

CHAPTER VI.

TOWNSHIPS OF WATONWAN COUNTY.

ADRIAN TOWNSHIP.

Adrian township is the extreme northwestern sub-division in Watonwan county, and comprises congressional township No. 107, range 33 west. It is bounded on the north by Brown county, on the east by Nelson township, Watonwan county, on the south by Butterfield township and on the west by Cottonwood county. A branch of the Chicago & Northwestern system of railway enters the township in section 18 and leaves it, going southward from section 33. On this is situated the village and station point of Darfur, in section 20. Adrian has several good-sized lakes, including Wood Lake, in the northeastern corner of the territory, and Cottonwood Lake, along the eastern line in section 25. The north fork of the Watonwan river courses through the township from west to east, entering from the west in section 7 and leaving it from section 12 on the east line. Another branch of the same stream flows almost parallel with the one just named, but through the lower tier of sections of the township.

ORGANIZATION.

In June, 1871, the county commissioners created the civil township known as Adrian, the same being designated as the whole of the territory embraced in congressional township 107, range 33 west, and the first election was ordered to be held at the house of Volney DeWitt. The township has always been well governed by its local officers, and is today one of the well-improved sections of the county. With railroad, market town, schools and churches the people are a happy and contented lot of good citizens. The United States census for 1910 gave the population as four hundred and eighty-one, which was a decrease from the census of 1900, which gave it as having five hundred and fifty-nine.

SETTLEMENT.

The settlement in this township was effected in about the following order: In section 2, Jonas Samuelson, Jonas Gustafson, John Wanerstrom, P. O. Swanson. In section 4, John P. Prah, William Prah, John Rathman and F. W. Uhlhorn. In section 6, William Arndt, Conrad Schaper, Martius Rathman and John Bratchner. In section 8, Frank Rathman, Charles Krueger, August Selzman, John Krieser and Rudolph Steinke. In section 10, Swan Englin, Charles Warner, John Johnson, D. Heppner and A. Englin. In section 12, Alex. Swanson, Swan Nelson, C. G. Samuelson. In section 14, P. Heppner, John Stoez and E. Lofgaren. In section 18, S. W. Burns, Gust Hagglund and Christian Hanson. In section 20, Fred Kline, Fred Schuman and John Rask. In section 22, J. L. Parker, W. Jenkins. In section 24, M. B. Foster, Jonas Nelson, P. Malm, John Hernaman. In section 26, E. Davis, Swen Swensen, V. Lebarre and Adrian Davis. In section 28, H. Jenzen, William Stalk, D. C. Atwell, D. Simmons. In section 30, George Irving, R. Haulse, Jerry Barrett and P. Fleming. In section 32, James McDonough, D. Anns and Ed. Sweeney. In section 34, David Ennis and M. Tarball.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN ADRIAN TOWNSHIP.

Under the Homestead act, approved by Congress on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were taken up in what is now Adrian township:

P. A. Gustafson, on certificate No. 4,237, at the land office at Tracy, lot No. 4, in section 2, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, November 1, 1881.

M. Heppner, certificate No. 5,081, at Tracy land office, on the southeast quarter of section 22, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, May 15, 1884.

Ellen Bohman, certificate No. 2,667, at the New Ulm land office, the northeast half of the southeast quarter of section 12, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President U. S. Grant.

Certificate No. 5,568, to Gustaf Haglund, at the Tracy land office, the southeast quarter of section 18, township 107, range 33 west, by President Grover Cleveland, April 10, 1886.

Margareta Swanson, at the Tracy land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 10, township 107, range 33 west, by Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, signed January 9, 1886.

S. J. Wannerstram, on certificate No. 3,756, at the New Ulm land office, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 107, range 33 west, was homesteaded by President Rutherford B. Hayes, and by him signed on January 20, 1881.

Charles Hull, certificate No. 2,428, at the New Ulm land office, the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 33 west, by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 20, 1882.

Gotleib Schade, certificate No. 4,469, at the Tracy land office, the southwest quarter of section 8, township 107, range 33 west, by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on February 10, 1883.

Jacob Jacobson, by certificate No. 2,405, at the New Ulm land office, the southwest half of the northwest quarter of section 34, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed by him on February 20, 1880.

Hans Marquirson, certificate No. 2,404, on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 34, range 33 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on February 12, 1880.

Peter Newfeldt, No. 348, Tracy land office, the east half of the southwest quarter of section 20, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, November 1, 1881.

Joel Parker, certificate No. 3,929, at the New Ulm land office; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on February 10, 1881; land in section 26, township 107, range 33 west.

Peter Falk, certificate No. 5,133, at the Tracy land office; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on January 15, 1885; land in section 6, township 107, range 33 west.

Eugen Salzman, certificate No. 3,776, at the New Ulm land office; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on January 20, 1881; land—the south half of the northwest quarter of section 8, township 107, range 33 west.

P. F. Malm, certificate No. 2,501, at the New Ulm land office, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 24, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed November 23, 1875.

Wesley D. Pond, south half of the southeast quarter, section 26, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on October 15, 1873.

Jerry Barrett, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 30, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed September 10, 1880.

Ephraim Lofgren, New Ulm land office, east half of the northeast quarter of section 14, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President James A. Garfield, signed on May 3, 1881.

August Schade, New Ulm land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 107, range 33 west; issued by President Arthur, signed February 10, 1883.

THE VILLAGE OF DARFUR.

This village was platted in section 20, township 107, range 33 west, by the officers of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, April 20, 1899. The platting was signed by Marvin Huhgett, president of the railroad company.

INCORPORATION.

Darfur was incorporated as a village in 1904. Its first village officers were: E. J. Wilson, president; C. F. Klein, treasurer; W. H. Hochert, recorder. The officers now serving are as follow: Thomas Englin, president; John A. Gustafson, Ed. A. Goring and A. J. Samuelson, trustees; W. Schulte, clerk.

The village now has a half mile of cement sidewalks; a fire engine and a volunteer fire company of eighteen men. So far it has needed no jail or police. The corporation has debts only to the amount of three hundred dollars. The following have served as presidents of the village: E. J. Wilson, 1904 to 1907; Theo. Kintzi, 1907 to 1910; A. Jaeger, 1910 to 1914; O. F. Langhoff, 1914-15; Theo. Englin, 1915, and present president of Darfur village.

PRESENT BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Very little can be said of the postoffice history of the village. The amount of business is about the average of all fourth-class offices. To date there have been only two postmasters, Jacob Heppner and A. A. Jaeger, the present incumbent.

The following business interests were represented in 1916:

Auto garage—John Gustafson.

Bank—State Bank.

Barber—L. Stoutenberg.

Blacksmith—W. Buche.

Creamery—Darfur Co-operative Creamery Company.

Dray—S. Weast.

Elevator—Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company.

General Dealer—Edward Goring, A. Jaeger.

Hardware and Implements—Englin & Samuelson.

Hotel Darfur—S. Weast, proprietor.

Lumber—C. M. Youngman Lumber Company.

Livery—S. Weast.

Stock Buyer—Darfur Stock Buyers' Association.

ANTRIM TOWNSHIP.

Antrim township is the southeastern civil township of Watonwan county. At its north is Fieldon township, at the east is Blue Earth county, at its south is Martin county and at the west is South Branch township. It is a full congressional township and hence is six miles square with thirty-six full sections. There are a few small streams, or prairie "runs" and very few lakes or ponds as compared to other sub-divisions of this county. The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad runs on the half-section line from section 33 to section 4, and has for a station point in the township the little hamlet of Lewisville, located in section 4.

The population of the township in 1890 was 573; in 1900 it was 591, and in 1910 it was 582.

TOWNSHIP'S ORGANIZATION.

Antrim township was formed by the county commissioners in January, 1867, when the commissioners were Messrs. Kempfer, Levey and Webster. There was a petition and also a remonstrance presented the board—one asking that a new township be formed and the other in opposition thereto. It was asked in the petition for the new township that it be named "Bloomington." It was finally agreed to form the new township and the matter of naming it was left to Joseph Flanders and B. O. Kempfer, who called it "York," but the records show that in the spring of 1868 it was being called Antrim.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

There were several settlers in this part of the county before the days of "homesteaders." Some remained, and many more left at the date of the

Indian troubles in August, 1862, never to return. The following is a true transcript of many of the early land entries:

William S. Jones, certificate No. 4,985, at the Worthington land office, was laid on the northwest quarter of section 6, township 195, range 30 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on June 15, 1880.

Alva Curtis, certificate No. 2,992, at the Jackson land office, was for a homestead in the south half of the northeast quarter of section 14, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on April 15, 1874.

David Davies, certificate No. 7,272, at the Worthington land office, on the northeast quarter of section 14, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on September 20, 1870.

Abbie Paine, certificate No. 6,187, at the Worthington land office, on the north half of the southwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 4, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on March 10, 1883.

A. D. Carnwell, certificate No. 7,427, at the Jackson land office, on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 20, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on February 1, 1872.

G. A. Manston, certificate No. 4,867, at the Worthington land office, on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 6, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

W. Zinke, certificate No. 5,611, at the Worthington land office, on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 34, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on December 20, 1881.

W. Davis, certificate No. 2,265, at the Jackson land office, on the northwest quarter of section 14, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on February 1, 1873.

Karl Sexaner, certificate No. 5,616, at the Worthington land office, on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on December 12, 1881.

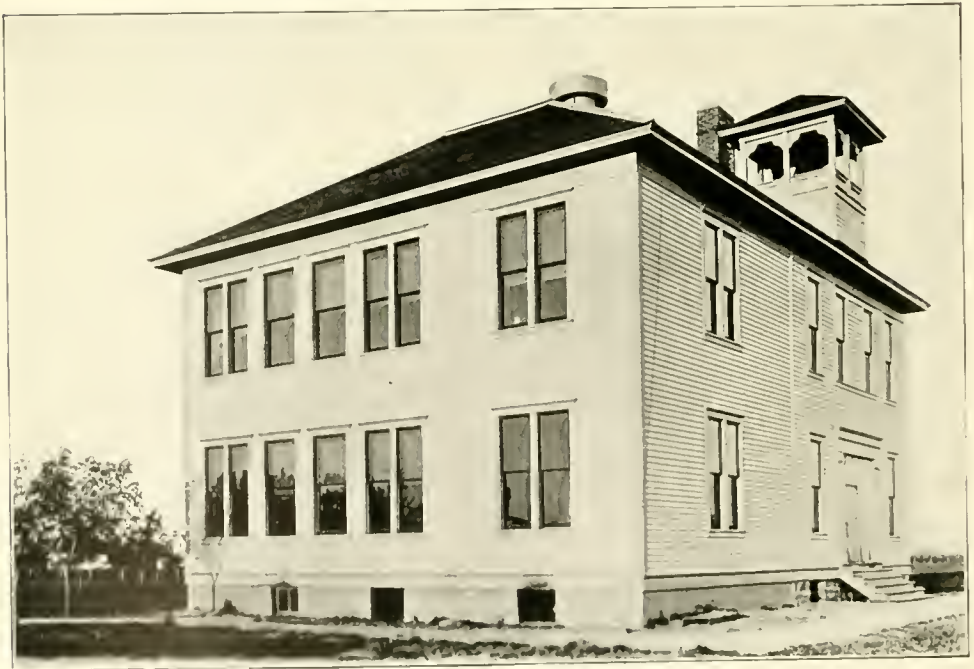
K. Comstock, certificate No. 3,908, at the Worthington land office, on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 22, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 12, 1876.

Stephen I. Comstock, certificate No. 7,781, at the Worthington land office, on the southwest quarter of section 22, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on January 12, 1885.

Charles C. Wasté, certificate No. 4,330, at the Worthington land office,



C., ST. P., M. & O. DEPOT, LEWISVILLE.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, LEWISVILLE.

on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 6, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 1, 1877.

Carl Brasinske, certificate No. 4,620, at the Worthington land office, on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 28, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on December 12, 1877.

Eli H. Richwood, No. 6,109, at the Worthington land office, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 6, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on March 15, 1882.

Marshall Donley, certificate No. 6,202, at the Worthington land office, the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest of the northeast quarter of section 18, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 5, 1884.

Tobert Dewars, certificate No. 6,965, on the southwest quarter of section 10, township 105, range 30 west; issued by President Grover Cleveland, signed on June 31, 1885.

VILLAGE OF LEWISVILLE.

Lewisville was platted by the Interstate Land Company, May 3, 1899, in section 4, township 105, range 30 west, through the company's president, P. H. Peavey. It is situated on the north and south branch of the Omaha railroad, and is among the later villages within the county. Lewisville became an incorporated village in 1902. The presidents of the village, in order of serving, are as follow: C. O. Nicholson, Adolph Sucker, John Mutsch, John E. Moore and C. E. Anderson.

The first officers were as follow: President, C. O. Nicholson; trustees, R. Lewis, Charles Johns, A. J. McLain; recorder, S. Taylor; treasurer, Adolph Sucker. The present officers are: President, C. Anderson; trustees, Gustav Bethke, E. G. Bethke, A. R. Grieger; recorder, A. W. Alb; treasurer, Adolph Sucker.

The town has about twenty-three blocks of cement sidewalks, a small fire engine and hose, a small jail, which is seldom used. In laying out the town an eight-acre park was arranged for, but little use has ever been made of it.

The receipts of this postoffice are double and even treble those of some other postoffices of the county, where the population of the village is approximately the same. The past year's business amounted to one thousand one hundred fifty-five dollars and eighty-two cents, exclusive of money

orders. The postmasters to date are as follow: Richard Lewis, Ethel H. Moore and John E. Moore. There is one rural free delivery route.

In the summer of 1916 the business interests were represented by the following:

Auto Garage—Henry Ikier.

Bank—Merchants' State Bank.

Blacksmith—A. Albaugh, Robert Schoneck.

Barber—Elmer Olson.

Clothing—Hodapp-Nelson.

Drugs and Jewelry—John E. Moore, Lewisville Drug & Jewelry Company.

Elevator—Farmers' Elevator Company.

Furniture—Gust Bethke.

Grocer—E. E. Anderson.

General Dealer—Hillesheim & Company.

Hardware and Implements—H. C. Flitter, Greiger & Reiter.

Harness—Lewis Nagel.

Hotel—Mrs. B. Mueller.

Livery—August Sonnabend.

Lumber—Weyerhaeuser & Company.

Meat Market—Henry Keehn.

Millinery—May E. Ross Dewar.

Restaurant—Mrs. R. Albaugh.

Stock Dealers—Lewis & Dewar.

Telephone—Tri-State.

Variety Store—F. B. Mellen.

Lewisville has a population of only three hundred and fifty and is one of the real progressive towns of the county. Every citizen is in the true sense of the word a "booster." There is complete harmony among its business men and all work to make Lewisville a real commercial center. The town is perhaps the only one in the entire county that is free from debt, a fact which does credit to the town officers.

BUTTERFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Butterfield township is on the west line of Watonwan county and is the second from the northern line of the county, with Adrian at the north, St.

James at the east and Odin township at the south. It comprises congressional township 106, range 33 west. It is a well-settled township and in it is the sprightly village of Butterfield, a station on the main line of the Omaha line and the crossing of that road and the branch of the Chicago & Northwestern line. The township is an even congressional township of thirty-six sections of land, of most excellent quality. The central branch of the Watonwan river flows to the eastward through this township, and there are a few pretty little lakes within the township, notably the ones in section 1, the one in section 28, and one in section 7. There are many beautiful farms in Butterfield township and stockraising and other branches of farming are carried on extensively.

The population of the township, exclusive of the village of Butterfield, in 1890 was 366; in 1900 it was 489 and in 1910 it was 602, according to the United States census returns.

ORGANIZATION.

Butterfield township was formed by the county commissioners at their regular meeting held in January, 1872, out of congressional township 106, range 33, and another on the same date called Odin, formed to the south of Butterfield township.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Many of the early settlers of the central-west part of Watonwan county located on government and railroad lands in what is now Butterfield township. No memorandum has been left of the first few who claimed land in this township, but the following will give the reader a partial account of the homesteaders there:

Abraham Friesen, on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 106, range 33 west; the certificate was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, January 15, 1885.

George Bland homesteaded by certificate No. 2,310 at the New Ulm land office, the northwest of section 6, township 106, range 33 west, the same being signed by President U. S. Grant, September 15, 1874.

From the land office at Tracy the east half of the northeast quarter of section 10, township 106, range 33 west, was homesteaded on March 10, 1883, signed by President Chester A. Arthur.

Certificate No. 4,558, to Henry Bartel, was homesteaded for the south-

east quarter of section 8, township 106, range 33 west, was signed by President Chester A. Arthur, February 10, 1883.

Peter Rempel, on his certificate No. 5,392, homesteaded at the Tracy land office, the southeast half of the northeast quarter of section 2, township 106, range 33 west. It was issued by President Grover Cleveland, April 27, 1885.

VILLAGE OF BUTTERFIELD.

Butterfield was platted in section 27, township 106, range 33 west, on September 13, 1880, by E. F. Drake, president of the railroad company, then styled the St. Paul & Sioux City, now the Omaha system.

The postoffice at Butterfield is the third largest in the county. The postal receipts for the last fiscal year amounted to two thousand dollars. Four rural routes serve the community from this office. The following is a list of all postmasters to date: John Remple, Ed. Woenike, John F. Enns, Alice M. Anderson and J. P. Anderson.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN 1916.

The business interests of Butterfield at June, 1916, were in the hands of the following:

Auto Garage—Butterfield Auto Company.

Banks—Peoples State Bank, State Bank.

Barber—John O. Ness.

Blacksmith—Ole A. Ulvestad.

Creamery—Butterfield Creamery Company, N. C. Norensen, manager.

Drugs—J. W. Hollenitsch.

Dentist—V. V. Bele.

Elevator—Hubbard & Palmer Company, Farmers Elevator Company.

Furniture—Kintzi & Ewy.

General Dealers—Gust Miller, S. J. Sulen, P. W. Rempel.

Hotel—Butterfield.

Harness—Frank Loews.

Hardware—Kintzi & Ewy, Friesen & Holte, W. W. Rempel.

Implements—Claus Melheim, Farmers Elevator Company.

Jeweler—J. W. Hollenitsch.

Lumber—J. H. Queal and Company.

Livery—Hans E. Staaling, Carl Kramer.

Mills—St. James Milling Company, Halbersen & Skjic.



STATE BANK, BUTTERFIELD.



SCENES IN BUTTERFIELD.

Millinery—Mrs. P. W. Rempel.

Meat Market—Otto F. Langhoff.

Newspaper—The *Butterfield Advocate*, John W. Hubin, proprietor.

Opera House—The Butterfield.

Physician—Dr. Ole E. Hagen.

Produce Dealer—Butterfield Mercantile Company.

Restaurants—S. C. Johnston, Mrs. W. Abel.

Wagonmaker—Aug. B. Schwieter.

Although Butterfield has a population of only four hundred and twenty-five, yet her progress and volume of business are equal to that of towns several times her size. Credit for these things belong almost entirely to the Commercial Club, organized in 1907 for civic and industrial purposes. Perhaps one of the most important things accomplished by the club is the securing of electric lights for the town. The present officers of the Commercial Club are as follow: President, D. E. Raney; vice-president, J. Brogger; secretary, J. O. Ness; treasurer, S. J. Sulem.

In November, 1903, Butterfield had a fire which destroyed over twenty thousand dollars worth of village property.

In 1904 there was a fire in the village which destroyed a hardware and furniture store belonging to Kintzi Brothers, and a confectionery belonging to Edw. Bergthold.

In 1916 the house of E. Brogger was partly burned and the loss was assessed at seven hundred dollars.

INCORPORATION HISTORY.

Butterfield was incorporated as a village on April 5, 1895. The following have served as presidents of the board: B. Rempel, G. A. Kintzi, J. J. Harder, A. Syverson, R. M. Kintzi, O. A. Ulvestad, S. J. Sulem.

The first village officers were as follow: B. Rempel, president; G. A. Kintzi, recorder. Those of 1916 are: S. J. Sulem, president; J. W. Hubin, recorder; E. Brogger, Frank Toews and P. W. Rempel, trustees; John Kintzi, treasurer.

The village has four miles of cement walks, two fire engines, two hose cars, a volunteer fire company of nineteen men, two cells for jail purposes in village hall, which building was erected in 1905. In 1916 there was installed by the Northern States Power Company, under a twenty-five year franchise, a complete electric lighting system for both light and power.

FIELDON TOWNSHIP.

Fieldon civil township is comprised of congressional township 106, range 30 west, and is on the eastern line of the county with Madelia township at the north, Blue Earth county at the east, Antrim township at the south and Rosendale township at the west. There are no towns or hamlets within its borders. The Fairmont and Madelia branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad runs through sections 4, 9, 15, 21, 28 and 33, the same running directly on the half section line from north to south. The surface is mostly a level prairie plane, with a few small streams, but void of any lakes of any considerable size.

This township had a population in 1890 of 487; in 1900 it had 547 and according to the census in 1910 it had a population of 535.

ORGANIZATION HISTORY.

In September, 1868, at the meeting of the board of county commissioners that body changed the name of Wakefield township to that of Fieldon. Wakefield had been organized by the commissioners at the March, 1868, meeting from township 106, range 30 west, but for some reason was in September of that year changed to Fieldon, by which it is still known.

FIRST SETTLERS.

Among the very earliest settlers in this township were these: Nick McNamara, Dan Griffen, Charles McLaughlin, Martin Burk, Herman Madson, John Madson, Thomas Yeagen, who was burned to death in a prairie fire.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN FIELDON TOWNSHIP.

Charles Clawman, by certificate held by him and presented at the land office in New Ulm, homesteaded the northeast quarter of section 28, township 106, range 30 west, the same being signed by President U. S. Grant July 10, 1871.

Joseph Lehner, at the New Ulm land office, homesteaded the east half of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 106, range 30 west, the same being issued by U. S. Grant, President of the United States, March 1, 1876.

Peter Hoffelt, by certificate No. 1,932, at the New Ulm land office, secured a homestead right to the west half of the northwest quarter of section 4, township 106, range 30 west, the same being signed by President Grover Cleveland, April 27, 1885.

Under the same act of Congress, warrant No. 94,881, for a quarter of section 14, township 106, range 30, was received at St. Peter land office and signed by President Abraham Lincoln. It was issued to Josephus Weter, private in Captain Davis's company, New York militiamen, in the War of 1812. This land is in Fieldon township.

LONG LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Long Lake township is comprised of congressional township 105, range 32 west. It is on the southern border line of the county, with Odin township at the west, St. James at the north and South Branch township at the east. It is six miles square and contains thirty-six full sections. It is a prairie township, but has three good-sized lakes and several smaller water sheets, or prairie ponds, which, with the cultivation and improvement of the country, are fast disappearing from view. The lakes referred to are Kansas Lake, Long Lake, Mary Lake. These are all in the northern half of the township, the former being situated in the northwest part, while the other two are in the northeastern portion. These prairie lakes abound in fish and have considerable improvement around their shores and afford a nice summer resort for the citizens of St. James and surrounding country. In the exact center of the township is found a good town hall. The villages of the township are Echols and Ormsby, the former in the northern part and the latter on the county line south and extends over into Martin county.

The population of the township in 1890 was 538; in 1900 it was 650 and in the United States census reports for 1910 it was given as 583.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad traverses the township from north to south, through sections 3, 9, 10, 16, 21, 28 and 33, with stations at Ormsby and Echols.

ORGANIZATION.

Long Lake township was organized in March, 1868, from township 105, ranges 32 and 33 west. At the same meeting old "Wakefield" township was created at the same meeting, but is now known as Fieldon.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement here was effected by Hans Johnson, who was born in 1821 in Norway, and settled in this township in 1858. Another very early settler was George Johnson.

In 1857 Gabriel Ellingson and Iver Sole settled in Long Lake. Hans Olson Hegg also took a claim, but left soon after, selling to Hans Thompson. Mr. Hegg returned after the close of the Indian troubles.

In 1857 arrived Jacob Tharal and wife, Jens and Thor Torsen, with their mother, Marie Torsen Overig; Hans Pedersen and wife, Rand; Sivert Nicolai and Nils Fjelstad. Salra Torgenson and wife; Lars Havlorson Longmeyer came in 1861; John and Simon Poland came in 1862.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN LONG LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Under the act of congress approved on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were taken up and proved up on at the end of the five years required by that act:

Peter P. Moe, certificate No. 6,974, at the Worthington land office, was laid on the west half of the northwest quarter of section 12, township 105, range 32 west, issued by President Grover Cleveland, and signed on July 27, 1885.

Nels Gunderson, certificate No. 2,600 at the Jackson land office, was laid on the northeast quarter of section 20, township 105, range 32, west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 5, 1884.

Peter Lee, certificate No. 6,718, at the Worthington land office, on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 2, township 105, range 32 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 5, 1884.

John Turton, certificate No. 4,832, at the Worthington land office was land on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 12, township 105, range 32 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

INDIAN ATROCITIES.

Simon Poland was wounded and his step-son, Christian, killed by the Indians in 1863. His wife and son Tosten were also severely wounded and left for dead, but recovered and fled with other settlers to Butternut Valley. Others who settled here in the early sixties were Mads Olson Boxrud, Herman Madson, John and Haakon Martin and Ole Palme. To give an idea

of the hardships which the settlers of that time had to endure, it is only necessary to say that there was not a foot of railroad in Minnesota in the early fifties. The nearest flouring-mills were at Kasota. Mankato and South Bend were the nearest trading points. When it was necessary to make a long journey, several would go together so that when any bad place had to be crossed, three or four ox teams could be hitched to one wagon and thus pull it through. There were no bridges over the Blue Earth or Watonwan rivers, and scarcely a ford; and as for roads, the people chose the lines of least resistance. There was a mail route between Mankato and Sioux City, and a postoffice was established in the Rosendale settlement, Nils Torsen being the first postmaster. Jens Torsen was the first mail carrier; afterwards Hans Johnson Berdell and Jacob Thorvaldson acted in the same capacity. In the summer time the mail carrier rode a pony. When the water was too deep to wade, he fastened the mail sack over his head, drove the horse into the water, clinging to his neck with one hand and paddling with the other, and thus swimming across. In winter the carriers generally used snow shoes or skis, for the weather was too uncertain to permit the use of horses, and there were long stretches of country where no shelter was to be found. When the mail carrier was overtaken by a snowstorm he burrowed in a snow bank and stayed there until the storm was over. There was a settlement at Jackson and another at Spirit Lake. At these two stations the carriers stopped to leave and to receive mail. Between stations they stopped at Indian encampments for food and rest.

In the spring of 1857 news came from Spirit Lake and Jackson that the Indians had risen and killed many people. A great many people living in the vicinity of Long Lake fled to Isaac Slocum's place and took refuge in his log house. However, no Indians appeared at this time. This was called the Impadutahs war, as that chief led the Indians. In the fall of 1862 came the time of trial for the settlers, as the Indians under the leadership of Little Crow began to attack the frontier settlements in Minnesota and Iowa, murdering and plundering and committing frightful outrages. News of the attack on New Ulm reached the settlers and their thoughts were turned to defense or flight. The Indians were sulking in the woods and in the tall prairie grass, ready to shoot down any defenseless settlers whom they might see. At Nils Torsen's place there were gathered Jacob Thorvaldsen, George Knudson and Maria Torsen Overig. Two Indians emerged from the woods nearby and opened fire, wounding Knudson in the arm. While the Indians were reloading, Knudson and Mrs. Overig ran for a cornfield and hid there

until it became dark. Under cover of the night they made their way to Madelia and took refuge with Ole Jorgenson. Thorvaldsen ran for the timber and followed the river to Madelia expecting to be shot by the Indians at any moment. Ole Jorgenson and Knud Knudson went to Knud Larson's after horses and on the way were shot at by two Indians. Jorgenson receiving a bullet in his left shoulder and a slight wound in the left cheek.

While the Indians were reloading Ole and Knud ran behind a knoll and succeeded in concealing themselves so that the savages passed by without seeing them. Jorgenson ran to a slough where there was tall grass and lay on his back in the water with only his head sticking out. Knudson hid in another patch of grass and reached Madelia the next day. Jorgenson remained longer in hiding and was picked up by some soldiers on their way to Madelia to aid the settlers in defense against the Indians. When he first saw the soldiers he took them for Indians and fled, but, perceiving his mistake, returned and went with them to Madelia. The Indians stole four horses from Knud Larsen and one from Ole Jorgenson.

STOCKADES ERECTED.

Afterwards more soldiers were sent and more stockades were built at Madelia, Lake Hanska, North Branch; Ole Jorgenson's house was used as a fort by the soldiers and another stockade was built in Long Lake, on the south side of the river. The troops having established posts and patrols through the country, the settlers took courage and returned to their homes, believing that the Indians would not venture to renew their attack in the face of so formidable a force. This was, however, a mistaken notion; for quite unexpectedly the redskins made a raid on Long Lake in 1863, killing five men and wounding several others and taking whatever property was of value to them. Ole Palme and Gabriel Ellingson had ventured to Mink Lake to trap and fish and on their return were attacked by the Indians near Kansas Lake and slain. Ole Palme's head was severed from his body and set on a pole. Troops afterwards found the head and buried it with the mangled body. Guldorand Palmeson was killed near Long Lake. He had a fish spear with him at the time and the savages took it and ran it through his body. His wife took their three children and fled to the stockades. In order to reach it she was obliged to cross the river on a fallen log, carrying a child under each arm and one clinging about her neck and shoulders. The Indians saw her, but forbore to pursue. They laughed at the sight and let the fugitives go unharmed.

Ole Palme's children, Petera, Taar and four-year-old Inga came crying to Lars Halvorson Langemyers early one morning and reported that the Indians were coming. Lars ran to the stable for a horse, but found that all his horses had been taken. He with his wife and the Palme children then started on foot for the fort. The Indians met them on the way, but did not harm them, although they plundered the house and destroyed all the property.

Salve Torgenson had gone away from home, but left two soldiers, one of whom was named Monson, to protect his family. Some Indians came to the place early on the morning of April 19, before anyone was out of bed and fired through the windows, severely wounding Mrs. Torgenson. The soldiers sprang from their beds to get their weapons, but before they could make any resistance Monson was shot dead and the other man wounded. The wounded soldier, however, got his musket and succeeded in frightening the skulking redskins away. Mrs. Torgenson's wound was dangerous and she came near bleeding to death before she could reach the fort, a quarter of a mile away. With the aid of the soldier, himself wounded, she succeeded in reaching the fort, and it was not long before she was strong and well again.

EARLY CONDITIONS DESCRIBED.

By George M. Johnson.

Away back in the years of 1857 and 1858, while the territory now included in Watonwan county was still a part of Brown county, these beautiful prairies lay waving with green grass and wild flowers, without a human habitation, save an occasional Indian tepee. There was nothing to indicate the advent of the white man except the stakes and mounds erected by the government surveyors to mark the divisions of the land, which was then being divided into sections and quarter sections by a party of men among whom was M. K. Armstrong.

The state had just been admitted to the union and there was at that time a prevailing spirit of adventure and speculation. Early in 1858 there came to these parts a colony of young Englishmen who claimed all the timbered lands and proposed to found a great city at the end of Long Lake and call it New London, or New Glory, or some other high-sounding name, to attract more settlers. They proposed to build a canal from the lake to the river and provide it with locks to conserve the water and use the lake as a huge dam to run a saw-mill, a grist-mill and other machinery.

There were at this time a few settlers around the present site of Madelia

and also along the river in Rosendale and Riverdale townships. The rest of the territory was practically a wilderness. And as the Indians only made periodic visits each spring and fall for the purpose of hunting and fishing, the colonists were for the most part "monarchs of all they surveyed." One of these colonists, whose name was John Kensie, was a scholarly gentleman and of a well-to-do family in England. He had a wife and three or four children and built a log hut on the south side of the grove, by the lake, which still bears his name, though in a distorted form, "Kansas Lake." The original and historic name is Kensie's Lake.

The other English colonists, who were nearly all unmarried men, without property and quite unwilling to work, were soon reduced to the necessity of subsisting on corn bread and gopher soup, and as these substances became luxuries, the colonists were soon compelled to seek "other fields and pastures green" and the contemplated city—which was never built—with its high sounding name, fell flat.

John Kensie, who remained at Kensie's Lake long enough to make many friends among the sturdy Norwegian settlers, who soon occupied the lands vacated by his English comrades, was the last to vacate his claim—about 1860. During the winter of 1859 and 1860 this venerable gentleman was employed as teacher among the settlers, and was the first teacher in this part of the county.

NORWEGIAN SETTLERS.

The Norwegian settlers did not come in a colony, but in families, one at a time. Hans Johnson's family being the first, in 1858, was permitted by the colonists to settle on section 21, where there was timber enough for one family. Other settlers soon moved in and took up the vacated claims of the colonists along the river. They brought with them a yoke of oxen, a cow or two, a wagon and some household goods. They built log huts and log stables and proceeded to till the soil on a small scale, as best they could. They raised sod corn and potatoes, and in later years wheat and garden truck, including the famous "homestead tobacco," whose flavor was only to be experienced to be remembered. The settlers had no knowledge of the method of curing the tobacco leaves and although they grew both long and broad and looked very fine, they had a raw, pungent flavor that was abominable.

Fish and wild game such as geese, ducks and prairie chickens were more abundant than now, and formed a considerable part of the food supply for

the settlers. The rabbit which is now so common, was entirely unknown. Lack of ammunition was a great drawback. The settlers had nothing to sell except a few raw furs. Mankato was the nearest place where supplies could be bought, and it took from five to seven days with an ox team to make the round trip. These trips had to be limited to about two in a year and the strictest economy had to be practiced in everything. Tea was substituted by native herbs and coffee by roasted wheat, rye, corn, etc. Twenty-five cents worth of sugar was often a year's supply for a family.

Tallow dips for candles and a cotton wick with a little lard in a shallow dish for a lamp, were the only means of lighting. The men wore home-made shoes, shirts and pantaloons, while calico dresses were "all in style" among the women. Yet, the settlers, under these conditions, were quite happy, for they were all equal and free. They visited and loved one another, as good neighbors should. They had no rent to pay, no burdensome taxes and no mortgages to worry over. They were not held up by the coal trust and had no high tariff to pay on anything. They certainly had good reasons for being happy, which the present generation does not possess.

In 1860 the settlers caught the spirit of the national campaign and songs of "Old Abe" and Stephen A. Douglas were heard in every hut. "Old Abe" was the hero and Stephen A. Douglas was the butt of all the jokes.

Lincoln was elected President, the Southern states seceded and the Civil War broke out. At the first call for troops John Peterson, a young bachelor, who had settled on section 28, enlisted and went south never to return. But the great disaster of the little settlement came in 1862, when the Indian massacre broke out at New Ulm. One August morning, at six o'clock, a messenger brought the news of the Indian outbreak. As there was no means of defense against a possible attack of the Indians, the settlers moved in a body to the settlement in Rosendale township. Here they scattered; some families moved eastward to get settled for the winter, while others remained to await developments.

After a few weeks there was a lull in the Indian trouble. A company of soldiers was stationed in this township and proceeded to build a fort and a stockade on section 23. Relying on the protection of the fort and its soldiers, some of the settlers moved back to their homes in the fall of 1862. But in the spring of 1863, early in April, they were surprised by a band of Indians who raided the settlement from east to west, killing five persons, including one of the soldiers, and wounding six persons. After this tragedy the settlement was wholly abandoned until 1866, when peace and safety were

completely restored. Only two families of the original settlers ever returned to make their homes in this township after the restoration of peace—Hans Johnson with his family in August, 1866, and R. Danielson, in the spring of 1868.

DR. HAYNES' RECOLLECTIONS.

A few years since, Dr. Haynes, of St. James, wrote as follows: Rasmus Danielson, one of the early settlers of Long Lake, had some interesting experiences in the Indian outbreak in 1862. He lived on a farm near the river and says that one evening in August, 1862, two men came to his house and told him to leave as soon as he could, as the Indians were on the war-path. His wagon was standing in the yard with some hay on it. He got his team out and started off in a northerly direction, toward Ole Jorgenson's place. When they got there, everyone was gone. There was nothing to stop for, so Mr. Danielson drove cross country to Shelbyville. They stayed there about two weeks, along with other refugees, who had fled from the wrath of the red men. They afterwards went to Iowa, remained about a year.

In the spring a stockade was constructed by the soldiers on the spot where Cereal postoffice afterward stood, and the house and buildings in the surrounding country were taken by the troops for material for the "fort." When Mr. Danielson returned from the army in which he entered in 1863, he brought in a claim against the state of Minnesota for the loss of his property, but it was not paid until the last session of the Legislature, when attorney J. L. Lobben presented it and got six hundred dollars by a special act for Mr. Danielson.

THE VILLAGE OF ORMSBY.

This village is partly in Martin and partly in Watonwan counties. It is an incorporated village of about one hundred and fifty people. It was platted in section 32, township 105, range 32 west, by Harry L. and Anna L. Jenkins, October 14, 1899. It is a station on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad and was probably named after Colonel Ormsby, of Emmetsburg, Iowa.

In 1916 the following business interests were represented:

Bank—Farmers State.

Barber—W. A. Urhback.

Elevator—Stockdale and Dietz Elevator Company.

General Dealer—Christian Jensen.

Hardware—A. G. Dushinske.

Implements—Hans M. Vagstad.

Telephone—Tri-state.

The above includes only those doing business in Watonwan county.

One of the commendable organizations of this village and community is the Farmers Club, of which Mr. S. P. Stoffer is president. The club meets every two weeks in the village, usually at the school building. A definite program is usually given by members of the club, followed by a lunch and social hour.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Ormsby became an incorporated town in 1902. The first elective officers were as follow: President, Sam. Farver; trustees, H. M. Vagstad, J. F. Northdurft, A. Ingold; recorder, F. H. Clark.

The present elective officers are as follow: President, R. H. Mueller; trustees, T. A. Parsons, C. Jensen, W. F. Leniberg; recorder, H. M. Vagstad.

A pressing need of fire protection caused the town to seek an unlimited supply of water. Consequently in 1902 a well was driven just north of town to a depth of three hundred feet at which point an unlimited flow of water was found. The cost was about four hundred dollars. Reservoirs, five in number, were placed beneath the surface of the ground at various places in the town and connected by pipes. Each reservoir contains one hundred gallons. A hand engine and five hundred feet of fire hose were bought at a cost of five hundred dollars. The fire company is composed of men who volunteer their services. The town has about six blocks of well improved cement sidewalks.

MADELIA TOWNSHIP.

This is one of the original civil townships of Watonwan county, and now comprises congressional township No. 107, range 30 west. It is the northeast township in the county and is six miles square in extent. It is the seat of the old county seat, the village by the same name having been chosen such by the state authorities in organizing this county in 1860. At first it embraced all the territory in Watonwan county, but year after year, as the county was settled up, other sub-divisions were cut out of its territory,

until at last it came to embrace only its present thirty-six sections, same as all others of the county. From section 30, to section 13, runs the main line of the old St. Paul & Sioux City railroad, now the property of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad. The station point on this road, within this township, as now described, is the village of Madelia, in sections 22 and 27. Among the numerous lakes and lakelets in Madelia township are School Lake, in sections 9, 16 and 17; Hopkins Lake, in sections 13 and 14; Lau Lake, in sections 13 and 25, and Bedje Lake, in sections 12, 13 and 14.

The principal stream of the township is Watonwan river, flowing from west to east, entering section 19 and leaving the township and county from section 36. This has smaller streams as its tributaries, and this causes the topography of the township to be somewhat more broken than other parts of Watonwan county.

Of recent years the township has a small mileage of a branch of the railroad system above mentioned, which is a feeder running from the village of Madelia to Fairmont, which line is almost an air line running north and south. It leaves the main line at the west of Madelia and runs directly south and out of the township from section 33 over into Fieldon township. Between two and three miles of this railroad are in Madelia township.

In 1890 this township had a population of 541; in 1900 it had 651, and in 1910 the last United States census gave it as having a population of 574, exclusive of the village of Madelia.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The following list of the very earliest settlers at Madelia and in Madelia township is as follows, as recalled by Mr. Estes: S. B. Estes, William Estes, J. Flanders, James Glispen, C. N. Pomeroy, section 2, Madelia; Messrs. Hartshorn, Sheppard and Haire, Jonathan and Caleb Leavitt, William Gilbert, H. Hoge, M. Olson, John C. Sprague, C. I. Ash, D. R. Bill, J. S. Benear, J. N. Cheney, J. A. Clark, James H. Cornwell, J. T. Furber, H. J. Gilbert, J. A. Gieriet, W. Golden, William H. Witham, James Hopkins, H. D. Joy, H. C. King, B. O. Kempfer, section 28; A. Kinzzell, M. E. Mullen, Charles Mullen, Helge Polmeson, section 19; John M. Robb, Thomas Rutledge, B. C. Sanborn, T. C. Serving, section 2; T. L. Vought (Flanders Hotel), H. B. Wadsworth, A. J. Nickolson, O. F. Winnestrand, John Chase (an army veteran), J. T. Mitchell, Samuel Driggers, J. Travis, James P. Haycraft and Siver N. Fjelsta.

LANDS ENTERED BY WARRANTS.

Among the interesting land entries found in the books of the register of deeds in the court house at St. James are the following:

Patent No. 1 is issued on a soldier's script warrant to Lydia Russell, widow of Stephen Russell, seaman gunboat No. 128, flotilla service, War of 1812, and is warrant No. 70,036, and was laid on the northwest quarter of section 28, township 107, range 30 west, at the St. Peter land office. It was by her assigned to Bernard O. Kempffer, and the document is signed by President James Buchanan, who caused the seal of the general land office to be attached to the same, and states that it was given at the City of Washington, D. C., November 10, 1859. This appears as the first warrant for lands taken up in Watonwan county.

Land warrant No. 80,708—Bounty lands to soldiers of the United States military service, for one hundred and sixty acres in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 26, township 107, range 30, on account of services had in the Seminole Indian War. It was issued to H. P. Gilbert by Abraham Lincoln, President, June 1st, 1861, and signed by him, as well as by secretary, W. F. Stoddard. Mr. Gilbert secured it from the guardian of an Indian girl, whose father was a loyal warrior in war in Florida. This is in Madelia township.

Land warrant No. 93,147, for a quarter of section 22, township 107, range 30, in favor of Joseph B. Brown, a private in Captain Candee's company, New York militia, in the War of 1812, was patented by President Abraham Lincoln, June 1, 1861. This is within Madelia township.

Patent No. 49,011, for a quarter of sections 20 and 21, township 107, range 30, was granted to Richard Russel, a private in Captain Jeffry's company, Ohio militia, in the War of 1812, and is signed by President A. Lincoln, June 1, 1861.

A pre-emption claim was filed as No. 6,175, by James H. Hazer, at the St. Peter land office, and is described as being the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 14, township 107, range 30, and is signed by President Andrew Johnson. This is situated in Madelia township.

Land patent No. 55,455, for a hundred and sixty acres, was in favor of Elizabeth F. Cummings, widow of Stephen Murphet, private in Captain Holt's company, Massachusetts militia, in the War of 1812. It was laid on the northwest quarter of section 32, township 107, range 30 west, and issued from the St. Peter land office and signed by President James Buchanan.

Military warrant, under the act of Congress approved in 1855, giving land warrant to soldiers and sailors in the various wars of this country, and bearing the number of 69,664, is on a quarter section, granted to John England, teamster in the quartermaster's department, War of 1812, and is described as lots one, two and seven in section 11, township 107, range 30, in Madelia township, the same being signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862.

Another warrant, under the above act, was laid on a hundred acres in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 25, township 107, range 30 west, and is numbered 49,216, and signed by President James Buchanan, March 15, 1860. It was in favor of Thomas Platt, ensign in Captain McComb's company of Pennsylvania militiamen, in the War of 1812.

Mexican War scrip was held by Sarah McKenzie, mother of George McKenzie, private in Captain Duff's company, Third regiment, United States dragoons, and was in shape of a warrant No. 80,168, and bears date of October, 1847, and the land was secured in this county.

Another warrant for a quarter section of land was laid on the northwest quarter of section 27, township 107, range 30, Madelia township, in favor of Henry G. Hammond, private in Captain Vaughn's company, Massachusetts militia, in the War of 1812. It is signed by President James Buchanan and is numbered 36,573.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES.

By an act of Congress in May, 1862, any citizen of this country upon the payment of a filing fee of fourteen dollars, might obtain free of charge a quarter section of land outside railroad limits and eighty acres inside, by residing on it five years and making the common farm improvements on same. In this township the following, with possibly a few such homestead entries were made, and today the tracts of land thus secured are among the most valuable in the county.

No. 1 was made by Halvor Erickson, at the land office at St. Peter, March 1, 1870, and was signed by President U. S. Grant, and it was for the southeast half of the northeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west.

One granted to Wilson Winters, a certificate No. 1,614, for the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west. This was signed by President U. S. Grant, August 10, 1872.

The east half of the southeast quarter of section 6, township 107, range

30 west, was homesteaded to Else Nilsson by President U. S. Grant, May 20, 1874.

Certificate No. 7,369, at the New Ulm land office, was granted to Jacob B. K. McCurdy, on the northwest quarter of section 30, township 107, range 30. This was signed by President U. S. Grant, November 1, 1875.

Certificate No. 5,387, at the Tracy land office, was issued to J. Sawartzky, on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 30, township 107, range 30 west, and was signed by Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, April 27, 1885.

On February 22, 1865, application No. 1,957, for a homestead in this county, was filed by William H. Pickett, after paying the filing fee of fourteen dollars, for the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section 18, township 107, range 30 west. This was effected at the St. Peter land office.

On February 1, 1865, a homestead claim was filed by Thomas Clark in the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 107, range 30 west, and its number was 1,918. This was in Madelia township.

On February 22, 1865, at St. Peter land office, a homestead was laid on the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west, by Robert M. Gist.

Wilson Winters homesteaded at the St. Peter land office, August 13, 1866, the west half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 30 west.

Daniel Winters took, on May 20, 1862, pre-emption claim No. 3,198, in the northwest of the northeast of section 18, township 107, range 30, in Madelia township.

United States to Ole W. Martin, from the New Ulm land office, patent filed on September 23, 1885, on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter, section 2, township 107, range 30 west, including eighty acres. This homestead entry was made and signed by President U. S. Grant, January 27, 1873.

VILLAGE OF MADELIA.

Madelia was platted in 1857 in the northeast portion of the county. It is one hundred and ten miles from St. Paul and one hundred and fifty-nine miles from Sioux City, Iowa. It is on the Watonwan river, in sections 22 and 27, township 107, range 30 west. Its proprietors were Messrs. Hartshorn, Shepard and Haire, and it derived its name from that of the daughter "Madelia" of General Hartshorn and wife. Here, three log and one small

frame house were erected; also a steam saw-mill by Jonathan and Caleb Leavitt.

In 1862, during the Sioux uprising, all of the settlers fled to Mankato for refuge and some never returned to be permanent settlers again. But after the massacre was ended and quiet was again restored in southern Minnesota, many returned and went to work. These families who returned were for a time protected by a company of cavalry under Captain E. St. Julian Cox, whose men built an improvised fort for the settlement's protection.

POSTOFFICE.

This office is one among the first to be established in this section of the state. At the present time it is a second-class office, with five rural routes. Among the postmasters that have served are the following: G. Yates, C. W. Kendall, Carl Scot, C. W. Mullen, T. F. Goor, J. E. Haycraft, Julia Holly and E. L. Goor.

EARLY BUSINESS FACTORS.

There were two or three efforts to establish stores in Madelia previous to the one opened by Yates Brothers. Of one of these Mr. Louis Roberts, of St. Paul, was the proprietor. These were temporary efforts, however, and did not last even by succession.

In the fall of 1867 Mr. C. L. Richardson erected a store building and put in a stock of goods. This he continued to occupy until the summer of 1870, when Boyton & Cheney, who were in business at Garden City, purchased his stock and established a branch store. This firm continued in business until the spring of 1872, when it was dissolved, Mr. Cheney taking the store and moved his family to Madelia. At the same time he enlarged his building and put in an excellent assortment of general merchandise.

Mr. Ransom, who was engaged in blacksmithing, remodeled his shop into a store in the summer of 1868 and put in a small stock of hardware and other goods. In March, 1869, he sold to Estes & Hopkins, who continued in the business until the next September, when Hopkins sold his interest to Christian Heigum. The firm continued under this name until the spring of 1872, when Christian disposed of his interests to H. C. King and John M. Robb, forming the firm of Estes, King & Company. This firm



VIEWS ON MAIN STREET, MADELIA.

removed their stock to Mr. Estes' building in the fall and in the following spring Estes retired, leaving the firm as King & Robb.

With the approach of the railroad the prospects of the town began to improve fast and when the iron horse reached there in the summer of 1870 the town was all astir putting up places for business. One of those who came at this time was M. E. Dunn, from Lake Crystal. He opened a store, consisting of general merchandise, in the block just erected by H. S. Willson, where he soon built up a good trade, part of the time having two clerks besides himself. In connection with his store he received the appointment of local agent for the express company, a position that he held for a long time. He was also a grain buyer, but this business did not keep him very busy because there was very little grain grown at that date. He identified himself fully with the town by purchasing the store building and stock of Howes & Lamper, corner of Main and St. Paul streets. This was about the same time that Eckstorm Brothers & Brown removed their business from South Bend to Madelia. They erected a building on Main street and kept it well filled with a stock of merchandise. At the same time came O. H. Davis, who had formerly been in business at Mankato, and built his store for hardware on the corner of Main and Willson streets.

The first regular drug store in Madelia was opened by Bill & Barton, who came from Garden City and purchased a building on Main street, near St. Paul street, which place they fitted up for the purpose. Later, the firm became known as Bill & Moore.

Dr. G. H. Overholt had a good stock of drugs and medicines next door to the "Pioneer" store. His store was established by the firm of Adams & Langdon about 1856.

In 1870 Jerome Patterson came from Mankato to open a jewelry store. His store was on the corner of Main and St. Paul streets. Next door to him was the first harness shop, started by William Seeger, who came from Lake Crystal. He sold his interests in a few years to G. A. Gieriet.

Mrs. Frizzell opened a millinery store, first occupying rooms in the building of Mr. Wickersham used as a drug store. In a few years she became so prosperous that she purchased the building and continued in the same business on a more extensive scale.

In 1873 Mrs. D. Brayton opened a shop of the same kind, adding dress-making as a side line. Almost at the same time, Mrs. Scoville opened a dressmaking shop, but was soon succeeded by the Misses Williams and Hamill.

The first restaurant was opened by J. G. Jefts in 1870. It was not

many months until he sold out to A. S. Davis, he in turn selling to S. P. Driggers.

Among the larger mercantile firms of the early period was that of Bisbee & Olson. Because of the fact that both men were so well and favorably known they built up a trade that extended far and wide, thus becoming one of the most stable and prosperous firms in this section of the state. The firm remained intact for several years, until Mr. Bisbee retired from business.

With the increase in population and in the number of homes came a demand for house furnishings, which led to the establishment of a furniture store by James Smith, who sold to W. R. Marvin.

At an early date Joseph Flanders erected a hotel and in 1870 improved and enlarged it. In 1873 he sold the building to T. L. Vought, who continued the business. In 1870 a company built the Northern Hotel, which was purchased in 1872 by H. Delling, who changed the name to the Delling House.

The early implement dealers were George Yates, A. Frizzell and H. T. Odegaid. The first shoe shop was conducted by A. Knudson. The first tailor was A. M. Anderson.

The first lumber yard was that of J. Dean & Company, established about 1874. About the same time a grain elevator was built with a capacity of thirty thousand bushels. T. C. Peart was the manager.

In 1888 Warren Golden erected a flour-mill on the river and for many years this mill supplied not only Watonwan county, but many surrounding counties with flour and corn meal.

In the early days there was great need of a blacksmith shop, and in the fall of 1865 J. Flanders gave a lot to S. P. Driggers, who at once erected a shop sixteen feet square and rented it to E. D. Miller for one year. The time expiring, Mr. Driggers sold the property to G. R. Ransom, who built a small addition for a wagon shop and continued in that business about a year, when he decided to start a hardware store. He enlarged the building to sixteen by thirty and added a story above. He started business under the name of G. R. Ransom & Company, and continued until 1869, when the goods and premises were sold to William Estes and J. Hopkins. This firm continued until the following September, when Mr. Hopkins retired and C. Tergum bought his interest. Finally, Tergum sold his interest to H. C. King and John Robb.

Among the early physicians were Dr. Overholt, Dr. W. H. Woods and Dr. Christopherson.

The early lawyers were T. Rutledge, H. S. Willson, F. D. Jay and W. H. H. Johnson.

The first resident clergy were Rev. N. A. Trobridge, of the Methodist church, Rev. J. W. Van Eman, of the Presbyterian church, and Father Cunningham, of the Catholic church.

In 1871 the amount of improvements for the year amounted to ten thousand dollars; in 1872 to twenty-one thousand seven hundred and five dollars, thus showing how rapidly the town improved in its infancy.

The first Indian fort was down in the "flat," but this was soon discarded and another built on the lot just north of where the Methodist church now stands, so that the occupants might have a better view of the prairie and thereby ward off attacks from the Indians. These forts, built of logs, were small and acted merely as a refuge for the settlers. The main fort was known as Fort Hill, and was located near Hanska, on the farm now owned by Ole Sonstebj. Government troops were stationed in and around the forts for nearly two years, but fortunately very little trouble took place with the Indians.

VILLAGE OF MADELIA IN 1885-6.

From an old directory it is learned that the following were in trade and professional life at Madelia in 1885-6:

Ash, George H.—Capitalist.

Bank of Madelia—Joseph Flanke, banker; transacted a general banking and exchange business.

Benton, A. H.—Dealer in general merchandise and farm machinery of all kinds.

Bill, Brothers—Dealers in drugs, medicines, books and fancy goods.

Bisbee, Olson & Boynton—Dealers in general merchandise and farm implements, and buyers of all kinds of grain.

Brenneis, P. A.—Proprietor of Madelia Brewery.

Cheney, J. N.—Dealer in general merchandise, groceries, crockery, dry goods, clothing, etc, and breeder of short-horn cattle, Norman horses and Berkshire hogs.

Cook & Holmes—Contractors and builders.

Cooley, Dr. C. O.—Physician and surgeon.

Cooley, Charles—Attorney-at-law; loans, insurance and real estate.

Delling, George W.—Photographer.

Estes Brothers—Dealers in farm machinery, wagons, etc.; also Short-horn cattle and Berkshire swine.

Evenson, C.—Dealer in wines, liquors and cigars.

Flanders Hotel—A. E. Fisher, proprietor.

Gieriet, J. A.—Manufacturer of and dealer in harness, collars, whips, trunks and buffalo robes.

Gilbert, H. P.—Proprietor to Gilbert's Addition to Madelia.

Gleason, F. C.—Assistant railroad agent and operator.

Gove & Kendrick—Lumber, sash, doors. etc.; also wood, coal, lime and farm implements.

Hage, Siver—Dealer in lumber, sash, doors, coal and wood.

Haycraft, S. P.—Dray line.

Hopkins, D. C.—Attorney-at-law; real estate.

Mitchell Brothers—Proprietors of the Madelia flouring-mills.

Mullen, C. G.—Dealer in stationery, confectionery, etc.

Rohe, Adolph—Dealer in wines, liquors, beer, etc.

Sidler, H. C.—Dealer in watches, clocks, jewelry and plated ware.

Times, Madelia—D. C. Sanborn, proprietor and publisher.

Wadsworth, H. B.—Capitalist.

Witham, W. H.—Dealer in furniture and undertakers' goods.

LARGE FLOURING-MILL.

Madelia can easily boast of having the largest flour-mill in the county. The mill was founded by its present owner, Mr. C. S. Christensen, and under his management "Madelia's Best" has become known far and wide. The products are marketed throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and the central states. The daily capacity of the mill is seven hundred barrels of flour. Seven grain elevators, scattered throughout the country, belong to the same firm. In all, thirty-five people are given employment.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Madelia was incorporated early in the seventies, and in 1873 the officers were as follow: William R. Marvin, president of the board of trustees; Joseph Flanders, Henry C. King, trustees; Jens Thorson, treasurer; F. D. Jay, clerk.

The 1916 municipal officers were: William Schaloben, president; J. P. Garber, Nils Fjelsta, Theodore A. Tollerson, trustees; M. S. Dossett, treasurer; F. H. Hillesheim, clerk.

The village has an indebtedness of sixteen thousand dollars and has



CATHOLIC SCHOOL, MADELIA.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, MADELIA.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MADELIA.



FARM HOME NEAR MADELIA.

made many substantial improvements in the last few years to show for this indebtedness. They have a fine water-works system, costing nine thousand dollars: two deep wells: water is pumped by electricity to a ninety-thousand-gallon steel tank. The electric lighting is had by a private corporation, known as the Madelia Electric Company. The volunteer fire department consists of thirty volunteers. The public park is a full block of ground covered with fine artificial trees. The village jail is twenty foot square and has two cells.

BIG CONFLAGRATION.

Probably one of the worst fires that Madelia ever experienced occurred on the night of October 31, 1877. The fire had its origin in the rear of Eskstorm Brothers & Brown's store, and was thought by some to be of incendiary origin. The fire destroyed the building occupied by the milliner, Mrs. Frizzell, the building west of Eckstrom's owned by Mr. Brayton, the H. S. Willson block and with it the valuable library of Attorney Willson; the building occupied by George P. Johnson and the store of M. E. Mullen. The loss was estimated at five to six thousand dollars, with no insurance. All those who were burned out were fortunate enough to secure places in which to continue their business.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN 1916.

Auto Garage—Forster Brothers, Madelia Motor Company, W. W. Cole & Son.

Attorney—C. J. Eide.

Banks—State Bank, First National Bank.

Barber Shops—Howard L. Driggers, Frank Kitchen.

Blacksmith Shops—Axel Hanson, R. H. Thomas, Toffef Paterson.

Bakery—Hale & Sons.

Brick and Tile Plant—Madelia Cement and Tile Company.

Clothing—Hodapp-Nelson Company.

Creamery—Madelia Creamery Company.

Druggist—Madelia Drug and Jewelry Company.

Dray—L. L. Hall, V. E. Tate.

Dentist—L. T. Austin, Edwin A. Hagaman, W. H. Shaver.

Elevator—C. S. Christensen Company, Hubbard & Palmer.

Electric Light Plant—T. J. McGovern.

Furniture Dealers—McDowell & Company, Schuletz Brothers.

Feed Store—C. S. Christensen Company.

Grocers—J. P. Hale & Sons, W. A. Mullen.

General Dealers—Sever Larson, Mathias Olson, Frank Mullen.

Hotels—The Noonan, The Madelia.

Hardware—Charles B. Cooley, Charles R. Klatt, Parr & Bork Hardware Company.

Harness—J. A. Gierist, H. Joerg & Son.

Ice Dealers—Rockwood & Austin.

Implements—Parr & Bork Hardware Company, Charles R. Klatt, Charles H. Cooley.

Lumber Dealers—S. Hage Lumber Company, Henry Simmons Lumber Company.

Livery—William U. Montgomery.

Mill—C. S. Christensen Company.

Millinery—Marie A. Hillesheim.

Meat Markets—C. J. Hammond, Hodapp & Lamm.

Marble Works—James J. Tighe.

Merchant Tailor—Cornelius Blumenkamper.

Newspapers—*Madelia Times-Messenger*, *Madelia News*.

Notions—George A. Kline.

Physicians—William J. McCarthy, Henry B. Grimes.

Picture Show—The Wonderland.

Photographic Gallery—Wilson Sisters.

Produce Dealers—E. England, George Rohe.

Restaurants—A. F. Lodes, Hale & Sons.

Real Estate Dealers—M. C. Solensten, C. E. Brown Land Company, William Schaleben & Company.

Shoe Store—August Simonett.

Stock Buyers—F. Moses, Madelia Farmers' Shipping Association, C. J. Hammond.

Telephones—Tri-State, Madelia Telephone Company, North Western Telephone Company.

Veterinary—Francis P. Burke, Clayton Butler, Homer C. Butler.

Madelia is one of the few towns in the county that is really on a boom. Not a dwelling or store building in the town is vacant and new buildings of all kinds are being constructed as fast as carpenters can get them up. The best booster of the town is the Commercial Club, composed of all the enterprising and wide-awake business men. The officers are as follow: Presi-

dent, Henry Hillesheim; vice-president, L. T. Austin; secretary, F. Morris; treasurer, C. T. Dahl. There is also a Business Men's Association, the purpose of which is the safeguarding and protecting of the merchants' interests. Madelia is the only town in the county that has an annual chautauqua for its citizens and the surrounding community.

BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

The Business Men's Association of Madelia was organized on November 2, 1915, with the following officers: C. S. Christensen, president; Frank Hodapp, vice-president; George Hage, treasurer; C. J. Eide, secretary. The motive that led to the organization was the desire to meet in a satisfactory way the destructful competition of mail order houses, to make fairer prices for the consumer, to overcome ruinous competition, to welcome all newcomers, to investigate the financial standing of people, for the purpose of extending credit when necessary.

MADELIA FARMERS' MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

This insurance company was organized on June 14, 1887, and its present officers are as follows: George Busser, president; Charles Tiegren, vice-president; James T. Reynolds, secretary; O. M. Howe, treasurer. The company now carries risks to the total amount of five million dollars. There are at present two thousand policy-holders. The territory covered by the company is all of Watonwan county and twenty-seven townships in the surrounding counties. The rate per thousand dollars of insured property is two dollars. This company is operated purely on the mutual plan. Only farm risks are taken, and the farmers in five counties take great interest in it.

NELSON TOWNSHIP.

On the north line of the county and second from the western border is Nelson township, which comprises all of congressional township 107, range 32 west. It is situated south of Brown county, west of Riverdale township, north of St. James township and east of Adrian township. It is six miles square and contains thirty-six full sections of beautiful prairie land, well watered and drained by numerous small prairie streams. These watercourses include tributaries to the main stream known as the Waton-

wan river, which courses from west to east through this part of the county. There are no villages or railroads within this township, but public school buildings are found in sections 8, 12, 20 and 26.

The population of this township in 1900 was eight hundred and six, but the census of 1910 gives it at six hundred and eighty-four, owing to great migration to other parts during that decade.

ORGANIZATION.

Nelson township was organized by the board of county commissioners in September, 1870, out of the territory embraced in congressional township 107, ranges 32 and 33, thus including present Adrian township, which was organized the next spring. This whole part of the county had previously been included in Riverdale civil township. Later in the same month in which this new township was created, the commissioners gave it at first the name of North Branch, subsequently changing its name to "Dexter." Some time later it was changed to Nelson. The county commissioners in 1902 caused a re-survey of the lands within this township, at the expense of owners.

SETTLEMENT.

Swan Beck and Ole Blackstad were among the first pioneers in this township.

Jacob Harder, certificate No. 5,381, at the land office at Tracy, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President Grover Cleveland, signed on April 27, 1885.

John Earlson, No. 2,888, at the New Ulm land office, the east half of the southwest quarter of section 26, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on June 20, 1882.

Charles Verner, certificate No. 2,494, at the New Ulm land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 30, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on January 5, 1875.

Robert Rowland, certificate No. 2,507, at the New Ulm land office. This was issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on January 15, 1875.

Anders A. Hestlekrantz, the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6, township 107, range 32 west, signed by President Chester A. Arthur, 1883.

Anders Swenson, at the New Ulm land office, the east half of the

northwest quarter of section 8, township 107, range 32 west, signed by President U. S. Grant, August 15, 1876.

Gustaf Sjoquest, the north half of the southwest quarter of section 20, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed March 1, 1876.

Syver O. Tonde, certificate No. 5,330, at the Tracy land office, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 10, township 107, range 32 west, issued by President Grover Cleveland, January 9, 1886.

ODIN TOWNSHIP.

Odin is the extreme southwestern sub-division of Watonwan county and comprises all of congressional township 105, range 33, hence is six miles square, having thirty-six full sections of land. Odin is bounded on the west by Cottonwood county, on the north by Butterfield township, on the east by Long Lake township and on the south by Martin county.

This portion of Watonwan county has numerous lakes and large ponds, some of which are fed by springs and others are largely surface water, which, with the settling of the county and scientific drainage and tiling enterprises, are fast becoming extinct and are used for pasture and other agricultural purposes. Among the larger of these natural water sheets may be named in this connection: School Lake, Irish Lake and Sulem Lake. A few small prairie creeks or "runs" are found in various parts of the township. The soil is about the same quality for richness and fertility as the sister townships of Watonwan county. When thoroughly drained and properly tilled it will make one of the most valuable sections in southern Minnesota for both farming and dairying. The only village within this township is Odin, in section 29, a station on the branch line of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, running between Sanborn and Welcome, Minnesota, and which extends down into central Iowa. The railroad already mentioned runs through sections Nos. 2, 11, 14, 13, 24, 25 and 35.

The population of Odin township for the last three United States census enumeration periods has been: In 1890, 543; in 1900, 594, and in 1910, 604.

ORGANIZATION.

This township was organized by the board of county commissioners at their session in January, 1872, and was described as congressional township

105, range 33 west. Butterfield township was also made at the same meeting of the board of commissioners.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

E. Z. Rasey, a veteran of the Civil War, a member of the Thirty-second Wisconsin Regiment, who participated in twenty-one battles and skirmishes, but was fortunate in never being wounded, took a homestead in the east half of the northwest quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of section 4, this township, in 1871. He has served as vice-commander of the Minnesota department of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1896 he sold his farm in Odin township and later moved to St. James, where he still resides. He was one of three to establish the present Farmers' Grain Company of St. James.

When interviewed concerning the early pioneers of Odin township, Mr. E. Z. Rasey gave the following as about the first to locate in the township:

Two brothers, Engbert and Sylvester Sulem, from Sweden, located here in 1868 in lots about the lake, and on lands in section 6. Sylvester was a well-educated man and was never married. He soon returned to his native country, while his brother remained.

John Arneson, a Norwegian, settled in 1869-70 in this township, and died many years ago in the township. Halvor Halvorson located in section 8, taking as a homestead the southwest quarter of that section. Later he moved from the county.

Ole Ormbeck settled on a homestead in the east half of the northeast quarter of section 8. Later he sold and removed to the state of Washington. Hans Munson settled in the north half of the northwest quarter of section 20 in 1868. He was from Norway and later retired at Butterfield.

John A. Johnson, a Swede, located in the west half of the southwest quarter of section 2. John Swanson located in the northwest quarter of section 2. John Olson, a Swede, settled in section 2.

Mfred Eckstrom located in the east half of the southwest quarter of section 2. John Lantz settled in the west half of the southeast quarter of section 2; he was from Sweden.

In 1870 came Eben Newell, located in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 4, and had land also in the west half of the southwest quarter of that section. He came from York state and moved to the state of Washington, where he subsequently died.

Another son of Norway located in Odin township in 1871—Andrew

Gilbertson, in the southwest quarter of section 18. Ira W. Bowen claimed a homestead in 1870, in the northwest quarter of section 18. He came from Wisconsin, remained until about 1885, then moved to the state of Washington, locating near Spokane. Samuel Rasey claimed the south half of the northeast quarter of section 4. He came from Wisconsin and later removed to Washington.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN ODIN TOWNSHIP.

August Erickson, certificate No. 8,571, at the Worthington land office, the north half of the northwest quarter of section 22, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on May 20, 1884.

Hans Ameson, certificate No. 6,531, at the Worthington land office, on the east half of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on August 1, 1883.

Martin Siverson, certificate No. 5,373, at the Worthington land office, on the east half of the southwest quarter of section 34, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on June 15, 1878.

Kasen Bentsen, certificate No. 8,656, on the south half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 105, range 33, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

H. Olson, certificate No. 6,678, at the Worthington land office, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

Torkel Torkelson, at the Worthington land office, the south half of the northeast quarter of section 22, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 1, 1877.

A. A. Nass, certificate No. 5,802, at the Worthington land office, the west half of the northeast quarter of section 8, township 105, range 33 west, issued by President James A. Garfield, signed on April 9, 1881.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The first school house in Odin township was erected in 1873 in the center of section 8, and the first teacher was a Miss Josephine Doolittle, who later became the wife of Arthur Higgins, who lived on land purchased in the southeast quarter of section 4.

So great was the number of wild geese and cranes near the lakes of this

and adjoining townships at an early day that at times it was safely estimated that tens of thousands of these birds of passage, made their way from the south in springtime to the northern lakes and in the autumn time wended their way southward, stopping in fields of grain in the stack and in fields of ripening corn, both of which in many instances they totally destroyed. At early dawn it was an easy matter for the farmer to stand in his door yard and shoot several geese as they passed over the claim shanty. In the season of geese the farmers had all the game they could make use of, and that at little trouble or expense.

The sand-hill cranes were so thick that at times in their flight over a farm house, the noise they made with their wings reminded one of rolling thunders in the far distance. These birds were also eaten when geese could not be easily shot. The meat is good but has a stronger wild game taste than the goose or duck. Mr. Rasey relates of an incident where he prided himself on having the finest five acres of corn in the township. He was absent threshing in the neighborhood for almost a week, and upon his return, he found the cranes devouring his corn crop. He repeatedly tried to drive and frighten them away, but did not succeed and as a result his entire choice field was devoured, save a part of a wagon-box full of nubbins and half-eaten corn. He would frighten them in one part of the field and they would alight at a distant spot and commence eating again. In some instances they showed fight and would not yield to him.

Geese, cranes and ducks were in immense flocks in this part of the country for many years after the first settlers came in. One seldom sees any of these birds or prairie chickens. The burning of the prairies and plowing of the land resulted in their extinction.

THE VILLAGE OF ODIN.

This village was platted by the Western Town Lot Company, March 29, 1899, in section 25, township 105, range 33 west. It now has a population of about one hundred and fifty, and was incorporated in 1902. The records fail to show the first officers, so only the present ones are given. They are as follow: President, C. L. Olson; trustees, John H. Berdell, Lars Larson, P. M. Olson; recorder, G. Krogen; treasurer, P. T. Laingen.

In 1909 a town hall was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars. This hall is used not only for town meetings, but lodge purposes and all public gatherings. In the way of fire protection the town has a public cis-

tern, a hand pump and two hundred feet of fire hose. The present indebtedness is approximately one thousand dollars.

POSTOFFICE AND BUSINESS HISTORY TODAY.

The postoffice history of Odin is rather brief. The office was started about 1900, since which time the following postmasters have served: William Oleson, J. O. Querna, O. A. Call and O. A. Kabrick. The receipts of the office for the last fiscal year were approximately four hundred dollars.

The business interests of the village in 1916 were in the hands of the following:

Auto Garage—P. M. Olson.

Bank—Odin State Bank.

Barber—Otto Rohn.

Blacksmith—Edward H. Bott.

Creamery—Odin Co-operative Creamery Association.

Druggist—Dr. O. A. Kabrick.

Elevator—Bingham Brothers, Great Western Grain Company.

General Dealers—P. C. Hanson, Peak & Company.

Harness and Furniture—O. A. Call.

Hardware—Edward W. Thompson.

Jeweler—O. A. Kabrick.

Lumber—J. H. Queal and Company, John H. Bardell, manager.

Livery—N. S. Nixon.

Meat Market—Nixon & Son.

Opera House—Odin Opera House.

Restaurant—Ole Hanson.

Real Estate—Odin Real Estate Company.

Stock Buyers—S. H. Nixon, Farmers' Stock Buyers' Association.

Telephone—Odin Farmers' Telephone Company.

Woodmaker—Lars Larson.

Every town or village has some distinctive feature, and Odin is no exception. The village is beautifully laid out and everyone seems to take pride in keeping the streets and business houses spotlessly clean. It is doubtful if any village in the county of its size can proudly boast of as many up-to-date and modern homes. The Odin Farmers' Creamery Association has just moved into their new brick building, constructed at a cost of about three thousand five hundred dollars. This is one of the most

thriving institutions of its kind in the county, having over one hundred patrons and a capacity of over fifteen thousand pounds of butter per month.

RIVERDALE TOWNSHIP.

Riverdale township is on the north line of Watonwan county and the second sub-division from the eastern line of the county. It is south of Brown county, west of Madelia township, north of Rosendale township and to the east of Nelson township. It comprises all of congressional township No. 107, range 31 west, hence is six miles square and contains thirty-two full sections and four over-size sections—these being to the west. The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad line runs from northeast to southwest diagonally through the township, entering the township and county in section 3, and leaving the township from section 31. It has for a station in this township the little hamlet of LaSalle, situated in sections 16 and 17. The main line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railway runs through the southeastern corner of Riverdale township, entering it in section 36 and leaving it from section 35, en route between St. Paul and Sioux City and Omaha.

The population of Riverdale township in 1890 was 509; in 1900 it was placed at 716, and in 1910, it is given by the United States census books as being 727.

ORGANIZATION.

Originally, this civil township belonged to a much larger territory than it now embraces. It included what is now Riverdale, Nelson and Adrian townships. In November, 1860, the county commissioners made it into a civil township on the petition of George A. Bradford and others. This, like all of the townships in Watonwan county, is purely a prairie country, and is now well settled and has many handsome farms with artificial groves scattered here and there over its surface.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES IN RIVERDALE TOWNSHIP.

Under the congressional act approved on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were granted in this township:

Thomas George, No. 2,347, New Ulm land office, the south half of the northwest quarter of section 26, township 107, range 31 west, issued by U. S. Grant, President of the United States, signed on September 15, 1874.

Jens Johannesen, certificate No. 3,083, at the New Ulm land office, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 4, township 107, range 31, issued by President U. S. Grant, February 12, 1877.

Nils B. Johansen, certificate No. 2,831, at the New Ulm land office, the west half of the northwest quarter of section 2, township 107, range 31 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on March 1, 1876.

John Doolittle, Tracy land office, the northwest quarter of section 20, township 107, range 31, issued by President Chester A. Arthur, signed on December 10, 1883.

Military warrant No. 10,835, issued to Private Willis Baker, in Captain Clark's company of New York militiamen in the War of 1812. This land is situated in the southeast quarter of section 23, township 107, range 31, is signed by President Abraham Lincoln, and was laid in the St. Peter land office. This is in Riverdale township.

THE VILLAGE OF LASALLE.

LaSalle was platted on October 12, 1899, by Harry L. and Anna L. Jenkins as a part of section 17, township 107, range 31. It is a station on the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad and had the following business interests in 1916:

Bank—State Bank.

Blacksmith—L. C. Carlson.

Creamery—LaSalle Co-operative Creamery Association.

Elevator—Eagle Roller Milling Company, Great Western Grain Company.

General Dealers—Alfred Sletta, Watonwan County Co-operative Association.

Hardware and Implements—LaSalle Hardware and Implement Company.

Hotel—The LaSalle, J. Benson, proprietor.

Lumber—S. Hage Lumber Company.

Although the village is not incorporated, yet there seems to be the same public spirit among its citizens that is found in most incorporated towns. No greater evidence of this fact is necessary than to mention the construction of the town hall, which was built entirely by donation, but under the auspices of the LaSalle Band. The hall is used for all public gatherings and has thus become the center of community life.

The postoffice at the village of LaSalle has had postmasters as follow: J. E. Sundt, Anon Halvorson and Alfred Slotta. The office transacted business during the last fiscal year to the sum of four hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifty-four cents. This postoffice has been twice robbed—once on April 3, 1904, when there was a loss of postal funds of one hundred and thirty-six dollars, and in money order funds, forty dollars and three cents, and again on November 13, 1909, with a loss of thirty dollars and five cents postal stamps, etc., and one hundred and nineteen dollars and forty-seven cents, money order funds.

The bank at LaSalle was blown open Sunday, January 12, 1908; the loss was not heavy, however.

ROSENDALE TOWNSHIP.

Rosendale township, comprising congressional township 106, range 31 west, is one of the central subdivisions in Watonwan county, and is south of Riverdale, west of Fieldon, north of South Branch and east of St. James township. The western sections overrun, hence the township is a little over regular size. The City of St. James, the county seat, comes up to the western line of this township. The only hamlet within Rosendale is Grogan, a station on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railway line, in section 3. The township was named from a town in Wisconsin, by Mrs. S. W. Sargeant, that being her old home.

The railroad just named enters this township in section 18, and crosses parts of 8, 9, 4, 3 and leaves the township from section 2 over into Riverdale township. The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad touches the northwest corner of the township.

There are a number of pretty lakes and lakelets in the township, including these: One in section 3, section 5, sections 19 and 20 and in sections 28 and 29. There are a few small streams running to the north and east. Bullhead is the largest lake in this township.

The population of Rosendale township in 1890 was 369; in 1900 it was placed at 516, and in the last census it was placed at 571. It is within a rich agricultural district and land sells as high as one hundred and fifty dollars per acre.

ORGANIZATION.

In March, 1871, the county commissioners' board then consisting of Morrill, Addsmond and Bradford, made a new civil township out of con-

gressional township 106, range 31, west, and gave it the name of Springfield, but at their meeting in April of the same year, changed it to Rosendale, as it is known today.

THE FIRST SETTLERS.

Among the earliest to locate here was Michael Gall, a native of Austria, born in 1822, came to America and settled in this township in 1868; was township treasurer for eight years and died in 1906.

A STORY OF PIONEER DAYS.

The following is from the pen of George A. Bradford, who wrote in the *St. James Plaindealer* a few years since, after the following fashion:

The following account of the settlement of Rosendale township is translated from the archives of the Rosendale Norwegian Lutheran church, which were compiled by George Herbitz, secretary of the congregation. Mr. Herbitz is himself one of the oldest settlers of this township, and his information is undoubtedly accurate. Of course these notes refer entirely to the early Norwegian settlers and members of the Rosendale congregation, and comprise the period from 1856 to 1864, inclusive.

In 1854 Notto Jensen, then a boy of eighteen years, came from the parish of Evje Tordilen, in the bishopric of Christiansand, Norway, to America. He lived for a time in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and afterward worked for two winters in the lumber camp along the Wisconsin river. In the spring of 1856, he started for Minnesota, riding by stage coach to La Crosse. When they reached the highlands of Dividing Ridge, both he and the driver were forced to make the rest of the journey on foot, as the horses were not able to pull more than the empty wagon over the long grades. He made the journey from La Crosse to St. Paul on a Mississippi steamboat. There was not sufficient water in the Minnesota river for steamboat navigation, so he took passage in a freight boat, which was propelled up stream by means of long poles by which the crew of six men punted the craft, one steering. In this manner they reached Mankato. From there Mr. Jensen traveled in a southwesterly direction to look for land, which had timber, water and prairie, and finally settled on the south branch of the Watonwan river, in the region now known as Rosendale township, where he was the first white settler. His first dwelling was a sod house. Provisions had to be brought from Mankato. Wishing to get some butter, he went around among the neighbors to buy some. There was very little to be had, but he

succeeded in obtaining four and a half pounds, paying therefor forty cents a pound.

In 1856 there arrived in Rosendale township Palme Olsen and his wife; Running and his wife and three children, Helge, Cecil and Gari. Mr. Olsen took a homestead on the north branch. This family emigrated in 1852 from Vikar Annex in Odalen, Norway, and settled in Rock county, Wisconsin, coming from there to Minnesota. Upon a trip to Mankato for the purpose of making various purchases Mr. Jensen fell in with a party of homeseekers from Pierce county, Wisconsin. They were intent upon getting homesteads along the South Branch river. The party consisted of Knud Larson Overing, his wife, Inger, and grown up daughter, Maren; Ole Jorgenson and wife Maren, and four children, Knud, Joegen, Maria and Lise; Halvor Knudson Barland and wife, Tarau, and five children, Maria, Gunhild, Knud, Jorgen and Asper; Eli Aadne and wife and their son and Nils Torson Overig, and Ole Jostesen. All of these took lands along South Branch, with the exception of Ole Jostesen, who returned to Wisconsin, and enlisted in the army. Upon his return to this county he bought land.

In 1857 Hans Johnson Berdal, with his wife, Synneve, and five children, Sivert, Ole, A., Jorgen and Ingeborg, arrived here. Mr. Berdal built a sod house on some land which he intended to file on but the government had already granted the right thereto to Bedo and Tip Nelson as payment for carrying the mails, so he took a claim further to the southwest, in the settlement later known as Long Lake.

VILLAGE OF GROGAN.

Grogan was platted by B. R. Grogan and Moses K. Armstrong, in section 3, township 106, range 31 west, September 6, 1891. It is five miles east of St. James on the line of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad, in the center of a flourishing farming section. A number of years ago it had stores, elevators, lumber yards, creamery, hotel and many pleasant homes.

SOUTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP.

South Branch township was formed out of congressional township 105, range 31 west. It is bounded on the north by Rosendale township, on the

east by Antrim township, on the south by Martin county and on the west by Long Lake township. It contains thirty-four full and four overrun sections of prairie land. It has no towns or villages, nor any railroad through its borders. There are a few small lakes, the larger of which is the one situated in section 20. The South Branch of the Watonwan river courses through this township flowing toward the northeast. The land here is the equal of other Watonwan townships, rich, black soil of the most productive quality.

The population of the township at the last three census periods of the United States have been as follows: In 1890 it was 380; in 1900 it was only 552 and in 1910 it was placed at 617.

ORGANIZATION.

South Branch was formed by the board of county commissioners at their meeting in March, 1869, when the members of the county board were Messrs. Nickerson, Haycroft and Addsmoed. It was to constitute congressional township 105, range 31 west. It was named Drewsville, but soon changed to South Branch.

PIONEER SETTLERS.

It is uncertain who the first actual settlers in this township were. It is known that Charles H. Locke was among the pioneers here.

Under the Homestead act approved on May 20, 1862, the following homesteads were taken up in this township and proved up on in the required time—five years:

Robert Sexaner, certificate No. 8,192, at the Worthington land office, the northeast quarter of section 2, township 105, range 31 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, and signed on November 3, 1876.

David Clark, certificate No. 8,414, at the Worthington land office, the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34, township 105, range 31 west, issued by President Rutherford B. Hayes, signed on November 5, 1878.

Edwin Fuller, certificate No. 2,511, at the Jackson land office, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 4, township 105, range 31 west, issued by President U. S. Grant, signed on April 10, 1873.

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP.

St. James township comprises all of congressional township 106, range 32 west. It is bounded on the north by Nelson township, on the east by Rosendale, on the south by Long Lake and on the west by Butterfield township. Its only municipality, town or village is the county seat of Watonwan county—St. James. The railroads that cross the township are the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha and the Minneapolis & St. Louis, the one crossing the other at the city of St. James. The former bears to the southwest and the latter to the south of the city.

The lakes and ponds of this township are numerous, but of recent years many of these lakelets are being drained and utilized for agricultural purposes. The larger of these lakes is St. James Lake, to the southwest of the city of St. James. The others are mere ponds, where water stands in wet seasons of the year and are gradually lowering and being drained.

The population of the township according to the United States census returns of 1890 was 473; in 1900 it was 614 and in 1910, it was placed at 575.

For the most part this six-mile square tract of land is flat prairie, with a few prairie creeks to break the otherwise flat appearance. The soil is a rich, black loam of the real drift deposit type and very productive of all the grains and grasses common to this latitude.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

St. James township was organized by the board of county commissioners at their meeting in March, 1870, when congressional township 106, ranges 32 and 33, was set off as a separate civil township of the county. This so remained until the board session in January, 1872, when the commissioners through a well-signed petition, formed a new township known as Butterfield, out of the western half of St. James, of that portion within congressional township 106, range 33 west.

PIONEERS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

The first actual settler in this township was Hans Olson, in section 14, at the north side of the lake. He pre-empted a quarter section in October, 1868, and is still living in St. James, engaged in the farm implement business.



FARM RESIDENCE NEAR ST. JAMES.

Hans Olson was the first man to settle in the vicinity of St. James. He came to this county in the spring of 1869. About a month or two later John W. Somers, at present one of the county commissioners, settled in the same vicinity. Among the other early settlers were, George Spetzler, Joseph Parsh, Henry Baranson, Abraham Strommen, M. Strommen, John and Andrew Swanson. The latter two men settled in section four. At present all the above mentioned live in St. James. Most of them took homesteads or pre-emptions, or both. The land cost them on an average of two and one-half dollars per acre, but at these figures the land was very high priced, not in terms of money but in hard times. Every fall their crops were in danger of the deadly prairie fires, which continued annually until the land became broken up. Then the grasshoppers remained with them for nearly five years, hardly leaving enough grain each year to winter what little stock they had. It is rather interesting to know that the grasshoppers had an unusual liking for onions, but cared little for potatoes.

For two years the settlers did all their farming with oxen. In fact they used oxen for everything. A good pair of oxen cost from one hundred to one hundred and thirty dollars. The average one-year-old, when sold for beef, usually brought about eight dollars; a two-year-old, thirteen dollars; a three-year-old, eighteen dollars and a four-year-old, thirty dollars. On one occasion a farmer killed a four-hundred-pound sow and was glad to dispose of the meat at two and one-half cents a pound.

Most of the first settlers built a small shanty of about fourteen by sixteen, which was enlarged as they could afford it. But at first they had to economize in every way possible. The average family used not more than one hundred pounds of meat during a winter. Coffee was so scarce and so high priced that carrots were baked and ground and used as a substitute.

HOMESTEAD ENTRIES.

H. D. Hall homesteaded at the New Ulm land office the northwest quarter of section 20, township 106, range 32 west, and it was signed by President U. S. Grant, April 1, 1872.

James Curry homesteaded by certificate No. 3,847, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 106, range 32. This was signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Andrew Curry homesteaded with certificate No. 3,846, at the New Ulm land office, the southwest quarter of section 8, township 106, range 32, which was signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Peter Zender, on certificate No. 3,981, homesteaded the west half of the northeast quarter of section 30, township 106, range 32 west. It was issued and signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, February 10, 1881.

Joseph Pasch, at the Tracy land office, was granted a homestead on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 32, township 106, range 32 west, October, 1883, signed by President Chester A. Arthur.