

# HISTORY OF Goodhue County MINNESOTA

ILLUSTRATED

EDITOR IN CHIEF

FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

ASSISTED BY

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Holmes; Dwight C. Pierce; Henry Hal-  
vorson; Rev. James H. Gaughan;  
Henry R. Cobb; Edgar F.  
Davis and many others

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county, and its activities had their part in the upbuilding of the city during the seventies and eighties. Mr. Sterling was a Republican in politics, but always refused to accept public office. In fraternal affiliations he was a Mason, and in religious belief a follower of the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. He died September 21, 1897, at his home in Red Wing. George R. Sterling was married at Red Wing, June 29, 1862, to Eliza McGarvey, daughter of Edward and Eliza (Henry) McGarvey, natives of Belfast, who located in Canada in the early days. There the father died in 1874, and the mother came to Red Wing, where she ended her days in 1884. To Mrs. Eliza Sterling were born five children: Myrtie, of Chicago; Jennie, wife of Dr. F. W. Dimmit, of Red Wing; Florence, wife of Charles C. Lenth, a missionary who died in India in 1900; Mary L., wife of Dr. C. A. Ishman, of Minneapolis, and Edward M., who was born in 1876 and died in 1881. Mrs. Eliza Sterling died January 7, 1877. April 13, 1878, Mr. Sterling married Isabelle McGarvey, a sister of his first wife, born in Belfast, Ireland, February 20, 1847. To this union have been born three children: Alice H., born October 5, 1880, is a successful school teacher; as is Georgiana R., born September 25, 1883. William M. was born July 17, 1885, and died May 5, 1888. During his lifetime Mr. Sterling was noted as a hunter. He loved the out-of-doors and was an unerring shot, many a wild beast falling a victim to his rifle. He had an inexhaustible supply of hunting stories, and being of a sociable disposition, his stories of life in the woods after big game became well circulated throughout the county, many of them being still remembered and told to the present day.

**Fred Seebach**, county treasurer and ex-postmaster of Red Wing, was born in Germany, May 28, 1841, son of Ahrenfield and Mary (Kreuz) Seebach, the former of whom was born in 1808 and the latter in 1815. The father was a machinist and farmer in the old country. He came to America in the spring of 1844, and with his family located near Milwaukee, Wis., where he purchased a farm, which he conducted until after the Civil war. He then located in Goodhue county, carried on general farming for a time, and then moved to Red Wing, until his death in 1897. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having seen service from 1863 to the close of the hostilities with the First Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. The mother died in 1887. Fred spent his boyhood at school and working on his father's farm, and later moved to Racine, Wis., where he purchased a large farm. He enlisted in the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in August, 1862, was taken prisoner at the battle of Chickamauga, and incarcerated in both Andersonville and Libby prisons. He was discharged from service at the close of the war. In 1873 he sold his farm in Racine

and came to Red Wing. He opened a grocery store, which he successfully conducted several years, later disposing of this business to take up grain buying and selling. For eight years he served as county commissioner, and in 1888 was appointed postmaster by President Harrison. A record of his postal service will be found in the postal history which is included in this volume. In 1902, he was elected county treasurer and is now serving his fourth term with much credit. Mr. Seebach is a Republican in politics, and in addition to the offices above mentioned has served as town clerk in Wisconsin, and as member of the Red Wing council. He is a past commander of the local G. A. R. post and a member of the Commercial Club. Mr. Seebach was married July 9, 1868, to Lydia Hernlem, of Racine county, Wisconsin, daughter of Christian and Louise (Staugman) Hernlem, the former of whom is dead. The latter is now living in Wisconsin, hale and hearty at the good old age of eighty-six years. Eight children have blessed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Seebach. Fred is married, lives at Red Wing, and is a clerk in the postoffice. Jacob is also married, lives in Red Wing, and works for the Red Wing Malt- ing Company. Henry is married and lives in St. Paul. John, who is deputy county treasurer, lives at home. Ernest lives at home and clerks in the postoffice. Emma married H. C. Kohn, a Red Wing merchant. Matilda married Henry Cain and lives in St. Paul. Lulu lives at home.

**John H. Schacht**, of the firm of Adler, Schacht & Co., one of the leading retail houses of Red Wing, is a native of Minnesota, born at Potsdam, Olmsted county, March 30, 1871. His parents, Harm Schacht and Anna (Brown) Schacht, were natives of Germany. The father came to Chicago in 1852, remained there until 1856, then went to Winona, Minn., where he clerked in his father's hotel. In 1857 he went to Potsdam, Greenwood Prairie, Olmsted county, and purchased a farm of 600 acres of what was considered the best land in the county. There he carried on general farming until 1892, when he retired, and moved his family to Rochester, Minn., where his wife died two years later. Hiram Schacht still lives at Rochester and rents his farm to other parties. After finishing the common school course in the schools of his native town, John H. attended the Darling Business College two years. At the age of eighteen he started his business career as a clerk in the hardware store of Vincent Tauschese, at LaCrosse, Wis. He then returned to Rochester and worked with the Stebbins Hardware Company of that place one year. He subsequently clerked in the store of the Boston Clothing Company in the same city one year, and in 1894 came to Red Wing. Here he started in the clothing business at 308 Main street with O. H. Adler as partner. The business at this store continued to grow for the