

HISTORY OF
Goodhue County
MINNESOTA

ILLUSTRATED

EDITOR IN CHIEF

FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

ASSISTED BY

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Wellner, M. D.; John C. Applegate; Ralph W.
Holmes; Dwight C. Pierce; Henry Hal-
vorson; Rev. James H. Gaughan;
Henry R. Cobb; Edgar F.
Davis and many others

CHICAGO
H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.

1909

Benevolent Society. His political belief is that of the Republican party. Mr. Dahl was married at Red Wing, in the fall of 1870, to Elizabeth Peterson, of this city, a native of Sweden, both of whose parents are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Dahl have been born ten children, seven of whom are living. Martin W., born March 28, 1872, died in September, 1873. Emil A., born July 16, 1873, is married and works in a bakery establishment in Minneapolis. Hjalmar M., born September 15, 1875, is married, and like his father, is a stone mason in Red Wing. Axel H., born December 15, 1877, is married and is employed by the Red Wing Furniture Company. Agnes Elizabeth, born July 15, 1880, is deceased. George H., born July 28, 1879, like his brother Emil, is a baker in St. Paul. Herman W., born May 18, 1882, is dead. Arthur E., born January 16, 1884, and married, is a stone mason, and lives in Red Wing. Harry W., born April 21, 1887, lives at Minneapolis, and Alvin A., born April 28, 1888, works in a wholesale shoe house in St. Paul. The family residence is at 902 South Park street, Red Wing.

Orrin Densmore, Sr., was born in Sullivan county, New Hampshire, September 22, 1805, and as a child moved with his father's family into the then "out west," settling in the township of Riga, Orleans county, New York. He possessed an unusually studious mind and began teaching at the age of sixteen years. He was soon made a "school inspector," an office which in some form came to him in each and every new place of his residence; in fact, there was little time in all his years when he was not interested in and intimately connected with the advancement of school work. He drew up the Minnesota state school law of 1861, and was a clerk in the office of the superintendent of public instruction, when at the age of seventy years a break down in health obliged him to relinquish all labor. He was a silversmith by trade, but the unfavorable confinement sent him back to farm life, which he followed in New York and in Wisconsin until the 1855, when he engaged in the lumber business in the city of Janesville, Wis., coming in May 8, 1857, to Red Wing, to take charge of the Freeborn & Co. sawmill, which the new firm of Densmore, McLaren & Co. had purchased. Two years later he was elected as judge of probate and subsequently as county treasurer, which office he held two terms. In 1866 he was elected city recorder, and was made a member of the board of trustees of the State Insane Asylum of St. Peter. He was appointed deputy collector of United States revenue for Goodhue county in 1867. In 1869 and again in 1870 he was elected to the house of representatives, being chairman of the committee on education during both terms. In taking the census of 1870 he acted as assistant marshal for the eastern district of the county. In 1871,

at the close of his legislative term, he was given the position of clerk in the office of the superintendent of public instruction, as before recorded, under the late H. B. Wilson. Judge Densmore's forte lay in an ever active, independent, and critical mind, a minute and untiring attention to detail, a strong sympathy for the struggling citizen, and an unswerving integrity. Prof. Wilson feelingly remarked concerning him: "I never knew a man who so thoroughly detested a trickster as did Judge Densmore." All scientific topics held a great interest for him, and for many years of the early times of the Smithsonian Institute he sent in his regular monthly reports of weather observations. He died June 3, 1872. In 1828 he was married to Elizabeth Fowle, of New York. She was ever his tactful coadjutant, and was an active worker in the social affairs of early Red Wing. The gloomy days of the Civil War saw her serving most effectively with that band of patriotic Red Wing women who maintained gratuitously a soldiers' rest, where every journeying soldier was sure to find, day or night, a sympathetic welcome and a warm meal. Her death occurred in January, 1891.

Peter Joseph Erbar, now living in retirement at Red Wing, where he is enjoying a well deserved rest after years of faithful toil, is a native of Prussia, Germany, born March 2, 1828, son of Hubert E. and Marggalena (Korp) Erbar, both natives of Germany, the father being a farmer in that country all his life. He was killed by his team of horses, June 28, 1842, and the mother followed him to the grave in the following autumn. Peter Joseph attended the schools of his native kingdom, and like other German youths of strong physique, served in the standing army of Germany, his period of service being for three years and three months. In 1852 he came to America, and worked a year in New York city as a carpenter. From 1853 to 1856 he worked in Kings county, New York state, and in the latter year came to Olmstead county, Minnesota, where he bought 160 acres and remained until 1858. In the fall of 1859 he first set foot in Red Wing. The following spring he purchased 160 acres in Hay Creek township, and later 160 acres more. This farm was largely wild at that time and he at once set to work breaking and clearing the land. He erected a comfortable home and remained until 1906, when he rented his farm and came to Red Wing, taking up his home with his son, S. M. An independent Democrat in politics, Mr. Erbar served three years a supervisor of the township of Hay Creek and fifteen years as town clerk. July 1, 1863, P. M. Erbar was appointed a captain of the Tenth Regiment, state militia, by Commander-in-chief Henry A. Swift. He is a good citizen, of quiet disposition, and well liked by everybody. Mr. Erbar was married at Red Wing, in September, 1858, to Cath-