Steele County, Minnesota

This County is part of
The [MNGenWeb](#) and [The USGenWeb](#)®

Steele County Neighbors:
[Dodge](#) ~ [Freeborn](#) ~ [Goodhue](#) & [Mower](#) [Corners]
[Rice](#) ~ [Waseca](#)

Interested in another Minnesota County?
[Here is the List of Counties](#).

History ~ Biographies ~ Maps ~ What's New ~ Queries and Lookups ~ 'Old Steel County Files'

A little bit of History...

Minnesota was organized as a territory in 1849. Steele County was split February 20, 1855 from [Rice County](#). It remained attached to Rice County awhile for civil and judicial purposes. At that time, Steele County included all of [Waseca County](#) and later the eastern Steele townships were added from [Dodge County.](#)

Steele County Communities

Cities		
	Blooming Prairie	
Ellendale	Medford	Owatonna (Co seat)
Unincorporated Comm's		
Bixby	Hope	Merton
Clinton Falls	Lemond	Pratt
Deerfield	Litomysl	Saco
Havana	Meriden	Steele Center
Townships		
Aurora	Havana	Owatonna
Berlin	Lemond	Somerset
Blooming Prairie	Medford	Summit
Clinton Falls	Meriden	
Deerfield	Merton	
Ghost towns		
	Rice Lake	

Biographies ~ Books ~ Family Stories
"History of Rice and Steele Counties, Minnesota"
Compiled By: Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge [1881-1950]
Illustrated, Volume II,
Chicago: H C Cooper, Jr & Co, 1910
[The Index is Here](#) ~ Read Online or Download
|||~☺~|||

"History of Steele and Waseca Counties, Minnesota" :
an album of history and biography, history of Minnesota
Illustrated, Chicago: Union Publishing Company, 1887

The Index is Here ~ Read Online or Download
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"Who's Who in Minnesota"
1958: Centennial Edition
Lithographed in USA
Brown Printing Co., Waseca, Minn.
Read Online or Download
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"Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography "
by Wilson, James Grant, 1832-1914; Fiske, John, 1842-1901
Publication Date 1900
Note: Appleton's also contains bios for Native American Folk
Appleton Review ~ Archive.org [All Volumes]

The FS Wiki has a long list of Biographical Information for Minnesota / Use this link
|||~☺~|||

"American Women : The official who's who among the women of the nation"
by Howes, Durward, 1899-
Publication date, 1937 - V2
There are two interesting Indexes: Geographical, Occupational
There is one page of Necrology [Names, no Dates, A - K]
The Biographies are Alpha and split into Sections.
The Indexes are Here
Read Online or Download [Archive.org]
|||~☺~|||

"Compendium of History of Northern and Central Minnesota"
George A Ogle & Co., Chicago
Publishers, Engravers and Book Manufacturers, 1904
Read Online or Download
|||~☺~|||
I found one Family History in the FS 'Books' Section
"Tracks in Time"
A History of the Von Ruden, Lechner & Langrehr Families
By Mary Lampson, Woodinville, WA 98072
Printed in 1997

Miscellaneous Maps
Plat Maps for Steele County

1897 Plat Maps
The Plat Map File Indexes have been reformatted: Fully Searchable pdf Files:
Please Use These Links: Alpha by Township: Au-Cl ~ D-Med ~ Mer-Su
The Images for the Plats are here, linked to each Township.

Clinton Falls: 1879 Land Owners ~ Summit Twp. 1879 Land Owners ~ [Indexes courtesy of
John Haberman]

1927 Landowners of Record Combined [Indexes] ~ By Township: [courtesy of Ron Houghtelin of
Owatonna, 2004]

Interactive Geo Maps
Perry - Castaneda Collection ~ David Rumsey Collection
MN Department of Natural Resources ~ Railroad Maps
"NETR" Maps Online: Minnesota
Minnesota Plat Maps
Steele County GIS Interactive Mapping
From the Alabama Collection ~ Earthquake Fault Maps
UWM Libraries Digital Collections ~ Humnormalt State University Map Collection ~ Sanborn
Fire Insurance Maps ~ MapGoose
Surveyors Maps: 1850's [Base Maps] [Click on 'Download County' at left]
Maplandia for Minnesota

Queries, Mail Lists, Lookup Volunteers
Cyndi's List has a list of Sites that may be used for posting Queries

This is the Mail List for Minnesota: iogroups, Minnesota

Lookup Volunteers and "Help Wanted"
Types of Lookups: Obituaries ~ Books about Steele County
Military Records ~ City Directories
Please contact Martha if you have access to any of the above resources.
and...
Lookups & Free Digital Archival Newspapers
I have access to the following Subscription Databases and am happy to do limited lookups:
Heritage Hub ~ Access World News ~ LA Times ~ NY Times
Contact: Martha - MNGenWeb Volunteer

and... 'History Hub' = New Lookup Service
Search for Living People: Zaba Search
And RAOGK

<<<What's New>>>
>>>New<<<
31 May 2025

Also New... Tutorial on How to Search PDF Books and Publications on the Archive.org Site

"Minnesota Medical Magazine" [Archive Link]
Here is the Link at the Harvard Library, all of the Issues are linked to the Archive.org Site

Volume 17-25 (1897-1905) of *Northwestern Lancet*,
26-31 (1906-1911) of the *Journal of the Minnesota State Medical Association and Northwestern Lancet*,
32-43, 45, 48-84, 86-88 (1912-1923, 1925, 1928-1964, 1966-1968) of *Journal-Lancet*,
and
1-83 (1918-2000) of *Minnesota Medicine* are available online
Owned and Published by The Minnesota Medical Association

There are three 'Versions' beginning with the:
"Journal Lancet" [3 Issues]
"The Journal
Of The
Minnesota State Medicae Association
The Northwestern Lancet" [9 Issues]
Then the final Version:" Minnesota Medical Magazine" [Still in Publication]
These Magazines vary widely in Topic, but the baseline is Medical in Nature.
When I began digging into them I discovered a unique window into Minnesota's Medical History.
There Journal Articles about Diseases, Maladies, Surgical Procedures, along with the growth of
the Medical Industry.
There is such a wide variety, it was difficult to figure out what to share and leave the rest of the
information
for the Individual Researcher to glean.
I have parsed out the Indexes: Please use this Link
Along with the Indexes, there are Obituaries and Memorials.
Some of the Memorials were lenghty: They can be found Here

The Minnesota Medical Association has the Authority to prosecute persons who violate their
laws.
In almost every Volume there were Criminal Prosecutions.
Some of the Cases were included on the pages with the memoirals

Because there were dozens of Magazines to go thourgh, I created Yearly Sections of Information
Indexes, Medical Rosters, Memorials, Obituaries, Articles
1904 - 1650 ~ 1951 - 1960 ~ 1961 - 1970 ~ 1971 - 1975 ~ 1976 - 1999

Lastly, There were Histories of Medicine written for some Counties:
The Chart Below gives the Year when the Article was Written and the Name of The MN County
There are also Articles on Homeopathic Medicine, Lake Superior, Missabe Range, Pioneer Doctors .
Also a History of the MN Medical Association and Early MN Hospitals
Please Use This Link for the County Histories

Medical Directories:
"Medical and Surgical Directory
of The United States"
R L Polk & Co, Publishers,

Military Information is also included in these Books.
Such As...
Officers Of the Medical Department of the United States Army And Hospital Stewards.
Medical Corps of the United States Navy
Medical Officers Of the U. S. Marine Hospital Service.
Including Acting Assistant Surgeons And Hospital Stewards.

Note: There are more of these Directories for the following years: Scroll [Archive.org Site]
Years: 1886, 1890, 1893, 1896, 1898,1900, 1902, 1904, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912, 1917
The National Archives has a really nice set of digitized records that can be free accessed.
Please use this link for access.

The National Archives has a really nice set of digitized records that are free to view and download: Use This Link

"Old Steele County Files"
There was an interesting collection that Kathy put together:
4 Items Below were Labeled "New"
See Tom Brown's tax statements in Berlin Township - Contributed by: Karl Heuterman
1882 taxes (paid in 1883) in $8.70 - County Treasurer was J.H. Cansdell
1883 taxes (paid in 1884) in $25.39 - County Treasurer was S. Peterson
Tom Brown's Diary from 1871
||| ☺ |||
Steele County Resources: Miscellaneous Bios - listed by surname, contributed by various researchers
Bradley family of Ireland - Jerry Franck, Deceased.

Brain, Alice Irene [Daniels] (b.1863) Contributed by Jean
Lonergan family of Ireland - Jerry Franck, Deceased
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Census Information :
The Census Files were all reformatted:
Please use these Links, the Files are Static, they will not be changed, corrected or updated.
Census Headings: 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930
1860 Census: Surnames with Township Locations
1880: A-Z ~ 1900; A-Z ~ 1910: A-Z ~ 1920: A-Z ~ 1930: A-Z
Norwegians in Havana and Aurora Townships Data for Dates: 1857-1900 (offsite) - contact Christine Larson
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Marriage Records Index - Books A & B
These indexes have been reformatted: Please Use This Link ~ The File is a fully searchable pdf.
||| ☺ |||

Odds and Ends From the Old Steele County Pages
Norwegians (offsite) - Chris Larson's web site
Chris has focused on the community of Norwegian immigrants in Havana and Aurora

Townships, Steele County, Minnesota.Owatonna's City web site (offsite)

Post Card: 1907 - Mailed from Northwood (Iowa?) to Blooming Prairie, Steele co., MN to Miss Lella Thorson. (front - back)

Steel County Government web site(offsite)

Steele County Historical Society (offsite)

Steele Co. in the National Register of Historic Places (offsite)

Minnesota Newspaper Hub ~ Minnesota Genealogical Society