TELLS OF THE PRESS IN PIONEER DAYS

Continued From Second Page.

to three times their natural size, and nearly every step they made was stained with blood. The depressions of the trail were everywhere drifted full, and where we could not get around them, they had to be shoveled through. The extreme severity of the winter and spring made relief impossible until May 11. In the meantime, nine of our ten oxen had starved to death, there being nothing available for them after the first week of February but elm browse. Before the close of February, our own supplies had become so exhausted that we had to eat the attenuated hams of our starved to death cattle. From April 13 until May 17, a little Englishman we called Billy and I held down a town site opposite Graham's Point, near where Georgetown now is. We found patches of woods along the river down there, where we shot squirrels, prairie chickens and rabbits now and then, and when that supply failed us, we alternated with boiled cat fish and tea, without salt or other condiments.

Returns to Newspaper Work.

I returned to St. Anthony in June and went back to newspaper editing thoroughly cured of my town site fever, and, though more than forty-six years have passed, I have not seen a rod of that country since. The quarter share of lots coming to me in the three town sites we platted that winter, went for taxes many years ago, and all now are farms.

I relate this incident of my pioneer life in Minnesota to show the almost lunatic wildness here in the fifties. The rush for the new lands and business of the Northwest quite equaled the stampede to the gold fields of California in 1849. Sixteen or eighteen steamboats often lay at the St. Paul landings at one time, discharging passengers and freight. May 7, 1857, twenty-four steamboats were here. One boat, the War Eagle, brought up 814 people on a single trip.

Of course, the newspaper business boomed in those times, with everything else. Nine new weekly newspapers were added in 1855 to the fourteen already established in Minnesota. In 1856 seventeen more came. To these were added twenty-eight more in 1857. One daily, the Falls Evening News, was also started. Eighteen hundred and fifty-seven began, therefore, with a total of forty weeklies and five dailies, and closed with sixty-eight weeklies and six dailies. Of course, not nearly all of these were living at the close of 1857. But think of this thin newspaper spread over the then sparsely populated territory of Minnesota. Looking back over the disasters that followed the bursting of this great mid-fifty boom, I am reminded of the story of the Irish hod carrier who fell off the roof of a house. Said he: "I didn't moind the cumin' down at all, but the divil was to pay when I shtruck."

Some of the Early Journals.

But let us go back to early journalism. The forty-first weekly newspaper established in Minnesota was the Lake City Tribune.

The Pioneer and Democrat of January 15, 1857, says: "The first number of the Lake City Tribune, published and edited by Doughty, Tibbetts and Dwelle, has come." The St. Paul Advertiser of January 17 also announces the arrival of the first number. The Advertiser quotes it as late as June 12, 1858. Its place of publication was Lake City, Wabasha county, and it probably was the first newspaper published there. From G. M. Dwelle, son of one of the proprietors of the paper, I learn that he has number one of volume one of the Tribune, and that it is dated January 3, 1857. It is treasured as an heirloom by his family. The editor of the paper was A. A. Norwood. Mr. Dwelle says he also has a copy of the date of Sept. 18, 1858, where the name of D. C. Story and A. A. Norwood appear as editors, and a copy dated May 5, 1860, in which the name of Elijah Porter appears as editor and publisher. Only three copies of this paper, preserved, showing three editorial changes in three years. This is all I have been able to find of the Lake City Tribune. "How soon we are forgot when we are dead."

Minnesota Advertiser.

The forty-second newspaper, in regular order, was the Minnesota Advertiser. George F. Brott, one of the proprietors of Bois Des Sioux City and other towns surveyed on our expedition to the Red River of the North in 1857, and one of the chief promoters of St. Cloud, Stearns county, in its early days, and of many other town site projects, was proprietor of the Minnesota Advertiser. It was the first newspaper started in St. Cloud. Its editor was my old friend, Henry W. Cowles, a talented young attorney, now deceased, who came from one of the Southern states and located first at St. Anthony and afterwards at St. Cloud. C. W. West was its publisher. It was independent in politics.

As the first number of the paper in the Historical society is number seven of volume one, dated Feb. 26, 1857, number one in regular course would be dated Jan. 15. The history of Stearns county, however, claims that the paper began Jan. 1, 1857, and that James Mowatt was the publisher. If so, he must have retired before Feb. 26, 1857, as that issue has the name of West at the head of its columns. As Mowatt was a good, practical printer, it is probable that really he was foreman of the paper. Cowles soon resigned and was succeeded by James C. Shepley, another attorney. In the fall of 1857 Brott discontinued the Advertiser. It was run chiefly as a town site promoter.

Brott was about the best sample of the Western hustler that this region has ever produced. His town assets were scattered promiscuously over Northern Minnesota. It used to be said that no matter where Brott decided to plant a town, all he had to do was to step out into the surrounding hazel brush to find tools to do it with. Debts troubled him no more than rain troubles a duck. Why need debts worry him? He always had town lots to pay them with, until the crash of 1857 crippled him, when he drifted south, trading as he went. After the war, he settled in Washington, and a few months ago he died. Hustling, jovial, joking, impulsive George F. Brott. Like Henry McKenty, he was a product of the wild, free pioneer Northwest. The last of such men went with the buffalo and the mould in which they were cast was long since broken and swept away by the advancing tide of immigration.

"Hyrorum Rapids."

Most of the newspapers of territorial times in Minnesota were started to help sell lots in the young towns where they were located. They seldom had enough subscription and advertising backing to pay their running expenses and the livings of their editors. They were important helpers, however, in getting new towns on their feet, and when one editor starved out or stepped higher politically, professionally or in business ways, some new briefless lawyer, or other bright, moneyless young man was willing to take his place and try for a lift in turn. So it came that early journalistic duties were performed mainly by a lot of peripatetic editors, many of them forceful, brilliant fellows, who afterwards made high marks in business and the professions. Some of the advertisements, circulars and editorials that exploited towns, used adjectives freely and misused truth shamefully. A burlesque of the hifalutin descriptions usually employed was printed in the Cedar Falls Banner and republished in the St. Paul Advertiser in 1857. It purported to give a start to a town called Hyrorum Rapids. "Hyrorium," it said. "is situated in a lovely dell, on all sides of which picturesque rocks rear their vine-clad heads, their bases fanned by waving ferns and draped in golden moss. Winding around these picturesque features of the landscape are verdant paths leading the cozy nooks, bespangled with flowers of such bewildering sweetness that a miser would fling aside his gold and tear his hair in despair at having but one nose; he would sit down, fold up the wings of his fancy and weep that there was nothing left for imagination. There are no advantages of location in this beautiful town. All lots wherever situated are $500 each and cheap at double the price."

Olmsted County's First Paper.

The forty-third newspaper started in Minnesota was the Olmsted County Journal.

The first number of this newspaper seems to have been received by the St. Paul Advertiser April 25, 1857. I have dated it April 20, because after diligent search I can find no other record of its first issue than the Advertiser gives. Allowing five days for the Journal to get to St. Paul and into the Advertiser, would bring the date about April 20, and so I start it at that. It was independent in politics, backed by Evans & Robbins, and was the first newspaper published in Rochester, Olmsted county. After printing the paper a short time, Evans & Robbins sold the plant to John H. Hyatt and Martin L. Stewart.

The St. Paul Pioneer, of Nov. 19, 1857, announced its suspension on account of the financial failures following the downfall of the Ohio Life and Trust company, Aug. 24 of that year. Feb. 3, 1858, the material of the Journal was used to start a paper called the Rochester Free Press. I cannot find any of the files of the Olmsted County Journal, nor can I get any more details of its brief history.

Tragic Fate of Two Newspaper Men.

The forty-fourth newspaper was the Waumadee Herald.

About the 10th of May, 1857, two brothers, Joseph and Thomas A. McMasters, started this newspaper at Read's Landing, Wabasha county. At that time is was thought by some of its citizens that Read's Landing was too prosaic and practical to head the paper. The McMasters brothers were of like mind, hence the romantic name of "Waumadee Herald." On the 12th of May, a short time after the first issue was worked off the press, the publication of the Herald came to a sudden and painful pause, for the accidental overturn of the sailboat Chippewa on the Mississippi at Read's Landing, in a gale of wind, drowned both of them. Four men were in the boat, two of whom were saved. About six weeks after this accident, Norman Stevens, a young printer, came to Read's Landing from Illinois, procured the aid of some of the business men of that village, bought the Herald plant of the father of the McMasters and renewed the publication of the paper. As the St. Paul Advertiser of Aug. 15, 1857, quoted the Waumadee Herald, it must have been continued by Stevens under that name, for a time after his purchase. The history of Wabasha county claims that Stevens did not continue the Waumadee Herald, but started the Wabasha County Herald on June 27, 1857, the date he bought the material from the elder McMasters. Clearly the history is wrong, for not only does the Advertiser quote the Waumadee Herald as above, but Vol. 2. No. 22, of the Wabasha County Herald, dated Jan. 29, 1859, is in the Historical society library. Dating back from that number would bring Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Wabasha Herald to Sept. 5, 1857, which is only twenty days after the last recorded notice of the Waumadee Herald. The truth of the matter probably is that Stevens, tiring of the name "Waumadee County Herald," cut it out and began Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Wabasha County Herald on the 5th of September, 1857. As I have stated, the Waumadee Herald was independent in politics.

Fillmore County's Third.

The forty-fifth newspaper coming into the territory was the Western Transcript.

The Transcript was the third paper started in the little town of Carimona, Fillmore county, within about sixteen months. The two previously started died in early infancy. The Transcript seems to have followed closely the demise of the Carimona Telegraph. The earliest notice of it that I find is in the St. Paul Advertiser of May 30, 1857. It says it had "just received the first number of the Western Transcript, published at Carimona by I. W. Lucas." It did not last long, as the July 11, 1857, issue of the Advertiser announced its suspension. As near as I can find, that was the final newspaper effort in Carimona. No numbers of the Western Transcript seem to be in existence.

The difficulties attending the first planting of newspapers and catching editors for them, in pioneer times, remind one of the man and his pig. The pig was small, active, wild and continually getting through the fence into his garden. Finally, his owner came to the conclusion that the best way to prevent further depredations was to put a poke on the pig. After considerable trouble he got him into the woodshed where there was a small window about three feet from the floor. The pig, seeing his master coming for him, made a dive through the window, taking out a corner pane slick and clean. The man watched the pig a few seconds as he streaked across the field, and then muttered to himself: "Con sarn ye! Go it! I've got yer measure, anyhow, seven by nine exactly."

The forty-sixth newspaper in my record is the Monticello Times.

The Monticello Times was the six-column successor of the Monticello Journal mentioned in my history of journalism of 1856. Its first number was dated Thursday, May 21, 1857. Its editors were S. T. Creighton, one of the proprietors of the town, and J. F. Bradley. C. M. Kenton was assistant editor, publisher and proprietor. It was neutral in politics. At the head of the editorial column of the first issue Creighton makes the following unique announcement:

"Apology—It may not be amiss to say by way of apology that this number of the Times might have been better had it not been that while the editor was up to his elbows in editorial responsibilities, his better half, about 9 o'clock at night, sent him kiting through one of the worst storms of the season after a doctor, and before morning he had thrust into his arms another responsibility in the shape of a young editor. We may yet have things so arranged as to resume our usual amount of dignity by next week."

When the Editors Fell Out.

June 18, 1857, Bradley withdrew and Creighton and Kenton were announced as editors. In July following, Creighton and Geo. F. Brott, of the St. Cloud Advertiser, got into a rather heated controversy over the relative population of Monticello and St. Cloud. Brott was chief promoter of the latter town. In reply to an article reflecting on Creighton, the latter came back at Brott in a way worthy of the best days of Goodhue and Parson Brownlow. Here is a sample extract:

"Mr. Brott says something about wringing the Parson's nasal organ. We wonder what the Parson would be doing in the meantime." He then winds up his article by representing the parson as fallen from grace, and that the relation which he sustained to the church in Monticello as pastor was dissolved by mutual consent of the parties. "As to grace, we never did have and have not much to brag about; still we have a comfortable hope of weathering the storm and at last having a home in that upper city, equal if not superior in size and beauty to St. Cloud. As regards our pastoral relations, they still exist, and we are still permitted to preach every Sunday to what appears to be a well satisfied congregation."

But to wind up the matter, Brott says: "When we came to the territory, he took us to his bosom and warmed us into life and received in return a fatal sting." "Warmed into life! We never bought a cent's worth of property of Mr. Brott, never sold him a cent's worth, never borrowed a dollar of him nor loaned him a dollar; never acted with him one minute in any business whatever. His interests have always been opposed to ours and he has acted accordingly. If this is heat, good Lord save us from the cold."

S. T. Creighton was a Methodist minister. I knew him well.

Sept. 12, 1857, Creighton resigned the senior editorship of the Times, and was succeeded by Edward Hartley. Kenton still remained assistant editor, publisher and proprietor. At the same date, the publication day of the Times was changed to Saturday. The issue of Oct. 24 appeared with Hartley's name missing. Kenton remained sole editor, publisher and proprietor. March 3. 1858, the publication day was changed from Saturday to Wednesday.

June 26, after a suspension of six weeks, the Times appeared with a new dress. Kenton was announced as publisher, and the place of editor and proprietor went vacant, though it was generally understood that Kenton still remained editor. In January, 1859, there came the usual number of half sheets to carry legal advertisements to a safe conclusion, and Feb. 16 following the Times died, and the remains went to Z. M. Brown, one of the proprietors of Monticello.

Minnesota Free Press.

The forty-seventh newspaper established in the territory was the Minnesota Free Press.

The first number of the Minnesota Free Press was dated May 27, 1857. It was printed at St. Peter, Nicollet county. Wm. C. Dodge was its editor and proprietor. It was a Republican weekly of eight columns at the beginning, but on Nov. 18, finding it carried too much sail, it contracted to seven columns. Even that spread was found too much for the locality and times, and soon after it was temporarily discontinued.

April 20, 1859, an alliance was made with J. K. Moore, and the name changed to St. Peter Free Press, without losing volume or number in the process. Dodge and Moore seemed to be doing finely together until Dec. 21, 1859, when the plant was totally destroyed by fire with no insurance. That ended the St. Peter Free Press. The St. Paul Advertiser called it the Salt Petre Flea Press, showing that Wheelock began early to invent words to fit things he didn't like.

The forty-eighth newspaper was the Minnesota Thalbote.

The Minnesota Thalbote was the second German paper established in the territory. Frederick Orthwein, who started the Minnesota Deutsche Zeitung in 1855, and Albert Wolf were the originators of the Minnesota Thalbote. It was a small Democratic quarto and appeared at Chaska, Carver county, during the first week in June, 1857. The Zeitung was started by the Democrats. Orthwein soon carried the paper over to the Republicans. Then he turned back to the Democrats. The departure of Orthwein from the Zeitung was thus heralded by the St. Paul Minnesotan: "The Minnesota Zeitung has taken a resting spell by getting clear of its old editor, Orthwein, and is out again in fine style as a Republican paper."

Shortly after the Thalbote was started the Democrats of the Nineteenth district, consisting of Carver and Wright counties, nominated Orthwein for the house of the Minnesota legislature. He was defeated at the fall election, and early in 1858 he pulled up stakes at Chaska and returned to St. Paul, where he started still another paper, which he called the Minnesota Demokrat. He gave it the volume and number of the Thalbote and filled out the unexpired subscription list of the latter with the former paper. No issues of the Thalbote are in the historical library, nor can I find any trace of them elsewhere.

John P. Owens' Political Shifts.

Trading his Democracy to the Republicans in 1856 and then switching back again infuriated John P. Owens, the rough and ready editor of the Minnesotan, who was the St. Paul Republican standard bearer. The bitterness with which he assailed Orthwein reminds one of the two Dutchmen who traded horses. One of them cheated the other and refused to make it good. That made the victim mad. He squared himself and, pointing his finger at the other Dutchman, said impulsively: "Now, Hans, you listen; py un py you un me die. I go to heaven; you go to hell. Some day I vill pe lookin' over der railin' up dere in heaven un see you tossin' down dere on de red hot waves of hell; un you vill look up un say, 'Hans, joost send me down von leetle drop of water to cool mine tongue;' un I vill say, 'No, py tam, I von't, you cheat me so ven we trate hosses.'"

The next newspaper and the forty-ninth in the general course was the Mankato Independent.

I have to go to files of other 1857 newspapers to get the date of the beginning of the Mankato Independent. The St. Paul Advertiser, that faithful chronicler of 1857 newspapers, says in its issue of June 13, 1857, that the first number of the Mankato Independent had arrived. The June 10, 1857, issue of the Valley Herald makes the same announcement, and the Pioneer and Democrat of June 18 says the same, therefore volume one, number one, was probably begun some time during the first week in June, 1857.

The first issue that the Historical society has is dated Aug. 9, 1860, and is volume four, number five of a semi-weekly published Monday and Thursday. At that date, Hensley and Gunning were publishers and proprietors, and it was a four-page, five-column Republican sheet. The date is Feb. 7, 1861. The history of Scott county says Hensley and Gunning started the paper July 8, 1862. It appeared Tuesday and Friday, and Oct. 4, 1862, it was a weekly newspaper published on Saturday.

Mr. Hensley died Dec. 20, 1862. The paper was continued until July 11, 1863, when it was sold to Charles H. Slocum, the last publisher of the St. Anthony Express, a paper whose mortuary exercises I had the honor to conduct in May, 1861. Slocum bought the press and material of the Independent, interred the defunct with appropriate ceremonies and, July 17, 1863, began volume one, number one, of a seven-column paper, called the Mankato Union, before the hearse which had borne the Independent had fairly got out of the already crowded graveyard of early journalism.

Emigrant Aid Journal.

The fiftieth of the rapidly increasing newspapers of Minnesota was the Emigrant Aid Journal. This is another paper of which I can get no trace, except through history and contemporaneous journals. The St. Paul Advertiser, of July 4, 1857, says "the second number of the Emigrant Aid Journal has come." This will date the first issue about the middle of June. It was printed at Nininger, Dakota county, and was independent, as usual, in politics. Hon. Ignatius Donnelly was the originator and A. W. McDonald, at one time connected with the Scientific American, was its editor. It is said that the citizens of Nininger contributed $1,000 the first year to give the paper a footing. The St. Paul Advertiser quotes the paper as late as April 10, 1858. How long it lived after that is uncertain. It is generally understood, however, that it was about two years old when it died.

Friend of the Newspaper.

Sterling Morton, the honest and obstinately aggressive commissioner of agriculture when Grover Cleveland was president, was a writer on the Chicago Times in the days of Wilbur F. Story. At a dinner of newspaper men he was asked to respond to the toast, "The friend of the newspaper." "Who is the friend of the newspaper," he asked. "The friend of the newspaper is a man who wants you to leave out something you ought to put in, or to put in something you ought to leave out. Friendship to a newspaper is a disaster to a newspaper; friendship gets between the newspaper's feet, trips it and over it goes on its nose. To succeed with a newspaper only requires that you interest folks; you do that even more thoroughly when you kick a man into the gutter than when you help him out. My own thought is that for the best interests of the paper, your wise editor will list his enemies as an asset and his friends as a liability."

The fifty-first newspaper started in Minnesota was the Hokah Chief.

It was published in Hokah, Houston county. I have had an unusually vexatious hunt for the scattered fragments of this newspaper. No early files seem to be in existence. Vol. 1, No. 31, the earliest number that I have seen, being dated March 27, 1858, would bring Vol. 1, No. 1 to date of Aug. 29, 1857. There must have been some of the temporary suspensions usual in getting new newspapers under way in those days, as the St. Paul Advertiser of July 18, 1857, announces the appearance of the first number. Vol. 1, No. 1, must therefore have been issued about July 10, 1857. It was a four-page, seven column independent paper, run in its first desultory issues by Charles Reynolds. Late in 1858 or early in 1859, it was suspended entirely. H. Ostrander, a practical printer and graduate from the office of the Albany Evening Journal, an indefatigable hustler, came to Hokah, caulked the open seams of the stranded Chief, pried it off the bar and April 26, 1859, floated it anew. When he couldn't pay for help, he ran the craft alone. May 23, 1865, after about six years of that sort of struggle, the Chief turned up its toes and died. Along in the seventies another Hokah Chief with a new volume and number, was started. This on Jan. 18, 1893, became the present Houston County Chief, which is still going. Ostrander's brave fight to keep the old Chief going, without adequate support from the people of Hokah, reminds one of the father who bought a bulldog pup for his boy. One day he was on his back playing with the dog, when rough handling caused it to set its teeth in the old man's nose. He yelled to Sam to take him off. Sam, dancing around in ecstatic excitement, yelled back at his father: "Stand it, dad, stand it! It'll be the making of the pup."

Southern Minnesota Star.

The fifty-second newspaper in regular course was the Southern Minnesota Star.

This is still another newspaper of which I can find no copies. It was published at Albert Lea, Freeborn county. The St. Paul Advertiser mentions the receipt of the first number, in its issue of July 25, 1857. The St. Paul Pioneer of Nov. 19 announced its temporary suspension, owing to financial troubles, and the St. Paul Advertiser of May 29, 1858, said the Star had died and charged its decease to the town proprietors. The history of Freeborn county says Swineford & Gray began the Star July 11, 1857. The plant was soon sold under foreclosure of mortgage held by Geo. S. Ruble, one of the proprietors of the town of Albert Lea. Concerning the early newspapers published in Albert Lea, Isaac Botsford says, in the Freeborn County Eagle of Feb. 18, 1860: "Swineford & Gray continued the Southern Minnesota Star thirty-nine weeks, then H. F. Gray published one number, making forty full numbers for the Star." It was independent in politics.

The Freeborn County Standard, in its issue of May 14, 1868, says in an article entitled "The Standard and Its Vicissitudes," the Minnesota Star was first issued July 11, 1857, and ran about eight months and died from lack of Democratic support. The press and material lay idle about six months. It was then sold under mortgage foreclosure by Geo. S. Ruble, and went to Alf P. Swineford, one of the former proprietors of the Star. With it he started the Freeborn County Eagle. Isaac Botsford succeeded to this. He is the man who announced in his prospectus that he would take for subscriptions anything that grew that he could use, and everything that could be made except counterfeit money.

Mantorville Express.

The fifty-third newspaper was the Mantorville Express.

The Mantorville Express was begun in Mantorville, Dodge county, July 16, 1857. The founder of the paper was J. E. Bancroft. It was independent in politics. C. W. Blaisdell bought a press and material for a paper at Wasioja, a few miles from Mantorville, and there was considerable rivalry between him and Bancroft for a start. Bancroft's outfit was loaded into a lumber wagon, behind a yoke of oxen and, in crossing the Zumbro river, near Oronocco, the wagon capsized, mixing the type into pi and wetting down the type before it was needed for the press. This gave Blaisdell so much advantage that he thought there was no need of special hurry. Bancroft, however, was a hustler. He had things pretty well along, when a man from Wasioja came along about half drunk, on the morning of July 15, and bragged how Wasioja was coming out ahead of Mantorville in a newspaper way. Bancroft pumped until he found Blaisdell intended to start his paper on the 17th. Hardly was his informant out of sight on his way to Rochester when Bancroft enlisted wife and all hands for a day and night hustle to get out the Express. Meals were brought to the office and everybody worked with such small waste of time that when the Wasioja man came along the next afternoon the Express was on the street, and he was presented with a copy to take home with the compliments of Bancroft and Mantorville. That is how Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Mantorville Express came to be dated July 16 and the first issue of the Wasioja Gazette July 17. July 31, 1858, A. LaDue became associated with Bancroft as publisher. Feb. 5, 1859, LaDue retired. July 30, 1859, P. C. Compton joined Burbank and the paper was enlarged to seven columns. March 24, 1860, Campton withdrew and Bancroft ran the paper alone until March, 1866, when he died. His wife went on with the paper without the lapse of a single issue, but hesitated to let her name appear at the head of the editorial columns until her management had proved a success. July 27, 1866, a little over four months after the death of Bancroft, the name of his wife, C. E. F. Bancroft, appeared at the head of the paper. She continued to edit and manage it until July 23, 1869. Then began a series of editorial changes, of which I have counted sixteen after Bancroft up to Nov. 1, 1881. The Express survived them all, however, and is still running.

John Earl Bancroft.

John E. Bancroft began the Mantorville Express July 16, 1857, as above stated. He came from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin and then to Mantorville, the year before starting his paper. He was not a man of strong physique, and the hard, self-sacrificing work of building his newspaper on firm foundations so told on his stock of vitality that he died in the spring of 1866. The editor of another newspaper, writing of Bancroft, said:

"We do not know that he left an enemy in the world, yet he was outspoken against vice, firm in his maintenance of principle and unsparing in his denunciation of wrong. His character needs not the aid of eulogy, his life was the best eulogium. He lived long enough to secure a permanent and honorable place in the history of our county and state, and a lasting remembrance in the hearts of those who knew him best."

The fifty-fourth newspaper established in the territory was the Wasioja Gazette.

The Historical society does not have any of the issues of the Wasioja Gazette, nor can I find any numbers of it elsewhere. The July 25, 1857, issue of the St. Paul Advertiser announced the receipt of the first issue, and my account of the publication of the Mantorville Express fixes the exact date at July 17, 1857. C. W. Blaisdell was editor and proprietor. Like the Express, the Gazette was independent in politics. The Express of July 24, 1858, announced S. L. Pierce, a well known attorney of St. Paul, but now of Redwood Falls, Minn., as associate editor of the Gazette during Vol. 2, then just beginning. The Gazette lived about three years and its place of publication was Wasioja, Dodge county.

Red Wing Sentinel Number Two.

Red Wing Sentinel number two is the name I have given to the fifty-fifth newspaper begun in Minnesota. Red Wing Sentinel number one was the seventeenth in regular course. Its history will be found in my paper on "The Newspapers of 1855." After Merritt & Hutchins sold the press and materials of number one to Alexis Bailly, it went to Hastings, as has been stated. The Gazette was then started by N. V. and C. Bennett, and Merritt went into the hotel business. Merritt, tiring of the hotel business, bought the Gazette, according to the St. Paul Advertiser, about June 1, 1857, and ran it under that name until about Aug. 1 of that year, as the Advertiser quotes the Gazette as late as July 25. The issue of April 1 of the Advertiser then makes its first mention of the Sentinel, so that must have been about the time the change was made. Bennett having, in the meantime, formed another alliance with William Colville, afterwards well known as the colonel of the First Minnesota, the latter became editor of Sentinel number two, as he formerly had been of number one. Bennett also became publisher and then, without further ceremony, the volume and numbers of Red Wing Sentinel number one were picked up and carried on the same as though no sale of press and material of the old Sentinel to Bailly, no valedictory of the Sentinel, as noted by the Pioneer and Democrat of May 15, 1855, and no intervening publication of the Minnesota Gazette to supply its place, had ever been made. Some months ago I wrote Col. Colville for his explanation of these matters but he has not replied. I have been doubly careful, therefore, to harmonize all my statements as far as possible with ascertained facts, and there I must leave them, hoping that if I have made any mistakes, they will be corrected by Col. Colville, or others who are qualified for the work, before final publication of this paper by the Historical society.

March 26, 1859, Merritt sold again, and April 9, 1859, E. A. Littlefield and Martin Maginnis, the latter afterwards delegate to congress from Montana, became publisher, Colville remaining editor. Feb. 4, 1860, Colville sold his interest to W. W. Phelps, member of congress from the Red Wing district, because, as he said, in his retiring editorial, he foresaw a Democratic storm coming in the Charlestown convention. The next issue of the Sentinel Phelps appeared as editor. Aug. 15, 1860, Littlefield dropped out and Maginnis went on alone as publisher, Phelps remaining editor.

At a meeting noted for its patriotism, held April 23, 1861, in Red Wing, a company called the Goodhue Volunteers was organized and William Colville Jr. unanimously elected captain and Martin Maginnis first sergeant. The next day the Sentinel, at Vol. 5, No. 39, April 24, 1861, was discontinued, and its material sold to James Parker, and made the basis of the Goodhue Volunteer, a patriotic paper which did excellent service for the Union until it, in turn, died near the close of the war. I find in the issue of the Volunteer of May 6, 1863, that the exact date when the material of the Sentinel was purshased by the Volunteer was May 3, 1861.

Career of W. W. Phelps.

W. W. Phelps was born in Oakland, Mich., in 1822, graduated at the University of Michigan, studied law, was admitted to the bar and, in 1854, while member of the Michigan legislature, was appointed register of the United States land office at Red Wing, which was opened Feb. 1, 1855. He was elected to congress when Minnesota became a state and served twice as mayor of Red Wing. He was a Democrat of the old school and did much to give an elevated tone to early journalism. He was also very useful in placing Red Wing on the solid foundations she now enjoys. He died Aug. 3, 1873.

The fifty-sixth newspaper published in the territory was the Rochester Democrat.

The St. Paul Advertiser of Aug. 29, 1857, says: "The Rochester Democrat and Olmsted Journal are the only papers running in Rochester, Olmsted county."

Vol. 1, No. 33, of March 18, 1858, being the first number of the Democrat that I can find, I am compelled to count back, for Vol. 1, No. 1. In that way I make the beginning Aug. 6, 1857. Oct. 21, 1858, is the last Rochester issue in the library. In that number Charles W. Cottorn, the owner and editor, says he is going to Winona, where on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1858, he will begin the Winona Democrat. As he took his press and material with him, the Rochester Democrat died. It was a four-page, seven-column Democratic sheet.

The fifty-seventh newspaper in the territory was named the Cannon Falls Bulletin.

This is another newspaper of which I can find but few traces. The St. Paul Advertiser of Aug. 29, 1857, says it has received the first two numbers. It must, therefore, have been started early in August of that year. The Advertiser quotes it on Dec 5, of the same year, which is the last heard of it in the newspapers. No copies of it are to be found. The Bulletin was started in Cannon Falls, Goodhue county, by R. A. Hoag and brother, with the plant of the Cannon Falls Gazette. At the close of 1857, seeing better prospects in Northfield, Rice county, they moved the press and material to that place and started the Northfield Journal. In August, 1862, R. A. Hoag enlisted in the army, and three years later came out a captain. In 1870 he removed to his farm near Northfield.

Hastings Independent.

The fifty-eighth newspaper was the Hastings Independent.

The first of the Hastings Independent that I find in the Historical library is No. 26, of Vol. 2, Jan. 29, 1859. Again I have to count back to get Vol 1, No. 1. Assuming no suspensions, I find the date Aug. 6, 1857, which must be very nearly if not quite correct. It was a four-page seven-column Republican paper, and Columbus Stebbins was its owner, editor and publisher. It was the second weekly newspaper established in Dakota county. Stebbins ran it until its union with the Minnesota Conserver Nov. 24, 1866. The Independent and Conserver then died, the union of the two papers producing the Gazette under the firm name of Todd & Stebbins.

Columbus Stebbins.

Columbus Stebbins was a native of Indiana. Though of only a common school education he was possessed of such natural talent, that he uplifted and bettered journalism whenever he used his pen. He was the friend and exponent of all that would best advance the interests of Minnesota. A close attendant to his editorial duties, he made a bright county and local newspaper. He laid the foundations of the Hastings Independent broad and strong and it lasted well. He died Dec. 21, 1878.

The fifty-ninth and last of the Minnesota newspapers established prior to the bursting of the mid-fifty boom in August, 1857, was the Glencoe Register.

No. 2 of Vol. 1 of the Glencoe Register is in the Historical library, and is dated Aug. 15, 1857. It was started, therefore, on Aug. 8, 1857. Hon. L. L. Baxter started the Register. It was a four-page, six-column Republican paper at the beginning. William R. Baxter, who was killed at Guntown, Tenn., during the Rebellion, was editor, and Horace Baxter publisher. The last week of November, 1857, Col. John H. Stevens and William S. Chapman bought the Register and it became Democratic. The name of H. O. Hammond appeared as the first publisher under Stevens and Chapman, Col. Stevens being the editor. May 1, 1858, Hammond retired, and May 15, Marshall Robinson became publisher. In September, 1862, Robinson enlisted to help quell the Indian outbreak and, as a measure of safety, the Register suspended publication until January, 1863, when it was printed a short time by Frank Baggett. Col. Stevens still remained editor, however, until August, 1863, when he sold the paper to G. K. Gilbert and A. J. Snyder. They ran it about six months, when it was suspended. In November, 1864, Gilbert sold his interest to Snyder. In May, 1866, Snyder leased the paper to C. A. Bennett, who published it as the Glencoe Weekly Register until Feb. 27, 1868, when he sold it to Frank Belfoy, who ran it until April 2, 1868, when he tried to turn it into the McLeod County Register, but at Vol. 1, No. 13, of the new issue, it ran into the ground, or, as Col. Stevens tersely phrased it, "It dried up." Belfoy afterwards started the first paper ever printed in Meeker county.

Col. John H. Stevens.

Col. John H. Stevens was born in Canada June 13, 1820, educated in the common schools, enlisted in the United States army during the Mexican war, served through it and came to Minnesota in 1849, and was the first settler on the west side of the river at what is now Minneapolis. The house he built stood on part of the ground now occupied by the Great Northern railroad depot. It stands at present in the park belonging to the city, near the falls of Minnehaha, having been drawn there by thousands of the school children of Minneapolis, working by relays in the spring of 1896. The excitement of the day was too much for Col. Stevens, and he suffered a stroke of paralysis in consequence, from which he never recovered. He died May 28, 1900.

Col. Stevens was a born farmer. He loved the vocation as he did his life. Many a time, while editor of the Express over on the St. Anthony side of the river, I have gone to him for local items. He never failed to respond with from one to two columns, and the best stock and biggest squash, pumpkins and watermelons of the farms around Minneapolis were prolific subjects of his graphic sketches. Besides the Glencoe Register, he conducted the Minneapolis Chronicle, Farmer and Gardener, Farmer's Tribune, and the Farm, Stock and Home. As president of the Minnesota State Agricultural society, he did much to introduce superior methods of farming and stock raising. He was the first register of deeds of Hennepin county, and served several terms in both branches of the legislature of Minnesota. His book of personal recollections is full of valuable chronicles of early days and will become more and more useful as the years go by. During the Indian uprising of 1862 he served as brigadier general of the militia sent to the front to subdue the savages. Through his position as the first claim holder, where the largest part of Minneapolis now stands, Col. Stevens had the chance of his life to die a millionaire. His unselfish efforts to foster and upbuild Minneapolis, however, prevented this. He died in comfortable circumstances, however, the same genial, free-handed, noble-hearted man that he had lived through his long life of nearly eighty years.

But One of Nineteen Survives.

Of the nineteen newspapers established in Minnesota between Jan. 1 and Aug. 24, 1857, only one, the Mantorville Express, survives. Indeed, few of these papers survived the boom that brought them into existence. The balooning of the journalism of, those days was very tritely burlesqued by John P. Owens, in the Daily Minnesotan of May 18, 1857. I believe I cannot close this paper more appropriately than by quoting a portion of the article. The name of the newspaper was "The Exponent of Morality, Truth and Justice." The paper had become so popular in the new city of Olean that its publishers were compelled to issue an extra prospectus. They said:

"We come before the tremendous and hourly increasing number of our readers this morning in an enlarged form. Our advertising friends have actually compelled us to make room for them, two of our clerks having been crushed to death in the crowd of patrons who thronged the counting room with advertisements. We have added, forty-five columns to our paper. Our city circulation is immense. We employ two hundred compositors and fifty pressmen. Three editors are constantly at work, and we are in hopes, soon as we can procure workmen, to be able to issue a semi-daily the size of a bed blanket.

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"P. S.—Wanted, a partner with a little money.

"P. P. S.—Wanted, fifty compositors. Lots in Olean given for work!!! Great inducements to printers!!!!"

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The subject matter of this great contest is the total vote cast for Governor in the States of Ohio, Massachusetts and Iowa on the 3d day of November, 1903.

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One estimate will be given for every dollar paid on subscription (either old or new), estimate to be for total vote of the three states combined. No commission to postmasters or agents will be allowed where estimates are given. Remittance must accompany estimate.

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To aid in forming your estimate we furnish the official figures showing the vote for Governor in each of these States for the past ten years, as well as to give the total vote for the three States combined. The total vote for the three States is found in the right hand column:

Year.	Ohio.	Mass.	Iowa.	Total.
1891	795,629	321,650	420,212	1,537,491
1893	823,658	365,012	415,806	1,604,476
1895	837,466	328,121	401,345	1,566,932
1897	854,986	269,795	438,292	1,563,073
1899	908,159	299,166	438,851	1,640,676
1901	827,566	324,526	390,489	1,542,581

What will be the total vote for Governor in these three States combined on the 3d day of November, 1903? Figure it out and send in your estimates. It may mean $10,000 in cash to you.

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