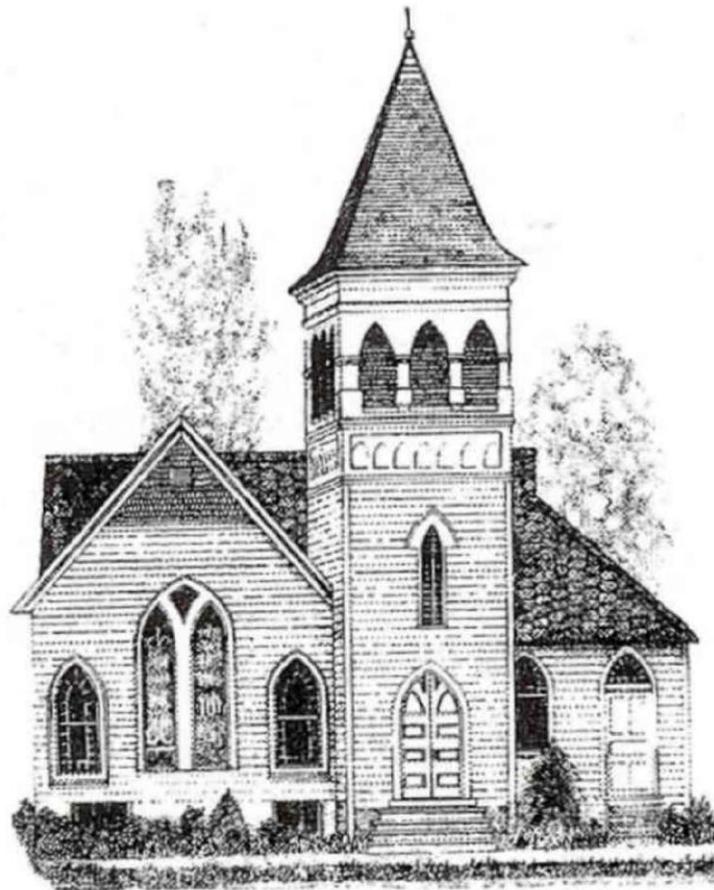


# **CARVER HISTORIC DISTRICT**



**CIVIL WAR ONSET SESQUICENTENNIAL UPDATE  
1861-2011**

## **Highlights of Carver History**

- Ten thousand years ago glacial River Warren flowed through the Minnesota River Valley on which Carver is situated, carrying melt water away from retreating glaciers and leaving rich deposits of clay, sand, gravel, and fine silt soils, while cutting a deep and spectacular landscape. The River Warren was variously called the Riviere Pierre, the St. Peter River, Maddepaw, Menesotar, and finally the Minnesota River. Minnesota, a Dakota Indian name given to both the river and the state, means “sky tinted water”.
- Carver and its surrounding Minnesota River Valley environs was occupied by Native Americans of the Woodland Culture from about 1200 B. C. to 1850 A. D. This occupation was often a seasonal hunting and gathering event, though in more recent times it was given over to summer planting and late season harvesting. The Minnesota River was long a Native American waterway for travel by dugout, canoe, and on ice during frozen periods.
- Pierre-Charles Le Seuer is the first European known to have navigated the Minnesota River. In 1683 and 1700 he made exploration trips for King Louis XIV of France along the area that became Carver.
- In 1766 Captain Jonathan Carver, working for the British, explored the Minnesota River area near present day Carver while making maps and searching for a western water route that flowed across North America to the Pacific Ocean. He named a small branch flowing into the Minnesota River “Carver’s River”, after himself. This is almost certainly the Carver Creek of today.
- In 1804-1805, not far upstream on the Minnesota River from present day Carver, the Little Rapids trading post was established. It was first operated by Jean Baptiste Faribault of the Machilimackinac Fur Company and the Northwest Fur Company and visited by fur traders, Dakota Indians, and Christian missionaries over the next 45 years.
- In 1834 there was a Wahpeton (Sioux/Dakota) Indian village located at present day Carver, with Mazomani then being chief of this Carver-area band. An early map indicates that this was located at the mouth of Carver Creek where it meets the Minnesota River. Further upstream, adjacent to Faribault’s Little Rapids trading post, was another Wahpeton Indian village, also associated with Dakota leader Mazomani. Both the trading post and the Dakota Indian village were abandoned about the time of treaty-negotiated land transfers to the United States.
- In the summer of 1851 the Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota were signed between the Dakota and the U. S. Government. Before final ratification

and the legal opening for settlement actually took place in the U. S. Congress, Axel Jorgenson, an immigrant from Fredrikshald, Norway, settled on land in the winter of 1851-1852 as a “Sooner”. Settling “sooner” than was legal, Jorgenson laid claim to 415 acres that would become the Town of Carver. The first European to settle in Carver, Jorgenson built a claim shanty “hotel” and variously named his claim Gotteborg, Lukenborg, or Luksenborg, which others came to call Fulton, perhaps after Robert Fulton, the inventor of the steamboat.

- In the 1850s an investment epidemic was the speculation on town sites for development. Promising river sites like Axel Jorgenson’s were desirable. Located with a source of fresh water at the junctures of Carver and Spring Creeks with the Minnesota River, Carver was a particularly advantageous site. And during low river levels steamboats could travel upstream only a short distance beyond Carver to a double sandstone barrier called Carver Rapids, or Little Rapids, as it had been earlier known. Carver Rapids is the only natural rapids on the entire 335-mile length of the Minnesota River. Carver was an ideal location for a steamboat and barge terminal where goods would have to be offloaded and reloaded for continuing trips in either direction, or offloaded for further travel by oxcart, horse, or on foot.
- In 1854 Axel Jorgenson, a Sooner or squatter, sold his 415 acre claim to a group of seven speculating St. Paul investors, collectively called the Carver Land Company, who wished to plat and develop a town site. Among these investors were Alexander Ramsey, the former Territorial Governor of Minnesota, and Levi Griffin, the first Sheriff of Carver County. It was Ramsey who suggested naming the town Carver after Jonathan Carver who had explored the area and given his name to nearby Carver Creek.
- The Carver Land Company property was surveyed by St. Paul surveyor and city engineer John T. Halstead (Halsted), who layed a grid over the property map and platted the Town of Carver in 1857, its lots divided among the land company investors according to their investment. Halstead (1817-1900), one of the oldest to enlist in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment at age 44, would later lose five fingers on his left hand in the First Battle of Bull Run and spend time in a Confederate prison in Richmond, Virginia during the Civil War.
- An economic depression, in part caused by inflated land prices from massive land and town site speculation, occurred in the late summer of 1857 and swiftly spread across America, called the Panic of 1857. Many fledgling town sites went belly up, and as mortgages were called in and all of frontier America was without cash for many months, requiring a barter system. Carver survived, but Louisville, directly across from Carver did not, and many of its buildings were moved to Carver.
- The Carver levee along the Minnesota River was platted as common land to all the citizens, and from the 1850s to the 1890s it was a bustling hub of commercial

and industrial activity that saw trade in grain, timber, animals, firewood, brick, and merchandise give rise to many flourishing businesses, stores, hotels, livery stables, blacksmith shops, brickyards, and saloons. Today the old levee is vacant and is separated from Carver and covered by a floodwall.

- By 1855 Carver already had a tailor, a hotel, a boarding house, a building designer, a carpenter, a livery stable, a blacksmith, two shoemakers, and a general store that contained dry goods, hats and caps, boots and shoes, clothing, groceries, and provisions. And within a short time there was a ferryboat for Mississippi River crossings and a stagecoach line for land travel.
- By 1857 there were already 35 buildings in Carver, and steamboat Captain George Houghton was making daily round-trip runs on his steamboat, the *Antelope*, between Carver and St. Paul, a one-way river run of 32 miles.
- Carver had its own school district already by 1857. For a century Carver was Minnesota School District #1.
- Steamboats carried passengers and immigrants to Carver, rapidly opening up the surrounding area to settlement by farmers who could buy land from the U. S. government for \$1.25 an acre. The steamboats shipped firewood, building materials, soldiers, household goods, farm equipment, foodstuffs, and much more, both to and from Carver and places upstream and downstream.
- In 1858 Carver had a small gold rush when gold was purportedly found in Carver's Spring Creek, which was sometimes called Little Creek.
- Prior to 1860 most of Carver's pioneer settlers were from the eastern United States. After 1860 most Carver settlers consisted of immigrants from Sweden and the German States, making Carver about half Swedish, half German. In the 1860s Carver's Swedish immigrants established the last Saturday of each month as market day, where townspeople and area farmers could buy and barter produce, livestock, goods, and services.
- The Civil War broke out on Apr. 12, 1861. Minnesota was the first State in the Union to send troops to preserve the nation. Pioneer Carver and its surrounding area volunteered heavily. From its small population Carver provided the Union Army 94 soldiers for Civil War service. Carver's Scandinavians, mostly immigrants from Sweden, attended the East Union Lutheran Church outside of Carver. From East Union's fledgling congregation no less than 78 members enlisted, with 10 dying in the war and two more dying in the horrible Andersonville Confederate Prison in Georgia. East Union Cemetery has 30 Civil War Veterans buried in it, Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery and its St. Nicholas Catholic Cemetery hold many more. By war's end in April 1865 more than 618,000 Americans died in it, more than in all other U. S. wars combined.

- In August and September of 1862 the Sioux Uprising occurred while most of Minnesota's soldiers were away fighting in the Civil War. Between 400 and 500 pioneer settlers in southern and western Minnesota were massacred by the Dakota, who were not receiving timely U. S. Government annuity payments due to Civil War logistical problems. Many area settlers fled for refuge to the homes of Carver because of Carver's ability to provide safety in numbers and steamboat transportation to further safety at Fort Snelling, if needed. When the false rumor reached Shakopee that Carver was being burned, Shakopee residents and refugees swiftly boarded a steamboat docked there and fled to Fort Snelling.
- Many Carver residents answered the call to quell the Sioux Uprising of 1862. Oral Dakota tradition relates that Sioux leader Mazomani, who once was the leader of a Carver area band, was seriously injured by soldiers at the Battle of Wood Lake in Yellow Medicine County on Sept. 23, 1862, as he carried a white flag of truce while hoping to negotiate the release of some Dakota captives. Mazomani died the following day. Carver soldiers fought in many battles of the Indian War, and several were assigned to guard the scaffold at Mankato on Dec. 26, 1862 when 38 of the Dakota judged most guilty in the Sioux Uprising were hanged, the largest mass execution in U. S. history.
- Carver soldiers stayed on after the Indian War and fought in many battles of the Civil War. After the Civil War many soldiers returned to Carver and soon took up influential positions in Carver business, local politics, and community leadership.
- With the coming of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad in 1871, and shortly afterward the Hastings and Dakota Railroad, Carver's days as a riverboat town began to wane as goods, foodstuffs, and people began to be transported instead by rail, which was much more reliable than the variable river levels and iceup on which steamboats had to rely. But Carver continued to thrive as a railroad center with commerce to and from Carver. Telegraph service to Carver quickly followed the railroad's arrival, and by the end of the 1870s Carver had service from three telegraph services.
- In 1877 Carver ceased to be a township and was incorporated as a village, the first in Carver County.
- By 1882 Carver had three doctors, a lawyer, a real estate office, a flour mill, a grain elevator, six general stores, one carding mill, a feed mill, two drug stores, two brick yards, two hardware stores, two lumber yards, a grocery store, a brewery, two watch makers, two carriage makers, a meat market, a photographer, two harness makers, a tailor, a veterinary surgeon, two boot and shoe makers, a milliner, a bakery, five saloons, and two hotels.
- In 1893 the Northwestern Telephone Company installed a telephone line that connected Carver with Minneapolis and St. Paul.

- The Prohibition Era (1920-1933) shut down many of Carver's once-busy saloons and associated hotels, and soon most other businesses were also affected. In 1929 the Great Depression arrived, shutting down even more Carver businesses and setting Carver into several decades of economic stagnation, leading to the decay of many historic houses and commercial buildings. Though detrimental, stagnation was also a blessing, for the lack of modern commercial activity prevented most of Carver's historic buildings from being torn down for new construction.
- In April 1965 a great flood inundated many towns and cities in the Mississippi and Minnesota River Valleys, including the lower part of old Carver. This further depressed Carver and forestalled new construction, modernization, and revitalization. In the ensuing years a floodwall was constructed between the Carver levee and the town of Carver to help keep the Minnesota River at bay.
- On June 25, 1969 a non-profit corporation called Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Incorporated was founded by Edith Herman, Anne Neils-Doerr, Mary Lee Dayton, and Helen McNulty, that was dedicated to "stopping the wasteful deterioration of a typical 19<sup>th</sup> Century river town". In the 1960s and 1970s Edith Herman, Anne Neils, and Carver-on-the-Minnesota purchased and began renovations to save several deteriorating Carver properties, including Springside, Dikeside, Hilldale, The Gables, the Andrew G. Anderson House, and Carver Cottage. Unfortunately, Edith Herman and Anne Neils passed away, momentum stalled, and several important buildings were lost. Out of the legacy of Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Incorporated came the creation of a historic district, a set of design guidelines for historic restoration, a donation to the city of the land for Gazebo Park, and the donation to the city of the old Presbyterian Church, today called the Church by the River.
- In February 1989 the City of Carver created the Heritage Preservation Commission as a supporting group of resident appointees to aid the City Council, Planning Commission, and Park and Recreation Commission on historic preservation issues.
- In 1980 the old town of Carver became one of the first historic districts in Minnesota to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Carver Historic District included eighty-seven buildings and four structures of historical significance from 1850-1925, with respect to early river town settlement, commerce, dwelling places, and architecture.
- On Oct. 26, 2005 Carver attained Certified Local Government status by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office. In the summer of 2007 the White House proclaimed Historic Carver a Preserve America Community, the eighth to be so named in Minnesota.

- In September 2009 the Carver and Chaska Heritage Preservation Commissions co-hosted the year's annual Minnesota Statewide Preservation Conference.
- Many of those who lived and invested in Carver also made important contributions in other Minnesota communities, other states, and nationally.

## **Carver's Founder and First Settler**

**Axel Jorgenson** was born Aksel Jørgensen on Dec. 1, 1818 in Gjerstad in Aust-Agder County in southeast Norway and was baptised in the Gjerstad parish church five days later. Axel was the eldest of four sons and a daughter born to Jørgen Akselsen (1783-1864) and Karen Margrete Nilsdatter (1794-1866). The Gjerstad area of Axel's youth was known for iron works and for the cutting of logs and floating them to destinations via streams and lakes, occupations with which he would pick up. In 1846 Axel, by then a blacksmith by trade, moved to nearby Tistedalen (today called Halden) in nearby Østfold County, on Norway's southernmost border crossing with Sweden. In Oslo, Norway on April 28, 1850 Axel Jorgenson married a certain Ingeborg Marie, age about 31, and five days later on May 3, 1850, the newlyweds boarded the brig *Incognito* in Christiania (Oslo), Norway bound for New York in the United States. The copperclad ship, built in Drammen, Norway in 1849 was owned and captained by S. Christopherson, and arrived in New York City on July 13th or 17th, 1850 with 132 passengers, by name probably all Norwegians, including steerage passengers Axel Jorgenson and Ingeborg Marie. After the ship's arrival in New York Ingeborg Marie is found no more in connection with Axel Jorgenson. Her fate unknown, most likely she died in the first year or two after arriving in America.

Jorgenson probably traveled America's water routes, eventually making his way to the frontier Territory of Minnesota sometime in 1850-1851. In the summer of 1851 the U. S. Government negotiated the Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota with area Dakota Indian tribes. Sometime during late 1851 or early 1852, before the treaties were ratified by the U. S. Congress, Jorgenson sought out and claimed a large parcel of choice land on the north side of the Minnesota River at the junction of the Minnesota River, Carver Creek, and Spring Creek, a site situated some 32 miles upstream from St. Paul, Minnesota. Jorgenson there built a crude claim shanty, which he loosely called a hotel, and situated it very near the Minnesota River on First Street near Broadway, a Carver location and street today covered by a flood dike. Jorgenson's claim has been variously called Gotteborg, Lukenborg, Luksenborg, and Fulton. Jorgenson's claim shanty was a 14' x 18' dirt-floored upright board and batten (or log) shanty "hotel" with four large windows. Said to have been called Hotel Luksenborg it was intended to augment his business of hauling logs, lumber, and supplies to and from St. Paul on a barge in the Minnesota River, and is said to have also served as his home and blacksmith shop. During early 1854 Norwegian immigrant Peter Kleven, one of the founders of nearby

East Union, was employed in cutting logs on Jorgenson's claim, remaining on the claim alone while Jorgenson floated logs downstream on his barge. Jorgenson's barge was described by early area settler Ole Paulson as an old, dirty, heavy, flat-bottomed boat, which could float downstream, but if not towed upstream by a steamboat, would have to be propelled with long poles. Jorgenson seems to have offered prospective settlers free lodging and transportation from St. Paul up the Minnesota River to virgin land in his claim area in return for them helping to propel his barge. It purportedly would take three long days of hard poling work against the current to reach Jorgenson's claim.

In Feb. 1854 former Minnesota Territorial Alexander Ramsey and Levi Griffin visited Jorgenson's claim and decided to purchase the 415 acre tract on behalf of the investors of the Carver Land Company which consisted of Ramsey, Griffin, Charles D. Gilfillain, Joseph E. Fullerton, Joseph W. Hartwell, James K. Humphrey, and Matthew Groff. This land purchase later became the town of Carver. In Oct. 1854 Levi Griffin and his wife took up residence in Jorgenson's claim building while Griffin built a general store with a residence above. Levi Griffin later donated Jorgenson's shanty to the community, which was then used as the first private school building in Carver County, the first designated public school building in Carver County, and the first schoolhouse for Minnesota School District #1. Evidence is strong that Jorgenson's old building survives, in whole or in part, in the Torrey Stable located at the rear of 201 Fourth Street East in Carver, the parcel of land to which it was moved around 1858-1860.

Axel Jorgenson left Carver, but remained in Carver County for a time. At a meeting of the Carver County Board of Commissioners on March 3, 1856 the recently created Carver County in the Minnesota Territory was divided into 5 election precincts and 3 assessment precincts. Axel Jorgenson was made one of the first 3 assessors of Carver County, being chosen for the 3rd precinct, which comprised San Francisco Township, which was then serving as the Carver County seat of government. By Dec. 1863 Axel Jorgenson planned on moving to Shakopee in Scott County, Minnesota to take up business doing clock and watchmaker repair work. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1865* Axel Jorgenson was advertised as a watchmaker and jeweler on Holmes Street in Shakopee, Minnesota.

Sometime between 1865 and 1870 Axel Jorgenson married Ellen Marie, last name not known, an immigrant from Vadsø in Finnmark County in northern Norway, who was born about 1840 and who arrived in America in 1865. The couple lived in Shakopee for the first years of their marriage. The 1870 United States Census for Shakopee in Scott County, Minnesota mentions that Axel Jorgenson was a watchmaker and legal citizen of the United States with \$2730 in real estate worth and \$600 in personal property value, a tidy sum for the period. He is listed in 1870 as being married to Ellen M. Jorgenson, age 30, who is described as a housekeeper and not yet a legal citizen. Both are listed as born in Norway and having no children or others listed as living in household. In May 1871 Axel Jorgenson had lumber on the ground in Shakopee in preparation for building a one-story building for his jewelry and silversmith business.

Axel Jorgenson and his wife Ellen were involved in a domestic dispute in 1874, prompting Axel to put an item in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper of November 4, 1874. The item read: "*Notice is hereby given that my wife Ellen M. Jorgenson has left my bed and board without cause or provocation and that I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date. Dated August 26, 1874, Axel Jorgenson.*" Whatever the issues, Axel and Ellen seem to have resolved them and got back together, but perhaps not immediately. The 1875 Minnesota Census shows Axel Jorgenson living in Waconia in Carver County, but Ellen does not appear with him. About 1877 the couple moved to Stockholm Township in Wright County, Minnesota where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Axel Jorgenson, Levi H. Griffin (one of the original investors in the Carver Land Company who purchased land for the future City of Carver from Axel Jorgenson), Griffin's wife Eliza, and Griffin's mother Nancy H. Griffin were all involved in a 19-year-long dispute with the Mpls.-St. Louis Railroad in the Carver County and Scott County courts over land bought and sold in Scott County, Minnesota. Local court judgements were made in 1859, 1864, and 1873, before the case was finally settled on July 22, 1878 by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

In late 1879 or early 1880 Axel and Ellen Marie Jorgenson adopted a son who they named Axel Peter Jorgenson. Son Axel Peter Jorgenson was born at Stockholm Township in Wright County, Minnesota on Nov. 9, 1879. The infant's 29-year-old mother died 24 days after his birth, perhaps from childbirth complications, leaving her widowed husband with two other children to care for. In the the 1870s and 1880s Axel Jorgenson was engaged in cutting and selling lumber in Stockholm Township. Axel Jorgenson was one of many involved in the Minnesota Commission of Fisheries' task of stocking various species of fish in many Minnesota rivers and lakes. During 1885 Axel stocked 40 carp on Feb. 6; on March 28 he and 13 others stocked 425 carp; and on Nov. 16 he stocked 20 carp.

In Dec. 1886 Axel Jorgenson's family home in Stockholm in Wright County burned, destroying all his papers, notes, and other valuables. Axel Jorgenson died in Stockholm Township about 1899. His widowed wife, Ellen Marie, lived in the eastern part of Stockholm Township where she owned a farm and served as postmaster, with her son, his wife, and a granddaughter living with her in 1900. Ellen Maria died on February 10, 1910 at the home of her son Axel in Keystone, Polk County, Minnesota and was buried in the family plot in the Stockholm town cemetery after services at the Stockholm Lutheran Church. Son Axel Peter Jorgenson died in Meeker County, Minnesota on Oct. 6, 1948.

## **Seven Original 1854 Carver Land Company Investors**

**Alexander Ramsey** was born in Hummelstown near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on Sept. 8, 1815. He studied law and was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1839, practicing

law for at time in Harrisburg. Ramsey served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1843-1847. In 1849 President Zachary Taylor appointed Alexander Ramsey as Governor of the Minnesota Territory, a position he held from 1849-1853. In 1845 he married a congressman's daughter from Pennsylvania, Anna Earl Jenks (1826-1884). In 1855 Ramsey was elected Mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota. Ramsey was elected as the second Governor of the State of Minnesota, serving in that post from 1860-1863. In Washington when the Civil War broke out, Ramsey was the first Union governor to commit troops to fight in the war. Ramsey served in the U. S. Senate in 1863, and again from 1869-1875. From 1879-1881 he was the U. S. Secretary of War. He was the first president of the Minnesota Historical Society, serving in that position from 1849-1863 and again from 1891-1903. His name appears on many placenames and buildings in Minnesota, and his St. Paul home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society. He died on April 22, 1903. Ramsey Avenue in Carver is named after him.

**Joseph Emerson Fullerton** was born in Woolwich, Sagadahoc, Maine on Sept. 7, 1820 the son of William and Rebecca Fullerton. Fullerton made his way west to St. Paul, Minnesota already by 1850 where he became a clothing merchant. In Aug. 1850 he was appointed to the building committee and served as first treasurer of Christ Church Parish of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul. In Oct. 1851 he was elected by the Whig Party to the House of Representatives in the Minnesota Territorial Legislature. In 1852 Fullerton had a clothing store on Third Street near the Ingersoll Block, and in 1853 he was listed among St. Paul business houses as the proprietor of a dry goods business. In Feb. 1854 he accompanied Levi Griffin and went to Carver to make the Carver townsite purchase. In 1854-1855 Fullerton served as Ramsey County Coroner. Joseph Fullerton was married on Nov. 19, 1846 married to Eliza Blanchard of Weymouth, Norfolk, Massachusetts, who died before 1900. In 1886 Fullerton was described as tall, with fine social qualities, but noted he had left St. Paul many years earlier. In 1900 Fullerton was living at Fall River City in Greenwood County, Kansas where he died on Oct. 26, 1914. Fullerton Avenue in Carver is named after him.

**Joseph W. Hartwell** was born in Windham County Vermont on May 3, 1834, the son of Holloway Hartwell and Nancy Lincoln. By 1854 he had made his way to St. Paul in the Territory of Minnesota, where on Oct. 23, 1854 he married Mercy Gordan Torrey. Mercy was born in Deer Isle in Hancock County, Maine on Oct. 16, 1837, the daughter of William Torrey and Sarah Pressey. Joseph (J.W.) Hartwell was the second of the Carver Land Company investors to move to Carver, following his brother-in-law Levi Griffin, who was married to Eliza Torrey, the sister of Mercy. The Hartwells were living in Carver at the special Minnesota Territorial Census of 1857, where Joseph is called a carpenter by trade. But Hartwell was already in Carver as early as 1856 when he built a house for his brother-in-law, Levi Griffin, which was probably the east half of the Gables house at 201 Fourth Street East. It is also likely that he worked on Griffin's Carver House Hotel on Broadway in Carver, and was likely living there for a time with his family. And it is known that he contracted in July 1858 to build a house at 112 Fourth Street West in Carver for George Groetsch. J. W. Hartwell founded the first brickyard in Carver. He is named in the 1863-1864 Poll Tax Register for eligible male voters in Carver but left

Carver during the Civil War and daringly journeyed overland across the northern plains through Dakota territory and arrived at Last Chance Gulch in the Territory of Montana in 1864, probably drawn by word that gold was discovered there on July 12 of that year. The gold strike site and town that grew up there was in Oct. 1864 named Helena, in honor of Helena Township in Scott County, Minnesota.

Hartwell and partners John B. Sanford and Christmas G. Evans built a ditch bringing water to Helena from Ten Mile Creek and built a lumber mill along the creek. In 1867 Hartwell and partners John B. Sanford and Christmas G. Evans built the area's first grist mill, called first Hartwell, Jurgens & Company, which was later called the Standard Flour Mills. Hartwell also seems to have been involved in partnerships in lumber, coal, feed, farm implements, mining enterprises, real estate, and in a steam sawmill in Lump Gulch. Hartwell lived at Twin Bridges, Montana and became involved in the Montana Territorial politics. He was a member of the House of Representatives Eighth Extra Session in 1873 and Regular Session in 1874. He also served in the Montana Territorial Legislative Assembly. He was named to the Society of Montana Pioneers. Joseph W. Hartell and fellow Carver Land Company investor Levi Griffin were brothers-in-law, having married sisters. Hartwell died on Oct. 18, 1899.

**Matthew Groff** was born in Troy, New York. After being educated there he moved to Kentucky and Virginia where he taught school. By 1849 he was in St. Paul in the Territory of Minnesota with his wife Maria, who was born in New York in July 1826. Early on Groff was engaged in farming and painting in Minnesota. For a time in the early 1850s he ran the Mississippi House Hotel and was the landlord of the Snelling House Hotel, both in St. Paul. In his early years Groff was an ardent Republican and dealt in real estate, including investing as a part owner in the town sites of Carver, Belle Plaine, and others. In the 1850s he became one of St. Paul's early druggists, being a partner in the firm of Groff & McDougal and also of Wren, Groff, and Regally. He also was a manufacturer, the producer of Snow Flake Baking Powder, a company he started in 1862, which produced the powder found in many 19<sup>th</sup> Century homes. He died in 1876 at the age of 55, passing the company on to his son Charles R. Groff. Groff Street in St. Paul is named after Matthew Groff.

**Charles Duncan Gilfillan** was born in New Hartford, Oneida County, New York on July 4, 1831, the son immigrants James and Janet Gillfillan from Bannockburn, Scotland. Charles D. Gilfillan was orphaned at age 11 but was well-schooled at Homer Academy and then Hamilton College. At age 19 he took up teaching for a year in Potosi, Missouri before coming to teach in Stillwater, Minnesota in 1851. In his spare time he studied law, being admitted to the Minnesota bar in 1853. He practiced law, first in Stillwater, then moved to St. Paul in 1854 and practiced law with his brother James, who later was a colonel in the Civil War and Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. He practiced law until about 1867, then took an interest in engineering and almost singlehandedly built the St. Paul Waterworks. Gilfillan owned more than 95% of the waterworks, which was sold in 1882 to the City of St. Paul for \$37,000 in cash plus \$313,000 in a bond for title at 4% interest. In 1881-1882 Gilfillan built the six story Gilfillan block at 4<sup>th</sup> and Jackson in St. Paul. Gilfillan was owner of the Merchant's Hotel in St. Paul, and in 1865 was one

of the founders of the First National Bank of St. Paul, garnering 60% of its original capital. Gilfillan took an early interest in Minnesota politics and played an important role in the founding of the Republican Party in Minnesota, serving from 1855-1857 as the first chairman of the new party's central committee. In 1860 he ran for Mayor of St. Paul, losing by just 15 votes. He served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives and served in the Minnesota Senate from 1878-1885.

Gilfillan was a big man, 6'2" tall and weighing 300 pounds. He was married first in 1859 to Emma C. Wage, who died about 1863, and then in 1865 he married Emma's sister, Fannie S. Waage. In 1882 Gilfillan purchased 13,000 acres at Redwood Falls and created Gilfillan Estate, a landmark state-of-the-art farm, on which he made his home. The farm included a home, barns, a stockyard, a grain elevator, tenant homes, and its own railroad spur. Gilfillan was also an organizer of the Minnesota Valley Historical Society. He died on Dec. 18, 1902. Years later Gilfillan Estate was donated to the Redwood County Historical Society, and is now open to the public for tours, as well as annually hosting Farmfest, Minnesota's largest agricultural event. Gilfillan Avenue in Carver is named after him.

**James K. Humphrey** was from Hudson, in Summit County, Ohio, born in April 1825 of Connecticut-born parents. He attended Western Reserve College, studied law, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1846. He then studied medicine during 1847-1848 and then moved to St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory in 1849. Humphrey served as Clerk of the Ramsey County District Court in 1849 and then served as the first clerk of the Minnesota Territorial Supreme Court from 1850-1853. He held various U. S. Government positions, including service from 1861-1876 in the U. S. Revenue Service. Humphrey purchased \$4285 in capital stock in the Florence Mining and Smelting Company, a purchase which was later challenged and taken to the Minnesota Supreme Court. He also was an investor in the Northern Pacific Railroad. The 1870 U. S. Census for St. Paul gives his net worth as \$80,500, a considerable sum for the period.

In 1850 Humphrey became engaged to Harriet E. Bishop (1817-1883). Bishop established the first public school in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is noted as a Minnesota pioneer educator, author, poet, moralist, and women's suffragist. In 1851 Humphrey built a small cottage in St. Paul, intended to be the honeymoon home to the married couple. But when Humphrey's sister Stella (married to the later Minnesota Territorial Legislator Jeremiah Wilcox Selby and a Ramsey county commissioner and assessor) returned from a trip East she forbade the wedding, saying that at eight years Harriet Bishop's senior, Humphrey was too young for her. The Humphrey cottage yet stands at 240 Ryan in St. Paul, albeit with changes and additions. About 1850 James Humphrey was married to Arabella G., who was born in Kentucky in Nov. 1840, her father from Pennsylvania, her mother from Maryland. James Humphrey died in Ramsey County, Minnesota on Apr. 28, 1912, his wife Arabella there on Feb. 27, 1927.

**Levi Griffin** was born in Vassalboro, Kennebec County, Maine on Oct. 22, 1822, the son of William Griffin and Nancy Hoyt. Trained as a blacksmith, which he plied in Boston, Griffin caught gold fever and made two trips to California in the late 1840s, one by sea,

and one overland. Griffin didn't discover gold, he but found many ways to earn it. In 1854 he became the first of the Carver Land Company investors to move to Carver. Griffin established Carver's first general store, its first ferry, its first stagecoach line, its first real hotel, Carver House, a sawmill, and acquired much farmland. By 1860 he had become the second wealthiest man in Carver County. Griffin would serve as the first sheriff of Carver County when the county was created in 1855. He would also be a Carver County Commissioner, and U. S. Marshall during the Civil War.

Griffin was married in Boston, Massachusetts on Oct. 3, 1847 to Eliza J. Torrey, who was born in Deer Island, Maine on July 22, 1829, the daughter of William Torrey and Sarah Pressey. When Griffin's wife joined him in Carver in 1854, she became Carver's first white woman. When their daughter, also named Eliza, was born in 1855, she was the first white child born in Carver. Levi Griffin died in Flaxton, Dale Township in North Dakota on Dec. 22, 1902; his wife died in Larson, Keller Township, North Dakota on July 30, 1912. Fellow Carver Land Company investors Joseph W. Hartell and Levi Griffin were brothers-in-law, having married sisters. Two of the Levi Griffin's properties survive to the present at 113 and 201 East Fourth Street in Carver. Levi Griffin Road in Carver is named after him.

## **Historic Homes, Businesses, and Structures in Carver**

**109 Main Street East, Presbyterian Church, Church By The River.** The church grew from a nondenominational Sunday school that began in 1893, with a church congregation being organized in 1899. On September 1, 1900 members and friends of the Presbyterian Church of Carver formally incorporated a congregation pursuant to the Laws of Minnesota and elected church officers at a meeting chaired by theological student and acting pastor of the church, Benjamin R. Weld. The first elected officers of the church were Trustees Andrew Sthol (3-year term), Noah Hammarlund (2-year term), and Dr. Everett Hartley (1-year term). Church Elders elected were John S. Danens and Charles A. Franzen. Formal incorporation papers were filed with the Carver County Registrar's Office a month later on October 2, 1900. In 1913 the congregation decided on building a permanent church and \$3600 was paid for construction to Carver building contractor Olaf Hanson, whose own home yet stands on Main Street West. On Armistice Day, 1918, the church bell cracked when it was rung vigorously to celebrate the end of World War I.

Church membership declined after 1959 and the building incurred damage in the great 1965 flood. Its last church service was held on Sept. 24, 1967 and many members continued Presbyterian Church attendance in Chaska. Acquired and used for a few years as a museum and headquarters for Carver on the Minnesota, Inc., the structure is today owned by the City of Carver for City Council and Commission meetings and other civic activities. Through the work, funds, and efforts of the Carver Lions Club, the Minnesota Historical Society, and many other volunteers, a church restoration was completed, which resulted in the Carver Lions receiving a 2006 Community Effort Award from the

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. The building's interior now displays that award, along many vintage photos and relics from Carver's history.

The building reveals conventional design in Gothic character with a touch of Queen Anne Revival. The building has a square plan with its principal entry through a square corner bell tower. Features include panels and moldings on the bell tower, shingled gables, Gothic windows, and a border of colored leaded glass squares around a central motif of the leaded glass windows.

**Main Street Stone Arch Bridge over Spring Creek.** Built in the 1880s by contractor and East Union farmer Charles Skone to replace a wooden bridge that rumbled like thunder when horses and carriages crossed. The old wooden bridge was vulnerable to rot, to horses falling through, and to washing out during heavy rains. When surface planking was replaced in 1889 the specifications called for planks 3 inches thick and 14 feet long. The new stone bridge was fashioned in the Syrian arched style and composed of locally quarried red rock. Skone's bridge was the first made of stone in Carver

The bridge's builder, Charles (Carl) Skone, was of Swedish descent, born April 3, 1855 at East Union, just west of Carver. He was the son of Johannes Daniel Skone, born in Sweden in 1833, and Annette Bengtsson, born in Sweden about 1824 and from the Swedish Lutheran community at Gothaholm near Watertown in Carver County. Charles' father Johannes (John) was likely from the province of Skåne in southern Sweden, as the family surname suggests. Charles Skone probably built his brick farmhouse in Section 25 of Dahlgren Township, west of Carver, and he may well be the builder of the 1876 St. Nicholas School and Rectory, built in stone, in Carver. In November 1873 Charles' father Johannes D. Skone received the contract to build an earlier bridge over Carver Creek, near Joseph Weinmann's house, for which he was to receive \$180. The senior Skone seems to have had previous experience at bridge building, as the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote that he was "an old hand at the business". Perhaps 18-year old son Charles had assisted him and apprenticed on the earlier project, which was completed in December 1873. Charles Skone was married to Mathilda Applequist, also of Swedish ancestry, who was born on Aug. 28, 1860 at Gothaholm. In 1887 Charles Skone served as president of the Carver County Fair held at Carver's Riverside Park. Charles Skone had a farm in Dahlgren Township two miles to the west of Carver in East Union, where in 1894 he was growing an improved variety of Yellow Dent Corn, that he thought to be better than any in the state. The corn could be purchased on his farm or at John Hebeisen's place. In June, 1895 Skone put up a new barn on his farm. In August 1898 Charles Skone sold his farm of 200 acres, which was suitable for raising stock and having a frame residence and the "finest, best arranged barns in Carver County", touted the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper. According to the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, the Skones were likely drawn to the Seattle area during the economic boom caused by the Klondike Gold Rush at the end of the 1800s. In 1903 Charles built a historic Vernacular style home in the Green Lake district of Seattle, Washington. Charles' parents, who had sold their East Union farm for \$5,000 in April 1902, were then living near them in Seattle.

The *Carver Free Press* newspaper of Aug. 6, 1896 wrote that John D. Scone and his son Charles had the contract in Carver to build a new bridge and have it finished “before the snow flies”. The piles for the new bridge had arrived the previous Tuesday, with driving work to begin at once. But whether it was to build a Carver bridge at Main, Third, Fourth, or at Sixth Street was not specified.

**116 Main Street West, Weinmann-Sundine House.** Built about 1865 by Joseph and Adolphina Weinmann. In 1860 and 1861 the two lots on which the house sits were sold by Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey to Joseph and his wife Adolphina Weinmann, who was born in France about 1815. Prior to 1860-1861 there may have already been a small structure or outbuilding on the lot on which the house presently sits. The 1860 U. S. Census for Carver shows that Adolphina and Joseph Weinmann were living in Carver with three girls and a boy, two of whom were given as born in Indiana, and two born in Minnesota, an indicator that the Weinmann’s lived in Indiana for a time. Joseph Weinmann is listed on the 1863-64 Poll Tax register in Carver, though he was probably away and serving in the Civil War during those years.

Joseph Weinmann (sometimes spelled Weinman), a lawyer, was born at Bliesdalheim, Pfalz, Bavaria on September 8, 1826. He immigrated to America in 1847, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1854, perhaps in Indiana. In 1856 he came to Minnesota, settling on a farm in Benton Township in Carver County. Already by 1860 Weinmann was engaged in politics as a Democrat, before coming to Carver to practice law. Weinmann was twice elected Carver county attorney, both before and after the Civil War, serving from 1859-1861, and again from 1869 to about 1873, where he is named as such in the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory*. Joseph Weinmann served the Union, first as a member of the Carver County Rangers, then helping to raise Company H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which he then later served in as first lieutenant from 1862-1864. In August and September 1862 he served at Glencoe and with those giving aid to Hutchinson, Minnesota during the Sioux Uprising of 1862. Weinmann was probably present doing guard duty with Company H at Mankato, Minnesota on Dec. 28, 1862 when 38 Dakota Indians were hanged after being judged responsible for the slaughter of settlers during the Sioux Uprising of Aug.-Sept. 1862. It was the largest mass execution in U. S. history. After the Indian War he remained in Union military service during the Civil War. On Jan. 17, 1863, while still a Carver County Ranger, he was injured and was unable to go south with the rest of his command to serve in the Civil War. After Civil War service he returned to Carver. When the Carver County Homeopathic Society was organized for sanitary purposes on Feb. 25, 1869, Weinmann was elected its first president. In Dec. 1873 he was granted an auctioneer’s license for a year. In Jan. 1874 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper indicated he was moving to Yankton in the Dakota Territory, but in March 1874 an item in the same newspaper related he was moving to Colorado. In any event, in 1875 Adolphina and Joseph Weinmann sold the house and property to John and Sara M. Sundine, who from 1868-1873 had owned a house at 112 Fourth Street West in Carver. After selling the house the Weinmanns seem to have moved to Faribault, Minnesota for a few years. In 1880 he was appointed a congressional delegate in Faribault as a Democrat. After 1885 Weinmann was living in Minneapolis where he was engaged in real estate and

as an agent for the German American Insurance Company. Weinmann was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a large national group of those who had preserved the Union through service in the Civil War. In 1893 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper noted that Joseph Weinman was then living in southern Illinois and was general agent for the German Insurance Company. The Weinmann's may have already been living in Illinois for a time, as Joseph Weinmann's wife died in Decatur, Illinois on 30 Oct. 1891. By Dec. 1897 the newspaper reported he was living back in Minneapolis and still in the insurance business. Joseph Weinmann died in Minneapolis on April 9, 1912 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Faribault.

Sara Sundine (nee Sara Mathilda Petersdotter/Peterson) was born in Sund, Linköping, Sweden on April 21, 1843 and came to Minnesota in 1867, where she married John Sundine in August 1867 at East Union Church. Sara was the sister of Gustavus Ferdinand Sunwall (1852-1933), who was a founder of Walnut Grove Minnesota (of *Little House on the Prairie* book and television fame). Sunwall lived in Carver 1869-73, then again as a Carver grain elevator operator from about 1879-1886. Sara's husband, John Sundine, was a leading Carver merchant and held many positions of trust in Carver. He was born Johannes L. Sundin in Lund, Sweden on Nov. 15, 1838 and came to America in 1860. Like Joseph Weinmann, in August 1862 Sundine enlisted in Company H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment and served in action during the Sioux Uprising of 1862. Sundine probably was also present doing guard duty with Company H at Mankato, Minnesota while the 38 condemned Dakota Indians were executed. Sundine stayed on after the Indian War and served as a private in the Union in the Civil War until the fall of 1865.

After the Civil War Sundine returned to Carver and clerked in the Linenfelsler, Faber & Zanger general store, and in the store of John Dunn. In August 1862 Sundine and fellow Company H veteran A. G. Anderson (who was also a store clerk and lived down the street at 208 Main Street West) went into partnership and bought the store and business of Enoch Holmes. The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper related that they would continue "dealing out the calico at the old stand of Mr. Holmes". In August 1873 Anderson and Sundine expanded a bit into bulk produce and sold their first carload of wheat to H. Eames & Company. The Anderson and Sundine General Store was located on the east side of Broadway at the south end near the Minnesota River in Carver. In 1879 Sundine sold his share of the business to Enoch Holmes and the business then became Holmes and Anderson. That same year John Sundine purchased the building across the street at 120 Broadway, intending to open another store, which he owned for a year before selling it to another Civil War veteran, Peter A. Johnson. In 1880 John Sundine was listed among the highest taxpayers in Carver County. In August 1887 Sundine accepted a position with the Holmes line of grain elevators in Minneapolis.

John Sundine died on Feb. 24, 1898, and his wife Sara went to live with daughter Anna, married to Professor W. W. Smith in Hawarden, Iowa. Despondent, John Sundine's widow hanged herself in Hawarden on October 11, 1900. In 1902 the house passed by probate to the Sundine's two daughters, who sold it the same year.

After several owners, the house passed in 1965 to Arthur and Betty Moldenhauer, who ran a meat market at 212 Broadway in Carver. In 1986 the house was the scene of a flurry of sheriff and Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension activity. On December 20 the Moldenhauers' daughter, Cindy Mae Kechely, age 25, had stopped by the house to visit her parents and deliver some Christmas presents. She then left the house for a walk, and was never seen again alive. Massive police and volunteer searches were made around Carver and the Minnesota River, but she was not found. Months later her body was found in the Minnesota River. Speculation at the time was that she had been murdered, was a suicide, or died accidentally, perhaps falling from the railroad bridge over the Minnesota River at Carver. An autopsy revealed no sign of foul play and the death was ruled accidental.

**121 Main Street West, Dikeside.** Built about 1890, probably by Edward and Ida E. Peterson, the year after their Carver marriage. The house is constructed in a T-style cottage plan that is set low to the ground with Greek Revival characteristics. It is one and a half stories and is constructed of local buff-colored Carver or Chaska brick. The house features Gothic style porch brackets and Gothic arched window hoods. Alexander Ramsey, the first Minnesota Territorial Governor, once owned the property on which the house is situated.

From at least the 1890s to around 1940 the property also held a three-bay wooden-framed blacksmith shop immediately to the east of the house and fronting on Main Street, on a spot presently occupied by the flood dike. The central portion of the blacksmith shop was two stories in height, with one-story wings on either side to the east and west. A succession of blacksmith owners lived in the adjacent brick house, Dikeside, needing only a few steps to go to work. It is said that the first owner of the house stabled his horses in the dugout basement on the dike side of the home. The T-plan house features a front entry in the ell and a rear porch that was later enclosed.

In November 1900 Edward and Ida (Anderson) Peterson transferred ownership of the house and blacksmith shop to Emanuel Swanson and his wife, Christine (Nelson), though it is possible that Emanuel was living there and engaged in the blacksmith trade as early as 1896, perhaps as a tenant.

Besides operating a blacksmith shop, Emanuel Swanson ran at least one, and perhaps two grocery stores in Carver, located not far from his house on Broadway. Emanuel Swanson was born in Sweden or Norway on February 12, 1858 and came to America, going directly to Carver County when he was two years old. His family farmed and he lived on the farm until he was 21. In 1885 he was married to Christine Nelson (born 1863) of East Union. In East Union Emanuel went into some sort of store business, as well as being engaged in the blacksmith trade there for 17 years, from about 1879-1896. He then operated the Swanson blacksmith shop in Carver from about 1896-1908. In 1911 Emanuel Swanson sold the house and adjacent blacksmith shop to blacksmith C. A. Walquist, whose last name is sometimes spelled in the Swedish manner, Wahlquist, and sometimes as Wallquist. After selling to Walquist, Swanson entered the grocery business at 200/204 Broadway in Carver for several years until his son, Ardie F. Swanson, took

over that business. Emanuel and Christine Swanson are buried in East Union Church Cemetery in Dahlgren Township.

Swanson's successor, C. A. Walquist, was born on July 31, 1884 in Essunga Parish, Västergötland, Sweden and immigrated to the United States in 1904. He took up the blacksmith trade and was known to be skilled in shoeing horses. As early as 1908, perhaps first as a renter, and certainly by 1911 as an owner, he was the working proprietor of the blacksmith shop once owned by Emanuel Swanson. On June 12, 1908 he married Esther Olivia Almquist (born 1886) in Dahlgren's East Union Church. The same year the couple became members of the Swedish congregation of Salem Lutheran Church in Carver. By 1911 C. (Charles/Carl) A. Walquist's blacksmith shop was located in the center two-story portion of the building, with a wagon shop located in the eastern one-story wing and a painting area located in the western one-story wing. Walquist owned the house and ran a successful blacksmithing business, providing the family enough income to purchase a large new touring car around 1920. Walquist ran the blacksmith shop until October 1920 when tragedy devastated the family.

On Sunday, October 3, 1920 C. A. Walquist drove his wife and two daughters in their new touring sedan to St. Paul for a visit to his brother, William. On Sunday evening the family was on their way home, making their way eastbound on University Avenue at LaSalle near the Midway Bridge between St. Paul and Minneapolis. Shortly after 8 p.m. their touring car collided nearly head on with a westbound streetcar. The four Walquist family members were rushed to two area hospitals. C. A. Walquist, who had been driving, and his 9-year-old daughter Olivia, seated behind him, both died shortly after the accident. Esther Walquist and 15-year old daughter Angeline were badly hurt, but survived.

When word of the accident reached Carver it cast a shadow of gloom over the whole town. When the Walquist funerals were held the following Friday afternoon, all of the Carver businesses closed. The funeral for Charles and daughter Olivia took place in the family home at 1:30 p. m., after which everyone proceeded to the Carver Presbyterian Church (today called the Church by the River) for another service, with burials taking place in the West Union Church Cemetery in Hancock Township. The funeral procession was said to be the largest in memory in Carver. Six high school boys carried Olivia's casket, while six of Olivia's female classmates followed dressed in white. Carver businessmen provided a broken-wheel flower arrangement, testifying to Charles' blacksmith trade, and many members of the Carver County Blacksmith Association attended.

After the accident, widow Esther Walquist was forced to sell both the house and blacksmith shop. In 1921-22 the property title for both was transferred to blacksmith August Morose and his wife Mary, whose father Frank Plackner had been Carver's Justice of the Peace, Carver Constable, ferryman, and saloon owner at 404 Broadway in Carver. August Morose had earlier had been engaged in farming. August Morose (born 1891) continued to run the blacksmith shop at least until 1928, and perhaps much longer, though then it seems to have been doing automobile repair work as well. The blacksmith

shop no longer exists, probably torn down in the 1940s. Its' former site is now occupied by the flood dike on the west side of Spring Creek. The brick home passed to William J. Morose in 1951 and was in very bad repair after his death. In 1973 it was purchased at a sheriff's auction and restored by Edith (Edie) Herman, one of the founders of Carver's Steamboat Days and an important figure in the creation of Carver's Historic District. Members of the Morose family are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

Dikeside was pictured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth.

**200 Main Street West, Hoken and Josephine Holm House.** The house was built in 1885 of Carver or Chaska buff-colored brick on two lots by Hoken (Haakon) H. Holm, just prior to his October 14, 1885 marriage to Josephine Dauwalter, who was born on Nov. 28, 1862, the daughter of pioneer Carver blacksmith Charles D. Dauwalter. Hoken Holm, was born in Norway on November 25, 1847 and immigrated to America, coming to Carver in 1869. He stayed in Carver for a few months, and then moved to Minneapolis, where he lived until August 1876. Holm attended the U. S. Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, and then returned to Norway to visit his childhood home until the spring of 1877. Holm returned to Carver in 1878 and on arrival purchased a stock of general merchandise to start a store. For a time he lived with his business partner, Ole Johnson, and his family, who about 1883 built the house across the street at 201 Main Street West. Already by 1879 Hoken Holm and Ole Johnson were partners in the Holm and Johnson General Store they owned, which was located in Carver in the northwest corner of Broadway and Main Street West. In 1880 the Holm and Johnson firm was listed among the highest taxpayers in Carver County. Their general store was demolished in the early 1920s to build the gasoline station that survives there to the present.

The Holm and Johnson General Store featured fine furnishings and foodstuffs and was frame-built with two stories, a false front, and a three-bay second story façade with 6 x 6 double hung windows. The main street level entry featured a symmetrical front with a recessed double door entry. On either side of the entry were 6 mullioned windows, seated on a hip-level paneled board front. Immediately to the north of the general store the partners also owned a small building with front entry double doors on the south side and 6 x 6 mullioned windows on the north side. This small building seems to have been a grocery warehouse in its early years, and later evolved into a small grocery store. Behind and to the west of the grocery store, facing Main Street and abutting Spring Creek, was a two story dwelling, also owned by the partners, which may have served as their residence until their homes were built further to the west on Main Street.

Hoken Holm was a charter member of the Carver Masonic Lodge and Josephine was a charter member of the lodge's sister organization, the Eastern Star. Sons Dr. Hillard H. Holm and Harold C. Holm lived for a time at the house. Dr. Hillard Holm attended the University of Minnesota School of Medicine and interned at the Minneapolis City Hospital as Assistant County Physician. Hakon and Josephine Holm were buried in

Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver with funeral services at the Presbyterian Church of Carver (Church by the River). After the Holm family' ownership the house was owned by the Kusserow family of Carver.

The house features Eastlake decoration in porch brackets, decorated verge boards, and turned columns. Also featured are hooded windows with ornate decoration, a side bay window, and shingled gable ends. The closed side porch was once open, as was the front porch, and the yard was once fully fenced with wrought iron. A stable once sat on the northeast corner of the property. The brick exterior of the house was covered in stucco long after construction.

**201 Main Street West, Ole and Lena Johnson House.** Already by 1867 there seems to have been some sort of warehouse, stable, or storefront on the northwest portion of the two-lot property. This (or these) buildings, now gone, were passed in ownership for a couple of decades between some of Carver's leading merchants, perhaps because of an advantageous location near the Carver Ferry, the gristmill, the Broadway business district, and the steamboat levee. The two lots were purchased and the existing house was built about 1883 by Ole and Lena Johnson, who immigrated to Minnesota from Norway. Ole Johnson, born in 1844, came to America in 1869 with fellow Norwegian Hoken Holm, and the two of them partnered in the Holm and Johnson General Store located in Carver in the northwest corner of Broadway and Main Street West where the gas station now sits.

The store sold general goods and furnishings, as well as groceries. In the years before he married, partner Hoken Holm lived with Ole and Lena and their children. In 1885 Hoken built his own home across the street at 200 Main Street West. Lena, born about 1860, died before 1890 and in 1894 widower Ole married an immigrant from Sweden, Augusta Larson, who had come to America in 1882. Ole retired from the general store business and sold his share of the store in 1904 and helped out with farm work, perhaps with Herman Bom, who lived next door and had a farm to the south along the Minnesota River bottoms. In 1919 Ole Johnson, again widowed, sold the house to an August Johnson, perhaps the same August Johnson who for many years owned the saloon at the northeast corner of Broadway and Third Street East, today called Lisa's Place.

The house was built in a two-story T-plan in buff-colored Carver or Chaska brick. In the north and south facing angles of the T there were originally small open porches, now enclosed. Stuccoing and a frame addition on the front of the house have much changed its original appearance. The house featured brick-hooded windows with 4 x 4 vertical paneled windows, and at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century the yard was fenced in with a trim fence.

**208 Main Street West, Andrew G. Anderson House.** Built about 1870, with improvements in the 1880s and 1890s, including a full front porch, porch railings and decoration, plus gable end decorations, the house took on an Eastlake appearance. The house is two-story, L-shaped, in a wooden frame with wooden siding, described in a 1915 newspaper item as "a fine home in Carver".

The house was built by Swedish immigrant Andrew (Anders) G. Anderson, who was born July 14, 1840 in Sweden. On July 28, 1855 he landed at St Paul, Minnesota on a riverboat and then traveled to Carver in 1857 by oxcart. He worked at odd jobs, including clerking in G. A. Bucklin's Carver store in 1860 for a time before going south to Louisiana until 1861 when he returned to Minnesota. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment on Aug. 22, 1862 and served in the quelling of the Sioux Uprising of 1862, which had broken out a few days earlier. After the Uprising he continued in service during the Civil War and was present at many battles. During the Civil War he was captured by the Confederates at Guntown, Mississippi on June 11, 1864 and sent to the horrible Confederate Andersonville Prison in Georgia, which saw 13,000 of 45,000 Union prisoners die of disease, malnutrition, exposure, poor sanitation, and overcrowding. In a prisoner exchange A. G. Anderson was released on November 18, 1864, but continued in Union military service until August 1865, having been promoted to second lieutenant on Jan. 19, 1865..

On a military furlough in 1862 Andrew G. Anderson married Emma Marie Demers (also spelled DeMers and DeMars) of Carver. Emma was born in New York in October 1846, probably the daughter of Stephen (born about 1818) and Elisabeth A. Demers (born about 1818). The 1880 U. S. Census gives Emma's father to be born in France, her mother to be born in Canada, while the 1900 U. S. Census puts them both born in English Canada. The Demers family left French Canadian Montreal about 1840 and settled in Persia in Cattaraugus County, New York for a time before making their way to be pioneer settlers in Carver by 1857. Emma's mother, Elisabeth Demers, died in Carver on Feb. 24, 1876. Like Emma's husband, two of Emma's brothers served the Union in the Civil War.

Emma's brother Frank S. Demers, born about 1840 and died April 16, 1894, entered Company K of the 4<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment on Dec. 16, 1864 and was a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant before being promoted Adjutant on June 21, 1865. He was married to Alice M. Morrison from St. Paul. After the Civil War Frank Demers became prominent in the steamboat business in the Fargo area of the future State of North Dakota and in Democratic politics and farming in the East Grand Forks area of Minnesota.

Emma's brother, music teacher Walter Demers, was born about 1849 in New York and served in Company C of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment from Sept. 14, 1864 to June 17, 1865. Walter served in Company C with Albert Henry Woolson (1847/48-1956,) the last surviving Civil War veteran from either side. Walter Demers was married to Carrie Kellogg on Jan. 21, 1880 in Minneapolis. After their marriage they lived in Carver's Temperance Hotel for a time before moving to Minneapolis. Among other siblings, Emma Demers also had a sister, Kathryn Demers, who was married to Joseph A. Pike, whose house yet stands at 320 Ash Street in Carver.

After the Civil War Anderson returned to Carver in late summer, 1865, and clerked in Enoch Holmes' general store until about 1872 when he and John Sundine bought the mercantile store and business from Holmes. In 1868, perhaps as wages, A. G. Anderson acquired the lot to the west of the house from Enoch Holmes, and in 1870 he acquired the

adjacent lot to the east, upon which he built his home. A. G. Anderson was in the general store business with John Sundine in Carver for a few years before the firm was joined in partnership in 1875 by his old boss, Enoch Holmes. In 1878-79 Sundine retired from the concern, which then became Holmes and Anderson. In August 1880 Anderson disposed of his interest to Holmes. In December 1880 Anderson went into the general store business by himself, and from 1881 to late 1886 he was in partnership with A. L. Skoog in the Anderson and Skoog General Store, now gone, but once located just to the south of the present day Carver Post Office. In December 1886 he retired from the business and sold out his interest to Skoog and purchased the Larson & Long Brickyard, probably located on County Road # 40 on the way out of Carver to the southwest, with plans to go into the brick making business and increase its output in 1887. Anderson successfully continued business and real estate activities in Carver for many years.

A lifelong active Democrat, in 1887 A. G. Anderson was elected to the Minnesota State Senate, representing Carver County in the 1880s and 1890s. He also managed the Carver grain elevator and served as a trustee (town councilman) in Carver and was involved in many civic projects. Anderson owned other investment properties in and around Carver, including in the 1890s a 60 acre parcel immediately south of Carver, and a small 11 acre wooded farm with outbuildings “good for a chicken ranch” located on the north side of Henderson Road just outside Carver which he was selling in 1919. For many years he also owned as income property the Zanger-Anderson Tenement located at 121 Third Street East in Carver. Living in Carver for more than 70 years, Anderson died on Aug. 19, 1928 at the age of 88. After a military funeral at his home he was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver near his wife Emma (1846-1927), near two of their children who died in infancy in 1861-1862, and next to a granddaughter who died young in the 1890s.

A son of the Andersons, Edgar (born in 1873), was married to Helena, a daughter of Carver merchant Christian Bristle. Edgar Anderson served a Carver’s mail and message carrier.

Restoration of the house by the Kelzer family took place in 2006 and 2007. For their work the Kelzers received the 2007 award for the year’s best restoration in the Carver Historic District.

**209 Main Street West, Herman Bom House.** Built about 1905 by Herman and Amanda Bom, the house replaced a pre-1894 two-story house on the property that sat closer to the street and that had two one-story additions to the east and one to the south. The present home, with Craftsman style interior built-ins, was the farmhouse of the 160-acre Bom farm, which was along the banks of the Minnesota River, just south of the present house and flood dike. The farm produced corn, oats, and alfalfa and supported grazing cattle and horses on river bottom pastureland, though flooding of the lowlands made farming a risky venture. Herman and Amanda (Lund) Bom, born respectively in 1864 and 1871 in Skaraborg, Sweden, bought the lot for the house in 1903 and about 1905 built the present lap-sided frame house, which once had an open front porch, and which was stuccoed over by a later owner, probably in the 1930s. During the Bom’s ownership the property had a barn, chicken coops, and sheds, now gone, which were located near the present-day flood

dike. Herman Bom worked on the railroad and farmed most of his life. He was a member of the Carver Fire Department and served in various civic capacities. The Bom's sons helped with the farming. Tragedy struck the family in July 1937 as son Arnold tried to stop a runaway horse-drawn hay rake and was fatally injured when impaled as the rig struck a tree near the street in front of the house. The funerals visitations of Arnold and later Amanda Bom took place in the family home, with the funerals held at nearby Salem Lutheran Church in Carver, which Amanda attended since it was built in 1876. Herman, Amanda, and Arnold Bom are buried in the East Union Church Cemetery just west of Carver.

In 1946 Carl and Anna Luthy came to own the house. Carl was the Constable/Police Chief of Carver in the 1940s and 1950s. While on foot patrol on Main Street in 1947, near his home, he was struck by a car and hospitalized with a broken leg and other injuries. As a widow in the 1970s and 1980s Anna Luthy ran a bed and breakfast in the house for sportsman who hunted and fished the Minnesota River Valley area.

**217 Main Street West, Alfred and Inga Bom House.** Built on two lots once owned by Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey. Swedish immigrants Alfred and Inga Bom probably had the house built in 1891, two years after their marriage. The quaint house is built in local buff-colored brick in a classic T-style cottage plan with Greek Revival character and Gothic arched window hoods. It is one and a half stories in the entry side ell, and two stories on the other section, with porches on the front and rear now enclosed. Olaf Hanson (also spelled Hansen), a builder of many houses and churches in Carver County, may have been the builder of the house, with Carver mason Leonard Schroeder perhaps doing the brickwork. Brick for the house is most likely Carver brick from the Ahlin brickyard, once located a few blocks to the west of the house on Main Street West/County Road #40. Most of the homes on Main Street West were owned by a cluster of Swedish immigrant families, creating a sort of "Swede Hollow" of Carver. The Ahlin brickyard was also owned by Swedish immigrants and it probably furnished brick for those Main Street West homes constructed of brick, or having foundations and cisterns of brick.

Alfred Isaac Bom was born Isac Alfred Bohm at Herrljunga, Sweden on August 29, 1862. In 1880 at age 18 he immigrated to America, coming directly to the Carver area where he lived the rest of his life. Alfred worked for one of the railroads in Carver and farmed the rich lowlands to the south of the house along the Minnesota River. Brothers of Alfred lived next door at 209 Main Street West and down the street at 400 Main Street West, undoubtedly helping each other with farming. On May 7, 1889 Alfred married Inga Marie Johnson at Carver. Inga Marie was born in Sweden in March 1863 and immigrated to America in 1884. The Boms raised six children, one of whom was Annie M. Hansen, married to Elmer Ernest Hansen, a son of Carver builder Olaf Hansen who likely built the house. Alfred and Inga Bom attended Salem Lutheran Church in Carver. Inga's is buried in East Union Cemetery in nearby Dahlgren Township and it is likely that Alfred is buried there too. Bom descendents in the Hansen family line owned it into the 1980s.

The garage to the east of the house sits on the site of a stable of about the same size that belonged to Civil War veteran and Carver merchant A. G. Anderson, whose home was across the street at 208 Main Street West.

**309 Main Street West.** Built on several lots about 1897 in local buff-colored brick, it probably replaced a smaller ca. 1882 house built by Andrew R. Anderson. The building is constructed in a Greek Revival style with hooded windows and with many with strong elements of the Queen Anne Revival style that include turned rear porch posts, picture windows and stained glass, and a front entry transom. A porch is on the rear, and the shadow of a former similar, but larger, ornate porch can be seen across the front side of the house. To the rear and west of the house is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century barn and stable.

**401 Main Street West, Severin and Sarah Bom House.** The oldest portion of the house, located on the west end, was built about 1860 in a two-story Greek Revival style and moved to the present location about 1928. The oldest part of the building building, the west side, features a fine period recessed entry with sidelights and transom, similar to those found on Carver houses at 320 Ash Street and 120 Third Street East. Also featured are broken pedimented gables, and six over six paned windows. The eastern portion of the house was added in about 1934 and the garage and breezeway connection date to the 1960s or 1970s. The earliest part of the house is believed to be the only surviving structure from old First Street in Carver, which once ran parallel to Main Street on the south side of the present day flood dike. The original Mirriam red rock foundation can still be seen in the trees on the other side of the dike and a bit west of the house's present location.

Both parcels of land, the old foundation site and the present site of the house, were once owned by former Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey. The original land, and perhaps the original house as well, had some early connection to Levi Griffin and to Joseph A. Pike, who were both connected to the early sawmill industry just outside of Carver in the 1850s and 1860s. Griffin lived on Fourth Street East in Carver, and Pike on the corner of Fourth Street West and Ash. Pike's 1863 house at 420 Ash Street has a remarkably similar entry portico to the Severin and Sarah Bom House, and both entries are unique to Carver, perhaps suggesting a common builder.

In 1888 the land on which the house sits was purchased by Swedish immigrants, Johannes S. and Charlotta Lund, who farmed land running along the banks of the Minnesota River. The Lunds must have had an earlier small frame house on the land, as it was this parcel of land that was declared as being their homestead. Johannes Lund was born in Sweden in 1834, and Charlotte Lund was born on April 19, 1837 at Fiskarleden (Fiskarheden?) Lars, possibly in Dalarna, Sweden. The couple married in 1870 in Sweden and in 1885 they immigrated to America. By 1886 were settled in Carver County, probably engaged in farming, and perhaps already renting or having a contract to buy the land on which they made their home.

Johannes Lund died in 1918, and after Charlotte Lund died in 1925 the land went through a 1927 probate to the Lund's daughter, Mrs. Herman (Amanda Lund) Bom, who lived a

few doors to the east at 209 Main Street West in Carver, and who with her husband was engaged in farming in the fertile, low lying areas to the south along Carver Creek.. By 1928 the land went to Severin Bom (born in 1898), the son of Herman and Amanda Bom, and the grandson of the Lunds. Severin Bom was married to Sarah Kelm of Chanhassen, whose relative, Elmer Kelm of Chanhassen, has been called the Architect of the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota. The Boms took up residence on their new property, moving the house onto the site about 1928, and enlarging it around 1934. Though Severin Bom grew up with farming and sometimes afterwards helped on his father's farm, he did not take up farming, but instead hauled cream with his brother, Rodney Bom, also a Carver resident. In 1932 Severin Bom was President of School District # 1 in Minnesota, the Carver School District. Severin and Sarah Bom owned and lived on the property for some 40 years before it went to Robert and Dorothy Ess, who in turn owned the house for some 35 years. Severin and Sarah Bom are buried in East Union Cemetery just outside of Carver, as are Severin's parents and maternal grandparents, the Lunds.

In 2007 the house was extensively remodeled, removing a later addition on the east side of the house's west wing that restored its original portico and Greek Revival appearance.

**109 Third Street East, Hebeisen Hardware and Farm Implement Store.** Built circa 1869 with a typical false front concealing a low gable over a single story, framed in wood, with a later addition to the rear and a later attached tin-covered building to the east. The store is very original with a recessed entry, front mullioned-paned windows, and bulkheads. The store was probably built during the ownership of Albert Burgraf on land once owned by former Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey. Burgraf purchased the property in 1866. He is likely the same Albert Burgraf who was mustered into the Union Army during the Civil War in Brackett's Battalion, Company A of the Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry in Ramsey County on Mar. 31, 1864, and who was discharged for disability on Mar. 13, 1866. Brackett's Battalion participated in various engagements of the Dakota War in General Sully's campaign against the Dakota west of the Mississippi River between June and Nov. 1864 and during the summer of 1865.

In Sept. 1869 Burgraf sold the property to Henry Stockman, an immigrant from Hanover in Prussia in the German States who had learned the shoemaking trade there and who immigrated to America in 1851, settling first in Chicago, Illinois. Stockmann came to the Scott County, probably in the late 1850s, and had a shoemaking store in Shakopee in Scott County for four years prior to moving to Carver. Stockman owned the Carver store property from 1869-1874, out of which he ran a successful boot and shoemaking concern. The Carver Poll Tax register for 1863-1864 indicates that Henry Stockman was by then already living in Carver. Stockman was involved in the shoe and boot business in Carver as early as 1865, for in that year he advertised in Carver in the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory*, though the location of his establishment is not given. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and 1873 Henry Stockman was again advertised in Carver in the boot and shoe business. After his wife's 1873 death Stockman lost interest in living and working in Carver. In June 1874, O. J. Beogman, also a boot and shoemaker, moved into the back of Stockman's store and opened a shop,

probably as a renter. In 1874 Stockman relocated to Norwood in western Carver County, in that year selling the store to John Hebeisen, whose family would own and operate a business in the building for most of the next century. In 1874 Stockman also sold his house, Springside, today still located at 113 Fourth Street West in Carver.

After returning from the military service in the Sioux Uprising of 1862 and the Civil War John Hebeisen opened a hardware store in Carver, which relocated here in 1874, and which evolved over the years into chain of hardware and farm implement stores in Carver County. He became the largest farm implement dealer in the area and provided many settlers and immigrant farmers with the equipment to make their tasks easier, safer, and faster. In 1880 John Hebeisen created an engraved map of Carver County which showed the residence and name of every person who purchased a Champion reaper. Among products Hebeisen distributed in the early 1890s were McCormick steel binders and mowers, J. I. Case engines, agitators, and swinging stackers, Scott engines, Aeromoter windmills, pumps, feedmills, and sugar cane presses. He was also a leading distributor of sewing machines, and heating stoves, which were much more efficient than fireplaces. John Hebeisen was the first person to exhibit farm implements at the Carver County Fair and was one of the leading figures in running the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Carver County Fairs, as were his sons in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In early fall 1883 a serious fire broke out in the store's rear wareroom and spread to the adjacent Basler House Hotel's stable and barn, destroying them, and scorching several other businesses before the townspeople and Carver firefighters came to the rescue. Upon his death in 1924 the business was taken over by John Hebeisen's sons, George, John, and Fred. From the early 1880s the Hebeisen family lived in the Gables, a large Eastlake Queen Anne Victorian Revival home at 201 Fourth Street East. In addition they owned land in what is today Carver's Riverside Park, as well as tracts of farmland in Carver County and South Dakota. Oil was struck on the family's South Dakota farm, adding to already ample prosperity. In the 1920s there was a curbside hand gasoline pump situated near the front entry of the store.

**112 Third Street East, Anton Knoblauch House.** The earliest part of the house may date to about 1860. In July 1867 Anton Knoblauch seems to have greatly expanded it in a Greek Revival style. Joshua Torrey, a carpenter and boatbuilder who lived nearby at 201 Fourth Street East in Carver, performed the construction work along with a certain man named Pike. In Oct. 1867 Knoblauch added fire protection by adding lightning rods, installed by James Hankerson. In 1882 the house was again expanded by owner Anton Knoblauch (1835-1921), who was one of Carver's pioneers, arriving in Carver in 1856, and prospering on many fronts as the years went by.

Anton Knoblauch was born in Nereheim, Jagstkreis, Württemberg in the German States on August 24, 1835, the son of Joseph Anton Knoblauch (1779-1843) and Barbara Zink (1799-1869). In 1854 he came to America, living first at Ohio for two years before moving west to settle in Carver in 1856. In 1856 he was one of the laborers building the Carver House (Planter's House) Hotel for Levi Griffin. He clerked for eight years in the Carver store of Edmund Walton, and then about 1864 went into general merchandising for himself. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 Knoblauch is advertised being in the dry goods and groceries business in Carver on Broadway, though

the precise location of his establishment is not given. In Aug. 1869 Anton Knoblauch and Peter Thompson of Carver erected a large warehouse on Third Street East, near the Edward Goetze House at 117 East Third and nearly across the street from the Knoblauch House. In the fall of that year they planned on filling it with wheat. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1872 Knoblauch was advertised as a general store proprietor in Carver, and for 1873 as in the dry goods and groceries business. Knoblauch probably continued in the mercantile business until about 1881 when banking and real estate, and grain storage seem to have taken over as his main endeavors. At the Carver County Fair of 1870 he exhibited a sewing machine he was marketing, and in 1887 he served as treasurer of the Carver County Agricultural Society, which hosted the fair at Carver's Riverside Park. Knoblauch grew to become one of Carver's leading citizens in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, trying his hand at many ventures. Knoblauch was a farmer, a surveyor's assistant, an agricultural implement dealer, a merchant, a banker, a grain elevator owner, a farmland owner, a brick maker, a landlord, a real estate dealer, and one of the leading figures in the Carver County Agricultural Society, where he served as treasurer for many years, helping to create and run the early annual Carver County Fairs held in Carver. In April 1874 Knoblauch shipped 2500 bushels of wheat from Carver to Minneapolis. In 1880 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper listed Anton Knoblauch among the six highest taxpayers in Carver County. His bank building yet stands on the east side of the 300 block of Broadway in Carver, and his large grain elevator building along the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad tracks long dominated the eastern Carver landscape. In 1894 Knoblauch, a staunch Republican, was elected president (mayor) of the Carver town council. He was also a staunch supporter of St. Nicholas Church in Carver. When Anton Knoblauch died on March 31, 1921 every business in Carver closed for his funeral.

Anton's wife, Anna Johnson, was born Apr. 6, 1838 in Järvsjö in Gävleborg, Sweden, the daughter of Marcus Johnson Sr. (1804-1891) and Brita Göransdotter (1812-1896). Anna's family immigrated to America in 1852, arriving on the brig *Marie* in New York City on Oct. 4, 1852 and settled first in the Waupaca area in Wisconsin for six years. In the spring of 1858 they moved by oxen to the newly created State of Minnesota and settled on a claim on the south shore of Green Lake, near Willmar, Minnesota, which they later sold to John M. Spicer, who founded the town of Spicer, Minnesota. Anna Johnson's family then moved in search of better farming soil in May 1859 to the north in Colfax Township in Kandiyohi County near present day New London, Minnesota. When the Sioux Uprising of 1862 occurred and area settlers were being massacred, Anna's family fled to safety in Paynesville and then to Carver where they lived for about three years until their previous farming area again seemed safe. Her family later returned to the New London area, but Anna remained in Carver and on October 29, 1864 married Anton Knoblauch before the East Union Lutheran Church Congregation in nearby Dahlgren Township. Anna Johnson's brother George fought in the Dakota Uprising at Fort Abercrombie, another brother, Marcus Jr. became very prominent in the milling, lumber and banking industries in New London and other communities. A sister of Anna, Sarah (Sadie) Josephine Johnson married Clarence E. Funk of Carver, who was President of the First State Bank of Carver in the 1920s and 1930s.

In the 1890s the Knoblauchs altered the exterior of the house with many Eastlake and Victorian embellishments, including turned porch posts, a three bay gabled front, window brackets, millwork, and an ornamental iron rail fence. The home has a side entry with sidelights and transoms. At one time the house had elaborate gable decorations, roof cresting on the peaks, railings on the front and east side porches, and a doorway to the veranda above the front bay.

A *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper item from May 1868 mentioned that Knoblauch had “put up a neat picket fence in front of his property, with plans on shade trees and sidewalks”. A large windmill, barn, buggy shed, and woodshed once stood at the rear of the Knoblauch property. One night someone broke into the barn and stole one of Knoblauch’s horses, which was later recovered in Hopkins, Minnesota. It is believed that the present day garage at the rear of the property, where the barn once stood, was largely constructed from wood salvaged from the barn which was torn down in about 1946. Sometime around 1920 the clapboard siding on the house was covered in stucco.

Anna Knoblauch died in Carver on Nov. 5, 1928. Anton and Anna Knoblauch are buried in Carver’s Mount Hope Cemetery.

**117 Third Street East, Edward Goetze House.** A cornerstone engraved “Edw. Goetze 1867” indicates the building was constructed in 1867. It was built of Carver buff-colored brick by its first owner, Edward Goetze, a Carver plasterer, brick mason, and merchant. The brick for the house was manufactured at the Reynolds and Miller brickyard in Carver. The house is the one of the oldest surviving private residences in Carver constructed in local brick.

In 1913 Goetze drafted an autographical sketch on himself. He was born on Mar. 5, 1841 in Salfeld, Muehlhusen in Thuringia, in the German States where he learned piano and violin between his 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> year. In 1858 he came with his family to Carver County where they purchased farmland that he helped clear. In February 1862 he married Maria Christina Rehse, b.1845 in Prussia in the German States, with whom he had 6 sons and a daughter. Maria was the daughter of Zacharias Rehse, who lived in Carver for a time before returning to Germany, where he died in 1879. In October 1862 Edward and Maria Goetze moved to Carver where he spent about 20 years as a plasterer and brick mason, building in 1867 the brick house he and his wife lived in until their deaths. He built several fine brick farmhouses in Benton and Young America Townships in Carver County before in 1881 establishing a furniture and undertaking business in the middle of the east side of the 200 block of Broadway in Carver that he remained active with until his 71<sup>st</sup> year. In 1865 Goetze joined the German Reading Society and became an active member involved in its promotion. In 1866 he was one of the nineteen charter members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver. Goetze was President of the Mount Hope Cemetery Association and was a leading Carver Democrat and strong worker in the Carver County Agricultural Society, with put on the Carver County Fairs for many years in Carver’s Riverside Park. His photograph appears posthumously in the Sept. 28, 1922 *Weekly Valley Herald* in an article documenting the history of the fair.

Edward Goetze died in 1922 at the age of 81. His funeral was held in the house, with secondary services held at the Carver Presbyterian Church (Church-by-the-River). Wife Christina continued to live in the house and died in 1935 at age 90. The graves of Edward and Christina are in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver.

The home is a fine example of the Greek Revival style and features segmentally arched windows that hint of the Italianate style, with a semicircular ventilation window in the front gable, and a transom and sidelights in the front entry. The front veranda and center access door, both long missing, were replaced in a 2007 restoration. The lot the house sits on was once owned by former Territorial Governor of Minnesota, Alexander Ramsey, one of the original investors in the Carver Land Company. The house probably replaced an earlier small frame house on the site, perhaps built in 1857 by J. W. Hartwell, another of the original Carver Land Company investors. That earlier building probably burned or was torn down at or before 1866, with Edward Goetze buying the lot to build his home the following year.

About 10:30 p.m. on the night of October 10, 2004 a fire next door at the Carver Tenement at 121 Third Street East jumped to the eaves and roof of the Goetze House, but quick work by the Carver Fire Department minimized damage and saved the building.

**120 Third Street East, Houghton-Skoog House.** Built about 1863 in the Greek Revival style by one of Carver's most important citizens, Captain George Houghton, who through the years owned and piloted several steamboats on the Minnesota, Sauk, and Mississippi Rivers. The house was probably built with labor and lumber supplied by local carpenter and steamboat builder, Joshua P. Torrey, who lived near the Houghtons at 201 Fourth Street East in Carver, and who built the Knoblauch House next door at 112 Third Street East. Torrey is also known to have built at least one steamboat for George Houghton.

George Houghton was born on Jan. 28, 1828 near Brandon, Rutland County, Vermont, the son of Eli Houghton and Deborah Dwinel. George Houghton is said to have been married first to Mollie Mohler, probably from Pennsylvania, and who likely died in the late 1850s. George Houghton was married secondly to Lydia E. Mohler, probably the widow of a certain Mohler, and perhaps the sister-in-law of George's first wife, Mollie Mohler. Lydia was born Lydia E. Holmes on Dec. 27, 1824 in Pennsylvania, the daughter of Enoch Holmes Sr. and Susan Buckel. Lydia was the sister of Carver businessman Enoch Holmes Jr., the Asst. U. S. Marshal who took the 1860 U. S. Census for Carver, and probably also the sister of George B. Holmes, with whom she and her three children were living in Carver in 1860. In 1860 widower George Houghton and his older brother James Houghton (ca. 1821-1872), also a Carver steamboat captain, were living in a Carver boarding house or hotel. In Excelsior, Minnesota on Dec. 27, 1860 George Houghton married the widow Lydia E. Mohler and she came to the marriage with two sons from her previous marriage, William B. Mohler (born about 1849) and Sample Mohler (born about 1852). By the 1870 U. S. Census for Carver the two young men were serving as clerks in George Houghton's steamboat business. A daughter of Lydia from her first marriage, Mary E. Mohler, married Carver druggist and banker, George A. DuToit.

Many pioneer immigrants came to new homes in Minnesota aboard Houghton's steamboats, and later bought and sold goods, firewood, brick, and foodstuffs transported by his steamers. One of Houghton's early steamers was the *Antelope*, built in the 1850s, which had a hull capacity of 37 tons and which provided the first regularly scheduled round trip service between Carver and St. Paul. Rates to St. Paul were \$1.25, less than stagecoach cost. George Houghton piloted daily *Antelope* trips on the Minnesota River between Carver and St. Paul from 1857-1863, hauling goods, passengers, as well as soldiers and supplies for the Civil and Indian Wars. On one of the *Antelope's* trips Capt. Houghton and his passengers witnessed one of the final battles fought between the Sioux (Dakota) and Chippewa (Ojibwa) along the shores of the Minnesota River. Despite low water in 1860, the *Antelope* was so busy in that year that she made 80% of trips downstream on the Minnesota River to St. Paul. The steamboat business was lucrative for George Houghton. The U. S. Census for 1860 put George Houghton's net worth at \$2500, but by the 1870 Census it had increased to \$20,700. In 1862 George Houghton added to his riverboat service the steamboat *Clara Hine*, then the steamers *Ariel* and *Albany*, which made upstream trips on the Minnesota River twice a week. When the *Antelope* aged, its steam whistle was installed on the *Ariel*, which then made runs between Carver and St. Paul.

In 1865 George Houghton captained the sidewheel steamboat *Mollie Mohler* on the Minnesota River. Named after his first wife, the 125-foot long *Mollie Mohler* was built in the winter of 1864-65 and launched in the spring of 1865. It had a hull capacity of 94 tons and had accommodations for 56 passengers. It made many trips to and from Carver on the Minnesota River, and it also transported soldiers and supplies for the Civil War. On May 12, 1866 the *Mollie Mohler* was pulling a fully-loaded trailing barge downstream on the Minnesota River from Mankato when a gust of wind blew up, wrecking the trailing barge on a bridge pier near Fort Snelling, and adding to friction between competing railroads, with their crossing bridges, and the steamboats plying the rivers beneath them. The accident was later settled against Houghton's company in a court case. The *Molly Mohler* was so busy in 1867 that of 161 steamboat stops upstream at Mankato, the *Mollie Mohler* made half of them. In the late 1860s the Minnesota River began to widen, silt up, fill with sandbars, and become more shallow due to erosion from the clearing of land for firewood, lumber, and farming. As a consequence in Sept. 1867 the *Mollie Mohler* left the Minnesota River and took to runs on the Mississippi river. The *Mollie Mohler* was badly scorched on May 14, 1870 when it was docked alongside the great steamboat *War Eagle* at La Crosse, Wisconsin. In one of the Mississippi River's great steamboat disasters, a fire and explosion destroyed the *War Eagle* with at least 5 killed, many injured, and an estimated \$366,000 in damage. The *Mollie Mohler* barely escaped disaster itself, having just enough steam built up to move out of the way. In July 1871 the *Mollie Mohler* was permanently withdrawn from the river trade. To supplement his Carver area steamboat transportation, in 1869 George Houghton purchased a stagecoach line that ran between Carver and Merriam Station in Scott County.

In the latter 1860s George Houghton cast a wider eye for additional steamboat transportation opportunities, looking at the untapped upper Mississippi River north of Minneapolis. In the summer of 1869 Houghton called upon his neighbor at 201 Fourth Street East in Carver, the riverboat builder Joshua P. Torrey, to construct a steamboat to serve the upper Mississippi. Because the Mississippi River was not navigable through St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis the steamboat had to be constructed somewhere north of the falls and north of the Sauk Rapids. In Sept. 1869 Joshua Torrey temporarily relocated to Sauk Rapids on the Mississippi to begin construction on the steamer. Torrey labored over the winter of 1869-70, building a 100 foot sternwheeler with a 24 foot beam and a 2 foot draft. The steamboat was launched on Apr. 13, 1870 and christened the *Pokegama*, the first steam vessel of its type to ply the upper Mississippi River. From 1870-1877 the *Pokegama* regularly made 2 ½ day 195 mile trips up the Mississippi River from Aitkin to the Grand Rapids landing and from Crow Wing to Pokegama Falls. Aitkin became the *Pokegama's* home port as it supplied men, food, and materials to the area's logging camps. The vessel was usually crowded, with men sleeping on the decks as it tied up along the shoreline at night. While in winter dry dock on Nov. 12, 1877 the vessel was destroyed by fire. Unfazed, Houghton vowed to build another. For some 20 years Houghton's boats served the Upper Mississippi and Sauk River, including jaunts through Sandy Lake, the Sandy River, and Davis Lake to Pokegama Falls. In August 2010 a Minnesota Legacy Grant for underwater archaeology and mapping located three sunken steamers near Aitkin, including the *City of Aitkin*, one of George Houton's vessels. It is not known how much or how little George Houghton himself actually piloted his steamboats on the upper Mississippi in the 1870s and 1880s. But on the strength of the *Pokegama* being the first steamer of its type to work the upper Mississippi and that his steamboats dominated the era's river transportation, George Houghton won the nickname "Father of Navigation on the north Mississippi".

George Houghton's brother, James Houghton, plied the Minnesota River above and below Mankato, piloting the steamer *Ariel* from 1863-65, and the steamers *Chippewa Falls*, *Hudson*, and *Mankato* during the years 1869-71.

The Houghton-Skoog house features a multi-pane window in the summer kitchen that is said to have come from one of George Houghton's steamboats. The home also features a front entry with sidelights and transoms similar to those found at 401 Main Street and 320 Ash Street in Carver. Also featured are six over six windows, and ogee scalloped verge boards with cornice drapery that hint to the Gothic style but on a thoroughly Greek form. In August 1871 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote that Captain George Houghton had picked about 20 bushels of apples from 7 trees in his yard, and that he was giving the house a new coat of paint.

George and Lydia Houghton lived in the house until 1883 when they sold the house and retired to Minneapolis. In the summer of 1883 ownership of it passed to A. L. Skoog. In their later years George and Lydia Houghton lived at 520 University Avenue Southeast in Minneapolis. George Houghton died at his Minneapolis home on Nov. 7, 1902 as a result of injuries suffered in a fall the previous January. He was buried in Lakewood Cemetery

in Minneapolis. Lydia Houghton died on May 3, 1911 and is also buried in Lakewood Cemetery.

House owner A. L. (Anders/Andrew Lars) Skoog, was born in Skaraborg County, (now called Västergötland), Sweden on March 4, 1845, the son of Lars (1822-1907) and Mary (Maria) (Bryngelsson or Bryngelsdotter) (1821-1898) Skoog. In the spring of 1858 Skoog immigrated to America with his parents, and grandfather Johannes Andersson Skoog (1787-1879), arriving aboard the sailing vessel, the *Minona*, on a nine-month cruise, which was chartered by a group of relatives, neighbors, and friends of the Skoogs in Sweden. The Skoog family settled on a farm homestead in East Union in Dahlgren Township in the spring of 1858. When the Civil War broke out A. L. Skoog's father Lars Skoog (1822-1809) enlisted in Company M of the famed First Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment, serving until 1865. In addition to farming, his father Lars worked as a blacksmith for 25 years and helped build the historic 1868 East Union Lutheran Church structure. Lars Skoog also served as guardian to young Peter Broberg, the only survivor of the Daniel P. Broberg family of the New London area of Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. Seven-year old Peter Broberg's family of Swedish immigrants had been brutally massacred on Aug. 20 by Dakota Indians in the Sioux Uprising of 1862.

Andrew L. Skoog helped work the family farm, remaining on it until 1874 when he purchased half of the homestead, some 210 acres, which he named Skoogsdale. During the next 40 years Skoog continued to oversee the farmstead, making a specialty of breeding high-grade livestock. Skoog imported purebred farm animals from around the world, including Carver County's first short-horned cattle. He also brought in the area's first Poland China hogs, imported a stallion from France, and introduced draft and trotting horses. Andrew L. Skoog attended St. Ansgar's College in East Union, which later became Gustavus Adolphus College. With a tenant running the farm, Skoog built and operated the first general store in East Union. He later became Minnesota's first Swedish traveling salesman, working for four years for the Buckeye Machine Company of Canton, Ohio. He then tried his hand at merchandising machinery in Worthington, Minnesota and at Grand Forks, North Dakota. At some point Skoog worked a stint in the employ of Carver businessman Anton Knoblauch. Skoog then made a trip out west to New Mexico and Colorado where he was involved in the lumber business, returning to Carver in 1881 and entering the general store business with a partner, A. G. Anderson. In Dec. 1886 he bought out the retiring Anderson and subsequently became a leading Carver merchant with a machinery store and a mercantile store located on the present day post office site. Later the business was called the A. L. Skoog and Brothers General Store when his brothers became partners. In 1909 he sold his share of the business to his brother Alfred (A. J. Skoog), who lived at 220 Third Street West in Carver.

Already at the age of 22 A. L. Skoog took an interest in community service when he became assessor for Dahlgren Township, and later clerk of the township. In 1898 Skoog ran for the office of Carver County Treasurer, losing the election to Gerhard Bongard. In Feb. 1900 A. L. Skoog replaced Gerhard Bongard as Treasurer of Carver County after Bongard had absconded to Canada with several thousand dollars in Carver County funds. Skoog won the next election, purchasing for \$400 a \$40,000 guarantee bond to show

county citizens there would be no repeat of the Bongard defalcation. While treasurer, on March 27-28, 1901 he downsized his farm when he held a two-day auction of high-bred livestock, machinery, and a large amount of personal property. A Democrat, Skoog served as Carver County Treasurer for five and a half years. He also served as secretary and treasurer of Carver's Salem Swedish Lutheran church, secretary of the Carver Fire Department, town treasurer of Carver, secretary of the Commercial Club in Carver, and in 1894 president of the Carver County Agricultural Society, which ran the Carver County Fair.

Skoog was well read and traveled extensively. In 1889 he visited several countries in Europe for a year, including his ancestral country, Sweden. Returning to America he was convinced that it was indeed "the land of opportunity". On May 27, 1893 Skoog married Emily (Emelia) Lundeen (1862-1951) and the couple honeymooned at the Chicago world's Fair of 1893. Wife Emily was the daughter of Swedish immigrants Jonas and Eva Lundeen from the St. Peter area of Nicollet County, Minnesota. Emily Lundeen's brother, Col. John A. Lundeen (1848-1940), was a graduate of West Point and served in the Spanish-American War. He was present at San Francisco to aid the earthquake victims after the famous April 18, 1906 earthquake, and later that year was appointed Commandant of the historic Presidio Fort in San Francisco. Col. Lundeen's portrait is in the archives of the Nicollet County Historical Society and viewable on the Internet. Andrew L. Skoog died in 1921 and Emelia Skoog in 1951. Both are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

The gracious front porch was added in 1920 by the Skoogs so A. L. Skoog could sleep on the porch for fresh air during his final illness. In April 1920 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote, "Skoog is having a sleeping porch added to his commodious residence on Third Street". In 1900 a one and a half story stable occupied the northeast corner of the property, its former site now occupied by a garage. To the west of the stable there was a one-story outbuilding, and to the south of it another one-story outbuilding. By 1910 a second one-story outbuilding was located next to the stable.

A later 20<sup>th</sup> Century owner of the home, Francis Lano, was Mayor of Carver.

**121 Third Street East, Zanger-Anderson Tenement.** Built in 1870 as a 4-unit building or tenement, as such rental buildings were called in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Captain Herman Muehlberg (born 1833), who served in the Minnesota Fifth Infantry in many battles of the Civil War, and who later became publisher of the *Carver Free Press* newspaper and Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota owned the property on which the building sits, selling it to Carver businessman Enoch Holmes in 1863. The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper of July 28, 1870 mentions that Holmes had plans to "erect a good two-story building on his lot opposite Captain Houghton's this fall", but instead he sold the lot to wealthy Carver businessman Henry Zanger, who in September 1870 broke ground and built the tenement as income-producing property. Former Civil War Captain Charles Johnson (who lived at 116 Third Street West in Carver) and A. M. Swenson (who owned a carding mill immediately to the east of Captain Johnson) performed the

carpentry work on the building for the Zangers. Johnson Zanger and his wife Susanna lived diagonally across the street from the tenement, at 200 Third Street East, which made it easy to monitor. Henry Zanger died in 1872, two years after it was built, and the widowed Susanna Zanger continued to own it for the next 25 years until she died in 1897.

The tenement remained in family ownership through sons John and George Zanger until 1910 when A. G. (Andrew) Anderson (born 1840) and his wife Emma (Demers) purchased it as income property, owning it for the balance of their lives until 1927 when it passed to a son. A. G. Anderson fought in Company H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry during the Civil War, being taken prisoner in Guntown, Mississippi in 1864 and held by the Confederates in the notorious Andersonville Prison until released in an exchange of prisoners with the Union. After the Civil War Anderson became a very prosperous merchant in Carver as well an involved citizen where he served as trustee (town councilman) and a Minnesota State Representative.

One of the first tenants in the building was the well-liked Dr. E. H. Lewis, who took up residence there when he moved to Carver in November 1870. Dr. Lewis set up an office to practice medicine and surgery during the day in the rear of George DuToit's Drug Store at Broadway and Third Street East in Carver, and during the evening he was available at his residence in the tenement. Dr. Lewis later owned a house at 321 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Chaska, Minnesota, which in 1980 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In October 1873 Dr. Lewis was shot in the arm in a hunting accident. He seems to have remained in Carver until 1879 when he set up an office in Chaska. Dr. Lewis served as Carver County Physician.

The building features pendants in the gable ends, and in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it sported double brick chimneys, a brick veneer on the front, and six over six paned windows. At about 10:00 pm. on Sunday, October 10, 2004 fire broke out in the attic or second story of the building, badly damaging the structure. Speedy work by the Carver Fire Department saved the building and it underwent some four years of restoration. During restoration remnants of two stone cellar foundations were found at the rear, one filled in at the east under the present day garage, one unfilled on the west.

**200 Third Street East, Susanna Zanger House.** The house was built in 1868 by wealthy Carver businessman Henry Zanger and his wife Susanna (Schenk) in a two-story Italianate style featuring a three bay front façade, a side hall plan, and a low-hipped roof with overhanging eaves. Original detailing on the house was Italianate with bracketed eaves, grooved or paneled posts on a portico, and six over six paned windows. The house at one time had a large 1800s stable at the rear of the property, situated near the alley on the site of the present-day garage. The stable, a bit larger than the stable across the alley, once sported a large cupola on the roof. It was torn down about 1955-56.

Henry (Heinrich) Zanger, was born on May 30, 1826 in the German States. In January 1868, the same year the house was built, Henry bought out the large general store of Linenfels and Faber on Broadway in Carver. In September 1871 Henry Zanger took an interest in the brickmaking business, perhaps with either Helgeson & Company or the J.

M. Nye Company, which both started operations in Carver about this time. In January 1871 a *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper account mentions that Henry Zanger was planning to erect a large brick building in Carver in the spring, to be filled with agricultural implements for sale. If this came to pass is not known, for Henry Zanger died the following year on May 11, 1872. His widow, Susanna (Schenk) Zanger, who born Sept. 27, 1827 in Württemberg in the German States, and continued to live in the house as a widow for the next quarter of a century until she died on Feb. 28, 1897 and the house passed on to family members. In the newspapers the wealthy Susanna Zanger was regularly listed among the highest payers of Carver County property tax. A generous Catholic woman, Susanna was the benefactor and director for the 1876 construction of the St. Nicholas Parish School and Rectory, which was constructed of Mirriam rock as a school for Native American children and quarters for nuns. The Zanger family was also the great benefactor in enabling St. Nicholas Church to expand its land area.

Susanna owned other Carver property, including the Zanger-Anderson Tenement diagonally across the street at 121 Third Street East and 54 acres on the northeast side of North Broadway in the area sometimes called Snake Road or Carver Canyon. In 1880 Susanna Zanger was again listed among the highest taxpayers in Carver County, and she and her son George A. Zanger, were engaged in farming near Carver. At the 1880 U. S. Census for Carver Susanna Zanger was living with sons George, then age 22, John, age 27, and servant Ida Christen, age 18, from Prussia in the German States. On April 21, 1887 George Zanger woke up and found the door of the stable pried open and two horses missing, including harnesses. The horses were later found grazing in a prairie, but the missing their harnesses. Son George seems to have lived with his widowed mother at least until he married MaryAnn Diethelm in Victoria in Carver County on Nov. 15, 1887. In an age when many children died young, George and wife Mary were hit particularly hard, losing four of their children under age one between 1888 and 1893.

In December 1897, shortly after her death, Susanna's son, George Zanger, installed a large Italian marble grave monument in the memory of his parents on the Zanger family plot in St. Nicholas Cemetery in Carver. The monument was crafted at the Shakopee Marble Works.

The home was later owned by the family of Sidney and Wilhelmine (Buetow) Goetze, who operated Sid's tavern at 221 Broadway in Carver.

The Susanna Zanger House was pictured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth.

**Third Street Stone Arch Bridge over Spring Creek.** Built about 1912 by Adolph Hansen to replace an earlier wooden bridge that rumbled like thunder when horses and carriages crossed. The bridge was fashioned in the Syrian arched style and composed of locally quarried red rock. Much later the stone was covered over in a cement slurry.

**116 Third Street West, Charles O. Johnson House.** Built about 1870 in the Italianate style, the house features a three bay façade, two stories, a low, hipped roof with overhanging eaves, and a side hall plan. Original detailing on the house probably had bracketed eaves and grooved or paneled posts on a porch or portico. Unsympathetic modern additions were added to the rear, as was later stuccoing to the entire structure.

Charles Otto Johnson was born in Jönköping County, Sweden on June 23, 1833. He attended school in Sweden before immigrating to the United States at age 19. He arrived at Boston, Massachusetts on June 24, 1852 and stayed there for a time before drifting westward to Princeton, Illinois where he lived until 1855. In 1855 he came as a pioneer to St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory where on Nov. 15, 1856 he married Swedish immigrant Emily Christina, perhaps the widow of a John Wilson. Emily Christina also came to America in 1852. In April 1857 the couple moved to Carver, which would be their home for many years. Charles Johnson is listed on the 1863-1864 Poll Tax register for Carver.

In late 1861 Charles Johnson was among the first to volunteer for the Civil War, mustering at Fort Snelling into Company A of the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment along with Frederick E. DuToit, who would later become the editor of the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper and the Sheriff of Carver County. On Apr. 18, 1862 Charles Johnson advanced to 1<sup>st</sup> lieutenant, but was forced to resign on Nov. 20, 1862 due to ill health. On 24 Feb. 1865 he reenlisted as a captain in Company M of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Regiment of Heavy Artillery. After the Civil War ended he was mustered out on Sept. 27, 1865. Between enlistments he saw some service in the Dakota Indian campaigns.

After the Civil War Charles Johnson returned to Carver and was engaged for a time in navigation on the Minnesota River between Carver and Mankato. A carpenter by trade, Johnson along with A. M. Swenson (who owned a carding mill next door to the east) built the Carver Tenement at 121 Third Street East in Carver. Johnson became a prominent citizen in Carver and in Carver County. In May 1871 Charles Johnson received the contract to move the home of William Benson. Benson's home, which was built in June 1870, had to be moved to create space for the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway. Charles Johnson was Carver County's first Auditor in 1871-1872, and was elected a representative in the Minnesota State Legislature in Nov. 1871, serving from 1872-1873. In Aug. 1873 Johnson was engaged in buying wheat for the firm of Eames & Martin, who had purchased a river bank warehouse for its storage from Carver businessman John Dunn. In 1873 he was in the lumber business. In Sept. 1873 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote that he was "receiving lumber of all sorts at the rate of 20 thousand feet per day. Within the next two weeks he will have on hand 500 thousand feet which will be sold at St. Paul and Minneapolis prices. Yard just back of Anderson and Sundine's store". In Carver, Charles Johnson served as postmaster, village recorder, justice of the peace, tax collector for Carver and Dahlgren Township, and U. S. Census enumerator in Carver County in 1870. Charles appears in the 1878-1879 Minnesota Gazateer where he is named as justice of the peace.

Charles Johnson's wife, Emily Christina Johnson, who was born in Sweden on Oct. 2, 1829, died on June 24, 1902. Charles Johnson died at the home of his daughter in Minneapolis on Feb. 9, 1920 at the age of 86. Charles Johnson's funeral was held in the Carver Town Hall with Masonic rites. The Johnsons are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver. One of the Johnson's daughters was married to Herman O. Muehlberg, the son of Capt. Herman Muehlberg, the editor of the Carver Free Press newspaper and Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota.

**200 Third Street West, Christian Bristle House.** Built about 1875 for Christian and Anna Elisabeth Bristle, who in 1869 purchased the lot the house sits on, as well as two adjacent lots immediately to the west in 1879.

Christian Bristle was born in Baden in the German States on August 8, 1845, the son of pioneers who brought their family to America in 1850. Christian Bristle came to the Carver area in 1856 and stayed with relatives on a farm in Benton Township in Carver County until 1862, when the 6'4" Bristle passed as older than his 17 years and enlisted on August 4, 1862 in company E of the Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Bristle's company was sent to fight in the Sioux Uprising of 1862. It was Bristle, while standing guard duty out on a military burial detail, who first sounded the alarm at the Battle of Birch Coulee as 500 Dakota Indians moved forward in a night time surprise attack on the military force. Bristle later gave military service in the Civil War until mustered out on Aug. 19, 1865.

About 1867 Christian married Anna Elisabeth Schoemakers (Shumaker) of McLeod County, Minnesota. Anna was born Nov. 9, 1846 in Montfort, Limburg, in the Netherlands. During the period 1870-1875 Christian and Anna Elisabeth Bristle lost three daughters and a son to childhood illness, all before age two.

After the Civil War Christian tried his hand at clerking and then went into business with a certain M. J. Ginter for eight years. In the summer of 1874 Ginter & Bristle finished putting a warehouse addition on their store and received 100 barrels of salt from Duluth "which they were selling cheap". Ginter seems to have left the business sometime in the 1870s, perhaps being the same M. J. Ginter who later owned a Hennepin County grocery store. In the early years Indians came to Carver every spring to gather ginseng and at the same time traded regularly with Christian Bristle. Bristle until 1882 was part owner of a general store and retail grocery called Bristle and Bengtson, his partner being Swedish-born Andrew L. Bengtson (born about 1845). In 1880 the firm of Bristle and Bengtson was listed among the highest tax payers in Carver County. On Jan. 7, 1886 Christian Bristle advertised in the *Carver Free Press* newspaper that he dealt in general merchandise, dry goods, notions, hats, caps, boots, shoes, crockery, stoneware, groceries, with "*Prices down to rock bottom. I will not be undersold. I also keep on hand a full line of guns! guns! and gunnery materials, breech loading shotguns, ammunition, etc. etc. I will sell at lowest market prices.*"

After having some health issues Bristle quit the general store business and tried his hand at banking for a time before owning and operating the Carver Celery Farm, part of which

was located on 96 acres along the Minnesota River east of Carver's present day Riverside Park. Some of Bristle's land on the north side of Riverside Park was deeded to Carver to enlarge a ball field then located on Riverside Park. Bristle's celery concern, producing "Carver Celery", became one of the most successful celery growing operations in Minnesota, sometimes with some 30 to 40 men working the fields. In 1898 the celery farm was expanded by Bristle with the purchase of a nearby 97-acre farm. Bristle was a Carver Village councilman, charter member of the Carver Fire Department, and active in the Carver County Agricultural Society, which put on the early Carver County Fairs.

The Bristle House features Queen Anne Revival details that were probably added in the 1880s or 1890s, perhaps at the time an 1896 addition was made to the house. These Queen Ann revival details include stained glass, picture windows, a multi-gabled roof, and shingles in the gable. Eastlake/Stick style features that probably were added during the same period are incorporated into the gable and pierced valence porch decoration. At one time the front porch was open, probably with turned columns and balusters, and the side stairway to the second floor is a later addition. The Bristle House had one of Carver's earliest paved sidewalks.

A large two-story barn, erected between 1894 and 1898, sat behind the house and abutting the alley near the Jorgenson Street. The barn contained horse stalls and a wagon storage area. A chicken coop was located near the barn. Also located on the property was a large celery house that adjoined the barn on the west side. Here celery was washed and stripped, utilizing a spring that came to the surface inside of the building. The spring was later water-tiled to the street. The celery house was probably torn down in the 1940s, the barn demolished in the early 1950s.

The two lots to the west of the house, now occupied by modern-day ramblers, once served in Bristle's celery operation. In early spring celery seeds were planted on the adjacent lots. When they germinated and grew to a certain size the young celery shoots were transplanted to the Bristle farmland along the river. In the planting, transplanting, harvesting, transporting, and cleaning of celery Bristle employed many workers. Sometimes river bottom flooding made farming difficult, as in May 1908 when flooding destroyed the 1908 celery crop. In 1923 the celery farm was put up for sale.

A son of the Bristles, Grover (born in 1888), served in Company E of the Minnesota Pioneer Infantry Regiment during World War I. Anna Elisabeth Bristle died on Oct. 23, 1911 and Christian Bristle died on Mar. 15, 1928. Anna, Christian, Grover, and other Bristle family members are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. Scherkenbach members of the Bristle family continued to live in the Bristle House house until 1969.

**201 Third Street West, Ray and Emma Funk House.** Built in 1925 for Raymond Oswald Funk and his wife Emma (Treibel) Funk from plans found in a newspaper. It is one of the newest homes in the Carver Historic District. Constructed in a charming, superb Federal Revival style, it stands architecturally alone among Carver's Historic District buildings constructed after 1910. The house was home to the Funks from 1925-1932, later home to the Holmes and Dragotis families, and from the 1930s-1960s home to

the Bom family. The property for the house came from the Holm family on Main Street, situated directly behind.

Raymond Funk was the son of John Funk Jr. and Bertha L. Brunius, both from early Carver merchant families. He graduated from Beloit College in Wisconsin in 1914 and fought in World War I in France as a corporal in the Third Pioneer Infantry. Later he was the cashier in the Funk family bank on Broadway, the First State Bank of Carver. In 1915 he was Secretary of the Carver County Fair held at Riverside Park in Carver. Wife Emma graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1914 and taught school in Carver for three years where she met Raymond Funk and was married. When the family bank failed during the Depression the Funks were forced to sell the house and move away. After working around the state for a few years they ended up in living in San Diego, California from 1935-1955 before retiring to a cabin in Hackensack, Minnesota. Raymond O. Funk (1891-1967) and Emma A. (Treibel) Funk (1894-1988) are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. A son, Roger Funk, age 7, died of blood poisoning in 1931 after cutting himself while playing behind the meat market at 212 Broadway in Carver.

**217 Third Street West, Ahlin-Poppitz-Buetow House.** The two-lot land parcel for the house was purchased in the name Olson Brothers and Ahlin, which operated the finest general store in Carver County in the 1890s, as well as having other business interests. One of the partners, Andrew Peter Ahlin, owned 198 acres south of Carver, as well as a brickyard just outside of Carver along County Road #40. In 1898 Ahlin had the house constructed of Ahlin's Carver brick, laid by Anton Ahlin, a Carver bricklayer and likely a relative. The home, now centered on two lots, replaced an earlier wooden frame house located primarily on the eastern lot of the parcel. The current home is in the Queen Anne Revival style featuring a wraparound porch, complex hipped and gabled roof, segmentally arched window hoods, a typically irregular plan, stained glass transoms, a two-story bay, and a cut corner with a diagonal picture window that was fashionable in the 1890s.

After a short time title to the house passed out of the firm's ownership and into the hands of Andrew P. Ahlin, whose family lived in the house until 1928. Andrew (Anders) Peter Ahlin was born in Västergötland, Sweden Dec. 19, 1852, the son of Anders (1823-1900) and Johanna (Veg) (1820-1901) Ahlin. He attended public school in Sweden for 6 months before coming to America with his parents on Sept. 1, 1864 at the age of 11. He lived in Minnesota beginning in 1865 and worked as a blacksmith until 1871 when he became involved in the brick making business, a business he was involved with until 1900. One of two known brick producers in Carver, Ahlin produced local buff-colored brick for the local and export markets. In 1900 Andrew Ahlin became a celery grower in the Carver area lowlands under the name Ahlin Brothers. On March 20, 1901 he also became a partner in the general merchandise store of Olson Brothers and Ahlin (along with brother John Gustaf Ahlin, 1862-1907). The store was once located on the southeast corner of Broadway and Fourth Streets in Carver. In the fall of 1906 Andrew purchased 20 acres of land from Julian Fink, perhaps for additional celery growing plots. Andrew Ahlin died in 1913.

Andrew Ahlin was married in the Salem Lutheran Church in Carver on Apr. 6, 1895 to Caroline Betty Carlson. Caroline was born in 1861, the daughter of Jonas (Johannes) Carlson (1822-1888) and his wife Johanna (1828-1903). Hannah's parents were born in Sweden and immigrated to America in 1856 where they lived for a time in Carver and farmed in Benton and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, located to the west of Carver. Hannah's father served in Company M of the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment during the Civil War. Caroline died on Mar. 12, 1930. Caroline and Andrew Ahlin are both buried in East Union Cemetery, as are Andrew's and Caroline's parents.

After the Ahlins' ownership the house from 1928 was owned for many years by the Poppitz and Buetow families. From 1989-1991 it was operated as the Carousel Rose Inn, a bed and breakfast.

**220 Third Street West, J. A. and Dorothy Skoog House.** Built in 1896 as the home of J. A. (Johan Alfred) and Dorothy (nee Severson/Sieverson) Skoog. Excavation for the home began in July, 1896 and lumber for it was shipped to Carver on the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad. The home was ready to occupy by late October 1896. The house was constructed and decorated in an elaborate Eastlake and Queen Anne Victorian Revival style including porch brackets, pierced and scrolled decoration, with a summer kitchen at the rear. It is probable that the house was constructed and given the elaborate Eastlake decoration by Carver builder Olaf Hanson, who owned the frame building two doors to the west. To the rear of the house is a barn of a later period. At one time the house featured elaborate roof cresting on all the peaks.

J. A. Skoog was born in East Union in Dahlgren Township on January 1, 1861, the son of Swedish-born Lars (1822-1907) and Mary (Maria) (Bryngelsson or Bryngelsdotter) (1821-1898) Skoog. In the spring of 1858 his parents and older siblings immigrated, probably from Herrljunga, Västra Göteborg County, Sweden to America, with his grandfather, Johannes Andersson Skoog (1787-1879), arriving aboard the sailing vessel *Minona* on a nine-month cruise, which was chartered by a group of relatives, neighbors, and friends of the Skoogs in Sweden. The Skoog family settled on a farm homestead in East Union in Dahlgren Township, attending East Union Lutheran Church. When the Civil War broke out J.A. Skoog's father, Lars Skoog (1822-1809), enlisted in Company M of the famed First Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment, serving until 1865. In addition to farming his father Lars worked as a blacksmith for 25 years and helped build the historic 1868 East Union Lutheran Church structure. Lars Skoog also served as guardian to young Peter Broberg, the only survivor of the Daniel P. Broberg family of the New London area of Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. Seven-year old Peter Broberg's family of Swedish immigrants had been brutally massacred on Aug. 20 by Dakota Indians in the Sioux Uprising of 1862. In later life Lars Skoog lived in quarters above the general store owned by his sons.

J. A. Skoog is sometimes known as Johan or John Alfred, sometimes as Alfred J. Skoog. When young he attended the fledgling Gustavus Adolphus College and then spent 5 years in New Mexico and Colorado. In Minneapolis on Oct. 31, 1889 Skoog married Dorothy

(Dorothea/Dora) Severson, who was born in Rio, Wisconsin on Sept. 12, 1865, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Helge Severson, who were born in Norway. The Skoogs moved to Carver where they lived for the rest of their lives, with J. A. Skoog engaging in the mercantile business for 45 years. J. A. Skoog was a partner with his brother, Andrew L. Skoog, in the A. L. Skoog and Brothers General Store until buying out his brother in 1909. His brother, Andrew L. Skoog lived at 120 Third Street East in Carver. Skoog's general store once sat just to the south of the present day post office site. His brother, A. L. Skoog, lived on the same street, at 120 Third Street East. In 1911 J. A. Skoog was the victim of a robbery at his Carver store. The Skoogs had no children of their own but raised 3 foster children.

J. A. Skoog was one of the 1922 directors of the Carver County Fair, held in Riverside Park, and was once Carver's mayor, as was later owner Cindy Monroe. Johan Alfred (1861-1939) and Dorothy Skoog (1865-1938) are both buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

As late as the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century a spring came to the surface on the property, located between the sidewalk and embankment. The spring was boxed in and neighbors visited it to get fresh water.

**221 Third Street West, Salem Lutheran Church.** Built in 1876 as the Swedish Old Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church by Carver's Swedish Lutherans who felt it was too far to travel for services to the East Union Lutheran Church. They elected trustees and a deacon from Carver, but shared the pastor from East Union. The Carver church was constructed in the Gothic style with wood-lapped siding, a gabled roof, and a steeple. It remained a branch of the East Union Lutheran congregation until it broke away in 1891. By 1952 church membership had dropped to 25 parishioners so that the church was dissolved and its building sold. The steeple was removed and its bell given to East Union church to replace a cracked bell there. The Salem church was then converted into a private residence.

**300 Third Street West, Zimbleman House.** Built by husband and wife George Jacob and Barbara Magdalena Zimbleman in 1887, replacing an earlier house on the property owned by Peter and Christina (Danielson) Thompson. From 1866-1884 the property was owned by Peter Thompson Jr. and his wife Christina. Peter Thompson Jr. was born in Järvsjö, Hälsingland, Sweden in 1839 and came to America with his parents in 1850, taking up residency as pioneers in Carver in 1858. Peter clerked in a Carver store for five years, then spent a year as a Carver steamboat clerk before managing a general store in Carver for seven years. Thompson served as Secretary of the Carver Cemetery Association from about 1863-1871. Sometime during the period 1866-1884 the Thompsons seem to have erected a handsome frame building on the property, which was faced in brick. About 1871-72 the Thompsons moved to Worthington, Minnesota.

In Worthington, Peter Thompson was present when the town was platted, built the first store, founded the Nobles County Bank, held several public offices, founded the *Worthington Globe* newspaper, sold agricultural machinery, operated a mercantile

business, invested in real estate, and built and owned Worthington's Hotel Thompson. Peter Thompson Jr. was so involved in Worthington's founding that he has come to be called "The Father of Worthington". In 1884 Peter and Christina Thompson sold their property and two-story house at 300 Third Street West to George Jacob and Barbara Magdalena (Lena) Zimbleman, perhaps after having rented it out for some years after they moved to Worthington.

The Zimblemans were married on March 6, 1879 at the home of John and Barbara (Bastian) Bloedel in Carver. Mrs. Zimbleman was a daughter of the Bloedels and a product of their 1857 marriage, the first marriage known in Carver County. The Bloedels were pioneers in Carver where John set up an early blacksmith and wagon making shop and apprenticed in the blacksmith trade another Carver pioneer, Charles Dauwalter. In February 1864 John Bloedel suffered from a destructive fire, and in February 1868 his large Carver wagon making and blacksmith shop burned down, with a loss of \$3500, of which only \$1000 was insured. Already in 1857 the Bloedels owned the Fourth Street East property, on which the large John Funk Jr. Victorian House was built in 1902, and in 1882 that same property was owned by both the Bloedels and the Zimblemans. It may well be that this property was the site of the original John Bloedel blacksmith and wagon making shop.

Fires seem to have run in the family, for between 10:30 and 11:00 p.m. on Sunday night, January 30, 1887, while the Zimblemans were visiting the Bloedels, their home at 300 Third Street West burned, started, it was believed, from a spark from the wood stove. The building was a total loss, including \$2000 above what they it been insured for. The Zimblemans built a small new house on the site, probably later that year, and yet sometime later an ell was added, forming the present house into a "T" plan. Bricks continue to be found on the property today, probably remnants of the earlier burned house.

George Jacob Zimbleman was a Carver businessman in the insurance business. In local newspapers in 1887 he advertised that the Zimbleman Insurance Agency offered insurance for fire, tornado, life, accident, and livestock, as well as money to loan. The disastrous fire of 1887 and the building of a new house seem to have stretched Zimbleman to the limit. In 1888 local newspapers noted that Zimbleman owed money to several insurance companies for which he acted as agent, as well as to parties inside and outside of Carver. The *Carver Free Press* newspaper of February 1888 noted that Zimbleman of Carver had "jumped the country", leaving "a wife and child behind and they are to be pitied". One account noted that Zimbleman was seen catching a train out of Waconia. In 1895 Zimbleman was known to be working at a San Francisco, California brewery, then calling himself Jacob Zimbleman.

Later in 1887 Albert and Mary Kacher purchased the home for \$1100, owning it until 1892 when they sold it to Solomon and Emma Johnson, who owned it until 1913. Solomon Johnson came to Carver County in 1856 and had owned a farmstead in Dahlgren Township, just outside of Carver, retiring to the Zimbleman house. Solomon's wife Emma was the organist at Salem Lutheran church, diagonally across the street from

their home. From the Johnsons the house passed during the Depression in 1931 to Andrew P. Larson, a widower and perhaps another retired farmer, for \$1500.

**308 Third Street West, Olaf Hanson House.** Built in 1882, by and for Olaf Hanson (often also spelled Hansen), an immigrant from Denmark who was born in 1851. The wooden-framed house is built in the Eastlake/Queen Ann Victorian revival style and featured a once-open porch, picture window, and heavy roof cresting on the peaks. In 1882 Olof Hanson acquired the two lots for the building of the house from Charles W. Schultz for \$75. Schultz had divided the two lots from a larger parcel of lots he had acquired in 1879 from Benjamin F. Toby (Tobey). Olaf Hanson also built several other Carver buildings, including the Neunsinger Hotel (1897), which was located on Broadway and Fourth Streets where the Carver City Hall now sits, the Church by the River (1913), Trinity Church (1914), and is probably responsible for building several of Carver's 1880s and 1890s Victorian homes as well as the Eastlake embellishments found on many Carver homes, including most certainly the Gables at 201 Fourth Street East and the Charles Dauwalter Jr. House at 413 Broadway. He also repaired the Carver County Court House after it was damaged by a severe storm and was involved in the design and building of a ferryboat to be used for crossing the Minnesota River at Carver. In 1900 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper described Hanson as the leading Carver County builder. In 1877 Olaf Hanson married Amelia (Mollie) Schirmer (born in 1854), whose father, Frank Schirmer, was a German States immigrant who farmed in Carver County.

The house was owned by Hanson's wife and descendants until the 1930s, then passed to Nellie Baxter in 1941. In 1953 Nellie Baxter sold it to Elmer G. (Gus) and Gladys G. Kraemer. The Kraemers ran Kraemers Carver Café at different locations and for different periods of time on Broadway. Elmer Kraemer served as Mayor of Carver for two terms in the 1950s, dying suddenly at age 47 while in office.

**316 Third Street West, Holm-Muehlberg House.** Built on two lots about 1882 during the ownership of Swan Andersson Holm, perhaps with construction help from his next door neighbor, Carver master builder Olaf Hanson. In 1875 Swan Holm purchased the first of the two lots, and in 1881 he bought the second of the lots upon which the house was built. By May 1899 the house sat on lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of Block 32 in Carver. Early on the house was a two-story house in ell shape, with a porch in the front east angle of the ell. On the west side of the house was a one-story addition, and there was a two-story stable at the rear of the property.

Sven (Swan) Andersson Holm was born in Asåka in Skaraborg County, Sweden on Oct. 31, 1828 and immigrated to the United States in 1858. He was married to widow Maria (Maja) Andersdotter, who was born in Sweden on Aug. 19, 1821 and came to the United States with her first husband and son in 1855. The 1880 U. S. Census shows that Swan (Sven) Holm was a laborer and that he and Maria were living in Carver and then had two children living at home, a daughter, Christin[a], about 21, and a son, August, about 16, who was working as a blacksmith, probably as an assistant or apprentice to one of Carver's blacksmiths.

At the U. S. Census for Carver in 1900 Swan Holm was living alone and is then called a retired farmer. Swan Holm seems to have been somewhat cantankerous, at least in later years. Sometime between 1885 and 1899 he was divorced from his wife, Maria, who later lived with her daughter and son at 113 Fourth Street West in Carver. After the divorce Maria lived with her son John S. Nelson and her daughter Christina Nelson. In Sept. 1901 Swan A. Holm waylaid and assaulted his stepson, Carver postmaster and druggist John S. Nelson, in the alley behind Nelson's residence at 113 Fourth Street West and the Neunsinger/Central Hotel.

In May 1899 Swan Holm, by then divorced, sold the house and its six lots to Herman Muehlberg, who had returned to Carver after serving as Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota. Hermann Muehlberg was born on May 3, 1833 in Gross Floethe, Hannover in the German States and formally named Franz Otto Hermann Ehrenfreid Muehlberg. He was the son of Gross Floethe merchant Frederick Muehlberg and his wife Clara (Schroeter). Hermann immigrated to America with his parents in 1846, settling first in St. Louis, Missouri, where Hermann learned the printing trade. Hermann moved to Dubuque, Iowa in 1851 and while there in 1854 married Clara Freese, who was born in Prussia in the German States in September 1834. The Muehlbergs moved to Carver in June 1856 and Hermann clerked in a Carver store until 1860 when they moved to a farm in Waconia in Carver County where Hermann was doing work as a surveyor and where he taught school briefly in 1861-1862 until leaving to serve the Union in the Civil War.

On Feb. 19, 1862 Herman Muehlberg enlisted as a private in Company E of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry Regiment where he quickly advanced to sergeant on April 2 and to sergeant-major on April 30 of the same year. On May 4, 1863 he was moved to Company D of his regiment and made 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant, and then two days later advanced to captain of the company. He took part in many actions of the Civil War, including at Vicksburg and Nashville before was discharged in July 1865 while in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. The following month he was back in Carver making a home at 100 Fifth Street East in Carver for a little more than a year before selling the property in 1866 to Stephen and Margareta Kult. About this time the Carver County Board approved work on a road connecting Broadway in Carver with Waconia, and in 1865 Muehlberg was given the task to survey the primitive road for upgrading into a county road. Later the road became the Carver and Waconia Road, and then Carver County Road #147, although it is today known to Carverites as Snake Road and as hiking/biking trail.

The Muehlbergs then seem to have moved about 1866 to Wisconsin, where Hermann likely resumed surveying work. In March 1878 Hermann Muehlberg became partner and editor of the *Pionier am Wisconsin*, a German Republican newspaper published in Sauk City, Wisconsin. On Jan. 1, 1881 the Muehlbergs returned to Carver where Herman owned and edited the *Carver Free Press* newspaper. In 1884 they purchased the property at 121 Fourth Street East in Carver where the newspaper was to be published until 1897.

Hermann Muehlberg was elected Carver County Surveyor in 1883 and again in 1888 and served as Chairman of the Carver County Board for two terms, as well as holding some town offices. In 1892 he ran unsuccessfully for the Minnesota State Legislature. On Feb. 1, 1893 Herman Muehlberg was appointed Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota by Gov. Knute Nelson and moved to St. Paul during his tenure. As Adjutant General Muehlberg was the highest ranking military officer in the state and de facto commander in Minnesota under the state's Governor. Hermann held the post from 1893-1899, and after his tenure the Muehlbergs returned to Carver and purchased the house at 316 Third Street West where they lived for the rest of their lives. Muehlberg organized three Grand Army of the Republic posts in Carver County, and he was instrumental in getting the Waconia soldier's monument installed in Waconia, the first such monument in Minnesota.

On Oct. 22, 1908 Herman Muehlberg advertised the Third Street West house for sale in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper, citing health problems. The advertisement stated the house had 8 rooms, a stable, and other outbuildings, with 6 lots of various fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, berries, and more. Hermann Muehlberg died in 1911, Clara Muehlberg in 1909. Both are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery along with several other family members.

In 1911 the house was transferred to the Muehlbergs' daughter Dorothy (Dora/Dorette), born in 1867, who on Sept. 20, 1911 again advertised the house for sale in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper, using the same language as her father did three years earlier. The house was transferred to the Muehlbergs' son Herman Otto Muehlberg, born in 1865, who served a stint as Carver County Clerk of Court. He held title to the house until 1915 when it was sold to aged widow Ellen (Elin) A. Halloff, born April 2, 1838, who died two years later, and the house passed by probate in 1919 to her son Anton J. Fritz, who in the 1880s owned a store in Dahlgren Township, and who later served as postmaster. Anton Fritz and his wife Ida (Johnson) owned the house for the next fifteen years until the mid-1930s.

**412 Third Street West, Hilldale.** Completed by William C. and Anna Bredenhagen in 1882. William C. Bredenhagen (1852-1897) was a Carver merchant, a plow works president, prominent insurance agent, publisher of the *Carver Free Press* newspaper, politician, and an early Carver mayor. Named Hilldale by its original owners, this mini-villa is built in local buff colored brick and terraced into a hillside overlooking Carver. The home is perhaps the finest example of the Italianate style in Carver County, and an 1887 *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper article called it the grandest house in Carver. Hilldale is featured in David Gebhard and Tom Martinson's 1978 book, *A Guide to the Architecture in Minnesota*. Hilldale was also featured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth.

The home represents one of Carver's earliest and best attempts at high architectural style. The first floor windows of the three bay façade are long and elegant. The windows are fitted with a two-pane sash as opposed to the six over six-paned sash, the larger glass

panes displaying the wealth of the time. A molded double-door entry is topped by a large transom and segmental-arched opening. The window openings are also segmental-arched and capped by corbelled hoods. Its wood trim is graceful and well proportioned, and spandrels at the juncture of the porch posts and roof add interest and style. Overhanging eaves with a bracketed cornice complete the upper decoration. Inside, the home features an open staircase, original brass hardware, and shutters. A large windmill used for pumping well water still stands on the property, the last surviving windmill in the Carver Historic District. A large barn and other outbuildings are now gone, the barn once situated near the present-day garage.

William C. Bredenhagen was born August 24, 1852 in Pritzwalk in Brandenburg, Prussia in the German States, the son of a hotelkeeper and farmer. When he was 19 years old he immigrated to America, staying first with relatives in Minneapolis. He next moved to Young America in western Carver County where he taught school for several years. In the fall of 1877 he moved east to the Town of Carver to take up a new vocation. In the spring of 1878 he and a business partner, William Benson, purchased the *Carver Free Press* newspaper, which they ran together, along with a side business that Bredenhagen ran selling insurance out of offices in both Carver and Chaska until he sold it to Charles A. Franzen of Carver in Dec. 1889. Bredenhagen and Benson owned and ran the *Carver Free Press* for 2 ½ years, with W. C. Bredenhagen assuming the duties of editor and publisher. In 1881 they sold the newspaper to former Civil War Capt. Herman Muehlberg, who in 1884 moved the newspaper business to 121 Fourth Street East in Carver, an address that would later be of importance to the Bredenhagen family.

Bredenhagen next took a position as general agent in an insurance company for a year or two, advertising in the *Carver Free Press* in Jan. 1886 that he sold fire, tornado, hail, life, accident, and plate glass insurance with companies with assets of \$73 million. Bredenhagen then took interest in a plow works business in Carver, becoming president of the company. In February 1887 he formed a corporate partnership with fellow Prussian immigrant Julius Trelloff and they bought out the August Beck and Company tobacco works and moved the firm to Carver, calling it the Bredenhagen and Trelloff Tobacco Company. August Beck later ran another tobacco company in Chicago, producing Yum Yum Tobacco, and in 1888 inserted some of the very earliest and rarest of baseball cards with the company's smoking and chewing tobacco. Some cards in August Beck's Yum Yum series are today valued at more than \$30,000. The Bredenhagen and Trelloff Tobacco Company purchased from Beck was engaged in the manufacturing of smoking pipes under a number of patents. Bredenhagen was president of the company, Trelloff vice president, and Otto Stuemke treasurer. These three also served on the company's board of directors, along with John Krussel and N. O. Brill. By November 1889 the company was being managed by Julius Trelloff, and the following month the company was being moved to St. Paul. By 1890 Bredenhagen was active in the insurance business, serving as the vice president and manager of the St. Paul German Fire Insurance Company. He also was involved in politics, running once on the Democratic Ticket for Minnesota Secretary of State, but failing in his bid for office during a strong Republican year.

On May 4, 1878 W. C. Bredenhagen took out a marriage license in Carver County and on May 8, 1878 married Eliza Strache, the daughter of Ferdinand Strache, owner of the Temperance Hotel in Carver. The wedding took place at the hotel in what the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper called the Carver social event of the season. The marriage was short-lived, as Eliza died nine months later on February 5, 1879 at age 20, after a two week bout with diphtheria. The 1880 U. S. Census for Carver, Minnesota reveals that William Bredenhagen was then a boarder in the establishment of his former father-in-law, Frederich Strache, at the Temperance Hotel. On December 26, 1881 Wm. Bredenhagen took out a marriage license, again in Carver County, this time to marry Anna M. Funk, born April 26, 1860, the daughter of John Funk Sr. and his wife, also named Anna. Anna M. Funk was the sister of John Funk Jr., builder of the large turreted Victorian home at 112 Fourth Street East in Carver.

In June 1882 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote that W. C. Bredenhagen was building a “handsome new residence on a commanding site in the western part of town” on the side of a hill in Carver with “Messrs. Enger and Hanson having the contract”. Messr. Enger was probably Julius Enger, a local contractor, and Messr. Hanson was probably Carver’s Olof Hanson (Hansen), one of Carver County’s premier builders, who was responsible for constructing several of Carver’s larger homes, businesses, and churches. In September 1882 the *Weekly Valley Herald* noted that Bredenhagen’s Carver home was ‘nearly ready for occupancy and is an ornament to our village’. Most of the lumber for Hilldale undoubtedly came from the Funk Lumber Company in Carver, owned by wife Anna’s family. During a 2006 stairway restoration in Hilldale the unexposed side of some lumber revealed markings that showed that it came from the Funk lumberyard.

In the fall of 1888 W. C. Bredenhagen was on the Democratic ticket for Minnesota Secretary of State. By 1890 the Bredenhagens seem to already have moved to a large brick Victorian mansion occupying a whole city block at 634 Woodbury St. on St. Paul’s Westside. That house, known as the W. C. Bredenhagen House, appears to have been built in 1884, though it is unclear if the Bredenhagens were actually the builders and first residents. In February 1895 W. C. Bredenhagen was stricken by a stroke, which affected his speech and paralyzed one side of his body. In July 1896 he traveled to Germany for medical treatment, staying there until Nov. 1896. He died in his St. Paul home on June 7, 1897 at the age of 44, leaving a wife and four children. His Masonic funeral was held in the Carver Town Hall, which was filled to capacity. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery along with his first wife Eliza, his second wife Anna, and some of their children.

After the death of W. C. Bredenhagen his widow Anna and their four children returned to live in Carver near her family. Anna purchased the former *Carver Free Press* newspaper building at 121 Fourth Street East and it was converted into a single family home where she and her family lived until her 1930 death. Among the Bredenhagen children was Herbert Funk Bredenhagen, also known as Herbert Funk Brady (1886-1934), who played baseball on the Carver championship teams of 1902-1904. He was signed by professional baseball scouts and played on several minor league teams, his contract

eventually being picked up by the Philadelphia Nationals. He was perhaps Carver's first professional baseball player. He legally changed his name from Bredenhagen to Brady and during his playing years was known as "King Brady". He is also buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

In May 1891 the Bredenhagens sold Hilldale to business partner Julius Trieloff and his wife Minna Louise. Minna Louise Bachman was born at Hebenhausen near Bremen in the German States on Sept. 27, 1848. On Nov. 29, 1879 she married Julius Trieloff (born Sept. 25, 1855) of Wanfried, Hesse, in the German States. They lived for a few years in Wiesenmuelle, Germany before immigrating for political reasons in 1883 to Young America in western Carver County. In 1887 the Trieloffs moved to Carver and Julius entered into the partnership with W. C. Bredenhagen. In 1899 the Trieloff's added a kitchen at the rear of Hilldale, probably replacing an earlier summer kitchen. In 1908 Julius purchased the 35-acre farm of Bernhard Ruediger for his sons Alfred and Erich. The farm, which remained in the Trieloff family for many years, was located just to the east of Carver. Hilldale was home to the Trieloff family for 77 years until 1968, when it was acquired at auction and initially renovated by Anne Neils-Doerr, one of the cofounders of Carver's Steamboat Days and one of the driving forces in Carver historic preservation that led to the creation of the Carver Historic District and the Carver Heritage Preservation Commission. Julius Trieloff died at age 57 in 1912, wife Minna in 1938, at the time of her death nearly 90 and Carver's oldest citizen. Members of the Trieloff family are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

**Fourth Street Stone Arch Bridge over Spring Creek.** Built circa 1900 replacing an earlier noisy bridge that rumbled when horses and carriages crossed. The first wooden bridge, built at the direction of Levi Griffin, was vulnerable to rot and washing out during heavy rains. Its replacement, a permanent stone bridge was quieter, stronger, safer, and required less maintenance. The bridge is fashioned in the Syrian arched style and composed of locally quarried red rock.

**108 Fourth Street West, John Snell House.** Built about 1863 by Swedish pioneer immigrants John and Esther Christina Snell, who purchased the lot for the house from former Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey in January 1863.

The house overlooks Spring Creek at the side and rear and is frame-built, originally in a simple Federal/Greek Revival style with a two bay gable end facing the street. An early addition to the west side of the house, perhaps dating to about 1867, gives it the appearance of a T-Plan from the front, with turned posts supporting a small porch in the angle of the original structure and the addition. The early addition includes its own separate front entry, which allowed for a business to be run out of the structure without interfering with the family's privacy. The house sits atop a foundation and unusually tall cellar constructed of local yellow limestone and Mirriam red rock. A full-width front porch was added to the older main body of the house between November 1910 and February 1911, though this no longer survives, replaced sometime later by the small portico seen today. Stucco added during the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> Century hides the original lap siding exterior and architectural details.

In 1863 the Snells took out two mortgages from Edmund Walton, a Carver merchant and money lender. One mortgage was for \$125, the other for \$165, these presumably for building the house. The first mortgage was repaid at the end of 1863, the second by 1865. Esther and John Snell were both born in Sweden, and perhaps were already married before coming to America. John Snell came to America in 1852, and both he and Esther were named as residents in Carver at the special 1857 U. S. Territorial Census for Carver, with John Snell's occupation then given as a joiner, which perhaps gave him the carpentry skills to build much of the house.

John Snell (perhaps originally named Johan Bäck or Johan Snäll) was born in Visingsö in Jönköping County, Sweden in Sept. 1831 and had skills as a carpenter and cabinetmaker. Esther was born in Sweden about 1825. Esther died in May 1864, about the time that the house was being finished, leaving her husband a widow with two daughters. She is buried in East Union Lutheran Church Cemetery. John Snell remarried in 1865 to Ida Ingrid Pehrsson, who was born in Sweden in Aug. 1830 and had immigrated to America in 1854. With Ida John had several more children, including a son, Julian, who died in 1871 of cholera in Carver at age two.

In October 1867 John Snell opened a photography gallery in the house, though he may have been taking tintype portraits in Carver some years before opening the gallery. The Chaska Historical Society holds a number of Snell's tin types, most mounted in original card frames that read, "John Snell, Carver, Minn.". Snell's photographic gallery soon expanded also into a furniture business that supplied miscellaneous furniture, good also for backdrops in Snell's photographic portraits. Snell also had a gallery of framed pictures, including scenic and romantic pictures. He also stocked caskets and undertaking supplies, a common 19th Century sideline for those in the furniture business. Among things Snell stocked were looking glasses, chairs, tables, and bedsteads. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and 1873 John Snell was advertised as furniture business proprietor. His advertisement in an April 1874 *Valley Herald* newspaper ad touted, "I constantly keep on hand all kinds of coffins, Prince organs, and Howe sewing machines". At the Carver County Fair of September 1873 he demonstrated a Howe sewing machine, matching it against sewing machines stocked by other local Carver competitors. In March 1874 the Snells put the house, lot, furniture stock, and John's tools up for sale, running an ad in the *Valley Herald* newspaper for three consecutive weeks to satisfy probate conditions for the heirs of his first wife's estate. In July 1874 the house and business was sold to 21-year old Charles A. Schrimpf, and the Snells were said to have moved to Chicago, Illinois. However, the 1880 U. S. Census shows that they were living in Litchfield in Meeker County, Minnesota, with John Snell again listed as a furniture dealer. The Minnesota Historical Society's Directory of Photographers indicates that John Snell was still engaged in professional photography in Minnesota in the 1880s, and specifically in Litchfield in 1880-1881.

The Minnesota State Census of 1885 shows that the Snells continued to live in Litchfield, but the 1900 U. S. Census for Chicago, Cook County, Illinois shows that the Snells were by then living in Chicago. John Snell died in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois on June 24,

1907, with his death certificate indicating that he had lived in Chicago since 1890. Ida Snell died May 12, 1912 in Oak Park in Cook County, Illinois. John and Ida are buried in Forest Home Cemetery in Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois.

The next owner, Charles Schrimpf (1853-1893), planned on adding a large stock of furniture, and was expanding into the undertaking business as well. In the *Minnesota Gazeteer* for 1878 Schrimpf is listed as a furniture dealer and undertaker in Carver. In July 1874, in the same month that Schrimpf purchased the house, he transferred the title to his wife Mary's parents, Berthold (1830-1886) and Anna (Kronschnabel) Hertz (c. 1830-1906), who perhaps held the title because they had helped with financing the business and house. Berthold and Anna Hertz owned the Carver Brewery, which produced beer from the 1860s until it was destroyed by a fire in April 1889. How long the Schrimpfs lived in the house and ran their furniture and undertaking business is not known. Charles Schrimpf died in 1893 at his home near Perham in Ottertail County, Minnesota and was returned to Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver for burial. And his wife Mary (Hertz) Schrimpf was living in Houston, Texas in 1906 when her mother, Anna Hertz, died. Berthold Hertz died in 1886, and it is not known if any of the Hertz family, aside from married daughter Mary, ever lived in the house. In any event the house stayed in the ownership of the Hertz family until 1892, which may have been about the time the Schrimpfs moved from Carver.

From 1892-1909 the house was owned by Hubert Kochs (1892), John Johnson Store (1895), and Carl Anhalt (1906). In 1909 the house was purchased by Henry Dietrich (Dutch) Meyer and his wife Maria (Guenser) Meyer who owned it until 1935. Henry Meyer was born in 1881, the son of the Carver County Register of Deeds, Albert Meyer. Henry Meyer learned the printing business at the *Chaska Herald* and later worked for the *Waconia Patriot* before becoming the editor and publisher of the *Carver Journal-Review*. He also published a northwest dairy magazine. He was prominent in Carver village affairs, was recorder for the Woodman of America, and was active in the Carver County Fair and the German Reading Society in Carver. He was the Secretary of the State Department of Agriculture and at different times ran under the Republican nomination for Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner and for Minnesota Secretary of State in 1920.

Tragedy struck the Meyer family on Wednesday, July 1, 1914 when 8 year old Clive Meyer was struck and killed by a speeding Buick Six automobile while he and friend Leone Neunsinger were on their way into Riverside Park's picnic area in Carver. As the children walked under the railroad trestle two cars were coming out of the park toward them at high rates of speed. When the front car slowed, the second car struck it, pushing it into the trestle's stone support, crushing young Clive Meyer against it, and trapping Leone underneath one of the cars. The drivers of the cars were later arrested in Chaska, one charged with manslaughter. The accident made the Minneapolis newspapers, complete with photographs. Leona Neunsinger survived, but Clive Meyer's 1914 death marks the first automobile fatality in Carver, and the first known in Carver County.

In later years the house was owned by Carver furniture dealer and undertaker Vincent Santache and his wife Elsie, whose business was located just south of the old Carver Post

Office at 117 Broadway. In the 1940s the Santaches sold the house to Woodrow and Mabel Swanson, whose family would own it for some 60 years.

**112 Fourth Street West, George Groetsch House.** Built between 1858 and 1863 into the side of a hill closely fronting the street, and overlooking Spring Creek at the rear. The building has seen several additions and remodelings, the most recent and most damaging to its appearance being the 20<sup>th</sup> Century stuccoing over of siding and foundation, the removal of a raised column-supported veranda with an access door, the removal of decorative ‘eyebrows’ high above two upper level front windows, and the removal of a unique false front with a center peak.

On July 12, 1858 George Groetsch contracted with carpenter and Carver Land Company investor J. W. Hartwell to “*to erect, build, and enclose a house ready to put the floor in, the said house to be 16 feet wide and 22 feet long {with} 11 foot posts, lower story 8 feet and upper 7 feet {with} 7 windows in the house and 2 doors. Said Groetsch to furnish all the material at the place of the builder {of} the house except 2 doors which the said J. W. Hartwell is to furnish*”. Moreover, “*The house to be made like the {illegible} on the dwelling house that {Wm?} Peitz lives in*”. For these materials and labor George Groetsch agreed and covenanted to pay J. W. Hartwell \$125.

George Groetsch apparently had some financial problems and was taken to court by J. W. Hartwell on August 22, 1859 for failure to pay for the materials furnished and labor performed on the house built for him by Hartwell, as been contracted. Hartwell’s legal claim sought a \$130 lien on the premises, which were on property Groetsch contracted to buy, but which was not yet in Groetsch’s name. On November 25, 1859 Joseph Peitz also took George Groetsch to court and received a lien judgment against him for \$173.99. Joseph Peitz was probably a sawmill owner and lumber dealer in Carver in the 1850s, and was certainly in the sawmill business later in Waconia prior to Peitz’ April 1863 death. The Peitz lien judgment against Groetsch was almost certainly to recoup losses for the lumber used in the house, but again, undoubtedly not paid for by Groetsch. The Sheriff of Carver County commanded Groetsch to satisfy the judgement out of personal property, if available, then out of real property to be collected by the sheriff. George Pietz was born in the German States about 1835, perhaps in the Baden-Württemberg-Bavaria area where others of the same last name came from.

In April 1858 George Groetsch took out a marriage license in Carver County to marry Catharina Hein, possibly a daughter of Carver businessman John Hein. It appears the couple was soon married, for in May 1858 the completed license was turned in at the county office. In August 1862 the Sioux Uprising began, with many pioneer settlers being slaughtered in the Minnesota River Valley and western Minnesota, this at a time when most Minnesota soldiers were off fighting the Civil War. On August 22, 1862 Groetsch, then 27 years old, enlisted in Company H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment. He was present for many of the battles against the Dakota in the 1862 Uprising, and most likely present with his company as it provided security at Mankato for the 38 Dakota Indians judged most guilty and hanged for the atrocities, the largest mass hanging in U. S. history. After the Indian War, Groetsch continued serving in Company

H in many skirmishes of the Civil War, advancing to the rank of sergeant. On June 10-11, 1864 he fought in the Battles of Guntown and Ripley in Mississippi, being listed among the 276 Union soldiers killed, wounded, and missing in the fighting. George Groetsch must have been captured during or after the battle, and was taken to the Millen Confederate Prison in Georgia, where he died on October 19, 1864. Though away at war, George Groetsch is listed as eligible to vote on the 1863-64 Poll Tax list for Carver.

The property on which Groetsch's house was built was never put in his name. Whether he paid his debts by cash, in kind, by labor, or never paid them at all is not known. The property stayed in the ownership of the Carver Land Company until June 1863 when Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey sold it as Trustee for the Carver Land Company. It may be that the next owner paid off the liens with the purchase, or that some building materials were removed from the property to satisfy the lien. In any event the property was sold to Louis Stich for \$40.

Stich and his wife Margareta owned the property for several months until early the following year when they sold it to Frederick and Mary A. Dittes for \$175, indicating that the liens were taken care of, or that the Stichs had much improved the house in those few months. The Dittes family owned the property only until October 1864, selling it for exactly what they paid for it. The Dittes family was later important in the Dakota Territory. In March 1883 Frederick Dittes and two other commissioners were appointed to organize a county government in the Dakota Territory. On August 6, 1883 they convened at the Dittes' farmhouse and formed Roberts County near the head of Lake Traverse near Big Stone Lake. The county was formed primarily from land purchased from Sisseton and Wahpeton Dakota Indian Reservation lands.

From Oct. 1864 to March 1868 Martin Freischle (Frieschler) owned it. Martin Freischle's son, Xavier, fought in the Civil War with George Groetsch in Company H and was taken prisoner to Andersonville Prison in Georgia, where on Sept. 17, 1864 he was one of the 12,913 Union prisoners who died there of malnutrition, starvation, diarrhea, and disease. In 1860, owner Martin Freischle, born about 1801 in Bavaria, had been a farmer living in Laketown Township in Carver County. Martin sold the property in 1868 to another Company H 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Civil War veteran, John Sundine, and his wife Sara, who had married the previous year.

John Sundine was a merchant with businesses at two different Broadway locations in Carver. The Sundines, immigrants from Sweden, lived here until Aug. 1873. Sara Sundine's brother, Gustavus Ferdinand Sunwall, immigrated to America in 1869 at the age of 17, and probably lived here with the Sundines for a time. Sunwall clerked in the Carver store of John Dunn from 1869-1872 before moving to what became Walnut Grove, Minnesota in 1873, building the first house there. Sunwall and partner John H. Anderson owned the first general store in Walnut Grove, and Sunwall is regarded a founder of the town, made famous by Laura Ingalls Wilder in her books and television series *Little House on the Prairie*. Walnut Grove's teacher, Miss Beadle, was likely fashioned from the teaching wife of Lafayette Bedal, a business partner of Sunwall.

Sunwall returned to Carver in 1879 where he was in charge of all the Carver grain elevators and engaged in the wheat buying business.

In 1873 the Sundines sold the property to shoemaker Erik Spong and his wife Maria Charlotta. The Sundines moved to a few blocks away to 116 Main Street West in Carver, which was owned by them from 1875 until sold by their heirs in 1902. New owners Erik and Maria Charlotta Spong (sometimes spelled Spang) were also immigrants from Sweden. Erik was born November 24, 1822 and his wife on July 26, 1829. In the 1878-79 *Minnesota Gazeteer* for Carver Erik Spong advertised his shoemaking business.

It was probably late in the Sundine ownership or early in the Spong ownership that the house was more formally fitted out as a shop. The house was decorated with a false front with brackets and crown moldings. The center of the false front was peaked and decorated. A raised veranda, supported by four columns down to street level, was fitted with a wraparound railing and a second-story access door. The lower level, a walkout with a center door, was undoubtedly the shoe shop entrance during the Spong's ownership and the owner's quarters were on the upper story. Most of the historical architectural details seem to have been removed after 1928.

Erik Spong died on Feb. 15, 1885 and the house was transferred out of Spong ownership when Maria Charlotta died on July 24, 1908. Both are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

**113 Fourth Street West, Springside.** Built about 1860 in the post and beam frame style often used by early Minnesota pioneers. It is one of Carver County's best surviving examples of a Federal/Greek Revival home. The house is well-restored and features simplicity of design, a low-pitched gable roof with an end to the street, eave returns on the gable ends, a three bay front facade, six over six paned windows, a side hall entry plan, and a summer kitchen. Its foundation consists of Merriam red rock, local boulders, and Carver brick. Built adjacent to Spring Creek, from which its name was derived, the home in 1970 was one of the first to be restored in Carver's Historic District by Edith (Edie) Herman, who was a driving force in establishing the Carver Historic District and Steamboat Days.

The property on which Springside stands was once owned by Alexander Ramsey, the first governor of the Minnesota Territory. In 1858 Ramsey sold the lot to Montgomery Burfield (sometimes spelled Berfield), and it may have been Burfield who erected the earliest portion of the house. Montgomery Burfield was born March 1, 1828 in Buffalo Run or Bellefonte, Center County, Pennsylvania and came to Carver early in its history. On March 15, 1857 he married Margaret Ladlee/Ladler, perhaps a daughter of Ebenezer Ladlee, another early Carver inhabitant. In mid August 1862 Burfield enlisted as a Union corporal in Company H of the 9<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment. He probably served in the quelling of the Sioux Uprising of 1862, and was perhaps present with his company as it guarded the scaffold in Mankato when 38 of the Dakota Indians were hanged for involvement in the Uprising. Burfield served his company in the Union army at the battles of Guntown and Tupelo in Mississippi and Nashville, Tennessee before being

discharged after the war on May 15, 1865. Even before the Civil War, Burfield became active in the farm business and over time acquired considerable land in Carver County. He became a leading figure in the area's haymaking business, transporting hay on barges in the Minnesota River to St. Paul and Mendota. He is said to have been the first to operate a stage line out of St. Paul, and later operated a stage between Carver and Glencoe. Burfield ordered a Garr-Scott threshing machine and a Buffalo Pitt separator from Pennsylvania, the engine of which fell into the Minnesota River as it was being ferried across. Burfield secured a replacement engine, and his rig became the first threshing rig in the Carver County area. Burfield was part owner of the Booth and Burfield Sawmill in Norwood, Minnesota, operating the mill until 1879 when it burned down. He also ran a gristmill in Norwood. In 1878 he moved to Star Lake in Ottertail County, Minnesota and ran a saw mill there for many years. Montgomery Burfield died March 6, 1896 after a load of logs overturned on him. On April 7, 1863 Margaret Burfield died and was buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. A few months later, in September 1863, widower Montgomery Burfield sold the Springside property to Henry (Heinrich) Stockman and his wife, Dorothea (Beneke). Springside was home to the Stockman (sometimes spelled Stockmann) family during the period 1863-1874.

According to the U. S. Census for 1900 Henry Stockman was born in Mar. 1821 in Hanover in Prussia in the German States, where he learned the shoemaking trade. He came to America in 1851, living first in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois and later moving to Scott County, Minnesota. Henry Stockman maintained a boot and shoe store in Shakopee in Scott County before moving to Carver and the house Springside. The Carver Poll Tax register for 1863-1864 indicates that Henry Stockman was by then living in Carver. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for the years 1865, 1872, and 1873 Henry Stockman was advertised in Carver as being in the boot and shoe business, though the location of his establishment is not given. Stockman was a successful businessman who ran a boot and shoemaking concern in Carver at 109 Third Street East, a property he owned from 1869-1874 before selling it to John Hebeisen, whose family operated it as a farm implement and hardware store for most of the next century. In 1866 Henry Stockman became one of nineteen charter members of Carver's Trinity Lutheran Church and served as its first treasurer. The 1870 U. S. Census for Carver indicates that Henry Stockman was a boot and shoe manufacturer, and that his net worth was then \$9500, a great deal for the period. Dorothea (Dora) Stockman was born in Hanover in Prussia on November 27, 1826 and died of typhoid fever on May 3, 1873 and is buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

A year after his wife's death Henry Stockman, who never remarried, sold his house and business, relocating with his children first to Norwood in western Carver County Minnesota, where in June 1874 he purchased lots and lumber to build a store and residence. A Jan. 1880 map of Carver County shows a Henry Stockman owning 80 acres of land in Section # 14 due south of Norwood and 80 acres southwest of Young America in Section # 34. Henry Stockman, formerly of Carver, possibly owned one or both of these parcels. In 1879 he moved to Hector in Renville County, Minnesota and was engaged in the lumber business there for a short time. The 1880 U. S. Census for Hector shows that Henry and his 21 year-old son Edward were both lumber dealers there. By

1885 Henry had moved to Minneapolis. Henry died Sept. 8, 1901 in Minneapolis after having suffered injuries in a fall earlier that year. The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper on Sept 12, 1901 related, "Mr. Stockman during a long life of frugality had accumulated a large fortune, which descends to two children. He was in one sense of the word a miser and had very little enjoyment out of his money." Two weeks later under the headline "Left a Nice Little Wad", the same newspaper gave the estimated estate value of his estate at \$125,000, a large sum for the time.

From the mid 1890s to the 1920s Springside was the home of Carver Postmaster and druggist John S. Nelson (1854-1922) and his sister Christine Nelson (1858-1925), who actually held title to the house until 1924, when it passed to John S. Nelson's children, Clyde and Nellie (married to W. F. Zamjahn of Chaska).

John S. Nelson was born in Sweden March 19, 1854 and came to the United States with his mother by 1855, and possibly as early as 1854 at the age of 9 weeks, as written in his obituary. His early years were spent on a farm outside of Carver. When he was 6 years old he lost his father, and his widowed mother, Maria (Maja) Andersdotter Nelson from Sweden, remarried to Swedish immigrant Swan (Sven) Andersson Holm. The family attended East Union Church, with John being baptized and confirmed there. He attended St. Ansgar's in East Union, which later came to be Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. At age 14 John was employed as an apprentice in a Carver drug store, probably working under druggist George DuToit. After a stint in New Ulm, Minnesota as a drug clerk, Nelson returned to Carver, and in Apr. 1873 purchased George DuToit's Carver drug store at 221 Broadway after DuToit entered the banking business.

In June 1874 John married Amelia E. Hartley who was born in Massachusetts about 1846 and came to Minnesota in 1871. Amelia was the daughter of William and Julia Hartley who immigrated from England. John and Amelia had 6 children, 4 of whom died in infancy, including a set of male and female twins shortly after birth on Aug. 1, 1878. Amelia died July 27, 1884 at age 38 of Bright's Disease and John and his two surviving children made their home with his mother, Maria Nelson Holm (1821-1902), and his sister, Christine Nelson. In June 1884 John Nelson had purchased a lot at 116 Main Street West in Carver and built a house on it, perhaps to live in after giving up his quarters above his drugstore in anticipation of selling it. It may be that his children, sister, and mother lived in it for a time before it was sold in Jan. 1891 to John and Othilda Leonard, who owned the Basler House Hotel and John Leonard Saloon at 205 Broadway in Carver.

In 1880 John was listed among Carver County's highest taxpayers in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper. On Oct. 26 1886 he left his East Union Church congregation to move to Minneapolis. In 1888 John sold the business and drugstore to Oswald C. Brunius, who probably had been running the store for him. In Minneapolis John went into the banking business at the American Exchange Bank. He returned to Carver sometime between 1891 and 1895 and spent the rest of his life there. In 1897 began an 11-year run as Carver's postmaster. He also served as Mayor and Councilman of Carver, Secretary of the Carver County Agricultural Society, Secretary of the German Reading Society,

Secretary of the Carver Fire Department, Carver Justice of the Peace, a member of the Carver County Board of Education, and a director of the First State Bank of Carver. He was active in the Carver Masonic Lodge, an avid Republican, and one-time candidate for Carver County Registrar of Deeds. In Sept. 1901, for reasons unknown, John S. Nelson was waylaid and assaulted by his stepfather, Swan A. Holm, in the alley behind 113 Fourth Street West and the Neunsinger/Central Hotel.

John S. Nelson died Dec. 23, 1922 and was buried in the family plot along with his wife Amelia in East Union Cemetery, after funeral services in the home and also at the Presbyterian Church of Carver. His funeral was one of the largest seen in Carver.

John's sister, Christine Nelson, was born in East Union in Dahlgren Township on Jan. 4 1858, and died on June 2, 1925. Christine Nelson spent her childhood in East Union and belonged to the East Union Lutheran Church congregation until the sister congregation of Salem Lutheran Church was created at Carver in 1877. She was employed in Minneapolis for a time, but returned to Carver to live with her brother John and their mother, and to care for John's young children. An excellent seamstress, she as well maintained a flower garden which had a colony of birds. Christine was a member of the Ladies Society of Carver and the Carver Chapter No. 231 of the Order of the Eastern Star, the ladies branch of the Freemasons. Christine was killed when a tornado came up suddenly and destroyed the Carver Riverside Pavilion on Tuesday evening, June 2, 1925. When Christine saw the storm appear she fled into the pavilion for shelter. The tornado blew a large tree on top of the pavilion, crushing Christine to death and killing two other tourists, while destroying the grand old building. Christina, and their mother Maria Nelson (Holm), are buried with John Nelson in the family plot at East Union Cemetery in Dahlgren Township.

In later years the house was the residence of the Nord family of Carver and served later as a boarding house. In 1970 Springside was one of the first houses to be purchased and restored by Edith Herman, who was one of the driving forces in the creation of the Carver Historic District, a founder of Steamboat Days, and a founder of the nonprofit organization, Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Inc. From about 1974-1976 it was operated as Toad Hollow, a coffee and sandwich shop. Today it is again a private residence. Springside was featured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth.

**116 Fourth Street West, Dauwalter-Wold House.** Built about 1865, with remodeling about 1980. The home is a rectangular one and a half story and includes a rear wing with Greek Revival features. In the 1800s the house had several outbuildings including a large barn/stable at the rear of the property and a huge 8-hole frame outhouse located along the street a few feet to the west of the house. Attached to the east side of the house is a nearly square brick building, now covered in wooden siding. What the building's function was is not clear, though in later years it may have served as a small guest cottage or quarters for family members.

The Dauwalter-Wold house was constructed on the site of property purchased from former Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey by Charles D. Dauwalter in 1858. In 1864 Dauwalter purchased other property at 413 Broadway in Carver where his son, Charles L. Dauwalter, would one day build a house. Charles D. Dauwalter was born in Baden in the German States on Aug. 6, 1833 and came to America in 1853. He lived for a few years at Sandusky, Erie County, Ohio, where he learned the blacksmith trade. In 1857 he relocated to Carver where he worked for 3 years as a journeyman blacksmith for John Bloedel, who lived at Fourth Street East in Carver and probably also had a blacksmith shop there too. In 1860 Charles D. Dauwalter returned to Ohio and in 1861 married Elisabeth Lull, who was born Jan. 1, 1838 in Bavaria in the German States. Charles returned to Carver with his wife Elisabeth and entered the blacksmith and wagon making business on his own, where he became very successful. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865, 1872, and 1873 Charles Dauwalter is advertised as a blacksmith in Carver, though the location of his establishment is not mentioned. In 1880 Charles D. Dauwalter was listed among Carver County's highest taxpayers in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper, though by 1900 he was retired. Elisabeth Dauwalter died of kidney disease on Mar. 9, 1895, after which husband Charles D. Dauwalter seems to have lived here with his daughter Fredericka and son-in-law Arnie Wold until he died on Oct. 4, 1903. Charles D. Dauwalter and his wife Elisabeth are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

The next owners of the house were Arnie and Fredericka (Dauwalter) Wold. Arnie Wold was born in Norway on April 15, 1861 and immigrated to America about 1880 at age 19, where he settled in Carver. On June 30, 1896 he was married to Fredericka Dauwalter, who was born on the old family homestead in Carver in Mar. 1868, the daughter of Carver blacksmith Charles D. Dauwalter and his wife Elisabeth. Arnie and Fredericka lived at the old Dauwalter homestead house and inherited it through probate in 1904 after Fredericka's father died. Arnie Wold served as the village marshal in Carver as well as Carver's rural mail carrier. In late fall, 1920 Arnie Wold suffered from an abscessed tooth, which he had pulled. Testifying to the medicine of the age the tooth area became infected and Arnie was transported to a hospital in Hennepin County where he never recovered, dying five days later on Nov. 13, 1920. After Arnie lay in state in the house a funeral followed at Carver's Presbyterian Church, which is today called the Church by the River. Arnie Wold was buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. Fredricka and the five surviving children lived there for a time before moving to Minneapolis for better support. Fredricka died on July 5, 1936 and was returned to Carver to be buried with her husband in Mount Hope Cemetery.

**117 Fourth Street West, Peter Weego House.** The oldest portion of the house, running perpendicular to the street and just behind the later-added front porch, may date to as early as 1857. It was built over a limestone rubble foundation in the Greek Revival Style on a portion of a lot once owned by Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey. It is not known who built the house, or who lived in it in its earliest years, but it seems to have been owned and perhaps rented out to others by successful Carver County farmer Tillman Lenzen (born 1825), who from 1857-1870 owned two lots on the block, including the portion on which the house sits. In 1870 pioneer Carver blacksmith Charles

Dauwalter Sr. bought the two lots from Lenzen, splitting them the same year and selling the portion holding the house to Swedish immigrants Peter W. and Anna (Erickson) Weego.

Peter Weego and his family were living in the house either as renters or contract buyers already in the 1860s, prior to their actual 1870 purchase of the house. In 1872 the Weegos took out a \$100 mortgage on the house, perhaps for the first of the many additions that would be added to the house. Peter Weego was born October 1, 1831 in Östergötland, Sweden, and came to America in 1853, settling first at St. Peter in Nicollet County, Minnesota, where he farmed for a year before being elected Nicollet County Treasurer. In 1859 he came to Carver County, finding employment as a clerk in a Carver store. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company A of the 4th Minnesota Infantry Regiment, serving until late 1862 when he was discharged for disability. In 1861 he was married to Anna (Britta) Ericksson, who came to America from Dalarna, Sweden in 1852, and who died in 1868, leaving him a widow with two children. Her funeral in December 1868 was described in the *Valley Herald* as the largest ever held in Carver. Weego remarried in 1869 to Bertha Erickson (born about 1850), and with her had four more children.

Peter Weego was one of the most prominent pioneer settlers in Carver County, holding many positions of trust in the early Carver and Chaska local governments, and in Carver County government. In the early 1860s he was the Carver Town Clerk, compiling the Poll Tax List for Carver in 1863-1864. He was Deputy Carver County Auditor in 1860 and elected Carver county auditor in 1864, serving for 8 years until 1872, though he is still listed as auditor in the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1873. In 1875-76 he was elected Carver County Treasurer, a post he held for some 15 years. It was probably his regular commute to the county seat in Chaska and his wife's 1874 plans to open a Chaska millinery store at Third and Chestnut with a partner that pushed the Weegos to sell their Carver house and relocate to Chaska. In 1875 they erected a new house near the Chaska Moravian Church, enlarging it in 1882. Weego served as secretary of the Chaska Fire Department in 1889. In 1891 the wheels came off Peter Weego's exemplary life when \$4333 was discovered missing from the Carver County public coffers, forcing him out of office. In May 1891 Weego was arrested for wrongfully obtaining public monies that had been in his trust. Bail was set at \$4500, about the amount of money that was missing.

Weego's defalcation case garnered local newspaper coverage for several months. One rumor in the newspapers even had him somehow involved--but never proven--in the kidnap and flogging of Minneapolis paper hanger Thomas Ingle, who reportedly had been slandering several married and unmarried ladies. The defalcation criminal case, his lack of employment, his defense expenses, and his bail left Peter Weego in shame and in financial straits. His home was heavily mortgaged, and the once-esteemed former white-collar public servant was forced to seek Chaska work at common labor wages. Weego at length pled guilty to the crime and was sentenced to one year of hard labor at the Minnesota State Prison in Stillwater. In light of Weego's advanced age, his long years of trustworthy government service, and his serving in the Civil War, both the prosecuting

attorney and judge had spoken for the lenient prison term of one year. In November 1891 Weego's Chaska home was put up for sale, as was his unimproved 160-acre farm in Ottertail County, Minnesota. Also on November 6, 1891 he was expelled from the Swedish East Union Lutheran Church Congregation to which he had belonged since 1864, if no longer in fact, at least on paper (church records from the German Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver list Peter Weego as being a founding charter member of that congregation in 1866). After prison Weego lived in Minneapolis. He died at the Fort Snelling, Minnesota Soldiers Home and was buried with his first wife and daughter in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

In 1874 the house was sold to Henry W. and Katherine Sauer. In 1874 and 1876 the Sauers lost two infant children. In 1880 the Sauers sold it to Peter and Margaretha Butendorf, who were both born in 1822 in Prussia in the German States and immigrated to America, ending up in Carver where they operated a saloon at 404 Broadway, a boarding house, and retail liquor establishment. It is likely that some of the Butendorf boarding house concerns were run out of the house, but it is also possible that the Butendorfs lived here after selling their saloon in 1886. Carver establishments often functioned both as business and owner's residence.

Peter Butendorf died in 1899 and after Margaretha's 1909 death the house was sold to Frank V. Johnson, who in turn sold it to John Funk Jr. four years later, in 1911. John Funk III and his wife Icena lived here from 1911-1931, and it may be that the house was a wedding gift from John Funk Jr. and his wife Bertha. The front porch and the most rear addition were added to the house sometime between November 1910 and February 1911, probably in conjunction with its occupation by the Funks. John Funk III ran the Funk family hardware and lumberyard at the intersection of Broadway and Fourth Streets in Carver until the businesses declined with the Depression.

The Butendorfs and Funks are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

### **201 Fourth Street West, Ringberg House and Trinity Lutheran Church Parsonage.**

Built on a lot once owned by former Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey, the house is a cottage-style woodframed residence in an L-plan. It served as the parsonage for the pastors of Trinity Lutheran Church of Carver from 1921-1954. Covered in stucco at some point long after its construction, the stucco has since been removed to reveal its original siding, though some is still found on the outside of the foundation's brick veneer.

In its early form the house was a simple two-story rectangular block, with its long sides oriented north-south. From as late as 1894 to 1910 there were three small sheds along the western property line, with two of them near the alley. Between 1910 and 1911 the two sheds near the alley were removed, and sometime after 1911 a squarish wing was added to the west side of the building, transforming it into an L-shape, and nearly doubling its size. Also after 1911 a porch was added to the building, crossing the front of the earliest portion of the house and turning south into the "L" formed by angle the older structure and the later addition. The porch was perhaps open for a time, and then later enclosed.

The older main part of the house may date to 1859 when A. H. and Isabella M. Moseley granted a large (for that time) mortgage for \$705 on the property to Franklin Johnson and Sara G. Shepardson. In 1864 the property was acquired via sheriff's auction by John and Sarah Bennett. John Bennett Jr. was born in Northampton, England about 1830, the son of John Bennett, a minister in the Congregational Church, and Ann Howard Bennett. Sarah E. Bennett, the wife of John Jr., was born in Ohio about 1844. John Bennett Jr. may have come to America about the same time as his younger brother George Bennett, who immigrated in 1851. John Bennett Jr. served as a deputy to his brother George, who was Carver County Auditor from 1861-1865 during the Civil War. John and Sarah Bennett held title to the house but for a short time, and by October 1865 had completed and stocked a Chaska drug store which John operated until about 1870. In Dec. 1872 the Bennetts moved to Waverly in Wright County, Minnesota where John engaged in the mercantile business. By 1880 the Bennetts were living in Middleville Township in Wright County where John was working as a railroad agent. John and Sarah Bennett are buried in Chaska's Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

In 1864 Andrew (Andreas) John Erickson and his wife Johanna acquired ownership of the property from the Bennetts. Andrew Erickson was born in Sweden on June 24, 1837 and was married there around 1859 to wife Johanna, born in Sweden in Mar. 1836. Andrew and Johanna immigrated to the United States and arrived in 1863 during the Civil War, coming early to Carver, for Andrew Erickson is listed already in the 1863-1864 Carver Poll Tax voting roster. Andrew and Johanna Erickson are listed with two daughters at the 1865 Minnesota State Census for Carver, but seem to have moved shortly after that, for in 1866 the Erickson's transferred the property to Ole and Johanna Nelson and they are absent from the 1870 U. S. Census for Carver. The Erickson's moved to New London in Monongalia County, Minnesota, which in 1870 was merged into Kandiyohi County, and there Andrew Erickson took up farming. Johanna Erickson died between 1885 and 1910 and Andrew Erickson died on Oct. 29, 1910. Both are buried in Lebanon Cemetery in New London, Minnesota.

The next owners of register on the property were Ole and Johanna Nelson (sometimes spelled Nilson and Nielson) in 1866. This sale may have represented the dissolution of a joint ownership, and perhaps a joint residence, which occurred during the Ericksons and Nelsons early years in America. Ole Nelson was born in Norway in 1822, and his wife was born there in August, 1832. Ole Nelson appears already in Carver at the 1860 U. S. Census, and he is accounted for in the 1863-1864 Poll Tax voting roster for Carver. If the Nelsons lived in the house at all, or for long, is not clear, for already on Dec. 26, 1866 Ole Nelson purchased from Ole Jorgenson a parcel of 160 acres of land in Monongalia County (later merged with Kandiyohi County), Minnesota, in the same area where the Ericksons had moved to. Like the Ericksons, by the 1870 U. S. Census for Carver the Nelsons are missing, and at the 1880 U. S. Census for New London Township Ole Nelson, like Andrew Erickson, was a farmer. It is curious that both the Ericksons and Nelsons moved to the then remote Monongalia County and took up farming. It is possible that the catalyst for this move may have been Peter Thompson, who owned nearby property in Carver at 300 Third Street West and 320 Ash Street, and who in 1860

had visited Monongalia County and purchased land there, before becoming an active entrepreneur on many fronts in southern Minnesota. Ole Nelson died in 1900 and Johanna in 1914. Like Andrew and Johanna Erickson, Ole and Johanna Nelson are buried in Lebanon Cemetery in New London, Minnesota.

In 1870 the Nelsons sold the property to Swan (Sven) Sundine. Swan (also spelled Svan and Sven) Sundine was born in Sweden about 1827. By 1870 he had come to America and was living in the Planter's House Hotel on Broadway in Carver, where at the time all the guests were Swedish immigrants. At the 1870 U. S. Census for Carver Swan gave his occupation as a painter. Later in 1870 he acquired the house at 201 Fourth Street West. Apparently part of the 1859 Moseley mortgage fell on Swan Sundine, and in July 1872 the property was foreclosed upon by the Moseleys. Sundine apparently then took up residence in a hotel or boarding house in Carver. Despondent, 45 year-old Swan Sundine, a widower, committed suicide in his room 13 months later on Saturday morning, August 16, 1873. He had cut one arm twelve times, as well as his throat, using two razors that were found on the floor of his room. Carver Doctors E. H. Lewis and William Griffin were summoned to Sundine's room but were unable to save him. The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper described Swan Sundine as "a quiet inoffensive man, but unfortunately [he] had too strong an appetite for liquor and had been suffering from an attack of delirium tremens for a week...."

By 1876 Swan Sundine's brother, Carver merchant John Sundine, managed to acquire the property through probate and/or public auction. John Sundine and his wife Sarah may have lived here for a short time, but this is not clear. They owned a house across the street and down a few doors at 112 Fourth Street West from 1868-1873 and in 1875 they acquired a house at 116 Main Street West. John and Sarah Sundine sold this property in 1878 to Jacob Serf, who in 1884 sold it to August and Mary Swedberg, who in turn sold it in 1885 to Peter Ringberg, whose family would own the property for more than 30 years.

Peter Ringberg was born on Sept. 6, 1837 at Bosgården, Brunnhem Parish near Falköping in Västergötland, Sweden and immigrated to America. Peter was married in Nov. 1872 in Carver County to Maria Larson, probably born about 1843 in Sweden, and who lived yet at the taking of the Minnesota State Census in 1885 but had probably died about 1887. Peter Ringberg remarried in Minneapolis on August 4, 1888 to Emma Christina Anderson, the daughter of Swedish immigrants John and Kaja Caisa Anderson. Emma Christina Ringberg died from childbirth complications at age 34 on Nov. 13, 1889, six days after daughter Mabel Emma was born. On July 11, 1893 Peter married again to Anna Elisa Hallin in Carver County. Anna Elisa was born in Sweden in August of 1850.

Peter Ringberg died May 11, 1897, killed by a train in Hopkins, in an incident the *Carver County News* on May 14, 1897 labeled as a probable suicide. A closer look at the incident reveals that it was not a suicide, but rather a horrible accident. The estate of Peter Ringberg sued the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad, alleging railroad negligence and wantonness in Peter's death. The family was represented by Peter Ringberg's estate administrator, Charles Arine, a Swedish immigrant who ran for Carver County

Commissioner in 1885, and who by 1903 was Chairman of the Carver County Board of Commissioners. The accident occurred on Excelsior Avenue in Hopkins in Hennepin County where the street intersected the railroad's main line. Testimony of railroad employees and other witnesses then present indicates that Ringberg was walking east on the sidewalk at the railroad crossing. The train approached from the northwest at between 20 and 28 miles per hour, sounding its warning whistle. When a pedestrian was observed on the tracks the engineer applied the brakes, which were in good working order. When the train got within eight feet of Ringberg, he suddenly noticed the train and leapt upward to get out of the way, but landed in the middle of the track where he was struck by the engine. Ringberg was thrown 15-20 feet into a cattle guard, breaking it, before he rolled down an embankment and died a few minutes later. The case went all the way to the Minnesota Supreme Court, with the Ringberg family being represented by Swedish immigrant Charles Arine (1844-1927), who served as Chairman of the Carver County Board of Commissioners and as Carver's village assessor. On May 9, 1899 the court ruled that Ringberg had been guilty of contributory negligence in crossing without looking or listening, and could have gotten off the tracks. The court also ruled that no negligence or wantonness on the part of the railroad was in evidence.

In the 1900 U. S. Census for Carver, Peter's widow, Anna, was raising stepdaughter Mabel and listed her occupation as a washwoman. Anna Ringberg died on Mar. 10, 1929 at the home of her daughter in West Union in Carver County. The house remained in Ringberg family ownership for 31 years until 1916 when it was sold to Jacob Kemkes via Peter Ringberg's probate heirs: his widow Anna, his daughter Mabel, and Mabel's husband Carl Johnson.

Jacob Kemkes and his wife, Frances Sutheimer, who he married in 1916, owned the house until 1921 when it was sold to the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church for use as a parsonage. Reverend Raedeke, the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver, had served the Trinity congregation for fifty years, and when he retired the congregation gave the old Trinity parsonage at 501 Fifth Street North to the Raedeikes. This home was then owned and used as a parsonage by the congregation from 1921-1954, until the present-day Trinity parsonage on Fifth Street East was built.

Reverend H. G. Gamber, installed at Trinity Lutheran in 1921, was the first pastor to live in the "new" parsonage, and the first to conduct church services in English. Gamber served the congregation until 1926 until he went to Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Paul before later serving as the president of the Minnesota district of the church from 1947-1957. Rev. Thomas Kohn, who came from Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Paul, was the second pastor to occupy the parsonage, serving the congregation for three years until succeeded in 1930 by Rev. B. A. Osterman. Osterman had previously served in Alberta, Canada and would serve at Trinity until 1943, setting up the church's first Sunday School as well as mid-week Lenten services, before being called to a congregation in Mendota, Minnesota. Osterman was replaced by Rev. E. Burdorf who lived at the parsonage until 1945. Rev. P. H. Panning, a one-time military chaplain, replaced Burdorf in Feb. 1946 and served until 1951 before being called to a Duluth congregation. Rev. O. H. Soeldner

came to Trinity Church in 1952 and served for ten years, being the last to live in this house and the first to live in the new Trinity parsonage built in 1954 on Fifth Street East.

**205 Fourth Street West, Aaron Palmer House.** Built in 1871 on a lot once owned by Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey, one of the original investors in the Carver Land Company. In 1858 Ramsey transferred the lot to Levi Griffin, another investor in the Carver Land Company. In Nov. 1870 Levi Griffin sold the lot to Aaron Palmer, who intended to build a house on it. This seems to have occurred the following autumn, for the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper of Oct. 19, 1871 wrote, “Mr. A. Palmer is also putting up a good size frame building with a brick basement opposite to Mr. Busse’s house. It will be completed in time to move in this fall. It helps the appearance of that street very much”. The lot and house would remain in the ownership of the Palmer family and heirs for the next 73 years until 1944.

While early photos of the house have not been found, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1894 to 1928 indicate that the early house was slightly rectangular in shape, with the long sides oriented north-south, and that it was a one and a half story wooden frame home. The maps indicate that during that entire period there was a large one-story outbuilding located off of the southwest corner of the house.

Aaron (Aron) Palmer was born in Sweden about Dec. 12, 1835, the son of John and Susanna Palmer. He immigrated to America and seems to have been in Minnesota already in 1868, and was probably already married in Sweden to wife Clara Matilda (born there on Oct. 5, 1838), before they came to America with two Swedish-born daughters who had been born about 1864 and 1865. Like many Carver pioneer families Aaron and Clara Palmer lost children at an early age. A daughter, perhaps named Selma, died at age 4 of measles in a Carver epidemic of January and February 1870. A son, Aron August, died on Aug. 20, 1874 at one month old, and another daughter, also died in her first month. On Mar. 15, 1878 wife Clara gave birth to a stillborn daughter. The following day, on Mar. 16, 1878, Clara died of childbirth complications at age 39. She and the stillborn child were buried along with the Palmer children in the East Union Lutheran Church Cemetery outside of Carver, leaving Aaron Palmer a widower with a 13-year old daughter, Maria Augusta.

On May 12, 1881 Aaron Palmer was remarried to widow Josephine (Gustafson) Larson at West Union Church in Hancock Township in Carver County. Josephine was born in Sweden on 6 Dec. 1850 (or 1851), the daughter of John and Anne E. Gustafson. Josephine immigrated with her family to America in 1863/1865 where they became members of East Union Lutheran Church outside of Carver. In 1870-1871 Josephine’s parents became the owners and proprietors of the Railroad Hotel and livery stable, located at Fourth Street East in Carver. The Gustafson’s days as hotel proprietors were short-lived, for both John and Anne Gustafson died in the first half of 1873 leaving five of Josephine’s brothers and sisters orphaned. In 1873 Josephine married Andrew Larson, who was born in Sweden about 1849. The Minnesota State Census of 1875 for Carver reveals that Josephine and Andrew Larson had taken in Eva and Hannah Gustafson, two of Josephine’s orphaned sisters. Some time around 1874-1875 Josephine

and Andrew took over the running of the Railroad Hotel that had been owned by her parents, but not for long. On Oct. 19, 1875 Josephine's husband, Andrew Larson, died of typhoid fever at age 26. Josephine, pregnant at the time, gave birth posthumously to a daughter, Lillie, born on Dec. 20, 1875. In late 1875 the estate of Josephine's parents was probated and the Railroad Hotel complex was partitioned between Josephine and her five siblings: Eva, Hannah, Minna, Emma, and Bengt.

The next few years seem hard on Josephine. At the taking of the 1880 U. S. Census for Benton Township in Carver County, widow Josephine was living and working as a domestic servant in the household of farmer Charles Arine, and his wife Martha, who was the sister of Josephine first husband, Andrew Larson. Years later Charles Arine would be Carver's village assessor and Chair of the Carver County Board of Commissioners and would represent Josephine's future next door neighbors, the Ringbergs, in a Minnesota Supreme court case involving the death of Mrs. Ringberg's husband, who had been killed by a train.

After the 1881 marriage of Aaron Palmer and Josephine (Gustafson) Larson, they and Aaron's daughter Lillie by wife Clara took up residence here. On May 8, 1885 Aaron and Josephine had a daughter, Florence May Miranda. At the 1895 Minnesota State Census for Carver, Aaron and Josephine Palmer and daughters Lillie and Florence were living together in Carver. On Oct. 14, 1899 Aaron Palmer, a laborer, died of heart failure at age 63 years, 10 months and 2 days. Josephine never remarried and continued to live at the house.

The year 1931 was particularly hard on the Palmer family. On March 3, 1931 Josephine Palmer's daughter, Florence May Miranda (Palmer) Newcomb, died, and on April 25, 1931 Josephine's stepdaughter Lillie J. (Palmer) Hurtig (from Aaron's earlier marriage to Clara) died. Josephine herself died about six weeks later on June 10, 1931. In her later years Josephine had spent winters in Minneapolis with her daughter Florence, who was married to Arthur L. Newcomb. But she always returned to Carver for the summer. After a funeral at nearby Salem Lutheran Church in Carver, Josephine was buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

Probate on the Palmer House hadn't occurred after Aaron's 1899 death. Neither did it occur after the deaths of Aaron's wife Josephine, and the deaths of his two daughters, after the three died in 1931. Probate of the estate and the house, which included the lot next door to the west, didn't occur until 1943-1944 when the house and adjacent empty lot to the west passed to Josephine Palmer's yet living son-in-law (the husband of daughter Florence), Arthur L. Newcomb of Minneapolis. Florence Palmer Newcomb's estate was considerable for the time, probated at more than \$163,000, with other properties and land in Carver and Hennepin Counties. It was probably in the late 1940s that a small bungalow was built on the empty lot to the west of the Palmer House.

Many alterations after 1928 leave the Palmer House looking much different from its 1800s appearance. A front porch, shutters, and vinyl siding have been added, and the roofline has been changed, giving it a two-story appearance. At the rear of the house a

small portico and a deck have been added. And at the rear of the property a second residence has been added.

**212 Fourth Street West, Louis and Beta Suelter House.** Built in the Greek Revival style about 1864, the one and a half story “L-Plan” frame house is nestled into the slope of a hill on four city lots. The house reveals an exposed buff-colored local brick basement with two doors, and is situated very close to the street in the manner of many early Carver homes.

The house was probably built by or for Louis and Beta Suelter, who by December 1864 had acquired three of the property’s four lots, including the two front lots on which the house is built. In June 1867 the Suelters acquired the fourth lot, situated at the rear of the property. There are some indications that there was an earlier building on the front of the property, and it may be that the western portion of the Suelter house sits atop an earlier limestone or Merriam red rock foundation, perhaps dating to 1856 or 1857. And there are indications also that the two lots at the rear may have once held an earlier dwelling or barn, and indeed there are traces of an old foundation in the back.

Louis Suelter was born on Feb. 16, 1811 in Celle, Hanover, Westfalia, in the German States. He was christened Emanuel Conrad Henrich Ludvig Sülter, but went by the name Ludwig Sülter, which was Americanized to Louis Suelter (pronounced Soolter). In 1834 he married Hedwiger Theodora Meindermann in Bentheim, Lower Saxony in the German States, who died in 1854. Louis Suelter remarried to Beta Rohde on September 29, 1855 in New Bremen, Auglaize County, Ohio. Beta Rohde was born on April 9, 1834 in Bremen, Westfalia, Prussia, in the German States. The Suelters arrived in the Carver area already in 1857, first homesteading outside of town, then later moving into the town of Carver. Seven times Louis Suelter returned to Germany for visits home. The Suelters had six children.

Louis Suelter was a jeweler, watchmaker, and silversmith by trade. His descendants yet retain a half a dozen silver spoons with his name stamped on the bottom. He worked at his trade until 1892, when he was in his 81<sup>st</sup> year. Perhaps he first ran a street-front shop out of his home, as many early 4<sup>th</sup> Street Carver business owners did. But Suelter is not known to history for his watchmaking, but rather for his creation of new grape strains. In the 1870s in Carver Louis Suelter became one of the first in the U.S. to cross wild native grapes with more refined species to create a grape compatible with the cold climate of the upper Midwest. He named his grape Beta, after his wife. The Beta grape is an extremely winter-hardy variety of a North American grape that Suelter derived through a cross of the *Vitus-librusca* based Concord grape and *Vitus-riparia*, a wild grape called the Carver, from where it found growing along the banks of the Minnesota River.

The Beta is an extremely cold-hardy grape that is self-fertile. This variety was widely planted in Minnesota in the early 20th century, and in northern places as far away as New York State and Finland. The Beta bears dark, blue-black fruit that is used mostly for jellies, jams, and fruit juices, but rarely for wine. The proper pronunciation of Suelter’s wife’s name is actually "bett-uh", but the name of the grape is usually pronounced bay-

tuh, like the Greek alphabet letter. When completely ripe the tart, seedy grape is good to eat off the vine. The Beta vine yields medium-sized black grapes in moderately compact to loose clusters. It is early to bloom, early to ripen and is regarded as having vigorous, healthy, productive vines, that are extremely hardy and very disease resistant. For many decades it was the most planted grape in Minnesota, and is found yet on many plots around Carver, including even the back lots of Suelter's old homestead. From the 1920s to the 1940s the University of Minnesota used Suelter's Beta as the foundation for its grape breeding work.

Louis Suelter released a number of other grapes from the same cross, including the Dakota and Monitor grapes, and the equally hearty Suelter Grape. The Sulter Grape is less famous, but is an equally hardy sister to the Beta Grape. It has medium-sized blue berries in medium-sized loose clusters and is good for juice, wine, and jelly.

In 1884 the 73-year old Louis Suelter related, *"I have produced several new types of vine through hybrid breeding, which will bring forth a completely new revolution in vinegrowing, for as far north as the wild vines will thrive, my hybrids will flourish also, for they are just as hardy all winter in the great coldness in the northern part of America as the wild growing riparia. They require no protection...."*

In 1889 the Suelters sold the house to Traugott Kemkes and his wife Alvina Schwartz Kemkes, who moved to Carver from Dahlgren Township in 1888, and whose family owned the house until 1954. Louis Suelter died on July 18, 1897 and his funeral was arranged and paid for by the German Reading Society in Carver, to which he had belonged. Beta Suelter died in 1908. Both are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. Traugott (1863-1930) and Alvina (1864-1953) Kemkes are buried in the Zoar Moravian Church Cemetery in Carver County.

**213 Fourth Street West, Franzen-Luedke House.** Built in 1915 as a one and a half story frame bungalow, it is slightly rectangular and features a cat-slide roof and dormer, as well as a porch and pilasters across the front façade. As late as 1928 there was an L-shaped outbuilding on the southeast corner of the lot. The lot on which the house sits was once owned by Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey, who in 1863 during the Civil War sold it to George and Lydia Houghton. The Houghtons owned a house at 120 Third Street East in Carver, not far from the Minnesota River levee where George Houghton plied his trade as a steamboat captain. In 1887 the Houghtons sold the lot to Andrew P. Danielson (b. in 1845), a Swedish immigrant who was perhaps the brother-in-law of Peter Thompson, who owned the property around the corner at 320 Ash Street. Danielson, like Thompson, was living in Nobles County when he sold the lot to Charles and Alice (Wommer) Franzen in 1911. In January 1915 the Franzens took out a \$700 mortgage, probably to help with the building of the house.

Charles A. Franzen was born on a farm in (Wedun?), perhaps Vedum or Varnum in Västergötland, Sweden on January 6, 1862, and immigrated at age 20 in 1882 to Carver where he worked for several years as a carpenter. He may be the son of a certain Carl

Carlson and a Nilson or Nilsdotter, her first name unknown. In Dec. 1889 Charles Franzen bought the fire insurance agency of W. C. Bredenhagen of Carver, who lived at 412 Third Street West in Carver. Franzen sold the business in Jan. 1891, to George Goetze. In that same month Franzen took employment in the Carver mill. On Nov. 12, 1890 he was married to Alice Cornelia Wommer, who was born in Carver on March 4, 1871, the daughter of Fred (sometimes called Frans and Fritz) Wommer, who was born in Jan. 1846 in Prussia in the German States and who immigrated to America in 1868. Alice's mother was Caroline Wenz, who was born in Nov. 1849 in Ohio and was married to Fred Wommer about 1868. Alice's father was involved in the general store and dry good business and moved around a bit. In 1873 he had a Chaska, Minnesota hardware store, which was closed by creditors. In Aug. 1873 Wommer opened a saloon in Chaska, adding an eatery to the saloon the following month. In the 1880s Wommer was living in Carver and a partner in the Hebeisen, Holmes, and Wommer general store from about 1884-1887, which became Holmes and Wommer from about 1887-1891 when the Wommers moved to Minneapolis.

In 1891, shortly after their marriage, Charles and Alice (Wommer) Franzen also moved to Minneapolis where Charles clerked in the Segelbaum Grocery there. By 1895 the family was living in Minneapolis where Charles clerked in a store. By 1900 the Franzen family had moved back to Carver County where Charles was working as a salesman and living in Carver Township, just outside of Carver. Charles then took employment in the Skoog General Store, where he worked in the mercantile firm until Apr. 1924 (which from 1909 was under the ownership of J. A. Skoog, who lived at 220 Third Street West in Carver). Charles Franzen was a member of the Carver Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the school board, Carver Village Assessor for eight years, and justice of the peace in Carver. He was a member of the Carver Masonic Lodge for 57 years. Alice Franzen was a member of the Eastern Star in Carver. The Franzens were founding members of the Presbyterian Church in Carver. In later years the Franzens moved to Minneapolis where Charles worked for the Toledo Scale Company until retiring in 1939. Alice Franzen died in Minneapolis on Dec. 20, 1930, Charles Franzen on Jan. 26, 1943. The Franzens are both buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery in Minneapolis.

**216 Fourth Street West**, built in 1903 according to Carver County Assessor's records, and constructed in a Dutch Colonial style

**220 Fourth Street West, Immanuel German Methodist Church, Charles and Martha Arine House.** Built of brick in 1868 on a lot once owned by Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey, the building has served twice as a church, a nondenominational Sunday school, and since at least 1904 as a private residence. In Apr. 1868, probably as an investment, Chauncey and Christine (Erickson) Lull came to own the lot and the lot next door to the east. Chauncey Lull, born in Vermont about 1801, with A.L. Wright in Sept. 1853 built the first dwelling in what is today Steele County, Minnesota. Built in Section 5 in Medford Township, they spent the winter of 1853-1854 in their cabin.

On June 26, 1868 Chauncey and Christine Lull divided their parcel, selling the western lot to the Evangelical Association of North America, a sect founded by Pennsylvania Germans and influenced by John Wesley and the Methodist Movement, and which after divisions and mergers, in 1968 was incorporated into the United Methodist Church. Trustees for the purchase were German immigrants William Golish, Fritz Miller, and Henry Krause. The purchase stated, *“In trust that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of as a place of divine worship, for the use of the ministry and membership of the Evangelical Association of North America subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said church or association or from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said association and the annual conference in whose bounds the said premises are situated”*.

By August 1868 the German Methodists had already dedicated \$1700 of the \$2800 needed for construction costs, and work began on building a 20' x 60' church on the lot. Mssr. Griggs and Miller, the brick dealers who had received the contract for St. Nicholas Catholic Church next door, received the contract for German Methodist Church. Brickdealer Griggs is probably Chauncey W. Griggs, who was active in the brickmaking business in Chaska in the 1860s. Brickdealer Miller is perhaps Frederick Miller, who in the 1860s had a Carver brickyard and river barge business in partnership with Philip Reynolds. Or perhaps it was Fritz Miller, who owned a Chaska brickyard until selling it to Lucien Warner in 1873. Griggs and Miller seem to have partnered up in the brickdealing business, perhaps only for a short time in 1868 before Griggs went on to great fortune in St. Paul in the lumber business, owning even a great mansion yet found there at 476 Summit Avenue. It is not known if the brick for the German Methodist Church came from Carver or Chaska brickyards, but the brick for St. Nicholas Church seems to have come from elsewhere, perhaps from Shakopee. The German Methodist Church was dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 22, 1868 with Bishop John J. Escher from Cleveland, Ohio conducting services. The first pastor of the church was E. H. Linsee.

On April 25, 1873 trustees Golich, Miller, and Krause of the Immanuel Church of the Evangelical Association of North America at Carver transferred ownership to the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America through its trustees, William Stegner, L. von Wald, Louise A. Knebel, Fred Arnde, F. Schmidt, and their successors in office. When membership lagged, on Aug. 20, 1875 the trustees of the Minnesota Evangelical Association of North America sold the church for \$650 to the First Swedish Methodist Church of Carver, under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and via its Carver trustees, Andrew P. Peterson, Andrew Abrahamson, and Henry R. Denny. In 1875 the Swedish Methodist congregation in Carver was organized by C. J. Nelson.

By 1882 its membership had grown to fifteen, with Alexander Gabrielson serving as pastor of the Swedish Methodist Church. The building was used by Swedish immigrants until 1893. From 1893 until 1904 it served as a nondenominational Sunday school, which was a precursor to what became the Presbyterian Church of Carver at 109 Main Street East. In 1904 the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church of Carver, represented by trustees C. A. Nordstrom, C. E. Anderson, and E. W. (or E. M.) Johnson sold the house to

pioneers Charles and Martha Arine who had retired from their nearby farm and returned to Carver. The Arines converted it to a fine private residence in the Queen Anne Revival/Colonial style with two stories, a hipped and gabled roof, a full front porch, and a one story rear addition. The brick was stuccoed over at an early point, perhaps even at the conversion of the building to a residence. Much later the garage was added near the street in the old platted Ash Street right-of-way.

Charles Arine was born in Lynstorp (probably Ljustorp in Västernorrland, Sweden) on May 6, 1844. In Sweden he married Martha Larson on June 25, 1865. Martha Larson was born in Ljustorp, Västernorrland, Sweden on Mar. 20, 1846. Charles and Martha Arine immigrated to America with other relatives, landing in New York in July 1868. They made their way by rail to St. Paul, Minnesota via Chicago, Illinois, and then took a steamboat to Carver. The Arines lived in Carver until 1879 and then moved to a farm a mile west of Carver in Dahlgren Township. Martha Arine was the sister of Andrew Larson, proprietor of the Railroad Hotel in Carver on Fourth Street East in Carver, who died in 1875. The Arines took in Andrew's widow Josephine and her daughter during some tough times. Josephine would later remarry Aaron Palmer and come to live across the street from the Arines at 205 Fourth Street West in Carver. The Arines joined East Union Church in 1874 and were among the first members of its sister congregation, Salem Lutheran Church, when it was created in Carver. Martha Arine was a long-time member of the Salem Ladies Society, including a stint of 20 years as its president.. Charles Arine was prominent in Carver and Carver County affairs. He served as the Carver Village Assessor for several years and was Chairman of the Carver County Board of Commissioners for many years.

Charles Arine was administrator of the Peter Ringberg estate after Ringberg was killed by a train on May 11, 1897 in Hopkins. Arine unsuccessfully represented the estate of Peter Ringberg when the family sued the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad, alleging railroad negligence and wantonness in Peter's death. The Ringbergs lived at 201 Fourth Street West in Carver. The Arines were involved with Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery for many years. Martha organized the Mount Hope Cemetery Society and was its leader for many years; Charles was involved in the cemetery's maintenance in his later years. Martha Arine died on Mar. 11, 1926. Charles Arine died on Feb. 11, 1927. The Arines' funerals were held at Salem Lutheran Church, with their burials, not surprisingly, at Mount Hope Cemetery. Among pallbearers at each of their funerals were five members of the Carver City Council.

**221 Fourth Street West, R. A. Johnson House.** Construction on the house started on Labor Day, 1916 and was completed by Jan. 6, 1917 when the Robert A. Johnson family moved into it. It was built as a one and a half story bungalow in the Craftsman style by Robert A. Johnson. R. A. Johnson (born in 1881) was from Canyon Falls. He purchased the large general store on the southeast corner of Broadway and Fourth Street East on Aug. 1, 1909 and took up residence in the quarters above the store. Johnson was a local merchant and the proprietor of the Carver General Store, which was once located on the present day Carver Post Office site. Johnson took over the store from A. L. Skoog, whose home is situated on Third Street East in Carver. The house originally had a front

porch , west side porch, and probably a two-story porch or veranda on the rear. The front porch was removed during a 1976 garage addition. A large rear addition is also not original to the home, having been added in 1988.

**320 Ash Street, Joseph A. Pike House.** Built about 1863 by Joseph A. Pike on a lot he purchased in 1862 from Alexander Ramsey, who was then serving as Governor of Minnesota. Ramsey had previously been the first Territorial Governor of Minnesota, serving from 1849-1853.

Joseph A. Pike was already living in Carver, Minnesota in September 1857 when he appears on the special U. S. Census for the Territory of Minnesota. The census indicates that Pike was then age 26, born in the State of Vermont, his birth date about 1831. He is probably the same Joseph A. Pike named in the 1850 U. S. Census for Somerset, Windham County, Vermont, born about 1832, the son of farmers Joseph and Salome Pike. Pike is quite probably the same person found in Mormon genealogical archives as Joseph Alexander Pike, born October 12, 1831 in Windom, Somerset County, Vermont. In the 1860 U. S. Census for Carver Joseph A. Pike is named as the proprietor of a sawmill, born about 1832. The house was built during the period 1862-1864 and it is probable that at least some of the lumber for the erection of the house came from Pike's sawmill. It is possible this sawmill was the same one located just outside of Carver in Dahlgren Township that was owned until about 1860 by Carver merchant and businessman Levi Griffin.

Joseph A. (J.A.) Pike appears in Carver's 1863-1864 register of those eligible to pay the election poll tax. Pike was married to Carverite Kathryn (Catherine) Demers about 1861, born in New York about 1844, the sister-in-law of Carver merchant Anders G. Anderson, who lived at 208 Main Street West in Carver. In 1864 the Pikes sold the house and lot to Peter and Christine Thompson for \$600, and probably moved shortly after that. Joseph and Kathryn Demers Pike appear as farmers in the 1870 U. S. Census for Yates Township in McLean County, Illinois. Living with them was Kathryn's younger sister Harriet Demers. Kathryn died in Illinois in November 1877, and at the 1880 U. S. Census for Illinois Joseph is still living as a widower in Yates Township in Illinois,

For 54 years, from 1864-1918, the house was owned by Peter Thompson Jr. and his wife Christine (Christina) Danielsdotter. Christine was born in Herrlunga, Västra Götaland County on July 24, 1836 and came to America in 1854, locating early at Carver. Peter Thompson Jr. was born in Järvsjö, Hälsingland, Sweden on Jan. 27, 1839 and came to America with his parents in 1850, taking residence with them as pioneers in Carver in the fall of 1858. On Mar.18, 1860 Peter and Christine were married in Carver. For their wedding they took an overland trip to Monongalia County (later merged into Kandiyohu County) and took up a claim on Lake Elisabeth/Henderson Lake. They were in the area at the time of the start of the Dakota Uprising of 1862, but escaped the massacre by starting a journey back to Carver but a few days before the Sioux attacked, killing their cattle and burning lumber they had cut for a house. Peter clerked in Carver, then managed a Carver store for several years, then spent a season without getting paid on the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad line between Carver and Mirriam Junction. Peter met steamboat captain George Houghton and worked for a year as boat clerk on the Davidson

line, earning \$125 month, while gaining experience with transport on the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. On Oct. 5, 1871 Peter Thompson entered into the mercantile business in Worthington, Minnesota and the Thompsons moved there, though they continued to own the Ash Street home for some 46 additional years, probably renting it out during that time.

In Worthington, Peter Thompson Jr. was present when the town was platted, built the first store, founded the Nobles County Bank, held several public offices including serving as Nobles County Treasurer from 1878-1880. He also founded the *Worthington Globe* newspaper, sold agricultural machinery, operated a mercantile business, invested in real estate, and built and owned Worthington's Hotel Thompson. Peter Thompson Jr. was so involved in Worthington's founding that he has come to be called "The Father of Worthington". In 1918 in advanced years Peter and Christine Thompson sold their Ash Street property to Peter Kleven Jr. (born in 1863) who would own it for the next 36 years.

Peter Kleven Jr. was a farmer, creamery man, and raised livestock in nearby San Francisco Township prior to purchasing the house in Carver. He was the son of Norwegian immigrant Peter Kleven Sr. (born in 1818), who was one of the two 1852 cofounders of East Union, located just to the west of Carver. The senior Peter Kleven had been a baptismal witness to one of the Thompsons' children while they still lived in Carver, and it is quite possible that the East Union founder and his family rented the Ash Street home in their retirement years, prior to it being sold to son Peter Kleven Jr.

The house sits on a high vista above the Minnesota River Valley at Carver. The earliest part of the house, oriented east-west, is built on a wooden frame in the Greek Revival style above a limestone and Mirriam red rock rubble foundation. It features a quaint early pilastered side hall entrance with transom and sidelights facing Ash Street. A later addition, oriented north-south, transformed the building into a T-plan.

**412 Fourth Street West, St. Nicholas Catholic Church.** Built as a Roman Catholic Church under the direction of Father Magnus Mayr, a Benedictine Priest, it was consecrated on Dec.6, 1868 on the feast day of St. Nicholas when a delegation of 200 people with banners marched to the church, led by the Great Western Band of St. Paul, which was organized in the 1850s. The construction cost for the church was \$4,000.

The parish church sits on a high promontory with a splendid view overlooking the town of Carver and the Minnesota River Valley. From the church bell tower, it is said, one could see all the way to Fort Snelling in the days when the area was barren of trees. The area near the church was originally platted in 1857 to be the Carver Town Square, and an old tradition states that there was (or is yet hidden) a Carver cornerstone monument up on the hill near St. Nicholas. In August 1868 many of the lots on Carver Block 44 were consolidated to build the church and sold by various owners to Bishop Thomas Grace, the second Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Paul, Minnesota, representing the Franciscan Brotherhood. Virtually all of the rest of the church property was purchased or acquired by Henry and Susanna Zanger, their son George, and other heirs. Great benefactors to St. Nicholas Church, the Zanger family on Third Street East in Carver gave (sold for a dollar

each) the bulk of the parcels that came to be today's St. Nicholas Church property. Today St. Nicholas church owns all of Carver Block 44, as well as portions of Blocks 43, 45, 55, 56, and 57, as well as parts of platted vacated streets and alleys on Hickory, Ash, and West Fifth Streets. In November 1911 the Franciscan Brotherhood transferred the original Block 44 parcel to the church of St. Nicholas.

The church is built in a pinkish-orange brick in a rural European Gothic Revival style with a trace of Greek Revival elements. In Aug. 1868 the brickdealing firm of Griggs & Miller provided the brick and received the contract to build the church, which was to be 30' by 60' with an addition, at a cost of \$4,000. Brickdealer Griggs is probably Chauncey W. Griggs, who was active in the brickmaking business in Chaska in the 1860s. Brickdealer Miller is perhaps Frederick Miller, who in the 1860s had a Carver brickyard and river barge business in partnership with Philip Reynolds. Or perhaps it was Fritz Miller, who owned a Chaska brickyard until selling it to Lucien Warner in 1873. Griggs and Miller seem to have partnered up in the brickdealing business, perhaps only for a short time in 1868 before Griggs went on to great fortune in St. Paul in the lumber business, owning even a great mansion yet found there at 476 Summit Avenue. The brick for St. Nicholas Church seems to have come from elsewhere, perhaps from Shakopee, Minnesota. The architect for the church was Charles Bachman and the building was constructed under the supervision of mason Marvin White. It features Gothic arched windows and a three story shingled bell tower, also of Gothic influence, that was added about 1880 through a generous gift by a parishoner, Genoveva Kimmel, who lived at 420 Broadway in Carver. Also featured are attached exterior buttresses, a full frieze, and broken pedimented gable ends.

Inside, the altar area occupies a half-octagonal extension to the east and the rising sun in the age-old tradition of European parish churches. Stained glass windows donated by parish benefactors or in memorium to parishoners surround the church, including one from Genoveva Kimmel, who also provided the Stations of the Cross artwork and the two side altars, dating to around 1905. Others whose names appear on the church's stained glass windows: Frank Bachmeyer, George Knoblauch, John J. Farrell, Johann Riesgraf, Simon Siegle and Henry Jacobs (jointly), Mathias Riesgraf, Adam Riesgraf, Mrs. John (probably Afra Goldstein) Gestach, and the Kock family (probably the family of Priest Bertrand Kock's, who served at St. Nicholas from 1952-1968).

The first St. Nicholas Cemetery, called St. Nikolas Cemetery, lies about a mile to the west of the church along Jonathan Carver Parkway near Fourth Street West. Consecrated in 1869, the cemetery land was donated by area farmer John Riesgraf and his wife Katherine. John Reisgraf was born in Bavaria in the German States in Nov. 5, 1835 and died Jan. 4, 1929. John Riesgraf immigrated to America in 1847 with his family and in 1861 married Katherine Mergen in Minneapolis, who was probably born in Prussia in the German States on Sept. 29, 1836. In 1866 John and Katherine moved to a farm about a mile west of downtown Carver. John and Katherine were charter members of the St. Nicholas Catholic Church Parish in Carver and worked to maintain and build the congregation. Besides donating the land for the first cemetery for St. Nicholas, they were the first singers in the church. John Riesgraf was blind for the last fifty years of his long

life. The first person to be buried in the old St. Nikolas cemetery was the adopted child of Jacob and Genoveva Bueche (later remarried to Peter Kimmel), who was buried in 1869. The new church cemetery lies adjacent to the church and serves as the final resting place of many of Carver's Catholics, early and more recent. Henry Zanger, who died in 1872, was the first to be buried in the new St. Nicholas Cemetery. The marble grave monument to St. Nicholas benefactors Susanna and Henry Zanger is the largest in the cemetery. The wrought iron fence around the cemetery once decorated the Gables' property at 201 Fourth Street East in Carver. The church and the two cemeteries continue in use today.

St. Nicholas Church is featured in David Gebhard and Tom Martinson's 1978 book, *A Guide to the Architecture in Minnesota*.

**412 Fourth Street West, St. Nicolas Parish School and Rectory.** Built in 1876 at the direction and funding of Mrs. Suzanna Zanger, a parishoner who lived at 200 Third Street East in Carver. It was built of Merriam red rock that was collected from a pit on the south side of the Minnesota River near the present day Renaissance Festival site and hauled across the frozen river by horse and wagon. The builder may well have been Swedish immigrant Charles Skone from nearly Dahlgren Township, who built the stone Main Street Bridge in Carver. The building first served for six years as the living quarters for two nuns and classrooms for Native American orphans. The building was under control of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Shakopee until 1881 and in 1880 had 150 students enrolled, both Catholic and non-Catholic. It then served as a Catholic school taught by laypersons from 1882-1917 when it was given over to living quarters for priests and groundskeepers. In 1882 the Catholic school had 40 students taught by Sisters Gertrud and Antonia. Over the years the building has hosted Franciscan pastors, private families, and religious education programs before being turned over to diocesan priests by the Franciscans. The building has a gabled roof, a four bay symmetrical façade, walls that are two feet thick, and windows with stone hoods and stone sills. It was extensively remodeled in 1999 and is still in use. As recently as 1928 the building was heated by wood burning stoves and there was a hitching shed located sixty feet to the north of the building.

**108 Fourth Street East, Old Carver Fire Hall.** Built about 1880 of local buff-colored brick, it served as the Carver Fire Hall and was used to store fire fighting vehicles and equipment. The building is a tall, single story, and features a corbelled brick cornice. By 1894 the volunteer Carver Fire Department had one horse-drawn hook and ladder wagon, one hose cart, 1000 feet of fire hose, one ten gallon Babcock extinguisher, and a fire bell alarm. A hand-powered pump could throw two streams of water one thousand feet. The Fire Department maintained five filled public water cisterns at various Carver street intersections, and in the event of emergency could pump additional water from the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad water tower, Carver Creek, and the Minnesota River.

In 1927 the City of Carver purchased a 1927 General Motors Corporation fire truck from Dauwalter's Chevrolet/Buick dealership on Broadway in Carver. The truck, yet owned

by the Carver Fire Department, is now restored for use on special occasions and parades, and is stored in the present fire department building.

By 1928 some fire fighting equipment had been relocated out of the Old Carver Fire Hall, probably to make space for the new truck. Extra fire hose and a fire bell were stored next door to the east of the Hebeisen Hardware and Implement Store on Third Street East. A fire bell was once attached to the roof, supported and hung from a wooden frame until replaced by a 20<sup>th</sup> Century siren alarm held on the same mounting frame. The shadow of the old frame mounting is yet visible near the top of the front of the building in unpainted brick. The Old Carver Fire Hall's 1890 fire bell yet survives, as does John Hebeisen's receipt for its purchase. For a time the old bell was at the 1960s fire station on the east side of South Broadway at Main Street. The old bell currently hangs outside of the present Carver Fire Department building.

At some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century an addition was put on the rear of the Old Carver Fire Hall to serve as Carver's jail. After the jail was dismantled the Carver City Council sometimes convened in the rear of the fire hall in the 1960s.

**112 Fourth Street East, John Funk Jr. House.** Completed in 1902 by John Funk Jr., and his wife Bertha (Brunius) Funk, the daughter of a prominent Carver pioneer merchant family. John Funk Jr. was the son of John Funk Sr. and Anne Marie Stricker, whose family were also among Carver's pioneer settlers, with John Funk Sr. owning a hardware store in Carver as early as 1863.

John Funk Sr. (1826-1893) was born in Württemberg in the German States and immigrated to America, arriving in St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory where John Funk Jr. was born in 1856. Moving his family to Carver County, John Funk Sr. tried farming for a time before moving into the town of Carver where he established a hardware, lumber, and general store business that was very prosperous with farmers in near and distant areas coming to trade. In the late 1870s John Funk Sr. was also one of the leading pork buyers in the area. On a single day in a weak market on Feb. 4, 1878 he shipped 48,000 pounds of pork to St. Paul.

Already by 1870 John Funk Sr. was one of Carver's leading merchants, engaged in the hardware and lumber business, which were gradually taken over by son John Funk Jr. who became in his own right one of the town's leading citizens. John Funk Jr. owned a general merchandise store already by 1882, a bank, a hardware store, and a lumberyard business that he took over fully upon his father's 1891 retirement to St. Paul. These businesses were all located on Broadway in Carver, not far from his home. He also owned a grain elevator along the railroad tracks near the Carver Depot and served on the Carver County Board in the 1890s and in 1897 as President of the Carver County Fair, put on by the Carver County Agricultural Society in Carver's Riverside Park. And Bertha Brunius, the wife of John Funk Jr. was a merchant in her own right, owning a millinery business in 1878-1879 just before their marriage, a business that probably carried over into the Funk General Store after their marriage.

The home, Carver's grandest effort at high architectural style, was built in the Queen Anne Victorian Revival style with Neoclassical and Colonial Revival elements and may be Carver's first architect-designed home. The house has seventeen rooms, and features a grand wraparound porch with balustrade, an asymmetrical plan including a covered entry, Doric columns, small palladium windows in gable ends, leaded glass windows, a high hipped roof, multiple roof gables, a turret with a conical roof, and deep cornices supported by elaborate brackets.

The house sits on a historic lot and a half that in the 1890s contained two homes, both fronting directly on the street. John Funk Jr. bought the westerly most home on approximately one-half lot in 1899 from Margareta Priess and moved his family into it. Margareta (Eichmiller) Priess was born in Bavaria in the German States Sept. 22, 1828 and immigrated to America, coming to Cincinnati where in 1854 she married Michael Priess, who was born in Bavaria Nov. 9, 1822, and who came to America two years earlier. In 1854 they homesteaded a farm in Dahlgren Township in Carver County where in 1857 they hosted Lutheran Church services in their farmhouse, these among the first church services held in the area. Priess Cemetery in Dahlgren Township, occupies land they donated to Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver, is named after them, and is located a mile and a half west of Chaska on the south side of Carver County Road #61. Katie Priess, who died Oct. 28, 1857, perhaps their daughter, was the first to be buried there. Michael and Margareta Priess are also buried there. In 1890, in their advanced years, they acquired the Fourth Street house and lot and seem to have rented it out until in the fall of 1894, when they were planning on retiring and moving into it. Unfortunately Michael died on May 24, 1894. Prior to being purchased by the John Funk Jr. family the house consisted of two stories, was long and narrow, with a front porch on the street and a veranda above. A full-width one-story addition was on the back, and to the west were two small one-story additions.

The Funks lived in the house for but a short time when the house went up in flames sometime after January 1900. Edna, the only daughter of John Funk Jr., long afterward remembered watching the house burn down while her aunt Caroline and her grandmother cried helplessly from the second story of the Olson Brothers and Ahlin General Store across the street, where Edna's grandmother was then lodging. After the fire the Funk family took up residence in rooms over the Funk Hardware Store a couple of doors way on the corner of Broadway and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets until a new house could be built.

To build a spacious new house John Funk Jr. acquired another full lot to the east that since 1861 had been owned by Carver pioneers John and Barbara (Bastian) Bloedel, perhaps tearing down their old house and outbuildings. The Bloedels already in 1857 had purchased another full lot, on the eastern half of which the Priess house came to be located. The Bloedels' 1857 wedding, performed in a civil ceremony by Dr. William Griffin, is said to have been the first marriage in Carver. Barbara Bloedel was born in 1837 in the German States. John Bloedel was born in 1834 in Hesse-Darmstadt in the German States and immigrated to America in 1854, locating first in Milwaukee for two years before coming to Carver in 1856. Having learned blacksmithing in Germany, he set up an early Carver blacksmith and wagon making shop, which he operated for 19

years. Bloedel apprenticed another Carver pioneer, Charles Dauwalter Sr. to the blacksmith trade. In February 1864 John Bloedel suffered a destructive fire, but he seems to have soon been back in business. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865, 1872, and 1873 John Bloedel is advertised as a blacksmith, though the location of his establishment is not given. In February 1868 fire again interrupted Bloedel's business when his large Carver wagon making and blacksmith shop burned down, with a loss of \$3500, of which only \$1000 was insured. Bloedel seems to have rebuilt, for his advertisement in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper of Mar. 26, 1869 touted his operation as "The oldest, largest, and best shop in the county". His shop sold brick wagons and Milwaukee wagons and assembled them to iron on site. It also sold bobsleds, both in stock and made to order. Bloedel also advertised the "shoeing of oxen, horses, and all other blacksmith work done to order". In 1875 John Bloedel opened a restaurant and saloon. The saloon must have been closed for a time, for on July 6, 1878 the *Weekly Valley Herald* wrote that he would "reopen his saloon in grand style" and that he would "have the best beer and cigars in the market and guarantees a good time to all callers". Bloedel seems to have operated the saloon until 1879 when he opened a grocery store and mercantile, and in 1885 he went back into blacksmithing. It is likely that the property on which the Funk House sits was once the site of the John Bloedel's blacksmith and wagon making shop, general store, saloon, home, or some combination of one or more of those structures. The earliest Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Carver, 1894, shows that the full Bloedel lot on the east at that late date contained only a two-story dwelling close to the street, with a shed and stable in back near the alley. John and Barbara Bloedel are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

Construction on the John Funk Jr. House was started in 1900 and completed in 1902 while he was running for a seat in the Minnesota legislature. The house was constructed from wood supplied from the Funk family lumberyard. It was originally painted a very green shade of gray, and when built had no electricity. Lighting came from kerosene lamps until electricity was added in about 1915. Water was supplied by a well and pump house painted to match the house and located at the rear corner of the lot. A hired man came regularly to pump water up to two tanks in the attic of the house, which then supplied water to the house by gravity. The rear west bedroom was the maid's room.

Wallpaper for the house came from the Kaiser Wallpaper Company. The basement was used for canning, storage of preserves, general storage, and a laundry. A large cistern at the rear in the basement supplied laundry and canning water. The basement had a large coal-burning stove used for heat and canning.

The four sons of John Funk Jr. played in the Carver village band that gave free summertime concerts in the center of town at Third and Broadway. Sons Clarence and Raymond went into banking in Carver, son John Funk III took over the hardware and lumber business, and a fourth son, Edward, died in his 20s. Through his lumber company interests in northern Minnesota John Funk Jr. became acquainted with the Hackensack area and acquired some property there on Little Birch Lake, where the family began taking summer vacations. While the Funks are now gone from Carver they still own

lakeshore property in Hackensack, to which some of the original John Funk Jr. home furnishings were moved.

John Funk Jr. died in 1927, leaving son John Funk III to take over the house, hardware, and lumber business. Like many other American families, the Funk family's fortune declined after 1929 with the Great Depression years. John Funk III held on for a while and then gave up the hardware and lumber business to take up farming. The Funk First State Bank of Carver folded in the 1930s and sons Ray and Clarence moved away. Most of the extended Funk family funerals after 1902, including those of some in-laws, took place in the John Funk Jr. House. The large funeral of John Funk Jr., who was a Carver volunteer fireman, took place in the home in 1927, attended by fellow firemen from many surrounding communities. Many members of the Funk family are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver.

The John Funk Jr. House went back to the bank for debts, became government property, and was finally sold in 1942 to Emil and Mabel Quast to pay \$900 in back taxes. A second floor apartment was created in the large house, and in 1973 the home was sold to Danny M. and Maria King. In the 1970s Danny King started an annual Carver antique show, which has continued each September to the present. He was also one of the driving forces in Carver's first Steamboat Jubilee, which survives to the present as Steamboat Days.

On May 23, 1971 the John Funk Jr. House appeared in a cover photo in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Later that year it appeared again in the September 8, 1971 issue of *The Golden Nugget*, a supplement of the *Belle Plaine Herald* newspaper in Scott County, Minnesota. The home is also featured in David Gebhard and Tom Martinson's 1978 book, *A Guide to the Architecture in Minnesota*.

**113 Fourth Street East, Levi and Eliza Griffin House.** Built in 1860 when he was Carver's wealthiest citizen, Levi Griffin was widely traveled before settling in Carver, including two trips to California during the Gold Rush. Griffin was one of the original owners of the Carver Land Company that invested and platted the town for development, and he was the first land company member to make Carver his permanent home when he moved into the shanty "hotel" owned by Axel Jorgenson. Levi Griffin was the first Sheriff of Carver County, Carver County Assessor, Carver County Commissioner, merchant, a hotel owner, Carver's first ferryboat operator and first stage coach operator, a landlord, a general store owner, and a large landowner. Levi Griffin's wife, born Eliza Torrey, was the first European woman in Carver, and the Griffins' daughter, Eliza Griffin, born in 1855 the first European born in Carver.

Levi Griffin, as Carver County Commissioner, as the local driving force in the Carver Land Company, and as a citizen of Carver, provided his community with many civic assets. He opened the first road from Carver to Bevens Creek and built the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge over Spring Creek (first called Virgin Creek). He opened and built a road from Carver to the Hennepin County Line and built a 28-foot long bridge over a ravine at Fogels Hill. He built a 72-foot long bridge with 14-foot high abutments at Siegel Hill

and a 30-foot long bridge across Carver Creek. He built the road from Carver to Waconia (today running north of Broadway through Spring Creek Trail), outlaying \$100 of his own money in the 1860s project. He built a bridge across Carver Creek on the Louisville Road. Griffin also built two wharves on the Minnesota River Bank at Carver to accommodate settlers. For the first year of his ferry operation across the river at Carver Griffin allowed everyone free passage. Late in his life he wrote that even during the highest river levels he never charged anyone more than \$7 for taking his ferry across the river, loading it with goods, and returning to Carver. By Apr. 1868 he was running several ferries between Carver and Merriam Station in Scott County. In May 1871 Griffin's brother-in-law and neighbor, Joshua Torrey, constructed a large new ferry boat for him. Griffin gave use of a schoolhouse to Carver for two years and provided it a \$25 wood stove for heat. He sold Carver most of Riverside Park, at a cost less than the value of its timber. He sold Carver the lots for its first village hall and gave the village a dozen lots near Sixth and Broadway for a roadway. Griffin, as county commissioner, secured full credit to the town of Carver for all the soldiers enlisted in the Civil War, saving the town many hundreds of dollars in soldier bounties. Of the many improvements made under the auspices of the Carver Land Company, Levi Griffin in a January 1898 letter to the Carver Village Council related that he had paid 2/3 of the costs. In August 1874 Levi Griffin's name was being touted about as a possible candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Levi Griffin and his family appear not to have taken up residence in the house until 1877 and lived there until 1900. From 1856-1876 they probably lived a few doors to the east on Fourth Street East in The Gables, which was then a compound house, half of which Griffin once owned, the other half being owned by his brother-in-law, Joshua Torrey. Levi Griffin's cousin, Dr. William Griffin lived across the street on the corner of Fourth and Oak during Carver's early years, so the immediate neighborhood seems almost to have been a family compound. In the 1860s Levi Griffin rode a celebrated blind horse. The house, now covered in stucco, is built in the Federal style with Italianate influence. It has a low, hipped roof, two over two windows, a three bay symmetrical façade, a side hall plan, and a broken pediment over the front doorway. Original detailing on the house was Italianate with bracketed eaves and grooved or paneled posts on a portico or porch. The breezeway connection and garage were built some time after 1968, though at one time as late as 1894 a two story home addition stood where the breezeway now stands. Other outbuildings also once stood on the property. The house was the childhood home of John Lenzen, at age 20 Carver's youngest mayor.

The Griffin House was pictured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth.

**121 Fourth Street East, Saloon and Carver Free Press.** Built about 1860, probably as a small rectangular house or business, it was sold in 1875 to John M. Troll, who had earlier been a Dahlgren Township resident when he served as Carver County representative in the Minnesota Territorial Legislature in 1857. Troll also was the first Carver County representative to serve in the Minnesota State Legislature in 1858. John

Troll was born in Bavaria in the German States about 1821 and his wife Salome was born in France about 1825. Sometime in the 1850s they seem to have immigrated to America and made their way to Carver County, where on Jan. 7, 1856 where Troll was elected a Carver County representative. Troll was growing hops on his Dahlgren farm in 1873, hiring youths to pick the crop. In August 1873 Troll took censure for his action to introduce a bill to incorporate the German Agricultural Society of Carver County, but the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper published an article that month denying him of blame for it. The 1870s were particularly hard on John Troll. His three-year-old son William died in 1871, his wife Salome died in 1876, and his seven-year-old daughter Caroline died in 1877. The three are buried in Chaska's Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Troll seems to have operated a saloon in the building from about 1877-1884, perhaps also living in the building, as was often the custom with early Carver businesses. In 1879 Troll called his saloon the Union Hall Saloon, advertising liquors, Minneapolis and St. Paul lager beer, and good stabling with water. The 1880 U. S. Census indicates that John Troll, age 59 and calling himself a carpenter, was living as a widower in Carver along with daughter Lowisa, born about 1860, and daughter Thearlis, born about 1861.

In 1884 Troll sold the property to Capt. Herman Muehlberg (born 1833), a veteran of the Civil War who served in Company E of the Minnesota Fifth Regiment. Muehlberg had also spent time as a teacher and surveyor in Waconia and from 1878 to about 1881 was the editor of the *Pionier am Wisconsin*, a German Republican newspaper published in Sauk City, Wisconsin. Muehlberg was the outspoken editor and publisher of the *Carver Free Press*, a newspaper published and edited in this building from 1884-1897. The *Carver Free Press* was established in August 1875, at an unknown location by W. R. Colton. The printing press used to print the *Carver Free Press* is said to have been the same one that was used by James M. Goodhue on April 28, 1849 in St. Paul to print the *Minnesota Pioneer*, the first newspaper ever printed in Minnesota. When he closed down the business in May 1897 Muehlberg sold the printing press to Charles A. Victor, who moved it to Lindstrom, Minnesota, where it was used to print the Swedish-language newspaper, *Medborgaren*, beginning on March 3, 1898. The printing press is now in the Minnesota Historical Society collections.

In the spring of 1878 the *Carver Free Press* newspaper changed ownership and was enlarged, being sold to William C. Bredenhagen and a business partner, William Benson. Bredenhagen and Benson edited and owned the *Carver Free Press* for 2 ½ years, expanding it in 1880 before selling it to Muehlberg in 1881. From 1893-1899 Herman Muehlberg was Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota, the state's highest ranking military officer. In the last issue of the *Carver Free Press*, printed on May 13, 1897, Muehlberg wrote, "After having been connected with the paper for the last sixteen years we have come to the conclusion that Carver is not worthy of a paper."

In 1897 Muehlberg sold the building to Anna M. Bredenhagen (1860-1930), whose husband, W. C. Bredenhagen, the former owner of the *Carver Free Press*, had died in June of that year, leaving her with four children and the desire to move back to Carver on the street where two of her brothers lived with their families. Anna Bredenhagen was born Anna M. Funk on April 26, 1860, the daughter of John Funk Sr. and his wife, also

named Anna. She was the sister of John Funk Jr., builder of the large turreted Victorian home across the street at 112 Fourth Street East in Carver. Another brother, Edward Funk, had just built a house at 209 Fourth Street East. During her ownership the *Free Press* building was moved further back on the lot and wholly remodeled into an Eastlake/Queen Ann Victorian Revival style home, with remodeling lumber undoubtedly coming from the Funk lumberyard owned by her family. The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper reported in February 1898 that, "sometime in March Mrs. W. C. Bredenhagen of St. Paul will move to Carver for permanent residence as her elegant new residence will be completed by that time". At that time the home was embellished with an ornate wraparound porch that fully fronted Fourth and Oak Streets as well as with Victorian leaded colored glass, and picture windows. On the western wall of the house, above an open staircase, is perhaps Carver's finest residential stained glass window, a half moon window featuring Masonic elements in glass with an elaborate carved frame. The stable at the rear of the property was probably added early in Anna Bredenhagen's ownership. By the 1940s the front porch had been shortened on the west end and a window added. In the early 1950s the Victorian porch was removed in an attempt to modernize and restyle the home. Anna and her husband had earlier built and owned Hilldale at 412 Third Street West in Carver before moving to St. Paul, Minnesota.

One of the Bredenhagen children living here was Herbert Funk Bredenhagen, later legally known as Herbert Funk Brady (1886-1934), who played baseball on the Carver championship teams of 1902-1904. He was signed by professional baseball scouts and played on several minor league teams, his contract eventually being picked up by the Philadelphia Nationals. He was perhaps Carver's first professional baseball player. He legally changed his name from Bredenhagen to Brady, and during his playing years was nicknamed "King Brady" for his exceptional play. An injury, the result of being hit by a pitch, and World War I service shortened his career. At his death he was living in Winona, Minnesota and left two daughters and a son.

Anna Bredenhagen died on November 23, 1930 and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver along with her husband, William C. Bredenhagen (1852-1897), son Herbert Brady, and daughter Ruby.

**201 Fourth Street East, The Gables.** Situated on two lots once owned by Governor Alexander Ramsey, the eastern half of the house was first a separate house and is one of the oldest structures in Carver, already owned by Carver County's first sheriff, Levi Griffin, in the summer of 1857. A letter written by Griffin's daughter indicates the building was constructed in 1856 by Griffin's brother-in-law, J. W. Hartwell, and that wood for the doors and windows came from a sawmill owned by Griffin, and located about three miles outside of Carver. Because the eastern half of the house was constructed before the Town of Carver was platted in 1857 it is not situated entirely on the eastern lot. The Griffin family probably lived here during the period 1856-1876.

In 1862 Levi Griffin's brother-in-law, Joshua P. Torrey, a carpenter, steamboat builder, ferry boat builder, and lumber seller, purchased the property for what became the western wing of the house, building what was perhaps once a second entirely separate house.

Eventually Torrey came to own both the east and west wings of the house, perhaps joining them into one building sometime during the period 1862-1876. Tradition has it that the Gables also served as a hotel and saloon during Carver's earliest boomtown years.

At the 1870 U. S. Census for Carver Torrey's net worth was set at \$3550, a good sum for the period. In July 1867 Torrey partnered with a certain Mr. Pike to build the Knoblauch House around the corner from his at 112 Third Street East. Joshua Torrey may well have built the Houghton-Skoog House near the Gables at 120 Third Street East, as well as supplied the lumber for it. In July 1867 Torrey made repairs on the brick-transporting river barge of Mssrs. Newcomb & Griggs of Chaska. In 1868 Torrey made repairs on the river barge of Mssrs. Miller & Reynolds of Carver, which had sunk the previous spring at Fort Snelling and been raised by bargeman John Helgeson of Carver. And it is known that Torrey built at least one steamboat for the owner of that house, the steamboat captain, George Houghton. In the summer of 1869 Houghton called upon Torrey to construct a steamboat to serve the upper Mississippi. Because the Mississippi River was not navigable through St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis the steamboat needed to be constructed somewhere north of the falls and north of the Sauk Rapids. In Sept. 1869 Joshua Torrey temporarily relocated to Sauk Rapids on the Mississippi to begin construction on the steamer. He worked on the steamboat over the winter of 1869-70, producing a sternwheeler that was 100 feet long with a 24 foot beam and having a 2 foot draft. The steamboat was launched on Apr. 13, 1870 and christened the *Pokegama*. The *Pokegama* was the first steam vessel of its type to ply the upper Mississippi River and earned owner George Houghton the nickname "Father of Navigation on the north Mississippi".

In May, 1871 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper described Joshua Torrey as "the veteran boat builder of the state" and noted that he had just finished building a large new ferry boat for his brother-in-law, Levi Griffin. The same newspaper in Aug. 1874 noted that "veteran ship carpenter J. P. Torrey is building a large-sized barge on the opposite side of the Minnesota River from Carver for Commodore Dinkle to use on the river". Joshua Pressey Torrey was born in Deer Isle, Hancock, Maine Oct. 28, 1833 and died in Plato, McLeod County, Minnesota Aug. 18, 1900. Joshua Torrey's ancestor, Samuel Wardwell (born in 1863), was hanged for witchcraft on Sept. 22, 1692 in the Witch Trials of Salem Massachusetts. Joshua Torrey's wife, Clara Jane Noyes, was born in Maine on Feb. 17, 1847 and died on May 26, 1921 in Brown County, Minnesota. Levi Griffin's wife, Eliza Torrey, was Joshua Torrey's sister, as was Mercy Torrey, the wife of the Gable's builder, J. W. Torrey. Mary Colby Torrey, the wife of Carver's first school teacher, George Bennett, was also a sister of Joshua Torrey. After leaving Carver, Joshua Torrey moved to Plato in McLeod County Minnesota where he did business in to the 1890s. In 1895 Torrey had a lumber yard at Plato and, according to the *Carver Free Press* newspaper, was "a well known architect in that locality". On Monday, Sept. 30, 1896 a large fire destroyed the Plato business district, with Joshua Torrey being among the heaviest losers when his harness shop and lumber yard burned. It is believed that the first baseball field in Plato was laid out on the J. P. Torrey farm along the east road in to Plato.

In 1881-1882 Carver pioneers John Hebeisen and his wife Sophia (Semberg/Samberg) Hebeisen purchased the entire property from Joshua Torrey and during the period 1881-1893 replaced the summer kitchen at the rear with a large kitchen ell and smoothly fused the two joined structures into one large, 16-room single family dwelling in the Eastlake/Queen Anne Victorian Revival style.

John Hebeisen was born in the Alps of Berne, Switzerland in 1844. John Hebeisen was the son of Christian Hebeisen (1805-1883). In 1849 John, his parents, two brothers, and two sisters immigrated to America, settling first in Holmes County, Ohio. After a time in Ohio they moved to Bluffton, Indiana, where they lived until the spring of 1855. Hearing of land for the taking, the family then traveled west and settled on a homestead farm in Benton Township in Carver County, Minnesota, where they were the first pioneer Europeans on the unbroken land. When the Sioux Uprising of 1862 occurred and Minnesota settlers were being massacred, eighteen-year old John Hebeisen volunteered in the Minnesota Ninth Infantry to help quell the uprising. He was with General Henry Hastings Sibley at the Battle of Big Mound and other battles, and was probably present with his regiment at Mankato to guard and witness the mass execution of the 38 Dakota Indians judged most responsible for the uprising. After the Indian War John Hebeisen remained in military service for, fighting the Confederacy in many battles of the Civil War, including Guntown, Tupelo, Nashville, and Spanish Forts. After the Civil War Hebeisen came to Carver, where in 1868 he established the first in what became a chain of hardware and farm implement stores; some he owned alone, some owned in partnership with others. The firm of Hebeisen and Peterson in 1880 was listed among the highest taxpayers in Carver County. One of John Hebeisen's commercial buildings survives to the present at 109 Third Street East in Carver. Hebeisen also bought and sold live hogs, corn, and oats, and owned farmland and other storage facilities in and near Carver. In the 1890s he served as Vice President of the Carver County Agricultural Society, which put on the Carver County Fair, then held in Carver. In November 1870 John Hebeisen married Sophia Hebeisen, a Swedish immigrant born in 1854, who came to Minnesota with her parents, John Samberg (Semberg), a blacksmith, and his wife Caisa. John and Sophia Hebeisen had ten children, two dying as infants, another as a teenager. All but one of their children are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver. At the end of the Civil War John Hebeisen lost a silver army badge in Benton Township. In July 1891, some twenty-five years later, it was returned to him after being found by a boy plowing in a field.

The Hebeisen family occupied the Gables from at least 1881 to 1965, at the end of which it had deteriorated into to a state of disrepair. Since then it has undergone four decades of restoration by succeeding owners, including Anne Neils-Doerr, one of the cofounders of Carver's Steamboat Days, and George Piper, President of Carver on the Minnesota, Inc., who operated it as Carver House Museum. In recent decades it has served as a venue for art, craft, and antique shows, an antique store and museum, and is now again a private residence.

The Joshua Torrey stable at the rear of the property, with a steeply hipped roof, may have been a dwelling house in pioneer days and probably dates to the early 1860s. The stenciled name "Torrey" was uncovered on the interior rear stable wall during a 2005 restoration. The false-fronted lean-to carriage house attached to the stable is probably from the period 1880-1893. A large, long 19<sup>th</sup> Century shed was once situated at a right angle on the yard side of the stable and another large shed sat to the north of the carriage house. These may have served as lumber storage or steamboat-building structures for Joshua Torrey.

The house exhibits many of the hallmarks of the East Lake style, which include gable and fascia board decorations, eave corbels, turned porch posts with decorative brackets and supports, pierced porch valence and exterior sill board scrollwork, elaborate turned and spoon-carved baluster decorations, as well as other ornamental woodwork. Queen Anne Victorian Revival style details incorporated into the house include multiple gables, steep rooflines, a wrap around porch, colored glass transoms, porch roof railing, picture windows, stained glass, and a diagonally cut corner for a picture window. Missing today are roof crestings that once embellished all of the gable peaks and much larger gable ornamentation than exhibited today. The original wrought iron fence surrounding the property today surrounds the cemetery of St. Nicholas Church in Carver. The Gables was the childhood home of Dr. Milton Hebeisen, one of the founders of St. Francis Hospital in Shakopee, and of John. E. Hebeisen, who served during the maiden voyage of the battleship *U. S. S. Arizona*, which was sunk by the Japanese in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The Gables was featured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth. It was also featured on the 2005 Carver County Sesquicentennial Tour, as well as on several other holiday and special event tours over the years. In the late 1970s or early 1980s it was the setting for a Maxwell House Coffee commercial, and in 2007 it was filmed for the 2008 HGTV television series, *If Walls Could Talk*. The house was depicted on the December month of the 2008 *Minneapolis-St. Paul Calendar*, and again on the December month of the *Minnesota Travel and Events Calendar*.

**209 Fourth Street East, Edward and Hannah Funk House.** The property on which the house sits was purchased by Carver hardware store owner John Funk Sr. in 1882 from Gerhard Bongard, who as Treasurer of Carver County some eighteen years later, absconded with several thousand dollars of county money and fled to Canada. The property eventually came to be owned by Funk's son, Edward H. Funk and his wife Hannah (Carlson) Funk, who were married in Carver on Nov. 17, 1890. Edward H. Funk was born in Carver on Feb. 7, 1868, the son of John Funk Sr. and Anne Marie Stricker. Hannah (Carlson) Funk was born on June 10, 1868, the daughter of Jonas (Johannes) Carlson (1822-1888) and his wife Johanna (1828-1903). Hannah's parents were born in Sweden and immigrated to America in 1856 where they farmed in Benton and Dahlgren Townships in Carver County, located to the west of Carver. Hannah's father, Jonas Carlson, served in Company M of the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment during the Civil War.

In 1897 Edward and Hannah Funk built the house, perhaps from a design taken from a period pattern book. Carver's Olof Hansen, who built and decorated many fine Victorian buildings in Carver and Carver County, was probably the builder of the house. Edward Funk, a member of the influential Funk lumber and hardware family of Carver, as well as a Carver Fire Department member, died on Aug. 28, 1897 at age 29, the same year the house was built. After funeral services in the family home Edward Funk was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver. Hannah Funk lived out her life in the house, taking in her widowed mother until 1903, and raising the Funk's children there. Hannah died on Jan. 1, 1836, and was buried with her husband in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Built in the Queen Anne Revival/Stick/Eastlake styles, it features a picturesque roofline, picture window, stained glass, shingled gables, and barge/verge board decorations. At one time the home's Eastlake decoration was more elaborate and included an open front porch with turned posts and spindled railings, large ornate gable decorations, and roof cresting on the gable peaks.

**217 Fourth Street East, Semberg-Railroad House.** Probably built by the Semberg (Samberg) family, the earliest portion of the house probably dates to the 1860s or 1870s, perhaps to when the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad first appeared in Carver in 1871, though most of its present shape probably dates the 1890s. In 1863-64 John (Johan) and Caisa Semberg acquired the property from John Snell, who in 1867 would start a photographic gallery in Carver at 108 Fourth Street West. The Sembergs, with two of their daughters, had emigrated from Sweden in 1860. John Semberg operated a Carver blacksmith shop on property owned by Stephen Kult. In 1870 Kult's 1865 brick store in Carver burned to the ground, putting him in financial difficulty and forcing him to sell the lot containing Semberg's blacksmith shop. John Semberg, whose family name spelling was changed to Samberg, died of an accident in November 1871 at age 40. The family seems then to have sold or mortgaged the house to Henry Zanger in 1872 and some of their sons relocated to St. Louis or Hubbard County in northern Minnesota perhaps to live with relatives. Wife Caisa Samberg remained behind in Carver with at least three daughters, and by 1875 had reacquired the house from Henry Zanger's widow. Caisa Samberg (Semberg), born in 1820, lived in the house for the rest of her active life until her death on April 30, 1900. She is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver. After Caisa's death the house by 1905 had passed into the ownership of Sofia Hebeisen, Caisa's daughter and the co-owner of the Gables two doors to the west, who owned it until 1922. Sophia and John Hebeisen probably rented the house out to railroad workers until 1922 when they sold the house. From 1922-1950 the house was owned by the F. J. Buckentin family.

Because the house was built nearest the railroad tracks and railroad facilities it came to be called the Railroad House. Caisa's son-in-law, Andrew Sthol, was an engineer in the railroad pumping station at the depot next door, and probably facilitated the boarding of railroad workers with his mother-in-law. Son-in-law Andrew Sthol was shot in the face at point blank range on November 18, 1891 in what the *Carver Free Press* called a "Horrible Tragedy, Attempted Murder, Suicide" at the Carver Depot.

The house has a plain Victorian style with an open porch and turned posts along with multiple gables decorated in fish scale siding and a picturesque roofline. At one time there was a screen porch on the east end of the rear of the house. During 2004-05 the house was extensively restored.

**County Road #40 at Fifth Street East, Carver Water Tower.** Built in 1900 at the east end of Carver along the railroad tracks, it replaced an earlier nearby windmill-filled water tower and pump house that were built in 1873, less than two years after the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad line arrived in Carver. The water tower is 35 feet high and is built of 350-year old tidewater red cypress wooden slats. It sits on a support structure of 1882 Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad rail legs and metal hoop poles and has a 50,000-gallon capacity. It was built to provide the water needed to service the railroad steam locomotives that ran the Minneapolis-Chaska-Carver-New Prague line. In Carver's early days it augmented the water needs of the Carver Fire Department and it yet does today. It was restored in 1981-1998 with the assistance of the Carver Lions Club and the Minnesota Historical Society and is believed to be the only wooden railroad water tower in the U. S. that is still standing on its original site.

**400 Oak Street, Dr. William A. Griffin House.** Built about 1858, perhaps by Edward Small, it is one of Carver's earliest buildings. At one time it was the home of Dr. William A. Griffin, a physician who came to Carver from New Hampshire in 1857. Dr. Griffin was Carver's first physician and the first regularly practicing physician in Carver County.

William Albert Griffin was born at Lee, New Hampshire on November 25, 1824. At age 13 he was bound out to work for board and clothing. When his father died he was 17, and he began working for himself. He first worked on a farm for 7 months for \$60, then on another farm for 7 months at \$10 per month. While searching for work he often walked long distances from town to town. He took a job at a tannery in Danvers, Massachusetts for \$12 per month, trying to raise \$500 to study medicine. He began attending Durham Academy and taught there until the fall of 1849 when he began studying medicine at Roxbury, Massachusetts. He served at the Roxbury Almshouse Hospital for 3 ½ years, the last 2 years as assistant surgeon. On November 8, 1853 he graduated from Dartmouth College and received a degree from the Massachusetts State Medical Society and later one from the Minnesota State Medical Society. In January 1853 he was a master Mason at St. Paul's Lodge in Boston, Massachusetts. He was appointed Surgeon to the Massachusetts State Almshouses, a position he held for 2 years. He traveled west and spent the summer of 1856 at Warrenton, Missouri, then traveled north to Carver, Minnesota in 1857, where he took up his principal residence. The fact that he was cousin to Levi Griffin, one of the Carver Land Company investors, who lived across the street, may have had more than a little influence in his decision to settle in Carver.

Dr. William Griffin quickly took a position of prominence in Carver and in Carver County. He served as the moderator at Carver's first town meeting in the basement of the

Carver House Hotel in 1858. The doctor was one of the leaders of Carver's Gold Rush when gold was purportedly discovered in Spring Creek in 1858. Dr. Griffin died in 1899 and is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver. During the Civil War he was the Examining Physician for Carver County. He served as Carver's first Justice of the Peace, as Carver Town Treasurer, and as President (Mayor) of Carver. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 William A. Griffin is mentioned as the postmaster in Carver, though the location of the post office is not given. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and 1873 William Griffin was advertised as a druggist, but again no address was given. He was a member of the Carver Lodge of Freemasons and a calfskin apron bearing his name was found in a pillar of the old Carver Lodge not long before it was torn down. The 1880 U. S. Census shows he then was a druggist as well as a physician in Carver. In 1880 Dr. Griffin was listed among the highest taxpayers in Carver County and it is known that he also owned farmland adjacent to the land complex of the Hertz Brewery north of Sixth Street and west of Broadway in Carver.

Dr. Griffin was married first in 1855 to Mary Adeline Spencer (born in 1828), who was from Springfield, Massachusetts, and who died in Carver July 1, 1874 at the age of 46. She is buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. He remarried to Anna E. Worthy, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1838 and died in Carver in 1907.

Other early owners of the house were German immigrants Martin and Anna Maria Steger. The Stegers came to America June 1852, and were among Carver County's earliest settlers. Martin and Lorenz Steger (perhaps Martin's brother) seem to have settled first in Laketown Township and are recokened among its earliest settlers. Lorenz Steger in the mid-1850s had a brief ownership share with Joseph Peitz in Carver property which included a saw mill located next to Carver Cottage on Sixth Street. Martin Steger was born in Bavaria in the German States in February 1822 and died at his residence on Oct. 24, 1874. At his death the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote that Martin was "one of the few men who had no enemies". Martin's wife, Anna Maria (Mary), was born in Bavaria on Aug. 13, 1829 and died on Oct. 4, 1903 and is buried in the old St. Nikolas Cemetery, where Martin is also probably buried. On Nov. 2, 1861 Martin Steger, at age 39, enlisted in the 4<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Infantry regiment and served in the Civil War until discharged on Dec. 21, 1863. In the late 1860s the Stegers purchased the property and house and are said to have allowed part of the building to be used by Catholic missionaries to celebrate Mass during the years prior to St. Nicholas Catholic Church's 1868 construction, and also for a Catholic parochial school to meet in the basement, taught by lay teacher Mathew Tautges.

A portion of the building is also said to have been a tavern at one time, and by the early 1870s its seems have been operated as such by owner Martin Steger, and perhaps even after his death by his widow, who may have employed George Schoell to run the establishment on her behalf. Earlier, as late as 1870, George Schoell, who was born about 1840 in Würtemberg in the German States, had worked in the Hertz Brewery, located on the site of present day 617 Broadway in Carver. By 1880 George Schoell, then a widow, was living in Belle Plaine and engaged in the saloon business.

Later owners were the Stegers' daughter, Balbina, born Mar. 24, 1861, who on April 21, 1884 married Leonard Schroeder from Carver. Balbina and Leonard Schroeder were also involved in the early parish development of St. Nicholas Catholic Church. Leonard Schroeder was a mason by trade, and in 1898 did the brick work on the Charles Dauwalter Jr. House at 413 Broadway in Carver. That same year he laid the flagstone pavement on the east side of Court House Square in Chaska. The Schroeders lived in the house until 1916 with 7 children, 2 who died young. Leonard and Balbina are buried in the new St. Nicholas Church Cemetery in Carver.

The building sits directly on the sidewalk, as many of Carver's early houses did, and has a single Greek Revival style rectangular plan with an on-street walkout, a gable roof with corner returns, and a chimney at either gable end. At one time, as late as the 1870s, the south gable sported a scalloped bargeboard under the eaves. Most of the original windows are missing and aluminum siding hides the original clapboard exterior. As late as 1894 the north side of the house had a single story addition that was the full width of the north side. There was then also a small ash house to the north of the building to store fireplace and stove ashes for use as fertilizer. Also at the very northeast corner of the lot, abutting the alley, stood a large two-story stable with an attached full-width single story narrow structure on the south side, perhaps for storage, wood, feed, or small animals.

During a February-March 2009 renovation of the house many items were found in the walls that had probably fallen through from the sides of the attic. These items reveal snapshots of the lives of the building's early owners, Dr. William Griffin and Martin Steger. From the Dr. Griffin era was a letter from B. Spencer in Connecticut, probably a member of his wife's family, a medical dictionary, an antislavery article in an envelope, an 1861 YMCA catalogue of books, a Minnesota legislature book from 1861, a book of Minnesota laws from 1862, medicine bottles, a woman's reversible brooch, and much more. From the Martin Steger era there were a large number of items testifying to Steger's service in the Union Army and the building's use as a saloon. Among them were part of a soldier's cap, a brass Civil War uniform button, several invoices in Martin Steger's name for beer, whiskey, wine, kummel (a liqueur), tobacco, a barrel's wooden spigot, a handle from a keg dolly, and an 1873 book that appears to be an ongoing liquor tab ledger with at least 28 names and the items they bought by the pint, half pint, case, keg, as well as bitters, cigars, book fragments in German, gaming pieces, and much more.

**417 Oak Street, Trinity Lutheran Church.** Dedicated in 1914, not far from an earlier church it replaced. Trinity's German Lutheran congregation was organized in 1866 and was first called the Evangelical Lutheran Church Association of Carver. In 1867-1868, during the tenure of Reverend Victor Both, a 28 by 40 foot frame church was constructed for \$1100 on top of a hill once called Zion Hill, with a spectacular view over Carver. The contractor was John S. Letford, a Carver master carpenter who was also a representative in the early Minnesota State Legislature. Letford may well have been involved in the construction of some of the early brick buildings in Carver in Chaska. Letford was also a brick mason and advertised, "Carpenter & Builder, Plans and Specifications Furnished", in *The Carver County Democrat*, a newspaper published in Carver from May 3 to August

3, 1859. Letford worked on the church a little at a time, on a pay-as-you-go basis, with much of his work on the church being completed by July 1867. It was dedicated on the 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, Trinity being the name given the church. Located a bit north of Fifth Street West and today's Trinity Church, it is said that on a clear day from the old church one could see Fort Snelling 32 miles downstream on the Minnesota River.

The German-speaking Lutherans were first ministered to in local Carver area homes by Reverend Friedrich Kahmeyer, who in 1857 established Zion Lutheran Church in Benton Township to the west of Carver. One of the main places for early Carver area church services was the farmhouse of Michael and Margareta (Eichmiller) Priess, northwest of present-day Carver. On the Priess farm the area's first German Lutheran Cemetery was established. Called Priess Cemetery in Dahlgren Township and named after them, it occupies land they donated to Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver and is located about a mile and a half west of Chaska on the south side of Carver County Road #61. Katie Priess, who died Oct. 28, 1857, perhaps their daughter, was the first to be buried there. Several early Carver citizens are buried there. Rev. Kahmeyer served the Carver area until 1867 when illness forced him to resign. Rev. A. F. Fischer was Kahmeyer's replacement at Benton, and it was during his tenure that a Carver congregation was formed, meeting first in the old Carver public school, then located across the street from the present day Trinity Lutheran Church. On January 7, 1866 a meeting of German Lutherans in the Carver area was called and a congregation was established, which decided to build a Lutheran church in Carver. A committee was created to draft a constitution and by-laws.

The new congregation, the *Evangelical Lutheran Church Association of Carver*, was served for its first year by Reverend Both, but then lacked a resident minister for two years, with Rev. Fischer covering both the Benton and Carver congregation. In 1871 Reverend Henry Raedeke arrived to serve the 50-family congregation, a post he would hold for the next fifty years. When Raedeke arrived in Carver the congregation consisted of about fifty families, of which twenty were residing in Chaska. While Lutheran Scandinavians in the area attended the East Union and Salem Lutheran Church in Carver, German Lutherans from Carver and Chaska attended Trinity Church, the Chaska German Lutherans attending for many years until Reverend Raedeke helped them obtain a church of their own in Chaska. Church services and most early church records at Trinity were in the German language, and it was 1922 before the first English church service was held. By 1924 Sunday services were held in English every other week, and alternating German language services continued until 1958. Church services continue today, but in English.

In 1891 it was decided to abandon the old church and build a new church in brick located on four lots south of the old church site. Carver contractor Olaf Hanson carried out the work, which was not completed until 1913, with the new Trinity church's dedication taking place in 1914, as commemorated with a corner stone in German. The church is constructed in red brick, the building being mostly Gothic in design with some Greek Revival detail. The pipe organ was added in 1936 and in 1960-61 stained glass windows replaced frosted windows and the interior was redecorated. An education wing was added in 1966 on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation's founding.

The original church building on the hill remained in use for a time for confirmation classes, in German in the morning, in English in the afternoon. A youth group also used the building. The early church was later torn down, but its entry doors survive to the present in the old parsonage barn. The earliest parsonage was built on Oak Street for Reverend Raedeke's family in 1872, a second parsonage on Fourth Street West was used during the period 1921-1954, and the current parsonage since 1954 is on Fifth Street East.

**420 Oak Street, Carver School.** Built in 1908 to replace an earlier brick school building in the Italianate style that had been built in 1878 on the same site. Both the 1878 and 1908 schools were built on the site of a yet earlier wooden Carver school building, probably built around 1860. That wooden school building was oriented east-west, with a schoolbell on the east end and a flag pole atop the west end. In 1867 it was refitted and had an attendance of 90 pupils in the summer and 135 in the winter. All three schools were built when Carver was Minnesota School District #1, and at the time the 1908 school was built it was one of the finest school buildings in the state. It served as the Carver High School until the Depression and was fully closed in 1970. School desks from the 1878 school continued to be used in the 1908 building until 1956.

The present building is 2 ½ stories in red brick, with a full basement and a hipped roof, and stands in very original condition, though since the closing of the school it has been privately owned and used for apartments and office space.

Bricks from the old 1878 school building were reused in the 1908 building, and the large engraved cornerstone of the 1878 school building can still be seen bearing that date in the sidewalk below the front entrance of the building. The 1878 school was 34 by 70 feet and cost \$5000 to build, including furniture. It was furnished with patent desks, maps, charts, globes and other school furniture.

The first school in Carver was held in the winter of 1855-56 and had about 16 students for a 3-month term who were taught by George Bennett, said to be Carver's first teacher. The following term, in the summer of 1856 Bennett taught 26 pupils and received \$36 per month in salary, with \$120 being levied and collected by the citizenry, making it the first school in Carver County supported by taxes. In 1857 Mrs. Maria Hoyt Griffin Sargent (a sister of Levi Griffin) taught the Carver students. This first school was housed in the old claim shanty at First Street along the Minnesota River where the flood dike now lies and that was built by Carver founder Axel Jorgenson. Levi Griffin lived in the building when he first came to Carver in Oct. 1854 and then donated it to the community as a schoolhouse. Jorgenson's claim shanty/school building was a 14' x 18' dirt-floored upright board and batten (or log) shanty with four large windows. Sometime about 1858-1860 it was moved to the lot at 201 Fourth Street East, and may still survive in whole or part in the Torrey Stable at the rear of that property. George Bennett was born in Northampton, England on April 10, 1831 and came to America in 1851. He lived in Catawba, Wisconsin for a few years before coming to Carver. He married Mary Colby Torrey and had 8 children, of which only 3 outlived him. With this marriage Bennett was the brother-in-law to both Levi Griffin and Joshua Torrey, who lived on 4<sup>th</sup> Street East in

Carver. Besides teaching, Bennet served as Carver County Auditor for 2 terms from 1861-1865, as Carver town clerk for 17 years, and as Carver postmaster for 20 years. He died in Jan. 1919 in Worcester, Wisconsin.

**501 Oak Street North, Reverend Henry Raedeke Parsonage.** Built in 1872 by the Trinity Lutheran Church congregation to serve as the parsonage for Reverend Henry Raedeke and his family. The original 1872 house consisted of four rooms, but as the Raedeke family expanded two additional rooms and a porch were added. The Raedeke House still reveals a silhouette of the early structure, though much altered, and with modern siding. To the rear and east of the house stands the Raedeke's barn, which stabled his horse and carriage used on house calls, day or night, and for transportation to other communities where the reverend periodically ministered to congregations. Stored in the barn are the original front doors of the old Trinity Church. The property on which the house sits today encompasses also Zion Hill, the lots that held the earlier frame-built Trinity Church.

Reverend Henry Raedeke was born in Hamburg in Hanover in the German States on May 2, 1848, the son of Frederick and Christina Raedeke. After working as a shoemaker's apprentice, young Henry studied theology for three years at Steeden, near Nassau in the German States, and then immigrated to America where he enrolled at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis, receiving his diploma in 1871. On August 7, 1871 he arrived in Carver by steamboat and on August 21 of the same year he was installed as Trinity's pastor, the old Trinity Church then being located higher on the hill and to the north of the parsonage and the current Trinity Church, which was completed in 1913. On November 19, 1871 Henry Raedeke (1848-1930) married Emilie Meyer (1846-1928), also an immigrant from Hamburg in the German States, who he had met in St. Paul. The couple lived for a year in rented rooms on Broadway in Carver before moving into the newly completed church parsonage, which would serve as home to their three sons, six daughters, a granddaughter, and Emilie Meyer's parents during the period 1874-1884.

Reverend Raedeke served at Trinity Church for fifty years until he gave his farewell sermon on Sunday, October 30, 1921. At his retirement the congregation gave the parsonage to the Raedeques, and the family continued to live in the home, with the Trinity congregation purchasing another house at 201 Fourth Street West to serve as the Trinity parsonage. That parsonage was owned by the congregation from 1921-1954, until the present-day Trinity parsonage on Fifth Street West was built. Reverend Raedeke gave sermons in German and ministered also to congregations in nearby Fish Lake, Webster, Vogelberg, and Chaska. For many years he tried to alleviate the travel burden of German Lutherans in Chaska coming to Carver, by instead traveling himself regularly to Chaska to conduct confirmation classes and sermons there. By 1885 Raedeke succeeded in getting St. John's Lutheran Church and parochial school in Chaska built, and served as both pastor and parochial school teacher in both Carver and Chaska before turning the Chaska congregation over to his son, Henry John Raedeke Jr. (1875-1951). During much of the period from 1885-1898 Reverend Raedeke taught some 200 pupils at a time in the Carver and Chaska parochial schools.

On June 3, 1901 Carver's first murder occurred in the Basler House Hotel on Broadway when 35 year-old Andrew Tapper stabbed 18 year-old Rosa Mixa to death in a fit of rage and jealousy. Both Reverend Henry Raedeke Sr. and Reverend Henry John Raedeke Jr. ministered to Andrew Tapper in the Carver County Jail in Chaska, while he awaited execution by hanging for the crime. The younger Reverend Raedeke first came to visit Tapper shortly after his arrest, but before his trial. The reverend offered Tapper a New Testament, which Tapper defiantly threw to the floor, saying he cared to hear nothing about Jesus Christ. The reverend picked up the New Testament and left, unable to then do more for Tapper. Later, after Tapper's trial and death sentence was pronounced, Tapper sought repentance and asked that the junior Raedeke visit him again. Over the next six months Raedeke ministered to the repentant Tapper, who accepted Christ as his savior.

The night before the February 18, 1902 execution the junior Reverend Raedeke met with Tapper in his cell and gave him Holy Communion and heard his confession. Tapper said, "I know that before another sun sets I will be with my Savior in Heaven, thanks largely to you. I know that my hour is come and am well prepared to meet my God. You, however, don't know when your hour is coming, nor how well you will be prepared". The next morning both Reverend Henry Raedeke Sr. and Reverend Henry John Raedeke Jr. met with Andrew Tapper in his cell for prayer and then accompanied him to the gallows, singing an old familiar German hymn, *Wo Findet Die Seele, die Heimat Die Ruh*. At the top of the gallows a black hood was placed over Tapper's head and the noose set on his neck. A large crowd had gathered in silence around the gallows to witness the execution, the first and only legal hanging in Carver County history. The still of the morning was broken by Tapper and the two Raedeokes, father and son, as they prayed the Lord's Prayer until the gallow's trap was sprung by Carver County Sheriff August Johnson. The New Testament once thrown to the floor by Andrew Tapper remains in the Raedeke family.

During Henry Raedeke Srs.' first forty years of church service he baptized 1,385 persons, confirmed 736, married 300 couples, and officiated at 438 funerals. Testifying to how much future impact a single couple can have, Henry and Emilie Raedeke's offspring include two sons who were pastors, another son and a daughter who were parochial school teachers, five grandsons who were pastors, two grandsons and three granddaughters who were parochial school teachers, seven great-grandsons who were pastors, one great-grandson who was a parochial school teacher, two great-granddaughters who were full time church workers, and many descendants who served as church organists.

Henry and Emilie Raedeke and several of their daughters are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. As late as 2008 a Raedeke grandson was still living in the old church parsonage.

**100 Broadway, Temperance Hotel.** Built as a hotel in 1856-57 by Edmond Walton, it is one of the oldest surviving structures in Carver. Walton was an early Carver businessman who was born in Ohio about 1831 and who by the 1890s was living in

Cleveland, Ohio. In the 1860s or 1870s Ferdinand Strache (sometimes spelled Stracher) took ownership of the property, perhaps running it first as Carver House Hotel, the name used first on Levi Griffin's hotel before it was sold and renamed the Planter's House. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 Ferdinand Strache is advertised as a saloon operator in Carver, though the location of his establishment is not given. In May 1871 Strache refitted his Carver House Hotel and opened it for a dinner dance with 75 couples present and music provided by the Watertown Brass Band. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 Strache was advertised as a hotel and saloon proprietor. By 1874 Strache's Carver House was always filled and was known as a resort place that served meals in addition to providing lodging. Later Strache later renamed it the Temperance Hotel, the only non-alcoholic hotel in Carver. On Monday night, Jan. 30, 1882 Strache's barn and stable at the Temperance Hotel burned down, and for a time it seemed like the hotel might be lost before townspeople were able to put out the fire, but not before the hotel was scorched. The Temperance Hotel served as home, not only to travelers, but to more permanent residents of Carver as well. Businessman W. C. Bredenhagen lived here for a time before taking up residence in his new home on Third Street West. Carver Dentist J. G. Newell seems to have lived here in the mid-1880s, and by July 1886 he was painlessly extracting teeth using gas at the Temperance Hotel. John J. Farrell, the Mayor of Carver in 1908 and owner of the Carver Creamery, also lived at the Temperance for a time.

Ferdinand Strache (sometimes spelled Stracher) was born May 4, 1818 in Prussia in the German States and immigrated to America in 1850, locating first in Wisconsin, then in Indiana, where he married his wife Louisa (born about 1825) in 1853 and took employment with a railroad for a time. In 1855 the Straches moved to Carver County where they settled on a 160-acre claim and farmed until 1862 when Ferdinand moved to Carver and for several years managed the Carver House Hotel on Broadway in Carver. After gaining hotel experience he went into business for himself. Ferdinand Strache died Oct. 25, 1896 and his wife Louisa on Nov. 27, 1911. Both are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

In 1887 the Strache's daughter, Bertha (born in 1868), married Dr. Everett C. Hartley (born in 1855), and the property has been in the Hartley family ever since. Dr. E. C. Hartley was one of Carver's first doctors and in 1895 became Carver County Coroner. About 1892 the hotel was converted to a private residence and Dr. Hartley turned the north wing into his medical office, but by 1896 he had his office and surgery in the old Carver post office building, probably then just down the street at 220 Broadway. In 1897 the Hartleys purchased a slice of property from Peter A. Johnson, who owned the building next door to the north, and another slice from Emanuel Swanson and his wife in 1901. It may be that on these pieces of land that the Hartleys constructed a barn near the rear of the building at 120 Broadway Street. The Hartley barn was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1904, but the Carver and Chaska Fire Departments prevented the fire from spreading to other buildings. The Hartley barn was then rebuilt and later saw service in parking one of Carver's first automobiles, owned by Dr. Hartley. Shortly after Dr. Hartley had acquired the car, he turned off Main Street to drive it into the barn, just as he always had done with his horse and buggy. Going a bit fast, he turned into the barn,

and by force of habit yelled, “Whoa”, to stop the car, which didn’t stop, but instead hit the back of the barn. The last barn on the Temperance Hotel site was destroyed in 1973 as part of a controlled-burn training exercise by the Carver Fire Department. The Straches and the Hartleys are buried in Carver’s Mount Hope Cemetery. Dr. Everett Hartley’s photograph, at age 14 in 1869, can be found in the photograph archives of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Dr. Everett Hartley also served as Health Officer on the Board of Health and on June 17, 1913 sent out the following notice in Carver:

*Dear Sir:*

*You are hereby notified not to use the Carver Creek bed or channel as a dumping place for manure, cornstalks, brush, tin cans, glass, house slops of all descriptions, dead cats, dead chickens, dead fish or fish heads, or any other dead animal, rakings from yards, streets or alleys. You are hereby further notified that anyone found guilty of violating this order will be prosecuted and fined. We sincerely hope everyone receiving this notice will make it a point to keep the creek bed adjoining their property as clean as their front door yards. Don’t make trouble for the Board of Health or more expense for the Village. Keep the creek bed as clean the whole year through as it is today.*

*By order of the Board of Health,*

*E. C. Hartley, H. O.*

The hotel was built in the Mississippi watershed style with intersecting gables. Originally the building was plain and functional, but in 1897 Eastlake decoration was added, including scroll-sawn spandrels and a pierced porch valence, turned porch posts, post portieres, ornamental gable fretwork, a picture window, scalloped bargeboards a second story balustrade (now missing), and a lower level balustrade intended to front a sidewalk or boardwalk.

Lucie Hartley (born in 1911), who lived here, was a renowned local Carver historian and the author of the book, *The Carver Story*, among other works. The Temperance Hotel appeared in the September 8, 1971 issue of *The Golden Nugget*, a supplement of the *Belle Plaine Herald* newspaper in Scott County, Minnesota. And a photograph of the Temperance Hotel appears in Eric Dregnis’ 2006 book, *Weird Minnesota*, along with a large chainsaw carving of a steamboat captain that was fashioned from an enormous tree trunk that once stood on the front of the property.

**120 Broadway, Stephen Kult Clothing Store, Peter A. Johnson General Store, Alois Loew Saloon.** Built near the Carver levee in 1871 in buff-colored local brick by Stephen Kult, it served first as Kult’s clothing store and tailor shop, later as the Peter A. Johnson General Store, the Alois Loew Saloon, the Riverside Bar, and Riverside Cafe.

First owner and builder Stephen Kult was born in Hamburg or Württemberg in the German States about 1830. Already at the 1857 special U. S. Census for the Minnesota Territory Kult is found living in Carver, his given occupation a shoemaker. Three years

later at the 1860 U. S. Census for Carver he is found with the occupation of tailor, and married to Margaret (probably the daughter of George Herdt who died in 1871), an immigrant from Hesse in the German States, who was born about 1834. Kult is named on the Pole Tax list of eligible voters in Carver for the years 1863-64. In 1864 Kult acquired a portion of the land of the neighboring Temperance Hotel complex from hotel owner Ferdinand Strache. One report states that this land was payment for a gambling debt. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1865 Stephen Kult is advertised as a saloon operator, though the location of his establishment is not noted. A *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper item in Oct. 1868 noted that Stephen Kult was running the Rutli Saloon and selling liquors and cigars. Sometime during the period 1864-1869 Kult erected a large brick store on this site, which by 1869 was being occupied by Dr. C. E. Rogers, a Carver physician. In May 1869 Dr. Rogers was appointed postmaster in Carver, Kult's building perhaps then serving as the post office for Carver. In September 1869 Dr. Rogers expanded into an additional venture by opening a dry goods and grocery store in the building.

On Thursday morning May 12, 1870 Kult's building was discovered on fire and subsequently burned to the ground with little saved. Kult had \$2,000 in insurance on the building and Dr. Rogers had \$1,000 in insurance, though Roger's losses were described as quite heavy. At the 1870 U. S. Census Stephen Kult was yet living in Carver, but in that year he is called a farmer, with a sizeable net worth of \$4300. In August 1871 Kult sold Dr. E. H. Lewis a Carver lot for \$300 that contained John Samberg's blacksmith shop. Dr. Lewis was replacing Dr. Rogers in Carver and planned on erecting a two-story brick building the following spring. Kult probably needed to sell the blacksmith property for funds to rebuild his fire-destroyed building, for in August 1871 he was hard at work rebuilding his destroyed brick building, with plans to occupy it himself with a store that was stocked with ready-made clothing. To augment the store he included a tailor shop and hired a cutter from St. Paul. In October 1871 Kult opened his new clothing store, his motto, "Quick sales and a small profit". In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and 1873 Kult was advertised as a clothing store proprietor. In January 1874 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote that "a good stock of goods have been put in the Kult's Building opposite the Anderson and Sundine Store. No word on who the proprietors will be". The Kults then sold the clothing store to Carver businessman Enoch Holmes in 1874 and apparently moved from Carver to St. Paul the following year. The Kults also owned a home at 100 Fifth Street West in Carver from 1866-1875.

Enoch Holmes owned the store for 5 years, until 1879 when he transferred ownership to Carver merchant John Sundine who ran a general store out of the building. In 1880 Sundine's store was advertised on a Carver County map, which showed that he stocked dry goods, groceries, hats, caps, boots, shoes, and also that Notary Public service could be had there. Sundine held title on the store until 1880 when it was sold to Peter A. Johnson who owned it for the next 24 years.

General store owner Peter (P.A.) Johnson was born in Gammalkil, Östergötland, Sweden in 1841 and immigrated with his parents to St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory in 1852.

In July 1855 he came to Carver County with his parents when his family established a homestead there. In December 1862 he was married to Mary (Maja Stina) Svensdotter, who was born in 1842 in Västergötland, Sweden. In February 1865 Peter enlisted in Company H of the 1<sup>st</sup> Minnesota Heavy Artillery in the Union Army during the Civil War, serving as a corporal until his discharge in September 1865. Eighty-seven of the enlisted men in his regiment had died of disease. One of the soldiers serving with Peter A. Johnson was Albert Woolson of Duluth, who would die at age 106 in 1956, the last surviving soldier on either side of the American Civil War, both Union and Confederacy.

After the war Peter A. Johnson returned to his parent's homestead. In 1877 he moved to Carver and at the 1880 U.S. Census for Carver Village was listed as a carpenter. In 1880 Peter A. Johnson purchased the Kult building from merchant John Sundine, which included the December purchase of Sundine's stock of general merchandise. P. A. Johnson then went into the general store business for himself. In 1882 Johnson added to the store's property, perhaps for warehouse space, with a small land purchase from next door hotel owner Ferdinand Strache. Peter A. and Mary Johnson undoubtedly lived in quarters above the general store, retiring from the general store business about 1904. In 1904 they sold the building to Charles Prodahl, who in April of 1904 had sold an 80 acre farm in San Francisco Township, with plans to open a saloon in the Johnson's building. Peter and Mary Johnson died four months apart in 1912 and are buried in East Union Cemetery in Dahlgren Township.

Charles Prodahl's saloon plans for the building were short-lived, for the following year, in 1905, he sold the building to the Minneapolis Brewing Company and moved to Chaska, and by May 1906 he had moved again and was living in Excelsior, Minnesota. The Minneapolis Brewing Company leased out the building to Alois Loew and his wife Annie (Whele), who until 1909 ran it as the Alois Loew saloon. Beer was supplied by the Minneapolis Brewing Company who took delivery from Minneapolis by the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad and stored it in their Carver warehouse, which was located near the railroad tracks by the present day Carver railroad water tower. From the warehouse beer was delivered by horse and wagon to the Alois Loew Saloon. Alois and Annie Loew used the second story above the saloon for a family residence. In November and December, 1906 a brick addition to the rear of the building was added, and in February 1909 Loew purchased 2 ½ acres of nearby land from Carl Anhalt for \$170, perhaps to raise hops for use in the beer business or to plant some produce in advance of their move to 304 Broadway in Carver, where they opened a confectionary business.

The Kult/Sundine/P. A. Johnson/Loew building was owned by the Minneapolis Brewing Company, and later its stockholders, the Minneapolis Shareholders Company, from 1905-1944, being leased to a number of different owners. Prohibition (1920-1933), which made the public use and sale of alcohol illegal in the United States, destroyed many business concerns, including this building's use as a saloon. After the Loews moved the building saw usage as the Riverside Cafe, and after Prohibition the building was again used as a saloon, being called the Riverside Bar from the 1930s-1960s.

In its early years during the Kult-Sundine-Johnson-Loew era the building featured a second story front veranda with balustrade, supported by turned porch posts over the sidewalk. A center door accessed the veranda. A centrally located recessed entry door below accessed the main level at the front, with large glass windows flanking the entry. Some time after Prohibition the veranda was removed and the second story doorway walled in. The lower center doorway was also sealed and a new entry was diagonally cut on the northeast corner of the building. During its saloon years the building had a long bar running east-west on the south side of the structure.

**200 Broadway, Minnesota Valley Oil Company Gas Station.** Built about 1925, it was once a busy Minnesota Valley Oil Company gasoline station with an office and canopy. The Minnesota Valley Oil Company was incorporated about 1925 by Carver investors L. H. Scherkenbach, Ernest W. Lenzen, George H. Deitz, Robert A. Johnson, Julius E. Schmidt, Charles E. Dauwalter, George F. Hebeisen, Robert P. Wetter, O. R. Treibel, Mary Scherkenbach, and Evelyn Fink. In 1945 the Minnesota Valley Oil company group sold the station to James J. Pauly, whose family ran the gas station for many years. On the night of Dec. 19-20, 1954 the gas station, then operated by James Pauly as the Minnesota Valley Oil Company, was burglarized, with \$2200 in checks taken, as well as \$200 in cash. All but \$400 of the checks was found blowing around under the railroad trestle over County Rd. #40, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile south of Hwy. #212. After the Pauly family's ownership the gas station was owned or operated by branches of the Lenzen family in Carver who operated it as a Mobil Oil Station

The canopy style gas station appeared on the American scene in the middle of the 1920s to afford weather protection to customers and workers who then gassed up vehicles, checked oil, and provided other routine maintenance at the pump. This type of structure, once common, is now part of a vanishing American landscape, and an early vestige of the nation's growing fascination with the automobile. The two repair bays and utility room to the west in concrete block are later additions, perhaps dating to the 1950s or 1960s.

As early as 1863 there was probably some sort of commercial building on the site, then owned by Carver pioneer John Hein, born in 1831. The gas station replaced a general store, part of a grocery warehouse, and a detached residence at the rear, all perhaps dating to the 1870s. By 1879 a general store was operated on the site by Norwegian immigrants Hakon (Haakon) Holm and Ole Johnson, operating under the firm name of Holm and Johnson. The Holm and Johnson General Store featured fine furnishings and foodstuffs. In Jan. 1886 Holm and Johnson advertised in the *Carver Free Press* newspaper: *Dealers in groceries, glass, stone and woodenware. a choice stock of liquors kept constantly on hand. Prices low.* Their store was frame-built with two stories, a false front, and a three-bay second story façade with 6 x 6 double hung windows. The main street level entry featured a symmetrical front with a recessed double door entry. On either side of the entry were 6 mullioned windows, seated on a hip-level paneled board front. Immediately to the north of the general store the partners also owned a small building with front entry double doors on the south side and 6 x 6 mullioned windows on the north side. This small building seems to have been a grocery warehouse in its early years, later evolving into a small grocery store in its own right. Behind and to the west of the

grocery store, facing Main Street and abutting Spring Creek, was a two story dwelling, also owned by the partners, which may have served as their residence until their homes were built further to the west on Main Street.

In 1904 Holm and Johnson sold the property and it seems to have been operated as the Em. Swanson Grocery Store by Swedish immigrant Emmanuel Swanson (born in 1858) and his son Ardie Swanson from about 1908 until it was replaced by the gas station in the 1920s. By about 1910 the Swansons had a hand-operated gasoline pump next to the horse tethering posts at the curb in front of the general store to supply fuel for the recently invented automobile, which was then beginning to appear in Carver. The roadside pump was the predecessor to the gas station that followed in the 1920s.

Restoration of the gasoline station by Gregg and Meg Witt took place in 2006. For their work the Witts received the 2006 award for the year's best restoration in the Carver Historic District.

**204 Broadway, Swanson-Johnson Grocery.** Built about 1895, the small grocery store was built adjacent to the warehouse area immediately to the north of the Holm and Johnson General Store owned by Norwegian merchant partners Hakon (Haakon) Holm and Ole Johnson, and may even have been operated by them for a time as an adjunct to their general store business. Early on the building was supported in brick and featured at the front glass mullioned windows surmounting wooden panels on either side of a center doorway with a transom, with a low stepped and corniced false front in decorative brick above.

Among early owners and operators of the grocery store were Emanuel and Ardie Swanson. Emanuel Swanson was born in Sweden February 12, 1858 and came directly to Carver when he was two years old. His family farmed and he lived on the farm until he was 21. He was married to Christine Nelson of East Union. Then he went into some sort of store business, as well as the blacksmith trade in East Union for 17 years, from about 1879-1896. He then owned a blacksmith shop in Carver from about 1896-1908, selling it to blacksmith Charles A. Walquist, who lived at Dikeside at 121 Main Street in Carver. By 1922 his Carver blacksmith shop was owned by August Morose. The blacksmith shop no longer exists, its location now occupied by the flood dike on the west side of Spring Creek between 121 Broadway and Dikeside. Operating concurrently with his blacksmith activity Emanuel Swanson was involved in the grocery retail business for a time, his assistant being a fellow Swede from Småland, John L. Mellgren (1849-1909), to whom Swanson gave his store inventory in June, 1900. Swanson seems to have restarted his grocery business in the buildings once known as the Johnson Grocery, but called it the Em. Swanson Grocery during the years he owned it. In 1915 his son Ardie F. Swanson, Emanuel's son, took over operation of the grocery store and buildings, and by 1921 he came to own them, the year before his father's 1922 death at the age of 64. But by 1922 Ardie Swanson seems to have let out the store and business to John F. Johnson, who may have run the store for a short time as the Model Grocery. Emanuel and Christine Swanson are buried in the East Union Church Cemetery.

Ardie Swanson seems to have retained ownership of the grocery store property until 1945, probably renting it out. Ardie seems, however, to have sold the adjacent property to the south to be used by the Minnesota Valley Oil Company as a gasoline station. On April 23, 1924 Alfred J. Swanson, perhaps a relative of Emanuel and Ardie, took over the Em. Swanson/Johnson Grocery, changing the name to Swanson's Cash Store. He operated the grocery store until 1931 with his son Edmund Swanson, when they moved to Minneapolis. Alfred J. Swanson was born in Sweden on April 8, 1868 and came to America at a young age, farming first in West Union for many years, then perhaps for a time in Belle Plaine. He was married to Amanda Johnson. He died in Rochester, Minnesota 10 Jan. 1844 and was buried in the West Union Church Cemetery.

In January 1931 Raymond A. Anderson took over the grocery store from the Swansons. He ran it at least from 1931-37 as the "R" Grocery, and probably ran it yet into the early 1940s. In Feb. 1931, just after taking over the grocery store, Raymond was married to Myrtle Bom of Carver, who died in April 3, 1945. Raymond Anderson ran the "R" grocery store with an assistant, Grace Brown, until he left the business for U. S. Defense Department work around World War II. Perhaps with Ardie Swanson's sale of the store to the Minnesota Valley Oil Company in 1945 the grocery store business ended at that location and relocated to the old Funk Bunk/First State Bank of Carver building further to the north on Broadway under the names Jack and Jill Grocery and later Grace's Grocery.

Probably in the 1940s the storefront was walled up, with the decorative false front and cornice stuccoed over. The store space served for many years as storage for the gas station immediately to the south of the store.

A fire broke out in the store building around 2:30 in the early morning hours of Christmas Day 1943, perhaps started by a stove located on a wooden wall separating the main building from a smaller 8 by 12 foot room at the rear that had been occupied for the previous year and a half by Alfred Johnson. When Carver Firemen responded to the scene to put out the fire and keep it from spreading to the adjacent gasoline station and tanks they stumbled over the charred body of Alfred Johnson, a man in his seventies, who apparently had been sleeping under a stairwell. Johnson, who was born in nearby East Union about 1869, had apparently made a desperate attempt to escape, but was apparently unable to do so due to a padlocked door. Johnson's death saddened Carver on that Christmas Day. The building and adjacent buildings were saved, but damages to the rear of 204 Broadway were estimated at \$700 to \$800.

Restoration of the store by Gregg and Meg Witt took place in 2006. For their work the Witts received the 2006 award for the year's best restoration in the Carver Historic District.

**205 Broadway, John Leonard Saloon.** Built by Swedish immigrant John Leonard in 1887, as indicated by a front cornerstone, this building has seen more than a 100 years of service as a saloon. John Leonard also owned the Basler House Hotel, now gone, which once occupied the narrow lot immediately to the south of the saloon. The saloon and hotel once had a large stable to the rear. Andrew Tapper, the only person to be legally

hanged in Carver County, sometimes tended bar in the Leonard Saloon, as well as worked in its stable and in the Basler House Hotel, where in 1901 he stabbed fellow hotel employee Rosa Mixa to death

The 1887 saloon had its foundation installed in May and was stated to be completed by July 4<sup>th</sup>. It is framed in wood and was given a buff-colored local brick veneer. Among distinctive original features is a patterned corbel of buff-colored brick, surmounted by an ornate stepped brick cornice with a recessed panel frieze. At one time it had front window panels on either side of a recessed center doorway, with Victorian glass panels above the door.

It is quite likely that an earlier saloon occupied this site as part of the Basler Hotel complex, owned by Charles and Barbara Basler from 1870-1876, then by Peter Redin from 1876-1883, when it was purchased by John and Othilda (Carlsson) Leonard.

John Leonard was born in Börjal in Östergötland, Sweden in May, 1852 and immigrated at age 15 directly to Carver with his uncle, B. M. Johnson, leaving at least four sisters behind in Sweden. He worked for a time for the Minneapolis-St.Louis Railroad in Carver before working for three years for Carver County Surveyor, John O. Brunius. In 1875 he married Othilda (Othilia/Atilda/Tilda) Carlsson, who was born in Minnesota July 14, 1858, the daughter of Swedish immigrant farmers Jonas (1822-1888) and Johannah (1828-1903) Carlson of who farmed in Dahlgren and Benton Townships in Carver County. Othilda's father served in the Civil War in Company M of the First Minnesota Volunteer Heavy Artillery Regiment. Othilda's parents have one of the finest and largest grave monuments in East Union Cemetery, three miles east of downtown Carver. In 1883 John and Othilda Leonard bought the Basler House Hotel, saloon, and stable. In 1886, like many early Carver families, the Leonards lost a child to illness, seven-year-old son George. The following year the present saloon building was erected. In July 1893 a team of horses belonging to John Leonard were stolen by thieves. The Leonards ran the saloon and hotel for 24 years before selling out and retiring in 1907. John Leonard was a member of the Carver Fire Department for 50 years, and served on the Carver Village council for three terms. He died on April 5, 1923 and his funeral at Salem Lutheran Church in Carver was attended by fire departments from many surrounding towns. August Johnson, who succeeded the Leonards in the hotel and saloon business, was one of the pallbearers. John and Othilia Leonard are buried in East Union Cemetery in Dahlgren Township. A photo of the Leonard's daughter Ida, who helped run the hotel, appeared in the *Weekly Valley Herald* on March 16, 1922.

August Johnson, the second owner of the saloon, was born in Halden, Norway January 10, 1870. In 1889 he immigrated to America, going first to Drayton, North Dakota. He started in the saloon business in Minnesota, working first at the Carver Depot railroad saloon in 1899. In 1907 he purchased both the Leonard Saloon and the adjacent Basler House Hotel from the Leonards, running the saloon continuously until 1944, except during the Prohibition era (1920-1933) when sale of liquor was prohibited in the United States. For part of the time during Prohibition the building was used as a meat market. In September 1944 August Johnson retired and sold it to Wilmar "Boots" Engel of

Shakopee. August Johnson was a lifetime member of the Carver Fire Department and held several Carver offices during some 45 years as a Carver saloonkeeper. He was married to Louisa Christina Knutson, who was born in Norway on March 1, 1866. She immigrated to North America in 1877, landing in Quebec. She lived in Drayton, North Dakota from 1889 until 1892 where she met and married August Johnson. They moved to Minneapolis in 1892 and in 1899 moved to Carver.

To make way for a new house for the Johnson family in April 1920, Harry Hokanson and John Bohm began dismantling the old livery stable at the rear of the hotel and saloon. The house, now standing on the site of the old stable, was constructed in 1920 by Charles Wallin and John F. Johnson, "using good lumber salvaged from the old stable". The house, built in the Craftsman style, was "to have every modern convenience", including being finished in brick and stucco and with a full basement. A *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper item noted that the house "will rank with the finest on Summit Avenue" in St. Paul. August Johnson died in 1958 at age 88, his funeral held at the Zamjahn Funeral Chapel on Broadway two doors from his old saloon. After services at the Carver Presbyterian Church he was buried with his wife in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

In years since the 1940s the saloon building has continued in operation as a saloon and bar. It has been called in successive years Engel's Bar (owned by Wilmar "Boots" Engel from 1944 to the 1960s), Bar 40, Chips, Al's Bar (in 1975), Gary's Place, and Lisa's Place (2003).

At 2:30 a.m. on Friday morning, July 17, 1964 burglars were breaking into Wilmar "Boots" Engles' Bar. Engle, who lived across the street in a second story apartment at 208 Broadway, awoke to the sound of breaking glass and saw a man crawling through the front door, while another man stood watch next to what turned out to be a stolen car. Engel grabbed a shotgun and exited his apartment, taking the stairway out onto the rooftop of the building at 204 Broadway. As a man exited the bar carrying stolen merchandise, Engle, from the rooftop, told both men to freeze. The man next to the getaway car put his hands up, but the other man started to run away. Engle fired his shotgun, striking the man with buckshot in the back, rear, and legs. Both men were apprehended, the injured suspect surviving the shooting.

**208 Broadway, Denny-Hammarlund Hardware Store.** Built in brick about 1866 for Henry R. Denny, this two-story commercial building operated as a hardware store for more than 50 years before being given over to various other commercial ventures. It features a false front with a decorated cornice and a second story veranda with a hooded central access door, with hooded and linteled windows at each side. At the lower level it has a recessed entry with large mullioned windows at each side. As with many historic Carver structures, the latter half of the 1900s saw the decline of the building, which was affected with neglect, poor stewardship, lack of funds, and ill-advised remodeling. In 2007-08 owner Linda Pauly began an extensive historic restoration of the property with the help of the Building Restoration Corporation of Minneapolis, before selling it unfinished to Gregg and Meg Witt of Carver. The Witts completed the outside restoration, made the upstairs again fit for a residence, and finished the lower level for a

business. For their work the Witts received Carver's annual 2008 award for the best restoration in the Carver Historic District.

During the restoration inscribed initials and a date were uncovered scratched about seven feet up on the left front of the brick façade. The significance of the inscription, "AB 1864", is not known. A possible candidate for the initials may be Andrew S. Bengtson, a store clerk in Carver, who from 1870-1877 owned property on Main Street, between the present day gas station and Spring Creek. Bengtson sold that property to future hardware store owner Noah Hammarlund in 1877. Bengtson is the only male person of voting age having the initials "A. B.", who is listed in the 1863-1864 Poll Tax list for Carver.

Another inscription that was found in the cellar during 2008 restoration was repeated on two different main floor joists and reads, "Jno Hein Carver", and indicates that the building may date somewhat earlier than 1868, for John Hein (1831-1906), his wife Sofia, and Adam Hein of Carver were the owners of record for the property from 1858-1866. This earlier date would make it the earliest surviving brick structure in Carver. In June 1866 the Heins sold the property to Harrison Rogers and Dr. Charles Rogers, an early Carver physician, who by June 1868 had transferred it to Henry Denny. Dr. Charles Rogers became Carver's postmaster in May 1869, and in Sept. of the same year opened a dry goods grocery store in Carver, its location unknown. In Aug. 1870 Dr. Rogers left Carver, replaced by Dr. E. H. Lewis.

The first hardware owner, Henry Rockwood Denny, was a pioneer resident of Carver who was active in 1800s Minnesota politics and in the Masonic Order. Denny was born in Keene, New Hampshire on February 22, 1839, the son of a Massachusetts town selectman and card-clothing manufacturer, Christopher Columbus Denny, and his first wife. Though born in New Hampshire Denny's family home was in Leicester, Massachusetts where the English family had settled in 1717. Henry Denny seems to have first visited Carver, Minnesota in 1855 at age 16, perhaps as a side trip from Hartford, Wisconsin, where he spent about two years working in the store of his uncle, Wheelock Denny. Young Henry Denny seems to have traveled often by train between the Midwest and Massachusetts visiting family members. Travels with his uncle Joseph Addison Denny (who often mentions Henry in his diaries) included trips to the Massachusetts Legislative Hall and Secretary of State Offices. Denny's travels and visits to places of business and government undoubtedly laid the foundations for running his own business and his later involvement in Minnesota politics.

On June 4, 1860 Henry R. Denny left Leicester, Massachusetts for the West, going into the mercantile business in Scandinavia, Wisconsin. While at Scandinavia in 1863, Henry R. Denny married Serena Arvena Sorenson, who was born on April 8, 1842 in Denmark. After a few years in Wisconsin, Henry and his family returned to Massachusetts, but the West still was on his mind. Sometime during the period 1866-68 he spent several months in Carver laying plans to open a hardware business there. In 1866-67 the property for his hardware store was separated from the property to the north, with Denny taking ownership of the store by 1868. In Sept. 1868 Denny and his family arrived Carver, probably taking residence in quarters above the store. A load of merchandise was

scheduled to arrive shortly afterwards. In 1869, a year after they opened the Hardware store, the Denny's lost a child, two-year old daughter Louise.

Henry Denny ran a hardware store out of the building for almost 20 years, from 1868-1887. During some of these years the store also functioned as the Carver Post Office, with Henry R. Denny serving as Carver's postmaster for 10 years. Occasionally in the 1870s Denny's store also served as the site for Carver town council meetings. Denny himself took an interest in politics, and in the 1870s he was elected a representative in the Minnesota State Legislature, where he served for three terms, 1874-76, 1879, and 1881. In April 1874 Horace Austin, Minnesota's Governor from 1870-74, visited Denny at the hardware store, and in 1879 a score of Minnesota newspapers, including the *St. Paul Dispatch*, were urging for Denny's nomination for Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota.

The U. S. Census of 1870 gives the net worth of the Dennys at \$12,800, a considerable sum for the time for the prosperous young couple. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and for 1873 Denny was advertised as a hardware store proprietor in Carver, and the *Minnesota Gazatteer* of 1878 notes that Henry R. Denny was an express agent and hardware store owner in Carver. In 1880 Denny was listed among the highest taxpayers in Carver County. That same year he advertised himself in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper as: *Postmaster and dealer in hardware and all kinds of farm implements, also agent for the best Amber Cane Press in the market.* In the Jan. 7, 1886 *Carver Free Press* newspaper Denny advertised: *H. R. Denny Broadway Hardware Stores, plows, cutlery, farmers & mechanics tools.*

Henry Denny also served for five years as a U. S. Marshal from 1882-1886 and was Secretary of the Minnesota State Fair Board. Denny also took an active interest in the early Masonic Lodge at Carver (Carver Lodge 111 A. F. & A. M.). Denny attended its founding meeting on February 7, 1874 and became one of its charter members on February 25, 1875 when its charter was granted. In 1884-85 Denny served as Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Minnesota in St. Paul. It was perhaps his involvement in the Masonic Order that played a part in the 1887 sale of the hardware store, for in April of that year the family moved to St. Paul where the Minnesota Grand Lodge was located. During 1888-1889 Denny was Secretary of the Minnesota Agricultural Society. Denny would belong to the Minnesota Grand Masonic Lodge for more than 60 years and became a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, and in 1893 was appointed Secretary of the Masonic Mutual Aid Association. He was also a Knight Templar.

In St. Paul Denny became involved in the real estate business, though he often conducted business in Minneapolis. Denny Street in the Como area of St. Paul is named after Henry Denny. In 1916 his wife, Serena Denny, died tragically at the Denny home in St. Paul after she was severely burned when her clothing caught fire from a lighted candle she was carrying into the cellar to get some preserves. Henry Denny died nine years later and he and Serena are both buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

In 1887 Noah Hammarlund purchased the hardware business and building from Henry Denny. Noah Hammarlund was born at Hallarp, Annerstad Parish, in Kronoberg County,

Sweden in 1847. In 1872, when he was 25, he immigrated to the United States, coming directly to West Union in Carver County, Minnesota with his wife Charlotte (Pettersson), who was born in 1847 in Lidhult in Kronoberg County, Sweden. After five years in West Union the Hammarlunds moved to Carver in 1877 where they would live for the next 50 years. In 1877 Hammarlund purchased a Carver lot on Main Street West between the present day gas station and Spring Creek, and it was probably there that the family lived and where Noah first worked as a blacksmith. The first years in Carver were tough on the Hammarlunds. In February 1880 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper reported that the Hammarlunds had just lost a child, their third lost that winter.

Noah Hammarlund was a member of the Carver Masonic Lodge for 48 years and worked continuously for the betterment of Carver, serving also as Vice President of the Carver County Agricultural Society, which ran the Carver County Fair in Carver during his tenure. In 1901 Noah Hammarlund was among the first on the scene after Andrew Tapper stabbed Rosa Mixa to death in the laundry room of the Basler House Hotel, which was then across the street from his hardware store. Tapper was later hanged for the crime, the only legal hanging in Carver County.

Hammarlund loved horse racing, and together with John J. Farrell of Carver, owned some of the finest race horses in the area. After 28 years in the hardware business, in May 1915 Hammarlund, then 68, retired and sold the hardware business and stock to J. F. Sauers of Calwell, Idaho, who had operated a similar business there. Sauers planned on remodeling the store and ordering some new stock. Hammarlund retained ownership of the building and continued to live in Carver. In 1918 the Hammarlunds sold the property around the corner, where they may have lived, to Swante Long for \$1500. Noah and Charlotte Hammarlund are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

Early in the morning of Christmas Day 1943 Dora Dircks and her children, living in the upstairs apartment, were aroused from their sleep and had to flee the building when a fatal fire occurred at the rear of the next door building at 204 Broadway. When smoke filled their quarters and its access stairway they were forced to escape through the lower level, with store glass broken at the front to allow them to get to safety. The Carver and Chaska Fire Departments put out the nextdoor fire and saved the adjacent buildings.

Ownership of the hardware store building remained in the Hammarlund family until 1945 when it passed to James J. Pauly and his wife Florence, who owned it in conjunction with the gas station and building next door to the south. For a time at the middle of the 1900s it served as the Carver Café.

**212 Broadway, Gehl Meat Market and Ice House.** Built about 1857, this early two-story commercial building features a false front and a bracket-supported full-width second story porch over the sidewalk, a feature once found on many of Carver's commercial buildings. As late as 1923 the front of the second floor of the northern portion of the building had two tall narrow hooded windows, though two upper windows had already been bricked up, as was large a front window between floors that probably served as access for a hoist or pulley lift to raise ice and meat above the first floor.

In 1857 Henry Gehl purchased the property on which the building sits from J. E. Fullerton, promising before the following July to erect “upon said lot a good store not less than 20 feet by 40 feet, two stories high, not less than \$1500”. The building was built in local buff-colored brick, but is today covered in stucco. The building is one of Carver’s earliest commercial structures and was operated as a meat market and icehouse by Henry Gehl, whose family also owned meat markets in Chaska and St. Paul, Henry himself advertising meat markets in both Chaska and Carver in 1878.

The building changed hands but was still operated as a meat market when George Henry Dietz in 1911 founded his own business here, called first the Reliable Meat Market, which would flourish for 45 years, going from a simple meat market to a modern meat market and grocery. George H. Deitz was born on July , 1891, the son of John and Mary (Kochinka or Trcka) Dietz who lived in Heidelberg Village, New Prague, in LeSueur County, Minnesota. In 1914 Dietz took on an employee, Mathias (Mathew) Joseph Riesgraf. Riesgraf was probably born on his parents' farm in Dahlgren Township on September 20, 1890, the son of Adam Riesgraf (1864-1930) and Margaret (Maggie) Catharina (Michels) (1865-1935). Mathias Riesgraf served as a corporal during World War I and after the war, in 1919, became a partner with George H. Dietz in the meat market. At the 1920 U.S. Census for Carver County Mathias Riesgraf was living with George Dietz and his wife Anna (Riesgraf) Dietz (1894-1991), who was Mathias’ sister. In May, 1920 Mathias Riesgraf married Mary G. Dietz, who was born on Dec. 16, 1896 and the sister of George Dietz, making Mathias and George double brothers-in-law, each married to the other's sister. In September, 1922 George and Mathias purchased a Ford Roadster to use in their meat market business. The Dietz and Riesgraf Meat Market developed a savory style of old fashioned sausages that attracted customers from as far away as Florida, California, Texas, and Alaska.

George Dietz and Mathias Riesgraf remained in the meat market business together until May, 1956 when they retired and sold out to Floyd (Stubby) Holtz and Warren Peterson, training in the new owners, who would deliver the same style sausages. Floyd (Stubby) Holtz and Warren Peterson owned it as the Holtz Meat Market for 8 years until early 1964 when Arthur and Betty May (Wilman) Moldenhauer purchased the meat market . The Moldenhauers lived around the corner at 116 Main Street West in Carver. About 1980 Darrell and Barbara Swanson purchased the property to use as an insurance-realty business, and their restoration of it was the first to take place on a commercial building in the Carver Historic District.

George and Anna (Riesgraf) dietz are buried in the Guardian angels Church Cemetery in Chaska. Mathias and Mary Riesgraf are buried in the old St. Nikolas Cemetery along Jonathan Carver Parkway near 4th Street West, on land donated to St. Nicholas Parish by John Riesgraf, the paternal grandfather of Mathias.

**217/221 Broadway, Carver Drug Store and Post Office.** George DuToit (1847-1923) served in Company I of the First Regiment of Mounted Rangers briefly from Dec. 1, 1862 until he was promoted to Hospital Steward on Jan. 24, 1863. After his service he

went into the drugstore business in Carver. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 G. A. Dutoit is advertised as running a drugstore and selling books on Broadway in Carver, though the precise location is unknown. In 1866 he leased the drug store property at 221 Broadway and moved in sometime during July 1866, then purchased it the following year. As early as Feb. 1869 DuToit was selling Valentines in his drugstore. In 1870 George DuToit opened a new drug store, perhaps again at this location, which at the rear as late as 1874 contained the medical office and surgery of Dr. E. H. Lewis, who rented lodging down the street at the Zanger-Anderson Carver Tenement at 121 Third Street East in Carver. In 1873 Dr. Lewis was appointed Carver county physician. By 1879 Dr. Lewis was living in Chaska and his 1879 personal home is today listed on the National Register of Historic Places at 321 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Chaska.

George DuToit's drug store featured a variety of the time's drugs and ointments. One of these products was a liniment called Wizard Oil, created in 1870 by magician John Hamlin, and sold by DuToit in 50 cent and \$1 bottles. On August 10 and 11, 1871 Hamlin's traveling Wizard Oil Band gave two open air concerts in front of DuToit's drug store, which, of course, included some pitching of the product. George DuToit owned and ran the drug store, with a small banking business in the back of the building. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 DuToit was advertised as a drugstore proprietor and involved in the lumber business, and in the same publication for 1873 only as a drug store proprietor. In 1873 DuToit sold the store and business to Swedish immigrant John S. Nelson, DuToit then taking up banking at another address on Broadway in Carver. George DuToit was the brother of Frederick DuToit, who owned the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper in Chaska, today called the *Chaska Herald*. George would go on to own and operate a number of banks in Carver County.

Druggist John S. Nelson (1854-1922), who immigrated to the United States from Sweden in 1855 with his parents, owned and operated the drug store from 1873-1888, most likely living in quarters above the drugstore. In February 1874 John Nelson was appointed an agent for the National Line (National Steam Navigation Company), as well as for the Anchor Gulon Steamship Company, and began selling ocean passage to and from many countries, with tickets sold out of his drug store. As early as 1874 Nelson was running a soda fountain during the summer months in his drug store. In 1880 Nelson advertised, "Drugs and medicines, paints, oils, varnish, glass, books & stationery, fancy and toilet articles, agent for ocean steamer lines, and sells drafts to Europe". Besides running the drug store business John S. Nelson served as the Mayor of Carver, Postmaster of Carver for 11 years, beginning in 1897, Secretary of the Carver County Agricultural Society, Secretary of the German Reading Society, Carver Justice of the Peace, Secretary of the Carver Fire Department, member of the Carver County Board of Education, and was a director in the First State Bank of Carver. From the 1890s to the 1920s John S. Nelson lived with his sister Christine and mother Maria at 113 Fourth Street West in Carver.

In 1888 Nelson sold the drug store and drug business to Oswald C. Brunius, the son of Swedish immigrant John Oswald Brunius, who came to America in 1850 from Vänersborg in Västra Götaland, Sweden, and his wife Bertha (Freese), a German immigrant from Stralsund, Prussia, in the German States. The Brunius' were early Carver

pioneers who arrived together in Carver in 1856. John Brunius served the Union in the Civil War 1864-65 as a 2nd lieutenant in the 11<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment. He also served as Carver County Surveyor and was the first to be elected Carver County Treasurer, though he resigned shortly afterwards. He also did the surveying for Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery in 1863, and worked on many surveying projects around Minnesota.

At the age of 14 young Oswald C. Brunius Sr. began working as an apprentice in John S. Nelson's drug store and after several years of study became a registered pharmacist, then buying the building and business from Nelson in 1888. He renamed it the O. C. Brunius Drug Store and owned and operated it for 32 years. During the Brunius' years such sundry items as medicines, eyeglasses, notions, schoolbooks, blank books, albums, glass, novelties, toilet articles, cigars, brushes, oils, paints, chemicals, and varnishes were sold there. By about 1920 the store was furnishing a telephone and a curbside gasoline pump to customers. For many years the Brunius family lived in quarters above the drug store. In 1920 Oswald Brunius Sr. sold the drug store business part of it to J. B. Wing, though his family would retain actual ownership of the land and building until 1935.

Oswald C. Brunius Sr. was active in the Carver County Democratic Committee and served as secretary and acting manager of the Carver Telephone Company for many years until it was sold to the Carver County Telephone Company. In addition to operating the Brunius Drug Store, O. C. Brunius served as Postmaster in Carver, holding that post for 9 years until January 1923 when ill health forced his resignation. The new postmaster was D. A. Ahlin of Carver, who was appointed in July of that year, and moved into the still-owned Brunius building post office adjacent to the drug store. O. C. Brunius served as both a Director and Vice President for some of the Carver County Fairs (Carver County Agricultural Society) held at Riverside Park in Carver. After retiring from the drugstore business he served as Director of the Waconia Sorghum Mills. He was also a member of the Carver Masonic Lodge, the Knights Templar, and the St. John's Chapter #9 of the Royal Arch Masons. In the latter part of the 1800s he was manager of the Carver baseball team. When he died in 1925 his body lay in state at the John Funk Jr. House on Fourth Street East, with a funeral at the Presbyterian Church of Carver (today the Church-by-the-River), and a burial with many Brunius family members in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

In September 1902 O. C. Brunius was awarded \$1000 in reward money for being responsible for the June 1902 capture of Minneapolis Police Detective Christopher Norbeck at the Brunius Drug Store. In the spring and summer of 1902 Norbeck was involved in a sensational Minneapolis headline-grabbing case of graft and bribery involving both Minneapolis city officials and its police department. The notorious Norbeck was arrested and put on trial, posting the then very high bail of \$5000. During the trial he fled, jumping bail on June 16<sup>th</sup>. On the afternoon of June 23<sup>rd</sup> Norbeck appeared in Carver and walked into the Brunius Drug Store to get some carbolic salve for his nose. O. C. Brunius recognized him and confronted him, and with the help of Carver Constable Goetze, and Carver insurance agent J. M. Aretz, Norbeck was transported to Chaska and put in the Carver County Jail.

After purchasing the business from O. C. Brunius, J. B. Wing leased the building and operated the drug store for about 3 years, selling traditional drug store items as well as jewelry such as cufflinks, watches, watch chains, rings, necklaces, charms, and scarf pins. During the J. B. Wing period the building had yet to be covered with stucco, and its exterior was sheathed in clapboard siding with an awning above the front windows. The 2<sup>nd</sup> story veranda had already been removed and a gas pump was located curbside. A Carver Post Office addition was already attached next door to the south. In 1923 Wing sold the business and most of his stock to W. M. Dixon in 1923, and left Carver on October 1, 1923 to open a drug store in the Brinkhaus building near Chaska's downtown park. Little is known of the J. B. Wing period, but in 1922 he served as a Director of the Carver County Fair, and J. B. Wing and his wife were active in the Carver Masonic Order and the Eastern Star. Wing's father, a Minnesota pioneer, lived in Carver for several years later in his life and in Dec. 1924 wrote a narrative for the *Weekly Valley Herald* of his pioneer experiences in southern Minnesota in 1867.

Five years later, in May 1928, Dixon sold the business back to the Brunius family, still as a drug store, when Oswald C. Brunius Srs.' son, Oswald C. Brunius Jr., purchased it. Like his father before him, Oswald Brunius Jr. was interested in politics and served for several years as Chairman of the Carver County Democratic Committee. He was married to Alma D. C. Goetze, a charter member of the Carver Eastern Star organization. Alma was the daughter of the owners of the Pioneer General Store of Carver at Broadway and Main Streets, Christian August Goetze and Maria Hartung. For many years the families of both O. C. Brunius Sr. and O. C. Brunius Jr. lived in quarters above the drug store.

The wood frame building at 221 Broadway was probably built between 1867 and 1870, and during its early years had a second story veranda with an access doorway between the two windows. The attached wood frame structure at 117 Broadway, which long served as the Carver Post Office, was probably added in the 1890s, the two buildings then being joined by a common cornice and false front façade. In the 1940s and 1950s 221 Broadway served as Sid's Bar, with owner Sidney E. Goetze having purchased it from his uncle, Diedrich Luedloff. Later the building has seen use as a barber shop and a beauty salon. About 1983 the U. S. Post Office relocated to the corner of Broadway and East Fourth Street, and in recent years 117 Broadway has been an income tax service office.

**220 Broadway, Barber Shop and Saloon.** Built about 1860, the original style was Greek Revival with two stories in an L-plan with wood framing and wood lapped siding. It originally featured a two bay second story, a gabled roof, two over two windows on the second floor, and a recessed center doorway. Later it came to have a corner entry, corner plaster strips, a pedimented front gable and six over six paned windows and a false front. It was extensively remodeled about 2001. The building may have served in early years as a general store and a saloon, and since the 1920s has served as a boarding house, a barber shop, and since 1937 as Harvey's Bar, being founded in that year by Matthew and Agnes (Hudinski) Harvey who are buried in St. Nicholas Cemetery in Carver. Two owners since the Harveys continue to operate the building as a bar, yet retaining the Harvey name.

A 1923 photo shows that the entrance to the building was then diagonally cut into the northeast corner and that it had mullioned windows facing Broadway, with a single second story window above, and a gabled roof without a false front.

**300 Broadway, Barber Shop, Saloon, Café.** Built about 1880 as a one-story corner commercial building in local buff colored brick. Behind the building there once was a 19<sup>th</sup> Century stable, which was gone by 1928, and a large barn that was set on stilts above Spring Creek. In 1928 the barn and some outbuildings survived at the rear, but are now gone. The building was covered in stucco, probably in the early 1920s, but this has since been removed in a recent restoration. Since the early 1900s it has served as a bar, grocery store, barbershop, and Kraemer's Café.

In 1909 Louis Goetze (1864-1913), was running a saloon out of the building. Louis Goetze was born in Minnesota in 1864, the son of German States immigrants Ernest and Elizabeth Goetze from Dahlgren Township in Carver County. On Oct. 20/21, 1890 Louis Goetze married Minnesota-born Ida Wassmund (1873-1937), the daughter of German States immigrants Adolph and Minnie (Talbart or Tabbert) Wassmund who lived in Hillsdale in Winona County, Minnesota before moving to Benton in Carver County. In 1911 Goetze traded property in Carver for a farm in Glencoe. Louis and Ida Goetze are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver. Around 1920 John and Catherine Edblom acquired the property and went into the grocery business in the building.

John Theodore Edblom was born at West Union in Hancock Township in Carver County on June 25, 1880, the son of Swedish immigrants Swante and Johanna (Johnson) Edblom. John Edblom farmed until he was 26 years of age, renting a farm in Benton Township in Carver County, and then went into business in Cologne in Carver County, where in March 1907 he purchased a saloon from Harry Beck. The following year, in Aug. 1908, he married Catherine Marie (Kathryn Mary) Vanderlick, who was born in Glencoe in McLeod County, Minnesota on Jan. 21, 1886. She was the daughter of railroad section foreman and German States immigrant, William Vanderlick, and his wife Mary (Schuetters) Vanderlick of Glencoe. The Edbloms lived in Cologne for a year or two and then located to Carver where they leased the Minneapolis Hotel and Saloon for a short time in 1909-1910. In March 1910 they sold the saloon business to Fred House and moved to their farm near Gotha in Carver County, not far from Carver. In September 1919 they sold 80 acres of land in Gotha for \$215 an acre to certain Mr. Bellquist. John Edblom saw the need for a grocery and produce store in Carver, and by July 1921 had formed a partnership with George Peterson under the name of the Carver Produce Company. Edblom and Peterson opened their business at 300 Broadway in the Carver building, which was owned by John and Catherine Edblom. The brick building located in the northwest corner of Broadway and Third Street West in the 1920s and 1930s was usually referred to as the "Edblom Building" or the "Edblom Block", and had warehouse space at the rear. The retail business bought and sold farm produce and groceries. Besides running the grocery and produce business John Edblom served as local assessor for 10 years, as Carver village clerk for a year, as Carver school treasurer for 6 years, and as clerk of the Modern Woodman of America organization in Carver for 15 years. John

Edblom operated the grocery store until his death on Dec. 26, 1938, after which wife Catherine continued to run it for a time, combining it with the collection of Carver electric lighting bills. Catherine died on Apr. 7, 1945. John and Catherine are buried in the St. Nicholas Catholic Church Cemetery in Carver.

**304 Broadway, John Wadensten Cobbler Shop.** Built about 1876-77. The building is rectangular and features a side entry plan to access the residential quarters above, with two over two upper front windows, a porch and overhanging veranda, wood framed, wood lapped siding, and a boomtown era false front above a typical Carver storefront on the lower level. About 1995 a fire gutted much of the second story, which was repaired shortly thereafter.

The store sits on property once owned by Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey. Because of its prime location it is likely that an earlier frame structure or street-side stand sat on the commercial lot. The property on which the store stands was separated from a larger parcel that stretched south on Broadway to Third Street West and was purchased in 1876 by John G. Wadensten and his wife Clara. John Wadensten and his wife Clara were both born in Sweden about 1850-1852. By 1878-1879 John Wadensten advertised in the *Minnesota Gazatteer* for Carver as a shoemaker, and at the 1880 U. S. Census for Carver he is called a shoemaker. In 1880 the Wadenstens sold the building to Carver businessman Anton Knoblauch, who owned a bank across the street at 309 Broadway, and whose home was at 112 Third Street East in Carver. The Wadenstens perhaps found it a better fit to rent the building than to own it. The Wadenstens seem to have remained in the building until late 1884 when they opened a cobbler shop near the Minneapolis Hotel, which was located at 212 Fourth Street East in Carver. The new Wadensten shoe shop was probably situated in the building next door to the hotel at 216 Fourth Street East. The *Carver Free Press* noted the new location in Dec. 1884 and Jan. 1885 where it was written: *All kinds of repairing with neatness and dispatch.* By 1895 the Wadenstens were living in Minneapolis, where they purchased some land in Mar. 1901. Clara Wadensten died in Minneapolis on Feb. 8, 1906 and John Wadensten died there on Nov. 3, 1908.

Anton Knoblauch owned the building from 1880-1909, seemingly renting it out to other business concerns. In October 1890 Chaska harnessmaker Albert Bandimere (who later owned Carver Cottage at 121 Sixth Street West and a farm on both sides of Broadway, with its farmhouse at 617 Broadway) returned to Carver from Chaska and started a harness shop in town, probably at 304 Broadway in Carver. Bandimere purchased the business and stock of goods from harnessmaker Albert Muehlberg, who was going out of business. Stock probably included the stock of harnesses, saddles, bridles, whips, fly nets, blankets, brushes, combs, etc. which Albert Muehlberg stocked when he opened a harness shop in Dec. 1886 behind 221 Broadway in Carver. In 1894 the Wadensten cobbler shop building was yet serving as a harness shop, but by 1900 it had reverted to a cobbler shop. In 1909 Anton Knoblauch sold the building to Alois and Annie Loew, who had earlier operated the Alois Loew Saloon at 120 Broadway in Carver. The Loews converted the building into a confectionary store and restaurant that Alois and Annie ran into their advanced years, while living in the quarters above. They sold ice cream and

penny candy, and along one side of the store they had glass counters and on the other side there was a penny Cockroach Pinball Machine. They ran the business until 1936 when they sold the business, and inventory.

Alois Loew was a Carver fireman, a Carver town councilman, a Democratic Party committeeman, as well as a member of the Carver Community Club, the Carver Pavilion Club, and the Civil War veterans' Grand Army of the Republic Post 158. Alois (1867-1950) and Annie (1866-1951) Loew are buried in the St. Nicholas Catholic Cemetery in Carver.

In the 1940s Marcus and Louise Larson operated a confectionary store out of the building until 1949, when they opened a general store in Augusta in Carver County.

**308 Broadway, First State Bank of Carver/Funk Bank.** Built about 1908, probably by John Funk Jr., the State Bank of Carver was owned in part for many years by Carver's Funk family, with Clarence E. Funk serving as President in the 1920s and 1930s and his brother Raymond O. Funk also serving as a bank officer. Other early partners in the bank included John J. Farrell, president of the Carver Creamery, and George DuToit, first of Carver, then of Chaska. In the 1940s it served as the Jack and Jill Grocery, operated by Raymond A. Anderson until he entered into U. S. Defense Department work during World War II and turned it over to his long time assistant, Grace S. Brown (1910-1985) who ran it as Grace's Grocery. In more recent years it has served as a café and as Funky Minds, an educational and recreational facility for children.

This bank building replaced an earlier drugstore building where George DuToit worked in the 1860s as a drug clerk. DuToit was salaried at \$25 a year and was provided a suit and room in back of the earlier store, before later opening his own drug store and bank on the southeast corner of Broadway at Third Street in Carver.

In 1923 an awning spanned the front windows. Only one leaded glass window panel from above the picture windows survives at the present in the building, but one that was removed exists in the north wall of the kitchen of the Temperance Hotel at the south end of Broadway in Carver. And another that was removed may be found in the east wall of the John Snell house on Fourth Street West in Carver. A photo of the building was featured in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper of Sept. 16, 1920.

**309 Broadway, Anton Knoblauch Bank.** Completed in November 1875 and used as an office and bank by Carver resident Anton Knoblauch, this at a time when banks were particularly vulnerable to robbery. In 1876 the Jesse James gang is said to have passed by Carver and stabled horses in Chaska before the fateful Northfield bank robbery. One night in 1892 a burglar broke into Knoblauch's bank and attempted to enter the vault. On Aug. 24, 1892 the perpetrator, John Doe, also known as George Walker, appeared before the Carver County Court for arraignment, represented by St. Paul attorney Cy Wellington, where he was released on a \$2,500 bond pending trial.

Anton Knoblauch was a merchant, a banker, a grain elevator owner, farm machinery dealer, farmland owner, and one of the leading figures in the Carver County Agricultural Society, which founded and ran the annual Carver County Fairs, many of which were held in Carver. In 1880 Knoblauch advertised that he was a, “Dealer and manufacturer, agent for first class sewing machines and farm machinery”, also “ loans money, negotiates loans, tickets sold for 1<sup>st</sup> class steamship lines to and from Europe, also drafts on all principal cities in Europe”. As a banker Knoblauch made bank loans to settlers setting themselves up in businesses or farming. The bank building, now covered in stucco, was built in local buff-colored brick and features a false front. In 1923 a large awning spanned the entire front of the building above both the window and entry door. Knoblauch’s house yet stands behind the bank on Third Street East and it is said that he once owned a farm machinery store across the street from his residence. In 1891 Knoblauch opened a subsidiary bank to the west of Carver in Arlington, in Sibley County, Minnesota.

From the the late 1920s until about 1946 Herman Lenzen, who was born in Carver County on Jan. 29, 1906 owned the building and ran a barbershop and tonsorial (shaving salon) in the building. He also offered baths and a sauna in a frame structure at the rear, and had a pool hall on the south side of the bank building. During Prohibition the Internal Revenue Service performed a raid looking for bootleg liquor at the sauna, but found nothing. In recent years the building served as a residence, a coffe and sanhwich shop, and an off-sale liquor store.

**313 Broadway.** Built about 1880, its earliest uses and ownership have yet to be explored. It is known that the building is comprised of two buildings fused together. The northern portion of the building served at various times as a cobbler shop, harness shop, and warehouse, while the larger southern portion saw use as a drug store, printing shop, and saloon. In more recent times the building has been the Rivertown Inn, Mel’s Bar, Bertha’s Bar, the Dog House Bar, the Silver Bullet Bar, Siggy’s Pub, Sammy’s Hideout, and the Dog House Bar again. The southern building once featured a second story veranda with railing, accessed by a doorway between the two upper windows. Already by 1923 the veranda and access door had been removed. The lower level had a central recessed doorway, which was flanked on either side by large picture windows with double smaller windows above. Below the picture windows were recessed panels.

**401 Broadway, Funk Hardware Store and Lumberyard.** Built of local buff-colored brick by John Funk Jr. about 1882, the building originally served as a substantial hardware store. The building was constructed in a commercial style that was once common across the United States. It features a corbelled cornice, a false front, a symmetrical façade of seven bays with recessed decorative paneling delineating each bay, and is divided into one and two story sections with a common wall. The facility originally housed a lumberyard at the rear, which in later years became a more extensive lumberyard located directly across the street on Broadway. Originally there were no first floor windows along Fourth Street and “ghosting” indicates that there were once louvered shutters on the second floor.

The Funk hardware and lumber business was founded by John Funk Sr., who was born in Wurtemberg in the German States in 1826. He immigrated to America in 1847, finally making his way to Carver in 1860. He worked first as a carpenter before devoting his energies to developing a hardware and lumber business in Carver, which grew and made him one of the leading figures in town. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1865, 1872, and 1873 John Funk is advertised in Carver as running a hardware store on Broadway, selling stoves, hardware, etc. The 1865 store location is unknown, though it very well may have been located on the site of the present day brick structure at 401 Broadway. In 1880 John was listed among Carver County's highest taxpayers in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper. He retired to St. Paul in 1891 and turned the business over to his son, John Funk Jr., who greatly expanded and modernized it, venturing even into banking and other interests. When John Funk Sr. died in 1893 his funeral and burial took place in Carver, with more than 100 horse-drawn vehicles in the funeral procession.

In the late 1930s or early 1940s the lower level of the building served as a grocery store, operated by the Conboy family, and in the later 1940s by Vincent Sells.

**404 Broadway, Butendorf-Plackner Saloon.** Built about 1868, the wood frame building once served as a saloon with a residence above it, but for more than a century it has been given over as a private dwelling. The irregular addition at the rear seems also to be early, and has been present since at least 1894, with a rear porch once in the angle of those two main parts of the building. Early Twentieth Century siding probably hides much earlier clapboard siding. The main 2-story portion of the building was probably built first, and could date even earlier, perhaps to the late 1850s or early 1860s, with a high purchase price on the sale of the property suggesting that some early buildings once (and perhaps yet) occupied the land. The attached lean-to section to the north appears to have been incorporated into the main structure very early, perhaps in Nov. 1868, when the owners took out a \$300 loan, and it appears in all known fire insurance maps of the property since 1894. At an earlier 19<sup>th</sup> Century period the saloon/residence had a tall false front with brackets on the cornice, overlooking a first story porch that may well have had a second story door accessing a veranda above. It remained in place as late as 1911, but was gone by 1928.

The property was purchased in Jan. 1868 by early Carver settlers, Paul and Margaretha Butendorf, who were both born about 1821-1822 in Prussia in the German States, and who immigrated to the Carver area in the 1850s. In the U. S. Census for 1860 Peter Butendorf and Margaretha were living in Chaska, with Peter then a farmer, with a net worth of \$1,000. Settling permanently in the Town of Carver about 1865, Butendorf for the next ten years drove a stagecoach between Carver and Watertown. The Butendorfs took on more work by owning the Star Saloon and a boarding house, with Margaretha probably doing much of the work in the early years on days Peter was driving the stage coach. The 1870 U. S. Census for Carver lists Butendorf as a boarding house keeper. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1872 Butendorf was advertised as a hotel and saloon proprietor, and in 1873 as a saloon operator. By 1879 the Butendorfs' business advertised stabling facilities for 28 horses, Milwaukee bottled beer, choice

liquors, and cigars. An 1880 advertisement for the Peter Butendorf Saloon touted, "Choice cigars, wines, liquors, lager and bottle beer, stable and water on the place". The property on which the saloon was situated was "L-shaped" with a strip of land behind the adjacent residence at 408 Broadway, and as late as 1894 had a two-story stable on it. Access to the saloon and boarding house stabling facilities was via the alley to the north, and it is possible that Butendorf also rented or had a business agreement to use an enormous stable across the alley from his own stable, this located behind 416 Broadway and under land ownership of Genoveva Bueche-Kimmel and her two husbands of the period. Butendorf retired from the saloon business in October 1886, selling the Star Saloon property and business to Frank and Anna Plackner, who renamed it the Frank Plackner Saloon and Wine Hall. Peter Butendorf died in 1899 and wife Margaretha died in 1907. Peter and Margaretha Butendorf are buried in a family plot in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

In their saloon in the spring of 1886 the Plackners advertised in the *Carver Free Press*: "It has the choicest liquors and cigars. The best beer and celebrated Milwaukee bottle beer kept constantly on hand." Frank Plackner was born Nov. 12, 1858 near Bongards in Carver County where his family had a 158-acre farm. Frank's parents were emigrants from the German States. His father, John M. Plackner (sometimes spelled Blackner and Bleckner), was born in Bavaria in 1825, his mother Wilhelmina, was born in Prussia. When Frank Plackner was not yet 6 years old his father enlisted in Company E of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry Regiment and went off to partake in several actions against the Confederates in the South before returning home several months after the Civil War ended. Frank spent his early years on the farm and in his early years took up the blacksmith trade and did veterinary work. On Dec. 13, 1880 he married Anna Dohmen at Glencoe, Minnesota. Anna was born on Nov. 29, 1859, the daughter of Gebhard and Margaret Dohmen, who came to the U. S. in 1860 and settled at Bongards in Carver County. Frank and Anna Plackner lived for a time at Murdock and Kerkhoven in Swift County and Watertown in Carver County before making Carver their permanent home.

Prior to purchasing Butendorf's saloon in 1886, Frank Plackner was connected to the Carver Plow Works, perhaps plying his blacksmith skills. In 1894 Plackner went into a saloon partnership with Traugott Kemkes. The pub was called the North Star Saloon, probably a nod to the old Butendorf Star Saloon once in the same building, and by Dec. 1895 Kemkes was running it all alone, selling choice wines, liquors, cigars, and lunch at all times. Plackner also served as Carver's police constable in the 1890s, and even served a stint as the Carver Justice of the Peace and was a member of Carver's German Reading Society. By 1900 the Plackners had fully converted the saloon to a dwelling house, and Frank was running the ferryboat back and forth across the Minnesota River between Carver and Louisville. One of the Plackner daughters, Mary, was married to Carver blacksmith August Marose, and lived at lived next to the Marose blacksmith shop at 121 Main street West in Carver. Two of the Plackner sons, John and Frank Jr. worked across the street on Broadway at the Carver Creamery. As son John lit the creamery's early morning fires on Dec. 3, 1900 he was injured by a gunshot from a tramp, who apparently was sleeping in the building. Frank and Anna Plackner are buried in the family grave in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

**408 Broadway, Herkelrath-Wanke Harness Shop.** Built about 1866, perhaps by John and Louisa Herkelrath. Throughout the 1800s the building housed a harness shop, with owners quarters probably occupying the rear of the first floor and the upper floor. The rectangular building is two stories high, with a narrow full width one-story addition at the rear that sometime between 1911 and 1928 had been expanded to the 2-story height of the rest of the structure.

In 1866 harness maker John Herkelrath and his wife Louisa (Pfaff) purchased the 24-foot by 52-foot lot for the building, a piece of land which had been separated from a larger lot. John (Johannes) Herkelrath was born in Bavaria in the German States about 1834/35 and was married to Louisa Pfaff, born about 1840, also in Bavaria. The Herkelraths were living in Carver at least as early as 1863-64, for John is named on the Carver Poll Tax roster for those years, and son William was born in Carver on Mar. 21, 1864. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1865 John Herkelrath is advertised in Carver as a saddle and harness maker, though the location of his establishment is not given. At the 1870 U. S. Census for Carver John Herkelrath gives his occupation as a harness maker with a net worth of \$1,000. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and 1873 John Herkelrath was advertised as a harness manufacturer. In May 1874 the Herkelraths sold the property Julius and Clara Wanke. The 1878-1879 *Minnesota Gazeteer* for Carver shows that the Herkelrath Brothers were running a general store in Carver. Perhaps these brothers were John and Valentine Herkelrath, both Carver residents in the 1860s and 1870s. The 1880 U. S. Census for Carver yet lists John's occupation as harness maker, so perhaps he was earning his living on two fronts. In 1880 son William, then 16 years old, was clerking at a store in Carver, perhaps at Herkelrath Brothers. The Herkelrath family seems to have left Carver in about 1883, for a *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper article in September 1938 wrote that William Herkelrath had just visited Carver for the first time in 55 years.

Next owner Julius Wanke is listed in the 1880 U. S. Census for Carver as a harness maker. With him are wife Clara and 8 children. Julius was born in Prussia in the German States about 1837 and seems to have married Clara there, for she too was born in Prussia in 1838, and they had their first child there in about 1863. The family moved to Capetown, South Africa where 3 children were born around 1867-69. In Capetown Julius Wanke found work as a saddle maker. In 1870-1871 the family moved to America by way of Boston, and by about 1872 a daughter was born in Minnesota, probably in Carver where the Wanke family made their new home. After Julius bought the harness shop from the Herkelraths in 1874, he undoubtedly also took to making made saddles as he has in South Africa. In 1909 Julius made a trip back to Germany, and on this trip he died there. Clara Wanke died in 1913 and is buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery with several of the Wanke children and grandchildren.

In 1912 son Rudolph Wanke, representing Julius' heirs, sold the building to Henry D. "Dutch" Meyer and his wife Maria, who lived around the corner at 108 Fourth Street West in Carver, and who probably purchased the house as investment property. In Jan. 1924 the Meyers resold the building to the Modern Woodman of America, and from

1924-1939 it served as Carver's Woodman Hall, Carver Camp #2024. A Woodman Hall was a lodge or meeting place for the Modern Woodman of America, a popular fraternal group in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> Century and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The Woodman Hall building could be rented out for receptions, bazaars, concerts, meetings, plays, or used for other events, such as elections and political speeches.

**413 Broadway, Charles L. Dauwalter Jr. House.** Built in 1898 by Charles L. Dauwalter Jr., the son of Charles D. Dauwalter Sr., who was one of Carver's pioneer settlers, arriving in 1857 from Ohio. The present house is constructed on the site of property the senior Dauwalter purchased in 1864. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1894 reveals that the property was previously occupied by a two-story frame house with a large one-story shed attached to the north, but it is uncertain if that earlier house was actually the residence of either Charles D. Dauwalter Sr. or son Charles L. Dauwalter. Charles Dauwalter Jr., born in Carver in 1867, was apprenticed at age 15 in his father's blacksmith and wagon making shop and later became the proprietor of that business, which was located next door to the north of his house, and which he converted into a Buick distributorship in the early 1920s.

In 1898 Charles D. Dauwalter transferred ownership to the lot on which the house stands to his son Charles L. Dauwalter. On February 17, 1898 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper reported that Charles Dauwalter Jr. "will erect a new brick residence next spring, as soon as weather permits. Olaf Hanson will be the contractor with Leonard Schroeder doing the mason work". Schroeder lived at 400 Oak Street in Carver. The house is built of local buff-colored Carver brick and features Victorian and Eastlake design, 2 ½ stories with a multi-gabled roof, a full front porch, limestone windowsills, stained glass decorative windows, and three picture windows. At one time the house featured turned porch posts with decorative brackets, a turned porch balustrade, decorative roof crestings, a Greek style portico, gable decoration, and a wide stairway to the street that angled from the southwest corner of the building. The house had one of Carver's first cement public sidewalks.

The Charles Dauwalter Jr. House was featured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth.

**416 Broadway, Wells-Bueche Blacksmith Shop and Saloon.** Built circa 1857, the two-story wing of today's house that fronts on Broadway probably had its earliest days as a blacksmith shop, and then later as a small saloon. Since at least 1894 the house has served as a residential dwelling. As recently as 1894 it was a small squarish building, slightly longer from front to back than side to side. Sometime between 1894 and 1900 a 1 1/2 -story wing parallel to the street was added making the house L-shaped, and a short open porch was built in the front angle of the L about the same time. The short open porch was lengthened in 1910-11 to fill the full space of the addition. Between 1911 and 1928 an open porch was added to the middle of the rear of the house. From as early as 1894 and until 1910 two small outbuildings were in the rear, one of brick, one of wood. By 1911 both were removed. Since at least 1894 the house has had much of the same

street-side profile, though some time in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the body of the clapboard house was covered in stucco. For more than hundred years both 416, and 420 Broadway next door, were under the same family ownership.

In September 1857 Ferdinand Wells purchased the property, which today holds the structures at 416 and 420 Broadway. Because of the high purchase price of \$450, seller Joseph Peitz, later a sawmill owner in Waconia, Minnesota, must have already erected some sort of buildings on the property, perhaps with thoughts of building a sawmill to be water powered by adjacent Spring Creek. The earliest surviving building of those is probably 416 Broadway, the residence at 420 Broadway next door being of somewhat later vintage.

Ferdinand Wells (Wels) was born about 1820-1823 in Prussia in the German States. He was already in St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory when on Oct. 27, 1854 he married 23-year old Genofeva Ohnesorg, who was born on Jan. 1, 1831 in Bavaria, also in the German States. The spellings of Genoveva's first and last names have been widely spelled. Genoveva has also been Genevieve, Genofeva, Genofefa, Feva, and she has even been called Jane. Ohnesorg, which means without sorrow in German, has been variously spelled Ohnesarh, Ohnsorg, Ohnesorgh, and there were probably other spellings.

Ferdinand and Genoveva Wells were already living in Carver when the 1857 Minnesota Territorial Census was taken. Ferdinand's occupation is as a blacksmith. Also in their household is Joseph Richter, age 33, an immigrant from Austria, another blacksmith. At the 1860 U. S. Census for Carver blacksmith Ferdinand Wells and his wife Genoveva are still present, but another blacksmith has taken Richter's place, 55-year-old Frank Resmaier from Prussia, and a 13-year old servant girl from Bavaria. Blacksmith Resmaier, and blacksmith Richter before him, were perhaps partners in the Wells blacksmith business. This is borne out, at least with Resmaier, for in August 1860 Wells transfers the property to Resmaier, who immediately transfers it into the name of Ferdinand's wife, Genoveva (Jane) Wells. With the property buildings and blacksmith tools were included.

Ferdinand Wells died in Feb. 1863 and widow Genoveva remarried about a year later to Jacob Bueche, who was born on July 25, 1828 in Baden in the German States. Bueche seems not to have followed the blacksmith trade, or at least not for long. A *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper item of Oct. 1867 wrote that Bueche was refitting his old wagon shop across from C. J. Lindgren's to make a new business out of it. By the 1870 U. S. Census Bueche is called a farmer and saloonkeeper, the property at 416 Broadway probably being converted to a saloon by that time. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 Jacob Bueche was advertised as a saloon proprietor. Genoveva likely took an active part in the saloon business while Jacob was engaged in farming activities, though he might have hired much of that work out. Sometime between 1864 and 1881 Jacob and Genoveva came to own several more lots behind 416 and 420 Broadway, these located along either side of Spring Creek. Behind 416 Broadway, at least as late as 1894, was an enormous stable, which may have served the

saloon, and perhaps also Peter Butendorf's saloon a couple of doors away at 404 Broadway.

Jacob and Genoveva had at least one servant girl who probably helped out at the house, and perhaps with cleaning the saloon after hours. A certain 20-year old servant, Mary, is listed as living with them at the 1870 U. S. Census. On Saturday, Sept. 8, 1869 Jacob and Genoveva Bueche had an adopted child who died in 1869 and was buried in the old St. Nicholas (St. Nikolas) Cemetery, located along today's Jonathan Carver Parkway. This was the first burial in that cemetery. On Saturday, Sept. 8, 1869 came out of his residence and into the saloon and heard an unusual noise in the place. Going around the counter he discovered a 6-week old infant boy, along with a note that the Bueches take care of him and get him baptised. Jacob and Genoveva Bueche probably adopted two other children, for the 1880 U. S. Census shows Emma, age 5 (the daughter of a Frank Erickson), and a son Robert (Haas?), age 13, both living with the Bueches. The 1880 Bueche household also lists a servant, Genoveva Ohnsorg, age 21, who undoubtedly is the daughter of Sebastian Ohnsorg, and quite possibly the elder Genoveva's niece, bearing the same name as her maiden name. Sebastian Ohnsorg owned property nearby on the southwest corner of Broadway and Fourth Street West during the 1860s. In the 1878-1879 *Minnesota Gazeteer* for Carver, Jacob Buesche is advertised as a saloon owner. And an 1880 Carver County map has Jacob and owning a 25-acre parcel of farmland a short distance to the west of Carver. Jacob Bueche died on August 24, 1881.

In July 1882 widow Genoveva married for the third time to Peter Kimmel and the couple made their home in Carver, probably next door at 420 Broadway. Peter Kimmel had a 200-acre farm outside of Carver, this perhaps some of the same farmland worked by Peter Bueche. Peter Kimmel, a kind but impulsive man, died at age 54 on Nov. 3, 1887 and Genoveva was widowed for a third time. In January 1889 Genoveva traded the 200-acre farm plus \$500 to Christian Krentzian for a substantial two-story frame house in Chaska. She retained 416 and 420 Broadway as rental properties to supplement her income. By 1900 she was again living in Carver, this time at the Central Hotel on Broadway, which was owned by Richard J. Neunsinger and his wife Emma, who was Genoveva's adopted daughter. In 1903 Genoveva transferred 416 and 420 Broadway, as well as five other large lots behind the properties abutting Spring Creek, to her adopted daughter Emma, with the understanding that Genoveva would receive the rents from them for the rest of her natural life.

**420 Broadway, Genoveva Kimmel House.** Frame-built and clapboard-sided about 1870 in an L-plan, the house was probably erected in two phases. The first phase was probably the taller 1 1/2-story portion with its gable end facing the street. The window symmetry and gable angle are somewhat Greek Revival in style. The lower-roofed addition parallel to the street was probably built shortly after, and does not have a full second story. Only in the taller wing is a small basement or root cellar, this located along the north wall. Two additions at the rear are marked by vertical trim boards, the first attached to the old house, then further back a garage attached to the addition. As recently as the late 1960s household water needs were met by a cistern fitted with an electric pump. An outhouse served for toilet facilities. Already by 1894 the house had the much of the present street-

side appearance, though an extension and addition was later put on the rear and there was an open porch in the angles of the ell.

Genoveva Kimmel was born Genofeva Ohnesorg on Jan. 1, 1831 in Bavaria in the German States. Over the years her names have been spelled in a variety of ways. Genoveva has been spelled Genevieve, Genofeva, Genofefa, Feva, even Jane. Ohnesorg has been variously spelled Ohnesarh, Ohnsorg, Ohnesorgh, and there were probably other spellings. She was probably a close relative of Sebastian Ohnsorg, an early Carver settler, perhaps even his sister. She was already in St. Paul in the Minnesota Territory when on Oct. 27, 1854 she married Ferdinand Wells (Wels), who was born about 1820-1823 in Prussia in the German States. In September 1857 Ferdinand and Genoveva purchased the property in Carver which today holds the structures at 416 and 420 Broadway. Because of the high purchase price of \$450, seller Joseph Peitz, later a sawmill owner in Waconia, Minnesota must have already erected some sort of building(s) or structure(s) on the property, perhaps with thoughts of having a saw mill powered by Spring Creek. The earliest surviving building is probably that located next door at 416 Broadway. By August 1860 the lots clearly held at least two buildings, at least one of which was certainly a blacksmith shop with tools, the other perhaps a dwelling house. The 1860 U. S. Census for Carver shows that Ferdinand Wells was a blacksmith and that another blacksmith, 55-year old Frank Resmaier from Prussia, and a 13-year old servant girl from Bavaria were living with Frank and Genoveva. Resmaier was perhaps as a business partner of Wells.

Ferdinand Wells died in Feb. 1863 and widow Genoveva remarried about a year later to Jacob Bueche, who was born on July 25, 1828 in Baden in the German States, the son of Joseph and Francy Bueche. Jacob Bueche seems not to have followed the blacksmith trade, or at least not for long, for by the 1870 U. S. Census he is given as a farmer and saloon keeper, the property fronting right on the street next door at 416 Broadway probably being converted to a saloon. Genoveva likely took an active part in the saloon business while Jacob was engaged in farming activities, though he might have hired much of that work out. Sometime between 1864 and 1881 Jacob and Genoveva came to own parts of several more lots behind 416 and 420 Broadway, these located along either side of Spring Creek. Jacob and Genoveva had at least one servant girl who probably helped out at the house and perhaps with cleaning the saloon after hours. A certain 20-year old servant, Mary, is listed as living with them at the 1870 U. S. Census. Jacob and Genoveva had an adopted child who died in 1869 and was buried in the old St. Nicholas (St. Nikolas) Cemetery, located along today's Jonathan Carver Parkway. This was the first burial in that cemetery. Jacob Bueche and Genoveva probably adopted two other children after that, for the 1880 U. S. Census shows Emma, age 5 (the daughter of a Frank Erickson), and a son Robert (Haas?), age 13. The 1880 household also lists a servant, Genoveva Ohnsorg, age 21, who undoubtedly is the daughter of Sebastian Ohnsorg, and quite possibly the elder Genoveva's niece, bearing the same name as her maiden name. In the 1873 and 1878 In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for Carver Jacob Bueche is shown as a saloon owner. An 1880 Carver County map has Jacob Bueche owning a 25-acre parcel of farmland as short distance to the west of Carver. In 1880 Jacob was listed among Carver County's highest taxpayers in the

*Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper. Jacob Bueche died in Carver of cholera on August 24, 1881.

In July 1882 widow Genoveva married for the third time to Peter Kimmel and the couple made their home in Carver, probably in this house. Peter Kimmel had a 200-acre farm outside of Carver, this perhaps the same farm worked by Jacob Bueche. Peter Kimmel, a kind but impulsive man, died at age 54 on Nov. 3, 1887. In January 1889 Genoveva traded the 200-acre farm plus \$500 to Christian Krentzian for a substantial two-story frame house in Chaska. She retained 420 Broadway as a rental house to supplement her income. By 1900 she was again living in Carver, this time at the Central Hotel on Broadway, which was owned by Richard J. Neunsinger and his wife Emma, who was Genoveva's adopted daughter. In 1903 Genoveva transferred 416 and 420 Broadway, as well as five other large lots behind the properties abutting Spring Creek, to her adopted daughter Emma, with the understanding that Genoveva would receive the rents from them for the rest of her life.

Genoveva Kimmel was a great benefactor to the St. Nicholas Catholic Church Parish in Carver. Her large donations to the church funded the church's large bell tower, built about 1880, its two side altars, installed probably in memorial to her in Oct. 1905, and its Stations of the Cross artwork. A large memorial stained glass window bearing her name is on the north side of the church. Genoveva died on Oct. 6, 1905 and is buried in the new St. Nicholas Catholic Cemetery under one of the cemetery's largest monuments. Next to her under another large monument lies her second husband, Jacob Bueche. Her first and third husbands are also buried nearby.

The house remained in the Neunsinger family until 1967 and was occupied for many years by Emma Neunsinger's son, George Neunsinger. On April 2, 1946 George Neunsinger and his friend Scott Hartley, who lived at 100 Broadway in Carver, were in a boat on the Minnesota River between Carver and Chaska when they discovered a floating suitcase holding the remains of three murdered and mummified infant boys, each strangled and wrapped in Minneapolis newspapers from different years. The murdered infants were never identified and their murders never solved.

#### **421 Broadway, Charles Dauwalter Blacksmith and Wagon Making Shop.**

Constructed about 1880 in local buff-colored brick, the building likely is situated on the site of an earlier blacksmith shop owned by the Dauwalter family. It was built by Charles D. Dauwalter Sr., who had a home at 116 Fourth Street West in Carver, and whose son Charles L. Dauwalter lived next door to the south of the blacksmith shop at 413 Broadway. The two-story building was constructed to serve as a blacksmith shop on the lower level and a wagon-making shop on the second story. Charles D. Dauwalter was born in Baden in the German States in 1833 and came to America in 1850. He lived for 5 years at Sandusky, Erie County, Ohio, where he learned the blacksmith trade. In 1857 he relocated to Carver where he worked for 3 years as a journeyman blacksmith for John Bloedel. In 1860 he returned to Ohio, married Elisabeth Lull (born in 1839) in 1861, and then returned to Carver where he entered the blacksmith business for himself. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865, 1872, and 1873 Charles D.

Dauwalter is advertised as a blacksmith. In 1880 Charles Dauwalter was listed among Carver County's highest taxpayers in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper.

The facility evolved into Buick automobile dealership in 1913 by Charles D. Dauwalter's son, Charles L. Dauwalter and his sons Charles E., Geoffrey, and Donald Dauwalter. The dealership's first garage was in the wagonmaking shop above the blacksmith shop and was served by a ramp at the rear. In 1918 the dealership garage was expanded with the addition of the large quonset-roofed building attached to the north side of the original building. Block for the addition came from Carlson Brothers, an East Union firm. At some point before 1928 the original brick building was covered in stucco, and sometime later its quonset addition was likewise covered. In the early years the Dauwalters sold Buicks subbed from the Pat Donovan dealership in Belle Plaine. In 1923 they added Chevrolet, subbing from the Henry Kohls dealership. Early on they also sold automobiles from the Hudson, Elgin, Kutting, and Cole automobile companies. Because automobiles were so new, part of the dealership's business was teaching buyers how to drive an automobile. By the 1920s the firm was called the Dauwalter Automotive and Farm Service Company and they continued to run the blacksmith shop and wagon-making concern at least through 1928. In 1925 the automobile business really took off as a Buick and Chevrolet dealership, selling cars and accessories, as well as doing repairs. The Dauwalter firm was the first automobile distributorship in Carver, and one of the first dealerships in Carver County. New cars were delivered to the dealership by rail on the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad. The Dauwalter dealership provided the Carver Fire Department with a 1927 General Motors fire truck, which has been restored and survives to the present.

In 1938 the Dauwalters bought out Williams Chevrolet in Chaska and then operated in both Carver and Chaska as a Buick and Chevrolet dealership. Former Carver mayor John Lenzen started as a salesman for the company and ended up owning it as Lenzen Buick Chevrolet in Chaska. From the early years to the 1940s the Dauwalters had a street side island with a hand operated fuel pumps for public consumption.

**100 Fifth Street West, Muehlberg-Kult House.** Built about 1865 on a lot at the northwest corner of Fifth Street West and Broadway that was once owned by Alexander and Anna Ramsey. Alexander Ramsey was the first Governor of the Minnesota Territory and later Governor of the State of Minnesota. In August 1865 the lot was sold to Hermann and Clara Muehlberg, who then took out a mortgage, probably to build the oldest portion of the house, which fronted closest to Fifth Street with its gables alligned east-west. Later a small addition that was probably faced in brick, and which survived at least until 1894, was added to the north side of the house. Some time between 1911 and 1928 that addition was replaced by a much larger frame addition. The non-historic double window west of the doorway and facing Broadway was probably installed in the 1970s and replaced a historical window that was sized like those on the second floor.

Hermann Muehlberg was born on May 3, 1833 in Gross Floethe, Hannover in the German States and formally named Franz Otto Hermann Ehrenfreid Muehlberg. He was the son of Gross Floethe merchant Frederick Muehlberg and his wife Clara (Schroeter).

Hermann immigrated to America with his parents in 1846, settling first in St. Louis, Missouri, where Hermann learned the printing trade. Hermann moved to Dubuque, Iowa in 1851 and while there in 1854 married Clara Freese, who was born in Prussia in the German States in September 1834. The Muehlbergs moved to Carver in June 1856 and Hermann clerked in a Carver store until 1860 when they moved to a farm in Waconia in Carver County where Hermann was doing work as a surveyor and where he taught school briefly in 1861-1862 until leaving to serve the Union in the Civil War.

On Feb. 19, 1862 Herman Muehlberg enlisted as a private in Company E of the Fifth Minnesota Infantry Regiment where he quickly advanced to sergeant on April 2 and to sergeant-major on April 30 of the same year. On May 4, 1863 he was moved to Company D of his regiment and made 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant, and then two days later advanced to captain of the company. He took part in many actions of the Civil War, including at Vicksburg and Nashville before was discharged in July 1865 while in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. The following month he was back in Carver making a home and again taking up the surveying trade. About this time the Carver County Board approved work on a road connecting North Broadway in Carver with Waconia, and in 1865 Muehlberg was given the task to survey the primitive road for upgrading into a county road. Later the road became the Carver and Waconia Road, and then Carver County Road #147. Today it is known to Carver locals as Snake Road and as a hiking/biking trail.

Shortly after the sale of the house the Muehlbergs seem to have moved to Wisconsin where Hermann likely resumed surveying work. In March 1878 Hermann Muehlberg became partner and editor of the *Pionier am Wisconsin*, a German Republican newspaper published in Sauk City, Wisconsin. On Jan. 1, 1881 the Muehlbergs returned to Carver where Herman owned and edited the *Carver Free Press* newspaper. In 1884 they purchased the property at 121 Fourth Street East in Carver where the newspaper was to be published until 1897.

Hermann Muehlberg was elected Carver County Surveyor in 1883 and again in 1888 and served as Chairman of the Carver County Board for two terms, as well as holding some town offices. In 1892 he ran unsuccessfully for the Minnesota State Legislature. On Feb. 1, 1893 Herman Muehlberg was appointed Adjutant General of the State of Minnesota by Gov. Knute Nelson and moved to St. Paul during his tenure. As Adjutant General Muehlberg was the highest ranking military officer in the state and de facto commander in Minnesota under the Governor. Hermann held the post from 1893-1899, and after his tenure the Muehlbergs returned to Carver. Muehlberg organized three posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in Carver County, and he was instrumental in getting the Waconia soldier's monument installed in Waconia, the first such monument in Minnesota. Hermann and Clara Muehlberg are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery, Herman dying in 1911, Clara in 1909

The Muehlbergs owned 100 Fifth Street East for a little more than a year, selling it for a profit in 1866 to Stephen and Margareta Kult, who on the same date purchased the lot next door to the west from John Herkelrath, who may have needed the extra money for

his own house and blacksmith shop fronting Carver's main street a few doors away at 408 Broadway.

Stephen Kult was born in Hamburg or Württemberg in the German States about 1830. Already at the 1857 special U. S. Census for the Minnesota Territory Kult is found living in Carver, his given occupation a shoemaker. Three years later at the 1860 U. S. Census for Carver he is shown as a tailor, and married to Margareta, who was born about 1834 in Hesse in the German States, probably the daughter of George Herdt who died in 1871. Kult is named on the Pole Tax list of eligible voters in Carver for the years 1863-64. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 Stephen Kult is advertised as a saloon operator, though the location of his establishment is not given. In 1864 Kult acquired land at 120 Broadway in Carver where he erected a large brick building, eventually opening a dry goods and grocery store. In May 1870 Kult's store was destroyed by fire, but by October 1871 he had rebuilt and opened a new clothing store on the site. The Kults sold the clothing store to Carver businessman Enoch Holmes in 1874. The following year, in 1875, they sold the house at 100 Fifth Street to blacksmith Albert Dennin, and his wife Carolina, who were both born in Prussia in the German States about 1842-1843. The Kults then moved to St. Paul and in 1897 Stephen Kult was still living in the St. Paul area.

Perhaps finding too many blacksmiths in Carver, the Dennins owned the house for only a year before selling it in 1876 to Dorothea Hartung and moving to Benton Township in Carver County where Albert opened a blacksmith shop next to the Kronschnabel mill. The house would remain in the ownership of the Hartung family and heirs for more than 50 years.

**121 Sixth Street West, Carver Cottage.** Built about 1860 on a branch of Spring Creek, it is one of Carver's earliest homesteads. The oldest section was rubble-built of Merriam red rock, with just enough crude local brick to support the corners and frame the windows. Later in the 1860s an addition was constructed with higher ceilings, built in Carver buff-colored brick and probably constructed by brickmason Henry Pintz who owned the house from about 1867 to 1887. The house is the quintessential Carver cottage, built in the T plan. The house features original shutters, deep windowsills, log beams and a basement kitchen that provided heat in the upstairs during winter. When the circus came to Carver tents were set up on the property next door to the east of Carver Cottage. A gas plant operated to the west of the Carver Cottage barn, a barn which also seems to date from a very early Carver period.

Precisely when Carver Cottage was built and who built it is not clear, but a part of it may well have had some connection to a steam sawmill shown on the 1857 plat map for Carver in the Minnesota Territory. That sawmill was located about 100 feet to the east and south of Carver Cottage on Lot 4. Carver Cottage sits on Lot 6 in Block 54 of Carver. The primary owner of Block 54 and the sawmill in the 1850s seems to have been Joseph Peitz, an immigrant from Prussia in the German States, who at the 1860 U. S. Census for was cited as a mill proprietor, then living in Waconia, to where he had probably relocated the sawmill.

Joseph Peitz died in the early 1860s, and in 1863 all of Block 54, including the Carver Cottage property and other land was sold to Michael Hall via the heirs of Peitz. Hall's interest in the land purchase likely was in other parts of the tract that were located on either side of Spring Creek in Blocks 65 and 66 north of Sixth Street, where a brewery would be built. In 1864 Michael Hall divided the larger tract of land and sold the Carver Cottage property to Francis and Carolina Baumann, who in turn sold it to Henry and Rosalia Pintz. In the 1870s the J. M. Nye Brickyard occupied a large tract of land immediately to the east and southeast of Carver Cottage. Undoubtedly bricklayer Henry Pintz acquired much of his brick next door, and perhaps played a role in the discovery of its clay deposits or the founding of the brickyard there.

Henry and Rosalia Pintz seem to have taken possession of Carver Cottage about 1867 and registered title to it in 1869. Henry William Pintz was born in Pomerania in the German States on May 23, 1841, the son of Wilhelm Heinrich Pintz and Anna Nitz. Henry Pintz took training in the German States as an apprentice bricklayer before immigrating to America about 1865. His wife, Rosalia Marie Elizabeth Peterman, was born on Sept. 14, 1844 in a covered wagon traveling west from Buffalo, New York. Rosalia was the daughter of Prussian emigrants from the German states, Johan Christopher Peterman and Karoline Dorothea Koeller. Henry and Rosalia married on Feb. 22, 1867 at Kirchhayn, Washington County, Wisconsin and made their way to Minnesota. They farmed for a short period near Waconia before moving to Carver, where bricks were being made, and where Henry could put his brickmason skills to work. He sent money to his nephew, Charles Klatt, born about 1859 in Prussia, so that he could come to live with the Pintz family in Carver and be his apprentice in the mason trade. It is written that when Klatt went to Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver, to which the Pintz family belonged, that he put his last three cents into the collection plate in thanks for his new home, his new job, and his safe arrival. Later, after Klatt married, he continued to live in Carver as a mason.

Henry Pintz worked on many bricklaying projects in Carver and surrounding areas, and it is likely that his handiwork was involved in many or all of the caves associated with the Hertz Brewery in Carver. He built many of the in-street intersection cisterns needed to hold water for the Carver Fire Department, as well as building houses, plastering walls, building foundations, home cisterns, and a large chimney on the Waconia Creamery. He walked from Carver to Stillwater to work on the old Stillwater State Prison, carrying his tools all the way in a backpack. It is known that Henry Pintz did plastering work, basement brick work, kitchen brick facing, built a chimney, and built a cistern on the Andrew Peterson farmhouse in Scandia (now Waconia). Andrew Peterson's diaries were the framework for Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg's three books, which were made into the film *The Immigrants*. In later years, while 60 years old and living in St. Paul, Pintz laid the complicated corners of the Minnesota State Capitol Building.

In 1887 the Henry and Rosalia Pintz left Carver with their six living children to move to St. Paul, Minnesota, where in 1890 and 1891 they were living at 185 Edmund Street, and in 1912 on Thomas Avenue. Two daughters died young in 1870 and 1871 and are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery. Later the family made boat excursions back to visit

Carver. One of the Pintz daughters, Minnie Emilie, born Sept. 24, 1873, related remembering that the James Brothers of Sept. 7, 1876 Northfield Bank robbery fame once rode their horses along Spring Creek behind Carver Cottage. But since she would have been not quite three years old at the time of the fateful robbery, this memory is questionable. Rosalia Pintz died in 1919 and Henry Pintz died in 1924.

In 1887 Henry and Rosali Pintz sold Carver Cottage to widow Caroline Bandimere, who later with her son Albert F. Bandimere would own and live in the property until 1902-1903. Albert F. Bandimere was born July 16, 1866 and at age 10 moved to Carver after his father died, moving there with his mother and brother William. Albert apprenticed with a Carver harness and saddle maker, later buying his own harness shop in Chaska from Philip Henk. In 1890 Albert Bandimere returned to Carver and started a harness shop in town, probably at 304 Broadway in Carver, purchasing the business and stock of goods from harnessmaker Albert Muehlberg, who was going out of business. In 1894 Albert Bandimere married Bertha Kloos, who was born July 17, 1869, the daughter of a prosperous Dahlgren township farmer and the couple made their home in Carver Cottage.

Albert Bandimere served in the Carver Band, served as a Carver councilman, and served for eight years as the Carver Village Marshall. In 1902 he purchased a large farm across Sixth Street West from Carver Cottage that also straddled Broadway. The Hertz Brewery once sat on part of that farm on the east side of Broadway, being destroyed by a fire in 1889 that was witnessed by his brother, William Bandimere. Albert Bandimere built a farmhouse around the corner on the foundations of the old Hertz Brewery at 617 Broadway and went into the dairy business in Carver for many years. He was very involved in the Farmer's Cooperative Carver Creamery, which once sat on the north side of Broadway between Fifth and Sixth Streets, managing it, driving a cheese wagon around the countryside, and even signing out stock certificates. It may well be that he used the large brick brewery cave on the farm on the west side of Spring Creek as a cheese aging cave. Perhaps he also used one or more brick caves that once stood near 617 Broadway and the old Hertz Brewery site. In 1916 Albert Bandimere moved to Belle Plaine in Scott County where he was one of the founders of the Farmer's Cooperative Creamery. In 1923 he purchased a farm near Buffalo in Wright County, Minnesota, where he lived until 1927 before moving to Lamberton, in Redwood County, Minnesota. In 1934 he moved to the farm of his daughter Mabel Bandimere Quast and his son-in-law Emil H. Quast near Brownton in McLeod County, Minnesota. Albert Bandimere died there on Mar. 23, 1935. He and his wife Bertha are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

With the purchase of the dairy farm the Bandimeres in 1903 sold Carver Cottage to Andrew and Anna Johnson. It passed via probate proceedings to the Verkennes family in 1914, who would own it until the late 1950s or early 1960s.

In dismal condition with no electricity or running water, Carver Cottage was acquired at auction in 1965 after a tree had fallen on the roof. Edith Herman carried out restoration work, some of which was done by noted area American Indian artifact collector Arlo Hasse. Herman went on to restore and save several other threatened Carver homes and

formed and headed Carver-on-the-Minnesota, Incorporated, a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of Carver. For a time in the late 1960s and early 1970s the kitchen of Carver Cottage served as the headquarters of Carver-on-the-Minnesota. Edith Herman was one of the cofounders of Carver's Steamboat Days and a driving force in the creation of the Carver Historic District, its placement on the National Register of Historic Places, and fostered the creation of the first design guidelines for historic preservation in Carver, as well as laid the framework for what would become the Historic District Ordinance and Carver's Heritage Preservation Commission.

John Alder, who was born in Switzerland and served as Mayor of Carver in the late 1940s-early 1950s, once lived in the house.

## **Also in Carver**

**Carver City Hall.** Carver's present city hall in the southwest corner of Broadway and Fourth Street West was built on the former site of the Central Hotel, also known as the Neunsinger Hotel. The new city hall was built with Carver labor, including that of Carver Mayor Elmer Kraemer, who led the project, and was supported with funds by the Carver Lions, who later generously paid off the mortgage. The new city hall was dedicated with a ceremony and open house on Sunday, June 9, 1957. Senator John Metcalf appeared for a dedication address and John "Bud" Fahey served as Master of Ceremonies. The U. S. Colors were presented, and the ceremony included music and tours of the gymnasium, kitchen, and dining room.

Besides containing the city administrative offices, the city hall has been rented out for weddings, parties, dances, concerts, art shows, flea markets, and antique shows. It has hosted numerous pancake breakfasts, chili feeds, steak dinners, senior citizen events, Lions Club events, gymnasium sports events, and much more.

In March 1978 the film crew of the movie *Ice Castles* rented the Carver City Hall for six days at \$10 per day while filming was taking place in the Carver area, most notably at a farmhouse on Carver County Road #40 between Carver and East Union. Meals were catered in for the film crew, who worked for Columbia Pictures. Starring in the film were Robby Benson, Lynn-Holly Johnson, Colleen Dewhurst, and Tom Skerritt.

**Carver's Riverside Park, Main Street, East End.** Located along the Minnesota River, Carver's Riverside Park was long vital to the social, cultural, commercial, political, and agricultural vitality of all of Carver County, as well as of surrounding counties. Beginning about 1860 immigrants from Sweden imported a tradition from the old country and began holding a market day in Carver on the last Saturday of every month. Soon immigrants from other countries joined in. Town merchants and farmers from surrounding areas plied their wares, handicrafts, stock, and produce, very often in the early years using the barter system owing to a shortage of coin and currency on the frontier after the Panic of 1857 and during the Civil War years. These fairs undoubtedly

played a role in the creation of a county-wide fair, and once one was initiated, the market day usually coincided with the fair. The Carver County Agricultural Society gave birth to the Carver County Fair on July 20, 1868 and Carver's Riverside Park hosted its first Carver County Fair on October 8, 1869, then a one-day affair. For its 1869 fair Carver permitted use of its nearby town hall, installed fencing, and created a half-mile long horseracing track. An 1870 Agricultural Society meeting decided that the Carver County Fair should be held every year at Carver. The following year the fair was expanded to two days and was held at Riverside Park on September 29-30, 1871. After a 3-year hiatus in Chaska the fair returned to Carver and evolved into a three-day event after the Village of Carver built a half-mile long horse track, granted use of a hall and sheds, and contracted payments to the Agricultural Society of \$100 per year over the next 5 years. With the exception of the years 1884-1886 every Carver County Fair was held at Carver's Riverside Park until 1925, after which it began alternating with Waconia. As late as 1932 Carver hosted the Carver County Fair at Riverside Park. During those years in Carver, Riverside Park was furnished with barns, sheds, fences, food kiosks, and in the 1890s, with a splendid Victorian pavilion. In 1911 Waconia residents thought the Carver County Fair should be more centrally located in the county and created their own Carver County Agricultural Society, with another Carver County Fair in Waconia. Carver took the case to court and won, but Waconia continued to run a second Carver County Fair. Sometimes both fairs were advertised in the same newspapers, with Carver calling theirs the first and the original fair. When Carver finally gave up hosting the fair at Riverside Park some of its buildings were relocated to the Waconia Fairgrounds. Of those, the Ozzie's Deli building and the Waconia Lions Club building are the only Riverside Park buildings yet surviving. The balance of the Riverside Park fair buildings were sold to Fred and George Hebeisen and moved to their Dahlgren farm along County Road # 43 in Carver County, where they were converted to farm buildings.

The Carver County Fairs at Riverside Park were the great threads that sewed the fabric of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century area society together, fostering advancement in almost every area of local civilization. County fairs allowed citizens to meet and talk to political candidates in the era before the telephone, radio, and televisions, and computers. The latest agricultural implements were demonstrated, the newest farming techniques were showcased, the best breeding stocks were displayed, and new strains of produce were shared. Already by 1911 the fair featured a motorized carousel and a Ferris wheel. Every latest advancement to early area life was featured here: parlor stoves, ice boxes, sewing machines, high wheel bicycles, motorcycles, automobiles, cooking stoves, well pumps, sinks, plows, steam threshers, buggies, wagons, harnesses, blacksmith work, quilts, bakery, preserves, livestock, music, phonographs, then telephones and radios. It was at Riverside Park where townspeople, farmers, merchants, steamboaters, railroaders, and public officials all gathered to share the latest ideas.

**Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad Bridge over the Minnesota River.** In 1870 the Minneapolis-St. Paul Railroad made plans to build a bridge around 700 feet long across the Minnesota River at Carver to access planned rail destinations to the south. In January 1871 a contract for building the railroad bridge over the Minnesota River at Carver was let out, with expected completion by July 1871 at a cost of about \$40,000, with most of

the stone for the bridge being obtained by 10-15 teams from a Louisville Township quarry in Scott County across the river from Carver.

In March 1871 a river barge was built and work began on driving pilings for the bridge across the Minnesota River. In August 1871 the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad bridge over the Minnesota River at Carver was estimated to be three weeks from completion. Langdon & Co. was doing all the work, and by August 31 the south pier was finished, the center pier was about half completed, and work on the north pier had just started. In October 1871 T. B. Boomer still had a crew of 40 men working on the railroad bridge crossing the Minnesota River at Carver.

In October 1871 the Carver merchants were having trouble keeping up with all the business generated by some 500 workmen building the bridge and laying railroad track in the area. Every hotel and private boarding house was filled to overflowing, with a vacancy nowhere to be found. On November 4, 1871 a large group of people gathered to see the swing gate of the new bridge swung into place. The swing gate could be mechanically opened to allow steamboats and tall barges to pass under the bridge, after which it would be closed again for railroad traffic. The Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad at Carver had a pair wooden truss spans on each end of the bridge and its swing span, made of wood, in the center. The swing span used a center pin design, and was built as a single truss with a curved arch top. Later bridge swing spans were built as double truss spans connecting at a pivot point. The swing span was opened and closed manually with a crank mechanism. The crank required a gateman to be on duty for required openings. As a young man John Elroy Hebeisen (1886-1973), who lived in the Gables at 201 4<sup>th</sup> Street East in Carver, was the last gateman on the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway's old swing bridge over the Minnesota River.

In late October 1916, as the United States' entry into World War I was becoming more imminent, officials from the U. S. War Department, looking at U. S. infrastructure, met with the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway to discuss the condition of the Minnesota River crossing bridge at Carver. A few years earlier the bridge was deemed unsafe, and it was decided that the swing bridge that once allowed steamboats to pass was no longer necessary. Permission was granted to build a new flat bridge over the Minnesota River at the existing location, tearing down the old wooden swing bridge. With the U. S. officially entered into World War I, in September 1917 a crew of 75 men began tearing down the old bridge, while saving some of the solid stone piers for use in the new bridge. In November 1917 a \$15,000 contract was let for the steel for the bridge. The new bridge would continue to have trestle framing at the bridge ends.

From the beginning to the present pedestrians (often illegally) have walked the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad to cross the Minnesota River. Sometimes it was to shop, sometimes to fish, sometimes to hunt, sometimes for the view, sometimes to visit the fair or a Carver saloon, and sometimes just to do it. Always there were risks that an oncoming train would catch pedestrians too near the middle, or that a walker would trip in an opening between the railroad ties, or lose balance and fall into the river. Special emergency sidesteps were placed as escapes when trains passed, but the bridge was never intended as a pedestrian byway.

On Friday, June 19, 1931 Norwegian native John (Johannes) Anderson (1884-1931) was crossing the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway bridge over the Minnesota River, on his way home after walking to Carver to pick up some groceries. When he reached the center of the bridge a train approached and he was unable to make use of one of the footholds alongside the bridge and was struck and thrown to the base of the center pier, dying instantly. He is buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

On December 20, 1986 Cindy Mae Kechely, age 25, went for a walk in Carver while visiting her parents' home on Main Street West and was never seen again alive. Massive police and volunteer searches were made around Carver and the Minnesota River with no success. On May 23 the following year her body was found in the Minnesota River near Chaska. Speculation at the time was that she had been murdered, was a suicide, or died accidentally, perhaps falling while walking on the railroad bridge over the Minnesota River at Carver. Her death was later ruled accidental.

Over the years the upstream side of the bridge often collected deadfall trees and driftwood, both against the bridge, and on a sand and rock bar created by an old railroad pier that probably once supported the open swing gate. The pier's foundation was rock and was shaped to a point on the upriver side to divert debris and keep it from hitting the bridge. Over time the pier deteriorated and dropped into the river floor. Sand and silt collected around it, and deadfall trees became trapped on it. More sand collected, more trees caught on it, and over the years it became a large island topped and interspersed with deadfalls. Early on the railroads did a good job clearing out the deadfalls with a crane, arriving at the bridge while the river was at flood crest. But in later years other busier bridges had more priority, and by the time the railroad's crane arrived at Carver the high water had usually crested and the crane could only reach trees and brush collected on and near the bridge. Unreached were most deadfall trees and logs trapped a little further upriver on the mid-river sandbar.

Sometimes the artificially-created sand bar captured more than trees. On Wednesday, July 19, 2006 a railroad worker aboard a train crossing the bridge called 911 to report that he had seen a skull in the debris pile below the bridge. The Carver Fire Department searched the area for the skull, but found only a rock that looked like a skull. The following night the same railroad worker was recrossing the bridge by train when he again spotted the skull, though this time a different area than had been searched. Again the authorities were called, and this time a skull was found. Later it was identified as that of Glen Hein, age 44, from Jordan, Minnesota who had been missing since Jan. 1, 2006. Weeks later in 2006 a headless skeleton was found by someone climbing on the same deadfall pile at the bridge. It was subsequently matched to Hein's skull. Hein reportedly had been depressed and often walked near the river at Jordan.

Almost seven years earlier, on Aug. 11, 1998, Jake Anderson of Main Street East in Carver was playing with a friend near Carver Creek where it empties into the Minnesota River when he slipped into the rain-swollen river and was swept away by the current toward the river crossing bridge, never to be seen again. The Carver Fire Department and

Carver County Sheriff's Office searched extensively, including in as much of the deadfall dam as they could reach. More than one Carver Fire Fighter believes that Jake may yet be in the bridge's debris pile. Attached to the west side of the railroad bridge facing the pile of deadfalls is a metal plaque, which reads: *Jake E. Anderson, 7-19-89, 8-11-98, We miss you.*

The consequence of the perpetual island of deadfalls was that the Minnesota River often became impassable just above the bridge. Moreover blocks of floating spring and winter ice often became trapped at the bridge, creating a dam that collected more and more ice blocks. During some yearly spring thaws the Minnesota River would be wide open all the way downstream to Fort Snelling, while being dammed and iced up from the bridge upstream and southward. As a consequence, when the ice finally breaks loose it puts tremendous pressure on the bridge, and on a smaller bridge upstream. This seems to be what happened in March 2007, with consequences that would lead to the vacation of the entire rail spur from Louisville Township, through Carver, and into Chaska, including the river crossing bridge at Carver.

On Friday, March 23, 2007 a Union Pacific Railroad train of 23 cars met with an accident when a 150-foot bridge located about a mile south of Carver collapsed. That bridge was connected by track to the river crossing bridge at Carver. Six of the railcars were derailed, with three containing liquid sugar spilling into the Minnesota River. A few days earlier a huge ice-out event (as described above) had occurred that undoubtedly weakened the bridge with huge blocks of ice, trees, and debris all going out at once, like a dam bursting. This same event probably twisted one of the southerly piers on the river crossing bridge as well.

Union Pacific decided the rail spur was not profitable enough to rebuild the smaller bridge and to repair the larger river crossing bridge. The railroad started abandonment proceedings on those portions of the spur in Louisville in Scott County and in Carver and Chaska in Carver County. Because of sale versus abandonment issues, and because the river crossing bridge has been determined to be eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places, the abandonment process has been protracted. As of September 2010 the process had not been completed and may run on into 2011. If such abandonment comes to happen the bridge will undoubtedly be torn down and salvaged. The Carver Heritage Preservation Commission and the City of Carver have expressed the desire that if the bridge is torn down that the original 1871 stone piers on the north side of the river be saved where they cross the Main Street East entrance to Carver's Riverside Park.

Sadly, on Wednesday, July 1, 1914 these stone piers were the site of what was perhaps the first fatal automobile accident in Carver. Eight-year old Clive Meyer was struck by a speeding Buick Six automobile while he and a friend, Leone Neunsinger, were walking into Riverside Park's picnic area in Carver. As the children passed under the railroad trestle two cars raced out of the park at high rates of speed. As the front car slowed, the second car struck it, pushing it into one of the stone piers, crushing young Clive Meyer

against it, and trapping Leone underneath one of the cars. Leone Neunsinger survived, but Clive Meyer of 108 Fourth Street West in Carver, did not.

**Mount Hope Cemetery.** The land for the non-denominational public Mount Hope Cemetery was purchased and broken off from Frederick Greiner's farm in 1863 and surveyed by Carver resident John O. Brunius. The cemetery is located in Carver on Mount Hope Road, north of the historic downtown and south of Carver County Road #61. Greiner served terms as Carver County Sheriff and as Carver County Registrar of Deeds. In 1863 a "Paupers Row" was set up along the back fence of the cemetery for those with families unable to pay for a burial plot, or those with no known relatives.

The first known death in Carver occurred in the summer of 1855 when an unidentified man was knocked into the Minnesota River from the steamboat *Equator*. Carver County Sheriff Levi Griffin said a few words at the man's funeral. Ironically the second known death in Carver was that of Levi Griffin's two-year old daughter Angelette Alberta, who died later that summer on Aug. 16, 1855. Both Angelette and the unknown man were buried at an unknown location and later reburied in Mount Hope Cemetery, the oldest deaths to be buried there.

By 1903 the cemetery was unkempt and overgrown with brush, and sometimes overrun by loose cattle. On Aug. 21, 1903 a group of women met at the home of Martha (Mrs. Charles) Arine and founded the Mount Hope Cemetery Improvement League, with goals to raise funds, clean up the cemetery, and make plantings on the cemetery. The league met 12 times a year during its first 13 years of existence, and starting in 1916 meetings were held in January, April, June, and October. They cleaned up the cemetery, built a fence on the front and sides to keep out animals, and bought and painted benches for visitor seating. To raise funds for the cemetery and its upkeep they held socials, card parties, soup sales, and Carver County Fair events. Charles Arine, who had earlier served as Chairman of the Carver County Board of Commissioners and as Carver's village auditor, was employed as caretaker at \$95 per year. During the early years of the improvement league there were annual fees to plot owners to support cemetery maintenance, though grave plots themselves seem to have been free. The improvement league managed to save \$1,000 for upkeep, but lost 71% of that amount during the Great Depression and had to work to recoup their losses by putting on new events

The Mount Hope Cemetery Improvement League was incorporated Nov. 27, 1935 and new bylaws were adopted, which included the stipulation that cemetery plots had to be purchased. By then men had become part of the cemetery league, as Otto Luedloff was serving as secretary in 1935. During the leagues first 40 years 107 women were members and cemetery size doubled. By 1943 the caretaker's fee had advanced to \$270 per year and the league had used 3 books of minutes and been served by 10 different presidents. Early presidents were Martha Arine, who served for 8 years, and Mrs. Oswald C. Brunius, who served for 7 ½ years. Early secretaries were Bertha (Brunius) Funk, Bertha (Strache) Hartley, and Mrs. Clarence (Sadie Johnson?) Funk. Lena Goetze served as treasurer for 10 years.

On Aug. 21, 1943 at the league's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary librarian and sometimes poet Alma Trieloff (1881-1962) composed a poem entitled "Members, Charter-Members and Men of the Mount Hope Improvement League, Inc.", which commemorated the first 40 years of the league's existence. Alma's poem was printed in the *Chaska Herald* newspaper on Dec. 25, 2009. The original of this document is in the hands of the owners of Hilldale, at 412 Third Street West in Carver, which was Alma Trieloff's parent's home, and her full time home after retirement as librarian in the Winona and LeSueur School Districts.

About 2005 the Carver Lions Club replaced a deteriorated iron fence with a new iron fence and gateway entrance to the cemetery. Maintenance of the public cemetery and sale of cemetery plots has been taken over by the City of Carver.

**Snake Road and Trail.** A winding road stretching north along Spring Creek from downtown Carver and ending in a nature trail and plain in north Carver. Technically most of the road is called North Broadway, and is actually a continuation of it. For many years it was designated Carver County Road #147, but it is usually called Snake Road by the locals due to its looping, winding character. For many years it was known as the Carver and Waconia Road and was the main route of travel and trade between the two pioneer towns. The road and trail run generally north-south and course on a shelf near the floor of a large, deep ravine, with high bluffs and intersecting smaller ravines on either side.

The main gorge and smaller side ravines along Spring Creek were formed by erosion at the end of the last ice age, some 12,000 years ago, and continue to erode today. Following mostly along the east side of Spring Creek, prehistoric peoples probably laid down a foot trail stretching from the Minnesota River at Carver Creek to upland hunting and gathering areas and lakeside encampments. A trail along Spring Creek and intersecting with Carver Creek and the Minnesota River would have been easy to find and avoided crossings of swamp, floodplain, and Carver Creek on destinations to the north and northwest.

The Carver area opened for settlement after the 1851 treaties of Mendota and Traverse des Sioux between the U. S. Government and Dakota Indians. Pioneer settlers quickly flooded the area to claim cheap farmland and began traveling the old Indian trail from the Minnesota River to settlement sites via oxcart, horse, wagon, and on foot. From an early date it became the Carver and Waconia Road, due to its either-end destinations. In the 1860s Carver pioneer resident Charles Gebhart lobbied for an improved road to be built. Sadly, Gebhart would have little time to travel the road. In May 1867 Gebhart and another man were killed in Chaska when scaffolding gave way and they fell 24 feet while raising timbers for the new German Singing and Turning Hall, which later came to be called Concordia Hall.

The Carver County Board at length approved work on a Carver and Waconia road, and in 1865 returning Civil War veteran, Capt. Herman Muehlberg, also from Carver, surveyed the primitive road for upgrading into a county road, which years later became Carver County Road #147.

As recently as 1928 adjacent Spring Creek was called Little Creek on some maps. In 1858 Carver had a small gold rush when gold was purportedly found in the creek. In June 1932 workmen were working in the ravine between downtown Carver and present day County Road #60, also known as Chaska Road. The workers were changing the course of the creek in the area of what was then part of the Lester Bandimere farm pastureland, so that heavy rains wouldn't do more damage to the road. During work the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper reported that they recovered the head of a buffalo, with horns and teeth intact. For a time the buffalo head was on display at the Albert Schultz farm.

## Carver Lost

Sadly, many buildings that played important roles in Carver's history have been lost. Certainly fire played a part, as did windstorms, time, and decay. But more often they fell to neglect, apathy, politics, and short sightedness. Some of those lost:

**Andrew Ahlin Brickyards.** Owned by Andrew P. Ahlin, a Swedish immigrant. Two brickyards were located along County Road #40 north of Carver Creek and 2/3 of a mile southwest of downtown Carver, at least one of which was in the area of 1308 Main Street West. Andrew (Anders) P. Ahlin was born in Västergötland, Sweden Dec.19, 1852, the son of Anders (1823-1900) and Johanna (Veg) (1820-1901) Ahlin. He attended public school in Sweden for 6 months before coming to America with his parents on Sept. 1, 1864 at the age of 11. He lived in Minnesota beginning in 1865 and worked as a blacksmith until 1871 when he became involved in the brick making business, a business he was involved with until 1900. One of the Swedish brick producers in Carver, Ahlin produced local buff-colored brick for the local and export markets. The exact years of operation of the Ahlin Brickyard are not known, but it was running as early as 1879, production then being from one to one and a half million bricks per year. The Carver yellow clay used for brick production occurred 50-90 feet above the Minnesota River and was in a stratum 30-40 feet thick and overlain and underlain by sand, all deposited during the retreat of the last ice sheet during the most recent period of glaciation.

In 1900 Andrew Ahlin became a celery grower in the Carver area lowlands in the firm of Ahlin Brothers. On March 20, 1901 he also became a partner in the general merchandise store of Olson Brothers and Ahlin, once located on the southeast corner of Broadway and Fourth Street in Carver. In the fall of 1906 Andrew purchased 20 acres of land from Julian Fink, perhaps for additional celery growing plots. Andrew died in 1913. He was married in the Salem Lutheran Church in Carver on Sept. 6, 1906 to Carolina Betty Carlson (1861-1930). Andrew and Carolina Ahlin are both buried in East Union Cemetery, as are Andrew's parents.

**Anton Knoblauch Elevator Company.** Once located between Third and Fourth Streets East on a portion of vacated Lime Street near the railroad tracks, it was built circa 1880

and owned by Carver banker and merchant, Anton Knoblauch, whose own house fared better, and can be found yet standing on Third Street East. Originally the elevator company consisted of two grain elevators, one with a rubble stone foundation that was framed in wood and was sheathed with metal and had a raised tin roof. The second elevator was framed in wood and had lapped siding and was partially sheathed in metal and featured a single roof. An office area stood to the north. Sometimes a hundred horse-drawn wagons loaded with grain would be seen lined up for offloading at the elevator. In 1882 the capacity of the elevator was 35,000 bushels and was being managed by Swedish immigrant Gustaf Sunwall, who lived two stints at Carver, sandwiched around a period at Walnut Grove, Minnesota where he is regarded as one of the town's founders. As late as 1894 the elevator had no heat or lights and was operated by a powerhouse located near the Minneapolis-St. Paul Railroad Depot. The main grain storage area was four stories in height and in 1894 had a 25,000-bushel capacity. In 1906 the elevator was being leased from Anton Knoblauch by William Hunter Scott of Chaska, who in August 1908 purchased it from Knoblauch. Scott ran it first under Carver resident August Edberg and then later under buyer-manager George Hammer. Scott milled the stored grain into flour in his Chaska Mill, selling it as White Diamond Flour. Scott sponsored the White Diamond Baseball Team in Chaska, which later evolved into today's Chaska Cubs. Scott's home yet stands near the Chaska Mill at 516 North Pine Street in Chaska.

The Knoblauch Grain Elevator was featured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth. The Knoblauch facility was torn down around 1980, with part of its limestone foundation reused in the fire pit behind the Gables at 201 Fourth Street East in Carver.

**Basler House Hotel and Saloon.** Once located at the northeast corner of Main and Broadway, the hotel and a livery stable were in operation in Carver already by May 1864 when owner Charles Basler advertised in the *Weekly Valley Herald*: "Good tables, clean rooms, and the best of stabling".

Capt. Charles Basler (sometimes spelled Bassler) was born in Sept. 1829 in Baden in the the German States. Already in 1857 Charles Basler and his wife Barbara, born about 1832 in France, were living in Carver at the time of the 1857 special U. S. Territorial Census, with 28 year-old Charles Basler described as an innkeeper. Basler served as Carver County Coroner from 1857 until his resignation in Jan. 1872. In Oct. 1867 Capt. Charles Basler completed work on a stone bridge between Carver and Chaska that "should not be carried away by high water".

Charles and Barbara Basler owned and operated the Basler House Hotel in Carver, which included a saloon and stable for the horses at the rear. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1865 Charles Basker is advertised proprietor of the Basler House, though the location of the establishment is not given. The Basler House was a long, narrow hotel building once located between present day Lisa's Place and Main Street. The Baslers acquired it from Dr. Ebenezer Bray, a Carver dentist, who may have been leasing it to them, since he already shows up in the ownership record for the property in

1857. Ebenezer Bray does not appear in the 1857 Territorial Census for Carver and probably arrived shortly after it was taken. Bray was elected and served in the 1857-58 legislature that gave rise to the State of Minnesota in 1858. It is possible that Dr. Bray kept rooms in the hotel, for a notation in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper for December 1863 mentions that Bray “had just returned from the East with a new supply of dental material and is prepared to do operations with the latest techniques in the profession”. He was doing vulcanized rubber work, which because of cleanliness, cheapness, and durability was taking the place of gold plate for inserting artificial teeth. Dr. Bray made house calls and advertised that he could board persons coming from a distance free of charge, an indicator that he may have been using the Basler House in his business. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 Dr. Bray is advertised as a dentist, the location of his practice given to be on Broadway in Carver.

In the spring of 1870 business was so good at the hotel that the Baslers were compelled to think about enlarging the hotel, especially as there were plans afoot to connect Carver on the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad line the following year. In May 1870 the Baslers added a 40-foot addition to the rear of the existing 22-foot deep building, making the remodeled hotel 62 feet long. By August 1870 the remodeled facility was ready to go. By 1870 the hotel was a two-story frame building with a false front and bracketed cornice. It had a second story street-side balcony with a railing over the Broadway sidewalk, supported from below by three columns. Shutters decorated the windows on the second level on either side of a center door. At one time the hotel had a large windmill located to its north and rear.

Barbara Basler handled the food and cooking in the hotel, while Charles oversaw the attached stable at the rear and the hotel’s saloon, which advertised the best brands of liquors and cigars. In 1871 the hotel was again filled to capacity, as was every house and hotel in Carver, as laborers flooded the town laying railroad tracks, constructing the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway Carver Depot, and building a railroad bridge across the Minnesota River at Carver.

In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 Charles Basler was advertised as a hotel and saloon proprietor, and in 1873 as a saloon proprietor. In August and September of 1872 Charles Basler lay severely ill for several weeks, dying of dropsy on Sept. 30, 1872 at age 43 years, 1 month. The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper upon his death wrote that the hotel was well known to old settlers of Carver, Sibley, and McLeod Counties, and that “his house became proverbial for its hospitality to the poor and friendless, and particularly to those in trouble, who always received his sympathy and assistance. He was a true representative of the pioneer settler.” Basler was cited to be too generous and charitable to ever become wealthy, yet at his death was said to be well off.

Ownership of the Basler House passed through Charles’ will to his wife, Barbara, who on Jan. 20, 1874 married Andrew M. (A. M.) Swanson of Carver. Barbara and her second husband continued to run the hotel until 1876. In the 1870 U. S. Census for Carver Andrew M. Swanson (born about 1830 and sometimes spelled Swenson) was listed as a

hotel keeper in his own right. A. M. Swanson was also a carpenter, who earlier had owned a carding mill next door to the east of 116 Third Street West in Carver. Swanson constructed the Carver Tenement building at 121 Third Street East in Carver, working with Charles Johnson who owned the house at 116 Third Street West, next to his carding mill. In Mar. 1874 a veterinarian, Dr. Jones, was lodging at the Basler House, treating Carver area horses, while making visits one day a week to Chaska to treat horses there. In June 1874 Swanson was making needed improvements to the interior of the hotel. In 1876 Barbara and Andrew sold the hotel to Peter Redin.

In early fall, 1883 a fire broke out in the rear of the Hebeisen Hardware and Farm Implement Store at 109 Third Street East, spreading to the adjacent Basler House Hotel's stable and barn, destroying them, and scorching several other businesses before Carver citizens and firemen came to the rescue. Eventually the stable and barn were rebuilt, but were destroyed again by fire in the 1890s. Peter Redin ran the hotel until 1883 when he and his wife sold it to John Leonard.

John Leonard and his wife operated the hotel for 24 years, adding a saloon next door to the north in 1887. About 1898 the stable for the Basler House was destroyed by fire. In Nov. 1898 Leonard Grates and William Hentges were hired to complete brickwork on a new barn for the Leonards, which was hoped to be almost fireproof. The Leonards sold both the hotel and saloon to August Johnson in 1907. In later years the Basler House served as a boarding house, and in the 1920s and 1930s the hotel was being used for storage, rather than lodging. A small area on the lower level was used a shoe repair shop, beginning in July 1933 and operated by Curtis Raddatz. Raddatz was born in Kullberg, Germany on Mar. 14, 1906 and immigrated to America at age 15.

In the laundry room of the Basler House on Monday, June 3, 1901 one of Carver County's most infamous crimes took place when Basler bartender and stable worker Andrew Tapper stabbed to death 18-year old Rosa Mixa, a Basler House servant girl. The crime was Carver's first murder. Tapper was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He was hung from a gallows in Chaska on Feb. 18, 1902, the only person ever to be legally hanged in Carver County.

The Basler House Hotel was torn down in Dec. 1940.

**Carver Ballroom.** The new Carver Riverside Ballroom was constructed on the very site of Carver's lost Victorian Riverside Pavilion, once located near the present day Riverside Park horseshoe pits. The ballroom was constructed in the Quonset style, first developed during World War I and later popularized in America from the 1920s to the 1940s. The Quonset style with its curved roofline is yet found in many aircraft hangars, skating arenas, houses, warehouses, ballrooms, and military installations. The Quonset style Carver Ballroom was constructed with lightweight prefabricated materials and was semicircular in roofline.

Tragedy struck the Riverside Ballroom on Thursday, September 18, 1930. Carver resident carpenter Russel John Edward Lund (born in 1903) was working with his brother

George Lund and Leonard Ohnsorg on scaffolding 25 feet above the ground while installing a frame for a 200 pound ventilator on the west side of the ballroom building when the scaffold weakened and 27-year old Russel fell and died after breaking his back. Russel, an orphan since age four, had been taken in by his uncle and aunt, August and Anna Johnson of Carver. Russel's funeral, attended heavily by the Carver Fire Department, was held in the Johnson home and he is buried in the East Union Church Cemetery.

In April 1935 repairs and improvements were made on the Riverside Pavilion. The Ballroom survived the great Minnesota River floods of 1951, 1952, 1965, and 1969, and sometime during the years 1951-1969 a removable wooden dance floor was installed in the ballroom that could quickly be taken up in years when flooding threatened. In March 1966 the Carver Ballroom was sold to two men, Wilmar Falk of Waconia, and Harold Stuewe of Cologne.

During its many years of service the Carver Ballroom hosted untold weekend dances and music, with wedding receptions held there as well. People from Carver, and places far and wide, have fond memories of the ballroom, and many came to meet their spouses there. The ballroom hosted dances with bands playing everything from ballroom music, big band music, country music, polka music, to rock and roll music. Large crowds required the hiring of a Carver County Sheriff's Deputy to police problems and curb underage drinking.

In December 1985 the Carver Ballroom was destroyed by fire. While many suspected arson, it was never proven. With the burning of the ballroom a long nostalgic era of Carver tradition came to an end in Riverside Park on the Minnesota River. The end of the ballroom and the visitors it attracted spurred the end of several businesses in Carver, including the Riverside Café on Broadway at Main Street. The occasional floods of the Minnesota River never washed away the traditions of the Riverside Pavilion and the Riverside Ballroom, but instead it was interrupted by a tornado and ended by a fire.

**Carver County Fairgrounds, Riverside Park.** Carver's Riverside Park along the scenic Minnesota River was long vital to the social, cultural, commercial, political, and agricultural vitality of Carver and Carver County, as well as of surrounding counties. The Carver County Agricultural Society gave birth to the Carver County Fair on July 20, 1868 in Chaska. The following year the Town of Carver offered the Agricultural Society a \$61 incentive to have it held at Carver. A meeting was held at the Planter's House Hotel in Carver on Sept. 25, 1869 to detail plans for the event, and on October 8, 1869, Carver's Riverside Park hosted its first Carver County Fair, then a one-day affair. For the 1869 fair Carver permitted use of its nearby town hall, installed fencing, and created a half-mile long horseracing track. An 1870 Agricultural Society meeting decided that the Carver County Fair should be held every year at Carver. The following year the fair was expanded to two days and was held at Riverside Park on September 29-30, 1871, and by 1887 it evolved into a three-day event. With the exception of the years 1884-1886 every Carver County Fair was held at Carver's Riverside Park until 1925, after which it began alternating with Waconia. As late as 1932 Carver hosted the Carver County Fair at

Riverside Park. During those years in Carver, Riverside Park was furnished with barns, sheds, stables, fences, and in the 1890s with a splendid Victorian pavilion.

The Carver County Fairs at Riverside Park were the great threads that sewed the fabric of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century area society together, fostering advancement in almost every area of local civilization. The fairs allowed citizens to meet and talk to political candidates in the era before the telephone, radio, and televisions, and computers. The latest agricultural implements were demonstrated, the newest farming techniques were showcased, the best breeding stocks were displayed, and new strains of produce were shared. By 1911 the fair even featured a motorized Ferris wheel and carousel. Every latest advancement to early area life was featured here: parlor stoves, ice boxes, sewing machines, high wheel bicycles, motorcycles, automobiles, cooking stoves, well pumps, sinks, plows, steam threshers, buggies, wagons, harnesses, blacksmith work, quilts, bakery, preserves, livestock, music, phonographs, then telephones and radios. It was at Riverside Park where townspeople, farmers, merchants, steamboaters, railroaders, and public officials all gathered to share the latest ideas.

**Carding Mill.** Once located on Third Street West, it was located just west of Spring Creek on the north side of Third. Andrew M. Swanson (Swenson) was advertised in the 1878-1879 Minnesota Gazateer as owning the carding mill and a furniture store. The mill survived until at least 1894, but was gone by 1928.

**Carver Creamery and Ice House.** Built about 1900 and first owned by the Carver Creamery Association. The icehouse was a single story building with a wooden frame and lapped wooden siding. The creamery itself was constructed in wood with a brick veneer. A cave in the rear was used for cold storage. Once owned as a partnership, by 1897 John J. Farrell had become the sole owner of the Carver Creamery.

John J. (J.J.) Farrell was born in 1866, the son of Pennsylvania Civil War veteran Daniel Farrell and Mary (Guyton) Farrell. John J. Farrell came from Ohio to Minnesota in 1886 at the age of 20. In Ohio Farrell had been employed in the creamery and cheese factory of S. Straight and Son, who were among the founders of the Midwest creamery industry. He first located at Rochester, Minnesota, then moved to St. Paul where he was connected to the Crescent Creamery, a pioneer Minnesota creamery business. After moving to Carver, Farrell took up residence in the Temperance Hotel for a time.

Farrell was the first in Carver County to buy butterfat for processing by the Babcock Test, which insured that product wasn't being unscrupulously watered down. Farrell's Carver County butter was of excellent quality, with most of the product being shipped in 60-pound tubs to Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia.

In 1906 Farrell was elected president of the National Creamery Buttermakers Association and served for several terms. An avid Democrat, he was president of the Carver County Agricultural Association from 1902-1922 which put on the Carver County Fairs at Carver's Riverside Park, was a candidate for the Minnesota State Senate in 1914, a candidate for U. S. Senator, Mayor of Carver, and in 1915 he became the Minnesota State

Dairy and Food Commissioner. In 1915 Farrell was the director of the National Dairy Show, which exhibited dairy products, merchandise, and cattle. In 1928 he was an alternate Minnesota delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Farrell belonged to the Carver Camp of the Modern Woodmen of America and to St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Carver. In August 1901 John Farrell married Mabel Sanborn (born in 1878), the daughter of W.N. Sanborn, a prominent Faribault, Minnesota businessman. One of the Farrells' four children, Walter, age 4 ½, drowned in the Minnesota River on November 22, 1910. John J. Farrell, Mabel Farrell, and some of their children are buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery.

On the morning of Dec. 3, 1900 Johnnie Plackner, the son of Carver Marshall Frank Plackner, was shot in the arm by a tramp at about 6 a.m. when he arrived at the Carver Creamery to light the morning fires. The tramp had apparently been sleeping in the building, shot Plackner, and fled up the hill behind Carver, never to be captured.

In 1902 Albert Bandimere purchased and ran a dairy farm that had once been part of the Hertz Brewery complex on either side of Spring Creek and Broadway, just up the street from the creamery. On the foundations of the old Hertz Brewery building at 617 Broadway Bandimere built a farm house for his dairy and became very involved in the creamery, later called the Farmer's Cooperative Creamery Company of Carver. Bandimere probably managed the creamery for John Farrell during Farrell's busy political career. Bandimere was often seen driving a cheese wagon around the countryside and even signed out stock certificates in the creamery. It may well be that Bandimere used a large brick brewery cave on his farm on the west side of Spring Creek as a cheese aging cave. Perhaps he also used one or more of the brick brewery caves that once stood near 617 Broadway and the old Hertz Brewery site. Cheese caves were essential in controlling the temperature necessary for ripening and aging certain cheeses. In 1916 Albert Bandimere moved to Belle Plaine in Scott County where he was one of the founders of the Farmer's Cooperative Creamery there.

Often Spring Creek ran white on its course to the Minnesota River, flush with dumped unused milk from the creamery. By 1928 the creamery building was brick-faced and still owned by the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company and had an ice house, a refrigerator building, tiled floors, and a coal bin in the rear. The old Carver Creamery and Ice House sat on Broadway north of Fifth Street, near the northern end of the present day Robb Electric complex. The creamery buildings survived into the 1980s until destroyed by the Carver Fire Department in a controlled burn.

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**Carver Furniture and Undertaking Business.** Once located on the east side of Broadway between Main and Third Streets, just to the north of the John Leonard Saloon at 205 Broadway, a frame-built furniture store and undertaking business building

occupied the site for many decades. Carver Carding Mill owner Andrew M. Swanson, a carpenter by trade, as early as 1878, and as late as 1881 owned a Carver furniture store, probably on the same site. In 1881 Carver brick mason Edward Goetze, who was born in 1841, purchased this property from Barbara Basler and her second husband, Andrew M. Swanson, property which was separated from the Basler House Hotel complex. It is likely there was already a building on the property, and that it was serving as a furniture store. In the *Carver Free Press* newspaper on Jan. 7, 1886 Goetze advertised his business: *Edw. Goetze, Broadway, Carver. Lounges, coffins, trunks, wallpaper, carpets, feathers. Always a full supply on hand and sold at very low figures.* In 1894 Goetze, who lived at 117 Third Street East in Carver, gave up the bricklaying trade fully run his furniture store on the site.

In 1911 Edward Goetze and his wife sold the furniture and undertaking business to William J. Mueller for \$3400. Mueller ran the store for only four years, dying at age 37 in May, 1915 while serving as a Carver city councilman. Mueller was buried in Gaylord, Minnesota. In 1915 Mueller's estate sold the furniture store to John Dols and his wife Libby for \$1000. John Dols was a well known Carver County building contractor and merchant, owning even a furniture store partnership in Chaska, where he lived. Dols served as secretary of the Carver County Agricultural Society in 1919, which put on the Carver County Fair in Riverside Park where Dols displayed Edison "talking machines", also known as cylinder phonographs.

In 1923 John Dols and his wife sold the furniture store and undertaking business to Vincent Santache for \$1300. Santache sold the furniture store four years later, in 1927, and in 1929 he purchased a Carver drug store. The furniture store and undertaking business was purchased in 1927 by Oscar E. Johnson. The following year Oscar married Inez Olson with Oscar running the furniture store and Inez handling the mortuary business next door. The Johnsons' furniture store sold wallpaper, furniture, floor coverings, paint, and framed pictures.

In 1946 the Johnsons sold the mortuary building and furniture store to Raymond and Marjorie Akeson for \$2500. The Akesons tore down the frame funeral home building and replaced it with a concrete block building, which survives to the present as an insurance business. For a time Herman Lenzen operated a barber shop out of the frame building between the mortuary and the John Leonard saloon building. The Akesons owned the two businesses until 1957, when they in turn sold them to James and Louise Zamjahn who also had a mortuary business in Chaska. After 10 years the Zamjahns sold the buildings to the United Housing Corporation in 1967, which in turn sold the property to Danny M. and Maria King in 1970. The frame building next to the John Leonard Saloon survived the 1965 flood but was torn down afterwards.

**Carver Mill/Masonic Hall.** Located on the Carver Levee, it was built in the 1860s with a wooden frame and wood lapped siding. It had four over four paned windows and a round window in the north gable. A *Valley Herald* newspaper item in Oct. 1867 wrote that business was so brisk that the mill was grinding flour night and day. In early years it served as a water-driven flourmill powered by Carver and/or Spring Creek, perhaps with

the help of a millpond dam, before going into service as Carver's Masonic Hall. In January 1874 the Grand Lodge of Minnesota Masons, A.F. and A. M. (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons), in session at St. Paul granted dispensation for a new lodge, Carver Lodge #111. Carver's first officers included William H. Mills, Henry R. Denny, and Andrew P. Peterson. In 1875 the Carver lodge was chartered, with membership granted to officers Mills, Denny, and Peterson, as well as Gustave Krayenbuhl, Henry W. Busse, F. L. Smith, F. C. Mosbaugh, W. Rhy, John O'Brien, Charles D. Dauwalter, George Houghton, and others, with a total of 16 charter members. Already by 1882 membership in the Carver Lodge had increased to 35. The Carver Masonic Hall served for many years as a meeting lodge and ceremonial hall for Freemasons and for the women's counterpart organization, the Eastern Star Carver Chapter #231. Many of Carver's pioneer families had membership in the Masons and Eastern Star, including members of the Funk, Dauwalter, Brunius, Nord, Ahlin, Holm, and Nelson families. The hall remained in Mason/Eastern Star service as late as 1972, surviving the great floods of the 1950s and 1960s. It was the last structure still standing on Carver's once bustling commercial and industrial levee before it fell into neglected disrepair. It was torn down in the 1980s after being separated from the town by the flood dike and suffering damage from a wind storm. Remnants of its foundations can be seen today, a bit southwest of Spring Creek's intersection with the floodwall.

**Carver General Store.** Once located at 317 Broadway at the corner of Fourth Street East, where the 1987 U. S. Post Office building now stands, it was built about 1860 and was torn down under contested circumstances in the early 1980s. The store was probably first operated in the 1860s by Enoch Holmes, one of Carver's pioneer citizens who arrived in 1857, and who served as the Carver census taker of the 1860 U. S. Census. In the 1880s Holmes, a partner, Fritz Wommer, and later a third partner, John Hebeisen operated a general store as the Pioneer Store of Carver County, but at another location on the southeast corner of Main and Broadway, calling it Holmes, Hebeisen, & Wommer, and specializing in clothing, dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, and serving also as agents for McCormicks new steel binder and mower. In 1889 they sold the business to the Olson Brothers of Carver to pursue other interests. The general store was then operated at its new location at Fourth and Broadway as Olson Brothers and Ahlin for much of the 1890s until it was sold to A. L. Skoog, who ran it for a decade, and whose home still stands on Third Street East. In 1909 Skoog sold the general store to Robert A. Johnson, who operated it for many years. Johnson's home yet stands on Fourth Street West.

The store was said to be the best general store in the county and featured such sundry items as hats, shoes, boots, clothing, notions, and dry goods. It was a splendid example of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century general store and was once believed to be the oldest commercial building on Broadway. It was built during Carver's heyday and originally served as a trade and transportation center for all of Carver County. It was constructed of Merriam red rock and locally manufactured buff-colored brick. It was two stories, with three bays on the second floor, and featured a full basement and a one-story brick grocery warehouse section at the rear. It had a recessed entry on the north end of the front side, with large 4 by 4 mullioned glass windowpanes and two sections of 8 by 8 window panes

on the south end of the front side, next to a second recessed doorway. The store, as late as 1980, contained original shelving, bins, drawers, counters, and display cases.

The building was featured in the 1978 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office book, *Carver County: A Guide to its Historic and Prehistoric Places*, by Lofstrom and VanBrocklin-Spaeth. But that was not enough to save it. Damaged by a storm, some argued that it was repairable, others that it was not worth the effort. In the end it was torn down, though some of its brick was salvaged for other uses, including in the patio floor in the fire pit behind the Gables at 201 Fourth Street East in Carver. The only Carver commercial building yet standing of a similar unaltered appearance is the Hebeisen Hardware/Implement Store on Third Street East.

**Carver Levee and Steamboat Era.** The Carver Levee was once public Carver land, running along the north side of the Minnesota River and adjacent to the southern border of old downtown. The levee held dockage for steamboats and barges as well as warehouse buildings for produce and cargo. During low water levels steamboats had to dock further out from the riverbank, with planking then used as bridging to load and unload cargo. The old Carver levee is today largely covered by a floodwall protecting the town. Along the Carver Levee ran First Street, now also gone, either covered by the flood wall or separated from the town on low lying marshy ground. The last building to stand on old First Street on the levee was the old Carver Mill, which in the early 1870s was converted to a Masonic Hall. Its foundation may yet be seen on the south side of the flood dike at 201 Main Street West.

By the 1830s steamboats were plying the upper stretches of the Mississippi River, and by the 1840s steamboat traffic was reaching as far north as St. Paul and Fort Snelling at the mouth of the Minnesota River, connecting with St. Louis, Missouri to the south. The first steamboat to go up the Minnesota River was the *Anthony Wayne* in June 1850, captained by Daniel Able. The vessel went as far as present day Carver or Carver Rapids before turning back to St. Paul. Later that year, during a summer of high water, the *Anthony Wayne* went as far as present day Mankato. Other steamboats to ply the Minnesota that year were the *Yankee* and the *Nominee*. With roads not yet built steamboats and barges in tow quickly became the major transportation mode in each direction for passengers, wood and lumber, produce, and cargo of all sorts.

By 1858 more than 1000 steamboats had anchored at St. Paul on the Mississippi River on trips from the Minnesota River. Immigrants from many countries, regional passengers, and cargo of all variety were going to and from the new and fledgling river towns of St. Paul, Shakopee, Chaska, Carver, Henderson, Mankato, New Ulm, and points even further west in high water. Well-known steamboats plying the Minnesota River were the *Clarion*, *Tiger*, *Aunt Betsey*, *Ellen Hardy*, *Chippewa*, *Mankato*, *Greek Slave*, *Hudson*, *Favorite*, *Franklin Steele*, *Jeanette Roberts*, *West Concord*, *Mollie Mohler*, and the *Antelope*. Packet boats were smaller steam-powered riverboats designed for domestic mail, passenger, and freight transportation, usually making regularly scheduled trips. The golden era for sternwheelers and sidewheelers on the Minnesota River was from 1855-1870. Treaties with the Dakota Indians had opened up new cheap land for settlement,

and until the advent of the railroads, steamboats held a monopoly on travel and commerce in a part of the country that was yet untamed wilderness and largely devoid of roads.

Steamboats were expensive to build, costing some \$20,000-\$40,000 each. But a steamboat could be paid off in as little as two years. Steamboats were powered by wood and later coal, burned in boilers. Propulsion was by paddle wheels, either mounted at the stern or on one or both sides. The average lifetime of a steamboat was only about five years before rot, deterioration, fires, and wrecking on tree snags and hidden sandbars took their toll. Spring and early summer with high water were the safest and most efficient times of the year for steamboats. Lower water levels created unexposed sandbars and tree snags. And during low water the Carver or Little Rapids, just upstream from Carver, often blocked the way to further upstream travel, often making Carver the headwater port of the Minnesota River. Each steamboat carried a bell with its own unique tone so that townspeople could readily identify which vessel was arriving at port. The arrival of steamboats brought many to the levee to watch the arrival of new citizens, relatives, visitors, mail, news, and the latest in trade goods. The levee was a busy bustling place that connected Carver and other fledgling frontier boomtowns with the outside world. But the arrival of the railroads in Carver in 1871-1872, which had no seasonal dependence on the river, betokened the end of the riverboat era. And by the 1890s steamboat travel had all but vanished.

Harvesting riverside wood for fuel and construction, combined with farming along the riverbanks, caused sloughing off of the banks. Over time this erosion created a wider, shallower river, replete with more frequent sandbars, and causing the river channels to move in the flood plain. With the erosion of the riverbanks evidence of many waterside historic and prehistoric settlement sites have been washed away.

**Carver Milling Company/Barley Mill.** Once located northwest of the Fourth Street East intersection with County Road #40, in the 1890s it consisted of a brush machine, two separators, four scalpers, two wheat smutters, two reels, two feed rollers, purifiers, a line shaft, and a basement corn grinder. By 1928 it was operating as a barley cereal mill owned by the American Barley Corporation and could mix up to 40 tons of grain per day. It then had an engine room, a coal storage facility, a warehouse, and a single inclined ramp for the offloading of grain. The mill was destroyed in a fire around 1940.

**Carver Riverside Pavilion.** During the 1870s and 1880s Carver's Riverside Park probably had some sort of public pavilion used for special events and to host the Carver County Fair, though to date neither historic photographs nor descriptions have been unearthed.

In February 1898 the Carver City council gave approval for the construction of a new pavilion in Carver's Riverside Park. In late April the City of Carver drafted a letter to the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad requesting a donation of \$100 to help with the building of the pavilion, noting that Riverside Park was near the railroad depot, that it was already established as a public resort, and that the railroad would be bringing excursion parties to

the park and new pavilion. Total estimated cost for the new pavilion was set at \$700. Construction must have been completed by July 4, 1898, for in that year a great horde of Carver citizens and visitors posed for a Fourth of July picnic photograph in front of the pavilion. The most likely builder of the pavilion was Olaf Hanson, a Carver resident and contractor who was responsible for the construction of Carver's Trinity Lutheran Church (1914), Carver's Presbyterian Church (now the Church-by-the-River) (1913), Carver's Central Hotel (1897), as well as the Victorian embellishments found on many Carver homes.

The Carver Riverside Pavilion was cross-shaped, with perpendicular intersecting gables, and was decorated with Victorian embellishments. The pavilion was the centerpiece for the Carver County Fairs held in Riverside Park and hosted concerts and dances, and drew visitors from far and wide every fall. Even at non-fair times steamboats carried hundreds of people at a time from the Twin Cities to Carver for excursion picnics and special events. On Saturday, May 22, 1920 the Carver County Fair Improvement Board held its first Open Air Dance Frolic at the pavilion, with music by the widely known Potter's Jazz Orchestra, and with a lunch and refreshment stand to run all evening with proceeds going to the county fair treasury.

Tragedy struck the Carver Riverside Pavilion on Tuesday, June 2, 1925, when it was destroyed by a tornado, killing three people. Among those killed was 68-year old Christine Nelson, the sister of John S. Nelson, Carver's long time druggist and postmaster. Christine Nelson was killed when a tornado came up suddenly. When Christine saw the storm appear she fled into the pavilion for shelter. The tornado blew a large tree on top of the pavilion, crushing Christine to death and killing two other tourists, while destroying the grand old building.

**Carver Plow Works.** It was once located on the southwest corner of Fifth Street East and Lime, about due west from the Carver water tower along County Road #40. In 1880 the facility was owned and operated as a carding mill by A. M. Swenson and was then called the #1 carding mill in the county. In the 1880s Swenson sold the mill to William Japs and moved to Fergus Falls. By 1889 William Japs had fully converted the carding mill to the Carver Plow Works and was set up for the repair of seeders, plows, and other farm implements, as well as general blacksmithing work. William Japs was born in the German States in 1845, and came to America in 1861. After living in Watertown he came to Carver in 1886 where he was the foreman of the Carver Plow Factory. President of the company was probably William C. Bredenhagen, a man of many business interests, whose home yet stands at 412 Fourth Street East in Carver. Also working at the plow works in early 1886, perhaps as a blacksmith, was Frank Plackner, whose home and one-time saloon yet stands at 404 Broadway in Carver. In Carver, Japs' mechanical aptitude led to a successful plow making and repair business and to his prominence in Carver. Already in Jan. 1886 the Carver Plow Works was advertising in the *Carver Free Press* newspaper: *Manufacturers of plows, cultivators, harrows, corn tools of all kinds, repair work done of every description.* By 1894 William Japs' plow works business consisted of several component buildings that included a blacksmith shop and grinding area, a wood shop, a storage shed, and a large cupola. It then had no electricity but was powered

by coal- fueled steam power. Although most of the buildings were torn down in the 1950s, two of the buildings in the plow works complex were standing on the site, sheathed in metal, until they were torn down on Nov. 1-2, 2009. The entire limestone foundation of the main building was salvaged and reused in landscaping around the gardens and fire pit of the Gables at 201 4<sup>th</sup> Street East in Carver.

**Central Hotel/Neunsinger Hotel.** Once situated on the site of the present day Carver City Hall a large saloon, hotel, stable and outbuildings long occupied a great part of the southwest corner of Broadway and Fourth Streets West. As early as 1859 there was probably some sort of small frame structure on the site, for in that year Amanda Eddy took out a \$500 loan that seems to have improved the land she had purchased the previous year. In 1861 she sold the property for \$500 to Sebastian Ohnsorg, sometimes spelled Ohnesorg, who seems to have greatly improved the property, for when he sold it in June 1870 to Carver businessman Henry Zanger the selling price was given as \$2475. This may be the same property that is referred to in a January 1871 a *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper account which mentions that Henry Zanger was planning to erect a large brick building in Carver in the spring, to be used for the sale of with agricultural implements. But Henry Zanger died the following year at age 46 and probably never built his brick building. The lot purchased from Sebastian Ohnsorg then passed to Zanger's wife, Susanna, and son George Zanger. Susanna and George Zanger sold their shares of the property to Peter and Catherine (Heid) Michels for \$1000 in 1872-1873. The Michels planned on opening a Carver saloon and hotel.

Peter Michels was born in the German States on April 21, 1825 and immigrated to America at age 27, arriving in New York on May 10, 1852 on the ship *Eastern Queen*. He settled first in Erie, Pennsylvania, where in 1856 he married Catherine Heid. Catherine was born at Rhein in Bavaria in the German States in 1832. In 1856 Peter and Catherine moved to northern Carver County, which was then a dense wilderness, settling first on a homestead claim near St. Bonifacius. By 1865 they were living in Dahlgren Township to the west of Carver and in 1872 they moved to Carver, purchased the Zanger property, and went into the hotel and saloon business. The saloon and hotel seem to have first been separate but attached buildings of nearly the same size and fronted very close to the street on Broadway. The hotel, which probably had a second story veranda and living quarters for the Michels, was situated to the north and probably managed by Catherine. The saloon, about the same width but a bit longer than the hotel, lay to the south, and was undoubtedly managed by Peter. In 1880 the Michels' business was advertised as the Farmers' Home and Saloon, with, "good stabling attached". While in Carver, Peter held many civic positions of honor and trust, including justice of the peace in 1880, and was much esteemed by the public.

The Michels ran their businesses for 12 years before Peter's failing health forced them to sell around the summer of 1883. In 1886 the Michels moved to Minneapolis. On a return visit to Carver in Dec. 1886 the *Carver Free Press* wrote that Peter Michels was in town and "looks lean and thin, but nevertheless can shoot off his mouth as fast as ever". Peter died in Minneapolis on March 10, 1890. Widow Catherine died in Minneapolis on

February 13, 1909. The Michels' saloon and hotel may have had more than one owner between 1883 and Sept. 1886, when purchased by Richard Neunsinger.

Richard Neunsinger was born in Chaska, Minnesota on December 2, 1862 and lived there until he and his parents moved to Carver in 1875. In January 1887 Richard Neunsinger, married Emma Erickson, who was born in Sweden in 1867, the daughter of Frank Erickson. Emma lived all but the first 4 years of her life in Carver, and after her marriage took part in the hotel business that her husband Richard had purchased shortly before their marriage. Emma took care of the hotel, laundry, and cooking, while Richard sold wines, liquors, and cigars in the saloon, and tended to the stabling of horses in a small stable that probably dated to the Michels' period, and which was located at the southwest corner of the property in the angle of the intersection of Spring Creek and the present day alley.

In 1897 the Neunsingers built either a wholly new hotel or extensively remodeled the Michels' old buildings, with Carver's master builder Olaf Hanson carrying out the work. The new or remodeled structure was called the Central Hotel. It seems to have been situated on nearly the same footprint as the Michels' building, and in any case probably utilized the same foundation from the Michels' era. The new Central Hotel was a grand two and a half story lap-sided Victorian building that included such Victorian embellishments as roof cresting, turned porch posts with brackets in the angles, a second story veranda with a balustrade over the sidewalk, shuttered windows, and a false front with brackets supporting a cornice atop a tall false front that concealed much of the hipped roof.. The hotel was decorated with Victorian furniture. Unlike the Michels' era, the saloon was situated on the north side and featured a billiards room, with the hotel and dining room lying to the south. The Neunsinger family lived above the saloon, with the rest of the building given over to hotel rooms. By 1900 the Neunsinger's had added a large stable to the south along Broadway and after that another hotel wing to the south perpendicular to the main building. Access to the stable was from an alley located near the present day flood dike behind the Carver City Hall. Also behind the hotel was a chicken coop.

The Central Hotel building remained in Neunsinger family ownership until the 1940s, though in later years it served as more of a family residence, with very few lodgers. In the 1940s and early 1950s, when it was out of Neunsinger ownership, it went into a period of decline and disrepair, with many of its Victorian embellishments removed. It survived until about 1955 when it was torn down and replaced by the current Carver City Hall, built in 1956. Richard Neunsinger died in 1943, having spent 56 years in the hotel business in Carver. Emma Neunsinger lived on and died in 1960 at age 93, living long enough to see their once-grand hotel disappear. Richard and Emma Neunsinger are buried in the St. Nicholas Catholic Church Cemetery in Carver.

**Carver Village Hall (Second).** Once located on the northeast corner of Main Street East and Oak Street, the building was large enough to fill almost the entire lot. The building served as Carver's old Town Hall, Village Hall, meeting place, and seat of city government from the 1880s until 1956 when it was sold and the new town/village hall

was built on the southwest corner of Fourth and Broadway where the Neunsinger Hotel once sat. This second Carver Village Hall replaced an earlier smaller frame township building, perhaps built in the 1860s. The north end of the old hall had a large stage to accommodate speakers, concerts, and other public functions. The structure had a large gymnasium/auditorium that included a basketball court with a low ceiling. Because of the low ceiling Carver basketball players developed a low trajectory shot, known as the "Carver Arc". Immediately to the east of the public hall was a long narrow horse barn with many stalls, and to the northeast was yet another long narrow horse barn with stalls.

On Wednesday, January 17, 1940 as the Carver Fire Department was holding its annual banquet, a wood burning stove near the stage set fire to the chimney between the walls. The fire spread swiftly to the roof, threatening to destroy the entire building. Carver firefighters went to work, soon joined by the Chaska Fire Department. Together they contained the fire before much damage was done and before valuable city files were lost. During World War II a large signboard on the town hall listed the names of the U. S. Servicemen from Carver, with a blue star after their names. Those killed in action had a gold star after their names, their mothers known in Carver as Gold Star Mothers. Every day townspeople would visit the town hall to see if any gold stars appeared.

In February 1956, when the city ceased using the old Carver Village Hall, it was sold to Richard Schmelke and used as a billiard cue factory and storage until it burned down in the early 1960s.

**Carver Village Hall (Present).** Carver's present city hall in the southwest corner of Broadway and Fourth Street West was built on the former site of the Central Hotel, also known as the Neunsinger Hotel. The new city hall was built with Carver labor, including that of Carver Mayor Elmer Kraemer, who led the project, and was supported with funds by the Carver Lions, who later generously paid off the mortgage. The new city hall was dedicated with a ceremony and open house on Sunday, June 9, 1957. Senator John Metcalf appeared for a dedication address and John "Bud" Fahey served as Master of Ceremonies. The U. S. Colors were presented, and the ceremony included music and tours of the gymnasium, kitchen, and dining room.

Besides containing the city administrative offices, the city hall has been rented out for weddings, parties, dances, concerts, art shows, flea markets, and antique shows. It has hosted numerous pancake breakfasts, chili feeds, steak dinners, senior citizen events, Lions Club events, gymnasium sports events, and much more.

In March 1978 the film crew of the movie *Ice Castles* rented the Carver City Hall for six days at \$10 per day while filming was taking place in the Carver area, most notably at a farmhouse on Carver County Road #40 between Carver and East Union. Meals were catered in for the film crew, who worked for Columbia Pictures. Starring in the film were Robby Benson, Lynn-Holly Johnson, Colleen Dewhurst, and Tom Skerritt.

**Enoch Holmes Elevator.** Once located along county Road #40 and the railroad tracks, the structure sat a few feet southeast of the Carver railroad water tower. Between 1865

and 1867 Enoch Holmes acquired the property to build the elevator through various transactions, then sold off some of the adjacent property to the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad. In the 1890s the elevator's capacity was rated at 30,000 bushels. The main storage area was 3 ½ stories in height and it had a double ramp on the lower level so wagons could drive up to unload grain and then drive down the other side. Elevator management may have been by Swedish immigrant Gustavus (Gustave) Ferdinand Sunwall, who lived in Carver before and after being one of the founders of Walnut Grove, Minnesota, which was made famous by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Enoch Holmes was one of the pioneer settlers in Carver and one of its early leading citizens. He operated a general mercantile business in Carver from 1856/1857 until 1872 when he sold his store and business and went into the business of buying of wheat, oats, and corn. In 1872 he moved his large warehouse up from the Minnesota River bank to a new location near the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad Depot. He operated the elevator until his death in 1891, and it remained vacant until 1894 when ownership passed out of a probate sale and into the ownership of Carver businessman Anton Knoblauch. In 1910 John Funk Jr., whose house yet sits at 112 Fourth Street East in Carver, acquired the elevator and owned it until 1918 as the Carver Elevator Company. The grain elevator property was vacated to the public in 1918 and was later torn down.

**German Reading Society Building.** Once located on the corner property at 200 Fourth Street East, the German Reading Society housed the first library in Carver, and the first in Carver County. The building that housed the library and society was a small one-story frame building with a false front. The building fronted very near the street, like many of Carver's oldest structures, and housed not only German reading materials, but reading matter in Swedish, English, and other languages. The building survived at its first location until about 1940 when it was relocated to the south side of the 100 block of Third Street West in Carver. In its later years it was used for religious and Bible study classes by St. Nicholas Catholic Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, and for Girl Scout and Boy Scout meetings.

The German Reading Society claimed to have been created in 1858, but was officially created by German-speaking immigrants on Feb. 24, 1866 with ten charter members, calling itself the Carver County Deutscher Leseverein. First officers of the society were Herman Muehlberg Sr., president, Jacob Honer, vice president, and Steven Kult, treasurer. The society was created at a time when books were hard to come by on the Minnesota frontier. Such reading societies were a common element in cultural life on the frontier. After 1860 Carver's immigrant population was about half German and half Swedish, and with both the German Lutheran Trinity Church and the German St. Nicholas Catholic Church it is not surprising that the German Reading Society was founded in Carver. By the 1870s it had 40 members and was serving citizens of all nationalities who were interested in reading. The object of the German reading society was "to impart knowledge and preserve morality". During the American Prohibition era from 1920-1933 the German Reading Society building sometimes partook of bootleg liquor behind closed doors.

When the society was disbanded its books and archives were acquired by the Carver County Historical Society. Among its archives are two volumes of minutes from 1869-1907, an account book from 1866-1932, a ledger containing members' names and the call numbers of books they checked out, and newspaper clippings from the *Carver County Journal* about the society from 1921-1935.

**Hastings and Dakota Railway.** In 1867 the Hastings and Dakota Railway was incorporated with the goal of railroad transportation across the Rocky Mountains and continuing on to the Pacific Ocean. Its first company president was General Wm. C. LeDuc, whose 1865 National Register of Historic Places home in Hastings in 1958 became the first property to be acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society. The Hastings and Dakota Railway (H & D) became a division of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway, which was often simply called the Milwaukee Road. The H & D never made it to the Pacific Ocean on its own, but it later became the main line of the Milwaukee Road's Coast Extension to Seattle, Washington, which was finally completed in 1909. The H & D had two major runs, one northerly along the famous "Lake Street Depression" in Minneapolis, the other a southerly run across a Minnesota River crossing bridge, then through Chaska, Carver, and Cologne.

The Hastings & Dakota Railway reached Carver in 1871, went across the northern portion of town in 1872, and extended through Dahlgren Township, Benton Township, and Young America to Glencoe in McLeod County in 1873. In the 1870s it already stretched across Minnesota to the South Dakota Border at Ortonville, Minnesota. For many years the H & D Railroad maintained a small depot in Carver on platted 7<sup>th</sup> Street East, and was located immediately to the east of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street intersection with Lime Streets and to the east of present day Lions Park. During those years 7<sup>th</sup> Street ran parallel to the railroad tracks and connected to the west at Broadway, the hill up from Broadway not as steep as it is today. At the intersection of Lime and 7<sup>th</sup> the railroad maintained a large right of way which was there comprised of a double track around the depot in the shape of a large football. Oak Street then ran up the hill from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to connect the depot with downtown by a hill less steep than Lime Street. On Saturday, Dec. 27, 1871 immigrant Swedes John Hilder and Swan Johnson were both killed building the H & D Railroad when a sand bank they were working on caved in and buried them about a mile from Carver.

The first H & D railroad trestle bridge was probably built in 1872 and crossed over Broadway, just north of downtown, on its way west through Carver. In early 1880 a second trestle bridge was built at the same location, again crossing Broadway. And a new and improved H & D Railroad trestle bridge was built in 1899 that again crossed over North Broadway and Spring Creek, in plain view from downtown on Broadway. This last bridge spanned 356 feet and was about 100 feet in height from the top of the bridge to the bottom of Spring Creek. So high was the bridge, that a heavily loaded train had to back up to the east from the Lime Street Depot and get up a head of steam before enough speed was reached to climb up to the trestle. The bridge was torn down about 1980, but remnants of the bridge's pylons and limestone footings can still be seen along North Broadway, also known locally as Snake Road and old County Road # 47.

Another much smaller H & D Railroad bridge crossed over Carver County Road #40 as the road entered Carver on the east side. Over time much of the south run of the H & D railroad was abandoned, and during the 1970s much of the last portion of H & D railroad track was abandoned between Shakopee and Cologne, including through Carver. In 1995 the H & D Minnesota River crossing bridge at Chaska was torn down by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers while rebuilding the Chaska flood wall.

**Helgeson & Company Brickmakers.** Founded in Carver about 1871, probably by John Helgeson, and most likely located a little west of downtown Carver along present day County Road #40 between Carver Creek and the bluffs to the north. John Helgeson was born in Sweden in Aug. 1838 and immigrated to America in 1861. In the latter 1860s John Helgeson had a Carver barge business on the Minnesota river with a certain Mr. Knutson. In 1868 John Helgeson raised the barge of Mssr. Miller & Reynolds (probably Carver resident Philip Reynolds) which sank the previous spring at Fort Snelling. Carver boat builder Joshua Torrey was hired to bring the boat back into working order. The 1870 the U. S. Census for Carver shows Helgeson was doing quite well, with a net worth of \$2,000, and that he was working as a bargeman on the Minnesota River. In 1871 he entered into the brickmaking business with some partners and investors, one of whom may have been Henry Zanger, who lived at 200 Third Street East in Carver. In July 1871 Helgeson parlayed his barge experience with his brickmaking experience, shipping 90,000 bricks downstream to St. Paul. By Aug. 1871 John Helgeson had become sole owner of the brickmaking concern, and in 1872 he expanded the business. In 1872 the *Free Press* newspaper wrote that John Helgeson makes “the finest article of brick to be found in the state. The clay bank of this brickyard is remarkable. . . . a mountain of clay as pure and rich as clay can be. It was found cropping out of a hill 50’ high and after being uncovered it was found to run nearly to the top and is of unknown depth”.

In early 1871 John Helgeson married Christine Hultgren, who was born in Sweden in June 1853 and who immigrated to America with her parents in 1856. Christine was the daughter of pioneer farmers Peter and Eliza Hultberg, who lived in San Francisco Township, just to the southwest of Carver. John and Christine were still living in Carver in 1875, but seem to have sold the business and moved away after that. They may well have sold the brickmaking business to Andrew P. Ahlen, who was probably working at Helgeson & Company as early as 1871, and who would own Andrew Ahlin Brickyard in the same area until 1900. At the 1900 U. S. Census John and Christine Helgeson were living in Belgrade in Stearns County, Minnesota where John was in the feed grinding business.

**Hertz Carver Brewery.** Origins for a brewery in Carver trace to Michael Holl (sometimes spelled Hall), who in June 1863 acquired land on the east side of Spring Creek in Block 65 along North Broadway, purchased from the heirs of Joseph Peitz, who had also owned a steam sawmill located around the corner to the southwest along Sixth Street West in Block 54 of Carver. In May 1864 Michael Holl, from the same heirs, purchased a number of lots on the west side of Spring Creek, giving him unrestricted access to both sides of a clear water spring that was not known to freeze up in the winter, and

providing a year around ingredient necessary for beer making. Michael Hall appears on the 1863-1864 poll tax register for Carver, an indicator that he was then living in Carver.

The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper of Sept. 24, 1864 wrote, "Michael Hall, who in company with another has built a beer factory at Carver is now building an underground cellar for the better preservation of that article. This is the first cellar of the kind in the county, and as the beer is much better for it he cannot but realize a larger home trade".

The beer factory, or brewery, of Michael Holl was probably located on the site of the present dwelling house at 617 Broadway. Michael Holl's "underground cellar" was undoubtedly located near the brewery, and it is known that there were still underground cave-like structures in brick near 617 Broadway as late as the 1970s, and that another large underground brick domed cellar survives to the present on the west side of Spring Creek on land once owned by Holl. Just who Holl was in partnership with is unknown, but between Aug. 1866 and Oct. 1866 several names appear briefly on the title of the property including J. Anton Keller and his wife Mary Keller, both later of Laketown, Minnesota, Charles Gebhard of Carver, Michael Braunworth of Shakopee, Minnesota, and Ernest Poppitz, a merchant in Augusta, Minnesota.

Michael Holl (even spelled Hall or Hull) was born on Sept. 9, 1826 in Hesse in the German States and probably had immigrated to Ohio already by 1853, where two children were born in 1853 and 1855. By 1856 he and his wife Elizabeth, who was born in New York about 1834, were living in Minnesota where a third child was born. At the 1860 U. S. Census for Carver Michael Hall was listed as a river man, indicating that he may have been involved with steamboat or barge traffic on the Minnesota River. His wife Elizabeth was killed in an accident in Chaska on May 30, 1869 and Michael remarried to a certain Rosella or Rosalia. Michael Hall died in Chaska on Jan. 7, 1902 while in the act of lighting his pipe and is buried in Carver's Mount Hope Cemetery near a daughter, Caroline, who died in 1873.

In October 1866 German immigrants Berthold and Anna Hertz took title of the property owned by Michael Holl on both sides of Spring Creek. They operated the Hertz Brewery in Carver at least from as early 1866 and the brewery continued in operation until 1889. The brewery was located at what is today 617 Broadway. The Hertz Brewery supplied beer to Carver and other area saloons, as well as made deliveries to farms at threshing time.

Berthold Hertz was born in Baden in the German States on Dec. 25, 1829, the son of Ferdinand and Franziska Hertz, who both died in the Carver area in March 1876. In Baden Berthold learned the shoemaking trade before immigrating to America in 1851 at age 21. He lived in Buffalo, New York for a summer, and then moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he worked for 4 years at the Lake Superior Copper Mines. In 1851, while in Cleveland, he married Anna (Anni) Kronschnabel who was born in the German States on Feb. 25, 1830. About 1855-56 they moved to a farm in Carver County. The Minnesota State Census for 1865 shows that they then lived in Chanhassen. In 1866 Anna and Berthold Hertz purchased the brewery in Carver. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and*

*Business Directory* for 1873 the Hertz Brewery is advertised. It is known that in 1875 the Hertz family bought the Railroad Hotel complex from Minnie and Emma Gustafson for \$1500, who by probate inherited the complex from their parents who both died at a young age in 1872. At the probate of the Gustafson's estate it was noted that the Gustafson's owed money to Berthold Hertz, probably for beer purchases for the hotel's saloon, and the Hertz acquisition of the property may have been eased by that debt. An 1877 *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper item noted that Mr. Hertz of the Carver Brewery "is making a first class article of beer" and that with Lieverman's Brewery and Iltis' Chaska Union Brewery "there is no need of our saloon keepers going to Minneapolis or St. Paul for beer". On September 28, 1886 Berthold Hertz signed his last will and testament, an indicator that he may have been seriously ill, and in fact on December 15, 1886 Berthold Hertz died of cancer. Widow Anna Hertz continued to operate the brewery through a manager, Julius H. Lau (sometimes spelled Loe), who had living quarters attached to the brewery. Operating as the B. Hertz Brewery from 1878-1885 the brewery produced 500 barrels of beer per year. Operating as the Anna (or Anni) Hertz Brewery from 1885-1889 it continued producing 500 barrels per year. On August 29, 1888 Anna Hertz sold the brewery to manager Julius Lau, but held the mortgage on the property. In April 1889 a fire destroyed the brewing house as well as the personal quarters of the manager, Julius Lau. Because the facilities were underinsured the brewery was never rebuilt and title to the property reverted to Anna Hertz. Anna Hertz died on April 22, 1906. Anna, Berthold, and Berthold's parents are all buried in the old St. Nicholas Church Cemetery in Carver.

In 1890 Anna Hertz sold the property to Hubert Koch, born in 1858 in the German States and a partner, Fritz (Ferdinand) Knabe from New Vienna in Dubuque, Iowa. The following year Koch sold his share of the property to Fritz Knabe. On Aug. 27, 1891 Martha Knabe, age 48, the daughter of German-born parents, committed suicide by poison. The *Weekly Vallery Herald* newspaper noted that she was the wife of the Carver brewer and that husband Fritz Knabe kept a saloon in the Bloedel building. Fritz Knabe seems to have in some capacity made use of some of the surviving Hertz Brewery caves, facilities, or supplies, perhaps until the Minneapolis Brewing Company storage facility was built in Carver along the Mpls.-St. Louis Railroad tracks near the railroad's water tower. Knabe was connected with the Minneapolis Brewing Company from 1891 to May 1893 before he left to take a position under Shakopee brewing foreman Hubert Nyssen. Knabe continued to own the Hertz Brewery property, and in May 1894 he was jailed for five days for cutting down "Mr. Griffin's fence". Mr. Griffin was probably Dr. William Griffin, who owned farmland adjacent to the land complex of the Hertz Brewery.

By 1902 the entire brewery site and farm site passed into the ownership of Alfred F. Bandimere, who with his mother owned Carver Cottage around the corner at 121 Sixth Street West until 1902.

Precisely when the farmhouse at 617 Broadway was built is not certain, but perhaps it was sometime in the 1890s. It is known that it is built upon the limestone and brick foundation ruins of the old brewery. Even to the present charred rafters are exposed in the most southern addition of the building. The barn and many surviving concrete ruins

on the south side of the creek were likely built about the time of the building of farmhouse and operated under the same farm ownership. A bridge once spanned Spring Creek between the farmhouse and barns of the farm, which was primarily a stock farm for the grazing of animals, with much of its land too steep and rocky for crop planting.

In 1916 Albert Bandimere decided to pursue other interests outside of Carver and on Mar. 2, 1916 advertised the former brewery site and farm in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper: *For sale. A stock farm in village limits of Carver consisting of 130 acres, 40 acres under plow and balance in pasture and timber. All fenced and clay loam soil. Two streams in pasture at all seasons. A five room house with heat and gas lights, two barns and other buildings. Splendid orchard containing 70 apple trees, plum and cherry trees, and a variety of berries. Also 23 acres of choice bottomland adjoining the Minnesota River east of Riverside Park. Ten acres in cultivation, balance meadow. A. F. Bandimere.*

In 1922 Albert Bandimere sold the entire former brewery and farm complex to his son Lester Bandimere. In 1937, during the Depression, the farm and farmhouse on the brewery site passed via Sheriff's sale to Lester's sister Mabel and her husband Emil Quast.

**J. M. Nye & Company Brickmaker.** The Nye brickyard was located near the intersection of Broadway and Sixth Street West and produced local buff-colored brick for both the local and export markets. J. M. Nye was John Milton Nye, who was born in Athens, Ohio on Oct. 18, 1817, the son of Niel Nye and Elizabeth Hall. Nye lived in the Village of Carver at the taking of the 1880 U. S. Census. Living with Nye in 1880 were his wife Nancy (Spiller), born about 1827 in Ohio, and a daughter Ada, born there about 1859. Also living at the Nye household was Samuel (S. J.) Grant, born in Ohio about 1838. In 1880 Grant was serving as Nye's agent in the brickmaking concern. Living at Carver's Temperance Hotel at 100 Broadway was brickyard clerk George Grant, born about 1850 and perhaps a brother of Samuel, and brickmaker Matt Meloin, born about 1855, both of them probably employed at J. M. Nye. On an 1880 Carver County map Nye advertised, "We make the finest brick in the market, come and examine them." The years of operation are not known, but it was in operation as early as 1879, production then being from three hundred thousand to five hundred thousand bricks per year. In 1882 J. M. Nye produced 1,250,000 bricks. The Carver yellow clay used for brick production occurred 50-90 feet above the Minnesota River and was in a stratum 30-40 feet thick and overlain and underlain by sand, all deposited during the retreat of the last ice sheet during the most recent period of glaciation.

**Merchant's Hotel.** The Merchant's Hotel in Carver was located near the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad Depot, its location not certainly known. It was likely located on front portion of the lot at 220 Fourth Street East, the hotel probably fronting directly on the street. In Jan. 1885 it advertised in the *Carver Free Press* newspaper: *Travelers and boarders will find the best accommodation. Billiard and pool table, choice wines, liquors & cigars. E. G. Johnson proprietor. A good stable is attached to the hotel.* A similar ad appeared in the same newspaper the following January. In late March 1886 the hotel

burned, killing two, including the proprietor's father-in law, Andrew Swanson Skara, and another immigrant Swede, possibly from Bloomington, Minnesota. Although the hotel was insured for only \$1000, apparently it was immediately rebuilt, for on July 1, 1886 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper reported that the Merchant's Hotel was receiving a coat of paint inside and out.

**Minne-Paul Cereal and Milling Company /American Barley Company Mill No. 1.**

Located north and west of the railroad tracks and water tower along present day County #40 at the east end of Carver, the large buff-colored brick complex stored and processed barley and grains. Probably built in the late 1890s or early 1900s, the facility served as the Minne-Paul Cereal and Milling Company until about 1910 when the facility was put up for sale when Minne-Paul was merged together with several other Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan firms into a much larger company. The building eventually came into ownership of the American Barley Company of Minneapolis, which on Oct.17, 1915 filed a patent for a cereal breakfast food, setting up the American Barley Company Mill No. 1 in Carver. The company advertised their pure barley products as "The Parent of all Foods". In May 1928 the American Barley Company had plans to convert it to a poultry and dairy feed mixing plant, but the Great Depression ended operations and the building fell vacant, it and six lots being up for sale in 1933. While vacant, an early February fire on the coldest night of winter destroyed the building when all its fire doors were left open. Some townspeople suspected arson was involved, but nothing was ever proven. During most of the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the cereal companies owning and operating the facility provided parade floats for the Carver County Fairs held in Carver.

**Minneapolis Brewing Company Beer Warehouse and Cold Storage Facility.** Built sometime before 1894, it was once located northeast of the Fifth Street East intersection with present day County Road #40 alongside the old Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad tracks. Ferdinand (Fritz) Knabe was an early Carver employee of the Minneapolis Brewing Company. In 1891 Knabe acquired the land and remnants of the fire-destroyed Hertz Brewery in Carver. Knabe seems to have made use of some of the surviving Hertz Brewery storage caves, facilities, or supplies, perhaps until the Minneapolis Brewing Company storage facility was completed and in operation. Knabe was connected with the Minneapolis Brewing Company from as early as Sept. 1891 (the month his wife Martha committed suicide by poisoning) to May 1893 when he left to take a position under Shakopee brewing foreman Hubert Nyssen.

The Minneapolis Brewing Company originated with an 1890 merger of four of the largest breweries in Minneapolis: The John Orth Brewing Company, the Heinrich Brewing Association, the Frederick D. Norenberg Brewery, and the Germania Brewing Association. The new company was first called the Minneapolis Brewing and Malting Company and operated primarily out of the Orth brewery, the largest of the four merged breweries.

In 1892, a large new brewing facility was constructed on the Minneapolis Orth site, incorporating four diverse architectural styles that represented the four merged breweries. Additions to the facility made over the next ten years made it one of the nation's largest

breweries. Much of the facility survives to the present, though unused for its original purpose. In 1893 the merged business was incorporated formally under the name of the Minneapolis Brewing Company, while at the same time new line of beers was introduced under the Golden Grain Belt Beer label. By 1905 the organization was nearly self sufficient, containing a carpentry shop, a barrel-making shop, a machine shop, a wagon shop, a paint shop, and a livery to supply beer and delivery supplies to various distributing points, including Carver.

When beer was shipped to Carver by railroad, it was stored and kept cold in the warehouse complex, which consisted of a beer warehouse and cold storage building, as well as an icehouse, office, and a stable for horses to deliver beer and ice to area saloons via wagons. The Minneapolis Brewing Company did well up to the 1920 start of Prohibition, after which its operations shifted to producing near beer, malt syrup, and soft drinks. As late as 1928 the Carver complex was still owned by the Minneapolis Brewing Company but storing near beer. The following year the Great Depression began and deliveries could be made by truck rather than rail, and facility was no longer needed.

**Minneapolis Hotel and Saloon.** Built in 1880 by a popular hotel and saloon proprietor, Louis Larson (1843-1899), who immigrated to America from Sweden in 1867. Louis Larson spent 9 years working wood-hauling barges on the Minnesota River, with winters spent cutting wood. Later he worked for a time in a Carver Hotel, then rented and ran the Washington Hotel in Chaska for three years before building his own Carver establishment in 1880, the Minneapolis Hotel. Louis Larson ran the saloon and hotel with his Swedish wife, Christina (Hallquist) Larson (1857-1937).

The hotel and saloon were located in a single building on two lots on the north side of the 200 block of Fourth Street East. The front of the hotel and saloon was situated very near the street and had a front porch with a veranda above, supported by turned columns that covered a wooden plank sidewalk below. On the upper level a center doorway accessed the veranda, and on the lower level an entry doorway was flanked by larger windows facing Fourth Street East. The hotel had a large stable facility at the rear of the property. In the *Carver Free Press* newspaper of Jan. 1885 the Minneapolis Hotel advertised: *A square meal at moderate price, bar and good stabling.*

In November 1891 Christina, the wife of hotel proprietor Louis Larson, barely missed death when she was shot at in the building by berserk Carver resident Charles Fetzner, who was looking for Carver railroad engineer Andrew Sthol. Fetzner then fled town, but days later Fetzner returned on a train, caught up with Sthol at the nearby Carver Depot, and shot him in the face before taking his own life in front of several horrified witnesses. Louis and Christina Larson ran the hotel and saloon until Louis' death in 1899, after which it went via probate to Christina and a daughter, Bertha. Louis and Christina (Christine) Larson are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver.

By 1900 the Minneapolis Brewing Company had purchased the hotel and saloon, owning it for almost all of the years until 1933, when ownership became listed as the Minneapolis Shareholders Company. In October 1906 August Johnson, who ran the railroad saloon in

the Carver Depot, purchased the Minneapolis Hotel and Saloon for \$1517. Already in February 1907 Johnson sold it back to the Minneapolis Brewing Company, and in that year instead purchased the John Leonard Saloon and Basler House Hotel at the northeast corner of Broadway and Main Street West in Carver.

During its ownership period the Minneapolis Brewing Company seems to have leased out the building to several different saloon and hotelkeepers, probably with a financial arrangement in place to purchase beer from the Minneapolis Brewing Company warehouse, located not far from the Minneapolis-St.Louis Railway water tower along today's Carver County Road # 40. Among these lessees were John (1880-1938) and Catherine (1886-1945) Edblom who operated the building and hotel as the John Edblom Saloon.

John Theodore Edblom was born at West Union in Hancock Township in Carver County, the son of Swedish immigrants. John Edblom farmed until he was 26 years of age and then went into business in Cologne in Carver County, where in March 1907 he had purchased a saloon from Harry Beck. The following year he married Catherine Marie (Kathryn Mary) Vanderlick, who was born in Cologne, in Carver County, Minnesota. The Edbloms lived in Cologne for a year or two and then located to Carver where they leased the Minneapolis Hotel and Saloon for a short time in 1909-1910. In March 1910 they sold the saloon business to Fred House and by July 1921 had formed a partnership with George Peterson under the name of the Carver Produce Company, which they ran at 300 Broadway in a Carver building purchased by the Edbloms.

By 1928, during Prohibition, the Minneapolis Hotel building was no longer serving as a saloon and hotel, being then instead a store, with a residence above. The portion of the hotel nearest Fourth Street East was torn down, as was the stable, in the mid 1940s. In 1944 the property was purchased by the Rademacher family, which owns it to the present. As late as 2011 a small portion of the rear of the old hotel and saloon building survived as a private residence at 212 Fourth Street East.

**Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway.** In the fall of 1869 surveying work began in the Chaska-Carver area to confirm that a railroad could be built from Minneapolis to Carver, and then across the Minnesota River to points south. The citizens of Carver were well aware of how valuable a railroad terminal in town would be to Carver's prosperity. While the steamboats served the town well, they were unable to travel during the low river levels often seen in late summer and fall, and during the winter iceup they could not navigate at all. In April 1870 Carver citizens were asked to vote on a \$20,000 bond to aid in the railroad's development. The vote passed, but the townspeople later became very divided on the bond issue when they learned that when it came due with the 7% interest payable semi-annually, it would actually run to \$48,000 and create an ongoing great burden for the young town. In mid-May 1870 a similar bond of \$10,000 in Chaska was voted down by the citizens.

The Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway was created on May 26, 1870 by a group of Minnesota investors, including members of the Minneapolis milling families of Pillsbury

and Washburn, who wanted to create railroad connections between Minneapolis and the rich agricultural farmlands and markets in southern Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois, while making a bypass of the busy and expensive Chicago.

In 1870-71 land acquisition for the railroad occurred in Carver and surrounding communities along the proposed route. St. Louis Park's name was derived from the railroad as it passed through that community. In Carver at least one house had to be removed from the railroad right-of-way, the home of William Benson, which he had just built and moved into in June 1870. Benson's house was moved to a new location by Capt. Charles Johnson, a Civil War veteran, who had been awarded the house-moving contract. Johnson, a carpenter by trade, was a Carver resident whose home yet stands at 116 Third Street West in Carver. William Benson is perhaps the same person who later became Carver County Superintendent of Schools. During the late summer grading crews were working at various points along the railroad's right-of-way. In late September 1870 a grading crew of about 40 men were working near Carver steamboat Capt. James Houghton's house, with another 60 men to join them shortly. By December 1870 the grading was completed between Carver and the Hennepin County line.

The winter of 1870-1871 was a mild one, so that crews were able to work through the winter. In early February 1871 contractors were exploring around Chaska, looking for dirt to fill and raise the landscape for the railroad tracks up to the Minnesota River bank at Carver. Some of the dirt taken perhaps came from byproduct soils taken from the Chaska brickyards. By the end of February crews began driving piles and filling in dirt on two miles of bottomland across the river from Carver. This was completed by the end of June. In March 1871 a barge was built and work commenced on driving piles for the bridge across the Minnesota River. By mid-March the center pier was nearly completed and teams were hauling "Merriam red rock" stone from a Louisville Township quarry for all three of the bridge piers. By about mid-August the laying of the rails began on the Carver end, with crews working at almost a mile-a-day clip. In September 1871 grading and then construction began for the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway Carver depot.

Represented by Carver attorney Frank Warner, the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad officers in late October 1871 asked for the \$20,000 in bonds that was voted to them, and a special town meeting was to be called for the purpose of issuing the bonds

By November 1871 the Minnesota River crossing bridge was in place at Carver that paved the way for railroad expansion to destinations south. By November 11, track was laid across the river from Carver and on to Mirriam Junction for immediate rail traffic. Along with the railroad bed and track a telegraph line was installed along the railroad. Shortly after the completion of the bridgework, construction began in September on the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway Carver depot.

On Saturday, November 25, 1871 a grand opening run of the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad was made between Louisville in Scott County, through Carver and Chaska, and on to Minneapolis for a joyous dinner. More than 1,000 invited guests along the route made the run. The railroad was important to Minneapolis, and played a role in turning

the tide away from St. Paul as the major center of commerce. The new railroad had been largely a private enterprise, with but a \$90,000 bond from Minneapolis and a \$20,000 bond from Carver. At a cost of \$20,000 per mile the railroad's 26 miles from Louisville to Minneapolis, and another 18 miles for a span from White Bear to Minneapolis were costly, totaling some \$900,000.

The Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad was important to Carver also. It gave Carver lucrative commercial connections to both Minneapolis and St. Paul. Quickly a number of buildings were constructed along the railroad tracks. Additional saloons and hotels sprung up to handle travelers and businessmen. Goods of all sorts were shipped into and out of Carver. Produce and livestock from a great area of surrounding farms was shipped out, first being delivered to Carver raiiside animal pens and graneries. Carloads of brick from Carver's brickyards were shipped to the Twin Cities for building projects, and by the mid-1870s an annual average of more than 187,000 bushels of wheat were being shipped to Minneapolis. The waning of the steamboat era ushered in the railroad era and Carver continued to thrive and grow.

Like most U. S. railroads, the Minneapolis-St. Paul had its share of lawsuits, litigation, loss of routes, gain of routes, and receiverships. From 1888 to 1894 the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad found itself in receivership. In 1900 (officially in 1912) it merged with the Iowa Central Railroad and its finances improved to the point that the merged railroad acquired some smaller railroads. In November 1902 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper wrote: "*The M&St.L. R.R. Co. have recently installed a new train on their road running from the Twin Cities to Chicago, over the Albert Lea route. It is the finest of its kind we have ever seen or rode on and it is a pride to the Co. The "North Star Limited", as the new train is called, is the acme of perfection turned out of the Pullman shops and in detail of construction is superb. The decorations of the interior possess the highest type of finish and show off splendidly. There are finely finished day coaches for those who do not use a sleeper, fine combination compartment and sectional sleeping cars, a buffet and library car, with its large lounging room, which is stocked with a goodly assortment of periodicals. Also card tables are provided for those who wish to play. The train is entirely lighted by gas and shows off splendidly. This train is as good as any now running on any line and the time made from the cities to Chicago, equals the best. The Co. has also spent a half a million dollars the past year in straightening curves, reducing grades and balasting the road bed between here and Mpls.*" The railway's North Star Limited operated from 1902-1912. The Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway was long nicknamed and advertised "The Peoria Gateway".

Things deteriorated again a few years later as the nation was in the clutches of the Great Depression, and the Minneapolis-St. Louis was again forced into receivership. This receivership lasted until 1943, the 20-year receivership the longest for any railroad in U. S. history. In the 1930s the railroad was nearly liquidated to pay debts. Youngsters from Carver often rode the train to and from Chaska for a nickel during the Depression years, and sometimes even for free by hopping into boxcars. Lucien Sprague took over the Minneapolis-St. Louis in 1935, and through a number of cost saving moves again set the railroad on firm footing.

As more roads were built and more cars, trucks, and airplanes transported passengers and freight, many railroads fell into decline in the 1950s as revenues fell. Among suffering railroads were Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway. In late 1960 the Minneapolis-St. Louis was acquired by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. During the 1960s and 1970s many portions of the old Minneapolis-St. Louis were vacated, with only a few small spurs left in operation. A portion of the old Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway track was taken over by the Union Pacific Railroad in 1990 and was operated through Carver and continued on to the United Sugars plant in Chaska, which specialized in liquid sugar distribution around the nation.

Accidents and injuries often occurred on or near the railroad tracks of the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway near Carver. On the afternoon of May 3, 1891 a Mr. C. Monnis, about 80 years old and from Louisville in Scott County, was struck and killed on the tracks by an engine just to the north of Carver. He was hard of hearing and may not have heard the warning whistle signaling that the tracks be cleared. On September 10, 1891 Charles Peterson, a brakeman for the Omaha freight train traveling from Merriam Junction to Minneapolis, fell between the railcars as the train pulled out of Carver at 10 p.m. He was not missed until the train was nearly at Chaska. It returned and found him along the tracks, his left arm badly injured and needing to be amputated below the elbow. On June 1, 1892 a Swedish immigrant from Carver named Nelson was instantly killed by a train that backed over him at Merriam Junction, south of Carver.

Early in the morning of June 8, 1911 a northbound Omaha freight train on the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad was nearly destroyed after departing Merriam Junction on the way to Carver. At 3:00 a.m. it neared what was then called the Gas Lake Bridge, about a mile south of Carver, when the fireman and engineer noticed that the bridge was on fire. They were able to jump from the train just before the engine and fire car took down the bridge. Both men were injured, but neither seriously. Work crews were sent to bring the railroad cars back up to the main tracks, which took several days. It was believed that a lightning strike had struck the bridge, starting a fire that burned away 20 feet of the bridge in the rain and fog, so that the engineer could not see the damage to stop the train in time.

On Dec. 3, 1912 at 6:30 p.m. two freight trains collided at Carver, with its Minneapolis-St. Louis depot sustaining some damage, but fortunately there were no injuries. On Friday, August 29, 1913 Minnesota deputy state fire marshal Arthur E. Clark was killed by a train at Carver as he walked along the tracks inspecting the town's grain elevators. Clark was deaf, and probably never heard the train coming.

At 10 p.m. November 26, 1918 sparks from a passing locomotive ignited the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway Depot at Carver, destroying it completely and necessitating that a new depot be built.

The On Friday, June 19, 1931 Norwegian native John (Johannes) Anderson (1884-1931) was crossing the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway bridge over the Minnesota River, on his

way home after walking to Carver to pick up some groceries. When he reached the center of the bridge a train approached and he was struck and thrown to the base of the center pier, dying instantly.

The bridge a mile south of Carver that had been damaged by lightning in June 1911, after being rebuilt, is probably the same bridge that ultimately ended the railroad era in Carver on March 23, 2007 when it collapsed under the weight of carloads of sugar, spilling the railcars into the Minnesota River. The bridge was undoubtedly weakened by a great push of ice during spring flooding a few days earlier.

At the time of the end of railroad service to Carver the railroad in 1990 had come into the ownership of the Union Pacific Railroad, which by then was only operating a portion of the spur running through northern Scott County, Carver, and on to the sugar plant in Chaska. Union Pacific decided the spur was not lucrative enough to rebuild the bridge to continue serving the spur. By September 2010 negotiations were yet underway to abandon the spur between northern Scott County, Carver, and Chaska, including the railroad bridge across the Minnesota River.

**Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway Depot at Carver.** Once located at the east end of Fourth Street East, it was a little north of the present day site of the Casey's Store and gas station, and to the south of the surviving railroad water tower. The earliest Carver Depot was built September 1871 in conjunction with the arrival of the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad in Carver. Ground preparation for it started the first week of September of that year on land located near John Gustafson's Railroad Hotel, and close to Capt. Charles Johnson's house.

A Mr. Hungerford was probably the first station agent at Carver. He is mentioned in a Dec. 14, 1871 item in the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper, wherein large quantities of freight were said to be already accumulating at his depot, destined for surrounding towns. In Mar. 1874 Capt. William H. Mills (born in Pennsylvania about 1826) was the station agent at Carver when the telegraph was installed that could send and receive messages almost instantaneously. Mills served in the Civil War in Company C of the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and in 1873 was elected Chairman of the Carver County Democratic and Liberal Convention held in Benton Township. Another early Carver station agent for the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway was Capt. Charles Collins, probably another Civil War veteran, who seems to have been with the railroad at or near its beginning. Around 1874 he was made station agent in Carver, an enviable position he held for four years until Aug. 4, 1878 when he died from cholera at age 50. Collins' remains were sent back to New York for burial among family members there.

Among other Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway Depot agents at Carver were Jay Cook (1884), George Goetze (1886), Ben Callaghan (1893), J. W. Searles, and Vern Wigfield Sr. (1938). The most famous of the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railway station agents was Richard W. Sears (1863-1914), the cofounder and first president of the Sears & Roebuck Company. Sears parlayed his station agent position at North Redwood, Minnesota with

mail order watch selling into one of the great American businesses of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper of Dec. 25, 1884 reported that the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad officials were going to be discharging all depot agents who were not married and replacing them with married men. Each agent was to be informed that he could “hold his position providing he takes unto himself a better half in a specified time....”. What precipitated this, and if it actually came to pass, is not known.

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1887 the Carver Depot was abuzz with excitement for the arrival of U. S. President Grover Cleveland and his wife Frances Folsom Cleveland, who at age 21 was (and still is) the country’s youngest First Lady, and the first to be married in the White House. President Cleveland, 28 years her senior, had married Frances the previous year. The Carver Depot platform and surrounding area was packed, with almost every Carverite present, as well as with hordes from area farms. The Carver Depot was brightly illuminated and a large bonfire nearby lit the landscape. Carver Civil War veteran Christian Bristle commanded the Light Artillery, which fired salvos from two howitzers to salute the President as his special train arrived. Two candle balloons were released into the air, and the Carver Union Band played *America*. The President’s train slowed and came to a short stop at the depot. President Cleveland stood on a platform at the rear of his Pullman Palace Car and nodded several times to the crowd as the First Lady looked on through a car window before the train pulled out heading for the Minnesota River crossing. Grover Cleveland is the only U. S. President to be elected President for two non-consecutive terms.

In November 1891 the Carver Depot was the site of events that the *Carver Free Press* called a “horrible suicide and attempted murder”. Earlier in November several Carver citizens were at the depot singing songs to a banjo when railroad engineer Andrew Sthol commented to Charles Fetzner about a song saying, “doesn’t that remind you of home?” Fetzner then went berserk, attacking Sthol, but was pulled off by others present. Fetzner went home but returned with a gun, looking for Sthol. When he didn’t find him Fetzner went to the nearby Minneapolis Hotel Saloon, still looking for Sthol. Not finding him, Fetzner fired at the wife of the proprietor, Louis Larson, barely missing her. Fetzner then disappeared from Carver for several days. At 8:00 p.m. on Sunday night, November 19 Fetzner arrived by train at the Carver Depot. He walked directly up to Andrew Sthol and fired a pistol twice at his face from near point blank range before turning the gun on himself and committing suicide in front of several witnesses, including Sthol’s nephew, sixteen-year old George Hebeisen, who lived down the street at the Gables at 201 Fourth Street East. Sthol’s life, amazingly, was spared after several surgery attempts to remove a bullet which had gone through his jaw and lodged in his neck. Years later Sthol’s funeral would take place in the Gables before his burial in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver.

The first Carver Depot was lost to a fire set by sparks from a passing train about 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1918. The fire could be seen in Chaska, and many who had cars drove to Carver to help, but the fire was too far advanced. A replacement depot was

constructed shortly thereafter, which by the 1920s was faced in brick. The baggage room was situated in the north end of the depot, while the passenger area was located in the south end of the building. Live stockyard pens for shipment and storage of animals were located across the railroad tracks and to the northwest of the depot. The Carver Depot was torn down in the 1950s.

**Peitz and Steger Sawmill.** On Apr. 23, 1856 former Minnesota Territorial Governor Alexander Ramsey and his wife Anna sold German States immigrants Joseph Peitz and Lawrence Steger (sometimes spelled Stager) a large tract of land, which included all of Block 54 and parts of lots 65 and 66 in the area of Sixth Street and Broadway in Carver, including land on either side of Spring Creek. The purchase agreement specified “*with right to occupy Spring Creek running through the said blocks (that is to say above Sixth Street) with a dam and mill pond and to overflow so much of the street of said town above Sixth Street as may be necessary to create and establish said mill pond on said creek on condition however that when the lots and lands so above granted a water or steam mill shall be maintained in operation for at least three years from this date: and upon condition that the people of the Town of Carver in their corporate capacity may open any of said street so overflowing by erecting bridges and culverts or embankments, but in such manner as not to destroy or materially damage the dam or mill pond; and upon the further condition that for three years from this date the present road to Glencoe and Clearwater [Waconia] Lake through said lots shall be kept open and unobstructed for a width of thirty-three feet*”.

Whether a dam, millpond, and water mill were ever constructed seems unlikely, for already on the property by 1857 a steam sawmill is shown on the plat map for Carver in the Minnesota Territory. The saw mill was located on Lot 4 in Block 54 about 100 feet to the east and south of Carver Cottage at 121 Sixth Street West. The saw mill must have incurred financial difficulties early on, for the early title to Block 54 and the steam sawmill is complicated, with sales, mortgages, estate probates, and foreclosures, which included such non-land property as a Stearn Sawmill, an engine, machinery, and appurtenances. Among those with legal connections to block 54 in the 1850s and early 1860s were Joseph Peitz, his wife Louisa Peitz, Lawrence Stager (Steger), Edmund Walton, Ernest Heyd, Therese Habeck, Therese Lang (probably the same person as Therese Habeck), William Habeck, Henry Sohns, Henry Irving, Catharina Friese, Adam Hein, and Joseph Hamers. Lawrence Steger, an early Laketown pioneer in Carver County, seems to have been a brother of Martin Steger, who lived at 400 Oak Street in Carver. Steger sold his share in the property to Joseph Peitz, and Peitz seems to have been the principal owner of Block 54 and the saw mill in the 1850s. Peitz was an immigrant from Prussia in the German States, who at the 1860 U. S. Census for was cited as a mill proprietor, then living in Waconia, to where he had probably relocated the sawmill or built another. Joseph Peitz died in the early 1860s and in 1863 all of Block 54, including the Carver Cottage house, was sold to German immigrant Michael Hall through Peitz’ heirs. Michael Hall’s interest in the property seems not to have been as a mill operator, but rather in connection to the brewing industry.

A portion of Carver Cottage at 121 Sixth Street West may have been in some way connected to the saw mill.

**Pioneer General Store.** Once a fine two-story brick building located at 117 Broadway, on the site of the present 1964 block building that was used by Carver County Public works and then by the Carver Fire Department until a new fire station opened in 2004.

A store, probably wood-framed and owned by Carver businessman Enoch Holmes, may have first occupied a site a couple doors to the south as a general store in the 1860s, and perhaps as early as the 1850s. Enoch Holmes was one of Carver's pioneer citizens who arrived in 1857, and who served as the Carver census taker for the 1860 U. S. Census. Holmes was involved in a variety of commercial businesses, partnerships, and interests in Carver and elsewhere, including real estate, milling, and owning a general store. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 Enoch Holmes is advertised in Carver as in the dry goods and groceries business on Broadway, and in the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and for he was advertised as a general store proprietor at an undisclosed location

By Mar. 1868 Enoch Holmes was building a large brick building on the southeast corner of Broadway and Main Street East. His old building was not so good, having been in use for more than a decade. In Feb. 1869 Holmes had his substantial two-story brick building in operation. The front façade of the building featured a second story veranda covering a porch below. The building was 57 feet long, 26 feet wide and had 13 foot ceilings. In 1869 it was carrying \$16,000 in stock merchandise, employed 3 clerks, and had an office in the rear. Attached to the rear/east side of the building was a large one-story frame warehouse that was 50 feet long and about 20 feet wide, with a small two-story area off the southeast corner of the brick building. The warehouse was standing yet in 1894 but gone by 1912. In addition there was a large two-story stable, two one-story outbuildings, and a one and a half story outbuilding, all behind the brick building and to its southeast along the river. The stable and one of the other outbuildings yet survived in 1928. The main two-story brick building fronting Broadway housed a large general store, and probably had a second story private residence with a rear veranda, and was operated in the 1880s by Enoch Holmes and a partner, Fred (Fritz) Wommer (born in Prussia about 1844), as the Pioneer Store of Carver County. By Jan. 1886 the firm had added partner John Hebeisen, calling it Holmes, Hebeisen & Wommer, and specializing in clothing, dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, and serving also as agents for McCormick's new steel binder and mower. The Pioneer General Store was said to be the best general store in the county.

In 1889 Holmes, Wommer, & Hebeisen sold the business to the Olson Brothers of Carver to pursue other interests. The general store business was moved to another Carver location at the southeast corner of Broadway and Fourth Street East, where it was renamed Olson Brothers and Ahlin. In March 1891 Fred Wommer moved to Minneapolis to open a grocery store.

In 1891 Enoch Holmes sold the two-story brick building that once housed the Pioneer General Store, including all of the appurtenant outbuildings on three attached lots he had owned since 1865 to Christopher August (C.A.) Goetze and his wife Maria (Hartung). C. A. Goetze was born in 1843 in Prussia in the German States and immigrated to a farm in Dahlgren Township in Carver County with his family in 1858. About 1861 he moved to Carver where he apprenticed as a boot and shoemaker for 2 ½ years. In 1863 C. A. Goetze and Edward Goetze (probably his brother) purchased a lot in Carver which was located on the north side of Main Street West, on the western portion of the present day gas station site near Spring Creek at Broadway and Main. In the same year, possibly on that lot, Christopher Goetze opened his own shoe and boot shop, adding a supply of boots and shoes to sell in 1864. In late August 1867 C. A. Goetze completed construction on a 22 by 36 foot shoe and boot store. Though its location is unknown, it may have been on the same lot that was purchased in 1863. In 1870 he was still in the shoemaking business, but in May 1871 he erected a two-story frame building on Broadway in Carver. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1872 and for 1873 Christopher Goetze was advertised as yet in the shoe and boot business, though the location was not given. Perhaps as early as 1873 he had taken up the general store business, for in that year he exhibited a Wheeler and Wilson sewing machine at the Carver County Fair, this at the same time his wife Maria was exhibiting several pieces of needlework. But certainly by 1878 C. A. Goetze was already in the grocery and general store business, for he is then found advertised in the *Minnesota Gazetteer*, though at an unknown Carver location, this 13 years prior to buying the Pioneer General Store building from Enoch Holmes. With the purchase of the building he owned and operated his own general store business, adopting the old Pioneer General Store name used by Holmes and Wommer. In 1880 C. A. Goetze was listed among the highest taxpayers in Carver County. In that year he advertised, "Groceries, boots and shoes, glassware, gloves, mittens, toys, musical instruments, notions, children's carriages, bird cages, choice fruits, confectionery, cigars and tobacco, also agent for the Wheeler & Wilson, Howe, and Davis sewing machines." At the U. S. Censuses of 1880 and 1900 he is described as a grocer, though he also sold items from a large stock of general merchandise. The building would remain in the Goetze family for the next 40 years, though in November 1906 C. A. Goetze retired from the general store business and died in early 1909. By the 1920s the building had ceased being a general store and was being used for automobile parking or repair and labled as an 'auto livery' on the 1928 Sanborn Fire Map for Carver. George Goetze, a son of C. A. and Maria Goetze, in July 1886 was made station agent at the Hastings and Dakota Railway Depot at Carver.

In 1912 C. A. Goetze separated and sold off two lots on the east side of the building on Main Street East to the Presbyterian congregation to build the Presbyterian Church of Carver, today known as the Church-by-the River.

For a time in the 1940s the old general store building was owned by the State of Minnesota and used as a machine shop and storage facility. By the 1960s the Carver County Highway Department was using it as a maintenance building, with highway sign painting taking place on the second floor. At 5:30 p.m. January 29, 1962 a furnace explosion in the basement started the building on fire. Firefighters from Carver, Chaska,

and Shakopee battled the flames, successfully keeping it from spreading to the adjacent Church-by-the-River (Presbyterian Church), but the building was damaged beyond repair. Before demolition took place, quantities of rare issues of the historical *Carver Free Press* newspaper were salvaged from the walls where they had been stashed as insulation, all dating prior to 1897. After demolition the Carver Fire Department building was erected on the site and remained in fire department use until 2004.

**Planter's House Hotel and Saloon/Carver House Hotel.** It was a grand wooden-framed three-story hotel in a four square layout, with three bays on each side of the building, a widow's walk on the roof, lapped siding, and a basement saloon. The hotel was built in 1856 as the Carver House Hotel by pioneer Carver businessman Levi Griffin after an 1856 fire destroyed the first attempt at a hotel, just as construction neared completion and plaster was being applied to the walls. Two Levi Griffin-owned houses yet survive at Fourth Street East in Carver.

The first Carver town meeting was held at Carver House on May 11, 1858, with Dr. William Griffin (Levi Griffin's cousin) being the moderator. At the meeting William P. Baxter was elected clerk, J. S. Letford, chairman, Ole Paulson and Charles Leudloff, supervisors, George Bucklin, town clerk, Charles Sorenson, assessor, Charles Johnson, collector, Charles Basler and S. Oleson, constables, and Charles Johnson and Charles Sorenson, justices of the peace. Many immigrant servant girls were wed to area immigrant farmers, with weddings and ceremonies held at the hotel.

Levi Griffin operated the Carver House Hotel from about 1856-1866, probably employing P.S. DeGroot to run it for some of that period. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1865 P. S. DeGroot is advertised as proprietor of Carver House on Broadway in Carver. In 1866 Levi Griffin sold Carver House Hotel to Swedish immigrant Charles A. Blomquist, who was also one of Carver's early citizens. C. A. Blomquist (sometimes spelled Bloomquist) was born in Sweden on April 2, 1833 and immigrated to America, going first to Chicago, Illinois. In April 1854 Blomquist relocated to St. Paul, Minnesota where he found work as a carpenter. In 1857, the same year he was married to Henrietta Swanson, he moved to Carver where he took part in Carver's steamboat business for the next 10 years. In 1867 Blomquist opened a billiard hall in the basement of the Carver House Hotel. In May 1870 Blomquist received the appointment to take the 1870 U. S. Census in Carver County, and in 1880, he would again take the census for Carver. In the *Minnesota Gazetteer and Business Directory* for 1872 Charles Blomquist was advertised as a hotel and saloon proprietor, and in 1873 as a saloon proprietor. For a time he moved to Minneapolis where he ran the Orient House Hotel from 1873-75, after which Blomquist returned to Carver to reopen the hotel as the Planter's House Hotel. In 1878 Nicholas Schoenborn opened a barbershop in the hotel, and that same year Blomquist planted shade trees in front of the hotel, the first shade trees planted in Carver. In January 1878 Blomquist sold the Planter's House to a certain Mr. Felgerson, but Blomquist seems to have reacquired it and continued on in the business in the early 1880s before selling it again in 1883. In February 1884 a Grand ball was held at the Planter's House. By the 1890s Blomquist, whose name is sometimes spelled Bloomquist, was living in Minneapolis.

The Carver House/Planter's House, with its billiard room and lower level saloon, was once located on the east side of Broadway on the site of the present day Carver City Park and gazebo. By 1923 the widow's walk had been removed and the front porch enclosed, perhaps with screens. The building survived until being torn down about 1941-1942..

**Railroad Hotel and Saloon.** The Railroad Hotel and Saloon in Carver, Minnesota were situated on lots 11 and 12 of Block #40 which today includes the addresses of 216 and 220 Fourth Street East, as well as 430 Lime Street North, all in close proximity to the first railroad to make its way to Carver.

In 1870 Swedish married immigrants John and Anne E. Gustafson purchased both lots for \$650 from Louisa Heuer, who had received the property after probate in 1866 from the deceased Christian Heuer, most likely her spouse or near relative. The somewhat elevated purchase price indicates that there may have been a small house or outbuildings on the property, perhaps on the portion of the lots facing Lime Street, or that the seller and buyers knew that the Minneapolis-St. Louis Railroad was slated to come through Carver the following year. In 1870 the Minneapolis-St. Paul Railroad had plans to cross the river at Carver to destinations south. In January 1871 a contract for building the railroad bridge over the Minnesota River at Carver was let out, with work to be completed by July 1871 at a cost of about \$40,000, with most of the stone for the bridge being obtained from a quarry near Carver. Undoubtedly John and Anne Gustafson saw opportunity to profit from the railroad, and perhaps even from the men and horses required to build the bridge and lay the tracks.

In January 1871 John Gustafson started a livery stable on his new property, and it may be that at this time he built or modified one or more buildings on the property to serve as the Railroad Hotel and Saloon. In Aug. 1871 the *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper reported that John Gustafson was painting his new house. The Gustafsons' hotel operations were to be short-lived, lasting not longer than two and a half years. In the *Minnesota Gazatteer and Business Directory* for 1873 John Gustafson is advertised as a hotel proprietor. On January 8, 1873 Anne E. Gustafson died of stomach cancer at Carver, just thirty-one years old. Five and a half months later, on June 30, 1873 John Gustafson died, forty-five years old, leaving several orphaned Gustafson children: Eva, Hannah, Minna, Emma, Bengt, and a 23 year-old daughter, Josephine. The Gustafsons are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Carver. Andrew M. Swenson, owner of a nearby Carver business and perhaps a relative of the Gustafsons, was the estate's administrator, and in July 1873 he rented the Gustafson's hotel and saloon to a certain Mr. Krincke of Young America in Carver County. Krincke planned on "keeping it a first class boarding house and saloon", as indicated by an 1873 *Weekly Valley Herald* newspaper item.

In 1873 the Gustafson's oldest daughter Josephine married Andrew Larson, who was born in Sweden about 1849. Some time between around 1874-1875 Josephine and Andrew took over the running of the Railroad Hotel that had been owned by her parents. The Minnesota State Census of 1875 for Carver reveals that Josephine and Andrew Larson had also taken in Eva and Hannah Gustafson, two of Josephine's orphaned sisters.

Tragedy continued to plague the hotel and family, for on Oct. 19, 1875 Josephine's husband, Andrew Larson, died of typhoid fever at age 26. Josephine, pregnant at the time, gave birth posthumously to a daughter, Lillie, born on Dec. 20, 1875. In late 1875 the estate of Josephine's parents was probated and the Railroad Hotel complex was partitioned between Josephine and her five siblings. Josephine, after a period of hardship working on a farm as a domestic servant, in 1881 married widower Aaron Palmer, another Swedish immigrant, and with her daughter Lillie moved into Palmer's house at 205 Fourth Street West in Carver.

Today there are two small houses sitting on lot 12 of Block 40 in Carver, and another small dwelling sitting on lot 11. It is conceivable that some of the dwellings, each a story and a half, with two of them on Lots 11 and 12 fronting on Fourth Street East, date to 1870 and were in use then as the Railroad Hotel by the Gustafsons. They appear already on Carver's earliest Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, dated June 1894, when they are called dwellings, not then a hotel or hotel buildings. At the rear of 216 Fourth Street East in 1894 there was yet a large two-story stable, now gone, which may have been John Gustafson's livery stable. This stable had disappeared by the time the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance map was made.

Tradition has it that the small L-shaped dwelling at 220 Fourth Street East was built in 1870 and served as a saloon. This is consistent in time and usage with being part of a Gustafson Railroad Hotel complex. The addition of the base of the "L" of the dwelling located at Fourth and Lime was added at a later time, and at one time the building had an open porch in the angle of that "L". Also the building at 216 Fourth Street East is today larger than that which appears on the 1894 fire map.

The Gustafson lots, along with all structures on the property, went into probate court in 1875, with the Gustafson children receiving rights to the property. The 1875 Carver County Probate Record, which still survives, includes an interesting and detailed inventory of the sundry items found in a Carver saloon in 1872. In 1875 the property and buildings were sold by the heirs, the Gustafson children, to Berthold and Anna Hertz for \$1550. Anna and Berthold Hertz ran the Hertz Brewery in Carver from about 1866-1888 and were owed money, probably from the sale of beer to the Gustafsons, which may have partly accounted for their purchase of the property from the Gustafson heirs. The hotel and saloon may have ceased operation around this time.

**Reynolds & Miller Brickyard.** The Reynolds and Miller Brickyard was located in Carver and in operation in the latter half of the 1860s, its location unknown. The Edward Goetze house, built in 1867, by mason Edward Goetze, was constructed in brick manufactured by Reynolds and Miller. Brickmaker Reynolds was Philip Reynolds, born in Ireland in May 1832, who came to America in 1868. He is named in Minnesota and U. S. Censuses in Carver from 1875-1905, and was a Minnesota River barge owner in the 1860s (necessary for exporting brick), and later in life a buttermaker. A son, Frank, born in Minnesota in June 1870, was a mason by trade in 1900. Brickmaker Miller was Frederick Miller, with whom Reynolds ran a barge business on the Minnesota River.

**Skoog-Wetter General Store.** Once located just to the south of the present Carver Post Office, the 60-foot long narrow building was built by A. L. Skoog and made of brick and probably served from 1881-1887 as the Skoog and Anderson General Store, owned by A. L. (Anders or Andrew) Skoog, who lived at 120 Third Street East in Carver, and his partner A. G. Anderson, who lived at 208 Main Street West in Carver. In 1887 Skoog bought out Anderson, and in later years it was known as the A. L. Skoog and Brothers General Store, which in 1909 A.L. Skoog sold to his brother Alfred (J.A. Skoog), who lived at 200 Third Street West Carver. On the night of November 29, 1900 burglars entered the rear of the A. L. Skoog and Brothers General Store and stole \$100 in goods, including shoes. Discovered late the next morning, postal notices were issued by Carver County Sheriff August Johnson. Later several pairs of the missing shoes were later discovered in the rooms of a suspect arrested in Minneapolis. On Thursday, June 8, 1911 the store, then solely under J. A. Skoog's ownership, was robbed again.

By 1932 the building was serving as the Wetter General Store, leased from Skoog by Gerald R. and Lucille Wetter, and clerked by Gerald's sister, Delores Wetter. At 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4, 1932 the Affolter family, living above the store, discovered the fire and fled the building. The Carver Fire Department, aided by the Chaska Fire Department, saw the building be gutted before the fire was finally brought under control. The fire was believed to have started in the center of the building, caving in the floors, but leaving the brick walls intact. Building owner Skoog had no insurance on the building and it suffered some \$10,000 damage from the fire, never to be rebuilt. The Wetter's loss was estimated at some \$8,000, most of it from groceries, clothing, dry goods, and shoes. The Wetter family stayed with Gerald's parents in Mayer, Minnesota for a time before moving to Foley, Minnesota and going into the creamery and butter making business. A boarded up Carver eyesore for 9 years, in October 1941 the fire-gutted general store walls were taken down by a Minneapolis wrecking business that agreed to remove the building for the salvageable brick.

## **Unresearched Carver Historic District Properties**

Many businesses and dwellings in the Carver Historic District have yet to be fully researched as to dates of construction and the histories of their early residents and owners. With approximate dates of construction, some of these are:

**220 Main Street West,** built circa 1870

**301 Main Street West,** built circa 1880

**209 Third Street West,** built circa 1870

**120 Third Street West**, built circa 1870

**200 Fourth Street West**, built circa 1865

**109 Fourth Street East**, built circa 1922, subdued bungalow style with dormer.

**220 Ash Street**

**221 Ash Street**, built 1923?

*The Heritage Preservation Commission of the City of Carver is available to help with the identification of properties within the Carver Historic District, and to aid in researching early owners and residents, and the uses to which buildings were put. The homes of several early and important Carver citizens are yet to be identified.*

*Please contact the Heritage Preservation Commission of the City of Carver or John von Walter at telephone number 952-361-3149, or by email at [jvonwalter@embarqmail.com](mailto:jvonwalter@embarqmail.com), if you have questions, additional information, old Carver photographs to share, or see needed corrections on any of the above Carver Historic District properties. Please use the same contacts if you are interested in obtaining a National Register of Historic Places plaque for a Carver Historic District property.*