

MORRISON COUNTY

STATISTICAL DATA

Organization

Morrison County was organized by an act of the territorial legislature, approved February 25, 1856. It was named in honor of Allen and William Morrison, fur traders.

The first county election was held on April 14, 1856, with three County Commissioners elected. Currently, five commissioners form the Morrison County Board of County Commissioners.

That portion of the county on the west side of the Mississippi River was part of Todd County until 1864 when, by general election, it was attached to and became part of Morrison County.

Population Statistics

Morrison County population statistics by year:

1860 ~ 618	1950 ~ 25,832
1870 ~ 1,681	1960 ~ 26,641
1880 ~ 5,875	1970 ~ 26,949
1890 ~ 13,325	1980 ~ 29,311
1900 ~ 22,891	1990 ~ 29,604
1910 ~ 24,053	2000 ~ 31,712
1920 ~ 25,841	2006 ~ 32,919
1930 ~ 25,442	
1940 ~ 27,473	

Little Falls (City) population statistics by selected year:

1860 ~ 247	1950 ~ 6,717
1880 ~ 508	1960 ~ 7,551
1890 ~ 2,354	1970 ~ 7,467
1895 ~ 5,116	1980 ~ 7,250
1900 ~ 5,774	1990 ~ 7,232
1910 ~ 6,078	2000 ~ 7,719
1920 ~ 5,500	2005 ~ 8,139
1930 ~ 5,014	
1940 ~ 6,047	

Ethnic Diversity

Morrison County includes a mix of many nationalities with no major ethnic group in majority, however, the main population is composed of descendents of white Europeans or American Europeans. English, French-Canadian, German, Polish, and Scandanavian nationalities comprise the major groups of immigrants who settled in Morrison County. Some of these groups are localized in certain areas of the county: i.e., French-Canadians settled primarily in Belle Prairie Township; Polish and Germans settled in the Rich Prairie area on the east, and the Two Rivers Township area on the west; Scandanavians settled in the Elmdale, Upsala, and Freedhem areas, and also in the north-western corner of the county. Native American Indians (primarily Ojibway or Chippewa) and Afro-American peoples presently reside in the county, but these ethnic groups are present in small numbers. Several other nationalities, too numerous to mention, are represented among the Morrison County populace.

Industry & Agriculture

Historically, the timber/lumber industry was the economic mainstay for the county during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, along with agriculture. As the timber supply became depleted by c. 1920, various manufacturing industries began to play a greater economic role. Today, two boat works and a paper mill are but a few of the industries of Morrison County. With the return of timber supplies, the cord-wood industry plays an economic role in the county.

Geography

❖ Morrison County reaches "about 41 miles from east to west". The county area is approximately 719,593.26 acres.

❖ The original natural topography was flat to rolling woodland intermingled with prairie openings.

❖ The county has 30 townships, with 13 on the west side of the Mississippi River, and 17 on the east side.

❖ Besides the Mississippi River (and the Crow Wing River that borders the NNW side of the county), Morrison County has the following rivers and streams: Platte, Little Elk, Swan, North and South Two Rivers. Creeks or brooks include: Rice, Skunk, Buckman, Little Rock, Pike, Hay and Spunk.

❖ Major lakes within the county include: Alexander, Fish Trap, Shamineau, Platte, Sullivan, Rice, Skunk, Green Prairie Fish, Pierz Fish, Cedar, and Round Lakes.

❖ The county is serviced by the Burlington Northern Railroad (includes old Northern Pacific).

❖ U.S. Highways 10 and 371, and State Highways 25, 27, 28, and 238 are the major roads.

❖ Little Falls (City) is the county seat. Other villages, towns, or cities within Morrison County are Bowlus, Buckman, Cushing, Elmdale, Flensburg, Freedhem, Genola, Harding, Hillman, Lastrup, Little Rock, Morrill, Motley, Pierz, Ramey, Randall, Royalton, Sobieski, Swanville, and Upsala.

Agriculture directly led to settlement of rural Morrison County. Approximately 60% of the county's gross income is from agricultural production. As of the 1990s, Morrison County had between 3,200 and 3,300 farms.