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Writers Project Research Notes.

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PINE COUNTY

Prior to the organization of Minnesota as a territory in 1849 Pine County was included in what is now St. Croix County, Wis. After 1849 until Chisago County was organized in 1852 Pine County was included in Ramsey County.

In 1872 Pine County was organized and included what is now Kanebec and Carlton counties until 1858.

When the county was organized in 1854, Herman Trott, Geo. W. Staples and Royal C. Grey were appointed County commissioners. Until 1872 Pine was attached to Chisago county for judicial purposes at which date the county seat was established at Chengawatana by Legislative enactment. But in 18 this was changed by popular vote to Pine City. First District Court held at Pine City in Oct. 1872, Judge Crosby presiding, John D. Wilcox Clerk, Edward Jackson, Sheriff.

After removal of the County seat to Pine City, the newly elected board of County Commissioners were:

Auditor Adolph Munch; Trustees Hiram Bracket, George Goodwin and Edward Jackson. Register of Deeds Don Willard and County Superintendent of Schools and Treasurer John D. Wilcox.

First papers recorded by the Register of Deeds was a Military Land Warrant. No. 12702, in the name of Prudence Rockwell, and was for property located by William Orrin Baker on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 38, Range 20, and subject to 40 days preemption. Dated at Stillwater, June 19, 1855, by T. M. Fullerton, Register. Was Assigned to Enos Jones June 14, 1856.

The finances were good until 1872 when new road building necessitated heavy expenses, and because of two defalcations by county auditors. In 1876 the State Legislature bonded the county for its indebtedness to the amount of \$10,000 in ten year bonds at ten per cent interest.

In 1886 a bridge was built across Kanabec River at a cost of \$3,350. and was 800 feet long. The state appropriated \$1,500 and the county paid the balance \$1,850.

The Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad was built to Kanabec River, (Pine City) in 1868, extended northwest to the county line in 1869, and the next year finished to the twin ports. This railroad was sold under foreclosure in 1867 to the St. Paul and Duluth Ry. Co. and in 1900 became the property by sale of the Northern Pacific Railway.

A trading Post was established at Chengawatana on Cross Lake by Thomas Connor in 1816, (This was before Fort Snelling was built.) But Connor is said to have informed friends that there had been a French Trading Post there before his arrival. Connor's house was made of bark, and was portable. He moved as he traded up and down the St. Croix River. His house was divided into sleeping and living quarters by skins and grass mats. He lived there until 1847.

In 1836 Reverend Frederick Ayers founded a Presbyterian Mission at this point under the auspices of the American Board Foreign Missions. In 1837 Rev. Mr. Hall of La Point Mission visited Pokegama and organized a church with seven members, three of whom were natives. He baptised eight persons and performed the marriage ceremony for two couples probably the first in the St. Croix Valley. Houses and a school were built. Land was cleared and gardens started. In 1841, the Sioux Indians decided that this was a good place to avenge wrongs done them by the Chippewas. It appears that two sons of Little Crow had been killed in self defense near Stillwater by a Chippewa some time before. The Sioux arrived at night and hid in the brush around the mission ready to attack the Chippewas when they would come to work their gardens in the early morning. But the Chippewas fearing the Sioux had slept on an island in the lake. As a canoe bearing two school girls attempted to cross the

lake they were fired on prematurely by a Sioux scout and the battle began. Many of the Ojibewas were injured but none killed except the two girls. The Sioux, however suffered severely and withdrew carrying their dead up the river for two miles where they dressed each one in his best, placed their knives and guns beside them and left them seated on the ground with their backs to large trees. After two days the Ojibewas raided the Sioux dead and cut the bodies up.

About this time Kirkland came from Illinois to plant a colony near the Mission. He selected a point on Pokegama Lake where Pine City now stands. He was told by the Indian Agent at Fort Snelling that his plan to unite the Sioux and Ojibewas tribes in one mission could never be successfully carried out, but he stayed with his teachers and books until at last he realized that his work was a failure and he left.

Chengawatana (meaning Pine City) was an Indian village on the lake in 1846. A dam for sluicing logs was built here in 1848 by Elam Greeley and in 1852 Ebenezer Ayer had a hotel there for loggers.

In 1852 soon after the government road was completed to Superior City, Wis. a post office and stage route was established.

In 1856 an attempt was made to build a village to Chengawatana. Judd, Walker, and Co. and Daniel A. Robertson surveyed and platted the village of Alhambra, but the name was not accepted and the plan was given up. In 1874 the township of Chengawatanawas organized.

The town of Pine City was organized in 1874, Pine City village platted in 1869, village incorporated in 1881 but the officers did not qualify until a year later.

Duluth, Minn.
 Topic: Pine County
 David Slafer
 March 30, 1937
Hardege; 2650

HISTORICAL SURVEY OF PINE COUNTY

For many decades before Minnesota was admitted to the Union, the forest and prairie Indians roamed the area which was to become Pine County. Many traces of their occupancy can still be seen in the mounds and tumuli scattered throughout the area. By the end of the 17th Century the region was well known to the whites, for by that time the St. Croix River had become a major water route between the Head of the Lakes and southern Minnesota.

It is believed that the Pine County area was first visited by white men as early as 1660. At that time two famous Frenchmen, Radisson and Groseilliers, were extended an invitation to visit the Spirit Lake Villager Indians in their own country. Proceeding down the St. Croix River, they turned west along the Knife (Isanti) Sioux Trail, thus being the first Europeans to tread upon Pine County soil.¹

The early whitemen found Indian villages scattered everywhere. One large settlement centered around Lake Pokegama (not the lake of that name in Itasca County), where, in 1804, Thomas Connor established a trading post for the Northwest Company. His personal diary² is replete with the exciting adventures that every early trader fell heir to. Especially interesting is his description of the building of the post. It relates his meeting with the Indians to discuss a site; the clearing of the ground, and the final completion of the buildings.

By November 5, 1804, the post was opened for trading, and soon the Indians made their appearance, bringing with them skins to pay off their debts.

Life at the post was fraught with danger and excitement, for the Indians were a troublesome lot. On several occasions guards were stationed to defend the post,

¹ Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. I., p. 38.

² Possessed by the Public Archives of Canada.
 See also Gates, C.M., "Five Fur Traders of the Northwest, pp. 245-278.

and sometimes it was necessary for Connor to intervene before blood was shed.

Connor had other and more difficult situations to deal with. The entire area surrounding the lake and the Snake River was hotly fought over by the Sioux and Chippewa tribes. The fault lay partly in the white traders themselves for using rum in their trade. Connor himself sold this article.

Yet another factor Connor had to contend with was the deadly rivalry between the Northwest and X.Y. Companies. The diary presents an accurate picture of this struggle as witnessed by one involved.

The diary covers only the year 1804-1805, but it is certain Connor remained at the post for some years. After 1816 he became affiliated with the American Fur Company.

Religious activities went hand in hand with fur trading and exploration, and the same was true at Pokegama, for from 1836 to 1843 a mission and school were there. The mission was established by Mr. and Mrs. Ayer. For the first five years their efforts were outstandingly successful, but in 1841 Indian troubles halted them.

The friction between the Sioux and Chippewa had been increasing, and by 1841 reached a climax. The Sioux of the southern part of the territory gathered together three war parties for a raid on the Pokegama settlement. The first party led by Little Crow were met at the Falls of the St. Croix by two Chippewa who slew two small sons of the leader. One attacker was killed, but the other escaped to Pokegama with news of what had happened. The second party turned back at the mouth of the Snake River. The third group, inflamed and embittered by the loss of the chief's sons, fell upon Pokegama on May 24, and within two hours left a scene of desolation.³

The "Battle of Pokegama" resulted in the Chippewas abandoning their settlement, and the mission was soon forced to close. The Indians ventured to return in 1843,

Minnesota History, Vol. VI., pp. 143-144.

and found that the government had taken over the territory and white people were beginning to enter and homestead. Under the increasing pressure of civilization the Indians moved west to seek new homes.

Pine County, included in Ramsey and Chisago Counties, was a part of the wide belt of pine forest which covered the northern half of Minnesota. It is not surprising, therefore, that soon after the area was open to settlement, the timber operators would make their appearance. One of the earliest sawmills was erected at Chengwatana (Pine City) in the early 1850's. It was operated by water power and much of its output was floated south on the St. Croix River.

It was inevitable, that with the huge forests covering the county, lumbering would become its first major industry. The lumbermen believed the timber supply to be inexhaustible, but by 1900 the only evidence of the once great industry was the hundreds of thousands of rotting stumps. All that remains of the great forest is the St. Croix State Forest, a timbered area of 1,131 acres set aside by a far-seeing state legislature.

The sawmills in Pine County flourished from 1850 to 1900. A mill erected at Pine City in 1871, though twice ravaged by fire, cut 33,000,000 feet of timber. Another cut 7,000,000. Altogether the Pine City mills cut about 60,000,000 feet.

Between 1870 and 1890 five small mills were operated at Rock Creek, and their combined production was 41,000,000 feet. The Mission Creek mill, also twice damaged by fire, cut 70,000,000 feet.

Several large mills were centered at Hinckley. One mill cut 70,000,000 feet before it was closed. Some years later it was reconditioned, and in five and a half years cut another 140,000,000 feet. The D.C. Grant mill near Hinckley cut 2,000,000 feet.

The Rutledge mill on Kettle River was erected in 1886 by Weyerhaeuser, Sauntry and Rutledge. Operated for twelve years, it produced an astonishing output of 216,000,000 feet.⁴

⁴ Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. IX., pp. 310-311.

Lumbering activities brought an influx of settlers, and by 1855 the population of the region was sufficient for the formation of a new county. Accordingly, on March 1, 1856, the following legislative act was passed:

"Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the legislative assembly of the territory of Minnesota: That so much of the counties of Chisago and Ramsey as is comprised within the following boundaries, be and the same is hereby constituted and erected into a separate county, to be known as the county of Pine, to wit: Beginning at a point where the line between township thirty-seven and thirty-eight north, strikes the St. Croix river; from thence running due west on said line to a point where the same is intersected by the line between ranges twenty-five and twenty-six west; from thence due north on said range line until intersected by the correction line between townships forty and forty-one north; thence east on said correction line to a point where the line between ranges twenty-four and twenty-five leaves the same, running north; thence due north to the southern boundary of Itasca County (46 30'); thence along said boundary to the west boundary of Wisconsin; thence along said boundary to the said place of beginning."⁵

Between the time the county's first boundaries were established and the present boundaries were laid down, a mysterious Buchanan County was formed from Pine County and was absorbed by it. According to "Minnesota Laws, 1849-1858," the legislature passed this act:

"Sec. 11. That so much of the territory as lies within the following boundaries be, and the same is hereby created into the county of Buchanan: beginning at the south-west corner of township number forty-two (42) north, range twenty-one west; thence east to the St. Croix River to the boundary line between Minnesota and Wisconsin; thence north to the township line between townships

⁵ Sherburne and Hollinshead, "Minnesota Laws, 1849-1858" p. 95.

forty-five and forty-six; thence west on said line to the north-west corner of township forty-five, range twenty-one west; thence south to the place of beginning. And the county seat of said county is hereby located temporarily at Fortuna."⁶

In 1927 Buchanan County became the object of a thorough research. A letter of W. M. Stewart of the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, states that "according to our records, Buchanan County was returned at the Census of 1860 with a population of 26, and sometime between 1860 and 1870 was attached to Pine County."⁷

Oscar W. Samuelson, Auditor of Carlton County, wrote: "The same act that created Carlton County (1857) also created Buchanan County out of a part of Pine County. It also created Mille Lacs, Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties, and Buchanan County is the only one of the brood that did not survive."⁸ He also quoted Calvin L. Brown, who in an article said: "A number of counties were created and their boundaries expressly defined which consequently were put quietly to sleep by the creation of some new county embracing the same and perhaps additional territory----- Buchanan County, established in 1857 and named for President Buchanan, bordered on the St. Croix in the northeast part of the territory, with Fortuna as the county seat. Neither the county nor the county seat can now be found and the territory thereof is mainly within Pine County."⁹

With the final establishment of the county's borders, the county had a total land area of 1,444 square miles. On the west is the St. Croix River and Wisconsin; on the north, Carlton County; on the west, Aitkin and Kanabec Counties; and on the south, Chisago County.

The completion of the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad between St. Paul and Duluth, in 1870, gave the county access to the outside world. Today Pine

⁶ Ibid, p. 99.

⁷ Letter on file, St. Louis County Historical Society, Duluth, Minn.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

County is served by branch lines of the Sault Ste. Marie, Northern Pacific, and Great Northern Railroads. The numerous county and state highways radiate in all directions.

The autumn of 1894 will live forever in the memories of the residents of northern Minnesota, especially those of Pine County. The stories that were told and printed of the great holocaust which burned Hinckley and the neighboring communities are legion. The flames devastated Pine, Carlton, and Kanabec Counties, and destroyed six villages with the victims totaling almost 400. Only one fire had ever taken a greater toll of life---the Peshtigo fire in northern Wisconsin on October 11, 1871, which claimed 3,000 persons.

The conditions prevailing during the summer of 1894 made the country ripe for the type of holocaust that broke out on September 1. In general the weather was fine, but the dryness was unparalleled. In July when the average rainfall was 3.42", only .13" fell. In August only .36" fell where the usual was 2.98." Between May 16 and September 10, a period during which the area ordinarily received 13.61" on rain, only 2.20" fell. The temperature was as much above the average as the rainfall was below.

Fanned by a 60-mile wind, the unmerciless flames spread in all directions, and so quickly that few had any opportunity to prepare for an exodus. At Hinckley, 10 minutes after the whistle at the sawmill sounded the alarm, every building in the village was in flames.

For days after, bodies continued to be found. In many instances entire families were found burned beyond description. Relief activities were begun immediately, and continued for weeks. Those who survived the disaster began the work of rebuilding destroyed homes and business buildings, planting new crops, and acquiring new live stock.

One of the most famous Danish agricultural colonies in the United States is centered around Askov, Minnesota. Danish settlement in the state had begun in the 1850's and reached the peak in the 1890's and 1900's. By the latter date

there were Danish communities at Kasson, Dodge County; Storden and Westbrook, Cottonwood County; Danewood, Chisago County; and Geneva and Clark's Grove, Freeborn County.

It was soon apparent that rather than have the secular organization founded by Grundtvig, involved in the formation of new Danish settlements, a society created for that express purpose would find the task easier to accomplish. Accordingly, in 1887 the Rev. F. L. Grundtvig, son of the founder of the Grundtvig religious movement, and his friends organized the Dansk Folkesamfund (Danish People's Society) with the general aim of conserving and developing the social heritage of the Danes in America. The first venture of the new society was the establishment of a settlement in Danevang, Wharton County, Texas.

In 1905 the society appointed a committee of three members to choose a site for a new colony. After searching parts of the Atlantic seaboard and interior areas, a site was finally selected in Pine County. The topography of the chosen area, so suggestive of parts of Denmark---slightly rolling terrain inclined to small lakes---may have been the deciding factor.

Through K. H. Duus and L. C. Pedersen, the society acquired 20,000 acres of fertile soil, made still more fertile by the wood ash left 12 years before by the Hinckley fire. Although the land was bought at varying prices, it was sold to the settlers at a uniform rate. Forty lots ranging from 40 to 80 acres each were sold the first years and families moved in from southern Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa. Settlers also came from the west, but few directly from Denmark.

Usually the land was sold to the settlers on contracts running to the society at \$10 an acre, one-fifth down and annual installments of \$2 or less for four or more years. On acquiring the title the new owner would usually borrow by mortgage from financial companies or from the banks. To make farm loans more easily procured, the society, in 1917, formed the Askov National Farm Loan Association. Now it is the largest loan agency in Askov.

In 1916, only ten years after Askov had been established, the population of the community was over 1,000 persons of Danish descent. The name of the village was chosen because of the high regard of the Grundtvigians for the Askov Folk High School in Denmark. Askov now boasts of a large public school, two social halls, a bank, Danish Lutheran Church, and a weekly newspaper, the "Askov American." The church supports a Danish religious school for the children, and during the winter Danish and English courses are conducted for the adults.¹⁰

The influence of the training received in the schools of Denmark is often offered as an explanation for the aptness with which the Danes espouse the cause of co-operativism. Pine County has many co-operative organizations, and they are spreading rapidly and widely.

Recent developments in Pine County has been almost wholly in the field of agriculture. The improvement of all types of transportation facilities has opened new markets to the county's farmers. New uses are being made of the farm woodlot, and with most of the timber being sold to the huge wood plants at Cloquet, a new source of revenue is opening for the county.

¹⁰ Minnesota History, Vol. VIII, pp. 363-385.

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PINE COUNTY
FARMS

FRED A. HODGE & SON
REAL ESTATE
PINE CITY, MINNESOTA

RESIDENCE
PROPERTIES

February 26, 1936

Mrs. May G. Newman,
Hinckley, Minn.

Dear Mrs. Newman:

Mother asked me to reply to your letter of the 21st.
instant and to thank you for the same.

Just now I am trying to interest Mr. McKusick in preparing a brief County
and Pine City Village report to mail you. I will write you later as to this.

Mother recently received a letter from Miss A. M. McCaine of Fargo, N. D.
Miss McCaine is a retired teacher and I quote from her letter as to early
history of Hinckley. "About Hinckley: I think it was 1870, I know I was
about 3 yrs. old, when my father, Uncle David and Uncle William left Groton,
Mass. and came West, because of W. H. Grant's influence. They were conservative
eastern men, over 40 yrs. old, leaving a good business to go into lumbering,
about which they knew nothing whatever; however, W. H. Grant wanted the money
and was persuasive and they never had one atom of business sense. I think the
firm was, at first, "Grant, McCaine & Co." - later, "McCaine Bros. & Barteau"
(another man who never had any business sense.) The office was in St. Paul
and my father was in charge of it; Uncle David was most of the time on the
road; Uncle William was at Hinckley, where the mill was.

Within a year or two, Fred A. Hodge, in Frankestown, New Hampshire,
having heard about this "going West" business, wanted to go and they did,
very much, need someone to manage the mill-store; his parents felt dreadfully
about it, but they knew Frankestown was no thrilling place for a young man
and this seemed a good chance, so he came. He was young, keen, friendly,
learned the Indian language (Chippewa tribe, I think it was there then)
and got on in fine shape. About 1880 the lumber firm failed completely,
but Fred had friends and interests enough to get on without it. I have no
doubt he was Hinckley's first post-master; the mail was probably handled
thru the store and he would attend to it.

This isn't much information, nor very definite, but is the best I
have on the subject."

The above from Miss McCaine's letter may be of some help with the
information you have already.

Yours very truly,

Webster P. Hodge.

PROMINENT PINE COUNTY PIONEERS

No history of Pine County is complete without special mention of those whose courage and steadfastness blazed the trail through the wilderness for the prosperous villages and farms that can now be found in the remotest parts.

A few indian traders of whom no trace can be found came first, then the loggers came and went and of their transit only stumps remain -- and stories of the vast riches carried away. But the men who came with open eyes to see into the future and then remained to develop the various communities, to establish schools, build roads and break trail for civilization, are the ones to whom we owe remembrance. Some came empty handed and toiled mightily and died without knowing the greatness of their endeavor. Some came with full purses and passed on leaving no material wealth, but their mark remains on the invisible path of progress. A few came and prospered and they, too, have given their strength to the vast surge of life ever pushing onward and upward. We must not forget them.

James Hurley - living (Get this report from Fifty Years in Northwest)

Fred A. Hodge - deceased (" " " " " " " " " "
Letter with comments attached.

W. H. Grant - deceased - (Get this from Folwells or Folsom's Hist.)

James Morrison " (" " " Hist. St. Croix Valley)

Nelson and Adelaide Henry - dead - story attached.

Geo. H. Cunningham, dead, history attached.

F. V. Goff, dead, history attached.

Ludwig Mosback, living, story attached.

Others will be sent in later.

(We will write a local Co. History from our notes after your office is thru with them.)

LUDWIG MOSBAEK? PROPRIETOR OF FERNDALE.

One of Pine County's grand old men is Ludwig Mosbaek of Askov. Born in Denmark he was hired out as a shepherd when seven years old and for eight successive summers followed this occupation for the same man, caring for his cattle and herding them as well as other work and herding sheep. As he travelled through the fields he made cuttings of poplar and other shrubs, sticking them into the banks of creeks and streams. When nine years of age, he grafted some apple scions on the branch of an old mountain ash and to his great joy they grew.

At fourteen he was graduated from school and went to work as a gardener on a country estate.

So it naturally followed that when eighteen he started a little nursery and developed it to a business of considerable size, adding seeds as a side line. In the late Eighties a depression caught him with many thousands of dollars on his books and the farmers unable to pay and he closed out his business and emigrated to the U. S. landing in Chicago in 1891.

In 1906 he came to Pine County attracted by the expansive advertisements of cheap lands and wonderful soil. He came as part of a Danish community and it is largely owing to Mr. Mosbaek's wide vision and creative mind that the village of Askov is now a thriving, aggressive village with a bright future.

Mr. Mosbaek organized many cooperative marketing and producing associations, cream, potatoes, chicken and egg, rutabaga growing and selling. And it is for this last named cooperative that Askov has become famous. By careful selection of seed and propagation they have put on the market a rutabaga rivalling that of Canada. Many of Mr. Mosbaek's cooperative plans fell

by the wayside, his neighbors not always being able to foresee - as he so clearly did - the trend of the composite agricultural mind of the world toward cooperatives.

When he first arrived in Pine County Mr. Bosbaek's eye was caught by the lavish growth of wild ferns, which were thought by some to be a nuisance. But he saw the financial possibilities and advertising in a large nursery magazine was able to work up a nice business amounting in time to thirty thousand dollars a year. This gave him money to clear his farm land and in 1907 he started the Ferndale Nursery.

The growth of this nursery has been phenomenal but Mr. Mosbaek is so thoroughly grounded in this work that he could take care of it and still have time to look into other things. He has attempted to teach the people of northern Minnesota the value of Pine tree wind breaks and has helped to plan and plant groves all over the state. In 1930 he was elected to the Roll of Honor in Northeastern Minnesota for outstanding services to Agriculture and his picture hangs in the Assembly Hall of Northeast Experiment Farm at Duluth.

During the World War he served as Food Administrator for Pine County. He helped to organize the Farm Bureau in Pine County but later felt that it cost more than the farmers could afford for the service which it gave in this new cut-over farming which had to go more or less slowly, so he resigned.

He is also a life member of the State Horticultural Society and could have honorary titles in every association connected with agriculture if he so desired. His enthusiasm is eternal, his generosity is unbounded, his knowledge of all things grows daily, his wisdom is deep enough and broad enough to give a helping hand to all who DESERVE it. His slogan is "Make Askov the place where I most desire to live."

George H. Cunningham may well be called the founder of Sturgeon Lake village, coming here in 1888, a young man of 27, he acted as relief agent for the St. Paul and Duluth Railway for a short time then went to clerk in a general store for Frank Murray. In 1890 he started his own store and later bought Mr. Murray's business. He encouraged settlers to come to this locality, helping them choose their land and grubstaking many for the first hard years. He also loaned money for improving the land and secured aid for them in various ways. He was always ready to buy anything produced by the farmers and saw that they got roads and schools. The people relied on him for everything even asking him to hire their teachers and many a young teacher for an outlying school found shelter in his home while he arranged for a way of transportation to a distant school district. He died in 1929 after seeing an isolated railroad station grow from a settlement of a few homesteaders and indians to a thriving village on a state highway.

Frederick Victor Goff, teacher. Although not one of Pine County's earliest teachers F. V. Goff deserves mention for his pioneer work in the outlying districts of the county where often he had to walk many miles carrying his possessions on his back to reach his destination and then find there was no "room for him in the inn" and cheerfully he would set up housekeeping in the school house, making a platform to place over the desks for a bed. In places where no girl-teacher could reach Mr. Goff would answer the call. He lived on a good farm near Friesland and with his soldier's pension could have lived without undergoing the self denials of such a restricted life, but whenever he heard of a place begging for a teacher he offered his services and went to help not only with education but with anything else where help was needed in the district. He gave his services after school hours free to the country boys and girls, teaching them to play on various string and wind instruments and on the organ, directing them in group singing. He helped farmers with their chores and in other jobs. He was born in New York, came to Minnesota in 1865, and to Pine County in 1889. He had been a fifer in the Civil War. He served one term in the Minnesota Legislature immediately before moving to Pine County. He died in Friesland aged 76 and with a teaching record of fifty six years.

STURGEON LAKE SUMMER CAMPS.

Almost every village has a Tourist Park and there are lakes and rivers adjacent to furnish good fishing in season. Hunting also provides sport in the less frequented parts of the county.

Sturgeon Lake Village in northern Pine County is the southern boundary of the Arrow-head country. At this point are fifteen good lakes, all on fine roads and furnishing good fishing and pleasant camping spots. On Sturgeon Lake, the largest of these are five summer resorts where room and board or cottages can be had. The Y.M.C.A. of Duluth has its summer home here. The chief camps are as follows.

Wold's Resort, 4 miles from the village on Highway 61, and on the south shore. 4 housekeeping cottages with ice, wood and boat, furnished, fine beach, fine surroundings. Special rates for the summer season, and usual prices for transients. Groceries and mail delivered daily.

Wade's Woods, 5 miles from town and highway, 8 housekeeping cottages, wood, ice, boats.

Lakeside, 3 miles from highway, 5 cabins, wood and ice.

Edelweis, $3\frac{1}{4}$ " " " 5 " " " "

Swanson's Point $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from highway. 3 cabins with wood and ice furnished. Mail and groceries delivered as above. All on Sturgeon Lake.

Sand Lake Inn on Sand Lake and Highway No. 61. Modern hotel, some sleeping cottages, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Sturgeon Lake Village.

There is good duck hunting in season about these lakes and deer hunting within fifteen miles.

Hinckley, Minn.

Feb 24, 1936.

Supt. of Schools,
Findlayson,
Minn.

Dear Sir:

Will you kindly help with our volunteer work in collecting data for the Minnesota Guide?

I am told that Findlayson has quite an interesting history and also has a number of nice summer camps nearby.

We are calling for information on everything in your community that would prove interesting to tourists, land seekers, or to our own population. All interesting historical facts, unusual events, foreign colonies, annual outings, or meetings of any cult. or society, churches, private schools, clubs, etc. Roads and how to get there. (To any point of interest).

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,

May G. Newman.

Hinckley, Minn.

March 21, 1936.

Mrs. Mabel Ulrich,

St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Dr. Ulrich:

I have not been able to get all I wanted for Pine County as the roads have been impassable and even the mail has been delayed for days every week, but yesterday I mailed you an outline.

I was unable to get any books on Pine County from the Minnesota Traveling library as they were all out, so presumably someone is doing some research work. I hope for my county.

Mrs. Callahan, wife of Dr. Callahan, of the Sanitarium on Pokegama Lake at Pine City is preparing a report on that village and will no doubt give you an excellent one.

I enclose a report from Finlayson, Minn. and one from Sturgeon Lake on the summer camps, at that place.

I have as yet heard nothing from the eastern part of the country, nor from Sandstone just north of here.

I have not been able to get my notices in my home paper as our editor is not very much interested. Last week I sent in a notice that I would be in town all this week and I went in Monday morning. He had not published the notice, being FREE material he did not even look to see if it were seasonable but laid it aside for later and of course I had my office open for three days with nobody knowing I was in town to help them with their reports. The roads are terrible though and I doubt if many could have come in from the outlying districts. My Co. Supt. of Schools has also put me off, claiming to be too busy just now but promising a report LATER.

May G. Newman.

Sent in by May G. Newman, Hinckley, Minnesota.

Radio in Hinckley

The first thoughts of communicating without wires crept into the minds of would be Marconies about 1920. The bug having settled on the minds and actions of several of the local lads. Possibly the main reason for this date was the fact that amateur wireless was banned during the World War and many dismantled wireless sets were at this time being rebuilt and put again into service.

The first sets constructed consisted of hand made parts together with a few catalogue parts. Those making the first working wireless sets in this area were my pal Donald Young and myself, (then 14 years old -). Donald Young living a mile east of Hinckley and I living in the west side of town. After much work of constructing, tearing down and rebuilding the sets finally gave forth sounds which we expected to be heard around the world. We were much disappointed in this as it took several weeks to succeed across the span of one mile between homes. You cannot possibly imagine the thrill of the first actual sounds or the rush of neighbors to our "wireless rooms" to hear their first sounds literally picked from the air and many were these who believed that we were faking the whole thing.

Our next ambition to be realized was the construction of a larger crystal receiving set to reach out farther. At this time wireless was used commercially to some extent and we were successful in hearing and copying messages from the government station at Arlington, West Virginia also the Great Lakes Station at Chicago. It was easier to copy the messages of the commercial stations than to copy those of amateurs from other localities because the amateur endeavored to attain a degree of speed that would assist him in securing a position as a commercial operator.

We next thought of constructing Radio sets which would receive the voice and music being broadcast by some six stations in the United States.

These sets consisted of one tube with enough attachments to cover the entire kitchen table so you can imagine the many mothers wishing that Marconi had thought of something different.

When the wires were finally connected to the correct piece and the five dials and several rheostats and coils turned and tuned for the time of several hours the set would give forth a weak squeal known as the carrier wave. This meant a station, so all sounds in the neighborhood must then be hushed and no one allowed to walk across the floor for fear of losing the wave until it finally was cleared so we could hear voices.

Interest was so great by the neighbors that home was no longer a private place but it became a municipal gathering place. Many nites were spent with the two available sets of earphones divided into four singles covetously held by first arrivals.

By 1922 broadcasting was becoming more general and we had a broadcasting station in nearly every state and the old Minneapolis station WLAG. Also new methods of set construction were developed which enabled us to reach out farther into the air. Contrary to todays radio which is judged on selectivity and tone the old set was judged by the distance from which it could receive.

About 1923 in March I was rewarded for patient listening by hearing an entire broadcast from a French liner located about 800 miles north east of New York harbor. The liner officials considered this an exceptional record of distance as it was then only an experiment to broadcast from vessels at sea. The author also held the distance record for the University of Washington for some two years.

These facts and accomplishments were soon outdone by the rapid advancement of radio. Sets were being built on a commercial scale and the first made to order set was built by the author for Mr. H. C. Wheeler of Hinckley which was the first set of this nature in Pine County. It was of a five tube size and cost over two hundred dollars. Think of the number of present day more efficient radios that could be purchased for that amount.

By 1924 there were some ten radios in the vicinity now it could be conservitively estimated that every home has a radio, in Hinckley.

The facts set forth above though seemingly trivial now were in their existence a counterpart of the rural life of those years, providing entertainment and occupation for that generation.

I really think that what this country needs more than a good nickel to buy a cigar is a new idea to provide entertainment and livelihood for the younger generation such as wireless and radio was for us.

E. L. Spry.

(Do not lose this fine report - I had a hard time to coax him to write it for me. May G. Newman)

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

WILLOW RIVER, MINNESOTA

This church came into existence through a remarkable incident - Mr. Rudolph Klatt in the year of 1912 was working in a logging camp at White Pine, Minnesota to which came Pastor L. J. Lemke in order to serve the men spiritually. Mr. Klatt told Rev. Lemke of the Lutherans in Willow River who desired a Lutheran pastor and persuaded him to come to this community to serve them. He came every two weeks by horse and buggy and would spend the night at the homes of the members before starting for home on Monday. Such was the start of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The people first met in the houses of those first families - Alvin Ahlbrecht, John Gluesing and his son, Carl; Rudolph Klatt and Mrs. Adoline Klatt.

In 1916 Rev. H. A. Gamber came to serve the church, and the Presbyterian Church was rented for worship. The congregation was still unorganized, but with the advent of Rev. R. Blau in 1923 organization was effected and a constitution adopted. The Episcopaelion church was now rented as a place of worship, which was finally purchased as the church-home in February 1933. The other pastors who served this congregation are Rev. Glabe, Sporleder and Larson, the present incumbent.

Of the charter members only two are left - Mr. Rudolph Klatt and Mr. John Gluesing. The present congregation now numbers 50.

~~you know~~ ~~in~~ Forest Fires in Minn

Report of State
Commissioner in
Minn Forest Fires
P 615 F 5 W. St.
Paul Public Library

Hitchcock Fire

Sept 1, 1894 - (#61)

Hitchcock Creek - (#61) Hitchcock. Polkama, Sandstone,

Finlayson, Miller. All ⁴ Hitchcock & Sandstone destroyed
418 dead, $\frac{1}{6}$ of pop. \$750,000 loss, exclusive of timber;

people fled to pools, streams & lakes; pop of

Hitchcock saved by huddling face down in large
potato patch & rails warped into serpentine & train crews

at Sandstone - torpedo of flame ("crown fire")

all rushed to river. Those saved heard harpies
supplication of those trapped in nature's pyre, Prayer
meeting on Stone in River & erected low drift.
No rain, woods, timber dry; low humidity.

ASKOV

Through the efforts of the Danish People's Society (Dansk Folke Samfund i Amerika), a tract of twenty thousand acres of cut-over and burnt-over land in Pine County was purchased in 1906, to be sold at a uniform rate to Danish settlers. The Society chose this site because the lightly rolling land, inclined to small lakes, and grown with birch and poplar probably showed similarity to land in Denmark. Unfortunately it was a glacial region, too, and well supplied with boulders; unfortunately too the huge Hinckley fire of 1894 had left many stumps to be excavated before the land could be successfully farmed. A Mr. L. Mosbaek says in a pamphlet regarding Askov, "we found practically nothing to cultivate but community spirit." However, there seemed to be plenty of that, for the settlers brought with them the memory of cooperative enterprises in Denmark, where the movement is highly developed.

The first movement of a cooperative nature began in December, 1907, with the establishment of the "Landboforening" (a farmer's union) in which the members appointed a committee to consult with the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station as to what breeds of livestock and hogs, and what variety of potatoes would be most suitable for growth in that region. Guernsey cattle, bacon hogs, Green Mountain potatoes were decided upon, but the farmers did not always follow the original decision.

Next a Mutual Insurance Society for County was formed (in 1908), and continues to operate, having weathered a severe blow during the Moose Lake fire of October 12, 1918, in which the losses amounted to \$21,164. Other cooperative activities, not exactly to be classed as organizations, including a meeting of the "Landboforeningen" in the fall of 1908 for the purpose of exchanging the original name of "Partridge" for "Askov" and at the same time a petition was made (and subsequently granted) to the Great Northern Railway to reinstate an agent in the depot. This victory distinctly en-

couraged the farmers.

In 1909 an Egg Shipping Association was organized, which entered into a contract with merchants of Duluth for the purpose of delivering strictly fresh eggs at five cents a dozen more than the regular market prices. The eggs were stamped to identify the contributions of each member, and a fine of 50¢ an egg was imposed for any egg that proved inferior. In 1912, a net profit of \$74.92 was reported from the export of eggs. Eventually this organization failed, no one seems to know just why.

The cooperative enterprise forged ahead, and in December, 1909, the "Landboforening" resolved to organize a cooperative creamery the coming spring -- that is if the product of the 200 cows which were extant in the community could be guaranteed for a period of five years. A feed business was to be conducted with the creamery, and in June, 1911, operations were started with second hand machinery bought for about \$300. Year by year the production of butter increased: In 1911, 24,900 pounds (for a period of six months); in 1920, there were 190,164 pounds. By this time it was obvious that more room and larger equipment were needed, and there was a good deal of discussion pro and con, which was neatly solved by fate. The creamery was destroyed by fire on November 2, 1920. Now a real cooperative spirit came to the fore, and practically every one in the community joined in clearing away the old debris, and assisted in the construction of the new plant, so that in a few weeks operations were again started. They have an eye to beauty too, these people, for when in 1925 there was talk of constructing a high board windbreak on the west side of the creamery to shield the waiting patrons from the winter winds, it was decided not to do this, because it would destroy the beauty of the property. Instead, patrons came in two groups at alternating times. In 1924 the Cooperative Creamery joined the Land O' Lakes Creameries, Inc., a central cooperative marketing association. Butter made in 1935, totaled 468,945 pounds, patrons were paid \$117,457.09 for

butter fat, the average price was \$30.97, the manufacturing cost per pound of butter was 1.69, the manufacturing cost per pound, including overhead, 2.069. No private enterprise has been able to compete with this.

Late in 1913, the "Landboforening" became the Askov Cooperative Association by the simple expedient of selling out for the sum of \$10. This association, a consumer's cooperative, sells dairy and poultry feeds, flour, coal, salt, seed grain, and grass seed. Originally, it was agreed that the net earnings of the association would be distributed as follows: 8% to be paid on stocks issued; at least 25% set into a reserve fund to be used in the conduct of business; 5% set aside for experimental and educational purposes; the balance divided to the shareholders in proportion to the amount purchased through the association in the previous year. The item regarding the 5% to be set aside for education has since been discarded, to the regret of some of the members who feel that correct information concerning cooperative organizations is of utmost importance.

All was not roses here either, for in August, 1919, the Association's warehouse with its contents burned. The insurance carried was inadequate for rebuilding, so the members signed personal notes of \$100 each to provide funds for erecting a modern warehouse and equipment. Just recently a grocery department has been added to the Association which in volume gradually from month to month.

Out of the Association emerged also the Northern Rutabags Association (seed from Denmark was imported to provide an especially tasty variety), and the Federated Truck Association for livestock shipping. In January, 1933, the Askov Community Credit Union was organized for the purpose of encouraging thrift, concerning itself with savings too small to interest ordinary bankers, and to provide a source of credit at reasonable cost. Small loans -- (in 1935, there were 43), were made to members.

The Pine Co-Op Oil Association was found early in 1929, and a site

for doing business was purchased in Askov at a cost of \$88. Operations were begun in May of the year, and since 1935 have included retail as well as wholesale functions. Service stations were purchased at Hinckley and Finlayson. Truck deliveries cover an area extending north to Nicker-son, south to Pine City, east to Cloverton, west to Pine Lake. Bulk tanks are stationed at Hinckley, as well as Askov. This Association is affiliated with the Midland Co-Op Oil Association of Minneapolis. In addition to oil and gas; tires, batteries, and accessories have been added.

The Danes at Askov came, to the largest extent, from other states in the union or other parts of Minnesota. Few came directly to Askov. However, the town is still predominately Danish. The church, Evangelical Lutheran, is well attended, the folk high school for adult education is of Danish inspiration, there are active Danish societies and an athletic association; and there is a great deal of friendly neighboring and visiting. Children are taught Danish up to the seventh grade.

An informal instance of cooperative principle is found in the "Meat Rings". A number of farmers, thirty in a group agree to deliver, during the summer, a young beef, in rotation, during as many weeks as there are members. The cost per pound is from 4¢ to 7¢.

Considering the size of the village, the consistent effort it has made in the direction of cooperation, and its consequent effect upon the state, as a whole, is amazing. The township is estimated at about 1,410, representing about 240 families. Reports of a study made a few years ago report 149 families of a total of 165 questioned, as of Danish descent. This same study states that: "He, the Askov Dane, distrusts the formalities of organization, and, when he thinks it important to do so, demonstrates the capacities of organized efforts."

The weekly newspaper has a job printing plant which draws patronage from outside the community, even outside the state, the baseball and bas-

ketball teams carry on their activities snugly adjacent to the Askov and Orchestra.

And finally, Askov has given to Minnesota its current Lieutenant-Governor, H. Jalmar Petersen.

Immigrant Farmers and Their Children by Edmund deS. Brunner, Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., New York, 1929. Chapter on "Danes in Minnesota" by David Lloyd. pp. 155 to 182.

A Brief Historical Outline of the Askov Community, compiled for the 25th Anniversary of the Askov Creamery Association.

History of American Immigration, 1820-1924, by George M. Stephenson, Ph.D. Ginn and Company, 1926.

Minnesota History, Vol. VIII, page 363; "Danish Settlement in Minnesota" by Thomas Christensen.

Duluth, Minn.
Pine County
September 8, 1937
Ludwig Bodenstein

Recd. 9/10/37

1014 words

HOW THE PEOPLE PLAY and HISTORIC AND SCENIC SPOTS

The County Fair, held at Pine City, is probably the outstanding annual event of Pine County. A great variety of agricultural products, live-stock, and poultry, is displayed. Horse races, horseshoe pitching, baseball and all kinds of other games, contribute to the entertainment of the visitors.

There is a modern tourist camp and a 9-hole golf course at Pine City.

Sturgeon Lake, a village in the northwestern part of the county, on US 61 and on the Northern Pacific Railroad, is a recreational center. There is a 9-hole golf course here. The following six lakes, all within a radius of four miles, can be reached over good county roads: Sturgeon Lake, Island Lake, Sand Lake, Rush Lake, Lord Lake, and Passenger Lake. Sandy beaches, good fishing, several resorts, and a great number of well-kept and modern cottages, attract tourists, vacationists and sportsmen. Canoes, rowboats and motorboats are available. Pike, bass, muskies, crappies, sunfish, northern pike and even sturgeon may be found in the lakes; and deer, grouse, pheasants and rabbits may be hunted in season. All the beaches are safe for children.

Camp Miller, on Sturgeon Lake, 3 miles from station, is under the supervision of the Duluth Y.M.C.A. The camp, ideally located on the western shore of the lake, accommodates 125 boys from 10 to 18 years of age, at \$90 for the 10-weeks' season.

Sandstone, the second largest village of the county, has a 9-hole golf course at the edge of the town. About $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Sandstone, the Kettle River flows in rapids for about a half mile, "through a narrow gorge formed by ragged cliffs of sandstone, 50 to 100 feet high. Its Lower falls, on each side of an island a half mile southeast of Sandstone village, descend about eight feet within a distance of an eighth of a mile. In the three miles between these falls the river flows with a gentle current."¹ About 20 miles south of Sandstone, airline distance, "opposite

¹ Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. XVII, p. 415.

the mouth of this river, and for three miles above and one mile below, the St. Croix river is turned in two channels by three long islands, which together are called the 'Big Island.' The eastern large channel is the state boundary, and the western is commonly called 'the Slough.' In both the river has a strong current, with numerous rapids, so that this extent of four miles on the St. Croix is named Kettle River rapids. Between four and five miles farther south, the St. Croix has its Horse-race rapids, a half mile long, over a smooth rock bed, not broken by boulders.²

The Kettle River joins the St. Croix River at the western edge of the St. Croix State Park, a timbered area of 1,131 acres, set aside by the Federal Government, through the Resettlement Administration, to serve the underprivileged classes. "Group camps will be developed for operation by social service agencies."³ Camping and picnicking grounds for the general public are also in a preparatory state. The St. Croix State Park, extending for about 20 miles along the west banks of the St. Croix River, will, undoubtedly, be one of the major scenic and recreational attractions of Pine County in the not distant future.

The St. Croix River, of no significance to modern navigation, is, nevertheless, of historical importance. The first explorers of what is now Minnesota, Radisson and Groseilliers, travelled, in 1600, upstream on the Brule River, in northern Wisconsin, portaged to the Upper St. Croix lake, thence down the St. Croix River to the mouth of Snake River, and then, following the Knife (Isanti) Sioux Trail, to Spirit lake. This was, according to historical records, the first penetration by white men into Minnesota territory,⁴ and preceded the discovery of the upper reaches of the Mississippi. The St. Croix River remained for two centuries after its discovery the main connecting link between Lake Superior and southern Minnesota, and was one of the most important arteries for the fur trade as well as for the lumber industry.

Just below the above mentioned Horse-race rapids, the Snake River empties into the St. Croix. The river received its name from the Chippewa, who called it "Tamebec sibi," which means Snake River. This river may be called the gateway of Pine County,

² Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. XVII, p. 425.

³ State Parks of Minnesota, 1936, pp. 15-16.

⁴ Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. I, p. 157.

from an historical point of view. It opened the region to the fur trade in 1804, when Thomas Connor built his fort on the northern bank of the river near Lake Pokegama, to the first missionary, Frederick Ayer, who, in 1836, built a protestant mission on the eastern shore of Lake Pokegama, and to the first lumbermen, who, in 1837, explored the region adjacent to the northern banks of the Snake River.

The southern part of Pine County had been, since time immemorial, the battle ground of the Chippewa and the Sioux Indians, until the Battle of Lake Pokegama, in 1841, marked the end of Indian warfare, as well as missionary activities, in the region. Governor Ramsey, in 1861, remarked in his address to the Minnesota Historical Society, "that the region between the Falls of St. Croix and Mille Lac, was a 'Golgotha,'- a place of skulls."⁵

Chongwatana, the present site of Pine City, was an ancient Indian village.

Elan Crooley, a pioneer lumberman, in 1849 settled on section 15 of Royalton township, south of Snake River, in the extreme southwest corner of Pine County. In 1854 his farm was taken over by Royal C. Gray, after whom Royalton township was named.

The first sawmill in the county, built in the early 1850's by the three Hatch brothers, was on the northern banks of Snake River, on the present site of Pine City.

The advent of the railroads opened the northern parts of the county to white settlers, and Hinckley in 1869 was named the temporary terminal of the St. Paul-Duluth railroad, which was completed to Duluth in 1870.

In memory of those who lost their lives in the devastating forest fires of September 1, 1894, two memorials have been erected. One is at Hinckley, close to US 61, and the other near the village of Brook Park on SH 23.

A boat ride from the mouth of the Snake River, upstream, through Cross Lake, passing Pine City, to Pokegama Lake is a vacation in itself. A number of well-equipped resorts and modern cottages are scattered along the shores of both lakes. Launches also may be hired at Pine City. Crindstone Lake, about 5 miles west of Friesland and Groningen, may be reached over good county roads. Several Pine Lakes, all of them

⁵ H. C. Hill, Minnesota History, 1902, p. 409.

on SH 60, west of Finlayson, offer excellent sandy beaches and modern cabins. Bass Lake, on the western county line, and several smaller lakes west of Finlayson and Croningen, are good fishing grounds.

Typed by A.E.J.

Duluth, Minnesota
Ludwig Bodenshtab
August 19, 1937

PINE COUNTY

AGRICULTURE, DAIRYING, MARKETING

Pine County, now a part of the cut-over area of northeastern Minnesota, was covered with dense forests, principally white and Norway pine, which seemed to be inexhaustible to the early lumbermen. Against all expectations, the virgin timber has since disappeared, most of it within the latter part of the last century. Two major catastrophies, the Hinckley fire of 1894 and the great forest fires of 1918, put the finishing touch to the destruction work of the lumberman's axe so efficiently that today the greater part of the county is not only a cut-over but also a burnt-over region.

The lumbering companies destroyed the forests, but they opened this region to agriculture, and today the county is almost entirely devoted to farming. The lumberjacks of the early days ^{were} ~~have been~~ the first farmers in the county, and supplied the lumbering camps to a large extent with potatoes, small grains, and hay. Timber cutting was restricted to the cold season, and therefore the lumberjacks were almost forced to look for some other occupation for the rest of the year. Many of them had some previous farming experience, and they made use of it by cultivating small tracts of land. They raised all they needed for their own support, and the lumbercamps were ready buyers of the surplus.

With the gradual passing of the timber supply, a great number of the lumberjacks turned to farming as their sole occupation. Their knowledge of the county enabled them to select the land that was best suited for agriculture, and favorably located in regard to marketing facilities.

The influx of other settlers began with the opening of the St. Paul-Duluth railroad in 1870, and up to this day most of the successful farming communities are located along this first lane of traffic. Immigrants from other states and from

foreign countries were largely attracted by the low price of the land, that was widely and effectively advertised by the railroads.

The soil of Pine County varies from sandy loam, in the extreme southeastern part, to stony loam. The soil at the southern end of the county is largely of clayey texture and high fertility. In many sections the boulders are so large and so numerous as to preclude the working of the soil, and small areas of the sandy regions are distinctly droughty. As a whole, the soil is well adapted to agriculture, after having been sufficiently cleared from stones, stumps and underbrush, in order to make the use of tillage implements possible. Timber land soils, generally speaking, show an abundance of potential mineral plant food, but a lack of organic matter and nitrogen. Since, in the greater part of the county, the forest fires have destroyed the leaf mold that was previously in the soil, an addition of nitrogen-carrying materials is essential for most crops.

Pine County, as a whole, is a fair representative of the cut-over region of northeastern Minnesota, both in regard to soil as to weather conditions. With the exception of the eastern part of the county, which is a rather poor farming district all through, tracts of very good and very poor soil may be found almost anywhere, and the average may be termed as fair. It requires hard work, in most parts of the county, to clear the land from stones, stumps and underbrush, but after this has been accomplished, the crops will compare favorably with those in any part of the country.

The southwest quarter of the county is probably the best farming district, due to its soil and climatic conditions, and, consequently, the density of population is much larger here than in the eastern part.

The climate is temperate, with long, cold winters, and short and pleasant summers. As a rule, the ground is covered with snow throughout the winter. Extremely cold as well as thawing temperatures in winter are of short duration. The weather is most changeable in spring and fall. Late and cool springs are followed by warm, sometimes hot, summers, and the summers, in turn, by a temperate fall season. "The average

annual mean temperature is about 40 degrees F., and the average annual precipitation 26 inches."¹ The average length of the frost-free period for Pine County is 120 days.²

Both soil and climate of the area under consideration assure dairying a major place. Cool springs, combined with sufficient rainfall during the growing season, favor the development of wild and tame grasses.

Livestock raising and dairying are coming more and more to the forefront, while small grains are losing in importance as a cash crop.

In the early days of farming there was hardly a market for dairy products in the county, and all the milk was used, in its various stages, for house consumption. The butter was churned on the farm, and the buttermilk was fed to the pigs.

The U. S. Census of 1880 shows that the total value of Pine County farm products was less than \$11,000. In 1889 the total amount of milk was 258,205 gallons, produced from 702 cows on 261 farms.

The 1935 U. S. Agricultural Census gives the milk production in the county as 13,945,906 gallons, and the number of cows of more than two years as 29,854. The home-churned butter in 1889 amounted to 66,230 lbs., while the 1934 figure of only 146,702 lbs., from more than forty times the number of cows, demonstrates the drastic change in the dairying system that took place within a few decades.

Potatoes and rutabagas are the principal cash crops of this region. Wheat and rye are gradually declining in importance, and corn is largely used for feeding purposes (silage). Oats are the most important grain crop, and the acreage of barley has somewhat increased within the last decade.

The number of farms in the 1935 Census is listed as 3,814, the total area of farmland as 412,780 acres, and the number of persons living on farms as 15,949. Out

1. University of Minnesota, Bulletin 270, p. 28.

2. University of Minnesota, Bulletin 295, p. 12.

of a total population of 20,264 (1930 U.S. Census), almost three-fourths, 14,603 lived on farms, while 5,661 were classed as rural non-farm.

The overwhelming importance of dairying for the county is aptly illustrated by the following figures, taken from the 1925 U. S. Agricultural Census, and showing the principal crops:

Hay	62,417 acres
Oats	21,229 acres
Corn	15,623 acres
Potatoes	7,130 acres
Barley	1,718 acres
Wheat	1,469 acres
Rye	1,040 acres
Flax	210 acres

It must be kept in mind that a very large proportion of the corn crop does not mature, and is therefore utilized as cattle feed.

About a dozen small farming communities, located along the railroad lines, are the local marketing centers of the county, while the Twin Cities and the Twin Ports are the trade terminals.

The co-operative marketing system is largely responsible for the fact that Pine County today is known nationally for its fine quality of rutabagas, which are shipped all over the country, as far as Texas and Florida.

Twelve out of eighteen local creameries are co-operative organizations.

Suluth, Minnesota
 Topic: Pine County
 Submitted by: Ludwig Bodenstab
 July 14, 1937

Index: 715

PINE COUNTY
COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Lumbering activities on a commercial scale began in Pine County as early as 1850, and by 1865 the population of the region was sufficient to warrant the formation of a new county. Therefore a bill was introduced in the Legislature, and the following act to organize the County of Pine was passed March 1, 1866:

"Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the legislative assembly of the territory of Minnesota: That so much of the counties of Chicago and Ramsey as is comprised within the following boundaries, be and the same is hereby constituted and erected into a separate county, to be known as the county of Pine, to wit: Beginning at a point where the line between township thirty-seven and thirty-eight north, strikes the St. Croix River; from thence running due west on said line to a point where the same is intersected by the line between ranges twenty-five and twenty-six west; from thence due north on said range line until intersected by the correction line between townships forty and forty-one north; thence east on said correction line to a point where the line between ranges twenty-four and twenty-five leaves the same, running north; thence due north to the southern boundary of Itasca County (46 30'); thence along said boundary to the west boundary of Wisconsin; thence along said boundary to the said place of beginning."¹

According to the boundary lines as described in the above enactment, it

1) From Moses Sherburne and William Hollinshead, Minnesota Laws, 1849-1888, p. 96, 99. (Excerpt in possession of St. Louis County Historical Society, Pine County folder).

is evident that the area of the original Pine County was almost twice the size of the present county. It included not only all of the present Kanabec County but also parts of what is now included in Aitkin and Carlton Counties.

On May 23, 1857, the following "bill for an act to establish the boundaries of certain Counties and for other purposes" was passed by the territorial Legislature:

"Sec. 11. That so much of the territory as lies within the following boundaries be, and the same is hereby created into the county of 'Buchanan': beginning at the south-west corner of township number forty-two (42) north, range Twenty-one west; thence east to the St. Croix river; thence up the St. Croix river; thence up the St. Croix river to the boundary line between Minnesota and Wisconsin; thence north to the township line between townships forty-five and forty-six; thence west on said line to the north-west corner of township forty five, range twenty-one west; thence south to the place of beginning. And the county seat of said county is hereby located temporarily at 'Fortuna'.²

Buchanan County, named for President Buchanan, and its county seat, Fortuna, have since disappeared from the maps as well as from the memory of old-timers. The county was an offspring of Pine County, and was, subsequently, absorbed by it.

A letter of June 30, 1927, sent by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, to the St. Louis County Historical Society, Duluth, indicates that the county was attached to Pine County sometime between 1860 and 1870.

Pine County, as above stated, was established on March 1, 1858, but it was not organized until 1872, at which time Pine City was designated as the

2) From Moses Sherburne and William Hollinshead, Minnesota Laws, 1849-1888, p. 95, 99. (mancript in possession of St. Louis County Historical Society, Pine County folder).

county seat.

Pine City was platted in 1860, and incorporated February 14, 1881.

The choice of Pine City as the county seat was probably because it was the largest, if not the only, settlement at the time. It was built on the site of an ancient Chippewa village, Chingwatana, at the south-east end of Cross Lake. "Some writers state that the county seat was at first located at Chong-watana, but Chong-watana was only the Chippewa way of saying Pine City."³

3) Vol. II, pp. 503 and 504, Minnesota and its People, 1924, Joseph A. A. Burnquist.

HINCKLEY VILLAGE

JMA

*Recd 2/28/36
Pine County*

This village was platted in 1869 by the Western Land Assn of Pa, and named for Isaac Hinckley, an eastern railroad man.

In 1869 the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad was built from St. Paul to Kanabec River, now Pine City, and the next year to the county line, completing the road to Duluth and Superior in 1870.

At thistime Hinckley was but a hole in the wilderness. Tall pines waved a welcome to all who came and Camp Comfort, a huge logging camp furnished beds and board for weary travellers who had ventured from the stage station three miles east on the government road. This way station was at the point where Grindstone crosses the government road and the stage changed horses here and sent the night. Mr Levi Folsom, of Taylors Falls visited this station in 1860, driving his team from Taylors Falls to Rush Seba-now Rush City- where he spent the night with his cousin George B. Folsom who proprietor of the Rush Seba Inn. The next morning he started on foot for Grindstone Station, stopping at Chengawata for lunch, and seeing no sign of life along the ruddy, muddy road which travelled through a heavy forest. As nightfall neared the howling of wolves in the forest gave lightness to his feet and he thankfully reached the station at dusk.

G.G. Barnum of Duluth, made the trip over the givernment road in 1869, leaving St. Paul in a regular stage coach for Superior and paying a fare of \$75.00 The stage with its passengers stayed over night at Wyoming and in the morning were put aboard a common wagon, the stage coach having mysteriously vanished, probably having returned to St. Paul. The passengers complained about the rough boards on which they sat and of the drizzling rain which soaked them. Mr Barnum was wearing a new pair of boots which shrunk with the wetness and he was obliged to take them off. They spent the night at Hinckley, presumably Grindstone stage sta-

*M. G. Newman
Hinckley
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tion as the village was still unborn at that date.) The next morning Mr Barnum found the wagon piled high with boxes of merchandise, upon which he was expected to sit. Having paid \$75.00 for his ride he refused to ride until the boxes were unloaded and as they were thrown off a box burst and type covered the ground. Rev Mr Higgins of Superior was at the inn waiting a chance to go to Superior and Mr Barnum invited him to ride with him. The rain still fell and the wagon jerked along over the bumpy road in mud to the hubs. Upon arriving at Superior the Barnum went to bed in a hotel where the partitions were of heavy cardboard and tired as he was he found it difficult to sleep with a bunch of poker players in the next room making whoopee. To get to Duluth he was obliged to take a row boat to Oneota and walk the rest of the way. Mr Barnum was one of the surveyors of the Lake Superior and Mississippi Ry. and afterwards became paymaster and purchasing agent for this road. As he remembers it the road from St Paul to Superior cost \$7,500,000. and Jay and Cook of Philadelphia bought the bonds.

At that time Hinckley was the most important point of the railroad. Bayard Taylor, a great traveller who went over this road at about that time said it was the worst road he had ever ridden on. William L. Banning of St Paul was President of the Lake Superior and Mississippi Ry.

In 1871 (Aug 24th to be exact) Michael Dunn arrived with his family to work for the railroad company as a section foreman. The depot had just been finished, a large building with a hotel of 20 bedrooms and two big dining rooms that would accommodate 500 persons. There were a few shacks, Camp Comfort, an engine house and a water tank. The pumping of the water was done by hand with a big jack pump and a huge wooden wheel. Jo Grindell was the first pump man, later he became a conductor. Pines 80 to 100 feet towered over the tiny settlement but the woodsman's axes were already sharpened for them and before long they had gone the

way of all good pine.

At that time all locomotives were of the wood burning type with smoke stacks five and a half feet across the top and a head light large enough for a man to sit comfortably within. The box cars were 24 to 26 feet long and carried a maximum of 24,000 pounds. A train with 20 cars was the custom and in the winter a pusher was needed to help the trains over the slight hill north of Hinckley. All along the railroad wood for the engines was piled at regular stations and trains would stop at such stations and load wood enough to carry them to the next wood-pile. A Mr McNeill had charge of the wood crew at Hinckley.

Men came in by hundreds on every train seeking work in the woods, where crews were busy building camps, cutting roads and felling the timber. Oxen were used for skidding the logs and six horse teams for hauling them to the rivers to be floated down to the mills. The sleighs used for hauling had seven foot ~~bunks~~ run with bunks 14 and 16 feet long. they could be loaded to ten thousand feet. Some bigger loads were hauled. Hinckley was winter head quarters for many different logging companies. and supplies were toted from this point for many miles- west to Snake River and east to the St Croix. It was a daily experience to see 25 or more four horse tote teams leave town with supplies for a near or distant camp. This went on all winter, food, clothing, hay, tools, coming in by rail and being toted out into the wilderness.

McCaine Bros were among the first to log in this vicinity, being eastern men who came in response to a call from their friend W.H. Grant. They were not familiar with the logging business and although they afterward took a Mr Barteau in as partner, they failed and when they left the village then quite a settlement was left minus a store for some time and groceries and clothing were at a premium. Conductors on the Accommodation train which stopped at Hinckley all night, were purchasing agents

for the inhabitants. The writer remembers a kindly conductor bringing her a pair of copper toed shoes from St Paul, for which the measure had been only an outline of her foot on a piece of brown wrapping paper.

McCaine Bros. and Barteau had built a boarding house and store north of the depot and a friend ~~Bxxx~~ Fred A. Hodge of Francestown N.H. came to clerk in the store. He was Hinckley's first postmaster and afterward became County Auditor being elected from Hinckley.

In the early ^{seventies} ~~days~~ the boys at the store and the ~~xxx~~ telegraph operator at the depot made a telephone with a cord and tin cans, insulating the cord with glass telegraph insulators and found that it worked very well. This was the first telephone in Hinckley.

After McCaine Bros failed Thomas Brennan ~~axWix~~ man took over the mill. He was a conductor on the Lake S and Miss Railroad. Later the Brennan Lumber Company of Stillwater took over the mill and ~~xxxx~~ maintained the store and boarding house as before. They were represented here by "Big JIM " Brennan, who in 1885 became on of our village council.

Tom Brennan while in charge of the mill had the little bark houses of the indian cemetery gathered and burned in a big bon fire so that the mill yard could expand over the site. There had been perhaps 100 indians buried in this place as well as two white men who had been killed on the railroad. The tiny mounds are still there but the fact of its being an indian cemetery has long ago been forgotten.

A great many indian bands camped near Hinckley, they were friendly and picturesque in their blankets and richly beaded garments. Some of the oldest settlers can still remember Old Lew Grasshopper, and Chief Comatoaasa as well as John Baykettle and Mrs Skunk.

The first school was taught by a Mrs Lindsay in a private house and

then the mill hands generously donated their dance hall to the school. Later a two room school house was built and in 1894 just before the fire which destroyed the village a four room brick building was erected.

The first couple married in our village was on July 5th 1871, Fred B. Barrows to Maggie Siefnes.

The village was incorporated on November 27th, 1885 and the first council elected.

The Swedish Lutheran Church was organized in 1883 with 30 members. It now has 140 members. *Hans Hokanson & Jim Oredson built the church*

Many protestant ministers came in to hold services in the early years but in 1888 a regular parish was established for the Presbyterians, and they took over the church which had been built by popular subscription a few years before. ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~

The Catholic church was built in 1879 by Rev Fr, Stemper of Rush City who arriving in town to hold service in the school house as was done by clergymen of all denominations, heard that an objection had been made by some of the residents, and immediately he donned overalls, hired a team and driving to the mill bought lumber for his church. For four days he labored with John Burke, the village carpenter and others, and had his little church covered and ready for services. Previous to that time services had been held in the Michael Dunn home, as well as in the school house.

In 1893 a railroad crossing on South Third Street, which had been held for nine years by the railroad company, was ordered opened by Supreme Court action. One month after the big fire on Sept 1st 1894, the railroad company secured a temporary vacation of this crossing from the village officials, the town lying in ashes. A few years ago an attempt to ~~re~~ reopen this crossing thru the Railroad and Warehouse Commission was defeated by the railroad officials presenting such vacation order.

On Sept 1, 1894 the village was entirely destroyed by a forest fire. Of the inhabitants numbering 1700 over ⁴⁰⁰ lost their lives. The greater part of those who survived had been saved by the afternoon "Limited" for the n.p. Ry. passenger train which stopped north of the village and picked up the fleeing people ^{taking them north to Skunk Lake where the train was burned.} ~~and the~~ a freight train on the Great Northern Railroad which filled its cars with fugitives and then went north to Duluth. Others were saved in a gravel pit by the Northern depot and which was partly filled with water. Rev Father Lawler with the assistance of other prominent men ^{ed} round up the ~~excited~~ frenzied people and led them to the pit where water buckets were used to drench their clothing and keep the ~~fire~~ embers from igniting.

After the fire had burned itself out the next day survivors were back in the ashes talking of rebuilding. Squads of relief volunteers from the neighboring towns gathered up the dead and interred all who were unidentifiable in four long trenches in the east end of the Swedish Lutheran Cemetery. Since then the state has erected a fine monument to these unknown dead.

Mr and Mrs Nels Henry were among the first ~~xxx~~ ^{to} return and soon had a big stove going and pots and pans steaming to feed the hungry and homeless. During the fall months and throughout the winter a corp of people kept open store for the destitute who were furnished food and clothing from the vast donations sent in from all over the U.S.

Day by day the village emerged from the ~~blackened~~ waste and life resumed its ordinary routine.

Today the village population is less than a thousand but ~~xxx~~ ^{thriving} ~~xxxxxx~~ farming communities have been developed where the stumps and slashings were thick in 94. The soil is good, the growing season and rainfall sufficient for diversified farming and fine homes are to be seen in all di-

rections. The state highway cuts the village in two and an interstate highway winds along its southern boundary and goes east twenty ^{eight} miles to Wisconsin where a splendid bridge crosses the St Croix River.

About twenty years ago copper mining was begun east of the village across the Kettle River, and although there was a good showing of ore funds could not be raised for continuing the work and the mines shut down. They have not been reopened and the buildings and mining equipment which was left there has vanished.

Fifteen miles to the southwest ^{east} at a point where the Kettle River flows into the St Croix, is what is called Kettle Rapids and is the last site left on the St Croix suitable for hydro-electric water-power plant. An attempt is now being made to have Congress develop this, and to create a National park and recreation center.

The country lying between the Kettle and St Croix rivers is especially fitted for farming and dairying, the soil is a friable loam and free from stone. A cooperative creamery and a store has been established at Cloverdale, ten miles east of Hinckley.

Lying in this eastern section are many fine lakes and camping grounds. At Crooked Creek, 21 miles east of Hinckley is a fine free camping ground. This is a very beautiful spot and is kept clean by a community garden club. North of this camp is Bangs Brook, famous for trout; Kenny and McGowan lakes with good fishing, all kinds; Lake Five noted for BIG muskies; McKenzie brook and trout stream; Tamarack and Upper Tamarack Lakes where accommodations may be had at Frank Oggs. Two miles east of the free camp and a bit north is Bangs Brook again and ~~two~~ miles north from there ~~and~~ Lena Lake offers you good fishing with board and room at Beau-faux and at Thayers. Go another mile north to ~~R~~ Razor Lake and stay a while at Sheridan Greig's, or at Coventings. Boats and everything needed.

A straight trip 28 miles east from Hinckley and the St Croix river offers fine fishing and camping grounds with scenery that cannot be excelled anywhere in Minnesota. (We hope to get a report on the Yellow Banks soon and will send it in as soon as it arrives).

South of Hinckley and north of our neighboring city of Pine is a fine summer camp on Cross Lake. The cottages are mostly privately owned but there are some for rent and there is a pavillion and eating place close.

West and north of Hinckley is Grindstone^{Lake} where the town people have their summer homes. A pavillion and various tourist camps is here also. The Kettle River only four miles distant ~~is a pleasant spot with~~^{has visiting} many beautiful spots along its detours—~~islands~~, rapids, high banks in places and low stretches in others, it is worth a prolonged stay.

Hinckley has a splendorous high and grade school with an enrollment of 356. A library of 1833 volumes, In circulation in grades, Non fiction 1043; fiction 796. Senior High, Non fiction 833, fiction 1635.—a total of 4307. The High School became accredited by the State Educational Dpt in 1907 although High School subjects were taught before that date. Since 1907 we have graduated 480. ~~Thx~~ In addition to agriculture and domestic economy, the school maintains a Teachers training course and Hinckley teachers have made good in all parts of the state. That takes us back to our first student to receive a teacher's certificate. In 1888 Louise Gordon became qualified to teach and went to a district near Sandstone. She taught only a few weeks when she returned ill and shortly afterward passed away. In 1892 Mary Brennan went forth a newly fledged teacher and from that date on Hinckley students worked enthusiastically for this honored profession, and every year since has seen serious eyed girls and a few boys ~~sitting forth~~ going out into the outlying districts from our *Hinckley School*.

Hinckley has four churches with resident clergymen in the Catholic, Presbyterian, and Swedish Lutheran denominations. The Episcopal church has a visiting pastor. There are a few members of the Christian Science Church who meet in homes. Of our noted ministers several stand out in memory for their faithful service and broad tolerance: Rev Fathers Lynch and Lawler of the Catholic faith, Rev Charles Christianson, Presbyterian and Rev G. Peterson of the Sv. Lutheran. These men shared the hardships of the early years and gave generously and gratuitously of their services in more than spiritual ways. Rev Frank Higgins who was mentioned as coming here in 1869 was known far and ~~xxxxxxx~~ wide as "The lumber jacks sky pilot." He travelled from logging camp to logging camp carrying books and newspapers from one to the other. Always bringing cheer and good will to the camps he visited he was loved and honored. His travels took him to camps all over the northern parts of the state but managed to make several visits to the camps in this vicinity every winter. His beautiful singing voice and sincere heartiness make him welcome everywhere. He was ordained by the Duluth Presbytery ~~inxxx~~ June 4, 1901 and died Jan 4th, 1915.

Doctors? We have two. with one nursing home and several *practical nurses.* In the 70ties and early eighties we had two who came on call from distant towns, and Dr Mary Scott whose husband kept the drug store. In 1886 Dr Collins came here from the cities and remained several years, His brother was the Dr Collins lost with the Greely Expedition.

In 1886 Dr Inez A. Legg also came and had a private hospital for five years. Dr Cowan arrived in 1891 and established a drug store with J.M. Currie of Mora in charge. Mr Currie is still with us - a farmer now. Dr Stephan arrived in 1893, a young doctor with the ink hardly dry on his diploma. He came to assist Dr Cowan, and is still *here.*

Dr. Carlton G. Kelsey came to us ~~after~~ in (Not sure about this date will verify it and report later.) He enlisted in the late war but came back after his discharge. His two sons are now students in the Minn. U. in the Medical and Dental schools.

The village is well supplied with eating places and gas stations, and has one hotel with fourteen rooms. The Cassidy Cafe also has rooms and several homes will take in transients. There is one dentist and one lawyer, six general stores, two ~~xxx~~ meat markets, three barber shops and a shoe store. One variety store and ~~one~~ ^{two} beauty shops. There are two lumber yards and two hardware stores. On the highway ~~one~~ two miles north Happy O'Malley has a Tourist camp and gas station; Two creameries and two feed stores buy the farmers products. The village maintains a liquor store. There are numerous ladies' clubs, masonic, odd fellow, and woodman lodges with auxiliaries, a Legion Post, a golf club, and a 30 piece brass band as well as a dance orchestra. Several good up-to-date garages and an implement dealers take care of the repair work on cars and machinery of all kinds.

There are openings for several new businesses, chiefly canning or pickling factories. The County Farm is at Hinckley.

Many of our villagers are experts floriculturists, and there are many Gladiola Gardens as well as the greenhouses of the Minnesota Gardens.

On Labor Day each Fall the Hinckley Fire Survivors Assn meets here, holding appropriate exercises in commemoration of those who were lost in the big fire of 94. The cemeteries are decorated on that day as well as on May 30th.

(I am to have a report on the Legion later, and on the Game preserve)

Paragraphs of prominent people.

Dr Ernest L. Stephan, born at ~~Pineville~~ (not sure about place) on January 28th, 1869. Came to Hinckley in 1893, returned after the fire of 1894 and was the only physician here for nearly twenty years. During these years two other physicians came in but neither stayed longer than a few months. Dr Stephan brought major surgery to Pine County, has been the railway Co's physician since 1894 and attends calls in all parts of the county and other places. His record of 4700 maternity cases in 43 years practice with only two deaths of mothers has brought him such cases from distant states. During the Typhoid Fever epidemic of 93 he cared for 400 patients with no losses. In twenty years he lost two out of 200 appendicitis cases. When the war broke out Dr. Kelsey enlisted leaving Dr Stephan in sole charge of Hinckley and all the outlying territory as well as other parts of the county. The Flu epidemic happened and he cared for 1400 cases and gave serum treatment to 1800. In 1902 he had 80 cases of Small pox to care for- no deaths, In 1910 50 cases of Infantile Paralysis with 4 deaths, and four cripples. Hinckley is very proud of this doctor and his record. His most serious operations have been performed in private homes, some of them on kitchen tables.

M. G. Munn
Hinckley
Main

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(We have gathered this information from various sources.
checking with what the real old timers knew)

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J. T. Clark, Alice Holm, ~~xxBx@xxxxxx~~, all of Hinckley, Mrs J. W. Andrews
Kelly Lake, Minn. G. G. Barnum, Duluth and others.
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