

Sketch of Pierce County

By Oliver Gibbs, Jr., and C. E. Young

Pierce county lies immediately south of the 45th parallel of north latitude, between the 92d and 93d degrees of longitude west from Greenwich, and is, consequently, west of the Fourth Principal Meridian. It is bounded on the north by St. Croix county, east by Dunn, south by Dunn, Lake Pepin and the Mississippi river, and west by the Mississippi and Lake St. Croix. Its boundaries secure to it the longest navigable water front of any county of its size in the State. The surface generally has a south-western slope, and is diversified by rolling prairies, bluffs and intervalles, with groves and forests of excellent and beautiful timber. It is watered by several streams flowing into the St. Croix, Chippewa and Mississippi.

Pierce county, though bounded by two lakes of surpassing beauty, (St. Croix and Lake Pepin,) has none within its own limits, or marks indicating their former existence. Its scenery, however, forms a view of ever-varying magnificence and beauty. The abrading forces which have changed its original features, have scooped out broad valleys, leaving as boundaries on every side rounded and graceful mounds, towering above the general surface from seventy to eighty feet. These mounds really occupy but a small portion of the surface, although from their number, a first view would give a different impression. Seen in the summer months, their tops covered with groves of timber, and their sides with rank and