

*Exploring Historical Brickmaking in Minnesota*

# Minnesota Bricks

July 2021

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[www.mnbricks.com](http://www.mnbricks.com)

## Chaska Brick

Brickmaking in Chaska Minnesota



[www.chaskabrick.com](http://www.chaskabrick.com)

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This is an old postcard showing young men from Tracy, Minnesota, heading out to camps to train for World War I.

# 1. What's New?

- Multiple inquiries have come to me this month on matching old brick. Matching color is next to impossible, unless a person happens to get the brick from someone tearing down an old building. There were just so many brickyards, colors or brick, and types of brick made over the years.
- The historical society at Clarissa, Minnesota, asked me for information about their local brickyard. I was able to provide them with several files of information.
- I had several inquiries from the Chaska area. One person was looking for an old brewery location and another hoped to find some family information. History is all about sharing, so I do what I can.
- 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](http://www.mnbricks.com)
- If there is something you would like to see added, send me an email at [mnbricks@gmail.com](mailto: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



GAR Arch in Minneapolis – More information is included on the following pages.

There are two large arches across the streets, besides the **double triumphal arch across Nicollet and Washington Avenues**. This will be the most elaborate of any of the decorations. The double arches are draped in red, white, and blue, and bound with evergreen. At the summit of the arch, amid a profusion of patriotic devices, have been placed the portraits of eight of the leading Union generals, while on the frame work of the arch have been inscribed the names of sixteen of the most decisive battles fought by these same generals, the whole being designed to represent the generals looking down upon the battles. ...Above the cylindrical box on which the portraits are placed is a tent made of alternate strips of red, white, and blue, the whole surmounted by a flag pole with a liberty cap on its summit. At evening this whole piece is to be lighted within by an electric burner, and will form a brilliant transparency of large proportions. Nearly a week has been taken up in construction. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 20, 1884, Page 10)

# 3. Biography

## David Pangburn Sauk Centre, Minnesota

Page 909. David Pangburn, retired brick manufacturer, living in Sauk Centre, was born in Scotland, New York, August 27, 1832, son of James D. and Polly (Houck) Pangburn. He received his education in his native state, and there grew to manhood. It was in 1856 that he came to Minnesota, and located at Nininger, in Dakota county. In 1861 he came to Stearns county, and took a claim in Sauk Centre township. In 1864 he located here permanently, and engaged in farming. Soon afterward, he went into making brick. Later he bought the large farm on which the present plant is located. It is on the shore of Sauk Lake, just over the line in Todd county. Here he has carried on general farming and done a large business in brickmaking. Being on

Page 910. the shore of the lake he has been able to raft his bricks, and then tow the rafts to Sauk Centre with his barge. The bricks, both red and gray are in wide favor, and nearly all the buildings in Sauk Centre and Melrose are constructed from them. Since dividing his farm among his sons, Mr. Pangburn has purchased a home in Sauk Centre, where he will spend his declining years in well deserved rest after a busy life filled with successful endeavor. He has been an active man in everything that had for its object the progress and betterment of the community, and for several years he served as supervisor of Sauk Centre township. Although eighty-two years of age he is still hale and hearty. Every fall he goes on hunting expeditions to the pine woods, and never fails to bring home a good bag of game. David Pangburn was married May 9, 1854, to Hattie P. Davenport, born in Saratoga county, New York, January 25, 1835. They have had eleven children: George N., born December 3, 1856; Hattie A., February 22, 1858; Fred L., August 4, 1859; William E., March 31, 1861; Frances A., September 30, 1862; Arthur M., September 10, 1864; Reginald H., May 4, 1866; James B., November 17, 1867; David A., June 16, 1869; Elmer F., March 20, 1871 (died June 18, 1873); and Edwin F., born May 15, 1874. (*History of Stearns County Minnesota*, Volume II, William Bell Mitchell, H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., Chicago, 1915)



# 4. Old Advertisements

Dale, Barnes, Morse, & Co.

SYNDICATE BLOCK,

Headquarters for Flags!

BUNTING FLAGS,

Best Quality Manufactured; All Sizes at Retail

At 20 Per Cent. Discount

FROM LOWEST LIST PRICES.

ALSO

Printed Flags and Decorative Material

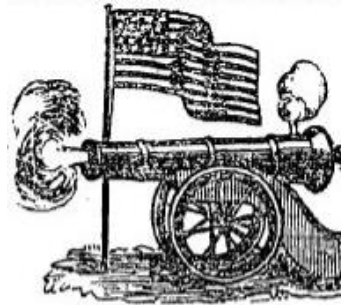
AT BOTTOM PRICES.

Dale, Barnes, Morse, & Co.

Headquarters

FOR

G. A. R. DECORATIONS.



2,000 DOZENS

**FLAGS**

Shields, and Festooning

FOR

G. A. R. Decorations.

L. FORD & CO.,

At 5 and 10-Cent Bazaar, 28 Washington Avenue South.

CHARLES T. LEONARD,

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.,

Manufacturer of and Wholesale Dealer in



FLAGS, BANNERS, STREAMERS!

Muslin Flags of All Sizes! Flags of All Nations!

203 HENNEPIN.

203 HENNEPIN.

MINNEAPOLIS FURNITURE COMPANY,

Wholesale headquarters for **COTS** For the GRAND ARMY.

FIFTH AVENUE, S. E., between NINTH and DIVISION STS.

## 5. A Look Back

### 1884 Grand Army of the Republic Gathering at Minneapolis Minnesota History Segment

The inception of the Grand Army of the Republic [GAR – a Civil War veteran’s group] was in the spring of 1866. ...By common acceptance it is believed that the organization of the Grand Army was first intended to bring together the veterans of the rebellion and their sons, to keep in existence the military forms observed in army rule, so that a second demand, should it be found necessary for the protection of the country, would find a full preparation to answer promptly and efficiently. But passing months and years brought more and more the spirit of peace throughout the wide land, and the wounds of disruption gradually healed. Then the Grand Army turned its attention to more pacific channels, and extended the mantle of benevolence and affection over the great family entitled to rest within its arms. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 21, 1884, Page 5)

The gathering in Minneapolis today is undoubtedly the largest that has been or will be in the history of the organization. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 2)

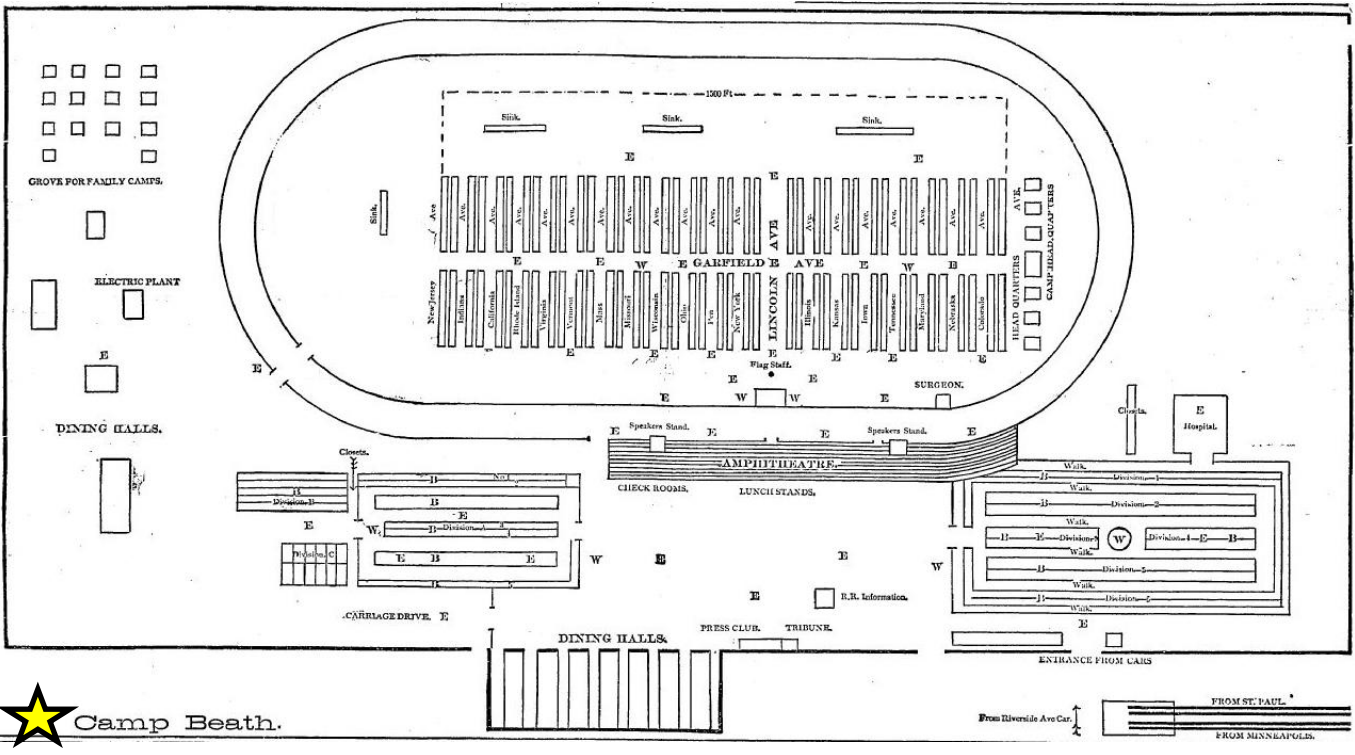
It was a 3-day gathering, held just south of Minneapolis, where a large camp was set up. A parade through Minneapolis was the biggest event of the occasion. Many important Union generals attended, including Gen. Sheridan and Gen. Sherman.

**Continued on the Next Page**

### TRAINS TO GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF G. A. R. AT COLISEUM

Will Leave Hennepin Avenue Station Every 15 Minutes July 23, 24, and 25 During Time of Meeting.

Magnificent view afforded of the Falls of St. Anthony, Rapids, and the manufacturing and milling interests of Minneapolis via the STONE BRIDGE ROUTE.

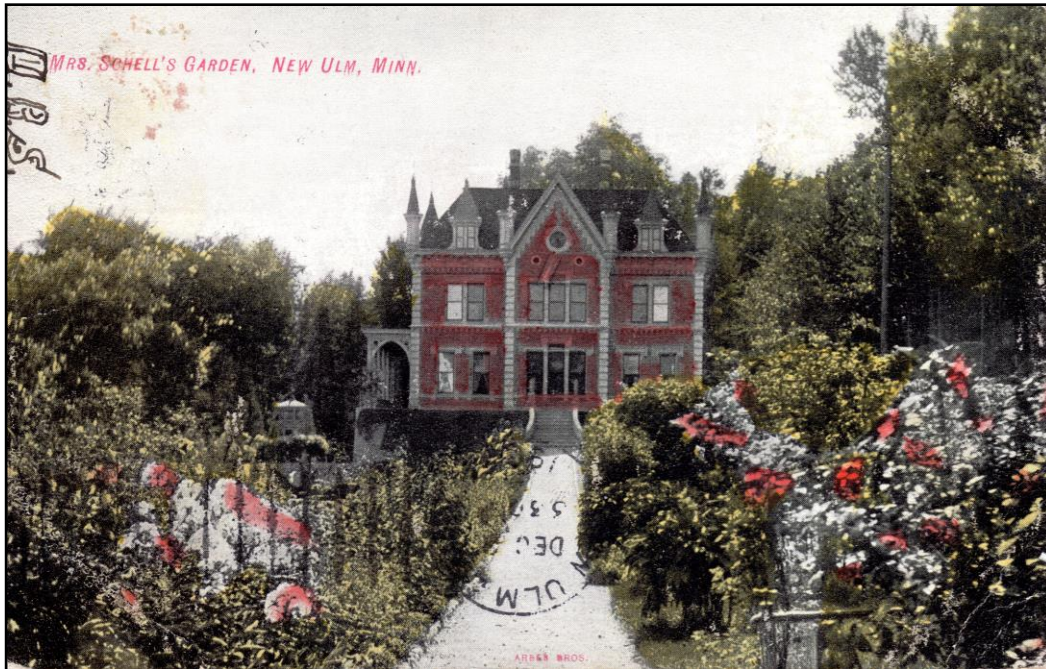




## 6. Brick Structure of the Month



### Schell House New Ulm, Minnesota



There is actually very little information regarding the building of the Schell House, but it is still standing today. It is attached to the Schell Brewery and also features a fancy garden. The only information I could find is shown below.

The *Post* has compiled the building statistics of New Ulm for the year 1885... Aug. Schell, residence...\$6,000. (*New Ulm Weekly Review*, January 13, 1886, Page 5)

# 7. News Nuggets

## News Nuggets

Mr. Gen. Sherman has quietly put in an early appearance, and is quartered at Lake Minnetonka. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 21, 1884, Page 1)

All day yesterday and all last night the depots were alive with trains depositing thousands of visitors upon the platforms; the sound of martial music was heard throughout the city; the tramp of men, the majority of them gray and showing the marks of years, many of them old and trembling – thousands of them crippled and halt, very few of them below the meridian of life, fell into line and marched into camp, making the eighteenth annual meeting since the formation of the Grand Army of the Republic. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 2)

Now, they are here, the same “boys in blue” with hearts as warm and true as in the days that tried men’s souls. We shall never see so many of them together again in our fair city. Few of us will ever see so many together anywhere. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 2)

A large and very fine bird’s-eye view of camp ground is being prepared by Mr. I. Monaseh, the lithographer, which will be ready for sale by Wednesday. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 3)

At 2 o’clock this morning fully five hundred ladies and gentlemen were collected in the rotunda of the new West Hotel waiting to be assigned rooms. The ladies were sitting on the stairs and about the floor on their baggage until their male escorts could get to the front and register. So far as could be learned all the guests seeking accommodations had spoken for rooms in the past, and expected to find them in readiness. Some complaint is being made at the failure of the West Hotel management to keep their promises made as to both rooms and prices. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 3)

Half past five a. m. is a good time for the boys to “fall in,” especially for those who are “out” till about 2 a. m. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 3)

The men caught running guard last night and the night before were made to do police duty around camp, cleaning up, etc. This is worse punishment than the guard house. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 3)

The band concerts every evening are very fine, and attracts everybody in camp not engaged in the hilarious pastime of walking a beat. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 22, 1884, Page 3)

It is variously estimated that there are over a dozen bands making music in the city at present, and that at least one million dollars will be left in this city by the Grand Army of the Republic and the visiting thousands. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 23, 1884, Page 3)

The view of the procession from the roof of the West Hotel, commanding a length of line greater than from almost any other point, and allowing sight at the whole territory embraced within the line of the march was unsurpassed. The line could be seen through the trees before it swung from Tenth Street to Hennepin Avenue. When the First Minnesota Infantry first came upon Hennepin Avenue, they looked like a long black row of moving dots, while the sunshine on their bayonets glittered like the minute sparks every man could be distinctly seen, the whole distance of the avenue to Tenth Street, so plainly that as they passed it would have been easy to count them. The crowd that lined the sidewalks looked like a solid mass of black, dotted with light spots where there were white spots. It was almost impossible to distinguish faces, or to outline heads. The appearance of the buildings of the city was also such as can rarely if ever be seen again in this city. From every window and doorway, balcony and piazza, there were constant movements of spectators which crowded them. Glimpses of the procession could also be had as it moved up Nicollet Avenue, the banners and flags, with the plumes of the bands, and the constant moving of what looked like dark spots, giving a fine effect. There could be heard above the music the hum of the crowd below, walking on the sidewalks and the pavement. The cheers, as they came from all along the line, rising from a half dozen places at the same time, came with a volume that was doubled by the echoes from the buildings. Up so high above the street and in view of such a large portion of the streets where the line was marching, a half dozen bands could be heard at once. From far up on Hennepin would come "Marching Through Georgia," and from Bridge Square "John Brown's Body," while mixing with these could be heard drum corps on Nicollet Avenue, until the whole was a confusion that the ear could not disentangle. It was interesting to note the people gathering about the line of march. All over the city the streets leading to those on which the procession was, were continually pouring in additions to the crowds. There were men and women running along sidewalks and hurrying across the streets, trying to get within sight of the long column that seemed to meet the dark bank that lined the sidewalks and be lost in it, without adding to its size or blackness. The crowd could be seen to increase in this way during the entire line of march. From no part of the city could a better view be of the decorations had. Flags flying all over the city, the magnificent arches, looking like banks of colors placed across the street, and the many strings of bunting and other decorations, made a picture as varied as a look into a kaleidoscope. The rows of streamers across Hennepin Avenue looked like rainbow colored threads, and the flags fluttering through the trees made them look as if autumn had began its work of decorating the foliage. It was possible to observe the movements of the drum corps and militia as they made them on their march. The whole breadth of the column could be taken in, and the positions of the men seen plainly as one can see the pegs on a cribbage board. Taken all in all, the appearance of the line from a place so far above it was unique, and the sights and sounds far different from those which one gets from a single section of the line of march as it passes on the street. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 24, 1884, Page 3)

The old battle flags of the First Minnesota Regiment, tattered and torn by shot and shell, hardly to be recognized as the handsome colors under which that gallant regiment marched forth to bleed and die, were everywhere objects of the greatest respect and veneration. Borne yesterday by the hands who carried them through the bloody fights in which seven-eighths of the regiment laid down their lives, by the very men who were shot down while bearing them, and left to die on the field by their comrades, but who were saved and restored by what seemed to be miracles of beneficent Providence, they yesterday appeared as almost from the grave to again bear the glorious battles flags they love so well. Cheer upon cheer rent the air as the fragments, hardly more than the bare poles, passing along the story of the rattling shot and shrieking shell which sounded the death knell of so many brave comrades. No words were needed to recount the valiant deeds of the gallant First. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 24, 1884, Page 3)

As Gen. Sherman's carriage passed down Hennepin Avenue a lady near Second Street attempted to leave the position she had occupied on the sidewalk by her husband's side all the morning. "Hold on there," cried her spouse, "where are going? You'll be run over." "I want to see Sherman; I must see Sherman," replied the excited lady. "You can't see him anyhow. He's in a close crowd, and 'twouldn't do you any good if you should." "But if I can only see his hat I shall die happy," and with a rush she broke away from her other half, and it is to be hoped gained the object of her struggles. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 24, 1884, Page 3)

No pains have been spared to make Nicollet Avenue one of the most attractive in the city, in point of decorative attire. From side to side banners and streamers of many colors were waving in the breeze, and the fronts of all the prominent buildings were most handsomely decorated with flags, bunting, shields, and stars. The mammoth Syndicate Block with its thousands of flags fluttering from its windows, was one of the sights of the street. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 24, 1884, Page 4)

The crowd wasted no sympathy upon the light-fingered gentry. One of this class was discovered near Washington Avenue attempting to relieve a gentleman's pocket of its contents, and as the cry of "pickpocket" went up, the air resounded with shouts of "Put him out," "Thump him," "Give it to him," and a thousand gathered round the culprit and would have probably done him serious injury had not a policeman interfered and secured the man. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 24, 1884, Page 4)

At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon nearly one hundred ex-prisoners of the war of the rebellion accepted an invitation extended by Mr. J. C. Seeley of Minneapolis, which conveyed the party to the Lake Park Hotel. Here the excursionists found the dining tables loaded with things edible, and the men who were compelled to subsist on the scanty rations of the cruel confederate prison sat down and did ample justice to the viands. An hour of most complete and informal sociability was passed. Many interesting and affecting incidents transpired, and old prison-room veterans renewed their prison acquaintances. Many of the meetings were the first time since the comrades had been released from the infernal dens, and the men were in many instances moved to tears. Brief and appropriate remarks were made by a number, among them being Mr. I. C. Seeley of Minneapolis, and Col. Pray of New York. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 25, 1884, Page 2)

One of the most interesting events of the entire list at the Camp was the drill exhibition given by the artillery companies from Fort Snelling, yesterday afternoon. Lieut. Stewart was in command. Shortly after 4 o'clock the horses were attached and a series of maneuvers was gone over, at the corner of the camp, where they have been stationed during the week. A large part of the visitors were attracted to the spot, and the various moves watched with great interest. The space between the judges' stand and the tents was then cleared and the batteries were drawn around the field with the horses at a full gallop, and stationed in front of the amphitheater. A long succession of wheeling was then gone through, the guns being frequently unlimbered, loaded with blank cartridges and fired until it made one's ears ring. Every motion of the artillerymen, as they leaped about, sponging the guns, wheeling the pieces about and mounting and remounting the carriages, was watched eagerly by the veterans, no less than those to whom the sight was novel. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 25, 1884, Page 2)

There was little to break the monotony at Camp Beath during the day yesterday. Soon after the morning exercises and breakfast the veterans began pulling out of the grounds, and by 10 o'clock the tents were deserted. Most of the veterans went to the lakes, or came to [Minneapolis] to look at the interesting features. It was hot among the tents... (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 25, 1884, Pages 2-3)

The spacious grounds and plazas about the residence of the Hon. W. D. Washburn were brilliantly lighted with rows of Chinese lanterns at dusk last evening, in honor of the reception to the great generals which was to be held there. There were, too, lights in most of the rooms, which showed from the windows with a line effect. The scene was a brilliant one as seen from across the lawn, the doors being wide open, and the lights in the halls, and the decorations of natural colors, making a bright spectacle. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 25, 1884, Page 3)

A large party numbering some 250 of the G. A. R. leave by a special train tonight over the Manitoba road for Devil's Lake. Governor J. Gregory Smith, president of the Vermont Central, and party, accompany the party in a special car. They expect to return Monday. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 25, 1884, Page 3)

During the efforts of Gen. Logan to make his way out of the press of humanity at the Illinois headquarters yesterday, a woman with a pencil and paper in her hand crowded her way through to where the General was and request his autograph. She was rewarded and bore Gen. Logan's signature off triumphantly. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 25, 1884, Page 3)

The Grand Army of the Republic exercises of the week at Minneapolis had served till yesterday to interest the crowds visiting that city that few had taken advantage of visiting the gem of northern lakes, but yesterday, after the heat and bustle of the parade was over, thousands sought the cool lakeside, and boats and hotels were crowded all day. To say that the strangers were greatly impressed was the magnificent scenery, the palatial hotels and commodious boats would be putting it mildly. Exclamations of wonder and delight were heard on every hand, and the happy expression of satisfaction and enjoyment on the faces of all was even better evidence of their appreciation of Minnetonka's beauties than their spoken words. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 25, 1884, Page 4)

The Chief of Police has in his possession a large number of pocket books, most of them containing documents bearing the owner's name. Those will be published as soon as the stock shall be completed, and the victims will have returned to them whatever remains that belongs to them. In but a few instances was there any money found, the valuable contents having been taken out and the books thrown away. The thieves' harvest day was on Wednesday, during the grand parade and during the Flambeau Club exhibition when the immense crowd at the Fair Grounds afforded splendid opportunities for work of this kind. At 9 o'clock last evening the city prison contained nearly forty inmates, and about twenty-five of these were arrested on suspicion of being thieves. The array of nimble fingered gentry was passed in review of many of the victims and some of them were identified as accomplices in robberies. A majority of the prisoners are young men, some of them being very intelligent criminals. The outlaws generally operate in couples or gangs, and in the confusion attending an operation it is difficult to settle definitely who is the actual pocket-picker. The number of criminals who visited the city during the week has been astonishingly large, and with the chances they have had there is nothing alarming in what they have accomplished. That the city has escaped from heavy burglaries during the week is something to be thankful for. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 26, 1884, Page 2)

The tents at Camp Beath have been purchased by parties from Chicago. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 26, 1884, Page 2)

As nearly as can be ascertained there were between ten and eleven thousand men quartered at Camp Heath. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 26, 1884, Page 2)

The rush and crush of the encampment witnessed with the incoming of the thousands who have been in Minneapolis since Monday, is being repeated at the depots in the departure of the hosts. The streams of life that poured into the city over the iron lines have been reversed, and are now sweeping outward. The waiting rooms at the Milwaukee and St. Paul and Manitoba depots were packed all day, the places left by those borne away on one train being quickly filled by crowds impatient to take the next. Day trains and night trains all had extra cars and coaches, and all were loaded to their full capacity. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 26, 1884, Page 2)

There are various estimates as to the number of people entertained in the city last week, the figures ranging from 90,000 to 150,000. It is probable that 120,000 is approximately correct, and if an average of eight dollars for each person has been left in Minneapolis, its business has boomed to the extent of one million dollars. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 27, 1884, Page 2)

Detective Quinian arrested a criminal character known as "Oyster Jim" at St. Paul yesterday, and brought him to Minneapolis. The prisoner answers the description given of a pickpocket who robbed a visitor of a large amount of money on Wednesday. Oyster Jim is said to be the proprietor of a well known restaurant in New York city, but is regarded as one of the cleverest thieves in the country, and he takes annual vacations to indulge in the favorite pastime. (*The Minneapolis Daily Tribune*, July 27, 1884, Page 8)