

VACH COLLECTION

DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE.

BY PROF. J. H. HAY.



PRIOR to the organization of school district No. 5 Pine county, commonly known as the Sandstone district, and in fact for many years following that period, all the territory embraced within its limits, consisted of school district No. 5 Pine county, commonly known as the Sandstone district, and in fact for many years following that period, all the territory embraced within its limits, consisted of hardwood lands, interspersed with numberless lakes and natural meadows. The construction of the St. Paul & Duluth R. R. through the county made these bodies of timbers more accessible to the lumberman than they had formerly been. Taking advantage of the valuable pine woods surrounding what is now Miller station, a company erected a shingle mill at that point in the early seventies, which gave employment to some thirty-five hands during the summer months. A few of the employees having families and realizing the need of educational facilities for their children, on September 22, 1876, drew up and signed the following petition, which is given verbatim et literatim:

"Sept. 22d. 1876. Miller Station, Minnesota. The undersigned citizens pray said commissioners of Pine County to lay off a school district for us we having more than the requisite number of scholars which are entitled to school we will build a house cheap."

The petition carries the signatures of W. H. Lewis, John Hay, William Ray, John Lewis, John Lewis, Sr., James M. Brown, E. B. Patton, August Wickboldt, Christ Hermeyer and E. M. Danchow. This unique document certainly evidences the fact, that the parents were desirous of their children's possessing that which the interesting paper too clearly shows they lacked. It might properly be called the declaration of independence of School district No. 5, for prior to its organization as a separate district it had formed a part of district No. 2, known as Hinckley district.

The petition was recommended by Mr. Fred A. Hodge, at that time county superintendent, and on September 23, 1876, was heard by the county commissioners, and on motion the petition of the legal voters of Town 42, Ranges 20 and 21, to be set off from School District No. 2, and organized and formed into a separate school district was granted, and it was ordered that all that territory in said county embraced

within the limits of Township 42, and ranges 20 and 21 be organized and constituted into a school district to be known and designated as school district No. 5 in Pine County. On October 4, 1880, Town 42, Ranges 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 were added to the above.

Immediately following its organization on Oct. 6, 1876, this handful of legal voters held a school meeting, elected J. M. Brown, director, W. H. Lewis, clerk, and J. D. Robie, treasurer, voted \$825 for school purposes, including \$200 for the building of a school house, \$100 for furniture, and \$40 for the purchase of books for a school library. This last item is significant, and in these days of free text books interesting.

The history of the school while it was continued at Miller is the history of every school located in a small mill town supported by but one industry. School was regularly held and teachers elected at annual meetings, till about 1880, when the shingle business at that point was discontinued. As a result the people of the little burg departed, leaving the school tenantless, and the territory known as School District No. 5, reverted to the lumberman and Indian.

Fortunately for the organization of the district, just about this time Col. Wm. H. Grant was opening the quarries which since that time have grown into such prominence as the seat of one of the leading industries of Northeastern Minnesota. With the arrival of a few families at the quarries came the inevitable call for a school, and as the one at Miller had been discontinued, the annual meeting of 1886 decided that school be held during the next school year in the town of Sandstone, now generally called old Sandstone. A vacant room in one of Col. Grant's warehouses was fitted up, and Miss Louisa Gorton of Hinckley engaged to direct the educational interests of the town. Her school work came to a sad and sudden close. Miss Gorton opened the school on the first Monday in September, 1886, and after teaching about three days, became ill, closed the school, went home to Hinckley, was stricken down with typhoid fever, and in a few days died. The close of this teacher's life marked the close of the school for that year. In the meantime, a two-room frame building had been erected on suitable grounds and school was again started the next year. The following is a list of the teachers who conducted school in this building during the next few years: The Misses Bregg, Crowley, Russell, Edner, Lawson and Hay, Messrs. Jacobs, Younger and Breckenridge. The increasing business of the quarries drew to the town such a population, that it was soon seen the two room school house had outgrown its usefulness, and in 1893 Mr. Ring erected for the district a handsome sandstone structure costing some \$10,000, modern in every respect and

commodious enough for years to come. This was in fact the handsomest school building between the twin cities and the head of the lakes, excepting none. The future prosperity of the town seemed assured and its loyal citizens congratulated themselves upon the prospects of a good education for the youth of the growing little city. The school was well furnished, free text books adopted, a successful nine months work accomplished with the Misses Lawson and Hay as teachers, and the future looked exceedingly bright, when with little or no warning, in a few moments' time on the fateful Sept. 1st, 1894, the town, its beautiful school building, and even the lives of many of its citizens were snuffed out of existence in the terrible holocaust known to history as the Hinckley fire. Nothing remains to this day to mark the site of a once prosperous village except the bare walls of what had once been the pride of the town, the new school.

It might naturally be supposed that during the soul trying period immediately following the fire, educational affairs would have received little or no attention, but such was not the case. When the present town was platted, a block, the present site of the school, was generously donated by the Townsite Company to the school district for school purposes, and a one room frame building erected thereon. In this house Miss Dalquest, now Mrs. James Anderson, conducted a school during the first six months of 1895 and again it was seen that a larger building must be erected to accommodate the increasing school population. In the fall of 1895 while the present four room house was building, school was carried on in the mission church by J. H. Hay, while Miss Dalquest still continued her work in the one room school, which at the present time is used for a wood house. The present school was dedicated in January, 1896, and J. H. Hay, Miss Dalquest and Miss Parish were installed as the first teachers. The next year a fourth teacher, Miss Edna Smith was added to the force, and at the present time the teachers consist of J. H. Hay, principal, Miss Woerner, who succeeded Miss Smith, first intermediate, and Miss Dalquest, who succeeded her sister, second intermediate, and Miss Parish, primary. The enrollment is about two hundred and fifty. The school is fully graded, has free text books, and a library of some hundred volumes. Last year it stood at the head of the graded schools throughout the state that were a help to those receiving state aid by reason of superior work, and during the past two years its pupils have succeeded in securing 126 state high school certificates.

Since the fire the district has become the home of many hardy settlers and as a result of the new settlements, substantial school houses have been erected at Friesland, the Junction, and Miller. School has also been held at Grindstone lake for two years in a rented building, and during this year a school house is to be erected in the Sand creek settlement east of town. During the past year the Friesland and Grindstone lake settlements have been formed into new districts, thus giving them control of their own school affairs. The

increase of population incident to the growth of the farming community, the quarry and railroad business, will soon demand more commodious quarters for educational purposes than that now afforded. But a few years will pass, ere the beautiful block now the site of our school home will be crowned with the handsomest school structure in northern Minnesota, constructed throughout of local product and in all things in keeping with the ambitions of the citizens and the needs of the youth of Sandstone.

As a matter of historical record the following statement of the school officers of the district since its organization is given:

YEAR.	DIRECTOR.	CLERK.	TREASURER.
1876	James M. Brown	W. H. Lewis	J. D. Robie
1877	William Ray	" "	James M. Brown
1878	George G. Kotale	John Brown	J. D. Robie
1879	E. J. Rice	" "	" "
1880	" "	" "	" "
1881	" "	" "	" "
1882	Dennis Brown	" "	James Casual
1883	William Jacobs	" "	James C. Jacob
1884	" "	" "	" "
1885	No officers elected	William Jacobs	W. H. Grant, Jr
1886	Calixte Germain	" "	" "
1887	" "	" "	Calixte Germain
1888	Patrick Coughlin	--- Joseph	R. A. Smith
1889	Henry Brandes	" "	" "
1890	" "	" "	" "
1891	J. P. Flood	J. E. Erickson	T. W. Finn
1892	" "	" "	J. P. Owell
1893	" "	" "	" "
1894	" "	" "	J. H. Friesendahl
1895	James C. Sloan	Angus Gunn	" "
1896	R. A. Smith	" "	H. P. Webb
1897	" "	" "	" "
1898	" "	" "	" "
1899	" "	Albert Glasow	" "



❖ The Summer School of '99. ❖

In arranging the Summer Training School work for eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, Stat. Superintendent Lewis chose Sandstone, as the location of the school for the counties of Pine, Kanabe and Carleton, and appointed C. A. Ballard of Fergus Falls, conductor, and L. H. Vath and J. H. Hay, instructors. The school was a most successful one, and through the earnest efforts of County Superintendent R. H. Blankenship, the percentage of attendance established a state record, being the highest yet attained by any school, and its close was pleasantly marked by a banquet, given the teachers by the citizens of Sandstone, Friday evening, August 4, 1899.

❖ The Following is a List of the Teachers and Officers of the School. ❖

Key to Picture Following.

- 1 A. Ballard
- 2 R. H. Blankenship
- 3 C. H. Hay
- 4 L. H. Vath
- 5 Wallace Butler
- 6 Almina Marchessault
- 7 Helen Parish
- 8 Emma Woosner
- 9 Mattie Burse
- 10 Minnie Greene
- 11 Rose Overland

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 12 Ada Fano | 26 Althea Pongland | 40 Maggie Regan, | 54 Rosella McAdams |
| 13 Edith Robinson | 27 Christine Wicklund | 41 Etha Woosner | 55 Allie Brandes |
| 14 Emma Bank | 28 Freda Wall | 42 Louise Brackett | 56 Esther Hawley |
| 15 Bessie Rogers | 29 Leola Anderson | 43 Leola Erickson | 57 Josie Birksted |
| 16 George Kuleschek | 30 Virginia Hanson | 44 Conveylove Madison | 58 Allie McKusick |
| 17 Anna Aken | 31 Hattie Repkema | 45 Mabel Parish | 59 Darlina Seymour |
| 18 Anna Anderson | 32 Violet Sheehy | 46 Inez Boodar | 60 Maud Goff |
| 19 Martha Kruse | 33 Nora Nilson | 47 Amanda Jones | 61 Nanpie McCormic |
| 20 Ebba Sandberg | 34 Jolla Ehr | 48 Jennie McLean | 62 Annie Forstrom |
| 21 Emma Lofgren | 35 Viola Haren | 49 Gauda Anderson | 63 John Nelson |
| 22 Helen Lofgren | 36 Mamie Burke | 50 Merle McCormic | 64 Gertrude McCormic |
| 23 Bertha Hoagland | 37 Lillie O'Neil | 51 Mrs. McWaters | 65 Alolph Anderson |
| 24 Mary Gross | 38 Edis Hamlin | 52 Maggie Heywood | 66 Lizzie Regan |
| | 39 Mary Erickson | 53 Theresa Erickson | 67 W. T. Heiss |

FIRST OPENING OF THE QUARRIES.

BY COL. W. H. GRANT.

No history of the opening of the great extent of the stone quarries at Sandstone has ever been written. Some authorities may differ in their opinion on this

point, but it is certain that the first load of stone was shipped in 1858. At that time the quarries were opened by the late Mr. J. H. Grant, who was then a resident of the place. The first party to be employed in the quarries consisted of Daniel Ryan, formerly of the city of Montreal, and John Kane, quarryman, near the Cox, back of the Millingtons, and also of Thomas Henry, a cooper, of the same place. The first party to be employed in the quarries was made up of the following names: Daniel Ryan, John Kane, Thomas Henry, and James O'Connell. The first party to be employed in the quarries was made up of the following names: Daniel Ryan, John Kane, Thomas Henry, and James O'Connell. The first party to be employed in the quarries was made up of the following names: Daniel Ryan, John Kane, Thomas Henry, and James O'Connell.

Col. H. V. Sandstone, the honor of having the first load and Leavitt Reynolds the second. The large block was sawed by Lazen Bloss, and the remainder cut by Matt Brooker at his shop on Court square, St. Paul, and all exported at the same time, where they attracted much attention.

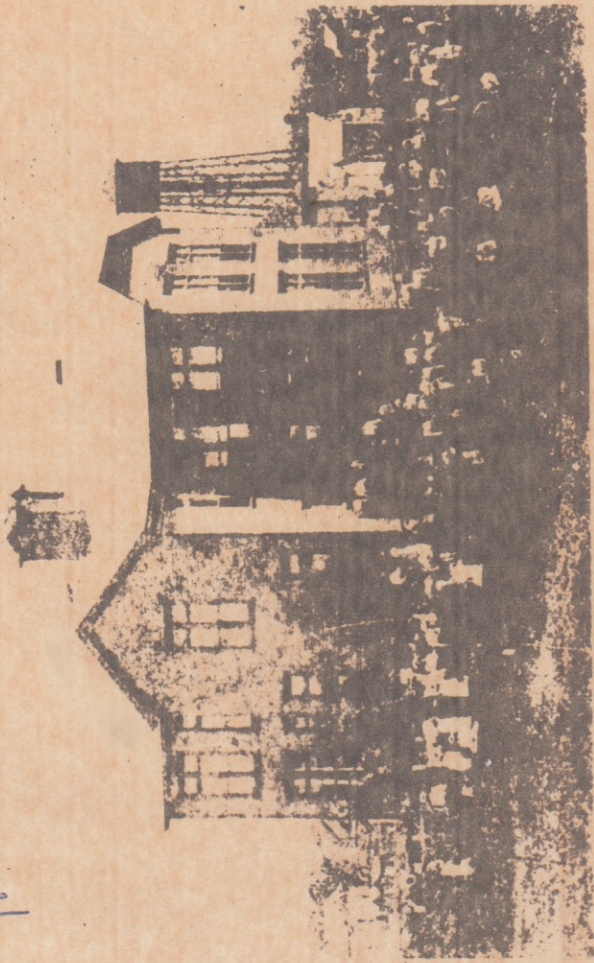
For the purpose of obtaining the stone the quarry was opened during the following winter, giving employment to about thirty men, and 232 car loads were quarried, loaded to Sandstone Junction, and from there shipped to St. Paul, Minneapolis and Stillwater, during the summer of 1858. Mentioning the Kettle River railroad was constructed from the quarry to the St. Paul & Duluth track and shipments of stone commenced December 1, 1858.

About November 1, 1858, John P. Knowles became a partner with the writer in the enterprise and so remained until the quarry was finally sold, in December, 1860, to the Kettle River Sandstone company. It was incorporated with a capital stock of \$200,000, the stock of which was owned by the writer, John P. Knowles, David A. Hodge, James C. Cox, and A. M. Grant. The quarry was then operated by the Kettle River Sandstone company, which was organized in 1858, and operated until the quarry extensively until it was closed in 1860. During 1857, 1858 and 1859, the quarry was worked on a large scale, giving employment to more than four hundred men. The great day of September 1, 1864, having arrived, the head and all other property in the quarry except the office and sawer house. The Minnesota Sandstone company succeeded to all other interests. The present capital stock of the company is \$100,000. It has a steady employment to three hundred and fifty men, and last year shipped two hundred and ninety car loads of stone. The shipments for the first six months of the present year have been one thousand seven hundred car loads.

OUR COUNTY SCHOOLS. BY ROBERT H. BLANKENSHIP.

THE first district in the county was probably organized about the year 1865. From that time until 1878, the growth was slow, in fact in 1888 there were only fifteen districts in the county, most of them along the St. Paul & Duluth railroad, the most northern school being at Rutledge, then Kettle River.

At the time of the great Hinckley fire in 1891 there were twenty-four districts. District No. 24 at Brookpark, having been organized the previous year. Many of the school houses were burned in 1894, but have been rebuilt better than before. July 31, 1896 there were twenty-six districts, which at the present time there are thirty-nine districts, with about sixty-five school buildings, and employing seventy-four teachers. There are three graded schools, Sandstone, Hinckley, and Pine City, of which two Sandstone and Pine City have reached the standard entitling them to state aid. There are four rural schools, Districts Nos. 9, 10, 13, 24, that draw state aid under the act of 1897. "State Aid to Rural Schools." Other schools are taking steps to obtain state aid by employing teachers having the qualifications. In most cases there is a growing educational interest among school trustees and the people of the county. They want longer terms and better teachers. With a few exceptions almost every settlement in the county having a dozen children, and in some cases even less, are provided with at least five-month's school during the year. The rapid progress made along educational lines, their increase at our summer schools and teachers' meetings being sufficient evidence. The county has a corps of teachers that any county might well be proud of. The attendance and enrollment of the schools of the county has rapidly increased since 1896. For the school year ending July 31, 1896, there were 197 pupils entitled to appropriation; July 31, 1898, 2472; and this year, 1899, there will be nearly 2600; a gain of nearly 100 per cent. I am quite sure that we will keep up a steady growth in our schools for several years to come, and in closing, let me urge every teacher and parent, that may happen to read these notes, to do what they can to help along and build up our common schools, the pride of Minnesota.



THE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE TEACHERS.

It is needless to add that the teachers of the county are keeping pace with our summer schools and teachers' meetings being sufficient evidence. The attendance and enrollment of the schools of the county has rapidly increased since 1896. For the school year ending July 31, 1896, there were 197 pupils entitled to appropriation; July 31, 1898, 2472; and this year, 1899, there will be nearly 2600; a gain of nearly 100 per cent. I am quite sure that we will keep up a steady growth in our schools for several years to come, and in closing, let me urge every teacher and parent, that may happen to read these notes, to do what they can to help along and build up our common schools, the pride of Minnesota.