



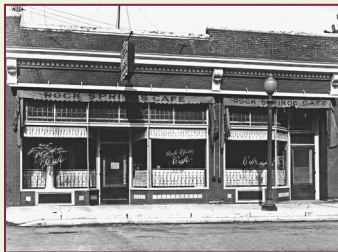
Shakopee Heritage Society Newsletter

Volume XVIII, Issue II

Spring 2019

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The Rock Spring Café, now the site of Turtle's 1890 Social Centre



The Peter Hauer barn, a photo donated by Lorraine Ries

Next Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 13, 2019, 1 p.m.

Shakopee Public Library
235 Lewis St. S.

"The Son of a Hog Farmer"
by Hilary Drees following the meeting.

Bring a friend!

Charles A. Lindbergh and the Spirit of Shakopee

By David R. Schleper

The People's Bank was on the corner of Second and Lewis Street. The old bank today is The Vault (and includes an actual vault!). It is worth visiting, with a huge variety of items including clothing, shoes, furniture, collectables, vintage, retro, antiques, video games, sporting goods, pop culture, and more.

The People's Bank was opened in March 1920 (before that, it was a post office built in 1893). It had a capital and surplus of \$30,000, and the directors were A.M. Opsahl, August H. Timmermann, Bohlander, Hunger, and C.A. Lindbergh. C.A. Lindbergh was the father of Charles A. Lindbergh.¹

And guess what? Charles actually had a loan at the People's Bank here in Shakopee.

Charles Augustus Lindbergh, nicknamed Lucky Lindy, was an American aviator, author, inventor, explorer, and social activist. As a 25-year-old U.S. Air Mail pilot, Lindbergh emerged suddenly from virtual obscurity to instantaneous world fame as the result of his solo non-stop flight from New York to Paris, France in the single-seat, single-engine *Spirit of St. Louis*.²

Charles borrowed \$900 from the People's National Bank of Shakopee to buy his first large airplane. He used it to start flying for himself.³ However, flying had not proved a very profitable business and only \$50 had been paid on the note at the time he made the record-breaking flight!

So, it seems that Lindbergh should call the plane *The Spirit of Shakopee*, since Shakopee paid for it!

References

¹ Collier, Julius A., II. *The Shakopee Story*. North Star Pictures, Inc. 1960, reprinted 2009, Shakopee Heritage Society, p. 290.

² "Charles Lindbergh." *Wikipedia*, 28 Feb. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Lindbergh.

³ Collier, Julius A., II. *The Shakopee Story*. North Star Pictures, Inc. 1960, reprinted 2009, Shakopee Heritage Society, p. 302.

The Son of a Hog Farmer

A presentation by Hilary Drees

Hilary Drees and his wife, Irene, will present about growing up in Shakopee, including living just north of Pearson Elementary School on a farm with hogs. He will share his memories of growing up in Shakopee, following the Shakopee Heritage Society 1 p.m. membership meeting on Saturday, April 13, at the Shakopee Public Library.



The Spirit of St. Louis at the San Diego Airport...or should it be the Spirit of Shakopee? Photo from commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File: Spirit_of_St._Louis_at_San_Diego_Airport_DSCN0022.JPG



The Hilarius Drees farmhouse

Editors' Notes

- Welcome to our new members: Kieran Hughes, Nicole and Chris Kastern, Sandy Olson, Anita Roeser, Art and Cindy Suel, and Patty Thielen-Best!
- Our annual membership meeting was held Jan. 19, 2019. David Schleper was elected vice-president (two-year term); Wes Reinke was elected treasurer (two-year term); Don McNeil was elected trustee (two-year term); and Melissa Whiting was elected secretary to fill the vacancy from Wes being elected treasurer (one-year term).
- 2019 membership dues are due. If you have not paid them yet, dues are the same rates as last year: Individual, \$10; Family, \$15; Supporting, \$25; Corporate - Silver Club, \$100; Corporate - Gold Club, \$500. If you're unable to attend the April 13 membership meeting, dues may be mailed to Treasurer Wes Reinke at 1016 Prairie St S. Please put "2019 dues" in the memo. You may also renew your membership online at shakopeeheritage.org/volunteers-membership/become-a-member/. Any questions pertaining to dues may be directed to Wes at shakowriter@gmail.com or 952-913-9344 (email or text preferred; please leave a message if calling). Please note that this a new contact since January.
- David has been busy, as always, with presentations. He has a full slate of presentations laid out for 2019, available at shakopeeheritage.org/events/upcoming-events/. For one of his more recent presentations, he presented on Little Chicago: Shakopee in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s for All Saints Senior Living, where they had a record number of attendees (30). Turn-out at the History of Shakopee presentations for the Sakpe ti Senior Lounge and Shakopee Public Library remains strong. Check page 5 for a listing of upcoming presentations.
- We'd love to see our members take an active part in the Shakopee Heritage Society. A few great opportunities are available. Learn more on page 3.
- Our third annual Pathways of Shakopee History Fundraiser and Auction is set for the evening of Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, at Turtle's Social Centre. Please make sure to mark this annual event on your calendar; you won't want to miss it! Further details will be forthcoming in our summer newsletter.
- We would like to be able to communicate with all members who have email, via email. Those who we have email addresses for receive newsletters early, monthly Remember When newspaper alerts, and other updates in a timely fashion. If you haven't been receiving these, send Wes your email address at shakowriter@gmail.com.
- To receive future issues of the Shakopee Heritage Society newsletter in color via email, instead of receiving a black and white paper copy, please send your name and email address to newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org.
- If there's anything in particular you'd like to see included in future newsletters, please let a board trustee know or send an email to newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org. We would love to hear from you!

Remembering Our Members

Lorraine Ries

Lorraine Ann Ries, age 100, of Shakopee, MN, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019 at St. Gertrude's Health Care Center in Shakopee.

Lorraine was born in Shakopee on Dec. 30, 1918, the daughter of Peter and Clara (Kopp) Hauer. She was one of nine children. In her early years she grew up on a farm in the area of Mystic Lake.

When they moved to town, she attended Shakopee High School and graduated in the class of 1936. Two years later, she met and married John Ries on Jan. 14, 1938, and they were married for 52 years until John passed away.

Lorraine was a lifelong member of St. Mark's Church. For more than 30 years, she unlocked the doors of church every morning. Lorraine also belonged to St. Mark's Catholic Christian Women, was a eucharistic minister, belonged to the perpetual adoration group, the hospital auxiliary, Knights of Columbus auxiliary, the Shakopee Heritage Society and held various positions of office in the National Catholic Society of Foresters.

Lorraine enjoyed being busy cooking, baking and sewing for her family.

Lorraine was preceded in death by her husband, John, Sr.; son, John, Jr.; siblings, Melvin, Lucille, Evelyn, Dorothy, Bill, Jim and Bernice. She is survived by sons and daughter, Gary, Dick (Marilyn), Frank (Pat), Ann (Gene) Juergens, Charlie (Joan), Joe, and Randy (Robbie); daughter-in-law, Billie; 15 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; brother, Gene.



Lorraine Ries

Help wanted!

The success of a great organization depends on its greatest asset—its members! The more people who contribute, the more amazing things we can accomplish, together. We continue to strive to involve more of our membership actively in the society. Here are a few ways you can help out:

- **Pathways of Shakopee History Sponsorship:** Help solicit sponsorships and donations for the Pathways of Shakopee History project. Email posh@shakopeeheritage.org or contact 952-693-3865 if interested in helping.
- **Pathways of Shakopee History Ticket Sales:** Our annual Pathways of Shakopee History fundraiser and silent auction will be Thursday, Aug. 1, and we'll be looking for people willing to help sell tickets (and spread the word about the third annual event). Email posh@shakopeeheritage.org or contact 952-693-3865 if interested in helping.
- **Contribute Articles:** We would love to see your stories and experiences growing up and/or living in Shakopee, or articles that you've researched. Both would make great content for newsletters, and/or the website. The next newsletter has a content deadline of June 1, and needs additional people interested in contributing. Email newsletter@shakopeeheritage.org or contact 952-693-3865 if interested in helping.
- **Donate Photos and Shakopee items:** Along with articles, another thing that generates much interest in our society is photos and historic memorabilia. If you own Shakopee-related photos that would be great to add to our collection, or items you'd like to donate, we'd like to hear from you. We'd be willing to scan and return the photos. Even five years ago is history. Contact us at info@shakopeeheritage.org or 952-693-3865 if you have something you'd like to donate.
- **Help Recruit More Members:** Our membership base has grown over the past few years, but we know there are others out there interested in Shakopee history who haven't been connected with the Shakopee Heritage Society yet. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors with that Shakopee history interest to attend meetings with you.

Bingo at the Brewhall

Enjoy beer, bingo, support Shakopee history

After postponing the event due to a major snowstorm in February, we have rescheduled the Pathways of Shakopee History Bingo at the Brewhall event for Wednesday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Shakopee Brewhall, 124 First Avenue East.

Join us that evening as we raise funds for the Pathways of Shakopee History Project. Bingo cards may be purchased in packs of 10 for \$10. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each round.

We hope to see you there!



*JJ Hoffman Bar, north side of First Avenue
between Holmes and Lewis streets, circa
1900*

The Scott County Historical Society and the Shakopee Heritage Society: Two great organizations

By David R. Schleper

At the end of March, Kathleen Klehr retired as executive director of the Scott County Historical Society. The Shakopee Heritage Society would like to thank her for her work as the director of their society.

The Scott County Historical Society, located at the Stans Museum in downtown Shakopee, serves all of Scott County, including Belle Plaine, Jordan, New Market, Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee.

Sometimes people confuse the Scott County Historical Society with the Shakopee Heritage Society. The Shakopee Heritage Society (SHS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage of Shakopee. Our mission is to preserve history, architecture, stories, events, artifacts and anything Shakopee.

The Shakopee Heritage Society is responsible for the Pathways of Shakopee History Project, free presentations on the history of Shakopee, the weekly Remember When column in the *Shakopee Valley News*, and other information available online.

Please support both organizations, but keep supporting our town! Sharing photos (we can scan and return), other materials from Shakopee, and questions that can be answered are great ways to support the Shakopee Heritage Society. Our long-term goal is to develop a museum in downtown Shakopee.

The Lewis Street Swing Bridge 1880

Compiled by David R. Schleper

Peter Geyermann arrived in Shakopee in 1857.¹ He married Emilia Berreau in Shakopee. They had six children.

Peter and Emilia operated Geyermann's General Store between First and Second avenues and Lewis Street in downtown Shakopee, which included groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, hats and caps, dress goods, clothing, and crockery. The store opened in 1857.

A Board of Trade was organized in March 1878, with Peter Geyermann as President, William Willson as Vice-President, Eli Southworth as Secretary, and H.H. Strunk as Treasurer.² An editorial of the *Shakopee Argus* noted that:

"Shakopee is now a metropolitan city. It has twelve street lamps, each with the illuminating power of ten lightning bugs. On a dark night the flickering rays of light are cast fully twenty feet around and on a clear night with a full moon, the city is brilliantly lighted up."³

Another editorial noted that "There is not a licensed saloon in Shakopee; but we have one mayor, one chief, one city attorney, two justices and twenty-seven saloons selling liquor without a license and three hundred unlicensed dogs on our dogs."⁴

Peter Geyermann also became mayor of Shakopee. He was mayor from 1873-1876, and again in 1878.⁵

In 1878, Peter was involved in controversy.⁶ The town needed a bridge over the Minnesota River. After lots of discussion over several years, the legislature voted in favor of building a bridge in Shakopee. According to the *Shakopee Scrapbook*, the controversy was over the location of the crossing. Two locations were proposed. One was on Fuller Street, and the other one was on Lewis Street. The surveyor, hired by the city, felt the Fuller Street site would be less expensive. It would only require one center pier.⁷ The bridge was to be built on Fuller Street.

The mayor owned a store on Lewis Street, so he vetoed the resolution for building the bridge on Fuller Street. He wanted it on Lewis Street, so that people arriving over the bridge would go directly to his store. Another resolution, putting the bridge on Holmes Street, was also vetoed by the mayor. They tried other sites, including one near Murphy's Landing, and later the *Shakopee Argus* editor looked out from the third floor of his building, and saw a huge cottonwood tree across the river. He suggested that they could lasso the tree, and build the bridge across at that part. Obviously, that did not win, either.⁸

After many more meetings, the mayor won, and the bridge was built on Lewis Street in 1880.

Many people were upset, though, and the mayor's store was boycotted by many residents, especially the people in the First Ward, who wanted the Fuller Street site. So effective was the action that Peter and Emilia were forced out of business, and after 24 years in the business, they left the town of Shakopee.⁶

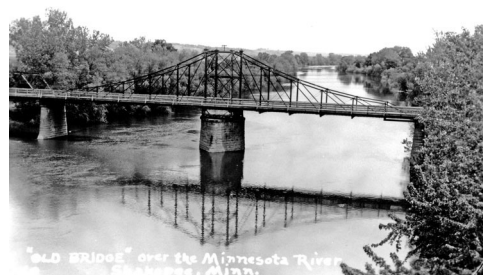
Peter and Emilia moved to the little town of Hersey (now called Brewster) where they started a new general merchandise store. After several years, the family established stores in Pipestone, Worthington, and Storm Lake, Iowa. In the 1920s, Peter and Emilia's sons opened stores in Huron, Mitchell, Madison, and Brookings, South Dakota. In the 1940s they added stores in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, as well as Beatrice and Hastings, Nebraska. Record books of the old Brewster, Minnesota store noted that a man's suit cost \$9.50, a boy's boots cost \$2.13, eight yards of printed goods cost 66 cents, a gallon of oil was 25 cents, butter was just 20 cents a pound, and Rock and Rye was \$1.00 a bottle.¹

Emilia Berreau Geyermann died in 1907, and Peter Geyermann died in 1911.

Meanwhile, the Lewis Street Swing Bridge in Shakopee opened for river boat traffic heading further west in 1880.

On July 15, 1896, the boat *The Daisy* was heading up the Minnesota River when it hit the bridge and knocked over the smoke stacks. It seems that the boat didn't wait until the Lewis Street Swing Bridge was open before crashed.⁷

When the Holmes Street Bridge was built in 1927, the Lewis Street Swing Bridge remained open for foot traffic. In 1942, with the war effort, the scrap metal was requisitioned by the government, and the Lewis Street Swing Bridge supplied the metal.⁷ It was estimated that it contained 100 tons of needed metal for bombs, jeeps, and ships.⁷



Lewis Street Swing Bridge



Peter and Emilia (Berreau) Geyermann

And so that is what happened with the swing bridge on Lewis Street in downtown Shakopee.

References

¹ Rick Geyermann had several discussions about the family via email to David R. Schleper starting in 2016.

² Coller, Julius A., II. *The Shakopee Story*. North Star Pictures, Inc. 1960, reprinted 2009, Shakopee Heritage Society, p. 118.

³ Editorial. *Shakopee Argus*, 1878 Apr. 11.

⁴ Editorial. *Shakopee Argus*, 1878 May 9.

⁵ Coller, Julius A., II. *The Shakopee Story*. North Star Pictures, Inc. 1960, reprinted 2009, Shakopee Heritage Society, pp. 712-714.

⁶ Coller, Julius A., II. *The Shakopee Story*. North Star Pictures, Inc. 1960, reprinted 2009, Shakopee Heritage Society, p. 119.

⁷ Huber, Michael C., Patricia A., and Joseph C. *Shakopee Scrapbook*. 1992, pp. 2-3.

⁸ Huber, Michael C., Patricia A., and Joseph C. *Shakopee Scrapbook*. 1992, pp. 2-3; Coller, Julius A., II. *The Shakopee Story*. North Star Pictures, Inc. 1960, reprinted 2009, Shakopee Heritage Society, pp. 119-120.

⁹ Coller, Julius A., II. *The Shakopee Story*. North Star Pictures, Inc. 1960, reprinted 2009, Shakopee Heritage Society, p. 120.

Upcoming presentations

Senior Research Chair and Vice-President David Schleper continues to present a free History of Shakopee series for Shakopee Parks and Recreation, one of our partners in the Pathways of Shakopee History project, at the Šakpe ti Senior Lounge located in the Shakopee Community Center. Attend as many of these sessions as you would like, but please be sure to sign up ahead of time at the Shakopee Community Center front desk or online at parksandrec.shakopeemn.gov.

Additionally, David also presents for the Shakopee Public Library on occasion; no pre-registration is required.

Upcoming presentations for both include:

Cata Wambli and the Dakota Alphabet: The Story of Reverend Samuel W. Pond

Tuesday, May 7, 1-2 p.m. | Shakopee Community Center Šakpe ti Senior Lounge

Reverend Samuel W. Pond, who moved to Prairieville (later Shakopee) in 1847, according to Gary Clayton Anderson: “knew more about the Dakota than any other white person in the mid-nineteenth century. He spoke their language move fluently, and he was an especially keen observer of Dakota economic, social, and religious institutions.” Learn about Cata wambli, and the documentation of the written Dakota language.

Balls, Balls, Balls! Sports in Early Shakopee

Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | Shakopee Public Library

No pre-registration required.

Learn about the sports in early Shakopee, including Ta-ka-psi-ca-pi, or lacrosse, that men and women of the Dakota played on the prairie in the 1840s, to baseball played at Riverside Park, to football and baseball played by companies and schools in Shakopee.

It Happened Here in 1851 at Holmes’s Landing

Tuesday, June 11, 1-2 p.m. | Shakopee Community Center Šakpe ti Senior Lounge

When Thomas A. Holmes and William Louis Quinn arrived in the area called Holmes’s Landing (later called Shakopee), the area was called Tinja-otoŋwe, a village of 600 Dakota Indians. Learn about the white people who moved into the area over the next few years, and the Indians who were already here for 175 years before the white people arrived.

Watpá Mnísota: The Minnesota River in Early Shakopee

Saturday, June 15, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. | Shakopee Public Library

No pre-registration required.

The river flows through downtown Shakopee. Learn about the floods, the drownings, the steamboats, the ferries, and the bridges that make Shakopee the place to live.

Ain’t We Got Fun?! Entertainment in Early Shakopee

Tuesday, July 9, 1-2 p.m. | Shakopee Community Center Šakpe ti Senior Lounge

The street fairs, the circus, the opera house, and theater...the swimming and fishing in lakes and rivers...the Stagecoach, the swimming pool, and the puppet shows...and The Landing, Valleyfair, Renaissance Festival, and Mystic Lake Casino. For many years, Shakopee was and is THE place to be for fun. Learn about the entertainment in Shakopee over the last 150 years.

A letter to Germany from Shakopee in 1855

Peter Geyermann was born in Germany on December 13, 1825, son of Henry and Christina Nell Geyermann. He came to America on July 7, 1851, and was located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked on a farm for a few weeks. For a short time, he worked on the Michigan Central Railroad in Indiana, before he began chopping wood in northern Illinois for two years. Peter then purchased a tract of timber land in Illinois along the Chicago & Aurora railroad. In 1853, he was in the mercantile business in Aurora, Illinois for two years.

In 1855, Peter moved to Minnesota Territory and took a preemption claim in Carver County. Two years later he sold out and moved to Shakopee, where he was involved in the merchandise business.

In a letter to his brother and sister-in-law, Peter described his life in Shakopee. Rick Geyermann gave the translation via email to David R. Schleper. The letter was translated from German to English in January 1991 by Ernst Wirt, Mitchell, South Dakota.

Shakopee, Nov 30, 1855

Dear Brother and Sister-in-Law,

I wrote to you on August 30, a letter but I never got an answer which surprised me very much.

In our family we have lots of news to report. Our sister Anna Maria got married on the 23rd of July with the blacksmith. He comes from Saxony. His name is Johann Heinz. He is a very ambitious and hardworking man. And on the 20th of August, it pains me very much to write that our dear and only brother, Joseph, died. He was such a strong and young brother (just like Michel and Joseph were)? Our Joseph was about 10 days sick. He had something called the red Ruhr. He was very happy here in America because he didn't have to take care of anybody, only himself, and he remembered where his home was. He never had it so good in his whole life. He could eat and drink anything he wanted. It didn't cost him a penny. I never saw him so happy as in the time I saw him here.

Our sister Anna Marie was not too happy when our other sister, Magdalene, left here because her new husband died on the 10th of September of the same sickness like Joseph. On the same day died also Simon Derbach. They all lived with me. You can't imagine the hardship. It was not only that all those people died, but everybody also sick in the house. I was very depressed and always was thinking that I was the next to go. I wanted to move from here and look for a different place.

So I did. I moved to Shakopee, Minnesota Territory, and I live outside in the country. I bought a claim there. The land belonged to the government and was not yet sold. The law says whoever comes first and homesteads it has a claim to it, but you have to be over 21 years of age. I had to take 160 acres of land and you were supposed to build a house on this land, and supposed to take care of the land. And whoever is doing this first has the first right and claim. For this I paid \$300.00 but if I ever wanted to sell it, then I would have to pay \$1.25 per acre and I have to announce this 3 months in advance. If I don't pay it in time then I can sell it to someone else, but I must leave the homestead. This can take the time of 1 or 2 years. The house that exists is in very poor condition in the country and we are in the process of building a new one. Last Wednesday we started.

You are probably surprised to hear that people build houses here in the winter, but here in the country people take tree stems and they make very nice houses (log houses). So if you plan to build a house you have to see that you get all the logs nearby, bring it to the place, and cut them into the measurements as big as the house is supposed to be. Then you go and call on 8 to 10 neighbors and then everything will be put together in one day but the roof. The rest a person has to do himself and that goes better than anybody can imagine. Once you are between 3 and 4 years in America, you become a pretty good builder, and you acquire all the tools that craftsmen need to make a building.

Our land is ½ mile long and ½ mile wide. That is called 160 ruten (rods?) and the house is as wide as 1 rod is. (*A rod is 5.5 yards.*) Now you can imagine how big the house is. I have approximately 40 acres of wood on my land, approximately 6 acres of meadow and the rest are hedges. But we don't do it here the same way we did it in (Lehnheck?). Here we take 2 or 3 young oxen and put them into a yoke, and then the land will be worked. One yoke of oxen I own and that cost me \$150. Animals are very expensive here. I must say that animals are much more expensive now than when I came to America, because when I came to America, a yoke of oxen I could buy in those days for \$60. Here the animals are not quite so expensive as in the old states like in Illinois where I came from.

I am now about 600 miles away NW from Arora (Aurora, Illinois) and it is much colder than there. We had already for 14 days, snow, but this week is exceptionally nice weather and the snow was almost melting away. I hope there is not new snow coming, but we will take it. It would be alright if we got snow so tomorrow morning and Sunday we want to go hunting for

Letter, continued on page 8

Looking at Lewis Street

Here are some interesting businesses that have been on Lewis Street, the feature of this newsletter issue.

1. Turtle's Bar and Grill

There are five buildings here that were combined together to make Turtle's Bar and Grill and Turtle's 1890 Social Centre! Turtle's is a family owned and operated neighborhood bar and grill and includes a banquet facility built in 1890.

2. The First Woman Mayor

Elizabeth K. Ries was elected as the first female mayor in 1925 and again in 1927. She owned and operated the Rock Spring Café. It was on the west side of Lewis Street between First and Second avenues.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the Rock Spring Café was almost always busy. Classic cars and fancy outfits were common. But if you looked through the windows, almost nobody was around. They were downstairs, at the speakeasy! People from the Twin Cities area came to Shakopee to drink, dance, and play slots. The mayor, police, and sheriff were all paid off to let it happen.

3. Three Generations

Bill's Toggery was started in 1931. Bill Wermerskirchen, Sr. started a laundry and cleaning business which he ran from a building on Holmes Street. In 1932 he bought the building at the northwest corner of Second Avenue and Lewis Street. Bill's Toggery is now in its third generation.

4. The Mill

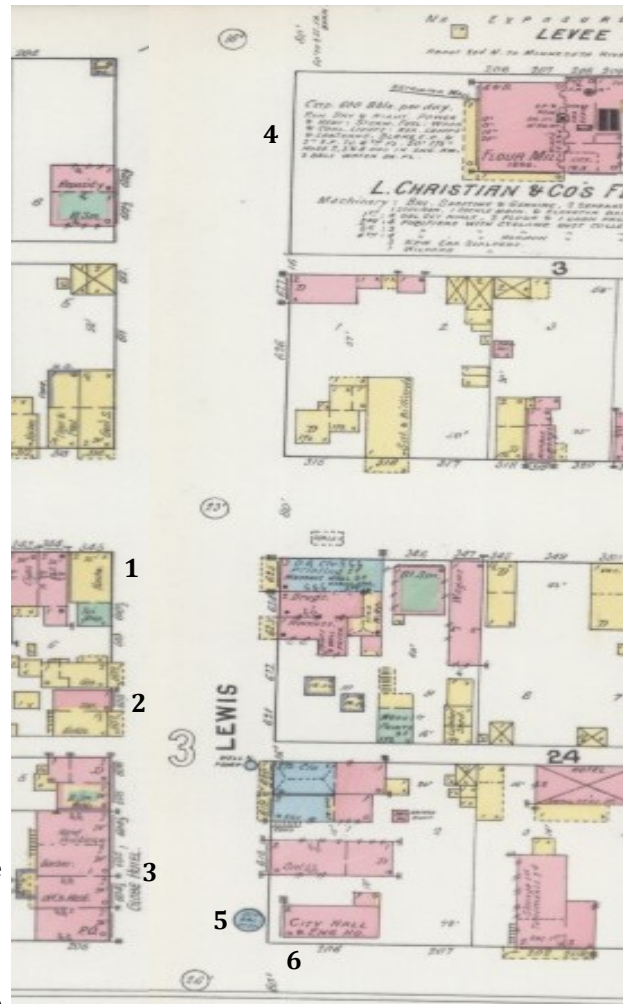
Ries brothers built a mill established in 1859. It was a three-story stone mill with three runs of stone. After three years, it was allowed to lie idle. The city authorized \$3,000 for anyone who would erect and operate a flouring mill. C.E. Woodward purchased the old mill and machinery, repaired it, and ran it for a few months in 1875. He sold it to George F. Strait and Company. It was called the Shakopee City Flouring Mill. On May 10, 1877, the flour mill was destroyed by fire, but was soon rebuilt. There was a strike in 1920, and in 1922 the elevator was struck by lightning but never re-built. The building was gobbled up by one chain, then another, and then they closed the mill. It was torn down in 1972.

5. The Fire Department

The Shakopee Fire Department was organized in 1883. According to The Shakopee Scrapbook by Michael, Patricia, and Joseph Huber, the City Council appropriated \$2900 for fire equipment. They set up an engine company, a hose cart company, and a ladder company. The fire department was located in the city hall building at the northeast corner of Lewis Street and Second Avenue. A fire bell was installed on top of the building in 1884.

6. City Hall and the Rats

The first city hall was on Lewis Street. In downtown Shakopee in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, there were many restaurants and bars. And with that, there was a lot of garbage. Which the rats, of course, loved. The city council decided that the only good rat is a dead rat, and so they let young boys and girls know that they would get five cents for every dead rat brought to City Hall. And so, every day, dead rats arrived, and the children received five cents per rat (which was later changed to ten cents a rat). The city hall employees were getting sick of all the dead rats. So, they let people know that from then on, they should only bring in the tails. Even then, it was too much, and so city employees would regularly bring the dead rat tails to the garbage cans behind City Hall. The smart children realized to wait until the tails were in the garbage cans, and then they took them out, and got even more money for those river rats!



deer, while we are waiting to finish the house, because when the house is ready, we won't have much time. That's why we want to go and hunt now. And when the Indians don't come back and take the animals away, there is plenty of deer over here.

What I'm talking about are the natives or the wild people and they don't do anything else but hunting, but they do not hurt the white people. If it would ever happen, they have to deliver the murderer, or they receive very harsh treatment, and get blamed for that by their own people. The wild man don't want to work at all. They think work takes something away from their honor. They do not do anything else but hunting and be a warrior, and that is the main reason that America is not so populated as Europe. These wild people have friction among themselves. There are lots of different tribes, and if anybody enters their territory, then they have a war.

We and our sister Magdalena live here on my land. She will get married. Her husband's name is Hillarius Schumacher. He comes from a town called Metternich, near Cologne. She is married on the 23rd of October.

Our Margaret is a servant in Shakopee. She gets \$2 a week. Our Marie is a servant still in Arora (Aurora). She got the best conditions. She is in good health, and receives good money. Wherever she works, the people don't let her go. They like her. She's a very ambitious girl and she is the biggest and heaviest of us all. She could have got married many times before if she liked to. I think she wants to remain there until next spring, and then she will come here with our Anna Marie who still lives in the same house where I live. She would have been gone before but I was expecting some money, and I couldn't get the money until next spring.

Shakopee Heritage Society
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Shakopee, MN 55379

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Trustee: Jody Brennan
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