

# HISTORY OF Goodhue County MINNESOTA

ILLUSTRATED

EDITOR IN CHIEF

FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

ASSISTED BY

W. M. Sweney, M. D.; Jens K. Grondahl; C. A. Rasmussen; Julius Boraas, M. L.; F. W. Kalfahs; Edward W. Schmidt, M. A.; Mrs. Julia B. Nelson; E. Norelius, D. D.; George C. Wellner, M. D.; John C. Applegate; Ralph W. Holmes; Dwight C. Pierce; Henry Halvorson; Rev. James H. Gaughan; Henry R. Cobb; Edgar F. Davis and many others

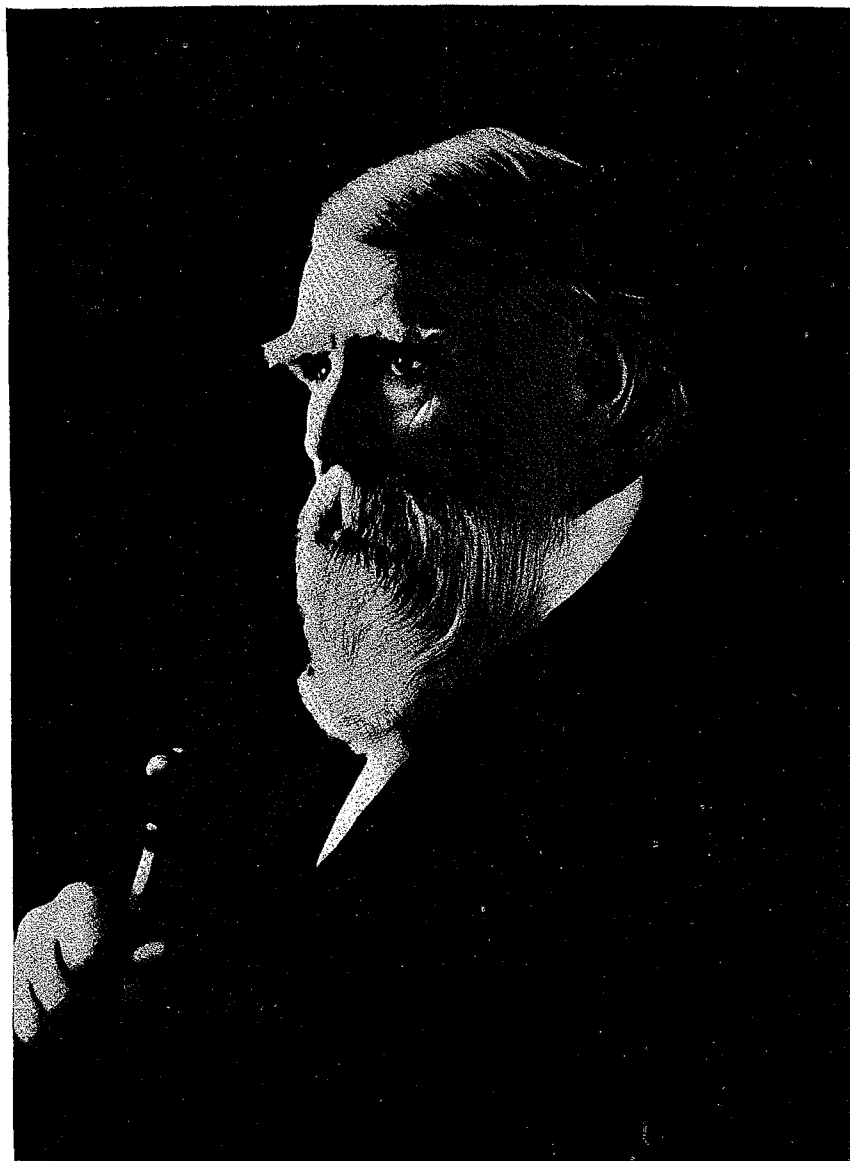
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CHICAGO  
H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.

1909

fortunately it was slightly disordered in crossing a dry run at the foot of the slope. The men were never made who will stand against leveled bayonets coming with such momentum and evident desperation. The first line broke as we reached it, and rushed back through the second line, stopping the whole advance. We then poured in our first fire, and availing ourselves of such shelter as the low bank of the dry brook afforded, held the entire force at bay for a considerable time, and until our reserves appeared on the ridge we had left. Had the enemy rallied quickly to a countercharge, its great number would have crushed us in a moment. But the ferocity of our onset seemed to paralyze them for a time, and although they poured upon us terrible and continuous fire from the front and enveloping our flanks, they began to retire, and we were ordered back. What Hancock had given us to do was done thoroughly. The regiment had stopped the enemy, held back its mighty force and saved the position. But at what a sacrifice! Nearly every officer was dead or lay weltering with bloody wounds, our gallant colonel and every officer among them. Of the 262 men who made the charge, 215 lay upon the field stricken down by the rebel bullets; forty-seven were still in line, and not a man was missing." General Hancock, speaking of this charge, is reported to have said: "There is no more gallant deed recorded in history. I ordered those men in there because I saw I must gain five minutes time. Reinforcements were coming on the run, but I knew before they could reach the threatened point the Confederates, unless checked, would seize the position. I would have ordered that regiment in if I had known that every man would be killed. It had to be done, and I was glad to find such a gallant body of men at hand willing to make the terrible sacrifice that the occasion demanded."

**Colonel William Colvill**, who was a figure of national prominence, by reason of his memorable feat at Gettysburg, was of Scotch descent on his father's side and Irish on his mother's, his ancestors on both sides having participated in the American Revolution. He was born in Chautauqua county, New York, read law in the offices of Fillmore & Haven, in Buffalo, N. Y., and was admitted to the bar in 1851. He became a resident of Red Wing in 1854, and the following year established the Red Wing "Sentinel," a Democratic paper, which he conducted until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted as captain in the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and was promoted for gallantry, to the colonelcy of the regiment, and finally mustered out of the service by reason of wounds, with the brevet rank of brigadier general. He was elected attorney general of the state in 1865, and was appointed register of the land office at Duluth by Presi-



COL. WILLIAM COLVILL

dent Cleveland. He served in the house in 1878. His death occurred June 12, 1905. Memorials to his fame have not been lacking. A part of his farm is now the Colvill Memorial park, at Red Wing. In 1907 the state of Minnesota appropriated \$10,000 for the erection in the capitol building of an heroic bronze figure of Colonel Colvill. A replica was also erected at the place of Colonel Colvill's burial in Cannon Falls. It is a lasting regret to Red Wing people that his remains did not find their last resting place in the city where he spent the greater part of his life.

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

The preliminary meeting for the organization of a company of militia in Red Wing was held February 10, 1883, and on February 17 of the same year it was mustered into the state service as "Company G, National Guard, State of Minnesota," by Colonel W. B. Bend, the company at that time comprising forty-three enlisted men. From that date until October 13, 1899, the roster of its commissioned officers was as follows: A. P. Pierce, captain, February 17, 1883, to June 13, 1887; G. C. Davis, captain, June 13, 1887, to March 7, 1888; C. A. Betcher, captain, March 7, 1888, to June, 1891; W. H. Grow, captain, June, 1891, to July, 1892; J. H. Friedrich, captain, July 1, 1892, to March 7, 1897; Oscar F. Seebach, captain, March 7, 1897; E. A. Kempe, first lieutenant, February 17, 1883, to June 13, 1887; F. T. Kingman, first lieutenant, June 13, 1887, to November 27, 1888; W. H. Grow, first lieutenant, November 27, 1888, to June 1, 1891; Jens Loye, first lieutenant, June 1, 1891, to July, 1892; O. F. Seebach, first lieutenant, July, 1892, to March 9, 1897; F. A. Morley, first lieutenant, March 9, 1897, to death. G. C. Davis, second lieutenant, February 17, 1883, to June 13, 1887; H. A. Willard, second lieutenant, December 7, 1887, to February 17, 1888; A. H. Boxrud, second lieutenant, June 13, 1887, to December 7, 1887; Jens Loye, second lieutenant, March, 1888, to June, 1891; J. H. Friedrich, second lieutenant, June, 1891, to July 1892; F. A. Morley, second lieutenant, July, 1892, to March, 1897; E. S. Mellinger, second lieutenant, March, 1897, to November 11, 1898; C. A. Anderson, second lieutenant.

After being mustered into the United States service, the regimental field officers of the 13th Minnesota were as follows: Charles McC. Reeve, colonel, promoted to brigadier general of volunteers; Westcott W. Price, lieutenant colonel, resigned; Frederick W. Ames, major, promoted to colonel; John H. Friedrich, major, promoted to lieutenant colonel; Edwin S. Bean, major; Arthur Diggles, major; Charles A. Cressy, captain and chaplain; Edward G. Falk, first lieutenant and regimental adju-