

story window in the rear of the warehouse through which her freight was discharged." Charles F. Miller recalled that in 1858 "steamboats which intended to go up to Mendota could not pass the river bridge on account of the high water, their smoke-stacks and jack-staffs being above the floor of the bridge." The writer records that "In conversations with old settlers mention was made of extreme high water in 1851, 1852, 1858, 1859, 1861, 1862, 1867 and 1870, and recollections were given of the flat in West St. Paul having been flooded several times so completely that the residents had to leave."

B. L. H.

THE ICELANDIC AND BELGIAN SETTLEMENTS IN LYON COUNTY

I am preparing a paper for the department of geography on the Icelandic and Belgian settlements in the vicinity of Minneota and Ghent. What materials do you have concerning these people or the Minneota-Ghent section of Lyon County?

L. E. S., Moorhead State Teachers College

A good account of the "Catholic Colony of Ghent" appears in C. F. Case, *History and Description of Lyon County*, 51-54 (Marshall, 1884). The Belgian colony also receives considerable attention in Arthur P. Rose, *Illustrated History of Lyon County*, 211-215 (Marshall, 1912). Of special interest is the material on the Catholic church organized in this colony in 1883. The names of all the original members are given, and this list probably includes the entire Belgian population at the time. As you probably know, this colony was one of Archbishop Ireland's projects.

The Icelandic settlement at Minneota is described in an article entitled "Icelandic Communities in America: Cultural Backgrounds and Early Settlements," by Thorstina Jackson, in the *Journal of Social Forces*, 3: 684 (May, 1925). According to this author the first Icelander, Gunnlaugur Petursson, settled near Minneota in July, 1875. "At present," she writes, "there

are about 1,000 first and second generation Icelanders in this community." Rose, on page 88 of his *History of Lyon County*, relates that fifty colonists direct from Iceland followed Petursson in 1877. He refers to an article in the *Marshall News-Messenger* for May 24, 1904. Evidently a good deal of material on the Icelandic settlement is to be found in this paper, a file of which is in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society. Another paper in this library which should contain material is *Vinland*, an Icelandic monthly published at Minnesota. The society's file covers the period from April, 1902, to February, 1908. A general survey of "Icelandic Pioneers in North America," by J. T. Thorson, is published in the *Quarterly Journal* of the University of North Dakota, 15: 126-134 (January, 1925).

Among the most valuable sources for the study of any settlement or racial group are the census schedules. The Minnesota Historical Society has in its possession manuscript census schedules which contain much information not found in the printed records. The population schedule for the 1885 state census is extremely useful for the colonies at Ghent and Minnesota. The schedule for the town of Grandview, Lyon County, gives the names and birthplaces of a large number of Belgians, as well as other information about individuals and families; the records for Eidsvold and a number of other townships show a large Icelandic element.

B. L. H.

MINNEHAHA FALLS AND LONGFELLOW'S "HIAWATHA"

I would appreciate knowing something of the history of Longfellow's "Hiawatha" in connection with Minnesota. Did Longfellow mention Minnehaha Falls in his poem?

E. L., Annandale

In the manuscript collection of the Minnesota Historical Society there is a letter written by an early daguerreotype artist, Alex Hesler of Chicago, to Russell Blakeley of St. Paul,



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