

Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota

Minnesota Bricks

June 2021

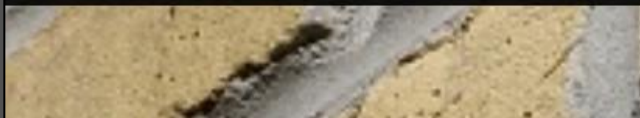
Minnesota Bricks

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. Biography	5
4. Old Advertisements	8
5. A Look Back	9
6. News Nuggets	11
7. Brick Structure of the Month	14



This is a picture of a unique barn (almost like 3 interlocking barns) near Rochester, Minnesota. The color of the brick/tile is rare. The site is being restored. More information about it can be found on the next page.

1. What's New?

- A connection told me that the Windom, Minnesota brickyard made stamped bricks, and sent me the picture shown below.
- Make sure to check out my historical videos, which can be found at: www.mnbricks.com/mn-historical-videos
- I received an email from a party near Miltona, Minnesota, asking for information on that brickyard. I was able to find a little information, which said the brickyard was active from around 1905 to 1910. Miltona is north of Alexandria.
- 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!
- I learned about an orange brick/tile barn near Rochester, Minnesota, which was used as a dairy barn for the early hospital. I plan to do a "Structure of the Month" on this barn in the near future. A photo of the barn is shown on Page 2.
- 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 "Breaking a Log Jam, Little Falls, Minn."

The old timers were a hardy lot. With the tools available to them, they built dams on rivers and cut down huge trees to use for building material. These were dangerous jobs, and the pay was minimal compared to now. Yet, they built the foundations of what we see today.

3. Biography

Christoph Krause St. Charles, Minnesota

As I was driving along Interstate 90 in southeastern Minnesota, I spied an old house on a wooded lot near the Dover exit. There weren't a lot of leaves on the trees yet, so I could see what appeared to be a large brick farmhouse. Brick farmhouses were not that uncommon in some parts of Minnesota, but they were usually small. This house appeared to be quite large, so I decided to stop and look at it the next time I was in the area.

About a month later, I was able to stop and check out the house, which appears in the picture below. It was made of reddish-orange brick, likely made in St. Charles or Winona. As this house is about a mile from the railroad line, the brick would have been hauled to the farm site by horse and wagon, which would have been quite expensive.

The house was beautiful and very ornate. There was a circular window near one of the second story peaks, which you can see below. Since I am a history buff, I had to know more about this house.

Where do I turn for information? I primarily use the internet, since in-person visits to county historical societies is harder. I search ancestry.com, county historical books, and online newspapers. The information I found about this house is on the next page. In short, it was owned by a German immigrant who married the daughter of a neighbor. The couple had several children, who all went to Minnesota colleges.



Continued on the next page...

The 1880 United States census showed Christoph Krause (age 49, farmer, born in Prussia) married to Julia (age 44, born in Prussia) and living in Dover Township, Olmsted County, Minnesota. Children Frank (age 18), Julia A. (age 16), Charles (age 14), Henrietta (age 11), Orin (age 8), and Lydia (age 5) lived with the couple.

Christoph Krause, farmer, Dover, was born in Wolsko, Germany, November 22, 1835. In 1854 the family came to America, locating in Green Lake county, Wisconsin. In 1861 our subject came to Olmsted county, locating on section 27, Dover township, where by hard labor and good management he has accumulated a large estate. He was married in 1857, to Miss Julia Busian, also a native of Germany. The names of the children blessing the union are as follows: Frank O., Julia A., Charlie H., Hattie M., Orlin P. and Lydia C. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. (*History of Winona and Olmsted Counties, Minnesota*, H. H. Hill and Company, 1883, Page 1056)

Christoph Krause, of Dover, has purchased the 160 acre farm of Russell Craney, in Dover township, paying therefore \$5,000. It is a handsome farm and was secured by Mr. Krause at a bargain. (*The Rochester Post*, April 4, 1884, Page 3)

Julia graduated from Rochester high school in 1884. (*The Rochester Post*, June 20, 1884, Page 3)

Julia graduated from the Winona Normal school in 1885. (*The Rochester Post*, May 29, 1885, Page 3)

Julia offered teaching position in Rochester. (*The Record and Union*, Rochester, June 4, 1886, Page 2)

Julia married to Rev. H. I. Hoberdt, pastor of the German M. E. Church of Faribault. (*The Minneapolis Tribune*, May 5, 1888, Page 7)

Orlin Krause, who is attending school at St. Paul Park... (*The Rochester Post*, December 30, 1892, Page 2)

Mr. and Miss Krause, of Dover, brother and sister of Frank O. Krause, '92, and Miss Hattie Krause, '93, are students with us [Carleton] this year. (*The Northfield News*, September 15, 1894, Page 5)

Continued on the next page...

Tuesday morning, Christopher Krause, one of the old and prosperous farmers of Olmsted county, died at his home one mile from Dover after a lingering illness of cancer of the stomach. Mr. Krause was born in Wolsko, Germany, Nov. 22, 1835. In 1854 the family came to America, locating in Green Lake county, Wisconsin. He left his Wisconsin home, however, and came to Olmsted county in 1861, locating on section 27, where by hard labor and good management he has accumulated a large estate and provided his family with a comfortable home. He was married in 1857 to Miss Julia Busian and six children have been born to them as follows: Frank, Julia, Charlie, Hattie, Orlin and Lydia. Of these Julia, now Mrs. J. J. Hobart, resides at Le Sueur, where her husband is pastor of the German M. E. church. Mr. Krause also leaves three brothers, two living here and one in Wisconsin. He was a thrifty, persevering farmer, and had the respect of a large acquaintance. The funeral was held yesterday. (*St. Charles Union*, December 6, 1895, Page 6)

Lydia Krause at Carleton College. (*The Post and Record*, Rochester, April 7, 1899, Page 2)

Rev. F. O. Krause, of Dover, Minn... (*The People's Press*, Owatonna, October 7, 1904, Page 4)

Mrs. Julia Krause died this morning at her home at Dover after a lingering illness. She was over 85 years old and had lived around Dover a long time. They resided on a farm south of the village until a few years ago, when she and her daughters, Henrietta and Lydia, went to Dover to live. Her husband, Chris Krause, died a number of years ago. She is survived by six children, Mrs. Julia Hobart and Charles Krause of California; and Rev. Frank Krause, Henrietta, Orlin, and Lydia, Dover. (*Rochester Daily Post and Record*, July 28, 1920, Page 3)



I was also glad to see that the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Olmsted County, Minnesota.

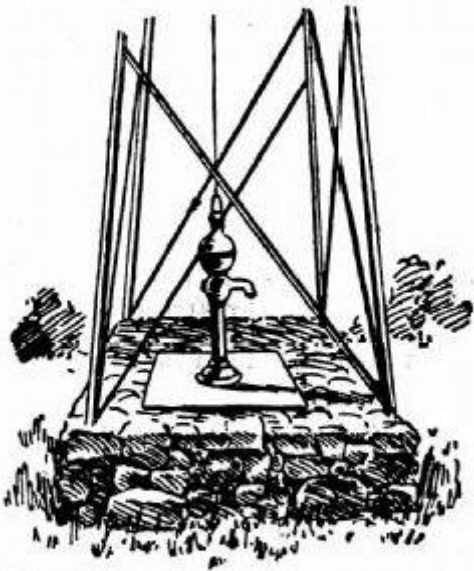
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Olmsted_County,_Minnesota

4. Old Advertisements

COVERING FOR A WELL

Stone Base for Windmill Tower
Which Greatly Improves the
Looks of the Premises.

The accompanying illustration represents an easily constructed platform for base of windmill tower. It is a square platform built of stone and mortar, about 1½ feet high, enclosing



STONE BASE FOR WINDMILL TOWER.

the tower posts. The wooden pump platform can, at any time, be removed if necessary for repairs.

This solid platform of masonry is easily built from stones so often found on prairie farms. It improves the appearance of the premises and adds to the strength of the tower. It also keeps all vermin, as toads, mice, etc., out of the well.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Building Stone.

The New Ulm Stone Co. is ready to sell building stones at the Quarry or delivered in the City. For prices inquire of J. Pfenninger, W. Boesch, A. Schell, or C. Filzen.

1858. 1858.

MAY & FORSTALL,

NEW LANDING,

Foot of Chestnut Street,

HAVE just received, and are now prepared to sell, at moderate price, for CASH or secured city paper, their large SPRING STOCK, consisting of

HARDWARE,

Of all kinds and manufactures;

GROCERIES,

Staple and Fancy;

Wines and Liquors,

Domestic and Imported;

CIGARS, &c.

Besides a LARGE VARIETY of miscellaneous articles, to which we invite the attention of our friends.

We are now selling,

SUGAR,

Prime N. O. at 10 cts per pound.

MOLASSES,

Best Refined at 75 cts per gallon.

STAR CANDLES,

30 cts per pound.

LEAF LARD,

15 cts per pound

ALL OTHER GROCERIES IN PROPORTION.

MESS PORK,

DRIED FRUIT.

Manilla Cordage, all Sizes.

COCOA NUTS.

CONFECTIONERY.

WINDOW GLASS.

Pitch, Rosin, Cement.

STATE SCRIP Taken at Par.
COUNTY ORDERS Discounted at 10
per cent.

MAY & FORSTALL.
Stillwater, April 19, 1858—31tf

5. A Look Back

The County Poor Farms of Minnesota

Minnesota History Segment



Many counties in Minnesota had poor farms, where people with little money or who needed care were sent.

The following extracts are from an article in a recent number of the *Winona Republican*, in regard to the Poor Farm, its inmates and management, will be read with interest by all: The building set apart for the use of the poor has been made to subserve the purpose, but it needs improving and enlarging. It was originally built for a carriage house, but was afterwards finished off for its present use. There is a large basement divided into two apartments, one of which has a cook stove, while the other is used as a ward for some of the male inmates. There are five cots in this ward. Three old men suffering from infirmity and loss of mental power, were seated in the room.

One of these is an old man who was found in a sort of hut near the town of Fremont, living alone and with no relatives near. It is impossible to get him to tell anything about his history. He is sullen and at times ugly and destructive. On one occasion he took a stick and poked the coals out of the furnace; then he marched around the room with the burning stick. As a measure of safety it has been found necessary to handcuff him and chain him to his bed. One of the most pitiable cases at the place is that of the imbecile who has now been there several years.

Continued on the next page...

He had his hands and feet frozen and amputated, and there he sits a mere animated trunk devoid of intellect, a pitiable mass of animated clay, just able to crawl about on his knees with the aid of a cane, which he holds between the stumps of his hands that still remain. The apartment allotted to these men is warm, clean and comfortable. Mr. Hatch has whitewashed the stone walls himself and also improved the back yard by laying some stone walks. The upper floors are divided into suitable apartments for the women and children, and everything bears the impress of the most scrupulous care and neatness.

For the excellent management in this regard Mr. and Mrs. Hatch are both deserving of great credit. Much has been done to aid the work of cleanliness by the introduction of water-works in the house, the supply coming from the hydraulic ram about forty rods from the house. It goes into a large tank in the upper story, from which perennial fountain the needs of the institution are constantly filled. As a matter of fire protection for the building this improvement is also valuable. Mr. Hatch exhibits with justifiable pride the stock on the farm, which, though not very extensive, embraces some fine cattle and hogs.

His corn crop was a good success, as is shown in the well filled crib. Other products are neatly store in the cellar – such as potatoes, cabbages and other vegetables, besides six barrels of choice pork and other provisions, all the product of the farm. There are now nineteen inmates at the farm, which will still admit of a few more, but from some of the cases above cited it is apparent that an enlargement of the building is needed, with one or two strong apartments where dangerous subjects may be confined apart from the others. This improvement is desirable, not only as a matter of security for the other inmates but for the safety of the buildings.

In concluding this sketch of the county farm it is a pleasure to see that the charity is well managed. We are satisfied that the unfortunate inmates are treated with kindness and cared for with much consideration by both Mr. and Mrs. Hatch. In everything which pertains to the operation of the farm there is a marked evidence of frugality, system and thrift. In the matters of the household there are the neatness and good order which bespeak the presence of a motherly hand. (*St. Charles Union*, December 19, 1877, Page 3)



6. News Nuggets

One of the first things which attracts the attention of strangers visiting our town, is the noble ledge of rocks exposed in the bank of the river just below the bridge. The bluff for many rods rises to the height of forty or fifty feet filled with the handsomest of stone almost ready fitted for the wall, and it is also abundant on every side. Why do not our citizens avail themselves of it to a greater extent for building purposes? It certainly possesses the advantage of being warmer, more durable, and less liable to destruction by fire than wood, and even if it cost twenty-five per cent more, should be preferred for these reasons; and surely no handsomer building can be erected, as we have proof in our noble stone hotel. Will some of our builders furnish us an estimate of the comparative cost of building of wood and stone? (*The Mantorville Express*, July 23, 1857, Page 3)

It is a common remark that there are no melons this season, but we have recently had very gratifying evidence that this is not altogether true. We were presented last week, by Mr. Richard Charnock, with a water melon of delicious flavor and very respectable size – measuring full three feet in circumference and weighing twenty-six pounds. It was a feast fit for a king, and many thanks are due the generous donor. (*The Mantorville Express*, September 10, 1857, Page 2)

We are indebted to Mr. Charles R. Hoag for a half bushel of the finest onions we have ever seen. We believe Minnesota can match the world for vegetables. (*The Mantorville Express*, September 17, 1857, Page 3)

Four years ago there were but four newspapers published in Minnesota. They were the *Pioneer*, *Minnesotian*, *Democrat*, and *St. Anthony Express*. The *Pioneer* is the oldest newspaper, the first number of which was issued April 28th, 1849, by James M. Goodhue. The *Chronicle and Register* were commenced a few weeks afterwards, and soon united into one paper, which existed till 1851, when its place was taken by the *Minnesotian*, under J. P. Owens, its present editor. The *Democrat* was commenced in the fall of 1850, by Col. A. R. Robertson, and continued till the fall of 1855, when it was united with the *Pioneer*. The *St. Anthony Express* has just commenced its seventh volume, by which we conclude that it was commenced in the fall of 1851, by Isaac Atwater, its present editor. *St. Paul Advertiser*. (*The Mantorville Express*, October 1, 1857, Page 3)

We are pleased to find that many of our farmers are preparing to plant more or less of the Chinese Sugar Cane next spring, with the view of making syrup and sugar. We predict that in two years, Dodge County will produce her own syrup if not sugar. (*The Mantorville Express*, February 25, 1858, Page 2)

**News Nuggets
from the late 1800s**

A Brass Band is now being organized in this place. There has been \$231 signed for the purchase of the instruments, which sum ought to be sufficient to procure a fine set. (*The Mantorville Express*, May 8, 1858, Page 3)

Although fish are scarce in our streams compared with what they were before our mill dams obstructed their course; yet we were pleasantly made aware that there are as fine fish yet as ever were caught, by receiving a present of a fine mess, from Mr. G. W. Shultes, a few days since. (*The Mantorville Express*, June 5, 1858, Page 3)

The children are gathering ripe strawberries, on the sunny spots by the streams and on the hill sides. There is every prospect of an abundance of this delicious fruit, and to wild fruit generally. (*The Mantorville Express*, June 26, 1858, Page 3)

We were shown yesterday what we pronounce very fine specimens of gold, that were taken out of the bank of the Zumbro River, at this point. We also understand that it has been found in small quantities, at Sacramento, Wasioja, and Oronoco, along the same stream. That gold exists to a certain extent, along the Zumbro, there is no doubt, but how well it would pay people to go digging, would be better know if it was tried on. (*The Mantorville Express*, June 26, 1858, Page 3)

The gold excitement seems to be unabated. The prospecting continues, and new discoveries have been made, at various points on the Zumbro. The Rochester Democrat also says it has been found in the banks of Cascade Creek, near that place. Below Oronoco, we are told, that the stream has been turned from its bed in several places, and that several hundred men are engaged in the search; and that some at least succeed in making it pay. (*The Mantorville Express*, July 3, 1858, Page 3)

Several residents of this village, on Tuesday of this week, paid a visit to Oronoco, for the purpose of judging by observation, the truth of the current reports in regard to the gold discoveries in that vicinity. The report that they are satisfied that the genuine article exists in the banks of the Zumbro at that point, and for many miles below. Experiments have not been made however as yet sufficient to satisfy them that a single man, with his pick and pan alone, can make paying wages. They inform us that a company of some thirty men, including some of the best citizens of Oronoco, and several who have had experience in the California mines, are making extensive preparations for washing the gold. At a point six miles below Oronoco this company are building a flume 180 rods in length, at an expense of at least \$1,000. They are expending their money and labor with the utmost confidence of realizing large returns. At a point some distance below this, a company are engaged in turning the course of the river. Besides this, some sixty or seventy individuals are engaged in the vicinity, prospecting and washing on their "own hook." Our friends brought with them some specimens of the "dust," which they washed from the dirt at the "diggings." To us, it has every appearance of the genuine article. (*The Mantorville Express*, July 17, 1858, Page 2)

A letter in the *Rochester Free Press* of the 21st, from the Oronoco gold diggings, dated July 5, says: Men are beginning to make it pay from three, to eight and seventeen dollars per day, consequently, "the fever" increases, and deputations from all parts of Minnesota are here, to prove that this is no humbug. "There are now about one hundred and fifty claims taken, and the men are at work, the claims being fifteen feet front, running across the "gulch" and back into the bluff, five hundred feet." In regard to the gold found in that vicinity the *Rochester Free Press* of the 21st says: "Some very fine specimens of pure gold have been found at this place. The largest we have yet seen, was worth ninety-five cents and was found on the Zumbro in the neighborhood of the bridge on College street. Many smaller specimens have been found in the same locality, worth all the way from five cents each up to half a dollar. We were this morning shown by Mr. Grant of Winona, a sample of gold washed by himself at or near Kalmar which indicates very rich gold diggings, and Mr. Grant is sanguine in the belief that he can readily make twenty dollars per day, at several points in the neighborhood of the place where he washed out the specimens exhibited to us. A party started from here Tuesday last, provided with picks, rockers and other necessary appurtenances of a miner's camp, prepared to do an extensive mining business. (*Saint Paul Weekly Minnesotian*, July 31, 1858, Page 1)

A subscription is on foot to aid in the immediate improvement and adornment of our public square. This is a good move, and we trust that every citizen will contribute his mite to help it along. Nature has provided us one of the most beautifully picturesque town sites in the State, and a little aid well applied by the hand of art will render the scenery of our village truly enchanting. (*The Mantorville Express*, July 17, 1858, Page 2)

During the severe thunderstorm a few weeks since, Mr. Daniel Stivers and family residing a few miles South West of this place, narrowly escaped death by lightning. Mr. Stivers and his wife were sitting near the stove when the lightning struck. Mr. S. received a shock so severe that a dish from which he was eating was dashed out of his hand. Mrs. S. was uninjured. A dog standing between the two was struck dead; also a hen under the house. (*The Mantorville Express*, July 31, 1858, Page 2)

We learn that arrangements are being made with Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, a lawyer of Clinton, Ia., to give a series of lectures in the state on the subject of temperance. If she comes into the State she will probably come to St. Charles. Very few women have the reputation for eloquence and effectiveness in public speaking that Mrs. Foster has, and we hope her services may be secured here. (*St. Charles Union*, November 14, 1877, Page 3)

Lovers of good oysters should bear in mind that Martin McGrath is the only sole agent for the sale of A. Booth's Oysters in this city, receiving his supply direct from Baltimore; hence he can warrant every can to be fresh and full and of the best selected stock. He also keeps the Pearl oyster crackers. (*St. Charles Union*, November 14, 1877, Page 3)

The stewards of the M. E. Church have estimated their pastor's salary at \$1,000.00 for this year, and have arranged for him to draw his salary from the bank at his pleasure. (*St. Charles Union*, November 14, 1877, Page 3)

7. Brick Structure of the Month



Winona & St. Peter Railroad Freight Depot Winona, MN



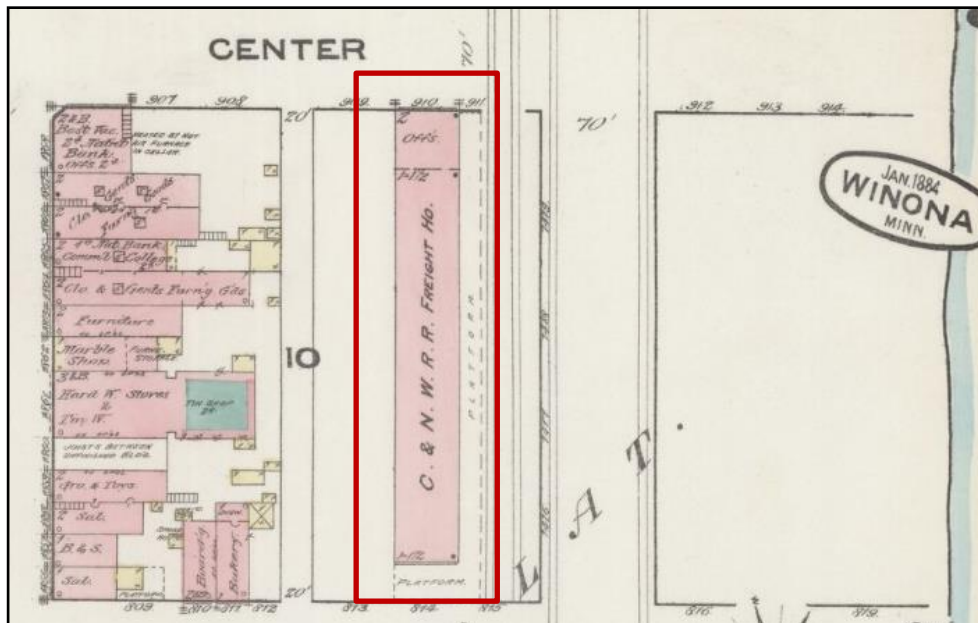
This depot still stands today!

This freight depot is said to be the only remaining structure in Winona related the Winona & St. Peter Railroad. The first rails on this railroad were laid from Winona to Stockton, Minnesota, in 1862. This would have been the second railroad in Minnesota, after the St. Paul & Pacific line from St. Paul to Minneapolis. The photo below was taken where the stone block foundation transitions to the reddish brick. The brick is eroding away at this spot, so some repair will likely be needed quickly.





The photo in the top left above (A) shows the view toward the Mississippi River on the east side of the freight depot, where there are still several lines of old railroad track. Photo B shows the reddish-orange brick used in the walls of the depot. Photo C shows several windows and doors. Photo D shows one of the businesses that currently occupy the old depot. The image below shows the freight depot on the 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (outlined in red).



I was able to find a few articles about the freight depot in old newspapers.

Preparations for building the new freight depot of the Northwestern and Winona and St. Peter railroads on the Front street blocks bounded by Main and Lafayette streets are rapidly maturing. The buildings now occupied by Mr. G. H. Krumdick, corner of Center and Front streets, also that occupied Mr. Willis, corner of Main and Front streets, have been sold to Mr. John J. Randall, with a stipulation that they are to be removed within the next thirty days. (*Winona Daily Republican*, June 15, 1882, Page 3)

The citizens of Winona will be gratified to learn that the long neglected property on Front street fronting the levee is to be immediately improved by the erection of a building that will be an ornament to the city. The Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company are now preparing plans for an immense freight depot 260 feet long by 40 in width, to extend from Center street to Lafayette along Front. The buildings will be of brick with cut stone trimmings, and it is designed to have a portion of it next to Center street two stories in height. The plans in detail will be completed within a few days and work will be commenced soon thereafter. This with the waterworks improvements will make the levee a busy place this Summer and vastly improve the appearance of that portion of the city. (*Winona Daily Republican*, March 29, 1882, Page 3)

The new Winona freight depot of the W. and St. Peter railroad at the corner of Center and Front streets will be taken possession of by the officials and opened for business on the 15th inst. It is the best freight depot on the line of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad between Chicago and the Missouri river, being one block in length of solid stone and brick masonry. The floor, which is raised to a level with the bottoms of freight cars, is entirely filled with earth. Along the entire north side and east end a wide platform resting on heavy timbers and masonry has been constructed. The grounds surrounding the building are macadamized in the most thorough and substantial manner, to the depth of about two feet, with stone from the Stockton quarries. A force of men with sledge hammers are at work breaking the larger stones on the surface, and a top dressing of cinders from the machine shops is to complete this very permanent roadway. The interior is a vast open space for the storage and handling of freight. In the center is a large set of platform scales and at the west end on the ground floor is the office of M. E. Trumor, city agent of the road, R. T. Lamberton, cashier, and the general local freight receiving and shipping offices. In the second story Assistant General Freight Agent P. Hollenbeck has his edifice in the room at the northwest corner. Mr. Will Woolsey and the general office force will occupy the southwest corner room, and immediately in the rear of these offices is a large room extending entirely across the building, to be occupied exclusively by the telegraph operators. A fire proof vault has been constructed in the cashier's office. (*Lyon County News*, Marshall, October 12, 1883, Page 3)