

*Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota*

# Minnesota Bricks

November 2018

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## Chaska Brick

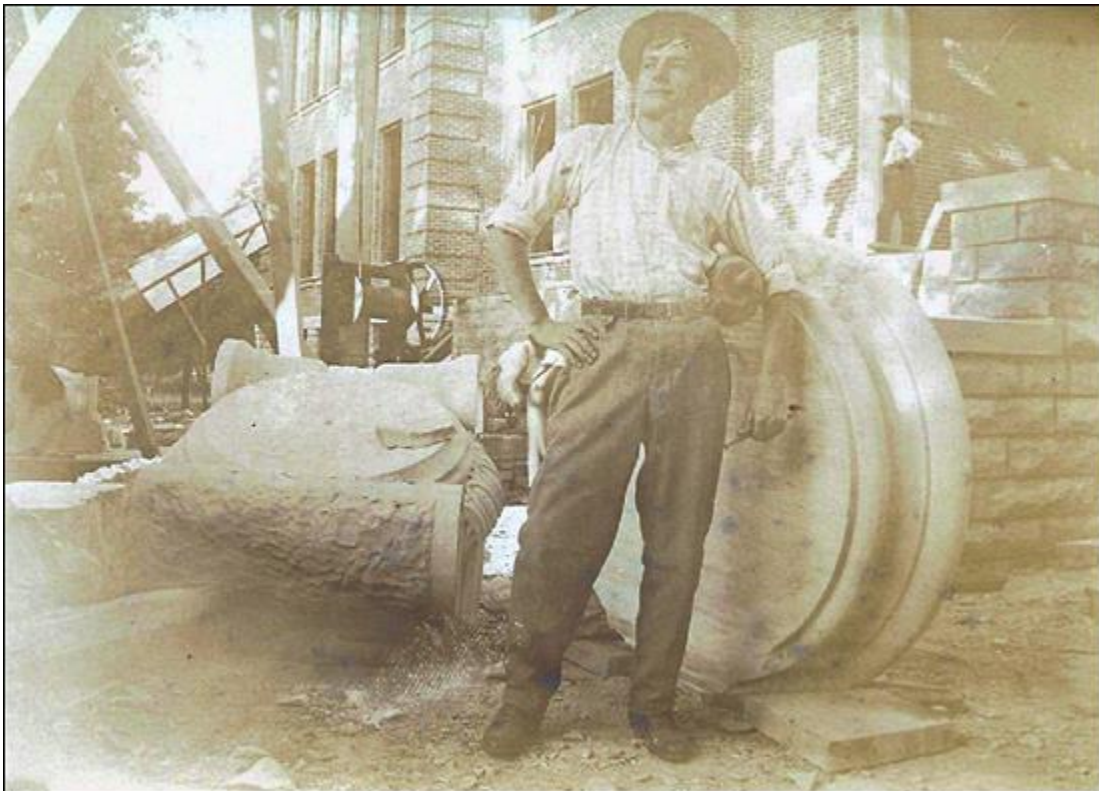
Brickmaking in Chaska Minnesota



[www.chaskabrick.com](http://www.chaskabrick.com)

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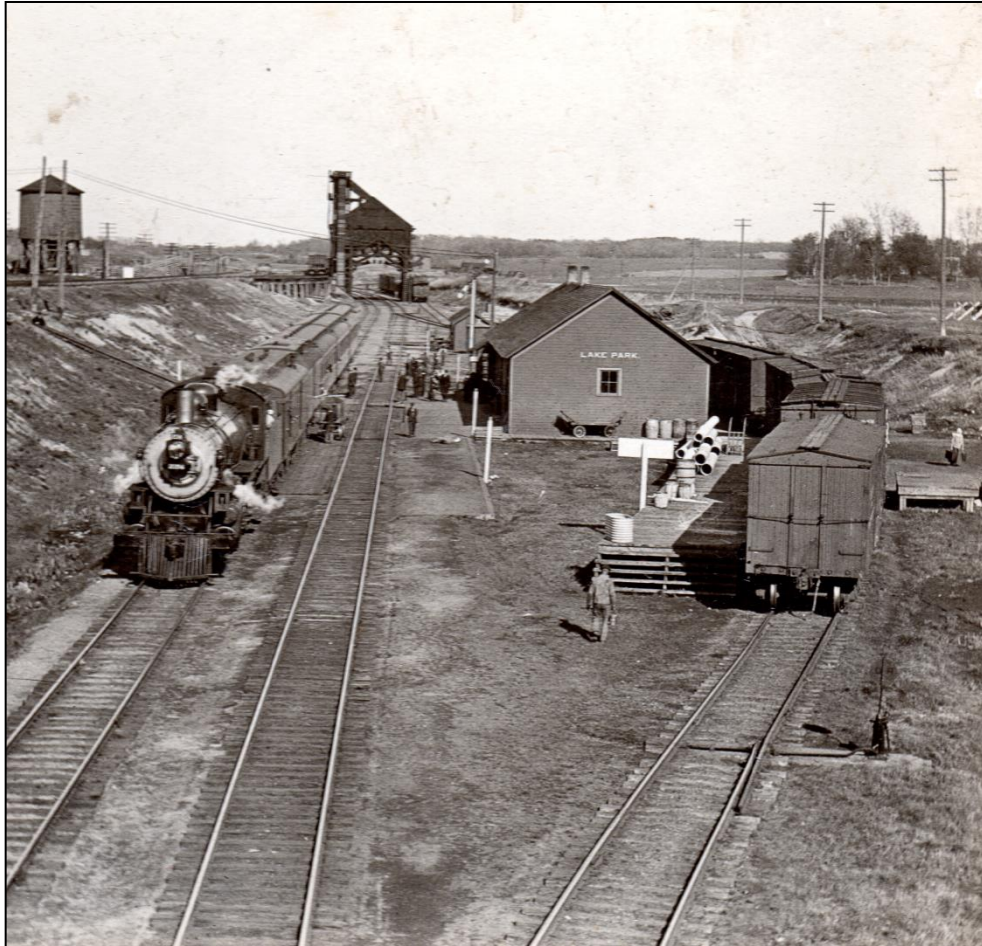
**Stone Mason Working on Fancy Stonework**

# 1. What's New?

- I heard from a person in eastern Minnesota, who had visited an old logging camp and found some brick stamped “Kelly.” Kelly brick were made in Wrenshall, Minnesota. It is always fun hearing from people and being able to provide answers to them.
- Since I started this newsletter, most of my “Brick Structures of the Month” have featured normal schools and insane asylums. As I researched how these were built, I came across many other articles detailing other State of Minnesota structures, like prisons and orphanages. These were built of Minnesota brick or stone and were an infusion of money to the localities where they were built. I finally organized my material, and sorted it into a new section in the Brickipedia at [www.mnbricks.com/brickipedia](http://www.mnbricks.com/brickipedia). This section will be where I highlight the old “Wow!” buildings in Minnesota, like old forts, courthouses, and the state Capitol building.
- I brought back my original webpage header, which was produced by my first webmaster. Even though I recently revamped my website, I want to keep the treasures from the past.
- If you want to sign up to automatically receive this newsletter, you can do so at [www.mnbricks.com](http://www.mnbricks.com)



## 2. Photo of the Month



### NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD AT LAKE PARK, MN

#### What is interesting?

This was likely taken in the mid 1870s to 1880s, when the town of Lake Park was in its infancy.

There is a crowd next to the depot, getting ready to board the train.

# 3. For Sale

There are still many brick-related remnants left from the old days.

Shown below is a 20 x 30 inch collage poster with many pictures of historic silo advertisements from Minnesota and Iowa. You can find it for purchase on the "shop" page of my website: [www.mnbricks.com/shop](http://www.mnbricks.com/shop)

On the same page mentioned above, there are other posters for sale on various brick towns, the historic Minnesota River Valley churches, and the Minnesota Winter of 1880-81.



# 4. Word Search

## LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA BRICK

U X V W T Y E S B A I C P R Y Y D S V Z A I Y Z E X K M L M  
H W S D Y P Q H E A F E R D H A P E W V M Z F S I B L U O X  
L A S V L C N H F F Z S Q F M O A P Y T Y U W U S F N E O G  
H E S D Y F O M F Z X U N T H Z G Y H H M X P U X E O S H X  
C M D E R H D D E X K H D S G E Z L D Z E X S O W G D U C C  
L N R M D A W H G R E B D N I L S E L R A H C I A D W M S H  
I H D T U R Y H M U Q A Y T N U O C N O S I R R O M J R D A  
T S F T F N U K L Y O C E N T R A L M I N N E S O T A E R R  
T C R F V Z D O C R M A R T I N S C O T T O Z Z H S R S A L  
L C A U D A O R L I A R C I F I C A P N R E H T R O N U Y E  
E A O U P N S I O F R B R A I N E R D B R A N C H L K E K S  
F L I U I S A X I T O B V H R C H T Z N M H P R K C Y A C A  
A X Z T N R D R K I H Y E D E T N A W D O O W E E U A H I S  
L V F N O T M A E A S W D D J O D X D G C Z J A N D Y R R P  
L B S M A Z Y L O J D U E A I S M K F F H Q R M O N P E B R  
S A O Y V U N S I R F E X L L S W Q Y D D Q Z B Z O U Y A A  
D C X F D D J O E E L Y L H L R T L W M X W I R D L Z E V N  
A G O O P S B L Z A K I R B H O U S H D H U Y I H I V W V D  
M H B F P I A I O N T J A I Y K W O E I X W Y C D D P O R E  
Q G M M P H X X O X V E X R T T C E C W P H Q K X O X M C L

BRAINERD BRANCH  
BRICKYARD SCHOOL  
CENTRAL MINNESOTA  
CHARLES A SPRANDEL  
CHARLES LINDBERGH

MARTIN SCOTT  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
MORRISON COUNTY  
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
ODILON DUCLOS

COMO RAILROAD SHOPS  
COUNTY SEAT  
CREAM BRICK  
EDMUND ROTHWELL  
LITTLE FALLS DAM

OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
RAILROAD SPURS  
WEST SIDE BRICKYARDS  
WEYERHAEUSER MUSEUM  
WOOD WANTED

# 5. A Look Back

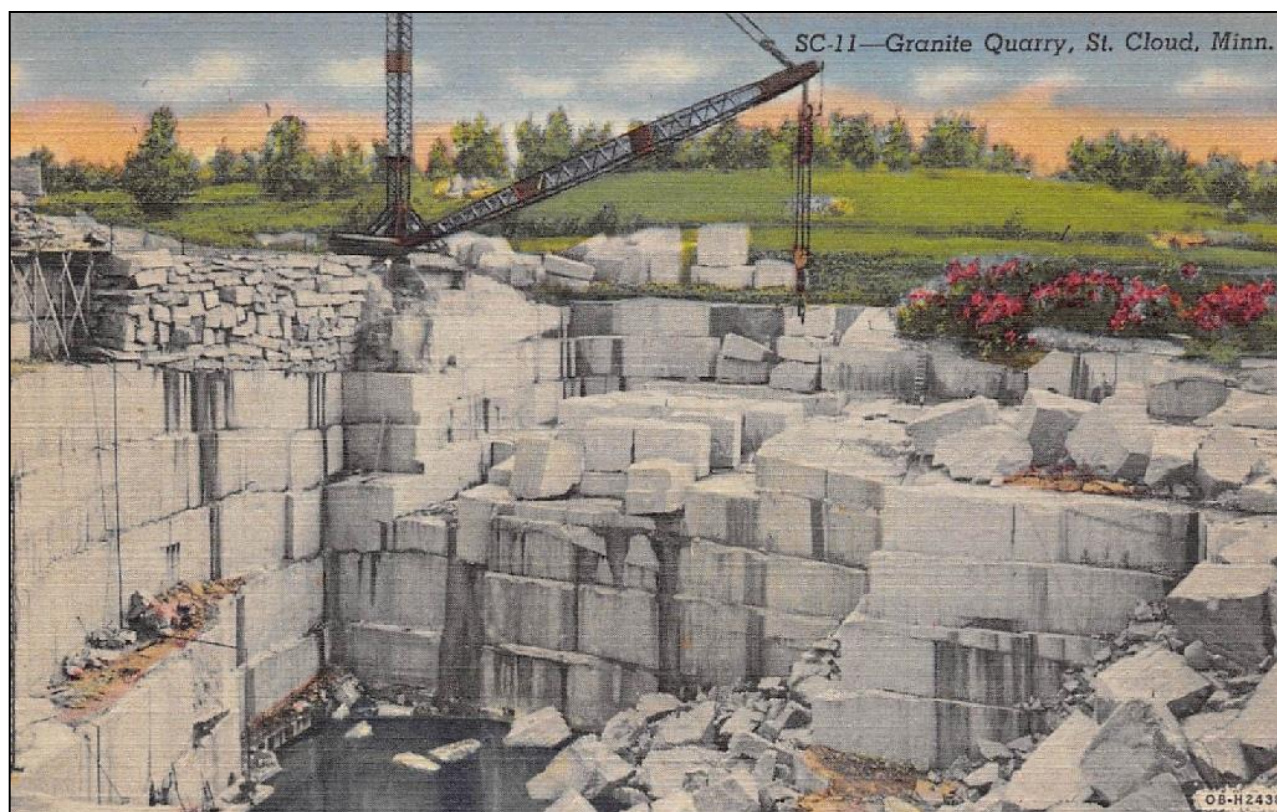
## ST. CLOUD GRANITE MINNESOTA HISTORY SEGMENT 1

If New Hampshire is properly designated as the “Granite State” of the Union, St. Cloud can with even more propriety be named the “Granite City of the Northwest.” This remarkable formation has few, if any, equals discovered or at all events developed in the United States. It covers an area of about 10 square miles, of which St. Cloud is the center. In many parts of the country granite appears in rough and brittle masses, unfit for artistic material. In other localities it is found in regular layers, spread out thus by the architect of nature with seams and fissures, ready to be separated by the skill of workmen into cubical, cylindrical or even fantastic shapes for the builder’s use.

The value of granite beds depends upon the regularity of these seams. In the quarries of Vermont and other parts of New England the seams traverse the mass horizontally and the surface layers are thin, so that many thin layers must be removed before blocks of desirable thickness can be obtained. The beds of St. Cloud granite have an almost perpendicular dip, and here, with surface soil removed the quarryman can select the thickness of layer that tallies best with his present contract and proceed at once. Columns or pillars for the largest buildings are here obtainable, easily worked and susceptible of the highest polish.

The St. Cloud granite crops out in places upon the surface, and at the base of the hills (and) the bluffs, and the utter absence of any other formation fixes its character as the genuine primary rock. Its color and quality vary, the color from the dark grey to the red, or light pink, so beautiful for cut stone, and especially when polished, for ornaments or monuments. The red colored granite is usually more of the jasper order, and takes a much better polish than the grey, and yet is much more easily worked than the Sioux Falls jasper. Its cohesive power is greater than the New England or Scotch granite, and it retains better the sharp outlines through all extremes of weather and the lapse of time.

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Its quality being indestructible, its quantity unlimited, and the varied thickness of layers permitting the cutting of blocks of any desired size, all combine to make the material very valuable to individual owners, and to the city as the center of its development. The material here, the labor to develop it must reside here, and when shipped abroad the money paid for it is left here, and most paid to the workmen who prepare it. The cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis are using more of St. Cloud granite each year in their best buildings, for facings and trimmings. This granite is rapidly coming into use for paving streets.

Paving blocks are prepared easily and rapidly, and a car load of them in Chicago is as salable as a car load of wheat. The 11 cent freight rate from St. Cloud to Chicago has opened the Chicago market to this industry. Three companies are operating quarries in three different directions, and during the year 1888 as high as 1,000 men were at times employed in quarrying and dressing here. The St. P. M. & M. Ry. has put in a line of side tracks skirting the quarry belts, enabling shippers to load their cars with the least possible expense. During the season of 1888 an average of 10 car loads per day was shipped abroad. (*The Minneapolis Tribune*, Wednesday, December 26, 1888, Page 6)



# LAKE MINNETONKA

## MINNESOTA HISTORY SEGMENT 2

Last month I mentioned that the historic Pillsbury mansion on Lake Minnetonka had been torn down. Since I had no pictures of the mansion, I showed a picture of one of the old resorts on Lake Minnetonka. By chance, this month I came across a story (which starts below) about those old resorts, which I hope you enjoy!



The lake season is opened, though not as wide as it will be by a week from today. The heat of the past few days had led every Minneapolitan to at least turn his thoughts toward the lake if he could not go himself, and last night a goodly number of people went out to remain over Sunday. Today there will be quite an exodus of people to the various points and the beautiful grove about Lake Park and will look as though the season instead of just beginning is well on its way. The two hotels, Lake Park and Hotel Lafayette, opened Friday for the reception of guests, and owing to the hot weather an unusually large number are at both of these popular places of resort.

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Lake Park Hotel has been greatly improved since last season, and with the better train facilities which it will this season have, will no doubt be more popular than it ever has been. It is in such a beautiful location, the park about it being unequaled anywhere on the lake. The house has been newly freshened and decorated, the parlor has been enlarged to twice its original size, and other improvements have been made. There have been new furnishings, and Landlord Harrington says that if the present indications may be taken as a criterion for the future, this will be by far the most successful season Minnetonka has ever had. He has already received numerous applications for rooms from former patrons of the house and strangers as well.

On Tuesday he is expecting a large party of New York people. The date of the opening ball has not been announced, but it will probably be next week. The hotel will have a band that will give a concert every morning and evening and a special program on Sunday. On Minnetonka Beach. Hotel Lafayette has been put in the best of condition, and has a number of guests, principally from Minneapolis and St. Paul, who are out to remain over Sunday. Last night an informal dance was held and was greatly enjoyed. The formal opening will be on next Saturday night; but the next ball and concert will not be held until a week from next Saturday night, June 30.



A large number of invitations have been sent out, and the ball will be a great social event. During the entire season there will be regular dances on Wednesday and Saturday night each week. Music for the season at Lafayette is to be furnished by the Great Western band, under the leadership of Geo. Siebert. The band will give morning and evening programs, and a special concert every Sunday afternoon from 4 until 6 o'clock. Instead of occupying a place on the veranda as heretofore, the band will play in the new band stand that is situated directly in front of the main entrance and has recently been completed.

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To Open this Week. Hotel St. Louis is being put in condition for the additional traffic which a direct railroad connection will give. The new kitchen is about completed and is a model of its kind. Being detached from the main building none of the heat will get into that part of the house. The new laundry has been begun and in the main building there has been a great amount of frescoing, painting, refurnishing the parlors, cleaning, etc., giving the place the appearance of being new inside. This hotel will this season as in past seasons be the resort of many southern people, a number of whom have already engaged rooms. It opens June 20, next Wednesday evening with a ball, and by the close of the week will be in full running order.

The railroad, the grading, the new pavilion, etc., will so change the appearance of the grounds that it will hardly look like the same place. But with Mr. Sherman as landlord, Minneapolitans at least will never think that they are in a new place. St. Louis also is to have an orchestra, dances twice a week, and full-dress occasions at intervals. At Other Points. The smaller hotels, including the Stetson House, White House, Page Cottage at Excelsior, the hotel at Wayzata, Chapman's and two other houses near by on the further shore of the upper lake, are open and receiving business. The business at these hotels as well as at the larger houses promises big, because even at this early date all the cottages on the lake are taken.

In Wayzata and Excelsior it is almost impossible to find a vacant house, so that people not provided and who want to go to the lake will have to patronize boarding houses and hotels. This week will witness a large increase to the people who are living in cottages, and it is safe to say that by next Sunday every owner of a cottage will be in his summer home. It will take a week before it can be said that the season is entirely open, for a great many who are going out but who have to be in town during the day to attend to business will wait until the trains are running on their full summer service. This is to be the latter part of this week also.

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The Manitoba, which now reaches nearly all the important points on the lake, will have its summer schedule in operation next Sunday, and promise that the service will be fully equal, if not superior, to that furnished last season. The Minneapolis & St. Louis will soon announce their summer schedule, and the train service will be increased this season by the addition of Milwaukee trains to the old service.

The Millers' Picnic. The first event of importance at the lake, and an event which each year is among the greatest that occur at Minnetonka, is the millers' picnic, which takes place at Minnetonka Beach next Saturday. Hundreds of millers, with their families, will go out, and the day will be passed with games, contests, boating, fishing, etc. There will be a ball game, tug of war, boat races, tub races, running races, jumping contests, wrestling, etc. For each one of these events prizes are offered to the winners. There will also be on that day an event at the beach that will interest all members of the boating clubs and their friends, for then the sculling race between Messrs. Muchmore and Turner for the local championship will be rowed.

The millers have offered a prize of a gold watch to the winner. On that day the Belle of Minnetonka will come out for the first time this season and take the millers and their families for an excursion around the lakes. Gathered along Shore. The usual Saturday afternoon boat race was held yesterday at Excelsior bay. There were three entries, and the Atlanta, a new boat said to be the fastest on the lake, won in a spanking north wind. It is said already that one of the large hotels will be kept open until Sept. 20 for the accommodation of Southern guests. (*The Minneapolis Tribune*, Sunday, June 17, 1888, Page 4)

**LAKE MINNETONKA IS LOCATED WEST  
OF THE TWIN CITIES AND IS THE 9TH  
LARGEST LAKE IN THE STATE**

# 6. Brick Structure of the Month



## **ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA**

Railroads were essential to getting brick to the building locations where they were needed. On a recent trip to the Twin Cities, I was finally able to walk along an old railroad line from Minneapolis into Chaska, Minnesota. This line is no longer used by the railroad, so it has been turned into a recreation trail. The highlight of my walk was seeing St. Marks Church, which is an incredibly elaborate brick church.



What is really neat about this trail is that it slowly comes down the edge of the Minnesota River Valley. If you have an unobstructed view, you can see from one side of the valley to the other. I made my walk in October, so I also had the beautiful fall colors to see.

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I began my trek in Eden Prairie, and the shot below shows what the old railroad line looks like on that end.



As you break out into the Minnesota River Valley, you can see St. Mark's Church on the other side (below). It is truly an inspiring view!



## News Nuggets

You are hereby notified that it is our special request that you refrain from promenading or serenading the streets of Brainerd with any band or bands of music, or any other paraphernalia of any description whatever which will disturb or annoy the general commonwealth of the town, on the Sabbath day. (*The Brainerd Tribune*, Saturday, July 9, 1881, Page 4)

The streets will soon be filled with (Native Americans) disposing of blueberries. They will reap a harvest this year as the crop gives promise of an abundant yield, and will be ready to pick about the 15th of July. Brainerd is the principal shipping point for this fruit on the line of the Northern Pacific road, L. J. Cale having alone shipped 6,000 bushels to points east and west last season. (*The Brainerd Dispatch*, Friday, June 25, 1886, Page 4)

The largest timber wolf we ever saw was killed on Saturday last by Jerry Paddock at the farm of J. R. Pegg, about five miles east of town. It measured six feet nine inches from head to tail, and stood as high as a large deer. In fact Mr. Paddock thought it was a buck when he shot it. (*Brainerd Tribune*, Saturday, May 4, 1878, Page 1)

On Wednesday last a pheasant, supposed to have winged his flight from the Wisconsin side, dashed into the open back door of the store of Torinus, Staples & Co., and alighted on the floor. The doors in front and rear were hastily closed by the employees, with a view of making the bird an easy prey. They thought if they all proceeded to dexterously and cautiously surround him, or in other words, to “come one, come all; that bird should fly from out that room in a pig’s eye.” But the imprisoned fowl, no doubt deeming that so many against one was extremely foul, seemed determined to die game, at least. So pluming his beautiful wings, he raised majestically from his resting place, and sped with the swiftness of an arrow toward the front of the building, about 100 feet distant. He didn’t stop to flutter his pinions feebly against the bars of his prison house, as many a poor caged bird has done. But straight for the center of one of the big window lights he flew, seeing the soft sunlight, the sweet heavens and freedom in front of him, and captivity behind. He went, like a six-pound shot through the glass, making an aperture not much larger than his body, landing in the middle of the street, as dead as a door nail. Pieces of the broken window were carried with him in his headlong, life and death flight. The bird was picked up and preserved as a trophy by the boys in the store. (*The Stillwater Republican*, Tuesday, October 12, 1869, Page 4)

Erb, Wilson & McKee are putting up 500 tons of ice for their extensive meat market. About 1000 tons have been housed so far for public and private use. Who says we can’t keep cool next summer? – with ice-cool lemonade, milk-punch iced, iced whiskey, ice cream, lemon ice, cream and ice, iced butter, iced water, and the shade of our jack-pines!  
(*Brainerd Tribune*, Saturday, February 21, 1880, Page 4)