

# Minor Sweet



## Heritage

Douglas County Historical Society

by David J. Moon

In 1904 the main modes of transportation for Alexandrians were the horse, Model-T and the train. The main means of protection was the local constable. Minor Sweet helped with both of these.

At the turn of the century, he worked for the railroad. It was his job to start the water pump for the water towers so the train crew could fill the train's water tanks.

A few years later he became the local constable. And when Alexandria was incorporated in 1907, he was named the town's first police chief.

In 1935, Sweet was called from his home near City Park to an accident near what is now Payless-Liquors. A car driven by Mrs. C. Treadwell of Valley City, North Dakota, swerved off the road and hit a pedestrian.

Sweet arrived almost immediately after and discovered, to his great misery, the man hit and killed was Joseph Sweet, his son.

When it came to the law, Sweet was very strict, said his nephew, Harlen Sweet, adding when it came to his children he was fair, but again strict.

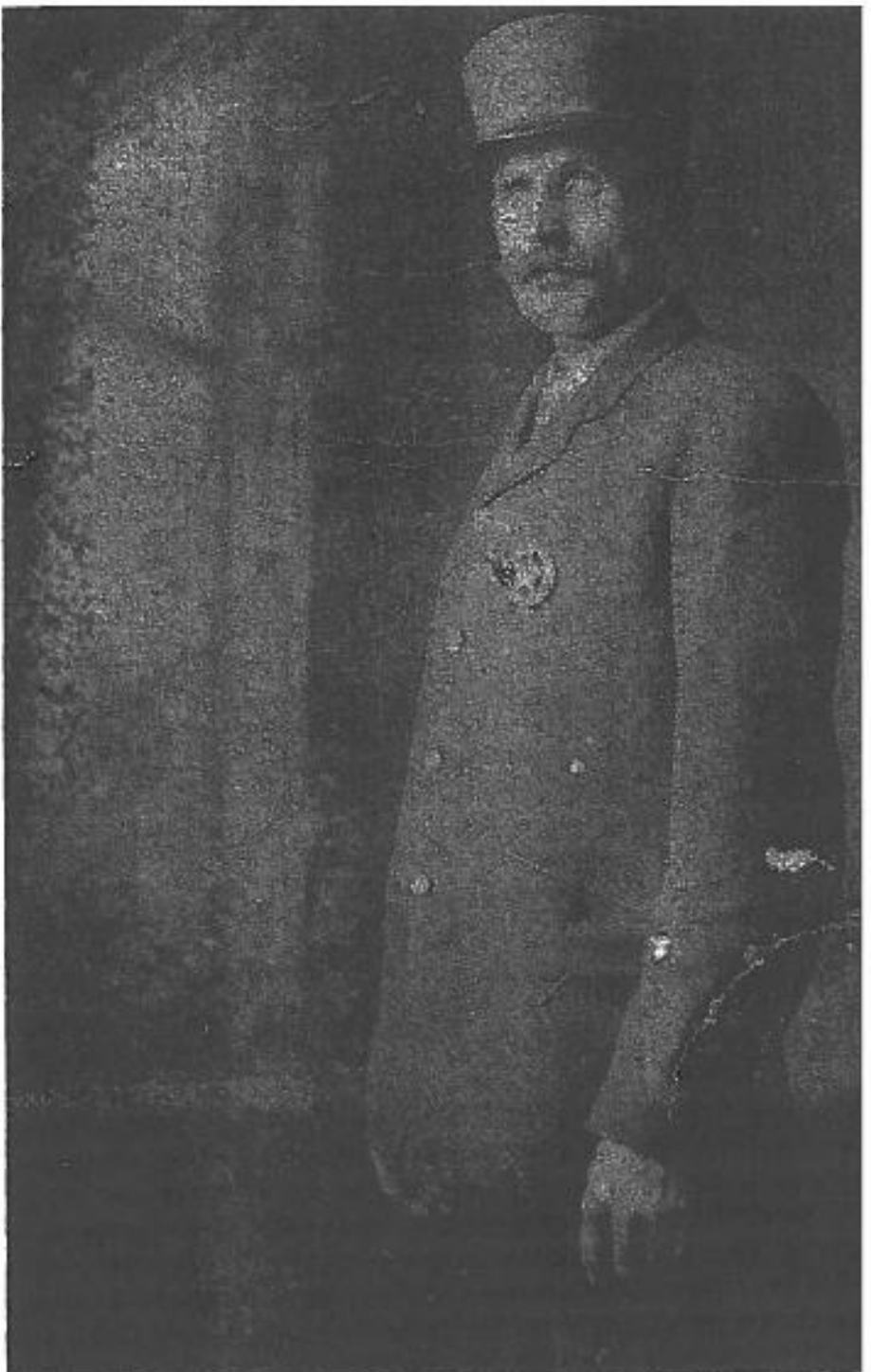
Sweet was born on January 1, 1868, in Schenectady, New York, to Peter and Mary Sweet. When he was still a child the Sweets moved to Harvard, Illinois, where they lived until Minor was nine when they traveled by covered wagon to Lake Louise near Alexandria.

While Minor was living in Alexandria he married Viola Brown on November 9, 1892.

Besides being on the police force and with the railroad, he was a custodian at City Park. He worked there to keep busy, but quit when the lake became too polluted to swim in, said Harlen. Minor was also a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge in Alexandria.

Sweet walked with a cane in his later years because of a knee problem that came naturally with age, Harlen said.

He died at Bethany Home, Monday, June 14, 1965 at 97.



MINOR SWEET - Alexandria's first Police Chief