

“LeSueur County Court House and Jail ” *

in

HISTORY

OF

**Nicollet and LeSueur Counties
Minnesota**

THEIR PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

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Editor-in-Chief

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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COURT HOUSE HISTORY.

The first court house in LeSueur county was the one in LeSueur, and was not built by the county, but leased or donated for public use until such time as the county could agree on a permanent seat of justice site, hence the first court house was the two-story brick building at LeSueur Center which was leased by the county for ten years with an option of purchasing the property at a certain figure, which was finally done, and it remained in use for the county offices until the building of the present edifice, which was completed about January 1, 1897, at a cost, including heating plant, etc, of about fifty-five thousand dollars. Bonds were issued and sold on Oct. 24, 1895. They drew five per cent. interest and were sold to the Mechanics Savings Bank of Minneapolis The present structure is a modern built with spacious rooms for each of the several county offices; has a large basement, with suitable heating plant and a lighting plant has been built outside in a separate building. The second story of the court house has several of the minor county offices and the court room, all well planned and amply furnished with modern furniture. The vaults in this splendid building are of the best and the books and papers will there be safe and well preserved as the decades come and go. Each officer vies with his fellow officers in keeping his books and papers in proper order and where they may be referred to at any time with ease. The state inspectors compliment the present officers and the manner in which they conduct the business and care for legal papers and county books, stating that few counties, if any, in Minnesota, have a better-kept business than the LeSueur people have.

COUNTY JAIL BUILDING.

LeSueur county's first jail was a small brick structure on the public square, which served well its purpose till the building of the present magnificent structure. There was, however, a log building in Lexington that was used for jail purposes sometimes and there occurred the hanging of a murderer.

The present jail and sheriff's residence, on the block adjoining the court house block, was built in 1914, at a cost of forty-three thousand dollars. It is a handsome pressed-brick building erected by Contractor J. B.

Nelson, of Mankato. The steel work, cages and cells were the work of the Pauly Jail Building Company, of St. Louis. There are sixteen cells in the jail and all made secure and safe. The apartments used by the sheriff and his family are in every way equal to that found in modern private residences. The price seems large for a place in which to confine the lawless element and culprits in a county so free from such objectionable characters, but when one comes to consider that it was built for the use of the county many years to come, as well as the present generation, it was probably a wise act on the part of the tax-payers, who have it all paid for now. The county is in good condition financially and tax-payers have not really been burdened by the extra tax imposed by reason of its construction. ■

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