

**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

Minnetonka Town

1851 to 1956 (extended to ~1971)

by Dana W. Frear

(copy #3)

Property of
Minnetonka Historical Society

Minnetonka *Mpls. Star 7-28-64* History Lies Unpublished

A century and a half of history and 30 years of painstaking spare time research lie compressed in the 400-page history of "Minnetonka Town" written by historian Dana W. Frear.

It's the only history of Minnetonka that could ever be written, claims its author, because most of the sources of first-hand information are now dead or scattered across the country.

But there's only one copy, its typewritten pages bound in a blue notebook and kept in Frear's home at 13212 McGinty Road, Minnetonka.

Frear, 80, has sought unsuccessfully for over a year for the publication of the manuscript he finished in 1963. It took at least 10,000 hours of his own time and several hundred dollars of his personal funds to gather and write, according to Frear, and now he's financially unable to publish his book himself.

Frear's history begins in 1803, when the present Minnetonka village was a miniscule portion of the Louisiana purchase. The history ends with the incorporation of Minnetonka Township as a village in 1956.

"If the material is not put into print Minnetonka will never have a suitable history," Frear said in an interview. "Most of the people I got my best information from are dead and gone."

To gather the historical information, Frear traveled since 1933 anywhere in the country where he could find original Minnetonka settlers and their immediate descendants. Along with remembrances and anecdotes, he collected more than 300 pictures of persons and Minne-

tonka scenes to illustrate his book.

Frear, who retired as state agronomist in 1954, is himself a walking history of Minnetonka, having witnessed many of the events and trends of which he wrote.

Born in 1884 in the two-story frame house where he still resides, Frear is one of the oldest native born residents of Minnetonka Mills. His mother settled in the area in 1854, four years before it became a township, and his father was one of the early township clerks.

Frear went to the township board and later the village council for financial help in compiling his history. He received sums ranging from \$250 to \$500 per year for nearly ten years.

The funds were cut off in 1962 because the council could not appropriate them "for something from which we receive no services or benefits," a village official explained to a resident who interceded in Frear's behalf.

At one point the council asked Frear to turn over his manuscript to the council or to the Hennepin County Historical Society.

"The manuscript is my personal property," Frear insisted. He said the council could not claim his work because the funds were given to help him as a private historian.

The historical society, of which he is historian and past president, does not have the means to publish the manuscript, he said.

If the manuscript is not printed Frear said, it will be put into escrow after his death and remain until interested parties finance its publication.



- MINNETONKA TOWN

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DANA W. CLARA FREAR AURLINE



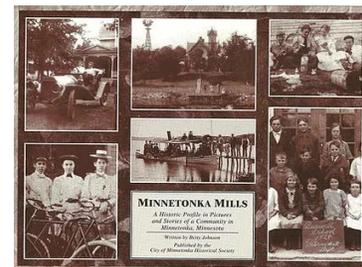
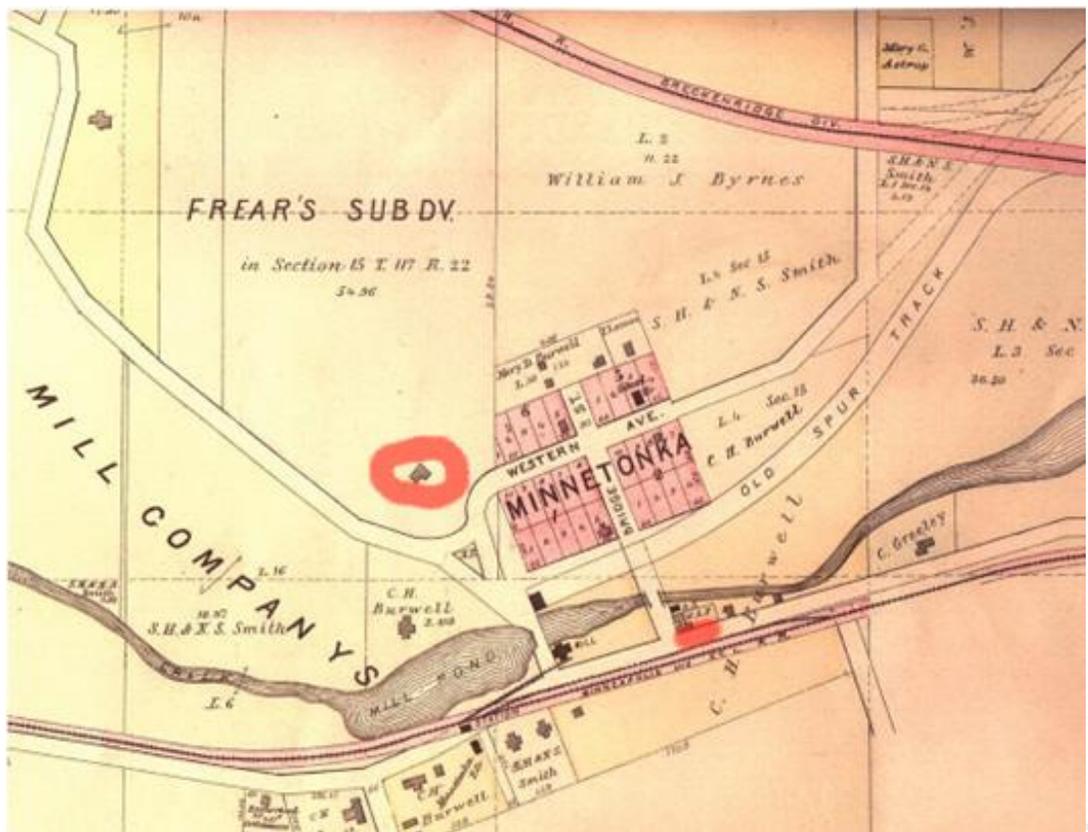
MY DAD 1896 GRANDMOTHER AUNT

TO MY MOTHER
CLARA ELIZABETH CHASE FREAR
PIONEER
CRUSADER
POET
WRITER

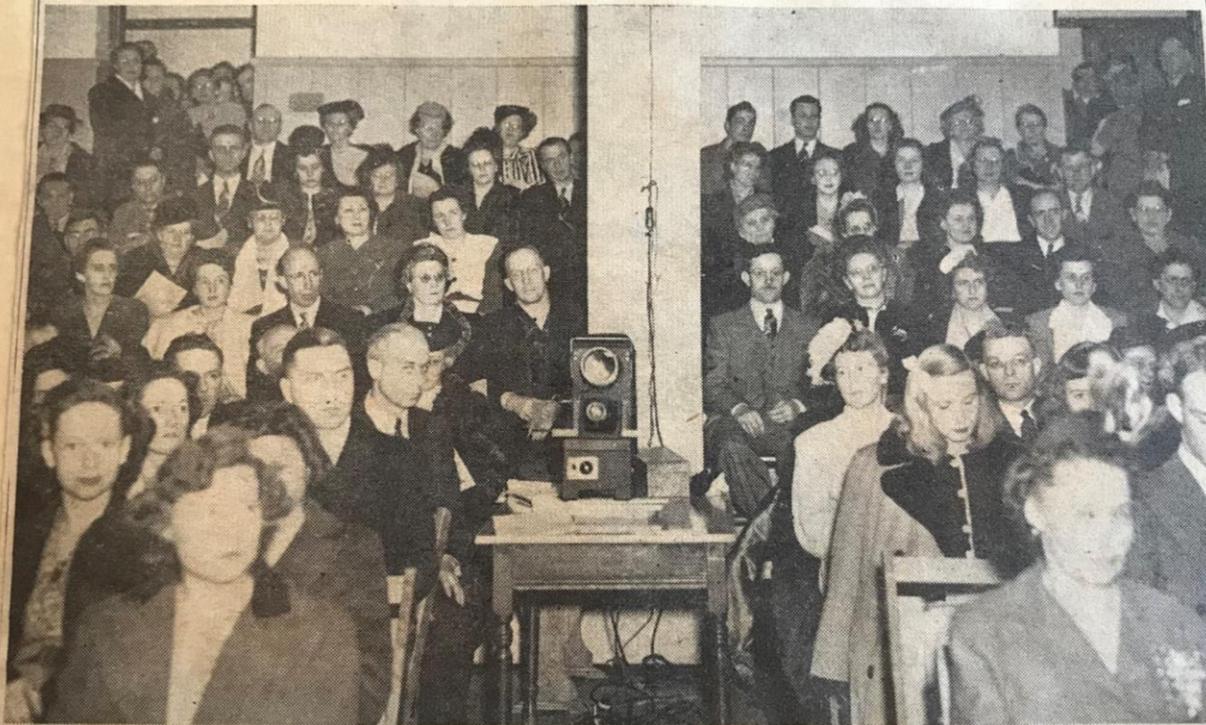




Frear Home Minnetonka Mills 1879-1943

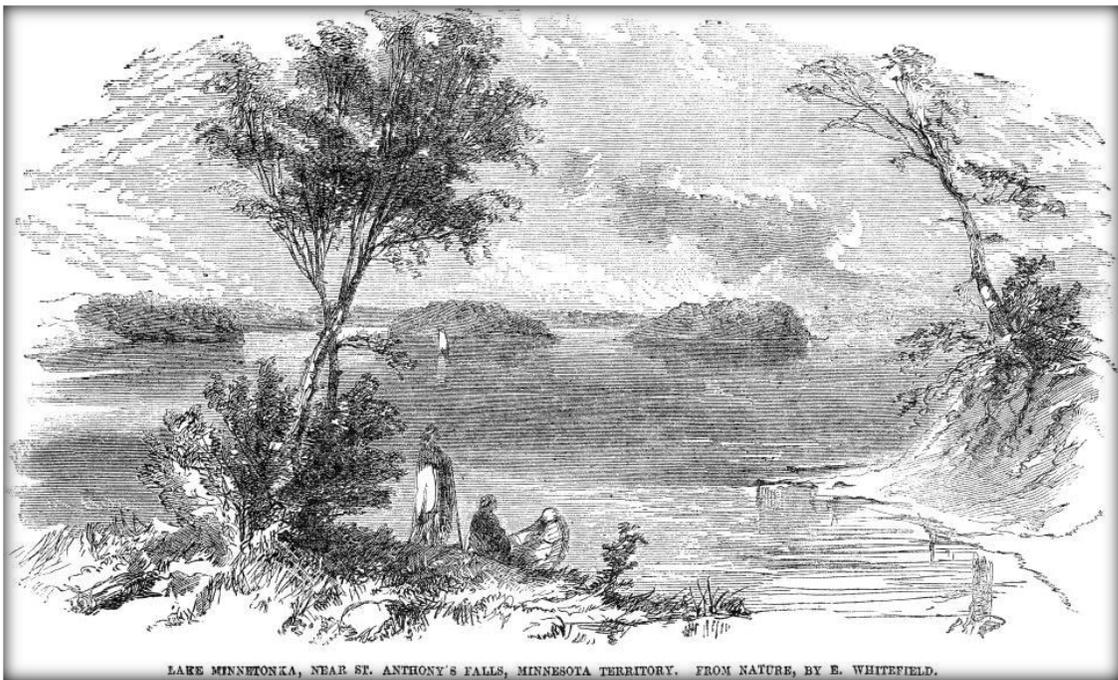


Burwell Celebrates 25th Birthday

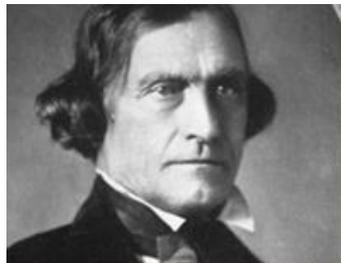


MISS LOUISE BURWELL AND D. W. FREAR





LAKE MINNETONKA, NEAR ST. ANTHONY'S FALLS, MINNESOTA TERRITORY. FROM NATURE, BY E. WHITEFIELD.



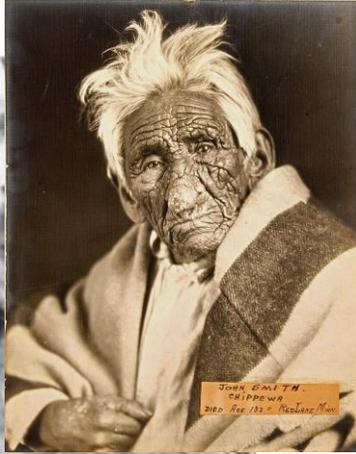
Joseph Brown



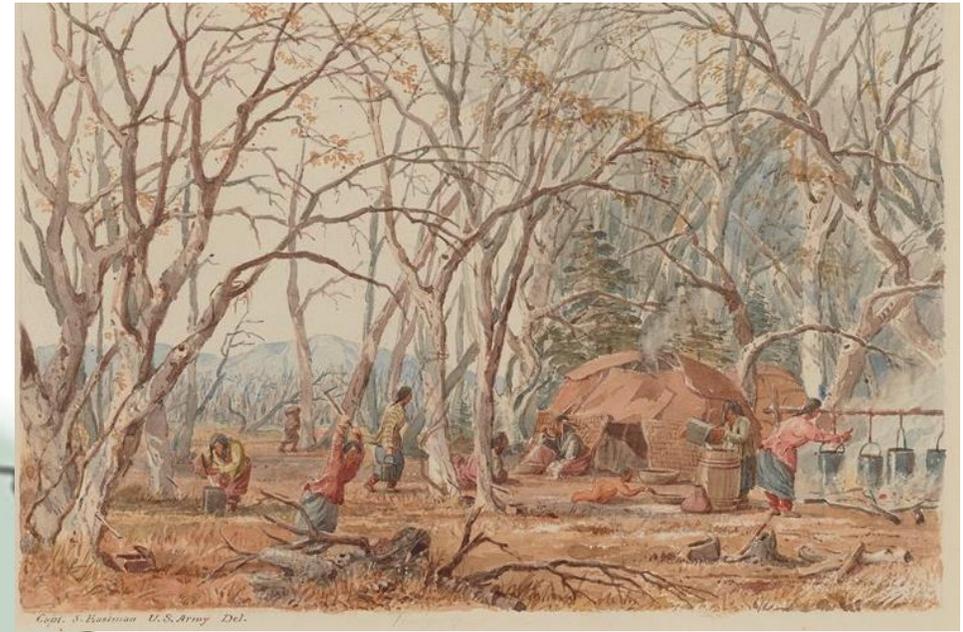
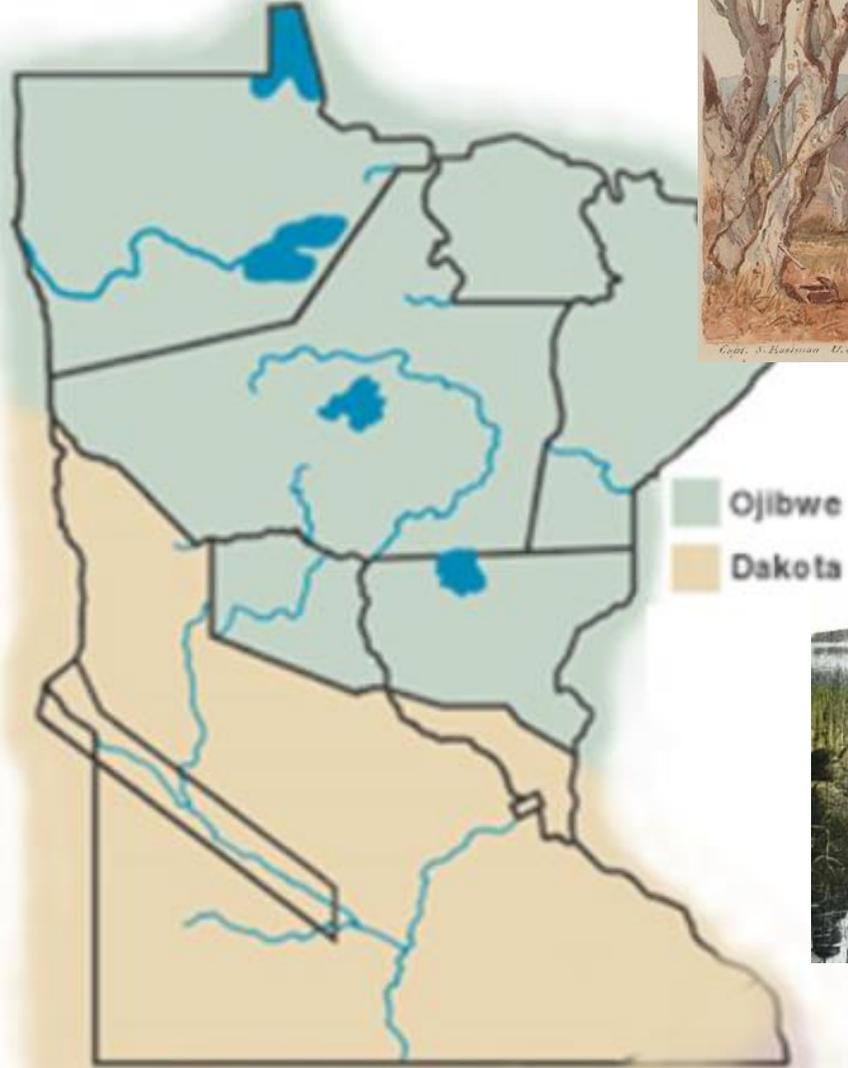
William Snelling's father



Ojibwe Nation



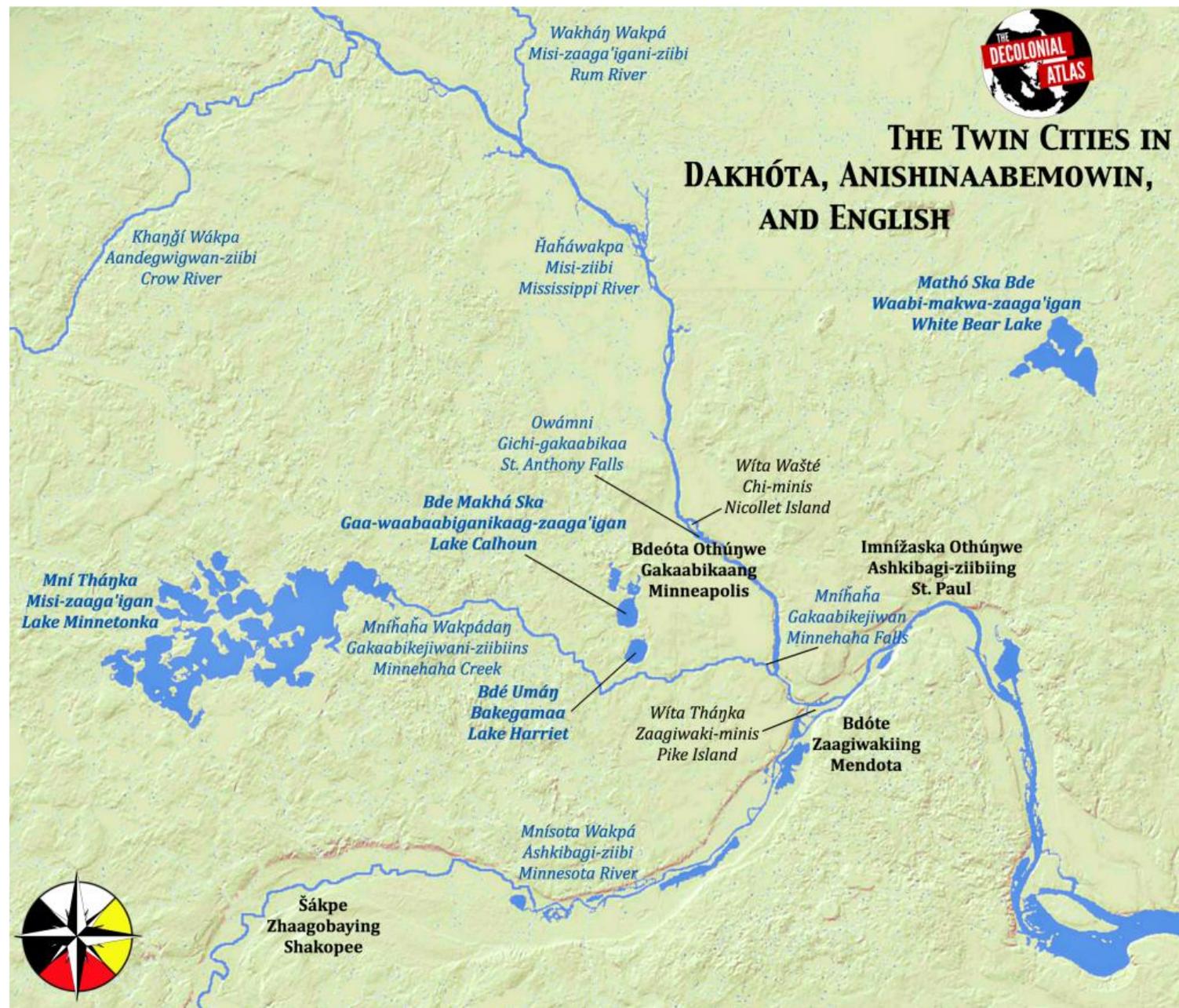
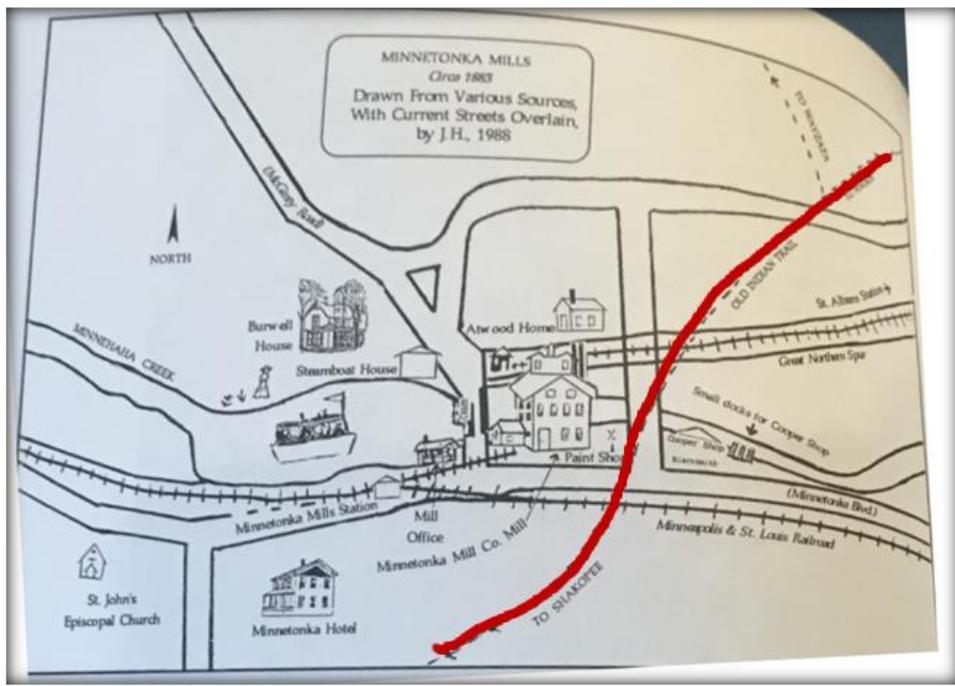
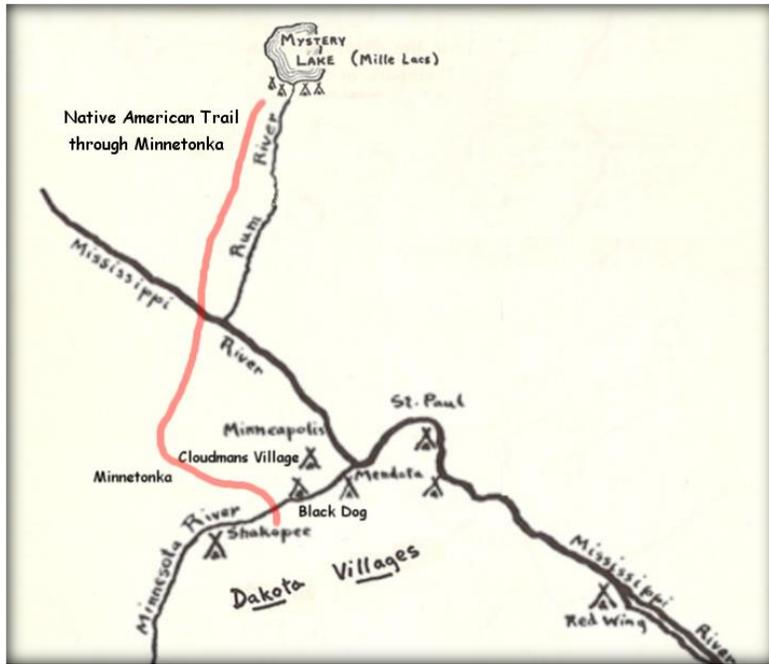
Kahbe-nagw-wens
'A Man Who Lived in Three Centuries'
Ojibwe Chief in Walker MN museum
1784 -1922



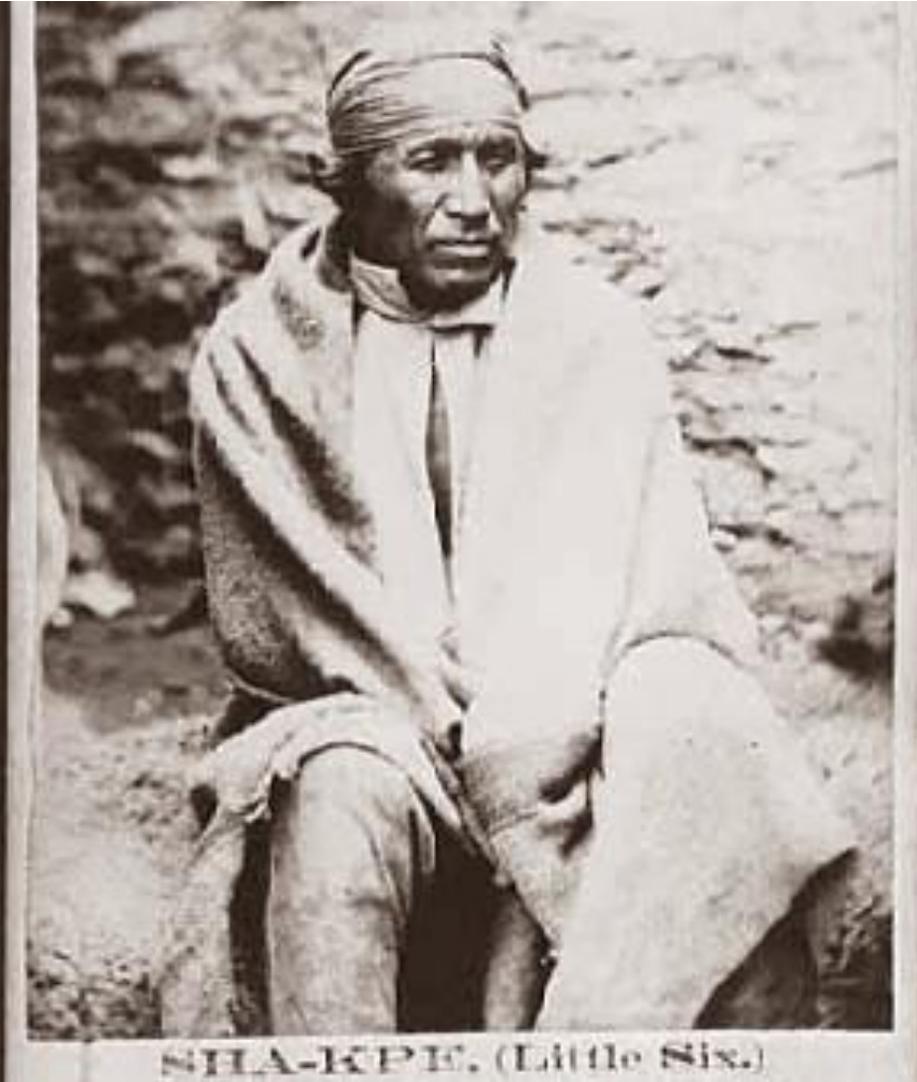
Ojibwe sugar camp
by Seth Eastman 1851



Ojibwe wild rice harvesters in canoes



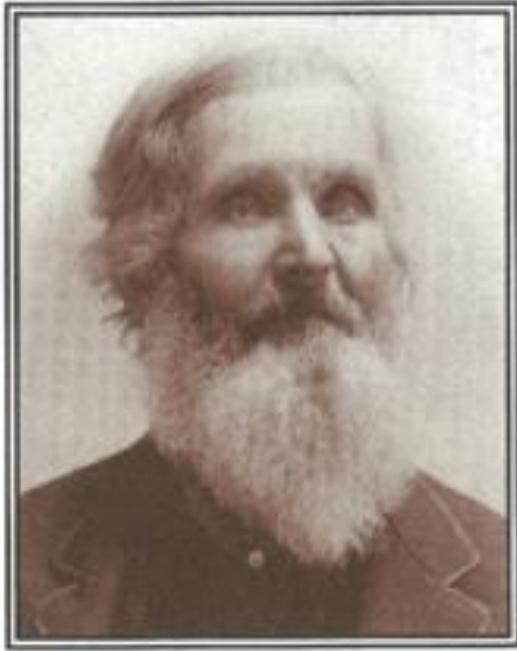
Dakota Nation



Wán-ee-ton, Dakota Chief 1832



A Dakota Village both by Seth Eastman

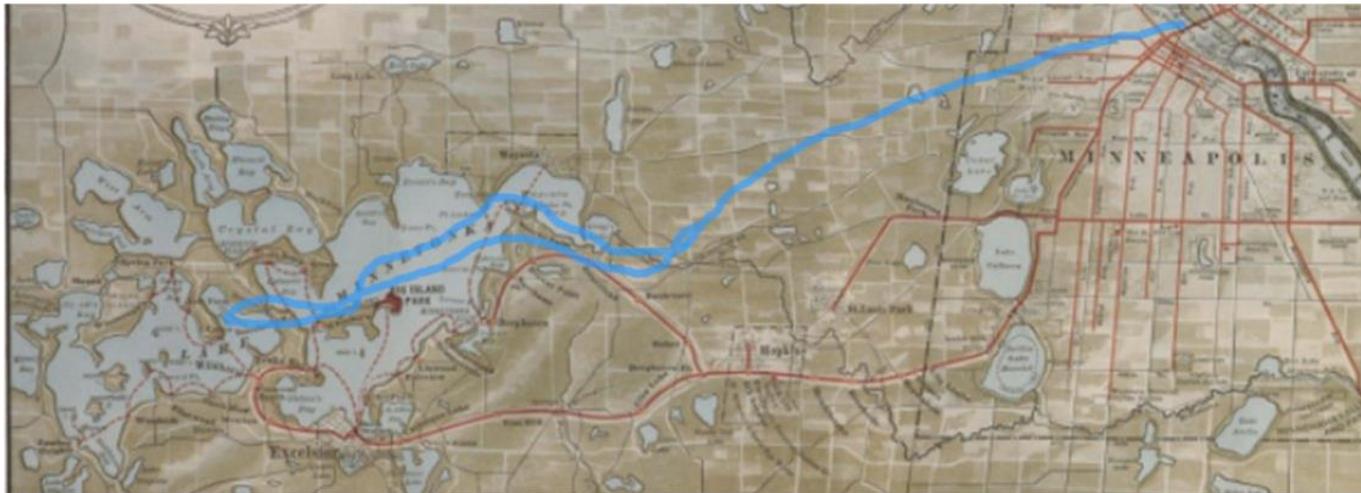


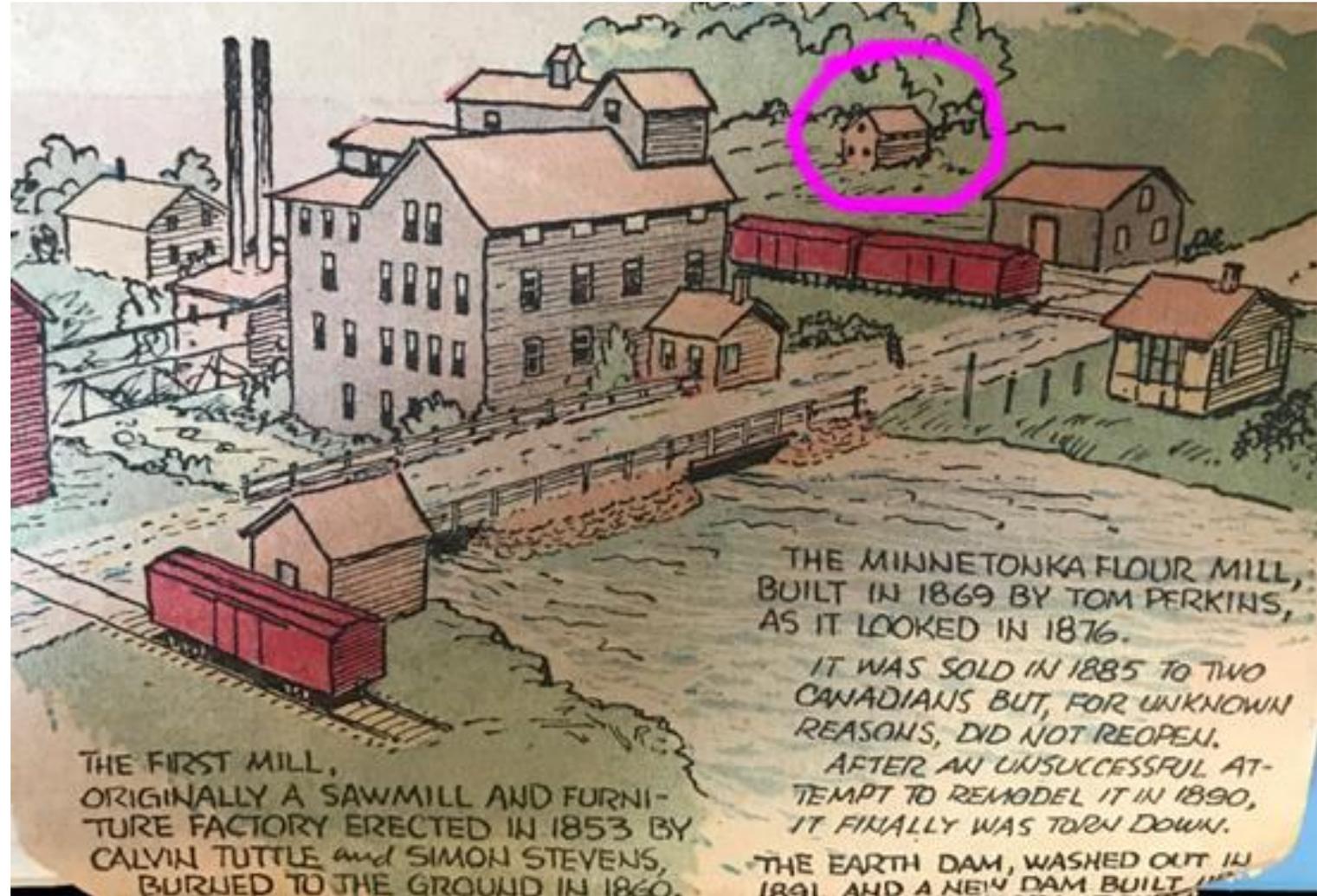
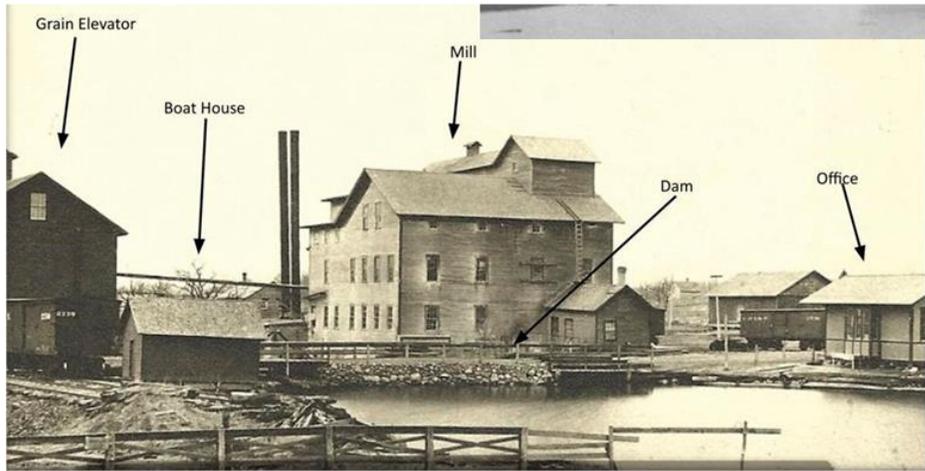
Simon Stevens

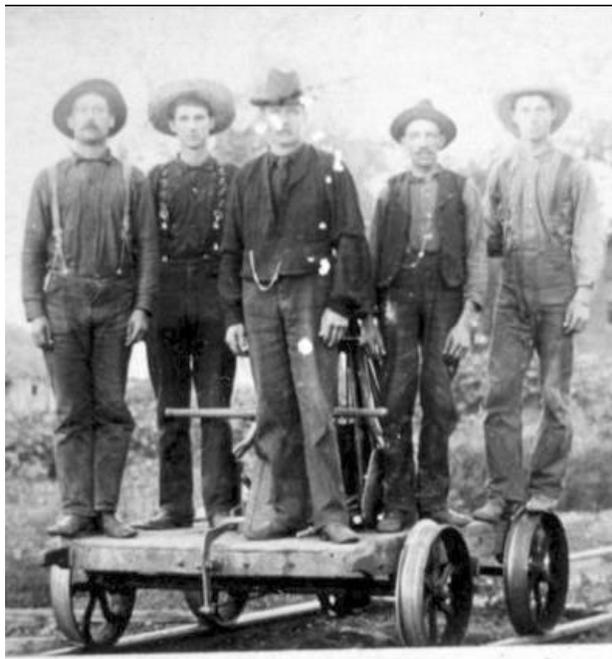
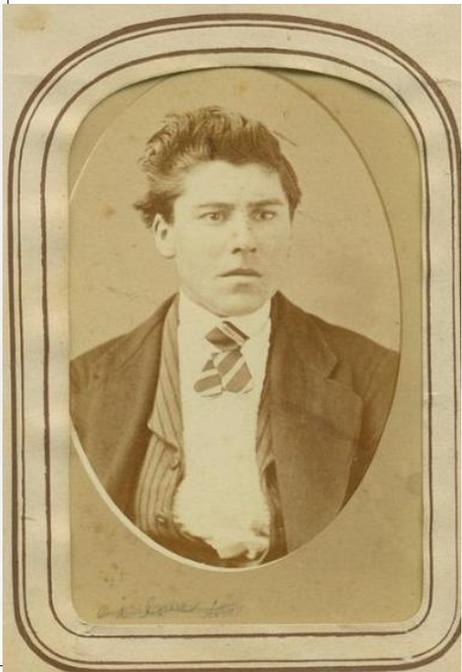


Calvin A. Tuttle.

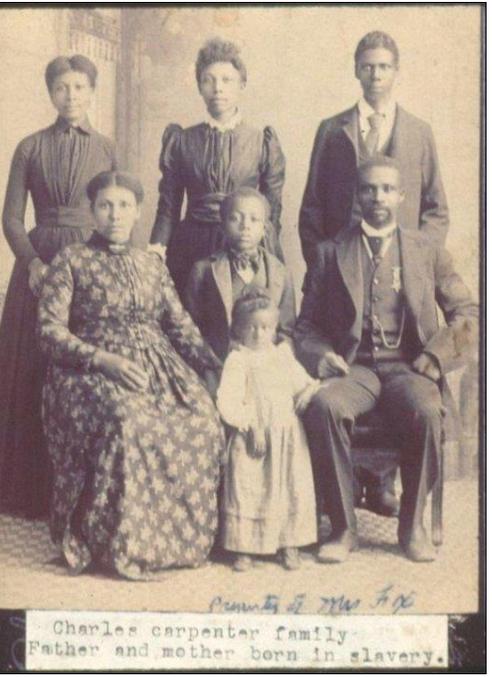
Calvin Tuttle







NOVETTE FINISH MILLER MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.



Charles carpenter family
Father and mother born in slavery.



Kate McGinty



James and Sarah Choven 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.

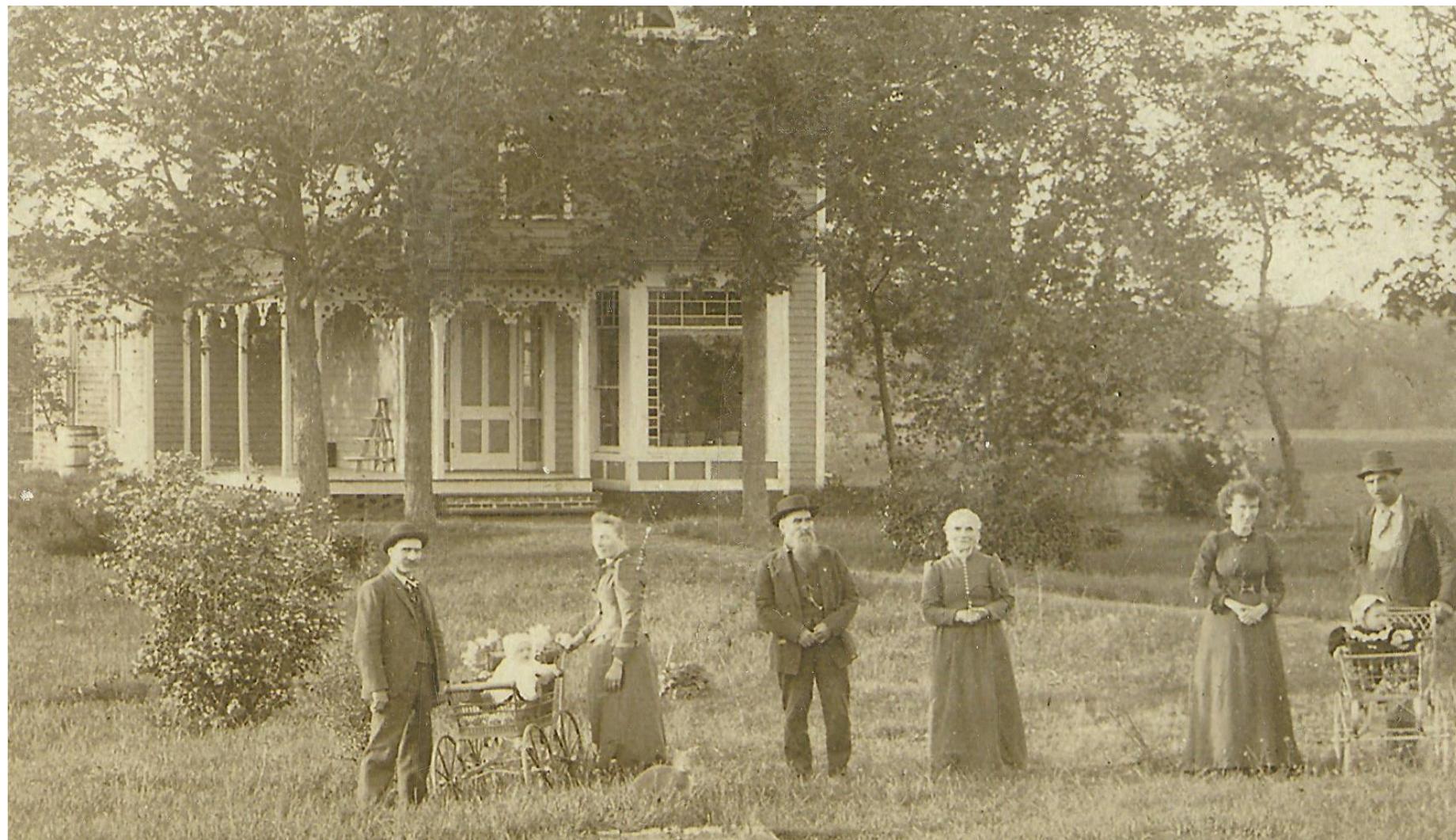
Hezekial and Abby Tuttle Atwood



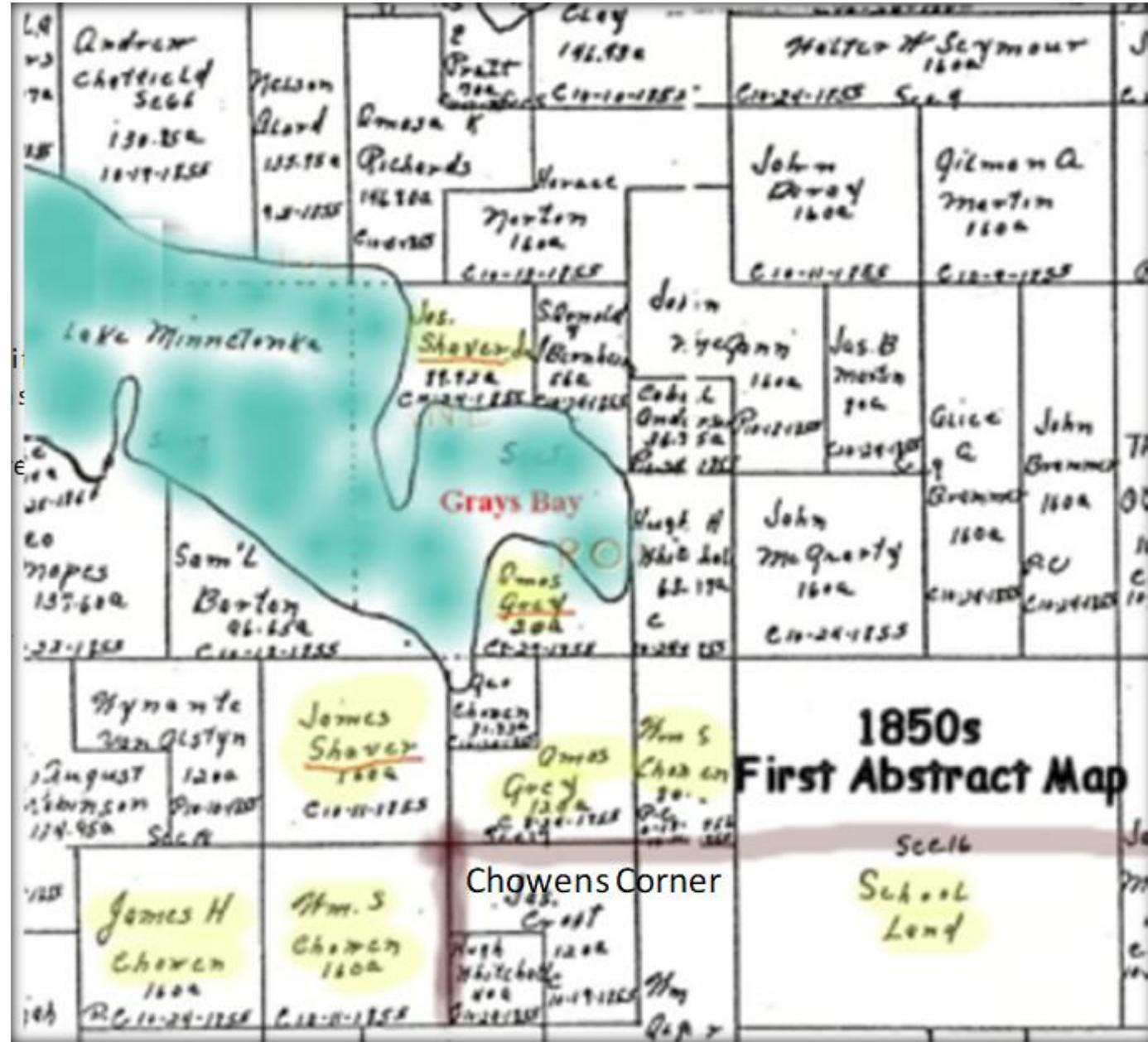
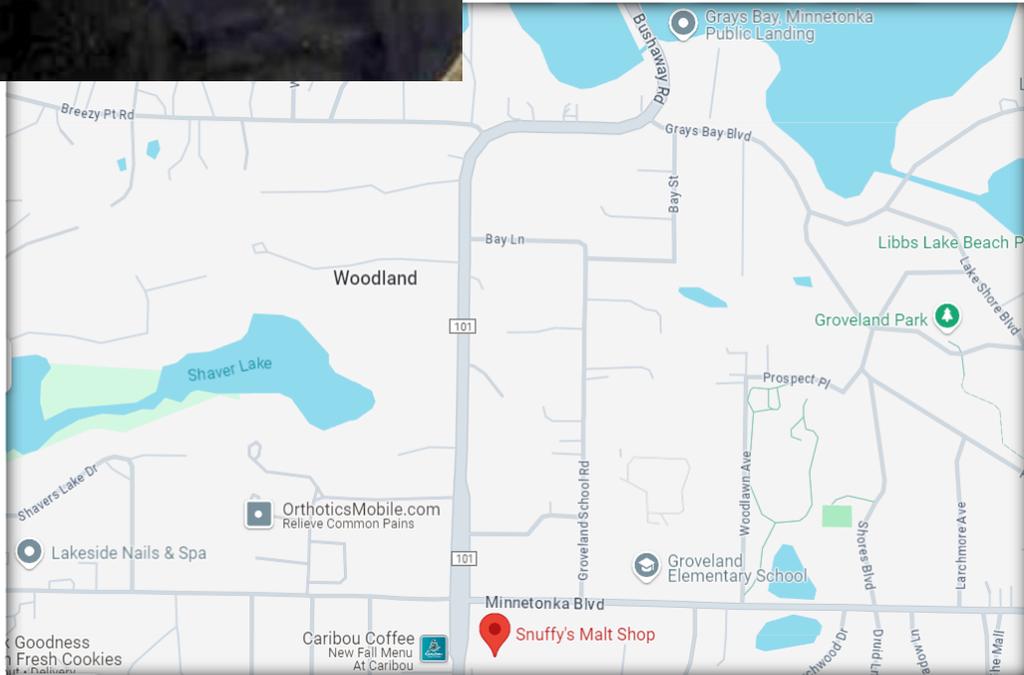
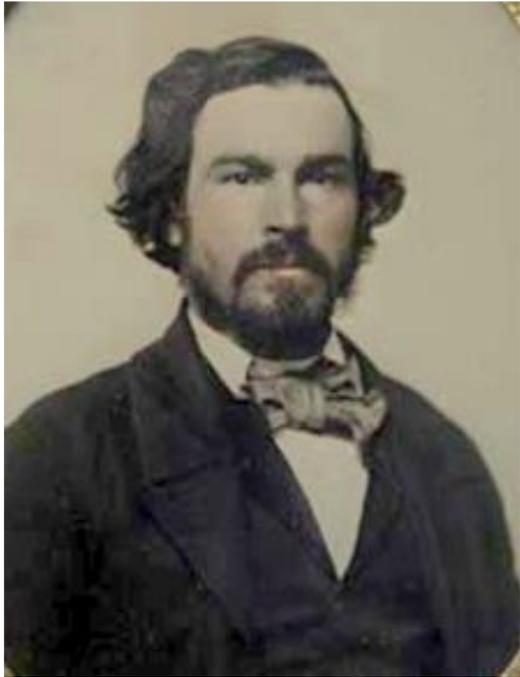
Mrs. Emma Gilmore, 92 and Mrs. Jennie Pratt, 98, daughters of Hezekiah Atwood, who came to Minnetonka, 1854 as one of the builders of the furniture factory. (Henn Co. Hist. Society meeting at Minnetonka, June 21, 1945. Note historical exhibit.)



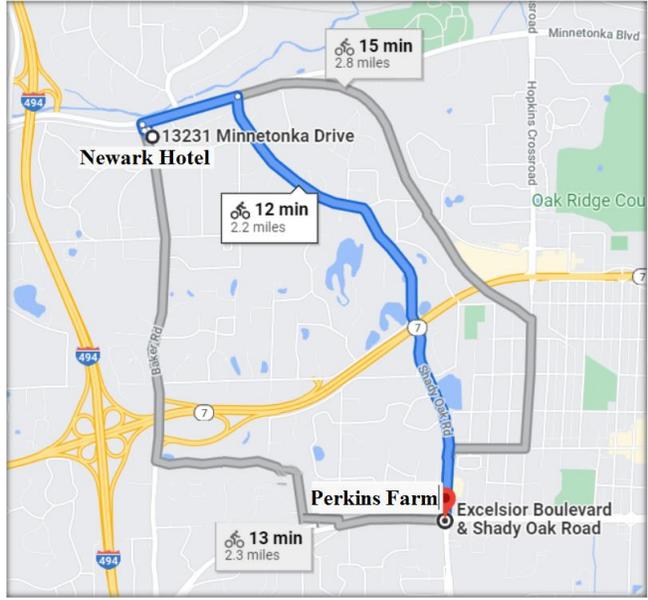
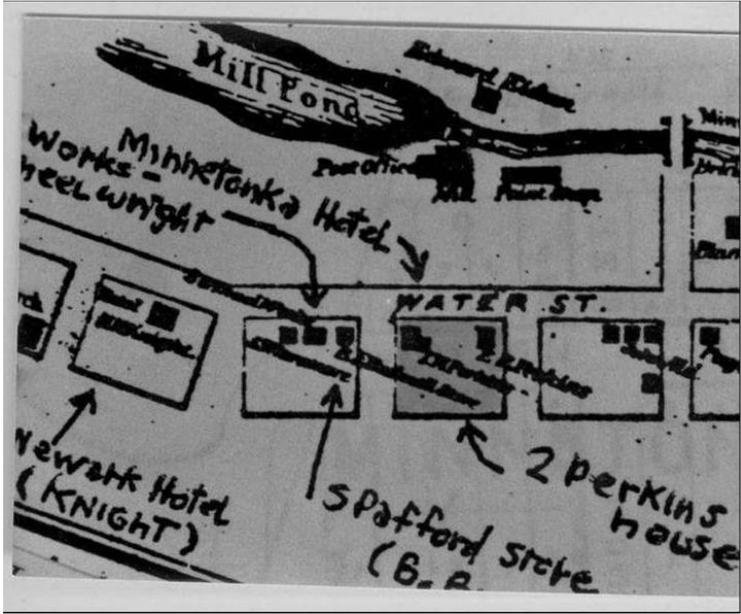
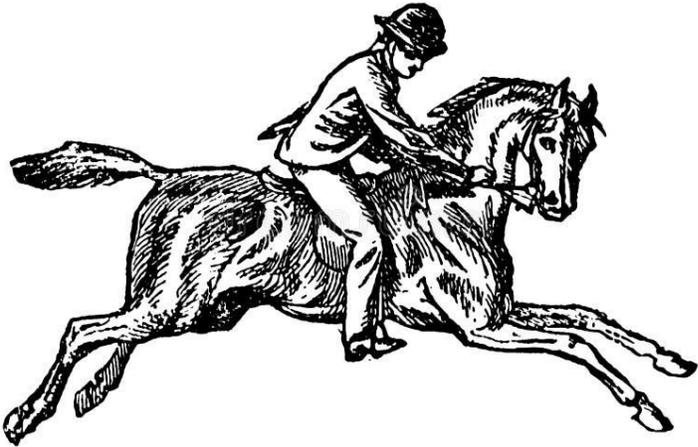
Amos and Susan Chowen Gray



William S. and Mary Frear Chowen



Walter and Clara Chase Frear

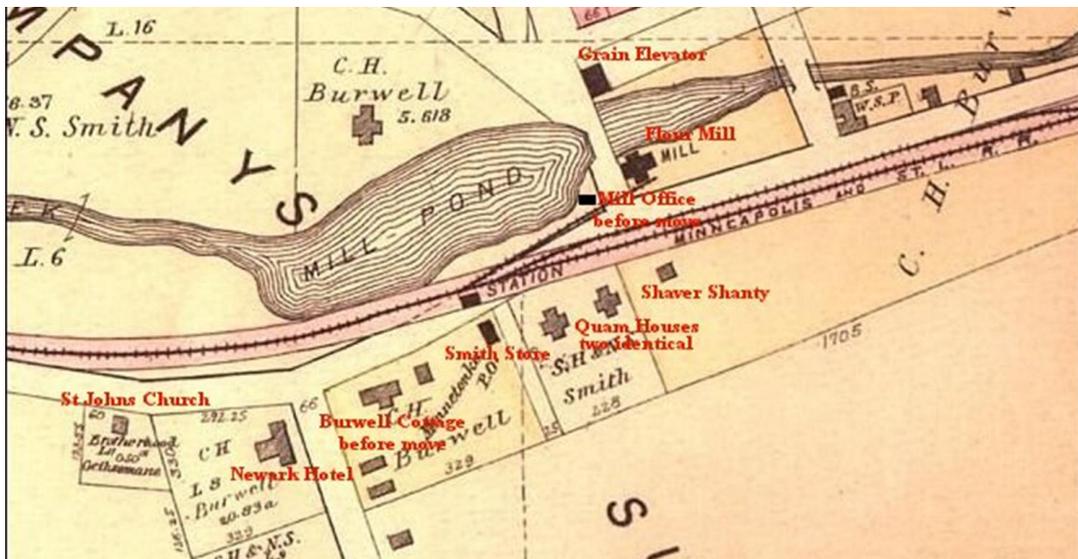




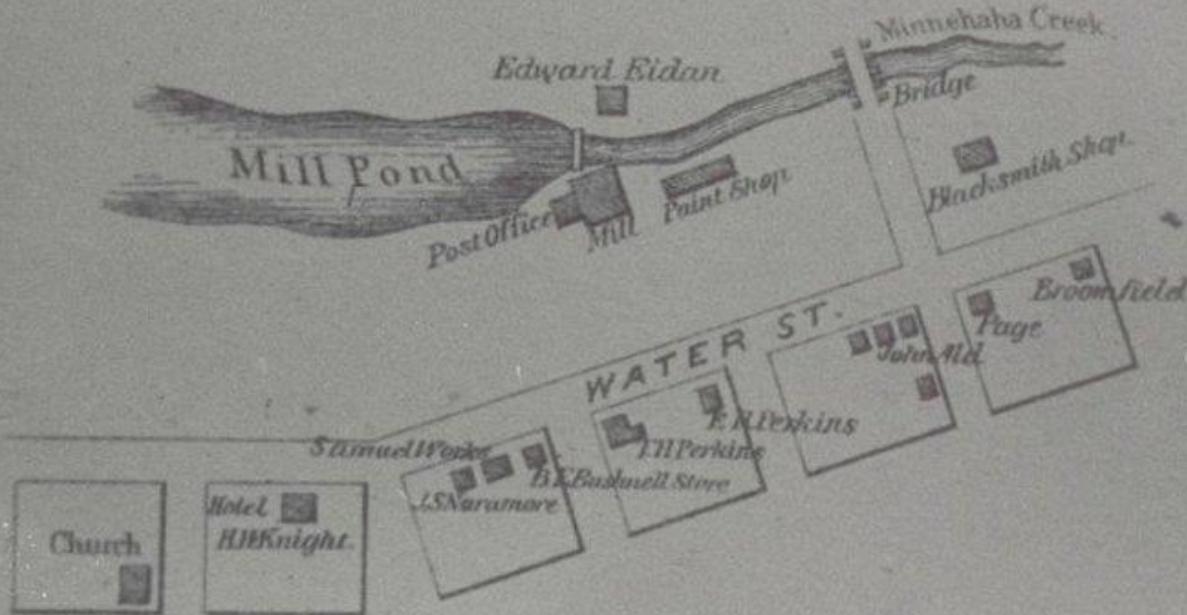
St. John's Chapel, Minnetonka Mills
1858-1918



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;



MINNETONKA CITY.

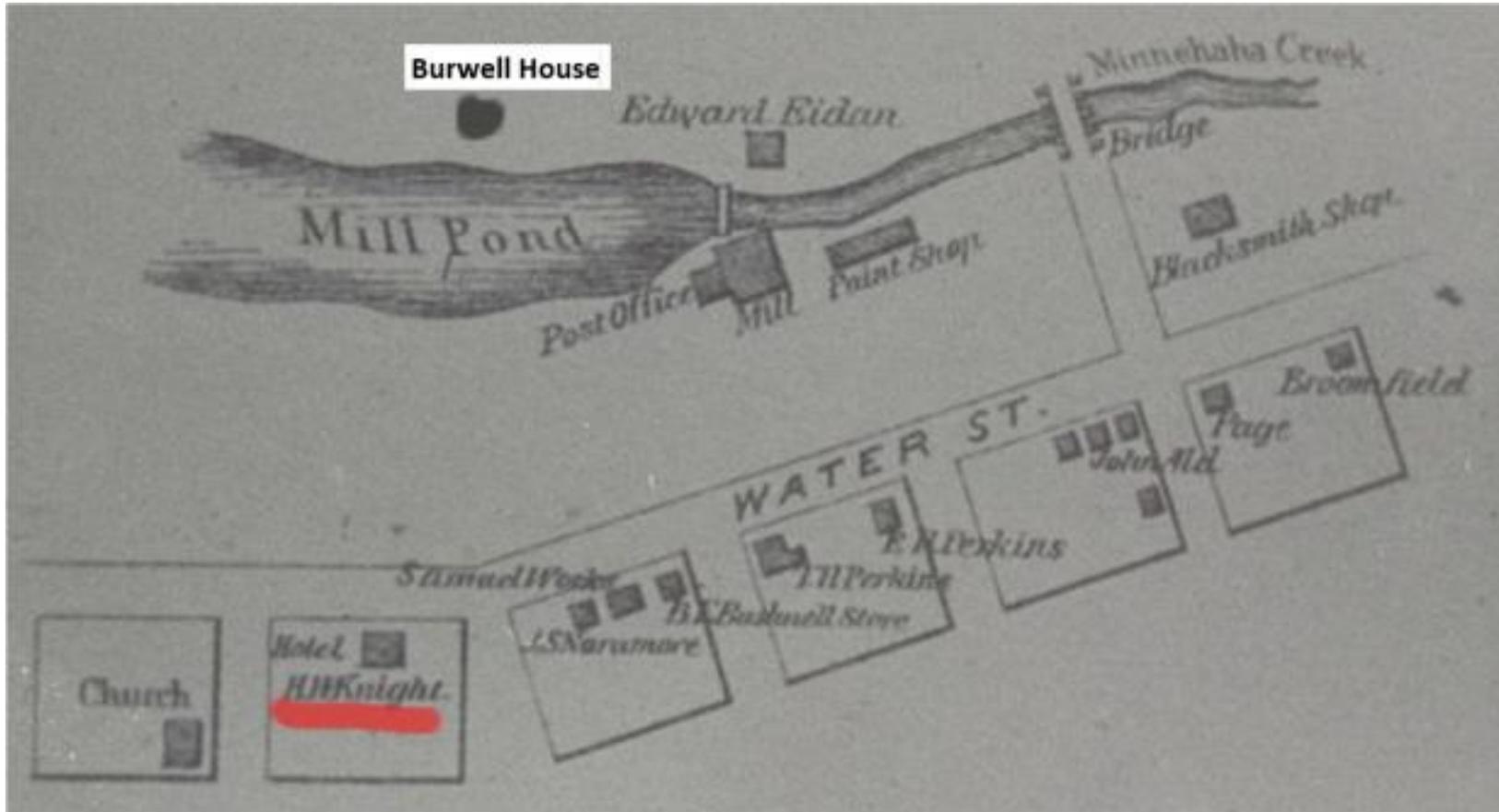


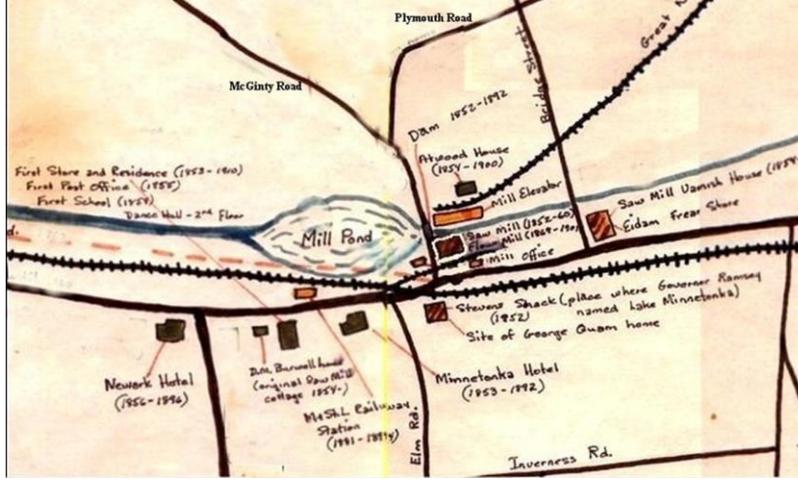
Hedderly & Vroman.
Proprietors.

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

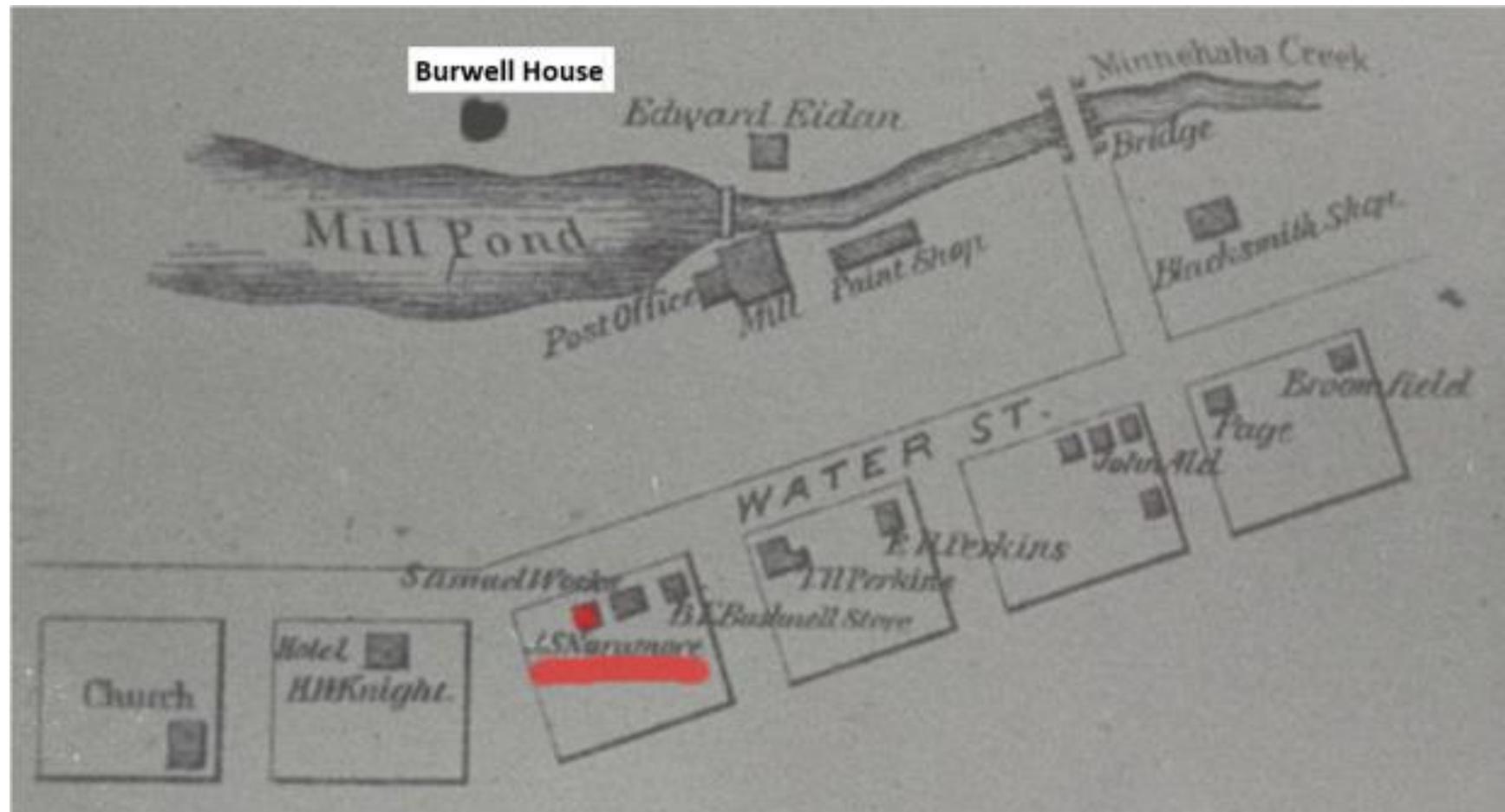
Minnetonka City 1871

**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;**



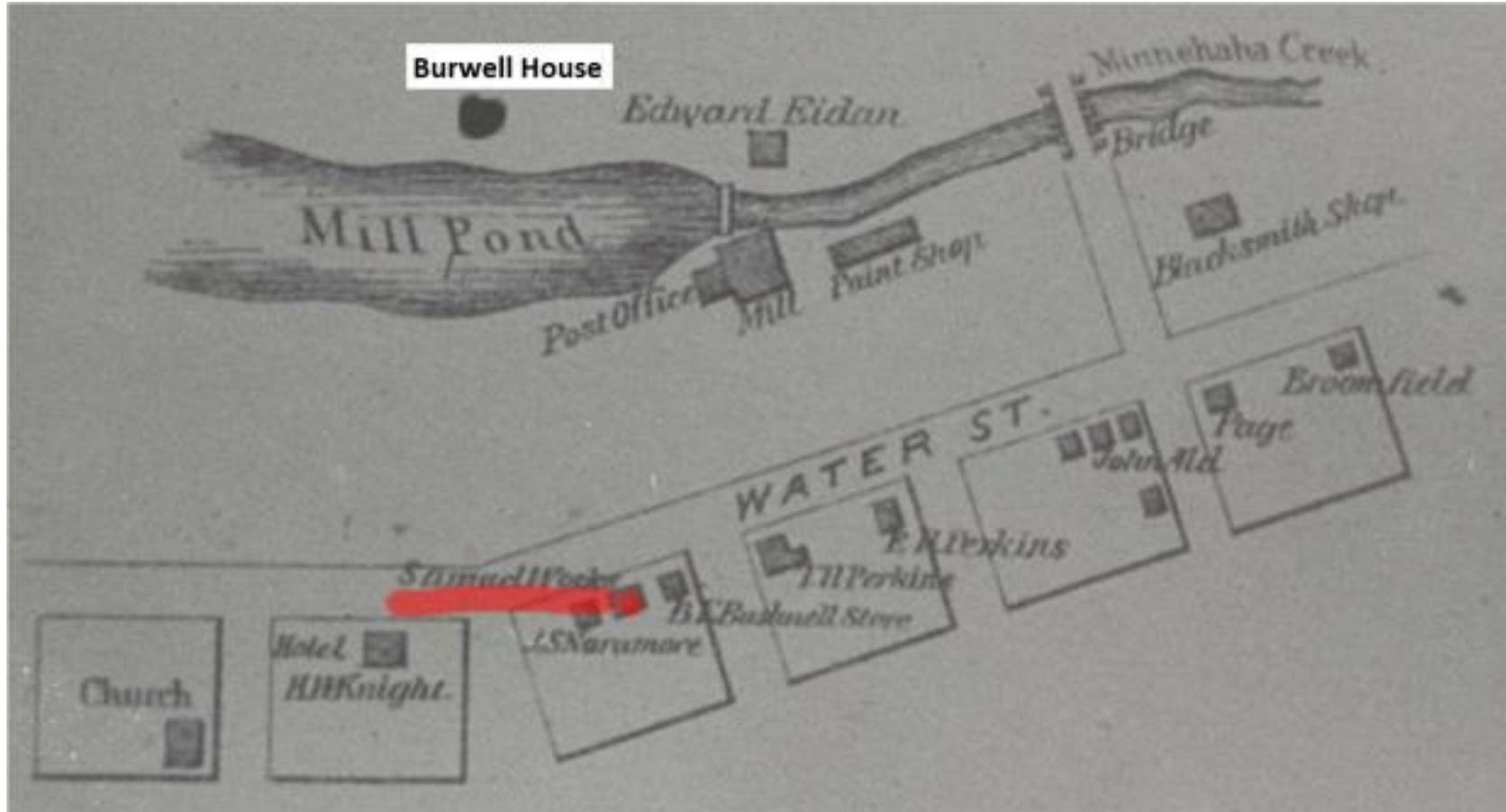


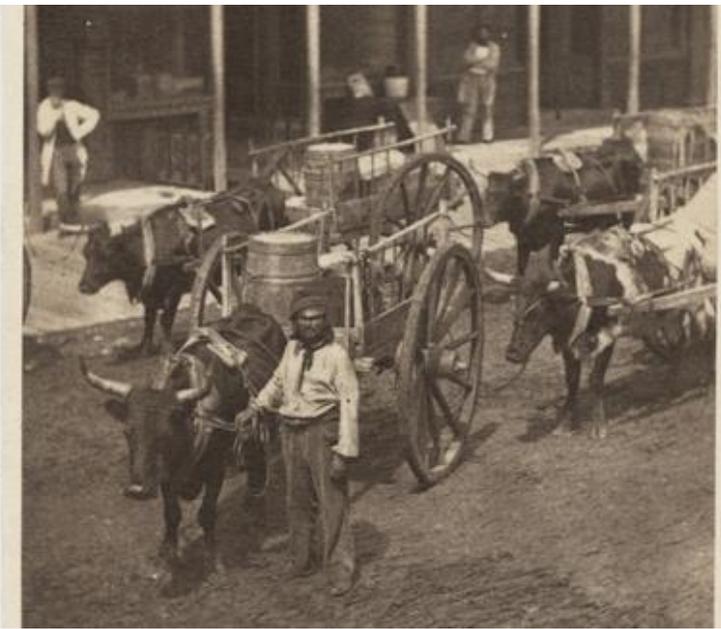
**Mr. Narramore lives next door – he runs the blacksmith shop,
He can mend a pillow or make a rod
And to him the farmers flock
When they want their horses shod;**



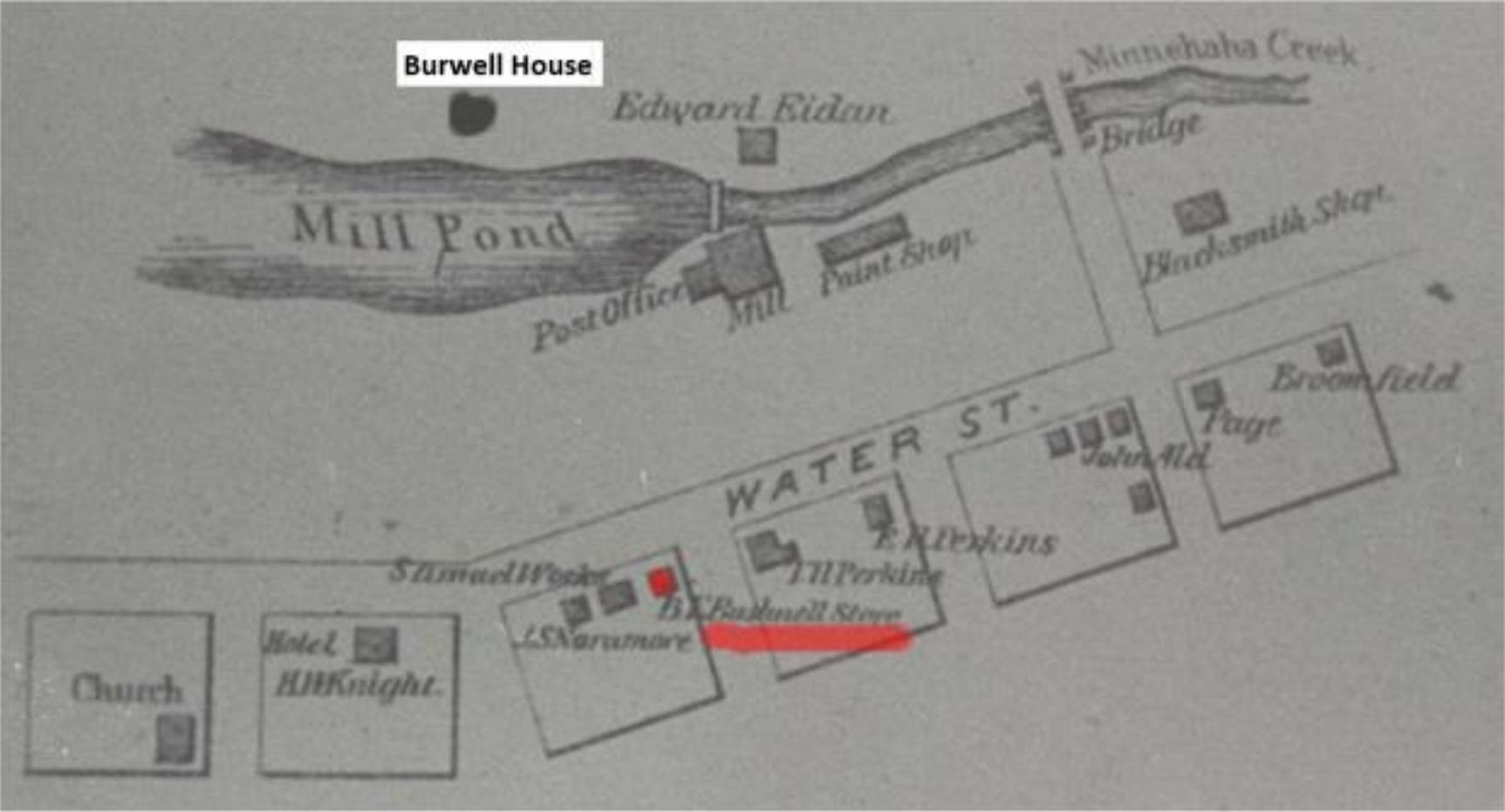


**Next comes Mr. Works, the wheelwright of the town,
To him the folks their wagons take when're they do break down;**





**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**



STATEMENT. 4 190

Minnetonka, Minn., 190

M _____

IN ACCT WITH

W. S. FREAR & SON

—DEALERS IN—

Groceries, Hardware, Dry Goods, Drugs, Flour and Feed.

W. S. FREAR & SON
General Store at FREAR'S Corner
DEERHAVEN
Orders taken and delivered for Groceries and Bread or Flour
P. O. Wayzata, R. 1, D. _____

Sold to _____

Address _____

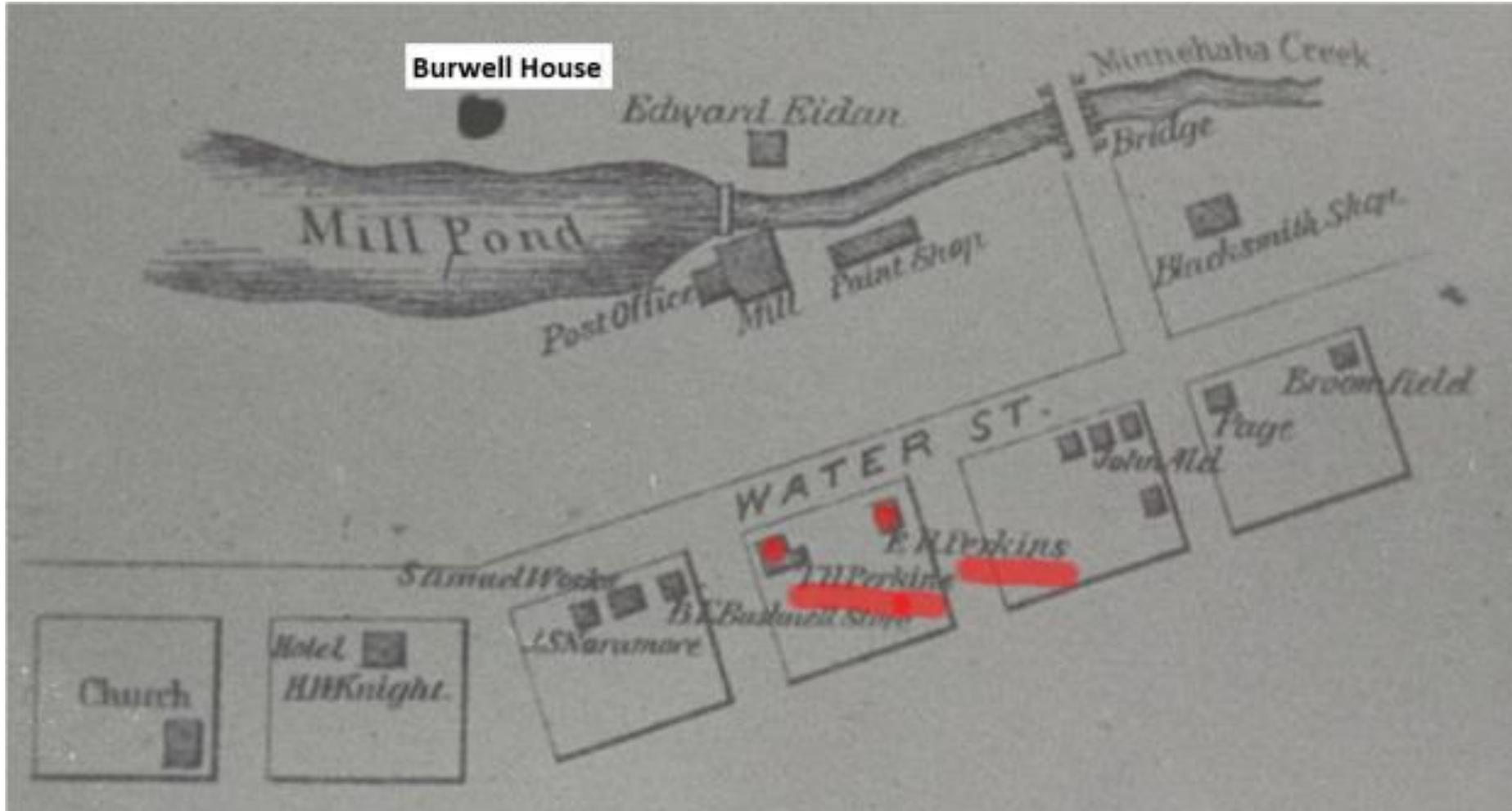
USE PILLSBURY'S BEST FLOUR
MAKES MORE BREAD MAKES BETTER BREAD

Amount Brought Forward

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
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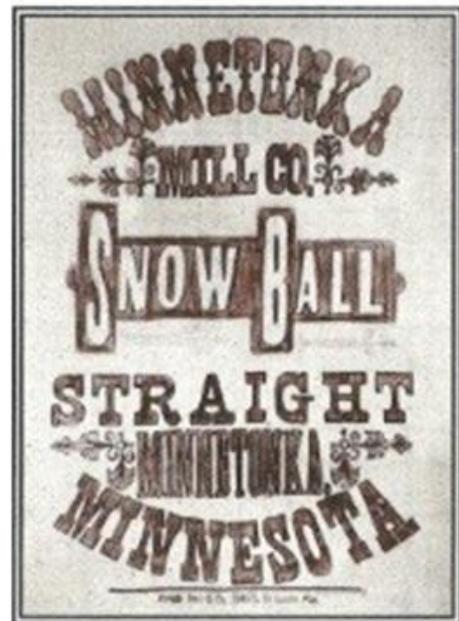


**Next comes Mr. Perkins, the landlord of the town,
He owns the mill, a mile square of land, and all the houses 'round,
And upon financial matters his mind is very sound;**





Thomas Perkins





PUNCH'S ALMANACK FOR 1874.



SHOCKING !

Dr. Jolliboy (who had been called away from a social Meeting at his Club). "THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN, F'FTEEN-TWO, F'FTEEN-FOUR, F'FTEEN-SIX—PAIR EIGHT—NOB'SH NINE——" (Drops off.) ["We draw a Veil," &c., &c.]





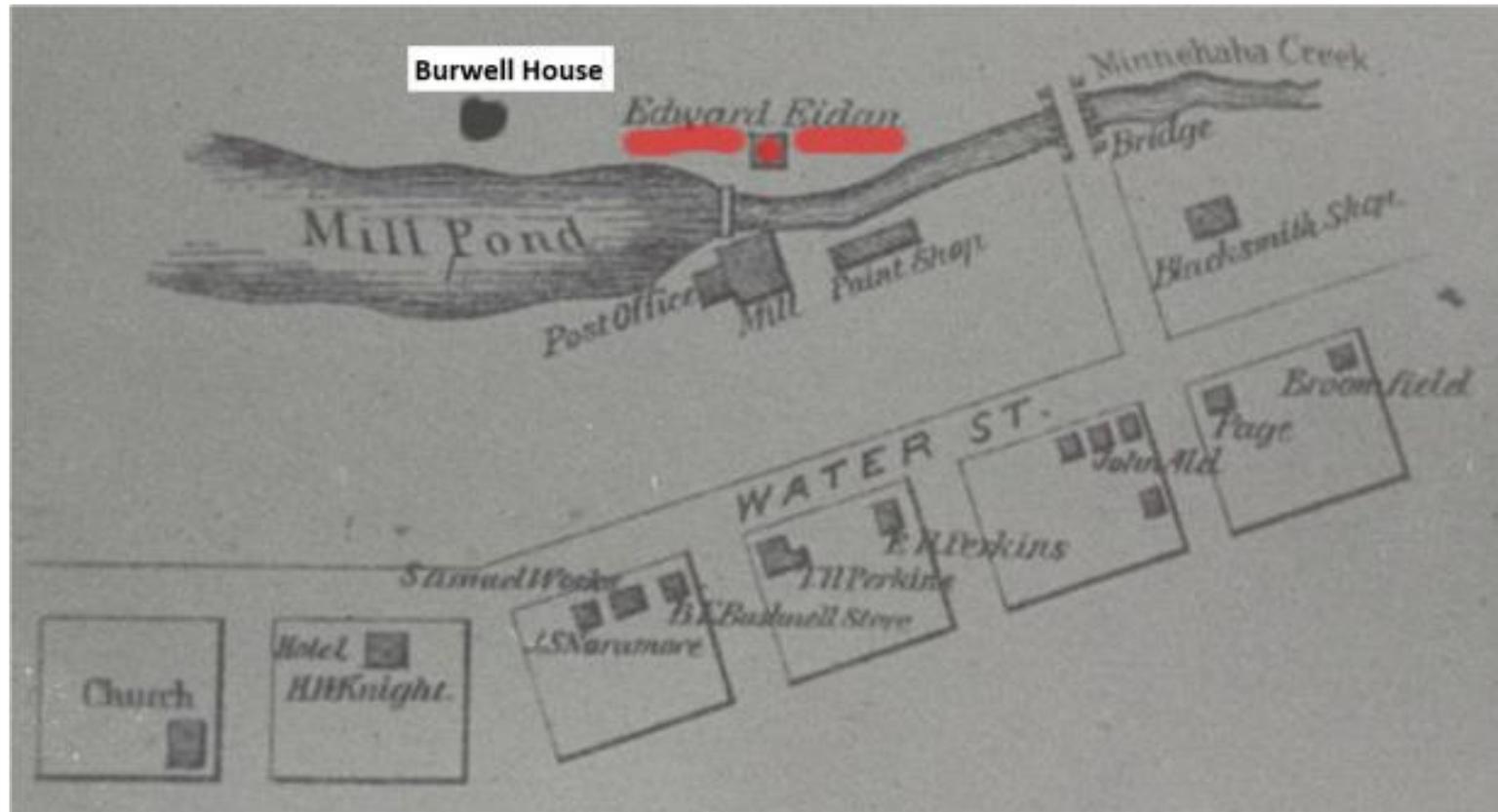
HARVEST IN FINISTÈRE.

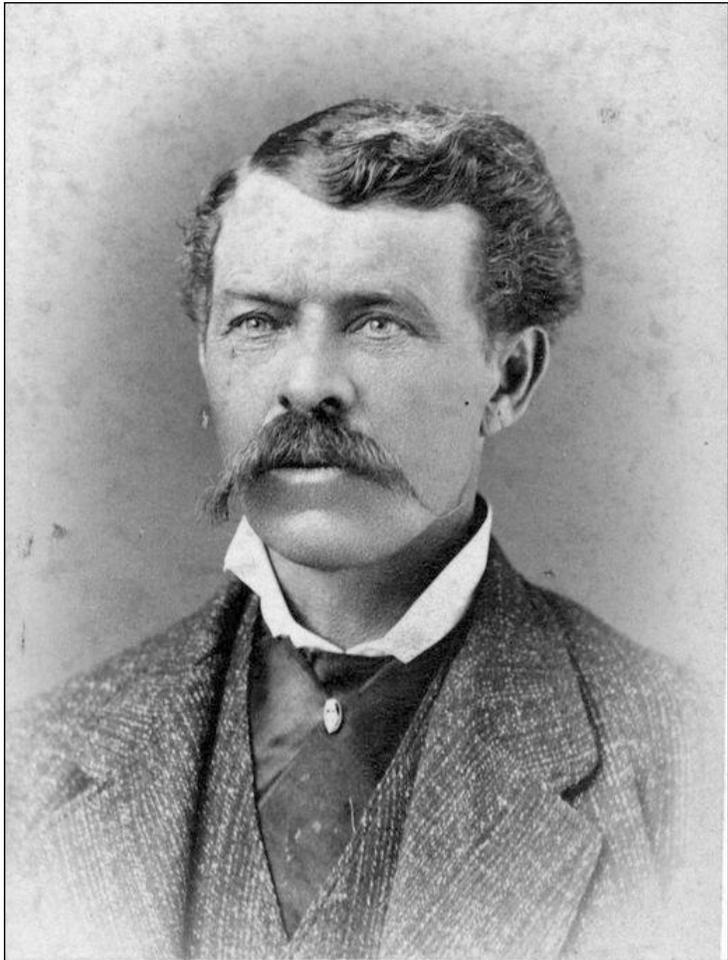


SOD HOUSE—EXTERIOR.



**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;**

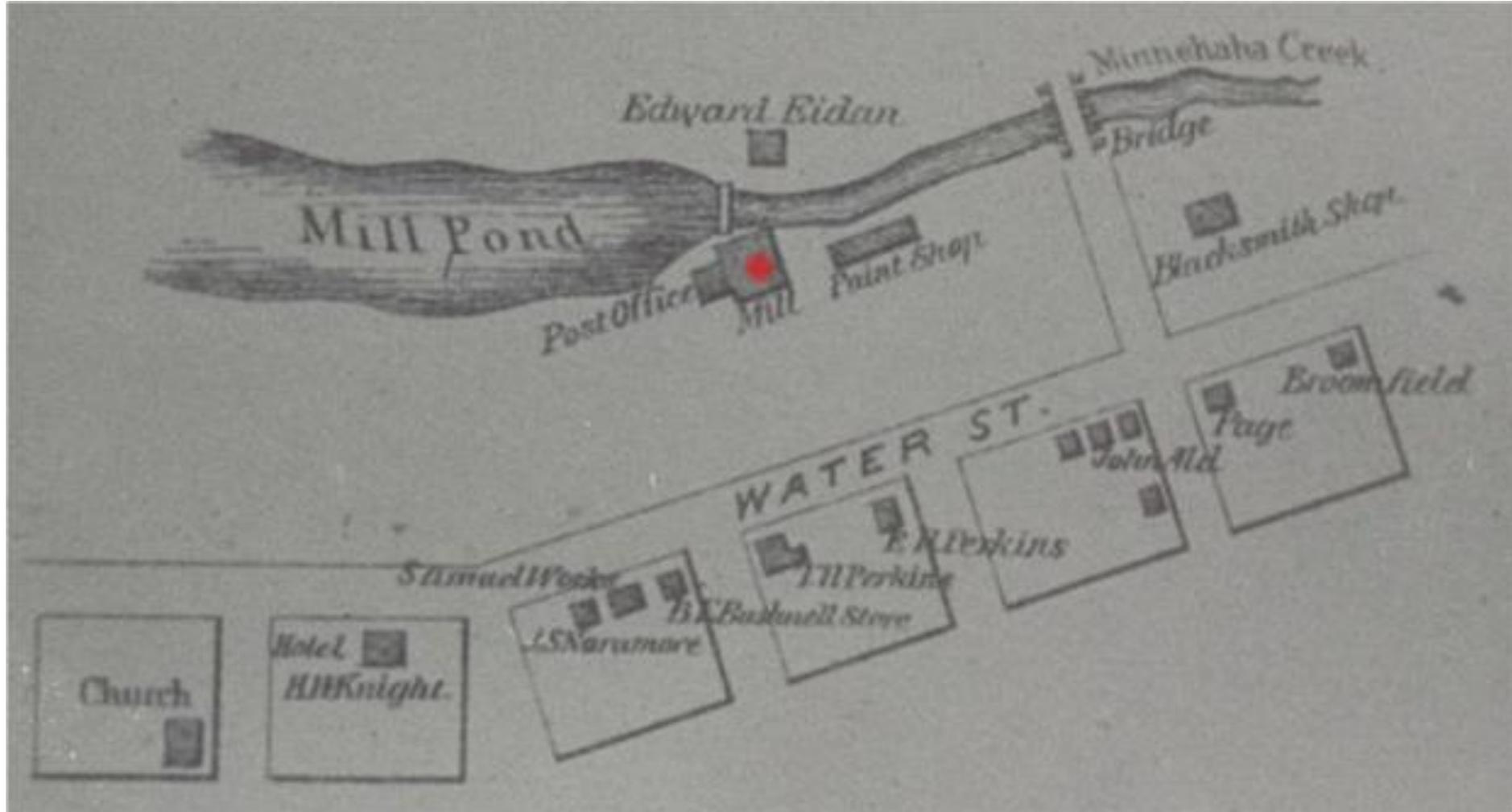




OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Edward H. Eidam
Supervisor 1883-84

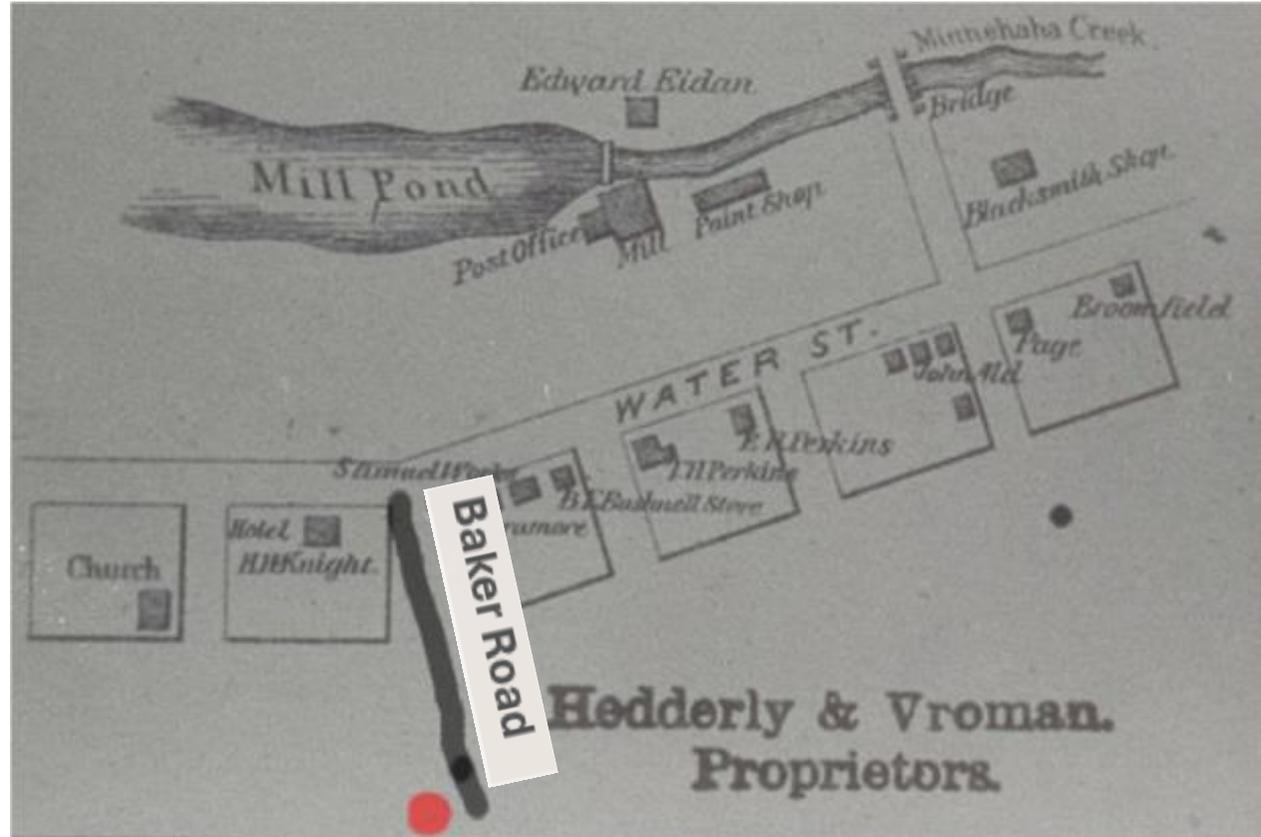


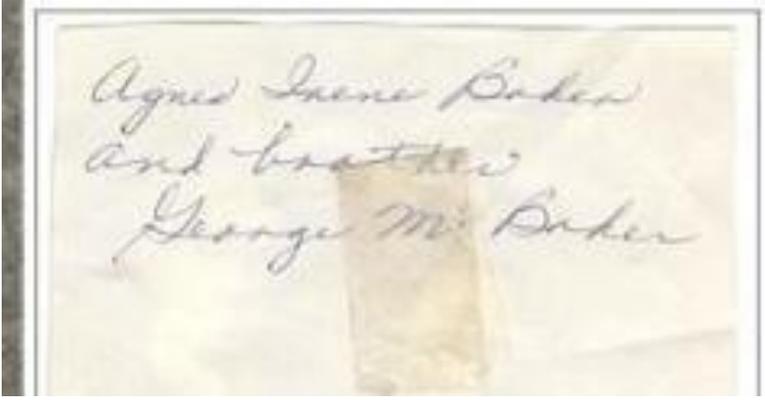
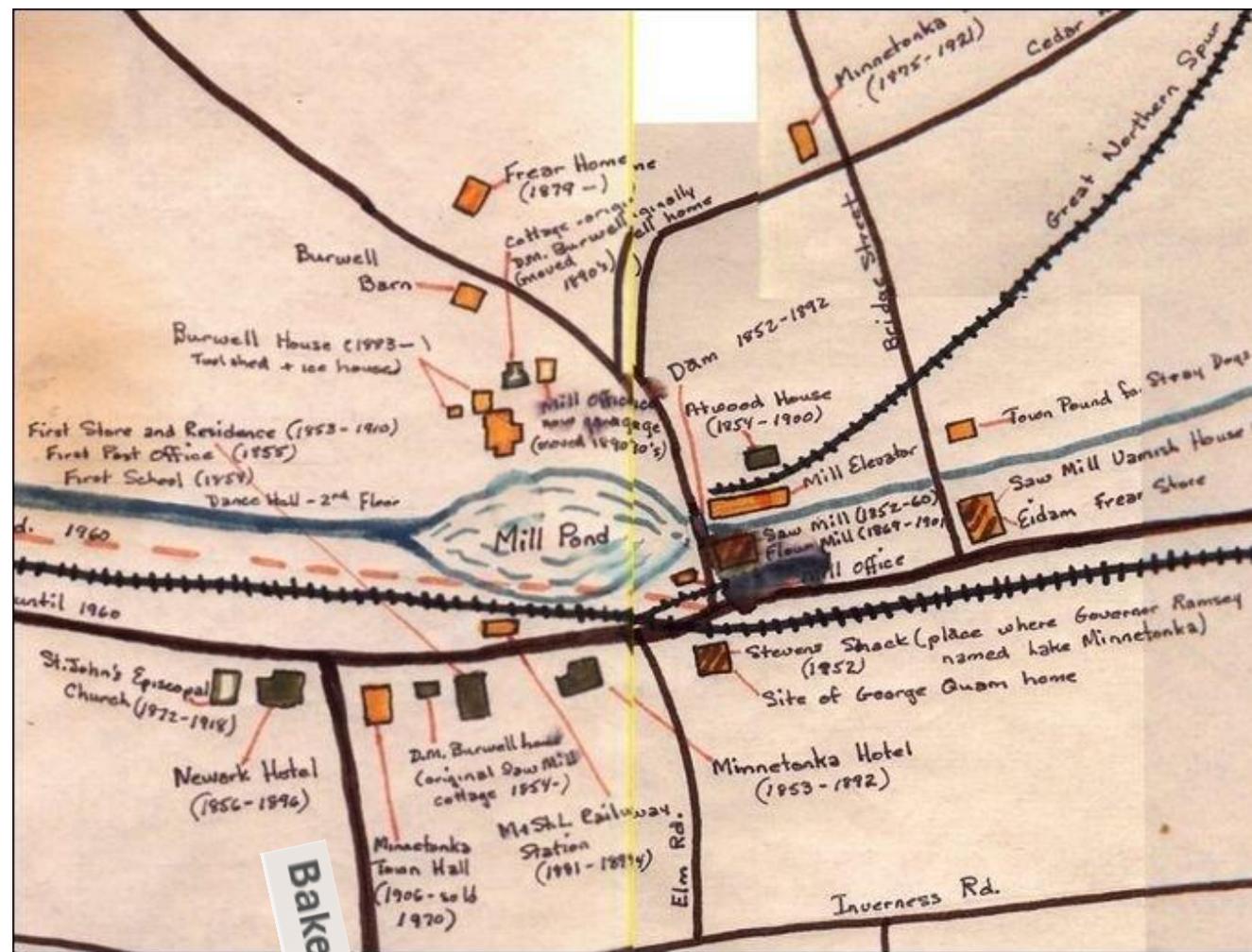
**Two millers live across the creek, the farmers' wheat they grind,
Two better millers than they are, you'd hunt awhile to find.**





**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.



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

THE END