

History of St. Charles



On the cover:

This postcard view of the Northwestern Depot at St. Charles was taken about 1910. The passengers are awaiting the arrival of an eastbound train. (From the collection of the Winona County Historical Society.)

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A History Of St. Charles

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FOREWARD -

This history is written for the purpose of bringing together interesting facts relating to the growth of St. Charles over the past one hundred years. It is not meant to be a complete history, rather an account of incidents suited to pamphlet publication.

The research and the writing of each of the chapters has been done by the following people:

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Chapter II	Politics	Mr. Robert Currie
Chapter III	Education	Mr. L. R. Palmer
Chapter IV	Religion	Miss Hattie Boyd
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This history is a project of the St. Charles Centennial Historical Committee

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CHAPTER I EARLY SETTLERS

In 1851 there were no white settlers in this part of the country. So states the history compiled by Editor C. H. Slocumb of St. Charles' first newspaper. He goes on to tell about one Hiram Hill who, not liking the prospects at Minnesota City, came exploring and made a claim on Section 12 in the Township of St. Charles, which is approximately one mile north of present Utica, on what is known as the Holt farm. This he is said to have sold in 1853.

In April of 1853, William Davidson settled on Section 10, built a log house and moved his family in. While Mr. Davidson may be the "old settler" who came first to this locality, his location out on what is now the Crystal Springs road is hardly an accurate qualification for First Citizen of St. Charles. This honor belongs to Lewis H. Springer, who, in May of 1853 brought his family, including his wife's parents and brother, the Benjamin Langworthy family, directly to Section 19, St. Charles, the north-east quarter of which is exactly the Original Plat of St. Charles. This was the claim of Lewis H. Springer. The Langworthy's made their claim on Section 18, the area directly north, or approximately where the Ralph Seeman farm is located east of Highway 74.

1854 saw an influx of settlers throughout the entire territory. The times were restless ones: a financial panic, the growing pains of an industrial revolution making itself felt in the congested eastern manufacturing centers, strife in Ireland sending a flood of immigrants into this fantastic new world where land was for the taking and man could live to suit himself, the purchase of Louisiana and the subsequent opening up of that vast, fascinating territory. And there was then shaping up the strife that was to be our bloody Civil War, the great struggle between the North and South, after which the tide westward was increased by the land grants to the soldiers who fought for the Union and who received in part therefor, a piece of the land they fought for.

But to get back to 1854: men came to the new frontier for many reasons— many for sheer adventure. But the more real purposes of the men and women who, with their children, came to this wilderness follow the lines that have ever sent pioneer souls into new places: New Englanders from their rocky farms sought new homes and better soil to earn better livelihoods; immigrants came from England, Ireland, Germany seeking a freedom of one

sort or another; and some came seeking health. In its early history, Minnesota was celebrated, says the history of Olmsted County, "as a sanatorium for the cure or relief of the disease then called consumption—. The bracing climate was very beneficial to even confirmed invalids, and many town residents and farmers (from the South and the East) became Minnesotans in the hope of prolonging their lives."

Many came, stopped awhile and moved on. But many found this new country good, with all its hardships, and satisfying to their various needs. It is of these, the settlers who stayed, this is written. It is not possible to name them all, each and every one, but an attempt will be made to name some who still live on in their descendants.

There were speculators, there were government people sent to look and administer who found it to their liking and stayed, those looking for careers in their profession, the traders seeking new markets, the preachers to give spiritual strength and solace to lonely homesteaders, the doctors to prescribe for their physical wants. And among the names of those who came a century ago, are names well known to the St. Charles of 1954.

And so, in December of 1854, Mr. Springer as proprietor of St. Charles, caused a survey to be made, and St. Charles was platted. The village was to consist of 49 blocks, and a public park was reserved, and also an acre for a school site. "An acre lot would be presented to every Christian Democrat who would settle thereon."

Among the names found in documents for 1854 are the Springers in Section 19, (Original Plat of St. Charles). South of St. Charles, Robert Calhoun and Carter Fuller made their claims on the uplands, the present Robert Patterson and George Pfeil farms of today, respectively, southeast of town, James Smith on what is Avery Barr's farm, Oscar Kately near the Weigel farm and a Mr. Russel. William House settled about a mile north of the platted area, and the family is still on the land. West of St. Charles, in Dover township, Leonard Knapp settled with his family. "He had neighbors, a Mr. Springer who erected a log house in which he carried on a hotel. And Wm. Davison (Davidson?) who lived in St. Charles Township about two miles north of town. There were but two settlements on the prairie east of Mr. Knapp's." This from History of Olmsted County. Mr. Knapp moved to St. Charles in 1892.

Also, in 1854, John Salisbury settled on the Southeast Quarter of Section 19, claiming all the rest of the present city of St. Charles. This land was purchased by Joseph Birge in 1857, when he laid out and platted the original Village of Chattanooga, on the south half of the quartersection. In 1864 he laid out and platted his First Addition to the village of Chattanooga, which includes the lots on either side of Whitewater Street from the Northwestern Tracks north as far as the present Eighth Street, where Currie's garage now is. Mr. Birge is the man responsible for our narrow alley streets. He laid and sold these lots before County Commissioners could plat the area, through which they had promised to build a street—Whitewater Street.

Among other claimants of this year were John Ellsbury, also in Section 19; Harris Scovel on Section 18, north of town. It was at this time Mr. Springer erected the small frame store which held a small assortment of goods for the settlers. This he sold to Franklin Langworthy, who in turn sold it to Hiram Rice, the first St. Charles postmaster. This also was the year of the land claim society formed by Carter Fuller and Joseph Wheeland. Similar protection groups were common throughout the new territory before land patents were obtainable from the government through the Land Office. This territory was not opened for settlement, and settlers took land by preemption until 1855 when the land office sold parcels directly. In connection with trouble caused by the Land Protection Society, Mr. S. B. Dickson and Mr. Henry Woodruff of St. Charles were involved as witnesses to the illegal operations of the Society. This too, was the year when Mr. Wheeler settled in Section 19, adjoining the County line. This Mr. Wheeler the next year built a log tavern, stuffed the skin of a Wildcat and opened the "Wildcat Tavern". One source indicates that it was located near the late Henry Mondary (NE 5th St. and Richland) residence, although yet another inn seems to have been constructed in that place. One other source placed it near the present Dr. R. L. Page residence (NE corner 5th and St. Charles St.) It is more than likely it was located near the County line closer to the Whitewater, back of the Fairview Motel.

In 1854 James Roan came to the United States and Minnesota from Gloucestershire, England, and took a claim on land in Southeastern St. Charles, approximately between the Lorimer Palmer home on 13th and (no name) Street, and the block bounded on the west by Richland Street between 12th and 13th streets. Mr.

Roan went back to England in 1862, married Miss Louisa Caudy in the Cathedral of Bath, and brought her here where there were five children born to them.

Alexander and Susan Gilmour also arrived in 1854 from Scotland. They were the parents of Alan Gilmour and Mrs. Elizabeth Pike, who was the mother of Neal V., Ralph and Sydney Pike, now of St. Charles. Simeon Harding was a native of the state of New York who settled in Dover Township in 1854, and moved to St. Charles in 1862 where he was postmaster and Justice of the Peace.

N. V. A. Crow first came to Winona County in 1854 after a colorful life. He had gone to California with the '49ers in search of gold, staying until 1853 when he returned home by way of Panama. He preempted land in Elba Township where he lived until 1863 when he moved into Olmsted County. He became the holder of over 1900 acres at one time, and became engaged in the mercantile business with a son, and in the business of loaning money. He was the father of eight children: Sylvester, George, John Wesley, Nelson Manley, Sophia, M. Walter (who was in the mercantile business here), Albert Garrison, and Edward.

A. C. Sinclair came to St. Charles in 1854 from New England. He was the grandfather of the late Hugh Groger.

The same year saw the arrival of the Talbot family. William Talbot Sr. came to St. Charles in 1856 from Somersetshire, England by way of New York and Iowa. He followed his son, Henry Talbot, who had come to St. Charles in 1854. Henry found employment as a blacksmith here, and brought his family. In all, William Sr. had nine children: Frederick, father of Bert Talbot and Mrs. Maude Groger, both now in St. Charles; Sarah Talbot Ham, mother of Fred Ham; Anna, wife of Alfred Turner, once a tailor in St. Charles; Will Talbot Jr., Henry Talbot, who married Elizabeth Hendee, of another pioneer family; Phyllis Talbot Barr, who was the mother of Thomas Barr, who resided here until recently; Sophia Talbot Small, mother of Charles W. Small and Mrs. Wm. Pfeil; and George B. Talbot of Winona.

In 1855, Charles Gerrish arrived and settled on a farm five miles southeast of St. Charles. These people were among the first to arrive from New England to make permanent homes. Daughters were Mrs. A. B. Dyar of St. Charles and Mrs. L. N. Dyar of Rochester

John T. Blair came from Binghampton, New York in 1855, and

settled on a claim in Section 1, Saratoga Township. Mr. Blair opened the Post Office at Worth, south of Utica in 1856. He held this position for 29 years. He was the father of Edward Blair, husband of Anna Blair, and grandfather of Mrs. Leonard Prigge.

Thomas Parker Dixon and Elizabeth Dixon came from New Lisbon, New York, in 1855. They were the parents of Robert M. Dixon, Henry Dixon, Mrs. H. C. (Jessie) Kobler, and Mrs. Clarence Murray. Clarence Murray was a brother of Pat Murray who in turn was the father of Mrs. Mary Rollins, widow of the late Dr. F. H. Rollins of St. Charles.

Mrs. William Boyd, mother of Miss Hattie Boyd, came to Saratoga in 1861 as a child and was educated in St. Charles schools.

In Dover Township on the west, in Olmsted County, there were many whose lives tangled with those in St. Charles. John Fraser settled in Dover Township in '55. He was a farmer and surveyor. One of his sons was Thomas Fraser, a lawyer of Rochester who is well known to many St. Charles people. Of them, the record says: "Candidates for County Surveyor (Olmsted) in 1888 were John Fraser, Democrat, and his son Thomas N. Fraser, Republican. The politically unfilial son beat his Democratic paternal ancestor by 281 votes.

Another colorful pioneer who survived into the memory of many of today's residents was Judge S. W. Gleason, who died at the age of 99 in 1932. He first came to St. Charles in 1855 and stayed at Springer's Tavern. He settled in Warren Township and in 1863 was told by Dr. Mayo that he was unfit for military service and wouldn't last a month in the army. So he served as municipal judge in St. Charles from 1899 until his death.

A list of Firsts in St. Charles will give a further group of names:

The first birth was that of Philip Henry, son of L. H. Springer, in 1854. The first death was that of Richard, son of John Ellsbury. The first adult death was that of the postmaster and merchant, Hiram Rice. The first sermon delivered in St. Charles was by Elder E. Ely of the Baptist church, at L. H. Springer's in January, 1854.

John Ellsbury was the first blacksmith. His shop was located near the southern boundary of St. Charles. It was here that the first public dance was held, where the music was furnished by three violinists one of whom was Ira Wetmore. The Smithy was later moved to the busy intersection of Winona (5th) and Richland

Streets where H. C. Parrott built an addition for a wagon shop.

The first marriage was between J. S. Olds and Miss Ellen Aldridge of Clarksbury, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1856. The ceremony was performed in the Springer residence by Justice of the Peace Benjamin Langworthy. Mr. Olds was a settler on the middle branch of the Whitewater near Wetmore's Mill, and later became proprietor of the popular Minnesota House, which later became the Kelly House, and the St. Charles Hotel, which was razed in 1942, and replaced by the Hatchery. This is at 14th and Whitewater Street.

The first doctor in town was Doctor Wendall, brother of Washington Wendall, who established the first shoe shop. Isaac Talbot was the second cobbler. James H. Easton established the first Daguerrian gallery in St. Charles. Edwin H. Hill, lawyer, came to St. Charles in 1867 and practiced here until 1903. One of his daughters who was the first child born after our town was made a city, was called Nellie St. Charles Hill.

Beginning in '56, new enterprises came in steadily. M. S. Weeks erected a store on the northwest corner of Winona (5th) and Richland. The Weeks family came from Crawford County, Pennsylvania, to engage in the mercantile business. In 1857 Theophilus Weeks opened a store in part of the Langworthy building. Later the M. S. Weeks Co. built a new stone building on Lot 4, Block 32 (Where Jack Hessig now lives on Church Street). The post office was kept in this store by M. S. Weeks who succeeded Joseph Mixture, who had in his turn succeeded Hiram Rice.

Another 'first inn' was erected by James and Joshua Easton this year which was later occupied by Henry Hall as a tavern. This is the inn which was on property now owned by Dr. R. L. Page at Winona (5th) and St. Charles Streets. In 1857 a George Pratt built yet another tavern on the Northeast corner of Winona and Richland, at the corner where the late Henry Mondary lived.

There was a tornado in 1856, too. Like the one experienced through these parts in 1953, it "prostrated large and well rooted trees in its course, taking the roof, together with the top logs above the joists and landing them at some distance (from somebody's house—it's not clear just whose) and taking up over the house beds, bedding and other furniture, exposing the inmates of the dwelling to the prey of the blasts frightening them out of their wits, and committing other misdemeanors against the peace and dignity of the people." It was ever thus.

S. A. Johnson and family came in 1856 from Connecticut. He was the brother of Mrs. J. C. Hendee of St. Charles, and father of Everett C. Johnson and Sam A. Johnson now in St. Charles and five other children.

George Spencer Sr. came to St. Charles in 1856 at the age of 5 years, from Onadaga County, New York. He was the father of George Spencer, husband of Mrs. Kathryn Spencer.

The Thomas W. Lyon family took up government land in the spring of 1856 and commenced improving it soon after and opened up a large farm, on which they moved in 1858. Two daughters survived Mr. and Mrs. Lyon: Mrs. Minnie Robbins who is held in affectionate regard by nearly everyone in St. Charles today, and Mrs. Evaline Clark, mother of Mrs. Margaret Clark Cool. The Lyon's Den, the large house situated on Highway 14 about a mile east of town was the scene of much festivity on joyful occasions and willing work for many hands when trouble dictated need.

The Williams Persons came from Somersetshire, England in 1856 and took up land directly north of St. Charles. They had four children surviving: Mrs. Perry Schermerhorn, Mrs. S. W. Orr, and William O. Persons. A sister of Mr. Person's was Mrs. Watson Hesselgrave. This Hesselgrave family came in the early years, upriver from New Orleans and on foot from Winona to St. Charles.

Isaac and Sarah Childs preempted land northwest of St. Charles in 1856. They were survived by Maurice Childs. His widow, Phoebe, will be recalled by many present citizens. She lived in the house on East Bluff Street now owned by the Francis Sorum family.

Forest Henry settled in Dover Township in about 1857 at the age of 1 year. He was educated in local schools. He was one of the largest landowners in the area and attained national reputation as a scientific farmer. He was the father of John R. and James Henry.

Charles Kramer, from Baden, Germany, came in 1862 to Elba Township. He was the father of six children, one of whom was Frank Kramer, founder of Kramer's store and husband of Mrs. Josephine Zeches Kramer.

Ferdinand and Minnie Blankenburg, in 1864, left Lomira, Wisconsin, crossed the Mississippi by ferry, and took the first passenger train west out of Winona and rode to the end of the line, which was St. Charles, where they settled. There were three children, Emil; William, who is still a familiar figure in St. Charles

and Lena, who was the late Mrs. John Frisch. Ferdinand was a victim of the 1903 cyclone that wiped out so much of St. Charles. His wife lived until January, 1940, when she was 98 years old.

Carl and Pauline Richter came from Saxony, Germany, in 1870. They were parents of Charles, and Otto Richter of St. Charles and six other children.

Richard Norman Miller and Eliza Lee Miller came from Minerva, New York in 1869 with three small children. One of five surviving children, Arthur, is still residing in St. Charles, as are Blake and Clayton Miller, grandchildren of the pair.

Caleb Curtis Bachelder was one of the colorful figures of early St. Charles. He came in 1875 as station agent for the CNW Railroad Company. His children were Frank S. Bachelder and Caleb H. Bachelder, and a step-daughter, Mrs. F. H. Rollins.

Henry and Susanna Frisch came to the territory north of town in 1869 where they lived until coming into St. Charles in 1883. Their four children were John and Theodore of St. Charles; Mrs. Harry Judge of Chamberlain, S. D., and Miss Elizabeth Frisch, now of St. Charles.

W. R. Nisbit and his wife Margaret Hesselgrave, settled in Saratoga in 1873, where they lived for 30 years when they moved to St. Charles. Mrs. Horace Mann is a daughter. She and Mr. Mann reside on Richland Street.

George and Otto Pfefferkorn came to St. Charles in 1873 directly from Berlin, Germany, settling on a farm north of town. George worked in stores in St. Charles, and in the bank operated by J. C. Woodward at that time. In 1888 he and Otto organized a private bank which operated until 1895. Otto Pfefferkorn will be remembered as the proprietor of the hardware store now operated by Otto Kempe.

In the War of Rebellion, St. Charles was fully represented by 83 soldiers in the various military organizations, as recounted in the History of Winona County, and as touched on in more detail in the sketch on Clubs and Organizations in this book. St. Charles was still in the process of formation at this time, and was probably more immediately concerned with the Indian campaigns which were being fought on its immediate frontiers during the same period. No record of St. Charles' separate contribution to this effort is found, except that a company of volunteers was formed in Winona County in 1862 and sent to quell Indian uprisings and patrol trouble areas.

CHAPTER II POLITICS

When Mr. Springer settled on the south bank of South Branch of the Whitewater River, he started a long and interesting train of political events.

One of the first needs of a fledgling community is the service of the United States Postal Department. Probably the first political appointment in St. Charles was the appointment of Mr. Lewis H. Springer as postmaster in the spring of 1854. By this act, the federal government, in one stroke, acknowledged the existence of the community later to become known as the City of St. Charles.

The township was provided with an elected town board before the city was organized. The territorial legislature passed an act February 23, 1853 in which the boundaries of Winona County were defined. After the federal government had surveyed the area, St. Charles Township was defined as T. 106 N.R. 10 W.

Winona County was divided in April 29, 1854 into six election districts. At the time, St. Charles was included in the Elba election precinct which also included the townships of Hart, Fremont, and Saratoga. Later, these same areas were designated tax assessment districts. It is interesting to note that District No. 1, comprising this area of four townships was assessed only for the value of the personal property upon it. Since the land belonged to the government until homestead rights were proved up, all buildings were considered personal property. One can picture the growth of this community in no better way than to compare this early assessment of the district with the assessed valuation of the City of St. Charles which now alone has a valuation of over \$600,000 for the city.

Most of the local government functions in pioneer times were handled by the board of county commissioners. One of the early appointments was that of William Davidson as road supervisor of the Elba District.

The first election of the Elba precinct was held in the fall of 1854. Mr. Davidson was elected to the board of commissioners. History records that the Republican party was organized in the area during this year. Records state that the party was "pitted against the democracy." Franklin Pierce was the democratic president of the United States at this time.

Like the country as a whole, national politics was a topic of

every-day discussion. One can well imagine the heated political discussion which undoubtedly took place at the "Wild Cat Tavern", an early gathering place. This Tavern was the second public inn in the town.

Another topic which was popular was the discussion of ways and means of getting a railroad to come through the village.

The efforts of some of the enterprising and energetic pioneers was climaxed in 1864 when the Winona and St. Peter road was completed and the Iron Horse came to St. Charles. In 1856, the county board, recognizing the growth in population made St. Charles an election precinct of itself.

An act was passed by the legislature of Minnesota which enabled the people to vote to incorporate as a city March 1, 1870. Seven days later, the first election of city officers was held and Mr. S. W. Stone was elected the first mayor of the City of St. Charles. Mr. Stone was responsible for the addition to the city which now bears his name.

The next few years, the duty of mayor was passed around to the early businessmen. Apparently a state of community co-operation existed for the first decade of St. Charles history. All elections were very quiet and orderly affairs. By the advent of the 1880s, however, political opinions began to take on a more familiar pattern.

The early elections were characterized by a contest between the North end and the South end. Each section would try to dominate the council in the hope that more civic improvements would come it's way.

The early elections were not without some humorous incidents which even now are remembered by our older people. One of the early contests resulted in the old familiar story of the dark horse candidate upsetting the political "sure-thing". A Mr. Stiller experienced one of these political vagaries during his local career. It seems that Mr. Stiller was a very efficient mayor and took a great deal of pride in his position. He would carefully campaign before election, leaving no stone unturned to insure his success. In his last campaign he climaxed his efforts by inviting all voters to an election banquet to celebrate his victory. The affair was held in North St. Charles and took the form of a band concert and a smorgasbord supper. When the festivities were nicely under way a disturbing report came up from city hall. Mr. Steller had been defeated by Mr. Louis Scnell, from whom a quiet but effective

campaign had been conducted behind the scenes.

Early political campaignings usually started with a caucus in which the two major parties would each pick a slate of candidates. Sometimes a candidate with considerable backing would not succeed in getting the nomination of either party. This would not doom him to political oblivion, he would merely go out and organize another party and still get on the ballot. These parties were called by the names of "The Peoples Party", The Progressive Party", "The Independent Party". etc.

Most of the issues revolved around local affairs only and the fact that a candidate was a Republican or a Democrat had little to do with his chances of election. People seemed to vote for the candidate whom they expected to do the things they wished. The history of the old days shows a marked tendency for public opinion to fluctuate from periods of progressivism to extreme conservatism.

Most councils were able to correctly appraise the tenor of their fellow citizens. One notable example of one who misjudged the attitude of the people was Mr. G. T. Olds, who was Mayor in 1895. Mr. Olds was a successful grocer in the city at the time and was noted for being progressive in his thinking. It was his opinion that the time had come for the city to have a public water system. Fear of fire was one of the factors in deciding to invest in the public water system as well as the sanitation and convenience reasons. However good the reasoning of Mr. Olds was, he met with a storm of public indignation. The protest took the form of a boycott of the Olds Store and he was forced out of business. Within a few years of this event, people realized their mistake, but Mr. Olds had left the community a very disappointed man. It is to the credit of the city that the Olds affair has not been repeated. Opposition to progress has been confined to more reasonable bounds namely that of verbally castigating the proponents of the new project. The building which was built to house the steam pumps and well is still in use at the southeast part of the town and the corner stone still bears the legend 1895.

The advent of electricity just a few years later scarcely caused a ripple on the political pool. The first system was a direct current system in which the city generated its own current, in addition to the water works building. The electric power was first utilized when the first lights were turned on in Christmas of 1903. About 1910 the plant was abandoned in favor of light purchased

from the power company.

As the pendulum of public opinion swung back and forth, one could scarcely ignore the role of J. J. Speeter, pioneer merchant. Mr. Speeter was probably mayor of the city more than any other man. He was an extreme conservative. Many times the city, after a financial binge had left them in a rather tight financial condition, would call upon Mr. Speeter to rescue the treasury. Hand bills were circulated bearing the message, "Elect Speeter The Economy Mayor". Where upon, if the voters so desired, Mr. Speeter would be elected, take office, and proceed to straighten out the financial affairs with his customary efficiency and good judgment.

As the city grew and new ways of living came in, numerous elections were held to decide upon issues involving new projects. As far back as 1922 a modern sewage disposal system was proposed. Most people agreed that it would be a good thing to have. But arguments stemmed from the fact that some people thought money could be saved by building the system later on, or could be built smaller in size, or in other ways.

By 1926, a bond issue was voted in and the sewer system was completed. This completed a construction cycle and marked a milestone by providing all of the public utilities which are used today.

The year 1929 marked another milestone, namely that of replacement of utilities. The electric system was outmoded because of the great increase in electrical usage. Again, bonds were voted and a new system was built.

How ever heated political battles seemed at the time, the fact is that the differences of opinion seemed to not be as great after the healing effect of time.

The memory of the pioneer city officials is greatly respected in most cases. One cannot help but admire men who, each in his own way, helped to make St. Charles the neat and orderly city it is today. Until the year 1950 no city official was paid a salary. The services of many of our best councils were obtained, rewarded only by the pride of accomplishment and devotion to the city of their choice.

As St. Charles now enters its second hundred years, one can not help but feel that if the progressiveness, wisdom, and zeal of our forefathers can be carried on, St. Charles will be a greater city in 2054.

CHAPTER III EDUCATION

The story of education in St. Charles began with the organization of school district number five of Winona County at a meeting of the people of the area on July 16, 1855. At this meeting Benjamin Langworthy was elected moderator; W. R. Henderson, Clerk; and L. H. Springer, C. Fuller and Asa Wheeler trustees for the ensuing year. Also according to the minutes of the board of education of that day it was "voted that the trustees are to select the site whereupon to build a school house provided that they select said site within twenty rods of the Public Square of the St. Charles Town Platt. Voted to build a balloon or plank frame 18 by 24 feet and shall be completed on or before the 15th of September, 1855 and shall be paid by levying a tax upon the taxable property within said district." Thus thirteen families with a total property valuation of \$6,450 were taxed \$29.77, the rest of the money needed being raised by subscription.

A special meeting of the qualified voters of District five was called at 6 P. M., December 22, 1855 "for the purpose of electing a clerk in place of W. R. Henderson absconded and for the transaction of such other business as may be deemed necessary."

One way by which one might become acquainted with the names of some of the first residents of this school district would be to examine the property valuation list of 1856-57. At this time the valuation was based upon the property on the land, not including the land.

Harris Scovle	\$1983.00	John Cool	\$ 495.00
L. H. Springer	\$4450.00	Augustus Berge	\$1327.00
Gates & Parrett	\$1200.00	James Gilmore	\$ 800.00
Carter Fuller	\$2582.00	John Ham	\$ 370.00
F. Langworthy	\$1269.00	Henry Hall	\$1495.00
Wm. Handy	\$ 527.00	Hiram Rice	\$1885.00
A. W. Langworthy	\$1003.00	J. Mixter	\$ 270.00
C. E. Kingsley	\$1285.00	G. P. Pratt	\$ 230.00
St. A. D. Balcom	\$ 480.00	Morris James	\$1156.00
John Elsbury	\$2005.00	Aug. Johnson	\$ 360.00
J. H. Easton	\$4464.00	A. W. Case	\$1150.00
Asa Wheeler	\$1868.00	George Dewey	\$ 640.00
Robert Calhoun	\$2607.00	E. Hubble	\$ 850.00
John Roberts	\$ 885.00		

It is difficult to determine just when the school was open during the first two years or by whom each successive session was taught. But statement from the board minutes of November 17, 1857 reads "You have had 84 days school by John Cool, 13 weeks

by Miss Bingham, 46½ days by Mr. Cunningham."

In August of 1858 the boundaries of school district No. 5 were officially set down on paper. The district was made up of Sections 4-7-14-17-19-20-21-29-30, with a small part of section 29 being excluded.

During the first years of the community's existence it was a common practice to hold the annual meeting of all qualified voters in the district in the fall, usually in October. At this meeting the school district officers for the year were elected, annual business transacted and plans laid for the operation of the school. At the annual meeting in October of 1859 "... chose S. H. Brown, chairman; voted that the trustees repair the school house temporarily ... voted three months of winter school ... to commence the third Monday of October; ... voted that the trustees get the wood to the best advantage; voted that the annual meeting for 1860 be held at the school house on the evening of the first Monday of October at 6 o'clock P.M."

In 1861 plans were made for the building of a new school building. At the annual meeting in the fall of that year \$300.00 was allowed for the construction of the building. In this year, too, it would seem that the original district No. 5 was subdivided and St. Charles became sub-district No. 2 of district 5.

By 1862 the length of the school year had been increased to three months of school in the summer and 3 months of school in the winter. In this year, too, reference is made to District 58 in the town of St. Charles, County of Winona.

To this point little has been said about the teachers of the time. Thus, it might be appropriate to include a copy of the first teachers contract to be found. The contract reads as follows: "It is hereby agreed between school district No. 58 in the County of Winona, State of Minnesota, and Mary Booth, a qualified teacher that she is to teach the common school in said district for the term of twelve weeks commencing on Monday the 16th day of June, A.D. 1862. And the said district hereby agrees to pay the said Mary Booth for her services, as teacher, properly rendered the sum of two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per week of five days each."

Later that same year Albert Graves, a qualified teacher, was employed by district 58 to teach common school for a term of three months of 26 days each commencing on Monday, the 1st of December, 1862, for the sum of twenty-six dollars per month. In connection with the payment of teacher those teachers, parti-

cularly women, were expected to board out around the town thus receive part of their pay in that way.

School district No. 60 was used to identify this district for the first time in 1863. In this year too, the board of education and the people of St. Charles brought to a head plans for building a new and larger school building on a different site. It would seem that the first building was located on property along 7th street between Whitewater Avenue and Church Street. The next school house was to be located just off the public square, probably on the northeast corner of the intersection of Whitewater and 5th streets. Since the estimated cost of the new building had now risen to \$1,000.00 the board of education was authorized to borrow \$500.00. This they borrowed as needed from citizens in the community in amounts of ten and fifteen dollars at an interest rate of ten percent. This new school commenced on January 12, 1864 and was called the Gallop school because a Mr. Gallop had been hired to teach the term. The name here referred to the term of teaching rather than to the name of the building.

At an annual meeting held March 26, 1864 there were 3 rather significant developments. For the first time school board members were elected by secret ballot. An effort at school district enlargement failed when voters of District 60 turned down a motion to add to the district about 600 acres of land from Olmsted County. And for the first time the voters approved a plan for nine months of school.

By 1864, also, the size of school enrollment necessitated for the first time, the dividing of the elementary grades into what were termed a junior school and a senior school with a separate teacher for each. And it was in 1865 that the board of education first established a policy regarding non-resident tuition. It was established at that time that non-residents should be charged \$2.50 for the winter term.

When district 60 was organized it was to include the south half of the district, Chattanooga, as well as the north half, St. Charles. In 1866 plans began to be considered for the erection of a new school building in Chattanooga. However, in 1866 before plans for the new building were completed a strong move began for the erection of a school building centrally located for use by boys and girls in St. Charles and Chattanooga. This move began with the presentation of a petition signed by 20 legal voters of the district asking for the "negotiation of bonds of said district to an

amount not exceeding ten thousand dollars. . .", (the first time that bonds were to be sold by district 60); the purchase of a site and building of a school house. The issuance of bonds was approved by a vote of 98 to 43. These bonds were to be sold bearing an interest rate of twelve percent, with the last payment to be made in 1875. At this meeting also the voters approved 100 to 47 the Birge block as the site for the new school. This block is the site of the present school building. All acts pertaining to the building of a school house in Chattanooga were repealed.

In 1867 the state legislature passed a law which required that school boards in the St Charles classification be made up of six members with terms of two board members expiring each year. In March of this year district 60 following the provisions of the recent law elected John M. Cool and J. W. Brockett to three year terms; S. S. Beman and S. T. Hyde to 2 year terms; and John Pickert and H. C. Parrott to one year terms.

The new school building requested in the petition of 1866 was begun in 1868 with bonds finally being sold in the amount of \$13,000. Until this building was completed, and to satisfy the needs for a school house in Chattanooga a temporary structure was built at a cost of \$200.00.

The first written board policy regarding student attendance at school appears in the minutes of the board in May of 1867. "It was voted that teachers be directed to require an excuse from the parents of those pupils who are absent at roll call, unless pupils have reasonable excuse. Continued tardiness or truancy will be followed by expulsion from school."

In the building of the first building on the site of the present school was undertaken under the direct supervision of the board of education. The block was purchased from Joseph Birge for \$600.00. Separate contractors were hired by the board of education to construct each part of the building. The basement excavation for this building went to an average depth of three feet with 240 yards of dirt and 200 yards of rock being excavated. Many of the small contracts were paid for in school district bonds, and a few in cash. The architect who planned this building was G. C. Mayberry of Winona.

With the completion of the new building the matter of students, rooms and teachers came up. "On motion: it was voted we have for the winter four schools of three months each (this meant four rooms of students); also voted: we employ one gentleman as

principal and three ladies as teachers (this was the first person hired as a principal); voted: that we employ Mr. Bedal as the principal at \$50.00 per month, . . . Miss Barber at \$45.00 per month, . . . Miss Tomlinson at \$35.00 per month, . . . Miss Julia Bertrand at \$30.00 per month.

At the same time rules and regulations for the operation of the school were set up by the board. These rules and regulations are found in the minutes of the board and in the St. Charles Herald printed in 1868. A few excerpts from this policy statement are interesting. "Article 1, Section 2: Teachers are required to be at their respective school rooms at least twenty minutes before the time of opening school in the morning and shall ring the bell five minutes before opening each session. On opening the session the bell shall be struck and roll called, and all pupils not in their seats at roll call shall be marked tardy."

"Section 7: No teacher shall dismiss his school nor shall he excuse any pupil for the purpose of visiting any exhibition show, menagerie, painting or lecture, or for the purpose of going on any excursion, picnic, or other diversion without first obtaining permission from the board."

"Article 2, Section 4: Pupils are required to appear in the school room with clean hands and face, with hair decently combed, and in decent clothing; and any persons who shall neglect personal cleanliness or whose clothes are not in proper repair shall be sent home to be put in order for school."

"Section 7: . . . Pupils who are sent to school in season and who from their own negligence are not in their seats at roll call shall be considered truants and no subsequent approval thereof by the parents shall be received as an excuse."

It is interesting to note that in 1868 the school budget for the coming year consisted of four items: teachers wages \$2,000, Fuel \$100, Insurance \$150, Incidentals \$50.

In 1869 a primary department was added to the school program. And in 1870 the school year was for the first time divided into three terms of twelve weeks each "commencing as follows: Spring term, April 11th; Fall term September 12th; Winter term the first Monday of January 1871. Thus, the present plan of 36 weeks of school was initiated. However, teachers were employed for one twelve week term at a time rather than for the year as they are today,

In 1872 John R. Richards was employed as principal at an ann-

ual salary of \$1,000. This seems to be the first time that a teacher was employed for a year at a time. And it was in 1873 that the administration head of the school, in this case Mr. Richards, was first given the responsibility for making recommendations regarding the employment of teachers.

1874 is the first year that all teachers were employed for one year. It is also the year in which it was "Resolved that L. T. Weld and his wife be employed to teach at a salary of not to exceed \$1,400 per annum.

By 1875 the number of students in school required that the board of education increase the number of classes to six. The divisions were high school (similar to 7th and 8th grade today), grammar school, intermediate, primary "A", primary "B" and primary "C". However, during this part of the 1870's the high school became gradually to be what we think of it to be today, but it was not until 1879 that the high school program was continued above tenth grade.

At about 1 p.m. on August 30, 1878 as leaks in the eave troughs of the frame school building were being repaired the building caught fire and burned to the ground. At the annual meeting on September 10, 1878 proposals were made for the construction of a two story brick school building on the site of the former building, this building to have eight classrooms. By September 20 of the same year nine contractors had bid on the building of the new building with bids ranging from \$11,475 to \$12,600. On December 24, 1878, not four months after the frame school had burned, the new brick building was ready for occupancy; and classes were first held in the new building on January 6, 1879.

Provision was made for the first high school graduation by the following board action: "Resolved that certificates of graduation be awarded to the pupils of "A" class in the high school who may stand on an examination at the close of the present term 85% in the following studies: arithmetic, algebra, English, grammar, physical geography, physiology, science of government, reading, orthography and penmanship." One weakness — the board of education failed to provide for administration of the examination, thus no graduating class.

Quite a disturbance was caused on the board of education in 1879 when on September 9th, 1879 Mrs. A. Williams was elected to serve on the board. The presence of a lady on the board upset three of the men on the board so much that they caused her resig-

nation and subsequent appointment of her husband to the board.

In 1880 there was not enough money left in the district treasury to pay the teachers so the teachers were issued their checks and allowed 10% interest per annum on the amount of the checks until paid.

Two years later the board of education drew up a fairly detailed course of study for each grade for each term of the school year. A few excerpts are printed here.

"First year of "B" class: 60 words read and printed, alphabet learned, numbers counted and written to 50."

"Second year, third term: one-half of second reader, writing by principals, mixed tables to 5, adding and carrying."

"6th year, 3rd term: 5th reader with select reading, penmanship, decimals completed, primary geography and map drawing."

"High school, first year, three terms: higher arithmetic, United States history, word analysis, physiology, bookkeeping, physical geography, higher algebra, civi: government.

Later in this year of 1882 the board of education received a recommended course of study from the High School Board of the State of Minnesota, then made provisions for the gradual modification of the existing course of study to meet the standards of the state board.

By 1887 the student body had grown to the point where the eighth room in the "X" shaped building had to be furnished and opened for use. Thus the faculty of the school at this time included a teaching principal and seven teachers.

In this year too, the amount of money that had to be raised by taxation for school purposes was \$4,000.

A sign of the times is found in this paragraph from the board minutes of September 5, 1887. "On motion voted the board forbid the pasturing of cattle on school grounds or the crossing of the grounds with cattle. . ."

Later in the month the board met and among other things set the age at which children could enter school—at six years.

Regarding state aid for the high school it would appear that the St. Charles high school began to receive aid from the state as early as 1885. In the year 1885 this state aid amounted to \$400.

The first commencement in the history of the St. Charles High School took place on May 30, 1889 when "commencement exercises were held in the Opera House and diplomas were given to the graduates, Miss Bertha E. Brewer and Miss S. Winnie Ham.

SEVENTH ANNUAL

Commencement Exercises

OF THE

St. Charles

High School.

AT THE

OPERA HOUSE,

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 1st, 1895.

PROGRAM.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Invocation. | Rev. O. H. P. Smith. |
| 2. Instrumental Solo. | Miss Hamner |
| 3. Salutatory and Oration, "Tides." | Rose C. Miller |
| 4. Oration, "Credit." | Harry E. Canfield |
| 5. Oration, "Cloverstalks." | Alice C. Hendee |
| 6. Trio, "Les Norvigiennes,"
Misses Gerrish, Stearns, Hendee, Clark, Cook and Dixon. | Len Deibbe |
| 7. Oration, "Structure of the St. Charles Valley." | Edith M. Olson |
| 8. Oration, "Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before." | Alta W. Talbot |
| 9. Oration, "Attention." | Frank E. Downing |
| 10. Solo. | Miss Hamner |
| 11. Oration, "The Choice of a Profession." | Frank A. Buchelder |
| 12. Oration, "Luck and Pluck." | Katherine M. Schmit |
| 13. Trio, "Hark! the Indian Drum." - H. R. Bishop. | Ladies Trio |
| 14. Oration, "Money." | Samuel H. McElhany |
| 15. Class Prophecy and Valedictory. | Nessie B. Downing |
| 16. Presentation of Diplomas by Dr. J. W. Booth, President of the
Board of Education. | Board of Education |
| 17. Double Quartette, "Fairy Song."
Misses Gerrish, Hendee, Dixon and Cook
Students Worley and McElhany. | Shakespeare
Messrs. Nerbovig |
| 18. Benediction. | Rev. H. H. Appelman |

Graduates in 1895 were: Frank Buchelder, Harry Canfield, Frank Downing, Nessie Downing, Alice Hendee, Samuel McElhany, Rose Miller, Edith Olson, Katherine Schmit and Alta Talbot.

The tornado of 1903 seriously damaged the roof of the school building, but the damage was repaired and this building used until 1923. Prior to 1923, however, an addition was erected between two of the wings of the building to make room for the growing student enrollments. By the year 1912 the high school enrollment alone had risen to 98 students, and by 1923 the enrollment had risen to 262 boys and girls in grades one through eight and 132 students in the four year high school.

With this growth in the number of boys and girls in school the old school building just was not adequate. So in 1923 a new building was erected, the one which is used today, at a cost to district 60 of about \$180,000. This building has served the needs of the community well until the past two or three years. Now with an enrollment of 175 in grades one through six, and an enrollment of 360 in junior and senior high school the building has proved to be too small. To meet the needs of today and tomorrow changes are now being made in the room arrangement of the building constructed in 1923, and a one story wing is being added to the south of the existing building to house the industrial arts department, the music department, the hot lunch program and the physical education department.

The size of the faculty has grown to meet the needs of the increased number of students. In 1889 there were a total of eight teachers on the faculty with only two of them teaching in the high school department. By 1912 there were a total of 12 on the faculty with five teachers in grades one through eight, and seven teaching in the high school. Included in these seven were the superintendent and the principal. In 1922 the number of elementary teachers had increased to eight, but there remained seven high school teachers. Ten years later there were still the eight elementary teachers, but the number of high school teachers had increased to eleven. Now in 1954 there are six teachers for the six elementary grades, and eighteen high school teachers in addition to the superintendent and the principal.

On the financial side it is interesting to note the changes that came about. In 1887 the budget for the next year was \$4,825.00 with \$825 to be received through the apportionment fund and \$4,000 to be raised by a special tax. By 1930 the operating budget had increased to \$54,000; and by 1953 to \$150,000. On the tax side in 1930 local taxes for school purposes amounted to \$36,000, yet by 1953 they had risen to a point not too much higher, \$44,000.

(It should be noted here that operating cost figures do not include building construction costs.)

In September of 1914 a normal training department was opened in connection with the school. It was in operation from 1914 to 1917, then again from 1924 to 1946. The first class graduated in 1946. Throughout the 24 years that the normal training department operated it was under the supervision of Miss Hattie Boyd.

A recent addition to the total program of education in St. Charles has been the parochial school erected in 1953 by the St. Charles parish of the Catholic church with the teachers being members of the Sisters of Charity. This building located on St. Charles Avenue between 4th and 5th streets consists of four classrooms, an auditorium-gymnasium, chapel and kitchens. During the first year of operation there were 119 students enrolled in grades one through eight.

CHAPTER IV RELIGION—History of the Churches of St. Charles

When the pioneers crept cumberingly across the continent, many of civilization's refinements were left behind in the Eastern States. The institution of religion, however, was not one of these. To the contrary, it formed a vital and integral part of the lives of the early settlers—a people who may perhaps have been lacking in drawing-room ease, but who were none-the-less a God-fearing group, graced with a hard core of human dignity. That religion was a word with substance is evidenced by the fact that the first regular sermons were begun when the territory was still largely a wilderness with but a few scattered inhabitants. In January 1854, Elder E. Ely of the Baptist persuasion delivered the first regular sermon at the home of L. H. Springer. In August of the same year, Rev. T. R. Cressey of the Baptist Church preached at the Springer home and organized a Union Sabbath School, the first to be established in St. Charles.

On the 18th of August, 1855, the Rev. David Brooks delivered the first regular Methodist sermon. From 1855 to 1857, Father Michael Klepper, who had settled on a farm about four miles north of St. Charles, preached in the school house and organized the first Methodist Class. The members of this class were: George C. Shecks, William, Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Drake, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Klepper, William Hendee, Calvin Hitt and Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Mason.

Such activities as these laid the foundation for the organizations which have served St. Charles and its vicinity from 1854 to 1954.

Methodist Church—99 Years Old

Methodism conducted its first services in St. Charles April 18, 1855 at the home of L. H. Springer, with the Rev. David Brooks officiating. Michael Klepper was the pioneer Methodist of this vicinity, preaching in school houses and forming the first class of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the year 1856. The first quarterly conference was held at the schoolhouse in St. Charles on September 19, 1857 with the Rev. D. Cobb presiding.

In 1864 the church members decided to erect a building for services, and in September 1866 it was completed and dedicated. The pastor was Rev. Webb, assisted by Rev. W. C. Rice who was later to become pastor of the church.

An interesting entry in the pastor's record book is dated September, 1859. "Report of the estimating committee in charge of paying the preachers' salary:

Flour, 1000 lbs. at \$2.25 per 100 lbs.	\$22.50;
12 Cord of wood at \$2.00 per cord	\$24.00
Beef and pork, 400 lbs. at 4c per lb.	\$16.00
Assorted groceries	\$15.00
Corn, 182 bushels at 25c per bushel	\$45.00
Hay, 3 tons at \$4.00 per ton	\$12.00
Butter, 133 lbs. at 15c per lb.	\$20.00
Vegetables	\$ 5.00

This \$160 was to apply on the cash salary of \$260.00.

On October 18, 1892, the first Ladies Aid was organized with Mrs. Martha Chapman presiding . Their first church supper was given on November 21, 1893. The menu was: Oysters, plain stew, 15 cents, cream stew, 20 cents, scalloped 15 cents; raw, 15 cents; cold chicken, roasted 15 cents; pork, 5 cents; cold beef, 5 cents; tongue, 5 cents; entree—cabbage salad, pickles, jelly.

The pastors of the Methodist Church from 1900 to 1938 were the Reverends: Oswald Sandbach, B. F. Snyder, C. N. Hamrin, A. McCausland, J. W. Terry, W. N. Kenny, H. A. Carlin, A. N. Davis F. N. Liddle, J. Hanna, Ralph Carlton, and J. A. Sweeny.

The Rev. Sweeney was a well loved man in St. Charles, and it was under his leadership that the present church building was built. The church as dedicated October 27, 1929 and the first sermon was preached from its pulpit was delivered by Dr. E. A. Hughes then president of Hamline University. Nearly completed and sitting beside the church is a new parsonage which will soon be occupied by the present pastor, Rev. Troy Keeling, who came to St. Charles in 1953.

Of the older members of the church, some names stand out because of the loyalty and long years of service given by these people. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richter, Mrs. Ted Warming, and Mrs. T. Downing are still quite active, and Mrs. Etta Bentley has held a church office for nearly forty years.

Congregational Church: Saratoga, 98 Years Old

St. Charles, 95 Years Old

During the winter of 1858 and 1859, Rev. David Burt, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Winona, held a number of meetings in St. Charles which finally resulted in the organization of the Congregational Church. On Saturday, February 26, 1859 in accordance with public notice previously given, a meeting was held in the schoolhouse for the purpose of completing the organization. Articles of Faith and a Covenant were adopted and

the church was organized with ten members, men and women of profound religious conviction. Hatsel Brewer and D. M. Evans were elected Deacons. Other leaders were Palmer Carpenter, Isaac Hancks, Alonzo Rowley, John Davidson, Robert Robertson, Polly Brewer, Sarah Evans, and Martha Carpenter.

A church edifice was erected in 1859, and dedicated in 1860—the first church building to be built in St. Charles. It served this organization until 1875 when it was sold to the German Evangelical Society for \$1,100.00.

The Rev. H. J. Drake was pastor at this time and it was during this period that the union of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches was effected. The Presbyterian Church was purchased by the Congregational Society, and the union of the two churches increased the membership to 72, making the church self-supporting.

The tornado of 1903 destroyed this building, at which time the present building was erected, being dedicated May 16, 1905.

The parsonage was completed in 1912. Several societies have aided the work of the church since its organization, the oldest being the Ladies Aid, started in 1871. The Plymouth Guild which is presently very active was organized in 1934.

Since its organization in 1854, forty pastors have served the church. The first resident pastor was Rev. R. C. Twitchell, serving in 1859 and 1860. The present pastor is Rev. George McNary who came to St. Charles in 1950, and whose congregation includes about 160 Communicant members.

It is interesting to note that the First Congregational Church of Saratoga, six miles south of St. Charles, is the third oldest Congregational Church in Minnesota. It was organized in 1856. At present it is associated with the St. Charles Church, with Rev. McNary holding regular services each Sunday.

Catholic Borromeo Church: 87 Years Old

The very first mass said in the parish was in the log house of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Fay in the country. The first services of the Roman Catholic Church in St. Charles were held at the residence of Patrick Donahue in the years of 1861 and 1862, and were organized in 1867 by Father Latte.

In the year 1868 a stone building was erected on the block where the Botsford lumber yard now stands, and was dedicated in the fall of 1874 by Father Cotter of Winona. Father Cotter served St. Charles for 12 years, making the trip from Winona once each month. Later he was the first Bishop of the Winona Diocese

Rev. Casper Schmidt was the first resident priest, and the second was the Rev. Patrick Fox who made many improvements in the church. In 1887 he conducted the first large First Communion Class.

About this time the Rosary Society was organized with approximately 45 members. By contributing \$1.00 each they bought the first black vestments of the church.

On Saturday afternoon, October 3, 1903, the church building was reduced to ruins by the tornado which swept through the town. The people of the parish had previously purchased a lot on the Main Street for the erection of a new church, so plans were made for its construction. Peter Kramer, local contractor, built the edifice which was completed in 1904 and dedicated November 15 of the same year by Bishop Cotter of Winona who had been the first regular priest of the parish.

The first parish house was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Angus Ross and was used by the parish priests until the present manse was built in 1909 during Father Horan's residence.

In September, 1953, the new parochial elementary school was opened with an enrollment of 120 children. It is staffed by Sisters of Charity, Our Lady, Mother of Mercy.

The presiding Priest of the St. Charles parish is Rev. Hilary McNallan who has served in this community since 1950.

Trinity Episcopal Church: 86 Years Old

The first services of the Trinity Episcopal Church were conducted by the Rev. Bishop Whipple in 1864. In 1865 J. H. Waterbury began holding regular services in the schoolhouse on alternate Sundays, and this work was continued by Rev. Benjamin Evans. The church was organized under the direction of Rev. Shotwell on January 27, 1868, and the services were held on alternate Sundays in Templars Hall.

The present church building was erected in 1874 under the direction of Rev. J. J. Hilmer who served the parish from 1872 to 1876, from 1883 to 1890, and from 1902 to 1917, 26 years in all. At present, Rev. L. W. Hallett of Rochester is in charge, holding a communion service once each month. Lay readers from Winona conduct the services on the other Sundays.

Early leaders of the church included the families of R. R. Rhames, David Harris, Henry Talbot, Fred Talbot, R. J. Baines, John Ham, Wm. Gordon, John Wardner, J. Patterson, Chas. Smith, and David Goodrich. Mrs. Ella Rhames Scoville was choir mistress

for many years. Among present members is Henry Rhames who came to the church in 1874 and has served it continuously, at present, acting as treasurer of the Vestry.

The Ladies Guild was formed in 1899 at a meeting attended by Mrs. Wardner, Mrs. H. Talbot, Miss Eleanor Rhames, and Miss Alta Talbot. In May 1947 Mrs. Adelaide Gould bequeathed her property on Whitewater Street to the Diocese of Minnesota to be used as a Parish House by the Trinity Episcopal Church and Guild.

Berea Moravian Church: 80 Years Old

Eight miles north of St. Charles is located the Berea Moravian Church. It was begun as a filial of the Bethany Moravian Church under the leadership of Rev. Reusswig and was organized December 6, 1874. In 1894 it became an independent charge. The present brick building, completed in 1937, replaced the small frame structure which was erected in 1876.

Some of the pastors who have served are the Reverends: Weber, Michel, who is retired and at present a resident of St. Charles; Weinlick; Engel; and Bautz. The present pastor is the Rev. Karl Bregenzer. There are 162 members, approximately one-third of whom live in St. Charles.

Christian Science

In January, 1904, Mary Brookins of the the Christian Science Board of Minneapolis preached in the Opera House, the present site of the Gamble store. In her first sermon she explained the principles and beliefs of the Christian Science Society and of their leader Mary Baker Eddy. There have been many more lecturers and Christian Science readers who have held services in various homes in St. Charles, and today some of our residents are members and attendants of the Church of Christ Scientists in Winona.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church: 65 Years Old

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church was organized March 3, 1889, with twenty-five charter members signing the constitution. This group had been served by pastors coming from Lewiston, five years previous to the organization. Under Rev. Gerhardt's leadership, the present church building was erected and dedicated in 1898. In 1910 the group decided to become self-supporting, and called a candidate of theology, Rev. Theodore Schoewe, who became the first resident pastor and served the church until 1918. Since October, 1946, the present pastor, Rev. Carl Bast, has been in charge. Under his direction, the church has been extensively remodeled.

The congregation numbers approximately 350 communicant members with 100 children enrolled in the Sunday School. A woman's organization, the Ladies Aid, is very active in the church affairs, and a Men's Club meets socially every two weeks except during the summer.

St. John's Evangelical and Reformed: 34 Years Old

According to the records, the earliest beginnings of this congregation were on November 30, 1920, under the direction of Rev. W. Bunge of Rochester. It was begun as a German congregation known as Evangelischen St. Johannes Gemeinde. Later it became St. John's Evangelical Church and is now St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church after a merger of the two denominations in 1934.

There are at present 38 communicant members under the leadership of Rev. Leroy E. Franz who serves St. Charles and Lewiston.

Bible Church: 6 Years Old

The Bible Church was organized in 1948 under the direction of Mr. Chauncey Persons, Mr. Bert Persons, now deceased, and Mr. Ralph Harcey. Because it is only six years old the membership is incomplete but growing. It carries on an active youth program, and the two week's Bible School conducted in June 1954, had an excellent enrollment of 70 children. To date there have been but two resident pastors, Rev. L. Larson, and the present pastor, Rev. Gene Kordick. The members of the Bible Church are anticipating the erection of a new church edifice to be located west of the city on highway 14.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church: New

Early in 1954 an enthusiastic group became interested in organizing a new church in St. Charles, to be known as the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first organizational meeting was held April 14, 1954, and at this time the constitution was drawn up. In May, the Rendernick property on Whitewater Street was purchased and converted into a chapel and home for a pastor and his family. Regular services were conducted by college theological students until the first resident pastor, the Rev. Philip Gangsei was called. Rev. Gangsei serves a parish of approximately 40 adult members.

Churches which flourished at one time but which are now defunct are the Baptist Church which was organized in the year 1859 by Rev. D. L. Babcock and which finally dissolved

through loss of members by death and removal from the city.

A Presbyterian Church was organized in 1861 and in 1868, with 60 members in the parish, a house of worship was built. Due to loss of membership, this building was sold to the Congregationalists in 1875. The German Evangelical Church was organized in the early eighties. In 1875 they purchased the edifice which had served the Congregational Society. This church flourished for many years, but in 1952 the regular services were discontinued and the property sold. The church building, which has recently been razed, was the first to be built in St. Charles.

Other religious organizations that have had a marked influence but about which little information can be obtained are: The Church of the Redeemer, extant during the early part of the 19th century; the Quakers, in the latter part of the 19th century; and the Holy Rollers in the early 20th century.

The Beatmenites, who came to this community in 1884 with some 85 converts, took this community by storm and for a short while had an enthusiastic following. They were a fanatical group that claimed their leader to be Christ, whose second advent was to save the world. Although their stay in St. Charles was short lived, it was many years before their influence was overcome.

CHAPTER IV TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

In the Chicago Times of Jan. 24, 1868, O. F. Jones said of our St. Charles: "It is a very comely one and, although of infantile years, it is a healthy well-to-do infant, which gives promise of a very vigorous manhood."

Winding trails penetrated inland from the river towns over the hills on to the prairies and into the timber which ended at a pioneer homestead. Over them the immigrants drove their ox or horse-drawn wagons filled with their meager possessions.

Our pioneers hauled their produce to Winona markets and brought back provisions for the family because there was no market place here for their products until the day of the iron horse. This trip took from two to four days. The travelers were obliged to camp out at night by the roadside or enjoy the primitive lodgings of settlers along the way.

As early as 1858 we find that "overseers of highways" were elected.

At the annual town meeting held April 2, 1867, the sum of \$200 was voted to repair the bridge or build a new one crossing the Whitewater River in the village of St. Charles.

A resolution was passed raising \$100 to repair a bridge across the Whitewater on the Davidson territorial road.

Stage coach lines were operated on the main roads for the accommodation of the passengers and mail.

Jack Remore and son-in-law, Walter M. Ross (father of Mrs. J. C. Lahey, a former grade teacher here) were proprietors of the Pioneer Livery Stable on the present Catholic Church site, but faced the alley. They also were proprietors of the Chatfield Stage Line which was driven by Frank Remore in 1877 via Saratoga and Troy. The stage left at 2:30 P.M. and arrived at 11:30 A.M. every day except Sunday.

In 1867 Geo. W. Kendall operated a Stage Line to Rushford.

Geo. M. Ross had charge of a Stage Line which served Quincy, Six Oaks, and Viola, Elgin and Plainview before the railway built a stub branch from Eyota.

Stage Line schedules were given in the weekly papers under "Traveler's Directory."

The iron horse entered the beautiful city of St. Charles in February, 1864. The completion of the track by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad made this possible.

Pioneer Hivery Stable,

St. Charles, Minnesota.

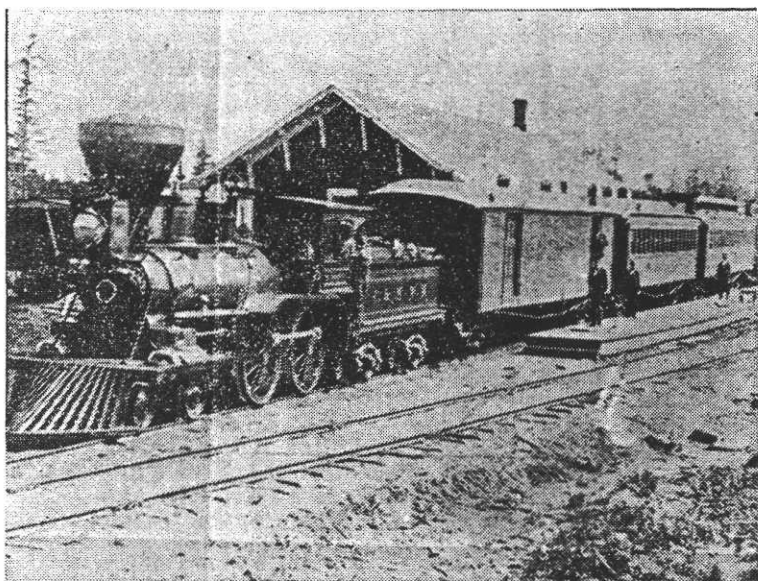
Remore & Ross, Proprietors.

ALSO PROPRIETORS OF THE CHARFIELD DAILY STAGE LINE.

Good Horses and Carriages with careful drivers at reasonable rates.

This is one of the business cards used by the Remore and Ross Stage Line. The top picture is of one side of the card, the picture below is of the fares listed on the reverse side.

DISTANCES AND FARE FROM WINONA TO—		
	Miles	Fare
Min. City	5	\$.24
Stockton	11	.44
Lewistown	14	.73
Ellen	22	.83
St. Charles	28	1.12
Dover	32	1.28
Evota	37	1.44
Chesler	44	1.76
Rochester	50	2.00
Glinsted	51	2.14
Byron	58	2.36
Kasson	63	2.60
Dodge Center	71	2.84
Chippewauk	74	3.12
Havana	83	3.40
Owatonna	90	3.60
Marion	94	3.68
Waseca	104	4.20
Janesville	116	4.64
Eggs Lake	124	4.96
Maple Junction	131	5.24
Kaota	136	5.48
St. Paul	139	5.56
O. J. S. S.	140	5.60
Nicollet	134	6.16
New Hope	160	6.72
Sleepy Eye Lake	184	7.36
Rhine	198	7.92
Clarksford	212	8.48
Walnut Grove	224	8.96
Lake Shetek	230	9.12
Sioux Falls	236	9.44
Marshall	244	9.76
L. S. S. S.	256	10.24
State Line	288	11.52
Lake Rapids	320	12.80



This picture shows the type of train that was first used on the Winona and St. Peter Line which went through St. Charles in the late 1860's.

Regarding the coming of the railroad Hon Joseph A. Leonard has this to say in the History of Olmsted County:

"The project of a railroad west from Winona was the dream of the earliest settlers of that village (St. Charles), and as early as 1852 a route was explored — . Railroads then followed, instead of, as now, preceding a civilization. The project was revived in 1854 and a charter obtained from the Legislature for the Transit Railroad Company to construct a line from Winona to the Minnesota River—. In 1862 the company was reorganized under the title of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company and work was resumed by DeGraff & Co., and the road was really built —. The road has changed its name as often as a theatrical widow, and is now known as part of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad." Thus in 1910.

In 1877 the Winona and St. Peter Division changed its locomotives to coal burners. This saved 250 cords of wood per month at this station. They also put lights on their switches.

Train schedules were published in the weekly papers of St. Charles under "Travelers' Directory" along with those of the Stage Lines. A copy of the earliest one found was that of January 10, 1877 as follows:

Travelers' Directory
Chicago and Northwestern Trains

	Going West		Going East	
	Arr.	Depart	Arr.	Depart
Passenger	12:50 P.M.	12:53 P.M.	2:22 P.M.	2:25 P.M.
Roch. Accom.	7:10 P.M.	7:20 P.M.	9:20 A.M.	9:30 A.M.
Waseca Freight	5:20 A.M.	5:30 A.M.	8:50 P.M.	9:00 P.M.

Above trains are allowed to carry passengers. Mails
leave P. O. 20 minutes before arrival of trains.

C. C. Bachelder, Agt.

In 1884 C & N W had a night passenger, a day passenger, an accommodation, and a freight going each way.

In February, 1884, a new lot of baggage checks were received here enabling passengers buying their tickets here to check their baggage to their destination thereby saving the annoyance of rechecking.

In 1901 the Winona and St. Peter Railroad although a branch of the C & N W was changed to Chicago and Northwestern.

The positive block system had been installed in 1904 to insure the safety of the travelers. Operation of the positive block was so arranged that one train — regardless of its direction — was permitted to occupy the track between any two stations at one time. Although it entailed an enormous expense it emphasized their policy, "Speed must be Sacrificed to Safety."

C. C. Bachelder the local agent for many years retired in 1905 and was succeeded by John C. Lahey who came here from Springfield, Minn.

On June 14, 1936, the new air conditioned "Minnesota 400" of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway started operating through here between Wyeville, Wis., and Mankato, Minn., to provide a faster train service between southern Minnesota cities and Milwaukee and Chicago. The train included engine, baggage car, completely air conditioned coach and cafe, and lounge car facilities.

J. C. Lahey retired March, 1939, after a continuous career of 53 years with the C & N W Railroad Company. He was succeeded by H. E. Stellmacher.

In 1887 the Winona and Southwestern Railroad Company was revived after having suffered from the panic of 1873. On August 11, 1888, ground was broken in East Winona preparatory to laying the rails. In the spring of 1890 the Winona and Southwestern finally came through St. Charles after having been delayed by quicksand

areas east of town. This project was influenced largely by Winona men. Among them were V. Simpson, H. W. Lamberton and T. Simpson who had their names on locomotives named after them.

On September 10, 1910, the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company purchased the Winona and Southwestern from the Wisconsin Minnesota and Pacific Railroad Company from whom they had leased it in 1901.

News of the new depot for the Chicago Great Western Railway was corroborated by the arrival of a crew of workmen and material for a new brick depot.

On May 6, 1909, C G W established a passenger train on Fridays to Winona for the benefit of shoppers.

On July 9, 1935, workmen started dismantling the C G W tracks east of the St. Charles Depot across Main Street and on east. Service of C G W was retained by train coming to G W depot from the west, backing out and using the C & N W tracks through Utica.

After railroads came the highway system was almost completely rebuilt. Out of each growing community new highways radiated in all directions. Highways were built by hand, shovels and wagons and scrapers powered by oxen, mules or horses.

In 1885 part of Main Street in St. Charles was macadamized in good shape. With occasional patching it was expected to last for years and it was hoped to see the whole of Whitewater Street served the same way at an early day.

In the later 1880's only a few bicycles with a high wheel in the front and a small wheel in the rear appeared. With the coming of the present style of bicycle a path was constructed in the 90's along the north side of the road, from here to Dover by the enthusiastic "bicyclers." This path has grown up to weeds for many years.

The first automobile came to town in 1904 — a Ford driven by Morris Johnstone. People would walk into the street and ask for a ride in the horseless carriage.

Calvin C. Carter was the first resident to buy an automobile. He ordered a Rambler complete with tonneau, capable of carrying five people. It had a 16 horsepower engine with a speed of 3 to 50 miles per hour. It arrived in April with Morris Johnstone as chauffeur.

On January 19, 1905, the city council authorized street sprinkling to lay the dust.

With the coming of the automobile agitation started for better and more permanent roads. The state government took the leadership in taxing for highways and it laid out routes and methods of construction. The first state highway was Highway No. 7 which came

down from Dover onto Main or Whitewater Street between the Co-op. Station and the Clasen Press office down Whitewater Street to the north up to Winona Street, east by the Hillside Cemetery. This was constructed in 1914.

In the early 30's U. S. Highway No. 14 was laid out and the first stretch of paving was completed at noon on June 16, 1932, and by September 1, 21.3 miles of highway between Eyota and the Arches was completed. On July 5, 1935, it was officially announced that the new Highway No. 74 was to go down through our Main Street.

The paving project for Whitewater Avenue was advocated by the St. Charles Commercial Club when it was learned that the State Highway Department planned to route No. 74 through the business district. The Highway Department offered to pave its share of the street whenever the city was ready for the work.

For the PWA project of paving the council asked for a grant of \$24,648. The total cost was estimated at \$54,800; the estimated cost to property owners was four dollars per frontage foot and the owner had twenty years to complete the payment.

On May 8, 1936, the equipment for paving was moved into St. Charles. Paving contractors laid the middle strip of 20 feet for the state and the city paved from that strip to the curb on each side. Whitewater Street was widened to 56 feet.

TELEPHONE

In the early days means of communication were few. News had to be spread the long way — via the grape vine — by relaying the message from mouth to mouth, by riding horseback, by "runners", by going in person, or by a letter sent with friends by stagecoach. Newspapers were few and expensive in those days.

In 1899 our residents were thrilled to have the People's Telephone Company start here in a big bare upstairs room at the rear of the G. G. Olds grocery store. The head office was in Chatfield, Minn. The exchange began with thirteen subscribers with Miss Jessie Dixon (the late Mrs. Charles Kobler) as the first operator on the St. Charles switchboard at a salary of twenty dollars a month. The original board was a crude affair, with an open back with all the wires exposed.

Hugh Currie was a director of the company for years and also served as an officer during most of the time until the Tri State Telephone Company took over in 1927. George Miller, a brother of Mrs. Henry Wegman, was the first manager and lineman on the St. Charles exchange. He and Jessie Dixon handled the switch-



First telephone office located in rear of old First National bank building. Left to Right: Wm. Gordon, Mgr; Ida Cary; Minnie Liskow (Mrs. Walter Blank); Marie Lund and Ida May Boyd.

board alone.

The cyclone of 1903 destroyed the Olds building and the exchange was moved into its present home.

George Miller was manager here about two years. Edward Hendry succeeded him until 1910 when W. E. Gordon came over from Chatfield and took over the work. His wife became the St. Charles operator.

For a long time Minneapolis was as far as the local exchange could reach by Long Distance. But by July 12, 1929, even England could be reached by the St. Charles Exchange.

In 1929 the equipment of the exchange included 170 miles of pole line, 635 miles of wiring, 7,800 feet of underground cable, and 7,189 feet of aerial cable lines.

The exchange was run as a subsidiary of the Tri State Company until they merged in 1936.

In 1937 the telephone changed from the magneto type system to the common battery type. It was no longer necessary for the city subscriber to "ring" central. Users need only to lift the telephone receiver to signal the operator. The improvement program involved replacing and resetting more than 500 telephone poles, placing new cross arms and anchors, and installation of new telephone wires and

cables.

Elmore Olson was manager of the exchange and Mrs. Pearle Miller Wolpers was chief operator. Mrs. Olive Smith retired on Nov. 30, 1941, as night operator after 30 years of faithful service for the local Tri State Telephone Company office. Miss Marie Lund who had 32 years of telephone service retired March 31, 1942.

In 1942 the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company purchased the Tri State Company. Today John A. Hynes is the local manager and Mrs. Pearle Wolpers is chief operator. There are seven operators, one combination man, and a commercial clerk employed. Pearle Wolpers is planning on retiring from the telephone work this fall when she will have given them thirty seven years of faithful service and she has had the experience of using the four types of switchboards.

RADIO

In 1904 Edward J. Zeches and Richard Lade became interested in wireless and they set up the first radio communication within the city. Charles Bole and Lloyd Robertson built a receiving set in the early 20's.

In February, 1924, Mr. and Mrs. Nic Zeches enjoyed radio programs from a set entirely assembled by their nephew, Francis C. Kramer, a St. Charles High School student.

THE TELEGRAPH

The telegraph came in with the railroad in 1864. The railroad company set the telegraph poles and put up the lines enabling their operators to send messages over their wires. Later Western Union was established taking over the operation of railroad telegraph with the profits being divided 40-60 between Western Union and the railroad.

NEWSPAPER

The first newspaper which made its appearance in St. Charles was the St. Charles Herald, December 20, 1868. Charles H. Slocum, the editor and publisher, discontinued its publication in December, 1875. It was during the very early days of this paper that the coming of the telegraph to St. Charles made it possible for the editor to print news from around the world.

It was the intention of H. W. Hill to have established the St. Charles Times immediately upon the suspension of the Herald, but was delayed in receiving his printing outfit, thus did not issue his first paper, the St. Charles Times, until July 4, 1876. The Times was Democratic in politics (the Herald had been Republican), carrying the significant motto: "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where

they may." The Times suspended publication in January, 1883, and was resurrected in August, 1885, by H. W. Hill, its former publisher, who had associated himself with Thomas Kane who remained with the paper less than a year. In August, 1901, the Times again stopped publication, this time for good.

The St. Charles Union was founded by Joseph S. Whiton, January 3, 1877. In May of 1877 Walter G. Ackerman became associated with Mr. Whiton continuing with Mr. Whiton until September of 1879. Mr. Whiton continued publication until July 1, 1889, when J. E. Whiton acquired a one-half interest in the Union, the firm name became J. S. Whiton and Son. The business continued as such until the death of Joseph S. Whiton in 1893, after which J. E. Whiton operated the paper alone until 1909. The Union was purchased at that time by A. L. Buzzell and operated until March 1, 1912, when it was sold to L. A. Warming. The Union's home in 1912 was the building where Mazie Patterson now has her home and offices.

In 1920 the paper was sold to Ted Warming (husband of Mrs. Ora Warming) and Mr. F. E. Franks of Lewiston. The name of the paper was changed at this time to the Inter-County Press, and the presses were moved to the building on Whitewater Avenue now occupied by Smitty's Dairy Bar. In 1932 Mr. Warming died and Mr. Franks continued the publication.

In August of 1938 the paper was sold to Norman Beck; then again on September 1, 1941, to Mr. Emil Clasen.

During Mr. Beck's ownership the name of the paper was changed to the St. Charles Press; and in 1947 the home of the Press was moved to the new building erected by Mr. Clasen on the Southwest corner of the intersection of Whitewater Avenue and Eleventh Street. Mr. Clasen died on April 3, 1954, but the publication of the St. Charles Press has been continued by his wife and son, Mrs. Emil Clasen and Mr. Warren Clasen.

CHAPTER VI BUSINESS

The first part of this history of business and businessmen of St. Charles is taken from the History of St. Charles written by C. H. Slocum in 1868.

Lewis H. Springer settled on the south bank of the south branch of the Whitewater river, at the north end of what is now Whitewater avenue. In the spring of 1854 Mr. Springer erected a small frame store a few rods south of his dwelling and kept a small assortment of goods to accommodate the settlers. He was appointed postmaster and kept the postoffice in his store. This was the first frame building erected in St. Charles.

Springer soon sold his building and stock of merchandise to Franklin Langworthy, who in turn sold his stock of merchandise to Hiram Rice, reserving the building. Mr. Rice occupied the building until he had built a new store across the street and opposite Mr. Hall's tavern on Winona street. (Until highway 14 was built, Winona street was the principal road through St. Charles to Winona.) This building was located on the present site of Dr. Page's home on the northeast corner of the intersection of Winona street and St. Charles avenue. This same building was later occupied as a billard saloon.

The old store which Mr. Springer built was moved (exact location not given) and used as a dwelling by Mr. Langworthy. Mr. Hiram Rice succeeded Mr. Springer as postmaster, and Mr. Springer later in 1854 opened his log home as a public inn.

In the summer of 1854 Mr. Wheeler built a log house near the county line on Winona street (this would probably be near Dr. Harguth's home on highway 14 near the west edge of St. Charles), and the following year opened the same for a public tavern known as "Wildcat Tavern". This was the second house opened for a public tavern in the town. In the summer of 1856 James and Joshua Easton built the first public inn, the building later occupied by Mr. Hall as a tavern.

In the year 1857 George Pratt erected a tavern about two blocks east of Whitewater avenue on Winona street, later known as the Leonard building. In this same year Theophilus D. Weeks opened a store in a part of the Langworthy building where he traded until late in the year when M. S. Weeks and Co. built a new store on the northwest corner of Richland Avenue and Winona Street.

This building was later sold to S. Harding.

In 1864 B. F. Weeks erected a frame store on lot 4 block 32.

In the year 1866 he moved this store to Whitewater Avenue and built an addition and it was subsequently occupied by the firm of B. F. and J. W. Weeks. (This building was located on the east side of Whitewater midway between 5th St. and highway 14.

Joseph Mixture succeeded Mr. Hiram Rice as postmaster and kept the office in his private dwelling. M. S. Weeks succeeded Mr. Mixture and kept the office in the store of B. F. Weeks. S. Harding succeeded Mr. Weeks and in 1868 held the postoffice on the west side of Whitewater avenue about midway between the old town of St. Charles and the so-called Chattanooga.

In the year 1858 Gates and Parrott erected a store on the northeast corner of Winona street (now 5th street) and Whitewater avenue. After a short time the mercantile business was closed up and the building was used as a wagon shop by H. C. Parrott, being the first wagon shop established in St. Charles. This building in 1863 was purchased by L. Lyons and was occupied by him as a store; part of the time it was carried on under the firm name of Lyons and Phelps. Later the store and stock were sold to Mr. Bibbins. Still later the store was occupied by Field and Gage.

The first blacksmith shop being a frame building was situated in the southern confines of old St. Charles and was erected by John Ellsbury, his shop was later moved to Whitewater street and occupied by Mr. H. Parrott as a wagon shop.

Dr. Wendell was the first physician to settle in St. Charles, Dr. Eli Denton divided his practice between Dover and St. Charles, then Dr. Rueben Sackett settled in St. Charles in 1863. Earlier in 1830 Dr. J. H. Sudduth had set up offices on Richland street. Dr. Guthrie settled in St. Charles in 1863 and had his offices at the drug store of Guthrie and Johnson on Whitewater avenue. (This drug store was located on the southeast corner of the intersection of highway 14 and Whitewater avenue. Dr. I. E. Wright came in about 1867.

The first photograph gallery was established by James H. Easton in 1860. Washington Wendell established the first shoe shop, Isaac Talbot the next. The shop of the latter was set up on the east side of Whitewater in 1867.

In 1868 by an act of the State Legislature Chattanooga and its additions were made a part of the Village of St. Charles.

In the winter and spring of 1864 Mr. Joseph Birge built the

Minnesota House (on the west side of Whitewater avenue about one block south of the railroad tracks), which was later owned by the Olds family. When the railroad came to St. Charles it built the depot, the elevator, and later a small hotel near where the milk plant now stands, (southwest corner of intersection of railroad and Whitewater avenue). It is this Mr. Birge referred to above who is responsible for the alley type streets running east and west off Whitewater in the present business district.

The county commissioners came to St. Charles to lay out a model city. They arranged with Mr. Birge for the relatively wide street (Whitewater) to run north and south between old St. Charles and Chattanooga. Then the commissioners went back to Winona to lay out plans for the arrangement of the rest of the city. However, before the commissioners could make their plan a reality Mr. Birge went ahead and sold all of the lots on either side of Whitewater without making plans for streets. Thus the alleys which we now have.

Thus far most information has been gathered from the source mentioned at the beginning of the chapter. Henceforth writing is from the memory of some of the oldest citizens, who it is found still possess keen minds. Much information was also obtained from the old newspapers on file in the library.

To this point in the history of St. Charles (1868) business places were bobbing around a great deal, each businessman looking for the best location for his business. But finally the business places became concentrated on Whitewater avenue, with both ends of this street being developed quite rapidly. The wheat fields between old St. Charles and Chattanooga were gradually disappearing and new business houses and residences were rising on both sides of Whitewater Avenue. Early in the 1870's a brewery was erected at the north end of Whitewater avenue on the west side near 2nd street. This brewery was operated by Pfister and Waller until about 1887 when it was destroyed by fire.

About one-half block north of Winona street on the east side of Whitewater is the building which Mr. William Steahman operated as a tailor shop. This building is now the North Side Store. This building and the building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Whitewater and Winona street which was once a bakery but is now Wilson Garage are the only buildings remaining of the original St. Charles business places.

Most of the business houses of old St. Charles were located on

Winona street, east and west from Whitewater. On the northwest corner of the intersection of Whitewater avenue and Winona street was a large frame building occupied by a Mr. Small as a hotel and feed stable. On the northeast corner of the intersection was John Mark's general store in a two story frame building. At the southeast corner of the intersection was a two story brick building occupied by Fred Kuebler, bakery and candies (now the Wilson garage). And on the southwest corner was the Bently residence, later occupied by Pet Halde's meat market. Just west of this meat market Joseph Aupperle erected a two story brick building in which he conducted a grocery store. This building was just recently wrecked to make way for a residence. On west from this grocery store was a frame building occupied by Pat Connell as a residence and is now the William Zick home. As was mentioned earlier the "Hall House" was located across the street to the north where Dr. Page now lives, A blacksmith shop was located on Winona street just east of Mark's store.

In the first block of Whitewater avenue south of Winona street George Smith and Company erected a frame building midway down the west side of the block for a drugstore. Directly across Whitewater avenue were the Wells Hardware later taken over by S. A. Johnson, a furniture store operated by Mr. Weeks and a harness shop operated by Mr. Welch.

In the 1860's and 1870's there were mostly residences on both sides of Whitewater south on Whitewater between what is now the highway and 8th street, On the southeast corner of the property now owned by the Catholic church (on the east side of Whitewater between 7th and 8th streets) the first livery stable was erected and conducted by Remore and Ross, later conducted by N. N. Pike. Hiram Hill printed the St. Charles Times in a building on the west side of the street about midway between 8th and 9th streets (the site of Currie's machinery lot).

Traveling south along the west side of Whitewater avenue from 9th street there was a postoffice erected on the site of the Smith and Co. building (where Schaber's grocery store is now located). J. C. Pickert was the postmaster, and in addition to handling the mails he operated a confectionary, nuts and cigar store. Farther south in this same block a building was moved in from the north end of town and operated as Pike's clothing store and a bakery operated by Mr. Milach. This building was destroyed by fire and a brick building erected in its place.



The St. Charles Opera House—scene of Graduations and other social activities—was used and is now used by many St. Charles mercantile establishments and recreation parlors.

South on the corner of this block was the M. J. Thomas hardware store. Across 10th street in the next block, and on the site of the old Great Western Railroad tracks there was a frame building occupied by the White sisters conducting a millinery store. This building was later moved to the present site of the Ford garage on the southeast corner of the intersection of Whitewater and 9th street where it served as a restaurant for many years.

Continuing south from 11th street there was a building on the site of the present First National Bank occupied by Mr. A. M. Turner as a tailor shop and as a residence. Midway between 12th and 13th streets the St. Charles Bank was located in the building that is now occupied by Northwest Bell Telephone.

The St. Charles Bank was owned and operated by E. S. Youmans, H. R. Heath and J. S. Wheeler who was the cashier. This bank was taken over by J. C. Woodard in 1873. Some years later Mr. William Campbell had charge of this bank until it was taken over by George and Otto Pfefferkorn in 1888.

South of this bank there was a frame building with three store rooms. One room was occupied by T. T. Olds groceries, and later G. F. Olds. These stores changed hands many times in a few years; H. H. Guthrie and Company, B. Wharton and son, Drugstore, Cartwrights New York Cash Store, Adams Clothing Store, Johnson's Shoe Store, and Currie and Sons General Merchandise.

On the east side of Whitewater in the area between 13th street and the Chicago Northwestern depot was located the Youman Brothers and Hogins Lumber Company. Just north of the lumber yard where the new Schultz Implement Company now stands was the H. C. Parrott and Company wagon shop and blacksmith shop. This company was later known as the Parrott and Talbot Company. Across the alley east of the wagon shop was the Laird-Norton Lumber Company with Mr. F. Zicknick as manager.

Continuing north along Whitewater and just north of the wagon shop was a hotel believed to have been operated for some time by Andrew Miller, later by Manley Hill, and still later by Fred Lindstadt who built an addition for a saloon. Just north of this was the J. W. Zerwas shoe store, Allen Gerrish groceries and confectionery, and M. E. Lund tailor shop. The next building was owned and occupied by Wm. Rose who dealt in Osborne machinery. North and adjoining was a building occupied by H. Bomholtz clothing store, later the J. J. Speeter Variety store. The next block was known as the P. H. Williams block. Among other buildings in this block were a saloon, the Babcock music

store and later the C. H. Foss drug store. Near 11th street on the site of the later to be built Great Western Railroad was a building occupied by Frank Kieffer as a saloon and barber shop. This building was moved to the corner of Whitewater avenue and 12th street near site of the present Red Owl store, and later destroyed by fire.

The "Kopps" hall was built in the early 1870's on the east side of Whitewater avenue just north of 11th street on the present Frisch and Johnson Garage property and was used for entertainment purposes until 1879 when it was occupied by H. J. Keeler who stocked the hall with a large stock of general merchandise. This building was destroyed by the tornado of 1903. To the north of the hall was a store occupied by B. Newmann, clothing - groceries. Next there was a small frame building operated by a Mr. Opdahl as a shoe repair shop. Adjoining was the recently wrecked Kobler and Kellet harness shop which was earlier occupied by Heubach and Kingsley as the Central Meat Market, and later Whiton and Ackerman, publishers of the St. Charles Union. On the southeast corner of the intersection of Whitewater avenue and 10th street (now Wally Ask's Paint Store) was the Henry Grass building operated for many years by Mr. Grass as a millinery store. About midway in the next block M. J. Thomas had a hardware store. Backing up for a moment, the Thomas and Russell Photograph Gallery was also located in the Henry Grass building.

Moving north again to the southeast corner of the intersection of highway 14 and Whitewater Avenue the Guthrie and Johnson Drug Store was later occupied as a drug store by Sobolische and Gardener, and even later taken over by Mr. Gardener. This building was eventually moved to the center of town and later destroyed by fire. The M. B. Stebbins Photograph studio was located just south of the postoffice of the time (near the site of the present post office). Thomas and Gallup owned a hardware store in a building on the north east corner of the intersection of Whitewater avenue and 9th street now occupied by the Olson Meat Market but earlier moved north on the block to make room for the construction of the Monty Hotel (now the Benedett Apartments).

In the the south end of town (formerly Chattanooga) on the west side of Lamb street L. Schnell owned and operated an elevator, buying and shipping grain. On the lot south of the elevator N. N. Pike owned a small building used as a land office, also for sale

of machinery. South of this building on the corner was the Minnesota Hotel operated by the Olds family.

Just across the street south of the Minnesota Hotel was the "Merchant's Hotel", built by Henry Hall in the early 1860's. This hotel was better known as the "Kelly House" and had a reputation with the traveling public as being outstanding in courtesy and hospitality.

Continuing south along the west side of Whitewater Avenue from 14th street there was a building built by Mr. Brockett, later owned by Sam Hyde, who in turn sold to Mr. L. Wheelock in 1871 for a hardware store. This store at the time had the record of providing the longest continuous service of any store in town under one owner. The adjoining stores on the south were occupied by A. W. Mobray and son general store, Dr. Suddith drug store, Leonard Keep groceries, a shoe repair shop owned by Mr. Wilson.

Directly across the street (Whitewater) to the east was the L. M. Probert harness specialty shop, R. M. Miller who handled sewing machines and musical instruments and James Byrnes monument works.

The next building north in this block was known as "The Blue Front". It is believed the Mr. Codman had a law office in this building and that Mr. H. N. Gage, justice of the peace, also had an office in this building. Later this building was occupied by Sally Wilson as an eating house. One door north was the J. H. Davis Saloon; and on the corner was the Pioneer Cash store occupied by Stevens and Hyde, (this would be about the location of the present South Side Store).

Along the east side of Whitewater avenue between 14th street and the tracks was a railroad park. On the site of this park, just across the street north was the firm of McElhaney and Ackerman selling threshing machines and farm machinery. C. J. Seifield Elevator Company also had an office on this site. A. J. Olds had an office in this building also. One-half block east of Whitewater on 14th street facing north there was a saloon, east of this there was a blacksmith shop, and on the site of the city water pump (near the intersection of church street and 15th street) there was a creamery under the management of Mr. Kieffer.

The first stock buyers of whom there is a record are W. M. Ross and R. C. Hayes. Later Mr. Hayes bought stock, for years shipping from the stock yards south of the railroad track on Richland Avenue.

There were two elevators located along the south side of the tracks. One of these was built by the railroad company and operated by Mr. Charles Seifield and Mr. Ted Seifield. The second elevator was owned at the time by M. W. Ross and Nick Zeches. There were others in the grain business at the time but there is no record of their location. They were Mr. Brough, Mr. Cravath, Mr. Sam Hyde, Mr. T. E. Kellum, Mr. R. B. Kellum, Mr. M S Weeks. It is believed that Mr. Weeks was located in the north end of town near the brewery.

Now to the north end of Whitewater avenue to consider in greater detail the growth of business on both sides of Whitewater between 5th street (the center of business in old St. Charles) and highway 14. This is a picture again of the late 1870's and early 1880's. Beginning with the building on the southeast corner of the intersection of 5th street and Whitewater avenue (Wilson's garage) and going south there was a two story brick building housing Mr. Simon's butcher shop, Mr. Nick Clemen's saloon, and on the second floor "The Central Hall". Then there was the Nick Kieffer barber shop and Philip Miller's butcher shop. Adjoining this was a warehouse, formerly the Johnson Hardware, then the George Smith and Company drugs and general merchandise and then the Beacon Furniture and Undertaking store. E. H. Hill had a law office on the second floor of this building. To the south of this building were two frame buildings, one occupied by Dr. Martin, dentist, the second by J. A. Welch harness shop. At the corner of the block, the present site of Standard Oil Service Station, there was a brick building housing the City Hall and jail.

On the west side of the street, on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 14 and Whitewater (location of Howard Feltes' home) there was the Jake Wiedman Hotel and Bar, and feed barn. On the next lot north was the St. Charles House operated by Mr. Henry Frisch as a hotel, bar and feed stable.

To the north one more building was the George Smith and Company building occupied by Sheppard and Smith furniture, coffins and caskets. (This building was the first used by George Smith and Company until they moved to new building across the street.) Next on the north was the two story brick building housing the M. H. Gates, Dry Goods and Groceries, all in one room. In the other room of this same building was the S. A. Johnson and Company, hardware store. The second floor was the Masonic hall. Peter Halde's meat market was on the corner, sometimes referred

to as the checkered store.

On the corner diagonally across the street where the John Marks building was destroyed by fire a building was erected and occupied by Frank Kieffer for a saloon and later by G. Huebach for a meat market. This building was later moved to the central part of town and now serves as the home and office of Maizie Patterson on the east side of Whitewater midway between 8th and 9th streets.

After the disastrous fire in the north end in 1891 which destroyed all business places between highway 14 and 5th street except the City Hall-jail and the present Wilson Garage most of the businessmen rebuilt in the center of town. The north end never was rebuilt, and with the arrival of the Winona and Southwestern Railroad (now Great Western) through almost the center of town a new town was born.

The building housing Carl Olson's meat market is one of the landmarks. It was built well before the 1890's. New buildings erected after the fire were the Monty Hotel, the George Smith and Company brick block containing five separate store spaces (now bowling alley, Variety, Schaber's and postoffice). Other new buildings were the Bockler building occupied by the Rinderknecht furniture store, the S. A. Johnson and Company Hardware which was a two story brick building also housing the H. J. Keeler store which had moved from Kopps Hall. This building was later taken over by F. J. Kramer, with the Masonic Hall on the second floor. Then later there was the First National Bank in the southernmost building in this block. Also newly built after the fire was the H. S. Harris block of buildings occupied by the McGovern grocery, later R. M. Dixon. Then there was the Nick Kieffer building with the John Frisch drug store.

On the east side of Whitewater between 9th and 10th streets there were other new buildings being erected in the late 1890's and early 1900's. On the corner of 10th street there was the opera house now the Gamble store), then to the north the Aupperle buildings, then the Syndicate building which was occupied by Frisch and Company drugs. There was also a cigar factory and a grocery store. Mr. Aupperle was one of the old business men moving from the north end.

The Winona and Southwestern depot was built at this time as was the G.C. Stevenson Elevator Company and the Blankenburg elevator on the Southwestern tracks. At about this time too J. J.

Speeter erected the store on the corner of 12th street and Whitewater (now the Federated-Red Owl store) and stocked it with dry goods and groceries. The I.O.O.F hall was and is on the second floor. The 1890's and the early 1900's seemed to be boom years for St. Charles.

After the destructive cyclone of 1903 St. Charles began to rebuild. Many damaged buildings were rebuilt and new ones erected. The Frisch and Johnson garage was built on the site of Kopps Hall. Both of these men were old timers as they spent their lives in St. Charles and have been in business continuously until their deaths. The opera house now repaired is the site of the Gamble Store; and a new building was built on the southeast corner of 11th and Whitewater (now the Red and White store and Smitty's Cafe). Buildings on the east side of Whitewater also built at this time were the Rialto theater, Kempe's hardware and the Tlougan building. The Luehmann Implement building and the Schultz Implement buildings have both been built quite recently.

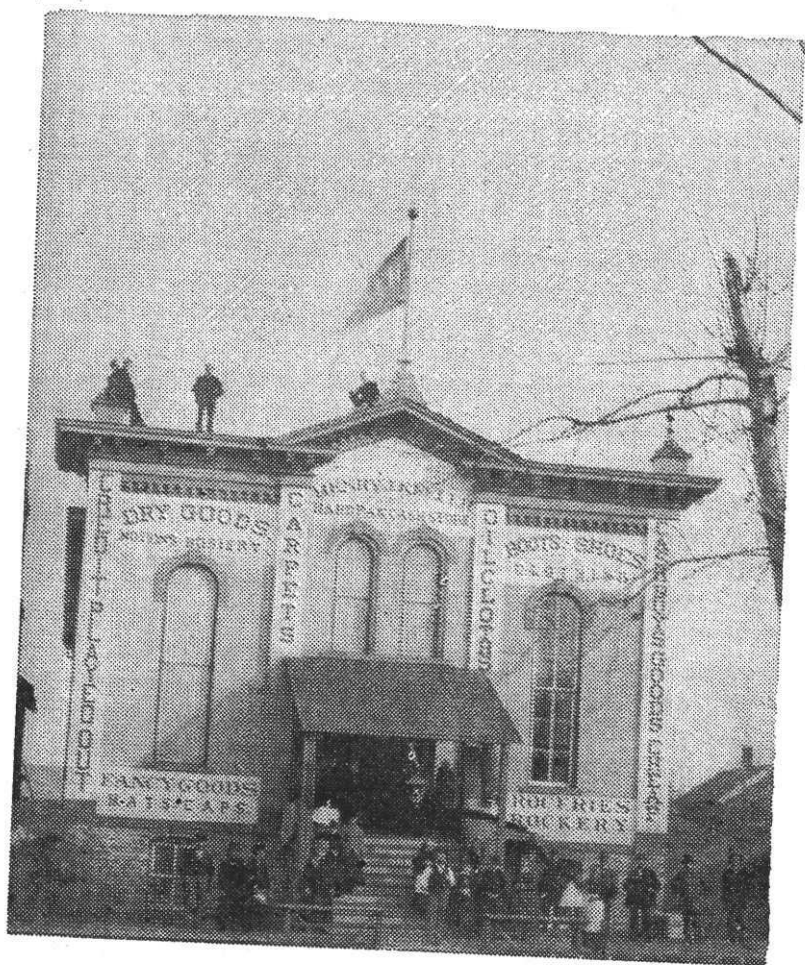
On the west side of the street new buildings of the time were City Hall, the Citizens State Bank (now the First National Bank) and the Sorenson and the Variety store on the corner of 11th and Whitewater where the present relatively new building of the St. Charles Press is located. Other relatively new or new buildings are the Currie building on 8th and Whitewater, the office of Dr. R. L. Page on 10th street midway between Whitewater avenue and Church Avenue, and the office of Dr. Pat Rollins on Whitewater avenue midway between highway 14 and 7th street.

Across the tracks at the south end of Whitewater avenue business was rather dormant for many years. The old landmarks have almost disappeared, some by fire and wind, others wrecked. But they have now been replaced by substantial buildings and businesses. They include the Home Produce, the Farmers Cash Produce, the St. Charles Hatchery, Joe Schwestka, Frozen Food Lockers, Evans Garage, Hayden Dry Cleaning, LaFrenz Southside Grocery, Searcy Sales Company, Inc., St. Charles Welding and Machine Company, and J. A. "Casey" Marcks stock buyer. Also on the north side of the tracks are the Wolter Lumber Company and the Botsford Lumber Company.

The north end of town has come to life again also. There are eight automobile service stations along highway 14, several restaurants and lunch counter, a tire repair shop, a Case Implement business, and a modern motel, a garage and a grocery store and a

greenhouse.

Now there are flourishing businesses at the south end of town and at the north end of town as well as in the central area. Only yesterday we were a divided town. Today after 100 years we stand united in a modern, clean and substantial little city.



The first Opera House, "Kopps Hall", used as a social center until 1879 when it was occupied by Mr. Keeler as a retail store. The building was destroyed by the tornado of 1903.

CHAPTER VII SOCIAL LIFE

Social life in the 1850's though restricted, was gay in the real sense of the word. Events we now consider casual were most important. Authentic sources give us to understand that "Cultural" in entertainment prevailed to some extent. Dancing belonged to the isolated homesteaders on the frontiers even as to those in more settled areas. The Minuet and Quadrille might have graced the polished halls of Washington, New York, Boston and Philadelphia in 1856, but an open floor and three fiddlers were an inducement to the people of St. Charles, young and old, to carry on with dancing feet. John Ellsbury's blacksmith shop was the place, and all the settlers attended.

The next public dance was held at Eastman's Hall some time before 1860 and "a band from Chatfield discoursed sweet music." The record says that Wm. Davidson, Benjamin Langworthy, and H. Thompson were there to uphold the honor of the older generation, and teach "Young America" (!) to dance. A practical joker of the time pinned a white rag to the swallowtails of the self-appointed dancing-master, which flapped merrily, though it detracted from his efforts to cut a fine figure.

One of the most consistent ways of mixing business with pleasure was the method employed to pay the various ministers. A "donation" being announced, all citizens were cordially invited to attend the gathering, where refreshments were served and a program of talks and appropriate music preceded the "donation." A successful affair of this kind held February 26, 1863, for Rev. Mr. Tainter resulted as follows: "About \$56 in money were received and other donations of provisions, wood, etc., swelled the amount to \$75."

St. Charles had its own impresario in the person of Mr. Will Hill, who, with his wife, gave many a concert. His card in the St. Charles Herald stated he was prepared to "Hold Musical Conventions in the Northwest — For 12 evenings in succession, One Dollar per person, provided fifty are obtained." Jam session, circa 1858!

A debating society of young people functioned regularly. Baseball flourished in the spring and summer, as did horse racing. In the winter, sleighing was popular.

Politics were taken seriously withal, but the meetings of the various clubs signalled entertainment of some kind. Witness:

"Republican Pole — Next week the Republicans of St. Charles will have ready for raising their 120 feet pole, on which occasion Dr. J. B. Tamblin of this village will make a speech and the glee



This is a Masonic Lodge party held on February 27, 1897. The invitation appears on the opposite page as does the card of the orchestra which played at this party and at many other social affairs of this period.

club will sing. Bring out the drums, boy, and let's have a 'time!' from the St. Charles Herald, July 17, 1868. However, the pole was not raised until September 9th, accompanied by renditions from a band and glee club.

Summarizing the activities interesting to early St. Charles are Editor Slocum's words from the Herald of October 2, 1868:

"Amusements — Our citizens have been kept busy every evening this week in attending the various places of amusement in town. On Monday evening, a Mrs. Shepard delivered a lecture; Tuesday evening, repeated it; Wednesday evening, speaking before the Grant & Colfax Club; Thursday evening, Thompson & Parkhursts concert;

MASONIC PARTY.

ST. CHARLES, MINN., 5-22 1897.

Yourself and Ladies are cordially invited to attend a Social and Dancing Party at the MASONIC HALL on Saturday evening,

Feb. 27
7-30
from eight to twelve.

Per Committee.

<p>E. M. GERMOND, DIRECTOR AND MANAGER W. E. PARR, PROMPTER</p>	<p>EIGHT EXPERIENCED AND TRAINED MUSICIANS IN CONCERT AND DANCE</p>
<p>First Class Music... FURNISHED FOR PARTIES AND RECEPTIONS</p>	<p>IN LATEST POPULAR DANCES AND MUSIC</p>
<p>St. Charles Orchestra</p>	
<p>E. M. GERMOND, VIOLIN EUGENE MILLER, FLUTE W. E. WASEM, CLARINET FRED BATEMAN, CORNET</p>	<p>W. E. PARR, BASS HEINRICH WAECHTER, HARP ARLTON PIKE, TROMBONE GILLES GAREY, DRUMS</p>

Friday evening, the Good Templars, and a Democratic meeting; and Saturday evening, the Tableaux entertainment by the Congregational Society. Who will say that our town is not a second Chicago?" Indeed.

In 1877, Readings, Lectures and the Drama were followed. Kopp's Hall, the churches, and the Opera House were the meeting places. A course of Lectures to the Young People were given evenings at the Congregational Church by Principal Donovan to a full house. These lectures were on Temperance, Alcohol and its Adulteration, Correct Department, Manners and Personal Cleanliness.

St. Charles boasted of having a Shooting Club for Men Only. The St. Charles Brass Band was holding practices. The Children of the Sabbath Schools held a sale of articles made by them and supper was served anytime after six o'clock, so people could stop and eat as they went home from work.

July 4, 1877, was celebrated on High Hill, program beginning at 9:00 A. M. The National Salute was at sunrise.

9:00 Procession from School to Exercise Ground

10:30 Oration — Hon. Ignatius Donnelly (A prize indeed, this Sage of Nininger!)

2:00 P.M. Baseball

4:00 Foot races — \$5 first prize; \$3 second prize

5:00 Horse races — Open to all horses; Entrance fee \$2.

5 to enter, 3 to start; \$15 first prize; \$10 second prize

Fireworks in the evening and also dancing in two halls,

Kopp's and Crooks Hall, until morning.

The baseball game was between St. Charles White Caps and Lewiston Goose Eggs. It is said the Lewiston Club properly lived up to its name, the score ending 33 to 15.

1877 found the Original Georgia Minstrels entertaining at Kopp's Hall. This was a troupe of colored men. Church Sewing circles and church suppers were regular occasions. A Dance Club was organized and held a Christmas Ball on December 25, 1877, at Kopp's Hall, with music by Alden's String Band of Chatfield. Tickets were \$2 with supper served at Hall's Hotel.

On March 27, 1878, a social event of the season was held to celebrate the 50th birthday of Mrs. David Cornell. The "house was filled with guests who spent the evening in social intercourse. At 9:00 P.M. Rev. J. N. Liscomb presented Mrs. Cornell with a French Tea Set of 59 pieces, a parlor lamp, crystal plates and other articles. It was a genuine surprise party and after refreshments, broke up at an early hour."

Fame came to St. Charles in 1879. It was that year that the Fisk Original Jubilee Singers were re-organized in the east. Their leader was a resident of St. Charles, Prof. George L. White. A social highlight of this year was a dance given by the Odd Fellows at Kopp's Hall for a Lodge Benefit. Music was by Kendall Quintette Band. Tickets 75c.

1886 found the Dramatic Club, assisted by a Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Wilcox, presenting a comedy hit, "The Serious Family," 3 acts, and a laugh from beginning to end. At the conclusion of the play, 16 ladies marched the Grand National March which consisted of 14 different military movements. This was accomplished without a command. Twenty other ladies staged two historical tableaux, with scenery and costumes. Music was furnished by the St. Charles Brass Band and Orchestra. Tickets 35c. This event surpassed any previous undertaking.

In May of this same year, the GAR sponsored a Camp Fire at the Opera House. Rochester and Winona Posts participated. Speeches, Music by the Brass Band and the John Ball Drum Corps, Songs and Camp Scenes made up the program, followed by a dance. It is said that as part of the program, Drs. Scott and Clark performed an amputation as on the battlefield, in a manner so realistic as to cause a few in the audience to faint. It was a huge success.

The St. Charles String Band gave a Social Dance at Center Hall. Tickets 75c. Floor Managers: E. C. Johnson, Henry Knauf, and Jay Norton.

Voted the Best Supper in 1887 was the NEW ENGLAND SUPPER given at the Opera House. Tickets 25c. Following is the menu:

Roast Pig Barbecue	Chicken Pie and Roast Turkey	
Fish Chowder	Baked Beans and Brown Bread	
Hulled Corn	Boiled Ham	Cider Apple Sauce
Doughnuts	Mince, Apple and Pumpkin Pie	
Tea, Coffe and Koumiss		

Also, an Old Folks Sing, a Tableaux, and Recitations. For this affair, the committees were assigned in keeping with the New England Theme, as States:

Maine: S. B. Patterson, Alvana B. Dyar, C. C. Bachelder
New Hampshire: Charles Gerrish, Wm. Morrill, G. Lewis Downing
Vermont: I. C. Brewer, E. M. Gallup, E. G. Hill
Massachusetts: A. J. Olds, T. T. Olds, Harvey Bush
Connecticut: D. L. Keyes, Uriah Carpenter, S. L. Loveland

December, 1888, saw a Dance Series started by a social club. A series of ten parties were held, ending June 5, 1889, with McCosh's



Front row: William Carey, William Plumb, E. M. Germond (Dir.),
H. Bacheider.

Second row: Chris Amos, Eugene Miller, Bert Ticomb, Max
Turtle Fred Batemen, William Parr, Matt McGovern,
"Burr" Murray.

Third row: John Waller, Will Bolan, Arlton Pike, Matt Clemens,
Ray Campbell, Will Frisch, Frank Speeter.

Fourth row: Will Wasen, Chauncey Smith, Art Miller, Dick Lade,
Hal Plumb.

LEAP YEAR PARTY.

The company of Yourself and Gentlemen is cordially requested at the Leap Year Party to be given by the Ladies of St. Charles, Minn., at the Opera House.
Monday Evening, Jan. 24th, 1898.

WEDDING MANAGERS

MRS. HENRY COX. MRS. THOS. WILSON, MRS. W. E. PARR.

MUSIC BY ST. CHARLES IDEAL ORCHESTRA.

Tickets, One Dollar, including Supper.

Dancing, 8:30 O'clock Sharp.

ST. CHARLES, MINN., DEC. 28, 1896.

Yourself and Ladies are cordially invited to attend the first of a series of

SELECT DANCING PARTIES

To be given by the

"OWL CLUB"

At the Opera House on

New Year's Eve., Dec. 31, '96.

MUSIC BY THE IDEAL ORCHESTRA.

GRAND MARCH AT NINE O'CLOCK.

Tickets 75 cents.

Per Order Com.

Invitations to early social events.

5-piece orchestra playing. A fee of \$6.00 paid for the entire course, and a free Grand Ball and Banquet was given at the close of the series.

New Year's Day, 1896, was spent in sleighing and skating by a group made up of St. Charles and Dover young people. The Military Band held their Dancing Party at the Opera House, after playing two of their favorite numbers out front. Dance music was furnished by the Ideal Orchestra, which was the popular group around which centered most of the social functions of this period.

1896 also saw the ladies of St. Charles observing a Leap Year Party.

June 19, 1896, the Old Settlers held an annual excursion at St. Charles and the reunion attracted from 7,000 to 10,000 people. Trains arrived at 9 A.M. and 11 A.M. and were met by the Military Band. The day's program started at 11:15, with dinner at 12:30. In the afternoon, a ball game was played with Pine Island for a purse of \$50.00. About 1,000 people attended this game which was played in the Brick Yard Field. In the evening, two Bowery Dances were held and a Merry-go-round near the pump did a thriving business. This was the largest outing of the Old Settlers' group, and was long remembered in St. Charles.

A Lincoln's Masked Birthday Ball was held at the Opera House in 1897, with Miss Cora Bauman as the "Up-to-Date Girl" and Wilford Pike as Populist Candidate for Mayor taking the costume prizes.

EAST LYNNE came to St. Charles in September, 1898, presented by the Gotham Stock Company.

In December of this year the Business Men's Association was formed "to protect its members from deadbeats and slow payers. And to enjoy a social time."

Many organizations had besides their regular meetings, their annual dances and sociables. Graduation exercises were highlights of the annual social year, and fine programs were printed. Church suppers, bees, and birthdays — all gave an impetus to the social activities of the years that are still remembered, as they provided occasions for the years beyond the memories of those who are still here. Stock companies, musical groups and soloists, famous personages and many not so famous, made St. Charles a stopping place, contributing in no small measure to the lighter side of living in our town, before the turn of the century.

CHAPTER VIII COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The history of organizations in St. Charles is as old as the history of the city itself. We find in tracing the development of organizations that they had their beginning way back in 1853, when the Masonic Lodge was first established in this community. After that the growth and development of various organizations was a continuous process, with the P. T. A. being the newest member to the group. In the following chapter an attempt will be made to give a summary of each organization in St. Charles.

AMERICAN LEGION

Hugh-Watson Post No. 190

The American Legion is a patriotic, nonpartisan, nonpolitical organization of World Wars I and II. The largest organization of its kind in the world, it was originally chartered in 1919 as a World I organization. It became a two-war group, October 29, 1942, when honorably discharged veterans of World War II were made eligible for membership. Since the Korean War membership has also been open to veterans of the Korean fighting.

When the United States entered World I, one of the first men to answer the call for military service was Hugh Watson of St. Charles. He was graduate of St. Charles High School and the University of Minnesota School of Pharmacy. He enlisted in the army on November 25, 1917---underwent an operation for appendicitis on December 25 and died on December 28.

When the service men of St. Charles held their organizational meeting in November 1921, they unanimously decided to give their post the name of Hugh Watson, the first one from our city to make the supreme sacrifice.

At the time of the organizational meeting thirty charter members signed the roll. Doctor F. H. Rollins was elected Commander and Fay McCarthy, Adjutant, for one year terms. The charter members were officially installed on February 1, 1921. Other Commanders of Hugh-Watson Post No. 190 from 1922 to present in order of their office were the following: Fay McCarthy, W. F. Flanary, Fred H. Wolter, George Frisby, Oscar Linden, E. B. Holten, Earl Watson, Braton Gregory, Ernie Fox, George Eckles, John Harguth, Walter Eichemeyer, Lloyd Taylor, Walter Blank, D. H. Rendernick, M. J. McGrath, B. Ladebur, Carl Olson, John Reiland, Francis Kramer, R. L. Page, Frank Koch, Russel Rentfrow, George Nihart Louis

Wilkins, Les Moore, James B. Flanary, Delvin Ruhberg, and Joseph Karakas.

Hugh-Watson Post's first home was the old Civic Club above Frisch and Company Drug Store. Later they moved into the Woodmen's Hall over Smith's Store. Still later they moved upstairs of Lillian Miller's Building. And for a couple of years when times were really tough they used the city hall. Their next home was shared with the Moose Club above Frisch and Company Drug Store. They stayed here until moving into their present location in their own private club rooms. In addition to the above meeting places they built an American Legion Cabin at Whitewater State Park where they held many of their summer meetings.

Present membership of Hugh-Watson Post No. 190 is 265.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Ladies Auxilliary to Hugh-Watson Post No. 190

Affiliated with the American Legion, Hugh-Watson Post No. 190, is the Ladies' Auxilliary--composed of veterans' families.

The first meeting of the American Legion Auxilliary to Hugh-Watson Post was held at the Civic Club Hall on April 19, 1921, for the purpose of organization. This meeting was called by Fay L. McCarthy, Commander of the Post. A temporary Chairman and Secretary were selected and the following officers elected: President, Mary Rollins; Vice President, Mrs. Phoebe Childs; Secretary, Mrs. Mary McGrath; Treasurer, Marguerite Sealing. Executive Committee: Mrs. Alma Watson, Mrs. Minnie Patterson, Mrs. Serena Blankenberg. Permanent Charter was applied for August 22, 1922. Twenty-eight members signed the role.

The constitution states that the objects of the Auxilliary shall be the same as those of the American Legion.

Other Presidents of the organization since its formation to the present are the following: Mary McGrath, Minnie Patterson, Margaret Seeling, Viola Eckles, Merle Robinson. Sylvia Kellett, Mary Chisholm, Mrs. Fay McCarthy, Mrs. Walter Feehan, Mrs. Frank Koch, Mrs. George Nihart, Mrs. Donald Coppins, Mrs. Joseph Karakas, Mrs. James Flanary, Mrs. Walter Siefert, and Mrs. J. P. Reischorf.

Among the many activities and projects participated in by the Auxilliary are the following: Girl Scouts, local relief, donations to Rehabilitation and Americanism funds, Christmas baskets, cards and

gifts to hospital patients, dinners, talent plays, Memorial Day services, Poppy sale, Americanism program and Fair stand.

Present membership is 141.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
Donahue-Ham Post No. 5630

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is an organization created by the consolidation of three national societies of overseas veterans formed immediately after the Spanish-American War. The following organizations consolidated in 1913 at a convention in Denver, Colorado, to become a single nationwide association known as the Veterans of the United States: American Veterans of Foreign Service, chartered by the state of Ohio on October 11, 1899; the Colorado Society of the Army of the Philippines, organized at Denver on December 1, 1899; and the American Veterans of Foreign Service organized at Altoona, Pennsylvania, shortly after this.

A unique eligibility requirement distinguishes the V. F. W. of the United States from all other veteran organizations, past or present. That is, one of the requirements for membership is that the person must have served overseas in a foreign war, insurrection or expedition.

Arthur Gerald Donahue was born March 19, 1913, on a dairy farm near St. Charles. He graduated from St. Charles High School and took up flying at Winona, Minnesota, almost immediately. He had pilot and transport pilot licenses before he was nineteen.

He went to England in 1940, was commissioned a Pilot Officer in the British Royal Air Force, and on August 5 he was in combat with a formation of German planes--the first time that an American pilot went into combat with the R. A. F. A week later he parachuted from his burning Spitfire and spent a month in the hospital recovering from burns.

In 1941 he took part in the last few days of fighting at Singapore, then was evacuated to Sumatra. He was wounded by anti-aircraft fire while strafing Jap landing barges and hospitalized in Java, then in India.

Two months later he returned to action and was assigned to Ceylon, which was then threatened with invasion. When the invasion did not materialize he was sent back to England and his old squadrons. A few weeks later he failed to return from a patrol and was presumed to have been killed.

Harold Ham was born Jan. 12, 1919, on a farm near St. Charles. He was a graduate of St. Charles High School. He enlisted in the Navy at Rochester, Minnesota, in January, 1938, and left for Great Lakes Naval Training Center on May 16, 1938. After completion of his boot training he was assigned duty aboard the USS Vincennes where he served until his transfer and assignment to the USS Oklahoma on April 18, 1940.

Harold Ham was aboard the USS Oklahoma, berthed at Pearl Harbor Naval Base, on the morning of December 7, 1941, when the Japanese Air Force made their devastating attack upon the base. The USS Oklahoma was one of the tragic victims of the sneak attack. Harold Ham went down with his ship on that fateful morning.

When a small group of over-seas veterans met in the present club rooms of the Moose-V. F. W. Club on January 27, 1946, for the purpose of organizing a post to the National V. F. W., there was no hesitation in the naming of Donahue-Ham Post No. 5630--in honor of the two men from this community who were the first to make the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

Donahue-Ham Post No. 5630 was organized on January 27, 1946, in the present club rooms of the Moose-V. F. W. Club. The first district commander, Leon B. Hair, opened the meeting and installed the sixty-one charter members. The first officers of the post were the following: Commander, Ralph Stenbeck; Senior Vice Commander, Russel Robinson; Junior Vice Commander, Bill Pfeffer; Quartermaster, Andrew Wolff. Other officers of the organization up to and including the present year 1954 include the following men: John Harguth, Howard Sasse, Dick Barry, Ralph Haugen, Marvin Currie, Jim Fix, Leonard Anderson, Art Jacobs, Luther Tollefson, Tom Smith, George Evans, Wayne Harrison, Gabriel Virnig, Tom Kottour, Sam Anderson, and Lloyd Loftus.

LADIES AUXILIARY TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is composed of women members of veteran's families. Their activities are similar to those sponsored by the V. F. W.

The auxiliary was first organized into a National organization in September 1914, during the V. F. W. National Encampment at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The first organizational meeting of the V. F. W. Auxiliary to Donahue-Ham Post No. 5630 was held on March 13, 1946, at the Moose-

V. F.W. hall. Twenty members signed up at that time and paid membership dues of \$2.50 each. The following officers were elected: President, Florence Stenback; Senior Vice President, Kathryn Wolff; Junior Vice President, Eunice Kramer; Treasurer, Bernice Sasse; Chaplin, Leonora Smith; Conductress, Betty Millard; Guard, Grace Millard; and Trustees, Ada Glende, Eileen Clasen, and Leora Evans. Mrs. Agnes Harrison was appointed Secretary. It was agreed to have regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

The above officers were officially installed on April 24, 1946. At this time the list of charter members numbered 39.

Other ladies holding offices in the organization up to the present time are the following: Alice Harrison, Catherine Braun, Nina Miller, Louise Wilson, Ethel Anderson, Donna Page, Minnie Stevens, Mrs. Braithwaite, Lenora Smith, Beula Fix, and Mrs. Walter Smith.

In addition to the many community projects in which the auxiliary assisted the V. F. W., the following money-making projects were carried out by the local auxiliary: food sales, fair stand at the Winona Co. Fair, and the sale of Christmas cards. The auxiliary also sponsors an annual essay contest on Americanism.

NATIONAL WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS
Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic

Henry Morton Post No. 185

The G. A. R. is no longer in existence since its membership has now passed away. It was originally established as an organization for veterans of the Civil War. However, the auxiliary to the G. A. R. is still a very active group.

The Woman's Relief Corps No. 108, an auxiliary to the Henry Morton Post, G. A. R., of St. Charles, was organized on February 9, 1893. Following is a list of charter members: Lucy Thomas, Lizzie Brewer, Sarah McElhaney, Eva Longnecker, Hattie Titcomb, Mary Usiner, Auerilia Stewart, Lydia Wordeu, Nancy Zickrick, Nancy Gates, Eliza Miller, Emily Whiton, Mary Waseiu, Aura Hinkley, Ellen Cary, Tillie Clarkson, Mary Don, Ida Gerrish, Janet Hares, Laura Davidson, Eliza Smith, Hannah Pfæfferkorn, Mary Johnson, Mary Hill, Sara Persons, Sarah Putusur, Emily Boyd, Emmeline Knapp. At the present time the club has 42 members.

The following women hold office in the club at the present time: Mrs. Alfred Herman, Mrs. Florence Doolittle, Mrs. Tillie Hermanson, Mrs. Harold Liskow, Mrs. Lloyd Downing, Mrs. Charles Richter, Mrs.

Agnes Peck, Mrs Otto Kisro, Mrs. George Peabody, Miss Mada Drysdale, Mrs. Emma Millard, Mrs. Etta Bentley, Mrs. Lena Moore, Mrs. Lyte, Mrs. Ernest Millard, Mrs. Lena Stevens.

LIONS CLUB

The Lion's Club is a nonpolitical and nonsectarian civic organization composed of representative and professional men interested in the development of their community. Membership is by invitation only.

The first Lions Club organized in St. Charles was in 1935. Norman Beck was the first president. He was the editor of the St. Charles paper at that time. Some of the first members were Francis Kramer, Sy Reisdorf, Francis Eustermann, Elmer Zelky, Dr. Kroning, Dr. Hamlon, and Jim Barker. Alton Bergh joined in 1940.

Due to the outbreak of war in 1941 the members entered the armed forces to such an extent that membership dropped and the club was disbanded.

The charter of the existing Lions Club was presented to the Club January 29, 1948. The first president elected by the club was Alton Bergh. The charter members are as follows: Rev. Upton, Art Collier, Kussel Rentfrew, Alton Bergh, Dick Staats, Don Coppins, Dr. Jim Flanary, Virgil Clasen, Oliver Hagglund, Sy Reisdorf, Dr. Hamlon, John Hynes, Dr. Harguth, Harry Hysell, Douglas DeLano, Vince King, Wilson Vernon, and Harry C. Page.

The only remaining charter members are Alton Bergh, Art Collier, Jim Flanary, Sy Reisdorf, John Hynes, Dr. Harguth, and H. C. Page.

IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE

The Izaak Walton League is an organization of Conservationists in the United States. It is interested in the whole problem of conservation, but its special concern is to preserve and restore a wholesome outdoor environment. It seeks to protect the interests not only of hunters and fishermen, but also all lovers of the outdoors.

It is an independent, nonprofit organization, supported by the dues of its members and by gifts and bequests.

The first meeting, for the purpose of organizing a local chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, was held in the Civic Club Hall, on February 3, 1925. At that meeting Ted Frisch was elected president; Dave Rudisuhle, Vice President; C. W. Crippen, Secretary and W. E. Spencer, Treasurer.

Regular meetings were held that spring. Fifty three members formed the charter organization, and among the first projects un-

dertaken were the building of fish ponds in various streams in the county, obtaining Chukkar pheasants, and holding a crow hunt.

At the close of the year, the league had ninety-one members. Carl Olson was named as providing the food for a banquet held when they built a trout pond in the park.

In 1926 the membership of the League included the names of several women.

In 1926 one hundred and fifty dollars was raised to buy a crate of Chukkar pheasants, and liver and oatmeal was purchased to feed the fish in the trout pond.

In 1927 two hundred and forty three dollars was paid for pheasants to be released, some in the John Foley area, and some south-west of Utica. In 1928 the local chapter was still maintaining and feeding the fish in the rearing ponds. Roy Stevens dray line was engaged to haul the fish fry to the pond, and the grown fish to the streams in the fall.

In August of 1940, one hundred and fifty quail and one hundred and eighty pheasants were released.

In 1943 the chapter received notice that they could no longer use the cabin at Crystal Springs for their meetings, as the conservation department had use for it. Our chapter tried to sell them the light plant they had installed, but were unsuccessful, and the light plant was finally sold to Henry Nelson and the buiding housing the plant was sold to Ed Kieffer, and the local chapter found themselves without a home.

The 1946 membership included the names of 92 members.

Present officers of the club are as follows: Rudolph Kaehler, Andrew Kieffer, August Fick, Henry Nelson, Carl Olson. Alton E. Bergh is State Vice President.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The same ideals, principles and objectives of the W. T. C. U. are emphasized on each level of the organization from the World Organization down through the local union.

Accounts of the Women's Crusade of 1873-74 in many towns in Ohio and other states were reported in the daily papers of Minnesota and had quite an effect upon the readers--some to condemn and others to commend the crusade's actions. At least these accounts in the Minnesota papers can be given credit for the formation of the W. C. T. U. in Minnesota.

The local union at St. Charles was organized January 9, 1879, with

39 charter members. Mrs. B. F. Weeks was elected president and Mrs. H. A. Chapman, secretary. Other presidents of the local union since its organization up to the present time are as follows: Mrs. R. S. Craven, Mrs. A. A. Adams, Mrs. J. Hama, Mrs. M. J. Thomas, Mrs. M. S. Stebbins, Mrs. Minnie Campbell, Mrs. Minnie Patterson, Mrs. Ida Belscamper, Mrs. L. J. Patterson, Mrs. Nellie Steer, Miss Mary Stelloh, Mrs. W. T. Ratcliffe, Miss Mary E. Bole, Mrs. Emma Stellmacher, Mrs. Hugh Groger, Mrs. Henry Persons.

The local union held its meetings in a small building on Main Street, now Whitewater Avenue, but disbanded in 1903--reason unknown. It reorganized in 1927 and has been active ever since.

Present officers are Mrs. Henry Persons, Mrs. Maude Groger, Mrs. Etta Bentley, and Mrs. Lloyd Downing. Mrs. Bentley has served as secretary since 1942--also for several years after reorganizing in 1927.

Present membership of the St. Charles Union is 14 with one honorary member.

Many of the older members have passed on and younger generation do not seem to take any interest it seems in such work.

The local union does not work all departments of work each year, (there are 23 departments), but only a few each year.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Parent and Teacher Association

The P. T. A. is a nationwide organization to aid and improve child training. It encourages sound methods of cooperation between the home and the school and serves the community in many ways. It also sets up practical programs to promote a sound training for family. It uses the democratic method of group discussion to clarify issues and bring about an intelligent participation in social and public affairs.

The first P. T. A. in St. Charles was organized around 1930. It gradually lost membership and interest until about 1934, at which time it was dropped completely.

Nothing more was ever done about it until last fall during the teacher workshop. At one of the social meetings members of the school and Lay Advisory Committee had been invited a guests of the faculty. At this meeting, Mr. Reynolds of Winona spoke on the topic of "P. T. A." At the conclusion of this meeting several people indicated an interest in organizing a local P. T. A. As a result, the following planning committee was appointed to work out the details, draw up a constitution, and so on: Arden Collier, Florence Stenbeck,

Mrs. George Nihart, Mrs. Dan Burke, Mrs. Alton Bergh, Mrs. Francis Sorum, and Howard Williams.

An organizational meeting was held on September 28, 1953, at which time the constitution was read and adopted and the local P. T. A. officially established. Mrs. Francis Sorum served as temporary chairman at this meeting. A nominating committee was appointed and at the first meeting the following officers were elected: President, Mary E. Sorum; First Vice President, Mrs. Irvin Mueller; Second Vice President, Mrs. Kendall Fuller; Secretary, Miss Gloria Cree, and Treasurer, Orville Dickman.

There are 190 charter members.

The organization proved most successful in its first year of operation. Regular meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month. The meetings were all well attended and very interesting and valuable programs were planned by the planning committee. Some of their projects for the year were the following: summer recreation program, ice skating parties, square dancing for high school students, dancing for high school boys, March of Dimes Benefit Basketball Game, and a faculty tea at the spring workshop.

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE

The Loyal Order of the Moose is a partly secret fraternal order. Unquestionable devotion to their country's flag and loyalty to democratic government are required of its members. The order provides sickness and death benefits for its members. It also takes part in numerous civic and philanthropic endeavors.

The St. Charles Lodge No. 1114, Loyal Order of the Moose, was instituted on April 24, 1916. Some of the early officers were N. Sims, C. E. Smith, George Eckles, William Cook, Henry Wegman, Carl Olson, Charles Bohks, William Osborn, Ben Kaehler, Les Schaber, William Zengler, Dr. Carl Kroning, Ben Smith, Francis Jensen, Oscar Linden.

The code of By-Laws was approved by the General-Governor on March 29, 1918. Officers signing the code were E. W. Herman, Eugene Miller, Clinton Robinson, C. J. Eckles, and Ben Kaehler.

Early meetings were held in Smith's Hall over the present bowling alleys. Later they formed club rooms over Frisch Drug Building and were joined there by the American Legion. They are at present using the rooms jointly shared by the V. F. W.

The 1700 or more Moose Lodges throughout the English speaking countries support an investment of more than \$32,000,000 on 1,200 acres called "Mooseheart", and provides a home for more than 1,000

children of departed Moose. They also support "Moose Haven" in Florida, a home for aged members. The Moose of Minnesota are the first to build a cottage on "Camp Courage" for crippled children and adults.

Present officers of the club are: Roy Cole, Adry Nichols, Vance Knouf, Coleman Smith, Clayton Miller, Fred Carlson, John Logan, V. W. Searcy, Walter Dean, John Mauer, and Hiram Pickett.

MASONIC LODGE

Rising Sun Lodge, No. 49, A. F. & A. M.

On February 15, 1864, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota granted a dispensation creating Rising Sun Lodge, Under Dispensation, of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, designating Robert Stewart, Worshipful Master; Benjamin Birge, Senior Warden; George H. Clark, Junior Warden. The charter members were Robert Stewart, Benjamin Birge, George Clark, Farnum Chickering, Joseph Birge, George H. Brown, William Cravey, Lauren L. Chamberlain, John Curtis and Charles Griswold. The first communication was held on February 25, 1864. Thus, it continued to labor until October 26, 1864, when a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota: Most Worshipful, A. T. C. Pierson, Grandmaster; Right Worshipful L. E. Thompson, Deputy Grand Master; Right Worshipful, C. H. Lindsley, Grand Senior Warden; Right Worshipful, W. T. Rigby, Grand Junior Warden; Grand Secretary; under the name and style of Rising Sun Lodge, No. 49, A. F. & A. M., with Robert Stewart, Worshipful Master; Benjamin Birge, Senior Warden; George H. Clark, Junior Warden; Nathan Novatus Pike, Treasurer; Joshua Martin, Secretary; Allen O. Adams, Senior Deacon; Charles M. Lake, Junior Deacon; R. Bunce, Tyler.

At the first annual election, held on December 22, 1864, Samuel Young Hyde was elected Worshipful Master, and by consecutive reelection held the office for four years.

In April, 1880, Rising Sun Lodge conceived a plan whereby, in conjunction with Orient Chapter, No. 19, Royal ArchMasons, a large and commodious secondstory hall, 54 by 80 feet, was erected and arranged into audience and banquet halls. Regular meetings were and still are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

The present officers are Irving Smith, Worshipful Master; Leonard Anderson, Senior Warden; Vernon Waby, Junior Warden, Clin-

ton Jessen, Treasurer; and George Gordon, Secretary. The oldest living members in time of service are Henry Rhames, Frank Gerry, A. C. Talbot, and Ralph H. Fuller.

ORIENT CHAPTER, NO. 19, ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Early in the year 1870, there being in St. Charles and vicinity several members of the Masonic Order who had taken the Royal Arch Degree, it was thought best to establish a chapter of the order, and accordingly on February 22, of that year a petition for dispensation to institute a chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the City of St. Charles was presented to E. D. B. Porter, at that time Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the state of Minnesota. The petition was signed by Robert Stewart, John Bullen, S. Y. Hyde, Truman Morse, Charles Griswold, T. T. Stevens, Charles H. Slocum, Robert B. Kellam, Alfred P. Stearns, Henry Talbot, and Nelson H. Swift, and named Robert Stewart as Most Excellent High Priest; Samuel Y. Hyde, King; and John Bullen, Scribe. The dispensation was duly granted; and on March 10, 1870, the first regular convocation of the chapter was held. Robert Stewart, is often called the "Father of Masonry in St. Charles." He held the office of Most High Priest from 1870 until his death, which occurred July 21, 1876.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

More than 75 years ago, Robert Morris, a distinguished member of the A. F. and A. M., conceived the idea of forming an order near to Masonry, and under its protection, whereby the mothers, daughters, and sisters of Master Maons might be brought into closer relation with that ancient order, and that its members might be able to make themselves known, wherever they might be, as being entitled to assistance if needed. His efforts have been successful beyond his most sanguine hopes. Chapters have been started in most cities of the United States.

On March 9, 1896, The Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, of the state of Minnesota, granted a dispensation creating Sunshine Chapter No. 98, U. D., St. Charles. On June 26 following, a charter was granted, and the following officers were installed into office by Mrs. Mary McGrindley, at that time Worthy Grand Matron for the state of Minnesota: Mrs. Minnie Scott, Worthy Matron; Mrs. C. H. Foss, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Lizzie Keiffer, Associate Matron; Mrs. Martha E. H. Gleason, Secretary; Mrs. Nettie G. Campbell, Treasurer; Mrs. Rhoda V. Clark, Conductress; Margaret Hill, Assistant

Conductress; Alfred P. Stearns, Chaplin; Mrs. Theodore Hogle, Warden; A. W. Smith, Sentinel; Margaret Clark, Organist.

Star officers were appointed as follows: Miss Helen Clarkson, Adah; Mrs. Anna Nerbovig, Ruth; Mrs. Gertie Foss, Esther; Miss Alice Hendee, Martha; Mrs. Eliza Stearns, Electra. S. W. Gleason, J. W. Scott, and C. H. Foss were selected to frame by-laws for the government of the chapter. There were 26 charter members.

This group solicited money to purchase their badges, these to remain the property of the chapter as long as the chapter exists. Various entertainments were given to raise funds to purchase a piano. Other furnishings have been added as their need arose.

The temple in which the group now meets is owned by Rising Sun Lodge No. 49 A. F. A. M. This has been their home for the past fifty eight years.

Some of the oldest living members in years of membership are Mrs. Maud Groger, Mrs. Lillian Miller, Mrs. Mary Rollins, Mrs. Zula Dixon, Frank M. Gerry, Albert Talbot, and T. W. Denn.

The present membership is about 260.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF THE ODD FELLOWS

Lodge No. 64

St. Charles Lodge, No. 64, I. O. O. F., was instituted May 28, 1878, under the direction of Past Grand Master I. M. Westfall, acting as Deputy Grand Master. The charter members were: Charles E. Kendall, John W. Zerwas, B. Neuman, I. M. Westfall and H. E. Doty.

The following officers were installed by O. E. Lawson, acting as Grand Master: Charles Kendall, Noble Grand; John W. Zerwas, Vice Grand; E. C. Johnson, Recording Secretary; B. Neuman, Treasurer; J. W. Burns, Conductor; A. W. Stebbins, Right Supporter to the Noble Grand; I. M. Westfall, Left Supporter to the Noble Grand; Jacob Wachter, Right Supporter to Vice Grand; H. E. Doty, Left Supporter to Vice Grand; and B. Neuman, Warden.

The local lodge meets every Tuesday evening, and has been in continuous operation since its organization in 1878. Present membership is 35.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows maintains a home for orphans of its members, a home for the old age members, and makes frequent donations to various charitable organizations. An annual Washington Day Dinner is held which is open to the public. These projects are supported from a per capita tax on membership dues. Membership to the Lodge is made through application only.

Some of the oldest living members of the Lodge are Herman Kempe, Walter Scott, and Otto Holm.

Present officers of the organization are Archie Morril, Chalmer Perry, Oscar Hemming, Otto Kempe, Fred Millard, Harvey Wiskow, Lloyd Millard, Erford G Ham, Wm Hinckley, Ralph Huges, Stewart Clarkson, Harold Crow, Ralph Deedrick, Herman Kempe, Louis Palmer.

SUNSHINE REBEKAH LODGE NO. 172

The Rebekah Lodge is the Ladies' Unit of the Odd Fellows. The local Rebekah Lodge No. 172 was organized September 20, 1897. Forty charter members signed the roll. The only living charter members are Frank Keeville, St. Charles, and Mrs. Lucy Sheridan, Sedro Woolley, Washington. However, they are not members now.

The Rebekah Lodge was discontinued December 18, 1914. It was reorganized August 4, 1916, and has been in continuous operation since that time. Regular meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

They help support the Odd Fellows home for orphans and the old age home as well as make frequent donations to charities.

Present officers are Mrs. Lewis Palmer, Anna Neeb, Mrs. Mona Henwood, Mrs. Hugo Renspie, and Mrs. Vince L. King.

There are other clubs and organizations in the city of St. Charles that are not included in this chapter, such as the Woman's Club and The Shakespeare Club. However, only those clubs and organizations that are nationally affiliated have been discussed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS —

The publication of a booklet of this kind is accomplished only with the cooperation of a large number of people. The research and the writing was conducted by those mentioned in the foreword with the aid of others working behind the scenes. Assisting with the various chapters were Wm. Blankenburg, Frank Gerry, S. H. McElhaney, Mrs. Fred Bateman, La Verne Traxler, Mrs. Minnie Robbins, Mrs W. H. Hayes, Rev. Bast, Rev. Keeling, Mrs. Lloyd Millard, Mrs. Maude Groger, Mrs. Olive Smith,, Mrs. Grace Lahey, Mrs. Etta Bentley, Frank Donahue, Arthur Miller, Mrs. Pearl Wolper, Mrs. Eva Stevens, and the secretaries and historians of all of the organizations included in this booklet.

In connection with the assembly of this booklet the historical committee is most grateful for the help of Marlys Liskow, Rita Ryan, Carmen Gedde,, Mary Garvey, Kathleen Sackett.

There are also many more who have helped with various aspects of this publication and to whom the Historical Committee is very grateful.

Sources of information included histories of St. Charles, Winona County, Olmsted County and the State of Minnesota; old issues of the St. Charles paper; historical documents found in the public libraries of St. Charles, Winona and Rochester and in the archives of the Winona County Historical Society and the Minnesota Historical Society; scrapbooks and other collection of items of historical interest; official records of organizations and institutions; and the keen recollections of many of the older citizens of this area.

St. Charles Centennial

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