

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

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

1909

York state, born July 6, 1848, son of Richard and Mary (Locke) Watts, who emigrated to the west in 1858, locating near Baraboo, Wis., for one year. After living in various other places they came to Zumbrota township in 1873, and engaged in general farming. The father died in 1901, while on a visit to his old home in New York state, and the mother died in Minneapolis, January, 1908. Lafayette received his education in the public schools and followed the fortunes of the family until 1886, when he went to North Dakota. There he farmed until 1896, when he returned to Zumbrota township and resumed agricultural operations. From that year until 1906 he owned and conducted the Zumbrota hotel, after which he purchased a pleasant home, surrounded by seven acres of land in Minneola township, just outside the village limits of Zumbrota. Here he has since continued to reside. Mr. Watts is a well-known member of the Masons, the Modern Woodmen and the Modern Brotherhood. His political affiliations are with the Republican party, but he is to a large degree an independent voter. He is a thorough believer in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Watts was married August 3, 1873, at Zumbrota, to Athelia Miller, daughter of A. J. Miller, an early settler. Five children have blessed this union—Amelia, born September 16, 1874, died March 16, 1893. Edith, born July 6, 1877, is now Mrs. Chauncy Coffman, of Portland, Ore. Truman N., born May 25, 1884, was the third child. Lafayette A., born in October, 1893, and Reginald R., born March 16, 1897, live at home and attend the public schools.

Nels A. Stageberg, a well-known farmer of Minneola township, was born in Norway, June 26, 1850, son of Andrew and Barbara (Knutson) Stageberg, natives of Norway, who came to America in 1857. They located in Wisconsin for one year, then removed to Minneola township, this county, where they secured 160 acres of wild land, which they broke and improved, carrying on general farming until 1899, when they retired. Nels A. Stageberg came to America with his parents at seven years of age. After receiving a parochial school education he took up farming with his father, and continued to improve the home farm, erecting upon it many new and up-to-date buildings, among them a new home. Since 1879 he has followed general farming for himself. Mr. Stageberg was united in marriage the first time in March, 1869, to Guerina E. Knutson, a native of Norway. By this marriage there were two children, Bertha and Andrew, the latter of whom is a merchant at Owatonna. Mr. Stageberg was married the second time to Rosa Hesselberg, a native of Norway. This union was blessed with eight children—Gerda, now Mrs. Anderson, of Dodge Center; Lena, now Mrs. Grover, of Zumbrota; Oscar, now at Montana; Albertha, now of Washington; Manda,