

HISTORY OF  
Goodhue County  
MINNESOTA

ILLUSTRATED

EDITOR IN CHIEF

FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

ASSISTED BY

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vorson; Rev. James H. Gaughan;  
Henry R. Cobb; Edgar F.  
Davis and many others

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

1909

hue county, June 20, 1866, daughter of Frank J. and Louisa (Edsal) Wilson, who came to Goodhue county in 1866. The father was born in Canada of American parents and died Aug. 14, 1908. The mother was born in Auburn, New York, and died some four and one-half years before her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Elcock have one son, William George Elcock, born Jan. 24, 1896. Mr. Elcock is a Democrat in politics but never sought or held public office. He is a member of Kenyon Lodge No. 201, A. F. and A. M., of Kenyon village. The family are members of the Episcopal church.

**Andrew Finstuen**, lawyer, and editor and proprietor of the Kenyon Leader, is a native of Roscoe township, this county, born June 27, 1875. His parents, P. P. and Mathea (Coplen) Finstuen, came to this country in 1867 and purchased 160 acres of land. Both parents are still living, being well-to-do and prosperous residents of Roscoe township. Andrew was given the advantages of such schooling as his neighborhood afforded, and then attended the high school at Zumbrota. Subsequently entering the law department of the state university at Minneapolis, he graduated in 1902 and at once started the practice of his profession in Kenyon. He also purchased the Kenyon Leader, which he has since conducted. His law practice is large, and he enjoys the confidence of all those with whom he has legal dealings. His paper is bright and newsy, with able editorials, and is a welcome guest in some thousand homes in the southwest part of the county. A republican in politics, he has taken an active interest in the betterment of the village. His services as a member of the village council, president of that board, as member of the school board, and secretary of the Commercial Club have been highly esteemed. He is also an active member of the Modern Woodmen. Mr. Finstuen was married January 16, 1909 to Matilda Strandness, daughter of Jacob Strandness, an old settler of this county, now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Finstuen make their home in a pleasant residence in Kenyon village, Mr. Finstuen being a property owner here. It is worthy of note that in the family of P. P. Finstuen are eight children, Andrew, the subject of this sketch, being the oldest.

**Joseph A. Gates, M. D.**, of Kenyon Village, was born in Olmstead County, Minnesota, September 11, 1870, a son of Elnathan J. and Jane (Waldron) Gates, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Pennsylvania. Elnathan J. Gates came to Minnesota in 1856 and in 1860 to Olmstead County, where he died May 20, 1904. The mother is living in Rochester, Minn. Joseph A. received his education in Rochester, Minn., graduating from the high school. He then entered the University of Minnesota, where he graduated from the medical department in 1895. Im-

mediately after his graduation he located in Kenyon village, and commenced the practice of his profession. Dr. Gates has always taken an active interest in politics. He has been for eleven years, a member of the village school board. He served as president of the city council in 1900 and was elected a member of the State Legislature for three terms, 1904, 1906 and 1908. He built the Kenyon telephone exchange in 1901 which covers all the territory to Kenyon. He also served as editor of the Kenyon Leader for several years, and is a director in the Citizens' State Bank of Kenyon. June 10, 1896, he married Jennie Clark, of Rochester, Minn. They have five children: Elnathan, Russell, Nellie, Joseph and Jennie. Fraternally Dr. Gates is a member of Kenyon Lodge No. 201 A. F. and A. M., Tyrian No. 6 R. A. M., Faribault Commandery No. 8 K. T. and Osman Temple, St. Paul. He is a member of the A. O. U. W. and M. W. A. of Kenyon, the B. P. O. E. No. 1166 of Faribault. Dr. Gates is a Republican in politics and affiliates with the Methodist Episcopal church.

**John Elcock**, Kenyon village, whose boyhood memories extend back to the first decade of the settlement of this township and county, was born in Ontario, Canada, on New Year's day, 1845, son of William and Annie J. (Fraser) Elcock, the former a native of Ireland, and the latter a Canadian of staunch Scottish descent. The mother died in Canada, when John was very young, and the father brought his motherless family to the United States in 1858, coming first to Hastings, this state. Subsequently they spent a short time in Faribault, and then purchased 160 acres of land two miles south of Kenyon. On this farm, young John lived and grew to manhood, assisting his father in all the work about the place until 1889 when the father died. During the latter part of his father's life, John had practical charge of the home farm. In 1889 he moved to his own farm in Kenyon township, which he had previously purchased, and there he carried on farming operations until 1907, when he rented his farm and in company with his brother and sister, Robert and Annie purchased their present fine residence on Main street in the village of Kenyon, where the three now reside. Aside from this home he owns over 200 acres of farm land, in this township. Mr. Elcock is a public spirited gentleman and has served on the town board a number of terms. He votes the Democratic ticket. For many years he has belonged to the Masonic order. Simon, a brother of John, lives in Oregon. George, another brother resides on the old homestead and Elizabeth, a sister, is Mrs. Shepard, of Kenyon, her husband being manager of the Farmers Elevator. The religious preference of the family is that of the Episcopal church. It is worthy of note that in the early days before the railroad came