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Writers Project Research Notes.

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Strader

Agriculture was one of the first industries to be started in Carver County. As early as 1842 there was a good sized farm in this area. Olliver Faribault who operated a trading post at the Little Prairie (now Chaska) also had a farm in connection with it, and his farm was not only the largest plot of cultivated land in that territory, but it was also the most productive. When he moved to Shakopee in 1844 the settlement of Canadians and Half-bloods which had grown up around his trading post moved away also. The cleared strip of land where the settlement was allowed to revert to its former wild state and to become overgrown with weeds. There were no further attempts at farming within the County until settlers began to take up claims there after 1852.

[*Insert*] *many were farmers because of background and many others became farmers when real estate boom collapsed*

The first farms of the settlers ~~were only small~~ usually consisted of a vegetable garden and a small field of grain for cereal and animal fodder use. The size of the farm increased from year to year as the settler got more of his land cleared. But the farmer of those early days of settlement did not put all of his land under cultivation as soon as he got it cleared. The amount of land planted for crops and the kind of crops raised depended to a great extent upon the ability of the farmer to profitably market his surplus produce. Since most of the settlers had little cash money and of necessity were farmers who raised most of the food which their families and farm animals consumed, there was little demand for farm produce in local markets. This condition added to the fact that ~~poor~~ roads made hauling of produce 20 to 30 miles distant to the Twin Cities markets both difficult and uncertain, caused the farmer to limit the amount of crops he raised.

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Beans, corn, squash, turnips, potatoes, and pumpkins were the ~~main~~ principal products raised on those first farms. If the farmer found that he had more than his household needed, he disposed of the surplus as best he could. If the local store was already ^{not} overstocked with farm produce, the farmer exchanged his vegetables or grain for food, clothing, or other farm life necessities, which he and his family were unable to produce themselves. He also carried home-made bread, rolls of butter, combs of wild honey, cranberries, and ginseng roots which he had either gathered in their wild state or had made in his own home, and exchanged them for things which were needed on his farm. Or failing that outlet for his produce he would hitch up the horse or ox team to the farm wagon and haul his wares to ST. Paul where he could always find a ready market and would receive cash for them. But the certainty of selling and the cash prices received were seldom sufficient inducement to cause him to make a regular practice of doing that. Sometimes he sold farm products to passing traders or immigrants who were going farther to locate their claims.

Soon after Carver County farmers began farming operations they discovered that the soil of that area was well suited to the production of small grains. There was at that time a world-wide demand for wheat and those farmers found that the quantity of wheat which they could sell was limited only by the extent of their farms and their ability to get it to market.

As early as 1859 the revenue from wheat was greater than that from furs and Carver County had been definitely established as one of the wheat raising regions of the state. Until railroads had been built into the County the farmers depended almost entirely upon steamboats for getting their grain and other produce to St. Paul and other points farther east and south. After the railroads were built the farmer had a convenient and fairly cheap means of marketing his products.

The railroads were welcomed because they did away with the monopoly of shipping which steamboats had enjoyed. The farmers welcomed them not only because of their convenience but because they freed him from the extremely high prices which steamboats charged. But his joy was short-lived because the railroad companies and the steamboat companies got together and entered into an agreement with each other whereby prices were fixed by them which favored that section of the state which had the most influence in the passage of law favorable to the railroad companies and the steamboat companies. This condition grew to such a state that the farmers profits were eaten up by freight rates.

But the Germans and Scandinavians who formed the bulk of the population of Carver County had left their native lands to escape from exploitation. They stood the unjust rates of the transportation companies for a while and then they banded themselves together in organizations called Granges for the purpose of fighting discrimination and favoritism.

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The Grange was ~~xx~~ successful as a medium for securing consideration for the farmer and made him aware of the possibilities and advantages of organized effort. It was the fore-runner of the cooperative system of marketing farm produce, which has been adopted by most of the farmers of Carver County.

For many years wheat was one of the principal crops in Carver County. But the world supply of wheat increased and the market for it began to disappear. As soon as the farmers realized that wheat was no longer a money making crop they shifted to the production of other cereal grains and feed crops. The number of livestock animals on farms began to increase and almost imperceptibly livestock and dairy products became the chief sources of income.

Dairying is carried on to a very great extent in the central and western part of the county.

GROWTH OF TOWNS AND CITIES.

There are 10 villages and ¹city in Carver County. The ten villages are: New Germany, Mayer, Carver, CHanhassen, Norwood, Watertown, Hamburg, Victoria, Young America, and Cologne. The two cities are: Chaska, and Waconia.

CHASKA CITY.

Chaska was the site of the first permanent settlement in Carver County. When Thomas A. Holmes entered this part of the Minnesota River valley in 1851 seeking a good site for a fur trading post, he chose the Little Prairie on the west bank of the Minnesota River for one of the two which he established. A settlement of immigrants grew up around that post at Little Prairie. That Community was called by the Sioux Indian name of Chaska which meant " first born male " and which was usually given to the first male Sioux child. Shortly after settlement began at Chaska, XX a group of men succeeded in getting possession of a large portion of the land there. They formed the Shaska Townsite Company and were responsible to a great extent for the rapid growth of that community. It was selected as county seat in 1856.

It became the principal trade center for surrounding communities. It was incorporated as a village in 1871 and it was given its city charter in 1891. The principal industries are food canning factories, brick manufacturies, and commercialized amusement establishments.

WACONIA

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Waconia is located on the south shore of a large lake of clear water which was called by the Indian name for clear water which is Waconia. When the village was surveyed and platted in 1857, it was named Waconia after the lake on whose shore it was located. Roswell B. Russell, who owned the site of the village, founded it and had great hopes of it becoming an important commercial center as well as an ideal summer resort.

It never became the metropolis which its founder visualized, nor did it become a populous summer resort. But settlers did come out to Waconia and locate there and it did develop into a thriving village with stores, schools, churches, nice homes and a railroad.

The hardwood maple trees and other hardwood trees which covered this area when settlement first began, gave rise to the first industries of that region viz., maple sugar and syrup industry, and the wood fuel industry. The maple sap was collected and refined into either sugar or syrup which was sold in the Twin Cities; and the hard wood which was cut down in clearing the land was cut into cord wood lengths and then hauled by wagon or railroad to water shipping points from which it was carried by barges to Twin Cities markets. Until the supply of hardwood was greatly diminished, Waconia was the main source of supply for firewood for the northern part of the county and it became well-known as a fire-wood station.

Its present industries are

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Water town Village, the only one of importance in the Township of Watertown, started out in a very promising way. Within 4 years after it was incorporated as a village in 1877, there had been established there : 3 general stores, a hardware store, a saw mill, a bell foundry, a grist mill, a fire department with engines, a plow factory, 3 churches, 2 secret orders and other organizations, and a brewery. But gradually other communities assumed the lead as the business and industrial centers of the county and Watertown now exists as a village with a population of less than 600 and with business and industry in a state of arrested development.

Norwood is the most important Village in Young America Township. It is situated at the crossing of the "H&D" Railroad, and the Minneapolis and St.Louis Railroad. It was laid out in 1872 when the H&D Railroad was built through that part of the County. A depot for the railroad was established at the site of Norwood and since it was only a mile from Young America Village it was called Young America Station. The railroad believed that the village of Young America would immediately move over to the station which would give its inhabitant direct access to the railroad for shipping farm produce. But the village of Young America unaccountably refused to move and so the new station was named Norwood. In 1881 when the population of Norwood was 334 it was incorporated as a village.

Several grain elevators were built at Norwood and farmers from all the surrounding territory brought their wheat and other grain there where it was stored until it could be conveniently shipped to the Twin Cities and other large trade centers. Norwood became a prominent grain shipping

point, and still retained that distinction as recent as 1914. .

Young America is in the northeast portion of Young America Township on land which was at first called the Pacific Extension of the Mpls. and ST.L. R.R. It was laid out in 1858 by Dr.R.M.Kennedy and James Slocum upon land which they had acquired. It was they who named it Young America. Settlement began in that region almost immediately and both Dr.Kennedy and James Slocum were active in the business and industrial development of their hometown. They built the first saw mill in the village and also a grist mill. The growth of hardwood upon which the saw mill depended for logs was soon exhausted and the saw mill was discontinued. But almost as soon as settlement began wheat was adopted as the principal agricultural product. As a result of the establishment of wheat-raising the grist mill became one of the most important businesses of Young America village. A brewery was also built there but it burned down a few years after its erection and it was never rebuilt.

In 1914 Young America Village had a population of 325, and it had the following places of business: 2 hardware stores, a flour mill, a bank, a general store, 2 creameries, a weekly newspaper, The Young America Eagle, and many other stores and shops.

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Cologne was established in 1880 on a site owned by Paul and Adam Mohrbacher. It is located on the south side of Lake Benton and is on the north side of the "H&D" division of the Chicago Milwaukee & ST. Paul railroad. It was named for a town in Germany by that name. It was incorporated as a village in 1881 and by that time there were: 2 general stores, a drug store, a furniture store, a blacksmith shop, a grist mill, and a grain elevator.

M. S. L.

Oct 23

CARVER COUNTY

LOCATION

Carver County is one of the eighty-seven political units into which the state of Minnesota is divided. It is in the south central part of the state and is situated about twenty-five miles west of the Twin Cities. It is bounded on the west by Sibley County and McLeod county; on the north by Wright and Hennepin Counties; on the east by Hennepin County and the Minnesota River; and on the south by the Minnesota River and Sibley County. It was named 'Carver'

NAME.

in honor of the explorer Jonathan Carver who explored that area in 1766.

It has been settled little more than eighty years and it is from the date of its first permanent settlement that the history of the County is generally reckoned.

But centuries before the first white man set foot upon the North American continent, the forces of nature were busy providing the site of Carver County with the physical features which have tended to make it such a desirable place

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

in which to live.

THE ICE AGE.

During a period in history which is known as the Ice Age, huge glaciers of ice moved down from the north pole upon the North American continent and covered most of it. As those huge masses of ice moved southward they plowed deep furrows in their path, and accumulated large quantities of earth, boulders, trees, and other ~~refuse~~ debris. As the earth became warmer the ice melted and the water ran into the ravines and other depressions forming lakes and rivers. The boulders and other refuse left behind by the receding waters ^{were} ~~was~~ in piles of various sizes and shapes and became the hills and ridges of the country. The seeds of trees and other vegetation which were present began to sprout and in a short time the land was covered with trees, grass and other vegetation. It was in this manner that the undulating ^{the state of Minn. and} topography of Carver County was formed and it was this ice visitation which gave ^{them} ~~it~~ the fertile soil which has made ^{them} ~~it~~ such a choice agricultural ~~district~~ ^{regions}.

MOUND- BUILDERS.

When early missionaries and explorers visited Carver County site they found it uninhabited and covered by dense hardwood forests. Their curiosity was aroused by groups of symmetrical mounds which were different from the natural hills and ridges of the country. When some of them were excavated and explored they were found to contain relics which showed that they had been constructed by rational beings. These were the only evidences which were found which pointed to the supposition that the region had at some time been occupied by human beings. When the Indians who lived in that vicinity were questioned they were unable to give any information about the mounds except that as far back as the memory of the oldest member of their group could go or the legend of their people could relate the mounds had been there.

ARTIFACTS.

Because the earthwork structures ~~left by these early inhabitants~~ were in the form of mounds and for want of a more suitable name those early inhabitants have been called the Mound-builders. Flint arrow heads, crudely ~~made~~ fashioned cooking vessels, and stone war weapons were among the relics found in some of the mounds and are called artifacts which means fashioned by hand. The skeletons found in the mounds were much smaller than those of the Indians found occupying the country but a similarity in structure and the similarity in between the household implements found in the mounds and those in use among Indians of later periods led scientists to believe that the Mound-builders were ancestors of the North American Indians.

LOCATION OF MOUNDS.

The mounds were found along the high banks along the course of the Minnesota River and other watercourses of the state and they varied markedly in size shape and grouping. Some seem to have been used for burial purposes, others for religious and sacrificial purposes, and still others for defense purposes.

Many of the mounds were leveled during the course of settlement of the county and the conversion of the land into farms. But there are still mounds left in various parts of the state some of which are located at: Fish Lake, Lake George, Daytons Bluff, and along the Rum River. There is a group of three mounds in the City park in Chaska. These are circular and are about two feet high and six feet across.

OTHER

ABORIGINES.

Before permanent white settlers came into Carver County it was roamed over by roving groups of wild people who are referred to as aborigines. By aborigines is meant a primitive people. This territory was particularly attractive to them because it contained forests filled with all types of game and rivers and lakes full of fish, ~~beavers~~, otters, and muskrats, which made it possible for them to gain food, clothing and shelter without ^a great deal of work. The vast tract of hardwood forests which covered this area was called the Chahntonka or Big Woods by those people and it became familiarly known as the Big Woods to later settlers.

Early INDIANS

When seventeenth and eighteenth century explorers invaded the wilderness of the Minnesota River basin they found some of those aborigines occupying locations along the Minnesota River near its mouth. Pierre LeSueur, Jonathan Carver, Major Long and several of the other white explorers who visited the Minnesota Valley spoke of the people whom they found living there and referred to them as Indians.

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SIOUX INDIANS.
IN CARVER CO.

This part of the Minnesota River Valley was visited by the British explorer Jonathan Carver in 1766. He reported that there were no people dwelling within the bounds of the land which later became Carver County, although there were several groups of Indians located elsewhere along the Minnesota River. These Indians called themselves the Dacotahs and they were a one of the tribes which made up a large nation of Indians called by themselves the Dacotahs. But they are familiarly known to us as the Sioux. Their name ~~is~~ Sioux is a contraction of the word Nadieosioux which ~~was~~ ^{is} a Chippeway Indian word meaning snakes or enemy. This name was given to the Dacotahs by the Chippeway Indians who were their mortal enemies, and who had driven the Dacotahs down from around Mille Lacs Lake region in 1746. The Dacotahs or Sioux fled southward and many of them settled in the Minnesota River Valley.

PINCHONS BAND.

In 1784 there was a group of Sioux Indians living in a village on the west bank of the Minnesota River about 5 or 6 miles above the present City of Chaska. This place was known as Little Rapids. A French trader by the name of Pinchon or Penninsha had a trading post at Little Rapids at this time and the Indians living there were known as Pinchons Band. Pinchon married one of the Indian women and had a son who was called Fils de Pinchon which is the French way of saying Pinchons son. The elder Pinchon was quite fond of horse-play (which means rough coarse jokes) and he delighted in playing pranks on his friends. (if advisable insert story of one of his jokes).

FILS DE PINCHON

Fils de Pinchon represented the Sioux Indians and signed the treaty in 1819 which gave Lieutenant Pike possession of Pikes Island and other land which the United States Government wanted as the site of Fort Snelling.

THE IOWAYS IN
CARVER COUNTY.

Later visitors to Carver County learned from the Sioux at Little Rapids that from 1769 to 1770 another group of Indians called the Ioways or "Drowsy ones" had dwelt there also. At that time the Minnesota River Valley was claimed by the Ottoes and Ayones or Ioways and the Sioux Indians. But in 1770 the Sioux had driven the Ioways and Ottoes farther south and they never returned except to raid Sioux villages in the southern part of the territory and along the Cannon River. The Sioux Indians eventually moved from Little Rapids farther south and settled at Winona.

WAH PAY-TONS
OR "LEAF PEOPLE"
IN CARVER COUNTY.

The next band of Indians to visit Carver County regularly were a sub-band of the Sioux who were called Wah-Pay-tons or Leaf People. They came there for hunting and fishing and became known to the traders as the Little Rapids Band.

WEAKOTE VILLAGE
AT LITTLE RAPIDS.

In 1823 there was a village of Indians at Little Rapids which was called Weakote or the "Village of Plenty Old Women". An interesting story is told of a rather gruesome incident which follows:

CANADIANS AND
MIXED BLOODS
IN CARVER CO.

Another settlement which existed in Carver County before active colonization started was on a strip of cleared land called the Little Prairie. This was a group of Canadians and half-breed Indians. They had log houses and they did quite a bit of farming under the direction of Olliver Faribault, who was the operator of a trading post at Little Prairie. In 1844 Olliver Faribault moved from Little Prairie across the Minnesota River to a place in Scott County called Shakopee. The settlement which had grown up around his trading post moved away too, within a few years after their removal most of the evidences of that village at Little Prairie had disappeared. The Little Prairie itself remained as a strip of cleared land in a forest covered county, and years later farmers turned up with their plows many arrows, axes, and pieces of pottery and copper cooking utensils as relics of the settlement which had been there.

EARLY EXPLORERS
IN THE MINNESOTA
VALLEY.

Some of the early explorers in the Northwest who mention Carver County in their accounts of their travels were:

PIERRE LE SUEUR

Pierre LeSueur was a Frenchman who ascended the Minnesota River in 1700 in search of reputed copper mines. He went as far as Mankato (which is in) where he found a blue clay which he believed to contain copper. He collected about two tons of the clay and carried it all the way to France only to learn that it did not contain any copper and was utterly worthless. In his account of his trip he mentioned

a group of Indians dwelling on the west bank of the Minnesota River near its mouth. He called the Indians Cheyennes and the his location of the settlement corresponds closely to the present site of Chaskaa.

JONATHAN CARVER.

Jonathan Carver was an American-born British subject who made an extensive exploratory trip into the Northwest in 1766. He visited Caver County and made frequent and lengthy references to it. His accounts tell of his camping at the mouth of a stream which flowed into the Minnesota River at a point about two and one-half miles below Little Rapids. This stream later became known as Carver Creek. He stated that there was no one living within the territory of Carver County at the time of his visit.

LOUISIANA

PURCHASE.

In 1803 the United States of America bought a vast strip of land from France which was called the Louisiana Purchase. This tract of land ^{comprising 90,000,000 square miles} extended from the mouth of the Mississippi River north and westward and included millions of acres of unexplored wilderness. The U.S. Government paid ~~\$1~~^{\$15} million for it and then spent about \$12 million more in gaining title to it from the Indians who occupied it. So that altogether the Louisiana Purchase cost the United States Of America about \$27 million. In order to establish dominion over its new territory and to establish and afford protection to settlements in that wilderness, the Government began a program of exploration and building military forts.

This with Florida Texas, Oregon and the Gadsden purchase brought the total extent of public land acquired by the gov. to 1400 billion acres.

LIEUT. PIKE

Lieut. Pike was sent out to this region by the Government in 1805 with a commission to secure a site for a military fort.

He negotiated a treaty with the Indian Fils de Pinchon by which he obtained possession of Pike Island in the Mississippi River and other land on the banks of the River on which to erect the fort.

MAJOR LONG.

In 1823 the U.S. Government sent out an expedition headed by Major Long whose object was the the exploration of the Minnesota River and the Red River. In his reports of his trip he spoke of camping on a piece of rising ground on the west bank of the Minnesota River which was known as the Little Prairie.

J.N.NICOLLET

From 1836 to 1839 J.N.Nicollet was commissioned by the U.S. Government to survey the Minnesota River Valley. He surveyed the portion of the country which included Carver County and made a map of it.

EARLY TRADERS. AND TRAPPERS.

The reputation of the Big Woods as the habitat of innumerable fur-bearing animals attracted many white trappers to it long before the country became widely known or settled. Those trappers were the first white people to penetrate deep into the woods of this region. For, although some of the explorers had visited the territory first, they usually went along the water routes and other established routes of travel. The trappers went into the wilderness with the Indians and learned from them the different times and methods for trapping and familiarized themselves with the important trails and paths. But those trappers soon learned that it was more profitable to act as middlemen between the Indians and the wholesale fur companies and in this way the trading-post came into existence.

The white trappers and hunters who were often called Couriers des Bois (a French phrase meaning guide of the woods) became agents for the fur companies and some of them went into the wilderness and bargained with the Indians for their furs there and some of them operated the trading posts to which the Indians brought their furs. There no money in those days such as we have now and food and other necessities were given to the Indians in exchange for their furs. The muskrat skin was the standard medium of exchange value in the Carver County region and its gauged by the following price list:

1 blanket lined with delaine	70 skins	7 oz. powder	70 skins
1 blanket (light woolen wrap)	70 skins	14 pds. lead	28 skins
1 mortar for pounding corn	20 skins	2 scalping knives	8 skins
1 mortar for grinding paint	25 skins	2 tomahawks	30 skins
1 large tin cup	30 skins	10 gun flints	11 skins
1 small tin cup	20 skins	1 flintlock gun	150 skins

One of the earliest records of a trading post in Carver County referred to the one operated by Pinchon at Little Rapids in 1784.

Another early trading post was that of Jean Baptiste Faribault which was also at Little Rapids. He operated the post from 1803 to 1808.

From 1826 to 1827 Louis Provencalle operated the post at Little Rapids for the Hudson Bay Company. The following story of one of the experiences of Provencalle shows the extent to which success in dealing with the Indians depended upon courage and resourcefulness: (insert story)

A trading post was operated by ~~the~~ Olliver Faribault, a son of Jean B. Faribault, on the Little Prairie. He cultivated quite a bit of land around his post and at that time his farm was the largest one within that territory. Quite a settlement composed of Canadians and mixed-blood Indians grew up around his post. In 1844 Faribault went to Shakopee.

Joseph Renville operated a trading post at the site of Chaska in 1833.

TRADERS AS
TRAILBLAZERS
FOR PIONEER
SETTLERS.

There were still trading posts along the Minnesota River for some time after settlement began but their importance steadily declined . The trading post operators and the trappers made no attempts at permanent settlement but they contributed greatly toward the settlement of the country by creating a friendly attitude in the Indians toward the white people. This friendliness was particularly evident in the relationship which existed between later settlers and Indians in Carver County. There were few if any instances in which Indians ever terrorized or in any way intentionally mistreated settlers in this area.

EARLY SETTLE-
MENT. IN N.W.

Settlement in the Northwest followed a more or less uniform pattern in that the areas which were easily reached were the first to attract the settlers. The first settlements in the territory which later became the State of Minnesota were made along the navigable rivers and lakes. Notable instances of this were the trading posts and settlements which developed around Fond-du-Lac and Duluth along the ST.Louis River and Lake Superior; the establishment of Mendota and Fort Snelling on the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers; and the settlement of ST.Paul and Minneapolis on the banks of the Mississippi River. The rivers were the principal lanes of travel and were important factors in the settlement of the Northwest.

EARLY SETTLE-
MENT IN CARVER
COUNTY.

This was especially true of the settlement of Carver County. The Minnesota River which flows along the southeast edge of the County was once an important means of communication between the wilderness west of the Mississippi River and the outside world. Indians had paddled their canoes up and down the Minnesota River for many years before the advent of the white man and it was only

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natural that the early settlers should readily adopt and make use of it as their road of travel.

THOS. A. HOLMES
FIRST WHITE
SETTLER IN
CARVER CO.

The first permanent settler to locate in Carver County was Thos. A. Holmes. in 1851

He gained permission from an Indian agent named McLain to establish two fur trading posts along the Minnesota River and Carver County was the location of one of the sites which he selected. He paddled a canoe up the Minnesota River from ST. Paul and after he and his half-breed companion had spent an entire day looking over likely locations, he chose the Little Prairie in Carver County for one of the trading posts. He built a house for himself and this became the center around which a sizable community developed.

This settlement later became the village of Chaska and gradually became the most thriving community in the County.

FIRST SETTLERS The first settlers in Carver Carver were mostly Germans. Later a large number of Scandinavians also chose Carver County as their new homes. Much difference of opinion has arisen as to where the first German settlers came from. Some have expressed the belief that they came from a German settlement at New Ulm. But the fact that the settlement at New Ulm was not started until 1854, and that the settlement in Carver County started in 1852 routs that theory.

It is known that many of the hundreds of Germans who came later were either friends or relatives of some of those who had already settled there, and had been persuaded by their friends or relatives to leave their homes in Germany.

GERMANS. WHY
THEY CAME.

Many of Germans who settled in Carver County came to the United States for political reasons. A brief review of the economic and political situation in Germany will show clearly why they emigrated from their homeland to the U.S.

For centuries prior to 1800, Germany was ruled by absolute monarchs. They and the princes under them ruled "by divine right" and the common people had no voice in their government. Princes ruled over the provinces of the German Empire enjoyed all kinds of luxuries which were provided by the very high taxes imposed upon their subjects. As a contrast to the lordly pomp and splendor of the ruling class, the lot of the common people was one of poverty and hard work. No provision was made by the rulers for the education of the poor people and few of them knew how to read or write.

There were no newspapers at that time and even if there had been any the majority of the people would have been unable to read them. Radios had not been invented then and there was no ~~xxx~~ system which provided for the enlightenment of the masses of the people. Great care was exercised by the princes to keep their subjects ignorant of the important events which were taking place in most of the countries of the civilized world around them.

Only indistinct echoes ever reached the lower classes concerning such history making events as ~~the~~ : the Bill of Rights in England; the American Revolution; and the French Revolution. But Finally at the beginning of the nineteenth century, groups of liberal-minded students made it their business to acquaint the German people with these and other important facts.

Conditions
in homeland

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By 1815 the awareness of the common people had been aroused to such a degree that many of the provinces had demanded and received (albeit guardedly) constitutions defining their rights. Over the entire German Empire there was an atmosphere of tension and expectancy. Historians have referred to this period as the teething stage of a nation which was just emerging from a period of intentionally prolonged infancy.

The unsettled state of affairs prevailed until 1848 when it was brought to a climax by news of the third Revolution in France. The smouldering discontent burst into flame and there were many riots and uprisings. Following this demonstration of dissatisfaction by the lower classes, the government of Germany instituted a reign of terror in an effort to re-establish the old order of things. Many of the students who had started and had taken part in the riots were imprisoned and often condemned to death, and hundreds of insurgents and sympathizers were forced to flee for their lives. Most of them fled to France, England, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

N.W. opened
for settlement

The opening up of the Northwestern part of the United States for settlement at about that time had started a western immigration movement, and a large number of German refugees who had come to the United States joined it. Some of them settled in Carver County. They were no doubt attracted by the Big Woods because they were similar to the Schwarzwald or Black Forest of their "Vaterland". They wrote letters to friends and relatives whom they had left behind in Germany, describing the wonders of that new country in glowing terms and urging that they come over and take up some of the fertile farmland. Very little persuasion was necessary to induce those oppressed land-hungry peasants to leave a country which had exacted so much from them, and to try their fortunes in a country which promised so much and asked so little. In a very short time several German settlements had sprung up in Carver County.

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SWEDISH AND
NORWEGIAN
SETTLERS

Scandinavians were also among the first settlers to establish homes in Carver County. The first Swedes and Norwegians to locate in the County came out to it from the eastern part of the country. They were so pleased with it that they did everything possible to encourage their friends and relatives both in the United States and in the native land to come out and join them. The peasant class of Scandinavian needed little persuasion to get him to leave the feudal system under which he lived in his homeland and come to America where he would have both economic freedom and the opportunity to acquire property of his own.

SWEDISH
COLONIES.

Hundreds of Swedes and not so many Norwegians came out to Carver County and took up claims there. Some of the settlements were entirely Swedish and three of the most important were: The King Oscar Settlement, the Scandia Swedish Settlement, and the Gotaholm settlement.

KING OSCAR
SETTLEMENT.

The King Oscar Settlement was the first Swedish settlement to be made in the County and was begun in the fall of 1853. The first settler of this group was Nils Alexanderson who came from Kronsbergs Lon, Sweden and located in Dahlgren Township near East Union. He was later joined by Anders and Peter Hult (later Americanized to Holt). This small group was joined by three more families from Sweden in 1854. They got together and selected a site a few miles west of Carver Village and started a community which they called "King Oscars Settlement". They started a letter-writing campaign to get settlers from Sweden and Norway to join them and every mailship that went from America to their native lands carried scores of letters to friends in the "Old Country". By this means the settlement grew into a populous thriving community.

SCANDIA

SWEDISH SETTLEMENTS

Scandia Swedish Settlement was another community which was started by Swedes in Carver County. It was located on the east shore of Clearwater or Waconia Lake and settlement began in 1854 or 1855. The Hemlandet (a Chicago Swedish newspaper) published the following reference to this settlement which was written by a Mr. Bergquist: " The settlement is in my opinion the best and most beautiful, if not the most beautiful, in the state. This is also the concensus of opinion of all travelers who have visited ..." The Swedes who settled there came from different provinces in Sweden and settled as close to the lake as possible.

GOTAHOLM

A third Swedish settlement in Carver County was the Gotaholm Settlement which was started on the shore of Swedes Lake in 1856 by Daniel Justus who was a native of southern Helsingland. He selected land on the shore of Swedes Lake as a good site for a claim and he immediately settled there. In 1857 he was joined by three other Swedes, Jons Jonsson, Ulrik Ingemarson, and Carl Swenson who was also attracted by the beautiful expanse of water which became known as Swedes Lake. In 1858 many other Swedes came out and settled around the lake and among them was Olof Anderson an ex-member of the Swedish Riksdag (a body similar to the American Congress.).

The reason the name of Gotaholm was given to the settlement was that most of the settlers came from a part of Sweden known as Gota Rike (meaning "good country") and Holm was either adopted from the name of a missionary who had come to this part of the County to preach to the Indians or from the fact that in Swedish the word holm means a "grove" and there was a small grove of trees on the east side of the lake.

HOW THEY GOT THE LAND.

~~EARLY LAND DISPOSAL~~ EARLY LAND DIS- POSAL POLICY OF THE U.S.GOV.

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several
Long before active settlement began in the Northwest, policies for the disposal of public lands as property for public benefit had been tried. One of those which had been used extensively which made allowance only for the settlement of the land, was the British plan. Under this system the land was first surveyed and the settlement platted and laid out before settlers were allowed to move into it. Settlers were not required to buy the land and it was open to any citizens of the government claiming the land. But this system was unsatisfactory for several reasons, the two most important of which were: the many ways in which settlers abused this privilege; and the need of a source of revenue by Congress. Many laws and ordinances were proposed and adopted in an effort to best serve the settlers and the Government and in 1841 an Act known as the Pre-emption Law was enacted by Congress.

PRE-EMPTION LAW.

The word pre-emption as applied to land settlement means the right to settle and improve unappropriated public land and later buy it at the minimum government price without competition.

The right of pre-emption was open to the head of a family, or to a man twenty-one years of age or over, or to a widow, any one of whom must either be a citizen of the United States of America, or an alien who had declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the U.S.A. The applicant was required to swear under oath that he was not the owner of real property to exceed 320 acres besides his pre-emption claim. To such persons the Pre-emption Act gave the right to settle on a piece of land, 160 acres in extent, and to buy the same free from competitive bids at some future date when the public land in that region should be sold at auction at a price per acre set by the government. Three Government land offices where claims could be filed were established in Minnesota and the one in St. Paul was used by

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settlers in its immediate neighborhood.

This was the settlement law which was in force at the time that settlement began in Carver County and many of the settlers obtained their homesteads by complying with its terms.

LAND SPECULATION IN CARVER COUNTY.

But there were many clever individuals who contrived methods of abusing that law and were able to acquire large tracts of land. These they later divided into farms ranging in size from 40 acres to 160 acres and they sold them to settlers at very high prices on long term contracts. One of the most blatant instances of this practise was the formation and operations of the Shasta Townsite Company. This company was composed of a group of eastern capitalists who saw in the settlement of the Northwest an opportunity to realize huge financial profits by speculation in farm lands.

SHASTA TOWNSITE COMPANY.

They each took up adjoining claims on the cleared strip of land in Carver County which was called the Little Prairie, and by furnishing the money and getting friends to do likewise they obtained title to much of the site of Chaska, in 1854.

MEMBERS OF THE SHASTA COMPANY.

The members of the Shasta Company did not even become residents but lived in St. Paul. They hired professional claim holders to obtain the land and then it was deeded over to them. As land speculators there were quite active in the development of the entire county. The three brothers, David, Albert, and George Fuller were the Shasta Company and two of their chief agents were John I. Halsted and Samuel Allen.

PROSPERITY AND LATER EMBARRASSMENT OF THE SHASTA COMPANY.

They were very prosperous during the first three years of their operations, but in 1857 the financial panic in the eastern part of the United States made money almost non-existent among settlers and land was left as a drug on the hands of the speculators. The Shasta Company decided to discontinue operations.

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This company was only one of the hundreds of similar land promotion companies which had sprung up over the United States in the wake of the great western settlement movement. Protests were sent to Congress telling of the manner in which the law which had been passed for the benefit of settlers was being used by land speculators to further their own interests. Legislators readily recognized the weaknesses in the Pre-emption Law and in 1862 the Homestead Act went into effect. (The Pre-emption Law was repealed in 1861.)

HOMESTEAD ACT.

The Homestead Act was a law which gave free land grants to settlers. Under that Act the settler could obtain ~~a farm~~ of 160 acres free of charge, except for a minor fee to be paid when filing the claim. In order to insure permanence of settlement and to prevent a recurrence of some of the speculation evils which developed under the Pre-emption Law, the Homestead Act specified that before title to the land could be gained the applicant must live on the homestead for a period of five years.

Railroad (next page)
Land.

RAILROAD LAND

After the Indian rights to the land in the Northwest had been extinguished by means of treaties between the United States Government and the Indians, Congress was anxious that the newly acquired territory become settled because the sale of the public land to settlers would provide a source of income for the government, and because settlement of the territory would make it easier to govern and protect. But, except in regions which could be reached by navigable rivers, the settlement of the Northwest was very slow and Congress deemed it necessary to devise some new means of stimulating the westward movement.

It was decided that the solution of that problem lay in making the interior regions more readily accessible and that meant convenient means for overland transportation. The railroad was the answer to that question. In order to induce railroad companies to invest their money in the construction of railroads into uninhabited wilderness with no immediate prospects of financial returns until after the country became settled, Congress made generous land grants to railroad companies which fulfilled specified conditions. The principal condition of the Grant was that the railroad company should build lines through designated sections of the territory and for each 15 miles of road built the railroad company was to receive 20 sections of land adjacent to it. This land was free of taxation as long as it remained in possession of the railroad company. The heads of four railroad companies, three organized and one inchoate, got together and formulated a plan for a railroad system which would connect all the principal business centers with a large portion of the interior. They went to Washington and submitted their plans to Congress. They were given the Grant which gave them possession of millions of acres of fertile farm land along their railroad right-of-ways. The first railroad was built into Carver County in 1866 and between that time and 1881 three other railroads had been built. Much of the land given to the railroad companies was sold to settlers who were eager to get farms so near to the railroad over which their produce would be shipped.

FIRST HOMES.

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in
The first dwellings which the settlers lived were erected by the settler himself. They were small one-room cabins of a style known as claim shanties. The Pre-emption Act under which much of the land was obtained did not specify the size or type of house to be built and the settler chose the kind which was best suited to his needs and the easiest to erect according to his carpentry skill or lack of it. After the homestead Act went into effect in 1862 the homesteader was required to build a house which fulfilled the minimum size specifications of the law under which he gained possession of the land.

During the first years of settlement, before lumber mills and brick yards had been established, unpeeled logs were used in building houses and other buildings. The logs were notched and fitted together log cabin style. There were no nails or other hardware procurable in the frontier settlements and wooden pegs were used to hold the logs in place. The spaces between the logs were filled with lengths of split logs which were plastered and held in place with a mortar made of clay and water. This was called chinking and it did much toward making the house weather proof. Spaces were often left open in the chinking to allow for ventilation. The roofs of the houses were made of a large slab-like type of shingle which was called a shake and which was from three to four feet long. The floor was made of rough, hand-hewn planks.

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One door and sometimes a window in the opposite end of the shanty provided light and ventilation. The door was made by joining a number of upright heavy planks together until the proper width was obtained and fastening this to the aperture by means of hinges made of strips of some kind of tough animal hide. The door was often an awkward and ^{un}difficultly wieldly, ~~which was~~ secured against undesired entry by means of a heavy wooden cross bar. The window was a square hole cut in the end of the cabin, ^{with} and the dressed skin of a deer or of some other animal was stretched over it. Wooden shutters were placed over the window at night or in time of danger to protect the occupants from both Indians and wild animals.

There were few if any partitions in those houses, and usually a single large room served as kitchen, dining-room, sitting-room, and bedroom for the entire family. Clothing was hung upon ^{wooden} pegs which were driven into the wall between the logs. A fireplace was used both for heating in cold weather and for cooking food. It was also a good place to sweep dirt from the floor. Simple home-made furniture furnished these homes. The axe, saw, and hammer were often the only tools with which the settler had to work, and about the only thing good which can said of his efforts at cabinet-making is that the pieces of furniture were sturdy and practical.

A large bed standing high from the floor was the main item of furnishing in most of the homes. It had no springs, and the mattress, which was filled with dry prairie hay, was supported either by wooden slats or by a wooden frame ^{of woven} across which rope, ~~was woven~~ back and forth. Some of the more enterprising settlers killed wild birds and used the feathers ~~from them~~ to make ^{soft} feather mattresses. The space under the bed was used as the attic or store-room of the house. Books, important documents, small farming tools, and supplies are only a few of the articles which were pushed under the bed. This part of the house probably corresponded to the "buffet drawer" of many modern homes, in which can be found anything from a stove shaker to a wrist watch.

✓

The furniture was not the only household equipment which was made by the settler or which was made of wood. During the long winter months when the farmer must of necessity remain indoors a great part of the time, he spent much of his time making sled runners, axe handles, repairing farm equipment, making oxen yokes and many wooden articles to be used in the house such as water buckets, candle holders, wash basins, butter churns, and wash tubs. There were no basements in those early homes and of course the farmer could not have a basement workshop such as is found in the average home today where there are usually a vise, a turning lathe, and quite often a band saw as well as large number of hand tools. But the farmer of the eighteen hundreds had to use a part of the barn for his workshop. There was no way to heat it and the only tools that he had to work with were his hammer, axe, knife and saw.

The wooden water bucket was filled from the well and it stood on a bench in the kitchen. It was kept filled during the day for cooking and drinking purposes and was left filled at night to be used in case of an emergency such as sickness or a fire. Whenever the water pail was found empty after dark, the usual comment was that "if the house should catch on fire the water bucket would be the first thing to burn up because it was so dry."

The wooden wash tub was an indispensable part of the household equipment. On Monday it was used for washing clothing and for the next four days of the week it stood under the rainspout to catch rainwater, and on Saturday night it came into its own when bath time came around. In summer it stood in the middle of the kitchen floor and in winter it was placed in front of the fireplace. If there were a number of children to be bathed they took turns according to either age or to their state of cleanliness. The first bath began with only about 6 inches of water in the tub but by the time the last child

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had bathed the tub would often be nearly full of water. The water was not emptied out after each bath but a little more hot water would be added to reheat the cooling water. Those wooden tubs were quite large and heavy.

It was necessary to keep some water in all wooden vessels at all times to keep them from "falling down." If wooden tubs, buckets, churns, or other wooden objects of that nature are allowed to become too dry the wood contracts and it falls apart. Water causes the wood to swell and tighten up.

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Garbage disposal was never a problem with those early pioneers. ~~For even~~ before they began to keep pigs and chickens they did not have to worry about getting rid of garbage ^{for} because "they ate the garbage." ~~By this I~~ mean that during those first years of settlement food was so scarce and high priced that no edible portion ~~of it~~ was ever wasted.

The high price of food was due to the fact that the nearest base of supply was at ST. Paul, and the food had to be hauled great distances both overland and by water before reaching ST. Paul. The scarcity of food in a county like Carver where the woods and streams were filled with food was due to the fact that the settlers were farmers who did not know how to obtain food by hunting and fishing. ~~They had~~ plenty of fertile land on which to raise food but the land ^{first} had to be cleared ~~first~~ of trees, and this took quite a long time. ^{Until the land} ~~was~~ prepared for agriculture and crops could be raised sufficient for their needs, the settlers earned money by gathering cranberries, maple sap, and ginseng root from the woods. The maple sap was made into sugar and syrup, ^{which, like the} ~~and the settlers carried this and the~~ cranberries, ^{where} ~~they~~ either sold ~~them~~ or exchanged ~~them~~ for supplies.

The ginseng ~~was~~ a plant which grew wild in the woods, and its root was ^{by the Chinese} ~~used in making medicine by the Chinese.~~ There ^{is} ~~was~~ a great demand for the root in the orient, and the settlers were able to sell all that they could gather. They either carried it to ST. Paul and sold it there, or ~~they~~ sold it to agents for wholesale companies who went about the country ^{The settlers} ~~gathering~~ ^{purchasing} it for their firm. They were paid about five cents a pound for the root, ~~and since~~ ^{pound} A single root often weighed from one-half to a pound, and a skilled digger could often dig more than a hundred pounds of the root in a single day. The ginseng root industry became such an important source of income to the state that the Legislature passed a law making it unlawful to either dig or ~~buy~~ the root before the first of August of each year. This was done in order to give the root time to reach full growth and to prevent too rapid exhaustion of the supply.

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The Ginseng root industry reached its peak in Carver County at about 1865 during which year it was estimated that the villagers of Watertown would alone sell about \$50,000 worth of the root (Minn. Valley Herald Sept. 23, 1865). But gradually the land was cleared for farming and the wild beds of ginseng were destroyed. The settlers had also learned of the wonderful grain-raising possibilities of the soil of Carver County and this coupled with the extension of railroad lines into the County and as a means of getting farm products to markets caused a decline in the ginseng root industry in favor of a more lucrative products.

Soon after settlement began in Carver County it was also discovered that the clay of that region made a superior grade of yellow brick. This discovery resulted in the development of the brickmaking industry in Carver County. By 1872 there were 44 brickyards with a daily capacity of 40,000 bricks, and in 1882 there were five brickyards with a capacity for producing 9,600,000 bricks a year. Many men were given employment in these yards one of which alone employed from 15 to 20 men. The bricks were used in the construction of buildings in communities all over the County and because of their high quality were in demand in many other parts of the state.

Another industry which developed during the days of early settlement in Carver County and which provided employment for some of the settlers was the brewing industry. There was at one time four breweries at Chaska. This never became one of the important industries of the county but was one of the large number of businesses which came about as a result of the steady increase in the amount of land under cultivation and large surplus of farm products.

M. A. L.

10/8/37

AGRICULTURE - CARVER COUNTY

Carver County is in the southeast dairy district of Minnesota, the oldest farming section in the State, and it has a marketing advantage of being close to the Twin Cities. No point within the county boundaries is more than ⁴⁰forty miles from Minneapolis, adjacent to which is St. Paul, the Capital City, and South St. Paul, the meat-packing center.

The farming methods of Carver County have been evolved by experience, and their practicality has been proven through prosperity and depression alike. Corn, oats and barley, hay, wheat and rye, and sugar beets are the principal crops grown, but dairying is the chief source of farm income. Although most of the county is included in the district which furnishes whole milk to the metropolitan area of the Twin Cities, much of the dairy money comes from the sale of butterfat. Naturally this enterprise is supplemented by raising hogs which are fattened on skim milk, the byproduct of butterfat dairying. More than 60 percent of the Carver County farmer's income is from dairy farming and hogs.

OPPORTUNITIES

Farm values in Carver County are among the highest in the State. The average value per acre in 1935 was \$89.10 or \$9,165 for the average farm. This land, however, is a sound investment when the operator follows the farming and marketing methods which the dirt farmers of the district have already proven to be practical. Broad crop diversification makes crop failure virtually impossible, and in the products he sells, milk, butter, pork, poultry, eggs, and vegetables, the farmer is marketing a finished product,

the price of which remains steady and close to parity with the goods he must buy at the store.

The trend of this district is toward smaller farms with greater intensification in dairying and livestock raising, and with more attention given to poultry and truck garden products to meet the demand of Twin City markets.

PHYSICAL SETTING

Carver County comprises a land area of 376 square miles, 92 percent, or 221,435 acres, of which is cultivated. The fertile farms were carved out of the hardwood forest belt which traversed the State from southeast to northwest. Except for farm wood lots and pasture shade trees, the oaks, maples, and elms have been cut and the stumps grubbed out.

Topography and Drainage An arm of picturesque Lake Minnetonka extends across the Hennepin County line and into Carver. Numerous other lakes, largest of which is Waconia or Clearwater Lake, dot the county. The rolling hills and swells of the northwestern section are drained north by a fork of the Crow River. The remainder, undulating to rolling in topography, slopes southeast to the Minnesota River which carves the southeast boundary of the county.

Soil The soil is mostly rich, black or brown silt loam or clay loam with heavy subsoils. A phosphate deficiency is found in some instances but the soil is well-supplied with nitrogen and the lime content is adequate for alfalfa and sweet clover.

Climate and Rainfall This section of Minnesota has a growing season of about 166 days, with the last killing frost in the spring coming about April 27, and the first in the fall about Oct. 10.

CLIMATIC RECORD (12 years)

MONTHS	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
TOWNS: Chaska (alt. 726) Precipita- tion in inches	.82	.66	1.30	1.63	2.90	4.18	3.10	2.89	3.85	2.07	1.37	.82
Tempera- ture (Fahren- heit)	14.4°	21.2°	31.4°	45.8°	58.5°	68.2°	73.9°	70.2°	61.9°	48.2°	32.8°	17.9°
Annual Precipitation				25.59 inches			Annual Temperature			45.4 degrees		

SETTLEMENT AND RACIAL ORIGINS

Carver County takes its name from Capt. Jonathan Carver, an early explorer of the Northwest. During the "townsite boom" which swept this section of the State in the early 1850's, Thomas Andrew Holmes headed his boat into the north bank of the Minnesota River and laid claim to the townsite that is now Chaska. The name "Chaska" is from the Sioux Indian language and means "one" or "first". The settlers who followed Holmes were of Yankee stock from the East. They in turn were followed and outnumbered by immigrants from northern Europe. The population, 16,936 in 1930, is predominantly of German origin, though only ⁹nine percent are foreign-born. The Scandinavian countries are also well-represented with American-born descendants of the Norse pioneers.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND SUBDIVISIONS

The county was organized in 1855. It is divided into twelve townships. The farm population numbers 10,464, (1935 census) with the remainder living in the city of Chaska, the county seat, and the villages, Carver, Cologne, Bongards, Norwood, Young America, New Germany, Victoria, Waconia, and Watertown.

TAXES

The average tax rate in Carver County in 1935 was 58.54 mills, having been raised from 42.11 mills in 1931. However, the increased rate has not raised the total tax levy, because property valuations have been forced down with the general decline in price levels. In 1931 the taxable value of property in the county was \$13,570,149 and the tax rate of 42.11 mills was designed to yield \$579,937, while in 1935 the valuation was \$9,019,461 and the rate of 58.54 mills brought the levy to \$537,262, a reduction of \$42,675.

Indebtedness The total debt of the county and its subdivisions on Jan. 1, 1936 was \$311,653.38, only 3.46 percent of the taxable value; much of this debt is against the municipalities.

Delinquency In 1934 the tax levy was \$434,293 of which \$23,135, or 5.33 percent, was uncollected, bringing the 1936 total delinquency to \$71,905.

MARKETS AND TRADE CENTERS

A ²⁻two-hour truck haul to the "billion dollar market" created by the three-quarters of a million consumers of St. Paul and Minneapolis is the marketing advantage enjoyed by Carver County farmers. No point in the county is more than ⁴⁰forty miles from the Twin Cities, a factor which makes for speedy and economical disposition of truck garden crops and dairy products. Livestock can be marketed at South St. Paul, which is adjacent to the Capital city. Chaska, the county seat, and Watertown have corn-canning factories and Chaska has the largest beet sugar factory in the State.

Residents of Carver County regard Minneapolis as the principal trading center because of its proximity. But within the county there are several good-sized trading towns, the largest of which are Chaska, the county seat, with a population of 1901; Waconia, 1291; Norwood, 607; Watertown, 594; and Carver, 427. Shakopee, Scott County seat, with a population of 2,023, is

another trading center and lies immediately across the Minnesota River from Chaska.

COOPERATIVES and (canneries)

Carver ~~county~~ farmers operate 39 cooperatives. The dairy production, which exceeds \$2,000,000 annually, is marketed through the Twin Cities Milk Producers Association and through twelve cooperative creameries located at Bongards; Chaska, 2; Cologne; Carver, 2; New Germany; Hamburg; Mayer; Victoria; Waconia; and Watertown; and 5 independent creameries at, Cologne, 2; Waconia; Norwood; and Young America. Other producer cooperatives include ⁵ five elevators, and ¹² twelve livestock-shipping associations.

Consumer cooperatives include three stores selling groceries and general merchandise, located at Bongards, Hamburg, and Young America, and a cooperative oil company at Victoria, in addition to two mutual insurance companies and four cooperative telephone companies.

TRANSPORTATION

Carver ~~county~~ is served by four railroads; the Minneapolis and St. Louis; the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific; the Great Northern; and the Minnesota Western; giving all towns in the county excellent railway connections.

A paved road, US 212, crosses the central part of ~~the county~~ from east to west and connects Chaska, Bongards, Cologne, and Norwood with the Twin Cities. State 25, a bituminous-treated road, traverses the county from north to south, as does State 41. State 5 enters at the eastern boundary and joins State 25 in the center of the county. The State and Federal highways are supplemented by county roads.

Northland-Greyhound Lines and the Interstate Bus Service connect the principal towns with the Twin Cities. Express companies maintain truck transportation over the same routes.

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

Churches

Ten religious sects are represented by the 30 churches in Carver County. Of the churches six are Lutheran and nine ~~are~~ Catholic.

Schools In the 66 school districts of ~~Carver County~~ there are 65 schools with 61 teachers in ungraded schools and 51/ⁱⁿgraded elementary and secondary. High schools are located at Chaska, Norwood, Young America, Waconia, and Watertown. In 1936, \$112,115, or \$6.62 per capita, was collectable in school taxes. The public schools are supplemented by Catholic and Lutheran parochial schools.

Recreation Carver County has facilities for all winter sports and the popular water sports of Minnesota. In 1935 nearly ⁴four million pike, pickerel, trout, bass, sunfish, and crappies were planted in its lakes and streams.

Picturesque Lake Minnetonka extends an arm of her scalloped shoreline south into Carver County. A romantic historical background enhances the scenic beauty and the resort attractions of the lake. From a time early in the 1870's until after the turn of the century, Minnetonka was ^{one of} the favorite summer resort^s of the entire Nation, attracting vacationers from all over the country. Its beauty inspired Lieurance's "By the Waters of Minnetonka" and "Land of the Sky Blue Water" by Camden.

FAIR

Each year in September the Carver County Agricultural Society sponsors an agricultural fair at Carver, and in August the Farmers Cooperative Society holds a fair at Waconia. Chaska honors its leading industry with "Sugar Day", an annual celebration in carnival spirit.

FARM INCOME

Farming ~~in Carver County~~ began in the 1850's, with wheat the big crop. The virgin land produced well, wheat farming required a small capital outlay, and took only about ³three months of work out of the year. The farms were almost in sight of the great mills of Minneapolis, thus simplifying the marketing problem, and the wheat crop was "cashed in" as soon as the

threshing was over. But the time came when a crop change was necessary. The market price began to sag when western wheat lands were opened. Weeds spread and soil strength was sapped by the one-crop system; and a crop failure meant disaster. The farmers soon saw the folly of such a program. They began to increase the acreage of other small grain crops. Since the turn of the century, when early ripening varieties of corn were perfected, there has been a steady increase in corn acreage.

Corn, oats, barley, hay, wheat, rye, and sugar beets are now the principal field crops. Just a step behind the trend from the one-crop system to diversified cropping has followed the trend from cash-crops to feed-crops.

With the exception of sugar beets, small indeed is the proportion of crops sold for cash. Instead the grain, hay, and corn is fed to livestock and sold in the form of beef, pork, dairy and poultry products.

The total farm income for Carver County is \$5,961,019, an average of \$2,769 for each farm. Half of this amount is derived from the sale of dairy and livestock products. Half of the remainder is derived from the sale of livestock, and the rest is charged off to the sale of field crops and forest products and to products consumed on the farm.

CENSUS REPORTS

There has been a steady increase in the acreage under the plow. In 1910 only 63.5 percent of the land area was in farms, but in 1920 the amount had been raised to 90.8 percent and to 92.0 in 1935. An increase in the number of farms and a gradual reduction in the size is being brought about with the intensification of dairying, poultry raising, and truck gardening. In 1930 there were 2,041 farms averaging 105.9 acres, while in 1935 the number was increased to 2,153 and the average size was reduced to 102.9 acres.

One-fourth of Carver County farms are tenant-operated, while over the

State as a whole the rate is one-third tenants. Forty-four and nine-tenths percent of the owner-operated farms in the county were mortgaged in 1930, the total debt being \$4,389,154.

A statistically average farm in the county based on the 1935 census would cover approximately 102.9 acres and be valued at \$9,165., a decrease in valuation of 44.2 percent since 1930. Its barns would house some 18 head of cattle of which 15 would be cows more than ¹one year old, a flock of 124 chickens, 9 head of swine, (11 less than in 1930), and on every fourteenth such farm there would be a flock of 14 sheep. Crop acreage on this farm would consist of: oats, 9.8 acres; wheat, 4 acres; barley, 3.5 acres; corn, 18.7 acres, of which 43 percent would be harvested for grain; hay, 17.9 acres; an occasional crop of flax and rye; and on every eighteenth such farm would be a crop of ⁹~~nine~~ acres of sugar beets. The farmstead and buildings would cover a few acres, a substantial proportion of pasture would be allowed, and the garden would be devoted to fruits, potatoes, and other vegetables.

CARVER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Population, 1930 (county)16,936]
 Approx. land area376 sq. miles.....240,640 acres

COUNTY SEAT - Chaska

FARM DEVELOPMENT

Number of farms, 1935 2,153]
 Land in farms, 92 percent of total area 221,455 acres
 Average size of farms 102.9 acres]

FARM VALUES

Average value per acre, 1935 \$89.10]
 " " " " 1930 155.36]
 Average value per farm, 1935 9,165.00]
 " " " " 1930 16,446.00

THE TAX PICTURE

Total taxable value, 1935 \$9,019,461
 Total general tax levy, 1935 537,262
 Average tax rate 58.54 mills
 Total debt of county and subdivisions 311,653.38
 Per capita debt \$18.40
 County bonds none
 Total debt is 3 percent of the taxable value.

TENANCY AND MORTGAGE

Number of owner-operated farms, 1935 1,372
 Part owners 1935 224
 Managers, 1935 13
 Tenants, 1935 544
 Percentage of tenancy, 1935 25.2 percent
 Number of farms mortgaged (owner operated) 1930 697
 Percentage of farms mortgaged (owner operated), 1930 . 44.9 percent
 Amount of farm mortgage debt, 1930 \$4,389,154

FARM INCOME (1930 Census)

Average Farm Income\$2,769

Sources of Income (by products)

Dairy and livestock products	\$3,087,348	51.8 percent
Livestock	1,378,514	23.1
Crops	645,467	}	10.8
Products used	810,012		13.5
Forest products	39,6786
Total	\$5,961,019	99.8

LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1930</u>
Cattle and calves	39,384	39,062
Swine	20,319	43,066
Sheep and Lambs	2,119	2,192
Horses and Colts	7,371	7,531

CROP CENSUS (1935)

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Bushels</u>
Corn	2,024	40,315	
Corn (harvested)	1,641	17,195	297,814
Wheat	1,228	8,644]	85,987]
Oats	1,518	21,203	420,314
Barley	1,036	7,710]	122,307
Alfalfa	1,530	10,685	9,827 tons]
Sugar beets	116]	1,002]	7,859 tons]