

WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT'S SESQUICENTENNIAL PROJECT

ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN

150 Years of Legal History

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St. Croix County Court and Courthouses
Judges
Circuit court Judges
Various Attorneys
Interesting and/or Well Known Cases

Copies of this paper have been delivered to:

1. Wisconsin Supreme Court
2. St. Croix County Historical Society, Hudson, Wisconsin
3. Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin—River Falls
4. Clerk of Courts, St. Croix County, Wisconsin

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St. Croix County's Legal History

"In 1840, J. R. Brown, the representative of the county (Crawford), petitioned the Wisconsin territorial legislature to create the new county of St. Croix. This was accomplished, and its boundaries included Crawford county on the south, Brown county and the Lake Superior country on the east, the British possessions on the north, and the Mississippi river on the west. The white population of this entire district numbered only two hundred and fifty people. An election was at once held to locate the county seat. Three places competed: Prescott, St. Croix Falls and Stillwater, then called Dakotah. The latter won by a vote of 45 to 13. It may be worth attention to note that the city of St. Paul was located in St. Croix county and was not of sufficient importance to be the county seat.

The first district court north of Prairie du Chien was called at Dakotah, St. Croix county. This county had been assigned to Judge Irwin's district (Green Bay.) The time assigned for the court was June 1840. Judge Irwin wended his way up the Fox river to the portage, down the Wisconsin to Prairie du Chien, up the Mississippi to St. Paul and across from St. Paul to Dakotah with guides. At Dakotah the regular officers were all absent, but he found at the courthouse two young men named Brown and six Frenchmen from St. Paul and Little Canada, summoned as jurors by Sheriff Lawrence. Judge Irwin remained one night, slept in deer skins in the county building, subsisting meanwhile on venison and bear steak. No calendar was to be found and the judge and jurors left for home.

The first St. Croix county commissioners' meeting was held on October 5, 1840, at Brown's warehouse, Dakotah. An acre of ground was selected for county buildings and the contract for their erection let to J. R. Brown for \$800.00. This was the first deed recorded in St. Croix county.

The first election in St. Croix county was in 1840 for a delegate to congress and for county officers.

Wisconsin was admitted into the Union on May 29, 1848, at which time the present boundaries of St. Croix county were established. By this arrangement the western part of the county was cut off and left with the county seat in Minnesota territory. Soon after the admission of Wisconsin as a state, the orphan portion was reorganized and a county seat chosen at the mouth of the Willow river, then known as Buena Vista. Joseph Brown was instrumental in securing for Hudson both the county seat and the government land office.

The first meeting of the county commissioners of the present St. Croix county was held on September 9, 1848. There was no courthouse and the session was held at the residence of Philip Aldrich, which stood on the land now at 802 Second street. The commissioners present were Ammah Andrews, chairman, W. H. Morse, and W. R. Anderson, clerk. Philip Aldrich was elected treasurer. Four voting precincts were established at this session, Prescott, Buena Vista, Osceola, and St. Croix Falls. In the following year Hamlet H. Perkins was elected county judge against Joel Foster, but, Perkins having been drowned, the governor appointed Foster to the place, who held the first county court in August 1850.

The first circuit court was held May 6, 1849, in a small frame house built by one of the Nobles and sold to Colonel James Hughes. (It stood at the N.E. corner of 2nd and Myrtle.) Judge Jackson of Mineral Point was the presiding judge. Two Indians were tiredisic for killing a white man and it took all the settlers to make up a jury. At that, they were one short and had to press into service a traveler from across the lake. Joel Foster was foreman of the jury, and in later years, while complimenting the early pioneers of this locality, he stated that this jury was the most intelligent group of men he had ever been associated with. Judge Foster further stated that it was considered a "grand thing" to serve on the jury in those

days as it gave the men an opportunity to get together, visit, and learn all of the news."¹

"For several months after the 1848 division there was no St. Croix county courthouse, and county business, including board meetings, was conducted in private homes and in other buildings—warehouses, or whatever was available. In 1851 the county board appropriated \$350 for the construction of a "county building!" In 1857, an "elegant" and "imposing" courthouse with "Ionic columns" was built at a cost of \$14,300."²

"Hudson makes a most attractive county seat, as reflected in her new \$50,000 court house, built of Portage red stone and pressed brick, making a very showy and yet substantial piece of architecture. The county jail and sheriff's residence is a two-story brick with stone trimmings, built at a cost of \$10,000. Both buildings are steam heated and electric lighted, and are fitted up in the best of taste for the conduct of the county business."³

"St. Croix County's first permanent courthouse was located on the northeast corner of Third and Orange streets in Hudson.The building was an imposing two-story stone structure that included a portico with massive Ionic columns, broad steps and a distinctive square shuttered cupola. The building faced west. By the close of the 1890s, the courthouse had become greatly inadequate. It was considered a firetrap, unsafe for the valuable county records and, besides, the jail facilities had been judged unsanitary and condemned by the State Board of Control. Early in 1900, the old building was razed."⁴

"On June 16, 1900, the cornerstone for the new \$50,000 courthouse was laid."⁵ "This durable old building" 1914 Third Street! "can be classified as Richardsonian Romanesque, a style of architecture made popular in public buildings and churches during the 19th century through the work of Henry Richards, a Boston architect. The solid, monumental, powerful appearance, the use of heavy, roughly hewn stone, and massive archways are characteristic of this style of architecture. This building is on the site of the original court house which was built in 1857 by the Andrew brothers."⁶

"The "Old court House" continues to serve St. Croix County as an annex to the modern building which was erected in 1965 on Fourth Street directly behind the old structure."⁷ "The old jail and sheriff's residence were dismantled and construction commenced on a new county courthouse on that site. Erection of the courthouse was completed in 1966. It cost \$725,000."⁸

"In November 1991, the county board voted to approve construction of a new government center The new structure was built in 1993 at a cost of \$12.6 million. It is 139,000 square feet,"⁹ [It was dedicated August 17, 1993.]

¹ Hudson in the Early Days by Genevieve Cline Day, published 1932; Third edition, October, 1978, Star-Observer Pub. Co. {Revised, edited and indexed by Willis H. Miller.} Pages 30-32.

² The Story of St. Croix County Wisconsin by Harold Weatherhead, page 79.

³ The History of St. Croix Valley, Volumes I and II, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr. And Co., 1909; pages 797-8.

⁴ "Historic Hudson" by Willis H. Miller, Hudson Star-Observer, June 6, 1985.

⁵ The Story of St. Croix County Wisconsin by Harold Weatherhead, page 79.

⁶ Hudson's Heritage, A Guide To Architectural and Historic Sites published by St. Croix county Historical Society, Hudson, WI

⁷ Hudson's Heritage, A Guide To Architectural and Historic Sites published by St. Croix county Historical Society, Hudson, WI

⁸ St. Croix County Circuit Court Visitors' Guide prepared by Clerk of Circuit Court Lori Meyer Frascht, ca April 1997.

⁹ St. Croix County Circuit Court Visitors' Guide prepared by Clerk of Circuit Court Lori Meyer Frascht, ca April 1997.

St. Croix County Seats of Government



The first St. Croix County Court House, 1857-1900.

p. 79
The
Story of
St. Croix
County
WI
by
Harold
Weather-
head

The Courthouse "Fight!"

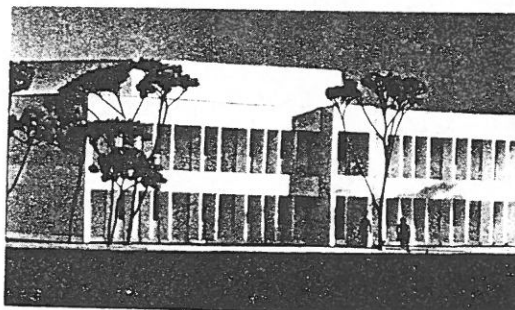
For several months after the 1848 division there was no St. Croix county courthouse, and county business, including board meetings, was conducted in private homes and in other buildings - warehouses, or whatever was available. In 1851 the county board appropriated \$350 for the construction of a "county building!" In 1857, an "elegant" and "imposing" courthouse with "Ionic columns" was built at a cost of \$14,300.

By the 1890's county business required more room and there was talk of a new building. Residents of the central and eastern parts of the county grasped this as an opportunity to move the county seat to a more central location just north of Hammond. Hudson "girded for the fight," and with the help of New Richmond "saved" the county seat. Hudson in turn helped New Richmond get the County Asylum and Poor Farm — "the county farm." (Now known as the St. Croix County Health Center.)

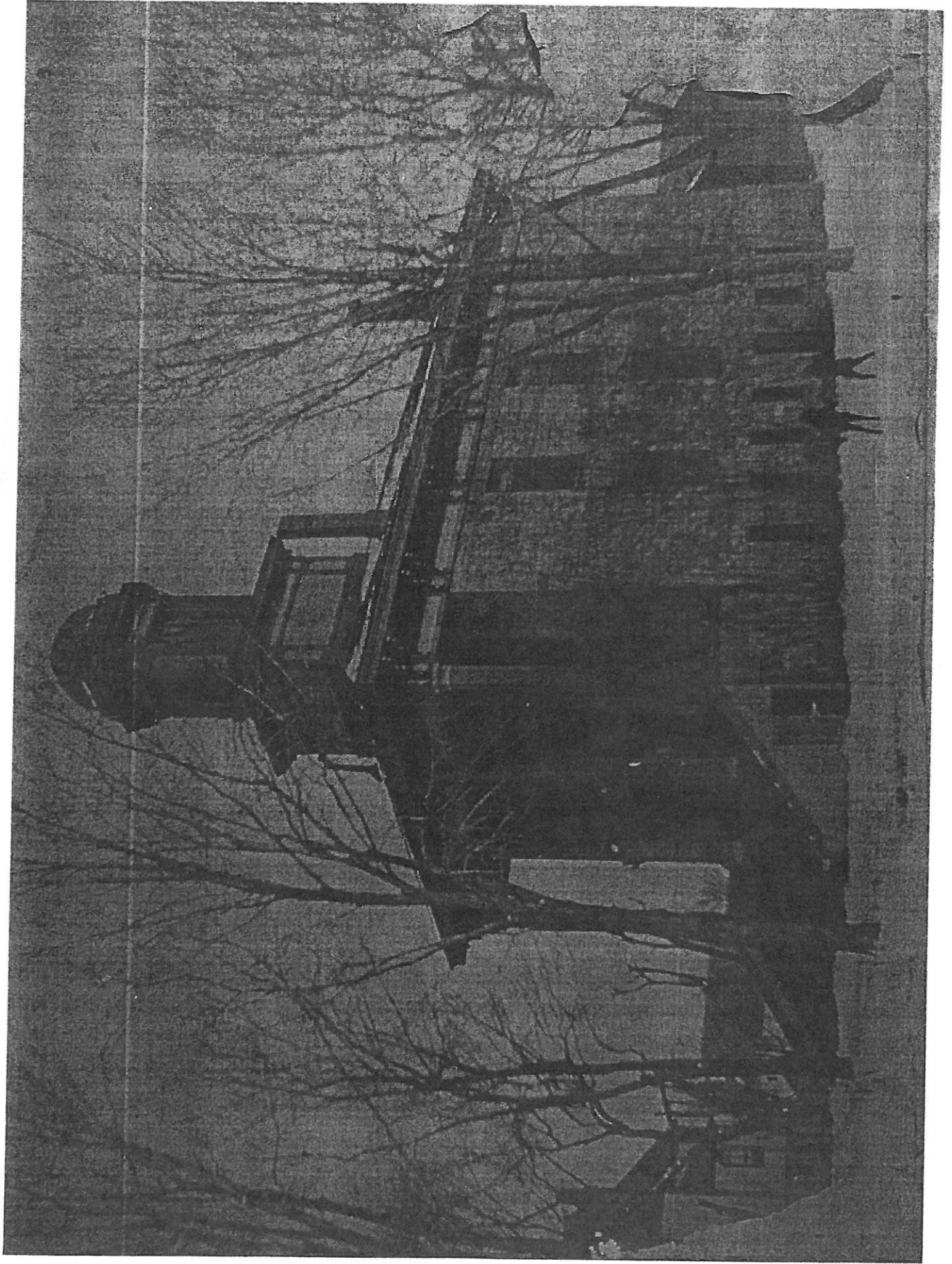
On June 16, 1900, the cornerstone for the new \$50,000 courthouse was laid. This building now serves as an annex to the new county building that was built nearby in 1965. (New Richmond News, "Centennial +5" edition, Sept. 27, 1973.)



Second Court House, dedicated 1900; still in use.

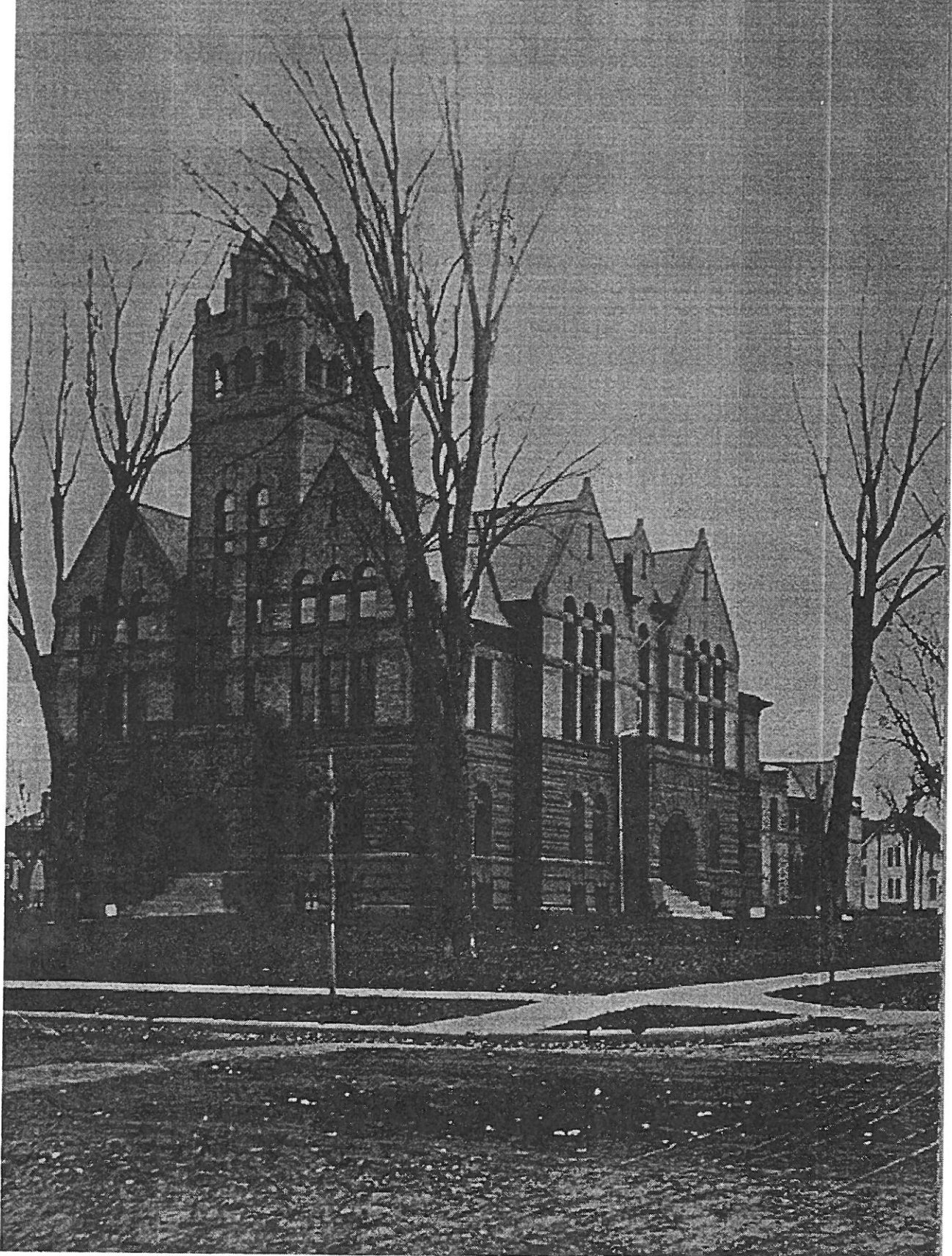


New St. Croix County Court House: dedicated August 1965. (From architect's drawing; only partial view shown.)



St. Croix Co. Historical Soc. #1120

St. Croix County Court House, Hudson, Wis.



St. Croix County Judges

After a territorial act in 1844 made St. Croix county a probate district, Dr. Philip Aldrich, already a Justice of the Peace, was appointed to be the Probate judge.

1848—Alvah D. Heaton was elected Judge of Probate on 7 Nov. 1848. ¹

1849—W. Hamlet Perkins / Hamlet H. Perkins "ran the saw-mill."²; "drowned during the winter of 1849."³

1850-1852—Joel Foster "Judge Foster was born at Meriden, Connecticut, Dec. 15, 1814. He was liberally educated. He came to Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1830, and to Hudson, then known as Buena Vista, in 1848. After a careful exploration of the country he made choice of the valley of the Kinnikinic,^(sic) and made him a home in the fall of 1848, at the junction of the two branches of that stream, and within sound of its beautiful cascades. He was the pioneer settler of the River Falls of to-day. He built the first dwelling house, raised the first crops, and ever proved himself a worthy citizen, first in every good work and enterprise. He was a man of far more than ordinary intelligence and moral worth, was temperate, industrious, public spirited, sagacious and independent. He has filled many positions of responsibility, amongst them that of judge of St. Croix county,^(sic) During the Mexican War he served as a quartermaster in Col. Bissell's Second Illinois Regiment. Judge Foster was married at Chicago in 1856 to Charlotte Porch. He died at his home in River Falls, Aug. 9, 1885." ⁴

"Following the Mexican war in 1848 Joel Foster, the founder of River Falls, stopped off for a few days at Willow River, as early Hudson was then called. He had come to this north country in search of health and had been told that, while it was too far north for farming, there were possibilities for river work and lumbering. He had heard alluring tales about the Kinnickinnic valley and was anxious to explore the place for himself.

Judge Foster's memoirs furnish us with a very colorful description of Hudson in 1848. ⁵.....

1852-1853—S.S.N. Fuller ** Please see Circuit Judges—1854.

1854-1857—Daniel Wood (We located several newspaper listings: Daniel & Adeline Wood who had a daughter Emily who married Wm. H. Bennett. Also a Daniel Wood who married a woman by the name of Ethel Cain.) No conclusions.

"On the lake shore, about where the Boys' Camp is lived a very pleasant family, Judge Woods from New Jersey, with his wife and five children. The two older ones, Steven and Augusta, I well remember, as it was with them I

¹ History of Washington and St. Croix Valley by J. Fletcher Williams, North Star Publishing Co., 1881; p.221

² This Was Hudson A compilation of historical articles pertaining to Hudson, Wisconsin, edited by Willis H. Miller, Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wis., March 1955; Second Printing July 1972.

³ Hudson's Distinguished Men and Women by Willis H. Miller, Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wis., November, 1970, page 23.

⁴ Fifty Years in the Northwest by W. H. C. Folson, published by Pioneer Press Co., 1888, p. 224

⁵ Hudson in the Early Days by Genevieve Cline Day, published 1932; Third edition, October, 1978, Star-Observer Pub. Co. {Revised, edited and indexed by Willis H. Miller.} Page 22.

had my first ride out of the coulee after a fine yoke of oxen." ⁶

1857-1861—Edward A. Clapp

"We are informed by John L. Dale, that EDWARD A. CLAPP, of Hudson, member of Gen. Sherman's staff, and who is well known to many of our citizens, being the law partner of ALLAN DAWSON, Esq., of Hudson, and who enlisted in the Hudson City Guards at the outbreak of the rebellion, was killed in the recent battle at Port Hudson, La. He was a brilliant lawyer, a loyal *true* man, a brave unflinching soldier and died a hero, at the head of an advancing column. He entered the ranks a private, and by his integrity and brave conduct was promoted a lieutenant, and placed on Gen. SHERMAN'S staff." ⁷

1861—Herman L. Humphrey ** Please see Circuit Judges—1866-77.

1861-1869—Cyrus L. Hall "Arthur J. Dodge, special Washington correspondent of the Milwaukee Sentinel, recently gave a pen sketch of three veterans of the Pension Department, who have seen long service on the pay rolls of Uncle Sam. These men are, Judge Cyrus L. Hall, Moses S. Gibson and Judge C. M. Tompkins. The first two were former residents of Hudson, and Mr. Dodge speaks of them as follows:

For many years these venerable men have held positions of importance and trust in Washington, and two of them have almost reached the ninety year milestone.

..... Another venerable Wisconsin man here is Judge Cyrus L. Hall of Hudson. Mr. Hall has held a position in the pension office for many years, being engaged in the division of the bureau which has to do with the legal features of the pension claims. Judge Hall was born in New York in 1824 (should be 1834.) He is a graduate of Yale and went to Wisconsin in the early days, settling in St. Croix county. He has served as county judge of St. Croix county. Notwithstanding his advanced years, Judge Hall is in good health, is always at his desk in the pension bureau, and is good for many years more of active service." ⁸

"Judge Cyrus L. Hall died during the present month, at home of his son, Charles Hall, at Owens, Wisconsin. Remains were taken to Kalamazoo, Michigan, for burial beside those of his wife. Mr. Hall was for many years a resident of Hudson, and one of the early county judges." ⁹

1869-1877—John Shaw Moffat "This Wisconsin representative of all that is highest in man and noblest in the citizen, whose entire temperateness of habit, honorable dealing, moral life and strong religious feeling, but never intruded to the discomfort of others, have made him a power in the community, was born at Lansing, * Tompkins county, New York, November 25th, 1814. *(Libertyville in Town of Lansing is written in the margin.)

His parents, Samuel and Ann (Shaw) Moffat, were both imbued with strong principles of thrift, industry and virtue, and from the earliest years of their family of eight children endeavored to instill into their minds similar principles of good purpose and Christian achievement. Samuel Moffat was a merchant and lumberman, and in the sawmill operated by him

⁶ "Reminiscences of My First Winter in Hudson" by Medora Day; Hudson in the Early Days by Genevieve Cline Day, published 1932; Third edition, October, 1978, Star-Observer Pub. Co. {Revised, edited and indexed by Willis H. Miller.} Page 94.

⁷ Polk County Press, 20 June 1863.

⁸ Hudson Star-Times, Feb. 13, 1903.

⁹ Hudson Star-Times, Oct. 18, 1904.

the subject of the present sketch found employment during his boyhood in such times as were not devoted to schooling. John's grandfather, Rev. John Moffat, immigrated [1729 sic] from north Ireland with a colony, with which also came the Clintons, settling in New York state and making his home at Little Britain, in Orange county, where John's father was born in 1761. A Presbyterian clergyman, who possessed fine classical as well as theological attainments, one of the first graduates at Princeton college, he it was who gave DeWitt Clinton his first lessons in Latin and Greek. Having received such education as the district school of Etna, Tompkins county, New York, afforded, John S. Moffat at eighteen started out on a business career as a merchant's clerk at Dryden Village, in the same county, and remained there three years. He then entered the academy at Homer, Cortland county, studying for three years, and during the winter months of each year teaching school. For two years further he was in the Groton academy, Tompkins county, New York, where he received a thorough preparation for college, but did not enter.

It was in 1840 that he decided to become a lawyer, and the necessary study was at once begun with Corydon Tyler, Esq., at Dryden, Tompkins county, New York. Having been prepared for admission to the bar, that profession appeared to him so overcrowded that his intention was abandoned, and for some time he resumed school teaching, later accepting a clerkship in a store at Painted Post, Steuben county, New York. After this, for some time, he engaged in the mercantile business on his own account at Bath, in Steuben county.

Mr. Moffat removed to Hudson, Wisconsin, in 1854, receiving an engagement as clerk in the land office and also filling the position of police justice, to which office he was elected term after term for about twelve years, the business of the office increasing with the growth of the town until almost the whole of his time was finally absorbed.

On May 16th, 1867, at Hudson, he took his examination and was admitted to the bar. Commencing to practice immediately, he remained alone until about 1871, when Thomas Hughes entered into partnership with him, a connection which was continued for about ten years. Until 1890, when, owing to his hearing having become defective, he was obliged to retire from active court practice, Mr. Moffat was engaged in many litigated cases, but never in criminal practice. He still devotes himself to collections and probate court practice.

In April, 1869, he was elected to the office of county judge of St. Croix county and entered upon the discharge of the duties of said office for a term of four years, and at its expiration was re-elected for a similar period. Every duty of that office was discharged with a punctiliousness and fidelity that gave unqualified satisfaction.

Brought up with the principles of the New York "barn burner" or "free soil democrat," Judge Moffat became a republican on the repeal of the Missouri compromise. A Master Mason, he is also a Good Templar. In his religious affiliations he is a Baptist and a very active worker for the interests of his church.

His active business mind and boyhood practical experience induced him to interest himself in one of the largest sawmill concerns in Hudson, and also in the chair and furniture factory of the same town. His instincts in that direction were most profitably justified.

He was married January 24th, 1844, to Nancy Ann Bennet, who was the daughter of Phineas Bennet, a well-known inventor of Ithaca, Tompkins county, New York. Up to the time of her death, in December, 1894, she was

(as is also the one child of the marriage, now Mrs. Thomas Hughes, wife of a well-known attorney), an active worker in the same church as her husband.¹⁰
 [Judge John Shaw Moffat died in 1902.]

1877-1885—Samuel C. Simonds "was born at Hooksitt, New Hampshire in 1831. When eleven years old, he accompanied his parents to Norwich, Vermont, and prepared himself by attending the Academy, for the Norwich University, from which he graduated at the age of twenty-one years. In 1853, he removed west and located at Hudson; here he engaged in teaching school, and in 1854, was appointed deputy clerk of the circuit court of St. Croix county. During the fall of 1855, he was appointed deputy register of deeds, which office he held one year, in the meantime reading law with Messrs. Gray and Humphrey; was admitted to the bar in 1856. He was elected to the office of clerk of circuit court in 1869 for two years, and re-elected in 1872. During the spring of 1877, was chosen county judge. His wife was Miss M. C. Bloomer, married in 1860. Irvine C., William B. and Marin H. are their children." ¹¹

"Samuel C. Symonds was born in 1831, in Hooksett, New Hampshire. He graduated at the University of Vermont in 1852 and the ensuing year came to Hudson, where he taught school and studied law for three years and afterward engaged in the real estate business and subsequently officiated as county judge four years. He was married in 1860 to Mary C. Bloomer. In 1886 he was commissioned postmaster of the city of Hudson by President Cleveland." ¹²

1885-1893—Ray Stuart Reid was the son of David S. and Jane Ray Alexander; he was married 15 Dec. 1886.

Reid-Taylor. The marriage of County Judge Ray S. Reid to Miss Florence E. Taylor, occurred last evening, Rev. W. R. Reynolds of the Presbyterian church performing the solemn rite. The parlor of the Chapin Hall House, where the event was solemnized in the presence of about fifty of the immediate friends, was tastefully decorated. After the ceremony a numerously attended reception was held, parties being present from all the neighboring cities to join our people in expressing their regard and congratulations to the popular bride and groom. Mr. Charles Hamen as master of ceremonies, assisted by Messrs. C. L. Catlin, of Superior, and Earnest Ringwald, of St. Paul, acquitted themselves in a manner most agreeable to the guests. The bride was attired in a handsome toilet of ivory white satin, tulle veil and orange blossoms, with handsome diamond ornaments, the gift of her parents, Hon. and Mrs. H. A. Taylor.¹³

"..... The groom is Probate Judge of St. Croix county and a rising lawyer before the bar of this circuit." ¹⁴

¹⁰ History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, page 314-6.

¹¹ History of Washington County and The St. Croix Valley, Minneapolis: North Star Publishing Company, 1881. Page 245.

¹² Fifty Years in the Northwest by W. H. C. Folsom, published by Pioneer Press Co., 1888, p. 173

¹³ From unnamed, undated newspaper clipping.

¹⁴ From unnamed, undated newspaper clipping.

Mrs. Ray S. Reid Dies Suddenly At St. Francis.

Wife of Waterways Commissioner Called Away.

Judge Reid in Washington.

Enroute Home and May Not Get Sad News Until His Arrival Here.

A feeling of gloom and sadness was cast over the city this morning when it was learned that Mrs. Judge Ray S. Reid had passed away at the St. Francis hospital, where she had been only since Monday. The news came as a distinct shock to the many friends.....

A letter was received on Monday from Judge Reid, who is in the east on business pertaining to the inland waterways, asking if there was anything to prevent his prolonging his trip another month, not being aware that Mrs. Reid was ill. A message was sent back saying that there was not, although his wife was indisposed. In the reply to another message which he immediately sent back, word was sent to him that he "need not worry, but come." He started from Washington last evening and will arrive here tomorrow morning and until he arrives he probably will not know of his misfortune.

..... Besides her husband she leaves to mourn her, one son, Lucien, who is at home, one sister, Mrs. Grace Morse of Minneapolis, and her father.

Judge and Mrs. Reid have lived in La Crosse for about fifteen years, their residence being at 1309 Main street. No definite arrangements can be made about the interment until the arrival of the relatives but it is probable that Mrs. Reid will be laid beside her mother in Hudson, Wis., from which place they came here. ¹⁵

FUNERAL OF MRS. REID TOMORROW

The funeral services of Mrs. Judge R. S. Reid will be held tomorrow morning from the home, 1309 Main street, at 9:30 o'clock. Ref. Henry Faville of the First Congregational church will conduct the services. The body will be shipped over the Milwaukee road on the fast mail to Hudson, Wis., tomorrow noon and after a short service at the grave, interment will take place in the family lot at the Hudson cemetery.

Judge Ray S. Reid arrived from Washington at 7 o'clock this morning and Mrs. W. D. Morse, sister of Mrs. Reid arrived in the city last evening. ¹⁶

"We cannot find an obituary for Ray Stewart Reid, but it is clear that he survived his wife for at least a short time, and possibly until 1923. His remains are in the mausoleum at Oak Grove Cemetery in La Crosse, and he was interred there on June 1, 1923. It is possible, even likely, that Reid died elsewhere and was brought to La Crosse for interment.

Mr. and Mrs. Reid lived in La Crosse at 1309 Main Street for approximately fifteen years before Mrs. Reid's death in 1908.

We find Ray Reid as an attorney in La Crosse in the 1895-96 city directory.

The absence of Reid in our city directories in the previous years coincides with his activity as a judge in St. Croix County, apparently 1885-93.

Reid reappears in the city directories in 1909 as a commissioner of

¹⁵ La Crosse Tribune 4 March 1908.

¹⁶ La Crosse Tribune 5 March 1908

waterways, living still at 1309 Main St. The post office copy of the directory records a forwarding address of 138 W. Gorham Street in Madison, Wis., in this same directory.

The 1911 directory is Reid's last appearance there, still as a waterways commissioner, and still living at 1309 Main." ¹⁷

1893-1897—John D. Goss "and Gertrude Fulton were married Wednesday evening, at the home of the bride's parents, Rev. C. T. Burnley performing the ceremony. The event was an entire surprise to everybody; but the worthy young people have just as many and just as hearty congratulations as though they had taken every one of us into their confidence. They have gone on a trip to the White City." ¹⁸

JOHN GOSS IS KILLED IN OREGON

Youngest Son of Mrs. Carrie Goss is Victim of Bus Accident

State Senator John B. Goss of Marshfield, Ore., youngest son of Mrs. Carrie M. Goss of Hudson, was instantly killed in a traffic accident at Salem, Oregon, at 10 o'clock last Saturday evening. Telegraphic messages received here reported that Senator Goss was killed when struck by a Greyhound bus while crossing one of the streets at Salem, where he was attending a special session of the state legislature.

News of the fatal accident came as a severe shock to Senator Goss' mother, who will observe her 101st birthday here on Friday. The son last saw his mother a year ago, when he came to Hudson to participate in Mrs. Goss' 100th birthday celebration on November 8, 1934.

Sen. Goss, who was 66 years old, was born in Hudson on October 3, 1869. He was a graduate of the Hudson High school and the University of Wisconsin law college. He also took post-graduate work at Columbia University, New York, and the University of Minnesota. After receiving his law degree, he returned to Hudson to practice law. In the spring of 1893, Mr. Goss was elected county judge of St. Croix county and he held office for four years. He was only 23 years old at the time of his election and was one of the youngest men ever to serve as county judge in this state.

Some 25 years ago, Mr. Goss left for the West, locating at Marshfield. He was active in state politics and for several years served his district as state senator. In 1933 he was a candidate for the democratic nomination for Congressman.

Governor Charles Martin of Oregon, on being informed of the senator's death said: "The death of a man of his high order of intelligence and ability is an irreparable loss to the state."

Sen. Goss' first wife was Gertrude Fulton of Hudson. Roger, a son by this marriage, died in Florida during the World War. After locating in Oregon he was married to Elizabeth Daniels.

Besides his widow in Oregon, he is survived by his mother, Mrs. Goss of Hudson, and two brothers, Peyton of Portland, Ore., and James B. of St. Paul.

Funeral services were held at Marshfield, Ore., Tuesday afternoon and burial was in the cemetery there. ¹⁹

¹⁷ Received from E.L. Hill, Special Collections Librarian & Curator, ARC Murphy Library, U of WI—La Crosse, 1631 Pine St., La Crosse, WI 54601.

¹⁸ Hudson Star-Times 14 July 1893, P.4, col. 2.

¹⁹ Hudson Star-Observer Thursday, November 7, 1935.

1897-1935—Otto W. Arnquist was born in Wermland, Sweden, April 1, 1858, and came to America with his parents in 1868, settling in the town of Star Prairie, Wis. He was educated in the public schools of Star Prairie and New Richmond, and at the normal school at River Falls. His law education was received with the Hon. H. L. Humphrey, at Hudson, with whom he later formed a partnership for the practice of law under the firm name of Humphrey and Arnquist. In May, 1884, he was admitted to the bar, and in November of the same year he was elected clerk of the circuit court. To this office he was re-elected in 1886 and 1888. For one year he served as city attorney of Hudson and was on the board of education seven years, a larger part of the time as president of the board. He was elected county judge of St. Croix county in 1897 and returned to that office without opposition in 1901 and 1905, discharging well the duties of this office. He is recognized as a man of more than ordinary strength of intellect. A prominent attorney who has known Judge Arnquist for many years says: "He is a well educated lawyer and one in whom an appreciation of justice and equity is unusually developed. He is a great reader and has always taken an appreciative interest in all public questions. It is seldom that one finds these characteristics more fully developed or more harmoniously blended than they are in the case of Judge Arnquist." In addition to his legal achievements he has served for many years on the board of directors of the First National bank, of Hudson, and is now vice president of that institution. March 9, 1886, he married Caroline Jacobson, who passed away January 29, 1889. July 11, 1893, he married Hannah T. Michalson, by whom he had eight children, four of whom are living, viz: Otto W., Anna T., Katharine H. and Ruth E. Mr. Arnquist is a Republican in politics. Fraternally, he is a Mason, a member of St. Croix lodge, No. 56; St. Croix chapter, No. 44, and St. Croix Commandary No. 14. ²⁰

Stimulated by the fact that he came from a country where public office was not a universal privilege, his loyalty to public service was one of his strongest traditions. His public record began in 1882, when he became a justice of the peace, and later he studied law in the office of Judge H. L. Humphrey. For a time he was clerk of the circuit court, and then in 1898 he was named county judge, a position he held for 37 years until his passing in 1935."²¹

"His public service record began in 1882 as a justice of the peace in New Richmond. From 1884 to 1890 he was clerk of the circuit court for St. Croix County.

For three years, 1891 to 1894, he studied, "read law" and practiced with the prominent Hudson lawyer and ex-congressman, Judge Herman Humphrey (1830-1902)

In 1898 he became county judge for St. Croix County, a position he held continuously until his death in January 1935.

..... He was once cartooned as a marrying judge, but the fact is that he always kept the ceremonies he performed beautiful, sincere and dignified. His own first marriage was in 1886

..... Arnquist died Jan. 3, 1935, after surgery in Madison. His body was returned to Hudson and lay in state in the old courthouse where he had served 37 years as a time-honored jurist.

²⁰ History of St. Croix Valley, Volumes I and II, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr. And Co., 1909. P.805;

²¹ Hudson's Distinguished Men and Women by Willis H. Miller, Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wis.; November, 1970; page 16.

At his death, Spencer Haven (1868-1938), a prominent attorney and later Wisconsin Attorney General, who lived across the street, wrote, "Judge Arnquist was a self-made man—honest, direct and frank. He administered his office with a single eye to duty." Circuit Judge George Thompson (1875-1947), a personal friend and colleague, described him as "A man of high standards, absolutely honest and dependable, who hated wrong and injustice and all forms of sham and deceit.

"Judge Arnquist was succeeded on the county bench by Thomas E. Garrity (1904-1943), a young Hudson attorney."²²

1935-1943—Thomas E. Garrity

Last Rites for Judge Garrity Held Saturday

Served on County Court Bench For Eight Years; Death Due to Heart Attack

A large attendance marked the funeral services held for the late Judge Thomas E. Garrity, at St. Patrick's Catholic church here at 9 o'clock Saturday morning, May 29, Rev. Father Fagan of River Falls officiating. Interment was in the Catholic cemetery here. Active ball-bearers at the services were Judge Galvin of Menomonie, Ray Thompson, L. C. Harback, Earl R. Ross, Lester Jacobson, Robert G. Varnum, H. M. Olson, and Elbert Webster.

The honorary pall-bearers included representatives of the Knights of Columbus lodges of New Richmond and Hudson, representatives of the St. Croix county board, the elected officials of St. Croix county and the members of the St. Croix-Pierce County Bar association, of which he was president at the time of his death.

Judge Garrity, who was only 39 years old, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home at 627 Vine street, on Wednesday afternoon, May 26. Although he had been under treatment for heart trouble for two years, his death came without warning shortly after two o'clock.

Judge Garrity, who had served as county judge of St. Croix county since January, 1935, was born in Hudson on April 26, 1904, the son of Thomas (Tim) Garrity and the late Mrs. Garrity, pioneer residents of this community. After being graduated from Hudson High school with the class of 1924, he attended law school at Marquette University, Milwaukee, receiving his law degree in 1929.

Upon graduation from the law school, he became associated with the claim department of an insurance company adjusting claims in Milwaukee and Chicago. In 1931 he joined the sales staff of the West Publishing Co., of St. Paul, law book publishers, representing that concern in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Before returning to Hudson, he practiced law at Moorhead, Minn., for two years in the office of his brother, James Garrity, district attorney of Clay county, Minnesota.

After returning to Hudson, he was the Democratic candidate for district attorney in the general election in November, 1934. In January, 1935, Gov. A. G. Schmedeman appointed him county judge to fill the vacancy caused by the sudden death of Judge O. W. Arnquist. In the spring of that year he was elected to the remainder of Judge Arnquist's term. In April, 1937, he was re-elected to his first full term of six years. In the spring election this year he was re-elected without opposition to another term.

²² "Historic Hudson" by Willis H. Miller, Hudson Star-Observer, Hudson, WI; Nov. 14, 1985.

During the eight years he served on the county bench, Judge Garrity took a keen interest in juvenile delinquency. He was recently elected president of the St. Croix-Pierce County Bar association and was a past grand knight of the local council of Knights of Columbus.

Judge Garrity was married to Helen Schlax of Stillwater, on September 4, 1937.

Besides his widow, he is survived by his father, Tim Garrity of Hudson; two brothers, James A. Garrity of Moorhead, Minn., and Leo J. Garrity of Detroit, Mich.; and four sisters, Mrs. Fred Hanna (Ruth) Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Mary Moore, St. Paul; Mrs. Eric Myhre (Victoria), St. Paul; Mrs. Robert Zarske (Naomi), Hudson." ²³

1943-1956—Robert G. Varnum ** Also see Circuit Judges—1957-66.

EXTRA—ROBT. VARNUM IS APPOINTED COUNTY JUDGE

According to a telephone message received from Assemblyman Lloyd Rundell at Madison late Wednesday afternoon, Governor Walter S. Goodland had appointed Robert G. Varnum, Hudson attorney, as county judge of St. Croix county to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Thomas E. Garrity.

The appointment of Varnum to the county court bench had been expected in county legal circles, for his appointment had been strongly recommended by political and civic leaders throughout the county, as well as by members of the county bar association.

Judge Varnum will take the oath of office as soon as he is officially notified of the appointment. ²⁴

1959-1970—Thomas J. O'Brien, "47, St. Croix county judge for the past 14 years, has announced that he will open an office for the general practice of law Jan. 2, in the Professional Building, 619 Second st., in Hudson.

Mr. O'Brien, whose father, the late Thos. J. O'Brien, Sr., was a practicing attorney for many years, did not seek re-election at the last judicial election. Mr. O'Brien's grandfather, the late Con O'Brien, was a former St. Croix county sheriff.

As county judge Mr. O'Brien heard all probate and estate matters in the county, as well as civil, criminal, juvenile, traffic and divorce cases.

Prior to becoming county judge, Mr. O'Brien practiced law in Hudson. Born in Hudson, he is the son of Mrs. Martha O'Brien 607 Third st.

An overseas veteran of World War II, he is married to the former Elizabeth Ann Dodge of River Falls, They have eight children.

During his years on the bench, Judge O'Brien was a member of the Wisconsin State Boards of County, Juvenile and Criminal Court Judges and served on many of the committees of these organizations. He was recently honored as an honorary life member of these organizations." [See attached photograph.] ²⁵ [Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.]

1973-1977—Joseph W. Hughes ** Please see Circuit Judges—1979-

²³ Hudson Star-Observer Thursday, June 3, 1943.

²⁴ Hudson Star-Observer Thursday, June 3, 1943.

²⁵ Hudson Star-Observer 17 December 1970

17 December 1970 + New Richmond News Hudson Star-Observer pg. 1

Thos. J. O'Brien Opens Law Office

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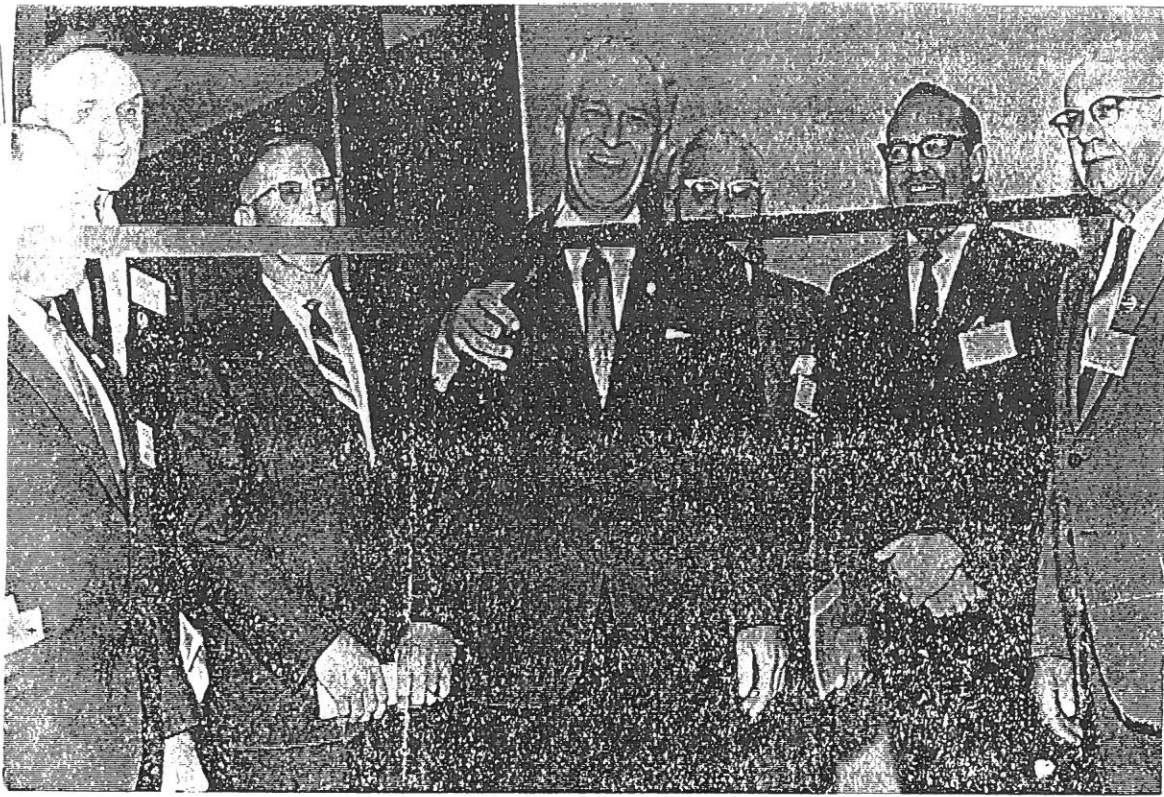
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Thos. J. O'Brien



* * *

GOV WARREN P KNOWLES cut the ribbon at the new county court house during dedication ceremonies Saturday while county officials looked on. Left to right, R J Luckwaldt, county board chairman Frank Van Someren jr, building committee chairman Seymore Dahm, Knowles, circuit judge L P Gherty, county judge Thos J O'Brien, and county treasurer Carl W Dahlin.

WPK Dedicates New Court House, Octagon House

Gov Warren P Knowles made the highlight of his visit to St Croix county Saturday, Oct 1 the dedication of the new county court house a dedication to home control government. He also spoke at a luncheon in his honor, dedicated the county historical museum and the rehabilitation center in North Hudson during his day long visit.

Gov Knowles told the people at the luncheon that he is proud of the steps taken in this state in industrial development, agriculture and what he referred to as agri-business.

He said the state of Wisconsin is the breadbasket of America, producing a large share of the food needed in the nation. He said the farmer is going to get his fair share of the prosperity which exists and only through the efforts of unity, is this possible.

His prime subject of his speech was the warning to the people that the fresh water supply of the state must be preserved if it is to continue to have unrestricted use. Water is the number one nat-

ural resource and it is up to each county to preserve that water.

He has appointed a committee to work with a like committee from Minnesota in controlling the boundary waters. This bi-partisan committee is charged with studying ways to keep the water clean in the St Croix and Mississippi rivers so it can be used for recreation.

The Wisconsin legislature has passed bills which allow the counties to control the use of the waters. This self, home control is where the control should be, said Gov Knowles.

As for industrial development, Gov Knowles said he knows of no other state which has as many community committees working to entice industry and to help their present industry. It is through these committees that more industry has sprung up in the state now than at any other previous period of time.

A note of special interest was the highway acceleration program. Gov Knowles said the interstate hwy between Eau Claire and Tomah will be completed in 1968. He expects the new bridge at Hudson, adjacent to the present bridge, to be completed in 1971.

In a press conference following the luncheon, Gov Knowles said he advocates cutting the importation of cheese and that the federal government should buy local cheese for the school programs.

On vocational education, Knowles said this was an important part of getting new industry to the state. The skilled labor market is what every manufacturer wants and is provided with in Wisconsin.

He was asked to elaborate on comments about the alleged insurance connections he might have, recently referred to by his opponent, Patrick Lucey. Knowles said he felt their was more important issues which can be discussed in this campaign and that he was not in favor of bitter political campaigns.

In his dedicatory address at the dedication of the new county court house Knowles made as his main point the return to home rule. He said he felt it was time to revitalize home rule so that people would not be so apathetic of their government.

He said the apathy shown in recent years of the actions of their government has shown the need for a more close knit government. One which the people can take an interest in. They should seek out and ask their county officials about decisions which affect them.

In dedicating the building to local self-controlled government, Gov Knowles urged people to take

of the new court house and historical building, both being dedicated the same day. He said though the museum was very old it was a step in progress. Progress in preserving the history of St Croix valley. To show future generations the value of progress and create an appreciation of the struggle to make modern life what it is.

Following the ribbon cutting at the museum, Gov Knowles dedicated a rehabilitation center in North Hudson at which several North Hudson people also took part.

* * *

During his stay in St Croix county, Gov Knowles was able to stop at his hometown, Neerich, Richmond, and meet several of his friends and neighbors.

Judges Of The Eighth Judicial Circuit Court

"The eighth circuit, as constituted by chapter 13, laws of 1854, included the counties of Chippewa, Dunn, Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, La Pointe and Douglas. The first election of judge was held on the fourth Monday of September, 1854, and resulted in the choice of S. S. N. Fuller.¹

1854-1860—S. S. N. Fuller "was born at Montrose, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania. He came to Wisconsin and resided for a time at Fond du Lac, where his name is enrolled as an attorney under date of February 3, 1851. His stay there was brief. After his removal to Hudson, St. Croix county, he was elected county judge and later circuit judge, as stated in the preceding paragraph. His service did not cover the full term for which he had been elected. Soon after resigning he removed to Kansas and died about 1876."²

"Mr. Fuller was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, in 1814. He removed to Harford, Pennsylvania, with his parents when six years of age. He was educated at Harford. He studied law and was admitted to practice at Montrose. He practiced at Great Bend, Pennsylvania. He came to Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, in 1844, where he was seven years district attorney. He came to Hudson in 1857, removed to Iowa in 1865 and died at Logan, Harrison county, Iowa, in 1851(isic). He was married to Clarissa A. Day in 1841, who with one son and four daughters, all married and resident in Iowa, survives him. He was district judge some years for the St. Croix Valley district."³

1860—Henry D. Barron (served only a short time; appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Judge Fuller's resignation.) "Henry Danforth Barron was a native of New York, having been born in Wilton, Saratoga county, April 10, 1833. After obtaining such education as the common schools afforded he entered the law school at Ballston Spa, New York, and graduated therefrom. In 1851 he became a resident of Waukesha, Wisconsin, and conducted a newspaper there for some time; the paper was known as the "Waukesha Democrat" until its name was changed to the "Chronotype." In 1853 Mr. Barron was postmaster of Waukesha. In 1857 he removed to Pepin, Pepin county, and practiced law there until July, 1860, when he became, by appointment of Governor Randall, judge of the eighth circuit. His service in that capacity was brief—lasting only till the vacancy he was appointed to fill could be filled by an election. It does not appear that Judge Barron was voted for at the election. In a short time he removed to St. Croix Falls, Polk county. In 1862 he was unanimously elected a member of the assembly from the district comprising the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Barron, Douglas and Polk. He served as a member of the assembly in 1864, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1872 and 1873, and was the presiding officer of that body in 1866 and 1873. In 1868 and 1872 he was chosen one of the presidential electors at large on the republican ticket; from February, 1863, till his election as circuit judge in 1876, he was a regent of the state university. In March, 1869, President Grant nominated Judge Barron for chief justice of the territory of Dakota, which office was declined. In April, 1869, the President appointed him fifth auditor of the treasury, and he discharged the duties of that office till

¹ History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, page 298.

² History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, page 298.

³ Fifty Years in the Northwest by W. H. C. Folsom, published by Pioneer Press Co., 1888, p.166.

January 1, 1872, when he resigned to take a seat in the assembly. In May, 1871, he was appointed by Governor Fairchild Wisconsin's trustee of the Antietam cemetery association. In 1874, 1875 and 1876 Mr. Barron was a member of the state senate, and president pro tem, of that body in 1876. In the spring of that year he was elected judge of the eleventh circuit, receiving 2,673 votes against 1,363 for W. F. Bailey and 960 for Solon H. Clough. He discharged his judicial duties until his last illness. His death occurred before the expiration of his term at St. Croix Falls, January 23, 1882; his remains were interred at Waukesha.

As a legislator Mr. Barron was prominent and influential especially in looking after local interests. His district embraced large areas of territory, which, during the years of his earlier legislative career, was being developed with great rapidity. He served on leading committees and was often heard in debate. ⁴

1860-1866—Lucien P. Wetherby ... "was born at Eagle, Onondaga county, New York, October 12, 1822; was educated in the public schools and an advanced academy at Baldensville, New York; studied law in the office of Angel & Grover in Allegany county; admitted to the bar in 1840; was district attorney and surrogate of that county, in which he began the practice of the law at Angelica; was delegate to one or more national democratic conventions while a resident of his native state; came to Wisconsin in 1856 and located at Hudson, where he resided all his subsequent life. In 1860 he was elected judge of the eighth circuit and served the full time. In 1867 he received 8,236 votes for the office of associate justice of the supreme court against 46,895 for Orsamus Cole. It is understood that Mr. Wetherby supported Judge Cole at that election. At a later period he served as district attorney of St. Croix county. He was also at one time the democratic candidate for attorney general. Judge Wetherby died December 11, 1889.

H. A. Taylor, who knew the subject of this sketch well, has written of him thus: "Judge Wetherby, as we always called him, and there are few who knew him by any other name, was not more highly respected nor fondly loved than many others who have gone before him. He lived a long life and in many respects a useful one. He made friends and deserved them. He filled important positions and filled them well. He occupied a valued place in the thoughts and hearts of those who knew him. He was a figure in the community where he lived. Men rejoiced in his presence. He was one to be consulted. His good sense was proverbial. There was rare wisdom and accuracy in his judgment. He was a level-headed man. He was kindly, charitable, considerate. He loved his friends, and was indifferent, rather than aggressive, toward his enemies. He was a staunch, responsible and respected citizen. He had faults, and who has not? Weaknesses he had, but who among us is always strong? There was no cant or hypocrisy or pretense about him. He was, in fact, just what he seemed to be. He walked in the light and if he stumbled he did not attempt to conceal it. His was a frank, sturdy, honest character. You always knew where to find him. His integrity was above suspicion. In business he was sagacious, but always reliable, and in social life he was a most entertaining companion.

Judge Wetherby was a lawyer by both instinct and education. He was a conspicuous figure at the bar and on the bench. He was thoroughly informed in the fundamental principles of law, and well versed in the

⁴ History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, page 298 and 446-7.

statues. His comprehension of legal propositions, the accuracy of his discrimination and his ability to apply principles to stated cases were remarkable. He gave dignity to his profession by his ability, knowledge and fairness. He despised the tricks of the pettifogger and plead for law and justice.

"He was an honest lawyer; judges, juries and clients believed in his honesty and respected his opinions. He knew law by intuition, and if he didn't know what it was he knew what it ought to be, and he practiced it skillfully and honorably.

"For many years Judge Wetherby has been prominent in the politics of the state. He was a democrat through and through. Democracy was almost a religion to him. He believed in it with all his heart. Strongly partisan, anxious for party victories, he was honorable in his methods and quietly accepted results.

"In the social and business life of the community, in his profession and in political circles the death of Judge Wetherby will long be felt and mourned.⁵ [Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.]

1866-1877—Herman L. Humphrey "was born at Candor, Tioga county, New York, March 14, 1830; his education, except for one year in the Cortland academy, was limited to that afforded by the public schools; at the age of sixteen he engaged as a merchant's clerk at Ithaca, New York, and so continued for several years; later he read law in that city and was admitted to the bar in July 1854. In January, 1855, he located at Hudson, Wisconsin, and began the practice of the law. Soon afterward he was appointed district attorney to fill a vacancy; in 1860 he became county judge by appointment and in 1861 was elected to that office for a full term, but resigned it in February, 1862, having been elected state senator the preceding November; his service in the senate continued during the important sessions of 1862 and 1863, and was active and efficient. In 1865 he was mayor of Hudson and in April, 1866, was elected judge of the eight circuit, and re-elected in 1872. That office was resigned in March, 1877, when Judge Humphrey's term as a member of Congress began, he having been elected as the republican candidate in November, 1876; he was twice re-elected, having served from 1877 to 1883. On completing his congressional service, Judge Humphrey resumed the practice of law at Hudson. In 1887 he served as a member of the assembly.

It may well be said that Judge Humphrey as lawyer, legislator, judge and citizen has performed well his part; that he has merited the confidence reposed in him by the bar and people, and is fully entitled by reason of his attainments, character and public service to the large measure of respect and veneration the people feel for him.⁶

⁵ History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, pages 298-300.

⁶ History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, page 300-1.



André Hampden

"The first Hudson resident to become a United States Congressman was Herman L. Humphrey. Born in New York State in 1830, he came to Hudson in 1855, and opened his law office. During his long career he was mayor of the city, district attorney, county judge, circuit judge and in 1876 and again in 1880 was elected member of the congress of the United States from this district. Judge Humphrey died in Hudson on June 10, 1902."⁷

".....Mr. Humphrey has been twice married. In June, 1855, he was married to Jennie A. Cross, in Dixon, Illinois. Mrs. Humphrey died in January, 1880, leaving two sons, Herman L., Jr., and William H., and three daughters, Fanny S., Mary A., and Grace J. Mr. Humphrey was married to Mrs. Elvira Dove, at Oswego, New York, October 1881." ⁸ [Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.]

1877-1896—Egbert B. Bundy "was born at Windsor, New York, February 8, 1833. He received his general education at the academy there and his legal education in law offices at Windsor and Depoint, in his native state. He became a member of the bar at Cortland, New York, in January, 1856. On coming to Wisconsin he began the practice of his profession at Dunnville, then the county seat of Dunn county, thereafter removing to Menomonie, where he now resides, practicing his profession in partnership with his son, R. E. Bundy. He has served as county judge, and April 1877, was elected judge of the eighth circuit, then composed of the counties of Eau Claire, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce and St. Croix, over Horace E. Houghton, to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Humphrey, who had resigned to go to Congress. In April, 1878, he was re-elected, and over Henry Cousins. At the expiration of this term he was again re-elected, and over W. F. Bailey. At the expiration of this term he was still again re-elected, and over R. H. Start. At the expiration of this term he was, however, defeated by E. W. Helms, the republican nominee. The circuit was overwhelmingly republican; at this time party feeling was running high, Mr. Helms was unexceptionable as a candidate, which, added to the fact that Judge Bundy's friends were oversanguine because of his former many successful campaigns, accounts for his defeat, which was by a majority almost nominal.

As a lawyer Judge Bundy is highly valued. Making no claims to oratorical gifts, he is nevertheless forcible, impressive, strong as an advocate. Never "ingenious" in discussing legal propositions to the court, he goes straight to the core of the question, and never burdens or blurs a brief with cases not in point. In the counsel room he is eminently frank, practical, able, safe.

It has been, however, on the bench that Judge Bundy has done the major part of his life work. Here he "served his day and generation" for substantially twenty years. In some minor particulars the judge fell below the ideal. He sometimes lacked in patience; would sometimes arrive somewhat prematurely at a conclusion; would sometimes permit a prejudice against a case, though never against a person, so far as it affected proceedings in court; was not a first-class listener. In the essential qualities of a judge, however, he rose to the ideal. His practical, hard common sense was the first thing that impressed a stranger that sat in his court. He was fearless. And not only was he absolutely just, but seemed above temptation

⁷ Distinguished Hudson Men and Women by W.H. Miller, BA, and The History Of The Public School System Of Hudson by Edward P. Rock, Ph.B., M.E., Star-Observer Print, Hudson, Wisconsin, June 1949, page 3.

⁸ Fifty Years in the Northwest by W. H. C. Folsom, published by Pioneer Press Co., 1888, pp.171-172.

to be otherwise. A prominent member of his circuit was once comparing Judge Bundy with a certain other judge, also noted for probity, and made this remark: "Judge ----- is honest, Judge Bundy is d-----d honest. Power could not intimidate, wealth could not tempt him. The weak and humble were his wards."

In politics Judge Bundy is a democrat. Being somewhat extreme in partisan feeling and outspoken in character, this was taken advantage of by his opponents, and, in a measure, handicapped him in his many campaigns for election, as his circuit was overwhelmingly republican. His repeated elections by very large majorities, in face of this fact, all the more emphasize his popularity based upon personal worth.

He has always been known as a man of simple, democratic and domestic tastes and habits, direct and candid in his dealings with his fellows, sincere in his principles and intense in his convictions.⁹ [Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.]

1896-1914—Eugene W. Helms "Mr. Helms, the present judge of the eighth circuit, was born April 2, 1859, at Salem, Kenosha county, Wisconsin. Until he attained the age of eighteen he lived on a farm and took part in the duties connected with farm life, dividing his time between them and attendance on the common schools. After one year at the Oshkosh normal school Mr. Helms taught at intervals. Subsequently he attended the state university for two years as a student in the literary department, and entered the college of law, from which he was graduated in 1884.

The next four years he practiced his profession at Madison. In 1888 he removed to Hudson and formed a partnership with H. C. Baker, which continued until after his election to the circuit judgeship. He served two terms as district attorney of St. Croix county. In the spring of 1896 he was elected judge of the eighth circuit, and in January, 1897, entered upon the discharge of his duties.

Though he became judge at a comparatively early age, Mr. Helms had much of the training and experience which constitute the best preparation for the discharge of judicial duties. His character and temper of mind are such as are desirable in a judge. His experience at the bar is much less limited in extent than the length of time he has practiced indicates. The success which he has achieved on the bench justifies the expectation of the bar of the eighth circuit that longer experience in that position will develop the model judge.¹⁰

".....October 18, 1888, Mr. Helms married Mary Butler, who was born in Cambridge, Wis. They have one daughter, Frances M., born July 13, 1889. One of the leading citizens of Hudson, who has known the judge intimately for more than twenty years, says: "As a lawyer Judge Helms while at the bar was able, painstaking and conscientious in his work. He enjoyed the respect and esteem not only of the members of the bar, but of the entire community. As a judge he possesses in an unusual degree that ability to hold an even balance in the discharge of the duties of his high office, so rare and yet so essential to the proper administration of justice. He has

⁹History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, page 301-2.

¹⁰ History of the Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H.C. Cooper, Jr., and Co.; 1898. Chapter XXIII, page 302-3.

History of The Bench and Bar of Wisconsin prepared under the direction of John R. Berryman, Vol. II, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr., and Co., 1898. Pages 302-3.

been twice re-elected judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Wisconsin with no opposing candidate in the field. Aside from his legal acquirements, Judge Helms is a man of scholarly attainments, an industrious and critical reader of the best authors. Although of a religious turn of mind, he is liberal and charitable toward all, conceding to others the right he claims for himself of entire freedom of choice in matters of religious belief."¹¹

1914-1947—George Thompson, the popular district attorney, residing at Ellsworth, Pierce county, Wis., is a native of this state, born in Greene county, October 19, 1875. After attending the common schools of his native county he was graduated from the Stoughton Academy, and afterwards entered the State University at Madison. At the university he first completed a course in the college of letters and science, and was graduated therefrom with special honors in 1899. He then entered the University Law School from which he was graduated in 1901. Thus doubly equipped with a classical and legal education he came directly to Ellsworth and started the practice of his profession. His talents attracted immediate attention, and in the fall of 1902 he was elected district attorney, an office which he still continues to hold. In politics Mr. Thompson is a Republican. At the bar, he is eloquent and convincing, and as a counselor his advice is always sound and good. Being still a young man he has yet many honors ahead of him. Mr. Thompson was married on December 27, 1905, to Hilda Grinde, daughter of the late attorney Lars Grinde, of the firm of Grinde & Olin, of Madison, Wis. Mrs. Thompson is a graduate of the Madison high school, class of 1900, and of the State University, class of 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have established at Ellsworth one of the most beautiful homes in Pierce county. Mr. Thompson has a large and lucrative practice. He has at his offices one of the largest law libraries in the Northwest, and he has also an exceptionally large literary library at his home.

Mr. Thompson comes of Norwegian ancestry. His parents, Knut and Bergit Thompson, were natives of Norway and immigrated to the United States in the early days, locating at Green county, Wisconsin, where the former carried on general farming until his death, in 1899. The mother is still living in Green county." [See photograph.]¹²

".....hand-crafted, silk flags of the Allied Nations (later United Nations), designed and sewed by Hilda (Grinde) Thompson (1882-1981) of Hudson, are on exhibit at the Phipps Center Gallery.

Of the 48 flags originally made by Mrs. Thompson, 43 of the flags came to the St. Croix County Historical Society through bequest, and the other five flags have been retained by the Thompson family.

.....Hilda Grinde Thompson was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, the daughter of a prominent Norwegian-American lawyer, Lars Grinde. At the University of Wisconsin in Madison, she received a degree in history and English,

In 1905, in Madison, Hilda Grinde was married to a promising young attorney, George Thompson. They moved to Ellsworth, where her husband started his law practice and was elected district attorney of Pierce County.

With the death of Judge Eugene W. Helms (1858-1916), George Thompson was appointed judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, a position he held for 32 years until his death in 1947.

..... All her life, Hilda Thompson was surrounded and associated

¹¹ History of St. Croix Valley, volumes I and II, Chicago: . C Cooper, Jr. and Co., 1909. Pps. 825-6

¹² History of St. Croix Valley, volumes I and II, Chicago: H. C. Cooper, Jr. and Co., 1909. Page 538

with the law. Her father and stepfather (John Ollis) were prominent Dane County lawyers; her husband was circuit judge; her son, an attorney general and law professor; and her three grandchildren, Diane, George III and David, are all attorneys.

..... Judge Thompson, a capable and conscientious judge, was a large man, dignified and imposing, and was considered a "tough judge" when it came to lawbreakers. He seldom developed any close personal relationships and was generally unapproachable because of his stern and formidable manner.

He took his position as judge seriously—in fact, a little too much so. He even resigned from his civic and fraternal organizations so as to obtain greater objectivity on the bench. There were those who called him a recluse.

With all his aloofness, he did have a sense of humor and enjoyed, on occasion, a good, hearty laugh." ¹³ (Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.)

George Grinde Thompson—"Growing up in Hudson, it was always taken for granted that George Grinde Thompson (1918-1982) would follow his father's footsteps and become a lawyer.

He was the only child of George Thompson (1875-1947), who served as circuit judge in the 8th District for more than 32 years. His mother, Hilda Grinde Thompson (1882-1981), was brought up in an atmosphere of the law, as her father and her stepfather were both prominent attorneys in Dane County. She was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, a widely known speaker and a member of the Wisconsin Human Rights Commission. The Thompson home in Hudson was at 1302 Fourth St. from 1919 to 1964.

George Grinde Thompson spent his youth in this community and graduated from Hudson High School in 1936. He spent two years at River Falls State Teachers College, transferred to St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., where he received his degree in 1940 and then went to the University of Wisconsin for a master's degree in 1941.

During World War II he served in the Army, after which he completed his law education at University of Wisconsin.

He and Marion Gunderson, daughter of a Madison attorney, were married in 1942.

Following the family tradition, George, whom we always called "Junior," became a lawyer and was district attorney of La Crosse County from 1955 to 1961.

From 1963 to 1965 he served as attorney general of Wisconsin under Gov. John W. Reynolds.

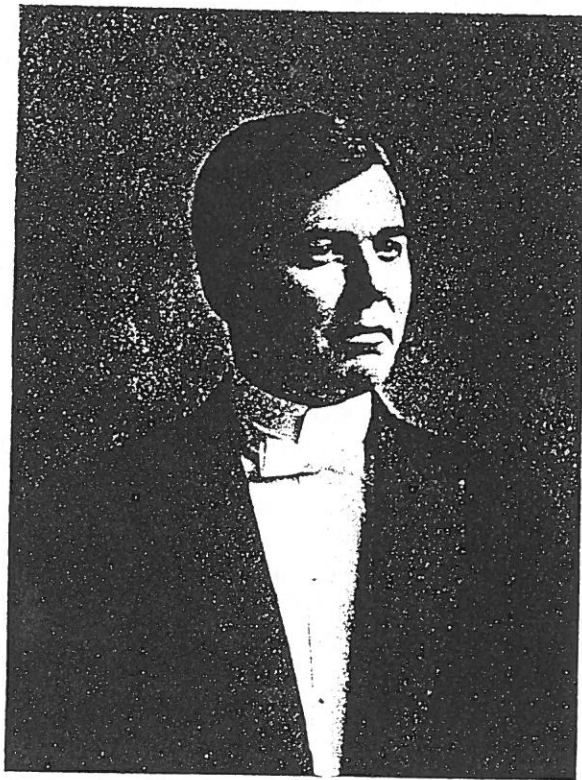
Later in life, Thompson had a distinguished career as a law professor in colleges in both Ohio and Massachusetts. A further adornment to his career came with his Fullbright -Hayes award by the Department of State in 1975-76 when he taught law at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik.

It is obvious that he indoctrinated well the love of the law to his children. His two sons and his daughter are prominent, practicing attorneys.¹⁴

¹³ "Historic Hudson" by Willis H. Miller, Hudson Star-Observer, 16 July 1987.

¹⁴ Hudson Sketches—A Series of Stories From Hudson's Colorful Past by Willis H. Miller, Nov. 1995; Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wis. Pages 5 and 6.

History of the St. Croix Valley p. 538 a.



GEO. THOMPSON

1947-1957—Kenneth Sidney White "

To the newspapers of the Eighth Judicial Circuit:

I have been appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy as Judge of the Eighth Judicial circuit created by the death of Hon. George Thompson, Hudson, Wisconsin.

I thought that you might be interested in my background, so I am furnishing you with the following resume:

BIRTH AND PARENTAGE: I was born in the City of River Falls, Pierce County, Wisconsin, on January 17, 1897. My father was Ferris M. White, a well-known attorney, who served for many years as a member of the State Board of Bar Examiners. He died in 1940. My mother was Mary E. Foster. She died in 1934. Her father, Joel Foster^(*), was the first white settler at the present site of the City of River Falls. He came to Wisconsin at the conclusion of the Mexican War in which he had served with an Illinois Regiment. [* Joel Foster served as St. Croix county judge from 1850-1852.]

EDUCATION: I attended primary, intermediate and high school at River Falls, and graduated from High School in 1914. I attended the River Falls State Teachers College for two years, and enrolled in the Law School of the University of Minnesota in the fall of 1916. My legal education was interrupted by service in World War I, and at the conclusion of the war I resumed my studies at the University of Wisconsin, from which I graduated in 1921.

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD: I served three and a half years as District Attorney of Pierce County, and resigned from that office on account of the illness of my father, with whom I was in partnership at the time. I served three years as a member of the County Board of Pierce County, and four years as a member of the Wisconsin State Senate. I was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 1936, and a Presidential Elector in 1944. In 1946 I was an unsuccessful candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor.

MILITARY SERVICE: I served as an enlisted man in World War I for thirteen months, of which approximately seven months were spent overseas. I joined the Wisconsin National Guard when it was reorganized in 1920, and served continuously with the Guard until it was called into the Federal Service in October, 1940. While in the Federal Service during World War II, I suffered a fracture of my left ankle, which partially disabled me, and I was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel on July 27, 1944.

FAMILY: I was married in 1924 to Miss Helen Kyle of Menomonie, Wisconsin. We have three sons, John, Charles and Roger. John served with the U. S. Navy during World War II. Our home is at 518 West Walnut Street, River Falls, Wisconsin.

CHURCH AND LODGE AFFILIATIONS: I am a member of: The Episcopal Church – The American Legion – The Veterans of Foreign Wars – The Elks Lodge – The Moose Lodge.

I am enclosing a mat containing a picture of myself in case you desire it for your files.

Your very truly,
Kenneth S. White¹⁵

¹⁵ Press release archived at Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin—River Falls.

"(1916) Kenneth S. White died at his River Falls home Dec. 10. White was one of the originators of the UW-River Falls Homecoming. Following his graduation from the UW-Madison College of Law, he returned to River Falls and began a partnership with his father that lasted until 1940. He was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 1940, and served one term before the River Falls unit of the National Guard, in which he served as captain, was called into Federal Service. Upon his return to River Falls, he formed a partnership with Attorney John W. Davidson, which continued until he was appointed Circuit Judge in 1947. He retired from the bench in 1957 to practice law with his son, Charles E. White." ¹⁶ [Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.]

1957-1966—Robert G. Varnum "Born in Menomonie on Jan. 1, 1907, Robert George Varnum came to Hudson with his parents as an infant and remained here the rest of his life. The family home was at 608 Locust St.

..... In 1923 he graduated from Hudson High School, and then from Hamline University in St. Paul in 1927. He received his law degree in 1930 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, was admitted to the bar and immediately began his law practice in Hudson with his father. He served for a time as Hudson city attorney, was a member of the school board and was divorce counsel for St. Croix County.

He practiced law in Hudson until 1943 when he was appointed St. Croix County Judge to succeed Thomas E. Garrity. He was re-elected county judge three subsequent terms.

When Kenneth S. White (1897-1976) announced he would not seek re-election in 1956, Bob Varnum became a candidate for circuit court judge. He campaigned vigorously and was successful in defeating William E. McEwen of River Falls. He took office Jan. 1, 1957, and in 1962 was re-elected for a six-year term.

From the time he was 21 years old he was active in the Masonic order. He was a 32nd degree Mason and was worshipful master of Hudson's St. Croix Lodge F & AM No.56. His service to the Masonic order was climaxed when he was elected Grand Master of Wisconsin in 1951, the youngest Grand Master in the United States.

His marriage to Marion Lucille Kneen (1907-1964) took place June 6, 1934, in the Methodist Church in Hudson on a hot, sweltering evening. Officiating at the service was the bride's father, the Rev. J. T. Kneen (1877-1943), a former pastor of the church.

This was the summer of the searing, record-breaking heat, and one incident took place at the wedding that was a topic of conversation for years to come. Prior to the service the best man, Roger Defenbaugh, later a prominent Twin City artist, placed a wobbly stack of hymnals under the pillow where the bride was to kneel during the ceremony. At a crucial point in the rites, the pillow and hymnals abruptly shifted and tipped over, carrying the bride with it. Everyone present, including a very alarmed minister/father, thought the bride had fainted from the heat! That, fortunately, was not the case. The improvised kneeling bench was hastily repaired and the ceremony proceeded.

Judge Varnum's wonderful sense of humor was one of his trademarks, and he always enjoyed hearing or telling a good story. He never let the image of a sanctimonious judge interfere with his genuine feeling of being able to see the lighter side of life.

¹⁶ Falcon Features, University of Wisconsin—River Falls newsletter; Fall 1976.

H50 17 APR 1980

Lawrence Gherty, Distinguished Jurist, Dies of Heart Attack

Lawrence P. Gherty, 67, prominent Hudson attorney, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home early Tuesday, April 8.

Services were at 10 am Friday, April 11, at St. Patrick's Catholic church.

The mass was concelebrated by Rev. Francis Heindl of La Crosse; Rt. Rev. Austin Corrigan of Turtle Lake; Rev. Robert O'Connell, Hudson; Rev. Thomas Keilen, Hudson; Rev. John Slowey, Ladysmith; Rev. Joseph Canfield, Land O'Lakes; Rev. James Hoffman, Superior; Rev. Daniel Dahlberg, New Richmond; Rev. Dennis Meulemans, River Falls; Rev. Paschal Botz, O.S.B. and Rev. Otto Weber, O.S.B. of St. John's Abbey at Collegeville, Minn.

Active pallbearers were Stephen J. Dunlap, Sherman Stromen, John Gherty, John V. Norton, Fred Tuckner and Patrick O'Keefe.

Honorary pallbearers were past state deputies of the Knights of Columbus Edward J. Quillin of La Crosse, John A. Koch of Prairie du Sac, Robert J. Bodden of Platteville, Lee Everts of Appleton, Hon. James H. Levi of Stevens Point, James A. McCann of Milwaukee, Eugene Sonneleitner of Oshkosh, Hon. Patrick W. Donlin of Rothschild and present state deputy John Hanlon of Tigerton, and members of St. Croix Valley Bar association. The fourth degree honor guard was led by vice-supreme master Hon. James H. Levi. The honor guard at the visitation was from the Ravoux Assembly in St. Paul.

St. Patrick's Hope choir sang with Richard N. Larsen as soloist. Gerald R. Wallace and Albert Dabruzzi served as ushers. Interment was in St. Patrick's cemetery.

Lawrence Patrick Gherty was born Feb. 13, 1913 in Emerald, to John and Sabina (Gerraghty) Gherty. He was the youngest of four boys. In 1915 the family moved to Erin Prairie, St. Croix county.

Gherty was graduated from New Richmond High school in 1936. He attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and obtained a pre-law degree from that institution in 1938. He obtained his law degree from St. Paul College of Law in 1942.

After graduation he accepted an appointment to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and he served as a special agent in



Lawrence P. Gherty

Throughout his career, Gherty held various public offices including St. Croix county district attorney 1952-56, city attorney for River Falls from 1955-57, public administrator for St. Croix county, 1957-1966, Circuit Judge 8th judicial circuit 1966-68.

He was a member of the St. Croix Valley Bar association, State Bar of Wisconsin, American Bar association, Wisconsin Trial Lawyers association, and Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

He was also active in the Knights of Columbus. He held various district and state offices within that organization including the offices of district deputy and state advocate. He held the highest state office of

state deputy from 1964-66. He was appointed master of the fourth degree of the Western District of Wisconsin in 1978.

Most recently he was to receive the honor of membership in Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. He was to be installed in that Order April 13 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He is survived by his wife, Geraldine and seven children: Barbara (Mrs. Maurice) Moore of Camp Springs, Maryland; Joan (Mrs. Douglas) Henningsen of Lakeland; Lawrence and Terrence of Hudson; Mark of Vermillion, South Dakota; Mary of New York City; and Maureen of Milwaukee. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and one brother, Leo of St. Paul.

The
St. Croix Valley Bar Association
Honors
HONORABLE JOHN G. BARTHOLOMEW



CELEBRATION OF RETIREMENT

May 13, 1989

The Varnums had two daughters, Eleanor (Mrs. Donald J. Tulgren) of Hudson and Catherine (Mrs. Floyd K. Johnson) of Dresser.

At the age of 59, in 1966, Robert Varnum died. His successor on the circuit bench was Lawrence P. Cherty (1913-1980), who was appointed by then-governor Warren P. Knowles.¹⁷ [See photograph.]

1966-1968—Lawrence P. Cherty "Circuit Judge Lawrence P. Cherty of Hudson has announced that he will seek election for judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, made up of St. Croix, Pierce, Pepin, Dunn and Buffalo counties. Cherty was appointed to the post last August to complete the term of the late Robert G. Varnum.

Cherty, a 1942 graduate of the William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, served five years as an FBI agent and began practicing law in Hudson in 1947. He was St. Croix County district attorney from 1950 to 1954. He is the father of seven children."¹⁸ [Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.]

Lawrence Cherty, Distinguished Jurist, Dies of Heart Attack

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The mass was concelebrated by Rev. Francis Heindl of La Crosse; Rt. Rev. Austin Corrigan of Turtle Lake; Rev. Robert O'Connell, Hudson; Rev. Thomas Keilen, Hudson; Rev. John Slowey, Ladysmith; Rev. Joseph Canfield, Land O'Lakes; Rev. James Hoffman, Superior; Rev. Daniel Dahlberg, New Richmond; Rev. Dennis Meulemans, River Falls; Rev. Paschal Botz, O.S.B. and Rev. Otto Weber, O.S.B. of St. John's Abbey at Collegeville, Minn.

Active pallbearers were Stephen J. Dunlap, Sherman Stromen, John Cherty, John V. Norton, Fred Tuckner and Patrick O'Keefe.

Honorary pallbearers were past state deputies of the Knights of Columbus Edward J. Quillin of La Crosse, John A. Koch of Prairie du Sac, Robert J. Bodden of Platteville, Lee Everts of Appleton, Hon. James H. Levi of Stevens Point, James A. McCann of Milwaukee, Eugene Sonnleitner of Oshkosh, Hon. Patrick W. Donlin, of Rosthschild and present state deputy John Hanlon of Tigerton, and members of St. Croix Valley Bar association. The fourth degree honor guard was led by vice-supreme master Hon. James H. Levi. The honor guard at the visitation was from the Ravoux Assembly in St. Paul.

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Cherty was graduated from New Richmond High school in 1936. He attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and obtained a pre-law degree from that institution in 1938. He obtained his law degree from St. Paul College of Law in 1942.

After graduation he accepted an appointment to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and he served as a special agent in Birmingham, Alabama, New York City, Chicago, Illinois and St. Paul offices of the FBI.

Mr. Cherty was married to Geraldine Scales of St. Paul June 27, 1940.

¹⁷ Hudson Sketches—A Series of Stories From Hudson's Colorful Past by Willis H. Miller, Nov. 1995; Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wis. Pages 29 and 30.

¹⁸ Wisconsin State Falcon Features, Vol. 16, March, 1967; No. 1.

He and his family moved to Hudson in 1946.

He began to practice law in Hudson Jan. 1, 1947 and was actively engaged in the practice of law until the time of his death.

He was a partner in the firm of Gherty, Gherty & Dunlap.

Throughout his career, Gherty held various public offices including St. Croix county district attorney 1952 - 56, city attorney for River Falls from 1955 - 57, public administrator for St. Croix county, 1957 - 1966, Circuit Judge 8th judicial circuit 1966 - 68.

He was a member of the St. Croix Valley Bar association, State Bar of Wisconsin, American Bar association, Wisconsin Trial Lawyers association, and Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

He was also active in the Knights of Columbus. He held various district and state offices within that organization including the offices of district deputy and state advocate. He held the highest state office of state deputy from 1964-66. He was appointed master of the fourth degree of the Western District of Wisconsin in 1978.

Most recently he was to receive the honor of membership in Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. He was to be installed in that Order April 13 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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1968-1990—John C. Bartholomew was born in Lodi, Wisconsin, on 28 July 1919. He graduated from Lodi High School in 1937, continued his education at the University of Wisconsin, and graduated from there with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1942. From 1942 until 1945, he served with the United States Army. Bartholomew received a Doctorate of Law degree in 1947 from the University of Marquette.

Judge Bartholomew had a private law practice in Durand, Wisconsin, from 1947 to 1963; served as District Attorney for Pepin County, Wisconsin, 1948-1956; was City Attorney for Durand, Wisconsin, 1950-1956; and, from 1963-1968, he was County Judge of Pepin County, Wisconsin.

In 1968, Bartholomew became Circuit Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit that consisted of the counties of St. Croix, Pierce, Dunn, Pepin, and Buffalo. He served in this capacity until 1979 when he won the title of Circuit Judge for St. Croix county, Wisconsin, Branch 1. Judge Bartholomew held this position until his retirement on 13 May 1989. He currently serves as a Reserve Judge for the state of Wisconsin but intends to retire from that judgeship in 1998.

Judge Bartholomew has been a member of the Wisconsin Criminal Jury Instructions Committee from 1976 until the present. He is a graduate of the Juvenile Judge's Institute, University of Minnesota; a graduate of numerous courses from National Judicial College and served as a faculty advisor and discussion leader.

Bartholomew is married and has four children. Two sons and a daughter-in-law work as attorneys. [Large photograph hanging on wall in Courtroom #3.]

1979-1983--Joseph W. Hughes, Branch 2

"Joseph William Hughes, 73, a retired St. Croix County judge, of New Richmond, died Saturday, Dec. 28, 1991, at Holy Family Hospital in New

¹⁹ Hudson Star-Observer 17 April 1980

Richmond.

He was born April 9, 1918, in Ashland, the son of James E. and Lillian (Norman) Hughes.

He graduated from New Richmond High School in 1935, after which he attended St. John's University and the University of Wisconsin.

He served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1941 to 1948, achieving the rank of master sergeant. During World War II he served in the South Pacific Theater of War.

On Aug. 7, 1948, he was married to Elizabeth Jane "Betty" St. Ledger at Holy Family Church in Cylon.

He attended William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, completing his studies in 1958 and was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in August of that year.

He practiced law in New Richmond in partnership with his parents, in the firm of Hughes and Hughes. He was city attorney for New Richmond from 1964-1969 and for the village of Roberts from 1962 to 1970.

He was elected St. Croix County judge in 1970 and re-elected in 1976. He became circuit judge (Branch III), St. Croix County, in August 1978 and held that post until his retirement in July 1983.

He was a member and president of the board of Carleton Friday Memorial Library in New Richmond and a member of the building committee of Nursing Home Inc. (Maple Manor). He was active in Immaculate Conception Church, American Legion Post 80 and VFW Post 10818, the Knights of Columbus and the Senior Committee of Community Education.

Surviving are his wife, Betty; five children, Mary Seger (Mrs. Tony) of Indianapolis, Ind, JoAnn Hughes of Louisville, Ky., Kathryn McKenzie of Montgomery, Minn., James Hughes of Marblemount, Wash., and Sean Hughes of Minneapolis; a sister, Anne Hughes of Chicago; and four grand-children.

Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 31 at Immaculate Conception Church, with the Rev. Charles Murphy officiating. Grandchildren served as lectors and gift-bearers at the service.

Pallbearers were nieces and nephews, Elizabeth Lutz, Ann (Baillargeon) Eklund, Joseph Rivard, Jerome Schwan, Michael Derosier and John St. Ledger.

Interment was in the church cemetery, where an honor guard was provided by the New Richmond VFW and American Legion." ²⁰

Joseph W. Hughes Sworn in as St. Croix County Judge.

Joseph W. Hughes, of New Richmond, became a St. Croix county judge Jan. 4.

The swearing-in ceremonies were held in the St. Croix county court chambers in Hudson before an assemblage of members of the bar from St. Croix and Pierce counties, as well as friends, neighbors and members of Judge Hughes' family.

Circuit Judge John G. Bartholomew administered the oath of office. Escorting the new judge to the bar to be sworn in was Pierce Judge William E. McEwen, River Falls; and John W. Fetzner, Hudson; representing the St. Croix Valley Bar association.

A Boy Scout color guard, composed of members from troops, 140, 117 and 156 led the procession into the court chambers.

In his remarks, Judge Bartholomew reminded Judge Hughes to "Be yourself" and administer justice to all.

In the court chambers for the brief ceremony was Judge Hughes' family, his

²⁰ Hudson Star-Observer 16 January 1992



TAKING THE OATH of office as county judge of St. Croix county is Joseph W. Hughes (center), who was sworn in at ceremonies Monday af-

ternoon. Administering the oath is circuit judge John G. Bartholomew (left), as Pierce county judge William E. McEwen looks on. Staff Photo.



wife and their five children, Sean, 6, James, 10, Kathy, 14, JoAnn, 15, and Mary Beth, 18.

The ceremonies closed with a benediction given by the Rev. Fr. Vincent P. Walkowski, pastor of the church of the Immaculate Conception in New Richmond.

Also attending was Judge Hughes' 83-year old father, James Hughes, of New Richmond, who has been practicing attorney for more than 50 years in St. Croix county. The new judge's mother, the late Lillian N. Hughes, who died late in 1970, was also an attorney.

After the formal ceremonies, a reception and buffet was served to guests and dignitaries at the JR Ranch.

Judge Hughes was elected to the post of county judge in April 1970, after defeating two opponents, Richard Rivard and Alex Kosa, for the \$18,500 a year position.

Judge Thomas J. O'Brien, Hudson, who had held the post since 1957, was not a candidate for re-election. O'Brien has opened a private law practice in Hudson.

Hughes has practiced law at New Richmond since his admission to practice of law in August, 1958.

Hughes has resided in New Richmond all of his lifetime, except for his military service from 1941 through 1948, when he served in the United States Marine Corps. He served five years overseas duty, the major portion of which was served in the South Pacific and the Orient, and held the rank of master sergeant when discharged.

He received his legal education at the St. Paul College of Law, now the William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, and pre-law at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn., and the University of Wisconsin.

Hughes is a member of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association, having served both as president and secretary-treasurer. He is also a member of the Wisconsin Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers, the American Trial Lawyers Association.

He served as city attorney for New Richmond from April of 1964 through December of 1969, and as village attorney for the village of Roberts from 1962 through the present time. He has held the office of family court commissioner for St. Croix county for two years, and was a member of the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors, representing District No. 6. ²¹

1985-1990—Phil Todryk Branch 2—No reply to request for information. If data is received, it will be forwarded.

1991- --E. J. Lundell Branch 1—No reply to request for information. If data is received, it will be forwarded.

1989-- --C. A. Richards Branch 2, is the son of Judge George and Helen Richards. He was born in Rhinelander, WI, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school in 1962. Judge Richards had a private law practice until 1989 when he was first elected to serve as St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge. He was elected to another six year term in 1995. Judge Richards is a family oriented man with five grown children who live in various areas of our country. All of the children are college graduates.

Asked about his observations, Judge Richards mentioned that St. Croix County has undergone large increases in population during his years on the bench. Three circuit court judges currently serve the St. Croix County area. Judge Richards also stated that he sees people who are more transient or mobile. Where he once saw the second or third-generation-

²¹ New Richmond News 14 January 1971

members of families from St. Croix County, he now sees people who have lived in many other states as well as many foreign countries.

1994-- Scott R. Needham Branch 3, of New Richmond, Wisconsin.

Biographical profile:

Date of birth: May 22, 1953, Marshfield, WI.

Parents: Richard and Dene Needham, Loyal, WI

Married 1978 to Jean M. (McPherson) Needham, Administrator: Holy Family Hospital, Inc.

Children: Megan born 1981; Benjamin born 1983; Joseph born 1987.

Education: Loyal High School—1971; Carthage College—B.A.—Summa Cum Laude—1975; Univ. of Wisconsin Law School—J.D.—Cum Laude—1978.

Professional: Reinstra, Van Dyk & Needham, S.C.—1978 to 1994, New Richmond, Wisconsin, General Practice of Law.

Elected: 1994—St. Croix County Circuit Judge—Branch III.

Judicial Education Committee: 1996—Present.

Civic/Other: Member of First Lutheran Church—New Richmond; New Richmond School Board: 1985-94 (President 1988-94); New Richmond United Way Board of Directors: 1986-92; New Richmond fine Arts Board: 1982-85; St. Croix County Court Commissioner: 1988-94; Wisconsin Bar Association; St. Croix Valley Bar Association.²²

²² From a news release supplied by Judge Needham.

Various Attorneys from St. Croix county

John Coit Spooner—"One of the most famous and distinguished names ever to be associated with Hudson, was that of John Coit Spooner, (1843-1909), United States Senator from Wisconsin.

Spooner, though born in Indiana, came to Wisconsin in his childhood with his parents, settling in Madison, where he later attended the University, making an enviable scholastic record.

Following service in the Civil War, Spooner studied law, and then in 1870 he moved to Hudson to open a law practice with Henry C. Baker as his partner.

Endowed with a brilliant legal mind along with a vibrant personality, Spooner soon became one of the leading attorneys of the state besides being one of the most active and influential politicians. Later he served in the state legislature.

His great and lasting fame rests on his service in the United States Senate, where he was considered by many, as one of the most capable and far thinking men in his political era. John Spooner was a man of action and dynamics and unquestionable integrity, which made him a leader in American statesmanship.

Following his term in Washington he took up residence in New York City, where he opened a profitable law practice on Wall Street, becoming the law counsel for one of the big eastern railroads. He died in 1919.

During their residence in Hudson, the Spooner family lived in the large and beautiful home on Third street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Lilley. The city of Spooner, in Washburn county, is named in his honor." ¹

Henry C. Baker—"(1831-1914), one of Hudson's attorneys, was a New Yorker. He moved to Hudson in the late 1850's. For many years his law partner was the late Eugene W. Helms (1869-1916), judge of the circuit court, and prior to that he was in partnership with Col. John C. Spooner." ² "Baker successively headed the law firms of Baker & Clough (with Judge Solon H. Clough as his partner), Baker & Smith, Baker & Helms, and lastly a partnership with Spencer Haven, who became attorney general of Wisconsin." ³

"It was most unusual that a community the size of Hudson (then less than 5,000 population) produced and sent two men to Madison to hold the position of attorney general of the state of Wisconsin.

Both men were highly respected lawyers, both Republicans, both attended the University of Wisconsin, both were teachers, both served but one term, both had strong Hudson ties.They were Spencer Haven (1868-1938) and George G. Thompson (1918-1982)." ⁴ [See George G. Thompson with listing for his father, Circuit Court judge George Thompson.]

¹ Distinguished Hudson Men and Women by W. H. Miller, BA, and The History of the Public School System in Hudson by Edward P. Rock, Ph.B., M.E., Star-Observer Print, Hudson, Wisconsin, June 1949, pp. 7 & 8

² Hudson's Distinguished Men and Women by W. H. Miller, Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wisconsin, November 1970, p.5.

³ Hudson Sketches—A Series of Stories from Hudson's Colorful Past by Willis H. Miller, Nov. 1995, Star-Observer Publishing Co., page 6.

⁴ Hudson Sketches—A Series of Stories from Hudson's Colorful Past by Willis H. Miller, Nov. 1995, Star-Observer Publishing Co., page 6.

Spencer Haven—"Born on an Iowa farm, Spencer Haven attended Iowa State College at Ames, and then law school at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He came to Hudson in 1896 and entered into partnership with Henry C. Baker (1831-1914), a successful, well-known Hudson attorney. After Baker's death, Haven joined forces with Lynn H. Ashley (1885-1974) to form the firm of Haven and Ashley that lasted for the next 20 years.

From 1905 to 1909, Haven and W. E. Webster owned the Hudson Star & Times (the predecessor of the Star-Observer) as an investment, leaving the day-to-day operations of the newspaper to hired editors.

As a lawyer, Haven was well-respected and considered a brilliant legal mind. He came into statewide prominence in 1918 when Gov. Emmanuel L. Phillipp appointed him attorney general of Wisconsin to succeed Walter C. Owen, who became a justice of the state Supreme Court. Haven served out the remainder of Owen's term with distinction and then returned to Hudson to resume his private law practice.

In the early 1930s, he was counsel for the state board of bar commissioners that handled all disbarment cases. At his death he was counsel for the Soo Line Railroad, the Northwestern Railroad and the Interstate Light and Power Co.

He was also the author of a book, "Wisconsin and the Nation," published in 1897.⁵

James A. Frear "(1861-1939), the first native born Hudsonian to sit in the House of Representatives in Washington, was a statesman who had the distinction of never having been defeated for a political office.

After attending Lawrence College and the National Law college in Washington, D.C., he returned to Hudson in 1884 where he entered the law offices of Col. John C. Spooner.

His political career was a rapid succession of triumphs. In 1896 he was appointed district attorney for St. Croix county, after which he was elected to the assembly, State Senate, Secretary of State, and finally in 1912 became a member of the United States Congress, being chosen for the House of Representatives from the 9th district. He retired from politics in 1935, and died in Washington in 1939 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In Mr. Frear's long record as a congressman, one of his most courageous stands was taken in 1917, when he joined 49 other members of the House of Representatives and voted against declaration of war with Germany."⁶

Moses Edwin Clapp "(1851-1929) who from an obscure lawyer rose to become a United States Senator. Born in Delphi, Ind., the son of Harvey S. and Abbie (Vandercock) Clapp, he came with his parents to Hudson in 1857; he attended the common school in Hudson, and later went to the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated in 1873. He began his practice of law in Hudson in 1874, then moved to Fergus Falls, Minn. From 1887 to 1893 he was attorney general of Minnesota. In 1901 he was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Cushman K. Davis, and was re-elected in 1905 and 1911. Following his defeat in the Senate in 1916, he took up a practice of law in Washington.

⁵ Hudson Sketches—A Series of Stories from Hudson's Colorful Past by Willis H. Miller, Nov. 1995, Star-Observer Publishing Co., page 5.

⁶ Hudson's Distinguished Men and Women by W. H. Miller, Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wisconsin, November 1970, p.15.

Clapp was married to Hattie Allen in 1874." ⁷

⁷Distinguished Hudson Men and Women by W. H. Miller, BA, and The History of the Public School System in Hudson by Edward P. Rock, Ph.B., M.E., Star-Observer Print, Hudson, Wisconsin, June 1949, pp. 9 & 10

Interesting And / Or Famous Cases from St. Croix County

1. "In the early times, with Prairie du Chien as the nearest seat of justice, and only a single magistrate, with a limited jurisdiction, it is easy to believe that justice was often dispensed with in a most remarkable way. At one time a man made an assault upon another and beat him to a jelly, as the witnesses testified. This was up the river some seventy-five miles. The man was arrested and the complaining witness came down with a party of his friends. They procured five gallons of whisky, and went down to Cottage Grove to try the case before Esquire J. S. Norris. The court was duly opened, a jury of six men empaneled, and, about the time the jug was empty, a verdict was found fining the man \$300 and costs, or, in default, to go to jail at Prairie du Chien. The prisoner had no money, and, as it would cost the county at least \$100 to get him down there, the finding was finally changed to placing the man under bonds to keep the peace for one year in the penal sum of \$300, and the complaining witness and the justice jointly went on the bond ! thus patriotically saving the county the expense of further proceedings."

[History of the Saint Croix Valley, Editor in Chief Augustus B. Easton, Vol. 11, Chicago; H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., 1909; page 705]

2. "There were some amusing things happened while [S.S.N.] Fuller was judge. A criminal had been tried for murder, the charge delivered to the jury, and the officer sworn to take charge of them. After retiring to their room they could not readily agree upon a verdict. Finding there was no possibility of agreeing before morning, two of the jurors skipped out through a window and had a comfortable night's rest in a good bed at home. All united in the morning in a verdict of guilty, and had the facts been known the verdict would not have been of much value.

In those days there was a grand jury. A fellow not much thought of was trying to get an indictment against another for an attempt to kill him. On balloting as to how they stood, three of the jury wrote upon their ballots and voted, "Guilty, because he didn't kill the cuss."

[This Was Hudson, A Compilation of historical articles pertaining to Hudson, Wisconsin, edited by Willis H. Miller, Star-Observer Publishing Co., Hudson, Wis., March 1955; Second Printing, July 1972, page 31.]

3. Please see attached sheets for the story of a well-known case-- Willow River Club vs. Wade.

["The Willow River," St. Croix County, Wisconsin, by Mary Beth Burkholder and Susan Mary Dahlby, Second Printing, Star-Observer Print, Hudson, Wisconsin, October, 1976, Pages 13-19.]

4. Reading the following case, it seems "road rage" is not a new thing—

A Fatal Bite.

Mr. Granville Hurd, an old and highly respected citizen of his county, residing in the village of Boardman, met his end in a strange manner, last Friday. It resulted from a bite inflicted upon one of his fingers by Jesse Wood, of this city, on the 29th of last January. As the facts are currently reported here, Wood was on his way to Cumberland, with young Flannery, who was also going there to work for him in a market. Jesse, who, having just booze enough on to feel ugly, took delight in making everybody turn out of his way. Near Boardman, he met Mr. Hurd with a heavy load of wood. Though light, Jesse demanded the road, which Mr. H. tried to convince him was not the honorable thing to do under the circumstances. Still he insisted, and jumped upon the sleigh to enforce his demand. Mr. Hurd successfully defended himself, but in the melee Wood bit one of his fingers. A week after inflammation set in and subsequently blood poisoning, which resulted fatally at the time above noted.

When the case become serious, Wood was arrested by Sheriff Carroll, and on Saturday was arraigned before the Police Justice at New Richmond, where he waived examination and was placed under \$800 bonds. He was brought to this city on Monday where bail was procured, Michael Ball and Jesse Wood, sr, put up the collaterals.

There are few finer, or better regarded citizens in the county than Granville Hurd, --quiet, peaceable, kind and courteous—his sad end will be generally deplored. It is to be hoped full justice can be reached in the courts, but with St. Croix County's well established reputation, there is but little anticipation. His assailant doubtless had no serious designs upon his victim, aside from general cussedness brought on by drink, but the result is none the less fatal and some degree of punishment should follow promptly if the facts are as reported.

By some neglect Mr. Hurd was buried without a coroner's jury being summoned, and his remains were subsequently exhumed for a post mortem examination. Authorities seem to be divided as to blood poisoning being the cause of his death.

The Woods—Hurd Case

On Saturday last Jesse Woods, of this city, was arrested at Cumberland, charged with being responsible for the death of Granville Hurd, which occurred at Boardman Friday morning. They had previously had a fight, the result of a dispute while passing on the road, during which Woods bit Hurds finger. It was charged that gangrene set in, which caused his death. He was arraigned at New Richmond Saturday evening, and at the advice of counsel waived examination, and was held under \$800 bond. He was brought to this city Monday when his father and M. Ball furnished the necessary securities and he was released. Jessie's version of the affair is as follows:

He left this city January 29th, to drive to Cumberland. A short distance this side of New Richmond he met one of the Dorgan boys with a load of wood behind whom was Mr. Hurd also with Wood. Jessie turned his horse into the deep snow and lifted his cutter out and Dorgan drove by. Hurd had stopped within hailing distance, and Jessie called to him to come on. He paid no attention and Jesse asked Dorgan if he (Hurd) lived in a house near where he had stopped. Dorgan said no, when Jessie called again, but Hurd failing to come, he got his rig into the road and drove up to him, when he again turned out into the snow and asked him to pass. Hurd refused, telling Jesse to drive on, which was impossible because of the deep snow. Hurd wouldn't budge. Wood threw a blanket over his horse said he could stay there as long as Hurd could. He was leading a horse behind his cutter,

which began to show distress from the exposure. After waiting about five minutes he told Hurd to let him pass or he would make him. Hurd refused, and Jesse threw off his fur coat, and going up to the side of his team, punched them to start them up. Hurd struck him over the head with a stick, when he jumped up on the wood. They grappled and Hurd, sticking his index fingers into Jesse's mouth and his thumbs into his eyes to gouge them, jumped into the snow drift, landing on top of Jesse. While in this position, Jesse bit him on one of the fingers. The inside of his mouth was badly cut by Hurd's finger nails, he showing recently healed scars there. His right eye was badly gouged. He threw Hurd off of him. Meanwhile Hurd's team had run away, leaving the road clear. Hurd started after them and Jesse resumed his journey. The first information he had of Hurd's death was when an officer from New Richmond stuck a revolver under his nose and told he was a murderer.

John Flannery, who was with Jesse, was arrested, and is held as a witness. The only other persons who witnessed any part of the trouble, was a couple brothers named Stephens, who appeared as they went off the load.

A gentleman of this city who met Mr. Hurd a short time ago, noticed some marks on him and asked the cause. He told of the fight, and said, when asked why he did not have him arrested, that Jesse got the worse of the fight.

District Attorney Chapman endeavored to procure an ante-mortem statement from Mr. Hurd, but when he arrived at his house he was too far gone to communicate anything. The wound had healed and Mr. Hurd had been at work on the roads. Dr. J. E. Sawyer, Hurd's family physician, gave it his opinion that he died from inflammatory rheumatism, caused by exposure. The bite was never mentioned to Dr. Sawyer until a few hours preceding his death. A thorough post-mortem examination should be held immediately. Mr. H. was one of the substantial farmers of Boardman, and highly esteemed by his fellow townsmen. He was the father of young Hurd who clerked for some time in the First National Bank.

CIRCUIT COURT

The case of The State of Wisconsin against Jesse Wood, Jr., was commenced on Tuesday, May 27, and given to the jury at half past four o'clock Wednesday afternoon June 4. After being out about two hours and a half a verdict was returned of manslaughter in the fourth degree, and the prisoner recommended to the mercy of the court. Under the charge, which was clear and concise, as Judge Bundy's charges always are, they could not convict of a higher degree.

The facts are briefly these: Wood met Granville Hurd on the road January 29, 1883. Hurd had a span of horses and a heavy load of sled length wood. Wood drove a horse and cutter, leading another horse behind. Hurd asked Wood to turn out and give him all the road, as he feared he would tip over in the deep and drifted snow if he attempted to pass. Wood refused to give but half of the road. Hurd remarked that he supposed he could wait. Wood said he could wait as long as Hurd, and got out and put a blanket on his horse. Hurd remarked that he considered that a mean trick. Wood replied "If you say anything I'll come there and thump you." Hurd said, "come on." Wood then took off his overcoat and undercoat and went to Hurd's sled and attempted to climb onto the load to "lick him." During the affray growing out of the assault he made upon Hurd he got one of Hurd's fingers in his mouth and bit it severely. Hurd took Wood down in the snow and held him until he promised to behave, and then let him go. Eleven days after receiving the bite, Hurd was taken with pyaemia (blood poisoning), and on the eighth day thereafter died, exhibiting every symptom of that dread disease. A post mortem examination was held and the facts there revealed showed conclusively that the disease resulted from the bite on the finger.

Wood was arrested and held for trial. The defense was mainly on the ground that Hurd was the assaulting party and that the post mortem examination

was insufficient to determine the cause of death. Great interest has been manifested in this case, because it involved many questions that were new in this county.

For the State the case was conducted by District Attorney Taylor, ably assisted by R. H. Start, Esq. L. P. Wetherby and John W. Bashford, for the defense, made a good fight for their client. During the trial Wood's father died of apoplexy, probably caused by his anxiety over the trial. Wood has a wife and six children. Much sympathy is felt in Hudson for the family, but the general belief is that Wood has received nothing more than his just deserts. In fact he ought to be thankful that he was not convicted of a higher degree of manslaughter. His record has been a bad one and has not improved even while this charge was pending against him."

The above articles were found in a scrapbook which belonged to Mrs. Boyd Williams. We believe the newspaper was the Hudson Star-Times with the articles being published in 1883.