

# QUOTABLE PEOPLE

## **Alfred Merritt recalls his arrival at the Head of the Lakes**

"We passed through the Old Superior Entry into Superior Bay about 2 o'clock P. M. on the 28th day of October 1856. I wish that you could have seen how beautiful the Head of the Lakes looked at that time. It was practically in a state of nature. The Indians were there, with their wigwams scattered up and down Minnesota and Wisconsin Points, with smoke curling from the top of the wigwams, and their canoes skimming along the waters of the bay or hauled up on the shore. Fish and game were in abundance. Tall pines and hard wood trees were growing on the hill sides, and down to the water's edge, and with the leaved of the hardwood trees turned as they were in the fall, what a beautiful sight it was. I have many times wished, that I had a picture as it looked then, or a gift of language to describe the beauty of the Head of the Lakes as I saw it as a boy nine years old."

[NEMHC S3120 holds photos of the writer as a young adult and an older man.]  
Alfred Merritt Reminiscence 1915, excerpt p. 2, 3 [NEMHC S3120, B4F18]

# QUOTABLE PEOPLE

**Judge John R. Carey, an Old-stock American who arrived in Minnesota from Maine in 1853, defied his own 1898 opinion.**

**In his own words: "In 1853 I joined a party of Massachusetts people headed for the unexplored Northwest. We journeyed by rail to Buffalo, by the lakes to Toledo, and from thence by rail to Chicago, and from that city to Faribault, Minnesota.**

**The wilderness of the country and its generally uninviting character had such a depressing effect upon the colony, that two-thirds forsook the country and returned to their eastern homes."**

*[History of Duluth and Northern Minnesota by Hon. J. R. Carey, Duluth Minnesota November 1898; Sketch of the Author p. 3]*

## **OCCUPATIONS:**

Anderson, Edgar L. MAINE

Ayers, Emeline OHIO

Ayers, Uriah S. OHIO

Badger, Samuel PENNSYLVANIA, lawyer

Baggs, Horace NEW YORK

Barnett, John M. PENNSYLVANIA, clergy

Bates, M. W. OHIO, civil war veteran

Buckingham, Frederick A. MASSACHUSETTS, surveyor group here in 1861

Burke, Dean A. NEW YORK, banker

Carroll, MaryAnn died age 2 St. Louis county April 1959

Cant, Wife of Judge Cant NEW HAMPSHIRE

Carey, Anna E.

Carey, Judge John R. Judge, MAINE, Register of the Land Office

Clark, Merrill M. VERMONT, saw mill

Clark, Servetus VERMONT, civil war veteran, master mechanic

Clarkson, F. A. NEW YORK, mercantile, Wright-Clarkson

Coburn, Charlotte M. NEW YORK

Coburn, Richard G. NEW YORK, here in 1856

Coffin, Herbert W. NEW HAMPSHIRE, financed Manhattan Building

Cooley, Jeremiah Eugene (1844-), New York writer, historian

Culver, Joshua Backus NEW YORK, mayor

Culver, Sarah V. Woodman NEW YORK died Duluth 9/1873

Cutler, D. G. MASSACHUSETTS, limestone and cement merchant, D. G. Cutler Co

Dacey, James F. NEW YORK

Daley, Asa saw mill

Denham, Ella Gould NEW YORK

Dowes, Thomas real estate

Ely, Edmund Franklin MASSACHUSETTS Presbyterian missionary clergy, teacher

Ensign, Judge Josiah D. NEW YORK lawyer, judge

Eppler, William federal surveyor

Eyster, Robert B. PENNSYLVANIA, banker

Foster, Thomas PENNSYLVANIA physician, newspaperman

Gates, Mary Wildner MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Glass, Edward W. MAINE, here in 1859

Gray, James M. elevator and grain

Haines, Amanda Randall PENNSYLVANIA

Haines, Charles R. arrived in Duluth and stayed with Luther Mendenhall family

Hall, Edward H. NEW YORK with Edmund Ely, named Oneota

Hall, Mrs. Edward H. NEW YORK

Hanford, Heber H. NEW YORK Bradley & Hanford Lumber Co, Hanford Construction

Hangartner, Jacob NEW YORK, physician

Hayes, Hiram, here in 1854

Hayes, Mary Elizabeth Newton  
Howard, John Dow MAINE  
Howenstein, William C. PENNSYLVANIA, trading post, saw mill  
Hunter, Mary Ensign OHIO  
Hunter, James C. here in 1869, banker  
Ingalls, Edmund saw mill  
Jefferson, Robert NEW YORK  
Jefferson, Rufus NEW YORK  
Jeffery, Capt. William, tug line  
Keen, Freeman, MAINE  
Kendall, Howard "Zeke" C. INDIANA Union Depot, livery  
Kimball, Jeremiah MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE tailor, farmer, bee keeper; census taker  
Kingsbury, W. W. PENNSYLVANIA  
LeRooy, Mary MASSACHUSETTS,  
Luce, Harriet E. OHIO  
Luce, Sidney OHIO warehouse, receiver U. S. Land office, grain  
Magie, Eunice NEW JERSEY  
Magie, Dr. William H. NEW JERSEY physician  
Markell, Clinton NEW YORK, OHIO  
Markell, Kate Watrous OHIO  
Martin, Dorus VERMONT  
McComber, Amazia NEW YORK, floral and seed business  
McDaniel, Elmina OHIO  
McDaniel, Henry E. INDIANA  
McLean, Robert Bruce, NEW YORK  
McQuade, Samuel C. PENNSYLVANIA  
Mendenhall, Luther C. PA (1836-1929), here 1868  
Merritt, Alfred NEW YORK  
Merritt, Leonidas NEW YORK  
Merritt, Matilda Tanner NEW YORK  
Miller, Frank E. NEW YORK, civil war veteran  
Mitchell, Robert C. OHIO, 1869, lawyer, newspaper owner and editor, real estate  
Munger, Olive Gray CONNECTICUT  
Munger, Roger Sherman CONNECTICUT grain, real estate  
Nelson, Andrew G. bridge carpenter LS&M Railroad  
Nettleton, Ellen OHIO  
Nettleton, George OHIO real estate  
Nettleton, William OHIO real estate  
Newton, William H. OHIO hardware  
Palmer, L. W. NEW YORK  
Peet, Harriet E. NEW YORK, housewife, mother  
Peet, James NEW YORK, Methodist Reverend clergy  
Peyton, Hamilton M. NEW YORK, banker, lumbering, saw mill  
Ray, James D., MASSACHUSETTS, here 1855

Relf, Richard, surveyor  
Rowley, J. W. NEW YORK  
Rowley, Sarah NEW YORK  
Rupley, George in America 1793 PA mathematics, school superintendent, timber  
Sargent, George B. MASSACHUSETTS, Jay Cooke agent, oversaw Clark Hse construction  
Scott, Dr. Quincy Adams PENNSYLVANIA, first hotel manager of Clark House  
Saxton, Eunice OHIO, housewife, lighthouse keeper  
Saxton, Horace "Commodore" CONNECTICUT first lighthouse keeper  
Searle, F. E. NEW YORK, lawyer  
Seman, Sarah NEW YORK age 8 died 1859 in St. Louis county  
Shaw, H. W. saw mill  
Sherwood, Ely H. NEW YORK  
Smith, George M., here 1856, railroad freight agent  
Smith, Vespasian, OHIO, physician, Indian agent, mayor, port customs collector  
Spencer, George VERMONT, MASSACHUSETTS, grain elevators  
Stone, William R. MASSACHUSETTS, grocer, Stone-Ordean Co  
Stearns, Sarah Burger NEW YORK, philanthropist, social services founder  
Stuntz, Albert C. PENNSYLVANIA  
Stuntz, George Riley PENNSYLVANIA surveyor  
Stuntz, Mary J.  
Sutphin, John B. New Jersey, general trade, mayor, state weigh-master of grain  
Swanstrom, Jennie L. Abbott OHIO  
Van Brunt, Mary A. Saxton OHIO  
Van Brunt, Walter NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, city clerk  
Volney, S. Wilkinson ILLINOIS  
Wakelin, Edward W. OHIO, mineral research  
Wheeler, Henry Wakeman NEW YORK sawmill, dredge operator  
Wheeler, Sarah Caroline Brewster NEW YORK  
Whittaker, Thomas A. OHIO, civil war veteran  
Wood, A. P. Eastern University, mining  
Woodbridge, Frances A Poole MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, public service  
Woodbridge, William S. MASSACHUSETTS, bookstore, stationery  
Woollen, George L. OHIO, railroad D&IR  
Wright, Robert D. NEW YORK January 1859 age 6 died in St. Louis county

# **EARLY RESIDENTS HOW SETTLERS GOT HERE: IT WAS NOT EASY**

Old-Stock Americans usually came to Minnesota by ship on rivers, canals, lakes and by roads. Railroad development was minimal in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois before 1850, and in Minnesota until the 1860s.

The difference between Superior and Duluth compared to the other western destinations was the Great Lakes water route. Travel by water was cheaper than travel over land.

Completing locks at Sault St. Marie in 1853-55, allowed lake steamers - larger boats - to enter the last and greatest of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior, and suddenly, America had a new frontier.

## PEOPLE AT THE HEAD OF THE LAKES

AYRES, George Thomas, (1875) M.D., was born in Kalida, Ohio. His family served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. He came to Ely in 1899.

BAILEY, William D., attorney, came to Duluth in 1894. He was born in Grinnell, Iowa. His parents were both natives of New York state who came to Iowa in 1856.

BRADLEY, Henry Martin (1824-) was born at Lee, Berkshire county, Massachusetts a descendant of Puritan stock, resident in New England since 1637. His family moved to Ohio in 1835. Came to Minnesota after 1877, involved in logging and the Chandler mine. Moved to Duluth in 1890.

CAREY, Honorable John R. (1830-) was born in Bangor, Maine. In 1853 he joined a party of Massachusetts people headed for the "...unexplored Northwest. They journeyed by rail to Buffalo, by the lakes to Toledo, and from thence by rail to Chicago, and from that city to Faribault, Minnesota."

COOLEY, Jeremiah Eugene (1844-), was an early settler from New York state; pioneer historian with a phenomenal memory for people; in 1925 wrote the book *Recollections of Early Days in Duluth*; held city and state offices.

ELY, Edmund Franklin (1809-1882) was born at Wilbraham, Mass. In 1833, was sent by the American Board of Missions to northeastern Minnesota as a Presbyterian missionary. He taught at Sandy Lake, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac (not Duluth) and Pokegama, all located in Minnesota. His mission closed in 1839, and he was transferred. Ely returned to developing Oneota after 1849, and eventually moved to California.

ENSIGN, Honorable Josiah Davis (1833-) was born in Erie county, New York. One of his great-grandfathers was in the Revolutionary war. At age 22 he was auditor of Ashtabula county, Ohio. He was admitted to the bar in 1857. He came to Minnesota in 1868, visited Duluth in 1869 and located here in 1870.

MERRITT family of Oneota and West Duluth were loggers, mine developers, dock and railroad builders; owners of Lake Superior Consolidated Mines and Duluth, Mesabi and Northern Railroad that passed to John D. Rockefeller in a 1893 legal dispute.

MUNGER, Roger S. (1830-) was born at North Madison, Connecticut of old New England families. In 1857 he came to St. Paul. He settled in Duluth in 1869.

PALMER, Milford C. (1849-) was born in Rome, New York. He pursued a law degree in Michigan. He moved to Virginia, Minnesota in 1893.

PEYTON, Hamilton M. (1835-) was born in Geneva, New York, graduated from New Jersey college in 1855. In 1858 he opened a private bank in Superior, began business in lumbering and set up a Duluth sawmill in 1859, transferring his residence in 1879.

PHELPS, William Boyd (1846-) born in Evansville, Wisconsin, his father settled in Minnesota in 1857. His ancestors came to America in 1704. His mother's family were Irish Quakers living in Delaware from 1687. William Boyd Phelps was admitted to the bar in 1872, and took up residence in Duluth in 1886. He served in the Civil War at age 18.

RUPLEY, George, his family was in America from 1793. He volunteered for the Civil War but was rejected for physical reasons. He had degrees in mathematics and moved to Duluth in 1877, where he served as superintendent of schools from 1878-1880, afterwards involved in selling timber lands.

SCOTT, Zar Delevan (1848-) born in Plymouth, Michigan worked for government lake surveys after completing college in 1873. Had Minneapolis sawmills in 1874, and came to Duluth in 1880.

SMITH, Samuel L. (1843-) born in Pennsylvania, his parents moved to Iowa in 1856. He was admitted to the bar in 1863, and came to Duluth in 1882.

SMITH, Vespasian, MD, was one of the most prominent men in northern Minnesota. Born in Ohio, he came to the Northwest in the early 1850s. He first located at Bayfield, Wisconsin serving a term as government Indian agent. A few years later he moved to Duluth, serving a term as mayor and afterward collector of customs for the port, serving in that post under three different administrations.

STEARNS, Sarah Burger (1836-1904) and Judge Ozora Pierson Stearns (1831-1986) were from New York. Sarah B. Stearns was president of Ladies Equal Suffrage League, hosted lecturer Susan B. Anthony, was a patent holder, was the first woman to serve on Duluth school board (1881), and the founder of Children's Home Society in Duluth. Judge Stearns trained as a lawyer at the University of Michigan. He was in the Civil War from 1862-1865, as a 2nd lieutenant of Company F, 9th Minnesota Infantry Volunteers. He led the 39th US Colored Infantry of the 9th Minnesota Volunteers which was strongly Abolitionist. He was promoted to 1st lieutenant and colonel. He was a state senator (1871) from Olmstead county, and a judge of the eleventh district for twenty years after he came to Duluth in 1872. The Stearns met in college. Sarah and Ozora had four children. He died in California; she returned to Duluth.

STUNTZ, George Riley (1820 -1902) deputy U. S. surveyor arrived on Minnesota Point in 1852, "to run the land lines and subdivide certain townships." He surveyed the state road from Duluth to Vermilion Lake in 1869 and later built the road called the Vermilion Trail.

SUTPHIN, John B. (-1908) was a native of New Jersey and one of the oldest residents of the head of the lakes at his death. He came here about 1878 at about age 20. Initially he was in general trade on the south shore at Ontonagan and Houghton prior to Duluth. He served as Duluth mayor from 1886-1889. The Governor appointed him as state weigh-master of the grain department in 1900.

WELD, William, whose parents were natives of Maine and New York, came to Minnesota in 1858 and to Duluth in 1889. He was active in the grain trade.

WHEELER, Henry Wakeman (1821-1906) arrived in Duluth in April 1855. With Edmund F. Ely he built Duluth's first sawmill at Oneota, 45th Avenue west and Bayfront. In 1871, he operated the dredge cutting the Duluth canal. Wheeler Field, 28 acres of land between 34-37 Avenues west and Grand Avenue was named for him.

WHEELER, Sarah Caroline Brewster, a Yankee, married Henry Wheeler November 25, 1847 in New Diggings, Wisconsin. She was 19, he 26. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in their Duluth home having reared nine of their ten children: Captain Martyn Wheeler (married Mary C. Ely), Elizabeth E. Wheeler Merritt, Etta M. Wheeler Merritt, Julia A. Wheeler, John James Wheeler (married Ellen Brown), Susie May Wheeler died at age 3, Harry Wheeler (married Jennie Clinch), Duane Wheeler (married Althea Richardson), Carrie L. Wheeler, Bert N. Wheeler (married Mae Whitmore).



## DESCRIPTION OF OLD-STOCK AMERICANS

Old-stock Americans were members of white European families whose forbears had lived in North America for generations before they came to Minnesota.

They were not like the immigrants who came to the United States after them in waves from 1880 to 1910. They were not a foreign minority needing to preserve their culture or their language: they spoke English.

They took it for granted that their ways and their values would become the ways and values of all Americans. Their literary skills enabled them not only to record their own story but also to impress their own interpretation upon the stories of other groups. They expected their ideals to define United States citizens. The main principles were: sovereignty for the individual; delegation of powers to the central government; protection of civil liberties; sanctity of private property; freedom of enterprise; separation of church and state.

Scholars identify a number of Eastern regional groups that comprise Old-stock Americans including: New England Yankees, Tidewater folks of Virginia and Maryland, Pennsylvania English Quakers and Pennsylvania Dutch, Scots and Scotch-Irish, western New York, northeastern Ohio, southwestern Pennsylvania. After 1830 they traveled to the area called the Northwest Territory, land north of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi river. Old-Stock Americans led the settlement of Minnesota. Few New Englanders has ventured far from Lake Erie. By 1860 nearly half of the Yankees then living had left New England. They left New England for two primary reasons: religious controversies and to seek better economic opportunities.

[See John G. Rice's chapter on Old-stock Americans in the book They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups, edited by June Drenning Holmquist. Minnesota Historical Society, 1981, 614 p. These facts and details are selected from Dr. Rice's work.]

# COUNTY POPULATION

Listed here are the numbers of people the United States government officially counted at ten-year intervals.

Counting the people is called a census.

Population counted and printed in the U. S. Federal Census for St. Louis County:

1860	406
1870	4,561
1880	4,504
1890	44,862
1900	82,932
1910	163,274
1920	206,391
1930	204,596
1940	206,917
1950	206,062
1960	231,588
1970	220,693
1980	222,229
1990	198,213
2000	200,528

# CENSUS TAKEN BY THE STATE OF MINNESOTA IN 1865

A count of the **inhabitants of St. Louis County** Minnesota on the first day of June, 1865 according to the 1865 Minnesota State Census.

The families in the census are listed by households within each township. All of the townships together comprise the county.

F = female, M = male, S = Soldiers and officers in actual service to the United States on June 1, 1865, B = black or mulatto [mixed race]

Fond Du Lac Township 16 households with 56 individuals

Oneota Township 22 households with 112 individuals

Duluth Township 23 households with 127 individuals

295 total individuals were listed on 1865 Minnesota state census.