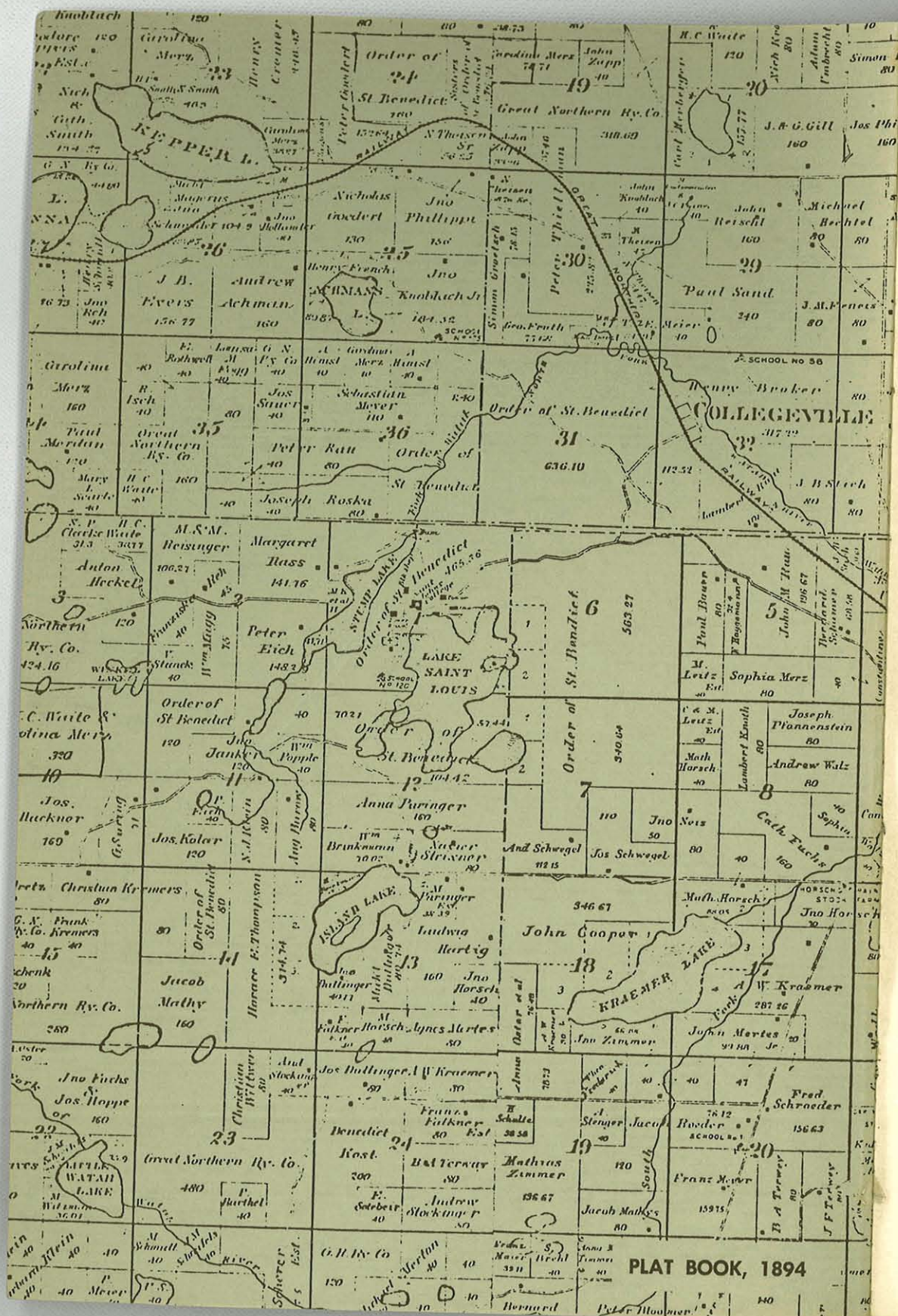




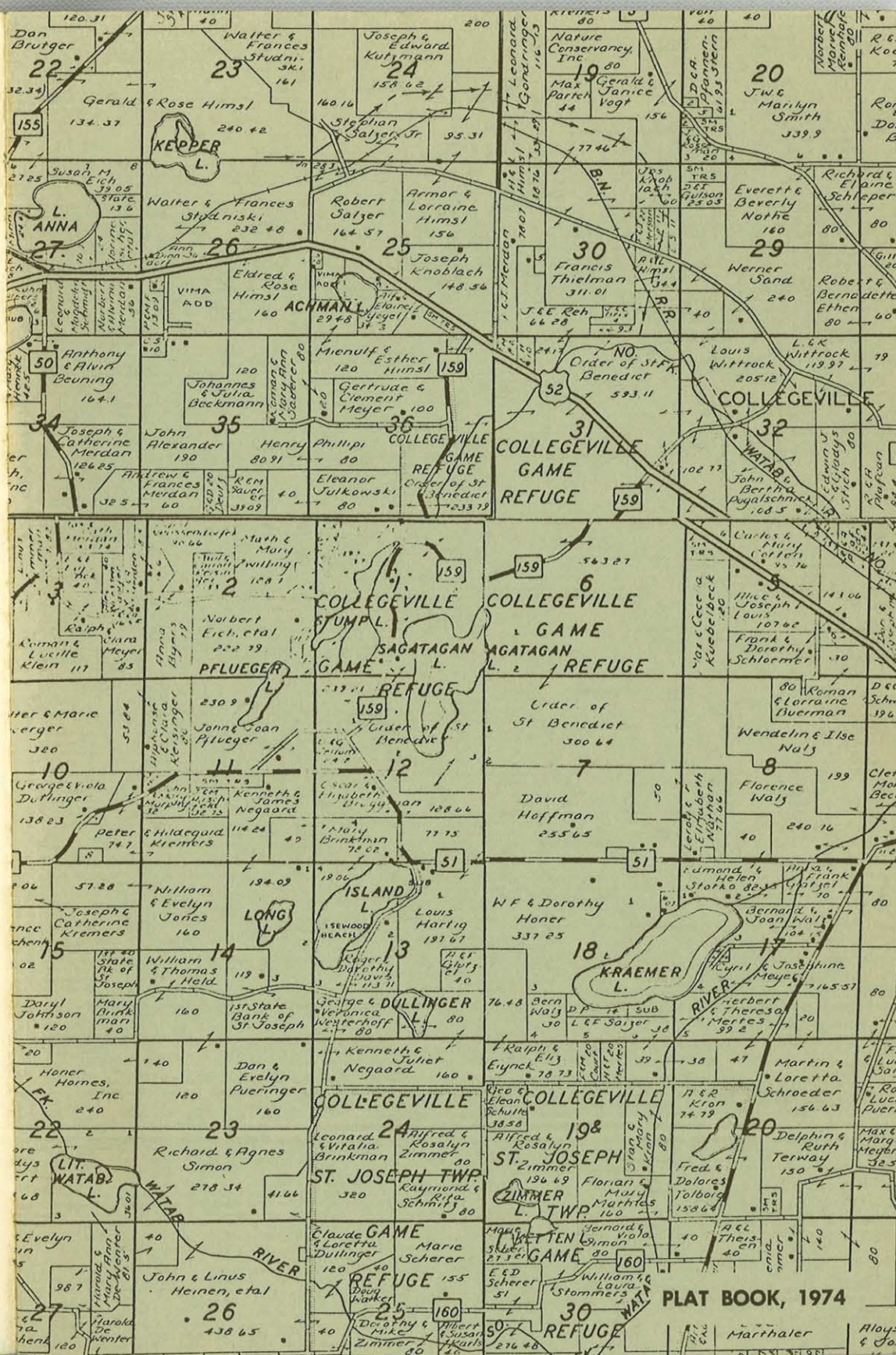
# Stones and Hills

Steine und Hügel













## Stones and Hills

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# Stones and Hills

*Steine und Huegel*

Reflections: St. John the  
Baptist Parish: 1875-1975

Collegeville

Minnesota

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Collegeville, Minnesota 56321.

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## FOREWORD

Many St. John the Baptist parishioners authored this book. In mid-1973, in its initial planning sessions for the centennial celebration, the parish council commissioned that a history of the parish be prepared. What resulted here two years later is not a detailed history of the parish from 1875 to 1975; rather it is an accounting of major events of that century's parish life and more importantly a reflection through anecdotes and photos of the flavor of that life.

Many anecdotes were gleaned from seventy tapes of "oral history" collected from old-timers and long-term parishioners. Other stories and a wealth of data originated from two unpublished manuscripts, *Natural History of Collegeville, Minnesota* and *History of St. John's Abbey, University, Missions*, written by the late Fr. Alexius Hoffmann, OSB, who, upon retiring to the abbey in the 1930's, penned in longhand these volumes concerning the work of the St. John's monks and the pattern of life in central Stearns County parishes from the 1850's to his retirement. The Sunday bulletins offered other reflections of the Collegeville parish (data cited by an \* following a date comes from this weekly chronicle). Most of the photos originated from the St. John's Abbey archives and the parishioners' family albums.

To acknowledge directly those who authored *Stones and Hills* would demand that a significant segment of the parish roster be duplicated. Perhaps it will suffice to acknowledge the diligence, time, and expertise of all who contributed to the research and writing of this book.

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## Stones and Hills



- 1849 Minnesota Territory established.
- 1856 Benedictines arrived in Minnesota. Free school opened in Stearns County.
- 1857 Bill No. 70 of Minnesota's Eighth Legislative Session incorporated the St. John's Seminary.
- 1867 Abbot Rupert Seidenbusch, OSB, St. John's first abbot, blessed on June 2.
- 1875 Pope Pius IX created Archbishop James Gibbons of Baltimore as first American cardinal.
- 1875 Vicariate Apostolic of Northern Minnesota established on February 12.
- 1875 Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, OSB, St. John's second abbot, blessed on October 24.
- 1875 St. John the Baptist Parish established on December 12.
- 1895 English began to replace German in parish announcements.