

HISTORY OF  
Goodhue County  
MINNESOTA

ILLUSTRATED

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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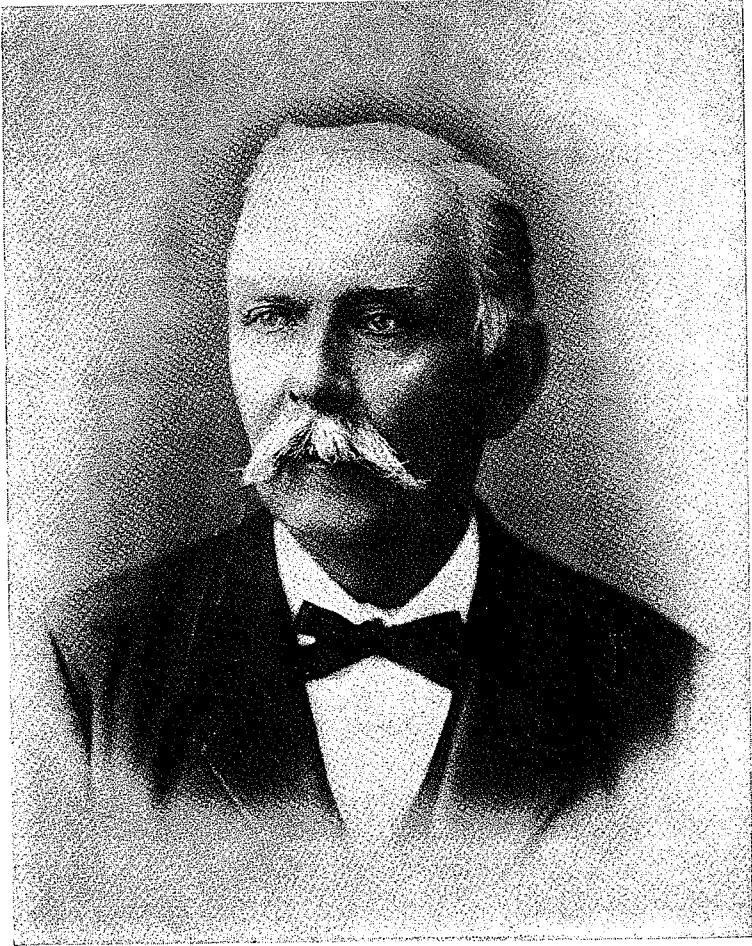
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Goodhue county, was a central figure around whom the rural population of the county were wont to rally. He had many of the characteristics of the New England puritan, but a long residence in the West had modified their asperities. He had well defined views upon all public questions, and did not lack ability or inclination to vindicate his opinions when occasions offered for their expression. He served in the legislature of the state, and would doubtless have represented his district in Congress but for his rigid views of political ethics, which restrained him from adopting the methods in vogue and practiced by aspiring politicians in his time. He early realized the substantial character of the resources and capabilities of the new country in which he had made his home, and hence had unlimited confidence in the possibilities of its future. He did much to advance the material interests of his immediate locality, and is gratefully remembered as one of the founders of that delightful community, cosily nestled in the charming valley of the Zumbro.

**Martin Spencer Chandler**, now deceased, many years sheriff of Goodhue county, and a man of prominence in the state, was born at Jamestown, Chautauqua county, New York, Feb. 14, 1824, son of Woodley W. and Phebe Winson Chandler, both of New England ancestry. The maternal great-grandfather of Martin S. Chandler was an officer in the Revolutionary War, and his grandfather on the same side was in the War of 1812. The father was a woolen manufacturer and an extensive farmer, being one of the leading men of Chautauqua county for many years. An uncle, Spencer Chandler, from whom Martin S. was named, was city marshal of Nashville, Tennessee, for twenty-three years, and when the Civil War broke out was one of the few men in that city who stood nobly by the old flag. Martin was educated at the Jamestown and Fredonia academies, and learned the tanner and currier's trade, but preferred farming, which he followed in his native town until the fifties, when he came to Goodhue county and opened a farm in Pine Island. During the first year he was in the state he was elected one of the three county commissioners, serving until 1858; in the autumn of which year he was elected sheriff, taking office Jan. 1, 1859, in which position he served for nearly three decades. He was a staunch Republican and from the earliest days of the county was a leader in the party councils. He was a presidential elector in 1872 and was elected messenger to carry the vote of the state to Washington, but declined in favor of Wilford L. Wilson, of St. Paul. Mr. Chandler was several times urged to become a candidate for Congress and other honors were offered him, but many of these he declined. He served the state two terms as United States Surveyor General for Minnesota and in 1888 was



MARTIN S. CHANDLER

delegate at large to the Republican National Convention. Mr. Chandler was a fine type of pioneer, staunch of character, unswerving of principal, and at the same time a man of the people, well liked and highly respected. He was married, on February 14, 1849, to Fannie F. Caldwell, of Jamestown, New York. To this union were born three children. Two died in infancy, and Florence C. became the wife of Ira S. Kellogg. Mr. Chandler died February 24, 1893, and his death was mourned as a loss not only to his family and friends but also to the county he had served so well, and whose peace and law he had assisted in establishing.

**Prof. H. B. Wilson** was born in Hingham, Somerset county, Maine, March 30, 1821. He came from that splendid English stock which at the very outset of the colonization of America established those principles of liberty and freedom of action which are today the priceless heritage of America. He traced his lineage back to the Mayflower. His parents were natives of Maine. He received his education in the district school and afterward attended the Wesleyan Seminary at Kent's Hill, at that time one of the strongest academies of learning in New England. He continued his studies four years in this institution, paying his own way by teaching and during the vacations doing other work. Shortly after he was twenty years of age, in 1841, he graduated from this institution. Born with that Anglo-Saxon spirit of wanderlust, which has back of it the personal desire to make the most of one's self and therefore seeks the newer country where man can be a larger factor in the development that goes on about him, he went to the new West and at Cincinnati, began teaching. From here he went to Lawrenceburg, Ind., and took charge of Dearborn County Seminary, remaining two years, during which time he studied law and was admitted to the bar, although he never practiced his profession. In 1844 he removed to New Albany, Ind., and organized the first graded public school system in that city. He continued to teach and superintend schools until 1850, and in 1858 came to Red Wing and took up the duties of professor in mathematics and civil engineering at Hamline University, which was then at Red Wing. In July, 1858, the Asbury University of Indiana conferred upon him, unsolicited, the honorary degree of Master of Arts. In June, 1862, he enlisted in Company F, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until he was mustered out in the fall of 1865. He was captain of Company F, and took part with General Sibley in the campaign against the Sioux, following the terrible massacre at Wood Lake, Camp Release, witnessed the hanging of the thirty-nine Indians at Mankato and took part in the long march to the Missouri river in 1863. At the battle of Wood Lake he received a