

BENTON COUNTY MINNESOTA

“Office of Sheriff” 1849 – 2015

Updated January, 2015



Paragraph from the Law Enforcement “Code of Ethics”

“I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession... law enforcement.”

Benton County Sheriffs 1849 to 2015

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. David Gilman | 1849-1851 | 17. John Quinn | 1884-1894 |
| 2. John C. Hanley | 1852-1853 | 18. F.J. Schiele | 1895-1896 |
| 3. William Connell | 1854-1855 | 19. Andrew LaVoie | 1897-1900 |
| 4. William B. Ellis | 1856-1857 | 20. Frank S. Leffingwell | 1901-1906 |
| 5. Luther Waugh | 1858-1859 | 21. W.B. Callahan | 1907-1910 |
| 6. Henry McMahan | 1860-1861 | 22. Daniel H. Craig | 1911-1922 |
| 7. O.B. Day | 1862-1865 | 23. Edward Stewart | 1922 |
| 8. Henry McMahan | 1867-1868 | 24. Frank E. McGregor | 1923-1926 |
| 9. Joseph Osgood | 1868-1869 | 25. Edward Stewart | 1927-1930 |
| 10. E.E. Beal | 1870 | 26. Joe Winkelman | 1931-1950 |
| 11. Michael Brannelly | 1871 | 27. Hewart Siemers | 1951-1970 |
| 12. Joseph Coates | 1872-1873 | 28. Len Trushenski | 1971-1990 |
| 13. S.P. Carpenter | 1874-1877 | 29. Frank Wippler | 1991-1998 |
| 14. Joseph Coates | 1878-1879 | 30. James McMahan | 1999-2006 |
| 15. William Scott | 1880-1881 | 31. Brad Bennett | 2007-2014 |
| 16. Richard Cronk | 1882-1883 | 32. Troy Heck | 2015- |

•1866 – Ellis Kling may have served as Sheriff



BENTON COUNTY

M I N N E S O T A

Benton County History: Benton County was established by the territorial legislature in 1849 and Minnesota entered the union on May 11th, 1858 (32nd state).

Originally Benton County was 100 miles in length and 40 miles at its widest point. It included all or part of Crow Wing, Morrison, Sherburne, Mille Lacs and Aitkin Counties. It was named in honor of Senator Thomas Hart Benton from Missouri. It was reduced to its present size between 1856 and 1860.

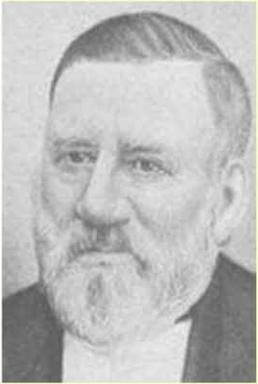
The Sioux and Chippewa Indian tribes ranged it. The first white settlers chose the land along the Mississippi river. **David Gilman** in Watab established the earliest settlement in 1849 by and the most predominant ethnic group was the Germans.

Originally, the County seat was in Sauk Rapids. In 1856 the County seat was moved to Watab, and then back to Sauk Rapids in 1859. In 1901 an election was held regarding moving the County seat to Foley. With the votes of 1284 in favor and 788 opposed, the County seat was moved to Foley.

Historical population

| Census | Pop. |
|-----------|--------|
| 1850 | 418 |
| 1860 | 627 |
| 1870 | 1,558 |
| 1880 | 3,012 |
| 1890 | 6,284 |
| 1900 | 9,912 |
| 1910 | 11,615 |
| 1920 | 14,073 |
| 1930 | 15,056 |
| 1940 | 16,106 |
| 1950 | 15,911 |
| 1960 | 17,287 |
| 1970 | 20,841 |
| 1980 | 25,187 |
| 1990 | 30,185 |
| 2000 | 34,226 |
| 2010 | 38,451 |
| Est. 2013 | 39,214 |

1st Sheriff, David Gilman 1849 - 1851



Place of birth: New York

1850 Benton population: 418

Born: April 29th, 1812

Died: May 9th, 1885 (73)

Marital status: Married – Five children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1849, Appointed - then elected

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Farming / Politician / Business

Deputies: Unknown

Nickname: "Uncle Dave"

Tragedies: The grasshoppers, or rocky mountain locusts of 1856 and 1857 devoured Gilman's wheat causing a large financial loss.

Personal History: David Gilman was appointed the first Sheriff of Benton County in 1849 by Governor Ramsey and elected in 1849. He was also the first Town Marshal at Kalamazoo, Michigan, an office he held for six years and he was one of the first organizers of the first fire company there. Also, he owned a livery stable while living in Michigan.

Gilman was involved with the American Fur Company after moving to Minnesota in 1848 or 1849. He was Benton County Commissioner a number of terms, and chairman of the board for several years. In 1853 he was appointed Post-master of Watab, and held that office at the time of his death in 1885. He built a hotel and operated one of the first farms in the county. The house in which David Gilman resided, was the old Watab Indian Trading Post. Gilman was a member of the Territorial legislature and the Constitutional Convention. He was an honored member of the Masonic fraternity and was one of the charter members and first treasurer of North Star Lodge, of St. Cloud, which was organized at Watab in 1857, and in which he retained his membership until his death.

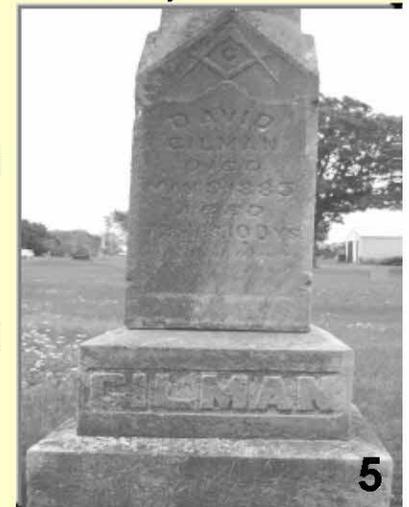
David Gilman died Saturday morning May 9th, 1885, after having been confined to his bed for about two weeks. He had been ailing for sometime, and finally was taken with an attack of pleurisy, which prostrated him, and caused his death. The funeral was one of the largest ever assembled for such an occasion in this part of the

state. The Masonic fraternity of St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids turning out en masse to pay their last tribute of respect and perform the last sad rites for the “deceased brother.” After assembling at Gilman’s residence in Watab, the procession was formed and the remains conveyed to Sauk Rapids.

Over sixty teams formed in the line of procession. After services in Grace Episcopal church by **Rev. Cummings**, the remains were taken charge of by North Star Lodge, and conveyed to the Sauk Rapids cemetery, where surrounded by a large concourse of citizens and friends, the ceremony of the Masonic order was performed.

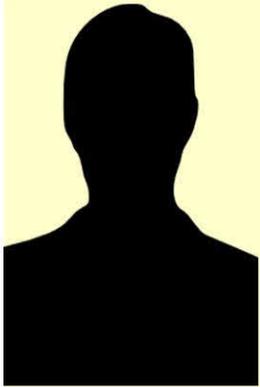
[Little Falls transcript. \(Little Falls, Morrison County, Minn.\), May 15, 1885, Image 5](#)

Hon. David Gilman one of Minnesota’s earliest pioneers and most prominent man of Territorial days, died at his home in Watab, Benton county on Saturday at 1:00 a.m. at the ripe age of 73 years. He had been feeble for some years past, and of late seldom came to St. Cloud, but when he did visit us, “Uncle Dave,” as he was familiarly called, was always accorded a warm welcome by his companions of earlier days or later acquaintances. He leaves a widow and four children, grown up and settled in life. Mr. Gilman came to then territory of Minnesota in 1848, and was connected with the Winnebago Indian agency, having charge of the transportation department. He early took an active part in public affairs, and was a member of the House of the Second territorial legislature, which assembled Jan. 1, 1851, David B. Loomis being president of the council, and Michael E. Ames, of Stillwater, speaker of the house. In this legislature were such prominent men of that day as Maj. W. H. Forbes, David Olmsted, Morton McLeod, J. C. Ramsey, Fdmund Rice, Benj. W. Brunson, John W. North, and Alex. Faribault. The district which Mr. Gilman and his three colleagues represented was immense in area, and extended to British America. It was described as follows: “The Sauk Rapids and Crow Wing precincts of St. Croix county and all settlements west of the Mississippi and north of the Osakis river, and a line thence west to the British line.” Mr. Gilman was always an active member of the constitutional convention of 1857, and with H.C. Waite, J. C. Shepley, William Sturgis, J. W. Ten Voorde, W. W. Kingsbury, and R. H. Barrett, represented the 4th district (consisting of Benton, Todd, Cass, Stearns and Wright Counties) in the Democratic wing of that contending body. He was a democrat in politics, and never swerved in his loyalty to the principles he professed. His funeral took place at Sauk Rapids on Sunday, in charge of the Masonic fraternity of which he was a member. It was very largely attended, people coming from far and near, all anxious to pay their last respect to ‘Uncle David’ Gilman.”



2004 photograph – Gilman is buried at the Sauk Rapids cemetery

2nd Sheriff, John C. Hanley 1852-1853



Place of birth: Ohio
Born: 1821 or 1823
Died: Unknown
Marital status: Unknown
Party affiliation: Unknown
Elected: 1851, 88 to 71
Occupation: Law enforcement / Clerk
Deputies: Unknown

1850 Benton population: 418

Personal History: In 1851 John Hanley was elected Sheriff over James Vincent 88 to 71. (55% to 45%). Benton County's 1st Sheriff, David Gilman did not run for re-election.

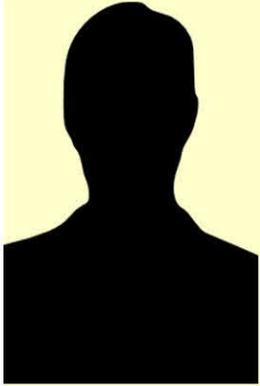
John Hanley is in a group of first settlers in Benton County. Little is known about Sheriff John Hanley. He was a clerk of the 1851 election at the Swan River Precinct: He did not run for re-election in 1853.

In the **1850** United States Census, John Hanley is listed in the Sauk Rapids District, Benton Territory on September 18th, 1850. He is listed as having been born in Ohio and a birth year estimate of 1823. Hanley is listed as residing at the **Duncan Stewart** household. The entire household is listed as follows:

Duncan Stewart, age 26, Birthplace Scotland
Joseph Brown, age 32, Birthplace New York
John Hanley, age 27, Birthplace Ohio
S Munn, age 28, Birthplace New York
Lewis Kent, age 45, Birthplace Alabama

In the Minnesota Territorial Census of 1857, John Hanley's name was not found that would reasonably identify him as one and the same as the 1850 United States Census.

3rd Sheriff, William Connell 1854-1855



Place of birth: Ireland

1850 Benton population: 418

Born: 1824 (?)

Died: 1883

Marital status: Married – Eight children

Party affiliation: Probably Democrat

Elected: 1853, 69 to 48

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Land Agent / School Board

Deputies: H. Foster

Personal History: In 1853 William Connell was elected Sheriff with 69 votes (39.66%) defeating John Gibson with 48 votes (27.59%), William B. Fairbanks 30 votes, John Stillwell 24 votes and R. P. Miller 3 votes. The second Benton County Sheriff John Hanley did not run for re-election.

In 1885 Sheriff William Connell placed an “Ad” in the paper warning those who are selling liquor without a license. It states the following:

“Notice to all whom it may concern: Complaint having been made to me that spirituous liquors are being sold without licenses at several places in the County of Benton, notice is hereby given that unless such illegal sales is abandoned, or license procured, that active measure will be taken to enforce the law.” W. M. Connell, Sheriff Benton County, Sauk Rapids, Aug 1st, 1855.

After William Connell served his term as sheriff, he worked as a Central Land Agent. A newspaper “Ad” in 1857 states the following: WILLIAM CONNELL, CENTRAL LAND AGENT, SAUK RAPIDS, M.T., Will attend to the payments of taxes, sale of land & c. RE-EMPTORS will find it to their advantage in calling upon him before going elsewhere, as he is prepared to prosecute contested claim suits, make Pre-emption papers at the shortest possible notice, and at rates which will suit the pre-emptor. References: W A Gorman, Henry M. Rice, Jonathan E. Fletcher, Jeremiah Russell and Henry B. Wait.

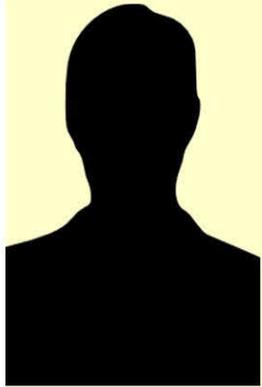
Connell was one of the first board members of District Number 5, Sartell village school, which was organized in 1864. The schoolhouse was a log building placed near the ravine on the bank of the Mississippi river.

Connell was described as a factious and intelligent Irishman, well read in history, and someone who loved nothing better than to discuss affairs as they long existed between England and Ireland. In 1856 William Connell settled in the township of Le Sauk (Stearns Co.) where both he and his wife, **Ann** remained during the rest of their lives.

In the book "History of Stearns County" it states that W. M. Connell, one of the oldest residents of this part of the country, died Tuesday at his home in the town of Le Sauk. (Feb. 1, 1883). A writing states that he "met an accident which hastened his decease."

Ann Connell passed away in June, 1903 (74) at her home in Le Sauk township "of ill incident to old age."

4th Sheriff, William B. Ellis 1856-1857



Place of birth: Maine

Born: 1822 (?)

Died: Unknown

Marital status: Unknown

Party affiliation: Republican

Elected: 1855, results were not found

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Farming / Clerk

Deputies: George S. Geer, George Sweet

1850 Benton population: 418

1860.....627

Personal History: Very little is known about Sheriff William B. Ellis. He was elected in 1855 but the results were not found. George S. Geer and George Sweet served as deputies during Sheriff Ellis' two year term.

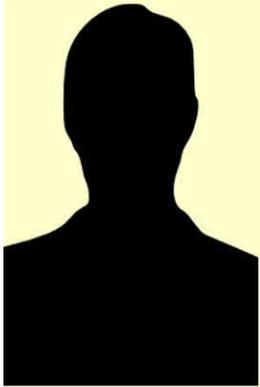
William B. Ellis was probably a farmer. In 1856 He placed an "Ad" in the paper stating the following: "On or about the 3rd September last, two cows and calves strayed from Little Rock while driving from Elk River to Platt River. Any person giving the requisite information will be suitably rewarded." (W.B. Ellis Platt River, Oct. 4 1856)

In the Minnesota, Territorial Census, 1857 William B. Ellis as living in Township 38, Range 32, Benton, Minnesota. It states that he is 35 years old, occupation farmer, and born in Maine. He was living with his wife, Nancy Ann Ellis, age 34, born in Maine, and their son William F. Ellis, 8 months old, and born in Minnesota. Also living in the home was William C. Sherman, age 26, born in Rhode Island and Agnes Feye, age 19 and born in Germany.

On May 27th, 1858 the first election in Brockway Township (Stearns County) was held at the house of Anson Northrup. William B. Ellis was elected Clerk.

In September 1859 it was reported that The Republican Convention for Stearns County assembled in the Everett School House St. Cloud, on the 12th inst, at 11, o'clock A. M., and the following ticket was placed in nomination: COORONOR, W. B. ELLIS, Brockway. (Note: Brockway Township had been originally called Winnebago – changed in 1858)

5th Sheriff, Luther P. Waugh 1858-1859



Place of birth: Maine

Born: 1823 (?)

Died: Unknown

Marital status: Married – at least 3 children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1857, 123 to 105

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Farming / Hotel keeper / Horse Trading (?)

Deputies: Henry McMahan

1850 Benton population: 418

1860.....627

Personal History: In 1857 Luther P. Waugh was elected Sheriff over J. R. Jones 123 to 105 (54% to 46%). The 4th Benton County Sheriff William B. Ellis did not run for re-election.

In 1857 Luther P. Waugh was an Assistant U.S. Marshal for the purpose of recording the census for Benton County. Waugh's occupation is listed as "hotel keeper." He is listed as age 34 and his wife, Charity H. or W. is 33. On July 26th, 1846 Luther P. and Charity W. Waugh (Hiscock) applied for a marriage license and were married in Rhode Island. In a 1860 census Luther P. Waugh is listed as being 37 years old and his occupation is "Farmer." His wife's name is Charity age 38 and his children are Ella, age 11 Charles, age 2 and Caroline, age 10 months.

On February 21st, 2005 contact was made with James Waugh of Reno, Nevada, who is the great grandson of Sheriff Luther P. Waugh. He stated that Luther Waugh was, according to family members, a horse trader selling horses to the army while in Minnesota. He originated (so we think) from Wilton, Maine and in later years came back to Wilton and bought a cemetery plot where his daughters were buried. A mystery surrounds his life and we are not sure if he died in Maine or if he came back to Maine. The cemetery records have a large question mark on his site. His son, Charles married twice leaving nearly 500 (at last count) descendants."

A search of the Lakeview cemetery in Wilton, Maine reflects the following:

Waugh, Charity W. 1822-1900 wife of Luther P. Waugh

Mary C. D. 1875 Age 16 daughter

It's not known what happen to Luther P. Waugh after 1860.

In 1888 Luther P. Waugh is listed as owing land in Sauk Rapids. The St. Paul & Northern Pacific Railroad Company advertises its plan to acquire for its use and purposes Certain Lands in Benton County, Minnesota. Luther P. Waugh's name is listed as the owner of a strip or tract of land 100 feet in width, being 50 feet on each side of the center line of the said railroad as now located.

6th Sheriff, Henry McMahon 1860-1861



Place of birth: Ireland

1860 Benton population: 627

Born: December 24th, 1825

Died: July 3rd, 1877

Marital status: Married – 3 children

Party affiliation: Republican

Elected: 1859, 111 to 88 (55.78% to 44.22%)

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Doctor – Surgeon / Politician / Postmaster / Clerk / Treasurer / Army Officer / Tanner

Deputies: Unknown

Tragedies: While Henry McMahon was at Leech lake he received a sunstroke and although he recovered, he was at various times afflicted with apoplectic fits, one of which finally terminated his life in 1877.

Personal History: Henry McMahon was elected sheriff in 1859 over O.B. Day 111 to 88. In 1859 he had served as a deputy under Sheriff L. P. Waugh.

Henry McMahon, son of James and Margaret (McKee) McMahon, came to the United States alone in 1839 at the age of 14 and resided for a time in New York State. He learned the trade of a tanner, which he abandoned to study medicine. After his graduation from Medical college at Albany, New York he came to Sauk Rapids in 1856. He was Sauk Rapids' first physician.

Henry McMahon served as postmaster of Sauk Rapids, treasurer of Benton County, register of deeds, clerk of the court and at the time of his demise clerk of the school district. In 1862 he received the appointment of post surgeon at Fort Ripley which position he filled until 1864, when he was appointed surgeon of the 11th Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. In 1865 Henry McMahon was referred to as "Sheriff of Leech." Sheriff McMahon also served as the 8th Benton County Sheriff from 1867-1868.

In 1870 Dr. McMahon was appointed deputy marshal to take the Census for Benton County. And in 1872 he

was appointed surgeon for the Indian agency at Leech Lake. He returned to Sauk Rapids, and was again appointed to that position in 1875.

Sheriff McMahon Passes Away: In 1877 Henry McMahon passed away. He was survived by his wife and three daughters, ages 16, 9, 2. Henry McMahon was highly respected and esteemed by his acquaintances. He was described as genial good nature, and excellent social qualities, endeared him to the many with whom he came in contact in his public and professional capacity. His death causes many a heartfelt and sorrowful expression of regret.

In 1931 Josephine McMahon (Stevens), widow of Henry McMahon died in at the age of 94-years. Her three daughters survived her: Catherine McMahon and (Mrs.) R. E. Cross of Sauk Rapids, and Josephine Dunlop of Duluth.

Dr. Henry McMahon – Surgeon

St. Cloud Democrat., September 15, 1864, Image 3

MILITARY ITEMS .

Lieut. Col. Averill having declined the proffered Colonelcy of the Eleventh regiment, Gov. Miller has made the following appointments:

Colonel—James Gilfillan.

Lieut. Colonel—John Ball.

Major—Martin McGinniss.

Surgeon—Dr. H. McMahon.

Assistant Surgeon—Dr. P. Gabrielson.

Chaplain—Rev. C. G. Bowdish.

Says the Pioneer, "we take great pleasure in expressing the general sentiment of the public that Gov. Miller is entitled to much credit for these appointment

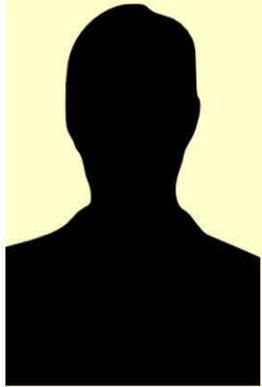
Henry McMahon – Chess Club

The St. Cloud journal., March 04, 1869, Image 3

The Sauk Rapids Chess Club is progressing very finely. Some fifteen persons have already become members. Meetings are held at Capt. Copp's office, every Saturday evening, at 7 ½ o'clock. Dr. McMahon is President; W. T. Gordon Secretary.

7th Sheriff, Orrin B. Day

1862-1865



Place of birth: New York

1860 Benton population: 627

Born: 1818 - 1820 (?)

Died: Unknown

Marital status: Married – at least 3 children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: Election results not found

Occupation: Law enforcement / Business / Hotel owner / Coroner /

Postmaster

Deputies: Unknown

Personal History: Orrin B. Day was believed to have served as Sheriff from 1862 to 1865. He was a democratic candidate in 1859 for sheriff, but was defeated by Henry McMahan. It has not been confirmed at this time that he was elected in 1861, but some history documentation indicates that he may have served as Benton County Sheriff from 1862 -1865.

O.B. Day was postmaster in Sauk Rapids around 1857. The post office was located at the Hyperborean Hotel. On August 5th, 1857 O.B. Day purchased the "Russell House" (name was changed to "Hyperborean Motel) from Jeremiah Russell and George W. Sweet. There were two mails a week brought by stagecoach from St. Paul. In 1884 the hotel was destroyed by fire. O.B. Day also served as Benton County Coroner in 1857.

Orrin B. Day was sheriff during the "Great Sioux Uprising" that was reported to have been ignited on August 17th, 1862 near Acton, Minnesota. Benton County started organizing against attack. Thirty-eight citizens of Benton county formed its own Home Guard during the Indian uprising. Dan H. Miller of Sauk Rapids was named chairman of the committee. According to the Sauk Rapids Frontiersman, "On the motion of O. B. Day it was moved that we proceed to organize by electing officers." George W. Sweet was unanimously elected Captain by acclamation. It was unanimously voted to fortify some place in town for the protection of all and it was recommended to fortify the old jail. It doesn't appear that Benton County was attacked.

In the **1857** Minnesota, Territorial Census, Orin (or Orrin) B. Day resided In Township 36, Range 31, Benton,

Minnesota. His occupation is "Hotel Keeper." Orin B. Day is listed as being born in New York, age 27, and born in 1830. It's probably more likely that he was born around 1820 and was around 37 years old. His wife, is Jessie J. Day, age 34, born in Canada. They have one child, Jessie E. Day, age 0, born in Minnesota. There are 21 people listed as living in the household. This would be occupants of the hyperborean Hotel.

In the **1860** United States Census Orin B. Day, age 40, estimated birth date is 1820, is living in the Village of Sauk Rapids, Benton, Minnesota. Also residing in the residence is his wife, Jessie J., age 38, daughter Jessie E., age 3, and son William CO Day, age 2, born in Minnesota. There are five others mentioned in the household that would actually be staying at the Hyperborean Hotel.

In the **1870** United States Census, Orin B. Day, age 52, is residing in Sherburne county, Clear Lake area, with his wife, Jessie J. Day, age 47. It states that she was born in Pennsylvania although in 1857 and 1860 it states Canada. Also living in the household are Jessie E., age 13, Dollie J. Day, age 8, and infant Day, age 2 months. Orin B. Day's occupation appears to state, "Farms," but the writing is difficult to read.

In the **1875** Minnesota Census, O. B. Day, age 56, resides in Haven, Sherburne, Minnesota. Also living in the home is his wife, Jessie, age 48, this time born in Scotland, and appears a year younger than the 1870 census. The children are Jessie E., age 18, D. J. Day, age 13, and O. M. Day, age 5. Also residing in the residence is H. Rodgers, age 58, born in Minnesota.



Orin B was not found in the 1880 U.S. Census, or the 1885 Minnesota Census.

Photo at left: Hyperborean Hotel, Russell House, Days Hotel, Buckman House.

It's not known what happened to Sheriff O. B. Day after 1875.

8th Sheriff, Henry McMahon 1867-1868



Place of birth: Ireland

Born: December 24th, 1825

Died: July 3rd, 1877

Marital status: Married – Three children

Party affiliation: Republican

Elected: 1866, Unopposed

Occupation: Doctor – Surgeon / Politician / Postmaster

Treasurer / Clerk / Army officer / Tanner

Deputies: Unknown

1870 Benton population: 1,558

Tragedies: While Henry McMahon was at Leech lake he received a sunstroke and although he recovered, he was at various times afflicted with apoplectic fits, one of which finally terminated his life in 1877.

Personal History: In the 1866 Sheriff's election Henry McMahon ran unopposed. He also served as the 6th Benton county sheriff from 1860 to 1861.

It hasn't been confirmed who was Sheriff in 1866. A document reflects that there was an election on November 17th, 1865 in the "Election District composed of the Township of Watab" and Ellis Kling received 25 votes. There wasn't any opposing candidate listed. O. B. Day was believed to be sheriff from 1862 to 1865, however he isn't listed as a candidate in the Watab township district in 1865. It's not known why there was an election in 1865 and then again in 1866. It's possible that O.B. Day did not run for office in 1865 and that Ellis Kling was elected Sheriff. Ellis Kling could have resigned prior to completing his 1866 – 1867 term thereby causing another election to be held in 1866. Documents / newspaper articles are limited during this time period.

It appears that Sheriff McMahon did not complete his two year term as a document signed by Joseph Osgood, Sheriff of Benton on November 7th, 1868 reflects that Joseph OsGood appointed Schuyler Flint a deputy Sheriff. Sheriff Henry McMahon's term would not have expired until the end of 1868. In 1869 Henry McMahon is listed as a Town Supervisor along with Michael Brannelly, who will serve as sheriff in 1871.



Henry McMahon James McMahon

Sheriff Henry McMahon (far left) and Sheriff Jim McMahon; Henry McMahon was born in Ireland and Jim McMahon is part Irish. Henry McMahon's father's name is James McMahon.

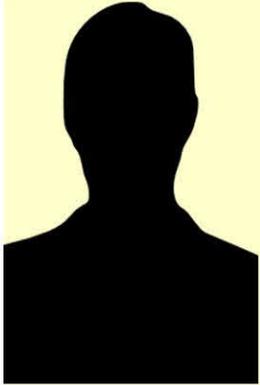
There is no known relationship between Sheriff Henry McMahon and the current (2005) Sheriff Jim McMahon.

Confirmation H. McMahon sheriff in 1867

The St. Cloud journal., December 26, 1867, Image 3 Sheriff's Sale

H. McMahon Sheriff of Benton County. Dated Sank Rapids, Dec. 24, 1867.

9th Sheriff, Joseph C. Osgood 1868-1869



Place of birth: Unknown
Born: Unknown
Died: Unknown
Marital status: Married
Party affiliation: Probably Republican
Elected: Confirmed Sheriff
Occupation: Law Enforcement
Deputies: Eugene E. Beal, Schuyler Flint

1870 Benton population: 1,558

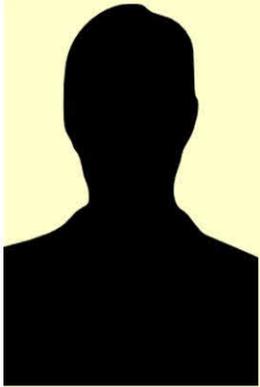
Personal History: In a November 1868 document it reflects that Joseph Osgood made a deputy sheriff appointment and he signs it "Sheriff of said County of Benton." Sheriff Henry McMahon's term (1867 to 1868) had not expired yet.

At this time no records indicate that Joseph Osgood had actually been elected sheriff. Sheriff Osgood did run for Sheriff in 1869 but was defeated by Eugene Beal 166 to 76 in the November 1869 general election. In a December 1869 document it reflects that Eugene Beal was a Deputy Sheriff under Joseph Osgood and in a May 1870 document it reflects that Joseph C. Osgood was a deputy sheriff under Eugene Beal.

A July 15th, 1870 newspaper article states that, "Mrs. J. C. Osgood, having disposed of such effects as she desired to left last Saturday to join her husband in St. Paul, where they intend remaining for the present, we are told."

10th Sheriff, Eugene Beal

1870



Place of birth: Michigan

1870 Benton population: 1,558

Born: 1846

Died: Unknown

Marital status: Married – 3 children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1869, 166 to 76

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Clerk / Manager / Postmaster

Deputies: Joseph C. Osgood

Personal History: Eugene Beal defeated Sheriff Joseph Osgood 166 to 76 (69% to 31%) in the November 1869 general election.

Eugene E. Beal was born in Livingston County, Michigan in 1846. His father was for many years the postmaster at Plainfield, Livingston County, receiving his commission from President Van Buren. (1838 to 1841) Eugene E. Beal is a graduate of the Dexter High School and received an early training in mercantile life in the store of Beal & Field at Dexter. Afterward he took a course in the Parson's Commercial College, then a flourishing institution in Ann Arbor.

In 1868 he came to Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, where he was in partnership with a brother and successfully carried on a general store for several years. During this period he was married to Rutilla Keith of Dexter, Michigan.

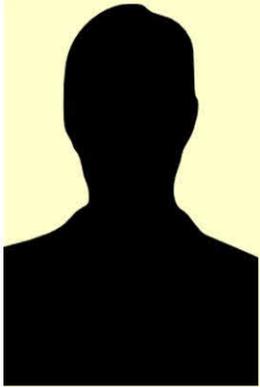
About 1875 E.E. Beal went to Ann Arbor as a book-keeper for his brother, Rice A. Beal, in the Courier Printing and Publishing House. Eugene Beal was promoted to general manager. An newspaper article states that, "during this period of fifteen years he had been an accurate, prompt and able business man, always at his post. He retired from the Courier office with not only the great respect but the hearty good will of every employee of the establishment. He possesses many of the characteristics of his brother, Rice A. Beal, in being one of the kindest and truest of friends, and to an enemy always ready to meet half way."

In 1890 Eugene E. Beal was appointed Postmaster at Ann Arbor, Michigan by President Benjamin Harrison. An newspaper article states that, "Every person here (Sauk Rapids) who knew Mr. Beal will rejoice to hear of his good fortune. Eugene, as he was known here, was highly esteemed and left behind him as many warm, steadfast friends in this county as any one who ever lived here."

Dr. Chase's Steam Printing House still stands in Ann Arbor, Michigan where Eugene E. Beal worked as a bookkeeper.

Dobson-McOomber Agency now owns and occupies this historic structure located at the intersection of North main Street and Miller Avenue in downtown Ann Arbor. It's not known what happened to E. E. Beal after being appointed postmaster, however he is listed as owning land in October 1888 in Sauk Rapids.

11th Sheriff, Michael Brannelly 1871



Place of birth: Ireland

1870 Benton population: 1,558

Born: September 29th, 1821

Died: August 22nd, 1905 (83)

Marital status: Married – Nine Children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: Confirmed Sheriff, unknown results

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Politician /

Commissioner / Farming / Teacher

Deputies: Unknown

Personal History: A June 30th, 1871 “Mortgage Foreclosure Notice Of Sale” in the newspaper lists M. Brannelly, Sheriff of Benton County, Minnesota. No information was found that he was elected sheriff and he probably was appointed after Sheriff Eugene E. Beal resigned. Michael Brannelly did not run for re-election in 1871.

Michael Brannelly is listed as County Commissioner, Chairman for Benton County in a June 11th, 1869 newspaper listing of Benton County Officers. Michael Brannelly was a resident of Benton County for twenty-five years. He is a native of Galway County, Ireland. He was brought up in his native county where he received his early education. In 1846, he came to America, and spent three years in New York State. In 1849 he went to California gold mining until coming to Minnesota.

In June 1854 Michael Brannelly married Elizabeth Kelly of Ireland. Also, in 1854 he purchased a farm, through his brother, in Minden Township, Benton County. He purchased land in Minden Township, Benton county three years before living here. Michael Brannelly taught the first school in Minden Township and has always manifested a strong interest in the welfare of Benton County. He was one of Benton County’s oldest pioneers. He was reported to have been a Township supervisor for ten years and Benton County Commissioner for nine years. He had nine children.

In 1905 Michael Brannelly passed away in Missoula, Montana. He was survived by four sons and two daughters. His wife, Elizabeth, was born April 6th, 1835 and passed away February 26th, 1876. She is buried at

St. Patrick's Parish Cemetery Minden Township Benton County, Minnesota.

Note: There are assorted documents that refer to the spelling of "Brannelly" as Branley.

Michael Brannelly is probably buried at a cemetery near or in Missoula, Montana.

The St. Cloud journal. (St. Cloud, Minn.), September 12, 1867, Image 3

Extract of the Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners of Benton County, September session, 1867.

Resolved, That the 'sum' of four hundred dollars or so much thereof, as may be necessary be and is hereby appropriated for the construction of a bridge-across the" Elk river at Lock's place, in the town of St. George, and that Michael Brannelly be and he is hereby appointed to take charge of the disbursement of said money.

The St. Cloud journal. (St. Cloud, Minn.), July 11, 1872, Image 3

—Mr. Michael Brannelly, of Sauk Rapids, is building a dwelling house near the depot on the east side, where the Pacific House stood.

12th Sheriff, Joseph Coates 1872-1873



Place of birth: England
Born: November 30th, 1847
Died: March, 1929 (81)
Marital status: Married – Four + children
Party affiliation: Democrat
Elected: 1871, 183 to 152
Occupation: Law Enforcement / Judge /
Politician / Business

1870 Benton population: 1,558

AKA/ Joseph A. Coates / Joseph H. Coates - DOB/ November 30th, 1849

Tragedies: Joseph Coates was born in Lincolnshire, England, November 30th, 1847 and headed for America in 1849, with his father, mother, three brothers, and three sisters. His father, James Coates died on board ship and was buried at sea during the journey which lasted for 13 weeks.

During the last days of the voyage before reaching the West Indies, drinking water was almost gone except the last cask. The captain gave it to the woman, and so desperate was the thirst of the passengers in the excessively hot weather that there were many skirmishes in an effort to get a drink.

Personal History: In 1871 Joseph Coates defeated Mr. Wear 183 to 152 (55% to 45%). He will serve as Sheriff from 1872 to 1873. He will then serve as a deputy under Sheriff Samuel Carpenter the next four years and then be reelected Sheriff in 1877.

In the early days Coates was associated with in business with J. M. Wood, Sauk Rapids attorney. In the later years Joseph Coates was associated with the Northwestern Products company. For a time he owned and operated many farms. In 1910 he managed the Farmers Exchange in Minneapolis.

Coates served the Masonic Unity Lodge No. 93, of Sauk Rapids as treasurer for 50 years. He served two

terms in the state legislature from his district. At the time of his death he was Justice of the Peace of Sauk Rapids. He also served as Judge of Probate from about 1881 to 1886.

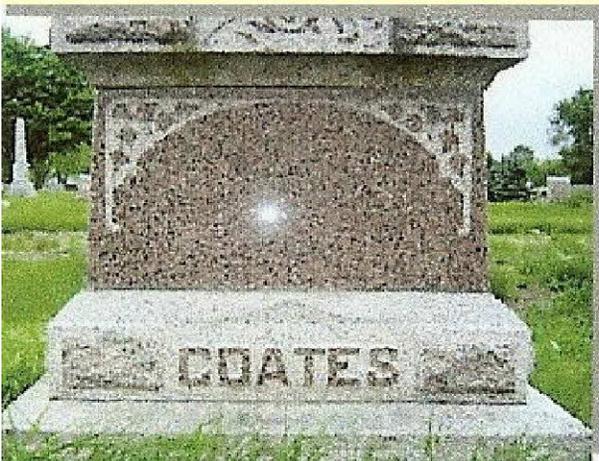
After Joseph Coates first wife, Marey E. Coates (Cross) passed away May 22nd, 1895, he married Julia A. Russell in 1897.

In **1875** Coates lived in Minden Township and in **1880** he resided in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota with his wife, Marey, age 26, who was also was born in England.

In **1900** Joseph Coates lived in Sauk Rapids Township and farmed. Also living in the house was his wife, Julia A., age, 42, and family Harry, age, 19, Ada D., age 16, Fred, age 13, and Emma, age 11. Also staying at the residence was mother-in-law, Sophia Russell, age 77 and a boarder, James Lyerly, age 21, who was a farm hand.

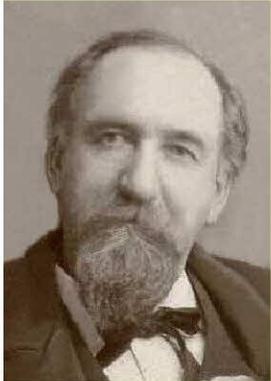
In **1910** Joseph Coates was living in Sauk Rapids with his wife, Julia A., and son, Fred, age 22. In **1920** Joseph lived in Sauk Rapids with his wife.

A 1929 article states "Judge Joseph Coates, outstanding character of Central Minnesota, died Sunday at the St. Cloud Hospital." Joseph Coates death marks the passing of an active and energetic group of men which came here and carved fortunes and careers in the early days of the middle west. He was survived by his wife and four children; Henry E. Coates, Raymond, Washington; Ada. J. Jochem, Frederick J. Coates, Milk River, Alberta, Canada; and Emma Mansfield, Santa Monica, California.



Joseph Coates is buried at the Sauk Rapids Cemetery

13th Sheriff, Samuel Carpenter 1874-1877



Place of birth: Michigan

1870 Benton population: 1,558

Born: June 1st, 1835

Died: July 10th, 1909 (74) Superior Douglas County, Wisconsin

Marital status: Married – Three + children

Party affiliation: Republican

Elected: 1873, 220 to 104

Occupation: Law Enforcement/ Business /

Clerk / Politician

Deputies: Joseph Coates

Tragedies: In 1886 Samuel P. Carpenter was living in Sauk Rapids after having served from 1874 to 1877. During the cyclone, S. P. Carpenter's little daughter, Lulu, observed the cyclone coming. She seized the baby in her arms and rushed out of the house. She caught a tree with one arm and held the child with the other. A splinter from the wrecked building, was driven through her body. As she was being carried away in a dying condition this brave little girl said, "Yes, mother, but I saved the baby." Samuel Carpenter's two children, Lulu and Ollie Carpenter, were both reported to have died along with 38 others in the town of Sauk Rapids. When it was reported that Lulu said, "Yes, mother, but I saved the baby," she probably was referring to Angelina Carpenter, who died March 12th, 1890 from the "effects of Cyclone of 1886." Angelina would have been 2 ½ years old in 1886.

A DOUBLY SAD BURIAL. St. Paul daily globe., April 18, 1886, Image 1

Little Lula Carpenter's Body Consigned to Earth.

Special from Staff Correspondent.

Sauk Rapids. April 18.—Although the cloud of sadness has somewhat dispersed before the feverish anxiety of the people to rebuild and recover from the shock, there are incidents that recall to mind most emphatically the horrors of that Wednesday night when the clouds frowned so darkly upon this region. This morning at 9, Lulu Carpenter, who passed away yesterday afternoon after two days of lingering death, was buried from the Congregational church. The funeral was quite largely attended, and the grief of the stricken mother was inconsolable. But yesterday she had seen another of her children lowered into the grave, and now she was called to look upon

the lifeless face of her daughter, just budding into womanhood, pure, beautiful and brave—brave, because when she heard the roar of the storm she caught her baby sister in her arms, and lying down behind a tree clung to her sister with one hand while she held to her with the other, and when the storm had abated, the baby was found unhurt, but a sharp splinter had penetrated Lulu's body, passing through it. Her only words were. "Baby is saved." The agonized father drew the cruel splinter from the body of his child and watched her with tenderest care, but she would not be nursed back to health and sank to rest as brave and noble as she was pure and beautiful. The hearse bore all that was mortal of her to the cemetery this morning, and as the cortege of mourners passed through the streets workmen in the ruins reverently removed their hats and bowed their heads. Many a tear was wiped from the sun browned cheeks of strong men and many a sob shook a sturdy bosom as the funeral train moved by. At the cemetery a large grave was made and two coffins, containing the remains of brother and sister, were lowered into earth side by side. They were joined together in their eternal sleep. Rev. I. L. Cory, a nephew of S. P. Carpenter, of Excelsior, officiated.

Personal History: Samuel P. Carpenter was elected Sheriff in 1873 over Charles Campbell 220 to 104 (68% to 32%). Carpenter was born in Michigan, June 1st, 1835. When he was four years old, he moved with his parents to Jefferson County, Wisconsin, where he was reared on a farm, and occasionally clerking in a store, until 1855. He then went to Milwaukee, and was employed as clerk until 1858, when he returned to Jefferson county. In 1859, he went to California and was engaged in the clothing business until 1865, when he moved to Chicago, and was in the same business until coming to Sauk Rapids in 1871.



Samuel Carpenter managed the Russell house hotel in Sauk Rapids for nine years. He also served as Clerk of the District Court. In 1879 he was chairman of the republican county committee and elected for the ensuing year. He has been identified with the official life of Douglas County and Superior for 20 years. He was secretary of the police department for Superior, Wis. for 16-years. Samuel's middle name (Perrin) came from his grandmother Lucy Perrin who died in Michigan in 1836.

Lulu and Ollie Carpenter's names are engraved on the side of their grandparent's grave marker (Justus and Wealthy) at the Sauk Rapids cemetery.

No grave marking was found for Samuel P. Carpenter. He was described as a "great favorite here in his days of residence and having a kindly and considerate character." **26**

14th Sheriff, Joseph Coates 1878-1879



Place of birth: England
Born: November 30th. 1847
Died: March, 1929 (81)
Marital status: Married – Four + children
Party affiliation: Democrat
Elected: 1877
Occupation: Law Enforcement / Politician / Judge / Business
Deputies: Unknown

1870 Benton population: 1,558
1880.....3,012

AKA/ Joseph A. Coates / Joseph H. Coates - DOB/ November 30th, 1849

Personal History: Joseph Coates was elected sheriff in 1877, but the results are not known. In 1871 Joseph Coates defeated Mr. Wear 183 to 152 (55% to 45%). Joseph Coates served as Sheriff from 1872 to 1873. He then served as a deputy under Sheriff Samuel Carpenter. Sheriff Coates served as the 12th and then 14th Benton County Sheriff after being elected again in 1877.

1879, Sheriff's Job Performance:

The following is part of a statement of the fees received by the Sheriff, for the year 1879:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Witnesses summoned, 59; at 50 cents each..... | \$29.50 |
| Miles traveled for the same, 197, at 10 cents per mile..... | \$19.70 |
| Arrests made, 6; at \$1.00 each..... | \$ 6.00 |
| Miles traveled, 264; at 10 cents per mile..... | \$26.40 |

| | |
|---|---------|
| Prisoners committed to jail, 3; at \$1.00 each..... | \$ 3.00 |
| Conveying prisoner to jail and returning to court, 5 times, at \$1.00 each time..... | \$ 5.00 |
| Summons served, 35; at \$1.00 each..... | \$35.00 |
| Copies served, 20; at 25 cents each..... | \$ 5.00 |
| Mileage for the same, 314; at 10 cents per mile..... | \$31.40 |
| Days attending district court, 5; at \$3.00 per day..... | \$15.00 |
| Justice court, 8; at \$1.50 per day..... | \$12.00 |
| Summoning coroner's jury..... | \$ 3.00 |
| Attending coroner's jury, one day..... | \$ 1.50 |

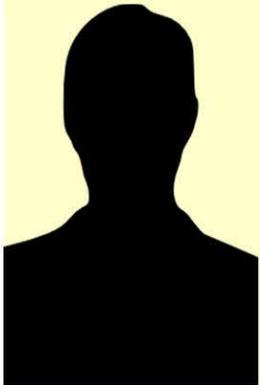
In 1880 \$1.00 would be equivalent to \$19.67 in 2004.

Daily globe., August 28, 1878, Image 1

Sauk Rapids (Benton county) Press: On a late Sunday night a lot of drunken men broke into Mrs. Skinner's residence, but met with a warm reception at the hands of Mrs. S., who vigorously used a club, driving them away. They then retreated to Mr. Chase's residence, using the vilest language, and making all sorts of threats, but were made to disperse by Sheriff Coates.

Sheriff Joseph Coates is buried at the Benton County Cemetery in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota after passing away in 1929. See additional information stated under Sheriff Coates when he served as the 12th Benton Co. Sheriff.

15th Sheriff, William Scott 1880-1881



Place of birth: Canada

1880 Benton population: 3,012

Born: (1839?)

Died: Unknown

Marital status: Married – One + children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1879, 266 to 201

Occupation: Law Enforcement

Deputies: Michael Comidy (1881)

Personal History: In 1879 William Scott was elected sheriff over Richard Cronk 266 to 201 (57% to 43%). In November 1881 William Scott was defeated by Richard Cronk 302 to 136 (69 % to 31%).

Sheriff Scott was stabbed in the leg during a saloon brawl in Sauk Rapids. See Oct. 1881 article below.

Very little is known about Sheriff William Scott. In the 1880 census he is listed as being 41 years old, which places his date of birth at around 1839. William Scott's wife's name is Emmie Scott, who was about 42 years old in 1880. Their son, Harvey H. Scott, was 8 years old at this time. William Scott may have been born in New Brunswick, Canada. His mother and father were both born in Ireland. He is listed on the 1875 and 1880 Benton county Census.

It appears that William Scott may have left Benton County sometime after his election defeat in 1881, but there wasn't a record found indicating when.

[Daily globe., October 24, 1881, Image 2](#)

One night last week a drunken row took place in front of a saloon in Sauk Rapids. Sheriff Scott, who interfered to stop the fracas, was stabbed in the leg. One of the drunken rowdies was stabbed twice, and two of them were badly punished about the head and face. The whole affair was disgraceful, but no arrests were made.

16th Sheriff, Richard Cronk 1882-1883



Place of birth: Canada
Born: January 30th, 1838
Died: January 21st, 1898 (60)
Marital status: Married – Two children
Party affiliation: Republican
Elected: 1881, 302 to 136
Occupation: Law enforcement / Surveyor
Deputies: J. A. Hennessy

1880 Benton population: 3,012

Personal History: In November 1881 Richard Cronk was elected Sheriff over William Scott 302 to 136 (69 % to 31%) and served a two year term.

Richard Cronk was born in Canada in 1838 and with the family of his widowed mother came to Sauk Rapids in 1856. He settled on a farm in Minden Township, Benton County, Minnesota. In 1867 he located in Sauk Rapids. Richard Cronk married Sarah Hall, who was born in La Points, Wisconsin in 1839. She was the younger daughter of the Reverend Sherman Hall, who for 50 years was a missionary in the northwest and a resident in Sauk Rapids in the latter years of his life. Richard and Sarah Cronk had two sons, Charles G. and Edwin S. Cronk.

Richard Cronk was educated for civil engineering, and was in the frequent employment of the government and of prospectors for pine lands. For 33 years he was a surveyor. He surveyed six townships in Crow Wing County, Minnesota and also worked in Nebraska and along the Red River of the North. He served as Treasurer of Benton County for two years, recorder of the village council and treasurer of the school board.

Little Falls transcript., October 12, 1883, Image 1

TOWNSHIP 62, RANGE 24, ST. CLOUD LAND DISTRICT.

This fine pine- land township on the waters flowing into the Rainy Lake river was **surveyed by Richard Cronk**, and the notes returned to the surveyor general's office May 8, 1882. The plat was suspended with all other pine

land plats by order of the commissioner of the general land office in September, 1882. The parties in interest who had built shanties on the last quarter sections were very desirous of getting an order from the commissioner to have that plat sent to the local office (St. Cloud) so they could have their men prove up.

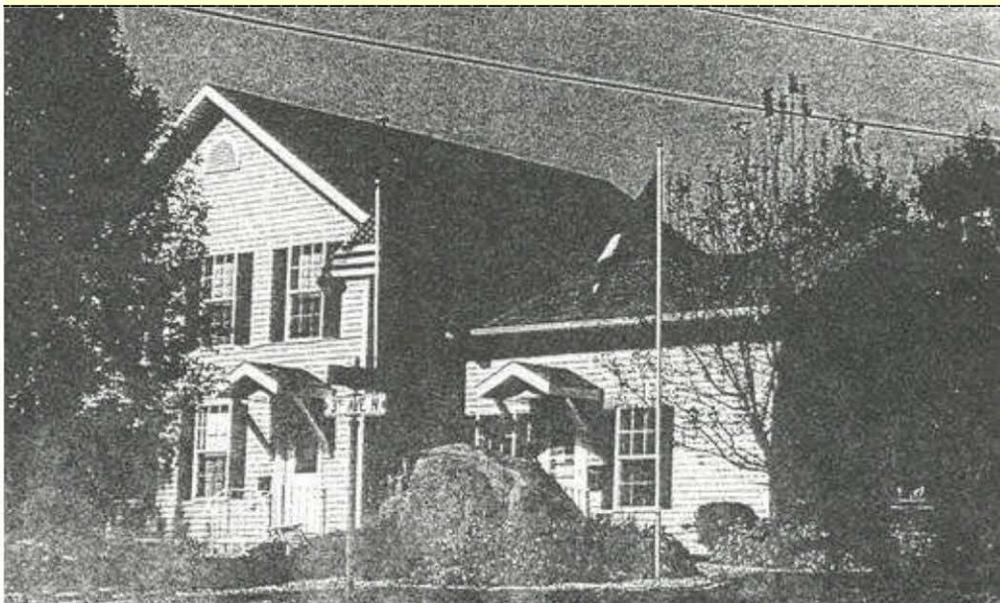
Richard Cronk Passes Away – Highly Esteemed

Richard Cronk, widely known as a practical surveyor, died at his home in Sauk Rapids January 21st, 1898. Mrs. C.A. Gilman (Hester Cronk) and the late Mrs. George W. Benedict were his sisters. His brother, James Cronk, resides in Iowa.

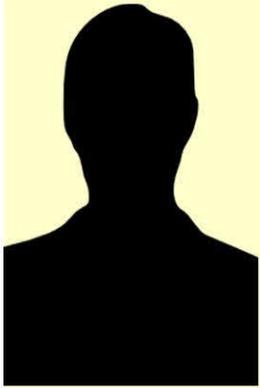
“He was an upright man; his integrity never having been questioned, and was highly esteemed by his friends and neighbors.”

The funeral was from the family residence on Sunday at 10 AM. The Reverend Appleman officiating. Pallbearers were: John A. Senn, George Dame, H. Berg, James Duncan, O. Daggett and B. Rushton.

The home Richard Cronk built in Sauk Rapids is located at 600 3rd Ave. North. It still stands today (2007).



17th Sheriff, John F. Quinn 1884-1894



Place of birth: New Hampshire

1890 Benton Population: 6,254

Born: 1855

Died: 1920 (?)

Marital status: Married – Seven children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1883, 409 to 311

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Cooper

Deputies: John H. Hohman (1887 & 1892),

E. Mayman (1893) Deputy Beatty (1892), Deputy Goedker (1892)

Personal History: In 1883 John F. Quinn was elected sheriff over Mr. Meclon (SP?) 409 to 311 (57% to 43%). It states that there were 52 votes in Gilmanton not enumerated that were evidently intended for John F. Quinn, but were not counted for him in the official canvas.

John F. Quinn was born in New Hampshire in 1855. His wife, Frances Ellen (Cullen) Quinn, was born in Minnesota in 1859. The Quinns had four daughters and three sons, all born in Minnesota, and all of whom either lived in Milk River, Alberta, Canada at some time with their mother or occasionally visited her there.

John F. Quinn's occupation in the 1900 census is listed as "Cooper." (barrel maker – a craftsman who makes or repairs barrels or tubs)

John F. Quinn was sheriff during the Sauk Rapids Cyclone of 1886, which killed around 39 and seriously injured sixty-four in Sauk Rapids. Thirteen people from a wedding party died at a farmhouse four miles southeast of Rice. Twenty one people were killed and seventy five were injured in St. Cloud.

The children of John and Frances Quinn were: Rose, Emma, Harry, Kathryn, Colette, Walter, and Frank Quinn. John Quinn's name is rarely mentioned in the families history. Early in 1909 Harry J. Quinn, born in 1880, arrived in Milk River, Alberta Canada. In the fall of 1909 Harry Quinn's mother, Frances Quinn, came to live with him. She had separated from her husband, John F. Quinn. It's not known what happened to John F. Quinn after 1909.

There is a John F. Quinn who died in Ramsey County on May 24th, 1920. His Date of Birth, Place of birth, and mother's maiden name is not indexed, so it's uncertain if this person is Sheriff John F. Quinn.

Sheriff John Quinn had his fair share of action as the newspaper articles below explain.

The Princeton union, October 15, 1891, Image 4

A FEW days ago a United States deputy marshal from Detroit attempted to arrest a half-breed Indian at Sauk Rapids on the charge of selling whiskey to Indians at Presto. Peter Bear, the half-breed in question, resisted arrest and the gallant deputy did not have the nerve to take him. Finally, Benton county's husky and efficient sheriff, Johnny Quinn, arrested Bear and turned him over to the heroic deputy marshal. The deputy marshal went home and had a warrant issued for Rod Bell, county attorney of Benton county, on the grave charge of interfering with a United States deputy marshal in the discharge of his duty! Bell was dragged to St. Paul and taken before United States Commissioner Spencer to answer to the accusation. It was proved that Mr. Bell had only poked a little fun at the doughty deputy, and the Commissioner ordered his discharge from custody.

Little Falls transcript. (Little Falls, Morrison County, Minn.), July 29, 1892, Image 3

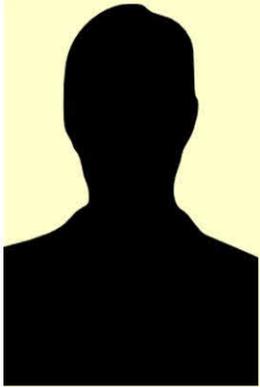
Sheriff Quinn, of Sauk Rapids, says the St. Cloud Times, and three deputies, had a hot fight with a gang of tramps and thieves last night. The Sheriff had located the gang, and assisted by Deputies Beatty, Goedker and Hohman proceeded to the place. The gang made a vigorous assault upon the officers who retaliated. During the melee Sheriff Quinn and Deputy Beatty sustained some bad blows. They succeeded in arresting nine of their number, and found a considerable amount of plunder. It is suspected that the goods found were stolen from cars, as there were no store marks on them. Revolvers, knives and different articles of clothing were found, including a large quantity of buckskin gloves.

The Worthington advance., August 23, 1894, Image 7

LITTLE ROCK LAKE BREEDS - They Are Ordered to Move to White Earth Reservation.

ST. CLOUD, Minn., Aug. 22.—Chairman W. M. Campbell of the' Chippewa Indian commission and Sheriff Quinn, Benton county, served notice on the Indians and half-breeds located at Little Rock Lake, Benton county, to vacate their present quarters and remove to the White Earth reservation. Among them is Peter Bear, the half-breed suspected of killing his wife. The misdeeds of the red men have made it necessary to place them on the reservation.

18th Sheriff, Frank J. Schiele 1895-1896



Place of birth: Canada
Born: 1854 ?
Died: Unknown
Marital status: Married - 3+ children
Party affiliation: Republican
Elected: 1894, 758 to 555
Occupation: Law Enforcement
Deputies: John Kniskern

1890 Benton Population: 6,254

Personal History: In November 1894 Frank J. Schiele defeated Sheriff John F. Quinn 758 to 555 (48% to 35%). Sebastian Schaefer received 258 votes (17%). Sheriff Frank J. Schiele lost his bid for re-election in 1896.

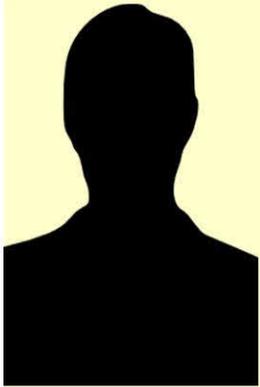
Frank J. Schiele probably came to Sauk Rapids between 1880 and 1885. A 1885 newspaper article states that "Sauk Rapids has a full-fledged brass band, the instruments having been received. F. J. Schiele is president."

Sheriff Frank J. Schiele and his wife, Sarah E. are both from Canada. In 1895 they had three children; a boy age 9, and two girls ages 7 and 2. A 23-year old "dress maker" was living with the family in 1895. She was born in Canada. Frank Schiele apparently left Benton County some time after 1896 and 1900.

Little Falls weekly transcript., December 13, 1895, Image 9

Sauk Rapids Sentinel: Judson and Hen J. Briggs were arrested on Monday morning on complaint of John Burski, who charged them with breaking into his saloon. Complaint says that on Sunday night about 12 o'clock the two went there for the purpose of "doing up" the place, and commenced it by kicking in the door. They were met by Burski and Fred Lembeck, and a free-for-all fight ensued in which pokers and sticks played a part. As a result, Jud. Briggs was quite badly used up, and the rest have marks as proof of the fun. They were arrested by Sheriff Schiele on a warrant Issued by Justice Homan. A hearing was had in the afternoon and they plead guilty and were taxed \$15.25 each.

19th Sheriff, Andrew LaVoie 1897-1900



Place of birth: Canada

1900 Population: 9,912

Born: 1849

Died: Unknown

Marital status: Married – Nine children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1896, 952 to 794

Occupation: Law enforcement / Farming

Deputies: John Kniskern (1897),

J.S.P. Wood (1899), Frank Leffingwell

Personal History: In the 1896 election Andrew Lavoie defeated Sheriff Frank J. Schiele 952 to 794 (55% to 45%)

In 1898 Sheriff Andrew LaVoie was elected over the Republican candidate C. C. Stullich and the Independent candidate Matt Hollern. Sheriff Andrew LaVoie ran as a democrat. Sheriff Andrew LaVoie received 786 votes (51%), C. C. Stullich 495 votes (32%), and Matt Hollern 254 votes (17%).

Andrew Lavoie was born in Canada in 1849. In 1875 he came to the United States with his wife Bridget, who was born in 1848 in Canada. They eventually moved to Benton County and farmed.

Andrew and Bridget Lavoie had nine children. In 1900 all nine children were single and living at home with Andrew LaVoie and his wife, Bridget. Michael LaVoie, age 31 and James LaVoie, age 24 helped farm. One daughter worked as a dress maker while the others did house work or attended school.

Sheriff Andrew LaVoie was defeated in the 1900 Sheriff's election. His name wasn't found in the 1905 census.

The Saint Paul globe., November 01, 1897, Page 3, Image 5

HAS TOO MAW WIVES.

Sauk Rapids Man Fails to Refute the Soft Impeachment,
Special to the Globe. SAUK RAPIDS, Minn., Oct. 31.—

John Lesselyoung, of this place, is in trouble. Late last evening he was arrested by Sheriff Lavoie on a warrant charging him with bigamy. The complaint was made by a woman from Chicago, who arrived here yesterday and claimed to be the lawful wife of Lesselyoung. When taken before him she at once recognized him as her husband and says they were married over twelve years ago, and that two children were born to them, both of whom are dead. About a year ago Lesselyoung was married to Martha Sluss, a popular young lady of this place, and by whom he has one child. Since residing here he has been a quiet, law biding citizen. When arrested he did not deny the charge and says he is Willing to take the consequences. He was placed in jail to await a hearing which will be had Nov. 2.

Little Falls herald., December 23, 1898, Image 5

Stole a Cow.

Sheriff Lavoie, of Benton county, was in the city Friday looking up a cow robbery. A cow was stolen from Gottlieb Katzorek, of Sauk Rapids, brought up here and sold to Kerrich & Moeglein for \$28.00, through a third party. The owner of the cow came up and identified the horns and hide, and the sheriff took the articles back to Sauk Rapids. The men suspected were Leo and Harry Baily, of Sauk Rapids, and Ed. Briggs. It was claimed that

*State of Minnesota }
County of Benton }
I, A. La Voie do solemnly
swear that I will support the Constitution of the United
States and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota,
and that I will faithfully execute and discharge the
duties of the office of Sheriff in the County of Benton
Minnesota, according to law and to the best of my
ability and understanding.*

A. La Voie
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of Jan'y A.D. 1899.
Geo. H. Brown
Clerk of Court.
Benton County, Minnesota.

Briggs and one of the Baily boys brought the cow up here Nov. 22, and induced Judson Briggs, Ed. Briggs' brother, to sell it for them. They claimed to have got the animal on a chattel mortgage. Sheriff Lavoie went back to Sauk Rapids and arrested the two Baily boys. A member of the firm of Kerrich & Moeglein went to Sank Rapids but failed to identify them as sellers of the cow. They, were therefore released; Ed. Briggs, according to the St. Cloud-papers, -is wanted for theft at Sauk Rapids and the cow exploit is also laid to him.

Pictured at left: Sheriff Andrew LaVoie's "Oath of Office."

20th Sheriff, Frank Leffingwell 1901-1906



Place of birth: Wisconsin

Born: November 16th, 1868

Died: August 6th, 1945 (76)

Marital status: Married

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1900, 580 to 461

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Cutter of stone and granite /

Horse trader / Politician / Business

Deputies: Chas McCrady (1905), Garfield Wilson (1906)

1900 Population: 9,912

Personal History: In 1900 Frank S. Leffingwell was elected Sheriff over **Andrew LaVoie** 580 to 461. **J. P. Hurt** received 354 votes and had been endorsed by the local paper as the Republican Candidate. Leffingwell was reelected sheriff in 1902 & 1904.

Leffingwell was born on November 16, 1868 in Whitewater, Wisconsin. He married his wife Ida May Erdman, of Amberg, Wisconsin on December 24, 1890 and they moved to Benton County, Minnesota. Frank is the son of Seth & Helen (Weston) Leffingwell. In Frank Leffingwell's early years he bought and sold horses and was a "cutter of stone and granite." Leffingwell was appointed a Benton County deputy sheriff 1898.

Sheriff Leffingwell owned The Hotel Foley in Foley, Minnesota from 1902 to 1906 and then sold it in 1906 to L.L. Safford of Mora. In November 1906 a farewell party was given to Frank and Ida Leffingwell. He and his wife moved to Brunton, Alberta Canada known today as Warner, Alberta to take part in the great land rush, and they procured 150,000 acres of land, selling it all to arriving settlers. An article states that this was the days of the big "Land Rush, when special trains were run into the country bearing land hungry Americans." Frank Leffingwell and Charles Egan became managers for O.W. Kerr Land Company. Leffingwell operated the Warner Hotel in 1906. The Hotel operated from 1906 to 1927 before it was destroyed by fire.

Leffingwell helped fund the construction of the first church on the town site the Evangelical church in Warner,

and established the Warner Cemetery. Leffingwell continued his active role in politics serving as the towns first Mayor. Leffingwell ran for the Alberta Legislature for the first time in the 1913 Alberta general election. In that election Warner had become big enough to have its own seat represented in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Leffingwell was re-elected to his 2nd term in office in the 1917 Alberta general election. He would suffer electoral defeat in the 1921 Alberta general election by Maurice Conner, a candidate from the United Farmers of Alberta. Leffingwell would run against Conner again in the 1926 Alberta general election, losing half the votes he had during the previous election. After Conner retired in 1935 Leffingwell attempted to run for office one more time in the 1935 Alberta general election. This time he placed a distant 3rd behind Social Credit candidate Solon Earl Low and James Walker.

The St. Paul Globe, Saturday, February 1, 1902

Bought Foley Hotel.

SAUK RAPIDS. Minn.. Jan. 31.—A deal was closed at Foley whereby the hotel owned by John Foley passed into the hands of F. S. Leffingwell, sheriff of Benton county. The consideration was \$3 000.

Sheriff Leffingwell assists in capturing bank robbers, where nitro-glycerin was used.

The Princeton Union: Thursday, December 22, 1904.

The State bank in the village Halting (? Rice) twelve miles north of St. Cloud was entered by professional bank robbers last week. The vault and safe were blown with charges of nitro-glycerin and \$2,000 in gold, silver and currency, and also \$12,000 in notes were taken. The men escaped with a team and buggy stolen from William Christie.

The robbers were captured later at Paynesville, with considerable of the stolen money on their person. **Sheriffs Bernick, Leffingwell and Tanner**, respectively of Stearns, Benton and Morrison counties, were instrumental in tracing the robbers, and Sheriff Bernick brought the three suspects back. Cashier Turretin of the Bank of Rice has identified some of the money on Morgan's person.

Little Falls herald., January 13, 1905, Image 3

RICE SUSPECTS BOUND OVER.

Charles Morgan, F. Meyer and Chas. Young, the alleged Bank of Rice robbers, were taken to Rice Friday

morning by Sheriff Bernick and Sheriff Leffingwell, who were also accompanied by Marshals Fox, of Paynesville, and Kost, of Richmond. The three men were arranged Friday afternoon before Justice Malmberg, of Rice, and formally charged with robbing the bank. The testimony of the important witnesses was taken and it was so conclusive that the court ordered all three men bound over to the action of the next grand jury of Benton county, which sits at Foley in April.

In 1945 when the Leffingwells new house was completed Frank Leffingwell went to the Mayo Clinic at Rochester, Minnesota, for surgery. He passed away there August 6th, 1945 and his body was brought back to Warner for burial. In October, 1949, Ida Leffingwell suffered a broken hip and passed away January 9th, 1950.

Warner is a village in southern Alberta, Canada. It is located in the County of Warner No. 5, approximately 40 miles south of the city of Lethbridge. Warner is a farming community. Warner is situated at the intersection of Highway 4 and Highway 36, about 24 miles north of the Montana border and Interstate 15. Warner's nearest neighbours are the towns of Stirling and Milk River.

The village is home to the *Warner Hockey School*, one of the premier girls' hockey schools in Canada. It is also home to the *Devil's Coulee Dinosaur Heritage Museum*. In the 2011 Census, the Village of Warner had a population of 331.

Frank and Ida Leffingwell are buried at the cemetery in Warner Alberta, Canada

Thanks to Kent Gebhard, who gave permission to use this photo



21st Sheriff, William Callahan 1907-1910



Place of birth: Minnesota

1910 Benton population: 11,615

Born: November 27th, 1877

Died: November 5th, 1948 (70)

Marital status: Married – Three + children

Party affiliation: Democrat

Elected: 1906, results not known

Occupation: Lawn enforcement / Judge /

Politician / Business / Farming

Deputies: Robert Lloyd, E. H. Pelton 1909

Tragedies: William B. Callahan's son, John B. Callahan was killed in action on Iwo Jima March 8th, 1945. He was a United States Marine and enlisted February, 1944. Around 6,800 Marines would be killed before the battle for the tiny island ended.

Personal History: William B. Callahan was elected in 1906 defeating Daniel H. Craig. He was re-elected in 1908. Sheriff William B. Callahan and Daniel H. Craig will go on to be opponents in 1910 and 1912.

William Callahan was co-owner of the Lloyd and Callahan "Livery Feed and Sale Stable," which was located on the south side of Dewey Street. Business was good when horses were the main means of transportation. In 1911 William B. Callahan was elected to the Foley Council and served for one year. In 1917 Callahan was selected as the Foley village Marshall. He resigned as Marshall December 6th, 1917 to be a clerk of the local draft board. He was a corporal of the Foley Home Guard (World War I) Company "E" 10th Battalion. Callahan served as a Judge of Probate from 1920 to 1936. Callahan was a member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Cloud Council. He served as a member of the Foley Fire Department for 35-years and chief for many years.

In 1907 Sheriff William B. Callahan was involved in the arrest of an escaped prisoner, who was imprisoned for kidnapping of a baby. [Little Falls herald. \(Little Falls, Morrison County, Minn.\), October 18, 1907, Image 1](#) (edited) KIDNAPPER IS CAUGHT - Anna Ostroski Jarmurzek, Displays Cunning in Escape From St. Cloud Anna O. Jarmurzek, the convicted kidnapper of the Giaque baby, of Minneapolis, serving an indeterminate

sentence at the state reformatory and who escaped from her keepers on Monday evening, remaining at large all day Tuesday, was arrested on the Great Northern Sandstone local at Foley about 5:15 Tuesday evening by Sheriff Callahan, of Benton county, and was later in the night returned to the reformatory officials.

It appears that when Mrs. Jarmurzek made her getaway on Monday afternoon. She went to the Great Northern depot—and bought from Olaf Kelson, ticket clerk, a ticket from St. Cloud to Superior. In the meantime the prisoner was safely ensconced on the cushion in one of the coaches. When the train reached Parent, the conductor noted her pretence and satisfied himself she was the escaped prisoner for whom the authorities were searching. Sheriff Callahan, of Benton county, residing at Foley, had been searching all trains at that point and it happened he boarded Tuesday's local when it reached Foley. The trainmen at once pointed out and handed over to him the prisoner. She made no fight, either, but went with the sheriff peaceably.

[Little Falls herald. \(Little Falls, Morrison County, Minn.\), January 24, 1908, Image 1](#) (edited)

ST. Cloud Police Officer Shot - Henry Becker Shot Down - In Fight With Three Burglars.

Highway men made a raid upon St. Cloud last night, says a St. Cloud special of Jan. 22nd. They had burglarized two securing \$60 at one place and \$5 in another, when Patrolman Becker saw one of the thieves in the store of Hiemenz & Reider. The officer entered the building and at the point of his gun captured the man. As he was leading him out of the building he was met by two of the companions of the man under arrest, who opened fire. Becker was shot four times, but was able to return the fire and says he is sure he hit one of the robbers. Then the officer, weak from the loss of blood sank to the ground. He has wounds in the back, chest, neck, and both arms. Sheriff Callahan of Benton county arrested a second suspect in a barber shop at Foley, and he too, was brought to St. Cloud and identified by the wounded officer. Officer Becker is one of the most popular men on the force. He has rallied from the first shock of his wounds and has a slight chance of recovery. (Officer Becker survived)

Callahan passes away

In 1948 W.B. Callahan died at the home of his son, Donald Callahan St. Paul, Minnesota. While on a trip he was hospitalized in Spokane, Washington for sometime and then he returned to St. Paul for hospitalization, later being released to the home of his son. An editorial in the St. Cloud Times states that, "William B. Callahan, respected, honored and the most popular citizen who ever lived in Benton county is dead. Few people ever enjoyed the confidence of their fellow citizens to the extent that Mr. Callahan did. The confidence that his neighbors and the people of Benton County had in him is attested by his unusually long and faithful service as a public servant." "Born in Parent, he began as a farmer, then went into business in the neighboring town of Foley."

22nd Sheriff, Daniel H. Craig 1911-1922



Place of birth: Minnesota
Born: 1865
Died: October 18th, 1924 (59)
Marital status: Married
Party affiliation: Republican
Elected: 1910, 1012 to 905
Occupation: Law Enforcement
Deputies: Edward Stewart

1920 Population: 14,073

Tragedies: It was reported in 1918 that Mrs. Daniel H. Craig passed away following a long illness and the most intense suffering from cancer. During the past year everything possible had been done for the patient and about three months ago she submitted to an operation, but all to “no avail.” Sheriff Craig was removed from office in 1922 for nonfeasance after a courageous career.

Personal History: Daniel Craig was elected Sheriff in 1910 over William B. Callahan 1,012 to 905 (53% to 47%). In the 1912 election Daniel H. Craig was again elected Sheriff over William B. Callahan 1,086 to 923 (54% to 46%).

In 1914 Sheriff Craig defeated Mr. Kornovich 1,106 to 775 (59% to 41%). Sheriff Craig will go on to win re-election in 1916, 1918, and 1920. He served 12 years on the St. Cloud Police Department. He was appointed Chief of Police November, 1894 after Chief James E. McKelvy resigned. Also, he had been a police officer in Moorhead.

In 1906 when he ran for Sheriff (Defeated by W. B. Callahan), he was a Marshal in Sauk Rapids.

In 1920 Sheriff Craig and Benton County Attorney Emery Swenson arrested the Sauk Rapids Town Marshal and the Justice of the Peace. Both of the officials were owners of pool halls. The marshal was charged with permitting minors on the premises while the judge was “pinched” for operating a slot machine in his place of business as were the other four men arrested.

In the 1922 election Sheriff Craig lost in the primary election. It's not known if prohibition enforcement resulted in his defeat or if his arrest of Marshall Meinert had a negative impact. Marshall William Meinert challenged Sheriff Craig in the primary election along with six other candidates.

It was reported that Sheriff Daniel Craig left for Canada after the primary election. The Benton County Commissioners filed charges of nonfeasance of office against Sheriff Craig. He was removed from office. (Nonfeasance: Failure to perform duties of sheriff)

Edward Stewart was appointed Sheriff of Benton County by Governor Preus, to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Daniel Craig.

Apparently Dan Craig found himself in trouble in the past after he had been removed from the St. Cloud Police Department in 1898 for stealing chickens and his partner in the chicken theft was shot in the back and thigh by a farmer in St. Augusta.

The St. Paul Globe Friday September 30, 1898

Quite a sensation was created in St. Cloud today by the finding of the guilty parties, who, Tuesday night, robbed the chicken coop of Henry Meyer, a farmer living in St. Augusta. The guilty parties are (so far as is known) Elmer Stephens and Dan Craig, both of whom have confessed, but claim that there were no other parties in the deal. Dan Craig was one of the trusted police officers, and was on duty at the time. He left his beat, and, together with Stephens, went to St. Augusta, as they claim, to visit a trout brook, and on their way stopped at Meyer's house and took two chickens to make a stew. The farmer was awakened and fired a shot at them, which took effect in Stephens' back and thigh. Craig brought the wounded man to St. Cloud and lodged him in a hotel, and a doctor was summoned, who dressed his wounds. Mayor J. A. McDonald has removed Craig from the police force. The men will probably be arrested as soon as Mr. Meyer can be heard from. Mr. Meyer, in giving his version of the robbery, said there were four men in the party, with a double rig, and that the number of chickens stolen was fifty-nine.

A newspaper article reported on October 30th, 1924 that Sheriff Craig passed away at the home of his sister, Mrs. J.M. Pelton, at Perth Junction, New Brunswick, Canada, on October 18th, 1924. Daniel Craig, 59, had been in failing health for a number of years.

23rd Sheriff, Edward Stewart

1922



Place of birth: Minnesota
Born: December 13th, 1880
Died: March 1963 (82)
Marital status: Married – Two + children
Party affiliation: Independent
Elected: 1922 Appointed
Occupation: Law Enforcement
Deputies: Unknown

1920 Benton Population: 14,073

Personal History: In September 1922 Edward Stewart was appointed Sheriff of Benton County by Governor Preus, to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Daniel Craig, who left for Canada, after having been decisively beaten for re-nomination in the June primaries. The Benton county Commissioners filed charges of nonfeasance of office against Sheriff Craig.

Sheriff Edward Stewart was defeated by Frank McGregor in the November 1922 general election 2,206 to 2062 (52% to 48%). Sheriff Stewart will be elected in 1926.

1922 Sheriff Primary Election Results

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Frank E. McGregor | 1241--30% | Edward Stewart | 1023--25% |
| August Koehler | 438--10% | D.H. Craig | 379---9% |
| T.H. Sparrow | 366---9% | Stanley Kornovich | 297---7% |
| William Meinert | 292---7% | Fred Childers | 134---3% |

24th Sheriff, Frank McGregor 1923-1926



Place of birth: Minnesota

1920 Benton Population: 14,073

Born: December 26th 1873

Died: October 27th, 1931 (57)

Marital status: Married

Party affiliation: Independent

Elected: 1922, 2,206 to 2,062

Occupation: Law enforcement / Farming / Road construction /

Railroad employee

Deputies: Cy Towne, Axel Anderson, William Morfitt

AKA / Frank E. MacGregor, DOB / December 26th, 1875 – The McGregor name was later changed to MacGregor.

Tragedies: In 1931 Frank McGregor was appointed a deputy under Sheriff Joe Winkelman. During his duties as deputy he was involved in car accident, which resulted in a fatal head injury. As of 2015 he is the only Benton County Deputy killed in the line of duty.

Personal History: Frank McGregor was elected Sheriff over Sheriff Ed Stewart 2,206 to 2,062 (52% to 48%).

Frank E. McGregor was born December 26th 1873 in Hammond, New York. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. John J. McGregor moved to Minden Township in 1887. Frank McGregor worked on railroads, road construction and farmed. He belonged to the Masonic orders, including the Shriners and the Blue Lodge of Sauk Rapids.

Sheriff Frank McGregor strictly enforced the prohibition law, which became law in 1919. This could have cost him his re-election bid in 1926. Col. John J. Macgregor, son of Frank McGregor, stated that “his dad was a strict enforcer of prohibition “only” when he was handed a search warrant by the County Attorney’s Office.” Sheriff McGregor received a lot of criticism for enforcing the law that his office compelled him to do.

In 1931 Frank McGregor will serve as chief deputy under Sheriff Joe Winkelman after a campaign strategy was worked out between the two of them that was successful and could even be described as brilliant.



2010 - Sheriff Frank McGregor's son passes away

Col. John J. MacGregor, 99 03/23/1911 ~ 08/31/2010 CARLSBAD -- Col. John J. MacGregor passed away Tuesday, August 31, 2010. John grew up in his beloved Minnesota. He was always full of folklore and wonderful memories. He loved hunting and fishing, and once caught a 90 lb. tuna on one of his fishing trips in Mexican waters. He entered the Army as a Private and attained the rank of Colonel during his 30 years of service. He was a very generous man in the community and a true

philanthropist to the Native American causes. He was loved by many and will be truly missed. Viewing will be held at 9 a.m., with services at 10 a.m., on Monday, September 13, at Eternal Hills Mortuary in Oceanside.

Frank McGregor's name is mentioned in the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association.

Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association

Frank E McGregor - End of Watch: October 27, 1931

DEPUTY FRANK E MCGREGOR - Benton County Sheriff's Office - Died October 27, 1931

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association was formed in 1974 by Jim Crawford, then Chief of Police in Golden Valley, MN. LEMA was founded with the sole purpose of building a memorial to Minnesota peace officers who had died in the line of duty. In 1977, the beautiful granite memorial was erected in the main concourse of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The memorial remained on display there until it was moved to its new home in the centerpiece of the Peace Officer's Memorial on the capitol grounds in St. Paul. LEMA also sponsors an annual memorial service hosted by departments around the state. This service is held the

first Sunday in May of each year. It is at this service that a ribbon bearing the name of each officer lost in the line of duty during the year is installed permanently on the LEMA flag. This service also includes the reading of the Honor Roll, the list of names of fallen Minnesota officers. As of January 1, 2005, this list includes the names of 223 officers dating back to 1881.



Pictured left to right: Deputy Cy Towne, Sheriff Frank McGregor, and County attorney Emery Swenson. This photo shows a collection of various kinds and sizes of stills taken in raids throughout Benton County

25th Sheriff, Edward Stewart 1927-1930



Place of birth: Minnesota

1930 Benton population: 15,056

Born: December 13th, 1880 (1881?)

Died: March 1963 (82)

Marital status: Married – Two + children

Party affiliation: Independent

Elected: 1926, results not known

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Corrections / Watchman

Deputies: Marley Stewart, W. C. Vradenberg

Personal History: Sheriff Stewart entered the race for Sheriff for the first time in 1922. He had already served as deputy sheriff of Benton County for 11 years. In September 1922 Edward Stewart had been appointed Sheriff of Benton County by Governor Preus to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Daniel Craig. Frank McGregor defeated Sheriff Edward Stewart 2,206 to 2062.

Edward Stewart accepted a position at the St. Cloud Reformatory until the election in 1926. He was elected sheriff in what many claimed was a voter revolt against the Volstead Act and prohibition. His election in 1926 along with that of a new County Attorney, Harry Burns was the feeling of resentment against the strict enforcement of prohibition laws by Sheriff Frank McGregor, his deputy Cy Towne and County Attorney Emery W. Swenson.

In January 1927 after years of absence, slot machines returned. "Now it is said that they are being used openly since the former administration gave up its offices."

When Edward Stewart became Sheriff he installed his son as a deputy and this did not sit well with those who were opposed to family members on the public payroll. This could have had a negative impact on Sheriff Edward Stewart's re-election bid in 1930.

Edward Stewart is the son of a Pioneer Benton County family. His father, W. J. S. Stewart took up a Homestead in Granite Ledge Township in 1880. (Records reflect that W.J.S. Stewart lived in Alberta township in 1885)

He was a lifelong resident of the County and the Stewart family name became well known.

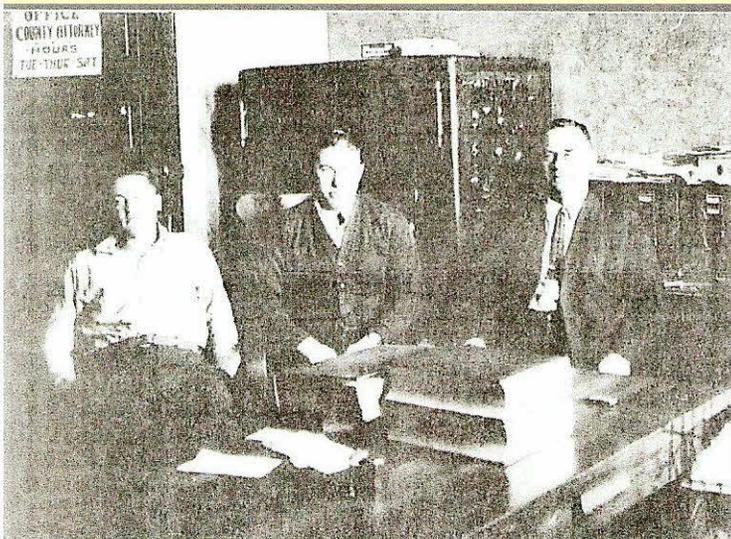
1885 MN Census, Alberta, Benton Co. (Gilman P.O.), enumerated by Lawrence Wisniewski, Assessor

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|
| 11 31 | W. J. S. STEWART | 34 | M | W Illinois // 336 |
| 11 32 | Annie STEWART | 29 | F | W Mass. 336 |
| 11 33 | Wm STEWART | 10 | M | W Minn / 336 |
| 11 34 | Robert STEWART | 8 | M | W Minn / 336 |
| 11 35 | Mage STEWART | 6 | F | W Minn / 336 |
| 11 36 | Ed. STEWART | 4 | M | W Minn / 336 |
| 11 37 | Abraham STEWART | 2 | M | W Minn / 336 |

In **1895** Edward Stewart was living with his parents and six brothers and three sisters in Granite Ledge Township, Benton, Minnesota.

In **1920** Edward Stewart was living with his own family, wife Roana E. Stewart, age 35, born in Kansas and his four sons, Donald, age 17, Edmund, age 13, Melvin, age 9, and Marland, age 3 in Granite Ledge Township.

In **1930** Edward was living in Foley, Minnesota with wife Elsie, age 45, Marlin, age 14, and Daniel age, age 10. Edward Stewart's wife uses the first name of Roana in 1920 and then Elsie in 1930.



In **1940** Edward Stewart, age 59, resided in South St. Paul, Minnesota with his wife, Elsie, age 55 and son Dan Stewart, age 20. Edward's occupation is listed as a "Watchman," and Dan's is "Loading dock, Meat packer."

Pictured far right in the photo is Sheriff Stewart in the office of County Attorney Harry Burns in 1929. The County Sheriff had no office of his own in the courthouse and worked out of the County Attorney's Office. Picture to the left of the sheriff may be his sons and one may be a deputy.

Edward had been living in Hastings, Minn when he died in 1963. **48**

26th Sheriff, Joe Winkelman 1931-1950



Place of birth: Minnesota
Born: April 26th, 1893
Died: July 20th, 1967 (74)
Marital status: Married
Party affiliation: Independent
Elected: 1930, 2,283 to 1,899, to 1,483
Occupation: Law Enforcement / Farming
Deputies: Frank McGregor, Earl Inman

| |
|--------------------------------|
| 1930 Benton population: 15,056 |
| 1940-----16,106 |
| 1950-----15,911 |

Personal History: In June, 1930 there were 14 candidates for sheriff in the primaries. Although Joe Winkelman lost out in the primary, he ran as a sticker candidate in the general election and defeated Fred Stack (1,899 votes 34%) and Sheriff Edward Stewart (1,483 votes 26%). Joe Winkelman received 2,283 votes (40%).

In 2004 Colonel John J MacGregor, son of former Sheriff Frank McGregor, stated the following: “Sheriff Stewart had a strong following with “my dad” and Winkelman close behind. It looked like Sheriff Stewart was going to be re-elected. However, Winkelman and my dad got together and planned a new strategy, which worked. My dad bowed out and shifted his support to Winkelman and Stewart lost. Winkelman was elected Sheriff and my Dad was his deputy.”

Sheriff Joe Winkelman will go on to be reelected in 1938, 1942, and 1946. He did not run for reelection in 1950.

1930 Primary Election Results

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fred W. Stack -----920 – 19% | Edward G. Stewart-----775 – 16% |
| Joseph A. Winkelman-761 – 16% | Frank E. McGregor----461 – 10% |
| Earl Inman-----386 – 8% | Ben P. Patock-----282 – 6% |
| J.F. Hollern-----242 – 5% | A.J. Des Marais-----184 – 4% |
| W.J. Hines-----179 – 4% | D.H. Blattner-----170 – 4% |
| Julius Stellmach-----158 – 3% | W.C. Vradenburg-----143 – 3% |
| Joseph G. Duhamel-----82 – 1½ % | John A. Kurr-----36 – ½ % |

Sheriff Winkelman was born in Sherburne County and farmed in Glendorado Township, until 1930. He served his country in World War 1 in the U.S. Army

In **1920** Joe Winkelman, age 26, was living with his parents Barney Winkelman, age 65, and Mary Winkelman, age 53 in Santiago, Sherburne, Minnesota. Also residing in the residence were Joe's brother George H., age 18, and his sisters, Regina J., age 14, and Rosa E., age 10.

The **1930** United States Census reflects that Joe Winkelman was living in Glendorado, Benton, Minnesota with his wife, Julia (Hughes) Winkelman, age 34, born in Minnesota and with their children, M. Lou Ann, age 8, R. Honora, age 7, John W., age 2, and Winnefred, age 0. Joe Winkelman's father was born in Germany and his mother was born in Wisconsin. Joe was born in Minnesota.

In **1940** the United States Census states that Joe Winkelman was living in Foley, Minnesota. He had an addition to the family his son, Brian, age 5. M. Lou Ann is referred to as Honore. Also, a lodger, Violet Barrett, age 28, from South Dakota resided at the Winkelman residence.

Joe Winkelman later worked in the security division of Franklin Manufacturing until he retired.

In 1967 he was selected "Outstanding Senior Citizen" in Benton County. When Sheriff Joe Winkelman retired from the sheriff's office he stated, "I leave the Sheriff's Office with kindest feeling toward all, and best wishes to each individual of Benton County."



Joe Winkelman passed away July 20th, 1967. He is buried at the Assumption Cemetery St. Cloud

27th Sheriff, Hewart Siemers 1951-1970



Place of birth: Minnesota
Born: September 26th, 1905
Died: January 12th, 1973 (67)
Marital status: Married – Seven children
Party affiliation: Independent
Elected: 1950, 3,512 to 2,622
Occupation: Law Enforcement / Farming / Cattle Buyer / Trucking business / Owner & operated Oak Park Cafe
Deputies: Kenny Chuck, Al Johnson, Len Trushenski

| |
|--------------------------------|
| 1950 Benton population: 15,911 |
| 1960..... 17,287 |
| 1970..... 20,841 |

Tragedies: In 1953 Corporal Curtis Siemers, 23, son of Benton County Sheriff and Mrs. Hewart (Emma) Siemers, was reported killed in Korea on July 10. A telegram to the effect was received by his parents from the Secretary of War. Corporal Siemers was serving with the 7th division, 31st Infantry Regiment at the time of his death.

In 1966 they also had another son killed, 26-year-old Sheldon Siemers died in a truck accident. He had been a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force.

Personal History: Hewart Siemers was elected sheriff in 1950 over Earl Inman 3,512 to 2,622 (57% to 43%). He will go on to be reelected in 1954, 1958, 1962, and 1966. He did not run for reelection in 1970.

While serving as Sheriff, Hewart Siemers also worked as a cattle buyer. His starting sheriff's salary was \$500 per month and he drove his own car and paid for his own gas. Deputies who worked under him were Kenny Chuck, Al Johnson, and Len Trushenski. Hewart Siemers was a Golden Gloves Boxing Champion. He was 6'7" and weighed 250 pounds.

On January 12th, 1973 Hewart E. Siemers, 67, died at Fort Meyers Beach, Florida. He was born Sept. 26th, 1905, to the late William and Anna Elton Siemers and married Emma Mattson November 21st, 1927. Hewart Siemers was survived by his widow; sons, Gordon, Breckenridge; William, Wayne and Dale, Milaca; and Robert, Oak Park; 21 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by two sons, Curtis and Sheldon, a

brother and a sister. He lived and farmed in Benton County until retiring to Milaca in 1971. He was engaged in the trucking business 20 years. He was a member of the Minnesota State Sheriff's Association and the Paul Bunyon Peace Officers Association. Hewart Siemers was a gold star father. He is buried at the Riverside Cemetery just North of Ronneby. His sons, Curtis and Sheldon are buried along side him.



Emma E. Siemers, **101 Milaca – Wife of Sheriff Siemers**
July 30, 1908~Feb. 2, 2010

Funeral services for Emma E. Siemers, age 101, of Milaca, will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 11 AM at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca. Visitation will be 2 hours prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Ronneby, MN. Casket bearers will be her grandsons, Scott, Mike, Mark, Inky, Craig, Alan, Randy, Dean, Tracy, Tim, Nathan, Joel, Mitchell, Reggie and Brian Siemers. Music will be provided by Cheryl Bailey and Ann Johnson. Arr. Peterson-Johnson Funeral Home of Milaca.

Emma Eleanor Siemers was born July 30, 1908 to Oktor and Mary (Larson) Mattson in Milaca, MN. She was united in marriage to Hewart Siemers on November 21, 1927 and to this union seven children were born. She owned and operated the Oak Park Cafe with her husband. They also raised cattle and horses on their 160 acre farm near Oak Park. She milked many cows by hand and was busy all the time cooking, washing clothes and baking bread. Emma was one of the last Gold Star Mothers of the Korean War. After Hewart's retirement, the couple moved to Milaca, MN. They enjoyed vacationing in Fort Meyers, FL. Hewart preceded her in death in 1973 and she continued to reside in Milaca where she enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren. She moved to the Milaca Elim Home in 2000. She died on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at the Milaca Elim Home. She is survived by her sons, Gordon (Alma) of Cross Lake, MN, Dale (Mary) of Milaca, Robert (Rosalind) of Oak Park; 24 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren; sister, Ellen of Sartell; also by many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Hewart; sons, Sheldon, Curtis, Wayne and William; great-granddaughter, Kelly Siemers and great-grandson, Brandon Siemers.



Hewart Emma Siemers are gold star parents.

Hewart & Emma Siemers are buried at the Riverside Cemetery just North of Ronneby. His sons, Curtis and Sheldon are buried along side him.

28th Sheriff, Len Trushenski 1971-1990



Place of birth: Minnesota
Born: April 18th, 1924
Died: July 31st, 1994 (70)
Marital status: Married – Three children
Party affiliation: Independent
Elected: 1970, 5,240 to 1,966
Occupation: Law Enforcement
Chief deputies: Darrold Williams, Frank Wippler
Nickname: “The Bull”

| |
|--------------------------------|
| 1970 Benton Population: 20,841 |
| 1980 -----25,187 |
| 1990-----30,185 |

Personal History: In 1970 Leonard Trushenski, Ervin Cziok, Harold Johnson and Alfred Smith battled it out in the primary election contest for the seat being vacated by the retirement of Sheriff Hewart Seimers.

Primary results:

Len Trushenski3,346 (66%)
Harold A. Johnson..... 814 (16%)
Ervin Cziok764 (15%)
Alfred Smith -.....147 (3%).

Len Trushenski went on to win the general election over Harold A Johnson 5,240 (73%) to 1,966 (27%).

Prior to being Sheriff, Trushenski was a member of Foley’s 1941/1942 “Miracle” basketball team. In football he was named All-State fullback in 1941. He was a member of Foley’s 1940 football team which is reported to be the best in Foley High School football history. He was inducted into the Foley High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was recruited by the University of Minnesota, but after his freshman year he joined the Army and played high-level service football, earning the nickname, “The Bull.”

Trushenski initiated the start of modernization of the sheriff’s office. Prior to 1971 the sheriff and deputies drove their own cars and were reimbursed for mileage. They would receive calls at home and then respond.

In 1981 Benton County's new law enforcement center with dispatch, office space, and four holding cells were operational. The sheriff's dispatch operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They also dispatched for the Sauk Rapids Police Department at night, weekends and holidays; also for the Rice Police and Fire Departments, and the Foley Police and Fire Departments & "911". He implemented the upgrading of the radio system, 911, state wide, point to point, and the construction of the radio towers. He also initiated a records keeping system.

Len Trushenski was a member of the Sauk Rapids Lions Club, Sauk Rapids American legion Post 254, Sauk Rapids Sportsman Club, Minnesota State Sheriff's Association, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. Sheriff Len Trushenski was reelected in 1974, 1978, 1982, and 1986. He retired at the end of 1990.

Sheriff Trushenski's chief deputy was Frank Wippler who served as a deputy, detective, chief deputy and jail administrator under Trushenski. Wippler was elected Benton County Sheriff in 1990 and served two terms.

In 1999 Sheriff Trushenski's first chief deputy Darrold V. Williams, 66, passed away at the VA Medical Center. He had been a resident of Sauk Rapids since 1969. He was in the U.S. Army for 20 years, a deputy for Benton County Sheriff's Department for nine years, and a security officer at St. Cloud VA Medical Center for 15 years.

In 1991 Len Trushenski was inducted into the Foley Athletic Hall of Fame.

Foley Athletic Hall of Fame

Each year new members of the Foley Community are honored with induction into the Foley Athletic Hall of Fame. These honorees might be past graduates with outstanding abilities or who were exemplary role models, coaches with amazing records, or community members who displayed unwavering support for our athletic programs. The Hall of Fame Inductions take place in May of each year at the Athletic Banquet honoring our current athletes. Nominations are taken at any time.

Hall of Fame Member Name and Year Inducted! (P denotes Player, C denotes Coach, At Large denotes Fan of distinction, financial giving, booster club participation) Len Trushenski, P 1991

Leonard Trushenski passed away July 31st, 1994. He is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota.



2009 - Wife of Sheriff Leonard Trushenski Passes Away.

Caroline A. Trushenski, 78, St. Cloud, June 8, 1930 - Feb. 24, 2009

Caroline A. Trushenski, age 78, of St. Cloud, died Tuesday at Merriett House. She was buried at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis.

Caroline was born June 8, 1930 in Morrison County to the late David & Minnie (Tadych) Strzyzowski. She married Leonard Trushenski on Feb. 6, 1957 at St. John's Catholic Church in Foley. Caroline was a lifelong resident of the Benton County area. She was a Bailiff at the Benton

County Sheriff Department and supported her husband while he served as Benton County Sheriff.

Caroline was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church in St. Cloud and the Catholic Aid Association. She relished card games with friends and grand kids and always had a special place for four legged friends. There was no one more special than her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Caroline was preceded in death by her husband, Leonard on July 31, 1994; son, Bruce in 2005; and sister, Marie Urbanski.

29th Sheriff, Frank Wippler 1991-1998



Place of birth: Minnesota
Born: December 8th, 1949
Died: January 4th 2015
Marital status: Married – Two children
Party affiliation: Independent
Elected: 1990, 7,231 to 3,228
Occupation: Law Enforcement / business
Chief deputies: Steve Mund, Art Boelz

1990 Benton Population: 30,185

Personal History: In 1990 Frank Wippler defeated Dick Sakry 7,231 votes (69%) to 3,228 (31%). Dick Sakry is a retired St. Cloud Police Officer.

Frank Wippler grew up in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota where he attended school at Sacred Heart Catholic School and graduated from the Sauk Rapids High School. After graduation he was drafted into the U.S. Army on August 26, 1969 and honorably served his country in the Vietnam War. Wippler was honorably discharged on August 29, 1971. Wippler served as a law enforcement officer for 29 years with the Benton County Sheriff's Department. He served as a deputy, detective, chief deputy, jail administrator and as Benton County Sheriff. Frank Wippler graduated from the F.B.I. Academy, was a charter member of the Tri-County Major Investigations Unit, working with legislators for better laws for law enforcement agencies in the state. He received the Minnesota Sheriff's President Award in 1997. Wippler earned his masters degree in law enforcement from St. Cloud State University and he also taught law enforcement classes at St. Cloud State for several years. He had extensive training in Law Enforcement and Administration.

Sheriff Frank Wippler initiated the construction of the new Benton county sheriff's office and jail, which was completed in 1996. In 1994 Jacobs-Livestock building was destroyed by fire to make room for the construction of the sheriff's office & jail.

Sheriff Wippler approved membership in the Central MN Gang Strike Force. Membership was discontinued

June 11th, 2004 because of a lack of funding, but was then reinstated and as of 2007 membership has continued. In 1992 Wippler implemented the DARE Program. As of January 1st 2007, 6,850 students have completed this course.

Frank Wippler was a respected investigator who was instrumental in solving many homicides and other major cases during his distinguished career. It was commonly known that he put in long hours of work to solve cases without compensation. Sheriff Frank Wippler was reelected in 1994.

After retiring as Sheriff, Frank along with his brothers purchased the Little Falls Hardware Hank and he continued to work at the hardware store until his health no longer allowed him to. Frank and his wife Donna spent a lot of time with family and friends at their cabin on Mille Lacs Lake where they loved fishing. Frank enjoyed hunting and was an avid Minnesota Gopher, Twins and Viking fan. Frank's greatest love in life were his children and grandchildren.

On January 4th 2015 Frank Wippler, age 65 passed away from a brain tumor he had been battling since 1994 at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud, MN. The Wippler family expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the extraordinary care Frank received from the staff at the VA Medical Center Building 50-1.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Friday January 9th 2015 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Little Falls. Many deputies and officers attended the funeral. Frank Wippler's former chief deputy Art Boelz attended and gave a final salute. Patty Wetterling, mother of Jacob, showed her respect for Frank by attending the funeral.



Also giving a final salute were Benton deputy retirees Sheriff Brad Bennett, Dare officer Nicholas Baden and other Benton retirees along with other members of the Benton sheriff's office. Benton county's honor guards were Sheriff Troy Heck, Captain Kyle Dusing, and Detective Jerome Kahl. Honor guards from the Morrison county sheriff's office were also present. Burial took place in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls, MN. Frank was honored with a 21-gun salute.

30th Sheriff, Jim McMahon 1999-2006



Place of birth: Minnesota

2000 Benton population: 34,226

Born: March 29th, 1953

Died:

Marital status: Married – Four children

Party affiliation: Independent

Elected: 1998, 7,411 to 5,406

Occupation: Law Enforcement / Politician – Commissioner

Chief deputy: Doug Brinkman

Personal History: In the 1998 general election Jim McMahon defeated **Sheriff Frank Wippler** 7,411 to 5,406 (58% to 42%).

1998 - Primary sheriff's election results

Jim McMahon.....1,975 (49%)

Sheriff Frank Wippler1,703 (42%)

Greg Smelter.....380 (9%)

Prior to being elected Sheriff of Benton County, Jim McMahon was hired as a Sartell Police Officer in 1974. In 1981 he moved on to the Sauk Rapids Police Department as a patrol officer. In 1990 he was promoted to captain. He continued his service with the Sauk Rapids Police Department until January 1999, at which time he took over the office of Sheriff.

Sheriff McMahon did not run for sheriff in 2006, but instead filed for Benton county commissioner. McMahon defeated long term incumbent, Commissioner Duane Grandy, 1,418 to 1,222 (54%to 46%) to become Commissioner Jim McMahon.

Sheriff Jim McMahon was respected and liked by his employees and the public. While serving as Sheriff he implemented the "Special Emergency Response Team "SERT." (AKA/ SRT). In 2004 he implemented the Sheriff Reserve Officer Program to assist the department in policing special functions such as the Benton County Fair **58**

and cabin checks. Community and employee relations have been a priority under McMahon's administration.



1st Row (L to R): Joe Wollak, Warren Peschl
2nd Row (L to R): Spencer Buerkle, Jim McMahon, Allen "Jake" Bauerly

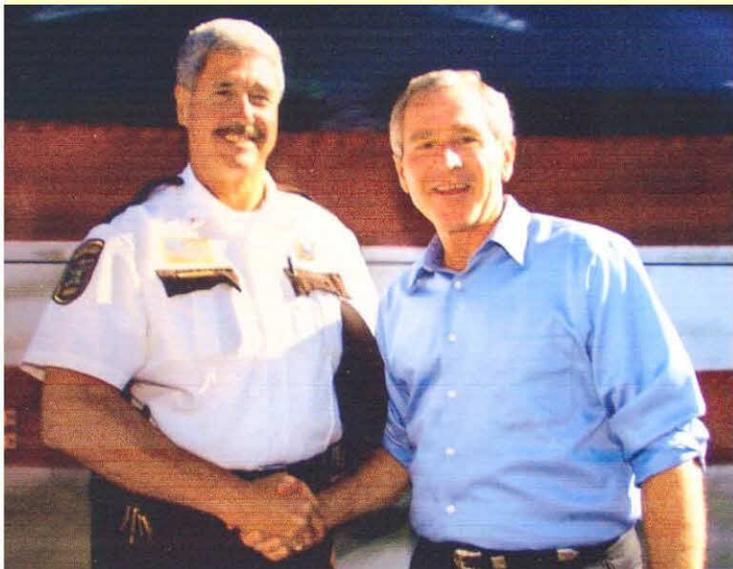
For 103 years Foley had their own police department until it was dissolved in 2003. Sheriff McMahon signed a contract with the Foley authorities for sheriff services. After much controversy the Sheriff's office contract with Foley was not renewed and Brant Standridge was hired in 2012 to head-up the newly formed Foley police department. In 2013 it was reported that "The Foley City Council has hired Katie Lang as the new interim Chief of Police."

In 2000 Sheriff McMahon organized Field Training. The deputy will spent at least six weeks training with the Benton County Sheriff's Office Field Training. This includes two weeks with the Detective / Sergeant FTO, and four weeks with the Patrol FTO. Also, they must qualify with the firearms instructor.

Sheriff McMahon's Chief deputy Doug Brinkman was a former Sauk Rapids police officer, Benton county deputy and detective. Not only was Brinkman a skilled investigator, an excellent chief deputy, but he made work enjoyable. Doug enjoys retirement, but continues to work assorted jobs with a smile.

On November 5th 2014 it was reported that Jim McMahon defeated Sauk Rapids Mayor Brad Gunderson to keep his District 3 seat on the Benton County board of commissioners. McMahon, a former Benton County sheriff, will serve his third term on the county board. He received 70 percent of the vote compared with Gunderson's 30 percent. McMahon had 1,490 votes to Gunderson's 617.

Photo at left: President George W. Bush shakes hands with Sheriff Jim McMahon on September 16th, 2004. President Bush was the first sitting President to visit St. Cloud. Sheriff Jim McMahon and his deputies assisted in providing security.



31st Sheriff, Brad Bennett 2007 - 2014



Place of birth: North Dakota
 Born: October 16th, 1958
 Died:
 Marital status: Married – two children
 Party affiliation: Independent
 Elected: 2006, 6,948 to 6,606
 Occupation: Law Enforcement
 Chief deputy: Troy Heck

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|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 2010 Benton county population total: | 38,451 |
| Sauk Rapids: | 12,773 |
| Foley: | 2,603 |
| Gilman: | 224 |
| Rice: | 1,275 |
| St. Cloud (Benton) | 6,391 |
| Sartell: (Benton) | 2,011 |

Personal History: Benton Sheriff's Captain Brad Bennett defeated Deputy Pete Skwira 6,948 to 6,606 in the closest sheriff's race in Benton County history.



Brad Bennett was born in 1958 in Valley City, North Dakota. He was one of six children and the son of a commercial fisherman. His mother was a stay-at-home mother, who later became a licensed practical nurse. The Bennett family moved to Browns Valley when Brad was very young. He graduated from Brown's Valley High School and then joined the U.S. Army and served three years as a military police officer at Fort McClellan, Alabama and at Fishbauch, Germany. He received a Good Conduct Medal and Honorable Discharge. He returned to Browns Valley after his military service and worked in a uranium mine in Casper, Wyoming.

Brad Bennett
U.S. Army

In 1980, Bennett attended the law-enforcement program at Alexandria Technical College and graduated in 1982. While in school he worked part-time as a police officer for Parkers Prairie and Browns Valley. After completing school he worked full-time as a police officer for Browns Valley. On April 1st 1984 he was hired by the Benton County Sheriff's Office. He was a patrol deputy for eight years. He was then promoted to sergeant, a rank he held for ten years. He was promoted to lieutenant and then captain in 2005.

Brad Bennett enjoys hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions, Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart Parish – Sauk Rapids, MN, Rice Area Sportsmen's Club, Minnesota Waterfowl Association and a Youth Firearm Safety Certified Instructor.

As a Captain, Brad Bennett was a Liaison Officer for Benton County for the Tri-County Crime Stoppers, member of the Benton county Family Violence Council, Liaison Officer for the Foley School Chemical Pre-Assessment



Brad and son Keith (goose hunting). Keith Bennett is now a deputy (2015) with another county with a least 5 years of experience.

Team and a member of the Minnesota Major Crime Investigation Unit. Bennett is a Graduate of “The FBI National Academy.”

In 2010 Brad Bennett easily won re-election over Deputy Pete Skwira.

On March 11th 2014 Benton County Sheriff Brad Bennett announced that he is retiring and will not seek a third term as sheriff. Bennett, who has worked for the sheriff’s office since April 9th 1984, plans to retire in January. Bennett previously worked in the Parker’s Prairie and Brown’s Valley police departments and has 33 years of law enforcement experience.

On November 12th 2014 Sheriff Bennett’s employee and good friend, Sgt. John Cruze passed away. John retired on October 28th, 2014 and a retirement party for both John Cruze and Captain Olmanson was held on October 31st, which is Paul’s retirement date.



FBI Director Louis J. Freeh and Brad Bennett

On January 4th 2015 former Sheriff Frank Wippler passed away. Wippler was chief deputy when Brad Bennett was hired in 1984. A retirement party for Sheriff Bennett was held on January 5th, 2015 and Troy Heck was sworn in January 6th as sheriff. Brad Bennett attended Frank’s funeral on Jan. 9th.

“I am grateful to my family for having supported me throughout my law enforcement career and am eager to spend more time with them in the very near future,” he said in the statement. “I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Benton County.”

“I leave with a great deal of appreciation and respect for the men and women at the Benton County Sheriff’s Office who work every day to make Benton County a safer place,” he said in a news release.

32nd Sheriff, Troy Heck 2015 -----



Place of birth: Bloomington, MN
 Born: Age 44
 Died:
 Marital status: Married, 3-children
 Party affiliation: Independent
 Elected: 2014, 6,486 to 6,051
 Occupation: Law Enforcement
 Chief deputy: Neal Jacobson

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|--------------------------------------|--------|
| 2010 Benton county population total: | 38,451 |
| Sauk Rapids: | 12,773 |
| Foley: | 2,603 |
| Gilman: | 224 |
| Rice: | 1,275 |
| St. Cloud (Benton): | 6,391 |
| Sartell (Benton): | 2,011 |

Person History: Benton county chief deputy Troy Heck defeated Benton county deputy Pete Skwira 6,486 to 6,051, (51.73% to 48.27%). The race was decided by Heck carrying the urban areas of the county and Skwira carrying the rural areas. Heck had rebounded from being down picking up a plus 1,119 votes in Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud and Sartell. Heck has been chief deputy for the last eight years after ascending in the department from deputy to investigator to detective / sergeant. He campaigned on his experience and on integrity.

Heck was endorsed by Sheriff Brad Bennett, former Benton County Sheriff and County Commissioner Jim McMahon, retired Benton county Dare officer Nick Baden, St. Cloud Times Editorial Board, Benton County Sheriff's Office Deputy's Union, Benton County Attorney Phil Miller, and many others.



The unique campaign sign with the clever phrase "Heck Yes", served it's purpose in name recognition. A 5-year-old boy referred to the sign as the "What the Heck sign." The boy loved saying "What the Heck."

Troy Heck graduated from Bloomington Kennedy High School. He attended Normandale Community College and received a degree in Law Enforcement. He attended and completed the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (LEEDS) program, Southern Police Institute Homicide Investigation course, and the Association of Minnesota Counties COHORT leadership seminar. Sheriff Troy Heck began his law enforcement career as a patrol deputy with the Benton County Sheriff's Office in 1994. He was assigned to the Central Minnesota Drug Task Force in 1998 where he was tasked with working with other investigators to fight drug



Troy Heck accepting the Rice American Legion Officer of the Year Award in 2004



Troy Heck receiving his 2013 Minnesota Sheriff's Association Supervisor of the Year Award

crimes in the tri-county area. In 1999 Heck was promoted to Detective Investigator. As a Detective Investigator, Troy was assigned to investigate felony level crimes and crimes against children in Benton County. In 2003 Troy was assigned to the Stearns-Benton SERT team as one of the team's crisis negotiators. In 2004 Troy Heck was selected as the Rice American Legion **Officer of the Year**.

In 2005 Heck was promoted to Detective Sergeant. (This position is now the Lieutenant position) In this position, Heck was charged with performing investigations and supervising the office's detectives and Drug Task Force investigators. In 2007 Heck was promoted to the position of Chief Deputy. As Chief Deputy, Heck was responsible for overseeing all operations in the sheriff's office and ensuring the goals and direction established by Sheriff Bennett are carried out. In 2013 Heck was selected as the Minn Sheriff's Association **Supervisor of the Year**.

Before Heck was sworn in as sheriff on Jan. 6th, 2015 the department observed many changes with the retirement of Capt. Paul Olmanson, Sgt. John Cruze, and dispatcher Marie Herbst, Sgt. Kyle Dusing was promoted to Capt., replacing Olmanson. Paul will be remembered for being accidentally shot in the leg by a ricochet 12 gauge shotgun slug over 15 years ago fired by a detective at the firing range. Paul, the firearms instructor, had the slug removed at the hospital, but failed to mention it to his wife.

Sadly, Sgt. John Cruze passed away on Nov. 12th, 2014 just two weeks after retiring. John (nicknamed – Ringo) was best known for his good sense of humor and someone whom you just enjoyed talking to. On January 4th 2015 former Benton county sheriff Frank Wippler passed away. Wippler was best known for his investigative skills and dedication to the job. Many "old timer" deputies attended Wippler's funeral services presenting a final salute.

Sheriff Heck's choice as chief deputy is Lieutenant Neal Jacobson, who has been a licensed peace officer for 19 years. Leslie Patterson, an energetic detective and Minnesota Sheriffs' Association 2013 Deputy sheriff of the year, was promoted to Lieutenant, replacing Jacobson. Neal Jacobson was promoted to the position of Detective in 2002. In 2007 Lt. Jacobson was promoted to his current position as the head of the investigative division at the sheriff's office. He was selected as the Rice American Legion Officer of the Year in 2000-2001. Jacobson attended the FBI National Academy and has received numerous commendations over his career.