



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:  
Writers Project Research Notes.

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FORTY SIX YEARS OF PROGRESS IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA.

About seventy years ago Pope county was an uninhabited "No Man's Land" which had but recently been wrested from the War-like Sioux Indian. It lay serene and silent, a part of the great <sup>Louisiana Territory</sup> Northwest which had been purchased from France in the year 1803.

French, Spanish and English flags would have waved over <sup>Pope County</sup> it at different times had there been representatives of those nations here to wave them. <sup>(1)</sup> Spain and France had legal claims to it. The English rights consisted only <sup>of</sup> by usurpation <sup>by</sup> of the fur Traders who were employed by the Hudson's Bay Company.

So long as France or Spain owned the land British encroachment would have given us little concern. Our own land even extending to east banks of the Mississippi River was/not settled. American civilization had progressed but little west of the Allegheny mountains.

Many people thought it was a very foolish move when Thomas Jefferson proposed buying the land west of the river in 1803. We did not have people enough to settle the land we possessed east of the river.

However in those days there were no railroads. large Commerce of any/porportion was dependant on waterways. Without complete control of the Mississippi River our western lands would be without a source of transportation. Then too, if the land west of the river belonged to us no other nation would be dangerously near our western borders.



Very few people even dreamed that the new land would be settled as quickly as it was. But opinion changed in the next forty six years. Settlements had advanced to the east banks of the Mississippi and many <sup>Recall</sup> were looking hopefully toward the Pacific.

R Texas, once a part of Mexico, had joined our rapidly growing nation. General Taylor, who had once commanded Fort Snelling, rose to fame and later the presidency because of his part in the Mexican war of 1846. His knowledge of Minnesota no doubt lent a decided influence on its settlement when he became president in the year 1849. <sup>TP</sup> Shortly after Taylor's inauguration as president a young officer who had served in his army was sent on a trip from Fort Snelling to Pembina by way of Pope County. This man, after whom Pope county was named, made the first official report which called attention to the tranquil lakes and streams of the silent and serene woodlands and prairies which later became the home of Pope county pioneers.

However it was many years after Pope's memorable report before the settlers came. There are many reasons to account for this, among them was the new land of California which was added to our possessions after the Mexican War. With the accession of that country the Stars and Stripes floated over the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Within the lifetime of one man settlements had advanced from the Allegheny Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

However the middle west and plains area had few settlers west of the Mississippi. Minnesota had none excepting the half breed settlement of Pembina two miles south of the Canadian border on the Red River. No treaties had been made with the Indians who roamed the plains from the Canadian to the Mexican border.

Nevertheless white men had been mingling with the Indians since long before the Louisiana Purchase. These men were the fur traders sent out by the Hudson's Bay and other Companies to satisfy the vanity of rich women who followed the vogue of fashion and enrich the powerful companies who catered to them.

The fur traders of the Northwest had established friendly relations with the Sioux and the Chippewa. Their success ~~had been crowned with a depleting~~ <sup>brought about a shortage</sup> of game. Even in 1849 the vast herds of buffalo which had roamed the Minnesota plains had moved on, never to return again. To the West and Southwest they wandered followed by adventurous hunters who were now equipped with a new percussion cap rifle felling them by thousands. <sup>TP</sup> Fur hunting was a great commerce of the day. Furs and timber were Minnesota's only exports. But these two industries were sufficient to bring to our state many progressive business men who saw the advantage of settling the country with hard working people from the eastern states and even from the lands beyond the seas.

And they were coming, even in the days of 1849, when the land west of the river was not yet <sup>strange</sup> open. And had not the new land of California sent out a call the chances are that Minnesota would have settled quickly. And Pope county would have been several years older than it is.

But the call came; leaping across the mountains and Prairies rolled over the rough waters of the Atlantic and echoed back again bringing in its wake a new tide of Immigration which mingled with the native Americans now on the westward move to answer the call; The call of Gold. Gold had been discovered in California.

Across the plains stretched two great trails, the Santa Fe up the Arkansas River and another one up the Platte. Both were alive with people swarming like bees and moving on to that magic land where gold could be washed from the sands of the Sacramento River.

Little did they know or care that they were passing over some of the best farm land in the nation. Little did they dream what they were missing in the land of the North. They were after gold and no argument could have stopped them. But many were stopped by unfriendly Indians, thirst and starvation and ended their pilgrimage by leaving their bones to bleach on the desert sands where the howling coyotes mocked their <sup>futile</sup> efforts with his mournful

wail. <sup>TP</sup> But no matter where people went in those days the Army was usually there ahead of them. *Fort Larnie in Wyoming and Posts in California*

No doubt young Captain Pope would have liked to have *gone to one of* ~~liked to have been sent to~~ the Army posts in California along with *had already been established.*

his old friend U.S. Grant who had been with him at West Point and <sup>with him</sup> also/in the Mexican War. But General Taylor, under whom Pope had served was now president and he had other things for the young officer to do. Minnesota which had until that year been a part of Iowa and Wisconsin was made a territory. And Taylor, who knew the country was anxious to have it settled.

So, too were many business men who saw a chance for making money without risking their lives among savage Southwestern Indians and dry sands of unknown deserts. These men together with the fur traders urged The authorities in Washington to establish more Army posts in Minnesota, to buy more land from the Indians and develop the country by building roads. So it came about that in the year 1849 Captain Pope was sent to make a report of the country.



From that report Pope County became known throughout the country and many were the people who later passed over the old ~~Red~~ <sup>R</sup> river Trail seeking home sites along the rivers and lakes which had been mapped and named by the young army officer <sup>while</sup> on his way to Pembina, in the year 1849.

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MINNESOTA IN 1849.

Let us take a flash of Minnesota on May ,22nd 1849, when Captain Pope arrived at Fort Snelling. Since in the study of our county we are not greatly concerned with anything east of the Mississippi perhaps we had better survey the Western Portion of our state first.

Fort Snelling, which had been built in 1819 contained the only population <sup>west of the River.</sup> other than fur traders and missionaries. The Government reservation, purchased by Lieutenant Pike in 1805, extended ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ from the mouth of the Minnesota River to a point above the falls of St. Anthony on the Mississippi. <sup>TP</sup> ~~Aside from~~ <sup>all remainder of the</sup> ~~the~~ the Sioux claimed, the land south of the 46 th/parallel. ~~for~~ <sup>e</sup> into the land of the Dakotas.

→ The Sioux, or Dakotas as they were sometimes known, were for the most part scattered in small bands along the Minnesota River. With them lived the traders and Missionaries.

North of the Sioux boundary the Chippewas roamed from Lake Superior to the Red River, with the exception of <sup>a small area</sup> ~~the land~~ North of the Watab River, <sup>in vicinity of Long Prairie.</sup> which had been set aside for the Winnebagoes.

The Winnebagoes had been removed from the vicinity of Prairie du Chien to stop their fighting with the Sioux. However as Pope afterward remarked the Government had only changed the place of their warfare. The Winnebagoes like the Chippewas carried on the feud of their ancestors and seldom did they find the Sioux unwilling to continue the fight, ~~either~~.



~~In~~ In addition to Fort Snelling ,Fort Gains(later called Fort Ripley) had been established on the east bank of the Mississippi River but near the dividing line of the warring nations. However the main object of this fort seemed to have been for the protection of the settlers who were rapidly filling the land already acquired and open to settlement on the east side.

To the north,only two miles south of the Canadian border,in an angle formed by the junction of the Pembina and the Red River sat the trading post of Norman Kittson and a mission post operated by a Mr. Belcourt.This place was known as Pembina.

In and around Pembina,scattered on both sides of the International boundry line lived seven or eight thousand half breed Indians, who were the descendants of the Selkirk settlers who had first settled the Red River Valley of the North about the year 1811.

These half breeds were more advanced than the average Indian. However the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company kept them in debt,in ignorance and misery by their unscrupulous dealings and liberal supply of cheap Rum.

It was partly because of the miserableness of these people that the American Speculators/<sup>were</sup>~~XXXX~~ able to influence the authorities in Washington to order the Pembina Expedition which brought Captain Pope to Minnesota.

However the rivalry between the American Fur Company, with local headquarters at Mendoata and the Hudson's Bay Company, with headquarters at Fort Garry(Now Winnepeg) was of long standing. Few people of to-day could doubt that the agents of the American Company were moved by other than selfish motives in urging the expedition. Not only could they get more furs if more friendly relations with the half breeds were established,but it was thought that all of the half breeds might be persuaded to settle on the American side and become useful Citizens.This would have more than doubled the population of Minnesota territory and speeded up the movement toward statehood.

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In all there were scarcely more than five thousand white people in the territory of Minnesota. These of course were living on the east side of the river. St. Paul, St. Anthony and Stillwater were getting off to a good start as thriving villages.

WHY CAPTAIN POPE CAME TO MINNESOTA

Land speculation was taking the place of the fur business as an easy road to wealth. But the little farming that was done was not sufficient to feed the people. We needed more farmers and more land for them to live on. We needed the land west of the Mississippi. We also needed roads and a lot of other things that would have to be recommended by some one in authority. That is how it came about that in the year 1849 Captain Pope was ordered to accompany Major Woods on an expedition to Pembina and make a report of the country.

Captain Pope and Major Woods who led the expedition to Pembina had to wait several weeks for the grass to grow so that their horses would have food on the way. No doubt Pope who was but twenty seven years of age listened with favour to the advice of such men as Sibley, Rice and others. At any rate he recommended cutting down the Fort Snelling reservation and opening a land for settlement. He also advised purchasing the Sioux land west of the river.

Pope's report printed in the Executive Documents the following year gave authentic backing to the glowing tales of a new promised land which had been scattered by the business men of that day. It also helped to clinch the argument of those men in regard to the purchase of the Indian Land west of the river.

THE SIOUX GIVE UP THEIR LAND.

The Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux followed in 1851.

By it the Sioux relinquished their land west of the river which was immediately thrown open to white settlement.

Efforts to draw people to Minnesota.

Following the Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux another party set out for Pembina. This one consisted of no less an important person than the Territorial Governor, Ramsey who took with him a



very good writer by the name of John Wesley Bond.

Bond wrote a book called MINNESOTA AND ITS RESOURCES.

It was said to have been the first authentic history of Minnesota up to that time . Some of it perhaps was not so authentic, for in it are descriptions of coal beds and other things that Minnesota did not possess. However it was a pretty good picture of the territory as it was then, and was so cleverly written that it doubtlessly influenced thousands of people to come to the land of Sky Tinted

Waters.

POPE COUNTY SLOW IN SETTLEMENT.

However most of them found homesites before reaching Pope county which Bond described briefly, as he passed through. Deer elk and other game retreating from the advancing settlers found refuge here, And Pope County came to be known as a favorite hunting ground. The fur business, which was on the decline, was still important. For many years afterward skins of animals could be used instead of money at any of the stores in settled portions of the territory.

The first white trapper of whom we have an actual record did not come to Pope County until 1859. By that time Minnesota had become a state, and many portions of it were well settled.

Since we have learned that each locality is affected by things that happen in other places it may be well to glance at some of the happenings in other places between the year 1851 and 1859.

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## LACK OF TRANSPORTATION IN DEVELOPING THE WEST.

Since we have learned that each locality is affected by things that happen in other places it may be well to glance at some of the happenings in other places between 1851, the year of the treaty of Travers Des Sioux, and 1859, when Minnesota became a state.

After the discovery of gold in California and the general move westward much land was discovered and settled that had remained practically unknown before. But the people who settled on the western plains were like the people in Pope county or elsewhere. They had to have some means of transportation if they were to build up the country.

### DEVELOPMENT OF RAILROADS. ~~AND THE PANIC OF 1857.~~ ~~around them.~~

This led to the developement of railroads, which in those days were confined mostly to the eastern sea boards and a few small feeder lines to the rivers, lakes and canals. Water ways were still considered as the only suitable transportation method on a large scale. ✓

Since no one man had enough money to build a railroad small investors were induced to buy stock in the new roads until sufficient capital was raised to build them. The Government generously assisted in the grants of free land and in many communities the citizens themselves offered generous bonuses to encourage road building.

### PROGRESS IN ROAD BUILDING.

Some of the roads made money quickly, since the westward movement was in full swing. This led to a period of wild speculation until capital in the eastern banks was exhausted. It finally resulted in what is known as the money panic of 1857. In that year the Ohio Trust Company failed and started a run on smaller banks throughout the country. Railroad building came to a standstill with the nearest puffing engine still ~~many~~ miles from Pope county. It had only reached Gelana, Illinois.

Minnesota Territory was seriously affected by the panic of 1857. (//)

The year before every steamboat that came smoking up the Mississippi River was loaded to the limit with people seeking homes in the new land. Townsite speculators reaped fortunes from the sale of lots where proposed new towns were supposed to rise.

Everywhere people were happy and hopeful. Now the situation was thrown in reverse. People were crowding on the boats to get away from a land where there was no work, no money and little food. It took a sturdy soul to grit his teeth and hang on in a time like that. Corner lots which had sold for a thousand dollars the year before went begging now.

And railroads for Minnesota ~~XXX~~ seemed impossible.  
~~AFTER THE PANIC~~

Yet times changed as times always did when the country was young and the land was new. There was plenty of room for expansion. People had only to wait. The money market was like a barrel of maple sap with a bung hole near the bottom. Some one pulls the plug and drains the barrel. Then the others who come later have to patiently wait for the barrel to fill up again from the slow drip, drip from the tree.

It took but a year or so for confidence to be restored. Railroads were pushing west again and speculators were once more on the move. The land agents were advertising Minnesota in all parts of the world and the territory was offering them every inducement to come and settle on the fertile plains where land could be bought on long term payments for \$1.25 per acre. By this time several railroad companies had been organized and obtained title to the free land grants and, settlers felt that the transportation problem would soon be over.

*Minnesota was moving steadily ahead.*  
An ~~XXXX~~ increase in the population together with a few fraudulent census reports enabled the people of Minnesota to get their

territory admitted as a state in 1859 but there was yet no Pope County.

*Only a lone me-trapper lived there who perhaps had little contact with the outside world.*



SETTLEMENT ADVANCES TOWARD POPE COUNTY

However St. Cloud had gotten off to a good start as a new town And like a lot of other places had its share of speculators who was on the look out for opportunity. Pope county was not entirely overlooked by these men. As early as the year 1855 O.E. Garrison came from St. Cloud and staked out a townsite on the North shore of Lake Whipple (Now called Minnewaska) about one mile from the present city of Glenwood.

The name of Winthrop was given to the new town. No doubt the owner had hopes of selling lots and getting settlements what was started in/~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ then a part of Stearns county. However the people who were interested in settling in Minnesota towns preferred to buy lots near the rivers where steam boats could bring in supplies and take away their marketable products. The town of Winthrop was never settled and soon faded from memory. Pope county remained as it had been, a paradise for hunters and trappers.

FIRST SETTLERS.

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About the year 1860 the <sup>stillness of</sup> ~~XXXXXXXX~~ of Crow Lake in Stearns County was broken by tired bellowing of cattle which were herded behind three covered wagons drawn by oxen. The four husky Norwegians who brought in the caravan had been residents of Wisconsin for ten years. Always seeking the new, the un explored they had left their new found homes in the Badger State and migrated here toward a last outpost of civilization.

Nor did they remain long at Crow Lake. The hunting was better in Pope county and they spent much time there gathering fresh meat and furs which could still be used as legal tender. These men soon decided to settle in what later became known as Pope County. They were our first settlers.

POPE COUNTY SETTLEMENT.

In 1859 O<sup>3</sup>O. Grove <sup>had</sup> settled in Kandiyohi county and found the hunting good in what is now Barsness township of Pope County. Three years later he induced some of his friends to move over and help him settle the new land. ~~SETTLEMENT RETARDED BY THE CIVIL WAR.~~ Scarcely were they established <sup>in their new homes</sup> when another national event took place which was to hold back the settlement of Pope county for many years. This was the great Civil War which was followed by the Indian War.

The history of the Civil War is a long story. Here let us only review its effect on Minnesota and the part our state played in it.

For years the slave states of the South and the Free states of the North had quarreled over their economic problems. When the Southern states had a majority of representatives in Congress laws could be passed which gave them the advantage. When the North had this power the situation was reversed.

For many years the balance of power was about equal. Each side had about held their own but the quarrels had been long and bitter. When Minnesota was admitted as a free state in 1859 the South lost forever its supremacy of power. The following year Abraham Lincoln, a free state advocate was elected President. Following his <sup>election</sup> ~~inauguration in March 1861~~ the Southern States withdrew from the Union.

Lincoln's refusal to recognise the newly formed Confederate States of America and to turn over to them the forts and armaments on southern territory resulted in their attack on Fort Sumpter and plunged the country into four years of bloody warfare.

The possibility of war was foreseen by the state legislatures who met in February 1861. The Mississippi River was still our only means of carrying on a commerce with other states. Should it be closed by the Newly formed Southern Confederacy Business in Minnesota would be at a standstill. The legislatures therefore adopted a resolution against such a movement.

The following April Fort Sumpter was fired on and Lincoln sent out a call for volunteers to put down the rebellion.

*History Lesson of the 1860s*  
Governor Ramsey, who was in Washington at the time, immediately pledged troops from Minnesota. Although it was the youngest state in the Union, Ramsey felt sure they would answer the call. He was not disappointed. *Minnesota answered the call.* Soon the pride of Minnesota's manhood was marching away toward the southern battlefields.

Once more there was a check on the immigration. The rebellion proved to be the beginning of a four years war. Men in other states were needed for the army. Others who were unable to go were needed in the mills, factories and mines turning out supplies with which to carry on the war. Even the railroads

which had been promised us had to wait. Vast sums of money were needed to carry on the war. Everywhere people who had money to invest were buying Government Bonds. With the exception of a little ten mile stretch of track which was built from St. <sup>P</sup>aul to St. Anthony in the year 1862 our transportation problems were all but forgotten.



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No doubt the new citizens of Pope County had hopes that the time would be short in developing the roads. Meantime they could trap small game and raise enough garden stuff to feed their families. Their wants were few and they were at peace here far from the scenes of the battles that were raging in the south.

However the Land of the Sky Tinted water was soon to be darkened by another cloud, which almost ~~ruined~~ <sup>tinted</sup> the waters of the Minnesota River ~~to~~ <sup>with</sup> blood.

The Sioux Indians, who had long been dissatisfied with the Bargain they had made in 1851, <sup>advised</sup> rose and went on the war path.

<sup>Beginning</sup>  
The uprising started around the Indian Agency in Meeker county <sup>they</sup> and swept west and south spreading death and destruction throughout the Minnesota Valley.

Pope county with only a few families within its borders is little mentioned in the histories of the Indian War. Yet it was not without a part in the excitement, danger and death of that great disaster.

Soldiers on their way to protect the living and bury the dead in Kandiyohi county found a few citizens who were unaware of the terrible scourge which was raging in surrounding counties. about the same time runners had been sent from St. Cloud and other towns to warn the settlers in Pope County. A friendly halbreed or two remembered someone who had perhaps once done them a favour. <sup>and risked the severe censure of their own people by scattering the news.</sup>

On the first alarm the pioneers, leaving belongings behind, started for the settlements and stockades. Meantime the Indians had reached Pope County and escape for a time seemed impossible. By hiding in tree tops throughout the day and slipping quietly through underbrush at night the settlers reached places of safety <sup>in the stockades of nearby counties. (Continue Paragraph)</sup> beyond the confines of Pope County.

Several of them joined the fighting forces which were being organized to subdue the savage red men. One more intrepid than the rest returned to his home for some belongings he had left behind. There the Indians found him. And there they left his scalpless body. His bones were not even seen by his friends until a year after the war was over.

So ended the newly established homesteads of Pope county. It was two years <sup>later</sup> afterward before the settlers were allowed to venture back again to the woods and lakes of the county which was named in

honor of General John Pope, who had written the first discription of the new land in 1849, and was now back in Minnesota as commander in chief of the Army of the Northwest.

Even then the settlement was slow because the ~~XXXX~~ Civil war was still going on and migration toward the west was still retarded. It was not until after the close of the war in 1865 that the settlement of Pope County really gathered momentum, and

became permanent.

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... I will try to ...



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## WHY POPE COUNTY WAS NAMED FOR GENERAL POPE.

The Indian war of 1862 was responsible for Pope county receiving its name. Captain Pope after a series of brilliant victories had been placed in command of the Army of Virginia. There the reputation he had won was suddenly blasted by a serious loss on and around the Rapahannock river and Cedar Mountain.

Many of the Government officials thought Pope was to blame for the defeat of the Army of Virginia. Others defended him and insisted that he be kept in some important command.

The call of Governor Ramsey who had answered the first call for troops. The call of Governor Ramsey for Federal troops made it now wanted troops for Minnesota states possible for Lincoln to satisfy both sides. The Army of the Northwest was created and Pope was placed in command.

His old friends of the days of forty nine were glad to see him and this friendship and confidence they placed in him caused them to name Pope County in his honor. When the county was created in 1862

Many historians credit Pope with the important work of winning the Indian war. This may be true but not so far as Minnesota is concerned. Pope did not arrive in St. Paul until September 16th of the year 1862 and it was but a few days later before Sibley and his forces had completely routed the Indians and made their historic capture at Camp Release.

However the Army of the Northwest took in several states and the Indian war was pushed on for several years. Sibley and the Minnesota troops remained in the field under Pope whose headquarters were then moved to Milwaukee.

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After the Indian War was over there were several small forts maintained for the protection of the settlers, immigrants and travelers. These were distributed along the old military trail, a branch of which ran through Pope county.

At Lake Johanna twelve soldiers maintained a watch over the surrounding country. There was no real trouble but their presence made the settlers who returned to their homes in that township in 1864 more agreeable.

As new settlers came in they were sometimes alarmed by false cries of Indians. On such occasions they loaded their belongings into wagons ready to fly to places of safety. But no real trouble ever made its appearance.

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#### FIRST SETTLERS

Mr. O. O. Grove, who had been Pope County's first citizen returned to his homestead in Barsness township in 1864. However he seems to have confined his activities to trapping. Ole Gilbertson, who came later raised the first crop. According to the reports of old timers he harvested a crop of potatoes in the year 1866. In that year quite a number of people settled in Barsness and other townships. Among them were the Barsness brothers after whom Barsness township was named.

Page 169. Erick Barsness, after whom Barsness Township was named.

*was a Civil War Veteran*  
When General Sherman Marched on Atlanta a young Norwegian lad

proudly carried the colors for one of the regiments. He had a right to be proud. Already he had received wounds in two battles and endured severe hardships. Once he was shot through the lung and lay where he had fallen between two dead men until their bodies stunk in the sweltering sun. Unable to move, another soldier was about to send a bullet through his brain to relieve him of his misery. Another man persuaded the mercy slayer to help move him to a tent where he lay for a week with nothing to eat but a dried biscuit.

*recovered and*  
~~Recovering~~ he again took his place with his regiment and suffered the loss of a finger but continued to stay in the ranks until he finally had the honor of carrying the colors into Atlanta for General Sherman.

Barsness was born in Norway 1848. Came to Wisconsin in 1861.

*where he later enlisted in the Union Army.*

Later in Pope county, when flour was \$18.00 per barrel and lard 35 cents a pound he suffered hardship with the others. Once he lived for three months on lard flour and molasses. But his training in the Civil War having been much more severe he no doubt thought little of it.

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Cost of seed wheat \$1.75 crop sold for .40 cents.

Page 176. Mathew Chrishakzlow, Canadian.

Carpenter.

Page 177. Hela B. Wollen bought 1st threshing machine in 1869.

8 horse power of real horses. He later opened the store.



A misplaced County Seat

*Pope Co was set apart as a County in 1862.* 20

There seems to be an air of mystery woven around the record of ~~Pope County's~~<sup>its</sup> first county seat. When ~~the county~~<sup>it</sup> was organized in 1862 Stockholm in Gilchrist township was named as the county seat. (1)

However there were but few settlers in Pope County in 1862.

Claus Olson Grove had only moved into Barsness Township the previous year. Ole Kittelson, Salve Oleson Gakkestad, Greger Halvorson and John Johnson Sandvig had settled in Lake Johanna Township in the year 1862. (2)

Joseph C Hutchins had settled in Leven Township. Thomas Van Eaton and Dean Stable were in Grove Lake. A trapper by the name of Garrison was living on the shores of Lake Minnewaska. These were said to have been the only people living in Pope County when it was created in 1862. (3)

Where, then, was Stockholm?

Since the settlers all left on account of the Indian trouble in 1862 and no white people lived there until after 1865 there would be no record of official county business during the intervening years. (4)

A convention was said to have been held at Stockholm in August of 1866 and a petition signed and sent to the Governor asking for permission to organize their county government, and set up a local government. (5)

*removal to Glenwood*

1,2,3,4,5

Sources: The above material is gathered from pages 6 & 7 in, BUILDERS OF POPE COUNTY. Also from Pope County Tribune, Reminiscences of old settlers, July 5th, 1928. July 12th and Aug. 9th. Also Aug 15th, 1929.

The governor appointed Thomas Chance, J.G. Canfield and Ole Reine as county commissioners to set up the new county organization.

Since the ghost town of Stockholm was officially the county seat on the state records naturally to avoid confusion they used it in making their reports.

However the record states that, "The only house on the county seat plat being unfit for business, they adjourned to the house of Ole Peterson." (1)

One therefore assumes that by 1866 someone had built some kind of a house on the land where the supposed town of Stockholm was platted. But since it was found unfit for use the house of Ole Peterson, on the northeast quarter of section 17 in Gilchrist Township, had the honor of being Pope County's first court house.

It was not uncommon to use some settlers residence for a court house in pioneer days. Since there was little business to transact there were few records to be taken care of and little room was needed. But from all appearances the new officials of Pope County decided to make the town of Stockholm a reality.

A small log hut was erected on the Northeast shore of Scandinavian Lake in Gilchrist township and was known officially as the first court house. Meantime other townships were being settled and the people who lived in them were already busy organizing Township governments. (2)

One of the first townships to be organized was Glenwood, in 1866. There an enterprising homesteader, by the name of Kirk J. Kinney, who came out from New York state, already had a townsite platted. Since he came from Glenwood, New York, he named his new town Glenwood. The name was very appropriate, too, because of the woods and picturesque land surrounding the place.

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(1) Pope County Tribune June, 12, 1930..

(2) BUILDERS OF POPE CO. page 12.



Whether the new town of Glenwood was thought to be a more strategic place for a county seat because of its location or because that more people now lived in that vicinity one could scarcely say. The fact remains that the voters decided in the fall of 1867 to move the court house to Glenwood.

(1)

Lumber was hauled from St. Cloud and a small two story framed building was erected. The records were taken from the old court house in the imaginary town of Stockholm, put into a sack and given to Daniel Pennie who made the journey to the new court house on foot. There the records remained until a brick court house was built in 1879.

(2)

There are few people of to-day who can visualise the little town of Glenwood as it was in those early years. Even in 1870 there were but few houses. Only the year before had the first school house been built. It was only a small framed structure perhaps not much larger than a two car garage or a farmer's chicken coop of to-day.

Kenny and Lathrope had erected the first building which was used by Sam Johnson as a general store. Another building which was used for a hotel, the school house and the court-house were the outstanding attractions of which the town could boast.

However these attractions were enough to cause the new residents of Pope county to swell with pride as they gathered there to do their shopping, call for their mail or vote for some public official. As yet they had no real roads, such as we know them to-day. The nearest railroad was St. Cloud, which was a two weeks journey for the ox propelled wagons which brought in supplies.

Staple supplies such as flour was oftentimes hard to get and cost from \$18.00 to \$24.00 per barrel. The settler who was fortunate enough to raise a crop of corn or wheat the first year or so was lucky indeed. For in the long winters even the ox wagon freighters could not supply the new comers with food.

In such times the sturdy Scandinavians added <sup>a new method of</sup> ~~an art~~ of transportation which had been unknown among the people who had come from the eastern part of the United States. This was the art of skiing.

Tales have been recorded by old timers which indicate that many people would have starved had it not been for some ~~XXXXXX~~ ski expert who could make the trip to St. Cloud and back in a couple of days. Some of those hardy human freighters were said to have been able to make the trip with more than a hundred pounds of provisions strapped to their backs.

7 However those who had guns and ammunition could easily supply their tables with meat. Wild game was plentiful and their skins were used <sup>for</sup> ~~as legal tender~~ (money) So it is safe to assume that the ski-freighters had a load to carry both ways when they went to the store.

While the abundance of game often prevented starvation among the settlers it was not always welcome among the children. A child playing no more than a stone's throw from his father's cabin would sometimes be confronted by a bear. Timber wolves, deer and elk were still in existence. Flocks of wild geese, ducks and swan dotted the lakes and a string of fish could always be caught. *if the settler had no ammunition for his gun*

SOME ECONOMIC FACTORS CONCERNING THE SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF POPE COUNTY.Apr 14th, 1938

America has been called the racial melting pot. You have no doubt heard the expression that the only American is the American Indian. But when we speak of an American we mean a citizen of the United States of America, regardless of his color, racial origin or place of birth. From that point of view Americans are surely a combination of many races.

But if you were to visit some sections of the United States you would have a very difficult time in tracing the ancestry of the present day citizen. His ancestors settled on American soil and intermarried with other groups so long ago that the racial strains have been forgotten.

Such is not the case in Pope County. Here one finds the racial melting pot in its infancy. Within the life time of one man these people have gathered from different lands and established a true American community. And despite the fact that they <sup>speak</sup> ~~are drifting~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~toward~~ a common language and common customs most of them can easily trace their racial origin. (\*1)

While the majority of the early settlers were from the the British Isle, Scandinavian Islands, ~~XXXXXX~~, Ireland, Scotland, France, ~~and~~ also other countries were/represented. Canada and several of our own eastern states were places from where/ <sup>some of</sup> the early pioneers came.

These were the Americans who lived in Pope county in the year 1870 when the first census was taken. And present day Americans living in that county should be proud of them and learn more about why they came there.



25

From Minnesota Atlas published by A.I. Andreas, 1874.

Page 10.

Assessed valuation of real and personal property in 1870-----\$348,479.00

True value of property-----\$1,111,052.00

Total taxation -----\$11,587.00

State taxation-----\$1,743.00

County " -----\$4,917.00 No public debt.

Town, city, etc.-----\$4,927.00

Total -----\$11,587.00

( This shows the rapid development of the county since 1865)

Page 11. Population. 1870.  
Native of U.S.

This was the first census of Pope County,  
Foreign Born.

Born in Minnesota-----560. British America-----134

New York-----148. England & Wales-----14

Wisconsin-----220. Ireland-----68

Ohio-----32. Scotland-----26

Penn-----48. Germany-----31

Ill.-----102. France-----1

Total -----1310. Sweden & Norway-----1075.

Total Foreign Born-1381

*not all adults*

Total population 1870-----2691

(This shows the rapid settlement of Pope County and where the people came from. )

There was no manufacturing establishments listed for the county .1870.

Page 13. Map shows St. Paul & Pacific Railway crossing the Southwest corner of

Pope county. Benson, in Swift County was the nearest railroad shipping point.

(Did this road help or hinder the settlement of Pope County?)  
Below is a list of the township population for 1870. Page 15:

Anderson--74, Barsness--153, Ben Wade--240, Chippewa--116, Gilchrist--169,

Glenwood--214, Grove Lake--292, Lake Johanna--219, Levan--150, Nora--99,

Reno--254, Rolling Fork--211, West Port--238, White Bear Lake --262.

Page 155 Sioux Center N.P. RR.

Page 184 Pope County map. 1870. Pictures of Glenwood and Lake Whipple.

Since the people came from widely separated places they might have given different reason for coming to Pope County. But if you collected the stories from each group who came here you would find that they all amounted to the same thing. They came to establish homes for themselves and their children. Unlike the adventurous gold and fur hunters of former days these people were sturdy agriarians who came to stay and improve the land.

But why Pope County?. At the close of the Civil War there was no one living here. Five years later ,when the census was taken in 1870 Almost 2700 people were counted. Some communities in the United States <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ not had such an increase in population in two hundred years(\*2)

To solve the riddle we cannot confine our attention to the narrow confines of our county. To do so would be as foolish as the ostrich who hides his head in the sand. So let us take a glance around the country and even in Europe at the close of the Civil war. May we also reflect upon some of the causes of the war and its effect upon the people of the world.

Ignorant people may tell you that the Civil War was fought to free the slaves. Nonsense! No historian would tell you that.

The Civil War, like all wars, was brought about by human greed and selfishness. It was brought about by the unwillingness of people in one section to co-operate with people in another section on plans to bring about economic conditions for the betterment of all the people.

(\*2) Santa Fe and Taos ,New Mexico have but few more people now than they did two hundred years ago. (recent book) NEW MEXICO.

Tot. Tot!

3

0

The slaves were later freed as a war measure to weaken the South and also to gain the moral support of other workmen both at home and abroad. This act was particular helpful in gaining the support of European workmen.

Although many of their factories had been closed as a result of a shortage of cotton from the southern states, the people believed that freedom of the negro slaves in America would better conditions for the working men every where. Besides those people with humanitarian trends of thought now looked up on the <sup>action of the</sup> Northern States as a battle for righteousness.

Throughout Europe and especially in the Scandianavian countries people flocked to the American Consuls and offered their Services in the Northern Armies. (\*3)

Of course we could not accept such recruiting without giving offense to the countries in which these people lived. Nevertheless every encouragement was given them to migrate <sup>to</sup> ~~for~~ America.

There was a scarcity of labor at the time and factories, railroads and contractors were willing to advance money to pay for the passage of any able bodied workman who wished to come to our shores. (\*4) If such a workman wanted to join the army when he got here that was his business. and many of them did just that. And for that, too, there was a reason.

(\*3) Swedish Emigration.

(\*4) Economic History of U.S. By H.U. Faulkner.



SOME ECONOMIC FACTORS CONCERNING THE SETTLEMENT OF POPE COUNTY

In 1862 Congress had passed the Homestead Act. By this act they hoped to speed up the settlement of the west and insure an endless supply of farm products to eastern cities in case of a prolonged war or shortage of supply from other places. A soldier might deduct the time he had served in the army from the time he was required to live on the homestead. In some cases they could even select a homestead from maps furnished them by agents and have the land reserved until after they were discharged from the service.

No doubt when the news of the Homestead Act trickled into Norway and Sweden it caused many to turn ~~their~~ eyes toward America. Farmers were poor and crops had been bad for several years// in those countries. But many were too poor to come .

Another law was passed in 1864 called The Alien Contract immigration law which authorized the importation of contract labor under a contract by which the amount of his fare could be deducted from his wages after he got here. (\*5)

At the same time immigration agents from the various states where Homestead land was available toured Europe <sup>i \*</sup> panting the land in the most glowing colors. Oftimes the descriptions were disguised as travel-logues and written by professional writers who apparently had no connection with the land offices. Neverthe less a close research proves that they did have such connections.

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(\*5) Economic History of U.S. by. H.U.Faulkner.

Perhaps there were connections, too, between the authorities and the land agents and speculators who wanted to settle the new comers on land in other places besides Pope county. At any rate we know that no land was settled there after the Indian Outbreak until 1865. In that year the restriction was lifted and the homesteaders trooped in and began to make things hum with their activity.

These people were perhaps better informed than some of the earlier new comers to our state. They had passed through other settlements and towns which had been under way for a number of years. They had seen the railroad, which ended abruptly at Galena and La Cross in the panic of 1857, now nosing its way on toward the west. Even in Minnesota railroad development was now under way and it was only a matter of time until it would reach Pope County.

business

The/slump of 1857 had begun to revive before the Civil War.

But that great ~~XXXXXX~~ conflict had made necessary the switching of capital to war channels. The development of railroads had progressed slowly. However after the war the money market was again diverted ~~again~~ to road building and it went forward at a rapid pace. In four years the Atlantic and Pacific oceans were connected by rail and east of the Mississippi River the new map showed the railroads like a spider web.

People who invested their money in the new roads usually did so through agents for bond houses who made a business of recruiting capital for new enterprises. Chief among the financiers of that day was a man named Jay Cook.

~~251~~  
30

Cook had played an important part in financing the Civil War. He now turned his attention to the business of raising capital with which to build rail roads.

He not only scoured the United States in this search for money but great banking houses in European countries were glad to furnish money for these new developments. With the tide of money flowing from all parts of the world flowing in our direction it looked as if we could not help but succeed. Pioneering continued to come.

However the pioneer seemed to have had too much confidence in the financial wizard of his day. Perhaps he was not conscious of the work of Jay Cook at all. A railroad just came. Few people could grasp the many problems that worked together to develop or retard such a gigantic enterprise.

Unfortunately Jay Cook, himself, never took all of the factors into consideration. Many miles of roads to whom he had loaned money were built across arid deserts and uninhabited plains. They would bring no return until completed and the surrounding country settled. Then in 1873 a war broke out in Europe between France and Germany. Like our own Civil War at home that war in Europe called for money which would have <sup>gone</sup> otherwise ~~went~~ into the American Railroads. <sup>thence</sup> At home the money kegs had once more been drained dry. Once more the railroad building ceased and for two years not a mile of road was built in the state of Minnesota.





Another factor which may have contributed to the panic of 1873 is to be found in the insurance reports of the years of 1871 to 1873. During those years there was about four hundred million dollars worth of property destroyed by fires. Most of them took place in large cities which had expanded rapidly after the Civil War.

These cities had grown ~~xx~~ much faster than building regulations and fire prevention methods could keep pace with them. This was evidently not taken into consideration by the insurance companies who figured their risks on the basis of losses in previous years. But such losses they had not experienced in any period stretched over twenty five years.

The insurance companies had reinvested their money in bank and railroad bonds and other <sup>securities</sup> ~~industries~~, some of them in Minnesota. When called upon to pay such a staggering sum as four hundred million dollars naturally these companies were hard pressed for ready cash. Many of them failed entirely. Those who did not were forced to sell their long time bonds for whatever they could get. Where they had recently been money lenders they were now borrowers and there was no money to borrow.

The revolving force of four hundred million dollars taken from the channels of trade would be a calamity even to-day, when we speak in terms of billions. But in the year 1873, before our financial structure had expanded to such proportions as we have to-day, the effect must have been <sup>very bad.</sup> ~~terrible.~~

In

In studying our county, then, and taking into consideration the world wide events which speeded up or retarded its development, we can not ~~safely assume~~ that they were brought about by ~~any~~ <sup>no</sup> one factor alone. And it would take a very wise man, indeed, to trace all of the effects to to their various causes. It is perhaps enough for us to know that we are not set apart from people in other places as much as we sometimes imagine. A fire in Boston or a war in Europe may have its effect here just as they did in 1873.

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*Sept* *in 333*  
THE PEMBINA EXPEDITION.

East of the Mississippi River settlements had advanced almost to Fort Ripley, then called Fort Gains. West of the river as we have already learned belonged to the Indians, with the exception of the military reservation of Fort Snelling which extended about nine miles up the Mississippi above the mouth of the Minnesota. There were a few missionary stations and fur trading posts scattered about over the state. The most prominent ones were at Lac Qui Parle and Pembina.

The mission at Lac Qui Parle was operated by Rev. Riggs and Dr Williamson. The fur trading post had been established by Joseph Renville and after his death was carried on by Martain McLeod.

At Pembina, two miles south of the Canadian line, A Mr. Belcourt operated a mission and Norman Kittson a trading post.

Pembina, being so near the Canadian line was considerably under the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company traders. Scattered along on both sides of the line were about eight thousand half breed Indians.

It was thought by many people that under proper influence these Indians might become useful American citizens. The fur traders who annually delivered their furs to the Mendota Headquarters, operated by Sibley resented the British encroachments into their hunting grounds. These and other problems were carried to Washington for ~~NAKTIEMAKI~~ a final solution.

Among the many problems which confronted the Washington Officials was the settlement of the Indian wars, Investigation of the trouble around Pembina. The establishment of forts to protect settlers and the opening of new land. Transportation, that age old problem, had to be solved before settlements could advance very far from water ways.



SOME THING ABOUT THE MAN AFTER WHOM POPE COUNTY WAS NAMED AND WHAT HE  
DID FOR MINNESOTA.  
Thus it ~~happened~~ <sup>XXXXXXXXXXXXX</sup> that

////// On May 16th, 1849 a young Army officer left St. Louis for Fort Snelling to join an expedition to the northern frontier of Minnesota. His name was John Pope, and although he was only twenty seven years of age he held the rank of Brevet Captain of the Topographical Engineers. This rank had been given him for meritorious service in the Mexican War. He had displayed ability and courage at both Buena Vista and Monterey. *and in addition to promotion state of Ill present sword of which Pope*  
However Pope's training in the army had not fitted him primarily for the battle fields. After graduating from West Point in 1842 he had been assigned to the Topographical Engineers Corps. He served first on survey work in Florida and later on the Northwest boundary line where he was promoted to second lieutenant in May, 1846. Shortly afterward he was transferred to General Taylor's Army in Texas and Mexico.

Grant, Lee and many other officers with whom he was later to have dealings were in Mexico with him. Grant had been with him for three years at West Point. He was about Pope's age (scarcely a month's difference). However he had entered the academy a year later than Pope and so graduated a year later.

Pope's training with the Engineers fitted him for the task to which he was assigned with the expedition to Pembina in 1849. But the war and the promotions he had received perhaps fired him with ambition which some times, no doubt, made him a problem for his superior officers.

He arrived at Fort Snelling May 22nd, 1849 with orders to accompany Major Samuel Woods who was shortly to lead the expedition to the frontier fur trading post of Pembina.

Both Pope and Woods had orders to make certain reports and recommendations for the location of army posts and such other measures that might prevent further wars between the Sioux and the Chippewa and aid in the settlement of the Territory of Minnesota.

Back of their orders were streams of propaganda to various Governmental offices concerning British encroachments by the Hudson's Bay Company and their agents North of Pembina.

In and around Pembina on both sides of the line there lived about seven or eight thousand half breeds, who according to the reports were demoralized by whiskey and other coniving of the Hudson's Bay Company agents and factors. It was thought that if suitable measures were adopted by the United States these people would all settle on the American side, become useful citizens and perhaps sell more of their furs to Mr. Kittson agent for a fur Company at Pembina.

The Indian situation was stressed in the ~~MEMORANDUM~~ orders given to Major Woods, But Pope seemed to have much leeway as to the nature of his report. And his actual duties and subordination to Woods is somewhat vague.

In those days when there were few settlements in the territory much of the food for both man and beast had to be gathered from the country through which they passed. It was the 6th of June before the grass was high enough to risk starting out with the horses and wagons on the five hundred miles to Pembina.

On the map it would hardly be five hundred miles but according to the curious contrivance called an odometer which counted the revolutions of a wagon wheel Pope estimated the distance over which they traveled as four hundred and ninty seven miles from Fort Snelling to Pembina.



1851 51 years

August 1861

1861 Aug 18 1861 Aug 18 1861 Aug 18

a year later than Pape. While  
 While we are discussing the man  
 who rose to the Presidency through the  
 Civil War and a man who had  
 he been successful would not have filled  
 the place master of Grant, it may be  
 well to dwell on the characteristics  
 of the two men. There was scarcely  
 a month's difference in ages.

Pape was born

Grant was born

Both were what was then termed  
middle Western men.

Grant from Ohio

Pape from Ky.

Gr father farmer

Pape's father — lawyer, politician

He had even been a Congressman  
from Illinois before moving  
back to Lewisville where John

38  
 22  
 16



3

Let us remember that the Sioux was in possession of the land west of the Mississippi in 1849. The only exception was the reservation of Fort Snelling. The land purchased by Lieutenant Pike for the Fort in 1805 extended up the west bank of the river past the Falls of St. Anthony taking in practically all of the land now occupied by Minneapolis on the west side of the river.

East of the river St. Anthony, St. Paul and Stillwater were off to a good start as thriving villages. White settlers could be found on the east side as far as Fort Gains (later called Fort Ripley) 76 miles north of Fort Snelling. In all there were scarcely more than 4,000 pure blood whites in all of what is now Minnesota. This included the garrison of 200 men at Fort Snelling and 117 at Fort Gains, The Missionary posts and white traders.

Nevertheless there were some far seeing business men among the inhabitants of Minnesota territory, *who saw a great future for the newly established territory* Sibley, who still maintained a fur trading depot at Mendota in addition to being a representative in Congress, Franklin Steele, who still held a sutlership at the Fort in addition to his St. Anthony enterprises. Closely associated with Steele was his chief Clerk, John H. Stevens who had only arrived that year and was to have the honor of building the first house on the west banks of the Mississippi above the St. Anthony Falls. *Rice, Ramsey and many others.*

Before the Woods-Pope expedition and reports these men had surveyed the west side of the river with appraising eyes. And it is logical to assume that they might have had some influence on the young Army engineer before he started on the long trek toward Pembina, on June 6th, 1849. At any rate Col. Stevens in his recollections of Minnesota and Its People *page 6* records that on June the 10th Steele took him on a trip to and above the Falls and informed him that the land in that vicinity belonging to the Government Reservation *on west side of River*

would soon be open for settlement, and persuaded him to select a location for himself. 37

Whatever the source of Steel's information might have been, it proved correct. In the beginning of Pope's report, he daringly recommended to Congress that the Fort Snelling reservation be reduced and the land thrown open for settlement.

It would seem that such a recommendation should have come from Major Woods rather than Pope. Woods had until recently been in command of the Fort and no doubt had much more information than Pope could have obtained in such a short and hurried survey. Besides he was in command of the expedition to Pembina. Nevertheless Pope's reports were so uncerimoniously written with an assumption of authority that they seemed to have been accepted almost verbatim. And Pope, rather than Woods is accredited by some historians as the leader of the expedition. *See Gabriel Vol. 1 - P. 228*

Crossing the River above the Falls of St. Anthony, the troopers made their way North over a dim trail which ran almost due north to Fort Gains, at a distance of from a fraction of a mile to ten miles east of the winding river.

Rain, mud, swollen streams and more mud impeded their progress. They found frequent use for the pontoon wagon beds in bridging the streams. Both horses and men were useful in dragging the wagons through sloughs and long stretches of bogged down prairie which had been soaked by the heavy rains.

At length they reached the house of a Mr. Gilman one mile above Sauk Rapids. There a company of Dragoons from Fort Gains met them. Together they crossed the Mississippi River, <sup>and</sup> formed a camp on the west side.

According to Pope's report they found a settlement at Rice Creek

see 2  
Pape's letter to Mc Lean & Owens (553) Oct 3, 1949  
letter to Woods, recognizes Wood's letter

P 22 Watah S boundary of Winnebago  
Agency.

177 families at Pampara total 1026 people

600 cows 300 over 1300 work horse

130 horses chose 7500 horned cattle  
and hogs 5000 on english side

Canadian French.



7 miles from St Anthony, another one 10 miles further on at the mouth of the  
Rum River and one at Elk River 13 miles further. He described the country  
as having big meadows with fine hay. 38

In spite of the fact that their heavy loaded wagons were making slow ~~progress~~  
progress through a land filled with swamps, bothersome streams and musquitos,  
he paints the future in glowing colors, obviously for the benefit of immigration  
and land agents. Camping on the territory of the Sioux one mile south of the  
Watab river, their northern boundry line, He mentions the ancient war between  
the Sioux and the Winnebagoes who were then North of the Watab.

The Winnebagoes, Said Pope, had been removed from the vicinity of  
Prairie Du Chien to stop the constant fighting with the Sioux, but the movement  
had only shifted the scene of warfare to the north. Here he <sup>found</sup> a reason  
for the reduction of troops at Fort Snelling and scattering them along  
this northern Indian boundry to prevent further trouble between the Indians.

In this plan he was supported by Major Woods when that officer  
submitted his report to the War Department. However Pope's plans seem to  
have been a little confusing for at the same time he recommends that the  
Sioux Land West of the River be purchased for the extension of settlement  
by the whites.

Pope saw, or at least pretended to see, a great future for  
western Minnesota as a farming center. Perhaps his plans for transportation  
were somewhat impractical, but he lived in an age of Water transportation.  
He therefore saw a potential highway in the smallest stream or lake, if the  
government could but appropriate sufficient funds to remove obstructions  
and connect them up by canals and deeper channels. Offering the feasibility  
of flat boat freighting across lakes to the Mississippi.

39

However his recommendations were not confined to waterways. He advanced the idea of financing railroads by land grants and recommended routes as follows: From the head of navigation on the Red River to the Head of Navigation on the St. Peters (now Minnesota River). This would have been approximately from the vicinity of Breckenridge to Mankato. Another from Breckenridge to the mouth of the Crow Wing and on to the west shore of Lake Superior. A northern route from Breckenridge to Duluth.

His recommendation for a state boundary line would have cut our state off with the 46th parallel as its approximate northern boundary. Presumably he expected to include only the land of the Sioux in Minnesota with the now adjacent land of the Dakotas. This recommendation was not followed, nor were the routes for his proposed railroads. <sup>exactly</sup> However with slight changes, the land grants, for railroads, purchase of Indian land and establishment of a State followed his reports in a few short years.

Having left the talkative young officer camping south of the Watab River we now return to accompany him along with the entire expedition west toward the Red River of the North.

~~After waiting several days for the grass to dry~~

Frequent rests for the prairie to dry, and recapture <sup>and recapture</sup> their horses, which at times grew weary of the march and headed back for Snelling, found them on June the 16th winding their way over an imaginary trail, now covered with high grass, between the Watab and the Sauk Rivers. They ferried the Sauk 21 miles from its mouth and reached a small lake which was a tributary of the Crow River. There again they halted for a rest of a few days. Pope took occasion to jot down the information that heavy loaded wagons were inadvisable for explorers and hints that the commanding officer



40  
himself was somewhat uneasy about the successful accomplishment of the expedition. However Pope failed to mention the commanding officer by name either through courtesy or discourtesy or perhaps he wanted no name in contrast to his own for future historians to stumble over when writing of the expedition. (This seems to have ~~had~~ been the effect, for when Polwell mentions it in Vol 1. <sup>Page</sup> 128 of his history he credits Pope as being in command of the expedition.) At any rate we may readily see that the way was rough and slow by the remark that it had taken them 17 days to travel 61 miles from the Mississippi at Sauk Rapids to two lakes somewhere near White Bear Lake.

At White Bear they rested and celebrated the first Fourth of July that was known in Pope County. While the troopers hunted, fished and amused themselves trying to estimate the number of white swan which floated on the lake Pope perhaps relaxed enough to describe the beautiful scenery, tell of the groves of trees and fertile prairies, which later appeared in his reports for the benefit of the land agents.

However there was some uneasiness on this first fourth of July in Pope County. On July 2nd the troopers had camped at <sup>what</sup> later became known as Lightning lake. There a terrific storm broke the stillness of the prairies and scattered flashes of lightning across the serene beauty of frontier. Several of the tents were ripped to shreds and one of the occupants was enveloped in flames that rendered him unconscious for several hours. Fortunately he was not killed, however he was paralyzed to such an extent that it was necessary for him to make the remainder of the trip in one of the wagons.

The route of travel on this trip is noted by the following points mentioned; David Lake (named for the first American who visited it) 35 miles from Sauk rapids. Henri Lake seven miles further which empties into the



41

Crossing the Chippewa River ten miles from Pike Lake they met a party of Kitteson's ox cart train. Woods describes meeting 25 ox carts at Rabbit River and meeting Kitteson further on with 65 carts more. Here Woods pauses to mention that traders smuggle goods imported from St. Louis into Canada. Kitteson no doubt gave them a report of the activities and troubles of traders on both sides of the boundary line. At any rate he was glad to see them coming and hospitably offered them all of the shelter and conveniences that his half breed village afforded, dispatching one of his own lieutenants back with them to make such arrangements as might be necessary.

According to the ~~curious~~ odometer attached to the wagon wheel they had covered 140 miles when they reached the Red River and the trip had taken them exactly five weeks.

Crossing the Red River near a long stretch toward the Southwest where it receives the waters of the Sioux Wood River before it takes a northerly direction which it maintains to Lake Winnipeg The troopers camped three miles below on the west bank. Here both Pope and Woods advised a fort be established. Woods however recommended another smaller post at Whit Bear Lake. The latter was never established but near the site of the first recommendation Fort Abercrombie was later ~~XXXX~~ set up.

for material  
No doubt I have gone into a more elaborate search/than will be used in  
the county work. However I feel that I must know something of the background  
and experiences of the man before attending<sup>p</sup> to write his record for our State.

Frankly I have some misgivings concerning the validity of this  
assignment. Nevertheless it is a relief from the county assignments on which  
I have been working for the past two years .I am therefore taking up the task  
in earnest, and unless reassigned to something else will endeavor to get  
an accurate picture of Pope's work in our state--if, as Grant said" I have  
to wear my winter pants all summer."

J. E. Ferguson.

On July 15th, 1849 the Pembina Expedition left the Red River and moved on to the Shayenne. Here again the horses took advantage of the disorganized formation while ferrying the river and stampeded. Another day was lost rounding them up.

Since this part of the trip was through what is now North Dakota it is doubtful if much of it would be of interest in the study of Minnesota counties. However the writers should remember that the land covered was then included in Minnesota Territory.

The party moved west to the 98th ~~Meridian~~ Meridian, reaching the Goose River July 22nd. There they found a herd of buffalo the first they had seen on the entire expedition.

Eight days more traveling north and east they arrived at The Pembina Aug 1st. ~~The trip from Fort Snelling had taken them~~ It had taken them 57 days to cover the route of 497 miles, scarcely nine miles per day. Of course a man could have made faster time on foot. But the conditions of the country in that day was not such that the war dept wanted to risk sending soldiers into ~~the country~~ northern Minnesota without being equipped for any emergency. Besides there were observations and studies to be made for the future guidance of immigrants. Uncle Sam had a piece of land here ~~that he was not familiar~~ with which he was not familiar. Reports which had been coming into Washington had to be checked and recommendations made to aid the Congressmen who would later make laws to settle the land and protect the immigrants.

Pembina, two miles south of the Canadian border, was perhaps the seat of the controversy which had led to the movement for the expedition.



43

The half-breed settlement of Pembina ,at the mouth of the Pembina River,consisted of only about a dozen houses. The bulk of the population lived in lodges. Mr.Belcourt ,the missionary, occupied a house so too did the fur trader,Kittson. The remainder of the buildings housed a few of the halfbreed families.

However only about a thousand of these people lived on the U.S.side of the line. But over these the Hudson's Bay Company exercised a considerable influence. Besides these on the Canadian side knew little and cared less about boundry lines. A herd of buffalo on the American side was no doubt too great a temptation to ~~ENEM~~ restrict them from crossing the border. And already in debt to the Hudson's Bay Company and with a thirst for the ever available rotten whiskey of the traders they could not even imagine a boundry line to stop them.

Pope was of the oppinion that an army post be established at Pembina and courts of justice established. Woods ,however ,inferred that most of the trouble was imaginary and made no such reccomendations. Perhaps as an older officer and more subject to dicipline he was of the oppinion that he should not go beyond his orders which were for the recommendation of a post not more than two hundred miles from Fort Gains.

Major Stephen Long had been in this wecinity a quarter of a century earlier(1823) and had set a wooden post on the 49th paralel. There was some doubt as/ to the exact/correctness of the boundry line. And in this Pope was anxious to settle the question without delay. He entered into a correspondence with the British/<sup>which</sup> ~~ENK~~ was quickly suppressed by Woods .No mention was made of this controversy by Pope but Woods mentioned it in his report. The Wooden post set by long ,which had rotted away,was replaced by Woods .

44

Further recommendations was made to the inhabitants to select their own leaders and establish a local governing body for themselves. To this they readily agreed.

Both Pope and Woods saw a potential strength in the 8000 half breeds who were leaning more to the white man's ways than to the savage nature of their red fathers.

Could the United States Government make things more inviting for them than the Hudson's Bay Company had done it was thought they would all move over on the American side and become citizens. No doubt this would have had a two fold purpose .First it would have swelled the population of the territory and hastened its position into state hood. Second these people would have formed a formidable army should trouble spring up either between the British or the Indians. Later years proved the correctness of Pope's position on the matter of establishing a post at the place.

However it was <sup>perhaps</sup> / though that he was too much under the influence of some of the early speculators of the territory, who held opinions similar to his own. His scheme for railroads and rapid settlement was scoffed at by many people as visionary and impractical.

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Nevertheless the recommendation for buying the Sioux Land was speedily carried out. So too ,were the land Grants for railroads, although not in the exact routes selected by Pope.

Fort Abercrombie was established. The reservation of Fort Snelling was cut down and the land opened for settlement. All this on the recommendation of a twenty seven year old officer who held only the rank of a brevet captain is worth noting.



*supplement for interview*

*45*

Crow River four miles from Lake Henrie. Left Lake Henrie and crossed Crow river twelve miles beyond Lightning Lake (.It was at this point that Pope conceived the flat boat navigation <sup>idea</sup> from the lakes to the Mississippi.) Left Lightning Lake July the third and marched 14 miles to White Bear where we waited until July the 6th for Dr. Castor who had been sent from Devils Lake for more wagons. Reached and named Pike Lake. On July the 9th reached and named Elk Lake. Here the soldiers had a taste of elk meat, and no doubt enjoyed a brief spell of hunting big game. Crossed the Tipsinah or Potatoe River a tributary of the St. Peters. Reached Elbow Lake where we encountered a small party of Chippewas who were out on a scalping expedition toward the land of the neighboring Sioux.

These seeme to have been the <sup>first</sup> ~~XXXX~~ Indians met by the expedition except half a dozen Winnebagos who had visited them at White Bear Lake. The Chippewas put on a little entertainment in the way of a war dance for the soldiers ~~XXX~~ in exchange for a supply of tobacco then went on their way. The troopers continued on their way crossing the Rabbit River and passed over a rolling ridge to the banks of the Red River.

( Pope made frequent flash backs in his story which are very difficult to follow, as to location of events. By comparing the Woods reports and the diary of the unknown soldier it is possible to arrive at some degree of accuracy.)

After leaving White Bear on July the sixth they made twenty five miles on a very hot day this seems to have been the longest stretch they had covered up to that time in a single day. Although they were mounted on horses which had been resting for three days the march was considered a good one. Nevertheless the Winnebago Indians who had attached themselves to the party easily kept pace on foot.



46

Twenty six days were spent in and around Pembina by the troopers. Woods, who was really in command of the expedition, left with his command on Aug 26th and retraced pretty much the same route as they had come. Pope and Lieutenant Gardner remained behind with the intention of making a canoe trip back to Fort Snelling.

His controversy with the English authorities over the boundary line did not have seemed to have reached any disagreeable proportions. At any rate the factor from Fort Gary was friendly enough to furnish him with a canoe with which to make the return trip south.

This canoe, Pope stated, "Was 33 feet long and five and one half feet wide. It was made of birch bark and easily carried by two men."

Equipped with provisions Pope and Gardner set out up the Red River September 1st, 1849 for the long trip to Snelling.

From the Red River to the Sioux Wood and portaging from river to lakes and from lake to lakes, they traversed the country again entering the Mississippi near Fort Gaines and drifted down to Fort Snelling. The entire trip took them 27 days which seemed to have been more tedious and than the slow hard march north had been.

Small game and wild fowl was seen in abundance. Pope describes the ducks on the lakes as being so tame that the canoe would actually be in their midst before they would move out of the way.

September 27th. they arrived at Fort Snelling. Woods and his command had arrived eight or ten days earlier. Woods expected Pope to submit his reports through him as a superior officer. To this request Pope made excuses for more time. He soon returned to St. Louis and mailed his report from there, direct to Washington, Feb 5th. 1850.

It was twelve years later before Minnesota people saw him again. In which time both Pope and the country had made some developments.

The Treaty of Travers Des Sioux quickly followed Captain Pope's Report. By it the land west of the river was thrown open to settlement and the Sioux confined to a narrow strip along the banks of the Minnesota River.

Steam boats were now regularly ploughing up the Father of Waters to bring fresh supplies ,for not yet could the Minnesotans raise enough to feed them selves.Cran berries,furs and lumber was given in return for flour ,bacon sugar ,salt, and New Orleans molasses and other such staple foods that the hardy pioneers could get.And each boat brought a fresh supply of immigrants . These in addition to those who came overland had to find land. It was small wonder that occasionally some of them risked their scalps in crossing the river and squatting on the Indian's <sup>domain</sup> land.

Both immigrants and speculators were anxious for the land rights to be extended west of the Mississippi River. Then too there was noise abroad that railroads might some day come into this country.If that happened it would connect the steamboats with one of the richest wheat growing countries of the world.

*following Pope's Reports*  
Thus another Indian traty was born which when fulfilled would forever remove the Red man from his ancient home in the Minnesota and the Red River Valleys.But the fur traders ,to whom the Indians had gotten in debt, objected to the treaty until provisions were made to reimburse them for the credit they had given to the Indians in the days when the fur business was on the decline.



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The advantage given to the traders was later to cause much trouble. Some authorities hint that it was an indirect cause of the great Sioux war eleven years later which almost depopulated the Minnesota Valley.

However for the time being the Indians were satisfied and withdrew to their reservation on the banks of the Minnesota River.

#### POPE COUNTY-Ferguson

8

The treaty of Travers des Sioux may be read in another story. Here let us simply say that it took place in the year 1851. And that by it the Sioux Indians were confined to a ten mile strip along both banks of the Minnesota River. The remainder of land was open to settlement under the preemption act. *Under the provisions of this act* Any one now could buy land for \$1.25 cents an acre and have several years in which to pay for it.

Hordes of settlers and speculators trooped across the Mississippi River and made a mad scramble for the most favourable homesites. The speculators worked mostly along the rivers where town sites could be laid out near steam boat landings.

Henderson, Mankato, New Ulm and other towns soon sprang up. Places farther back from the river, like Pope County was slower in development. Before people settled on land they first had to be assured of a way in which to market their crops.

The Government soon ~~sought~~ <sup>tried</sup> to remedy this difficulty through free land grants to railroads which would build through certain designated sections.



Several companies were organized, mostly for the purpose of getting a title to the land. Few of them had enough capital to build a single mile of road. The land ~~XXXXXX~~ would be valueless until other free land was taken up by the settlers. Nevertheless the men who organized the companies saw a chance for future speculation and made every effort to secure the vast tracts of land allotted for development of railroads. 49

One of the companies was more influential than the others and gained a title to all of the land grants in Minnesota. This aroused the enmity and jealousy of the others and they raised such an uproar that the act was repealed.

Later grants were made and eventually the state issued several millions of dollars in bonds which they were to loan to the railroad companies for to aid them in road building. This, too, can be read in a separate chapter, along with the treaty of Traverse des Sioux. Let us here confine our selves to the study of Pope county and its relationship with Minnesota, the United States and the world at large.

Perhaps you might think that your county was not concerned with other states or countries. Yet you have only to glance in your mothers pantry or cupboard or make a list of the clothes you wear to convince your self that people every where are affected by what people do in other places.

While people in the days of 1851 lived more simply than they do now yet ~~XXXXXX~~ they too were dependant on people in other places. Even the Indians had learned to depend on the commerce of the ~~the~~ furs they gathered. It was therefore essential for the white men to have some means of transportation other than the rude ox carts of the fur traders.

Steam boats could travel up and down the Mississippi and quite a ways up the Minnesota in those days. Naturally the settlements were confined to points near the rivers. The delay in road building retarded the growth of Pope county for a dozen years after the land was thrown open for settlement.

Perhaps wondering Indians slipped away from their crowded reservation on the banks of the Minnesota had stalked the game which sought refuge in the secluded woods of Pope county. If so, there were no white man to bother him. Only now and then some ox cart trader gathering a supply of rapidly diminishing furs, broke the stillness as he rambled leisurely along the Red River Trail.

STARBUCK.

Starbuck, the second largest center of population is located on the north shore of Lake Minnewaska nine miles from the court house. It was laid out in 1882 on land which belonged to James Polar and Andrew Holte. It grew rapidly and soon had a post office, a school and several mercantile establishments. The village was named for an official of the Northern Pacific Railway which had been completed through the county in 1881.

The first building was a boarding house for the railway construction men. A school was erected in 1882. Michael Ramstad was the first school master. Both children and their parents came to his school. Many of the early settlers were Scandinavians who had not yet learned the English language.

The first church was built in 1882. H.O. Koefod was the first pastor.

CYRUS.

Cyrus town site was laid out in 1881 by O.H. Dahle and Charles Olson who owned the land. The name was first called Scandiaville. It was changed to Cyrus in 1882. Fish and Livingston, railroad officials also had a part in the establishment of the townsite.

H.P. Hanson put up the first building for a general store and another was erected by H.P. Kron.

All merchandise had to be hauled to Cyrus by team until the railroad built a branch line through from Little Falls in 1882. The same year a grain elevator was built by A.J. Sawyer. A blacksmith shop a lumber yard and other business enterprises were soon started. A small building served for both school and church services. Music culture has been predominate in Cyrus from the beginning. The village boasted of one of the first brass bands in the county.



87

LOWERY.

The village of Lowery was born in 1887 when the Minneapolis ST. Paul And Sault Ste. Marie Railway was completed to that point. The village was named for Thomas ~~Lowery~~ Lowery, president of the road. Hugh Bryce and Thomas Hume, who were early settlers, owned the land on which the site was laid out. ~~XX~~

The division point of the railroad was first located at Lowery. A round house and repair shop was built there but later the division point was moved to Glenwood.

The village remained a political unit with Ben Wade township. It was incorporated as a village in 1896. Martin Bartos was the first village president.

John E. Benson who had maintained a store/and post office in the township for several years moved/~~XX~~ both store and post office ~~X~~ to Lowery. Benson served as post master until 1893.

Martin Bartos and Knute O. Haugen established a flour mill in 1895. A bank was organized in 1899.

The north part of the town was destroyed by a tornado in 1897. The depot, the lumber yard and the grain elevator were destroyed, along with several residences several people were killed.

A fire swept the east side of Main street in 1911.

The earliest resident near what is now the village of Lowery was no doubt Hugh Bryce, who lived there long before the railroad came. He and his brothers were at one time freighters for the government. With ox teams they hauled freight from Minneapolis to Winnipeg. The Red river trail ran parallel with the railroad present/right of way and split the Brice farm a little north of the Lowery business section.



WEST PORT.

The village of Westport, located on the northeast bank of Westport Lake was laid out in 1866 by D.M. Durkey. This was not the present town of Westport But Mr. Durkey put up a large log house which was used for a tavern and also housed the first school in the east part of the county.

The present town site was located <sup>in 1881</sup> by Crawford Livingston, an officer of the Little Falls and Dakota railroad, which is now a part of the Northern Pacific.

The first name of the village was Belcher. The first building was erected by John Zimmer in the Spring of 1881 John Ebenspacher came from Sauk Centre and put up a store building which was later used for a blacksmith shop. The School district was built in 1883. The same year a school building ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and depot was built.

SEDAN

Thorson, now called Sedan was started in 1887. The same year the post office and the railroad came to the village. (or did the village come to them) The name of Thorson was changed to Fowls. It was changed to Sedan in 1893. Business houses followed in swift order. ~~XXX~~ A one room school was built in 1887.

FARWELL VILLAGE.

Farwell, like many other towns owed its existence to the Soo Line

It was started in 1886. The hub of the town was the business enterprises which were built there. The Atlantic Elevator Co. built a grain house. ~~XXXXXX~~ A creamery was erected in ~~XX~~ about 1883.

VILLARD. Named for Henry Villard, president of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

John Williams a large land owner came to the village site about 1878. In 1882 he had a wheat field on the Village site. The railroad pushed through and in October of that year the first passenger train was sent over the line. By the following April the town boasted of twenty five business establishments a church and a school.

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53

TERRACE

In 1870 George R .Wheeler,William Moses and John A.Wheeler came to Chippewa falls and built a grist mill. Their first nights were spent in the brush along the river.They later built a cabin which housed three families.XXX The following year a saw mill was built and later a store.

Wheeler was appointed post master in 1871. The name was changed to Terrace.in -----

POPE COUNTY.

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TOWNSHIPS.

WESTPORT.

Although the county did not exist in 1858, the land in Westport township was surveyed and opened to entry. Seven years later Norman Shook came and settled on section 31. Other settlers soon came and the post office of Otto, Named in Honer of Mr. Shook's son, was established. The Shook residence served for a psøst office. The mail route was from St. Cloud and Sauk Centre to Glenwood. When the Little Falls and Dakota Railroad was completed in 1882 the post office was moved to Villard.

Among the settlers who came in 1866 was A former Civil War drummer boy by the name of Peter Hoffman. The same year Patrick Hogan, John Smith, Ross Shaw, Abner Judkins, Edward Judkins, and Joseph Sollman.

The school house in district 15 served for the first church service. The congregation was known as the United Brethern.

LEVEN

Lock Levän ,Scotland; the land of the heather , was the <sup>boyhood home</sup> ~~the~~ of Daniel Pennie, who for old "Lang Syne" gave the township the name of his birth-place. He , with Joseph C. Hutchins and Thomas Cranse were the first officers when the township was organized in 1869.

The Hutchins family were the first settlers, having lived in the township since 1862. Following them came Thomas Cranse and William Wright. The two Pennie boys, Daniel and Peter, came in 1865. Frank Fredricks, Fred Russell and Charles Kee came in 1866 . In 1867 James Blair, Daniel Campbell, Joseph Britts Watson Elliot and John Gaffaney were added to the list.

For thirty years after the coming of the first settler the township had no church. In 1892 the Reformed Presbyterian church was established.

c "In 1869 the first school was organized in Dist 18."



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#### RENO TOWNSHIP.

Reno township was first visited by the travelers over the Red River Trail which ran through it. No settlements were made until/after the Indian uprising .  
three years  
However the first homestead papers in the county were filed by one Joseph Peacock who settled here in 1865. Peter Ferguson, Joseph Townsend, Edwin Cox and John Campbell came there the same year. The year following, Mathew Christilaw , William Christilaw , G.W. Thacker, W.A. Ewing/and John Cooley settled in the ~~XXXXXX~~ township. In 1867 the township was organized. John Lively, William Christilaw, John McClellan Peter Ferguson and Edwin Cox were the first officers.

Thre school~~ix~~ districts were soon organized and churches were established. At first the church services were held in private homes. An Episcopal church was built in 1867 and The Catholic and Covenanter Churches in 1870.

#### BENWADE.

Halvor Jorgenson was the first homsteader in Benwade township. He settled on section 2 in 1864. Jorgenson had lived in Filmore county , Wisc., where he left his family while he located and improved his new home. After he had built his cabin and lived here for a year he returned to Filmore and brought his family back with him. The trip was made with an ox team, which was also the first threshing machine in the township. His first wheat was threshed by driving the oxen around over it and turning it with a fork.

Jorgenson made his living for the first few years hunting and trapping. He was said to have killed a bear on one occasion with an ax.

It was two years later before his first neighbours came. They drifted in slowly between 1866 and 1868.

The township was organized in 1869. A school was opened the following year in a log house on Robert Bennett's farm. Schools were also held in the homes of several settlers.

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LANGHEI TOWNSHIP.

Organized in 1868 and named for Langhei Norway the home of Tharald Gunderson. Osmand Tharaldson, Andreas Engebretson, Gunder Tharaldson, Jul Nelson and Ole Lore and Ole Thronson were the first township officers.

School district No 22 was organized in 1869. A church was organized in 1871.

Erick Benson the first settler came to the township in 1867. He obtained his food from an Indian Hunter who still lived there.

ROLLING FORKS TOWNSHIP. Organized 1868.

The land in this township is rolling a creek forms a fork with the Chippewa river. Hence the name Rolling Forks.

~~OLAF~~  
Ole S. Olson, Erick and Ole Thomson and Thron Paulson Nordenhus were the first township organizers.

In 1868 a school organization was formed. This was District No. 14. A log 14 by 22 school house was built on sec. 22. The school house was used as a community center.

The worst snow storm in the history of the white occupancy of the county came to Rolling Forks in the winter of 72-73.

A grass hopper plague came in 1877 and 78. which cleaned out practically the whole township.

Gilchrist Township.

The land in Gilchrist township was first surveyed in 1856 by John Ryan. The township was organized in 1867 and the first election held at the home of Ole Peterson.

The name Gilchrist was derived from the combined first syllabals from the names of Ole Gilbertson and Gunder Christopherson.

Ole Reine, Torger Thompson and Ole Peterson located in this township in 1865.

59

Blue Mounds -Continued.

District 36, which took in the entire township was organized in 1873.

Hans Johnshoy taught a three months term of school at the homes of Andres Brenden and Johnshoy ~~and homes~~.

Rev. P. S. Reque organized a Lutheran congregation in 1872. They built a church near where the Greenland church now stands. A church was built by the Swedish settlement in the western part of the township but a dissension soon divided it and two other churches were built one at Agustana and Another called "Mission Vennen".

WALDEN TOWNSHIP. Organized in 1872 and named for a village in Vermont. Settlement in this township was not made until 1871. Charles H. Hunter who came in that year was from Malden Mass. According to some reports The township was first named Malden but later changed to Walden by an error in spelling the name on the records. Iver P. Barsness who was the first town clerk came the same year. Most of the settlers who came that year were from Dane county Wisconsin.

Hans Snippin, an early settler was frozen to death in a blizzard in 1872.

Church activities were prominent from the very first and the first congregation was organized in 1871. A school district was organized three years later, in 1874.

HOFF TOWNSHIP. Organized 1879. Named for Hof in Norway.

First township officers were Samual Booth, T. C. Lein, Ole Swanson, W. E. Rogers and Haldor Aslagson.

Valdres, Norway, ~~Norway~~ Was the homeland of many of the early settlers in this township. They located here as early as 1871. A two weeks trip by ox team was made to St. Cloud to secure their naturalization papers.

A church was organized in 1872 but no building erected before 1875.



67

CHIPPEWA FALLS TOWNSHIP.

This township received its name from the falls on the little Chippewa river which runs through it. It was organized in 1869.

A school was taught by Mary Ayres in the home of John Munter.

Church services was held in various homes until 1886 when the first church was built.

George Johnson, Nicolie Johnson, Andrew Anderson, George B Coburn, and Lars Ingebretson who came in 1867 were the first settlers.

BARSNESS township. Organized 1869.

Eric N., Ole N., and Nels Barsness were three brothers for whom this township was named. They came to the township in 1866. They were not the first settlers however, Olaus Olson Grove homesteaded there in 1864.

Amie Romming, a sixteen year old girl taught the first school in her father's log house in 1870. The following year a school house was built.

A Norwegian Lutheran congregation church was organized in 1867. and built a church in 1871.

Ole Gilbertson raised a crop of potatoes in 1866. This was the first crop raised in the township.

FIRST CHURCH.

Barsness township also had the honor of having the first organized church. The Norwegian Lutheran Church was organized in 1867. For several years they had no regular church building. Services were held at the homes of settlers, or during the summer, in the groves around the lakes. It was not until the year 1871 that a plain log house was built on the farm of Ole Helle and dedicated as the first Lutheran Church in the county.

Reverend P. S. Reque served as pastor in three churches in as many townships. Services were three to four weeks apart. Since these were practically the only public gatherings in those early days every one for miles around made an effort to be there. A ten mile walk to church was not uncommon for the church goers, for not all of them had horses or even oxen.

In addition to being pastor of three churches, Rev. Reque owned a livery stable. Perhaps he farmed a little on the side also, for the settlers were poor and could afford to pay him very little for his services.

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\*Notes: Sources: Pope County Tribune July 5th, 1928.

Builders of Pope county, page 23.



MOUNDS. Organized in 1869.

The undulating prairie is broken by a range of high wooded hills which gave rise to the name Blue mounds. Some of the settlers came from a similar township of the same name in Dane county Wisconsin.

Section 14 was settled by Rasmus Signalness in 1867<sup>1867</sup>. He seems to have been the first to locate in the township. Other settler moved in the following year.

St Cloud, 75 miles away was the nearest railroad station.

78  
61  
GROVE LAKE TOWNSHIP.

— Like Glenwood,  
Organized September 5th, 1866, Grove Lake received its name from  
its scenic topography (the groves and lakes) It included what is now Bangor  
township.  
Jared Emmerson, H.H. Velie, J.G. Canfield, and Isiah Judd were the first  
supervisors and officers of the township.

The first organized school in the county was district No. 1 in  
Grove Lake which was organized in 1877. A log school house was built near  
the present site of the Grove lake store. Della Wilson was the first teacher.

No doubt Grove Lake was the first settled community in the county.  
As early as 1862 Dean Stabler and Thomas Van Eaton settled there. Isiah Judd,  
David Stevenson, Simon Decker came in 1864. The Stabler's are mentioned in the In  
Indian uprisings .

~~XXXXX Bangor township was cut off from~~

BANGOR TOWNSHIP XX

Bangor township was cut off from Grove Lake in 1884. E.D. Compton,  
George Fowlds and W.C. Mitchell were the first supervisors. Walter L. Beech as  
treasure, and William Douglas, Justice of the peace, D.E. Mitchell and  
John Fowlda as Constables.

The name of Bangor was suggested by Pat Jones in honor of his  
home town of Bangor Maine. Little or no settlement in this township  
is recorded before D.E. Mitchell homesteaded there in 1868. Pat Jones and  
John Fowlds arrived the same year.

14  
62

GLENWOOD

Glenwood township was organized in 1866. The name is appropriate because of the woods and glens ~~surrounding the~~ lying within its borders.

Little activity in township work is recorded before 1867 when A.W.Lathrope, E.S.Lathrope and Knud Simmons were mentioned as officers.

Schools were taught in private homes. Helen Simons was the first teacher.

Plans for the establishment of roads were laid in 1867.

Halvor Halverson.

In the year 1865 a lonesome Norweigian might have been seen early some morning slipping from a dug out and sauntering through the woods. Gun and shot pouch across his shoulder. Along some stream perhaps he has a string of traps or snares. Except for a few people in the vicinity of the present city of Glenwood he has the entire township to himself.

This man, Halvor Halverson, was not a new comer to the state. He had lived in Dakota county, but true to the pioneering instinct of his race he sought more elbow room and in the year 1865 he left his family in Dakota and spent ~~the~~ a year getting established in Pope County. The following year he returned to Dakota county ~~and~~ for his family. Today one may sit back in a car and make the trip in a few hours. But Halvor Halverson's family knew no such luxuries. Weeks were spent behind the plodding team of oxen as they pulled the rude wagon, which was covered with fence rails for a bed. On this rude conveyance, the Halverson family with a few simple belongings made the trip. Such was the forerunners of civilization into Glenwood township, but these people were not alone for long. Other settlers soon followed them.

The townsite of Glenwood was platted on Sept. 26th, 1866. The village was incorporated Feb. 23rd, 1881 and incorporated as a city in 1912.



63  
Gilchrist Continued.

The first school house was built on Sec 24.

LAKE JOHANNA TOWNSHIP.

Organized in 1867. First county settlements were here .

The first school was held in the home of John Johnson Sandvig .The t acher  
was Tory Thorson School district No.4 now known as 13 was organized  
in 1868.

The Lutheran Church was organized in the early seventies.

B4

AN EARLY INDIAN SCARE.

After the Indian uprising of 1862 there was for several years a series of stockades maintained from Iowa to the Canadian border. Although most of the Indians were confined to their reservation or removed beyond the state the fear of them could not be easily removed.

But at length the authorities thought it was no longer necessary to maintain the stockade garrisons to alleviate the fears of immigrants and homesteaders. The soldiers were discharged to return to their homes or take up <sup>me</sup> homesteads wherever the land suited them. In time the Indians were almost forgotten.

Then one day in 1876 the cry of Indians! Indians, rang through Pope county and sent goose pimples up and down the spine of the bravest of the citizens. Like a flash, back came the memories and stories of the uprising of 1862.

Families were quickly loaded into wagons, Some on foot, others on horse back. All turned their attention toward the settlements in Starns and other counties where they thought they might find protection. Guards were quickly organized and sent scurrying toward the northwest corner of the county ~~POPE~~ from where the rumor had come.

No trace of Indians could be found either in Pope or adjoining counties. It was afterward thought that the rumor had been started by a practical joker who had been under the influence of liquor.

However the fear soon subsided and the settlers returned to their homes.

THEIR WEDDING DAY.

On a Sunday morning of long ago a young man on his way to church stopped at a pioneer's cabin. No doubt he was dressed as a young man should be <sup>an</sup> on such/ocassion. His shirt, though of coarse material and home made ,was spotlessly clean. His jeans trousers was neatly tucked in the tops of cow hide boots which showed signs of having recently been polished with bear's grease. We can almost see him brush an imaginary speck of dust from his new store ~~haught~~ hat before knocking on the rough board door of the cabin.

His eyes lit up with pride as the young lady in a blue denhem dress opened the door. On her head was an old fashioned poke bonnet which completely hid her flaxen braids which were neatly done up in a pug which projected from the back. Her eyes lit up, too, for this was their wedding day.

Together they walked out to the road where the young swain had a most modern conveyance ,of that day, waiting. True, it was only a wagon across which a board was laid for a seat. The motive power consisted of a very fine pair of oxen, who if allowed to exert themselves might cover a distance of fifteen miles in a single day.

The young man assisted his bride to be to her place on the rough board seat and climbed in beside her. A crack of the whip and the twin cylinders proceeded at a snails pace along the ungraded trail toward the church where the minister and the congregation were waiting.



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Since the ox is usually geared with only two speeds ,slow and stop, it is not likely that the driver tried to speed them up. Perhaps he was in no hurry anyway.

But as they passed a spot with low marshy land something happened which caused him to realise that there are occasions when even an ox can change his speed.

The accelerator which threw the motive power into high was none other than a tribe of hungry musquitos ,or cattle flies,the young man never was able to determine for a certainty which.

The speed with which the oxen left the spot so suprised him that the lines which he had been holding rather carelessly slipped from his hands and went overboard.

He leaped to the ground to retrieve them.Meantime the rough board seat was jolted from its position and the young lady found her self bouncing in the bottom of the wagon.

The runaway was stopped as it neared the church.And the wedding went off in the usual manner. But how the preacher and the congregation must have smiled afterward as they thought of the young man who had come coasting along like a bobsled on his stomach and his bride bouncing up and down in the wagon.

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Sources Pope County Tribune July 5th,1928.

Also my own imagination. The wedding was not mentioned in the article. But people have to get married some time ,why not at the end of the wild ride.

67

## Schools.

While the railroads came in for a large share of free land in Pope County the Schools were not left without support. To them belonged two sections in every township. This land the state could sell at once or hold until prices rose.

The permanent school fund for the state derived on the sale of land and leasing of mineral rights between 1862 and 1874 amounted to more than \$3000,000.00.

Pope county had twelve log school houses ,nine frame and one brick school by 1874 with a total value of \$9,215.00. However about half the sum had been expended for buildings within the last year of this report.

The teachers were mostly young people some of them still in their teens. The salaries they received were very small. Both winter and summer terms were taught averaging about three and a half months each.

There were many learned people iAmong the early settlers of Pope County but the low wages paid the teachers did not attract the best qualified teachers for the newly built schools. A first grade certificate required little more than a present eighth grade education and below that standard there were second and third grade certificates.

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Under the Homestead Act of 1862 five years residence on a piece of land was required before the settler received a full title to it. A soldier might deduct from this the length of time he had served with the Army. Pope County received its share of ~~XXXXXX~~ ex soldiers, who longed to forget the din of battle and the misery of military prisons. ~~Here around the quiet lakes and streams was peace.~~

Around our quiet lakes and streams was peace and quietness. The Prairie sod could be easily broken. The woods afforded fuel and logs for buildings. Wild grass could be had for the cutting. And game and fish in plenty.

Such a contrast to the poor farms of Norway, from where many of the settlers came before joining the Union Army. There every wisp of grass had to be carefully gathered and strung on racks to dry. There the poor were getting poorer and the land was crowded.

It was little wonder that many of them took advantage of the opportunity American Industrialist offered to advance their fare to America. Once here they soon learned that an honorable discharge from the Army intitled them to the priviledges of Citizenship. And under the Homestead act it intitled them also to 160 acres of land. They were welcomed, too, by the people who had previously settled in Minnesota. For no matter what the hardships or trials of pioneering might be these men were equal to the occasion.

Among them were men who had fought at Gettysburg, Appotomax, and other great battles of the Civil War; men who had served in Libby and Andersonvill prisons. A former color bearer for General Sherman on his famous march from Atlanta to the sea. These men had endured hardships, they had fought to preserve the nation and now they were here



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to help expand and build a new nation greater than any the world had before known.

It is fortunate that these early pioneers had been moulded in mill of hardships. Few people of to-day could be satisfied with the rude log huts and dugouts they called their homes. Perhaps we would not like the diet of molasses, lard and flour that they had to put up with for long weeks at a time.

St. Cloud, thier nearest market was 65 miles away and required several days for the ox cart freighters in summer or the Ski freighters in winter to make the trip. Pope's dream of lake transportation for grain never materialized. The roads he recommended were slow in coming. Grasshoppers in the early seventies destroyed the crops.

It is not strange that some of the settlers moved on to other places. However others came to ~~XXXXXX~~ replace them. The population about doubled between 1870 and 1880.

County government had developed, too by the latter year. A new brick court house had replaced the two older framed buildings which housed the county records. And 1881 saw the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad through Pope county.

So anxious were the people to get the railroad built that they taxed themselves the sum of \$60,000.00 (Sixty thousand dollars) which they gave the railroad company as a bonus to assist them in building the road.

They now had a railroad entering the Northeast corner running through Glenwood and turning west into Dakota and the Great Northern in the southwest with a shipping point at Benson.

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Five years later the Minneapolis and Pacific entered the county.

Highways ,too,had developed into straighter graded roads which was an added improvement over the old winding trails of the Seventies. These roads which were plain dirt surfaced were unlike the hard surfaced roads we have to-day. A heavy rain or deep snow made them impassable at times but they were an improvement on the dim trails the pioneers had followed when entering the county.

With an outlet for farm products farm machinery was introduced. Threshing machines replaced the flail and the ox tread threshing methods of earlier years.Homes,too,were better built and the school system improved.

Grove Lake Academy,although over the line in Stearns county although not a public institution gave commercial training to young men and women for many years. It was destroyed by fire in 1883.

The State Normal School at St.Cloud fitted those who wanted engage in the teachers profession.