The original Sesquicentennial photo was developed in error – reversed!

A home was built on the north shore of the Watab (now often referred to as Stumpf Lake) for Coach Edward Flynn. Around this house arose the famous hamlet of Flynnville – later called *Flyntown*. 

*From the Brother Linus Ascheman OSB Heritage Photo Collection*
The original photo as it should be, looking to the northwest to Flynnstown.
Flynn town in 2009
1909 letter from Ed Flynn

[Handwritten letter content]

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Rev. Director
St. John's College
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Father,

I wrote to you some time ago at Milwaukee in regard to securing a position as Physical Director at St. John's College. I have learned later from Mr. Brandy that you do not need a Director for the remainder of this season.

I have stated some points to you in my previous letter in regard to my ability. I am capable of handling the position in college work such as coaching basketball, football, and track athletics, as well as gymnastics and physicalroning. 

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Ed Flynn

570 South St.
St. Paul, Minnesota
March 22, 1909
1909 letter from Ed Flynn

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I have made a careful study of anatomy, physiology, diet, physical
exercise. Unquestioning massage and
fresh air led to the injured
have been born and raised a
Catholic and therefore were
not a position in Catholic nursing.
If necessary, I am willing to
act both will and talk it over.
Awaiting an early reply, I
remain,

Your truly,

A. E. Flynn
573 John St.
St. Paul, Minn.
Someone else also applied.
1911 agreement with Ed Flynn
Coach Flynn in the first St. John’s yearbook
1917: First mention in print of “Flynnville”
Armistice Day procession to Flynnville
Flynn in 1919 yearbook
Flynn in 1920 yearbook
Rev. Alphonse Bannen O. S. B.
Rector St. John's University.
Collegeville, Minn.

Rev. dear Father:-

Receive your letter of March 10th with contracts enclosed. I am holding the contracts for a few days because there are a few further details I wish to take up with you.

I told you during our conversation while at St. John's recently that I would try and make arrangements to live at St. Joe on account of the boys going to school but after giving it a great deal of consideration and having talked it over with you, upon several occasions I have come to the conclusion that if arrangements can be made for a house it would be a great deal better for the boys to live in the city and that I would always be there to take charge of any unexpected work that would come up such as a free job etc., plus to be there to take charge of the summer camp, as for the boys I could take them to St. Joe in the morning and get them again in the afternoon. I think if this can be arranged it would be more satisfactory to all concerned.

Concerning my taking charge of the summer camp this year I am under contract with the Knights of Columbus till Oct. If however by August I am not prior to them already and I can possibly accommodate Father Abbot I will do my best to get away during that time. I assure Father Abbot wishes to start the Camp about June 20th and discontinue it about Aug. 1st.

Writing a reply at your earliest convenience, I am with kind personal regards and best wishes,
Flynn in 1925 yearbook
Now that the time has come to rename Flynnville, the growing hamlet at the dam on the Watab, the question arises whether or not Damtown would be too reproachful a title.

Feb. 1923
p. 89

Dec. 16, 1926
p. 7
[First mention of Flynnville]

Flynnville is becoming quite a borough. Because of its marvelous growth during the past weeks, its citizens are seriously considering a division into two entirely separate cities. The north end would be known as Flynnntown, and the south end as Damtown. Commonly they would be referred to as the Twin Cities of the Watab. The wonderful increase of its population—from fifty-two to fifty-five net—was caused by a little boy arriving in Matt’s family, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Houle moving into their new home.

1926: first mention of Flynnntown
In the issue of January 16, we made a remark concerning the marvelous growth of Flynnville. At that time the population made a sudden jump from fifty-two to fifty-five, caused by a little boy arriving in Matt's family and Mr. and Mrs. Houle moving to their new home. We also remarked that it would soon be necessary to divide the city into two entirely separate cities. Well, this necessity has become imminent, for the population is now fifty-six. Yes, on March 24, a little girl arrived in the family of Coach Flynn.

1927: An addition to Flynnville’s population
Coach Flynn and his daughter
Flynn in 1927 yearbook
On July 15, Flynnville was startled by a large fire which razed to the ground the white barn of Mr. John Roske. The owner had hauled in about twenty tons of alfalfa, which, it is believed, caused spontaneous combustion. Since the barn was doomed, the workmen, neighbors, and members of the community rescued the rest of the buildings and other property which was threatened. A truck from the St. Cloud Fire Department was also summoned.

Mr. Roske had built the barn about four years ago.

August 25, 1932, p. 2

1932 Roske barn fire in Flynnville
Flynnville/Flynntown neighborhood showing Roske farmstead
What remains of the Roske barn
The barn and the last remaining original Flynntown home (the old Roske house), with the newer Roske house behind it.

The barn and the last remaining original Flynntown home, 2009
Mr. and Mrs. George Durenberger entertained the Prep lettermen at Durenburg, Minnesota, last week. The boys were treated to a pheasant dinner and all the details. Lucky Stiffs!

Did you know the folks down Flynnville way had changed the name of the town to Durenburg? Others call it Georgetown.
Classroom space and the dental office in the auditorium basement were made available for student occupation, as was the boxing room in the gymnasium. "Flynnville" residents made room for 15 students and 10 more took up residence in St. Joseph's Hall (the bunkhouse). A few students were temporarily established in the hospital during the first weeks of the fall term.

A student directory published in the Sept. 25, 1947 Record lists students squeezed in all over campus, including the five army barracks, the hospital (i.e. Greg House), the auditorium, the gym, and the "Workmen's Residence."

1948: last use of "Flynnville" in The Record
1996: Flynntown houses are demolished
Addendum: The original Roske house is torn down on July 23, 2012; the newer Roske house behind it remains, as does the old barn, located just to the west (left, but not pictured).
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