

Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota

Minnesota Bricks

July 2020

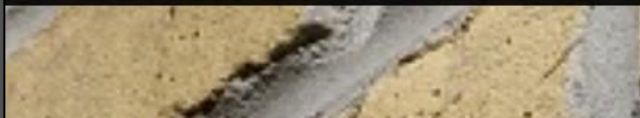
Minnesota Bricks

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www.mnbricks.com

Chaska Brick

Brickmaking in Chaska Minnesota



www.chaskabrick.com

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This is a postcard of the Hendricks, Minnesota, creamery, around the date of its completion (likely the early 1900s). This creamery building is still standing today, being used as a brewery.

1. What's New?

- I finished part 2 of my new 5-part video series on the Chaska, Minnesota, brickyards. This one is almost 30 minutes in length, but if you love history, it goes by quickly! You can find this video at:
<https://www.mnbricks.com/mn-historical-videos>
- I had a question about the St. Vincent, Minnesota, brick jail. My father is originally from this small town in northwest Minnesota, so it is definitely a topic of interest. I included what I found as my brick structure of the month (in this issue).
- 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. If you like what you see, tell a friend about it. I am always looking for more readers!



2. Photo of the Month



The Ascension Catholic Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Still stands today at 51 West 7th Street in St. Paul. One of the oldest churches in Minnesota.

There is a short story about the dedication of this church on the next page.

Sunday last, the 18th inst., witnessed the finest and most imposing religious demonstration in St. Paul ever seen in Minnesota, the occasion being the consecration and dedication of the new German Catholic Church on Ninth street, near St. Peter. The edifice itself is the finest and largest in Minnesota, and with but one or two exceptions in the Northwest, having a depth of 185 feet by 87 in width, and in its construction has occupied four years of time with a large force of laborers. It is built in the seven old Roman styles of architecture, of stone in the rough with cut stone columns and facings.

Over the front are two great towers 24 feet square and 154 feet high, from which rise two spires 60 feet in height. The windows are of stained glass, present by members of the Congregation. The building has two roofs, the first 30 feet above the floor of the auditorium and the second 60 feet. As it now stands it has costs about \$200,000, which will be still further increased in the finishing up. The congregation to worship in this splendid structure is one of the largest in the State, and is presided over by Rev. Father Clement Staub to whose personal popularity and energy much of the credit of carrying the project through, is due, with an able corps of assistants.

The ceremony of consecration and dedication commenced at 7 o'clock in the morning, Right Rev. Bishop Grace officiating, and was not concluded until 4 P. M. The consecration itself occupied until 10 A. M. when the doors were thrown open and the public admitted to the dedication. Outside of St. Paul organized Catholic societies were present from Minneapolis, Stillwater, St. Cloud, Hastings, Chaska, Shakopee and New Ulm, with friends accompanying numbering about three thousand. They arrived by special trains, and were met at the depot by the St. Paul societies, where a procession was formed, and marched through the principal streets to the church.

In the procession were some twenty different societies, with five bands of music, and with its many rich and different colored banners, flags, scarfs, etc., made one of the finest looking, as it was the largest, processions ever seen in St. Paul. Not less than three thousand people were in the line of march, while the streets through which it passed were crowded, and around the church awaiting its arrival were several thousands more. The church had not been seated, and during the services it is estimated that from four to five thousand people crowded into it.

The services consisted of an address in German by Right Rev. Ruper Siedenbush, and in English by Right Rev. Bishop Grace. Pontifical mass, followed by Vespers and Confirmation, and with the grand music of the occasion, were particularly solemn and impressive. The services ended, visitors were entertained by the St. Paul people, and at 5 o'clock escorted back to the trains to return them to their homes. Throughout nothing occurred to mar the pleasure or solemnity of the occasion, and it will long stand as an important era in the history of the Catholic church in Minnesota. (*The Worthington Advance*, Saturday, October 24, 1874, Page 1)

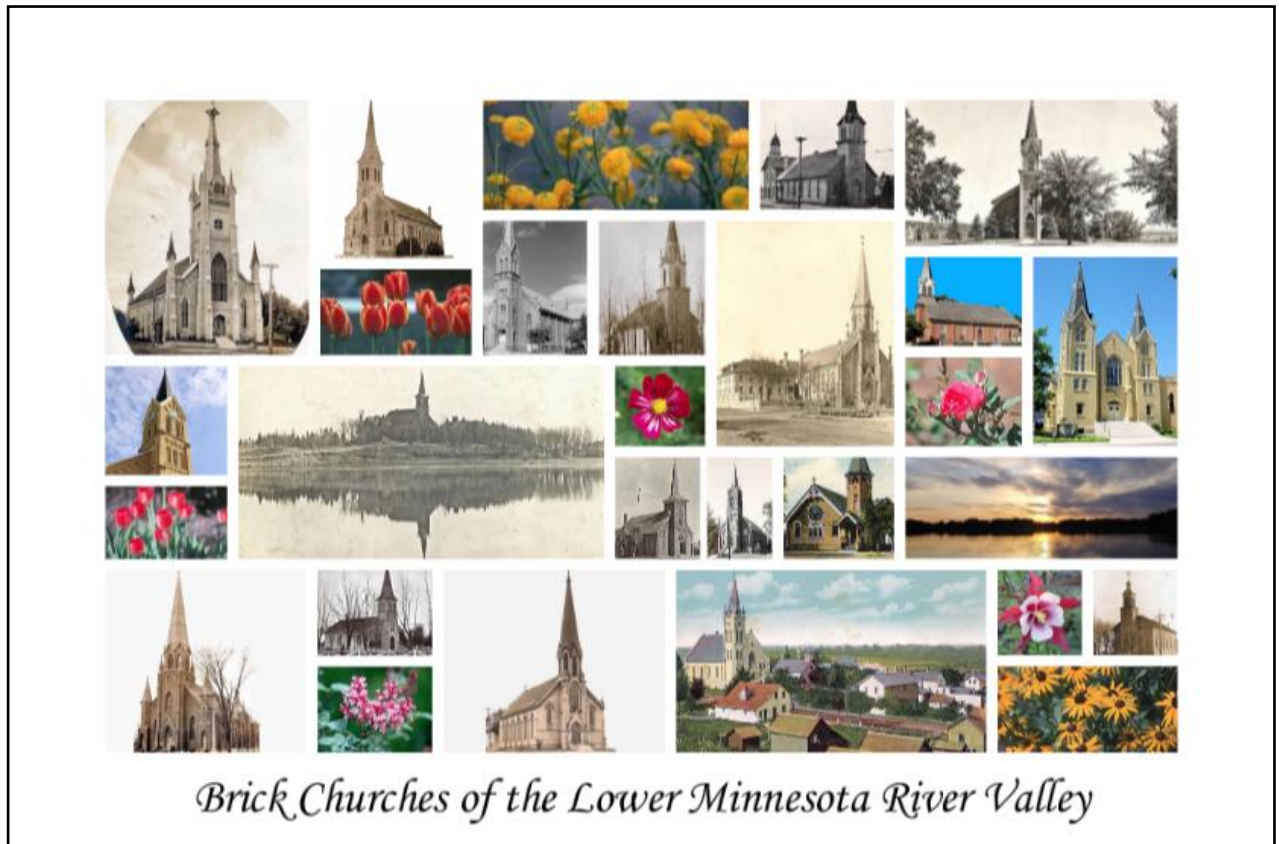
3. For Sale

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

Shown below is a 20 x 30 inch collage poster of the historic Minnesota River Valley churches. You can find it for purchase on the “Shop” page of my website:

www.mnbricks.com/shop

On the same page, there are other posters for sale on various brick towns, Iowa and Minnesota silos, and the Minnesota Winter of 1880-81.



4. A Look Back

The 1874 Andreas Atlas of Minnesota

Minnesota History Segment



Early into my research into various Minnesota history topics, I came across pictures from the 1874 Andreas Atlas of Minnesota. It gave spectacular lithographic views of various Minnesota cities, buildings, and people, all compiled into one book. The view above is of St. Paul. Can you pick out the church that is shown on Page 4? This past month, I came across an old newspaper article about how this atlas was put together. This article is shown on the next page.

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St. Paul Press, May 15. Having taken occasion at different times to speak of A. T. Andreas' Atlas of Minnesota, and wishing to obtain more definite particulars in regard to the progress of the work, the reporter yesterday visited the rooms of Mr. Thos. H. Thomson, the manager for the State of Minnesota, and succeeded in obtaining facts which will prove of interest to every citizen of the State. The quarters of the resident manager, (Nos. 10 and 12 Lewis Block, corner 6th and Wabasha streets), are now one of the active business points of St. Paul. A corps of assistants is constantly engaged in arranging the sketches, histories and views forwarded from other points in the State for insertion, in what is destined to be one of the most complete and elegant works ever published in this country.

An examination of some of the sketches and views already completed produced astonishment as well as pleasure. Among the completed engravings are perfect views of the [St. Paul] Press building, and Church of the Assumption (better known as the "New German Catholic Church"). These are so adorable in every respect that they absolutely defy criticism – the outline of almost every stone being preserved with wonderful accuracy. The reporter regrets that he did not learn the name of the artist who furnished the original sketches to the engravers – but he is a thorough master whoever he may be, and the Chicago Lithograph Company has followed his designs with exquisite accuracy and taste.

Among other local sketches or views in process of completion are the residences of Gen. Sibley, J. C. Burbank, Gov. Marshall, E. M. Deane, and Chas. Bigelow, and a splendid engraving of the St. Paul Fire and Marine Building, at the corner of Third and Jackson streets. The labor of arranging all the details of the Atlas, in matter and engraving, is of greater magnitude than any one has supposed. Over fifty men are employed in different portions of the State, in mapping, sketching, and finishing chapters of interesting local history.

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This is the St. Paul Press building mentioned in the text above (from the 1874 Andreas Atlas of Minnesota).

The pay roll of the force thus employed in Minnesota ranges from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per week, and this one fact will serve to illustrate, better than anything else can do, the magnitude and importance of the work undertaken. This little army of artists and agents has performed its duties in a thoroughly acceptable manner, is shown conclusively in the fact that its individual members have been heartily welcomed by the people of Minnesota, who have, in nearly every instance met them with the encouragement and liberal patronage which the high character of their work deserves. Over 7,400 subscribers have already been secured for the atlas in Minnesota alone, while orders are being received from other States, including the extremes presented by New York and California.

The demand for the work is undoubtedly attributed in great degree to the fact that Mr. Andreas is the oldest map publisher in the West, as well as the most successful, having given complete satisfaction in all his works. The railroad companies of this State have afforded the publishers every facility for gaining information or securing views of points of interest within its borders; many facts of great importance to the State at large have been secured through their friendly intervention, and for which the publishers express themselves as sincerely grateful. The atlas, when completed, will contain between 600 and 700 pages of instructive and entertaining reading matter, finely executed engravings of public buildings, private residences, and the striking scenery for which Minnesota is becoming famous from one end of the country to the other.

The book will weigh about 18 pounds, and will be ready for delivery to subscribers on or about the first of October. Two hundred of the finest lithographic views have already been engaged, and are now in the hands of the engravers, while orders for others are received from different points in the State. The publication of the work must inevitably call attention to the State and bring every portion of it prominently before the citizens of other and remote localities, because it will be placed on file in every Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce in the Union. There are many other points in regard to the new Atlas which deserve special mention, but the facts above recited are sufficient to indicate the general character of the work, and the undeniable skill manifested in the execution of its minutest details. (*Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, Tuesday, May 26, 1874, Page 2)

Sibley residence from the 1874 Andreas Atlas of Minnesota.



5. Brick Structure of the Month



St. Vincent Jail St. Vincent, Minnesota



This is a small picture of the St. Vincent jail. The only information I could find about the jail are contained in the clippings shown below. I think it may have been a combined jail and engine house.

Village Trustees D. Cameron and R. H. Lapp, were appointed a committee by the village council at their meeting on Monday last to visit Kennedy and examine the Kennedy jail and fire apparatus in view of building a jail at St. Vincent and to provide fire protection. *New Era. (The Pioneer Express, Pembina, June 17, 1904, Page 4)*

St. Vincent, Minn. The council has plans for a village jail. (*The Improvement Bulletin, May 13, 1905, Page 21*)

St. Vincent, Minn. Bids are being taken for the erection of a village lockup. (*The Improvement Bulletin, May 27, 1905, Page 14*)

St. Vincent, Minn. A Darrach, president, will receive bids until 8 pm June 5 for the erection of the village engine house. (*The Improvement Bulletin, June 3, 1905, Page 34*)

St. Vincent, Minn. Contracts are let for a fire engine and apparatus to the Waterous Engine Works Co., at \$1,850. (*The Improvement Bulletin, June 3, 1905, Page 34*)

The tender of Barney Johnson of this city for building the St. Vincent Fire hall was accepted last Monday by the council there. It will cost \$500. It will be 20x24. (*The Pioneer Express, Pembina, June 9, 1905, Page 4*)

St. Vincent has organized a fire company, with Dick Lapp as chief, that bids fair to be a strong competitor to the older ones in the northern part of the state. The sharp taps of the fire bell can be heard twice a week calling the members to rehearsal and the interest taken is such as is sure to result in lots of good to the town if it is followed up. A grand ball, under the auspices of the fire company is set for the evening of June 1st, which is said shall surpass any thing ever held in St. Vincent. (*The Pioneer Express, Pembina, May 25, 1906, Page 4*)

6. News Nuggets

News Nuggets

Gardens and flower beds have hitherto been too rare in this town. Where yards are not fenced it is impossible to have gardens, while hogs are allowed to roam at large. You can never arrange flower beds to suit a hog. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, April 20, 1883, Page 1)

Fort Pembina News. At about one o'clock on the morning of April 15th, a conflagration [fire] broke out in a small building to the rear of "B" Company quarters. The alarm was given by our vigilant sentinel and owing to the promptitude of the officers and men they prevented what might have been a serious loss, as the wind was blowing from the north, and all the buildings being south of the fire, it would not have taken many minutes to consume the garrison. The heroic endeavors of the officers and men deserve the highest praise. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, April 20, 1883, Page 1)

The Pembina and St. Vincent ferry commenced running on Monday. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, April 27, 1883, Page 1)

We notice that the name of the new railroad town on the Pembina is not correctly pronounced by many. It is not pronounced Nee-chee, nor Nee-shee, nor Nech-che, nor Neck, (as several pronounce it that we know). It is pronounced as if spelled Nich-che. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, April 27, 1883, Page 1)

Fort Pembina Items. The steamer Selkirk dropped the first barge of wood for this post on Thursday last, and another on Tuesday last. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, May 11, 1883, Page 1)

Fort Pembina Items. Softer and sweeter than the Aolian harp were the sounds of music that came floating through the still night air over the parade ground at Fort Pembina on the evening of May 3d, and mingling with the ripple of the water around our row boat, as we slowly floated past the fort. We were just returning after having brushed off the dust of office, when our ears were greeted with "The Evening Shades are Falling." We immediately pulled for the shore and landed on the side opposite the fort, where we met a part of the boys in blue, who informed us that Lieut. G. F. Cooke, a very popular officer of the past, had reached his 27th birthday, and that the men were serenading him as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the command. We waited on the shore until the music ceased, and then re-entered our boat and floated slowly down the river, with the thought that to have the goodwill of our fellow men is good. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, May 11, 1883, Page 1)

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Fort Pembina Items. Eighteen recruits under command of Lieut. Loydd, 15th Infantry, arrived here on Wednesday, May 2d, from Fort Snelling, Minn. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, May 11, 1883, Page 1)

If you want to tickle your palate and cool your system call at Cadwallader's Bakery for some of his delicious ice cream. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, May 18, 1883, Page 1)

This week witnessed the destruction of the old building formerly used as postoffice and residence by Mr. Cavileer. It was built in the year 1864, and having served its day and generation, has to submit to the destroyer. In the old front door is a bullet hole, the relic of a terrible tragedy which occurred some five years ago, when a detective and a desperado interchanged mutually fatal shots, both expiring in a few minutes. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, May 18, 1883, Page 1)

Kite flying among the boys is coming into vogue. An amusing instance occurred Wednesday evening in connection with a kite that was careening far above the town. Mack Cavileer thought he would try his skill in the attempt to put a hole through it with his rifle. Taking a steady aim when the kite was still he fired, and immediately the kite like a thing of life began to toss and wheel, finally making its way to the ground, the ball having severed the string holding the tail. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, May 18, 1883, Page 1)

Fort Pembina Items. The game of baseball, played here on last Saturday between the St. Vincent nine and nine of the men from the garrison, resulted in an easy victory for the Saint Vincents. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, May 25, 1883, Page 1)

A rock sturgeon, weighing 24 lbs., was fished out of the Red River Tuesday morning, by Mr. Johnson and another man. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, June 18, 1883, Page 1)

Fort Pembina Items. Probably every one knows the beauties and enjoyments of our average parties, but no one who was not present can begin to appreciate the general and specific delights which fell to the lot of those present last Friday night at the garrison, when the young and the gay assembled for a good time. There was nothing to mar the general good feeling and everything and everybody was merry as a marriage bell. At the proper time we all sat down to a bountiful repast [meal]. This hop was given by the members of "B. Co. 15th." The boys tried to make it pleasant for the guests, and succeeded admirably as all those who were present can testify. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, June 8, 1883, Page 1)

A rock sturgeon, weighing 40 lbs. was hauled out of the river on Saturday last by a party whose name we did not learn. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, June 15, 1883, Page 1)

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Reporting at the Custom House. There seems to be a difference of opinion among people and a general misunderstanding as to the Custom's requirements of a person who comes to this side of the line from Manitoba. The requirements are just the same for a citizen of this side going to Manitoba and returning as for one coming to this side who resides in Manitoba. For the information of all we have taken pains to ascertain what is required. Every person crossing the line from Manitoba to the United States is required to report at the Custom House before stopping at any other place or landing or leaving any goods. This requirement is just as applicable to the person who has no goods as the person who has. The Custom officer must know whether you have goods or not by making your report directly to him at the time and not by what you may be pleased to tell him a day or two later. The penalty for a failure to so report is the forfeiture of your team and conveyance with whatever of other goods you have with you. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, June 8, 1883, Page 1)

One of the most interesting features of the Fourth of July celebration in this town will be the baseball match between the St. Vincent and Emerson teams. Some good playing is expected. The prize of \$50 will help nerve the boys. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, June 22, 1883, Page 1)

The Grand Forks base ball club with a large company of excursionists and a brass band passed by town early Monday morning on their way to Emerson, returning in the afternoon. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, July 6, 1883, Page 1)

The baseball match last Monday, between the Emerson and Grand Forks clubs was perhaps the best game ever witnessed in the Northwest. The Grand Forks club were fresh from a series of victories over the Fargo, Larimore and Grafton clubs, and the Emerson club acquired more than a local reputation last season. An interesting match was therefore looked for, and none were disappointed. The Grand Forks men led at the first but were soon overreached by their opponents, and excitements ran high. Finally the Grand Forks men pulled to the front and finished with a lead of two runs – the score being eleven to nine. There was some fine playing on both sides, and the teams were evenly matched. Grand Forks being the heavier team, did better batting than the Emerson team, while the fielding and catching of the latter were much superior to that of the Grand Forks club. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, July 6, 1883, Page 1)

There is some talk of closing or public school for a short time. We think it would be wisdom on the part of the school board to do so. Children should not be compelled to sit day after day in a room where the temperature is 100 degrees or more, and no one will object to the teachers having a few weeks' rest during the heated term. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, July 13, 1883, Page 1)

Strawberry parties are numerous just now. The berries though small are plentiful and they are coming into town in considerable quantities. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, July 20, 1883, Page 1)

Ducks by the dozen, score and even hundred have been bagged in this vicinity the past few weeks. Prairie chickens were ripe on Thursday. (*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, North Dakota, July 27, 1883, Page 1)