

“ COURTHOUSES AND JAILS ” *

IN

**HISTORY OF
McLEOD COUNTY
MINNESOTA**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

ASSISTED BY

RETURN I. HOLCOMBE

**AND A LARGE CORPS OF LOCAL CONTRIBUTORS, EDITORS
AND EXPERIENCED INVESTIGATORS**

ILLUSTRATED

CHICAGO AND WINONA

H. C. COOPER JR. & CO.

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* **MLHP:** The following appeared on pages 246-249, 251-2, & 258 of this history of McLeod County. Though reformatted, the excerpts complete. The original spelling and punctuation are unchanged.

**COURTHOUSES AND JAILS
OF
McCLEOD COUNTY**

January 4, 1876. Commissioners present were: M. Severson (dist. No. 1), A. H. Reed (dist. No. 2), Geo. Thom (dist. No. 3), D. W. Johns (dist. No. 4), William Schultz (dist. No. 5). Commissioner Johns was elected chairman for the ensuing year. . . .

January 7 the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved: That if the citizens of Glencoe will donate to the county of McLeod suitable grounds for the erection of county buildings and give in addition cash or material for building to make a total donation of a value of \$2,500, we as commissioners will, so far as the law allows, proceed to erect suitable county offices and vaults for the safe keeping of the records.

. . . .

March 22, 1876. The following communication was received and read to the board: "The village council of Glencoe having had your resolution of January 7, 1876, presented to them for consideration, and having taken action on the same, we are appointed as a committee by the village council to inform you that your resolution has been favorably considered, and make the honorable board of commissioners of McLeod county a tender of a plot of ground, namely, lot 8, and the east half of lot 7 in block 30 in the village of Glencoe as a site for a county building. We are also authorized to inform you that the village, besides the presentation of land valued at \$430.00 will give you cash \$2,070.00 making the total amount of \$2,500 towards the erection of such building; the village reserving to itself the right to occupy the upper room, or hall, when it is not wanted for county purposes, free of rent, and if at any time the county vacate the premises, the property shall revert to the village of Glencoe." Signed, H. Wadsworth, C. R. Mims, Committee.

A committee of the whole was then appointed to the said lands or tracts and report and take action on same "at the present session of county commissioners."

The committee, H. Wadsworth and C. R. Mims, who presented the above proposition from the village of Glen made an additional proposition as

follows: “In the foregoing proposition we hereby rescind that portion reading as ‘and if at any time the county vacate the premises the proper shall revert to the village of Glencoe,’ and substitute for same, ‘provided if at any time the county shall dispose of said property, the village reserves to itself the right to have the proportional amount received from said sale returned the village treasury, and it is further agreed that the village will repair all damages done by them to the hall.’”

The following resolution was adopted on vote: Whereas; the village authorities of Glencoe have tendered to the county, grounds and cash to the value of \$2,500:00, to aid in constructing county buildings, and, whereas, the present expense to the county in furnishing county offices, and the unsafe condition of our county records, make it necessary to take immediate steps to better provide for the safe keeping of our records.

Be it resolved, the proposition made in writing and on file accepted with the annexed amended proposition rescinding it clause of the original proposition. Vote in favor: A. H. Reed, M. Severson, G. Thom, D. W. Johns; against: William Schultz.

May 10 [1876]. Full board present. The following resolution was adopted: “That the plans presented by Messrs. Bisbee and Bardwell of Minneapolis for a court house 48x70 feet, with six rooms below and two fire proof vaults 8x17 feet, court room above, with one jury room, be and is hereby adopted as the plans from which contract is to be let; that advertisements be inserted in the Glencoe Register and in the Pioneer Press and Tribune, in three issues, asking for sealed bids to be handed to the county auditor by June 1, 1876, for the furnishing and completing said building, both in wood and brick, according to plans and specifications on file with the county auditor.” June 1st sealed bids were opened for building of court house, and the bid of Bisbee and Bardwell “for the building of the court house in brick for \$8,000.00 and for vault for \$1,275.00” was accepted. William Schultz, George Thom and A. H. Reed were appointed to act as a building committee.

The estimate of taxes made for the year 1876 was: county revenue, \$1,100.00; roads, \$500.00; poor, \$500.00.

October 11, 1876, the building committee having several times reported progress on the court house, some changes from the original specifications

were recommended and adopted, involving an additional cost. The principal change was the substitution of “an iron roof in place of shingles” The additional work done amounted to a total of \$692 18. The total cost of court house as then completed was \$9,967.18, of which the village of Glencoe paid \$2,500 00 making the total cost to the county \$7,897.18. The report of the completion of building was made December 7, 1876. On resolution by the board the court house was insured for \$7,500.00 equally divided between three different companies.

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January session, 1880. Lewis Harrington became a member of the board of commissioners, Peter Rosch retiring. . . . The following resolution was offered by Mr. Harrington and adopted by the board: (1) Resolved that measures be taken to remodel and refit the court house hall with the view of making it more suitable and convenient for court purposes. (2) That the trustees of the village of Glencoe be invited to confer with the county commissioners at their rooms on the 6th day of January, 1881 . . . in relation to changes and improvements in the court house hall.

March 16, 1881. The committee to whom had been referred the proposed changes in the court house, made report recommending that “the platform in the hall be lowered to within eight inches of the floor and that the same be extended to a width of 20 feet, and that suitable seats be provided for the judge, jury, officers of the court and attorneys.” The report was adopted and a committee of three chosen to take charge of the matter, namely: Lewis Harrington, Louis Ahlbrecht and August Schlitz. April 22 the work was reported as completed. July 27, 1881. The board appropriated \$500 for the purpose of buying a site for a county jail, August Shlitz, John Kaspar and John Mulvanny being appointed a committee to purchase such site or lot, and “to take such further action as may be necessary” to the completion of such building. \$4,000.00 was appropriated to this purpose. The tax estimate for 1881 was: county revenue, \$8,000.00; county roads, \$1,500.00; county poor, \$1,500.00.

January, 1882. The commissioners were: John Mulvanny, dist. No. 1; H. F. Huntington, dist. No. 2; T. C. Arnold, dist. No. 3; John Kaspar, dist. No. 4; Lewis Harrington, dist. No. 5. E. B. Huntington, was appointed a committee to sell the McLeod county jail. . . . March 23. E. F. Huntington, committee, reported that he had sold the county jail to Louis Mingo for \$25.50 and turned the money into the county treasurer. The jail building committee

made report that they had let the contract for building the jail and sheriff's residence to Frank Barnard, of Le Sueur county for the sum of \$6,500.00, he being the lowest bidder.

January, 1883. . . . A proposition came up for heating the court house and jail with steam heat which was laid aside for consideration. . . .

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[January 1900] The board decided to put electric lights in the jail, Adolph Mielke, as committee on jail and court house, to inspect the work.

August 22 [1900]. The old jail and lot on which it stood (Lot 8, block 31, townsite of Glencoe), was sold for \$1,000.00 to Mary M. Wadel, she being the only bidder.

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