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LAWS OF MINNESOTA RELATING TO ITASCA COUNTY. - 1

General Laws of Minnesota for 1887 - Chapter 264.

(H. F. No. 213)

An Act to detach the unorganized County of Itasca from the County of Crow Wing for all purposes and attach the same to the County of Aitkin for Record, Taxation and Judicial Purposes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota;

Section 1. That the County of Itasca, State of Minnesota, be and the same is hereby detached from the County of Crow Wing for all and every purpose whatsoever.

Section 2. That the said Itasca County is hereby attached to the County of Aitkin for record, and for judicial purposes and for the levy and collection of state, school and other taxes as hereafter provided.

Section 3. That all the public records, books and stationery of said Itasca County, and the money safes and office furniture, (if any) of said county shall be forthwith transferred to and kept in possession and custody of said Aitkin county, for the use and benefit; and as the property of said Itasca county; and a full settlement shall be made by and between the officers of Crow Wing county and the corresponding officers of Aitkin county, as far as relates to the affairs of said Itasca county, and all books, funds and appurtenances turned over to the officers of Aitkin county, as is now regulated by law between incumbents and their successors in county affairs, and the records of said Itasca county shall be kept separate and apart from the records of said Aitkin county, and in the books now owned by or to be procured for, the use of said County of Itasca.

Section 4. That there shall be an accurate account kept by the county of Aitkin of all the expense incurred from holding the District Court for such terms of court which shall be held in said county, and the same shall be paid proportionately by said counties of Aitkin and Itasca.

Said apportionment shall be based on the valuation of the respective counties each year, as fixed by the state board of equalization for the preceding year; and the said county of Itasca shall pay such amounts apportioned by the auditor of Aitkin county into the treasury of said Aitkin county in full settlement and in lieu of all such court fees, charges and expense.

Section 5. That the proper officers of Aitkin County shall proceed to collect all taxes now levied in, for or against said Itasca County, and shall, in each succeeding year, at the time and in the manner prescribed by law, levy and collect such state revenue and general school tax that may be directed by the auditor of the state.

Section 6. That the commissioners of said Aitkin county shall, on the taxable property of the said Itasca county, levy an additional tax for court expenses as before provided, and for an amount adequate to defray the legal expenses for making assessments, and for the compensation and expenses of officials of Aitkin county for the performance of their several and respective duties devolved upon them under the provisions of this act as hereafter provided.

Provided: that such court expenses, compensation of county officials of Aitkin county, and all other expenses pertaining thereto, except as provided in section five (5) of this act, shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum of ten (10) mills per acre of land subject to taxation in the said Itasca County.

LAWS OF MINNESOTA RELATING TO ITASCA COUNTY. - 2.

Section 7. That it shall be the duty of all the officers of said Aitkin County, and they hereby have all the authority and full jurisdiction granted to them to do and perform all the duties of their respective offices or in any wise appertaining thereto, for and in behalf of said Itasca county, under the provisions of this act, in the same manner and with the same legal effect that they would do or be required to do had they been regularly chosen or elected as such officers of Itasca county, and had fully qualified and were acting as such officers of said Itasca county alone.

Provided: that the compensation to be paid to the officials of Aitkin county for services rendered to said Itasca county under the provisions of this act shall not be governed by the laws fixing the compensation of officers of organized counties, but the same shall be fixed by the commissioners of Aitkin county, and shall in no case exceed the amount that now is, or may hereafter be, fixed by law for like services in organized counties of same valuation.

Section 8. That the commissioners of Aitkin county are hereby empowered and authorized to take possession of all the property of said Itasca county, and to remove the same to the county seat of Aitkin county without delay, and retain the same in custody as provided by section three (3) of this act.

Section 9. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Section 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 10th, 1887.

SHAW
Itaska

Special Laws of Minnesota for 1889. Chapter 384.

(H.F. No. 576.)

An Act to Give Justices of the Peace in Aitkin County Jurisdiction over the County of Itaska.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota;

Section 1. The justices of the peace of Aitkin county are hereby given the same jurisdiction, in all civil or criminal matters, over the county of Itaska that they now or may hereafter have in Aitkin county, and all writs and processes issued by them may be served by the proper officers of Aitkin county in said Itaska county, with the same force and effect, and said justices shall acquire the same jurisdiction over the person and subject matter mentioned in said writs and processes as though the place of service was in Aitkin county.

Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 15, 1889.

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EARLY SURVEYS ON BOWSTRING AND SWAN RIVER - 1

From "The Pioneer Woodsman * * * *" by George Warren.

pp 77, Chap. XIII.

I "In the summer of 1874, I went to the head waters of the Big Fork River with a party of hardy frontiersmen, in search of a section of country which was as yet unsurveyed by the United States government, and which should contain a valuable body of pine timber. Having found such a tract of land, we made arrangements through the surveyor-general's office, then located in St. Paul, to have the land surveyed. The contract for the survey was let by the United States government to Mr. Fendall G. Winston of Minneapolis.

The logging operations on the Mississippi river in Minnesota at this period extended from a short distance above Princeton on the Rum River, one of the tributaries of the Mississippi River, to a little above Grand Rapids. To reach Grand Rapids from Minneapolis, the traveled route was by way of the St. Paul and Duluth railroad to Northern Pacific Junction, thence, over the Northern Pacific Railroad, west to Aitkin. From this point the steamboat Pokegama plied the Mississippi to Grand Rapids, the head of navigation at that time. For many years this steamboat was owned and operated by Captain Houghton, almost wholly in the interest of the lumber trade. Later, Captain Fred W. Bonnes became its owner. Subsequently the old Pokegama burned, when Captain Bonnes built a new boat, using the machinery of the Pokegama, and naming it Aitkin City. At a still later period he built the larger steamer, Andy Gibson.

In those days the lumberjack was a very interesting type of man. Men from Maine and New Brunswick were numerous. Scotchmen, Irish-Americans, and French-Canadians constituted a considerable portion of all the labor that went to the logging camps of Minnesota. As early as the month of July, they began their exodus from Minneapolis to the woods for the purpose of building new camps, cutting the wild grass that grew along the natural meadows, and making it into hay for the winter's use for oxen and horses. Some of these men worked at the saw-mills in summer, but there was not employment for all at this work, and many spent their time in idleness and not infrequently in drunken carousal. On

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EARLY SURVEYS OF BOWSTRING AND SWAN RIVER - 2

leaving the city for the logging camps, they were pretty sure to start out, each with one or two bottles of whiskey stored away in his tussock, which was ordinarily a two-bushel, seamless sack, with a piece of small rope tied from one of its lower corners to the upper end of the sack. In this were placed all of the lumber-jack's belongings, except what were carried in his pockets, including one or two additional bottles of whiskey. Not all of the lumberjacks drank whiskey, but this was the habit of very many of them. By the time the train had arrived at Northern Pacific Junction, where a change of cars was made, and where the arrival of the Northern Pacific train from Duluth, west bound, was awaited, many of our lumber-jacks were well under the influence of John Barleycorn. Disputes would frequently arise while waiting for the train. These would be settled by fist fights between the disputants, their comrades standing about to see that each man had fair play.

On one of our trips to the pine forests north of Grand Rapids, we arrived at Aitkin on a train loaded with this class of men as well as their bosses, and proprietors of the lumber camps. Aitkin at that time was not much more than a railroad station for the transfer of the lumbermen and merchandise to the steamboat. A few men had preempted lands from the government and had made their homes where now is the city of Aitkin. The late Warren Potter was one of them. He kept a large store which was well stocked with lumberman's supplies, and which was the rendezvous for the lumbermen. His preemption claim was only a short distance in the woods from his store. He had been East to buy goods and had returned by train that day. He found that his preemption claim had been "jumped" by one, Nat Tibbetts, whom he found occupying the Potter cabin. An altercation took place between the two men, resulting in Tibbetts blacking Potter's eye. The only representative of the law was a justice of the peace, a man whose name was Williams. Before him, Potter swore out a warrant for the arrest of Tibbetts, charging Tibbetts with assault with intent to do bodily harm. Potter asked me to act as his attorney to prosecute his case. This honor was politely declined, and I assured him that he would find a better man for the occasion in the person of S. S. Brown, the well

known log jobber, who was in town.

Mr. Brown having consented to act in the interest of Mr. Potter, and Mr. Tibbetts having secured some other layman to defend his case, all parties repaired, as I remember, to an unoccupied building which was temporarily used as a court of justice. As almost the entire community that evening was a floating population of lumbermen of various sorts, waiting for an opportunity to start up river on the steamboat the following day, it will readily be seen by the reader that this occasion was one of unusual interest and bade fair to furnish an interesting entertainment for a part of the long evening.

Tibbetts demanded a jury trial. The jury was chosen, and the prosecution opened the case by putting on the stand a witness who had seen the encounter, and who proved to be a good witness for Mr. Potter. The case proceeded until the evidence was nearly all in. At this juncture, in the back end of the improvised court room, a tall lumberjack who was leaning against the wall, and who was considerably the worse for whiskey, cried out, "Your honor! Your honor! I object to these proceedings" Everything was still for a moment, and all eyes turned toward the half drunk lumberjack. Justice Williams attempted to proceed, when the lumberjack repeated his calls and demanded to be heard. Everyone present knew that any attempt on the part of the constable to quiet this man would have resulted in starting a general fight, where there were so many who were under the influence of liquor. Some one, therefore, said to the justice. "Your honor, you had better hear the Man's objections". Justice Williams then said, "You may state your objections, sir." The lumberjack replied, "I object, your honor, because that jury has not been sworn." This was true. The jury was then sworn, and the trial of the case was begun anew. The witnesses having again given their evidence under oath, the case was soon argued by the improvised lawyers. The justice gave a short charge to the jury, and, without leaving their seats, and while the spectators waited, they notified the justice that they had agreed upon a verdict of guilty. The justice fined Mr. Tibbetts one dollar, and this frontier court of justice adjourned.

EARLY SURVEY OF BOWSTRING AND SWAN RIVER-4

The question of the ownership of the claim was not before the court. My recollection, however, concerning it, is that Mr. Potter ever after had peaceful possession of the land.

The ride up the Mississippi to Grand Rapids on the steamer Pokegama, which tied up each night, occupied two days and a half. The distance was one hundred and ninety five miles. The steamer was crowded, and men slept everywhere on the deck, on their blankets or without them, as best fitted their condition. Whiskey and cards were plentiful. The table was well supplied with good things to eat. Grand Rapids at that time consisted of a steamboat landing, a warehouse, and a ranch or stopping place kept by Low Seavey, whose wife was a half-breed. These were on the left bank of the river just below the falls or rapids. On the opposite side of the river was a small store, a new enterprise, and owned by a man whose name was Knox.

I met Mr. Winston and his assistant surveyors at Grand Rapids about the middle of August. There were no roads leading into the country that we were to survey, and, as our work would extend nearly through the winter, it was necessary to get our supplies in sufficient quantity to last for our entire campaign, and take them near to our work. This was accomplished by taking them in canoes and boats of various sorts. Our first water route took us up the Mississippi River, into Lake Winnibigoshish, and from that lake on its northeasterly shore, we ~~went~~ went into Cut-Foot Sioux, or Keeskeesdaypon Lake. From this point we were obliged to make a four mile portage into the Big Fork River, crossing the Winnibigoshish Indian Reservation. From an Indian encampment on this reservation, at the southwest shore of Bow String Lake, we hired some Indians to help pack our supplies across the four mile portage. Before half of our supplies had been carried across the portage, the Indian chief sent word to us by one of his braves, that he wished to see us in council and forbade our moving any more of our supplies until we had counseled with him. Although the surveyors were the agents of the United States government, for the sake of harmony, it was thought best to ascertain at once what was uppermost in the chief's mind.

That evening, a conference was held in the wigwam of the chief. First, the chief filled full of tobacco, a large, very long stemmed pipe, and, having lighted it with a live coal from the fire, took the first whiff of smoke; then immediately passed it to the nearest one of our delegates to his right, and thus the pipe went round, until it came back to the chief, before anything had been said. The chief then began a long recital, telling us that the great father would protect them in their rights to the exclusive use of these lands. The chief said that he was averse neither to the white man using the trail of his people nor to his using the waters of the rivers or lakes within the boundaries of the reservation, but, if he did so, he must pay tribute. In answer to his speech, the chief surveyor of our party, Fendall G. Winston, replied that he and his men had been sent to survey the lands that belonged to the great father; and, that in order to reach those lands, it was necessary that his people should cross the reservation which the great father had granted to his tribe; nevertheless, that they felt friendly to the Indians; that if they were treated kindly by himself and his tribesmen, they should have an opportunity to give them considerable work for many days, while they were getting their supplies across his country to that of the great father, where they were going to work during the fall and winter; and that they would also make him a present of a sack of flour, some pork, some tea, and some tobacco. He was told, too, that this was not necessary for the great father's men to do, but that they were willing to do it, provided that this should end all claims of every nature of the chief, against any and all of the great father's white men, whom he had sent into that country to do his work. This having been sealed with the chief's emphatic "Ugh," he again lighted the pipe, took the first whiff of smoke, and passed it around. Each, in token of friendship, did as the chief had already done. This ended the conference, and we were not again questioned as to our rights to pass over this long portage trail, which we continued to use until our supplies were all in.

As nearly as I can now recall, our force was made up of the following men; Fendall G. Winston, in whose name the contract for the survey was issued; Philip B. Winston, brother of Fendall G. Winston; Hyde, a young engineer from the University

of Minnesota; Brown, civil engineer from Boston; Coe, from the Troy Polytechnic School of Engineering; Charlie, a half-breed Indian; Franklin, the cook; Jim Flemming, Frank Hoyte, Charlie Berg, Tom Jenkins, George Fenimore, Tom Laughlin, Joe Lyon, Will Brackett, Miller, and myself.

Flemming, poor fellow, was suffering with dysentery when he started on the trip. On reaching Grand Rapids, he was no better, and it was thought best not to take him along to the frontier, so he was allowed to go home. Miller was not of a peace loving disposition, and, having shown this characteristic early, was also allowed to leave the party. It was best that all weaklings and quarrelsome ones should be left behind, because it was easily foreseen that when winter closed in upon the band of frontiersmen, it would be difficult to reach the outer world, and it would be unpleasant to have any in the party that were not, in some sense, companionable.

Considerable time was consumed in getting all of our supplies to headquarters camp, which consisted of a log cabin. The first misfortune that befell any one of our party came to Frank Hoyt, who one day cut an ugly gash in the calf of his leg with a glancing blow of the ax. The cut required stitching, but there was no surgeon in the party. Will Brackett, the youngest of the party, a brother of George A. Brackett, and a student from the university, volunteered to sew up the wound. This he did with an ordinary needle and a piece of white thread. The patient submitted with fortitude creditable to an Indian. Some plastic salve was put on a cloth and placed over the wound, which resulted in its healing too rapidly. Proud flesh appeared, and then the wisdom of the party was called into requisition, to learn what thing or things available could be applied to destroy it. Goose quill scrapings were suggested, there being a few quills in the possession of the party. Brackett, however, suggested the use of some of the cook's baking powder, because, he argued, there was sufficient alum in it to remove the proud flesh from the wound. "Dr." Brackett was considered authority, and his prescription proved effectual. Hoyt was left to guard the provision camp against possible visits from the Indians, or from bears, which sometimes were known to break in and to carry away provisions.

It is never necessary for surveyors whose work is in the timber, nor for timber hunters, to carry tent poles, because these are easily chosen from among the small trees; yet nine of our party one time in October, with the rain falling fast and cold, found themselves, at the end of the four mile Cut-foot Sioux Portage, on a point of land where there were no poles. All of the timber of every description had been cut down and used by the Indians. The Indian chief and several of his family relations lived on this point. They had built the house of poles and cedar bark, in the shape of a rectangle. Its dimensions on the ground were about twelve by twenty feet; its walls rose to a height of about five feet; and it was covered by a hip roof.

Our party must either obtain shelter under this roof or must get into the canoes and paddle nearly two miles to find a place where it could pitch its tents. At this juncture the hospitality of the Indians was demonstrated. The chief sent out word that we should come into his dwelling and remain for the night. The proffer was gladly accepted. When we had all assembled, we found within, the chief and his squaw, his daughter and her husband, the hunter, his squaw and two daughters, besides our party of nine, making a total of seventeen human beings within this small enclosure. A small fire occupied a place on the ground at the center of the structure, an ample opening in the roof having been left for the escape of the smoke and live sparks. Indians can always teach their white brothers a lesson of economy in the use of fuel. They build only a small fire, around which, when inside their wigwams, they all gather with their usually naked feet to the fire. It is a physiological fact that when ones extremities are warm, one's bodily sufferings from cold are at their minimum. Our party boiled some rice and made a pail of coffee, without causing any especial inconvenience to our hosts, and, after having satisfied hunger and thirst, the usual camp fire smoke of pipes was indulged in, before planning for any sleep. Our party had been assigned a portion of the space around the open fire, and our blankets were brought in and spread upon the mats that lay upon the earth floor.

The additional presence of nine Indian dogs has not been previously mentioned. Before morning, however, they were found to be live factors, and should be counted

as part of the dwellers within the walls of this single room. They seemed to be nocturnal in habit, and to take an especial delight in crossing and recrossing our feet, or in trying to find especially cozy places between our feet and near to the fire, where they might curl down for their own especial comfort. It was not for us, however, to complain, inasmuch as the hospitality that had been extended was sincere; and it was to be remembered by us that it was in no way any advantage to the Indians to have taken us in for the night. Therefore, we were truly thankful that our copper colored friends had once more demonstrated their feelings of humanity toward their white brothers. They had been subjected to more or less inconvenience by our presence, but in no way did they make this fact manifest by their actions or by their words. The rain continued at intervals during the entire night, and it was with a feeling of real gratitude, as we lay upon the ground, and listened to it, that we thought of the kindly treatment we were receiving from these aborigines. In the morning we offered to pay them money for our accommodations, but this they declined. They did, however, accept some meat and some flour.

While we were crossing the lake, one day, in canoes loaded with supplies of various descriptions, an amusing, yet rather expensive, incident happened in connection with one of the canoes. Its occupants were George Fenimore, a Mainite Yankee, and Joe Lyon, a French-Canadian. Both were good canoe-men, but only Fenimore knew how to swim. They had become grouchy over some subject while crossing the lake, and, as they neared the opposite shore from which they had started, in some manner which I have never understood, the canoe was overturned. Little of its contents was permanently lost, except one box of new axes. The water was about eight feet deep under them. Each man grasped an end of the overturned canoe, and ~~the~~ clung to it. Then an argument began between the two disgruntled men, about getting to shore. Lyon wanted Fenimore to let go of the canoe and swim ashore; but this, the latter refused to do. Finally, after considerable loss of time, Joe Lyon, who was nearest to shore, turned his body about, with his face toward the shore, and letting go of the canoe, went to the bottom of the lake and floundered to gain the shore. He had only to go a short

distance before the water became sufficiently shallow for his head to appear, but he was winded, and thoroughly mad. I have always believed that Fenimore purposely overturned the canoe, but if so, he never admitted the fact.

The pine timber lying east of Bow String Lake, and included in the survey of 1874 and 1875, was all tributary to waters running north, into the Big Fork River, which empties into the Rainy River. Levels were run across from Bow String Lake into Cut-foot Sioux River, and considerable fall was found. The distance, nearly all the way, was over a marsh. It was shown that a dam could easily be thrown across from bank to bank of the river at the outlet of Bow String Lake, and by thus slightly raising the water in the lake, plus a little work of cleaning out portions of the distance across the marsh, from Bow String Lake to Cut-foot Sioux, the timber could be driven across and into the waters of the Mississippi River. All of this engineering was before the advent of logging railroads. However, before the timber was needed for the Minneapolis market, many logging railroads had been built in various localities in the northern woods, and their practical utility had been demonstrated. When the time came for cutting this timber, a logging railroad was constructed to reach it; and over its tracks, the timber was brought out, thus obviating the necessity of impounding the waters of Bow String Lake.

Chap. XIV, Warren's Pioneer Woodsman.

I have previously mentioned the presence of nine dogs at an indian camp, where members of our party spent a night. One of these animals is deserving of special mention, for the reason that he was a stranger among a strange people, and he was evidently so against his own choice. He had at one time been a fine, large mastiff. His history was never learned in full, but from an account of the animal, gained by questioning the indians who had in captivity, it was learned that the dog had belonged to some lumber camp. It often happens that the midday meal for most of the men in a large logging crew must be taken out on a sled, usually drawn by a single horse, for a distance of not infrequently three or four miles from the cook's camp. This is the work of the cookee; and, at the logging camp where the mastiff had belonged, the animal had been used instead of a horse, to pull the load of the midday meal out to the men at work. In what manner he had been left behind when the camp broke up in the spring, was not learned.

He was about the size of two or three ordinary indian dogs, and was correspondingly less sprightly in his movements. He was very poor when members of our party first saw him. Indian dogs never get enough to eat, and this poor fellow with his large frame had the appearance of not receiving any more for his portion of food than an average Indian dog, if as much. He looked as if he were hungry, and probably was, every day. The particular action that impressed itself upon every member of our party, was this animal's almost human desire for sympathy that he sought from this party of white men, when he and they first met at the Indian camp. He wagged his tail and passed from one member of our party to another, with an expression of unusual joy. He rubbed against us and almost begged to be caressed. Every man of our party pitied him and would gladly have sent him out to the white man's country, had it been at all practicable to have done so.

Later in the fall, I was camped for a single night, some three hundred yards distant from the Indian encampment, on the shore of a lake that I must cross the following morning. While I was preparing my evening meal, this mastiff made his appearance, wagging his tail, and wishing by his action to say, "I am glad to see you, and have come

to call on you." It is the custom of the land hunter, as well as other frontiersmen when paddling his canoe across a lake, to throw out a trolling line; and not infrequently in those northern lakes, a catch of several fish may thus be made. On that day, such had been my experience, and I had in my possession several fine wall eyed pike that I intended to take through to the main camp, which I should reach on the following day. I also had a small bag of cornmeal, which I sometimes used as a substitute for oatmeal, in cooking a porridge for my own use. While preparing my supper, I took the largest kettle filled it with water, and placed it over the fire. I then cut into small pieces a number of the fish, and put them into the kettle to boil. Later I added some corn meal and cooked all together. When it was sufficiently done, I removed one half the pail's contents and spread it on a large piece of birchbark to cool. When it had cooled sufficiently, I invited my welcome guest, the mastiff, to partake of the food. Every mouthful eaten was accompanied by a friendly wag of the animal's tail. The portion remaining in the pail I hung on a limb, high enough up in the tree to be out of reach. The dog remained about the camp, and when I lay down in my blankets for the night, he curled down at my feet and remained there until morning.

While I was preparing my own breakfast, I took the pail from the tree and placed it over a small fire, that I might give my guest a warm breakfast. I spread out on the same birch bark all that remained in the pail, and it was eaten to the last morsel by the grateful animal. Having placed all my belongings in my birch canoe, I pushed out ~~in~~ into the lake without the dog, who tried hard to follow, and, as the canoe went farther from the shore, the homesick animal commenced to whine at his loss of companionship. By every means possible to a dumb beast, this dog had expressed his dislike for his enforced environment and his longing to be back with the white man. I could not help but believe that the feelings expressed by this dog were akin to those of many a captive man or woman who had fallen into the hands of the aborigines.

Our frail birch canoes had been abandoned as cold weather approached, and we had settled down to the work of surveying. Sometimes, however, we came to lakes that must be crossed. This was accomplished by cutting some logs, and making rafts by tying them together with withes. Sometimes these

together with withes. Sometimes these rafts were found insufficiently buoyant to float above water all who got on them, so that when they were pushed along there were no visible signs of anything that the men were standing on. When on a raft, Hyde was always afraid of falling off, and would invariably sit down upon it. This subjected him to greater discomfort than other members, but as it was of his own choosing, no one raised any objection.

One day, several of the party had gone to the supply camp to bring back some provisions which the cook had asked for. Returning, not by any trail, but directly through the unbroken forest, we found ourselves in a wet tamarack and spruce swamp; and, although we believed we were not far from the camp where we had left the cook in the morning, we were not certain of its exact location. Mr. F. G. Winston said he thought he could reach it in a very short time, and suggested that we remain where we were. He started in what he believed to be the direction of the camp, saying that he would return in a little while. We waited until the shades of night began to fall; and yet he did not come. Preparations were then made to stay in the swamp all night. The ground was wet all around us, nor could we see far enough to discern any dry land. We commenced cutting down the smaller trees that were like poles, and with these poles, constructed a platform of sufficient dimensions to afford room for four men to lie down. Then another foundation of wet logs was made, on which a fire was kindled, and by the fire, we baked our bread and fried some bacon, which constituted our evening meal. A sack of flour was opened, a small place within it hollowed out, a little water poured in, and the flour mixed with the water until a dough was formed. Each man was told to provide himself with a chip large enough on which to lay the piece of dough, which was rolled out by hand, made flat, and then, having been placed in a nearly upright position against the chip in front of the fire, was baked on one side; then turned over and baked on the other. In the meantime, each man was told to provide himself with a forked stick, which he should cut with his jackknife, and on it to place his piece of bacon and cook it in front of the fire; thus each man became his own cook and prepared his own meal. There was no baking powder or other ingredient to leaven the loaf--not even a pinch of salt to flavor it. But the owner of

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each piece of dough was hungry, and by eating it immediately after it was baked and before it got cold, it was much better than going without any supper. The following morning, the party resumed its journey, and met Mr. Winston coming out to find it. He had found the cook's camp, but at so late an hour that it was not possible for him to return that night.

Chap. XV, pp 101

After leaving Grand Rapids about the middle of August, we saw very few white men for many months following. In October, on our survey, local attraction was so strong on part of our work, that it was necessary to use a solar compass. This emergency had not been anticipated; it, therefore, became necessary to go to Minneapolis to secure that special instrument. Phillip B. Winston, afterwards mayor of Minneapolis, and I started in a birch canoe, and in it, made the whole distance from our camp, on Bowstring Lake to Aitkin, Minnesota, on the Mississippi, the nearest railroad station. We were in Minneapolis but two days, when we returned, catching the steamer at Aitkin, and going up the Mississippi to Grand Rapids, the head of navigation for steamboats.

Captain John Martin of Minneapolis, the well known lumber-man and barter, wished to return with us for his final fishing trip in open waters, for that season. He fished successfully for a number of days, and, at the end of each day, personally prepared and cooked as fine a fish chowder as anyone would ever wish to eat. On the day of his departure, I took the Captain in my canoe, and landed him on the four-mile portage with an Indian escort who was to take him to Grand Rapids, whence he would return by steamer to Aitkin, a station on the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

I was left alone in my canoe and must return to camp, crossing the open water of Bow String Lake. On my arrival at the main lake, the wind had increased in velocity, and the whitecaps were breaking. I hired an Indian, known as "the hunter" to help me paddle across the lake and up a rapid on a river flowing into Bow String, up and over which it was not possible for one man to push his canoe alone.

The annual payment to the Indians by the United States government was to occur a few days subsequently, at Leech Lake, and the Indians were busy getting ready to leave, to attend the payment. The hunter's people were to start that day, and he seemed to realize when half way across the lake, that, owing to our slow progress, because of the heavy sea, he would be late in returning to his people at camp.

He said so, and wished to turn back, but I told him that he must take me above the rapid, which was my principal object in hiring him. After sitting stoically in the bow of the canoe for a few moments, he suddenly turned about, and, drawing his long knife, said in Chippewa, that he must go back. I drew my revolver and told him to get down in the canoe and paddle, and that if he did not, he would get shot. There was no further threat by the Indian, and we made as rapid progress as possible over the rapid, landing my canoe - his own having been trailed to the foot of the rapid. Both stepped ashore. Then he said in Chippewa, "Me bad Chippewa; white man alright"; and bidding me goodbye, hurried off to his canoe at the foot of the rapids.

Once more, during the fall of 1874, I had to reckon with this wily Indian, the hunter, as will soon appear in this narrative.

Perhaps the most convenient pack strap used by the woodsman when on an all day's tramp, is one that is commonly known as the Indian pack strap. It consists of a strap of leather about three inches wide and about three feet long, from each end of which, a tapering piece of leather, either sewed or buckled to it, extends finally to a narrow point no wider than a whiplash. Each of these added ~~narrow~~ narrow strips is from five to six feet in length, so that the whole strap is about fourteen feet long when straightened out. A blanket or a tent is folded into shape about four feet by six feet. This is laid on the ground, and the strap is folded double with a spread at the wide part, of about three feet, which is the length of the wide strap. The narrow ends are then drawn straight back over the blanket, across its narrow dimensions, leaving the wide straps, which in use becomes the head strap, at the outer edge of the blanket. Then the blanket is folded from each end over the narrow straps, the two ends of which project out and beyond the blanket at the ~~opposite~~ opposite side of the head strap. The articles to be placed within the blanket, which generally consists of small sacks of beans, flour, pork, sugar, coffee, and wearing apparel, and blankets, are then carefully stacked, within the spread of the two narrow lines of the pack strap. When this is done, the blanket is ~~folded over, and the two outer edges are brought as near to the center of the~~ folded over, and the two outer edges are brought as near to the center of the

folded over, and the two outer edges are brought as near to the center of the pile of things to be carried in it, as is possible. Then the two tapering ends of the pack strap are brought up and over, to meet the opposite ends of the narrow straps, which, as has been explained, are either sewed to, or buckled onto the wide head strap. Drawing these ends firmly together puckers the outer edge of the blanket on either side, and draws the blanket completely over the contents piled in the center, and makes, ordinarily, nearly a round bundle. This load, or pack, the man then throws over his shoulder, onto his back, and brings the wide strap across his forehead, or across his breast, or across the top of his head, when he is ready to begin his journey. Before he has traveled long with this load, which weighs ordinarily from fifty to one hundred pounds, according to the ability of the man to bear the burden, he will be found shifting that wide strap to any one of the three positions named, and will have used all of those positions many times before the party as a whole, stops for a moment's rest.

I had taken with me, on going north on this long campaign, an extra fine red leather pack strap that I had had made to order at a Minneapolis harness shop. I had kept it coiled up, and carefully stored in my belongings, waiting for an emergency when the more common straps would no longer be of service. A number of times the Indians had seen this strap and had admired it, and, as it later proved, not always without envy. 0

One day the strap was missing, and I could not find it, neither by searching, nor by open inquiry of my fellow white men, nor of the Indians, whom I occasionally met. One one occasion, while portaging my canoe to another lake, I found several families of Indians camping at the end of the portage. Among them was the hunter who has been previously mentioned. While stopping a moment for a friendly talk with the Indians, I saw protruding from under the coat of the hunter, nearly two feet of one end of my missing pack strap. I knew it so well that I was sure that it was no other pack strap. Nevertheless, I deliberated slowly what action I should take to recover the strap, not wishing by any possibility to make a mistake. Having surely concluded that the strap was mine, and that the hunter had not come into

possession of it honestly - I decided upon a course of action. Going up quietly behind the hunter, and twisting the end of the protruding strap twice around my wrist, and grasping it firmly in my hand, I started with all my might to run with the strap. The effect was to make a temporary top of my friend, the hunter, who whirled about until the other end of the pack strap was released from his body. It was too good a joke, even for the Indians to remain unmoved, and the majority of them broke into merriment. The hunter at first was disposed to take it seriously but soon looked sheepish and ashamed, and tried to smile with the rest of the tribe, as well as with myself.

Having wound the strap carefully around my own body, and having made sure that the ends did not protrude, I bade my friends, including the hunter, good day, and got into my canoe and pushed out into the lake. This proved to be the last time I ever saw the hunter, but it was not the last time that I ever thought of the incident.

In justice to the Indians as compared with white men, I am glad to be able to say, that, after mingling with them more or less for many years, and becoming sufficiently familiar with their language to be able to use it on all necessary occasions, I believe that the Indians are as honest and as honorable as the men with whom they mingle, who have not a copper skin.

**** Winter closed in before the beginning of November. Snow became very deep and it was absolutely necessary to perform all our work on snowshoes. The winter of 1874-1875 is shown to have been the coldest winter in Minnesota, of which there is any record, beginning with 1819 up to, and including, 1913.

The party was composed of men of years of experience on the frontier, and who were inured to hardship. However a few were new and except that they were looked after by the more hardy, they might have perished. As it was, however, not one man became seriously ill at any time during this severe winter's campaign.

All the principal men of the party wore light duck suits, made large enough to admit of wearing heavy flannel underwear beneath them. Either boot pacs or buckskin moccasins inside of which were several pair of woolen socks, composed the footwear.

Bootpacks or larigans, as they are commonly called by the lumberjack, are tanned in a manner that makes them very susceptible to heat, and the leather will shrivel quickly if near an open fire. It cost one of the party several pairs of the bootpacks before he could learn to keep sufficiently far away from the open fire, on returning to camp from his work. It will be surmised by the reader that he was one of the inexperienced of the party.

Many incidents, amusing to others, happened during the winter to this same man. He had started on the trip in the summer months, with a supply of shoeblacking and papercollars. The crossing of one or two portages with his loaded pack sack on his back was sufficient to convince him that there was no need of carrying either shoeblacking or paper collars, and they were thrown out to reduce weight. Each man carried or skein of thread, a paper of needles, and a supply of buttons. Soon after winter set in, this man, who might ordinarily be termed a tenderfoot, complained of lameness in one of his feet. As the weather became more severe, he added from time to time another pair of socks to those he already had on, never removing any of ~~the~~ previous service. This necessitated, not infrequently, his choosing a larger size bootpack. Before the campaign was over, although he was a man of low stature and light weight, the feet presented the appearance of being the largest in the party. Still he complained of lameness in the hollow of his foot, and no relief came until march, when the work was completed. Arriving once more back in civilization, he removed his much accumulated footwear. There, underneath this accumulation of socks, and against the hollow of his foot, was found his skein of thread, the absence of which from its usual place had necessitated his borrowing from his companions. Before starting on this campaign, he had been one of the tidiest of men about his personal appearance.

One evening in midwinter, when sitting about the camp fire, by reason of the pile of wood for the evening being largely composed of dry balsam, we were kept more or less busy extinguishing sparks that are always thrown out from this wood when burning. Sometimes one would light on the side of the tent near by, and unless immediately extinguished, would eat a large hole in the cloth. That evening, Fendall G. Winston and I ^{was} sitting side by side, when he saw a live spark

more than a quarter of an inch in diameter light in the ear of our friend who sat a little way from and in front of us. It did not go out immediately, neither did it disturb the tranquillity of the young man. Mr. Winston and I exchanged glances and smilingly watched the ember slowly die. The time to clean up had not yet arrived for at least one of the party. *****

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The survey went steadily on, the snow and cold increasing, and rarely was it possible to make an advance of more than four miles in a day. Frank Hoyt remained at the warehouse and watched the supplies which were steadily diminishing. One day, Phillip B. Winston, two men of the crew and I set out to the supply camp to bring some provisions to the cook's camp. The first day at nightfall, we reached an Indian wigwam that we knew of, situated in a grove of hardwood timber, near the shore of a lake, directly on our route to the supply camp. Our party stayed with the Indians and shared their hospitality. It was a large wigwam, covered principally with cedar bark, and there was an additional smaller wigwam so close to it, that a passage way was made from one wigwam to the other.

In the smaller wigwam lived a young Indian, his squaw, and the squaw's mother; in the larger wigwam lived the chief, his wife, his daughter, son-in-law, and the hunter, his wife, and two daughters, all of whom were present except the hunter. There was an air of expectancy noticeable as we sat on the mats around the fire in the wigwam, after having made some coffee and eaten our supper outside. Presently the chief informed us that an heir was looked for in the adjoining wigwam. Before nine o'clock it was announced that a young warrior had made his appearance, and all were happy over his arrival. The large pipe was brought forth filled with tobacco, and, after the chief had taken the first smoke, it was passed around to their guests, and all the men smoked as well as the married women. The next morning we continued our journey across the lake and to Hoyt's camp, where it is needless to say he was glad to see some white men. Their visits were rare at his camp. Filling our packs with things the cook had ordered, we started on our return journey, arriving at the Indian camp at nightfall. As we left the ice to go up to

the wigwams, we met the mother of the young warrior who had made his first appearance the preceding night, going down to the lake with a pail in each hand to bring some water to her wigwan. The healthy young child was brought into the wigwan and shown to the members of our party, who complimented the young mother and wished that he might grow to be a brave, worthy to be chieftian of their tribe.

The evening feast was prepared at the chief's wigwan, in honor of the birth of the child, to which our party was invited. The menu consisted principally of boiled rice, boiled muskrat, and boiled rabbit. The three principal foods having been cooked in one kettle and at the same time, it was served as one course, but the guests were invited to repeat the course as often as they desired. This invitation was accepted by some, while others seemed satisfied to take the course but once. I have always found the hospitality of the Chippewa Indian unsurpassed, and more than once in my frontier experiences, I have found that hospitality a godsend to me and to my party.

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**** In the month of February the party completed its work at Bowstring Lake, closing its last lines on the Third Guide Meridian. * * next day the party moved out to Grand Rapids. The snow was deep and the weather intensely cold when we broke camp that morning, hoping before nightfall to reach one of ~~the~~ Hill Lawrence's logging camps. Our course lay directly through the unbroken forest, without trail or blazed line, and the right direction was kept only by the constant use of the compass. All were on snowshoes, and those of the party who could be depended upon to correctly use the compass, took turns in breaking road. Each compassman would break the way through the snow for half an hour, and he in turn would be succeeded by another compassman. This change of leadership was continued all the way during that day.

About the middle of the afternoon, the Indians threw down their packs and left our party altogether, having become tired of their job. We divided up their packs and each man sufficiently able-bodied taking a part of these abandoned loads in addition to their own pack; and thus we continued the journey.

Night was fast approaching, and the distance was too great to reach the Lawrence camp that night. Fortunately, there were some Indian wigwams not far in advance. These we reached after nightfall, and, as our party was very tired and carried no prepared food, we asked for shelter during the night, with the Indians.

They soon made places where our men could spread their blankets around the small fire in the center of the wigwams. Then we asked if we could be served with something to eat. We received an affirmative "Ugh", and the squaws commenced preparing food, which consisted solely of a boiled rabbit stew with a little wild rice. It was once demonstrated that ~~hunger~~ is a good cook. After having partaken of the ~~happily~~ proffered food, and, after most of our party had smoked their pipes, all lay down about the fire and fell asleep. The next morning our party started out without breakfast, and by ten o'clock reached the Lawrence camp, where the cook set out in a few minutes time, a great variety of food, and an abundance of it, of which each man partook to his great satisfaction.

From Lawrence camp we were able to secure the services of the tote team that was

going out for supplies, which took our equipment through to Grand Rapids. From that point, we were able, also, to hire a team to take our supplies to the Swan River. Crossing this we went north to survey two townships, which would complete the winter's contract.

It has been stated that this winter of 1874-1875 was the coldest of which the Weather Bureau for Minnesota furnishes any history. Beside the intense cold there were heavy snows. Nevertheless, no serious injury or physical suffering of long duration befell any member of our band of hardy woodsmen. Not one of our number was yet thirty years old, the youngest one being eighteen. Two only of the party were married, Fendall G. Winston and myself. On leaving Grand Rapids in August, we separated ourselves from all other white men. No letters or communications of any kind reached us after the winter set in, until our arrival in Grand Rapids in the month of February following. Letters were occasionally written and kept in readiness to send out by any Indian who might be going to the nearest logging camp, whence they might by chance be carried out to some postoffice. Whether these letters reached their destination or not could not be known by the writers as long as they remained on their work, hidden in the forest.

I had left my daughter and young wife in Minneapolis. Either, or both might have died and been buried before any word could have reached me. It was not possible at all times to keep such thoughts out of my mind. Of course every day was a busy one, and the great solace was found in believing that all was well even though we could not communicate with each other. As I recall, no ill befell anyone of the party nor of the party's dear ones, during all those long months of separation. Every man of the party seemed to become more rugged and to possess greater endurance as the cold increased. It became the common practice to let the camp fire burn down and die, as we rolled into our blankets to sleep till the morning.

Not every night was spent in comfort, though that was the average experience. The less robust ones, of whom there were very few, sometimes received special attention.

It was during the arduous journey, getting away from the scene of our first

survey to that of the upper waters of the Swan River, that one of our men fell behind all the others, on a hard day's tramp. P. B. Winston, who had all the time been very considerate of him, observing that he was not keeping up to the party, but was quite along way back on the trail which the men were breaking through the snow, said that he would wait for him until he should catch up. Concealing himself, he awaited our friend. He told the following:

Winston allowed him to pass him on the trail, and heard him saying, as he rubbed one of his legs, "Oh Lord, my God, what ever made me leave my comfortable home and friends and come out into this wilderness!" At this instance Mr. Winston called out "What is the matter _____?" "Oh, I am freezing, and I don't know that I shall ever be of any use, if I ever get out," he replied. He did live to get out and to reach his friends, none the worse for his doleful experience. He did not again go north into the forest, but tried another portion of the western country, where he became very prosperous.

Long living around the open camp fire in the winter months, standing around in the smoke, and accumulating more or less of the odors from foods of various kinds being cooked by the open fire, invariably results in all of ones clothing and bedding becoming more or less saturated with the smell of the camp. This condition one does not notice while living in it from day to day, but he does not need to be out and away from such environment for more than a few hours before he becomes personally conscious, to some degree, that such odors are not of a quality that would constitute a marketable article for cash. On arriving in Minneapolis at the close of the winter's campaign, without having changed our garments—as we had none with us that ~~we~~ had not shared with us one and the same fate — Mr. P. B. Winston and I engaged a hack at the railroad station, and drove to our respective homes.

It was Mr. Winston's domicile that was first reached, and it happened, as the driver stopped in front of his house, that his fiancee, Miss Kittie Stevens, (the first white child born in Minneapolis) chanced to be passing by. Of course their meeting was unexpected to either, but was a pleasant and joyous one, though somewhat embarrassing to Mr. Winston. The wind was blowing

embarrassing to Mr. Winston. The wind was blowing, and I noticed he took the precaution to keep his own person out of the windward. He had been a soldier in the Confederate army, and I smiled with much satisfaction as I observed his splendid maneuver.

On meeting me next day, Mr. Winston inquired whether his tactics had been observed, and being assured that they had, he said that was the embarrassing moment for him, for he did not know but that the young lady might have considered that she had just grounds for breaking the engagement. Both of us, however, knew better, for she was a young lady possessed of a large degree of common sense and loveliness. The young people later were married, Mr. Winston becoming mayor of Minneapolis, remaining always, one of its best citizens. Often, afterwards, incidents of that winter's experience, a few of which have been herein recorded, were gone over together with great pleasure by the parties interested.

From "The Pioneer Woodsman as he is related to Lumbering in the Northwest" by Geo. H. Warren - Minneapolis, Press of Hahn & Harmon Company, 1914. Copyright 1914, by George Henry Warren. (volume used presented to Grand Rapids library by the author.

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"In the summer of 1899, some special work was required north of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Accompanied by my son, Frank Merton, and a cook named Fed Easthagen, I left Grand Rapids on a buckboard drawn by two horses and driven by Dan Gunn, the popular proprietor of the Foxegama Hotel. Our route was over a new road where stumps and pitch-holes were plentiful. The team of horses was said to have been raised on the western plains, and objected strenuously to being driven over this stump road. One of the horses balked frequently, and, when not standing still, insisted on running. The passengers, except Easthagen, became tired of this uneven mode of travel, and preferred to walk, being able to cover the ground equally as fast as the team. Easthagen, however, sat tight through it all; he having come from the far west, refused to walk when there was a team to pull him.

Our camp was made in a fine grove of Pigiron Norway, near to which dwelt Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Owens, settlers upon government land. From this camp we were able to prosecute our work for a long period of time. The late summer and autumn was very dry. Both wolves and deer abounded in this vicinity, and not far away ranged many moose. Large lumbering camps were about ten miles away. Oxen had been turned loose for the summer, to pasture in the woods and outover lands. Passing, one day, a root house built into the side of a hill, we pushed open the door and in there found the remains of an ox. The animal had probably entered the roothouse to get away from the flies, and, the doors having closed behind him, he had no means of escape, so that the poor beast had perished of hunger and thirst. The ground was dry, and all the brush, and twigs, and leaves lying thereon, had become brittle and crackled under the feet of every walking creature. This interfered much with the ability of the wolves to surprise the deer, rabbits or other animals on which they were accustomed to feed, so that they were hungry. On this account they had become emboldened. so much so, that they would, at nightfall or toward evening, venture near enough to show themselves.

My son was coming in alone, from work one evening, when a pack of wolves followed him for some distance, occasionally snapping out their short yelp, and had he been less near the camp, he might have been in great danger. As it was, however, they kept back from him in the woods, but not so far as to prevent his hearing them.

An interesting article appeared in one of the numbers of "Country Life in America" on the subject of breeding skunks for profit. From their pelts is made and sold a fine quality of fur, known, to the purchaser, at least, as stone martin. The nearest approach to a natural farm of these animals that I have ever known was that existing at Sandy Owens cabin, and immediately adjacent to it. These little animals were numerous in the Norway grove in which we were camped.

My son and I slept in a small "A" tent which at night was closed. On one occasion I was awakened by feeling something moving across my feet on the blankets, covering us. I spoke quietly to my son, requesting him to be careful not to move, for something was in the tent, and probably, that something was a skunk. With the gentlest of motions, I moved just sufficiently to let the animal know I was aware of its presence in the tent. Immediately the animal retreated off my legs, while we remained quiet for some time in the tent. Then a match was struck and with it a candle lighted, when a small hole was discovered at the foot of the tent where evidently the animal had nosed its way in, and through which it had retreated. In the morning when my son and I arose, unmistakable evidence was discovered, near where our heads had lain, that his skunkship had visited us during the night.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens left their cabin to visit another settler, several miles distant, leaving the key with the cook, and telling him that he could use it if he had occasion to do so. Coming in one evening from a cruise the cook went to the cabin to make and bake some bread in Mrs. Owens stove. A small hole had been cut in the door, to admit the Owens' cat. On entering, Easthagen saw a skunk sitting in the middle of the floor. The animal retreated under the bed, while the cook kindled the fire in the stove and began mixing the dough for the bread. He baked the bread and cooked the evening meal for three persons, considerately tossing some bits of bread and meat near to where the skunk was concealed. Our party ate supper outside the door

a short distance from the cabin. The animal remained in the cabin that night and until after breakfast, a portion of which latter the cook fed to it, when taking the broom, he, by easy and gentle stages, pushed the skunk toward the door, removing the animal without accident."

NOTES AND COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE:-

This route or road of which he speaks with such disrespect was one of Itasca's main arteries at the time he mentions (1899). It headed north from Grand Rapids and ten miles out, on Prairie Lake, was the Wilder Ranch or stopping place, run by Art Wilder who later ran the Gladstone hotel in Grand Rapids. A short distance further on, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles was the Dunning Ranch. Next, on Clear Water Brook was the Myers Ranch managed by Billy Myers; then at Little Wabana you found the Wasson Ranch owned and operated by John Wasson, better known as "Spearhead". The next stopping place on that trail was Billy Kennedy's Ranch on Hanson Lake and finally and farthest north was Hasty's Ranch, run by "Cap" Hasty. This last was located just north of the Balsam Brook on the right side of the ~~road~~ road going north. This was across the road and a short distance north of the present C. V. Smith place.

Wasson Lake in the north east corner of 59 - 24 was named after a son of John or "Spearhead" Wasson. The son was called Bart Wasson and carried on logging operations on the lake named for him.

Sandy Owens lived on Sec. 22, Tp. 60 - 24 on the south shore of Owens Lake, that was named for him. The site of his buildings was at the western edge of the G.C.C. camp No. 718 now located on Owens Lake.

The reason for the lack of "Ranches" beyond "Cap" Hasty's was that there was no need of them beyond that point, as there were logging camps every few miles along the trail. South of Hasty's the country had all been logged off by 1899.

This was the trail on which lived Napoleon Russel, Bacon and Peter McKenna, characters and homes of the early murder drama of Itasca County.

A county map will be prepared showing this trail, stopping places or Ranches and settlers locations etc.

HISTORY OF ITASGA COUNTY.- from "Pioneer Lumberman * * * ", Geo. H. Warren.

Historically, the first mention of iron ore in northern Minnesota dates back to the report of J. G. Norwood, made in 1850, in which he mentions the occurrence of iron ore at Gunflint Lake, but claimed no commercial importance in his discovery. The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minn., Vol. 4, page 583, records the following; H. H. Eames, state geologist of Minnesota in 1865 and 1866, was the first to observe and report iron ore on both the Vermilion and Mesabi ranges, and to consider it of any value. In his report for 1866, he describes the ore outcroppings near the southern shore of Lake Vermilion, and in his report, published the following ~~part~~ is an account of the ore at Prairie River Falls, on the western end of the Mesabi range, and several analyses showing it to be of good quality.

As early as 1860, Professor A. H. Chester, in the interest of private parties, made a personal examination of the Vermilion Iron Range, and predicted that an iron ore district of immense value and importance would be found to exist on that range. George C. Stone of Duluth, one of the parties who had employed Chester to make the examination for iron ore, was elected a member of the Minnesota legislature, and, through his instrumentality, in 1861, a law was passed, "to encourage mining in this state, by providing a uniform rate for the taxation of mining properties and products." This law provided for the payment of a tax of fifty cents for each ton of copper, and one cent for each ton of iron ore, mined and shipped or disposed of; each ton to be estimated as containing two thousand two hundred and forty pounds. The Duluth and Iron Range Railroad was constructed from Two Harbors, on Lake Superior, to Tower, Minnesota; and in August, 1864, the first shipment of iron ore was made from the Minnesota mine at Tower.

Promising outcroppings of iron ore bearing rocks were found east of Tower, where now is the flourishing town of Ely. Work was begun on these outcrops, resulting in the finding of the Chandler Mine, by Captain John Pengilly, from which, in 1868, the first shipment of iron ore was made, the railroad having been expended from Tower to Ely, for the purpose, primarily, of shipping the iron ore to Two Harbors, and thence to the eastern markets.

Other mines were later found in this vicinity. The building and equipping of this railroad created a demand for manufactured lumber, for railroad ties, and for telegraph poles. Sawmills were built at different points along the line of the railroad and at its terminals, so that the years immediately following were busy ones for those dealing in standing timber and its manufactured products.

Itasca

The attached manuscript is the text of a paper read by Judge Thwing (Dist. Court Judge) who lives in Grand Rapids. The paper was written for, and read at a banquet given for a former resident who was here on a visit in 1937. The man was Oscar Mather and 1937 was just fifty years after he first came to Grand Rapids, hence the banquet.

not
Now this would be classed as a sprightly narrative by your humble servant, but it contains a bit of meat. Some of his statement of fact were made without thoro investigation. He does not consider it infallible and said so when he gave the paper to be copied. Seems as though he was more concerned in tracing the judicial authority than about things that interest the common run of folk. However, here it is with his consent and freely offered. Here's hoping the reader does not find it as heavy going as I did. - SHAW

ITASCA COUNTY'S BEGINNINGS
(A Preliminary Sketch.)

Foreword.

On October 19, 1937, a considerable number of the friends of Mr. Oscar L. Mather, now of Madison Lake, Minnesota, were his guests at a dinner in Grand Rapids, celebrating the 50th anniversary of his coming to Itasca County. Naturally old times furnished the subject for discussion. The writer, being one of the guests and not qualifying to relate personal experiences in the county more than 36 years back, after rather hasty preparation, compiled and briefly talked of some of the matters appearing in this paper. At Mr. Mather's request further research has been made and the results here compiled.

The value of a county historical society was advanced and met with general approval. Many of those present and many others could contribute much of interest to the annals of such a society. What appears here is largely geographical, yet, as so limited, may be entertaining and instructive. It will be apparent, however, that many a human interest story could be adduced to enliven the details here assembled from the records; and this paper seems rightly termed a "preliminary sketch," to aid any who can and will give the time to make a more complete picture.

BEFORE MINNESOTA

While it goes somewhat far afield, it has seemed some preliminary geographical data affecting the territory now in our state and county has a proper place in this paper; and an effort has been made to compile same. After examining much authoritative literature, however, the task has been found too great to complete at this time, and must be left to a future occasion, or to the hands of another searcher. Minnesota Statutes as far back as those for 1849-1858, Session Laws and Legislative Manuals have been the chief available sources. Dr. Folwell's History of Minnesota, Vol. 1, and Vol. 2 of "Minnesota in Three Centuries," compiled by Return I. Holcombe, with the aid of an informed editorial board, contain much of value; but the scope of these volumes was too broad to permit them to be complete as to the details here being considered. The same is even more true of articles in the encyclopedias dealing with the various states whose histories and original archives should be consulted, and of the brief descriptive matter as to these states found in such volumes as the Index to Messages and Papers of the Presidents. The series last mentioned disclose, among the Presidential documents, much that throws light on the subject and direct the reader to other sources. I apprehend the volumes of general or revised statutes of the states which were parts of the Northwest Territory and of the Louisiana Purchase contain in their Organic Acts the most early accessible data as to their boundaries.

This much, however, may be accepted as known; that the original sources of accession to the public domain of the United States of what is now Minnesota are (1) the treaty with Great Britain in 1783, as clarified by later treaties, notably the Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842; (2) the cessions to the United States of the conflicting claims of New York, Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut which led to the passage by Congress of the famous Ordinance of 1787 (the first highly important enactment of that body) prescribing the rules of temporary government of "the territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio," and among them principles vitally affecting the future history of the nation, such as the prohibition of slavery in this northwest territory; (3) the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, whereby the claims France lately had acquired from Spain to the New Orleans and surrounding country and to the

vast region west of the Mississippi were bought, a transaction whose constitutionality was doubtful in the minds of such strict constructionists as President Jefferson himself; and (4) treaties with the Indian Nations.

It is sufficient here to say, as to the first mentioned source, that, until the Webster-Ashburton treaty, the entire boundary between the United States and the British possessions was in doubt; that among the questions facing the negotiators, after they had agreed on the line as far west as a point north of Isle Royale, in Lake Superior, was the course followed from thence west; that the British emissaries deemed a line should be drawn from that point to Fond du Lac, thence by the St. Louis river to Rainy Lake (which, if accepted, would have placed Duluth, all of Lake and Cook and Much of St. Louis counties in Canada); that the American representatives contended the true course was by way of the Dog river (perhaps the Kaministiquia); that interpretation of the earlier treaties was found difficult "because of imperfect knowledge of this remote country"; and that a compromise resulted in adopting the course up the Pigeon river, thence via various portages and small lakes and the Rainy river to a termination at the Northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods, (a part of Minnesota, now in Lake of the Woods county, known to this day as the "Northwest Angle"). From that point existing treaties required that the line be run due south to the intersection with the 49th parallel, thence along that parallel to the Rocky Mountains. Preliminary conferences left so little probability of an agreement as to the boundary farther west that it was not deemed expedient to make it one of the subjects of this treaty. Four years later, after "54-40 or Fight" had become a political issue and a possible cause of war, that was adjusted by continuing along the same line to the waters between Washington and Vancouver, thence through those waters to the Pacific.

It is the general popular impression that the Mississippi River to its source constituted the boundary between the Northwest Territory and the Louisiana Purchase, and that may be right. If so, the larger part of Minnesota, including that part of Itasca County south and west of the Mississippi, was in the Louisiana Purchase. A theory has been advanced, however, that north of the confluence of the Mississippi and the Missouri, the boundary was the height of land between the tributaries of these two great rivers. If research has not established the correctness of one or the other theory, further efforts to do so would be of historical interest, whether or not of serious practical importance at this time. It is perhaps even more probable that there was no definitely known or claimed boundary. One of the incentives for the Purchase was a constantly threatening controversy over the boundary near the mouth of the Mississippi; and the acquisition of France's claim to the entire region no doubt averted extension of the dispute.

The Ordinance of 1787 covered the region west of the original 13 states, lying between the Ohio river, the Mississippi river and the Great Lakes. It prescribed a territorial form of government, but contemplated that in time the territory should be divided into not less than three nor more than five states, the proposed boundaries of them being indicated (and afterwards quite closely followed), each, when it should have 60,000 free inhabitants, to be entitled to admission to the Union on equal footing with the original states. The ordinance was declared an unalterable contract between the original states and the people and states in the territory.

Ohio in 1802 was ready to be and was admitted pursuant to this compact. Then what was left of the territory from time to time, became successively the Territory of Indiana, of Illinois, of Michigan and of Wisconsin. As the states bearing those names were admitted to the Union, at least so much of Minnesota as lies east of the Mississippi became part of the territory next created; and there is much room for ~~the~~ belief (capable of verification by consulting original sources) that all, or substantially all, of Minnesota was successively part of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin Territories.

On the other hand, in the Index to the "Messages and Papers," supra, sub nom, Minnesota, it is stated that the lands west of the Mississippi were included successively in the Territories of Upper Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa.

The reliable Minnesota Histories, above cited, do make clear that Minnesota was once part of Crawford County, Michigan, later part of Crawford County, Wisconsin; that when Iowa Territory was created in 1838 it was made to include all that part of the then territory of Wisconsin "lying west of the Mississippi river and west of a line drawn due north from the head-waters or sources of the Mississippi to the Territorial line." That part of Minnesota, or the then partially settled portion of it, was within the jurisdiction of Clayton County, the county seat being 250 miles distant from the place where Henry H. Sibley, one of its justices of the peace, held his court. Iowa, when seeking statehood, sought to include a considerable part of Minnesota as far north as the great bend in the Minnesota river; but was admitted with its present boundaries in 1846. My research has not yet determined what became of the remainder of Iowa Territory.

In 1848 Wisconsin, with its present boundaries, became a state; but the fixing of its boundaries was preceded by a vigorous controversy. Advocates of Wisconsin's statehood contended, with some show of reason, that she, being the last of the five states contemplated to be created out of the Northwest Territory, was entitled to include within her boundaries all that remained of that Territory; and a bill making that possible did pass one of the houses of Congress. Residents west of the St. Croix were opposed to this, however. The bill was ultimately reconsidered, amended and passed with the boundaries fixed as now. Thus narrowly did all of Minnesota east of the Mississippi escape being part of the State of Wisconsin.

MINNESOTA TERRITORY

For nearly a year after the State of Wisconsin was admitted the inhabitants of the remaining portion of the Territory of that name contended it still existed, and that, among other things, they were entitled to a delegate in Congress. Their arguments met with some recognition. Such government as they had was that furnished by the territorial officials remaining on their side of the St. Croix. On March 3, 1859, however, this controversy was ended by the passage of the Act of Congress establishing Minnesota Territory. Dr. Folwell tells us this good news reached St. Paul by means of the first steamer from "below" on April 9, 1849.

The organic act fixed the boundaries of the new territory, summarized as follows; beginning at the Northeast corner of Iowa, thence west along the Iowa line to its northwest corner, thence southerly along Iowa's west line to the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river, thence up the middle of that channel to the mouth of the White Earth river, thence up the middle of the main channel of that river to "the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain," thence following that boundary to Lake Superior, thence in a straight line to the northernmost part of the State of Wisconsin, thence along the western boundary of that state to the Mississippi river, thence down the main channel of that river to the place of beginning.

It will be seen that these boundaries included all of the present State of Minnesota, also all that part of the Dakotas lying north and east of the Missouri river, as far west as the White Earth river, which is some 50 or 60 miles east of the present western boundary of North Dakota. The sites of such Dakota cities as Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Pierre, Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck and part of Minot were within Minnesota Territory. Pembina, now in northeastern North Dakota, was even then one of the important settlements.

The organic act reserved power in Congress to divide the territory as it saw fit, or to attach any portion to any other state or territory, and patterned no doubt

after the acts organizing the older territories, provided for a territorial government, the executive officers being a governor and a secretary appointed by the president, and the legislative power being vested in the governor and a legislative assembly, comprising a council of nine members and a house of eighteen representatives. Supreme, district and probate courts and justices of the peace were contemplated, the territory to be divided into three judicial districts, the district court in each presided over by one of the supreme court justices.

Alexander Ramsey of Pennsylvania was appointed the first territorial governor, and Henry H. Sibley, who had assumed to act for the "Territory of Wisconsin," was the first Minnesota delegate to Congress. Pending the meeting of the legislative assembly, the governor created temporary districts for judicial and local purposes which have been referred to as St. Croix County, between the St. Croix and the Mississippi, county seat, Stillwater; La Pointe County west of the Mississippi and north of the Minnesota and a line running due west from its headwaters to the Missouri, county seat St. Anthony Falls; Dakota County, all south of the Minnesota and said extended line, county seat, Mendota. These "county seats," all within 25 miles of each other, and the administrative and judicial officers functioning there, no doubt fulfilled all the needs of the vast domains within their jurisdictions.

The first assembly created the original duly established counties, nine in number. Maps of them are found in the Folwell and Holcombe volumes. The three most populous, Washington, Ramsey and Benton, were between the St. Croix and the Mississippi, alined in the order named from east to west, extending from the Mississippi to a straight line from the intersection of the east territorial boundary with Lat. 45°30' to the mouth of Mud river, or "Muddy Creek," as it was called, in or near the site of the present village of Aitkin. Mille Lacs lake was in Ramsey county.

Itasca county included all of the territory north and east of the line just described, the Mississippi from Mud River to a point due south of the middle of Lake of the Woods, and ~~with~~ a line from this point due north to the Canadian boundary; not that part of the present Itasca south of the Mississippi, which was in Pembina.

Four of the other counties, Wabashaw, Dahkotah, Wahnahta, Mahkahta, in that order from south to north, with straight east and west lines as boundaries between them, covered all the area between the Mississippi and the Missouri, from the territory's southern boundary to a line approximately including the present north lines of Crow Wing and Wadena counties.

Pembina county included all the rest of the territory, and area some 325 miles long from east to west, and some 100 miles from north to south, from Itasca's west line to the Missouri and the White Earth, also including all south and west of the Mississippi down to the north line of Mahkahta.

The political importance of Itasca county, so far as votes were concerned, is evidenced by a census taken about that time, showing that, out of a territorial population of 5000, 21 males and 9 females resided in Itasca. ~~Madison~~ Neither Itasca nor Pembina (with a population of 637) was credited with any votes for delegate to Congress at the first election. Itasca, Wahnahta, and Mahkahta had no county seats; only Washington, Ramsey and Benton were organized.

In 1851 substantial changes were made in the counties, the results being found in R. S. 1851 and in Pub. Stats., 1849-1858, ch. 1.. Washington County was cut down to its present area and boundaries. Itasca was left as first established. Chisago was created, including its present area, that of what is now Pine County, four and a fraction townships along the east line of what is now Aitkin, in its southeastern corner, and a little over the south tier of townships in the present Carlton County. Ramsey's boundaries were changed so as to include, with its present area, all of the present Anoka, Sherburne, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Aitkin, lying east and south of the Rum river and its west branch and a line from the source of the west branch

due north to the Mississippi, thence up the Mississippi to the mouth of Mud river, thence along the Itasca south boundary to the west boundary of Chisago.

Benton, as newly defined, began at the mouth of the Rum River, thence along Ramsey's west boundary to the north intersection with the Mississippi, thence down that river to the place of beginning.

Wabasha was changed to include only that part of the territory east of a line running due south from a point on the Mississippi known as Medicine Bottle Village at Pine Bend to the Iowa line.

Wahnahta and Mahkahta Counties were discontinued; and the boundaries of Dakota county were changed so as to include all between Wabasha County and the Mississippi, on the east, and Missouri, on the west, as far north as a line beginning at the mouth of the Crow river (the present boundary between Wright and Hennepin), thence up the Crow and its north branch to its source, thence due west to the Missouri.

Cass County was created beginning at the mouth of the Crow river; thence up the Mississippi to Itasca Lake; thence on a direct line to Otter Tail Lake; thence on a direct line to the source of Long Prairie river; thence due south to the northern boundary of Dakota county; thence along said line to the point of beginning; thereby including everything south and west of the Mississippi from Lake Itasca to the present boundary between Wright and Hennepin, to the western boundaries indicated.

Pembina County, as revised, embraced a vaster area than before, losing the tract adjoining the Mississippi from Itasca Lake east, but gaining everything north of the Crow river-Missouri river line not included in Cass; all that part of North Dakota, and a considerable part of South Dakota, which was in Minnesota Territory.

Chisago, Washington, Ramsey and Benton were organized, provision being made for their county government. The others were not; Itasca, Cass and Pembina were attached for judicial, taxation and administrative purposes to Benton, whose "seat of justice" was to be within 1/4 of a mile of a point on the east side of the Mississippi directly opposite the mouth of Sauk River, the present site of Sauk Rapids.

Itasca and the other unorganized counties were to be entitled each to not over six justices and the same number of constables, appointed by the governor for two years, subject to removal by him.

If the Benton county court files and records of territorial days are available, an examination of them might disclose whether any cases were brought or tried which affected Itasca County parties or transactions; but it seems doubtful whether there were any such. The supreme court decisions of that period, found in Volumes 1 and 2 of the Minnesota Reports, dealt almost exclusively with cases from Ramsey and Washington, a very few from other near-by counties, none from Benton. Civil actions, except those whose principal relief affected title to land, could then and still may be tried in any county; and it is not unlikely, if there were any civil cases of sufficient importance to justify trials in district court, they were brought and disposed of at the center of population. Most, if not all, of the lands in Northern Minnesota belonged to the government or to Indian nations. Apprehension and prosecution of those charged with felonies in the wild, remote regions must have been attended with insurmountable difficulties. The jurisdiction of justices of the peace was limited, as now, to the trials for misdemeanors and of civil actions involving \$100 or less and not affecting the titles to land; but it may be surmised that "West of the Pecos" was not the first region in which the magistrate was a forceful pioneer of commanding influence over a wide area, administering justice on the basis of his usually sound ideas of what was sensible and right, without much aid from the law books, and whose decisions were final.

In 1852 Hennepin became the tenth county, established from a part of Dakota County, then including a larger area than now. The act provided that, upon ratification by the United States Senate of a treaty with the Dakota Indians recently concluded at Mendota, Hennepin should become an organized county; but until then it should be attached to Ramsey for judicial and to Dakota for election purposes.

In the ensuing six years of territorial days forty-seven additional counties were established, many of them organized. They evidence the rapid and wide-spread growth of the territory, whose white population increased from 6077 in 1850 to 150,037 in 1857. Restriction of this paper to reasonable limits does not permit a detailed examination of the original boundaries and development of these counties; but the names of some of them, and of some of their county seats, which have disappeared, are of interest. The counties of Pierce, Davis, Buchanan, Toombs, Breckenridge, whose then names are no longer used, and Douglas, which is still so named, hark back to the pre-civil war period when Jefferson Davis and the other Democrats in Washington were those who befriended the cause of this territory. Manomin (part of which is now Anoka), and Monongalia (now in Kandiyohi) of course were names having Indian derivations. Midway and Big Sioux were in the present boundaries of South Dakota, included in what are now Moody and Minnehaha counties in that State. Monroe is now mostly in the southern part of Mille Lacs county, and had Princeton as its county seat.

County seats whose rise and fall, or changes of name, might be traced with interest included San Francisco, in Carver; Humboldt, in Sherburne; Chengwatana, in Pine; Wilton, in Waseca; Hanover, in Mille Lacs; Fortuna in Buchanan; Twin Lakes, in Carlton; Lankegum City, in "Aiken"; Medary, in Jackson; Gretchtown, in Nobles; Manomin, in Manomin; Shayenne City, in Breckenridge; Doublas, in polk. Many of the acts permitted the voters to choose their own first county seat, and a general act was passed providing for elections to select or change county seats.

Itasca's first loss of territory occurred in 1855 when Doty county was established, including all of the territory east of a line commencing at the mouth of Vermillion river; thence down (up) that river to Vermillion lake; thence through the center of that lake to the southeast shore at the mouth of its principal inlet; thence in a direct line to Dead Fish lake; thence through that lake and down the St. Louis river, including Lake and Cook counties; and the greater part of St. Louis. Later in the same year the name of Doty was changed to Newton, and Superior county was established, and its name changed to St. Louis. In the 1849-58 Statutes, at page 88, the boundaries of the latter county were defined as including "that portion of the territory of Minnesota lying west of a line commencing at the mouth of Knife river on the north shore of Lake Superior, and running due north until it intersects the boundary line between the United States and the British Possessions." This eastern boundary was nearly the same as the present eastern line of St. Louis County. But if the description above quoted was complete and accurate, St. Louis county acquired and for a few months included all the area in its present boundary, and those of Itasca, Cass and Pembina west of the east line above denoted, to the Missouri and White Earth rivers. St. Louis thereby included all of the present Itasca, but the latter apparently retained northern Aitkin and Carlton, and at least that part of St. Louis south of the St. Louis river.

As these counties remained unorganized, the fluctuations and inconsistencies in their boundaries were of little practical importance; and the purposes of the kaleidoscopic changes are somewhat difficult to see. In March, 1856, Lake county was created including all the territory east of the line due north from the mouth of Knife river to the Canadian boundary; and in the same act it was provided that St. Louis county was created, including "so much of the County of Itasca" embraced in a line commencing at the point where Itasca's south boundary intersected the range lines between ranges 51 and 52, thence north to Canada, thence east along the international boundary to Lake county, thence south along the latter's west boundary to Lake Superior, thence "in a southeasterly direction" along the shore of that lake and up the St.

Louis river to the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary; thence south to the present south boundary of Itasca county" (Lat. 46°30'); thence west along that boundary to the place of beginning. Thereby St. Louis acquired all its present boundaries and approximately the northern half of Carlton, Itasca, Lake and St. Louis remained attached to Benton (which had become considerably reduced) for judicial purposes.

A year later, in May, 1857, Carlton was created, acquiring its present boundaries; and "Aiken," (whose name was shortly to be changed to Aitkin), including only that part of the present county south of the then Itasca south line (that between the mouth of Mud river and 46°30' on the east territorial line); also, Crow Wing (then only including that part of the present county south of the Mississippi); and provision was made for the organization of these and other counties then coming into being.

And on March 6, 1857, it was enacted that the County of Itasca "is hereby declared to be an organized county." The temporary county seat was fixed at Ojibway (I have not yet definitely located this point - probably a trading post on Sandy Lake), the governor was empowered to appoint three county commissioners having the power to appoint other county officers and perform all other functions of a county board. The county was attached to the third judicial district, terms of court to be held as appointed by the judge of that district (one of the three supreme court justices.) No record has yet been found of any appointment of any county officials, of any functioning of the county then organized, nor of any court term appointed or held.

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

On February 26, 1847, Congress passed an act "to authorize the people of Minnesota to form a constitution and state government, preparatory to their admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original states." It fixed the boundaries as they are now. Pursuant thereto a constitutional convention was called to be held on Monday, July 13th. The partisan sympathies in the commonwealth were nearly equally divided, and many seats were in dispute. No hour of meeting had been set, the place was the chamber of the House of Representatives. The Republicans assembled first and took possession of the chamber. The Democrats shortly appeared, and the platform was occupied by two chairmen, one selected by each group. The Democrats moved to adjourn until the next day, and their chairman declared an adjournment. The Republicans remained and retained possession. The Democrats, not gaining admittance to the House chamber, reassembled in the Council chamber. The two bodies met from day to day for two months, each framing a constitution. Finally, late in August, conference committees met and, without either section surrendering, agreed upon a document which was submitted to the people and ratified by them on October 13th by a vote of 30,055 to 571. At the same election state officers were chosen, Sibley, Democrat, prevailing over Ramsey, Republican, for governor, by a vote of 17,790 to 17,550. The first state legislature convened on December 3d and remained in session to August 12, 1858. In the meantime, on May 11, 1858, congress approved the constitution and admitted the State into the Union.

(As in the case of part of Wisconsin Territory's becoming a State, a like controversy now arose whether what remained of Minnesota Territory retained a territorial government. As late as April 20, 1860, President Buchanan replied to an inquiry of the National House of Representatives that since the admission of the State in 1858 he had done nothing either affirming or denying the existence of the Territory, and that the question in regard to that part of it without the limits of the existing State remained for the decision of Congress. That decision was made in 1861 when Dakota Territory was created, including not only the present boundaries of the two Dakotas, but also Montana and parts of Idaho and Wyoming.)

For the purposes of this paper, the significant portions of the new Minnesota Constitution were the provision in the attached "Schedule" that the territorial laws and proceedings should remain in force until they expire by their own limitation or

are altered or repealed by the legislature, others placing Itasca in the 26th legislative and the 4th judicial districts, and the provision in Article 11, section 1, that all laws changing county lines in organized counties shall, before taking effect, be submitted to the voters of the county or counties affected and be adopted by a majority of them.

In the light of these provisions it seems clear that for some reason the territorial act of March 1857, purporting to organize Itasca County never became effective; for on March 18, 1858, Itasca and Cass were attached to Crow Wing for judicial purposes, all recording theretofore done in the latter county being legalized; and on August 12th in the same year Crow Wing, Itasca, Cass, Mille Lacs and Pembina were attached to Morrison, in the 3d judicial district, "for judicial and other purposes to enforce civil rights and criminal justice;" and on March 7, 1861, the boundary lines of "Aiken" county were changed so as to add to it some territory from Pine and Ramsey and also so much of Itasca as was south of the line between townships 47 and 48. Before this should take effect the approval of the voters of Pine and Ramsey was required, not that of the electors of Itasca.

Itasca's boundaries, upon the taking effect of this act, became as follows; Beginning at the north boundary of the state in the middle of the Lake of the Woods; thence due south to the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi; thence down that channel to the line between ranges 21 and 22; thence up that line to the Canadian boundary; thence along that line to the place of beginning. Itasca then embraced all its present boundaries (except the area south and west of the Mississippi, still in Cass), all of Aitkin east of that river to a line a short distance south of McGregor and Tamarack, all of Koochiching, and a considerable strip in Beltrami and Lake of the Woods; probably including the site of Baudette, but not that of Bemidji. I do not find that occasion ever arose to definitely locate "the middle of the Lake of the Woods".

In 1866 Itasca, St. Louis and other counties were placed in the newly-created seventh judicial district.

On February 21, 1871, Aiken County (whose name was changed to "Aitkin" the following year) was given its present boundaries, thereby further substantially restricting those of Cass and Itasca, and provision was made for its organization; and it was attached to Crow Wing for judicial and record purposes.

On March 4, 1872, Cass County was declared organized, the governor thereupon appointed its county commissioners who selected West Brainerd as its county seat and appointed other officers. Its area included all its present boundaries, all of Itasca and Beltrami south of the Mississippi, all or practically all of Hubbard, and all of Crow Wing north of the Mississippi. Four years later, by Sp. Laws 1876, ch. 208, the act organizing Cass was repealed, the county disorganized and attached to Crow Wing for record and judicial purposes. This legislation led to an interesting case, *State, ex rel. Slipp v. McFadden*, 23 Minn. 40. The Cass county board on March 15, 1876, removed the county treasurer, and appointed the relator in his place. The former treasurer turned over his books, papers, etc., not to relator, but to respondent, the treasurer of Crow Wing county. In this mandamus suit Cass county contended that, because of the constitutional provision against changing the boundaries of an organized county without a vote of its people the 1876 act had not become effective. The supreme court held the provision relied upon did not prohibit the legislature's disorganizing the county and denied the writ sought. Chief Justice Gilfillan vigorously dissented, being of the opinion that abolition of an organized county was equivalent to a change of its boundaries. (In *State, ex rel. Childs v. Board of County Commissioners of Crow Wing County*, 66 Minn. 519, in 1896, the court followed the *McFadden* case, but held that by the 1881 and 1892 amendments of the constitution, article 4, secs. 33 and 34, the provision in article 11, sec. 1, above mentioned, was repealed by implication.)

Cass County, by its disorganization, having reverted to the status of one subject to the complete control of the legislature, the next thirteen years produced important changes, and proposed changes, in its boundaries without its voters having any voice on the subject. In 1883 a portion was detached to form Hubbard county. In 1883 and 1885 the taking of portions to be attached to Crow Wing was submitted only to the electors of the latter county; and in 1887 all that part of the present Crow Wing north of the Mississippi was permitted to be taken from Cass by Crow Wing, if the latter's voters wanted it, and they did. In 1883 the voters of Wadena were given the opportunity to take the five townships adjoining that county on the east but rejected them. In 1887 that part of Itasca south of the Mississippi was finally acquired by transfer from Cass, neither county being organized and therefore no vote of the people of either county being necessary. Beltrami, which had been established in 1866, increased in 1878-9, acquiring that part of Itasca west of the latter's present boundaries, was in 1882 enhanced by receiving from Cass that part of Beltrami's present area south of the Mississippi. Some solace was proposed for Cass in 1867 and 1891 by giving her the five northern full and fractional townships in Morrison, subject to the approval of the voters of that county; but the voters said "No," and the gift was not effectuated.

Thus in 1887 Itasca's boundaries had become what they remained for some twenty years until Koochiching was created from her northern reaches. In the same year the 15th judicial district was established, including Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca and Wadena. C. B. Sleeper of Brainerd was appointed the first judge, and was succeeded after the next election by George W. Holland of the same city. In 1887, too, Itasca was detached from Crow Wing and attached to Aitkin for record, judicial, taxation and other purposes.

By the apportionment of 1889 Itasca, Aitkin, Cass, Hubbard, Wadena and Carlton became the 53d legislative district. At the session of 1891, by Chapter 147 Itasca became an organized county, the governor was empowered to appoint three county commissioners, who were to appoint the other county officers (except that the Aitkin County sheriff was to remain such for Itasca until the next general election), were to divide the county into commissioners' districts, and, with the officers appointed by them, to hold office until the next election. The county seat was to be chosen by the voters at that election.

In 1895 Itasca for the first time sent one of her citizens to the legislature, Daniel M. Gunn of Grand Rapids, entering the house. The 1897 apportionment placed Carlton, Aitkin, Itasca and Cass in the 52d district; and the 1913 apportionment limited the area of that district to Itasca and Cass, which had in the meantime been reorganized.

By amendment (Art 4, sec. 33) of the constitution, adopted at the 1892 election, the legislature was prohibited from passing local or special laws dealing with various subjects, including regulating the affairs of or incorporating, erecting or changing the lines of any county or other local unit. Thereupon chapter 143, Laws 1893, was enacted, which, with changes, is still the law (Mason's Stats., secs. 602 et seq.) This contemplates changing of boundaries and organization of new counties upon filing of a petition, signed by a designated percentage of the voters of the county or counties affected, with the secretary of state, the governor proclaims the same and directs its submittal to the voters. Only one proposition, ordinarily, may be submitted at one time. The result is certified to the governor and, if it is favorable, he proclaims the same. The proposition submitted designates boundaries, county seat and the first county board, who, upon acquiring office, appoint the other county officers.

Under this act in 1906 three petitions were filed each for the creation of a new county out of portions of Itasca, each proposed new county having boundaries different from those of the others. One contemplated the creation of Koochiching County,

one Forest County, and the third Northome County. The Koochiching petition being first filed, it alone was submitted at the election that fall. Naturally vigorous opposition was presented by the voters interested in the other petitions, but the proposition carried and was so proclaimed. An attempt to defeat the result in the courts failed (State V. McDonald, 101 Minn. 249); and the final change in Itasca's boundaries was completed.

The detachment of Koochiching left Itasca with only four commissioners' districts. At the first meeting in 1907 the commissioners were equally divided on organization. They remained deadlocked, unable to transact any business, until a bill was hastily drafted, submitted to the legislature and passed under suspension of the rules, providing for the governor's appointing a commissioner at large to serve until the next election after redistricting of the county. Cyrus M. King of Deer River, father of the present state auditor, was the commissioner at large appointed, and remained on the board for some years. The act of the legislature still remains on the statutes (Mason's Stats., secs. 611-615), and has been used in other like emergencies.

EARLY COUNTY RECORDS

By Laws of 1870, chapter 56, it was provided that deeds and other documents affecting real estate in an unorganized county may be recorded in the county to which it is attached for judicial purposes. Until 1887, at least so far as affecting Itasca, no provision was made for keeping the records for the unorganized county separate. The many changes affecting the boundaries of Itasca, and in the designation of the county to which it was attached for judicial purposes, caused much confusion and doubt as to the proper place for recording such instruments. As changes were made, records affecting real estate in the territory affected were, or should have been transcribed to the county which became the proper place for such records to be found thereafter. When Itasca became organized in 1891 transcripts of all such records found, or should have found, their way to the office of the register of deeds of this county. Omissions occurred, but, perhaps through the diligence of owners, as well as of the officials, few which caused serious breaks or defects in the title. Duplications were quite frequent, indeed, after a complete transcribing authorized by the county board many years later, the same instrument may now be found, occasionally, in three or four of the Itasca County records.

In the 1887 act, chapter 264, it was provided that the records of Itasca county should be kept by the Aitkin county officials separate and apart from those of their own county, in books owned by or procured for the use of Itasca, and that all the officers of Aitkin county should have all the authority, jurisdiction and duties of their respective offices for and in behalf of Itasca county with the same effect as if they had been regularly chosen or elected and qualified as such officers of Itasca. The context makes these provisions at least open to the construction that the county commissioners of Aitkin were among the officers having such authority, jurisdiction and duties.

Accordingly, at least in the office of the Itasca County register of deeds, the first original records were those which were brought here from Aitkin in 1891; and in the first clothbound commissioners' record book the first 74 pages bear minutes of meetings of the county board for Aitkin and Itasca counties dealing with Itasca county matters commencing February 26, 1887, and ending January 17, 1891. S. S. Luther was county auditor all during that period. Board members during portions of the period were E. B. Lowell, W. B. Marr, D. M. Scriven, John Hennessy, and Mr. Hazelton.

Official action taken dealt to quite an extent with acting on applications for liquor licenses at Grand Rapids, Akeley (La Prairie) and Pokegama Falls, the fees for which provided nearly one-fourth of the revenue for Itasca county purposes. This board appointed the assessor, equalized the assessments, levied taxes for county, road and bridge and poor purposes, fixed salaries to be paid by Itasca, designated

the newspaper for publishing official proceedings and delinquent tax list (The Aitkin Age until 1891 when the La Prairie Magnet, A. G. Bernard, publisher, was awarded the work), selected jurors, and contracted and paid bills for services dealing with Itasca county affairs, except, apparently, roads, bridges and school matters. Wm. L. Wakefield, H. R. King, and George W. Keithley were successively the assessors appointed. C. A. Buell and Charles Kearney were appointed justices of the peace for the Grand Rapids election district. On September 24, 1888, Township 55, Range 25 was organized as Grand Rapids Town.

On May 6, 1890, an historic controversy first appeared in the records. A petition was filed to incorporate the Village of La Prairie. John Beckfelt submitted a protest, alleging the proposed area did not have 175 actual residents. Action was deferred to the next meeting, and a petition to incorporate the Village of Grand Rapids was referred back to the signers, probably for technical defects.

At the next meeting, on May 19th, the La Prairie petition was again taken up, but action on it was prevented by a writ of injunction in an action brought by Robert McCabe and others against E. B. Lowell and others; and on this date a petition of Charles Kearney and 36 others for the incorporation of Grand Rapids was entertained and a resolution adopted fixing the school house in Grand Rapids and on June 28, 1890, as the place and time for an election to vote on incorporation; George W. Keithley, E. R. Lewis and C. A. Buell being appointed inspectors. The two petitions, for La Prairie and for Grand Rapids, materially overlapped and conflicted as to boundaries, and this no doubt defeated the first effort at Grand Rapids' incorporation; for one infers it was voted down.

The La Prairie petition was held in abeyance until November 14, 1890, when the board asked and obtained an opinion from the county attorney on the question whether granting it would be a contempt of court. His opinion was evidently in the negative, for the petition was granted, and December 22 and C. A. Buell's Hall were named the time and place for the voters to act on the petition. Mr. Buell, S. S. Boots and Daniel Smith were named inspectors. Eighty-six votes were cast at the election, all in the affirmative, and the incorporation became complete by filing the proper documents on December 29th.

At the meeting on November 14th the county board received a communication demonstrating that in some respects times have not changed. Thirty-eight citizens and taxpayers of Aitkin and Itasca counties, headed by W. B. Marr demanded that expenditures be reduced to the lowest possible limit, stating that "the continued increase of taxes and debt of Aitkin and Itasca counties is becoming a burden too great to be borne, and we look to you as the guardians for relief." This petition, after being laid over, was on January 17th "indefinitely postponed."

The 1887 act contemplated that an accurate account of the district court expense should be kept, and the same paid by the two counties in the proportions of their valuations each year. This seems to have been overlooked until February, 1891, when, the prospective independence of Itasca probably being in sight, the clerk of court reported the expenses for the period from April 1, 1889, to February 26, 1891; and, finding the then valuations to be Aitkin, \$572,270, Itasca, \$1,903,643, the board divided the expense in these proportions, Itasca \$4921.35, Aitkin, \$2093.35, and directed the auditor to issue an order on the Itasca Revenue fund for the balance due Aitkin, \$1580 having theretofore been paid. On April 14 the division of court expense was brought down to date, and the board for Aitkin and Itasca adjourned sine die.

In the mean time another "county board" had been meeting and performing important functions. In the county auditor's office is a little paper bound book containing entries beginning with one not dated, reciting that the county commissioners of Itasca county met, William Wakefield and Allen T. Nason present, Patrick Casey absent, that Wakefield was elected chairman, and the meeting adjourned to July 28, 1887.

What authority there was for such a board has not been disclosed by the limited search I have thus far been able to make. Old timers tell me the Aitkin county board delegated certain of their duties to this body; but the minutes of neither body show anything as to same. An old statute, appearing in the 1866 general statutes at page 115, contains a Title 3 under the heading, "County Commissioners," the first section of which provides that "every county shall be deemed an organized county for the purposes of this title, and shall have a board of county commissioners" of three or five members, depending upon the number of votes polled. The counties were to be districted, and the commissioners elected for three-year terms, and they were to have the powers usually incident to their offices. This act was construed in *State v. Parker*, 25 Minn. 215 (1878) and in *Smith v. Anderson*, 33 Minn. 25 (1884) as authorizing unorganized counties to have county boards with certain powers which the court did not undertake to delimit, beyond holding that they could not appoint, and the counties could not have other county officers. The statute has ever since remained on the books. The specific powers given Aitkin county officials, including the county board, by the 1887 act might well be construed to make the old law inapplicable to Itasca during that period; but it is not impossible that the old statute furnished the color of authority for the board whose doings we are about to briefly consider. Other sources of information could be examined and more enlightenment obtained.

On August 26, 1887, this board met again. This time Wakefield was absent, and Nason was elected chairman. \$2809.22 was levied for road and bridge purposes.

On September 17, 1887, the board entered into a contract with Sidney McDonald to open a wagon road between Grand Rapids and the United States government dam at Pokegama Falls for \$250. This amount was afterwards paid, on November 25th, by Order No. 1.

On September 21, 1887, the board met at W. Potter & Co's. store (other meetings were held at the Fraser House, in La Prairie, and at other points), and received a petition signed by John Beckfelt and others for the creation of a school district to comprise the Town of Grand Rapids. This petition, dated on the 20th, was granted the day it was presented and provision made for an organization election. On October 25 a resolution was adopted (apparently with no preliminary formalities) attaching all the rest of Itasca County to this School District No. 1. Thus came into existence the first "common school district of ten or more townships" in the state. Legislation has from time to time been passed governing such districts, and the experiment has proved successful. The original purpose no doubt was to have the benefit of the timber valuations in the county. Detachments from the district have been made from time to time, but it still includes contiguous territory extending to every corner of the county. Its validity in the first place probably cannot be defended; but the question has long since been foreclosed by a statute (Mason, sec. 2792) that a district which has exercised its powers and franchises for a year shall be deemed legally organized.

This Itasca County "board" met only spasmodically, the only meeting recorded in 1888 being one in July when orders were issued to Mr. Nason and another for road work. Next on May 29, 1889, the "board" met. Commissioners L. F. Knox and C. A. Buell being present, and considered a petition of Charles Kearney and 28 others for a wagon bridge across the Mississippi at Grand Rapids. This was followed up by letting a contract in June for \$4350, which was afterwards paid by orders issued by this board.

In November a petition was acted on for a highway commencing at Leland Avenue, in Grand Rapids, extending in a line as direct as practical, to Prairie Lake. In March, 1890, came a road from Bass Brook southeasterly near Pokegama Falls, through Grand Rapids and La Prairie and over Prairie river to the mouth of Blackberry brook. In May a wood and iron bridge across Prairie river below the Duluth & Winnipeg railway bridge, and a road from the Leland Avenue bridge to Pokegama lake by the most feasible routes were considered, also a petition for a road between La Prairie and the Diamond iron mine; in June a road from the east shore of McKinney lake to Prairie Falls.

The Itasca county organization act was passed March 7, 1891, the governor appointed L. F. Knox, B. C. Finnegan and J. P. Sims the first commissioners, and they met on March 24th. At this meeting they divided the county into three commissioners' districts, No. 1, all west of the line between ranges 25 and 26; No. 2, all east of that line except the Town of Grand Rapids; No. 3, that town. They designated Grand Rapids as the county seat until changed at the next general election, invited bids for supplies, selected Court Square, Block 20, in the Townsite of Grand Rapids, as the site for the county building and vault, recommended one term of court, time to be left to the judge, and appointed the following officers; H. R. King, Auditor; John Beckfelt, treasurer; Charles Kearney, register of deeds; H. W. Canfield, attorney; Wade Blaker, clerk of court; E. R. Lewis, surveyor; M. A. Woods, assessor. A little later C. L. Pratt was appointed judge of probate and court commissioner, and T. R. Pravitz superintendent of schools.

A contract was let March 25th to F. A. B. King for building to be used for the county offices for \$570; and to L. L. Jensen for a vault for \$170. On May 1st, Commissioner Knox was instructed to take steps to save the Prairie River bridge, and Commissioner Finnegan to make the best possible arrangements for repair of the road to Prairie lake. A result of their efforts probably was an appropriation of \$250 from the legislature to aid in repairing a bridge across Prairie river, between Grand Rapids and La Prairie, described as near the line between townships 55 and 56.

On May 1, a new petition for incorporation of the Village of Grand Rapids with a lesser area, was acted on favorably, June 9th and John Beckfelt's hall being designated as the time and place for the election, and M. Marshall, F. L. Vance and S. F. Ellis as inspectors. Fifty-eight ballots were cast at this election, of which 52 were favorable, six opposed.

Another evidence of a still-existing problem was ~~action~~ taken by the board on June 13th instructing the auditor to notify lumbermen that the board would abate penalties and interest on all "cut lands" if the owners would pay the original taxes.

Kremer and King petitioned for the privilege of occupying part of the court house for the purpose of making abstracts, pursuant to section 947, "Kelly's Statutes," and they were permitted to occupy the auditor's or treasurer's offices when not inconvenient to the officials.

The American Loan & Trust Co., of Duluth was made depository of county funds, to be succeeded a year later by the Lumbermen's Bank of Grand Rapids.

The 1891 levy for county purposes was in the amount of \$10,000, for roads and bridges \$1900.

In July, 1891, pursuant to petition of 47 voters, School District No. 2 was formed, comprising La. Prairie and all the rest of the east half of Town 55-25 and the west half of Town 55-24; and the new district was awarded part of the funds of District No. 1.

On November 7 a contract was let to Charles Kearney for 25 cords of dry hardwood at \$3 per cord, and 25 cords of green hardwood for \$2.50 per cord.

In December provision was made for a bridge over Bass Brook.

The matters of sluice dams constantly arose. The Aitkin board in 1887 had granted licenses to the Itasca Lumber Co; to erect and maintain dams across Swan river, the thoroughfare between Trout and Wabana lakes, and "Clearwater stream." In 1891 and 1892 similar licenses were granted to George H. Price for a dam across Hartley brook, to O. L. Mather one across Hanson brook, to F. A. Powers one across Prairie river, and to Elijah Price one across Balsam brook. The Powers petition met with vigorous opposition from other timber operators, but was finally granted after special provisions were agreed upon.

The Grand Rapids Magnet in January was designated the official newspaper.

In March, 1892, Mr. Canfield resigned as county attorney. C. L. Pratt was appointed to succeed him, retaining his position as court commissioner and being succeeded by O. H. Stilson as judge of probate.

In July, 1892, \$12,000 were levied for county purposes.

In October several election precincts which had been established by the governor were confirmed. (These probably included precincts which in an election contest in 1907 were held illegal because only polling places. No boundaries were designated.) Election officials for the coming election were appointed.

The election resulted in changes. The new commissioners were Fred L. Churchill of Deer River, John F. Killorin of Swan River, and Daniel M. Gunn of Grand Rapids. Other new officers elected were Angus McIntosh, auditor; C. H. Duggin, treasurer; E. A. Arnold, Judge of probate; M. L. Toole, sheriff; George Cox, surveyor; J. A. Bowman, Jr., court commissioner; Melville H. Manson, coroner; Messrs. Pratt and Blaker succeeded themselves as attorney and clerk of court.

The closing pages of the old board's minutes recite that at the election the Village of Grand Rapids was selected as the county seat, and designate Block 20 as the site for county buildings, also employ C. C. McCarthy and J. N. True to assist the county attorney in defending against a county seat contest.

The new board promptly rescinded the action employing the special attorneys on January 10th after hearing vigorous "remarks" from attorney E. E. Neal, representing the La Prairie side of the controversy.

The matter of official publications was disposed of by giving all the printing to the La Prairie News, W. A. Thomas, publisher. In February the board adopted a resolution condemning "the author of reported outrages by Indians at Deer River," and requesting Editor Thomas to send the Globe Newspaper a refutation and complete denial of same.

On May 16th a petition of School District No. 2 to extend its boundaries to begin at the southwest corner of Town 53-25, thence north to the southwest corner of 55-25, thence east to the center of the town, thence north to the north line and west to the northwest corner, thence north to the north line of the county at Rainy river, "containing about two-fifths of the county," was received and granted. (At a later time some of this was restored to District No. 1, some placed in new districts; but by this rather summary action, akin to those whereby District No. 1 was created and extended, District No. 2 acquired and still embraces the area afterwards found to contain a very considerable part of the county's mineral wealth.)

On the same day a report of the grand jury, signed by G. S. (George F?) Meyers, as foreman, came to the board's attention commenting on the inadequacy and unsanitary condition of the jail, eleven prisoners being confined in space no larger than

proper for one cell. On June 22d Judge Holland was present; and at his suggestion the board instructed the county attorney to look thoroughly into the possibility of selling bonds to build a new court house and jail. From this action the present court house resulted.

On July 10th \$40,000 was levied for county purposes.

The dates and order of plats filed may be of interest, indicating the actual or hoped-for development of the urban communities:

	Grand Rapids	C. A. Lang et al	Aug. 9, 1890
Second Division	Grand Rapids	Chatterton & Rosser	Aug. 13, 1890
Prospect Park	Grand Rapids	Ada R. Howes	Aug. 26, 1890

Filed in Crow Wing County

<u>Plat</u>		<u>Platters</u>	<u>Filed</u>
Wilson & Gillespie's	Grand Rapids	Wilson & Gillespie	Nov. 25, 1882
Original Town	Grand Rapids	G.C. Hartley et al.	Sept. 22, 1883
Oakland	Grand Rapids	Mary L. Salmon	Dec. 8, 1883
Woodland	Grand Rapids	Mary L. Salmon	May 20, 1884
Garland's	Grand Rapids	L. N. Shepherd	May 5, 1885

Filed in Aitkin County

Akeley (La Prairie)		Charlotte E. Smith	Oct. 13, 1889
Akeley 1st Addition		F. A. Clarkson	Nov. 14, 1889
La Prairie		C. A. Buell et al.	Jan. 4, 1890
Foley's	Grand Rapids	T. R. Foley	June 6, 1890
First Division	Grand Rapids	Jesse B. Chatterton	June 27, 1890
Syndicate	Grand Rapids	C. A. Long et al.	Aug. 9, 1890
Second Division	Grand Rapids	Chatterton & Rosser	Aug. 13, 1890
Prospect Park	Grand Rapids	Ada R. Howes	Aug. 26, 1890

Filed in Itasca County

Central	Grand Rapids	John J. McAuliffe	Apr. 15, 1891
Riverside Park	Grand Rapids	Charles E. Snell	Apr. 22, 1891
Compton (near Cohasset)		Canfield & Markham	July 29, 1891
Kearney	Grand Rapids	Charles Kearney	July 31, 1891
Deer River		Wm. M. Fields	Nov. 28, 1891
Houghton's	La Prairie	Geo. N. Houghton	May 25, 1892
East La Prairie		A. B. Darellus	Oct. 16, 1892
Third Division	Grand Rapids	Gleophas Tremblay	Mch. 22, 1893
Houghton's Second	Grand Rapids	G. N. Houghton	Mch. 29, 1893
Buell's	La Prairie	Buell, Fraser, McIntosh	May 26, 1893
McLeod's Acre Lots	La Prairie	K. K. McLeod	Sept. 15, 1893
Cohasset		Jessie M. Lawrence	Oct. 10, 1893

No reason or excuse is offered for stopping here, other than lack of time to continue the research further. Practically all that has been mentioned has been inadequately treated. Many subjects, such as acquisition of territory from the Indians, times and methods of passing titles from the governments, sources and occasions of the influx of the pioneers, beginnings and extensions of the railroad, development and progress of lumbering, mining, manufacturing, agriculture, resorts, noteworthy experiences, have been barely touched upon, if at all. Other sources of information are readily available, other offices and records here and elsewhere,

newspapers of the periods, the recollections of oldtimers still with us. If this paper shall encourage others to carry on and improve the task it will have served its purpose.

Grand Rapids, Nov. 30, 1937.

Alfred L. Thwing

(1)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Refuss (No. 31-5992)

Itasca

APR 29 REC'D

Amos Forsythe.

Mr. Forsythe was one of the first white men to come into the territory that is now Cohasset.

Mr. Forsythe came from Quebec, Canada, and was a man of powerful stature. He was a man of very little education, but was very much in favor of education, and was always anxious that his son and daughter should receive as much of it as possible. He often said that had he had more education he could have had several very good jobs and business opportunities in the early days. Mr. Forsythe came in here in the year 1862 and worked for West Hill and Jim Lawrence, lumbermen.

In the depression of 1894 and 1895 he lost about \$500.00 in wages which the lumber operators were unable to pay on account of low prices they received from their lumber. They did well to receive \$7.50 per thousand feet for their lumber after cutting and floating it down the Mississippi to the Twin Cities. Mr. Forsythe homesteaded a farm here in 1868. Adjoining the farm is a small lake, known as Forsythe Lake. Both farm and lake are located in Section 11, Township 55, Range 26. Mr. Forsythe farmed in the summer, and in the winter he ran tote team from Deer River to Bear River. He furnished his own horses and received \$25.00 per month wages.

In the winter of 1900 he built a very fine house and barn, but two nights before Christmas of that year fire destroyed both house and barn and almost proved fatal for the family. The fire was discovered about three o'clock in the morning, and Mr. Forsythe was awakened by the family cat. The family awoke to find themselves surrounded by flames, and the roof fell in just as they went out. They were then in a very serious situation, as they saved no clothing and the temperature was 40° below zero. Mr. Forsythe had a coat and one sock, and he ran to the village of Cohasset for help, a distance of about a mile and a half. In the meantime, Mrs. Forsythe had

(2)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Refuss (No. 31-6992)

Amos Forsythe (2)

procured one blanket, and she and her two children curled up in a snow bank with one light blanket for shelter. From the exposure and shock Mrs. Forsythe developed pneumonia. After a hard battle she recovered, but she was in poor health for a long time after this terrible ordeal.

Just before the barn was destroyed Mr. Forsythe turned his horses loose and they dashed off in the woods and he did not find them for almost a week.

After the fire Mr. Forsythe opened a saloon in Cohasset, which he operated from 1900 to 1903, when he again lost everything by fire. After this he went back to farming again.

Farming equipment was very scarce, and about the only plow in the community was a wooden one owned by a Mr. Dobson, about twenty miles up the Mississippi from Cohasset. Mr. Forsythe borrowed this for one day, but to do so he had to row up the river for the plow. Farming meant lots of hard work. For supplies it was necessary to go to La Prairie, a distance of about fifteen miles.

Mr. Forsythe claimed that the Indians were always friendly, and he never had trouble with them except on one occasion when a large Indian buck under the influence of liquor one day walked into his home and told Mr. Forsythe he wanted to fight. Mr. Forsythe reached for his 44 which always hung handy by the kitchen door and said, alright, they would fight, but the Indian took to his heels; and that was the only trouble he ever had with any of them. Mr. Forsythe continued farming until he died with cancer on September 13, 1935. Mr. John Forsythe owns the farm his father homesteaded. John says that when his father died at the age of 76 years he was hale and strong almost up to the end, and he did not have a gray hair on his head.

Source: Interview with John Forsythe, March 31, 1941, at Cohasset, Minn.

(3)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Refuss (No. 31-6992)

BODEGA

In recent excavation work being done by the W. P. A. in Grand Rapids, a metal plate or tag, about one inch square, was dug up. This tag bears the inscription ~~BIMBOM~~ BODEGA, and also bears a number.

This will probably recall to old times the saloon called the Bodega which was operated by Mike McAlpine and was located where the McAlpine building now stands (in Grand Rapids) and started business in the spring of 1886.

The word Bodega is taken from the Spanish language, and means a place of wine storage or wine cellar.

The liquor sold over the bar was served direct from wooden kegs and wooden spigot.

Many of the lumberjacks often made the Bodega their lodging place. There were no rooms for rent, but the upstairs was one large room, and the men would roll up in their blankets and sleep there.

The number on the metal plate was probably used to identify their blankets and personal belongings. The Bodega was a place of strong liquor and also strong men.

A story is told of a Mr. ~~Varnum~~ ^{VARNUM} ~~Blood~~ ^{arnum?} making a bet that he could carry in a 300 pound barrel of liquor from the street and place it on the back bar, which he did with no trouble.

Varnum! ~~Varnum~~ Blood was a powerful man, and was at one time professional strong man with the Barnum ~~and Bait~~ circus. He was also said to be the son-in-law of P. T. Barnum, the prominent circus owner.

Source: Interview with Archie McDougall, April 8th, 1941.

(4)

Proj. No. 8633 - Research - Refu~~ss~~ (No. 31-6992)

Compton.

In the early days there was considerable rivalry between two factions as to the naming of the village of what is now Cohasset. Some of the people wanted the name of Cohasset, and some Compton.

Compton addition as it is now known, was homesteaded by Miss Jessie Lawrence, daughter of Hill Lawrence, lumberman.

This property was later sold to Mr. John Skelly, and was platted July 20, 1891, by E. R. Lewis, County Surveyor. Location: NE quarter of SW quarter of Section 11 (from Courthouse Record in G. R.)

Source: Interview with John Skelly, April 8, 1941, Cohasset.

(5)

Proj. No. 8633 - Research - Refuss (No. 31-6992)

Mrs. Frank Brackett.

Mrs. Frank Brackett, daughter of Thomas Cook who built the Bass Brook Hotel, the first hotel built in Cohasset, was born in 1892 in one of the Sims' Lumber Co. buildings which the cooks had for a residence. This building was located on the north bank of the Mississippi, and was located on the site now occupied by the Grady Mercantile Co.

As a child, Mrs. Brackett remembers the Indians who came to her father's hotel to sell fish, venison and berries. She was afraid of the Indians because they grunted instead of talking. She also remembers many happy social affairs that were held in ~~her~~ father's hotel.

She was one of the students under the first school teacher in Cohasset, a Mrs. Johndreau, who was rated as a very fine teacher.

(Note: Photograph of building where Mrs. Brackett was born can be furnished for reproduction.)

Source: Interview with Mrs. Brackett, April 2, 1941, Cohasset.

(6)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Refuss (No 31-6992)

Bass Brook Hotel, Cohasset. Thomas Cook.

The first hotel in Cohasset was built in the year 1895 by Thomas Cook and Al Nason.

Thomas Cook and his wife Julia came to Cohasset from Grand Rapids, Minn., and for a short time were with the J. P. Sims Lumber Co. Before erecting the hotel, which was a two-story frame building, Mr. and Mrs. Cook lived in one of the lumber company's buildings, located on the site now occupied by the Grady Mercantile Co.

Mr. Cook and Al Nason operated the hotel on a partnership basis for a short time, when the Cook's bought out the Nason interest, and they ran the hotel until Mr. Cook's death in 1901.

After her husband's death Mrs. Cook operated the hotel for a short time, and then sold out to a party by the name of Erickson, who ran it until it was destroyed by fire in 1902.

The old Bass Brook Hotel was the scene of many merry social affairs, and quite often friends from Grand Rapids would come up on sleigh ride parties, bringing an orchestra with them and holding dances in the hotel dining room.

The Bass Brook Hotel was located on the site opposite where the Great Northern Depot now stands.

(Mrs. Brackett of Cohasset has old photograph of hotel, which can be borrowed for reproduction.)

Source: Interview with Mrs. Frank Brackett, April 4, 1941, Cohasset.

(7)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Refuss (No. 31-6992)

Post Office - Cohasset.

Previous to the spring of 1895 Cohasset people had to call for their mail in Grand Rapids. The first post office was established in the spring of 1895. The first postmaster was Mr. Joseph C. Crawther, who served in that capacity from 1895 to 1900. Mr. Crawther was very well liked, and took an active interest in community affairs. He also operated the river steamboat, the Magnet, which was used for hauling camp supplies and towing logs.

Mr. Crawther left Cohasset in 1901 to go to Idaho.

The second postmaster was Mr. James Hughes, who served from ~~1895~~ 1901 to 1902.

Mr. Henry Carrier, the third postmaster, served from 1902 to 1910.

The fourth postmaster, Mr. George O'Brien, served from 1910 to 1921. Mr. O'Brien was very active in all local affairs, and also active in the real estate business. He now operates the Riverside Hotel in Grand Rapids.

Mr. John Forsythe, the sixth and present postmaster, has served since 1922. Mr. Forsythe is a son of Amos Forsythe, one of the first white men in Cohasset, who homesteaded the present Forsythe farm in 1888.

Mr. John Forsythe, present postmaster, is very efficient, and has a host of friends in the community. Mr. Forsythe has had the experience of seeing the Village of Cohasset spring up from nothing into a thriving village, and now fast becoming a ghost town.

Source: Interview with John Forsythe, April 9, 1941, Cohasset.

(8)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Refuss (No. 31-6992)
Railroad Spur.

In the early lumbering days of Cohasset (1900?) there was a Railroad spur running directly north from Cohasset to Deer Lake.

This spur was built by the J. P. Sims Lumber Co., who intended to haul logs from the Deer Lake district to the Mississippi river at Cohasset. At that time practically all the shore line in Cohasset was owned by Jessie Lawrence, daughter of Hill Lawrence.

Miss Lawrence figured that the Sims Lumber Co. would pay a pretty good price for river frontage to unload the Sims Lbr. Co. logs, so she set an almost prohibitive price on the land the lumber company wanted to buy. After many heated discussions with Mr. Sims regarding it, he finally became angry and pulled up the railroad spur and all and moved to Deer River, where he built another road from Deer River to Big Fork. This line was known by the old ~~the~~ settlers as the gut and liver line.

There are many old settlers today that say if Jessie Lawrence had been more reasonable Cohasset would have been a much larger town and probably the county seat.

The old spur running out of Cohasset to Deer Lake was built over some very swampy ground, and a story is told about a locomotive~~s~~ and two flat-cars of lumber jumping the track and and sunk in the swamp.

Many old settlers claim that the locomotive and cars are still buried in the swamp. Others claim that just the logs were lost, and that the railroad equipment was salvaged. Opinion about equally divided. (Will try to procure real facts.)

Source: Interview with John Skelly, and John Forsythe, April 3, 1941, Cohasset.

Itasca

APR 29 RECD

The following are a copy of the record of the early platted Towns of East and West Pokegama. The only known copy of this plat in on tracing paper showing lots streets etc. common to such drawings and marking in its center the location on the plat of the Falls of Pokegama. The following copied acknowledgments and certifications appear on the margin of the plat drawing.

"Office of Register of Deeds
County of Morrison, M.T.

I do hereby certify that the Towns of East and West Pokegama as hereon platted was filed in this office for record on the 29th day of June A.D. 1857 at 2 o'clock P.M. and was duly recorded in Book A of Town Plats, page 16.

(signed) O. A. Richardson
Register of Deeds."

"I hereby certify that the annexed maps are true copies of the originals plats and surveys made by me of the Town of East Pokegama and West Pokegama for the proprietors of said towns respectively - situated at the Falls of Pokegama on the Mississippi River in the Territory of Minnesota, embracing the site of said Falls extending thirty five chains and fifty links below said falls and along said river and extending above said falls along said river seventy five chains and twenty five links in each of said towns and that all streets are 66 feet in width and avenues 99 feet in width and alleys $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet in width and all regular lots are 66 feet in width by 165 feet in length.

Dated June 1857.

Campbell Beall
Surveyor."

"Territory of Minnesota ss
County of Hennepin

We, the undersigned proprietors of the Town of East Pokegama, situated at the Falls of Pokegama certify that the foregoing Plat was surveyed and platted at our request and for us for Town purposes and we do hereby give for public use the streets and alleys as designated herein reserving to ourselves, however, our heirs and assigns forever the right of making a water course through all or any of the streets in the said town and we do further reserve the right to take and divert any running water from any of the streets or alleys of the said Town of East Pokegama at such time or times and in such manner as we or our heirs or assigns may deem proper.

	(signed by)	L. C. Dayton	G. A. Cameron
in presence of		M. B. Dayton	A. M. Cameron
O. H. Kelly			
John Baxter.			

Itasca County - Project 6633 - East and West Pokegama 2

"Territory of Minnesota ss
County of Hennepin

Be it known that on the twenty seventh day of June A.D. 1857 personally appeared before me Lyman Dayton as attorney in fact for Lyman C. Dayton and M. B. Dayton and also George A. Cameron for himself and as attorney in fact for A. M. Cameron and acknowledged that the foregoing signatures to be of their own act and deed.

(signed) O. H. Kelly
Notary Public."

"Territory of Minnesota ss
County of Hennepin

We, the undersigned proprietors of the Town of West Pokegama situated on the Falls of Pokegama do certify that the foregoing plat was surveyed and platted by me for town purposes and I do hereby give for public use the streets and alleys as designated herein reserving to myself, however, my heirs and assigns forever the right of making water courses through all or any of the streets in the said Town of West Pokegama and I further reserve the right to take and divert any running water from any of the streets or alleys of said Town at such time or times and in such manner as I or my heirs or assigns may deem proper.

In presence of

O. H. Kelly
John Baxter

(signed) LYMAN DAYTON "

"Territory of Minnesota
County of Hennepin

Be it known that on this 27th day of June A.D. 1857 personally appeared before me the undersigned Lyman Dayton proprietor of the Town of West Pokegama a plat of which is hereunto annexed and acknowledged that he signed and executed the above certificate freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

(Signed)

O. H. Kelly
Notary Public.

(1)

Itasca

MAY 12 RECD

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell. (No. 31-8397.)

Milton H. Jones.

In 1894 Milton H. Jones, (commonly known as "Mitt"), took a homestead adjoining Joe Dobson's homestead. Joe had very good buildings on his homestead when Milton H. Jones came to settle there.

Milton H. Jones died in 1919.

H. J. Jones, son of Milton H. Jones says he could swear Joe Dobson had a wooden snow plow, but that he had never seen or heard of Dobson's having a wooden plow for tilling the soil.

The buildings on the Dobson farm burned, but he can't remember the year.

Source: Interview with H. J. Jones, clerk at Grady's Store, Cohasset, April 16, 1941.

(2)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Earl Comstock.

Earl Comstock came to Cohasset in 1899 and was an engineer on the Mamie Maine, a steamboat owned by John Maine. They used this boat to tow boomed logs to small sawmills set up along the river, and towed logs from Little Winnie Lake down the river as far as Pokegama Dam. Earl worked for John Maine on this boat until the year 1910, at which time he went to work as engineer and janitor at the Cohasset school, and has been employed there ever since. His years of service at the school are a memento to him as a fine man, and one who has the admiration of all who know him.

Source: Interview with Earl Comstock, Cohasset, April 16, 1941.

(3)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Sam Hodgins - mail carrier.

In the year of 1879 up to and including 1882, Sam Hodgins carried mail in a pack on his back, over a foot trail from Aitkin to Grand Rapids.

He later established a large general store in Aitkin and lived there the remainder of his life.

Source: Interview with John Skelly, Cohasset, April 16, 1941.

(4)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", newspaper in Deer River, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.

Saturday, April 21, 1900

The Itasca News this week begins its third year of its career since the suspension of several months caused by the entire destruction of its plant by fire. After 50 weeks of success the News has been very successful in all ways, in a paying business--its pages prove this--and that it will continue so we heartily believe, and have every reason to trust its friends will continue shoving it on to fame and wealth.

Saturday, April 21, 1900

Born - To Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. Woolford a daughter, April 9.

Saturday April 28, 1900.

The Deer River drive is being done by Hurd & McAvity this spring and they will begin sluicing next week. This is the biggest drive ever floated in that stream, containing over 17 million feet of timber. This will be about the best drive in this part of the state this spring; it takes about 40 days to reach the Mississippi, and there will be no lost time.

April 28, 1900.

To the Public;

Notice of Sunday closing.

We hereby give notice to the General public that on and after the 6th day of May 1900 our respective places of business will be closed on Sunday's the entire day, and the rule will not be deviated from to please any person.

Signed and agreed to this 13th day of April 1900.

J. Everton and Son
A. D. and P. R. Brooks
Tuller and Terpenning.

May 19, 1900.

For giving whiskey to Indians last fall George Le Due was given a sentence of 60 days imprisonment and a hundred dollars fine by Judge Loehren in Duluth last week.

May 19, 1900.

In last Sunday's storm in St. Paul Pat Sexton, the cigar manufacturer was instantly killed and two of his children were seriously injured by a sidewalk blowing onto their buggy. Mr. Sexton had many acquaintances in Deer River, and all towns in Norther

(5)

Prof. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", newspaper in Deer River, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.
May 19, 1900.

In last Sunday's storm in St. Paul Pat Sexton, the cigar manufacturer was instantly killed, and two of his children were seriously injured by a sidewalk blowing onto their buggy. Mr. Sexton had many acquaintances in Deer River, and all towns in northern Minnesota, who express sorrow at the sad and horrifying intelligence.

May 19, 1900.

A party of three homeseekers from Fairmount, Minnesota, this week to take up agricultural claims. John Butler, Alfred Jones, and Hans Inglebretson are the names of the future Itasca county residents. Noah Fletcher took the party up in the north Bow String district yesterday to show them what a good thing they came near missing.

May 19, 1900.

A Deer River Industry.

Some Figures on the enormous output of Cedar here this year.

A slight idea as to the amount of cedar being taken out this season in this neighborhood is conveyed by the fact that Carney Brothers alone have now on tracks, contracted for and ready for shipment about 700 carloads of this product, of which this section has an exceptionally abundant crop.

Manager Chandler is authority for the statement, and he says that owing to the scarcity of cars he will have purchased nearly that amount more before this stock is all shipped. F. F. Seaman the original local dealer of them all, will by fall have shipped fully five hundred cars. The Coolidge Company of St. Paul will have made by fall a record closely approximating Seaman's figure.

P. McDonnell, the contractor, is shipping a fair quota, and besides these there is a large number of the small fry shipping on their own hook, who are good for all the way from ten to a hundred carload, in the aggregate the output will exceed that of all previous years in Deer River and we doubt if any point in the northwest can show a better record for 1900. The amount of men given employment in the handling of cedar is surprising. The cedar market is very active, the demand for the best grades is increasing, and the larger dealers feel confident that the rush is a long-lived one and that next year will be fully as good as the present.

May 19, 1900

Deer River School closed for the balance of the present term, because of Diphtheria Quarantine. Mrs. Kennedy dies in Grand Rapids yesterday from the disease. Dr. Russell was health officer, and he is exacting strict quarantine.

(6)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", newspaper in Deer River, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.
May 26, 1900.

Finances and statistics of schools for 1899 completed and will be sent to Washington.

May 26, 1900.

Locals. Call at the Post Office and sign the petition for opening of the reservation. Petitions are going to Sec. of Interior for free Homes act.

June 9, 1900.

The burial of the remains of Fred Headquist took place from the Headquist Residence at Deer Lake, and for lack of roads, the body had to be carried by boat, and by hand through jungle and swamp for several miles. There were about 35 friends and mourners in the procession.

June 16, 1900.

D. C. McDougall of Jessie Lake reports the census as nearly completed in his district.

In common with others the enumerator has bumped up against pretty hard propositions, some people resenting his right to ask the questions he was compelled to propound. At the same time he has made rapid progress.

Mr. McDougall has the contract for cutting Sim's hay in his region this season.

June 23, 1900.

The boiler at the Dunn & Marcia sawmill at Cohasset blew up last Monday demolishing the engine house and scalding the engineer almost to death.

June 7, 1900.

There has been considerable complaint raised of late by people owning gardens, because of stock and hogs ruining them.

In this matter there is just one of two things to be done--either enforce the law and keep all horses, cattle, swine and sheep shut up, or if some are to be at large let them all be so and get the best grazing in their reach.

(7)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", newspaper in Deer River, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.

July 7, 1900.

H. S. Huson, the reliable Singer Sewing Machine man, came up from the Rapids, Monday, on his monthly visit. Mr. Huson enthusiastically explained that the U. S. R. post at Grand Rapids of which he is commander is soon to possess a 1467 pound cannon. Mr. Huson has been corresponding with Congressman Morris for some time in the matter, and last week he received the information that a Howitzer gun of the above weight, now at Ft. Gaines, Ala., would be loaded to the Huson Post. Mr. Huson says the fire piece will be received next month, and it will likely be mounted in the school house grounds.

(Note: This gun was put on the court house grounds, and is there today. J. E. S.)

July 14, 1900.

Editorial:

The County Commissioners went in top carriages viewing the Grand Rapids Roads the other day. What kind of rig would they have used to get out of town in Deer River?

July 14, 1900.

One of the north-bound logging trains on the Itasca Company's road ran a race with a bunch of cattle for about a mile Tuesday morning in which one steer belonging to F. F. Seamsn was killed.

July 14, 1900.

The annual meeting of the School Board of District No. 6 takes place at the school house in the village of Deer River at 8 P. M. next Saturday, July 21. The most important matter coming before the meeting will be the election of one director, to succeed the term of one expiring on that date.

July 14, 1900.

Whiskey to Indians again.

Along came a U. S. Marshal yesterday afternoon and picked up Charlie Fullwood and took him to Walker to answer to the charge so familiar to Deer River bartenders, selling whiskey to Indians.

July 14, 1900.

Wedded. On July 16, Mrs. Mary Johnston and John Stinson of Bow String were united in marriage.

(8)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News," newspaper in Deer River, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Ed.

July 14, 1900.

Another flowing well of pure water was completed this morning, making the fifth one in Deer River. The new one is at the school house, and is 120 feet deep. It flows a steady stream of four gallons a minute. Woolford & Parmeter done the work.

- - - - -

July 14, 1900.

\$275 per acre.

That a flourishing town will rise on the banks of the Big Fork river at Big Falls shortly after the Itasca railroad extends to that point, appears a solid fact from the prices paid for land just above the falls at the sale of state school lands which took place at the court house in Grand Rapids last Wednesday. Tams (?) Bixby paid \$275.00 per acre for one lot containing a fraction over 13 acres, and a railroad representative paid \$250.00 per acre for a lot about the same size.

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July 28, 1900.

Robinson & Tibbitts have been compelled to close their saloon at Leech Lake dam owing to the refusal of the Cass County Commissioners to grant them license.

- - - - -

July 28, 1900.

The annual meeting of the school board was held last Saturday night, and W. J. Coffron was reelected to chairmanship. We have heard some complaint that the meeting was not held at 8 o'clock as called for in the notices posted nor up to nine o'clock. It is claimed however, that the meeting was held slightly before 8, that a very few were present, and the meeting lasted only a few minutes.

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July 28, 1900.

Louis Samuelson was elected treasurer of the Deer Lake school district at the ~~annual~~ annual meeting last Saturday to succeed P. Maher, whose term expired.

- - - - -

August 4, 1900

A Sad Visit.

Mrs. L. S. Card on arriving from New York finds her Husband died last December.

As sad a circumstance as a woman could encounter in time of peace was that witnessed in Deer River last Tuesday. Mrs. L. S. Card, who has lived always with her parents in Auburn, N. Y., married L. S. Card of this place two years ago. Owing to ill health she had to remain in the East, but she made a short visit here to her

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-3397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", newspaper in Deer River, Murry Taylor Prop. & Ed.

A Sad Visit (continued)

husband last November. Returning to Auburn that month, she had heard nothing of her husband, though she wrote to him often, until last Tuesday, when on arriving here, she learned the sad truth that her husband had died of heart disease last December. Mrs. Card telegraphed here from the Sioux, but instead of the answer meeting her at Duluth as she ordered, it went on to the Canal. Mrs. Card was entirely without finances when she arrived here, and had to borrow enough to get to Duluth where she has relatives. Card kept a small store across the Mississippi, and at the time of his death left personal and real property which somebody immediately took in hand through probate court, keeping the fact a secret from Mrs. Card. Mrs. Card will lay the matter in the hands of a Duluth attorney.

- - - - -

August 11, 1900.

The Itasca Lumber Company completed its log hauling for this season last week, the total output being 30 million feet which is only five million less than last year. About half of this amount still remains in White Oak Lake to be drove down the Mississippi to Minneapolis this summer.

The company now has its force at work on the railroad extensions, which will be only about twelve miles, including branches.

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August 18, 1900.

Editorial:

Lind's Game Wardens.

As if to voice the very sentiments set forth in the Itasca News occasionally of late, the Minneapolis Journal exposes Gov. Lind's game warden farce as follows: -

"Recently the governor has been holding long consultations with Twin City sportsmen about how to get better observance of the game laws. These were expected to put him en rapport with the large influential element that favors the conservation of game. Unfortunately for the Governor, however, the sportsmen were not born yesterday. Witness the committee report just adopted by the Mississippi Gun Club of St. Paul to this effect; - "The Committee finds ample evidence of general violation of the game law and the wholesale slaughter of game out of season. In view of the fact that the closed season is now almost over, it would seem too late to recommend any changes, or the appointment of special game wardens. Had the governor heeded the recommendation of the nonpartisan Game and Fish Protective Association of the state and appointed wardens who would have had the interest of game at heart, the present deplorable conditions would have been avoided, and the occasion for the present indignation at the non-enforcement of the law would not have existed. The present conditions are due to the total incompetency and complete indifference of the game commission and its game wardens. No commission and no set of wardens can render efficient service in the enforcement of the game laws unless they shall divest themselves of partizanship and labor incessantly and intelligently to preserve the game and enforce the game laws. The open season will soon be here, and there would seem no remedy to be suggested now, except the appointment of an entire new commission and the selection of and better wardens by the next state administration."

(10)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", Deer River newspaper, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.

Lind's Game Wardens (continued.)

"Looks like a simple expedient, doesn't it. Divorce the game commission from politics and put good men at work protecting fish and game!"

Now it will be in order for the Grand Rapids Herald Review to state that the Journal editor is also "Making an ass of himself."

- - - - -

August 4, 1900.

All crops are looking well and farmers happy. - - - - Land will be high.

- - - - -

August 11, 1900.

Big Falls Platted.

Tams Bixby's Big Falls city now has lots. It will boom next year.

- - - - -

August 11, 1900.

A. T. Nason, the Ball Club ogema, was in town Tuesday stocking up for haying.

- - - - -

August 11, 1900

O. S. Reed, an old soldier who has been buying fur from Indians here the past two years, was arrested by a deputy U. S. Marshal and taken to Walker yesterday on a warrant charging him with having given whisky to Indians on the reservation.

- - - - -

August 11, 1900.

C. H. Skeels, chief telegraph operator at this station for the past year, was removed to Virginia, Minnesota, last Wednesday. He is succeeded by A. F. Lindberg, who was transferred from Mohoning station near Ribbing.

- - - - -

Sept. 1, 1900.

Deer River's largest fire.

Churchill's Hotel, Metzger's Market and Show Shop go up. Wind saved the town. Loss \$7000; Insurance \$6,000. Cause, Incendiarism. All will rebuild soon.

(11)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", Deer River newspaper, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.

Sept. 1, 1900.

To Fishermen; - An Invitation;

Eric Moberg will furnish boat and the "best holes" to fishing parties for 15 cents an hour. Chase's Lake is the place. Black Bass exclusively. Meet me on the west shore.

- - - - -

Sept. 8, 1900.

Born: to Mr. & Mrs. Walter Scott, a large boy, Thursday September 6. Dr. Storch was in attendance. Mother & Son doing nicely.

- - - - -

Sept. 8, 1900.

School opened Tuesday morning with a large attendance and with Miss Minnie Lillie as teacher. Miss Lillie taught at the Rose school last year.

- - - - -

Sept. 8, 1900.

R. Robinson is the first of the late fire sufferers to rebuild. He has a 16 by 20 building all inclosed, and it will be completed this week. When finished the structure will make a much better shoe shop than the old one. Considering that Mr. Robinson held no insurance, his enterprise in rebuilding so soon is worthy of credit.

- - - - -

Sept. 15, 1900.

Deer River has a flood of its own. Hay is floating everywhere and country is in desolation.

- - - - -

Sept. 15, 1900.

Deer River Delegates instructed for Tyndall for Sheriff and Sombs for County Surveyor.

- - - - -

Sept. 15, 1900.

M. W. A. Organized. A strong camp, Deer River No. 8616. Elects officers and kissed the goat. V-Consul, P. R. Brooks; W-Advisor, Laughlin McKinnon; Clerk M. J. Taylor; W-Banker, J. A. Woolford; Escort, Wm. Fish; W-Sentinel, George Roncoe; Guard, Eli Loisel; Managers, John Irwin, John McDonald and John Hedquist.

(12)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", Deer River Newspaper, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.
Sept 15, 1900.

Mayor Coffron returned the first of the week from the State Fair.

Sept. 22, 1900

F. L. Churchill has begun the erection of a building 24 by 40, two stories, for a saloon. It is three lots west of the corner where his hotel burned down a month ago.

Sept. 29, 1900.

Everton Returns.

Village Treasurer's Son is back, and Bondsmen hope Shortage will be replaced. Claim \$2200 Short. Elder man stopped on train by bondsmen and son had to come. Their store is closed.

Oct. 20, 1900.

Thomas A. Armstrong and Stephen Hagan of Island Lake were in The Rapids Wednesday proving up on their claims.

Louis Sammelson, Angus McNevin and Louis Swanson were before Clerk of Court Rasmussen Tuesday perfecting proof of their homesteads.

November 3, 1900.

Married - at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. Clara A. Mower, 901 Center St., Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday, October 25, Mrs. Pearl Lombard to Murry J. Taylor both of Deer River, Minn.

Nov. 17, 1900.

An average of ten deer a day have been shipped out of Deer River the past two weeks.

Nov. 24, 1900

Will Fight Road Bond Issue. Grand Rapids has roads enough and won't help farmers. Pine Owners bucking.

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", Deer River newspaper, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.

December 1, 1900.

Murder.

Charles Grant shot dead while celebrating his freedom. Paddy Burk of Grand Rapids lost his temper in scuffle and fired four shots, second killing Grant.

December 8, 1900.

Editorial.

Deer River is forging to the front these days. A dance, a prize fight, a murder and a robbery, all in one night, says the Grand Rapids Magnet. Yes, but it took Grand Rapids to furnish the murderer and pubs.

Dec. 8, 1900

Burke Waives Examination. Coroners jury finds Grant was shot dead by Burke and case goes to Grand Jury next month.

Sympathy for him at Grand Rapids. They would let no rigs out for Grant's funeral and mourners had to walk.

Dec. 15, 1900

Meat Prices Agreed to by Wm. Hulbert.

Porterhouse - - - - -	18¢	Liver - - - - -	37 ¢
Choice Roast - - - - -	16¢	Pork Loin - - - - -	10¢
Stew - - - - -	08¢	Leaf Lard - - - - -	10¢
Pork Chops - - - - -	12¢	Bacon - - - - -	14¢
All Sausage - - - - -	10¢	Med. Hams - - - - -	14¢
Sirloin - - - - -	16¢	Round Steak - - - - -	12¢
		Cysters - - - - -	60¢ quart.

Dec. 22, 1900.

Born - Monday, Dec. 17, to Mr. & Mrs. George Evans of Sims' addition a 12 pound son.

Dec. 22, 1900.

(Adv.) The man that eats dinner at Stirling's Christmas will be just as well satisfied as if he was home with the old folks.

(14)

Proj 8633 - Benniwell (No. 51-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News," Deer River newspaper, Marry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.
Dec. 29, 1900.

The Editor and Wife are very thankful to Old Santa for an elegant upright piano placed in our stocking.

Jan 12, 1901.

Two boys of Joseph Dossler, section foreman, died from Diphtheria, and two younger children are very ill with it.

Jan 19, 1901.

Burke Acquitted. Men who killed Charles Grant in Deer River is found not guilty.

Jan. 19, 1901.

Diphtheria about over. Third son of J. Dossler dead. Two daughters recovering. Only one other case.

Jan. 19, 1901.

A Ladies Aid Society was organized, following officers: President, Mrs. R. F. Beall; Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Everton; Treasurer, Miss Minnie Lillie.

Jan. 26, 1901.

The village school was closed Thursday morning by the board and will remain closed until all sickness in town is stamped out.

Feb. 9, 1901.

Killed by falling tree. Jacob Miller first victim of season. His home unknown.

Feb. 9, 1901.

Fractured Skull.

James Honzo falls from a load and may die. His mother wanted him.

(15)

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Extracts from "The Itasca News", Deer River Newspaper, Murry Taylor, Prop. & Editor.

Feb. 16, 1901.

Shot for biting. To save his fingers J. A. Quigg shoots Bonnslic. He will live.

Feb. 16, 1901.

Born - To Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Seaman, Feb. 16, a daughter weighing 10 pounds.
Mother & baby doing well. Dr. Gilbert attending.

(1)

Proj. 8633 - Brownell (No. 31-2993)

Itasca

Iron Ore in Itasca County.

Iron was first discovered in Itasca County in 1867. In 1865-66 gold was reported in the vicinity of Lake Vermillion in the Arrowhead area in northern Minnesota. Prospectors poured into the country, packing their equipment over rough trails, only to find that the yellow mineral which had lured them was fools gold, a compound of iron and sulphur. A surveyor by the name of George R. Stuntz, investigating the reports of gold, returned to Duluth with a story that there was no gold, but plenty of iron.

The first ore in Itasca county was found by George Stuntz while running a line in what is now known as Lone Pine township, township 53, range 22, which proved to be one of the richest on Mesaba Range.

The development of the Western Mesaba followed that of the eastern range. The Western Mesaba had to await the creation of the methods of transportation of these ores and the general acceptance of their use in the iron and steel industry. As soon as the iron ore wealth of Mesaba range was determined the diamond and churn drills started extensive operation to the west. Scores of drills scattered over the range through what is now Keewatin, Nashwauk, Marble, Bovey, Coleraine and through the section immediately north of Grand Rapids and across the Mississippi river and around Pokegama lake. Among these great mines might be mentioned the Bennett, the Hawkers, the Hill Annex, the Arcturus, Holman, and Canisteco.

The earliest explorations of the western Mesaba range were conducted largely from Grand Rapids because it was the nearest railway. The property was never developed, though the Diamond reserve owned by the Oliver Iron Mining Co. is listed as containing 2,500,000 tons of iron ore, from which only 171 tons have been shipped. The Buckeye mine on which drills worked many years is said to contain over a million tons, and has never shipped a ton. The most notable of ore properties on the Western range on which mining was carried out to some extent is the Arcturus at Marble.

The ore of the Western range is different from that found farther east, and it contains a large proportion of sand. Ore must be washed to get the sand and waste material out to make it saleable.

The property of Arcturus mine was a timber claim of J. E. Hayward of St. Cloud. The United Steel Co. bought the land from the Hayward heirs. This land changed hands ~~of~~ many times under all sorts of deals, options, and other propositions until the United Steel took it over. The United Steel Corp. built a washing plant to care for the sand and waste material in iron bearing formation.

After the Duluth, Mesabi and Northern Railway reached the western part of the Mesaba in 1906 the United Steel Corp. built the towns of Coleraine, Taconite and Marble. There are now about 20 washing plants on the western end of the range.

Itasca county has 41 iron ore properties which have made shipments. No county in Northern Minnesota can lay claim to the riches equal that of the iron ore of Itasca County.

(2)

Proj. 8633 - Brownell (No. 31-2993)

Swan River.

When the Duluth and Winnipeg laid out their railway they also laid out town-sites, Swan River being one. It was first located in Section 13, on Kolb farm in Sago township. A hotel and a couple of warehouses and a couple of residents was the bulk of the town. With the building of Wright Davis Railway the hotel was moved to junction of Wright Davis Railway and Duluth and Winnipeg Railway. The town was then called Mississippi Junction.

Due to the increase in business at the new site, Swan River grew till it consisted of two hotels, a barber shop, railway depot, round house and section house. After the Great Northern took over the Duluth & Winnipeg Railway the town was called Swan River again and moved about one-fourth of a mile farther east to its present site.

Source: Lee Kolb, History of Railway, County Papers.

(1)

Hasca

APR 29 RECD

Proj. 8633 - Bonniwell. (No. 31-8397)

Last Visit to White Oak Point.

In 1926, just one year before he died, J. W. Wakefield asked his son, George Wakefield to take him in a canoe from Deer River to White Oak Point, and when they got near the old trail there were some rocks that he said were a land mark, that the trail was near. They landed the canoe, got out and he crawled up the bank and followed the old trail to the site of the old Trading Post. When he found the site where the banking had been thrown up against the building leaving an indent^{tion} in the ground he sat down Indian style and crossed his feet, and looked all around, and said, "I'll never leave this old spot again." George said it was one of the most sorrowful moments of his life to see his father so broken up. In about an hour they went back up the river to White Oak ^{Lake} and landed not far from George's home near Deer River, and he seemed quite satisfied that he had a chance to see once more the spot where he had built the White Oak Indian Trading Post.

Source: Interview with George Wakefield, March 27, 1941, at Deer River.

Brownell - *yr 1st by driver - Peter Dahl*
Kalbor or Kalb?
date of 1st seizure in Feeley's hotel

Refus { "Vernon" (Varnum?) Blood (VARNUM)
 J. Judreau (J?)
 Gendreau (GENDERON) Doctor

*Dr Russell Mious
 photographs at Cars take
 who has pic of Capt J. Smith
 and many others*

Describe persons, if possible.

Maciola (Beauchey)

*Is Margaret MacKinnon, material taken from
 interview? If published, cite source - ^{see page date}
 both published ^{with} page*

(2)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Indian Women's Hobbies.

The Indian women used to make fish nets as their pastime work.

They went out into the hardwood and picked common nettles, when they were just ready to use. They took them by the armfuls and had them piled all around the teepees.

Then they peeled them, twisted each one, and spliced and rolled them on the bare calf of their leg, then made the fishing nets by weaving and knotting the nettle reeds.

Ball Club Game.

(lacrosse?)

From the nettle reeds they made nets on a small hoop, with a handle, that resembled a dip net. They lined up sides, made a line, and had to keep the ball on their own side of the line. The ball was about the size of a regular baseball.

They threw the ball from their hoop and the first side to get the ball across the line won the game, but the girls ran like deer to win the game of Ball Club.

Source: Interview with George Wakefield, March 27, 1941, at Deer River.

(3)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

The First Mail Carrier from Aitkin to Grand Rapids.

Frank Wakefield, brother of J. W. Wakefield, carried mail from Aitkin to Grand Rapids for twelve years, from 1883 to 1895. In a pack sack on his back, over an Indian foot trail, he has been known to carry as much as 120 pounds at a time, a distance of sixty-five miles each way. It took two days to come, and two days to go back, and then he had a rest period of three days. His mail contract called for just what time this route must be covered.

This was very strenuous on him, and he died soon after his contract expired in 1895.

Source: Interview with George Wakefield, March 27, 1941, at Deer River.

(4)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Wakefield.

My father, Joseph Watts Wakefield, went from Aitkin to Crow Wing in 1850, and established a trading post on the site where Fort Ripley now stands. He met and married Elizabeth Basiolu, a French Indian girl. They were married at the French Catholic Mission at Crow Wing.

In 1854 he decided to extend his trading posts. He took an Indian interpreter along, went up the Crow Wing River into the Eleven lakes, then into Leach Lake, then into the Mississippi River, down to Gambles Point, where the Ball Club River flows into the Mississippi. They saw smoke and went to investigate, and found John Smith and two Indian wives and several children.

John Smith was a large Indian, very well preserved, and of middle age when my father met him that day. He was born at Gull lake about 1800.

He grew very old and as I talked to him one day on the street of Deer River ~~at~~ I remarked to him that he was a lot smaller than the first day my father met him at Gambles Point. He said, "I grow very tall, then I grow very short." (With Gestures.) After visiting a while with John Smith, father and his attendants started down river and finally came to what is now known as White Oak Point. This was a camping ground for many Indians during the summer, but in the winter they went their different ways to their trap lines. It being summer when father penetrated this great outdoors, the Indians were as thick as flies on White Oak Point, and my father decided this was an ideal spot for an Indian Trading Post, and proceeded to build a two-story log building. The trading post was on the ground floor, and father and Mother established their home upstairs. I, George Wakefield, was born in this home; my sister Laura and Brother Frank were also born in this home. Brother Jim, the oldest, was born at Crow Wing.

I was about a year old, about 1870, when Father moved us to Grand Rapids where he had built a Hotel, Saloon and a General Store, on the site where the paper mill now stands. Father operated all those trading posts by hiring competent help. John Beckfelt operated the General Store for Father at Grand Rapids.

(5)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Wakefield (2)

Father needed help to run the Hotel as Mother died shortly after we moved to Grand Rapids, so he went to Minneapolis by boat and brought back two girls whose names were Jennie Hustus and Stella Hilling. Stella was the first white woman to set foot on the soil where Grand Rapids now stands. She later married Mike McAlpine and raised a fine family. She was a very fine woman and all who knew her were proud to be her friend.

Source: Interview with George Wakefield, March 27, 1941, at Deer River.

Proj. 8633 - Research - Bonniwell. (No. 31-8397)

Additional Wakefield Data.

When I was about eight years old my Father, J. W. Wakefield and I were in bed in our private room at the Wakefield Hotel, (Father's Hotel) on the site where the office of the paper mill now stands. A man came and awakened my father, saying "Come quick Joe, there is trouble at the Seeley Saloon." An Indian named Pe-na-ce (Pe-Nay*See) had gotten too much fire water (whiskey) and was enraged at the bartender working at the Seeley Saloon because he had thrown him out of the saloon several times. The Indian went to the Indian encampment, just above where the paper mill now stands on the bank of the river. He got a shot-gun and came back, and proceeded to gun for the big French bartender. The bartender ran upstairs, but the shot-gun was quicker and the Indian shot both of his legs full of shot.

By that time my Father, who had been called to pacify the drunk Indian, arrived on the scene, and rushed over to the Indian and said "Come Pe-na-ce, let's go home." Then the injured bartender who had crawled farther up the stairs drew a gun (a rifle) and shot the Indian (Pe-na-ce) in the chest, and the bullet followed through and came out the Indian's thigh, went into Father's leg just below the knee, and followed the bone to the heel, where it lodged, and was later taken out.

Father was quite lame for about three years, but he finally got so he could get around again. After Father got so crippled, his brother William Wakefield and L. F. Knox took over the business. Then Father took us children back to Aitkin about 1877. (I was about 8 years old). There he met and married Mrs. Streeter, a State of Mainer, a white woman. She had two children, a boy, William Streeter, and a girl, Mary Streeter. Mary married A. B. Ferro. The boy went to Alaska and we never heard from him again.

To this marriage of Mrs. Streeter and my father, J. W. Wakefield, were born two children, Joe Wakefield, now living at Ball Club, Minnesota, and

(7)

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Additional Wakefield Data - 2.

~~Washburn~~

Foster Wakefield, an employee at the Milwaukee Depot at Duluth, Minnesota, for thirty-nine years. He is a weigh clerk there.

Our Step-mother was very good to us, and we all had a great deal of respect for her. Our own Mother couldn't have given us the care our step-mother did. She passed away in 1929 two years after my father, who died in 1927. Their home was on a large farm at Jacobson, Minnesota at the time they died.

Source: Interview with George Wakefield, March 27, 1941, at Deer River.

(8)

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Methodist Church of Deer River.

Mrs. Minnie King, wife of Cyrus King, and mother of Stafford King, was a member of the First Episcopal Methodist Church in Minneapolis, since about 1896; and transferred that membership to the Methodist Episcopal Church at Deer River, Minnesota about 1898.

It was Mrs. King who wrote the Duluth District, Dr. Robert Forbes, and was instrumental in obtaining a Parish at Deer River.

On June 22, 1898, Dr. Robert Forbes, District Superintendent of the Duluth District of the Northern Minnesota Conference, held what is believed to be the first preaching service in Deer River. The meeting was held in a log building that had been used as a saloon. The weather was hot and the mosquitoes were bad. Dr Forbes said "Please put out the lights. I can read my notes by moonlight." The sermon proceeded amid the waving of handkerchiefs and the "slapping" of hands, and at the conference following the sermon, a request was made that a Pastor be sent to Deer River, Minnesota.

On July 26, 1898, Rev. G. E. Monkman, a missionary from Ontario, came as the Pastor. September 30 of the same year, Dr. Forbes returned and secured for a Church and Parsonage, the present site. Some objections were made because it was "so far out of town."

That fall, after conference, funds were raised to build the first church, the building that now serves as a parsonage.

Mr. L. McKinnon was the contractor, and on January 18, 1899, the new church was dedicated, with Dr. Forbes in charge.

This church was used for nine years. In 1906 the foundation of the present church was laid, and on September 12, 1908, the new building was dedicated by Dr. E. C. Clemans. An indebtedness of \$1100.00 was raised in less than fifteen minutes.

In the evening at the dedicatory banquet, addresses were made by

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~~///~~ Methodist Church of Deer River (2)

Dr. Clemans, ~~the~~ Pastor, Rev. W. G. Boyle, F. F. Seaman, M. J. Baker, Murry Taylor, Dr. M. M. Hursh of Bemidji, and others. C. M. King read an interesting poem. R. J. McGhee was the first regularly appointed pastor, who came in October, 1899.

Then came Rev. J. C. Hartly for one year. In 1901 Rev. Noah Lathrop came and served two years. The following year E. L. Jaquish was appointed and served one year. In October, 1903, Rev. W. A. McKinzie came to the charge and served until June 1904 when he moved to Dakota and W. G. Fritz finished the conference year.

That year the Northern Minnesota Conference convened at Ortonville, and J. M. Robinson was assigned to Deer River and Cohasset. He served one year, and then C. H. Hawn came to the charge and served until 1906.

The first record of membership we have is in 1903, and in 1909 we have a ~~tp~~ total membership of 51.

Pastor	When Appointed	When Removed
W. G. Boyle	Oct. 1907	Oct. 1909
J. A. Orrock	" 1909	" 1910
C. W. Emery	" 1910	" 1912
John Blackhurst	" 1912	" 1917
John Parish	" 1917	" 1919
A. J. Abbott	" 1919	" 1920
W. H. Bunting	Dec. 1920	" 1921
Will S. Emery	Oct. 1921	" 1923
W. W. Shenk Shenk	" 1923	" 1924
John W. Schenck	" 1924	" 1934 (Retired)
D. Stanley McGuire	" 1934	" 1937
Irwin L Seager	" 1937	Is still pastor March 1941.

Source: Records of Deer River Methodist Episcopal Church, March 26, 1941.

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St. Mary's Catholic Mission of Deer River.

In 1907 a Missionary from Cass Lake, Rev. Fr. Turbiaux, now chaplain down at Brainard, had charge of the Deer River Mission until the St. Mary's Catholic Church was incorporated on April 28, 1909.

The first officers of this church were; Bishop, Most Rev. James McGolrick; President and Priest, Rev. L. Buechler; First Lay Trustees, O. E. Hulehan, Jacob Mohr.

In 1900 there were thirty families and that represented 157 souls, babies and all.

In 1939 there were 70 families, and that represented 300 souls, babies and all.

Source: Interview with Rev. D. V. Patt, March 31, 1941.

(11)

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First St. Mary's Catholic Ladies Aid (Deer River.)

First was in 1907. President: Mrs. Jack Jones.

Secretary: Mrs. Lena Martin (Wm.)

Treasurer: Mrs. Jacob Mohr

They had about ten active members then, and they have twenty active members in 1941.

Source: Mrs. Pat Daley, Interview, ~~March~~ April 1, 1941.

(12)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Bonniwell (No. 31-8397)

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota, Itasca County in 1896.

This was compiled from incidents told me by my Father and Step-Mother, Duncan Cameron McDougall and Sophia McDougall. Written by Mrs. Margaret Mawhinney, daughter of D. C. McDougall, and dedicated to the memory of D. C. and Sophia McDougall, now both deceased.

In the year of 1893 I was working for Sim's lumber company. They assigned me some timber cruising and estimating on Range 125, Sections 10 and 11 of Bowstring township, Itasca County. During my cruising I came upon a ridge of land about a mile across, from lake to lake, Big Jesse Lake on one side and Little Jesse lake on the other side, and what a beautiful spot it was. The timber stood straight and tall, birch, maple, spruce and Norway pine, and that grand sentinel of the forest, the giant white pine, rearing their heads to the sky as if to say "Look at me, I am the Monarch of the forest," with all this on this small strip of land. Big Jesse with gleaming water teeming with fish, and that beautiful clear, deep, sparkling Little Jesse Lake, like a gem set in a beautiful frame of deep forest all around, and the sun fast going to rest over the horizon.

The deep gorgeous coloring of the sky as it peeped thru the foliage of the trees, and reflected on the water, was the sight that met my eyes as I came upon this Little Jesse Lake, at sunset one of those days, at the end of a long, hard days work; and I thought as I stood admiring it all "What a home I could make for myself and wife on the shores of this beautiful lake. It was about one mile wide and two miles long. I cruised and worked from Grand Rapids and Deer River for three years, but always in the back of my mind was that sunset and lake. But at that time there were no roads, and the going was slow and tough, and there was a nine mile bog to overcome; to get to that land seemed almost impossible.

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota (2)

I had described this beautiful lake and its setting to my wife many times, and she was as anxious as I was to take a homestead there, so in the spring of 1896 we filled our pack sacks with salt pork, flour, coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, dried beans, peas, dried onions, also some onion seed and soda. We bought a boat and called her Nancy Lee, got some blankets, an axe, broad axe, spade, and hammer and some nails, and mosquito bar to sleep under instead of a tent, as the tent would be heavy to pack. We also took some mosquito bar by the yard, so we could use it for windows when we got our shack. Now we were ready for our great adventure.

We got a push car from the Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad and piled our supplies on it, also our boat, and proceeded to push the car by hand up the tracks to Little Bowstring Lake, now called Suomi. It was about nine miles from Deer River. Suomi was the termination of the railroad at that time, and a push car was the only mode of travel available. We arrived at Little Bowstring all fagged out, and set up our camp, and rested for a day. Then we packed our belongings into the Nancy Lee and started to paddle up the stream that finally brought us to Big Bowstring lake. We stopped to rest along the way, and set up our mosquito bar to keep out the insects. The weather was ideal for this trip, so we did enjoy the beautiful lakes and the immense forest. I had also taken my 30-30 rifle along, so when we felt the yen for fresh meat, we had no trouble finding a nice deer. The woods were full of game, and the streams were teeming with fish. I had taken some fish-hooks and sinkers along, so I proceeded to cut fish poles, and what fun we had bringing in our supper.

We certainly felt as if we wouldn't trade our mode of living for a King's palace. All this at our finger tips was such a source of supply, the supplies we had brought along would last for months.

We rounded Rabbit's Point into Muskrat Bay, then into the Bowstring River, up Bowstring River until we came to Big Jesse Brook. We paddled on until we came to the Indian mound where Charley Rabbit and his family lived. He was

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota (3)

an Indian who had a lot of prestige with the Chippewa Indians who were quite numerous in this region at that time. I greeted Charley as we came near his camp ground. He was a friendly chap, and we were destined to be very good friends as the years sped along. He invited us to set up our camp on the bank of the stream near their camp grounds; but Sophia said "Mack, we will be scalped," and I said "Sophia if we are going to homestead in this part of the forest we will have to see these people many times, and this is a chance all prepared for us to make friends with the Indians."

My Wife was a very friendly and grand woman, so she soon gained the confidence of the squaws, by being interested in their papooses, and their camp duties day in and day out. We made friendships that lasted for many years, and were advantageous to us as well as to the Indians. I will not soon forget an old squaw coming to our shack, to tell us how her little one died (papoose ne-po) papoose die, and how grief-stricken she was. There was an Indian grave yard near the Indian mound, and several bodies were in crude boxes up on poles about ten feet high. In 1910 one of those boxes fell in a bad wind storm, and the town of Dowstring ordered the others removed and buried. The one that fell was an Indian child about six years old, he had been buried with hat and mittens on, and all this was in a very good state of preservation. There also were some toys fashioned from wood, resembling carvings on a totem pole buried with him.

The white man has almost eliminated the mound by his digging, and we old settlers have always been sorry to see this old Indian lore being destroyed by curio hunters.

Charley Rabbit also had an allotment on Rabbit's Point, and later built homes there for his descendants.

After camping two days at the mound we started to portage our belongings over a three-quarter mile portage into Little Jesse lake. After making several

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota (4)

trips we finally got everything across and the Nancy Lee packed again. By the time we got started up the lake the day was beginning to wane, and we had to hurry to get our camp ^{set} ~~up~~ up, some boughs to sleep on, and when we got things snug for the night we went to the lake to enjoy the sunset. I said to Sophia "This will be known as the Duncan McDougall place from now henceforth." My wife and I enjoyed that sunset I had described over three years before. She was so happy to get to our camp site she stood there and looked at the beautiful, clear lake and said "Mack, you haven't told me the half of the beauty and bigness of this sight. It fills me so, I just can't express how I feel. Oh! I am so glad we came."

I was glad she felt so happy, as I had been worried as to whether she would be as sold on the idea of a home in the wilderness as I was, but I need not have had any fear, as she grew more fond of her surroundings every day. We were having the grandest adventure any two people could have. Every day was a new thrill, as we proceeded to build our home. We started by first digging for a spring at the foot of the hill, not far from the lake. We dug down about four feet and got a dandy spring, and after letting the water settle for a few hours we had lots of good fresh water to drink. Then we had to make a cache for our supplies, so we dug into the bank and made a nice place to store our food supplies, made a crude door to close it up securely, so the wild animals wouldn't molest it.

Then we were ready to look around and decide where we would build our shack. The first thing we did, when we arrived, was to gather some flat stones to make an oven to bake some scones, and we did manage to build up a dandy, so with the few cooking utensils we had brought along we managed very nicely. We added some more balsam boughs to our bed. As we had made it up hurriedly the first night it really did need some attention. So our second day in camp was a busy one, and we were both glad to go to rest. But we always awoke refreshed ~~and~~ and ready for a good days work.

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota (5)

The third day I spotted some trees and got ready to hew the timbers for our house. We decided to make the cabin twelve feet by sixteen feet, so I proceeded to cut and hew the logs. I managed to get most of the logs close to the building/ site, so with a pry made of ironwood I was able to roll the logs to the position I wanted them. I worked steadily for days, and was pretty well tired out and I said "Sophia, if I sleep all day tomorrow, don't think I am sick. I'm just weary, and about ready to take a rest." But without warning a storm arrived in the night, that put all thought of sleep out of our heads. We awoke by the roar of the wind in the trees, timber began to fall all around us, and the thunder and lightning seemed to be ripping the earth to pieces. I jumped out of bed and said, "Come on Sophia," and I grabbed her hand and we ran down the trail to the spring. We jumped into the spring and sat shivering for about an hour. Then the ~~soy~~ storm passed and we ventured out and went back up the hill. Trees were lying all around and several trees had fallen criss-cross and only the tops of the trees were woven thickly where our bed was. We crawled shivering through the limbs into our wet blankets. I had jumped into the spring first, and my wife sat on my knees. The terror we felt about that storm soon passed, and there was plenty to do. Our blankets and bedding all had to be dried, and you may be sure we were up and working at the first streak of dawn.

First, we had to dip all the water out of the spring and remove all the sand that had caved in during the storm. We managed to get a good fire going and dried our clothing and bedding. Then we had to cut the timber that had fallen, and get our camp site cleared again. All this took several hours, and we decided to take the rest of the day off.

It was a beautiful, clear day, and the sun shone as if there never had been a cloud in the sky, so our experience of the night before was fast being forgotten.

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota (6)

We cached our food in the dug-out in the side of the hill, closed it all up securely, got into our boat and paddled our way down the lake to the portage we came in on, and visited a while with our Indian friends. In their broken English they managed to make us understand there was an English family living a quarter of a mile from the Indian encampment. So we followed the trail as they instructed us to, and came out into a small clearing with a very nice log house; there we met Mr. and Mrs. George Johnston and their family, and became very fast friends. And how we needed neighbors like the Johnston's all through the years we were destined to live on our homestead. They were the best friends a man and woman could wish for.

Andrew Melhus and his Mother and Father and two sisters, Nettie and Katie, took a homestead across the lake from us late in the summer of 1896. W. J. Gibbs took a homestead on the shores of Bowstring Lake the summer of 1896. He established a Post Office in that home in . He moved to Inger in 1910 and has been post master there ever since.

Robert Christie was post master at Bowstring from 1910 until the rural routes were established. The Melhus' came, and Christie's came from Minneapolis, so homesteading was a complete change for them, so we settlers all got together and helped one another on our houses and got them all finished before cold weather set in. I split shakes out of cedar blocks and cut the blocks eighteen inches long so they split easily. I used these shakes to make my roof, instead of shingles. They made a fine roof. I hewed out a door of cedar, but I didn't get a floor in my shack until the second summer. Wife and I had cleared a small patch of ground and planted some white beans and onions and we harvested a small crop. The ground seemed too new, but we felt we would have plenty good gardens when we had a chance to cultivate the ground.

Then the winter set in, and our source of supplies was getting low. George Johnston had a home-made sleigh and an Indian pony. Johnston told

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota (7)

us he was going to Deer River on the first snow, so we decided to go too. We nailed everything up and put our boat into our shack and left to go to Deer River over the nine mile bog. We were in town only a few hours when I got work as camp foreman for the winter with Quigg and McGowan at Swan River and wife went to cook at the Quigg Hotel in Deer River. When spring came we bought supplies enough to last us several months, and George Johnston took them over bog winter road before the spring thaw. I also bought a cow in Deer River, and an Indian pony from our Indian friends, the Rabbits. We named the pony Buckskin. Wife had also bought a few pieces of furniture and a cook stove, and through the generosity of George Johnston we got all these things out to the homestead, also enough lumber to put a floor into our house. So now we were very well established and proceeded to clear more land so as to have a garden and potato patch. We harvested some crop that fall, and I found some wild meadow and cut some hay for our cow and pony. In our spare time we picked lots of blueberries and dried them, we had a twentyfive pound flour sack full of dried blueberries when the season ended. We also picked wild raspberries and canned them, as we had brought along one hundred pounds of sugar. We were grateful for this fruit, as it helped to make a variety of food we couldn't have the first year.

The summer of 1897 I dug out a place in the hill side and put in timbers to make a fine root house; it wasn't very well filled that year, but this root house stood for years and the time came when it was full to the door. But we had a place we could leave what berries we had left over, so it was of lots of use to us. This variation of work helped to make our homestead duties lighter, and the days sped along as if on wings, and how we did enjoy the evenings together. After our days work was done, the sunsets were always a marvel to us, we really always looked forward to them. We used to say it was time to take in our Art Exhibit. Those sunsets were so gorgeous they

Homesteading in Northern Minnesota (8)

seemed like make-believe land had opened up before us. But we were to have more thrills as Mother Nature sent the first light frost and the trees took on their autumn shades. Words can't express the beauty we saw unfolding all around us, as the leaves seemed to change their coloring each day. All around us was a riot of changing coloring and beauty. Life was wrapped in happiness and real contentment for us, but we knew this was short-lived as we would soon have to close our home and go back to work again. Mrs. Johnston had given wife an old hen and a dozen white leghorn chicks the spring of 1897. We kept them in a box in the house until they were half-grown. Then I decided I would have to build a stable and a hen house. I built it of hewn logs, like our house, and made a lean-to for the chickens; but when the winter set in again our funds were getting low so Johnston's took our ~~live~~ live-stock for the winter, and we put our perishable goods into the root house and drove to town with Johnston. His pony and my pony now made a team, so it made the going easier. I got a job as foreman with Quigg and McGowan again at Swan River, as I had the previous winter.

Itasca Co - notes

Brainerd, Minn.
June 29, 1941.

Mr. Roscoe Macy, State Supervisor,
Minnesota Writers' Project,
28 Northeast Second Street,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Mr. Macy,

The enclosed information took a little longer to prepare than I expected for I did not want to send it in without re-checking it in Brainerd. It may not seem much, but I am positive there is a story behind it.

Very truly yours,

Anna Huirod

Miss Anna Himrod,
Brainerd, Minn.

Itasca County Notes

R ✓ An Act to Organize the county of Itasca and for other purposes:
Ojibway is named as county seat, provision made for appointment of three commissioners, and county is attached to Third Judicial District. March 6, 1857. In Laws of Minnesota, 1857, Chapter III, p-9. ✓

R ✓ Warranty Deed from Orin W. Rice of Douglas County, Wisconsin, by which he transfers to Benjamin H. Connor of above county, for \$2000, Lots 16-30, Block 53, and Lots 1-15 of Block 12, Town of Norwood, according to recorded plat of said Town on record in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for said County of Itasca. The above lots are 1/8 of one share. This deed is witnessed by T.G. Barnes and Thompson Ritchie, and acknowledged by Thompson Ritchie, (Commissioners' Seal) Douglas County, Wis. (Crow Wing County Deed Records, Vol. A, p-72). Dated Feb. 16, 1858. ✓

R ✓ Warranty Deed from Jacob Freystadt and wife, Elenoria, of Washington County, Minn. transferring to Issial Elias of St. Paul, for \$80, Lots 15-18, Block 54, Town of Ojibway, County of Itaska, according to plat thereof on file in the office of Register of Deeds in and for said county. Dated July 20, 1857. Witnessed by James A. Case and R.M. Levy. Acknowledged by James A. Case, Notary Public, Ramsey County. (Crow Wing County Deed Records, Vol. A, p-105.) ✓

R ✓ Pokagemon Falls post office, Cass County (late Pembina County) established Aug. 24, 1857 with George A. Davis as post master. Discontinued May 15, 1860. (U.S. Post Office records, Manuscript Dept., Minnesota Historical Society). ✓

(1)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Brownell (No. 31-~~6772~~ 2993)

APR 29 REC'D

Peter Dahl.

Peter Dahl came to the United States in 1891 and lived at Cambridge, Minnesota "where my partner and I worked clearing land and in 1901, ten years later, I moved to Itasca County. I took up a homestead on Sand Lake in Feeley Township, where I lived, or called my home. In the winter I worked in logging camps, and for the sawmill at Warba. I worked for Keleen Logging Co. when the ~~man~~ last large drive was sent down the Swan river. This drive consisted of some 13,000,000 feet, and took about two weeks for the logs to pass. These were cut in the NE part of Feeley township. I worked for the Verna Brick Co., burning sand to be used in the manufacturing of bricks."

Source: Peter Dahl, interview, at Warba.

Itasca

~~State~~ Year ~~State~~ of last by him cited by Peter Dahl

(2)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Brownell (No. 31-2993)

Warba.

Warba is one of few localities in Itasca County that has had two different names. It was first organized as Feeley in honor of the first settler, Tom Feeley. Feeley grew from a few log shacks to be large and important enough to be incorporated into a village. After Feeley became incorporated it was called Warba. Warba, in the Chippewa Indian language, means White Swan, probably after the river which flows close to the town.

The first settlers came to this part of the country in 1890. A hotel was about the only building of any importance, it carried a small supply of goods for the simple wants of the people. The township of Feeley was incorporated before the organization of the village of Warba.

Mr. Andrew Johnson started his sawmill on the bank of the Swan River, where he sawed pine and hardwood which came down the river. Because of the large supply of lumber coming in, the Leaf Lumber Co. was formed, with A. Johnson as president, and A. A. Hall as secretary. The Leaf Lumber Co. was responsible for the platting of the townsite of Warba, which was accepted by the Board of Commissioners on August 13, 1904. The village of Warba was first called Feeley and later changed to Warba by request of railway and postal officials because of confusion in names. Warba is sometimes spoken of as Verna, but this refers only to the railway siding.

The village was incorporated in 1911 with H. A. Peterson as clerk, Mattson as Mayor, Frank Foley, Albert Erlandson, and H. Carlson as trustees. Warba at one time had a flourishing manufacturing enterprise in its manufacturing of bricks. The brick yard was called Verna Brick Co. after the railway siding of Verna. They employed about forty men, and used wood to burn in their boilers, giving work to many farmers in the winter. They paid from two dollars up a cord for wood. Wood was also used in the burning process that finishes the brick. The brick yard started in about 1917 and worked off and on till about 1932. In 1940 the machinery was taken out and taken to the company's other plant near Duluth.

(3)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Brownell (No. 31-2993)

Warba (2)

The village of Warba has grown from a few log shacks in the early days to a flourishing village or today. Warba has now within its limits a new modern school, part of School District No. 1. It also has three stores, post office, library, restaurant, community hall, telephone exchange, and a modern garage equipped to handle any kind of work. Warba has two churches - the Catholic and the Swedish Lutheran.

Source: Interview with A. Erlandson, Warba. Also G. R. Magnet.

(4)

Proj. 8633 - Research - Brownell (No. 31-2993)

John Rogers.

I came to Itasca County in the fall of 1900 and bought my land in about 1904. I worked for the Railway at Swan River, in the coal docks for seven years. The hotel where I lived in Swan River served many purposes. It was a hotel, store, saloon, sporting house, and school house all combined. Later, I moved to Warba and worked at the Verna Brick yard for about seven years. This work at the brick yard was only during the summer months, so I had more time to clear up my farm and cut wood. My job was burning wood in the kilns at the brick yard. I remember hauling in 118 cords of wood after Christmas one year, with a team of two year old oxen. But with all my hard work I think I can truthfully say I have one of the best farms in this part of the country. But the trouble with us early pioneers, by the time we clear up our land and get our place so we can enjoy it, we are too old to really enjoy it.

Source, John Rogers (Interview); Warba.

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L. Kolb.

Among the earliest merchants of Itasca County were, to my knowledge, Mr. Wm. Nesbett, a jeweler, and a man just known as Tailor Benson. These men traveled from camp to camp and from settler to settler, over tote roads, skid trails, and through the woods where there were no roads at all. They often used dog teams in the winter to travel and sell their merchandise, which at times was not always the best.

Mr. Kalb said that a saloon keeper by the name of Henry Logan from Grand Rapids, came down to all the Swan River logging camps and promised the loggers if they would vote to have the court house (then a little frame building in La Prairie) moved to Grand Rapids, that he would put up drinks for them. Mr. Kalb voted the first time in a little white house of Lidstrums' in Swan River.

The first sign of church was Catholic Services held in Tom Feeley's hotel at Swan River once or twice a year. Tom Feeley and Walt Wright were the first hotel keepers in Swan River. Tom Feeley was foreman at the landing for the Swan River Logging Co. In 1898 he took a trip to Michigan for the Fourth of July just before the Spanish American War. He was told he would have to go to war, so he pulled stakes for Michigan, and after he came back things had quieted down.

In 1893 he worked for Duluth Northern Railway, for a fellow by the name of Nelson, a section hand. They kidded him about a couple of widows while working on the track. After about a week's kidding, he said he would rather take the boss' wife, but the boss could not take the ribbing he was giving out so he canned Mr. Kalb. The section bosses were John O'Riley, Nels Berlin, Ed Hayes, Andy Morse, Eve Nelson, Jack Mylo, and afterwards the Great Northern took over the railway.

There were only two families living in the community when he came, the Hooker family and Albert Kespole. George Durgey was the first barber. The section house of ~~the~~ Swan River is the oldest building in town, built in 1894 by O'Riley. The O'Riley family of about five boys all worked for the Swan River Logging Co.

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L. Kolb (2)

In 1908 the sports were banished from Itasca County. He said that it was the worst thing that could have happened. Just after he became 21 he went to a hotel in Grand Rapids to see a woman, and was told to go to a house down near the river. On his way down he heard the fire bell, and after locating the fire found it was the house he intended going to. A policeman by the name of Robinson had just come out of the house, with his clothes under his arm.

Source: Interview with Mr. L. Kolb.

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Wright & Davis Logging Co.

In 1871 Mr. Wright extended his operations by establishing the firm of Wright Wells and Co., in connection with Charles Wells, Charles Davis, and Reuben Kimball; with logging operations at Wright's Lake in Otsego Co., Michigan, which continued for about ten years. Messrs. Wells and Kimball retired from the firm in 1883 after ~~the~~ eleven years of successful business. After the retirement of Wells and Kimball, the business continued under the name of Wright and Davis. After the retirement of Wells and Kimball, they transferred their operations to Minnesota, where they acquired some seventy thousand acres of pine in St. Louis and Itasca counties. They later sold to Frederick Weyerhoesuer and his associates in 1892. They reserved, however, the fee to about twenty thousand acres of mineral land lying along the now celebrated Mesaba Iron Range, upon some of which valuable iron mines have since been operated.

Mr. Wright and his associates then organized the Swan River Logging Co. and took from the Weyerhoeuser Co. a contract for lumbering the timber sold them from these lands. In order to transport the logs they built a railway called Duluth Mississippi River and Northern Railway from the bank of the Mississippi at the mouth of the Swan River, in a northerly direction a distance of about 35 miles to Hibbing, with about 30 miles of logging branches. Over this road was hauled annually for an extended period about a million feet of logs a year, besides a great quantity of iron ore from land of Wright, Davis & Co. Wright, Davis & Co. obtained their 70 thousand acres of land from Morris Quinn.

The Swan River Logging Co. entered into a contract with the Duluth South Shore and Atlantic Railroad, which had built ore docks at Allouez Bay near Superior, Wisconsin, whereby the railway leased traffic rights over their lines (Wright, Davis Co. lines), furnished their own cars and power to haul ore, paying a price of 20¢ a ton.

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In 1896 the firm of Wright, Davis and Co. sold their iron ore deposits and assigned their traffic contract to James Hill; soon after, they closed their operations in Minnesota and moved to Washington in about 1917.

During their years of operation in Minnesota they took out between 25 and 75 million feet a year.

In about 1909-1910 the Swan River Logging Co. was reorganized under the name of Swan River Logging Co., Ltd. The last logs to be hauled by them came from as far north as Sturgeon Lake. The present site of Fred Anchutz store in Jacobson, Minnesota, was their landing.

In 1899 Mr. James Hill purchased the holdings of Wright, Davis Co., consisting of a line of railroad and some logging road, and a large quantity of ore land. The purchase, for \$4,050,000 was made by Mr. James Hill individually, for the purpose of securing the the shipment of ore from the property. The date that the Swan River Logging Co. (Wright Davis & Co) sold their holdings to Mr. Hill is given as 1899 in the History of Railroad by H. M. Sims, Executive Assistant, and as 1896 in the biography of Mr. Wright and Mr. Davis.

Source: Fred Anchutz, (interview), Jacobson, Minn.; "History of Saginaw County, Michigan by J. C. Mills; History of Great Northern Railway, by H. R. Sims.

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J. Hayes.

Mr. J. Hayes worked for Winston Bros. & Dear Construction Co. from Minneapolis when they first started shipping ~~logs~~ for the Oliver Mine. He said they hauled the stripping in small cars (1 to 2 yards) on narrow gauge track. The cars being small and loads light, often a single team would pull six to eight cars if the grade was not too steep. The steam shovel was a monster of a thing, it made so much noise you couldn't talk to a person if you were very near it; and after bobbing and jumping around it we haul up 3/4 of a yard of dirt. He said he must have been sleeping like a dead man, while men like Frank Hibbing were worth some good jack.

Frank Hibbing's first camp was on the east side of Longyear Lake, and he (Mr. Hayes) had visited Mr. Hibbing's camp often.

Mr. Hayes came to Itasca county from Canada when the logging was going good in 1893. "My first winter of 1893 was sure a tough one for me. I was sort of green, I guess, and they only paid \$20.00 a month. I believe it was the ~~most~~ toughest year I have seen. I first settled in Goodland (as it is now called) with a man by the name of Geese. We made our living by cutting a little timber or working in a camp, in the summer we put in garden, and sold our garden truck. The town of Goodland was called Gardner after Geese and me because of our gardening. The name was changed by Finny and Kater, real estate agents from Harmon, Minnesota, to Goodland, in order to sell land."

"In about 1899 or 1900 I bought land from a land agent by the name of Yost, north of Warba. The land cost me \$10.00 and after, I cut off some of the timber and sold it for a very small amount of what it cost me."

"One thing I will always remember happened when I lived north of Warba. My shack sat close to a little creek. I noticed the water begin to rise, but thinking nothing of it I went to bed. About midnight I was awakened by the sound of water. I reached out of bed and found about a foot of water running through. I crawled

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J. Hayes -(2)

~~man~~

out to find a dry place, and at last had to sit on a barrel the rest of the night."

"I made my living selling timber off the claim to Leaf Lumber Co., run by Andrew Johnson and A. A. Hall. In 1907 I contested a homestead where I now live, and started to clear up a farm. I bought a team of oxen from Rogers, and did I have a hell of a time. Every time I would hurry them a little they would turn the yoke on me, and then the fun would start. I cleared up a nice chunk of land with them, though, after I found out how to drive them."

"In some of the logging camps the jacks were a rough lot. I remember once Benson and Nesbitt, a tailor and a Jeweler, came into a camp. Over some misunderstanding they got a little rough handling and lost some of their goods on top of it. I believe the best log I ever skidded scaled 1400 feet, and even at that had a rotten spot."

"I worked for Sims Logging Co. at Sims before they moved to Deer River. Sims built a logging railway called Gut and Liver. The loggers named it, because about all the meat they got was sausage and liver. It wasn't a bad road if you weren't in a hurry, awful rough in the spring but they hauled lots of logs over it."/P

"The first church we had is the same one the Swedish Lutherans have now, but I do not remember what it was then."

Source: J. Hayes, interview.

Early Railroads.

The earliest railway to enter Itasca came from the east, or the head of the lakes. It was built by the Duluth and Winnipeg in 1890. This road went from Paupores to La Prairie, and on to Grand Rapids in July 1890. In 1891 the railway was continued on to Deer River. From Deer River the road was to run in a north-westerly direction through Chippewa Indian territory. Jim Hill and his associates were building a road up the Red River Valley to Canada at the same time. Through political pressure the Duluth and Winnipeg had to stop crossing the Indian territory. The Great Northern entered this territory in 1899, when the Eastern Railway ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Co.~~ Co., one of the subsidiary companies of the Great Northern, acquired the property of the Duluth and Winnipeg Railway.

In 1898 the Great Northern built from Fosston to Deer River, 98½ miles. Mr. Hill purchased the railway of Wright, Davis and Co., which ran from Jacobson or Mississippi landing in a northeasterly direction to Hibbing. The purchase of Wright, Davis railway involved some \$4,050,000, which Mr. Hill paid himself for the purpose of transporting ore from the iron range. Another railway built for the purpose of transporting ore was the Duluth, Mesaba and Northern. This railway was built in about 1890 and owned by Merritt interests. After the crash in 1893 it went into the hands of the iron interests, and was later taken over by the United States Steel Corporation.

Source: H. M. Sims' "History of Great Northern Railway."

Great Northern Railway Company

Executive Department

St. Paul, Minnesota
March 26, 1941

Mr. Lowell Brownell
Warba, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Brownell:

Supplementing our letter of March 22, the history of the building of the Great Northern is covered quite fully in a two-volume book by Joseph Gilpin Pyle, entitled "The Life of James J. Hill" published by Peter Smith of New York. It may be that this is available in your local library. If you cannot locate a copy and want to read it, please let me know and I shall see if I can arrange for the loan of these two volumes.

Relative to the building of Great Northern lines in Itasca County, the line from Paupores to La Prairie, 44 miles, was built by the D & W in 1891, and the following year it was extended 17 miles from La Prairie to Deer River. In 1898 the Great Northern built from Fosston to Deer River, 98½ miles.

The line running north from Swan River was begun in 1892 by the D.M.R. & M.

The line from Nashwauk to Gunn, 22 miles, was not built until 1909.

Cordially yours,

H. M. Sims (signed)

Executive Assistant.

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