

**Excerpts from Dana Frear's
manuscript about the History of Minnetonka
Illustrated with photos and maps
from the City of Minnetonka Historical Society archives**

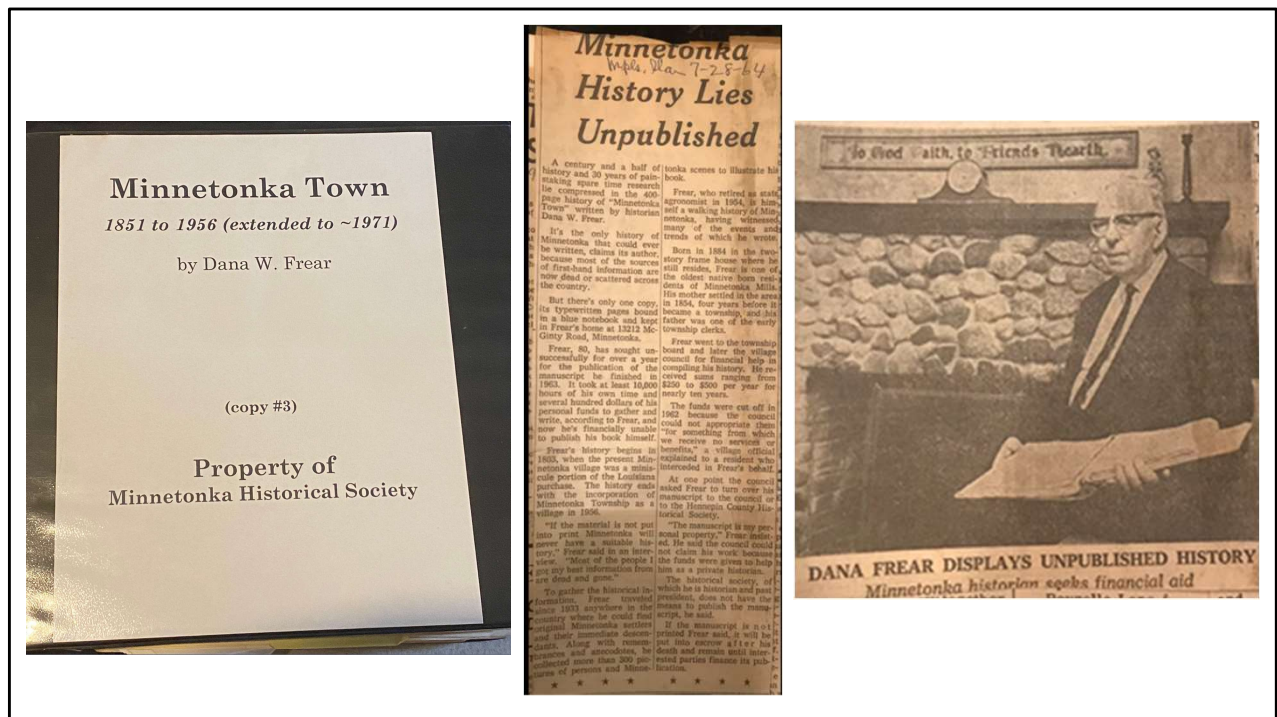


Dana and Anne Frear in their living room 1963

**FREAR MANUSCRIPT Excerpts from Dana Frear's
History of Minnetonka entitled "Minnetonka Town"**

**Presented chronologically and illustrated with our CMHS
photos and maps**

**Dana and Anne Frear in their living room on McGinty Road,
Minnetonka in 1963**



Here is the 380 page manuscript which Dana Frear donated to the CMHS in 1975. Dana Frear was a PHD, College Professor, MN State Agronomist, and Local Historian spent his free time from the 1930s to 1975, preserving the history of Minnetonka. For many years he unsuccessfully tried to get it published into a book.

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This Minneapolis Tribune article is from 1958 !

“Publishing date is still questionable (for Dana Frear’s manuscript). It will cost a lot of money -- and involves considerable financial risk. However, it is comforting to know someone has taken the pains to set down the historical facts

and fancies of one of Minnesota's most colorful areas including more than 100 priceless pictures, and if we are lucky maybe during this centennial year (1976) we'll be able to read "Minnetonka Town".

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Minneapolis Tribune 7-28-64 'Minnetonka History Lies Unpublished'

“30 years of painstaking spare time research lie compressed in the 380 page history of Minnetonka Town...If the material is not put into print Minnetonka will never have a suitable history”

"Most of the people I got my best information from are dead and gone"

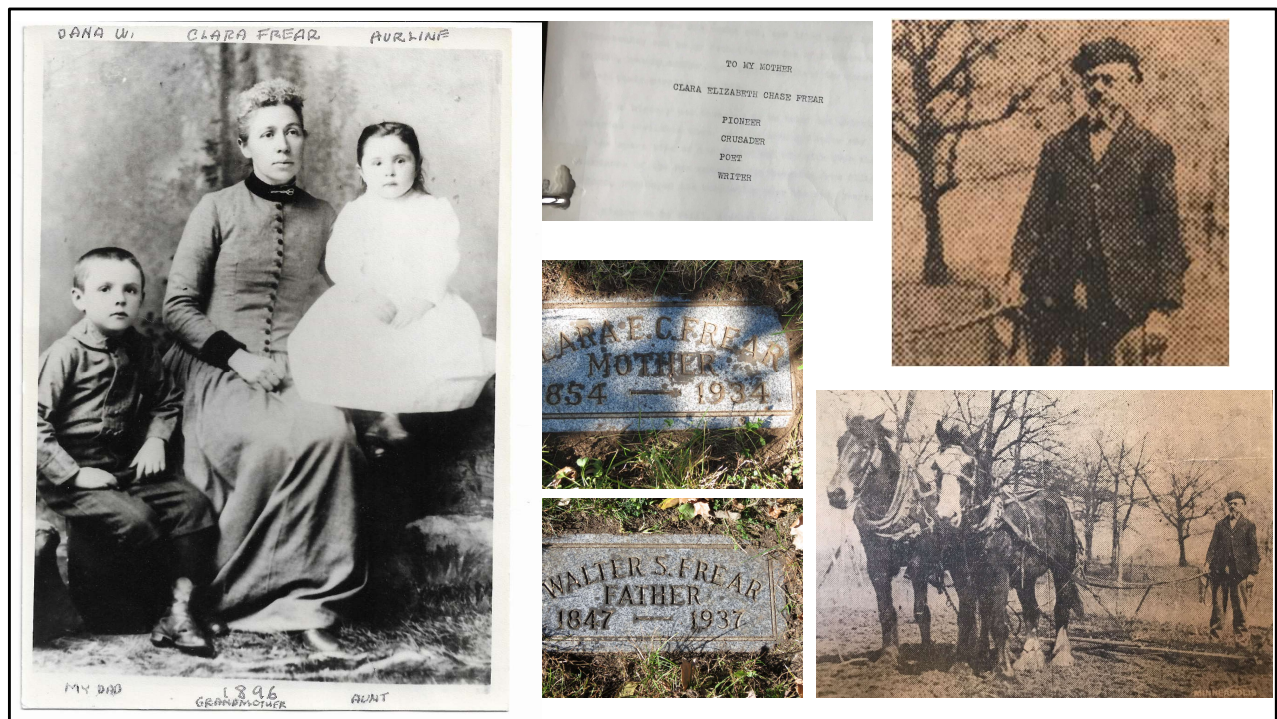
Here is the table of contents for the Minnetonka Town manuscript.

As you can see it is organized in 25 topical chapters, often

with great detail, but not in one continuous chronological story.

I have taken some excerpts from his manuscript and paired them with photos and maps to tell a short chronological history of Minnetonka from the early 1800s when only the Indigenous Peoples lived here, until the late 1800s when it was being settled by a few hundred settlers, mostly of European descent.

By highlighting Dana Frear's written words we hope to instill a recognition that this document, which has recently been digitized and edited with the help of a Legacy Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, should someday be published in some form as an invaluable book about the history of Minnetonka.



Preface – (the sources for this book)

At the beginning of his manuscript is his dedication to his mother Clara Chase Frear

This is the only photograph of her, with Dana by her side at 6 years old in 1896.

Preface:” The planning and writing of this history began about 1934, inspired mainly by stories told by my mother of her childhood, school days, teachers, schoolmates, and pioneers of Minneapolis to which she came in 1854 when six weeks old and lived until 1869 when she came to Minnetonka.

**“To my mother
Clara Elizabeth Chase Frear:
Pioneer, Crusader, Poet, Writer”**

“Through her efforts, a traveling library was maintained in Frear’s store. She wrote many poems, published in local papers, and upon her death left behind many unfinished ones, together with trunks full of clippings and writings on many subjects. She was a frequent contributor to local papers, in some of which she carried a regular weekly column, and never failed to promote all worthwhile community projects and to oppose unworthy ones. “

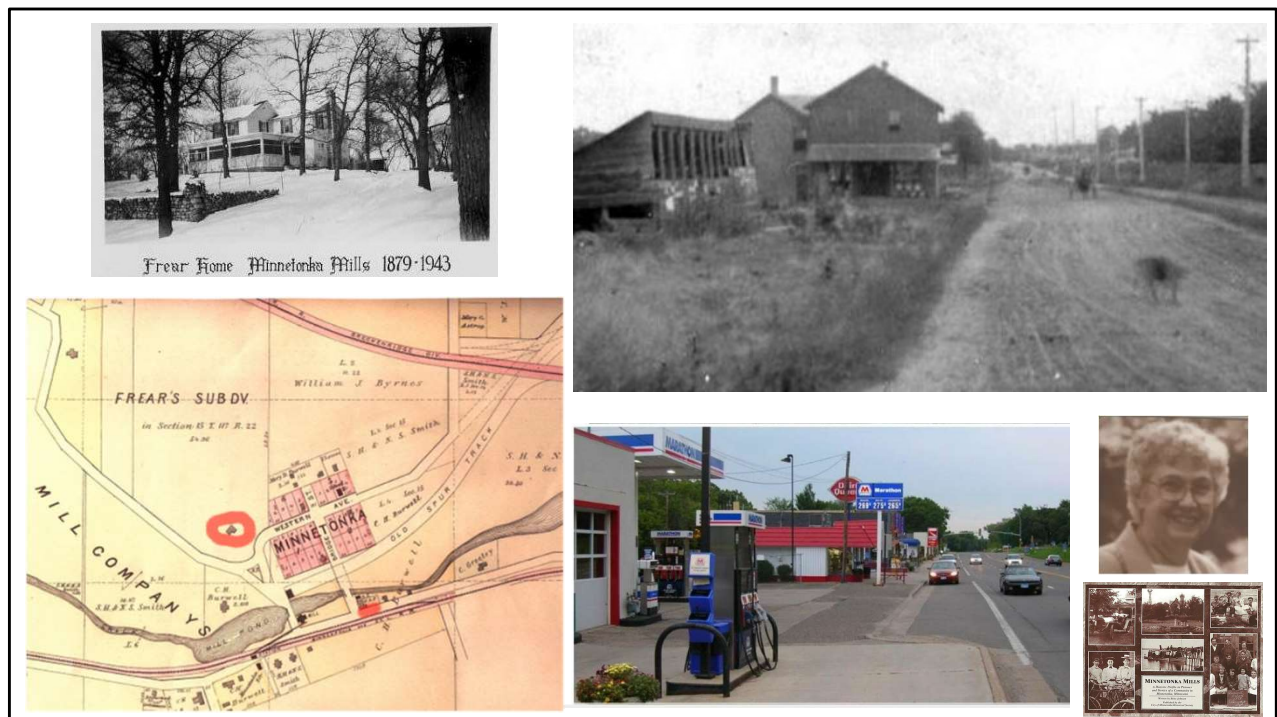
“There were also my father's stories of Minnetonka after he arrived in 1869, met my mother, and then spent the remainder of their lives after their marriage in 1875. “

Dana W. Frear, Minnetonka Mills, 1971

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***Dana’s father Walter S. Frear moved to Minnetonka from Pennsylvania where he was born in 1846.
This is the only photo we have of him, plowing his farm across from the Burwell House.
Here are there graves in Groveland Cemetery Minnetonka.***



They built this house in 1879 on their 160 acre property ‘Frear Acres’ on McGinty Road with the field stone fence. And they also owned the Frear General Store (Station Pizza today) in the 1890s. Here is the same view east on Minnetonka Boulevard in 2005, with Bennis Fuel and the Dairy Queen.

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P62: “Later, W. S. Frear moved from his farm into the house attached to his store, his farmhouse was rented to a long line of tenants for \$5.00 monthly. Like all houses of that day, it had no lighting, heating, water, or sewage systems. The water came from a 30 foot deep well using a hand pump, and wood

stoves heated the house, with a chimney for every room. ”

”Special appreciation goes to the Minnetonka Historical Society and the cooperative leadership of Councilwoman Mrs. Robert G. (Betty) Johnson for sponsoring the publication of the manuscript. ”

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Some of you may have this book about Minnetonka Mills which was written by Minnetonka Historian; Betty Johnson with the information from her good friend Dana Frear’s manuscript. (I compiled the photos for this book).



The Frear's next door neighbor Mrs. Mary Burwell donated the land for the Burwell School which was built in 1922. shown below in 1940s.

For many years it was the main Minnetonka School and later became St Davids as it is today.

A presentation was given there in 1947, shown in this photograph.

It was the earliest presentation of Frear's manuscript.

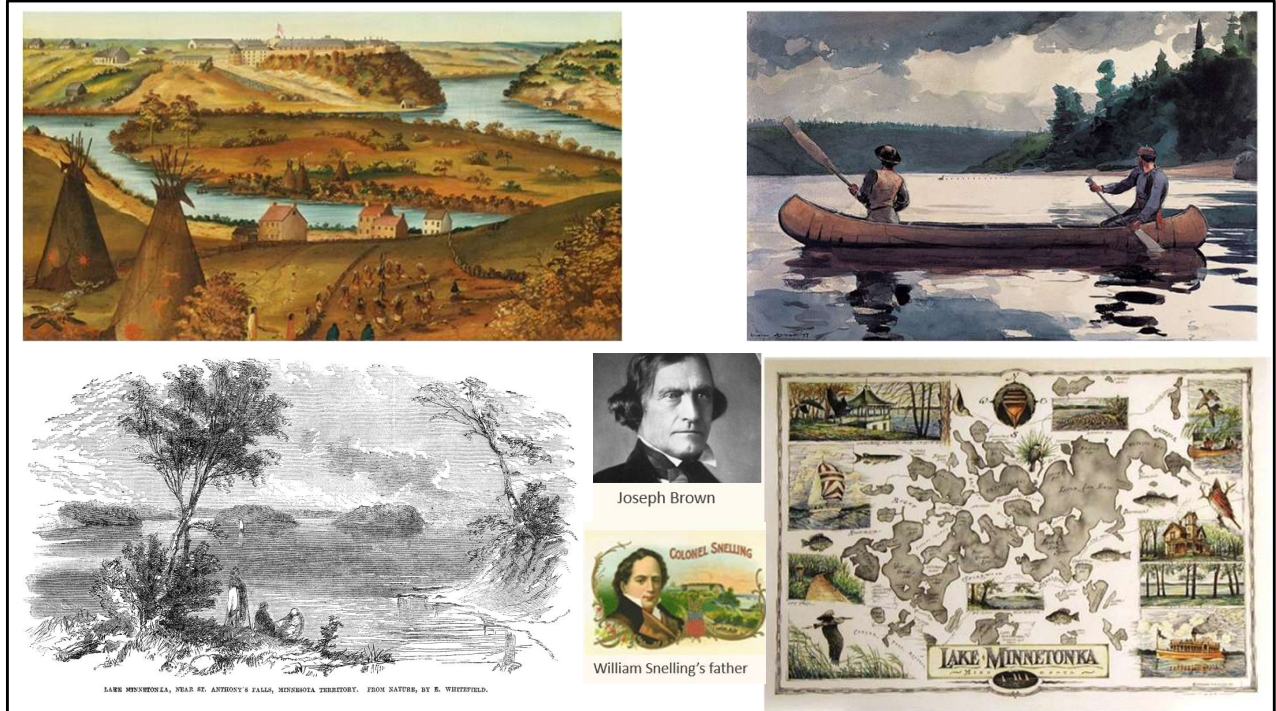
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P 147: "In 1947 Burwell School celebrated its twenty –fifth anniversary. For the occasion Clara Frear wrote a script of some early history of Minnetonka Mills from her notes and her husband's history files. Accompanying the script was a

set of slides ... prepared from old pictures in the collection of Miss Louise Burwell. The slides are in the Burwell School files“ (and CMHS archives today).

“Mrs. Anne Frear read the script while her husband Dana showed and explained the slides. The program was given twice in Hopkins, twice in Minneapolis, and four time in Minnetonka Mills.



***Here
begins
the story
of
Minneto
nka:***

P 10, Chapter 2 Lake Minnetonka : "After the building of Fort Snelling in 1819, the next important event in the history of Minnesota Township was the ascension of Minnehaha Creek and the first recorded discovery of Lake Minnetonka,

which eventually led to the settlement of the Township. ”

”With the troops who came with Lieutenant Colonel Leavenworth to build the Fort was a fourteen-year-old musician or drummer boy, Joseph Renshaw Brown. The first recorded discovery of Lake Minnetonka was made by Brown in 1822 when he was seventeen years old, accompanied by John Snelling; son of the colonel (who commanded the fort).”

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Here is an 1840 painting of Fort Snelling with Dakota tepees looking north over the Bdote, aka confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. And below it, an 1857 engraving of Lake Minnetonka with Native Americans.

Joseph Brown and William Snelling's father (no know photo of him), and what it may have looked like as they first canoed into


Grays Bay of Lake Minnetonka, from the mouth of Minnehaha Creek.

My friend Steve Olson's illustrated map of Lake Minnetonka.


Ojibwe Nation




Kahbe-nagw-wens
 'A Man Who Lived in Three Centuries'
 Ojibwe Chief in Walker MN museum
 1784 -1922



Ojibwe
Dakota



Ojibwe sugar camp
by Seth Eastman 1851



Ojibwe wild rice harvesters in canoes

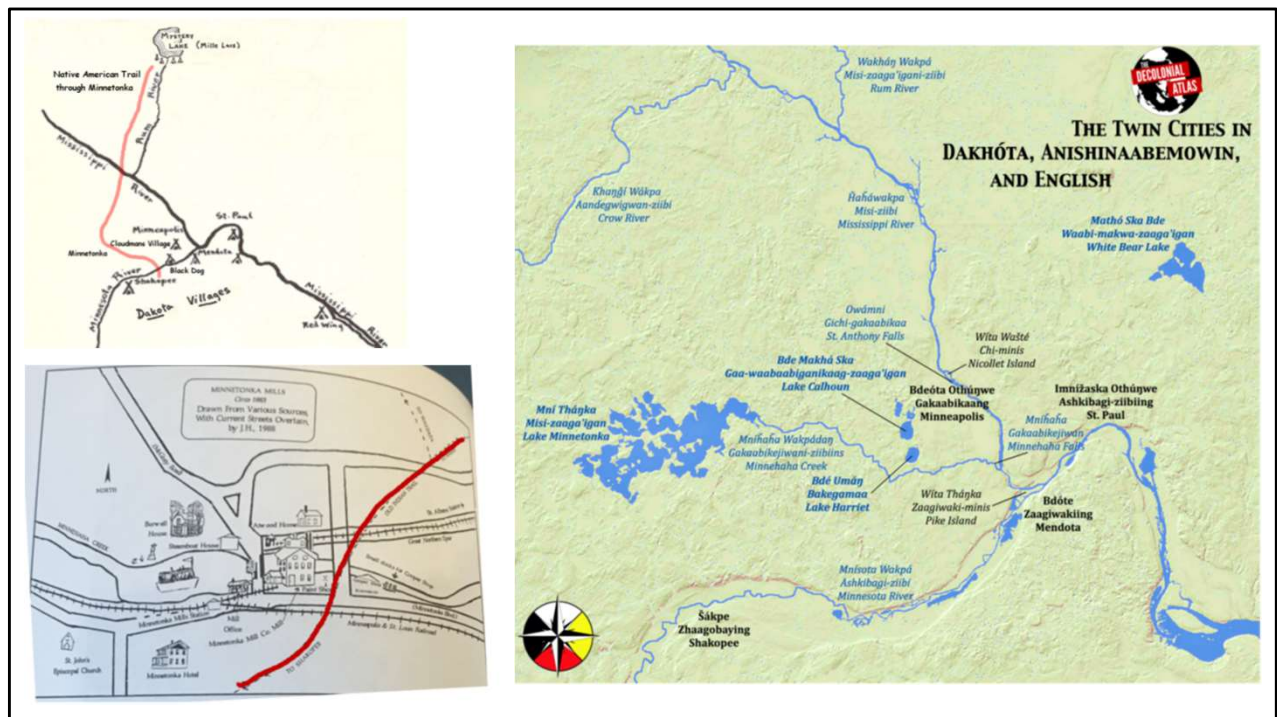
P 10 “They found Chippewa (Ojibwe People) Indians on Big Island, which was used temporarily as a summer home by Indians (Indigenous People) during the hunting and fishing seasons. They Indians spent their winters under the protecting bluffs of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.”

***Minnesota in the early 1800s had two main cultures (Nations) of Indigenous People:
 The Ojibwe lived in the northern forests of what today is Minnesota. They hunted deer and caught fish.
 And as shown here; tapped maple syrup and harvested wild rice.***

They prefer not being called the Chippewa, which was a mispronunciation of Ojibwe by the European Americans. Their language is different than the Dakota who lived in southern Minnesota.

They are represented here by this Ojibwe Chief in Walker MN museum “Kahbe nagwi wens”

‘A Man Who Lived in Three Centuries’ 1784 – 1922



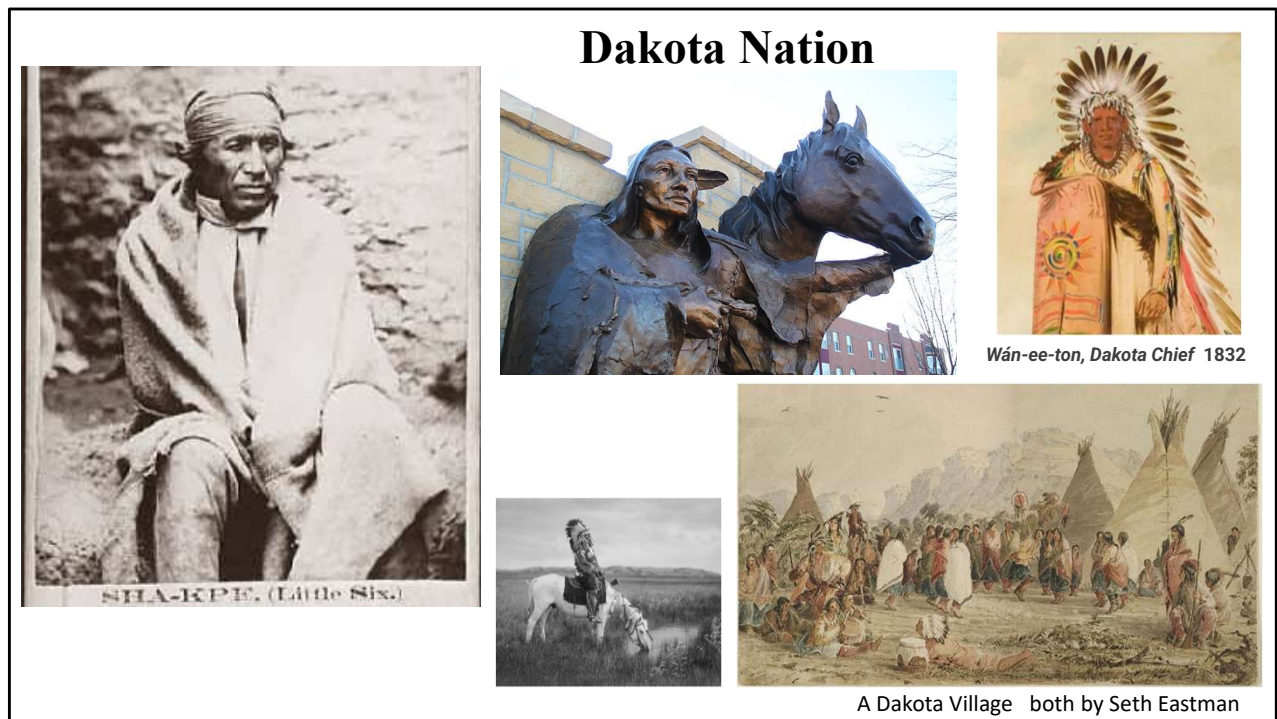
P31, Ch 6 Settlers ”There was a beautiful sumac grove on the bank of the creek near the south end of the lower bridge. Here, the Dakota sometimes camped when passing through before they built the varnish shop. The Indian trail, parts of which can still be found, crossed the creek at this point. ”

The red line on these maps, is the trail between the Ojibwes on Lake Mille Lacs and the Dakotas on the Minnesota River that crossed Minnehaha Creek by the historic Mill park there today, by the bridge and Station Pizza today.

Which was also where the Frear General Store was in the 1890s.

The map on the right shows the names of the Twin City landmarks in Dakota language on top, then Ojibwe language and English.

For example in Dakota: Mni Thanka, Mni Haha, Mnsota Wakba, Bde Maka Ska, and Bde Uman where I grew up.



P 11 "The numerous mounds found near the lake (Minnetonka), covered with aged trees, indicate the early presence of Indians (Indigenous People). The Dakota Indians, under Chief Shakopee, often visited the lake and its environs to hunt and fish."

In a later chapter Frear refers to two settlers, whom we will meet later, who interacted peacefully with their Dakota neighbors.

P31, Ch 6 Settlers "The Dakota were frequent visitors at Sarah (Shaver's) house and visited Mrs. Atwood at the varnish shop. 'Shakopee', the Dakota for whom the city is named, often visited the women. They found him intelligent,

manly, brave, and not an unpleasant visitor.

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***Here is a photo of Chief Shakopee who led the
Mdewakenton Dakotas in the 1850s***

***The Dakota lived on the southern plains of Minnesota, and
primarily hunted buffalo on horseback. Here is the statue
to Chief Shakopee with his horse: A bronze statue in the
town.***

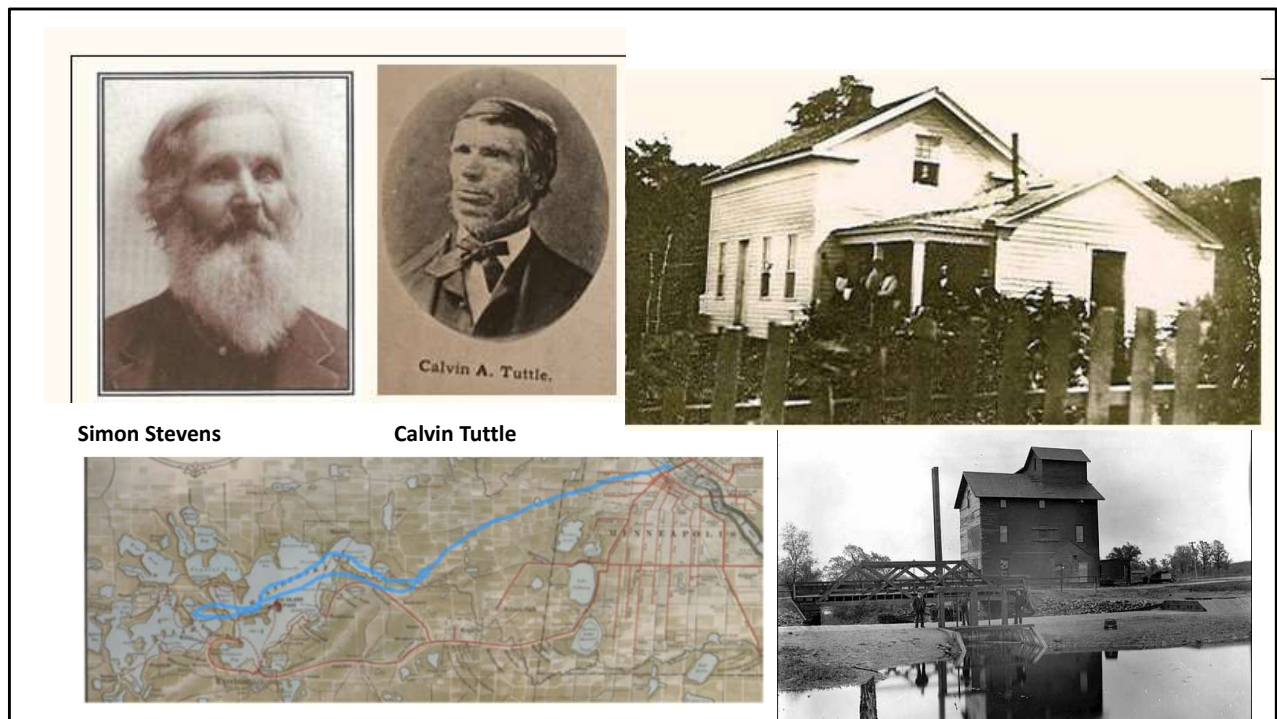
***A Red Hawk, a Dakota warrior watering his horse on the
plains. 1905***

***And two paintings by Seth Eastman of a Dakota Chief and
village.***

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According to tribal histories, the very first "Shakpe"
(Little Six) was called that because he was the sixth
child of a set of sextuplets.

They didn't like being called the Sioux, which was a derogatory
name for them meaning snake, or enemy, used by their rival
the Ojibwa tribe to the north.



P13, Chapter 2 Lake Minnetonka : “The Indians (Indigenous People had) told of a big water towards the setting sun. As a result, after the Treaty of Traverse de Sioux, on April 12, 1851, Simon Stevens, twenty-three years old, and Calvin A. Tuttle, a millwright and (later), first treasurer of Minnesota started, with a week’s provisions, guns, and blankets, to discover the lake, which they supposed to be two or three days distant. Going west from the eastern limits of Minneapolis Town, they came just before noon to a swift running, clear stream, later known as (Minnehaha Creek)...They pushed on... to Big Island, where they camped for the night. “

P14: “The following day, Stevens and Tuttle returned down

the creek to the present site of Minnetonka Mills, where the fast flow of water ... suggested the possibility of a sawmill, run by waterpower. Stevens and Tuttle at once staked out their claim and then returned to St. Anthony Falls with the first definite news of the rediscovered lake. “

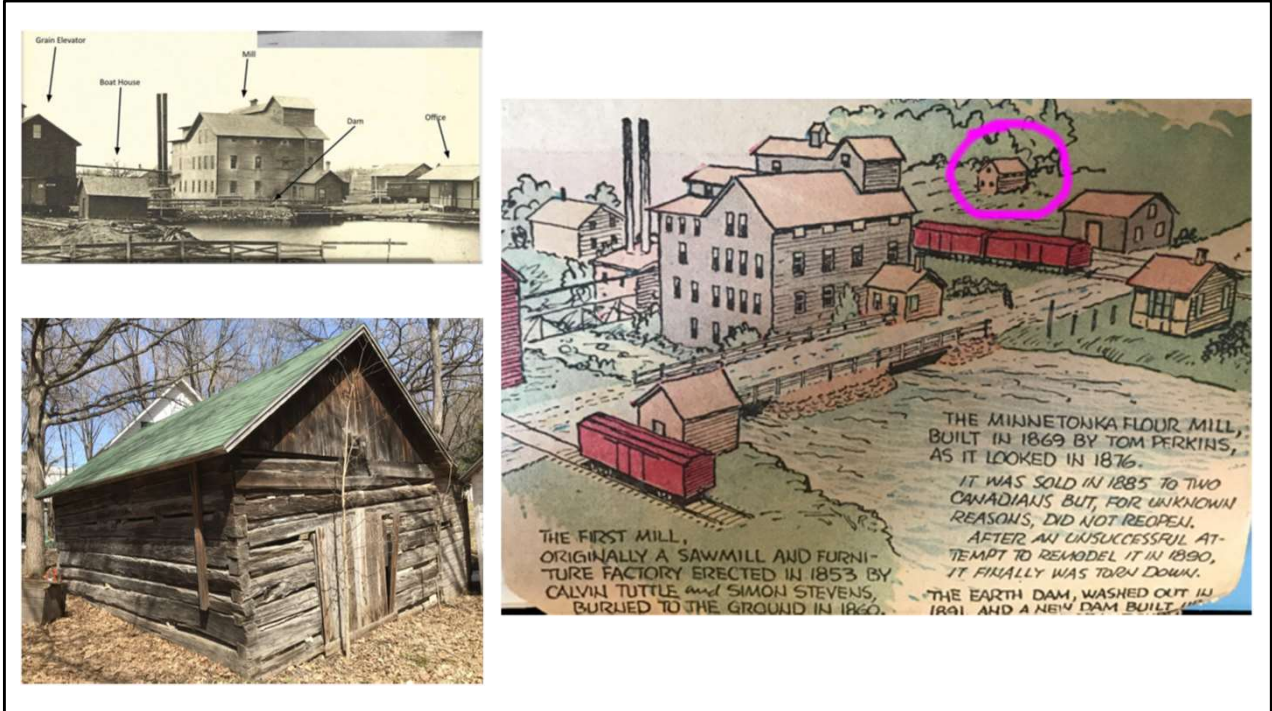
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Simon Stevens (brother of John Stevens) and his partner Calvin Tuttle.

They left from his brother John Steven’s first house in Minneapolis shown here.

You can see their route in blue on this map of Minneapolis. In 1852 they built the first Mill, at the same site as shown here 1880s.



P14: “In 1852, Simon Stevens* obtained a charter ... Together with Calvin Tuttle, and Hezekiah Atwood to form a stock company to build the 12-foot dam and sawmill.”

P24, Ch 4 The Dam and Sawmill: “The dam was built exactly where the concrete bridge crosses the creek near the Burwell School... and was in continuous use from 1852 until the dam washed out in 1891. “

P24: “The mill sawed ... lumber, sold mainly in St. Anthony and St. Paul ie: for making wagons, tools, and the suspension bridge across the Mississippi river at Minneapolis (1855)“

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The pioneers cut the lumber from all the old growth trees around lake Minnetonka, which were towed out on to the ice in winter, and then floated down to the mill in spring to saw lumber.

The lumber mill burned to the ground a few years later and other settlers built flour mills on the same site.

Here is a drawing of a flour mill as it looked in 1876. The red circle shows the location of the first building in Minnetonka, the Stevens/Tuttle shanty on the south side of the creek.

It may have looked like my photo of the oldest building still standing in Minnetonka:

A log cow barn from the 1860s in Glen Lake today.



P 40, Chapter 9 Early Population

"The families listed in the 1857 census, Minnetonka Township:

Of the 94 adults 41 were men, heads of household.

There were 29 farmers, 1 hotel keeper, 1 blacksmith, 1 shoemaker, 1 bookkeeper, 1 chairmaker, 1 ornamentor, 1 carpenter, 1 wood turner, 1 machinist, and 1 clerk.

Of the 151 inhabitants who were not heads of household, 52 were women, 98 were children, and 1 was a man with no home of his own. "

"The countries of birth of the forty-one heads of household

were: Foreign-born – Canada, 2; England, 1; Germany, 8; Ireland, 6; New Brunswick, 3, for a total of 20. U.S.-born included Maine, 1; New Hampshire, 1; New York, 6; Ohio, 1; Pennsylvania, 7; Vermont, 3. ”

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Here are some random photos from our archives of the different people who settled here in Minnetonka in the 1800s.

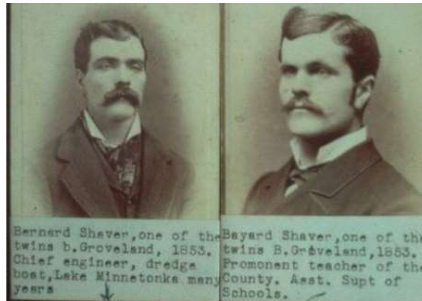
Including this Swedish RR crew in 1867, the Charles Carpenter family, on the bottom left, whose mother was the midwife of the area for many years. And on the bottom right of course the Burwells who built their historically preserved house in 1883.

(Nellie Smith, Oliveer Burnes, Swedes, George Burnes, Dan Campbell, Carpenters, Kate McGinty, John and Anna McKenzie, Burwells)

James and Sarah Chowen Shaver



James Shaver
First settler in Minnetonka
Built sawmill in 1852



Bernard Shaver, one of the twins b. Groveland, 1853. Chief engineer, dredge boat, Lake Minnetonka many years.
Bayard Shaver, one of the twins B. Groveland, 1853. Prominent teacher of the County. Asst. Supt of Schools.

Now let's look at some excerpts about 6 of these pioneer families that were first to settle in Minnetonka.



James and Sarah Shaver

P31, Chapter 6 Settlers:

“... James Shaver was the first settler in Minnetonka Township, coming in 1852 to build the sawmill for Stevens and Tuttle.

Sarah Shaver arrived in the summer of 1852 and was the first European settler woman in the township. Living in the

small one-room shanty with her husband and son she boarded the men who built the sawmill.

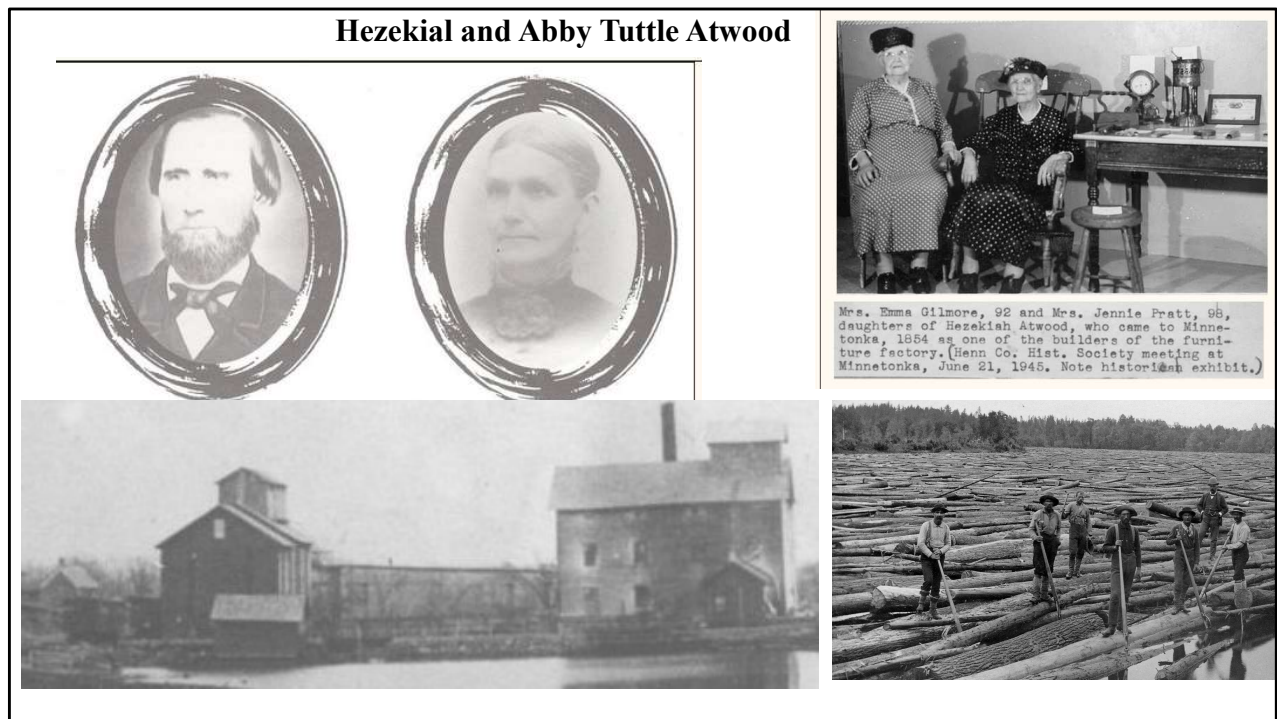
**She also fed and provided lodging for any travelers who came along. She can be called the first hotel keeper in the township.
“**

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Sarah Chowen Shaver portrait in 1896 and in the 1860s with her extended family.

Her husband James Shaver who in the spring of 1852 staked out the first claim on Lake Minnetonka at Grays Bay where he built a log cabin for his big family.

The Shaver twins were the first children born in Minnetonka Township.



Hezekial and Abby Tuttle Atwood

P28, Ch 5 The Furniture Factory: “Hezekiah Atwood ... brought his family to Minnetonka in 1854. He soon moved into his own home, the third built in Minnetonka, on the north bank of the creek where the Burwell School stands. Calvin Tuttle was Mrs. Atwood’s brother and later, first treasurer of Minnesota territory . “

P29, “ One day a girl came to the mill with her father and played on the footbridge which crossed the Creek in front of

Atwood's house. She fell into the rushing creek but could cling to the bridge until a mill worker, attracted by her screams, ran down and pulled her out. In all the many years of Minnehaha Creek as a favorite recreation place for swimming, boating, fishing, trapping, and skating, there is no record of anyone drowning in the Creek in Minnetonka Town. The country boys early learned how to take care of themselves . “

P28, “While scaling logs on Lake Minnetonka for the mill in the early spring of 1857, Mr. Atwood fell into the cold water and contracted pneumonia (and died). Only thirty-five years old, he left his wife and three small daughters with no visible means of support. “

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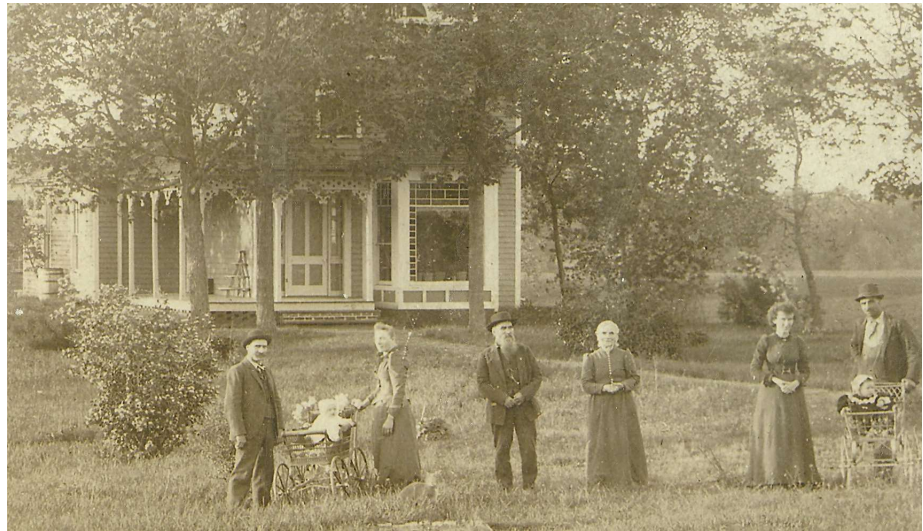
Here are Hezekiah and Abby Tuttle Atwood who lived where St Davids School (previously Burwell School) is today.

That you can see their house to the far left, by the first sawmill at Minnetonka Mills that he managed.

Here is a photo of other men scaling logs on a lake .

Here are two of their daughters attending the 25-year reunion History presentation in 1945 in their 90s.

Amos and Susan Chowen Gray



Amos and Susan Chowen Gray

P40: "In August 1855, Amos Gray, (bought) one hundred forty acres (on Gray's Bay, named for him)."

P43: "He was a millwright, who was the head millwright in building the (first sawmill at Minnetonka Mills) "

P66: "The Amos and Jess Gray houses still stand on the north side of Minnetonka Boulevard in Deephaven. "

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This is our best archive photograph.

Of Amos Nixon Gray and his wife Susan Chowen Gray by their house still standing on Minnetonka Blvd.

On the left is their son Will's family. And on the right is

their daughter Ella's family.

**And the blue house is still stands today on Minnetonka
Blvd west of 101 and Chowen's Corner.**

The composite image consists of four parts:

- Top Left:** A portrait of Andrew Chesterfield Scott, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit and a patterned bow tie.
- Top Right:** A portrait of a woman, likely his wife, with light-colored hair, wearing a dark dress with a white collar.
- Bottom Left:** A modern map of the Scott family property in Chouens Corner, showing Lake Minnetonka, Grays Bay, and surrounding streets like Woodland and Groveland Park.
- Bottom Right:** A historical "1850s First Abstract Map" of the same area, showing property boundaries, names of owners (e.g., Andrew Chesterfield Scott, John H. Seymour, John A. Martin), and dates of acquisition.

P 27: " In 1853, W. S. Chowen, A. N. Gray, (and others) settled here. Some preempted land when it was opened for settlement and became prominent township citizens. "

P 87: "The first (Groveland) Sunday School was started by W. S. Chowen, as superintendent, soon after he and his wife settled there. She led the singing. The first Sunday School

was non-denominational, but sometime in the early 1870s, a Methodist Sunday School was organized, ”

P123: Chapter 21 Groveland School

”The first schoolhouse built in Minnetonka Township was at Groveland in 1854. It was located on land donated by W. W. Chowen, in his pasture at the east side of his farm, near the Groveland Church, and south of the present Minnetonka Boulevard, opposite the cemetery. ”

P 188: ”W. S. Chowen, a Republican of Minnetonka, was a member of the first State legislature, in which he played an active part in legislation favorable to education and farmers. ”

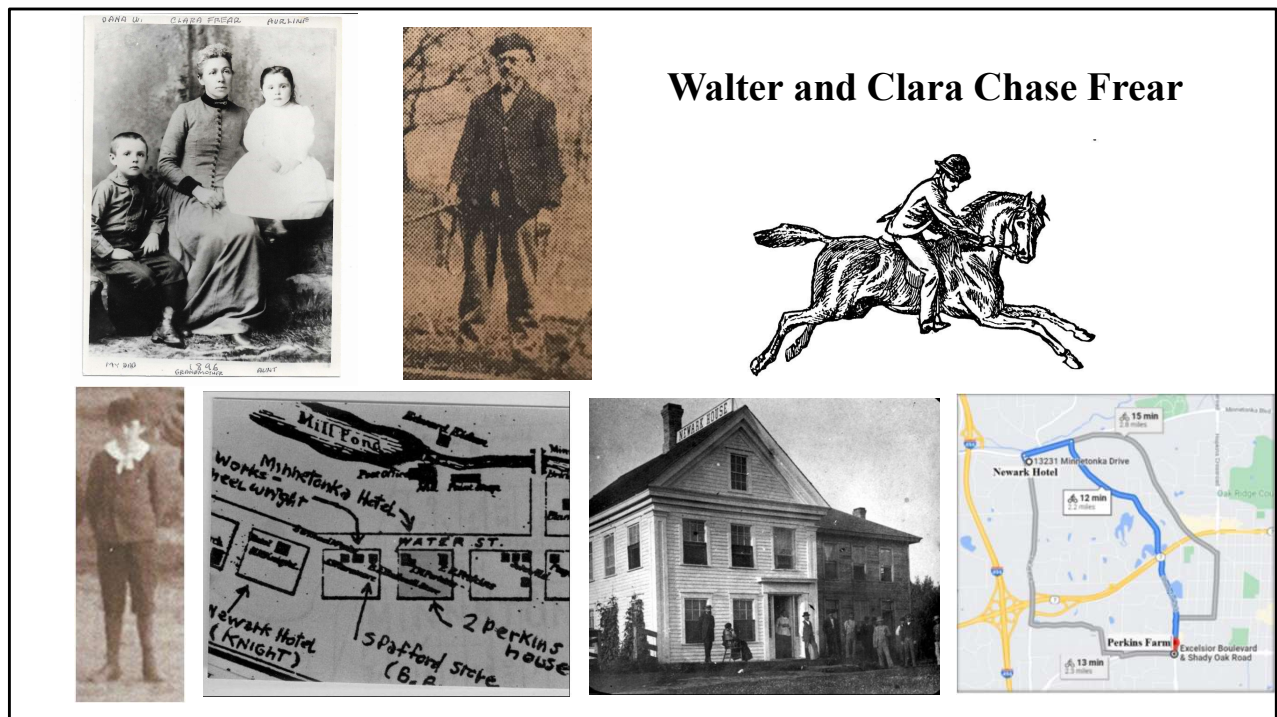
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Here are portraits of William and Mary Frear Chowen. She was the sister of Susan Chowen Shaver.

Here is the first Abstract Map showing the location of the Chowens, and the Grays and the Shavers propertys.

And a modern map showing the old so called “Chowens Corner” at 101 and Minnetonka Boulevard.



Walter and Clara Chase Frear

Walter and Clara Chase Frear

P79, Chapter 15 Two Pioneers: (A whole chapter dedicated to Dana Frear's parents).

”Walter Scott Frear was born in Pennsylvania, in 1847 and came to Minnetonka in 1869, 15 years after the first settlers. At first he lived in the cabin home of his uncle W. S. Chowen and his wife, Mary Frear Chowen.”

”(He worked at the new Perkins flour mill) delivering loads of flour with his oxen team to the Minneapolis stores. With

his oxen, and later a team of horses, he plowed land . ”

”WS Frear boarded with the Perkins family at their Newark House Hotel. There he met his wife, Clara E. Chase, who came to Minnetonka in 1869 to live with her sister, Julia Chase.

(Julia was the) wife of Edward R. Perkins, son of the builder of the mill and operator of the Newark Hotel who lived at Shady Oak Road and Excelsior Boulevard.’ ”

”Mr. Frear owned a pure-white horse, named Flora, and rode from Minnetonka Mills to Perkins' Corner, in Hopkins, in the early 1870's, to see Clara. He married Clara Chase on November 25, 1875. ”

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***This is the Newark Hotel where Walter lived in 1869 .
And a map showing the Hotel's location on Baker Road and
Minnetonka Boulevard and the businesses nearby.***

Clara Chase Frear came to Minneapolis with her parents in 1854, when she was newborn and tragically was orphaned at 9 years old along with 5 siblings in 1863.

Her father Capt. Dudley P. Chase was a Civil War hero, who was mortally wounded at Chancellorsville with the 1st Minnesota Union Sharpshooters.

At the age of sixteen, she earned the first 1st-grade teachers certificate awarded by the State to any one as

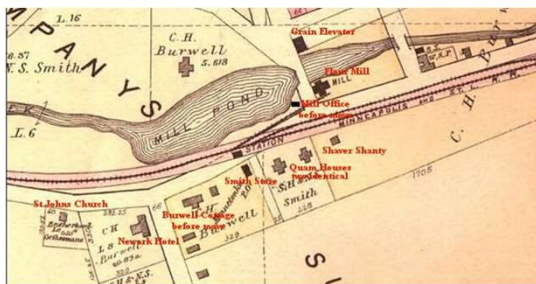
young as she was.

And she then taught school for a number of years to support her siblings.

Later with Walter, she raised her four children Henry, Jenness, Aureline, and Dana shown here in 1902.



St. John's Chapel, Minnetonka Mills
1858-1918



First comes Mr. Knight, who keeps the village inn,
When a good square meal you want, you'll do well to visit him;
And there is also his better half - we do not mean to mock her,
But all of the women in the town, she is the fastest talker;
Mr. Narramore lives next door - he runs the blacksmith shop,
He can mend a pillow or make a rod
And to him the farmers flock
When they want their horses shod;
Next comes Mr. Works, the wheelwright of the town,
To him the folks their wagons take when're they do break down;
Mr. Bushnell keeps the store - he keeps a splendid stock
Of drygoods and hardware, drugs, groceries and whatnots;
Also a fine assortment of candies, cheap and sweet,
But a pocketful of cash you'll need when you go there to treat;
Next comes Mr. Perkins, the landlord of the town,
He owns the mill, a mile square of land, and all the houses 'round,
And upon financial matters his mind is very sound;
And there is Frank, the old man's son,
Of all the boys, he sure is one;
He loves to fish and hunt the deer,
And play the violin,
And dance the light fantastic
'Til the midnight hours grow dim;

“A Reminiscence of By-gone Days in Minnetonka Mills 1873”

“W. S. Frear and other young men wrote a poem which was reported to the Hennepin County Review in 1931 by Mrs. W. S. Frear, as follows:

When the Minnetonka school occupied the Episcopal Church (St Johns), a lyceum was held there weekly, attended by people from the Groveland, Hopkins, and Minnetonka areas. The President at the last meeting about sixty years ago was W. S. Chowen. (This poem), ...was composed by the young bloods of that time, of which our respected and dignified townsman W. S. Frear was one.”

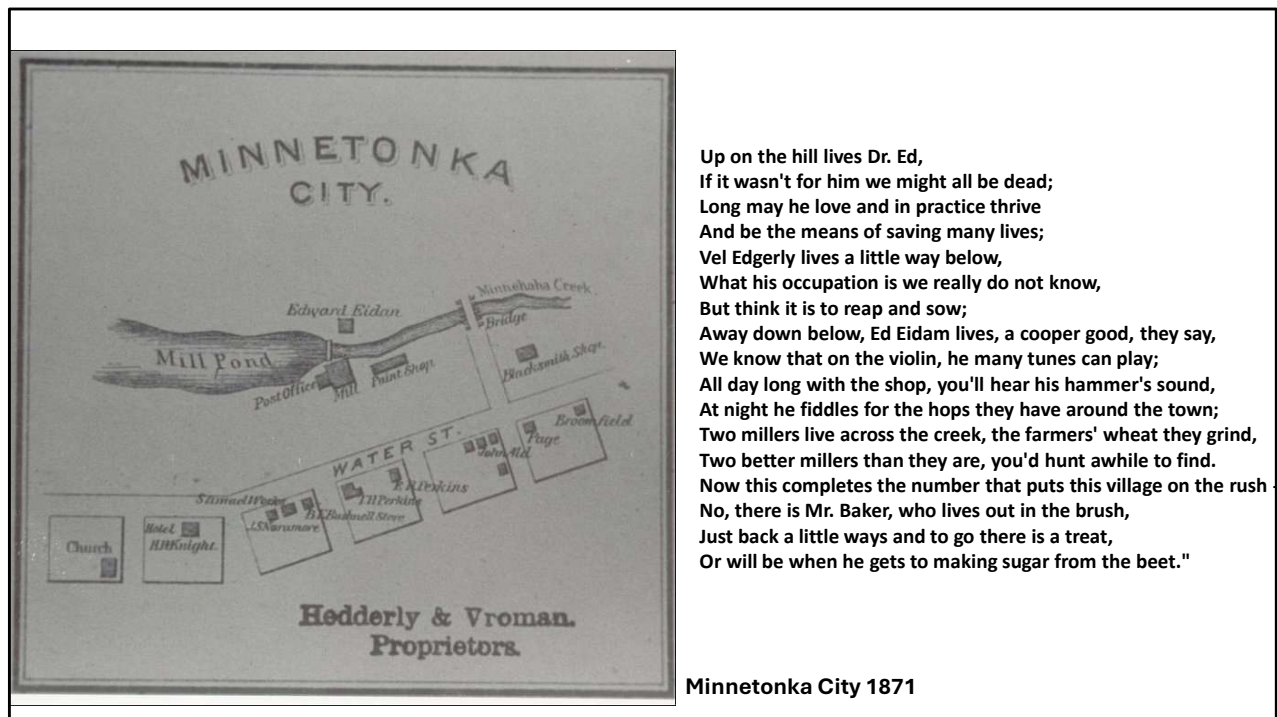
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Here is a photo of St John's Episcopal Chapel which served the Minnetonka Mills people from 1858 to 1915 where this poem was originally read.

On this map you can see where it was located west of Baker Road on Minnetonka Boulevard.

This is the only photograph of it's interior.



“The three neighborhoods; Groveland, Minnetonka Mills and what is now Hopkins, mingled in social activities and were designated as the upper, middle, and lower neighborhoods. There were ten occupied houses in the Mills burg. The rhymes are a play on the names of the heads of the families occupying them.”

Here is an 1871 map showing the location of many of the buildings owned by the 10 families of this poem that lived in Minnetonka Mills in the 1870s.

**Mr. Knight, who keeps the village inn,
When a good square meal you want, you'll do well to visit him;
And there is also his better half - we do not mean to mock her,
But of all the women in the town, she is the fastest talker;**

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**“ First comes Mr. Knight, who keeps the
village inn,
When a good square meal you want, you'll do
well to visit him;
And there is also his better half - we do not
mean to mock her,
But all of the women in the town, she is the
fastest talker; “**

Mr. Narramore lives next door – he runs the blacksmith shop,
He can mend a pillow or make a rod
And to him the farmers flock
When they want their horses shod;

**“ Mr. Narramore lives next door - he runs the
blacksmith shop,
He can mend a pillow or make a rod
And to him the farmers flock
When they want their horses shod; “**



**“ Mr. Narramore lives next door - he runs the
blacksmith shop,**

He can mend a pillow or make a rod

And to him the farmers flock

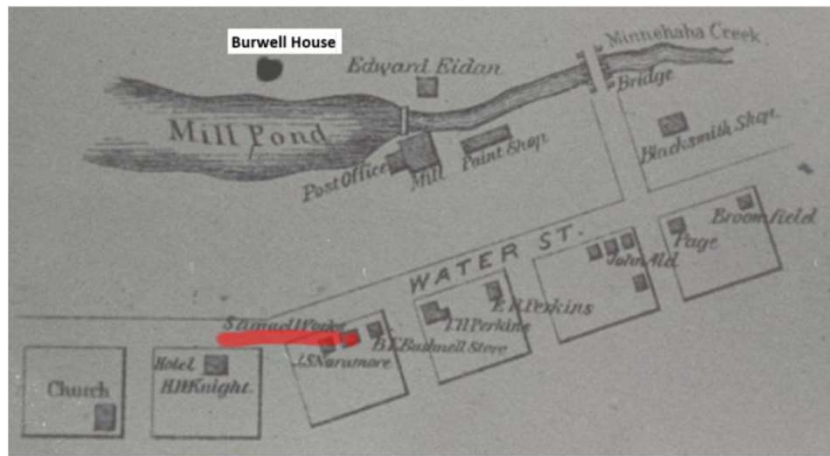
When they want their horses shod; “

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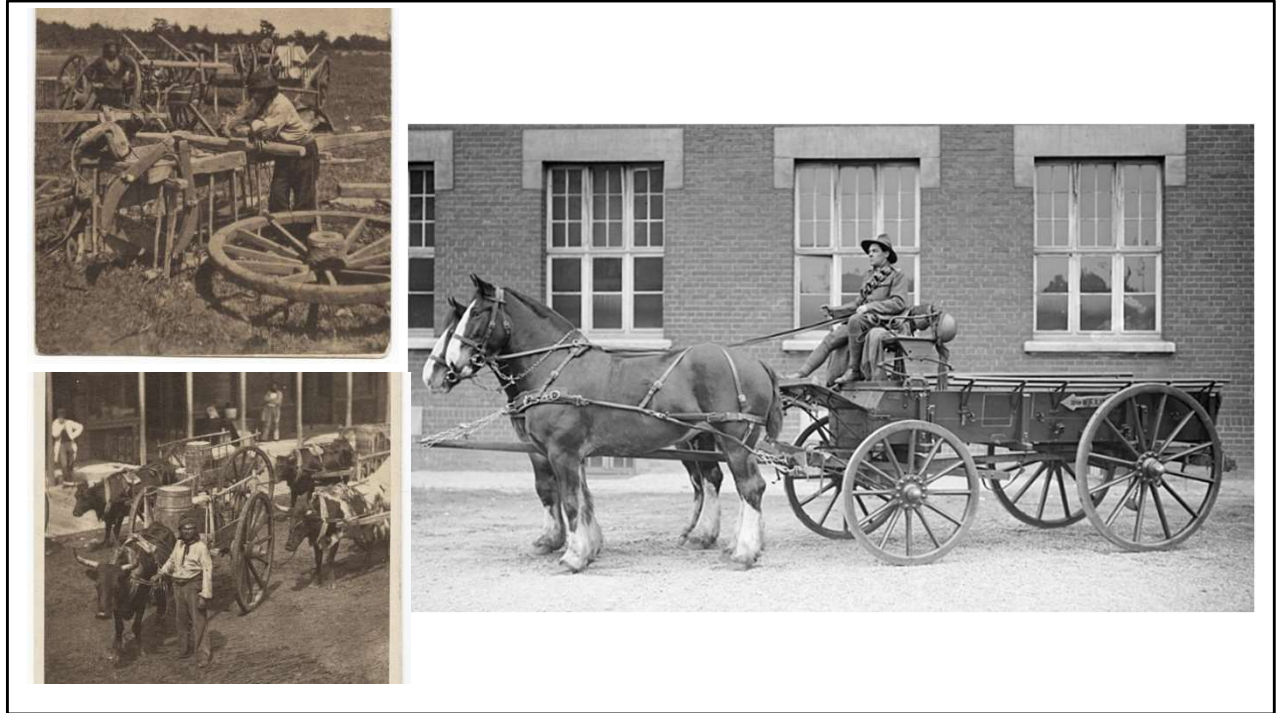
**Here is a later Blacksmith; Torleif Larson next to present
day Dairy Queen about 1890.**

**He was also a farrier who is putting a new shoe on this
customer's horse.**

**Next comes Mr. Works, the wheelwright of the town,
To him the folks their wagons take when're they do break down;**



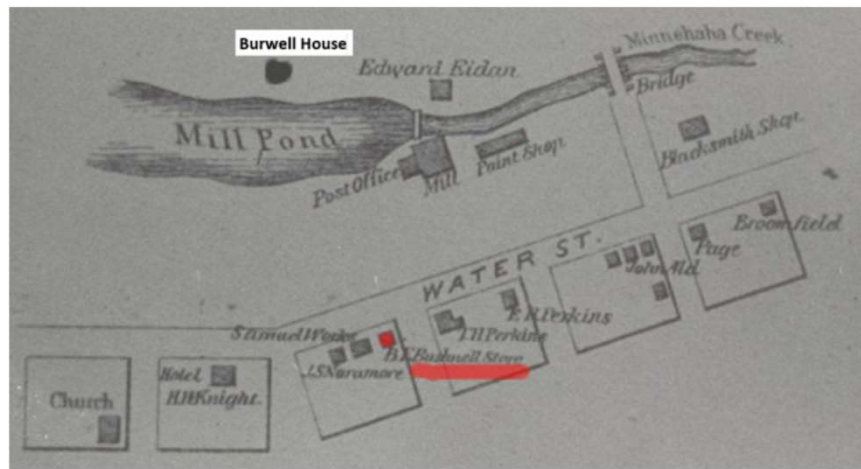
**”Next comes Mr. Works, the wheelwright of the
town,
To him the folks their wagons take when're they do
break down; ”**



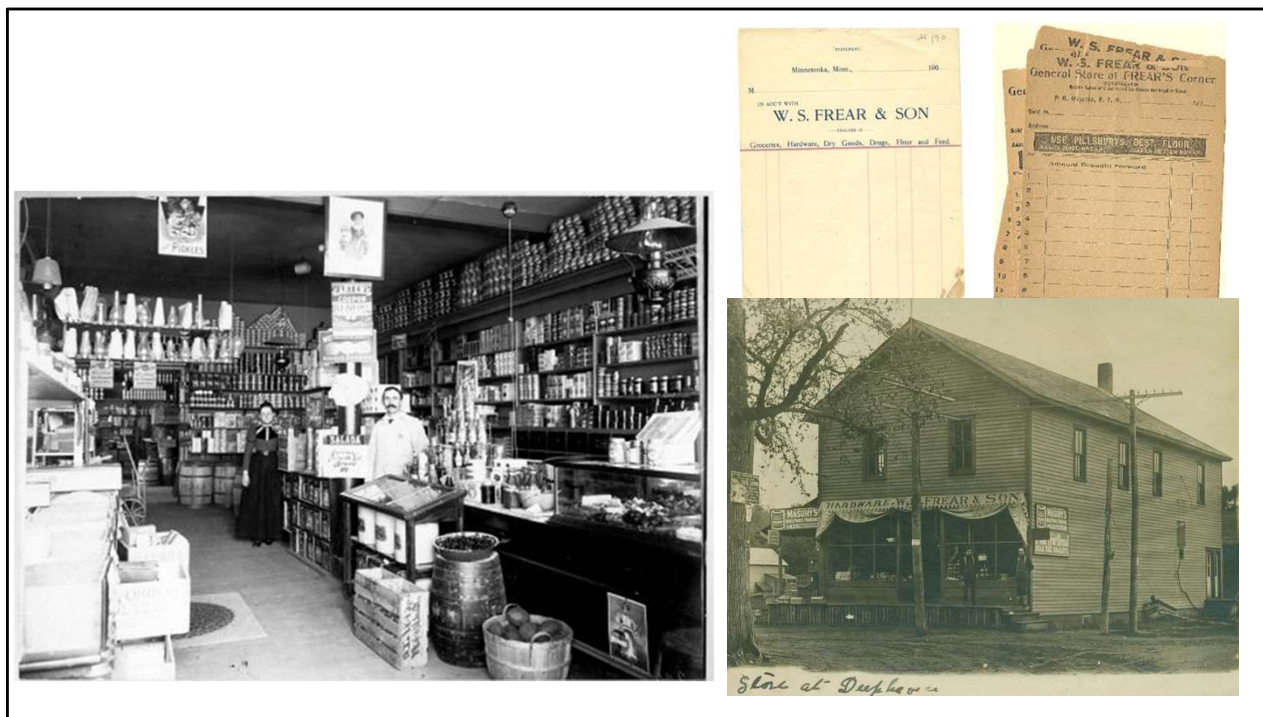
**”Next comes Mr. Works, the wheelwright of
the town,**

**To him the folks their wagons take when're
they do break down; ”**

**Mr. Bushnell keeps the store - he keeps a splendid stock
Of drygoods and hardware, drugs, groceries and whatnots;
Also a fine assortment of candies, cheap and sweet,
But a pocketful of cash you'll need when you go there to treat**



**”Mr. Bushnell keeps the store - he keeps a
splendid stock
Of dry goods and hardware, drugs, groceries and
whatnots;
Also, a fine assortment of candies, cheap and sweet,
But a pocketful of cash you'll need when you go
there to treat ”**



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Of dry goods and hardware, drugs, groceries and
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**Also, a fine assortment of candies, cheap and sweet,
But a pocketful of cash you'll need when you go there to
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This is some other general store interior at the time and a sales slip and grocery list from the Frear General Store in the 1890s.

Here is an excerpt about the Frear General Store from Dana who spent his childhood years working and playing there.

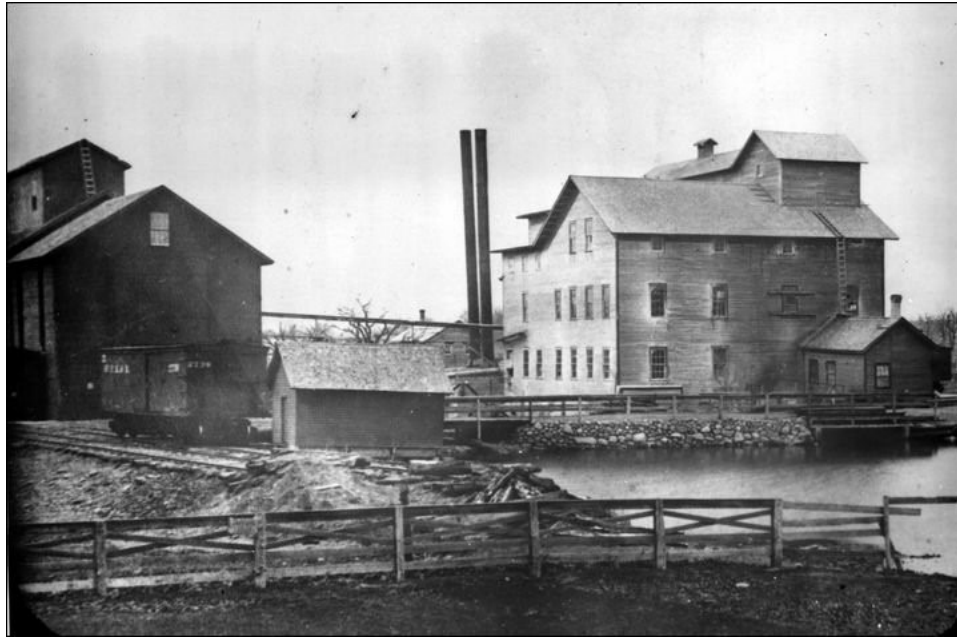
““Many early settlers rode horseback or walked to the grist mills on Minnehaha Creek or elsewhere, carrying heavy sacks of wheat, rye, buckwheat or corn on their backs for grinding into flour or meal. ...When they rode horseback they laid the sack divided in the center over the horse’s shoulders in front of the saddle or rider. They used the

Indian trails or took a course as directly as possible through the woods. There were few roads in the town then. The women often made these tiresome trips because the men were busy clearing their land or doing the farm work.

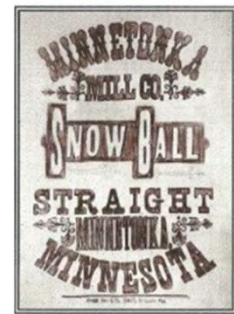
Minnetonka had the only post office and store in this general area for many years, and settlers came there to get their mail and to their trading, bringing with them farm products and other materials they could sell or trade for store goods. Butter, eggs, honey, cranberries, maple syrup, sorghum, fish, game, hides, pork, beef, mutton, were some of these products. Some settlers made chairs and brooms. “”

Next comes Mr. Perkins, the landlord of the town,
He owns the mill, a mile square of land, and all the houses 'round,
And upon financial matters his mind is very sound;

**“ Next comes Mr. Perkins, the landlord of the
town,
He owns the mill, a mile square of land, and all the
houses 'round,
And upon financial matters his mind is very sound;
“**



Thomas Perkins



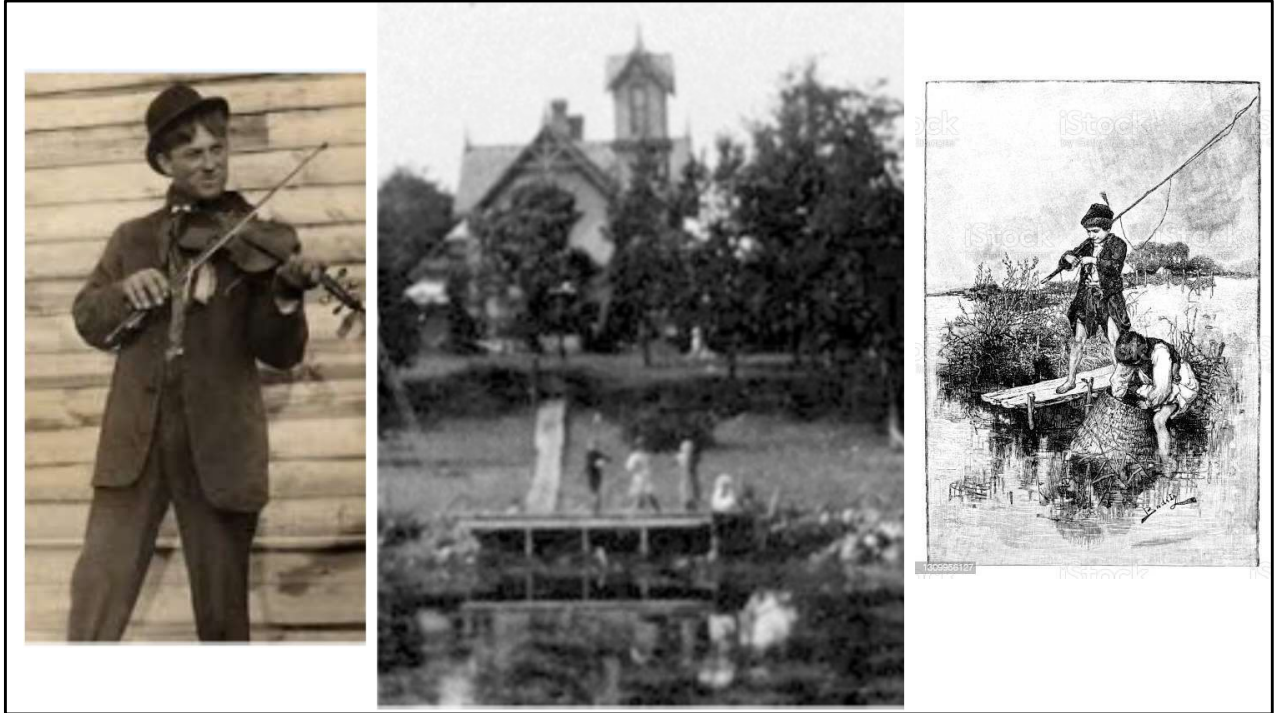
**“ Next comes Mr. Perkins, the landlord of the town,
He owns the mill, a mile square of land, and all the
houses 'round,
And upon financial matters his mind is very sound;
“**

=====

**p43 “ Thomas Perkins bought the Minnetonka Mill Co. after
the fire in 1868, including the sawmill and farm. His head
millwright was Amos N. Gray. in 1869 Perkins constructed a
3-1/2 story flour mill and an ad joining cooper shop.
At the peak of its production, around 1880, the mill ground
400 barrels of flour daily and employed 18 men.
One of its brands, "Snow Ball," was priced at \$3.00 per**

hundred pound, and local farmers were paid \$1.00 per bushel of wheat.

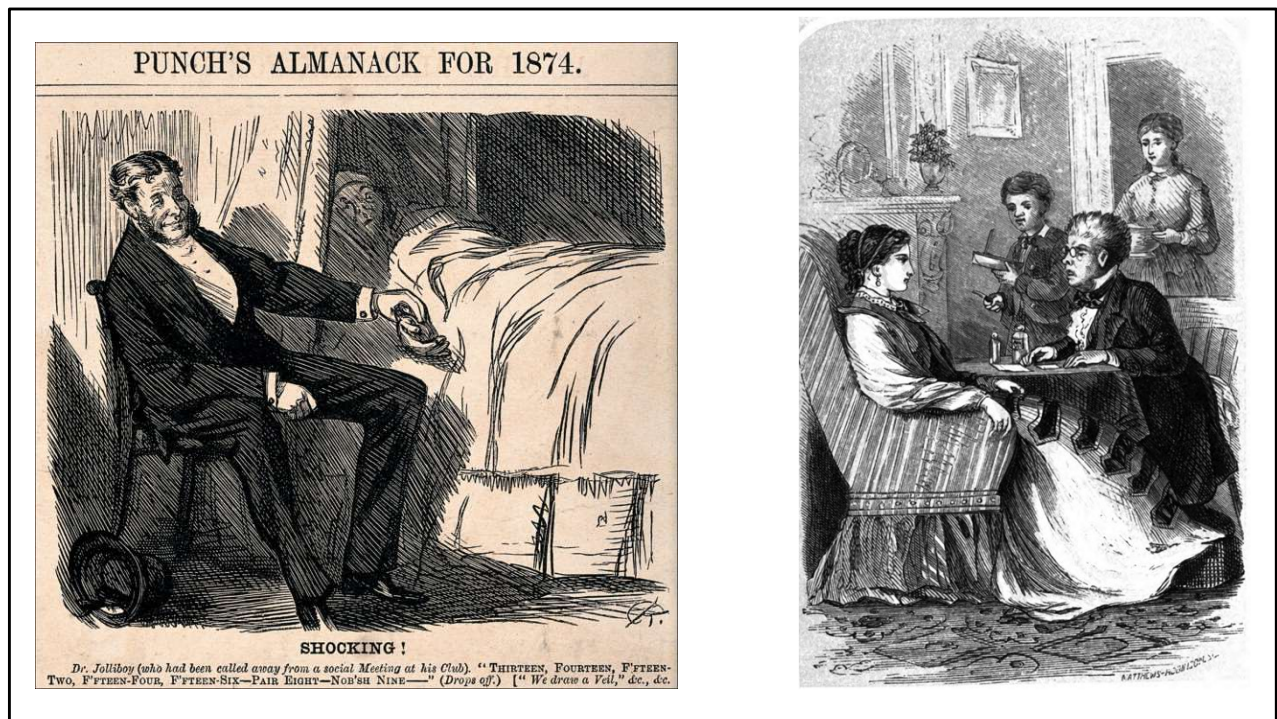
In July 1871, he sold, it to Edwin R. Hedderly“



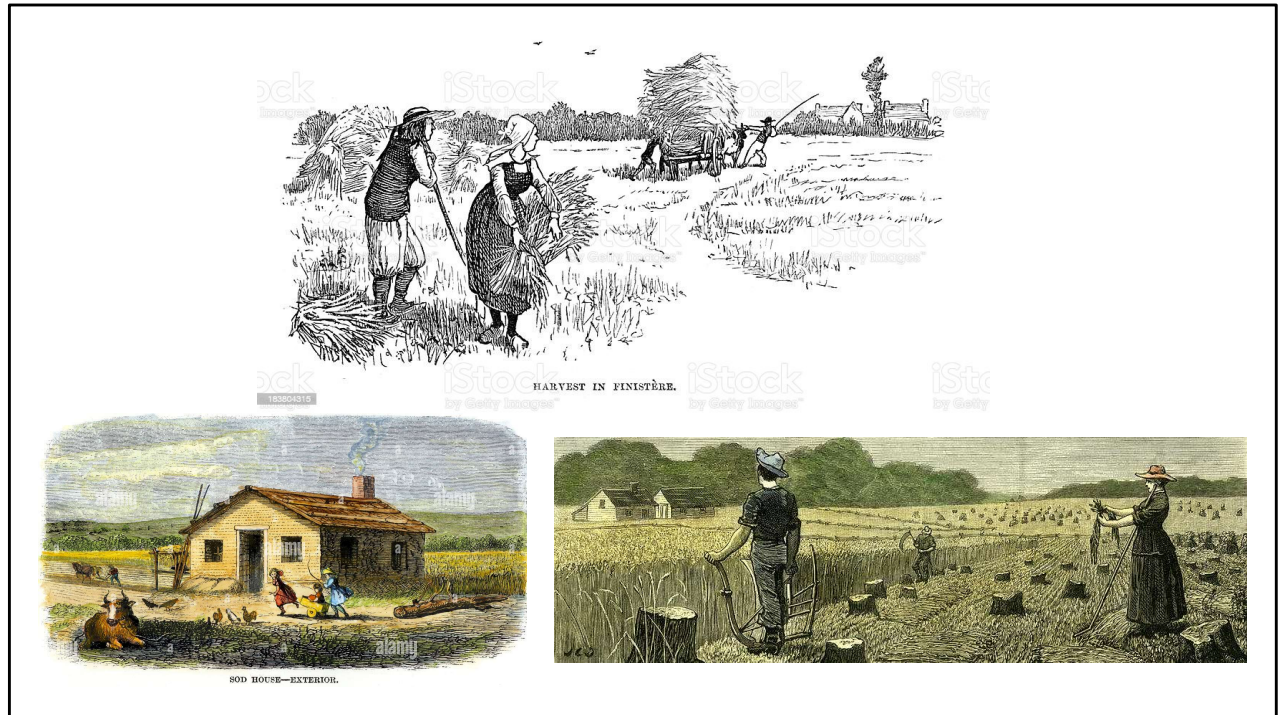
“And there is Frank, the old man's son,
 Of all the boys, he sure is one;
 He loves to fish and hunt the deer,
 And play the violin,
 And dance the light fantastic
 'Til the midnight hours grow dim; “

=====

*In the middle is the Burwell House with children, probably
 Louise and Loring, playing on the dock. maybe fishing,
 This was the view looking north across the Creek, that all
 of these businesses, (10 years later), had of the Burwell
 House
 (after it was built in 1883).*

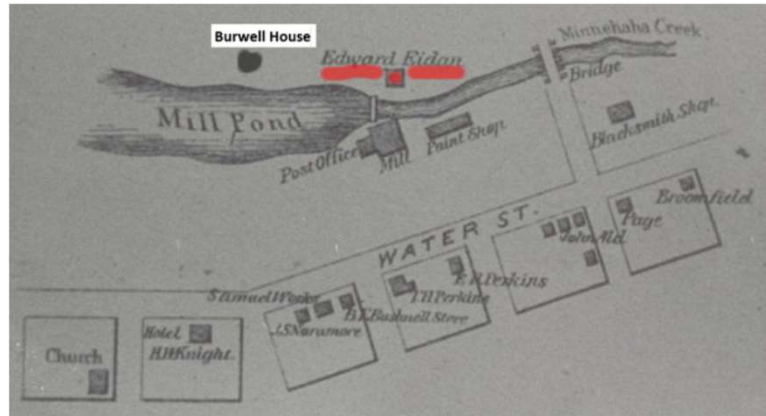


**“ Up on the hill lives Dr. Ed,
If it wasn't for him we might all be dead;
Long may he love and in practice thrive
And be the means of saving many lives; “**



**“Vel Edgerly lives a little way below,
What his occupation is we really do not know,
But think it is to reap and sow; “**

**Away down below, Ed Eidam lives, a cooper good, they say,
We know that on the violin, he many tunes can play;
All day long with the shop, you'll hear his hammer's sound,
At night he fiddles for the hops they have around the town;**



**“Away down below, Ed Eidam lives, a cooper
good, they say,
We know that on the violin, he many tunes can
play;
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=====
 The Frear General Store 1892 – 1900. Built in 1877 by Eidam
 W.S.Frear bought this store in 1891.

This photo looking north on Bridge Street about 1897 shows the two- story Frear
 Grocery with hitching posts for horses.

It served the community as a town hall, a post office, and a dance hall for many years

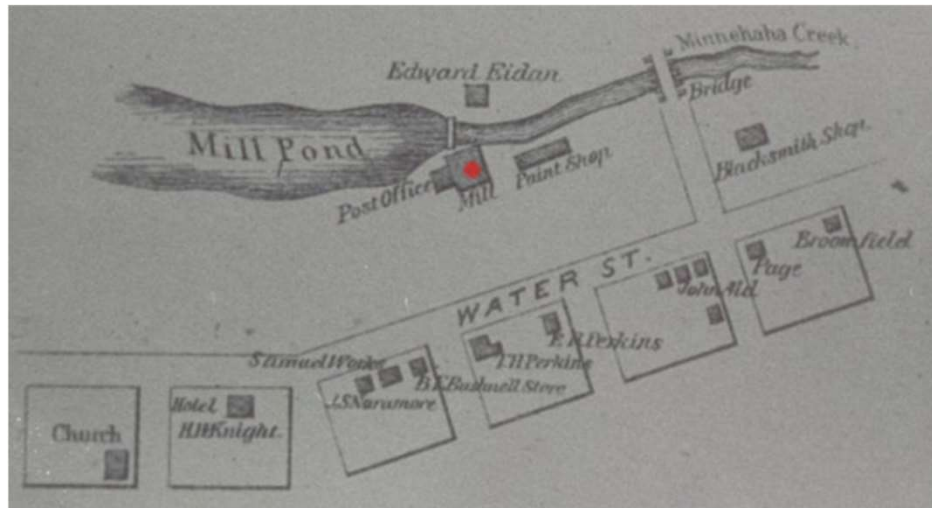
The same view in 2005.

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Since their store was on Minnehaha Creek, where the lumber and flour mills were built 3 miles east of Lake Minnetonka. They knew about everything that was going on through those early decades because they sold the tools and food and supplies at the hub of transportation hub between twin cities and the vacation destination and beautiful and huge Lake Minnetonka.

At the time in the late 19th century thousands of tourists would ride the steamboats up the Mississippi River in the summer
to the burgeoning pioneer mill town of Minneapolis and then ride a buggy or a train to Minnetonka Mills and Lake Minnetonka.

**Two millers live across the creek, the farmers' wheat they grind,
Two better millers than they are, you'd hunt awhile to find.**



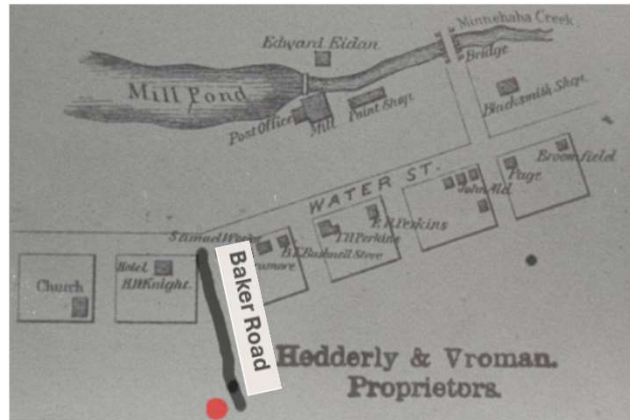
**“Two millers live across the creek, the farmers'
wheat they grind,
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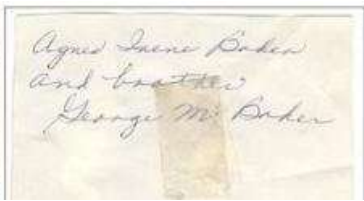
**“Two millers live across the creek, the farmers’
wheat they grind,
Two better millers than they are, you’d hunt awhile
to find. “**

***The Mill in the 1870s
The Mill Farm, south of town.
And a generic photo of period millers at work.***

**Now this completes the number that puts this village on the rush
No, there is Mr. Baker, who lives out in the brush,
Just back a little ways and to go there is a treat,
Or will be when he gets to making sugar from the beet."**



**" Now this completes the number that puts this village on the
rush
No, there is Mr. Baker, who lives out in the brush,
Just back a little ways and to go there is a treat,
Or will be when he gets to making sugar from the beet."**



Baker Road is named for the Baker family that owned a large farm by where West Junior High School is today.

“Now this completes the number that puts this village on the rush

**No, there is Mr. Baker, who lives out in the brush,
Just back a little ways and to go there is a treat,
Or will be when he gets to making sugar from the beet.“**

One more quote, about the Bakers and Frear:

P 79, Ch 15 Two Pioneers

"WS Frear soon bought a yoke of oxen with which he dug the full basement for the Winslow Baker house on Baker Road. This was the largest and finest house in the county outside of Minneapolis. Baker Road was named for this early family. They had a farm near the present West Junior High School"



Looking east at the Burwell House from Minnehaha Creek . On the right are the businesses mentioned in the poem.

THE END

The only known photo of these buildings, taken later around 1896.

Looking east from Minnehaha Creek at the Burwell House. On the right are the businesses mentioned in the poem.

THE END