

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

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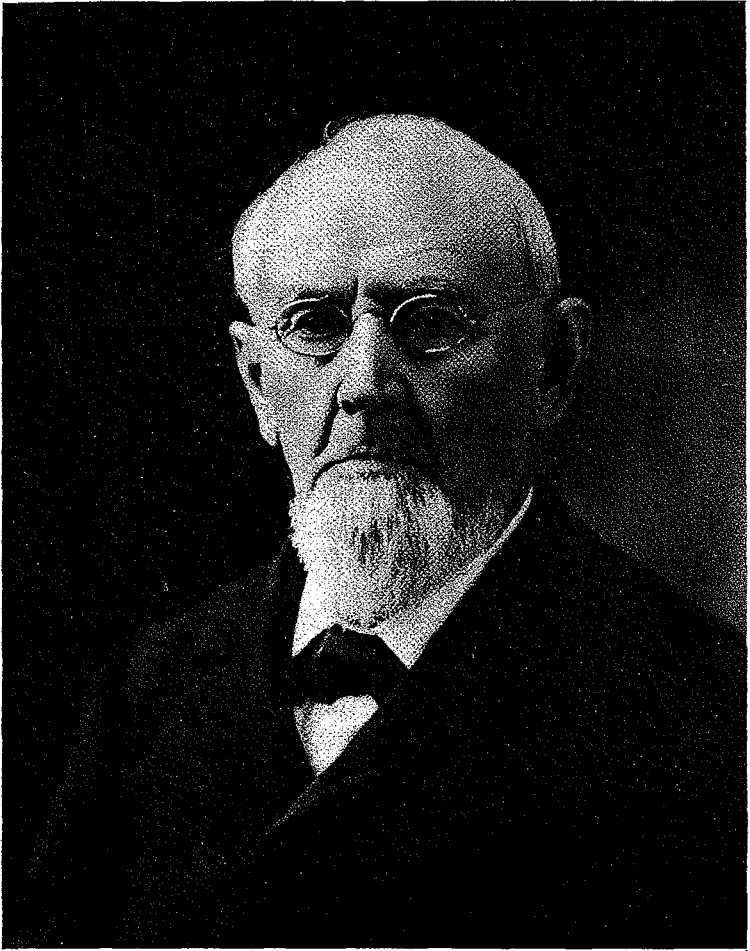
CHICAGO  
H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.

1909

was May 25, 1855, at Cleveland, Ohio, was married to Charles E. Sheldon, of this city, October 30, 1878. Lydia Louise, born in the same city, June 24, 1857, was married October 11, 1877, to George H. Malcolmson, of Milwaukee. Edmund DeWitt, born May 2, 1866, married Edith M. Brooks, of Iowa, July 25, 1895. He now resides in Minneapolis.

**Edward C. Erb**, Red Wing, who has charge of the extensive Lawther real estate interests in this county, is a native of Rice county, this state, born March 25, 1865. His father, Christian Erb, was a native of Germany and came to America in 1841, locating in Illinois. There he met and married Geneva Kneedler, a native of New York state, who several years previous had moved to Illinois. In 1855 they moved to Rice county, this state, purchased a farm, and followed farming for many years, after which they disposed of the homestead and moved to Faribault. The schools of his neighborhood afforded Edward C. his earliest education, after which he took a course in the Red Wing Business College. He teamed for one year in St. Paul, and then entered the employ of a well and windmill concern, taking charge of the construction work. In 1891 he purchased a half interest in this company, the firm name being Lazarus & Erb. In 1892 Mr. Erb became constructing expert for the Northwestern Wind Mill Engine Company, one season, after which in the fall of that year he came to Red Wing and entered the employ of James Lawther. He has remained in that employ for a number of years, at the present time being Wm. and Eva T. Lawther's local business representative. Mr. Erb is a Republican in politics, and has won praise by his excellent service as chairman of the board of public works, and member of the school board. He belongs to the Masonic order. For three years he served as a member of Company G. The family faith is that of the Methodist church. Mr. Erb was married, October 15, 1896, to Nellie E. Burke, of Diamond Bluff, Wis., daughter of L. C. and Fannie (Carriel) Burke, the former of whom was proprietor of a general store in that village for many years. He died August 23, 1897, and the mother, July 7, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Erb has been born one son, Lawson Edward, September 14, 1901.

**Sidney Smith Grannis**, now living in retirement in Red Wing, has for many decades been one of the prominent men of the county, and has assisted materially in the industrial growth of this section of the country. He was born in Irasburg, Vermont, October 21, 1820, son of Sidney and Betsey (Strobridge) Grannis, both of whom were born and brought up in Claremont, N. H., where they were also married. The father in early youth served a seven years' apprenticeship to the trade of clothier, and with his brother Evander started in that business in Irasburg. After



S. S. GRANNIS

some five or six years there, they closed out their business, and Sidney, the father of the subject of this sketch, removed with his family to Utica, N. Y., and later to Morrisville, in the same state. At the age of eighteen, Sidney S. bought his time for \$200, to be paid later, and started in life for himself. In the summer of 1856, in company with Abraham Howe, he came west with a view to engaging in the lumber business. They first visited Fond du Lac, Wis., and took notes of some twenty-five saw mills; afterward going up the Wolf river into the pine woods as far as New London and Royalton, near Green Bay, where John Moore, a son-in-law of Mr. Howe, was engaged in lumbering, both logging and milling. Finding nothing there to suit them, they went to William Howe's, some fourteen miles from Racine, Wis. It was here decided that Mr. Grannis should make a trip alone to Minnesota, still looking for a suitable business location. Accordingly, about July 1, he started for Dunleith, opposite Dubuque, and from there took the steamer Fannie Harris for St. Paul. After arriving in St. Paul he went to Stillwater and then up the St. Croix river to Taylor's falls. Finding nothing to suit him there, he went to Prescott and then to Hastings. There were disadvantages in a location there, so he came to Red Wing and here found what he wanted. Arrangements were made with William Freeborn for a location at the end of Bluff street, from LaGrange to Levee street, at the top of a bold rock or ledge. The price of this location was to be \$750. Upon his return home with a favorable report, a company was organized with S. S. Grannis, George H. Grannis, Peter Daniels and William Howe, the firm name being Grannis, Daniels & Co. In October, Mr. Grannis visited Red Wing and completed arrangements, afterward returning to the old home at Morrisville, N. Y. April 20, 1857, S. S. Grannis, Peter Daniels and a party consisting of Elijah Atkins, Almeric Childs, Charles M. Grannis, Orson Blanchard, Harvey Miller, William Ingram, Ira McClethen and wife set out from Morrisville to Red Wing to set up the mill. Work was at once started clearing the recently purchased property in Red Wing, and on June 1 S. S. Grannis went back to Morrisville after machinery. This was properly placed and on July 20 the first log was sawed. Among the first output was some timber of the Cannon Falls bridge. In the spring of 1858, William Howe, one of the partners, located permanently in Red Wing. In the course of the summer Mr. Howe and Mr. Grannis bought the acre lot, No. 12, block 2, Freeborn & Co.'s addition, of Robert Todd, and each erected houses, Mr. Howe's being the one now numbered 712 and Mr. Grannis the one now numbered 722 Bush street. The business at the mill continued to increase, and from it came the timber for the county courthouse, built by D. C. Hill. In the fall Mr. Grannis brought his wife and two children here,

and established his home. In 1859, Mr. Grannis was elected a member of the city council, and October 8 of that year he and his wife, together with their daughter, now Mrs. Ellen McCord, of this place, united with the First Presbyterian church of Red Wing by letter from the Congregational church at Morrisville, N. Y. About this time, in 1860, he was chosen a school director, and in this year also several additions were made to the machinery in the mill. November 11, 1861, he was elected elder in the Presbyterian church, a position he held for thirty-two years, and then resigned. In the spring of 1862, Mr. Daniels, one of the partners, returned after an absence of nearly five years and with him came Abraham Howe, whose son, A. Howe, Jr., was the engineer at the Grannis mills. In the spring of 1863, George H. Grannis came out from Morrisville, N. Y., and the Grannis interests in the mills were sold out, the firm becoming Daniels, Howe & Co. Mr. Grannis at once started the plans for sawing shingles, using a scheme by which he planned to cut many more from a log than was then the practice. In the fall of 1863, Mr. Grannis was elected a member of the legislature, and took his seat the following January. During his term in the legislature Mr. Grannis put through a bill giving the city of Red Wing a city charter, and authorizing the city to issue bonds for its school districts, for the purpose of raising school funds. In this connection it may be mentioned that Mr. Grannis was the one who purchased for the city the land where the Central school now stands from D. C. Hill, whose residence was moved across the street, where it now stands, in a remodeled and improved condition. A bill for the location of an insane asylum in Red Wing, in which Mr. Grannis was interested, failed to pass. The machinery for sawing shingles, erected on a boat, was in operation before July 11, 1864, and the output from the beginning was very large. Early in the winter Mr. Grannis acquired land in Hartland heavily covered with timber. Following this came negotiations for the purchase of the Central Point mill property of Spotswood, Scott & Sterrett from A. G. Hudson, the trustee. Later the Drew property was also purchased. It was in the engine room of this mill that F. F. Philleo and his son William, in 1867, started the manufacture of terra cotta flower pots, one of the early beginnings of the pottery industry in the county. The whole property was afterward sold to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Construction Company. In 1866, Mr. Grannis was appointed surveyor general of the third of the seven lumber districts then existing in the state. It is interesting to note that during these eight or ten years Mr. Grannis purchased, including the property already mentioned, the shingle machinery from the Starr mill at Lake City, the Central Point mill property, the machinery from the Florence mill, from the Trenton,

Hastings and Frontenac mills, and from the Sanderson & McGlashen mills, as well as the Drew mill property. In June, 1865, George H. Grannis returned from the east and with Sidney S. improved the Central Point mill property to a considerable extent. In 1865, Mr. Grannis was elected county commissioner for the first district, representing Red Wing, Burnside and Grant. In the summer of 1864, S. S. Grannis, Hon. E. T. Wilder and J. C. Pierce were appointed a committee to purchase a town farm. A suitable place was selected in Burnside, and in 1866 the house was built by Ole K. Simmons, with Alexander Coons as poor-master. The succeeding years were spent by Mr. Grannis in increasing his lumbering operations and in acquiring additional property. In 1870, Mr. Grannis met with an accident on a shingle saw, cutting off about half of the length of all the fingers and thumb of his left hand. The shock and pain were great, and from the effects Mr. Grannis has never fully recovered. Subsequently he spent many years at the Central Point property and finally retired.

Mr. Grannis was married in 1842 to Sarah Shaw Howe, of Westmoreland, N. H., by whom he had six children: Ellen M., born in 1843; Sidney Howe, born in 1845; Sidney, born in 1847; Hiram, born in 1851; Edward H., born in 1854, and Mary Etta, born in 1860. Sidney H., Sidney and Hiram died young. Edward H. was assistant surgeon in the Third Wisconsin infantry company for several years, with the rank of captain. He enlisted in the United States service with his regiment and went to Porto Rico. Was promoted to surgeon with rank of major and was mustered out with his regiment in 1899. Since then he has remained in the service of the state of Wisconsin. Ellen M. McCord resides in Red Wing, and Mary Etta Carlsrud, who has two daughters, lives in Minneapolis. Mrs. Grannis died in 1884.

**William H. Putnam**, Red Wing, banker, comes of New England parentage, his parents being William R. and Mary (Phelps) Putnam, of Danvers, Mass. The mother died in that town, and the father, in 1876, took up his residences in Red Wing, where he lived until his death, in 1886. William H., born January 22, 1848, attended the district schools in Danvers, Mass., his native town, and in 1867 came to Red Wing. For six years he was employed as a clerk in the office of the county auditor, after which, in 1873, he entered the employ of the bank of Pierce, Simmons & Co., with which institution he has since remained. After ten years of service he was chosen cashier, a position he held a quarter of a century. From cashier he was promoted to vice-president, and on January 1, 1908, he assumed his present position as president. His years of active service have covered a wide range of the business and financial growth of the county, and with this progress