

*George E. Warner*

HISTORY  
OF  
HENNEPIN COUNTY

AND THE

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS,

INCLUDING THE

EXPLORERS AND PIONEERS OF MINNESOTA,

By REV. EDWARD D. NEILL,

AND

OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF MINNESOTA,

By J. FLETCHER WILLIAMS,

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## OSSEO.

## CHAPTER XLVI

GENERAL DESCRIPTION—EARLY SETTLEMENT—  
CHURCHES—SOCIETIES—SCHOOLS—HOTELS—  
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—BIOGRAPHICAL.

Osseo is situated in the north-eastern part of the county, its territory being taken from the townships of Brooklyn and Maple Grove. It occupies a part of the level prairie known as "Bottineau Prarie," so called from Pierre Bottineau, who, in July, 1852, made his claim here. With him came Joseph Potvin, Peter Raiche and Peter Garvais, all making claims near Bottineau.

The village of Osseo was platted in 1856, by Warren Sampson and Isaac Labosiniere. Soon after, another village was laid out by A. B. Chaffee, adjoining Osseo on the south-east, called "City of Attraction." This is now included in the limits of Osseo.

## EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Osseo was settled in 1854, by Warren Sampson, Isaac Labosiniere, Clark Ellsworth, Seneca Brown, James McRay and D. B. Thayer. Sampson built, and opened a store, and was post master of the office, then called Palestine. During 1855-6, the surrounding country was occupied by settlers, among whom were A. B. Chaffee, D. C. Smith and others. After the village was laid out, in 1856, the settlement was rapid. A wood market was established by Sampson in 1855, which has been kept up since. The merchants buy green wood, and sell to parties in the city of Minneapolis, after holding it one season. There are now a number engaged in the wood business, handling an aggregate of one hundred cords per day during the wood season. The first blacksmith shop was established in 1855, by Clark Ellsworth; Eli Haviland became his partner two years later. The latter still conducts the business. Rudolph Nigler kept the first hotel in the village. Previous

to this, Chaffee and McRay "kept travelers." McRay established the second store in the place.

## ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH.

This society was organized in 1853, in charge of Father Hirth, who remained seven or eight years. He was succeeded by Father Genis, who officiated here and at Dayton for about five years. Father Nicholas next had charge, remaining three years. He was followed by Father Maurer who had charge four years, then Father Lechner officiated one year. Father Maesfranx, one and one-half years. He was succeeded by Father Ladriere, the present incumbent. In 1865, the society built a frame church, 35x54 feet, situated in the northern part of the village on the main street. The priest's residence, adjoining the church, was built in 1869. In 1880, additions were made to the church, giving a sanctuary 16x20 feet, and in the rear of that, a sacristy 16x28. The society now numbers one hundred families. They have a cemetery of one acre located in the township of Brooklyn and adjoining Osseo.

## LUTHERAN CHURCH.

This society was organized in 1865, the first minister being the Rev. Mr. Jahn, who remained two years. He was followed by Rev. Mr. Rehkopf, who remained in charge until his death, which occurred in 1871. A young man from Germany next took the pastorate, but remained only one year. Since then the society has been without a regular pastor, but has preaching every third Sunday, the pulpit being supplied from Minneapolis. The society numbers about twelve families. They have a cemetery of one acre in the southern part of the village.

## SOCIETIES.

In early days a small society of spiritualists existed. They built a hall, and for a time held regular meetings. They were superceded by the

“Osseo Society of Liberalists,” who now own the hall known as Liberty Hall.

Osseo Liederkranz, a musical and religious society, was organized in 1867, and continued until 1879, when they were succeeded by the Osseo Turnverein Society. The first society built a hall, which is now used by their successors. They number about twelve members, and meet one evening in each week; also keep up a Sunday-school for their children.

Osseo Dramatic Club. This society has been in existence about three years. They have a good library in connection, purchased with proceeds of dramatic entertainments. The Good Templars also contributed to the purchase of books. The officers of the club are: President, Eugene Smith; Treasurer, Miss Susie E. Curtis; Secretary, Della M. Johnson.

Good Templars. An organization was formed about 1867, under the title, Rose of Sharon Lodge, and at one time numbered 150 members. During the first winter the attendance averaged one hundred. This lodge continued four or five years, and was re-organized, after a lapse of eighteen months, as the Osseo Union Lodge. This society continued until 1880, when they disbanded.

Society of Free Thinkers was organized about 1866, and numbers about a dozen members. They meet four times a year.

Winslow Lodge No. 125, A. F. and A. M., was organized in 1875, with Stiles Gray, W. M.; G. W. Savage, S. W. and Clark Ellsworth, J. W. The lodge has a membership of forty-three, and holds meetings in Liberty Hall, over Eli Haviland's blacksmith shop. The charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of the state, January 10th, 1877. The present officers are: A. D. Fogerson, W. M.; John Williams and William Krueger, Wardens, and H. C. Black, Secretary. The society is in a sound financial condition, having a surplus of over \$400 in the treasury.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school was held in the summer of 1856, in the hall erected by the Society of Spiritualists, and taught by Miss Sylvia Rowe. About two years later, the Spiritualists disbanded, and sold the hall to the school district, which then embraced a large section each side of the village.

The hall was used for school purposes about six years, moved twice, then destroyed by fire. After this, another hall, Sampson's, was used for six years, and then the present building was erected. It is thirty feet square, with posts eighteen feet high. A graded school has been maintained for the past two years, though two teachers had been employed for twelve years previous. The school numbers about one hundred pupils.

#### HOTELS.

In 1867, Rudolph Niggler, who had previously kept a small house for boarders and transient guests, erected a hotel at a cost of nearly \$4,000. It was not a good investment, as there was not business enough to sustain it. This house was burned in 1870.

The International Hotel was built by Fritz Schmidt in 1874. It is two-stories in height and has rooms for thirty guests. It has been conducted by Mr. Schmidt since its opening.

The Temperance House is kept by Z. Labrasch.

#### BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

Merchants. John Hechtman keeps a large stock of General Merchandise, and deals largely in wood. Business established in 1865. Emil Lefebvre, Drugs and General Merchandise, established in 1873. Mr. Lefebvre is also postmaster. Z. Labrasch, Groceries and Notions. Wagon Maker's, Black and Brown, Nelson Rougier. Black-smiths, O. Leferrier, Eli Haviland, Leferrier and Charest. Boots and Shoes, William Krueger, Joseph Woody. Carpenters, William Rodeck, Thomas Flitsch. Harness Maker, Samuel Pavitt. Physician, N. J. Pinault. Dress Makers, Maggie Rougier, Frances Thayer.

Osseo remained under the township governments of Brooklyn and Maple Grove, until the spring of 1875, when it was incorporated by act of Legislature. A President, three Councilmen, a Recorder and a Treasurer, constitute its officers.

The act of incorporation specified the following boundaries: beginning at the north-west corner of section 18, township 119, range 21, and running east on north line of said section 120 rods, thence south 200 rods, thence west 40 rods, thence south 80 rods, thence west 120 rods, thence north 280 rods, thence east to the place of beginning. The inhabitants within said limits to constitute a body corporate under the name of “The Com-

mon Council of Osseo," and to constitute one election district for the purpose of general and special elections under the general election laws of the State. The election of village officers was set for the third Tuesday in March each year. The first election was held at the office of John Hechtman.

March 3d, 1876, the following officers were elected: President, John Hechtman; Council, D. H. Shepherd, William Krueger, Louis Berthaume; Treasurer, E. Lefebvre; Recorder, William Ewing; Marshall, H. Blaine; Justice, Louis Berthaume; Assessor, A. G. Ray. The election in 1880 resulted as follows: President, J. Saucier; Council, J. T. Pribble, Chris. Shappach, Isaac Lobosiniere; Treasurer, John Hechtman; Recorder, William Krueger; Assessor, W. S. Johnson; Justice, H. C. Blake; Marshall, E. H. Chandler. E. H. Haviland was appointed Marshall November 6th, 1880, to fill vacancy caused by removal from town, of Chandler. There are 145 acres of land within the corporate limits, not platted. The assessed valuation of all lands and village lots with structures thereon for 1880, was \$23,563. Assessed valuation of personal property, \$7,813. Amount of taxes, \$323. Population, 206.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

H. C. Black, born in New Hanover county, North Carolina, in 1845. He learned the trade of wagon making. In 1875 he came to Hennepin county, settled in Osseo, and established a wagon shop, taking E. H. Chandler as partner; this partnership was dissolved in 1879, and Mr. Black prosecuted the business alone until 1880, when he took two partners. In 1868 he was married to Julia Hancock. They have five children now living.

Seneca Brown, born in Rutland county, Vermont, in 1826. Moved to Niagara county, and lived eighteen years, then to Lenawee, Michigan, where he learned the wagon and carpenter's trade. He came to Hennepin county, and settled in Maple Grove. Established his wagon shop in Osseo, in 1876. In 1854 he married Elizabeth Willetts. They have four living children.

Eli Haviland was born in Lenawee county, Michigan in 1836. He came to Hennepin county in 1857, settled near Osseo and started blacksmithing here in 1859. He enlisted in 1862 in

Company F, Minnesota Mounted Rangers; served nine months and was honorably discharged at Fort Snelling. He sold his interest in the shop and began farming, followed it a short time, and then was engaged in mercantile business for one year in Osseo; he afterward went back to his old trade in Champlin for three years, and finally located at Osseo in 1879. He was married in 1855 to Lavina Lee. They have two children living.

Chancy Haviland was born in Lenawee county, Michigan in 1843. When the war broke out he enlisted in Company A, Fourth Michigan Cavalry. Was under Grant and Sherman, and was with the latter in his march to the sea. He was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tennessee, in 1864, and re-enlisted in the Third Michigan Light Artillery, Battery C, and served till the close of the war. He was in Washington at the Grand Review, and was honorably discharged at Detroit, Michigan. He went to Indianapolis, Indiana, learned the profession of railroad engineer and followed it for eight years. Came to Minnesota and settled in Champlin, where he worked as engineer; also in Anoka in the same business, and finally settled in Osseo. In 1861 he married Martha Powers. They have one child living: Etta.

John Hechtman, a native of Germany, was born in 1828, and came to America in 1832. He settled in Erie, Pennsylvania, and lived there until 1849, when he went to California for two years; returned to Erie, and in 1857 came to Minneapolis. When the war broke out he was in Pennsylvania looking after his oil interests; he enlisted with the three months' men, afterwards with the three years men in the Eighty-third Pennsylvania regiment; was wounded at the battle of the Wilderness in 1864, and honorably discharged at Harrisburgh, September 1864. He established the present general store at Osseo in 1865. Married his second wife, Augusta Schmidt in 1869, by whom he has had five children. Two sons were born to him by his first wife; both are now in Colorado.

Rev. A. Ladriere was born at Levis, near Quebec, in 1826, and was educated at Quebec Seminary. He was assistant at St. Thomas Parish one year, also at Levis one year, then three years at St. Roch, and was pastor at St. Fabian fifteen

years; then at Isle Verte five years; He came to Osseo in 1876, and took charge of the St. Louis church at this place.

E. Lefebvre, born in the province of Quebec, in 1845, and lived there twelve years; then moved to Clinton county, New York, and learned the shoe trade, which business engaged most of his time until he came to Osseo, in 1865. In 1873, he established his present stock of general merchandise, having clerked here for eight years, previous to that time. He was married in 1869 to Celina Normandin. They have three children.

S. N. Pavitt was born in London, England, in 1830, and came with his parents to America in 1832. He went to the province of Quebec, and remained there until 1846, when he moved to New York city, and learned the harness trade. He came to Minnesota in 1855; located in the harness trade at Minneapolis. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. B, 6th Minn. Vols., and served nearly three years, being honorably discharged at Fort Snelling in 1865. October, 1867, he came to Osseo, and started his harness shop. He has since resided here. Married in 1857, to Adeline Buck. They have three children now living.

N. J. Pfnault, M. D., was born in the province of Quebec, in 1848, where he lived until 1877. Received his collegiate education at Rimouski and St. Anne; graduated an M. D. at the University Laval, Quebec, receiving the first prizes from the faculty, prize Seivell and prize Morrin, of 1874. His diploma from the University Laval is also from the Royal College of Surgeons, of London. After his studies, he made an extensive tour in Europe, and while there had great opportunities to perfect his education. He first practiced medicine at Rimouski. In 1877 he came to Osseo, and has since followed his profession here.

J. T. Pribble, a native of Maine, was born in 1830; moved to Hennepin county, in 1855, and settled in Brooklyn. He was educated at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. In 1861 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools, and held the office six years. He has been principal of Osseo graded school for eight years. In 1854 he married Elmira E. Norris, of Maine. Five children have been born to them.

Nelson Rougier was born in Montreal, in 1813. At the age of three years he removed with his parents to Kankakee, Illinois; thence to Belle

Prairie, Minnesota, in 1856. Ten years later he came to Osseo, and started a wagon shop. He was married, in 1833, to Rosa Begnoche, of Canada. They have five children living.

Fritz Schmidt was born in Germany, in 1851. Came to America in 1867, and settled at Osseo, Hennepin county, Minnesota. He built the International Hotel, in 1874. It is two stories high, with a capacity for thirty guests. He owns and conducts it. He married, in 1875, Sophia Oswald.

De Witt Clinton Smith (deceased), born in Orleans county, New York, in 1825. He lived there about twenty years; then went to Adrian, Michigan. He was married, at Addison, Michigan, to Melissa R. Shepard, in 1874. In 1857 he came to Hennepin county, and bought a farm near Osseo. He enlisted, in 1861, in Company D, 1st, Minnesota, and was appointed second Lieutenant. After the first Bull Run battle he was promoted Captain of the company. He was severely wounded at the battle of Antietam. Mrs. Smith, after many heroic efforts, found him at Hagerstown, Maryland, and succeeded in bringing him to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. After resting a few weeks they came home, and he was honorably discharged shortly after. He was appointed State Librarian by Governor Miller, and while Librarian was appointed Major of the Pay Department. He was finally killed at Fort Randolph, the boat being decoyed into that point by a party of guerillas, who shot and killed him. One child was born, Eugene A., living near Benson.

David B. Thayer (deceased) was born in Seneca county, New York, in 1822. In 1847 he moved to Lenawee county, Michigan, and married Catherine Warren. He came to Hennepin county in 1854, and settled near Osseo, on a claim of 160 acres, which is still owned by Mrs. Thayer. Mr. Thayer died at Osseo, August 31, 1873. Four children were born to them. A. A. Thayer, their son, enlisted in 1863, in 7th Minn., as drummer boy, when 16 years old; being taken sick at Montgomery, Alabama, he returned home, and was honorably discharged.

E. Wellman was born in Dayton, Hennepin county, Minnesota, in 1855. He learned the blacksmith trade with Eli Haviland at Osseo. On November 3d, 1878, he was married to Delora Haviland, who was born in Maple Grove, Minnesota. They have one child: Lorissa.