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SOURCE-

*Abandoned Townsites*

The following account of abandoned townsites was taken from the "Duluth Daily News" edition of October 26-1890. I submit it in its entirety, believing it to be pertinent to the type of research we are doing. There are many other townsites of which I gave an account previously while transcribing from the minutes of the board of County Commissioners of St. Louis County. Those have already been submitted to you.

F. Chartier.

The files from which this information was taken are kept at the old News Tribune building, East Superior St. Duluth, Minn.

F.C.

*Abandoned Townsites*

## VANISHED TOWNSITES.

The first proprietors. The harbingers of a future Metropolis—almost forgotten ventures—some stories regarding the "Deserted villages" in this vicinity.

"Edward Bellamy's somewhat famous work entitled "Looking Backwards" is peculiar from the fact that it is from a future time—a time that no adult now living will be permitted to see. To the practical thinker of the present day, the actual past is a broad enough field for rambling memory to wander in, and the mythical and problematical future is too full of possibilities to permit of the annihilation of a century of time by even the most profound thinker in any sphere of life. "The fruitful womb of time" to use a familiar quotation, has given birth to so much of interesting food for reflection about our own surroundings that we can with pleasure and profit stop in our universal race for wealth and prominence and indulge in looking backward over a period which has actually passed."

Clustering around the head of Lake Superior, where two great cities have already asserted their right to be recognized as business and social centers, are to be found many reminiscences of would be Cartages, Troys and Babylons. The orisons of Father Laroche and his few white companions rose weirdly and strangely two hundred years ago, when on a summer's morn they started from Sault Ste. Marie on their voyage, of unknown distance, over a great expanse of water, destined to become the most important freshwaterway on the face of the globe—our own matchless Lake Superior. This intrepid man built along the shores of Lake Superior, several log chapels in which the rhythmic ritual of the Roman Catholic church was the first harbinger of the songs of civilization. Around these rude altars rose in after years the dwellings of the early white settlers, until by constant accretions, the settlements became villages, instead of relays on a tedious journey. The cause of Christ was the sustaining power and the guerdon that made the earlier researches a pleasant duty, and from seed sown in doubt and trembling two centuries ago has grown the fruit which has developed into a commercial section without parallel in the new world.

Pulling their frail birch canoes upon the shores of Allouez bay, these few voyagers made the first settlement at this end of the lake, and the next development was the old Astor trading post near Fond-du Lac. The rich returns of systematic hunters made the place famous and the population grew—not in one particular spot, but as Proctor Knott would have it—"it was just laying around loose." Passing over the intervening period up to the time when Superior was platted and became known, including the early settlement of Duluth, we find a large number of settlements of a temporary nature, villages and towns which have bloomed and faded away again leaving scarcely a trace behind. During the last forty years—a period familiar to many resident graybeards—nearly one hundred townsites have been platted and recorded in this section; many of them have totally vanished and beyond the territorial records no note of their being exists. Here are a few of the townsites which have met a varying fate—some prosperous some utterly dead—some interesting data concerning them.

At eleven o'clock on the morning of April 16, 1856, the plat of Oneota was filed for record in Douglas County, Wisconsin. The original townsite was located on fractional section 8, in township 49, range 13. H. W. Wheeler was the surveyor, and the proprietors were M. W. McCracken, Rion H. Bacon and Edward F. Ely.

How many realty dealers of the present day remember the town of Clifton? Not very many. The owner was I. S. Watrous, and the surveyor was Richard Reif. The town was located and surveyed on Oct. 31, 1855, but the plat was not filed until the following year, May 24, 1856, at ten o'clock in the morning. The town was located in section 24, township 51, range 12. The avenues were numbered consecutively, but the streets bore the following names: Ridge, Lake, Parry, Talmadge, Hall, Carlton and Watrous. At the time of



platting this section was known as Superior county, Minnesota territory.

The plat of Duluth was originally made out under the townsite law of 1844. Richard Reif surveyed the site on the head of Minnesota Point, May 26, 1856, and George E. Nettleton, S.B. Culver, Orrin W. Rice, William Nettleton and R.E. Jefferson were the owners, the first named acting as agent for the others. The plat was acknowledged on the day of its completion before George W. Perry, special commissioner of deeds for the territory of Minnesota, residing in Douglas County, Wisconsin, and it was filed for record in St. Louis County, Minnesota territory, by R.H. Barrett, register of deeds, at 10 o'clock on the morning of May 29, 1856.

A few months afterward Cowell's addition to Duluth, situated on Minnesota Point on a part of lot 4, section 27, township 50, range 14, sprang into existence and the plat was filed August 16, 1856. William George Cowell was the owner and A.I. Foster was the surveyor.

Twin Lakes, Carlton County, Minnesota, started out in a very pretentious manner. It was located between Lac la Belle and Lac du Chene. The name of the surveyor is not on record, but the owners were George E. Nettleton, Edward C. Becker, George W. Parry, Lemuel Cochran and others. It was surveyed Dec. 12, 1855, acknowledged June 12, and filed June 21, 1856. The plat shows a "court square," a "hay market" and at the east of Main street a large index hand points to the legend "St. Paul 134 miles." It never flourished beyond a few weeks boom, when it sunk into slumber, although still known.

Probably not one in ten thousand passers-by know that where the Spaulding rears its lofty head and where the Union depot soon will rise was the town of Fremont. The plat which was surveyed August 21, 1856, says that it was located at the "head of Superior bay, between Minnesota and Rices' Points." The original owners were C.P. Heustis, C.A. Post, A.B. Butterfield and Nicholas Grouny. The surveyor was E.L. Baker, and the plat was acknowledged before I.B. Bell, special commissioner for the territory of Minnesota, in Douglas County, Wisconsin, August 21, 1856, and was recorded in this county by R.H. Barrett, register of deeds, on the same day. The plat contained 49 blocks and block number 27 was reserved for a public square.

The town of Portland, described in the plat as being "laid out for the owners on the northwest shore of Lake Superior," without reference to county or state, was surveyed in 1856, acknowledged before George W. Perry in Wisconsin, September 3, 1856, and recorded here five days later. A.I. Foster was the surveyor and Aaron B. Robbins, James D. Ray, C. Markell and John J. Post were the owners. The names of avenues were Richmond, Markell, Washington, Watrous, Ray and Nettleton. The streets were Greenlee, Austin, McAdams, Johnson, Drew, Dick Perry, Clifton, Chestnut, Cadwell, Newton, Albert Clark, Carlton, Post, Foster, Superior and Camp.

Buchanan, which was also laid out "on the north shore of Lake Superior," was to have been called "Geology," but as that name had no æsthetic powers the recorded cognomen was fixed upon. It was a large plat and occupied parts of sections 1-51-12, section 36-52 12 and section 31-52-11. October, 1856, gave it birth. William G. Cowell was the owner and Christian Wieland the surveyor. The plat was filed October 25, 1856. The streets were numbered but the avenues were burdened with the following names: Granite, Trap, Amygdaloid, Epidote, Quartz, Conglomerate, Feldspar, Sandstone, Hornblende, Greenstone, Agate, Syenite, Marble and Spar. There were many transfers in this site, but it fell into the cobwebs of forgetfulness after a brief boom.

Beaver Bay, in Lake County, was surveyed in October, 1854, but the plat was not filed until June 24, 1856. Thomas Clark and W.E. Newton were the owners. The plat showed a "Union School," "court house and jail," and a public square, but they failed to materialize.

Cloquet, in Carlton county, so the records run, "is situated on the junction of the St. Louis and Cloquet rivers." The blocks are "four hundred feet by two-sixty." Joseph Veals surveyed the plat and filed the plat in St. Louis county July 22, 1857. The "owners" and "occupants" were



Charles A. Post, John D. Howard, William A. Farr and Patrick O'Brien.

Montazuma—the spelling is in accordance with the plat—was laid out on the shores of Montazuma bay, into which Montazuma and Ottawa rivers emptied. The plat was filed for record August 18, 1856, and V. Palmer was the surveyor. Fredrick Ottman was the sole owner. The streets were numbered, but the avenues were named Hudson, St. Lawrence, Champlain, Ontario, Huron, Michigan, Superior, Pembina, Erie, River, Copper and Agate. Montazuma was a north shore town, and like its namesake of another country, it fell into the consomme of oblivion. It was close to Buchanan and flourished but a very short time, and is now scarcely remembered.

Middleton is forgotten; its very site is unknown to the thousands whose hurrying feet traverse its thoroughfares daily, and yet it is only 34 years ago tomorrow (Oct. 27—1856) since the plat was filed and acknowledged. Robert Reed, not the one of "I'll never use tobacco" fame, and J. A. Hankland were the owners, and Ethan A. Hankland—C. Clarke was the surveyor. There were no flies on Middleton and the plat is a dandy as it now exists on the record books. The site was on the upper part of Minnesota Point and extended from lake to bay or vice-versa. The boggish nature of a great portion of the site had no terrors for the owners who instructed their surveyors to spare no expense, and the result was startling. Broad avenues and streets appeared as the result of the surveyors' work, and the most elaborate system of docks ever made at this end of the lake are monuments to the skill of the knight errant of the transit, level, chain, rod and axe. Eleven piers jut out into Lake Superior and an equal number were platted for the bay side. The nomenclature puts one in mind of East river or North river at New York. The Lake projections were named Boston pier, Troy pier, Oneota pier, Oswego pier, Huron pier, ~~Troy pier~~ Utica pier, Oneida pier, Seneca pier, Sioux pier, Erie pier and Wayne pier. On the bay side the name given to the piers were Portland, Duluth, Rochester, New York, Chicago, Syracuse, Ontario, Michigan, St. Clair, Niagara, Buffalo. Only one of the lake piers materialized and a change of names and vacation of the plat left only a memory of its to be importance. ~~Saxon~~

Saxon, named in honor of its owner Saxton, was a small townsite platted Oct. 23, 1856, in Lake County. The plat was filed six days later. P. Clark was the surveyor and the "court house" square and "public" square are plainly to be seen on the map. The place existed only in name—there never was a town there.

The very prominent townsite of Fond du Lac was surveyed Oct. 30 1856, by Richard Reif. It occupied a part of township 48, range 15 and the plat was filed DEC. 29, 1856. There were a number of original owners whose names do not appear and the old plat is almost undecipherable by reason of the recent researches which have been made by realty speculators.

The original plat of Endion was surveyed by Elias Martin. It was acknowledged in Wisconsin in the morning of Jan. 14, 1857, and filed in Minnesota territory at 6 o'clock on the evening of the same day. The original owners were W. W. Kingsbury, Hugh Murphy, James A. Hankland, Benjamin Thompson, Washington Ashton, J. P. W. Neill, Robert Jonson, William Whitesides and others.

Elkton is another forgotten townsite. It was in St. Louis county and is described as being "40 miles from Superior, on the military road from Superior to St. Paul." It was originally surveyed in 1851 by Ethan C. Clarke, was acknowledged Jan. 24, 1857, and filed for record four days later. The owners were Henry M. Rice, Benjamin Thompson, O. M. Rice, J. G. Buckman, and others. Moose Lake is seen on the plat and Washington and Madison squares are laid out. The southerly end of Sixth street bears the legend "135 miles to St. Paul." The northerly end of Fifth street is placarded "40 miles to Superior."

St. Louis Falls was above Fond du Lac and is almost totally forgotten. Thomas H. Hogan, an attorney, represented the proprietors, and E. C.

Clarke was the surveyor. "Trout Run", "Silver Creek", "Long Island", "Boon Island" and "Little Island", are points of interest designated, and a large strip of water frontage is marked "reserved for mill purposes." The streets were numbered, but the avenues were named after early settlers, as follows: White, Taylor, Anderson, Shaw, Cowell, Barrett, Holmes, Carlton, Clarke and Moore. The place has been silent for many years, but the hum of busy industry will soon wake the echoes of the spot.

Belleville, St. Louis County, occupied the east half of the southwest quarter of section 7, and the east fractional half of the northeast quarter of section 18 50-13. Cornelius Kennedy and Justus B. Bell were the owners, and E.C. Martin, then acting as ~~deputy~~-United States deputy surveyor, platted the place thirty-five years ago. It never amounted to much and is almost unknown by that name.

valley Field, St. Louis County, is described as being laid out "on the NE side of Rice Lake," on parts of sections 7, 12, 18 and 13 in township 57 and ranges 14 and 15. E.C. Martain surveyed it Apr. 29, 1857, for the following owners: Antoin P. LaDuc, Franklin Savanault and Joseph Wood. Block 58 was reserved for church purposes, and block 41 for school purposes. Beaver river is meandered through the plat.

High Land, St. Louis County, was laid out on the northeast end of Grand lake, in town 51-16, on April 25, ~~1857~~ 1857. A reservation marked "High Land square" occupies the central portion of the ~~square~~ plat. E.C. Martin was the surveyor and the owners were J.B. LaDuc, Andrew Bushard and Joseph Gregory.

North Duluth, on Minnesota Point, was owned by John Pendergast and was surveyed May 12, 1857. Although merged into Duluth, some of the streets and avenues can be still located. The streets were named Buchanan, Fremont, Pierce, Brekenridge, Dayton, Bright and Marcy. The avenues were Huron, Superior, St. Louis, Minnesota, Lake and St. Croix. The plat was filed May 19, 1857.

East Fond du Lac is the first recorded plat which indicates the advent of that great civilizer, a railroad. It is located on lot 6, section 8, and lot 1, section 9-48-15. George R. Stuntz was the surveyor and the owners were Nehemiah Hulett, George R. Stuntz and George E. Stuntz. Large and ample depot grounds for the Lake Superior and Mississippi railroad are shown on the plat.

The projectors of the majority of these townsites have long since passed to silence and pathetic dust, but in the musty pages of the records of the register of deeds office their hopes ~~and~~ dimly outlined by the brief descriptions outlined. There are perhaps, hundreds of other plats, to enumerate which would require many pages. Many of them have been vacated, had their names changed and otherwise metamorphosed, but the recital already made will give an insight into some of the early wouldbe city builders of this portion of the head of the lakes."



[Campbell, Matilda Jane]

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Matilda Jane Campbell (Mrs. George F. Wilkin).

I was born at Harrington, Washington County, Maine, January 27, 1846. My parents were of English-Scotch descent. My maternal great-grandfather came with two brothers from England and settled on Campo Bello, an island off the eastern coast of Maine. My father a Godly man and of good reputation in the community (being town-clerk at the time of his death), died when I was about a year old, leaving my mother a widow with four small children to rear and educate. I am told that his last words were directed to me, and he dedicated me to the service of God. That may have been a partial reason for my early attention to serious things and my life long devotion to the church and Sunday School.

My mother also was a devoted Christian with all the praiseworthy traits of character found in the New England Puritans. Among my earliest recollections of our home life was my mother kneeling with us children about her at the regular family worship; and of hearing my older brother recite to her his Bible lesson on a Sunday morning, before we all started for Sunday School. 'Oh what a long, dusty road little feet had to travel to reach our Baptist meeting-house! But we never thought of staying at home. The usual exercises were: Sunday School, church services, a recess to each a lunch which we had taken with us (sometimes a real dinner at the homes of the members who lived nearer), then a service in the afternoon. We children listened attentively, at times, I fear, sleepily, from Grandfather box-pew to the far-away preacher high up in his wallpulpit as he proclaimed the Gospel story. How much of it we understood, I cannot now say; but the church-going habit was promoted, and none of us children have regretted our early training, nor abandoned the paths in which our mother led our early steps. In later years, a Baptist Chapel was built near our home where we attended services alternately with those at the Methodist meeting-house; here we had a pew, and own it to this day; in it my husband and I sat in 1910, when we visited Harrington. The old home was gone--but the pew was ours still.

We attended the District school at the little red (?) school-house, usually a three month's term in summer and winter with occasionally a term of private school. 'Going to school' was my delight; nothing but illness was allowed to interfere with that pleasure. To be sure, it was a real punishment for mischievous acts to be obliged to sit on the 'Boys side' beside some big, overgrown boy and have the other pupils giggle at my shy, half-penitent looks. Another trial was to 'speak a piece' before the school; how I suffered for days before that ordeal! But these and other trials were borne for the sake of learning "reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic". It was in the spelling-class that I won laurels, few could go above me,--it may be that someone did so, and regretted it "because he loved me"; of that, however, I have now no recollection.

When I was eleven years old (1857) I went to live with my Aunt, Mrs. James Small, of East Machias; here I had better school privileges. After two or three years in the public school, I entered Washington Academy of which J. C. Caldwell (afterward Brig-General in the "War of the Rebellion") was the principal. It was a proud day when I was advanced enough to tread academic halls; for now I could write to mother



and former schoolmates that I was 'studying Latin'. To add to my enjoyment of the Academy, my brother, Lewis W. Campbell decided to take a course of study there and board at "Aunt Janes'". This latter pleasure was destined to be brief, - the War broke out-Principal Caldwell was among the first to respond to the call of his country; He resigned his position to become Colonel of the "11th Me. Infantry Volunteers". Naturally, many of the male students caught the "War fever" and volunteered for service. Among them my brother. At first Mother could not give her consent; for was he not needed at home for her support, and he still under age; but on the day he became 21 he enlisted, and we find in 1862, his name enrolled as First Sergeant, Co. B. 11th Me. Volunteers. I may add here, that he served till the end of the war, was several times wounded in battle, was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, was present at surrender of Lee, and mustered out in 1865, and still lives, an honored veteran of the Civil War.

In 1863, I became a professed Christian and united with the Baptist Church of E. Machias. In a little paper issued by the pupils of the public school one term, was this prophecy from the pen of my teacher:

"The next is Matilda all alone (in a seat)

Who studies in an upper tone;

But studies with her own good will,

She's bound some higher place to fill."

Trifling as it may seem, and was in itself considered, those last two lines were an inspiration to me; for did not Prof. Rich, that learned man, believe that even I could go higher? When I was sixteen I taught my first school, salary two dollars a week, at the end of the first week, a weary, homesick schoolma'am walked several miles to her home, there to be greeted at the door by a fond mother, proud of her youngest daughter, - a teacher. During the next five years I taught school in the summer and attended the Academy in the winter. The goal was ever before me "a higher place to fill". So in 1867 with the assistance of my kind-hearted brother, who was now in business in Machias, and other friends I was able to enter the Normal School at Salem, Mass. With a scant wardrobe for a young lady away from home, and but little 'pin money' in my purse, I succeeded, by working in part for my board, and receiving help from home and ten dollars from the State's "Student Fund", in graduating free from debt and with honor, in January, 1869. At graduation the class sang a hymn that I had composed and praised an essay "A Peep at the World of Letters", written for the occasion.

I taught one term of school at Wrentham that following spring, attended the "Peace Jubilee" in Boston that summer and then went home to Machias, where my mother and one brother were then living. My sister, Mrs. A. W. Laurence, came to Minnesota in 1856. Brother came in 1869. The next spring, April, 1870, the remainder of the family (mother, brother A. R. Campbell, and myself) followed the pioneers to the "wild and woolly west".

In the fall of this year I began my career of teaching in Minneapolis, then St. Anthony Falls. I taught three years in eighth grade in a building that stood on the present site of the East Side High School.

Having still the ambition to fill that 'higher place' I resigned my position, and in fall of 1873 entered the University of Minn. then in

its infancy in the early days of President Folwell's administration; was graduated from the Literary (Modern) Course with the Degree B. S. The honor of being Valedictorian was bestowed upon me by the election of my classmates. I wrote also the class hymn for commencement day.

In the fall of the same year I was employed as an instructor at the University. Owing to the limited number of teachers for the ever increasing number of students, I was called upon to teach a variety of subjects; viz. English, German, O. Eng. History, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon, (old English). Later I taught Old English and German; and the last ten years German only. All this time, Prof. J. G. Moore was at the head of the German Department, an able inspiring teacher and wise manager.

In the summer vacation of 1880, I was sent as a delegate from Minnesota to the Sunday School Centenary in London. William Cheney of Minneapolis was also granted this honor. We took passage on the "Anchoria" of the Anchor line. About twenty-four hours out from New York, our steamer, in a dense fog, collided with the "Queen" an English steamer bound for New York. Both were badly injured; as ours was supposed to be sinking rapidly, all the passengers were transferred to the "Queen"; the "Anchoria" did not sink, however, it was kept afloat by the incessant, strenuous working at the pumps and came into harbor twelve hours after the arrival of the "Queen".

I shall never outlive the thrill that passed thru me at the call; "man the life boats!--women to the hurricane deck!". In the few succeeding minutes I had a chance to test my professed faith in a God who cares for the individual; I was not terrified, although death in the yawning waves seemed imminent, nor did I rush to go into the boats, sent for our rescue (Mr. Cheney saw the immediate danger, and really forced me over the side into the tossing boat). I believed that I was in God's hands, and even if I did go down into the ocean, the struggle for life would be short, and heaven with Him very near.

Several passengers were injured,, but no life was lost. As many passengers were delegates to the "Centennial" the sailors said we were the Jonahs and the cause of the disaster. That evening in the cabin of the "Queen" we held a praise-and-prayer meeting, thanking God that He rules the wind and the waves, -"the sea is His and He Made it", and that He had been best to save us to serve longer on earth for the advancement of His kingdom. That night as we were about to retire, a lady asked me with a beseeching tone to share her berth, as she felt nervous and timid. "Why do you ask me, a stranger, I inquired?" "Because you are a Christian", she replied. "How do you know that?" "I saw you reading your Bible last night, as I passed your stateroom." (By the way, that particular Bible was lost. In London I was presented with a "Centennial Bible!")

We remained in New York two days, and then Mr. Cheney and myself together with several other passengers took passage on the Etruria and arrived in time for the "Centennial", by cutting short our proposed visit in Scotland. In 1882, June 21st, was my marriage to George F. Wilkin of Warsaw, N.Y. He was a graduate of Rochester University and Theological Seminary. Later he was ordained as a Baptist minister, at Olivet Baptist Church, Minneapolis. Much of his subsequent time has been given to literary work. In 1892 he



took the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of two books, "The Prophesying of Women", and "Control in Evolution."

In 1885 and 1886 a leave of absence was granted to me by the Regents for study abroad; spent the time chiefly in London and Germany pursuing studies that should help towards a Master's Degree. I matriculated in the University College of London, enjoyed a course in Old English under Prof. Henry Morley and continued the subject with a University Professor at Gottingen (women were not at that time allowed in the regular classes). In the spring of '86 with my brother and his family had a delightful trip to Italy. Took my Degree of M.L. (Master of Literature) in 1900.

In 1899 spent my vacation in Germany, Hanover and Berlin. Translated Bede's "Beowulf" (a part) into German, thence into modern English. Was associate editor of an old-English Grammar, which was used as a text-book at the University of Minnesota. Later compiled a book of English-German, also used in the German classes.

In 1887 promoted to Assistant Professor. Retired in 1911 with a Carnegie Pension, having been connected with the University, as student and teacher 38 years.

While at the University was an active member of the following societies: Literary: Delta-Sigma-Philological; Honorary: Phi-Beta Kappa, Lambda Alpha Psi; Social: Delta Gamma, sorority; Religious: Students Christian Association; Young Women's Christian Association. Of the latter I was a charter member and on the Board of Directors for ten years, until my retirement from the University, and absence from Minneapolis.

At present I am a member of the Faculty Women's Club (life member by election), Alumnae Club, and outside of the University, the Women's Christian Temperance Union. A life member of the Women's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, and a member of Board of Managers of the Women's Co-operative Alliance (a civic, philanthropic society). Have been a member of the Olivet (now the University) Baptist Church for 52 years. Taught the University Bible Class in its Sunday School for 15 years. Since then have been the teacher of a Women's Bible Class, which in my honor was named, "The Wilkin Bible Class".

In a book "Representative Women of New England", published by the Boston Historical Publishing Company in 1904, my name is found as "educator" of which I am justly proud.

This was written in August, 1923, at Mrs. Wilkin's home at 601 6th Street Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota.



[Darling, F.C.]

## EARLY RECOLLECTIONS OF LIFE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY.

Written by Mr.D.A.Darling, Sheho, Saskatchewan, Canada.

In 1861, my father, (F.C.Darling) mother, and myself, then six years old, left Ripon, Wisconsin, with a yoke of 3 year old steers, a yoke of cows hitched to a covered wagon, and a cow leading behind. (Old people will tell you they can remember things that happened better, when they were young, than they can the happenings of later years, and so with me.)

We crossed the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, on a ferry. Crossed it on a pole bridge, at St. Paul, and again on a ferry at St. Cloud. West of St. Cloud, a few miles, we crossed the Sauk River which was deep, but not very wide, on a ferry. Here the cow leading behind broke loose and jumping off, went out of sight under water, but reached the shore and was half a mile back, on the road to Wisconsin when father overtook her. At New Munich, a road scraper had been left bottom side up, and glistening in the sun, the steers bolted and tried to run away with the whole outfit and we had quite a mixup, before we were all lined up on the road again. We camped one night with the "Old Gordon" family at Osakis, and caught some nice fish at the inlet near the house, east of where the village is now. Next across the prairie to the edge of the "Big Woods" where the Fairfields lived, on through the narrow and stumpy road, down the long hill at "Shotwells", a short stop at the little store around the shore and up the hill on the west

side, a mile and a half more, and we were at our journey's end, during the long days of June, at the home of my uncle, Andreas Darling. On the east bank of Lake Darling, who had moved out there from Wisconsin in 1858. His family consisted of himself, wife and three children, Sarah, Olive, and Abner. As far as I know, Olive was the first school teacher, and the school was held in a log shanty on the west bank of Lake Agnes, owned by John James, in the fall of 1861. Other families who were there then were Coloney, Cowdry, Barnes, Barr and Bedman. Dancing was the only amusement, with music furnished by an old trapper and hunter by the name of Bancroft. Church service was held about once a month by the Episcopal Bishop Whipple, from St. Paul. Chippewa Indians were very friendly and numerous. The family life of the first settlers was a little on the Indian style. Vegetables grew in abundance, game was plenty, of all kinds, and just go out and get it any time. In the spring, the maple trees were flushing with sap right at your door. Drink all you could hold, and make sugar and syrup of the rest. Bread and milk was usually the dish for supper, there were no "six o'clock dinners."

Alexandria was located on the extreme north end of quite an extensive prairie, to the south. East and west was what was known as the "Big Woods". Consisting of very large maple, birch, oak, basswood, ironwood. A little poplar, but no spruce or pine. It was a grand healthy forest that had never been molested by anything larger than a Tommyhawk, and while it had been in the possession of the Indians, from its very start had never been molested by fires. Very seldom heard of a moose, and it was about one hundred miles west to the

buffalo.

My father staked a claim ten miles west of Alexandria, in 1861. (The year before the Homestead Act.) In the summer of 1862, he put up a log house and hauled lumber and shingles from St. Cloud, to finish it, and lived in it just three weeks when the "Indian Outbreak" occurred, in August. We were out on the prairie making hay when Markus Shotwell came riding a pony across the field to tell us the Sioux Indians were on the warpath and had killed two of our neighbors (Andrew Austin and Lewis) eleven miles west of us, two days before, and my uncle had sent him out from Alexandria, to have us come right in. He went out on the prairie and got our oxen, while father put a few things in the wagon, and we flew for Alexandria as fast as the oxen could go. Others came in from other parts of the country, and made up a fleeing caravan of settlers, to St. Cloud. There were only two horse teams in the county. One owned by Sam Thompson, and one by J. W. Barr. These teams took the women and children, and the rest went with the oxen. Captain Taylor and Lieutenant Freeman of St. Cloud were enlisting a company and my father and J. F. Dickens joined company D. Minnesota Mounted Rangers, "The Black Horse" Cavalry, and went with Sibley's Expedition the next spring to drive the Indians from Fort Ridgely across the Missouri River. My uncle Andreas and family went south to Rolla, Missouri, and took charge of a plantation, and a lot of arms and ammunition for the Union Army, and he was killed in a raid by Quantrells band, to which the James and Younger Gang belonged, and the



ammunition confiscated.

The "Stockade" was built in 1863, and when the settlers came back in 1864 and 1865 some of them found their houses stripped of all lumber, windows and doors, that was used in fixing things in the Fort, which was built on the hill, just up where the Great Northern Freight Sheds are now. Our house was one of them, nothing but the log walls remained, and we had to commence all over again. The cattle we had when we had to move were rented out to a farmer at Fair Haven, south of St. Cloud. He was to have half for wintering them, but in the spring our half had all died, so we had none to begin with again. We made a shanty out of the old house with a trough roof. Our nearest neighbor was the Barr family, five miles. In the winter, father worked on the saw mill for Hicks and Cowing, south west of Alexandria, and walked home every Saturday night, with flour, pork and butter, to last mother and I for the next week. Sometimes for a month we saw no one else, but deer, elk, and prairie chickens, and wolves howling every night. I often thought later as I began to know the ways of the world, what a dreary and discouraging time it must have been for her, with only a nine year old boy as companion. As for myself, I had not a care in the world. I had a bow and arrow, a big black dog, and a pet calf.

Going back in the story, my Aunt, Antoinette Darling, returned with her family to the old home on the bank of Lake Darling, in 1863. It was a sad homecoming after the terrible affair in Missouri, but it seemed that courage was the badge of all the pioneer women, and they made it home again. Sarah married a hunter and trapper, J. F. Dicken. Olive, the teacher, married a young soldier of Company C. at the fort, and Abner

became a well known surveyor and land examiner, surveying on the line of the C. P. R. in 1878, when it extended west of Winnepeg, Canada. He later received an appointment to examine land for the government in Oklahoma, by the Hon. Knute Nelson. But the relentless hand of Time has long closed their earthly cares, George McQuillan, the soldier husband of Olive, the last to go, died at 92 at Wadena, Minnesota, 2 years ago. In 1866, the tide of settlers came in, mostly Scandinavians, settling all over the fertile, rolling prairies of west Douglas, east Grant, and south Otter Tail counties. Most of them had very little money. many of them lived in dug outs for a year or so, but they proved to be an honest, thrifty class of people, who had found a wonderful farming country, and with a few exceptions, made good. Many of their children and grandchildren have attained high and honorable positions, in state and nation. All old settlers will remember the "flood" in July, 1867, when it rained four days and four nights steady. I made a raft and sailed over our potato patch on water four feet deep. Our "trough roof" would not carry off the water fast enough, and Robert Angus, a newcomer, staying with us during the storm, and my father were busy carrying water out of the house in tubs and boilers. Bridges were washed out and travel at a standstill. Many people ran out of provisions, and some had to live on wild pea soup for several days.

My father swam his horse across a creek to get a 50 lb. sack of flour of Indian flour from a trader at Chippewa, and paid \$5.00 for it. Creeks that are now dry had ten feet of

water.

As soon as the Indian troubles were over history along the "Big Stage Road" from St. Paul to Fort Aberscrombie was making fast. Pole bridges were put in across the creeks, stumps taken out, and roads straightened in the timber, and stones taken out of the roads on the prairie for the rush of travel that was to come. And it did come. Stage coaches, trains of ox teams and wagons, a mile long, winding their slow and weary way over the hills and valleys, loaded with all kinds of freight for the stores and forts of the West. Long strings of half breed ponies and ox carts from Winnepeg, going to St. Paul with furs and buffalo hides to trade for all kinds of merchandise for the stores in Canada. Government six mule teams with tremendous large wagons, hauling grain and supplies for the forts. The "Red River" carts, some times in trains three miles long, could be heard squealing for a long time before they came into view. The new country was very much alive. Money was plenty. Settlers along the road ( the first settlers were all located on the road) could sell all they could raise right at their door, for cash for good prices. Butter and eggs, 50¢. Oats, \$1.00 to \$1.75. Potatoes, \$1.50. Corn \$1.00, for a basket of ears, and so on. Hotels and stopping places, with stables and feed sprung up along the road, and the route was a regular bee hive in industry. In 1870, contractors began grading and clearing for a railroad, and everybody got a job. I drove two horses and carts, grading for Roach and Wilson, east of Garfield. Work stopped and the rails were not laid for seven years.

In these twilight years, as I look back on the victories



won, and the battles lost since childhood, it all seems to float away in the realm of space, and amounts to nothing.

R. A. Darling.

*[Derdowski, Hieronim]*

WINONA, MINNESOTA.

HISTORY OF HIERONIM DERDOWSKI.

Hieronim Derdowski, son of Peter and Maria, nee Konkolewska Derdowski, was born at Wiele, Pomorze (or Pomerania) Poland, in the province then known as West Prussia. He was the eldest of a family of three boys and three girls. His father was a fairly wealthy Polish landowner of noble extraction.

From his early childhood he was known as a likeable, carefree lad who loved to scout around the neighboring lakes and woods of his birthplace. He was of quick wit and had the gift to make serious things seem humorous. Through all his life he held a great love and esteem for his mother who was his only confidant.

At the age of twelve he was persuaded to become a priest. In this, he was encouraged by his father and his uncle, the latter a saintly priest, Reverend John Derdowski of Kazanice, Pomorze. He was therefore sent to a preparatory school at Chojnice and then to the Seminarium Marianum at Pelplin. Later he went to Rome to further pursue his theological studies. But, here occurred the changing point of his life. He finally discovered that to be a priest was not his calling. Instead, he selected a literary career; so, leaving Rome he visited the capital of Europe as well as the most important places of interest. Among these were Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Constantinople, Athens, and St. Petersburg.

Hieronim Derdowski returned to his native Poland to be-



come co-editor of the Gazeta Turunska of Torun (Thorn) where he was employed for over five years. It was at this time that he became famous throughout all of Poland for his poems and humorous writings. Like Washington Irving in the United States, who described the picturesque places in the Hudson Valley, he described Pomerania, Poland, including the Polish Corridor and the Polish land along the Baltic, in the most realistic manner ever known to the inhabitants of those regions. These people had never realized, previously, how beautiful their country really was and what its past history had revealed to them. To them, these places were just commonplace settlements, but he had made them real and put life into them. His writings have made Poles realize that beauty can be found at home and that they may discover wonders which will enthrall them right among their own surroundings.

Being a true Pole, he opposed Germany's treatment of the Poles, particularly the base German method of Germanizing the Poles through the church. He was proud of having suffered imprisonment five times at the hands of the German government for his articles in the Gazeta Torunski and other periodicals in which he defended and expounded the Polish attitude toward such treatment.

The Polish literati held him in great esteem and he was a member of famous literary circles composed of authors and poets which included such names as Sienkiewicz, author of The Deluge, Que Vadis, etc., Prus Kraszewski, and other great Polish poets and writers.

As the persecution of the German government became almost unbearable to him, he was forced to leave Torun to try his

luck elsewhere, although he continued to send articles to the above mentioned paper.

Realizing that the Poles in the United States needed a leader, he came to the United States in 1883. In the same year he became editor of the Detroit Polish Weekly, Pielgrzym (The Pilgrim), and edited it until 1885 when he went to Chicago as a printer and finally the same year to Winona, to become editor and later publisher of the Wiarus, which in English means a good patriot.

At one time in the latter eighties and early nineties, the Wiarus was the foremost Polish paper in the United States. But, H.Derdowski's health failed him in 1892 and his paper published more local news and general information.

He was naturalized December 23, 1896. Considering his final citizenship papers his best Christmas present, he was not only a true example of Polish patriotism but also a good citizen of his adopted country. By encouraging Poles to take out naturalization papers, and by teaching them through his paper to become good, law abiding citizens of the United States, he performed a worth-while service.

He died August 13, 1902 at Winona, Minnesota, and was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Now, after several decades have passed since his decease, Poland had finally realized the amount of good he has accomplished for his native country. Although one large monument has been erected in the town of his birth in his honor, the Republic of Poland is planning to erect a large and imposing monument in the new Polish seaport of Gdynia, commanding a fine view from the seashore. And so the name of a former Winona



County citizen is to be brought to light from obscurity and honored in his own country.

Reference is contained in all of his volumes of the Wiarus, from 1885 to 1902.

*E. Gray, T.K. Drug Company*

OLD BUSINESS FIRM - T. K. GRAY DRUG COMPANY

Thomas K. Gray took his brother, John D. Gray as partner and in 1857 opened the Gray Brothers Drug Store at 108 Bridge street, or what is now 108 Hennepin avenue. He started as a wholesale and retail establishment but later, when exclusive wholesale drugstores were started, his store discontinued, to a large extent, the wholesale end of the business. Even today, in some commodities, this store is the wholesale and the only supply as they still carry in quantities, chemicals and herbs which other wholesale drug concerns do not have volume enough to pay to handle.

This makes the T. K. Gray Drug Company the oldest retail house in the city without essential change in name or character in business.

Thomas Kennedy Gray was the oldest drug dealer in the state. He was born in 1833 of Scotch parentage. The family originally located in Andover, Mass., and from there they moved to Jefferson, Lincoln County, Maine where this son, Thomas, was born. The father was Peter T. Gray and the mother was Elizabeth Kennedy Gray. Peter Gray practiced medicine but when Thomas was but four years old he died and in 1842 Mrs. Gray moved to Waldoboro, Maine, where Thomas attended public school, when he finished the public school he went to Wiscasset Military Academy and studied the old medical books of his father. He clerked three years in a general store where he gained experience. When he was twenty, he moved



to Toledo, Ohio and worked in a large store there for one and a half years. He then decided to come to Minneapolis with his brothers Oliver C. and John D.; John D. went into the drug business with Dr. M. R. Greeley; Oliver C. went South and Thomas K. started as clerk for D. W. Ingersoll in St. Paul. He stayed there only one and a half years and then came to Minneapolis and bought out Dr. Greeley's share and so started Gray Bros. In 1871, John D. retired and moved to the Pacific Coast and thus Thomas K. became sole owner.

The store, along with the whole block, burned in 1864 but was rebuilt as it is today.

Mr. Gray was very original in his ideas to obtain business, his advertising schemes still being used. He was about the first in the United States to put out a free cook-book with one page of recipes and one page of drug and patent medicine "ads." He distributed an almanac with the same idea. Road advertising was given its first real trial by him with tin signs stapled to barbwire all over the country within a 100 mile radius of the Twin Cities. Old timers tell of their messages: "T. K. Gray will Kill your Rats; See T. K. Gray for Bed Bug Killer," and so on. He handled stock foods, veterinary supplies, surgical instruments trusses and supports, poultry remedies and foods; paints and painters supplies, and a very large stock of everything in the drug line.

He had the first idea of "mail order business" it is said,

and his almanacs and cook-books were distributed throughout the entire northwest. He also sent large wooden chests with all sorts of patent medicines, first aid supplies, etc., to all the large lumber camps, planing mills, and to men on the river. The way he did this was to prepare a chest and send it charged to large lumber companies on consignment. Men bought and used supplies as they were needed, the company charging them and deducting from their wages. In the spring the chests would come back and an inventory was taken; the lumber companies paying for what was missing. It is said Philip Sears saw how this was done and started with the same plan on winter socks, shirts, mackinaws, mittens, etc., and needing more capital went in with Roebuck to form Sears-Roebuck & Company ( Philip Sears started in the Globe Building and was friendly with Gray, so this story told me by an old timer sounds plausible.)

Thomas K. was married to Miss Julia Allen daughter of Rev. L. B. Allen, one time pastor of First Baptist Church and five children were born Horace A., who later ran the store and whose widow is Mrs. Wm. Anderson ( a source of information); Burton N., Edward L., who died from accident while young, and two daughters, Grace Elizabeth and Marguerite. The family always resided at Oak Grove and Spruce Place as Thos. Gray had purchased a piece of land there in the early days and



erected a home. He later erected some apartments on the balance of this property called the "Winthrop Flats." This piece was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  acres and thought to be in the country at that time. He later made considerable from this investment.

The business, with Mr. Raymond and Mr. Dardis, registered pharmacists conducting the affairs for the estate, still goes on. The store is to have its 80th anniversary in 1937.

F. Boobar

*[Hostetter Brothers  
Logging & Lumber Co.]*

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, CLEARWATER COUNTY. HOSTETTER BROTHERS  
LOGGING AND LUMBER COMPANY.

The big logging and lumber companies had done much to denude the northern forest, but there remained enough timber for a profitable industry for smaller concerns.

Jack and Orla Hostetter, migrating into northern Minnesota in search of homesteads, were quick to see the commercial value of the big pine and spruce. They filed on timber claims and bought other timber tracts southeast of Columbia township, across the Polk county line. In 1884, they began operations, cutting down every pine and spruce which could be sawed into saleable lumber. About fifty men were employed throughout the year. All the logging was done in winter. The logger's buildings were rudely built of rough lumber on the place about to be logged. The camp included a bunk house, a mess house and cook's shanty. Recreation in camp consisted of accordian and mouth organ music, and the telling of stories and jokes. The logs were toted over iced roads and piled in high rollways ready for converting into lumber. The sawmill was hauled from one pile of logs to another, and throughout the summer the saws hummed and new-sawed lumber gave out the aroma of pine and spruce. The mill was run by a steam engine. In the timber clearings, big rafts of lumber piled up, and stacks of laths and shingles grew in the wake of the busy saws. Winter came and the tote-roads were iced and corduroy crossings smoothed over the snow.



Teamsters with horses and sleds hauled the rough lumber to Fosston where it was planed at the Hostetter Brothers' planing mill and piled in yards ready for distribution. Much of this lumber was used for building purposes throughout the section. The surplus lumber was shipped to North Dakota points.

Hostetter Brothers operated from 1884 to 1890. During 1889, they cut 2,000,000 feet of lumber, pine and spruce, which was hauled to Fosston to be planed into finished lumber and put on the market. At that time, rough lumber brought twelve dollars per thousand feet, while finished lumber sold at twenty dollars per thousand feet. In 1890, Hostetter Brothers ceased operations in that territory.

While denuding the northwoods of their giant spruce and pine, the lumbermen showed their appreciation of beauty by leaving the maple and birch, the oak and elm, and the others trees which makes our forests the wonder and admiration of visitors and travelers. Today's generation are taught to conserve the trees, especially the white birches that cluster together in solid stands and splotch hill and dale with loveliness throughout every season of the year.

Source of information: August Peterson, logger in Hostetter Brothers camp, route number 3, Fosston.

[Lende, Olaus]

OLAUS LENDE, INVENTOR AND  
MANUFACTURER

Olaus Lende was born in Norway, May 3, 1862. In 1879 he came to the United States, locating at Granite Falls. He worked on a farm for about two years, then he worked in a blacksmith shop, for S. Olander, for a few years. In 1886, John Iverson and Mr. Lende started a foundry and machine shop. The following year he sold his interest to a Mr. Ferguson and accepted a position with the Edison Electric Company of Minneapolis, and continued in their employment until the City of Granite Falls started to build an electric power plant, returning to Granite Falls to help install the machinery in the power plant. At its completion he became the engineer and operated the plant for nine years.

At the time the power plant was built Mr. Lende erected a brick building of his own adjoining same and had a well equipped machine shop in the basement.

Since leaving the power plant, he has continually run his machine shop, which he greatly enlarged after the few years of operation so that it has been, and still is, one of the best, if not the best, equipped machine shops in this part of the state.

Mr. Lende made his first two cylinder automobile in 1902. The next year he made three more two cylinder cars and the following year he made a few four cylinder cars. These were outstanding cars in power, speed and durability. They were equipped with electric lights as standard equipment. The writer feels safe in saying that they were the first automobiles in the World to have electric lights.



Mr. Lende continued to make cars for a few years but found he could not compete with large factories, so discontinued making cars and has since used his shop for repair work of all kinds.

Mr. Lende, in spite of his age, is still very active and his mechanical ability is known throughout all of central Minnesota. He is also very active in civic and other affairs of the community, always having the interests of Granite Falls at heart.

C. M. Kull.

[McCauley, David]

## FIRST WHEAT GROWER IN WILKIN COUNTY

### DAVID MCCAULEY

David McCauley was the first man to raise wheat in Wilkin County. He came to Fort Abercrombie in 1861, appointed by Secretary of War Stanton as post sutler, post master and agent for the Northern Transportation Company. Before the railroads came there was no market for the wheat except what the Fort could use, so there was very little seeded.

In 1862 McCauley planted a few potatoes, seeded a few acres of barley and started a garden. This was destroyed by the Indians in the outbreak in August 1862.

In the spring of 1864 McCauley moved to the present site of McCauleyville and made ready to farm across from the Fort. He planted a few acres of potatoes, sowed seventy-five acres of oats. He raised only crops that the Fort could use until 1871. In 1872 he planted a few acres of wheat as the Railroad was coming to Breckenridge and to Moorehead. He continued to increase his crop till in 1899 he raised 10,000 bushels of wheat on land farmed by himself.

He was the first in the entire valley to thresh a crop, a machine being brought across country from Osakis in 1866 to thresh 30 acres of oats.

He started a store and mercantile business at McCauleyville, which town was named after him. He bought 666 acres



of Indian land on Indian script and took quit claim deed, but on account of defective title he lost the whole of it.

In the spring he bought of the Government two hundred barrels pork at \$1.00 a barrel and sold it at prices ranging from \$20.00 to \$40.00 a barrel. In 1866 he furnished the Government 1000 tons of hay at \$35.00 a ton, from then on he would furnish the government annually from 800 to 3000 tons of hay.

In 1867 he built a saw-mill at a cost of \$12,000.00, and cut 5,000,000 feet lumber that was sold for \$40.00 a thousand feet. His markets being Pembina, Totten and Fort Gary. The logs were hauled across country from the woods east of McCauleyville.

His first wife was Anna Trott of Bath, Maine who died and he married Carrie Whitman October 5, 1879.

Mr. McCauley was prominent in public affairs. He was one of the organizers of the County, founder and organizer of McCauleyville, organizer and charter member of the old McCauleyville Catholic church, and was for many years County Superintendent for Wilkin County.

With the coming of the Railroads through this part of the country in the 80's McCauleyville lost its importance as the railroad went east of the town, and today all that remains of what was once a flourishing little city is a few small farms and a few farm houses along the banks of the Red River.

*R.R.A. This should be misallan  
don't you think*

SAINT CLOUD, MINNESOTA.

THE METZROTH CLOTHING COMPANY.

The Metzroth Clothing Company was established in 1856, in Saint Anthony, Minnesota, by J.W. Metzroth, who moved his store to Saint Cloud in 1857.

J.W. Metzroth was born in Weisbaden, Germany, and came to the United States at the age of thirty-two. He came here to try to rid himself of tuberculosis. The trip across the Atlantic took sixty days. When near Charleston, South Carolina, the boat became stranded on a sand bar, they landed at Charleston, and Mr. Metzroth made his way to New York. He took up the tailoring trade when he reached this country. When he got to New York he only had twenty dollars in his possession. After staying in New York a few years he made his way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but finding business conditions very poor here, he came to Saint Anthony. From here he sent for his old country sweetheart, Margaret Munck, to join him in Saint Anthony, where they were married.

He first operated a tailor shop at 125 Fifth Avenue South, then moved to 11 Fifth Avenue South, where he put in a stock of men's furnishings in 1876. He then moved to the present location, 623 Saint Germain Street. The business was operated by J.W. Metzroth until 1887, when C.J. Metzroth, his son, took over the business his father had started. C.J. Metzroth operated the business until 1906, when the present owner, O.F. Metzroth, another son took over the business. Mr. C.J. Metzroth brought the first sewing machine into Saint Cloud.



In the early days J.W.Metzroth made the first civilian suit for Chief Hole-In-A-Day of the Chippewa tribe. The Chief wanted this suit to wear when he joined the Episcopalian Church under Bishop Whipple. This he did, but on the evening of his church joining, he imbibed too freely in fire-water becoming very drunk, tearing <sup>his</sup> suit to shreds and destroying his "stove-pipe" hat which went with the suit.

Much of the business in the early days was with the Indians.

The present double store building was built by C.W.Burbank in 1870, and is now, as it was then, occupied by the Powell Hardware Company, and the Metzroth Clothing Company. The present owner of the Metzroth Clothing Company has in his possession an old pair of tailor shears, a goose iron, and angle irons, used by J.W.Metzroth, in the early days.

Source of information Otto J Metzroth  
Dimensions about 50 x 85 feet

STAPLES, MINNESOTA.

*Miller, H. C. (Dept. Store)*  
H.C. MILLER, DEPARTMENT STORE.

Mr. H.C. Miller came to Staples in the year of 1883, as a building contractor, to build the Sam St. Pierce Hotel, now known as the St. Charles Hotel. Staples was then Staples Mills and the newspaper was called the Presto Change.

After completing the hotel Mr. Miller continued his building activities, and erected the building used recently as the Co-operative Store, now not existing, having burned about three years ago, in the first half of the year 1890. He then built his own store in the last half of 1890, which was located on the west side of the first block north of the Northern Pacific Depot, on what was then "Main Street" or Fourth Street. This building was the largest store building in Staples for many years, covering one hundred twenty five feet on the front and running back one hundred and forty feet.

Mr. Miller had had an undertaking establishment at Brainerd, and moved his equipment to Staples, added a furniture and hardware department, later the groceries and meat departments were added and in 1894, the drygoods department.

There were twenty two people employed in the H.C. Miller store for years. When the business began to fail people whom Mr. Miller had befriended failed him and finally in 1916, the accounts of the store were placed in the hands of the receivers. Mr. Miller died September 9, 1918.

There are no records available for the H.C. Miller Department Store.



*New England Furniture and  
Carpet Co.]*

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. THE NEW ENGLAND FURNITURE AND CARPET  
COMPANY

Founded in Minneapolis nearly a half century ago, the New England Furniture and Carpet Company, Eighth and Marquette, continues to supply the Twin Cities and the northwest its products.

In 1886, W. L. Harris, junior partner in his father's furniture store in Boston, Massachusetts, made a trip into the west, intending to visit North Dakota and Missouri. Enroute he stopped off at Minneapolis and was so pleased to see Mississippi steamboats transporting lumber and wheat from the north to the gulf ports that he decided to remain in Minneapolis and establish a business.

Harris had only seven thousand dollars capital, but had many times that amount in confidence in himself and in the city of Minneapolis and, undaunted, signed a long term lease for the ground floor of a dilapidated building at Sixth Street and what was then First Avenue South. He spent five thousand dollars in putting the building in good repair and on March 1, 1887, opened for business. The store was operated as an installment house and was the first store of its kind in Minneapolis.

At the close of the first year, Harris realized a profit of fifteen hundred dollars. Continuing to enjoy a prosperous business it became necessary for Harris to seek larger quarters and in 1896, he moved into the "Panorama" building on

Fifth Street. Business continued to grow and by 1900, it was again necessary to find larger quarters. Harris purchased a four story building adjoining the Casino which gave the store an entire half block from Fifth to Sixth Street.

The store remained at this location for fourteen years but a growing business and the opportunity to dispose of the property, half to the Federal Reserve Bank and half to the Northwestern National Bank, prompted the firm to lease a seven story building at Fifth Street and First Avenue North. The structure occupied one hundred forty feet on Fifth Street and one hundred sixty-two feet on First Avenue and had a floor space of one hundred eighty-five thousand square feet.

The city of Minneapolis grew rapidly and soon Nicollet Avenue became the center of buying. Seeing the advantage in locating on Nicollet Avenue, or as near to it as possible, the company moved to its present location at Eighth and Marquette, retaining a portion of the Fifth Street and First Avenue store for a second hand department and leasing the remaining space.

Present officers of the company are Charles L. Harris, son of the founder, president; Joseph H. Daunt, vice-president; and Lester C. Kellogg, secretary-treasurer.



[North Star]

## NORTH STAR

MARTIN COUNTY

FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA

No place in Martin county ever claimed a name more prettily appropriate than North Star, a former postoffice and hamlet in Waverly township, Minnesota, nicknamed the north star state, has no place carrying the name of North Star since the Martin county postoffice which was thus called went out of existence some twenty years ago. The name is still applied vaguely to designate the general locality but definite location no longer exists.

The North Star postoffice was established on a petition of early settlers in Waverly in 1876. The first postmaster was A. A. Castle who lived in section 22. To him or some of his fellow petitioners is the credit given for suggesting the unique name.

There were several changes of postmasters and consequent changes of location of the office but it always remained in the same general location. Finally in 1894 a creamery was built in the southeast corner of section 33, Waverly, three miles southeast of the original site of North Star, and the office was moved there and remained until its discontinuance in 1904. A country store was also established and North Star was quite a trading point. A church was built which still has a large congregation and is known as the North Star Church.

After a few years the farmer patrons of the creamery found more profit in raising corn and hogs than in milking cows, patronage of the creamery dwindled and it finally shut

down, soon to be entirely abandoned and the building removed. The store closed, the rural route came out from Welcome with the mail and Uncle Sam ordered the postoffice discontinued.

The above was taken from The Fairmont Daily Sentinel, July 27, 1922. Since then the church congregation has been disbanded, there have been no services for about twelve years and the property has reverted to the synod.



*Martin  
Wright*

JUL 15 1937

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[Nott, W. S. Company]

*(Business Firms) file*

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

W. S. NOTT COMPANY.

W.S.Nott Company was established in January, 1879, under the name of Preston and Nott. In 1880, the company occupied the building at 203 Nicollet avenue near the corner of Second street.

The company has grown from a very small business to the largest of its kind in the United States, as manufacturers and jobbers of leather belting, leather specialties, pipe and boiler covering, mechanical rubber goods, threshermen's supplies, roofing, automobile tires, and fire equipment.

In 1887, the company incorporated under the name of W.S. Nott Company and in 1888, moved to larger quarters in the newly constructed Mutual Building on Second street between Nicollet and Marquette streets, then First avenue south, where they remained for about five years.

They outgrew their space there and moved across the street to the remodeled Brackett Building on the Southwest corner of Marquette, then First avenue south, and Second street where they remained for eighteen years.

In 1910, the business had gradually outgrown its space again and they were forced to move. They purchased the property at the corner of Second avenue north and Third street and during that year erected the building they now occupy. The structure has a fronting of one hundred thirty-two feet and a depth of one hundred sixty-eight feet with six stories and basement. In 1914, they purchased the brick warehouse at



735-737 Washington avenue south, with trackage facilities in the rear.

E.M.Goldsborough, president, started with the company in 1885.

The company has gained national prominence by building two historic belts.

In 1890, the company gained the headlines when it built the widest leather belt in the world. This belt was seventy-three inches wide and one hundred forty-five feet long, and made from thirty-one hides, carefully cemented together to make the big belt. They were made for the Minneapolis Street Railway Company when it discontinued the cable system and needed the belt to drive the newly constructed electric generators.

In 1894, the heaviest belt was built by them for the Anaconda Copper Company, who needed an immense belt to drive the machinery in its electrolytic plant. Hides from three hundred sixty head of cattle were used and the completed belt, which was sixty-six inches wide and was of four plies of leather, weighed two tons.

This firm does business in nearly every state of the Union.

[Orinoco Company]

THE GREAT ORINOCO COMPANY

RICE COUNTY

FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA

A man by the name of Fitzgerald acquired a concession in Venezuela. This concession was at the place where Columbus first landed in America. Several early colonizers had dreamed of an empire at this point. The land was fertile and the natural resources included gold, iron, asphalt and timber. Sir Walter Raleigh was one of those who tried to colonize this territory. Fertile and rich in resources though this land was, no successful colonization of it has been made.

The concession acquired by Fitzgerald was larger than the state of Minnesota and according to the terms of his concession he was to colonize and develop this vast territory. It was a dream of empire and great riches.

The possibilities appealed to D. W. Grant who in turn interested T. B. Clements, Arthur Rogers, George N. Baxter and other local people. These men acquired the concession and formed a corporation known as the Manoa Company and undertook to raise money for the colonization and development of this rich territory.

Difficulties arose and the Manoa Company was assigned to the Orinoco Company, Ltd., which in turn assigned some of its rights to the Orinoco Corporation. The latter is the company which was best known in this city.

These various companies sent colonists to this territory and tried to live up to the terms of the concession. Some



headway in the developement of the resources was made, but, due to the unstable condition of the Venezuelan government no permanent headway was made. Tariffs were raised against the company, shipments of goods, ships and equipment were condemned and not allowed to be landed because it was claimed they did not meet with specifications or were of inferior quality. In these several ways the moneys of the company was spent and nothing was shown for it. Finally the government of Venezuela revoked the concession and the development companies became involved in litigation with the government and with the various companies with whom they had contracted. At this time George N. Baxter was the attorney and secretary of the company. The company became insolvent as a result of this litigation and John LeCrone was appointed receiver.

The matter was brought to the attention of the U. S. Government and a commission was appointed. After some time the Venezuelan government agreed to pay \$185,000, to be paid to rightful claimants. Then litigation between claimants started, until about 1926 or 1927 when what was left of this sum was finally distributed.

Millions of dollars were lost in this venture. D. W. Grant alone spent upward of \$150,000 just in trying to perfect a synthetic rubber known as balata. At least one bank failure was among the effects of the breaking of this company.

A copy of the prospectus of this company is owned by Mr. Fred Chaffe of Faribault. The legal papers are in the possession of John LeCrone, attorney at law, also of Faribault.

The foregoing is a short story descriptive of this company, written from information received from John LeCrone who is perhaps the only man still living who had any official position in this company. Although the final insolvency of this company probably had little effect on the country as a whole, at that time it was a very serious thing locally. Many of the well to do in this community had invested heavily, perhaps following the lead of Grant who made and lost several fortunes during his life. This company is an instance that serves as an illustration of the character and fortitude of the pioneers in that no venture was too big for him to attempt. More information can be found in "Early Stories of Minnesota".

Written by Merle Potter

Lester Blais  
Rice County

April 25, 1937

## THE GREAT ORINOCO COMPANY.

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PHOTO STUDIO

RICE COUNTY

FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA

The first Photo Studio opened in Faribault was that of Mr. Burnham and was opened about 1865. The plates taken by this man were nearly all destroyed by the fire which burned the Baron House about 1889 or 1890. C. N. Peterson purchased this studio in 1894 and continues to operate it. According to his statement nearly all the old plates had been sold for old glass in 1918. However he still retains plates of a few of the more prominent characters, among whom are Judge Buckham, Geo. N. Baxter, Mr. Mc Kinstry, publisher of the Central Republican, A. E. Haven, founder of the Faribault Democrat, Mr. McKellip, connected with the surveyors office in the '50's, Dr. Rogers, former head of the State School and Colony, Stephen Jewett, and Thomas Quinn, father of the present county Attorney.

In connection with Judge Buckham's photograph, Mr. Peterson said that the Judge told him that this was the first picture he had taken in forty-five years. Fifty of these were finished, and to the best of his knowledge no more were ever taken. This was about 1914 or 1915.

Mr. Peterson also vividly recalls the capture of the Younger Brothers. Jim Younger was shot in the mouth and Cole was shot in the head in such a way as to affect his right eye. His recollection is more vivid because of the fact that it struck him what tough men these must be, wounded as they were. The effects of these wounds he thought would have killed any

ordinary man outright.

Lester Blais

Rice County April 25, 1937

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C.N. Peterson purchased this studio in 1894 and continues to operate it. When asked about pictures of old timers he gave the foregoing statement and further said that nearly all the old plates had been sold for old glass in 1918.

However he has saved a few of the more prominent characters and has plates from which photographs of the following can be obtained, if wanted

Judge Buckham.

Geo. N. Baxter.

McKinstry, ~~founder~~ of the ~~Faribault County Herald~~ publisher of the Central A.E. Haven, founder of the Faribault Democrat. Republican.

McKellip, connected with the surveyors office in the 50's.

Dr. Rogers, former head of the State School and Colony.

Stephen Jewett.

Thomas Quinn, father of the present County Attny.

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If prints of any of the above named men are desired Mr. Peterson will be glad to give them to the Society.

Lester Blais.  
Rice County.

April 25, 1937.



Some twelve miles to the east of International Falls, on what is known as the peninsula at its lower end, and towering high above the surrounding waters of Rainy Lake and bays, stands the remains of Rainy Lake City, the village which gave the first impetus to the growth of International Falls.

There is no more picturesque location for a town in all the country than that on which this village stood. However, it was not this fact which caused it to spring into existence almost over night, for its remoteness would have rendered such a result impossible. It was the discovery of gold!

It was in the summer of 1893 that prospectors found indications of the precious metal and in a flash the news spread to the outside world. Despite the fact that Tower, Minnesota, ninety miles distant, was the nearest railroad point, and the intervening distance could only be traversed by a water route which called for many long and tiresome portages, the country was soon teeming with prospectors.

Later, the freeze-up came and soon after the first snow had fallen, two enterprising men from Duluth, a Mr. Weimer and Mr. Sherwood, had taken up the land whereon the village of Rainy Lake City was established, platted the same and began the sale of town lots.

Teams by the score were soon portaging stocks of goods, mining outfits and other equipment necessary to start the

town. Tents were pitched and business was carried on in these until a sawmill was brought in and a number of good buildings constructed. Everything was hustle-bustle and in the meantime the Little American mine, on the island bearing the same name and located only a short distance from the village, was being opened. Here a rich pocket was struck which was 20 feet wide, 35 feet long and 50 feet deep. While a shaft was being sunk, a five stamp mill was also in the course of erection at Rainy Lake City.

Upon being worked the ore was found to be largely free milling ore, the rest concentrate and dark blue quartz, well mineralized, and running about \$30.00 to the ton. Operations were begun in the spring of 1893 and were continued for three years.

In the meantime, in the spring of 1895, the Lyle Mining Company had begun operations on Dry Weed island, a nearby plot of land, sinking a 200-foot shaft and constructing a ten-stamp mill for the reduction of the ore. They found the latter too refractory to work on a paying basis, however, and the mill was moved to the site of the Little American mine.

In 1897 the owners of the Little American became entangled in litigation among themselves with the result that the mine has since been idle. Only a small portion of the stamp mill building remains on the island, Indians and settlers having carried away all but the timbers of the structure.

The mill at Rainy Lake City still remains in good condition and towers above the water like a sentinel, reminding one of the days of the mushroom city which once existed there. there.

When viewing the machinery and realizing what it meant to haul it ninety miles over ice and snow with horses, one can get a faint idea of what energy and enthusiasm characterized the gold fever of that day. It carried men into every section of the surrounding country and resulted in the discovery of many other good prospects, among which were the Foley, Lucky Coon, and the Golden Star, the latter opened by the Randolphs and Neil Berger, and of which many thousands of dollars of stock were sold. These men, with the Franson brothers, Eric, Gus, and John, were among the prospectors who traversed the country during these early years in search for deposits of the metal.

Just as it was the finding of gold deposits which caused the village of Rainy Lake City to spring into existence in 1893 and 1894, so did the dashing, beautiful Koochiching Falls attract people to the spot where today stands the prosperous city of International Falls.

For a time Rainy Lake City had prospects of becoming a town of considerable importance. John Berg was the first storekeeper, John Lang opened a hardware and furniture store, being joined a year later by his brother, C.B. Lang. Upon the death of the former, Frank S. Lang of Chicago associated himself with the remaining brother, continuing the business



under the name of Lang Brothers. In 1894 a bank was established to handle the business of the 500 people of the village and a short time later S. E. Rice opened a hotel.

John Berg, John Lang, D. T. McPhee and Pete Gardie all had children of school age and were desirous of providing the proper educational advantages for them and it was mainly through their efforts that a schoolhouse was erected in 1895. A Miss Shaw, of Wisconsin, was the first teacher.

A post office was established in 1895 with D. P. Redding as first postmaster. F. S. Lang took over the postmastership the last year prior to the discontinuance of the office. There also existed a newspaper, the Rainy Lake Journal, with Fred J. Bowman as publisher. The Journal later was succeeded by the Herald. Charles Culimore was employed as printer.

By January 1, 1899, there remained but little of the town of Rainy Lake City. In the meantime the townsite of Koochiching had been laid out and the possibilities of waterpower development commenced to be exploited. About the middle of that month John Berg moved his store to the new town and D. T. McPhee also took up his residence here. The Langs and others followed shortly and took up homesteads to the south while various families settled in the vicinity of International Falls and today are among the solid and substantial citizens.

When the inhabitants of Rainy Lake City moved to the new townsite they tore down their buildings and floated the lumber down the Rainy River on rafts or brought the houses down on barges over the Ranier rapids. Some of the pioneers

are living in these same houses today.

The history of steamboating on the American side of Rainy Lake is coincident with that of Rainy Lake City, as the sudden springing into life of that village caused George Lloyd of Duluth to ship a steamboat to Rat Portage (Kenora) in 1894, from where it was brought by water to Koochiching. It bore the name Walter S. Lloyd and operated service for three years. Joseph Lloyd, a present resident and member of the Moose lodge, had in the meantime joined his brother and together they built the steamer Seagull. The work was done on Dry Weed island and the lumber was cut by the Rainy Lake sawmill. The old Walter S. Lloyd steamer was dismantled and her machinery is still doing service on a somewhat larger boat which took her place on the lake. Thomas Connors, who was numbered among the citizens of Koochiching, was the engineer of the Lloyd and also assisted in the building of the Seagull. The Franson brothers built the dock at Rainy Lake City.

Among the residents of this section who were associated with the early history of Rainy Lake City and whose presence here is doubtless due to the gold boom of 1894, are John, Gus and Eric Franson, John Berg, Thomas Coëd, C.B. and F.S. Lang, Gus Holm, D.T.McPhee, John Peterson, Chas. Culimore, S.E.Rice, D.J.Glendenning, W.J.Paulman, Fred Diamond, S.N. Bolin, Jerry Platt, Fred Adams and D.P.Redding.

Mrs. Doherty.

1937

[Van Dyke, Mrs. Fanny]

PIONEER WOMAN OF ALEXANDRIA FEATURED IN STORY PRINTED  
IN ST. PAUL

Dispatch: From Alexandria Citizen News, Thursday July 8, 1926  
Volume 18.

Mrs. Fanny Van Dyke of Alexandria is the subject of a very interesting historical sketch which appeared in the St.

Paul Dispatch of July. The story was obtained by a staff correspondent who visited this city recently and appeared in the first column on the front page of the paper under the heading of "Gopher Trails No. 28". The following are the story and pictures as they appeared in the St. Paul Daily:

Alexandria, Minnesota, July 2.- From the refinements of a cultured European city home to life in a frontier stockade.

Such was the transition faced in youth by Miss Fanny Cook, now Mrs. Fanny Van Dyke, oldest citizen in point of residence in Alexandria. Her father, Charles Cook, a member of the London Hudson Bay Fur Trading company of years ago, came from London to Canada, to the pioneer log cabin trading post that was to be Alexandria, in 1858.

For several years he and his sons, Charles and Henry Cook, tried to adjust themselves to the mode of living that was the way of the Western wilderness. Finally they gave up and returned to England, the father after honored years to go to rest, one son to become famous as a surgeon, the other to achieve note for his artistic skill.

Mrs. Van Dyke, a young woman then was offered her choice to return to civilization and the ease of a London home where wealth and position would have been at her command or stay and



venture life in the new world of the West.

She chose the latter course. She was young then, the youth of the wilderness beckoned her own. She had found adventure there, and romance too, the love of a man who was a leader even then among those hardy pioneers. And so the girl of yesterday chose her path.

And looking back recently over the panorama of years, Mrs. James Henry Van Dyke, the white haired woman of today, reviewed the joys and hardships of that path, the pleasures and pain that time had brought, and said that were the sands of time turned back so she could choose again, that once more her choice would be with Minnesota's wilderness.

#### RECALLS FOURTH IN 1859

She told tales of the old days when only a log cabin or so marked the site of the town when trapping, and hunting and fishing were not vacation pleasures but the stern necessity of life. She remembered the first Fourth of July celebration in 1859, that year before Abraham Lincoln's election as President, when politics and patriotism were identical emotions in the North, and both ran high.

They had no flag for the celebration, Mrs. Van Dyke recalled, "My mother made a banner for the day from the white silk of a party gown she had brought from London and the red flannel that had been packed as part of the stock of the trading post store."

And that incident reminded Mrs. Van Dyke of another that had to do with Lincoln and the flag. It was on that

April day in 1865 when news came by post rider of the immortal President's death at the hands of an assassin. A company of soldiers were stationed then in the old Alexandria stockade that had been erected three years before for the protection of the settlers in the Indian outbreak of 1862. They had a flag which was flown at half staff, immediately the tidings came, but there was no black silk to make a mourning border for the banner, or bands to be worn on the soldiers' arms.

#### MADE BORDER FLAG

It was then that another of the dresses we had brought from London went, Mrs. Van Dyke explained, "Mother had returned to England at that time, and the dress, a black silk, was one of my prized possessions. I cut it up, though, and made a border for the flag, and bands for the sentries' arms."

Foremost came the stockade days, a rude fortification of logs thrown up with pointed ends surrounding the two or three log homes that were the town and the barracks built for the soldiers and the settler refugees who fled from all the countryside.

Mrs. Van Dyke's brother, Charles, who later became known as an artist in London, drew a picture of the old stockade from memory, a scene that Mrs. Van Dyke values highly today. The Great Northern freight depot stands on the site of the old stockade. A few blocks away, where the city's business district is situated, was then a wilderness of tree and swamp, a place of questioned safety in the day,

undoubted place of lurking savage at night.

#### AWAITED SOLDIERS ARRIVAL

Those were nightmare weeks of fear for the handful of pioneers behind the stockade until the day that Sibley's soldiers came. The younger men had gone to war. The older men and the women knew too well their weakness, had the Indians attacked; could guess the fate that would befall them all if once the savage painted hordes should muster courage to storm the little log fence that was their feeble refuge.

Those were days of hardship, those weeks of the old stockade, days and nights when men and women, too, faced the stark realities of life and death, but learned to face them bravely, not to flinch, however stern the pall.

Mrs. Van Dyke recalls an incident of the times the other day. It was after immediate peril of an Indian attack had been removed, that she was called, a girl in years, although she had been married the summer before to Mr. Van Dyke, to ease the hand of Death.

It was one of the soldiers of Sibley's command, who went that winter to face the freezing menace of the icy prairie blizzard that swept that season across the region that the Pioneers knew as the Breckenridge Flats. He was brought back early that winter, dying of pneumonia to the only hospital then in that part of the state, the barracks room of the Alexandria stockade.



Mrs. Van Dyke had learned to do some nursing in the summer months when settlers came pouring across cramped quarters of the frontier fortress, had learned to alleviate sufferings with remedies at hand, but not before had she been called in grim extremity.

#### ATTENDS DYING MAN

She told recently as though the memory was of yesterday, how she had bathed the soldier's face and could not understand his gratefulness, how he thanked her and murmured of his sister and his mother in an Illinois town, and then as she turned to go, pressed a Bible and a Hymnal in her hand. An hour later he was dead. In the big brick house in Alexandria that is Mrs. Van Dyke's home she still preserves the book the dying lad bestowed.

There was a brighter side to pioneer life, too, that Mrs. Van Dyke remembered, the days after the Civil War when settlers came pouring across Minnesota into the West country, the stage coach days when the new Wissahicken Hotel was stopping place for Harry Burbank's line that carried passengers and mail.

Mrs. Van Dyke paused for more than casual mention of the Wissahicken house. It was there in his boyhood days that Cliff Sterrett, famous now as the artist of "Polly and Her Pals" lived.

It is not the world famed cartoonist that Mrs. Van Dyke remembers Sterrett, but as the little lad with pretty

and abundant curls. His mother died when Cliff and his brother Paul, a World War hero were small children, and they were reared by a spinster aunt, Miss Sally O. Johnson whose father, Cliff's maternal grandfather, kept the Wissahicken house. It was this grandfather, so Mrs. Van Dyke says, that the artist later used in his portrayal of "Pa Perkins."

Following the stage coach days came the railroad and with it the boom that lifted for good the city of Alexandria from class of frontier town to metropolitan dignity. It is with Civic pride that Mrs. Van Dyke looks out now on the town that thrives where she remembers scattered cabins in the wilderness.

But still those other days were good too, to remember, she adds, the days when she and all the other men and women of the West were young, when the west itself was in its infancy. Days of hardship were they, and often of peril, but they were days of pleasure, too, of merrymaking, even if the hall where the festival was held was crude; the days when what folks there were were neighbors sharing each others joys and woes.

It is a little lonely now, Mrs. Van Dyke admits. She has her daughter, Maud M. Van Dyke, with her. A son, James Van Dyke living at White Bear, is deputy assessor for Ramsey county. About the home is everything that love of kin, a state's respect for tasks well done can give. And yet in her loneliness there is no regret that years ago she chose western wilderness for home, and took the path that, though it was

hard at times brought happiness and harvest of honor for  
wintry years.

Katherine Heney  
July 29, 1936



[Van Dyke, Maude Mary]

DOUGLAS COUNTY

ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA

ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY HISTORY OF MISS MAUDE MARY  
VAN DYKE

My grandfather, Charles Cook, was a resident of London, England. He was a member of the Hudson Bay Fur Company and had a warehouse and fur establishment at Regent and Argyle Street, London. The building was built in 1823. The upper part of the building was a dwelling place and my grandfather lived there with his wife and children. Charles Dickens was his personal friend, and his workmen made Dickens a fur coat. The coat is mentioned in "Martin Chuzzlewit" and "American Papers!" My grandfather recalled Dickens as a gentle, kindly man, very fond of small children, animals and birds. A coat was also made by my grandfather's workmen for the Duke of Wellington.

In the year of the Centennial held in New York City, and the same year that Jenny Lind sang under the Management of P. T. Barnum in New York City, my grandfather came to New York with his family and set up a fur establishment on Broadway. Not much later he moved to St. Paul and Toronto. A former workman in his London shop, named Albrecht, set up a fur establishment in St. Paul and the firm is still in business there. Mr. Cook was born in Kent and educated at Oxford.

In 1858, Charles Cook brought his family to Alexandria. He was a territorial pioneer, there was not yet a State of Minnesota.

The roads were corduroy and the family travelled by stage coach on the Burbank stage line. His wife brought some of their possessions along, among other things "city clothes" of fine silks and satins. The ladies of the family made linen bags out of bed sheets and put the clothes in them suspending them from the walls of the small cabin they occupied on their arrival in Alexandria. Their first home in Alexandria was a log cabin, built by the Kincaid brothers, earliest settlers in Alexandria. Charles Cook and his wife came from a distinguished and wealthy line of forbearers and were not accustomed to the rigours of life. Mrs. Cook went ahead with pioneer tasks without complaining but Charles Cook could not get accustomed to the bare life they led.. Except for remittances from London, they had little money, although game and fish abounded. Charles Cook homesteaded land and took out naturalization papers.

Mrs. Cook was Caroline Amelia Franklin before her marriage. Her father was a cousin of Benjamin Franklin. Her father, Robert Franklin, was one of Queen Victoria's personal bodyguards, a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery. Her mother was Lady Alderton, daughter of Sir Charles Alderton, London, England. At the time of the family's emigration to Alexandria the children of the family were: Charles Cook, Jr., Dr. Henry Cook, later a resident of Philadelphia; Caroline Cook, Fanny Cook, mother of Miss Maude Mary Van Dyke of Alexandria; Louisa Cook and Arthur Cook, who

remained with relatives in St. Catherine, Ontario.

Charles Cook, Jr., an artist whose works were hung in the Royal Academy at London, later in life on his return to England, drew sketches for his children showing the cabin he had lived in, oxen, Indians, a stage coach, zig-zag fences, settlers, horses, and a Red River ox cart. One large sketch in water color depicts the life very realistically. He also drew sketches of the first schoolhouse and the log stockade erected in 1862.

The Cook family stayed in Alexandria for several years, then went back to London, to re-engage in the fur business. Mr. Charles Cook remained in London the rest of his life. The only children to go back with him were Louisa and Charles Cook, Jr. Mrs. Cook returned to Philadelphia and Toronto after the death of her husband. She died and was buried at St. Catherine, Ontario. She was the first white woman to come to Alexandria and also made the first flag used in a Fourth of July celebration in Alexandria. The flag was made from a white silk evening dress brought from England and the red stripes were made from red flannel from the trading store. Mr. Cook kept the first postoffice in Alexandria. A table in the cabin contained the mail which was brought by a mailman on foot from Fort Abercrombie. Later the mailman, a Mr. Evans, was recorded to posterity by having the town Evansville named after him. He was shot and killed by Indians while on his mail route.



Several lakes around Alexandria were named for members of the Cook family; Lake Henry, Lake Charles, Lake Louise, Cook Lake, Mina Lake (named for the life of Dr. Henry Cook).

In 1862, James Henry Van Dyke married one of the daughters of Charles and Caroline Amelia Cook, Fanny Cook. James Henry Van Dyke was born in Albany, New York, on May 20, 1836, and died in Alexandria in July 1891. He was a cousin to Henry Van Dyke, well known writer. Mr. Van Dyke came to St. Cloud in 1855, and in 1858 moved to Alexandria. He built a log cabin and general store and began business in 1858. Mrs. Van Dyke was married in a white muslin dress made in Paris.

In August, 1862, Governor Ramsey sent ammunition in care of Mr. Van Dyke, to be used in defense against the Indians. A stockade was erected by a Wisconsin regiment of soldiers in 1862, and Mr. Van Dyke and his wife moved into the stockade to live, tearing down his log house and erecting a new one inside the stockade. Different regiments of Wisconsin soldiers occupied the stockade during the Civil War. Mrs. Van Dyke was a kindly nurse to the soldiers and was called "Florence Nightingale" by them. She brought them food and dainties, and was much beloved by them. She was for sometime the only white woman in the stockade. At the time of her marriage the soldiers prepared a wedding banquet in their mess room and she was married with a military wedding service by Chaplain Brown, the chaplain of the regiment, then occupying the stockade. A dying soldier gave her his last letter from home

containing bits of cloth from dresses his mother was making and containing a tracery of his baby brother's hand carefully traced on paper. He also gave her a new testament and Union Hymn book published about 1862. The soldier is buried in Kincaid cemetery. His name was Hazelton.

Life in the stockade was very busy. The soldiers and officers brought their wives, and social times were many. All danced to the military music of the fife and drum, and quadrilles were popular. There was no Indian trouble of importance. One man, whose name is not unknown, was shot and killed by Indians.

After the Civil War in 1861-65, the stockade was torn down. Mr. J. H. Van Dyke took on the duties of postmaster and general store proprietor. From 1866 to 1874 he was in charge of the receivership of the land office. In 1866, Mr. Van Dyke resigned from the Post Office. He was appointed on the first Board of Commissioners in 1858. The Indian outbreak prevented him from service as a commissioner, and again in 1866 he took up his duties. He was Douglas County's second treasurer. He served also in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He served a second time as postmaster and was in service at the time of his death in 1891. He was succeeded in the office by his wife, who also served several terms as postmistress. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Van Dyke are: Charles Van Dyke, deceased; William, now resident of Miami, Arizona; Maud Mary,

resident of Alexandria, Minnesota, Agnes Caroline Van Dyke Jorstad, resident of Tacoma, Washington and James Henry Van Dyke, deceased.

Charles Van Dyke was the first white child born in the stockade during the Civil War and his brother James Henry Van Dyke was the first child born after the Civil War, in Alexandria, outside the stockade.

At the time of the Civil War, and the assassination of Lincoln, orders were given to drape the flag in black and order black arm bands to be worn by all the soldiers. Mrs. Van Dyke ripped the lining of a dress belonging to her mother and draped the flag and the sentries' arms in black arm bands.

During the grasshopper plague in the 70's, Mr. J. H. Van Dyke was a sympathetic and charitable aid to the farmers in his capacity of land office administrator. After he had retired from the land office Mr. Van Dyke established the first drug store in Alexandria, in partnership with an early physician residing in Alexandria, Dr. Godfrey Vivian. The drug store covered this site of the present drug store, the Lewis Drug Store, Alexandria.

Mrs. Fanny Van Dyke was one of the founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Alexandria. She died October 26, 1928, at Tacoma, Washington, and was buried in the Kincaid Cemetery, Alexandria. She once saved the lives of the Darling family for whom Lake Darling is named by running three miles



to the stockade for help from the soldiers in fighting  
the prairie fire raging toward the Darling farm property.

Katherine Heney  
August 4, 1936

OLD BUSINESS FIRM

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

POWERS MERCANTILE COMPANY.

Powers Mercantile Store, one of eight units of Associated Dry Goods Corporations, was founded in 1881, by M. D. Ingram, who purchased the stock of N. B. Harwood and Company, wholesalers. The store was located at 213-215 Nicollet Avenue, at that time the center of the shopping district. In 1882, S. E. Olsen became the partner of D. Ingram and the business was conducted under the name of Ingram, Olsen Company until 1887, when Mr. Ingram died.

After the death of Mr. Ingram the business was continued under the name of S. E. Olsen and Company. On Saturday, September 23, 1893, the new "Big Store" was opened to the public. This store building, now known as the "Main Building", covered the quarter block on Marquette and Fifth Street. In 1900, the arcade was an elaborate entrance-way to the "Big Store", brilliantly illuminated and decorated with flags from all nations.

The H. B. Claflin interests in New York took over the store in 1901, at which time A. J. Powers, president of Powers Dry Goods Company, Saint Paul, was made president. His son, Fred E. Powers, was vice-president and active manager. In December, 1901, the newspaper ads bore the heading: Powers Mercantile Company, S. E. Olsen and Company.

On Monday, December 11, 1906, the new building on the corner of Nicollet and Fifth was opened to the public. Temp-

orary fixtures were placed on main floor for sale of Christmas merchandise.

In 1914, H. B. Claflin collapsed and Associated Dry Goods Corporation secured control of this store. Mr. Powers resigned in 1915. Until 1916, the store was managed by George E. Merrifield and then R. B. Gage was president until 1925. In January, 1926, George F. Williams of the Fair Store in Chicago was named president and is still in charge.

References: Mr. Thompson, employee of the firm since 1882, and now the credit manager.

Mr. Jones, head of the Mercantile Control.



*Maude*  
[Van Dyke, Maude, Mary]  
Account of Family history of Miss ~~May~~ <sup>Maude</sup> Van Dyke, Alexandria  
*MARY*

1 My grandfather, Charles Cook, was a London resident. He was a member of the Hudson Bay Fur company and had a warehouse and fur establishment at Regent and Argyle Street, London. The building was apparently built in 1823. The upper part of the building was a private dwelling, and my grandfather lived there with his wife and children. Charles Dickens was his personal friend, and ~~hank~~ his workmen made Dickens a fur coat which is mentioned in "Martin Chuzzlewit" and "American Papers". Mr grandfather recalled Dickens as a gentle kindly man, very fond of small children, animals and birds.

In the year of the Centennial held in New York, and the same year that Jenny Lind sang under the management of P.T. Barnum, my grandfather came to New York and set up a fur establishment on Broadway. Not much later he moved to St. Paul and Toronto. A former workman in his London shop named Albrecht started a fur establishment in Saint Paul and ~~in~~ the firm is still in business. in Saint Paul.

3 In 1858 Charles Cook came with his family to Alexandria, a territorial pioneer, there was not yet a state of Minnesota. The roads were "corduroy" and the family travelled by stage coach on the Burbank stage line. His wife brought some of their possessions, among other things "city clothes", of fine silks and satins. The ladies of the family made linen bags out of the linen sheets they had brought, and put the clothes in them, suspending them from the walls of the small log cabin they occupied on their arrival in Alexandria. Their first home in Alexandria was a log cabin, built by the Kincaid brothers, early settlers in Alexandria. Charles Cook and his wife came of a distinguished line, and were not at all accustomed to any rigours of life. Mrs. Cook went ahead with pioneer tasks without complaining, but Charles Cook could not get accustomed to the bare life they led. Except for remittances from England they had little money, although game and fish abounded.

Mrs. Cook was Caroline Franklin before her marriage, her father was a cousin of Benjamin Franklin. Her father, Robert Franklin, was one of Queen Victoria's personal bodyguard, a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery. Her mother was Lady Alderton, daughter of Sir Charles Alderton, London. At the time of emigration to Alexandria the children of the family were: Charles Cook, Jr. Dr. Henry Cook, later resident of Philadelphia, Caroline Cook, Fanny Cook, mother of Miss Maude Cook of Alexandria. A son, Arthur Cook remained with Franklin relatives in St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. Louisa Cook also accompanied her parents to Alexandria. A traveler's account in Harpers, Volume 21, 1860, tells of stopping at the Cook cabin, and being surprised at finding educated and cultured people in such wilderness.

Charles Cook Jr, an artist whose works were hung in the Royal Academy at London, later in life, on his return to England, drew sketches for his children, showing the cabin he had lived in, oxen, Indians, a stage coach, zig-zag fences, settlers and horses of scenes at his father's cabin in Alexandria. One large sketch in water color, depicts the life very realistically. He drew also, sketches of the first schoolhouse, and the log stockade erected in 1862.

5 The Cook family stayed in Alexandria for several years, then went back to London, to re engage in the fur business. Mr. Charles Cook remained in London the rest of his life. The only children to go back with him were Louisa and Charles Cook Jr. Mrs. Cook returned with him, but several years after his death she returned to Philadelphia, and later to Toronto, where she died and was buried at St. Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. She was the first white woman to come to Alexandria. She also made the first American flag used in a Fourth of July Celebration in Alexandria. The flag's white stripes were made from a white silk evening gown brought from England, blue denim made the center, and red flannel the red stripes.

Mr. Cook kept the first postoffice in Alexandria, a table in the cabin contained the mail, which was brought on foot by the mailman, Evans, from Fort Abercrombie. Later Evansville, Minn was named for this mailman, shot by Indians while on his mail route.

2 Mr. Cook was born in Kent, and educated at Oxford.

The log cabin site is on the present Baumbach farm, owned by Senator F. Baumbach.

6 Several lakes around Alexandria are named for members of the Cook family: Lake Henry, Lake Charles, named for Charles Cook, Lake Louise, named for Louisa Cook, Cook Lake named for the family, Mina Lake, named for wife of Dr. Henry Cook

4 Charles Cook homesteaded the land the cabin occupied and took out naturalization papers.

7 In 1862, James Henry Van Dyke, married one of the daughter of Charles ~~and~~ and Caroline Cook; Fanny Cook, one of the children who remained in America when their parents returned to London. James Henry Van Dyke was born in Albany, New York, on May 20, 1836, and died in Alexandria July, 1891. He was a cousin to Henry Van Dyke, well known writer. Mr. Van Dyke came to St. Cloud in 1855, and in 1858 moved to Alexandria. He built a log cabin general store, and began business in 1858.

9 In August, 1862 Governor Ramsey sent Ammunition in care of Mr. Van Dyke, to be used in defense against Indians. A stockade was erected by a Wisconsin regiment of soldiers, in 1862, and Mr. Van Dyke moved into the stockade to live, tearing down his log store and erecting a new one inside the stockade, in addition to his house, built inside the stockade. Different regiments of Wisconsin soldiers occupied the stockade during the Civil War. Mrs. Van Dyke was a kind nurse to the sick soldiers, and was called "Florence Nightingale" by them. She brought them food and dainties, and was much beloved. She was for some time the only white woman in the stockade. At the time of ~~her~~ her wedding the soldiers prepared a wedding banquet in their mess room and she was married with a military wedding service, by Chaplain Brown. A dying soldier gave her his last letter from home, containing bits of cloth from dress his mother was making, and containing a tracery of his baby brother's hand, carefully traced on paper. He also gave her a New Testament and a Union Hymn Book, published about 1862. The soldier is buried in Kinraid Cemetery. His name was



3-

Hazelton.

Life in the stockade was very busy. The soldiers and officers brought their wives, and social times were many. All danced to the military music of the fife and drum, and quadrilles were popular. There was no indian trouble of importance, one man whose name is now unknown, was shot and killed by Indians.

After the Civil War, 1861-1865 the stockade was torn down. Mr. J.H. Van Dyke took on the duties of postmaster and general store proprietor. From 1866 to 1874 he was in charge of receivership of the land office. In 1866 Mr. Van Dyke resigned from the Post office. He was appointed on the First Board of Commissioners in 1858. The Indian Outbreak prevented him from service as a Commissioner, and again in 1866 he took up his duties. He was Douglas County's second treasurer. He served also in the House of Representatives. He served again as Postmaster, and was in service at the time of his death, 1891. He was succeeded by his wife, in the office, and she also served several terms as postmistress. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Van Dyke are: Charles Van Dyke, deceased, William Van Dyke, residing at Miami, Arizona, Maud May Van Dyke, residing at Alexandria, Minnesota, Agnes, *just built* 1869, Caroline Van Dyke Jorstad, residing at Tacoma, Washington.

At the time of the assassination of Lincoln, the soldiers stationed at the stockade were ordered to drape the flag in black, and wear arm bands of black. Mrs. Van Dyke ripped the lining of a skirt and herself draped the flag and tied arm bands on the arms of the soldiers.

Charles Van Dyke was the first white child born in the stockade during the Civil War, and the first white child born in Alexandria. His brother, James Henry, was the first white child born after the Civil War, in Alexandria.

During the grasshopper plague in the 1870's Mr. J.H. Van Dyke was a sympathetic and charitable aid to the farmers, in his capacity as land office administrator. After he retired from the land office, Mr. Van Dyke established the first drug store, with an early physician residing in Alexandria, Dr. Godfrey Vivian. The drug store covered the site of the present Lewis Drug Store, Alexandria.

8 Mrs. Van Dyke was married in a white muslin dress, made in Paris. She was one of the founder of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Alexandria. She died Oct. 26, 1928, at Tacoma, Washington, and was buried in the Kincaid Cemetery, Alexandria. She once saved the lives and property of the Darling family for whom Lake Darling is named, by running three miles to the stockade for help from the soldiers in fighting the prairie fire, raging toward the Darling property.



Account from Harper's magazine 1860

Franklin Bible 1813 Robert Franklin, great grandfather. father

Bible brought from England v- Name "Robert Franklin" printed across bottom of book.

Grandmother went to South Africa established at Durban, Cape Colony. Crosses the Atlantic to America 13 times. Came to America on Wedding trip.

Oil painting of Robert Franklin painted by English artist.

Made in Victorian era, Court dress.

Grandfather Cook's mother Charles Cook

Charles Cook Miniature

Sir Charles Alderton, grandmother Cook's father 300 years in ebony frame.

Copy of Louisa Franklin, taken from Gainsborough's painting of her.

Original painting hangs in Royal Academy at London. Charles Cook, Jr.

Indian Painting, Sioux.

Steeplechase, 10 years.

St. Peter healing the sick. Reposee work. Made by Johnson, 1821. Silver over copper, 6" by 12".

Robert Franklin photograph taken from a painting.

Four Duncan Phyfe chairs bought by Fanny Cook.

Photograph of grandmother Cook's house in South Africa.

Music box, over 100 years old. Bought in Paris, Charles Cook bought it.

Mantilla, beaded, owned by Carolyn Amelia Cook, bought in Paris; black lace and net. In good condition. About 90 years old.

Silver buckle from shoe of Robert Franklin. Silver button from C. uniform

Work box, Carolyn Amelia Cook, London, Rosewood, 12" by 18"

Cook Crest and Franklin Crest, in silver. Crest of Knight in English Court. Used to seal letters by Robert Franklin.

Sheffield tankard. Came from Cook family in London.

John Rogers Group, of Portia Scene, made in 1880 New York. Whole group about 2 feet high and 20 inches wide.

In memory of Charles Cook born 1806 died 1883.

Memorial pin of pearls onyx. Charles Cook Jr. made in London.

Court button from uniform of Robert Cook

Diamond ear drop Carolyn Cook

Ben Franklin, John Franklin and Robert Franklin all cousins.

Diamond ring, owned by Carolyn Cook, in antique design of clover, Owned by Fanny Cook. then Maud Mary Cook.

Lace cap owned by wife of Robert Franklin.

Yellow brocade with raised white flowers from evening cloak. embossed white velvet.

Red satin lining with cloak. Over 100 years old.

Seed pearls, strung on gold wire, from evening dress worn by Carolyn Amelia Franklin. In London.

Coat of arms of England, Cook family, London.

Screen of English scenes made in London, made by Carolyn Amelia after her return from America and Alexandria.

First table made in Alexandria made by Kindred Brothers, 1858 made for grandmother.

Chair made by soldiers. in stockade. liyo. 1862

Cupboard, made by Kindred Brothers for grandmother QTB 1858

Sword from Sibley's expedition, carried by Dr. Henry Cook and sword belt. At time of Indian war in 1862.

Knapsack, Hatches Battalion, at stockade. Infantry Co. K.

Cartidge bag, owned by Capt. J.C. Sawbridge, of the stockade. Lawyer, resided in Alexandria. later went to Fergus falls.

Chair used in land office, by Van Dyke.

Script used during Civil War. Owned by father.

Royal Dalton piece of china, shows picture of church at Cyroden England attended by grandmother. Boarding school.

Two pitchers of Majolica, and plate. Owned by Fanny Cook.

Albert G. Small

Mr. Small and Mr. Uppam from Historical Society.

House built in liyo 1869.

Sampler worked by C.A. Cook in 1832 brought to Alex in 1858.

July 18, 1926 Alexandria Citizen News.

Spanish Capura Lace.



Relics from Home of Miss Maud Van Dyke

Pencil Sketch - First School House in Alexandria  
By Charles Cook, Jr. for his children, after his return to  
London. Chas. Cook had paintings hung in the Royal Academy  
in London.

The sketch shows the small log schoolhouse, <sup>with</sup> fence behind it and  
trees in the distance. Made about 1858, 6 in. by 5 in.  
In condition, mounted on cardboard. <sup>1858</sup> 860's

Pencil Sketch- Alexandria in 1858. ~~shows~~. By Charles Cook  
Jr., for his children. Made after his return to London. Cook has  
paintings hung in the royal academy in London.

Scene shows cabin of Charles cook, large log cabin, covered wagon  
and oxen, settlers eating and cooking by a fire in the open,  
two settlers, one chopping wood, the other carrying water, Man  
driving oxen, small log cabin. 5 in by 6 in.  
In good condition.

Water

Water colour sketch of Alexandria Made about 1860<sup>p</sup>, by Charles  
Cook, on his return to England for his children.

Remarkable life like scene, showing original cabin of Cook family,  
large cabin, Indian teepee and indian life, red river oxen and  
carts, stage coach, horses and stage coach passengers.

Water Colour made by Chas. Cook at age of ten. Scene of  
at race track, very animated. 4in by 8 in framed. Hung in home  
of Miss Maud May Van Dyck, Alexandria, great niece (?)

Painting of Indian girl by Chas Cook Water colour 8in by 12in.  
Hung in home of Miss Maud May Van Dyck

Pencil sketch of stockade by Chas Cook Jr. Made in 1862.  
Shows arrangement of buildings, soldiers on duty. 24in by 8 in. mounted  
on cardboard.

Photograph of Caroline Amelia Franklin size about three inches

Photograph of Charles Cook Same size as above.

Tintypes of Charles and Wm. Cook

Fanny cook as young girl tintype

Sir Charles Alderton - picture 5 in by 8 in painted on parchment.  
great great grandfather of Maud May Van Dyck/