

# Little Falls on the Big River

A History of  
Little Falls, Minnesota for Kids

by Mary Warner, Jan Warner, and Ann Marie Johnson

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Second Edition

by Mary Warner, Jan Warner, Ann Marie Johnson

Layout & Design by Mary Warner

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Prepared for The Little Falls Heritage Preservation Commission by the Morrison County Historical Society



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*Front cover photo of the Mississippi River and Little Falls water tower by W. E. Christnagel. Courtesy Morrison County Historical Society Collections.*  
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## Chapter 1

# Kakabikans

## Before there was a city of Little Falls

**K**akabikans is an Ojibway word which means "little squarely cut-off rock" or "little fall." This is what the Ojibway called the beautiful waterfall in the Mississippi River in central Minnesota. Along the river bank above and below the falls were steep, hard rock outcroppings, upon which the American Indians created rock paintings. These paintings were seen by the early European explorers of the area, including Zebulon Pike, Joseph Nicollet, and Henry Schoolcraft. Pike's name for the falls was "Le Shute de la Roche Peinture" which means "Falls of the Painted Rock." Nicollet called the falls "petits shutes" which translates to "little falls." With all of these people agreeing on the name for the waterfall, the city that developed at this site was destined to be named Little Falls.

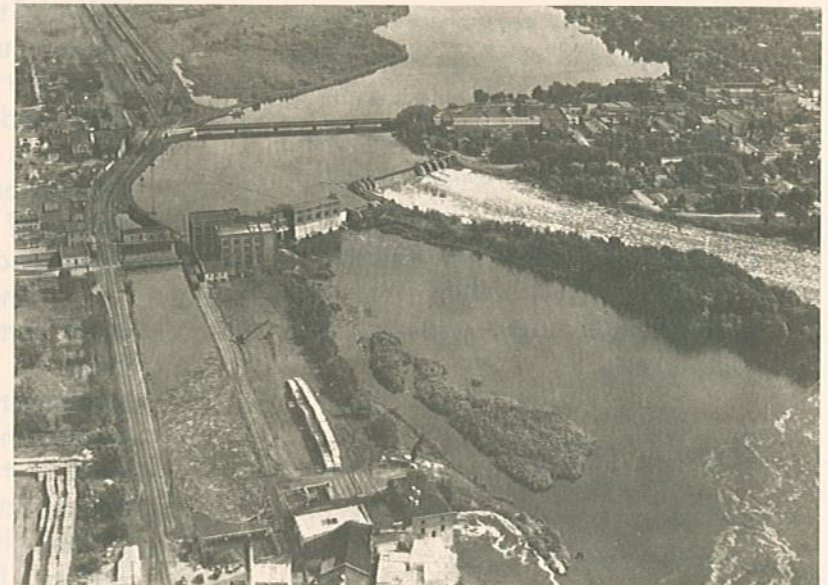
The Mississippi River at the falls has changed dramatically since early people saw it. The rock paintings are no longer visible. At the falls, there were two channels in the river. The west channel of the falls was higher and more forceful than the east channel. For excitement, the voyageurs enjoyed shooting over the west channel when the water was high. This chapter will explore the early days of the Little Falls area, before there was a dam over the falls. You will meet specific members of the Ojibway tribe and learn how the Dacotah and the Winnebago Indians affected the area. You will also see how the fur traders, explorers, missionaries, and the military changed life in the region from the way the Ojibway experienced it. Over Kakabikans we go!

*The Mississippi River as it runs through  
Little Falls. Date unknown.*

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*

### ✓ Check It Out

Go to the Little Falls Dam and Maple Island Park and see if you can tell where the two channels of the river used to flow. It may be tough. There is an island in the river that blocks the view. This island is Mill Island. What is now called Maple Island Park used to be part of Mill Island. Early settlers cut through Mill Island and the river formed a new, wider channel. The east channel became a trickle, which was eventually filled in with dirt. When you stand in Maple Island Park, you'll notice that it is sometimes soggy. This is where the east channel used to flow.





## Snapshot!

### The Ojibway Language

When the Europeans came in contact with the Ojibway, they discovered a language barrier. The Ojibway had an oral language and used pictographs when they wanted to communicate in writing. The French and English weren't used to this type of communication, so they attempted to translate the Ojibway's oral language into the written language they could understand. To do this, they would listen to how the Ojibway pronounced their words and then write the words out phonetically. Phonetically means writing a word the way it sounds. This was an imperfect way to create the Ojibway language in writing. It led to many different spellings of the same word. For example, the word "Ojibway" has also been spelled "Ojibwe" and "Chippewa." Chippewa doesn't look much like Ojibway, but if you put an "O" in front of it and say the word "O-chippewa," it sounds quite similar. Another example is Chief Hole-in-the-Day's Ojibway name, Pugona-geshig. Some of the spellings for his name follow: Pugano-geshig, Buganogeshik, Bug-o-nay-geeshig, and Bug-o-nay-ki-shig.

### Think It Over

How many ways can you spell your name using phonetics?

## The Ojibway

Before Little Falls became a city, the area was inhabited by native peoples who came to be known as American Indians or Native Americans. There are many different tribes of American Indians, each with its own name and culture. When the east coast of the United States was being settled by Europeans, American Indian tribes were forced to move west. In an effort to find new homelands, some tribes that were displaced renegotiated their territories with neighboring tribes. Sometimes, tribes that disputed territorial claims attacked tribes living near them.

The tribe of American Indians living in the Little Falls area when it became a city was the Ojibway. The Ojibway occupied much of northeastern Minnesota. The oral traditions and rituals of the Ojibway tell stories of their ancestors migrating from the east coast of the United States, battling many tribes along the way, until they came to Lake Superior. They settled on LaPointe Island, where they endured periodic attacks by the Dacotah and Fox Indians, who had possession of the southern and western shores of the lake. For food, the Ojibway fished and cultivated gardens on the island.

The Ojibway made LaPointe Island their home for about 120 years. While living on LaPointe, an Ojibway spiritual leader named Ma-se-wa-pe-ga had a dream in which he met spirits with white skin who lived in the direction of the rising sun. Dream images were of great importance to the Ojibway and other American Indians. They felt that dreams were

communications from the Spirit World. Ma-se-wa-pe-ga's dream made such an impression upon him that he traveled to the east along the Great Lakes and discovered white people. They gave him several items, including metal tools and glass beads. The beads were successfully adapted by the Ojibway in their decorative arts, replacing some of the quill work that had been done previously. The following spring, Ma-se-wa-pe-ga and other members of his tribe returned to visit the white people and were introduced to guns. The Ojibway brought guns back to LaPointe and used them to defend the tribe against assaults made by the Dacotah and Foxes. Their firearms eventually allowed them to subdue their rival tribes and move off of LaPointe Island.

Over time, the Ojibway took over much of northern Minnesota, driving the Dacotah from their territory to the south. The boundary between the Ojibway and Dacotah unevenly followed the line between the forests and prairie from east to west through the center of Minnesota. In discussing the history of Little Falls and Morrison County, it is important to remember that this line ran just north of St. Cloud.

The Ojibway who lived in the Little Falls area and Morrison County were under the protection of Chief Babesi-kindibay and his band. They were in charge of keeping the Dacotah out of their territory. Babesi-kindibay was called "Curly Head" by white settlers and was highly



respected among the Ojibway. Pugona-geshig (Hole-in-the-Day) and his brother Songa-cumig (Firm Ground) served as pipebearers for Chief Babesi-kindibay. This was an important position in the tribe. We will return to these men later in the book.



Daily life for the Ojibway was lived following seasonal cycles. Time was marked by the full moons. Each full moon during a year had a different name. (See Snapshot! on page 4.) The Ojibway spent their time in a variety of ways. They gathered and prepared food, such as wild rice found at Rice and Skunk Lakes in Morrison County, herbs from the forest and prairie areas, and maple syrup. They were skillful hunters and fishers. Their diet included meat from deer, elk, buffalo, fish and turtles, among other things. Ojibway men did most of the hunting. They made all the tools they needed for this activity. (See arrowheads on page 12.)

Animal hides were used to make clothing. Ojibway clothing featured artistic designs in quill work and bead applique. Ojibway women made bandolier bags for their husbands. These bags were heavily decorated with floral bead designs. The Ojibway preferred designs inspired by the forests and fields where they lived, so leaves and flowers were common decorations.

Ojibway children were taught to be self-sufficient at an early age, helping the adults with their many

duties. Adults told children stories of the past, which created an oral history of the tribe.

The Ojibway traveled often. They went by canoe or on foot to visit friends and relatives in other bands. They also traveled to other areas for special tribal gatherings, such as spiritual ceremonies. A band generally had a summer and winter home. The Ojibway bands moved closer to each other for support during the long winter months. They spent the summer months farther away from each other so that they had a greater chance of gathering all the food they needed for the winter. Whenever they moved their home, they took everything with them, including their shelter. Ojibway women were in charge of building the lodges.



How does Ojibway life compare with how you live?

## Look It Up

inhabit	displace
oral	ritual
migrate	endure
periodic	cultivate
impression	adapt
decorative	subdue
rival	treaty
boundary	territory
attendance	contracted
transfer	self-sufficient
ceremonies	bandolier

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



American Indians on Broadway in Little Falls in 1880. Behind are some European settlers.



## Snapshot!

### A Year of Moons

Below are some of the names for Indian Moons. Monthly moons did not always have the same name from tribe to tribe.

Snow Moon	January
Hunger Moon	February
Crow Moon	March
Grass Moon	April
Planting Moon	May
Rose Moon	June
Heat Moon	July
Thunder Moon	August
Hunting Moon	September
Falling Leaf Moon	October
Beaver Moon	November
Long Night Moon	December

Why do you think each of the monthly moons was named the way it was? Which moon were you born under?

## Check It Out

The Warren/MacDougall Homestead is located in Bellevue Township near the town of Royalton. This site, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy, is where William Warren spent much of his time writing his book.

## Fur Trade

### Traders

Fur. Europe wanted it. America supplied it. From the 1600s through the 1800s, a brisk fur trade in Minnesota provided Europeans with the animal hides they wanted to create fashionable clothing that was warm and soft. The beaver was a particular favorite and was used to make top hats. This animal was abundant throughout Minnesota, including Morrison County. Other animals used in the fur trade were elk, deer, bear, buffalo, skunk, fox, lynx, wild cats, otter, muskrat, mink, wolverine, martens, raccoons, passenger pigeons, and swans. Explorer, Joseph Nicollet noticed that dead swans were carried on the backs of traders to the fur post site near the Swan River in Morrison County.

Three countries operated fur trade companies that impacted the land that is now Minnesota. Through Canada, the fur trade began in the 1600s. The Canadian fur trade companies collected furs from the land that is now the United States. France operated its fur trade out of Canada first. In 1763, Britain gained control of Canadian lands and took over much of the fur trade. Finally, after land that is now Minnesota became a part of the United States in 1787, the American Fur Company was founded by John Jacob Astor in 1808. At this time, neither the French nor the British were allowed to operate their fur trade businesses on American soil.

The American Indians of Minnesota,

especially the Ojibway, had contact with fur traders of all these nationalities. Their favorites seemed to be the French, who appreciated the Indian way of life and blended quite easily with the native tribes. Many French men married Ojibway women. The Ojibway were important to the fur traders because they knew the habits of the animals. In fact, the traders employed the Ojibway in the fur business by having them gather the animal hides by cleaning and tanning them. The Ojibway women who married fur traders assisted their husbands by mediating between their bands and the traders. For their contribution to this business, traders paid them with goods such as cloth, beads, food, weapons and tools.

In the Little Falls area, three fur traders are the most well-known. They are William and Allan Morrison and William Aitken. All three men are of Scottish descent. The Morrisons were brothers, William being older than Allan. They were the namesakes of Morrison County. William was born on March 7, 1785 in Canada. With the permission of his parents, he went to work as a clerk for a fur trade company at the age of 16. He was sent to the Leech Lake area in Minnesota and lived near the Crow Wing River. In 1803-04, William supposedly made a visit to the source of the Mississippi River, Lake Itasca, the first white person ever to do so. Later, when the British and French were banned from trading in America,



William went to work for the American Fur Company as a trader. He retired in 1826 and moved back to Canada. He was married four times, twice to Ojibway women, and had sixteen children. William did not live in Morrison County, although he knew the area from his work. He died in 1866.

Allan Morrison was born June 3, 1803 in Canada. He started in the fur trade in 1822 by working for his brother, William, at the American Fur Company. He also settled in the Crow Wing area. Crow Wing County borders Morrison County to the northeast. In 1825, he married Charlotte Chaboillez, who was half Ojibway and the daughter of a trader. Charlotte's Ojibway name was Sha-bo-yay-quay. She and Allan had eleven children.

Along with being a fur trader, Allan was a farmer, postmaster, hotel keeper and stage coach agent at Crow Wing. In 1849, Allan operated a ferry at Crow Wing. That same year, Allan's political career, which had begun some years earlier, broadened in scope. He was elected to the first Minnesota Territorial Legislature. One of the tasks of the Territorial Legislature was to create the counties in Minnesota. Morrison County was formed in 1856 and named in honor of Allan and his brother, William. In 1874, due to failing health, Allan moved to White Earth, Minnesota to live with his son. He died November 21, 1877 and was buried at White Earth.

William Aitken (also spelled Aitkin) was friends with the Morrison brothers. He was born in Scotland

around 1785 and moved to Canada with his parents while still a child. Like the Morrison brothers, Aitken entered the fur trade before the age of twenty. By 1818, he was working for trader, Charles Ermantiger. Aitken married Charles' daughter, Madeline, who was part Ojibway. They had seven children together. Their daughter, Matilda, married William Whipple Warren, who wrote the *History of the Ojibway People*. Aitken later had a second wife and several more children.

Aitken conducted much of his fur business as a free-trader. When he signed a contract with the American Fur Company in the early 1820s, it was at his own risk, meaning that the company didn't have to pay him like an employee. By 1838, Aitken left the American Fur Company. He established several fur post sites along the Mississippi River in central Minnesota. When Allan Morrison retired, Aitken took over his Crow Wing fur post site. In 1848, Aitken moved to Swan River, just south of Little Falls, and set up a fur trading post. He operated this post until his death in 1851. Several places in Minnesota were named for William Aitken. The site of his Swan River fur trade post was called Aitkinsville, and both a county and city bear his name.

Other fur traders with connections to Morrison County were Clement Beaulieu, Narcisse Roy, George and Pierre Bonga, John H. Fairbanks, and Jean B. Bellanger.

## Snapshot!

### William Warren

William Whipple Warren was the great-great grandson of an early French fur trader named Mons. Cadeau. Monsieur Cadeau arrived in the Lake Superior area in 1671 and did business with the Ojibway who were living near the lake. One of Cadeau's grandsons, Michel Cadotte, was also a fur trader and married an Ojibway woman. Michel's daughter, Mary, married Lyman M. Warren, an English fur trader, in 1821. This mix of French, Ojibway, and English people produced William Whipple Warren, who was taught both the Ojibway and English languages as a child. Because of his skill with these languages, William became an interpreter between the Ojibway and the United States government during treaty signings. Before Minnesota became a state, William served on the Territorial Legislature in 1851. While involved with the legislature, he spoke of the stories he had learned from Ojibway tribal elders. Another legislator urged him to write these stories down, which he did within the next two years while living in Morrison County. His book is called the *History of the Ojibway People* and is considered one of the most important books ever written about the Ojibway. In 1853, at the age of 28, William died after suffering a long-term illness.



## Look It Up

fashionable	abundant
establish	fierce
competition	nationalities
descent	banned
superintendent	broadened
contract	dismissed
endeavor	jovial
transport	origin
archaeologist	prominent
portage	

## Voyageurs

Voyageurs were men who worked with the fur traders. Using canoes, they helped the fur traders carry their goods over waterways to the main fur post sites. Many of the voyageurs were French-Canadians. France ran the fur trade from Canada long before Minnesota became a part of the United States. (The Belle Prairie area, just north of Little Falls, was a popular place for many of these French-Canadians to settle.) As the fur trade became a British and then an American endeavor, people of other nationalities joined the voyageurs. They adopted the French songs and fur trade terms.

The French voyageurs were a hard-working bunch. They sang songs as they rowed along called "chansons". Chansons helped the men to keep rhythm as they paddled. Voyageurs traveled to their main company sites during the early summer, when the ice had cleared from the rivers and lakes. During the winter, they spent their time at the various fur posts scattered through the wilderness. Those who stayed at fur posts during the winter were called hibernants. ("Hiver" is the French word for winter.) One of these fur post sites has been uncovered by archaeologists at Little Elk Heritage Preserve, about two miles north of Little Falls. It is unknown whether this site is of French or British origin, but it is thought that it was built in the mid-1700s.

When voyageurs moved goods across the region, they tried to follow waterways, because this was the easiest and fastest way to transport furs. Lakes and rivers do

not always connect to each other, so, when the water ended, the voyageurs had to portage their canoes and goods. The voyageurs were strong. One man could carry between 180 to 270 pounds on his back. Some of the portages could be crossed in one trip. Others were so long that the voyageurs had "poses" along the way. Poses were dropping points for the items that were carried. The voyageur would get a load to a pose and then run back and get another load. Everything was collected at one pose before moving on to the next pose, and so on until another waterway was reached.

To mark their route, voyageurs created lob pines. A man climbed a prominent pine tree with an ax in hand and cut (lobbed) off the middle branches. The tree was then named, usually for a "bourgeois," which was the term for a company owner.

Some of the voyageurs who worked in the region and had connections to Morrison County were Anton Bisson, Charles Chartier, George and Pierre Bonga, Louis Houle, and Jean Baptiste Roy. In the fur trade business, men often worked at more than one job, so a voyageur might later become a trader.



## Explorers

In the early 1800s, the American Government sent official expeditions, usually led by military officers, into what is now Minnesota to explore and map the territory. The French and British, through their fur trade operations, were already familiar with the geography of Minnesota, but the Americans were not. Typically, explorers of Minnesota used waterways for their journeys. Rivers allowed the explorers the easiest route of travel because there were no roads. They were the highways of the early days.

### Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779-1813)

In 1805-1806, Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike led a military expedition up the Mississippi River from St. Louis, Missouri to Leech Lake, Minnesota and back. At the time of his travels, the southern part of Minnesota (west of the Mississippi River) was within the Louisiana Purchase. Around the time of Pike's expedition, Lewis and Clark were sent to explore other areas of the Louisiana Purchase. Pike's main mission for his journey was a military one. He was to carry the flag of the United States through the territory, showing the British and Indian inhabitants that the land now belonged to America. Along with this, he was charged with finding the source of the Mississippi River,

scouting sites on which to build military posts, making peace between the Dacotah and Ojibway tribes, and gathering information about the British fur traders still in the area.

Zebulon Pike kept a journal of his expedition, which started August 9, 1805. His journey brought him into the Little Falls area in October, 1805. Pike and his men camped on a point below Pike Rapids near the mouth of the Swan River, about two-and-a-half to three miles south of what is now the city of Little Falls. The next day, October 16, 1805, the group was determined to travel up to the Crow Wing River, but snow had fallen, and they were forced to return to their camp site. Due to poor weather and the failing health of his men, Pike decided that they would build a fort at the camp site and stay until conditions for travel improved.

While staying at the fort, Pike and his men did a large amount of hunting so they would have food to eat. Wildlife was abundant in this region at the time. Pike saw the following animals (or signs of them) while he was in central Minnesota: Deer, elk, bear, buffalo, geese, porcupine, ducks, beaver, mink, pheasant, wolves, prairie hens, otter, raccoons, silver fox, ravens, swans, and eagles.

During his time at the fort, Pike met both Ojibway and Dakota Indians and tried to negotiate peace between the tribes. He also played host to British fur trader, Robert Dickson. In preparation for the rest of the trip, there were also sleds and canoes to build and repair. On December 10, 1805, Pike set out with some of his party to complete his expedition. Several of his men were left behind at

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Zebulon Pike monument located in Little Falls. The stones in the monument are from the fireplace of Pike's fort. Photo by W. E. Christnagel.*



## Snapshot!

### Who Discovered the Source of the Mississippi?

Henry Schoolcraft is commonly given credit for discovering the source of the Mississippi River in 1832. He gave the site the name of Lake Itasca. William Morrison, fur trader, disagreed with this claim in a letter he wrote to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1856. He stated that he visited Lake Itasca in 1803-1804 and again in 1811-1812. At that time, the lake was called Elk Lake. Morrison, however, was not so bold as to claim that he was the first person to visit the lake. He only admitted to being the first white person to find the lake. Long before any Whites were here, the Indians knew exactly where the source of the Mississippi was.

## Think It Over

Why was travel for Zebulon Pike faster on the way back?

the fort. Pike frequently scouted ahead of his men, who were loaded down with giant sleds of supplies. The group traveled either by land or by river, whichever was the easiest route each day. When the river was iced over, it made for the swiftest passage of the sleds. The men had to be wary of the ice conditions because their sleds frequently broke through. On December 14, the sled carrying all of Pike's belongings and ammunition fell into the river, soaking practically everything. Luckily, some of the ammunition stayed dry or the men would have been forced to end the expedition right there. Without ammunition, they could not hunt for the food they needed to survive. On February 1, 1806, Pike and his men arrived at their destination of Leech Lake.



After taking care of his business around the lake and holding council with the Ojibway, Pike's expedition headed back the way it had come on March 1, 1806. (Pike never did find the source of the Mississippi River.) Travel was faster on the way back. By March 5, Pike had reached his winter fort near Little Falls, where he discovered that one of his men had given away most of the supplies that he had left for the return trip. Pike remained at the fort for some time waiting for the ice to thaw on the Mississippi River. While waiting, he visited with members of both the Dacotah and Ojibway tribes. On April 7, the expedition left the Swan River fort. Zebulon Pike and his men reached the end of their journey, St. Louis, Missouri, on April 30, 1806.

Both Pike Creek and Pike Creek Township in Morrison County were named

for Zebulon Pike. His importance in exploring America did not end here. Pike went on to lead another expedition in July of 1806. Pike's Peak in Colorado is named in his honor. He died in battle in Canada on April 27, 1813, at the age of 34.

### Governor Lewis B. Cass (1782-1866)

In 1820, Governor Lewis B. Cass gathered together men for his expedition into Minnesota. At that time, Minnesota east of the Mississippi River was a part of Michigan Territory, and Cass was the governor of that territory. Like Zebulon Pike, Cass was in charge of an official American expedition that was supposed to claim the land from the British. He also had to inform the Ojibway and the Dacotah that the Americans were now ruling the land and that treaties would fall under the domain of the President of the United States (rather than the King of England). Further, he was supposed to try to encourage peace between the two tribes and set up a military post at Sault Ste. Marie (soo-saint-marie).

As if all of this weren't enough, the expedition had to complete scientific studies of the areas explored. These included studies of geography, topography, geology, mineralogy, zoology, botany, and astronomy. This meant that Cass had to try to find men who had expertise in these fields to bring along. This was rather difficult because older,



educated men were not about to give up their jobs and family lives in order to tramp about in untamed wilderness. Many of the men who joined Cass were young and ready for adventure. Several of them kept journals while on the expedition. These journals tell us what the men experienced on their trip and they don't all agree with each other on some of the details.

On May 24, 1820, the Cass Expedition set out in 3 large canoes from Detroit, Michigan, into Lake Huron. They stopped at Michilimackinac Island. Michilimackinac means "Great Turtle", which is what the island's shape looked like to the Indians. While at Michilimackinac, 25 additional soldiers and an Ojibway Indian known as Pugona-geshig (Hole-in-the-Day) joined the expedition. The extra soldiers were thought to be needed when the expedition reached Ojibway country because the Indians were still sympathetic with the British. The Americans were worried that they might be seen by the Ojibway as enemies.

The Cass Expedition reached Sault Ste. Marie on June 14, 1820 and set up camp. After several days of heated negotiations, Pugona-geshig and Golden Meadow Woman (Ozha-mushkoday-equay) helped to calm the Ojibway and expedition leaders and arrive at an agreement which resulted in the building of Fort Brady. For Pugona-geshig's part in the negotiations, Cass awarded him a Presidential Medal and named him a

chief of the Ojibway.

After their business at Sault Ste. Marie, the Cass Expedition left on June 17, 1820 and reached Lake Superior the next day around noon. While in Lake Superior, they met William Morrison, a fur trader with the American Fur Company. Morrison, who knew the area of Minnesota well from his business as a fur trader, convinced the expedition to change course. Instead of going through Lake of the Woods, they could save time by taking a different route to the Mississippi River. The Cass Expedition took a complicated path through north-central Minnesota until they reached the Mississippi and headed down this river.

On July 28, 1820, they passed the painted rocks of the little falls and Pike's old fort site. They were on their way to St. Anthony's Falls to arrange a peace treaty between the Ojibway and Dacotah. From St. Anthony's Falls, they continued on down river to Prairie du Chien and then traveled through what is now Wisconsin. When the expedition reached Lake Michigan, it split into two groups. The groups went in opposite directions around Lake Michigan in order to survey it. They finally met back where they had started at Detroit, Michigan on September 23, 1820. The entire trip took 123 days and the expedition covered around 4,000 miles.

Governor Lewis B. Cass went on to run for the office of United States President in 1848, but was defeated by Zachary Taylor. From 1857-1860, he served as Secretary of State under President James Buchanan.

## Snapshot!

### Men on Cass Expedition

Some of the men on the Cass Expedition were as follows:

**Captain David Bates Douglass** (Engineer, astronomer & topographer, kept a journal of the trip.)

**Henry Row Schoolcraft** (He went along to study geology and mineralogy on the trip. In 1832, he claimed to be the first person to find the source of the Mississippi River. He kept a journal on the expedition.)

**Dr. Alexander Wolcott, Jr.** (A doctor and Indian Agent in Chicago. He went along as and Indian expert and to see to the medical needs of the expedition.)

**James Duane Doty** (Official journalist for the trip.)

**Charles Christopher Trowbridge** (Assistant topographer. His journal provided good descriptions of Pugona-geshig (Chief Hole-in-the-Day)).

**James Riley** (Official interpreter.)

**Joseph Parks** (Guide and interpreter.)

**Robert A. Forsythe** (Secretary.)

**Alexander Ralston Chase** (Commissary to the expedition.)

Also along for the trip were eleven soldiers, nine Ojibway and Ottawa Indians and eleven French voyageurs. There was a total of 43 men on the expedition, although the journals and newspapers disagreed on this number.



## Look It Up

official	expedition
military	mission
inhabitant	scout
journal	determined
preparation	frequently
swift	wary
ammunition	destination
council	thaw
claim	rulers
considered	encourage
geography	topography
geology	mineralogy
zoology	botany
astronomy	expertise
sympathetic	erected
negotiations	complicated
arrange	defeated
ruined	reputation
uncharted	contracted
considerable	outfitted
provisions	observations
accurate	ceremony
previous	translations
encampment	mourning
feat	precocious
maneuver	impassable
navigable	exhaustion

## Joseph N. Nicollet (1786-1843)

French scientist and explorer, Joseph N. Nicollet, arrived in America in 1832 from Paris. He came to the United States to escape his ruined reputation following a revolution in France and a stock market crash in 1830. Being a scientist in a land with much uncharted territory, Nicollet thought that he would like to do a scientific tour of some of this land. He chose to study the Mississippi River. After traveling through a number of southeastern states from December, 1832 to August, 1835, Nicollet contracted malaria, which weakened him for a considerable length of time. During his illness, he spent his time in St. Louis, Missouri, reading letters, books, maps, and pamphlets dealing with previous exploration in America. He was especially interested in Henry Rowe Schoolcraft's account of finding the source of the Mississippi River (in 1832).

Nicollet left St. Louis in June, 1836, heading up-river on his own expedition. His explorations were unofficial in that they were not supported by the American government. He carried with him an official-looking letter of introduction, which he showed to military officers at forts along the way. He also claimed that the French government supported his trip. (This was unlikely because he had left France with a poor reputation.)

On July 2, 1836, Nicollet reached Fort Snelling and met Indian Agent, Lawrence Taliaferro (pronounced Toliver) and Lawrence's wife, Elizabeth. After spending a few weeks at Fort Snelling, it was obvious

to the Taliaferros that Nicollet was not completely sure of where in Minnesota he wanted to explore. Elizabeth helped him to decide that he would head to Lake Itasca, the source of the Mississippi River. The Taliaferros, along with several other business and military men, outfitted Nicollet with the supplies he needed for his journey. Nicollet set out on the Mississippi River with a few other men in his canoe. He had just gotten started when a party of Dacotah Indians took his canoe and supplies. He sent a letter with one of his men to Taliaferro, who gave him another canoe and more provisions for the trip.

Nicollet's expedition was important in a couple of ways. His scientific background allowed him to study the geology, geography and astronomy along the Mississippi River. Using astronomical readings and careful observations of geographic features, he produced the first accurate map of the upper Mississippi. The other significant subject of study on his trip was that of the culture and rituals of the Ojibway Indians. Nicollet treated the Ojibway as equals and was truly fond of their way of life. He earned the trust of an Ojibway man named Chagobay, who was one of Nicollet's traveling companions. (Chagobay's ten year old son also came along on the expedition.) Chagobay revealed the rites of the medicine ceremony to Nicollet. This was knowledge that the Ojibway did not usually give to white men. As with previous expeditions, Nicollet kept a



journal which detailed his trip.

Nicollet entered what is now Morrison County around August 5, 1836, when he passed the mouth of the Platte River. This river runs through what is now the city of Royalton. That same day, he passed the Spunk River and Two Rivers. He then came to what he called the Knife or Cutting Rapids. Following the passage of these rapids, he came to more rapids at the mouth of the Swan River. These rapids Nicollet called Pike Rapids after Zebulon Pike. Nicollet decided to set up camp about one mile upstream of the Swan River, near a trading post of the American Fur Company. This was very near the area where Zebulon Pike had his winter fort. Nicollet took an astronomical reading at this point.

While Nicollet was creating his map of the Mississippi River, he was very careful about the names of geographic features. He realized that most of the names of sites were French and English translations of Indian words. He would only give a name to a feature if it seemed there was no other name for it. While near the trading post, he noticed that many dead swans were brought in to be traded. The Swan River was named so by the Ojibway, probably because of the abundance of swans in the area. Nicollet's spelling of the Ojibway term for the Swan River was Ouâbisi-oui-sibi. "Ouâbisi" meant swan and "sibi" meant river.

On the opposite side of the river from Nicollet's Swan River encampment, a party of Ojibway

women and children were camping. Nicollet met with them and happened to also meet the mother and sister of Songa-cumig (Strong Ground). Songa-cumig was the brother of Chief Hole-in-the-Day I. Songa-cumigs' aunt had recently died and Nicollet was shown her grave. On his way up river, Nicollet had run into Songa-cumig, whose face was painted black as a sign of mourning for his aunt.

The morning of Sunday, August 7, 1836, Nicollet's party awoke after a restless night of sleep. Everything had been soaked by a tremendous thunderstorm the night before. Nicollet decided that he wanted to look at some trees that had been struck by lightning. As he came to the Mississippi River, two Ojibway children reached shore in their canoe. The girl was seven years old and her brother was five years old. Nicollet was amazed by this feat and had this to say:

*"During my travels in America, I have often admired the precocious skill with which the children of the natives living along the shore of lakes and rivers maneuver their canoes; but I have to admit I did not expect as much on a river such as the Mississippi."*

Before Nicollet left his camp that day, he looked at the sky again and recorded his readings. The party passed the mouth of Pike Creek, which he called Little Falls Creek, and soon they came to the falls at Little Falls. About a quarter-mile below the falls on the east bank, Nicollet and his men saw a rock 8 to 10 feet high on which a red chalk pictograph had been drawn. Francis Brunia and Chagobay, two of Nicollet's traveling

## Snapshot!

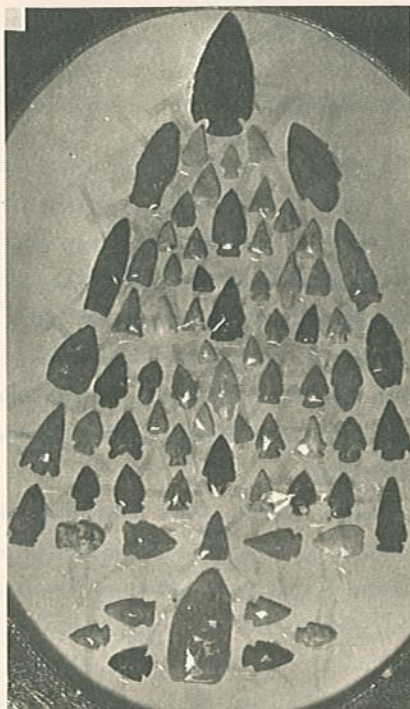
### Indian Agents

Lawrence Taliaferro was the Indian Agent based at Fort Snelling. At the time of Nicollet's Expedition, explorer Henry Rowe Schoolcraft was serving as the Indian Agent at LaPointe in the Lake Superior area. At a later time, Major Lucius C. Walker and Major Ashley C. Morrill were two of the Indian Agents in the Morrison County area.

Indian Agents were hired by the American government as official go-betweens for dealings with the American Indians. When the American Indians sold their land to the United States, the Indian Agents were in charge of paying annuities (annual payments of money and goods) to them for their land. Indian Agents also carried the concerns and complaints of the Indians to the government.

Not all Indian Agents were honest people. Sometimes they would decide to keep some of the money that belonged to the Indians. Lucius C. Walker was suspected of doing just this and his actions contributed to a planned Ojibway uprising.





Morrison County Historical Society Collections

Arrowheads found by Elmer Truman near Rice Lake in Morrison County. Most are made of quartz and flint.



Drawing of the pictograph that Nicollet and his companions saw on the rock near the "little falls".

From Nicollet's journal, located in the Library of Congress.

companions, argued about what the drawing could mean. (See drawing.) At the falls, Nicollet described the western side as being about four to five feet high, which was impassable by canoe. The eastern channel, however, was navigable.

The party traveled on to the Little Elk River the same day and set up camp. Another astronomical reading was taken at this site, which is now a part of Little Elk Heritage Preserve. After this entry in Nicollet's journal, a number of days are missing in which an accident apparently happened. The entries pick up again on August 10 with the expedition heading up the Crow Wing River. The accident and Nicollet's ill health show that expeditions were no picnic. Nicollet suffered fevers, chills, and exhaustion from the damp conditions and his recent bout of malaria.

On Friday, August 19, the group reached Leech Lake. While there, Nicollet met with two chiefs, Majigabo and Eshkebogocoshe (Flat Mouth). Then, the party set off for Lake Itasca, where they arrived on August 27. They camped there until August 30 when they headed back down the Mississippi River. By September 25, 1836, the Nicollet Expedition arrived once again at Swan River, where Nicollet met with Chief Flat Mouth, who agreed to come with Nicollet back to Fort Snelling to see Taliaferro.

Nicollet spent the winter at Fort Snelling working on his map and writing down information he had gathered on his trip. He presented his completed map to the United States Secretary of War, Joel R. Poinsett and was pleased to get paid for his work. He was then asked to lead two

more expeditions into the midwest region, this time with the backing of the American government. Joseph N. Nicollet's health failed after his second government expedition and he died on July 17, 1843.

## 💡Think It Over

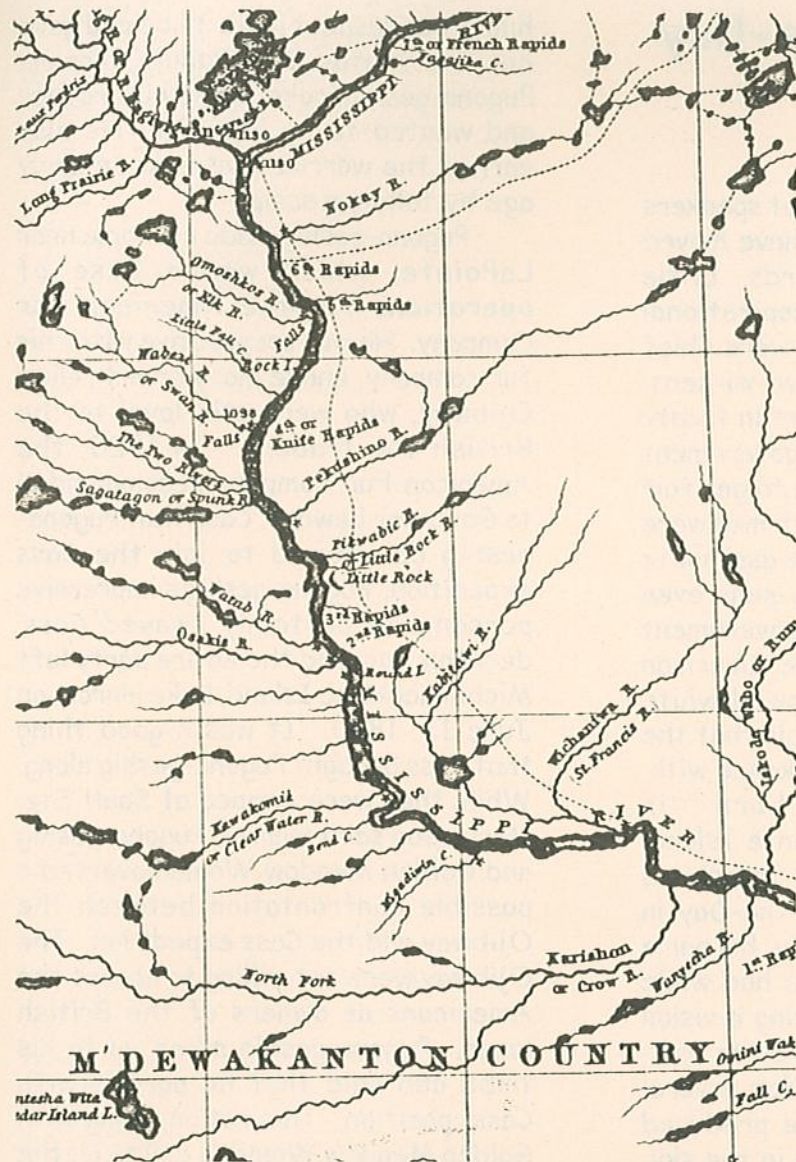
Joseph Nicollet thought the mosquitoes were awful during his 1836 trip up the Mississippi River.

During the Cass Expedition, the travelers also complained about mosquitoes. An entry made on July 13, 1820 in the journal of David Bates Douglass reads as follows:

"The mosquitoes which had been very troublesome on the rivers St. Louis and Savannah became almost intolerable here. Joined to the sandflies and gnats, each vying with the other in the vigour of their attacks, they almost drove me crazy during the short time requisite for taking a bearing."

The annoyance of the swarms of mosquitoes was again mentioned on July 26, 1820 as the insects kept the expedition from sleeping. Why were the men on these expeditions so bothered by mosquitoes? Do you think there are more mosquitoes in Minnesota than in other states? Why or why not? Were there more mosquitoes in 1820 and 1836 in Minnesota than there are now?





*This section of Joseph Nicollet's map of the Upper Mississippi River shows the area of Little Falls. Each star that appears on the map shows a place where Nicollet took a reading of the night sky.*

## Snapshot!

### Indian Treaties

Many treaties were made between the American Indians and the federal government. A treaty is a formal written agreement between all parties who sign it. The government and its representatives claimed that the Indian treaties were intended to create peace between the tribes. The various Indian tribes did not need the government to negotiate peace among them because they often worked out their own peace agreements. The government had other motives for the treaties. When Europeans came to North America, they believed in an idea called Manifest Destiny. They felt they could conquer other lands and use the resources as they wished. When they arrived in America, they thought that the resources would last forever. They also did not understand the way of life of the people already living on the land. Because of Manifest Destiny, they thought they had a right to change the Indians' way of life.

The Europeans also had ideas about land ownership with which the Indians were unfamiliar. The Indians believed that land belonged to a whole community and that the land would be used for a season or several years and then they would move on to more fertile lands. One individual didn't own a piece of land. Tribes lived in territories that had fluid boundaries. Europeans used their written language to track legal matters, like who had ownership of land. In order to transfer land ownership from the Indians to the Europeans and make it "legal", the Europeans used treaties. The Indians humored the Europeans by signing the treaties, not fully understanding what they were being forced to give away.

Most of the fur traders, explorers, military and missionaries in this chapter were operating under the idea of Manifest Destiny. The actions of the two Chiefs Hole-in-the-Day were a response to having their culture stripped from them.

## Think It Over

How can astronomy be used to produce an accurate map of an area on Earth?



## Look It Up

orator	inspirational
instrumental	assimilate
eloquence	reckoned
guidance	status
loyal	averted
confrontation	escalating
inherited	accompanied
acceptable	influential
animosity	dispute
avenge	customary
paralyzed	annuities
ambitious	reservations
deliberately	coincidence
barricaded	reaped
ambushed	

## Chiefs Hole-in-the-Day I & II

America has seen some great speakers in its history. These orators have moved people to action with their words. Little Falls has had its share of inspirational speakers, as well. Two of them were Chief Pugona-geshig and his son, Kwi-wi-sens. These Ojibway leaders took part in treaty writing with the United States government and were instrumental in trying to get fair settlements for their tribe. Both men were interested in seeing their people assimilate into American society. Kwi-wi-sens even encouraged the United States government to allow the Ojibway to become American citizens. Their eloquence showed white settlers and government officials that the Ojibway were a force to be reckoned with.

Pugona-geshig was born in approximately 1800 near LaPointe Island, Lake Superior. Pugona-geshig translates to Hole-in-the-Sky or Hole-in-the-Day in the English language. Most likely, his name came from a spiritual vision he had while undergoing a vision quest. During a vision quest, Pugona-geshig was required to fast, or go without food and water for several days. This fasting would have produced Pugona-geshig's vision of a hole in the sky, through which he could receive spiritual guidance.

Pugona-geshig had an older brother named Songa-cumig. Songa-cumig means Firm Ground. When Songa-cumig was ten years old, he took part in the Battle of Long Prairie against the Dacotah. During this battle, he scalped a man. This act earned

him great respect in his tribe and gave him the status of an adult warrior. Pugona-geshig looked up to his brother and wanted to be like him. He also earned the warrior status at an early age by taking a scalp.

Pugona-geshig made his home near LaPointe, which was a base of operations for the American Fur Company. He was cooperative with this fur company, unlike many of his fellow Ojibway, who were still loyal to the British fur traders. In 1820, the American Fur Company recommended to Governor Lewis B. Cass that Pugona-geshig be allowed to join the Cass expedition. Pugona-geshig's impressive personality certainly swayed Cass' decision, too, and the entire party left Michilimackinac Island, Lake Huron, on June 13, 1820. It was a good thing that Cass brought Pugona-geshig along. While they were camped at Sault Ste. Marie (soo saint marie), Pugona-geshig and Golden Meadow Woman averted a possible confrontation between the Ojibway and the Cass expedition. The Ojibway were not willing to accept the Americans as owners of the British lands. Pugona-geshig stood up to his tribe and said that he agreed with Cass' position. This action, along with Golden Meadow Woman's call to all the Ojibway chiefs for a night-long council, prevented the conflict from escalating. The next day, Saturday, June 17, 1820, Cass bestowed upon Pugona-geshig the title of chief. In Ojibway culture, the chieftanship is normally inherited by a son from a father who has the title. It can also be earned through acts of



courage. The Ojibway would not usually recognize a chieftanship declared by a white man, but in Pugona-geshig's case they did because he had shown courage in standing up to the large gathering of Ojibway. Cass also gave Pugona-geshig a President Monroe Medal of Second Class for his actions.

After the Cass Expedition, Pugona-geshig and Songa-cumig moved with their families to the Gull Lake, north of Morrison County. Here they joined the band of Babesi-kindibay as pipebearers to the chief. This band guarded the border of the Ojibway lands from invasion by the Dacotah.

The brothers proved themselves to be fearless warriors in battle, earning many feathers. According to the writings of William Warren, serving as a warrior was viewed as an honor among the Ojibway. This was much like the honor bestowed upon European and American people who served in the military. According to Joseph Nicollet's journals, in the Ojibway culture, an eagle feather worn on the head was a sign that the warrior had scalped someone. A feather with two red lines meant that the warrior had taken the first scalping from an enemy. A feather with one red line meant that a warrior had scalped the victim a second time. A feather without lines meant that the victim had been scalped a third time. Each time a person was scalped, only a small bit of hair was removed.

In 1825, Pugona-geshig and Songa-cumig accompanied their father and Chief Babesi-kindibay to Prairie du

Chien for the signing of the Treaty of 1825. This peace treaty established boundary lines between the lands of several major Indian tribes. On the return trip, several people in the party suffered the effects of a serious illness. This disease took the lives of Pugona-geshig's wife and father and Chief Babesi-kindibay. Before he died, the chief bestowed his chieftanship upon both Pugona-geshig and Songa-cumig. After Babesi-kindibay's death, the band split and Pugona-geshig stayed with his group in the Gull Lake area, while Songa-cumig settled his near Pine River.

In the Ojibway culture, polygamy, or having several wives at one time, was acceptable. Pugona-geshig, and later his son, Kwi-wi-sens, had many wives, both choosing to marry daughters of influential Ojibway chiefs. By taking these daughters as wives, both men raised their status as chiefs in the tribe. After the death of his first wife, Pugona-geshig married a daughter of Eshkebogi-cozhe, the great Chief Flat Mouth.

In 1827, while visiting Fort Snelling, Pugona-geshig and his 10-year-old daughter were shot by some Dacotah Indians. The visit to the Fort was Pugona-geshig's effort to make peace with the Dacotah, but the actions of the Dacotah proved that they were not ready for peace. Pugona-geshig's daughter died of her injuries. This loss caused Pugona-geshig to become angry with the Dacotah. He went to Sandy Lake to recover from his injuries and, while there, met and married another of his wives, the daughter of Chief Ka-tiwabiday, or Broken Tooth. Chief Ka-tiwabiday was the grandfather of Kwi-wi-sens, but there is some dispute as to which of his daughters



*Pugona-geshig's signature. This is a pictograph found in Joseph Nicollet's journal.*

*Nicollet's journal is located in the Library of Congress.*

### 💡Think It Over

Sometimes when studying history, there are facts that we do not know and are unable to find out. This is especially true with early oral history. We do not know the name of Pugona-geshig's father, although some say he was known as Smoke. How would you try to discover Pugona-geshig's father's name? What resources could you use?



was the mother of Kwi-wi-sens.

Kwi-wi-sens was born around the year 1828. His name means "Boy" in Ojibway. He did not become known as Hole-in-the-Day until after his father's death. Indian historian, Dr. Charles A. Eastman (who was from the Santee Sioux tribe), wrote the following about an incident in the young life of Kwi-wi-sens:

*Once when The Boy was still under ten years of age, he was fishing on Gull Lake in a leaky birch-bark canoe. Presently there came such a burst of frantic warwhoops that his father was startled. He could not think of anything but an attack by the dreaded Sioux. Seizing his weapons, he ran to the rescue of his son, only to find that the little fellow had caught a fish so large that it was pulling his canoe all over the lake. "Ugh," exclaimed the father, "if a mere fish scares you so badly, I fear you will never make a warrior!"*

Kwi-wi-sens was to prove his father wrong soon after this incident. Around the time of the 1837 Treaty, which Pugona-geshig had signed, the chief moved his band to a spot near the Little Elk River, just north of what is now Little Falls. At this time, Pugona-geshig was attracted to Christianity and invited some Methodist Episcopal missionaries to set up a school and mission near the band. He hoped that some of his people might learn the teachings of this new religion. But it was not to be.

In 1838, on a mission to avenge his daughter's death, Pugona-geshig took Kwi-wi-sens (then 10) and his warriors to the Lac Qui Parle area to meet with the Dacotah. In the minds of the Dacotah, this was supposed to be a friendly meeting, so

they heartily welcomed Pugona-geshig's people. In the middle of the night, after all of the Dacotah were sleeping, Pugona-geshig's warriors let out a war whoop and attacked. Kwi-wi-sens earned his first feather that night and with it, the status of a warrior.

This attack renewed the conflict between the Ojibway and Dacotah and forced Pugona-geshig's band to move away from the Little Elk River in 1840. They relocated farther north to an area of relative safety. The missionaries left in 1841 because of the fighting.

In 1844, Pugona-geshig's oldest son died. This son, who was not Kwi-wi-sens, was in line to inherit Pugona-geshig's chieftanship, as was customary. Pugona-geshig was heartbroken. He felt that Kwi-wi-sens would not make a great chief. He was also still drawn to the ideals of Christianity. With that in mind, in 1846, he adopted Enmegabo (also known as John Johnson) as his son so he could prepare him to become the chief. Enmegabo was an Ojibway man who had become a Methodist Episcopal minister. He had been an assistant missionary at the Little Elk mission while Pugona-geshig lived there.

The adoption of Enmegabo by Pugona-geshig was more than Kwi-wi-sens could bear. He went out into the woods to starve himself to death. After four days, his friends found him and forced him to eat. Upon discovering the actions of Kwi-wi-sens, his father had a change of heart and

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



Marker for Pugona-geshig's grave. Located on the bluffs north of Little Falls. This spot used to be called "Look-out Point" because the Ojibway used the site to watch for the Dacotah. The inscription on the stone reads: "1847, Burial Mound of Chief Hole-in-the-Day, Donated by the Little Falls Granite Works".



decided that the "Boy" was worthy of his chieftanship.

In the spring of 1847, Pugonageshig was involved with finding suitable Ojibway land in central Minnesota for the Winnebago Indians. He headed to Prairie Du Chien to meet the government officials involved with the process. On the return trip, he stopped in St. Paul. According to Indian historian, Dr. Carl Zapsffe, Pugonageshig and his brother, Songacumig, drank some whiskey which may have been poisoned. The whiskey paralyzed the men and they were put onto a wagon and sent north. When Pugonageshig's wagon crossed the Platte River near Royalton, the chief fell off and was crushed by the wheels. He died shortly after speaking with Kwi-wi-sens. His body was returned to Little Falls and the great Chief Hole-in-the-Day I was buried on the bluff just north of town.



Kwi-wi-sens immediately took over his father's position as chief. The Whites called him Chief Hole-in-the-Day II. He used this name when signing treaties. The first official treaty that he signed as chief was that of 1847, which arranged for the movement of the Winnebago Indians into the central Minnesota area.

Like his father, Kwi-wi-sens was a fierce warrior, but he was also interested in having his people live peacefully with the Dacotah and adopt the ways of the Whites. Using his oratorical skills, he represented his

people in matters with the government. He was especially concerned with getting the full share of annuities for lands the Ojibway sold to the United States. Kwi-wi-sens had many supporters in his efforts, but he made just as many enemies. He was ambitious and bold. During treaty negotiations, he requested a greater share of annuities because he felt he deserved them as chief of his tribe.

Kwi-wi-sens made several trips to Washington D. C. in order to negotiate treaties. His first journey to the nation's capital occurred in 1855. In this treaty the Ojibway were to sign away all of their lands in central Minnesota and agree to establish reservations. Kwi-wi-sens agreed with these purposes, as long as the United States government was willing to make the Ojibway full United States citizens. A clause concerning this matter was supposedly placed within the treaty, which was then signed. The annuities received from this treaty allowed Kwi-wi-sens to build a house on a 640 acre farm north of Crow Wing along the Mississippi River. He also built a ferry for crossing the river.

In 1861, Kwi-wi-sens noticed that the annuity payments to the Ojibway were not what they should be. A new Indian Agent name Lucius Walker had been assigned to the region and he was keeping some of the money for himself. In June of 1862, Kwi-wi-sens took another trip to Washington, D. C. in order to clear up the matter. But, the government refused to take action against Walker. This angered the chief. Upon his arrival back in central Minnesota, he decided it was time to move the Whites out of the region, as they had been doing to the American Indians.



*Enmegabowh, also known as John Johnson. Photo from a booklet called "Enmegabowh's Story," republished in 1994 by St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Brainerd, MN. Enmegabowh was born in 1820. From 1831 to 1832, his grandfather started his training in the ways of the Mdewiwin, the spiritual society of the Ojibway. Later in 1832, John Clark, the Methodist Superintendent of Missionaries took Enmegabowh to Sault Ste. Marie, where he began his training as a missionary. By 1859, Enmegabowh was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church.*



At this time, the Civil War was being fought and Kwi-wi-sens knew that most of the able-bodied men were engaged as soldiers on the battle field. Chief Little Crow of the Minnesota Dacotah was also aware of this fact. Both chiefs decided to attack the Whites on the same day, August 18, 1862. Some historians think that the chiefs were in contact with each other and deliberately planned their attacks for the same day. Other historians believe that the actions of the chiefs were coincidence. In any case, Chief Little Crow's assault on the Whites became known as the Sioux Uprising of 1862. (The new term for this encounter is the Dacotah Conflict.) Many Whites lost their lives in the Dacotah confrontation. For Kwi-wi-sens, the result was different.

When Enmegabo learned of Kwi-wi-sens' intentions to kill all the Whites at the Indian Agency, he tried to stop him. It was no use. Kwi-wi-sens had made up his mind. Enmegabo sent a warning to the Indian Agency to notify them of the chief's plans. By the time Kwi-wi-sens and his warriors arrived at the Agency, it was well barricaded. The chief knew that Enmegabo had tipped them off, so he headed back to Enmegabo's house to kill him. By this time, however, Enmegabo had fled to Fort Ripley for protection.

Meanwhile, soldiers from Fort Ripley were looking for Kwi-wi-sens in order to stop his planned assault. Kwi-wi-sens escaped from them by heading across the river on his ferry. After negotiations with government officials, Father Pierz, and several fur traders, Kwi-wi-sens called off his attack.

Kwi-wi-sens visited Washington, D. C.

several more times after this event in order to work on other treaties. On one of these trips, he met and married a white woman named Ellen McCarthy. They traveled back to Minnesota and she settled in St. Paul. He was afraid that his other wives in central Minnesota would not like her.

By this time, many of the Ojibway people were upset with Kwi-wi-sens. It appeared to them that he was reaping the majority of the annuities gained through treaties. Those Ojibway who disagreed with the actions of Kwi-wi-sens also thought that he was working to keep mixed-blood Indians off of the new White Earth reservation that was being planned. On June 27, 1868, while he was preparing to head to Washington, D. C. to work out the details of the White Earth treaty, a group of men from his own tribe ambushed and shot him. He was buried in a Catholic cemetery that is located in what is now Crow Wing State Park. Father Pierz performed the burial rites.

The White Earth Reservation was created shortly after the death of Kwi-wi-sens. Many of the Ojibway who were living in the Little Falls area were forced to move to this reservation.

### 💡Think It Over

Mixed-blood was a term that referred to a person who had one white or European parent and the other who was Indian. The mixed-bloods were not always accepted by the people of either nationality. Do you see this situation occurring today?



## Think It Over

History is always being reinterpreted in the minds of current people. Take the Sioux Uprising of 1862. Historians are now calling it the Dakota Conflict. Dakota and Sioux are two different words for the same tribe of American Indians. Look up the words "uprising" and "conflict." Keep in mind the following points:

1. The Dakota saw that the government kept breaking the treaties it had made with the Indians. 2. The government did not pay the Indians what their land was worth and didn't pay annuity payments on time. 3. The fur traders took most of the annuity money before the Indians got it because they claimed the Indians owed it to them for goods the Indians were forced to buy on credit. 4. The aim of the government was to get the Indians onto reservations and out of the way of European immigrants.

Which word, "uprising" or "conflict" best describes the actions of Kwi-wi-sens and Little Crow in 1862? Why?

# ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE!!

I, EZRA BRIGGS, Administrator of the Estate of  
**Hole-in the Day,**

deceased, late of Cass county, Minnesota, having been licensed by an order of the Probate Court of the county of Morrison, made in said matter on the 24th day of May, 1869, at 1 o'clock P. M., to sell the personal estate of said deceased, hereinafter mentioned, at public auction, do hereby give notice that I will expose at public vendue, at the door of Tanner, Briggs & Co.'s store in the town of Little Falls, Morrison county, on the 24th day of May, 1869, all the following described property, to wit:

**1 box Stove, 1 Parlor Stove, 1 pair Bob Sleighs, 1 Grind Stone, a lot of Stove Pipe, 1 Buggy, 1 Horse, 4 Colts, 1 ox Yoke, one two-seated Cutter, one one-horse Cutter one Lumber Wagon, a lot old Harness, 2 Strings Bells,**

**1 tent, 1 single harness, Seythes, Snaths, hay forks, and other articles too numerous to mention.**

**Sale to commence at 1 o'clock, May 24th, 1869, and continue until said property is sold. Terms, Cash on delivery.**

**EZRA BRIGGS,**  
Administrator.

Little Falls, Minn., April 27, '69.

SENTINEL PRINT, St. Paul, Minn.

When Chief Hole-in-the-Day II died, his possessions were sold. This is the sale bill from his estate sale. Look at the number of items the chief owned. Do you own more or less things than the chief? How are his possessions different than yours?

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



Promissory note signed by Kwi-wi-sens. Kwi-wi-sens could not write in the English language. A witness, whose signature appears, wrote the note for Kwi-wi-sens and had the chief mark his signature with an "X." White settlers knew Kwi-wi-sens as Chief Hole-in-the-Day II and the witness wrote this as his name.

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



## ✓ Check It Out

The Minnesota Military Museum is located at Camp Ripley. This museum contains exhibits about military history in Minnesota, from Old Fort Ripley to the present day.

## Fort Ripley

The American Government decided to move a neutral tribe of Indians into the contested area between the Ojibway and Dacotah. They wanted to do this for two reasons. First, the government wanted more land in Iowa and, second, they were still seeing skirmishes between the Ojibway and Dacotah. In 1847, Henry M. Rice and General Isaac VerPlank wrote the Winnebago Treaty, which spelled out the boundaries of the land to be occupied by the Winnebago Indians. The land was on the western side of the Mississippi River between the Crow Wing River to the north and the Watab River to the south. The Long Prairie River was the western boundary of the territory. The Winnebago were moved from a reservation in Iowa, after they had originally lived in Wisconsin. They were not happy about the move. Rumors of disease among the Dacotah Indians led them to fears about becoming ill with whooping cough and cholera, both of which could be deadly. They also didn't appreciate being human shields between two warring tribes.

To keep the Winnebago safe, the government decided that a fort needed to be established in the area. Thus, in 1848, the building of Fort Marcy began. A partnership of men, including Henry M. Rice, Captain Napoleon Jackson Tecumseh Dana, John Blair Smith Todd, John R. Irvine, Allan Morrison, and James Green, erected a portable sawmill on the east side of the river at the "little falls" in order to process the lumber needed for the fort. This was the first sawmill operating in the

region. A dam was also needed to harness the water power from the river. The joint venture was named the Little Falls Mill and Land Company.

How did these particular men come together to form their partnership? Henry Rice was a powerful businessman and kept occupied with several ventures. One was conducting trade along the Red River Ox Cart Trail. Both goods and people rode in oxen-pulled wagons on this trail, which ran north from St. Paul to Canada. Dana and Todd were the military officials sent to take charge of erecting the fort. John Irvine was a businessman like Rice, and both men owned land in St. Paul. Irvine was also a blacksmith and plasterer, skills which would be handy in constructing the fort. Allan Morrison was a well-known fur trader in what is now central Minnesota. (Minnesota was not yet a state in 1848.) James Green served as the mill and dam operator. Henry Rice may have met Green in Canada at the Selkirk Colony through his trade on the ox cart route.

By 1849, the fort was finished and renamed Fort Gaines. It was named for Brigadier General Edmund P. Gaines. Captain J. B. S. Todd served as the first commander of the new fort. Todd headed Company A of the 6th Infantry, which was sent from Fort Snelling in St. Paul to occupy the post. On November 4, 1850, the fort's name was once again changed, this time to Fort Ripley, in honor of General Eleazer W. Ripley, who was an officer during the War of 1812. The name was

## 🔍 Look It Up

rumors	shield
process	harness
occupied	ventures
presence	subsequent
dissatisfaction	spurred
stationed	distinctive



changed because another new fort elsewhere in the country was named after General Gaines.

Fort Ripley served its protective function in a variety of ways. The mere presence of troops at the fort kept the region peaceful for the first eight years in the life of the post. In 1857, one year before Minnesota became a state, the Winnebago were moved to a new reservation and the troops were removed from the fort. With the soldiers gone, trouble broke out. Three Ojibway men killed a peddler and were held at Fort Ripley until the Morrison County Sheriff could collect them. The subsequent lynching of the three Ojibway men by white settlers upset the local tribes. Troops were ordered back to Fort Ripley.

The fort played a central role in 1862, when Chief Hole-in-the-Day II (Kwi-wi-sens) threatened an attack on the white settlers, which coincided with the Dacotah Conflict that occurred the same year in south-central Minnesota. The Dacotah Conflict was led by Chief Little Crow. Both chiefs realized that most of the able-bodied men from the state were sent to fight in the Civil War. They both were having trouble with getting their annuities and provisions from the Indian Agents. The dissatisfaction they felt at the way they were being treated spurred the men and their followers to violence against settlers. Some historians believe that Chief Hole-in-the-Day II and Chief Little Crow made their plans together, with the intent to drive all whites from

Minnesota. Whether this is true or not, the settlers were afraid.

Captain Francis Hall was in charge of Fort Ripley and the thirty men stationed there at the time. He was directed by Indian Agent Lucius Walker to arrest Chief Hole-in-the-Day. The chief escaped and the settlers of the area were urged to come to the fort for protection. After several negotiations between the Ojibway, Ashley C. Morrill (the newly appointed Indian Agent), Minnesota Governor Ramsey, and William P. Dole, Commissioner of Indian Affairs from Washington, D. C., Kwi-wi-sens abandoned his plans.

For the next fifteen years, activity at the fort was quiet. Fort Ripley closed on July 11, 1877. A prairie fire destroyed several buildings at the fort in 1879. By July 2, 1880, the land occupied by the fort was sold to settlers.

In 1929, General E. A. Walsh selected land near Old Fort Ripley for a new National Guard training camp. Initial construction of the camp was completed in November, 1930, with troops stationed there in June



*Field tents at Camp Ripley, MN. The soldiers slept in these tents when they were out in the field. How much fun do you think that would be?*

*Main entrance gate at Camp Ripley. This is the gate that was built out of granite during the W. P. A. Because of the height of the structure, mortar was used to hold the granite together. The other granite walls around Camp Ripley do not have mortar. They are just stacked granite. Pieces of granite do fall off the walls and have to be put back in place.*







*Water towers at Camp Ripley. They are painted red and white.*

of 1931. The post was named Camp Ripley, in honor of the Old Fort Ripley, and covered 2,000 acres. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was set to work building the distinctive granite gate and walls at the Camp Ripley entrance in 1934. This was during the Depression in the United States and the CCC was developed as one way to put people to work. Over the years, Camp Ripley acquired more land and eventually, the site of Old Fort Ripley became a part of the new camp. As of the year 2000, Camp Ripley covered 52,928 acres stretching 18 miles long by 7 miles wide.

As well as continuing its tradition of military training, Camp Ripley serves as a leader in environmental research and education. Extensive inventories of plants and animals have been taken. Research has uncovered 565 different plants, 126 birds, 51 mammals, 23 reptiles and amphibians, 156 aquatic species, and 65 types of butterflies at the camp. Wolves, deer, bears, and bald eagles are extensively tracked. The Blanding's turtle is of special interest because it is classified as a threatened species in the state.

## Missionaries

Missionaries were religious emissaries sent by their churches into what they considered to be wilderness to live among the native peoples. Their goals were to educate the natives in European ways and to convert them to Christianity. The native peoples did not always take to these ideas. They already had their own religions and cultural ideals. Some, however, willingly adopted the teachings and preachings of the missionaries.

Several missions were started in this region before Little Falls became a city. One of them, started in 1838 at the request of Chief Hole-in-the-Day I, was situated at the Little Elk Heritage Preserve site, just north of what is now Little Falls. Reverend Samuel Spates and Allen Huddleston were the Methodist missionaries sent to build and lead the mission. They were joined by two Ojibway men who had converted to Christianity. They were George Copway and John Johnson. Johnson's Ojibway name was Enmegabo. In 1840, Allen Huddleston died and was buried at the mission. His grave is unmarked and has not been located. The mission was closed in 1841 when the Dacotah and Ojibway experienced further conflict.



In 1849, Reverend Frederick and Elizabeth (Taylor) Ayer were sent by the American Board of Commissioners



of Foreign Missions to build a mission and school at Belle Prairie, Minnesota. Their intent was to educate Ojibway children. Both Frederick and Elizabeth had been missionaries for many years at this point in their careers. Frederick began his missionary work at La Pointe, Lake Superior at the request of fur trader, Lyman Warren. Lyman was the father of William Warren. (See Snapshot!, page 5) Lyman wanted someone to teach the mixed-blood children of the fur traders. Frederick taught at this school in 1831 and 1832. He was then asked by fur trader, William Aitken, to start a school at Sandy Lake for the children of the voyageurs. By 1833, Frederick had written an Ojibway spelling book, which he had published in New York. The same year, he married Elizabeth Taylor, who was a teacher and missionary in her own right. She had been teaching at Mackinac for a number of years before her marriage.

After their marriage, the Ayers started a mission and school at Yellow Lake in Wisconsin. From there, in 1836, they moved on to Lake Pokegama, which is in Pine County, Minnesota. In 1841, the same year the Little Elk mission closed, the fighting between the Ojibway and Dacotah caused great fear at the Pokegama mission and many families left the area. The Ayers moved on to Red Lake in 1842 after a trip to Oberlin, Ohio, where Frederick was ordained to be a minister. After a number of years at Red Lake, the Ayer family came to Belle Prairie. They

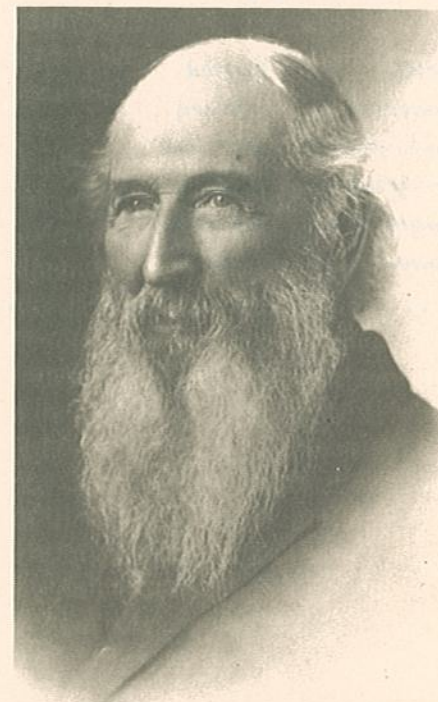
started their mission and school in 1849 and taught both Ojibway and white children. Frederick also broke ground and farmed the land. Because the Red River Ox Cart Trail ran near the mission, he borrowed oxen from Henry M. Rice in order to do this. Some of Ayer's produce was purchased by the soldiers at Fort Ripley for their consumption.

While at Belle Prairie, the Ayers encouraged some of their relatives from New England to come live in this region. A number of them did, one of whom was a nephew of Elizabeth. His name was Samuel T. Hamilton.

The Ayer's Belle Prairie mission closed in 1855 when the Winnebagoes were removed from their reservation on the west side of the Mississippi River. The following year, the first Morrison County school district was formed and the mission site building was used for the first classes.



Father Francis Pierz, a Catholic priest from Austria, came to what is now Minnesota in 1852. He was a whirlwind priest who moved through central Minnesota starting several missions and leaving other priests to run them. In 1853, he started missions at Belle Prairie and Swan River in Morrison County. The town of Sobieski in Swan River township was Pierz' mission site. The same year, he also started a mission in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. In 1854, he founded the St. Cloud and St. Joseph parishes. At the request of Father Pierz, the St. Joseph mission was operated by Benedictine monks and later became St. John's Abbey. In 1855, the parish of St. Augusta was begun



*Lyman Ayer, son of Elizabeth and Frederick Ayer. He was a timber cruiser and teacher in Morrison County. He also was the first to see the fire at the Belle Prairie convent of Mother Mary Ignatius and went to get help.*



## Look It Up

ideals	situated
converted	ordained
consumption	whirlwind
immigrants	resident
congregation	venerated
convent	recruit

## Check It Out

Belle Prairie Township, north of Little Falls, has several historic sites to see. In Belle Prairie Park, you can visit the Hamilton-Farrand Cemetery. The Hamiltons and Farrands were relatives of Frederick and Elizabeth Ayer. The park also has old ox-cart tracks that Henry Rice would have followed. Just south of the park, near the Belle Prairie church, a replica of Mother Mary Ignatius of Jesus' log cabin sits.

by Father Pierz. With all of these new Catholic parishes, Father Pierz thought the region could use more Catholic immigrants, so he wrote articles for newspapers back home in Europe, urging people to come settle in this new land. Many people accepted his invitation.

In 1859, Father Pierz started a new mission at Leech Lake. By 1862, Father Pierz was quite influential among both the whites and the Ojibway. This was the year of Chief Hole-in-the-Day's threatened uprising and Father Pierz helped to talk the chief out of attacking the whites. After this period, Father Pierz went back to Europe to get more priests to run his many missions. At this time Father Joseph Buh (pronounced Boo) joined him and settled in the area near Crow Wing in 1864. Buh Township in Morrison County was named for this priest.

By the time Father Pierz was 86 years old, his health was failing. This prevented him from starting more missions, so he moved to Rich Prairie and became the resident pastor for the congregation there. Rich Prairie later became the town of Pierz, named in honor of Father Pierz. The township of Pierz also took its name from this venerated priest. In 1873, Father Pierz moved back to his homeland of Austria. He died in 1880 at the age of 95.



One other missionary, whose influence is still felt today in Little Falls, is Mother Mary Ignatius of Jesus. She was born in England as Elizabeth Hayes in 1821. She trained to be a nun and eventually joined the order of the Franciscans. She was sent to Belle Prairie, Minnesota as a missionary

in 1872. She bought land in Belle Prairie from Father Buh near the Ayer mission site and construction started on a convent and a boarding school for girls. During construction, Mother Mary Ignatius lived in a log cabin at the site. She also worked to recruit local young women to the Sisterhood. They established the Institute of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. By 1873, St. Anthony's Academy was completed and the first students and Sisters moved in.

Disaster struck on April 25, 1889, while Mother Mary Ignatius was away in Rome, Italy. The convent and school burned to the ground. After this event, some of the Sisters erected a Mother House in Little Falls and founded the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. The Franciscan Sisters have been involved with a number of community endeavors from their beginnings in 1891. They include a hospital, an orphanage, a nursing home, a girls' high school, a music center, a food shelf, and recreational facilities, along with caring for and supporting the Sisters of the order.

The Belle Prairie mission site was not to be forgotten. In 1911, a new building was constructed. It was called Our Lady of the Angels Convent and Academy. This school closed in 1969.



## Chapter 2

# Rocky Start

## The beginnings of Little Falls

**R**ock is very hard and solid. Or is it? Rock can also mean to move, to be unstable, such as when an earthquake rocks foundations of buildings, or something rocks. Rock, today, is often associated with music that "moves". Both definitions can be used to describe Little Falls' beginnings.

Little Falls, it could be said, is built on a rock. Explorers who traveled the Mississippi River mention the large rock at the place of the falls. It is more than a rock. It is an outcropping of rock that defined the channel of the river and the falls. Some of this same type of rock can be found below ground beyond the river. Much of this rock is slate, which is a fine-grained metamorphic rock that splits into thin, smooth-surfaced layers. It can be seen below the dam when the water is low. This mass of rock is the reason Little Falls began.

The early years of Little Falls were not always solid, or stable. Business failures, dams bursting, wars, grasshopper invasions and many other things caused ups and downs for Little Falls. In *Rocky Start* you will learn of some of the things that happened to change Little Falls from year to year.

You might want to ask, "What does *rock* really mean?"



## Snapshot!

### Grasshoppers!

Following is an account by Nathan Richardson, the first mayor of Little Falls, about the grasshopper scourge of 1856 and 1857:

"In the summer of 1856, about the latter part of July, the grasshoppers came down upon us from the direction of a little north of west. The country was covered with them to a great extent.

Grain was getting ripe when they came, yet only about one third of the crop was saved. That year they deposited their eggs, and the following spring an abundant crop of grasshoppers was raised, but very little of anything besides. As soon as they were large enough to move about, they were continually hopping and flying in a southeasterly direction, and by about the first of July, they were all gone.

While there was enough of them to destroy the crops, they were by no means as thick as they were reported to be in some parts of the state. . . . The people, however, survived the grasshopper raid with but little suffering in this county, as there was a great amount of teaming to be done, and other work in abundance to be had at good figures."

## First Dam & Sawmill

Near the dam is a small park named "James Green Park". It was named in honor of the man who built the first dam and sawmill at the falls. There were other men involved but it was Green who was in charge of building the dam.

The Little Falls Mill and Land Company was formed in 1849 to build a dam and a sawmill to supply lumber for buildings at Fort Ripley. Settlers were beginning to move into the territory and there would be other markets for lumber. James Green got half interest in the Little Falls Mill and Land Company for building the dam. The other partners in the company were, Allan Morrison, a fur trader; Henry M. Rice, fur trader and politician; John Irvine, tradesman; John Blair Smith Todd and Napoleon Jackson Tecumseh Dana, officers who were responsible for building Fort Ripley (then called Ft. Gaines).

James Green brought his family here in 1848. They were the first permanent settlers at Little Falls. James, his wife Isabella, and their young children Henry E.; James, Jr., and Isabella moved here where their only neighbors were the American Indians. The other partners in the Little Falls Mill and Land Company did not live here. The children were ages 9, 4 and 1. They had come from the Selkirk Colony which was by the Red River in Canada. James went on a business trip in 1850, after he had finished building the dam. While he was on the trip he became ill and died of cholera. It is not clear whether his family stayed here after his death or moved away.

## Little Falls Manufacturing Company

The second dam was built by the Little Falls Company (later, Little Falls Manufacturing Company) William Sturgis had purchased the old dam. James Fergus wanted to start a new town and decided that he liked the beauty and the possibilities at Little Falls. Calvin Tuttle had built a dam before at St. Anthony and he thought Little Falls could become an important city. Fergus, Tuttle and Sturgis became partners in the Little Falls Manufacturing Company. As stated in the book *The Gold Rush Widows of Little Falls*, the purpose of the company was "making lumber, grinding grain, farming, cutting logs, making a town, selling goods and doing any other thing or things conducive to the benefits of said company".

The Little Falls Manufacturing Company built a larger dam, sawmill, large two-and-a-half story cabinet shop and a bridge. They owned about two thousand acres of property. They hired S. M. Putnam to survey a portion of the land and divide it into lots. Current maps of Little Falls have a section labeled "Original Plat". That is the part of Little Falls that was developed by the Little Falls Manufacturing Company. The owners sold stock in the company and also



began to sell lots to people who wanted to start businesses or come to this new town to live. Mr. Fletcher started a flour mill near the dam. William Butler and O. A. Churchill built a store on the northeast corner of Broadway and First Street. Soon came newspaper publishers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, bankers and merchants selling all kinds of wares. The town seemed just what Fergus, Tuttle and Sturgis had hoped. But they hadn't counted on the events that would happen.

The dam, which had not been constructed as well as it should have, washed out in a flood. The company rebuilt it, but it washed out again. Farmers didn't have money to spend because the grasshoppers had eaten their crops. There was a general depression in the country, so lots in the new town didn't sell very well. The Little Falls Manufacturing Company was going broke.

In order to try to save the company, James Fergus and some of the other men decided to go west and find gold. Not many found gold and the Little Falls Manufacturing Company went out of business. Once again, Little Falls was having a rocky time.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Stock certificate of the Little Falls Manufacturing Company. It was issued in 1859 to Nathan Herrick of Minneapolis for five shares of stock. The total capital in the business at that time was \$100,000.*



## Snapshot!

### Lynching

In 1857, three Indians killed a German peddler near Gull Lake. The Indians were arrested and were to be taken to St. Paul to be tried for their crime. Morrison County Sheriff, Jonathan Pugh, shackled the men and they started on their journey. When they were about 20 miles south of Little Falls (near Royalton), a group of local men, led by Anson Northrup and Benjamin Brown, took the prisoners from the sheriff and brought them north to Swan River. The Indians admitted to killing the peddler, where, upon hearing this confession, the local men took the three to the south edge of the Little Falls Prairie and hung them from a pole stretched between two trees. These trees were located where the Little Falls Golf Course is today. According to Nathan Richardson's History of Morrison County, "They were left hanging until the next day at about 10 o'clock, when a crowd of people assembled and took them down. A grave was dug near the roots of the trees on which they were hanged and all three were put in the same hole." The wife of one of the Indians was present for the burial and laid a blanket over the men before they were covered with earth. Many years later, the grave was opened up and the remains of the men were removed to an historical organization. No one knows what happened to the remains after that.

## Gold Rush Widows

By 1857, Little Falls Manufacturing Company was faltering. Its founders, James Fergus, William Sturgis, and Calvin Tuttle, disagreed about its operation. Sturgis and Tuttle left the company. Fergus was left to salvage the dying enterprise. By 1860, he lost hope of keeping the company going. The town of Little Falls was in danger of dying along with Fergus' business.

And, then came the Colorado Gold Rush. James Fergus formed a new partnership called Pikes Peak Company of Little Falls. With this venture, he thought he could go out to Colorado, dig up some gold, and then head back to Little Falls to shore up his business affairs. Because it was a dangerous trip, the men of the company and the other Little Falls' men who followed, left their wives and children behind. It was up to the women of Little Falls to keep the town alive.

Before James left on March 29, 1860, he gave his wife, Pamela, a list of instructions on how to handle any business matters that arose. Pamela had not been involved with her husband's business, so she was reluctant to stand in for him. But, she had no choice. She and the other women of Little Falls banded together to help each other while their husbands were out west. They called themselves "widows" because they were without their husbands for so long.

Pamela and James were one of the few couples who regularly wrote to each other while they were apart. Pamela exchanged

news about Little Falls and the "widows" and James reported the activities of the men who were with him. Mail delivery was unreliable between Little Falls and Colorado. Pamela sometimes waited months for a letter from her husband. She could not rely on him for advice on pressing business affairs, so she learned to make decisions for herself.

Life in Little Falls was difficult for the widows and their children. Many of them were without the money or resources they needed to survive. Pamela sold butter and milk for extra money. She cultivated a garden for vegetables and had cows and pigs for meat. Even though she proved to be good at managing her home and James' business, she was in constant fear of losing their land for not being able to pay the taxes on it. She also fell ill periodically. Without a doctor in town, she and the other women had to come up with their own medical treatments.

James Fergus returned from the Colorado gold fields in November of 1861. He was pleased to see how well she had fared while he was away. He had not gotten rich in Colorado, but he still was attracted to gold. In 1862, he joined an expedition headed west in search of the valuable metal. He ended up in Montana. Once again, Pamela was left in Little Falls.

William Sturgis, who had stayed behind during Fergus' first trip out west, decided to follow him to Montana. He left his 28-year-old wife, Rosanna, in charge of his sawmill at



Little Elk. She was quite successful at operating the mill and finally sold it to join William in Montana in 1867.

Pamelia had already left Little Falls on February 22, 1864 to be with James. She and James spent the rest of their lives in Montana. The independence Pamela learned while being a widow enabled her to operate a stage station with her husband. Most of the other widows eventually left the Little Falls area. Some went to join their husbands. Some were abandoned by them. All felt that Little Falls was on its way to extinction.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*The Jodon House. Photo by Barb Abrahamson.*

## The Little Falls War

Did you know that Little Falls had its very own war? In 1857, a gang of lawless men started stealing from people in town. Robberies occurred for the better part of a year, with the thieves taking goods off wagons, breaking into businesses, and making plans to rob the Indian agent. Their attempt to rob the Indian agent failed. One of the men was so upset with this turn of events that he headed into town, where he shot his gun into a crowded hotel.

As time went on, the gang of ruffians grew larger and more dangerous. Even the Sheriff, Jonathan Pugh, joined the gang. The Justice of the Peace, R. L. Barnum, tried to uphold the law and punished any of the criminals that were caught. This didn't sit well with the rowdies and they went to his home one night, dragged him out and beat him terribly. On the same night, another man was rumored to have been killed, and the citizens of Little Falls were asked to bring out their guns to stop the gang. One of the dozen men who came ready for action was Dr. Zachariah Jodon. He spotted one of the ruffians in the ravine near his house and shot him.

By October 1858, the citizens of Little Falls were fed up. They declared war on the gang and formed a vigilance committee to guard the town and capture the gang. Knowing the town was ready to turn on them, gang members hid at various locations outside of town. After several weeks of fleeing the vigilance committee, the gang agreed to settle its business matters in town and leave the area. This was the end of the Little Falls War.

### Look It Up

faltering	salvage
enterprise	reluctant
widow	unreliable
pressing	fared
independence	extinction
livery	confectionary
nationality	

### Check It Out

Dr. Zachariah Jodon's house is located at 213 Northeast 2nd Street in Little Falls. It is one of the oldest houses still standing in Little Falls and has been restored by one of its owners, Barb Abrahamson. The ravine where Dr. Jodon shot one of the gang members during the Little Falls War runs behind the business building that is across the street.



## Immigration

Even though the Little Falls Manufacturing Company was out of business and many people had left Little Falls, there were some dedicated citizens who stayed and kept the town alive. Little Falls was also supported by people who were starting farms in the country nearby. Suddenly, there was a new wave of immigration to the United States. By the 1880's, thousands of people from all over Europe were arriving, as well as people from Canada.

A group of very wealthy people from Louisville, Kentucky decided they wanted to build a new dam in Little Falls. A new dam would provide power for industries and the town would grow. And grow it did. When people who had immigrated to America heard they could get jobs here, they began to move to Little Falls and the rest of Morrison County. The Pine Tree Lumber Company, Hennepin Paper Company, Northwest Milling Company, Tanner Mill, and many smaller industries provided jobs for the new immigrants. Then came the need for more businesses. Grocery stores, hotels, livery stables, hardware stores, clothing stores and confectionaries were just a few of the new businesses. Little Falls was a very busy town.

The immigrants built churches and most lived close to the church of their own nationality. Of the Catholic churches, St. Adelberts was Polish, St. Francis Xavier was French and Sacred Heart was German. The Lutherans had Swedish, Norwegian and German Churches. There was a Swedish Baptist and a Swedish Mission Covenant

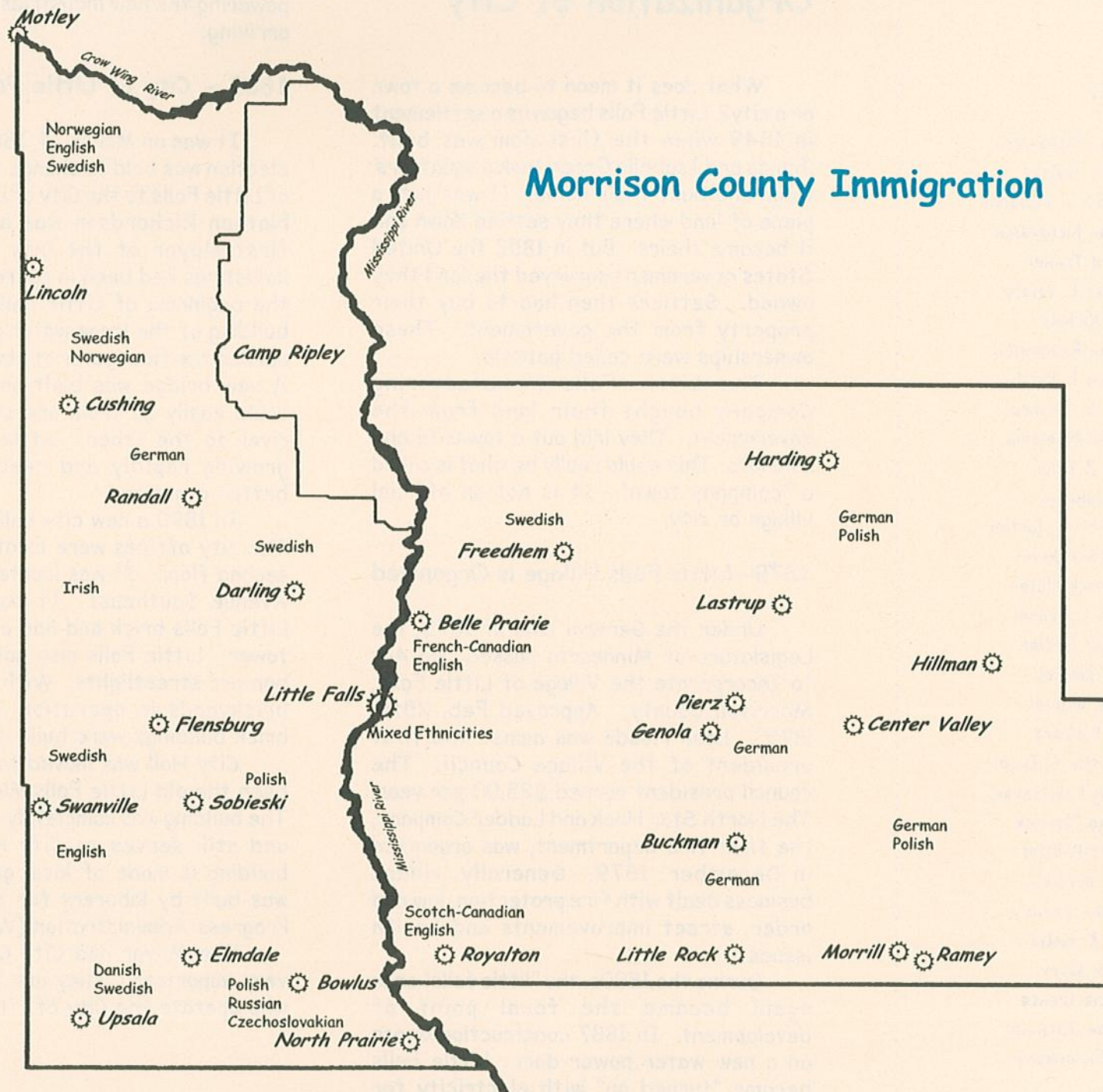
Church. Throughout Morrison County there were smaller settlements of different nationalities. There were people from Ireland, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, and Scotland. The map of Morrison County Immigration shows the general areas where these people settled.

Little Falls had an area called "Frog Town" in the northeast part of town. This is where many of the French-Canadian people lived. Some people think the area got its name because it was swampy and there were lots of frogs. It was really because in those days people who were French were sometimes called Frogs. Today it is not acceptable to call people of different cultures by nicknames.

All of these different cultures brought many good things to central Minnesota. People learned to like different types of food. Artists and craftspersons brought their different skills. American Indians and Europeans learned from each other. America has been called a melting pot where people of all cultures came together. Maybe Morrison County could also be called a melting pot because of all the different nationalities who came here to live.

The biggest immigration from Europe and Canada was from 1880 to 1920. After that fewer people came to America. In recent years, however, a new wave of immigration has begun. Many changes will come about and people will once again be learning each others' language and culture.







## Snapshot!

### Mayors of Little Falls

1890-1894	Nathan Richardson
1894	Isaac E. Staples
1895	Andrew D. Davidson
1896	Nathan Richardson
1897	Alfred Tanner
1898-1900	Charles E. Vasaly
1900	J. A. Nichols
1901	Nathan Richardson
1902-1906	Charles E. Vasaly
1906-1907	Dr. N. W. Chance
1907-1912	George Moeglein
1912	Simon P. Brick
1913	F. C. Johnson
1914-1916	Dr. G. M. A. Fortier
1917-1926	N. N. Bergheim
1926	Frederick Miller
1927-1928	Austin L. Grimes
1928-1930	Charles Fortier
1930-1934	Frank Kiewel
1934-1936	Earl V. Wetzel
1936-1940	Louis Boisvert
1940-1944	Dr. Austin G. Engel
1944-1945	Hilding E. Hultkrans
1945-1950	George Merrick
1950-1954	Robert Phillips
1954-1955	Frank Hartman
1956-1957	Dr. John Devney
1958-1978	Dr. J. K. Flolid
1978-1982	Joseph Saver
1982-1990	Patricia Spence
1991	Herman Johannes
1992-Present	Ron Hinnenkamp

## Organization of City

What does it mean to become a town or a city? Little Falls began as a settlement in 1849 when the first dam was built. James and Isabella Green took a squatters' claim and built their home. It was just a piece of land where they settled down and it became theirs. But in 1852 the United States government surveyed the land they owned. Settlers then had to buy their property from the government. These ownerships were called patents.

The Little Falls Manufacturing Company bought their land from the government. They laid out a townsite and sold lots. This would really be what is called a "company town". It is not an official village or city.

### 1879—Little Falls Village is Organized

Under the General laws of 1875, the Legislature of Minnesota passed "An Act to Incorporate the Village of Little Falls, Morrison County. Approved Feb. 25th, 1879". Leon Houde was named the first president of the Village Council. The council president earned \$25.00 per year. The North Star Hook and Ladder Company, the first fire department, was organized in December, 1879. Generally, village business dealt with fire protection, law and order, street improvements and health issues.

During the 1880s, the "little falls" once again became the focal point of development. In 1887 construction began on a new water power dam. Little Falls became "turned on" with electricity for

powering the new industries that were arriving.

### 1889 - City of Little Falls

It was on March 14, 1889 that an election was held to change the Village of Little Falls to the City of Little Falls. Nathan Richardson was named the first Mayor of the City. Smaller industries had been in operation since the beginning of Little Falls, but the building of the large water power dam opened the floodgates of new industry. A new bridge was built and citizens could easily go from one side of the river to the other. Little Falls was growing rapidly and needed to be better organized.

In 1890 a new city hall was built. The city offices were located on the second floor. It was located on First Avenue Southeast. It was built of Little Falls brick and had a large bell tower. Little Falls also got new carbon-arc streetlights. With the three brickyards in operation, many new brick buildings were built downtown.

City Hall was moved to what had been the old Little Falls Water Plant. The building was completely remodeled and still serves as City Hall. The building is made of local granite and was built by laborers for the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The Mayor and City Council are very important. They are the people who operate the City of Little Falls.



## Nathan Richardson

"Uncle Nate". That's what people who met him on the street called him. What kind of person would you call "uncle"? After you read the story you can decide why you think he was called "Uncle Nate".

The Honorable Nathan Richardson was a very respected man. He was so well liked that he was elected to more public offices than any other person in Morrison County history. Nathan Richardson came here in 1855 to work for his cousin, Lewis Richardson, who managed a lumbering operation. However, after just three months, Nathan and Lewis decided to build a hotel. Nathan went to the woods near the mouth of the Little Elk River, where he camped in a log shanty, and began to cut timbers for the hotel. In just a few months the hotel was built. It was the first hotel in Little Falls, but the ambitious Nathan Richardson soon gave up the hotel business to pursue other interests.

Nathan Richardson became known as the "father of Morrison County" because he was a leader in the organization of the county. This area had been part of Benton County but it was decided a separate county should be formed. In April 1856, the first election was held and the new county was called Morrison. Richardson was elected Register of Deeds. He was also appointed Clerk of Court. If you go to the courthouse today and look in the

early books of deeds you will find beautiful handwriting done by Nathan Richardson.

Minnesota was still a territory and did not become a state until 1858, two years after Morrison became a county. After Minnesota became a state Nathan Richardson was elected to the first Minnesota Legislature.

He soon decided that Morrison County should be enlarged and that all of Little Falls should be in the same county. He was able to persuade the legislature to change part of Todd County into Morrison County. While in the legislature he was chairman of the committee on Indian affairs, committee of towns and counties, public lands and several special committees. He also got a bill passed to build the Little Falls and Dakota Railroad. It was later called the Morris Line and went west from Little Falls to the Dakotas.

While he was busy with official duties, "Uncle Nate" was also busy studying the law. In those days it was not mandatory to go to law school. If you wanted to become a lawyer, you could "read the law". In 1876 Nathan passed exams and was admitted to the bar, which means he became a lawyer. He also served as a judge and received the respectful title of Honorable Nathan Richardson.

Nathan Richardson

### Look It Up

shanty

ambitious

pursue

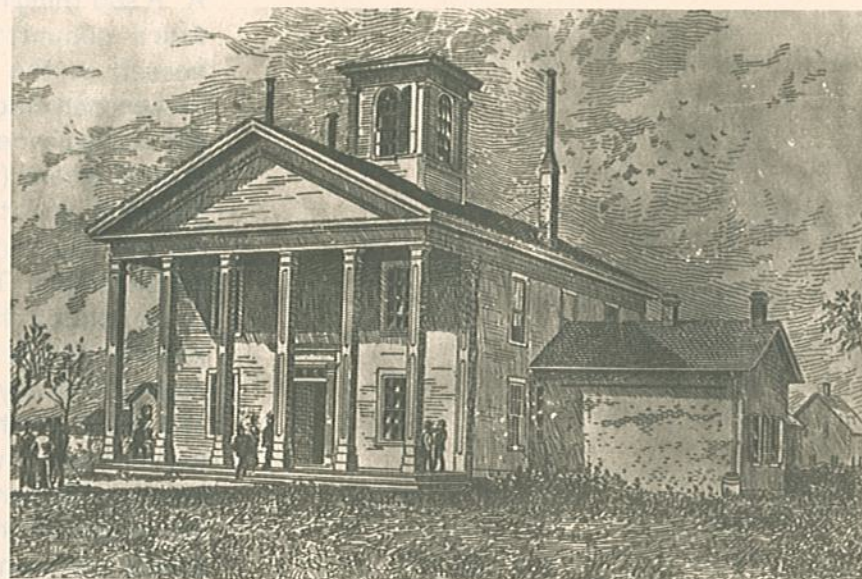
mandatory

opposed

extended

allegiance

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



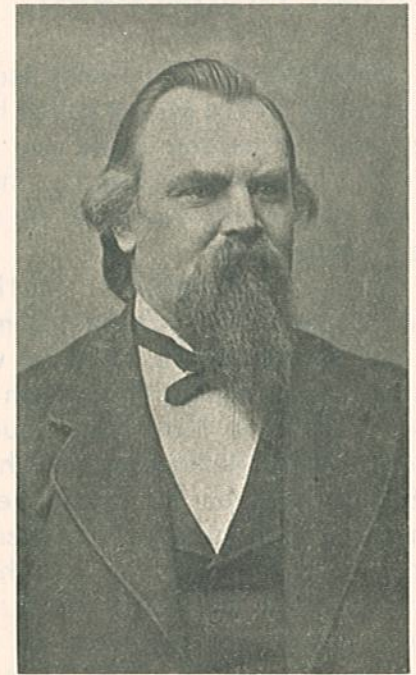
First Morrison County Courthouse. Illustration from *The Northwest Magazine*, December 1887.



was the first Mayor of Little Falls when it became a city in 1889. This was shortly after the building of the big new dam and Little Falls was about to become a boomtown. He served several terms as mayor and most of the time no one ran against him. Of course there were times when some people opposed him for public office and some nasty political articles were written about him. But he was usually re-elected and he served in various offices for over fifty years.

In 1876 Nathan Richardson wrote a history of Morrison County. It is filled with interesting stories about the early days of Morrison County. It is very important because it tells about things that we cannot learn anywhere else.

Nathan Richardson was married to Mary Roof. They had five children; Clara, Martin M., Raymond J., Francis A., and Mary A. A sad thing happened to the family when Clara committed suicide by drowning herself in the Mississippi River. Nathan Richardson died January 9, 1908 at age 79. His obituary reported that he had been a man of means (had money) when he was in business, and it was well known that during his life much of his money had been given to the needy. The obituary states, "There is no doubt that at various times he extended help to more people in Morrison county than any other man ever did. Among the older settlers of all classes he had warm friends who always gave him their hearty allegiance. Hundreds will deeply mourn his death as the loss of a personal friend and companion."



Morrison County Historical Society Collections

*Nathan Richardson, The Father of Morrison County and first mayor of Little Falls. Undated photo.*

### 💡Think It Over

If you could be elected to public office, which public office would you want to hold? Why?



## Chapter 3

# Rowing Along Industry in Little Falls

**H**ow beautiful the falls must have been! Imagine how the water splashed, rippled and sprayed as it rushed over a bank of rocks. But the businessmen who were looking for places to build towns saw something different. They saw how the falls could be used to power industry. A dam was built in 1849. It was the first of many ways that the Mississippi River played a part in the building of Little Falls. No-one has ever been able to see the natural waterfall since that time.

Four different dams have been built at the site of the falls throughout the years. Each dam has been bigger and provided more power. There have also been four different bridges over the Mississippi River at the same location as the present Highway 27 (Broadway) bridge.

Since the beginnings of Little Falls, people in the community have been hard-working. The businesses and industries they have built and owned helped to shape the town. The products created in these industries and businesses have made their way to places around the world.

This chapter will touch on some of the major industries present in the history of Little Falls. Some of these industries include timber, boat manufacturing, agriculture and transportation.



*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*

*Third dam and bridge in Little Falls.*



## Snapshot!

### Wanigans

Masses of logs were pulled down rivers by the current. Keeping the logs moving, and preventing log jams was the job of the log drivers, who were called "river pigs". A log drive might be a hundred or more miles long. While the "river pigs" worked the log drives they needed places to eat and sleep.

Floating behind the log drive were the wanigans. A wanigan might have bunks for the men to sleep in or it might be a kitchen where food was prepared. The wanigan would usually look like a shack floating down river on a barge. A cook and his helper, called the cookee, would make good meals for the men. The wanigan would pull up along the riverbank and the men would sit along the shores of the river, picnic style, for dining. Wanigans did not have engines and depended on the river current to float them downstream. If a wanigan was to return up-river, it would be pulled near the shore by horses walking along the riverbank.

## Timber Industry

### Hole in the Day

The first logs from this area were sold by Ojibway Chief Hole-in-the-Day II (Kwi-wi-sens). They were sold to Franklin Steele for fifty cents per tree.

### C. B. Buckman

The next person to have a big impact on the timber industry in Morrison County was Clarence B. Buckman who came to the area in 1872. Mr. Buckman was responsible for most of the logging on lands east of the Mississippi River in Morrison County. His logging camps were located in that area. Mr. Buckman also contracted with other people who owned timberlands to cut their timber and manage the log drives. Logs were floated down the small rivers into the larger Platte River, then into the Mississippi River near Royalton. From there the logs went to sawmills in Royalton and cities farther south.

### Little Falls Lumber Company

The Little Falls Lumber Company built a sawmill by the Mississippi River next to the railroad tracks on First Street Northeast in the early 1880's. Soon the third new dam was being built. It was going to be a much bigger dam and would have a sluiceway for logs. At the same time a company called Pine Tree Lumber Company was looking for a place for a new sawmill. Pine Tree Lumber Company chose Little

Falls for their sawmill because they could purchase the Little Falls Lumber Company and because the new dam would make a boom area which was needed for their planned sawmill. Pine Tree operated the Little Falls Lumber Company mill while they were building a big new mill on the west side of the river.

### Pine Tree Lumber Company

There was great excitement when the Pine Tree Lumber Company came to Little Falls in 1890. The owners were going to build a new and very modern sawmill, but they also had purchased 212,722 acres of timberland in northern Minnesota. This would mean they would need hundreds of workers, both in the woods and at the sawmill. Soon many people began to move to Little Falls for jobs. As more people moved to Little Falls there was a need for other businesses. Little Falls grew very rapidly during this time. We call it the *boom era*. Little Falls' population grew from 2,354 in 1890 to 4,669 in 1892. Today's population is 7,667.

### Weyerhaeuser and Musser

Charles A. Weyerhaeuser and Richard Drew Musser were young men, about 25 years of age, when they came to Little Falls. Their fathers, Frederick Weyerhaeuser and Peter Musser, along with some other lumbermen, owned the Pine Tree Lumber Company. Charles and Drew



were good friends, but they were also very different. Charles was tall and athletic. He liked working with the people and operating the sawmill. Drew was smaller, more quiet and liked managing the business, including the bookkeeping. For thirty years Charles and Drew worked together operating the biggest industry in Little Falls.

### Loggers in the Woods

The Barney Burton Clothing store was filled with heavy winter clothing to be purchased in the fall by the men going to the woods. Loggers would spend the entire winter in the woods and needed a good supply of warm clothing and boots. They lived in logging camps where there was a cook shack with a dining hall, barn for the horses, blacksmith shop, and a bunk house where they slept. There was also a place to buy small items, tobacco and snuff.

When they heard the call "daylight in the swamp" they knew it was time to get up and go to work in the woods. The lumberjacks were surrounded by tall white pine trees which they cut with large two-man hand saws or axes. When someone yelled "timber" the lumberjacks scattered and the tree came crashing to the ground. The branches were trimmed and the tree cut into log lengths. The logs were loaded on a sled and hauled to a nearby river where they were piled until spring.

### The Log Drive

As soon as the ice began to thaw, the logs were shoved into the rivers. It was the beginning of the log drive. Logs were floated down the small tributaries and into the Mississippi River to a sorting works just north of Little Falls. Here a crew of men sorted the logs according to their log marks. A large log boom was in the river from Belle Prairie to Little Falls and was used as a divider for sorting the logs. Logs going to the Pine Tree Lumber Company sawmill were floated on the west side of the boom. The logs on the east side of the boom were allowed to continue floating through the Little Falls dam and on their way to other sawmills.

### Look It Up

industry	impact
contracted	sluiceway
tributaries	log boom
trestle	planing
shingle	demand
highlighted	pulp
canal	

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Log jam in the Mississippi River near Little Falls. These logs are packed into the river from shore to shore and bottom to top. Compare the size of the man in the picture to the logs around him.*



## Pine Tree Lumber Company Sawmill

It must have been a noisy place with logs slamming together on the river, whining saws and men shouting orders. The Pine

Tree Lumber Company's mill was located on the west side of the Mississippi River between the Broadway bridge and the north railroad trestle. It is now the location of Larson Boats and LeBourget Park. In addition to the sawmill, there were planing sheds, a shingle mill and other buildings. Large saws inside the main mill building trimmed the bark off of the logs, then cut them into timbers and dimension lumber. The finished lumber was then hauled to

lumber piles to dry. The lumber piles stretched all the way to the bridge and were set up with alleys. The piles of lumber were as high as 28 feet. Barrels of water were placed near the lumber piles in case of fire.

### Use of the Lumber

Lumber was shipped from Little Falls by railroad to many parts of the country. Because so many immigrants were arriving in the United States, especially during the period from 1880 to 1920, there was a big demand for lumber. Cities were being built. Houses, business buildings, farm buildings

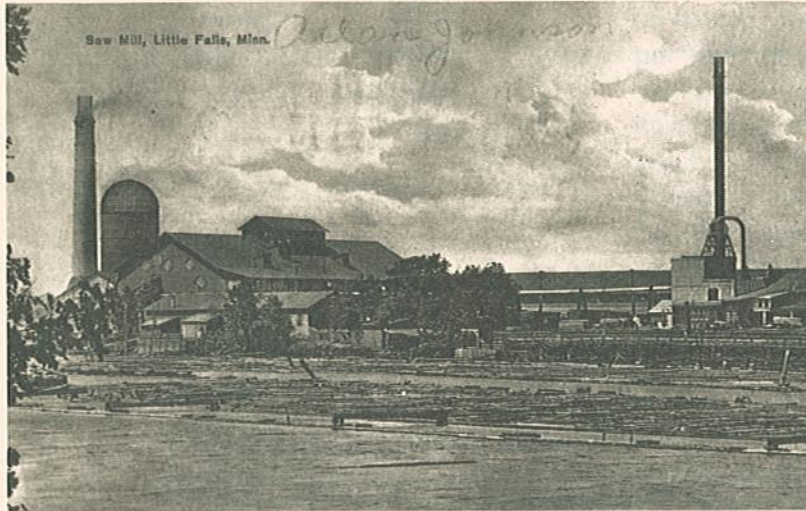
and factories were constructed. Also, Minnesota timber was used in the ship-building industry.

## Hennepin Paper Company

Have you ever torn the wrapping off of a Crayola crayon? Children around the world have enjoyed peeling back this bit of paper to reveal the waxy crayon underneath. They, and you, have touched a bit of Little Falls. These paper wrappings were once made at Hennepin Paper Company in Little Falls and the process was highlighted on the television show, Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. Hennepin Paper made other types of paper, too, including construction paper.

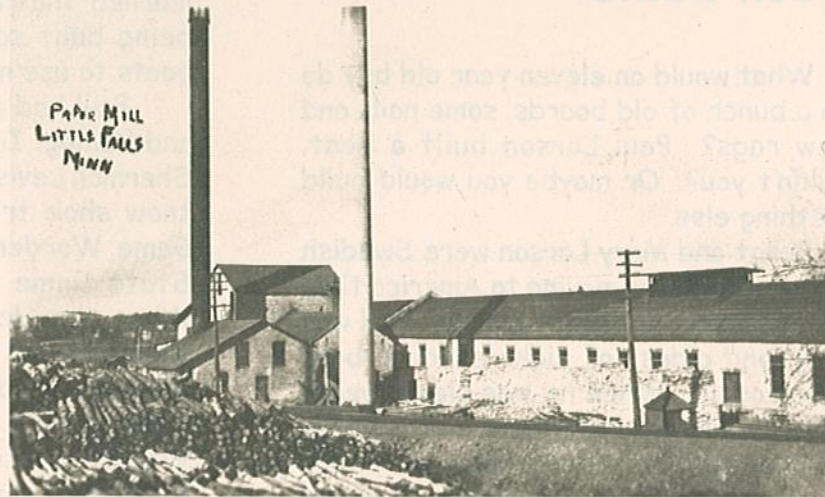
Hennepin was another company that located in Little Falls because of the river and the new dam. Logs for Hennepin Paper mill were also floated down the rivers, along with those bound for the sawmills. The paper mill needed a lot of water power and also water for processing wood into pulp and paper. The canal, which had been dug in 1888, was important for allowing a controlled flow of water through the mill. At first the mill only produced pulp, a product used for making paper. Later, a new building was constructed so the company could also make paper. Spruce and poplar were the preferred kinds of trees. Hennepin Paper Company operated in Little Falls for over 100 years, from 1890 to December 1998.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Pine Tree Lumber Company Sawmill.*





*Hennepin Paper Mill on the west side of the river in Little Falls. Date unknown.*



*Logging crew cutting logs. Undated. Check out the clothing on these loggers.*

## Snapshot!

### Log Stamps

Logging companies each had their own marks which were put on the logs. A stamp hammer with the company's mark was swung like an ax to make an impression in the end of the log. Each log mark was registered with the Surveyor General's office so no other company could use the mark. The stamp mark for the Pine Tree Lumber Company of Little Falls was the "bullseye". See below for a drawing of a log end with three bullseyes.

Other log marks, called "bark marks" were put on the sides of the logs. They were usually done with an ax and most used combinations of letters like "wyx".







*The image of Larson Boats changed through the years, as seen by some of its logos.*

## Larson Boats

What would an eleven year old boy do with a bunch of old boards, some nails and a few rags? Paul Larson built a boat. Wouldn't you? Or maybe you would build something else.

Bengt and Mary Larson were Swedish immigrants. After moving to America they lived in several different places. Paul was the second oldest of eight children born to the couple. When he was eleven years old the family lived on a farm one and one-half miles south of Little Falls. He found some old boards lying around the farm and rusty nails from where a house had burned. He got the idea to use the materials to build a boat. The tools he used were a hand saw, hatchet, hammer and an old style plane made of wood with a steel cutting blade.

This first Larson boat was ten feet long. Paul used two ten inch wide boards for the sides and six inch boards for the bottom. He smoothed the boards as well as he could with a simple plane. He used rags to tighten the seams so the boat would not leak. The oars were whittled out of two-by-fours that were six feet long. The oar locks were pegs put into the upper edge of the boat. There were several large ponds around the farm so Paul and his brothers had plenty of space to row around in the new boat.

Throughout his teenage years, Paul built duck boats and fishing boats. Most of them were sold to friends. When his family moved to a home on Ninth Street Northeast in Little Falls, Paul established his first business. He built boats in what

was a former chicken coop. Paul learned that motors for boats were being built so he soon designed his boats to use motors as well as oars.

Paul had a great love for hunting and fishing. In 1922 he and his friend, Sherman Levis, were invited to go on a snow shoe trip. There he met the Game Wardens from the Minnesota State Game and Fish Department. When they learned about his boats, they ordered six light weight boats. Paul designed a boat especially for them which he named the Game Warden Special. The Game Wardens liked the boats so well they ordered several more. Paul Larson began to see that his boat business was growing and he needed help and more space in which to build his boats. The chicken coop was much too small. He also began to purchase better machinery. Land was available where the Pine Tree Lumber Company East Side Mill used to be. A new boatworks, 24' x 40', was built on that site in the spring of 1925. People were buying lakeshore property, building summer cabins, and needed boats. Also, many resorts bought boats to rent to tourists.

Paul designed many different styles of boats, each having its own name. Some of the names were: RCD-14 Runabout, Pla-Boy, Mariner, Fisherman's Choice, Game Warden Special and Falls Flyer. Paul Larson became recognized throughout the boating industry as one of America's foremost boat designers. In 1941 he



applied for a patent to the United States Patent Office saying: "I have invented a new, original and ornamental Design for Boats" The new boat he designed was the Falls Flyer.

In 1949 a fire destroyed the Larson Boat Works. A night watchman died in the fire. Everything was lost, including all of the business records, drawings, and trophies which Paul had won in boat races.

### A New Start

In 1950 a larger and more modern boat plant was built at the same location and Larson Boats was back in business. A new material was also available for use in boat building--fiberglass. At first, Larson used fiberglass to coat the wooden boats. Soon fiberglass was used to make the whole boat. The fiberglass was sprayed into a mold. When it hardened, it made a boat much stronger and longer lasting than the wooden boats. Paul Larson became a leader in the manufacture of fiberglass pleasure boats.

In 1960 a new boat factory was built on the west side. That factory has expanded many times and in the year 2000 another new building was completed.

### Crestliner

World War II ended in 1945. Aluminum had been used for making airplanes for the war. Paul Larson thought it would be a good material to use for boats. He made a 14 foot aluminum boat and tested it on the Mississippi River. It worked well so he started another boat company called Larson Watercraft. Later the name was changed to Crestliner.

### Larson and Crestliner Move Ahead

Larson and Crestliner are now owned by Genmar Holdings, Inc. Over the years there have been several different owners and thousands of people have built Larson and Crestliner boats. Today, with the use of modern technology such as robots and virtual engineered composites (VEC™), boat building is Little Falls' major industry. Still, it is because Paul Larson, at age eleven, built that first small boat that Little Falls became known as "The Small Boat Capital of the World".



Paul Larson, 1964. Photo from a Larson Boats brochure advertising the "Million Bubble Ride".

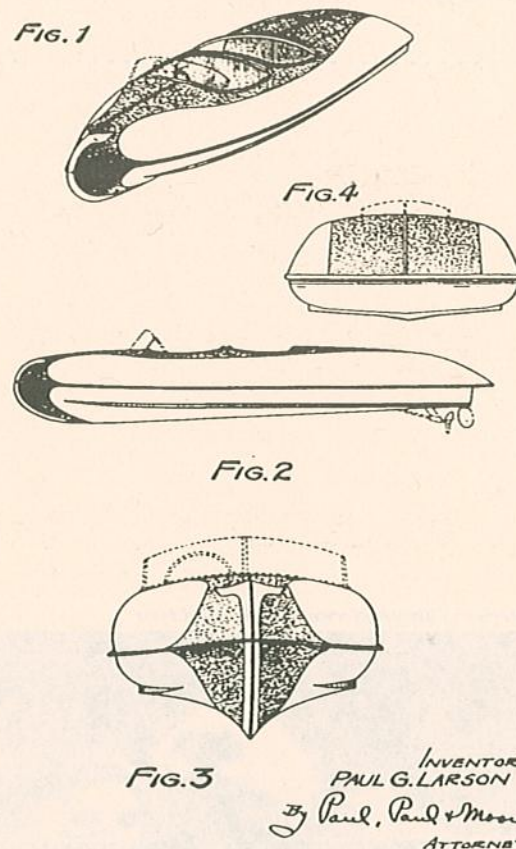
## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

126,588  
DESIGN FOR A BOAT  
Paul G. Larson, Little Falls, Minn.  
Application November 12, 1940, Serial No. 94,445  
Term of patent 14 years

April 15, 1941.

P. G. LARSON  
BOAT  
Filed Nov. 12, 1940

Des. 126,588



INVENTOR  
PAUL G. LARSON  
By Paul, Paul & Moore  
ATTORNEYS

Paul Larson's patent for the Falls Flyer boat. Patented April 15, 1941.



## Look It Up

approach	merchants
tiresome	implement
shod	weaned
produce	revolving
cylinders	cultivators
scythe	

## Agriculture

The rhythmic jingle-jangle of the harnesses and the steady clop-clop of the horses' hooves meant the approach of a wagon. Families, merchants, salesmen, farmers and many others would travel to Little Falls by horse-drawn wagons or buggies in the early days of Little Falls. The horses, with their wagons, would be tied to hitching posts along the streets while their owners were doing business in town. People who lived in the country didn't come to town often because it was a very long and tiresome trip. There were many things people needed to do when they came to Little Falls. Some people went to the Morrison County Courthouse where they would pay their taxes, buy wedding licenses, or register their property. Some farmers brought grain to town to be milled into flour or feed. Farmers' wives were often in charge of selling milk and butter, or exchanging them for groceries. They also came to buy things. On the way home the

wagon might be loaded with furniture, tools, groceries, feed, flour and some very tired people. Sometimes, if someone forgot to tie the horses to the hitching post, the horses would get tired of it all and go

home. Horses could always find their way home by themselves.

Little Falls was a very busy place, especially on Saturday, which was when most country people came to town. Muske Implement was a popular store where farmers could buy tools, farm implements and seeds. There were other implement dealers also. The Tanner family had a flour mill and a feed mill. Trettel Produce was a place where farmers sold eggs. There were several creameries in Little Falls where people could sell their cream to be made into butter. Dewey Produce bought potatoes and other produce from farmers. There were also blacksmith shops where implements could be made or horses could be shod. When farmers began to own cars and tractors, both farming and trips to town became easier. This section will show many ways that agriculture was important to Little Falls.

### World's Largest Little Pig Market

Early Saturday mornings, before sunrise, farmers would arrive in Little Falls with a load of small pigs to sell. At the same time, buyers arrived from places as far away as Iowa and South Dakota. That is how Little Falls came to be known as The World's Largest Little Pig Market.

The pig market began in the 1880's. Buying and selling took place in the area of 1st Avenue and Kidder Street. Sometimes as many as 6,000 little pigs were sold on a single

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Little pigs waiting to be sold at the Little Pig Market.*



Saturday. The baby pigs were born at farms in the Little Falls area. The farmers raised them until they were old enough to be weaned from the mother pig. Then the little pigs were sold to the buyers who farmed in places where they raised a lot of corn to feed the pigs. When the pigs were big and fat enough, they were sold to slaughter houses. The pig market in Little Falls was in operation for about a hundred years.

## Markets for Farm Goods

Farmers and city people alike had large gardens. Many also had fruit orchards. Fruit and vegetables were grown to sell on Market Street, which was on Kidder Street (at the other end from the Little Pig Market.) Every Saturday morning many languages could be heard as people were buying and selling on Market Street. Many of the people, who had come from Europe or Canada, could not yet speak English. This made trading more difficult. But Market Street was also a friendly place to meet people, especially those who spoke the same language. People still sell their produce on Saturdays in the summer in Little Falls, but the place is now called Farmers' Market.

Another place to sell farm products was at the produce companies. Dewey Produce and Trettel Produce were two such companies. They bought cream, chickens, eggs,

potatoes and other vegetables. The Gedney Company bought cucumbers. There were big tanks along railroads where cucumbers were stored until they were shipped. Cucumbers were prickly and not fun to pick, but the vines produced a lot of cucumbers so quite a bit of money could be earned.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Blacksmith shop at the Pine Tree Lumber Company Sawmill. Can you see all the horse shoes on the floor?*

## Snapshot!

### Blacksmiths

The blacksmith held a rod of iron in the hot coals of the forge until it was pliable. A spray of blue-white sparks flew from the anvil as the blacksmith pounded red hot iron. The blacksmith worked his magic, shaping the hot iron. Then it sizzled and steamed as the blacksmith plunged the finished hot iron piece into cool water so it would hold the shape he had just formed. Blacksmiths could make almost anything that could be made from iron; from kitchen tools and candlesticks to hand tools and wheels for wagons. Farmers often needed things made or repaired at the blacksmith's when they came to town. The Pine Tree Lumber Company had its own blacksmith shop. There were also carriage and wagon makers. The blacksmith shop was a fascinating place but when manufactured items became more available in stores most blacksmith shops went out of business.



## Creameries and Processing Plants

Anderson Processing began as the West Side Creamery. It was one of several creameries in Little Falls. There are very few creameries remaining today. In the early days of farming, cows were milked by hand, sitting on a stool beside the cow, milking into a pail. The pail was then emptied into a cream separator. This hand-cranked machine separated the cream from the milk. The cream was then taken to town and sold to the creamery. The farmer was paid according to how much butterfat was in the cream. The separated milk was kept on the farm for family use or to feed to baby calves and pigs.

Creameries had large revolving cylinders where the cream was rotated until it turned to butter. The buttermilk was then drained off and water put into the cylinder repeatedly until the butter was well rinsed. The fresh butter was removed from the churn and divided into cubes of one-pound each, then wrapped, ready for sale. Some butter was shipped to big cities like New York. Little Falls had the Beaver Creamery, West Side Creamery, and Land O' Lakes Creamery, to name a few.

The whole milk, not just the cream, is now picked up at farms by stainless-steel tank trucks. That is why they are called processing plants instead of creameries. These plants make many different products from milk. There are no longer any creameries in Little Falls. Only Anderson Processing remains.

## Implement Dealers/Hardware Stores

Muske Implement sold almost everything farmers needed. Corn and potato planters, hoes, forks, hand cultivators and all kinds of seeds could be bought for planting time. Scythes, pitchforks, rope and hay wagons would be needed for putting up hay. Harnesses for the horses and paint for the farm buildings could also be purchased. Little Falls had many implement dealers similar to Muske's. There were also hardware stores where people bought all kinds of smaller farm supplies as well as items for the home. Berg's, Jetka's and Bares' were some of the well known hardware stores.

Tractors began to replace horses to pull farm implements. During World War II many of the old horse-drawn implements were gathered up for scrap iron and melted to make war weapons. By the end of the war most farms had tractors. There were many brands of implements including; Ford, Allis Chalmers, Oliver, International Harvester, Case and New Holland, John Deere and Minneapolis Moline. There were separate dealers for each brand. Now, "*Nothing runs like a Deere*", and that's about the only brand remaining.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Trettel Produce, 1998. This building was torn down in the spring of 1999. It was located at 114 Wood Street in Little Falls.*



## Transportation

A little auburn-haired girl named Marjory MacDougall lived on a farm about ten miles south of Little Falls. Marjory, her parents and her two older brothers came to Morrison County from Canada in 1857 when she was just two years old. Her father built a log house for them to live in. A short distance from the house was the Mississippi River. And right through the MacDougall farm was the Red River Oxcart Trail. Marjory and her siblings would hang on the fence waiting for the arrival of the Oxcart trains. They could hear the squeaking wheels for a long distance.

During Marjory's childhood, walking trails, canoe routes, oxcart trails and a few narrow dirt roads where horses could travel were the main transportation routes. As more settlers arrived better transportation became a necessity. Railroads were being built to cross the nation and, with the arrival of the automobile, better highways were planned.

Studying this section on transportation, along with the others on how Little Falls grew, you will see how transportation continually plays an important role in how and where communities develop.

## Glaciers

Like a giant sculptor, the glaciers carved the shapes in the land of Minnesota. Huge hills, giant gullies and large basins as well as flat plains and rolling landscapes were formed. As the millions of tons of ice melted, the low areas filled with water. And as the water raced across the landscape, it gouged wide rivers. When the water began to recede, some settled into low areas and formed lakes and the wide rivers narrowed. What was once a river several miles wide has narrowed to become what is now the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

## Mississippi River

For centuries the Mississippi River has been a travel route. American Indians, both the Dakota and the Ojibwe, paddled their birch bark canoes on the Mississippi. By traveling up the tributaries they could reach most parts of Morrison County. The Nokasippi, Little Elk, Pike Creek, Swan and the Platte rivers all flow into the Mississippi making a perfect network for transportation. Other canoe travelers were the fur traders who transported furs and goods that they traded with the Indians.

Joseph Nicollet,

## Look It Up

auburn	siblings
continually	gully
basin	gouged
recede	tributary
perogues	barge
ford	ferry
upgrade	discontinued

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Bridge over the Mississippi River in Little Falls. This was the third bridge over the river in Little Falls. The fancy railings are no longer there.*



Zebulon Pike, David Bates Douglass and other explorers traveled the route of the Mississippi River. Zebulon Pike's crew came up the Mississippi as far as the Swan River in large wooden boats. They made perogues out of the big pine trees so they could travel up river where they could not use the larger boats.

The Mississippi River at Little Falls is not big enough for barge traffic, but it has been very important to industry, especially the logging industry. The river was used not only for transporting logs but also for travel by the work crews.

Today, boats and canoes on the rivers are mostly for recreation. Some people still feel like explorers and enjoy the challenge of canoeing from the headwaters of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

### Red River Ox Cart Trail

Oxcarts traveled along the Red River Trail from Pembina, near the Canadian border, to St. Paul beginning in the 1840's. The route followed the Red River for a way then crossed over to follow the Crow Wing River. When it reached the Mississippi, the trail followed along the east bank of the river. Through Little Falls, the route was on First Street. Leaving Little Falls the trail followed what is now Hilton Road. It was this route that went through the MacDougall farm.

The Red River Ox Cart Trail was different from other roadways because it had three ruts. This is because the Ox Cart had two very large wheels and the cart was pulled by one ox so the ox

made the third rut in the middle. The wheels of the oxcart were very high. The cart was made of oak and when the cart was filled with furs, goods and people it was very heavy. Oxen were strong animals that could pull such a load. Ox trains were made up of many oxcarts following in a row and could be as much as a mile long.

### Roads

Early settlers to Little Falls came by wagon pulled by horses. The roadways were dirt and very rough. There were no bridges so many times it was necessary to ford streams or take ferries. One early road was the military road to Fort Ripley. It mostly followed the route of the Red River Trail. Other roads were cut through wooded areas to reach farms and smaller communities in the county.

### Highways

The invention of cars created the need for upgraded and connecting highways. The Jefferson Highway was the first major automobile route through Little Falls. It was still a dirt road and cars often got stuck in the mud or had flat tires. Highway 10 followed much of the same route as the earlier Jefferson Highway. Imagine how excited people must have been when Highway 10 was finally paved. Travel has gone from dirt roads, to highways to freeways in one hundred years.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Standard Oil Company gas station. Compare the gas pumps in this photo to the ones we now have.*



## Railroads

It was 1877 when the whistle of the first train was heard in Little Falls. That track followed along Fifth Street on the east side of town. The railroad went north to Brainerd.

There it met another railroad which went west through Motley. The first depot was located on the east side between the tracks and Fifth Street.

In 1890 the railroad built a new line called the "shortcut" from Little Falls to Motley. Darling, Randall, Cushing and Lincoln were new towns that were organized along the new railroad. In 1899 a new depot was built on the west side. At that time many people traveled on the passenger trains and the Little Falls depot was a very busy place. Mail was carried on the trains and delivered to the small town post offices.

Passenger trains were discontinued through Little Falls because they were not used enough. With more modern cars and improved highways, train travel was not as popular. Presently, the trains going through town are freight trains, many of them carrying coal for power plants.

## Airport

When Charles Lindbergh returned to Little Falls, after his famous flight across the Atlantic Ocean, he landed his plane in a farmer's field north of town. Anyone who flew an airplane had to land it in an open field. Little Falls did not have a real airport until 1934. Sherman Frederickson and Chuck Huebner began the Little Falls Flying Service in the 1940s. The Little Falls-Morrison County Airport now has paved runways and a new air terminal. It is used daily for personal and business flights.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Cass Gilbert Depot on the west side of Little Falls. Notice the wooden water tower in the background.*



## Working in Little Falls

There were many ways that people used to earn a living in Little Falls in the past. Following is a list of occupations from earlier times. A few of them continued into modern times.

### Past Occupations

Logging  
Agriculture/Farming  
Agricultural Implement Dealers  
Creameries  
Fur Trading  
Grain Elevators & Feed Mills  
Milling (Flour & Lumber)  
Brewery  
Mercantiles (Dry Goods & General Merchandise)  
Black Smithing  
Brick Manufacturing  
Granite Quarrying  
Sash & Door Factory  
Iron Works  
Sleigh Manufacturing  
Carriage Manufacturing  
Harness & Saddlery Manufacturing  
Cigar Factory  
Livery  
Millinery Shops  
Confectionary (Candies & Ice Cream)  
Wild Ricing  
Little Falls Business College & School of Penmanship & Shorthand  
Land Agents & Developers  
Paper Mill  
Hospital  
Orphanage

Little Falls saw its share of professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, government employees, accountants, clergy, insurance agents, nurses, photographers and bankers. There were also plenty of restaurant owners and retailers. Little Falls still has these occupations, along with the following:

### Present Occupations

Tourism  
Agriculture/Farming  
Agricultural Implement Dealers  
Boat Manufacturing  
Granite Finishing  
Machining & Metal Working  
Snow Plow Manufacturing  
Hospital  
Mail Distribution  
Plastics Production  
Headwear Manufacturing  
Automobile Dealers & Repair  
Milk Product Processing  
Printing  
Woodworking Shops  
Landscaping & Greenhouses  
Camp Ripley (Military & Law Enforcement Training Center)  
Airport  
Building Construction  
Meat Processing  
Recreation & Sporting Goods  
Computer Networking  
Land Agents & Developers  
Ethanol Production



*Duclos Brickyards workers resting after loading a clay car at the Brickyards clay pit. There were three brick manufacturing companies in Little Falls. All were located on the west side on the edge of town. In addition to Duclos, the other two brick companies were the Minnesota Brick Company, owned by E. Rothwell and M. Dargis, and the Scott/Sprandel brickyard. Many of the bricks made in Little Falls were light yellow in color. When you look around Little Falls, you will see houses and business buildings made with this yellow brick.*



## Snapshot!

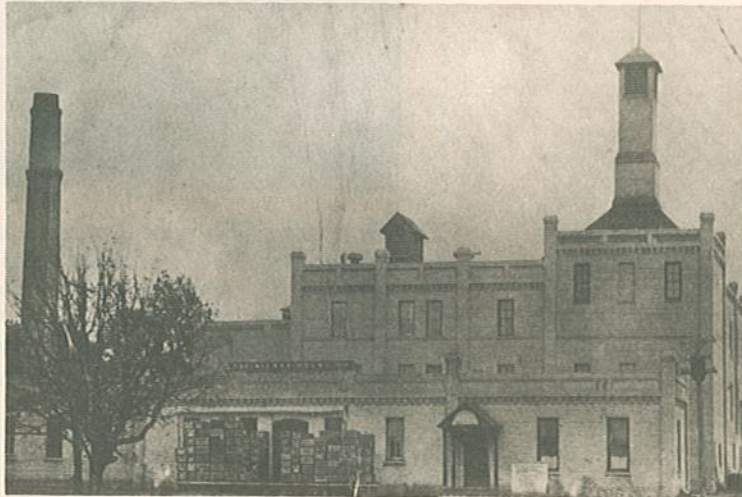
### Kiewel Brewery

In 1893, Jacob Kiewel bought a small brewery in Little Falls from Rudolph Koch. The brewery was originally built in 1882 by Leo P. Brick. Jacob renovated and expanded the brewery in 1896. He and his wife, Rosa, and their ten children all got involved in the family business. Along with the Little Falls brewery, the family also owned a brewery in Crookston, Minnesota. In 1906, they incorporated their businesses under the name of Jacob Kiewel Brewing Company.

The Little Falls brewery produced White Rose Beer and the Crookston brewery made White Seal Beer. During Prohibition, from 1920 to 1933, the Kiewel's were unable to make beer because alcohol was illegal in the United States. They turned to making ice cream and dairy products. They also opened a brewery in Manitoba, Canada during this period.

After Jacob died in 1928, his sons took over the business. They operated the Little Falls plant until 1959. The brewery was torn down in June of 1983.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*

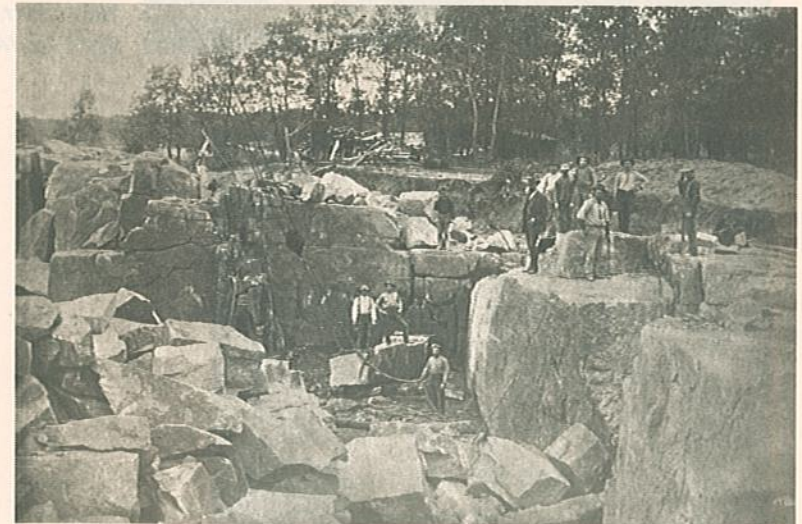


*Kiewel Brewing Company. This building, made of Little Falls yellow brick, was torn down. It sat on the site where the Senior Center sits today, on Northeast 7th Street.*



*The Little Falls Milling Company was owned by Alfred Tanner. In the background is the Water Power building. These buildings were on the west side of the Mississippi River.*

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Granite Quarry in Morrison County, 1902. Little Falls had a number of granite finishing businesses. One of them was the Little Falls Granite Works, which still operates today. Its rival at one time was the Little Falls Black Granite Company.*



## Women's Work

Long before the Women's Liberation movement of the 1960's, the women of Little Falls worked outside of the home in a variety of ways. Many of them were involved in "social work" activities for which they did not get paid. Quite a number of women either worked along side their husbands in business, or they owned and operated their own businesses. Woman-owned businesses primarily catered to other women. There were hat shops, dress shops, hair salons, and restaurants.

Clara Richardson, daughter of Nathan Richardson (first mayor of Little Falls), owned her dress shop in Little Falls as early as 1883. From then until now, women with the entrepreneurial spirit contributed much to the economy of Little Falls. On this page are some photos of businesses from Little Falls that were owned by women.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Sand Sisters Millinery. Date unknown. Mary, Eugenia, and Josephine Sand owned this millinery shop, which was opened in 1903. Millinery shops made hats for ladies. A hat was a fashion requirement for women in the late 1800's and early 1900's. In 1907, Mary Sand died. Her sisters bought a restaurant from Mrs. Rosa Mueller in 1915. They continued to run the millinery until 1918. Eugenia and Josephine closed the hat shop so they could devote more time to their restaurant. Hats were also going out of style by this time.*

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Clara Richardson's dress making shop, August 4, 1883.*



*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*

*This photo of Florence Brousseau was taken around 1924 by Elizabeth Bovy, a Little Falls' photographer. Bovy operated her own photo studio in the city in the 1920's. More of her photos can be seen in a 1926 yearbook from the Little Falls High School.*



## Chapter 4

*Wherever civilized men live, there are found  
fraternities, churches and schools.  
(Fuller, 195)*

# Making Waves

## Society building in Little Falls

**A**ccording to William Morris (1834-96), an English writer, painter, designer, craftsman, and social reformer, art and culture are an essential part of human well-being. Little Falls has a long history of supporting culture and society. Like many communities that emerged across the United States, the citizens of Little Falls quickly turned their efforts to building society. Society included the finer things of life, like education for children, hospitals for the sick, and the arts for cultivating the mind. Society building turned a town from a rough and tumble atmosphere primarily filled with men into a civilized place, where women were proud to raise their children. They even made sure their men cleaned up a bit.

Even before its incorporation in 1879, evidence of society building in Little Falls could be seen in the establishment and development of religious and educational institutions, social organizations, and a thriving arts and entertainment community. This chapter will discuss the history of society building in Little Falls. The topics that will be covered include religion, education, clubs and organizations, arts and entertainment, and media.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Drama Scene at Little Falls High School. (c. 1910-1915). Nelson photo.*



## Religion

Organized religion is often considered one of the basic elements of society building. Not long after an area became settled, people with similar religious beliefs and ethnic backgrounds often gathered to establish churches. The presence of a church gave early settlers a feeling of permanence and stability and also provided a center for social activities. In Little Falls, churches of various denominations were established as early as the 1850s. Below is a list of some early churches established in Little Falls. Some of them are no longer in existence.

Church Name	Denomination	Ethnicity	Beginnings	Facts
St. Francis Xavier	Catholic	French-Canadian	1867-Rev. Ignatius Tomazin	First resident pastor was Rev. James Fortier, brother of Dr. G.M.A. Fortier
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Catholic	German	1886-Rev. William Lange	All services in German language until 1917.
St. Adalbert's	Catholic	Polish	c. 1896-Rev. John Kitowski	Formed by Polish members of Sacred Heart who wanted Polish services.
Our Lady of Lourdes	Catholic	Polish	1917-Rev. John Musial	Organized by members of Sacred Heart who lived in west Little Falls.
First English Lutheran	Lutheran	Norwegian	1891	All services in Norwegian language until 1906.
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran	Lutheran	Swedish	Early 1880s-Rev. J. Magny	All services in Swedish language until 1919.
St. John's Evangelical & Reformed Church	Lutheran	German	1894-Rev. Kollman	Services were held in basement of uncompleted church for many years. Had several name changes.
Zion Evangelical	Lutheran	German	1896-Rev. Karl Reuter	All services in German language until 1919.
First Congregational	Congregational	English	Late 1850s-Rev. E. Newton	An outgrowth of the Ayer's Belle Prairie Mission.
First Methodist Episcopal	Episcopal	English	1857-Rev. A. J. Nelson	Nelson tried unsuccessfully to erect a seminary at Belle Prairie.
Church of Our Savior	Episcopal	English	1858-Rev. E. Steel Peake	One stained glass window shows Indians with Bishop Henry B. Whipple, who consecrated the original church.
Grace Covenant	Evangelical	Swedish	1891-Rev. E. J. Palm	Began a radio ministry program on KLTF in 1950.
First Baptist	Baptist	Swedish	1892-Rev. Malcolm Sawyer	Sawyer brought a remodeled railroad passenger coach, 'Evangel', to Little Falls to establish the church.



## Education

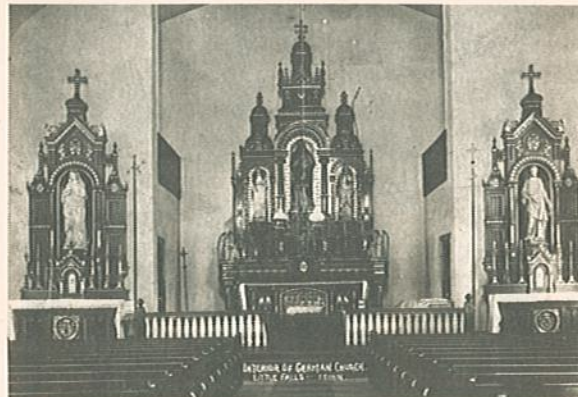
Education is also often considered a basic element of society building. As stated in a promotional folder produced by the Little Falls Main Street Incorporation, "(t)he strength of a community can often be measured by its commitment to education." Established early in the history of Little Falls, schools served as educational institutions as well as centers for social activities. School functions, such as basket socials, Christmas programs, and spring picnics, were major community events.

The strong and early commitment to education shown in Little Falls is similar to that found across the rest of the nation. The first public school in Morrison County was taught by Ellen Nichols in the village of Little Falls during the summer of 1855. In 1856, Miss Nichols married C.S.K. Smith in the first wedding ceremony known to have been held in Little Falls. The first school building was a one-room board structure located at First and Second Avenues Northeast. This building was used until 1864 when a district school building was constructed at the corner of Third and First Avenues Northeast. The original school became a store and trading post, a blacksmith and repair shop, a warehouse, and, in 1913, a temporary tin shop for the sheet metal workers who installed a ventilation system in the new high school.

Schools were initially assigned district numbers, rather than names. On June 2, 1856, Little Falls School District No. 3 was organized. The first school district in the county had been formed in 1855 with classes held in the old Belle Prairie Mission building. By 1867, there were six school districts in Morrison County. A board of education was formed in 1880 with Nathan Richardson serving as president and L. B. Sunderlin as superintendent. Professor Sunderlin is recognized as the first employee in the Morrison County education system to have earned a college degree. By 1888, the Little Falls District had four hundred students, a six-room school, and six teachers.

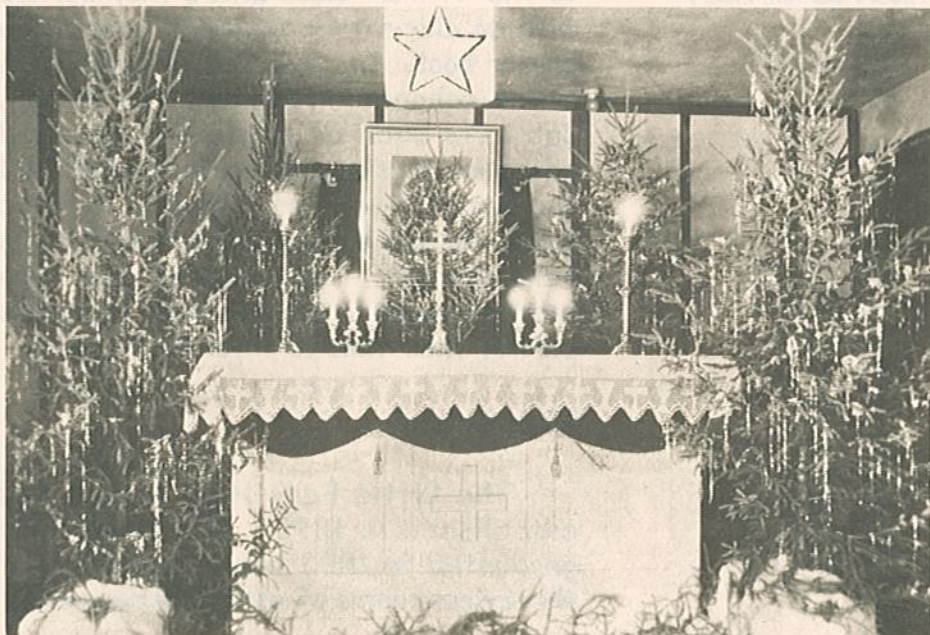
Teachers in early schools filled many roles, often serving as janitor, housekeeper, "referee", and nurse. During

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Interior of Sacred Heart Church, 1910.*

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Interior of St. John's Evangelical Church. Christmas, 1935. Photo by W. E. Christnagel.*





*First graduating class of the Little Falls High School, 1893. Grace Hill, Albert Barton, Henry Richard, Rose F. Vasaly.*

the 1800s, most teachers in the United States were graduates of the eighth grade who had received their teaching certificate by passing a county exam. Many attended the St. Cloud Normal School (now St. Cloud State University) to prepare for their exam. In 1894, a "Teacher's Institute" was established at the Little Falls High School. By 1907, the high school had organized a teacher training department. This department was formed to aid high school seniors who intended to teach in rural elementary schools.

The number of students was initially small in early schools and the ages often varied greatly. Typically, students were graded on the level of reader they were using. A reader is a textbook of reading exercises. The youngest students started in what is often referred to as a "Chart" class where they focused on learning numbers and letters. Students next moved to the "Primer" class where they worked with an elementary textbook known as a primer book. In Little Falls schools, as in other schools throughout the nation, subjects such as music and physical education were considered "incidental" until the twentieth century. In 1917, a music supervisor was hired to cover several Little Falls schools. The following year, two teachers were hired who were to devote part of their time to physical education.

### High School

The Little Falls High School was established in 1890. The first class graduated in 1893 after completing a three-year course of work. Commencement

ceremonies were held in the uncompleted Congregational Church. The graduating class consisted of Albert Barton, Grace Hill, Henry Richard, and Rose Vasaly. The class colors were pink and green. Each graduate was required to give an "oration" and Henry Richard was the valedictorian.

After the original wood frame high school burned on January 20, 1897, it was replaced by Central High School, a three-story brick structure with twelve rooms. On January 1, 1914, a new high school opened and Central became Washington Elementary School. The new high school had four floors, electric lighting, and a 350-seat auditorium. In 1935, an addition was built on the east side of the school. This addition, which housed a band room, gym, office, and six classrooms, was built with labor and materials supplied by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA was a Depression-era public program that provided jobs for unemployed workers. In 1961, a new senior high was built and the former building became the Central Administration. Until 1961, the high school housed the middle school. When the present Little Falls Community High School was completed in 1972, the Little Falls Community Middle School took over the high school building.



## Elementary Schools

Several elementary schools have been established in Little Falls. In 1892, the Lincoln and Columbia Elementary Schools were built. Lincoln, which is located on the west side of Little Falls, originally had eight rooms and Columbia had six. Though the Lincoln School burned on January 30, 1903, it was quickly rebuilt and continues to serve as the elementary school for the west side of Little Falls. The Hawthorne School, a six-room structure, was built in 1894. Located in the northeast portion of Little Falls, it was used as a school until the spring of 1951. The Charles A. Lindbergh Elementary School was built in 1950. In 1972, Dr. S. G. Knight Elementary School in Randall, Minnesota became a part of the Little Falls School District. This school was named for physician, Samuel Graham Knight.

## Little Falls Business College

In the summer of 1904, the Little Falls Business College was established by R. B. Millard, the school's principal and proprietor. Located on the third floor of the Realty Block in downtown Little Falls, the college served students who wanted to continue their education but did not want to teach. Courses that were offered included business, shorthand, salesmanship, and civil service. The college also had an employment department that assisted

students with finding jobs. According to an early promotional booklet, "(t)he Little Falls Business College is for the young people of the country. It is your college. Get all you can out of it. It will pay."

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



Central High School in Little Falls. J. W. Jarboe, photo publisher.



Morrison County Historical Society Collections

Lincoln School classroom, Little Falls, 1904.

### Snapshot!

Gertrude Hilborn Staples

The first woman elected to the board of education in Little Falls was Gertrude Hilborn Staples. Gertrude was a graduate of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and worked as a teacher in Little Falls prior to her marriage to Isaac E. Staples in 1888. Gertrude took an active interest in her community. According to the 1899 publication of *Nichol's Headlight, A Souvenir of Little Falls and Morrison County Minnesota*, "(s)he is prominent in church and educational work; is a leader in all public movements....Her services are sought in all local literary and musical events".





Construction of Carnegie Library in Little Falls.

### Snapshot!

#### Jenny Lind Brown Blanchard

Jenny Lind Brown Blanchard was born on May 21, 1873, in Browntown, Pennsylvania. By August of 1894, Jenny was a teacher in Little Falls. On June 8, 1906, she married Arthur Palmer Blanchard. Jenny worked as the librarian at the Little Falls Carnegie Library for many years, beginning in September of 1911. She also served as the president of the State Library Association. Besides her work at the library, Jenny was a member of the Civic Improvement League and the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution). Jenny was also instrumental in organizing a local chapter of the American Red Cross.

## Library

Soon after schools were established in Little Falls, a concerted effort was made to organize a public library. In February of 1892, Florence Williams began raising funds for a library through popular subscription. Popular subscription involves acquiring subscribers who promise to contribute money. By late summer, the subscribers had met for the purpose of forming a library association. The library association was formally organized on August 22, 1892. Mrs. Williams was elected president and Miss Sadie Fuller was elected secretary. The library formation committee also included Alexander R. Davidson, John H. Rhodes, John A. Berkey, Mrs. Joss, and Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr.

The Little Falls Public Library opened in 1893 in two rented rooms in the Butler Building (now the First National Bank). Mrs. F. Benton was employed as the librarian. The library's hours were Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m. In January of 1893, *Falls Transcript* reported that the library had more than eight hundred books, over half of which were fiction. The library's collection included histories, biographies, and juvenile literature, as well as books on travel and art. Featured authors were Charles Dickens, James Fenimore Cooper, Thomas Hardy, and William Makepeace Thackeray.

The library became the

property of the city in July of 1893. In 1902, a committee approached Andrew Carnegie with a request for a building grant. Andrew Carnegie was a wealthy industrialist and philanthropist who provided money to communities for public libraries. Carnegie agreed to give \$10,000 to Little Falls for the construction of a library as long as the city would show its support by providing a site and pledging to give \$1,000 annually. Located on the corner of Third Street and First Avenue Northeast, the Carnegie Public Library opened on February 7, 1905. The building, which cost \$10,000, was constructed by the contracting firm of Harrison and Mecusker. The library is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



Carnegie Library in 1904, the year it was built. Nelson photo.



## Clubs & Organizations

Another aspect of society building is the formation of clubs and organizations. Throughout the history of Little Falls, clubs and organizations have been formed to meet the social and humanitarian needs of the community. Often serving both social and cultural roles, they were usually organized by public-spirited citizens. Clubs, such as the Musical Arts Club and the Child Interest Club, sought to cultivate and refine as well as to provide for basic societal needs.

One of the earliest and best known organizations in Little Falls is the Franciscan Sisters. Established in Little Falls by 1890, the Franciscan Sisters got permission to build their Motherhouse, school and hospital in the following year. The first convent building was a long, low, log and clapboard structure that served as a hospital, orphanage, and living quarters for the Sisters. The Franciscan Sisters operated several charitable institutions in Little Falls. These include St. Gabriel's Hospital, St. Otto's Orphanage, St. Otto's Nursing Home, St. Francis High School, and St. Francis Music Center.

St. Gabriel's Hospital opened in January of 1892 with two physicians, Dr. G. M. A. Fortier and Dr. Joseph G. Millspaugh. Located on the first and second floors of the south wing, the hospital was much larger than the original fifteen-bed unit that had been built in 1891. The first and second

floors of the north wing were reserved for the Sisters and the remainder of the building housed the orphans and the elderly. In 1916, a new building was erected and opened as St. Gabriel's Hospital and School of Nursing. A blood bank was operated at the hospital from 1939 until 1970.

In October of 1893, the Sisters signed a contract with the Diocese of St. Cloud to care for orphans from the St. Cloud Diocese. Built in 1895, St. Otto's Orphanage Asylum was named in honor of Bishop Otto Zardetti, the first bishop of the newly organized diocese of St. Cloud. In 1925, the orphans were transferred to the St. Cloud orphanage and St. Otto's was remodeled as a "home for the aged".

Another prominent organization in Little Falls was the Musical Art Club. Founded in 1911 by Maybelle Brannen, a music teacher in Little Falls, the Musical Art Club sought to educate and instruct both the public and its members. As stated in Article II of the club's Articles of Incorporation, "(t)he object of the club shall be: PRIMARILY - To advance the interests and promote the culture of musical art in Little Falls." The Musical Art Club quickly became the largest women's organization in Little Falls, acquiring 216 members during its first year. The club had three classes of membership - active, student, and honorary - with no musical requirements for active members.

The four original committees of the Musical Art Club were vocal, instrumental, special entertainment, and membership. Through the efforts of Jenny Lind Blanchard, a literary section was added

## Look It Up

establishment	commencement
thriving	oration
permanence	valedictorian
denomination	proprietor
predominant	subscription
merge	humanitarian
acknowledgment	orphanage
veneer	charitable
substantial	instrumental
benevolent	welfare
parochial	municipal
dissolve	foster
rectory	aerialist
dismantle	gladiatorial
affiliated	triumphal
society	touted
dominant	extravaganza
theological	ordained
variation	novelty
strife	storyboard
departure	mural
edifice	exterior
lathe	façade
parsonage	literary
erect	frontier
seminary	publication
chaplain	preservation
consecrate	symbolize
ministry	acquire
promotional	lagoon
commitment	sacred
ordinance	profane
ventilation	submersion
incidental	subscribers





*Degree of Honor Drill Team. This secret society sold insurance policies to its members.*

during the second year. During its first year, the club's programs were entirely musical and consisted of local talent or the reading of papers related to music. "Out of town" talent was soon added and the programs quickly became more varied. Examples of programs include recitals, lectures, operettas, study courses, and community singing.

The Musical Art Club initially met at various locations, including the Carnegie Library, the Elks Hall, and the high school auditorium. On March 3, 1919, the Maud Moon Weyerhaeuser Hall was dedicated as the permanent home of the Musical Art Club. The hall was a gift to the community from Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Weyerhaeuser. It was located on the second floor of the Morrison County Lumber Building at the corner of First Street and First Avenue, the former location of the KLTF radio station. Maud Moon Weyerhaeuser, a talented musician and active community member, was born on October 2, 1876, in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1898, she married Charles A. Weyerhaeuser in Duluth, Minnesota, and moved to Little Falls. Though the club dissolved on March 6, 1950, its influence can still be felt through the strong interest in music that remains in the community.



Two of the many clubs that were formed in Little Falls during the first half of the twentieth century were the Child Study Club and the Child Interest Club. While the Child Interest Club was organized in the summer of 1914 and the Child Study Club was not organized until 1931, both were focused on the

advancement of child welfare. Originally known as The Young Mother's Club, the Child Interest Club was an outgrowth of a young mother's group that met to study and discuss their children's needs. Club meetings consisted of the reading of papers and the discussion of selected topics. The last meeting of the Child Interest Club was held on November 7, 1979.



Another organization that was a leader in child welfare was the Women's Guild of Little Falls. Organized in 1917 by the Right Reverend Bishop Busch, Bishop of St. Cloud, the Women's Guild focused its efforts on civic works, such as feeding and clothing the needy. Among the many projects sponsored by the Guild were a municipal bathing beach, a skating rink, and orphanage playground equipment. The Guild also sponsored social activities, such as plays, balls, and dinners.



Dedicated to "...general improvement, charity toward all with whom we associate and temperance in opinion, speech and habits," the P.E.O. Sisterhood played a prominent role in Little Falls. A philanthropic educational organization for women, the Little Falls P.E.O. was organized on May 20, 1931. The national P.E.O. Sisterhood was organized at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1869. Devoted to civic and philanthropic work, the organization maintained an educational fund from which it loaned money to



women for educational purposes. Meetings were hosted by members of the group and consisted of the reading of papers on various topics of interest. Topics for the 1931-32 program year, for example, included *Minnesota's Resources*, *Minnesota Indians: Tribes, Distribution, Legends and Customs*, and *State Art Society: Art Institution, Galleries and College*.

Formed by people of similar backgrounds and interests for the purpose of entertainment and the fostering of a community spirit, Little Falls has had a wealth of clubs and organizations. The names of the clubs and organizations have often been as colorful as their uniforms and rituals. Examples include the Knights of the Modern Macabees, the Loyal Order of Moose, and the Mystic Workers of the World.

One organization that was established early in Little Falls was the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge 140. This lodge is believed to have been the first secret organization in Little Falls. A secret society is any organized group that conceals some or all of its rituals and activities from non-members. Organized around 1878, meetings were held on the first and third Friday evenings of each month at the hall located over Berg's Hardware Store. John H. Rhodes, Robert Herron, Ed Mahan, and Lyman Signor were some of the early leaders.

Other organizations established early in Little Falls include the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Order of United Workman, and the Order of the Eastern Star. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 111, was chartered in 1886 and met every Monday evening at the Odd Fellows Hall in the Flynn Block. The Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No. 104, was instituted in 1888 and met on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Knights of Labor Hall. The Order of the Eastern Star, Bethlehem Chapter No. 734, was chartered in 1894 and met on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Masonic Hall in the Buckman Block.

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Maccabee's Lodge, Little Falls. How would you like to wear the costumes for this secret society?*



## Snapshot!

### Stroia Ballet Company

The Stroia Ballet Company is a regional ballet company that was established in the early 1980s by Carlos Stroia of Transylvania, Romania. Concentrating on both classical and contemporary ballet, the company operates three dance studios in Minnesota (Little Falls, Brainerd, and Waite Park). The company's annual dance recital and professional ballet productions, which have included *The Nutcracker*, *Peter and the Wolf*, and *Giselle*, are popular central Minnesota attractions.

## Arts & Entertainment

An integral part of society building is the fostering of arts and entertainment. Little Falls is fortunate to have experienced a strong and continued growth which has attracted people of talent and has encouraged outside entertainment groups to perform in the community. Entertainment in Little Falls has included circuses, parades, bands and orchestras, theater, and dance. All have had an impact on the development of the community and continue to play a role in the lives of Little Falls' citizens today.

Circuses were among the earliest forms of entertainment. The first known "big" circus, the Hilliard and Demo H's Circus, performed in Little Falls in 1878. Well-known national circuses also performed in Little Falls. In 1892, the Ringling Brothers World's Greatest Shows came to Little Falls. Their performance included aerialists, gymnasts, acrobats, dancing elephants, gladiatorial combats, and a reproduction of "Caesar's Triumphant Entry into Rome".

Music has always been important to Little Falls' citizens. Various bands formed within the city have included the Hot Time Band, North Echo Band, Democratic Band, Bastien's Band, Little Falls Harmonica Band, Little Falls Mandolin Glee Club, Elks Saxophone Band, and the Little Falls City Band. In 1935 and 1936, the Little Falls City Band was the state champion at the Minnesota State Fair band

tournament. Music continues to be important in Little Falls today. The Heartland Symphony Orchestra is a good example. A community orchestra that serves the Brainerd, Little Falls, and Long Prairie area, the orchestra held its premiere performance in 1977 at what is now Central Lakes College.

The Hole-in-the-Day Players Community Theatre that currently produces programs follows a long tradition of theater in Little Falls. The origins of theater in Little Falls can be traced to school plays and to the Minstrel and Medicine Shows that were performed by traveling troupes. Early theatrical performances were often held in the Gross Opera House. The Opera House also showed the first motion picture in the area. The various motion picture theaters that have been located in Little Falls include the Family Electric Theatre, Bijou Family Theatre, Milo (later known as the Lowell), Victor, Lyric, Harwha (later known as the Lindy), Falls Theatre, Ripley Theatre, and the Airport Drive-In.

Various fairs and festivals have also provided entertainment for the community. The Little Falls Festival, Little Falls Snoflake Week, and Little Falls Arts and Crafts Fair have been some of the popular attractions. Riverfest, an annual event held from 1991 to 1999, offered activities such as concerts, parades, fireworks, lumberjack shows, and street dances. Another event which has provided a variety of activities is the Morrison County Fair. While the Fair's origins

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Children on a parade float in front of the Vasaly Hotel in Little Falls. Photo by J. J. Estey. (Between 1855-1889, the dates of the existence of the Vasaly Hotel.)*



are believed to date to the early 1800s, it has also been linked with the Little Falls Street Fair Association. The Little Falls Street Fair Association was organized on April 23, 1909, and held street fairs in Little Falls.

Another popular festival in Little Falls was Winter Wonderland. Winter Wonderland was an annual winter carnival that was held during the second week of January between 1945 and 1950. Touted as one of the biggest winter extravaganzas in Minnesota, Winter Wonderland was organized by Father Edward Ramacher and the St. Mary's Parish. Father Ramacher had come to Little Falls in July of 1945 as a newly ordained priest who had been assigned to St. Mary's Parish. In an effort to provide local youth with winter activities, Ramacher organized the Little Falls Winter Wonderland and Winter Carnival.

With the help of the Knights of Columbus and donations from Little Falls citizens, a ski slide, a 1700 foot toboggan run, the "Blue Mirror" skating rink, and the Ski-Esta Inn were built in the hills four miles southeast of Little Falls. According to legend, on Teepee Hill overlooking Winter Wonderland, Ojibway Chief Mannisnota and Dacotah Chief Eagle Feather "...decreed that the surrounding hills and valleys should be a place of mirth, peace and beauty forever. And they named the area Mamakaso-Bibonaki - Winter Wonderland". Typical Winter Wonderland events included talent and

variety shows, an ice skating revue, and a Parade of Queens in Royal Sleighs. Referred to as the "Little Switzerland of America," Winter Wonderland attracted celebrities from across the state and nation. The governor of Minnesota was often in attendance and, in 1949, Cedric Adams, Minneapolis Star columnist and CBS radio news commentator, and Bebe Shoppe, Miss America of 1949, were honored guests.



Among the citizens of Little Falls there have been many talented artists. Some of the artists will be covered in Chapter 5 of this book, but a mention of fresco and mural artists is in order here. Among the numerous frescoes and murals located in Little Falls are those produced by Charles Kapsner, Frank Gosiak, and Rich Lozier.

Charles Kapsner, a native of Little Falls, is the head artist for two frescoes at the Lindbergh Elementary School. The first fresco is devoted to the life and philosophy of Charles Lindbergh. The second fresco is devoted to local history.

Frank Gosiak, an art teacher in Northholm, Minnesota, is a native of Bowlus, Minnesota. Gosiak's work includes four exterior murals in Little Falls. Two of the murals are located on the Hennepin Paper Company Warehouse. One portrays an early 1900s street scene and the other depicts a logging scene. The third mural, *Door into the Past*, is a portrait of



*The circus in Little Falls. Photo by Z. N. Barnes.*

## Snapshot!

Sadie Barton Brown

Sadie Barton Brown was born at Fort Ridgley, Minnesota, on June 12, 1876. Sadie came to Little Falls around the turn of the century and married Lewis D. Brown on June 8, 1907. A prominent leader in the Little Falls education system, Sadie was employed as the principal at the Hawthorne school for six years, was a member of the library board for twenty-one years, and served on the board of education for six years. Sadie also worked to promote music in the Little Falls schools and was an active member of various clubs, including the Musical Art Club and the Shakespeare Study Club.



## Snapshot!

### Medicine

The earliest known physicians in Little Falls were Drs. Smith, Jodon, and Metcalf. Described as "resident physicians," all three remained in Little Falls for less than three years. The next physician in Little Falls was Dr. E. E. Braun. A former army physician and surgeon at Fort Ripley, Dr. Braun set up a practice in Little Falls around 1866. Dr. Braun was followed by Dr. E. Fletch and Dr. A. Guernon. By 1881, Dr. G. M. A. Fortier had arrived in Little Falls. Fortier served as the city physician and health officer and was a member of the city council and the board of education. Other early medical practitioners in Little Falls included Norman W. Chance, physician and surgeon, and Frank M. Mero, dentist.

Broadway Street through time and is located on the east façade of Pete and Joy's Bakery. The purpose of these murals is to help children learn about the history of Little Falls. In the summer of 2000, Gosiak, with the help of local students, repainted a Gail and Ax Tobacco advertising mural.

Rich Lozier, who was originally from the East Coast area, painted two murals on the interior walls of the Black & White Hamburger Shop. His murals are of outdoor scenes.

Photographers have been present in Little Falls since its incorporation in 1879. The earliest known professional photographer in Little Falls was C. H. Vining, an artist who advertised himself as a photographer and painter. Another early photographer was Clinton C. Neal, who worked in Little Falls in the 1880s. Under the name Neal & Simmons, he published and offered for sale several stereo-opticon photos entitled "Views of Little Falls and Vicinity." Many local photographers combined photography with another trade. For example, J. J. Estey described himself as an "Artistic Photographer & Jeweler," Leroy L. Rundell as a "Photo, and Scenic Artist," and Carl Erickson as a "Leading Portrait & Landscape Photographer." Other Little Falls photographers include Elizabeth Bovy, who ran Bovy Studios in the 1920s, Gordon Guy, Floyd Nelson, and Earl Curran. Earl Curran operated the Curran Studio from 1939 until 1956, when it was sold to Glen Silker of Silker Studios. In March 2000, Silker Studios was sold by Mike Jensen to his associate photographer, MaryBeth Zea. Mike Jensen had owned the studio for eighteen years.

## Media

The early establishment of newspapers provided area residents with a means of local communication and a link to the rest of the state and world. Early newspapers supplied their readers with social and political news and provided space for advertising. Many early newspapers were written in the languages of the immigrants because the new settlers were unable to read English. Frontier presses also promoted settlement to an area.

Little Falls has been fortunate to have several newspapers. These include the *Northern Herald*, *Courier*, *Transcript*, *Sun*, *Democrat*, *Der Beobachter*, *Comet's Tale*, *Morrison County Shopper*, *Heartland Peach*, *Farmer's Club*, and *Church Press*. According to Nathan Richardson in his article "The History of Morrison County," the first newspaper in the county was the *Northern Herald*. In 1856, two years before Minnesota became a state, the *Northern Herald* was established by Colonel French. After only a few months, French sold the paper to the Little Falls Manufacturing Company. The paper was next published by C. E. Church during a two-year period from 1857 to 1859.

The second newspaper published in Morrison County was the *Little Falls Courier*. The *Courier* was established in 1874 by A. DeLacy Wood. Wood was a pioneer newspaper man from Sauk Rapids who set up forty-eight



newspapers during his career. Published on Fridays, the cost of subscription to the paper was \$2.00 a year. The *Courier* was described by Nathan Richardson as a "...small but spicey paper". On the front page of the first issue, published October 23, 1874, the paper described its mission:

*"I am a country paper, devoted to home interests. I regard as friend every family in which I enter. Its honor shall be unto me sacred....Go forth our COURIER from the North, and win us friends. Bear our greeting, even unto those who love us not."*

In 1876, Wood sold the *Courier* to Henry C. Stivers, who began the *Little Falls Transcript*. The *Little Falls Transcript* started as a weekly paper published by the Transcript Publishing Company. The first issue of the paper consisted of a single sheet printed on both sides and folded to make four pages. In 1880, the paper was small (10" X 12") and had sixteen columns. Only five of the columns were dedicated to news. Half of the front page was filled with ads and the rest was covered with quotes and other small items of interest (i.e. "*Leon Houde has been out buying venison of the Indians and raked in a good many saddles.*"). The second page of the paper was filled with editorials, obituaries, City Council meeting minutes, and "items of note." Ads on the second page include the professional cards of attorneys Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr., Frank Lyon, and Nathan Richardson, as well as those of physicians Lemuel M. Roberts

and Lewis L. Wright. When the Transcript Publishing Company was incorporated in 1892, it established a daily paper known as the *Little Falls Daily Transcript*. While the weekly ended in 1916, the daily continued publication until 1982.



Little Falls is currently served by various radio stations. Stations, such as KLTF, NMPR (Northern Minnesota Public Radio), KFML, and WYRQ, provide a variety of programming for listeners. Though commercial broadcasting began in Minnesota in 1922, Little Falls did not have a broadcast station until 1935. In October of that year, local resident Harry Norr prepared to open a federally licensed station, with call letters W9VJP. He intended to operate from his home at Thirteenth Street Northwest using forty-foot sending towers.

KLTF began broadcasting in October of 1950, bringing a news service to central Minnesota listeners. Advertised as "The Radio Voice of Central Minnesota," KLTF's goal has been to achieve "total entertainment radio." The station's programming includes news, weather, music, sports, talk shows, audience participation shows, and human relations shows. The station has been owned and operated by the Lemme family since 1952.

## Snapshot!

### Printing

When the *Little Falls Daily Transcript* was first published in 1892, it was printed on a hand-fed, steam-driven press. Copy was written in pencil and then set by hand. The world news found on the front page of the early issues was referred to as "boilerplate" news. A "boilerplate" consisted of strips of metal that had been cast into type. The "boilerplate" used by the *Transcript* was shipped to Little Falls on an express train from Minneapolis. It was then locked into forms, along with local news ads, and the newspaper was printed.

## Snapshot!

### Comet's Tale

The first issue of the *Comet's Tale*, a Little Falls High School newspaper, was published in January of 1923. The purpose of the paper was to create an interest in school activities and to promote student journalism. The *Comet's Tale* raised funds for its operating expenses through subscription and advertising. As stated by the paper, "REMEMBER - read the ads and patronize those who support school activities. It is your duty to patronize our advertisers as well as support our paper."



## ✓ Check It Out

Visit some of the many parks in Little Falls. When visiting Pine Grove Park, list the different kinds of animals you see. Which ones are native to Minnesota? Which ones come from some other place? How do you think the zookeepers take care of the animals that are from different habitats?

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Gate to Primeval Pine Grove Park in Little Falls. Photo by A. Pearson, Co. What differences do you see in Pine Grove Park today?*

## Parks

One of the most visible signs of society building are parks. The preservation of green space within a community reveals a desire to provide a site for recreation and relaxation for all ages. Parks also symbolize a continuing desire for a connection with nature. Little Falls is fortunate to have several parks. These include Pine Grove Park and Maple Island Park.

Pine Grove Park was acquired in 1907 by "public spirited citizens." The park was a gift to the community from Milton M. and Florence Williams, Alexander R. and Laura Davidson, Charles A. and Maude Weyerhaeuser, and Richard Drew and Sarah Musser. Originally called the Primeval Pine Grove Park, the park's fifty-seven acres had been part of an eighty-acre homestead owned by Frank N. Fosters in 1878. In 1882, the land was sold to the lumber industry which then sold it to the city for one dollar under the condition that the land would be turned into a park and that the white pines on the property would never be cut. The trees were to be a "living symbol" of the white pine that made Little Falls a lumber center. About forty acres of the property was covered with white pine and oak and the remainder was largely meadow and swamp.

According to Val Kasperek, former director of the Morrison County Historical Society, a zoo was added in 1914. Wildlife at the park has included deer, moose, elk,

bison, peacocks, and horned owls. In 1932, WPA workers added two stone pillars to the entrance and a stone wall along the south side of the park. The park has picnic and playground facilities. The log cabin shelter was erected in 1940.

Another important park in Little Falls is Maple Island Park. Dedicated in 1991, Maple Island Park is located along the Mississippi River near the dam. Plans to acquire the property for a city park date back to 1893. Locally known for its maple trees, the island was historically used as a gathering place and campground by American Indians. Originally part of Mill Island, Maple Island became separate in 1855 when the Little Falls Manufacturing Company had a large ditch dug across Mill Island. The ditch was later enlarged by floods. During the construction of Highway 10, the highway department filled in part of the ditch. The rest of the ditch was filled in by the Simonet family. The Simonets had purchased the property from the Musser family and planned to build a shopping center on the site. The small lagoon on the west end is all that remains of the original ditch. Maple Island Park features paths, flower beds, and a gazebo. The globe street lamps in the park serve as reminders of the "White Way," Little Falls' former street lighting.



## Chapter 5

# What A Splash!

## The influence of Little Falls on the rest of the world

**W**hat do you want to be when you grow up? A scientist for NASA, a movie actress, or a football player? These seem like such glamorous occupations. Could they be out of reach to kids from Little Falls? Definitely not. There have been people from Little Falls who have done all of these things and more.

Through its people, Little Falls has had a substantial influence on the state, the country and the world. Included in this chapter are some of the people who have made an impact on the world in surprising ways. The people chosen for this chapter were born in Little Falls or lived here at some point in their lives. You will meet politicians, a boxer, an archaeologist, a movie star, several artists and others. And, who can forget that boyish aviator who, with one spectacular flight, gave us our modern notion of fame?

Find out who these people are by reading the rest of this chapter. As you are reading, stop and think, how will you contribute to the world?



## ✓ Check It Out

Charles A. Lindbergh's boyhood home is located in Little Falls and open to the public for tours during the summer. Lindbergh, himself, was on hand in 1973 for the dedication of the Interpretive Center. Lindbergh State Park, which was the Lindbergh farm, was named for Charles' father, C.A. Lindbergh. You can take a field trip to both sites.

## 📷 Snapshot!

### Lindbergh & the Pulitzer Prize

Three Pulitzer Prizes have been awarded in relation to aviator, Charles A. Lindbergh. The first was awarded to Deak Lyman for his 1935 story covering Lindbergh's reasons for leaving the United States to live in England. The second was awarded to Lindbergh, himself, for his book *The Spirit of St. Louis*, published in 1953. He dedicated this book to his wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who helped him to write it. And finally, the 1998 biography, *Lindbergh*, by A. Scott Berg, won the coveted literary award. This last book was the source for much of the Lindbergh information in this chapter.

## Charles A. Lindbergh

The massive crowd screamed and cheered and rushed forward to greet their hero. Was this man a popular rock singer or a movie star? No. He was an aviator — Charles A. Lindbergh. He had just completed his solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic Ocean. The day was May 21, 1927. The place was Paris, France. Lindbergh's flight signaled the beginning of immense technological achievements in aviation. Much to Lindbergh's dismay, it also launched the world's modern idea of fame.

### Early Life

Charles Augustus Lindbergh was born on February 4, 1902 in Detroit, Michigan. His parents were Charles August Lindbergh (called C.A.) and Evangeline Lodge Land Lindbergh. C.A. Lindbergh was a prominent lawyer and land dealer in Little Falls at the time of his son's birth. Evangeline was C.A.'s second wife. C.A.'s first wife, Mary LaFond, had died of a stomach tumor at the age of 30. After Mary's death, C.A. sent his two daughters (Lillian and Eva) from this first marriage to a boarding school in Minneapolis.

C.A. met Evangeline Lodge Land when she came to Little Falls to work as a science teacher at the high school. They fell in love and were married on March 27, 1901 in Detroit, Michigan, where Evangeline's parents lived. After their marriage, C.A. arranged for a house to be built on land outside of Little Falls on the edge of the Mississippi River. Once the house was built,

C.A.'s children, Lillian and Eva, came back to live in Little Falls. The following year, along came the newest addition to the family, Charles Augustus. Evangeline's baby boy was delivered in Detroit under the care of her uncle, Dr. Edwin Lodge. She brought Charles home to Little Falls when he was just eight weeks old.

One of Charles' earliest memories was of the family house burning to the ground. This occurred on August 6, 1905. A new, smaller house was built in its place.

Charles was raised to be self-reliant and an independent thinker. He spent most of his time outdoors while living in Little Falls and was captivated by the river. A screened porch on the upper level of the house served as his bedroom all year-round. It gave him the feeling of being close to nature. Charles enjoyed being alone most of the time. He kept himself occupied by collecting things such as lead soldiers, coins and marbles. He preferred outdoor pursuits like swimming, hunting, and climbing trees. He also made up his own mental games and adventures. He saw his first airplane while at his home in Little Falls. He climbed onto the roof of the house to get a better view of the machine.

After 1907, Charles spent little time living on the farm in Little Falls. His father had been elected to the United States Congress in September of 1906. His parents were not getting along by this time and were living



separately. Charles lived mostly with his mother while his father served in Congress. They moved between Washington, D. C. and Detroit, spending the summers in Little Falls. While in Detroit, Charles discovered his love of science from Evangeline's relatives, the Lands, who practiced medicine. This interest was to appear later in his life. In Washington, D. C., he attended school, which he disliked.

By 1916, Charles was back in Minnesota, helping his father campaign for the United States Senate. At the age of fourteen, Charles' job was to drive the family car on the campaign trail. He had learned to drive at the age of eleven and was the best driver in the family. Father and son traveled all over the state, but C. A. lost his bid for the Senate seat. The following year, Charles drove his mother to California and back.

Once back in Little Falls, Charles was put in charge of taking care of the farm. The United States had just entered World War I and C. A. bought cows and sheep to increase food production on the farm. This turned out to be fortunate for Charles. He had one year left of high school and thought he might drop out. Due to the war, there was a shortage of food, so the principal of the Little Falls High School told students that anyone who wanted to farm would receive the credits they needed to graduate. Charles took up the offer and graduated from Little Falls High School on June 5, 1918.

## Historic Flight

After a brief stint of college in Madison, Wisconsin, Charles decided to go to flying school in Nebraska. Following eight hours of flight training, Charles became a barnstormer. In 1923, with financial help from his father, Charles bought his first airplane, a Curtiss Jenny. The day he bought the plane, he made his first solo flight.

In March of 1924, Lindbergh entered the Army's flying school in Texas. He finally learned to apply himself at school and graduated first in his class a year later. During that year, his father died. After his time in Texas, he headed to the state of Missouri, which was a center for aviation. He resumed his barnstorming, becoming known for his daring feats. In 1926, he got a job as an airmail pilot. While flying on his airmail route, he dreamed of a bigger goal, flying non-stop from New York to Paris.

In 1919, Raymond Orteig offered to pay \$25,000 to the first pilot who crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Paris to New York or from New York to Paris without stopping. Many aviators had attempted the flight since the offer was first made. More were trying when Lindbergh came on the scene, but their plans included more than one passenger on the flight. Lindbergh thought that he had the best chance of succeeding on the flight if he kept the weight of the plane low. To do this, he would have to fly alone. He also needed money to buy

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*This house is the very first home built by Lindbergh's father on their farm in Little Falls. Charles remembered it burning down when he was a child (in 1905). The Lindbergh family erected a new house on the site, which now serves as a museum.*



## Look It Up

aviator	immense
captivated	campaign
shortage	stint
barnstormer	navigating
hoisted	hoopla
mode	perfusion
contributed	prior
popularity	controversial
intervention	patriotic
civilian	primitive

an airplane. He found financial backers in St. Louis and ordered a plane from a manufacturer in California. Lindbergh oversaw the building of his airplane, which was given the name *Spirit of St. Louis* in honor of his financial backers.

By the end of April 1927, the plane was complete. The race was on. Several aviators had made attempts at the Orteig Prize and more were ready. On May 10, Lindbergh flew his new plane from California to St. Louis to meet with the men who had paid for the plane. This flight of 1,500 miles set a record for nonstop flights.

From St. Louis, he headed to Curtiss Field in New York. He was mobbed by reporters, who were eagerly following all news concerning a trans-Atlantic flight.

Following a visit from his mother, Evangeline, and a period of bad weather, Lindbergh was ready to go.

The *Spirit of St. Louis* was towed to Roosevelt Field. By 7:54 on the morning of May 20, 1927, with cameras rolling, Lindbergh and his plane were in the air. The world held its breath as it waited for word of sightings of the plane headed for Paris.

Lindbergh was not familiar with navigating over miles of open water. Part of his flight took place during the night, so he used the stars as his guide. He was also flying without having had any sleep the night before his flight. Despite these and other challenges, after 33½ hours in the air, Lindbergh landed the

*Spirit of St. Louis* on Le Bourget Field, just outside of Paris. It was dark in Paris - 10:24 p.m. - and around 150,000 people were there to greet him. As his plane came to a stop, the police were unable to contain the crowd. The people swept toward the plane and hoisted Lindbergh into the air. Some Frenchmen quickly saved him from the mob.

With his successful solo non-stop trans-Atlantic flight, Lindbergh became one of the most famous people on earth. A great hoopla and much media attention followed him for months after the flight. Lindbergh received the Orteig prize in June 1927 in New York. He then took a tour of the United States in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. During this tour, on August 25, 1927, Lindbergh flew into Little Falls, landing in a field just outside the city. His visit brought 50,000 people to town.

## Life After the Flight

Having achieved world fame, what does a person do? Charles Lindbergh was a man of diverse interests and abilities. His primary goal was to promote aviation throughout the world. He was instrumental in helping airlines to establish routes and to making aviation a common mode of travel for people. In addition, he wrote several books about his flight. He also invented the perfusion pump, which kept blood circulating through organs during surgery.

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



Lindbergh's boyhood friends on their way to Washington, D. C. to officially welcome him back from his flight. From left to right they are Mayor Austin Grimes, Sherman Levis, Dr. C. H. Longley, and Kenneth Martin. They called their car "The Spirit of Little Falls."



Charles also had a family. On May 27, 1929, he married writer, Anne Morrow. Anne and Charles had six children. Their first child, Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. was born June 22, 1930. In March of 1931, this baby was kidnapped and killed. Bruno Richard Hauptmann was convicted of this horrible crime in 1935. Charles was convinced that all the media attention he had received contributed to the kidnapping. The Lindberghs moved to England at the end of 1935 to escape from the media. They also wanted to keep their second son, Jon, safe. He was born August 16, 1932. The other Lindbergh children were Land, born May 11, 1937; Anne, born October 2, 1940; Scott, born August 13, 1942; and Reeve, born October 2, 1945.

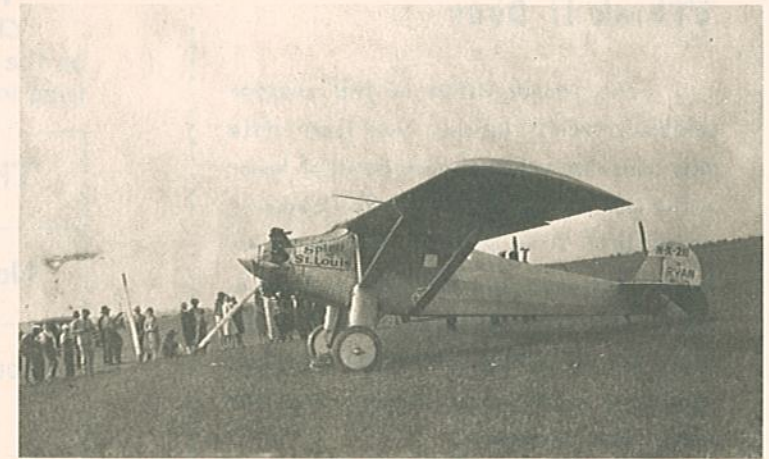
Prior to World War II, the Lindbergh family returned to the United States. Charles wanted to convince people in the United States not to enter the European war. His popularity dropped because of his controversial views concerning the Jews and American intervention in the war. As a result, at this time, his name was removed from the water tower in Little Falls.

By 1951, when Lindbergh Elementary School was named for the aviator, the town and the world seemed to have forgiven Lindbergh for his pre-war opinions. Lindbergh had shown himself to be patriotic by flying several combat missions in the Pacific Ocean as a civilian during the war. He also showed pilots how to conserve fuel

during their flights so that their airplanes could fly farther.

In the later years of his life, Lindbergh turned his attention to environmental issues. He was convinced that aviation had ruined the lives of primitive peoples by opening their home environments to technological advancements.

On August 26, 1974, Charles A. Lindbergh died of cancer. He was buried on the island of Maui in Hawaii.



*The Spirit of St. Louis, August 25, 1927. Lindbergh used this plane for his historic solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. He flew it back to Little Falls for a visit after his historic flight. It is now located at the Smithsonian Museum. This was not Lindbergh's only plane. He owned a number of them in his lifetime.*

### 💡Think It Over

Charles Lindbergh was careful about what he packed for his trans-Atlantic flight. The Spirit of St. Louis weighed 2,150 pounds empty. Lindbergh knew that most of his cargo on his trip had to be fuel, so he had to keep the rest of the stuff he carried with him to a bare minimum. The fuel weighed 2,750 pounds (451 gallons), the oil weighed 140 pounds, and Charles weighed 170 pounds. He took another 40 pounds worth of stuff along, too, including only five sandwiches to eat. Can you figure out how many pounds he carried, including himself?

Pretend you are Charles Lindbergh. You only have 40 pounds of extra weight to carry with you on your flight. What would you take with you? The items you decide to take with you have to be practical. That means, you need to have some use for them on the flight (or if you crash!). Weigh the items you select for your flight.



## Think It Over

The people listed in this chapter certainly aren't the only ones from Little Falls who have achieved some level of honor in the world. Who else do you think belongs on this list? To be included, the person has to have been born in Little Falls or lived in the city sometime during his or her life. He or she also has to have contributed something significant to the world through his or her work, ideas or deeds.

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



Postcard drawn by George W. Harting in 1949. Addressed to Miss Merrie Cornwell of Little Falls. Notice the picture of Pine Grove Park in the background. Check out George's signature. Both he and his brother, Lloyd, elongated the line on the "G".

## People of Influence

Charles Lindbergh is not the only person connected to Little Falls who has had an influence on the rest of the world. The following pages show other celebrated people who were born or lived in Little Falls and some of their achievements. They are listed alphabetically by last name.

The Arts		
Name	Birth/Death	Scope of Influence
Louise Erdrich	June 7, 1954-	Author. Born Karen Louise Erdrich in Little Falls, MN. Grew up in North Dakota. Books include <i>Love Medicine</i> , <i>The Beet Queen</i> , <i>Tracks</i> , and <i>The Bingo Palace</i> . Her books contain Native American themes. Her mother was Ojibway-French and her grandparents operated a butcher shop in Little Falls.
George Harting	1877- Oct.31, 1958	Artist and photographer. Born in Little Falls, MN. His parents owned the Harting & Sons Furniture Store in Little Falls. Brother to Lloyd, listed below. He won several drawing contests and went to Minneapolis Art School. His illustrations appeared in the following national magazines: <i>Browning's Magazine</i> , <i>Harper's Weekly</i> , <i>Broadway Magazine</i> , <i>The Circle Magazine</i> , <i>Harper's Bazaar</i> , <i>Life</i> , <i>The Woman's Home Companion</i> , <i>House &amp; Garden</i> , and <i>Vogue</i> . His photos appeared in <i>Camera Craft</i> .
Lloyd Harting	Dec. 1, 1901- Oct. 17, 1974	Artist. Born in Little Falls, MN. Brother of George. One of the Art Directors on the Disney cartoon, <i>Bambi</i> . Also worked for advertising agency, Brown & Bigelow and for 20th Century Fox Film Co. Studio.



The Arts		
Name	Birth/Death	Scope of Influence
Jessica Lange	April 20, 1949-	Movie Actress. Born in Cloquet, MN. Attended school in Little Falls at St. Francis High School. Won an Academy Award for Best Actress in 1995 for her movie, <i>Blue Sky</i> . Has appeared in 22 films including <i>King Kong</i> , <i>Tootsie</i> , <i>The Postman Always Rings Twice</i> , <i>Cape Fear</i> , <i>Rob Roy</i> , and <i>Titus</i> .
Don Merrick	Aug. 11, 1929-1990	Painter. Born in Crosby, MN. Grew up in Little Falls and graduated from Little Falls High School. He illustrated the 1946 and 1947 yearbooks. Painted in abstract expressionist and surrealist styles in the 1950's. In the 1960's, he completed a series of architectural paintings, which were destroyed in a gallery fire while on exhibit. For 9 years after the fire, he wasn't inspired to paint. Finally, he created his "Paintings of Real People" series, which showed people in their working environments. Merrick's work was exhibited throughout the United States in numerous one-person shows.
Keri Pickett	June 4, 1959-	Photographer. Attended school in Little Falls. Her photos have been exhibited throughout the U. S. Her book, called <i>Love in the 90's</i> , showed Pickett's photos of her grandparents. <i>Life</i> and <i>People</i> magazines and <i>Good Morning America</i> have featured her work.

Little Falls High School Annual, the "Pow-Wow," 1921.



One of the many drawings done by Lloyd Harting for the 1921 yearbook of the Little Falls High School.



## Snapshot!

### Cream Can Gang

Sometimes, people get to be known for doing bad things. The word that describes people famous for bad deeds is notorious. Little Falls has had its share of notorious people. Here is one example:

In 1939, a gang of burglars was captured and locked up in the Ramsey County jail. Before they were caught, they robbed post offices and banks in small towns throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. After each robbery, they left a cream can on the site. That is how they got the name "Cream Can Gang". One of the gang members was Edward Richard Mrozik, who was a tavern owner and plumber from Little Falls. The arrest of the gang members ended their crime spree.

## The Arts

Name	Birth/Death	Scope of Influence
Carlos Stroia	c. 1957-	Ballet Dancer. Born in Romania. First Dancer for Opera Bucharest and for companies in Cuba and Italy. Came to the United States. Started teaching ballet at Franciscan Sisters' Center in September, 1979. Owns and operates a ballet studio in Little Falls. Has danced internationally with various ballet stars.
Christian Von Schneidau	March 24, 1893-1976	Painter. Born in Sweden. Moved to the Little Falls area as a teen with his parents. His painting of M. M. Williams of Little Falls earned him 2nd place at the State Art Society's show in Minneapolis. He moved to California and became an important figure in the California Impressionist movement. He painted portraits of the elite in Los Angeles.



## Government

Name	Birth/Death	Scope of Influence
Clarence B. Buckman	April 1, 1850-March 1, 1917	United States Congressman. Born in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Came to Morrison County in 1872. In 1880, he moved to Little Falls. He built the Buckman Hotel in 1892. His other building projects in Little Falls included the Buckman block, a modern garage and a number of homes. In 1881, he served 2 years in the Minnesota House of Representatives, and then became a Senator for several terms. He served in the United States Congress from 1903-1907. From 1912-1917, he served as the Deputy U.S. Marshal.
Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr.	Jan. 20, 1858-May 24, 1924	United States Congressman. Born in Stockholm, Sweden. Moved to Minnesota as a baby with his parents. Became a lawyer and started his law practice in Little Falls. He was elected the Morrison County Attorney in 1890. In 1907, he replaced Clarence B. Buckman as United States Congressman. He and Evangeline Lodge Land Lindbergh were the parents of aviator, Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.
Walter Rogosheske	July 12, 1914-May 15, 1998	Minnesota Supreme Court Justice from 1962-1982. Born in Sauk Rapids, MN. Grew up near Little Falls. Also served in the Minnesota House of Representatives before his term as Supreme Court Justice.

Morrison County Historical Society Collections



*Clarence B. Buckman and wife with family and friends in front of their home in Little Falls. This house is still standing in Little Falls on 4th Street Southeast, behind the county courthouse. Clarence's primary businesses when he moved to Morrison County were agriculture and lumber. Nelson photo.*





Senator Gordon Rosenmeier (center) with former Governors Harold Levander (left) and Wendell Anderson (right). This photo was taken in Little Falls on September 19, 1974 during Gordon Rosenmeier Recognition Day.

Government		
Name	Birth/Death	Scope of Influence
Gordon Rosenmeier	July 1, 1907-1989	Minnesota State Senator. Born in Royalton, MN. Lived in Little Falls from 1912-1989. Served eight consecutive terms in the Minnesota Senate. Was an extremely powerful senator. He authored at least 300 bills during his career.
Anne Simonett	1952-May 6, 1995	First woman to hold the position of Chief Judge of Minnesota Court of Appeals. Grew up in Little Falls.
John Simonett	July 17, 1924-	Minnesota Supreme Court Justice. Born in Mankato, MN. Settled in Little Falls after college and practiced law in the city for 29 years. His law partner was Gordon Rosenmeier. In 1980, he was appointed to the position of Supreme Court Justice, replacing Walter Rogosheske. He served in this position for 14 years.
Charles Vasaly	Dec. 18, 1869-1935	State Prison Superintendent. Born in Fort Ripley. Grew up in Little Falls. Served 7 terms as mayor of the city. Appointed to the position of State Prison Superintendent in 1920 and was put in charge of the St. Cloud Reformatory. He worked to reform inhumane prison practices (such as the "silent system") and believed that prisoners should be reformed through vocational education instead of simply being punished.



## Science & Technology

Name	Birth/Death	Scope of Influence
Francis Eliza Babbitt	Jan. 24, 1824- July 6, 1891	Archaeologist. Born in New York. Taught in Little Falls. Acclaimed for her studies of paleolithic quartz implements that were discovered along the Mississippi River near Little Falls. Her scholarly papers appeared in national publications. She had a collection of several thousand quartz pieces from the Little Falls area. This collection was later disposed of by a relative.
David Nelson	Oct. 30, 1947-	Geophysicist. Born in Little Falls. Graduated co-valedictorian from Little Falls High School. Co-discoverer of the Margham condensate field in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Contractor for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory writing software that will help scientists to analyze information from the TERRA spacecraft. This spacecraft gathers information about the earth's climate.

## Snapshot!

### In David Nelson's Words . . .

Geophysicist, David Nelson, who is listed on this page, does not feel that what he does is all that important, but it is. David's work for NASA will help us discover new things about the earth. In his words:

*"I am collaborating on the development of a system of computer programs that will analyze data from the TERRA spacecraft and will aid scientists in better understanding earth's changing climate. Much of my work involves one component of the system that computes earth's albedo (the fraction of the sun's energy that is reflected back to space)."*

David wrote the following about his achievements:

*"It is difficult to assess which of my achievements are most important to me. If pressed, I guess I would say 1) building and managing a computer department for the Exploration division of ARCO International Oil and Gas; and 2) co-discovering the Margham "oil" field."*

David explains the oil field this way:

*"The "Margham condensate field in Dubai, UAE" is an oil field containing about 50 million barrels of condensate, which is a light, liquid hydrocarbon. Dubai is one of the United Arab Emirates adjacent to Saudi Arabia."*

What kinds of contributions do you think you will make to the world?



## Look It Up

contribute	elongated
illustration	abstract expressionism
surrealism	inspired
exhibit	international
tavern	California Impressionism
elite	consecutive
appointed	reform
inhumane	vocational
acclaimed	geophysicist
collaborating	analyze
data	climate
component	assess

## Sports

Name	Birth/Death	Scope of Influence
Duane Bobick	Aug. 24, 1950-	Boxer. Born in St. Paul, MN. Grew up in Bowlus, MN. Went to high school for three years in Little Falls. Made his home in Little Falls after boxing career. Started boxing with the Little Falls Golden Gloves boxing team. Won the Pan American Games Heavyweight title in 1971. In 1972, he was the heavyweight Golden Gloves champion. That same year, he was a part of the United States Olympic Boxing Team in Munich, Germany.
Gale Gillingham	Feb. 3, 1944-	Football player. Born in Madison, WI. Family moved to Little Falls when he was a junior in high school. Owns Goedker Realty in Little Falls. In 1966, he was the first-round draft pick for the Green Bay Packers. He played with this team for ten years and earned two Super Bowl rings.



## Chapter 6

# The River Current

## Little Falls Today

**H**istory is continually moving along, just like the Mississippi River. Whatever you were doing just a minute ago is now history. That's quite an overwhelming thought if you think about it too long. How can anyone possibly keep track of all the history there has ever been here on Earth? Well, no one on earth can, really. It is hard enough just to keep track of the history of a town like Little Falls.

Discovering history becomes easier if you remember that all history is local history. Start with yourself. You have a family that has its own history. If you or your family live in Little Falls, all of you contribute to the history of the town in some way. The city of Little Falls contributes to the history of Morrison County, and the history of Morrison County helps shape the history of the state of Minnesota. See how this all works? Each piece of local history connects to other pieces of local history, and pretty soon, you have world history.

This chapter will help you to discover your own history. It will also show you where to look for the history of your community. Remember, no matter where you go, you are a part of history.



## Look It Up

ailments	ancestors
archives	descendent
emigrant	immigrant
maiden name	maternal
obituary	paternal
pedigree	residence
sibling	spouse
surname	widow
vital	statistics

## Genealogy

Genealogy is the process of searching for your ancestors. A genealogist is a person who gathers information on his or her ancestors. One tool that genealogists use to keep track of their ancestors is a family tree. This special chart shows how a person is related to his or her ancestors. An example of a family tree chart is shown on page 81. On the following page is information on how to get started on your own family tree. Then, you can call yourself a genealogist.

Using "How to Plant a Family Tree" as a guide, write down as much information as you can about yourself and your immediate family. Your immediate family includes your mom and dad and your siblings. When you get all the basic facts and dates down, you can move on to your grandparents. If you don't know much about your grandparents, ask your parents for help. When you've discovered what you can about your grandparents, move on to your great-grandparents. Keep going as far back in time as you can.

Now that you have all of these names and facts written down, what do you do with them? First, look for gaps in your information. Maybe you are missing the birthdate of your maternal great-grandmother and your mom doesn't know it. It's time to do some digging. Using the list of "Home Sources" on the following page, see if you can find the date listed on something in your home. If you can't find it on a home source, turn to the Institutional Sources. The Recorder's

Office in the County Courthouse is the place to find all births, deaths and marriages that occurred in the county.

But, what if your maternal great-grandmother was not born in Morrison County? Well, perhaps the information you need will be located at a local historical society. County and area historical societies will usually have some kind of research facilities that contain family information. Each historical society has its own rules for doing research. They all operate somewhat like libraries, except that you can not take anything out of the building. Most will be able to make copies of what you need for a fee.

If you aren't able to find what you need at a historical society, then you may have to contact state institutions. In Minnesota, the Department of Health is the place to call for birth, death and marriage information. Contact them if you know that one of your relatives was born, died or married in the state, but you can't figure out the county in which the event took place. (The phone number for the Department of Health is located in Chapter 7.) Each state in the United States has its own central location for vital statistics, but the name of the collecting agency may be different.

If you still can't find the birthdate of your maternal great-grandmother, there is another source you can check. . .the Internet. Genealogists love computers. They need them to keep track of all the



# How To Plant a Family Tree

## Genealogy - A Hobby for Yourself, A Legacy for Descendants

To start your family genealogy, begin with yourself. Then, list your parents (include your mother's maiden name), grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., as far back in your ancestry as possible.

Information to include for each person: Date Born, Where Born, When and Where Married, Death Date, Where Died, Where Buried. Add to this any other interesting details of each person's life.

### Where to Look for Family Information:

#### Home Sources:

- Legal Papers
- Certificates (Birth, Death, Baptismal, Marriage, etc.)
- Military Records
- Family Records
- Family Bibles
- Financial Records
- Announcements
- Licenses
- School Records, Report Cards, Year Books
- Household Items (Samplers, Silverware, Souvenirs)
- Newspaper Clippings
- Scrapbooks
- Photo Albums



#### Institutional Sources:

- Genealogical Societies
- Historical Societies
- Church Records
- Cemeteries & Cemetery Records
- Township, County, State & National Archives
- County Courthouse Records



### START NOW!

Once you have acquired the basic statistical information, your research will become a virtual treasure hunt. You will begin to gather pictures, documents, personal items and memorabilia. You will become acquainted with family members you've never met before. You'll enjoy personal visits with the elder members of the family and will find more at a family reunion than the potluck picnic.



**CAUTION!!** Keep accurate records of where you find each piece of information. Documentation of sources is essential.



information they collect. Many genealogists will post their family information on the Internet. Just type the name of the relative for whom you are looking on a search engine and see what pops up. You may find that more than one person with the same name will show up on the sites that are found. It is up to you to determine which of them is related to you. To do this, go back to your family tree and compare the names of parents, children and siblings in relation to the name you found on the Internet and see if the dates match. Hopefully, you can fill in most of the gaps on your family tree.

Once you are done with your family tree, you will probably wonder, what good are all of these facts about my relatives? Behind the dry facts are stories about these people. When you get to know these personal stories, your ancestors will become real to you, even if you have never met them. You will have a greater understanding of the lives of your parents and grandparents. Their influences and the things they loved and hated will help you to see life from their perspectives. Studying your family stories will show you where you have come from. Maybe you inherited red hair from your great-grandfather on your mother's side of the family. Perhaps your love of science or books came from your father. Ultimately, genealogy will help you to understand the deeper connections between people.

## Snapshot!

### Cemeteries

Cemeteries are like outdoor museums. They tell us all kinds of information about the people who are buried in them. From grave markers, you can learn birth dates, death dates, whether someone served in the military, or was a mother or father. Grave markers can also show us how people lived. The size of a marker may indicate how much money or importance some people had. Inscriptions can give us clues about the personality of the deceased. The style of the markers and how they are placed in a cemetery show how society's attitudes toward burial have changed over time.

Little Falls has five cemeteries. They are Oakland Cemetery, St. Adelbert's Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery, the Franciscan Sisters Convent Cemetery, and Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Cemetery. Calvary Cemetery, which seems to be on the north edge of town, is just outside of the city limits in Belle Prairie Township.

## Think It Over

How would you feel if you went to look for your great-grandparents' grave markers and found them vandalized?



# Family Tree Chart

Here is a family tree chart for you to complete. Take a copy of this page and fill out the copy, rather than writing in the book. How much of it can you complete without help? If you get stuck, ask your family for more information.

Your Grandfather's Father	Your Grandmother's Father	Your Grandfather's Father	Your Grandmother's Father
Your Grandfather's Mother	Your Grandmother's Mother	Your Grandfather's Mother	Your Grandmother's Mother

*These are  
your great-  
grandparents.*

Your Father's Father Birth Date Place of Birth Death Date Place of Death	Your Father's Mother Birth Date Place of Birth Death Date Place of Death	Your Mother's Father Birth Date Place of Birth Death Date Place of Death	Your Mother's Mother Birth Date Place of Birth Death Date Place of Death
--	--	--	--

*These are your  
grandparents.*

Your Father's Name Birth Date Place of Birth Death Date Place of Death	Your Mother's Maiden Name Birth Date Place of Birth Death Date Place of Death
--	---

Your Brothers

Your Name  
Birth Date  
Place of Birth

Your Sisters



## Architecture

Architects are people who design structures such as buildings, bridges and ships. Architects are artists and designers, but they are also scientists. The architect must understand what materials to use and how the materials fit together to make a structure strong. The architect must also understand geometry. Little Falls has many types of architecture. Some of the buildings were designed by famous architects. Look carefully at the buildings you walk past. Can you identify the different styles of architecture? Can you pick out circles, squares, rectangles and other shapes?

### Morrison County Courthouse

The first Morrison County courthouse was a wood frame Greek Revival style building. (Photo on page 33.)

Like the courthouse, many of the earliest houses and business buildings in Little Falls were Greek Revival. When Little Falls became a boomtown in the 1890s there was a need for a larger courthouse. The old courthouse was moved to another location so the new courthouse could be built on the courthouse square.

Mr. Charles A. Dunham was hired to design the new

courthouse. Mr. Dunham designed many courthouses in Iowa and Minnesota, as well as business buildings, opera houses and schools. The original courthouse is now called the Historic Morrison County Courthouse because a new government center has been built.

The Historic Courthouse is a landmark. It is the most noticeable building in Little Falls because it is a massive building with a tall tower. The architectural style of the courthouse is called Richardsonian Romanesque. This style of building can be identified by thick walls, arches, designs in windows, and towers. You will notice that the courthouse has all of these. It is also somewhat different because it has Little Falls brick as part of the structure in addition to large granite blocks. The clock in the tower was added later. It was donated by a man named Josiah Page.

### Cass Gilbert Depot

Cass Gilbert was a famous architect who designed important buildings in Minnesota including the Minnesota State Capitol. He also designed many large and elaborate houses in St. Paul. He became famous nationally when he designed the United States Supreme Court Building and the Woolworth Building in New York.

Cass Gilbert designed two buildings in Little Falls. One was the Antlers Hotel, which was torn down. The other building was the Northern Pacific Depot which is now called the

*Morrison County Historical Society Collections*



*Historic Morrison County Courthouse. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo undated.*



Cass Gilbert Depot. (See photo on page 47.) The depot is a combination of the Craftsman and Shingle styles of architecture. It has a heavy stone base. The upper part is vertical boards cut in interesting shapes. The rafters and beams are exposed.

The depot was a very busy place when many people traveled by passenger train. Some people came from towns in Morrison County but others traveled all across the United States. Passenger trains to Little Falls were discontinued when automobiles became popular.

### Carnegie Library

The Little Falls library was designed by architect Fremont D. Orff of Minneapolis. (See photos on page 56.) The base of the building was built of large boulders. The upper part was constructed of brick. The building had a slate roof. In the year 2000 a new addition to the library was completed. The architects for the addition were Miller-Dunwiddie, Inc. They followed the design of the old building, but made some things different so that people will be able to tell that the addition is not part of the original building.

### Weyerhaeuser/ Musser Houses

These houses, located near the Mississippi River and Highland Avenue South, were both designed by architect Clarence Johnston. Johnston and Cass Gilbert were

friends. Johnston also designed many of the houses on Summit hill in St. Paul.

The Musser and Weyerhaeuser houses were built in 1898, six years after the Pine Tree Lumber Company sawmill was built. Mr. Musser and Mr. Weyerhaeuser were managers at the mill. The houses are in the Shingle style of architecture. The Shingle style gets its name because the the outside of the house is covered with shingles instead of regular siding. Shingle style houses borrowed other features from the Queen Anne style.

### William Butler House

The William Butler house is now owned by Reverend and Mrs. Robert Koehler. It is located at the corner of Broadway and Sixth Street Southeast. This Queen Anne style house is built mostly of brick. It is more ornate than the Weyerhaeuser and Musser houses. The shingles are more decorative. The porch has a big circle to walk through and fancy spindles.



*The Antlers Hotel, designed by architect, Cass Gilbert. This photo is undated, but from the sign that says "Col. Charles Lindbergh's Home," we can tell that it was taken after 1927.*

### Look It Up

structure	geometry
massive	elaborate
combination	vertical
discontinued	boulder
shingle	ornate
spindle	platted
folk	bay window
entrance	horizontal





*This is an interior view of the Alfred Tanner house. It is typical of the fancy Victorian style of decorating. This house was located kitty-corner from the Davidson House.*

## A. R. Davidson House

This is a very ornate Victorian style house. It is now called the Waller house. It is located on Third Street Southeast. A. R. Davidson was a wealthy businessman. The house has a large wrap-around porch and towers. During the Victorian era people enjoyed decoration. Elaborate clothing, household furnishings and architecture were signs of wealth. This house is an excellent example of the Victorian style.

## Neighborhoods

The neighborhoods in Little Falls have many different styles of architecture. The oldest house in Little Falls is the Jodon House on the corner of Second Street and Second Avenue Northeast. (See page 29 for photo.) It is a Greek Revival style house that was built in 1858. This was during the time when the townsite of Little Falls was platted.

Most houses in Little Falls are what is called Folk Victorian or Farmhouse style. They are usually two-story houses with wood siding. Many of the houses have a bay window to increase light in the winter. These houses usually had a front porch with spindle railings and posts. Sitting on the front porch was a way to visit with people passing by. When cars became popular, people used their back entrances more and porches weren't used as much. Many rotted

and were torn off, which completely changed the design of the house.

Bungalow styles are also very common in Little Falls. They are one story or one-and-one-half story houses. These houses were built around the 1920s. A good example of this style of house is the brick and wood home across the street from the library.

There is only one Art Moderne home in Little Falls, located on Second Street Southeast. This style looks like a series of boxes except that the corners are rounded. This style often has horizontal lines for decorations.

Newer houses in Little Falls are mostly Ranch style although there is a recent movement that somewhat copies the Victorian style. Architecture has changed much over the centuries and styles have blended together. It can be very interesting to try to identify the different styles of architecture.

## Downtown

The Little Falls business district began with wood frame buildings. Some were Greek Revival and others were Western in style. By 1882 bricks were manufactured near Little Falls. New business buildings were then built with brick. The fronts of the buildings changed over the years as new styles were introduced. Now, the Heritage Preservation Commission is helping businesses to restore the fronts of buildings so they will look like they did when they were built.

### Think It Over

How old is the building where you live? What style do you think it was built in? What kinds of materials were used to build your home? Draw a floor plan of your bedroom or your home.



## Archaeology

Archaeology is the study of things left behind by people of the past. Through archaeology, we can discover how people lived years ago, especially during times when there was no written history.

Long before the Ojibway and Dacotah Indians lived in the area that is now Little Falls, other people made their homes in the region. Between 12,000 and 60,000 years ago, the area was covered with glaciers. What is now central Minnesota was the southern edge of these massive sheets of ice. Minnesota's first female archaeologist, Frances Eliza Babbitt, discovered evidence of humans that she thought lived during this glacial age. Babbitt was a school teacher in Little Falls in the late 1800s. She collected and studied white quartz chips that she found along the banks of the Mississippi River in and around Little Falls. She believed that these chips were the tools of Paleolithic humans. Her collection of quartz implements numbered around 3,000. The collection disappeared after she gave it to a relative for safe-keeping.

Morrison County has 158 recorded archaeological sites. New sites are constantly being found and are recorded at the State Historic Preservation Office. Each site is given a code number starting with the number "21", which stands for the

state of Minnesota. The code number is followed with the letters "MO". "MO" (pronounced em-oh) stands for Morrison County. Finally, a number follows which indicates the order in which the site was recorded. (For example, the first archaeological site recorded for Morrison County has the number 21-MO-1.) The location of archaeological sites is not given to the public because people may decide to go dig them up. (See Snapshot! - Don't Dig It!)

### Little Elk Heritage Preserve

Many Morrison County sites are located along the Mississippi River, which was a natural gathering place for people of the past. The most studied site in the county is Little Elk Heritage Preserve. Little Elk Heritage Preserve is actually a collection of diverse archaeological sites in an area covering  $92\frac{1}{4}$  acres. It is located two miles north of Little Falls at the confluence of the Little Elk River and the Mississippi River. (See map) Included in the preserve are the sites of a French Colonial era fur trading post from the 1750s, an Ojibway mission, Chief Hole-in-the-Day's cabin, and Major Ashley Morrill's barn. The organization that owns Little Elk Heritage Preserve is called the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology (IMA).

Archaeologists from IMA have investigated each of the sites at the preserve using a variety of means. They excavated the fur post site by carefully removing small layers of earth and recording what they found. They

### Snapshot!

#### Don't Dig It!

Once in a while, something that was buried long in the past works its way to the surface of the earth where it can be found. If you ever find something like an arrow point or a piece of pottery or some other thing that seems really old, DON'T start digging. Instead, remember where you found that old thing and take it to an adult or a local historical society. They will help you to determine if your item and the place you found it are worth further archaeological study.

If you dig into a site, you will destroy it. That is what happened at Little Elk Heritage Preserve. The boy who first discovered things on the site dug a big hole so he could explore further. Now that he is an adult, he regrets having dug the hole because he doesn't know what information he demolished. Luckily, Little Elk Heritage Preserve has lots of undisturbed archaeological information still left for archaeologists.

By the way, humans aren't the only ones who can ruin an archaeological site. When remote sensing was done on Elk City, archaeologists found that gophers made burrows throughout the town site and wrecked much of it.



## Snapshot!

### Ghosting

Ghosting does not mean what you think it means! In archaeology, ghosting refers to a framework that is built to show people what a building might have looked like. The framework just shows the edges of the building. There are no walls or roof. One of the fur post buildings at Little Elk Heritage Preserve has been ghosted so that visitors can imagine how big it was. And, maybe, even ghosts can imagine it, too!

## Think It Over

Using popsicle sticks or toothpicks and glue, can you ghost a building?

uncovered old nails, glass beads, animal bones, broken china, and a ring. Studying these items helped the archaeologists to date the fort. The items also showed how the occupants of the fort lived. For example, the bones were remains of animals that were eaten by the traders. By examining other clues, like the fireplace stones and the remains of post holes, archaeologists were able to figure out how many buildings were at the fort site and how they were constructed. Many of the artifacts that were found at the fort site were removed by archaeologists for further study. They then ghosted one of the buildings so that people visiting the site can picture what it looked like.

Since the excavation of the fort in the 1980s, archaeologists have turned to technology to help them study sites. Whenever a site is excavated, it is destroyed. Any information that was missed during the excavation can never be discovered again. Under ideal circumstances, archaeologists would like to study a site without disturbing it. Technology is now helping archaeologists to keep sites intact. Remote sensing is one way they do this.

Remote sensing is a technique where magnetic, electric, or radar waves are pulsed through the ground. These waves pick up abnormalities in the soil, which are then recorded as images on a computer screen for archaeologists to see. For example, remote sensing will pick up signals from where soil has been dug up for the postholes of a building. Soil that's been disturbed for any reason will stand out against the undisturbed soil surrounding it.

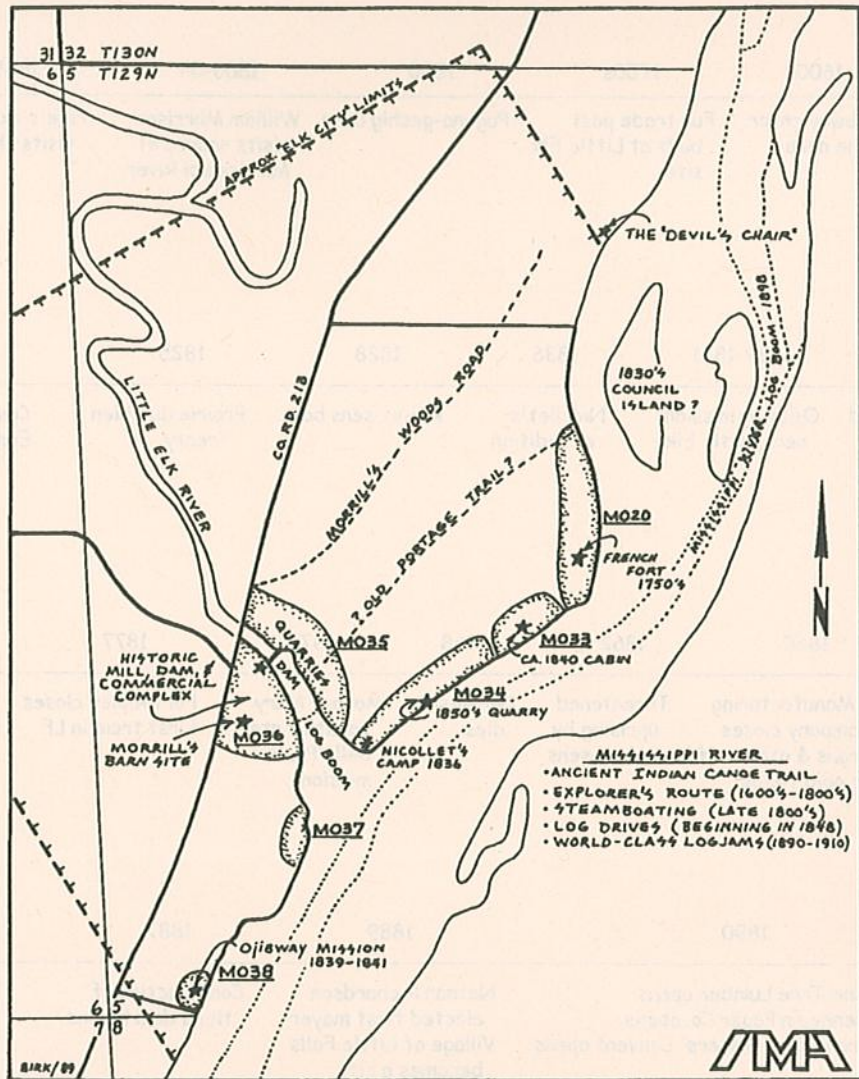
The IMA conducted remote sensing at Little Elk Heritage Preserve in the autumn of 1999. The area that was the town of Elk City was checked using this technique. The fur post site was also tested along with an area leading from the fur post to Chief Hole-in-the-Day's cabin site.

In addition to excavation, posthole analysis and remote sensing, other archaeological techniques have been used to study Little Elk Heritage Preserve. They include aerial photography, geophysical surveys, field surveys, and environmental analysis. Part of the environmental analysis has been the study of the plants and animals of Little Elk Heritage Preserve. Examining plants and animals and their remains helps archaeologists to see changes in the environment over time. Little Falls High School students have also tested water quality and done plant and bird inventories at the site.

Little Elk Heritage Preserve is an important archaeological site because it shows a span of history over 10,000 years old, from the glaciers until today. It also helps us to see how so many different types of people used one small piece of land, from the Paleolithic peoples, to the American Indians, to the fur traders, to the missionaries and explorers, and finally to the early settlement of Elk City with its mill and dam. That's a lot of history to pack into 92½ acres!



Map appears courtesy of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology



This is a map of the archaeological sites at Little Elk Heritage Preserve. The map was drawn by Doug Birk, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology (IMA). He is responsible for the archaeological research done at the preserve, which is owned by the IMA.

## Look It Up

evidence	implement
preservation	confluence
investigated	excavate
occupants	artifact
abnormality	aerial
geophysical	Paleolithic



# Time Line of Early Little Falls History



60,000 - 12,000 years ago

Glaciers covered the area

1500 A.D.

Paleolithic humans

Dacotah Indians

1600s

Ojibway enter the area

1750s

Fur trade post built at Little Elk site

1800

Pugona-geshig born

1803-04

William Morrison visits source of Mississippi River

1805-06

Pike's expedition visits the area

1849

Ayers start Belle Prairie mission  
James Green & partners build 1st dam and sawmill

1848

Fort Ripley construction begins

1847

Winnebago Treaty signed  
Pugona-geshig dies  
Kwi-wi-sens now chief

1839-1841

Ojibway mission near Little Elk

1836

Nicollet's expedition

1828

Kwi-wi-sens born

1825

Prairie du Chien Treaty

1820

Cass expedition  
Enmegabo born

1852

Father Pierz comes to Minnesota

1855

First public school opens

1856

Morrison County formed  
First newspaper published in LF

1856-1858

Grasshoppers  
Lynching  
Little Falls War

1860

LF Manufacturing Company closes  
Fergus & others off to gold fields

1862

Threatened uprising by Kwi-wi-sens

1868

Kwi-wi-sens dies

1872

Mother Mary Ignatius starts Belle Prairie mission

1877

Fort Ripley closes  
First train in LF

1879

Little Falls becomes a village

1903

Lincoln School burns

1895

Orphanage built

1893

Kiewel Brewery opens

1892

St. Gabriel's Hospital opens  
Lincoln & Columbia Elementary schools open

1890

Pine Tree Lumber opens  
Hennepin Paper Co. opens  
Franciscan Sisters' Convent opens

1889

Nathan Richardson elected first mayor  
Village of Little Falls becomes a city

1887

Construction of third dam begins

1880

Wave of immigration begins

1904

LF Business College opens  
Carnegie Library built

1911

Musical Art Club started

1914

Child Interest Club organized

1918

Sand Sisters' Millinery closes

1919

Maud Moon Weyerhaeuser Hall dedicated

1920

Pine Tree Lumber Company closes

1920 - Present

Using this book and other sources, can you continue this time line of Little Falls' history?



## Chapter 7

# Sources & Resources

**N**ow that you have come to the end of this book, you may be interested in learning more about Little Falls, Morrison County and Minnesota. This chapter lists sources and resources that will help you to do further research on the topics covered in this book. You will find organizations to contact, books, historical papers and newspapers to read, and hints on searching the Internet. The authors have used many of these sources to write this book.



## Organizations & Sites to Contact:

**Camp Ripley** - Contact: Personnel & Community Activities Officer, 15000 Highway 115, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-7296. Website: [www.dma.state.mn.us/cpriley/index](http://www.dma.state.mn.us/cpriley/index)

**Carnegie Library** - This historic library in Little Falls is part of the Great River Regional Library system. Address: 108 NE 3rd Street, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-9676. Website: [www.griver.org](http://www.griver.org)

**Charles A. Lindbergh House State Historic Site** - Owned and operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. Address: 1620 South Lindbergh Drive, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-3154

**Charles A. Lindbergh State Park** - Operated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Address: South Lindbergh Drive, PO Box 364, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-616-2525.

**The Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation** - 2150 Third Avenue North, Suite 310, Anoka, MN 55303-2200, 612-576-1596. Website: [www.isd.net/lindbergh](http://www.isd.net/lindbergh)

**City of Little Falls** - Info on city, Dewey-Radke Home, Pine Grove Park and Heritage Preservation Commission. Address: 100 Northeast 7th Avenue, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-2341. See Little Falls Convention & Visitor's Bureau web site.

**Dr. S. G. Knight Elementary School** - Science and Technology Magnet School located in Randall, MN. Part of the Little Falls School District. Address: 504 E. Minnesota Avenue, Randall, MN 56475. Phone: 320-749-2144 or 320-616-5200.

**Institute for Minnesota Archaeology** - Owns Little Elk Heritage Preserve. Address: 287 East 6th Street, Suite 260, St. Paul, MN 55101. Phone: 651-848-0095. Website: [www.imnarch.org](http://www.imnarch.org)

**Linden Hill Conference & Retreat Center** - Charles A. Weyerhaeuser & Richard Drew Musser Homes. Address: 608 Highland Avenue, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-4315. Website: [www.lindenhill.com](http://www.lindenhill.com)

**Lindbergh Elementary School** - Site of frescos related to Morrison County history, done by Charles Kapsner. Address: 101 Southeast 9th Street, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-616-3200. Fresco Website: [www.buonfresco.com](http://www.buonfresco.com)

**Lincoln Elementary School** - 300 SW 6th Street, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-616-6200.

**Little Falls Convention & Visitor's Bureau** - Tourism information for Little Falls area and State of Minnesota. Located in Burton/Rosenmeier House. Address: 606 SE 1st Street, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-616-4959. Website: [www.littlefallsmn.com](http://www.littlefallsmn.com)

**Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Trading Post Historical Society** - Address: PO Box 175, Highway 18S, Onamia, MN 56359. Phone: 320-532-3632

**Minnesota Fishing Museum** - Collects, preserves and displays artifacts related to fishing in Minnesota. Also houses Riverwatch Program. Address: 304 West Broadway, PO Box 745, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-616-2011.

**Minnesota Department of Health** - Keeps vital statistics for the state (births, deaths, marriages). Address: PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975. Phone: 651-215-5800. Website: [www.health.state.mn.us/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/index.html)

**Minnesota Historical Society** - Collects and preserves information and artifacts related to Minnesota history. Address: 345 Kellogg Blvd. West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. Phone: 1-800-657-3773. Website: [www.mnhs.org/index.html](http://www.mnhs.org/index.html)

**Minnesota Military Museum** - Preserves and displays Minnesota's military history. Located at Camp Ripley, 15000 Highway 115, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-7374.

**Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery** - Cemetery for veterans, operated by the State of Minnesota. Located next to Camp Ripley. Phone: 320-616-2527.

**Mississippi Headwaters Board** - Address: PO Box 3000, Walker, MN 56484. Phone: 218-547-7263. Website: [www.mhbriverwatch.dst.mn.us/](http://www.mhbriverwatch.dst.mn.us/)

**Morrison County Courthouse** - Site of legal, property, and vital records for the county. Recorder's Office is the primary source of birth, death, marriage and property records. Address: 213 SE 1st Avenue, Little Falls, MN 56345. General Phone: 320-632-2941. Recorder's Phone: 320-632-0146.

**Morrison County Historical Society** - Owns The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum. Has extensive library and archives on Morrison County history and on genealogical information. Address: 2151 South Lindbergh Drive, PO Box 239, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-4007.

**The Nature Conservancy** - Owns Warren/MacDougall Homestead in Bellevue Township. Local contact: Muriel Poehler, 320-584-5959. Website: [www.tnc.org/](http://www.tnc.org/)

**St. Francis Center** - Franciscan Sister's Convent, has archives concerning the convent, the orphanage, and the area. Address: 116 SE 8th Avenue, Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-632-2981 or 320-632-0695.



*Also check other libraries, churches, cemeteries, genealogical and historical societies, city halls and clerks, township officials, Chambers of Commerce, schools, and the Internet for further information.*



## Books by Topic

### Morrison County & Little Falls

Animal Surveys at the Minnesota Army National Guard Camp Ripley Training Site: 1997 Annual Report by William L. Brown & Sam Merrill, 1998.

The Best of Irene: Bits of Life from Then and Now by Irene Rudie.

Beware of the Poet by Esther Marguerite Wass, Little Falls, MN, 1986.

Camp Ripley: 1937-1945 by Lisa L. Nuehring, Master's Thesis, 1998.

A Century of Progress: Hennepin Paper Company, Little Falls, Minnesota, 1890-1990 by Bruce Mellor, Hennepin Paper Company, 1990.

Children's Games and Activities of the Early Twentieth Century as Remembered by Little Falls Area Citizens Who Played Them by Echo Kowalzek, 1989.

A Chosen Place: Lincoln, Scandia Valley, Rail Prairie by Sigfred Nelson & Ella Hoover Topp, Nordell Graphic Communications, Inc., Staples, MN, undated.

Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Morrison County, Minnesota (Final Environmental Assessment), United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 1992.

Cultural Resources, Literature Search and Records Review of the Camp Ripley, General E. A. Walsh Training Center, Morrison County, Minnesota by Robert P. Fay, Old Northwest Research, Madison, WI, 1985.

The First Cross: Belle Prairie by Stella LeBlanc, 1970.

The Geology of Crow Wing and Morrison Counties by Warren Upham. Bound photocopies on file at the Morrison County Historical Society.

The Gold Rush Widows of Little Falls by Linda Peavy & Ursula Smith, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN, 1990.

History of Morrison County by Nathan Richardson, 1876.

History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota by Clara K. Fuller, 2 volumes, B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc., Indianapolis, IN, 1915.

In the Glow of Pierz by Maurice Faust, 1995.

In the Shadow of His Wings: A History of the Franciscan Sisters by Sister Mary Assumpta Ahles O.S.F., The North Central Publishing Company, St. Paul, MN, 1977.

Kakabikans: New Light on the Old Falls and The Painted Rock by Bruce Mellor, 1985.

KLTF Partyline Cookbook, General Publishing and Binding, Iowa Falls, IA, 1984.

The Land Called Morrison by Harold L. Fisher, Volkmuth Printing Company, St. Cloud, MN, 1972 & 1976.

Larson, Paul, Biographical writings, Morrison County Historical Society archives.

Little Falls' Depot: A Preservation and Planning Study by Miller-Dunwiddie Architects, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, 1982.

Memoranda of Edith M. Parker: Years 1902 and 1903 by Edith Muir Parker, 1993.

Memories of My Life by Dr. E. C. "Doc" Goblirsch, 1998.

Memories, Memories, Memories by Gertrude Feucht, 1980.

Morrison County's Only Lynching by Robert D. Pomeroy, 1966. Paper on file at the Morrison County Historical Society.

The Muster Roll: A Biography of Fort Ripley, Minnesota by Robert Orr Baker, H. M. Smyth Co., Inc., St. Paul, MN, undated.

Old Crow Wing booklet by Robert J. Voight, St. Cloud, MN, 1964.

Old Crow Wing: History of a Village by Sister Bernard Coleman et al., 1967.

Once Covered With Pine: Early Bemidji by Charles Vandersluis, Country Candy, Minnetonka, MN, 1987. (Contains info on Morrison County)

Organization of Morrison County, 1856, Board of County Commissioners Minutes of Meetings, booklet with photocopies. On file at the Morrison County Historical Society.

Our Local Government by Little Falls Community High School 9th Grade Students, 1990.

Our Hometown: Swanville by Lowell C. Drager, 1993.

Pleistocene Geology of the Randall Region, Central Minnesota by Allan F. Schneider, The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, MN, 1961.

Post Offices: Morrison County, 1850-1936. Booklet on file at the Morrison County Historical Society.

Rambling Through Agram by Maurice Faust.

Remember — No Electricity!: A Reminiscence by Maurice Faust, Marvin Books, Brainerd, MN, 1998.

The Right Side of the River: Motley, Minnesota by Ella Hoover Topp, Nordell Graphic Communications, Inc., Staples, MN, 1987.



A Survey of Natural Areas in Morrison County, Minnesota by M. L. Partch, bound research paper, 1973-1975. On file at Morrison County Historical Society.

This and That by Hub Zvoloski, Zvoloski Enterprises, Little Falls, MN, 1972.

Voices of Yesterday by Charles Martin, Morrison County Historical Society & Morrison County Arts Association, 1977.

Welcome to Randall: "Little City With a Big Heart" by Norma E. Nelson, c. 1990.

## Minnesota & United States

Adventures in Minnesota History by Robert J. Mayo, E. M. Hale & Company, 1931.

America's Religious Architecture by Marilyn J. Chiat, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1997.

American Voyageur: The Journal of David Bates Douglass edited by Sydney W. Jackman & John F. Freeman, Northern Michigan University Press, Marquette, Michigan, 1969.

Bring Warm Clothes: Letters and Photos from Minnesota's Past by Peg Meier, Neighbors Publishing, Minneapolis, MN.

Building Minnesota by Theodore C. Blegen, D.C. Heath and Company, 1938.

Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, numerous volumes, Ramaley, Chaney & Co., Printers, St. Paul, 1872 - Vol. I.

Country School Memories designed & compiled by Bonnie Hughes Falk, 1986.

The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike by Z. M. Pike & Elliott Coues, 2 volumes, Ross & Haines, Inc. Minneapolis, 1965.

Father Louis Hennepin's Description of Louisiana: By Canoe to the Upper Mississippi in 1680

translated by Marion E. Cross, Published for the Minnesota Society of the Colonial Dames of America, The University of Minnesota Press, 1938.

The French Pioneers of Minnesota by Henry Scholberg, NorthStar Publications, New Brighton, MN, 1997.

The Fur Trade in Minnesota: An Introductory Guide to Manuscript Sources compiled by Bruce M. White, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, 1977.

Gopher Tales: Stories from the History of Minnesota by Antoinette E. Ford, Lyons & Carnahan, Chicago, 1932.

A History of Minnesota, Vol. 1-4, by William Watts Folwell, Minnesota Historical Society, 1922.

The History of Minnesota: From the Earliest French Explorations to the Present Time by Rev. Edward Duffield Neill, Minnesota Historical Company, 1882.

History of the Upper Mississippi Valley by N. H. Winchell et al., Minnesota Historical Company, 1881.

The Journals of Joseph N. Nicollet translated by André Fertey, edited by Martha Coleman Bray, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN, 1970.

Joseph N. Nicollet on the Plains and Prairies: The Expeditions of 1838-39 with Journals, Letters, and Notes on the Dakota Indians by Edmund C. and Martha Coleman Bray, Minnesota Historical Society, 1976.

The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers by Richard Moe, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1993.

Makers of Minnesota: An Illustrated Story of the Builders of Our State by Kern O. Pederson, Marric Publishing Co., St. Paul, 1971.

Minnesota: A State Guide compiled & written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, The Viking Press, New York, 1938.

Minnesota: The Land of Sky-Tinted Waters: A History of the State and Its People, Vol. I-V, by Theodore Christianson, The American Historical Society, Inc., 1935.

Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars: 1861-1865, prepared & published under the supervision of The Board of Commissioners appointed by the Act of the Legislature of Minnesota of April 16, 1889, Pioneer Press Company, St. Paul, MN, 1890.

Minnesota Geographic Names by Warren Upham, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969.

Minnesota Past and Present by Antoinette E. Ford, Lyons and Carnahan, Chicago, 1955.

Minnesota Pioneer Sketches by Frank G. O'Brien, H. H. S. Rowell, Publisher, Minneapolis, MN, 1904. (Cultural Sketches)

Minnesota: The Story of a Great State by Maude L. Lindquist & James W. Clark, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1950.

Minnesota Under Four Flags, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN, 1946.

Mississippi Headwaters Guide Book by Molly MacGregor & Peter L. Card III, Mississippi Headwaters Board, 1995.

Northern Lights Curriculum: Minnesota history for grades 5-7. Three-part curriculum includes the following: The Story of Minnesota's Past by Rhoda R. Gilman; Going to the Sources by Stephen Sandell; and The Annotated Teacher's Edition of Northern Lights. All published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press. Call 1-800-647-7827 for ordering information.



Old Rail Fence Corners: Frontier Tales Told by Minnesota Pioneers edited by Lucy Leavenworth Wilder Morris, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN, 1976 - reprinted edition.

The Prehistoric People of Minnesota by Elden Johnson, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1988.

The Privilege for Which We Struggled: Leaders of the Woman Suffrage Movement in Minnesota edited by Heidi Bauer, Upper Midwest Women's History Center, St. Paul, MN, 1999.

Progressive Men of Minnesota, edited by Marion D. Shutter & J. S. McLain, The Minneapolis Journal, 1897.

The River Circular: A Collection of Mississippi River Inspirations by various authors, Mississippi River Revival, Inc., 1983.

The Story of Minnesota: The State's History in Picture Form by Jerry Fearing, N. W. Publications, Inc., 1964.

Tales of Four Lakes: Leech Lake, Gull Lake, Mille Lacs Lake, the Red Lakes & the Crow Wing River by Duane R. Lund, Nordell Graphic Communications, Staples, MN, 1977.

They Choose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups edited by June Drenning Holmquist, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981.

Too Hot, Went to Lake: Seasonal Photos from Minnesota's Past by Peg Meier, Neighbors Publishing, Minneapolis, MN, 1993.

Twelve Poses West: A History of the McGregor Lakes Region and Savanna Portage State Park by Clifford Greer, published by O. L. Johnson, McGregor, MN, 1967.

Windows to the Past: A Bibliography of Minnesota County Atlases by Mai Freude, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, Minneapolis, MN, 1980.

Women in Waiting in the Westward Movement by Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith, University of Oklahoma Press, 1994.

## American Indians

Angwamas Minosewag Anishinabeg: Time of the Indian edited by James L. White, a project of COMPAS, Community Programs in the Arts and Sciences, St. Paul, MN, 1976.

Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee by Dee Brown, A Bantam Book, New York, 1970.

The Chiefs Hole-in-the-Day of the Mississippi Chippewa by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, St. Louis Park, MN, 1986.

Dakota and Ojibwe People in Minnesota by Frances Densmore, Special Issue of Roots Magazine, Winter & Spring 1977.

Dakota Oratory: Great Moments in the Recorded Speech of the Eastern Sioux, 1695-1874 compiled by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, Rochester, MN, 1989.

Decorative Designs of the Ojibwa of Northern Minnesota by Sister Bernard Coleman, O.S.B., Dissertation, The Catholic University of America Press, Washington, D.C., 1947.

Famous Dakota Chiefs, vol. 1, by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, Rochester, MN, 1999.

The Great Sioux Uprising booklet by the Kandiyohi County Historical Society, Color Press Advertisers, Willmar, MN, 1972.

History of the Ojibway People by William W. Warren, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN, 1984.

Indian Days in Minnesota's Lake Region: The Great Sioux-Ojibwe Revolution by Dr. Carl A. Zapffe, Vol. 1: From Invasion to the Intertribal Boundary of 1825, Historic Heartland Association, Inc., Brainerd, MN, 1991.

Indians of the Upper Midwest by Erling Nicolai Rolfsrud, Lantern Books, Alexandria, MN, 1971.

The Indian How Book by Arthur C. Parker, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1927, 1954.

Kahbe nagwi wens: The Man Who Lived in 3 Centuries by Carl A. Zapffe, Historic Heartland Association, Inc., Brainerd, MN, 1975.

Little Crow: Spokesman for the Sioux by Gary Clay Anderson, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1986.

The Minnesota Archaeologist: A Southern Ojibway Glossary, booklet.

Minnesota's Chippewa Treaty of 1837 by Carl A. Zapffe, Historic Heartland Association, Brainerd, MN.

The Odyssey of Chief Standing Buffalo and the Northern Sisseton Sioux by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, Rochester, MN, 1988.

Ojibway Chiefs: Portraits of Anishinaabe Leadership by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, Rochester, MN, 1999.

Ojibway Oratory: Great Moments in the Recorded Speech of the Chippewa, 1695-1889 compiled by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, Rochester, MN 1990.

The Ojibway People, Gopher Historian Leaflet Series No. 6, Minnesota Historical Society, 1972.

Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood by Maude Kegg, The University of Alberta Press, 1991.



The Sioux Uprising of 1862 by Kenneth Carley, The Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1961.

Sitting Bull: The Collected Speeches by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, Rochester, MN, 1998.

Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points by Noel D. Justice, Indiana University Press, 1987.

Their Hearts Were Right manuscript by M. O. Skarsten.

Through Dakota Eyes: Narrative Accounts of the Minnesota Indian War of 1862 edited by Gary Clay Anderson and Alan R. Woolworth, Minnesota Historical Society Press.

Where the Water Stops: Fond du Lac Reservation by Sister Bernard Coleman, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN, 1967.

White Indian Boy by Duane R. Lund, Nordell Graphic Communications, Staples, MN, 1981.

Winnebago Oratory by Mark Diedrich, Coyote Books, Rochester, MN.

## Industry

Banking in Minnesota by T. Harry Gatten & Truman L. Jeffers, Minnesota Bankers Association, Minneapolis, MN, 1989.

Branching Out: The History of the Laird Norton Family by Patricia Latourette Lucas, Presidio Press, Novato, CA, 1989.

CompanyTown: Potlatch, Idaho, and the Potlatch Lumber Company by Keith C. Petersen, Washington State University Press, Pullman, WA, and Latah County Historical Society, Moscow, ID, 1987.

F. K. Weyerhaeuser: A Biography by Charles E. Twining, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN, 1997.

For the Record: 150 Years of Law & Lawyers in Minnesota by the Minnesota State Bar Association, Minneapolis, MN, 1999.

From This Land: A History of Minnesota's Empires, Enterprises, and Entrepreneurs by Deborah L. Gelbach, Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988.

The History of Osteopathy in Minnesota by E. C. Goblirsch, D. O., Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society, 1982.

The Hudson's Bay Company: 1670-1920 by Sir William Schooling, K.B.E., The Hudson's Bay Company, London, 1920.

James J. Hill and the Opening of the Northwest by Albro Martin, Oxford University Press, New York, 1976.

Lumberjack Lingo: A Dictionary of the Logging Era by L. G. Sorden & Jacque Vallier, Northword, Inc., 1986.

Mainly Logging collected by Charles Vandersluis, Minneota Clinic, Minneota, MN, 1974.

Minnesota Aviation History, 1857-1945 by Noel E. Allard & Gerald N. Sandvick, MAHB Publishing, Inc., Chaska, MN, 1993.

Northern Lights: An Illustrated History of Minnesota Power by Bill Beck, Published by Minnesota Power, 1986.

Phil Weyerhaeuser: Lumberman by Charles E. Twining, University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 1985.

Terms of the Trade: Some Words and Expressions Used in the Fur Trade compiled by Larry Luukkonen, 1999.

This Fascinating Lumber Business by Stanley F. Horn, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1943.

Timber and Men: The Weyerhaeuser Story by Ralph W. Hidy, Frank Ernest Hill, & Allan Nevins, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1963.

Timber Roots: The Laird, Norton Story, 1855-1905 by Fred W. Kohlmeier, Winona County Historical Society, 1972.

The Voyageurs, Gopher Historian Leaflet Series No. 1, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1968.

The Voyageur's Highway by Grace Lee Nute, The Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN, 1941.

## Genealogy

1850 Minnesota Territorial Census edited by Patricia C. Harpole & Mary D. Nagle, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN, 1972.

German-Bohemians: The Quiet Immigrants by La Vern J. Rippley with Robert J. Paulson, St. Olaf College Press, Northfield, MN, 1995.

Holdings of Genealogical Value in Minnesota's County Museums by Lucille L. Kirkeby, 1986.

Hould-Houle by Stella LeBlanc, Transcript Publishing, Little Falls, MN, 1977.

Minnesota 1900 Census: Mortality Schedule by James W. Warren, A Warren Research & Marketing Publication, St. Paul, MN, 1991, 1992.

Minnesota Genealogical Reference Guide, 3rd edition, by Paula Stuart Warren, Warren Research and Publishing, 1997.

My Family Tree Book by Catherine Bruzzone, Ideals Children's Books, Nashville, TN, 1991.

Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy, 3rd edition, by Emily Anne Croom, Betterway Books, Cincinnati, OH, 1995.

## Lindbergh

Autobiography of Values by Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr.

Banking and Currency and The Money Trust by Charles A. Lindbergh, National Capital Press, Inc., Washington, D.C., 1913.



Boyhood on the Upper Mississippi: A Reminiscent Letter by Charles A. Lindbergh, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN, 1972.

Bring Me a Unicorn by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, diaries and letters, 1922-1928.

Circle of Days by Reeve Lindbergh.

The Economic Pinch by Charles A. Lindbergh, Dorrance & Company, Inc., Philadelphia, 1923.

The Flower and the Nettle by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, diaries and letters, 1936-1939.

Gift from the Sea by Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

Hour of Gold, Hour of Lead by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, diaries and letters, 1929-1932.

Lindbergh by A. Scott Berg, Berkley Books, New York, 1998.

Lindbergh Alone by Brendan Gill, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., New York, 1977.

Lindbergh: His Story in Pictures, 1929 by Francis Trevelyan Miller, Facsimile Edition, Northstar-Maschek Books, Lakeville, MN, 1989.

Lindbergh of Minnesota: A Political Biography by Bruce L. Larson, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., New York, 1971, 1973.

Locked Rooms and Open Doors by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, diaries and letters, 1933-1935.

Nick of Time by Anne Spencer Lindbergh.

Nobody Owns the Sky by Reeve Lindbergh.

North to the Orient by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Of Flight and Life by Charles A. Lindbergh, Privately printed for The Charles A. Lindbergh Fund, Yale University Library, 1987.

The Spirit of St. Louis by Charles A. Lindbergh, Charles Scribners' Sons, New York, 1953.

Under A Wing by Reeve Lindbergh.

View from the Air by Reeve Lindbergh.

War Within and Without by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, diaries and letters, 1939-1944.

"We" by Charles A. Lindbergh, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York & London, 1927.

Your Country At War and What Happens to You After a War by Charles A. Lindbergh, Sr., Dorrance & Company, Inc., Philadelphia, 1917 & 1934.

*NOTE: There are many more books by and about the Lindbergh family that are not listed here. Check your local library or bookstore for others.*

## Newspapers

Some of these newspapers can be found at The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum in Little Falls, Minnesota. Others are on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Bowlus Hustler. Bowlus, Morrison County, MN: L. P. Seitz, 1925. May 8, 1925 - July 10, 1925.

The Bowlus Independent. Bowlus, Morrison County, MN: [s.n.], - 1917. Nov. 3, 1916 - March 30, 1917.

The Bowlus Advance. Bowlus, Morrison County, MN: Geo. Huff, 1917-1925. April 5, 1917 - May 1, 1925.

Northern Herald. Little Falls, Morrison County, MN: E. C. Church. Began in 1856.

Little Falls Courier. Little Falls, MN: A. Delacy Wood. 1874 - Sept. 1876.

Little Falls Transcript. Little Falls, Morrison County, MN: H. C. Stivers. Sept. 7, 1876 - April 27, 1894.

The Morrison County Democratic Banner. Little Falls, MN: A. J. Clark. 1878 - 1878.

The Little Falls Sun. Little Falls, Morrison County, MN: Little Falls Pub. Co. Sept. 30, 1882 - ?

Little Falls Herald. Little Falls, Morrison County, MN: Haines, Stone & Co. March 1889 - August 1950.

Morrison County Democrat. Motley, Morrison County, MN: Auyer & Lyons. October 1891 - July 29, 1909.

Little Falls Daily Transcript. Little Falls, MN: Transcript Publishing Co. April 4, 1892-Nov. 22, 1982.



Little Falls Weekly Transcript. Little Falls, MN:  
Transcript Publishing Co. May 4, 1894 - ?

The Motley Mercury. Motley, Morrison County,  
MN: E. G. Haymaker. 1901? - March 5, 1943.

Motley Register. Motley, MN: Albert S. McMillan.  
1887 - October 1891. Continued by Morrison  
County Democrat.

Motley Citizen. Motley, Morrison County, MN:  
John T. Drawz. August 9, 1901 - ?

The Pierz Journal. Pierz, Morrison County, MN:  
F. L. Preimesberger. July 1, 1909 - April 26, 1973.  
Merged with Royalton Banner.

The Randall News. Randall, Morrison County, MN:  
Wyman Wise. 1916 - July 8, 1943.

The Royalton Banner-Pierz Journal. Little Falls,  
MN: Frederick C. Schilplin. May 3, 1973 - July 11,  
1980.

Swanville News. Swanville, Morrison County, MN:  
A. J. Hunt. September 21, 1900 - November 2,  
1971. Merged with Enterprise Dispatch, Richmond  
Reporter (Richmond, MN), and Swanville News to  
form Stearns Morrison Enterprise.

Upsala News-Tribune. Upsala, Morrison County,  
MN: News-Tribune Print Co. November 1915-  
November 9, 1972. Merged with Enterprise  
Dispatch, Richmond Reporter, and Swanville News  
to form Stearns Morrison Enterprise.

Morrison County Record. Little Falls, MN: Carolyn  
Hoheisel. April 1, 1978 to present. [http://  
www.mcrecord.com/](http://www.mcrecord.com/)

## Searching the Internet

The Internet is a great tool for doing research of any kind. The biggest concern with the Internet is that anyone can put up a web site and the information found on the World Wide Web is not always accurate. For that reason, if you choose to use the Internet for research, check any facts that appear with other sources of information.

There are several key words that will help you to search for Internet sources related to Little Falls and Morrison County history. Try the following key words on any search engine and see what comes up.

Little Falls  
Morrison County  
Minnesota  
Minnesota history  
Camp Ripley  
Little Elk Heritage Preserve  
Ojibway and Ojibwe  
Hole-in-the-Day  
Mississippi River  
Fur trade history, Minnesota  
Charles Lindbergh, aviator  
Sioux, Dacotah, or Lakota Dakota  
Treaties  
Missionaries  
Larson Boats  
Weyerhaeuser Lumber  
Library of Congress  
United States government

Along with these, you can use any of the main topics and names in the text as key words for searching the Internet.

A list of specific web sites has not been included because sites and their addresses change so rapidly that there is no way to guarantee the accuracy of the list. The most stable web sites are those operated by large organizations, like the United States government or television stations. They have the resources required to maintain their sites. A couple of really excellent sites are [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org) (Public television's site) and [www.discovery.com](http://www.discovery.com) (Discovery Channel's site). Both are wonderful sources of educational information and are user-friendly (and fun!).



