

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,

explaining how Longfellow came to write his poem "Hiawatha," in which he describes Minnehaha Falls.

Hesler made a tour of the region about St. Paul and Minneapolis in the summer of 1852 with another artist, Joel E. Whitney, making daguerreotype views of the scenes he passed. He went to Minnehaha Falls, he tells in the letter to Blakeley, and "prospected for the best view, and selected that from the upper side where the bluff makes a turn south, where, looking west you face the fall, with the gorge in the foreground. The fall in the middle — & the rapid with the Country beyond [in] the distance. here after cutting down two trees we had an unobstructed view and secured 25 or thirty pictures."

A few days after his return to Galena, where he was then in business, Hesler received a visit from George Sumner, a brother of Charles Sumner, who wished to see the pictures he had made. Hesler writes:

I gave him several: among them was one of Minnehaha that he admired above all the others. In January 1856, I received by mail a copy of Hiawatha on the fly Leaf of which was written

Mr A Hesler
with compliments
of the Author
Jany. 1856

The book was published late in 1855. Shortly after Mr Geo Sumner call[ed] at my studio then in Chicago and asked me if I had received a copy of Hiawatha from the Author I said I had — but could not see why he had sent it to me as I had no acquaintance with Mr Longfellow. I remarked that the Author must have seen the Fall to be able to describe it so perfectly. Mr. Sumner laughed and said "Longfellow never was there and never saw the falls. Do you remember the Daguerreotype you gave me at Galena?["] I said: ["] yes perfectly.["] ["] Well when I got home, being neighbors, I showed him the pictures you gave me and he selected Minnehaha, took it out in the woods with him and from it conceived the thought and poem of Hiawatha. And this is why he sent you the book — one of his first copies."

A. H. B.



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