

[*Photo of white frame church*] The other pillar of the community was the white frame Presbyterian Church built in 1876. [*Photo of Knowles family*] The Reverend Robert Knowles, seen here with his family, was its minister until 1890. [*Photo of manse*] A large brick house was purchased from Thaddeus Marshall in 1878 for a manse. [*Photo of choir*] This photo of the church choir was taken in 1905. In the 1950s, Blakeney's congregation was combined with those of Pakenham and Cedar Hill under the Pakenham pastoral charge, and as membership declined the congregation voted to close the church in 1968. [*Photo*] The decision was made in 1970 to demolish the church rather than let it fall into disrepair. The manse was sold in 1950 and is now [*photo*] a private residence.

Blakeney's residents were hard working, [*photo of boys fishing*] but recreation was an important part of community life. [*Picnic photo*] This picnic took place in 1890, [*Lacrosse team photo*] and here is the Rosebank lacrosse team of 1893. [*Tennis photo*] Tennis was also popular. This game took place at the manse in 1910.

[*Photos of Blakeney today, houses and streets*] Today, Blakeney is an attractive residential community. [*Photo of swimming hole and swimmers*] The swimming hole is in the same spot that it has always been, [*photos of park, bridges*] close to a beautiful park with quaint wooden bridges beside the rushing rapids of the Mississippi. [*Photos of street signs*] The names of its streets echo some of its past. But the visitors that pass through, admiring the natural beauty of the hamlet have no idea of the thriving industrial community that stood here at the turn of the twentieth century.