

THE PRINCETON UNION

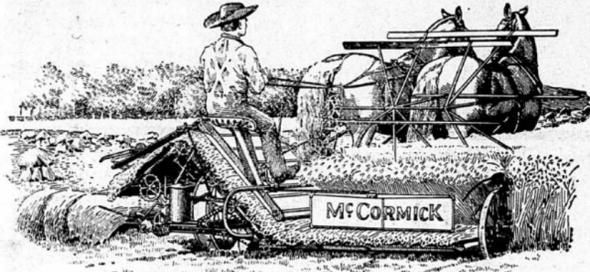
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Wall Map of Mille Lacs county given away with a year's subscription to the Princeton Union. \$1 is all.

OLD BATTLE FLAGS.

For the Last Time They are Flung to the Breeze and Wave Over the Veterans.

Old Soldiers Look With Loving Eyes on Banners Which They Followed on to Victory.

More than nine hundred veterans of Minnesota regiments and civil war organizations marched in the flag day parade in St. Paul on June 14. Brackett's battalion had twenty-five men in line, and there were also survivors of the four artillery organizations, the Second cavalry, the Minnesota Rangers and Hatch's battalion. Cheer after cheer greeted the veterans as they marched once more behind the flags which they had followed through many bloody battles and their old enthusiasm seemed to awake within them as once more the step was "left, left, along the line. There were many veterans in the city who, because of disabilities or old age, were unable to march, but they joined the spectators on the sidewalks or gathered at the new capitol, waiting for the main column to come up.

The veteran organizations gathered at the old capitol, the civil war veterans on the Exchange street side of the building, and the Spanish-American and Philippine war veterans on Cedar street. The color-bearers of the eleven regiments which were to escort their flags to the new capitol gathered in the rotunda of the old capitol, when Colonel C. T. Trowbridge, on behalf of Governor Johnson, delivered the flags to the bearers. The bearers then joined their regiments on the lawn.

After the regiments had been brought to attention General J. W. Bishop delivered a brief address, committing the flags once more to the men who followed them in battle.

C. H. Rines of this place is closely connected with the history of the flag of the old First Minnesota regiment, and Sam. Blumer of Stillwater, and Ellette Perkins of Clearwater also helped in preserving it during the stirring times around Gettysburg. Blumer carried the flag to Antietam and Perkins got it there and carried it to Gettysburg. When the remnant of the regiment came home C. H. Rines brought the flag to Minnesota and left it at Fort Snelling. He says that relic hunters made sad havoc with it, cutting away the greater portion. It is on the same old staff which had the lower part shot away, but it has been spliced to its original length. Mr. Rines was chosen flag bearer at St. Paul on the 14th and once more lifted the banner under which he had fought and which he carried so many hundreds of miles to be preserved as a memento of a great and glorious struggle.

The old First Minnesota had 105 men in line.

The Second Minnesota, commanded by Thomas Downs, carried six flags and a drum that had seen four years' service. The Second had 130 men in line.

The Third Minnesota, commanded by J. M. Bowler, had 73 in line and escorted two flags.

The Fourth Minnesota, commanded by Thomas H. Reeves, had eighty-five men in line and two flags.

The Fifth Minnesota, commanded by W. A. Van Slyke, escorted six flags and had seventy-six men in line. The Sixth Minnesota, commanded by A. P. Connolly, was 100 strong and escorted two flags.

The Seventh Minnesota, commanded by Judge L. W. Collins, had forty in line, with three flags.

The Eighth Minnesota, commanded by Thomas Darlington, escorted two flags and had eighty-eight veterans in line.

The Ninth Minnesota, commanded by J. H. Abbett, had sixty in line and escorted four flags.

The Tenth Minnesota had fifty men in line.

The Eleventh Minnesota, commanded by W. C. Wilson, had two flags and fifty-eight men in line.

The eleven veteran regiments were followed by small detachments of the First, Second and Third batteries of light artillery, and these in turn by the First regiment of heavy artillery, fifteen in line.

Brackett's battalion, J. W. Cramsie, commanding with twenty-five veterans, was followed by a few survivors of the First Minnesota Rangers, and these in turn by a detachment of the Second Minnesota cavalry. Hatch's battalion, which claims the distinction of being the last Minnesota military organization mustered out after the civil war, brought up the rear of the civil war organizations.

Bishop Ireland made the formal presentation of flags and in his speech he said: "Dear old flags, tattered and shattered, storm-beaten and bullet-bored, our hearts go out to you in sweetest love, in fondest embrace. The teardrops bedewing our eyelids bespeak the emotion welling within our souls. Dear old flags, receive our salute most sincere in its tenderness, most plenary in its effusiveness."

One of the features of the parade was the presence of the grandson of Wm. Bercher bearing an old drum which was used by the elder Bercher all through the civil war. Bercher was formerly a resident of Pine county.

The death of Col. Colvill during the reunion calls vividly to mind the famous charge at Gettysburg, of which he was the leader. Of this charge W. S. Hancock says: "There is no more gallant deed recorded in history. I ordered these men there because I saw I must gain a few minutes' time. Reinforcements were coming on the run, but I knew that before they could reach the threatened point the Confederates, unless checked, would seize the position. I would have ordered the regiment in if I had known that every man would be killed. It had to be done, and I was glad to find such a gallant body of men as the First Minnesota at hand, willing to make the terrible sacrifice that the occasion demanded."

On that fateful July morning there were but 262 men remaining in First Minnesota regiment, which lay in reserve. Gradually the Union men were being forced back between the space between the First Minnesota and Little Round Top. The retreat became a rout and the men of the First Minnesota had to lie on their sides to permit the retreating troops to pass through. Willard's brigade had been ordered to relieve the situation, but could not arrive on time. At this juncture Gen. Hancock rode up at full speed and for a moment vainly endeavored to rally Sickles' retreating men. Then he caught sight of the First Minnesota. Galloping up he said: "What regiment is this?" "First Minnesota," replied Col. Colvill. "Charge those lines!" commanded Hancock. "Charge," shouted Colvill.

Silently without orders the speed was changed from double-quick to utmost speed, for in that lay the only hope of passing through that storm of lead and striking the enemy. With leveled bayonets the regiment rushed upon the first line of the Confederates, who in turn had been slightly disordered by crossing a creek at the foot of the slope. The first line of the Confederates broke as the bayonets of the First Minnesota reached it, and rushing back through the second line stopped the whole advance. The First Minnesota then poured in its fire and held the entire force at bay until the Union reserves appeared on the brow of the hill. Then the Confederates began to retire and the First Minnesota was ordered back. Of the 262 men 215 had fallen dead or wounded, and only forty-seven were still in line.

Col. Colvill was so severely wounded that all through his after life his superb form of six feet five inches was bent and it was commonly said that he carried four pounds of confederate lead in his person.

The old flags are now safely stored in the new capitol and never again, in the natural course of events, will the ceremonies which were witnessed on the 14th be repeated.

Odd Fellow Fees Unchanged.

B. M. Van Alstein and L. S. Briggs were representatives from the local lodge of Odd Fellows to the grand lodge which met in St. Paul last Thursday. The grand lodge refused the request of the country lodges to reduce the lodge fees. The country lodges said they could not increase their memberships unless the fees were lowered. A compromise was attempted to authorize the grand master to issue special dispensations below the minimum rate, but this was also defeated. It was decided that applicants for membership must have six months' residence in the district where the lodge to which they apply is located. It was also decided to merge the widows and orphans' fund with the general fund. Minneapolis was decided on as the place for holding the session of the grand lodge in June 1906.

Edward Jensen Dies of Consumption.

On Monday, June 19, Edward Jensen, a resident of Greenbush, near Freer, died of consumption at the age of twenty-eight years. He was a son of Albert and Thea Jensen, who have lost three sons from the same cause within the past two and a half years. The funeral was held from the Norwegian church in Greenbush Wednesday, June 21.

OFF FOR THE CAMP.

Company G Goes to Lake City Camp Again for its Annual Outing Drill and March.

The Boys Will not be Idle While There, as They Have a Hike in Prospect.

Company G, Third Inf. M. N. G. left Princeton on Tuesday morning, June 20, for Camp Lakeview, at Lake City, Minn. Affording as it does a lake front and background of hills, with a beautiful view of the rising shore of Lake Pepin on the Wisconsin side, this place continues to be the popular camping ground of the Minnesota regiments on their summer outing trips each year. The members of Company G, as well as others in the regiment would have preferred a march through the country this year, but as that was not chosen they all concluded to get what enjoyment was possible from the camping at Lake City. That the trip was not considered anything like a hardship is proven from the fact that forty-six of the company are in camp, although the payment of seven dollars would have been accepted in lieu of the attendance of any member. Lieutenant G. R. Caley has been a member of the company for three years and has always been anxious to go to camp with the boys but has been detained by professional work and this year has been no exception, although he will try to visit camp before it breaks up. The train which took the company out of Princeton contained several cars filled with the soldier boys of up country places, who greeted the Princeton contingent with hearty cheers as they marched to their car. The proceedings were new to some young members whose curiosity peeped through their dignity, but the company contains some Spanish war veterans whose trip to Chicamunga smoothed the rough edges and they seemed like patriarchs among the others. As the train pulled out it was followed by the cheers of the townspeople who had gathered to see its company of soldiers off.

On Monday a detail consisting of Cooks Howard and Johnson and Privates King and Manke were sent ahead and on the arrival of the company at its destination it found everything in readiness and a good supper awaiting it at six o'clock. Company G is color company this year, with Privates Boyne and Jaenicke as color guard.

The members at camp are, Capt. Caley, First Sergt. Boyn, Quarter Master Sergt. Sellhorn, Sergts. Tritch and Marshall, Corporals Edmison, Bullis, Reissig, Mergel and Marshall, Artificer Whitcomb, Cooks Howard and Johnson, and thirty-three privates. Company G constitutes the Second battalion in Major Risk's of Duluth. It has the same row of tents and the same cook house it had last year and the veterans feel at home and no doubt some of the younger recruits have wished themselves at home before this, about the time they went up in the blanket or down into the lake, but they will be old in time and will get even on the next raw lot.

After reaching camp it was learned that the company would start with the Second battalion, June 23, on a practice march on the road to Red Wing, carrying rations and tents, and Lieut. Caley was busy yesterday morning sending the boys some needed accoutrements. The regiment will break camp next Wednesday.

The Carmody Creamery.

The Stanchfield Lake Dairy Association was incorporated under the State law early this spring, with the object of building a creamery at Carmody, nine and one-half miles northeast of Princeton. The board of directors of the company are, Harry Mott, Pres.; Frank Benson, Vice Pres.; P. A. Swanson, Treas.; Minnie Swanson, Sec'y; P. E. Swanson, S. E. Sundeen, Wm. Radeke. This is a stock company, the shares selling for \$10 each. At present there are forty-five stockholders in the company and the number is constantly increasing. A building has been erected and machinery of latest improvement furnished at a cost of about \$2,500. The separator has a capacity of 3,000 pounds of milk an hour and a ponderous 600-pound churn does the rest with the help of a 15-horse engine and 20-horse boiler. The company will buy both milk and cream and aim to make a class of creamery butter second to none. M. E. Bull of Curtiss, Minn., has been engaged as butter maker and he is a man who is said to thoroughly understand his business. With the excellent stock country near

the location of this creamery its successful future is assured and the enterprise shown by the farmers in organizing the company shows that they are awake to the fact that stock and stock products will contribute greatly to the future prosperity of this section.

The Steeves-Cater Land Case.

The 160 acres of land three miles northeast of Princeton, which belonged to the Ed. Cater estate, has caused considerable litigation in one way and another the principal trouble being between Mariam and Flossie Cater who claimed a four-fifteenth interest in the land. The case was in the district court in this county and was decided by Judge Searle in favor of Robt. Steeves. E. L. McMillan, attorney for the Caters, appealed the case to the State supreme court and was in St. Paul two weeks ago to argue the case before the court, and on June 16, it rendered its decision reversing the judgment of Judge Searle and giving title to the four-fifteenth interest to the Caters on a technicality arising from an order of sale by the probate court which the supreme court held to be invalid because of lack of proper publication.

Now that the Caters have been adjudged the owners of this undivided part of the land the next problem which confronts them is a settlement with Steeves, either through sale or purchase. As there is said to be a minor who is entitled to a share of the property it can not very well be sold.

Princeton vs. Elk River.

After considerable statesmanlike diplomacy on the part of the two clubs, which was rendered necessary because the Elk River club does not play ball on the home grounds on Sunday and the Princeton boys find it hard to get away on other days of the week, the two clubs managed to get together on the Elk River grounds last Tuesday and according to all accounts it was a battle royal. The batteries on each side made good records, Woods, as usual, striking out more men than his opponent. He had fourteen to his credit while Elk River Wheaton had but eight. The game was a swift one all the way through and kept Harry Pratt on his mettle to keep things straight. Four errors are marked against each club and for Princeton its errors were costly ones, as the game resulted in a score of four to two in favor of Elk River. This leaves the clubs with one game to the credit of each and the third game will be fought hard by both sides. Whenever it comes it will be worth seeing. The score by innings follows:

Princeton..... 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1-2
Elk River..... 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 2-4

The Basket Meeting.

The basket meeting held in the German church under direction of Rev. C. Bierman was very successful, the attendance being large, especially on Sunday when the church was filled. Besides other ministers mentioned last week Rev. H. E. Young was present. Rev. Young is now or has been presiding elder of the St. Paul district. He is now president of St. Paul Park college and represents the educational cause. From other places there were present at the meeting and visiting friends, in the neighborhood, Mr. and Mrs. George Ransom of Annandale, Mrs. Ransom being a sister of the Henschel boys; Charles Brunkow, postmaster at Estes Brook and his family; H. Hess and family, Mr. Kleinbrink and family of Estes Brook; Jacob Kleng and family of Foreston; Mrs. Gustaf Meyer of Blue Earth City and Mrs. Gustaf Luedke of Mantato, both sisters-in-law of Ernest Radeke.

Defacing the New Bridge.

An innate spirit of mischief seems to be present in some boys and even some older than boys, which prompts them to cut and otherwise deface any public structure to which they have free access. It is hard to understand what satisfaction they can derive from this habit, for certainly it will require more than a rude carving of it on the railings of a bridge to cause any name to go down to history in a halo of glory. Such work is only an advertisement of the idleness and need of better employment of the ones who are guilty of it. The new bridge already shows some of this work and it is much to be regretted.

The Rural Telephone Company.

The special meeting of the stock holders of the Rural Telephone company held on Monday, June 19, resulted in a vote to issue bonds for \$5,000 for financing the company. The money will be expended in payment for the extension of the company's line. A new line from Princeton to Spectacle lake has been built and it already has twenty-three phones. The line will be extended from Long's Siding to Estes Brook and on to Duelm. These lines are a great convenience to farmers and they are well patronized.