

Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota

Minnesota Bricks

April 2021

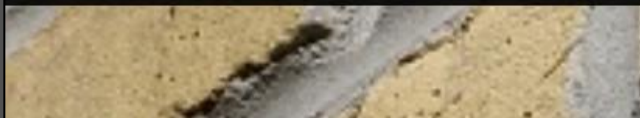
Minnesota Bricks

Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota

www.mnbricks.com

Chaska Brick

Brickmaking in Chaska Minnesota



www.chaskabrick.com

Contents

1. What's New?	3
2. Photo of the Month	4
3. For Sale	6
4. A Look Back	7
5. News Nuggets	12
6. Brick Structure of the Month	18



This is a picture of commercial fishermen going through their catch near Read's Landing, MN, circa 1880. Look at the size of the catfish hanging from the hook!

1. What's New?

- Make sure to check out my historical videos, which can be found at: www.mnbricks.com/mn-historical-videos
- A volunteer at the Wabasha County Historical Society emailed, hoping I might have some information on the Read's Landing schoolhouse, which was built in 1870. Unfortunately, I was not of much help, as information on really old buildings is hard to come by.
- Another reader said that I should include a story about Dan Patch in one of my newsletters, so look forward to that in a future issue. Dan Patch was a famous race horse, that made an appearance at the Minnesota State Fair.
- Feel free to contact me at www.mnbricks.com about any new topics or subjects. If you like what you see, tell others about it!
- 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

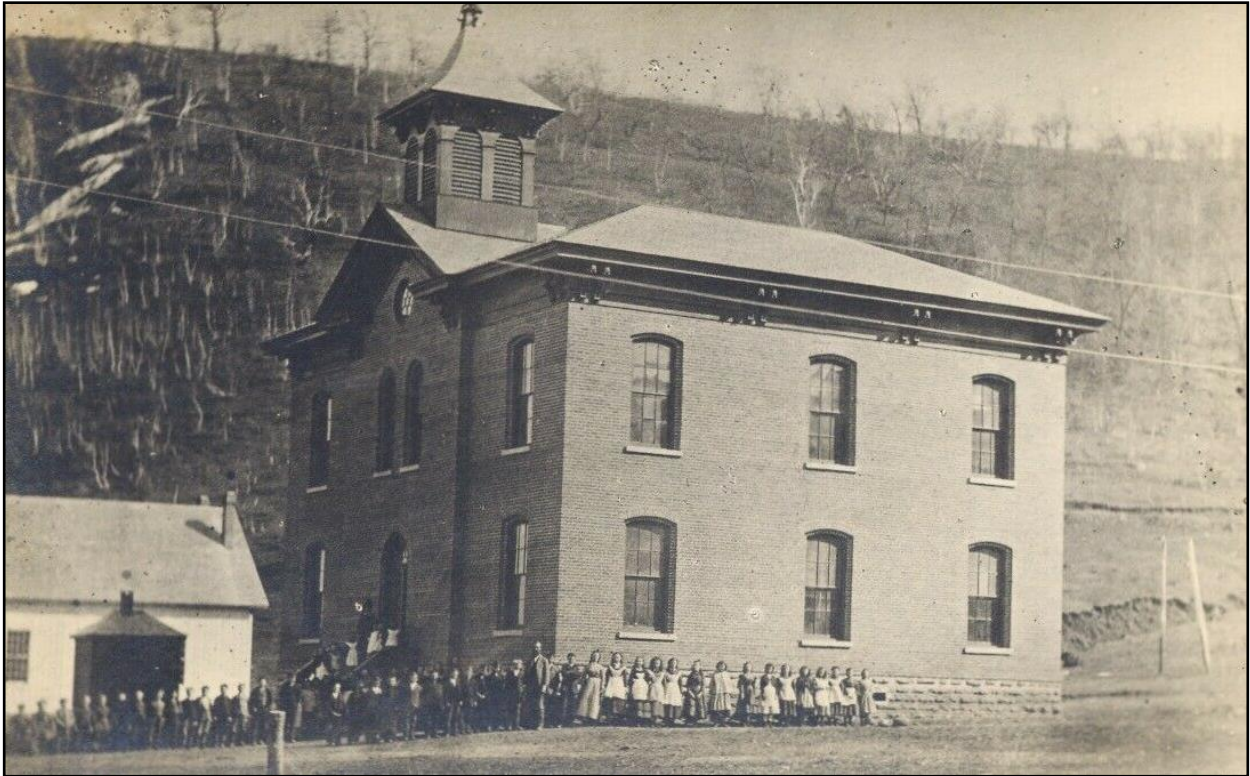


This postcard says "Home Coming 1913, Reads [Landing], Minn." From a brief look through old newspapers, it seems this was a yearly celebration for old settlers.

Five hundred one time residents came back to Read's Landing Saturday and made the now almost deserted town appear as populous as in its boom days. They came from all over the state, from Wisconsin and the Dakotas. They gathered about the old school house on the hill and talked of days when Read's Landing appeared to be the coming city of Minnesota. The women of Read's Landing served meals, and refreshments were to be obtained. No formal program was carried out, the visitors choosing their own entertainment.

The badges for the occasion contained a picture of the old saw mill, built in the village in 1852, by former Governor William R. Marshall. The mill was one of the landmarks and the pride of the settlers. It was dismantled in 1870. Read's Landing was, at one time, a most flourishing business center and the most thriving and prominent place between La Crosse and St. Paul. From an Indian trading post, in the 40's [1840's], it rose to logging and lumbering headquarters in the 60's and 70's. It was admirably adapted for river business right on the western bank of the Mississippi just across from the mouth of the Chippewa and at the foot of beautiful Lake Pepin.

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This postcard also shows the Read's Landing school house, shown on the previous page.

The main business was done by Knapp, Stout & Co., one of the heavy lumber firms of the Chippewa valley, who located their store and warehouse at Read's Landing in 1856. With the decline of lumbering operations, came the fall and today Read's Landing has almost ceased to exist, except in name. Prominent among the old timers present was Patrick Galloway, who now lives in Watopa township [Wabasha County], but who was a river pilot here in the floating days and went to farming when steamboats came into use. He is 83 years old. Captain Eli Miner of Ella, Wis., another well known old Chippewa pilot, was there.

Harvey Black of Winona, a cook on various Knapp, Stout & Co. boats in the early days, Louis Dussche of Alma, Wis., early river engineer on the Chippewa on various boats owned by Captain Heerman; C. N. Edwards of Minneapolis, remembered by the villagers as Deacon Edwards, and Fred A. Bill, who was with the Diamond Jo company for more than twenty years, were present. Sam Kyle of Downsville, Wis., who coupled lumber in the early rafting days; W. W. Cassidy of Wabasha, in charge of part of the business of Knapp, Stout & Co.; Ole Stennerson of Menomonie, Wis., another old employee of that firm, were also there. Sam Sereme of Pepin, Wis., conveying the mail between Read's and Pepin on a skiff and later operating the original Shaw's ferry, took in the home-coming, as did William B. Mohler of Minneapolis; Paul C. Wilson of Menomonie, Wis., and many others of those days.

The annual gatherings are held under the auspices of the Read's Landing Association of the Twin Cities, an organization composed of former residents of the old village. They are keeping alive the memory of the one-time greatness of the place. The first home-coming was in 1908 and the next will be held in June, 1914... (*Wabasha County Herald*, August 28, 1913, Page 4)

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 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

The Barnum Circus comes to Winona

Minnesota History Segment



This is an old poster for the Barnum Circus.

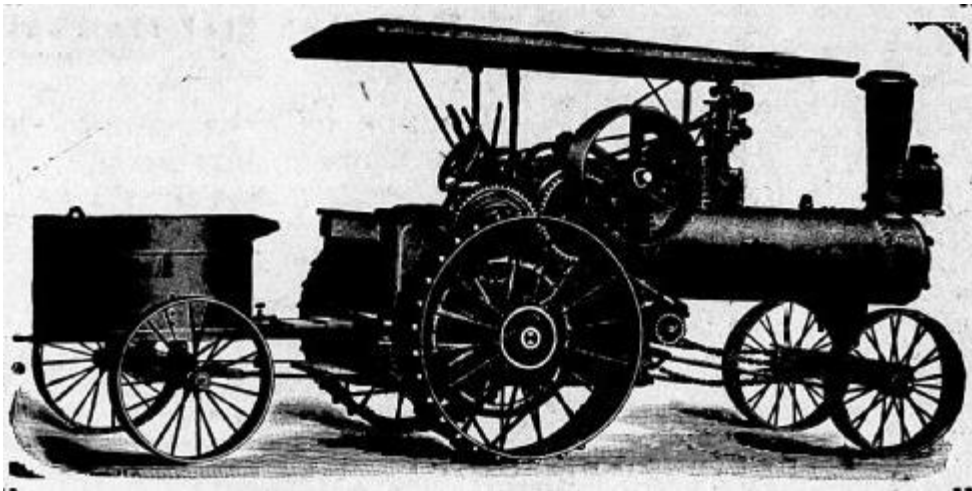
Early on Thursday morning Mr. F. A. Keeler called at The Republican office and invited a reporter to go down to the South Shore depot and see Barnum's advertising [railroad] car. Of course anything connected with "P. T. Barnum's new and only greatest show on earth" has an attraction for a reporter, and the more, especially, when it is connected with the advertising department, consequently an early visit was paid to that car. It is a gorgeous affair – about 45 feet in length, and gaily ornamented with brilliant paintings of animals, horses, riders and other special features of the great show. The car is in charge of Mr. Keeler, the agent, who has with him the bill-posting brigade, numbering twelve men, who are all comfortably quartered in the car, which is a model of system and convenience. In the front end is a neat, airy office in which are also to be seen a quantity of ladders, brushes and other evidences of the professional bill-sticker.

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Opening from this is the apartment occupied by the sleeping berths comfortably ranged along one side, while opposite is a row of large drawers of close shelves, each one of which is filled with the special assortment of handsome posters for each town. The taste and artistic work of show printing finds a good patron in Mr. Barnum, who fully understands the great importance of placing upon the walls a set of pictures which shall attract attention by their originality and beauty. It will be noticed that all the pictures are an interesting study, while as specimens of colored printing they are, indeed, artistic. Mr. Keeler says that they bill a town a day as their regular business.

The advance agent, Mr. Couldock, makes all the contracts for bill boards and on arriving in a place the bill posters go to work at once putting up the paper. At the same time several of them are sent into the country by different roads for miles, returning at night in time to go on their way for the next town. It takes an immense amount of money to buy all this expensive printing and keep a competent force of men employed to put it up. Some men would say that having done this it were sufficient, but Mr. Barnum never stops with simply putting a sign up. He knows the value of the press. He knows that the bill boards with all their showy attractions are good, but they can not travel.

The newspaper can. It goes before a thousand eyes that do not see the bill boards, hence Mr. Barnum always patronizes the press. His success through this means is a valuable hint to all classes of business men. Mr. Barnum's advertisement will duly appear in *The Republican*, which has always been a favorite paper with him and with his accomplished agent, Mr. Charles Stowe, who will be along in a few days. (*Winona Daily Republican*, July 6, 1877, Page 3)



This is an old newspaper ad.

The adjoining towns will send large delegations to Winona to see Barnum. (*Winona Daily Republican*, July 12, 1877, Page 3)

Continued on the Next Page...

Its menagerie includes more than twice as many animals and all of them rare ones, too, as have ever before been placed on Exhibition, among them Mr. Barnum's last and greatest acquisition, a living Hippopotamus, which cost him \$25,000, and is the only one this side [of] the Atlantic. The Museum is emphatically a Barnum one, containing thousands of interesting relics, a portrait gallery, life-size automatons operated by a solid silver steam engine, and such human prodigies as Admiral Dot, the smallest and most interesting of dwarfs, and Caps. Costentenus, the noble Greek Albanian who was tattooed from head to foot, in Chinese Tartary, as punishment for engaging in rebellion against the king, and for whose counterpart Mr. Barnum will give \$50,000.

The six splendid performing Trakene Stallions, introduced altogether in the arena and the two fiery stallions, ridden and driven tandem by Miss Hengler, were the great circus sensations of Europe, for the equal of either which Mr. Barnum offers \$50,000. A like sum will be paid as yearly salary to as fine a bareback rider as Mr. Charles W. Fish, who is, moreover, but one distinguished artist in a circus of world-wide celebrities. (*The Houston County Journal*, Caledonia, July 14, 1877, Page 3)



Barnum's "world's smallest man."

If there is any limit to Mr. Barnum's ambition and enterprise, he does not yet seem to have reached it, far as he has already distanced many, and triumphed over all imitators and competitors. His restless energy grows younger with advancing years, and his scent for curiosities keener. He is constantly adding to his vast moving collection of museum, mechanical, automatic, and animal marvels, living phenomena and irenic novelties, until this year his representative exhibition has expanded a hundred per cent, requires three monster special trains of his own solid steel cars to transport it, and presents in its vast separate museum menagerie and circus canvases, a multitude of enormously expensive foreign features, thousands of the rarest curiosities, animals, birds, reptiles, and amphibious marine monsters, and a \$2,000 per day assemblage of circus sensations.

No one but Barnum could give so much show for so small a price, and he does even more, by "throwing in," as the auctioneers say, a most costly and novel free show besides, in the shape of a splendid and varied street parade, presenting huge elephants, in harness, drawing titanic chariots; great open lairs and crystal dens of lions and serpents, performed in public; a jeweled and bannered army moving in majestic splendor, and numerous other illustrations of pomp and power. Such notable new attractions must attract everybody, so come early in order to get a good place to see. (*Winona Daily Republican*, July 16, 1877, Page 3)

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It will be well for people to be on their guard when Barnum's great show arrives in town. There is said to be a large following of roughs, thieves, and pickpockets, who take advantage of the excitement and the crowds to ply their vocation. Especially when the procession is passing through the streets and people are engaged in looking at the demonstration do these sharpers practice their games, dodging into the back doors of stores, crowding among the throngs on the streets, picking pockets and prosecuting their nefarious thimble-rigging generally. Look out for them. (*Winona Daily Republican*, July 17, 1877, Page 3)

The Annex to Barnum's Great Show is intended to abolish the old time delusive side show. The management of the Annex has been placed in the hands of the Bunnell Brothers, proprietors of the New American Museum of New York City. Under the large pavilions near the main entrance the door to the Annex can be found, and upon entering one finds himself looking with wonder upon the 718 pounds of womanhood, forming strange contrast to the \$100,000 family of musical German dwarfs. Wild people roam about with Circassians, Albinos and Cannibals. Twenty star specialty actors, led by Dick Sands, champion clog dancer of the world, give entertainments on the return of the procession to the grounds and after each circus performance. The Chicago Inter Ocean says; "The Annex is full of interesting objects and is worthy a place by the side of the larger show." (*Winona Daily Republican*, July 17, 1877, Page 3)

The gorgeous, interesting and amusing procession made by Barnum's great show, to-day, was witnessed by a throng of delighted spectators. The demonstration was characterized by a variety of features, prominent among which were the splendid chariots, the Shetland ponies, the elephants and camels, the automatic curiosities and the cases of wild animals. The exhibition this afternoon was witnessed by an immense crowd, and was heartily enjoyed. The show covers a large area, requiring several mammoth tents in which the combined wonders furnish a rare entertainment of amusement and instruction. Tonight the immense canvas will be filled again. Go early and don't miss it. (*Winona Daily Republican*, July 20, 1877, Page 3)



Another "smallest" man.

P. T. Barnum's
SEEK AND SEIZ
GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

TRANSPORTED BY RAIL UPON THREE IMMENSE SPECIAL EXHIBITION TRAINS OF ITS OWN SOLID STEEL CARS.

WILL EXHIBIT, with all its Overwhelming Variety, at

WINONA

FRIDAY, JULY 20th, '77.

As usual complete by the largest American Tourists in the World, and carrying twenty sets, not merely showing **More New and Important Features**, **More Natural Beauties**, **More and Better Wild Beasts**, **Birds and Reptiles**, **More Marvellous Human Possibilities**, **More Curious and Death Mechanical Wonders**, **More Extraordinary Experiments and Amusements**, and **More Educated Animals and Magnificent Trial Horses** than were ever before presented in any age or place.

MAGNIFICENT PICTORIAL CAGES!



AN ADDITIONAL HALF MILLION DEVISED in former circus Shows, including

A \$30,000 Stud of Superb Educated "Trakens" Stallions,

For more space I will describe my famous **Trakens**, the **Trakens**, and the **Trakens**, which are the most valuable, the most useful, and the most profitable in any stable. Their performance is such as to afford a fine opportunity to the public.



DOUBLE MENAGE ACT,

including the **DOUBLE ACT** **DOUBLE ACT** and other Shows, **BARNUM'S \$25,000 BIBLICAL BEHEMOTH, ADMIRAL DOY!**

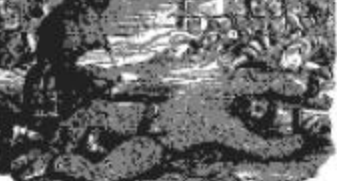
A GRAND FIELD MUSEUM!

\$2,000 per DAY IN SALARIES!

CHARLES W. FISH,

MARTINHO LOWANDE,

THE TATTOOED GREEK NOBLEMAN,



CAPTAIN COSTENTENUS,

A TRIUMPHAL GOLDEN STREET PROCESSION

FEAT OF THE ELEPHANT'S IN HAZARD

The Museum, Menagerie and Circus

One Fifty Cent Ticket,

THE MUSEUM, MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS

THE MUSEUM, MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS

This is the Barnum Advertisement in the *Winona Daily Republican*. The quality of the image is fairly poor.

5. News Nuggets

The Winona and St. Peter Division of the C. & N. W. R. R. are changing their locomotives to coal burners. This will save 250 cords of wood per month at this station. They have also put switch lights on their switches. (*St. Charles Union*, January 10, 1877, Page 3)

A large lynx was caught by Mr. D. V. Smith, living on the Compton farm, about 2 ½ miles south of town, on Saturday night last. His lynxship had been making depredations on his henroost [chicken coop], and Mr. Smith set a trap for him. A large dog was no match for him at all – he cleaned him out without any trouble. He was more than two feet long and about fifteen inches high, armed with terrible teeth and claws, and altogether a most formidable looking customer. Mr. Smith has the skin stuffed as natural as life. (*St. Charles Union*, February 14, 1877, Page 3)

The north wind-mill pump is again in shape to respond to the wants of all thirsty ones. (*St. Charles Union*, May 2, 1877, Page 3)

Mr. P. Murray, of Saratoga, raised his large barn, size 40x80, on Wednesday last. There were over one hundred men engaged in the work, and the unity with which they labored was truly pleasing to behold. After the barn had been raised all hands were invited to partake of a sumptuous repast spread upon a temporary out-door table to which ample justice was done, after which they departed for their several homes well satisfied that the hospitalities received from the hands of Mr. Murray and his lady, would amply repay them for their labor. (*St. Charles Union*, May 30, 1877, Page 3)

Seventeen tramps were recently ushered into the jail at Winona on a single evening. They had selected a place of rendezvous under the Elevator near the Winona and St. Peter depot, where they would sleep during the day, and prowl about during the night. Remnants of butter, eggs, empty whiskey bottles, old coats, and other refuse remain under the Elevator to show the traces of the gang. They are pronounced as a hard-looking set, and certainly their mission was anything but of a laudable character. (*St. Charles Union*, May 30, 1877, Page 3)

The display of Northern Lights on Monday evening was very brilliant, and it was continued until a late hour. Dispatches from the east, as far as Boston, represent the display as the finest seen for years. (*St. Charles Union*, May 30, 1877, Page 3)

At the rate the Pocket Gophers are being caught the \$500 appropriated as bounty will soon be exhausted. This will exterminate an army of five thousand Gophers, the good effects arising from which will undoubtedly be felt. (*St. Charles Union*, May 30, 1877, Page 3)

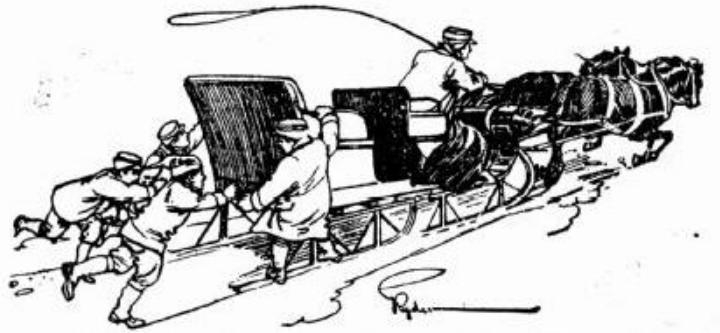
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**News Nuggets
from the late 1800s**

Complaints have been made to the City Marshal about the boys throwing stones in the streets. In order that this practice be discontinued the Marshal has resolved to arrest every person caught indulging in this despicable work. Does this mean you? If so, beware. (*St. Charles Union*, May 30, 1877, Page 3)

On the evening of the 31st ult. a whirlwind was seen approaching the village of Saratoga, about six miles south of St. Charles. Its direction seemed to be from the southwest to the northeast. On arriving at Saratoga it struck a building formerly occupied as a chair factory, and demolished it completely, scattering the lumber in every direction. It also struck the kitchen of Mr. Culbertson's residence and wrenched it from its foundations, but did not throw it down. Passing on, it struck Mr. J. J. H. Dickson's barn, though not with full force – the heaviest wind being a few rods distant nearer the timber – and knocked it out of plumb, though not otherwise materially injuring it. At Mr. M. W. Bibbins' farm, it struck his barn with full force, carrying the roof some thirty or forty rods distant, and wrecking the barn completely, breaking the heavy timbers as though they were pipe-stems, and crushing the structure to the ground. The frame of this barn was considered one of the strongest in the country, the timber having been selected from the best white oak, and put together by Mr. Daniel West in the most workmanlike manner. Mr. Bibbins' corn bins were also demolished. He estimates his loss altogether at over \$600. As the whirlwind approached the premises, the hired man with a team hurried up in order to get under the shelter of the barn, but was unable to do so in time, as the wind carried the wagon box under the falling barn, where it was crushed, and the man himself was lifted up bodily and taken some distance. We understand he was seriously injured. At the farm formerly owned by Mr. Arthur Day, three miles east of St. Charles, a wagon shed was torn down and a wagon or buggy badly smashed. The violence of this wind was no doubt at this time greatly abated, as we hear of no further damage done. Along its track, trees were twisted off and uprooted, and limbs torn off and scattered about. It was a fortunate circumstance, indeed, that there was no loss of life. (*St. Charles Union*, June 6, 1877, Page 3)

This is an old newspaper ad.



We have learned from Wm. Branch who has been at work in the section invaded by the wind storm on the 31st ult., some additional and interesting particulars. The kitchen door of Mr. Winiger's residence in the township of Saratoga was blown open and the wind passed out through a raised window in the pantry, carrying dishes and pans from off the shelves and strewing them promiscuously upon the ground outside. It also demolished a shed on his premises, tore down apple trees on either side of his house and did other minor damage. (*St. Charles Union*, June 13, 1877, Page 3)

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Horses!!



Of all kinds are wanted at Keeville & Watson's Barn (McKeeth's old stand) on Saturday, July 8th, 1905. We want all kinds--good and cheap--old and young.

D. LEVY & SON

A coincidence of unusual occurrence in the matrimonial line took place at Lewiston, this county, on Wednesday of last week. It is that of a marriage in which the bride was but half the age of the groom, and their united ages divided would make each, without the consent of parents or guardians, the unlawful contractors. Martin Johnson, 24 years of age, and Emma Stelby, 12 years, were made one by a power vested in Jonah Peterman, the Justice of the Peace of that town. We hope the happy couple will pardon us for using their names, when we wish that their path in life may be strewn with flowers of every commendable blessing. (*St. Charles Union*, June 6, 1877, Page 3)

Under cover of darkness on Friday night last some despicable fiends invaded the premises of Mr. E. J. Wilson, of this city, and girdled his apple trees, cut down a nice evergreen, and did other damage to his residence premises. The loss is placed at \$50, but time and labor can alone replace the damage. It was done, undoubtedly, by some persons who sought this criminal means of satisfying their personal enmity, and who will receive their just deserts by receiving hospitalities for a given period in the State Prison. (*St. Charles Union*, June 6, 1877, Page 3)

Lewiston boys carry off the laurels as champion gopher catchers. Jonah Peterman, Justice of the Peace, has given certificates for the capture of 874, and this will undoubtedly be raised to a 1,000 in a few days. One boy alone is reported as having caught one hundred. (*St. Charles Union*, June 6, 1877, Page 3)

The depot in this city was entered by burglars on Saturday night last and money amounting to between seven and eight dollars taken from the money drawer. Trunks and express packages were broken open and articles taken. On a slip of paper placed on the sage was written something like this: "Good bye, we have no powder with us, but will call and visit you again in a few days." Suspicions of no mild type are entertained concerning the parties implicated in this matter, but no arrests have as yet been made. An instance of the same kinds was perpetrated in the depot at Minnesota City a few weeks ago. (*St. Charles Union*, June 13, 1877, Page 3)

Joseph Fleming, of Saratoga, commenced laying brick for his fine residence on Thursday last. Its estimated cost is between \$3,000 and \$4,000. Mr. Fleming is one among the many of our industrious and well-to-do farmers who has the good sense to use his hard earned capital advantageously towards consummating the comforts of life by making a delightful home in which to spend his declining years. (*St. Charles Union*, June 13, 1877, Page 3)

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As announced the Lewiston Band treated our citizens to several pieces of music on Saturday last. The playing showed them to be musicians of the first-class, and the throng of listeners upon the street heartily appreciated the favor conferred. Their instruments are all new and of the best quality. (*St. Charles Union*, June 13, 1877, Page 3)

Every church-goer has been disturbed time and again, by people who were so unfortunate or so ill-mannered as to be always late. As the preacher has fairly begun his sermon, in they come with creaking boots and rustling silks, and the exasperated hearer is placed in a dilemma some time before his mind comes back to the duties of the hour. Arrive at church before the service has begun, or put your time to a better purpose than that of annoying others by your late arrival. (*St. Charles Union*, June 13, 1877, Page 3)



This is an old newspaper ad.

Complaints are becoming chronic regarding the staking out of cows on the streets. A rope at the head of some bovine and drawn over a sidewalk and securely hitched to a stake renders the evening promenade an inconveniently rough and rugged road that is not pleasing for the pedestrian to contemplate. Teams also passing on the streets with a rope over the road find it dangerous to drive over it as the horses' feet are liable to tangle, and serious results are sure to follow. We have been informed by ladies that while on an evening ride they were compelled to alight from their carriage and drive the cow across the road, in order that they might obviate the necessity of driving over the rope and run the risks that would ensue. Let us have some action either on the part of owners of cows or the city authorities that will remove these obstructions. (*St. Charles Union*, June 27, 1877, Page 3)

Thieves are making their night calls upon the farmers in this section. Mr. G. W. Blair informs us that this granary was entered on Friday night last and two sacks of flour taken there-from. A few nights previous his neighbor, S. B. Patterson, lost a calf. Next day the hide of the calf was found on Chas. Blair's fence a short distance from Mr. Patterson's residence. The thieves in each case had a buggy or light wagon. (*St. Charles Union*, July 4, 1877, Page 3)

A farmer named Henry Blank drove a wagon with twenty bushels of wheat on Van Gorder's ferry at Winona, the other day, and was told to unhitch his horses therefrom, as was the usual custom. He said he could hold them, and accordingly took his own risk. When the boat reached the middle of the river the pilot called to him to look out for his team as he had to whistle for a passing boat. The noise of the whistle scared the team when they backed the load of grain into the river dragging them with it. By the greatest effort one of the horses, wagon box, a tub of butter, and other minor articles were saved. (*St. Charles Union*, July 4, 1877, Page 3)

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Some of the “boys” determined to have a good time on the night preceding the glorious Fourth, and they accordingly got out the big gun, cleaned and furbished it up, and proceeded with it – loaded to the muzzle – down towards the northern end of town in the immediate vicinity of one of our prominent dry-goods houses. Here they concluded to see what would be the effect of a discharge of the cannon on the frontispiece of the aforesaid store. A match was lighted and applied, when when! bang! – nearly all the glass in that and an adjoining hardware store came rattling about their heels. This effect was probably much more than they had bargained for, but it was a glorious commencement of the Fourth! (*St. Charles Union*, July 11, 1877, Page 3)

The Novelty Press informs us that seven cars were wrecked on the C. M. & St. P. road near Homer on Tuesday of last week. The train ran into a herd of cattle belonging to Dr. Walton and killed a cow and broke the leg of an ox so that it had to be killed. The cow was carried about four rods under the engine, throwing the forward trucks off the rails, in which situation it ran some distance when a general smashup ensued. The engineer and fireman jumped the engine when it first left the track. One of the brakemen had an ankle sprained, being all the injuries caused to those on board by the accident. (*St. Charles Union*, July 11, 1877, Page 3)

Mr. Chas. Gerrish informs us that a grand picnic took place at Mr. Alonzo Foster’s, of Elmira, in which some ninety persons participated. Mr. Foster had just completed a stone barn, 40x60 feet in size, and his friends conceived the idea of congregating together and having a talk over the reminiscences of the past and enjoying a basket picnic under cover of the newly completed barn. (*St. Charles Union*, July 18, 1877, Page 3)

Rabbit thieves are plying their vocation rather extensively in this city. In a single evening not long since no less than half a dozen haunts of the little pets were visited, and from one to three rabbits stolen from each. At the residence of Mr. Joseph Dickson the thieves left 13 cents on a box to pay for a stolen rabbit. Thus, it appears, there is a certain degree of honesty even among thieves. (*St. Charles Union*, August 8, 1877, Page 3)

Six stacks of wheat belonging to John Neville, of Pleasant Valley, were burned on the evening of the 14th inst. They were some 80 rods from the house. Appearances indicate that each stack was set on fire. This is one of the most dastardly acts that can be committed, and we hope the perpetrator will be discovered and adequately punished. A threshing machine had been set the evening before the fire. It is estimated there were 700 bushels of wheat consumed. (*St. Charles Union*, August 22, 1877, Page 3)

Quite a number of young men of St. Charles and vicinity have of late gone to Louisiana to work on the sugar plantations. This fall a large number have concluded to go and try their luck in the “Sunny South.” Evan Gillmore, son of Wm. Gillmore, of the town of St. Charles, has organized a company of about thirty, who started off Monday last for Cote Blanche, St. Mary’s parish, Louisiana. ... The most of these will probably return to St. Charles after the sugar season is over; but a number will remain and engage permanently in the business, if the prospect for remunerative returns are sufficiently good. (*St. Charles Union*, September 26, 1877, Page 3)

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A threshing crew in the Downing neighborhood, south of the city, visited a watermelon patch on Sunday night last and when in the act of leaving with their booty the owner of the melons appeared upon the scene. The trespassers immediately took flight, one of whom fell into a ditch and broken his arm. "The way of the transgressor is hard." (*St. Charles Union*, September 26, 1877, Page 3)

We notice considerable many blue ribbons being worn by men upon our streets as a token of fervency in the cause of temperance [prohibition of alcohol]. 'Tis much better than a red nose. Let the good work go on. (*St. Charles Union*, October 10, 1877, Page 3)

There is a cottonwood tree on the farm of John Vowles, four miles east of town, which is an illustration of the rapid growth of timber in this part of the State. It started in the road-bed of the railroad track in 1859, and was transplanted to its present position in October of that year, when about the size of a common lead pencil, and perhaps twenty inches in height. The land near it has never been cultivated and no particular care has been bestowed on the tree. The trunk is now seven feet three and one half inches in circumference, six or eight inches above the surface of the ground, and the tree is probably about sixty-five feet high. (*St. Charles Union*, October 24, 1877, Page 3)



This is an old newspaper ad.

6. Brick Structure of the Month



Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot Winona, MN



This depot still stands today!

One of the recently local improvements of which Winona may justly be proud is the new depot on the grounds of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway company on Mark street between Center and Lafayette. The building is on a convenient grade, and is 40 by 150 feet in size. Facing the track and next to Center street is a neat baggage room 18 by 24 feet in size, adjoining which is an awning 42 by 24 feet, open on the north and south sides. This is provided with convenient seats around the four upright posts, and is designed as a protection to the public against the inclemencies of the weather. Opening from this awning into the main building is a gentlemen's waiting room, 24 by 35 feet. Adjoining this is a ladies' waiting room of the same size. The ticket office is 12 by 14 feet in size and is directly south of these rooms, overlooking the track. The building is supplied with all the modern conveniences, including water and gas. Opening off from the ladies' waiting room is a very convenient toilet room with all necessary fixtures, and also a water closet.

The floors are of hard maple, and the inside finishings, ceilings included, are of Georgia pine, with a dull oil finish. The door trimmings are bronze, and the windows are plate glass with cathedral glass trimmings. The building proper is **Menomonie [WI] pressed brick** with Mankato cut stone trimmings and slate roof. The style of architecture is principally Grecian. A convenient and substantial platform encircles the depot and extends from the large elevator at the foot of Lafayette street, to a point near Main street, a distance of about 700 feet. The work was executed by the Winona Building and Manufacturing company. The aggregate cost is about \$15,000, which includes about \$3,000 worth of work and grading and track work. Inspector King of the Milwaukee road gives as his opinion that the new Winona depot is perhaps the finest depot at any way station on the Milwaukee road. The painters are now putting the finishing touches on the interior of the building, and it is expected that it will be opened to the public in the course of two or three weeks. (*Winona Daily Republican*, October 19, 1888, Page 3)