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REMARKABLE GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF THE J.R. WATKINS COMPANY  
DUE TO GOOD PRODUCTS, ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING AND SOUND MERCHANDISING

Like a story from the pen of Henty or Alger is the way the history of The J.R. Watkins Company reads. In all of the books written by the two mentioned, the hero, usually a poor lad, makes his own way in the world and rises to success and affluence in spite of difficulties on every side. So it was with J.R. Watkins, who had the faith and courage to start a business, in what was then a very sparsely settled and wild region, only to see it develop and grow into what is now a ten million dollar concern with factories and branches all over the United States and Canada.

Watkins was a comparative youngster when he left his home in Ohio and moved to Minnesota. He was out on his own but had the raw courage and zeal of the pioneers to drive him on to success. From an humble start, selling one product, which he himself made in his own home, the business grew rapidly. Now there are over 9,000 dealers selling Watkins products directly to the home--a method originated by J.R. Watkins. Far into Canada's frozen north country and in Alaska, Watkins dealers go, traveling by dog sled when the Arctic blasts of winter close the highways to more modern means of travel, to carry Watkins products to the doors of customers, who have found them to be high in quality and reasonable in price.

Even in lands across the sea, Watkins products are sold. Australia knows them, for a fine selling organization is operating there. Even the Holy Land has a qualified Watkins dealer. To experts on cooking and baking in Europe, the name is a familiar one for Watkins Vanilla Extract and Watkins Spices have been winners of highest awards in European Expositions and Shows.



All of this remarkable growth is due to the vision, square dealing and integrity of J.R. Watkins. When he first started making the now famous Liniment, he tried selling to stores. Little success met his efforts. Those stores which did accept his proposition failed to push the product and let it stand idly on their shelves.

Such a condition was not to be tolerated by the young fellow and he proceeded to do something about it. In a market basket, he placed a stock of Liniment, got a horse and buggy and started out to call on the farmers in their homes. The method was a success from the start, for Watkins had sufficient faith in his product to leave it on trial with no payment to be made if the customer was not thoroughly satisfied.

More and more customers were added until the young fellow had to have help. The first Watkins dealer was started while young J.R. stayed at home manufacturing more Liniment. As time passed, new products were added one by one--products that are still in the line and selling every day. More and more dealers started on their rounds and a wider territory covered.

4 / Today six imposing factories and <sup>131</sup>~~126~~ branches <sup>and distributing points</sup> in principal cities are necessary to keep pace with the sales of the army of Watkins dealers. From far flung lands, from the four corners of the earth, across the rolling waters of the seven seas come the treasures of strange countries in the form of raw products, which go into the making of the more than 300 products now in the Watkins line. The Company is one of the largest buyers of spices in the world. The mystery and romance of strange lands, the danger from savage tribes, steaming jungles where every manner of peril, in the form of poisonous reptiles and voracious animals is found--all are brought to mind by the spicy aroma of strange bales and bundles in the many Watkins warehouses.

(3).

In the comparatively small city of Winona, Minnesota, where this business had its origin, <sup>in 1868</sup> there stands today one of the most beautiful private office buildings in the world as a monument to the faith J.R. Watkins had in the business and as a permanent reminder of what quality products, fair dealing and integrity combined with sound and aggressive merchandising can accomplish.

These policies are effectively carried out and exemplified in advertising printed in the printing plant of the Company. This is the largest west of Chicago, privately owned and requires all of the space of a four story building. A wide variety of presses are kept going at top speed to provide the literature which aids Watkins dealers in their business.

One of the best known pieces of advertising which is done in this plant is the Watkins Almanac. Over 2,000,000 copies of this attractive and useful booklet are distributed free to customers every year. Many farmers, housewives and others refer to it as a standard guide for treatment of minor ailments and for its valuable information on other subjects.

Of all the many products in the Watkins line, Liniment--the same Liniment as originally made by J.R. Watkins in his home--is the largest seller. The almost unbelievable figures on sales show, that three bottles of this product are used up every minute. Quality alone, has won this enviable reputation and made such a sales record.

While the quality of the product itself is of prime importance, the Company has paid equal attention to the attractiveness and convenience of the packaging. Artists are constantly at work, designing and re-designing containers, labels and inserts to give the line greater visual attraction. This in itself is a great aid to dealers but is only a part of the duty the Company feels toward each dealer.

(4)

Close co-operation with each individual is a feature of the business. Each one receives what amounts to a thorough course in salesmanship. Men are taught to bring out the good points of the products in convincing demonstration. Principles of sales psychology, the value of courtesy, neatness and tact are indelibly impressed upon them. These methods are very effective for the Company is careful of the type of men selected. For these reasons, the Watkins man is welcomed heartily in million of homes..

4 / Even during the depression, this remarkable business has maintained a steady growth.. New branches are being opened, new products added to the line and hundreds of new dealers enlisted in the army of men required to give efficient reliable service to the millions of steady customers. The growth and development of this great business is indeed an inspiring example of what good products, sound management and aggressive merchandising can accomplish. J.R . Watkins has passed on, but the business which he founded and built goes on to new triumphs and greater growth through following the principles he laid down..



WINONA--x Watkins Co.

George Connery--rew

There are people in Palestine and ~~thaxix~~ Australia, as well as most other countries of the world, who know of Winona if for no other reason than that the J.R. Watkins products are made in this Minnesota city. J.R. Watkins <sup>in 1868</sup> founded the company, at first dealing in ~~st~~ only one product which he made in his own home. The unique door-to-door sales system was adopted by him because he considered that merchants were not promoting his products with sufficient enthusiasm. The original product was liniment, and it still is the most widely used of the many products that the company now produces. The company has the largest payroll of any in the city, and 9,000 agents sell its goods throughout the world.



WINONA--A Watkins Co.

George Connery--rew

There are people in Palestine and ~~thexHx~~ Australia, as well as most other countries of the world, who know of Winona if for no other reason than that the J.R. Watkins products are made in this Minnesota city. J.R. Watkins founded the company, at first dealing in ~~it~~ only one product which he made in his own home. The unique door-to-door sales system was adopted by him because he considered that merchants were not promoting his products with sufficient enthusiasm. The original product was liniment, and it still is the most widely used of the many products that the company now produces. The company has the largest payroll of any in the city, and 9,000 agents sell its goods throughout the world.

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### WINONA COUNTY

Winona County lies in the oldest farming belt of the State, the southeast dairy district, and has as its chief agricultural assets a fertile soil, adequate marketing facilities, and a climate conducive to the abundant growth of grain and forage crops.

Early settlers recognized the potential productivity of the rich, black soil when they made their claims in Winona County. They found the soil adapted to many kinds of crops, but with the coming of railroads, which opened the way to a world-wide ~~wheat~~ market, wheat became the chief crop. Immediately after the Civil War, a rapid influx of settlers took up most of the land, and the county became known as a wheat-producing area.

The one-crop system of farming, however, was hard on the land, and the necessity of diversification and rotation of crops became apparent. But it took a succession of crop failures and a sagging wheat market to swing the balance toward the other small-grain and forage crops of a diversified agricultural program.

With the development of early ripening varieties of corn, the raising of livestock became increasingly important until now livestock and livestock products account for nearly 75 percent/ of the farm income.

In 1930, 59 percent of the farms were classified as dairy farms.

Market garden products, vegetables, and fruits, because of the demand in metropolitan areas, are becoming of increasing importance each year. The bottomlands of the Mississippi Valley and valleys of tributary streams are especially suited to these cash crops. The problem of marketing these products has been met by cooperative pickup trucking lines which ply between the farm and shipping or distributing points.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

A survey of census reports for Winona County shows that farm acreages are continually being reduced as the large general farms give way to dairy and specialty farms, and as these more intensive methods prove their value by yielding a higher return on a smaller investment for land.

Under the declining price level of the depression years, the average valuation of land in the county had been forced down from \$75.06 an acre in 1931 to \$50.49 in 1935, which is less than the annual income per acre on some of the well-managed specialty farms.

#### PHYSICAL SETTING

Winona County is in the Mississippi Valley of southeastern Minnesota. The 40-mile stretch of the eastern county boundary is carved by the Mississippi, while Wabasha, Olmsted, Fillmore and Houston Counties form the north, west, and south boundaries. The area is 637 square miles, or 407,680 acres.

#### Topography

Along the Mississippi is found some of the most beautiful scenery in the State, wooded, hilly, and picturesque. The surface is broken



and steeply rolling for 10 or 12 miles back from the river, but beyond that it is an undulating open prairie. Most of the land is easily cultivated, though some has been left in permanent pasture and wood lots. The average altitude is 1,070 feet.

#### Drainage

Lake Winona, which is simply a wide alluvial area of the Mississippi, is the only lake, but the county is traversed by numerous streams, large and small, all of which flow to the Mississippi.

#### Soil

A rich prairie loam underlain by sandy subsoil is found in the western part of the county. The hills of the rugged strip along the river are covered with a productive, wind-deposited loess. It is slightly deficient in lime, but lime deposits underlie it at a shallow depth.

This soil washes easily, and the steepest slopes are subject to erosion, but the wash has been retained in the valleys, where, mixed with lime, sand, and vegetable mould, it is exceedingly productive. Some of the valley land, being more sandy, is particularly adapted to growing vegetables.

#### Climate and Rainfall

Winona weather shows widespread extremes of heat and cold. The summers are hot and precipitation is high, and the winters, with prevailing northwest winds, have heavy snowfall and much subzero weather. About 70 percent of the precipitation comes during the 157-day frost-free growing season. In spring the last killing frost comes between May 5 and May 25, while the first fall frost comes between Sept. 10 and Oct. 5.



## CLIMATIC RECORD (41 years)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Winona (Alt. 700) Precipitation in inches	1.03	1.01	1.62	2.31	4.06	4.70	3.70	3.62	3.76	2.47	1.61	1.11	31.00 inches
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	14.1°	18.9°	32.3°	47.7°	59.6°	68.8°	73.4°	70.4°	62.5°	49.6°	35.1°	21.8°	46.2 degrees

## CLIMATIC RECORD (29 years)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
St. Charles (alt. 850) Precipitation in inches	1.08	1.01	1.46	2.69	4.08	4.99	3.55	3.16	3.40	2.75	1.33	1.12	30.62 inch.
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	13.1°	15.3°	29.1°	45.5°	56.4°	66.2°	70.4°	68.5°	60.7°	48.2°	32.5°	20.2°	43.8 degrees

## SETTLEMENT AND RACIAL ORIGINS

Willard B. Bunnell, Indian trader, was the first settler in what is now Winona County. In August 1849 he built a cabin at the present site of Homer Village, where his family came to live and where he traded with the Wabasha band of Indians. Later in the same year another trader, Nathan Brown, settled at the place where Dakota Village now stands.

Two years later several families from Illinois came to the vicinity of the present city of Winona. All the men earned a livelihood by cutting timber on public lands.

A colony of New Yorkers sponsored by the Western Farm and Village Association, an emigration society, settled near what is now Minnesota City on the west bank of the Mississippi in 1852. Though

well equipped for farming, they had little practical pioneering knowledge, and the association soon disbanded.

Successful farming ventures were begun in the same year by easterners who took up claims in Pleasant Valley. They were native-born and mostly of English, Scotch, German, and Irish descent. In 1853 there were about 350 people within the present boundaries of Winona County, and most of them made their living by farming.

The influx of settlers in succeeding decades brought great numbers of immigrants from Europe. In 1930 the county had a population density of 55.2 persons per square mile, or 35,144 in all. German and Slav were the predominating racial elements followed by Scandinavian and British. There is a large settlement of Poles at Winona.

#### COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND SUBDIVISIONS

Winona County was created by the Territorial Legislature in 1854, and Winona was designated as the county seat. The county is divided into 21 townships. Two municipalities, Winona and St. Charles, are chartered as cities. Thirteen towns are classed as villages, and twenty-five, each with less than 50 population, are classed as settlements.

The incorporated places are:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Population</u>
Winona	20,850	Utica	181
St. Charles	1,311	Altura	256
Lewiston	656	Dresbach	200
Dakota	300	Elba	1152
Rollingstone	289	Stockton	175
Ridgeway	152	Minnesota City	151
Homer	150	Pickwick	95



## TAXES

The average tax rate in the county increased from 69.76 mills in 1931 to 76.86 mills in 1935, but because of the decline in property valuations, assessments were lowered over the same period. In 1931 the taxable value was \$21,014,277, while in 1935 it was \$16,125,247, and the levy was lowered from \$1,503,023 to \$1,297,712.

Indebtedness

On January 1, 1936, the debt of the county and its subdivisions was \$982,511.02. Of this amount, \$977,811.45 was the indebtedness of the municipalities and school districts, and the remainder was in county bonds and township debt. The total debt was 6.09 percent of the taxable value, or \$27.96 per capita. This compares favorably with the State average of \$82.86.

Delinquency

Winona has a low rate of tax delinquency. Of the 1934 tax levy, \$1,241,654, only \$67,362, or 5.43 percent, was uncollected. This sum became delinquent in January 1936, bringing the total of delinquent taxes to \$123,680.

## MARKETS AND TRADE CENTERS

Winona, the county seat, is located on the Mississippi River, 105 miles southeast of St. Paul. According to the 1930 census, its population of 20,850 makes it the fifth largest city in the State. It has acquired the business-like title of the "Gate City", since it is a natural gateway to a vast agricultural and recreational area. At one time it rated as the fourth largest primary grain market in the world, and a little later, when the great lumbering industry of the northwest came into its stride, Winona was one of the busiest sawmill towns on the Mississippi. Today it is still a river terminal, but it has also become

an important railroad center. It is the outlet for trade, not only for Winona County, but for an extensive surrounding area.

Winona's industries include quarrying, it being the home of Winona travertine; brick manufacturing, flour, woolen, hosiery, and hemp mills. It is the home of the largest medicine-manufacturing plant in the United States and the largest syndicate of foreign-language newspapers in America. Dozens of other manufacturing plants, wholesale and retail businesses, provide work for many people. Three important colleges are located here.

St. Charles is a thriving city of 1,311 population, located in the heart of the grain and livestock region in the western part of the county. It has all the modern improvements of a large city. Its four cooperatives include two creameries, a grain elevator, and a livestock-shipping association. It is the seat of the Winona County Fair. It supports a daily newspaper, and is a recreational center for fishing and hunting.

Lewiston, with a population of 656 and located in the central part of the county, is an important shipping point for grain, livestock, and dairy products. It is the headquarters for the Winona County Farm Bureau Association, and the county agent lives there.

Altura and Utica have large cooperative creameries, grain elevators, and feed mills. Both are shipping points.

Homer, a village with a population of 150, is located 6 miles east of Winona and is the site of the first settlement in the county. The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries Station is located here; also the Liers Fur Farm, the home of the trained otters which have been receiving some public attention in the past few years.



## COOPERATIVES

The Winona County farmer has no difficulty in marketing his produce. Good roads bring him in close touch with numerous cooperative markets, which in turn can handle mass produce easily and cheaply with excellent river and railroad transportation facilities at hand. The county has four livestock-shipping associations and four grain elevators. The Swift & Co. packing plant at Winona yearly purchases thousands of head of livestock to be converted into meat products. The Bay State Milling Co. and the malting plants in the same city receive and utilize carloads of grain. The city of Winona has also a cannery which absorbs vegetable products, and mills which use hemp and wool.

Scattered throughout the county are 19 creameries manufacturing nearly four million pounds of butter yearly. Sixteen of these creameries are cooperative, and three are independent. The Winona Milk Producers Co-op. Association supplies the raw milk for the area. At Winona are five pasteurization plants, eight ice cream plants, and one cheese factory. Other cooperative enterprises in the county include 2 oil companies, 26 telephone companies, 1 farmers' electric company, 1 mutual insurance company, a cooperative production association, and a cooperative burial association. A 4-unit rural electrification project is now in process of formation under the REA.

Winona County Co-op. Creameries

Altura Co-op. Cry. Assn.	Altura
Bethany " " "	Utica
Elba Co-op. Cry. Assn.	Elba
Fremont Cry. Assn.	Lewiston
Hart Cry. Co.	Rushford
New Lewiston Cry. Co.	Lewiston
Nodine Co-op. Cry. Assn.	Dakota
Ridgeway Cry. Co.	Houston
Rollingstone Cry. Co.	Rollingstone

St. Charles Co-op. Cry. Assn.	St. Charles
Saratoga Cry. Assn.	St. Charles
Stockton Co-op. Cry. Assn.	Stockton
Utica Farmers Co-op. Cry.	Utica
Wilson Co-op. Cry. Assn.	Winona Rt. No. 2.
Witoka Co-op. Creamery	Winona Rt. No. 3
Wyattville Co-op. Cry. Assn.	Lewiston

Winona County Independent Creameries

Dakota Creamery	Dakota
Winona Butter Co.	Winona
Marigold Dairies, Inc.	Winona

## TRANSPORTATION

Winona County is served by five major railway systems: the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific; the Chicago & Northwestern; the Chicago, Great Western; the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy; and the Green Bay & Western. The Chicago & North Western Railway shops and division point are located at Winona.

The Northland-Greyhound Lines cross Winona County from north to south and from east to west, serving all principal cities and towns. The Merrillean Bus Lines cover the territory between the city of Winona and Merrillean, Wisconsin. The Stewart Bus Lines operate between Winona and Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

US 61 (paved), US 14 (paved, bituminous-treated), State 74 (paved-graveled), State 43 (bituminous-treated) and State 76 (graveled) are the main arteries for motor vehicle traffic. These are supplemented by a system of State-aid, county, and township roads that reach all portions of the county.

## SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

Winona County maintains a child welfare department and a county nurse. There is also a permanent child welfare secretary. The Winona



County Public Health Association headquarters are at Winona. A general hospital at Winona contains 100 beds. The Buena Vista Tubercular Sanitarium at Wabasha is maintained jointly by Wabasha and Winona Counties. It is a 30-bed hospital and maintains a staff of 6 nurses, one of whom is a field nurse. The specialist in charge holds monthly free clinics at Winona.

The county also maintains a county farm for the elderly indigent. This farm is located near Winona.

There are three State parks in the county. Garvin Heights Park is located on high bluffs just south of Winona. It is an excellent vantage point from which to obtain a panoramic view of the upper Mississippi Valley. Latsch State Park is located 12 miles northwest of Winona on US 61. It contains some 350 acres available as camp and picnic grounds. Both of these areas are gifts to the State from two Winona citizens. The largest park is Whitewater State Park located about 8 miles north of St. Charles in the picturesque Whitewater River region. Every kind of outdoor recreation is available here. The fishing is excellent. The first forest service lookout tower built in southern Minnesota is located in this park.

#### Churches

Fourteen religious denominations are represented. According to the 1936 census, there are 59 active congregations, 16 of which are Catholic, 12 are Lutheran, and 9 are Methodist.

#### Schools

In 21 townships the 114 school districts, would indicate that the school population of Winona County is well provided with educational facilities. Of the rural schools, two are consolidated, absorbing what were originally seven districts. Winona County was a pioneer in the

consolidated movement, being the first county in the State to have a consolidated school. Winona city has both a junior and a senior high school, and seven grade schools. There are high schools at St. Charles and Lewiston and <sup>a</sup>/2-year high school at Altura. The consolidated districts and two isolated areas in the county are supplied with bus service.

The Catholic parochial system at Winona consists of five grade schools, a high school for boys, and a high school for girls. Three of the grade schools are conducted by the Sisters of Notre Dame, two grade schools and the girls' high school are conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis, and the Christian Brothers have charge of the boys' high school. Winona has a Lutheran grade school. Other Lutheran grade schools in the county are located at Silo, Lewiston, and Hart, while Rollingsstone has a combined grade and high school of the Catholic denomination.

The city of Winona is the home of three colleges. The first normal school west of the Mississippi River was built here in 1860, and is now known as the Winona State Teachers' College. The college of St. Teresa, a Catholic institution for women, is located here, as is also St. Mary's College for men, conducted by the Christian Brothers. The College of St. Teresa was founded by the Sisters of St. Francis, who also established the famous St. Mary's Hospital at <sup>R</sup>ochester, site of the Mayo Clinic.

Winona has also a business college which has an average enrollment of 175.

**FAIR**

The first agricultural fair in this county was held on October 30, 1858. Interest in these fairs has never waned, and they are an annual event, although reorganization of the association has taken



place from time to time. The present Winona County Fair Association has existed for 27 years, and it sponsors a county fair annually at St. Charles.

**FARM INCOME**

Of the 1929 farm income, which was \$5,882,033, or \$2,725 for each farm, 74 percent was derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products. Crops sold for cash yielded 14.2 percent of the income, and forest products accounted for only .5 percent. The remainder, 11.3 percent, was in products used by the operators' families.

The value of farms decreased approximately one-third between 1930 and 1935. In 1930 the value of farm lands and buildings was \$28,214,145, while in 1935 it was \$18,628,190. The average value per farm in 1930 was \$13,074, and in 1935 it was \$8,588. In 1930 the average value per acre was \$75.06; in 1935 it was \$50.49.

**CENSUS REPORTS**

The farm population of Winona County in 1930 was 10,409, and 2,158 farms were occupied. The average acreage was 174.2. In 1935 the population had decreased to 10,068. The number of farms was 2,169, and the average acreage was 170.1. The census for the 5-year period indicated an upward trend in tenancy, there being 49 more farms operated by tenants in 1935 than in 1930. About one-third of the farms in the county in 1935 were operated by tenants.

According to the 1930 Federal census, 59 percent of the farms in the county were classed as dairy farms and 19 percent as general farms. Forty percent of the farm land was in pasture. Live-~~l~~stock and livestock products constitute the major source of the farmer's income. He produces crops mainly for feed for his cattle. His chief feed crops are corn and oats and the forage crops, principally alfalfa.

clover, and timothy. These are converted into finished products such as beef, pork, poultry, butter, whole milk, cream, cheese, and eggs. Secondary crops are barley, rye, wheat, buckwheat, flax, and hemp, the last named being a new crop for which market has just opened. Potatoes are an important cash crop, as are the market-gardening products, including fruits.

According to the 1935 census, a statistically average farm in Winona County would have 18 acres of corn, 16 acres of oats, 15 acres of hay, 15 of barley, ~~grain, 5 acres,~~ wheat, 1 3/4 acres, potatoes, 1 acre, and a patch of rye and flax. It would be stocked with 20 head of cattle, 9 hogs, and 4 sheep.



Winona County

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Population, 1930 (county) 35,144  
Area.....637 square miles ..... 407,680 acres

County Seat — Winona

Farm Development

Number of farms, 1935 2,169  
Land in farms 90.5 percent of total area or 368,952 acres  
Average size of farms 170.1 acres

Farm Values

Average value per acre, 1935 \$50.49  
" " " " , 1930 75.06  
Average value per farm, 1935 \$8,588.00  
" " " " , 1930 \$13,074.00

The Tax Picture

Total taxable value, 1935 \$16,125,247.00  
Total general tax levy, 1935 1,297,712.00  
Average tax rate, 1935 76.86 mills

Total debt of county and subdivisions \$982,511.02  
Per capita debt 27.96  
County bonds 3,946.01  
Total bonds (county and subdivisions) 981,757.46  
The total debt was 6.09 percent of the taxable value.

Tenancy and Mortgage

	1930	1935
Number of owner-operated farms	1,294	1,288
Part owners	180	152
Managers	16	12
Tenants	668	717
Percentage of tenancy	30.9	33.05
Percentage of farms mortgaged, (owner-operated)		52
Amount of farm mortgage debt,		\$4,395,064



# Winona County Agricultural Statistics

## Farm Income (1930 census)

Total farm income	\$5,882,033
Average farm income	2,725

### Sources of Income:

		Percent
Crops	\$834,729	14.2
Livestock	\$2,069,363	35.2
Livestock products	2,275,812	38.8
Forest products	34,745	.5
Products used by operators' family	667,384	11.3
	<u>\$5,882,033</u>	<u>100. Percent</u>

## Livestock Holdings — 1935

	1930	1935
Dairy cows producing milk	22,911	24,276
All cattle	42,394	45,468
Swine	48,308	19,444
Sheep and lambs	11,636	9,016

## Crop Census — 1934

Crop	Farms	Acres	Bushels
Wheat	487	3,752	43,600
Oats	1,462	35,213	702,534
Oats cut & fed unthreshed	124	1,546	
Barley	1,301	32,925	516,012
Rye	86	1,006	9,286
Flax	132	1,603	13,736
Mixed grains	636	11,877	225,263
Corn for all purposes	2,212	40,537	
Corn for grain	1,905	24,710	938,603
All hay & sorghums for forage		32,005	27,380 Tons
Annual legumes (grown alone)	811	5,933	
" " (harvested)	20		1,982
Irish potatoes	1,970	2,384	196,610
All other vegetables		857	

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

TOPIC: Education (FC) 640  
SUBMITTED BY: Phyllis Reay  
Number of words:  
March 17, 1936

#### Schools of Winona

Education has proved one of the first interests of Winona from the earliest days to the present. The schools were primitive in Winona 81 years ago. It is a long step from the primitive schools of Winona in 1855 to the elaborate institutions of today for grade, secondary and college education.

There are no official records regarding Winona schools before the great fire of 1862, which wiped out the most important part of the city, but it is known that they were held in rented buildings and were supported at first by contributions of parents rather than directly by taxation. (The Winona Rep. Herald, November 20, 1930).

The first school in the city of Winona was taught by Mrs. E. B. Hamilton at her home in the early summer of 1853, although Angella Gere, a young girl of 14 or 15, had for a few years the previous summer

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Topic: Education (FC) 640  
Submitted by: Phyllis Reay

Schools of Winona

taught a class of eight or ten children in the shanty home of "Aunt Catherine" Smith, then Mrs. A. S. Goddard.

Miss Mary Willis, an elder sister of the late Henry J. Willis, coal dealer, taught the first school that really deserved the name. It was a private school and was taught in the fall of 1853.

The Winona Republican of December 2, 1856, complains that 100 scholars were crowded into a room over a harness shop and 100 more were waiting to get in. The following year there were four schools in operation. The educational system was kept going with difficulty in the years between 1856 and 1860, during the depression incident to the panic of 1857.

The following letter to Orrin F. Smith from Charles E. Ely concerning the early schools in Winona is of historical interest.

"In 1854 on Front Street about 300 feet east of the Northwestern railroad bridge was a school of sun-burned, barefooted, one suspended doughnut eater, presided over by a lady whose name is to memory lost. She wore glasses gracefully and made good. She landed on the craniums of the youth with a map of every place and the multiplication table set to music. Her sweet voice and pleasant smile taste good after these long years."

In 1855 Almeda Twitchell came to bat. She fought the mainsprings of deviltry in the youth of that date. She had a hard job. The town had grown and 50 or at times more unruly fighters and their sisters had to be



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Schools of Winona

Topic: Education (FC) 640  
Submitted by: Phyllis Reay

shown the road to civilization. Almeda did not have time to crimp her locks or play with the powder puff. Her temple of learning was on Front Street south of the site of Porter's mill, now the Bay State Mill.

The oldest school building now standing in Winona that was used for school purposes is located on the east side of Johnston Street between Second and Third Streets and was used as a store by Miss Fannie Hughes. The building was erected in 1856 and here Miss Mary Ford taught 60 to 70 pupils in the winter of 1858. There were no desks in the school, just ordinary wood benches were provided for the children to sit on. And thus, we may conclude, the early education was conducted privately.

The earliest existing official records were made at a meeting of the school board on July 9, 1862, and they reveal that during the previous year V. J. Walker had served as principal and high school teacher at a salary of \$55 a month; and, there were seven other teachers, five of them receiving a salary of \$20. The first superintendent was employed in April 1862 at an annual salary of \$100. The next year his salary was raised to \$150.

Undoubtedly he served in the capacity of the members of the school board of today (1936).

The first school building erected for school purposes by the school authorities of Winona was dedicated on January, 1863. It was located where the Washington school building now stands. This old school building was later moved to the northwest corner of St. Charles Street and Broadway where it was used as a residence. It has since been remodeled in-

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to a modern home. (Paul P. Thompson, local historian; p. 16 Miss Caroline Smith's).

Changes have been made in the curriculum and methods in the Winona schools. A special teacher was employed for penmanship as early as 1879, and for music as early as 1871. Manual training and domestic science were introduced in 1903, the latter because it would, the board was told by one of its members, "tend to make lovelier sweethearts, more adorable wives, nobler mothers, and more economical housewives." Kindergarten instruction was begun in 1893. A part-time instructor in physical education was engaged in 1897 for \$10 a month. Emphasis upon training bodies as well as minds has steadily increased.

The question whether married women should be employed as teachers came before the board as early as 1887. The board decided the practice would establish an undesirable precedent, and a married teacher was notified her resignation would be expected at the termination of her contract.

Six schools were built in the 11 years between 1885 and 1896. The needs of the city for many years were filled. As population remained about stationary, and parochial schools took away some of the public school enrollment, it was 20 years before another school was built.

A new Senior High School was built in 1916. The old high school built in 1867 was used as a Junior High School, thus, also, relieving the grade schools of the city. It was replaced by a modern structure in 1926.

Increasing emphasis upon physical education was recognized by the

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completion of an up-to-date gymnasium early in 1929 for the use of all students of the Senior and Junior High Schools.

Replacement of one of the grade schools, the Central School, was one of the first steps in a building program designed to bring Winona's grade schools up to the standard of its High Schools. Two other modern public schools have been built since; the Madison and the Washington-Kosciuszko Schools. The latter had its first opening in January 1936.

From the Rep. Herald of November 20, 1930, we learn that the first parochial school in Winona was a German School in the late fifties across the street from the present plant of the Leicht Press. The number increased rapidly in the last 25 years of the 19th century. Today more than one-fourth of the school enrollment in Winona is in the eight parochial schools.

The first Catholic School in Winona was established in 1859 by Rev. Michael Prendergast, first resident priest of Winona. It has succeeded in 1874 by the St. Thomas school. In 1929 a separate building was erected across Center Street from St. Thomas church, for high school instruction for girls of the parish as well as for the grade work for both boys and girls. A Catholic High School for boys was erected in 1911 in memory of Bishop Cotter.

A German Lutheran School was established in 1866 by the Rev. Phillip Von Rohr. Six pupils were enrolled the first week, but in a few months the number had passed 80.



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To those who formed our community--beating out the paths to "a good school"--we owe "heap much" recognition of their vast problems and their faith in the future. The courage to carry through, to develop and to attempt vast enterprises has had its material reward. Their dreams of yesterday have become the realities of today.

### Colleges of Winona

Winona can claim three colleges, one of which dates back to September, 1860. In August 16, 1859 an application was received from the City of Winona at the first meeting of the State Normal board of instruction asking for a normal school. Thus, the first Normal School west of the Mississippi was opened in Winona on the first Monday in September 1860. Although it is the oldest, it has a new strictly modern plant and equipment. The student body includes both men and women.

The college is recognized among educators throughout the nation as being among the best schools of its kind. It trains its students for many kinds of teaching service as regular instructors in the schools of the state and as special teachers of industrial and fine arts, music, physical education and kindergarten.

The college offers a two-year course leading to a diploma and a four-year course leading to a degree of bachelor of education. (The St. Paul Pioneer Press, March 24, 1929, Sunday Paper).

The College of St. Theresa is an institution for the higher education of women. It holds membership in the North Central Association of

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American Universities, this being the highest rating attainable for an American college.

It confers the degrees of bachelor of arts and bachelor of science. It offers broad training for professional scientific careers, including library work, banking and high school teaching. A standardized conservatory of music is maintained in connection with the college.

(The St. Paul Pioneer Press, March 24, 1929.)

St. Mary's College was founded in 1913 by the Right Reverend P. R. Heffron, D.D. late bishop of Winona, for the higher education of the young men of the Northwest. For 20 years the College was conducted by the diocesan clergy, during the earlier years as a junior college and academy, and since 1925 as a four-year college of liberal arts. In 1933 St. Mary's College passed into the control of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, a religious congregation of teachers founded by St. John Baptist De La Salle in the latter part of the 17th century, under whose direction the College is now conducted, with assistance from diocesan priests and Catholic laymen. The work of the College holds the keen interest of the present bishop of Winona, the Most Reverend Francis M. Kelly, D. D. The faculty is especially chosen because of intellectual and moral fitness to execute the aim of the institution, namely the most thorough training of the intellect of the student, together with the full development of his moral character and religious ideals. To effect these results the authorities of the

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College aim to combine the atmosphere of the school with that of the Catholic home. The domestic needs in the home life of the students are cared for by the Sisters of St. Francis. (St. Mary's College Annual Catalogue 1935-36.)

Noble buildings are not only necessary, but inspiring; fine natural surroundings are important; full and generous courses of study must be given; the personal friendships among teachers and students; all these things are necessary and desirable and all are found in full measure in our 20th century schools and colleges of Winona, Minnesota.

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## Schools of Winona. correction.

The oldest school building still standing as given in write-up is incorrect. In conferring with Judge Buck and then him with Mrs. Church who is a sister of the late Miss Fannie Hughes information has been given that the building behind the telephone office on Johnston St. between 3<sup>d</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> street is not the oldest school building still in existence. This building was used as a home and tailor shop and occupied by the Hughes family. It never was used as a school building. Nevertheless, a building which stood just to the north of this building and which is now torn down is the building which is known as the oldest school building. Mr. Paul Thompson, historian, in giving an article on schools said in being checked on this point by Mrs. Church that he thought this was the oldest school building.

Pauline E. Earle.

INDUSTRIAL WINONA

A-3

A/B  
II - (L) As an industrial center the city of Winona is well known, it is ~~known as~~ "the richest city, for its size, in America. Winona has 69 manufacturing plants, 40 wholesale houses, 400 distinctly retail firms, 68 professional firms representing physicians, lawyers and dentists and has a payroll of more than three million dollars annually.

Five important railroads serve Winona. The Chicago & Northwestern Railway has its division point located here, employing a large number of men. The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific, the Chicago Great Western, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and the Green Bay & Western are the other great railways entering this gateway and contributing their share toward the prosperity of the city.

Starting with the major industries we shall first deal with the Bay State Milling Company. A person travelling along the river side of the city of Winona cannot fail to be impressed by viewing the monumental structures of the Bay State Milling Company, which stand close to the banks of the Mississippi river. And people of Winona are justly proud of this great plant, for it spreads the city's name far afield, not only in this country but to many foreign lands.

It is a far cry from the days of the old-fashioned stone burr mill, but Bay State has passed through all the vicissitudes of an ever changing and progressing era, keeping step, at all times, with the demands of the hour and the needs of the public.

The Bay State Mill dates its inception as far back as 1874, when it operated in a small frame building with a capacity of 250 barrels of flour a day. The original building was a five story frame structure 70 by 40 feet, and the mill operated with the stone burrs then in common use for grinding grain. Later an elevator was added to the plant with a storage capacity of 50,000 bushels.



Needless here to recite in detail the calamities that beset the institution through the fire fiend, but suffice it to state that after the last fire in 1911 and a careful consideration of all surrounding conditions, the company decided to remain in Winona and at once proceeded to the erect on of a most modern plant, one not surpassed by any in this great flour producing section of the United States. By March, 1912, the plant was again ready for operation and has become the pride of the community.

The present mill is a structure of eight stories built of reinforced concrete, brick and tile and entirely fireproof. It has a capacity of producing daily 4,500 barrels of wheat flour and 500 barrels of rye flour, and its staff now comprises 100 people. The outstanding feature of the plant is its sanitary provisions, the abundance of fresh air and sunlight which penetrate the plant and the scrupulous care that is exercised in maintaining the highest standard of cleanliness, conditions which are the basis of the pride with which the management enjoys to show its establishment to visitors. The most modern milling machinery is installed on the gringing floor, where 56 double stands of nickel trimmed grinding rolls are in operation day and night, except on Sundays.

Bay State Mill is a big enterprise in a modest sized community, albeit a community where in all directions one finds the finest and most modern in business structure. It would take considerable time and space to go into the details of milling practice from a technical point, but the reader may form a reasonable idea of the magnitude of the company's business. There are no less than thirty road representatives, with an equally large office staff, that are "on the job" at all times. In addition there are thirteen branch managers located in such cities as Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Cedar Rapids, Pittsburch, Buffalo, Haverhill, Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts; and Manchester, New Hampshire. But people in foreign



lands also use Winona made flour from this mill. Continued efforts have established a flour trade for Bay State Mill until the product now reaches the markets of Cuba, Sweden, Turkey, Italy, Denmark, Finland, Malta, Greece, Gibraltar, Algiers, Ireland, Scotland, Germany and Holland, sacked and packed to meet the requirements of each country.

To meet this vast trade the company has installed two elevators with a capacity of 750,000 bushels and it is a common sight to find entire train loads of grain on the railway tracks waiting to be unloaded. Only the choicest hard spring wheat is used at the Bay State Mill, selected by expert buyers who personally visit the harvest fields of Minnesota and the Dakotas to make the selection required for the production of the standard products of the plant. ~~The~~ two leading brands, known the world over, are "Wingold" and "Bay State" and the management watches with a jealous eye to see that the high standard of the flour is maintained at all times. A very modern and up-to-date laboratory is maintained where a constant check is kept on this product at all times making sure of uniform flour of the highest quality.

Among the industries of Winona are found the Largest Medicine Manufacturing plant of its kind in the world, The J. R. Watkins Medical Company. Way back in 1868 when Minnesota was young, when Indians roamed her plains and hills and when great forests covered many parts of this state, a new business was started by a young man who came to Winona after the Civil War from his home near Cincinnati, Ohio. This young man, Joseph R. Watkins, was a pioneer in this new kind of business and the originator of a novel and highly effective system of distribution, organized house-to-house selling.

The Civil War had just ended. The trying reconstruction period had barely started when young Mr. Watkins launched his new enterprise, the manufacture and sale of a wonderful Liniment. At first he made

it by himself, bottled and labeled it, then set out to sell it. In a little market basket he placed the few bottles he had prepared and went from home to home selling to his neighbors.

The good people of the community tried young Watkins' Liniment and were soon won over to it because of its excellent qualities and high merits. The fame of the product spread and calls came in for it from the surrounding countryside. Mr. Watkins, convinced that his product and his method of distribution were the best, soon drew to himself a great number of men who went out into their respective communities to sell Watkins Products. One by one, carefully selected, scrupulously tested new products were added, each increasing the prestige and popularity of Mr. Watkins' goods.

Step by step, stone by stone, the little enterprise which started in one room and had but a market basket for its store, grew. Today about 8000 dealers sell Watkins products in every state in the Union and every province in Canada. There are over 150 products in the Watkins Line comprising Extracts, Spices, Food Products, Soaps, and Perfumes, Cleansers, Toilet Articles, Medicines, Stock and Poultry Preparations, all of exceedingly high quality which is the cause of their great popularity.

In 1900 the first four-story building was put up in Winona followed in rapid succession by others of four, six and eight stories and culminating in the magnificent ten-story structure whose tower and flagstaff are landmarks for many miles around. These buildings in Winona occupy more than an entire city block and are fronted by a most beautiful Administration Building which is considered one of the most beautiful in the entire country. You are cordially invited to visit the offices and factories at Winona or the other Branches of the J. R. Watkins Company.

T There are twin 7-story buildings at Memphis and a splendid



\$2,000,000.00 plant at Newark, New Jersey, a great factory at Winnipeg, Canada. Other Branches are located at New York, Kansas City, Columbus, Oakland, Los Angeles, Chicago, Montreal, Vancouver. The J. R. Watkins Company is "The largest and oldest Business of its kind in the World."

The J. R. Watkins Medical Company maintains a pay-roll approximately 1,520 people, representing approximately 1,800 of Winona's population. Through the methods of merchandising Watkins' Products Winona is known all over the world, even to the most remote places. This world famous institution is something that Winona is very proud of and very fortunate in having its headquarters here in Winona. The Beautiful.

The Union Fibre Co. of Winona: Any industry which can put a good cash value into any otherwise waste product of agriculture, incidentally pay good wages to labor, and good profits on capital invested, seems well entitled to grateful public appreciation. Any city which has such an industry, can feel a justifiable pride is the same.

Minnesota's flourishing city of Winona has such an industry in its Union Fibre Company, Inc., which converts flax and grain straw fibres into valuable heat and cold insulating and sound deadening building materials.

Its products are now being shipped all over the United States, and have a large export abroad. Many of the largest buildings and most palatial homes in the Northwest make use of its materials for the lining of roofs and walls. The roof becomes more of a perfect real shelter when insulated with these Winona products. The three leading products of this company are fibrofelt, linofelt and lith.

Fibrofelt is a flexible board used for insulation and sound deadening purposes. It is made from carefully selected flax and



grain straw fibers, which have been cooked, sterilized, worked into a board, or felt, then dried under high temperature. The resulting product is a board of high insulating value; flexible, yet firm enough to be handled and sawed like lumber.

Linofelt is a quilted insulation made by sewing different thicknesses of a uniform bat of retted flax fibre between two layers of paper. It is used to prevent the passage of heat, and to deaden and absorb sound waves.

Lith is a water repellent board form of insulation used for roof insulation. The only substances used in its manufacture are flax fibres, limestone rock wool, and waterproofing compounds. The flax fibres are cooked and separated by combing machines before they are mixed with the rock wool. Flax fibres have great strength and high insulating qualities. The resulting board has great tensile strength, very low heat conductivity, and is of unusual compressive strength and firmness. Owing to this last quality, it is an ideal insulation for use under all forms of roofing.

By the manufacture of this product, the farmers in this vicinity have a ready market for their by-product straw and flax fibres which is a financial help to the farmer. A goodly number of people are employed in the manufacture of this product and this is one of Winona's flourishing industries.

The Conrad Fur Company, Inc., is the outgrowth of a fur business started in 1897 by Max A. Conrad which was known at that time as the Winona Fur & Glove Factory. Men's fur coats, robes, gloves, ladies' collar and cuff sets were the principal products of this concern which were sold for the most part to the Wholesale Trade throughout the East and Northwest. In 1912 ladies' fur coats became the chief product of manufacture at which time the name of the con-

cern was changed to the Conrad Fur Company. In the year 1917 a store was started in Rochester, Minn. and in January, 1923 a store was opened in Duluth, Minn. In the spring of 1927 a store was opened in Eau Clair, Wis., and on May 21st of the same year the concern was incorporated. In the Spring of 1929 a store was started in La Crosse and in 1930 the last unit was added at Superior, Wis.

The Conrad Fur company sells products of its own manufacture through its own stores. Through-out the entire organization eighty-five to one hundred and ten people are employed, varying with the seasons. The material used in the manufacture of Conrad Fur Garments for the most part is purchased raw and wherever possible direct from the trapper with the exception of skins which come from other lands. Furs are sold under the slogan "Furs Truthfully Told and Truthfully Sold." Repair departments and storage vaults are maintained at each store.

From a small second story room to a factory containing some 35,000 square feet of floor space is the progress made by the H. Behrens Manufacturing Company, another Winona industry whose product carries the city's name to the far corners of the country. In a region where the dairy industry has made the most remarkable progress it is natural that there should develop an institution which gives its energies to the making of quality equipment as required by the dairyman in his business. While this company makes a variety of sheet metal ware, it is the outstanding quality of their dairy farm equipment which has given H. Behrens Manufacturing Company pre-eminence in this line. The name "Behrens" has become a household word on thousands of the best farms in this country. The Behrens Manufacturing Co. was established some 28 years ago by the man whose name the company still carries. The company incorporated under the Minnesota laws in 1911. This factory, however, is now operated by



THE Schneider Brothers, who purchased the Behrens interests in April, 1927, and at which time they assumed active management. The company manufactures some hundreds of thousands of pieces of metal ware each year. They are the originators of the now popular Swiss Pattern dairy pails. Thousands of Behrens dairy pails and cream cans find a ready market on dairy farms of the Central West and as far away as the Pacific Coast. They also make a patented automatic cream **stirrers** which is gaining in popularity among dairy farmers. In addition to the regular dairy pails, pails of varied sort are turned out, including a Child's Play Pail which is a favorite with youngsters. The Behrens line of liquid measuring utensils is very complete, being made of best quality tin and galvanized sheets. All of the various size measures carry the seal of Minnesota State Dept. of W. Weights and measures. Oil and gasoline cans, tank wagon buckets, service oil bottle spouts, and thousands of was boilers made of tin, copper, and galvanized sheets, are among the annual output of this factory, which reports a steady turnover reaching nearly a quarter million dollars. Some 50 men are employed in the plant, with an annual payroll of \$60,000.

It remained for a young Minnesota graduate of the Chicago Technical College to use his inventive genius to the perfection of a tool that has long been a crying need of the world, and his success in that direction has added another exclusive industry to Winona's manifold enterprises which have no comeptition anywhere else in this country.

Albert Hossfeld, a native son of Minnesota, is the inventor of the Hossfeld Iron Bender with which workmen can now bend iron and pipe in its cold state into any needed or conceivable shape without the old time use of a forge. There is scarce an iron working concern that does not require, at some time, such an apparatus, and often when least expected and when time is precious. These machines are



NOW used in some of the largest plants of this country, such as the Ford Motor Co., National Cash Register Co., Delco Light Co., Wabash Railway Co., The Milwaukee, the Rock Island, the Northwestern the Soo Line among the leading railroads and a host of other establishments of national reputs.

Its inventor is a man of inventive bent of mind and besides the iron bender herein mentioned, he also has invented and patented a splendid rock drill and a new manure loader for farmers. The Hossfeld factory turns out an average of 200 benders every month and several thousand of them are already in operation. The machine weighs only 75 pounds and can be readily moved from place to place to such locality where it may be needed.

No dinner is complete without its relish, therefore one of the very prosperous establishments of Winona is the Pepin Pickling Co., taking its name from the little Wisconsin town where it was first established. In 1917 the plant was removed to Winona and since then has enjoyed a steady and healthy growth, selling its products from coast to coast. These products include dill pickles, sweet pickles, sour-spiced pickles, spiced onions, table relishes, sweet mixed pickles, mustard pickles, and finally, huge amounts of sauerkraut and the much prescribed sauerkraut juice. Without exaggeration, we may safely state that the Pepin Pickling Co. is the largest manufacturer of sauerkraut west of Chicago and the farmers of adjoining counties find a ready and steady market for their cabbages.

According to season, from 40 to 200 people are employed at the plant, which means a considerable addition to the city's payroll. A visit to the plant at once impresses one as to its cleanliness and lightness with ample sunshine permeating into every corner. The tank cellars are floored with cement and the vats are exposed to ample

light to avoid formation of bacteria. The equipment is as modern and health inviting as in any plant of the country and the Pepin label is acknowledged as a sign of high quality.

Some of the other business enterprises are as follows: Winona Ice Machine Company, manufacturers of ice machine equipment of most any size and for any use. Miller Waste Mills, manufacturing wiping waste and wool packing for railroad car journals. Practically all output is taken by railroad companies in this section, plant fully occupied. Northern Field Seed Co., shippers of high grade Timothy, Red and Alsike Clover, Alfalfa and Sweet Clover. Second largest company of its kind in the country handling 300 to 400 carloads Timothy seed per year. Stansfield Knitting Mills, manufacture full fashioned silk hosiery at the rate of 30,000 dozen pairs per year. A fast growing institution. Thurow Box Factory, considered one of the most up-to-date box factories in Minnesota, employs 20 men steadily in building boxes for local trade, beer cases etc. a plant valued at \$62,000. The Diamond Huller Company, makers of feed mills for farm and feed store use. Peter Bub Brewing Company, brewers of that fine "Bub's beer, located in the shadows of "Sugar Loaf". The Mississippi Valley Public Service Company, supplies the electric energy to homes and manufacturing institutions, also maintaining a complete stock of appliances for the home. The Northern States Power Company, producers of manufactured gas for home and business and producing Gas Coke as a by-product for heating purposes. There are three more medical companys here that produce products along the same lines as the Watkins Company, namely McConnon & Co., Dr. Koch Vegetable Tea Co., Dr. Ward's Medical Co. While these companies are not as large as the Watkins Company, they too enjoy a good business and employ a number of people. The Winona Malting Company makers of malt enjoy



a very nice business, especially since the repeal of the prohibition act, this factor making it necessary to employ more men to take care of the needs for this product. The Interstate Packing Company, employing a large number of men the year round, pork packing being the principal article, although other meats are dispensed as well as pork and a complete and modern sausage kitchen is maintained.

Winona has three large printing concerns; Jones & Kroeger Co., complete book and stationery printers. Equiped to handle most any type of catalogue, pamphlet or business printing. Leicht Press, printers of many foreign language newspapers, German, Polish etc. as well as weekly and monthly periodicals in magazine form. The Winona Republican-Hearld, printers of the local daily paper, with complete news services that cover the entire globe. Biesanz Stone Company, producers of the famous Travertine building stone. Many large and famous buildings contain this stone that is found here in the local hills of Winona. Voelker & Groff makers of bricks of all kinds for buildings, fire-places etc. Another concern that has made Winona known is the Peerless Chain Company, makers of tire chains for passenger cars and trucks. This company is one of Winona's younger firms but has made rapid strides in the short time it has been in existance. Peerless chains are sold practially in every state in the Union and in Canada. Many chains are exported to other countries. The chaines manufactured by this concern have exceptional qualities. The square design chain is wonderful for muddy roads and this type chain was the first to be made by the company. Later the twist link chain was added to their line and the call for Peerless chains has been so great that a large force of work men are kept busy with full time work, with additional men being put on during the winter months when replacement orders come in in large numbers.



The Woodlawn Knitting Mills is another new addition to Winonas manufacturing family. This company produces knitted sweaters, bathing suits etc. Employees are kept busy turning out huge orders for many of the large and nationally known mail order houses, as well as government orders. A goodly number of men and women find work at this mill and most of the yarn used for their product is produced here in Winona by the Winona Yarn and Woolen Mill which is aided greatly by having the knitting mills located here in the same city.

Then there ~~xxxxx~~ is a large number of wholesale and retail stores as there is in most cities the size of Winona. Latsch & Son Co., Griesel Bros., wholesale groceries, The Rademacher Drug Co. Wholesale and retail drugs, The Federal Bakery, Mahlke Baking Co., two of Winonas largest bakeries producing bread and pastry from the famous Winona made flour, H. Choate & Co., L. T. Stevenson, Inc., The Fashion, the larger department stores and ladies furnishings of the very latest style. The Continental, Graaf's, Nash Clothing Co., and Wilkinson's Men's Furnishings, where the gentleman can get just what he needs and be sure of the very latest. Then there are numerous other establishments that go to take care of the every day needs of every individual, doctors, lawyers, barbers, beauty shops, theatres, etc.

Last but not least is the Pfeifer Nursery, located on the south side of Winona. Pfeifers are the growers of prize winning peonies, iris flowers and young pine trees of fame. It is a beautiful site to see when the various seasonal flowers are in bloom, the many varieties and colors. The tourist can view many of the large fields of flowers grown by this nursery as the fields are along highway 61 at the west end of the city and additional large fields along Lake Drive where the offices are located. The flowers grown here are

sent all over the country.

The Siebrecht Floral Co. also have large fields of flowers which are located on highway 61 at the south entrance of Winona. This Floral Co. has a huge green-house where many varieties and shades of roses are raised. The slogan of this concern is "If sold here its grown here!" A wide selection of cut flowers can be had at any time of the year from this local concern.

Winona is indeed very fortunate in its wide spread business activities and can be truthfully called the richest city, of its size, in the country and the tourist including Winona The Beautiful on his tour, will be richly rewarded for the time spent in this fair city.

Source of Information:

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ARCHITECTURE OF WINONA.

Winona, Minn.  
Topic: Architecture (FC) 611  
Submitted by: Pauline Earle 612

The term architecture shall herein be treated from the standpoint of two thoughts- the style and the texture or material used. The study of a building naturally develops various forms. These forms arising from the heart of a problem take on shape definitely associated with their use. This result is elemental in its significance and brings us face to face with Form and Function, the Primal Law underlying all created things. Where there is no function or use, no form can arise, and conversely, no form should exist without its use or function being definitely expressed. Thus style and material used must of necessity correspond with the use to which each and every building is subjected.

Things must not have the appearance of being brought together by chance or for a purpose, but must have a necessary and inevitable connection. I desire that the creations which I depict shall have an air of being dedicated to their situation, so that one could not imagine that they would dream of being anything else than what they are. A work of art ought to be consistent and the things in it should always be there for a reason. Beauty does not consist so much in the things represented, as in the need one has had of expressing them; nothing can be beautiful, arriving inappropriately. One may say that everything is beautiful provided the thing turns up in its proper time and in its own place. Which is the most beautiful, a straight tree or a crooked tree? Whichever is the most in place. The beautiful is that which is in place.

People blessed with the beauty that nature has provided for Winona, are quite naturally and unconsciously lovers of art. Proper planning and conservation of nature's resources make a city beautiful. In addition to this it requires a united community interest, pride and vision on the part of at least a few progressive citizens. Most visitors are beauty boosters and all along the line and in neighboring states, Winona is known as a "Good looking city."



Winona has no slums. Hanging gardens in the main street of a city with a fringe of slums on its outskirts is bad advertising. The streets on either side are flanked with attractive small homes. That modern menace to city development, the flat, is practically unknown in this city of twenty-four thousand people. Can you picture a city of this size with about two or three flats? The houses are not "shoe boxes" either. They are for the most part attractive architectural achievements. Houses are the back-bone of a city. They can either mar or enhance its beauty. Winona is a city of detached homes and these homes have added tremendously to Winona's claim as a City Beautiful. The city has unquestionably a "home atmosphere." Most of the workers in the shops and factories own their own homes, which are well kept and planted with flower beds and an abundance of nature's carpet- green grass. Wide, elmshaded streets lined with comfortable homes, together with Lake Winona bordered by modern residences, invite you to make Winona your permanent residence.

Numbered among the many fine homes which Winona can boast about is a beautiful travertine house on the Lake Drive owned by Mr. and Mrs. Emil Leicht. No home, outside Chicago, had been built entirely of travertine when Mr. Emil Leicht decided to have one. A house of this buff stone that glowed warmly in the sun was (and still is) an innovation. It can be sawed to different lengths and widths to avoid the monotony of the usual stone house.

When Mr. and Mrs. Leicht went to England, there on the countryside they gathered a dream picture of the house they'd build along Winona's scenic Lake Drive. A modified manor house with gleaming tile roof, pointed arches, quaint gables, and generous Gothic windows to bring them the beauty of Lake Winona and surrounding hills. The house was completed in 1930.

Winona travertine, quarried in the bluffs near Winona, is the same stone in outward respects, as the celebrated Italian travertine which is shipped to many parts of the world. It has been used since Roman days of glory for

statues and interiors of palaces in the world's capitals. In Winona, travertine is even used for sidewalks. Winona travertine made its debut in the building world, during the World War when a gentleman from New York happened to come to Winona. Strangely enough, he was impressed with the sidewalks. The New Yorker, with an enviable background in the marble business, lost no time in reaching the quarry. A few weeks later an order came for 3,355 tons.

The principal difference between Winona and Italian travertine is that the latter is softer when quarried and hardens on exposure. Winona stone is very hard and stays that way; is unaffected by climatic extremes; and is impervious to grease or stain.

When you consider the Leicht home required 160 tons of rubble and that it took an hour to saw 1 and 1/2 inches of travertine, you get an idea of the task. Stone walls ranged from 4 to 5 inches thick. A slab of stone from the quarry, measuring 8 by 4 by 3 and 1/2 feet weighed 11 tons. Most of the travertine was laid seam face outer surface rough, as it came from the hills). For the entrances, decorative trims, and fireplaces, the stone was fabricated (surface sawed and polished). When the stone was delivered to the Leicht premises, it was cracked with hammer and chisel to make the ends rough for artistic purposes. Every stone was placed according to a pattern. There are square slabs of yellow against slender strips of travertine. Blue stones look violet on certain days. Rusty nestled among larger stones, always adds life. Mr. Leicht is proud of the color job on the house. Five different stones were used. All stones came from Minnesota, except New York blue which was used for five per cent of the house; an interesting sidelight on our state, supposedly reserved for dairying and iron mines.

In this home, four glass Gothic doors capture the beauty of the chain of hills that give Winona its nestled-among-the-hills character. Rising 500 to 600 feet, the hills provide a kaleidoscope of color with the seasons. This unfolding of nature the Leichts enjoy from their windows.

Every home built with care and originality has somewhere a symbol of its



owners personality. With Mr. Leicht, printing has been his life work. He and his father before him published magazines and newspapers. What could be more in tune with his interests than printer's devils? There they are at the top of the stairway. One devil on each side humped up with rage and gnashing ferocious teeth.

Winona invites the builders of trade and homes. Winona is a good city in which to live, but it is above all else, a city in which the new-comer, be he a transient, tourist or a home-seeker, is welcomed and made to feel at home. Winn Tee Pee is a nice big home for the public's use. It is unique in architecture and worthwhile seeing. The very location and name breathe of legends and long ago. Located on the east side of highway no.3 at Sugar Leaf - that prominent land mark, always associated with the name Winona - Winn Tee Pee is open and accessible at any time of the year. Every building is of log construction with old stone fireplaces, even in the cabins - a most unusual sight in Southern Minnesota. Teepees dot the grounds and are rented at reasonable figures. Thus, the name Winn Tee Pee "Winona Teepee Camp."

The interior of the main lodge, garage, filling station and mechanic's home is even more novel than the exterior. Log finish still prevails, presenting itself in sidewalls, arches, stairway and curtain poles. The floor is waxed for dancing. The furnishings have an air of years long forgotten by most of us. The home has modern conveniences, yet breathes of the woods and long ago.

Winona is a city of business and beauty. The two have been merged no more successfully in any section of the state or country. The city is a consistent combination of the practical and aesthetic, and is truthful in its claim as "Winona the Beautiful". Looking toward the city from the east one beholds towers and buildings of every size, the business section of the city proper, the loop-district of Winona, Minnesota. Winona is the richest city for its size in America.

Among the business places are found the largest medicine manufacturing plant of its kind in the world. In 1900 the first four-story building of the Watkins plant was put up in Winona, followed in rapid succession by others of four, six



and eight stories and culminating in the magnificent ten-story structure whose tower and flagstaff are landmarks for many miles around. These buildings in Winona occupy more than an entire city block and the Winona plant is fronted by the Administration Building which is considered one of the most beautiful in the country. Noble buildings are not only necessary, but inspiring. This beautiful, rich and architecturally perfect building is the latest and most striking evidence of the activity, success and permanency of the company. It is a monument to the founder of this business and his principles. It extends a full block (300 feet) and has a width of 70 feet with an annex in the rear for cloak and toilet rooms. It is built of beautifully cut blue Bedford stone on the outside, and steel and concrete within, and finished in the finest mahogany, marble and tile, with the richest of mural and window decorations. It has all the modern appliances and facilities for efficiently dispatching the enormous office business of the company. The building is built in modern classic style after plans by a famous architect and constructed by one of the largest and best contracting companies of its kind in America. It is considered the finest private Administration building in the United States and is an honor and credit to the largest company of its kind in the world. What may appear an extravagance to some had become a necessity, as the company's rapidly increasing business became much too large to be handled in the former extensive office rooms. <sup>They</sup> ~~We~~ have provided for the future in one department at least by this commodious, enduring and distinctive building.

Words fail to adequately describe the richness of the interior of this magnificent structure. As you enter through the main portal by way of three sets of swinging doors, you find yourself on a marble floor in the spacious rotunda, and looking up, you perceive the vast dome finished entirely in glass mosaics, the myriads of small pieces of opalescent glass of which it is composed being worked into beautiful designs in keeping with the building, the iridescent colors scintillating with brightness and lending grace, beauty and airiness to the interior. The same treatment of glass mosaics is applied to the face of the

twelve pilasters supporting the arches of the vaulted roof throughout the main part of the building, requiring one million pieces of glass and giving a richness of effect which is indescribable.

Standing under the mosaic glass dome, the next features to attract attention are the rich art glass windows in the arch at the rear of the building directly opposite. These windows represent scenes in and around Winona, the famous peak in our bluffs called Sugar Loaf, views along the Mississippi River, Etc. This is worked up into a handsome design by the use of varying thickness of different colors of art glass, vying with the famous examples of stained glass in the cathedrals of Europe, and reviewing what has been considered as a lost art. The same treatment is accorded to the windows in the arches of the Third and Fourth Street entrance to the Administration building, giving a rich effect beyond the power of adequate description.

Looking up towards the sky-light, which occupies a space in the roof of 168 feet in length by 29 feet in width, the visitor will notice two hundred and twenty-four panels of translucent, opalescent art glass, each one yard square, admitting a flood of light from the sky above. This art glass is protected above by glass prisms set in steel and concrete, and the space in between is provided with a great number of electric lights, with holophane reflections, which at night reflect the light down through the art glass, making a most beautiful and artistic effect. These art glass panels are so far up from the floor that with the light streaming through them in the daytime, they look like jewels hung in mid-air.

Another commanding feature of the decorative scheme is found in the rich marbles that are used. In the rotunda, there is an Alps green wainscot three feet in height and above this and covering both arches is found finely matched Sienna marble, yellow in color, and of the most expensive description. The entrance vestibules at each end of the building are finished in English veined Italian marble of the best quality. The private offices in the south end are approached by a marble landing three steps in height, surmounted by pedestals on



7.  
each side in Alps green marble, out of which spring beautiful stands of electric lamps.

The lighting system is one that calls for the highest admiration. It consists mainly of twenty-two great ornamental, specially designed concrete and steel bowls, which shoot the light up on the ceiling whence it is reflected to the floor below giving a strong yet soft light without any glare or shadow. This is the most up-to-date system of indirect lighting.

The heating and ventilating are of the latest and most approved type, absolutely the last word on this proposition. The heat is supplied from a central heating plant, outside of the building. The air is washed through water taking out all its impurities, then heated by passing over steam coils, and forced thru ducts to different parts of the building by rotary fans driven by several powerful electric motors, making it possible to change all of the air in the building every few minutes, giving abundance of fresh, pure air for the office employees at all times.

Another addition to the great Watkins enterprises is the Winona Savings Bank. Diagonally across from the Post-Office, on the southeast corner of Main and Fourth streets, the Winona Savings Bank was erected. It fronts on Main street, its length being 135 feet, and its width at the widest part 75 feet.

The design for the Winona Savings Bank building is modern and distinctly American in its architecture and represents a new note in plan and construction. The exterior view is made monumental and impressive by the employment of a central pylon effect. The two high monolithic columns supporting the cornice of the pylon are of polished granite and are four feet and eight and one-half inches in diameter at the base, and each thirty<sup>seven</sup> feet high.

The central entrance design forms an impressive architectural effect and is in harmony with a great banking institution. On either side of the main pylon treatment of elevations are utilitarian buildings, planned and designed as a part of the bank. Over the wings is a second story, shown on the exterior with terminating balconies. As one enters the building from the central entrance on



Main street, the spaciousness and supreme elegance of the interior are at once apparent. The ceiling of the public lobby is over forty-five feet high. An abundance of imported marbles of beautiful texture and color will greet and fascinate the eye and mind upon entering. Balcony effects project from the four sides on a level with the second story, permitting the visitor to obtain extended views of the entire floor below.

The ceiling of the public lobby is beautifully modelled and ornamented and is so arranged that the electric lighting of the interior is concealed under the cornice projections, thus giving a beautiful lighting effect to the interior of the vast public lobby.

Opposite the main entrance, and located centrally in the pylon are the great steel vaults of the institution. No money or pains were spared to make them the safest, as well as the most artistic of the kind in the country. The entrance to the vaults is afforded by a beautiful and artistic circular vault door, which is now the very latest and most approved thing in the way of vault entrances and is burglar-proof as well as vault-proof. The fine steel work used in connection with this massive door make it a thing of beauty as well as of security and strength. The door itself weighs about thirteen tons. Not only are the vaults to be burglar-proof and fire-proof, but they will also be proof against moisture, earthquakes, mob violence, insurrection and foreign invasion. The interior of the safety deposit vault consists of the most modern and approved style of safety deposit boxes, of different sizes to suit all needs.

There are two marked divisions of the interior, namely the banking department on the main floor and the institutional floor above. The banking floor is planned to be practical in every detail, every facility being afforded to properly transact every phase of modern banking. The furniture is especially designed for its use, and besides being made for service in its broadest sense is pleasing and restful to the eye. The banking space is beautifully lighted in broad day-light by means of spacious windows, furnishing light from all four sides.

9.

This artistic new building may be called an institutional bank. By this is meant it is designed to be of real service to the community in which it is located, ever and above serving the purpose of an ideal place for the transaction of purely banking business. The institutional floor in the second story is so arranged as to accomodate both ladies and gentlemen. Certain rooms are set aside for the use of either sex, with all necessary conveniences attached, in order to encourage the public to visit the institution. The entire design and plan being intended to respond to a need in every community to harmonize commercial banking, social and civic interests in a practical manner, with artistic ideals, thus creating an institution of intrinsic worth to the community.

Mr. Geo. W. Maher, of Chicago, who designed the Administration building of the J. R. Watkins Medical Company and the new Winona Savings Bank building also designed the ten story and basement factory building of steel, concrete and white brick. The engineer, writing in regard to this (as well as another at Memphis) said: "I believe these two buildings are unique in being probably the strongest buildings of seven and eleven stories in the world today." The floor capacity of the buildings is 450 lbs. to the square foot, which is probably much more than it will ever be called upon to bear. On a recent test, 900 lbs. to the square foot was piled on one of the floors, which showed only the slightest deflection. The building is surmounted by a brick inclosed tower, which will accommodate the water tanks with a capacity of 50,000 gallons of water for the sprinkler system of the plant. Around the tower will be a gallery, which affords a fine view of the surrounding country. On top of the tower is a seventy-five foot flag staff, from which Old Glory is flung to the breeze. This stately building immediately adjoins the Administration building on the east, and having the same lines, forms a most pleasing and harmonious ensemble. It is used for warehouse and manufacturing purposes, and we doubt if there can be found as handsome and as strong a building in the whole



country. The Watkins company has beautified Winona in a practical way. Common red brick might have perhaps served the purpose as well and would have been vastly cheaper, but with due regard to the surroundings, the Company decided upon the beautiful white brick, at a much greater expense.

More and more is it coming to be true that when plans are submitted for large modern structures in the way of office buildings, banks, factory buildings or schools, churches, places of amusement, as well as homes, Winona Travertine Stone is being specified. The quality of stone produced by the Biesanz Company, shaped and polished by the most modern machinery, is even better than the Italian Travertine, while the saving in freight by fabricating the stone in the quarries is very considerable, to say nothing of the greater ease and saving of time in construction.

We have made amazing progress in the construction of strong, massive, durable, comfortable buildings. The stone from which the Teacher's College Hall is made came from the Biesanz Quarries, three miles west of Winona. The new College Hall marks an achievement in architecture. It is a completely modern educational hall and has all the advantages a school building could offer. On an occasion when state educational officials and presidents of the various Teachers Colleges in the state were guests in Winona of the local school authorities, James H. McConnell, commissioner of education, declared that the building is typical of the best school buildings of the generation.

With the exception of one frame building now used as a men's Dormitory, the physical plant of the Winona Teacher's College is all relatively new, architecturally attractive and in good condition. A monumental building, if it be really beautiful and glorious gives a visible object round which college life and loyalty can grow.

The Saint Mary's College buildings are all of most modern construction. The exterior is designed in an adaptation of the Corinthian style of architecture.

At the College of St. Teresa the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, and Lourdes



11.  
Hall, the main residence buildings dominate a college group of many modern and splendidly equipped buildings. Among these are the St. Teresa Hall, containing lecture and recitation rooms, the college study, and the administration offices. St. Cecilia's hall is a conservatory containing music practise rooms, concert rooms and studios. All the buildings of St. Teresa's are consistent in their architectural appointments.

In the recent building program of public schools of Winona, the last<sup>est</sup> built school is the Washington-Kosciuszko building. It is said to be ~~one of~~ the finest school in the N.W. today.

Various styles of architecture comprise the building of the churches of Winona. Among some of them are: the Episcopal church - the Gothic type, the Chapel of St. Teresa's - the Italian type, and the St. Stanislaus church - the Roman type.

Among the several places of amusement are the magnificent home of the Winona Country Club. No need of going to far off lands to glimpse this scene of rare beauty. At the foot of these rugged Mississippi River hills lies this lovely place.

It may well be said that Winona's band stand is one of the most complete and excellent in the Northwest. Every possible thought and effort has been given to make it permanent, consistently satisfactory and modern to the last minute. The structure is largely built of brick and concrete, set upon a foundation of piling. It consists essentially of a stilted half-dome set upon a platform, which rises about four feet above grade. The outside width of the half-dome or shell is 42 feet. The arch which is the principal feature of the front is 32 feet high and 28 feet wide, and is flanked by twin columns and embellished by other architectural features, dignified and suitable to the place. It is situated a little to the south ~~of west~~ in Lake Park so that a considerable section of the lake lies directly in front of the Band Stand. On quiet evenings, this beautiful vista will invite many to the use of boats during the concerts.

A wide cinder path has been constructed directly toward the Band Stand, and

the parking and seating area in front of and westerly from it. Elm trees are planted throughout the seating area which form a sheltering grove over the benches. These trees are trimmed rather high from the ground so as not to obstruct the view from automobiles in the ample parking space behind the benches.

In summing up, let us take note first of the style of architecture employed in the building of homes of Winona. We have Colonial, Dutch Colonial, English, French Provincial and none-typical types - a combination of American and other styles of architecture.

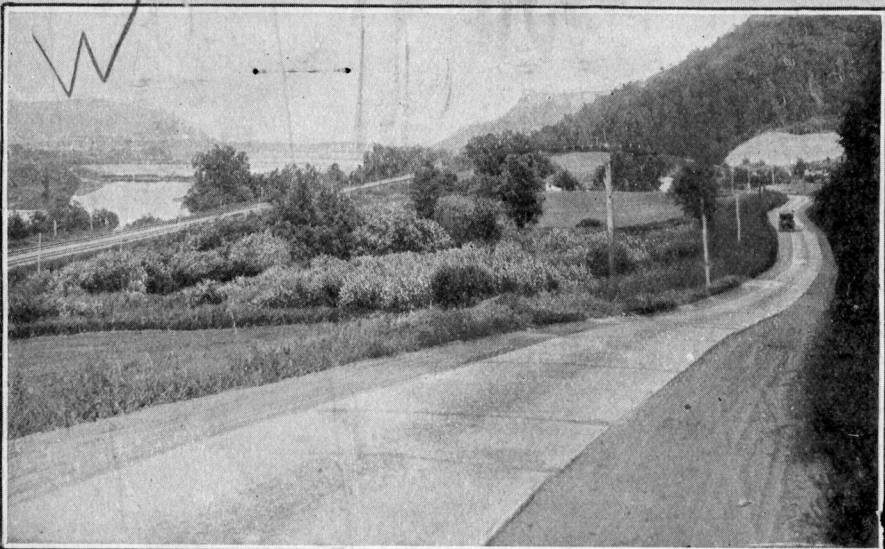
Besides business places already mentioned, much improvement has been made in architecture along the line of remodeling store fronts. In the last five years, the firm of Boyum, Shubert and Sorenson of Winona have changed no less than 25 to 30 store fronts. Work was completed on the Federal Bakery front in 1932. It is constructed of vitralite in mahogany and black, with bright metal binding to form an attractive contrast. A very attractive front has been used in the building of the Winona Seed Store in Jan. 1935. This front is an English type.

The manufacturing plant of the Ray State Milling Company is one of the most modern and complete flour mills ever erected. It embodies the latest ideas of the world's foremost milling engineers and includes many original features.

Winona has made history in architectural achievement. Two other banks besides the one specially mentioned rank with the best types that American architects have produced.

The schools have as a whole perhaps dropped away from the Old World architecture more than any group of our buildings. The dominant Americanism shines forth in these buildings.

Because a sensible Greek or Goth made a thing of beauty of a waterspout by carving it into a lion's head or a gargoyle, must America forever have copies of these strewn over her buildings?





ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

WINONA, MINNESOTA

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Memorial

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WINONA, MINNESOTA

1.

TOPIC: Latsch State Park  
SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer  
Number of words:

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LATSCH STATE PARK

Latsch State Park, officially named Scenic Highway State Park by its donor, John A. Latsch of Winona, was presented to the state of Minnesota on December 30, 1924. It was officially accepted by Gov. J. A. O. Preus, during his last day as governor. The park, a strip two miles long and extending along the Minnesota side of the Mississippi covers an area of 350 acres. On Minnesota Highway No. 3 (US 61), it lies midway between Minnesota City and Minneiska and about ten miles northwest of Winona. It affords a splendid view of the

TOPIC: Latsch State Park  
SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer

river and surrounding country and contains five peaks,  
Chimney Rock, Lookout Mountain, and Faith, Hope and  
Charity. Three of these are among the highest points  
along the river. From Lookout Mountain on a clear day,  
the visibility is good for ten miles up or down the  
river valley. Among these hills are sheltered valleys  
and benches, the entire area is well forested and con-  
tains a number of springs. Three separate areas have  
been prepared as camping sites. Good fishing grounds  
lie nearby as well as several sand beaches.

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Source of Information

Legislative Manuals of 1931 - 1935

Extracts from Winona Republican Herald

Association of Commerce Literature

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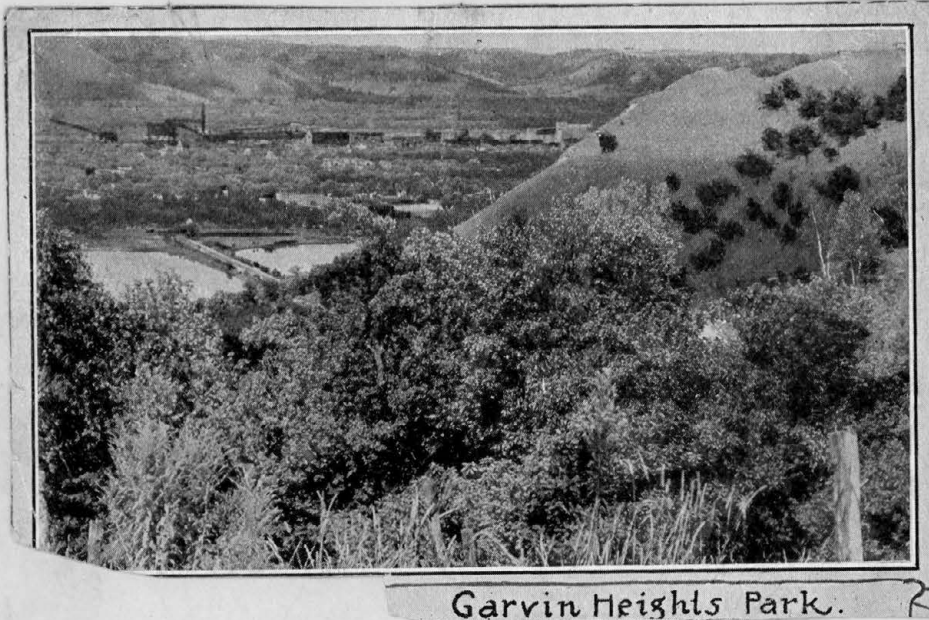
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WINONA, MINNESOTA

1.

TOPIC: Garvin Heights Park  
SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer  
Number of words:

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Garvin Heights Park.

#### GARVIN HEIGHTS STATE PARK

9

Eight acres of land, on the slopes and top of the most accessible and imposing bluff rising directly above Lake Winona on the south side of the city, was donated to the state by the Hon. H. C. Garvin of Winona and made available in 1918 for the use of the Winona State Teachers College. Known as Garvin Heights, it forms the nucleus of a high line drive and park, and its bluff, sometimes called Inspiration Point, is, from point of view of scenery and contour, the most desirable along the valley.

TOPIC: Garvin Heights Park  
SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer

The hill-top is reached by crossing Huff St. Bridge to the quarry road as far as to the shoulder of the bluff. From this point, easy paths and concrete stairs lead up past occasional birch and oak trees and convenient resting places, to the point of the bluff. It is also accessible by automobile. It affords delightful picnic and camp grounds, with two shelters. There is, in the midst of a circle of fine oak trees, a natural amphitheatre, which the dramatic clubs may use from time to time for the production of plays. A splendid panoramic view of Winona and the valley is presented here, including the Wisconsin hills, Trempealeau mountain and miles of the Mississippi river and, on a clear day, Lake Pepin, 40 miles distant.

The descent from the bluff, to the right, is almost sheer into a little valley; on the other side, the slope is steep and grassy or wooded to the Woodlawn cemetery; and on the front, the descent is abrupt to the edge of Lake Winona, 500 feet below.

9 This recreational park is visible against the sky from the south windows of all the Winona State Teachers College buildings, is a twenty minutes' walk away, and is an ideal place for hikes, sight-seeing, nature study, picnics, and camp fires.

Caretakers' reports show that the average number of

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Sunday visitors to the park is about 600, through the summer months. Most of the visitors are from outside Winona, Many coming from Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Roads are in excellent condition.

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Source of Information

Legislative Manuals of 1931 - 1935

Winona Republican Herald - June 3, 1932

Booklet "Garvin Heights" Winona Teachers College Library.

Winona State Teachers' College Quarterly Bulletin Yearbook & Catalog (1934-35).

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WINONA, MINNESOTA

1.

TOPIC: Whitewater State Park  
SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer  
Number of words:

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Island of Oak and  
surrounding territory

WHITEWATER STATE PARK

Whitewater State Park is located some eight miles north of St. Charles, in and surrounding the valley of the Whitewater river in Elba township. Upon entering the park from the relatively level farm land surrounding it, one is pleasantly surprised by the unexpected beauty and wildness of it - a scenic paradise, combining forest, bluffs, strange boulders, sharp peaks, waterfalls, winding trout streams. It facilitates a number of well developed camp grounds, including picnic tables, fire places, bathing. A nine - hole golf course is maintained by local interests.

9

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SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer

The park is owned and controlled by the State of Minnesota, was established in 1919 by the State Legislature which granted \$10,000 for its acquisition and expenses.

A round trip to Whitewater State Park from Winona over U.S. Highway 61 and return via St. Charles on U.S. 14 is about 55 miles. A number of features may be noted enroute.

Minnesota City - One of the oldest towns in Minnesota, settled by a colony of New Yorkers with the idea of making it Minnesota's greatest city.

Rollingstone - A fur-trading post was located here in the early days. It is in the center of an agricultural valley noted for its wealth and beauty. Many chances here to use a camera and along this entire route thru Straight Valley to

Elba - A beautifully wooded valley, with mill-ponds, waterfalls, perfect trees, jumping trout and romantic tales of gold mines.

St. Charles - The second city in the County of Winona. It is the home of the Winona Co. Fair.

Utica - in the truck farming area.

[ Lewiston - First Consolidated school in Minnesota. ]

The Arches - An unusual beauty spot divided into two units - The Arches Waltonian containing trout ponds, camping site, deer park and log cabins. The Farmers

TOPIC: Whitewater State Park  
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Community Park, a huge picnic grounds with all modern facilities.

9  
~  
Stockton - See the old mill stream and mill. Then over Stockton Hill - considered the most beautiful entrance to Winona - new concrete drive (US 14), exquisite scenery. Climbing an easy grade along a long, winding road coming to top of a ridge gives a view down the valley of St. Mary's College on Terrace Heights. Between the hills on either side can be seen a small strip of Winona and the river. Coming into Winona along Gilmore Avenue one passes - College of St. Teresa - with the new half million dollar chapel. Pfeiffer's Nursery - Acres and acres of flowers, shrubs, etc. The place known as one of the largest growers of plant oaks and bulbs in the United States.

The valley of the Whitewater lies in Winona, Olmsted and Wabasha counties about midway between Winona and Rochester. Some 90 miles from the Twin Cities, it is easily accessible from state highways (US 61 and US 14).

For years, lovers of open spaces, members of Izaak Walton league chapters and sportsmen's clubs have schemed to save the river valley in all its pristine beauty. The valley is the only area remaining in southeastern Minnesota available for an extensive scenic and recreational enterprise at a reasonable cost. Much of the park, some 600 acres in extent was donated by a man who might be called



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the Godfather of the park idea, Mr. John Latsch of Winona.

Due to cutting of timber and brush, grazing, ditching and ~~erosion~~ erosion in other parts of the valley, the state park portion has been threatened. To avoid further encroachment, representatives of the various outdoor organizations have worked with the conservation commission with a view to save the entire valley.

2

The Sioux Indians had villages both above and below the Whitewater river. In the valley they fished and hunted, found bark for canoes and food vessels, maple sap for their sugar, and hardwood for their implements and instruments of war. Brook trout darted in the swift moving stream that churned to lacy whiteness as it leaped in spots between towering walls or rock down narrow rapids. This froth and foam, together with a sediment that gave the waters a milky hue, brought from the Indians the name "Minneiska," translated today as White-water. An early community named Minneiska still thrives today on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi river just below where the Whitewater empties into that stream.

2

On the wooded slopes and flat stretching banks of the stream, the Indians found abundant game. Here were elk and deer, beaver and game birds, such as prairie Chicken, grouse, partridge and quail. Some of the older

TOPIC: Whitewater State Park  
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settlers in the community still can remember farmers who hunted the region in winter and brought deer by the hay-rack load to towns for what they would bring in cash. The last elk disappeared from the region just a short time before.

9 ( A great variety of trees and plants have been found here. White and Norway pine were on the upper slopes, in the lowlands were the hardwoods, white and red oak, sugar maple, white elm, rock elm, basswood, white ash, hackberry, black walnut, butternut and hickory. )

The Whitewater stream proper twists and winds down a tortuous course for some 30 miles from where it rises in Olmsted County to where it empties into the Mississippi above Winona. Several tributaries bring the stream mileage for which protection is sought, to more than 110, practically all of which is suitable for trout fishing.

10 ( At present, all efforts are bent toward conservation in the area. More land is being acquired to include flowage rights. Seeding and replanting, landscaping including soil preparation is being done in some places. In other, there is judicious cutting and thinning of timber and brush. Proper care of small game will require feeding grounds and shelter for winter. Efforts are being made to re-introduce and propagate extinct game, such as deer. Constant supervision must be maintained against diseases, vermin, and other pests. Izaak Walton leagues are speeding up land purchases and development of )

TOPIC: Whitewater State Park  
SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer

trout ponds. Fish hatcheries are being planned. Much of the reclamation and conservation work is being done at present by the Winona County WPA work camp, under the supervision of the National Park service.

The valley is one of the most ideal spots in Minnesota for development of a recreational center. It presents an outdoor classroom for the study of every kind of wild life. One may enjoy a picnic outing in private. On the other hand thousands of people may be massed together at a community affair and not be crowded.

In August, 1933, Minnesota's Diamond Jubilee Pageant was presented in the natural amphitheatre of this park before an audience of some 40,000 people. This pageant commemorating Minnesota's entry into the Union was produced under the auspices of the Northwestern Minnesota Historical Association, the Minnesota Conservation Department and the 1st District Isaac Walton League and portrayed the entire history of Minnesota, including the life of the Indian before the coming of the white men to the Sioux uprising (1882) as a climax. The cast of 225 people included employees of forest and park service, CCC units, and 125 Indians from the White Earth reservation of Northern Minnesota.

In August, 1935, another Historical Pageant of Minnesota was given, again under the direction of the



Whitewater State Park

WINONA, MINNESOTA

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TOPIC: Whitewater State Park  
SUBMITTED BY: Carolyn Dyer

Northwestern Minnesota Historical Association.

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Source of Information

Legislative Manuals of 1931 - 1935 .

Extracts from Winona Republican Herald.

Association of Commerce Literature.

Duluth Herald, Aug. 5, 1935.

IS

## Polish People.

Winona  
Country

1. Why they came to Winona.
2. Their occupation.
3. Their home life.
4. Religion
5. Education
6. Recreation
7. Their growth and development.
8. Patriotism

Pauline Earle.

Winona

Polish people who were subjects of the King of Prussia sought freedom from persecution on account of their religion and nationality, in "the new world" - America. About 1860 - 70 thousands of Polish emigrants came to America. They scattered here and there, some coming as far west as Minnesota. About 1870 there were about one hundred Polish families in Winona. (Hist. of Winona County Vol. II) Tickets were purchased from a steam-ship agent here in Winona, sent to relatives over-sea and thus more and more Poles came to Winona. Sometimes three families lived in a home. The average home consisted of three rooms and a summer kitchen.

Winona was a busy place. In the beginning the saw-mills employed the greatest number of men <sup>about 1,500</sup> ~~600~~ <sup>Rep. 7th March Memo, 1930.</sup> ~~700~~. There were four mills. As time went on there were the railroad shops employing about 700 men, the wagon works 300 men, five stone quarries, the largest the Northwestern employing 600 - 700 men.

As they worked and earned and saved so they began to think of better homes. Out of each weekly pay check was deducted a small sum toward the price of lumber and material for these homes. No carpenter was hired. The building was looked forward to with delight. No man grumbled. All were happy in this land of freedom.

They gave thanks to God each day for the advancement which they were making. On Apr. 2, 1871 a mass-meeting was held to consider the building of a church. It was unanimously decided



to organize a parish and build a church under the name and patronage of St. Stanislaus. A committee of six men selected at the meeting immediately started out to collect funds from the Poles for the building of a church. A small frame building was put up on what was known as "the prairie" on the corner of the present Carmona and 4<sup>th</sup> St. in the summer of 1872. The Poles attended church services under the direction of Rev. A. Plut of St. Joseph's parish, of German nationality. It is not uncommon in Winona to hear our older Polish people conversing with their German neighbor in the German language. In April 1873 they procured the services of the Rev. Joseph Guaykiewicz. His coming proved of growth and development to the Polish people. New Polish families came into the Winona. An addition two wings were built when the original house of worship could not accommodate even half of its members. Even this move, in 1893, was no remedy for the growth of population. So, the congregation decided on building a new church of much larger proportions that was not to be out-grown by the congregation for years and generations to come. Under the direction of Rev. J. J. Pacholaki who was ordained June 18, 1886 by Archbishop Ireland and who in 1894 at the request of the late Bishop Cotter assumed charge of St. Stanislaus parish, the structure was completed. The magnificent building of Romanesque style is a credit to the congregation and an ornament to the city. With its seating capacity of 1800 it is one of the largest church buildings in the State of Minnesota. The

3. total cost of the building and its equipment amounted to \$86,000. Winona County Hist. Vol. II. according to the official annual report for 1936 there are 4400 souls in the parish today. Report from Parish House of St. Stanislaus.

The Polish people of Winona did not neglect their duty toward their children educationally. As early as 1873 they erected a combination school and parsonage. Later on other buildings were purchased or built for school purposes. In 1905, altho about 100 families residing in the western part of the city, separated from St. Stanislaus parish a new school building was erected at an outlay of \$40,000. The enrollment for 1936 is 600 children. Up to the year 1886 lay teachers had charge of the education of the children. Ever since then it remains under the management of the school Sisters of Notre Dame. The course of studies comprises the ordinary eight grades plus a well directed kindergarten. A home for the sisters was built next to the church, shortly after the church was built. Next, the present rectory was put up.

On Aug. 17, 1918, in recognition of his exemplary ~~service~~ life and his splendid accomplishments Pope Benedict XV made the Rev. J. J. Pacholaki a domestic prelate to his Holiness. On this occasion the Winona Association of Commerce presented him an illuminated address out-



4.  
lining his accomplishments in Winona and testifying to Winona's estimate of his worth as a churchman and as a citizen. Moninger Pascholski cherished this illuminated address as one of his most treasured possessions. He was by nature a modest and retiring man but he had a singular gift for making and retaining friends. It was a pleasure to him to know he was always honored and esteemed by the city which was his home for ~~the last~~ 38 years.

In 1906 a combination school and church was built in the west part of the city of Winona, and named the St. Casimir's Church and School. There are at the present date (1936) 700 souls in the parish. 128 children are taught by 5 Notre Dame nuns. On July 17, ~~31~~ 1935 a procession and solemn High Mass was held at St. Casimir's Church and attended by 800 persons honoring Rev. John Eugene Szabowski, pastor of St. Casimir's Church for 25 years. He was a former pupil of St. Stanislaus and co-author of a history.

The Polish people of Winona look with pride at the vast army of former pupils of St. Stanislaus and St. Casimir's who hold various positions and titles of note not only in Winona but in other parts of this country as well as abroad.

In Dec. 1936 a new pipe-organ was installed in St. Stanislaus Church. Rev. J. E. Cieminski directs a choir of men and women every Sunday during the 10:30 a. m. mass. The Polish people are lovers of music, vocal as well as instrumental.

On Oct. 3, 1935 the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Parents and



5. Teachers was held in the parish hall at 4<sup>th</sup> and Carimona streets. It was sponsored by Rev. J. E. Cierninski who is pastor of St. Stanislaus parish since the death of Monsignor Richolski July 27, 1932 and a former pupil of St. Stanislaus School.

The parish hall is in the church basement of St. Stanislaus Church on the corner of Fourth and Carimona streets and is the recreational center as well as the church society meeting place.

The Polish people <sup>of Winona</sup> had for many years a Polish newspaper called the "Wiadomosci". Mr. and Mrs. <sup>H.</sup> Derdowski were the publishers. It is not in existence today. In Poland is a monument to the memory of Mr. H. Derdowski known as Poland's Post. The printing establishment was located at the S. W. corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Liberty streets.

No element of citizenry in Winona responded more promptly and generously than did men of St. Stanislaus to the call of duty to their country. The two Polish parishes furnished nearly 500 soldiers in the World War. Leon Wetzel, a member of St. Casimir's parish, was the 1<sup>st</sup> Winona boy to give his life to our country's service. The American Legion Post is dedicated to his memory. Rep. Herald July 28, 1932.

Pauline Earle.

Submitted 6/28/37 by  
Carolyn Rye, Winona

THE STORY OF A FUR TRADER

If we should take a drive up along the Mississippi River from the city of Winona and continue along until we reach almost the northeast corner of the county, we would come to a large out-door recreation and picnic ground. The place is known as Chimney Rock Park. Here one may climb a high bluff, at the crest of which is a great boulder or cliff resembling a huge chimney. Of course, it is called Chimney Rock and the park takes its name from it.

One might like to wander to the base of this bluff and imagine himself back in the year 1830. It is just seven years since Major Stephen H. Long, with two companions, made his memorable trip through this territory on his way to Lake Winnipeg, far in the Canadian wilds. It is also just seven years since the first steamboat managed to get through the rapids below Prairie du Chien to reach the upper Mississippi.

At the base of our bluff, in a little clearing enclosed on all sides by dense forest, we see a cabin. It is well hidden from the prying eyes of some chance, savage enemy. The white men, who are passing up and down the river more frequently now, would never know of its existence.

The cabin is quite large. It is built of rough-hewn logs obtained from the forest nearby. There is an outside chimney built of stone and clay, and the chinks between the logs are also filled with clay. Inside the cabin



we find a huge stone fireplace.

This cabin is the home of one Francois La Bathe, the first trader to come into the county since it passed into the possession of the United States. La Bathe is a half-breed, of French and Indian mixed blood. He is a nephew of the Sioux chief, Wabasha, and from childhood he lived with the Dakota Indians. That is the name the Sioux call themselves. He had little education, but you may be sure he knows and understands Indian ways and customs, and he speaks their language. He is a dark-skinned fellow, of medium height and build, and walks with a stoop. He wears the dress of the French fur-trader; the usual fur cap, long, buckskin jacket fastened at the waist by a belt to which is secured a sheath, which holds the ever-present hunting knife. He wears high, leather boots and carries a rifle.

If we should find him at home with his family, we would find La Bathe a likeable fellow, a congenial and friendly host. Thus he is known far and wide. Because of his friendly manner and because of his relationship to the Sioux chief, Wabasha, La Bathe has controlled trading operations in this area for many years. The Indians will allow him to trade where white men are not permitted. He will tell us that besides this, his principal cabin, he has many cabins or "posts" all up and down the river. They are always located at places where he thinks trade can be secured. These he calls "petty posts" and are only temporary huts, to be abandoned if trade runs out and they are no longer useful. One of them is located just a few miles down the river from his principal cabin. His nephew, Joseph Barrette, is in charge here. Another "post" is located across the river and about ten miles below Wabasha prairie. Two friends of La Bathe, half breeds also, take care of this post. It is here that our trader friend dreams of building a town some day.



Besides the family's living quarters, what do we find in these various "posts" which La Bathe has built? Goods--goods of all kinds that might be traded to the Indians in exchange for their supplies of furs. The earliest country stores! Here the Indians and the few pioneers that might be about, can obtain their supplies of flour, pork, dried beans, tobacco and salt. Here also are blankets, steel knives, hatchets, guns, powder, shot; there is a paint called vermilion, which the Indians covet. And there is rum, the Indian's "fire-water". Hard as our government tries to prevent its sale to the savages, yet it is done. Indians become ugly, and dangerous when they drink liquor.

As the years go by other traders come into the territory. They, too, try to make friends with the Indians so that they may establish "posts" among them. But La Bathe somehow manages to prevent this. He is a very clever, man, and besides, being related to Wabasha, the chief naturally favors him. To make sure that none of the trade from the Wabasha band gets away from him, La Bathe builds another "post" just across the river from where, in later years, the city of Winona is located. His nephew, Barrette, takes care of this "post" also. It is occupied in winter only, when the fur trade is heaviest.

La Bathe has other activities besides collecting furs. The steam-boats that now pass up and down the Mississippi, need wood to burn in their steam engines. So he has his men at the lower "post" establish a wood-yard on an island opposite their cabin. It is near where years later a settlement named La Moille will be made. Wood can be piled or "banked" here, within easy reach of passing boats. An abundance of timber is near by, and the men can get it into place for the boats without much labor. There are no

horses and wagons to haul it, so the men must do all of the carrying. La Bathe sells the wood to the steamboat captains, and in payment to the men who have cut it, he furnishes them with food and other supplies from his "posts".

La Bathe has another wood-yard about ten miles above Wabasha prairie, on an island on the Minnesota side of the river. He has placed a Canadian friend, named Goulet, in charge here. Goulet thinks that this island is a very safe and secluded place, where he might have a farm and not be discovered easily by enemies. Through La Bathe's influence he receives permission from Wabasha to build a cabin and live here. All of this land belongs to the Wabasha band.

Goulet remains on his island for a long time. Here he tends his farm land and raises cattle. The cold weather finds him chopping wood for the wood-yard. La Bathe keeps in the supplies which he needs. In winter he has visitors who sometimes remain for a night of rest or until a storm is over. These are the French mail carriers who carry the mail all the way from Prairie du Chien. The nearest post office, to Fort Snelling. They go by way of the Mississippi, traveling on skates, when possible, or on snowshoes.

Goulet becomes quite a favorite with the Wabasha Indians. They visit him often. One day, as a party of Sioux pass his place, they stop for a friendly chat. They find him dead on the floor of his cabin. He has fallen with his feet among the ashes of the fireplace and is severely burned.

Time passes. It is the year 1844. La Bathe, who has built up an extensive chain of trading posts, has obtained huge quantities of furs



for the American Fur Co. He has a share in the company's boat, the "Chippewa", which operates between Fort Snelling and St. Louis, carrying the furs collected from the Indians and bringing back supplies.

But now comes a change. Perhaps La Bathe sees his fur trade gradually being destroyed by the white settlers who are coming in to take the land for farming purposes. Perhaps he longs for the old life, the life he knew when he was a boy, living with the Dakota Indians. Which ever it is, he begins to abandon his "posts", one after another.

Our government, through many treaties, has now bought all of the land from the Indians. We have provided a place for them, on reservations, which are located far to the north, where the Minnesota River begins. They are already beginning to migrate to their new home.

When the Wabasha band finally fold their tents and move from the prairie which has been their homestead for so long a time, La Bathe goes with them. No doubt he will be happier among the people of his early life.

But a dreadful thing is about to happen. The Indians who have never been satisfied to have the white people own their old hunting grounds, make one last effort to get back their lands. In a great uprising of all the bands, they attack the white settlers. This is known as the Sioux Massacre of 1862. La Bathe is killed, and by the savages with whom he has spent his life.



Submitted 6/28/37  
by Carolyn Rye, Winona

#### A PIONEER OF WINONA COUNTY

We read in our histories about the first white folks that moved out here and populated our Minnesota when it was new country. We don't give half enough credit to them who made our state possible. They moved here into a wilderness, cleared the land to make farms, endured all the hardships and the loneliness that go with pioneer life. And through it all, they were in constant danger of the savage Indian and his scalping knife.

Living as we do now, in well-populated communities, it is hard to picture a time when this area had hardly any people in it. What cabins existed were miles apart, and all the surrounding country was full of wild beasts and dangerous redskins.

We ask, "What sort of people came out here first and where did they come from?" Let us hear the story of one who traveled all the way from Green Bay, Wisconsin, in a birch bark canoe and finally came to what is now Winona county, the first permanent white settler here.

When a small boy, back in his home state of New York, Willard

Bradley Bunnell heard stirring tales of high adventure to be found in that far-away western land where white men scarcely dared, as yet, to go. He dreamed of the time when he could go forth to seek adventure and fortune in that strange new country.

When Willard was ten, he was living in Rochester, New York, with his parents. One day, with another boy older than himself, he ran away from home. He went to Buffalo on a canal packet. Here he obtained a job as cabin boy on one of the lake steamers. But his father, who had followed him, caught up with him and took him back home.

Willard's father was a physician. That gentleman, having once made a trip to Detroit in the Territory of Michigan, liked the little French village so much, that when the opportunity came a little later, he moved there with his family. He became interested in some land at the settlement of Saginaw, bought a forty-acre farm and moved his family thereon. He, however, remained in Detroit to continue his practice.

Saginaw was still Indian country, belonging to the Chippewas. Willard, with his older sister and a small brother, attended a country school here. The children were allowed to play with the Chippewa boys and girls and soon learned the language. The two boys often visited the Indian camps and their sugar-groves. Together with Indian children they went hunting, fishing, swimming and skating. They learned to fight Indian fashion. They also learned to shoot well and to handle a canoe. An old warrior taught Willard to kill the great bald eagle, a feat looked upon with great admiration by the Indians. We can imagine Willard's pride in having accomplished this feat.



Once more Willard left home. From a Captain Fox, a friend of his father, he learned about the duties of a seaman. Then he worked for awhile on the lake steamers.

When he was twenty-three years old, he became a fur-trader. He settled on the shores of Green Bay where he traded with the Chippewas and Menomines. The climate here brought ill-health upon him and he decided to move to the upper Mississippi valley region where, in a dryer air and more sunshine, he hoped to get well again. He was joined by his younger brother, Lafayette, who was now a doctor.

Their journey through the Indian country is an interesting story. Willard bought the two largest bark canoes that the Chippewas had. He loaded them with what furs he had and his remaining stock of goods for trade. He also took along a large quantity of maple syrup. Traveling down to Green Bay, he traded his goods to the Indians camping along the shores, taking their furs in payment. In Green Bay he received excellent prices for his furs. He also sold one of his canoes. The other canoe, which could carry about four thousand pounds, was loaded with what goods he had left, such things as were light in weight. He had calico cloth, such colors as the Indian squaws liked, red, green and blue. There were blankets, knives, beads and other colorful ornaments with which the savages loved to decorate themselves.

Besides his brother, Willard was accompanied by his wife and an old Menomines Indian guide who could speak Chippewa. This guide went only as far as Lake Winnebago. When the party left the lake they had to cross dangerous rapids in the Fox River. They passed the Butte des Morts, meaning "The mounds of the dead." These mounds were so old that nothing could be learned about



them or who built them. As they traveled they stopped to trade at Indian encampments on the way. They were now in Winnebago Country. Some of these savages complained about the prices on Willard's goods. Indeed, at one camp, the Indians demanded a tribute if the travelers expected to get away safely. This angered Willard so that he scolded them severely in the Chippewa language. The Indians were so surprised that he could speak a language which they understood that they were completely silenced. Then they brought out all of their furs and would have paid the traders more than they asked.

When they reached the Portage their canoe and its cargo was hauled by wagon to the Wisconsin River. Soon they reached Prairie du Chien, and here they met La Bathe, the half-breed Indian fur-trader, of whom we have heard. He bought their stock of furs for his firm, the American Fur Co. He told our travelers all about the country of the upper Mississippi River, where he had maintained trading posts for many years.

Of course he tried to interest them in stopping at Trempealeau. You will remember that La Bathe dreamed of building a town here where he had a post. He believed that this point would become a great center of trade. He told Willard about a man named Reed, a Kentuckian, who lived here and who would welcome them indeed. So our travelers started up the Mississippi, their destination, Trempealeau. Their boat was now much lighter, they having sold all of their furs.

Nothing much happened on the long journey up the Mississippi. When they reached La Crosse, a settlement below Trempealeau, they found a single cabin occupied by two traders. These men were anxious to have

Willard's family stay with them. Willard said he wished to go on to Trempealeau. They tried to discourage him by telling him that the place was overrun with rattlesnakes. They even offered to help him get a claim, and plow enough land for a potato patch, if he would return after seeing the immense rattlesnakes that lived in and around "Jim Reed's town".

So Willard and his companions went on. It was the month of June, just when the Mississippi valley and the surrounding hills look their grandest. They rested in the shade of the forest-clad bluffs, pausing at places where a cool, gushing spring would invite them to stop for a meal. They saw "Eagle's Nest," atop what is now Queen Bluff, some distance below the city of Winona. The "Nest" was occupied and had been for many years. At what is now Richmond in Winona County, the famous painter of ~~on the rocks,~~ the name of George Catlin, the famous painter of Indian characters. It marked the place where he had spent a night when making a trip through the upper Mississippi valley, searching for Indian subjects to paint.

Our party, soon reached Trempealeau, where they received a warm welcome. Besides Reed and his wife and several children, there were two half-breeds living in this settlement. These men were in the employ of La Bathe, the fur trader.

Willard and his party were invited immediately into Reed's home and served with a supper of delicious brook-trout, deer meat, potatoes, white bread, fresh butter and cream, and luscious wild strawberries. Our travelers found that Reed was quite a prosperous settler. He <sup>had</sup> a large herd of cattle and young horses. A drove of his hogs foraged in the hills for food.



Of course Reed was just as anxious for the newcomers to settle at his place as were the men at La Crosse anxious for them to come back. In the early days there was keen rivalry between settlements, as to which could procure the greatest number of settlers and thus become the larger town.

Willard decided to remain with Reed for the present and learn something about the country. He asked Reed about the rattlesnakes. Reed said that the men at La Crosse once became angry at him because he referred to Prairie du Chien as "Dog Prairie" and that a poor, miserable dog was used to give the place a name. To get even with him, they called his Trempealeau village site "Rattlesnake Hills". Every newcomer, hearing the name, would wish to stay away from the place. Reed admitted that there were many rattlers about but he said that his hogs were getting rid of them rapidly.

It so happened that Willard, his wife and brother remained at Trempealeau for some time. Lafayette finally went back to Detroit to continue the study of medicine. Willard, however, remained. For several years he lived in the neighborhood of what is now Fountain City. During all this time he explored thoroughly all of the surrounding country. He was pleased with the wonderful opportunities for game hunting, particularly deer and elk. He found the streams alive with brook-trout. With an old Menominee Indian, who was an expert trapper, he followed the Trempealeau river and trapped for beaver, mink and otter. These furs were very valuable.

Willard was anxious to make friends with the Sioux on the west side of the Mississippi, because he wished to trade with them. Then too, he had selected a site in Winona County, a place he had admired when first he came. Here he hoped to build a town some day. But he must first obtain permission from Wabasha, the Sioux chief, who claimed that land. But Wabasha did not



trust Willard, because he believed him to be a friend of the Chippewas. He spoke their language. Besides, he came from the Chippewa country. Chippewas were enemies of the Sioux.

But Willard did everything to gain the confidence of the Sioux. He learned to speak Sioux. They soon learned that he did not kill game carelessly, just because it was plentiful. That would make an Indian very angry. Gradually they began to admire him, then they began to trust him a little. Soon he was able to join them in their hunting excursions. He would dress as they did -with a beach-clout, buckskin leggings and moccasins. Then, with his rifle or fowling piece and a blanket, he would spend weeks with them on some river among the distant hills.

It was just seven years after Willard came to this territory, that he was made a government licensed trader. Wabasha had finally become friendly with "the Chippewa" as he called him. He could trade now with the Sioux in any of their territory. His family, now consisting of his wife and three children, were staying temporarily in La Crosse. Having gained permission to settle on Sioux territory, he procured men in La Crosse and set them to work in the spring of 1849, to build his new home on the bank of the river in what is now the village of Homer. The house was two stories high and built of logs hewn from oak trees. It had a real, shingled roof, the first shingled roof ever put on any building in this part of Minnesota. To this place Willard brought his family in August of 1849. They were the first permanent white settlers in Winona County.

In La Crosse, Willard bought a yoke of strong, work-oxen, a wagon and other farm implements. With the help of his men, these were loaded on to a passing steamer and brought to the new home.

The men were next employed in chopping wood. From time to time, more of them came up the river on the steamers. Willard hired many of them to clear the land and prepare it for settlement. The wood was sold to the steamer captains.

From the beginning, Willard took a keen interest in the early settlement of this county. He was the last of the Indian traders and now his dream was to build a town. He would meet every steamer that stopped at his place, now known as Bunnell's Landing. Settlers on the boats were urged by him to land and take claims which he would help them secure.

We can imagine Willard's great disappointment when one day, just two years after his village was started, three men landed on the prairie, some ten miles farther up the river and took claims for a new settlement. That prairie was Wabasha's home. You will remember that Wabasha's village was situated some two miles back from the river. This was because the Indians feared Wabasha prairie. They did not consider it a safe place to live. There was a time when it was almost entirely covered by water. And whenever the river was high, all the lower land on the prairie was flooded and, viewed from the deck of a steamer passing, the part of the prairie that was not flooded looked very small.

Willard told this to every settler that came his way, believing that thus he could get them to stay at his settlement instead. Indeed, he made up a sort of joke about it. He said that some day he would probably have to get out in his boat and with a pike pole, rescue the floating property of the settlers from upstream and take it to his town for safe-keeping.

Poor Willard! He had lived for so many years on the frontier, among the Indians, that he could not realize how far white people had



progressed, that with money and energy they could improve and protect any place that was as splendidly situated as was the settlement on Wabasha prairie. And soon he would see it grow into a thriving town, far outstripping his beloved little village of Homer, so named in honor of the town back in New York, where he was born.



Hyer

## HISTORY OF WINONA COUNTY

Transportation and Communication - Early Mail Routes  
- Water Routes - Ferries

When the upper Mississippi River was opened to steam navigation on May 10, 1823, the first mail service of any kind was established in the Minnesota territory. Prior to that time the early fur-traders and missionaries of Winona County received their mail at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, sending after it as occasion permitted. Later the French mail-carriers, bound for Fort Snelling, passed Winona County on the river in the winter time. During the year of the Black Hawk War, in 1832, the first regular land mail was carried between Ft. Crawford and Ft. Snelling. The mail carrier was a soldier of the United States army, and his journeys were on foot. Leaving Prairie du Chien he crossed to the Iowa side and then continued on the western side till he came to Ft. Snelling. He occupied 14 days in going and returning and carried the mail for a period of 12 months.

The French fur-trader, La Bathe, had several trading posts in the Winona County area. The principal one was located below Chimney Rock in Rollingstone Township and was built in 1830. Another was located at what is now Minnesota City, one was below the present Winona Burlington bridge and another was located at Trempealeau, on the Wisconsin side of the river. These posts were established between 1838 and 1840. La Bathe also had a woodyard and cabin on Prairie Island just above Winona.

Tradition says that a woodyard existed at old Dakota about 1840. Du Chouquette's cabin and blacksmith shop also existed about that time in

the present village of Homer. All these posts were used as stopping places for the early mailcarriers. The first mailcarrier, of whom mention has just been made, likely used La Bathe's principal cabin at Rollingstone.

The first mail route ever established across the county inland, was between Minnesota City and Traverse des Sioux, now Mankato, located at the Great Bend of the Minnesota River. This route had been explored previously for either a wagon road or railroad and eventually became a part of the territorial road from La Crosse to Mankato. It was the first post road in the county.

In 1854 Congress established this as mail route No. 14,015. Semi-monthly service was ordered in the fall of 1855 and the route was afterward extended from Minnesota City to Winona and terminated at St. Peters instead of Traverse des Sioux (Mankato). By July 1, 1862, daily mail service was established on this route.

After the establishment of the territorial road to Chatfield a stage coach was operated over this route. This stage carried mail and by 1855 the settlers on this route were receiving weekly service.

In 1851 J. C. Burbank established the first express business from Galena, Ill. to St. Paul. In 1853 the Walker winter stage line was established down through Minnesota and Iowa to Dubuque. Both these lines carried mail and Winona County was served by them.

In 1852 two postoffices were created in Winona County, the first one at Minnesota City and the second at Wabasha Prairie, now the site of Winona. The office at Minnesota City had its mail transported free of charge to and from the nearest post office on the Mississippi which was La Crosse. Some colonist either took the mailbag to the landing at Wabasha Prairie, where a boat would take it to La Crosse, or the colonist

would take it all the way to La Crosse. Return mail was sent by the La Crosse office, either by boat, or given to some well-known settler belonging to the vicinity. Mail was left by the boat captains at the nearest landing places. Thus Nathan Brown received mail at his landing at Dakota and W. B. Bunnell took charge of mail at Bunnell's landing at Homer.

At Wabasha Prairie mail was left in charge of Ervin Johnson. Later in 1852 the Rev. Edward Ely began making frequent trips to La Crosse and the settlers came to depend upon him to transport their mail back and forth. Mr. Ely made it a duty to bring up all mail matter belonging to this locality and was accustomed to carry it about with him until distributed to the settlers who usually flocked around him as soon as his arrival was known. This was readily ascertained, for it was the usual custom for everybody to visit the landing on the arrival of a steamboat. All letters sent by the boats were then left in his care for delivery. It was from this matter of accommodation and from his custom of carrying all letters about his person, the traditional story originated that "in the early days of the settlement of this county, the postoffice was in Elder Ely's hat."

On November 11, 1857, Winona received its first daily mail from the East. As the county became more settled and stage routes traversed it more thoroughly, post offices were established here and there, usually in some settler's home, but sometimes in a pioneer store. These post-offices increased until nearly every township had several places for the distribution of mail and by 1876 there were thirty post offices in the county.

On May 10, 1823, the steamboat "Virginia" made the first through trip from St. Louis to Ft. Snelling. This opened the upper Mississippi



to steam navigation. Up to May 26, 1826, fifteen steamers had arrived at Ft. Snelling. By 1839 some nine steamboats were running quite regularly. In 1847-48 was organized the Galena and Minnesota Packet Co. These established a system of regularity to river transportation and the Mississippi became the chief artery of trade and the inlet to immigration. It was the one method of travel for the early settlers and the only means by which they kept in touch with the outside world.

Soon other river companies were formed, such as the Dubuque and St. Paul Packet Co., the St. Louis and St. Paul line and the Diamond Jo Packet Co.

Very early Winona became an important center of trade. The first wheat was raised in the county in 1852, which marked the beginning of an important industry that reaches its climax in 1877. In 1859 the first wheat was exported from the county. Wheat was shipped in barges and soon the levee at Winona was lined with warehouses. By 1868 Winona was rated the 4th primary grain market in the United States, being lead by only Chicago, Milwaukee, and Toledo. The building of the first railroad in the county, the Winona and St. Peter, provided a still better outlet for the shipment of wheat. But the lumbering industry, which was just starting, marked the real beginning of the era of heavy river navigation.

Winona is located on the Mississippi, at a point so commonly accessible to the rich prairie lands of the west, that its advantages as a lumber distributing point combined with ready access to the log supplies from the upper Mississippi, the St. Croix and Chippewa rivers, marked it from the earliest days, as an unusually favorable point for the manufacture of lumber. When the era of railroads began, it enjoyed a demand for its lumber products second to that of no other market on the Mississippi. The first lumber yard in Winona was opened in May 1855, and in December of that

same year the first saw mill was erected. In 1884, the number of boats, lumber rafts and barges passing Winona totalled 8,597. When the lumbering industry reached its peak in 1892, there were 5,468 boats that docked at Winona in that year.

Due to the failure of the log supply in northern Minnesota, the production of lumber at Winona began to decrease in 1897. By 1909 the four large sawmill plants ceased operations entirely and Winona, like all other river cities between Minneapolis and St. Louis, ceased to be a lumber producer. As a result, river transportation declined also and became relatively unimportant.

In 1919 came another change, when the Federal government began conducting barge service on the Mississippi. This service was operated directly by the War Department, up to June 3, 1924. Since then the Inland Waterways Corporation has had charge, but all stock is retained by the United States. Today the corporation is an important factor in the transportation of the Mississippi valley, for this county chiefly, in the shipment of grain. Its cheap water rates on grain for export, according to recent records of the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange, enabled the farmer to receive nearly 3¢ a bushel more for his grain. This sort of set the price of all grain purchased by dealers for export.

Thus far, the business of Inland Waterways has never been operated at a profit, from a strictly commercial standpoint. But it is believed that with the completion of the nine-foot channel construction work that our system of river transportation will be greatly developed and the upper Mississippi will once more become an important highway of traffic.

To complete a discussion of early methods and routes of travel and trade in Winona county, mention must be made of its ferries. As early as 1855 an attempt was made to establish a ferry across the Mississippi from Winona to the Wisconsin side of the river. It did not materialize,

however, until 1865. In May of that year the initial trip was made with the boat landing six miles upstream, there being no wagon road across the bottoms opposite Winona. A few years later a road was opened through the Wisconsin bottom lands, directly opposite the city and this resulted in better trade facilities between Winona and the East. A barn was erected for free storage at the juncture of the Wisconsin road and the ferry landing. The Burbank Stage Co. was then induced to cross the ferry at Winona. When a mail route was established between Winona and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the mail stage used the Winona ferry.

There were several ferry boats operated by private enterprise. March 31, 1873, Alex C. Donaldson began making regular daily trips from Dresbach to La Crosse with his skiff ferry. He ran three seasons, between the above places, averaging 200 trips a season, of 18 miles a trip. In 1876 the trips were extended running from Dakota to La Crosse. He averaged the regular 200 trips, of 20 miles each, every season. Mr. Donaldson was considered one of the best oars men on the Mississippi.

What is now LaMoille in Homer Township was once known as McGilvery's Landing. Mr. McGilvery operated a ferry boat between this landing and Trempealeau, Wisconsin, for the benefit of Pickwick and vicinity. Flour made at the famous mill at Pickwick was shipped away by means of this ferry.

A wood boat was operated in the early days to transport livestock from Winona to Minnesota City. Passage through the sloughs to reach this place was difficult.



WINONA DAMS

1935 was the big river construction year for the area around Winona. Four dams comprise this area, namely: Whitman (5), Winona (5A), Trempealeau (6) and Dresbach (7).

The Whitman (5), northernmost dam in this area, is completed and in operation. A new lake has been created here and the present year will see similar lakes established above the other dams, bringing actual nine-foot channel conditions to Winona.

All major contracts in the Winona area have been let with the exception of some small clearing tracts and buildings at the various locks and dams. During the year 1935 a total of \$1,358,233.07 was paid out for wages by the contractors in charge of the work here.

The United Construction Co., builders of the Winona dam, paid \$469,731.16 in wages during 1935 up to Dec. 15. This project is now 93 percent complete. Difficulty was encountered at this dam when the outer wall of the auxiliary lock, weighing 800 tons, was moved out of place, by swift currents, a distance of 9 3/4 inches. The massive concrete wall was held in place, however, when a temporary cofferdam was thrown around it to relieve the pressure and tons of sand were piled against one side until the piers of the dam proper could be poured, thus checking the bulge.

The Trempealeau dam, built by Spencer, White and Prentis, Inc., is 95 percent complete. A total of \$387,259.38 in wages has been paid during 1935 on this project.

The Dresbach dam is now under construction by the Warner Construction

Co. of Chicago. It is to be ready for operation in January, 1937, and a February last report shows it 36 percent completed. The long, earthen dike there is being built by the Minneapolis Dredging Co. This work will be completed for the 1937 navigation season, as well as the clearing of that pool.

Clearing in the Winona area is also well advanced. The Nevada Construction Co. has cleared much of the main section of the Winona and Trempealeau pools, although this work has been hampered greatly by the snow and ice. Remaining clearing work in these two pools, beginning with January, 1936, consists of some 900 acres. Approximately 500 acres along the Trempealeau River adjoining the Delta company's holdings will be let for clearing as soon as the courts make the land available.

Court actions on condemnation of lands will be in the foreground during the coming year. The largest of these will be the claim of the Latsch Memorial board for property owned by the city of Winona.

The Mississippi 9-foot channel project has done much for the entire Northwest to put it on an industrial parity with the rest of the nation. Winona has experienced it as an incentive to business. Personal injuries have made much work for doctors and hospitals. Housing accommodations have been inadequate and business has been better than at peak times before the depression.

Winona's population grew rapidly. Engineers, contractors, supply men and inspectors descended upon the city. All available houses were snatched up, office space was at a premium and business houses enjoyed a wave of prosperity.

The 1930 census gave Winona's population as 20,802. An estimation when the channel work was at its height revealed that the city had 28,000 inhabitants. At that time five dams, each costing nearly five million dollars, were being constructed within a 25 mile radius of Winona.

While the channel primarily is a navigation project, it has several by-products. Where practicable land was acquired for wild life purposes under the administration of the Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries. On the Minnesota side all bottom lands are a part of the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge. Of this, the largest unit touching on Winona County is the Latsch Preserve consisting of some four thousand acres. Directly opposite the city of Winona is located the Delta Fish and Fur Farm which covers a large area along the river. This is owned by a Winona resident and is under Wisconsin jurisdiction.

Duck hunting in the pools in the Whitman dam area was the best the past fall it has been for years, and it has become a fisherman's paradise. This situation will prevail in and around pools near the other dams when completed. Pleasure boats are increasing and more summer homes are being built.

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(Article by Gordon Closway, Staff of Winona Republican Herald.)

Consultants, U. S. Engineers, 425 Choate Bldg., Winona.



### RAILROADS

Early Winona was dependent upon the stage coach and steamboats for transportation. The first railroad train ran from Winona to Stockton in 1862, and during the following 30 years, the great era of railroad building in the United States, Winona gained to present enviable position as the meeting place of five railroads.

This position was due partly to the natural advantages of the location of Winona, but it would not have been attained if Winona had not had citizens of enterprise and vision, ready to champion vigorously its interest against the ambitions of other places. The first railroad was built only after years of persistent effort in the face of great obstacles. Other railroad connections were secured by the payment of sums of money which were a real strain upon the small city, and in some cases Winona citizens were called upon to personally finance railroad construction.

The Winona and St. Peter railroad was one of the first four chartered in Minnesota, known as the land grant railroads. The charter was secured in 1857, a year before Minnesota became a state. Fifty miles of grading and bridging were completed before the end of the year 1858. Due to the panic of 1857 the company met with financial difficulties and no further work was done until 1862. When the first 11 miles were completed from Winona to Stockton, the town and the railroad celebrated. Excursion trains were run to and from Stockton, and Winona citizens were invited to ride free of charge.

From this time construction proceeded rapidly, and by 1873 Watertown, S. D. became the western terminus of the road.

In the beginning there was considerable danger that La Crescent, rather than Winona, would be made the eastern terminus and certain bidders for the construction contract worked with La Crescent land owners who wanted to obtain the road. After a hat contest, the contract was awarded to a company that agreed with the citizens of Winona. Another controversy concerned the choice of routes out of Winona. Land owners in the eastern part of the prairie wanted the road to leave Winona by way of Sugar Loaf but those preferring the western route prevailed.

Winona was connected with the east by railroad in 1870 with the completion of the La Crosse, Trempealeau and Prescott railroad from La Crosse to Winona, and the construction of a temporary bridge across the river at Winona, which was built across the ice in four days. Much rivalry existed between Winona and La Crosse over the construction of a line connecting the two cities, but again the enterprising citizens of Winona won out. The permanent bridge across the river at Winona, fell May 26, 1871, under the weight of a work-train loaded with stone, but none was killed. It was rebuilt and in operation again by January of the following year. In 1867, the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company gained control of the Winona and St. Peter road and in 1870 they took over the road from La Crosse to Winona.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul line operated its first regular passenger train from Winona to St. Paul, on Sept. 7, 1871. Passengers and freight were ferried across the Mississippi River at Hastings at first, but a bridge was put in operation in three months.

The railroad at first used the tracks of the La Crosse, Trempealeau and Prescott for through communication with the east after the rebuilding of the bridge at Winona. Later in the same year its own tracks were extended

as far as La Crescent, and freight was sent to La Crosse by this route being ferried across the river from La Crescent, but passenger trains continued to run across the Winona bridge and over the North Western line until 1875. The bridge joining La Crescent with North La Crosse was completed in this year and it was of course used by both passenger and freight trains of the Milwaukee.

The city of Winona had given the builders of the St. Paul road \$100,000 on condition that they establish through communication with La Crosse and the east by means of a truss bridge at Winona. The city afterward contended that the bridge was partly a pile bridge and not entirely a truss bridge, and on this ground recovered in a long course of litigation \$182,050, which included the original bonds of \$100,000 interest, and court costs.

The Green Bay and Western road was first put into operation between Green Bay and Winona Dec. 18, 1873. It used the North Western bridge and station at first, but in 1891 completed a spur to the Wisconsin end of the Burlington bridge, and since then has used the Burlington bridge and station. Winona was decided upon as the western terminus of the road only after 35,000 had been subscribed to aid its builders. The money was pledged by public-spirited citizens with the understanding that they would be repaid by the city as soon as it secured authorization from the legislature. The legislature made repayment conditional upon a popular referendum and the proposal was defeated at the polls. Meanwhile the subscribers had been compelled in court suits brought by the railroad to pay the \$35,000 out of their own pockets, and they have never been repaid.

The Winona and Southwestern railroad, which later became a part of the Great Western system, was built with Winona capital from Winona to Osage, Iowa, between 1888 and 1891. Ownership changed hands several times in the nineties, and the road went into the hands of a receiver in



1894. It was acquired by the Great Western line in 1901 and operates under that name today.

The first Burlington train passed Winona on the Wisconsin side of the river Apr. 9, 1886, and Winona was connected with the road the same year. For several years trains were taken across the river on a ferry in summer and a temporary bridge in winter, but in 1891 it began using the present Burlington bridge, which was built jointly by the Burlington and Green Bay railroads and Winona interests.

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## HISTORY OF WINONA COUNTY

History of Ferries

Early efforts to establish a ferry from Winona to the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi terminated in the incorporation of the "Winona Ferry Company" on March 25, 1855. A twenty-five year franchise, immediately effective, was granted, capital stock was \$3,000, with the privilege of increase to \$10,000. Insufficient trade might have caused the company's failure to accept the franchise and the privilege conferred expired by limitation. In 1857 a second and more ambitious attempt was made, resulting in organization of "Winona Ferry Company No. 2", with stock placed at \$20,000. Owing to the depression of 1857 it failed to materialize.

The third and successful attempt to establish a ferry at Winona was made by Samuel D. "Captain" Van Gorder, who obtained his first franchise from the Wisconsin legislature, and permission from Winona County commissioners and Winona city authorities in 1865. In 1868 he obtained a ten-year franchise from the Minnesota legislature. He built his first boat, the "Turtle", with a four double-team capacity, costing \$2,000, and made his initial trip on May 27, 1865, landing six miles upstream, there being no wagon road across the bottoms opposite Winona.

In the beginning trips were made by-weekly. Rates of toll were one dollar for double-team; single horse and carriage 60 cents; stock, 25 cents per head; pedestrians, 25 cents each; merchandise, 10 cents per cwt. These rates continued until 1868. The Minnesota franchise fixed toll rates at about 75 per cent of those allowed under Wisconsin charter.

Roads through the Wisconsin bottomlands resulted in better trade facilities between Wisconsin farmers and Winona merchants. Captain Van Gorder also erected a barn for free storage and induced the Burbank Stage Company to cross the ferry at Winona. When a mail route was established between Winona and Eau Claire, the mail stage used the Winona ferry. Thus ferry traffic increased and Van Gorder built a larger boat with ten-team capacity. All bridges on the Wisconsin ferry road were swept away in the spring of 1869. That same year Captain Van Gorder's boat burned and he built a new one with twelve-team capacity.

In 1878 the new \$5,500 steamer "Van Gorder" was built, with a sixteen-team capacity. In 1880 Captain Van Gorder transferred the ferry charter and franchise to the city of Winona; also ownership of his steamer and the ferry road on the Wisconsin side.

In 1883, the city rebuilt the ferry road with bridges and macadamized approach at a cost of some \$20,000. In 1887 a 1,500 foot bridge with decline of 100 feet on south end was added to the ferry road proper, to be used in connection with a cable ferry. Cost of construction was \$9,500 and this bridge was for years a part of the high wagon bridge. The cable ferry, built the same year, continued in operation until the completion of the high wagon bridge, July 4, 1892.

In 1886, the Chicago, Burlington and Northern Railroad established connections between its main lines on the Wisconsin side of the river and its Minnesota tracks by operating a winter bridge and its own ferry. This ferry carried trains from the spur on the Wisconsin side to the Minnesota tracks and was located near the present Burlington bridge.

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## HISTORY OF WINONA COUNTY

High Wagon Bridge

A congressional bill passed Sept. 25, 1890, gave Winona the right to build either a high wagon bridge or a drawbridge at its present location. Contract was awarded Aug. 21, 1891, to the Chicago Bridge and Iron Co., total cost being \$94,700, including fence and railing. Horace E. Horton was designer.

The original bridge was constructed as follows: On the Minnesota side is a stone-walled earth approach, 140 feet in length and an iron trestle 515 feet to the first span, with a four percent grade; a 200 foot anchor span on the Minnesota side, built of iron and steel and rising 46 feet above piers; a duplicate anchor span on the Wisconsin side, 10 feet longer. A cantilever span in the center, length 360 feet. The highest points of the bridge are at each end of this span, 118 feet above low water mark. The original approach on the Wisconsin side was a wooden structure, 700 feet connecting with the old ferry bridge. The entire bridge is supported by 5 stone piers built of native limestone rock. Caissons were used in building the piers in the river, water being pumped out with suction pumps.

The bridge was formally opened July 4, 1892, and operated as a toll bridge until Dec. 1, 1923, when the toll was removed.

The wooden approach on the Wisconsin side, together with the old ferry bridge and macadamized ferry road built by the city in 1887, were replaced in 1915 by a modern concrete structure and road. Contract was let to O'Hagen and Lake, Chicago, March 8, and a bonding company completed the project.

*Sign*

## HISTORY OF WINONA COUNTY

Chicago and North-Western Railroad Bridge

The Chicago and North-Western Railway Co., chartered on March 4, 1854, completed a bridge across the Mississippi river at Winona Dec. 29, 1870, four days being occupied in the construction. This connected the Winona and St. Peter line with the LaCrosse, Trempealeau and Prescott on the Wisconsin side of the river. This in turn connected at Winona Junction with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, thus establishing through railroad communication between Winona and the East. May 26, 1871, the bridge fell under the weight of a work train loaded with stone. A rebuilding was completed Jan. 16, 1872. The Winona and St. Paul having completed a bridge at Hastings, Dec. 11, 1871, through communication was thus established between St. Paul and the East by way of Winona. At the time the present bridge was built, the draw, 363 feet, was said to be the longest in the world.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The first permanent settlement in what is now Winona County was made by Willard B. Bunnell, at the site of Homer village, on August 20, 1849. On September 29th of the same year, one Nathan Brown, a bachelor, settled at the present site of Dakota village. Both men hailed from the East. Bunnell, a typical Indian trader, had been living for a number of years on the east side of the Mississi, in the vicinity of La Crosse, Trempealeau, and Fountain City, where he hunted and trapped and traded with the Indians. All this time his dream had been to establish a townsite on the west bank of the river. Eventually he secured a government trader's license and also obtained Wabasha's consent to trade with the Sioux Indians. In the summer of 1849 he had a house built on the bank of the river in what is now Homer village and in the fall he moved there from La Crosse with his wife and three children.

Nathan Brown, also a trader, when still a young man, was determined to seek his fortunes in the west. By hard labor and persistent effort he managed to accumulate some \$8,000. He first went to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he worked for a time. Later he consented to a partnership with others who induced him to settle in what is now Winona County with a view to establish a townsite. He was not a government licensed trader but he made friends readily with the Indians and, because of his honesty and justice, he held their confidence. He had made as sort of treaty with Wabasha and his band, and purchased from them the privilege of occupying as much of the locality as he chose, to carry on his business. He built two sub-



stantial log buildings, one for his dwelling, the other for a store. His home was always open to travelers.

At the close of 1849 there were no other settlers living within the present limits of Winona County, with the exception of Jeremiah Tibbetts, another trader, who took charge of the trading post established by Peleau about three-quarters of a mile south of Brown's place. This post was abandoned in 1851. In the summer of 1850 a Frenchman named Richmond established a wood yard at what later became the village of Richmond.

In 1851 the families of Augustus Pentler and Peter Gorr, all from Illinois, located on the islands opposite Bunnell's place. Pentler and Gorr were wood-choppers and worked for Bunnell. At the beginning of the following year they moved to the mainland, Gorr settled near his employer and the Pentlers went to live with new settlers further up-stream.

Captain Orrin Smith was the founder of the city of Winona. Living at Galena, Illinois, he captained his boat "Nominee" plying between Galena and St. Paul. October 15, 1851, he brought with him three men whom he landed at Wabasha prairie, the present site of Winona city. They were to stake claims and build their cabins thereon. By December four others had come. More wood choppers came and settled near Bunnell's place. Later that winter Israel M. Moracong and William G. McSpadden came up from La Crosse with two yoke of oxen and supplies and settled at the mouth of Rollingstone valley on the present site of Minnesota City. They were engaged in cutting black walnut logs, this timber growing plentifully along the stream there.

At the close of 1851 there were twenty-four actual residents, either in what is now Winona County or on the islands adjoining. All the adult male residents, with the exception of Bunnell and Brown, were engaged in the same occupation--cutting timber on public lands. At that time, people were permitted to appropriate the timber on United States lands for individual use and for purposes of speculation. The choicest pine, oak, black walnut,

ash and maple timber were cut and rafted down the Mississippi to be sold. Some fifty percent of the timber on the islands in the Mississippi were cut for steamboat wood and other purposes, while the title to lands was still with the Indians or the United States government.

Aside from these men who actually lived here, there were wood choppers who came and went during the winter of 1851-52. They boarded at Bunnells. One John Farrell came up from La Crosse late in 1851 with ox-teams, supplies and quite a number of men, and established a logging camp on the Wisconsin side of the river. His cabin and stables were located near where later a wagon road across the bottoms connected the Winona Ferry with the mainland of Wisconsin. Some of the most valuable oak timber on the islands opposite the city of Winona was cut down that winter by Farrell's gang of wood choppers. In the spring the logs were formed into huge rafts and floated down the river.

In April, 1852, at the present site of Minnesota City, was made the first settlement of any magnitude on the west bank of the Mississippi River. A colony of people from New York City and vicinity came under the sponsorship of the Western Farm and Village Association. This organization, composed of persons of different nationalities and business occupations, was headed by William Haddock, a journeyman printer. It was purely an emigration society, designed to aid its members in leaving the city and forming a colony on government lands in the West. They came well-supplied with camp fixtures, household goods, wagons, plows and other tools, oxen, horses and cattle. Incompetent and inexperienced in frontier life, with theoretical rather than practical views, they shrunk from the hardships which every pioneer must endure. Many sickened and died. Others left to find work elsewhere and finally the association disbanded. New settlers coming in, experienced, turned their attention to farming.

In June, 1852, Peter Gorr sold his holdings near Bunnell's place and

made a claim in what is now Pleasant Valley. He was among the first in the county to make farming a business. That year other claims were made in this same vicinity and at the headwaters of Pine Creek in the southern part of the present county. Farming was their chief interest. Still others settled farther down the river in what is now Dresbach township. Among them were a number of Scotch people who commenced farming in Cedar Creek valley. More took claims in East and West Burns and Gilmore Valleys and vicinity and also in the present township of Richmond. Most of these people were native born Easterners, probably of English and Scotch descent, a few Germans and Irish intermingled. The same year a colony of French people arrived in Dresbach under the leadership of Joseph Menard and settled at the present site of Dresbach village.

It was estimated that the population within the present boundaries of Winona County on January 1st, 1853, was about 350. Aside from the traders and wood choppers, the majority of male residents were farmers, and they were, with but few exceptions, poor men, few having more than barely enough to get settled upon their lands. But they came, well-trained in agricultural pursuits, with the ability and ambition to work hard to win success. A few professional men, artisans and speculators had begun to drift in. Two general mercantile stores were started, several hotels or inns had been opened, there were many blacksmith shops, wagon repair shops and a few shoe repair shops. Sawmills and grist mills began to appear in several localities by 1854 and by 1856 the first flour mill in the county was in operation.

Of early pioneers not already discussed and who are identified with Winona County as being more or less important during the period of early settlement, mention might be made of those early traders who had a decided influence in creating a friendship with the Wabasha Indians. Such was Francois du Chouquette, who came to what is now Winona County sometime between 1830 and 1832 and settled at the present site of Homer. There he



established the first blacksmith shop in the vicinity with a view to serving the Wabasha band. He was of mixed Indian and French blood and readily gained the friendship of the Indians of this locality, thereby becoming very useful to the soldiers and early pioneers. Francois La Bathe, another half-breed, carried on extensive trading operations in Winona County for some 15 years. By virtue of his relation to Wabasha and because of his tact with the Indians, he had their friendship. He operated an extensive chain of posts, four of which, including his principal post were located in Winona County. These posts were a great aid to the early mail carriers who used them as stopping places. James Reed, a Kentuckian, was a courier in the Black Hawk War and in 1841 he received an appointment as Indian farmer and government storehouse keeper to the Wabasha band. The building of his storehouse at Winona is variously placed as from 1841 to 1844. When goods began to arrive by steamer for the Indians of Wabasha prairie, Reed provided temporary shelter for them. In 1838 the Rev. Jediah D. Stevens, a Presbyterian minister, secured an appointment as Indian farmer to the Wabasha band from Major Lawrence Taliaferro. He was the first to bring the Protestant faith to Winona County.

Among the permanent settlers who were prominent in the early community life of the county were such men as the Rev. Edward Ely and the Rev. Hiram S. Hamilton who conducted the first regular services (jointly) as early as 1852; Jacob S. Denman who opened the first mercantile store; Abner S. Goddard who established the first lodging house, called a "shanty hotel"; Dr. John L. Balcombe who did much important work in exploring this part of the Sioux cession. Byron A. Viets<sup>e</sup> built the famous "Viets Tavern" later known as the old "Winona House." Henry D. Huff established the well-known "Huff House" in 1853, on the site of the present Winona Hotel. Other prominent settlers were William Ashley Jones, publisher of the first newspaper, the "Winona Argus" and his associate, Capt. Sam Whiting; M. Wheeler

Sargeant, prominent attorney; David Olmsted, Dr. George F. Childs, Henry C. Gere, George M. Gere, George W. Clark, John Burns, Erwin H. Jonson, Caleb Nash, Edwin Hamilton, William H. Stevens, Allen Gilmore, Jabez McDermott.

Winona County has been the home of many prominent people. It has furnished the state with three attorney generals. The first of these was Charles Henry Berry, who was the first attorney general of Minnesota. To him the state Normal schools owe their existence. The second attorney general was George P. Wilson who was a prominent factor in the legislation of some of Minnesota's most important laws. The third was George T. Simpson, native born, and educated in Winona schools.

William Windom, Secretary of the Treasury under James A. Garfield and again under Benjamin Harrison, was Winona's most distinguished resident. His life story is a part of the nation's history. William Hall Yale, another resident of Winona, was lieutenant governor of Minnesota from 1870 to 1874. William Mitchell was judge of the Minnesota Supreme Court for 26 years. James A. Tawney, as congressman for 18 years, served in such bodies as the committee on appropriations and the international joint commission.

Among educators there was W. F. Phelps, whose name became a synonym for normal educator; Mark H. Dunnell, who became State Supt. of Public Instruction and later represented this, the first Congressional District in Congress for 12 years; and Charles Anson Morey who is remembered for his executive and administrative abilities in regard to public education.

Henry Wilson Lamberton, attorney, was active in the development of railroads in this section.

In commercial activities there was Royal D. Cone, founder of one of the oldest hardware establishments in the Northwest; Hannibal Choate, known as the "merchant prince" of southern Minnesota; John Latsch, who was instrumental in the foundation of an extensive park system throughout this territory; and J. R. Watkins, founder of Watkins Medical Co., known through-

out the world.

Pioneers in the great lumbering industry were John C., Matthew J. and William H. Laird; L. C. Porter, Andrew Hamilton, Charles Horton, James L. and Matthew G. Norton; Earl S. and Addison B. Youmans and Abner F. Hodgins.

In the field of medicine the pioneers knew the services of such men as Dr. James Munroe Cole, the first permanent practicing physician in Winona County; Drs. James Brown McGaughey, Absalom Boyles Stuart, Franklin Staples and D. A. Stuart. All but A. B. Stuart lived here until their deaths.

Among the notable writers who have made Winona their home, was William J. Whipple, Nationally known newspaper editor, Dr. Wm. J. Youmans, who became editor of "Popular Science Monthly; Mrs. Mary Clemer Ames, a noted author, and Rev. Edward Eggleston, author of "Hoosier Schoolmaster" and "Eggleston's New Century History of the N. S." Dr. L. H. Bunnell, author of "The History of Winona County and Environs" and "The Discovery of the Yosemite", was one of the early pioneers of Winona County and lived here until his death. Dr. Bunnell had a long record as an army surgeon through the Mexican and Civil Wars. While a member of the Mariposa bataillon and on duty, he became one of the discoverers of the Yosemite valley, which he named, and about which he wrote in his book. After the Civil war Dr. Bunnell returned to Minnesota and settled at Homer, where his brother, Willard B. Bunnell had established the first permanent settlement in the county, Sept. 29, 1849. Dr. Bunnell practiced medicine here for many years. He constantly contributed historical articles to the papers and magazines.

\*Correction -- The name of this book is "Winona and Its Environs on the Mississippi."



WINONA COUNTY--Industries - Horticulture.

Fruit growing in Winona county had its beginning with the early members of the colony which settled at Minnesota City in 1852. The first attempt to set out fruit trees was made by one John Shaw, a member of the colony. Mr. Shaw brought apple seeds with him from Exeter, Maine, and on the piece of land assigned to him and which he prepared by hand with a spade, he planted his seeds. This was the first attempt at any horticultural work in southern Minnesota, and perhaps in the whole state. Mr. Shaw only lived long enough to see his tiny seeds come up. He made a request that the little trees be divided among the members of the association and a committee was appointed to carry out his request. These trees were set out on the various farms and lots of early settlers in and near Minnesota City. Soon orchards appeared in

Winona County  
Industries - Horticulture.

other localities--Stockton, Gilmore Valley, Winona and in Homer township. Pickwick, Dresbach and St. Charles had early settlers who started fruit orchards. The first trees of any kind to be planted on Wabasha prairie were apple trees, and they were planted on what is now the Lamberton estate. John Burns, who had come with the Minnesota City colony, did the planting. Later, his property was acquired by H. D. Huff who transplanted these trees and cared for them.

An early nursery that supplied trees, plants and shrubs for all the farms in Winona county, was located near Sugar Loaf. In the sixties and seventies S. Bates and Son had a large nursery at Stockton and their trade territory extended throughout southern Minnesota and into parts of Wisconsin and Iowa. The nursery was discontinued in 1875 because of the killing of the trees by the hard winters of that period. This checked the development of orchards for a time but later fruit raising became important again and large quantities of apples and a number of varieties of berries were shipped to this locality.

About 1910 the Yahnke nursery near Sugar Loaf carried on an extensive business in nursery stock of fruits and plants. They had the largest and best fruit farm in the county at that time. The business was discontinued when the senior member of the firm died. The Briarwood fruit farm in Homer township was well known also and produced large quantities of berries and apples of the better varieties for market.

O. M. Lord, a plum expert, at Minnesota City carried on for several years some recognized work in his trial orchards of the "Wild" or "Americana" types and cultivated crosses of the native plums of Minnesota. His work was commenced by the best authors on horticulture in the United States. After Mr. Lord's death the orchards were neglected and soon disappeared.

Saratoga township, in the southwest corner of the county, was outstanding in its work on fruit orchards. One Luke Blair and his son, C. L. Blair, started in the spring of 1855 with an orchard of the hardy, New England apples, including the Greenings, Early Harvest and several russet varieties. Four different varieties of pears, some cherries and some cultivated plums were also set out. Some of these trees began bearing in 1862. About 1868, C. L. Blair set out a thousand trees, including the Duchess, Oldenberg and Ben Davis varieties. The winter of 1872 was extremely severe and mice and rabbits also became troublesome. By 1880, Mr. Blair began shipping apples to the north and west. In 1896 he set out another orchard of a thousand trees of the Peerless variety.

The first nursery in this part of the county was the McHenry nursery, which was started shortly after the Civil War.

Quantities of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, and grapes to a limited extent, were raised in various parts of the county. Those grown for market were brought mostly from Minnesota City, Winona, Sugar Loaf, Homer, Dresbach, Pickwick, Stockton, Lewiston and St. Charles. Nearly all gardens



had some berries, currants, gooseberries and rhubarb.

In Dresbach township, in the vicinity of Dakota village, a great many berries were raised. Several thousand crates of berries were shipped from Dakota village every season. Stockton in Hillsdale township also shipped much fruit.

Fruit raised in Winona county, at the present time, is sold in local markets only and for home consumption. There are no specially outstanding fruit orchards now but most all farms have some orchard space. Many kinds of apples are raised. The most important are the Letofsky, Duchess, Wealthy, Sunset, several kinds of Russets, North Western Greening, Wolf River, Transcendent, Hislop, Strawberry, Minnesota and Whitney. The last five named being crabs. Plums are cultivated to a considerable extent, as are certain grapes. The wild plums and grapes that were so plentiful in early days, are slowly disappearing.

Berries are still important, especially strawberries and raspberries. Lewiston, Stockton, Dakota and Winona produce large quantities of berries for shipment. Pfeiffers', a local nursery, has developed a large trade with the Wayzata Strawberry, an everbearing variety, which is most successful in this area. Other favorite strawberries are the Dunlap and the Gibson.

The only nursery now existing in Winona county is the Pfeiffer Nursery, located on the outskirts of the city of Winona. This nursery had its beginning in 1910, on a

Winona County  
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nine-acre space located on the Minnesota City road. Today it covers an area of over a hundred acres of rich valley land exclusively devoted to the growing and propagating of roots, bulbs and plants for retail and wholesale trades.

In the beginning, Pfeiffers' gave their entire attention to the growing of berry bushes and fruit trees. Over a period of thirty years, due to severe winters and resultant killing of fruit plants, there was a gradual decline of horticultural activities in the county. The nursery then turned to the growing of perennials, shrubs and landscape trees. The location of the nursery is especially favorable for this work, as the soil of the Mississippi valley is such a combination of soils that plants grown here do well in practically all soils. They grow fast and are unusually hardy, since the winter seasons are severe and the growing season short.

Pfeiffer Nursery has won considerable recognition in its prize-winning peonies and iris, which have taken first place in State Flower Shows for a number of years. Their flower bulbs are shipped to all parts of the world, to Cuba and the Phillippines, South America, Europe and to far-away Australia.

Within the past few years there has been a revival of interest in berry-raising. Pfeiffer has had much success with the Wayzata strawberry, which seems to do especially well in this part of the Mississippi valley. At present, the nursery is experimenting with a new black raspberry which

promises to be of a better quality than those heretofore produced.

A Winona county Fruit Growers' and Gardeners' Association was organized in 1905 but was disbanded about 1920.



STATISTICS ON ORCHARDS, VINEYARDS, OTHER FRUIT (Jan.1, 1935)

Land in fruit orchards, vineyards, planted nut trees:

(1935) farms reporting	642
Acres	627
(1930) farms reporting	614
Acres	516

Fruits and Grapes:

Apples (1935) farms reporting	1,369
trees not of bearing age, number	3,822
of bearing age, number	28,033
(1934) quantity harvested, bushels	29,385
Cherries (1935) farms reporting	115
trees not of bearing age, number	43
of bearing age, number	350
(1934) quantity harvested, bushels	15
Peaches (1935) farms reporting	5
trees not of bearing age, number	9
of bearing age, number	6
(1934) quantity harvested, bushels	---
Pears (1935) farms reporting	5
trees not of bearing age, number	3
of bearing age, number	5
(1934) quantity harvested, bushels	2
Plums and Prunes (1935) farms reporting	606
trees not of bearing age, number	240
of bearing age, number	3,899
(1934) quantity harvested, bushels	1,342
Grapes (1935) farms reporting	61
Vines not of bearing age, number	30
of bearing age, number	1,895
(1934) quantity harvested, pounds	12,883
Strawberries (1934) farms reporting	47
acres	29
quarts	29,671

M. R.

## Topic: History of Winona County

### Industries - Lime Manufacturing

The first lime kiln in Winona County, of which there is any record, was opened at Dresbock by Joseph Maynard, the founder of the French Colony which settled at that site in 1852. Not so many years later some of the most important quarries in the County were being operated in Dresbach township.

The burning of quicklime gradually became an important industry thruout Winona County, especially at the city of Winona, where Porter and O'Dae carried on an extensive business. This company had a large lime kiln at Sugar Loaf and wholesaled their product. The lime burned at Winona, and generally thruout the County, had the superior qualities that dolomitic limestones impart. It was slow to slack and set, evolved less heat and was believed to be more enduring when suitably handled in the mortar than lime derived from pure limestone.

Lime was burned in other parts of the County; at Elba and south of St. Charles at the Morcy lime kiln. The Ready quarry at Dresbach had a lime kiln, also the Girtler quarry in East Burns valley. The latter opened in 1885.

Today there is nothing left of this industry. Crushed lime, however, is produced by the Biesanz Stone Company and is used as a land fertilizer. Biesanz are the largest producers here but lime is obtained from other quarries. The Ruppricht quarry at Gilmore Valley, the Ries quarry in Straight Valley in Norton township, the Buch quarry at Enterprise, Witoka Hill quarry, the Gerry quarry at Saratoga, La Crescent Hill quarry in Dresbach town-

ship and the Frank Biesanz quarry in Gilmore Valley are all operated by CCC units for lime fertilizer.



Industries - Brick Manufacturing

Throughout Winona County the clays of the loess-loam make a superior red brick. The principal manufacturers of clay products in earlier years were located at Dresbach and Winona. Very early Dresbach village was noted for its brick yards. Clay for brick making was found in abundance all over the township of Dresbach. As early as 1881, the firm of Sherwood and Johnson made 3,000 brick per day. The next year they produced two million brick, sold them at six dollars per thousand, loaded on cars, or shipped by river. Coming from New York, this firm established two brick yards, used steam machinery for molding and employed some 40 men. This business grew to the extent that between three and four million brick were shipped annually.

Williams and Schmidt of Red Wing established a brick yard at Dresbach in 1882 and shipped a million brick a year. The price was \$6 per thousand. The North Western Brick Co., organized under the firm name of Moss & Dresbach, made hand-mold brick at \$6 per thousand, loaded on cars. They manufactured a million brick annually.

The brick yards at Dresbach were in active and flourishing condition throughout the eighties. They furnished a fine quality of red brick, some of them being a superior pressed brick, equal in texture and fineness to those from St. Louis, but not yet their equal in the mechanical execution of the molding and handling. The loam used was free from limestone and from concretions. It lay directly on the sandstone of the St. Croix, but had in its upper portions layers of debris, which had to be rejected. All

brick manufacturing in this locality has now been discontinued.

At Winona, the Groff brick yards, later known as the Winona Brick Yards, were located just south of the city and were established in 1884. This company produced from six to seven hundred thousand of a superior grade of sand mould red face brick per year. These sold at eight dollars per thousand. The loam of the upper slope of the bluff in the vicinity was used. Biesanz Stone Co., west of Winona in the beginning produced thirteen hundred thousand of the sand mould-red brick per year. The price was eight dollars per thousand. Fourteen men were employed here and five teams were in use. The loam in the vicinity, having no limy concretions, was used. This company was headed by Philip Biesanz. It is now known as the Biesanz Brick Yards.

At present, the two firms at Winona are the only clay products manufacturers in the county. Biesanz Brick Yards is still operating in the same locality and produces about a million brick during a season. The old Winona Brick Yards, now known as Voelker & Groff, are still operating at the old location. This firm is equipped with all modern improvements and appliances. The drying sheds here have a capacity of 274,000 brick and the kiln holds from 220,000 to 500,000 brick. The output of this plant, in 1915, was 3,000,000 brick per season and thirty men were employed. At the present time the output is 1,000,000 brick per season. The price of brick is now thirteen dollars per thousand.



## Early Water-power Mills in Winona County

Beaver Creek, Whitewater - Becker Mill; 3-run of stone (one for feed); 30 horse power; capacity 50 bbl. per day.

Whitewater River, Elba - Elba Mills; 2 wheel; 3-run of stone (one for feed); 60 horse power; capacity 100 bbl. per day. More water here than could be used.

Whitewater River - North Branch - Elba - Fairwater mills; 2-run of stone (one for feed); capacity 40 bbl. per day.

Whitewater River - South Branch, St. Charles - Lamberton mill; 2-run of stone (one for feed); capacity 40 bbl. per day. (little water here).

Rollingstone Creek - South Branch, Stockton - Mowbry mill, both steam and water; capacity 175 bbl. per day. Known as "Stockton Mills".

Warren township, Masquito mills - 2-run of stone; turbine wheel with thirty-five feet fall, can run but one buhr at once; capacity 25 bushels per day.

Rollingstone Creek - South Branch, Hillsdale Mills; 36 inch Leffel wheel; 4-run of stone (one for feed); capacity 60 - 75 bbls. per day.

Rollingstone Creek - Minnesota City - Ellsworth mills; 56 inch Leffel wheel; five sets of Stephen's rollers; 6 buhrs; 150 bbls. per day.

Rollingstone Creek - Minnesota City - Winona County mills; Houston turbine wheel; 100 horsepower; 28 sets allis rollers (23 sets are double); capacity 350 bbls. per day; (steam



also). Rollingsstone Creek - West Branch, Rollingsstone Valley mills - 35 inch Case turbine wheel; custom; 25 horse power; 3-run stone.

Rollingsstone Creek - West Branch, Norton - Ruprecht custom mill; 13 horse power; 3 single rollers and one buhr.

Pleasant Valley Creek - Wilson - Laird custom mill; Flenekin's 20 inch turbine wheel; 560 cubic feet water per minute; 14 horse power; 3-run of stone, all for wheat.

Big Trout Creek - Pickwick - Pickwick mills; 20 inch Flenekin turbine wheel; 37 horse power; 4-run of stone; two sets single rollers; capacity 70 bbls. per day, shipped to La-moille.

Big Trout Creek - Richmond - Hatch feed mill; 14 feet fall.

Pine Creek - New Hartford - Blumentritt custom mill; 12 horse power; 3-run of stone; (one for feed) turbine wheel (also steam).

Money Creek - Wiscoy - Overbeck mill - 2 large buhrs (one for feed); 36 inch American turbine wheel; capacity 45 bbls. per day, shipped to Rushford.

Money Creek - Wiscoy - Clark custom mill, small; 2 buhrs (one for feed ); 36 inch turbine wheel (LaCrosse & Craig).

Trout Run - Saratoga - Troy custom mill;  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet water head; 17 feet dam; 1 breast-wheel, 1 buhr; 15 horse power; capacity unknown.

Rush Creek - Hart-mill owned by Winona individual; had been abandoned six years. Dam was carried away by high water, mill gradually torn down.

Rush Creek - Hart - Lehnertz custom mill; 24 horse power; 2-

run of stone (one for feed) Mulligan wheel of Lansing, Iowa;

25 bbls. per day; market in Winona.

Pine Creek - Fremont - Miles custom mill;  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ft. fall; 12

horse power; 'counter-pressure' turbine wheel; 2 smooth

buhrs (one for feed); capacity 10 bbls. per day.

Trout Run - Troy - Troy mills; custom and merchant; 18 ft. fall;

1 Whitmore, 1 Houston wheel; 32 horse power; 3 buhrs (one

for feed); capacity 50 bbls. per day.

Trout Creek - Saratoga - Hampton mills; 14 ft. head; 80 horse

power; 2 turbine wheels; 4 buhrs (one for feed); capacity

50 bbls. per day.

INDUSTRIES - FLOUR MILLING

The manufacture of flour in Winona County was begun with the erection of the Fogg mill at the extreme end of the town plat of Winona, in 1856. Nothing can be learned of this mill except that it was not a success. The Glen Flouring mill at Sugar Loaf, south of the city was started the same year. This mill continued to operate until 1915 when it was destroyed by fire. The Pickwick mill at Pickwick Falls on Big Trout Creek and a small mill in Wiscoy township were erected in 1856 also. These four were the earliest mills in the county.

Soon many mills were being built in various parts of the county, there being abundant water power on the numerous streams. The mills were mostly small but were generally fitted for the most approved methods of manufacture. Some were large enough to export flour in packs or barrels. With some of the small mills a large spring was the principal source of water supply, these springs usually being due to small subterranean streams.

In 1857 a large mill was built in Winona by H. D. Huff, owner of "Huff House," a well-known hotelry of the early days. The mill was erected at a cost of \$25,000 and was destroyed by fire within a few years. No other mill was erected in Winona city until 1874 when the mill firm of Porter



and Mowbray was organized.

Of the early flour mills in the county, the largest were the Elba mills, at Elba on the Whitewater River; the Stockton mills at Stockton on the south branch of the Rollingstone; the Ellsworth mills at Minnesota City on Rollingstone Creek and the Winona County mills at Minnesota City on Rollingstone Creek. The latter was the largest in the county with an output of 350 barrels of flour per day. This mill and the Stockton mills had steam power also. The Winona County mills were fitted with a Houston turbine wheel of 100 h.p., twenty-eight sets of Allis rollers, all but five of which were double. The Stockton mills had an output of 175 barrels per day. The Elba mills fitted with two wheels, produced 100 barrels per day. The Ellsworth mills, fitted with Leffel wheel, five sets of Stephens rollers, six buhrs, had an output of 150 barrels per day.

Some twenty smaller mills were located at various points, mostly on the Whitewater and Rollingstone and their various branches. Pleasant Valley Creek, Big Trout Creek, Pine Creek, Money Creek, Rush Creek and Trout Run also had small mills. Their capacity varied from 12 to 70 barrels per day. They ran from one to four buhrs. The smallest mill in the county was located in Warren township, in what is now Farmers' Community Park. It ground 24 bushels of wheat per day and was called Mosquito mill.

A rather famous mill was the Pickwick mill, on Big Trout Creek, at Pickwick Falls. It boasted of a six-story, stone structure, had a Flinekin turbine wheel, four run of

stone, two sets of single rollers, 37 h.p., and turned out up to 100 barrels of flour per day. Much flour from here was taken to La Moille, thence shipped by river.

Most of the mills ran one buhr for feed grinding. In many instances, after a mill ceased to manufacture flour, it would continue to operate as a feed mill. Records show that the first feed mill in the county was built at Minnesota City in 1853 by Allen & Gilbert. It was a Burr horsepower mill.

In the late fifties, one sorghum mill existed, located on Beaver Creek in Whitewater township.

Most of the mills scattered throughout the county have long been discontinued, chiefly because of failing water power. Some of them were destroyed by fire and were never re-built. It is interesting to note that the old Troy mill at Troy in Saratoga township, erected in 1857 and constructed of the native stone in that vicinity, has recently been selected by the architects of the Historic American Buildings survey as an outstanding example of early American architecture. This mill, of course, is not in use.

Among the several mills which are still operating in the county, perhaps the largest is the one which was built on the site of the old Mowbray mill, on the south branch of Rollingstone Creek in the village of Stockton. This mill, owned by Mademan Bros., is known as the Stockton Roller Mills and manufactures all types of flour. One mill in the village of Rollingstone grinds feed only. The old Blumentritt mill built on Pine Creek in New Hartford township in 1860 still operates, grinding flour for the farmers of the vicinity. The picturesque

old stone mill above Pickwick Falls, at the village of Pickwick, is really a landmark in the county. It still produces flour and feed for the farmers of the vicinity who bring their wheat to be ground. This is now the oldest mill in the county.

Today most of the flour used by Winona County residents comes from the Bay State Mill at Winona.



THE BAY STATE MILLING COMPANY

The Bay State Milling Company, which took over the L. C. Porter Milling Co. in 1899, is one of Winona's largest and most far-reaching industries. Its real beginning was back in 1874, when the mill firm of Porter & Mowbray was organized and a five-story frame structure was erected and provided with nine run of stone for crushing the wheat. Rollers were then unknown. This mill had a capacity of 250 barrels of flour per day. The engine and boiler house was a two-story brick building and three years later an elevator was built with a capacity of 50,000 bushels. This was increased in 1882 to 90,000 bushels storage and a handling capacity of 5,000 bushels.

By this time the mill was producing per day 500 barrels of flour. Rollers had been introduced but burrs (stones) were used also. The reduction was done on rollers, the pulverizing of the middlings on burrs. An interesting sidelight on the old mill reveals that sawdust was used exclusively for fuel, and the old mill was the first in the state employing steam exclusively for power, such power before being considered too costly for profitable employment.

This mill was totally destroyed by fire but a new one was erected, with a greater capacity. It operated under the firm name of L. C. Porter Milling Co. until 1889 when it failed. The mill stood idle for ten years and in 1899. The present Bay State Milling Company came into possession of the properties by purchase.

The new firm began operations March 21, 1899, with a

Industries - Bay State Milling Company - Winona County

1,200 barrel daily output. The mill was enlarged and improved from time to time, to meet the constantly increasing demands of its customers, not only in the United States, but in many foreign lands. In a dozen years the Bay State Milling Company was regarded as among the foremost milling concerns in the country.

On July 28, 1911, the mill was again destroyed by fire. A large warehouse was also burned and "Elevator "B" was threatened but was paved. In all, 16,000 barrels of flour and 175,000 bushels of wheat were destroyed and the total loss was placed at \$600,000. The local morning paper carried the headline "The Plant of Winona's Most Substantial Industry Reduced to Junk."

The company was the pride of commercial Winona as it is today. At that time the daily capacity of the plant was approximately 3,600 barrels of wheat flour and 400 barrels of rye and corn products. It required the annual crop of 500,000 acres to furnish the company with wheat and its product was being carried into homes throughout the United States.

It was then that the city of Winona had an uneasy time of it. While the company was debating its rebuilding program, it was receiving flattering inducements from other cities to re-establish elsewhere. But it decided in favor of Winona and on August 10 a contract was let and building began soon afterward. Shipments interrupted, were resumed from a temporary mill at Minneapolis.

Establishing a time record in building construction, the new mill resumed operations March 4, 1912. It is one of the most modern and complete flour mills ever erected.



Industries - Bay State Milling Company - Winona County

It embodies the latest ideas of the world's foremost milling engineers and includes many original features not to be found in any other mill. Everything is designed to promote the greatest efficiency in the making of the highest and most uniform grade of flour, economy of production and convenience of operation.

Winona is proud of its mill. It is an eight-story structure with a daily capacity of 4,500 barrels of wheat flour and 500 barrels of rye flour. Built of reinforced concrete, brick and tile, it is thoroughly fire-proof. Everything has been done to insure sanitation, both in the interest of the workman and the product. Fresh air and sunlight penetrate all space.

The pride and show place of the plant is the 4th or grinding floor. On a white, blue-bordered tile floor, surrounded by walls covered with white glazed tile, are fifty-six double stands of nickle-trimmed grinding rolls. The room is kept spick and span 24 hours of the day.

Stress is placed on cleanliness. Flour dust is eliminated by automatic dust collectors advantageously placed to prevent the fine powder from escaping through the spouts on its way from one to the other of the 400 odd machines in the plant. Everything is automatic, that is, from the time the raw material enters the mill warehouse until it is packed as finished flour, it is touched by no human hand. It passes through enclosed machines which protect it from outside impurities.

The mill is electrically operated and requires between



Industries - Bay State Milling Company - Winona County

60 to 70 motors. The main and largest drive motor generates 900 horsepower. The endless rope drive on this motor which operates the wheat mill, uses almost a mile of heavy manilla rope, while the belting used in driving the hundreds of machines, if placed end to end, would cover a distance of more than five miles. A 350 horsepower motor runs the wheat-cleaning department.

Only the choicest of hard spring wheat is used in the manufacture of flour at the Bay State mill. Experts are employed to survey the hard wheat fields of Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana and observe the character and quality of the wheat obtainable. In this way the company knows where to secure the special quality of wheat necessary for the standard of its products.

Every car of wheat received at the mill, before it is unloaded, is laboratory tested to determine protein and moisture content. A miniature mill is employed to grind the samples of wheat into flour and this flour is used in baking, to determine its standard.

It takes about 18,000 bushels of wheat daily to keep the mill running. There are two large elevators with a combined capacity of 750,000 bushels of wheat. A large concrete elevator, known as Elevator "A", has a capacity of 500,000 bushels. Elevator "B", which survived the fire of 1911, has a 250,000 bushel capacity. Sometimes as many as a hundred cars of wheat are on track at one time, waiting unloading into the elevators.

The mill is operated day and night, except Sundays,

Industries - Bay State Milling Company - Winona County

with a force of about 100 people working eight-hour shifts. An assembly room, kitchen and dining room are provided for employees and surrounding grounds offer recreation. The organization has never had any labor troubles and among its mill and office employees are people who have been with the firm since its beginning.

Direct telegraph wires connect the Bay State Milling Company with the principal wheat terminals of the northwest, and with the trading floor of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, in which the local firm holds memberships. Thirty road representatives are employed. There are thirteen branch managers located at Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Cedar Rapids - Iowa, Pittsburg, Buffalo, Richmond - Virginia, Boston, Haverhill - Mass., Lowell - Mass., Lawrence - Mass., and Manchester - New Hampshire.

Today the superior standard of "Wingold" and "Bay State" flour is known far and wide. Little by little, foreign trade has been increased and now the name of this city is carried on flour and feed bags into many countries. In addition to the domestic trade, shipments are made to Cuba, Sweden, Turkey, Italy, Denmark, Finland, France, the island of Malta, Greece, Gibraltar, Algiers, Ireland, Scotland, Germany and Holland.