

Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota

Minnesota Bricks

May 2021

Minnesota Bricks

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Chaska Brick

Brickmaking in Chaska Minnesota



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This is an old postcard showing two men harvesting pumpkins in Minnesota.

1. What's New?

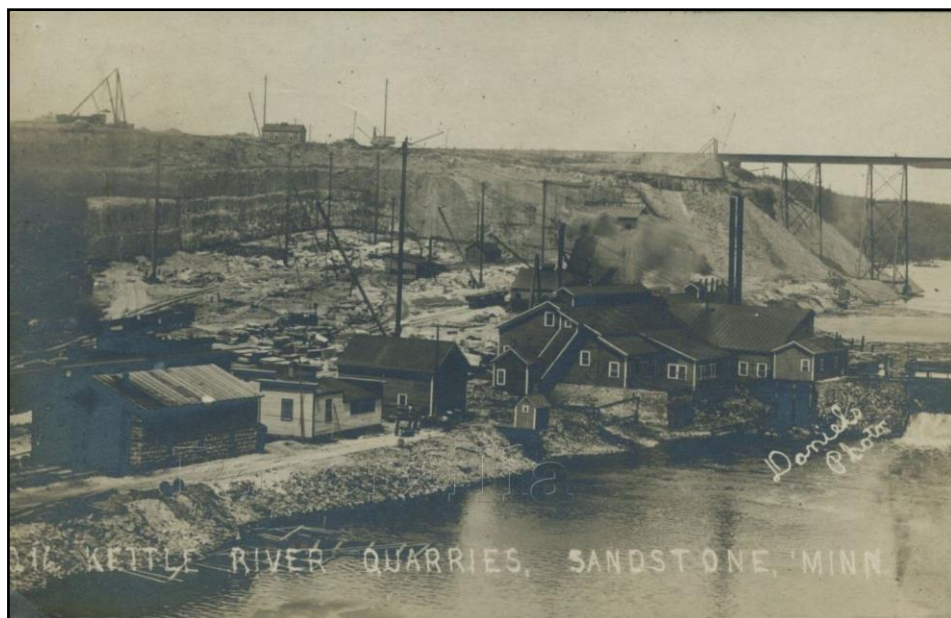
- Starting this month, I've added two new sections in this newsletter. Let me know if you like them. The first is a page with old advertisements, and the second is a biography of a Minnesota person of interest.
- I heard from an architectural company that the old Chatfield high school is being restored. They were trying to locate any brick that would match the old brick used in the building. That is really tough to do, so I was not able to help them very much.
- The owner of the Mary Knoll Dairy Farm asked me to help identify the brick/tile used in that barn complex. I was able to find out that they were made in Fort Dodge, Iowa. This is an amazing story:
<https://www.postbulletin.com/rochester-magazine/6527041-%E2%80%98This-is-like-a-church%E2%80%99-How-a-100-year-old-barn-is-finding-new-life>
- Another reader and fellow historian sent me a brick from the Bingham Lake Brick Company. A picture of it is shown below. THANK YOU!!
- Feel free to send me new information. History is something that takes a lot of work. I'm unable to read every book, or visit every historical society in Minnesota, so I appreciate whenever 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



These are two postcards of the Kettle River Quarry in Sandstone, Minnesota, which is near Hinckley (between the Twin Cities and Duluth). Minnesota brick were often paired with Minnesota stone in many early buildings.



3. Biography

William G. Van Buskirk Winona, Minnesota 9/14/1827 - 11/29/1893

W. G. Van Buskirk, the Master Mechanic of the Duchess & Columbia Railroad, is an old and experienced railroad engineer, having followed the profession nearly all his life. He is a man who has grown gray in the service of railroad companies, most of his time having been spent in Minnesota and the Far West, where he has been employed on several different roads. He was the first engineer that ever ran a locomotive west of the Mississippi, and is the one who, with indomitable courage and great presence of mind, ran a locomotive into the burning freight depot at Winona, Minn., and by opening the safety-valve allowed the steam to escape with such force that it put the flames out and saved the large structure.

This act of heroism was heralded far and wide by the newspapers of the country, and Van Buskirk was given unbounded praise everywhere. A few other incidents in the life of Mr. Van Buskirk which occurred in the West several years ago are of interest. Mr. Van Buskirk had been upon the road some five or six years, and during one month of that time his train killed four persons, at as many different times and in various ways. The first of the four victims was a farmer, who had left his team standing in the field where he was engaged plowing, and ran across the track to get a drink of water. Hearing the approaching train thundering along, he started to return to his team to save them, and in doing so, lost his own life. He jumped across the track, just escaping the point of the pilot, but was struck by part of the engine frame and killed.

The train was brought to a standstill, and the unfortunate farmer picked up and taken home, a few yards distant. Upon examination it was found that his back was broken. Returning to the train, the railroad men discovered that the team, which the farmer wanted to save, had not moved from the spot where he left them. The second man killed that month fell under the wheels while the train was in motion. He attempted to get on the train, slipped and fell, and was crushed to an indescribable mass of flesh and bones. The killing of the third man aroused the deepest feelings of sorrow in the engineer's breast. The man was a poor farmer, who was standing at a distant crossing with his team, apparently waiting for the train to go by.

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The engineer observed him, and thinking that was his object, an occurrence frequently noticed by engineers, steam was not shut off, and the train flew along at lightning speed. Had the farmer remained where he was the train would have passed without touching him, but for some unexplained and mysterious reason he whipped up his horses just as the locomotive approached, and the man and the two horses were struck and killed. This man was also cut into a shapeless mass. The fourth person killed was a passenger who, at one of the stations where the train stopped, got off the train and ran across the track to a saloon to get a drink. Before he returned the train had started.

Mr. Van Buskirk saw the man coming, but, as it was wet and the rails were very slippery, and he had a hard time to get the train under headway, he did not shut off steam, but kept on. The man caught the train and grabbed hold of the hand-railing, running along with the car. It was the forward end of the rear coach, but he could not manage to lift himself upon the platform. He held fast until he ran into a wood pile beside the track, which loosened his grasp of the railing and threw him under the rails. The man was killed instantly. This accident occurred eight days after the third man was killed, and made four for that month. Strange as it may appear, but a few days passed in the following month before Mr. Van Buskirk's train again commenced its deadly work.

At a gathering one evening in the hotel where the engineer boarded, and after the fourth fatal accident had occurred, he was addressed by an acquaintance, who knew of the killing of the four persons, in this manner: "Well, Van, have you killed anyone to-day?" The engineer replied: "No, but I've been mad enough all day to kill half a dozen if I could." Another friend, overhearing the remark, cautioned the engineer against expressing himself in that manner; for, as he said, "somebody might snap you up, and, having killed so many lately, it would probably go hard with you." The proprietor of the hotel then asked the engineer if he had kept an account of the number he had killed there and in California?

The answer given was that he knew of sixteen or seventeen, but when they got up to that number he gave up keeping a record of the killing. In a remote corner of the room sat a gentleman with a white necktie, and having every appearance of a clergyman. He had been listening attentively to the conversation briefly noted, and when the engineer stated that he had killed sixteen or seventeen and failed to keep a record of future fatal accidents, he rose up in a horrified state of mind and exclaimed: "Monster! Monster! Landlord, I am a minister of the Gospel from Arkansas. I have heard and read of the crime and atrocities of the West, and of the depredations of the savage Indians; but I am dumbfounded, and little did I think I was now among savages, or would here meet with such monsters as this man appears to be.

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Get my baggage and I will leave your house at once and seek some Christian gentleman who will harbor me over night, and in the morning I will leave this place where such monsters are tolerated." The reverend gentleman displayed his indignation with all sincerity, but was quieted somewhat when the landlord explained that the "monster" was none other than a railroad engineer, and that the people killed by him were killed by being run over by the cars accidentally. The parson was satisfied with the explanation given, but was not much pleased to see the gentleman make so light of the matter of taking human life. He lectured the party for a few moments and concluded by saying that he would not patronize a company that employed men who made so little of taking a person's life, even if by accident. The next morning Van Buskirk jumped upon his engine and left the depot at ten o'clock with his train.

He pulled out slowly from the depot, but as he approached a road-crossing near the outskirts of the village, and for which he sounded his whistle, he observed two men in a wagon with what seemed to be an unmanageable horse. They appeared to be greatly frightened and almost bewildered at the sight of the approaching train, but did not leave the wagon. Brakes were called for, and everything done that could be to stop the train, but before its speed was checked the horse threw himself into the cattle-guard on one side of the crossing, dragging the wagon and its occupants after him. The locomotive struck them with crushing force, killing one man and the horse, and crippling the other man for life.

When the engineer looked out of his cab window, to his great horror he beheld the mangled and lifeless form of the preacher who had the night before had lectured the hotel party for the levity with which they treated such sad subjects as killing people, and who, having refused to ride on the train, had hired a conveyance to carry him to his destination. This was one of the saddest events of the engineer's life. The minister's friends lived close by, and his body was taken charge of by them and buried. The officiating clergyman in his discourse alluded to the hotel conversation, and his last words were, "Truly, Providence, thy ways are mysterious." Fishkill Landing (N. Y.) Cor. *N. Y. Times*. (*Knoxville Journal*, Knoxville, Iowa, May 11, 1876, Page 3)

4. Old Advertisements

MANKATO POTTERY,
ANDREW GAPTER,
Manufacturer and Shipper of all kinds of
STONE WARE,
 Plain and Fancy Flower Pots, Hanging Baskets, Urns, etc.
 All Goods Warranted. Office and Factory, R. R. track, near
 Franklin School,
MANKATO, - - MINNESOTA.

E. F. EVERITT,
 —PORTRAIT AND VIEW—
PHOTOGRAPHER.
 Old Pictures Copied to any Size, Large or Small, and Finished in Crayon, India
 Ink or Colors, to suit customers. ******* Negatives preserved and Pictures can
 be had at any time. A fine assortment of Frames, Albums, and
 Views always on hand.
 Corner Front and Cherry Streets,
MANKATO, - - MINNESOTA.

**MANTORVILLE
 NURSERY.**
 All those who may be desirous of rendering their homes attractive, will do well to give KNAPP & NYE a call at their
NURSERY
 two miles and a half east of Mantorville, and make a selection of choice
FRUIT SHRUBS AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS.
 We have on hand a large variety of
 Apple,
 Pear,
 Plum, and
 Cherry
 Trees.
 Currants,
 Gooseberries,
 Antwerp Raspberries,
 Lawton Blackberries,
 Strawberries,
 Pie Plants,
 Asparagus,
 Sage Plants &c.
 Also a good assortment of
 green and
 evergreen
 trees.
 Keep in mind the location
 of the Nursery; two and a half miles east
 of Mantorville!
 no33. tf. **KNAPP & NYE.**

NOTICE
 —TO—
CONTRACTORS
 —AND—
BUILDERS.
SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Education of the St. Charles School District until
FRIDAY NOON, SEPT. 20, 1878,
 for building and completing a School House, according to plans and specifications to be seen in the office of A. Langdon, Architect, in the city of Winona. Said building to be located on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire in the city of St. Charles, Minnesota. To be completed within **NINETY DAYS** from above date. Bonds must accompany bids. Builders calling on the undersigned will be shown the site and given such information as they may desire.
H. C. PABBOTT, CHAIRMAN.
E. HILL, Clerk.
 St. Charles, Minn., Sept. 12, 1878.

\$3.00 \$3.00
3 PAYS FOR 1 Doz.
 OF
3 HOARD & TENNEY'S
3 Best Card
3 PHOTOGRAPHS.
 —OO—
 WINONA MINN.
 2-7

5. A Look Back

Susan B. Anthony comes to Southern Minnesota Minnesota History Segment



A Susan B. Anthony U. S. Dollar coin

Susan B. Anthony will deliver her great lecture, "Woman Wants Bread; Not the Ballot," at Kopp's Hall, St. Charles, Minn., Saturday evening, December 29, 1877. The press everywhere have spoken in the highest terms of Miss Anthony's lectures. Read the following: "Hundreds of disappointed people were turned away from the Opera House yesterday, who had hoped to hear Miss Anthony. The lecture was a powerful appeal for morality and for women to be raised to the political level with men. Few men and probably no woman but Miss Anthony, could have dealt with the subjects she undertook in the same strong, direct manner." *Chicago Tribune*.

The Springfield, (Mo.) *Patriot* says: "Miss Anthony is fifty-five years of age, and has been engaged for years in public speaking. She is pleasant looking, dresses in a becoming manner, and speaks with a clear, full voice, and in such a way that she holds the attention of her audience as if by magic." She is the most impressive, eloquent lady speaker in America, and no one can afford to miss the opportunity of seeing and hearing her. This will be the greatest literary feast that will be offered to the people of St. Charles the present season, and the only opportunity they will ever have of listening to this truly eloquent lady. (*St. Charles Union*, December 19, 1877, Page 3)

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GO TO
HEANEY'S HALL,
CHRISTMAS NIGHT!
 "Woman wants bread, not the ballot." Susan B. Anthony will tell why, at Heaney's Hall on Christmas night. Do not fail to hear her. She is the great woman orator. Tickets Fifty Cents each, for sale at the post-office news-stand and by J. A. Leonard. Reserved seats, without extra charge, may be taken at the post-office news-stand.

Susan B. Anthony speech advertisement
 (*Rochester Post*, December 21, 1877,
 Page 2)

SUSAN B. ANTHONY,
 LECTURES AT
SPRING VALLEY, MINN
 - 027 -
TUESDAY EVE, JAN. 1st. 1878.

Susan B. Anthony speech advertisement
 (*Preston Republican*, December 20, 1877,
 Page 3)

Miss Susan B. Anthony delivered her lecture – “Woman wants Bread, not the Ballot” – to a large and appreciative audience at Kopp’s Hall on Saturday evening last. Some among the audience may have thought the title of the lecture a slight misnomer; but those who have kept track of Susan and her ways were not deceived in the least. She has been from the inception of the “Woman’s Rights” movement a consistent and unswerving advocate of the justice of the claims of woman to all the civil rights which man possesses, including, of course, the elective franchise. Indeed, what gives point and force to her claim is, that without the ballot woman can never hope to earn her bread on equal terms with man. As it now is, she enters upon the struggle for bread weighed down with encumbrances which impede her efforts and seem to increase until the goal is reached – the grave. As a speaker, Miss Anthony is forcible and interesting. She addresses herself more to the head than to the heart of man – seeking rather to convince his intellectual faculties by fact, argument and illustration than to carry the citadel – the heart – by passionate appeals to his goodness and generosity. On Sunday evening, Miss Anthony gave a lecture at the same place on the subject of temperance, which was quite well attended. She did not enter upon the discussion of the general question of temperance as it affects humanity at large, but spoke more particularly of the ills which women suffer from intemperate fathers, husbands and brothers. Those present at the lecture speak in high terms of it. (*St. Charles Union*, January 2, 1878, Page 3)

6. Brick Structure of the Month



Grade School St. Charles, Minnesota



The work of laying the foundation walls for our new school-house is about one half completed up to where the "range work" is to commence. The rock bed, which was supposed to underlie the entire site of the building, makes a dip away from the outer ends of three out of the four buildings, thus necessitating "footing courses" under about three-fourths of the distance around the walls. For the building pointing northwest the "footings" are three in number. First, a course of large, picked stones three feet six inches in width, followed by two others, one three feet and the last two feet three inches. The balance is laid with two "footings" only, the first three feet, the second two feet six inches. On these "footings" the wall, eighteen inches in width is laid. Should the weather prove favorable the brick laying will be commenced by Monday of next week. The mason work is under the supervision of Mr. A. P. Stearns, a practical railroad man, whose ample experience, in connection with his duties as a citizen and a tax-payer, all combine to ensure a thorough inspection of the work. (*St. Charles Union*, October 2, 1878, Page 5)

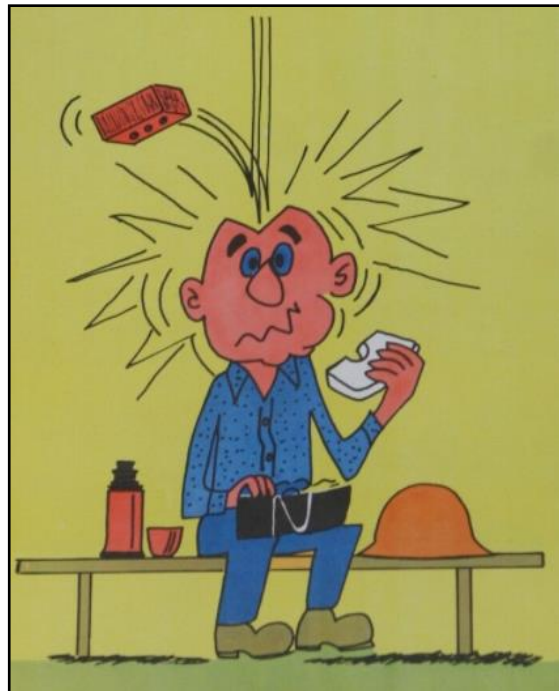
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Masons commenced laying brick on the School House this (Wednesday) morning. (*St. Charles Union*, October 9, 1878, Page 5)

Work on the School House is progressing finely. The brick work will be nearly or quite finished to-day, ready for the carpenters, who have kept pace with the masons so far. Mr. Smith, the contractor, has displayed indomitable energy in the construction of this edifice, which the people of St. Charles will be sure to remember hereafter. It looks now as though the building would be completed inside of contract time. Mr. Henderson, the patentee, is now engaged in putting up his furnaces in the basement. (*St. Charles Union*, November 6, 1878, Page 5)

The fine weather during the past week enabled the masons to complete the brick-work on the school house on Saturday last. The furnaces have also been put in, and the heat-conductors arranged in their positions. The wood-work on the outside is nearly finished, except the cupola. Mr. Johnson, who has the job of putting on the tin roof, is doing his best to keep up with the carpenters. He will nearly or quite finish the roofing on the main building this week, should the weather continue favorable. Altogether there could hardly have been a better time to completing so large a structure. (*St. Charles Union*, November 13, 1878, Page 5)

A brick carelessly thrown from the second story of the school building, one day last week, struck the contractor, Mr. Smith, on the back of the neck, leaving no agreeable impression. Workmen should be more careful. (*St. Charles Union*, November 27, 1878, Page 5)



We have some figures concerning this building which will be interesting at present and **may be valuable for future reference**. It was begun on the 23d day of September, and was practically completed on the 21st of December – the contract time for its construction being ninety days. There was, however, extra work done which consumed several days. Reckoning this out, it may with truth be said that the building was turned over to the School Board somewhat within the contract time, which is saying a great deal for the energy and good faith exhibited by the contractor, Mr. C. D. Smith, and all others in any way concerned in its construction. The contractor, from the start, had the cordial co-operation of the School Board in his plans for hastening the work, and the good wishes of our citizens, which facts no doubt had their influence in causing everything connected with the building and its construction to be forwarded as rapidly as possible. Eighty-five cords of stone were used in constructing the basement; and in the entire building \$600 worth of cut stone were used for water-table, door and window sills, etc. **Of brick, 412,000 were used, of which number 117,000 were obtained from Mr. Zickrick's yard near this city – the rest from Stockton and Winona, we believe**. The figures for brick and stone are builder's estimates. The contract for the brick and stone work was sublet to Thomas Marshall, of Kasson, who has performed his part in an exceedingly creditable manner, as will be seen on inspection. It was all done under his personal supervision. It should also be mentioned that Mr. A. P. Stearns, of the building committee of the School Board, exercised a constant and vigilant watchfulness over all the mason work on the building, and it was in accordance with his suggestion, if we are not mistaken, that heavy and broad stone work was put in where the foundations do not reach bed-rock. There were 3,400 yards of plastering in the building. This part of the work was done by Thomas Slavin, of Winona, and assistants. It is, we understand, considered an excellent job, and does credit to the acknowledged ability of Mr. Slavin in this line. In the wood work, 90,000 feet of lumber of all kinds were used. This part of the business of course received Mr. Smith's particular attention. No slouch work was permitted. The contract for the tin roofing was sub-let to Mr. S. A. Johnson, hardware dealer of this city, and the work was done under the supervision of an experienced roofer. There are 1,750 yards of painting in the building. The 57 windows are hung with weights, and all have inside blinds. It will be recollected that the School House was contracted to be built for the sum of \$11,475. In extra work it has been necessary to expend \$181.00, which, considering the size of the building and unavoidable oversights in drawing up so large a contract, is a small sum. The Board and our taxpayers may consider that they have got off cheaply in the matter of extras. The building is heated by three furnaces of the Henderson patent, which is very generally conceded to be among the best in use. As heretofore noticed, the House is built after designs which originated with and are patented by Mr. A. Langdon, of Winona, and is called the Centennial School House. It is unique in all its appointments. We believe that when it comes to be examined by experienced educators, it will be found to afford more light, better ventilation, and greater ease of entrance to and exit from the various departments, than any plan now in use. Without doubt it will be very generally adopted by School Boards throughout the West when new school buildings are to be constructed. The furniture for the School House is now being put in place, and will no doubt be ready for the school, which is to commence on Monday, the 6th inst. The bell is a fine one, sharp and clear in tone, and not likely to be mistaken for the "church-going bell" by any laggard scholar. While it was unfortunate that the School House burned down, especially at a time of financial embarrassment and business depression, it is on the whole matter of congratulation that from the ashes of the old a new one has arisen, phoenix-like, better adapted for the purposes of education, and fairer to the sight. (*St. Charles Union*, January 1, 1879, Page 5)

7. News Nuggets

News Nuggets

Mr. E. B. Russell has drawn a very neat crayon picture of the "Old Harvey School House," three miles south of the city. The picture represents its appearance in the school days of Mr. Russell, and although executed from memory, is recognized at a glance by those who attended school there in their youthful days. (*St. Charles Union*, December 19, 1877, Page 3)

Mr. Ed. Russell, at the City Photograph Rooms, has some fine photographs of the old Harvey School House on hand and for sale. This school-house dates from 1856, shortly after the settlement of the county, and its "counterfeit presentment" will be well worth preserving as a memento. (*St. Charles Union*, January 2, 1878, Page 3)

The recent poultry show at Winona presented attractions far exceeding the expectations of managers and visitors, and was a success in every particular. The display of fowls embraced a large collection, and over sixty varieties of pigeons and doves were exhibited much to the admiration and satisfaction of the ladies. A live alligator elicited great curiosity to the attendants at the show. (*St. Charles Union*, January 2, 1878, Page 3)

Mr. Chas. Gerrish, while riding in a cutter in company with Mr. Eugene Jewett, on Saturday last, met with a peculiar and somewhat serious accident. The horse was on a fair trot when one runner of the cutter went into a rut causing a sudden jerk which freed the horse from the cutter (as it did also Mr. Gerrish clung to the lines and was precipitated over the front of the cutter striking his head and shoulders, inflicting several bruises. His companion, having nothing to do but look out for himself, escaped unharmed. We also learn that Dr. Tamblin, while on professional calls the same day, was twice thrown from his cutter in a like manner. (*St. Charles Union*, January 9, 1878, Page 3)

Three culprits, named Curt Dunham, Sidney Norton and D. Garinger, broke into the depot of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road at La Moille, on Sunday evening, and stole several gallons of whiskey. They took advantage of the absence of the agent and operator, Charles Wilson, after tea, and affected an entrance through the window of the office. On the return of Wilson the odor of whiskey prompted him to investigate matters, and he soon ascertained that the freight room had been entered. He then tracked the thieves through the snow to a small building some distance up the river, where they were found thoroughly drunk. Another member of the gang, the ringleader, was discovered in a schoolhouse, where he had started a fire and laid down to sleep off his debauch. The parties were arrested, tried, and inducted into the county jail for a stay of sixty days. (*St. Charles Union*, January 16, 1878, Page 3)

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Mr. Matt Kingsley, of this city, has a barn in which there is an apartment assigned for his horses and a cow. At one side of this apartment a flight of stairs leads into the mow above where the hay and straw of winter is stored. The other morning, upon going out to the barn to administer the usual care to his animals, the cow was found missing, yet the doors were apparently in the same manner he had left them the preceding day. Had some one stolen his cow during the night? Possibly so. While in a quandary as to the whereabouts of the missing cow, he ascended the stairs to furnish his horses with hay, when the missing animal quietly ruminating in the loft met his astonished gaze. Naturally, the idea that pervaded Mr. Kingsley's mind at that juncture, was the mode in which he was to get the cow down. No better way appeared to him than to make a large heap of hay and straw below and shove her off onto it. This he tried, but without avail. The cow finally deliberately descended the stairs, and resumed her usual place in the barn. It is thought that the cow had been frightened by the horses during the night and had sought refuge by ascending the stairs. It is indeed, a singular circumstance. (*St. Charles Union*, January 23, 1878, Page 3)

The congealed liquid for cooling ourselves in mid-summer is being stored away in the different ice-houses of the city. The ice is taken from the Whitewater [river] below Mr. Wm. Hendee's and although the winter has been mild it is about a foot in thickness. (*St. Charles Union*, February 6, 1878, Page 3)

Mr. O. E. Wright of Whitewater Falls informs us that the wolves are becoming very belligerent in his neighborhood, driving farmers' dogs to their kennels and helping themselves to such food about the premises as will best satiate their carnivorous appetites. (*St. Charles Union*, February 6, 1878, Page 3)

An exchange truthfully says that trying to do without a newspaper is like trying to live without soap in the house. You can't keep your hands and face clean without soap, and you can't keep your mind clean and bright without reading a newspaper. (*St. Charles Union*, February 13, 1878, Page 3)

The street lamps, which were recently put up on trial by Mayor Seefield, are pronounced by all to be a valuable acquisition in beautifying the city, as well as serving a good purpose in lighting the streets. The cost of running them is but a slightly consideration. (*St. Charles Union*, February 27, 1878, Page 3)

The street lamp at the corner by Halde's meat market was broken on Sunday night last by some miserable miscreant. Mayor Seefield circulated bills the following day announcing a reward of twenty-five dollars to whoever would give information and proof of the party who broke the lamp, but as yet no clue to the perpetrator has been obtained. (*St. Charles Union*, February 27, 1878, Page 3)

There will be a Maple Sugar Sociable at the Reading Room Thursday evening, March 21st. There will be plenty of warm sugar, and ice for waxing or spoons for graining; biscuits and doughnuts, all for 15 cents per dish. (*St. Charles Union*, March 20, 1878, Page 3)

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On Tuesday of last week a stable belonging to Mr. C. Bussman, two miles north of the city, was set on fire by a neighbor's boy, aged ten years, and was entirely consumed. The timely discovery of the fire enabled Mr. Bussman to save a span of horses, harnesses, and farming utensils. Mr. Bussman had a few days previously threatened to punish the boy should he set the grass on fire on the road. This, it is supposed, created a feeling of enmity in the breast of the youth, who sought to give vent to his spite by destroying the property of Mr. Bussman. The boy's parents are good, respectable people, and they are much chagrined at the waywardness of their son, and it is reasonable to suppose they will compensate Mr. B. for the damage he has sustained. (*St. Charles Union*, March 13, 1878, Page 3)

On the 20th of March I started from the depot at St. Charles for the West in search of land. The train was crowded. Among the number who took the train at the depot, was Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Day and Mrs. Myers, with their children, bound for Adrian, Nobles county, where they were to be met by their husbands, who had gone on before them. On reaching Mankato we waited nearly two hours for the St. Paul & Sioux City train. The depot was literally full of men, women and children. When the train came we went aboard, only to find the train more densely packed than the one we had left. At midnight, we reached Worthington and went to the Third Avenue House, where, after close figuring and packing we arranged the lodging for the women and children, but most of the men had to do without beds. The next morning at 7:45 we left for Luverne, which place we reached about 10 A. M. Here I left and arranged to go North into Pipestone county. Starting next morning at 11, we went through part of Rock county, and entered Pipestone, reaching Pipestone City about 5 P. M., intending to stay over night with Mr. Sweet, but going out a few miles to look at some land. On returning to Mr. Sweet's we found ourselves crowded out by others who had come in and jumped our claim. So after arranging to leave the team with him, we – three in number – started for another house a mile distant, on reaching which we found no room for us in the Inn, as two were already billed to lodge in the granary. We obtained our supper and the promise of our breakfast, and accepted the kind invitation of a man to accept the hospitalities of his shanty for the night which we gladly did, occupying a straw bed laid on some boards upon the ground. The morning dawned clear and beautiful, and after breakfast we started in search of land. In due time we took some numbers and headed for Luverne, reaching there about 5 P. M. The whole of Rock and Pipestone counties, so far as I saw them, are an extended beautiful prairie, gradually undulating, in no place hilly; not very well watered by running streams, but water easily obtained by digging; near streams, somewhat stony; soil good; sub-soil clayey, resting on a bed of gravel; well adapted to wheat, and is being rapidly taken and will soon be brought under cultivation. Through this county the Southern Minnesota Railroad will soon be built, furnishing good facilities to the settlers. In this county are the famous Pipestone quarries which will be of great value to the settlers for building purposes. North of Pipestone City, fifteen miles distant in Lincoln county, is Lake Benton, and on the Sioux River eighteen miles west is Flandreau. At both of these places is timber. At another time I will resume, giving other incidents. Land Hunter. (*St. Charles Union*, April 3, 1878, Page 3)

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Where I left off in my account of "A Western Trip," I was at Luverne. The lands I had selected were in the New Ulm land district, which made it necessary for me to go there. So leaving Luverne at 2:30 P. M., on Tuesday, I reached Worthington at about 5 P. M., where I had to wait till 2:30 A. M. I called on friend Chadwick, who formerly lived in St. Charles, found him still a sufferer from his mutilations, but doing well, having an eighty acre homestead, a house and lot in town, and being County Register besides. He still remembers with gratitude the kindness of the people of St. Charles, and wished to be remembered to them. I took supper at the Worthington House, and found it pretty well filled with guests. As I had to take the train after midnight, I did not order a bed, and with others waited for the train. At midnight the train from the East came in, and soon the stream came pouring in – ten, fifteen, twenty – and still they came, all anxious to register first and obtain lodging. By and by there is a lull. Soon, however, the door opens and a man enters. Approaching the clerk he inquires, "Can't you take us in?" The clerk replies, "We can take you in, but can give you no beds." "Can't you fix a cot or something?" returns the man. "How many are there?" asks the clerk. "Only four," replies the man. In due time the passengers are called for the next train, paying fifty cents for the use of a bed for a few hours, while several stand ready to fill in as fast as beds are vacated, and pay their fifty cents for the remainder of the night, the landlord receiving one dollar for the use of his beds. We started for the depot; the weather had changed from a mild, warm day, to a cold wind from the north. On reaching the depot, we found it filled with men, women and children, who had taken quarters there, and were lying on the benches and floor – some sleeping or trying to; some talking; some crying; and the rest – no small percentage – smoking. After the usual rush for tickets we consoled ourselves with the thought that we would soon be comfortably seated on the train and nodding, nodding, be oblivious to the past. Train time came, but no train. It was soon passed around that the train was two hours behind time. On making inquiry we found that the operator had so stated Two hours behind! – what shall we do? no where to sit, hardly room to stand, the air foul with exhalations and tobacco smoke. To return to the tavern is both unpleasant and unsafe: to remain is uncomfortable and irksome, we all conclude to stay in-doors when we must; and so between the foul and fresh air, standing first on one leg, then on the other, then on both, leaning against the wall, when finding a chance, crouching upon the floor, or sitting upon our "carpet bags," we wait two long, weary hours. They pass, but bring no train, and so waiting on, anxious and uncertain, at last after three long hours, the train and daylight come together. We get aboard and are told that we will get breakfast in Mankato. I got off at St. Peter, at 10 A. M., and finding I could not get a train for New Ulm till 6 P. M., I went to the Nicollet House, kept by a Mr. Carpenter, formerly of St. Charles, got my dinner, and took a saunter about the city and suburbs. In a short while I found myself in "The Lunatic Asylum" – no great wonder – where after perambulating [wandering around] through a large part of the massive building, looking carefully into dining rooms, sleeping rooms, clothing and bath rooms, library and chapel, baking and wash-room, &c., &c., and interviewing Dr. Bartlett, I was permitted to depart in peace, either because he thought my insanity was of a very mild and harmless type, or that I was a hopeless case. I will here say that the Institution is one of which the people of the State may well feel proud. The neatness of the building and of every thing about it reflects great credit on those having the charge.

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As to the treatment of the patients of course I could only judge from what I saw, and I certainly saw nothing that would lead me to conclude that they were not well cared for. Neither Dr. Bartlett or his wife are persons whom we would judge to be guilty of willful neglect, much less of inhumanity or cruelty. I hope however the committee having this matter in hand will make thorough work, and should it appear that wanton neglect, cruelty or inhumanity have been practiced, take such steps as will insure speedy and just retribution. In due time I am on my way to New Ulm, a somewhat noted city, on reaching which I stop at the Merchants' Hotel, attend next day to my business with the land office, the incumbents of which are gentlemen. At 4 P. M., I take the train for St. Charles, reaching there at midnight. Land Hunter. (*St. Charles Union*, April 10, 1878, Page 2)

Mr. Basford, County Treasurer, paid for over 3,000 gopher tails last week. (*St. Charles Union*, May 1, 1878, Page 3)

Trout are being caught in large quantities in the streams hereabouts. A. F. Wheelock and Geo. Hall caught thirty-five of the "speckled beauties" the other day. (*St. Charles Union*, May 8, 1878, Page 3)

Should you have space in your valuable paper for a word of caution to those most respectable young gentlemen of our city not to go shooting on Sundays and annoying their neighbors, and trespassing on grounds forbidden by law, it will be duly appreciated. There are other young gentlemen (?) who may pretend going fishing with pails, but no fishing rods, the pails containing beer, who are also trespasser and liable to prosecution. A word to the wise is sufficient. (*St. Charles Union*, May 8, 1878, Page 3)

A baby-bib peddler was in the city the other day, and not meeting with the best success pronounced St. Charles an unfruitful city. We dislike to hear the good name of our city tarnished, especially so when it comes from a peddler. Something must be done. (*St. Charles Union*, May 29, 1878, Page 3)

There is a lively transaction at the present time in the business of gathering maple seeds, and the sidewalks are lined with enterprising girls and boys gathering seeds in their baskets. Messrs. John Kendall, Son & Co. are purchasing all the seeds offered at fifty cents a bushel, and the extent of the trade is shown by the fact that the purchases at their store average about fifty bushels a day. These seeds find a ready market in the West for the purpose of starting young trees for the prairies. *Winona Republican*. (*St. Charles Union*, May 29, 1878, Page 3)

A lightning-rod agent, for some time a guest of Hall's Hotel, while taking advantage of the new-fallen snow on Saturday last, with which to have sport in snow-balling, threw a snow-ball and with it a valuable gold ring from his finger. Efforts to find the ring were made but it was not found. Rather expensive snow-balling. (*St. Charles Union*, April 3, 1878, Page 3)