, the son of C. H. and Maggie (Harder) Wiese. His father was a veteran of the Danish war (1848-51) having served four years in the German army. He was a jeweler by trade and followed that occupation in his native land forty-three years. He died at Schonberg, Germany, September 8, 1902, at the age of 79 years. The mother of our subject died in Germany in October, 1896, aged 65 years.

Gustav Wiese spent the first fifteen years of his life in his native town, receiving his education in the public schools. In the spring of 1888 he came to the United States and located at Holstein, Ida county, Iowa, where,



**A. A. FOSNESS**  
Of Globe Milling Company, Lakefield.



**LOUIS F. LAMMERS**  
Attorney-at-Law of Heron Lake.



**BRUNO POPPITZ**  
Heron Lake Furniture Dealer.



**JULIUS F. LIEPOLD**  
Heron Lake Druggist.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

however, he remained only three months. He then went to Ewing, Holt county, Nebraska, where he lived a year and a half, working on the farm of his brother-in-law. The next three years were spent working on a farm in Shelby county, Iowa. This brings us up to the year 1893, when he returned to his old German home for a six months' visit. Returning to America in the spring of 1894, he again located in Shelby county, Iowa. In the fall of 1894 he came to Jackson county and bought 120 acres of his present farm in Sioux Valley township. In the spring of 1895 he returned to the county to make permanent residence. For two years he worked at the carpenter trade in Lakefield and in the vicinity of Lake Park, Iowa, and then, in 1897, he located upon his farm and has ever since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Wiese was married in Sioux Valley township February 16, 1897, to Emma Untidt, daughter of Henry and Alvina Untidt. Mrs. Wiese was born in Scott county, Iowa, July 7, 1878. To Mr. and Mrs. Wiese have been born the following named children: Hellmuth, born February 23, 1899; Rudolph, born December 14, 1901; Alvina, born August 30, 1903; Bertha, born October 20, 1905; Norma, born June 25, 1907.

LELAND L. ZENOR (1907), real estate dealer and broker of Heron Lake, is a native of Story county, Iowa, where he was born April 12, 1870. In his native county he lived until he was thirty years of age. After receiving a common school education he attended Iowa State college at Ames and completed his education with a business course in Drake university, Des Moines.

After his school days Mr. Zenor engaged in the hardware and implement business at Ames, Iowa, and four years later he opened a real estate office in the same city. He conducted the business at Ames until the year 1900, when he moved to Crookston, Minnesota, and there engaged in the real estate business until 1907. That year he moved to Heron Lake and opened a real estate and brokerage office, which he has since conducted. He deals principally in Texas, Montana, North Dakota and Minnesota lands, and does a thriving business. In partnership with L. F. Lamners Mr. Zenor owns a large ranch in Texas and he personally owns a large ranch in Mon-

tana, besides several farms in Jackson county and village property in Heron Lake and Win-dom.

Mr. Zenor's grandparents were among the early settlers of Iowa, having located there in 1849. His parents are W. J. and Mary E. (O'Brien) Zenor, who were born in Indiana and married in Iowa in 1868, and who now live retired lives at Ames, Iowa. Leland is the eldest of a family of three children, the others being Celand C., who is in his brother's employ, and Gretta (Mrs. C. E. Holmes), of Ames, Iowa.

Mr. Zenor of this sketch was married at Ames May 22, 1894, to Cora P. Skelton, a native of the town in which she was married and a daughter of William and Anna Skelton. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Zenor: Marie, born April 30, 1895; Helen, born May 30, 1899. Mr. Zenor is a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and Elks lodges.

• JOHN C. EDLIN (1878) is one of the prosperous farmers and big landowners of Middletown township. He owns 408 acres of land in Minnesota and a quarter section in North Dakota. He has a fine farm, equipped with all modern improvements for its successful cultivation. He engages extensively in stock raising and has nothing but good grades.

Mr. Edlin is a native of Sweden and was born February 9, 1848, the son of Carl and Christina Edlin. He was raised on a farm and received a common school education. At the age of twenty-one years he left home and came to America, locating first in Rockford, Illinois, where he worked about six months. From that point he came to Minnesota and stopped at Mankato, working on the railroad for two years. He then engaged in farming in Cottonwood county and was so occupied five years. Mr. Edlin went to Red Wing in 1877, worked one year in that place, and then, in the fall of 1878, arrived in Jackson county, which was destined to be his home for many years. He bought a farm in Middletown that fall, then went east, and in the spring of 1879 came to reside permanently.

During his residence in Middletown Mr. Edlin has served seven years as a member of the township board, twelve years as a director of the school board and eight years as road

overseer. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Edlin was married October 25, 1883, to Miss Louise Swenson, and to them have been born the following named children: Charles P., born January 26, 1885; Ludwig L., born April 25, 1887; Adolph, born March 1, 1889; Albert Edgart, born February 12, 1891, died February 12, 1894; Oscar Rudolph, born December 5, 1894.

EMIL TROSIN (1881) owns a two hundred acre farm in Heron Lake township a short distance northeast of Lakefield, where he has a fine home and well improved farm.

Mr. Trosin was born in the Fatherland October 18, 1869, the son of Frederick and Christina (Mattzlof) Trosin, both deceased. At the age of twelve years he accompanied his parents to the new world and came with them to Jackson county. For five years he lived with his parents on their farm on section 28, Heron Lake township, and for the next six years he worked on the farm of D. W. Kollander. The next year he spent working for his brother in Emmet county, Iowa, and then he and his brother engaged in farming in Martin county. One year later Mr. Trosin again moved to Jackson county and located upon his present farm, which he had bought two years before. The place was practically unimproved at the time and all the improvements on the farm are the result of his labors. During the summer of 1909 he erected a fine nine-room residence at a cost of \$2,200.

Mr. Trosin was married in Rost township April 10, 1898, to Annie Zach, who was born in Jackson county June 2, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Trosin have no children of their own, but they have an adopted son, Fred E. Istel, aged nineteen years and a native of Milwaukee.

Mr. Trosin is a member of the Heron Lake township board of supervisors and he has held the office of president of the Heron Lake Creamery company for the last six years.

AUGUST SCHEPPMANN (1902) is one of the large land owners and successful and influential farmers of West Heron Lake township. He owns 840 acres of land in West Heron Lake and Alba townships, his home place being the north half of the northwest quarter of section 17, one half mile south of Okabena.

He is the youngest of a family of nine children born to Henry and Wilhelmina (Denne) Scheppmann, and he was born in Germany January 4, 1850. Both his parents died in the old country, his father when he was only nine years of age. At that tender age he had to assist in earning money to support the family, although he was able to attend school until he was fourteen years of age. After growing up he worked in the coal mines and was so engaged until thirty years of age.

Mr. Scheppmann emigrated to America in 1880 and first located in Tazewell county, Illinois, where he engaged in ditching and well digging two years. Then he engaged in farming, having bought farm lands in Tazewell and Iroquois counties, living in each of those counties eleven years. In 1902 Mr. Scheppmann sold out in Illinois and located in Jackson county, investing his money in lands south of Okabena. He has prospered and is in easy circumstances. He is greatly interested in the development of the county and is interested in several lines of endeavor besides his farming interests.

From 1903 to 1906 Mr. Scheppmann was manager of the Okabena creamery. He took an active part in the organization of the Okabena Cooperative Farmers Elevator company, of which he is the president. The company was organized and incorporated August 21, 1909, with fifty-three stockholders, and began business September 7, 1909. The officers of the company are: August Scheppmann, president; Sam Frederickson, secretary; John Gruseng, vice president; John Koster, treasurer; Sam Dahl, Will Hussong, Frank Anderson, directors.

Our subject was married in Germany August 3, 1877, to Recka Beckschulte. To them have been born the following children: Bertha, Freda, August, Sam, Henry, Minnie, Willie, Lydia, Eddie and Loui. Mr. Scheppmann is a member of the Christian Apostolic church.

E. RICE (1897), a farmer residing in Jackson, was born May 23, 1853, in Steuben county, New York, the son of Warren and Amy (Kent) Rice. When our subject was five years of age the family moved from New York state to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and there the subject of this biography resided sixteen years, receiving an education in the schools of Orleans township.

When he reached his majority, in 1874, Mr. Rice moved to Cottonwood county, Minnesota, took a homestead, and engaged in farming it twenty-one years. He sold out in 1895 and moved west, locating in Yakima county, Washington. He came to Jackson in September, 1897, and has since been engaged in farming.

Mr. Rice was married at Ridgeway, Iowa, September 4, 1877, to Miss Ida May Clough. To this union have been born the following named children: Warren M., born June 15, 1878; Carlton B., born September 17, 1881, died October 3, 1897; Mattie P. and Minnie M. (twins), born April 23, 1888; Nellie B., born July 19, 1892. Mr. Rice owns 112 acres of land in Des Moines and Wisconsin townships. He and family are members of the Methodist church.

Mrs. Rice is one of the pioneers of Jackson county. She is the daughter of those pioneer settlers, Marcellus Clough and Mary (Young) Clough, and was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, May 28, 1858. At the age of three years, in the spring of 1861, she accompanied her parents to the wild and sparsely settled Jackson county country. In January, 1862, the family moved to Mankato, resided there one year, and then returned to the former home in Winneshiek county. In the spring of 1865 the family again returned to Jackson county and Marcellus Clough took a preemption and homestead near the spot where Jackson was built. He and John Young each built frame houses on their claims, the first erected in Jackson county. The Clough home burned down a few years later, but the Young home still stands. In 1872 Ida May Clough accompanied her parents back to Winneshiek county, and there in 1877 she was married to Mr. Rice.

MIKE J. MILLER (1883) engages in farming on section 30, Wisconsin township, a short distance southeast of Jackson, where he owns a quarter section of land, upon which he has lived many years. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Kessler) Miller and is one of a family of five children, John, Barbara, Gertrude, Mary and Mike J. The father was born in Germany and came to America when fourteen years of age. He located in Wisconsin in the early days and died in Dane county of that state twenty-five years ago. The mother

of our subject lives in Dane county and is 74 years old.

To these parents at Columbus, Dane county, Wisconsin, on September 10, 1861, Mike J. Miller was born. He received a district school education and until twenty-two years of age resided on his father's farm in his native county. He came to Jackson county in 1883 and settled upon the land where he has ever since lived. This farm was formerly owned by Mr. Miller's grandfather, who lived upon it in grasshopper days, and the old log cabin in which his grandfather lived still stands on the farm. The land was later bought by our subject's father, and later still Mike Miller acquired the property. The latter has made all the improvements on the place, including the erection of a fine house, large barn, outbuildings and grove. Mr. Miller owns in addition thirty acres of timber land along the Des Moines river. He has served as chairman of the township board.

Mr. Miller was married at Columbus, Dane county, Wisconsin, November 29, 1884, to Lena Ullrich, who was also born in Dane county and who was brought up in a neighboring family. She is the daughter of Chris Ullrich and has four brothers living in Petersburg township. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller have been born four children, as follows: Elma, Agnes, Ben and Mike.

ALEX SULLIVAN (1872) is one of the large landowners and successful farmers of LaCrosse township as well as one of the pioneer settlers. He is an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs and a big grain raiser. He farms 480 acres of land. He owns 320 acres individually and in partnership with his brother Jerry owns 640 acres on sections 17 and 21.

Mr. Sullivan is a native of Sibley county, Minnesota, where he was born December 24, 1861, the son of Owen and Mary (O'Neil) Sullivan. He spent his childhood days in Sibley county and came to Jackson county with his parents in 1872. With the exception of one and one-half years spent in St. Paul during the years 1878-79, he has ever since been a resident of the county. His parents homesteaded in LaCrosse township and on his father's farm he grew to manhood. His father died when he was sixteen years of age and thereafter he continued to make his home with his mother. When he was about twenty-

one years of age the home place—the south-east quarter of section 4—was turned over to him and he has ever since been engaged in farming it. He has prospered and from time to time has added to his possessions by purchase.

Our subject and his family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake and he is a member of the Yeomen and Catholic Order of Foresters lodges. He has held the office of clerk of his school district.

Mr. Sullivan was married in Heron Lake May 27, 1896, to Agnes Bohnpool, a native of Germany. To them have been born three children: Gene, Paul and Bernice.

FRANK J. HASSING (1892) is the proprietor of a wagon maker's shop at Alpha, of which village he is one of the oldest residents. He was born at Easton, Faribault county, Minnesota, May 14, 1867, the son of John H. and Rocine (Kerser) Hassing.

In his native county Frank Hassing grew to manhood, residing with his parents until he reached his majority. In 1888 he went to Albert Lea and worked out one year. Returning to Easton, he worked at the carpenter trade for a year and a half. In August, 1892, he became a resident of Jackson county. For two years he lived on a farm southwest of Jackson, then lived a few months in the village of Jackson, and early in 1895 located in the village of Alpha, then just started. He worked at the carpenter trade in Alpha for eleven years, and in 1906 bought the wagon maker's shop from Theodore Jasper and has since conducted it.

Mr. Hassing was married January 8, 1895, to Catherine Steiner, of Jackson. To them have been born four children. Charles A., who was the first child born in the village of Alpha, was born November 6, 1895. The other children are John C., Clara M. and Lawrence H. The family are members of the Jackson Catholic church and Mr. Hassing is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters of Jackson, of which organization he has held some of the principal offices. He owns a quarter section of land in St. Louis county, Minnesota. Mr. Hassing was president of the Alpha village council three years.

BRADFORD F. VANDUZEE (1882), who now lives a retired life in Jackson, is a na-

tive of Gouverneur township, St. Lawrence county, New York, having been born February 27, 1827. His parents were David and Chloe (Wood) Vanduzee, who were born and married in the state of Vermont. Eight years after their marriage they moved to St. Lawrence county, New York, where they resided the rest of their lives. His father lived to be 85 years of age and his mother 65. The elder Vanduzee was a miller by trade and engaged in business in St. Lawrence county for a number of years. There were seventeen children in the family, of which our subject was the youngest. Only one of the other children survives, Mrs. Nancy Hodgloom, who lives at Gouverneur, New York, and who is 85 years of age.

Bradford grew to manhood in his native county, residing with his parents until seventeen years of age. At that age he went to De Kalb, New York, and for the next three years served an apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, after which he followed his trade there one year. At the age of twenty-one years he came west, locating in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin. He worked at his trade there one year and then located in Waupaca, Wisconsin, where he resided two years and where he engaged to erect a mill. The next permanent location of Mr. Vanduzee was Vernon county, Wisconsin, where he was destined to pass many years of his life. During his long residence there he worked at his trade, also engaging in farming, having purchased a two hundred acre farm, which was managed by a hired man.

In 1864 Mr. Vanduzee enlisted from Vernon county, Wisconsin, in company D, of the Eighteenth Wisconsin regiment, and served until the close of the war, participating in the grand review of Washington.

From Wisconsin Mr. Vanduzee came to Jackson county in 1882, and this has ever since been his home. Upon his arrival he bought a farm on section 13, Wisconsin township (a farm which he still owns), and there he made his home, working at the carpenter trade while his sons managed the farm. He erected many of the buildings in the neighborhood and when the village of Alpha was founded near by he erected the first structure on the townsite as well as many of the town's first buildings. In 1892 Mr. Vanduzee located in Jackson, where he has since lived. Until the fall of 1908 he worked at his trade, since which time he has

retired from active labors. In addition to his farm, Mr Vanduzee owns a residence and a shop in Jackson. While living in Wisconsin township he served as township assessor and was one of the school directors of his district.

Mr. Vanduzee was married at Waupaca, Wisconsin, August 8, 1852, to Theresa J. Perkins, who was the daughter of Chester and Salinda (Chase) Perkins and who was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, January 30, 1828. Nine children were born to this union, of whom the following seven are living: Solomon, Alice Smith, Finney, Grant, Lurilla Short, Chloe Carr and Willard. The deceased children are Ralph, who died in March, 1907, and Rosa Smith, who died in May, 1908, aged 56 years.

CARL NIEMANN (1887) is one of the successful farmers of Christiania township, in which he owns a half section of land. He is a German by birth and was born September 7, 1846, the son of Martin and Fredericka (Gohl) Niemann. The former died about fifteen years ago; the mother died in 1908.

Carl was raised on his father's farm and received a common school education. He served four years in the German army and is a veteran of the French-German war. While serving his country he received a wound in the hand from a sword thrust. At the age of twenty-six years Mr. Niemann came to America and located in Chicago, where he lived three years. From the city he moved to Door county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming twelve years. He came to Jackson county in 1887 and located upon the farm where he now lives, on section 16, and has ever since been a resident of Christiania.

Mr. Niemann owns a 120-acre farm of fine land and has it well improved. He owns stock in the Bergen creamery, in the Windom telephone and in the Farmers' elevator at Windom. He has served as township treasurer thirteen years and has been treasurer of school district No. 53 for the last twenty years. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Niemann was married April 3, 1877, to Miss Johanna Langhoff, and to them have been born seven children, as follows: Martha (Mrs. John Egge), born February 11, 1878; Albert, born October 27, 1880; Arnold, born June, 1882; August, born June, 1884; Adolph, born 1886; Carl, born March 10, 1888; Emma, born January 1, 1891.

JOSEPH VACEK (1889) is an Enterprise township farmer who has lived on his present farm twenty years. He owns 320 acres—the southwest quarter of section 13 and the northeast quarter of the same section.

Mr. Vacek was born in Austria March 10, 1862, son of the late Martin Vacek and Mary Vacek. At the age of thirteen he came to the United States with his parents and located in Jones county, Iowa. In that county he received a common school education and grew to manhood on his father's farm. He came to Jackson county on April 1, 1889, located upon his present farm, and that has ever since been his home. In addition to his farming operations, he is interested in the Enterprise Horse company. He is the clerk of school district 94 and has held the office nine years. He and family are members of the Catholic church and he is a member of the Catholic Western Union order.

January 28, 1892, Mr. Vacek was married to Annie Koba. To them have been born seven children, named as follows: John, born May 16, 1893; Frank, born July 25, 1895; Anna, born April 24, 1899; Joseph, born February 12, 1901; Alfred, born March 14, 1903; Martin, born January 12, 1905; Mary, born June 12, 1907.

JOSEPH F. GOLITKO (1892) conducts a general merchandise store at Lakefield. He is a native of Austria Hungary, and was born March 19, 1871, the son of John and Mary (Plenzner) Golitko.

At the age of ten years Joseph came to America with his parents, and after a stay of six weeks in Fort Scott, Kansas, located permanently at Bonnetterre, Missouri. One year later, in 1882, the family home was made at Carbon, Clay county, Indiana, and that was the home of our subject until 1891, excepting a stay of three months in Cleveland, Ohio. In Indiana Joseph completed his education, which had been begun in his native land.

For a short time in 1891 Mr. Golitko was at Citra, Florida, and on March 31, 1892, he came to Jackson county for the first time. For several years he engaged in farming in Minneota township, where he still owns a quarter section of land, and later moved to Lakefield, where he engaged in business. He holds membership in the M. W. A. and Catho-



lic Union orders and is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Golitko was married in Jackson August 16, 1898, to Miss Anna Navara. To them have been born the following named children: Emma, Mary, Margaret, Laura, Elizabeth, Anna and Frank.

GEORGE E. MORRISON (1897) is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Alba township. He owns the northwest quarter of section 14 and the northeast quarter of section 23.

Mr. Morrison was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1862, the son of Jonas Morrison and Sarah (Faust) Morrison. The father, who was of Scotch descent, died when our subject was only six or seven years of age. The mother of our subject was born in Pennsylvania in 1831 and was of German descent.

George was brought up on a farm and educated in his native county, making his home there until seventeen years of age. At that age he went to Carroll county, Iowa, and during the next four years was employed as a farm hand. He then married and rented a farm in the same county, which he conducted two years. His next place of residence was Sioux county, Iowa, where he resided twelve years, engaged in farming rented land. He came to Jackson county in 1897, and located upon his present farm, which he bought at that time. During the grasshopper days this farm, so it is told, was owned by Mr. Sears, of the firm of Sears, Roebuck & Company, Chicago. Mr. Sears was then very poor and suffered many hardships. He became disgusted with the county, sold out and left—to engage in business in Chicago and become several times a millionaire. The farm was practically unimproved when Mr. Morrison took possession and he has made all the improvements. He has prospered and in 1901 bought his second quarter section of land. He farms the whole half section and raises a lot of well graded stock.

The marriage of our subject occurred in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, January 17, 1884, when he wedded Emma C. Herr, who was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, May 13, 1863. To these parents have been born the following named eight children: Roy, born April 2, 1885; Maynard, born January 19,

1887; Harry, born July 25, 1890; Stella, born January, 23, 1892; Ethel, born June 1, 1896; Edith, born August 5, 1898; Millard, born November 4, 1900; Elsie, born April 3, 1904. Mr. Morrison has served as clerk of Alba township since the spring of 1900. He was treasurer of school district 102 for six years and has served as a director of the district. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge of Okabena.

LARS MYRVOLD (1885) is a farmer and landowner of Delafield township. He was born in Norway January 17, 1862, the only child born to Stephen and Kjeste (Damen) Myrvold. His parents came to America in 1887 and bought property on section 16, Delafield, where they resided many years. His father now makes his home with his son. Our subject's mother died in 1900 at the age of 73 years.

Lars lived in Norway with his parents until twenty-two years of age, working on the farm and securing his education. He came to the United States in 1885 and located at Jackson and for four years was employed as a farm hand. In 1889 he bought the southeast quarter of section 17, Delafield, and that has ever since been his home. The place was prairie land at the time of purchase, and he has made all the improvements, planting the grove and erecting the buildings. In 1900 he added to his holdings by the purchase of the northwest quarter of section 16, which was his father's old farm. He farms the whole half section.

Mr. Myrvold was married in Jackson county November 30, 1888, to Lena Lysgard, who was born in Delafield township in 1872, and who is the daughter of Andrew Lysgard, one of the township's pioneer settlers. To Mr. and Mrs. Myrvold have been born the following named children: May Caroline, Elmer Lewel, Arthur and Dagny Viola.

The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Myrvold has served as a director of school district No. 115 for the past eight years and has been a township supervisor for the past five years. He has been a stockholder of the Wilder Creamery company for the past thirteen years.

HENRY SCHMIDT (1889) owns and farms the southeast quarter of section 5, Rost township, where he has resided over twenty years.

He is a native German and was born November 6, 1859. His parents, Ralph and Margarita Schmidt, both died in their native land.

Henry lived in Germany until he was twenty-one years of age, living with his parents on the farm. He came to America in 1880 and located in Champaign county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming nine years. He came to Jackson county in 1889, bought his present farm and has ever since made his home there. He has made all the improvements on the place and has one of the fine homes in the township. The farm is well improved and supplied with hog tight fences throughout. Mr. Schmidt is a stockholder in the Rost and Okabena creameries and in the farmers elevator of Lakefield. He is a member of the township board and has held school office ever since coming to the county. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church of Rost.

Mr. Schmidt has been married twice, the first time in Champaign county, Illinois, in 1883, when he wedded Elizabeth Foualing, who died in 1887. By his first wife three children were born, namely, Margaritta, Andrew and Ralph. The second marriage of Mr. Schmidt occurred in Rost township in 1897, when he wedded Mary Ehkin. Six children have been born to this union, namely, Albert, Annie, Lizzie, Mena, Lulu and Freda.

**HENRY I. VALGAMORE** (1882), of Jackson, is a native of Knox county, Illinois, and was born January 11, 1853. His parents were Davis S. and Samantha (Brace) Valgamore, natives of Ohio and Illinois, respectively. The former served in the war of the rebellion, being captain of company D, of the Seventh Illinois cavalry. After the war he located near Parsons, Kansas, and died at that place in 1879, aged 54 years. His wife died in Illinois in 1857.

Henry Valgamore's mother dying when he was four years of age, he was brought up in the home of his grandparents at Abingdon, Illinois, residing with them until 1870. He then went to Kansas, and for the next twelve years resided in the states of Kansas, Minnesota and Illinois, engaged in various occupations. In the early eighties, his father having died, Mr. Valgamore returned to Kansas and spent the next five years conducting the farm and settling up the business affairs of his

father. He then bought a farm in Fillmore county, Minnesota, and engaged in agricultural pursuits there until 1892. That year he located in Jackson and the next year bought the Jackson creamery, which he conducted, as well as a bottling works plant, until 1906, when he sold to Isaac Wadsworth. Since that date he has not been actively engaged in business, but he handles automobiles and conducts a garage during the season. He owns two residences in Jackson. He is a member of the Odd Fellows and Yeomen lodges.

Mr. Valgamore was married at Oswego, Kansas, November 22, 1881, to Allie M. Clark, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Chester and Sylvia Clark. To them have been born eight children, as follows: Chester D., born August 22, 1882; Estill B., born February 6, 1884; Ivan R., born June 9, 1886; Velma H., born May 3, 1888; Coy C., born January 29, 1894; Cecil H., born May 22, 1900; Sylvia, born May 6, 1890, died October 12, 1890; Vernon, born May 3, 1888, died October 11, 1890.

**WILLIAM H. BAKER** (1893) is a Middle-town township farmer who owns the southwest quarter of section 5. He is a native of the city of New York and was born May 2, 1857, the son of William and Katherine Baker.

When six years of age, in 1863, the subject of this biography accompanied his two sisters to Rockford, Winnebago county, Illinois, and two years later moved to Odell, in Livingston county, of the same state. In 1868 he moved to Chenoa, McLean county, and the next year to Ford county. In the last named county he grew to manhood, engaged in farming, and resided until 1893. On the ninth day of February of that year he arrived in Jackson county. He moved onto his farm in Middletown and has since made his home there.

Mr. Baker served as supervisor of his township from 1902 to 1905 and was justice of the peace one year. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

On February 1, 1880, Mr. Baker was united in marriage to Miss Emma Hamlon. They are the parents of the following named children: Mabel, born January 11, 1881; Cecil M., born November 21, 1882; Frank W., born September 10, 1884; Charles F., born January 17, 1886; Clyde W., born July 9, 1890; Nellie, born September 26, 1895.

PETER O. ANDERSON (1868) is one of Jackson county's native sons, having been born on his father's old homestead in Belmont township September 13, 1868. He is the son of the later Ole A. Aas and Caroline (Lilleberg) Aas, who came from Norway when young and who were married in Jackson county soon after their arrival in 1866. His father died in Jackson in 1906; his mother lives in Jackson.

Our subject took the name Anderson in preference to that of Aas when a young man on account of the similarity of names in the neighborhood. Until his marriage in 1896 Mr. Anderson lived with his parents on the old homestead on section 4. He then bought his present farm on section 9, where he has since resided. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Anderson was married in Jackson county April 12, 1896, to Annie Hanson, a native of Belmont township and a daughter of Jonas Hanson that pioneer settler of the township. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, as follows: Clara, Joseph, Obert, Maurice, Pearl, Henry.

DR. C. L. BURRILL (1901), Heron Lake dentist, was born in Nicollet county, Minnesota, July 26, 1873, the son of L. L. and Clara Inez (Dolph) Burrill. When he was four years of age he accompanied his parents to Springfield, Brown county, where he grew to manhood and where his parents still reside.

Our subject received a high school education in Springfield and completed his general education in Minneapolis in 1899. He then went to Chicago and entered the dental department of Northwestern university, from which he received his diploma in May, 1902. June 10 of the same year Dr. Burrill located in Heron Lake and engaged in practice. He holds membership in the Southwestern Minnesota Dental association, the Minnesota State Dental association and the National Dental association.

Dr. Burrill was married January 7, 1906, to Miss Rosa K. Miller, of Okabena. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges.

FERDINAND KLINDT (1892) is one of the prosperous farmers of Sioux Valley township.

He owns 300 acres of land on sections 2 and 3 and farms it all, engaging in general farming and stock raising. He has a nice home and has made most of the improvements on the farm himself.

Mr. Klindt was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, July 21, 1852. His father, Henry Klindt, was a brick layer by trade and died in his native land in 1897. The mother of our subject, Annie (Gotch) Klindt, died in Germany in 1891. Ferdinand was brought up on a farm and educated in the country schools. After growing up he worked on farms and in February, 1881, came to the United States. He worked on a farm in Scott county, Iowa, one year and then located in Ida county, Iowa, where he lived three years, working as a farm hand. In 1885 he went to Lyon county, Iowa, where he bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1892. That year he came to Jackson county, bought 160 acres of his present farm—the H. Butterfield homestead—and has since made his home there, buying his other property subsequently. Mr. Klindt served as a member of the township board of supervisors several years. He is a member of the Hermann Sons lodge.

In Sioux Valley township on February 5, 1895, Mr. Klindt was united in marriage to Johanna Kathrine Rohr, daughter of Hans Rohr, of Arnold's Park, Iowa. She was born in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, August 29, 1875, and came to the United States in 1881. To Mr. and Mrs. Klindt have been born six children: Frieda Louise, born October 5, 1895; Walter, born May 3, 1896, died September 27, 1897; Josephine Katherine, born March 11, 1898; Elsie Minnie, born June 14, 1900; Hans Henry Ferdinand, born May 16, 1902; Lloyd, born December 31, 1907, died January 2, 1908.

JOHN L. KING (1870), editor and publisher of the Jackson County Pilot, is a native of Jackson county, having been born in a log house in Wisconsin township August 11, 1870. His father is William V. King, one of the county's early settlers, who now resides in Jackson. His mother was Antonette L. (Porter) King, who died March 26, 1896.

At the age of two years John accompanied the family to the village of Jackson and in that village he spent his boyhood days, receiving his education in the Jackson public schools. In July, 1888, he went to Jasper,



**HARRY M. BURNHAM**  
Merchant of Jackson.



**JOHN L. KING**  
Publisher of the Jackson County Pilot.



**ROBERT C. MUIR**  
A Native of Jackson County.



**FRANK G. ALBERTUS**  
Clothing Merchant of Jackson.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

Minnesota, where he learned the printer's trade in the office of the Jasper Journal and where he resided four years. Mr. King then went to Clifton, Kansas, where for a little less than two-years he edited the Clifton Times.

In 1893 Mr. King returned to Jackson and the following year he accepted the position of deputy county auditor, serving under his father, William V. King, until January, 1897. On November 26, 1896, in partnership with J. C. McCroden, he bought the Jackson County Pilot, which was published under the firm name of King & McCroden until November 10, 1900. At that time Mr. King bought his partner's interest and has since been sole publisher. He publishes the only democratic paper in Jackson county and has made the Pilot an influential agent in the affairs of the county.

Mr. King was appointed deputy oil inspector by Governor John A. Johnson in 1903 and has since held the office. For four years he was chairman of the democratic county central committee and he was a member of his party's state central committee two years. He is a director of the Jackson Building and Loan association and is treasurer of the Jackson Library board. He holds membership in the Knights of Pythias lodge.

At Mankato on June 19, 1907, Mr. King was united in marriage of Miss Lillian F. Hurd, a native of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, and a daughter of Hiram A. and Celestia Hurd.

WILLIAM C. BUCHMANN (1881) has lived upon his present farm in Petersburg township nearly twenty-nine years. He is a German by birth and first saw the light of day November 16, 1864, being the son of William and Amelia (Hessler) Buchmann, both deceased. He came to the United States with his parents at the age of nine years. The family resided in the city of Chicago three months and then located in Wisconsin, where our subject lived eight years.

In the month of March, 1881, Mr. Buchmann came to Jackson county. He bought land in Petersburg and for the first few years made his home in a 10x15 feet shanty—and one summer four families lived in that. Besides his farming operations, he engaged in the threshing business eleven seasons, having been the owner of two horse power and one steam

outfit. Mr. Buchmann now has a fine farm of 240 acres on the east half of section 17, improved with a large, modern house and a good sized basement barn. He owns stock in the Petersburg Creamery company and in the Jackson Fair association. He served one year as supervisor of his township, five years as town treasurer and ten years as road overseer.

Mr. Buchmann was married November 28, 1889, to Adeline Wendelsdorf, who was born December 2, 1873. To these parents have been born the following children: Mary, born October 11, 1891; Arthur H., born September 26, 1892; Ernest T., born August 18, 1894; Reuben P., born August 13, 1897, died March 10, 1898; Esther R., born August 5, 1900; Addie E., born January 22, 1903; Ruth E., born March 1, 1906. Mr. Buchmann and his family are members of the Evangelical church.

MATHIAS FEST (1897) owns a quarter section farm on the north shore of Heron lake, it being described as the southwest quarter of section 22, Weimer township. He was born in Grant county, Wisconsin, October 7, 1865, and is of German-Austrian descent. His father, John Fest, came to America from the fatherland when fifteen years of age and was married in Dubuque county, Wisconsin. He died in 1902 at the age of 87 years. The mother of our subject, Mary (Robinstein) Fest, a native of Austria, now resides at Cassville, Wisconsin. Mathias is one of a family of thirteen children, of whom nine are living.

During the first twenty-three years of his life Mathias Fest lived with his parents in his native county; then he took a position as clerk on a government boat, the "General Barnard," plying the Mississippi river between St. Louis and St. Paul, and was so employed two years. Between that time and the year 1897 he engaged in farming—two years near Cherokee, Iowa, two years in Charles Mix county, South Dakota, and again two years near Cherokee. He came to Jackson county in 1897, rented the farm he now owns two years and then bought the place. He has lived on the farm since coming to the county. He raises cattle and sheep quite extensively, having a flock of 300 sheep, and makes a specialty of dairy farming. Mr. Fest was a supervisor of Weimer township two years and has served as justice of the peace of his precinct since 1899. He is a mem-

ber of the Catholic church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

At Cherokee, Iowa, on the ninth day of February, 1893, Mr. Fest was married to Elizabeth Bauer. She is a daughter of Fred and Mary Bauer and was born in Cherokee December 19, 1876. Six children have been born to this union: Arthur, Loretta, Lucy, Mathias, Joseph and Isabella.

FRED W. KIDNEY (1872), a farmer and horse dealer of Middletown township, was born on the farm he now conducts October 8, 1872, and resided on that farm with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. When he reached his majority he engaged in farming for himself three or four years.

Mr. Kidney moved to Superior, Iowa, where he conducted a barber shop for a time; then he moved to South Dakota, where he resided eight years. Thereafter for a time he traveled over the northwestern states, dealing in horses. In 1908 he returned to his native county and has since been engaged in farming the old homestead, besides dealing in horses.

The parents of our subject were pioneer settlers of Jackson county, Joshua W. and Phoebe E. (Randall) Kidney, born respectively in Cattaraugus county, New York, and Wisconsin. They were married in Wisconsin and soon afterwards, in the early sixties, moved to Mason City, Iowa. They came to Jackson county in 1869, paid \$250 to Nelson Arms for a relinquishment to his homestead claim—the southwest quarter of section 28, Middletown township,—engaged in farming the place and proved up and secured title. Nelson Arms, the original claimant, was later murdered in Missouri, together with his wife and children and a man named Dickerson, by a man named Tausy. Tausy was hung for his crime and the rope which served the purpose is now in the possession of Mrs. Olive (Pearson) Allen, whose husband was a relative of Arms. Joshua Kidney died on the old home place May 9, 1909, aged 78 years. His wife died in Effington, South Dakota. They were the parents of three children, one of whom died in infancy. The others are Robert H., of Jackson, and Fred W., of this sketch.

Our subject was married in Roberts county, South Dakota, in November, 1902, to Maggie Ness, who was born near Sacred Heart, Minnesota, the daughter of Ole Ness. Two child-

ren have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Kidney, as follows: Franklin A. and Maggie M.

O. E. ELNESS (1873), Christiania township farmer, has lived in that precinct since he was one year of age. He was born in Goodhue county, Minnesota, December 3, 1871, the son of Elling and Alan Elness. His parents were born in Norway and the father came to America in 1865 or 1866. He took a homestead claim in Christiania township in 1870. There he resided many years; now he lives in the state of Washington. The mother of our subject is dead.

Our subject came to Jackson county with his parents in the spring of 1873 and has ever since lived in Christiania township, engaged in farming, carpenter work and threshing. Mr. Elness owns 200 acres of land on section 17. He has stock in the telephone company of Windom, in the Christiania Creamery company and in the store at Bergen. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the Modern Woodmen and Sons of Norway lodges. He served two years as constable of Christiania township.

Mr. Elness was married October 5, 1895, to Betty Ingebritson. They are the parents of three children, named as follows: Edna, born August 8, 1897; Irene, born April 2, 1900; Orpha, born February 5, 1903.

JOHN GREIN (1891) is the manager of the Lakefield Tile and Drainage company. He was born in Hessen, Germany, March 10, 1869, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Lapp) Grein, both of whom died in their native country. John was educated in his native country and made his home with his parents until 1886. That year he came to the United States and located in LaSalle county, Illinois. One year later he took up his residence in Iroquois county, Illinois, where for four years he was employed as a farm hand.

During the time he was working in Illinois, in 1889, Mr. Grein came to Jackson county and bought an eighty acre tract of land in Rost township. In 1891 he became a resident of the county and has ever since made his home here. During the first year he worked at farm work; then he married and engaged in farming in Rost, having added to his real estate holdings by the purchase of another eighty acre tract. He farmed four years and then engaged in the

threshing business four years. Moving to Lakefield, he conducted a butcher shop one year, and then sold out and made a visit to Germany. Returning he engaged in the butcher business a short time, and for two years prior to 1908 engaged in the dredging business.

During the month of July, 1908, Mr. Grein in partnership with John Frederickson and A. C. Quivili organized the Lakefield Tile and Drainage company, and in October of the same year the company was incorporated with a capital stock of \$25,000. Mr. Quivili is president of the company, Mr. Frederickson secretary and Mr. Grein is treasurer and manager. It is the largest plant of the kind in Jackson county and employs ten men. The plant was started in July, 1909, and now manufactures cement drain tile, building blocks, etc. It covers an area of 60x150 feet and has a daily capacity of from 2,000 to 4,000 tile, the sizes manufactured ranging from four to twenty-two inch. There is a ready sale for the product and the company is meeting with success. A ditching machine is also owned by the company, utilized to cut trenches and lay the tile. It has a capacity of from 500 to 800 feet per day, according to the size of the tile and the depth of the ditch.

Mr. Grein was married in Rost township January 11, 1892, to Miss Anna Schultz, a native of Wisconsin. To this union have been born seven children, as follows: Henry, Willie, Herman, Lizzie, Alonia, Lilly and Mabel. The family are members of the German Lutheran church, of which Mr. Grein is treasurer and one of the elders. He is now serving his second term as a member of the village council.

JOHN G. LIEPOLD (1875) owns a quarter section farm in LaCrosse township, a few miles northwest of Heron Lake, upon which he has lived all except the first three months of his life. He was born in Austria May 9, 1875, and when an infant in arms was brought by his parents to the United States and to Jackson county.

The parents of our subject, Franz and Beatrice (Winkler) Liepold, came from the old country during the summer of 1875 and took as a homestead claim the east half of the southeast quarter of section 2, LaCrosse township, upon which they lived until the year 1901, when they sold the homestead to their son and moved to Heron Lake. Mrs. Liepold

died there February 13, 1905, at the age of 68 years. Their first house on the old homestead was made of sun-burned clay with a hay thatched roof. It still stands on the farm.

John worked on his father's farm until 1901. Then he married and, purchasing the home place, engaged in farming on his own account. He also owns the north half of the northwest quarter of section 1. Mr. Liepold is clerk of school district No. 44 and before taking that position held the office of director. He is a member of the Catholic church of Heron Lake and of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

Mr. Liepold was married in LaCrosse township October 15, 1901, to Anna Hedrick. She was born in Austria March 5, 1878, and is the daughter of Frank and Anna Hedrick, of Graham Lakes township, Nobles county. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Liepold, namely: Alphons, Irene and Beatrice.

JOHN L. STEINER (1888), carpenter and builder of Alpha, has resided in Jackson county since he was thirteen years of age. He was born in Calumet county, Wisconsin, April 4, 1875, the son of Anton and Magdalen (Bornlander) Steiner.

In his native county our subject lived until he was thirteen years of age. Then in 1888 he moved with his parents to Jackson county, and until he was of age lived with them on the farm a little northeast of the Jackson depot. Upon reaching his majority in 1896 he worked one year on a farm south of Jackson and the next year on a farm near Mallard, Iowa. In 1898 Mr. Steiner moved to the little town of Alpha and engaged in carpenter work, which he has since followed. He owns property in the village of Alpha and eighty acres of land in St. Louis county, Minnesota. He is a member of the Catholic church of Jackson and of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

Mr. Steiner was united in marriage to Miss Gertie Beckman, of Madelia. To them have been born the following named children: Louis, born December 14, 1904, died February 17, 1905; Herman J., born November 6, 1905; Bernard L., born November 14, 1907.

PAUL MOLDEN (1892) is a farmer and land-owner of Delafield township residing one mile east of the village of Wilder. He owns the



southwest quarter of section 9 and farms 200 acres of rented land in addition.

Mr. Molden's parents were H. G. and Mabel (Wal) Molden, both of whom died in Norway. Their children are Gilbert, Paul and Chestie, of whom the latter lives in the old country. Paul was born in Norway January 22, 1871. Until he was nineteen years of age he lived with his parents in his native land, assisting with the farm work and attending school. He came to America in 1890, lived one year at Sioux City, Iowa, one year in Cottonwood county, and then in 1892 came to Jackson county. For three years he worked out as a farm hand; then he bought his present farm—at the time unimproved—and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church, has been a director of the Wilder public schools for the past six years and has been road overseer for several years.

Mr. Molden was married in Delafield township October 25, 1894, to Tillie Skinrud, a daughter of Hans and Louisa Skinrud, pioneer settlers of Delafield township. She was born in Delafield December 11, 1876. One child, Mabel L., has been born to this union.

FREDERICK B. FABER (1895), junior member of the law firm of Knox & Faber of Jackson, is a native of Seymour, Connecticut, and was born January 13, 1865. His parents, Jacob P. and Mary C. (Conde) Faber, were natives of Germany, but come to the United States when young and were married in Seymour, Connecticut. His father died in that New England town; his mother still resides there.

Frederick B. Faber grew to manhood in Connecticut. In 1889 he was graduated from the Wesleyan university at Middletown, Connecticut, and later from the Minnesota Law school. In 1895 he moved to Jackson and began the practice of his profession and five years later formed a partnership with T. J. Knox.

On June 27, 1900, Mr. Faber was united in marriage to Miss Bertha S. Meyer, of Wabasha, Minnesota, and to them have been born two children: Henrietta and Russell C. Mr. Faber is a member of the Masonic and Modern Woodmen of America lodges.

AUGUSTUS TALLMAN (1884), in partnership with his brother Donald Tallman, farms

440 acres of land on section 10, Heron Lake township—land owned by their father, who resides in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Augustus is the eldest of a family of three children born to N. H. and Rhoda N. (Pollock) Tallman. He was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 16, 1880, and came to Jackson county with his parents in 1884. His father bought the north half of the north half of section 10, Heron Lake township, and upon that farm our subject was brought up. With the exception of three years spent as an engineer in a flouring mill at Jasper, Minnesota, Augustus has made his home on that farm ever since coming to the county. He worked for his father until 1905, when they moved back to their old home in Cedar Rapids. Since then Augustus and Donald Tallman have farmed the home place. In the spring of 1909 the elder Tallman bought the other property on section 10 and the boys farm that also. N. H. and Rhoda Tallman are natives of Ohio and Indiana, respectively. They located in Cedar Rapids in an early day.

Our subject was married in Jackson county February 17, 1904, to Ida Marquardt, who was born in Illinois February 17, 1886. She is the daughter of the late Lewis Marquardt and Minnie (Hasse) Marquardt, who lives in Lakefield. Three daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Tallman: Gertrude, born July 31, 1905; Edna, born March 8, 1907; Doris, born November 9, 1908. Mr. Tallman is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

Donald Tallman, a brother and partner of Augustus Tallman, was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 27, 1882. He has lived in Jackson county since his second birthday, securing an education in the district schools. brother rented the home place and began farming on their own account.

EDWARD MILBRATH (1883) in a West Heron Lake township farmer and the manager of the Okabena creamery. He was born on his father's homestead in Rost township, Jackson county, May 7, 1883, the eldest of a family of five living children. His father, Ferdinand Milbrath, was born in Germany and came to America when fourteen years of age. He lived in Wisconsin and Fillmore county, Minnesota, before locating in Jackson county. Upon his arrival to Jackson county he took a homestead claim in Rost township, where he

has ever since lived. The mother of our subject, Matilda (Meister) Milbrath, was born in Wisconsin.

Edward grew to manhood in Rost township, making his home with his parents. When a young man he left home and located in Lakefield, where he clerked in a hardware store three years. The next three years were spent clerking in a hardware store in Okabena, and then, in 1904, he bought his present 160 acre farm adjoining the Okabena townsite. He has made all the improvements on the place and has a fine home.

Mr. Milbrath has stock in the bank at Okabena and in the elevator and creamery of the same village, being the manager of the last named institution. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. For four years he was justice of the peace in West Heron Lake township and he is now one of the directors of school district No. 57.

In Heron Lake township on September 24, 1905, Mr. Milbrath was united in marriage to Emma Malchow. She is a daughter of C. F. W. Malchow and was born in Jackson county September 22, 1883.

BERT WILLFORD (1890) is a Hunter township farmer residing two and one-half miles southeast of Lakefield. He is a native of Cottonwood county and was born October 13, 1871, the son of John and Nancy (Allison) Willford. His father was born in Ohio January 2, 1824, and died September 20, 1881; his mother was born in Illinois May 5, 1828, and died May 18, 1892. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom Bert was the youngest.

When our subject was five years of age he accompanied his parents to Colorado, and that state was his home seven years. He then took up his residence in Spirit Lake, Iowa, where he lived until he came to Jackson county in 1890. Since his arrival here he has been engaged in farming, having rented the farm on section two, Hunter, where he now lives, in the spring of 1909. While a resident of Des Moines township Mr. Willford served four years as clerk of school district No. 7 and for six years he was constable of his precinct. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Willford was married at Jackson March 25, 1894, to Emmogene Wood, a native of Hamilton, Fillmore county, Minnesota, and a

daughter of J. H. Wood, of Des Moines township. To Mr. and Mrs. Willford have been born seven children, named as follows: John G., born April 23, 1895; Elmer R., born November 9, 1896; Arthur C., born August 5, 1899; Isabelle G., born July 3, 1901; Donald A., born April 4, 1906; Vernon L., born January 22, 1909; Violet V., born January 22, 1909.

THOMAS KULSETH (1879), of Christiania township, was born in Norway October 29, 1828, the son of John and Betsy (Thompson) Thompson, of whom the former died at the age of 65, the latter at the age of 97. Thomas received a common school education and after growing up engaged in farming. He lived in Norway over fifty years, and then came to America in the spring of 1879 and located in Christiania township, where he has ever since resided. He owns 160 acres of land on section 26.

Mr. Kulseth was married in 1851 to Gertrude Pauls. To them have been born seven daughters and one son, named as follows: Julia (Mrs. Anton Berge), of North Dakota; Bessie (Mrs. Peter Hoffland), of Jeffers, Minnesota; Carrie (Mrs. Peter Borgard), of Christiania; Sarah (Mrs. Ludwig Ehern), of Christiania; Bessie (Mrs. Albert Jacobson), of Christiania; Lena (Mrs. Paul Olson), deceased; Mary (Mrs. John Hamm), of Christiania; John, of Christiania. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

CHARLIE PETERSON (1880), who is engaged in the restaurant business at Jackson, is a Jackson county boy, having resided here since he was a boy five years of age. He is the son of the late John Peterson and Sophia Peterson. The former died in 1906 at the age of 67 years; the latter lives in Jackson. To these parents, in Christiania, Norway, Charlie Peterson was born October 29, 1875.

In 1880 the family emigrated to America and came direct to Jackson county, locating in Enterprise township. One year later the family home was made in Jackson and our subject has been a resident of that village ever since. He was educated in the Jackson schools and then began clerking. In 1898 he and his brother, Julius, went into the general merchandise business at Lakefield, which they

continued one year. Charlie enlisted in company H (Worthington), of the Fifteenth Minnesota Volunteer infantry, on July 5, 1898, at the time of the Spanish-American war, and served in the army until the muster out of the regiment on March 27, 1899. He was stationed with his regiment at Camps Ramsey and Snelling (St. Paul, Minnesota), Camp Meade (Harrisburg, Pa.), and Camp McKenzie (Augusta, Ga.) The regiment did not see service at the front. In 1908 Mr. Peterson formed a partnership with James Shay and purchased the restaurant of Albert Jackson, which the partners conducted until the spring of 1909. At that time Mr. Peterson purchased his partner's interests and has since conducted the business alone. He has built up an excellent trade and is doing a prosperous business.

Mr. Peterson was married at Sherburn, Minnesota, May 4, 1908, to Minnie Schwager, a native of Martin county. To this union has been born one child, Ronald. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are members of the Lutheran church.

MIKE WHISNEY (1891), of Des Moines township, is a native of Slovis, Austria, and he was born November 25, 1865, the son of Andrew and Mary (Zepi) Whisney. The first sixteen years of his life were spent in his native land, attending school and working for his parents on the farm. He came to the United States in 1881 to make his fortune in the new world, his earthly possessions at the time of his arrival being a five cent piece.

Mr. Whisney worked as a teamster a few months in Hazeltown, Pennsylvania, drove a team in a stone quarry a couple of years at Marble Head, Illinois, was in Chicago a few months, worked in the coal mines of Streator, Illinois, for a time, worked as a farm hand near Sibley, Iowa, several years, and again took up his residence in Streator for a short time. He came to Jackson county in 1891 and with the savings of former years bought the northwest quarter of section 30, Des Moines township, and began farming. Later he added to his holdings until today he has a fine farm of 206 acres, all of the improvements upon which he has made. The boy who landed in America twenty-eight years ago has prospered. He is vice president of the Des Moines-Hunter Telephone company, is a member of the school board of district No. 11, and has served six years as road overseer.

Mr. Whisney was married at Streator, Illinois, May 10, 1887, to Annie Riko, also a native of Austria. They are the parents of six children, named as follows: John, Joseph, Mary, Julia, Mike and Lawrence. The family are members of the Lutheran church and Mr. Whisney is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

HENRY F. POHLMAN (1884) is one of Jackson county's successful farmers, having a fine home on the east shore of Heron lake in Heron Lake and Weimer townships, where he owns 166 acres. He was born April 29, 1873, in kreis Minden, Holtzhausen, Westfalen, Germany, son of the late Carl Pohlman and Christina (Gieselman) Pohlman.

Until he was eleven years of age Henry lived in his native land. In 1884 he accompanied the family to America, arriving in the little village of Lakefield on March 24. The head of the family bought a farm on section 8, Heron Lake township, and that was the home of our subject seven years. Thereafter until his marriage in 1897 he lived with his parents on section 2, West Heron Lake township. He received an education in the district schools and in the German school of Delafield township. After his marriage in 1897 Mr. Pohlman moved onto his present farm, which he had bought two years before, and upon that farm he has ever since made his home. He has made all the improvements on the farm.

In addition to his farming operations Mr. Pohlman has other business interests. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator company of Lakefield, in the First National Bank of Lakefield, in the Jackson County Cooperative company's store at Lakefield and in the Sontag Lumber company of Heron Lake. Besides his home farm Mr. Pohlman owns a half interest in a half section farm in Griggs county, North Dakota. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Pohlman was married in Heron Lake township June 7, 1897, to Alvina Malchow, who was born in Heron Lake township April 11, 1877, and who is the daughter of C. F. W. and Augusta (Kietzer) Malchow, of Lakefield. To Mr. and Mrs. Pohlman have been born the following named four children: Louisa, born May 7, 1898; Emil, born July 15, 1902; Arnold, born May 5, 1904; Esther, born September 13, 1906.

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**F. E. MALCHOW**  
A Wilder Business Man.



**WILLIAM G. MALCHOW**  
Cashier of the Farmers State Bank, Wilder.



**SAMUEL L. RANK**  
Postmaster of Wilder.



**LOUIS KIESEL**  
A Jackson Business Man.

JESS A. HOLM (1890) is one of the successful farmers of Wisconsin township and has been a resident of the county twenty years. He is of Danish birth and first saw the light of day July 18, 1863. He is the only child of the late Peter Holm and Annie (Scott) Holm. His father died in Jackson December 14, 1905, aged 68 years. His mother makes her home with her son and is 75 years of age.

Jess received his education in Denmark and spent the first seventeen years of his life in his native land, residing with his parents. He came to the United States with his parents in 1880 and located at Burlington, Iowa. From the time of his arrival until 1890 he worked in the shops of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. In the last named year he came to Minnesota, and, after living six months in Martin county, became a resident of Jackson county. With the exception of three years, when he was engaged in farming in Enterprise township, Mr. Holm has resided upon his present farm ever since coming to the county. He farms 585 acres of land, raises considerable stock and milks twenty-five cows. He is also quite an extensive hay dealer, shipping from twelve to fifteen cars annually.

Mr. Holm was married at Burlington, Iowa, October 10, 1884, to Amanda Selburg, a native of Keokuk, Iowa. Her parents were both natives of Sweden and both are dead. Mr. and Mrs. Holm are the parents of four children: Emma, born June 21, 1886; Hans, born August 20, 1888; Nellie, born April 12, 1890; Bennie, born January 24, 1892. Mr. Holm is a member of the Danish Brotherhood lodge and for the past four years has been treasurer of school district No. 14.

LOUIS L. JOHNSON (1901), assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Jackson, was born in Burr Oak, Kansas, October 6, 1879, a son of Bennet H. and Martha (Moore) Johnson, natives of Connecticut and Vermont, respectively. These parents were among the very early settlers of Jackson county, having come here from Sauk county, Wisconsin, in 1865. They homesteaded in Wisconsin township, where they resided until 1873. That year the family moved to Kansas, which was the family home until recent years, when B. H. Johnson and family again became residents of Jackson county.

Louis grew to manhood in the Sunflower

state. He was educated in the Burr Oak public schools and in the Kansas Wesleyan Business college. After his graduation from the business college Mr. Johnson entered the Jewell County National Bank, where he was employed as a clerk until he came to Jackson county in 1901. He located in Jackson and took the position of assistant cashier in the First National Bank, which he has since held.

Mr. Johnson was married at Burr Oak, Kansas, June 20, 1907, to Ethel Olney, a native of that place and a daughter of A. N. and Lida Olney. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Masonic and Woodmen lodges. He owns a home in the city.

LEONARD ACKERMAN (1903) is a Rost township farmer. He was born in Livingston county, Illinois, July 3, 1874, one of a family of seven children born to Hiram and Rempke (Leenderas) Ackerman. His parents were of German birth and came to America in 1854. They lived, respectively, near St. Louis, Missouri, in Adams county, Illinois, and in Livingston county, of the same state. His father now resides in that county and is 87 years of age. His mother died in 1884.

Leonard spent nearly his entire life in Livingston county, Illinois, receiving his education in the district schools and working for his father until nineteen years of age. At that age he took the management of his father's farm and conducted it until the year 1903. That year he came to Jackson county and located upon his present farm in Rost township--the southeast quarter of section 10.

Mr. Ackerman was married in Livingston county, Illinois, February 20, 1895, to Dorothea T. Post. She is the daughter of Albert J. Post and was born in the county in which she was married. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman, as follows: Harm, Albert, Reinhard, Theodor, Frances, Paulus and Annie. Mr. Ackerman served as justice of the peace of his precinct during 1906 and 1907.

F. E. MALCHOW (1877) is the manager of the implement business of Malchow Brothers of Wilder. He is the son of Charles and Christine (Kilen) Malchow. During the hard times of the seventies Charles Malchow and family, who had settled in Heron Lake township in an early day, were obliged to temporarily

abandon the farm and seek employment at Mankato. It was during a temporary residence in that town, on the 16th day of February, 1877, that F. E. Malchow of this sketch was born. The family returned to the farm in Heron Lake township the year of his birth.

Our subject grew to manhood and was educated in the county. After completing the course of study furnished in the country school he attended the Breck school at Wilder two years. He made his home on his father's farm until seventeen years of age. The next five years of his life were spent in Windom, in the employ of a Windom merchant. Returning to Wilder, he worked at the grain business several years—one and one-half years for C. W. Gillam, one year for the Citizens Elevator company, and then for Thom & Christensen until August, 1907.

In 1907 Mr. Malchow went to Lincoln county, Colorado, where he took a homestead and resided one year. He and his brother, J. C. Malchow, are now the owners of a stock and dairy farm in that county. Returning to Wilder in 1908, Mr. Malchow took the management of the implement house of Malchow Brothers and has been engaged in that business since. The firm of which he is now the manager was organized May 1, 1905, his partner being J. C. Malchow.

Mr. Malchow was married at Wahpeton, North Dakota, January 16, 1901, to Stella Wellington, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of S. A. Wellington. The latter, who now lives in Windom, is a veteran of the civil war and an ex-prisoner of Andersonville and Libby prisons. To Mr. and Mrs. Malchow have been born two children: Althea W., born September 4, 1905, and Samuel Byron, born March 16, 1909. Mr. Malchow served as president of the Wilder village council several years and was a member of the board of education three years. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

ROLLEN W. LIVENGOD (1902), manager and owner of the Jackson Plan-sifter flouring mill, has not been a resident of Jackson county a great many years, but he was born in the neighboring county of Martin. The date of his birth was April 30, 1873, and he is the son of R. F. and Ophelia (Fallett) Livengood, natives of Pennsylvania and New York state,

respectively. The father came to Fillmore county, Minnesota, when seven years of age. He is now living and is 62 years old. The mother of our subject is living at the age of 60 years. Rollen is one of a family of four children, his brothers and sister being Fred R., John S. and Nellie V.

Rollen grew to manhood in Martin county and was educated in the public schools of Sherburn and Fairmont. Until he was sixteen years of age he lived at home and assisted with the work in his father's flouring mill at Fairmont. He then set out in life for himself, working from that time until 1902 in flouring mills in different parts of this state and at Egan, South Dakota, where he was for one and one-half years. In 1902 he moved to Jackson and bought a half interest in the flouring mill at that point, his father being the owner of the other half interest. In the summer of 1909 he purchased his father's interest and is now sole owner. The mill is one of the town's important industries. Mr. Livengood manufactures flour and feed and deals in fuel. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge and holds the office of past grand in that institution.

Mr. Livengood was married at Fairmont on Christmas day, 1891, to Mary Youmans, a native of Martin county and a daughter of Levi and Samantha Youmans, both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Livengood has been born one child, R. Jay Livengood, born May 12, 1893.

JOSEPH HAYOSTEK (1897), Hunter township farmer, was born in Hungary in March, 1861, the son of Matt and Mary Hayostek, both of whom died in their native land.

Joseph was brought up on a farm and lived in Hungary until 1886. That year he emigrated to America and for the next eleven years was employed at railroad work and in factories in Elk and other counties of Pennsylvania and in Ohio. He came to Jackson county in 1897, bought a farm on section 33, Hunter township, lived there four years, and then bought his present farm, the southeast quarter of section 32, where he has ever since resided. He is a member of the Catholic church and is a director of school district No. 113.

Mr. Hayostek was married in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1886, to Mary Buday, who died in March, 1892. As a result of this union three

children were born, named as follows: Steve, Mary, Annie. The second marriage of Mr. Hayostek occurred in Elk county, Pennsylvania, in November, 1892, when he wedded Annie Kubis. Three sons have been born to this marriage, as follows: Frank, Mike and Joseph.

**WILLIAM A. McQUILLIN** (1872), of Middletown township, has been a resident of the county since he was three years of age. He owns the west half of the southwest quarter of section 30, Middletown, and farms a rented quarter section in addition.

Mr. McQuillin is a native of Hamilton, Fillmore county, Minnesota, and was born August 15, 1869, the son of Ezra L. and Annie (Waite) McQuillin. When he was three years of age he moved with the family to Jackson county. His mother died when he was four years of age, and thereafter he made his home with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac C. Waite. He was educated in the country schools of Minneota township, and took a two years' course in Pillsbury academy. Until eleven years ago William made his home with his grandparents on section 36, Minneota. Then his grandfather sold the Minneota property and bought the farm which our subject now owns. After reaching his majority, Mr. McQuillin worked for his grandfather on the farm for wages, and after the latter's death, three years ago, he inherited the property and has since made his home there.

Mr. McQuillin was married at Spirit Lake, Iowa, April 2, 1902, to Miss May Farmer, a native of Dickinson county. To them have been born three children, as follows: Vera, Geraldine and a baby girl.

Our subject holds the office of clerk of school district No. 12 and has served as constable and school treasurer. He is a member of the Baptist church of Loon Lake.

**JOHN QUALEY** (1888), wagon maker of Jackson, was born in Norway May 31, 1806, one of a family of four children born to Svend and Martha (Larson) Qualey, who still make their home in their native land.

John Qualey was brought up in the home of his grandparents, was educated in the schools of Norway and emigrated to the United States in 1888, coming direct to Jackson. For

three years he worked at odd jobs. He took a position in O. A. Sathé's wagon shop in 1891 and continued in that gentleman's employ, with the exception of one year, until October, 1907. Then he purchased the shop and has since conducted it. In addition to this business he is secretary of the Jackson Building and Loan association. He is a member of the Lutheran church and of the A. O. U. W. and Sons of Norway lodges.

Mr. Qualey was married in Jackson January 17, 1897, to Anna Lee, who was born in Norway and who came to the United States in 1888. To Mr. and Mrs. Qualey have been born three children: Martha J., Albert C. and Thorina B.

**SIEBEND H. SAATHOFF** (1890) owns and farms 120 acres on section 28, Wisconsin township. He is a native German and was born September 19, 1870. His father, Heie Saathoff, came to America in 1882 and settled in Iroquois county, Illinois, where he died the following year. The mother of our subject, Annie (Wioltzen) Saathoff, resided in Illinois until 1890, when she and her sons moved to Jackson county.

Siebend came to America with his parents in 1882 and to Jackson county with his mother in 1890. He rented the farm upon which he now lives, farmed it twelve years, and then bought it. Upon his arrival he had bought an eighty acre tract on section 27, which he rented, and sold that three years ago, and bought the forty acre tract on the southwest quarter of section 28. He has made all the improvements now on his farm, including the grove. Siebend is the youngest of three brothers, the other two of whom, Henry and Heie, own land and reside in the same precinct. Mr. Saathoff is treasurer of the Des Moines German Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance company of Jackson and Martin counties, an office he has held for the last seven years. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Saathoff was married in Jackson county February 27, 1897, to Augusta Werner, a native of Chicago, Illinois, and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August Werner, of Petersburg township. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Saathoff, namely, Henry, born November 28, 1898; Emma, born March 15, 1900; Albert,



born January 24, 1903; Eddie, born December 7, 1905; Clara, born November 27, 1908.

MARTIN B. HOFSTAD (1881) is a Delafield township farmer residing only a short distance from Windom. He was born in Norway January 3, 1862, the son of Benjamin and Ingar (Houghdal) Hofstad and one of a family of five boys and two girls. The father of our subject died in Norway December 17, 1892, aged 82 years; his mother lives in the old country and is 80 years of age.

Martin came to America and to Jackson county in 1881 when nineteen years of age. For several years he worked for farmers in the vicinity of his present home and then he spent several years in Minneapolis and in the northern pineries. He spent one year in Alaska, and returning to the states, again came to Jackson county. He conducted a restaurant in Lakefield four years and then located on his present place and has since been engaged in farming. His farm consists of 160 acres on section 2.

Mr. Hofstad was married in Delafield township December 4, 1898, to Albertina Olson Saxhaug, daughter of Claus Olson Saxhaug, who homesteaded the farm upon which Mr. Hofstad now resides in 1870 and resided there until his death December 25, 1885. Mrs. Hofstad was born in Norway June 23, 1864, and came to the United States when two years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Hofstad have no children of their own, but they have an adopted daughter, Mariah, born October 16, 1896.

Mr. Hofstad is a member of the A. F. & A. M., the I. O. O. F. and the Maccabee lodges and the Norwegian Lutheran church.

MARTIN ARNDT (1896) is a farmer and landowner of Des Moines township, having a fine home on section 31. He owns the southeast quarter of that section and the west half of the southwest quarter of section 29. He is a native of Germany and was born October 18, 1861, the eldest of a family of five children born to Anton and Rosa (Kanthack) Arndt, both deceased.

The first twenty-three years of the life of our subject were spent in his native land. He attended school and worked for his parents and served two years in the German army. In 1884 he came to America, worked on a farm

near Milbank, South Dakota, until the next spring, and then located at Fairmont, Minnesota. He resided there two years, working as a farm hand one year and on the railroad one year. He worked on the railroad at Huntley, Minnesota, four years and then rented a farm in Faribault county, which he conducted until 1896. That year he came to Jackson county and located upon his farm in Des Moines township, which he had bought before coming to reside permanently. Later he bought his other farm land on section 29.

Mr. Arndt was married at Fairmont, Minnesota, February 14, 1886, to Susana Wiacorack, who was born in Germany and who died October 6, 1901, at the age of thirty-eight years. Six children were born to this union, named as follows: Anna, Martha, Paul, Joseph, John and Bruno. The family are members of the Catholic church at Jackson. He was a township supervisor two years and is at present a member of the school board of district No. 11.

FERDINAND PLAGMAN (1893), farmer and stock raiser of Sioux Valley township, was born in Propststei, Holstein, Germany, November 6, 1848, the son of Hans and Catherine Plagman.

Ferdinand's parents died before he was six months old and he was taken into the family of an uncle and aunt, with whom he lived until he was ten years of age. Then he went to live with a family in the country and made his home there until a man grown. In 1874 he came to America and located in Scott county, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm hand until 1881. He spent the next year working on a farm in Crawford county, Iowa, and in 1882 moved to the vicinity of Holstein, Ida county, where he leased an eighty acre tract of land and engaged in farming one season. We next find Mr. Plagman in Lyon county, Iowa, where he bought a 120 acre farm and farmed until 1893.

In the fall of 1893 Mr. Plagman came to Jackson county and bought his farm, the southwest quarter of section 1, Sioux Valley township, then only slightly improved. He did not at once begin farming the place, but rented it to Herman Frodermann for a number of years. In 1895 Mr. Plagman returned to his old home in Germany, where he spent fourteen months visiting. Returning, he bought

forty acres of land in the southern part of Sioux Valley township and farmed it ten years. A few years ago Mr. Plagman took possession of his farm on section 1, where he has since resided. He is quite an extensive stock raiser and is a successful farmer. Mr. Plagman served as treasurer of school district No. 72 for six years. He belongs to the Sons of Hermann lodge.

In Dennison, Crawford county, Iowa, on August 20, 1896, Mr. Plagman was married to Mary Fenern, who was born in Holstein, Germany, January 21, 1860. To them has been born one child, Harry, born November 3, 1897. By a former marriage Mrs. Plagman is the mother of one child, Otto Fenern.

**WILLIAM F. DREWS** (1903), cashier and manager of the Farmers State Bank of Heron Lake, is a native of Carver county, Minnesota, and was born November 20, 1883. He is the fifth child of a family of nine children born to G. Drews and Augusta Drews. These parents now reside at Seaforth, Minnesota.

When William was six months old the family moved to Gibbon, Sibley county, Minnesota, and that was the family home fifteen years, William securing his education in the public schools of Gibbon. He located in Seaforth, Redwood county, and engaged in the hotel business with his father until 1903. That year he moved to Heron Lake and took a position as bookkeeper in the Farmers State Bank. He was made assistant cashier in 1905 and cashier in 1908 and has had charge of the bank for the past three years. Mr. Drews is a member of the Heron Lake village council. Fraternally he is associated with the Masonic, Eastern Star and Woodmen lodges.

The marriage of our subject occurred in Heron Lake June 20, 1907, when he wedded Jennie Smith, a native of Heron Lake and a daughter of John T. Smith.

**JOHN C. WENDELSDORF** (1882), Petersburg township farmer, was born in Greengarden, Illinois, March 25, 1879, and is the son of John and Mary (Week) Wendelsdorf, of the same township.

John Wendelsdorf, the father of our subject, was born in Germany October 13, 1845, came to the United States when twenty-one years of age, and located in Greengarden, Illinois,

where he lived fifteen years. He then came to Jackson county and located on section 17, Petersburg township, where he has since lived. He was married to Mary Week June 29, 1868. He owns 360 acres of land in Petersburg.

John C. Wendelsdorf of this sketch accompanied his parents to Jackson county in the spring of 1882. He received a common school education and until he was twenty-five years of age lived on the home farm. Since that time he has been engaged in business for himself, farming the southeast quarter of section 19.

Mr. Wendelsdorf was married October 25, 1905, to Miss Mary Hesel. To them have been born two children: Mabel, born October 11, 1906; Irene, born August 5, 1908.

**TILBERT THORESON** (1886), Christiania township farmer, was born in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, June 22, 1881, the oldest child born to Anton and Carrie (Larson) Thoreson. When he was five years of age he accompanied his parents to Jackson county, where he has ever since lived. After growing to manhood he engaged in farming, and he now farms the northeast quarter of section 31. He is a member of the Lutheran church.

The parents of our subject were natives of Norway. The father was a well digger and farmer. He died in 1895. His widow makes her home with the subject of this biography. There are six children in the family, namely: Tilbert, born June 22, 1881; Olof, born January 24, 1885; Lizzie, born November 28, 1888; Igman, born September 16, 1890; Emil, born October 12, 1893; Clara, born December 19, 1894.

**JOHN A. NAVARA** (1887), rural mail carrier from the Lakefield office, was born in Chicago May 18, 1878, the son of Vit and Mary (Kosticka) Navara. His parents were born in Bohemia, came to America after their marriage and settled in Chicago. They came to Jackson county in 1887 and lived on the farm in Hunter township until 1907, when they moved to Lakefield, and now make their home with their son.

John came to Jackson county with his parents in 1887 and until he was a young man made his home on his father's farm, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 16,

Hunter township. He attended the district schools of Hunter township and the high schools of Jackson and Lakefield, and when nineteen years of age took a course in the Metropolitan Business college of Chicago. For a time after his school days he worked in Lakefield at various occupations, and in 1901 took the position of mail carrier, which has since been his occupation.

Mr. Navara was married at Chicago August 16, 1904, to Tesse Felix, who was born in Chicago October 13, 1884. She is the daughter of John and Tesse Felix. Her father died nine years ago; her mother lives in Chicago. To Mr. and Mrs. Navara have been born three children, as follows: Elsie, born June 3, 1905; Theodore J., born May 9, 1906, died January 1, 1909; Lawrence, born September 9, 1908. The family are members of the Lakefield Catholic church. He is a member of the Western Catholic Union of Jackson and of the Modern Woodmen lodge. He holds membership in the Rural Letter Carriers association and is treasurer of the Jackson county branch.

JOHN L. HOFLAND owns a 120 acre farm on sections 14 and 13, Delafeld township, where he has lived his entire life, having been born on that farm. His parents were Andrew and Carrie (Thompson) Hofland, natives of Norway and Wisconsin, respectively.

His parents homesteaded the farm in 1870 and spent the rest of their years on the place. There John grew to manhood and in the district school he was educated. His father died when John was nine years of age, and soon thereafter he took the active management of the place, continuing to make his home with his mother until her death July 13, 1907. He now has charge of the estate. John is the oldest of five children, the other children being Sophia Dahl, of Canada; Lena Matson, of Jackson county; Augusta Hanson, of Edgerton, Minnesota; Emma, who resides with her brother.

Mr. Hofland is unmarried. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Windom and of the M. W. A. lodge. He served one year as road overseer.

AUGUST KIELBLOCK (1892) is a Wisconsin township farmer and land owner, residing on the southwest quarter of section 35. He is

a native of Brandenburg, Germany, and was born August 9, 1859, the son of Carl and Charlotte (Fogel) Kielblock, both deceased.

August received a common school education in his native land and resided there until twenty-three years of age, engaging in farming after growing up. He came to the United States in 1882 and located at Minonk, Illinois. He moved to Kewanee, Henry county, in 1884 and resided there until 1892. During part of the time of his residence in Illinois he was engaged in farming, the rest of the time he was employed by a steam heating company. Mr. Kielblock came to Jackson county in March, 1892, and has since been engaged in farming in Wisconsin township. He owns 160 acres of land and has stock in several local enterprises, including a creamery, elevator and horse company. He has served as school treasurer nine years and has held other official positions.

Mr. Kielblock was married May 30, 1884, to Miss Caroline Zobal, who was born April 4, 1865. To them have been born the following named eight children: Winnie L. M., born November 21, 1887; Caroline M. A., born December 13, 1889; Anna D., born September 7, 1891; Edwin A. H., born November 28, 1893; August George O., born October 6, 1896; William H. A., born March 22, 1899; Frederick C., born July 12, 1901; Theodore H. E., born November 2, 1905. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

JOHN M. SAWYER (1885), Hunter township farmer, was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, August 12, 1860, the son of Robert and Louisa (McUmbur) Sawyer, natives of Scotland and New York state, respectively. John's father died when the subject of this biography was five years old, and soon afterward he and his mother located in Tama county, Iowa. His mother bought a farm there, and there young Sawyer was educated and grew to manhood.

John worked on his mother's farm in Tama county until 1885; then they came to Jackson county and located on section 15, Hunter township, where our subject still managed his mother's farm until 1890. That year he was married, bought his present farm on section 12, and has ever since been engaged in farming for himself. His mother died in Grundy county, Iowa, in 1905.

Mr. Sawyer was married at Eureka Springs,

Arkansas, January 5, 1890, to Ella Puckett, a native of Illinois. To them have been born the following named nine children: James, Sarah, Mary, Jessie, Charles, deceased; Rosa, Aggie, Thomas and Allen. For a number of years Mr. Sawyer was clerk of school district No. 15. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge.

CLAUS KNUTH (1891), farmer of Ewington township, was born in Germany August 11, 1864, the second of a family of eight children living. His father is Henry Knuth, who in the old country was a rope maker and who now makes his home with his son. Our subject's mother, who is now dead, was Wiebke (Clodius) Knuth.

Claus made his home with his parents and attended school until he was sixteen years of age. Then he worked one year in his father's rope and harness shop. He came to the United States in 1881 and located in Woodford county, Illinois, where he worked out as a farm laborer until 1890. That year he came to Jackson county and bought his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 25, Ewington township. He did not locate on his farm at once, but for several years lived on an uncle's farm on section 16. Later he improved his own place and has since made his home there. Mr. Knuth has been a member of the township board for the past six or seven years and he has served as school director of district No. 54 for the last two years. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Knuth was married in Jackson county May 8, 1898, to Flora Janssen, a native of Illinois. They have six children, as follows: Margaret, John, Henry, Hannah, Willie and Mary.

JOSEPH H. GRAVES (1899) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 31, Des Moines township. He is a native of Stark county, Illinois, and was born March 22, 1875. His parents, James and Caroline (Fling) Graves, were born in Ohio, came to Illinois in the early days, and now reside in Iroquois county of that state, aged 68 and 64 years, respectively. They are the parents of six children, as follows: Ida, Isaac, Laura, Anna, Joseph and Leroy.

Joseph, the next to the youngest of this fam-

ily, accompanied his parents from Stark county, Illinois, to Indianapolis, Indiana, when four years of age, and later he located with them in Iroquois county, Illinois, where he received his education and grew to manhood. He came to Jackson county in 1899, and until the fall of 1908 farmed rented farms in Des Moines and Middletown townships. He then bought his present quarter section and took possession in the spring of 1909. He is a director of the Jackson Cooperative association and is a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge.

The marriage of our subject occurred in Iroquois county, Illinois, May 5, 1896, when he wedded Mary Purviance, a native of Union county, Iowa, and a daughter of Mark and Katherine Purviance. Seven children have been born to this union, namely: Mary Frances, Harry Purviance, Katherine Matilda, Charles Henry, Bruce Edward, Walter Howard, Joseph Leroy.

F. H. SANDER (1899) owns and farms the northwest quarter of section 19, Petersburg township. He is a native of the city of Chicago and was born September 22, 1872, the son of F. H. and Annie C. (Reiles) Sander.

When he was three years old our subject moved with his parents to Middleton, Dane county, Wisconsin, and resided there until he was twenty-five years of age. He spent one year in Roberts county, South Dakota, and then came to Jackson county in the spring of 1899, and that fall took up his residence in Cottonwood county. He there engaged in farming for himself. He returned to Jackson county in the spring of 1901, bought his present farm, and has ever since made his home there. He has stock in the Middletown Telephone company, in the Jackson County Fair association and in the Peoples Cooperative company. He served three years as a director of the school district in which he lives.

Mr. Sander was married November 22, 1899, to Minnie A. Kreyssler, a native of Petone, Illinois, and a daughter of John and Maria Kreyssler, and to them have been born the following named children: Julia, born September 12, 1901, died March 4, 1909; Leona, born January 20, 1904; Leverna, born June 24, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Sander are members of the Evangelical church.

FRANK G. ALBERTUS (1899), proprietor of the Albertus Clothing company's store at Jackson, was born in Owatonna, Minnesota, February 14, 1881, the son of G. F. and Elizabeth (Hoefler) Albertus, the former being a pioneer merchant and real estate dealer of Owatonna, who died at that place October 21, 1909.

Frank spent his boyhood days in his native city, being educated in the high school of that city and in Pillsbury Military academy, having been graduated from the latter school. In 1898 he moved to Worthington and for one year was employed as clerk in the clothing store of his brother, A. R. Albertus. He moved to Jackson in 1899 and for a little less than three years clerked in the store of Burnham Bros. & Co. He organized the Albertus Clothing company in 1902, opened the store and has since been at the head of that institution. He holds membership in Good Faith Lodge No. 90, A. F. & A. M.

Mr. Albertus was married in Jackson August 24, 1904, to Mina O. Matteson, a native of Jackson county and a daughter of Benjamin and Jannett Matteson, pioneers of the county. To Mr. and Mrs. Albertus has been born one child, Gladys, who was born on June 30, 1908.

DR. HERBERT L. ARZT (1901) is a practicing physician in the village of Jackson, where he has resided for the last eight years. He is a native of the city of St. Paul, where he was born June 22, 1875, the son of Christian and Caroline (Erkle) Arzt.

The father of our subject was born in Germany, his mother in the city of Paris. Coming to the United States when young and before their marriage, they lived respectively in New York City, in Ohio, and in St. Paul, where they were married fifty-five years ago in the first brick building erected in that city. Christian Arzt, whose life occupation was contracting, still lives in St. Paul and is seventy-nine years of age. Caroline Arzt died in St. Paul in 1908 at the age of seventy-eight years. Herbert is one of a family of ten children, of whom the following four are living: E. A. Arzt, of Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. James W. Turner and Mrs. Thomas L. Smith, of St. Paul, and the subject of this biography.

Dr. Arzt was graduated from the St. Paul high school and took a scientific course in the

Minnesota state university. After securing his general education he matriculated in Rush Medical college of Chicago, from which institution he was graduated in 1901. After a short service in the Presbyterian hospital of Chicago, in the fall of 1901, Dr. Arzt moved to Jackson and began the practice of his profession, and that village has since been his home. In the fall of 1909 he took a postgraduate course in the New York Polyclinic Hospital.

Dr. Arzt is coroner of Jackson county, having been elected in the fall of 1908; is medical examiner for the M. W. A. lodge, and is a director of the Jackson Building & Loan association. He is a member of the Masonic, Odd Fellows and Modern Woodmen lodges.

In Jackson on July 3, 1907, Dr. Arzt was united in marriage to Miss Blanche J. Paddock, daughter of G. B. Paddock, of Jackson, one of the county's pioneers. Mrs. Arzt is a graduate of the Jackson high school, and for seven years before her marriage was principal of one of the schools in the city of Meriden, Connecticut.

JOHN GRUNST (1890), farmer and stock raiser of Enterprise township, was born in Germany June 22, 1874, the son of Carl and Gustie (Schultz) Grunst, both of whom reside in Enterprise. His father served three years in the German army and has been engaged in farming all his life.

John lived in the fatherland until he was six years of age. He came to America with his parents in 1880, lived in Cook county, Illinois, ten years, and then, in March, 1890, came to Jackson county. He resided with his parents until 1902, and then began farming for himself. He farmed the southwest quarter of section 2, Enterprise, for three years, and then moved to his present location, the northwest quarter of section 3. Besides general farming he breeds Shorthorn cattle, Poland China swine and Belgian and Percheron horses. He owns stock in the Farmers Elevator company of Alpha.

Mr. Grunst was married October 23, 1901, to Miss Bertha Wolff, who was born January 12, 1883. To them have been born the following named children: George, born in 1902; Willie, born 1903; Earl, born 1905, died 1908; Elsie, born 1907. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Kimball.



**ARTHUR F. ROSE**  
Author of the History.



**ALTON B. CHEADLE**  
Cashier First National Bank, Jackson.



**DR. HERBERT L. ARZT**  
Jackson Physician and Surgeon.

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

LOUIS KRUMWIEDE, (1899) is a farmer and landowner of Hunter township, residing two and one-half miles east of Lakefield. His parents are Henry and Dora (Sternberg) Krumwiede, who reside in Iroquois county, Illinois. They came from Germany soon after their marriage, lived a few years in Cook county, Illinois, and in the early seventies located in Iroquois county. They are the parents of nine children, as follows: Mary, Henry, August, Fred, Louis, Emma, Bertha, Will and George.

Louis was born in Cook county, Illinois, January 22, 1864. When a child he accompanied his parents to Iroquois county, and that was his home until he came to Jackson county. He was educated in the district schools and in a German school at Buckley, and worked on his father's farm until twenty-five years of age. He was married in 1889 and for the next ten years engaged in farming on his own account and worked at the carpenter's trade in Buckley, which he followed three years. Mr. Krumwiede came to Jackson county in 1899 and bought the northeast quarter of section 2, Hunter township, upon which he has since resided. On the place at the time of purchase was a dug-out, built by an early settler. This he has replaced by a modern home and he has made other improvements, including a complete system of tiling.

At Buckley, Iroquois county, Illinois, on December 18, 1889, Mr. Krumwiede was united in marriage to Mary Larson, who was born in Cook county, Illinois, November 20, 1870. To them have been born two children: Malinda (Mrs. Charles Severson), of Enterprise township, born October 13, 1890; Leonard, born January 14, 1893. Mr. Krumwiede is a member of the German Lutheran church.

GUIDO E. PIETSCH (1878) is a farmer and stock raiser of LaCrosse township, his 240 acre farm being only a short distance from Miloma. He is an early day settler of northwestern Jackson county and has lived on his present place ever since he was seven years of age.

Our subject was born in Austria November 19, 1871, the son of Joseph and Rosalia (Klapka) Pietsch. The former was born February 6, 1830, came to the United States and to Jackson county in 1878, and died April 14, 1898. The latter was born in 1829 and is now living

in Jackson county. Our subject is one of a family of eleven children born to these parents, the other children being: Franz, who resides in Austria, born November 5, 1851; Josef, of Mankato, born January 24, 1854; Alois, born January 12, 1856, died February 12, 1856; Aloisia, of Murray county, born January 18, 1857; Alois, of Madison Lake, Minnesota, born December 14, 1858; Marie, of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, born September 5, 1860; Johann, of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, born September 20, 1862; Francisca, of Nobles county, born June 17, 1865; Edward, born February 12, 1868, died March 20, 1868; Adolph, of Aberdeen, Washington, born January 19, 1869.

Guido accompanied the family from their Austrian home to America in June, 1878, and has ever since made his home on the farm he now owns. The head of the family bought the land upon arrival, it being then without a building of any description on it, and only five or six acres had been broken. The Pietschs put up buildings and at once started to make their fortune in the new world. The grasshoppers and a series of wet seasons brought hard times to the family, who were poor when they arrived, having only enough money to pay half of the purchase price of the land, and during the first five years of their residence in Jackson county they suffered many hardships. Our subject was educated in the district school of the neighborhood and until he was twenty-six years of age worked for his father. At that age he bought the home farm and has since conducted it to his own account. He has since added to the farm by the purchase of eighty acres adjoining and has developed the place to a well improved farm. He diversifies his farming, raising considerable stock and engaging quite extensively in dairying.

Mr. Pietsch was elected clerk of school district No. 97 in 1899 and served in that capacity during the next five years. Thereafter he was chosen a director of his district and filled the office four years. Again in 1909 he was elected clerk and now holds the office. He was chosen road overseer when he was twenty-one years of age and held the office four years. He and his family are members of the Catholic church of Heron Lake.

The marriage of Mr. Pietsch occurred at Heron Lake July 20, 1897, when he wedded Cecelia Winkler, who was born on section 28,



LaCrosse township, June 19, 1878. She is a daughter of Frank and Marie (Jones) Winkler, who came to Jackson county in 1876 and who are now living at Currie, Minnesota. Mr. Winkler was born in Austria October 18, 1855, came to America when seventeen years of age, lived in Chicago, in Wisconsin, and came to Jackson county in 1876. At the age of twenty-one years he took as a homestead claim the land upon which Mrs. Pietsch was born. Mrs. Winkler was born in Austria March 22, 1857, came to the United States in 1876 and was married in Jackson county in 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Pietsch have four children, named as follows: Adela, born June 16, 1898; Laura, born August 24, 1900; Alfons, born September 7, 1903; Orlando, born November 11, 1905.

ANDREW BENSON (1871), Petersburg township farmer, was born in Jackson county May 20, 1871, and has made his home here all his life. He is the son of Daniel and Bertha (Ashlyson) Benson. He received a common school education and after growing to manhood engaged in farming for himself. He owns 200 acres of land in Petersburg, 160 acres in North Dakota and 198 acres in Iowa, and has stock in the Petersburg creamery and the Jackson telephone.

Mr. Benson was married March 11, 1896, to Bertha Nasby. To them have been born two children: Balmore, born April 15, 1899, and Albertina R., born July 22, 1902.

FRANK A. MATUSKA (1881), who owns a half interest in the butcher shop and hardware store of the firm of Matuska & Skalicky, was born in the city of Chicago May 28, 1873, the eldest of a family of five children born to Joseph and Mary (Basak) Matuska. The other children are John, Joseph, Annie and Mary. The parents of our subject were born in Bohemia, came to America when children, and were married in Chicago. His father was killed in a runaway accident in Jackson county twelve years ago; his mother lives in Hunter township.

Frank received his early training in Chicago. He came to Jackson county with the family in 1881, and until 1901 worked on his father's farm in Hunter township. Then he moved to Jackson and in partnership with John Bedner opened a butcher shop, which was conducted

in partnership one year. Mr. Matuska bought out his partner and ran the shop one year. Then a partnership was formed between Mr. Matuska and Frank Skalicky, by which each obtained a half interest in the hardware store and meat market. In 1906 Frank Skalicky sold his interests to his brother, Emil Skalicky. Early in 1908 the firm also engaged in the harness business, and during 1909 erected one of the finest business blocks in Jackson, in which are housed both the hardware and harness businesses, while the meat market occupies a building adjoining.

Mr. Matuska owns over a half section of land in Canada, a farm in Hunter township and a half interest in the village property. He is a member of the Catholic church, of the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Western Union.

In January, 1906, at Jackson, Mr. Matuska was married to Mary Skalicky, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of Frank Skalicky. To them have been born four children: Joseph, Mary, Lilly and Rosa.

TOLLEF OLSON (1870) has been a resident of Belmont township nearly forty years, ever since he was thirteen years of age. He is a native of Clayton county, Iowa, and was born April 15, 1857, the son of Ole and Sarah Tollefson. These parents were born in Norway and came to America when children. They were married in Wisconsin and later took up their residence in Clayton county, Iowa. In 1870 they came to Jackson county, bought land in Belmont township and homesteaded in Christiania township. Mr. Tollefson died about fifteen years ago. His widow married Lars Bratager, of Belmont, and died in 1907. There were eight children in the family, of whom the following four are living: Isabella, Annie, Tollef and Nels.

Tollef lived in his native county until 1870, when he accompanied his parents to Jackson county. Until he was twenty-five years of age he lived on the parental farm on section 16, Belmont. Then he engaged in farming on his own account, renting land in Christiania township. Five years later he bought his present farm, the northeast quarter of section 18, then unimproved land, and he has made his home on the place ever since. He now has a model farm, improved with substantial buildings. In

addition to his own farm he rents a quarter section adjoining.

On December 13, 1887, Mr. Olson was married in Belmont township to Betsey Johnson, also a native of Iowa. The following four children have been born to them: Sophia, Anna (Mrs. Arlo Christensen), Obena and Thea. Mr. Olson has held the office of clerk of school district No. 18.

FRANK SIEVERT (1888) is a farmer and thresherman of West Heron Lake township. He was born in the state of Illinois April 25, 1884, the youngest of a family of five children born to Fritz and Sophia Sievert. His parents are of German birth. They came to the United States and after living in Illinois for a short time came to Jackson county in 1888 and resided on the farm in West Heron Lake township now occupied by their son. The father died in 1898; the mother still lives on the farm.

Frank accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1888 when four years of age and he has ever since resided on the home farm, the northwest quarter of section 19, West Heron Lake. He is now engaged in farming the place and for the last several years has been engaged in the threshing business in partnership with F. C. Ruthenbeck.

Mr. Sievert was married in West Heron Lake township May 1, 1905, to Matilda Becker, also a native of Illinois, having been born October 29, 1886. To this union have been born two children: Leda, born January 5, 1906; Walter, born September 16, 1907. The family are members of the German Lutheran church of Okabena.

THOMAS KABLE (1886), in partnership with his brother Henry, farms the southwest quarter of section 25, Enterprise township, and has spent nearly his entire life in Jackson county. He was born at Winona, Minnesota, August 25, 1882, the son of Wensel and Anna Kable. He accompanied his parents to Jackson county in April, 1886, and this has ever since been his home.

The family located in Enterprise township, and there Thomas grew to manhood, receiving a country school education. Until 1905 he lived on the farm, assisting in the management of the place and in threshing. In 1905

he moved to Alpha, where he served as village marshal one year and as bartender for Carl Thuesen two years. He then returned to the farm. He is a member of the Catholic church of Jackson.

Mr. Kable was married February 22, 1906, to Dora Wiseman, of Sherburn. They are the parents of one child, Viola, born January 13, 1907.

JAMES D. SHAY (1899), of Jackson, was born in Chillicothe, Illinois, November 14, 1872, the son of John D. and Bridget (Shay) Shay. His father now resides in Ewington township; his mother died in 1905. Both parents were natives of Ireland and came to the United States soon after their marriage.

The subject of this biography lived with his parents in Illinois until 1891. There he received a common school education, which was supplemented with a course in the Sherburn high school after the family moved to Martin county. Mr. Shay, Sr., bought land in Jackson county, but the family home was in Martin county until 1899. James was engaged in railroad work in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Kansas City, Kansas, three years and did carpenter work in Martin county. He was also engaged in the real estate and insurance business. He moved to Ewington township with his parents in 1899 and was engaged in farming several years. He ran a restaurant in Dubuque, Iowa, one year in partnership with a brother-in-law, and taught school one term in Martin county. In 1908 Mr. Shay, in partnership with Charlie Peterson, bought the Albert Jackson restaurant and was a partner in that business until the spring of 1909, when he sold out to his partner, and has since been engaged in the restaurant business on the opposite side of the street. Mr. Shay is a member of the Catholic church. He served as a member of a school board in Martin county three years. He is a member of the Carpenter's union and Carmen's union.

GERHARD KUHNNAU (1880), Weimer township farmer, was born near Green Bay, Wisconsin, August 31, 1873, the eldest of a family of eight children born to Robert and Alvina (Shoeman) Kuhnau. These parents were born in Germany and soon after their marriage came to America and located near Green

Bay, Wisconsin. In 1880 they came to Jackson county and engaged in farming in Heron Lake township, near lake Flaherty. The father of our subject died there in March, 1897, at the age of 56 years. His mother still lives on the home farm with a son. The other children of the family are Arthur, Lenhard, Robert, Rudolph, Richard, Reinhold and Lottie.

At the age of seven years Gerhard accompanied the family from Wisconsin to Jackson county. Until 1897 he lived on the Heron Lake township farm, securing a country school education and working on his father's farm. He then married and engaged in farming on the present place, the northwest quarter of section 36, Weimer, where he has since resided.

Mr. Kuhnau was married October 26, 1897, in Weimer township to Minnie Winzer, who was born in the same township May 17, 1883. She is the daughter of Charles and Ida Winzer, pioneer settlers of Weimer. To Mr. and Mrs. Kuhnau have been born the following named five children: Robert, Ernest, Henry, Lena and Irena.

HANS STAHL (1888), Sioux Valley township farmer and land owner, was born in Germany November 16, 1852, the son of Hans and Elsaler Stahl, both of whom died in Germany. There were twelve children in the family.

Hans was brought up on a farm in his native land, attending school and making his home with his parents until past nineteen years of age. He came to America in 1872 and located in Scott county, Iowa, where he lived ten years, engaged in farming, threshing, corn shelling and working out. He then took up his residence in Durant, Iowa, where he bought a small place and engaged in farming, threshing and corn shelling for the next six years. In 1888 he came to Sioux Valley township, of Jackson county, and conducted a rented farm on section 23 three years. He then bought his present farm—the northeast quarter of section 24—and upon that place he has since lived. He rents land which he farms in addition to his own land, farming 352 acres. When he bought his farm the only improvements consisted of a little shanty, and he has practically made all the improvements on the place.

Mr. Stahl was married in Cedar county, Iowa, in December, 1881, to Laura Gamma, a native of Scott county, Iowa. To Mr. and

Mrs. Stahl have been born the following children: Meta, Malinda, Matilda, Hilda, Dena, Amanda, Albert and Ferdinand. Mr. Stahl was a director of school district No. 77 for two years.

GEORGE B. CUNNINGHAM (1896) is the rural mail carrier for route No. 4 out of Heron Lake. He is a native of Green county, Wisconsin, and was born July 18, 1869. His parents, William and Mary (Land) Cunningham, now deceased, were natives of Indiana and Illinois, respectively.

The subject of this biography has resided in many different parts of the country and been engaged in various occupations. Until he was seventeen years of age he made his home with his parents, during this time living seven years in Green county, Wisconsin, nine years in Franklin county, Iowa, and then locating in Hamilton county, Nebraska. After starting in life for himself Mr. Cunningham engaged in clerking, in the sewing machine business and in the dray business, living five years in Hamilton county, Nebraska, three years in Chase county and one year in Sheridan county, of the same state.

In 1893 Mr. Cunningham went to Alberta, Canada, making the trip overland in three weeks' time, and there he homesteaded and engaged in farming two years. Owing to the lack of markets at that time Mr. Cunningham met with financial reverses. Returning from the north in 1895, he lived in Cherokee county, Iowa, one year, and then, having married, he came to Jackson county in October, 1896. He located in Heron Lake and for several years engaged in various occupations. In January, 1903, he was appointed mail carrier and has been so employed since.

Mr. Cunningham was married in Plymouth county, Iowa, October 20, 1896, to Christina Ilerman, who was born in Germany March 20, 1876. Her parents reside at Rushmore, Minnesota. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, as follows: Dudley, Lloyd, Orville, Raymond, Blanch, Frederick and Bertha. Mr. Cunningham is a member of the M. W. A. and Yeomen lodges.

ALBERT PETERSON (1891), who is a farmer and landowner of Kimball township, was born in Sweden December 4, 1857, one of

a family of seven children born to Peter and Mary (Johnson) Peterson. Until he was fifteen years of age he lived at home; then he started in life for himself, working out in Sweden until he was of age.

When he reached his majority Mr. Peterson came to America and located at Manistee, Michigan, where he worked in the timber and on the river until 1888. He then made a visit to his old home in Sweden. Returning, he lived a few months at Moosehead Lake, Maine, and then went to Gardner, of the same state, where he worked on the docks for a while. Again coming west, he worked in the woods about Manistee, Michigan, until 1891. That is the date of his arrival in Jackson county. So early as 1885 Mr. Peterson had bought a farm on section 26, Kimball township, and when he came to the county to reside permanently he located upon that farm, which has ever since been his home.

Mr. Peterson was married in Kimball township July 9, 1892, to Augusta Johnson, who was born in Sweden in September, 1862. To them have been born the following named seven children: Alfred, Gustaf, Harry, Elmer, Albert, Marie and Beda. The family are members of the Swedish Mission church.

CHARLIE SEVERSON (1890), of Enterprise township, was born in Wabasha county, Minnesota, October 14, 1879, the son of Charlie and Minnie (Moglund) Severson. The former emigrated from Denmark in 1876; the latter, who is now deceased, was born in New York state.

The subject of this biography moved with his parents from Wabasha county to Jackson county in March, 1890, and grew to manhood on a Hunter township farm. He secured a common school education and made his home with his parents until 1904. That year he went west and one year resided in the Big Bend country of central Washington. Returning, he located on a farm two miles east of Lakefield, and in 1909 moved to his present farm, the northeast quarter of section 34, Enterprise.

Mr. Severson was married August 5, 1906, to Milanda Krumwede, of Lakefield, who was born October 13, 1890.

HARRY L. BOND (1901), cashier of the Jackson County State Bank of Lakefield, is a

native of Iowa City, Iowa, where he was born November 20, 1866, the son of A. J. and Ada Dennis) Bond. His education was received in the country schools, in the Johnson county, Iowa, high school, and in the Iowa state university.

At the age of twenty-two years Mr. Bond began his business career as bookkeeper in the First National Bank of Storm Lake, Iowa. Three years later he took a position as corresponding clerk for the Iowa Land & Loan company, of Storm Lake, and later became treasurer of the Iowa Investment company, of Sioux City, which position he held several years. In 1894 he became cashier of the Cherokee County State Bank of Meriden, Iowa, and was employed in that capacity seven years. In 1901 Mr. Bond moved to Lakefield, having bought out the interests of M. H. Evans in the Jackson County State Bank in partnership with J. M. Putman, and since that date has been identified with the bank.

During his residence in Lakefield Mr. Bond has served as a member of the village council and of the school board. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. and Eastern Star lodges.

FRANK L. POPE (1886) is a Christiania township farmer who owns 400 acres of Jackson county land and 160 acres of Cottonwood county land. He is a native of England, having been born February 18, 1870.

The parents of our subject are Dr. Alfred Pope and Isabella (Hoagraves) Pope, who reside in England. Dr. Pope is a noted physician and lecturer. Thirty years ago he lectured in America before various medical colleges, and later returned to his native land.

Frank received a common school education in England and when sixteen years of age left home and came to the United States. It was in 1886 that he located in the village of Windom, where he resided for a number of years. In 1901 he bought his present farm in Christiania township and has since been engaged in its care. He owns stock in the telephone company and in the Farmers Elevator company of Windom. He is a member of the Episcopal church.

Mr. Pope was married May 6, 1903, to Pauline Hohenstein, of Lakefield. To them have been born two children: Frances, born February 1, 1904; Henry, born February 20, 1908.

HERMAN GURITZ (1888) is one of the big farmers of Middletown township. He owns the east half of section 17 and 120 acres of the southwest quarter of section 16, all of which he farms. He is a native of Will county, Illinois, and was born November 16, 1863. His parents, William and Christina Guritz, were born and married in Germany, emigrating to the United States soon after the latter event, and died in this country. They were the parents of eighteen children, all living.

Herman attended the public schools of his native county and resided with his parents until 1888, working on his father's farm and those of neighboring farmers. He came to Jackson county in 1888 and located upon the land in Middletown township where he has ever since lived. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Guritz was married in Chicago in 1890 to Emma Foshaga, a native of Will county, Illinois. The following named six children have been born to them: Minnie, Henry, Amel, Herman, Tillie and Manda.

DR. OSCAR E. ROBERTS (1900), dentist, of Jackson, was born in Cottage Grove, Washington county, Minnesota, on the eighth day of September, 1870. He is of Dutch-Irish-Scotch descent. His paternal grandfather came from Holland when a child and fought in the war of 1812. His father, Richard Roberts, was born in New York state, came to the territory of Minnesota in 1855, and ever since that date has lived at Cottage Grove, being now eighty years of age. The mother of our subject is Anna (McChesney) Roberts, who is now about seventy years of age.

Oscar E. Roberts made his home with his parents until after he had finished his education in 1900. He attended the common schools of Cottage Grove, studied two years in the Hastings high school, two years in Carleton college of Northfield, and then entered the state university, from the dental department of which institution he was graduated after taking a four years' course. Dr. Roberts located in Jackson in July, 1900, and has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the A. F. & A. M. lodge.

Dr. Roberts was married at Jackson January 15, 1903, to Ethel Raub, a native of Iroquois

county, Illinois, and a daughter of George and Sarah (Coleman) Raub. She came to Jackson county in the spring of 1898. To Dr. and Mrs. Roberts have been born two children: Dorothea, born March 20, 1904, and Muriel, born January 10, 1907.

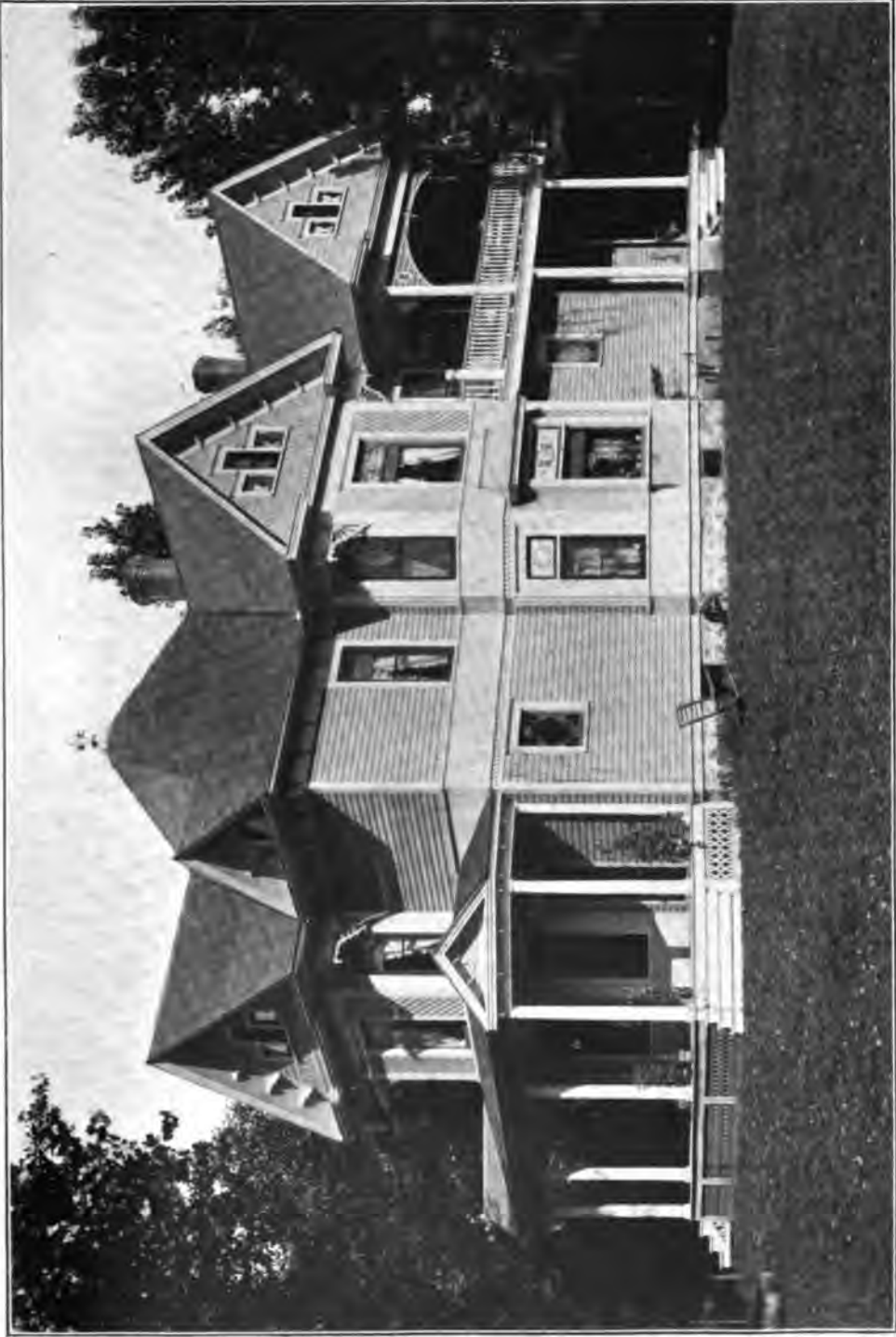
WILLIAM J. C. SCHROEDER (1886), grain and dairy farmer of Petersburg township, has resided in Jackson county since he was five years of age. He was born in Cook county, Illinois, December 5, 1881, the son of William and Maria (Meyer) Schroeder.

The family arrived in Jackson county March 24, 1886. William received a country school education and was brought up on the farm, working for his father and for other farmers until he was of age. Soon after reaching his majority he engaged in farming for himself two years, then hauled cream one year. After that he bought machinery and has since been engaged in business for himself, farming land on the northwest quarter of section 27, Petersburg township. Mr. Schroeder owns stock in the Petersburg Creamery company and is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Schroeder was married November 20, 1907, to Mary Schulte, of Arcadia, Iowa. To them has been born one child, Ella, born February 10, 1909.

MARTIN A. FOSS (1869), farmer and stock raiser of Heron Lake township, is one of the county's pioneers. He was born near the city of Christiania, Norway, the son of Anton and Martha Foss. He was brought up on a farm and when twelve years of age came to America with his parents.

After living in Olmsted county, Minnesota, one year the family came to Jackson county and located on section 18, Delafield township. They were the first family to make improvements in that precinct, although one or two claims had been taken before that date. For several years Martin worked for his father and for neighboring farmers, and in 1882 he bought his present farm, the southeast quarter of section 18, Heron Lake township, and farmed it ten years. He went to Windom in 1892 and from that date until 1899 was in the general merchandise business at Windom and Heron Lake. Returning to the farm, Mr. Foss has since been engaged in farming. In 1901 he



FARM HOUSE OF MARTIN A. FOSS, HERON LAKE TOWNSHIP

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TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

built his present house, one of the very finest farm homes in the whole of Jackson county.

Mr. Foss has stock in and is a director of the First National Bank of Lakefield and has stock in the Jackson County Cooperative Store company and the Farmers Elevator company of the same town. He is clerk of school district No. 17 and has served since 1900, and he has held the office of township treasurer. Mr. Foss and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Lakefield.

J. P. NELSON (1907), the manager of the Farmers Mercantile company's store at Jackson, was born in Argyle, Wisconsin, March 25, 1863, the son of Lars and Karen (Gaukrud) Nelson. He secured a common school education in Argyle and was a student at Valparaiso (Indiana) college one year. After his school days he accepted a position as clerk in a store in Argyle, and in 1889, in partnership with a brother, engaged in the general merchandise business. Two years later he sold out, and in 1892 moved to Superior, Iowa, where he was engaged in the general merchandise business fifteen years. In the spring of 1907 Mr. Nelson moved to Jackson, and has since been the manager of the Farmers Mercantile company's store.

Mr. Nelson owns 445 acres of land in Petersburg township, and a comfortable home in Jackson. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the I. O. O. F., M. W. A. and R. N. A. lodges.

At Superior, Iowa, on March 15, 1889, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Anna C. Anderson. To them have been born six children, as follows: Ora C., born January 20, 1890; Leland G., born November 29, 1891; Homer A., born September 10, 1893; Velma R., born February 8, 1896; Gladys J., born February 22, 1898; J. Philo, born March 19, 1900.

ERNEST E. PEARSON (1882) is a Middletown township farmer and has lived in the county since he was two years of age. He is a native of Hardin county, Iowa, and was born May 11, 1880, the son of Jess G. and Samantha (Campbell) Pearson. The parents of our subject were born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Hands county, Iowa, respectively, and were married in the latter place. They came from Hardin county, Iowa, to Jackson

county in 1882, bought a farm upon which their son now lives, engaged in farming there until November, 1906, when they moved to the state of Washington, where they now reside. They are the parents of nine children: Olive (Mrs. L. S. Allen), Robert A., Ernest E., Martin E., James E., Lizzie D. (Mrs. E. C. Armstead), William A., Jess L., Benton W. and Florence.

Ernest was only two years of age when he accompanied his parents to Jackson county, and he was brought up on the farm he now conducts. Until he reached his majority he worked on his father's farm; then for a few years he worked for neighboring farmers. In 1904 he went to Washington, remained there about six months and returned to Jackson county. He rented a farm near his father's place, conducted it until 1906, when he married and rented his father's place, which he has since conducted.

Mr. Pearson was married December 26, 1906, to Ella Kephart, who was born in Middletown township March 21, 1886, and who is the daughter of Bruce and Mary (Myers) Kephart, of Lakefield.

HERMAN H. KOEP (1903), farmer of Delafield township, was born in Benton county, Iowa, June 25, 1873. His parents, Claus and Mary (Paulson) Koep, were born in Germany and came to America in 1862, locating in Iowa. The former died September 12, 1890, aged 55 years, 4 months and 28 days. His mother lives in Benton county, Iowa, and is 75 years of age.

Herman was brought up on a farm and educated in district schools. He lived on his father's farm until 1897; then he married and engaged in farming on rented land in Benton county. He came to Jackson county in the spring of 1903 and located upon his farm, which he had bought in the fall of 1902. He owns the southeast quarter of section 25, Delafield, and forty acres adjoining in section 30, Christiania. His farm was only slightly improved when he bought. He erected the barn, fenced the land and made many improvements. He makes a specialty of stock raising and has good grades of stock. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator company of Windom and in the Mutual Telephone company of the same village. Mr. Koep is a member of the M. B. A. lodge of Windom. He is treasurer of school



district No. 70, having served for the past two years.

Our subject was married in Benton county, Iowa, February 24, 1897, to Katie Lackmann, who was born in Benton county March 1, 1879. She is the daughter of George and Annie (Miller) Lackmann, of Benton county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Koep are the parents of six children: Clara, born December 8, 1897; Agnes, born January 11, 1900; Bernhardt, born February 1, 1902; Helen, born October 6, 1903; Elsie, born January 16, 1907; Edwin, born October 20, 1909.

LEONARD F. ZINSER (1903), retired evangelist and minister of the gospel, is now engaged in farming in Hunter township, a short distance west of Lakefield, where he owns a farm on section 6. Rev. Zinser was born near Tiffin, the county seat of Seneca county, Ohio, August 27, 1866, the son of A. F. and Mary C. (Miesse) Zinser. He is of German descent, his grandfather having established the American branch of the family. The father of our subject was born in Ohio in 1839 and now lives at Storm Lake, Iowa. The mother of our subject was born near Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1840 and is living. These parents had eight children, of whom six are living, of which Leonard is the eldest.

At the age of eighteen months our subject accompanied his parents from his native state to El Paso, Illinois, at which place he grew to manhood. He was brought up on a farm and early in life engaged in farming, which he continued until 1894. After receiving his primary education he became a student at the Illinois Wesleyan university of Bloomington and for the next three years engaged in evangelistic work as a gospel singer. He next entered the ministry and for six years had charge of churches in Illinois, two years at Hennepin, two years at Tremont and two years at Flanagan. In 1903, on account of poor health, Rev. Zinser was obliged to give up his chosen profession, and that year he came to Jackson county. He bought a farm on section 6, Hunter township, and has since been engaged in farming. During the first three years of his residence in the county he occupied the pulpit at Welcome, but for the past three years has devoted his time exclusively to his farming operations. He is at present a

local minister of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Rev. Zinser was married at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1896, to Barbara E. Paul, who was born in Canada November 4, 1867. Her father, E. S. Paul, lives with his daughter; her mother, Elizabeth (Strayer) Paul, died in February, 1900. Two children have been born to Rev. and Mrs. Zinser, Fern F., born April 23, 1899; Pauline, born August 29, 1900.

NEWTON FREER (1874), Alba township farmer, was born in Ulster county, New York, October 20, 1844, the son of J. D. and Anna L. (Hasbrook) Freer, both natives of the Empire state. They came west in 1851 and located in Winneshiek county, Iowa, moved to Jackson county in 1874, and died in Heron Lake. Newton is one of a family of six children born to these parents.

The subject of this biography moved from Ulster county, New York, with his parents when a child and grew to manhood in Winneshiek county, Iowa. He spent his early years with his parents on the farm with the exception of five years when he was employed in a flouring mill at Frankville, Iowa. He spent three years in the Black Hills country, and then, in 1874, became a resident of Jackson county. He took as a homestead claim the east half of the southwest quarter of section 24, Alba township, and upon that place he has ever since resided, being one of the pioneer settlers of the precinct.

Mr. Freer was married in Winneshiek county, Iowa, February 6, 1874, to Rosa Rathburn, a native of the county in which she was married, having been born September 16, 1854. She is the daughter of Walter and Welthy (Lummis) Rathburn. One child was born to this union, Lloyd, born in April, 1886, and died in September, 1894. They have an adopted son, Emmet, aged fourteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Freer are members of the Methodist church. He has served as a member of the Alba township board and now holds the office of treasurer of school district No. 85.

GUSTAVE J. CHRISTLE (1899), deputy sheriff of Jackson county and proprietor of the Lakefield house, was born in Germany February 2, 1861. His father, Joseph Christle,

died in Germany when Gustave was a boy of thirteen years of age. His mother, Amelia (Wurst) Christle, still makes her home in the fatherland and is 73 years of age. Of the six children of the family Gustave is the only one in America.

At the age of thirteen years our subject came to the United States with his grandfather. After spending one year in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, he moved to Chelsea, Tama county, Iowa, and for three years made his home on the farm of an uncle, Mathias Michael. The next eighteen months were spent on the plains of southwestern Nebraska. Mr. Christle then located in Mills county, Iowa, where he worked as a farm laborer three or four years and where he was married in 1883.

After his marriage Mr. Christle moved to Charles Mix county, South Dakota, and located on government land. One year later he went to Brule county, of the same territory, and engaged in farming six years. We find our subject next in Lyon county, Iowa, where for two years he farmed rented land. Moving to Nobles county, Minnesota, from that place, he bought a farm in Lorain township, upon which he lived six years. Mr. Christle sold out in 1898 and moved to Worthington. He bought a restaurant in that village, conducted it a year, and then moved to Lakefield in 1899 and bought the Lakefield house. He has been the boniface of that hotel for the past ten years. Besides his duties in the hotel Mr. Christle devotes part of his time to looking after his farm in Ransom county, North Dakota, and attending to his duties as deputy sheriff, to which office he was appointed in 1906.

Mr. Christle was married in Glenwood, Mills county, Iowa, June 16, 1883, to Miss Emma V. Goff, a native of Illinois and a daughter of George Goff. Two sons and three daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Christle. The eldest daughter, Amelia, is the wife of Charles Persons and resides on the Isthmus of Panama, her husband being a bookkeeper in the government employ. The other children are Edward, Maud E., Cora Dell and Merritt G.

JOE GOGOLINSKI (1901), Des Moines township farmer and breeder of Percheron horses, is a native of Germany, where he was born February 6, 1878. He is the son of the late

John Gogolinski and Annie (Pekorski) Gogolinski, of Dutch-Poland stock but natives of Germany. They came to America in 1880 and the former died in this country; the latter lives in Chicago.

Joe accompanied his parents to America when two years of age and until he was twelve years old resided with his parents in Chicago. At that age he went to Wisconsin, lived there a short time and then returned to Chicago, where he lived several years. He learned the machinist's trade, at which he worked until his health failed. In 1901 he left the city and located in Jackson county, engaging in farming the Des Moines township farm of his father-in-law. He is a well known horse breeder and several of his brood mares and colts have been awarded the first premiums at the Jackson county fairs.

Mr. Gogolinski was married in the city of Chicago October 9, 1900, to Emma Tousek, who was born in the city in which she was married. To these parents have been born three children: Alfonso, born in Chicago; Mary and Helen (twins), born in Des Moines township.

JOHN E. ELOFFSON (1876) is one of the successful farmers and large landowners of Belmont township. He owns 520 acres of land in one body and farms it all. His holdings include all of section 14, except the north half of the north half, and a forty acre tract on section 23.

Mr. Eloffson was born in Norway June 9, 1847, the son of Elof and Annie M. Eloffson, both deceased. He is the next to the oldest of a family of nine children. He grew to manhood in his native country, working on his father's small farm and engaging in fishing and sailing. He came to the United States in 1873, lived three years in Nicollet county, Minnesota, and then located in Jackson county, which has ever since been his home. For several years he worked at the carpenter trade in Jackson, and as he accumulated money he invested it in Belmont real estate. He moved onto his farm in 1883.

Besides his mammoth farming operations Mr. Eloffson is interested in several other lines of business. He is a director of the Norwegian store in Christiania township, in the Belmont Creamery company, in the Belmont Telephone company and has stock in the new elevator

company. He has held the office of township supervisor, treasurer of school district No. 36, and road overseer. He and his family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Elofson was married in Jackson county in June, 1884, to Mary Flatgard, a native of Norway. She is the daughter of Tory Flatgard and came to Jackson county when a baby. They have eleven children, named as follows: Alvin T., professor of a school in Washington; Julia, Annie, Gear, Clara, Emma, Hilda, Handa, Julius, Olga, Lorain.

ANDREW H. MELVILLE (1901) owns a section of Jackson county land and farms the home place on the shore of Heron lake, in West Heron Lake township, described as lots one, two and three of section 14. He has a pretty home located on a peninsula jutting out into the lake. Mr. Melville, after devoting many years to educational work, was obliged to give up his chosen profession, and since 1901 has been trying to regain his health by engaging in farming.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch was born in Peotone, Will county, Illinois, June 17, 1872, the son of Dr. A. H. Melville and Catherine (Melville) Melville. His parents were born in Scotland and came to Prescott, Ontario, Canada, in their childhood days. His father was educated in the university of Edenburg and McGill college, at Montreal. During the civil war he volunteered his services to the northern cause, came to the United States, and was made a surgeon of the 79th New York Scotch Highlanders. He later became head surgeon of the regiment and served throughout the war. He died soon after his discharge from the army. The mother of our subject died when Andrew was seven years of age.

Andrew Melville received his primary education in the country schools of Will county, Illinois. He was a student at the state normal school at Bloomington five years and completed his education in 1896 in the university of Chicago. He then took up teaching as a profession. He taught in Chicago one year, was principal of the training department of the Bloomington normal school three years and was teacher of pedagogy at DeKalb, Illinois, one year. Then he gave up his profession and located on his farm in Jackson county. In addition to his home farm Mr. Mel-

ville owns the northwest quarter of section 19, Belmont, the northwest quarter of section 14, Ewington, and the northeast quarter of section 23, Rost.

Mr. Melville was married at Utica, Illinois, October 25, 1900, to Miss Lydia M. Fedde, who was born in Columbia county, New York. She is the daughter of Richard R. and Rhoda S. (Weaver) Fedde. Mr. and Mrs. Melville are members of the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM WREDE (1886), farmer of Enterprise township, was born on the farm where he now lives February 1, 1886, the son of John and Amelia (Schonfeld) Wrede. John Wrede came from Germany in 1870, lived, respectively, in Cairo, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; Rock Island, Illinois; and in Jackson county, where he died in 1900. During the time he lived in Rock Island he was employed in a sawmill; otherwise he engaged in agricultural pursuits all his life. Our subject's mother lives in Enterprise township and owns the southeast quarter of section 16, which her son farms.

William received a common school education, graduating from the school of district No. 107 in 1902. He helped his father with the farm work during his younger years, and after the latter's death assumed the management of the place. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. He holds the office of road overseer of his district.

PETER JEPSON (1894), the Jackson village marshal, is a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, and was born November 8, 1872. He is the youngest of a family of four children, all living in the United States. His brothers and sister are John P., Soren P. and Annie M. Jepson. The parents of these children were John Peter and Anne Margaret (Brink) Jepson, who died in their native country, the former May 18, 1891, the latter December 31, 1890.

Peter secured an education in Germany and until after his father's death worked in the latter's rope factory. In the fall of 1891 he came to America and located at Huntley, Faribault county, Minnesota, where he worked on the farm of his brother, John Jepson, until the spring of 1894. On March 15, of the last named year, he moved to Jackson. For four years he worked in the village at different oc-

cupations, and on December 8, 1898, received the appointment of village night watchman. He served until April 1, 1902. He was again appointed to the position on November 15, 1902, and the following April was appointed village marshal, which office he still holds.

Mr. Jepson was married in Jackson October 21, 1901, to Georgine Mary Handevit, a native of Gardner, Illinois, and a daughter of Nels P. and Petrie Handevit. To Mr. and Mrs. Jepson have been born two children: Arthur Peter, born July 2, 1904; Pearl Margaret, born February 23, 1907. Mr. Jepson is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

FRED W. G. HARTMAN (1898) is a Petersburg township farmer and stockraiser residing upon the southwest quarter of section 26. He was born in Bleckendorf, Germany, December 3, 1861, the son of John and Teresa (Rust) Hartman, both deceased.

The first thirty years of the life of our subject were passed in Germany, where he secured his education and where he worked in a tile factory after reaching manhood. After reaching that age Mr. Hartman decided to try his fortunes in the new world and in January, 1892, arrived in this country. He located first in the town of Renwick, Wright county, Iowa, and five months later went to Goldfield, in the same county, where for five years he lived, working in a tile factory four years and engaging in farming one year. He moved to Jackson county in March, 1898, and has since been engaged in farming in Petersburg township.

Mr. Hartman was married in Germany on the first day of the year 1884 to Miss Mary Koenig. To this union have been born the following children: Mary, born October 8, 1884; Dora, born June 6, 1886; Elesbeth, born December 1, 1887; Emma, born June 10, 1890; Hulda, born August 17, 1892; Paul, born July 6, 1894; Ida, born July 14, 1897; Martha, born February 10, 1902. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

JOHN HOVELSRUD (1874), in partnership with his brother Bernhard, owns and farms 240 acres of land on section 27, Heron Lake township, a short distance northeast of Lakefield. He is a native of the county, having been born on his father's homestead on section

34, Heron Lake township, October 22, 1874. His parents, Mathias H. and Ingeborg (Lunde) Hovelsrud, were born in Norway and came to America in their youth. They were early day residents of Minnesota and came to Jackson county in 1873, taking a homestead a little east of the present village of Lakefield. The father died there in June, 1899, aged 57 years. The mother still lives on the old homestead. Eight children were born to them, as follows: Julia (Mrs. A. J. Christy), of Okabena; Hilda (deceased), John, Bernhard, Gilbert, Julius, of St. Paul; Ever (deceased) and Halmar, of Story City, Iowa.

Until he was twenty-one years of age John lived with his parents, securing an education and working on the farm. After reaching his majority he engaged in school teaching and in 1900 he and his brother bought their present farm on section 27 and have since farmed the place in partnership. Neither of the brothers is married. During the summer of 1909 they erected a commodious residence on the farm. John Hovelsrud has served as a member of the school board of district No. 80 since 1900.

FRED O. FREDERICKSON (1875) is the manager of the St. John Grain company's elevator at Wilder and of the Sontag Lumber company's yards in the same village. He is the son of Ole Frederickson Bokke and Mary (Mellem) Frederickson Bokke, residents of Delafield township. These parents came to the United States in 1870, located at Muskegon, Michigan, and the same fall took up their residence at Madelia. The next year they located at Windom, where our subject's father worked on the railroad one year and where he conducted a railroad boarding house three years. In 1872 he had entered a homestead claim in Delafield township, Jackson county, and when he moved from Windom located on the land where he has ever since made his home and where he owns 600 acres of land. He was born in Norway in 1844, his wife in 1846.

Our subject is the eldest of five children born to these parents, the others being Ole, Albert, Ella, Gina (Mrs. John J. Swenson). He was born in Norway February 19, 1869, and when one year of age accompanied his parents to America. He grew to manhood on the Delafield township farm, receiving an education in the district schools and in the Breck school

of Wilder, where he studied three years, taking a business course in addition to the scientific course. After obtaining an education Mr. Frederickson assisted his father in the management of the big farm and made his home on the farm until 1904. That year he moved to Wilder and accepted the position of manager of the St. John elevator, which position he has since held. When the yards of the Sontag Lumber company were established in Wilder Mr. Frederickson was made manager and has held that position in addition to his duties with the elevator company.

During his residence in Delafield township Mr. Frederickson served two years as township clerk. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Delafield.

EMIL PETERS (1889) is a farmer of Sioux Valley township, where he farms 280 acres of land. He is the son of Nicholas and Vaten Peters, now residents of Lake Park, Iowa, for many years residents of Jackson county. The father came from Germany in 1882, where he had been a shoemaker. After living in Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island, Illinois, a few years he came to Jackson county and engaged in farming. He prospered and became one of the heavy land owners of his neighborhood, now owning an even thousand acres of land in Sioux Valley and Rost townships.

Emil Peters was born in Germany February 22, 1876, and came to America with his parents when six years of age. The first year of his life in the new world was spent in Davenport, Iowa, and then the family home was made in Rock Island, Illinois. There Emil attended school and worked in a lumber yard, carrying water and driving a team. He came to Sioux Valley township with his parents in 1889 and immediately began working out for neighboring farmers. After being so employed five years he again took up his residence with his parents and lived with them until he was twenty-seven years old, assisting with the farm work. He was married in 1902, rented his father's half section farm in Rost township and started in life for himself. In 1906 his father retired from the farm and Emil rented the home place, where he has since lived. He farms 280 acres of his father's land and raises lots of cattle, horses and hogs. He is a member of the Sons of Hermann lodge.

Mr. Peters was married in Sioux Valley

township March 4, 1902, to Ella Brockman. She is the daughter of Hans and Annie Brockman, of Lakefield, and was born in Tama county, Iowa, March 23, 1875. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Peters, as follows: Luverna Luella, born February 12, 1903; Leonard Roy, born October 19, 1909.

JOHN C. BEHRENS (1903) owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 14, Delafield township. He has one of the best improved farms in the township, all tiled and fenced. When he bought the farm in 1901 practically the only improvement consisted of the dwelling house.

Mr. Behrens was born in Germany March 21, 1867, the elder of a family of two children born to Eli and Marguerita (Behrens) Behrens. The former died in Whiteside county, Illinois, in 1879; the latter is living at the age of 67 years. John C. Behrens accompanied his parents from the fatherland to the new world in 1874. Until he was of age he resided on the farm in Whiteside county, Illinois. Then he married and engaged in farming on his own account, having rented a farm in that county. Three years later he moved to Plymouth county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming eleven years. In the spring of 1903 Mr. Behrens came to Jackson county and located upon his present place, which he had bought in 1901, and there he has since made his home.

In Whiteside county, Illinois, on February 22, 1888, Mr. Behrens was united in marriage to Ida Folkers, who was born in the county in which she was married July 28, 1867, and who is the daughter of Henry Folkers. Mr. and Mrs. Behrens have had twelve children, of whom three died in infancy. They are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Behrens is a member of the board of supervisors of Delafield township.

STEPHEN G. CASS (1907), manager of and owner of a half interest in the Jackson Tile and Brick company, is a native of Bellingham, Washington, where he was born August 21, 1880. In 1885 he accompanied his parents, James F. and Matilda (McCrea) Cass, to Seattle, and in that city he was brought up. He received his primary education in the Puget sound city, and in 1898 became a student at

Grand Prairie seminary, Onarga, Illinois, where he pursued his studies two years.

Mr. Cass located in Chicago in 1900 and for five years was engaged in the wholesale dry goods trade. Early in 1906 he went to Denver, Colorado, remained there six months, and in August of the same year located in Cullom, Illinois. He took up his residence in Jackson in August, 1907, purchased a half interest in the Jackson Tile and Brick company's plant, E. S. Shearer being the owner of the other half interest, and has since been engaged as manager of the plant.

At Denver, Colorado, February 1, 1906, Mr. Cass was married to Miss Florence E. Shearer. To them have been born two children: Stephen Bruce, born February 6, 1907, and Jeanette E., born November 15, 1908.

JOHN A. CHALUPNIK (1901) owns and farms the west half of the southwest quarter of section 15, Hunter township, four miles south of Lakefield. He is a native of Marshall county, Iowa, and was born April 27, 1870, the son of Anton and Tina (Salasek) Chalupnik. These parents were born in Austria and emigrated to America before their marriage. They are now residents of Traer, Iowa, and have a family of ten children, the living ones named as follows: Joseph, John, Mary, Rosa, Fannie, Julia, Josie and Emma.

John A. Chalupnik accompanied his parents from his native county when two and one-half years of age and located in Tama county, Iowa, and that was his home until he came to Jackson county in 1901. He made his home with his parents on the farm until he was of age and then he and his brother Joseph engaged in farming on a rented farm. He was married in 1892 and then took up his residence in Traer, where for a number of years he engaged in teaming and threshing. In June, 1900, he bought his Jackson county farm and the following March moved on to the place, where he has since lived. Besides his farming operations, Mr. Chalupnik has been engaged in the threshing business for the last four years.

Our subject was united in marriage to Fannie Vlasak in Tama county, Iowa, January 6, 1892. She was born in Linn county, Iowa, October 16, 1870. One child has been born to this union, Lucy A., born July 5, 1893. Mr. Chalupnik has served as chairman of the township board of supervisors for the past two

years and he has been a member of the school board of district No. 84 for the past six years. He is a member of the Z. C. B. J. lodge.

FREDERICK W. SCHOELLERMAN (1903) is the proprietor of the general merchandise store of Sioux Valley township and was the last postmaster of Sioux Valley postoffice. He was born in Germany September 12, 1852, the son of Frederick and Katherina (Thompson) Schoellerman. Both his parents died in the year 1905 at advanced ages. They had only two children, Elza Oelke and the subject of this biography.

At the age of two years, in 1854, Fred accompanied his parents from Germany to America. The family located at Garnavillo, Clayton county, Iowa, and in that town our subject grew to manhood and spent his early adult years. Until he attained his majority he resided at home, learning the wagonmaker's and carpenter's trades in Garnavillo. After mastering his trades, Mr. Schoellerman moved to Farmersburg, also in Clayton county, and conducted a wagonmaker's shop until 1884. That year he moved to Beadle county, South Dakota, and took a homestead, and there he resided until 1903, engaged in farming and working at the carpenter's trade.

Because of an accident while building a church in 1903, resulting in a broken arm, Mr. Schoellerman sold out in South Dakota and became a resident of Sioux Valley township, Jackson county. He bought the little store conducted in a 16x24 foot building by Mrs. Green and received the appointment of postmaster of the Sioux Valley office, which was conducted in the store. Mr. Schoellerman enlarged the building to 24x64 feet, built an addition for a residence, and put in a full line of general merchandise. He has built up a lucrative trade and now handles all classes of general merchandise, dry goods, groceries and hardware. He is assisted in the store by his son, Ben.

Mr. Schoellerman was married at Garnavillo, Iowa, November 17, 1874, to Julia Quencel, who was born in Garnavillo, October 10, 1852. These parents have seven living children, as follows: Julius, of Beadle county, South Dakota; Will, of Ward county, North Dakota; Hubert, of Clark county, South Dakota; Alfred, of Sioux Valley township; Ben, residing at home; Ora and Olga (twins), attend-

ing school. Mr. Schoellerman is a member of the A. O. U. W., the Hermannson and the Germania lodges.

**HENRY W. VOEHL** (1891). One of the most successful farmers of Rost township is the gentleman whose name heads this biography. Henry W. Voehl was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, September 2, 1870, the son of Conrad and Barbara (Steinhardt) Voehl. When he was two years old the family moved to Iroquois county, and there he grew to manhood. He attended the country schools and worked on his father's farm. As farm land was high in that county, in the spring of 1891, Henry was sent to Jackson county to work on a farm there for one season, to find out the opportunities offered, the climate conditions, etc. Being well pleased with the country he went back to Illinois in December, 1891, and returned to Jackson county in the spring of 1892, accompanied by his parents' brothers and sister and many other immigrants from Iroquois county, the party having with them an entire train load of stock, machinery and household goods.

After arriving in Jackson county Henry completed his education with a year's course in the Breck college of Wilder, and thereafter he worked on his father's Rost township farm until 1899. That year he engaged in farming for himself, having bought the northwest quarter of section 16 the year before, and that has ever since been his home. When he bought the farm it was unimproved prairie land, and all the improvements which grace the place today are the results of his work. He has a commodious residence, modern in every particular. His farm is all tiled and fenced with hog-tight fencing in the six-field system.

Besides his farming operations Mr. Voehl is interested in many other lines of business. He has just begun the breeding of the thoroughbred Holstein cattle for dairy purposes, and expects to engage in the business extensively. For the past nine years he has owned and operated a threshing machine. When the Rost Cooperative Dairy association was organized in 1898 he was one of the organizers and was its first secretary, an office he also holds at the present time. He has also been president and a director of the company. Mr. Voehl was one of the organizers of one of the first rural telephone lines in Jackson county—the Rost

Telephone company—and has ever since been secretary of the company. He has stock in the First National Bank of Lakefield and is vice president of the bank. He is also a stockholder in the First State Bank of Okabena and in the Jackson County Cooperative company's store at Lakefield. He has shares in and is a director of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator company of Lakefield.

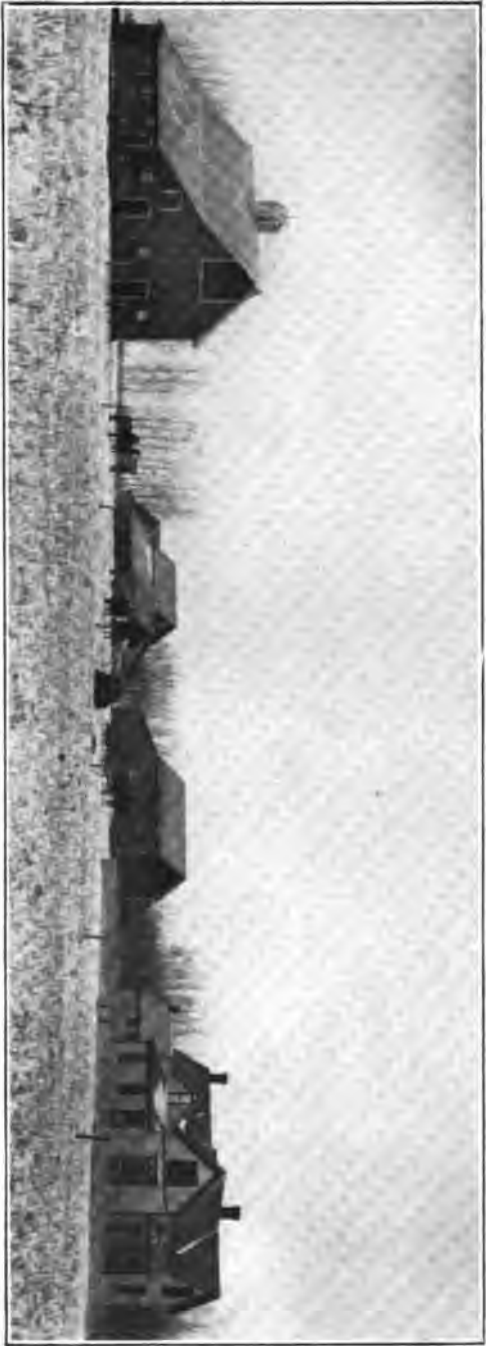
In church matters Mr. Voehl takes a prominent part. He is a member of the Rost German Lutheran church and has been treasurer of the church society for a number of years. In a local political way he has also been active. He has been clerk of Rost township since March, 1895, and has been clerk of school district No. 103 for the past seventeen years. He was the census enumerator for the townships of Rost and Ewington when the federal census of 1900 was taken. He also does surveying for tile drains.

The parents of Henry Voehl came to the United States from Germany in the spring of 1870. They lived in LaSalle county, Illinois, a short time and then located in Iroquois county. They came to Jackson county in 1891 and made their home in Rost township. The father died March 18, 1903, at the age of 66 years. The mother still lives in Rost and is 69 years of age. Henry is the youngest of a family of four children, the others being Conrad R., Walter and Lizzie (Mrs. Henry Brill).

Mr. Voehl is a man of family. He was married in Rost township June 18, 1899, to Mary Albers. She is a daughter of Henry and Annie (Ernst) Albers and was born in Cook county, Illinois, July 8, 1877. To Mr. and Mrs. Voehl have been born four children, as follows: Annie B., born July 1, 1900; Lillian E., born April 4, 1902; Leona F., born June 21, 1906; Sadie M., born January 2, 1909.

**THEODORE FUGLESTEEN** (1899) resides in Middletown township, a short distance south of the village of Jackson. He engages in farming and stockraising and buys and ships stock on an extensive scale. He owns a 120-acre farm on section 1, Middletown, and eighty acres on sections 6 and 7, Petersburg, and also has an interest in a quarter section in Deuel county, South Dakota. He has a finely improved farm, and is on the road to success.

Mr. Fuglesteen is a Norwegian by birth, and first saw the light of day February 23,



FARM HOME OF HENRY W. VOEHL, ROST TOWNSHIP



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1876. His parents were Edward and Mary (Lunde) Fuglesteen, the father dying when our subject was six years of age. He was the eldest child, and at the tender age of six he began to work to help support the family. He attended school as opportunity offered, and when fifteen years of age came to America. For five years he worked on farms near LeRoy, Minnesota, attending the American schools during the winter months. In 1896 he rented a farm near LeRoy and engaged in farming there three years. In 1899 he moved to Jackson county, and he and his brother-in-law, John Westerse, farmed on section 12, Middletown, in partnership three years. During the next four years he engaged in the threshing and horse business; then he moved onto the farm upon which he still makes his home, having previously traded western land for it. Mr. Fuglesteen is a director of the Jackson County Cooperative Elevator and Stock company.

At Lakefield, on September 6, 1907, Mr. Fuglesteen was married to Helen Monson, a native of Wisconsin. One child, a daughter, has blessed this union, having been born November 29, 1908.

Theodore is the eldest of a family of six living children, named as follows: Theodore, Knute, Ole, Conrad, Peter and Carrie (Mrs. John Westerse), of Middletown.

FREDERICK W. TROSIN (1881) owns and farms 240 acres of land in Heron Lake township a short distance north of Lakefield, where he has resided nearly thirty years.

Mr. Trosin was born in Germany September 28, 1857. There he received his education and there he spent the first twenty-four years of his life. His early days were spent working at farm work but during the last seven years of his residence there he was engaged as a fisherman. Our subject came to America in 1881 and proceeded immediately to Jackson county. Two months after his arrival he became a land owner, buying a part of his present farm. He spent the first two or three years working out on neighboring farms, then married and engaged in farming. The farm at the time of purchase was unimproved except for a little homesteader's cabin (in which he lived four or five years) and he has made all the improvements the place boasts.

The parents of our subject were Frederick

and Christina (Mattzlof) Trosin. They came to America the same time their son did, and the father died on his son's farm in Heron Lake township. There are nine children in the family—six boys and three girls—and all are living in the United States.

Mr. Trosin was married in Rost township December 21, 1884, to Tillie Mittelstadt, who was born in Germany and who came to America when one year old. She accompanied her parents. Frederick and Sophia Mittelstadt, from the old country, lived in Wisconsin a short time and then located in Rost township. Her father, who was one of the early homesteaders of Rost township, died in 1906; her mother is yet living. To Mr. and Mrs. Trosin have been born five children, as follows: Bertha (Mrs. Ferdinand Malchow), Othela, Menna, Emma and Leonard. William died at the age of eighteen months and Richard died when sixteen years of age.

Mr. Trosin was largely responsible for the organization of school district No. 80 and he has been the treasurer of the district ever since. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Lakefield.

CARL J. SWENSON (1884), of Jackson, was born in Rockford, Illinois, August 30, 1883, the son of Olof O. Swenson and Ida (Swenson) Swenson. His parents were natives of Sweden. His father died in 1897; his mother lives in Petersburg township.

Carl came to Jackson county with his parents when seven months old. His father bought a homestead right to the northeast quarter of section 2, Petersburg township, and upon that farm Carl grew to manhood. He attended the district school and assisted with the farm work until he was twenty years of age. He then located in Alpha and for several years was R. F. D. carrier on route No. 1 out of Alpha. During two years of this time Mr. Swenson spent his mornings and afternoons working in the Bank of Alpha. During the year 1908 he also conducted a livery barn at Alpha, but disposed of that and located in Jackson, where he has since resided.

Mr. Swenson was treasurer of the Alpha fire department three years, was treasurer of the Alpha cornet band four years and was constable of Alpha village one year. He is a member of the Presbyterian church of Alpha

and of the M. B. A. lodge, of which he has held the office of secretary.

MAX HARTNECK (1896), proprietor of a dray line in Heron Lake and local agent of the Standard Oil company, is a native Minnesotan, having been born in New Ulm June 19, 1867. His parents were Joseph and Rosa (Rach) Hartneck, who came to Brown county, Minnesota, from Chicago in 1855, making the trip in a small steamboat up the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. The father died in Brown county about thirty-seven years ago and the mother in 1907 at the age of 70 years.

Max secured his education in the schools of New Ulm and made his home there until he was nineteen years of age. Then he moved to Tracy, Minnesota, where for the next eleven years he worked in a butcher shop and ice plant. He moved to Heron Lake in 1896 and that village has since been his home. He worked in a butcher shop one year and four years in a lumber yard. In 1901 Mr. Hartneck became local agent for the Standard Oil company and one year later he engaged in the draying business and has since been so engaged.

Mr. Hartneck has served as constable of Heron Lake for the last two years and has been a member of the Heron Lake fire department for the last eleven years. He holds membership in the M. W. A., K. P., M. B. A. and Pioneer lodges.

Mr. Hartneck was married in Heron Lake in 1897 to Mrs. Annie Hopkins, who was born in Nobles county. They have no children of their own but have an adopted daughter, Mammie R. By a former marriage Mrs. Hartneck is the mother of one child, Frank Hopkins.

CARL TEIG (1903) is a Hunter township farmer who resides two miles south of the village of Lakefield. He is a native of Story county, Iowa, and was born June 20, 1876, the son of Ole and Sarena Teig. These parents were born in Norway and came to the United States thirty-five years ago. From that time until 1904 they lived in Story and Hardin counties, Iowa; then they came to Jackson county and have since lived in Belmont township. Their children are Carl, John, Ode,

Arthur, Martha, Malinda, deceased; Gena, Malinda and Mabel.

Carl made his home with his parents in Story and Hardin counties until he was twenty years of age, being educated in the schools of Hardin county. At the age of twenty he married and engaged in the carpenter business, having served an apprenticeship at the trade before that time. He worked at his trade in Story, Hardin and Hamilton counties until 1903, when he came to Jackson county. He engaged in farming the northeast quarter of section 8, Hunter township, and that place has since been his home.

Mr. Teig was married in Hamilton county, Iowa, October 8, 1896, to Julia Berve, a native of Ogle county, Illinois, and a daughter of Nels and Anna Berve. Mr. and Mrs. Teig are the parents of the following named children: Amos, born July 18, 1897; Silas, born January 6, 1899; Otis, born October 24, 1900; Nora, born November 15, 1902; Clara, born December 5, 1904; Nels, born June 25, 1906; Clarence, born September 1, 1908. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Lakefield.

JOHN D. SCHNAPP (1905) owns and farms 400 acres of land on section 28, Sioux Valley township. He was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, October 5, 1864, the eldest of a family of eight children born to Jacob and Maggie (Ebersault) Schnapp, now living in Menard county, Illinois.

John spent the greater part of his life in his native state. Until he was twenty-four years of age he resided on the farm with his parents; then he rented the home place and conducted it until 1896. That year he rented another farm in the southern part of Sangamon county and engaged in farming there four years. He located in Dickinson county, Iowa, in 1900, buying a farm and engaging in farming five years. He sold out in 1905 and bought his present farm in Sioux Valley township, where he has since resided. Mr. Schnapp has made most of the improvements his farm has. During the season of 1909 he raised 3,000 bushels of corn and about 2,000 bushels of small grain. He has been a director of school district No. 64 for the past two years.

Mr. Schnapp was married in Menard county, Illinois, on August 24, 1887, to Annie McNeal, she having been born in that county in 1868.

They have six children, named as follows: Leroy, Albert, Almyra, Jacob, Leta and Rosa.

DANIEL R. HASBARGEN (1890) is a grain and dairy farmer of Wisconsin township. He owns a 320 acre farm on sections 34 and 27. He was born in Germany January 9, 1861, the son of Ralph A. and Wate (Greenhoff) Hasbargen, and the eldest of a family of eight children. Two sisters and one brother of this family are living, namely, Fredericka (Mrs. Henry Saathoff), Harmena (Mrs. C. Reiske) and Charles.

The father of our subject died in the old country at the age of 39, in 1872, leaving his wife with a large family of children. She and the children came to America in 1882, lived in Iroquois county, Illinois, several years and then came to Jackson county. Mrs. Hasbargen is now seventy-seven years of age and makes her home with her son, Charles, in Wisconsin township.

The subject of this biography immigrated to America in 1880 and for ten years engaged in farming in Iroquois county, Illinois. Then he came to Jackson county, bought the first quarter section of his present farm, and has ever since made his home in Wisconsin township. He is a member of the German Lutheran church. For six years he was a director of school district No. 9.

Mr. Hasbargen was married in Iroquois county, Illinois, April 10, 1888, to Anchen Tholen, who was born in Germany. Ten children have been born to this union, of whom Ralph, Hattie and an infant have died. Those living are Ralph, Henry, Carl, Johannes, Walter, Martin and Katie.

FRANK M. LEV (1889), carrier for R. F. D. route No. 1 out of Jackson, was born in Bohemia April 24, 1875, the son of Albert H. and Anna M. (Veverka) Lev. The father now lives in Jackson and is 77 years of age; the mother died at Jackson April 19, 1909, aged 68 years and eight months. There are three living children of this family besides the subject of this biography. They are Mrs. Mary Vajner, Albert A. Lev and Mrs. Anna Benda.

In 1883 Frank accompanied his parents to America, the family home being made at Mount Vernon, Iowa. In 1889 the family moved to Jackson county and made their home on the

south half of the northwest quarter of section eight, Des Moines township. Frank lived with his parents on that farm until 1906. Then he acquired the property, rented it and moved to Jackson, where he bought village property. He took the position of mail carrier for route one in 1906, and has since been engaged in that occupation.

Mr. Lev is a member of the Catholic church. He was married in Chicago December 11, 1906, to Anna R. Benesh, a native of the city in which she was married and a daughter of Wenzel and Mary Benesh. Mr. and Mrs. Lev are the parents of one child, Elenora, born April 3, 1908.

WILLIAM HUNT (1889) is a farmer and landowner of Middletown township and has lived in the county over twenty years. He is a native of London, England, and was born August 4, 1870, the son of Frederick J. and Isabelle (Dick) Hunt. His father was also a native of England and died in his native land in 1873. The mother of our subject is of Scottish birth, having been born at Kelso. After the death of her first husband she married Thomas Sinclair, of Rockford, Illinois, having come to the United States in 1881. Mr. Sinclair died in 1908 and his widow, the mother of our subject, now lives at Spirit Lake.

William Hunt is one of a family of four children. He spent the first fourteen years of his life attending school in his native country. He came to the United States in 1885 and located at Rockford, Illinois, where he resided three years, learning the printer's trade. He came to Jackson county in 1889 and for years lived with his step-father on section 15, Middletown township. He then started out in life for himself and has since been engaged in farming in Des Moines and Middletown townships. He located on his present farm, the northeast quarter of section 6, Middletown, in the spring of 1908. While a resident of Des Moines Mr. Hunt served as treasurer of school district No. 11, and he is now clerk of district No. 55. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. lodge.

In Middletown township on November 26, 1894, Mr. Hunt was united in marriage to Minnie Muir, who was born in the county April 9, 1875, and who is the daughter of that pioneer settler, R. C. Muir. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, as follows: Rob-

ert B., Edward W., Isabelle, Marie, Gordon, Roy and Beatrice.

OLE THORESON (1905), attorney at law at Lakefield, is a native of St. Croix county, Wisconsin, where he was born December 1, 1872. He is the son of Thore and Ingeborg (Haldorson) Thoreson. His parents were born in Norway and were married there. They came to the United States in the late sixties and located in St. Croix county, where they homesteaded land and where they still reside. Our subject is one of a family of seven children, as follows: Thore, Henry, C. F., Ole, Tobey, Anna and Peter.

Our subject spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in St. Croix county. He began attending the district schools when six years of age and when fourteen he entered St. Olaf college at Northfield, Minnesota, where, with the exception of one year, he was a student for six years. After finishing his junior year Mr. Thoreson was made principal of the school at Woodville, Wisconsin, his home town, and taught one year. After leaving St. Olaf he entered Minnesota state university and completed the academic course in 1901. Two years later he began his studies in the law department of the university and was graduated in 1905, having been admitted to the bar June 2, 1905. He at once moved to Lakefield, opened an office and has since been practicing his profession in that city. He practices in all courts.

Mr. Thoreson was married in Lakefield December 20, 1907, to Amanda Erickson, a native of Jackson county and a daughter of Emil and Amelia Erickson, of Lakefield. To Mr. and Mrs. Thoreson has been born one child, Iola Evelyn, born November 5, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Thoreson are members of the Lutheran church.

HENRY BESTE (1900) is a farmer and land owner of Sioux Valley township. He is a native of Germany and was born July 2, 1853, the youngest of a family of three children born to August and Carolina (Miller) Beste. Both his parents died in the old country. A brother of our subject is August Beste, of the United States navy. He is a captain of one of the gunboats and took part in the Spanish-American war.

Henry came to America from Germany in 1867 and located first at Baltimore, Maryland. He spent the first winter driving a baggage wagon in that city and then located at Little York, Pennsylvania, where for the next year he was employed as a stock tender on the Ohio river. Returning to Baltimore after his service, he was employed as a sausage maker a year and a half. Mr. Beste then returned to his old home in Germany and enlisted in the German army to fight in the war between that county and France, he being enlisted as an ambulance driver. After the war Mr. Beste remained in Germany three years, being employed as a driver of a stone wagon.

Returning to the United States, Mr. Beste located in Scott county, Iowa, where for three years he had employment on the section. He then engaged in farming in Scott county, renting for a number of years and later buying seventy-two acres of land. Mr. Beste came to Jackson county in 1900 and bought the northwest quarter of section 26, Sioux Valley township, where he has since lived. In addition to his Jackson county farm Mr. Beste owns a quarter section of land in Butte county, South Dakota. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Beste was married in Germany November 12, 1883, to Agnes Miller. To them have been born the following named children: Ernest, Henrietta, Agnes, Caroline, Hilda, Henry, Alfred, Freda.

WILLIAM ADAMS (1900), proprietor of a Jackson dray line and agent for the Standard Oil company, was born in Nobles county, Minnesota, January 27, 1884, the only son of George and Jane (Phillour) Adams. Both his parents located in Nobles county in the seventies. His mother died there when William was six years of age; his father moved to Jasper county, Indiana, and died several years later.

After his mother's death our subject went to Rensselaer, Jasper county, Indiana, where he resided with his grandparents four years. Then he began working out on farms and earning his own living. When sixteen years of age he moved to Wabash county, Illinois, to make his home with an uncle, and two years later located in Lawrence county, Illinois, and worked as a farm hand. Three years were spent in central Illinois after that, and

then, in February, 1900, he located in Jackson, where he has since lived. The first two years in the village he worked out, and in 1902 he established the dray business which he has since conducted.

**WILLIAM POHLMAN** (1882), of Weimer township, is one of the successful farmers of that precinct. He was born in Germany July 22, 1863, the son of Karl and Christina (Geiselman) Pohlman. He is the eldest of five sons, all of whom are living in Jackson county. His father died in September, 1902, aged 63 years; his mother lives in Heron Lake township.

William received his education and grew to manhood in his native land. He accompanied his parents to the new world in 1882 and with them came to Jackson county. He worked on the farm one year and then located in Cottonwood county, where he worked as a farm laborer nine years. He spent the next year working in Windom and then again became a resident of Jackson county. For a time he lived with his parents in Heron Lake township and in 1898 married and located on the southwest quarter of section 36, Weimer township, which he had previously bought. He has made all the improvements on the farm and has a nice home. He farms 280 acres of land in Weimer and Heron Lake townships.

Mr. Pohlman was married in Jackson July 2, 1898, to Elsie Peter, daughter of August Peter, a pioneer settler of the county. She was born in Weimer township February 14, 1881. They have three children: Christina, Paulina and Harold. Mr. Pohlman and family are members of the German Lutheran church.

**CHARLES HECHT** (1895), a Petersburg township farmer, was born in Germany April 21, 1851, the son of Carl and Josephine (Rad-vow Winkel) Hecht. At the age of thirteen years he came to America and located in the city of Chicago, where he lived five years and where he learned the butcher trade.

Mr. Hecht moved from Chicago to Taylor and in that vicinity engaged in farming many years. He came to Jackson county on the last day of February, 1895, located in Petersburg township, and there he has since lived. He owns 400 acres of land.

Mr. Hecht was married April 19, 1877, to Anna Loocks, who was born February 9, 1858. Ten children have been born to this union, as follows: Laura, born March 16, 1878; George, born July 17, 1879, died October 8, 1903; Martha, born June 4, 1881; Henry, born June 4, 1883; Minnie, born September 6, 1885; Charley, born October 15, 1887; Anna, born November 15, 1889; Jennie, born December 23, 1891; August, born October 3, 1895; Milton, born September 2, 1897. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

**JOHN MAGYAR** (1889), of Jackson, was born in Hungary April 5, 1871, the eldest of a family of four children born to George and Anna (Cicman) Magyar. The other children are Mary Durabala, who died in the spring of 1906; Anna (Mrs. John Olsavsky) and George P., of Elkton, Colorado.

The father of our subject came to America in 1879 and located in New Jersey, where he lived a year and a half. He moved from there to Carbon, Wyoming, where he was joined in 1881 by his wife. He lived there two years, and thereafter lived two years in What Cheer, Iowa, four years at Excelsior, Iowa, and since 1889 in Jackson county, owning a farm on section 1, Belmont township.

John Magyar did not come to America with either of his parents, but he arrived in 1883 and joined them at What Cheer, Iowa. He came to Jackson county with them and resided upon the farm until twenty-four years of age. He then located in Jackson. For four years he was employed as a clerk in the T. H. Stall store, and in 1901 became a member of the firm. He was in business three years and then took a position in the department store of Peter Hansen.

Mr. Magyar was married at Jackson September 18, 1895, to Anna Svatlik, a native of Manitowoc county, Wisconsin. To them have been born six children: Regina, Frank, Mary, Cecelia, Leona and Martha. Mr. Magyar, wife and children are members of the Catholic church. He owns forty acres of land in section 1, Belmont township. He is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Bohemian Catholic Western Union, having held office in both organizations since their establishment and having been a charter member of both local organizations.

Mr. Magyar was one of those who organ-

ized the first choir of the Jackson Catholic church sixteen years ago, and he is still the leader and organist. The members of the first choir were Anna Mott and Mary Skalicky, sopranos; Anna Svetlik and Matilda Motl, altos; Wenzel Motl and Frank Svetlik, tenors; Emil J. Skalicky and John Magyar, bass.

CHARLES SCHLAPKOHL (1903) is a Sioux Valley township farmer. He is a native of Scott county, Iowa, and was born November 11, 1864. His father, Jochim Schlapkohl, was born in Germany, came to America when nineteen years of age and lived in Scott county, Iowa, all the rest of his life. He died in 1884 at the age of fifty years and seven months. The mother of our subject, Eliza-(Dietz) Schlapkohl, was born in Germany and is now living in Muscatine county, Iowa.

Charles was brought up on a farm and educated in the district schools. He spent his boyhood days at home and after his father's death, which occurred when he was twenty years of age, he conducted the home farm for his mother. He married at the age of twenty-seven, rented the home farm at that time and conducted it until he came to Jackson county in 1903. He bought his 200 acre farm on section 2, Sioux Valley, upon his arrival and has conducted the place since. His farm is tiled and otherwise well improved.

Our subject is chairman of the town board, an office he has held for the last three years. He has also served as one of the supervisors and is treasurer of school district No. 48, an office he has held four years. He is a member of the M. W. A. and M. B. A. lodges of Lakefield.

Mr. Schlapkohl was married in Scott county, Iowa, March 2, 1892, to Bertha Strohbeen, daughter of Henry and Margreta Strohbeen. Mrs. Schlapkohl was born in Scott county, Iowa, August 11, 1870. They are the parents of four children: Walter, born December 7, 1892; Ella, born January 22, 1896; Laura, born November 25, 1899; Charlie, born April 30, 1907.

SEIBERT CHRISTOFFERS (1896) is one of the prominent farmers of Ewington township. He was born in Germany June 21, 1851, the son of Julius and Mary Christoffers, both of whom died in their native land. Seibert is

the elder of two living children, the other child being Bernhardt.

Until he was fourteen years of age Seibert lived on the farm with his parents. Then he worked out until he was twenty-one years of age, at which time he entered the German army, serving an enlistment of three years and six weeks. He came to America in 1881 and located in Will county, Illinois. He worked on a farm there one year, one year in Woodford county, and then returned to Will county, where he farmed rented land fourteen years. Mr. Christoffers came to Jackson county in 1896 and bought the south half of section 10, Ewington township, where he has ever since lived. At the time of purchase the place had only a little shack of a dwelling and a four-horse barn. He has made all the improvements on the farm and has a nice place. He has made a success and is considered one of the township's strongest farmers. He has his farm tiled.

Mr. Christoffers was married in Woodford county, Illinois, January 30, 1883, to Margaret Henreichs, who was born in Germany May 11, 1859, and who came to the United States in 1881. She is the daughter of Henry and Margaret Henreichs. Six children have been born to this union, named as follows: John, Margaret, Mary, Henry, Louie and Minnie. Mr. Christoffers is one of the supervisors of his township, having served as such for the past seven years. He was also a director of school district No. 91. He is a director of the Prewster Farmers Elevator company. He and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church.

ISAAC WADSWORTH (1906), proprietor of the Jackson creamery, has been engaged in the butter making business thirty-five years--twenty-eight years in the states of Vermont and New York and seven years in the states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. His parents are William and Catherine (Brooks) Wadsworth, natives of Vermont and New York state, respectively. The father is now living in New York state and is 84 years of age. He is a veteran of the civil war, having served in company K, 92nd New York volunteers. The mother of our subject is 73 years of age. They have been married 56 years.

To these parents, in Stockholm, St. Lawrence county, New York, Isaac Wadsworth was

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HOME OF FRITZ SCHULDT, ROST TOWNSHIP

born December 1, 1853. He was brought up on the farm and was educated in the county of his birth. At the age of twenty he began learning the butter and cheese makers business in his home county and has been engaged in the work ever since. He came west in 1902, and after a few years spent in Michigan and Wisconsin moved to Jackson, in 1906. Upon his arrival he bought the creamery plant of Henry Valgamore. The plant has a capacity of 75,000 pounds of butter fat per year, and it pays out to the farmers of the vicinity between \$25,000 and \$30,000 per year.

Mr. Wadsworth was married at Carsonville, Michigan, May 13, 1902, to Miss Ella Tyler, a native of Lexington, Michigan, and a daughter of Philo and Martha (Kemp) Tyler. By a former marriage Mr. Wadsworth is the father of one child, Roy G. Wadsworth, born July 2, 1897. Mr. Wadsworth is a member of the Methodist church and of the Independent Order of Foresters.

JOHN BAUMANN (1888), farmer and dairyman of Heron Lake township, is a native of Switzerland and was born January 16, 1860. His father, Fred Baumann, was born in 1824 and died February 18, 1901. His mother, Anna Baumann, was born in 1821 and is still living in her native country. John is next to the youngest of a family of five children born to these parents.

John Baumann lived with his parents in his native land until he was twenty-four years of age, securing an education and working on his father's farm and serving a three years' enlistment in the army. He came to the United States in 1884 and located in Green county, Wisconsin, where he resided four years. He came to Jackson county in 1888, worked as a laborer two years, and then bought the south half of the northeast quarter of section 24, Heron Lake township—part of his present farm. There were then only a shanty and old stable on the place, and the fine home Mr. Baumann has today is the result of his labor. He also owns the west half of the northwest quarter of section 19, Belmont, and the north half of the quarter upon which is his house—a 240 acre farm in one body.

Our subject was married in Green county, Wisconsin, August 9, 1886, to Eliza Krahenbuhl, who was born in Switzerland April 17, 1864, and came to the United States in 1884.

She is the daughter of John and Anna Krahenbuhl. To Mr. and Mrs. Baumann have been born three children: Fred, born September 25, 1888; William, born December 25, 1889; Anna, born March 2, 1897. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

FRITZ SCHULDT (1888). Among the first of the German farmers to settle in the township of Rost and one of the township's most progressive citizens is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He owns 640 acres of choice, improved land in the township, of which he farms one-half section, while the rest is farmed by his sons.

Mr. Schuldt was born in Bergen, Insel Island, Rugen, Germany, February 10, 1850. His father, Bogislaw Schuldt, a tanner by trade, was born in the year 1800 and died in 1863. His mother, Wellhelmina (Westphahl) Schuldt, was born in 1810 and died in Germany in 1868. Until he was twenty-one years of age Fritz Schuldt lived in his native land. He was brought up in the city of Bergen and was educated there. When he was seventeen years of age he began working at the wagonmaker's trade, which he followed during the rest of the time he lived in the old country and for many years after coming to America.

Our subject arrived in the new world in November, 1871, and went direct to the city of Chicago, immediately after the destruction of the city by the great fire. He remained in Chicago two years, for a time assisting in clearing away the wrecked buildings and later working at his trade. In 1873 he moved to Batavia, Illinois, and that city was his home until he came to Jackson county in 1888. During all of the time of his residence in Batavia Mr. Schuldt worked at his trade in the Newton wagon factory.

Giving up the wagonmaker's trade, Mr. Schuldt decided to become a farmer. On March 27, 1888, he arrived in Jackson county and located upon the northeast quarter of section 29, Rost township, which he had bought the year before and upon which he has ever since lived. When he bought his original farm only sixty acres of it had been put under the plow and there was not a building or a tree on the place. He has made all the improvements and has one of the fine farm homes of the township. Since his arrival Mr. Schuldt has added to his real estate holdings until to-

day he owns an even section of land. Although his entire previous life had been spent in cities, he has made a success of his farming operations and has prospered greatly.

Mr. Schuldt is interested in many of the cooperative concerns which have wrought good to the farmers of Jackson county, having stock in the Rost creamery, the Rost telephone, the farmers' elevator, store and bank at Lakefield. He and his family are members of the German Lutheran church of Rost township. Mr. Schuldt has taken an active interest in school matters since locating in the county. When his district was organized and before the school house was built he tendered the use of the front room of his home for a school room, and the first two months school of the district was held in his house. When the district was organized in 1889 he was chosen one of the directors and he has ever since held the office.

At Batavia, Illinois, November 29, 1874, occurred the marriage of Mr. Schuldt to Alberta Groener. She was born in Pomern, Germany, August 29, 1856, came to the United States in 1870 and located at Batavia, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Schuldt have been born the following named eleven children, all living: Fred, a physician of St. Paul, born November 26, 1875; Henry, Rost township farmer, born January 14, 1878; Frank, Rost township farmer, born May 9, 1880; Clara, who resides at home, born March 29, 1882; Walter, a Lutheran minister of Virginia, born January 31, 1885; Reinhold, who resides at home, born March 24, 1887; Alex, who is a student at Concordia college of St. Paul, born July 20, 1889; Frances, born June 27, 1891; Herbert, born April 1, 1894; Uhle, born April 2, 1896; Marcus, born April 24, 1899.

WILLIAM F. AUTEN (1897), grain buyer for the Rippe Grain and Milling company and manager of the elevator at Jackson, was born at Grand Meadow, Mower county, Minnesota, March 21, 1877. His parents are the late Charles L. Auten and Mary (Collins) Auten, both natives of New York state. Both his father and mother came to Minnesota in an early day, before their marriage, the former locating in Mower county, the latter in Olmsted county. The elder Auten was engaged in the grain business at Grand Meadow for many years, and in 1885 moved to South Da-

kota, where the family lived twelve years. They came to Jackson in 1897, and in that village Mr. Auten, Sr., died May 24, 1904, aged 64 years. The mother of our subject lives in Jackson.

William Auten resided with his parents until he was a man grown. He was educated in the schools at Willow Lake and Howard, South Dakota, and at an early age began working at the grain business: in fact, with the exception of three years spent in clerking in general stores at Andover and Willow Lake, South Dakota, he has spent his whole life at the business. He accompanied the family to Jackson county in 1897 and took a position with the Rippe Grain and Milling company, having charge of the elevators at Alpha and Jackson. For the last two years he has devoted his time exclusively to the management of the company's business at Jackson. The Rippe company has elevators in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa and a large flouring mill at Fairmont.

Mr. Auten was married at Jackson September 2, 1904, to Charlotte Halstead Ellsworth, a native of Jackson and a daughter of William and Bertha (Ellingson) Ellsworth. To these parents one child—a son—was born April 16, 1908. During his residence in Alpha Mr. Auten served one year as a member of the village council. He is a member of the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges.

HENRY HASSING (1891), who owns the southeast quarter of section 16, Middletown township, is a native Minnesotan, having been born in Faribault county April 12, 1865. Henry is the third of a family of nine living children. His parents were Henry and Rosina (Kiser) Hassing, native Germans, who came to America early in life, lived a short time in Wisconsin, and then settled in Faribault county, Minnesota, where they homesteaded and resided until their death.

Henry resided with his parents until he was twenty-three years of age, attending school and working on the farm. After working out a short time after leaving the parental roof, he rented a farm and conducted it until he came to Jackson county in 1891. Arriving in this county, he located upon his present farm, which he had bought the year before. At the time of purchase the land was raw prairie and he has made all the improvements on it.

Mr. Hassing was director of school district No. 92 for nine years, and was road overseer for three years. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the C. O. F. lodge.

At Easton, Minnesota, Mr. Hassing was married January 29, 1894, to Frances Paul, a native of Wisconsin. They have seven living children: Johanna, Angus, John, Lawrence, Ernest, Loretta and Eddie.

ALBERT J. JOHNSON (1883), Belmont township farmer, was born on the farm where he now lives January 30, 1883, the son of John H. and Bertha (Iverson) Johnson. These parents were born in Norway and came to America when young children. They were married in Goodhue county, Minnesota, and in a very early day came to Jackson county and homesteaded in Belmont. They are still living and make their home with their son. He is 64 years of age; she is 60. Eight children were born to them, as follows: Anna, Joseph, Andrew, Ada, Bertha, Albert, Julia and Clara.

Albert attended the district school and grew to manhood on his father's farm. He worked for his father until he was twenty-two years of age, and then took the management of the place, having since worked it on shares. The farm consists of 160 acres on section 24.

DR. MEREDITH J. JAMES (1908), dentist of Lakefield, is a native of Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where he was born March 28, 1884. The doctor's parents are John J. and Hannah (Meredith) James, who were born in Wales and came to America in childhood and settled near Utica, New York. The father served in the union army during the war of the rebellion and after the war located in Blue Earth county, Minnesota, where he was married and took a homestead. Both parents now live in Blue Earth county. He is 64 years of age and she is 66 years old. They have five children: John C., Robert G., Bezalee, Meredith J. and William H.

Meredith lived on the farm with his parents until fifteen years of age, attending the country schools. Then he went to Lake Crystal and attended the high school, from which he received his diploma in 1904. Two years later he entered the dental department of the state university and was graduated in June, 1908.

The next month he moved to Lakefield, bought the dental business and apparatus of Dr. C. A. Bell, and has since been engaged in practice. He has an office in the Jackson County State Bank building.

OLE R. OLSON (1880), Christiania township farmer, is a native of that precinct, having been born April 26, 1880, the son of Ryar and Gertie Olson. His parents came from Norway and to Jackson county in an early day and homesteaded land on section 12, Christiania township. They are still residents of the county.

Our subject has spent his entire life in Christiania township. He received a common school education and until he grew up worked for his father. Then he engaged in farming for himself. He farms 200 acres of land, the home place being the northeast quarter of section 22. Besides his farming operations he has conducted a threshing machine for the last fourteen years.

Mr. Olson was married March 12, 1903, to May Hjony, of Des Moines township. Mr. Olson is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church and of the Sons of Norway lodge.

JOHN TORDSEN (1892), farmer of Hunter township, is a son of Peter Torsen, of Rost township, and Christina (Hendricks) Torsen, who died in Iowa January 26, 1888.

John was born in Ida county, Iowa, April 3, 1884, and accompanied his father to Jackson county in 1892. He was brought up on his father's Rost township farm and was educated in the district schools. He resided at home until 1907. Then he went to McLean county, North Dakota, resided there one year, and then returned to Jackson county. He was married in 1908, and since that time has been engaged in farming the northwest quarter of section 18, Hunter township, which is owned by his father.

Mr. Torsen was married in Jackson November 25, 1908, to Marie Lamp, who was born in Germany January 13, 1888, and who came to the United States in 1902.

CONRAD W. LUFT (1894), of Petersburg township, was born in Lee county, Illinois, June 30, 1871, the son of W. M. and Barbara

(Leich) Luft, both deceased. The first two and one-half years of his life were passed in his native county, the next two years in Crawford county, Iowa, and then the family located permanently in Sac county, Iowa. In that county Conrad grew to manhood, receiving a common school education. He came to Jackson county in December, 1894, lived here five years, and then took up his residence at Superior, Iowa. Three years later he came back to the county and has since resided here. He is engaged in farming on section 6, Petersburg township. He is a member of the German Lutheran church.

Mr. Luft was married December 15, 1898, to Miss Anna Mueller. Two children have been born to them: Charles, born December 11, 1899; Henry, born July 28, 1901.

GEORGE CHRISTIANSEN (1885) is a Heron Lake township farmer, owning the north half of the northeast quarter of section 12. He has lived in Nobles and Jackson counties all his life, having been born in the former January 7, 1878, the son of John and Mollie (Halverson) Christiansen.

George was educated in the district schools and brought up on the farm. His father died in Nobles county when he was a child and in 1885 he accompanied his mother to Jackson county, where he has ever since lived. He lived on the farm with his mother in Belmont township seven years and later made his home with her on the farm on section 22, Heron Lake. In 1908 he located upon his own farm, which he had bought three years before, and has since been engaged in farming the place.

The parents of Mr Christiansen were born in Norway and came from the old country to Nobles county. Mrs. Christiansen lives on her Heron Lake township farm.

ALFRED AMBROSE (1884), a Wisconsin township farmer and stock raiser, is a native of Austria and was born September 5, 1874. His father, Paul Ambrose, died April 5, 1900, his mother is still living and resides with her son.

Alfred came to the United States with his parents when only two years of age and until the spring of 1884 resided at Earlham, Madison county, Iowa. On April 9, 1884, the

family moved to Jackson county, and upon his father's Wisconsin township farm Alfred worked until he reached his majority. After becoming of age he took the management of the home farm, the west half of the southeast quarter of section 33, which he still farms in addition to his own property, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 4, Petersburg township. Mr. Ambrose owns stock in the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator company, of Alpha. He is a member of the M. W. A. and Z. C. B. J. lodges of Jackson.

On September 24, 1901, Mr. Ambrose was married to Miss Josie Skalsky. To these parents have been born the following named children: Bennie, born December 7, 1902; Albert, born October, 1904; Agnes, born November 7, 1906; baby, born January 18, 1908.

JOHN H. ALLERS (1906) is one of the progressive young farmers of Sioux Valley township. He is a native of Benton county, Iowa, and was born May 4, 1886. When he was five years of age his parents moved just across the line into Tama county and on his father's farm in that county he grew to manhood.

John continued to make his home with his parents and to work for his father until 1906. That year he married and moved to Jackson county, taking possession of his father's farm, the northeast quarter of section 34, Sioux Valley township, where he has since resided. He has up-to-date ideas in regard to farming and he is carrying them out in the management of the place.

Mr. Allers is one of a family of three children, the others being Vena and Minnie. His father was born in Scott county, Iowa, November 13, 1860, and was married at Davenport January 5, 1882, to Minnie Anderson, who was born in Mecklenberg, Germany, February 17, 1865. The parents of our subject are now residents of Tama county, Iowa.

John Allers was married in Benton county, Iowa, December 19, 1906, to Emma Ehrnestein. She was born in Germany October 28, 1886, and is a daughter of Fred and Louisa Ehrnestein, who live in Benton county, Iowa. One child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Allers, Agnes Clara, born September 15, 1908. Mr. Allers is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the Germania lodge.

PETER C. JACOBSEN (1896), of Jackson, is a native of Denmark and was born April 7, 1861. He is the youngest of a family of nine children, of whom four are living. His father, Jacob Matsen, a butcher by trade, died in his native land in 1879, aged 54 years. His mother, Anna C. (Sorensen) Matsen, died in 1885, aged 64 years.

Peter made his home with his parents only until seven years of age; then he started out in life for himself. He secured a good education, completing it with a year's course in a high school. After his school days he worked as a farm hand until eighteen years old. Then he started a meat market in the city of Copenhagen, which he conducted until 1891. He left his native land July 9, 1891, and arrived at Winnebago City, Minnesota, July 24, of the same year. Near that town Mr. Jacobsen worked on a farm three years; then he rented a farm and conducted it two years. He arrived in Jackson county in 1896 and for two or three years worked as a farm laborer and at odd jobs. He then married and located in Jackson, and for the next four years worked in George Sawyer's coal yards. The next four years were spent as an employe of the Standard Oil company. Since then he has been engaged in farming on a small scale. He owns seventeen acres of fine land on Thomas hill in the east part of Jackson, which he intends to plat as an addition. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen and Danish Brotherhood lodges, and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Jacobsen was married in Copenhagen, Denmark, February 8, 1883, to Hannah Peterson, a native of Sweden. She died April 4, 1886, aged 23 years. Two children, both of whom died in infancy, were born to these parents. The second marriage of Mr. Jacobsen occurred at Jackson November 3, 1899, when he wedded Mrs. Christ Larsen, who was formerly Miss Caroline Mortensen, a native of Denmark. By her former marriage Mrs. Jacobsen is the mother of one child, Carrie Larsen. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen have been born three children: Myrtle, born September 14, 1902; Pearl and Ruth.

CARL O. YOUNGREN (1897), of Alpha, is a native of Martin county, Minnesota, where he was born May 1, 1888, the son of Swen and Carrie (Nelson) Youngren. Carl lived in

Martin county with his parents until nine years of age and then accompanied them to Jackson county, in the spring of 1897. With the exception of one year spent in Groton, South Dakota, this has been his home ever since. Mr. Youngren is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church.

SAMUEL W. SHEARER (1894) is one of the large landowners and successful farmers of Wisconsin township. He owns the east half of section 5, the southwest quarter of section 4 and the north half of the northwest quarter of section 3. He has an elegant home built on the first described property. Samuel W. is the eldest of a family of five living children. The other members of the family are Joseph P., John L., Uriah S. and Emma (Mrs. J. W. Null), of Illinois. Another sister, Mary E. Hildebrand, died September 19, 1894.

The subject of this sketch was born in Franklin county, Ohio, May 24, 1851, the son of J. J. and Catherine (Lehman) Shearer. Until he was of age he resided with his parents and assisted with the farm work, the family having moved to Livingston county, Illinois, in 1868. In that county, upon reaching his majority, he rented one of his father's farms and conducted it until 1877. That year he was married, and he and his brother, J. P. Shearer, bought the farm, conducted it as partners several years, and later our subject secured entire control. He conducted the farm alone until 1894. In 1892 he came to Jackson county and bought the half section upon which his home is now, and two years later moved onto the place. He has prospered, and has since added the other property to his holdings. During his residence in Wisconsin township Mr. Shearer has held the offices of supervisor, chairman of the town board and assessor. He is now clerk of school district No. 1. He is member of the Mennonite church.

Mr. Shearer was married at Chatsworth, Illinois, on the first day of the year 1877, to Lizzie Grahill, a native of Grundy county, Illinois. To these parents have been born ten children, of whom the following nine are living: Byron A., Harry M., Grace M., Charles E., Ollie J., Fred S., Russell, Mary E. and J. Wesley.

LEROY D. STEWARD (1908), proprietor of a Lakefield barber shop, was born in Donahoe,

Iowa, October 3, 1883, the eldest of a family of four children born to George and Martha (Mickelwright) Steward, the other children being Charles, Howard and Fannie.

Both his parents died when Leroy was a child and he was brought up in the family of an uncle, with whom he lived until seventeen years of age. He was educated in the Donahoe public schools and after leaving the home of his uncle worked on a farm until he was of age. He then started working at the barber's trade, learning the business in shops in Donahoe, Iowa, and Denneh, Iowa. After mastering the trade Mr. Steward worked in shops in Kansas City, Missouri, Luverne, Minnesota, and other places. He located in Lakefield in August, 1908, buying the George Albert Armstrong shop, in the Jackson County State Bank building. He conducts a two chair shop. Mr. Steward is a member of the I. O. O. F., the K. P. and M. W. A. lodges.

OLOF ARNTSON (1881) owns 280 acres of land on sections 4 and 10, Belmont township, all of which he and his sons farm. His parents are the late Arnt Swenson and Gracie Swenson, who came from Norway in 1899 and made their home with our subject. The father died September 15, 1908, aged 81 years; the mother still lives and is 77 years of age.

Olof is the eldest of a family of three children and was born in Norway September 19, 1853. There he grew to manhood, working on his father's farm with the exception of seven years spent in the army. He came to America in 1881, locating in Jackson, where he worked on the railroad three years. The next two years were spent in farming on section 6, Enterprise township. He then bought the southeast quarter of section 4, Belmont township, from Paul Hanson, who had homesteaded it in 1864, and has ever since made his home there, buying his other property later. He has been treasurer of school district No. 89 for the past five years and has been road overseer of his district. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Arntson was married in Norway January 22, 1876, to Mary Olena, who was born October 6, 1853. They are the parents of six children: Gust, Gracie (Mrs. Ole Aas), Oscar, Albert, Julian and Bennie.

FATHER RUDOLPH MATOUSEK (1898), until recently pastor of St. Wenceslaus Catholic church of Jackson, was born in Lomnitz, Moravia, April 12, 1865, the son of Louie and Antonia (Kapoun) Matousek. He received his early education in Lomnitz, but at the age of eleven years he went to Brunn, the capital city of Moravia, and for eight years was a student there, two years of the time studying theology. At the age of twenty-one he left his native country, and for two years was a student at a theological school at Louvain, Belgium.

In 1888 Father Matousek came to America and for nearly nine years had charge of a church at Rock Creek, near St. Louis, Missouri. In 1897 he returned to Europe for a visit with his father, but returned the next year, and on May 5, 1898, took up his duties in Jackson, where he ministered until the fall of 1909.

CHARLES HASBARGEN (1888) is one of the prosperous farmers of Wisconsin township. He owns the northeast quarter of section 33, a few miles southeast of Jackson.

Mr. Hasbargen was born in Germany April 3, 1870, the son of Ralph A. and Weeke (Grunhoff) Hasbargen. At the age of thirteen years he came to the United States, lived four years in Iroquois county, Illinois, and one year in LaSalle county. He received a high school education and while in LaSalle county attended a college. He came to Jackson county in April, 1888, and has since been engaged in farming in Wisconsin township.

Our subject has stock in the Alpha Creamery association and in the Alpha Horse company. He has taken an active part in the management of the creamery and for the past nine years has been secretary of the association, and before that served two years as a director. He was a member of the township board ten years, was a school director eighteen years and has been secretary of the German Lutheran church of Jackson for eighteen years.

Mr. Hasbargen was married to Theresa Buck January 22, 1893. As a result of this union have been born the following named children: Willie, born March 4, 1894; Alma H., born January 3, 1896; Rudolph D., born November 11, 1897; Lena M., born April 14, 1900, died September 28, 1901; Albert D., born June 19,

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FAMILY OF MR. AND MRS. ELLING ELSNESS, CHRISTIANIA



SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA HOSPITAL, HERON LAKE

1902; Vikara F., born September 28, 1904; Hiram, born September 19, 1906.

JOHN R. FORMAN (1903), a school teacher in district number 7, is a resident of Jackson. He was born in Kankakee, Illinois, January 15, 1878, the son of Charles M. and Sarah (Michael) Forman, natives of New York and Illinois, respectively. The family moved to Nebraska in grasshopper days, resided there four years, and then returned to Illinois, where they resided until 1902. That year they moved to Jackson, where they now reside.

The subject of this biography resided with his parents in Kankakee, Illinois, until twenty-one years of age. He then located in Marshall, Minnesota, and four months later enlisted in the 45th United States regiment of infantry and was sent to the Philippine islands. His army service covered a period of twenty-one months, eighteen of which were in foreign service. He received his discharge at San Francisco in June, 1901. He returned to his old home in Illinois after his discharge, but in 1903 located in Jackson. For a few years he engaged in farming and teaching school, and three years ago entered the mail service as carrier out of Jackson, which he followed until September 1, 1909, when he resigned to again take up school teaching. He is a member of the Methodist church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Forman was married in Jackson May 18, 1904, to Miss Cardelia M. Odbert, a native of Jackson and a daughter of Edward and Clara Odbert. To Mr. and Mrs. Forman has been born one child, Edith, born March 12, 1905.

ALFRED H. COOK (1901), buyer for the Benson Grain company of Heron Lake, although a resident of Jackson county only a few years, was born in the neighboring county of Nobles and all his life has lived only a short distance from Jackson county. He is the son of Edward V. and Eliza (Gage) Cook, who now live at Fulda.

Edward Cook is a native of New York state. He enlisted in that state and served three years in the union army during the war of the rebellion. After the war he moved to Iowa, where he was married. Locating in Nobles county in an early day, he homesteaded in

Seward township. He lived there until 1877, and since that date has resided in Fulda.

To these parents were born nine children, of whom eight are living. Alfred is the fourth in age of this family and was born on the Seward township farm December 29, 1877. When an infant he was taken with his parents to Fulda and in that town grew to manhood and was educated. He was in the grain business in Fulda two years and taught school in Murray county two years. He was in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, during the year 1891. Mr. Cook moved to Heron Lake in July, 1901, and since that date has been employed as grain buyer for the Benson Grain company. This company was incorporated in 1901 and is one of the big financial institutions of the county, owning and operating twenty elevators in Minnesota and Nebraska.

Mr. Cook was married at Fulda January 1, 1901, to Martha E. Suthers, a native of Wisconsin. One child, Clifford H., has blessed this union, having been born April 10, 1902. Mr. Cook is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

ALECK F. ELNESS (1877) was born in Christiania township June 4, 1877, and has resided there all his life. He owns the east half of the northeast quarter of section 20. He is the son of Elling N. Elness, who now lives in Oregon, and Ellen Elness, who died in 1900 at the age of 55 years. His parents came from Norway and located in Jackson county in 1870, homesteading land in Christiania township.

Aleck received his education in the district schools of his native township, and after growing up engaged in farming. He owns stock in the Windom Telephone company and in the company that owns the Bergen store. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Belmont.

Mr. Elness was married May 2, 1900, to Gea Engan, and to this marriage have been born four children: Emmet, born February 28, 1901; Ouvin, born April 27, 1903; Allen, born May 25, 1905; Myriel, born May 9, 1907.

EDWARD J. LEWIS (1904). Among the several really meritorious enterprises of which the county seat boasts is the Jackson nursery. Edward J. Lewis, who has made that business his life's study, is the proprietor. Although his business is yet in its infancy, its

success is assured. He produces all kinds of fruit and shade trees and many varieties of berries. He employs several agents, who sell his goods throughout southwestern Minnesota, northern Iowa and North Dakota.

Mr. Lewis was born in Howard county, Iowa, August 8, 1883, being the only son of William and Emma (Moore) Lewis. His father died when our subject was two years of age; his mother lives in Cresco, Iowa. Edward lived in Howard county, Iowa, until he reached his majority. He attended the public schools until he was thirteen years of age; then he began working in a nursery, which has ever since been his occupation. He moved to Jackson in the spring of 1904, bought a ten acre tract of ground on Thomas hill, made improvements and started his nursery, which has since occupied his attention.

At Cresco, Iowa, June 22, 1903, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Alice Bents, a native of the village in which she was married. To this union have been born two children, Virginia and Venita. Mr. Lewis is a member of the Modern Brotherhood of America.

REINHOLD STUERMER (1890) is a Belmont township farmer, owning the southwest quarter of section 33 of that township and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 4, Des Moines township. He is a son of the late Fred and Johanna (Hartwig) Stuermer, natives of Germany. After their marriage in the old country the parents of our subject came to America and located at Manistee, Michigan. They resided there until 1890, when they came to Jackson county and engaged in farming in Belmont township. Fred Stuermer died in 1901 at the age of 63 years; his wife died in April, 1909, aged 73 years. Four children survive them. They are Augusta (Mrs. Carl Pohlman), Tillie (Mrs. Julius Gentz), Lena (Mrs. Fred Bretzman) and Reinhold.

To these parents in Manistee, Michigan, June 12, 1876, Reinhold Stuermer was born. He began his education there and at the age of fourteen years, in 1890, accompanied his parents to Jackson county. He has ever since made his home on the Belmont farm. He worked for his father until the latter's death and then fell heir to the farm, which he has since conducted.

Mr. Stuermer was married in Jackson coun-

ty July 24, 1904, to Clara Krumweide, who was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, March 16, 1886, and who is the daughter of Henry Krumweide, now living in Iroquois county, Illinois. Two children have been born to this union, namely: Lydia, born July 7, 1907; Esther, born August 27, 1908.

CHRIS L. HEMMING (1907), proprietor of a saloon at Heron Lake, is a native of Denmark and was born July 18, 1879, the son of Robert and Caroline (Brown) Hemming. He accompanied his parents to the United States in 1882 and located in Minnesota. The family resided one year in Glencoe, two years in St. Paul, and in Kenyon, Minnesota, from 1885 to 1894, Chris receiving a public school education in the last named town.

In 1894 Mr. Hemming, then a boy of fifteen years, set out in life for himself. He was employed on a work train on the Soo line out of Minneapolis two years and in 1896 went to Pennington, Wisconsin, where he spent the next winter. After spending a short time in South Park, St. Paul, and in Oelwein, Iowa, he went to work for Swift & Company, in St. Paul, and was employed by that company one year. The next year he tended bar in St. Paul, and in 1899 went to Escanaba, Michigan, where for a year and a half he was a fireman on the Northwestern railroad. Returning to St. Paul in 1901, Mr. Hemming took a position as fireman on the Great Western and on June 1, 1902, was made an engineer. He moved from St. Paul to Plum City, Wisconsin, in 1905 and was engaged in the saloon business there two years, still owning the property. He arrived in Heron Lake in the spring of 1907 and has since been engaged in the saloon business in that village. He owns 110 acres of land in Dunn county, Wisconsin.

Mr. Hemming was married in St. Paul in June, 1900, to Miss Mayme Bergeon, and to them have been born two children: Marie V., born at Escanaba, Michigan, March 12, 1901; Ruth I., born in Heron Lake March 15, 1907. The family are members of the Catholic church.

BERT KEPHART (1890) is a Christiania township farmer living a short distance north of Bergen. He is a native of Dubuque county, Iowa, and was born April 24, 1863.

The parents of our subject are Milton and Margaret (Mettler) Kephart, now of Lakefield. The grandparents of our subject came from Pennsylvania to Iowa in a very early day and Milton Kephart was born in that state in the forties. There are eleven children in the family, namely: Ellmore, a carpenter of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Bert, of this sketch; Elenor (Mrs. James Darcy), of Lakefield; Rose (Mrs. Henry Hardman), of Spirit Lake; Lizzie (Mrs. Charles Yoder), of Spirit Lake; Ernest, of Canada; Tillie, of Lakefield; Maggie, a school teacher; Milton, of Lakefield; Elbe, farmer and well digger of Dakota; Sarah, who resides at home.

The first four years of the life of Bert Kephart were spent in Dubuque county, Iowa, and the next eleven years in Clayton county of the same state. In 1880 he moved to Dickinson county, Iowa, and in the spring of 1890 he came to Jackson county to reside. He engaged in the well digging business, which he has followed for eighteen years. He has been engaged in farming the last six years. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

Mr. Kephart was married May 8, 1887, to Lucy Willford, of Spirit Lake. To them have been born the following named three children: Guy, born February 5, 1888; Ollie, born July 18, 1890; Helen, born June 17, 1899.

ISIAH L. SMALLEY (1901) resides in Heron Lake township, just west of Lakefield, where he owns and farms 286 acres of land. He is one of the township's successful farmers and has not had a crop failure since he located in the county. He is a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was born August 21, 1849. His father, Nathaniel Smalley, was born in Ohio in 1812 and died March 13, 1902. His mother, Rachael (Smith) Smalley, was a native of Pennsylvania.

His mother having died when he was a baby, our subject made his home with his father until he was twenty-five years of age. At the age of six years he went to Putnam county, Illinois, and three years later to LaSalle county, where he grew to manhood. He worked for his father until twenty-five years of age; then he began farming for himself, buying land adjoining his father's farm. He sold out his interests in Illinois, and in the fall of 1882 located in Osceola county, Iowa, where he and his father bought 580 acres of

land. They farmed this land in partnership five years and then divided the estate. Mr. Smalley continued his farming operations in that county until 1901. In the year last named he became a resident of Jackson county, locating in Lakefield, where he bought property and resided three years. In 1904 he bought his present farm and has since been engaged in its cultivation.

Mr. Smalley was married in Osceola county, Iowa, in 1883, to Emma J. Woolstrom. She died in 1888, after having borne him one child, Clarence E., born May 11, 1887. Mr. Smalley's second marriage occurred in Osceola county in May, 1889, when he wedded Minnie E. Cantonwine, who was born in Benton county, Iowa, January 19, 1873. To them have been born the following named children: Oliver C., born February 6, 1891; Zoella E., born January 7, 1893; Darrel M., born March 30, 1898; Fleda M., born July 11, 1904; Uanda I., born April, 1909.

JOSEPH EDEL (1889), a retired farmer living in Belmont township, was born in Bohemia in 1841. He resided with his parents in the old country until twelve years of age, and then began working out as a farm hand, later engaging in the livery business. He came to America in 1876 and located at Cleveland, Ohio, where for many years he worked in factories. He came to Jackson county in 1889 and bought the northwest quarter of section 23, Belmont township, where he has ever since resided. In recent years Mr. Edel turned over the management of his farm to his sons and now lives a retired life.

Mr Edel was married at Cleveland, Ohio, to Catherine Peterlek, a native of Bohemia. Seven children were born to this union, of whom the following five are living: Joseph, Thomas, Edwin, Alba and Rosa. Two children, named James and Alba, are dead. The two daughters are married: Alba to Joseph Hayek, of Mountain Lake, Minnesota; Rosa to Burriel Hruby, of Thief River Falls, Minnesota. The family are Catholics.

FRANK SKALSKY (1898) owns and farms the northeast quarter of section 3, Petersburg township. His parents were Joseph and Nora (Skalsky) Skalsky and he was born in Bohemia August 4, 1853.

Our subject had but few advantages in an educational way. At the age of fifteen years he started working as a glass blower and he followed that occupation fifteen years. At the age of thirty he emigrated to the United States and for the next fifteen years engaged in farming near Earlham, Iowa. He moved to Jackson county in August, 1898, bought his farm in Petersburg township, and that has since been his home. He owns stock in the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator company of Alpha.

Mr. Skalsky was married in April, 1883, to Julia Frost. To these parents have been born the following named children: Joseph, born June 16, 1884; Frank, born August 28, 1889; Tony, born September 5, 1890.

JENS JENSEN (1904) is the proprietor of a Jackson blacksmith shop. He is a native of Denmark and was born October 7, 1881. He is the eldest of a family of four children, all but himself living in the old country. His father, Nels Jensen, died ten years ago; his mother, Hannah (Erickson) Jensen, lives in Denmark.

Jens lived with his parents in Denmark until 1904. There he received his education and there he learned the blacksmith's trade. He came to America in 1904, worked a short time in Canada and a short time in Chicago, and the same year arrived in Jackson county. He worked in the manufacturing plant of Ludvigsen Brothers, Jackson, until October, 1908. Then he bought the W. T. Muir blacksmith shop and has since been in business for himself. He does general blacksmithing, horse-shoeing, repairing and boiler work.

Mr. Jensen is a member of the Lutheran church and of the Danish Brotherhood lodge.

HENRY PAULSON, Kimball township farmer, has spent his entire life in Jackson county. He was born in Kimball township, the son of John and Betsy Paulson. These parents were born in Norway, came to the United States in 1867, and homesteaded on section 30, Kimball township, in 1871. Mr. Paulson still lives on the homestead; his wife died in 1895. There are three sons in the family, Fred, Henry and John.

Henry secured a district school education and lived on the home place until he was of age. Then he located upon his present farm,

the southwest quarter of section 30, and that has ever since been his home. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

Mr. Paulson was married November 7, 1901, in Kimball township, to Ida Berge, a native of Jackson county and a daughter of Ole Berge, deceased. To them have been born four children, as follows: Oscar, Mamie, Bertha, Perry.

JOHN TUSA (1884) is a farmer of Wisconsin township residing just south of the village of Alpha. He was born in the city of Chicago August 31, 1876, the son of John and Maria (Frantna) Tusa. He came to Jackson with his parents in July, 1884, and resided at home until 1892, when he was sixteen years of age. He then started out in life for himself, working the first six years for W. W. Tuttle. He then engaged in farming one year, and in 1899 bought a well digging outfit, and was engaged in the well drilling occupation for seven years. In 1906 he began farming again.

Mr. Tusa was married February 22, 1906, to Josie Ambrose, to whom have been born two children, as follows: Alfred, born July 14, 1907; Mary, born September 18, 1908. The family are members of the Catholic church of Jackson and he belongs to the Modern Woodmen lodge.

CHARLES GEISSEL (1905) is one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Middletown township. He owns and farms the north half of section 28. In addition to his general farming he makes a specialty of breeding Shropshire sheep and Duroc-Jersey hogs. Another specialty is the raising of pop corn, which he finds to be a very profitable crop. Each year he raises about eighty acres of that cereal.

Mr. Geissel was born in Benton county, Iowa, November 22, 1866, the eldest of a family of two sons born to Fred and Catherine (Quit-zow) Geissel. At the age of nine years he moved with the family to Sac county, Iowa, where he spent the greater part of his life. He was educated in the public schools of Sac county and in the state agricultural college at Ames, where he was a student four years. Until he reached his majority Mr. Geissel resided with his parents. Then he took the management of the Cook ranch in Sac county, one

of the largest individual farms in the state of Iowa and comprising an area of twelve sections. That his management was satisfactory is attested by the fact that he remained in charge eighteen years. He came to Jackson county in 1905 and located upon his present farm, which he had bought in 1900.

Since coming to Jackson county Mr. Geissel has interested himself in several enterprises. He was largely instrumental in the organization of the Middletown Farmers Telephone company and is secretary of the company. Largely through his interest in the matter the county ditch, intending to drain 15,000 acres of land is being constructed, bonds to the amount of \$68,000 having been sold for the purpose. He is a director of school district No. 60 and is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges.

Mr. Geissel was married in Sac county, Iowa, January 15, 1888, to Emma Griesse, a native of Benton county, Iowa. Five children have been born to this union, named as follows: Catherine, Elenora, Minnie, Elmer and Herbert.

PETER KLEIN (1903) is a farmer and stockraiser of Christiania township. He was born in the city of Brooklyn, New York, July 27, 1860, the son of Peter and Isabella (Heald) Klein. The former was a truck gardener by trade and emigrated to the United States from France in the forties, having ever since that time made his home in Brooklyn.

Peter grew to manhood in one of the suburbs of Brooklyn. He was educated in the public schools and in Winsburg business college, and after growing up engaged in the truck gardening business. He made his home in his native city for nearly forty years, and then in 1899 came west and located in Grundy county, Iowa. Four years later, in March, 1903, he came to Jackson county and has since been engaged in farming on section 21, Christiania township. Mr. Klein engages extensively in stock raising and makes a specialty of red polled cattle, which he has been raising for the last three years. The head of his herd received three first premiums at the Minnesota state fair.

The subject of this biography was married March 31, 1881, to Mary Kumarde, and to this union have been born the following named children: Peter H., born August 13, 1882; Charles, born June 1, 1884; Lizzie, born February 1,

1886; John, born February 17, 1888; Christ, born May 25, 1890; Joseph, born January 22, 1892; Minnie, born February 10, 1894. Mr. Klein served three years as deputy sheriff. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge.

FRANK H. BROWN (1896), of Jackson, was born in Brown county, Wisconsin, December 21, 1873, the son of W. N. and Mepa (Hayden) Brown, natives of Maine and New Hampshire, respectively.

Until he was thirteen years of age Frank lived with his parents on the farm in Brown county, Wisconsin, and then he accompanied them to Dickinson county, near Spirit Lake, Iowa. He lived with his parents on the farm until he was twenty years of age. Then he married and engaged in farming on rented land for himself three years. He came to Jackson county in 1896 and during the next five years engaged in farming in Middletown township. Giving up farming in 1901, he moved to Jackson and for several years was engaged in various occupations. In 1907 he engaged in the livery business in Jackson in partnership with Scott Huestis, having bought out Robert Henderson, and conducted the barn until the spring of 1909.

Mr. Brown was married in Jackson county March 22, 1893, to Edith Gruhlke, a native of Waseca, Minnesota, and a daughter of Edward Gruhlke, deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been born the following children: Harry L., Vera M., Iva G. and Earl. Mr. Brown is a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge.

AUGUST LARSON (1902), a farmer of Delafeld township, was born in Sundsvall, Sweden, October 12, 1877, the son of Lars Erick Erickson and Ingeborg (Nelson) Erickson. His father still lives in Sweden; his mother died in Sweden in 1893.

August lived in his native land until 1902. He received a public school education and was raised on the farm. After becoming old enough to work he spent the summer months working on the farm for his father and the winter months working in the woods. He arrived in Windom, Minnesota, direct from Sweden on May 31, 1902, and since that time has been a resident of Jackson county. For three years he worked for his brother Oscar on the farm south of Wilder. Then he rented Mrs.

Peter J. Johnson's farm in Delafield, farmed it three years, and in the spring of 1908 rented his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 26, Delafield. He owns a 160 acre farm in Saskatchewan, Canada, which he bought in 1904. Mr. Larson has been ill much of the time in recent years—to such an extent that he was unable to work at times. A serious operation was performed in the winter of 1908-09.

Mr. Larson was married in Jackson April 17, 1905, to Emma Johnson, who was born in Delafield township March 20, 1874. She is the daughter of Peter J. and Majlen Johnson. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Larson, namely: Agnes Alida, born October 2, 1905; Malvin Theofild, born September 11, 1908.

WILLIAM ALLEN (1908) is an Enterprise township farmer who farms the northeast quarter of section 14. He was born at Morris, Illinois, March 17, 1867, the son of Dewitt and Dorothy (Talbot) Allen. On his father's side Mr. Allen descends from an old New York state family. His mother came from England when a small girl. She died September 19, 1880.

When William was two years old the family moved to the city of Joliet, and that was the home of our subject for twenty-six years. There he received a common school education and after growing up worked at various occupations. For six years he worked in a wire mill as a wire drawer, and during the last nine years of his residence there was a street car motorman. In 1905 he moved to Martin county, Minnesota, and for three years resided in the adjoining county. He moved to Jackson county February 12, 1908, and has since been engaged in farming in Enterprise township. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge No. 6383 at Alpha.

Mr. Allen was married in 1895 to Miss Sophie Meyer, who was born November 14, 1872. To them have been born the following named children: Ina, born October 15, 1895, died December 4, 1903; Luverne, born August 27, 1897; Bertha, born August 19, 1899, died November 28, 1903; Floyd, born August 10, 1901; Elsie, born August 20, 1903; Alva, born October 12, 1905; Florence, born September 10, 1908.

OTTO VAGT (1902), of Middletown township, is one of the county's successful farmers and big stock feeders and shippers. He owns all of section 9 and with his sons farms it all. He feeds hogs and cattle extensively and each year ships three car loads.

Mr. Vagt was born in Germany June 25, 1854, the youngest of a family of eleven children, of whom the following four are living: Mary (Mrs. Herman Lippold), of Memphis, Tennessee; Louisa (Mrs. Hartwig Buene), of Germany; Dora (Mrs. Christ Carlson), of Germany, and Otto. The parents of our subject were Nicholas and Anna (Hinak) Vagt.

Otto lived in Germany until nineteen years of age, attending school and working on his father's farm. He came to the United States in 1873 and located at Davenport Iowa. He worked in a butcher shop in the city one year and on a farm nearby two years; then he rented land in the vicinity and engaged in farming eight or nine years. His next location was Pipestone county, Minnesota, where he bought a half section farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits until he came to Jackson county in 1902. He bought his 640 acre farm of C. H. Puckett.

Mr. Vagt was married at Reinbeck, Grundy county, Iowa, November 3, 1883, to Mary Brix, also a native of Germany. They have nine children, named as follows: John, born August 16, 1884; August, born October 19, 1885; Herman, born January 26, 1887; Hugo, born June 8, 1888; Emma, born January 2, 1890; Anna, born August 20, 1893; Louisa, born September 11, 1894; Frank, born October 23, 1897; George, born January 21, 1901.

Mr. Vagt is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge.

LARS HELVIG (1904), Christiania township farmer, was born in Norway October 10, 1863, the son of John and Mary (Larson) Helvig. Both parents are living and will soon celebrate their golden wedding; the father is 72 years of age, the mother 73.

Lars' father followed the sea in the early days, and when our subject was fifteen years of age he became a sailor, at which he was employed five years. At the age of twenty he came to America and located in Story county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming twenty years. In the spring of 1904 he moved to Jackson county and began farming the south-

west quarter of section 4, Christiania, and that has since been his home. In addition to his general farming Mr. Helvig raises blooded stock and has a fine herd of Chester White hogs.

Mr. Helvig was married September 22, 1892, to Carrie Sampson. As a result of this union there have been born the following named children: Oscar C., born July 28, 1893; May, born October 30, 1895; Louis, born July 19, 1898; Allie, born February 3, 1903; Arthur, born February 6, 1906; Ruth, born February 2, 1909. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

THOMAS J. CONNER (1905), of Jackson, is a native of Clayton county, Iowa, where he was born April 30, 1858, the son of Thomas and Marie (Taylor) Conner. In 1864, when six years of age, he moved with the family to Delaware county, Iowa, where he lived the next sixteen years of his life. He was educated in the town of Manchester and was graduated from the high school of that town in 1877.

In 1879 Mr. Conner started learning the barber trade in Manchester and two years later moved to Osage, Iowa, where he conducted a shop eight years. He then disposed of his business and in 1889 moved to Lyle, Minnesota, where for six years he conducted a saloon. The next four years were spent in Austin. He spent six months of the year 1899 in Deadwood, South Dakota, and again took up his abode in Austin. A short time later he moved to Sheldon, Iowa, and in that town and in Sanborn he lived three years. He lived in St. James one year, and on the first day of July, 1905, moved to Jackson and engaged in the saloon business.

Mr. Conner was married July 8, 1881, to Miss Margaret Coonfair and to them have been born the following children: Verda, born September 10, 1886; Ruthford, born September 10, 1890, died at the age of seventeen months; Vera, born December 30, 1904.

OLE M. NORDBERG (1891) farms a half section of land in Belmont township and lives on section 24. He was born in Norway November 20, 1865, the eldest of a family of three children born to Sefanias and Bertha (Otteson) Nordberg. The other children of the family are Anna Nelson, who lives in Norway, and Nels T. Nordberg, of Minneapolis.

Our subject was thrown on his own resources when eight or nine years of age. At the age of eighteen he began working at the blacksmith trade and followed that trade during the remainder of his residence in the old country. In 1891, at the age of twenty-six, he came to America and to the village of Jackson. There he established a blacksmith shop, which he conducted thirteen years. During the next four years he conducted a shop in Christiania township, and then, in 1908, because of failing health, he sold out and engaged in farming, renting a half section in Belmont for a period of five years.

Mr. Nordberg was married in Norway January 31, 1890, to Mary Nelson, daughter of the late Nels Bordson. To them have been born two children, John C. and Bennie M. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

HENRY STRUCK (1897) is one of the successful and prosperous farmers of Kimball township. He is a native of Germany and was born December 28, 1870, the son of Christ and Katie Struck. His parents emigrated to America in 1894 and lived in Martin county, Minnesota, until their death. The father died December 24, 1908, aged 79 years; the mother died June 19, 1902, aged 66 years. There were four children in the family, Henry being the third in point of age.

In his native country Henry Struck lived with his parents until twenty-two years of age, working at various occupations and serving two years in the German army during the early nineties. He came to the United States in 1892 and for five years lived in Martin county, during part of which time he farmed rented land. He rented a farm in Enterprise township, Jackson county, in 1897, and farmed it four years. He then moved onto his present place, the southwest quarter of section 25, Kimball, which he bought at the time and where he has ever since lived. There was not a building, fence or tree on the place when Mr. Struck bought the farm, and the present fine improvements are all the result of his work. He now lives in a fine home, erected at a cost of \$3,000, and the barns and other buildings are in keeping with the house.

Mr. Struck was married in Cedar township, Martin county, Minnesota, September 10, 1895, to Ursula Russenberger, who was born in



Switzerland February 11, 1870. She is the daughter of Hans and Magdalena Russenberger, who came to the United States in 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Struck have no children. During the winter of 1908-09 they made a trip to France, Germany, Switzerland and England. They are members of the German Lutheran church of Kimball township.

PETER JACOBSEN (1893) owns a half section of Belmont township land on sections 12 and 13. He is a native of Denmark and was born November 22, 1863, the son of Christ and Inger (Hansen) Jacobsen. Peter received his early training in his native land, working out by the year on farms until he was seventeen years of age. He came to the United States in 1890, and for twelve years resided in the city of Chicago. Eight years of this time he was employed in a brick yard; during the rest of the time he was the proprietor of a grocery store.

Mr. Jacobsen sold out his business interests in Chicago and came to Jackson county in 1893. Upon his arrival he bought the southwest quarter of section 12, Belmont township, and began farming, which has been his occupation ever since. He made all the improvements on his farm, and has added to his real estate holdings by the purchase of the northwest quarter of section 13. In addition to farming this land he rents a forty acre tract. Mr. Jacobsen is a director of school district No. 39. He belongs to the Norwegian Lutheran church and to the Danish Brotherhood lodge.

On the sixth day of June, 1885, in the city of Chicago, Mr. Jacobsen was married to Mary Peterson, a native of Denmark. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobsen have been blessed with offspring, having thirteen children, all living. They are Inger, Mamie, John, Augusta, Jennie, Tillie, Christ, Peter, Mabel, Myrtle, Walter, Mary and Arthur.

HERMAN SHUDAHL (1902), a farmer of Christiania township, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, February 12, 1882, the son of Hans and Rachel (Lunbo) Shudahl. His father was a stone mason and marble cutter and was born in Iowa. He died in 1884. Our subject's mother was born in Norway and came to America in the seventies.

Herman received a common school education

and made his home with his parents in his native county until he was fifteen years of age. He spent two years in Houston county, Minnesota, two years in Fillmore county, and in March, 1902, came to Jackson county. He farmed six years on section 27, Christiania township, and in 1908 moved to his present location on section 22.

Mr. Shudahl was married December 24, 1903, to Miss Nellie Olson, a daughter of Ryar and Gertie Olson, of Christiania township. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Shudahl, namely: Horace R., born March 12, 1905; Gordon, born September 23, 1906; Harry, born February 18, 1908. The family are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

WILLIAM E. CARR (1891), proprietor of the West hotel of Jackson, was born in Lewis county, New York, April 2, 1855, the son of Thomas and Clitie (Walker) Carr.

When he was young William Carr moved from his New York state home to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he lived with an uncle and where he was engaged in tiling until 1881. That year he moved to Greene county, Iowa, and for the next ten years was engaged in the dray business. He moved to Jackson in 1891 and for two years ran a dray line in that village. Selling out, he moved onto a farm in Wisconsin township, and conducted it four years. He then located in the new village of Alpha, engaged in the dray business there five years and in the hotel business three years. He again took up his residence in Jackson in May, 1907, rented the West hotel, and has since been its landlord.

Mr. Carr was married in Jackson January 29, 1893, to Mrs. Chloe S. Vanduzee, who was born in Vernon county, Wisconsin, January 9, 1870. To them have been born two children, Nellie and Ralph. By a former marriage Mr. Carr has one daughter, Flossie, now Mrs. J. J. Klochok.

While residing in Wisconsin township Mr. Carr was a member of the school board of district No. 104, and while living in Alpha served two terms as a member of the village council. He is a member of the M. W. A. and M. B. A. lodges.

ALBERT F. TRAMM (1906), of Petersburg township, is a native of Will county, Il-

linois, and was born January 21, 1874, the son of John and Louis (Trubach) Tramm. Until he was fifteen years of age he lived on the home farm with his folks in Illinois, and then went to Lake county, Indiana, where he worked on the farm of Mr. Joe Hayden for one year. In the year 1893 he worked in Will county as a carpenter for Mr. E. Koch. After that he worked at different places in Lake county, Indiana, and Will county, Illinois, for six years.

On the 14th day of November, 1899, he was united in marriage to Minnie Berg, of Lowell, Indiana. Four children have been born to this union, as follows: Jennie G., born February 28, 1901; Elnora, born May 7, 1903; Lizzie B., born September 16, 1905, died June 9, 1907; Minnie M., born September 30, 1907.

Mr. Tramm belongs to the E. F. U. lodge. At this writing he has served two years as school director in his district.

At the age of twenty-five years Mr. Tramm moved onto his old homestead and farmed it for a term of six years. On the first day of March, 1906, Mr. Tramm arrived in Jackson county, and since that time he has been engaged in farming in Petersburg township.

CONRAD HUSSONG (1900) is one of the prosperous and successful farmers of Alba township. He owns 240 acres of choice farming land and rents an additional eighty. His place is well improved with fine buildings and other improvements and he is putting in a complete system of tiling on the farm.

Mr. Hussong is of German birth and was born August 25, 1870. He came to America with his father when nine years of age, lived seven years in Tazewell county, Illinois, and then located in Iroquois county of the same state, where he resided until coming to Jackson county in 1900. He received his primary education in his native country and after coming to America completed his schooling in the English schools. Until he was twenty-one years of age Mr. Hussong resided with his father. Then he married and engaged in farming on his own account. Upon his arrival to Jackson county Mr. Hussong bought the southeast quarter of section 23, Alba, then bare of improvements, and engaged in farming. In 1907 he added to the dimensions of his farm by buying the west half of the south-

west quarter of section 24, known as the Freer homestead.

The parents of our subject were Louis and Louisa (Golzer) Hussong, of whom the latter died in Germany in 1879. Mr. Hussong later married Margaret Weber and they came to the United States and settled in Illinois. Mr. Hussong died there in 1900, aged 58 years.

Conrad Hussong was married in Iroquois county, Illinois, February 17, 1892, to Martha J. Krowas, who was born in LaSalle county, Illinois, December 24, 1873, the daughter of Carl Krowas. To Mr. and Mrs. Hussong have been born the following children: Charles L., born March 4, 1894; Edward C., born January 10, 1897; Louis H., born October 18, 1901; Raymond W., born May 16, 1904; Minnie A., born April 7, 1907; Hilda M., born February 24, 1909.

Mr. and Mrs. Hussong are members of the German Lutheran church and he belongs to the M. W. A. lodge. For six years he served as a member of the school board of district No. 85, and for two years was road overseer.

JOSEPH J. CHALUPNIK (1904) is a Hunter township farmer who owns the southeast quarter of section 26. He is a native of Marshall county, Iowa, and was born October 15, 1868. His parents, Anton and Antonia (Salesek) Chalupnik, were born in Austria, came to America in the early sixties and settled in Marshall county, Iowa, where they were married. They moved to Tama county, Iowa, in 1873, bought land there and now reside in Traer, Tama county. Joseph is the oldest of a family of eight children born to these parents.

Joseph accompanied the family to Tama county, Iowa, when five years of age, and spent the greater part of his life there. Until he was twenty-two years old he lived with his parents; then he rented land and engaged in farming on his own account. Mr. Chalupnik came to Jackson county in January, 1904, and located upon his present farm, which he had purchased in 1902.

In Tama county, Iowa, October 16, 1893, Mr. Chalupnik was married to Anna Uridel, who was born in Tama county, Iowa, November 27, 1876. To these parents have been born the following named children: Adolph, born August 21, 1894; Olga, born December 31, 1895; Lottie, born August 19, 1897; Elsie, born Feb-

ruary 28, 1899; Emma, born November 24, 1900; Albina, born April 3, 1902. Mr. Chalupnik is a member of the Z. C. B. J. lodge.

FERDINAND ESSER (1907), proprietor of a saloon at Heron Lake, was born in Springfield, near the city of Madison, Wisconsin, September 10, 1875, the son of John and Agnes (Fischenich) Esser. He received a common school education and resided in the village of his nativity until past twenty-one years of age.

Mr. Esser left home in the spring of 1897 and located at Adrian, Nobles county. He tended bar for his brother for ten months and then bought a butcher shop, which he conducted until 1905. He was retired from active pursuits for a couple of years, and then, in March, 1907, moved to Heron Lake and engaged in the saloon business. Mr. Esser owns an eighty acre tract of land in Summit Lake township, Nobles county. He is a member of the Catholic church and of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

At Adrian on October 22, 1901, Mr. Esser was married to Miss Christine Ulrich. To these parents have been born four children: Margaret, born September 9, 1902; Gertrude, born September 5, 1904; John, born April 21, 1906; Louisa, born March 8, 1908. Mrs. Esser died March 29, 1909, aged 28 years and 11 days.

OSRO C. MARCY (1905) owns 320 acres of land on sections 13 and 12, Christiania township, and is one of the successful farmers of that precinct. He is a native of Mitchell county, Iowa, and was born June 17, 1859, the son of James and Mary (Bert) Marcy. Both parents were born in New York state and his father was a cabinet maker by trade. Both parents are dead. William Marcy, an uncle of our subject's father, was a former governor of New York state.

In 1871 Osro Marcy moved from his native county to Northwood, Worth county, of the same state, and there he grew to manhood. In 1882 he moved to De Smet, Kingsbury county, South Dakota, but returned to Iowa in 1894. He located in Cottonwood county, Minnesota, in 1896 and engaged in farming there until March, 1905, when he bought his present farm and became a resident of Jackson county. He makes a specialty of raising

Shropshire sheep. Mr. Marcy owns stock in the Farmers State Bank of Windom and in the Farmers Elevator company of the same village. He is a member of the M. W. A. and A. O. U. W. lodges.

March 30, 1887, Mr. Marcy was married to Lura Gebler, of Chicago. They are the parents of the following named children: Ralph, born December 17, 1887; Raymond, born January 23, 1889; Bert G., born December 26, 1891; Vernon H., born January 15, 1894; Donald B., born December 14, 1896; Theodore McKinley, born May 24, 1902.

MAURICE MADDEN (1903) is a Middletown township farmer residing a few miles southwest of Jackson. He is a native of Springfield, Sangamon county, Illinois, and was born October 16, 1855, the son of John and Margaret (Fitzgerald) Madden.

Maurice spent the greater part of his life in his native county. Until he was nineteen years of age he lived on the farm with his parents; then he spent seven years working out as a farm hand. Locating in the city of Springfield, he was employed one year as a street car driver and in a roller mill. He then engaged in farming for himself, renting his father's farm two years and another farm in the same county thirteen years. He spent the next four years farming in Nebraska, and in 1903 came to Jackson county. He has since farmed the northwest quarter of section 3, Middletown township.

Mr. Madden was married in Buffalo, Illinois, October 18, 1888, to Johanna Vennemann, a native of Springfield. To this union have been born the following named ten children: John L., Catherine M., Florence W., Francis X., Petranilla R., Frederick T., Alfonso E., Theresa M., Ena E. and Cyeil C.

NICK W. WEIS (1909), proprietor of a blacksmith and machine shop at Lakefield, was born in Luxemburg, Germany, September 7, 1873, the son of Philip and Mary (Schmidt) Weis, who still live in Germany.

In Germany Mr. Weis was educated and learned the machinist's trade, living with his parents until he emigrated to America in 1895. Upon his arrival to the new world he located at Omaha, Nebraska, where he worked three years and two months. He then located at



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Petersburg, Nebraska, where he opened a machine shop of his own, which he conducted four years. Selling out there, he moved to Ladysmith, Wisconsin, where he bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits three years, working in a saw mill part of the time. The next two years of his life were spent in Ladysmith in charge of the electric lighting plant. We next find our subject at Rose Creek, Minnesota, where he conducted a machine shop until he located in Lakefield in February, 1909. He bought the James Rost machine shop and has since conducted it. Besides his business property in Lakefield, Mr. Weis owns a farm in the state of Wisconsin.

At Underwood, Iowa, December 12, 1900, Mr. Weis was united in marriage to Rebecca M. Church, a native of Missouri Valley, Iowa. Three children, named Rosa, Charles and Florence, have been born to this union. The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Weis belongs to the Odd Fellows and Workmen lodges.

EDWIN STREATOR (1896) is a farmer and land owner of Weimer township. He was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, July 20, 1840, the son of Price S. and Jemima (Sweet) Streator. His parents were both natives of Bradford county, Pennsylvania, his father being descended from a well known family who came from France in colonial times. His parents were married in Pennsylvania and located in Illinois in 1835, his father dying in Winnebago county, of that state, in 1848. Mrs. Streator later located in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where she died in 1880, aged over seventy years. There were seven children in the family, of whom the following named are living: L. L. Streator, of Fillmore county; Mrs. A. M. Kingsbury, of Mason City, Iowa; Mrs. H. M. Graham, of Woonsocket, South Dakota, and Edwin S., of this sketch.

Edwin came to Fillmore county, Minnesota, with his mother in 1854, he being then fourteen years of age, and there he lived until 1872. That year he came west and took a homestead claim on section 34, Springfield township, Cottonwood county, where he resided until 1896. He then located on his present farm on section 4, Weimer township, and has since made his home there. He owns 240 acres of land. During

his residence in Cottonwood county Mr. Streator held various township offices.

The marriage of our subject occurred in Fillmore county January 9, 1860, when he wedded Celia E. Eddy, a native of Ohio. To these parents have been born two children: Orley E., of Bowman county, North Dakota, born October 15, 1871; Clara E., born November 21, 1873.

JOHN H. GURITZ (1902) is a Middletown township farmer. He was born in Washington township, Will county, Illinois, June 20, 1876, and spent his early years in his native county. His parents, Will and Mary (Schaffer) Guritz, were born in Germany but came to America in an early day. The former worked in a mill in Chicago for a number of years and engaged in farming in Will county, to which place he moved in the early seventies. He died there in 1905, aged 72 years. Our subject's mother now lives in Beecher, Illinois.

John Guritz attended the district schools of Will county and with the exception of one year spent in Iowa, he resided there, working on his father's farm, until 1902. That year he married and came to Jackson county. He rented the farm upon which he has ever since lived—the southwest quarter of section 25—and has made his home there since. He bought the property in the year 1908. Mr. Guritz has held the office of treasurer of school district No. 23 for the last seven years.

At Northfield, Illinois, on February 2, 1902, Mr. Guritz was united in marriage to Martha Tate, a native of the city in which she was married and a daughter of Will and Sophia (Holste) Tate. One child has been born to this union, Harvey, born January 26, 1903.

O. M. TEIG (1906), farmer of Christiania township, was born in Story county, Iowa, October 1, 1886, the son of Ole K. and Nellie (Raymond) Teig. The former emigrated from Norway in 1881, after having spent his younger days as a sailor, and located in Story county, Iowa, where he lived until he came to Jackson county in 1906.

O. M. Teig secured a common school education and grew to manhood in his native county. He accompanied his parents to Jackson county in the spring of 1906 and resided with them on section 15, Christiania, until 1908. In the last named year he engaged in farming

on his own account, having rented the north-west quarter of section 22, on the bank of Lower's lake. Mr. Teig is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

**JAMES C. JOHNSON** (1897), of Jackson, was born in Olborug, Denmark, March 4, 1864, the son of Christ and Marie (Jensen) Johnson. He received a common school education in his native country and lived there until he was nineteen years of age.

Mr. Johnson came to America in 1883 and located at Spencer, Iowa, where he lived fourteen years, being employed at various kinds of labor. He moved to Lakefield in 1897 and for two years was employed as a grain buyer. He then moved to Jackson and that village has been his home ever since.

The marriage of our subject occurred at Spirit Lake, Iowa, October 30, 1890, when he wedded Miss Minnie Scharf. Seven children have been born to this union as follows: Leonard E., Grover G., Frances E., Ruby R., Leland C., Lyla M. and Lyle J. The family are members of the Lutheran church.

**MATTHIAS BAUMAN** (1903) is a farmer and landowner of Ewington township, owning the west half of the west half of section 13. He was born in Baden, Germany, January 9, 1847, son of Leonard and Barbara (Bauman) Bauman. The former died in Champaign county, Illinois, in 1889, aged 64 years; the latter died in Germany in 1869.

The subject of this biography lived in Germany until he was past twenty-one years of age. He was raised on a farm and educated in the village school, making his home with his parents during his boyhood days. He came to America, arriving in New York June 7, 1868, and located in Marhsall county, Illinois. There he worked as a farm hand ten months and then returned to his old country home. Returning to America again in March, 1869, Mr. Bauman took up his home in Champaign county, Illinois, where he bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits eight years.

The next home of our subject was Iroquois county, Illinois, which was his home the next twenty-seven years. He owned an eighty acre farm there but farmed a half section. In the year 1902 Mr. Bauman sold out in Illinois and bought his farm in Ewington town-

ship, and on February 27, 1903, moved to his new home. He is a member of the Evangelical church of Ewington township. He served as a director of school district No. 92 for two years and has held the office of road overseer.

Mr. Bauman has been married twice. His first marriage occurred in Marshall county, Illinois, January 23, 1872, when he wedded Mary Goetz, who was born in Canada and who died in Iroquois county May 6, 1890. Eight children were born to this union, as follows: Caroline (deceased), Rosa (deceased), Charles (deceased), John, a Ewington township farmer; Ben, Edward, school teacher of Ewington; Annie, school teacher of Alba township; Aggie (Mrs. Herman Meinhard), of Illinois.

The second marriage of Mr. Bauman occurred in Iroquois county in August, 1893, when he wedded Maggie Haefner, a native of Marshall county, Illinois. To this union have been born the following named five children: Leonard. Lloyd, Wilbert, Leona and Grace, all living at home.

Mr. Bauman's eldest daughter, Caroline, who became the wife of Albert Lenz, was murdered in cold blood in Iroquois county, Illinois, in November, 1897, by a man named Hartman, who later paid the penalty of his crime by hanging at Paxton, Illinois.

**M. P. MONTEE** (1909) is engaged in farming in the northern part of Christiania township, his home being on the bank of Fish lake. He is a native of Ellisburg, New York, and was born July 6, 1854. He is of French descent, his ancestors having come from France and established a French colony on what is now Montee's bay, where they received a land grant. His father, Abraham Montee, was born in New York and died in South Dakota, being 77 years old at the time of his death. His mother, Trulove (Bennett) Montee, was born in Vermont and died in South Dakota at the age of 68 years. The father of our subject, his grandfather and a brother were veterans of the civil war, his father and brother having enlisted in an Iowa regiment. The former served from 1861 to the fall of 1864; the latter received injuries while acting as a scout and was discharged.

Our subject resided in his native town one year, in Wisconsin four years, in New Boston, Illinois, four years, in Ionia, Iowa, six years and in Adell, Iowa, eleven years. He went

to South Dakota in 1880 and took a government homestead. He came to Jackson county in March, 1909. He is a member of the Methodist church of Windom and of the Yeomen lodge.

Mr. Montee was married April 7, 1891, to Nellie Cone. To them have been born the following children: Tracy D., born February 27, 1892; Jesse, born June 1, 1894; Hobert, born August 5, 1896; Floy, born April 30, 1899; Page, born April 6, 1901; Perry, born January 18, 1903; May, born November 23, 1905; Ethel, born March 5, 1907.

FRANK STOFFERAHN (1907), Sioux Valley township farmer, is a comparative new comer to Jackson county. He was born in Carroll county, Iowa, March 23, 1875, the son of John and Minnie (Stade) Stofferahn. His parents are native Germans, but came to America in childhood and were married in Clayton county, Iowa. They resided in that county, in Carroll and Ida counties, Iowa, and are now residents of Garrison, North Dakota. Frank is one of a family of ten children.

Our subject resided in his native county only seven years; then he accompanied his parents to Ida county, Iowa, where he grew to manhood, making his home with his parents until twenty-one years of age and receiving a district school education. After reaching his majority he began working out and at the age of twenty-three married and engaged in farming for himself on rented land. One year after his marriage Mr. Stofferahn moved to Dickinson county, Iowa. He engaged in farming there eight years and in 1907 took up his residence in Jackson county, renting the east half of section 20, Sioux Valley township. During the season 1909 he raised 3,000 bushels of corn and 1,600 bushels of small grain.

Mr. Stofferahn was married at Holstein, Ida county, Iowa, February 19, 1898, to Dora Bauer. She was born in Blue Grass, Scott county, Iowa, April 29, 1877, and is the daughter of William and Lena (Stark) Bauer. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Stofferahn, as follows: Ferdinand, born June 17, 1900; Henrietta, born November 13, 1902; Louie, born November 7, 1904.

Mr. Stofferahn is a director of school district No. 72 and is a stockholder in the creamery company of Sioux Valley. The family are members of the German Lutheran church and

he belongs to the M. W. A. lodge of Lake Park and the Germania Verein, a social organization of Sioux Valley township. This organization was perfected June 28, 1908, with thirty charter members and it now has a membership of 110. Meetings are held on the second Sundays of each month at Reimers' hall during the winter months and in groves in the vicinity during the summer.

MARTIN QUALL (1907) is a farmer and landowner of Des Moines township, residing upon the old Simon Olson farm a few miles up the river from Jackson. He is a native of Union county, South Dakota, where he was born October 3, 1880. He is the son of Ole and Mary (Ofstad) Quall, who were born in Norway and came to America before their marriage. They resided in Michigan several years, and then located in South Dakota, where they still reside. Martin is one of a family of eight children, all living. They are Annie, Mary, Ella, Elias, Knute, Martin, Peter and Ole.

Martin received his education in South Dakota and resided with his parents until he came to Jackson county in 1907. At that time he bought the Simon Olson farm on section 3, Des Moines township, famous as the location of part of the old townsite of Belmont, founded in 1858. Mr. Quall is not married, but makes his home with a family employed by him on the farm. He is a member of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

FRED H. MEYER (1903), Petersburg township farmer, was born in Martin county, Minnesota, March 23, 1878, the son of John and Johanna (Voges) Meyer, both deceased. Fred received a common school education and spent his early days on his father's farm. In 1897 he moved to Fairmont and for a year was employed in the erection of windmills.

Mr. Meyer enlisted in the army in 1898 during the Spanish-American war and was in the service seven months, being stationed at Chickamauga, Georgia. In addition to this service he has served three years in the state militia. After his discharge from the army Mr. Meyer engaged in farming in Martin county until 1903, when he located in Petersburg township, Jackson county. He farms land on section 6. He is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge.



On September 27, 1899, Mr. Meyer was married to Minnie Ziemer. To them have been born the following children: Eddy, born August 16, 1901; Ellsworth, born July 12, 1904; Clarence, born March 10, 1906; Rozella, born July 1, 1902, died December 12, 1907.

FRANK KOPESTE (1907) owns and farms the southwest quarter of section 4, LaCrosse township. He is a native of Peoria, Illinois, and was born April 25, 1869.

The parents of our subject were Frank and Mary Prochazka Kopeste, both natives of Austria. They were married in their native land and came to America in 1867, living respectively in Racine, Wisconsin; Peoria, Illinois; Gibson City, Illinois; Spirit Lake, Iowa; Marshalltown, Iowa; and Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Kopeste was a farmer and carpet weaver. He died at Des Moines in 1891, aged 63 years. Mrs. Kopeste now lives at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Frank is next to the oldest of a family of nine children in this family.

Frank spent his early years with his parents, residing in the different places mentioned, engaging in farming and carpenter work after growing to manhood. He worked at his trade six years in Marshalltown, Iowa, and Des Moines, Iowa, and then engaged in farming in Linn county, Iowa. In the spring of 1907 he came to Jackson county and bought his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 4, LaCrosse township. He is clerk of school district No. 122 and is a member of the Bohemian lodge of Jackson.

Mr. Kopeste was married at Des Moines, Iowa, November 6, 1889, to Katie Kesl, who was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa, in 1872. To them have been born six children, named as follows: Mary, Frank, Agnes, Emily, Adelaide and Margaret.

JOHN LARSON (1902) is a Belmont township farmer. He is a native of Sweden and was born May 8, 1858, the eldest of a family of six children born to Gustav and Mary (Anderson) Larson. The other children of this family are Oscar, Augusta, Hannah, Sophia and Tillie Nelson.

Mr. Larson resided with his parents in Sweden until fourteen years old; then he worked out for a few years and in 1875 crossed the water to America. The first seventeen years of

his life in the new world were passed as a resident of Bureau county, Illinois, where he worked out for a few years and then engaged in farming. From 1892 to 1902 he lived in Emmet county, Iowa, where he bought land and engaged in farming. He came to Jackson county in the year last mentioned, bought his present farm of 160 acres on sections 9 and 15, Belmont township, and has since made his home there. He is a director of school district No. 123 and has served as road overseer. He is a member of the M. W. A. lodge.

In Bureau county, Illinois, our subject was married on June 17, 1885, to Clara A. Larson, a native of Sweden. To this union have been born nine children, named as follows: John (deceased), Susie, Willie, Esther, Ivan, Mary, Lewis, Levi and Vernie.

THOMAS EDEL (1889), who with his brothers, have charge of their father's farm—the northwest quarter of section 23, Belmont—was born in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, September 12, 1876, the son of Joseph and Catherina (Peterlek) Edel. He came to Jackson county with the family in 1889 and has ever since made his home with his father in Belmont township, securing an education in the district schools and working on the farm. In June, 1907, Mr. Edel filed on a homestead claim in Martin county, North Dakota. He is a member of the Z. C. B. J. lodge.

ANTON VAVRICHEK (1906), who owns the Clear Lake creamery on section 24, Hunter township, is a buttermaker of many years experience. He was born in the province of Moravia, Austria, November 24, 1868, the son of Anton and Antionette (Yukl) Vavrichek. When he was one year old the family came to the United States and located at Western College, Linn county, Iowa.

Anton received his education in Linn county and grew to manhood there. After a residence of eighteen years in Linn county he moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa, where he resided seven years. During this time he learned the creamery business, taking a seven months' course in the Iowa state agricultural school at Ames. Moving to Colorado, he conducted his first creamery there one year; then he returned and located at Spencer, Iowa. He operated a creamery there on salary five years,

and then conducted it for his own account one year. We next find Mr. Vavrichek at Mount Vernon, South Dakota, where for two years he was foreman of a creamery plant. He came to Jackson county in May, 1906, bought the Clear Lake creamery, and has since conducted it, building it up to the standard it maintains today. Mr. Vavrichek has served as township supervisor one year. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen lodge.

Mr. Vavrichek was married to Miss Anna C. Anderson, of Spencer, Iowa, on Christmas day, 1899. To them has been born one child, Lloyd, born January 24, 1906.

JOHN A. SALIN (1895), of Jackson, was born in Sweden July 20, 1850, the son of John and Betsy (Benson) Salin. At the age of four years he accompanied his parents to America with the Bishop Hill colony and for thirty-five years lived in Henry county, Illinois. In 1889 Mr. Salin went to Litchfield, Nebraska, lived there six years and on July 19, 1895, located in Jackson, where he has since resided.

FREDERICK W. ALEXANDER (1901) farms the Herman Miller farm on sections 30 and 31, Wisconsin township. He was born in Germany May 25, 1861, the son of Frederick and Annie (Clausen) Alexander. His father is dead; his mother lives in the old country.

Frederick received his education in the old country and until he was twenty-two years of age worked on his father's farm. He then came to America and located in Olmsted county, Minnesota. Two years later he went to Clinton county, Iowa, which was his home about seventeen years. For several years he worked in the town of Clinton, and after that worked at farm work near the town. He arrived in Jackson county in 1901, and has since been engaged in farming the place upon which he now lives. He is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge.

Mr. Alexander was married in Olmsted county, Minnesota, in October, 1883, to Catherine Young, who was born in the county in which she was married September 24, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander are the parents of eight children, as follows: Peter Frederick, born February 25, 1884; Wilhelm H., born June 20, 1886; Johan Ferdinand, born May 22, 1889; Theodore Otto, born November 27, 1891; Fred-

erick Carl, born August 28, 1897; Frederick Adolph, born August 28, 1903; Wilhelmina Magdalena Elisabea, born January 4, 1906; Frederick Wilhelm, born May 4, 1908.

WALTER CAPELLE (1903) is the professor in charge of the Lutheran parochial school of Rost township. He was born in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, March 13, 1884, the son of Henry and Amelia (Heyse) Capelle, natives of Wisconsin and Germany, respectively. His father died in 1908; his mother lives in Sheboygan, county, Wisconsin. Walter is the fourth child of a family of seven children.

Our subject spent the first fourteen years of his life on his father's farm in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, attending the parochial school. He then went to Addison, Illinois, and took a five years' course in the Teachers' Seminary of that place, from which he was graduated in June, 1903. Immediately after his graduation he came to Jackson county to accept the principalship of the school in Rost, where he has since resided, engaged in the same work.

Professor Capelle was married in Luxemburg, Wisconsin, July 15, 1906, to Louisa Goetsch, who was born in that town and who is the daughter of William and Sophia Goetsch. They have one child, Evelyn, born October 5, 1908. Professor Capelle is the organist of the Lutheran church of Rost township.

BARNEY GRAVE (1909), proprietor of a saloon at Heron Lake, was born in Aurich, Germany, July 21, 1877, the son of Bergart and Tena (Voght) Grave. He came to America with his parents in 1880 and settled in Carroll county, Iowa.

Barney lived on the farm with his parents until his mother's death when he was ten years of age. Then he began to battle with the world on his own account. For a few years he worked on farms in the vicinity of his home, doing what little a boy of that age could. From 1892 to 1901 he was employed in hotels in Sioux City and Sibley, Iowa. He then took a position as bartender in a saloon at Sibley, Iowa, and was so engaged until February 18, 1909, where he moved to Heron Lake and bought the saloon of Frank Appel. Mr. Grave is a member of the German Reformed church. He owns village property at Sibley, Iowa.

Mr. Grave was married at Sibley March 25,

1902, to Della Beek, who was born in Germany and came to America when a child. She is the daughter of B. Beek, of George, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Grave have been born two children, Jesse and Delbert.

REINHOLD C. WEGNER (1891) is a school teacher now located at Cass Lake, Minnesota, his permanent home being in Heron Lake township. He is a native of Buckley, Illinois, and was born May 16, 1884. At the age of seven years he accompanied his parents to Jackson county and grew to manhood on his father's farm, the southwest quarter of section 22, Heron Lake township. He was educated in the district schools, in the German school at Lakefield, in Concordia college of St. Paul and in the Addison German Lutheran seminary of Addison, Illinois, from which he was graduated in 1908. Since his graduation he has been employed as a teacher in a German Lutheran school at Cass Lake.

Our subject is the son of Albert and Minna (Giertz) Wegner, natives of Germany. They came to the United States when young and, before they came to Jackson county in 1891, lived at Buckley, Illinois. The family lived on their farm in Heron Lake township after coming to the county. Mr. Wegner died June 21, 1906, aged 68 years. Mrs. Wegner still lives on the home place, the farm being conducted by her two sons, Albert and Louis. There are five children in the family, namely: Reinhold, Charlie, Martha (Mrs. C. J. Marquardt), of Princeton, Wisconsin; Albert and Louis.

BERT ALDRICH (1902) is a Middletown township farmer who resides three miles south of Jackson. He was born near Hastings, Michigan, December 12, 1882, the eldest son of Brice and Lydia (Smith) Aldrich. His parents resided in Jackson county several years and are now residents of Colorado, where they have recently taken a government homestead.

Bert was three years of age when his parents moved from Michigan to Springfield, Missouri, which was the family home sixteen months. Seven years were spent in Sac county, Iowa, and then the family located in Wright county, Iowa, where Bert grew to manhood. He secured a country school education and worked on his father's farm in Wright

county until 1902. Coming to Jackson county in 1902, Bert continued to work for his father in Middletown township until the fall of 1908. Then he married and rented the farm on section 1 from P. H. Sawyer.

The date of the marriage of Mr. Aldrich was August 26, 1908, when he led to the altar Esther A. Johnson, a native of Chicago. One child has been born to this union, a son born June 28, 1909.

BALSER WEPPLER (1902), saloon keeper of Lakefield, was born in Germany August 22, 1865, the youngest of a family of six children born to Adam and Elizabeth (Wenk) Weppler. Both his parents died in Tazewell county, Illinois.

Balsler came across the ocean with his parents when eight years of age. The family located on a farm in Tazewell county, Illinois, and that was the home of our subject until he reached his majority. He then started out in life for himself and for four or five years worked as a farm laborer near Gilman, Iroquois county. After his marriage, which occurred in 1891, he rented a farm in Iroquois county and farmed seven years. He then moved to the village of Gilman, where he bought and conducted a saloon three years. He came to Jackson county in 1902, bought a saloon in Alpha, and operated it two years. Moving to Lakefield in 1904, he purchased the saloon of Ed. Kolander, and has since conducted it. Mr. Weppler owns his home in Lakefield.

On the 29th day of December, 1891, Mr. Weppler was married to Mary Brill at Gilman, Illinois. Five children have been born to this union: Carl, Frank, died April 8, 1909, at the age of 14 years; Ernie, Lizzie and Martha.

JOHN DIEDRICH BARGFREDE (1905), who is engaged in farming in Petersburg township, was born in Hamburg, Germany, July 31, 1872, the son of Fred and Mary Bargfrede. His father died October 17, 1908, aged 75 years.

Our subject came to America when nineteen years of age, resided respectively in Armstrong, Emmet county, Iowa; Vale, Crawford county, Iowa; and Arcadia, Carroll county, Iowa. He arrived in Jackson county, Minnesota, February 6, 1905, and has since been engaged in farming on section 23, Petersburg township.

Mr. Bargfrede was married January 18, 1905,

to Emma Schulte. They are the parents of the following children: Louie, Herman, Alice and Alma. The family are members of the German Lutheran church.

**HENRY KABLE** (1886) is an Enterprise township farmer. He was born at Rushford, Minnesota, August 10, 1878, and is the son of Wensel and Anna Kable. When a little past seven years of age Henry accompanied his parents to Jackson county, and has ever since made his home in Enterprise township. He received a common school education and until reaching man's estate assisted in the farm work on his father's farm. He and his brother Thomas now farm in partnership and for the past five years have been engaged in the threshing business. He is a member of the Catholic church of Jackson.

**JOHN A. ALBERT** (1908) is the proprietor of a restaurant and pool hall at Okabena. He is a native of Germany and was born November 6, 1882, the son of Zacharias and Tina (Edzards) Albert. In 1893 he came to America with his parents and located in Cumberland, Cass county, Iowa. There he continued his schooling, which had been begun in the old country. In 1895 he moved to Laurens, Iowa, and two years later to Fonda. In 1906 he located at Round Lake, in Nobles county, and in December, 1908, located in Okabena, where he engaged in the restaurant and pool business.

Mr. Albert is a member of the German Lutheran church and of the M. W. A. lodge. He was married at Round Lake September 23, 1908, to Miss Sena Koster, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Koster, of Round Lake, Minnesota.

**EDWARD TEIG** (1906), of Christiania township, was born in Story county, Iowa, August 18, 1887, and is the son of Ole K. and Nellie (Raymond) Teig. In his native county he received a common school education, having been brought up on his father's farm. He accompanied his parents to Jackson county in 1906 and has since made his home on the farm on section 15, Christiania township.

Mr. Teig was married May 17, 1909, to Victoria Thompson. He and his wife are mem-

bers of the Norwegian Lutheran church of Christiania township.

**JOHN S. CRAWLEY** (1901), cashier of the State Bank of Alpha, was born in Tuscola, Douglas county, Illinois, February 3, 1865, and in that town spent his boyhood days and grew to manhood. He was educated in the public schools of Tuscola and just before reaching his majority he took a position with the Diamond Prospecting company, of Chicago, a firm handling mining machinery and engaging in general prospecting. He remained with this firm five years and then engaged in the loan and real estate business at Tuscola.

Two years later Mr. Crawley moved to Marjín county, Minnesota, bought a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits two years. He then located in Sherburn and for the next three years was employed by a real estate firm. The next year he spent working in the Bank of Sherburn, and in 1901 located in the village of Alpha. For a few years he was employed as cashier of George R. Moore's private bank, and when the bank was incorporated as a state bank in 1904 he became a stockholder and has since served as cashier.

The bank of which Mr. Crawley is cashier was organized as a private bank in 1899 by George R. Moore and C. F. Albertus, the former being president and the latter cashier. On July 1, 1904 it was incorporated as a state bank, capital stock \$10,000, and the name was changed to State Bank of Alpha. The present officers are George R. Moore, president; J. A. Krause, vice president; J. S. Crawley, cashier. At the present time the bank has a surplus of \$2,500. It does a general banking business, makes collections, loans and writes insurance. The bank building was erected in 1899.

The father of our subject was E. S. Crawley, who was born in Tazewell, Tennessee, August 23, 1830. His maternal ancestors were colonial stock, having come from England and settled in Virginia. E. S. Crawley moved to Indiana when thirteen years of age and to Tuscola, Illinois, in 1855. He spent the rest of his life in Illinois, and died in Champaign county at the age of 79 years. The mother of our subject was Almetta J. (Lester) Crawley, a native of Illinois and a descendant of old Kentucky stock. Her maternal ancestors came from Scotland and her paternal ancestors from

England. Her father took part in the Black-hawk war and the old rifle that he carried is now in the possession of our subject. E. S. Crawley and Almetta J. Lester were married in Illinois February 4, 1858. She died in Tuscola, Illinois, at the age of 56 years. There were seven children in the family.

Our subject was married at Indianapolis, Indiana, in April, 1894, to Nora Smith, a native of Douglas county, Illinois, having been born January 10, 1863. She is the daughter of Da-

vid and Ann Smith. For eight years she served as superintendent of schools of Douglas county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Crawley have six living children. They are named Keith, Gene, Rose, Lloyd, Gail and Max. The first born, Wayne, died when five or six years of age.

Mr. Crawley is treasurer of Alpha village, treasurer of the creamery association and is a member of the local school board. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Knights of Pythias and M. W. A. lodges.

