

MW
Marshall
h. 1

Minnesota County Officials: Marshall County, 1879-1939

Duane P. Swanson

The following list contains names of Marshall County officials from 1879 to 1939. The names are transcribed from the *Inventory of the County Archives of Minnesota No. 45 Marshall County*, prepared by the Minnesota Historical Records Survey Project of the Work Projects Administration and published in December 1939. It includes the following officials, most of whom were elected: county commissioners (1879-1939), auditors (1879-1939), registers of deeds (1879-1939), clerks of district court (1881-1939), judges of the probate court (1879-1939), court commissioners (1880-1931), coroners (1880-1939), sheriffs (1879-1939), county attorneys (1879-1939), treasurers (1879-1939), county superintendents of schools (1879-1939), county surveyors (1879-1927), highway engineers (1921-1939), and agricultural agents (1918-1921, 1933-1939). No attempts have been made to verify the accuracy of this information or to confirm the spelling of the names. Incumbents in office as of 1939 show that date in parentheses; their terms probably continued thereafter. The original publication rarely includes a month or day on which the official's position began and ended.

The area that became Marshall County was included in Pembina County from 27 October 1849 until Pembina was renamed Kittson County in 1878. Marshall County was created from Kittson County on 25 February 1879. The first general election was held 4 November 1879 and the county was partially organized, with judicial attachment to Polk County. In 1881 the county was fully organized with the county seat at Argyle. The following year the county seat was moved to Warren. In 1883 the county's southern boundary was adjusted to include a small section of Township 154 running the width of the county.



Marshall County Courthouse, ca. 1920
Photographer: H. G. Raveling

Minnesota Historical Society Photograph Collection
Reproduced by permission

Adolphson	Carl	F.	Commissioner	1911	1919
Anderson	Arthur	S.	Commissioner	1935	(1939)
Anderson	Chris		Commissioner	1880	1880
Anderson	Gus	H.	Commissioner	1895	1897
Anderson	W.		Coroner	1915	1917
Baker	A.	C.	Coroner	1907	1909
Bakke	D.	B.	Commissioner	1889	1895
Bakke	Frederick		Treasurer	1911	1931
Bauchman	M.		Surveyor	1880	1881
Bayrell	Leo	S.	Judge of Probate	1886	1889
Bayrell	L.	S.	County Attorney	1891	1893
Bayrell	L.	S.	County Attorney	1897	1899
Belcourt	O.	E.	Coroner	1884	1895
Belcourt	O.	E.	Coroner	1903	1905
Belcourt	O.	E.	Coroner	1917	1919
Bennett	F.	G.	Superintendent of Schools	1899	1903
Bennewitz	H.	I.	Sheriff	1882	1884
Bergman	Ole		Commissioner	1929	(1939)

Once you've located the grave and recorded names and dates, do not rush off, for there may be "cryptic clues in the bone yard." You'll want to gather all possible information. In particular, record all funerary art, iconography, and inscriptions. Art, symbols, and text may provide important clues to an ancestor's memberships, profession, military affiliation, status, religion, beliefs, hobbies, and even humor. Carmack draws upon her collection of more than 1,000 slides and photographs to discuss and illustrate this subject in chapter five. In Appendix A Carmack lists, interprets, and illustrates "gravestone art, symbols, emblems, and attributes." One symbol that would be of great significance to genealogists, and entirely new to me, is an inverted torch, which represented the end of a family line. There were no male heirs to carry forward the surname.

Carmack devotes two chapters, six and seven, to funeral and burial customs and folkways, a rather atypical inclusion for a genealogical primer. Those who are interested in not just collecting names of dead relatives, but who also want to place an an-

cestor more fully within their time, locality, and society will find these chapters essential reading. A couple of customs especially caught my attention. That widows wore black wasn't news, but the reason why was. "Black made her less visible to the spirit world" (p. 151). Ancestors not buried on an east-west axis probably were being punished for some "dastardly deed" (p. 158). You can estimate the time after death by the thickness of the black border on stationary (see p. 161).

In her final two chapters, Carmack provides an excellent guide to undertaking a cemetery transcription project, briefly discusses cemetery and gravestone preservation, and advocates making cemetery visits and study a family affair. If you belong to a local genealogy society, and are interested in doing cemetery transcriptions or a cemetery survey, chapter eight is essential reading.

This volume on cemetery research should be part of every basic genealogical collection, and should be carefully read by novices and experienced genealogists alike.



Besancon	Martin		Commissioner	1895	1899
Biederman	Jacob		Coroner	1909	1915
Blegen	H.	M.	Coroner	1923	1923
Blegen	H.	M.	Coroner	1927	(1939)
Bordewich	John	P.	Sheriff	1927	1934
Braggans	W.	O.	County Attorney	1923	1935
Brandstrom	L.	P.	Commissioner	1909	1913
Bratrud	Theodore		Coroner	1901	1903
Brett	Bernard	B.	Judge of Probate	1927	(1939)
Brown	A.	M.	Commissioner	1882	1883
Brown	James	M.	Superintendent of Schools	1879	1884
Brown	William	C.	County Attorney	1893	1897
Brown	William	J.	County Attorney	1905	1911
Bystrom	E.	O.	Commissioner	1905	1911
Carr	Greely	E.	County Attorney	1901	1905
Carrese	William		Coroner	1880	1882
Case	W.	A.	Clerk of District Court	1891	1895
Clark	A.	J.	County Attorney	1883	1887
Cooke	Samuel		Court Commissioner	1889	1895
Craig	H.	M.	Commissioner	1879	1880
Craig	Thomas	R.	Register of Deeds	1879	1889
Cronkhite	J.	Q.	Commissioner	1885	1886
Dady	Eugene		Coroner	1898	1899
Dady	E.		Sheriff	1884	1887
Dagsberg	Evert		Treasurer	1901	1911
Dahlgren	P.	O.	Commissioner	1887	1889
Dahlgren	Peter	O.	Treasurer	1895	1899
Dahlin	John		Commissioner	1897	1899
Dahlquist	Eli		Commissioner	1891	1895
Dalquist	Peter		Surveyor	1882	1884
Diamond	Alfred		Commissioner	1880	1882
Dishington	Jorgen	Ernest	Highway Engineer	1921	1923
Eckstrom	A.	M.	County Attorney	1911	1923
Enge	O.		Commissioner	1913	1921
Engen	Nels	M.	Superintendent of Schools	1923	1939
Englesrud	Herman		Commissioner	1905	1911
Finney	J.	R.	Superintendent of Schools	1889	1893
Fladeland	A.	O.	Commissioner	1915	1919
Flint	A.	E.	Judge of Probate	1884	1886
Flint	A.	E.	Court Commissioner	1880	1883
Flint	A.	E.	County Attorney	1880	1883
Folwell	R.	H.	Commissioner	1884	1886
Forsberg	William		Sheriff	1901	1915
Forsberg	William		Surveyor	1897	1899
Franklyn	Edmund		Superintendent of Schools	1903	1905
Gilbert	William	H.	Sheriff	1879	1879
Glavin	Richard		Commissioner	1889	1891
Glavin	Richard		Auditor	1891	1895
Green	F.	A.	Commissioner	1907	1911
Green	F.	A.	Sheriff	1897	1901

Grindeland	A.		Judge of Probate	1889	1891
Grindeland	Andrew		Court Commissioner	1883	1889
Grinder	Charles	E.	Register of Deeds	1915	1923
Gunderson	H.		Commissioner	1899	1901
Hage	Rasmus		Court Commissioner	1927	1931
Hanson	Carl		Register of Deeds	1908	1915
Hanson	H.	M.	Register of Deeds	1939	(1939)
Hanson	Hans	E.	Sheriff	1915	1927
Hanson	Henry	M.	Auditor	1930	1931
Hiaasen	Clarence		Coroner	1919	1923
Hill	Anton		Commissioner	1889	1897
Hilleboe	J.	S.	Commissioner	1903	1907
Holan	P.	J.	Commissioner	1889	1895
Holan	Peter	J.	Auditor	1895	1899
Holm	Peter	H.	Judge of Probate	1897	1927
Holm	Peter	H.	Treasurer	1889	1893
Houser	B.	R.	Agricultural Agent	1920	1921
Hughes	John	J.	Commissioner	1883	1886
Hull	Charles	S.	Judge of Probate	1891	1897
Husby	John		Agricultural Agent	1918	1920
Isaacson	Asper	B.	Register of Deeds	1897	1901
Jensen	A.	N.	Coroner	1882	1884
Jensen	Jens	P.	Commissioner	1903	1907
Johnson	David		Superintendent of Schools	1911	1923
Johnson	Levin	G.	Auditor	1931	(1939)
Johnson	O.	J.	Commissioner	1931	(1939)
Keye	F.	D.	Commissioner	1880	1881
Keye	F.	D.	Commissioner	1886	1887
Kirsch	Peter		Court Commissioner	1883	1883
Kirsch	Peter		Surveyor	1893	1897
Kirsch	Peter		Surveyor	1913	1915
Kivel	John		Sheriff	1887	1893
Kulle	Per		Commissioner	1921	1929
Kvikstad	Peter	E.	Treasurer	1931	(1939)
Lackey	Willis	T.	Sheriff	1880	1882
Lane	Henry	B.	Auditor	1879	1880
Larson	Hans	A.	Register of Deeds	1889	1897
Larson	John	A.	Surveyor	1901	1903
Listug	Andrew		Coroner	1915	1915
Lodoen	A.	N.	Commissioner	1915	1935
Lundgren	August	G.	Auditor	1909	1930
Lundgren	August		Treasurer	1887	1889
Mack	James	R.	Surveyor	1905	1913
Malberg	P.	B.	Clerk of District Court	1895	1899
Malberg	P.	B.	Commissioner	1911	1915
Malberg	Peter	B.	Auditor	1905	1909
Mattson	J.	P.	Superintendent of Schools	1884	1889
McCrea	James	E.	Treasurer	1880	1881
McGillan	J.	J.	Coroner	1895	1898
McIntyre	A.	P.	Commissioner	1880	1883

McIntyre	A.	P.	Sheriff	1879	1880
McMillin	A.	C.	Commissioner	1923	1931
Melby	Oscar	F.	Coroner	1905	1907
Mersch	H.	R.	Commissioner	1903	1907
Mithun	Louis	M.	Superintendent of Schools	1905	1911
Moen	C.	E.	Commissioner	1933	1933
Morck	Thorwald		Clerk of District Court	1899	1907
Myhre	John	P.	Register of Deeds	1905	1908
Naeseth	J.	R.	County Attorney	1923	1923
Nelson	Almer	B.	Surveyor	1884	1893
Nelson	Almer	P.	Clerk of District Court	1887	1891
Nelson	Almer	B.	Auditor	1899	1905
Nelson	James	P.	County Attorney	1879	1880
Nelson	James	P.	Surveyor	1881	1882
Nelson	James	P.	Clerk of District Court	1881	1887
Nelson	Ole	G.	Superintendent of Schools	1893	1895
Nordlund	Peter		Commissioner	1909	1913
Nutting	A.	L.	Commissioner	1891	1897
Olson	C.	T.	Commissioner	1919	1923
Olson	Louis	M.	Register of Deeds	1901	1905
Olson	Louis	M.	Register of Deeds	1923	1939
Olson	Louis	M.	Treasurer	1899	1901
Ostrom	J.	E.	Commissioner	1891	1891
Pagnac	Jules		Commissioner	1931	(1939)
Peck	Geo.	W.	Commissioner	1882	1884
Peck	G.	W.	Commissioner	1899	1903
Powell	Wilbur	F.	Commissioner	1886	1891
Quist	Irving	E.	Surveyor	1915	1927
Quist	Irving	E.	Highway Engineer	1923	1931
Radcliff	E.	S.	Commissioner	1879	1879
Rayem	E.	I.	Auditor	1882	1891
Richardson	Ira	C.	County Attorney	1887	1891
Rierson	R.	A.	Agricultural Agent	1934	(1939)
Robertson	Donald		Commissioner	1923	1927
Robertson	Donald		Superintendent of Schools	1895	1899
Rokke	Adolph	S.	Commissioner	1897	1905
Rokke	A.	S.	Commissioner	1913	1933
Rokke	A.	S.	Commissioner	1933	1935
Rood	N.	C.	Commissioner	1895	1897
Ross	Edwin	R.	Judge of Probate	1882	1884
Schie	J.	H.	Commissioner	1897	1903
Seymour	J.		Agricultural Agent	1933	1934
Sinclair	John		Sheriff	1893	1897
Skomedal	Gunsten		Commissioner	1939	(1939)
Skomedal	Thora		Superintendent of Schools	1939	(1939)
Slee	John	W.	Judge of Probate	1879	1882
Smith	Frank	M.	Treasurer	1879	1880
Sommers	A.	W.	Commissioner	1935	(1939)
Sorenson	Sam		Treasurer	1893	1895
Sorum	John	A.	Commissioner	1907	1911

COCCO REFERENCE ONLY

Stalman	Edwin	L.	Coroner	1923	1927
Stanton	Edwin	M.	County Attorney	1899	1901
Sustad	Frederick	O.	Treasurer	1884	1887
Swandby	Alfred	C.	Clerk of District Court	1897	(1939)
Swanson	H.	T.	Highway Engineer	1931	(1939)
Taylor	J.	D.	Coroner	1899	1901
Taylor	J.	W.	Agricultural Agent	1921	1921
Taylor	O.		Auditor	1880	1882
Thompson	Ole	B.	Commissioner	1901	1905
Titus	James	B.	Treasurer	1881	1881
Titus	James	C.	Treasurer	1882	1884
Toftner	Oscar		Sheriff	1935	(1939)
Topper	Thomas		Commissioner	1887	1889
Topper	Thomas		Court Commissioner	1895	1927
Torgerson	Ole		Commissioner	1919	1923
Torgerson	Ole		Commissioner	1927	1931
Trautman	Ludwig	A.	Treasurer	1881	1882
Trost	Arnold		County Attorney	1935	(1939)
Wallace	Wm.	A.	Commissioner	1879	1879
Wallace	William	F.	Treasurer	1880	1880
Whitney	E.		Surveyor	1879	1880
Wittensten	C.	E.	Commissioner	1907	1915
Wood	W.	R.	Commissioner	1895	1903
Wood	James	R.	Surveyor	1899	1901
Wood	James		Surveyor	1903	1905

Book Review

Review by Joel A. Watne

Germans in Minnesota

By Kathleen Neils Conzen,
foreword by Bill Holm.
Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical
Society Press, 2003. 112 p.,
Paper, \$13.95.

This is one of a series of slender volumes based on chapters of an earlier work, *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1980), each devoted to a single ethnic group. Each book updates the material in the earlier work and adds many photographs of historical interest.

Like others in the series, it is an easy and pleasant read. The opening paragraph reads:



On a crisp autumn day in 1897, more than 10,000 Germans from throughout the nation gathered on the New Ulm bluffs to dedicate a grandiose monument to Hermann the Cherusker, the barbaric hero whose victory in 9 A.D. saved their Germanic ancestors from absorption into the Roman Empire. The statue, an American pendant to an even more grandiose Hermann erected 27 years earlier on the hills of northern Germany to celebrate victory over France and the creation of the German Empire, symbolized German American pride in their newly powerful fatherland. But it also affirmed their contribution as Germans to America.

Germans were the most numerous immigrant group throughout the 19th century and remain the largest ancestry group in Minnesota. They came not only from Germany, but also from Luxembourg, the Alsace, Switzerland, Poland, Bohemia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries, and parts of Russia.

