



- 1) What was the name of the first steamboat to travel on the Minnesota River in 1850?
- 2) Which treaty was signed between whites and Indians near St. Peter in 1851?
- 3) Mankato was first settled in what month and year?
- 4) Who built the first log cabin in Mankato?
- 5) Who were Mankato's "founding fathers"?
- 6) Who came up with the name "Mankato"?
- 7) What did the name "Mankato" mean?
- 8) Who were the original inhabitants of the Mankato area?
- 9) Where was the center of the original townsite located?
- 10) Why was the townsite relocated?
- 11) What was the Native American name given to the river that Mankato was built beside?
- 12) What was the European name originally given to the same river?
- 13) Where did Mankato's founders come from?
- 14) What were their occupations?
- 15) What means of transportation was used to bring the first settlers to Mankato?
- 16) When did the Dodd Road first open?
- 17) What was the significance of this road?
- 18) Name Mankato's first hotel built in 1853.

- 1) The *Anthony Wayne* was the first steamboat to travel on the Minnesota River. In the early summer of 1850, Captain Able brought his steamboat up the Mississippi River from St. Louis and docked in St. Paul. He had long dreamed of taking his boat upstream on the Minnesota River, southwest of Fort Snelling; but until this point, no one had attempted such a feat. The Minnesota River was notorious for its sandbars and tree snags that could severely damage a steamboat or send it to the bottom. With the urging of some of his passengers, Captain Able decided to make an attempt. In his first trip, the *Anthony Wayne* made it as far upstream on the Minnesota as the present town of Carver. Later that summer, Able tried again; this time he made it as far as three miles south of the present town of Mankato. It was on this second trip that Parsons King Johnson and Henry Jackson caught their first glimpse of the location of their future townsite.¹

In his *History of the Minnesota Valley*, the Reverend Edward D. Neill recounted the story differently. According to his account, Johnson was aboard the excursion steamboat *Yankee*, when he first laid eyes on the future townsite of Mankato. There was no mention of Jackson being present.² The *Yankee* made its trip up the Minnesota River one week after the *Anthony Wayne* made its second voyage. Neill's dates were precise, the *Anthony Wayne* made its first trip in June 1850. The second trip was begun on July 18. The *Yankee* sailed on July 22, taking advantage of the unusually high water that year.³

- 2) There were two treaties signed between whites and Indians in 1851. The one signed near St. Peter on July 23, 1851, was the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. The other treaty, signed in early August, was the Treaty of Mendota. Altogether, over 24,000,000 acres of land were ceded by the Indians to the United States government in exchange for two reservations along the Minnesota River and \$3,075,000 in cash and annuities over a span of fifty years. Each reservation was approximately seven miles long and twenty-five miles wide. It was the violation of these treaty obligations on the part of the U. S. government, as well as

¹Mabel Ulrich, John G. Rockwell and Parker T. Van de Mark, Minnesota County Histories Series: Blue Earth County, (Minnesota Federal Writers' Project, 1938), 11-12.

²Edward D. Neill and Charles S. Bryant, History of the Minnesota Valley, Including the Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota and History of the Sioux Massacre, (Minneapolis: North Star Publishing Company, 1882), 537.

³*Ibid.*, 165.