

CHISAGO COUNTY FACTS: Did You Know?

Chisago County celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 2001

- Webster's Dictionary defines 'Sesqui' as one and a half. 'Centennial' means 100th anniversary. 'Sesquicentennial' is a 150th anniversary or celebration.
- A petition requesting the separation of a new county from Northern Washington County and presented to the Minnesota Territorial Legislature started circulating from committee to committee on October 2, 1849.
- Some difficulty arose as to the name. The writer had proposed "Chi-sa-ga." This Indian name was ridiculed, and Hamilton, Jackson, Franklin and Jefferson were in turn proposed. The committee of the whole finally reported in favor of the name, but the legislature, in passing the bill for our county organization, by clerical or typographical error changed the last 'a' in 'saga' to 'o', which, having become the law, has not been changed.
- Legislation establishing Chisago County was passed March 1851; therefore 2001 is the Sesquicentennial of this County.
- Chisago Counties first board of county officers was elected on October 14, 1851. The general election was held in Taylors Falls in the Chisago House, a restaurant, where only 23 people were present to cast their votes.
- Original commissioners chosen were Samuel Thomson, N. C. D. Taylor, and Thomas F. Morton. F. W. Abbott was chosen as register of deeds and W. H. C. Folsom was selected as the first county treasurer.
- The actual organization of Chisago County took place in January 1852.
- The first meeting of the commissioners was held on January 5, 1852, in the Taylors Falls office of N. C. D. Taylor, and Taylors Falls was designated as the official county seat.
- The northern boundary of Chisago County stretched to what is now called Itasca County.
- In 1854, Pine County was separated from Chisago County, although it remained attached for judicial purposes until 1872.
- In 1861 county voters chose Chisago City as the new county seat and the courthouse was moved to this location.
- In 1875 another election saw the county seat transferred the Center City and in January 1876, the courthouse was moved to the present location.