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## Grandfather's Day

The Father of Waters has a birthday this year - his 400th. It was in 1541 that DeSoto discovered the southern reaches of the Mississippi. A century passed before the ~~Minnesota~~ <sup>in Minnesota, were</sup> headwaters of the mighty river were again visited by white men. And many generations more before permanent white settlements appeared. But always this <sup>mighty</sup> ~~great~~ river highway <sup>attracted imaginative men</sup> ~~fascinated~~ men. Even as late as 1867, a <sup>Minnesota</sup> Minneapolis speaker recalled his <sup>youthful</sup> childhood wonder about the <sup>upper Mississippi Country</sup> ~~Mississippi's Falls of St. Anthony~~.

The Minneapolis Tribune carried Hon. W. D. Washburn's words:

"Not many years ago. . . when I attended the school. . . that still nestles among the hills of New England, when . . . I pursued the study of physical geography. . . I remember - upon the map of the United States, a long way off, upon the broad open space of the map called the Northwestern Territory and upon which but few localities were filled by name - that of the Falls of St. Anthony. This, perhaps the most conspicuous, seemed the most mythical and the most remote. The Falls of St. Anthony seemed so far away, and so little was known of this 'American cataract, thundering in its solitude,' and the localities lying about it, that we were half inclined to regard it as located in the regions of romance.

"'Tis true that Father Hennepin and Nicollet. . . had long before paid brief visits to this distant but beautiful region. And a few voyageurs more venturesome and daring than others. . . had pushed their frail canoes of birch bark to the foot of the cataract, and besides what had been learned from them, we knew little of the magnificent empire lying around the Falls of St. Anthony and the headwaters of the great Mississippi. . .

"Only a quarter of a century since, how few of us there are but what would have as soon anticipated a trip to the open Polar Sea as that we would have found homes . . . within the sound of the Falls. . . Here where but yesterday from the Indian wigwam curled the blue smoke and the savage whoop was the only noisy rival of the cataract. . .

"We, indeed, listen now as then to the continuous roar of the cataract, but the power of the great river has been subdued, and instead of pouring its restless waters to the Gulf to no purpose, it has . . . been made to subserve the uses and necessities of an enlightened civilization. . ."



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2.

*Washington's birthday celebrated  
in Minnesota as far back as 1850*

It was a good many years ago that the American colonists decided to "let George do it," but a grateful nation has not forgotten his birthday. Minnesota from its beginning remembered the first president's anniversary.

Chronicle-Register, February 23, 1850: "This great National Holiday was not passed unobserved in our young metropolis (St. Paul). During the afternoon the two schools of Misses Bishop and Scofield interchanged visits, marching in procession through the streets. In the evening, a Grand Ball came off at the American House."

St. Paul Press, February 22, '61: The Legislative Committee of Arrangements, to provide . . . observance of the anniversary of the birth of Washington, have agreed upon the program." The order of exercises called for the ringing of city bells at sunrise, a procession headed by the Mayor and City Council, a salute of 54 guns, and a program at the Athenaeum.

Stillwater Messenger, '62: "Washington's birthday was celebrated by our citizens in an impromptu but very satisfactory manner. The Farewell address was read . . . and Gen. Jackson's celebrated anti-nullification Proclamation to the rebel South Carolinians."

Goodhue County Republican (Red Wing), '64: "The anniversary of the birth of the father of his country was not generally observed in Red Wing. Judge Wilder delivered an address . . . to the children of the Parish School, but we learned of no other mark of respect being paid to the illustrious founder of our liberties."

Tribune, '68: "Today is the anniversary of the Birth of the Father of his Country and . . . the Tribune will observe the day of permitting its employees to suspend their usual avocations. Consequently no paper will be issued . . . tomorrow morning."

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Tribune, '77: "At 1 o'clock on Washington's birthday, Feb. 22d, 1877, was fully opened to travel the new wire suspension bridge across the Mississippi river at Minneapolis. Glory be to Griffith and the bridge committee forever."



Grandfather's Day.

*St. Valentine's Day well  
advertised.*

February, the shortest month, is long on special days. In addition to the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln, there's also the feast of St. Valentine, not to mention the annual look-see of that shadowy fellow, the ground hog.

Early-day newspapers did not honor the ground hog with the publicity he now receives. Neither was Valentine's Day so well press-agented as now. And yet---

Minneapolis Tribune, 1876: "The valentine trade is a very large one this year. One firm, Gaslin, Wales & Chute, have already sold over \$400 worth."

Then there was a group of big-hearted citizens in Stillwater. That was in 1877. The Gazette reported:

"Our readers will remember that the announcement was made in the last issue of the Gazette that a large number of valentines had been deposited in the Stillwater postoffice minus the requisite stamps. A few gentlemen the next day organized a society for the prevention of cruelty to children and deposited a sufficient amount of script with Postmaster Cutler to release the missives."

Roses were red and violets blue in Grandfather's time, exactly as they are today. The Tribune, February 3, 1882 (An advertisement):

"We have now in stock a large and varied assortment of the choicest valentines manufactured, among which are Prang's works of art, Hake's perfumed satin, McLaughlin's chromos, and Cupid's darts, and shall in a few days show the new and highly praised work "My Love."

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Not always did the Tribune's mellow tolerance last through the entire February season of lace and hearts. Its patience with one manifestation of romance gave out a week before Valentine's Day, 1875:

"The clumsy style of dancing now in vogue in which people merely shuffle about on the floor, pushing one foot after the other, seems to have come from Paris, for they have it there, and they call the ambitious young gentlemen (who dance it) 'floor polishers.'"



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*Abraham Lincoln's birthday*

5.

While the nation pays tribute to Abraham Lincoln on his birthday anniversary today and the Gettysburg address is declaimed in schools and patriotic gatherings, it is interesting to observe that when the speech was delivered it received no attention whatever in many newspapers.

The day following the address, November 24, 1863, the St. Paul Pioneer, in a dispatch from its correspondent at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, reported that 50,000 persons attended the dedication of the "battle cemetery" and outlined the two-hour oration by Edward Everett. In conclusion, the dispatch said:

"Perhaps the most attentive and appreciative listener was Old Abe himself. He seemed to be absorbed in attention . . . until the spell was broken by a mistake of the orator in saying 'General Lee' when he should have said 'General Meade.' The mistake caused the president to . . . say with a loud voice 'General Meade,' but the orator did not seem to hear it."

Not a word about the great, though brief, address by the president himself!

That the emancipator was not so unanimously idolized then as later is also indicated by the following quip in the Pioneer a few days before:

"We should think the list of Mrs. Lincoln's rebel relations was about run through. There has not been a single rebel by the name of Todd killed since the war commenced that was not her own brother, if the newspapers are to be credited, and now they have commenced on her brother-in-law."



# Grandfather's Day.

Minnesota's Lincoln county is a permanent memorial to the Civil War president. But it took persistence to put it on the map. The "patriotic legislature in the year 1861" moved to honor Lincoln by giving his name to a county established from parts of Renville and Meeker counties, but the move failed due to lack of ratification by the people of those counties. Two later attempts likewise failed. But in 1873, Lincoln county was formed from the western part of Lyon county. The first meeting of its commissioners was in January 1874.

The Minneapolis celebration of Lincoln's birthday in 1872 merged into another of more immediate significance. On February 13, a reporter sent this item to the St. Paul Press: "The union of the two cities is consummated by 407 majority in St. Anthony and 978 in Minneapolis . . . There is great rejoicing."

It's a good man who has a good Minnesota county named in his honor. Major Joseph Renshaw Brown was one of the best. He saw the state grow from the wilderness, helped in many civil offices to shape Territory legislation, was prominent in the framing of the State Constitution, was a vigorous newspaper editor, and put political skill to the service of progressive idealism.

In 1877, the Stillwater Gazette quoted a tribute by Hon. Charles E. Flendrau. The occasion for the remarks was a meeting of the Old Settlers' Society of Le Sueur county.

" 'Then there was Major Joseph R. Brown. He came to this valley as a fifer in the regiment that laid the cornerstone of Fort Snelling in 1819. After leaving the military service his enterprising disposition made him the pioneer in almost all the industrial pursuits that now lead to the development of the state. He was in lumbering, commerce, steamboating and many other branches of business. He conducted as Editor-in Chief the leading newspaper at the capital with marked spirit and ability.

" 'He was always a leader as a legislator or a politician. He received the name of 'Joe the Juggler;' but I, who knew him probably as well as any man now living, can truthfully say and do cheerfully testify that it was his wonderful success in carrying his points in legislation, which was fairly earned by his superior intelligence and tenacity of purpose, that gave him this soubriquet.

" 'While other legislators were wasting their time in amusement and revelry, Brown was quietly at work drawing their bills and reports, and placing them under obligations to him, in readiness for the moment when he would call upon aid, and by these commendable appliances he generally carried off all the little bills and laws that his extensive enterprises demanded.

" 'And the world would cry out 'Juggler! '



" 'The only weakness I ever knew him to develop was his determination to put upon the prairies of the northwest a steam wagon to perform the functions of the now almost universal locomotive, and we can but admire his will, if even misdirected, when we reflect that he died gallantly fighting for his idea.' "

Omnibus, horse car, trolley car, motor bus - the wheels of city transportation roll on. Twin Citians board the street car today in various moods. But never with awe. It was not so when the towns were younger. Those first horse cars were something to make the olsters marvel.

In '68, the Tribune: "The Minneapolis Horse Railway Company - This new enterprise has been inaugurated but recently, and has for its object a line of horse railway through the principal streets of the city, and from the mills at the Falls to the levee." Same year: "In laying the new tracks . . . only those rails should be used which . . . offer no impediments to wagon and carriage wheels."

St. Paul Pioneer, '69: "Minneapolis is rejoicing over the formal opening of a horse railroad, connecting the Milwaukee & St. Paul road with the St. Paul & Pacific."

Tribune, '71: "Strangers who desire to see the only street car in Minnesota will find it on Second street, near the St. Paul & Pacific railroad. It is deposited in this spot so that it may be out of the way, and gather the honorable dust of age, undisturbed by the busier portions of the city. Requiescat in pace."

St. Paul Press, '74: "The street cars will resume their trips again this week. The horses are said to be all right and hearty (after an epidemic sickness) and four covered sleighs similar to those used as omnibusses will serve as cars while the sleighing holds good, and after that the cars will be put on."

Tribune, '82: "The laying of the street car tracks on Central avenue is now completed . . . The tracks now occupy the outer portions of the street, leaving the center for the wagons."



Tribune, same year: "President Lowry states that no one has a right to ride free on the street cars in this city except policemen in uniform, and that there is no provision in the management by which firemen can ride free, whether going to fires or not. He also says he would rather pay the fare of the fire laddies when they want to ride to a fire out of his own pocket than to have to arise any of the complications that would follow issuing orders to the drivers to let firemen ride free."



Minnesota's activity in calling Washington's attention to Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, as a desirable location for a soldiers' training camp recalls the long history of the camp. Old Fort Ripley, once located in the present Camp Ripley area, was built in 1849-50 and called Fort Gaines. The Minnesota Pioneer said later in 1850: "We are authorized to announce that the War Department at Washington has ordered the name of Fort Gaines to be changed; and it is henceforth to be known by the name of Fort Ripley." Thus honored was Eleazar Wheelock Ripley, veteran of the War of 1812.

Pioneer - Democrat, '57: "The sale (of Fort Ripley Reserve) transpired at Crow Wing, on the 20th of October, pursuant to orders of the Secretary of War. . . . The price received averaged about 10 cents per acre for the tract of 60,000 acres."

But the next year (also Pioneer - Democrat) "The House of Representatives has been officially informed that the Secretary of War has annulled and set aside the sale of Fort Ripley military reservation."

St. Paul Press, August 6, '70: "A Northwestern telegraph office was opened at headquarters at Fort Ripley this morning."

The same year the Pioneer gave this description in an account of the steamer Pokegama's first trip to the falls of that name: "After leaving Belle Prairie, we passed along up river through a beautiful country not much settled, because it was a part of the military reserve of Fort Ripley. In a short time we arrived in sight of Fort Ripley, one of the most beautiful military outposts in the country. The old flag, the stars and stripes, was floating at masthead. As we neared the Fort the commanding officer came to the bank of the river with a six-pounder and fired a salute of five guns. We landed and Col. Mason, the commander of the post, with eight or ten officers and men came on board . . . the people assembled

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on the landing, and fired a salute of small arms, waved flags and made many demonstrations of joy."



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Action of the Georgia - heart of chivalrous Dixie - senate in killing a bill permitting jury service by women invites comparison with Minnesota's stand in that respect, since women jurors are an accepted fact in modern Gopher jurisprudence. Minnesota womanhood, in reaching full suffrage, trod a path marked with interesting milestones.

The woman suffrage movement was well under way by 1881, when the first state convention was held. Regarding the second, the next year, the Tribune said: "The second annual convention of the Woman's Suffrage Association of Minnesota was held yesterday (Sept. 29) at the Friends' meeting house, Hennepin avenue . . . the convention was called to order by Mrs. Julia B. Nelson of Red Wing, the vice-president, in the absence of the president, Mrs. Stearns of Duluth."

In '58, the Young Men's Literary association of St. Paul debated "that the right of exercising the elective franchise ought to be extended to women." The advance notice in the Minnesotian said: "The ladies will have an opportunity of voting upon . . . the resolution."

Tribune again, 1867: "The sovereignty of England today is vested in a woman. In our country the people are the only sovereign. To allow women to share in exercise of this sovereignty is not, surely, so wide a departure from the divine right of pantaloons to rule as it is to place the scepter in her individual hands."

In '68, Anna Dickinson lectured at the St. Paul opera house on "Idiots and Women," protesting the law which classed "paupers, criminals, idiots and women together among those whom it presumes to be disqualified" from voting.

Tribune, '68: "The first formal movement towards woman suffrage was made in the house (of representatives) by presentation of a petition from Mary A. Graves and 349 other strong-minded females."

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Beat even before they won the vote, the women got around. Tribune,  
'73: "The latest thing out is a lady drummer . . . She sells extracts . . .  
Next!"



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*Minnesota Defense, swung into  
action as early as 1856*

10.

Minnesota Defense, Inc. has swung into action, seeking the state's fair share of defense contracts. Officers and men of the first regiment of the Minnesota Defense Force have also been formally mustered in. And thus history repeats itself, for Minnesota annals of other days show the spirit of defense on the march.

In 1856 the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat, in an article headed "The Minnesota Pioneer Guard," said in part: "This first of our organized military companies is fast increasing in numbers, and bids fair to become an ornament to our society."

Pioneer & Democrat, '57, referring to St. Cloud: "A petition to Governor Medary for arms to equip an organized company of volunteers having received some 60 signatures, the signers and others were called together at the Everett schoolhouse . . . to . . . perfect an organization."

Stillwater Messenger, '58: "A number of our German citizens have just organized a military company . . . under the title of Independent Washington Guards."

Minnesotian, '59: "Whether the slender possibility of war with somebody or other is stirring up a military spirit or not we cannot say, but here in Minnesota we are fast becoming a military people . . . Numerous are the new companies . . ."

Goodhue County Republican (Red Wing), '61: "Where They Come From - Pine Island furnished 18 members of the Goodhue Volunteers, Cannon Falls 8, Zumbrota, 6, Goodhue, 4, the balance was mostly from Red Wing. Nineteen were students of Hamline University."



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St. Paul Press, '61: "The people of Jackson county, out on the southwestern frontier of the state, have organized a military company for home protection against the Indians."

Goodhue County Republican, '61: "Roscoe Union Guards - A military company, bearing the above title, has recently been organized in Roscoe. The muster roll numbers nearly 100 names."

Pioneer & Democrat, '61: "Minnesota Rangers - This is the name of a military company at Mankato . . . Its officers are: B. F. Rice, Captain; J. H. Hartew, First, and M. L. Flower, Second Lieutenant."

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VI  
*Defense in early days*

11.

Minnesota's original citizen, tomahawk poised above the head of a white newcomer, might have doubted that his descendants would be lauded for their part in the national defense program of 1941. Yet 30 representatives of Uncle Sam's Indian service, meeting in Minneapolis, have told of the redmen's active cooperation in the emergency. It is a far cry from the days when defense to the Indian meant defense of his domain against white intruders.

Minnesota Chronicle, '49--- "... The Winnegagos are committing serious depredations on the property of the settlers(near Elk River) ... They threatened to burn the house of Mr. William Stergus and attempted to murder the whole family. "

Pioneer Democrat, '69: "The Indians are giving some trouble to the settlers in Douglas county ... stealing and carrying off the property of settlers and driving off their cattle... The bridge beyond Alexandria,.... has been burned."

Such minor attacks are commonplace in state annals. But there were also the big-scale outbreaks. For instance, a Mankato correspondent writing to the Emigranten, Madison, Wis. said in '57:

"The animosities began to the south of here, near the Iowa line, along an arm of the Blue Earth river... A group of white people settled there last year and found the land to their liking as, presumably, did their 'red brother'... A Mr. Wood, a storekeeper, had sold provisions, powder and lead to the value of \$1,400 to the Indians on credit. They wished to rid themselves of this debt... Their barbarism and their old hatred for the white man flamed anew... They slew him (Wood) and his brother, murdering all told 52 persons and abducting 4 women."



In '62, it was not common defense but was to the death.

Pioneer Democrat: "All officers in command of detachments ... attempting to advance against any Indians on our frontiers at war with the government of the United States will ... seize ... all suitable and necessary horses, saddles, bridles, harness, wagons and other vehicles ... and all other means of transportation," giving to the owners receipts therefor. This was an order by the Minnesota Adjutant General, Oscar Malmros.

VI

*Aid to small nations of Europe*  
 1941 - Greece  
 1852 - Hungary

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Minneapolis has shared in the nationwide aid-to-Greece drive and over in St. Paul women in native Greek costume have been selling emblems for the same cause. If Minnesotans today show concern and division of opinion over the problem of the small nations of Europe, it is no more than a repetition of their grandfather's heart-against-head conflicts.

The wearing of Greek dress in St. Paul has something of a precedent. It was back in '52, after Louis Kossuth, Hungarian patriot, had been forced to flee his seething country and had come to the United States. While enthusiasm for Kossuth and Hungarian independence was running high over America, the Minnesotian said, May 1, '52:

"A number of Kossuth hats have made their appearance in our (St. Paul) streets. It is said that those with a feather in them are for 'Kossuth and Intervention,' and those without the feather are non-interventionists.. If this be so, the non-interventionists have the day as far as St. Paul is concerned."

Earlier that year, in January, the St. Anthony Express reported with satisfaction:

"Mr. Babcock of the (city) council offered that body on Monday, a series of Kossuth resolutions, 'going it' strong for the great Magyar. He is for 'progressing' the entire figure, calling upon our government to give, not only its sympathy, but 'aid and comfort' to Hungary... and pitch the doctrine of non-intervention to the ~~\*\*\*\*~~. The last resolution was as follows:

" 'Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted, through our (territorial) delegate in congress, to Kossuth, the Emperor Nicholas, and to Chavalier Hulseman.' "



In February of the same year, the Minnesota Pioneer reviewed a speech delivered by William D. Phillips at Mazourka Hall. It was a Kossuth meeting, the paper announced, similar to others being held simultaneously around the nation to enlist aid and sympathy for "Louis Kossuth and his people, crushed as they are by the despotic powers of Austria and Russia."



Preservation of the relics and sources of history by organizations of history specialists is a service recognized as essential by responsible opinion. The Minnesota Historical Society, oldest cultural institution in the state, established in 1849, stands as an inspiration to the numerous local historical groups throughout Minnesota. Tomorrow, under sponsorship of the Kiwanis club at Litchfield, formation of a Meeker county historical society is to be discussed.

The recent annual meeting of the state society demonstrated its increasing value to the citizens of Minnesota. Like all such organizations, it had handicaps to overcome before gaining its present pre-eminence in educational and literary circles. Not the least of these occurred when the Capitol burned, in 1881, and the society's records were rushed across the street to a church for safety.

The Chronicle-Register, January 5, 1880: "The first public exercises of the Minnesota Historical Society took place at the Methodist Church, St. Paul, on the first inst. . . . At the appointed hour . . . Hon. Chief Justice Goodrich was called to the Chair." It was then moved that a committee "be appointed to wait upon the orator of the day, Rev. Mr. Neill, and inform him that the audience was in waiting to hear his address." A feature of the occasion was "the presence of the far-famed 'Sixth Infantry Band,' now stationed at Fort Snelling."

Same year, same paper: "Members of the Historical Society are requested to call upon the Treasurer, W. H. Forbes, Esq., and pay their fee . . . The Society is incurring expense for printing, &c."

St. Anthony Express, '51: "The Secretary of the Territory has returned from a short trip East . . . He informs us that handsome donations of books have been made . . . to the Minnesota Historical Society

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by the Regents of the University . . . in behalf of the state of New York; also by the 'Smithsonian Institution' at Washington City."

Pioneer, '54: "At the annual meeting of the Society . . . Messrs. Olmsted and Le Duc were appointed . . . to apply to the proper authorities for a room in the Capitol for use of the Library and Cabinet . . . now from necessity stored away in the garret of the society."

Minnesotian, '55: "The Historical Society . . . have appointed D. A. Robertson (and others) to daguerrotype, survey and excavate the antique Indian mounds in the suburbs."



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*The Twin City Apparel Industries  
Style show, was different in  
Grandmother's time*

"The waistline will be lower at Easter---in dresses emphasized by tucks and shirrings . . . coats emphasize the box type." That's what they are showing at the Twin City Apparel Industries style show at the Radisson this week. In grandmother's time ---well, it was different.

Dropping back to 1879, for instance. The Tribune told what they wore at the swanky Harrow House promenade ball at Lake Minnetonka:

"Miss Reid, of Cincinnati, wore cream-colored bunting with scarlet satin trimmings.

"Miss Annie Whitmore wore white dotted muslin, trimmed with Valenciennes lace.

"Miss Birdie McFarlane wore white muslin, with lavender silk cuirasse basque.

"Mrs. Frank Hesler wore sea foam silk with point applique lace; coral jewelry.

"Miss Agnes Ames wore white muslin with cardinal satin ribbons.

"Mrs. Mel. H. Eddy wore Nile green silk, combined with white silk; garlands of roses; diamond ear-rings.

"Miss Augusta Blow wore a white muslin lace-trimmed dress, white satin ribbons, malachite ornaments.

"Mrs. A. E. McMullen wore white-figured muslin, trimmed with point applique lace, cream-colored ribbons, silver filagree jewelry.

"Miss Tilden, of St. Paul, wore a dress of light blue grenadine and silk, trimmed with bows of cream color and cardinal duchess lace.

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"Mrs. Brown, of New Orleans, wore a dress of black silk, with lace overdress, and diamonds.

"Mrs. Greenleaf's dress was white muslin and Valenciennes lace over pink silk.

"Miss Minnie Reeve wore white lawn trimmed with Torchin lace; roses.

"Miss Carrie Belle King wore black grenadine, trimmed with black lace over lavender silk ruffles.

"Miss May Lewis wore pink silk with an over-dress of Paris muslin and lace.

"Mrs. George Eustis wore black satin, striped grenadine, light blue hat."



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15.

*The made-in-Faribault forum.  
(Business in the making)*

The made-in-Faribault forum, meeting last Wednesday in the Rice county seat, has sound reason for existence. Mr. I. N. Tate, addressing the forum, referred to the city as having "laid the foundation for the prosperity you are enjoying today" and said a good business year is ahead. Back in the fifties and sixties, business was also pretty good.

They resented intrusion of firewater, while business was getting started. Minnesotian, '55: "We are informed that a man from Iowa recently brought two barrels of whiskey to Faribault. He was repeatedly requested by the citizens to take it away, but refused. Finally a number of them took possession of it, and knocked in the heads of the barrels. Large numbers of Indians were in the neighborhood, and this summary proceeding was in self defence."

Another sign of healthy business. St. Paul Press, '61: "The Faribault Republican states that the Steam Mill company of that place are now cutting out from 8,000 to 10,000 staves and heading per day, and will soon have in successful operation all the machinery ---except growing the hoop poles ---for turning out full grown flour barrels by the thousand."

Three years later, the Faribault Republican: "The Faribault tannery of D. O. Brien is the only one in northern Minnesota . . . The greatest activity is shown in every department."

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Then, in '65 (St. Paul Pioneer): "Yesterday (Nov. 16) was a day long to be remembered in our history, as the announcement of a new era in our State existence. The Minnesota Central Railway was formally opened to business by appropriate inauguration ceremonies, consisting of a grand excursion of citizens of St. Paul, St. Anthony and Minneapolis to Faribault, at which point the citizens sumptuously entertained them with a fine banquet, spread in the depot building . . . "We have closed the chapter of pioneer growth . . . grasshoppers and droughts, and entered a new decade of unexampled progress."

All of which paved the way for Faribault's sixteenth annual made-in-Faribault forum.



*Rochester, a new town.**Mantorville, Dodge County.*

Rochester, Minnesota to the world at large means the Mayos and their clinic. Indeed many Minnesotans may believe that Rochester was literally put on the map by the noted pioneer doctor and his renowned sons. But away back in 1855, before Charles and William were born, Rochester looked good to a writer for the Dubuque Express and Herald, whose article was copied in the St. Paul Pioneer and Democrat. He wrote:

"Rochester, a new town, the county seat of Olmsted county, was first settled last year and has 200 inhabitants. It is situated on the south fork of the Zumbro . . . a branch of the Minnesota river, and has water power sufficient for all the mills and manufactories required in that section of the country.

"Purchases of some of the mill sites have recently been made under contract to erect flouring and sawmills next year. Messrs. Harris & Co., of Boston, Lowry, Lewis, Morton, Head, and others, together with Messrs. Foster & Lindsley, of Beloit, Wis., are the principal proprietors.

"Foster & Lindsley design to lay out 70 acres adjoining the present town plat into lots. Harris & Co., with other capitalists, will expend \$75,000 next season in building mills, stores, hotels and dwellings. The town is a healthy locality, near the confluence of four streams, and is one of the best interior points in southern Minnesota. It is on the line of the projected railroad from Dubuque to St. Paul, and 50 miles directly west of Winona, from which place a railroad will probably be build to Mankato, on the Minnesota river. This would make Rochester an important railroad center, a position

its natural advantages highly favor. So many improvements are designed to be carried on in the spring that a large number of mechanics will find it is a good place for settlement."

The Winona Argus, same year, had this boost for Mantorville, Dodge county:

Notwithstanding common report had prepared us a sight worth beholding, upon entering this village . . . we must confess that the number of inhabitants and substantial character of the improvements made far exceeded our expectations. Though but a few months have elapsed since Mr. Mantor, the enterprising proprietor, first 'struck down his stake' there the village already boasts three or four dry goods and grocery stores, shops of various kinds, an excellent sawmill, and many other of the fixtures ready to meet the demands of the country . . . They have a fine water power in town, and an abundance of timber near by. Mantorville is the present county seat of Dodge county. The county received its name from Gen. Augustus C. Dodge, of Iowa, now minister to Spain."



More than 1,500 retail grocers and merchants in other lines attend the annual convention in St. Paul of the Minnesota Retail Grocers and General Merchants association and their deliberations include the large problems of economic adjustment. Also the current legislature is giving thought to a proposition to increase the present 10 percent legal mark-up requirement on retail merchandise.

The grocers might be interested, in this connection, in knowing how they might have marked their stock in grandfather's day. In '70, the St. Paul Pioneer carried an advertisement for H. L. Mills, headed "Gold vs. Groceries" and saying: "I will now give for cash---6 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs crushed sugar for \$1; 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. pulverized sugar, \$1; 8 pounds dried apples, \$1; best Japan tea per pound, \$1.25; best oil per gallon, \$.40...our place is neither eggs-tensive nor eggs-pensive."

The Mankato Record, '71, thus welcomed a new grocer: "New Firm,- J. F. Wallace has associated with him...Mr. George T. Barr, one of the most popular and thoroughly competent young men for business in our city...They are getting on a fine stock of choice groceries, fresh from New York."

The March 11, 1871, issue of the Pioneer said: "Happening in at B. Presley & Co's...yesterday, our eyes were greeted with a large lot of young radishes and fresh lettuce, the real, genuine outdoor article."

Tribune, also '71: "Northfield has adopted the custom of 'market days' on Saturdays, for the bringing together and sale of stock and produce. The promise is good for profitable traffic.

Some Mankato prices, quoted in May, that year: "5 lbs. best Rio coffee, \$1; starch, 10¢; saleratus, 10¢; best black tea, 95¢; 7 bars good washing soap, 25¢; molasses per gallon, 60¢; peaches, 2 lb. can, 25¢; oysters, 2 lb can, 25¢; extract lemon, 15¢; tallow candles, 15¢."

In July, same year, the Tribune press-agented fruit arrivals thus:

"Watermelons made their appearance in market yesterday, bringing better prices than Northern Pacific first mortgage bonds."

"Blackberries plucked on the sacred soil of Old Virginia are being sold in this market."



18.

VII  
*Prosperity not always just  
around the corner*

### Grandfather's Day.

Prosperity was not always just around the corner. The Tribune of 1881 reflected in its columns a rosy state of affairs, with prosperity in full sight and all over the place.

"Wanted ---25 more quarrymen for Sauk Rapids. Board, \$3.50, free fare. 20 shovelers for Fort Snelling. \$1.75 per day; board, \$3.50; free fare. 60 quarrymen and drillers and stone cutters for Sauk Rapids. 50 carpenters for the Northern Pacific shops at Brainerd, \$2.50; board, \$4; free fare. 300 men for Northern Pacific railroad . . . \$1.60; laborers, \$1.65; free fare . . ."

"Yesterday the Milwaukee road had a gang of 200 men working on the new transfer tracks on Second street . . . today the M. & St. L. will add a gang."

"The Pillsbury A mill is now running night and day and turning out flour that is promptly branded 'Pillsbury's Best.' "

"The trustees of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank have declared the thirteenth dividend on all deposits at the rate of 6 per cent."

"The county treasurer's statement for three months . . . The balance, together with the previous balance on hand, leaves \$324,332.27."

In 1872, the Tribune suggested a system of fines to increase city revenue, cautioning the city fathers, however, that "no arrests should be made within 10 days preceding an election":

Grandfather's Day.

"For a runaway, resulting in fright only ---\$2 for one block; each additional block, 50 cents.

"For a runaway and breaking a wagon ---\$3 for one block; each additional block, 75 cents. In case the horse breaks also, double the rates.

"For a runaway . . . knocking down citizens ---ten cents for each citizen . . .

"For loafing at street corners . . . First offense, free; second offense, \$1; third offense, \$2. Each subsequent offense, double the preceding one . . . "



*Mrs. Jane Grey Swisshelm*

Grandfather's Day.

The turbulent career of Mrs. Jane Grey Swisshelm, Minnesota editress, politician and lecturer, is not unfamiliar to readers of Minnesota history. A vocal firebrand in her day, Mrs. Swisshelm may have inherited her faculty of causing public disturbance. But unlike the troubled ancestor credited to her, she did not finally kneel under the headsman's axe.

A Pittsburgh article in The Minneapolis Tribune in '83 said among other things: "Mrs. Swisshelm is a lineal descendent of Lady Jane Grey who for 10 days was queen of England . . . Her attack upon Daniel Webster which defeated him for the presidential nomination in 1848 (before she came to Minnesota) . . . will be remembered by the general reader."

Mrs. Swisshelm came to this state in '57 and started the St. Cloud Visitor. She struck fire at once. Pioneer Democrat, the next year: "Border Ruffianism in Minnesota! Great Excitement! Attempt to Stifle Free Speech! . . . On the night of the 24th of March, the office of the St. Cloud Visitor was broken open, the press demolished, and the type and contents of the office thrown into the street and the river . . . The citizens, indignant at this attempt to stifle free speech and to put down an independent press, issued a call for a meeting to be held at the Stearns House on the ensuing evening and invited the editor to address them . . . Nearly the entire population of the town . . . turned out en masse, while large delegations were present from Sauk Rapids and the surrounding country."

Stillwater Messenger, later: "Mrs. S. has suffered much . . .  
But one year since she had her press mobbed by the moccasin Democracy  
of St. Cloud, because she dared to exercise the use of her pen and her  
tongue. Strongly imbued with anti-slavery ideas, she 'spares not the  
rod.' "

St. Cloud came to think so much of her that her opinion was valued  
on a variety of subjects. Pioneer Democrat, '61: "'Professor' Cromwell  
. . . has opened in St. Cloud an 'African saloon, Barber shop and Lunch  
House,' which Mrs. Swisshelm says is quite a convenience to that town."

Tribune, '67: "Mrs. Jane G. Swisshelm writes to a paper that she  
has long been accustomed to having her articles rejected, and that one  
article of hers was rejected by the office boys of her own paper."



Who discovered Minnetonka? The Tribune, September 23, 1879, quoted Franklin Steele's claim that he and Martin McLeod were the first white men to see the "big water." In any case, Minnetonkans and all who fish or swim, paddle canoes or bask in the Minnesota sun on the shores of the picturesque resort are grateful. In the course of the article, the Tribune said:

"The discovery of Lake Minnetonka has been attributed to several different persons, but it seems that the first white men who ever gazed upon its waters were Mr. Steele and Mr. Martin McLeod, a well known old settler of Minnesota.

"One day in August, 1839, Steele and McLeod started out from Fort Snelling on horseback, with their shotguns and several days' rations of hard-bread. They had heard from Indians of a 'Big Water' lying to the west of the fort, but had never ascertained from them its precise location.

"They travelled for a while in a southwesterly direction towards Shakopee, and then struck out into the woods almost north. Towards evening they crossed Minnehaha creek, within sight of what is now known as Gray's Lake, the eastern extremity of Minnetonka, and camped there.

"Each man carried two blankets, one under his saddle and one on top. The next day they started to travel around the lake. When they got a little beyond the present site of Wayzata they thought they were nearly around it, but on reaching what is now known as Expectation Point they found that the water stretched out westward as far as the eye could see.

"They travelled westward for two days, keeping as close to the borders of the lake as possible, in the hope of getting around, then

gave up the task as hopeless, and striking off northward to a considerable distance from the lake in order to avoid sinuosities of the shore line, they turned east and reached the fort in one day.

"Mr. Steele confidently asserts that he and his companion were the simon-pure original discoverers. The lake still retains the name that the Indians gave it - Minnetonka - 'Big Water.'"

The claim of Steele and McLeod might well have been disputed by Joseph R. Brown and William Joseph Snelling. But it doesn't much matter to Minnesotans who now have all discovered the lovely "big water" of the Sioux.



Grandfather's Day.

*The pros and cons of socialized  
medicine*

The pros and cons of socialized medicine are threshed over vigorously at intervals. But that debate is only an incident in the long and brilliant history of Minnesota medicine. State annals reveal a significant event in 1854. On June 5, the Minnesotian announced:

"The first annual meeting of the Minnesota Medical Society will occur at St. Anthony Falls, on the 7th of June next, at 10 o'clock a. m. Physicians throughout the territory are respectfully invited to attend."

In '61, community hygiene became news in Winona, when that city's Republican stated: "Ladies' Health Society---It is designed by a number of ladies of Winona....to organize a Ladies' Health Association, under whose auspices a bathroom will be erected...and in connection with which the famed Russian or Oriental method of bathing, so conducive to health will be established."

St. Paul Press, '66: "A project is on foot to petition the government to grant 10 sections of land...for the purpose of establishing a medical department in the University of Minnesota."

Minneapolis Tribune, '71: "Through the kindness of Dr. A. E. Ames, the physician of the 'Brotherhood of Gethsemane,' a dispensary has been opened at his office in Dayton's block by the Brotherhood, for supplying the deserving poor of the city with medicines and medical advice free."

Stillwater Gazette, '73: "A meeting of the physicians of this county was held...at the office of Dr. Millard. A committee to prepare a fee bill was chosen."

Grandfather's Day - #2

Tribune, '74: "Last evening Dr. Stone read a lecture of fifty pages on the history of social evil. . . He said it was high time that the subject was spoken of in public and no longer whispered about in a mysterious manner. History proved that it could not be eradicated and therefore must be regulated. . . He recommended that all (prostitutes) be fined, but in case of sickness fine remitted. The doctor's bill should be paid by the city."



*Dentistry in early days*

The hundreds of dentists now attending the annual meeting of the Minnesota Dental Association in Minneapolis pursue their profession in a fashion different from their old-time predecessors. Some early advertisements point the difference.

Chronicle & Register, 1850: "Dr. Jarvis, Dentist and Daguerrean, has arrived from St. Louis. . . His stock of materials, both in the dental and daguerreotype line, is most extensive and complete. Pictures taken in superior style." Same paper and year, Dr. A. G. Stipher: "Teeth inserted on gold plates from one to a full set, with spiral springs or on the principle of atmospheric pressure. . . also prepared to construct and apply artificial palates." Dr. R. J. Sibley in the Mankato Record, 1860: "I will hereafter extract teeth for twenty-five cents each." Dr. D. G. Price in the Pioneer & Democrat, 1864: "I am inserting full upper sets of teeth, on vulcanite or silver, for \$25. Full sets on either material, \$50. On gold, at market rate."

Dr. W. J. Pierpont, "surgeon-dentist," in the Stillwater Messenger, 1866: "All in want of dental operations are referred to my patients, who are many. . . Will remain all winter. P.S. - I am in no way connected with traveling and irresponsible dentists." Dr. Simonton in the St. Paul Pioneer, 1870: "Nitrous Oxide Gas (for painless extraction of teeth) always on hand."

Early convention, reported on October 24, 1866 in the St. Paul Daily Press: "The dentists of Minneapolis and St. Anthony met in convention last night. . . It was voted that an increase in prices of dentistry be made. . . The increase relates to single and double sets of teeth, and mouth operations. The former range from \$30 upward, and for fillings from \$2 to \$10. Extraction by aid of chloroform \$2 extra."

Progress as of 1874, described in the Stillwater Gazette. "We had the pleasure yesterday of examining a new and unique piece of machinery in the dental office, of B. G. Merry known as 'Morrison's Engine.' It consists of a handsome apparatus standing near the operating chair which is manipulated by means of a treadle and by a combination of little

wheels and pulleys, any one of a vast variety of instruments for cleaning the teeth, preparing cavities for filling, polishing the teeth or cutting down filling by the aid of a flexible contrivance is brought in immediate contact with the point to be operated on and revolved with immense rapidity. . . The work is done so instantaneously that before the victim has a chance to feel the pain, operations are suspended. This apparatus does away with the many excruciating hand instruments heretofore in vogue. . ."



Grandfather's Day.

25.

VI

*The public gaze sometimes becomes an angry glare at the Stillwater Prison*

Murder, Inc., with its Minnesota ramifications, has turned public attention to Stillwater prison. The state prison, however, has had long practice in meeting the inquiring gaze, and sometimes that gaze has become an angry glare.

In 1874, the Pioneer reviewed the institution's annual report. The paper said in part: "The number confined at present is 103, of which 64 have been received since the last report . . . It may seem strange, but it is nevertheless a fact, that of the 64 persons received, 25 were formerly members of the regular army . . . The largest number of those received in the past year were natives of New York . . . Of those confined at the present time, the report shows that 20 are married, 7 are widowers, and 76 are single ---a rather strong argument in favor of matrimonial alliances. 80 of the inmates can read and write, 16 can read but not write, and 7 can neither read or write. The report shows that 21 are drunkards, 56 moderate drinkers, and 26 temperate . . . 15 of the inmates are sentenced for life, all for the commission of murder in the first or second degree, while the sentences of the remainder range down to one year, and only 1 for as many as 20 years . . . Only 1 convict sentenced for life has been received during the past year . . ."

So far so good. But two days later, on January 17, the Pioneer had that look in its eye. "Some of the operations of the 'State Prison Ring' at Stillwater, during the past year, were ventilated by Senator Wilkinson yesterday . . . There ought to be searching investigations of the contracts for the labor of the prisoners, and also in regard to the expenditure of the people's money contrary to law. It is high time that 'Ring' operations in our public institutions were brought to an end. Not a dollar should be voted for any purpose whatever, excepting for feeding and safekeeping of the prisoners, until the 'Ring' shall have been smashed."

Grandfather's Day.

The next month, that look in the Pioneer's eye was losing some of its fire. Said the Pioneer, in reporting a visit to the state prison by the legislative committee: "The prison presents a marked improvement in appearance over last year. The old unsightly and ungainly front wall of the past has given place to one that is certainly creditable to the Board, in appearance at least . . . "



Grandfather's Day.

VI

26

*Wish to get new Names.  
Jawbreaking words used in early  
Newspapers*

Minnesota's legislature has been called on to decide if our friend the walleyed pike is no longer the walleyed pike but the stizostedion vitreum. Senator Dahle, who brings up this matter, also wants the brook trout to be the salvelinus fontinalis. The senator, with scientific authority behind him, suggests other jawbreakers for Minnesota fish.

The trend nowadays is toward short words in a spare style. But in grandfather's time, they liked a bit of fancy prose. In '56, the St. Anthony Express let itself go on Ole Bull's violin: "It is superhuman, angelic, devilish. It talked ---it sang ---it laughed ---it moaned ---it wept ---it shrieked ---it howled ---it prayed ---it curst ---now holding the crowd breathless, spellbound ---now drowning it in tears . . ."

The Minnesotian in a descriptive article in '57 said: "It is beautifully, delightfully, romantically, healthfully and advantageously situated at the foot of Lake Pepin."

Again in '57, the St. Anthony Express had an opportunity to be elaborate, when it reported that "the remains of a dikelocephalus Minnesotensis were found . . . where workmen were blasting . . . The first of this remarkable species of trilobite . . . was discovered in argillocalcareous beds on Lake St. Croix."

In '75 The Minneapolis Tribune thus was moved to make a retort "The St. Paul Pioneer Press says, 'The Minneapolis Tribune is a revolving, prismatic polyhedron.' That's libelous, you semiverticillated vermicule, you trigastrie trigonoceros bufo vulgaris, you polycistine

Grandfather's Day.

Ramsanian pollux; and if you don't stop calling names, we'll make faces at your mother-in-law! "

The Stillwater Gazette had its chance in '76: " 'Heterogeneous conglomeration of odoriferous rancidity' is the latest flowery name for . . . butter sold at present on our market."

(rre)



Grandfather's Day.

*First Auto Show in Mpls.  
1907*

27.

They are not having automobile shows these days, and Minneapolitans miss the annual mass display of motorcar aristocrats. Meanwhile, old-timers like to recall the first auto show held in the city. The Tribune reviewed it on March 3, 1907.

"The great Automobile Show, the first one attempted in Minneapolis, opened with a grand flourish of trumpets yesterday, and there was never a more successful beginning to a public function . . . Those present who had heard that an automobile show would be held . . . never would have imagined that it would be brought to such a fruition as marked its final completion . . .

"The big Armory hall was a scene of such splendor as has never been seen here before . . . The scheme of decorations was something wonderful . . . The main floor is devoted to the automobile exhibits, and the balcony has been enlarged and arranged for booths for the display of sundries . . . On the floor there are machines valued in the aggregate at over a million dollars . . . There are chassis polished and dull, painted and not painted (a chassis, you know, is the running gear without the body.) some of them operated with electric motors to show the working of the parts . . .

"There is the whole list of automobile vehicles, the gasoline in air-cooled and water-cooled, the electrics in every shape and form . . . there are touring cars of mammoth proportions, limousine bodies, little buckboards, runabouts, roadsters with their long gears and one-seat, phaetons, broughams, coupes, delivery drays, heavy vans, busses, in fact, every kind of a horseless equipage.

"It is a sight to overjoy the heart of a horse, for should he glance in there he would think his work days were over . . .

"To hear the French terms used and the mechanical jargon that was going the rounds . . . the rank outsiders would feel very much as if he had taken a trip to a strange land, and as far as that is concerned, a trip to the automobile show saves the price of a steamer ticket to the old country . . . The leading members of the Symphony Orchestra have been engaged for the week . . .

"Judging from the opening day, there will be quite an attendance of young people who will make use of the brilliant show as a promenade for the evening, for it gives a splendid opportunity for the young people to meet each other and at the same time enjoy the music."



VI  
"Axemen" in early days  
at Brainard.

28.

### Grandfather's Day

In the bold, bad age in which we are now living, one is apt to associate the word "axemen" with hatchet murders. Therefore it comes as something of a surprise to learn there was a time when the city of Brainard needed axemen the worst way. But times change, and axemen with them.

In an article headed "The New City of Brainard," the St. Paul Daily Press, January 26, 1872, carried the following:

"Everybody has heard of 'Brainard' on the N. P. Railroads; but few are aware that this little 'City of Pines' is a go-ahead place of 140 houses, and a population of 1,300, but such is the fact.

"That its inhabitants use considerable 'hard stuff' may be judged by the fact that there are only forty gin mills in it. As for eating houses, there are only twenty-five.

"The 'Headquarters' is about finished, and ere long the traveling public will have the pleasure of satisfying the 'inner man' at the largest establishment of its kind on the Northern Pacific.

"Sometimes rowdies kick up a muss. To punish such, the authorities have let a contract for building a courthouse with a jail attached. Brainard owes its thanks to W. W. Heartley, Esq., County Auditor, for his exertion in having it built.

The sale of lots has been lively for some weeks past, and the principal business men propose moving a little nearer the depot. With the building of more sawmills, machine shops, foundries and the establishment of a newspaper, which latter is the most important feature of Brainard's progress, she is bound to be a place of no small note.

"The manufacturing of ties has been carried on very satisfactorily this winter, the principal contractors being C. L. Ramely, Bassett & Chandler.

"The greatest drawback has been the want of a number of good axemen.

"It has been reported that Ramely & Bassett intend putting up a new sawmill for the purpose of cutting ties, and they may be successful in their undertaking."



*The smith a mighty man is he*

"The smith a mighty man is he" - even in this so-called horseless age. Probably surprising to many was the fact that when the Minnesota Blacksmiths and Welders association convened last week in Minneapolis, 500 attended.

Early blacksmith publicity in Minnesota annals were advertisements of J. Montour, of St. Paul and E. Tracy of Stillwater in the Register, April '49. The Stillwater man declared his work was "executed with despatch."

That same year the Pioneer published a business directory for Stillwater, and it contained the name of another man "with broad and sinewy hands"--- Matthew Laisey, blacksmith and wagonmaker.

St. Paul's first directory, published at the same time, listed Montour, Joseph Brown, D. C. Taylor and William H. Nobles in the "brawny arms" class.

In '56, F. Gilman of St. Paul advertised in the Minnesotian for "one machine blacksmith."

In '68, the Minneapolis Tribune announced that: "The Minnesota Iron Works have just doubled the size of their blacksmith shop and erected one of Shaw & Justice's power hammers. The weight of the machine is about 5,500 pounds, the hammer itself weighing 100 pounds and striking 225 blows per minute." No time here for the "measured beat and slow."

In '70, the Tribune recorded that: "A large two-story blacksmith shop...belonging to Louis Baqurom, a Frenchman at Osseo...was destroyed by fire...including all the contents...The fire originated from one of the forges. The loss was about \$4,000, upon which there was no insurance."

Stillwater item in Tribune, '76---"Mr. C. C. Johnson is again engaged in manufacturing plows in the blacksmith shop above Staples' mill. He expects to turn out over a hundred during the winter."



Grandfather's Day

# Navigation above St. Anthony Falls. (Steamboat Gov. Ramsey)

General Schley, chief of United States army engineers, this week asked congress for funds to construct the first of two St. Anthony Falls dams and locks, to create an upper harbor for Minneapolis. He also requested an appropriation for dredging below the lower lock and in the proposed upper harbor.

Pioneers in the '50s might have been amazed at modern engineering feats, but they, too, tackled the problem of upper Mississippi navigation. The Chronicle & Register (St. Paul), May 4, 1850, thus described the first boat to navigate the river above the falls: "Governor Ramsey is the name which has been given to a steamboat which has been built at St. Anthony under the superintendence of Mr. Smiley, an experienced shipwright from Waterville, Maine, to navigate the Mississippi river above the Falls...

"The boat...is 118 feet in length, with a stern wheel 16 feet in diameter, and 26 feet in breadth from guard to guard. The hold is four feet and the engine of 120 horse power. The boat was launched without accident last Sunday, and was found to draw but eight inches. When the boiler is in, which is a locomotive one, it is calculated she will draw eleven inches. The boiler...with the flues, &c., weighs five ton..."

Later that month the Pioneer said: "The Gov. Ramsey made an experimental trip last Saturday, from St. Anthony a few miles up the river, and is now in the regular trade to Sauk Rapids, going up one day and back the next...She has plenty of freight coming in."

Two years later, the Pioneer again: "Our neighbors up north-how do they contrive to live up there all winter, shut out from the world?"

were rejoiced by the first arrival this spring of the steamboat Gov. Ramsey from St. Anthony. The boat is now fitted up with excellent accommodations for travelers."

And this is what navigation above the falls meant in the old days to those "shut out from the world." Sauk Rapids Frontiersman, April 24, 1856:

"Hurrah for the Governor Ramsey!'"---On the morning of the 19th instant, the well known whistle of this favorite steamer of the Upper Mississippi saluted the ears of our delighted citizens, and a general rush for the landing followed. There, sure enough, was the honored old steamer, well officered and handsomely freighted."



*VI*  
*Eggs, a scarce article in early days*

A tribute to the industrious Minnesota hen and a reminder that Easter is on the way, Pipestone is now in the midst of an egg festival.

The proud place the little egg-producer holds in Minnesota annals and the income her product has earned for the state are something to cackle about. This is how St. Paul saw the infant industry--from the Democrat, 1854: "Since the day of our townsman, Mr. Winne, returned home from the East with his Shanghais that crowed loud enough to wake a whole neighborhood up, henneries have multiplies...We saw upon the levee this morning quite a number of boxes containing an assortment of specimens of all kinds."

St. Anthony Express, '55: Eggs have fallen to 30 cents per dozen. This price smells too strong of money for a poor man---to say nothing of 50 and 75 cents a dozen, the usual Minnesota price."

Pioneer, '67: "The Milwaukee brought up 400 dozen eggs yesterday. This will serve to relieve the market a little, for they are very scarce here."

Aristocratic hen fruit-St. Paul Press. '67: "In the spring I will have eggs of Brahmas for \$2 per dozen, and eggs of white face Black Spanish at \$5 per dozen for sale. H. S. Fairchild."

Pioneer, '69: "We saw yesterday, on Jackson street, 20,000 eggs in one lot. They belonged to Mr. Smith, of the firm of Smith & Lewis. Mr. Smith has a process of his own for preserving them fresh for two or three years."

Minneapolis Tribune, '69: "An egg was exhibited at this office yesterday laid by a hen in Corcoran, which is decidedly the largest hen's egg we ever saw. It measured  $7\frac{1}{2}$  by 11 inches."

In '70, Biddy took pity on the poor workingman. St. Paul Press: "Eggs at Rochester have declined to 10 cents per dozen."

Toll bridge competition. This was in '64, as told by the Pioneer: "A countryman, crossing the bridge, was halted just before he came to the toll house by an enterprising grocer with an inquiry for eggs. The countryman had a few dozen. 'How much?' 'Fifteen cents.!!..and the bargain was concluded, while...other grocers...were waiting...and ready to pay 22 or 25 cents...Eggs are eggs nowadays, and some farmers have the conscience to ask, and get 30 cents a dozen."



*Fairmont, Martin County.  
(Frost frolic)*

King Winter reigned again in Minnesota last Saturday at Fairmont's frost frolic. The palace, made of 50,000 tons of ice, was a feature. Old annals indicate that the town, if it had felt so inclined, might have constructed a palace of butter. Or cheese.

Fairmont wasn't thinking about ice frolics back in '68. Said the Minneapolis Tribune: "A citizen of Fairmont, Martin county, writing to the St. Paul Press, says: 'We need a physician in this county ... nearer than Blue Earth or Winnebago City.'"

In '68 the city also boasted its prosperity in a dispatch to the St. Paul Press: "Our merchants are doing a good trade this spring.... \$10,000 could be loaned in this county at 25 per cent.... There are four stores, two blacksmith shops, court house, schoolhouse, and a number of dwelling houses in Fairmont."

They'd have had some trouble getting ice for a palace in '70, apparently. Mankato Union, in December: "Mr. Kellett left at our office on Friday two buttercups in blossom, which he plucked on the prairie in McPherson (Martin county) the first of December."

The butter. Tribune '78: "Butter is quoted at Fairmont at three to six cents per pound." And the cheese. "Last week the Fairmont cheese factory shipped 30,000 pounds of cheese to New York. They expect to realize eight to ten cents per pound on the lot."

February of 1881 seemingly would have been a good time to stage an ice frolic. Tribune: "Fairmont, Minn., Feb. 8---The heaviest snowfall from the southeast that ever was known at this point commenced on Friday the 4th, and snowed for three days.... No eastern mail for 10 days."

Mary had a little lamb, but so did lots of others in early Minnesota. And the industry they developed was all wool and a yard wide. Note the meeting of organized wool growers being held today in Crookston.

Possibilities of the state as a wool furnisher were seen as early as along about 1854, when the St. Paul Democrat said: "We have recently noticed several large droves of sheep passing through the city, and learn that the fine grazing qualities of the land in this vicinity . . . have tempted capitalists to try the experiment not only of giving St. Paul good mutton, but testing the capacity of Minnesota as a wool-growing country."

Daily Minnesotian, two years later: "Mutton For The Million - A drove of 1,200 fat sheep passed our office yesterday, on their way to pastures west of the city."

Under the heading "First Shipment of Wool," the Red Wing Republican reported in May '58: "Five bales of wool were shipped from this point to Milwaukee on Tuesday last, by P. M. Wright, Forwarding and Commission Merchant. It was raised by Moses Jewell, Esq., of Pine Island . . . His opinion is that no better wool growing country can be found than Central and <sup>Southern</sup> Minnesota."

Pioneer Democrat, '59: "P. S. Carson, the pioneer wool grower of this county (Nicollet), has just sold this year's crop of wool. Last year he sheared 70 pounds of wool from 10 sheep, and had an increase of 12 in his flock. This year the 22 head produced about 100 pounds of wool . . . "All honor is due Mr. Carson for his efforts in establishing the success of wool growing in this section of Minnesota, as it promises to be one of the most profitable branches of agricultural industry in our state. Our dry, healthy climate -- especially during winter -- and our abundantly rich pastures offer peculiar inducements to capitalists to enter largely into this branch of productive wealth. Mr. C's ewes are merinos."



Red Wing Sentinel, '59: "Sheep raising is becoming one of the most successful enterprises in our state. We learn that a drove of 250 passed through Rochester one day last week, bound for the rich grazing lands of Rice county. They cannot help but be profitable stock in Minnesota."

Grandfather's Day

*Sharecropping was of little concern to early farmers*

Sharecropping and tenant farmers were up for formal discussion in Minneapolis last week. Recognised today as a major problem of national economics, sharecropping was of little concern to our Minnesota grandfathers. It was every man for himself in those days. And sharing was a matter of neighborly cooperation rather than industrial dislocation.

When Minnesota's knocking at the door of the Union was being heard and the door was being opened--that is to say, in 1849---the tenant farmer was his own landlord. Crop news was prominent in the early-day papers. The Minnesota Register revealed that forces inimical to crop success had to be combatted then as now: "A destroying reptile similar to the army worm...has been playing sad havoc with the wheat and oat crops on the prairie between here (St. Paul) and Lake St. Croix."

On the brighter side, in '51, the Minnesota Democrat: "Extensive agricultural improvements are in progress in Benton county. The farmers of that region devote their labor chiefly to the cultivation of oats, potatoes and corn. In no portion of the west is farming so profitable as up there in the neighborhood of the Indians."

St. Anthony Express, quoting the Pioneer in '51: "We have been looking at the crops of Gen. Wilson...who is cultivating the M'Cann farm... He showed us crops of various kinds, raised without manure, that cannot be surpassed anywhere. Several thousand cabbages, standing in solid columns like an army of sturdy Hollanders, enormous rutabagas, white English turnips, as large as Britannia teapots..."



Pioneer, '53: "And onion raised from the seed in the garden of Capt. Foote's company at Fort Ridgely measured  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter."

Here was a near case of nature-baked potatoes---Mimesotian, '55: "We are now having a regular roasting spell of weather, with the thermometer ranging about 95. But it helps the corn and potatoes amazingly."

Stillwater Messenger, '58: "...the copious showers of rain during the past week have placed more gold in the pockets of our people than will be the yield of all the gold mined in Iowa and Minnesota for...twenty years to come.

Minneapolis observes the annual New Citizens Day today, under plans arranged by the International Institute and officials of the National New Citizens Day committee. In these times, folks from the old world who seek the citizenship of free America get a formal, community welcome; in other days, they just immigrated and started toiling at the foundations of a new freedom.

It was the unfortunate lot of some of the immigrants to be imposed upon by those who had preceded them. Thus the St. Paul Press, in 1861, told of "A Regular Swindle":

"There is a lot of one-horse boarding-house keepers in our city, who have commenced practicing a very mean and despicable business towards immigrants who arrive by the boats from below. Only a few days since, a number of German families arrived, and, as is the custom with these economical people, were anxious at once to depart for their destination up the Minnesota river. A boat in that trade, ready to land them in a few hours where they desired to settle, was at the levee, upon which they engaged passage. But just before the boat left one of these harpies . . . came among them with the lying tale that the Indians were overrunning the neighborhood where they were going and murdering all the whites.

"He persuaded most of them to remain a few days, took them to his house, or the house for which he is a runner, and of course made a good thing out of his false story.

" . . . We would suggest to the Mayor to detail a day policeman for that service who understands the German language."



## Grandfather's Day

The desirability of becoming American citizens had well impressed itself upon immigrants in the '60s and '70s. In 1870, the Minneapolis Tribune announced: "Judge Vanderburg goes to Litchfield on Tuesday next to hold a special term of the District Court, for the principal purpose of enabling foreign homestead settlers to take out their final naturalization papers."

Citizen-adoption boomed in October 1880, when the Tribune said on the 28th: "Up to noon yesterday 333 naturalization papers had been issued . . . for the month of October. In September only seven were taken out." The rush continued. On November 2, the Tribune reported: "Eighty naturalization papers were issued yesterday . . . making about 550 voting citizens produced from imported material within a month."

Grandfather's Day.

# *VI* *Farmers and their hard times.*

A woman's work is never done. Neither, apparently, are the farmer's troubles. On January 12, 1870, a correspondent of the Nordisk Folkeblad of Minneapolis spoke his mind on the subject. Translated, the letter said in part:

"Hardly anyone here talks about anything else but the hard times, and this is only natural as the price of wheat, the farmer's most important product, remains at 45 - 50 cents per bushel, while he is forced to pay the same high prices for clothes and groceries as well as in hiring farmhands.

"It appears as if the businessmen are doing their utmost and are prepared to use extreme measures to collect outstanding debts, even to the extent of sending the sheriff to confiscate all of their personal property. In this instance, however, the law of the state of Minnesota restrains them.

"A short time ago, a storekeeper at St. Peter sent the sheriff to a German farmer to seize 800 bushels of wheat to satisfy a debt of \$300, and did not allow the farmer to haul the wheat to the market, but paid high prices to others to have it done. Shortly after ... the businessmen of St. Peter had a meeting and decided that all outstanding debts must be paid in before Dec. 20 and that against those that failed to do so they would 'apply the word of the law to its fullest extent' ... These measures have angered the farmers who feel that these hard times are not the proper time to take such steps. During the so-called good times, such things were unheard of...

"The farmers at Lake Prairie and New Sweden have held a meeting where ... 50 of the participants formed an association which will attempt to sell their grain to eastern markets, and to order their necessities from that part or try to establish a farmer-union store... which will acquaint itself with the previously formed farm associations in Vasa, Goodhue county, and Lansing, Iowa. Something ought to be done in this direction, and something can be done if we unite and use our energy in the best way.



Grandfather's Day - 2

"I should like to see the farmers of Lake Prairie, New Sweden, Bernadotte and Granby unite and make a real effort at this, and if it succeeded, 200 - 300 members could be expected to take part in the movement...

"As things now stand, we are entirely dependent on the business men, and their meetings and conferences have indicated that they are bound to take as much advantage of the farmers as possible."

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Grandfather's Day

*Mpls. has more than even  
chance to become a city in '66*

Minneapolis had more than an even chance of becoming an honest-to-goodness city back in '66. It seemed, however, that the town needed to stiffen up a bit, put some starch in itself. The Indianapolis Journal printed the views of a special correspondent in June of that year.

"Minneapolis just now seems to be in the transition state - doffing the simplicity of a country town for the more pretentious dignity of a city. As a necessary consequence, extravagance is patent everywhere. Ladies ape the latest styles of dress, such as the tiniest little hats and the biggest tilting hoops. Men go about sporting monkey coats and plug hats. Fast young men sport fancy turnouts, drive fast horses, and talk race course slang.

"Minneapolis can boast of her own theater, horse races every Saturday, and gambling hells every night... Manufacturing towns have never been known for good morals, and Minneapolis promises to be no exception to this rule...

"New stores are being opened on all hands, and the writer ... is much mistaken if merchandising does not prove to many as unprofitable business within a twelvemonth. The professions are overcrowded and some have found this so to their sorrow. We want mechanics, not lawyers or doctors...

"One or two good sound banking institutions would pay well. The present banking capital is far too meager to meet the demands of our legitimate businessmen... If any of your capitalists desire a good opening in this direction, send them along at once to judge for themselves how near I am right.

"Minneapolis wants a wholesale drug store. A good, live, enterprising firm can soon build up a splendid trade in this line.



Grandfather's Day - 2

"Again, a starch factory would pay well. Minnesota potatoes possess more starch than any other found in the Union, and can be purchased at less price. Any quantity can be had in the fall or spring, at from 15 to 25 cents per bushel. Here is a splendid chance for somebody.

"Last, but not least, we want farmers to an indefinite extent. Plenty of good land - cheap as dirt. Good woodland claims can be had within a mile or two of railroads at \$5 per acre."

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Legislature time has always been news time. A time also for advice to the solons and comment on their performance. In '73, the St. Paul Press, noting the gathering of the new legislature, harked back informatively to the first one:

"There are only three members of the present Legislature who were in the then Territory of Minnesota when its first Legislative Assembly was held... in 1849 &.. Nine councillors and eighteen representatives composed this august body."

Official courtesy was reported in the St. Paul Dispatch, '74:

"Following is a copy of the cards of invitation issued for the coming reception ... 'Yourself and ladies are invited to attend a Legislative Reception at the capitol ... The mutual wish on the part of the members and citizens to become better acquainted suggest the propriety of extending and receiving this courtesy. The entire building has been placed at our disposal for inspection on that occasion.'"

Years before, in '57, the Pioneer & Democrat, watching the new legislature closely, offered counsel. "The first and paramount duty of the legislative assembly, now that it is organized for work, is to take the steps necessary to secure the earliest possible admission of our state into the federal union. . . . The first and most important step towards the performance of this duty is the election of United States senators, thus securing our state a hearing before the upper house of congress. Minnesota will never be admitted until the legislature testify sufficient interest in the event to commission senators to represent us in that body. Every day's delay of this duty bids fair to increase the chances against our speedy and peaceful admission."



Grandfather's Day - 2

Again in '74, the Pioneer engaged a little jibe at the lawmakers:  
Said the Pioneer: "The effect of the omission of the railroads to issue  
passes to the members of the legislature is already apparent. Instead of  
adjourning over yesterday until Tuesday, as has been the custom for years,  
the senate will plod through the usual amount of business today."

"Oh, rise up, Willie Riley, and come along with me. I mean for to go with you and leave this counterie . . ."

Minnesota annals chronicle the arrival of immigrants from many lands, and prominent among the pioneer settlers were those from the Island of Saints and Scholars. It was a long trip over from the old sod in those days. On May 19, 1852, the Minnesota Democrat (St. Paul) reported: "Two respectable and intelligent Irish families arrived last week from Ireland. They crossed the Atlantic in sailing vessels, and were 70 days on the way. They say that the people of Ireland are also beginning to learn something about the new state of Minnesota, and they expect a considerable immigration of most substantial class of Irish farmers within the present season."

Same paper, same year: "St. Patrick's day will be celebrated in grand style today. There will be a procession this morning, and a supper at Bernard Roger's Hotel . . . this evening." In 1854, on November 21, the Pioneer announced that "Father McManus, on Sunday, pronounced the first sermon in the Irish language ever delivered in Minnesota, at the Catholic chapel." Two years later, the Pioneer said: "Sons of St. Patrick ---This benevolent society celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Ireland's patron saint on Monday by a procession. Upwards of 300 persons were in the line of the procession, and the appearance presented was quite creditable to the members of the society. In addition to the St. Paul band, the excellent band of the 10th Regiment at Fort Snelling was in the line and discoursed excellent music."

Minnesota Irishmen were quick to answer the Union call to arms. Daily Press, April 23, 1861: "Last evening our fellow citizens of Irish birth had a full and most enthusiastic meeting at Market Hall . . . Patriotic addresses were made by Cap't. John O'Gorman, P. Ryan and L. P. Cotter in favor of supporting our National Government and the time-honored Stars and Stripes . . ."



But March 17 was always a day of green memories. Minneapolis Tribune,  
'76: "The Irish American citizens of Minneapolis celebrated the birthday  
of Ireland's patron saint in a manner creditable to themselves and gratifying  
to their friends . . . "

*Minnesota Housing situation  
back in the '50's*

Better and more beautiful homes will be emphasized when the tenth annual Builders House and Flower show opens today in the Minneapolis auditorium. Exhibits designed for comfortable modern living will be a far cry from the days when the thing at hand for Minnesota houses was of necessity, good enough.

Concluding an article on the housing situation, the Minnesota Democrat (St. Paul), in 1851, said: "Many economical persons with families knock together as soon as they land a rude shantie, in which they live quite comfortably until a better building can be erected, and thus avoid the expense of high rent."

The article made these further observations: "Vacant houses are hard to find, and consequently rents are very high. A small shop or office, 15 by 20 feet square, on any of the improved streets, will rent readily at from \$6 to \$10 per month. A one-story building situated in any part of the town, containing four rooms, each say 12 feet square, with or without a cellar, pump or cistern, will rent for from \$12 to \$16 per month. As a general rule, the rent of a small building for two years will pay all the cost of its building. Rents cannot fall until the supply more nearly approximates the increasing demand for tenements . . . Buildings are erected . . . with telegraphic rapidity. If one makes a trip to the country on a fishing or hunting excursion, he is astonished on his return at the number of buildings and shanties commenced and completed during his absence."

St. Anthony Express, next year ('52): "John G. Lennon, Esq., has commenced the erection of a large dwelling house at the lower part of the town. When completed, it will be the most splendid building in the



Territory. Mr. Lennon knows how to do things up brown."

Express again, same year: "There is a great scarcity of brick in this vicinity. Some of our enterprising citizens should embark in this branch of business. Eight or ten dollars per thousand have heretofore been asked for this necessary building material.

"Money could be made by reducing the price one half; besides, most of our buildings would then be built of brick, which would greatly add to the beauty of St. Anthony.

The memorable feat of Mrs. Dionne apparently has spurred the stork wherever it flies. Twins are mere nothings nowadays in the news; quadruplets have taken the center of the stage.

In Louisville, a Minnesota ghost town, there were quads long ago. The St. Paul Pioneer-Democrat, on July 12, 1856, said: "A married woman in Louisville, on Thursday before last, gave birth to two boys and two girls. The boys were named James Buchanan and John C. Breckenridge."

Old age items vied with birth features in the early annals. Minnesota Pioneer, '56: "Roger Bagley, of Olmstead county, Minnesota, 107 years of age, came into Brownsville a few days since to exercise his right to pre-emption (to take out a homestead claim). He is said to be the oldest man in the Territory."

Mankato Record, '68: "The Martin County Atlas mentions the death of Louis La Boats, aged 104 years, at the residence of his son-in-law, Peter Dugan, in Fairmont. His wife, still living, is 99."

Minneapolis Tribune, '79: "The grandmother of the publisher of the Alexandria Post has seen eight generations of her family."

Hastings Times, '79: "An inmate of the porchouse in Nininger named Mrs. Magdalena, aged about 96, and who has been almost blind, recently recovered her sight so as to be able to read the finest print without the use of glasses."

In '57, the Minnesotian related a story, possibly a tall story, with a vital statistics background.

"Hon. F. K.---, late Probate Judge of a neighboring county, was waited upon one afternoon by a widow with a child in her arms . . . 'You see, judge, my husband was a forehanded man, and left a good farm . . . and just because I am a lone woman . . . his relatives are going to throw me out of all my third."



Now, a lawyer told me . . . that if there was an heir he would take it all, and I should be its guardian.' 'How long since your husband died?' asked the judge. 'About 13 months,' was the reply. 'And how old is the child?' 'Four weeks,' was the answer. 'I am afraid this case is beyond my jurisdiction,' said the judge. . . 'But,' said the woman, 'if your Probate Court can't establish an heir, what is it good for?'"

## Memories of General Henry Sibley

The Sibley House association, a branch of the Daughters of the American Revolution, last week concluded a meeting in St. Paul and heard reports on improvements to the historic premises.

Memories of General Henry Sibley were revived during the sessions. The Minneapolis Tribune on February 19, 1891, the day following his death, paid eloquent tribute to the first governor of the state of Minnesota. "He was Minnesota's oldest inhabitant for several years before his death, and throughout his whole life he was honored, respected and loved by his fellow citizens, and his memory will be honored throughout all time."

Sibley was buried the next day, February 20, the 80th anniversary of his birth. The Tribune continued:

"His death was not unexpected, for on Sunday night when he sank into an unconscious condition... it was evident that the end was near... Governor Merriam issued a proclamation announcing the death of Gen. Sibley and the ...state assembly passed appropriate resolutions."

In 1849, Sibley received popular recognition for his work in representing Minnesota territory in congress during his first term. His reward was unanimous reelection. The Minnesota Register said: "The returns of this Territory are all in, Hon. H. H. Sibley reelected Delegate without opposition. We do not note the result as so many Whigs and so many Democrats to the legislature; party politics did not enter into the contest."

What congress did and how it did it in the 18th century may be learned at the University of Minnesota if a gift by Sibley has been preserved. The St. Anthony Express, in 61, reported: "We have the pleasure of announcing the receipt of six volumes of 'Annals of Congress,' from Hon. R. M. Young, clerk of the house of representatives of the United States.



They are presented to the University of Minnesota and are very valuable, embracing the annals of congress from 1789 to 1797. The university is indebted to the exertions of the Hon. H. H. Sibley for these works."

*Business for the Undertaker  
good & poor 1862-63*

Minneapolis today begins to be host to the Minnesota Funeral Directors association. This business has kept pace with modern ideas and new techniques, and, even in the mass burials of these war days, as much respect as possible is shown the deceased.

The St. Peter Tribune of January 23, 1863 reported tragically sudden filling up of burial lots: "We are informed by Klein & Brother, the undertakers of this place, that the total number of persons in the cemetery since the 18th of last August foots up to the astonishing total of 127, or more than during the entire previous history of St. Peter. Of this number 20 were residents of the town, 60 were children, and the balance over 21 years of age. This record has been made since the (Indian) outbreak, and is directly attributed to it, resulting as it does from wounds, or exposure, or confinement in crowded and poorly ventilated rooms."

The Sioux outbreak of 1862, to which the St. Peter newspaper refers, was climaxed by a mass burial of 38 Indians in a manner calculated to interest the funeral directors gathered today to discuss dignified and beautiful obsequies. The execution of the Indians took place at Mankato on December 26. The Goodhue County Republican, appearing January 9, 1863, printed several columns about the event and gave this description of the interment:

"Grounds were selected upon which to erect the gallows on the levee opposite the present Indian reservation. The gallows ... is 24 feet square with posts, 15 feet between joints, to afford room for the hanging of 10 Indians on each side... The bodies were cut down, placed in four army wagons ...and were taken to the grave prepared for them among the willows on the sand bar nearly in front of the town. They were all deposited in one grave, 30 feet in



length by 12 in width, and four feet deep, being laid on the bottom in two rows with their feet together and their heads on the outside. They were simply covered with blankets and the earth thrown over them."