

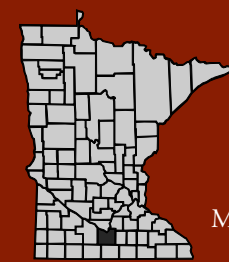
The Red Jacket Valley is located in Blue Earth County, the heart of southern Minnesota. With its wooded rolling hills and meandering rivers, this historic valley has endured many changes over the past 150 years. Early Native Americans saw the arrival of the French fur traders and later white settlers from the East. European settlers brought about changes to the quiet river valley. Farmers cleared the land to develop agriculture. Businessmen built flour mills and saw mills. Covered wagons became a common sight as they followed the Indian trails south of Mankato through the Red Jacket Valley to the prairie. Soon the sound of the steam locomotive could be heard from miles around as it traveled through this scenic valley.

Let your imagination wander back in time as the stories and pictures recreate an era when the first trains traveled through the countryside and school children played at the Indian Lake schoolhouse. The old pioneers have since passed on, but their stories are longing to be told.

Few of the original historic structures exist today. In some cases, our only reminder is a small marker on the side of the road or the crumbling remnants of an old bridge. This book is an attempt to preserve the rich history of the Red Jacket Valley, one of many historical regions of Minnesota's vast heritage.



Indian Lake School, ca.1911



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