

Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota

Minnesota Bricks

May 2019

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www.mnbricks.com

Chaska Brick

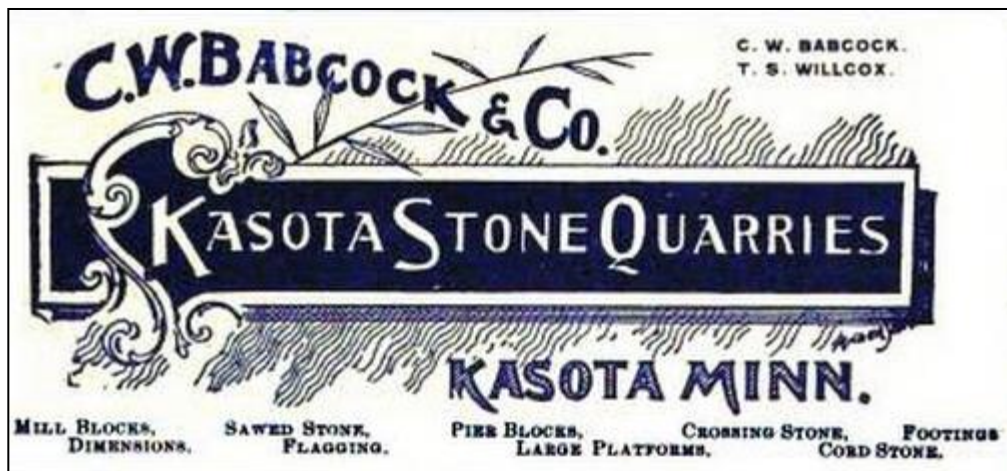
Brickmaking in Chaska Minnesota



www.chaskabrick.com

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Kasota stone was used in many of the old brick buildings across the State of Minnesota. It was used in many of the fancy features added to the buildings. This is an advertisement from one of the companies that quarried the stone.

1. What's New?

- I added a new YouTube video this past month. The video is a compilation of old brick churches in the Minnesota River Valley, set to a beautiful piano piece. I am in the finishing stages of one of my favorites yet, the first Presidential visit to Minnesota. All my videos can be found at: <https://www.mnbricks.com/mn-historical-videos/>
- I was contacted this past month by a man who grew up next to the Swanson brickyard in Fridley, Minnesota. Working with his great memories, I will be creating a video on the Swanson brickyard in the future.
- It does take me a great amount of time to produce a video, so some of my website updates are lagging. I still do add information, but not as fast as I wish I could.
- Feel free to send me new information. History is something that can be a lot of work. I can't read every book or visit every historical society in Minnesota, so I appreciate when people send me tips or information.
- You can sign up to automatically receive this newsletter at www.mnbricks.com
- If there is something you would like to see added, send me an email at mnbricks@gmail.com.



2. Photo of the Month

**Modfaar
Bind, Frost
Ildbrand
Forraadnelse**



A. C. O. Siloer

Opført for Varighed af vort
Arbejdsmandskab af fagkundige

De erholder fuld Tilfredsstillelse
ved A. C. O. Siloen. Hver
en er bygget af et af vore Mand-
skaber af erfarne Mænd, som har
opført A. C. O. Siloer under alle
Forholde. Dennes Plan har vist sig
regningsvarende for Hundreder af
Farmere og for os. Vi sætter ikke vort
Navn A. C. O. paa en Silo af vort
Byggemateriale undtagen at Siloen er
opført af vort Arbejdsmandskab. De
vil være enig med os i, at dette Prin-
cip er absolut ret, hvis De kunde se
de mange A. C. O.'er som er bleven
staaende efter Tjælloner og Ildbrænde,
naar andre Bygninger er ødelagt.

Der er Hundreder af tilfredse A. C. O.
Silo Brugere, mange af dem har flere
end en. Ex-Senator D. E. Potter, Præs.
Minn. Farm Bureau, har nu tre. W.
S. Moscrop, bekendt Holstein Avler, har
to Siloer og andre A. C. O. Tise-Byg-
ninger. W. H. Schilling, Præs. U. S.
Grain Growers, Inc., har to Siloer og
en moderne Dairy Barn af A. C. O.
Tise.

S-Toms Dag
med tre Luft-
mellemrum.



Sab os fortælle Dem mere om vor Plan.

A. C. O. Silo Block

Detaljeret Beskrivelse og hvorfor denne
Konstruktion Raffer bedre Enslage og en
Permanent seendes Dem paa Forlangende.
Sjil sende Prøve-Block, om det ønskes.

Skriv til os idag.

Vi bruger den aller bedste Ler i denne
Block, med andre Ord, den samme Qua-
litet Ler, som bruges i Tilvirkningen af vore "rough" og
"smooth Face" Brick, "Drain Tile" og anden Bygge-Tise.

Skriv til os idag efter vor Plan, Priser og nærmere Oplysninger.
De vil blive forbauset over det lave Kjøstende.

A. C. Ochs Brick & Tile Co.

Etableret 1891 — 31 Aar siden. Springfield, Minn.

**ACO = ADOLPH
CASIMIR OCHS**

One of My Top Tens!!

ACO silos are my favorite old brick structures, made by the Ochs Brick Company of Springfield, MN. Finding an advertisement in German for them was one of my favorite finds.

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 pictures of New Ulm, Minnesota. You can find it for purchase on the “Shop” page of my website:

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. A Look Back

MARBLE EXCURSION CAR

MINNESOTA HISTORY SEGMENT

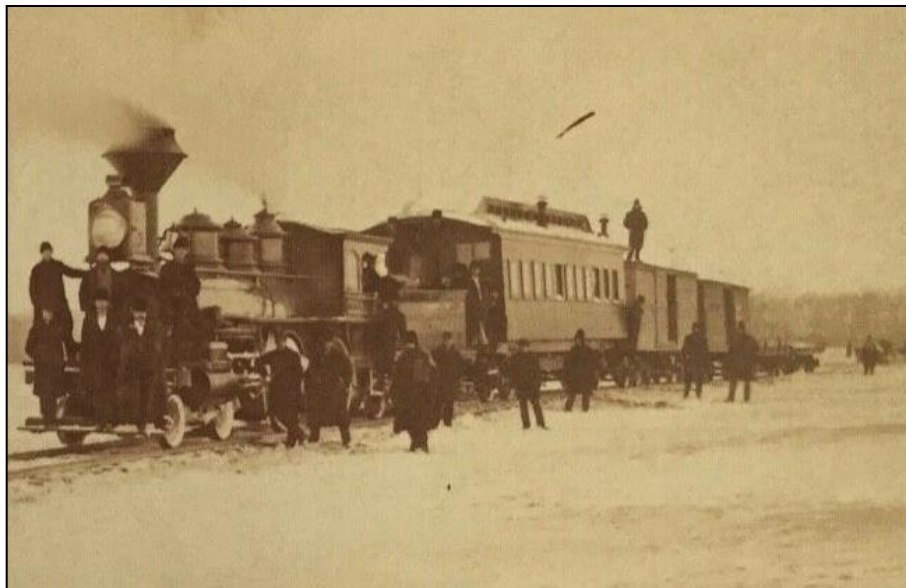


This is a stereoview of the Marble Excursion railway car, taken by F. Jay Haynes near Crystal Springs, North Dakota. When the car passed through the Twin Cities in the fall of 1878, descriptions of it made the local newspapers. Two of these descriptions are shown below.

A *Globe* representative visited the car yesterday afternoon, and was shown through the car by Mr. Jerome Marke, president of the Worcester Excursion Car Company. The car was built by Jackson, Sharpe & Co., of Wilmington, Del., and is one of the finest palace cars in the country. The car is fifty-two feet long exclusive of platforms, and contains smoking and reading-room, drawing-room, pantry, and large range. On one of the platforms, which are five feet wide, is a refrigerator, water tank, and fuel box. Under the car are three large boxes for storage, an ice chest, portable flagstaff and two wash tubs. The car will accommodate a party of about fifteen persons with beds and meals... (*St. Paul Daily Globe*, Monday, September 9, 1878, Page 3)

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The elegant palace car of the Worcester Excursion Car Company, which passed through this city Friday evening, was visited and inspected by a number of our citizens. The excursion is made up from the largest stockholders in the company with their families, whose names and residences are as follows: Jerome Marble, wife and two daughters, C. C. Houghton, wife and daughter, Mrs. H. H. Bigelow and three children, Worcester, Mass.; John Babcock and wife, Mrs. Jenkins and T. L. Sturtevant, Boston; W. H. Shuey, Minneapolis, and W. Conies, St. Paul, with three servants, cook, waiter and porter. The car, which is in itself a complete hotel, is provided with parlor, dining, reading and smoking rooms, kitchen with range, Pullman sleeping berths, piano, armory, wardrobes, ice and provision chests, and every other possible convenience. A baggage car is attached containing in one end extra baggage, tents, cots and camping utensils, while the remaining half is devoted to those very important members of a hunting party - the dogs. The party devoted Saturday to fishing on Lake Minnetonka and returned to spend Sunday in Minneapolis, leaving here today for the hunting resorts of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Minnesota and North Dakota will furnish them with abundant sport for the two months they propose remaining, and we join their many friends in wishing them success. (*The Minneapolis Tribune*, Monday, September 9, 1878, Page 4)



F. Jay Haynes was the official photographer for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He took hundreds of pictures along the northern tier of the United States in the 1870s. The photograph above shows the first train crossing the Missouri River.

6. News Nuggets

News Nuggets

The Gold Diggings on the Zumbro. We hear from a friend, recently from Oronoco, that the Oronoco company is still at work at its diggings, six miles below that place; the yield of gold dust becomes more plentiful as they perfect their machinery and gain experience. The average earnings of the company (10 persons) have been thus far three dollars per day to each man, while engaged in washing. They have had considerable bad luck, by reason of the high water carrying away their dams and sluices, but everything is now in good working order. (*The Red Wing Sentinel*, Saturday, January 1, 1859, Page 2)

Our neighbors of Wasioja [now a ghost town in Wasioja Township, Dodge County] are about completing their new school house. It is a fine structure, two stories high, and built of beautiful brown stone which abounds in the Zumbro hills. (*Dodge County Republican*, Saturday, September 14, 1867, Page 1)

The La Crosse Packet Company have got out 3,000 cords of wood during the last winter, and have it banked at their yard opposite this city. Capt. J. W. Gilleland, has been superintending operations, which are suspended for the present. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, April 5, 1866, Page 4)

On Tuesday morning, vast numbers of ducks were in the river opposite town. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, April 5, 1866, Page 4)

Itasca. This splendid steamer came up on Saturday last, with six hundred passengers on board. She left Prairie du Chien with 800 – 500 cabin, and 300 deck. A few trips of this deservedly popular boat will increase the labors of our census taker very materially. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, May 3, 1866, Page 4)

For some time past the burning bluffs adjacent to the city have presented a beautiful appearance during the night. Nothing in the shape of fireworks could equal in beauty these long spiral lines of fire that creep up and down the bluffs, crossing the line of vision at every conceivable angle. These fires are sometimes accidental, and sometimes the result of purpose; but one cause or the other is sure to bring them at this season. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, May 3, 1866, Page 4)

The Wabasha mills are now turning out and shipping one hundred barrels of flour per day. Specimens of this flour have been sent to Chicago and Milwaukee, and the best of judges in those cities, speak of it as being of the first quality. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, May 17, 1866, Page 4)

Continued on the Next Page

Every mail brings more or less letters inquiring for accommodations for gentlemen and ladies, and families from all parts of the United States. Wabasha is getting to be known as a most desirable point for spending the warm and sickly seasons. Hundreds will go away for want of accommodations. Cannot our business men see that a large and well conducted hotel would be a paying institution? Great as the business is of some of our dry good's houses, we had rather have the profits of a large hotel kept well here, than of any store in our city. Who is the man that will move forward in this enterprise and reap the rich harvest which is so easy to gather. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, May 24, 1866, Page 1)

Beef Slough Bar is the great obstacle to steamboat navigation, is getting its back up. The Phil Sheridan stuck for several hours, last Friday, and the Tiber and Ocean Wave, followed suit on Saturday. The latter boat had four heavily laden barges in tow, some drawing five feet. The channel will be better as the water becomes more contracted, and cuts its way through those submarine sand hills. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, May 31, 1866, Page 4)

The late disastrous conflagration at Hudson is another lesson, by which we ought at least to be warned. A whole city, the work of years, laid waste in a few moments. There, as here, no fire organization exists, and therefore no systematic efforts could be made to check the devouring element. Will our citizens ever learn wisdom by the sad experience of sister cities. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, May 31, 1866, Page 4)

The fish market is active just now. It is daily supplied with fresh fish by a score or two of young fishermen, that show a proficiency in this hooking business that must be alarming to the finny tribe. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, June 7, 1866, Page 4)

S. A. Hatch and family of St. Louis are stopping at Riverside with the intention of spending the Summer here, and enjoying the many advantages which this point offers for sporting. They bring with them a splendid outfit of horses, carriages, valuable dogs, guns, fishing tackle and everything else in the line of sportsman's traps. Our Club will see that they do not lack opportunities to gratify their love of this exciting and manly amusement. There certainly is variety enough of game here to prevent anything like monotony. We have had some advantages for fishing and hunting in different states and have improved them too, but we never yet found a place with such a variety and abundance of good sporting as this point affords. Pike, bass and trout fishing, and chicken, pheasant, quail, woodcock, squirrel, duck and deer shooting, and all in abundance. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, June 21, 1866, Page 1)

We are told that a raft a few days ago, driven by the wind into the sand beach near the head of Lake Pepin, forced up the skull and parts of the skeleton of a man, with which was found a decaying money belt holding about \$600 in gold and silver. The raftsmen could not find any clue by which the bones might be identified. It is supposed, from the fact of the specie [coins] being found with them, that they are the remains of one of the lost by the burning of the Galena at Red Wing in '59. Red Wing Argus. (*The Wabasha Herald*, Thursday, June 21, 1866, Page 1)