

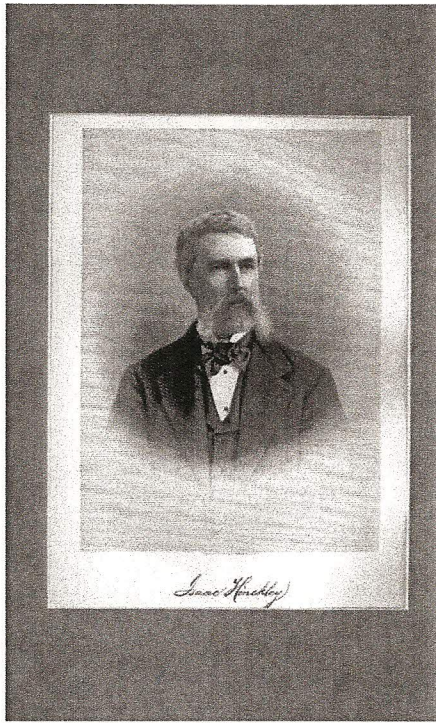


Historic Hinckley Tour

May 19, 2010

Hosted By

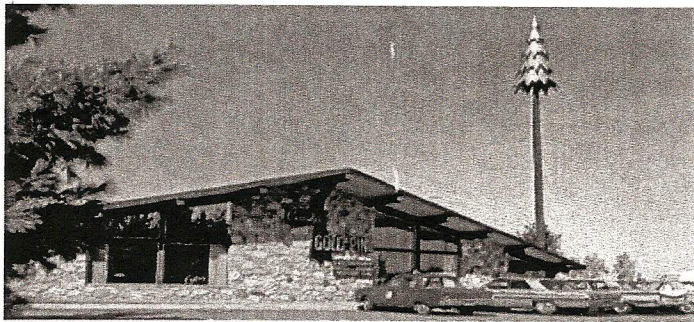
PINE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Welcome to our town! Hinckley Minnesota was named after Isaac Hinckley, a stockholder of the St. Paul and Duluth RR. He was also president of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore RR.

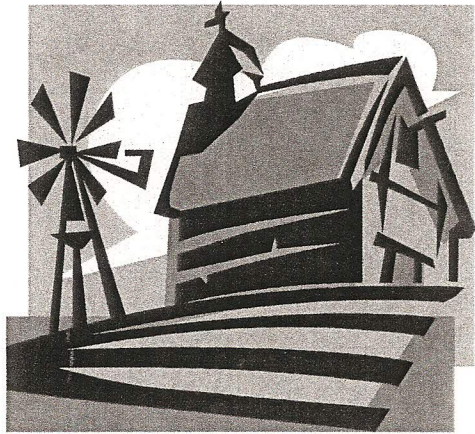
Previously known as Central Station, the village was incorporated on November 23, 1885.

Railroading and logging were the main occupations before the Great Hinckley Fire. Once the trees were gone, the settlers turned to agriculture to make a living.

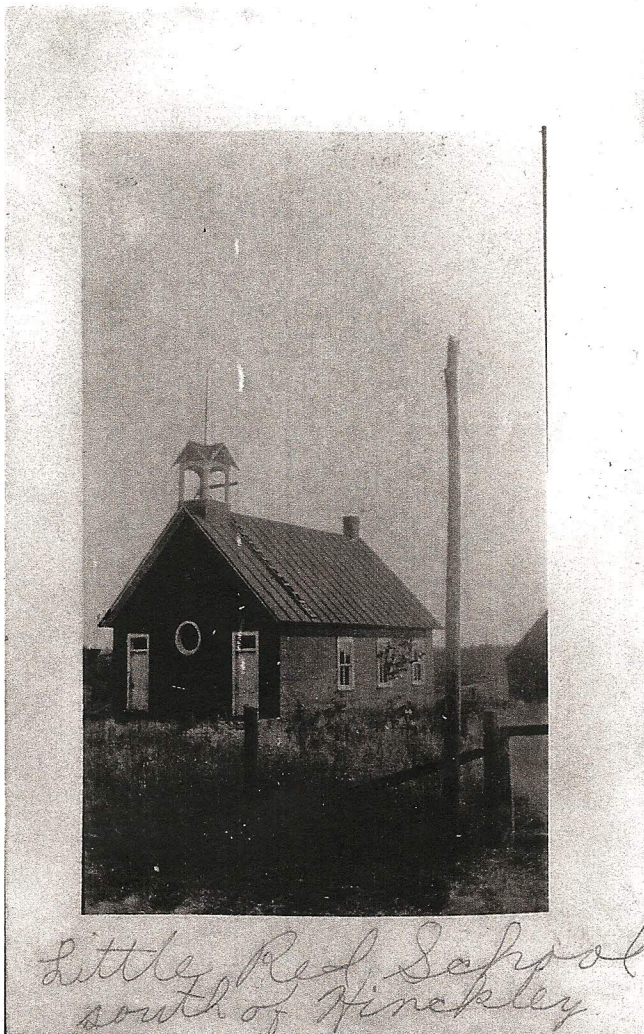


The first Cassidy's café was in the Oddfellows building on the NE corner of Hwy 61 and Main Street. Opening in 1921, it was operated by Frank and "Ma" Cassidy. In 1927 the Cassidys constructed their own hotel and restaurant located just a half block south of their original café. It was named "Mother Cassidy's Café."

During the Great Depression Ma was often asked to provide a free meal to people who were needy. Ma's kindness and cheerfulness were wellknown in the community. This reputation continued throughout her life. After Frank died in 1935, Mother Cassidy and her daughters continued in the business until 1945. The business was sold to Fred and Maisie Clark after Ma's passing in 1947. The Clarks moved the restaurant one last time. In 1964 they constructed a complex close to the newly completed interstate 35 freeway interchange. The Welcher family have owned and operated Cassidy's since 1970.



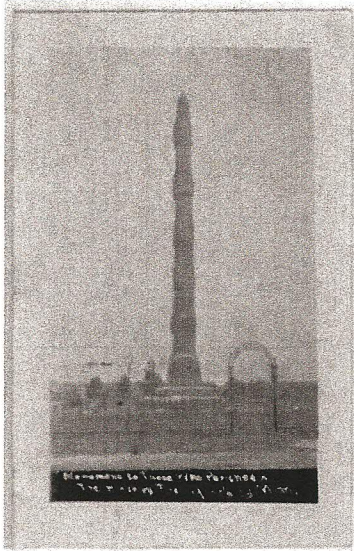
The Pine County commissioners originally tried to locate a facility for indigent people here in 1904, but failed. However, in 1918 they were successful. The Pine County Poor Farm was established in 1918 on 280 acres one and a half miles east of Hinckley. The building you see now contained 25 rooms for residents. There was also a barn and some outbuildings, but those are gone now. The farm was originally self-sufficient, but was discontinued in 1942. The building has since been used as apartments, a home for the mentally handicapped and a real estate office. It is currently a private residence.



*Little Red School
south of Hinckley*



On the Obey property stand the remains of the District 44 schoolhouse. This school district operated from 1900-1954. It was known as the Munch School. It also had 2 other nicknames—the Little Red Schoolhouse and also the Kubesh school. The original building was torn down in 1924 and replaced with a larger school.



On April 7, 1899 a bill passed in the Minnesota legislature that appropriated \$2500 for a monument dedicated to the victims of the Hinckley Fire. It is made of St. Cloud granite(the quarry in Sandstone was a little miffed about that!). It is 12 feet wide at the base, 51 feet 9 inches tall, and weighs 60 tons. A dedication service was held September 1, 1900, exactly 6 years after the fire.

The 4 trenches in the chained area contain 248 victims who perished that day.

Just a couple years ago the Veteran's Memorial was added to the cemetery.

The Fire Monument has been in need of repair for many years. Just this year the legislature authorized funds for its maintenance. The work is scheduled to be done this summer.

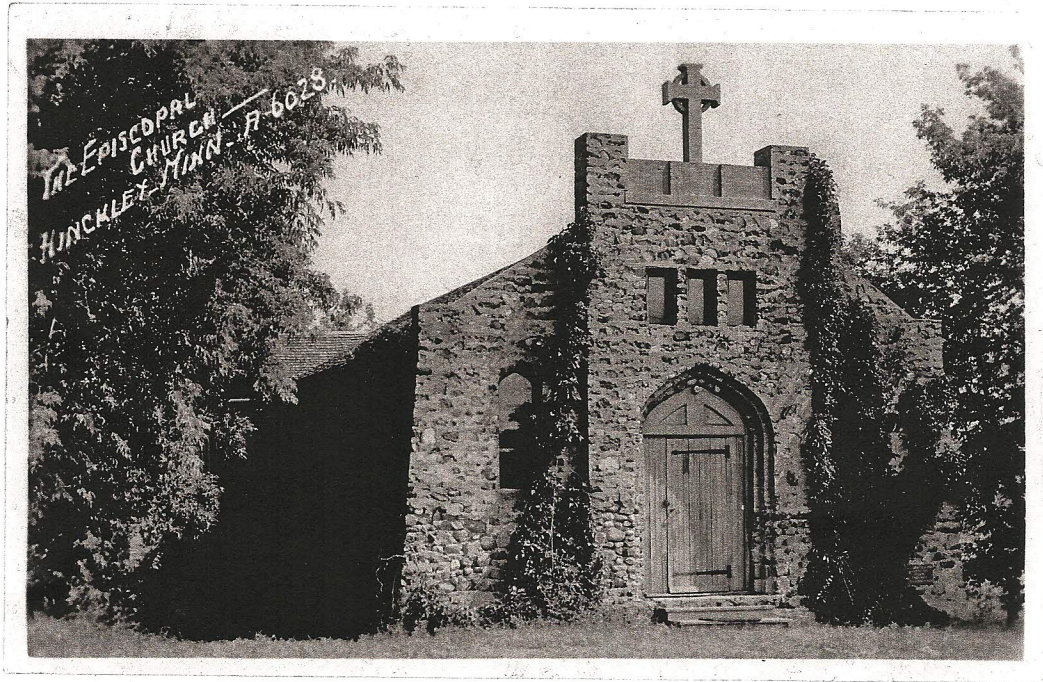


On the south side of Hwy. 48 is the Rose Hill Cemetery. In the SE corner of the property lies "Potter's Field". The residents of the Poor Farm who passed away are buried here. They either had no family or no money to pay for a funeral. Pine County paid for their burial. All of these approximately 40 graves have been unmarked until just last week. A stone was laid to mark the final resting place of Mr. Russell. A descendant doing family research discovered their ancestor's final resting place and wanted to recognize him. Mr. Russell was also in the Civil War and the American Legion has placed a flag on his grave.



The cornerstone for the Trinity Episcopal church was laid in October of 1919. The building was originally entirely fieldstone construction, but now stucco covers the top section. An addition to the east was recently added.

In the 1960's, the basement was used for kindergarten school rooms.



This building was originally known as the Cottage Hotel. It was constructed shortly after the fire. Henry Coffin and his wife "Ma" Coffin took over operation in 1908 and renamed it the Coffin Hotel. Ma Coffin was famous for her chicken dinners-she raised the birds in her own backyard! Would you dare ask for lodging in this establishment on Halloween?

404 2nd St SE is where the best mother-in-law in the whole world lives! It is one of the oldest residences in Hinckley. Originally built by a lawyer, this home is bordered by the undertaker's house on the east side and the banker's house on the west side. Across the street on the east side of "the Pit" are 2 large homes that were built by local businessmen. So this was the affluent section of town in years past.

For the past 18 years Florence and her friends have hosted an annual craft show in her home. On opening weekend of deer hunting local crafters fill the downstairs with items to sell. It has become a Hinckley tradition.

Across the street from Florence's house is the area known locally as "the Pit." The Great Northern Co. had dug gravel here to level its roadbed when it was laying track in the area. A spring kept water in the excavation. Hinckley residents at the time complained that it was an eyesore to the community. It contained about 3 feet of water. On Sept. 1, 1894 it saved the lives of about 100 people, plus animals that found refuge there. It is speculated that the whole population of Hinckley could have survived in the gravel pit if they had gone there.





If you look SW of the pit you will see a small dwelling that is an original relief house. It was constructed right after the fire with funds from the Relief Committee. The basic plan was for a simple frame house 16x24 feet in size. The house was one or one and a half stories, depending on the size of the family. A lean-to could be added for exceptionally large families. They were equipped with simple furniture and household items, tools and hardware, along with a 3 month supply of groceries.

There are several other original relief houses still standing in Hinckley and other towns. A furnished replica of a relief house has been built on the fire museum grounds and will be open to the public soon.