

## **HISTORY OF CRYSTAL**

The origins of the City of Crystal date back to the 1850's when the third territorial legislature of the Territory of Minnesota established the County of Hennepin.

Much of the land west of the Mississippi had not been surveyed or recorded, but one of the first areas surveyed was Township No. 118 Range 21 West of the 5th Principal Meridian. Most of the property in the present day City lies within this original township.

Bounded on the north by the Town of Brooklyn, the west by the Town of Plymouth, on the east by the Mississippi River, the Township extended as far south as approximately the present day Lake Street in Minneapolis.

In 1860, the County authorized the formation of Crystal Lake Township taking two tiers of sections from the Town of Brooklyn on the north and two tiers from the Town of Minneapolis on the south.

The new township then extended from the Town of Brooklyn on the north, to the Town of Minneapolis, by the Mississippi River on the east and the Town of Plymouth on the west.

As Minneapolis grew, incorporating into a city in 1866, it gradually took some of the rural areas of the Crystal Lake Township, such as the eastern most sections along the Mississippi River, the present Camden area. Also during the period between 1866 and 1887, the Town of Golden Valley was formed, taking a portion of the western area of the township.

From the first settler, John Ware Dow (1852) to 1887 the Township grew to a population of 587. At this time the Village of Crystal was incorporated, consisting of 18 sections of land still bounded on the north and west by the Towns of Brooklyn and Plymouth but cut considerably in size by the growth of Minneapolis and the establishment of Golden Valley.

The first election was held on March 8, 1887 with Arthur Sanborn chosen president and Thomas Gearty, J.H. White and Phillip Kuch, trustees. The first assessor was Thomas Kirkwood, the recorder, N.R. Russ; the treasurer, J.B. Johnson; and the Justices of Peace, D.C. Crandall and H.R. Stillman. Charles Hommes was the first Constable.