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## **Chippewa County, Minnesota** p. 86

One of the very first Norwegians in this county was Ole G. Heen from Vang, Valdres. He writes from Maynard, where he has lived for 47 years, since he came there in 1857.

Further west - in the vicinity of Montevideo and Watson, these were the first: Ole Jacobsen Haugland from Bøe, Telemarken, Hans Halvorsen from Hadeland, Knut Angrimsen from Sætersdalen, Ole F. Roe from Tønsberg, as well as Hans Gulden, Ole Svennungsen and Angrim Knutsen, who settled there in 1867. They lived in dugouts until they were in a position to build proper houses, or as one of the oldtimers says in his travel account, "- - and then on the wild prairie, where we dug ourselves into a gravel pile." Wheat growing became the county's main source of income.

Immanuel Congregation, that was established at Watson in 1870 by Pastor L. J. Markhus, belonging to The Norwegian Synod, was the first Norwegian congregation in the county. Its church was built in 1876. The same year, Zion church was built in Tunsberg Township, it was also Synod people who built it. Now there are 19 Norwegian churches and 20 congregations, 11 belong to The United Church, 5 to The Norwegian Synod, 2 to the Methodists, 1 to the Baptists and 1 to The Lutheran Free Church.

The first Norwegian county officials were Ole Torgersen Rød and Oliver Helgesen, County Commissioners, Ole Overson, Sheriff and Iver Knudsen, Registrar of Deeds - they were elected in 1869.

Ole O. Lien from Røldal was the first Norwegian to represent the Chippewa County in the State Legislature, in 1878.

Townships with Norwegian names: Mandt, Kragerø and Tunsberg (Tønsberg). Post offices with Norwegian names; Seljord, Kragerø, Risør, Tunsberg, Kalmia, Hagan (Hagen) and Wegdahl. Only the last two exist now.

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