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MEMOIRS OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA
(By CHARLES H. TAYLOR)

At the age of 37 years I am asked to chronical Memories of conditions and events at Northfield, Minnesota, in its early years.

My personal recollections begin about the year 1868, and information received from my parents, carry back to about to 1859, when my father and mother first located in Northfield.

BACKGROUND

Charles Taylor, my father, was born in Nottingham, England, August 27th 1828, of well to do parents engaged in the Nottingham Lace manufacturing business. He received his earlier education there, graduating at "Nottingham Academy" at the early age of seventeen, with a strong ambition to go the New World and become a Lawyer in the United States. But his parents, desiring that he join the family in Lace Manufacturing, opposed his ambition, and refused to furnish funds for such wild adventure. So, he entered an apprenticeship with a Nottingham firm of Carpenters and Cabinet-Makers; and as soon as he had mastered that trade, he obtained a position as Ships-Carpenter, on a sailing vessel bound from Liverpool to New York, thus working his passage across the Atlantic. His ship, encountering adverse winds, was seven weeks in making the crossing; but in 1850, at the age of 21, he arrived in New York City, with meager funds, but with a letter of introduction from a newspaper publisher of Nottingham to Horace Greely, newspaper editor of New York City; and Greely soon secured for him a position as Law Student in the office of a then prominent Law Firm in New York City. But his finances soon dwindled, and in order to continue his Law studies, he secured a position as a District School Teacher up in the Green Mountains at Wilmington Vermont. He remained at Wilmington for a considerable time, then returned to New York City to complete his Law studies, and was admitted to the Bar in 1859. While teaching school at Wilmington, Vermont, my father had met, and fallen in love with Sarah Jane Lawton (my mother), a daughter of James Lawton, head of a prominent Vermont family; so as soon as he was admitted to the Bar, he returned to Wilmington, and on November 24th 1859, the two were married.

It seems that, while teaching school at Wilmington, my father had formed a friendship with Mr Frank M. Crosby, another young Lawyer there, and that Crosby, while my father was still in New York, had migrated to the new State of Minnesota, and had located at Hastings, (where later on he became for many years Judge of the District Court of Dakota County), and that Crosby, who had also known my mother in Wilmington, Vermont, had been writing to them, urging them to come to Minnesota and locate there. So, influenced by friend Crosby, and by the noted advice of friend Horace Greely - "Go West young man, go West", my father and mother, late in 1859, started for Minnesota, with Northfield as their objective location.

At that time, there was no railroad transportation to Minnesota, but only as far as the Mississippi River in Iowa. So, from there, they came up the river by boat, to Hastings, Minnesota, and from there (after visiting friend Crosby there), by Stage Coach to Northfield, where they arrived late in 1859.

Upon reaching Northfield, my father immediately entered upon the practice of his profession as a Lawyer, and after selecting a building-site for a permanent home, at the Southeast Corner of Union and 2nd Streets, built the Taylor House (now known as the Cutler House), where he lived until his death on October 22nd 1877, and where my mother and I continued to live until July 1885. Also, soon after arriving in Northfield, my father built a frame one-story office building at the Southeast Corner of the Bridge, facing Bridge Square; in which building he conducted his Law business for many years.

CONDITIONS AT NORTHFIELD IN 1859-1860

When my parents arrived in Northfield in 1859, the surroundings were primitive, but a paradise for the hunter and fisherman; and my father (like most englishmen) being an enthusiastic sportsman, and a good shot with both rifle and shotgun, I believe these surroundings had much to do with his selection of Northfield as his permanent home.

POPULATION. * The population of Northfield, at that time, was but a few hundred. But there were still a considerable number of Indians (both Chippewa and Sioux) living near-by, mostly in the "Big Woods" that extended westerly from the Cannon River. Also there were already several scores of settlers living on the open farm-lands to the East. As late as 1868, Sioux and Chippewa Indians would come to our house in Northfield for food and clothing. But within a few years after the Indian outbreak of 1862, near New Ulm and Mankato, most of the Chippewas were Consigned to reservations in Northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, and most of the Sioux to Northwestern Minnesota and the Dakotas.

WILD GAME - The so-called "Big Woods", adjoining Northfield on the West, (mostly Hard Maple, Oak, Elm and Basswood timber), in the early Sixties, extended from the West bank of the Cannon River for some 35 miles further West, and from the South bank of the Minnesota River South nearly to the Iowa line. These woods then abounded with Red Deer, Black Bear, Wildcat (Bob-Cat), Raccoon and smaller game; while to the East of Northfield, the open grasslands and grain fields sheltered thousands of Prairie Chickens, Quail and Doves. The Lakes, Rivers and smaller streams, both within and out of the woods, were alive, in season, with Wild Geese, Brant and Ducks, for the hunter, and with small fur-bearing animals, like Mink and Muskrat, for the Trapper. Deer and Bear were common in the woods surrounding Circle, Union and Fox lakes, a few miles West of Northfield; and both Deer and Bear occasionally wandered or were driven, into the town limits, a Bear being shot on Water Street, near the J. A. Hunt residence, after swimming the river, and Deer frequently appearing within the town limits.

PASSENGER PIGEONS - But the most remarkable of all Wild Game, in the vicinity of Northfield, in the early days, were the Passenger Pigeons; and there are few now living who ever saw them. In the Spring of each year, up to the year 1881, millions of Passenger Pigeons, from about the 15th of May to about the 15th of June, would come in flocks miles long, up the Mississippi River Valley from their winter habitat in Central and South America, seeking nesting places for their young. These wonderful and beautiful birds had an average wing-spread of about 17 inches, and length about the same, and were so strong and swift of flight that from a distance of 50 feet or more, a rushing sound could be heard, and a wind went with their flight. These great annual flights came directly over Faribault and Northfield; and wherever on the way North, there were suitable patches of woods for nesting places, portions of the flock would stop and build their nests. Such patches were called "Pigeon Roosts", and each such nesting place, located at frequent intervals all the way from the Gulf of Mexico to Northern Canada, would contain perhaps hundreds of nests. The Pigeon Roost, nearest to Faribault and Northfield, was located in woods not far from Cannon Falls, and an expert hunter, standing in an open space in the nearby woods over which the Pigeons were flying, could, with a muzzle-loading shotgun fill their game-bag within an hour or two.

I have always considered the Passenger Pigeon the most beautiful and tasty of all game-birds. Up to the year 1880 they were at their height, and were numbered in the millions. It then seemed impossible that the multitude could ever be greatly reduced. But during the short period of the next four years the Species was exterminated. In 1885 the hunting & fishing Magazine "Forest & Stream" offered anyone \$500. who would produce a mating pair of Passenger Pigeons. But with no results, as there were none left. No one could offer an explanation. It was conjectured that perhaps an epidemic of disease or other calamity had come upon them in their winter quarters in the South. But every sportsman, familiar with the habits of the Passenger Pigeon, and with the lack of laws in the United States to protect them during their nesting season, knows that they were exterminated by the greed of Mercenaries and their hired hunters in the United States.

But this is another story, going along with that of the extermination of the grand American Buffalo on the Western Plains, and with the extermination of the Prairie Chickens of Minnesota and the Dakotas, now almost completed.

With all this Wild Game in the vicinity of Northfield, in those early days, most of the men, and boys in their teens, were possessed of Rifles and Shotguns; and many of them were expert marksmen. At the age of ten, I received my first rifle, and on my twelfth birthday, my first shotgun. It was a double-barrell, 12 gauge, muzzle-loader, with shot-pouch, powder-horn, percussion caps and game-bag; and during my teens, both rifle and shotgun did excellent service. It was not difficult, at that time, to bag as many as 20, or more, Prairie Chickens, Ducks, Geese or Pigeons in a day. And, on one occasion, my father, Myron Skinner, Charlie Drew and myself planned a three-day trout fishing trip to Trout Brook, near Cannon Falls, but finding our creels already full of speckled trout, we returned home at the end of the first day. But, even before I received my first shotgun, my father would usually, on his hunting trips for Prairie Chickens, take me along to drive and hold the horses, while he and his companions, and the bird-dogs, would leave the buggy to hunt and shoot in the adjoining fields. Hence, at an early age, I became acquainted with many of the most expert hunters. Among these were Professor Thomas, of Carleton College, Dr Henry Wheeler and A. R. Manning, both heroes at the James & Youngers Bank raid, and Charlie Wheeler, Town Constable. All the hunters, at that time, used double-barrel 10 or 12 gauge, muzzle-loading shotguns; except that Professor Thomas possessed the first repeating shotgun that I ever saw. It was a single barrel gun with a cylinder that held 4 brass shells, and that turned like the cyl-

-inder of a revolver. I have seen Professor Thomas bring down 4 chickens, without a miss, when a covey was flushed by the dogs, while my father would get his two chickens with his double-barreled muzzle-loader. A little later Graville Stewart, eldest son of Solomon P. Stewart, became possessed of the first Breach-Loading shotgun in Northfield.

EARLY CONDITIONS IN NORTHFIELD

When my parents arrived in Northfield in 1859, there were no Public Utilities of any kind. No street-lights, no water-system, sewers, toilets or bathtubs. There was no fire protection or equipment, except voluntary bucket-service. All cooking and heating was with wood stoves, all water was from private wells or rain-water cisterns, and all lighting by candles or kerosene lamps. The bathtubs of the period, were the wooden washtubs. The first bathtub I ever saw that was similar to those of the present day, and equipped with plumbing and running water, was in the then new house of Solomon P. Stewart, built about 1868 at the Southwest corner of Union and 2nd Streets in Northfield. It was 6 ft tin or zink. Also, the first hot-air Heating Furnace that I ever saw, was installed in the basement of the Stewart house. It was built of brick, and was of course, a wood-burner, as no other fuel was then available. The first Lawn-mower in Northfield, was purchased about 1870 by Mr Stewart and my father, jointly, and was shared by them alternately. Also, about 1870, Mr Stewart, Myron Skinner, Prof. Horace Goodhue and my father, owners respectively of the four Corners at Union and 2nd Streets, joined in drilling a 60 foot water-well in the middle of 2nd Street and on the West line of Union Street. And this well supplied them, and nearby neighbors, with excellent drinking water for many years, and may still be in service.

EARLY PERSONAL OF NORTHFIELD & FARIBAULT

Although Rice County was primitive, and still among the Indians, when my parents arrived in Northfield, the early settlers there were not typical of the wild-West pioneers. Both in Northfield and Faribault, and on the surrounding farms, they were mostly ~~xxxxxx~~ educated Americans from New England and adjoining States; and among them were many whose progeny were destined to become prominent in State and National affairs. Among the families and individuals of Northfield and Faribault that I remember most clearly, are - Charles A. Wheaton, founder and editor of the "Rice County Journal". He was one of the foremost figures in the building-up of Northfield, and in the development of Rice County. Mr Wheaton was highly educated, tall and straight and with his white hair and long white beard, was a most interesting and conspicuous figure. His family consisted of 12 children; and all were leaders in the social life and affairs of Northfield, and later prominent in world affairs. Charles A. Wheaton Jr, the oldest Son, became a noted Physician and Surgeon at St Paul, and had much to do in establishing the Mayo Hospitals and Clinics at Rochester, Minnesota. Later, Robert A. Wheaton, the second Son, also became a Physician, and Junior Partner of Dr Charles A. And Allan Wheaton, another son, became a lawyer.

The family of John T. Ames were leaders in social and business affairs during the early days. Mr. Ames was proprietor and owner of the Ames Flour Mills in Northfield; and with Mrs Ames and their three daughters, Fannie, Martha and Alice, and their one son, John A. Junior, resided for many years on their attractive farm property just south of Northfield, towards Dundas. The family were all prominent in social affairs, and were noted for their numerous parties and entertainments at their suburban home. Fannie Ames married Mr Ed Lloyd of Faribault; Martha married Mr Charles Nichols, Secretary of the "Ames Milling Co." and Alice married Mr Alden T. Hall, Druggist of Northfield.

Hiram Scriver, one of the first Merchants of Northfield, built the first large store building there. It was a frame building, located on Division Street facing Bridge Square. It was built in the Sixties, and later in the Seventies, was replaced by Mr Scriver with the present stone building, while the original frame building was moved to the West side of Washington Street, between 2nd and 3rd Streets and re-modeled as a dormitory for Carleton College students, and nick-named "Pancake Hall". Mr Scriver's residence was at the Southeast Corner of 4th and Union Streets, and was surrounded by attractive gardens and orchards. He later became a member of the State House of Representatives.

Solomon P. Stewart, lumber merchant of Northfield had much to do with the development of Northfield. He was first Mayor of Northfield Village before it became incorporated as a Town. He had five children who also figured prominently in the history of Northfield. Granvill, the oldest son, following his father's footsteps, became a Lumber Merchant in Northfield, and later in San Francisco. Carl L. Stewart, the second son, also entered the Lumber business in Northfield, and later at Minneapolis.

William M. Wickham, and Mr T. Bowman, his partner, who owned and had developed, jointly, some 400 acres of rich farm lands East of Northfield, near the present Town of Dennison, moved into Northfield in 1877, and immediately became active in the Town's affairs. Mr Wickham's family consisted of his wife and their daughter, Ida M. Wickham, who graduated from Northfield High School, and later from "Rockford Seminary" in Illinois. In 1887 she married Dr Hartland C. Johnson, of Northfield, and the couple soon moved to St Paul, where Dr Hartland C. Johnson, in partnership with his brother, Dr Asa M. Johnson, practiced their profession for many years. Mr Bowman, when coming to Northfield, was unmarried. But soon married Miss Irene Parks, a High-School teacher of Northfield, and became Northfield's Chief of Police.

In 1877, Mr Amos A. Ovitt, Banker and Financier, came to Northfield with his family from Vermont, and immediately became active in its enterprises and business affairs. The Ovitt family consisted of the wife and three children, Albert B. Ovitt, Grace F. Ovitt and Cora A. Ovitt. Albert B. became a Lawyer, practicing at St Paul, and later as Assistant Corporation Counsel of New York City. Grace F. attended Carleton College, then marrying Stephen O. Arnold, also of Carleton, and a practicing Dentist of St Paul. Cora A Ovitt, the youngest daughter, attended the State Normal School at St Cloud, and later, Rockford Seminary, Illinois. In 1888 she married C. H. Taylor, Lawyer of St Paul.

Another remarkable family, closely identified with the early days of Northfield, was that of Patrick Butler and his five sons, John, William, Walter, Pierce and Cooley. These sons later became prominent, both in State and National affairs. About 1880, they incorporated as "Butler Brothers", Contractors & Builders, and as such, built the New Minnesota State Capitol Building at St Paul. This firm, with Walter Butler as President, also took a major part in opening-up and developing the Missabe Iron Mines in northern Minnesota; and Pierce Butler became a prominent Lawyer at St Paul; then County Attorney of Ramsey County, and finally, under appointment of President Harding, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Among other outstanding citizens that took a leading part in the upbuilding of Northfield, were George M. Phillips, Banker and former Mayor; Dr Danforth J. Whiting, Dentist and member of School Board; Dr Hiram H. Coon, leading physician & surgeon, and his two sons, Galen and Dr George M.; Charles Wheeler, Constable; Charlie Pierce, Foreman of "Rice County Journal"; Will Hibbard, Livery; Ross Phillips, Fire Chief; Albert and Clifford Gress, Bankers; Harry Dilley, Banker, Arthur E. Bowe, ^{Charles F.} Perkins and C. W. Pye, Lawyers; Dr Wm A. Hunt Physician & Surgeon; Mr Joseph Lee Haywood, Cashier, and Lon Bunker and Frank Wilcox, Cashiers of First Natl Bank at time of raid; Samuel F. Johnson and sons Elden, Hartland C. and Asa M; George Thorp and Thomas Bundy.

EARLY HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS IN NORTHFIELD

CHICAGO FIRE. In 1871 the great Chicago Fire occurred, wiping out a large portion of that city. For several days the skies above Northfield and Rice County were so heavily laden with smoke that the sun could not be seen. The prevailing winds came from the East and Southeast, and although the fire was more than four-hundred miles away, the air was stifling and the days darkened.

FIRST RAILROAD. The year 1862 witnessed the advent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St Paul Railroad into Northfield and Faribault; and almost immediately, with the building of the depot, stores and houses began to be erected on the West side of the Cannon River. The only fuel for Railroad Engines being wood, this was brought by the Railroad, from the adjacent "Big Woods" in cordwood lengths, in quantities almost covering the Right of Way, and the Street extending from the West end of the bridge to the new Depot, soon became a business thoroughfare. The Bridge, at that time, was a wooden one, but soon after was replaced by a steel one.

DOUBLE FIRE - Few people now living will remember the double -fire that occurred in Northfield in 1872, when a Livery Stable or Warehouse on the river front and the frame Congregational Church Building, located at the Northeast Corner of 4th and Washington Streets, were both burned on the same day. The buildings on the river-front were entirely consumed, and the wind, being from the West, sparks and embers were conveyed for nearly a half mile to the wooden roof of the church, and that too was burned to the ground.

The Congregational "Brown Church";

WINDSTORM - After the burning of the first Congregational Church Building, the Church Organization decided to build a new Church, but upon a new location; and the original School Buildings at the Southwest corner of 3rd and Union Streets having been removed, the Church acquired that site, and started the construction of its present brick Church at that location. But ill-fortune continued, and when the new Church was almost completed, except that the scaffolding surrounding the steeple still remained, cyclonic wind-storm struck ~~the nearly completed Steeple~~ the nearly completed Steeple, blowing it to the ground.

BURNING OF WILLIS HALL AT CARLETON COLLEGE - In 1879, Northfield sustained another disastrous Fire, when Willis Hall was burned out on the inside, leaving only the bare stone-walls. Willis Hall, as first constructed, had all of its classrooms on the lower floors, with a dormitory on the top floor, where male students (with Professor Thomas as Dean) resided. Willis Hall, at the time, being the only College Building, the College was immediately obliged to seek another building in which to conduct its classes; and it soon acquired the "American Hotel Building, a large three-story and basement building located at the Northeast corner of 3rd and Washington Streets, where it functioned until Willis Hall could be reconstructed.

THE FALL OF CASTLE ROCK - About 18 another regrettable happening occurred, that few will now remember. About 14 miles North of Northfield a natural formation of sandstone towered above the surrounding area like a Castle. This could be seen for miles. It was composed of different colored sandstone, the main base of which was some 20 feet in diameter and about 15 feet in height, with a tower in two sections, one above the other, extending above the main base to some 35 or 40 feet above the general level of the ground. The lower section of the tower was about 4 or 5 feet in diameter and about 12 feet in height, and the upper section about 4 feet in diameter and about 14 feet in height above the lower section. But the upper section where it rested on the lower, was somewhat smaller, so it seemed to be in a precarious position, and likely to fall. And that is what occurred. The whole upper section of this remarkable formation fell to the ground, and was more or less broken up. People speculated as to the cause of the fall. The surrounding grass-lands and grain-fields were good hunting-grounds for Prairie Chickens, and vandal hunters had been known to have taken shots at the tower. So, it was suggested that they may have caused the fall. It was also suggested that lightning had caused the downfall. But the consensus of opinion was that Erosion and wind caused the disaster.

THE NORTHFIELD BANK RAID - The attempted robbery of the "First National Bank" of Northfield has been well chronicled. But as I may be the last living witness who actually saw the Bank bandits on the Street in Northfield, I will add some details from my own observation. The raid occurred at about 2 o'clock on September 7th 1876. I was 13 years of age, and attending high-school. The only Fire Department in Northfield was voluntary, and all men, and boys over twelve years of age were supposed to volunteer for service in case of fire. When the bandit raid started, someone rang the Town Fire Bell, and Superintendent Pattee at once released the high-school boys for supposed fire service. But when we reached the scene the six bandits who remained alive, were just riding out of town, going South on Division Street. The six were riding out on but five horses; Bob Younger riding behind on Cole Younger's horse. The scene on Division Street, in front of the Bank, looked like a battle-field. Two Bandits were lying in the Street, one dead and one dying, two dead horses, that had belonged to the Bandits, and one dead citizen, who had not left the Street quick enough to satisfy them, and had been shot down, was lying on the sidewalk. And inside the Bank was Joseph L. Hayward, Bank Cashier, shot dead when he refused to turn over the Bank's funds. Within a short time after the Bandits left the Town (without any loot) a local posse was formed to follow on horses, and capture them. A few days later this posse, reinforced on the way, overtook and surrounded four of the gang, Charlie Pitts and the three Youngers, Cole, Jim and Bob, killing Pitts and shooting down all three of the Youngers, and capturing them. The James Brothers, Frank and Jesse, escaped on their horses and returned to Missouri. I was too young, at the time, to be accepted on the

p 6

posse that captured the bandits near Madelia; but my shotgun, provided with slugs loaded with buckshot, was loaned to one of the posse, and Pitts was reported killed at Madelia with buckshot, and Jim Younger wounded with a charge of buckshot; so I believe it was my gun that accounted for both of them, as I could obtain no information that any other gun in the posse was provided with buckshot.

It was also reported that Dr Henry Wheeler (whose rifle, at the raid, killed one of the bandits), obtained legal possession of the body for scientific purposes. And later, on a visit to Dr Wheeler's office, I saw, through an open closet-door, a finely articulated skeleton, that I judged would exactly fit the frame of the bandit.

After arriving in Northfield in 1859, Charles Taylor, at different times, was a member of the Law Firms of Taylor & Barton, Whipple & Taylor and Taylor & Emery. His legal practice extended to the various Courts of the State, and to the State Supreme Court. He was interested in political and educational matters, and served on the Northfield City Council and Board of Education. He also, for several Terms was Justice of the Peace and City Attorney, and Judge of Probate of Rice County, and later was elected a member of the State Legislature for two Terms.

MASONIC LODGE OF NORTHFIELD - Mr Taylor, also, was interested in Social and Athletic enterprises; and soon after arriving in Northfield, he helped to organize the Masonic Lodge of Northfield - Social Lodge No 48 A. F. & A. M. and was First Master of the Lodge. It seems that while a resident of Wilmington, Vermont Mr Taylor was "raised" and became a member of the Wilmington Lodge which bore the name "Social Lodge" No 38 A. F. & A. M.; and so, upon the organization of the Northfield Masonic Lodge, its members, in honor of its First Master, voted to adopt the name of his Home Lodge, "Social Lodge".

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTHFIELD - The first Public School Building in Northfield were a one-story frame building, located at the southwest corner of 3rd and Union Streets, where the First Grade scholars were housed, and a large two-story and basement frame building, immediately adjoining the small building, and facing Union Street. I started my schooling in the small school building in September 1868. The large frame building was occupied by the High School and by all the grades above the First. It was in this large building that ^{Ad} St Olaf College occupied when it first started. The vacant block opposite the frame school-houses on the East side of Union Street, was then used only for Baseball and for Circus Tents when circuses came to town. But later on the Town of Northfield acquired this vacant block, and erected thereon its first Brick School Building. The first Superintendent to occupy the new brick school-building was Prof. McNaughton, who very soon put the Northfield school system on a high educational plain; and he himself was highly regarded. It is related that, while still Principal, Professor Mc Naughton, while in the East on his summer vacation, became sick and went into a trance, and it being believed that he had died, he was consigned to a coffin and placed on a train for shipment back to Northfield; but while enroute he regained consciousness, and later recovered sufficiently to resume his duties. However, he soon resigned as Superintendent, and Professor Wm S. Pattee became Superintendent of the Schools. Professor Pattee, at that time (), was a comparatively young man, with ambition to become a Lawyer; so almost immediately he arranged to study Law in my father's law-office, during his spare time from School work; and this he did until about 1877, when he was admitted to the Bar. Lawyer Pattee then resigned as School Superintendent, and began the practice of his profession in Northfield; first by himself, and ~~later~~ then as senior partner of the Law Firm of Pattee & Cutler, and later to become Dean of the Law School at the Minnesota State University. While I was still a student at Carleton College, I commenced my study of Law in the Law Office of Mr Pattee in Northfield, during my spare time; so it turned out that Mr Pattee studied Law in my father's office, and I, in turn studied Law in Mr Pattee's office.

BASEBALL IN NORTHFIELD - While my father was in College in England, he engaged in the national English game of "Cricket". So, when soon after arriving in Northfield, he and other young men of the Town, attempted to organize a "Cricket Club". But the game of Baseball had already gotten quite a foothold in the Eastern States, and as there were no near-by Cricket clubs to furnish competition, the attempt to establish Cricket did not succeed. So, they turned to Baseball, and soon the first Baseball Team in Northfield was organized, with Charles Taylor as Pitcher and Charlie Minard as Catcher. At that time the rules of the game were very different, and would hardly be recognized as Baseball at the present time. The ball was softer and larger, and the rules allow-

ed the ball to be thrown at the base-runner, and if he was hit by the thrown ball between bases, he was out. The Pitcher was required to deliver the ball with a straight-arm pitch, and from below the hip. The Catcher usually stood some 20 feet, or more, behind the batter, and a foul, caught on the first ~~base~~ bound, was an out. Catcher's masks and breast-pads were unknown, and, though not forbidden, no gloves were worn by any player, except that the Catcher sometimes wore a buckskin glove on one hand, with the fingers cut off at the middle joint. Even after the rules were changed to allow under-hand pitching, padded gloves, catcher's Masks and Breast-pads would have been considered "sissy" by the players of that day. About 1873 the rules were changed to allow to allow swift, underhand pitching. But, even then, the pitcher was required to deliver the ball from below the waist-line. And then it was, that, with the advent of the swift, underhand throw, black-eyes, from foul-tips, became the common experience of the Catcher. About 1874 the famous Baseball Team of Northfield, called the "Silver Stars", was organized. This club, for several years, was considered the champion Baseball team of the State, and it seldom lost a game. The "Red-Caps" of St Paul and the "Minneapolis Millers" afforded the strongest competition. This was the period when swift underhand pitching was at its height Overhand Pitching was not yet allowed, and Curved Pitching was unknown. The regular "Silver Star" players were Ed Bullis, P, Park Bullis, C. Galen Coon, SS & Sub P, Harry Gress 1st B, Eugene Rolph, 2nd B, Phin Barton, 3rd B, Willis Rawson L.F, DeHart Barton C. F. and Ed Way R. F.

Following the reign of the "Silver Stars", another Northfield Baseball Team was organized, and became noted, because it was the first Team in Rice County to employ "Curved Pitching". Among the players were Hartland C. Johnson, Robt A. Wheaton, George Coon, Wm Lee, J.C. Lund and myself. Lund had been a semi-professional ballplayer in Iowa, and was the first player to come to Northfield who could throw a Curved ball. And it was largely by reason of his pitching that the Club gained its reputation, and seldom lost a game. While playing on this ball-team, the writer was also playing Shortstop on the Carleton College Ball Club of which he was Captain for three years; and during two of these years (1883 & 1884) this College Team did not lose a game. The players on the Carleton team were Young, C, Montgomery, P, Taylor, SS, Huntoon, 1st B, Stevens 2nd B, Sherman 3rd B, Wheelock L.F. Robertson C.F. and Lewis R.F. The success of this College Team was also due largely to curved-ball pitching and to the unique "pitching and catching combination" of Montgomery and Young. Both of these players could throw remarkable curves, and also extremely fast balls. But strange to say, they both preferred to play as Catchers; and each was equally as proficient at catching as at pitching. So, during a game, they would frequently exchange positions, to the confusion of opposing batters. But that is another story, pertaining to Carleton College history rather than to that of Northfield.

TRAPPING - Throughout my boyhood days, and into my early teens, there were numerous Fur-bearing animals in the vicinity of Northfield; and Trapping afforded not only an interesting occupation, but a source of income. Mr F.A. Noble, an expert Tanner, lived on the West bank of the Cannon River, and maintained a Tannery directly across the river, on the East bank, where the Carleton Athletic Field is now located; Mr Noble crossing the river by boat. He would tan, or buy outright, any hide or pelt, from Buffalo, Bear or Deer down to Mink, Muskrat or Rabbit. But trapping, at that time, near Northfield was mainly for Mink and Muskrat, as Raccoon were hard to get, and demand for Rabbit, Gray Squirrel and Cat furs had not developed. The Tanner, at that time, would pay for raw Mink Pelts from 75 cts to \$1.50, according to condition, that now would bring \$25.00 or more; and for Muskrat Pelts, from 35 cts to 75 cts, that now would bring \$15.00 or more.

BOATING - Throughout my teens and College days, I was much interested in boating on the Cannon River. For most of this time I maintained one or more Rowboats both above and below the Northfield Dam. These were used for hunting, fishing and trapping, and for exploring the lower reaches of the Cannon to its junction with the Mississippi River. And during my College days the boats were let to College Students for pleasure boating, above and below the Northfield Dam. At one time, ~~xxxxxx~~ about 1881, we explored the Cannon by Rowboat, from Northfield to a point where it empties into the Mississippi, about two miles above RedWing, and then rowed our boat across the Mississippi to Trenton Wisconsin. The Cannon River being swift, we made the entire distance (about 70 miles) in a single day. On another occasion, we started on a duck-hunting trip down the Cannon, after the Fall Rains, when the river was at high-water stage. But our boat was caught in the Rapids, above the

Falls of the Cannon River, and because of the high water, we were unable to find a landing place until within a few hundred feet of the twenty-foot Falls where we succeeded in stopping the boat, and getting it on a ledge above the water, where we left it, bottom up, for the winter, and walked back to Northfield, a distance of about 18 miles. However, on the way back, we bagged a good batch of Mallard Ducks, which consoled us somewhat for our misfortunes.

NEW RAILROADS - In 1880 the Chicago Great Western Railroad started to survey for a new Railroad from Northfield to Redwing. And, having completed a course in Trigonometry and Surveying at Carleton, I secured a position with the surveying crew on a Division of the Survey extending from Northfield to a point near Cannon Falls; the work lasting the entire summer. And the following Summer the same Railroad began surveying its new Line from St Paul to (Oldwine) Odewine Iowa, on which survey I was also employed. On this Line our Division of the Survey extended northerly from Dodge Center, in Dodge County, Minnesota, to a point near the farm of Morris P. Dennison in Goodhue County, upon which the Town of Dennison was started immediately after our survey was completed. These two Railroad Lines have done much to develop the farming areas adjacent to Northfield; and I am glad to have participated, in a small way, in their construction.

Note. This paper was written in March, 1850 by Mr. Charles H. Taylor, Gates Hotel, Los Angeles, California, who graduated from Carleton College in 1885. Unfortunately Mr. Taylor was injured in a fall and died May 25, 1950.

This paper has been re-typed by Miss Maude G. Stewart,
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for the May 16, 1951 Meeting in Bolliou Hall, Carleton College,
Northfield, Minnesota.