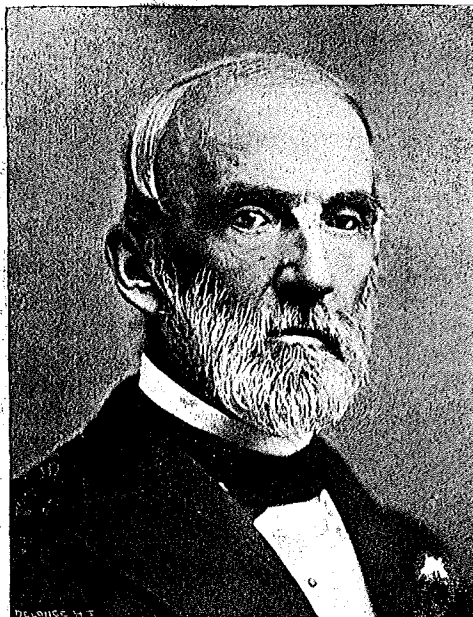


## HENRY HASTINGS SIBLEY.

Henry H. Sibley was one of the most prominent figures in the early life of this state. While a delegate in congress from the then territory of Wisconsin he was instrumental in bringing about the organization of the territory of Minnesota. The new territory was officially proclaimed by Governor Alexander Ramsey, June 1, 1849, and in August of that year Mr. Sibley was unanimously returned to congress as its representative. He was re-elected in 1851, and could have had a third term but declined it. He was a member of the constitutional convention in 1857, and in October of that year was elected Governor, the first and only democrat to fill that position. He distinguished himself as a soldier during the Indian wars of the early sixties, and from the end of his military career to the time of his death in 1891, was one of the most influential and best known citizens of the state. For more than a score of years following 1849 the history of his life was in a large sense the history of Minnesota, and among the glorious company of her pioneers and founders there is none to whom she owes more than to him. Mr. Sibley's parents were among the early settlers of Michigan. His father, Solomon Sibley, was born in Massachusetts, in 1769, and was a lawyer. He removed to Ohio in 1795 and to Michigan in 1797, locating at Detroit. He was the first delegate elected to the first territorial legislature of the Northwest territory. In 1820 he was a member of congress; in 1824 was appointed judge of the supreme court of the territory, which office he held until 1837. From 1827 to 1837 he was chief justice. He held numerous other offices of importance, and died at Detroit in 1846, one of Michigan's most prominent and public-spirited citizens. His wife was Miss Sarah Whipple, only daughter of Colonel Ebenezer Sproat, a gallant revolutionary officer. She was born in Rhode Island in 1782, and when seven years of age went with her parents to Ohio. She was a woman of vigorous and cultivated mind and great force and strength of character. She died at Detroit in 1851. Henry Hastings Sibley, the fourth child, and second son of these parents, who, by the way, traced their ancestry in England back to the time of the Norman conquest, was



born at Detroit, Michigan, February 20, 1811. He was educated at the public schools of that city, and studied the classics for two years under a private tutor. His father had intended him for the law, but after reading Blackstone for a year he confessed that the law did not suit him. After much debate, his parents concluded to allow him to follow his own inclinations, and so, in June, 1828, in his eighteenth year, he turned his face towards the great Northwest. His first employment was as clerk at Sault Ste. Marie, in the store of a sutler, who supplied the wants of four companies of United States troops stationed in that vicinity. After a few months he became agent for Mrs. Johnson, whose husband had been an Indian trader of large business, and who kept the business going after her husband's death. In this employment young Sibley got an insight into Indian affairs which he turned to good use later in life. Early in 1829 he was a clerk in the employ of the American Fur Company, of which John Jacob Astor was the head. His headquarters were at Mackinac, whither Sibley went to report for duty. This position he held for five years, during part of which time he was purchasing agent for the company. It was in Mackinac that he made his first entrance into official life. Although not yet of age, he was made justice of the

peace for Mackinac County in 1831. Three years later he became a partner in the Fur Company, and was placed in control of all the country above Lake Pepin to the headwaters of the streams flowing into the Missouri, his headquarters being at what was afterwards known as Mendota. He inspected the Fur Company's posts, supervised its business and dictated its policy as to traffic with the Indians. In 1836 he built two stone houses at Mendota, one for a residence and the other for a store, and these houses are still standing. They were the first stone houses built in the state. He was living at Mendota at the time of his marriage, in 1843. Mr. Sibley continued in the Fur trade until 1853, at which time he withdrew from active business and devoted himself to the management of his property interests, which by this time had become very large. It was in 1848 that he was chosen delegate to the Thirteenth congress from Wisconsin territory, and during this term he was largely instrumental in securing the organization of Minnesota territory. The contest to bring about the organization, which was very bitter, began in the senate in December, 1848, and ended in the house March 3, 1849. In August, 1849, Mr. Sibley was sent to congress from the new territory, and again in 1851, and in 1853 he declined the third nomination. In 1855 he was a member of the territorial legislature from Dakota County, and in 1857 he was a member of the convention which drafted the constitution which is still the supreme law of the state. It was through the action of this convention that the territory was prepared for statehood and admitted to the union. At the first election in the new state, held October 13, 1857, at which time the new constitution was also adopted, Mr. Sibley was elected Governor, defeating Hon. Alexander Ramsey. He refused to be a candidate for second term, and once more retired to private life. In August, 1860, he was a delegate to the National democratic convention, which met at Charleston, South Carolina, to nominate a pro-slavery candidate for the presidency. When the war began he promptly announced himself as a union man, and during the four years which followed did all in his power to strengthen the general government in the Northwest. He was

a candidate for office the last time in 1880, when the democrats of what was then the third congressional district tried to elect him to congress, but failed. When the Sioux outbreak and massacre occurred in 1862, Governor Ramsey appointed Mr. Sibley to the command of the military forces sent against the savages, and after a vigorous campaign of three months the Sioux were conquered and driven to their reservation. Over two thousand were made prisoners, and three hundred and three were condemned to death, of which number, however, President Lincoln saved all but thirty-eight. In September, 1862, the president commissioned Colonel Sibley as Brigadier general, with headquarters at St. Paul, and during 1863, 1864 and 1865 he was engaged in campaigns in defense of the frontier against various hostile Indian tribes. In November, 1865, he was breveted major general, and in August, 1866, was relieved of his command and made a member of a mixed civil and military commission to negotiate treaties with the hostile Sioux. This work was performed at Fort Sully, and the treaties were ratified by the senate. General Sibley again retired to private life after completing the work assigned to him as a member of the Indian commission. In 1867 he was elected president of the St. Paul Gas Light Company, a post which he held until the time of his death. He also served as president of two banks, the City Bank and the Minnesota Savings Bank, afterwards merged into the First National Bank. For a number of years he was a director of the Sioux City railway. He aided in organizing the St. Paul chamber of commerce, and was its president in 1871 and 1872. He was a director of the First National Bank from 1873 to 1891. In 1888 he was commander of the Loyal Legion of Minnesota, and from 1885 to the time of his death was president of the Minnesota club. He belonged to Acker post, G. A. R., from 1885. General Sibley was a regular attendant at St. Paul's Episcopal church, St. Paul, but did not become a member of it until a few months before his death. As already stated, he was married in 1843. The bride was Sarah J. Steele, daughter of General J. Steele, of Baltimore, Maryland. She bore him nine children and died May 21, 1869. Four of

the children are living, Augusta (Mrs. Douglas Pope), Sarah Jane (Mrs. Elbert A. Young), Charles Frederick, and Alfred Brush, all of whom reside in St. Paul. General Sibley was a charter member of the Minnesota Historical Society (1849) and of the Old Settlers' Association of Minnesota (1858), and was greatly interested in the work which both are doing. In 1868 he was named a regent of the state university, which position he continued to fill with honor until his death. In 1888 the college of New Jersey, at Princeton, conferred upon him the degree LL. D. February 18, 1891, at the ripe age of eighty years, he died.

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#### LEVI H. MCKUSICK.

L. H. McKusick is county attorney of Pine County, Minnesota, which office he has held since 1878. He is of Scotch ancestry on his father's side and English on his mother's. His father, Levi E. McKusick, was a farmer in moderate circumstances in Maine, and during his life time took an active part in local politics, at one time serving as a member of the legislature of that state. The maiden name of the mother of the subject of this sketch was Fannie A. Marshall. Levi H. was born at Baring, Maine, March 31, 1854. His early education was received in the common schools of his native town, and in the academy at St. Stephens, New Brunswick, which he attended three terms. Later he took a course in the state normal school at Castine, Maine. In order to obtain sufficient funds, however, with which to pursue his studies, he had commenced teaching school, for a few months each year, when but seventeen years of age. This plan was pursued by Mr. McKusick for about six years. Having a desire, however, to make law his profession in life, during his leisure hours he took up its study in his brother's office. As soon as he had completed his law studies, deciding that the West would afford him better opportunities in his chosen profession, Mr. McKusick came to Minnesota, locating at



Pine City in August, 1877. During that fall and the following winter he taught school at this place, at the same time devoting his spare time to the further study of law. The following spring he was admitted to the bar and immediately hung out his shingle in Pine City. The fall of the same year he was nominated for the office of county attorney of Pine County and elected. His re-election to the same office every term since that time is an indication of the esteem in which he is held by the community in which he lives. He has also built up an extensive law practice. Mr. McKusick's political affiliations have always been with the Republican party, and he has always taken an active part in local affairs. He was elected to the state legislature in 1883, and re-elected twice to the same office, in 1885 and 1889. He served on the judiciary committee and was an earnest supporter of the bill for the taxation of unused railroad lands in the session of 1889, which bill, however, did not pass at that session. He is an attendant of the Methodist church. He is married and has a family consisting of wife and five children, Clinton L., Fred P., Alice H., William John and Marion Helen.