

Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota

Minnesota Bricks

April 2020

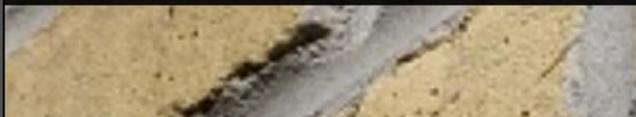
Minnesota Bricks

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www.mnbricks.com

Chaska Brick

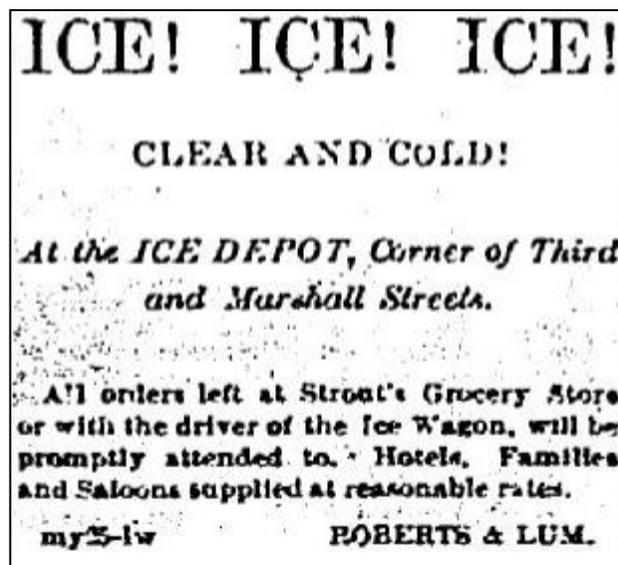
Brickmaking in Chaska Minnesota



www.chaskabrick.com

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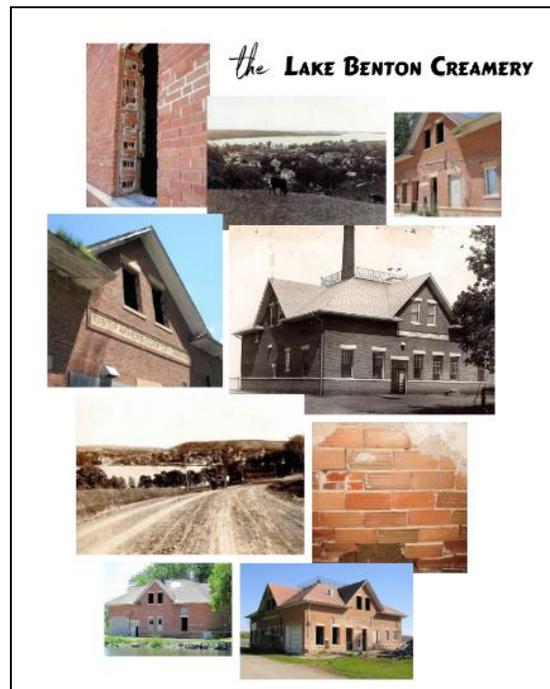
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(The Minneapolis Tribune, Saturday, May 25, 1867, Page 4)

1. What's New?

- I produced two more historical videos this month. One is called “How to Build an ACO Silo,” which is exactly what it sounds like. The other is a collage video of ACO silos and barns, to a background of piano music (from my talented brother!).
- Both the above historical videos (and others) can be found at www.mnbricks.com/mn-historical-videos
- I put together a collage photo of the Lake Benton Creamery (bottom right). This was one of my favorite buildings from a very scenic town in Minnesota. The creamery was torn down a few years ago. The building was constructed of Ochs Brick and Tile.
- If you enjoy my newsletter, tell your friends! I am always looking to expand my audience.
- If you want to sign up to automatically receive this newsletter via email, you can do so at www.mnbricks.com



2. Photo of the Month



RAISE \$2.00 WHEAT

Get a Piece of the Famous Jas. J. Hill Kittson County Minnesota Farm—GO NOW!

This is the land of rich opportunities. "Lacking not one single essential that goes to make up a country of unparalleled opportunities for the farmer"—says the Minnesota State Board of Immigration.

This great farm of 22,000 acres has been divided up into 150 and 320 acre farms and is being sold by us to farmer-settlers. Located in the "Bread Basket of America"—the great Red River Valley—the best wheat producing section in the world. Opportunities for buying rich, fertile (\$2.00 a bushel) wheat land like this are few today. Grasp this while you can! Go see this land yourself! Join our next excursion, *sure!!!*

Our Special Car Leaves St. Paul for Humbolt Every Monday and Thursday

Go now when you can get your choice of the best farms. Only 150 farms in all—and they're going fast. Rich, level, black soil. Selected over thirty years ago by the great "Empire Builder" when he had his choice of all the land in the Northwest. Two main lines of railroad run through it. Three towns on the property. One night's ride from the Twin Cities and Duluth. Market right at your door. Healthful climate. Good roads. Fine schools and churches. Plan to go now!

Prices Range from \$15 to \$45 an Acre
One-fourth Down—Balance in Ten Yearly Payments
Join Our Next Excursion SURE!

NOTICE Our special car leaves St. Paul for Humbolt over the Great Northern R. R. every Monday and Thursday. Round trip fare from St. Paul including transportation, meals and berth, \$22.00—credited to purchasers of 150 acres or more.

Write for Particulars, Booklet and Maps

PAYNE INVESTMENT COMPANY
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
St. Paul Office—Great Northern City Ticket Office,
Corner 4th and Jackson Streets

Selling the James J. Hill Bonanza Farm in Kittson County, Minnesota

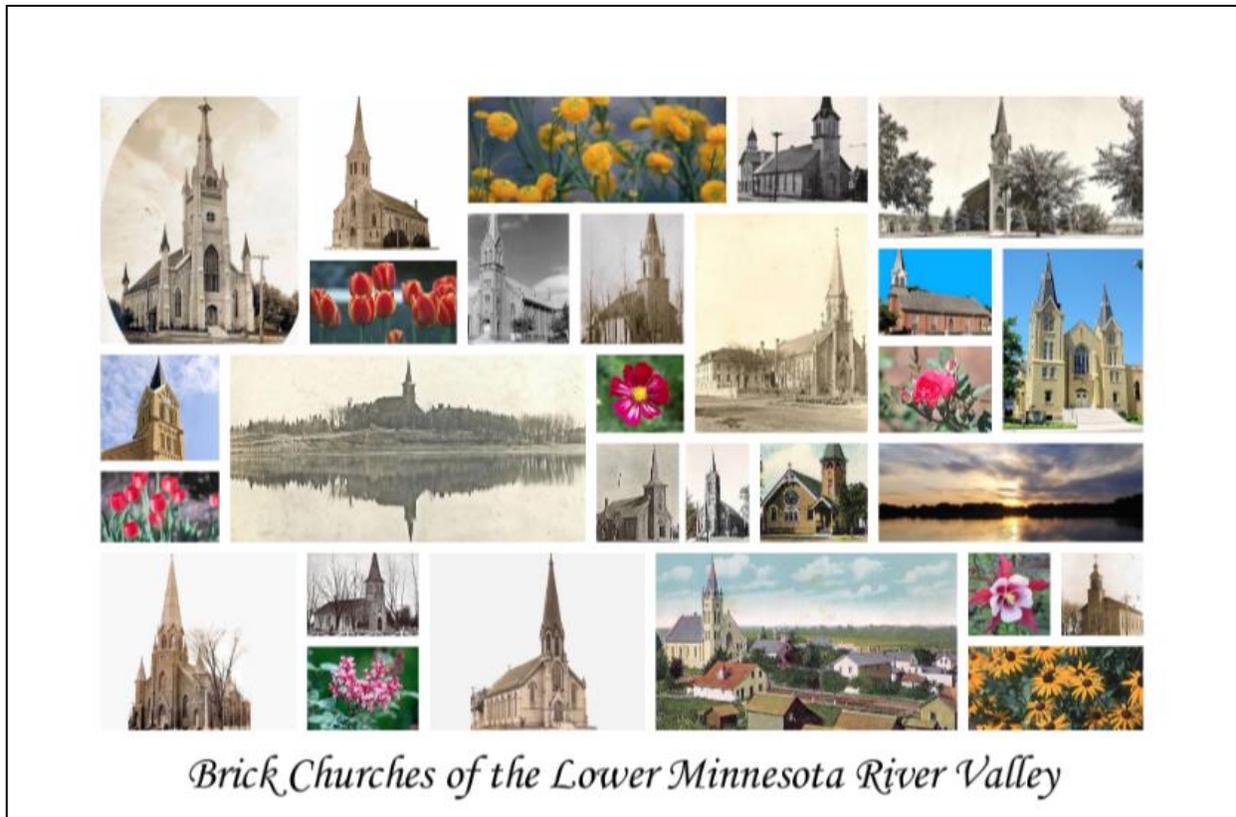
James J. Hill, the great railroad baron, owned thousands of acres of farmland in Kittson County, Minnesota. This is an advertisement announcing the selling of the famous farm, after his death on May 29, 1916. (*The Redwood Gazette*, Wednesday, August 8, 1917, Page 6)

3. For Sale

I have acquired quite a bit of brick related material over the years, which include pictures, plans, and various drawings that are quite fascinating.

Shown below is a 20 x 30 inch collage poster showing some of the historic Minnesota River Valley churches. You can purchase it on the “shop” page of my website, www.mnbricks.com/shop

There are other posters for sale on my shop page as well.



4. A Look Back

WHAT HAPPENED TO OLD STEAMBOATS?

MINNESOTA HISTORY SEGMENT



Sunday was gala day for the Junior Pioneer society of New Ulm. The society made a valuable addition to its collection of historical relics on that day, when the boiler from the old steamer "Otter of New Ulm," which for years and years, plied on the Minnesota river, was brought to Turner park, where it will now remain for all time. Otter was [a] Pioneer. The Otter was owned by Capt. Jacob Hindermann of West Newton, who was her captain and was known by everybody along the Minnesota Valley from Redwood Falls to St. Paul, in the days when there was no railway in this part of the state, and the only means of transportation was by ox team in winter and by the steamer in summer.

The last season for the Otter was in 1879. The following winter the steamer was placed in winter quarters in the river, near Captain Hindermann's home. In the following spring the ice carried the ship over a rock in the river, where it stuck, keeled over and was stuck fast in the mud in the bottom of the stream. There it remained until last fall, when Captain Hindermann had it removed. In the meantime the hull has rotted away and nothing but the boiler remains of the once famous old steamer. (*New Ulm Review*, Wednesday, August 29, 1917, Page 1)

5. News Nuggets

The Okebena Mills are now receiving from four to five cats a day in addition to 400 or 500 bushels of wheat. Mr. Sutton wishes to announce that they have all the help now in the way of cats which they need. They keep eight on duty constantly, and if they take on any more there will not be rats and mice enough to give the cats steady employment. (*The Worthington Advance*, Saturday, October 24, 1874, Page 3)

On Monday last a son of Henry Baldwin was sent by his father to break around a school house in Elk township for the purpose of protecting the building from prairie fires. The boy broke several furrows around the house, and then set fire to the grass thinking he could keep the fire within bounds. But there was quite a wind blowing from the south and the fire leaped the one or two furrows made and went careening over Elk township with the speed of a racer. When it reached the place of M. L. Miller, near the northern line of the township, the flames made a clear leap of three rods, that is clear over two rods of breaking with a rod of grass between them, and swept over his farm and into his hay burning up a considerable quantity. All his best hay, however, was saved, and his loss is inconsiderable. We have not heard of any extensive damage being done by the fire, other than the general damage done by the burning of the grass. Mr. Alley, seeing that a fire was abroad, hastened to the school house where it started and advised the boy to come to town at once and submit to the conditions imposed by the law, which imposes fine of from five to one hundred dollars, or imprisonment in case the fine is not paid. The boy appeared before Justice Bennett and was fined ten dollars with costs. A light fine was imposed in view of the facts that the firing was done by a youth in the performance of work intended for the public benefit, and was wholly the result of an error of judgement. The boy's father, and every one else, in fact, approves of the fine. The case is one in which as much leniency as possible should be shown, and is therefore probably the best example that could have been had, as showing the determination of the people to prosecute in every case. The old adage will be made true this fall, that it is dangerous to play with fire. Some persons claim the right to use fire to protect their own stacks and property, but if they thereby endanger their neighbor's property they have no such right. (*The Worthington Advance*, Saturday, October 24, 1874, Page 3)

The Ladies of Worthington will hold a Social at Miller Hall, on Wednesday evening next, the 28th, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the purchase of School Books for those who are not able to supply themselves. The ladies expect a general attendance. Oysters, coffee and other refreshments will be furnished. (*The Worthington Advance*, Saturday, October 24, 1874, Page 3)

Continued on the next page...

**News Nuggets
from the late 1800s**

It is reported that a conductor of a freight train jumped from his engine on Monday last, about four miles west of town and deliberately set fire to the prairie. The fire was extinguished by Mr. Law, who witnessed the act. That conductor needs some reconstructing. (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, October 30, 1874, Page 3)

It seems that we were misinformed as to a freight conductor setting fire to the prairie. The prairie caught from an engine and Conductor Clement and Mr. Fowler got off to extinguish the fire, which gives quite another complexion to the matter, as will be seen at a glance. The engine in question is one which has an ugly habit of snorting and spitting fire whenever there is a heavy pull, and we learn that the Company have thought of taking it off of the road for the present on that account. (*The Worthington Advance*, Saturday, November 13, 1874, Page 3)

Probably the finest effect ever witnessed on Lake Okebena occurred last evening just after sundown. The sky was a beautiful crimson streaked with light blue, and the reflection upon the lake was much more brilliant than the sky itself. How this could be we do not know, but there is no doubt as to the fact. Half the lake was of a deep crimson color and gave those who saw it a better idea than they ever had before of a sea of blood. There was just wind enough to break the lake into light waves which gave the sea of blood a bubbling or boiling appearance. (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, November 6, 1874, Page 3)

Parties living near the East Lake complain that skaters build fires on the ice and leave them to be blown about endangering the prairie grass and the adjoining property. No law against burning the lake but look out for the prairie! (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, November 20, 1874, Page 3)

The ice on the East Lake is so clear that it reflects the moon and stars like clear water. We are sure of good skating this winter. (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, November 20, 1874, Page 3)

The sleet broke the wire between here and St. Paul, and for several days we were cut off from direct telegraphic communication with the Capital. (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, November 27, 1874, Page 3)

The school boys are at their old trick of breaking young trees on the street. We will pay a handsome reward for information as to who broke a soft maple growing on Tenth street opposite the Hall. (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, December 11, 1874, Page 3)

A man came up from Spirit Lake on Tuesday with 1 otter, 5 mink and 900 muskrat skins. The otter skin measured four feet clear of tail. Muskrat skins are selling now at from 23 to 25 cents, so that the rats alone brought over \$200. (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, January 1, 1875, Page 3)

The thermometer is said to have indicated 25 below zero on Tuesday morning. At 10 o'clock it was still 16 below and men and boys were walking about without overcoats or wrappings. (*The Worthington Advance*, Friday, January 1, 1875, Page 3)

6. Brick Structure of the Month



CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART FREEPORT, MN



Cream is probably the most common color of Minnesota brick. The Church of the Sacred Heart in Freeport, Minnesota, is visible for miles along Interstate 94, and features a cream colored brick. How would a person determine where the brick came from?

Check out the next page...



The answer to the question is very easy in this instance. If you look closely at the brick used in the church, some are stamped with the brick manufacturers logo. Look for the "HESS & MOOG" in the above photo. The Hess & Moog brickyard was located in St. Cloud, Minnesota. As their advertisement (shown below) states, they made cream colored brick. Most questions about where the brick came from are nearly impossible to determine.

