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Writers Project Research Notes.

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CHAPTER I

"FORTY-NINERS" FROM GERMANY

Prior to 1819 few Germans had entered the United States, and though the influx increased appreciably after that date, the total immigration up to 1832 barely ^{exceeded} outnumbered the present population of New Ulm. By 1850, however, German-Americans numbered approximately half a million, and the stream of hopeful pioneers from Europe was steadily strengthening.

These foreigners left their homeland primarily for economic reasons. They had heard that in America land was cheap and the soil good. Steamship companies and real estate promoters had been sending their representatives abroad to advertise the New World. They pictured America as a land of great opportunities, offering to the hampered and oppressed European the chance to win a home and security for his family, ^{as} which had long been his dream.

In the 1840's and 1850's thousands of homeseekers from beyond the Rhine settled in New York and Pennsylvania, in many instances forming large communities made up exclusively of Germans. Others, more adventurous or less easily satisfied, carried their search farther--into the unsettled west. Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin began to absorb these determined, hardy people, seeking freedom and a home.

Cincinnati drew and held so many that the old-country peasant costume of black velvet, with red vest and big silver buttons, was a common sight on the streets. In 1850 Chicago was a center of German-American culture, and Milwaukee's musical, dramatic, and literary activities had earned for her the sobriquet "The German Athens."

Their Way of Life Preserved.

Repetition

The New Americans were slow to break away from their native way of living. The German immigrant loved his beer and his beer gardens. He was fond of his Sunday picnics and dances and theatrical performances. His many organizations, devoted to music, art, drama, sharpshooting, bowling, cards, and turnen, sought to cultivate social pleasures along with more serious movements.

Good beer and good food and good music went together, and work-free Sundays were largely dedicated to picnics and entertainments of every sort. On such occasions ^{the newcomers} they would congregate to talk and argue over their steins and their pipes, and to sing the songs of their native land. And much of their talk was on the same topics as had absorbed them in Germany. They could not feel that they had left their homeland problems behind them.

German hausfrauen in America continued to serve the familiar native dishes, with the result that many of them have since been incorporated into the American diet. ~~Weiners~~, frankfurters, sauerkraut, kaffe-kuchen, cole slaw, potato salad, dill pickles, rye bread with caraway seeds, pumpernickel, and lager beer are but a few of the articles of food thus introduced which are now enjoyed by many Americans.

The German immigrant's zest for gregarious social life found its outlet in a wide variety of organizations. Singing societies, bands and orchestras, veterans' associations, fraternal and benevolent orders, literary and dramatic clubs, groups for the promotion of the arts and sciences, church and charitable organizations, sharpshooting clubs, voluntary fire brigades, militia in colorful uniforms -- all these were transplanted in the United States, with little or no change.

The Turnvereinen

Among their numerous organizations, the Turnvereinen, or gymnastic societies, were perhaps the most influential. The first of these was formed in Cincinnati in 1848. Others followed in various communities, until, by 1853, the Nord Amerikaner Turnerbund included sixty affiliated groups.

In addition to their physical education program, the Turnvereinen organized parades, pageants, concerts, balls, and theatrical performances. Almost every unit had its singing and dramatic section, some groups giving regularly scheduled concerts for their membership. They also sponsored lectures and discussions on history, economic theory, government, and scientific subjects. For the use and enjoyment of members, they opened libraries and reading-rooms, where both German and English books were at all times available.

Besides these numerous cultural ^{activities} programs, Turnverein societies took ^{lively} ~~an~~ active interest in community affairs, and in the political, social, and economic problems of the nation at large. The initiative, referendum and recall, the election of all public officials by direct popular vote, social welfare legislation, tax reform, and a general broadening of the democratic processes, all ^{these were advocated} at a time when in many quarters such measures were considered radical in the extreme. Social, political, and religious liberty were the ideals of the Turnvereinen, and Turner literature was fired with the spirit of equality and brotherhood.

School, Churches, Newspapers.

While there were freethinkers among the early German pioneers, they were heavily outnumbered by those who professed adherence to some orthodox denomination. The Methodist Church in America was first to interest itself in these immigrants. Its representatives frequently met them at the ports of entry to offer advice and assistance.

Methodist missions were established in the communities where Germans settled, and by 1849 the Methodist Missionary Society claimed to have more than 6,000 adherents of that nationality, with nearly 100 churches and 83 regular mission circuits in the field.

The Roman Catholic Church in America also welcomed these new communicants, and religious orders in Germany sent priests and others to open schools, churches, hospitals, and charitable institutions.

German Lutheran churches of various denominations were established in all settlements of any considerable size, and many of them maintained parochial schools.

In the period immediately preceding the Civil War, numerous private schools were opened for the study of the German language and literature. German educators and educational methods attained such prominence in some of the larger centers that teaching was conducted in that tongue. Such was the case in the Cincinnati schools, where German and English were on an equal footing as languages of instruction.

2. Prior to the World War, German was taught in public schools throughout the United States. The study of that tongue has declined in recent years, but the kindergarten, a purely German institution introduced into the United States in 1856 by Mrs. Carl Schurz, is still an integral part of our public school system.

Like the schools, German-language newspapers played an important part in molding the thought and opinions of the immigrants, and helping them to orient themselves in the American scene. In 1848 there were seventy such publications in the United States, and four years later the number had nearly doubled. In 1850 Cincinnati alone supported three daily newspapers of this type. With the rise of a second generation of German-Americans, however, these papers declined in importance.

For Homes and Freedom

Between 1848 and 1851, while Americans were flocking to California in search of gold, the German-American communities were strengthened by an influx of new thousands from the Fatherland. They had crossed the Atlantic seeking, not gold, but freedom and a secure home. Many were political refugees, fleeing from despotism in the Old World.

In that period of European history immediately following the year 1815, known as the age of Metternich, freedom of speech and religious belief, freedom of assembly, and all the other liberalizing and democratic concepts born of the French Revolution, were ruthlessly suppressed. In Germany, however, the liberal movement lived on, though furtively and precariously. It still persisted in the universities, among the intellectuals, and in the Turnvereinen, where a passionate devotion to freedom and a hatred of all forms of oppression were sedulously cultivated.

In the year 1848 the liberal forces in Germany rose in revolt against Metternich's system, but the revolution was crushed, its leaders destroyed or banished, and its adherents forced to flee the country in order to save themselves from utter ruin or death. Large numbers of these, among whom were many professional men, and not a few persons of real distinction, emigrated to America. The new arrivals were warmly welcomed to the New World by their fellow-countrymen, while the German-American press hurled thunderbolts of wrath and ~~denunciation~~ at the Austrian tyrant.

They Look Westward.

The continental views of the German immigrants, and their wholly natural partiality toward German ideas and things, to say nothing of the fact that they were regarded as interlopers in a rapidly narrowing field of employment, brought about dissension between them and their "Yankee" neighbors. These, also, had

nationalistic views. The newcomers had discovered, moreover, that the land of their adoption was not in all things the Utopia they had conceived it to be. They found it difficult to reconcile slavery, then firmly established in the United States, with the freedom about which they had heard so much. They saw little dignity in American politics, and American frontier towns were not strong for the fine arts.

Many of the Yankees did not take such criticisms of America too kindly, countering with the suggestive remark that the boats were still running to Germany. Ill feeling was augmented by such passages, until many of the immigrants deemed themselves in America, but not of it. Some of them yearned for their homeland--if only it were safe.

The German farmer, ^{it is true,} enjoyed a reputation for industry and thrift, and was welcomed wherever he settled. In addition to his agricultural activities, he experimented patiently and intelligently with livestock, dairying, cattle-raising, and bee-culture; developed horticulture and built nurseries; and wherever possible, cultivated grapes and made excellent wines.

The majority of German immigrants who sought refuge in America during this period were not farmers, however, but artisans and skilled workers. They were good workmen, moderate in their demands because they were accustomed to long hours at low wages, and they found ready employment in the cities. Jewelers, cabinet-makers, carpenters, bakers, bookbinders, piano-teachers, watchmakers, all industriously followed their trades.

In general the 1850's marked a long, wearisome period of unemployment and economic distress in America. The artisans already on the ground felt the pinch of idleness and began to resent the competition from overseas. The heavy influx of excellent workmen was seriously glutting the market, and many men in the trades found themselves out of work and their families in actual need.

Unquestionably, immigration was in part responsible for this condition,

and the "natives" did not hesitate to place the blame for their ill fortune on the shoulders of the Germans. Riotous demonstrations were incited against them, and their lives made as uncomfortable as possible, in the hope that they would weary of antagonism and leave the industrial centers.

This procedure eventually had the desired effect. The newcomers gave way under the weight of persecution and race discrimination and began to organize colonization societies for the purpose of establishing themselves elsewhere. The Turnereinen of the country were especially active in promoting these enterprises, and one of these, the Turner Colonization Society of Cincinnati, was destined, in 1856, to add its strength to the colony then being founded by the German Land Association of Minnesota on the present site of New Ulm.

CHAPTER II

EARLY NEW ULM

The Founding Fathers

The idea that eventually developed into the settlement of New Ulm germinated in the brain of Frederick Beinhorn while he was yet in Germany. There is little doubt that it had been implanted by articles appearing in the German-American press, and fostered in many talks with like-minded friends. He crossed the ocean in the summer of 1852 with practically no capital, but fired with enthusiasm for his project: the founding of a German colony in the American Middle West.¹

After undergoing the trials and setbacks commonly experienced by the impecunious immigrant, he found himself, a year later, in Chicago. The economic pressure was much less severe there than in many American cities, and he experienced no great difficulty in securing employment.

1. - See Appendix. "The Chicago Land Society", account by Frederick Beinhorn. Original in possession of New Ulm Historical Museum.

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Realizing the handicap of an alien tongue, Beinhorn, together with five other Germans, took up the study of English in an evening class conducted by one William Fach. To these six men he soon made known his pet ambition.

The instructor and the five classmates were favorably impressed and the group began to lay definite plans. The final decision, briefly, was to purchase a few sections of government land and plat a city thereon, the whole enterprise to be financed by the sale of lots.

WPH The venture appeared feasible and the colleagues set resolutely and hopefully to work. Friends and acquaintances were invited to attend an organization meeting on August 7, 1853.

At this gathering eighteen men listened to the details of Beinhorn's plan and gave it their approval. A society was formed forthwith, with Frederick Beinhorn as president, Friederich Metzke as secretary, and Joseph Schwartz as treasurer. A committee also was appointed, to meet with the officers at Fach's home and draft a constitution.

The Chicago Land Society

On August 10, 1853, this meeting was held and its purpose accomplished. The organization was named "The Chicago Land Society", and the constitution and by-laws were approved, in the main, at a general meeting held four days later. The movement was now gathering momentum and a large number of Germans were considering affiliation. William Fach was appointed as the society's business agent, and rapid progress was anticipated. On the first Sunday in September, when the members convened at the Fach home for their third meeting, it was found that the house was too small, and the crowd moved into Turner Hall, where it filled the auditorium to capacity. Many new applications for membership were received.

The project thus safely launched, committees were sent out to scout newly

opened territory and report on their findings. The care with which all proposals were investigated testifies to the determination of the leaders to build their new community upon a solid foundation. During the first few months after organization, sites were rejected in Michigan, Iowa, and Missouri. Finally, in the summer of 1854, agents were sent out to explore the frontier of southern Minnesota, where 24 million acres of comparatively virgin territory had been thrown open to white settlement by the Indian treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota.

Scouting.

This immense tract was largely an unknown and uncharted wilderness.¹ A few tiny isolated settlements, some Sioux villages, an occasional trapper's hut or trading post, were the only examples of man's handiwork. The prairies were covered with a dense growth of tall grass which supported buffalo in vast numbers. Foxes and wolves lived on an abundance of weaker animals and fowl. Wild pigeons in unnumbered millions darkened the sky in their flights. Water fowl quacked and gabbled in the marshy lowlands. Blackbirds swarmed in great reaches of wild rice. Rivers and lakes, their shores constantly prowled by fur-bearers, held many species of fine food fish.

Such was the lush land toward which the immigrants were now hopefully turning their attention.

Frederick Beinhorn was president of the society at this time, and the membership, composed very largely of workingmen, exceeded eight hundred. Joseph Messerschmidt and William Pfeiffer, the emissaries dispatched into the newly opened Sioux county, came back filled with enthusiasm for the Minnesota River valley area. They said that they had found excellent land for the society's purposes in the district around Swan Lake, in the present county of Nicollet.

1. The Minnesota River had been navigated as far as Cottonwood, on July 22, 1850, when the steamer Yankee reached that point on an experimental trip. Nothing else until Fort Ridgely was started in 1853.

There was no further mention

At this point the Chicago cholera epidemic halted field work until the following August. In that month a new committee was sent into Minnesota to check up on the findings of the earlier scouts. This party was made up of August Kiessling, Mathias Weiss and Conrad Kleinknecht, and they were accompanied by Fred Julius, with his wife and child. Julius built a log cabin near Le Sueur, which had been founded some two years before,¹ and this served as headquarters for the committee during their exploratory work.

Toward the end of the month, Kiessling left his companions and returned alone to Chicago to report. He informed the society that his committee had not been favorably impressed with the location selected by Messerschmidt and Pfeiffer, but that they had discovered another site which they could heartily recommend. This was on the highland overlooking the valley of the Minnesota River, just above Le Sueur. His enthusiasm spurred the officers to immediate action.

Into the Wilderness

Steps were at once taken to send settlers into the region, clothed, apparently, with authority to make a definite decision with regard to a site, and to begin the work of building a settlement for the use and benefit of the society's members. Several hundred of these were expected to follow as soon as practicable.

The settlers left Chicago in small groups, and traveled by way of Galena and the Mississippi River route. By the middle of September they began to arrive in St. Paul, and within ten days approximately thirty were assembled at that point, eager to begin the final stage of their journey. Included in this gathering were Alois Palmer, Christian Ludwig Meyer and his son, Louis, Albert Voehringer, Athanasius Henle, Anton Henle, Frank Massopoust, Benedict Drexler, John B. Zettel and his wife and child, Casimir Hermann and wife, John G. Mack

1. History of the Minnesota Valley. Neill, p. 480.

and wife, Peter Mack, Leonard Haerberle, David Haerberle, William Winkelmann, Martin Walser, Meinrad Wall, William Thiele, Joseph Dambach, Elizabeth Fink, John Keck, John Brandt and Joseph Schwarz. Both Schwarz and the elder Meyer were surveyors.

September 26, 1854, the entire group left St. Paul for Le Sueur, most of them going by ~~boat~~^{boat} up the Minnesota River. Martin Walser and Meinrad Wall, however, made the trip of seventy-odd miles on horseback; while John Zettel, Benedict Drexler and Casimir Hermann traveled by ox-team, carrying some equipment.

Arrived at their destination, the men of the party made it their first business to inspect the tract of land recommended by Kiesling, Weiss and Klein-knecht. They were disappointed at what they saw. The proposed site lay on the high prairie only a short distance above Le Sueur and on the opposite side of the river. The tract failed on almost every score to meet the requirements promised in the society's published townsite prospectus. After brief inspection it was flatly rejected by almost unanimous vote.

Bitter disappointment caused some harsh criticism of the scouts, which in turn brought sharp rejoinders. For a time dissension threatened to wreck the whole enterprise. But this feeling passed, and after a brief rest at Le Sueur the settlers decided to search farther.

Some ten or twelve miles up the river from Le Sueur the little settlement of Traverse des Sioux had recently been founded at the spot where the famous treaty was negotiated,² and the land-seekers continued their journey to this point. From Traverse des Sioux, ten of their number proceeded to scout the Swan Lake area, on which Messerschmidt and Pfeiffer had reported favorably just prior to the outbreak of cholera in Chicago.

Here again the decision was adverse and, now considerably disheartened,

1. The steamer Jeanette Roberts.

2. M. H. S. Records Survey, May, 1940, Entry 71.

six of the men resolved to return at once to Traverse des Sioux. They agreed, however, to hold the main group there until their companions should rejoin them some days later.

The more persistent explorers, Christian Ludwig Meyer, Alois Palmer, Athanasius Henle and Frank Massopoust, then set out for Fort Ridgley. They hoped that there, or somewhere along the intervening route, they might get information regarding the territory between the fort and the bend of the Minnesota River at Mankato.

CHAPTER III

The Search Narrows.

Upon rejoining the main body of homeseekers at Traverse des Sioux on October 7, 1854, Meyer, Palmer, Henle and Massopoust were able to refresh the discouraged band with heartening news. A few miles below Fort Ridgley they had encountered a French trader named Joseph LaFrambois^v, who had been in the district for a quarter of a century. LaFrambois^v was familiar with the territory for miles around. They had spent a night at his post at Little Rock, some four miles below the fort, and the veteran trader had interested himself in their quest. He told them of a location for a townsite which he considered superior to anything else in the whole valley. It lay on the west bank of the Minnesota River a short distance above the point where the Cottonwood entered that stream, and was known to voyageurs and traders as "Prairie Belle View."

The four scouts had personally visited the spot, and they reported enthusiastically upon its natural beauty and its possibilities as a townsite. Their glowing description restored the cheerfulness of the wanderers, and it was with high expectations that the ^{y went on their way} journey was resumed next morning.

~~The route pursued from Traverse des Sioux to the proposed location has been a subject of some controversy. In view of the difficulties of travel in~~

~~a roadless wilderness, it seems a likely presumption that this mixed group of colonists followed as closely as possible the natural course of the river. This view is supported by the fact that at the end of the first day's journey they camped at Eureka, directly opposite the present village of Judson, and only a few miles above Mankato.~~

Eureka had been platted as a townsite early in the preceding year, but, as was the case with many similar ventures in the early days, it had failed to materialize. At the time of the arrival of this advance guard of the Chicago Land Society, one of the townsite promoters was its sole inhabitant. It is reported that this man made strenuous efforts to persuade his visitors to adopt his site as their own, but to no avail. The next dawn saw them on their way up the east side of the river, and late in the afternoon they arrived at the red stone outcropping opposite the mouth of the Cottonwood, or "Waraju," River.

The Sioux Village

That night they camped near a lime-kiln, built a few months before in connection with the construction of some new buildings at Fort Ridgley. It was still in operation and the crew gave the settlers a cordial reception and entertained them at breakfast the following morning, October 10, after which the cavalcade crossed to the west side of the river.

They were now in Blue Earth County, but at a point which was soon to become a part of Brown County. They spent some hours inspecting the land along the Minnesota above the mouth of the Cottonwood, giving particular attention to the site so highly recommended by the trader, LaFrambois. Their survey of the place disclosed many points of excellence; the fine rich soil of the surrounding neighborhood, the potential water-power of the Cottonwood, the broad Minnesota River valley with its majestic bluffs and terraces, the unusual and attractive contour of the proposed townsite itself.

This latter covered a series of wide bench-like plateaus, rising gradually from the river-bottom and extending along the valley for a distance of several miles, like the tiers of an enormous amphitheater. But while the place had many obvious advantages, the homeseekers could not ignore one serious drawback. The almost total absence of timber held a very real threat that shelter and fuel would be hard to obtain.

In the minds of pioneers about to face the rigors of a Minnesota winter for the first time, this lack was ominous. It was sufficiently alarming, indeed, to cause them to forget the future "City Beautiful" for the time being, and send them in search of a place where they could get into liveable quarters before cold weather set in.

Late that afternoon, they were fortunate enough to find what they sought, practically ready-made, in a wooded tract bordering the Minnesota River, in the extreme northwestern^w corner of the present township of Milford. It was an Indian village, deserted and apparently abandoned, and the colonists forthwith moved in and set up housekeeping.

They were surprised and deeply chagrined a few days later when the Indians returned from Fort Ridgley, where they had gone to collect their treaty allotments, and demanded that the trespassers get out. The red men made indignant threats, and the settlers were justly worried. For a time it appeared as if bloodshed could not be avoided, but somebody recalled the good offices of their benefactor, LaFrambois, and an appeal to him brought about an amicable settlement. He induced the Indians to move on and leave the intruders in temporary possession of the shacks. The pioneers improved their condition by at once erecting their first building, a large block-house of logs; but this burned to the ground after a short occupancy, and once more they were compelled to resort to the Indian habitations.

The site of this village¹ was traversed by a fine spring-fed brook, later known as Vajen's Creek, which emptied into the Minnesota River two or three miles below the Little Rock trading post. At this point there was an abundance of timber, and it was not too difficult to secure protection from the weather.

During the occupancy of this Sioux village, so many other desirable features were discovered that strong sentiment developed among a small group to make it the site of the society's future town. This movement even gained sufficient momentum to bring about a survey of a portion of the tract by Joseph Schwarz, and the preparation of a plat, dividing it into streets and lots.

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A Town is Born---and a Baby.

There was one person in the little band of pioneers, however, who held out strongly against this action. Christian Ludwig Meyer, also a surveyor, and one of the most influential men in the group, was convinced that the action was unwise. He spent many hours away from the winter camp studying the contour of the surrounding country. In this field work Meyer found ample evidence to substantiate his assertion that the choice of his companions would in the end prove a grave mistake. The results of his observations were communicated in detail to the society's officers in Chicago, and his testimony was effective.

In May of the following year, President Beinhorn arrived from Chicago with more settlers, and also with another surveyor by the name of Volk. These newcomers were quick to perceive the advantage of the site Meyer preferred, and in order to hold it against other claimants, the erection of eight rude block-houses, one for each forty acres of land, was immediately begun.

~~Louis Schilling put up the first log dwelling, but the first building on the actual townsite was a fourteen-by-sixteen-foot courthouse, on what is now~~
1. Very likely the site of the Sioux village where Jonathan Carver wintered with the Indians for the winter of 1766-1767. M.H.S.Coll,XIV,109,Minn.Biog's.

~~German Street, built by August Hellman at a cost of \$50. Its log walls came from the trees of the oak grove then known as the "Star Hotel," crowning the wooded Knoll where the first comers lay on the ground in blankets and looked up through the branches at the stars.~~

On May 30, 1855, approval of the advance guard's procedure thus far was received from Chicago, and on the same day the site was formally dedicated and given a name. A large number of the German immigrants interested in the enterprise had come to America from the Danubian district of Wurttemberg, whose chief city was Ulm, and Jacob Haeberle, on whom had been conferred the honor of naming the proposed town, pleased everybody with his selection of "New Ulm."

The company that had arrived with President Beinhorn and his wife consisted, in addition to the surveyor, Volk, of the following persons: Albert Behnke, August Kiesling and wife, Fidel, Henry and Franz Diepolder, with their wives, Ernest Fritsche, Lorenz Enderle, Adam Dobereiner and wife, Frederich Ring, Fred Behnke, Henry Meyerding and wife, Louis Schilling, Henry Behnke, John Fenschke, Jacob Pfenninger, John Stamm, August Hellman, John Resoft, Gabriel Sehr, Albert Tuttle, H. C. Mueller, Fred Roebecke, Charles Sommer, Henry Diets, Anton Dietz, John Dehn, Jacob Brust, John Meltzer, John Strum, Anton Adam, Ernst Dietrich with his wife and children, Edward Krahmer, Fred Fritsche, Sr., and a Mrs. Hemsch. Others came by ox-team later in the same year.

It was at about this time that Anton Kaus, hearing of the new settlement, came over from Nicollet County. On June 20, 1856, Brown County's first post office was to be established at his claim-cabin on the northwest quarter of Section Number 12, Town 110, Range 31. Kaus held the office of postmaster until July 28, 1857, when he was succeeded by C. G. Kochne.

Inspired by the reinforcements brought in by Beinhorn, the town-builders labored unceasingly and the appearance of the little settlement changed with each succeeding day. Since logs required hauling by oxen, over rough terrain,

some of the first homes were made of sod, but during the first winter the pioneers had built a saw mill on Milford Creek.

In the spring the machinery for this mill was hauled in, and log cabins quickly replaced the temporary huts. A branch of the Chicago Land Society was organized under the name of the German Land Association of Minnesota. August Kiesling was chosen first president of this organization, with John Zettel as vice-president, Henry Meyerding, secretary, and Joseph Dambach, treasurer. The following year Frederick Beinhorn became president and Ernst Dietrich, secretary.

In the summer of 1855 some 23 houses and their outbuildings, in various stages of construction, dotted the landscape in the fork of the Minnesota and Cottonwood rivers. They were the only civilized homes for miles around. The clearing and cultivation of land advanced steadily and some corn and potatoes were planted. The sawmill was operating at full capacity, Alois was fetching the mail from Fort Ridgely with reasonable regularity, (a court house had been built,) and Fred Roebbecke was conducting the community's first store.

An inventory of the stock in this first mercantile establishment listed "30 pounds of coffee, half a barrel of sugar, one barrel of salt, 3 bolts of cotton goods, and half a barrel of whiskey," among its wares. The building in which the business was conducted stood just west of where the city cemetery is now located.

Beef was selling at 20 cents a pound, butter at 35 to 40 cents, and potatoes were two dollars a bushel. Corn meal appears to have been the chief article of food. Even in 1857 very little flour or pork could be procured, and many families habitually used roasted corn and peas as a substitute for coffee.

On July 4, 1855, New Ulm celebrated Independence Day for the first time. The demonstration was held near the new court house, with a Doctor Blecken as the orator of the day. The records do not disclose the tenor of his speech,

nor whether it was delivered in English or German, but the spirit of the occasion was in full accord with the tenets of these immigrants.

This year ushered into the world the first white child to be born in Brown County--Caroline Dambach, daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Serr) Dambach, who had settled in the present town of Milford.

CHAPTER IV

LAND PRE-EMPTIONS

Legal Aspects

As the law stood in 1856, only 320 acres of land could be pre-empted for townsite purposes. The officers of the Chicago Land Society observed this restriction. The original townsite staked off by them comprised only the area lying between the present Seventh South and Seventh North Streets, and the Minnesota River and Garden Street. A town of such limited proportions, however, would hardly fulfill the program of the German Land Association of Minnesota.

This program specified that each shareholder should receive small garden tracts, in addition to a given number of town lots, so more land was required. The pioneers met the situation by taking up an aggregate of approximately 2,200 acres of land surrounding the townsite. This additional area was to be pre-empted by individual claimants, then thrown into a common pool for division and distribution among the association's members.

Each member was assessed \$30 to cover the cost of the land, in return for which he was to receive twelve town lots and nine acres of the garden tract.

Volk, who had gone out with President Beinhorn to do the surveying, was given a log house on what is now South German Street, in which to live and work, but within two weeks he took sudden unexplained leave of the place. His action brought everything to a halt. His notes and unfinished plans went with him, and

not a scratch of his pen remains in Brown County to show that he was ever there. The work he had undertaken was ultimately performed by Christian Ludwig Meyer.

Meyer completed a plat of the townsite in September, 1855, and in June of the following year copies of it were filed simultaneously in the land office at Winona and in the office of the Brown County Register of Deeds. One of the originals may now be seen on the wall in the Brown County Historical Museum. It bears the surveyor's signature, as well as those of Frederick Beinhorn and Ernst Dietrich, president and secretary of the German Land Association of Minnesota.

Although the association had taken the initial steps toward acquiring the needed lands as early as May 1855, it was not until a year later that any actual filings were made. In early May 1856, President Beinhorn returned from Chicago with Albert Blatz, treasurer of the parent organization, prepared to make the necessary payments.

Toward the end of the month Beinhorn and Dietrich, as president and secretary of the local branch, together with thirteen other claimants, went to Winona to complete their pre-emptions. They were accompanied by Attorney Charles E. Flandrau of Travers^e des Sioux, and under his guidance they filed on sixteen quarter-sections of land in Brown County, two of which were those mapped as the original townsite.

Beinhorn and Dietrich, filed on these two quarters as townsite proprietors, while Dietrich and their thirteen companions filed as individuals. The other thirteen claimants were Andrew Sternlein, Johann Karl Fritsche, Andreas Pfaff, Joseph Haenggi, John Adam Dobereiner, Friederich Ring, Johannes Stamm, Edward Krahmer, William Thiele, Christian Ludwig Meyer, Elias Frick, Edward Baumler and Franz Nolle.

The fourteen individual claimants, on the same day, joined in a deed conveying their fourteen quarter-sections to Ernst Dietrich and Albert Blatz, to

be held in trust for the German Land Association of Minnesota. It was agreed that as soon as patents were issued, the patentees would convey the individual parcels of land in fee simple to the trustees, for the use and benefit of the association. Beinhorn and Dietrich executed similar deeds to the townsite tracts, conveying title to District Judge Andrew G. Chatfield, as trustee for the German Land Association.

Two Group Units

A short time prior to this memorable trip of Beinhorn and his party to Winona, William Pfaender, William Seeger and Charles Preiser had arrived in New Ulm as representatives of a second colonization group, the Turner Colonization Society of Cincinnati. Pfaender and his associates, seeking a suitable townsite, had visited Iowa and other parts of the country before coming to Minnesota. Upon their arrival in St. Paul they had learned of the settlement at New Ulm and lost no time in proceeding to that point.

They found the Chicago company hard pressed for funds with which to meet pre-emption obligations. The Cincinnati Society, on the other hand, was in excellent financial condition. They had sold shares all over the country, particularly in cities where turnvereinen had been established, and the money so raised was available for immediate use.

Here, then, was one company impecunious but in possession of a desirable location, while the other, wanting a location, was blessed with abundant funds. Since both groups had the same ultimate aim, the situation pointed clearly toward a merger of resources. On the return of the party that had gone to Winona, a tentative deal was arranged, and this was consummated in Chicago on July 4, 1856.

Pursuant to this arrangement, the townsite of New Ulm was sold to the Turner Colonization Society for approximately \$6,000. That organization had been selling its stock at \$15 a share, with the understanding that upon the founding

of a colonized community each member was to receive one townsite lot and a small gardening tract outside.

With the merger, it became necessary to alter the original plan of distribution. Now, after a comprehensive survey, each shareholder was to receive six town lots and one four-acre garden plot outside the business and residential district. Lots were to be offered for sale to non-members at \$50 each.

Returning to New Ulm toward the end of July, Pfaender led fourteen additional claimants to Winona to pre-empt still more land. This party was made up of Joseph Hitz, Jacob Leonz Mueller, Max Friton, Joseph Baer, Christian Schaeffer, William Jansen, Joseph Ruth, John H. Ips, Paul Hitz, Gustav Schlick, Charles H. Blekken, John Resoft, Joseph Hartneck and Konstantin Scholler.

On July 30, thirteen of these men conveyed the lands which they had pre-empted to Albert Tafel, Louis Strobel, and Louis Hoffman, all of Cincinnati, in trust for the German Land Association of Minnesota. This association consisted of the two merged societies, and it will be noted that it had assumed the exact title of the one from which the townsite had been purchased. Complications which grew out of that act will appear later.

On July 31, Joseph Hartneck executed a deed to the same trustees covering the quarter-section on which he had made entry. These additions brought the total merged holdings to something over 4,800 acres.

The Town of New Ulm.

In March, 1857, all this area was incorporated by an act of the Territorial Legislature as "The Town of New Ulm."

Under the circumstances, this was a curious procedure. In the first place, no survey or plat of this new 4,800-acre town had ever been made. On the other hand, there was in the official records a plat of a quite different town of New Ulm, embracing 2,200 acres of the same lands. This plat was on file in

the land office and with the register of deed^s of Brown County. Furthermore, its existence had even been acknowledged by the Territorial legislature, in an act officially designating the first New Ulm as the county seat.

The new legislative act which now established the unplatted town provided for a municipality of four wards and a town council of four members. At a special election, held only a month before, the entire district had been able to muster but 23 votes! The only plausible explanation is that the measure may have been suggested by Attorney Flandrau as a means to evade the provision limiting the acreage of townsite pre-emptions. This speculation finds some support in a provision of the same act which released all claimants from liability for violation of the pre-emption law limiting townsite pre-emptions to 320 acres.

At the same session an act was passed by the territorial legislature incorporating the German Land Association of Minnesota. Unfortunately the framers of this law neglected to describe the proposed corporation as the legal successor of the original voluntary association.

The oversight led to at least one bothersome and costly consequence; when the time arrived for the various individuals to deed their claim tracts to the association, Konstantin Scholler refused to execute the instrument as agreed. He contended there was nothing in the law creating the German Land Association of Minnesota, Incorporated, to identify it with the original German Land Association of Minnesota, for whose benefit he had signed the trust deed in 1856. The case was taken to the district court by the association, and an adverse decision there was appealed.

Scholler's victory was sustained in the appellate court, and thus, by reason of a technicality, his associates were compelled to pay him for his land. The climax of the incident came some months later, and caused considerable amusement and satisfaction in the community. All the New Ulm property owned by Scholler, including the tract under litigation, was levied upon by the sheriff to

satisfy unpaid lawyers' fees. The claim amounted to \$400, considerably exceeding the value of the property in dispute.

Except for Scholler, all claimants and trustees carried out their agreements to the letter.

On October 14, 1857, Judge Andrew G. Chatfield conveyed to the German Land Association of Minnesota, Incorporated, the 320 acres pre-empted by Beinhorn and Dietrich for the original townsite. He held this land in trust as district court judge, under the law of 1844, and the validity of the conveyance was later attacked on the ground that Chatfield at the time he executed the deed was no longer on the bench. To avoid any possible flaw in the title, a second deed was given on February 8, 1858, by his successor, Judge Charles E. Flandrau.

Late in the spring of 1857, platting of the huge tract officially incorporated as the "Town of New Ulm" got under way. Christian Prignitz was employed for this work, with Lewis Brockmann as draughtsman, and on April 8, 1858, the plat was filed. It is perhaps the most remarkable townsite plat ever made on a new frontier. In a wilderness, miles removed from any sort of urban improvements or conveniences, these provident founders visualized a large and beautiful city, and set aside spacious tracts for parks, schools, playgrounds, public boat landings and market places. Except for slight alterations in the river bottom lands made during the next two years by Prignitz, it is the present plat of New Ulm.

It was not until recently that belated recognition was given the surveyor who conceived and executed this work. For more than 75 years it had been credited to a man who had practically nothing to do with it -- Volk, who in the summer of 1865 had walked out on the Chicago settlers without explanation.

Prignitz was a brother-in-law of the two well known New Ulm pioneers, Albert and Henry Behnke. He died in 1868, at the age of forty years.

With the filing of this plat in 1858 in the Brown County Register's office, there were two plats of New Ulm on record, the other being that filed

by Beinhorn and Dietrich in 1856. The two were often confused in conveyancing, until the legislature in 1860 passed a special act establishing the Prignitz survey as the ruling record.

CHAPTER V

MINNESOTA TERRITORY DIVIDED

The County of Brown

While this is essentially the story of New Ulm, some of the early history of the surrounding area must be related to make the story clear. For a long time the town was the living center of a vast territory, with the effect of each important event radiating throughout the whole area. New Ulm affected and was affected by Brown County as a whole. For a number of years the town of New Ulm, in a real as well as a historical sense, was the county of Brown.

In 1849, when Minnesota Territory was divided into nine great counties, Wabasha and Dakota comprised a vast domain nearly 140 miles wide from north to south, and extending from the Mississippi River westward to the Missouri. Wabasha's southern boundary turned south at the Big Sioux River, following that stream to its confluence with the Missouri, thus encompassing a great triangle which extended some eighty miles south of the present southern boundary of Minnesota.

In 1853 and 1854, after the ratification of the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, the huge units of Wabasha and Dakota, comprising most of the lands ceded in those treaties, were subdivided to create the counties of Scott, Goodhue, Fillmore, Rice, Le Sueur, Sibley, Pierce, Nicollet and Blue Earth in 1853, and Houston and Winona in 1854. Blue Earth was the largest of this group. The county of Hennepin had been set off in 1852.

A legislative act approved February 20, 1855, altered the boundaries of

some of these counties and created several new ones: Olmstead, Dodge, Mower, Freeborn, Faribault, Steele, Carver, Renville, Davis, Wright, Stearns, and Brown. The last named county was that part of Blue Earth which lay west of the Minnesota River. Its boundaries enclosed nearly 27 million acres of land, and included the sites of the present cities of New Ulm, Fairmont, Worthington, Watertown, Sioux Falls, Yankton, and Pierre. Although no corroborative public records have been found, it is believed that the new county was named in honor of the pioneer trader, editor and legislator, Joseph Renshaw Brown.

The new county of Brown was populated almost exclusively by Indians. It would be impossible even closely to estimate the number of red men who were living and hunting in the area between the Big Sioux and the Missouri rivers in 1855. Just within the count's northern boundary lay the occupied portions of the two reservations created by the treaties of 1851, and in this section between 7,000 and 8,000 Sioux had now settled. Nearly half of these were newcomers to the region.

The only other Indians known to be ranging within the county and east of the Big Sioux River, were the small bands of White Lodge and Lean Bear, with villages at Lake Benton and Lake Shetek, respectively, and the followers of the renegade Wah-pay-koo-tay chieftain, Inkpadutah. Already outlawed by his own tribe, this murderous Sioux leader and his gang of vicious fugitives frequented the headwaters of the Des Moines River, killing whites and Indians alike at every opportunity. Later, in 1857, these malevolent outcasts perpetrated the Spirit Lake Massacre.¹

The Upper and Lower Agencies, like little villages, with their offices, warehouses, shops, traders' stores, and dwellings, supported a population of something like 125 persons each, about equally divided between whites and half-breeds. In addition to these, there were 35 or 40 white persons connected in

1. See "Inkpadutah" in any standard Minnesota History.

one way or another with the Indian missions of Doctors Williamson and Riggs, at Pajuta Zihi and Hazel Run Creek. With the possible exception of a trader or two and a few transient trappers, the only other white persons in Brown County in 1855 were the thirty or more Germans who had come out from Chicago to found a town.

The County Begins to Shrink

Reduction of Brown County began in 1857 when a legislative act, approved May 23, established the counties of Martin, Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, Murray, Pipestone, Rock, Big Sioux, and Medary, all, with the exception of a narrow strip along the eastern border of Martin County, carved out of original Brown County.

There can be no question that there was something irregular about this proceeding, ~~something that smacks of chicanery~~. Very little was said or written about it at the time, but it is now known that Brown County citizens and officials were not consulted about the division, nor were they given the customary privilege of ~~expressing~~ ^{expressing} their approval or disapproval at the polls. Some of these counties were declared in the act to be duly organized, whereas the fact was that there were not enough inhabitants in the whole vast region to fill the offices required for their government.

County seats were named in at least three of the new counties, though no such settlements existed except in the minds of enthusiastic townsite promoters. Election precincts were established by a gullible governor, and carefully prepared returns were made of elections which never were held. Even federal census schedules were faked and filed.

With the admission of Minnesota to statehood in 1858, Brown County suffered its major amputation when the part now comprising practically the eastern half of South Dakota was cut off. This reduced the county to less than one-eighth of its original size, but still the slicing continued.

An act approved February 25, 1860, established the present county of Watonwan at Brown County's expense. In this instance the creation of the new county was conditioned on the approval of the electorate of Brown County at the ensuing general election, and the approval was given by a vote of 415 to 33. At this time consent was also given to still another reduction.

From the time of its creation in 1855, Brown County had contained within its borders all that part of the Upper and Lower Sioux reservations lying south of the Minnesota River. This was a strip ten miles wide, extending eastward from Big Stone Lake to the western limit of the present township of Milford. Since the ratification of the treaty of 1858, it had represented all that remained of the reservations established under the treaties of 1851.

In March 1860, the legislature proposed to detach this tract of land, less the limited area lying east of Range 34, from Brown County, and add it to the then unorganized county of Renville. This act was in turn approved by the Brown County electorate by a vote of 402 to 21.

Apparently determined to get rid of Brown County's remote and cumbersome frontier possessions as rapidly as possible, the commissioners, at their meeting in September, 1861, unanimously adopted a resolution memorialising the State legislature to lop off all the remaining territory lying west of Range 33. The legislature responded with an act, approved February 6, 1862, incorporating these lands in a new county to be known as the "County of Redwood."

The consent of the Brown County voters was required to give the act effect, and whether or not such consent was ever given it is impossible at this date to determine. Between the time of the passage of the act and the date of the election at which the question was to be decided, the Sioux uprising intervened. This resulted in the almost complete depopulation, not only of Brown County, but of the entire country surrounding the Indian reservations.

There is one small scrap of evidence that enough people did return to the

devasted area to hold the regular election in November 1862, but no evidence at all that the question of changing the county boundaries was on the ballot. A paper which purports to be an official abstract of the 1862 election returns was recently unearthed from among the musty records in the basement vaults of the court house. So far as this abstract shows, there was no vote, one way or the other, on the question of dividing the county. Subsequent legislative proceedings, however, seem to indicate a general assumption that the county of Redwood was definitely established. The net result, as far as Brown County was concerned, was to leave it with an area smaller than that of its smallest offspring, and smaller, too, than it is today. Two years later this was remedied.

Included in the territory set off in creating the counties of Cottonwood and Redwood were the four government townships now known as Bashaw, Stately, Burnstown, and North Star. During the year following the Indian uprising, rumor was rife to the effect that somewhere in that tract lay valuable deposits of coal and iron, a report which stirred the citizens of Brown County.

Realizing the voting weakness of the newly organized counties, they determined on a coup to make this mineral wealth their own. Early in the year 1864, an accommodating legislature was induced to pass a special act providing for submittal to the voters of Brown, Redwood, and Cottonwood counties of a proposal to re-establish the boundaries of Brown County to include the rumored mineral deposits.

The vote was terribly one-sided, of course, as the Brown County leaders knew it would be. The county's 278 votes were returned unanimously in favor of the proposal, while Redwood could muster but 14 against it. Cottonwood had been completely depopulated since the Indian war, and so cast not a vote.

The Shrinkage Stops

After 1864 there was but one alteration in the Brown County boundary.

When the election of that year recaptured from Redwood County the townships now known as Burnstown and North Star, it brought with them, evidently through an error in drafting the act, the 12-mile strip lying between those townships and the Minnesota River.

This was territory which had been ceded to Renville County in 1860, as part of the Indian reservation. Whatever the process by which it became involved in the transfer of the two townships coveted by Brown County, it evidently was as unwanted in 1864 as it had been in 1860. When a new act was submitted for approval at the 1865 general election, providing for the transfer of old reservation lands from Renville to Redwood, including the strip under discussion, almost no opposition was offered.

Brown County alone cast 254 affirmative votes, far more than enough to ratify the act, and this established its boundaries as they exist today.

It remains only to consider the final disposition of the Indian reservations. It will be recalled that the act of 1860, transferring the Indian lands from Brown to Renville County, excepted that portion lying east of Range 34. This included the present Brown County townships of Eden, Prairieville, Home, and fractional parts of Milford, Sigel, Stark, and Leavenworth. The area remained Indian land until after the outbreak in 1862.

Following that disaster the Government adopted stern measures with the Sioux. On February 6, 1863, Congress abrogated the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, and the subsequent treaties of 1858, insofar as the rights and claims of the tribes were concerned. Their reservations were reclaimed, and themselves deported forever from their former home. This was drastic punishment, for which the nation had to make costly amends later, but it had the almost immediate effect of opening to settlement vast tracts which otherwise might have remained undeveloped for generations.

The Brown County Indian lands were put on the market in 1866, and in 1870

the census showed a population of more than 1200 in the newly created townships of Home and Eden. This was an increase without precedent in Brown County's frontier history.

CHAPTER VI

Political Organization

Although Brown County was established in February 1855, it was not until February 11, 1856, that it was officially recognized by the legislative assembly as a "duly organized county.....of Minnesota Territory." Thus for practically a year it had no county seat, no legislative representation, no law enforcement officers, no power of taxation, no machinery, even, for legally exercising the right of suffrage. The population was meagre, however, and no particular inconveniences resulted. Outside the agencies and mission communities on the Sioux reservations, all the white settlers in the county were gathered in and about the newly organized town of New Ulm. These, in all likelihood, did not number more than one hundred souls.

In August, 1855, the commissioners of Blue Earth County, to which Brown originally had been attached, with very dubious authority established an election precinct for the voters of the two agencies and the settlers of New Ulm and vicinity. This precinct extended from the Blue Earth county line along the Minnesota River to include the homes of these voters, and New Ulm was designated as the place where the election was to be held.

August Kiesling, Fred Roebbecke, and Albert Behnke were named as judges, Christian Ludwig Meyer as constable, and Henry Behnke as justice of the peace. The electors in the precinct were allowed to vote only for congressional and legislative candidates. At the election a total of 69 votes were cast, 45 in the New Ulm district and 24 at the agencies.

No other election was ever held in the precinct, the county receiving belated recognition early in the following February. The legislative act also named New Ulm "on the Minnesota River" as the county seat, and authorized the governor to appoint the usual county officials to serve until the next general election.

Tradition has it that Francis Baasen, a young attorney from New Ulm, happened to be in St. Paul at the time of the approval of the organization act, and that Governor Gorman, not being familiar with the qualifications of the settlers in the new county, sought Maasen's assistance. It is said that he intrusted the attorney with duly signed commissions for the various offices to be filled, and authorized him to insert therein such names as he and his New Ulm neighbors deemed best.

Whether or not this rather unconventional method actually was adopted by Governor Gorman, it is a fact that nowhere, either in state or county records or in the newspapers of the day, can be found any reference to the manner of appointment of these officials, or even to the fact that they ever were appointed; yet they served.

This lack of direct evidence gave rise to the belief that, save for the members of the county board, it would never be known who these first officials were. For eighty years all county historical works were agreed on this. In 1934, however, the Brown County Historical Society unearthed documentary evidence, in the form of age-worn bonds and commissions, revealing the identity of nearly all.

Anton Kaus, Peyton Nichols, and Athanasius Henle made up the first board of county commissioners, John Samms was the first register of deeds, Ernst Dietrich, the first treasurer, and Henry Behnke, the first judge of probate. The latter acted also as clerk of court, Jacob Brust was the first sheriff, and Christian Ludwig Meyer was named county surveyor.

Just who Samms, the register of deeds, was, and whence he came, research

has failed to disclose. He served only a few months, and at the first recorded meeting of the county board in September the office was declared vacant because of his removal from the county. Francis Baason was named his successor.

First General Election

The first general election following the county's organization was held in October, 1856, and resulted in the choice of the following officials: Henry Behnke, register of deeds; Ernst Dietrich, treasurer; John B. Castor, judge of probate; Henry Meyerding, sheriff; John Zettel, coroner; Christian Ludwig Meyer, surveyor; Albert Tuttle, Jacob Brust, and Anton Kaus, commissioners. The latter gave notice at the January meeting that he could not qualify¹, and at a special election January 28, Fred Roebbecke was chosen in his place. At a meeting held February 23, Albert Tuttle was named chairman of the board.

This board functioned until the new state, township, and county government law went into effect, in October, 1858.

Under this law the old election precincts went into disuse. Instead of a board of county commissioners, the county government was vested in a board of supervisors, made up of the chairmen of the various township organizations. This law also created a new office, that of county auditor, and August H. Wagner was the first to occupy the post, entering upon his duties in November 1858. Four years later Wagner was killed by Indians at the Lower Agency. His successor, John C. Rudolph, is credited with saving the county archives at the time of the Sioux uprising in 1862.

Commissioner Form of Government Returns.

The board of county supervisors was abrogated by legislative enactment on February 24, 1860, and Minnesota returned to the commissioner form of county

1. Probably because he had been appointed postmaster in June, 1856.

government. The law provided for the setting up on commissioner districts, and at a special election, held on April 3, J. T. Furber of Madelia, Jacob Nix of New Ulm, and C. C. Brandt of Cottonwood, were elected from the county at large. New Ulm, itself, since its inception, has experienced six distinct types of municipal government, some of them of a surprising nature; and all of them requiring such a volume of detail in their description that it is deemed wise to deal with them in another part of this book.¹

Briefly this chapter has presented the changes of political boundaries, and the concurrent civil activities which accompanied the transformation of New Ulm from a tiny cluster of settlers' cabins on Minnesota's wilderness frontier into the metropolis and control-center of a rapidly growing community. Up to the time of the first general election, in 1856, every event of importance in Brown County reacted directly upon New Ulm and became an essential part of the town's history. Not until 1870, in fact, does the story begin to shake itself free from the happenings in the contiguous territory.

CHAPTER VII.

Awakening of Industry

Although Brown County was a trackless wilderness at the time of the arrival of the New Ulm Settlers in 1854, yet the Minnesota Valley had been threaded by white men long before that time.² Thomas Anderson, Murdoch Cameron, J. H. Lockwood, Col. Robert Dickson, J. B. Faribault, Louis Provencalle (Le Blanc), Hazen Mooers, Andrew Robertson, Joseph R. Brown, Joseph La Framboise, the Hart brothers, Jeffries, Duncan Campbell, Patterson, for whom Patterson's Rapid was named, Frazer, father of Jack Frazer, Joseph Renville, Charles Hess,

1. See appendix. "Changing Forms of Government."

2. MINNESOTA BIOGRAPHIES, 1655-1912, Vol. XIV of Minnesota Hist. Soc. Collections, p. 109, says Jonathan Carver, famous explorer, spent winter of 1766-67 with the Sioux on the Minnesota River in the vicinity of the site of New Ulm. This is the earliest record of any white man at this point, and Carver probably lived in one of the Sioux village sites mentioned in this text.

traders all, had been familiar with the territory for years--some of them since 1780.¹ Fort Ridgely was already well on its way to completion and was, in fact, occupied. Since the start of its construction in 1853, steamboat navigation between that point and Mankato had been maintained with some regularity during high water seasons. At the fort, during the first year of its existence, chloroform was used as an anesthetic by Dr. A. W. Daniels, then post surgeon, in amputating the arm of Joseph La Framboise's son. This is the first known instance of surgical anesthesia in the Northwest.

In 1856 the straggling little community of New Ulm began to take on an air of civic dignity and commercial importance. C. C. Brandt established Brown County's first grist mill in that year, in the present Sigel Township; a stock company headed by F. Rehfeld erected a sawmill;² Philip Gross built the Union Hotel; Henry Vajen opened a general store; and Andrew J. Myrick was granted a license to operate a ferry across the Minnesota River.

On November 11, 1856, thirteen young men met at the home and store of Adolph Seiter and organized a local Turnverein society, destined to exercise an important influence in the development of New Ulm. The organizers were William Pfaender, August Schell, Eugene Gerstenhauer, Adolph Seiter, William Hummel, John C. Toberer, William Petermann, August Clausen, George Guetlich, Henry Haupt, George Fein, Xavier Stoffer, and Ernst Brandt, and their enthusiasm soon permeated the whole pioneer group.

That year the first attempt was made to organize a Roman Catholic Congregation. New Ulm as yet had no church at all, nor even a minister. In order to marry, Athanasius Henle and Elizabeth Fink had to journey all the way to St. Paul in an ox-cart. The return trip behind those slow moving animals furnished a much longer honeymoon than pioneers usually enjoyed.

The year 1857 saw the start of New Ulm's first ambitious milling enterprise,

1. See Appendix, "Voyageur's Letter."

2. See Appendix, "Mills."

when the plant afterward called the Globe Mills was built. This venture was sponsored by the German Land Association, with the dual purpose of grinding grain and sawing logs. In 1858 the Globe Mills Company, Incorporated, was organized to take over the plant.¹ The mill built by C. C. Brandt in Sigel Township was a small, wind-driven affair; after the winter of 1856-1857 it was moved to New Ulm where it continued to run for a time.¹

A large number of German families came to New Ulm from Cincinnati in 1857, most of them arriving on the steamer Frank Steele, and this increase in population gave added impetus to business. The German Land Association² opened a general store with William Pfaender in charge; Adolph Seiter started another, on his claim outside the townsite area, but afterward moved the business to the center of population; Charles Jacobs and his son George opened a general store, Jost Pfeiffer, a butcher shop, John C. Toberer, a jewelry store, Joseph Miller, a carriage shop, Charles Wagner, a furniture manufacturing business, and H. Kiesling, a blacksmith shop.

The population of the county had now reached 1629, of whom 356 lived in the town itself. There was a growing need for schools. Four school districts were established in the county, and the first school was opened in New Ulm with August Westphal as teacher. Of 86 children of school age, however, only 28 were enrolled in the winter of 1857-1858.

John Bellm and ^{w 1857} were married ~~this year~~, the first wedding to be solemnized in the town of New Ulm.³

Grasshoppers, which were to wage unrelenting war against the fortunes of the settlers in succeeding years, made their first appearance at this time, though damage to the crop of 1857 was slight.

1. See Appendix, "Mills."

2. During its brief existence, 1857-1862, the German Land Association rendered many public services, none greater than when, on its dissolution in 1862, its members arranged for presenting its entire remaining assets, including several hundred lots, to the New Ulm School District.

3. Edward D. Neill says the first New Ulm marriage was that of William Jansen and Peyronella Adams, March 17, 1857, performed by Wm. Pfaender, justice of the peace. Neill, Hist. of Minnesota Valley, p 707.

In 1858, the original Turner Hall was erected, on the present site, and the Turnverein immediately became the chief social and amusement center of the community. Five home talent plays were presented during the year. School enrollment now necessitated employment of a second teacher. Another milestone was founding of the New Ulm Pioneer, the earliest newspaper in Brown County.¹

August Fritton and Andrew Betz established the first brewery within the confines of New Ulm in 1858, in German Park, near Center Street. A brewery had been in operation across the Minnesota River for some months prior to this.² The first county fair was held this year, and the first bridge erected over the Cottonwood River.

It was in 1858 that the treaty was concluded permitting the Indians to own land individually.

The Dakota Hotel was opened in 1859, and the Central Bank,³ the first in the community, was established. A private concern, it closed its doors in 1861.

In 1860, Dr. Charles Weschcke took up residence and established a practice in New Ulm. Weschcke became one of the town's most prominent citizens, and as a surgeon had an important part in its defense during the siege by the Sioux.

The census of 1860 showed a county population of 2,320 of which number 635 were residents of New Ulm. There were then 200 whites at the Upper Agency, and 120 at the Lower. New Ulm was now large enough to demand more reading matter than was to be found in the weekly newspapers, and providentially a public library was started by the donation of 100 volumes by Frederick Kapp of New York City. This gift formed the nucleus of the splendid library of today.

In 1861, H. A. Subilia erected the Waraju distillery in New Ulm, but the German settlers were not strong for hard liquor, and this enterprise was destined

1. See Appendix, "Newspapers."

2. See Appendix, "Breweries."

3. See Appendix, "Financial Institutions."

to flourish but a short time. The building was one of the fire casualties during the Indian attack of 1862, and today its tall brick chimney is the only part that remains standing. The business was never re-established.

Schell's Brewery¹ was erected in the Cottonwood valley east of New Ulm in 1861. August Schell had come to Minnesota in 1856 as one of the Turner Colonization Society of Cincinnati, and five years later, in company with Jacob Bernhard, he founded the brewery which still bears his name. When the town was besieged by Indians, Schell moved his family to St. Peter for safety, but his brewery was left unmolested by the Sioux.

The Civil War drew many of the younger white men of the district into service in 1861, a fact undoubtedly noted by the wily Sioux, who the following year seized the opportunity to attack the unprotected frontier.

The Indians Rise

The growth and prosperity of New Ulm and Brown County, so satisfying to the white settlers, was a source of great uneasiness to their Sioux neighbors. The Indians, once free to roam the vast distances, ^{were} now confined within the narrow limits of two reservations. The native cover of prairie and woodland, formerly abounding in wild game, was giving way to the axe and the plow, and the game was being driven out. The Sioux, nursing these old grievances, now had a new one added: the white man's government was holding up the payments it had promised to make in return for possession of the land. Restless and hungry, the Indians began to plot vengeance--not against the distant government which withheld their annuities, but on their helpless white neighbors in the Minnesota Valley.² The scheme hatched in the "Tee-yo-tee-pee," or soldiers' lodge, contemplated the dispersal or annihilation of all white people west of the Mississippi River.

1. See Appendix, "Breweries."

2. There were two tribes (Sissetons and Wahpetons) on the upper reserve, and two (Mdewakantons and Wahpekutas) on the lower, each with its own agency.

On August 17 the savages swooped down upon Acton, a little settlement in Meeker County, and killed several citizens. That evening a jubilant pow-wow was held on Rice Creek and it was decided to follow up this initial success with immediate attacks on Fort Ridgely, New Ulm¹, St. Peter, and all other settlements along the Minnesota River. The notorious Little Crow constituted himself leader of the foray.

The next day, August 18, a general slaughter of settlers in isolated communities began. A number of persons were killed at the Redwood Agency; a small band of New Ulm men, in Milford Township on a recruiting mission for the Union Army, was ambushed and three were killed; frontiersmen at several points were shot while at work in the fields. The Sioux appeared in the settlements without warning, massacred or frightened away the whites, looted houses, stores, warehouses, and burned buildings and stacks on both sides of the river as far upstream as Lac qui Parle.

When news of the uprising reached New Ulm, Sheriff Charles Roos selected a posse of 25 men and went out to investigate. He did not doubt that something was wrong, but he could not fully credit the reports that were coming in. With the single exception of the Inkpadutah incident in 1857², the white residents had been living on friendly terms with the Indians ever since the opening of Brown County. A short trip into the countryside, however, convinced the sheriff of the grim truth. He and his posse soon returned with several wagonloads of dead and wounded farmers.

Roos issued an immediate call to all able-bodied men of the town to arm themselves, and later in the day he extended this order to the militia of the entire county. All now were expecting an early attack in force, and Captain

1. The Sioux name for New Ulm was "Wakzupata," meaning The-Village-on-the-Cottonwood; Fort Ridgely was "Esa Tonka," and Little Crow was "Kagaw Chestin."
2. The atrocities of Inkpadutah and his gang, fully described in many works, have no place here, as they do not relate directly to New Ulm.

Jacob Nix was appointed to direct the defense. Nix found himself at the head of a sorry-looking army. It numbered less than seventy¹ men, many of them armed with no better weapons than pitchforks and clubs. The entire town could muster but 38 shotguns and 12 rifles, and some of them² were of questionable utility.

Only 42 men were sufficiently well armed to be assigned to the first line of defense. These were divided into three groups, under the command of Louis Theobald, Franz Czeikowitz, and Julius T. Brunck. Those armed only with stabbing and bludgeoning weapons were held in reserve, to be brought into action in the event that the Indians should succeed in passing the rude barricades which were being hastily constructed at strategic points. When the last rough barrier had been erected and the last weapon carefully inspected and laid ready to hand, the men of New Ulm settled down to wait for the storm to break. Nothing more could be done now except to reassure and comfort the frightened women and children.

CHAPTER VIII

Spreading the Alarm

At about four o'clock on the morning of August 19, Henry Behnke, a prominent citizen of New Ulm, brought the startling news of the revolt to Judge Charles E. Flandrau at his home in Traverse des Sioux. Flandrau lost no time. First sending the word into Le Sueur County and down the valley toward St. Paul that a general attack was in progress upon the white settlements along the whole western frontier, he then hastened to St. Peter to raise as large a force as possible to meet the emergency. Men of all classes, stirred by the gruesome details, rushed to enlist, and within a few hours Flandrau was captain of a company of volunteers numbering well over 100 men.

While the company was being recruited, Flandrau sent two St. Peter men, Henry Swift¹ and William G. Hayden, post haste to New Ulm with Swift's team to

1. Afterward third governor of the State of Minnesota.

ascertain the true state of affairs on the border and advise him whether the St. Peter contingent, when ready to march, should make its objective New Ulm or Fort Ridgely.

Meantime, two other Nicollet County relief parties were hurrying to reach the trouble center in time to be of assistance. One was a squad of sixteen men from the Nicollet and Courtland neighborhood, variously armed; because they had a relatively short distance to travel, they were the first reinforcements to arrive, reaching New Ulm shortly before the attack got under way. They did not join any of the local units, preferring to form a company of their own, with A. M. Bean as captain. This organization rendered valiant service throughout the engagement. Fighting with them were Swift and Hayden, who had arrived in time to start fresh word back to Flandrau at St. Peter before the Sioux had completely invested the town. Evan Bowen, a horseman from the Cambria country, had volunteered to carry it, and dashed out of town spurred by the fact that the siege had already begun.

The other Nicollet County relief party, known as the Boardman Company, or "The Boardman Cavalry," was also an independent group, and not a part of the Flandrau company. This latter organization did not arrive at New Ulm until about ten o'clock at night on the nineteenth, after the first attack had been repulsed. It has been stated by many writers that the Boardman Company was an advance guard of the more numerous body, but the contention is wholly unsupported by the evidence. Sheriff Boardman headed a group of twelve or fourteen St. Peter business men hastily assembled through the efforts of Horace Austin and J. K. Moore, augmented to sixteen by others who joined along the road. All were mounted, and the purpose was to get some help to New Ulm more speedily than it could be furnished by the main body, which was not yet recruited to full strength.

The roads were in poor condition, but Boardman's men pushed their horses, halting only once to rest the animals and seek shelter when a terrific storm burst suddenly upon them. They met Bowen, Swift's messenger, on the road, read

the open note to Flandrau, and hastened ahead. In a short time they reached an eminence from which they could see New Ulm, across the river and still some miles distant. Hanging above and behind the upper part of the village was a dense pall of smoke against which the flash of firearms blinked vividly, and the flames of burning stacks and buildings leaped up and waved like banners of destruction. Smoke and sparks were blown upon the town by the prevailing wind, the direction of which probably had dictated the point of attack. This, at the time of the Boardman party's approach, appeared to be confined entirely to the upper part of the village.

Two ferries were in operation across the Minnesota River, one abreast of the town, near the Globe Mill, and the other at Redstone, about two miles below. Boardman chose the Redstone ferry as the safer approach. But when they arrived at the landing it was discovered that the heavy craft was over on the New Ulm side, with no means of reaching it save by swimming. Though the river at this point was about fifty yards wide, a volunteer plunged in and soon returned with the boat.

On the New Ulm side of the river was a strip of low land covered with dense wild grass, so high as almost to conceal a horse and rider. As the crowded boatload of men approached that bank, they expected any moment to encounter the fire of Indians ambushed in this growth. But the Sioux apparently had forgotten to watch the ferry, for the Boardman party crossed without incident.

Leaving the tall grass, the road traversed open ground, but it lay so much lower than the plateau upon which the town was built that an approaching party was screened from view until quite near the edge of the village. With this advantage, the Boardman company dashed safely into town. They were seen, however, and almost at once a party of savages slipped down back of the town and took command of the lower ferry road.

Horace Austin of the Boardman company, who later became Minnesota's sixth

governor, gives a comprehensive account of the party's entry into the ^{beleaguered} ~~troubled~~ town:

.....We dashed into town within about thirty minutes after the last horse sprang from the apron of the ferry boat.....For some distance along the roadwe had seen mounted men dashing hither and thither on the high bench of land overlooking the town, and heard gunshot reports from the same direction.

The scene in the town itself was one never to be forgotten by an observer. The people were huddled in the business center about as close as they could well be packed, the balance of the town being deserted. Fear and panic had apparently taken possession of everybody, confusion everywhere prevailing. A few men.....were engaged in constructing barricades across the main streets above and below the three or four blocks where the people were assembled.....

Indians, in full war paint and all the regalia of Indian warfare..... galloped hither and thither shouting the warwhoop and firing off their guns loaded with heavy, far-going bullets.....A woman¹.....had been killed and fallen headlong onto the sidewalk, doubtless by a chance shot aimed at the crowd by one of the savages. Such a condition of things.....would have produced consternation in almost any community.

As our little squad of mounted men.....galloped up the main street....we were received with shouts of welcome.....

(Daniel G.) Shillock at once came up and suggested that we are once ride out, charge the Indians and drive them away.....We.....galloped out..... toward the open country where the Indians were most in evidence..... The squad was at once deployed so as to present as formidable appearance as possible....the command to charge was given, and on we dashed.....

While the line.....were too far apart for any danger.....the Indians, after recklessly discharging their guns in our direction without doing any damage, wheeled their horses and galloped away.....

Undoubtedly had we followed them to their selected retreat some of our men would have been ambushed or picked off from some point of vantage. But we.... were content, having 'repulsed' the foe, to return to the town and aid in the defense, should the attack be renewed.

Having been so successful, we were requested to take charge of affairs, picket the place, and.....take such precautions....as we might consider best....

It was now between four and five o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, August 19. A desultory attack was still in progress at the upper end of the village where the defenders had built a **barricade** across Minnesota Street. Another barrier was under construction lower down on the same street. These two barriers would afford some measure of protection to the most densely built section of the town.

At once, Boardman was called into consultation with Henry A. Swift, Captain Nix, Daniel G. Shillock, Sheriff Roos, and others, and it was decided to send another message to Flandrau. The only road now left open was by the upper ferry, abreast of the town but separated from the barricaded district by several blocks of open ground.

1. Emilie Pauli, with little Ida Behnke in her arms.

Sheriff Boardman, who had the best horse, promptly volunteered for this dangerous mission. Turning over his command to Horace Austin, he started at once, and, though Indians were watching him from a distance, and firing at him occasionally, he gained the other bank without mishap and raced away.

Not many savages had engaged in this first assault on New Ulm, and the spirited resistance which they had met, and the careful preparations being made for defense of the village, led them to postpone further offensive operations until they could throw more warriors into the effort. They had been repulsed at every point of attack, and at sunset they withdrew to a distance.

A few minutes after the Indians had left, a lone horseman was seen racing at full speed over the prairie ridge just back of town, crouching low in a hail of bullets from the guns of Indians who lay concealed behind the ridge. His horse was shot from under him a short distance out, but he managed to reach the barricade uninjured.

The fugitive proved to be Ralph Thomas, one of a party of seventeen men who had left New Ulm that morning to reconnoiter. They had spent the day in the country along the Cottonwood River, he reported, and had been ambushed on their return trip. The Indians had opened fire on the closely bunched party as they were crossing the slough at the foot of the bluff west of town, and fully two-thirds of their number had been killed.

It is a strange fact that, except for the rosters of the Nicollet County organizations which came to the relief of New Ulm, no records have been preserved of the names of the persons who met that first attack, on August 19, 1862. Individual names appear only in the casualty list, or in connection with some particular assignement or exploit. The rosters of the Nicollet and Boardman companies, as reported at the time of their arrival at New Ulm on August 19, are given below.

Captain Bean's Nicollet Company

Captain A. M. Bean; first lieutenant, C. A. Stein; second lieutenant, Samuel Coffin.

Caywood, Hiram	Otto, Henry
Corey, E. G.	Parker, James
Dickenson, Merrick	Thompson, T. B.
Freind, Andrew	Wetherell, Charles
Hughes, James	Williams, Griffith
Kennedy, Francis	Williams, Thomas
Otto, Frederick	

The Boardman Company

Austin, Horace	Moore, J. K.
Bean, P. M.	Patch, Lewis
Birdsal, I.	Snyder, James H.
Boardman, L. M.	Stelzer, Jacob
Buell, Salmon A.	Stelzer, R. N.
Dorrington, John K.	Tomlinson, R. N.
Horner, James	Trogden, J. B.
Martindale, Leander	Wilkinson, William

P. M. Bean, who came to New Ulm with the Boardman company, transferred to the Nicollet company soon after his arrival, in order to be with his father, who was the captain of that unit.

Killed during the first attack were August Riemann, Henry Baumler, Edward Baumler, Emilie Pauli (a young girl who was shot while carrying one of the Behnk children across the street from the Dakota Hotel to the Erd Building)¹ and two small children, one of whom was tomahawked. Mrs. Edward Baumler, Jacob Nix, Julius Guetling, John Peller, August Westphal, Jacob Haeberle, and Ferdinand Krause were wounded, the two last-named later dying of their injuries.

Flandrau Reaches New Ulm

Swift's message, reaching Flandrau after he had started to move his company westward from St. Peter, convinced him that New Ulm, not Fort Ridgely, should be his destination. At about ten o'clock that same evening he brought his volunteers into the barricaded village. The citizens and refugees took

1. Captain Nix is supposed to have lost his ring finger by this same bullet. Folwell, History of Minnesota, 11:363.

heart with the arrival of this considerable body of reinforcements. Guards were stationed at strategic points about the town, and the people felt a sense of security such as they had not experienced for many hours.

The next day, August 20, the officers of all organizations then in the village unanimously elected Flandrau as their commander-in-chief. The action was not based on any supposition that the pioneer judge had had military experience, or possessed any special ^{Knowledge of} savage warfare. It was just an expression of general esteem, and of the confidence the frontiersmen had in his leadership.

The newly chosen commander-in-chief at once proceeded to create a workable organization. William B. Dodd, the ranking lieutenant of the St. Peter company, was named field commander, and S. A. George, a young man who had seen brief service in the Union Army and had joined the frontier defenders at St. Peter, was chosen adjutant.

Buell, from whose reminiscences much of this narrative is taken, and who had seen service in the navy, was made chief of staff, provost marshal and general manager. Later, when Flandrau received his commission as colonel, he issued commissions to George and Buell as lieutenant and captain, respectively, their rank to date from August 20.

"General manager" is a curious title to make its appearance on a military roster. The general manager's function, as seen by Flandrau, was to ^{vide} produce a combined commissary and quartermaster service. He appointed Henry A. Swift, William G. Hayden, John C. Randolph, Daniel G. Shillock, George Doehne, Jacob Pfeminger, J. H. Vajen, and several others to assist Buell. These men provided an efficient service of supply during the entire siege. They established order in the restricted space crowded with troops, townspeople, and refugees, they provided housing and bedding, and arranged for and secured commissary and ordnance stores.

Preparation for defense was being pushed under the supervision of Captain

Dodd, every worker spurred to the utmost by a general belief that the Winnebagoes were about to join the Sioux in a general uprising. These Indians were capable of throwing some 400 well-armed braves into the battle.

Flandrau correctly decided that New Ulm was the most advantageous advance post available. Except for Fort Ridgely, it was closer to the hostile Sioux camps than was any other white settlement, and Ridgely, at that time, was unfortified and scantily garrisoned. Also, the fort lay on the wrong side of the river, inaccessible to most of the people seeking refuge, and it was incapable of sheltering and feeding any large addition to its little garrison.

Mankato, thirty miles away, was too distant, as was St. Peter. To hold New Ulm was to defend everything to the east, and allow state and federal authorities time to mobilize an adequate protecting force.

CHAPTER IX

Savage Warfare

Arrival of Flandrau's band Tuesday night had augmented the New Ulm garrison by about 130 men.¹ With the arrival on Wednesday of other reinforcements from Mankato, St. Peter, South Bend, and Le Sueur, steps were taken to reorganize the available manpower, strengthen the defenses, and provision the troops and refugees. A second and fiercer attack was regarded as certain. Under Flandrau's direction, new companies were formed for New Ulm and its neighboring townships, the Mankato and St. Peter units were strengthened by the addition of refugees from their respective counties, and martial law was invoked to enforce order and discipline.

On Thursday all but a few members of the South Bend company left to return to their homes. Persistent rumors that the Winnebagoes were about to join the Sioux greatly disturbed these men, for the Winnebago reservation was not far

1. See Appendix, "New Ulm's Defenders."

from South Bend, where they had left their families almost defenseless. The loss of these seventy men was keenly felt by those who remained, though of course nobody blamed them for returning to look after their own families.

Aside from this setback, enrollment continued to increase until by Saturday the fighting strength of the beleaguered village had risen to well over 800 men. These were distributed among the various organizations as follows:

The New Ulm Company. Captain, John Bellm; lieutenants, Anton Zieher, Anton Graf; sergeants, Herman Herrendoerfer, Heinrich Christophel, Julius T. Brunck, John Spenner, August Schell; corporals, Jacob Mueller, George Jacobs, Charles Wagner, German Friton, John Hauenstein, Louis Theobald, John C. Toberer. These officers and non-commissioned officers were in command of an enlisted personnel of 119 men.

The Cottonwood Company. Captain, William Winkelmann; lieutenants, John Manderfeld, Jacob Brust; sergeant, Charles Grefe. There were fifty enlisted men in this outfit.

The Sigel Company. Captain, Louis Buggert; lieutenants, Herman Plath, Bernard Baumgartner; sergeants, Ernst Brandt, William Roehl; corporal, Christian Krambeer. Forty-nine enlisted men.

The Milford Company. Captain, Frederick Meile; lieutenants, John Seiler, Henry Eckstein. Fifty-three enlisted men.

The Lafayette Company. Lieutenant, Fidel Diepolder; sergeants, Mathias Lump, Frederick Fritsche; corporal, Charles Frank. Thirty-three enlisted men.

The Mankato Company. Captain, William Bierbauer; lieutenants, John F. Maegher, Henry Ruegge; sergeants, James Shoemaker, J.C. Haupt, Henry Vahle, Samuel C. Shaw, Leonard Johnson; corporals, Charles Heilbron, E. P. Freeman, Peter Koost, Benjamin Stannard; surgeon, James R. McMahon. Eighty-two enlisted men.

The Leavenworth Company. Captain, Peter Martell; lieutenant, Clark Brown. Thirty-two enlisted men.

The St. Peter Company. Captain, Charles E. Flandrau; lieutenants, William B. Dodd, Wolf H. Meyer; sergeants, G.A. Stark, Miron Woodward, Charles Staacke, Fred Lange, P.S. Gardner; corporals, William Lawler, Fr. Gegler, John Dohren, William Lehr. This organization contained 170 enlisted men, and after its arrival at New Ulm Captain Charles E. Flandreau was made commander-in-chief of all the forces, and Lieutenant Dodd was chosen as his chief aide. This action elevated Wolf H. Meyer to the captaincy of the St. Peter Company, and William Huey was made a lieutenant. Major Flandrau, as he was now called, appointed Salmon A. Buell as provost marshal, with the rank of captain.

The LeSueur Tigers No. 1. Captain, William Dellaughter; lieutenants, A. M. Edwards, Jacob Frank; sergeants, Charles Schoffler, Isaac Allen, Hoffman Morrill, Benjamin Birdsall, and a man named Stowbeck; corporals, James Foland,

George Hunt, Judson Cogswell, Benjamin Cosby, Henry Birdenthal, Henry Cramour, C. P. Nason, Sebastian Groshans. Seventy-eight enlisted men.

The LeSueur Tigers No. 2. Captain E. C. Sanders; lieutenants, George W. Stewart, George Plowman; sergeants, J.B. Swan, O.B. Smith, John A. Pfarr, H. W. Mendenhall, William Maloney; corporals, James Doherty, Henry Kinsey, J. Reed, Thomas Hazzard, E. T. Jones, A. Horrisberger, M. M. Hynson, W. H. Hazzard. Thirty-six enlisted men.

The Nicollet Company. Captain, A. M. Bean; lieutenants, C. A. Stein, Samuel Coffin. Fourteen enlisted men.

Thus it will be seen that there were at least six distinct organizations from outside Brown County ready to engage in the defense of New Ulm during the second attack, which was now about to break.

A Natural Leader

Toward sunset on Wednesday, Flandrau had succeeded in organizing the defense. His force was made up almost entirely of inexperienced volunteers, confronted by a greatly superior foe. At the time, Flandrau himself had no commission, nor official military authority of any sort, and no member of the garrison had signed enlistment papers or taken any oath of obedience to his commands. Discipline, nevertheless, was complete, and his orders were obeyed without hesitation.

On Thursday, August 21, Flandrau sent a small detachment out to the westward to reconnoiter for savages, bury any dead that they might find, and search out and bring to safety the wounded and defenseless. This party ranged the country for eight or ten miles and buried several murdered settlers, but returned at night without any news of the enemy.

Later that evening a report reached headquarters that thirteen whites were hiding in a slough in the Leavenworth neighborhood, about fifteen miles to the west. Early the next morning, Flandrau sent another detail to the rescue, a stronger force than the first, numbering about 150 men. One-third were mounted and the remainder in wagons, in which they expected to bring back the old people,

the children, and the sick and wounded. Captain George M. Tousley, Le Sueur County sheriff, was in command of the outfit.

A number of murdered people were buried on this trip, and after an exhaustive search, the hiding place of the thirteen frightened fugitives was discovered. All were brought to New Ulm, though one man was so badly wounded that he died shortly after arrival.¹ Major Buell gives a vivid account of this detachment's night march:

During the afternoon we heard heavy firing, like the booming of cannon, in the direction of Fort Ridgely, but we had seen no Indians. On the return trip, however, which started towards dusk, we observed what some of the more experienced frontiersmen in the party claimed to be Indian signals along the road which we had taken in coming out of New Ulm, and which, in their opinion, indicated the possibility of an ambush if we attempted to return by the same road. Captain Tousley thereupon held a consultation with men of judgment in his command, particularly with some whose experience had given them a knowledge of Indian tactics. Among these was Doctor Asa W. Daniels of St. Peter, who had served as the government physician for the Lower Sioux at the agency, where the outbreak started on the 18th.

As a result of this consultation, Captain Tousley very properly determined to return to New Ulm with all possible haste, but by another and more northerly route, to reach which he would have to march several miles across the open prairie, thus extending the time originally allotted to such return by several hours. A good guide was in the party, and the march from one road to the other was made after dark. The mounted men were kept well out in front and rear, and on each flank, in order to give opportunity in case of attack to make a corral with the wagons, within which the mounted men, and even their horses if found advisable, could be brought, thus forming a barrier from behind which the footmen and dismounted horsemen could be most efficient in defense.

It was a nerve-racking march, and all the more so for Captain Tousley, because he was far from well. He knew that Colonel Flandrau expected his return without fail that night, for the absence of such a large force greatly weakened the possibility of successful defense of the town in the event of an attack, and Tousley was not of the kind to disobey an order. Yet a march at night across a trackless prairie, necessarily resulting in some confusion, and the possibility that the night-signals which we were seeing all the time were intended for a body of Indians along the very road we were seeking, presented problems difficult even for trained troupes, let alone an improvised body such as was under his command. As stated, Captain Tousley was not at all well; nevertheless he remained on horseback and in command longer, possibly, than a due regard for himself required. In fact it was not until late in the evening that he consented to dismount, get into a wagon, and relinquish the command to a junior.

In spite of all anxieties and fears, however, the expedition arrived safely at New Ulm about midnight, much to the relief of Colonel Flandrau, who felt all the while the very great risk he was taking in so greatly depleting the

1. Neill (*Hist. Minn. Valley*, 209-210) says this was a woman, the aged Mrs. Van Guilder, whose arm was broken by a shot fired through her window.

defensive force of the town in order to rescue those thirteen refugees. That Friday, as he afterwards said, was the most trying day, up to that time, he had ever experienced, but he could not harbor for a moment the idea of abandoning those thirteen unfortunates to their fate, although military necessity might have justified such a course in the minds of some commanders. At the time, late Friday night, the defenders, including the returned Tousley expedition, numbered about 325. Of these, the majority were poorly armed, and only a few were mounted. To be protected by these were in the town fully 1500 women, children and defenseless men.

The Issue Joined

Early on Saturday, August 23, columns of smoke, as from burning stacks or buildings, appeared in the direction of Fort Ridgely. These multiplied and spread rapidly until the pall reached well into the township of Lafayette. Colonel Flandrau concluded from this that Fort Ridgely had fallen, and that the victorious savages were now moving in considerable numbers down both sides of the river, to join forces in an attack on New Ulm. It seemed wise to make a reconnaissance across the Minnesota, and for this purpose he sent out a force sufficiently strong to check any Indians that might be advancing. Lieutenant William Huey of Traverse des Sioux led the detachment, about 75 of the best-armed men in Flandrau's command.

Huey was under instructions to scout carefully the territory about the ferry before crossing, and at all costs to guard the opposite approach after landing. If he met a superior force, he was to return at once; if permitted to make his reconnaissance unmolested, he was expected back in a few hours.

The detachment crossed at the lower ferry, and marched into Lafayette township as far as the Rautenburg and Schilling farms, at which point their attention was attracted by the sound of firing in their rear. Convinced that an attack upon New Ulm was actually in progress, they returned hastily to the ferry, only to discover that they were effectively cut off from the town. The Indians were in full possession of the landing on the opposite side.

Taking cover in the timber which skirted the road, the men made an un-

successful attempt to dislodge the enemy. Finally, after one man had been killed and another wounded, Lieutenant Huey ordered a retreat along the road leading to Nicollet. Near that village, toward evening, they met Captain E. St. Julien Cox with a relief company on its way to New Ulm. Cox's outfit was composed of volunteers from Sibley, Nicollet and Le Sueur counties, and he was under orders from Colonel Sibley to report to Flandrau.

The commands of Huey and Cox camped together at Nicollet and marched to the Redstone Ferry early Sunday morning, but were unable at once to cross to the village, because the Sioux had cut the boat adrift. While the craft was on the Nicollet side, it had drifted downstream and could not be brought back to the road without great delay and danger. However, the officers were aware that without their men, Colonel Flandrau had less than 250 troops with which to meet the attackers, so they set resolutely to work putting the ferry back in commission.

The upper ferry was out of the question, as its approaches were visible for miles, and the Indians could have rendered it useless long before they could reach it.

They succeeded in getting the boat back to its regular moorings, and crossed without interference, but not until nearly noon. In the meantime Colonel Flandrau had been carrying on with his depleted force.

CHAPTER X

The Second Attack

Shortly after Lieutenant Huey's detachment had crossed the river, great numbers of Indians began to appear in the west end of town. They came down a road which led from the west to an opening in a high, wooded bluff edging that side of the townsite and connected with a causeway across the marsh. As they scattered to take cover in the tall grass of the marsh area, they were in plain

Volunteers, covered by the guns of their comrades, ran crouchingly from house to house setting the fires. Soon the persistent attack was forcing the whites to leave their outer line of defense, one building after another, but each one was fired as it was abandoned. Thus the open space between defenders and attackers constantly widened.

Headed by B. G. Coffin of Mankato, sixteen better-than-average marksmen were stationed in the windmill on State Street, between Center and First South Streets, and another group under the leadership of Henry A Swift occupied the brick post office on the west side of Broadway, opposite the rear of the Dakota House. A brisk fire by these snipers did much to hold the savages at bay in the upper part of town.

Around noon, Captain Dodd, mistaking a body of mounted Indians for reinforcements, rode out to meet them and was led into an ambush and shot from his horse. The animal regained the lines, but died in a few minutes; the footsoldiers who had followed Dodd, realizing that they had been tricked, retreated to safety. Daring comrades rushed out and brought in the wounded officer, but he died a few hours later.

The fall of Captain Dodd appeared to encourage the Sioux, and their attack increased in intensity. Colonel Flandrau made a desperate sally with sixty men on foot and forced twice that number of savages back from the barricades, scattering them over the prairie in wild disorder. Several white casualties, two of which were fatal, were incurred in this sortie, and the death of one of the attackers disclosed the presence of the only renegade known to have cast his lot against the whites. George Provensalle, son of the old Traverse des Sioux trade, Louis Provensalle, was killed, fighting with the Indians. His body was found behind a woodpile just within the first line of defense.

view, and men with field glasses on some of the highest buildings counted them as they poured through the gap. Estimates varied between 650 and 800 well-armed warriors.

Colonel Flandrau immediately threw out mounted skirmishers toward the marsh, under the command of Captain Dodd, who placed his men well down the incline that lay between the enemy and the town. The Indians began firing at once from their cover, but the range was too great for effective shooting, while the Sioux apparently were not yet ready for a general advance.

The delay was utilized by Colonel Flandrau in forming his main line of defense. He directed Captain Dodd to dispose this line behind the mounted skirmishers, taking advantage of the natural formation of the ground for concealment. The terrain was such that footsoldiers properly placed there could not be seen until the enemy should advance a long way up the incline.

At about ten o'clock in the forenoon, Little Crow's braves left the marsh and began a slow advance up the prairie slope. They came on in a strong line, its flanks curved forward, as if to envelop the village, and the white horsemen were driven in by their brisk fire. Reaching the main defense, the latter dismounted and prepared to stand with their comrades.

The Sioux held their formation until the defenders were within sight, then rushed forward with a blood-curdling warwhoop, firing as they ran. Their hail of lead was too severe to be withstood, and after answering it until their comrades began to fall, the white line gave way in disorder and retreated into the outskirts of town.

The howling savages followed until they reached the edge of the built-up area, then turned into the buildings. The retreating white men had passed these outer structures, and Colonel Flandrau and his aides quickly rallied them into buildings deeper within the town. He then ordered that all buildings outlying those occupied by the defenders be put to the torch.

The Savage Morale Shaken

Near the spot where Flandrau made his bold charge, the defense line formed a right angle. On one side of this angle, and fronting the main street, was a large frame house behind which the lot fell abruptly to a lower bench of land. On the other side, on a fenced lot, a smaller house faced a cross street.

Large numbers of Indians were observed crawling up the slope toward this angle, apparently sheltered by the "draw" from rifle fire from either house. They were gathering in force behind a number of large sawlogs which lay in the open space, and could be dislodged only by another dash into the open.

Flandrau caused straw bedticks in the larger house to be saturated with kerosene and set afire. Soon the building was in flames. Dense smoke poured from the windows, and behind its screen the colonel hastily organized his sally party. Suddenly he saw a white man, apparently from the smaller house, rush out through the gate. He fell almost as soon as he reached the street, evidently shot by Indians stationed just below the upper edge of the slope. Instantly Flandrau perceived that to feint in that apparently well-watched area would distract attention from his main attacking party. Accordingly he sent an officer and three men to rescue the fallen man, who still showed signs of life.

As the rescue squad rushed out of the smoke, toward the front of the fenced lot, the Indians at its rear saw them and hurried at once to that rim of the slope. This was Flandrau's cue. Quickly he broke cover and threw his whole force into the open space between the two lots. The surprise was complete, and the Indians were dismayed at finding themselves under irresistible pressure, rear and flank. They could gain no cover from the sawlogs now, and panic ensued. Such as had not been killed or wounded broke and ran for other cover. The white rescue squad brought their comrade in under fire with no further mishap than a ball through the shoulder of one member, though the Sioux had been firing at a distance of only a few yards.

This rout practically ended the fighting for that day, the fire of the enemy gradually slackening until sundown, when it ceased entirely. Casualties among the whites had been comparatively heavy and improvised hospitals in the Dakotah House and the Crone Building were crowded. There Doctors William Mayo, Charles Weschoke, A. W. Daniels, Otis Ayer and James R. McMahon toiled unceasingly over the wounded. Everybody was tired and worn, glad of the opportunity to rest and eat. Lunch, carried to the various points of defense, had been the only refreshment since breakfast, and fighting had been hot and continuous for fully eight hours.

During the conflict the cross streets leading to the river had been largely exposed to the fire of the Indians located on the elevated bench of land just behind the business district. As yet, there was no protection at the intersections, but in the late afternoon and early evening Flandrau caused barricades to be erected at all exposed points encircling the central part of town. This action was made more effective by burning all buildings which still stood outside this area, thus eliminating enemy cover.¹

Awaiting a New Attack.

The Sioux had withdrawn out of gunshot, but the defenders were apprehensive of a renewal of the attack on the following morning. Indians still surrounded the village, baffled, and therefore fiercer than ever, and many, among whom was the commanding officer himself, believed that the Winnebagoes would join in the attack on Sunday.

All that night the white men slept on their arms close to the barricades. Flandrau, though, and his officers and assistants, could spare no time for sleep. There were too many things to be done, too many plans to be made. Their responsibility was great, and the means for meeting it meagre: a few crudely constructed

1. In all 190 structures were burned, by Indians and defenders. Folwell, History of Minnesota, Vol. II: 142.

breastworks and about 190 poorly armed men, brave still, but weary, and some of them disheartened. This remnant of the wholly inadequate force with which Flandrau had gone into battle the day before had to be cheered and admonished and instructed. "If those Indians get these women and children and defenseless men," he told Salmon A. Buell during that anxious night watch, "any one in responsibility here who escapes cannot live in this community."

The expected attack did not materialize at dawn, however, and when it did come a few hours later it was carried out with diminished forces. The white men felt great relief at this indication that the Winnebagoes had not joined in the uprising, and that even the Sioux had withdrawn many of their warriors.

As Sunday's battle progressed, the point of attack was gradually shifted toward the north end of town, and it soon became apparent that the Sioux had given up hope of conquering the village, and were concerned now only with loot. Holding the defenders under siege in the center of town, they ransacked and plundered its outskirts.

Around noon the commands of Captain Cox and Lieutenant Huey marched into town along the Redstone ferry road, and shortly afterward the Indians withdrew with what plunder they had been able to accumulate.

Sorrows in Victory.

Because of threatened sickness and shortage of provisions, it was decided that the town should be evacuated the following day, and all civilians moved to St. Peter. It was necessary to go by way of Mankato, as the Minnesota was not bridged, while there was a bridge over the Cottonwood on the Mankato road. Before noon on Monday, August 25, the column of refugees got under way.

It was a sad caravan--more than 1,500 wretched people, in wagons¹ and on foot, horror-stricken, dazed by the disaster that had befallen them. Many were

1. There were 153 wagons, nearly 1,500 women, small children, sick and wounded. Polwell, History of Minnesota, II: 144.

sick, and about eighty wounded; many had left or lost all save the little they could carry with them; there were many whose nearest and dearest had been butchered and lay where death overtook them,¹ and many who knew that they had friends or relatives now in captivity among the Indians.

Flandrau took personal charge of the column until toward evening when the Crisp farm, near Judson, was reached. There he sent it forward under the escort of Captain Cox's company while he remained behind with 150 men to guard its rear. His purpose was to make certain of the safe arrival of these people at Mankato, and then to return to New Ulm and endeavor to hold that place as an advance post of defense for the settlements to the east and southeast. Fortunately the need for such further defense never developed.

The casualties sustained among the fighting forces defending New Ulm during the battle of Saturday, August 23, are listed by companies as follows:

The New Ulm Company--Killed: G. W. Otto Barth, Jacob Castor, William England, Julius Carl Kirschstein, Mathias Meyer, August Roepke, Leopold Sentske. Charles Michaelis was mortally wounded, dying soon after.....8
Wounded who survived: Ludwig Fay, Richard Fischer, William Guetling, George Guetlich, Florian Hess, Joseph Hartneck, Eberhart Hermann, Daniel Shillock.....8

The Cottonwood Company--Killed: Max Haack.....1
Wounded: Friedrich Muhs, Carl Lauer.....2

The Sigel Company--Killed: Captain Louis Buggert.....1
Wounded: William Baumgartner, Hubert Hillesheim, Joseph Billesheim...3

The Milford Company--^{Fatally wounded:} Killed: John Krueger, Sr. (lived till following June).....1
Wounded: Ferdinand Puengel, Henry Kattmann.....2

The Mankato Company--Killed: Newell Houghton, William Nicholson, Benton Foster.....3
Wounded: George Andrew, Patrick Burns, John Fassatt, Theodore Fitterer, Adam Freundle.....5

The Leavenworth Company--Killed: Eli Van Guilder (lived few days)....1
Wounded: Dennis Demars, Hiram Buck.....2

The St. Peter Company--Killed: Captain William B. Dodd, Jerry Quane, John Summers, Rufus Huggins, (latter two lived a few days).....4
Wounded: Edward Andres, W. C. Essler, William Hanghorst, George Moser.4

1. Ibid 150-151

Le Sueur Tigers No. 1--Killed: Lieutenant A. M. Edwards, William		
Lusky, Luke Smithson (lived short time).....	3	
Wounded: John Smith	1	
Le Sueur Tigers No. 2--Killed: Sergeant William Maloney, M. Ahern,		
W. Kulp.....	3	
Wounded: Captain E.C. Sanders, Corporal Thomas Hazzard.....	2	

CHAPTER XI

Aftermath of War.

New Ulm was done with fighting Indians, but the village was a scene of desolation after the exodus of August 25, 1862. William G. Hayden describes the appearance of the place in his "Recollections," printed in the Brown County Journal of August 24, 1937:

After the party had marched out of town (referring to the evacuation) we drove through the streets and about the buildings left standing. The sight was a sad one. Graves had been dug on vacant lots where those killed in the fight had been buried; the streets were strewn with goods of all descriptions which the inhabitants had attempted to destroy or render useless, determined that nothing should be left of value to the Indians. Thus of what had been a few days before a pretty village, containing homes for about fifteen hundred people, there was left only a mass of torn shrubbery and fire-blackened ruins, nothing of the village being left standing except the stores and hotel on the main street and a few other buildings that stood inside the barricaded district.

The pioneers of Brown County had suffered much, and they had gone away in grief and discouragement. Mourning for their dead, stripped of their domestic possessions and their means of livelihood, deprived even of the shelter of the roofs they had raised, there was little to call them back. New Ulm families were scattered, to find sanctuary in St. Paul, St. Peter, Henderson, Mankato, Le Sueur, and elsewhere in the less disturbed area, among relatives and sympathetic friends. Some went back to their former homes in Ohio and Illinois.

But the white pioneer was ^{born} a stubborn creature, not easily discouraged or uprooted from a hard won frontier. The citizens of New Ulm gradually composed themselves, and with the restoration of order in Brown County they began to

to drift back home.¹

General Sibley administered a final defeat to the Sioux at Wood Lake,² and, in 1863, they, together with their cousins, the Winnebagoes, ^{were} had been removed from the state. Little Crow, the chief instigator of hostilities against the whites, had been shot to death in the same year, near Hutchinson, by Chauncy Lampson, a farmer. There was no reason why the business of pioneering should not go forward again. True, Sibley's army had required for its subsistence nearly all the food, forage crops, and cattle left by the Indians; but the settlers were accustomed to frugal fare, and they were prepared to get along on very little.

In his final report as government agent for the Sioux of Minnesota, dated January 27, 1863, Major Thomas J. Galbraith says of the conditions that greeted the repatriated settlers;

..The real value of the property destroyed or abandoned as the immediate result of the raid, has not yet been ascertained, nor, indeed, can it be for some time to come; but I believe I very nearly approximate the truth when I set it down at two millions of dollars; and this does not include the losses on the reservations of Indian trust property.....

On the upper reservation all the dwelling houses except two Indian cabins, the stores, mills, shops, and other buildings, with their contents, and the tools, implements and utensils, were either destroyed or rendered useless. I place the loss sustained on this reservation at the sum of \$425,000.

On the lower reservation the stores, warehouses, shops, and dwellings of the employes, with their contents, were destroyed entirely, as were also most of the implements and utensils and about eight Indian houses, worth, I believe, in the neighborhood of \$5,000. The mills and all the rest of the Indian dwellings were left comparatively unharmed. The new stone warehouse, although burned out as far as it could be, needs only an expenditure of a few hundred

1. The refugee populations of nineteen counties had not returned to their homes up to November, 1863. In remaining counties and parts of counties less than one-half of the people had returned in the winter and summer of 1863. Claims for Depredations by Sioux Indians, 8, 16 (serial 1189)
2. The military power of the Sioux was shattered at Wood Lake on September 23, and three days later their 269 white captives were delivered to Sibley at Camp Release, while hundreds of Indians surrendered and gave up their arms. Of these, 303 were condemned to death and nearly a score of others sentenced to prison for participation in the outrages perpetrated between August 18 and September 28. President Lincoln confirmed the death decree in only 39 cases. however, and one of these was later commuted. The 38 condemned Sioux were hanged simultaneously on a single scaffold in Mankato on December 26, 1862.

dollars to make it as good as ever. I put this loss at \$375,000. If, however, no attention is paid to the standing and uninjured houses and mills, they, too, may be counted as destroyed--lost to all practical purposes--as I feel almost certain that such will be the case. I therefore estimate the entire loss at the Lower Agency, in buildings, goods, stock, lumber, supplies, fences, and crops, at not less than \$500,000. Thus on the reservations alone we find a direct loss of about \$1,000,000, including crops,¹ and most of this must be charged to the account of the United States, as trustee for the Indians. Indeed, I very much doubt whether a million dollars will cover the loss.

It is impossible to form an accurate estimate of the amount of crops on the reservation when General Sibley's command first crossed the Minnesota River on the 19th day of September. I think it perfectly safe to state that at least one-third of the corn and more than three-fourths of the potatoes remained at that time. On that day General Sibley had at least 1,450 rank and file, besides his teamsters and camp followers, who numbered not less than 150 men, and he must have had at least 250 horses. After the battle of Wood Lake he was reinforced, on the 25th of September, by not less than one hundred men, with their transportation teams, and from that time on "mounted men," each one riding a horse and leading another, in companies, began to trail in, until by the time he left Camp Release, he must have had connected with his expedition not less than 2,200 men and 600 horses. During his stay on the reservation, from the 19th of September to the 9th of November, it is safe to say that he had, on an average, not less than 1,800 men and 350 horses. In addition to these the camp of Indian prisoners which was taken on the 25th of September, numbered, on an average, fully 1,700 persons, with about one hundred yoke of oxen and twenty-five ponies and horses. All these remained on the reservation until the 9th of November.

How much all these men, women, children, horses, oxen and ponies consumed in those fifty days I do not know. I.....assert that more than one-half of the actual subsistence of this army of soldiers and camp followers came from the reservation plantings.....All the property taken possession of by General Sibley was needed by his command to such an extent that he had to take it or allow his men to suffer.....

For a long time I have endeavored to secure an accurate account of the number of those killed and missing since the uprising. Up to this time, strange as it may seem, I am only able to furnish an approximate estimate of the number. I believe the following will prove very nearly correct:

Citizens massacred--In Renville County and reservations, 221; in Dakota Territory, including Big Stone Lake, 32; in Brown County, including Lake Shetek, 204; in other frontier counties, 187. Total 644.

Soldiers killed in action--Of Captain Marsh's command at Lower Sioux ferry, 24; at Fort Ridgely and New Ulm, 29; at Birch Coulee, 23; at Fort Abercrombie and other places, including Wood Lake, 17. Total 93.

Here then we have an aggregate of 737 persons who, I am convinced, have been killed by the Indians. More there may be, and I think there are. I confine myself to the facts I have.....

The Sioux had been ruthless. Brown County's rich farm lands were a vast tract of stripped fields, New Ulm largely a desolate ruin. But efficient measures of protection were established by the military department, and the old settlers drifted back--this time well armed and better prepared for emergencies. Camps of

1. In 1864 Congress allowed damages of \$1,370,374 to 2,635 claimants.

government scouts were set up at various strategic points, giving confidence and encouragement to those who once more entered upon the development of the area.

The work of rebuilding was prosecuted with energy, and affairs resumed their normal course. New comers followed the returning pioneers to add their labors in reconstruction, and the white man again ruled the valley of the Minnesota. A number of the merchants of New Ulm never returned, but others stepped into their places and trade prospered with the passage of time. After the close of the Civil War this assumed large proportions, and many durable and handsome buildings rose to hide the scars of conflict and wantonness. New Ulm was growing again, and with the increase in population everything began to flourish as of old.

APPENDIX

Frederick Beinhorn's Account of the Inception of New Ulm, Minnesota*

Scrawled with a lead pencil, in German text, Frederick Beinhorn's account of the birth of the Chicago Land Society is a treasured possession of the New Ulm Historical Museum. The translation is by Martin J. Eyrich, and is here somewhat abridged, the complete text being available at the Museum:

In September, 1852, I landed in New York.... I had intended going to Iowa, however, to meet a few friends and join with them in establishing a colony, and I left New York with Mr. Westermann's best wishes. [Westermann was a bookseller to whom he had been recommended].

I purchased a ticket to Milwaukeefor \$7.00, arriving there....ten days later....I stopped at the Republic Hotel....

The only means of travel between Milwaukee and Iowa in those days was by team, and, as winter was approaching, I decided to remain in Milwaukee until spring. I wrote to my Iowa friends, who replied that the founding of a colony would not be as easy a matter as we had pictured it while we were still in Brunswick (Braunschweig, Germany)....then came a spell of intermittent fever, which lasted a few weeks....By the time I had recovered, it was spring, and.... my funds had come to an end.

Having heard that business conditions were better in Chicago....I boarded a steamboat....and found employment soon after I landed there.

As I could not speak English....I looked around for a teacher. With the help of my friend, F. Metzke, I found a tutor in the person of Mr. Fach. He offered to give me instruction, provided I could induce several other students to join with me. In a few days the desired number were enrolled....After classes we usually remained together and chatted about our work and discussed the plans for making additional progress. Those comprising the class, besides myself, were Metzke, Pfeiffer, Schulz, Kleinknecht and Conrady.

I told them how I had come to America for the purpose of establishing a colony somewhere in the middle west, and how I had found that the venture was by no means the easy undertaking I had imagined it to be, because it required the one thing I did not possess---money. I also told them I had another plan in mind, and that was to buy a few sections of government land, establish a city, plat it into lots and then put these lots on the markets. This latter idea seemed to meet with contemplative response from my listeners, and the more we discussed it, the clearer it appeared to us that the scheme would prove successful.

There were seven of us present, and when I proposed that we organize a society to carry out the project, all of them expressed their approval. Each one of us was to speak to his friends and acquaintances....and bring them to a meeting which we were to hold at Fach's residence....on the 7th of August. Eighteen men attended this meeting. To them I again explained the details of my plan and once more suggested that we organize a society. The suggestion met with cordial approval, and a president, secretary, and treasurer were elected as follows: President, Frederick Beinhorn; secretary, Fr. Metzke; treasurer, J. Schwarz. A committee of three was also appointed to meet with the officers at Mr. Fach's home and draft a constitution, which was to be submitted to the members the following Sunday.

* Mr. Beinhorn, who was the originator of the idea which eventually developed into the German colony in Brown County, died in 1900.

Wednesday evening, August 10th, the committee thus appointed met with the officers at the Fach home and discussed the plan of organization. As a result of our deliberation it was agreed that the following recommendations should be embodied in the form of resolutions and submitted to the society's members for approval.

The name of the society was to be "The Chicago Land Society."

Every person of good character, who agreed to abide by the constitution should be eligible to membership.

The land which the company was to acquire must be a tract with ample timber and must be located on a navigable river.

An agent must be employed by the society to locate a suitable site for the settlement.

When surveyed and platted, each member should be entitled to receive twelve lots and nine acres of land.

Each member should be required to pay monthly dues of ten cents to cover running expenses.

When suitable land is found and the time comes for purchase, all members must contribute equally toward the purchase price.

After the land has been acquired, each member shall be entitled to select a building site, providing he agrees to build at once.

After one year, every member shall give assurance that he will settle on the townsite, or at least build a house thereon.

A financial secretary and a cashier were to be included in the list of officers, the latter to receive all monies and turn them over to the treasurer.

Disbursements were only to be made after approval of the society's members.

A committee of seven members was to be elected by the society to supervise the affairs of the organization and to deliberate with the officers.

Resolutions embodying the foregoing recommendations were submitted to the society at the scheduled meeting on the 14th, and all of them were adopted with the exception of the one relative to eligibility to membership....it was resolved to exclude all attorneys and preachers from membership, in order to avoid discord and a one-sided activity in the organization....Just before the meeting adjourned the board of directors was authorized to have 500 copies of the resolution printed and circulated, and Mr. Fach was appointed as the company's agent.

On the first Sunday in September, we....marched from West Randolph Street [Fach's home] to Turner Hall....The hall was crowded to capacity....A large number of prospective members applied for admission that evening....

The next meeting was held at Bergmann's place on West Randolph street. Many new members were admitted, and the matter of membership dues was discussed.... I proposed, as a means of increasing our funds, that we arrange for a ball, to be held sometime during the approaching winter, and charge each member \$1.00 for the privilege of attending the same. As we had nearly two hundred members at that time, everyone realized the possibilities of my proposal, and it was adopted. Agent Fach was instructed to rent North Market hall and to make provision for music, food drinks, and admission cards. All other arrangements for the successful handling of the event were to be entrusted to the board of directors.

....It was voted to hold the ball on February 17, 1854. The attendancewas larger than we anticipated, the net receipts being something over \$300.

....A committee consisting of Beinhorn [the relator], Assal, Hummelsheim, Mueller and Voehringer, was then appointed to go out and search for an eligible site, and after visiting many places, principally in Iowa, they returned to

Chicago with the report that they had not been able to find what they wanted. A second committee, composed of Pfeiffer and Messerschmidt, was sent to Minnesota, a large part of which had just been opened to settlement, and they reported that they had found good land in the neighborhood of Swan Lake. Three members, Kiesling, Kleinknecht and Melzer, were sent out to corroborate this good news, but on their return reported that they had chosen instead a very desirable site on the Minnesota river opposite a place called "Le Sueur." This was in September, 1854. A few days later a small group of settlers began the long trek which eventually resulted in the founding of New Ulm.

The officers and directors of the society at this time were President Beinhorn, Vice-President Hack, Recording Secretary Metzke, Financial Secretary Lagemann, Treasurer Hummelsheim, and Directors Barbier, Amberg, Gans and Mueller. The first treasurer, J. Schwarz, had been killed early in the year in a runaway accident, and Director Hummelsheim had been elected to succeed him. The membership, made up mostly of workingmen, exceeded eight hundred.

"Voyageur's Letter"

A correspondent signing himself "Voyageur" tells about "The Oldest Man in Minnesota." Minnesota Pioneer, February 19, 1852, p 2, col. 5. The account is here condensed.

There is now living at Prairieville, on the Minnesota River, an old voyageur by the name of Joseph Montrieul, who is 90 years of age. Seventy-two years ago, he came from Montreal, and has lived ever since within the bounds of what is now known as the Minnesota Territory.

He has never resided but among the Dakotas, except when he made a journey to the Pawness with a trader by the name of Campbell--that is 71 years ago....

Thirty years ago he lived with Mr. J. B. Faribault, of Mendota, who resided on the island opposite to Fort Snelling....

The old man says he never saw the Falls of St. Anthony, and boasts of it....

Telling of early traders in the Territory, the account relates:

The traders on that river then (referred to the Minnesota River about 1780) were Col. Dixon, at Mendota; Campbell, near Little Rapids; Frazer--father of Jack Frazer--at Traverse des Sioux; two brothers of the name of Hart and Mr. Patterson, at the place now known as Patterson's Rapids, 40 miles below Lac qui Parle. He seemed to think that there was no trading post farther up....

According to the correspondent, the old man was still fairly vigorous.

New Ulm's Defenders

In Major Salmon A. Buell's narrative and analysis of the defense of New Ulm, read before the Minnesota Historical Society at the memorial exercises held a few weeks after the death of Colonel Flandrau, in 1903, Buell variously estimates the strength of Flandrau's St. Peter company at "well over 100 men," at "100 or more volunteer defenders," and at "at least 130 men."

William G. Hayden, Nicollet County auditor, who, with Governor-to-be Swift, drove to New Ulm in advance of the reinforcements and remained to fight throughout both attacks, told Dr. Folwell, the historian, that the St. Peter and Traverse des Sioux volunteers numbered "about 100 men" by nine o'clock on the morning of the nineteenth, at the time when Flandrau was chosen commander. Of course, Hayden and Swift started for New Ulm about that time, and more men might have joined Flandrau after they left. Too, some recruits may have been picked up along the line of march.

Magazine of Western History, 7:660 (April, 1888), says: Flandrau's party of ninety arrived between nine and ten o'clock on the evening of the nineteenth ---Judge Isaac Atwater, an intimate friend and one time law partner of Flandrau's, gives the number of the St. Peter company as about 115. Ibid.

In Folwell's History of Minnesota, 11:136, the number of Flandrau's main body is given as "more than a hundred volunteers....swelled by accessions from Le Sueur until it numbered about 125...." These men traveled to New Ulm by wagons, transporting with them their arms, ammunition, blankets and food; the intervening countryside was in a turmoil of excitement, many men hurrying toward the center of activities, and it would indeed be strange if none of them wished to join this defense party.

The rosters of the several units taking part in the second attack, as compiled after thorough research by Fred W. Johnson of New Ulm, disclose that Colonel Flandrau's St. Peter company numbered 170 enlisted men, 3 officers of commissioned rank, and 9 of non-commissioned grade---182 men in all. This, the only report that is specific, is probably correct.

These rosters list 814 officers and men, grouped into eleven units, as the total force at Flandrau's disposal in New Ulm on the eve of the second attack. No further reinforcements appear to have reached the town until Captain Cox, with fifty men, and Lieutenant Huey, with the remnant of his reconnaissance party, showed up at about noon, Sunday, after the last shot had been fired and the last Indian had departed.

The seeming discrepancy between the sum of the enlistment rolls (814) and the fighting strength late Friday night, as given by Buell (325) is probably due to Buell's method of classifying the defenders. Of course, every able-bodied man within the town, armed or not, was a "defender" during that trying siege. Every person was doing something for defense--building barricades, caring for the wounded and the children, preparing and serving food, carrying water, ammunition, etc; and the unarmed were at all times ready to snatch up the gun of a fallen man. Buell states that the majority of the 325 were "poorly armed," which leads to the conclusion that above the number of 325 the garrison was not armed with guns of any sort. Without exception, commentators agree that the available arsenal consisted of a small and sorry collection of old shotguns and a few squirrel rifles. During the height of the battle, only two rifles could be found which were suitable for sharpshooting, either in the matter of accuracy or range; though several must have been a bit above the local average, as two parties of snipers were told off to do their best in the windmill and the post office. When Sheriff Roos and Captain Nix called the citizens to arms, only 42 men could be provided with any sort of firearms. This out of a population of around a thousand. It seems a reasonable conclusion, then, that not more than 325 guns, of all kinds, would be owned in the homes represented by the 814 men and boys who were in New Ulm that day. There is justification for the assumption that Buell's figures refer to men supplied with firearms; and this assumption is strengthened by Folwell (11:139, History of Minnesota) who states that "after this unfortunate depletion (Lieutenant Huey's departure with about 75 of the best-armed men) about 250 guns were left to defend the place against a foe of double that number...."

Glimpses of the Sioux--

Mrs. Alomina Hurd's narrative, taken from the record of the hearings before the Sioux Claims Commission at St. Peter in 1863, gives the modern comfortable city dweller a more vivid picture of Brown County's sufferings at the hands of the Sioux than can be obtained by the perusal of any general account.

This, and the story of John A. Humphries, both somewhat abridged here, will serve to highlight the frontier scene of 1862, and awaken the imagination of those who have never come in contact with a savage people.

Account of Alomina Hurd

....We (Mrs. Hurd and her husband, Phineas B.) settled, with a few others, on the shores of Lake Shetek....There were not many of us, but we were contented and thought we had a happy home. The Indians hung around the lake, as it was an old hunting ground of theirs, and always appeared quite friendly. I knew a good many of them, for they would often drop in and ask for something to eat, and I invariably treated them well. Sometime during the summer of 1862, Mr. Hurd and another man left on a trip to Dakota, taking a span of horses and wagon and expecting to be gone about a month. We had two children, and Mr. Boight was living with us and had charge of the farm.

Mr. Hurd had been gone over two months, and I had begun to be very anxious about him. One morning, the 20th of August...it was about five o'clock, for I had just gone out to do the milking and had left my two children asleep in the house--about twenty Indians rode up and jumped off their horses, I noticed at once that one of the horses was of the span that Mr. Hurd had taken with him on his western trip, and it puzzled me greatly. When I returned from the milking the Indians followed me into the house and began to light their pipes and smoke. Pretty soon my youngest child awakened and, frightened at seeing so many Indians, started to cry. Mr. Voight picked him up and carried him into the front yard, when one of the Indians stepped to the door and shot him through the body, so that he fell dead with the child in his arms. As soon as the shot was fired ten or fifteen more Indians and squaws rushed into the house and proceeded to destroy everything they could lay their hands on. We had a good stock of cows, and I had worked hard and had on hand about two hundred pounds of butter and twenty-three cheeses. All this the Indians wrecked, and while the destruction was going on some of the Indians told me that they would not kill me and the children if I would not give any alarm, but leave quietly, by a very blind road, for the nearest settlement. They then started me off just as I was, without even a sun-bonnet, nor would they give me permission to dress either of the children. I took the youngest in my arms and led the other, a little boy between three and four years old. With just one look at what had been our prosperous and happy home, now filled with naked and painted Indians, I started, seven of the Indians accompanying me along the road for about three miles.

Before they left me they repeated the conditions under which they would spare our lives; that I could go to my mother, but that I must keep going straight east, across the prairie, and that I must give no alarm. I was bare-headed, the children almost naked, and we had not a mouthful of food, nor a blanket with which to shelter us in the cool nights or in a storm.

We took the unfrequented road into which the Indians had conducted us. It was clear and the sun shone uncommonly bright; but the dew on the grass was cold and heavy. William, the oldest child, was barefooted, and thinly dressed, and he clung close to me and begged to go back to the house. He did not know of the death of Mr. Voight, as I had purposely kept him from seeing the body, and he cried piteously at first, but after a while pressed my hands and trudged manfully along beside me. The little one was asleep in my arms, unconscious of our awful situation. About ten o'clock in the forenoon a thunder storm came on and the wind and rain were violent for nearly three hours. During this time I heard a gun fired and I knew that my neighbor, Mr. Cook, had been killed.

While the storm was raging, I lost the trail, and all that afternoon walked on, not knowing whether I was going in the right direction or not. Water stood deep on all the lower parts of the prairie and I kept constantly looking for a dry place where we could spend the night. At last we came to a sand-hill

and there I decided to rest and camp. I laid my children down and leaned over them, to keep the rain from their faces and to protect them from the cold wind. Hungry and tired and wet as he was, William soon fell asleep and slept nearly all night. The little one, however, worried a good deal, and the long night wore away slowly. As soon as I could see, I took up the little ones and moved on. About seven o'clock I heard guns and then I knew I had lost my way and was still in the vicinity of the lake. Accordingly I changed my course, but could find no trail. Still I plodded on. I was not conscious of hunger myself, but it was terribly distressing to hear my precious little boy crying for his bread and milk, and moaning with hunger and weakness. It continued wet and misty all day. Toward night William grew sick and vomited, and it seemed impossible for him to keep up any longer. The youngest still nursed and did not seem to suffer materially.

Just as it was beginning to get dark I struck a road which I knew, and saw, to my sorrow, that I was not more than four miles from what had been my home; that my terrible journey across the prairie had hardly commenced. Then, for a little time, my heart sank within me. I thought it would be some satisfaction to die right there. But the feeling was only for a moment. I took new courage and started onward, this time on the road to New Ulm. When darkness overtook me I stopped and passed the night as I had the first one, without sleep. The next morning was foggy and the road, being but little traveled, was grown up with grass and very wet. William was so faint and sick by this time that he could hardly walk and I was obliged to carry him most of the way. I soon found that I was too hungry and weak to carry both of the children at the same time, so I would take one of them a distance of a quarter or half mile, lay him on the grass along the road, and then go back after the other. In this way I managed to travel twelve miles to a place called Dutch Charley's,¹ sixteen miles from Lake Shetek. I arrived there about sunset, having been sustained in my weary journey by the sweet hope that at this place I would surely find relief. What was my consternation when I reached it and found it deserted and perfectly empty.....My heart died within me and I sank down in despair. Only the crying of my boy aroused me. I had promised him food when we got there, and when none could be found he cried bitterly. For myself, I could not shed a tear. I finally found some green corn, which I tried to eat, but my stomach rejected it. Later I discovered some growing carrots and onions, but when I offered them to my boy, to eat raw, he immediately had another attack of vomiting. That night we stayed in a cornfield and the next morning at daylight I continued my search for food. To my great delight, I found the remains of a partly spoiled ham. Here, I may say, my good fortune began. There was not more than a pound of it, but I saved it for the boy. Feeding it to him in very small quantities, it had the effect of easing his vomiting and he picked up in spirits rapidly. I gathered more carrots and onions, and with this store of provisions, we again set forth, this time with Mr. Brown's home as our goal, twenty-five miles distant. We reached it in two days, my boy, under the effects of the food I was able to give him, gaining strength steadily, so much so that he was able to walk all the last day. When within two miles of the Brown house, two of our old neighbors in the Lake Shetek settlement overtook us, under the escort of the mail carrier. Both of them had been wounded by the Indians and left for dead. Thomas Ireland had been hit with eight bullets, but, strange to say, was still able to walk and had done so most of the way. Mrs. Eastlake was utterly helpless, having been shot in the foot, in the side, and through the arm, to say nothing of severe wounds about the head, evidently received in being either kicked or beaten. The mail carrier had given her his seat in the buggy and was walking by the side of his horse. When I first caught a glimpse of them I thought they were Indians

1 "Dutch Charley" was Charles Zierke, who had a home and inn on the Big Cottonwood River between New Ulm and Lake Shetek.

and that I and my little ones, after five days of such fearful suffering and hunger, must after all die at the hands of the savages. In fact, I was so frightened that I did not dare look around, but kept straight on my way until overtaken. Then my joy was so great at seeing my friends alive that I sank to the earth insensible.

Mrs. Eastlake and I and the children stayed at the Brown place for ten days, living on potatoes and corn, both the mail carrier and Mr. Ireland having gone on to New Ulm in search of help. On the tenth day relief came, but with it the sad and sickening thought, now fully confirmed in my mind, that my husband had been killed in the general massacre and that I and the children had been left penniless beggars.

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Recollections of John A. Humphrey

John A. Humphrey, who records these recollections of his childhood, was a lad of twelve when the great Sioux uprising occurred in 1862. His father was the Agency physician at the Lower Agency at that time, and was murdered by the savages, together with the mother and two children. This young boy was the only member of the family to escape.

.....My mother was ill in bed, but had nearly recovered [skipping Humphrey's long preamble and taking up the recital with the events beginning Monday, August 18, 1862]. I slept with my little brother in an upper room. In the small hours of that morning....I dressed and went downstairs. Apparently nobody else in the house was awake. I took the water pails and.....went to a spring, with the intention of....filling the tubs for the weekly washing. Leaving the spring and reaching the top of the hill, I saw Indians in parties of three or four hurrying into our small village from the direction of the encampment of little Crow and other chiefs. These took up convenient points of observation at first. Soon I saw a teamster approach a wagon with his pair of horses. Then one party of Indians ran to him and demanded them. He refused.... and one of them emptied the contents of his gun into his abdomen. His suffering was so dreadful to witness that another Indian soon quieted him with the butt end of a gun. This was the beginning of the outbreak at the Lower Sioux Agency.

I immediately ran as fast as my bare feet would carry me to our house. By this time father had dressed and was in the surgery, and I said to him, "Father, something awful is going to happen." He replied, "Nonsense," and kept on with his work. I then begged him to step outside the house and look for himself.... I told him what I had seen....After a good look outside, without saying a word, he walked into the house and hurriedly assisted mother to get up and dress. I meantime looked after the children, and then we all walked out by the back door, leaving everything behind. We started toward the ferry, with the intention of crossing and making our way to Fort Ridgely....

When we reached the ferry the ferryman was gone and the old flat-bottomed boat.....on the opposite bank. All the small canoes and row-boats were there, also.....Father....could not swim.....I plunged into the river, swam to the other side, secured a small boat and rowed back to them and we all crossed in silence.....We now found ourselves plodding along on foot.....on the long journey to Fort Ridgely. The sun began to affect my mother, and after we had gone two or three miles we were compelled to stop.....none of us had eaten anything before starting, and the younger children were unable to go any farther. We then discovered a path which led to a cabin, only a few yards distant, which we found to be deserted.....Until then we had neither seen nor heard Indians, and the prospects for escaping seemed to brighten. My father took down a pail and

directed me to follow the footpath until I should find the spring, and to return with water. I secured water, down in a ravine which proved to be well wooded, as was also the pathway leading to the spring.

Returning a little more than half the distance I heard the crack of a rifle and presently the sound of voices, both from the direction of the cabin. I knew we had been overtaken, and debated whether or not I should complete the return and try to help. Quickly I decided that my presence would be useless. I.....ran back to the spring, and from it along the ravine. There I was hidden from sight, and could make plans in comparative safety. I must have been alone for an hour or two, when I decided that the Indians would not have waited longer in the expectation that I would return to the family. Then I decided to carefully seek the open road toward Fort Ridgely below the cabin. In doing so I met the owner of the cabin, Magnier by name, who, accompanied by another man, was sheltering under cover as I had been. I joined them, and before long we ventured to the main road.

We discovered men coming down the road toward us, who proved to be Captain Marsh with about fifty soldiers, hastening to the Agency.....We all joined the expedition.....

The little force halted when the footpath [to the cabin] was reached, and, with Magnier and a few soldiers.....I approached the spot where the building had been. The murderers had set fire to it, and the smouldering ruins which had fallen into the cellar contained the mortal remains of my mother and brother and sister.....My father's body lay a few feet away. A bullet had pierced the center of his forehead, and the fiends had cut his throat. His axe.....lay near him, showing that he went outside the cabin and met them like a brave man.....

When I came to my normal self, every living person had vanished, and I ran rapidly up the road to overtake the soldiers....Soon the road descended along the valley bluff which follows the north side of the Minnesota River. The sight of dead men, women and children now became frequent all the way to the ferry.....

The ferry boat had been left temptingly on the north side of the river, and Indians were in plain sight on the opposite side, on the bluff which rises abruptly to the Agency. A parley took place, through interpreter Quinn, between Captain Marsh and the Indian leader. It is now apparent that the object of the Indians was to induce Captain Marsh to send his force across, and when the boat was in midstream to pick his men off from both banks....There was not a suspicion that we were surrounded by them until they rose suddenly (in the tall grass surrounding the soldiers) and poured their fire into us. More than half of our men fell.....but the grass that had hidden them hid us.....Those who lived were led out of the ambuscade to a point not far down the river. Captain Marsh was unhurt and escaped with a small party of survivors.....I joined the survivors and made it a point to keep about in the middle of them so that I should not fail to keep up.....

We kept on down the river (the party contained ten or twelve men now), still on the north side, and about dark filed up onto the bluff into the Fort Ridgely Road. We reached the fort about midnight.

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Although not mentioned in this recital, Captain Marsh's death occurred a few minutes after this ambuscade; ~~by~~ ^{he} drowning while attempting to lead the remnant of his command across the river, in the evident belief that escape would be more practicable on the southern bank. None followed, after seeing him go down in midstream, and all proceeded down the north shore as related by Humphrey.

CHANGING FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

New Ulm has experienced six distinct types of municipal rule. The first was under the original act of incorporation of "The Town of New Ulm," which constituted Chapter 62 of the Territorial laws of 1857. This act divided the town into four wards, and vested the administrative powers in a council of four trustees, one from each ward. One of these trustees was to serve in the dual capacity of president of the council and justice of the peace. The trustees were to be elected annually, and were empowered to provide for the appointment or election of all subordinate officials. The first trustees chosen under this act were William Pfaender, president, and Frederick Beinhorn, Herman Herrendoerfer and Henry Meyerding. They served until June, 1858, when they were succeeded by Louis Theobald as president and Jacob Barbier, Charles Sommer and William Guetling. Serving for the year ending in June, 1860, were Frederick Rehfeld, president, and Jacob Barbier, Leopold Sentzke and Julius Berndt.

The second experiment in municipal rule started at the time that Brown County was divided into townships by a commission appointed by Governor Sibley, in 1858. New Ulm township was one of the nine created at that time, the others being Cottonwood, Milford, Linden, Leavenworth, Madelia, Redwood, Pajutz Zihl, and Lynd. It included all that part of Government Township 110, in Range 30, lying in Brown County; the rest of the government division being across the river in Nicollet County. Embraced within this township of New Ulm was the organized village of the same name, with its huge frontier townsite of more than 4,800 acres.

By legislative amendment in 1860, the organic act created the office of mayor, and made him "president of the council," instead of "justice of the peace." Herman Cirkler became the first mayor under this provision, and his associates on the council were Henry Bergmann, Fred Heers, and Julius Berndt. In 1861, Peter Scherer became mayor, and the trustees were Ernst Dietrich, G. Otto Barth, and Adolph Steimle. The town's first charter expired with the term of this council.

Early in 1862 New Ulm requested the legislature to repeal the original act of incorporation and reincorporate the town, which change was accomplished by an act approved on February 19. In this act were embodied the limited rights of acquiring and conveying property for the use of the municipality; the guaranty of rights which had accrued and liabilities which had been incurred under the original incorporation; and the right of the citizens to "govern themselves according to the provisions of the general laws of the state for township organization and government."

This whole procedure was unique, and perhaps its parallel is not to be found in the annals of governmental organization; but it furnishes a brave example of pioneers and pioneer legislators trying to "muddle through" to an improved condition of law and order and self rule.

The act last described was to take effect on the first Tuesday in April, 1862, and on the first day of that month the township held an election. Fr. Gommel, William Guetling, and Herman Cirkler were chosen supervisors; Adolph Hausmann, clerk; Frederick Forster, treasurer; Herman Herrendoerfer, assessor; and Charles Wagner and Henry Kompe, justices of the peace. The officials of the old organized town were automatically superseded by this newly-elected staff.

At the same election, the voters, by a majority of 166 to 10, approved a request that the county commissioners reduce the size of the township to the area within the platted limits of the incorporated town of New Ulm, and annex the territory thus excluded to the townships of Milford and Cottonwood. This request was granted at the next regular meeting of the board.

Following the Indian uprising in 1862, Chairman Gommel was the only member of the township board to return to the deserted village of New Ulm for some time, and on December 27 he appointed Jacob Flick and Jacob Barbier to fill the places vacated by Guetling and Cirkler. During the remainder of the existence of the township of New Ulm as a political unit, it was governed successively by the following boards: 1863-1864, Richard Fischer (chairman), Jacob Barbier, Henry Hammer; 1864-1865, John Hauenstein (chairman), Jacob Barbier, Henry Beinhorn; 1865-1866, Frederick Forster (chairman), Jacob Pfenninger, Jonas Laudenschlaeger; 1866-1867, Lamber Naegele (chairman), John Seiler, Joseph Popp; 1867-1868, Lamber Naegele (chairman), Jacob Petry, Jacob Barbier; 1868-1869, Dr. Alfred Mueller, (chairman), John Seiler, Herman Herrendoerfer; 1869-1870, Dr. Alfred Mueller (chairman), Charles Wagner, Jacob Brust.

Early in 1870 the incorporated town of New Ulm entered upon its fourth experiment in government, this time as a "borough," under a charter granted by the state legislature on February 19 of that year.

The town was now divided into three wards, with a governing body of three councilmen, one from each ward, all terms running for three years. The remaining elective officials of the newly created "borough" included a mayor, clerk, treasurer, recorder, or justice of the peace, and marshal, elected to one-year terms. A borough attorney was to be appointed annually by the council. The mayor was to preside over the proceedings of the governing body, but was to have no vote.

The first mayor of the "Borough of New Ulm" was Charles Roos, who served from April 1870 to April 1873, and again from December 1875 to April 1876. The only other person over to hold this office was William Pfaender, who was the incumbent from April 1873 to December 1875.

The members of the first borough council were Frederick Forster, Dr. Charles Weschcke, and Henry Loheyde. Others who served in a similar capacity during the borough experiment were Jacob Brust, Charles Roos, Phillip Gross, and Henry Keller.

This last experiment lasted six years, when the community evidently felt that it had grown to the stature of a full-fledged city. In February, 1876, another special legislative act was passed conferring that rank, and providing explicitly that no township organization should exist within its limits. The legislative and administrative powers of the new corporation were not extended, but the new city charter was probably more carefully drawn than its predecessor, and its intent more clearly defined. Most of the important changes had to do with the city's official make-up. No provision was made for a division into wards, but the council was enlarged from three to five members, all to be elected at large for two-year terms. It was so arranged that, after the first election, the councilmanic body would change every year, however, three new ones being chosen in one year, and the remaining two being replaced the next. All other elective officers were to serve for two years. These included the mayor, ~~two~~ city justices, a clerk, treasurer, marshal, and a constable. The only appointive office, that of city attorney, was to be filled by the council upon recommendation of the mayor. The attorney's term of office was to run for one year. As in the old borough charter, the mayor was designated as the presiding officer at council meetings, but had no vote.

The mayors during the life of this charter were Charles Roos, Dr. Charles Weschcke, John C. Rudolph and H. B. Constans.

In 1879 and 1880 Governor Pillsbury advocated a constitutional amendment to outlaw all types of special legislation, and in 1881 this result was partially accomplished. During the next few sessions of the legislature there was a concerted rush on the part of cities, villages, and other political divisions to amend and strengthen their charters before the final blow should fall.

In 1887 the New Ulm authorities asked for and received a new charter which was far more comprehensive as to detail than anything that had preceded it. Its provisions appeared to cover all requirements at the time, but with changing conditions it, too, eventually became inadequate, and four years later an amendment became desirable. Again the legislature gave its approval, but in the very next year the axe fell. In 1892, the people of the state adopted a drastic constitutional amendment eliminating special legislation entirely.

This event left New Ulm, together with many other towns in the state, with a charter which could not be altered by further amendment, and which would, in natural course become antiquated.

Fortunately, state laws have since been passed to afford relief in such circumstances including a provision for "home rule" charters, which are subject to amendment by the people themselves. Effort was made in 1932, and again in 1934, to have such a charter adopted for New Ulm, but both proposals were voted down.

Finally, in 1940, a third attempt was made. A charter commission appointed in November 1939 by Judge A. B. Gislason and A. H. Enerson consisted of Herman Aufderheide, Otto J. Buenger, Henry Dietz, Alois Eibner, George D. Erickson, R. R. Kemske, Peter Kitzberger, T. W. Manderfeld, Fred Meine, Otto Oswald, H. H. Prahl, Victor P. Reim, William Stelljes, Henry W. Somsen, Jr., and T. O. Streissguth.

The proposed home rule charter as drafted by this commission was submitted to the voters at a special election in August, 1940, and carried by a vote of 1667 to 730.

Newspapers---The New Ulm Pioneer (German)

The initial number of New Ulm's first newspaper, the New Ulm Pioneer, made its appearance on January 1, 1858. Lambert Naegele and Eugen Gerstenhauer were the publishers, and Heinrich Kompe was the editor. The following year G. W. Otto Barth joined the firm, and assumed the editorial duties. In 1861 he bought out his partners, and then continued as editor and publisher until June 14, 1862, when he in turn sold out to Julius Panse. Panse acted as his own editor for the short time that the sheet had to live. The last issue came out during the week preceding the Indian outbreak, August 18, 1862, and New Ulm had no other newspaper until February 1864.

The New Ulm Post (German)

The New Ulm Post was founded by citizens and business people of the town, and the first number was issued on February 5, 1864. Wolff and Hofer were the publishers, with Albert Wolff as editor, until June, when Adolph Hofer became sole owner. The next month the sheet changed hands again, and Ludwig Bogen appeared as both publisher and editor. In May, 1865, he was joined by Lambert Naegele, but continued his editorial duties. Naegele withdrew from the concern in October, 1869, and Bogen continued to conduct the paper until his death, February 7, 1886. The work then devolved upon Albert Bogen, a son, and he secured the service of J. H. Strasser as editor. In 1892 the latter purchased the paper, and he continued as editor and publisher until 1896. On April 13, 1896, Strasser sold the plant to Edward and Armand Petry. They assumed charge under the name of Petry Brothers and published the Post until March, 1905, when they sold it to the New Ulm Publishing Company. The Petry brothers continued as joint editors, how-

ever, until June, 1909, when E. J. Buehrer supplanted them. In 1911 Buehrer was succeeded by Albert Steinhauser, and the latter became sole owner of the Post on March 2, 1916. On December 16, 1915, Steinhauser had purchased the Fortschritt from the Brown County Cooperative Publishing Company, and he now consolidated the two papers under the name of the New Ulm Post, putting the paper out at the office of the New Ulm Publishing Company.

The last issue of the New Ulm Post was on May 12, 1933. This German language newspaper had appeared for over seventy years. It was the oldest weekly newspaper in the southwestern part of the state; but Steinhauser realized that, in view of the decline in immigration, and consequently in the demand for foreign language papers, it would not be worth while to try to struggle through the depression years.

The New Ulm Plain Dealer.

The first issue of the New Ulm Plain Dealer appeared November 4, 1870. The names of C. T. Clothier and George H. Walsh appeared as publishers, with Walsh in the editor's chair. In 1871, he published it alone. This was New Ulm's first English language newspaper.

The Plain Dealer was destined to be short lived, however, and barely two years passed before it foundered. The last issue came out December 20, 1872.

The New Ulm Herald

First issue appeared in February, 1873. The prime movers in this enterprise were two brothers, J. A. and W. Sigler. After a couple of difficult years they turned the plant over to C. B. Tyler, who secured the services of one Wisniowsky as editor. This occurred in July, 1875, and in November, 1878, publication was discontinued.

The Minnesota Anzeiger (German)

This German language weekly was established in June, 1874, by J. M. Broome. It passed out of existence in August of the same year.

The New Ulm Review

Joseph Bobleter published the first issue of the Monthly Visitor March 5, 1877, but enlarged the paper and launched it as a weekly at the beginning of the following year. In its new form it appeared under the masthead of the New Ulm Review. On January 1, 1887, Bobleter sold the plant to Ernst Brandt and John H. Weddendorf, who continued publication under the firm name of Brandt & Weddendorf. Charles L. Roos was made managing editor and continued as such until February, 1888, when he resigned and was succeeded by Emil Weschcke. The latter held the post until January, 1889, when he quit the newspaper field.

Fred W. Johnson became editor of the Review in January, 1890, and bought the paper on November 25, 1891. He edited the Review until January, 1899,

though from April, 1895, Ernst Wicherski had been interested in the business with him. A partnership was formed on that date, and the Review was published by the firm of Johnson and Wicherski until November 25, 1896, when Wicherski became sole owner. In January, 1899, Theodore Laws succeeded Johnson as editor, and a month later Einer Hoidale assumed the editorial duties, to be relieved in turn by Max Latte, who filled the position from April 12, 1899 until the latter part of August in the same year.

In November, 1899, E. R. Barager assumed the editorship of the Review, and on January 9, 1901, he became the publisher as well, having bought the plant from Ernst Wicherski. Six months later Barager sold out to W. R. Hodges and Asa P. Brooks, both of Sleepy Eye, and with the issue of June 12 in that year Brooks began to edit the sheet. On November 22, 1905, the Review was purchased by the New Ulm Publishing Company, the present owners and publishers. Asa. P. Brooks resigned as editor on November 1, 1906, and was succeeded by Fred W. Johnson, who continued in the post until June 15, 1909, on which date E. J. Buehrer took over. Since October, 1911, Albert Steinhauser and Steinhauser, his wife, have handled the work relinquished by Buehrer. They have been assisted since by Woebke.

The New Ulm Publishing Company purchased the subscription list and the good will of the New Ulm News from J. J. Green, and the News passed out of existence, on October 30, 1909.

Der Fortschritt (German)

This German language weekly was established at New Ulm on March 26, 1891, by Theodore Rein and John Schlumberger, with J. B. Velikanje in the editor's chair. In April, 1892, the paper was sold to the Fortschritt Publishing Company, headed by Ernst Brandt, and Armin Steinhauser became the editor, serving as such until his death in 1892. At that time Brandt took over and performed the duties of both editor and publisher until December, 1912, when he sold the plant to the Brown County Co-operative Publishing Company.

This last named concern did not prove a financial success, and in December, 1915, the stockholders accepted the offer of Albert Steinhauser for the plant and subscription list. The final issue of Der Fortschritt appeared December 28, 1915, the New Ulm Post serving its subscribers after that date.

The New Ulm News

In 1892 H. L. Henry established the New Ulm News, the first issue appearing on September 6. In 1895 J. J. Green purchased the plant and took over the editorial duties, which he continued to perform until October 30, 1909, when he sold out to the New Ulm Publishing Company. The latter concern discontinued publication of the News, transferring its subscription list to the New Ulm Review.

The New Ulm Volksblatt (German)

This weekly was founded at New Ulm in September, 1892, by the Volksblatt Publishing Company. In 1897 the paper was purchased by Philip Liesch, owner and editor of the Brown County Journal, which was printed in the same building. The Volksblatt was to the German speaking people what the Journal was to those

who spoke English, and Liesch made a success of it from the start.

In 1920, after an existence of about twenty-eight years, the Volksblatt company merged with the Westlicher Herold Publishing Company of Winona, Liesch staying on as editor until November 1921, when the Volksblatt went out of existence by merger with the Brown County Journal.

The Brown County Journal

The Brown County Journal was established by Philip Liesch, October 15, 1898. In 1920 H. H. Walter, then the editor, became associated with Liesch as a partner, the new publishing firm taking the name of the Liesch-Walter Printing Company. On May 3, 1937, W. L. Hullinger and William O. Merritt purchased the business, and the new concern continued under the name of the Brown County Journal, Incorporated. Philip Liesch became chairman of the board; W. L. Hullinger, president; H. H. Walter, vice-president; and William O. Merritt secretary and treasurer. Walter continued as editor of the Journal.

On August 2, 1937 the Brown County Journal entered the daily newspaper field under the masthead of the New Ulm Daily Journal, which see below.

The New Ulm Daily Journal

The New Ulm Daily Journal, first daily newspaper to be published in Brown County, is a continuation and a development of the weekly Brown County Journal. The first issue appeared August 2, 1937, with William O. Merritt as editor.

In October 1938, Walter W. Mickelson became the new publisher of the New Ulm Daily Journal.

Mills---C. C. Brandt's Windmill

The first flour mill in Brown County was erected in the winter of 1856-1857, in what is now Sigel Township, by C. C. Brandt. It was a small wind-driven affair, and was afterward moved to New Ulm where it was operated for a short time.

The Eagle Mill.

Frederick Beinhorn organized the Chicago Mill Association, a stock company which in 1856 built the Eagle sawmill. F. Rehfeld was the president of the company. In January 1858, the mill was taken over by Anton Kaus and Company, and in 1860 it burned to the ground.

Rehfeld and Beinhorn rebuilt the Eagle Mill in September of the same year in which it was destroyed, but the Indians burned it again in 1862. Within less than a year the same owners replaced it with a much larger sawmill, and operated it in partnership until 1865, when Beinhorn left the firm, leaving the mill in complete control of Rehfeld. Rehfeld in turn sold out in the same year to a company composed of Werner Boesch, Jacob Pfenninger and John Meyer, and the new owners made the alterations necessary to enable them to grind grain. In 1866 they made improvements which increased the flour-making capacity of the mill to the extent that the Eagle Mill became one of New Ulm's leading industries.

In 1886 Charles Silverson, William Silverson, and A. Schmitt bought this plant and made many further improvements, both to the building and in the matter of equipment. Business increased and the facilities of the Eagle Mill were expanded proportionately until now (1942) it is said to be the largest country flour mill in the United States.

The Globe Mills

The first really ambitious milling enterprise in New Ulm was undertaken in 1857, when the Globe Mills were erected under the sponsorship of the German Land Association. This was a combined sawmill and flour mill on Third South and Front streets, but results were disappointing and in 1858 another concern, the Globe Mills Company, Incorporated, took over the plant. Conditions did not improve, and the property was listed for sale, being operated meanwhile by Schell and Bellm, and later by Schwertfeger, Schmidt and Gebser, under lease. This mill also fell a victim to the torch of the Sioux in 1862.

In 1864 a company was formed under the firm name of the New Ulm Mill Company for the purpose of restoring the Globe Mills, and under the management of such men as Louis Theobald, John Bellm, Jacob Mueller, Richard Fischer, and Daniel G. Shillock this was accomplished. The new plant was equipped for both sawing and grinding. In 1870 it became the sole property of Bellm and Fischer, and two years later Peter Scherer replaced Bellm as Fischer's partner. These men were the owners when the Globe Mills were again destroyed by fire in 1873.

The Henry Roebbecke Windmill

In 1859 Fred Roebbecke built a windmill on the plot opposite the present Court House Square. This was the mill which was used as a watchtower by sharpshooters during the Indian uprising, and was burned at that time.

The Boese Windmill

During the eighties Dietrich Boese operated a small windmill on the rear of what is now the Wenzel Eckstein property, on South State Street. This mill turned bodily with the wind, rotating so as to point its wheel to any point of the compass.

The Schram Windmill

The largest of the windmills was built by Julius Schram opposite the present site of the Union Hospital. Schram, an excellent millwright, erected this flour mill in the early sixties almost without assistance, either as to building or equipment. The property passed into the hands of Frederick Koke in 1871. Koke, with his father, and later with his brother, William, continued to operate it for a number of years when, in 1883, it was finally dismantled and moved to Bird Island.

The Schwertfeger and Amann Mills

With the rebuilding of the Eagle Mill as a sawmill only the people were without facilities for grinding grain from the time of the uprising until the summer of 1863. At that time August Schwertfeger and Lorenz Amann erected a

a small gristmill on the ruins of the Waraju Distillery. Their plant was too small to weather any serious competition, however, and the following year, when the Globe Mill was restored, they razed the building and sold the machinery to William Pless of West Newton.

The New Ulm Roller Mills

Following the destruction by fire of the Globe Mill in 1873, agitation for a new gristmill was immediately started. H. A. Subilia and Max Henschel interested themselves in the project with the result that in 1874 the so-called City Mill was erected on Center Street. This plant was completed in October, and went into operation under the business name of the New Ulm City Mill Company. The company was a co-partnership composed of Subilia, Henschel, Charles Roos and John Bellm. In 1882 a new company, including some members from Chicago, took over the property and assumed the name of The New Ulm Roller Mill Company.

The Koke Mill

In 1875 William Koke and Son established a flour mill on the Cottonwood River, but in 1877 it was completely destroyed by fire.

The Cottonwood Roller Mill

The Cottonwood Roller Mill was erected on the Cottonwood River in 1879 by William Frank and John Bentzin. It was operated at the outset by water. This mill ran for many years. Frank finally sold out to his partner who, with his sons, continued to operate the plant until 1918, when it was sold to Behnke and Weddendorf. Various improvements, both in the mill and the dam, were made from time to time, and eventually steam power was substituted. Unfavorable conditions in the milling industry throughout the country caused this plant to shut down in 1921.

The Empire Mill Company

This milling venture was launched in 1880. A group of business men which included the experienced millers George and Charles Schmidt, William Kooh and E. G. Pahl, organized the Empire Mill Company, and erected their first plant near the Northwestern railroad tracks on First South Street. About 1895, the New Ulm Roller Mill Company and the Empire Mill Company merged, both plants continuing to operate the name of the former company. In 1910 the New Ulm Roller Mill burned, but was replaced during the same year by the present brick building. In 1933 the cereal mill (formerly the City Mill) of the New Ulm Roller Mill Company was destroyed by fire also.

It will be noted that eight of New Ulm's flour mills have been destroyed by fire: The Eagle Mill in 1860, and again in 1862; the Globe Mill in 1862, and again in 1873; Roebbecke's Mill in 1862; Koke's Mill in 1877; the New Ulm Roller Mill in 1910; and the Cereal Mill in 1933.

Because of its agricultural environment, the manufacture of flour and

other cereal products is New Ulm's principal industry. As a milling center, the city ranks in Minnesota second only to Minneapolis. At the present time (1942) two plants, the Eagle Roller Mills and the New ^Ulm Roller Mills have a combined daily capacity of 7,000 barrels of flour. Together they employ 225 people, with an annual payroll of about \$450,000.

Breweries---Koke's Brewery

Koke and Heydrich inaugurated brewing in New Ulm by engaging in the business on the Nicollet side of the Minnesota River in 1858. In April of the same year, Heydrich left the partnership and the brewery continued to operate under the ownership and guidance of Gottlieb Koke and August Friton. Later Koke became sole proprietor, and in 1859 leased the plant to Ludwig C. Krauch.

The Friton and Betz Brewery

The first brewery within the city limits was established by August Friton and Andrew Betz in 1858, near Center Street in German Park. This plant was destroyed by fire during the Indian uprising in 1862.

Schell's Brewery

In 1861 August Schell, one of the pioneers of 1856, organized and founded Schell's Brewery, an institution which still bears his name. Schell, together with Jacob Bernhard, built the new brewery on the Cottonwood River east of New Ulm, but a year later its founder was compelled to flee with his family to St. Peter for protection from the Indians. Fortunately, his brewery was unmolested during the uprising, and five years later he bought out Bernhard. In 1878 an extensive bottling establishment was erected, and the year following he put up a three-story brick malthouse. This latter improvement alone cost the then staggering sum of \$6,000. In 1879 the ownership and management of the business fell to Adolph and Otto Schell, sons of the founder, who was in failing health.

August Schell died in 1891, and at that time Otto Schell became the brewery manager. In his hands the brewery developed rapidly. Soon its capacity was doubled, and year by year improvements were made in buildings, equipment and methods. Eventually the concern attained a size which made it advisable to convert it into a stock company, and in 1903 this was done. As president and business manager, Otto Schell continued to direct its destinies until his death in 1911, when his brother-in-law, George Marti, succeeded him. Marti died in 1934 and his son, Alfred Marti, has been in charge since that time.

The City Brewery

In 1864 August Friton started a new brewery on Center Street, calling it the City Brewery. In 1866 the plant was offered for sale, and it changed hands several times before coming into the possession of Joseph Schmucker. Schmucker incorporated as the New Ulm Brewing and Malting Company, but in 1917 the corporation was dissolved.

The Hauenstein Brewing Company

In 1865 John Hauenstein, Sr., and Andreas Betz started a brewery south of New Ulm near a spring of excellent water. They began modestly in a small building which looked more like a dwelling house than a manufacturing plant. The business grew, however, and the building had been considerably enlarged, when, in 1870, Betz disposed of his interest to John C. Toberer. Hauenstein, bought the interest of Toberer in 1871, becoming the sole owner. This plant, which had been extensively improved since its founding, was totally destroyed by the terrific cyclone of July, 1881, but Hauenstein replaced it almost at once with a larger brewery.

John Hauenstein died in 1914, leaving his two sons, Charles and John, Jr., to carry on the business he had taught them, and under them it continued to prosper. Charles died in 1926 while president of the company, and was succeeded by Hans P. Hauenstein. Thus the third generation was ushered into a business which has now operated for over three-quarters of a century.

Carl's Brewery

In 1866 Baptist Carl opened a brewery on South Minnesota Street, opposite the present St. Mary's church. This business was sold to John Piemeisl in 1887, and the latter operated it until _____

The Bender Brewery

The Bender Brewery began operations in 1866, near the Globe Mill. It was destroyed by fire in 1869, but rebuilt in 1870.

At present New Ulm has two breweries, Schell's Brewery and the Hauenstein Brewing Company. Together these plants have a yearly output of 50,000 barrels and furnish employment to 100 men.

Financial Institutions---The Central Bank

This first bank was a small private concern, opening its doors in 1859, closing again in July, 1861. Its officers were J. J. Knox of St. Paul, president; A. H. Wagner, vice president; and A. H. Merrick, cashier.

The First National Bank

Organized in 1865, the First National Bank's first officers were D. G. Shillock, president; Fred Forster, vice president; and Henry A. Subilia, cashier. The institution closed in 1867.

The Brown County Bank

This was a private institution established in 1871, and its first officers

were Henry Behnke, president; M. Mullen, vice president; Frank Shaubut, cashier. In 1874 this bank was sold to Chadbourn Brothers, of Rochester, Minnesota, and Templer, of New Ulm. Under the regime Templer was elected president, with C. H. Ross as cashier. In 1892 a group of citizens formed a corporation and purchased the concern, electing Joseph Bobleter president and W. F. Seitzer cashier.

In August 1931 the Brown County Bank was absorbed by the Citizens' State Bank, after having been in existence for sixty years.

The Citizens' State Bank

Established in 1876 with M. Mullen as president and John C. Rudolph as cashier, the Citizens' State Bank retained these two men in office for many years---Rudolph until 1892, when he resigned, and Mullen until his death in 1910. In 1883 the bank was transformed into a private concern and continued thus, retaining the current officers, for 24 years. It was then reconverted to a state bank, incorporated under the state banking laws. It still does business under the name of the Citizens' State Bank. In 1914 a new modern bank building was erected.

The State Bank of New Ulm

Organized in 1901, the first officers of the State Bank of New Ulm were J. A. Eckstein, president; H. D. Beussmann, vice president; and Fred Pfaender, cashier. In 1936 the bank building was badly damaged by fire, and the same year a new modern bank building was erected.

The Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank

This is the latest bank to be organized in New Ulm---1914---and was established by businessmen and farmers of the community. The first officers were Fred Aufderheide, president; C. F. Ruemke, vice president; and Arthur Broock, cashier.

There are at present (1942) three banks in the city: The Citizens' State, the State Bank of New Ulm, and the Farmers' and Merchants.

The New Ulm Building and Loan Association (now the New Ulm Savings and Loan Association)

Through the efforts of C. W. H. Heidemann, the New Ulm Building and Loan Association was organized in 1888. The capital stock was \$500,000, and its first board of directors was composed of Heidemann, William Hummel, A. Berghold, E. G. Pahl, William Brust, A. C. Ochs, Joseph Eckstein, Peter Scherer, J. Klossner, Jr., C. Stuebe, Fred Pfaender and C. L. Roos. The name was changed in 1895 to the New Ulm Savings and Loan Association.

State Bond and Mortgage Company

Ferdinand Crone, A. J. Vogel, Charles Vogtel, G. B. Weiser, and T. H. Schonlau organized the State Bond and Mortgage Company in August, 1914, with a capital stock of \$25,000. It began life in a six-by-eight cubicle in the old

Vogel Building, and the office force consisted of T. H. Schonlau and C. G. Stevenson. The office staff today numbers fourteen, and 25 full-time salesmen are employed as well. T. H. Schonlau is the present manager. The State Bond and Mortgage Company started operations on the day that the first World War broke out.

Miscellaneous Industries--Concrete Products

The American Artstone Company manufactures artificial cast stone; and the Elk River Concrete Products Company makes tiles.

Caskets

Two casket manufacturing companies operate in New Ulm, the Midwest Casket Company and E. W. Bobsin Manufacturing Company.

Poultry-dressing and Egg-packing

Both Stork Brothers and the Cudahy Packing Company have plants in New Ulm. They ship to New York, Philadelphia, and other eastern markets.

Accessories

The New Ulm Manufacturing Company makes a line of automobile specialties.

Greenhouses

The New Ulm Greenhouse was established in 1884 by Christ Boock, and is still in the same family, Otto Boock, as son, being the present proprietor.

Potteries

Freiderich Gommel and Freiderich Foster inaugurated New Ulm's first pottery plant in 1866. It was called the New Ulm Pottery and was located on Broadway between First and Second North streets.

Dauffenbach, Stoeckert and Friedmann established a pottery in 1868, on German street. This venture did not prove successful, and was offered for sale in 1870. In 1871 John Stoeckert withdrew and Dauffenbach and Gieseke took over. In 1873 William Winkelmann replaced Gieseke in the partnership, and the business was expanded and the plant improved. But we find it again offered for sale in 1875. Winkelmann now became sole owner. The plant was practically destroyed by fire in 1878, and the enterprise was discontinued.

The City Pottery was established in 1871 by John Stoeckert, after his withdrawal from the above concern. About a month later it was almost destroyed by fire, but Stoeckert rebuilt it and, with his son, Edward, conducted the business until about 1890. This pottery was on Minnesota Street, between Fourth and Fifth South streets.

Though the business flourished for many years, no pottery is now being manufactured in New Ulm.

The New Ulm Sugar Factory

In 1879 Freiderich Booch, August Westphal, George Jacobs, William Amme, and Henry Hellman organized the New Ulm Sugar Manufacturing Company, a corporation whose purpose it was to make sorghum molasses, and to refine sugar. The building was erected on German Street, between Fourth and Fifth North streets. This business did not succeed, and in 1881 it was sold to S. D. Peterson and Friederich Boock. Again, in April of the same year, it changed hands, and was then reincorporated as the New Ulm Sugar Works. Still the enterprise gave disappointing results, and in 1883 the plant was changed into a vinegar factory.

The New Ulm Vinegar Works

In 1883 S. D. Peterson, Henry Keller, William Pfaender and son, Louis Felkel, Peter Herrian, and Rudolph Kiesling formed the above corporation. The building and machinery of the defunct sugar factory were used in the manufacture of vinegar, but in 1885 the concern became insolvent and was offered for sale. In June of that year Theodore Crone bought the plant, later taking in a brother as partner, and they operated it for about four years. In 1900 it was sold to a Burlington, Iowa, concern.

The New Ulm Foundry and Machine Shop (Now known as the New Ulm Machine and Iron Works)

In 1870 Schaefer & Erkel established a foundry and machine shop at Center and Front streets. This business changed hands many times before Charles Leonhardt bought it in 1879. Leonhardt ran the business until his death, in 1888, when his two sons, Charles and Joseph, took over the plant. Later Charles Jr., became sole owner, and he, with the assistance of his son, has conducted the foundry and machine shop since that time.

The Minnesota Seed Company

This company was founded in 1905 by J. L. Schoch, Ferdinand Crone, Fred Meyer, Conrad H. Dirks, and Jacob Klossner, Jr. A substantial two-story building was erected on Valley and Center streets, and an addition and basement were added in 1913. The concern operated successfully until 1936, when, due to long continued drouth and the depression, it was finally liquidated.

For more than 21 years the Minnesota Seed Company made New Ulm a widely recognized seed corn center.

The New Ulm Brick and Tile Yards

These yards were started in 1875 by Fred Aufderheide. In 1921, due to ill health, he retired from active work and turned the plant over to his two sons, Karl H. and Herman J. Aufderheide. The father died in 1926. Karl became sole owner in 1937, having purchased his brother's half interest.

The Kemske Paper Company

This company, employing about twenty persons, furnishes a complete line of office supplies and legal blanks. It started as a very modest concern in 1914, when Rudolph R. Kemske, with a working capital of \$50, and one helper, opened a combined stationery, magazine, and print shop, under the name of the R. R. Kemske Printing Company.

The New Ulm Grocery Company

This wholesale grocery company was started in 1916. H. W. Bockus, now its president, was one of the founders. Bockus was at that time associated with the Nichols-Chisolm Lumber Company, and was interested with this group in the Willmar Grocery Company. When the New Ulm Grocery Company was formed, R. F. Hicks came to New Ulm as manager, and five years later Bockus moved to New Ulm and assumed the managership.

In 1917 a new building was erected on Valley and First North streets, the company having outgrown its quarters in the Minnesota Seed Company Building. In 1936 the offices and warehouse building were extended. Today the plant measures 50 x 200 feet, with three solid concrete floors. Ten salesmen and 25 persons are given year-around employment. Associated with H. W. Bockus in the business are his two sons, G. H. and H. W., Jr., and his son-in-law.

McCrea.

The New Ulm Steam Laundry

E. F. Taylor started this enterprise in 1892, in competition with a Chinese and another hand laundry. He persisted, and was successful; and in 1913 sold the business to Otto Oswald, who, with three sons, Delbert, Arnold and Melvin, and a daughter, Leona, conduct it today.

The building now housing the plant was built in 1919, and contains a water softener which reduces the water to zero softness. The average payroll contains the names of about 38 persons.

Civic Institutions---The New Ulm Park Association

In 1927 Fred W. Johnson, who had devoted a great deal of thought and effort to the local parks and playgrounds problem, was instrumental in inaugurating a movement for the organization of a park association in New Ulm. At a mass meeting that year, he was chosen temporary chairman and authorized to appoint a committee of three others to assist him in selecting a directorate of 25 interested persons to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the proposed association.

At a second meeting the New Ulm Park Association was formally organized, with Johnson as president and H. L. Beecher as vice president. Articles of association and by-laws were adopted at this time, and everything was in readiness to proceed with the projects which had been visualized by the city's founders back in 1858. The city council adopted a resolution empowering the Association at its own expense to proceed with the work of beautifying certain parks and other public landing place, a public bathing beach, North Market Square, South Market Square, and Center Boulevard, on Broadway. At a meeting held on August 24, the board of directors authorized the executive committee to make expenditures on these projects up to the sum of \$2,500. In the ensuing four years, the following improvements were accomplished:

The Public Landing Place known as Riverside Park was transformed from an unsightly jungle into a spot of beauty. The foundation ruins of the old Brust grain elevator became a rock garden.

Washington and Lincoln playgrounds were graded, walks laid out, tennis courts built, ornamental trees and shrubbery planted and playground equipment was installed.

North German Park was converted into a combination landscaped park and athletic field.

Broadway Boulevard was planted to flowers and shrubs.

Indian Monument Boulevard was likewise beautified.

Numerous improvements were made possible through the generosity of various individuals, the most liberal of whom was Johnson himself, the president of the Association. In addition to the vast amount of time which he gave to the planning and supervision of the actual work of improving New Ulm's parks and playgrounds, that official furnished money out of his own pocket for grading and leveling in North German Park athletic field, and donated over \$300 for improvements made in Riverside Park.

The city of New Ulm felt adequately repaid when, in 1932, the town was named one of the eight prettiest cities in the United States in a nationwide contest by the magazine "Better Homes and Gardens."

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of its founders, New Ulm is blessed with an unusual system of parks and playgrounds. In the original platting of the city, an area equal to nearly 25 blocks was set aside for this purpose, and dedicated to it in perpetuity. Much of this land lies east of German Street, within a block of the present business district and conveniently reached from all parts of the city. All the parks have been developed to the best advantage, and their upkeep has never been neglected.

German Park, containing the swimming pool, lies just one block from the main business street. This is the largest park in the city, and is also the site of the bandstand, where concerts are enjoyed every Sunday evening throughout the summer. Here, too, is a fine athletic field. In recognition of his extensive unselfish efforts in bringing about the development of the city's park system, this field was named for Fred W. Johnson, "Johnson Field." It includes a fine football field, quarter-mile cinder track, baseball diamond, and a large skating rink. Both football and baseball field are equipped with lights for night games, and have substantial and commodious grandstands and bleachers.

Riverside Park, flanking the Minnesota River, is spacious and well-kept, enjoyed by thousands of visitors as well as by the residents of New Ulm.

Washington and Lincoln Playgrounds. Here modern wading pools, tennis courts, and the various interesting contrivances usually set up in an up-to-date playground furnish healthful recreation to large crowds. Both of these parks are of special interest to children.

Turner Hall Park occupies an entire block adjoining Court House Square. Within its area stand Turner Hall, the Junior Pioneer Log Cabin, and the Battery House of Burg's Battery, the only private unit of artillery in the United States. The organization was founded shortly after the Indian Massacre in 1862 as a protection against a recurrence of Sioux trouble, and is still in existence, lending color to celebrations and parades with its horse-drawn cannons and caissons, and its bright red and blue uniforms.

Broadway Boulevard, extending through the city for seventeen blocks, is recognized as one of the most beautiful streets in the country, and is a delightful surprise to first visitors to New Ulm. It consists of a broad central parkway with an ample driveway on each side. This boulevard abounds in shrubbery of every description, and is expertly landscaped throughout its length. Broadway has a distinct system of fine ornamental lighting, and special street markers eliminate all confusion in the stranger within the City. State Highway 15 follows this street through the city, and U. S. Highway 14 passes along it for several blocks.

Cottonwood Lake

Cottonwood State Park adjoins the corporate limits of New Ulm. Within this park, a large dam across the Cottonwood River has created a beautiful lake, some three and a half miles long, and ranging in width from a quarter to three quarters of a mile. This body of water winds between the heavily timbered bluffs of the Cottonwood. There is a landscaped artificial island in the lake, and elsewhere throughout the park many thousands of shrubs and trees have been planted.

On the lakeshore, facing a splendid bathing beach, stands the bathhouse and recreation building, other facilities for relaxation and pleasure are being constantly added.

The Municipal Swimming Pool

The New Ulm Municipal Swimming Pool, located in North German Park, was completed in 1939 at a cost of nearly \$63,000. Furnished with modern equipment, it is the only heated outdoor pool in a wide area. The pool is L-shaped, with three diving boards at the deeper end. Adjoining is a wading pool for children. Soft water is brought in through a supply line from the city power plant. The pools are lighted at night.

Schell's Garden and Deer Park

The late August Schell, founder of the Schell Brewing Company, established this garden, which now contains many distinctive trees, shrubs and flowers. More than 35 deer roam freely about the park. Garden and park have a beautiful setting in the valley of the Cottonwood River, and for years have been an outstanding point of interest. Visitors are welcome.

The New Ulm Country Club

Situated on the bluffs overlooking Cottonwood Lake, the New Ulm Country Club has a fine nine-hole golf course. Many natural hazards test the skill of the golfer. The course has a modern watering system. Non-resident memberships are available to persons in neighboring communities,

and the facilities of the club are always open to out-of-town visitors.

New Ulm Public Library and Historical Museum

The Public Library and Historical Museum is an institution in which New Ulm takes particular pride. The building is a two-story structure with an exterior of locally manufactured artstone. The latter is a splendid imitation of the product of the famous Bedford quarries.

Here are housed, in addition to the library, collections of the Brown County Historical Society, a rick store of a historical data and relics.

Although no public tax money has ever been expended either in the construction or the maintenance of this institution, it is municipally owned and managed, with all costs paid out of surplus earning of the city's central heating plant.

The Municipal Waterworks System

New Ulm's waterworks system is supplied by deep wells, and the water is always cold and of excellent quality. The initial plans date back to 1887, at which time a flowing well was struck on State and First North Streets. In 1890 the city built a water tower 104 feet high over this well, and erected a pumping station in German Park, facing First North Street. After ten years of service, the old system would no longer answer. The water supply proved insufficient for the city, and the fire protection was wholly inadequate.

In 1909 a steel-and-concrete reservoir was installed on Monument Hill. This had a capacity of a million gallons, and was situated sufficiently high to furnish ample pressure in the fire hose.

In 1914 typhoid fever swept the city, and the contamination was traced to the water supply. All the cisterns were condemned, and a new reservoir was completed in August of that year.

In 1930 a water-purification plant was constructed at German and Third North Street in North German Park, and the city began to take its water from the Minnesota River, the deep wells being abandoned. The new filtration plant soon proved unsatisfactory, however, due to the objectionable chloride taste, and new wells were put down. These were dug below the hills in the southwestern part of town, and they constitute the present source of supply. The water is clear, cold and safe.

The Municipal Heating System

The entire business district of New Ulm, as well as nearly all the public buildings and many private residences, are heated from the city-owned heating plant, and though the rates are among the lowest in the state, this municipal enterprise has always shown a substantial profit. The system was created in 1916 to utilize the exhaust steam from the municipal lighting

plant, the money for its construction being furnished by New Ulm business men. A group of these formed a corporation which they named the New Ulm Heating Company, and secured the necessary franchise from the city government. The capital stock was \$50,000, and the first officers were Alfred J. Vogel, president; G. A. Ottomeyer, vice president; and Fred W. Johnson, secretary-treasurer. These officers, together with Ferdinand Crone, constituted the first board of directors. Steam was first turned on about the middle of October, 1916.

An agreement was entered into whereby the entire plant was to be turned over to the city whenever it had earned a sufficient sum to repay the stockholder, and seven seasons of operation sufficed for this. In May, 1923, all the assets of the New Ulm Heating Company was presented to the municipality without remuneration of any sort. It had cost the city nothing from its inception except the small item of coal and labor used for live steam with which to operate the vacuum power. This expenditure totaled only \$16,914.62 for the entire period of seven seasons, while the original cost of the property was in excess of \$40,000. Both the Public Library and the Historical Museum were built with surplus profits of the Heating Fund," and the plant still is self-supporting.

The Municipal Lighting System

The New Ulm Electric Light Company was incorporated December 22, 1888, as a private concern. The first officers were Prahl, president; Joseph A. Eckstein, secretary; and Mullen, treasurer.

The company secured a franchise to erect its plant on February 5, 1889, and the building on the corner of Valley and First North streets was ready for occupancy that fall.

In 1901 the city sold bonds in the sum of \$30,000 for an electric lighting plant to be operated by the municipality. A long series of offers and refusals finally ended all negotiations aimed at the purchase of the New Ulm Electric Light Company's plant, and in September the council determined upon an entirely new light and power system. This was completed within the bond limit, and was accepted by the council on August 18, 1903. The service proved so satisfactory to the citizens that it was found necessary to enlarge the building and increase the facilities within a period of little more than ten years, and by 1919 further expansion was demanded. A new building, 90x90 feet, was erected west of the existing plant on First North Street, and complete equipment installed, including water pumping apparatus, steam generating plant, and coal handling devices. This entailed an expenditure of around a quarter of a million dollars, and was completed in October, 1920.

In 1939 the "White Way," of which the city had been so proud when it first blazed forth in 1910, was replaced by new modern light standards and globes. While not so showy, this system gives a better diffusion of light, with a proportionate reduction in the amount of current used.

Improvements made in New Ulm's lighting system since 1935 have cost about \$400,000, which has been paid out of the plant's surplus earnings, leaving a substantial balance still in the fund. Since 1933 rates have been reduced four times. Twenty-two men are employed the year around. The bonds have been retired and all additions and improvements have been paid for in full, in addition to which the electric light department has paid into the city treasury over \$127,000. Annually it pays to the treasury general fund a sum equal to five per cent of its gross earnings.

Natural Gas Service

New Ulm is fortunate in having natural gas service. The municipal light plant, the Eagle Roller Mills, and many other institutions use natural gas as fuel. The mains serve a large part of the city.

The Sewage Disposal Plant

New Ulm's sewage disposal plant is one of the most modern in the northwest, with sufficient capacity for a city of 10,000 inhabitants. Its grounds are attractively landscaped, as is all municipal property in this city. The plant was erected in 1938 at a cost of \$180,199.96. R. A. Schmucker was its first superintendent.

The Volunteer Fire Department

December 13, 1869, the town board called a meeting at Turner Hall to organize a volunteer fire company. Forty-six volunteers were enlisted, and Charles Wagner was elected president of the company, with M. Henschel as secretary.

The newborn fire department was divided into five units, hose company, hook and ladder company, water company or bucket brigade, salvage company, and fire extinguisher company.

In 1870 the city council purchased a large force pump, which served until 1886. It stands today in the fire hall, as a memento to early days.

Later, the department was furnished with a hook and ladder truck, with half a dozen ladders of varying lengths. The truck, like the pump, was hauled and operated solely by man-power. There were no mains, and water to supply the pump had to be carried in buckets from wells or springs, often distant from the scene of the fire.

With New Ulm's incorporation as a city in 1876, the city council began to appoint the fire chiefs, a position theretofore held, ex officio, by the president of the council. Membership changed rapidly, and efficient training was impossible. While the roster was always full during the seventies and eighties, attendance at meetings and drills was small. To remedy this conditions, persistent absentees were fined or expelled, and the result was an unending turnover.

On March 20, 1885, the Merchants' Hotel, its barns, the Albert Held workshop, and the Bergmann building all burned to the ground, with a grave threat to the entire block in which they stood. This disaster emphasized the inadequacy of existing equipment, and in 1887 a radical change took place. The company was reorganized under the stringent regulations of Ordinance Number 16. An American-La France steam fire-engine was then purchased.

The new fire department, like its predecessor, was divided into five units: one engine company, two hose companies, a hook and ladder company, and a police company.

In 1891 the old hook and ladder truck was replaced by one which had a forty-foot aerial extension, and a reorganization of the hose companies changed that contingent from two units to three. Of these hose companies, Number 1 and 2 housed their carts at the old fire station, in the building now occupied by the Midwest Casket Company, 109 North Broadway; while Number 3 utilized a small substation near their present location on Valley and First South Streets. Two years later Hose Company Number 2 dissolved, some members resigning and others joining different units.

In 1896 Hose Company Number 1 exchanged its two-wheeled cart for one with four wheels, by combining two of the hand-drawn variety to make a horse-drawn vehicle. At the same time the hook and ladder truck was altered so that it could be drawn by a team. In 1898 Hose Company Number 1 received a hose wagon, and three years later Number 3 was similarly strengthened.

The first pumping station was erected on the present waterworks and electric light plant site in 1890, and water mains were installed the same year along the main business blocks of Minnesota Street. A water tower and fire hydrants also were added in 1890.

In 1903 the ladder company was given a large Seagrave truck with a sixty-foot aerial extension, but the old one was kept in service for use in the residential districts until 1925, when the Seagrave was motorized.

In 1919, with the completion of the spacious fire station in the new municipal building, the city bought an American La France pumper with a capacity of 350 gallons per minute, and in 1930 another of the same make was added, with a 750-gallon capacity. The old pumper was then transferred to the substation, taking the place of Engine Company Number 3's old fashioned hose wagon.

This company's new substation on Valley and First South Streets was built in 1935, as was also the forty-seven foot drill tower adjoining.

In 1936 the city purchased still another pumper, this one of 1,000 gallons capacity, and a new hook and ladder truck. This was Pirsch equipment, and the ladder truck had a 65-foot aerial extension. The old 250 gallon La France pumper, completely overhauled, is now held in reserve at the main station.

The Junior Pioneer Association

This organization had for its purpose the preservation of historical data and relics of pioneer days; the perpetuation of the townbuilders' ideals; the improvement of natural beauty spots about New Ulm; and the general up-building and advancement of their community. Erecting a log cabin in Turner Hall Park the association collected and installed there many pictures of pioneers and mementos of their doings. The cabin, with many of the relics, was later destroyed by fire. The Junior Pioneers purchased Pioneer Park, south of New Ulm, and it has become the scene of the Annual Picnic. They were also responsible for placing several commemorative tablets and markers at historic spots in and near New Ulm. The association is active in promoting anniversary celebrations commemorating the Indian War. These anniversaries usually are

observed at five-year intervals.

The Junior Pioneer Association held its first meeting in Turner Hall in February, 1912, and the following officers were elected; Albert Steinhäuser, president; J. P. Graff, vice-president; William Pfaender, Jr., secretary; and William J. Julius, treasurer. The association was incorporated in that year.

Business Men's Associations

New Ulm has an active Business Men's Association with a membership of 250, as well as an energetic Junior Chamber of Commerce. Two service clubs, the Lion's and Rotary, are active in promoting the interests of the city.

Highways

New Ulm is well located as to trunk highways. It is situated on U. S. Highway 14, known as the Black Hills Trail. This road extends from Chicago to the Black Hills, and continues onward to Yellowstone Park, paved all the way.

State Highway 15 also serves the city, extending from the Iowa line northward to St. Cloud and the Lakes region.

Transportation—Steamboat

The opening of the Minnesota Valley to settlement ushered in an era of steamboating, whose phenomenal growth was paralleled only by its rapid decline. Cut-throat competition, the uncertain and limited season of navigation, and the coming of the railroad finally brought river transportation to an end.

With the passing of the spring floods the Minnesota shrank and its sandbars blocked the way, so only a few score trips could be made in a season.

Immigrants and their supplies formed the bulk of the steamboat cargoes, though the transport of government supplies and Indian annuities was a further source of profit. The close of navigation always caused the market price of commodities to soar.

After a long winter's siege, the river towns were seething with impatience for the ice to go out and the river to rise. Midsummer usually brought low water, so the merchants guarded against a shortage by heavy purchases of merchandise early in the season. With any interruption of the steamboat schedules, the dealer with a supply on hand found himself very fortunately situated, garnering for himself the normal trade of his less provident competitors.

As early as 1853 steamboats ascended the Minnesota with government goods for the agencies and Fort Ridgely. In that year the West Newton, the Tiger, and the Clarion were all docked at the Fort at the same time.

The next year the settlement of New Ulm gave new impetus to river traffic, and the trade continued in varying volume for a period of twenty years. In 1869 the steamer Otter was purchased by the New Ulm Transportation Company, and was put into service between New Ulm, Mankato, and St. Peter. In a few years, however, the vessel was offered for sale and, lacking a buyer, it was turned over to the treasurer of the company, Charles Roos, in 1872. Roos sold

the boat to Winkelmann & Henschel, who took out the engine and boiler for use in a contemplated mill. They never built the mill, but they did rebuild the steamboat, and sold it to Jacob Hindermann, of West Newton. Hindermann used it for pleasure trips and for an occasional business trip to Mankato and Redwood Falls, until 1879. That winter Captain Hindermann laid it up in the river near his home, and the following spring the ice carried it over a rock and planted it firmly in the mud of the bottom below. The old Otter stuck there until 1916, when its owner had it removed. The hull had rotted away by that time, and the Junior Pioneer Association prevailed upon Captain Hindermann to have the boiler, practically all that was left of the famous old steamer, removed to New Ulm. In 1917 this relic was placed near the log cabin in Turner Hall park, where it now stands.

Among the river steamers frequently seen at New Ulm's landing, in the days when river navigation was of primary importance to the town, were the Frank Steele, Jeanette Roberts, Freighter, Wave, Belfast, Time and Tide, Isack Shelby, Favorite, Albany, Fanny Harris, City Belle, Sheridan, Otter, Ariel, Tiber, Chippewa Falls, St. Anthony Falls, Pioneer, Mankato, Dexter, Hudson, Osceola, Gopher, Ida Fulton, Wyman X, West Newton, Tiger and Clarion.

Overland Transportation

New Ulm never had a stage coach era save for a few years beginning with 1870, when such a service was maintained between the Brown County metropolis and St. Peter. On February 20, 1872, the first railroad entered the village. This was the Winona & St. Peter line, now of the Chicago & Northwestern. The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad was completed from Winthrop to New Ulm in 1896, and extended southward to Storm Lake, Iowa, in 1899.

New Ulm is distant about 95 miles from the Twin Cities, and about 400 from Chicago. It is the principal shipping point on the C. & N. W. in the state of Minnesota, lying on the main line between Chicago and the Black Hills

Paving

New Ulm's first five blocks of paving went down in 1914. It was of creosote blocks, and was laid between Second South and Third North streets, on Minnesota Street. New Ulm now has 104 blocks of pavement, 187 blocks of black top and 39 blocks of improved grading. The city also has 296 blocks of unpaved streets which are open to travel and in good condition.

Population Statistics

The following tabulation of census figures measure New Ulm's growth in population, from 1857 to the present time:

1857.....356	1870.....1,310	1890.....3,741	1920.....6,745
1860.....635	1875.....2,178	1900.....5,403	1930.....7,308
1865.....920	1880.....2,470	1910.....5,648	1940.....8,640

Then figures up to 1865 include the entire district known at first as the "Second Election Precinct," and subsequently as the organized "Township of New Ulm." In 1870, with the creation of the "Borough of New Ulm," the township passed out of existence. Therefore, the figures for 1870-1940, inclusive, represent the territory embraced in what is now known as the "City of New Ulm."

Ferries

Ferries were a necessity to the pioneer residents of the New Ulm community. As early as February 23, 1856, Andrew J. Myrick inaugurated a service across the Minnesota River At Redstone, at or near the mouth of the Cottonwood. Maximum rates under his license were 10 cents for each foot passenger, 15 cents for a riderless horse or mule, 30 cents for each double horse, mule or ox team, with or without load, 25 cents for each one-horse carriage, with 10 cents extra for each extra draft animal in a team or alone, 3 cents for each hog or sheep; merchandise, not with team, was charged for at the rate of 10 cents per barrel, 50 cents per thousand feet of lumber, and 3 cents per hundredweight for other articles.

May 12, 1857, licenses were granted to the German Land Association to operate two ferries---one at New Ulm and the other at the point "where the Mankato and Fort Ridgely road shall cross said (Minnesota) river."

Oliver Martell and Louis Henry operated a ferry across the Minnesota River at the Lower Sioux Agency at a point where the Fort Ridgely road crossed the river at the Agency.

In 1859 Alois Palmer was licensed to put in a ferry near Milford settlement, at a point then known as Palmer's Landing, on the Minnesota.

In 1872 the ferry was still considered a necessity, for in that year a license was granted to Charles H. Nixon, the term to run to July, 1877, and maximum charges to be: double team, 25 cents; single team, 15 cents; horse and rider, 10 cents; footmen, 5 cents; stock, per head, 5 cents, but if more than five head at a time, 1 cent each, except hogs, which were always to be 5 cents each.

New Ulm Postmasters (List furnished by U. S. Post Office Department)

Anton Kaus.....	June 20, 1856(Est)	J. H. Weddendorf	March 4, 1898
C. G. Kochne.....	July 28, 1857	Lewis B. Krook.....	April 5, 1902
Frederick Rehfeld...	April 10, 1858	S. D. Peterson.....	Feb. 27, 1907
Frederick Forster...	March 29, 1861	Philip Liesch.....	March 2, 1911
Joseph Bobleter....	May 20, 1873	Frederick Pfaender...	March 3, 1915
Francis Baasen.....	January 13, 1886	Lewis B. Krook.....	Jan. 9, 1924
Gottlieb Schmidt...	March 20, 1890	Fred Pfaender(Acting).....	Jan. 1, 1934
William Brust.....	March 15, 1894	Elmer Backer.....	Jan. 23, 1938

Local sources of information name William Pfaender as the second New Ulm postmaster; but the official United States Post Office Department records disprove this. Pfaender probably acted in that capacity by private arrangement with Kaus, the latter being really in authority and solely responsible to the government. This term of unofficial deputyship began in the fall of 1856, and

may have continued through until July 28, 1857, when C. G. Kochne was officially appointed.

Prior to 1862 the post office was always located in the private homes of the postmasters. From 1862 to 1873, the Forster Building on North Broadway was used, and from 1873 to 1910 the Bobleter Building on North Minnesota Street. In 1910 the new federal building was erected at Center and Broadway.

The New Ulm Post Office became a city delivery station June 1, 1903. It ranks as a first class post office.

Churches---Bethel Evangelical

This congregation dates back to 1857, when Rev. August Huelster came from St. Paul to preach to the settlers. Over almost impassable roads and trails he penetrated the heavy woods as far as the Cottonwood River. Near Searles he was welcomed by the family of C. Lauer. Mrs. Lauer had joined the Evangelical Church in Wisconsin. Here he preached the first Evangelical sermon to be heard in this region. He then pressed on six miles farther, into what afterward became Sigel Township, and preached at the house of Nicholas Sahli.

In 1858 this pioneer preacher was joined by Rev. John H. Schmitt and the two preached to small groups in the neighboring counties. In October of that year, Huelster came to New Ulm.

In 1859, the Wisconsin Conference established the New Ulm Mission of the Evangelical Church, with Rev. J. H. Schmitt as the missionary. The country was sparsely settled and the missions widely separated. Schmitt held meetings at Courtland, New Auburn, Rush River, and Hutchinson. In 1860 Rev. C. Brill joined him as assistant.

In the spring of 1861, Rev. Conrad Lahr was assigned to New Ulm, with Rev. August Nierens as assistant, and in 1862, Christian L. Seder and E. H. Baumann were added to the group of missionaries in this field. Seder and Nierens were both killed in the Indian massacre.

In 1863 New Ulm was made a part of Le Sueur Mission, then, for five years, it was attached to Mankato. During this period its pastors were J. H. Schmitt, F. Emde, and H. E. Linse. In 1868 the separate New Ulm unit was reestablished.

It was nearly half a century after Rev. August Huelster first came to preach in the wilderness before this congregation succeeded in building a church. In August, 1905, the cornerstone was laid at the corner of Washington and First North Streets, and the building was completed in time for dedication in November. The pastors since 1904, in the order of their appointments, have been H. Isker, Messrs Bollenhach and Muehlgausen, C. C. Roesti, F. W. Tesch, R. C. Mittelstedt, C. F. Mayer, H. F. Schlaak, W. A. Juedes, R. M. Mueller, Karl Meckel, H. C. Schmidt, C. A. Tesch, C. F. Kachel, D. C. Hauk, C. G. Roesti.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

In 1862 the first Lutherans came to New Ulm, but until 1865 the group was very small. On July 30 of that year, however, at the home of Friederich Boock, a congregation came into being and adopted the name Evangelical Reformed St. Paul's Church. It was decided to erect a church building of brick

on the corner of State and Second North streets, where the present Lutheran parochial school stands. This building, 26 feet by 42 feet, was completed, and dedicated on June 17, 1886, going into service at once as a place of worship and, temporarily, as a school. In October, 1866, Candidate Popp, later to be ordained, was called upon to take charge of the congregation. He remained until June 1867, when Rev. August Kenter was called. Kenter served as pastor until September, 1869 and was succeeded by Rev. Gustav Reim. Reim remained twelve years, and upon his death in May, 1882, Rev. C. J. Albrecht was called, taking up the duties in August of that year. This church did not join the synod until 1869.

The cyclone of 1881 partially wrecked the building, and a new one was erected, and dedicated Oct. 22, 1882. This church boasted a tower clock, made possible through the efforts of William Ruenke, Sr. The structure was enlarged in 1899 by the addition of a cruciform transept 40 by 68 feet in size. Rev. C. J. Albrecht died in 1924 and was succeeded by Rev. Gerhard Hinnenthal, the present pastor. In September, 1939, Rev. LeRoy Ristow was appointed assistant pastor.

First Methodist Episcopal Church

In 1858 the Upper Iowa Conference sent Rev. H. Singenstrue to the New Ulm locality to preach to the German settlers. He was a German Methodist minister, and he preached in the Fenske home, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of town. Singenstrue organized the first Methodist society in May, 1858. He also started a mission in Lafayette Township, Nicollet County, organizing a society at the home of Henry Little. This enthusiastic pioneer minister secured the Hiller home as a meeting house, and remained as pastor until 1860.

The next itinerant missionary was Rev. Henry Schnitker, who served the several societies from 1860 to 1862. He was instrumental in the building of the first church, which was dedicated in 1860. It was located on Third North Street, and was burned by the Indians in 1862. Schnitker left at the time of the uprising, Rev. John Haas taking over the work for a few months, when he, too, left. Rev. Charles Thalenhorst then came in and remained until 1864. Singenstrue then returned and served until 1867, during which time, in 1866, a new brick church was erected, on the site of the one that had burned.

Rev. John G. Bauer was pastor from 1867 to 1870, with Rev. G. Dosdall as his assistant during a part of this time. The two ministers covered a large area, travelling as far as Beaver Falls, Birch Coulee, Morton, Sleepy Eye, Springfield, Fairfax, and other points.

The changes served by these two missionaries were organized into separate stations, or served from different points, after 1870, when Rev. Frederick Unland became local pastor. Unland preached at New Ulm, Lafayette, West Newton, and Cairo (now called Mud Lake). He was succeeded by Rev. John M. Nippolt, who stayed from 1873 to 1876. From 1876 to 1879 Rev. A. Biebighauser was in charge and from 1879 to 1882 the Lafayette and New Ulm charges were again connected with Christoph Jan as pastor of the two.

July 15, 1881, the New Ulm Methodist Church was destroyed by a cyclone, and under the ministry of Rev. C. E. Hiller, a new one was built the following year. This rose on the State Street site of the former building, and Hiller served here from 1882 to 1885. Hiller was followed by the following pastors in the order named: F. J. Preine, Henry Schnitker, W. E. Baumgarten, A. F. W.

Krienke, and George Fritz. The latter died in March, 1902. From November, 1901 to June, 1902, District Superintendent John Hauck and neighboring pastors supplied this church. Beginning in June, 1902, Rev. Christian Hohn, took up the work, and he was followed in October, 1903, by Rev. C. H. Sauter, who remained as pastor until 1912. At this time Christian Hohn came back, and served until 1926, being succeeded by J. W. Mettem, H. F. Ackerman, C. W. Gilman, S. L. Richards, and W. E. Mahle, in the order named. Mahle is the present pastor.

First Congregational Church

At the behest of the Home Missionary Society, Rev. George E. Albrecht of Oberlin, Ohio, came to New Ulm in 1881 to spend his summer vacation in an endeavor to awaken interest in an English-language church. His first efforts were to be directed toward establishing a Sunday school. Albrecht was of the Congregational faith, but the German Methodist congregation permitted him to use their church in carrying on his work. When the cyclone destroyed that building, both congregations were granted the use of the court room in the county building, at the corner of State and Center Streets. Sometimes the newly organized Sunday school was held in the law offices of George Kuhlman, above the Brown County Bank.

Albrecht returned to Ohio in September, and the following April Rev. C. F. Mowry and his wife came up from that state to carry on the work. Mrs. Mowry devoted herself assiduously to the raising of funds for the erection of a church, with the result that the following year saw a small church completed. That edifice, with the addition built in 1892, serves the congregation at the present time. The death of Rev. Mowry occurred in 1887. His successors were L. B. Nobis, F. L. Von Meske, J. P. Campbell, H. W. Johnson, S. G. Updyke, Daniel O. Bean, E. F. Wheeler, C. H. Yettru, J. W. Walker, and Chauncey E. Blossom, the present pastor.

In 1898 the congregation of this church entertained the Christian Endeavor state convention, with its more than 500 delegates and friends, and in 1907 it acted as host to the annual conference of the Congregational churches of the state.

Holy Trinity Church

The first Roman Catholic missionary to Brown County was Father Valentine Sommereisen. He conducted services at the home of Ferdinand Kalb, in Cottonwood, as early as 1857. In 1859, a little log church was built in that township and dedicated as St. Joseph's Church. Father Sommereisen visited New Ulm several times a year, and conducted that town's first Roman Catholic service in the home of Paul Hitz. In 1866 a mission was held in the county by the Franciscan monk, Zwinge. It is said that Rev. Francis Xavier Weininger, S. F., a missionary, conducted a catholic service on the Anton Kaus (now Pfaender) farm, north of New Ulm, in the fall of 1856.

In 1858 a group of Roman Catholics decided to build a church in the north end of town. The structure was to be frame, the lumber to be sawed on the river bank from logs floated down from the timber above. The Indian outbreak in 1862 found this little church unfinished, and when the redskins took refuge behind it during their attack on New Ulm, the defenders set fire to it and burned it to the ground. The government later reimbursed the parish to the

extent of \$325, but it was March, 1865, before a second attempt was made to build a church. At that time the treasurer of the church organization, Michael Lauterbach, had donations in hand totalling \$1,398.83.

The second church was completed in 1870 and dedicated on September 11 in that year by Bishop Thomas L. Grace, of St. Paul. In 1869 Rev. Alexander Berghold was assigned to the local pastorate and celebrated his first mass on January 10 of that year in a building owned by Baptist Karl, the church being unfinished at the time.

"The Holy Trinity Church of New Ulm" was incorporated on January 24, 1877, but another set of articles was filed on September 8, 1881, changing the name to "The Church of the Holy Trinity, of New Ulm." In that year an addition to the church was built, two stories high and of brick veneer. The first story was used for church purposes, while the second floor was fitted up as a parochial school.

The present church of this parish was commenced in 1889, but was not finished until 1893, dedicatory ceremonies being conducted on July 20 by Bishop Cotter.

Rev. Alexander Berghold had left New Ulm on December 7, 1890, and had been succeeded by Rev. Aloysius Plut on January 3 of the following year. In September, 1892, Plut left and Rev. John A. Schroeder came to serve the still unfinished, but usable, church. On account of failing health, Schroeder retired in 1898. Rev. H. B. Sandmeyer assuming the pastorate. He had been assistant to Berghold for a number of years, and was well known in the parish. He served until January, 1910, after which Rev. Joseph A. Heinz had temporary charge for seven months, at the end of which period Rev. Robert Schlinkert arrived. Schlinkert began work August 4, 1910 and remained in charge of Holy Trinity parish until his death in 1925. Rev. Andrew J. Rink took up the work at that time and remained until 1928, since which time Rev. Henry J. Scherer has served the parish.

First Presbyterian Church.

In 1872 a Presbyterian church society was formed and started building a small church on Minnesota Street, just south of Center Street. A certificate of incorporation filed with the Register of Deeds on July 3 reveals the interesting fact that the official organization of the congregation was accomplished in the Lutheran Church on June 12.

A week later a violent windstorm swept the city and left the unfinished church building a mass of ruins. This misfortune dashed the hopes and spirit of the little band of Presbyterians. Although for a time services continued to be held, in a room over the Peterson implement store, interest finally waned and the organization passed out of existence.

Frieden's Evangelical Church

This congregation was organized in September, 1890, and the first church council was elected and installed the following month. Rev. Karl Lange, a circuit rider, has been visiting New Ulm at irregular intervals, but now the regular services of Rev. Karl Zeyher were secured. He had conducted his first services in the old public school building in German Park on September 13, 1890, a week before the organization of the church group. The congregation incorporated

in April, 1891, and a church was erected the same year. This building was dedicated in October, 1891, and during the same month Rev. Karl Zeyher resigned the pastorate. From that time until July, 1892, there was no regular pastor, Rev. G. M. Eyrich, of Le Sueur, conducting services at stated intervals. In March, 1892, a parsonage was purchased, and on July 5 a call was extended to Rev. E. Seeger of Kansas City, Missouri. In 1893 the local church became self-supporting, and declared itself no longer a mission unit. Two years later its indebtedness was completely liquidated.

From October, 1896 to December, 1901, Rev. G. M. Eyrich was in charge of the Frieden's Evangelical congregation; then Rev. H. C. Dallmann became pastor and remained until illness compelled his resignation in December, 1905. His successor was Rev. George Mayer, who arrived in New Ulm the month Dallmann resigned. Mayer resigned in April, 1921, and in June of that year Rev. Emil Sans took over the work. Sans served until his death, August 18, 1926, when the present pastor, Rev. Fred R. Iseli was called. The Frieden's Church is a brick-veneer structure.

In 1907, Rev. George Mayer organized the Essig Church, which is still being served by the New Ulm pastor.

St. Peter's Episcopal Mission

The first New Ulm Episcopal service of which there is any record was conducted in the dining room of a hotel, by Bishop H. B. Whipple on December 4, 1861. The Bishop's diary records another service conducted by him, probably the second one of the Episcopal faith, on Sunday, August 3, 1873. Rev. Edward Livermore, of St. Peter, reports services in April, May and August, 1873, and the same months in 1874. There followed more than two decades of inactivity, until on June 30, 1895, Rev. G. C. Tanner, of Faribault, celebrated holy communion there. On August 11, 1895, Rev. H. Beer, of Redwood Falls, preached in the old court house, and Bishop Gilbert visited the mission annually in 1896, 1897, 1898, and 1899. On December 16, 1895, Rev. Delbert F. Thompson, of St. Peter, began holding services in New Ulm, but the number of his visits is uncertain. He closed his St. Peter pastorate September 13, 1896.

The mission was organized December 30, 1903, with Bishop S. D. Edsall as rector and Amherst W. Bingham as warden. Rev. Isaac Holgate, of Minneapolis, officiated for the bishop for the first four Sundays of Edsall's tenure. Rev. H. A. Chouinard officiated during 1903 and 1904 until Elmer N. Schmuck, then a student at Seabury Divinity School, took charge and held lay services, beginning on August 7 of the latter year. Schmuck was ordained on June 3, 1905, after which he took charge of the mission under the direction of Bishop Edsall as rector.

The church on the corner of Broadway and Second South Streets was completed in 1905. It is a modest but substantial building of red brick. The first services there were held December 25, 1905 by Rev. J. J. Hillmer and Rev. E. N. Schmuck. Schmuck resigned November 4, 1906, and from that date until 1919 students from Seabury Divinity School were in charge.

Late in 1919 the members of the congregation declared the mission to be self-supporting, and in November Rev. Charles W. Baxter was called as resident priest. He assumed charge on January 1, 1920, but resigned the following year. Baxter was followed by Rev. C. B. Whitehead, Earl T. Kneebone (student pastor), Rev. Leland Stark, and Captain Tom Moss, in the order named.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

The Church of St. Mary was incorporated September 26, 1911. For some time nothing further was done toward establishing a church, then four lots were purchased on Minnesota Street, between Fifth and Sixth South Streets. Later this property was expanded by the acquisition of an adjoining lot-and-a-half, making a total frontage on Minnesota Street of 275 feet. These holdings were again increased by the purchase of the old Schreyer residence at Minnesota and Fifth South streets, and the final site comprised an entire half-block on Minnesota Street.

On September 1, 1921, nearly ten years after the incorporation of the parish, Rev. Anthony J. Losleben was transferred from Norwood to New Ulm as the first pastor of St. Mary's Church. The parish contained at that time about 300 families, with a total of 1,300 souls. Beginning November 6, 1921, and continuing until their own church was completed, these communicants used the basement of Holy Trinity Church for its services. Holy Trinity was the mother parish from which the new one had sprung.

The Schreyer house was remodeled to serve as a parish house, and Losleben moved into it September 1, 1922.

The new church was formally dedicated in July, 1923, about six months after its completion. It is an imposing structure, designed in the form of a Roman cross, with outside dimensions of 134 by 137 feet, and two stories in height.

In 1930 Archbishop Dowling assigned Rev. William Neudecker as assistant to Losleben, whose health had begun to fail, presaging his death, which occurred on September 22, 1930. Neudecker then took full charge and conducted the affairs of the parish until August 30, 1931, when Rev. John J. Goergen was assigned to New Ulm as resident pastor. In October Rev. John F. Stolz arrived to take up the duties of assistant pastor. The latter was succeeded in December, 1935, by the present assistant, Rev. Anthony M. Louis.

Hospitals---St. Alexander

The devastating tornado which visited New Ulm July 15, 1881, killed about a dozen persons and injured many more. Thus the people were harshly apprised of the urgent need of a hospital. Rev. Alexander Berghold, a pioneer Catholic priest of New Ulm, decided to do something about it. A large citizens' committee had already been working on the problem without any tangible results, but Berghold was not to be deterred by their failure.

Many homes and other suitable buildings where the injured might have been housed and cared for were leveled by the cyclone, and proper medical and surgical attention were almost out of the question. Father Berghold prevailed upon the Sisters of Christian Charity to open one of the buildings connected with their institution as an emergency hospital.

On July 31, 1883 Berghold issued an appeal for funds in a local newspaper, appending a list of contributors whom he had already solicited personally. The donations of these included a house and lot and \$443 in cash. By August 7, the campaign had progressed with such promise that Berghold published a call for bids for the erection of the proposed hospital. October 19, the same year, another notice informed the public that the new institution, to be known as St. Alexander Hospital, would be ready to accept patients on November 1.

That original building, which now houses St. Alexander Home for the Aged, was 36 by 36 feet in size, two stories and a basement located under the bluff overlooking the city from the west.

In 1884 the hospital passed into the hands of the Order of the Poor Handmaids of Jeasus Christ and steps were at once taken to incorporate the institution and place it on a sound financial basis. An addition to the building was built in 1897 at a cost of \$16,000.

In November 1911 plans were made for the erection of a modern, up-to-date hospital, costing about \$40,000, razing some of the original buildings to make room for it on the same site. It was decided also to change the name of the institution to the Loretto Hospital, reserving the old name for the Home for the Aged. The new building was ready for occupancy in May, 1913. This is the present hospital building, three stories high, with basement, and connected directly with the St. Alexander Home for the Aged. The property now has a value of several hundred thousand dollars.

In charge of this institution since its inception, have been Sisters Superior Centolla, Ermalinda, Stanislaus, Raingardis, Flavia, Germana, Adolphina, Casilda, and Lucia, serving in the order named.

A feature of the hospital grounds is the "Way of the Cross" on the northwest side of the buildings. This is a stair leading upward to the "Grotto of Lourdes," on the summit of the bluff, where also stands the chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows.

The Union Hospital

In 1911 an association was organized and incorporated under the name of "Bethesda Hospital Association of New Ulm," later changed to "Union Hospital Association." It was capitalized at \$75,000, with shares selling at \$10 each. By the summer of 1913 subscriptions permitted the building committee to purchase a block on South Broadway and start construction. In December 1914 the new Union Hospital was dedicated. It was a three-story brick building with a full basement, and measured 44 by 96 feet, with a 42 x 70 foot annex. The annex was connected with the main upright by a two-story hall, 30 feet long. In 1927 a three-story addition was made, and in 1938 still another wing, one story in height, was built. The Union Hospital has a normal capacity of 40 beds.

School---Public

The first school building in New Ulm was a little log structure on the site of the present Lincoln School, on North Minnesota Street. It was erected by the German Land Association sometime prior to March, 1857---be-

fore any school district has been established in Brown County. The Land Association took full charge, hiring the teachers, appointing the school board, and attending to the school maintenance.

This first institution of learning was equipped with rough wooden benches, and, if the teacher had a desk at all, it was doubtless of the homemade variety. Wintry blasts tore around the building and whistled through the cracks. It was difficult to keep warm in the far corners of the single room, and almost unbearably hot near the stove.

When Brown County's first four school districts were created, in July, 1857, the organized town of New Ulm constituted one of them. The town was then only a few months old, and in no position to finance a school building, but the German Land Association had already assumed that burden, as above stated. In September, 1859, the Association having voted to dissolve, its officers executed a deed conveying as a gift to the new school district, the little log school house, together with the lot on which it stood, and 23 other lots scattered about the city. Two of these afterward became the site of the present Lincoln School, and on two others the Washington School now stands. During the eighties Peter Scherer, as the only surviving officer of the German Land Association, desired to turn over to New Ulm independent school district a large number of lots to which the Association still held title. This generous act was accomplished through petitioning the district court, and as a result the New Ulm school district still has considerable property in the city which is available for future use.

The first teacher in New Ulm was August Westphal. The following year, Friederich Forster was added to the staff. At that time there were two classes, containing 12 and 23 pupils respectively, though the census shows that there were 105 children of school age in the community. Westphal resigned in 1859, and for a time Forster was in sole charge. He in turn left in 1861. In 1859 a third class was started in the old Turner Hall, but whether or not it was under the instruction of Forster the records do not state.

During the Sioux uprising both the schoolhouse and Turner Hall were destroyed by fire and for a time educational facilities were very limited. Some classes were held in private dwellings---for example, one on South Minnesota Street opposite the present Congregational Church, and another where the Wicherski shoe store is now located.

On October 8, 1865, school opened in a new building with a capacity of 200 pupils. This had been erected during the summer in North German Park, near the intersection of German and First North Streets, and was to be the only public school structure in New Ulm until 1872.

An overall factory occupied this building after it was abandoned as a school, and it was finally razed in the beautification program.

The Year 1872 saw the completion of both North and South primary schools. The former was built on the site of the little log schoolhouse (the present Lincoln School site), and the latter where Washington School now stands. This was the year in which the city was first created an independent school district, designated District Number 1. Due to a technicality, however, it was necessary to re-approve the creating act in 1878.

In 1874 a group of Turners founded the New Ulm Academy Association to provide educational advantages beyond those offered in the public schools. Classes were held in Turner Hall only a few months before the school district took over the academy, and this institution became the nucleus of the public high school.

Robert Nix was the first superintendent of schools, appointed in 1883, and the next year the Union Building was erected on the public square north of the Court House. This school building remained in service until 1913, when it was replaced by the present high school.

By 1892 the Union Building and both primary schools had become over-crowded and to ease the situation the Franklin School (then called East Primary school) was built, near the Northwestern Depot. This school is in use at the present time.

In 1900 the Emerson school was erected on the public square, block 106, at a cost of about \$20,000, furnishing four grade-school rooms on the ground floor and a high school above. No bonds were necessary for this improvement as the treasury contained sufficient funds to defray all expenses.

No further building operations were undertaken until 1907, when a school-house was started on the site of the old primary building on South Minnesota Street (the site of the present Washington School). When this was completed it accommodated 160 pupils. The old primary building on North Minnesota Street was kept in service until razed in 1913 to make room for the present Lincoln School. This was ready for occupancy early in March, 1914, and several grades were moved into it from the Union Building preparatory to razing the latter and starting construction on a new high school on its site. The Methodist Church and the Lutheran School took care of the remainder of the old Union Building enrollment, so that work on the new high school was begun at once. This building was occupied after the holiday vacation in January, 1915.

Crowded conditions again prevailed in the city schools by 1936, and in 1937 bonds for \$100,000 were issued to finance the building of two additions to the high school. This amount was found to be insufficient and an additional \$50,000 bond issue was authorized in 1939.

Succeeding Robert Nix, the New Ulm school superintendents from 1883 to and including 1939, have been E. T. Critchett, H. C. Hess, Arnold Gloor, F. B. Andreen Ernest M. Hanson, Harold C. Bauer, and W.A. Andrews.

Holy Trinity School (Catholic)

The first Catholic parochial school building was erected in 1871-1872 and was used as a combined convent and school. The veteran priest Alexander Berghold was instrumental in its establishment, assuming the entire financial responsibility for the enterprise. The school was opened in 1872, when the catholic population of the vicinity could muster but 18 children to attend classes.

On May 12, 1874, eight Sisters of Christian Charity arrived in New Ulm to establish St. Michael's Convent, and to take charge of the instruction of the youth of Holy Trinity parish. Children came to the school from miles around, in ever increasing numbers, there being no other institution of its kind in that

section of the state. Board and lodging for non-residents were supplied in the spacious convent building. A separate building for school purposes was erected in 1881. It was destroyed by the cyclone on July 15 of that year, but was later rebuilt.

For some ten years two classes of instruction comprised the entire curriculum of this first parochial school, but in 1883 another was added. There were 180 pupils at that time. In 1888 a fourth class was established, and by 1894 attendance had grown to about 300. A class in christian doctrine was opened in 1898. In 1903 the number of classes was increased to eight.

The present parochial school, located on the site of the one from which it was developed, was dedicated October 22, 1905, a modern building representing an investment of more than \$50,000.

The present Catholic high school was opened in 1919.

Dr. Martin Luther College

This institution had its inception in the mind of Rev. C. J. Albrecht, pioneer pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Ulm, and its first unit, the present Service Building, was thrown open to students of 1884. The principal department dealt with theology, but a six-year college course was inaugurated which led to a Bachelor of Arts degree. In response to popular demand an academic course was included in the curriculum, designed for the training of students for a business career. In recognition of his services as its founder, Rev. C. J. Albrecht was chosen first president of the college. In addition to discharging his duties as pastor, this energetic minister served on the faculty for a period of nine years.

In 1893 Dr. Martin Luther College, together with Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Theological Seminary, now located at Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Northwestern University, at Watertown, Wisconsin, were placed under the control of the General Synod. The New Ulm institution at that time became a normal school for the training of Lutheran parochial school teachers for the joint synod. The college course was retained in part so that young men from Minnesota and nearby states could begin their classical education near home and finish later in some college offering a complete course.

In 1896 the General Synod decided to accept students for the normal course, and in 1898 the first girl was graduated from that department.

At present Dr. Martin Luther College offers a thorough four-year high school course, designed to fit students for a business career, to prepare them for entrance into the normal department, or to qualify them for matriculation at Northwestern University, Watertown, Wisconsin. The school stands on the high wooded bluff overlooking the city of New Ulm from the southwest, and commands a magnificent view of the city and its surroundings. The original building is still in service, and now shares the campus with Music Hall, Boys' Dormitory and Hillcrest Hall (the girls' dormitory). There is a modern recitation building, 150 by 200 feet, with thirteen class rooms; a fine auditorium and gymnasium, and an adequate library.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran School

This school had its beginning in an old church building which stood on the present site. Classes were organized there in 1885 and some 75 children were enrolled almost at once. At first all instruction was of necessity conducted in the German language, but in 1886 was introduced into the classroom

work. In the fall of the latter year a small frame building, 20 by 40 feet, was erected on Second North Street, near the alley where the annex of the present church stands, but one of the two classes under instruction remained in the old church.

The St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran congregation razed the old brick buildings that had served as schoolroom, confirmation room, parsonage, and teachers' living quarters, in 1899, and the following year erected on the site a fine brick schoolhouse. This building is 40 by 70 feet in size and contains four large, well-lighted classrooms. An addition 50 by 80 feet in dimensions was added, and the original building remodeled, in 1921. In 1940 this schoolhouse was completely remodeled and redecorated, rendering it modern in every respect.

St. Mary's School (Catholic)

This school was built in 1923, in combination with the church. One portion of the structure is partitioned into eight schoolrooms, which are occupied by the grammar grades. The rear of the basement is used for both school and auditorium purposes. Instruction is in charge of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

St. Mary's Convent was built in 1923 at a cost of about \$28,000. It is a brick structure, thoroughly modern, and similar in architecture to the combined church and school building. This convent houses the boys' and the girls' dormitories.

Monuments and Markers--The Leavenworth Expedition Marker.

This marker was erected by the Junior Pioneers to commemorate the ill-fated Leavenworth expedition, August 19, 1862, in which eleven men lost their lives, at the hands of the Sioux. It is a large boulder placed on Fifth North Street, near Loretto Hospital, and inscribed with the names of the murdered citizens in whose honor it was erected. See page ____ of the text, and page ____ of the appendix, "The Leavenworth Expedition."

The Milford Monument

In answer to an appeal by the Junior Pioneers, the legislature of 1929 made an appropriation of \$2,500 to provide this substantial memorial to the men, women, and children who were massacred in the Milford vicinity in 1862. It stands eight miles northwest of New Ulm, and bears the names of the victims of the Indians' raid in that community. It centers a small, well-kept park. See text, page ____.

Marker at Henle's Creek

About half a mile east of Milford Monument may be seen a concrete marker bearing a descriptive bronze tablet commemorative of the ambush murder of four members of a recruiting party on August 18, 1862. The men had left New Ulm early in the morning to solicit enlistments in the Union Army, and were attacked by the Sioux as they were crossing Henle's Creek. The Junior Pioneer supplied and placed this marker. See text, page ____.

The Defenders' Monument.

This memorial was erected by the State of Minnesota at a cost of \$3,000. It stands on the boulevard between the Court House and the High School square, and honors all the defenders of New Ulm in the two attacks of 1862. These pioneers are to be credited with checking the Sioux in time to forestall an invasion into the heart of the state.

The Defender's Monument is of white bronze, and stands about 25 feet high. The plinths on two sides bear battle scenes in bas relief, while on the other two appear suitable inscriptions and a roster of those killed during the siege of the town. One side of the shaft is adorned by a life-size medallion of Col. Charles E. Flandrau. An elaborate dedication ceremony was held August 22, 1891.

The Erd Building Marker

The Erd Building's roof was utilized as a watchtower during the Sioux attack in 1862, affording an extensive view of the surrounding country. Also all the women and children were gathered there when the outcome of the attack became dubious, and a barrel of gunpowder, with fuse attached, was placed in readiness to provide assurance that they would never fall into the Indians' hands alive. Brave women waited, grimly resolved to apply the match if it appeared that they and their children were about to be captured.

This building still stands, on North Minnesota Street, and a tablet on its facade relates the substance of the above paragraph.

The Forster Building Marker

This building, on North Broadway, bears a tablet conveying the information that it served as an outpost during the Sioux uprising. The marker was placed through the efforts of the Junior Pioneers.

Indian Massacre Monument

This white marble memorial, about seven feet in height, and appropriately inscribed, was erected in New Ulm City Cemetery in 1866 by the county of Brown. It honors the victims of the Sioux, and also the Brown County soldiers who fell in the fight to preserve the Union. It was unveiled August 23, 1866.

Steamboat Landing Marker

This marker was erected by the John Noble Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. It stands in Riverside Park, which covers the site of an early-day steamboat landing. The marker is placed on a boulder taken from the foundation ruins of the warehouse from which, in 1874, was loaded the last cargo of grain shipped from New Ulm to St. Paul down the Minnesota river. It was erected and presented to the city in 1930.

Frank Steele Steamboat Landing Marker

This marker on Twentieth South Street was erected in 1912 by the Junior

Pioneers. It is attached to a granite boulder, the metal plate bearing the inscription:

"On May 7, 1857, the steamer Frank Steele landed with about sixty or seventy families of settlers from Cincinnati, at a place a quarter of a mile directly southeast of this point."

The Hermann Monument.

Monument Heights, at the southwest limit of the city is the setting for the Hermann Monument, erected by the Order of the Sons of Hermann in 1897 at a cost of about \$24,000. This huge structure, towering to a height of 116 feet, has a hewn stone base 42 feet square which houses a museum. The museum is topped by a circular platform from which rise eight 30-foot iron pillars, supporting a great copper-sheeted cupola. Here, surrounded by a circular railing, stands the heroic statue of Hermann, holding his giant broadsword aloft. The metal figure is over 35 feet high and stands on a pedestal of elaborate architecture. It is claimed that in the United States the Statue of Liberty is the only bronze figure that exceeds this statue of Hermann in size.

This monument and the four-acre tract surrounding it were donated to the city of New Ulm by the local Sons of Hermann when they dissolved their lodge and disbanded.

Anniversaries--Sioux Uprising

In 1866, four years after the Indian uprising, a memorial was held in honor of the victims of the massacre and of the men who died in service in the Civil War. A fitting monument was unveiled in New Ulm on that occasion. See page 44, Appendix, "Indian Massacre Monuments."

The fifth anniversary of the massacre was observed in 1867, and in August, 1885, at a reunion of the defenders of New Ulm, people came from all sections of the country. This observance was followed August 23, 1887, by the twenty-fifth anniversary, the largest to date. Beginning August 20, 1902, and continuing for three days, the fortieth anniversary was held, and fifteen Sioux Indians were induced to take part in this observance. The week beginning Monday, August 19, 1912, marked the opening of the semi-centennial of the tragic event, and the gatherings of that week eclipsed everything of the sort ever held in Brown County. Excursion trains and around 2,000 automobiles brought in many thousands of visitors from the Twin Cities and the surrounding country. The sixtieth anniversary was observed in 1922 in a five-day program during which more than 20,000 people crowded New Ulm's streets. The seventy-fifth anniversary brought a three-day celebration in 1937. It has been the practice to observe these anniversaries at five-year intervals.

The Diamond Jubilee

In 1929 New Ulm celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding. A Home-Coming was held in connection with the memorial and immense crowds taxed the city's hospitality every day during the week of the event. The Golden Jubilee had been celebrated on a much more modest scale in 1904.

Aside from the blackbird plague, which the early settlers met with poisoned bait, and the periodic grasshopper incursions which have nearly devastated the fields of Brown County several times, New Ulm has weathered many other misfortunes. The greatest of these, of course, was the border warfare of 1862 with its accompanying waste and destruction; but the elements also have exacted a frightful toll.

The blizzard of 1866 came at the end of an unusually mild and pleasant day. Without warning, the storm struck between 9 and 10 o'clock in the evening of Shrove Tuesday, February 13. With the very first blast, the wind was so violent that houses shook to the extent that inmates felt certain they would go to pieces. A blinding snowstorm accompanied the gale, and the weather became almost unendurably cold. The storm raged without cessation for three days and nights. At New Turner Hall a dance was in progress when it broke, and all but three of the crowd in attendance were compelled to remain until late the next day. Lambert Naegele and two companions ventured outside, and only succeeded in reaching Naegele's house, about a block away, after a dangerous struggle of a full hour. Those at the hall were compelled to form a human chain of sturdy men from the door to the woodpile in order to obtain fuel and avoid freezing to death.

On the unprotected prairie conditions were even worse, and at Fort Ridgely communication between the different buildings was impossible during the entire three days. Suffering among guards and others caught in unheated buildings was intense. In the stables the men dared not relax for a moment, but kept walking continuously to avoid succumbing to the cold. One man volunteered on the first morning to attempt to milk Captain Kellogg's cow, kept in a small stable just outside the fort square. He became lost at once, and floundered about in the snow until late afternoon. His comrades thought of firing one of the cannon so that its report could guide him, but the guns could not be reached in safety. An old musket was loaded with a mighty charge of powder, lashed to a post outside the door, and fired with a long string, to avoid casualties in case the barrel should burst. The lost soldier heard it and got his bearings, finally returning to drop at the threshold in utter exhaustion.

The storm subsided as suddenly as it had begun. During the afternoon of the third day the temperature rose again; and then the Fort Ridgely soldiers looked out upon a strange scene. Trees sixty feet in height were completely buried from sight. The deep ravines around the fort were filled level full with snow which was so hard-packed that teams could be driven in any direction over its crust.

Great loss of life was avoided during this furious blizzard only because it struck at night, when settlers and stock were under shelter. Less than a hundred people were living along the old trails between Fort Ridgely and Big Stone Lake at that time, and they retired early.

Another great blizzard struck the locality on Monday, January 7, 1873, and continued unabated until the following Thursday. Like its predecessor of 1866, this storm broke suddenly after a spell of exceptionally fine weather; but, unlike the other, it came in the middle of the afternoon, and it raged through a fairly well-settled territory. It lashed out over the entire southwestern part of Minnesota, and even stabbed into the Dakotas. This time, though the cold was not so severe, the toll in lives was much heavier.

Because of the fine weather, many people had driven into New Ulm from the surrounding country. At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon a black wall of clouds appeared approaching from the northwest. Ahead of it rose huge puffs of dust,

leaping up from the ground like smoke. In a few minutes the storm broke, the wind blowing with such fury, and the air so filled with dustlike snow that it was difficult to breathe and almost impossible to see. The rural visitors found it necessary to remain in town, and, in addition to homes, all available buildings were transformed into inns. Stores, stables, carpenter-and blacksmith-shops all were hurriedly converted into shelters for the farmers and their teams.

In the Mack school district, three miles west of town, school was in session when the storm broke. Mack's barn, in the nearby timber, sheltered the teacher and 27 pupils for the night, the parents being unable to get them until the following day.

Few farmers dared venture to the outbuildings to feed their stock without tying a clothesline to the door knob and attaching themselves to the free end, so that they could find their way back. Two, at least, who failed to do this, paid for the oversight with their lives.

Near Madelia, a horse being ridden by a farmer, found his way home in the blinding whirl of snow, with the rider frozen stiff in the saddle.

In Birch Coulee neighborhood, five men started for Willmar with five loads of wheat. All of the teams and four of the men perished on the way.

A settler who had been caught in the woods unhitched his oxen and grasped them by the tails, trusting to their instinct to lead him home. The strategy saved his life.

A woman, lost and wandering in the storm, fell unconscious outside the door of an occupied house. The house dog scented her and called his master's attention to the fact that something unusual was afoot just beyond the sill. The man opened the door inquiringly, saw the dying woman, and carried her inside where she was revived.

In New Ulm, railroad communication with the outside world was entirely suspended for three weeks. Two days after service was resumed, a second storm refilled the cuts and operations were again halted, this time until early March.

Out in the country the drifts were piled everywhere to the tops of the barns and haystacks. In many instances snow was driven into the stable to such an extent that the cattle actually were smothered to death. It was the common thing for farmers to cut through their barn roofs in order to effect an entrance.

The third great storm came on Friday, February 4, 1881. This blizzard came up at about 11 o'clock in the forenoon and raged steadily until late Sunday night. A fierce east wind filled the air with blinding snow, and drifts in town piled up to a height of eight and ten feet, blocking all traffic. Late Sunday night it began to rain and snow in alternate squalls, continuing thus until some time Monday, by which time the snow lay from three to four feet deep on the level prairie outside of town. All roads were for the time impassable, and railroad transportation came to a halt.

The most damaging effects of this storm, however, came with the opening of spring, in the latter part of April. The Cottonwood River rose as much as five feet on April 18, and finally reached its highest stage of 30 feet on April 23. The swollen stream raced through its narrow valley with a 15 mile current. The lower bridge was swept away and the one at the Alwin crossing was badly damaged. Several other bridges and barns were partially submerged and rendered unsafe, and some were swept away completely. At the Kuehnel home, across the river from New Ulm, the water reached the second story level, forcing the family to leave by boat. The Minnesota rose to 28 feet above low-water mark, standing at one time within a foot of the main floor of the Eagle Mill. Flood damages at this time ran into many thousands of dollars.

The great storm of March 9, 1892, started with a terrific wind which continued to rage throughout the following day. While the snowfall was comparatively light, it was driven with such force as to blind one, and at times the air was so filled as to obscure the buildings across the street. Editor Fred W. Johnson of the Review, in the issue of March 16, reports that "Signs creaked and were dashed to pieces before the mad swirl which enveloped the city, awnings were torn to tatters, window panes crashed, chimneys and windmills toppled over, and loose barrels and lumber scattered as if in a cyclone..... anything that the wind could catch hold of was torn from its resting place and smashed to pieces. The lumber in Peter Scherer's yard was rudely disturbed, and piled in a heap; the roof on Mrs. Simon's home near the Catholic Church was torn off; one corner of Baptist Carl's brick building on South Minnesota Street was blown away; the smoke stacks on the electric light plant and the Van Dusen elevator were likewise brought to the ground; and so also was the barn of John Siebert, and the windmill at the college. A car standing on the trestle near the Eagle Mill was picked up and dashed to pieces on the ground twenty feet below. The Eagle Mill was unroofed, and great damage was done to the new Catholic Church, Hornburg's store, all the city hotels, and many other buildings. The Vinegar Works was almost a complete wreck after its great brick smoke-stack was blown down and crashed through all three floors."

The Cyclone of 1881

At about four o'clock in the afternoon of July 15, 1881, New Ulm was stricken with a calamity second only to the massacre of 1862. The sun had been smiling down from a blue sky since morning, but at about three o'clock clouds appeared above the horizon. Rapidly these gathered into an ominous-looking column and began to move upon the town. The people were afraid, though not yet panicky, and young and old began to seek shelter from a storm which was to be a thousandfold more severe than they anticipated.

Soon the advancing storm reached the city, and within ten minutes after the first blast the industry and thrift of twenty years were set at naught. It was among the first, and worst, cyclones to visit that section of the country. Six people were killed outright, and 53 others injured; hundreds were subjected to great privation and distress; the money-loss ran into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Roofs, timbers and branches of trees flew through the air; whole houses were picked up and tossed about like snowflakes; heavy beams were ripped from buildings, hurled across streets and through solid brick walls; while large frame buildings were lifted from their foundations, twisted, and demolished as if made of straw. Brick blocks disintegrated and people were buried in the debris, and throughout the turmoil could be heard the continuous roar of thunder, the shrieks of women and children, and the crash of crumbling masonry.

As always, the twisting fierceness of the cyclone had many freakish results. At Hauenstein's Brewery, which was completely demolished, several twenty-four foot iron bars, weighing eighty pounds each, were lifted and carried to the top of a high hill where they were planted upright in the ground. Their lower ends were deeply embedded in the solid earth. Here, also, two barrels of pitch, weighing four hundred pounds apiece, were hurled high over the brewery and carried for a distance of one hundred yards; while three sacks of light wiping-waste, piled one on top of another at the side of the pitch, were not disturbed in the least. A threshing machine near the Eple residence was tossed into the second story of the house, then crashed through to the cellar. Several horses were seen to fly an entire block in the city, and one was carried up into a tree

where it hung until after the storm. Max Hartneck was sent on a flight clear over the brewery, and made a perfect landing without the slightest injury. William Pfaender was blown out of Waschcke's drugstore, took off at the doorway and soared several rods to alight in the street unhurt. Mrs. George Vogel was flipped from her demolished residence into a dance hall across the street without serious injury. She received a bump somehow which rendered her unconscious, but this must have happened when her house fell, as she came to in the dance hall and could not recall how she got there. A building on the bluff above the brewery was lifted and slammed down against the latter structure before it was in turn demolished. The occupants of this house, a couple with their two children became separated, which is not at all amazing, and in creeping about in search of her children, the mother was stripped of her clothing and her body completely covered with wounds. Both children were killed, and the body of one was found with its arm driven into the ground to its elbow. Some houses in this neighborhood were literally ground to nothingness, not even a trace being left to indicate their former location. A whole block of buildings where now stand Buenger's and Mrs. Follman's stores, was completely swept away.

Public buildings fared badly in this storm. The court house and Turner Hall were roughly handled, and the churches all suffered great damage. Accompanying the tornado was a torrential rain which continued all night, while almost every building stood, if it stood at all, without a roof.

But the people of the town set courageously to work, and soon order began to emerge from chaos. Through the charity of neighboring towns, and even distant cities, contributions came in rapidly. Provisions, clothing, building materials, and nearly \$45,000 in cash, were hurried to the relief of the sufferers. With this assistance the work of rebuilding was carried on with remarkable speed and the effects of the great storm soon disappeared. New and better buildings rose on the sites of the old ones, and the people of New Ulm again faced the future undismayed.

Fires

During its civic existence, New Ulm suffered its share of major fires. No less than seven flour mills have been destroyed by the flames, as have four grain elevators, a planing mill, two potteries, four hotels, a large warehouse, a brickyard, four business blocks and several residences. Another fire gutted a large garage, remodeled from the Opera House, and caused the death of one person.

The first fire, and perhaps the one which caused the greatest concern at the time, occurred in 1854. On February 15 of that year the block house, which was their only protection against the rigors of winter, burned to the ground. No neighbors were at hand to invite them in and offer aid and comfort, as in a settled community, and they were compelled to seek shelter in a group of abandoned Indian huts, built of bark, floorless, and without windows to let in the light, or fitted doors to exclude the cold blasts. Indeed, this was a calamity of magnitude, and one to be recalled by those pioneers whenever in later years a fire disaster occurred in the town they had built.

The Eagle Mill was totally destroyed by fire on May 12, 1860, with a resultant loss of \$17,000. Rehfeld and Beinhorn were the lessee at the time.

During the Sioux attack upon the town in 1862, many fires raged--some started by the Indians, others by the defenders themselves, for strategic purposes. August 22 saw some of the most valuable and substantial buildings of the town reduced to heaps of smoldering ashes. Among these were the Eagle and Globe

Mills, Roebbecke's windmill, the Waraju Distillery, Turner Hall, and a large number of stores and residences.

In 1870 Casey's new livery stable, barn, hay shed, the Dakota Hotel's wash-house, Frederick Beinhorn's stable and ice-house, Joseph Popp's stable, Fred Engel's blacksmith shop, and the residences of Peter Sen and Mrs. Nun all were burned in a conflagration which for a time threatened the entire business district.

On November 29, 1871, Stoeckert's Pottery went up in flames.

November 20, 1873, marks the date of the next fire of large proportions. On this occasion the buildings destroyed included John F. Neumann's general store, J. C. Toberer's jewelry store, Weigand Hauenstein's saloon, and M. Mullen's hardware and implement business. B. Schorning's saloon was partially razed in order to prevent further spreading of the flames; Company A lost all its military accoutrements and Charles Baltrusch, St. lost currency to the extent of nearly \$2,400. On December 12 in the same year the Globe Mill of Richard Fischer and Peter Scherer burned, as did the planing mill of the New Ulm Manufacturing Company on February 26, 1874.

April 9, 1875, a destructive fire destroyed the Hoeschler Building, seriously threatening the Merchants' Hotel, and, on July 5 following, the Union Hotel was consumed.

Koke's water-power flour mill on the Big Cottonwood River burned February 20, 1877; Winkelmann's Pottery and Brickyard, November 27, 1878; and Brust & Duevel's warehouse, February 5, 1879.

March 20, 1885, flames claimed the Merchants' Hotel, nearly lost in the fire of April 9, 1875, together with the Bergmann Building, housing P. Rotering's saloon, and the carpenter shop of Albert Held.

Joseph Flor's saloon and hotel burned November 9, 1894; the Commercial Hotel, February 24, 1896; and Charles Leonhardt's foundry, March 7 of the same year. July 7, 1897 marked the destruction by fire of Van Dusen's grain elevator, and that of Bingham Brothers met a like fate, June 29, 1906. The New Ulm Roller Mill Company suffered the total loss of its flour mill, two grain elevators, and office building March 19, 1910, and its cereal mill April 28, 1933.

The Kretsch Auto Company's garage, formerly the opera house, burned January 28, 1930, with the loss of one life, Otto Schneider, an employe. The shell of this building remained, but the flames had gutted it completely.

One of the most destructive fires New Ulm has experienced occurred January 24, 1936, when four business blocks were totally destroyed with a loss of over \$250,000.

The Leavenworth Expedition

The settlement of Leavenworth was situated on the Cottonwood River 18 miles above New Ulm, and the residents of that neighborhood received news of the Sioux outbreak on August 18, 1862, with no little alarm. One of them, however, William Carroll, was calm and unworried. He had lived long among the Indians of this section, knew the leaders personally, and had every confidence in their often-demonstrated friendship. He scoffed at the idea of an uprising, and to prove that there was no cause for concern and put his neighbors at ease he mounted a horse and started for New Ulm on reconnaissance, alone. Arriving at the town he was at once convinced of the terrible truth, and was for starting back posthaste to help prepare for the safety of his family, but the picket line surrounding New Ulm refused to let him through.

Nest morning, some of his relatives and some men from Milford, Sigel and Leavenworth organized a party to accompany him in an attempt to rescue those he had

left on the upper Cottonwood. The group, in addition to Carroll, consisted of Ralph Thomas, Almond D. Loomis, Philip Kirby, DeWitt Lemon, Robert Hinton, Thomas Ryan, William Tuttle, Uriah Loomis, Luther C. Ives, George Lamb, Jan Thompson, Samuel McAuliffe, Ole Oleson, Tory Olson, Nels Olson, and a man named Coan.

These 17 men left New Ulm at about sunrise on the morning of August 19. On the way to Leavenworth they saw many dead, and were able to assist many persons who had been wounded by the savages. On reaching their destination, however, they found the entire countryside abandoned. It developed that all the people of the Leavenworth community had succumbed to their doubts shortly after Carroll left, and had started in a body for New Ulm; thus they were fleeing down the south bank of the river while the rescue party was proceeding up the north bank to their assistance. They missed each other because of the heavy intervening timber, and Carroll and his friends reached his home settlement at about the same time that his wife, with the other refugees entered New Ulm, about noon, August 19.

The primary purpose of the rescue party having been frustrated, they decided to return to New Ulm, but not without making a reconnaissance of the immediate district. Dividing their force, part of the men turned back down the north bank, while the rest crossed over to the south side and proceeded down to the Tuttle place. They planned that the two groups should meet here and go back to New Ulm together.

During the first attack on New Ulm a heavy rainstorm broke over the town, and through the downpour Carroll and his friends were anxiously hurrying their return. The original party had failed to re-unite at Tuttle's and the first group to arrive was about a half-hour in advance of the other.

These men had hitched a pair of their horses to a wagon which they had found along the route. Philip Kirby was driving, William Carroll, George Lamb, and Luther Ives were riding on the wagon, while Samuel McAuliffe was walking alongside. Hinton, Loomis, Ryan, Coan and Thompson were still on horseback.

When they came in view of the town, Hinton rode to a hilltop where he could overlook the place and reported that about 40 Indians were in sight, and that the village was afire in several places. He proposed crossing the Cottonwood and entering the town from the other side, but his proposition was vigorously opposed by his anxious companions, who told him to lead on and they would follow.

They passed down the hill and met no opposition until they reached a slough about a half-mile out, where two Indians leveled double-barreled shotguns at Hinton as if about to fire. He drew his revolver and spurred toward them, the remainder of his company at his heels. This show of determination evidently cowed the savages momentarily, for they retired without firing a shot, and the white men proceeded across the swale. There, however, the Sioux had prepared an ambush. Rising suddenly from the grass they opened fire on the closely bunched whites and within a few seconds five of their number were dead. The unfortunate men who fell were Almond D. Loomis, William Carroll, George Lamb, Jan Thompson and Thomas Ryan. Hinton, Coan, McAuliffe, Kirby, and Ives won through to join the defenders in the town.

Samuel McAuliffe's version of this ambush attributes the escape of all who were saved to a pair of frightened horses: "We rode on and into the Indians' trap. Suddenly, on all sides, they arose and closed in on us. An exciting running fight followed. Carroll came galloping up with the wagon and as he passed I caught on behind. My gun became entangled in the rear wheels and was torn from my hands. An instant later, Carroll was shot and the driverless horses continued at a sharp gallop. Phil Kirby was thrown from the wagon when it hit a log just as he was shooting at the Indians. He caught the reach of the wagon and held on. Three times the Indians turned the team away from the town, but each time the horses veered back with almost human intelligence and finally succeeded in running the gauntlet. Just as they pulled up in front of the Dakota House the reins became entangled in the wheels and brought the team to a stop. Had this

happened on the open prairie, it would have meant the death of the entire party."

When Ralph Thomas and the second group reached the Tuttle place they found the others had gone on without waiting for them, so they proceeded toward New Ulm. About a half-hour's march brought them, unknowingly, to the fatal spot where their comrades had been ambushed shortly before. Again the Sioux sprang up from the tall grass, about 150 of them this time, and their deadly volley left but one of the white men alive--Ralph Thomas. Thomas's horse was shot from under him, but by amazing footwork he outdistanced the whooping, shooting savages behind him and reached the barricades without wounds. In this ambush the Sioux killed Tuttle, Uriah Loomis, Lemon and all three Olsons. Thus, of the 17 men who passed the picket-line that morning to carry aid to Leavenworth, only six lived to return.

Roads.

Soon after New Ulm was settled, Brown County's sparse population began an intensive drive for much needed roads. In 1856 the Big Cottonwood, or Waraju, Road was constructed to connect the Upper Cottonwood River settlement with New Ulm; and in the same year the New Ulm and Blue Earth County Road was built, as well as the New Ulm and Indian Reservation Road, from the town to the boundary of the reservation, connecting with a road which led to the Sioux Agency.

A Cottonwood township road which intersected the New Ulm-Mankato trail was constructed in 1857, and transportation in the vicinity was further facilitated by opening the so-called Sawmill Road, New Ulm to Milford; Madelia-Blue Earth County Road; Madelia-Des Moines River Road; a road from Blue Earth county line to Lake Hanska, and the New Ulm-Madelia Road.

The year 1858 saw a continuation of road construction in the area. The New Ulm-Fort Ridgely Road was followed by a branch of the New Ulm-Mankato Road; a branch of the Madelia-New Ulm Road; the Madelia-Bingham Lake Road; and the Cottonwood-Lime Kiln Road. The latter ran from the New Ulm and Blue Earth county road, through the Minnesota river bottomland, to the Blue Earth county line.

In 1859 three roads were built--the New Ulm-Henerson State Road; the Crystal Lake-Odessa State Road; and the New Ulm-Leavenworth Road.

Since 1860 highway improvements have been kept abreast of those in other communities of similar population and industries, and the roads around New Ulm rank among the best in the state at the present time.

Bridges

The first bridge over the Big Cottonwood River was built by Brown County in 1858. It was 90 feet long by 14 feet in width, and toll was charged for its use. This toll-bridge served until 1869 when, with state aid, a more substantial structure was erected. The cost was \$10,000, of which the state appropriation covered one half, the remainder being paid by Brown County. No toll was charged.

The ferry across the Minnesota River became inadequate for the traffic as New Ulm's business expanded, and in 1878 the first bridge was thrown across. It was of pontoon construction, 12 feet wide and nearly 160 feet long. In 1888 an iron bridge replaced this, and in 1923 a modern high-water bridge was built.

The Minnesota River was bridged in 1892 both at Courtland Crossing and near the Beussmann farm, where the so-called West Newton Bridge spans the stream.

Lodges, Clubs, Societies.

The New Ulm Turnverein was organized less than two years after the town itself was founded. At the Adolph Seiter, Sr., store in the present Milford Township, on Sunday, November 11, 1856, the local Turnverein was born. The earliest meetings were held in the log cabin located on the site where the homeseekers had spent the winter of 1854-1855, but with the rapid growth of the society this building soon became inadequate. Gatherings were then had at the store Seiter was running in New Ulm, he having removed his stock to the new center of population. In the spring of 1857, gymnastic paraphernalia was set up out of doors, in the rear of the site of the present Masonic Block.

The first Turner Hall was erected in 1858, on the present site, the society at that time owning the entire half-block fronting State Street, between First and Second South streets, with the exception of one corner lot. Here the town's first theatrical performance was staged, January 17, 1858. The structure was burned to the ground during the Sioux uprising in 1862.

A singing section was organized December 12, 1863, and a fire company January 17, 1864. The later organization eventually developed into the present New Ulm Fire Department.

The second Turner Hall was completed February 11, 1866, at which time gymnastic classes were inaugurated. The building was given a two-story brick addition in 1873. In 1897 the Turnverein acquired possession of all land in the block which they did not already own, and in 1900 the old building was razed and a new hall erected.

The Turner Ladies' society was organized November 11, 1889.

The New Ulm Arbeiterverein (Workingmen's Association) was organized in December 1871, and erected a hall on First North Street and Broadway in 1873. The society was unable to clear this property, however, and in 1877 it was disposed of by sheriff's sale. The Arbeiterverein is still active, and its members take a keen interest in their annual parade and picnic.

The New Ulm Masonic lodge was organized in 1872, receiving its charter the next year. In 1891 a syndicate built a two-story building on the site of the old Pennsylvania House, now occupied by the Fesemmaier Hardware Store, and arrangements were made for the Masons to add and own a third story. This third floor constitutes their present lodge hall.

A lodge of the Eastern Star was organized in 1893.

The Current News Club was organized in 1894 as a study club. The ladies of this group created quite a furore at one time by making a crusade against the New Ulm merchants' practice of exhibiting sample corsets in their store windows. Their contention was that the shocking displays were detrimental to the morals of the young. The merchants laughed, and went on displaying corsets --the women frowned, and went on buying them.

The Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Hecker Circle Number 65, was organized in 1904. (Was there never a G. A. R. in New Ulm?)

The Spanish American War Veterans, General Bobleter Post Number 14, was organized in 1912.

The American Legion Post (???? what post????) was organized in 1919.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, John Noble Chapter, was organized in 1924, the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1929.

The Lions Club was organized in 1929, the Modern Study Club in 1933, the Rotary Club in 1938, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1938.

The local lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in 1927.

New Ulm also has a Business Men's Association, Women's Literary Club, American Legion Auxiliary, Royal Neighbors, and various other religious, literary and study organizations.

County Buildings.

To the foresight of the officers of the German Land Association and to their civic pride and generosity may be attributed New Ulm's many parks, playgrounds and beautiful streets, as well as the fact that one of its most attractive and centrally located tracts is now the courthouse square.

The first county building erected on this tract was a small two-story brick structure containing three office rooms, two cells for prisoners, and a jailor's room. The cost of construction was approximately \$3,000, and the building was ready for occupancy in 1865.

On Christmas day, 1866, an infuriated mob forcibly took two alleged murderers from the custody of the jailor and hanged them from the rungs of ladders elevated against the wall of the prison building. Public indignation rose to a frenzied pitch over this unfortunate event, and in many places within the state vociferous demands were made for the punishment of New Ulm's offending citizens. As usual in such circumstances, hundreds of hysterical and absurd suggestions were put forward as preventive of further like disorders, and, of course, among the schemes advanced, there must be at least one which was aimed at bringing the county seat to the proponent's town. In this case the Iberia settlement, in Leavenworth Township, considered itself the ideal spot for a county seat in which no errors could be made.

Nothing came of the campaign, but in order to ward off any further moves along the same line Senator Shillock secured the enactment of a law permitting the Brown County commissioners, with the approval of the voters, to issue bonds in the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting a substantial court house and jail. The proposed bond issue was rejected by the electorate, and the commissioners at once set about establishing a fund whereby its object might be attained without incurring any debt. By January, 1872, it was possible to start work on a two-story stone and brick building on the northeast corner of the square, large enough to provide a commodious jail and sheriff's dwelling on the ground floor, and an adequate district courtroom upstairs. This building was completed in 1873 at a cost of \$9,750, and continued in use for various purposes until 1904.

The present courthouse was built in 1891, after another of those county controversies, this one dating from 1887, and having its inception in the village of Sleepy Eye Lake. The courts were asked to restrain the county board from proceeding with its courthouse program, but the board was victorious in the litigation. Then came a bond issue campaign ending at the polls in the defeat of the proposition to assume the necessary indebtedness. Finally, open political war broke out, with Sleepy Eye Lake making a bellicose bid for the county seat. Petitions, counter-petitions, and remonstrances flooded the office of the county board as an aroused New Ulm citizenry sent a picked committee into the strategic

affray against the Sleepy Eye diplomats. Petitions demanding an election were refused by the county board, and the court was again asked to review their action. Again they were sustained, and the court's decision was the death blow to Sleepy Eye's ambition to become the Brown County capitol. New Ulm got its courthouse, and two additions have been added since 1891--the first in 1918 and the other in 1931.

A modern jail was erected in 1904 at a cost of \$20,000 and the grounds surrounding the county buildings are beautifully landscaped. The bitterness engendered by the county seat war has passed with time, and these improvements are now the pride of the entire county.

Another substantial and attractive building belonging to Brown County is the home for the poor, erected in 1906 at a cost of about \$15,000. It is located on the Cottonwood River, a short distance without the city limits.

Amusements--Masquerades

Masquerades were one of the chief forms of amusement in the early days of New Ulm, and the citizens spent days preparing the costumes which made many of these events outstanding in their spectacular display. Famous scenes and characters were portrayed with an attention to detail that told of long hours of careful research and patient labor. These presentations earned wide recognition in the Northwest.

Theatricals--Amateur

Amateur theatrical productions in New Ulm had their beginning in 1857, and in 1858 five home-talent plays were staged. The first few performances were presented in a hall in the second story of the community store, where Fesemaier's Hardware store is now located; but in 1858 Turner Hall was erected and this provided a more suitable and roomy place. Here about a half dozen such entertainments were offered and enthusiastically attended each year until about 1909. Among the more pretentious plays presented during this period were "Der Student von Ulm," "Die Geier Wally," "Pfeffer Roesel," "Almenrausch und Edelweiss," and "The Doctor of Alcantara."

The golden days of show business in New Ulm opened with the completion of the new Turner theater, when Fred W. Johnson, as manager, began to present some of the best companies playing on the legitimate stage. "Wang," with De Wolf Hopper, "Hoity-Toity," with 80 chorus girls, Brady's "Way Down East," "Tim Murphy in "The Texas Steer," William H. West's "Big Jubilee Minstrels," were among the shows offered the people of New Ulm during the period beginning with the twentieth century. Other high-ranking road shows included "The Pit," "Our New Minister," Harry Beresford in "The Wrong Mr. Wright," John W. Ransome in "Prince of Pilsen," Walker Whiteside in "Heart and Sword," "Shore Acres," Charles B. Hanford in "The Taming of the Shrew," "Man of the Hour," "The Lion and the Mouse," "The County Chariman," Rose Mellville in "Sis Hopkins," "The Third Degree," "The Traveling Salesman," "The Birth of a Nation," "The Tenderfoot," "The Isle of Spice," "King Dodo," "The Show Girl," "The Gingerbread Man," "The Red Mill," "High Jinks," "My Cinderella Girl," and "Princess Chic." In 1878, the people of New Ulm heard the Hessian Military Band, and in 1879, Blind Tom, pianist. In 1896, Edouard Remenyi, famous violinist, gave a concert, and in 1902 the music lovers enjoyed the German opera "Stradella." 1903 brought Verdi's "II Travatore;" 1905, Axel Skovgaard, violinist; 1907, Sousa and his band; 1911, Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra; 1913, St. Paul Symphony Orchestra; and 1914, McPhail String Quartette.

Among the local organizations which entertained New Ulm during the period from 1866 to the present may be named Gesang Verein, a chorus, appearing first in 1866; Concordia Singers, 1871; Maennerchor (Men's Chorus), 1884; W. T. Eckstein's Orchestra, 1894; Second Regiment Band (formerly Great Western Band), 1902; Zither Club, 1902; New Ulm Cadet Band, 1903; Union Concert Band, 1906; Hofmeister's Band, 1919; New Ulm Symphony Orchestra, 1928; New Ulm Greenhouse Boys' Band, 1932; Concord Singers, 1932; and the present Pioneer Band, made up chiefly of members of the former Regimental Band.

Sidelights on the Uprising

When the Sioux rebelled on August 18, 1862, a draft was in progress throughout the United States for the purpose of replacing loss of Union man-power in the Civil War. On Monday August 18, a number of men from New Ulm and vicinity started for a hall on the farm of A. Henle to attend a meeting of prospective recruits and sign them up. Their destination was only about six miles from New Ulm, but the Indians ambushed them just as they stepped upon the little bridge over Henle Creek. John Schneider, Julius Fenschke, and E. Diederich were killed instantly by the surprise volley, and a man named Steinke was mortally wounded, dying near Belle Plaine while being taken to St. Paul. A man named Haupt lost an eye in this attack, which the whites, being wholly unarmed, could not resist in any other way than by flight. While the shooting was going on, some members of the party who were in the rear ran across Joseph Messmer who had, unknown to them, been wounded only a few minutes earlier by the same savages. He was brought to New Ulm where he died within 24 hours. The Indians took two of the recruiting party's teams, but the others were turned and raced back to New Ulm.

All day the Sioux marauded in Milford Township. The farm of William Massopoust was plundered, two of his daughters and one son being brutally murdered in the house. The house of Anton Henle was visited, in Henle's absence, and his four children tomahawked. Two were killed outright, one died of his wounds shortly after, and the fourth, an infant, eventually recovered. After putting these children to the hatchet, the Indians proceeded to a field where Mrs. Anton Henle, her father, Anton Messmer, his wife, his son Joseph, and his daughter were harvesting wheat. All were instantly shot except Mrs. Henle, who escaped to the woods. At night she slipped out and went home, to find her mangled children lying about and the house looted. Her husband came home soon and they escaped with the two wounded youngsters. Athanasius Henle and his family all escaped across the river before the savages arrived. Bostian Mey, his wife and two children were all massacred in their house. Three other children were terribly mutilated, but afterwards recovered. Adolph Schilling and his daughter were murdered, but his son, badly wounded, escaped with his mother. Every member of both the Zeller and the Zettel families was massacred, not a soul being left to tell the details of the horrible event. Jacob Keck, Max Fink, and a man named Belzer were also victims in this area. The settlers of the town of Leavenworth heard of the uprising and started at once for places of safety. Some reached New Ulm, but others were waylaid and killed on the road. Seth Henshaw, with a Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. James Hill, and two children were thus attacked and Henshaw was killed, the others reaching New Ulm safely. John Bluem's family was wiped out with the exception of one boy. These are but a few of the tragedies that attended the attempted retreat to New Ulm from outlying districts. Wagonloads of hacked and mangled bodies were brought into town, to appal the more the incoming stream of refugees.

Agricultural Society

The first Brown County Fair, one of the earliest agricultural exhibits in the newly admitted state of Minnesota, was held September 25, 1858, in the open air beneath New Ulm's giant oaks. It was not a very pretentious affair, nor was it attended by vast crowds, for at that time Minnesota, as a state, was only four months in attendance, viewing with pride the promising products raised on the edge of the wilderness. The officers of the Agricultural Society were Henry Behnke, president, and August Westphal, secretary; and they found themselves unable to offer more than six premiums--three firsts and three seconds. These totaled \$25 in value. a 25-cent charge covered a society membership and admission to the fair. The exhibitors were all men, and numbered only 26. The exhibit consisted of 4 oxen, 1 steer, several ducks, chickens, and pigeons; some coal and quartz collections; specimens of corn, sugar cane, apple trees, spring wheat, rye, and oats; samples of butter, cheese, and embroidery, testifying to their pride in the handiwork of their womenfolk; a showing of home-made chairs, extolling their own; and vegetables represented by carrots, kohlrabi, pumpkins, melons, cucumbers, cabbages, tobacco, chufas, beans, horse radish, onions, tomatoes, parsley, wild hops, lettuce, parsnips, basil, peppers, hemp, castor beans, and marjoram. Ramsey, Le Sueur, Nicollet and Brown Counties were represented in the produce, and almost 150 were present. The first fair was considered a big success.

The first real fair, however, was held in 1864, sponsored by a group known as the Brown County Farmers' Society, of which Ignatz Reinarts was president, Dr. John Kaula, secretary, and Hubert Manderfeld, treasurer. This society held fairs in Turner Hall for a number of years, displaying the women's exhibits in the building and all others in the open air of Turner Park.

The Brown County Agricultural Association was incorporated in 1867, and the articles filed July 3, 1866. The three officers last named above were the incorporators. In 1895 they acquired the present fair grounds, consisting of 8 city blocks and 2 additional lots. The first exhibition to use this site was held August 28, 29 and 30, 1896, at which time Charles Roos was president of the society and Albert Steinhauser was secretary. They reorganized during that year, capitalizing at \$5,000, and selling shares at \$10 each. Ferdinand Crone became president with the reorganization, and Andrew J. Eckstein was chosen vice president, W. C. Heimann, secretary, and Robert Loheyde, treasurer. Fred Behnke succeeded Crone in 1930.

The Association's permanent building program was begun in 1909 with the erection of the brick exhibition hall, other structures being added from time to time until the present splendid stand of structures was completed in 1931. The plant housing the fair is now valued at \$125,000, and the premiums total more than \$4000 each year.

Farm Bureau Organization

This bureau was organized in 1918 with an initial membership of nearly 250. This number was considerably in excess of the requirements of the Federal government regulations making available the \$1,800 annual subsidy. A. E. Webb of Sheridan, Wyoming, was appointed as the first county agent, and Miss Eva Blair the first home demonstration agent.

The 4-H Boys and Girls Clubs have been developed to a high degree of usefulness.

Telephone Companies

Careful investigation discloses the fact that the first telephone line in New Ulm connected the John Hauenstein Brewery, Fred Behnke's residence, Kretsch & Berg's livery barn, and Charles Stengel's saloon. This went into operation about 1890. The practicality of this convenience appealed to the proprietor of the Dakota Hotel, and he soon had a wire connection with the Northwestern depot, for the convenience of his guests. Within the next two years a number of business men had their homes and offices connected with one or the other of these two lines, with the result that the Hotel-Depot system expanded to an inconvenient size.

The first New Ulm franchise was granted to H. L. Saverien, November 11, 1896. A 50-line drop signal switchboard in the rear of Saverien & Wagner's undertaking and furniture establishment constituted the town's first exchange. Service was inaugurated January 11, 1897, with Miss Mae Kopetzki and Albert Schilling as alternate operators. On May 10, 1897, the New Ulm Telephone Company was incorporated, and in the fall of that year toll lines were built to connect New Ulm with Courtland, Essig, Sleepy Eye, Springfield, and St. George. The business of the company grew rapidly, and about 1900 the offices and switchboard were removed to the Newman Block. Toll lines were now built to Hanska and Lafayette, and connections were established with the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company.

In the spring of 1905 the New Ulm Telephone Company came into existence, received its franchise from the city, and finally, November 1, 1905, went into service. Philip Liesch was the first president of the organization. The records of the company show that business was started with 203 city and 197 rural subscribers. Long distance calls were handled over the lines of the Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph Company.