

MINN. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY OF VILLAGE OF NEWFOLDEN

The village of Newfolden is located in Newfolden township (156-44), Marshall County, Minnesota.

The first settlers began arriving in the township in the fall of 1882 when they filed on homesteads, but no permanent settlements were made until the spring of 1883. Nels Skarås built a house just south of the present village limits in the fall of 1882 but it was not occupied until the following spring. Others who came to the community in 1883 included Ole Lee, Brede Swenson, Ole Folden, Arnold Folden, Ole Hevle, Lars Mattson, Evert Schie, Erick Brandt, Nels Brandt, Hans Saugen, Mathias Hanson and Edward Nelson.

In 1884 the township was organized and named Folden in honor of Ole Folden, who had come from Foldalen in Norway. Soon after organization the name of the township was changed to Newfolden.

When the Soo Line Railway was extended from Thief River Falls northward through Marshall county in 1904 a townsite of eight blocks on the northeast corner of section 8 and the southeast quarter of section 5 was surveyed by J. R. Wood in October of the same year. Halberg's Addition was surveyed by county surveyor J. R. Mack on the northwest corner of section 9 in August 1906; blocks 9 to 14 in August 24, 1907 and Skaarås' Addition just south of the original townsite on November 23, 1907. The new village took the name of Newfolden from the township in which it is located.

Ole Kleppe built the first structure within the village limits in the fall of 1904, a store building now occupied by the Newfolden Mercantile Company. The largest store in the early days was the Hoberg and Erickson store built in 1904 on the site now occupied by the Marshall County Insur-

ance Company. The Johnson Hotel built the same year by O. B. Johnson has been operated by Mrs. Martha Johnson since the death of her husband in 1925.

The Farmers' State Bank was incorporated October 12, 1904. A second bank called the People's State Bank was incorporated July 7, 1915. About 1926 the two banks were merged under the name of the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank. This latter organization ceased to function June 1, 1927, since which time Newfolden has been without a bank.

Two elevators were built in the village in 1904; the Prairie Elevator with Albert Hole as manager and the Hanson & Barzen Elevator with Martin Schie as manager. The Prairie Elevator is now owned by the Farmers & Merchants Elevator Company.

A lumber yard was established in 1904 with a Mr. Gates as manager. Julius Field was the first station agent. Other enterprises established in 1904 were the Stamnes Hotel, the Aasen Restaurant, a blacksmith shop owned by Alfred Sheveland, and a Drug Store owned by Bertil Bakke.

A cooperative creamery was established in 1906 with Frank A. Pace as operator. This institution now also operates a gasoline filling station and handles flour, feed, salt, cheese, poultry and eggs. Last year they manufactured 163,456 pounds of butter.

A saw mill was operated by Jacob Elstad about a mile south of the village in 1906.

The first schoolhouse was a one room frame building located about a half mile south of the village. It was built about 1888, and the first teacher was Miss Anna Ahibers. This building was sold to the Bethlehem Lutheran Free Church congregation in 1908 and a two room concrete building was

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Johnson, secretary, and H. E. Myhre, treasurer

A petition signed by Olaf T. Nelson and other praying that the village of Newfolden be incorporated was approved by the board of county commissioners on January 4, 1916. H. E. Myhre, Carl Hanson and Alfred Johnson were appointed inspectors to call an election to be held on February 1, 1916 at the Opera House to vote for or against incorporation. The proposition carried and temporary officers were elected as follows: E. M. Wilson, president; Alfred Johnson, recorder; H. M. Hanson, treasurer; Sam O. Lee, Carl Hanson and John H. Olson, trustees; O. T. Johnson and George Hovig were appointed judges to serve at the spring election on March 14, 1916. At this election the following officers were elected: Carl Hanson, president; Alfred Johnson, clerk; Henry M. Hanson, treasurer; Sam O. Lee, Ole Tvedt and H. E. Myhre, trustees; John H. Johnson and Dr. George L. Johnson, Justices of the Peace; Julius Johnson and Henning Peterson, constables.

A light plant was installed

by John H. Olson and others in 1914. On October 30, 1916 an election was held to vote on the proposition to issue \$3,500 of village bonds to buy the electric light plant. It carried by a vote of 35 to 10. Lot 6 in block 4 was purchased and on June 25, 1918 the bid of O. M. Knutson to erect a brick building to house the village light plant was accepted. The village council also voted to pay the Newfolden Auto Company half the cost of a well to provide the village a water supply. On April 30, 1921 an election was held to vote on a bond issue of \$13,000 to improve the light plant. The vote was 56 to 5 in favor of the proposition. On May 23, 1921 the village contracted with the Minnesota Electric Distributing Company to rebuild the electric system and to furnish power and light for the village. A new contract was entered into on February 4 1935 with the Interstate Power Company for a period of ten years.

In 1906 a Mr. Haines began the publication of a paper in the village called the Newfolden Review. Later editors were Albert Bakke, E. L. Grimstad and R. Wilson. In the late twenties the Review was discontinued but under a new management a four page newspaper, The Newfolden Clarion, was established in 1932. The present editor is N. L. Johnson.

There are two churches in Newfolden, the Bethlehem Lutheran Free Church which was organized in 1906 and the Mission Church organized in 1905. A Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1896 but was discontinued about 1925.

The present officers of the village of Newfolden are H. H. Amundson, president; C. O. Bjornrud, recorder; A. R. Filbrant, treasurer; Alfred Johnson, Martin Smeby and Norman Johnson, trustees; Dr. George L. Johnson and A. F. Anderson, Justices of the Peace; Oscar Sorenson and P. J. Anderson, constables; Carl Hanson, assessor.

—Gladys Lincoln