

## Alfred Setterlund

One of the best known business men of Wheaton's earliest years was Alfred Setterlund who was a contractor and builder and took a deep interest in politics. He built the Traverse County Court house and most of the earliest stores and residences in the village and every tenderfoot fresh from the old country who stepped off the train at Wheaton looking for work was referred to Alfred Setterlund and no one deserving was ever turned down by him. Many of our old settlers hold in grateful remembrance the fact that Alfred Setterlund gave them their first opportunity for a start in this country. He was a man of sterling integrity, honest and upright and energetic and a supporter of right and justice.

KARLSTAD

Mr. Setterlund was born in Carlstad, Sweden, in 1849. His father, Erick Setterlund, was a farmer by occupation and came to America in 1866. He first settled at Duluth and in 1877 took a homestead in Traverse County. Our subject remained in his native land until he was eighteen years of age, when he came to America. He came to Duluth, where he joined his father and he resided there four and a half years. He had partially completed learning the carpenter's trade in Sweden and he followed the same after coming to this country. He also worked in the woods and later worked in a stamp mill in Wisconsin. He then spent four months in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and then resided two and a half years in New London, Wisconsin. He followed railroading about a year at Warsaw, Wisconsin. He came to Traverse county in 1877 and took a homestead in section six of Clifton township and in the spring of 1878 moved there with his family. He built a shanty 12 by 14 feet and put up a sod barn and had oxen the first three or four years with which to do his farm work, and made trips to Herman many times with oxen. He remained on this farm until 1887 and succeeded in building up a valuable property. He removed to Wheaton in 1887, his interests calling him to that city. He had followed contracting there to some considerable extent and he built all the early buildings of the town and most of those which now stand on the main street. He also erected the Traverse County court house and most of those which now stand on the main street. He also erected the ~~Traverse county court house and most~~ of the churches and many of the residences, and became one of the largest contractors of Traverse county. He was also engaged in the lumber business in Wheaton for about three years.

Mr. Setterlund was married in 1875 to Miss Anna Hanson. Mrs. Setterlund was born in Norway and came to America in 1866. Five children completed the family circle. They were as follows: Mary, born in Wisconsin; Albert, born in Wisconsin, is now an architect; Henry, Amanda, and Ellen. The three youngest children were born in Traverse county, Minnesota. Mr. Setterlund was one of the early county commissioners of the county and was chairman of the board for two years. He was active in the county-seat fight and it was largely through his influence that the county seat was removed to Wheaton. He was elected a representative to the state legislature in 1890 and did very efficient work for his people. He has been on the village board for many years and was a member of the first council. He has served as councilman five consecutive years. He has held numerous school offices and assisted in establishing the first school in Clifton township, and built the first church in Monson township.

and also as mayor of  
several years.