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### Shoemaker, Waite Almon (1860 - )

Tresa Gruber

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SHOEMAKER, WAITE ALMON

File No. B-1226

Waite Almon Shoemaker, is known as one of the leading educators in Minnesota and has been for many years a resident of St. Cloud where he has been engaged in educational work for nearly twenty years. He is a son of Achsa Waite Shoemaker, grand daughter of one of the early settlers on the western reserve, and Abraham Shoemaker, a descendant from the Pennsylvania family of that name. Abraham Shoemaker was for over fifty years a minister of the Disciple of Christ. W. A. Shoemaker was born in 1860, on a farm at Mentor Plain near Willoughby, Ohio. When he was but three years of age his parents came to Minnesota, settling near Plainview, but in 1870 removed to Stearns county. He received his early education in the country schools. In 1872 he first attended the Normal school at St. Cloud, enrolling in the model school. He had a hard struggle to secure his education and was obliged to do manual labor at times to earn the money necessary for his expenses. He taught his first year when but fifteen, and earned enough to spend a year in the Normal school. He then taught for several years in the country districts. He re-entered the Normal school in 1878 and was graduated in 1880, from the elementary course, and was valedictorian of the class, and also class orator. He then entered the advanced course and was graduated in 1881. While a student he taught some of the classes in mathematics and upon graduation received a place on the faculty of the school, serving as principal of the grammar grade in the model school, and was also a critic teacher. The second year he became principal of the preparatory department and again served as a critic teacher. The following year saw him advancing in his work. He filled the position for several years of general assistant, but

finally settled upon mathematics and methods as his favorites. Mr. Shoemaker decided that a course in graduate work would be of benefit and secured leave of absence and entered New York University; in 1897 he received the degree of Master of Pedagogy, and in 1898 that of Doctor of Pedagogy. Doctor Shoemaker then resumed his work at the Normal school, but in 1900 he was elected superintendent of city schools at St. Cloud, which position he now fills. He has been engaged in furthering the higher education of teachers for a number of years. He has taken special interest in summer school work, and has been conductor of over a dozen summer schools in this and neighboring states, and has also conducted classes at numerous teachers' institutes. He has been a deep student of psychology, metaphysics, and methodology, and with Miss Isabel Lawrence, also a worker among educational lines, published a text book known as "The Practical Arithmetic." Doctor Shoemaker is a member of the Minnesota Educational Association and served as president of that body during 1899. He was married in 1884 to Miss Louise Polley and they have two children, Isabel and John.