

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

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Prepared by

Minnesota Historical Records Survey
Division of Community Service Programs
Work Projects Administration

PART ONE

Pages 1-45

.

Saint Paul, Minnesota
Minnesota Historical Records Survey
January 1942

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To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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State of Minnesota
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Saint Paul
HAROLD E. STASSEN, GOVERNOR

FOREWORD

Judicial Districts in Minnesota have changed so much since the establishment of the first districts under the Territory, that a clarification of their composition is highly useful for members of the bench and bar, as well as for county officers, for the general public, and for the historian. This service has now been performed by the Historical Records Survey in the present compilation.

The make-up of the Territorial courts are part of the story, although they were, strictly speaking, United States courts. The explanations in the introduction add materially to the value of the work. The main portion of the publication, showing the step by step changes recorded for each district, brings together information available hitherto only in diverse and widely scattered places, and this summary will be one of great convenience. The footnotes enumerate the measures taken and explain the intent of the law, and they also enable the investigator to locate the sources and study the developments in more detail. A useful summary is the tabulation of districts with the names of counties included. The excerpts from the laws, placed in the appendix, are a matter of convenience, and the list of judges is a welcome supplement.

It is a matter of pleasure to commend this compilation to the people of the State and to express appreciation to the Historical Records Survey of the Work Projects Administration for making the publication possible.

Harold E. Stassen
Harold E. Stassen

PREFACE

In the preparation of inventories of county archives and in the study of county government incident thereto, information has accumulated of subjects related to this general field. Such a related field is that of the judicial districts of the district courts of the State. It appears desirable to make the knowledge of these districts available to the public, and accordingly the compilation of this publication is undertaken.

The table of contents reveals a simple arrangement. The nineteen districts are considered in numerical order, and the establishment and changes of the districts are accounted for in each case. Following that is a table of districts in which the county members are listed following the date of each change. In another table the counties are listed in alphabetical order with the districts to which they have belonged from the date of their establishment.

An appendix adds certain supplementary information. There is a map of the first nine counties of the State, 1849, followed by a list of present counties with dates of establishment. Following that, we have, in order, a list of district judges, excerpts from the organic act relating to the subject considered, excerpts from the Constitution, and sections of the laws of definite application. It was thought useful to add a bibliography of citations used. An index of names and subjects follows. A list of publications of the Minnesota Historical Records Survey concludes the volume.

Obviously there are restrictions as to covering all details in describing the judicial districts of the State. Counties that were given names and assigned to judicial districts are the subject matter of this compilation. No attempt has been made to trace theoretical jurisdiction over unsettled and vaguely defined regions of early days, nor has any attempt been made to trace back in each case, the judicial jurisdiction over areas from which new counties were created. Nor could frequent changes in county boundaries be treated exhaustively in this short exposition. Footnotes refer to sources where statements may be verified and further information secured.

In a few instances there will be found in the story of the districts a discrepancy of several days in the sequence of events. This is caused by the fact that the Governor does not make the legislative acts effective in the order in which they are passed. A county may appear, on a certain date, to have been attached to another county not in existence until several days later, the explanation being that the Legislature had already passed a bill creating the county, but that the Governor had not yet signed the bill.

Preface

This publication will be distributed gratis to certain public officials in the State, to most of the libraries in the State, to a select list of libraries outside the State, to the Washington office of the Survey, to the Library of Congress, and to a number of Government departments. Requests for copies may be addressed to Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, Superintendent, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. Except for tax supported institutions, transportation costs will be assumed by the recipient.

Jacob Hodnefield, Supervisor
Minnesota Historical Records Survey

January 20, 1942

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 1
Judicial Districts and Their Boundary Changes	7
First, 7-9; Second, 10-12; Third, 12-14; Fourth, 14-17; Fifth, 18; Sixth, 18-21; Seventh, 21-23; Eighth, 23, 24; Ninth, 24, 25; Tenth, 25; Eleventh, 25-28; Twelfth, 28; Thirteenth, 29; Fourteenth, 29, 30; Fifteenth, 30, 31; Sixteenth, 31; Seventeenth, 32; Eighteenth, 32; Nineteenth, 32.	
Judicial Districts and Their County Alignment	33
Counties and Their Districts	46
Appendix	62
Nine-county map	63
Present Minnesota Counties	64
District Court Judges	66
Organic Act, Sections, 9, 15, 17, 19	73
Constitution, Article VI	75
Legislation	77
Bibliography	81
Index	83
List of Publications	85

INDEX

- Andy Johnson County, 15
 Bibliography, 81, 82
 Big Sioux County, 13
 Buchanan County, 8
 Canby County, 24
 Chancery court, 2
 Clerk of the district court, 5
 Common pleas court, 4
 Constitution, Art. VI, 75, 76
 Cooper, David, 1
 Counties in districts, 47-61
 County table, 64, 65
 Davis County, 10
 Districts, 7-32, 34-45
 Eighteenth District, 32, 45
 Eighth District, 23, 24, 43
 Eleventh District, 25-28, 43, 44
 Fifteenth District, 30, 31, 45
 Fifth District, 18, 38, 39
 First District, 7-9, 34, 35
 Fourteenth District, 29, 30, 45
 Fourth District, 14-17, 37, 38
 Goodrich, Aaron, 1
 Judges, 1-5
 Judges, list of, 66-72
 Judicial Districts
 First, 7-9, 34, 35
 Second, 10-12, 35
 Third, 12-14, 36, 37
 Fourth, 14-17, 37, 38
 Fifth, 18, 38, 39
 Sixth, 18-21, 39, 40
 Seventh, 21-23, 40-43
 Eighth, 23, 24, 43
 Ninth, 24, 25, 43
 Tenth, 25, 43
 Eleventh, 25-28, 43, 44
 Twelfth, 28, 44
 Thirteenth, 29, 44
 Fourteenth, 29, 30, 45
 Fifteenth, 30, 31, 45
 Sixteenth, 31, 45
 Seventeenth, 32, 45
 Judicial Districts, cont'd.
 Eighteenth, 32, 45
 Nineteenth, 32, 45
 Judiciary system, 1-5
 Jurisdiction of courts, 1-5
 Justice of the peace court, 1
 Juvenile cases, 4
 Lac qui Parle County, 20
 La Pointe County, 1
 Laws, abstracts, 77-79
 Lincoln County, 16
 McPhail County, 20
 Mahkahta County, 7
 Manomin County, 8
 Map, first nine counties, 63
 Medway County, 13
 Meeker, Bradley B., 1
 Minnesota Supreme Court, 1-3
 Monongalia County, 14
 Monroe County, 8
 Nineteenth District, 32, 45
 Ninth District, 24, 25, 43
 Organic act, extract, 73, 74
 Pembina County, 12
 Pierce County, 10
 Probate court, 1
 Publications of the Survey, 85
 Ramsey, Alexander, 1, 7, 10, 12
 Ripley County, 15
 Second District, 10-12, 35
 Seventeenth District, 32, 45
 Seventh District, 21-23, 40-43
 Seward County, 24
 Sixteenth District, 31, 45
 Sixth District, 18-21, 39, 40
 Tenth District, 25, 43
 Territorial courts, 1-5
 Third District, 12-14, 36, 37
 Thirteenth District, 29, 44
 Toombs County, 15
 Twelfth District, 28, 44
 Wahnahta County, 7
 Wisconsin court cases, 1

INTRODUCTION

The judiciary system of Minnesota was first outlined by Congress in the Territorial organic act passed on March 3, 1849. This act authorized the new Territory to establish the Supreme, district, probate, and justice of the peace courts. Three Supreme Court judges, one as chief justice, and the other two as associate justices, were to be appointed by the President of the United States. The Territory was to be divided into three districts, and each of the judges, in addition to sitting in his capacity as a member of the Supreme Court, was to preside over one of the district courts. These district courts were given chancery as well as common law jurisdiction. Court actions which had originated within the boundaries of the new Territory and were pending in Wisconsin courts were to be transferred to the Minnesota courts. In cases arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States, the Territorial district courts were to exercise the same jurisdiction as the United States Circuit Courts and the United States District Courts in older parts of the country.

The Governor was authorized to define temporary judicial districts, assign the judges, and fix the time and place for holding court. Following this temporary arrangement, the Legislature was empowered, as soon as it should assemble and come into being, to organize, alter, or modify the judicial districts, assign the judges, and change the time of holding court.(1)

Governor Alexander Ramsey established the first three judicial districts on June 11, 1849. The first district included the region between the Mississippi and Saint Croix Rivers. Chief Justice Aaron Goodrich was assigned to this district, and court was ordered held at Stillwater on the second Monday in August 1849. The second district included the northeastern part of the Territory which once was LaPointe County, Wisconsin, and in addition thereto everything west of the Mississippi River and north of the Minnesota River and north of a line drawn due west from the source of that stream to the Missouri River. Justice Bradley B. Meeker was assigned to this second district, and a court was ordered held at the Falls of St. Anthony (now a part of Minneapolis) on the third Monday in August. The third district included all of the Territory south of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers and west to the Missouri River. Justice David Cooper was assigned to this district, and a court was set for session at Mendota on the fourth Monday in August.(2)

(1) 9 U.S. Stat. 405-409.

(2) Minnesota Territory, Governor (Alexander Ramsey), Proclamation, June 11, 1849, Journal of the House, 1849, p. 194.

Introduction

The first Minnesota Territorial Legislature of 1849 established the district court in Minnesota on the principles which had been prescribed in the organic act. As a court of record, the court was given original jurisdiction over cases involving more than \$100, appellate jurisdiction over cases involving more than \$15, and original and appellate jurisdiction in all crimes or misdemeanors within the district.(3) As a court of chancery, the court also had exclusive original jurisdiction in all matters in chancery in which an adequate and complete remedy could not otherwise be had at law. In theory the proceedings of this chancery court, when not regulated by statutes, were prescribed by the judge, but in actual practice it was required that such proceedings must conform to the usages of established courts of equity.(4) The court of chancery and all laws pertaining to it were abolished in Minnesota in 1853, and all chancery cases were transferred to civil actions.(5)

The Territorial district courts were succeeded by the State district courts in 1858. The State Constitution which went into effect on May 11, 1858, continued the basic form of the judiciary system as established by the organic act, with the addition that other courts inferior to the Supreme Court might be established when the Legislature voted to do so by a two-thirds majority.(6)

All actions at law and equity pending in any of the courts of the Territory of Minnesota were continued and transferred by the Constitution to such courts of the State as had jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action or suit.

The district court was given original jurisdiction in all civil cases, both in law and equity, where the amount in controversy was more than \$100 and in all criminal cases where the punishment exceeded three months imprisonment or a fine of more than \$100, and was given such appellate jurisdiction as might be prescribed by law. These Constitutional provisions remain unchanged.(7)

However, numerous Supreme Court decisions have held that the district court has original jurisdiction of all civil and criminal actions, regardless of the amount in controversy or the character of the offense, except in cases where original

(3) Laws, 1849, ch. 20 (I), sec. 10.

(4) Laws, 1849, ch. 20 (II), secs. 1, 3.

(5) Laws, 1853, ch. 1, secs. 1-14.

(6) Const., art. 6, sec. 1.

(7) Const., art. 6, sec. 5.

Introduction

jurisdiction is given by the Constitution to the Supreme or probate courts.(8)

The appellate jurisdiction over the district court rests with the State Supreme Court.(9)

The several district courts, as created by the Constitution, are in a sense one court of general jurisdiction, coexistent with the boundaries of the State. It was only for the sake of convenience that the Legislature was directed to divide the State into six judicial districts, composed of contiguous territory, bounded by county lines, and containing a population as nearly equal as practicable. Each district was to be presided over by one judge, a man "learned in the law," to be elected by the people of the district for a term of seven years. He was required to be a resident of his district when elected and to continue to live there during his service. The Legislature was authorized at any time to change the number of judicial districts or their boundaries, provided that no such act should vacate the office of any judge.(10)

A constitutional amendment of 1875 authorized the Legislature to increase the number of judges in any district.(11) An amendment in 1883 reduced the term of office of judges of the district court from seven to six years.(12) There are now 51 judges in the 19 judicial districts.(13)

Although a district judge is elected by the people of his district to preside over the terms of court in that district,

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- (8) Mark B. Dunnell, Minnesota Digest, 2d ed., sec. 2759; Agin v. Heyward, 6 Minn. 110 (1861); Fowler v. Atkinson, 6 Minn. 503 (1861); Cressey v. Gierman, 7 Minn. 398 (1862); Thayer v. Cole, 10 Minn. 215 (1865); Barber v. Kennedy, 18 Minn. 216 (1872); State v. Kobe, 26 Minn. 148, 1 N.W. Reptr. 1054 (1879); State v. Bach, 36 Minn. 234, 30 N.W. Reptr. 764 (1886); State v. Russell, 69 Minn. 499, 72 N.W. Reptr. 832 (1897).
- (9) Const., art. 6, sec. 2.
- (10) Ibid., secs. 4, 6, 12, 13. Many amendments to the Constitution of Minnesota are incorporated in the official published texts with no indication that they are not a part of the original document. For early text of the Constitution, see: General Statutes, 1866, p. 34. See also William Anderson, A History of the Constitution of Minnesota, with the First Verified Text, pp. 226-229.
- (11) General Laws, 1875, ch. 1, ratified November 2, 1875; Const., art. 6, sec. 4.
- (12) General Laws, 1883, ch. 3, ratified November 6, 1883; Const., art. 6, sec. 4.
- (13) Laws, 1941, pp. 1238-1247.

Introduction

his judicial jurisdiction is not confined to its boundaries. The judge of one district may discharge the duties of the judge of any other district when so requested by the Governor or by the judge for whom he substitutes; and, by consent of the parties any judge may act in all matters brought before him from another judicial district.(14)

In the period when the Constitution limited the judicial districts to one judge each, the Legislature, by an act of 1867, established a court of common pleas in Ramsey County with the same powers and jurisdiction as the District Court.(15) In 1875 an additional judge was provided for this court.(16) The court was merged in the district court in 1876 and provision made that its two judges should serve their unexpired terms as judges of the latter court.(17) A court of common pleas was established for Hennepin County in 1872 and was merged in the district court in 1877.(18)

The district judges sit as judges of the juvenile court in the three metropolitan counties of the State. In one of these counties, Hennepin, one of the judges is elected specifically as "district court judge, juvenile division." In the other two counties, the district judges designate which of their number shall try juvenile cases, and this designation must continue for at least a year. The district judge sitting as juvenile judge has a separate court room and, although he may hear general court cases, he must at all times give preference to juvenile cases.(19)

Dates on which the general terms of court are to be held in each county of the State are prescribed by the Legislature and published in the Session Laws. Whenever a new county is added to a district, the judge fixes the time for the general term of court until the next session of the Legislature.(20)

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- (14) Const., art. 6, sec. 5; General Laws, 1858, ch. 67, sec. 3; Mason's, 1927, sec. 158; State ex rel. Frank Thompson and Others v. Vince A. Day, 200 Minn. 77, 273 N.W. Repr. 684 (1937); Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 158 notes; Mason's, 1927, sec. 9218, 1940 supplement, sec. 9218 notes; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 9221, 1941 supplement, sec. 9221 notes.
- (15) Special Laws, 1867, ch. 84, sec. 1.
- (16) General Laws, 1875, ch. 69, sec. 1.
- (17) Special Laws, 1876, ch. 209, secs. 1, 7.
- (18) Ibid., 1872, ch. 177, sec. 1; General Laws, 1877, ch. 103, secs. 1, 7.
- (19) Laws, 1905, ch. 285; 1909, ch. 418; 1927, ch. 192, secs. 2, 3; 1931, ch. 250.
- (20) Laws, 1909, ch. 244; Mason's, 1927, sec. 176.

Introduction

Each county elects a clerk of the district court, who is a county officer, and who performs all duties within the county which may be assigned by law and by the rules of the court.(21) Originally, each judge appointed one clerk to serve the whole district in which he presided.(22) From 1851 to 1858 each organized county had a clerk of the district court appointed by the district judge. He was required to be a resident of the county and to maintain his office at the county seat.(23)

Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge

(21) Const., art. 6, sec. 13; Revised Laws, 1905, sec. 106; Laws, 1925, ch. 337, sec. 1; Mason's, 1927, sec. 191.

(22) 9 U.S. Stat. 406.

(23) Revised Statutes, 1851, ch. 8, art. 11, secs. 1-3.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND THEIR BOUNDARY CHANGES

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The First Judicial District as proclaimed by Governor Alexander Ramsey on June 11, 1849, comprised all of Minnesota Territory between the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers.(24) The first Territorial Legislature on October 27 of the same year constituted Ramsey County the First Judicial District and attached Dakotah, Mahkahta, and Wahnahta to it for judicial purposes.(25) On March 31, 1851, effective September 1, Ramsey County, with Dakota attached for judicial purposes, constituted the First District.(26) Chisago, Ramsey and Washington Counties were constituted the First District on March 6, 1852. For judicial purposes Dakota was attached to Ramsey, Wabasha to Washington,(27) Hennepin to Ramsey.(28) Chisago, Itasca, Ramsey, and Washington were constituted the First District on March 5, 1853, and Itasca County was attached to Chisago.(29)

On February 7, 1854, Chisago, Fillmore, Goodhue, and Washington Counties were constituted the First District. Itasca County remained in the district by reason of its attachment to Chisago County, and Wabasha was placed in it by being attached to Goodhue.(30) General terms of court were ordered for Winona and Houston

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- (24) Minnesota Territory, Governor (Alexander Ramsey), Proclamation, June 11, 1849, Journal of the House of Representatives, 1849, p. 194. Judicial authority over the area between the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers dates from January 9, 1840, when, as part of the Wisconsin County of St. Croix, created on that date, it was placed under the jurisdiction of the Second Judicial District of Wisconsin Territory. (Wisconsin Territory, Laws, 1840, ch. 20, secs. 1, 4, 6). Governor Ramsey, in his Proclamation, called the area St. Croix County, but the name was not retained when the first Minnesota counties were created. The St. Croix County records were continued by Washington County which was cut from its area.
- (25) Laws, 1849, ch. 5, secs. 17, 19. Mahkahta and Wahnahta Counties were created by the first Territorial Legislature but were never organized. They embraced wide strips of land in the central part of the State extending from the Mississippi to the Missouri Rivers. Dakotah County occupied a similar strip south of Wahnahta. It took in only about a third of the present Dakota County. (Laws, 1849, ch. 5, secs. 6, 7, 8).
- (26) Revised Statutes, 1851, ch. 1, sec. 18; ch. 137, sec. 1.
- (27) Laws, 1852, ch. 19, secs. 3, 4.
- (28) Laws, 1852, ch. 32, sec. 2.
- (29) Laws, 1853, ch. 3, secs. 3, 5.
- (30) Laws, 1854, ch. 53, secs. 3, 5. Carved in whole or in part from Fillmore County, the Counties of Winona and Houston created on February 23, 1854, and Olmsted County created on February 20, 1855, became established units of the district.

First Judicial District

Counties on March 2, 1854.(31) Pine County was attached to Chisago County for judicial purposes on March 1, 1856.(32) On the same day general terms of court were ordered for Olmsted County.(33) Washington County was detached from the district on March 19, 1857.(34) The Constitution, which went into effect on May 11, 1858, provided for a vast First Judicial District extending along the eastern boundary of the State from the Mississippi River to the Canadian border and embracing the counties of Anoka, Buchanan, Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Lake, Manomin, Pine, St. Louis, and Washington.(35) The Legislature on August 12, 1858, reduced the district to Anoka, Chisago, St. Louis, and Washington Counties. Buchanan, Kanabec, and Pine Counties were attached to Chisago County and Isanti, Manomin, and Monroe Counties to St. Louis County.(36)

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- (31) Laws, 1854, ch. 32, sec. 6.
 (32) Laws, 1856, ch. 36, secs. 1, 2.
 (33) Laws, 1856, ch. 22.
 (34) Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 8, sec. 2.
 (35) Const., schedule, sec. 14. Manomin County was created on May 23, 1857, was organized at once, and was absorbed by Anoka County on November 2, 1869. (Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 40; Secretary of State, Legislative Manual, 1941, p. 34.) Buchanan County was created on May 23, 1857, with its county seat at Fortuna. It embraced the northern part of what is now Pine County in which it was merged in 1861. It was never organized. (Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 5, sec. 2; Special Laws, 1861, ch. 31, sec. 1; General Statutes, 1866, ch. 122, sec. 1; Calvin L. Brown, "Some Changes in Local Boundaries and Names in Minnesota," Minnesota History, IV, 242, 243.) The St. Louis County here mentioned was the present St. Louis County, created on March 1, 1856, and not the original county of the same name which occupied the present area of Pine and Cook Counties. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, sec. 24; ch. 22, sec. 2; 1856, ch. 35, sec. 2.)
 (36) General Laws, 1858, ch. 67, secs. 1, 2. Monroe County was created on March 20, 1858, but was never organized. It occupied what is now the southern rectangle of Mille Lacs County. The county seat was fixed at Princeton, which became the county seat of Mille Lacs in 1860 and so remained until 1920. (Special Laws, 1858, ch. 33, sec. 1; Laws, 1860, ch. 64; General Statutes, 1866, ch. 122; Mille Lacs, Commissioners' Record, G, 365; History of the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1881, pp. 663, 664. Kanabec County was created from area in the district on March 13, 1858, and remained in it for many years. (Special Laws, 1858, ch. 56.)

First Judicial District

On February 3, 1860, Isanti was attached to Anoka County, and Buchanan, Carlton, Itasca, and Lake to St. Louis.(37) Five days later, Dakota and Goodhue Counties became a part of the First District, and Anoka was detached from it.(38) Manomin was detached on March 5, 1860.(39) On March 8, 1861, Buchanan County was attached to Pine County.(40)

Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Kanabec, Pine, and Washington were constituted the First Judicial District on July 31, 1866, and no change was made in the boundaries by the general realignment of several districts on March 5, 1870.(41) On March 6, 1871, Kanabec was attached to Pine.(42) Two judges were provided for the district on November 19, 1881.(43) On November 4, 1881, Kanabec was detached from Pine County and given a court of its own, but it still remained in the First District.(44) April 11, 1907, Chisago, Kanabec, Pine, and Washington Counties were detached leaving the First District consisting of Dakota and Goodhue Counties.(45) The First District still consists of those two counties. Two judges are on the bench, and general terms of court are held at Red Wing and Hastings twice a year.(46)

(37) Special Laws, 1860, ch. 65, sec. 1. The Constitution placed Itasca County in the Fourth District, effective May 11, 1858. The Legislature made this statutory on August 12, 1858. No further mention of the county appears to have been made in the laws until the act of February 3, 1860, which, by attaching it to St. Louis County, implied a transfer to the First District. In the lists appearing in the present publication, the transfer is considered as taking place on the day that the attachment was made to St. Louis County. Lake and Carlton were placed in the First District by the Constitution, but the Legislative Act of August 12, 1858, in giving the composition of the district, ignored these two counties and apparently took no action in regard to either until it attached both to St. Louis County in 1860. However, in the present publication, it is assumed that they were still in this district during the intervening time.

(38) General Laws, 1860, ch. 10, secs. 1, 2.

(39) Ibid., 1860, ch. 12, sec. 1.

(40) Special Laws, 1861, ch. 31, sec. 1.

(41) General Statutes, 1866, ch. 64, title 2; ch. 121, sec. 1;

General Laws, 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1.

(42) General Laws, 1871, ch. 84, sec. 2.

(43) Ibid., 1881, extra session; ch. 85, secs. 1, 4.

(44) Ibid., 1881, extra session, ch. 87, secs. 1, 2, 3; 1883, appendix, p. 1.

(45) Laws, 1907, ch. 146, sec. 1; appendix, p. 803.

(46) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 1; sec. 162, subd. 1; Laws, 1941, p. 1238.

Second Judicial District

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Second Judicial District as proclaimed by Governor Alexander Ramsey on June 11, 1849, consisted of all the north-eastern part of the Territory and all of the region north and west of the Mississippi River, north of the Minnesota River, and westward to the Missouri River.(47) The first Territorial Legislature on October 27 of the same year constituted Washington County the Second Judicial District and attached Itasca and Wabasha to it for judicial purposes.(48) Benton County was made the Second District on March 6, 1852, and Cass and Itasca Counties were attached to it for judicial purposes.(49)

On March 5, 1853, Blue Earth, Dakota, Fillmore, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Scott, and Wabashaw Counties were constituted the Second District. For judicial purposes, Sibley County was attached to Hennepin, Pierce to Nicollet, Rice to Dakota, and Goodhue to Wabashaw.(50) Benton and Ramsey Counties were constituted the Second District on February 7, 1854, and Cass County was attached to Benton.(51) On March 2, 1855, Wright County was added to the district.(52) The next day Stearns was also added, and Cass, Davis, and Todd Counties were attached to it.(53) Morrison and Sherburne Counties were attached to Benton

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- (47) Minnesota Territory, Governor, Proclamation, June 11, 1849, Journal of the House, 1849, p. 194. The northeastern part of the new Territory of Minnesota had formerly been a part of La Pointe County, Wisconsin Territory.
- (48) Laws, 1849, ch. 5, secs. 17, 18, 19. Chisago County was created on September 1, 1851. No judicial jurisdiction was designated for it, but as a former part of the Washington County area it remained in the Second District until definitely detached on March 6, 1852. (Revised Statutes, 1851, ch. 1, sec. 14; ch. 137, sec. 1; Laws, 1852, ch. 19, secs. 2, 3.)
- (49) Laws, 1852, ch. 19, secs. 3, 4.
- (50) Laws, 1853, ch. 3, secs. 2, 3, 5. Pierce County, as created, lay along the Minnesota River, northwest of the present Nicollet County. It was never organized, and after a short while nothing more was heard of it. (Laws, 1853, ch. 11, secs. 11, 12; 1854, ch. 53, sec. 5; 1855, ch. 6, sec. 23; Brown, "Some Changes in Local Boundaries and Names in Minnesota," Minnesota History Bulletin, IV, 242.)
- (51) Laws, 1854, ch. 53, secs. 3, 5.
- (52) Laws, 1855, ch. 24, sec. 23.
- (53) Laws, 1855, ch. 4, secs. 5, 6. Davis County was created on March 3, 1855. The county was never organized. It embraced roughly the present Meeker County area. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, sec. 16.) Wright, Stearns, and Todd Counties had been created on February 20, 1853, from an area already in the district. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, secs. 17, 18, 25.)

Second Judicial District

on February 25, 1856.(54) Hennepin County was placed in the district on March 1, 1856.(55) On the same day Itasca, Lake, and St. Louis Counties were attached to Benton, and Todd was attached to Morrison.(56) Washington County was made a part of the district on May 19, 1857.(57) On May 23 of the same year, Aitkin, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs Counties were added.(58) Isanti County was attached to Crow Wing County on March 18, 1858.(59) The Constitution which went into effect on May 11, 1858, constituted Ramsey County alone as the Second Judicial District, and it has since remained so.(60)

A common pleas court, with the same powers and jurisdiction as the district court and with the same clerk, was established in the Second District on March 9, 1867.(61) A second judge was provided for this court on March 5, 1875.(62) When this court was merged in the district court on March 2, 1876, the two judges of the court of common pleas became district judges for their unexpired terms, thus giving the Second District three judges.(63) Four district judges were provided for the Second District on February 25, 1887, six on February 14, 1889, seven on February 20, 1915, and eight on April 21, 1917.(64) The court, with its eight

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- (54) Laws, 1856, ch. 38, sec. 5. By the same act Morrison and Sherburne Counties were created from a part of Benton County already in the district.
 - (55) Laws, 1856, ch. 8, sec. 1.
 - (56) Laws, 1856, chs. 30, 35, sec. 4. The St. Louis County here mentioned is the present county of that name created on March 1, 1856, and not the earlier county which lay east of the present area. Lake County was created by this act from an area which had been included in the original St. Louis County. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, sec. 24; ch. 22, sec. 2; 1856, ch. 35, sec. 1.)
 - (57) Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 8, secs. 1, 2.
 - (58) Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 5, sec. 5. Anoka and Carlton Counties were created on this day. No judicial jurisdiction was designated for them, but as they were erected from areas already a part of the Second District, they remained in it until definitely detached in 1858. (Laws, 1857, ch. 5, sec. 3; ch. 64, sec. 1.
 - (59) Special Laws, 1858, ch. 39. Isanti County was created on February 13, 1857, out of area already in the district. (Laws, 1857, ch. 70.
 - (60) Const., schedule, sec. 14; General Laws, 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1; Mason's, 1927, sec. 11; 1940 supplement, sec. 11; Laws, 1941, p. 1238.
 - (61) Special Laws, 1867, ch. 84, secs. 1-15.
 - (62) General Laws, 1875, ch. 69, sec. 1.
 - (63) Special Laws, 1876, ch. 209, secs. 1, 7.
 - (64) General Laws, 1887, ch. 104, sec. 1; 1889, ch. 150, secs. 1, 2; Laws, 1915, ch. 16, secs. 1, 2; 1917, ch. 490, sec. 1.

Third Judicial District

units, is now in continuous general session annually, beginning the first Monday in October.(65)

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Third Judicial District as proclaimed by Governor Alexander Ramsey on June 11, 1849, comprised all of the Territory south of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, and west to the Missouri River.(66) The first Territorial Legislature, on October 27 of the same year, constituted Benton County the Third District. Pembina County was attached to it for judicial purposes.(67) On March 31, 1851, effective September 1, Cass and Itasca Counties were attached to Benton.(68) Pembina County alone was constituted the Third District on March 6, 1852.(69) On March 5, 1853, Cass and Benton were added, and Cass and Pembina were attached to Benton for judicial purposes.(70) Blue Earth, Dakota, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Scott, and Sibley Counties were constituted the Third District on February 7, 1854. Pembina and Pierce Counties were attached to Nicollet County, and Rice was attached to Dakota.(71) On March 3, 1855, Carver County was attached to

(65) Mason's, 1927, sec. 162, subd. 2; Laws, 1941, p. 1238.

(66) Minnesota Territory, Governor (Alexander Ramsey) Proclamation, June 11, 1849, Journal of the House, 1849, p. 194.

(67) Laws, 1849, ch. 5, secs. 17, 19. Pembina County at that time embraced all the northwestern part of the present State of Minnesota and all the northeastern part of the present State of North Dakota. It included the well populated French and half-breed settlement of Pembina on the west bank of the Red River at the Canadian border. On March 9, 1878, the name of the Minnesota portion of the original Pembina County, the area of which by that time had been greatly reduced, was changed to Kittson. (Laws, 1849, ch. 5; Special Laws, 1858, ch. 67; General Laws, 1878, ch. 59; 1879, ch. 10.)

(68) Revised Statutes, 1851, ch. 1, sec. 18. William Anderson and Bryce E. Lehmann, An Outline of County Government in Minnesota, p. 174.

(69) Laws, 1852, ch. 19, sec. 3.

(70) Laws, 1853, ch. 3, secs. 3, 5.

(71) Laws, 1854, ch. 53, secs. 3, 5. Brown County was also created on February 20, 1855, from area in this district. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, secs. 15, 19.) No judicial jurisdiction was designated for it, but as a former part of Blue Earth County the area remained in the district until the Constitution placed it in another. For Pierce County, see Second District footnote.

Third Judicial District

Hennepin.(72) Faribault was attached to Blue Earth on February 23, 1856.(73) Meeker County was placed in the district on the same day, and three days later Le Sueur County was made a judicial unit.(74) On March 1, 1856, McLeod County was added to the district,(75) and Meeker County was attached to Carver.(76) Itasca County was placed in the district on March 6, 1857.(77) Faribault, Freeborn, and Mower Counties were declared judicial units of the district on May 23, 1857.(78) On the same day, Big Sioux, Jackson, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock Counties were added. Pipestone was attached to Big Sioux and Rock to Murray County.(79)

The Constitution which went into effect on May 11, 1858, designated Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona as the Third Judicial District, and this designation was made statutory on August 12, 1858.(80) The district was curtailed to Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona Counties on March 2, 1872.(81) Houston was added on March 19, 1925, and provision was made for a second judge.(82) Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona Counties still constitute the Third District, and there are still two judges on the

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- (72) Laws, 1855, ch. 62, sec. 8. Carver County had been created February 20, 1855, from an area already in the district. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, sec. 14.)
- (73) Laws, 1856, ch. 34, sec. 4. Faribault County had been created on February 20, 1855, from an area already in the district. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, sec. 6.)
- (74) Laws, 1856, ch. 25, sec. 1; ch. 68, secs. 1, 5.
- (75) Laws, 1856, ch. 26, sec. 5.
- (76) Laws, 1856, ch. 8, sec. 2.
- (77) Laws, 1857, ch. 3, sec. 2.
- (78) Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 83, sec. 6. Freeborn and Mower had been created on February 20, 1855. Earlier boundaries in the area are vague. (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, secs. 3, 4.)
- (79) Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 14, secs. 6, 14. Big Sioux and Medway Counties were also created by this act of May 23, 1857. They lay west of the present Rock and Pipestone Counties. The area was left outside of the boundaries of the State when Minnesota was admitted in 1858. (Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 14, secs. 5, 10.) Cottonwood County was created from area in this Judicial District on May 23, 1857, and Becker, Otter Tail, and Breckenridge from a similar area, on March 18, 1858. (Laws, 1857, extra session, ch. 14, sec. 7; Special Laws, 1858, ch. 34.) No judicial jurisdiction was designated for them but they remained in the district until their parent counties were placed in other districts by the Constitution. The name of Breckenridge was changed to Clay on March 6, 1862. (Special Laws, 1862, ch. 33.)
- (80) Const., schedule, sec. 14; General Laws, 1858, ch. 67, sec. 1, subd. 3.
- (81) General Laws, 1872, ch. 50, sec. 1.
- (82) Laws, 1925, ch. 75, sec. 13.

Fourth Judicial District

bench. General terms of court are held in Winona and Olmsted Counties three times a year, and in Houston and Wabasha twice a year.(83)

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Fourth Judicial District is one of the three State districts which the Constitution added to the original three Territorial districts on May 11, 1858. As thus established, the district comprised Benton, Carver, Cass, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Itasca, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pembina, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, and Wright Counties.(84) Before this alignment went into effect on May 11, 1858, the Legislature on March 8, 1858, had already added Douglas and Monongalia to the still technically non-existent district.(85) On March 18, 1858, under similar circumstances, the Legislature attached Mille Lacs County to Morrison

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- (83) Laws, 1925, ch. 75, sec. 1, ch. 84, sec. 2; Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 3, sec. 162; Laws, 1941, p. 1238.
- (84) Const., schedule, art. 14. The people of Minnesota adopted a State Constitution on October 13, 1857, and elected State officers and a Legislature at the same time. This Constitution provided that the First State Legislature should assemble on December 2, 1857, and although Congress delayed putting the Constitution into effect, the Legislature actually did assemble on that date and functioned as the law-making body of a State which did not come into existence until Congress approved the Constitution on May 11, 1858. Therefore, while none of the acts of the Legislature of December 2, 1857-March 25, 1858, became effective until May 11, 1858, and consequently bear incongruous dates, were predicated upon an anticipated approval and must be read in that light. (Const., schedule, secs. 5-22; Minnesota, Secretary of State, Legislative Manual, 1941, pp. 50, 93, 146, 147. See also index to General Laws, 1858, and Special Laws, 1858, which also include a few acts passed in December 1857. Becker, Breckenridge (Clay), and Otter Tail Counties, created from the general Pembina area on March 18, 1858, (Special Laws, 1858, ch. 34), may be considered as following Becker into the Fourth District on May 11, 1858. Aitkin also probably followed its neighboring counties into the district on that date.
- (85) Special Laws, 1858, ch. 74, secs. 1, 3. Monongalia County was created on March 8, 1858, from the area which is now Kandiyohi County. Its southern half was cut off as Kandiyohi County on March 20, 1858, and the two counties were consolidated under that name on March 7, 1870, (Special Laws, 1858, chs. 65, 124; 1861, ch. 27, sec. 1; General Laws, 1870, ch. 92, secs. 1, 2.)

Fourth Judicial District

County for judicial purposes and Cass and Itasca to Crow Wing. (86) Toombs County was placed in the district the same day. (87) On August 12, 1858, Crow Wing and Pembina were added to the counties which were already attached to Morrison. (88) Itasca County was placed in another district on February 3, 1860. (89) Anoka was placed in the district on February 8, 1860, and Isanti County, which recently had been attached to Anoka, thus became a part of the district. (90) Manomin was made a part of the district and given a term of court on March 5, 1860. (91) Three days later Ripley County was placed in the district. (92) On March 8, 1861, Monongalia County was confirmed as a part of the district, (93) and

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- (86) Special Laws, 1858, ch. 39, sec. 1. Wadena County was created on July 11, 1858, from an area already in the district and remained in it until July 31, 1866 (General Laws, 1858, ch. 179.)
- (87) Special Laws, 1858, ch. 64, sec. 3. Toombs County was established on March 18, 1858, with Breckenridge as the county seat. The name was changed to Andy Johnson on March 6, 1863. Wilkin County, established on March 6, 1868, occupies practically the same territory. (Special Laws, 1858, ch. 64, sec. 1; 1860, ch. 33; ch. 13; General Laws, 1868, ch. 115; Warren Upham, Minnesota Geographic Names, Their Origin and Historic Significance, p. 577; Brown, "Some Changes in Local Boundaries and Names in Minnesota," Minnesota History Bulletin, IV (1922) 245, 246; Anderson and Lehmann, An Outline of County Government in Minnesota, p. 165.) Polk County was created from area in this district on July 20, 1858. (Special Laws, 1858, ch. 67.) No judicial jurisdiction was designated for it, but it remained in the district until placed in another on July 31, 1866.
- (88) General Laws, 1858, ch. 67, sec. 2.
- (89) Special Laws, 1860, ch. 65, sec. 2.
- (90) General Laws, 1860, ch. 10, sec. 2; Special Laws, 1860, ch. 50, sec. 1; ch. 65, sec. 1.
- (91) Special Laws, 1860, ch. 12, sec. 1.
- (92) Ibid., 1860, ch. 47, sec. 4. Ripley County was created on March 8, 1860, but was never organized. It took in parts of the present counties of Renville and Meeker. Greenleaf, the designated county seat, is still a village in Meeker County. (Special Laws, 1860, ch. 47, sec. 1; Brown, "Some Changes in Local Boundaries and Names in Minnesota," Minnesota History Bulletin, IV (1922) 245.)

Fourth Judicial District

on the same day Lincoln was added.(94) Kandiyohi was confirmed as part of the district on February 19, 1862.(95) Manomin, already a unit of the district, was attached to Hennepin County on March 5, 1863.(96) Andy Johnson (Wilkin), Becker, Clay, and Otter Tail Counties were made a part of the district and attached to Stearns County on March 4, 1864.(97) Monongalia, already a unit of the district, was attached to Stearns County for judicial purposes on January 31, 1865.(98)

In 1866 several counties were detached from the district, and McLeod County was added. As a result the district then consisted of Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Isanti, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, McLeod, Manomin, Meeker, Monongalia, and Wright Counties. Isanti was attached to Anoka, Kandiyohi and Monongalia to Meeker, Manomin to Hennepin, and Lincoln to McLeod.(99)

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- (94) Special Laws, 1861, ch. 22, sec. 3. This was not the present county of that name. Before the present county came into being, three efforts had been made to create a Lincoln County elsewhere in the State. In 1861 the Legislature created a county of that name from the northeastern part of the present Renville County, with the addition of the two most southern townships now in Meeker County; but this act failed of the requisite ratification by the people of the counties concerned. Next, by an act approved March 9, 1866, the name of Rock County was changed to Lincoln. This law, however, was ineffectual, being ignored by the people of Rock County. Therefore a third unsuccessful attempt was made by an act of February 12, 1870, on the anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, to establish a county named Lincoln, taking it, as in 1861, from eastern Renville County, but not with the same boundaries as before. It again failed of adoption by the people. Finally, in 1873, Lincoln County was made from the former western part of Lyon County, the legislative act was ratified by the popular vote in November, and the new county was proclaimed by Governor Austin on December 5, 1873. (Special Laws, 1861, ch. 22; General Laws, 1866, ch. 45; 1870, ch. 93; 1873, ch. 92; Upham, Minnesota Geographic Names, p. 306.)
- (95) General Laws, 1862, ch. 53, sec. 1. Pope County was created from area in this judicial district on February 20, 1862. (Special Laws, 1862, ch. 22.) No judicial jurisdiction was designated for it, but it remained in the district until placed in another on July 31, 1866.
- (96) Special Laws, 1863, ch. 16, sec. 1.
- (97) General Laws, 1864, ch. 67, sec. 1.
- (98) Special Laws, 1865, ch. 83, sec. 1.
- (99) General Statutes, 1866, ch. 64, title 2, sec. 21, title 4, sec. 33.

Fourth Judicial District

On March 5, 1870, Anoka, Hennepin, Isanti, and Wright Counties were constituted the Fourth District, (1) and two days later Kandiyohi, Meeker, and Monongalia were again added. (2) Isanti County was made a separate judicial unit on February 25, 1871. (3) On March 4, 1874, Swift County was placed in the district. (4) Kandiyohi, Meeker, and Swift Counties were detached on March 3, 1875, leaving Anoka, Hennepin, Isanti, and Wright. (5) A common pleas court, having concurrent jurisdiction with the district court, was established in Hennepin County on March 4, 1872. (6) When it was merged with the district court on February 26, 1877, its judge became a judge of the district court, thus making two judges on the Fourth District bench. (7) Anoka, Hennepin, Isanti, and Wright were again designated as the Fourth District on February 24, 1877. (8) It was not until April 21, 1897, that Anoka, Isanti, and Wright were detached, leaving Hennepin County constituting the Fourth District. (9)

Additional judges were provided by legislation of 1881, 1887, 1889, 1911, 1913, 1917, 1921, and 1923. When the seventh judgeship was created, it was provided that the judge should have control of all juvenile cases. When the eleventh judgeship was created, it was provided that the judge should be elected as "district judge for juvenile court assignments," that he should have charge of all juvenile court cases, and that such cases should take precedence over all other work. (10) Hennepin County still constitutes the Fourth District, and there are eleven judges on the bench. The court has one continuous general term which commences on the second Monday in September of each year. (11)

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- (1) General Laws, 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1.
 - (2) Ibid., 1870, ch. 95, sec. 1.
 - (3) Ibid., 1871, ch. 79, secs. 1, 2.
 - (4) Ibid., 1874, ch. 93, sec. 1.
 - (5) Ibid., 1875, ch. 79, sec. 2.
 - (6) Special Laws, 1872, ch. 177, sec. 1.
 - (7) General Laws, 1877, ch. 103, secs. 1, 7.
 - (8) Ibid., 1877, ch. 124, sec. 1.
 - (9) Laws, 1897, ch. 397, sec. 1; 1941, p. 1239.
 - (10) General Laws, 1881, extra session, ch. 84, sec. 1; 1887, ch. 102, sec. 1; 1889, ch. 152, sec. 1; Laws, 1911, ch. 205, secs. 1, 3; 1913, ch. 150, sec. 1; 1917, ch. 497, sec. 1; 1921, ch. 329, sec. 1; 1923, ch. 387, secs. 1, 2, 3, 4.
 - (11) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 4; sec. 162, subd. 4; Laws, 1941, p. 1239.

Fifth Judicial District
Sixth Judicial District

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Fifth Judicial District is another of the districts which the Constitution added to the original three Territorial districts on May 11, 1858. As established, the district embraced Dakota, Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Mower, Rice, Scott, Steele, and Waseca Counties.(12) This alignment was made statutory on August 12, 1858.(13) Dakota and Goodhue were detached on February 8, 1860, leaving the district consisting of Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, Rice, Scott, Steele, and Waseca.(14) Scott was detached on March 5, 1870.(15) Dodge, Rice, Steele, and Waseca Counties were constituted the Fifth District on March 2, 1872.(16) The district still consists of these four counties. General terms of court are held in Rice County three times a year and in the others twice a year. There is one judge on the bench.(17)

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Sixth Judicial District was another of the three districts which the Constitution added to the original three Territorial districts on May 11, 1858. As established, the district comprised Blue Earth, Faribault, Brown, Le Sueur, McLeod, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley, and "all other counties in the State not included within the other districts."

Of these "other counties," those which actually became judicial units of the district were Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin,

(12) Const., schedule, sec. 14. Dodge and Steele Counties were created on February 20, 1855 (Laws, 1855, ch. 6, secs. 2, 7); and Waseca County was created on February 27, 1857 (Laws, 1857, ch. 57.) Owing to the vagueness of the original boundaries of several of the earlier counties in southeastern Minnesota, it has not seemed advisable to attempt a statement as to the probable judicial jurisdiction over these three counties between the time they were created and the time the Constitution placed them in the Fifth District.

(13) General Laws, 1858, ch. 67, sec. 1, subd. 5.

(14) Ibid., 1860, ch. 10, sec. 1; ch. 26, sec. 1.

(15) Ibid., 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1.

(16) Ibid., 1872, ch. 50, sec. 2.

(17) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 5, sec. 162, subd. 5; Laws, 1933, ch. 15, sec. 1; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 5.

Sixth Judicial District

Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock.(18) On August 12, 1858, general terms of court were established for Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, McLeod, Nicollet, and Sibley Counties, and the judge was empowered, if required, to hold court also in any other county in the district.(19) Watonwan County was attached to Brown County for judicial purposes on February 25, 1860.(20) On March 8, 1860, Renville County was attached to Nicollet County, (21) and on March 5, 1862, it was made a separate judicial unit of the district.(22) A few months later on September 29, 1862, Renville County was again attached to Nicollet.(23) Cottonwood and Murray Counties were attached to Brown on January 21, 1863, and on March 4, 1864, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock were also attached to Brown.(24) Martin County was given a general term of court on March 2, 1865, and Jackson County was attached to it.(25)

On July 31, 1866, the counties of Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Sibley, and Watonwan were constituted the Sixth District. Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone, and Redwood Counties were attached to Brown for judicial purposes; Big Stone, Chippewa,

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- (18) Const., schedule, sec. 14. Several more counties, still in existence, had already been created, but although they were not named in the Constitution schedule, it is not probable that the legislature did not intend to include them in the Fourth. See Fourth District.
- (19) General Laws, 1858, ch. 67, sec. 1, subd. 6.
- (20) Special Laws, 1860, ch. 13, sec. 1. This act also created the county from an area already in the district.
- (21) Special Laws, 1860, ch. 41, sec. 4.
- (22) General Laws, 1862, ch. 52, secs. 1, 5. The status of Big Stone, Chippewa, Traverse, and Stevens from the time they were created on February 20, 1862, until they were definitely assigned to the Sixth and Seventh Districts in 1866 is somewhat uncertain. It is assumed in this work that they were a part of the Sixth District. This assumption is merely for the purpose of making a complete picture. There were only scattered traders and squatters in the area when the counties were created, and the region was entirely depopulated for several years following the Sioux Indian outbreak in the summer of 1862. (Special Laws, 1862, ch. 22.)
- (23) Special Laws, 1862, extra session, ch. 8, secs. 1, 2.
- (24) Ibid., 1863, ch. 18, sec. 1; General Laws, 1864, ch. 70, sec. 1. Redwood County was created on February 6, 1862 from an area which was already in the district. (Special Laws, 1862, ch. 21, sec. 2.)
- (25) Special Laws, 1865, ch. 84.

Sixth Judicial District

and Lac qui Parle to Renville; Jackson, Nobles, and Rock to Martin; and Watonwan to Blue Earth.(26) On February 8, 1868, Cottonwood, McPhail, Murray, and Pipestone Counties were attached to Redwood, which county, at the same time, was made a judicial unit of the district.(27) Watonwan County was attached to Blue Earth County on February 29, 1868.(28) Lyon County was attached to Redwood County on March 6, 1868.(29)

Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock, and Watonwan Counties were constituted the Sixth Judicial District on March 5, 1870.(30) Two days later Nobles and Rock Counties were attached to Jackson, which county, on the same day, was made a judicial unit of the district.(31) On June 15, 1871, Watonwan County became a separate judicial unit, and Cottonwood, Murray, and Pipestone Counties were attached to it for judicial purposes.(32) Cottonwood and Nobles Counties became judicial units of the district on July 4, 1873.(33) Rock County became a judicial unit of the district on February 7, 1874, (34) and two years later Pipestone County was attached to Rock County for judicial purposes.(35) Murray County became a judicial

(26) General Statutes, 1866, ch. 64, title 2, sec. 23, title 4, sec. 33; ch. 121, sec. 2. This Lac qui Parle County was not the present county of that name. It lay across the river entirely outside the present area. The present county was organized on May 6, 1871. It remained in the same judicial district to which the original county had been assigned. (General Laws, 1862, ch. 22, sec. 3; 1871, ch. 100, sec. 1; Brown, "Some Changes in Local Boundaries and Names in Minnesota," Minnesota History Bulletin, IV (1922) 243, 244.) For Lincoln and Monongalia Counties see footnotes to Fourth District.

(27) General Laws, 1868, ch. 105, secs. 1, 3. McPhail County was created by the Legislature on March 1, 1866, but was never organized. It took in a tract bounded on the north by the Minnesota River, on the east by the range line between Ranges 39 and 40, on the south by the present southern boundaries of Lyon and Lincoln Counties, and on the west by the present South Dakota boundary. (General Laws, 1866, ch. 47; Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, comp., The History of Redwood County, Minnesota, I, 174.)

(28) General Laws, 1868, ch. 99, sec. 1.

(29) Ibid., 1868, ch. 112, sec. 3. The same act also created Lyon County out of Redwood.

(30) General Laws, 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1, subd. 6.

(31) Ibid., 1870, ch. 86, secs. 2, 3.

(32) Ibid., 1871, ch. 80, sec. 1.

(33) Ibid., 1873, ch. 84, secs. 1, 2; ch. 85, secs. 1, 2.

Seventh Judicial District

unit on March 5, 1879,(36) and Pipestone on February 23, 1881.(37) Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock were detached from the district on March 4, 1885, leaving Blue Earth, Faribault, Martin, and Watonwan Counties.(38) Faribault and Martin Counties were detached on March 12, 1897.(39)

The district now consists of Blue Earth and Watonwan Counties. There is one judge on the bench. General terms of court are held in Blue Earth County three times a year and in Watonwan County twice a year, and special terms are held in each county two Mondays a month when general terms are not pending.(40)

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Seventh Judicial District came into being on July 31, 1866. It then consisted of the counties of Aitkin, Andy Johnson, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Carlton, Cass, Clay, Crow Wing, Douglas, Itasca, Lake, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pembina, Polk, Pope, St. Louis, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, and Wadena. General terms of court were ordered held in Benton, Crow Wing, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Stearns, and St. Louis Counties, and in such other counties as the judge might find expedient in the interests of justice.(41) Carlton, Itasca, and Lake were attached to St. Louis County for judicial purposes; Aitkin, Cass, Pembina, Polk, Becker, Clay, Andy Johnson, Otter Tail, and Wadena Counties were attached to Crow Wing; Todd was attached to Morrison; Pope, Stevens, and Traverse were attached to Stearns.(42)

(36) General Laws, 1879, ch. 57, secs. 1, 2.

(37) Ibid., 1881, ch. 86, sec. 1.

(38) Ibid., 1885, ch. 139, sec. 1; 1887, appendix, p. 452.

(39) Laws, 1897, ch. 378, sec. 1.

(40) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 6; sec. 162, subd. 6; Laws, 1937, ch. 5; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 6; Laws, 1941, p. 1239.

(41) General Statutes, 1866, ch. 64, title 2, sec. 24, title 3, secs. 31, 32; ch. 121, sec. 2. Beltrami, which was created on February 28, 1866 (General Laws, 1866, ch. 46), was not included in the list given in the General Statutes. However, it was entirely surrounded by the counties named and was considered as being a part of the district. (Special Laws, 1871, ch. 75, sec. 1. For Stevens and Traverse Counties see Sixth Judicial District.

(42) General Statutes, 1866, ch. 64, title 4, sec. 33.

Seventh Judicial District

On March 8, 1867, the district court for Crow Wing County was abolished. Andy Johnson, Becker, Clay, Polk, Pembina, Otter Tail, Stevens, and Traverse were attached to Douglas; Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing and Wadena Counties were attached to Morrison.(43) A year later Stevens and Traverse were attached to Pope, and Grant was attached to Douglas.(44) Swift County was attached to Pope on February 18, 1870.(45)

On March 5, 1870, the counties of Aitkin, Becker, Benton, Carlton, Cass, Clay, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Itasca, Lake, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pembina, Polk, Pope, St. Louis, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin were constituted the Seventh District.(46) Aitkin was attached to Crow Wing on February 21, 1871.(47) Becker, Carlton, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, and Otter Tail Counties were made judicial units in February and March 1871.(48) On March 2, 1871, Beltrami, Clay, Pembina, and Polk Counties were attached to Becker, while Cass, Itasca, and Wadena were attached to Crow Wing. The act was to take effect on May 1.(49) Stevens and Traverse were detached from Pope on February 28, 1872. Stevens was made a separate judicial unit, and Traverse was attached to Stevens.(50) The next day Wilkin was detached from Douglas and attached to Otter Tail,(51) and Swift County was detached from Pope County and from the district.(52) Todd was detached from Morrison and became a judicial unit of the district on February 21, 1873.(53) On the same day, Clay was detached from Becker and became a judicial unit of the district.(54) Wilkin was detached from Otter Tail and became a judicial unit of the district on February 24, 1873.(55) On February 27, 1873, Big Stone was made a part of the district and was attached to Stevens County.(56) Grant County, which had previously been in the district but was inadvertently omitted from

(43) General Laws, 1867, ch. 113, secs. 1, 2, 3.

(44) Ibid., 1868, ch. 109, sec. 7. This act also established the county of Grant.

(45) General Laws, 1870, ch. 90, sec. 4. Swift County was established by this act.

(46) Ibid., 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1, subd. 7.

(47) Ibid., 1871, ch. 96, sec. 4.

(48) Ibid., 1871, chs. 82, 83, 85, 86, 87.

(49) Special Laws, 1871, ch. 75, sec. 1.

(50) General Laws, 1872, ch. 89, sec. 1

(51) Ibid., 1872, ch. 88, sec. 1.

(52) Ibid., 1872, ch. 51, sec. 2.

(53) Ibid., 1873, ch. 90, secs. 1, 2.

(54) Ibid., 1873, ch. 88, secs. 1, 2.

(55) Ibid., 1873, ch. 89, secs. 1, 3.

(56) Ibid., 1873, ch. 86, sec. 1.

Eighth Judicial District

the 1870 alignment, was confirmed as being in the district on February 28, 1873, and remained attached to Douglas County.(57)

A number of counties were detached on March 5, 1874, leaving the district consisting of Benton, Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Pope, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, and Wilkin.(58) Stevens and Wilkin were detached from the district on March 3, 1875.(59) Grant County was made a separate judicial unit on March 1, 1883, and was detached from the district on March 8, 1887.(60) On April 6, 1893, Pope was detached from the district, and two days later Clay and Becker were added, so that the district then consisted of Becker (with Beltrami attached), Benton, Clay, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Sherburne, Stearns, and Todd.(61) Sherburne County was detached from the district on April 21, 1897.(62) Wadena County was added on April 17, 1899.(63) The number of judges was increased to two on February 26, 1885, to three on April 16, 1913, and to four on March 27, 1931.(64)

The district now consists of the counties of Becker, Benton, Clay, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena. General terms of court are held in each county twice each year. There are still four judges on the bench.(65)

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Eighth Judicial District, as created on March 5, 1870, consisted of the counties of Carver, Le Sueur, McLeod, Scott, and Sibley, and has since remained unchanged.(66) There is one judge

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- (57) General Laws, 1873, ch. 91, secs. 1, 2.
 - (58) Ibid., 1874, ch. 90, sec. 1.
 - (59) General Laws, 1875, ch. 79, sec. 1. Traverse County is also mentioned in this act, but it had already been detached the previous year. (General Laws, 1874, ch. 90.)
 - (60) General Laws, 1883, ch. 82, sec. 1, 1887, ch. 106, sec. 1.
 - (61) Laws, 1893, ch. 138, sec. 1, ch. 141, sec. 1; appendix, p. 423. See footnote 3, Fourteenth District.
 - (62) Laws, 1897, ch. 397, sec. 1.
 - (63) Laws, 1899, ch. 368, sec. 1.
 - (64) General Laws, 1885, ch. 141; Laws, 1913, ch. 320; 1931, ch. 104.
 - (65) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 7; Laws, 1931, ch. 104; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 7; Laws, 1941, p. 1240.
 - (66) General Laws, 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1, subd. 8; Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 8.

Ninth Judicial District

on the bench, and a general term of court is held in each county twice a year.(67)

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Ninth Judicial District was created on March 5, 1870. It consisted of the counties of Big Stone, Brown, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Meeker, Monongalia, Nicollet, Redwood, and Renville.(68) Two days later, Kandiyohi, Meeker, and Monongalia were detached.(69) On March 6, 1871, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine Counties were added to the district and attached to Redwood County for judicial purposes.(70) Swift County was added to the district on February 29, 1872.(71) On February 27, 1873, Big Stone was detached from Renville and attached to Stevens.(72) Lac qui Parle County was detached from Redwood and attached to Chippewa on March 6, 1873.(73) On the same day Lincoln County was attached to Redwood.(74) Lyon County was attached to Redwood County on March 10, 1873.(75) A term of court was provided for Yellow Medicine County on February 25, 1874.(76) Swift County was detached from Chippewa and the district on March 4, 1874.(77) Seward County was attached to Redwood County on March 9, 1874.(78)

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- (67) Mason's, 1927, sec. 162, subd. 8; Laws, 1937, ch. 127; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 8; Laws, 1941, p. 1240.
- (68) General Laws, 1870, ch. 81, sec. 1. This Lac qui Parle County was not the present county of that name. For Lincoln and Monongalia Counties. See footnotes to Fourth District.
- (69) General Laws, 1870, ch. 95, sec. 1.
- (70) Ibid., 1871, ch. 98, sec. 6; ch. 100, sec. 6. The present Lac qui Parle County, see footnote 9, Sixth Judicial District.
- (71) General Laws, 1872, ch. 51, sec. 2. (Swift).
- (72) Ibid., 1873, ch. 86, sec. 1.
- (73) Ibid., 1873, ch. 87, sec. 1.
- (74) Ibid., 1873, ch. 92, sec. 11; A. E. Tasker, comp., Early History of Lincoln County, p. 16. This is the present Lincoln County. See footnote under Fourth District.
- (75) General Laws, 1873, ch. 83, sec. 1.
- (76) Ibid., 1874, ch. 92, sec. 1.
- (77) Ibid., 1874, ch. 93, sec. 1.
- (78) Ibid., 1874, ch. 99, secs. 1, 6. Seward County as established by this act embraced parts of the present Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, and Lincoln Counties. It was never organized. (Minnesota, Secretary of State, "Annual Report," p. 73, Executive Documents, 1874.) In 1879 an unsuccessful attempt was made to organize Canby County from practically the same area. (General Laws, 1879, ch. 62; Upham, Minnesota Geographic Names, p. 593.)

Tenth Judicial District
Eleventh Judicial District

Several counties were detached from the district on March 3, 1875, leaving the counties of Brown, Lincoln, Lyon, Nicollet, Redwood, and Renville.(79) Lincoln was detached from Redwood County on March 4, 1875.(80) On March 9, 1875, Lyon County was detached from Redwood County and made a judicial unit of the district.(81) Lincoln was detached from Lyon on February 9, 1881, and was provided with a general term of court.(82) Renville County was detached from the district on March 13, 1897, leaving Brown, Lincoln, Lyon, Nicollet, and Redwood.(83) An additional judge was provided on April 10, 1923.

The makeup of the district remains unchanged. There are still two judges on the bench, and general terms of court are held in each county twice a year.(85)

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Tenth Judicial District as created on March 2, 1872, consisted of Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, and Mower Counties.(86) Houston was detached on March 19, 1925.(87) There is one judge on the bench. General terms of court are held twice a year in Fillmore and Mower Counties and three times a year in Freeborn County.(88)

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Eleventh Judicial District was created on March 5, 1874. It then consisted of the counties of Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clay, Crow Wing, Itasca, Lake, Pembina, (name

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- (79) General Laws, 1875, ch. 79, sec. 3.
 - (80) Ibid., 1875, ch. 71, sec. 1.
 - (81) Ibid., 1875, ch. 70, secs. 1, 2.
 - (82) Ibid., 1881, ch. 85, secs. 1, 2.
 - (83) Laws, 1897, ch. 371, sec. 1.
 - (84) Laws, 1923, ch. 199, sec. 1.
 - (85) Laws, 1923, ch. 199, sec. 1; Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 9, sec. 162, subd. 9; Laws, 1931, ch. 50, Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 9; Laws, 1941, p. 1241.
 - (86) General Laws, 1872, ch. 50, sec. 3.
 - (87) Laws, 1925, ch. 75, secs. 1, 2.
 - (88) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 10; Laws, 1935, ch. 182, secs. 1, 2; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 10; Laws, 1941, p. 1241.

Eleventh Judicial District

changed to Kittson on March 9, 1878), Polk, St. Louis, Traverse, and Wadena.(89) General terms of court had already been established for Becker, Carlton, Clay, Crow Wing, and St. Louis Counties; Beltrami County had already been attached to Becker County for judicial purposes; Aitkin, Cass, and Itasca to Crow Wing, and Lake to St. Louis.(90) Cook County became a part of the district on March 9, 1874, and was attached to St. Louis County for judicial purposes.(91) Traverse County was detached from the district on March 3, 1875.(92) On March 11, 1876, Polk and Pembina Counties were attached to Clay County for judicial purposes.(93) Marshall County was attached to Polk County on February 25, 1879.(94) On February 27, 1879, Polk was detached from Clay County and was granted a general term of the District Court, and Kittson (formerly Pembina) was detached from Clay and attached to Polk.(95) Norman County became a separate judicial unit on February 17, 1881,(96) and Wadena was detached from Crow Wing and organized for judicial purposes on the same day.(97) Marshall County was organized for judicial purposes on February 28, 1881, and terms of court were affirmed for Becker, Carlton, Clay, Crow Wing, Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Polk, St. Louis, and Wadena.(98) Hubbard County was attached to Wadena County by name on February 26, 1883.(99) Aitkin was organized for judicial purposes on February 6, 1885.(1) On February 17, 1885, two judges were provided for the district and designated as "First Judge" and "Second Judge".(2) Hubbard County was made a separate judicial unit on March 3, 1887.(3)

(89) General Laws, 1874, ch. 90, sec. 2; 1878, ch. 59.

(90) See Seventh Judicial District.

(91) General Laws, 1874, ch. 100, sec. 11. Cook County was established by this act.

(92) General Laws, 1875, ch. 79, sec. 4.

(93) Ibid., 1876, ch. 117, sec. 1.

(94) Special Laws, 1879, ch. 10, secs. 3, 7. This act also created Marshall County from an area already in the district.

(95) General Laws, 1879, ch. 64, sec. 1.

(96) Ibid., 1881, ch. 92, secs. 1, 6. This act also created Norman County out of Polk.

(97) General Laws, 1881, ch. 131, secs. 1, 2.

(98) Ibid., 1881 ch. 82, sec. 1. An act establishing Kittson County as a judicial unit had already been passed, although the Governor did not sign it until March 5, 1881. (General Laws, 1881, ch. 90, secs. 1, 2.) To clarify the situation, the Legislature on November 18, 1881, again named the time for holding the general term of court in the county and legalized judicial proceedings already taken in the county. (General Laws, 1881, extra session, ch. 83, sec. 1.)

(99) General Laws, 1883, ch. 78. This act also created Hubbard County from Cass County already in the district.

(1) General Laws, 1885, ch. 142, secs. 1, 2.

(2) Ibid., 1885, ch. 140, secs. 1, 4.

(3) Ibid., 1887, ch. 110.

Eleventh Judicial District

Several counties were cut from the district on March 8, 1887, leaving Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties. The "Second Judge" was assigned to another bench at the same time leaving the Eleventh District entitled to only one. Regular terms of court were continued in Carlton and St. Louis Counties. Cook and Lake Counties were under the judicial jurisdiction of St. Louis County.(4) The judges in the district were again increased to two on April 13, 1889.(5) Cook County was detached from St. Louis County and attached to Lake on February 24, 1891.(6) Three days later an act was approved detaching Lake County from St. Louis County and establishing it as a separate judicial unit.(7)

A third judge was provided on March 8, 1893.(8) Cook County was made a separate judicial unit of the district on February 13, 1903.(9) On March 29, 1909, a fourth judge was added to the bench. At the same time it was provided that, in addition to the general terms at Duluth, the court should hold general and special terms at Virginia. A judge holding any term of court at Virginia was authorized at his discretion to adjourn the court to Hibbing.(10)

A fifth judge was added to the bench on April 18, 1911.(11) Two days later, it was provided that general and special terms of court could be held at Hibbing in addition to those at Virginia and the court was authorized, at discretion, to adjourn from Virginia to Ely. The judges of the district were instructed to designate one of their number to act as judge of the juvenile court at Virginia to hear all cases affecting dependent, neglected, and delinquent children in that area.(12) On April 8, 1915, general and special terms of court were established to be held at Ely.(13) A sixth judge was added to the bench two years later, on April 26.(14)

The district still consists of Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties, and there are still six judges on the bench. Cook County has one general term of court, Carlton and Lake Counties each have two. In St. Louis County, five general terms of court are held each year in Duluth, three in Virginia, three

(4) General Laws, 1887, ch. 100; also p. 454.

(5) Ibid., 1889, ch. 151.

(6) Ibid., 1891, ch. 138, sec. 1.

(7) Ibid., 1891, ch. 139, secs. 1, 2.

(8) Laws, 1893, ch. 137, sec. 1.

(9) Laws, 1903, ch. 12, sec. 2.

(10) Laws, 1909, ch. 126.

(11) Laws, 1911, ch. 193, sec. 1.

(12) Laws, 1911, ch. 368.

(13) Laws, 1915, ch. 93.

(14) Laws, 1917, ch. 484.

Twelfth Judicial District

in Hibbing, and two in Ely. Frequent special sessions are held at all four places.(15)

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Twelfth Judicial District, as created on March 3, 1875, consisted of the Counties of Big Stone, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Wilkin, and Yellow Medicine.(16) A few days later, general terms of court were provided for in Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Stevens, Swift, Wilkin, and Yellow Medicine Counties. Lac qui Parle County was attached to Chippewa County for judicial purposes, and Big Stone and Traverse Counties were attached to Stevens.(17) On February 23, 1878, Lac qui Parle was detached from Chippewa County and made a judicial unit.(18) Canby County was attached to Yellow Medicine County for judicial purposes on February 27, 1879.(19) Big Stone County became a judicial unit of the district on February 8, 1881,(20) and Traverse County on February 14, 1881.(21) Big Stone, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin Counties were detached from the district on March 8, 1887, leaving Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Swift, and Yellow Medicine.(22) Renville was added to the district on March 13, 1897,(23) and a second judge was placed on the bench two days later.(24)

The district now consists of Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Renville, Swift, and Yellow Medicine Counties, and there are still two judges on the bench. General terms of court are held twice a year in each county.(25)

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- (15) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11; subd. 11; Laws, 1937, ch. 48, sec. 2; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 11, secs. 164-172 and notes; Laws, 1941, p. 1242
 - (16) General Laws, 1875, ch. 79, sec. 4.
 - (17) Ibid., 1875, ch. 80, sec. 1.
 - (18) Ibid., 1878, ch. 62, secs. 1, 2.
 - (19) Ibid., 1879, ch. 62, sec. 6. Canby County was never organized. Its area occupied parts of Yellow Medicine, Lac qui Parle, and Lincoln Counties. (Upham, Minnesota Geographic Names, p. 593.)
 - (20) General Laws, 1881, ch. 106, sec. 3.
 - (21) Ibid., 1881, ch. 130 sec. 5.
 - (22) Ibid., 1887, ch. 106, sec. 1; appendix, p. 454.
 - (23) Laws, 1897, ch. 371, sec. 1.
 - (24) Laws, 1897, ch. 370, sec. 1.
 - (25) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 12; Laws, 1939, ch. 11, sec. 1; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 12; Laws, 1941, p. 1243.

Thirteenth Judicial District
Fourteenth Judicial District

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Thirteenth Judicial District, as created on March 4, 1885, consisted of the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock.(26) Jackson County was detached from the district on March 12, 1897.(27) Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock Counties now constitute the district. There is one judge on the bench, and general terms of court are held in each of the counties twice a year.(28)

FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Fourteenth Judicial District, as created on March 8, 1887, consisted of the counties of Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Kittson, Marshall, Norman, and Polk. One of the judges of the Eleventh District was assigned to the new bench for his unexpired term.(29) All these counties except Beltrami were already organized for judicial purposes. Beltrami had been attached to Becker County for judicial purposes since May 1, 1871, and this attachment continued.(30)

Becker, Beltrami, and Clay Counties were detached from the district on April 8, 1893, leaving Kittson, Marshall, Norman, and Polk.(31) Roseau became a judicial unit of the district on March 21, 1895,(32) and on March 5, 1897, Red Lake was also added.(33) The district was provided with its second judge on March 24, 1903.(34) Mahnomen County became a judicial unit of the

(26) General Laws, 1885, ch. 139, sec. 1.

(27) Laws, 1897, ch. 378, sec. 1.

(28) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 13; Laws, 1939, ch. 36; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 13, notes; Laws, 1941, p. 1243.

(29) General Laws, 1887, ch. 100, secs. 2, 4.

(30) See Eleventh District

(31) Laws, 1893, ch. 138, sec. 1. Beltrami County is not mentioned in this law, but it is apparent that its judicial attachment to Becker County continued and that it became a part of the district to which Becker was assigned.

(32) Laws, 1895, chs. 315, 317. Roseau County was created on December 31, 1894, from territory already in the district. (Minnesota, Governor, Proclamation, December 31, 1894.)

(33) Laws, 1897, ch. 374, sec. 1. Red Lake was created on December 24, 1896, from territory already in the district. (Minnesota, Governor, Proclamation, December 24, 1896.)

(34) Laws, 1903, ch. 80, sec. 1.

Fifteenth Judicial District

district on December 27, 1906,(35) and Pennington County on November 23, 1910.(36)

The district now consists of Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau Counties, and there are two judges on the bench. Regular terms of court are held twice a year in all the counties of the district except Mahnomen which has one.(37)

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Fifteenth Judicial District as created on March 8, 1887, consisted of Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca and Wadena Counties.(38) All had earlier been organized for judicial purposes, except Itasca County which a few weeks before had been placed under the judicial jurisdiction of Aitkin County and Cass County which for some years had been attached to Crow Wing County.(39) Itasca County was detached from Aitkin County and organized for judicial purposes on March 7, 1891.(40) Beltrami County was added to the district on April 10, 1897, and both Beltrami and Cass Counties became judicial units on April 23 of that year.(41) On April 17, 1899, Wadena County was detached from the district.(42) Clearwater was made a judicial unit of the district on December 20, 1902.(43) A second judge was madded to the district on March 24, 1903.(44) Koochiching County became a judicial unit

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- (35) Mahnomen County was created on December 27, 1906, from territory already in the district. (Laws, 1907, p. vi; also p. 809.) This county is in no way identified with Manomin County which was created on May 23, 1857, and was absorbed by Anoka County on November 2, 1869.
- (36) Laws, 1911, pp. 3-6. See also Laws, 1911, ch. 18, sec. 1.
- (37) Laws, 1937, ch. 448, sec. 1; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 14; Laws, 1941, p. 1244. The names of Mahnomen and Pennington are omitted from Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 14, but are included in Mason's, 1927, sec. 162, subd. 14.
- (38) General Laws, 1887, ch. 100, secs. 3, 5.
- (39) See Eleventh Judicial District.
- (40) General Laws, 1891, ch. 147, sec. 5.
- (41) Laws, 1897, chs. 304, 376.
- (42) Laws, 1899, ch. 368, sec. 1.
- (43) Minnesota, Governor, Proclamation, December 20, 1902. Clearwater County was created on that day from territory already in the district.
- (44) Laws, 1903, ch. 81, secs. 1, 4.

Sixteenth Judicial District

of the district on December 19, 1906.(45) A third judge was provided on February 10, 1909.(46)

Provision was made on April 1, 1909, for holding one or more additional terms of court each year at Baudette with the privilege of adjournment to Spooner at the discretion of the judge. Separate records were required. Lake of the Woods County, of which Baudette is the county seat, became a judicial unit of the district on November 28, 1922.(47) The present counties in the district are Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, and Lake of the Woods. There are three judges on the bench, and general terms are held in each county twice each year.(48)

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Sixteenth Judicial District as constituted on March 8, 1887, consisted of Big Stone, Grant, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin Counties.(49) All had previously been organized for judicial purposes. Pope County, which had also been organized for judicial purposes,(50) was added to the district on April 6, 1893.(51) These six counties still constitute the Sixteenth District. There is one judge on the bench, and general terms of court are held in each county twice a year.(52)

(45) Minnesota, Governor, Proclamation, December 19, 1906; Laws, 1907, appendix, p. 809. Koochiching County was created on that day from territory already in the district.

(46) Laws, 1909, ch. 11, secs. 1, 2.

(47) Laws, 1909, ch. 134; 1913, ch. 147. The terms at Baudette became the terms of court for Lake of the Woods after that county was created on November 28, 1922. (Minnesota, Governor, Proclamation, November 28, 1922; Laws, 1923, ch. 222, secs. 2, 3.)

(48) Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 15; Laws, 1937, ch. 261, secs. 1-4; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 15; Laws, 1941, p. 1244.

(49) General Laws, 1887, ch. 106, sec. 1.

(50) See Seventh and Twelfth Judicial Districts.

(51) Laws, 1893, ch. 141, sec. 1.

(52) Laws, 1927, ch. 22, Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 16; sec. 162, subd. 16; Laws, 1941, p. 1245.

Seventeenth Judicial District
 Eighteenth Judicial District
 Nineteenth Judicial District

SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Seventeenth Judicial District, created on March 12, 1897, consists of Faribault, Jackson, and Martin Counties. There is one judge on the bench, and general terms of court are held in each of the three counties twice a year. Special terms are held in each of the counties once a month except in August. (53)

EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Eighteenth Judicial District as constituted on April 21, 1897, consists of Anoka, Isanti, Sherburne, and Wright Counties. There is one judge on the bench, and general terms of court are held in each county twice a year. (54)

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The Nineteenth Judicial District as constituted on April 11, 1907, consists of Chisago, Kanabec, Pine, and Washington Counties. There is one judge on the bench, and general terms of court are held in each of the counties two times a year. In addition to this, Washington County has a special term of court once a month. (55)

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- (53) Laws, 1897, ch. 378, sec. 1; Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 17; Laws, 1929, ch. 16, sec. 1; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 17; Laws, 1941, p. 1245.
- (54) Laws, 1897, ch. 379, sec. 1; Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 18; Laws, 1937, ch. 267; 1937, extra session, ch. 18; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 18; Laws, 1941, p. 1245.
- (55) Laws, 1907, ch. 146; Mason's, 1927, sec. 11, subd. 19; Laws, 1923, ch. 56; 1925, ch. 345; 1937, chs. 49, 50; Mason's, 1940 supplement, sec. 162, subd. 19, sec. 163; Laws, 1941, ch. 232, secs. 1, 2, also p. 1246.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS AND THEIR COUNTY ALIGNMENT

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

This list contains the names of present counties and, in addition, the names of two counties that were organized and started functioning and which later were absorbed in other counties. "Created" counties, that were not organized politically, are not included. The tables are confined to actual designations made by specific legislative acts. For assumed or apparent applications, see Counties and Their Districts.

FIRST DISTRICT

October 27, 1849

Dakota
Ramsey

March 6, 1852

Chisago
Dakota
Hennepin
Ramsey
Wabasha
Washington

March 5, 1853

Chisago
Itasca
Ramsey
Washington

February 7, 1854

Chisago
Fillmore
Goodhue
Itasca
Wabasha
Washington

February 23, 1854

Chisago
Fillmore
Goodhue
Houston
Itasca
Wabasha
Washington
Winona

February 20, 1855

Chisago
Fillmore
Goodhue
Houston
Itasca
Olmsted
Wabasha
Washington
Winona

March 1, 1856

Chisago
Fillmore
Goodhue
Houston
Olmsted
Pine
Wabasha
Washington
Winona

March 19, 1857

Chisago
Fillmore
Goodhue
Houston
Olmsted
Pine
Wabasha
Winona

May 11, 1858

Anoka
Carlton
Chisago
Isanti
Lake
Manomin
Pine
St. Louis
Washington

August 12, 1858

Anoka
Carlton
Chisago
Isanti
Kanabec
Manomin
Pine
St. Louis
Washington

February 3, 1860

Anoka
Carlton
Chisago
Isanti
Itasca
Kanabec
Lake
Manomin
Pine
St. Louis
Washington

Judicial Districts

February 8, 1860

Carlton
Chisago
Dakota
Goodhue
Itasca
Kanabec
Lake
Manomin
Pine
St. Louis
Washington

March 5, 1860

Carlton
Chisago
Dakota
Goodhue
Itasca
Kanabec
Lake
Pine
St. Louis
Washington

July 31, 1866

Chisago
Dakota
Goodhue
Kanabec
Pine
Washington

April 11, 1907

Dakota
Goodhue

SECOND DISTRICT

October 27, 1849

Itasca
Wabasha
Washington

March 6, 1852

Benton
Cass
Chisago
Itasca

March 5, 1853

Blue Earth
Dakota
Fillmore
Goodhue
Hennepin
Le Sueur
Nicollet
Rice
Scott
Sibley
Wabasha

February 7, 1854

Benton
Cass
Ramsey

March 2, 1855

Benton
Cass
Ramsey
Wright

March 3, 1855

Benton
Cass
Ramsey
Stearns
Todd
Wright

February 25, 1856

Benton
Cass
Itasca
Lake
Morrison
St. Louis
Sherburne
Wright

March 1, 1856

Benton
Cass
Hennepin
Itasca
Lake
Morrison
St. Louis
Sherburne
Todd
Wright

March 6, 1857

Benton
Cass
Hennepin
Lake
Morrison
St. Louis
Sherburne
Todd
Wright

May 19, 1857

Benton
Cass
Hennepin
Lake
Morrison
St. Louis
Sherburne
Todd
Washington
Wright

May 23, 1857

Aitkin
Anoka
Benton
Carlton
Crow Wing
Isanti
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Ramsey
Washington
Wright

May 11, 1858

Ramsey

Judicial Districts

THIRD DISTRICT

October 27, 1849

Benton
Kittson

September 1, 1851

Benton
Cass
Itasca

March 6, 1852

Kittson

March 5, 1853

Benton
Cass
Kittson

February 7, 1854

Blue Earth
Dakota
Hennepin
Kittson
Le Sueur
Nicollet
Rice
Scott
Sibley

February 20, 1855

Blue Earth
Brown
Dakota
Faribault
Hennepin
Kittson
Le Sueur
Nicollet
Renville
Rice
Scott
Sibley

March 3, 1855

Blue Earth
Brown
Carver
Dakota
Faribault
Hennepin
Kittson
Le Sueur
Nicollet
Renville
Rice
Scott
Sibley

February 23, 1856

Blue Earth
Brown
Carver
Dakota
Faribault
Hennepin
Kittson
Le Sueur
Meeker
Nicollet
Renville
Rice
Scott
Sibley

March 1, 1856

Blue Earth
Brown
Carver
Dakota
Faribault
Hennepin
Kittson
Le Sueur
McLeod
Meeker
Nicollet
Renville
Rice
Scott
Sibley

March 6, 1857

Blue Earth
Brown
Carver
Dakota
Faribault
Hennepin
Itasca
Kittson
Le Sueur
McLeod
Meeker
Nicollet
Renville
Rice
Scott
Sibley

May 23, 1857

Blue Earth
Brown
Carver
Cottonwood
Dakota
Faribault
Freeborn
Hennepin
Itasca
Jackson
Kittson
Le Sueur
McLeod
Martin
Meeker
Mower
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Pipestone
Renville
Rice
Rock
Scott
Sibley

Judicial Districts

March 18, 1858

Becker
 Blue Earth
 Brown
 Carver
 Cottonwood
 Dakota
 Faribault
 Freeborn
 Hennepin
 Itasca
 Jackson
 Kittson
 Le Sueur
 McLeod
 Martin
 Meeker
 Mower
 Murray
 Nicollet
 Nobles
 Pipestone
 Renville
 Rice
 Rock
 Scott
 Sibley

May 11, 1858

Fillmore
 Houston
 Olmsted
 Wabasha
 Winona

March 2, 1872

Olmsted
 Wabasha
 Winona

March 19, 1925

Houston
 Olmsted
 Wabasha
 Winona

FOURTH DISTRICT

May 11, 1858

Benton
 Carver
 Cass
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Hennepin
 Itasca
 Kittson
 Meeker
 Mille Lacs
 Monongalia
 Morrison
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Wilkin
 Wright

July 20, 1858

Benton
 Carver
 Cass
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Hennepin
 Itasca
 Kittson
 Meeker
 Mille Lacs
 Monongalia
 Morrison
 Polk
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Wilkin
 Wright

February 8, 1860

Anoka
 Benton
 Carver
 Cass
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Hennepin
 Isanti
 Kittson
 Meeker
 Mille Lacs
 Monongalia
 Morrison
 Polk
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Todd
 Wilkin
 Wright

March 5, 1860

Anoka
 Benton
 Carver
 Cass
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Hennepin
 Isanti
 Kittson
 Manomin
 Meeker
 Mille Lacs
 Monongalia
 Morrison
 Polk
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Todd
 Wilkin
 Wright

Judicial Districts

March 8, 1861

Anoka
Benton
Carver
Cass
Crow Wing
Douglas
Hennepin
Isanti
Kittson
Lincoln
Manomin
Meeker
Mille Lacs
Monongalia
Morrison
Polk
Sherburne
Stearns
Todd
Wilkin
Wright

February 19, 1862

Anoka
Benton
Carver
Cass
Crow Wing
Douglas
Hennepin
Isanti
Kandiyohi
Kittson
Manomin
Meeker
Mille Lacs
Monongalia
Morrison
Polk
Pope
Sherburne
Stearns
Todd
Wilkin
Wright

March 4, 1864

Anoka
Becker
Benton
Carver
Cass
Clay
Crow Wing
Douglas
Hennepin
Isanti
Kandiyohi
Kittson
Manomin
Meeker
Mille Lacs
Monongalia
Morrison
Otter Tail
Polk
Pope
Sherburne
Stearns
Todd
Wilkin
Wright

July 31, 1866

Anoka
Carver
Hennepin
Isanti
Kandiyohi
Lincoln
McLeod
Manomin
Meeker
Monongalia
Wright

March 5, 1870

Anoka
Hennepin
Isanti
Wright

March 7, 1870

Anoka
Hennepin
Isanti
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Wright

March 4, 1874

Anoka
Hennepin
Isanti
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Swift
Wright

March 3, 1875

Anoka
Hennepin
Isanti
Wright

April 21, 1897

Hennepin

FIFTH DISTRICT

May 11, 1858

Dakota
Dodge
Freeborn
Goodhue
Mower
Rice
Scott
Steele
Waseca

February 8, 1860

Dodge
Freeborn
Mower
Rice
Scott
Steele
Waseca

Judicial Districts

March 5, 1870

Dodge
Freeborn
Mower
Rice
Steele
Waseca

March 2, 1872

Dodge
Rice
Steele
Waseca

SIXTH DISTRICT

May 11, 1858

Aitkin
Blue Earth
Brown
Clay
Cottonwood
Faribault
Jackson
Kandiyohi
Le Sueur
McLeod
Martin
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Otter Tail
Pipestone
Renville
Rock
Sibley
Wadena
Wilkin

February 25, 1860

Aitkin
Becker
Blue Earth
Brown
Clay
Cottonwood
Faribault
Jackson
Kandiyohi
Le Sueur
McLeod
Martin
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Otter Tail
Pipestone
Renville
Rock
Sibley
Wadena
Watsonwan
Wilkin

February 6, 20, 1862

Aitkin
Becker
Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Chippewa
Clay
Cottonwood
Faribault
Jackson
Le Sueur
McLeod
Martin
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Otter Tail
Pipestone
Redwood
Renville
Rock
Sibley
Stevens
Traverse
Wadena
Watsonwan
Wilkin

Judicial Districts

March 4, 1864

Aitkin
Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Chippewa
Cottonwood
Faribault
Jackson
Le Sueur
McLeod
Martin
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Pipestone
Redwood
Renville
Rock
Sibley
Stevens
Traverse
Wadena
Watonwan
Wilkin

July 31, 1866

Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Chippewa
Cottonwood
Faribault
Jackson
Le Sueur
Martin
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Pipestone
Redwood
Renville
Rock
Sibley
Watonwan

March 6, 1868

Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Chippewa
Cottonwood
Faribault
Jackson
Le Sueur
Lyon
Martin
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Pipestone
Redwood
Renville
Rock
Sibley
Watonwan

March 5, 1870

Blue Earth
Cottonwood
Faribault
Jackson
Martin
Murray
Nobles
Pipestone
Rock
Watonwan

March 4, 1885

Blue Earth
Faribault
Martin
Watonwan

March 12, 1897

Blue Earth
Watonwan

SEVENTH DISTRICT

July 31, 1866

Aitkin
Becker
Beltrami
Benton
Carlton
Cass
Clay
Crow Wing
Douglas
Itasca
Kittson
Lake
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Otter Tail
Polk
Pope
St. Louis
Sherburne
Stearns
Stevens
Todd
Traverse
Wadena
Wilkin

Judicial Districts

March 6, 1868

Aitkin
 Becker
 Beltrami
 Benton
 Carlton
 Cass
 Clay
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Grant
 Itasca
 Kittson
 Lake
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Polk
 Pope
 St. Louis
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Stevens
 Todd
 Traverse
 Wadena
 Wilkin

February 18, 1870

Aitkin
 Becker
 Beltrami
 Benton
 Carlton
 Cass
 Clay
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Grant
 Itasca
 Kittson
 Lake
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Polk
 Pope
 St. Louis
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Stevens
 Swift
 Todd
 Traverse
 Wadena
 Wilkin

March 5, 1870

Aitkin
 Becker
 Beltrami
 Benton
 Carlton
 Cass
 Clay
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Grant
 Itasca
 Kittson
 Lake
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Polk
 Pope
 St. Louis
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Stevens
 Swift
 Todd
 Traverse
 Wadena
 Wilkin

Judicial Districts

February 29, 1872

Aitkin
 Becker
 Beltrami
 Benton
 Carlton
 Cass
 Clay
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Grant
 Itasca
 Kittson
 Lake
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Polk
 Pope
 St. Louis
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Stevens
 Todd
 Traverse
 Wadena
 Wilkin

February 27, 1873

Aitkin
 Becker
 Beltrami
 Benton
 Big Stone
 Carlton
 Cass
 Clay
 Crow Wing
 Douglas
 Grant
 Itasca
 Kittson
 Lake
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Polk
 Pope
 St. Louis
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Stevens
 Todd
 Traverse
 Wadena
 Wilkin

March 5, 1874

Benton
 Big Stone
 Douglas
 Grant
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Pope
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Stevens
 Todd
 Wilkin

March 3, 1875

Benton
 Big Stone
 Douglas
 Grant
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Pope
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Todd

March 8, 1887

Benton
 Big Stone
 Douglas
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Pope
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Todd

April 6, 8, 1893

Becker
 Beltrami
 Benton
 Clay
 Douglas
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Sherburne
 Stearns
 Todd

April 21, 1897

Becker
 Benton
 Clay
 Douglas
 Mille Lacs
 Morrison
 Otter Tail
 Stearns
 Todd

Judicial Districts

April 17, 1899

Becker
Benton
Clay
Douglas
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Otter Tail
Stearns
Todd
Wadena

EIGHTH DISTRICT

March 5, 1870

Carver
Le Sueur
McLeod
Scott
Sibley

NINTH DISTRICT

March 5, 1870

Big Stone
Brown
Chippewa
Kandiyohi
Meeker
Monongalia
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville

March 7, 1870

Big Stone
Brown
Chippewa
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville

March 6, 1871

Big Stone
Brown
Chippewa
Lac qui Parle
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville
Yellow Medicine

February 29, 1872

Big Stone
Brown
Chippewa
Lac qui Parle
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville
Swift
Yellow Medicine

February 27, 1873

Brown
Chippewa
Lac qui Parle
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville
Swift
Yellow Medicine

March 6-10, 1873

Brown
Chippewa
Lac qui Parle
Lincoln
Lyon
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville
Swift
Yellow Medicine

March 4, 1874

Brown
Chippewa
Lac qui Parle
Lincoln
Lyon
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville
Yellow Medicine

March 3, 1875

Brown
Lincoln
Lyon
Nicollet
Redwood
Renville

March 13, 1897

Brown
Lincoln
Lyon
Nicollet
Redwood

TENTH DISTRICT

March 2, 1872

Fillmore
Freeborn
Houston
Mower

March 19, 1925

Fillmore
Freeborn
Mower

ELEVENTH DISTRICT

March 5, 1874

Aitkin
Becker
Beltrami
Carlton
Cass
Clay
Crow Wing
Itasca
Kittson
Lake
Polk
St. Louis
Traverse
Wadena

Judicial Districts

March 9, 1874

Aitkin
Becker
Beltrami
Carlton
Cass
Clay
Cook
Crow Wing
Itasca
Kittson
Lake
Polk
St. Louis
Traverse
Wadena

March 3, 1875

Aitkin
Becker
Beltrami
Carlton
Cass
Clay
Cook
Crow Wing
Itasca
Kittson
Lake
Polk
St. Louis
Wadena

February 25, 1879

Aitkin
Becker
Beltrami
Carlton
Cass
Clay
Cook
Crow Wing
Itasca
Kittson
Lake
Marshall
Polk
St. Louis
Wadena

February 17, 1881

Aitkin
Becker
Beltrami
Carlton
Cass
Clay
Cook
Crow Wing
Itasca
Kittson
Lake
Marshall
Norman
Polk
St. Louis
Wadena

February 26, 1883

Aitkin
Becker
Beltrami
Carlton
Cass
Clay
Cook
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca
Kittson
Lake
Marshall
Norman
Polk
St. Louis
Wadena

March 8, 1887

Carlton
Cook
Lake
St. Louis

TWELFTH DISTRICT

March 3, 1875

Big Stone
Chippewa
Kandiyohi
Lac qui Parle
Meeker
Stevens
Swift
Traverse
Wilkin
Yellow Medicine

March 8, 1887

Chippewa
Kandiyohi
Lac qui Parle
Meeker
Swift
Yellow Medicine

March 13, 1897

Chippewa
Kandiyohi
Lac qui Parle
Meeker
Renville
Swift
Yellow Medicine

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT

March 4, 1885

Cottonwood
Jackson
Murray
Nobles
Pipestone
Rock

March 12, 1897

Cottonwood
Murray
Nobles
Pipestone
Rock

Judicial Districts

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

March 8, 1887

Becker
Beltrami
Clay
Kittson
Marshall
Norman
Polk

April 8, 1893

Kittson
Marshall
Norman
Polk

December 31, 1894

Kittson
Marshall
Norman
Polk
Roseau

March 5, 1897

Kittson
Marshall
Norman
Polk
Red Lake
Roseau

December 27, 1906

Kittson
Mahnomen
Marshall
Norman
Polk
Red Lake
Roseau

November 23, 1910

Kittson
Mahnomen
Marshall
Norman
Pennington
Polk
Red Lake
Roseau

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

March 8, 1887

Aitkin
Cass
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca
Wadena

April 10, 1897

Aitkin
Beltrami
Cass
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca
Wadena

April 17, 1899

Aitkin
Beltrami
Cass
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca

December 20, 1902

Aitkin
Beltrami
Cass
Clearwater
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca

December 19, 1906

Aitkin
Beltrami
Cass
Clearwater
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca
Koochiching

November 28, 1922

Aitkin
Beltrami
Cass
Clearwater
Crow Wing
Hubbard
Itasca
Koochiching
Lake of the Woods

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

March 8, 1887

Big Stone
Grant
Stevens
Traverse
Wilkin

April 6, 1893

Big Stone
Grant
Pope
Stevens
Traverse
Wilkin

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT

March 12, 1897

Faribault
Jackson
Martin

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

April 21, 1897

Anoka
Isanti
Sherburne
Wright

NINETEENTH DISTRICT

April 11, 1907

Chisago
Kanabec
Pine
Washington

END OF PART 1.

PART 2 (PAGES 46-86) IS POSTED
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Posted MLHP: September 12, 2021