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PART V

THE COMING OF THE RAILROADS AND THE NEW ERA

CHAPTER V

THE RAILROADS AND THE NEW ERA

211

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THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD
TO THE
~~XXXXXXXX~~ WASECA COUNTY AND THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Before the Civil War, railroads from the east had reached the Mississippi River in several places. As we have seen, the railroads reaching Rock Island and Galena, Illinois, brot many of the early settlers to ~~Minneapolis~~ Minnesota. In 1858, another railroad reached the river at La Crosse, Wisconsin. This road made it still easier for land hungry people to reach this state. **T**

The war halted the program of the railroad builders so that not many miles of the railroad were built in that period, tho in Minnesota the first railroad was built from St. Paul to Minneapolis in 1861, -- a stretch of 10 miles.

During the war the railroads proved such a good method of carrying troops and freight that leading men in the government felt that without the railroads the war might have been lost.

The railroad builders, from the beginning had asked for help from the government in building their lines. After the Civil War they had many friends who saw that if the railroads were extended thruout the unsettled lands of the west, not only would the farmers there have a market but by providing an easy way of getting here, literally millions of farmers could be brot into the new country.

So it was not hard for agents of the railroad companies to get land grants from the government. ~~states~~ States and even cities helped, too, by issuing bonds to various railroad companies which promised to build roads. One of the first acts ~~of the first state legislature~~

of the first state legislature of Minnesota elected after the constitution was drafted, was to issue bonds of the value of \$5,000,000 for railroad building.

It was in the year 1867 that the first railroad reached Waseca County. This road then known as the Winona & St. Peter (now the Chicago & Northwestern) had been started the year before at Winona and had been built to Owatonna that year. In 1868 the road reached St. Peter and was rapidly built westwardly.

THE RAILROAD; REAL BUILDER OF THE COUNTY

When the railroad came, many new ~~county~~ settlers came. The city of Waseca was not in existence before this time but within a year it was the largest settlement in the county. Janesville likewise grew but not quite so fast as Waseca. After this time railroad towns ~~died~~ ^{and} grew, flourished while others died. The railroad town had an elevator where the farmer could sell his grain. It also had stores where merchandise brought in on the trains could be bought.

FOUNDING OF WASECA

I. C. Trowbridge

Before the railroad reached Waseca certain men knew that a station was to be established at that point. Among these was I. C. Trowbridge, a tanner by trade born in Lyle Broom County, New York. In 1846 he located in Woodstock, Illinois and opened a boot and shoe store. Here he sold not only boots and shoes but real estate as well. In the year 1846, he married and the same year learned from friends about the Winona and St. Peter Railroad. So he decided to found a town along the line. After

learning just where the first station here was to be ~~##~~ established, Mr. Trowbridge came and bought the land where is now the city of Waseca from J.Y. Myers, a farmer who had a wheat field ~~here~~ that year.

Mr Trowbridge layed out his town early in 1867 and soon a ~~#~~ flood of settlers had moved in. Within less than three months there were about 100 houses and within a year there were about 700 houses. Farther ~~south~~ there was another settlement called Clear Lake City. This place later became a part of Waseca. ~~and~~ Within a year after its founding, this ~~##~~ place had about 20 houses

Janesville also Grows

The following year after the ~~#####~~ the railroad reached Waseca, the line was ~~####~~ extended to Janesville and this town also had a rapid increase in its population tho not as many people came here ~~to~~ to Waseca. However, by this time the place ~~##~~ had a flour mill and a sawmill and many farmers were trading at its stores ~~##~~ ~~##~~ and were ready to bring their ~~####~~ wheat to the new market.

First Store in Waseca

Before the railroad reached ~~here~~ Waseca, a Mr. Mc Veigh (First name unknown) started a grocery and general store here. There ~~#####~~ ^{were} exceedingly heavy rains ~~that year~~ in the spring of the year 1867 and ^{were flooded} and the lakes all of the rivers ~~and lakes were flooded~~ and extended their banks beyond their ordinary limits. Because there was so much water this first storekeeper actually brought his goods from Owatonna all the way to Waseca by boat. ~~They~~ The boats came up the Straight River to ~~##~~ the mouth of Crane Creek and ~~thence~~ ^{thence} up to the flooded lake area, ~~####~~ From there it was possible to get into Clear Lake and ~~hence~~ to Waseca. After that time Waseca was laughingly called the "Head of Navigation".

THE VILLAGE OF WASECA

While the Village of Waseca came with the railroad, it was very different from our villages even if it was not a pioneer village in the same sense as Wilton. The streets were the bare earth or "dirt." They were muddy in wet seasons, full of hard dry ruts when the mud dried or when the ground froze. Hitching posts and rails were in front of every store and almost every house. Horses and oxen were to be found hitched to these posts and rails at ~~the~~ almost any time excepting late at night. Buildings were low frame structures and store fronts carried signs such as "Groceries and General Merchandise, " "Harness Shop," "Hardware."

Most of the villagers kept cows, pigs and chickens, and apparently had no fences or at least very poor ones. Because of this, the village trustees that year passed an ordinance α compelling people to keep their animals off the streets at night. The ordinance particularly mentioned cows, calves, sheep and mules.

Early Stores and Advertising

The stores in the early days of Waseca were almost as much different from the stores of to-day as day is from night. Most of the stores were general stores and carried# an assortment of goods from hardware to groceries.

Strong and Kittridge "at the sign of the golden mortar" advertised "Drugs, etc., paints, oils, varnish and glass". A. E. Dearbors sold boots and shoes and advertised "all kinds of produce taken in exchange. S. Smith had the Second Street

Brick Store and advertised dry goods and groceries.

Many patent medicines were advertised in those days. There was "Mrs. Winslow's soothing sirup for teething children". Then there was "Vinegar bitters", a guaranteed stomach remedy and "Asiatic Cholera Cure."

Conner & Leo advertised as being manufacturers of all kinds of tin, sheet iron and copper ware, opposite Libby & Co's. R. M. Addison & Co. Waseca, ^{advertised} Dry Goods Clothing, boots and shoes. An advertisement that indicates how people traded in those days read as follows: "Stop your horses at Nasson's. Wheat, butter and eggs wanted in exchange for goods."

Makers of ox yokes, harness, wagons and other articles ~~for~~ of use on the farms were also advertised. Beginning about 1861, the "Canton Sweepstake Threshing Machine", a thrsher operated by horse-power was advertised.

LIVERY STABLE

No boy or girl of today under 20 years of age has ever seen a livery stable. A livery stable was a place where horses and buggies were rented out to those who wanted to take trips into the countryside. H. Vincent had a livery stable on Wood Street west of Bailey and Watkins hardware store.

WASECA BECOMES THE COUNTY SEAT

In the year 1869 the county court house and jail at Wilton were destroyed by fire and the county seat was ~~temporarily~~ temporarily removed to Waseca. Later it was decided to make Waseca the permanent seat of the county government.

HOW THE RAILROAD COMPANIES INDUCED
PEOPLE TO COME HERE

WHO CAME?

The owners of the railroads wanted many settlers. There ^{two main} were reasons for this. For one thing, they wanted to sell the land which the government had given them to induce ~~in~~ them to build railroads. Then, of course, they knew that they could not make money on railroads unless their trains had something to haul. So, in order to get farmers to come into the new country and buy the cheap land, the various railroad companies issued circulars telling all about the wonders of the places where they had land. They sent these circulars all over the eastern part of the United States and even to Europe. In addition to these circulars, the various railroad companies sent agents into the cities and villages of the east. These railroad advertisers also made agreements with steamship ~~companies~~ companies interested in hauling people across the Atlantic Ocean. Agents were sent then to many different countries of ~~Ex~~ Europe to induce people to come to America. the Land of Opportunity.

Europe at that time had millions of farmers without land

who listened to all the stories of the steamship and railroad companies and many of these peasants decided to come to America.

In eastern United States after the Civil War, many factory workers lost their jobs. Many farmer boys came home from the war and found the home place not large enough.

While these ~~farm~~ jobless factory workers and landless ex-soldiers were wondering what to do, the agents and advertising of the railroads began to appear and newspapers began to publish the slogan of Horace Greely of the New York Tribune, "Go west young man! Go west and grow up with the country."

WHO CAME HERE BY THE RAILROADS?

As most children of Waseca County know, most of the people of their county are of German origin, tho to-day ^{more than} ~~nearly~~ 90% of the people who live here were born here. One of the first families, the Krassins, came from Germany. At that time many Germans were coming to this country because at home they had lost their land after the ^{unsuccessful} revolution of 1848. Others who had never had land but were very poor peasants also came. All of these people wanted to escape the tyranny of a king who robbed and ruled them. Above all they wanted to live in a country where they could own their own land ~~and~~ and could build homes and rear their children under a democratic government. So they came to America and many of them landed in Waseca County. Norwegians, Swedes, English and Irish also came here for similar reasons. Some farmers from eastern United States also came to Waseca County. Altogether the various groups mingled and finally made the county as it is today.

The pioneer days, in a way, were over when the railroads came. The long hauls by ox team were over. The telegraph came with the railroad. Mail came daily. Newspapers came from other sections. More people came and settled all about so that no one lived very far from his neighbors. So the real pioneer days were over. However, railroading itself was pioneering in the early days.

~~THE ADVENTURE OF PIONEER RAILROADING~~

Working on a railroad was an adventure ^{when the country was new,} ~~in the early days.~~

For only ~~one~~ on the railroad could one go such long distances and return the same day or the day following. So railway men always had stories of the far-a-way places where they had been. Trains did not go nearly as fast as they do today. Twenty miles per hour was top speed for a long time. The average was about 15 miles per hour. Because they did not go fast, it was not such a hard job to stop the train.

There were lots of wild birds such as prairie chickens ~~and~~ and pheasants at that time and very often the trainmen would stop the train in order to shoot some of these birds. There is a story of how once a train crew stopped the train in order to kill a deer, which they then took home.

RAILROADING IN THE WINTER

Railroading in the winter time was not such a pleasant thing. Trains were not only tied up because of snow drifts. There were times when water tanks were so frozen that no water could be obtained for the boilers. On one occasion, the crew of a train going into Waseca had to uncouple the engine from the cars and run the engine in by itself. The people there carried water in buckets and filled the tank and the engine went back thru the snow drifts and got the cars.

PART VI

The Story Of Agriculture in Waseca County

THE GROWTH OF AGRICULTURE HERE

A study of Minnesota and how it grew from a wilderness to a well populated state shows that while the railroads brot here a flood of settlers in the first few years after they were built, these settlers did not scatter evenly all over the state. In fact, while the prairie section of southern Minnesota settled quickly, the northern part took many decades to become populated.

Settlers reached here first because they came from the southeast. However, they settled first on the land which was easiest to plow. That meant of course the prairie land, the land without trees. Most of Waseca County had no trees on it. Therefore it was not such a hard job for farmers to bring it under cultivation. So we see that Waseca County settled very rapidly indeed.

When the first census was taken in the county in 1860, there were but 191 farms. Within twenty years there were ¹⁵³⁵ ~~1618~~ farms, *Before the end of the century the county had a* and a population of greater than it is today.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

HOW THE FIRST FARMERS FARMED

As we have noted, many of the pioneers came here by ox-team and wagon ^{as} horses were scarce and many farmers were too poor to buy any. With only oxen to pull their plows, farmers could not plow much land.

Before the railroads came, it was such a long haul to market with only oxen to pull the wagon that farmers were not able to market much grain even if they had been able to raise it. It is true that a few farmers had horses but even with horses the trip was much too long. There are stories of farmers

hauling grain as far as 100 miles.

Tho some farmers had more than others, the average farm was a quarter section and of this farm about 28 acres was farmed. Farmers did not expect to sell much that they raised but tried to raise enough to feed themselves and their ~~livestock~~ livestock.

-- 1870 --

By the year 1870, the average farm had about 48 acres of improved land. The railroad had appeared by this time and Waseca and Janesville had elevators where farmers could sell their grain to the railroad ~~or~~ company. Because the market came so close more farmers raised more wheat and there were many ox teams and a few horse teams on the road. The wayside watering trough was a common sight and in every village was the town pump where the patient ox quenched his thirst.

COUNTY FAIR

The first County Fair was held on October 6 and 7, 1870 / A few things will serve to give an idea of what was considered important at that time. A prize of \$2.00 was offered for the best pair of working oxen. A similar amount was offered for ~~the~~ the best plow ~~Team~~ ^{Team} and plow and the best pair of matched steers. For the best wagon made in the county a prize of \$1.00 was given and a similar prize for the best breaking plow made in the county. (A breaking plow is one used to break the sod for the first time.). Prizes were also given for the best horseshoe nails and ~~for~~ for the best pair of "fine" shoes ~~and~~ as well as ~~also~~ for the best pair of "coarse" ones.

-- 1880 --

By the year 1880 as we have seen there were almost as many farmers in the county as there are today. The railroads thru the county had all been built, grain markets were at every station and farmers were able to sell as much grain as they could raise.

The average farm had now about 116 acres of improved land. The grain binder with the improved knotter was advertised and sold that year and the gang plow was coming into use. The grain drill had been in use for more than a decade and the steam powered thresher was beginning to appear.

1890 - 1900

Wheat was the principal crop of the farms here until about 1900, but from the year 1890 a feeling spread over the farmers that they should raise some other crop. The price of wheat had fallen so much that it was difficult if not impossible for the farmer to profit by wheat growing.

Just as the grain drill and the binder helped the farmer to grow wheat more easily, so a number of inventions helped the farmer in the dairying business. The most important of these inventions are the silo, the centrifugal force cream separator and the Babcock tester.

The silo which enables the farmer to feed green corn in winter, is a European invention and came here about the year 1875. The centrifugal force cream separator is also European and came here about 1890. The Babcock tester was invented by Professor Babcock of Wisconsin University about 1890. These inventions plus the cooperative creamery, plus better dairy cattle ~~and the cooperative creamery~~ have made it possible for the farmers here to have a measure of success at the business of milking and caring for their cows.

41
By the close of the century, farmers were growing considerably less wheat and their dairy herds were steadily growing. Since that time dairying has increased steadily and in order to feed their dairy cows other crops than wheat, especially corn, oats, alfalfa and clover have come into common use. Today most farms of the county are either "general" or dairy type.

THE SOUTH EAST EXPERIMENT STATION AT WASECA

Farmers of Waseca County have learned many new farming methods from the South East Experiment Station ~~##~~ near Waseca. This station, which is a branch of the Experiment farm at St. Paul, was established in the year 1913, one year after the land was purchased. In the beginning the purpose of the station was to teach the farmers ~~#~~ of southern Minnesota how to manage their farms and how to drain swampy places and make them useful. The land ~~#####~~ of the farm was at that time covered with sloughs and was ~~###~~ mostly too wet to be ~~#~~ of any value.

was
^ When the station was started the first thing that was done the tile draining of the land. After that for a number of years the operated farm was ~~the way it was considered that the farm should be run~~ according to the teachings of scientific agriculture. Then, in the year 1919, the present Superintendent, Mr. Hodgson was appointed. This man who is a farmer, decided that the farm should try to find new ways of helping the farmer, -- better ways of farming. ~~#####~~ So the farm was turned into an experiment ^o station or a place where all sorts of new methods of farming and raising livestock are tried. Because of these experiments farmers here as well as in many parts of Southern Minnesota are now ~~###~~ using better methods of farming than they did twenty years ago.

42

Experiments with Wheat

One of the best things that the experiment ~~####~~ station here has done is to assist in developing better varieties of wheat. As we have learned, wheat was for many years the principal crop of this section. It still is an important crop, tho farmers raise more corn and hay ~~###~~ crops to feed their cattle and hogs.

When the pioneers came here, spring wheat was considered safe, but winter wheat would ~~#####~~ "winter kill". Because they ~~####~~ believed that it would be better to have a good winter wheat grown in southern Minnesota, the central experiment ~~####~~ station started to experiment with wheat brought here from Russia. They brought two main varieties, ~~####~~ Turkey and Odessa. The Odessa, a beardless variety ~~had no beard####~~ was very hardy but it did not yield very well. The Turkey ~~####~~ a ^{bearded} ~~####~~ variety was not so hardy but it ^{was a good yielder,} ~~yielded~~ very well ~~and~~. Now farmers ~~don't~~ don't like beards on wheat. If you have ever shocked wheat or helped to thresh it, you know why.

The experiment ~~sa~~ation tried to do two things. They tried to eliminate the beards and to produce a hardy variety that would produce a high yield. They soon found after they had made several crosses of the Turkey and Odessa varieties that ^{varieties} the crossed ~~that~~ that yielded the most, always had beards. Finally they found one variety ~~####~~ that was better than any of the others. This variety they called "Minturki". To be sure that the new variety would be good for the ~~####~~ farmers of Southern Minnesota, it was tried out in the station at Waseca and found so good that farmers began to use it everywhere ^{in the section} rather than ~~winter~~ ~~the~~ spring wheat.

While the central station was experimenting with winter wheat, farmers all over the great wheat belt of ~~##~~ Western Minnesota, North Dakota ^{and} Canada were ~~having trouble with their spring wheat because~~

losing their wheat crops # because of rust and smut. In order to help the farmers to solve this problem, the Minnesota Station started to experiment with ~~#####~~ spring wheat that would not be harmed by these diseases. Finally a new variety called "Thatcher" was found that so far can not be ^{an} harmed by any smut or rust that is known here. This wheat has now been used about five years and because it is so good farmers of Minnesota, North Dakota and Canada. this year have ^a ~~###~~ wheat crop for the first time in many years. In Southern Minnesota where the new variety was tried, ~~##~~ Thatcher wheat yielded 35 bushels per acre where the old varieties yielded only 15 bushels. Now farmers of Southern Minnesota are saying "Why should we seed our wheat in the fall in order to get ~~a~~ crop of bearded wheat when we can seed it in ~~##~~ the spring and get a better crop of beardless wheat?"

~~Soy Bean Experiments~~

Soy Bean Experiments

Soy beans are a plant that ~~###~~ farmers grow in many parts of the United States. Originally they came from Japan. With the aid of the experiment station at Waseca, farmers have learned how to use this ^{plant} ~~plant~~ for feeding their cattle and hogs instead of higher priced feeds such as oil meal which they would have to buy. ~~#####~~ and they Soy Beans are legumes ~~###~~ bring nitrogen from the air to the soil by means of little bacteria which cling to their roots. This enriches the soil. It has been found that if the farmer will scatter ~~earth~~ # from a field where the beans have recently grown on new land that that land will grow better beans and bring more nitrogen to the soil.

Red Canary Grass

Because there is so much swampy land in Southern Minnesota, the South East Experiment Station # experimented and finally found a grass that would grow in swampy places. The best variety is Red Canary Grass. Farmers can grow this where alfalfa will not grow.

What the Station is Now Doing

Corn Experiments

Right now there is one man, Dean Anderson who supervises hundreds of small rows of corn each of which is a different variety. Every row is numbered and watched. Different varieties are crossed and recrossed and the results are carefully ~~checked~~ ^{noted}. They are trying to develop corn that will yield more in Southern Minnesota and also if possible a variety that will not blow over when a windstorm comes.

As ~~all~~ ^{all} children know the corn plant has two flowers, the tassel and the silk. The tassel is a male flower and the silk a female flower. In order to ~~have~~ ^{produce} an ear of corn, the female plant must be fertilized by the male plant or the pollen from the tassel. When Mr. Anderson wants to control the fertilizing of an ear of corn, he puts ~~on~~ a water proof sack over the ear before the silk ~~comes~~ ^{comes} out. Then he puts the pollen from a certain tassel on that ear at the right time. Thousands of ears are covered this way each year.

Experiments with Swine.

For about fifteen years they have ~~been~~ been experimenting with Poland China ~~#~~ hogs to see if they might be able to get a better strain for the farmers. In order to do this they mated for a long time ~~#####~~ brothers and sisters. In doing this, many types of hogs were developed but most of them died because any weakness that an animal has is ~~#####~~ ~~####~~ doubled in the offspring when the brother is mated to the sister. However, they now have hogs which are the product of seven generations of this kind of mating and the experimenting is going on but not in the the same way. New and different blood is brought in.

The man in charge of this work is John McMahon who is ^{and earnest man} a very interesting ~~man~~ ^w and ~~ants~~ ^{ants} to develop a hog that will really

45

be of value to the farmers everywhere.

The men at the experiment sation are doing ~~##~~ work for the whole ~~community~~ country and seem very happy to be doing it. Experimental work of this kind ~~will have~~ has done much in the past to make life better for all of us. It will do much more in the future. Everyone who can, should visit the South~~#~~ East Experiment Station and learn What is being done there. Mr. Hodgson, the Superintendent is willing to show people the farm and answer all questions.

NATURAL CALAMITIES THAT HAVE BEST THE PEOPLE HERE

Everybody talks about the weather. The weather affects everyone. Farmers depend upon the weather to live. The weather in the growing season determines to a great extent the crop which the farmer will have. Of course, farmers must plow the land properly and at the right time and seed the ground in the right way and care for the crop. Even if the farmers do all of these things, there ~~pla~~ are places where the crop is an entire failure because of lack of rain or because a hail storm destroys the crop. No such failure has ever occurred in Waseca County. Some years have been too dry and others have been too wet but no summer has been too bad to produce a crop.

There have been times in the history of this county that the weather has gone on a rampage and destroyed crops, houses and other works of men.

On the thirteenth of July, 1883 there was ~~x~~ a terrific windstorm or tornade that swept over parts of Waseca County including the City and blew roofs from buildings and scattered them thru the streets. Out in the country houses and barns were blown to bits and a railroad train was blown off the track as it went eastward from the city.

On the 7th of July// 1871, thousands of acres of land were laid waste by a hailstorm that swept a path from two to four miles wide across the northern part of the county.

THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE

The great grasshopper scourge which menaced farmers over many states including a large part of southern Minnesota from 1873-77, ~~missed~~ practically missed Waseca County tho crops were devoured in Blue Earth and Faribault Counties.

PART VII

THE ORAGNIZED EFFORTS OF THE FARMERS HER TO
BENEFIT THEMSELVES.

THE GRANGER MOVEMENT
THE FARMERS ALLIANCE
THE COOPERATIVES.

THE GRANGE OR PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

As we have learned, the farmers in the pioneer days had had a difficult time getting their grain to market. Supplies were brot into the new country by ox team from as far away as the grain market. So the railroads were greeted everywhere with great enthusiasm and joy. Cities and villages all along the line voted bonds to help pay for the roads.

But when the railroads came, the farmers were terribly disappointed. Railroad freight rates were exhorbitant. Farmers were charged as much for short distancēs as for long ones. The ~~xxxxxx~~ railroads would not allow any but their own elevators to be built on railroad right-of-ways. Farmers began to feel that they were in no better condition than they had been before the railroads came.

Farmers had other troubles too which caused them to be discontented. For instance, interest rates especially on short term loans were unusually high. An investigation by Labor Commissioner Le Grand Powers showed that rates amounting to an annual rate of 480% were charged on notes of very short duration.

Taxes were high. Machinery which farmers were starting to use was too costly for many farmers to buy. Because of all of these things ~~xxxxxx~~ farmers everywhere began to complain.

The same year that the first railroad came to Waseca, an organization of farmers was started by a Minnesota farmer, Oliver Hudson Kelly, who at that time was a clerk in a government office in Washington. As a representative of the Agricultural Division of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Kelly had just made a trip thru the southern states. There he saw not only the country which had been devastated by the war.~~xx~~ He also

48
saw how ignorant and ~~superstitious~~ superstitious were the people. When he came back, he resolved to form an organization which would bring the farmers together and be a means whereby the farmers could educate themselves.

Mr. Kelly, who was a member of the fraternal order of "Masons", believed that he could organize a farmers' social organization with a secret ritual somewhat like the fraternal order of Masons. He started out with a few government clerks in Washington and called his new organization the "Patrons of Husbandry" or "Grange."

A husbandman is one who cares for animals, a farm or a home. Grange is a word which means farm. So the term "Patron of Husbandry" is another way of saying "farmer". and "Granger" is another way of saying the same thing.

With the exception of a group organized in New York State the first groups were not farmers at all, but city people whom Mr. Kelly knew. In 1868, Mr. Kelly organized his first group in St. Paul and a year later he organized a state organization here.

As farmers began to come into the new organization they brought their troubles with them. They talked at meetings about the "robbing railroads", the "monopolists", the high taxes, the high interest rates, the high prices farmers had to pay for their manufactured goods, the low prices of farm products, etc. / ~~xxx~~ It was not long before the new organization became a real organization of "Patrons of Husbandry." When the organization began to talk about combining the might of the farmers to fight for their rights, it spread like a prairie fire over many states.

THE GRANGE COMES TO WASECA COUNTY.

The farmers of Waseca County had the same reason to hate the railroad owners as had the farmers of other sections of the state and of other states. As we have seen, wheat was the main crop here. To sell this wheat farmers had to depend on the Chicago market. The railroad companies at that time charged from 25 cents to 30 cents a bushel to haul wheat to Chicago. The practice of charging as much for long ~~hans~~ hauls as for short ones was prevalent here too. For instance, the charge for hauling a load of lumber from Owatonna to Waseca was \$20.00. This is a distance of 15 miles. The same amount was charged to haul the same load of lumber from Winona to Waseca, a distance of 105 miles.

The Grange came here first in the spring of the year 1870. On May 14 of that year the first local organization ~~af~~ or "Grange" was organized. As in other places the Grange meetings were mostly social ~~gathering~~ but as time went on and farmers became more and more angry with the railroad companies, they naturally talked about their troubles in the Grange meetings. It was not long before the farmers began to see that if enough farmers would join their organization, they might be able to elect men to office who would make laws to regulate freight rates and thus break the power of the railroad monopolies.

THE POMONA GRANGE

By 1873, there were 10 local Granges in the county and it was decided to organize a county or "Pomona" Grange. So a little less than ~~x~~ three years after the Grange first came to the county a meeting was held and officers for the following year were elected. The principal officers were: Master, I. D.

50
Beaman; Secretary, W. D. Armstrong; Lecturer, John S. Abel;
Overseer, M. F. Conner.

THE COOPERATIVE GRAIN MARKET

The farmers of Waseca County were not only robbed by the railroad companies as haulers of their wheat. The railroads also owned the elevators and so had a monopoly on the wheat market. The Grange farmers felt pretty strong after they had organized their Pomona Grange, so they decided to organize a cooperative grain marketing organization of their own. In order to keep the farmers from marketing their grain thru the Grange the grain monopoly raised prices. The farmers outside the Grange apparantly did not realize that the Grange had raised prices for them so they sold their grain to the monopoly. So the grain corporation did not last long. Bad management helped to cause the death of this cooperative.

The Grangers had a secret order with a long ritual and they had a rule that nothing political or religious could be discussed in the meetings. In spite of this rule they did discuss ~~politi~~ politics tho they sometimes met outside the hall in order to do it.

In the winter they had meetings in school houses and in summer great picnics were held. It was at one of these picnics at Blooming Grove in in Mower County that the great Anti-monopoly party ^{of Minnesota} was first started.

THE ELECTION OF 1873

In the election of 1873, the Grangers backed James E. Child, the editor of the Waseca News and the first editor in the county, for the legislature. Mr. Childs in his paper had always been an outspoken man, especially against the railroad monopolists and the liquor traffic. So he was well known to the farmers. As he was Grange member also, the farmers elected him to the legislature.

THE RAILROAD CONTROL BILL

There were many Grangers in the legislature of 1874. There were also many other people who believed in having the state control the railroads After a long battle, the Railroad Control Bill was passed. This bill provided that a railroad commission should be created and that this commission should fix freight and passenger rates on the railroads. Of course, the railroad companies did not like this law. So they set about to have it repealed.

Q. 52

WHAT THE RAILROAD COMPANIES DID TO REPEAL THE RAILROAD CONTROL LAW

In order to get certain influential people to talk in ~~the~~ their favor, the railroad companies gave free passes and half fare tickets to legislators, newspaper editors, congressmen, preachers, priests, businessmen and others. As a result it was not long before a cry went up all over the state that the people who wanted the railroad freight and passenger rates controlled by law were trying to drive the railroads out of the state. The friends of the law replied that they wanted the railroads but that they did not ~~a~~ want all of the benefits to go to the few people who owned them. They wanted the benefits to go to all of the people. Thru his paper, the Waseca News, James E. Child continually talked in favor of the railroad law and against the railroad monopolists.

HOW THE RAILROADS WON THE ELECTION

The railroad officials were not content with the cry that was raised against the friends of the Railroad Control Law. James E. Child charged that just before the election of 1874, unscrupulous men were brought into various towns in the county to vote against the ~~raillroad~~ candidates to the legislature who would vote against the railroad monopolists. At that time, any one living in a place for a period of 10 days before the election was eligible to vote. This practice of bringing men in to vote in a certain way was used in more than one occasion in the early days. That is why laws have since been passed requiring residence for a longer period of time. Child charged that not only did the railroad officials bring men into Waseca County but that they brought them into every county where there was a possibility of an opposing man being elected to the

legislature.

Child was defeated for the legislature that year and # enough #### friends of the railroads were elected that a new law more favorable to them was passed. This law ~~was~~ created a commissioner with power to investigat but not to act. The law of 1874 had ~~not~~ ^{never} been enforced anyway and now it was killed. Because this law was killed and another law passed in 1871, had been set aside by the courts, farmers who were trying so hard to make a living raising wheat, were very much ~~disappointed~~ disappointed. The fight against the railroad monopolists did not stop. How it continued we shall see later.

THE REFORM PARTY OF 1875

After the repeal of the railroad control law of 1874, James E. Child and others started a new political party A call was sent to all parts of the county and farmers ## who were angry with the railroad companies and the old parties came. The following extracts from the platform that was adopted show why the party was organized:

" In severing our connection with the Republican and Democratic Parties, we give the following as some of the reasons therefore:

1st. That these parties, acting in unison, have repealed the only railroad law of the state, that of 1874, which has ever given protection to the people by requiring companies to do business at reasonable and uniform rates, and in its place have

54
substituted a law which permits the companies to resort to distortion and unjust discrimination

"2nd. That these parties, at the last session of the legislature, repealed that portion of the tax law of the state which provided for the collection of back taxes upon the lands of the Winona and St. ~~Rxxxx~~ Peter Railway Co., whereby Waseca County has lost about \$8,000.

* * * * *

"5th. The old parties of this state, in nearly every locality, resort to corrupt practices to control caucuses, conventions and elections. Wealthy men and corporations join hand in hand with the liquor dealers, and money and whiskey are freely used to influence the weak, the mercenary and the corrupt."

A number of candidates were nominated for different offices. The following reform party candidates were elected : State Representative, Kelsey Curtis; County Treasurer, Warren Smith; County Commissioner, H. Vincent.

55
THE FARMERS ALLIANCE

It was not only the farmers of Minnesota who were raising a cry against the railroads ~~and~~ high taxes high interest rates etc. From all over the country other farmers were making similar complaints. Because farmers everywhere had about the same grievances, it was ~~###~~ natural that similar organizations should spring up. This is exactly what happened. These organizations openly discussed politics and forgot the ritual which meant so much to the founders of the Grange.

After some time the various farmers clubs and other groups began to be known by a new name "Farmers Alliance". The Alliance first came to Waseca County in the year 1886. It was not long before there were enough locals to have a county organization. Many big meetings were held and great orators such as Ignatius Donnelly state Organizer and Geo W. Sprague state president came here to speak.

For a number of years this great organization spread over the state and elected many legislators and representatives to Congress. In the year 1892 the Alliance men all over the country ~~formed~~ united in the great Peoples Party under the ~~program~~ Omaha Platform drawn at Omaha, Nebraska on July 4th of that year.

The Peoples Party elected many representatives ~~###~~ ~~#####~~ in Minnesota and in some states even elected governors and finally in 1898 it elected John Lind as governor of Minnesota.

There were many demands of the Peoples Party. One of the principal ones was for the government ownership and operation of the Railroads as the final solution of the railroad problem. Other demands were for the direct ~~le~~ election of United States Senators who were at ~~that~~ that time elected by the ~~#####~~ state legislatures, and for the election of the ~~per~~ President of the United States ~~in the same way~~ by direct vote as well. The Peoples Party also demanded that full rights of labor be granted.

576

Did the farmers gain anything by all of these parties and movements? The answer is most certainly "yes". Many of the demands of these groups are now law. Railroad control is now an accepted principle. ~~#####~~ U.S. Senators are now elected by direct vote of the people. The U.S. Department of Agriculture came as a demand of the grange. Parcels Post ~~##~~ came in the same way. The uniform grading of wheat is now accepted everywhere. Laws regulating interest rates have also been established in most states. Labor laws are now on the statute books of most states and we have the Wagner ~~###~~ Labor Relations Act on the Statute books of the nation. The Farmer-Labor Party is considered by its leaders as the logical successor of the Peoples Party. Many New Deal Democrats think the same about their party.

The Cooperatives.

When farmers began to turn to dairying as a means of making a living, they were no longer so much interested in laws to regulate freight rates. However, they soon learned ~~##~~ that if they were to get a good return for their labor in ~~#####~~ feeding cows and milking them and caring for the product, , they must do their own marketing. For this reason, the cooperative ~~####~~ creamery was originated. It proved ~~##~~ such a good thing for ~~#~~ the farmers that soon there were such creameries thruout the state. Today there is a cooperative creamery in every village of Waseca County and in the city of Waseca ~~###~~ as well.

The cooperative creamery movement in the beginning was encouraged and promoted by Theophilus L. Haecker who was professor of Dairy Husbandry at the University farm for a period of 25 years, from 1893 until 1918.

Recently a number of leading farmers of Waseca County led by the the Farm Bureau, organized a cooperative oil association for the purpose of saving the farmer on his purchases of oil and motor fuels used on the farm. This organization has served to greatly reduce the price of many of ~~#####~~ items to the farmers of the county and seems to be a Permanent business there.

What did the farmers gain by all of these parties and movements?
Many of the demands of the early # farmers movements have already been

CONCLUSION

The history of Waseca County has not all been told in this short story. An attempt has been made to tell some of the more essential facts. Much time has been given to the story of the farmers and their struggles for the very obvious reason that first of all they are the most important part of the population. The wealth they create makes ~~Waseca~~ makes possible the progress of the county, - makes possible the schools the churches, the banks, the business ~~houses~~ houses, the highways as well as ^{as} their own houses and barns.

Because it is an agricultural county and had about as many farmers as ~~it~~ could make a living here ~~by~~ by the year 1880, the county has not grown much in populations since then. Since 1900 there has actually been ~~an~~ a decrease in population tho a ~~few~~ ~~farmer~~ a handful more farmers have been added. On the whole farmer boys of the County have gone to the ^{cities} ~~twine~~ to find work where there is industry that employs many men. However, since 1930, this trek to the cities has stopped and there is unemployment here as elsewhere.

History is still being made in Waseca County. The next ten ~~years~~ years may see many changes. What they will be no one knows. We do know that ^{change} ~~changes~~ must go on for every thing that lives moves and grows. While City people may say that Waseca is only a sleepy farm center, yet it is alive and grows as all living things.

58

JAMES E CHILD

Pioneer Editor, Farmer and ^{for} Fighter the Rights of the
People and the Common Good

Any history of Waseca County would not be complete without the story of the life of James E. Child, one of the first settlers and for many years the spokesman of the ~~man~~ people of the county. The life and adventures of Mr. Child and his family is much like that of many of the pioneers of that time. His father before him was a pioneer, having migrated from Jefferson County, New York by horse team and wagon before the days of the railroad.

James E. Child was born in Jefferson County, New York, ~~1833~~ 1833. When he was but a year old his father decided to take his young wife and the baby to Medina County, Ohio, five hundred miles away. So he hitched the family team to a wagon and loaded the family in and started out. After staying in Ohio for about three years, the family found rather hard going and went back to New York.

But the western fever had taken possession of the father. So in 1844, he again started out with the family which had several brothers and sisters by this time and started out for Ohio again. This time the family followed the shore of Lake Erie and finally settled the family at the town of Perry, while the father pushed on to Wisconsin. Here the family was brought and lived until young James grew to manhood.

The young man followed many lines of work including work in the pine woods and teaching school in the winter time. Finally ~~was~~ when Asa Sutlief and family made their trip to Minnesota in January 1855 young James and his brother went along and thus became one of the real pioneers of Waseca County. With the rest of the party Child took up a claim in Wilton Township.

But young Child did not remain a farmer. A bankrupt newspaper called The Wilton Home Views presented the opportunity to become a newspaper editor. This was in December 1863. From then on to the end of his active days, Mr. Child was a newspaper editor with the exception of four years, from 1881 to 1885 when he was on a farm.

But the life of James E. Child was not remarkable because he was an editor or because he was a pioneer. His life in Waseca is worth mentioning because as editor of the various papers; Waseca News, Minnesota ~~Radical~~ Radical, Journal-Radical, he continually talked for things which he thought would be of benefit to the people there.

The pioneers who waded snowdrifts, faced storms of winter, forded rivers and underwent all sorts of hardships to get new homes in a new land, were full of hope. They believed that

somehow they had at last reached a promised land. They had no sooner reached the new land than they found that there were people who wanted to take away their land, their horses, or to in some way enrich themselves at the expense of the settlers.

First it was claim jumpers. Then it was horse ~~thieves~~ thieves. Then it was the railroad companies who wanted to force the people to give them enormous amounts in bonds and later to charge ex-

cessive freight rates. Later he fought what he considered the ~~evil~~ evil of the saloon. *Child was also one of the first people in the community to urge the building of public schools.*

In order to carry on the struggle against the railroads, Mr. Child sought and won a seat in the legislatures of 1872 as senator and of 1874 and 1883 as a member of the House of Representatives. When a member of the House of Representatives

of 1874 he was offered a bribe of \$100.00 if he would stop fighting for the Railroad Control Bill. He refused the bribe and published the story in his paper. In 1875 he was defeated for the legislature.

In his paper, Mr. Child ~~was~~ often condemned the political corruption of the day. He claimed that all over the state the railroad company agents bribed people with whiskey and money in order to get them to vote for the friends of the railroad companies in the legislature.

MINNESOTA RADICAL

It was in the year 1875 that Mr. Child changed the name of his paper to "Minnesota Radical" and pledged himself to an ~~xxxx~~ unending fight against the railroad monopolists and the liquor traffic. That year the Reform Party of Waseca County was born. Mr. Child was its principal leader and as such he helped to draft the platform which condemned what he considered the worst enemies of mankind.

Mr. Child was a member of the Grange and The Farmers Alliance but he did not like the leader Ignatius Donnelly so he did not take an active part. While ~~w~~ he was not eligible to join the farmers cooperatives when they were organized, he was a friend of these organizations of the farmers.

Many farmers disagreed with his views on the liquor traffic and some did not like the way he censured all who did not agree with him, yet the many offices which he held shows that most of the farmers of Waseca County always considered "Pat" Child their friend. Mr. Child held the following offices:

- ~~xx~~ 1. Chairman of town supervisors
- 2. Schooldistrict clerk

-61

3. County Attorney
4. Justice of the Peace
5. Member of the State House of Representatives
1861-74 and 83
6. Member of the State Senate 1872
7. Deputy S. S. Marshall 1863-4
8. Probate Judge
9. Superintendent of Schools
10. Municipal Judge of Waseca 1890-92

WASECA COUNTY MINNESOTA

an
Historical Scetch for Boys and Girls.

Part I Introduction.

WASECA COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

WHAT and Where is The Subject of our Story?

The subject of our story, Waseca County, Minnesota is in the second of two tiers of counties in the southern part of the state which is eleventh in size of all the ~~states~~ states in the United States. # Waseca is not a large county/ In fact with its 275,840 acres it is# one of the smaller counties of the state. Of the eighty-seven counties which ~~###~~ ~~which~~ together constitute the whole of Minnesota, only six are smaller than Waseca, one (Steele Co) is the same size, while seventy-nine are larger. It would take 198 counties ^{the size of Waseca} to equal in size the State of Minnesota and more ~~###~~ than 7,000 to equal the territory of ~~###~~ Continental United States.

Much can be said about this ~~#####~~ fertile little spot in a state nearly 200 times as large. First of all it is a county of farms. More than half of its less than 15,000 inhabitants make their living directly from the soil. Most of the remainder are either retired farmers or they make their living trading ## with the farmers, working in the farmers' cooperatives, building roads for the farmers or manning the various ~~county~~ offices in the county government ## which is supposed to ^{serve} ~~represent~~ the farmers at Waseca.

The countryside has an air of prosperity, It is probably true that a great deal of this outward appearance is~~####~~ ## but the ghost of better~~####~~ times "gone but not forgotten". However, most farmsteads of the county have the ~~appearance~~ ^{which} have the tidy, well kept ~~####~~ appearance of ~~####~~ goes with home ownership.

The farms are not large in # Waseca County, neither are they small. The average farm has 154 acres. There are a few ~~##~~ ~~####~~ very small farms in the county and a few that are quite large, but more than half of the farms are near the ~~####~~ average size and have ~~##~~ more than 100 acres # each and less than 175 acres. Corn is the principal grain crop, tho wheat, oats and barley are also grown. Cattle ~~#####~~ feeding and hog raising is a part# of the program on most farms

(2) 2
CITY OF
WASECA

Waseca, the county seat is the only city in the county. While it is the trading center for ~~the farmers of the~~ farmers of a quite large area it is also to a degree a manufacturing center. The principal products are flour and mill products, cement blocks and creamery products.

Janesville, the largest ~~and~~ and most important ~~city~~ ^{village} is located on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and on ~~the~~ Lake Elusian the largest of the several lakes in the county.

Railroads The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad ~~and the~~ Cuts across the ~~the~~ northern half of the county ~~while the Minneapolis & St. Louis line runs north and south over the~~ touching both Waseca ~~and~~ and Janesville. Running north and south thru the eastern half of the county is ~~the~~ the main line of the Minneapolis and St. Louis line. This ~~line~~ line touches both the city of Waseca and the village of New Richland. A third line, a branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific road cuts a triangle from the south-western part of the ~~the~~ county. This road touches the villages of Waldorf and Matawan.

Rivers The LeSueur River, originating in Freeborn County near the south-~~the~~ eastern border of ~~the~~ of Waseca flows in a north-westerly direction ~~and~~ on west to the Minnesota at Mankato. The Big Cob and the Little Cob Rivers also drain ~~the~~ small portions of the southeeastern parts of the county.

THE SOUTH
EASTERN EXPERIMENT
STATION

The south-east experiment ^{to} station at the edge of Waseca ^{county} is an important feature of the ~~county~~ tho it is under the direction of the University farm in St Paul. This station is not only of great value to the ~~the~~ farmers of the county but to all of the farmers in southern Minnesota. ^{we shall say more about this station later,} A fuller discussion of the work of this station will be given in a later part of this paper.

It is hard for ~~us~~ us who see Waseca County ~~the~~ and the section of which it is a part, ~~to imagine what~~ with its farmsteads, ~~the~~ its rivers and lakes, ~~the~~ its railroads and its cities and villages to imagine that it was ever very much different than it is to-day. The fact of the matter is that ~~the~~ this section ~~is as it is~~ has been as it is now for only a very short time.

3
3
The soil of Waseca The soil from which the farmers of Waseca County dig their
Where it started living began to be deposited here two hundred thousand years
ago when a great ~~layer~~ ^{high} of ice piled mountain ~~layer~~ ^{piled mountain}
~~layer~~ spread over almost all of Minnesota. Following this were two other gla-
siers ~~the~~ the last of which completed ~~the~~ ^{fifty} thousand years ago, ~~the~~ the
the land surface almost as we see it to-day. When the last of the ice melted
some of the ~~the~~ water remained in the lakes and ~~the~~ some of it flowed away in the
rivers which ~~the~~ are common to the sight of the boys and girls who tread across
wayside bridges on the way to school.

~~Due to the action of bacteria upon the rocks~~
and the finer earth, the soil was at last made ~~the~~ ready for ~~higher forms of life~~.
the grasses which the white men found here when they arrived some eighty odd ~~the~~
years ago.

It took ~~along~~ time for the forces of nature to prepare the land for the
use of man. It has taken a comparatively insignificant time ~~the~~ for civilized men
to completely change the appearance of that land which ~~the~~ nature's forces took
so long to mold. How the forces of Nature worked in affecting the change assigned
to them is a story in itself. Our story is to deal with ~~what~~ ^{what} man did to ~~change~~ ^{change} ~~the~~ ^{had done}
the outward appearance of the land without ~~changing~~ ^{to change} its fundamental character.

John Marshall

PART ### II.

Early Inhabitants

First Jurisdiction

Louisiana Purchase.

Treaties With the Sioux Indians

(4)

WASECA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

A History of Pioneer Days

for
Boys and Girls

Not so long ago,- a little more than eighty years,- there was not a single person living in the ~~##~~ place which we now call Waseca County. Of course, that may seem a long time to boys and girls who can count their years on the fingers and thumbs of both hands, but when we speak historically, it is really a short time after all. A large part of this country is older than that and the extreme eastern part, along the Atlantic Coast, has houses that were built more than two centuries before the first white man came to Waseca County.

Before our grandfathers came to this section, the land for the most part, was ~~covered~~ open prairie covered with a rank growth of prairie grass of many varieties. In places, mostly along the banks of streams and ~~along~~ ~~at~~ on the lake shores, were to be found a number of hard wood trees. Sheltered by the prairie grass, were thousands of rabbits, gophers and prairie chickens living in constant fear of prowling foxes and wolves which sought to devour ~~every~~ every animal smaller than themselves. The lakes at that time extended their shores more widely than to-day and in these lakes there were countless numbers of fishes that dashed here and there and sparkled in the sun.

WHO LIVED HERE BEFORE
THE WHITES CAME
THE MOUND BUILDERS

At some far distant time there live in this region a race of people which scientific men call "Mound Builders". When these people lived here we do not know. Neither do we know just where their dwellings were, but in the vicinity of Rice Lake have been found small mounds about three feet high, filled with the bones and tools of this ancient people.

DAKOTA OR
SIOUX INDIANS

A few years before the coming of the ~~first~~ first white ~~settlers~~ settlers, roving bands of Dakota or Sioux Indians wandered over the land and hunted and fished as they went but they had no permanent houses

(57)

here. These people lived in their skin tents or tipi wherever they camped and they moved their camp on # occasion as the hunting or fishing seemed better at another spot or as the ~~blue berries~~ blue berries or wild rice ripened in sections far remote.

APPEARANCE OF THE INDIAN. The Indians were dark skinned from many generations of ex-

posure to the sun# and ~~###~~ wind with almost no clothes on their bodies. Most Indians were of medium height and few of them were fat.

~~#####~~ Their cheek bones were high and their faces usually grim ~~#####~~ and sometimes ~~#####~~ ^{very} serious.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE ~~#####~~ The farmers of Waseca County owe much to the simple Indian for it was he who first taught ~~###~~ taught white men# how to grow corn, the principal field crop here as well as thruout the great corn belt section including Southern Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and parts of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio and Kentucky.

hand tools made of stone
The Indians had only ~~#####~~ with which to work. With ~~these~~ tools, it was of course, impossible to plant or care for very much corn. Where the soil was tough on the prairies, it was a very difficult job, indeed. In the ~~#####~~ wooded sections where the ground was soft with leaf mold, farming was an ~~###~~ easier task. The trees were in they way, of course, but they were killed by a process known as "girdling". A ring or girdle was cut all around the tree by removing the bark and the layer directly beneath it. In places ~~where~~ ^{where} the trees were thus killed, the Indians planted ~~#####~~ patches of corn and ~~#####~~ sometimes added beans and squash.

There were only a few such Indian cornfields in ~~#####~~ southern Minnesota and none in Waseca County. Since no other evidences ~~##~~ of permanent habitations have been found here, we assume that since the mound builders, ~~###~~ the county had no permanent inhabitants ~~#####~~ ^{until} when the first white settlements were made.

(16)

How much time elapsed from the days of the mound-builders to the days when our ~~grandfathers~~ ^{grandfathers} first came to this section we do not know. We do know that with ~~###~~ ^{not} their crude tools, the Indians could/change the face of the country very much. So for many hundreds of years it is quite likely that/the country here-about had about the same appearance as it had when our ancestors first saw it some eighty odd years ago.

DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS The region of Stearns County has at various times been WHICH ONCE CLAIMED claimed by other countries than the United States. As we THIS SECTION have already learned, before the discovery of America by Columbus, there were no white people in the whole of the Western Continent consisting of North America and South America. The discoveries of Columbus led to other explorations. Soon kings and other men of wealth and power in many countries of Europe vied with each other in an effort to discover and claim as ~~###~~ their own as much as possible of the newly found land.

At first it was thought that Columbus had found islands near the Indies where ~~#####~~ European merchants had for many years ~~#####~~ bought shiploads of spices, tea, # and other articles to be sold again to the people of Europe at a big profit. When it was discovered that a really new land had been found, there was ^a rush to find gold ^{here} ~~there~~. The governments of England, France, Spain and Holland financed many expeditions to the new world. It was the purpose of most of the early expeditions to find a way thru America to ~~#####~~ India. When this was found to be such a difficult task, ^{if not altogether impossible} ~~if not altogether impossible~~, exploring expeditions turned their attentions more and more to finding ^{gold here} or something that could be sold for gold in Europe.

Whenever new territory was discovered, ~~###~~ it was claimed in the ~~###~~ name of the country which financed the expedition. Because Columbus was financed by the queen of Spain, he claimed all that he saw for that monarch. Years later, the Mississippi River was discovered ~~\$\$\$~~ by a greedy brutal ~~###~~ ^{Ferdinand De Soto} Spanish nobleman and as a result, the whole of the North American Continent was claimed by the ~~###~~ Spanish king.

(7)

Mexico and most of South America were also claimed by the Spanish and the Spanish Language prevails there to-day as a result of these countries coming under Spanish rule in the period of the early explorations of America. In the struggle for colonies great wars were fought by England, France and Spain and as a result Spain lost her power as an imperialist nation and with her power went most of her colonies. England became the master of what is now Canada and eastern United States and France took

as her own the western half of the Mississippi basin.

THOMAS JEFFERSON
AND THE LOUISIANA
PURCHASE

As long as the colonists along the Atlantic Seaboard were under the rule of the British government, most people

were afraid to venture west of the Allegheny mountains. The British would not help the colonists to fight the Indians because they (the British) wanted to keep the colonists along the seaboard so that they could be better kept under British rule. When the colonists finally revolted against British rule, the Indians were given guns to fight the colonists. When the war at last was won by the colonists, many thousands of poor people set out toward the west to find new homes in the wilderness.

When Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, became President in 1801, he began to consider ways and means to help poor people to get farms. He believed that the way to make everyone free, happy and prosperous was to make it possible for everyone who wanted it, to have a farm of his own. In 1803, Jefferson sent two representatives to France to negotiate the sale of the Port of New Orleans which then was claimed by the French. Because Napoleon Bonaparte, the emperor was then at war, and needed money and also because he realized that he could not hold the country anyway, he offered to sell all of the territory of Louisiana for fifteen million dollars. Jefferson's representatives thought it a bargain and agreed to make the proposal to the President. When they got back home, Jefferson signed the agreement and called a session of Congress to ratify the agreement. When this was done,

people from Europe found homes along the eastern Coast of the United States.

the territory of Louisiana became a part of the territory of the United States. This new territory was the largest single area ever added to the domain of the United States at one time. It included practically all of the territory drained by the Mississippi River on the western side.

The territory of Waseca County, being a part of Louisiana, became a part of United States territory for the first time ~~#####~~ when the Louisiana Purchase was effected.

INDIANS THE REAL RULERS

All of the changes of government that took place before the white settlers came were unknown to the Indian tribes who wandered over the region and were the real rulers. The territory of Minnesota was successively a part of the territories of Michigan, Iowa and Wisconsin. The Indians didn't ~~##~~ know anything about that either. These wandering ~~#####~~ tribes hunted and fished, fought their wars, smoked their peace pipes, held their ceremonies and lived as they had done for generations while the white man gradually prepared to take away their hunting ~~#####~~ grounds and ^{leave them} render these ~~#####~~ children of Nature helpless and hopeless in the land where they had been masters and rulers for so long.

MINNESOTA A TERRITORY ~~##~~ THE SIOUX TREATIES

was organized

In the year 1849, the territory of Minnesota/by the federal government. Two years later, men representing the government signed treaties or contracts with the Sioux Indians at Mendota and Traverse du Sioux(now St. Peter). By the terms of these treaties, the Indians gave up all rights to the lands lying between the Mississippi and the Red Rivers. In return for these lands the Indians received a certain amount of money in cash and were to receive annual payments of money, ~~###~~ blankets, and foodstuffs.

~~#####~~ FUR TRADERS

Before permanent settlements were made in this or any other county in the state, there were fur traders who ~~##~~ wandered about and ~~####~~ established temporary ^{any} trading posts and bartered with the Indians. At that time, as to-day, furs were very valuable in the cities of the east and particularly in such European Cities as London and Paris. Because these furs were

so valuable, many men engaged in the fur trade. The Indians were skilled hunters and were able to capture many more animals than they could eat and ^{were able to} thus ^{secure} more furs than they could use. So anything that they could get for the extra furs was considered gain by these ~~primitive~~ ^{Indians} primitive hunters.

Because they ^{Indians} did not know the value of the furs they tore from the backs of ~~the~~ beaver, fox and muskrat, the traders offered the most trifling objects in return for furs worth many dollars. Rusty hunting knives, cheap trinkets, ~~long~~ ~~and~~ and sometimes such articles as iron kettles were common articles of trade. On ^a scheme of the trader was to trade a gun ~~for~~ for a stack of furs as high as the length of the gun. Guns were made especially long for the Indian trade, ~~tho~~ tho the extra length added nothing to the value of the gun. Whiskey was a favorite article of trade and was used ~~not~~ not only because a small amount of the stuff could be traded for a large amount of furs, but because, once drunk, the Indian could be still further cheated.

At times when there were no furs, the traders would give the Indians certain supplies on credit. When the treaties were signed at Mendota and Traverse du Sioux, the Indians were forced to sign their money over to the ^{traders} ~~traders~~ in lieu of debts claimed by ^{them} ~~the traders~~. Of course, if there was any money left after the claims were paid, the Indians got it. However, many of the Indians were able to collect nothing. ^{Some} ~~Many~~ of the Indian chiefs protested these claims but their protests ~~fell on deaf ears~~ fell on deaf ears. One Indian chief, Red Iron, was even put in chains because he asked for an impartial committee of white men to adjudge the claims.

Waseca County had one or two temporary traders who came here before the regular settlers. Not much is known of these people, but there seems to be evidence that they once were here.

It was three years after the ~~the~~ Sioux treaties were signed that the first actual settlers ~~of the county~~ came to the county. Only a handful came

PART III

First Settlers and Settlements

Experiences of the Early Settlers.

It was three years after the Sioux treaties were signed that the first actual settlers came to the county. Only a handful came ~~that year~~

that year ~~but~~ the following year, many more ^{arrived} ~~came~~ and each year after ~~that~~ that saw an increase in the number of settlers. The whole of southern Minnesota had an invasion of settlers at about the same time ² ~~that~~ Waseca County was first settled. One very important reason for this we should mention.

Most of the people who came to Minnesota to find homes in the early ^{had lived originally in} days ~~came from~~ the eastern part of the United States. Even if they had come ~~orig~~ originally from other countries, they had to cross the eastern part of the ~~country~~ country before they reached here. Before there were any railroads, ~~the~~ the few settlers who came to Minnesota took a long and tedious route. Some came all the way from the Atlantic Coast by ~~the~~ ox team and wagon. Others came down the Ohio River to where it flows into the Mississippi. From that point they ~~traveled~~ ^{traveled} came by river steamer to points farther north.

THE FIRST RAILROAD REACHES THE MISSISSIPPI

from the east

In the year 1854 the first railroad/reached the Mississippi at ~~the~~ Rock Island, ~~the~~ Illinois.

The same ~~the~~ year another road reached Galena, about ~~about~~ 20 miles up the Fever River from where it empties into ~~the~~ the Mississippi. Across the ~~the~~ Mississippi Dubuque from the mouth of the Fever, is the city of ~~Dubuque~~ Dubuque, Iowa. The same year that ^{these} ~~saw these railroads~~ ^{railroads were built to} reach the Mississippi, a stage line was established from Dubuque to St. Paul. Over the ~~the~~ highway chartered by the stage line, there ~~soon~~ ^{were} traveling long lines of incoming settlers in covered wagons pulled ~~by~~ ~~the~~ in most cases by oxen, but occasionally by ~~the~~ horses. These settlers, mostly land hungry farmers from the east, scattered themselves over the unbroken lands of Southern Minnesota.

Many other settlers came by railroad to the Mississippi and there took boats to points up the river. Probably most of the river passengers went to St. Paul and St. Anthony. However, many stopped at Winona and other points ^{some of these} along the way and later found themselves in Waseca County.

The very first ^{first} settler in what is now Waseca County did not come from the far eastern states but from our neighboring state of Wisconsin. ~~Asa G.~~

Asa G. Sutlief came here in the summer of the year 1854 with his wife and three children. This determined pioneer, with the help of a hired man, drove a flock of sheep and several cattle together with an ox team hitched to a wagon all the way from Dodge County, Wisconsin that summer and arrived here in June. They ferried across the Mississippi at LaCrosse and traveled in a north-westerly direction thru the wilderness, finding only three or four families along the way.

The Sutlief family settled on a ~~claim~~ ^{claim} five or six miles west of St. Peter but after staying a short time, Mr Sutlief sold his "squatters right" to another settler and came into Wilton Township and there made the first permanent settlement in Waseca County. The Sutlief family with all of their moving about were not able to plant a crop that year. However, they built a cabin and Mr. Sutlief helped some other settlers to get started in the wilderness. ~~#####~~ Then late in December, this daring and even reckless man took his family in the ox drawn wagon back to ^{to get supplies} Beaver Dam Wisconsin in the month of December.

When the Sutlief family reached the Mississippi, it was already frozen over. The oxen were afraid to cross but Sutlief tied their feet together and skated them across. However, they reached their goal and after ^{having loaded} ~~loading~~ the wagon with certain necessities, they started back.

The return trip was much worse than the trip to Wisconsin. Terrific blizzards were encountered and altho there was occasionally a friendly cabin where the party, including the Sutlief family and the Child brothers, James and ^{and a Mr. Plummer,} ~~#####~~ Samuel, could find shelter for the night, they slept out more than once. The temperature was as low as ~~##~~ 10 degrees below zero according to James E. Child, who tells of the experience. Finally they reached ^{the} ~~this~~ cabin ~~###~~ where ~~####~~ the whole party, including ~~###~~ ^a hired man who had been left in charge, ~~#####~~ stayed until spring.

Many new settlers came to the vicinity that spring and summer, - 1855, ~~#####~~ Among these were Martin Krassin, ~~#####~~ John G. Greening, and Heinrich F. Bierman. Bierman wandered into the country on foot and got completely lost from all trails. When he was about ready to die in despair he spied a cabin. The

PEOPLE IN THIS CABIN gave him food and showed him where to find the settlement *as the settlement on the west bank of the Le Sueur river was called* of Wilton. Martin Krassin was a German who had been in the country some time before settling here. John G. Greening came from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, the home of the Sutliefs.

Hardships of the Early Settlers

BUILDING A LOG CABIN It is hard for us to imagine that when the first settlers came here, PIONEER there was no place to go to find shelter for the night excepting to HOSPITALITY the cabin of a friendly ~~##~~ and hospitable settler who might already be overcrowded with guests.

Settlers coming early in the year would sometimes neglect to build a cabin until it was too late and would then have to depend upon ~~#####~~ a friendly neighbor for the winter's shelter. The winter of 1855-56 was particularly severe and the Sutliefs cabin was completely filled. There were already 12 in the cabin when the family of # Chris Scott came along in the middle of winter and moved in to stay until spring.

Some settlers, coming in the spring realized the necessity of getting a crop planted # so that they ² might be food for the winter. Christian Remund was one of these. He and his wife lived in ~~the~~ ^{their} covered wagon from June to November, 1855. In the meantime crops were planted ~~##~~ and tended and a cabin was built. The family had both food and shelter for the winter.

HAULING SUPPLIES Many of the settlers of ~~#####~~ the year 1855 were un- STORY OF JAMES E. CHILD prepared for the winter. Most of them had arrived too late to plant corn and of course they had no wheat. Martin Krassin, a German by birth, was a very provident person and when his crops were gathered, he took ~~##~~ teams and wagons and set out to a place called Auburn on the Turkey River in Iowa. There he found flour and other supplies and brought a quantity back to the Wilton Settlement.

James Child, being an ambitious young man, thought that he would ~~##~~ make the trip and bring back a load of supplies and of course, make a lot of money. So he borrowed \$150.00 and an ox team and wagon and started out early in December on a trip of 300 miles (150 miles each way). He did not have much trouble getting to Auburn,

but on the return trip there were many difficulties. There were blizzards and snow drifts about all of the ~~##~~ way. In order to lighten the burden of the oxen, ~~###~~ a part of the load had to be sold on the way. To make it still easier going, the ~~###~~ wagon was exchanged for a sled. One bright thing about the trip was that there were a number of cabins along the way where the weary ~~#####~~ young adventurer could ~~stay~~ ^{stay} for the night~~#~~. However, there ~~###~~ was not a cabin ~~#####~~ in view at every nightfall. One night Young Child had to spend much of his time swinging an ax to keep warm. When the ~~trip was finally~~ ^{trip} journey was finally ended and young Child had sold the last of his load, he found that he had made about 50 cents per day.

THE STORY OF THOMAS BARDEN

The ~~#~~ story of Thomas Barden, one of the early settlers of St. Mary's ~~##~~ Township gives us an idea of what the early settlers had to face. Barden was an Irishman who first came to New York where he spent several years and then went to Massachusetts and married. Finally, in the year 1855, he decided to take the overland route to the wilds of Minnesota. ~~#####~~ After spending many weeks on the road he and his wife and young child finally reached Waseca County.

He describes his earthly possessions when he arrived here as ~~#####~~ ^{teen} follows: "We were then blessed with one child, Henry, six/months old, one yoke of oxen, one cow, six chickens, a dog, an old wagon, a breaking plow, ~~#####~~ twenty-five cents in cash, --and a small stock of provisions."

There was no house on the claim which these people took for ~~##~~ a future home. Neither was there any food excepting the wild game which was rather abundant. The sod was tough and hard to plough and the prospects of getting a crop were not good. However, this determined Irishman set to work to plant a garden with corn, ~~###~~ beans and potatoes that the family might eat the following winter. In the meantime, the family slept under the wagon. Sometimes a rain came at night and wet the covers, but they all lived thru it. After the crops were planted, Barden turned his attention to the building of a cabin. Logs were found on the Indian reservation. Bark was used for a roof. The cracks were sealed with sod, ^{and} Before winter ~~#~~

started the family had shelter and some food, It is likely that crops were not very good the first year, as the sod was ~~too~~ too tough for most plants to penetrate.

Poverty stricken ptoneers-Isaac Ballard

Thomas Barden was poor but there were others who had even less than he when he came here. Isaac Ballard, like Heinrich Bierman came here on foot and did not have even enough money to buy a meal. He worked for various farmers and traded his labor for a yoke of oxen, a plow and other farming tools. After having finally secured a farm of his own, this English born pioneer tells of how he felt immensely rich when he received his first 50 cents from the sale of two chickens to some ~~Indians~~ Indians. That was in the year, 1859, two years after his arrival here. Before his death, Mr. Ballard became one of the richest men in the county.

A Pioneer Wedding.

The first recorded wedding in Waseca County is an interesting thing. The bride, groom and witnesses and friends ~~were~~ assembled in a log cabin and waited for the Justice of the Peace to perform the ceremony. They waited all night and finally the Justice who had been lost in a snow storm arrived at 10 o'clock in the morning. By this time, however, the witnesses had gone in search of the Justice. Finally, on the night of the second day, the witnesses had returned and the much awaited ceremony was performed. It consisted of the following:

Justice of the Peace: " Mr. Ballard, do you take Miss Gregory to be your wife?"

Mr. Ballard: " Yes sir."

Justice of the Peace: " Miss Gregory, do you take Mr. Ballard as your husband?"

Miss Gregory: (In a whisper) "Yes, sir".

Justice of the Peace : " All right, then. You're man and wife"

Early Schools and Churches.

There# seems to be no record of ~~the first~~ either the first school or the first church in Waseca County. However there are records of the early spelling school where old and young alike stood up along the walland were spelled down to the last man.

~~Among the # early churches were the Episcopal, the German Evangelical, the German Methodist and the Catholic. In # the early~~ days, schools were sometimes used as churches and churches sometimes used as schools. Both were centers of whatever social like the people enjoyed.

Among the early religious leaders were:

Reverend W.W. Satterlee-- Methodist

Rev. G.C. Tanner,--- Episcppal

Rev. E.H. Alden --- Congregational.

Rev. J.G. Patterson-- Presbyterian.

Rev. Uhl--- German Methodist.

Rev # S.T. Catlin,-- Baptist.

One of the first churches in the county was a catholic church at St. Mary. The priest in cahрге of this church seems to be unknown.

14.

started the family had shelter and some food. It is likely that crops were not very good the first year, as the sod was too tough for most plants to grow thru it.

POVERTY STRICKEN Thomas Barden was poor but there were others who had even less PIONEERS.

ISAAC BALLARD. than he when they came here. Isaac Ballard, like Heinrich Bierman came here on foot ~~and did not even have enough money to buy a meal.~~ He worked for various farmers and traded his labor for a yoke of oxen, a plow and other farming tools. After having finally secured a farm of his own, this English born pioneer tells of how rich he felt when he sold his first ~~produce~~ produce in the form of two chickens for the sum of 50 cents. That was in the year 1859, two years after ~~having~~ arrived here. Before his death Mr. Ballard became one of the richest man in the county.

Other Early Settlements

In addition to the original settlement at Wilton, at least three settlements were made in the year 1855, in the territory which later became Waseca County. Of these original ~~four~~ four settlements, only two are in existence to-day.

BLOOMING GROVE In the summer of the year 1855, a number of settlers, including Samuel F. Wyman, Michael Johnson, Johnathon Howell and A.J. Bell took claims in the vicinity of Blooming Grove. ~~By the end of the year,~~ Before the end of the year, there were many ~~over~~ ^{more} people ~~there~~ and the first election in the county was held, ^{being} the ballots/dropped into a cake box loaned by Mrs Chris Scott, ~~the~~ a great friend of the Sutlief family.

JAMESVILLE There seems to be no record of the first ^{white} people who visited the vicinity of Janesville. There is the story ~~of~~ about two men, John Douglas and a Mr. Hughes, who are supposed to have wandered over the country and were the first white men to visit the vicinity. These men, if they actually were here, did not stay long. After them came two ~~traders~~ traders, ~~Alfred~~ Alfred Holstein and John Davis who lived some time on the shore of Lake Elysian and traded whiskey, guns, ammunition and other articles to the Indians for furs. For some unknown reason, ~~either~~ because the

15.

perhaps because the fur~~#####~~ bearing animals became scarce and ~~#####~~ harder to capture, these traders moved to other parts. The first permanent settlers were the four Hogan Brothers who came here from Kentucky and took claims and built homes for themselves and families.

ST MARY About the same time that the Hogan Brothers settled Janesville, the GHOST TOWN

principal village of the county, a settlement called St. Mary was started ~~#####~~ in the township of St. Mary. For a while this settlement grew. A sawmill, a shingle mill, and a flour mill, all ~~§~~ operated by steam power, once furnished work for a number of ~~##~~ men and served a community of many farmers. A few land speculators, headed by A.B. Cornell, expected a great city to develop on this spot, but it did not turn out that way. When the Civil War started the owner of the sawmill left his business and went to war. When the railroads came the town was ~~#####~~ missed. After that time, farmers patronized the railroad towns as they were better places to sell ~~###~~ their wheat and buy their supplies. Grain elevators were built at railroad towns and goods which the farmers needed came in freight cars to these towns.

So the people deserted the ~~#####~~ village of St. Mary. A few buildings remained to remind people of a lively settlement that once lived. St. Mary was not the only place of its kind. Many settlements were deserted in the same way. The name "Ghost Town" was applied to all such places. In addition to towns ^{that failed} ~~like~~ St. Mary, ~~#####~~, there ^{were} many towns platted which never had a settler.

IOSCO The same year that saw the settlement of St. Mary and Janesville also saw ~~the founding of another #####~~ the start of another settlement, Iosco. Not much is known about this ~~###~~ place but the first man to make his home there was Luke B. Osgood who built his cabin ~~#####~~ that summer and became ~~#####~~ one of the buiders of the community.

How The Present County of Waseca Was Formed.

When the first settlers came to this vicinity, the territory which in —

cludes Waseca County was a part of Steele County. Most of the ~~settl~~ settlers ~~##~~ were farmers and were satisfied with the arrangement. Most of them never had occasion to see a county officer ~~###~~. These pioneer settlers farmed their land as best they could after digging up the sod, ~~and they~~ built their cabins, stored a bit of food for the ~~winter~~ winter and this work took most of their time. They were not much concerned about the county government. They did know that they had taxes to pay to support the government. This concerned them very much. When certain groups of real estate gamblers asked the territorial government to divide Steele and Dodge counties and to make an extra county, the settlers immediately realized ~~##~~ that this scheme, if carried out, would be a means of increasing their taxes, because it takes ~~##~~ more money to support three counties than it does to support two.

When Minnesota was organized as a territory in the year 1849, ~~#####~~ all of the territory south of the junction of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers was included in one county called ~~##~~ "Wabasha~~##~~". Eventually this very large county was divided into 29 counties and parts of counties. The people who induced the territorial legislature to make these divisions were mostly land speculators. Some of the legislators were themselves gamblers in land. There were two reasons why these men wanted the land ~~##~~ divided. In the first place, every county had a county seat. Land speculators might plat towns on paper and never have any ~~###~~ one settle there. However, county seat towns were sure to have some settlers. Here, the land speculators could make money. Then there was a second reason why these speculators wanted many counties organized in the territory. They wanted the territory to become a state. If the United States Congress could be induced to make a state of the ~~##~~ new territory, the whole country would know about it and land hungry people would come here to buy the land which the real ~~##~~ estate gamblers had for sale. This would increase the price of land and the speculators would make a fortune. Forming new counties was one way to get the United States Congress to act.

In the month of January, 1856, A group of Real estate dealers of Owatonna,

asked the state legislature to ~~###~~ re-divide Steele and Dodge Counties and to create the county of Waseca. When James E. Child heard about the matter, he immediately ^{against the division} drafted a petition/and then proceeded to travel by foot thru snowdrifts # to get settlers to sign it . He got so many settlers to sign the petition that the matter was dropped in the legislature.

This was not the end of the matter, however, for when the fall election campaign came around, the principal issue was ~~###~~ the question of the county division. A.B. Cornell who was for the division, # was a candidate for the legislature and against him ther^e ran a preacher, O. A. Thomas, who promised to oppose the division if he got elected. Because of ~~###~~ this promise, he was elected. However, when the Rev. Thomas got to the session of the legislature, he voted for the division. This angered the farmers very much and for many years after that time, many of them would have nothing to do with preachers.

~~#####~~

~~Once the county of Waseca was created, the question of~~

campaign promises. The farmers were very angry about the matter and for many years after some of them would have nothing to do with preachers.

LOCATING

THE COUNTY SEAT Once the county of Waseca was created, the people began to discuss the matter of a suitable place for the county seat. The matter was to be decided at the fall election in the year 1857. The ~~first~~ first settlers wanted their town ~~Wilton~~ Wilton to be chosen. A.B. Cornell was then promoting his town, ~~St. Mary~~ St. Mary and of course he wanted this town to be the county seat.

At that time anyone living in a place for ten days would vote there. After the election was over ~~James E. Child~~ James E. Child charged that A.B. Cornell had brought a large number of men into his town ~~ten~~ ten days before the election in order that they would vote for his town in the contest. The ~~charge~~ charge seems to have grounds, for in the election of 1857, there were 665 votes cast, while three years later in 1860, there were only 525 votes altho the year 1860 was a presidential year and the county had been growing all of the time. However, in spite of all of the efforts of Cornell to have his town selected, the Wilton settlers won the contest and that town was made the county seat.

WHAT HAPPENED TO WILTON

Wilton remained the county seat until the year 1869. Not many people ~~settled~~ settled there, ~~to live~~, but the court house and jail were there and a few stores and a blacksmith shop. One night, however, a mysterious fire broke out ~~in the summer of 1869~~ in the summer of 1869 and before the fire could be extinguished, most of the town, including the county court house and jail were ~~destroyed~~ destroyed. By this time the Waseca settlement had become a city and the county seat was temporarily established there. It has been there ever since.

19
Some Difficulties of the Early Pioneers.

GROWING AND
THRASHING GRAIN

Farmers of Waseca County, from the earliest times grew a little

~~####~~ wheat. As there were no threshing machines, the crudest hand methods were sometimes used. One way was the method known as "flailing". A ~~#####~~ flail consists of a club about two inches in ~~#####~~ ^a diameter and two feet long tied loosely by means of leather strap to a pole about six or eight feet long. To thresh with this tool the farmer would lay the grain on the barn floor and, seizing the ~~##~~ pole would beat the grain with the club end of the flail. One farmer tells of tramping the grain out by driving an ox team over it until the grain would ^{fall} ~~fall~~ to the ground. When either of these methods were used, the ^{grain} ~~grain~~ was thrown into the air ^{on a windy day} ~~when a wind was blowing~~. The chaff would blow away and the grain would fall to the ground. This process was ~~####~~ known as "Winnowing." Of course, it ^{took} ~~would take~~ a long time to thrash and winnow a small amount of grain by ~~this method~~ these methods. ~~#####~~

The crop was not always good, especially if there was an attack of smut. One farmer of the early days tells of planting six bushels of good clean grain and getting in return six bushels of smutty grain. It ~~#~~ took a lot of work to ~~#####~~ change six bushels of good grain to six bushels of bad grain.

~~#####~~

HAULING THE
GRAIN TO MARKET

Before the days of the railroad, the nearest market was Hastings as that city is on the river and at ~~##~~ ~~###~~ that time rivers were

to the country what the railroads are to-day. The Waseca County settlers had to haul their wheat by ox team all the way to Hastings, a distance of 65 ~~##~~ miles. It took about a week to make the round trip. Wheat sold at Hastings in the days before the civil war for about 55 cents to 60 cents per bushel.

P.O. 6/20 '38.

Claim Jumping

The first settlers who came here to get land, merely ~~picked out~~ selected a suitable spot and proceeded to build a cabin on the place. According to the terms of the pre-emption law, which enabled settlers to buy government land, the settler who first built his cabin and lived on the ~~land~~ ^{land} and cultivated it for a given period was the one entitled to "file" on that claim at the land office. The land office for this region was at Winona and of course, as it was a long and difficult journey, many settlers failed to go there and make ^{their} ~~his~~ selection on the map. For this reason, unscrupulous men very often tried to steal claims of settlers, especially when the land in question was well located. Good land along the banks of streams was wanted by everyone, especially if there was a good mill site.

~~Settlers who got happened to get particularly desirable pieces of land very often were much more so.~~

Because of the mad scramble for the best land, many settlers found themselves faced with "claimjumpers" who tried to steal the claim of the original settler. In order to protect themselves against claim jumpers, the settlers organized themselves into claim jumping associations. Such an organization ~~was~~ included all of the settlers and whenever one of them was bothered by a "claim jumper", the whole ~~settlement~~ settlement was aroused ~~to~~ to defend the right of their neighbor to his land.

THE CASE OF THE ROBBINS AND MCDUGALS In the fall of the year 1856, two men started to build ~~houses~~ houses on the claims of Robert and Hugh McDougal and Geo. and Wm Robbins, early settlers in the vicinity of Wilton. ~~The settlers were aroused after a couple of days and~~ After a few days had elapsed, a large group of settlers ~~was~~ was aroused and the intruders were driven off and the buildings they had started to erect were torn down.

The "jumpers" then proceeded to arrest the settlers whose claims they had tried to steal. ~~They~~ These interlopers also arrested John Jenkins, the man who organized the settlers for the defense of their neighbors. When the case ~~was~~ came to court two of the settlers were found guilty of destroying property but were released by a

21.

higher court when the case was appealed. A.B. Cornell, who all the time had backed the claim jumpers, then proceeded to contest the claims of the settlers in the land office at Winona. Finally, after the case had cost the settlers a great deal of money, the McDougal brothers agreed to give the jumpers 40 acres of their land and to file on another "forty!"

Three Hard Years, --- 1857, 1858, 1859.

PANIC OF

1857###. The settlers along the LeSueur River had scarcely ~~gotten enough land~~ ~~in shape for farming~~ when the "panic" of the year 1857 struck them. Paper money was ~~of~~ little value and most of the settlers had no gold or silver. In ~~order~~ order to pay the expenses of the county, small sums of gold were borrowed from money lenders of the time. One note for the sum of \$100.00 was given to Byron Clark and signed by the county commissioners on October 20, 1857. This note bore an interest rate of 72%, or six per cent per month. Another note ~~for~~ for \$200 was given to Geo. Snyder of Freeborn County for \$200.00. This note bore an interest rate of 60% per year or ~~5%~~ 5% per month.

Many of
The settlers were so poor that they had no money for postage stamps. One settler tells of the kindly action of the post master and general store keeper at ~~Warren Smith~~ Warren Smith St. Mary. This man/gave credit to the settlers not ~~only for what they had to buy~~ only for what they had to buy in the way of groceries but for postage stamps as well. A great deal of the goods sold by this storekeeper as well as others was actually traded for farm produce.

1858- FLOODS
CROP DESTRUCTION

The panic year of 1857 was followed by a ~~the~~ good growing year and the farmers along the LeSueur had excellent crops, but terrific storms came late in the summer and the floods that followed the heavy rains washed haystacks away and even tore up many trees by the roots. Most of the hay in the valley was destroyed ~~and~~ and cattle starved to death ~~the following winter.~~ the following winter.

1859- STARVATION Because they had no hay or grain to feed their cattle or horses,

many of the settlers had to sell their livestock at low prices to men who in better times which followed, resold these animals at much ~~####~~ higher prices. Because their crops had been destroyed the year before, not only farmers/had nothing to feed their livestock ~~###~~ but very little to eat themselves. Many of the ~~#####~~ poorer settlers went to the woods and ~~o~~ dug roots of all sorts to eat. There is one case# of a twelve- year ~~o~~ old girl who died as a result of being poisoned by eating an unknown kind of root.

PART IV

THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

The Civil # War and The Indian Uprising

The Homestead Act

After the hardships of getting their homes started in the ### wilderness; the privations, the floods, the early famine months of the year 1859, the settlers in pioneer Waseca County # went ahead and ### built their homes and broke sod for more cultivated land. More settlerS moved in and the farmers here became more and more accustomed to life on the frontier. Soon , however, they were face to face with another great calamity affecting the people of the entire country. Within #### a year after Asa Sutlief built his cabin on the left bank of the Le sueur River, the United States was plunged into ## the great Civil War, which lasted four long yearsand affected the lives of people everywhere, enen in the little settlement at Wilton.

News did not travel fast in those days, as there were no telegraphs or railroads here. For this reason, people were \$ not as we well informed as to-day. The conflict which finally ended in the Civil War had raged for many years . The pioneer settlers had many troubles of their own and did not therefore have much time to think about the slavery question or about the tariff and other questions about which congressmen fought. However, many abolitiojists and other opponents of slavery, including Jane Gray Swisshelm, editor ### of the St. Cloud Democrat, were constantly talking and writing against slavery demanding that it be abolished or at least limited to a great degree. Mrs Swisshelm was also a lecturer and had lectured at Owatonna, so that it is likely that some of the Waseca ##### County settlers had heard her message of abolition.

~~#####~~ editor of the St. Cloud Democrat, and other anti-slavery ~~advocates~~, were constantly talking and writing about slavery and urging that it be destroyed. *abolished or otherwise limited.*

When the southern slaveholders finally organized a revolt against the government and their cannons were fired on Ft. Sumter off the coast of South Carolina, people ~~###~~ thruout the land, ~~##~~ were ready to go out in defense of their government and for the destruction of the institution of slavery. Soldiers from Waseca County, -farmer boys-, fought in the ^{first} battle of Bull Run, and the ~~#####~~ ^{commander} of the company, Captain Lewis McCune was killed. Two or three others were wounded.

When Abraham Lincoln issued his second call for volunteers in 1862, a company of volunteers from Waseca County was organized. This company was known as Company F, 16th Minnesota regiment. The captain was Geo. T. White. James E. Child was a deputy United States Marshall, with the duty of enforcing the draft law after it was passed. ~~#####~~ However, according to his own statement, he had nothing to do as the men in his territory went without being drafted.

THE SIOUX MASSACRE

It was while the country was in the midst of the Civil War that the Sioux Indian massacre took place. This affair ~~###~~ in which many people lost their lives and in which other people were thoroly frightened, occurred in the summer of 1862. The Indians started their attack on the upper Indian agency along the south bank of the Minnesota River in Redwood County. At New Ulm many settlers were killed and in order to drive the Indians from the captured homes of the settlers, the houses were fired.

Great fear spread thru the settlements in Waseca County and in order to see what could be done about the matter, a group of four men; James E. Child, Buell Welch, John Greening, and S.P. Child, ~~#####~~ armed themselves with shot-guns, mounted horses and rode off to Mankato to offer ~~#####~~ their assistance in quelling the uprising. When they arrived at their destination after many difficulties along the way, they were told that the Indians had been defeated at New Ulm and were

being pursued by armed men.

So the little party returned to tell the farmers of Waseca County that there was nothing to fear. Some were satisfied with this information. However, so great was the panic among the settlers that many of them deserted their crops and rushed across the Wilton bridge to points east. In order to stop the panic stricken settlers, a guard was placed at the bridge. After ^{that} the people went back to work in their fields and forgot about the Indians. When the ~~the~~ settlers saw that the Winnebagoes on the near-by reservation did not rise up in sympathy with the Sioux, the people were satisfied and many of those who had fled, returned.

L.V. 7/5 '38

THE PEOPLE OF
WASECA COUNTY
THEIR ORIGIN

Most of the people of Waseca County were born in the United States. In fact, more than 91% are native born. The largest group among those who have come from other countries are German, more than half of the foreign born in 1930 having come from that country. Many of the native born are of German origin also and there are a few of a number of other nationalities including English, Irish, Norwegian, and Swedish.

The Civil War Period-- Continued.

SOIUX UPRISING The Sioux uprising caused much fear and hatred to develop
CONTINUED

among the settlers of pioneer Minnesota. The cry of "Kill the savages" was heard on every hand. Three hundred Indian braves were captured and all would have been hanged had it not been for the intervention of President Lincoln. There were a few sensible people in Minnesota. Among them was Bishop Whipple of the Episcopal Church at Faribault. This good man realized that the Indians had suffered very much at the hands of the whites, especially the traders, some of the Indian agents and certain unscrupulous government officials.

According to the treaties signed with the Sioux at St Peter and Traverse du Sioux in 1851, the Indians were to receive a certain amount of money, food, blankets each year in return for their lands. In addition to this they were to receive ### as a first payment, a certain amount of money. This amount the Indians were forced to pay to traders who claimed it in return for debts. This angered the Indians very much. One of their chiefs, a member of the Sisseton tribe, ## demanded that an impartial committee of whites should consider the claims and decide whether they were just. For ### this proposal ### Chief Red Iron, for such was his name was put in chains. The Indians remembered this. ### When they went to get their annual payments, they seemed always to have trouble getting them on time and in addition the traders made new claims. Then, too, sometimes the pork and flour were spoiled before they were received by the Indians received them.

Finally, when the civil war broke out, the Indians were persuaded that if they would rise up against the government that they would get back their lands. Southern sympathizers spread such ideas among the Indians. Because they were already angry with the whites, it was not hard to incite these ignorant

people

26.

to such a rash undertaking.

Bishop Whipple understood the reasons why the Indians revolted and so made a trip to Washington to plead the cause of the red men with the President. Abraham Lincoln, rightly called "Honest Abe", considered all of the facts in# the case. He had lived on the frontier himself as a boy. He also knew how had the southern sumpathizers were working the north to weaken the cause of the Union. Therefore he was willing to forgive the Indians and ordered that only those ##### who had actually committed rape or murder# should be hanged. As a result of this order, only 38 of the three hundred braves who were arrested were hanged. This hanging took place at Mankato late in December, 1862.

THE HOMESTEAD
ACT

It was y## the very same year that the Sioux Uprising took place that a very important law was passed by the United States Congress. This was known as the Homestead # act.

The Waseca Count Horsethief Dectective Society

It was ~~in~~ ~~the~~ civil war time ~~that~~ a very interesting and important organization of farmers was organized in Waseca County. It has been in existence until very recently, tho it has of course outlived its usefulness. As the country was ~~thru~~ in Civil War time a ~~wilderness~~ wilderness, it was easy for thieves to steal horses and ride them away to unknown places. Because ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~possession~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~horse~~ ~~was~~ a horse was the best means of power on the farm as well as the best means of travel, anyone who stole such an animal was thoroly hated by all. In many communities ~~the~~ horsethieves were publicly hanged. The term "horsethief" was about the worst name any one ^{could} ~~could~~ ever receive.

It was in the year 1864 that farmers here decided to organize themselves into an association to protect themselves against ~~the~~ ~~the~~ what was considered the worst enemy of the community. Two years before, a team belonging to Orrin Pease had been stolen and altho the team had been found, the thieves had escaped. The settlers who finally in February 1864 organized the new association, said "If the law will not protect us, let us protect ourselves"

So the organization was started and it was decided to call it the "Waseca County Horsethief Dectective Association". Wm Brisbane was elected president and E.A Smith the secretary. Twelve riders whose duty it was to ride ^{in search of thieves} at a moments notice were selected. For many years the organization existed and ^{grew and} the boast of its members ~~was~~ was that no horse was ever lost by any of its members. The ~~the~~ organization in later years occupied itself in capturing ^{stolen} automobiles. For some time it has been only a fraternal association to recount tales of the old days when farmers protected themselves from horsethieves for the sum of one dollar per year.

THE HOMESTEAD LAW

It was in the second year of the Civil War, 1862, that a very important law was passed. This law was known as the "Homestead Act" because it made it easier for anyone who wanted it to get a farm from the government lands which were then being ~~an~~ surveyed and made ready for settlement. Before this time, there was a law known as the "Pre-emption Law" ~~kn~~ which enabled anyone to purchase a ^{quarter} ~~greater~~ section at the rate of \$1.25 per acre for ordinary land and \$2.50 per acre for land near a railroad right-of-way. Under this law, many land speculators got control of large tracts of land by hiring squatters to live on the land the required six months and then buying it at the government price.

The Homestead Law required the settler to live on the land for five years before he could get his deed. During this time he was to cultivate so much each year. In the end, the homesteader had to pay the cost of surveying.

The Homestead Law ~~a~~ was expected to bring many new settlers into the western lands but because of the Civil War, not many people came for several years.

THE WAR CONTINUES

~~The~~ The people here eagerly waited the coming of the weekly newspaper to learn what was happening on the various battle fronts of the war. Sometimes the news was two or three weeks old before reaching the settlements here. But the people read it eagerly anyway and wondered when the conflict would finally ~~be~~ ended.

The ~~publize~~ publication of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 caused great rejoicing here ~~and~~ altho it was still more than two years before the war was ~~won~~ won. James E. Child who became Editor of the Wilton Weekly News at the end of 1863 discussed the war a great deal and advocated that the Negro slaves of the ~~the~~ south should be taken into the northern armies to help fight against slavery.

END OF ~~WAR~~ THE WAR

When the war at last ended in 1865, people rejoiced, but the surrender of General Lee, the Confederate commander, was followed within a few days by the assassination of President Lincoln in Ford's Theatre at Washington. So the joy at the close of the war was mingled with sadness because of the death of the "Great Emancipator."

WASECA COUNTY

One of the smallest counties in Minnesota, Waseca ranks with the best from an agricultural viewpoint. A farm income that is well above State average testifies to the productivity of its soils.

Seventy percent of the total farm income in 1930 was derived from the sale of livestock products, with dairy products the major item. Cream for manufacture into butter was the principal item of dairy income. Eleven cooperative creameries process and market the dairy output.

As a source of farm income, hogs were second to dairy cattle, and poultry and eggs third. According to the 1930 Government Census, the greater portion of the productive acreage was devoted to feed crops, and only 15 percent of the gross farm income was received from the sale of cash crops. Waseca is a leader in producing honey and also ranks high as a grower of sweet corn and green peas for canning.

There are 14,412 people (1930 Census) living in Waseca County and 25 percent of these are of German extraction. Frugal, hard working, patient, these farmers have set the pace of the community.

OPPORTUNITIES

The possibility of farm ownership in this county is limited to farmers with capital or credit. There is no State or unimproved land for sale, but at the present depressed price level of improved farms, Waseca County appears to offer sound opportunities for investment.

PHYSICAL SETTING

Located in the southeastern part of the State, with only Freeborn County separating it from the Iowa State Line, Waseca is bounded on the north by Le Sueur and Rice, on the east by Steele, on the south by Faribault and Freeborn and on the west by Blue Earth County.

Topography About a third of the county, including its southern townships of Freedom, Wilton, Vivian, and Byron, is a flat expanse of glacial till. The difference in elevation here between the highest and the lowest portions of the surface is only 5 to 10 feet.

The highest area of the county is the east half of New Richland and the southeast corner of Otisco ^Townships, which are about 1200 feet above the sea. The lowest land is where the Le Sueur River and other streams cross the west county line, at levels between 1000 and 1,050 feet.

In the northeast corner, the east half of Blooming Grove and the northeast edge of Woodville townships are part of a gently undulating area. The change in the contour of the surface is gradual with occasional hollows of from 20 to 25 feet. Hardwood timber borders the lakes and streams. The streams have made cuts from 25 to 30 feet deep.

Drainage All of the county, except the northeastern corner, is drained by the Le Sueur River, which flows from the northwest to the southeast. About one-quarter of the area sends its surplus waters to this river via the Big Cobb, Little Cobb, and the Bull Run Rivers. The northwestern part of the county is drained into Lake Elysian in Janesville ^Township. This lake is about 5 miles long and from ~~one-third~~^{1/3} of a mile to ~~one~~¹/₄ mile wide. Natural drainage has always been sufficient.

Soil The predominant soil type is a fertile, gravelly clay, with occasional boulders, and differs from the till subsoil in having been enriched and colored by the decay of vegetation through many centuries. The glacial drift includes a considerable proportion of limestone, in the form of boulders, pebbles, and finely pulverized earth, which contributes in an important degree to the productiveness of the soil.

The thickness of the drift varies from ~~one~~¹⁰⁰/₁₀₀ to ~~two~~²⁰⁰/_{hundred} feet over the county.

Climate and Rainfall The climate is temperate, with ample rainfall. Mean growing season temperature is 65.5 degrees. The average length of the growing season is 140 days, with the last killing frost ~~falling~~ about May 11, and first killing frost in the fall around September 28.

CLIMATIC RECORD - 21 years

MONTHS	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
TOWN: Waseca (alt.1,153) Precipitation in inches	.76	.96	1.35	2.25	4.05	4.56	3.89	4.40	3.47	2.16	1.31	.67
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	12.7°	18.7°	31.4°	45.4°	57.3°	66.9°	72.2°	69.7°	61.5°	48.5°	33.3°	18.4°

Annual Precipitation 29.83 inches
Annual Temperature 44.7 degrees

SETTLEMENT AND
RACIAL ORIGINS

Starting with arrival of the first pioneers in 1854, the influx of settlers to this territory was steady. In the presidential election of 1860, Waseca County cast 525 votes.

The first townsite was Wilton, which for a time was accepted as the county seat, although it was not so designated legally. With the arrival of the railroad in 1867 and the incorporation of the town of Waseca in 1868, a movement was started to remove the records there. The legislature concurred and Waseca was legally designated.

The name Waseca is taken from the Sioux tongue, the word denoting "rich", especially as to provisions.

People of German origin are predominant among those of foreign extraction. Those of Norwegian descent are second, followed by Swedish, British, Slavic, and Finnish. The 1930 U. S. Census lists 3,620 Germans, 925 Norwegians, and 760 British.

COUNTY ORGANIZ-
ATION AND SUB-
DIVISIONS

Total land area is 275,840 acres with an additional 11,524.16 acres taken up by lakes and streams, making a total of 449 square miles. Rectangular in shape, the County is 24 miles long from north to south and 18 miles wide, east and west. It is made up of 12 townships.

Four incorporated places and their population are: Waseca, (city) 3,815; Janesville, 1,184; New Richland, 777; and Waldorf, 183.

TAXES

The total taxable value in 1931 was \$11,115,945. By 1935 this had been reduced to \$7,962,218. The general tax levy was reduced from \$541,092 in 1931 to \$487,101 in 1935. The average tax rate had risen from 48.22 mills in 1931 to 60.53 by 1935, but this was more than offset by the reduction in valuation.

Indebtedness Total debt of the county and subdivisions amounted to \$629,402.88 in 1935 which represented 7.90 percent of the total taxable value of \$7,962,218. Per capita debt was \$43.67 compared to a State average of \$82.86. Of the \$629,402.88 debt of county and subdivisions, \$186,680.01 was the county's share; \$186,630.50 was against the cities and villages; \$250,969.24 school district debt, and \$5,123.13 township debt.

Delinquency In 1934 the tax levy was \$496,776. Of this sum only \$43,436 or 8.74 percent remained uncollected on January 1, 1936.

On the same date the total accumulated delinquency was \$116,305.

MARKETS AND
TRADE CENTERS

Livestock is delivered to markets at Chicago, So. St. Paul, Austin, and Albert Lea, and both St. Paul and Minneapolis provide outlets for livestock products. The county's 12 creameries buy and process a major portion of the dairy output. A considerable part of the corn and peas raised are sold to the Fairmont Canning Co., Plant #4, located at Waseca. Corn, peas, pumpkins, pork and beans are also sold to the Owatonna Canning Co., at Owatonna.

Waseca serves as the main trading place for the farmers within the county. Numerous stores maintain adequate stocks making it unnecessary for patrons to go elsewhere to make their purchases. The smaller towns of Janesville, Wilton, Otisco, Waldorf, and New Richland, all have their clientele. Mankato and Owatonna are important/nearby cities providing trading facilities.

COOPERATIVES

The cooperative movement is well represented here, including 11 creameries, 6 livestock-shipping associations, 5 elevators, 3 insurance companies, 1 oil company, 2 consumers stores, and 2 telephone companies. The 12 creameries are:

The Alma City Dairy Assn.	Alma City
Blooming Grove Dairy Assn.	Morristown
Elysian Co-op. Creamery Assn.	Elysian
Janesville Creamery Assn.	Janesville
Matawan Co-op. Creamery Assn.	Matawan
New Richland Co-op. Creamery Assn.	New Richland
Otisco Co-op. Creamery Assn.	Otisco
Plum Valley Co-op. Creamery Assn.	Waldorf
Smiths Mill Dairy Assn.	Smiths Mill
Star Creamery Assn.	New Richland
Waseca Co-op. Creamery Assn.	Waseca
Waseca County Creamery (Indp.)	Waseca

There are two pasteurization and three ice cream plants located at Waseca and New Richland.

TRANSPORTATION

Ample highway and railroad facilities are available to shippers and travelers. Three railroads, the Minneapolis and St. Louis; Chicago, and Northwestern; and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific maintain services/ through the county.

State highway 13 traverses the county from north to south and State highways 30 and 83 cross the southern part from east to west. US 14 crosses the northern portion of the county from east to west. It is paved throughout. State 13 is bituminous-treated and State 30 and 83 are graveled.

SOCIAL INSTIT- Churches Twenty churches of the following denominations are located
UTIONS AND

AGENCIES throughout the county with every township represented: Methodist

Episcopal, Methodist, Evangelical, Lutheran, Episcopal, Congregational, and Roman Catholic.

Schools There are 79 ungraded elementary public schools in the county. High schools are located at Waldorf, Waseca, Janesville, and New Richland; St. Mary School, in St. Mary Township, and Sacred Heart Academy at Waseca are Catholic schools.

Clubs and Organizations Fourteen 4-H Clubs spread their activity throughout the county and have an important part in the fair and other rural exhibitions. The Waseca Agricultural Society, Farmers Clubs and Farm Bureau Units contribute to the social and civic life of the community.

FAIR

Since the first fair was held in the then new Court House at Waseca in 1870, it has been an annual exhibition, though held at the fair grounds since 1871. The customary time is the first ³ ~~three~~ days in September.

CENSUS REPORTS

The 1930 Census of Agriculture shows the farm income of the county for 1929 to have been \$4,414,033 from all sources. Of this amount, 70 percent was derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products. Crops sold for cash or traded accounted for 15.02 percent. Forest products yielded .27 percent and products used by operators' families were valued at 14.69 percent of the total.

The average farm income was \$2,630 or approximately \$17.08 per acre. In 1930 there were 1,678 farms; by 1935 this had increased to 1,704 with an average size of 151.7 acres. An acre was worth \$61.58 in 1935 or a decrease in value of \$32.76 per acre from the 1930 price. The average value per farm decreased from \$14,525 in 1930 to \$9,345 in 1935.

On a statistically average farm would be approximately 5 horses, 20 head of cattle, 18 swine; and on every third farm would

be a flock of 20 sheep. Of the acreage in crops, every farm would have 6 acres of wheat; each farm would average 18 acres of oats; every third farm about 12 acres of barley; one in three farms would have 23 acres of mixed grains; every seventh farm approximately 9 acres of flax. Approximately 34 acres would be used for corn for all purposes; 7 acres of alfalfa would be found on every other farm, and every farm would raise one-half acre of potatoes.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Population, 1930 (County)	14,412
Area 449 square miles	275,840

COUNTY SEAT - Waseca

FARM DEVELOPMENT

Number of farms, 1930	1,678
" " " " , 1935	1,704
Average size of farms, 1935	151.7 acres

FARM VALUES

Average value per acre, 1935	\$ 61.58
" " " " , 1930	94.34
Average value per farm, 1935	9,345.00
" " " " , 1930	14,525.00

THE TAX PICTURE

Total Taxable value, 1935	\$ 7,962,218
Total Tax Levy, 1935	478,101
Average Tax rate in mills, 1935	60.53 mills
Total debt of county and subdivisions	\$ 629,402.88
Per capita debt, 1935	43.67
Total debt of taxable value, 1935	7.90 percent

TENANCY AND MORTGAGE DEBT

Farm Mortgage Debt, (Farms operated by owner) \$2,954,295.00
 Of Farms operated by owners, 52.2 percent were mortgaged in 1930.
 Tenants occupied 37.7 percent of the farms in 1935.

Farm Income (1930 Census)

Total Farm Income \$4,414,033
 Average Farm Income 2,630

Sources of Income:

Livestock	\$ 1,498,231	33.94 Percent
Livestock Products	1,591,912	36.06 Percent
Crops	663,217	15.02 Percent
Forest Products	11,877	.27 Percent
Products used by operators'		
Family <i>use</i>	648,796	14.69 Percent
	<u>\$4,414,033</u>	<u>99.98 Percent</u>

Livestock Holdings - 1935

1,616 farms reported 8,473 horses
 94 " " 214 mules
 1,655 " " 34,724 cattle
 1525 " " 10,585 sheep
 1,536 " " 28,370 swine

The 1934 Crop (U. S. Census)

Winter Wheat	346 farms reported	4,786 acres	44,611 bushels
Spring Wheat	461 " "	5,552 "	53,959 "
Oats threshed	1,163 " "	29,098 "	402,423 "
Oats cut not threshed	44 " "	475 "	
Barley	680 " "	8,766 "	111,174 "
Rye	40 " "	428 "	4,494 "
Mixed grains	621 " "	14,402 "	215,964 "
Flax	229 " "	2,138 "	12,949 "
All grain for sorghums and forage		37,842 "	27,931 tons
Alfalfa	903 " "	6,579 "	6,697 "
Corn for all purposes	1,640 " "	58,767 "	
Corn for grain	1,433 " "	32,494 "	687,581 bushels
Potatoes	1,428 " "	958 "	45,594 "