

Historic Times

Summer History Club • Week of June 29, 2020 • Issue: 05



Name: Susan the Sleuth

Hobby: History Investigation

Loves: Learning about what life was like in Brown County, many, many, many years ago

Favorite Subject in School:

Do you really have to ask?

HISTORY, of course!

(Susan also likes reading.)

Letter Writing Pen Pals:

Grandma and Grandpa

Little Brother: Thomas



LOST LETTERS!

A big burst of South Dakota wind caught the mail truck driver by surprise while letters were being loaded in the truck. Envelopes such as those below are scattered all over this newsletter! Can you help find them? How many do you see? Look carefully! (Answer on page 10)



TOPIC OF THE WEEK:

School & Post Office

Hello History Club Members!

Susan the Sleuth here, reporting from Dacotah Prairie Museum. Things are a little quiet around here right now, but the DPM will be opening back up soon for you to come and visit! Starting Wednesday, July 8th, we will be open from 1 till 4:30 pm Wednesdays through Fridays. (Note: The hands-on children's frontier room will remain closed.) Please stop in and say hello! Isn't that good news?



I'm very excited about our history club topics this week: ONE ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOL & POST OFFICE! Country Schools were needed because children needed to learn how to read and do math. Brown County is pretty big...it has more square miles than the entire state of Rhode Island! And there were hundreds of farm families living in it. One thing the government wanted was for all children to go to school. Since many families lived out in the country, the county and state built a lot of one room country schools. (How many, you'll find out!) Town children also had schools, in town, of course. The post office was very important in the lives of the pioneers, no matter if you lived in town or on a farm. So many things can be sent through the mail today and it was the same back in the 1800's, not to mention letters, magazines and newspapers.

IMAGINE: Ordering something you need today is pretty easy. Go on the internet to your favorite company, do a search for what you want, push the button and it will be delivered right to your door. Back in the late 1800's, people were used to doing the same thing, though it took longer and you had to fill out a form by hand to order. There were these companies that had really big catalogs filled with all kinds of stuff, clothing, machinery, furniture, over 1000 pages! One of them was Sears and Roebuck catalog. You could get almost everything you needed, including a house! Imagine, ordering a house and having it come on the train in a whole box car and you had to put it together...don't worry, it came with plans!

2020 Is A Year for Making History



DEALING WITH CHANGE: Past Generations Saw Changes, We Do Too!

We're almost half way through 2020 and it has been one for the record books! Most people are a lot more aware of not getting too close to others. We've spent a lot of time inside our houses, eating at home, learning at home and hopefully doing some really fun things with your family.

Imagine that you and your family moved here way back in 1881 and were some of the first people in the area. If you came from the east, perhaps from Minnesota or Wisconsin, you would have been used to trees, lots and lots of trees. Forests! But out here on the prairie, there were

no trees, just a few around the larger rivers. That would take some getting used to. Wide, open skies, winds that blow almost all the time, and trying to plow the land and plant crops for the first time. Or, if you lived in a city...helping your family to start or run their business.

This year, everyone is getting used to doing things in new or different ways: going to school, shopping for groceries, and even all the summer camps that are usually available for kids in this area. The swimming pool is closed, not just in our town but many others. So, the staff of

the Dacotah Prairie Museum decided that they didn't want to cancel the popular summer program History Camp, they just changed it around a bit. It's a virtual camp, where each week you pick up your history packet and then learn and explore on your own. Thanks for sending in all the cool photos of you finding the buildings, exploring history and creating art. Please keep them coming!!

Send photos to:

dacotahpraiemuseum@gmail.com.

Then be watching our Facebook page as we share them. Five weeks down and four to go!



ONE ROOM SCHOOLS vs. MODERN SCHOOLS

Think about it....

What things are still the same?

What things are different?

Read more about one room schools on page 6.



SHARE PHOTOS!

SHOW US WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING!
We'd love to hear from you!
Are you enjoying history club?

Send pictures of your history club adventures to our email address:
dacotahpraiemuseum@gmail.com

(NOTE: Photos may be posted on our web page or social media pages.)

KIDS: Always make sure to have your parents' help & permission to send emails.





Country School and Post Office

M R U R A L R O U T E U X M A I L M A N
Q O V U R L Z L O N N F W V T Z G S G J
A P O S T M A S T E R Y Q B G U Y N X J
E U I D E S K G W J J O L D J D R U F T
P S I S G E Q S N K W B N Z R H P Z X E
I H M C L D R F F Q C I R W P L T U E A
D D O H U D V I I I H E R M E E O M U C
M B X O R G N B S J A B D A N N D G H H
M B G O S N F I O I L I W G A V M J M E
C R N L T X G B U Z K R A A N E A Y V R
Q H O B A N H O V U B T D Z D L P S E Y
S M B E M E G O I F O H Q I I O V Q V L
R A P L P W N K P F A D O N N P C K N U
O I X L J S Q U E O R A T E K E A P N N
G L M E C P D C N S D Y N S B E N C H C
U B P T P A S G C S K C I E C Y G L X H
P O F T A P X L I I Z A G L K H N I D P
F X T E H E O Q L N M R T D N E A Z R A
H O N R T R V G J P U D S M B U C I T I
D N T G L S T C I C L S J F R L W C R L

birthday cards

rural route

newspapers

chalk board

school bell

lunch pail

pen and ink

magazines

postmaster

envelope

mail man

teacher

mail box

pencil

stamp

letter

chair

bench

desk

book

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS on page 10





INVESTIGATE: Look at this old map of Brown County! I've marked towns we are learning about this week: Frederick, Barnard & James. I've also marked Aberdeen, where Centennial Village is located. See instructions along the side of this page for a special map search challenge! —Susan the Sleuth

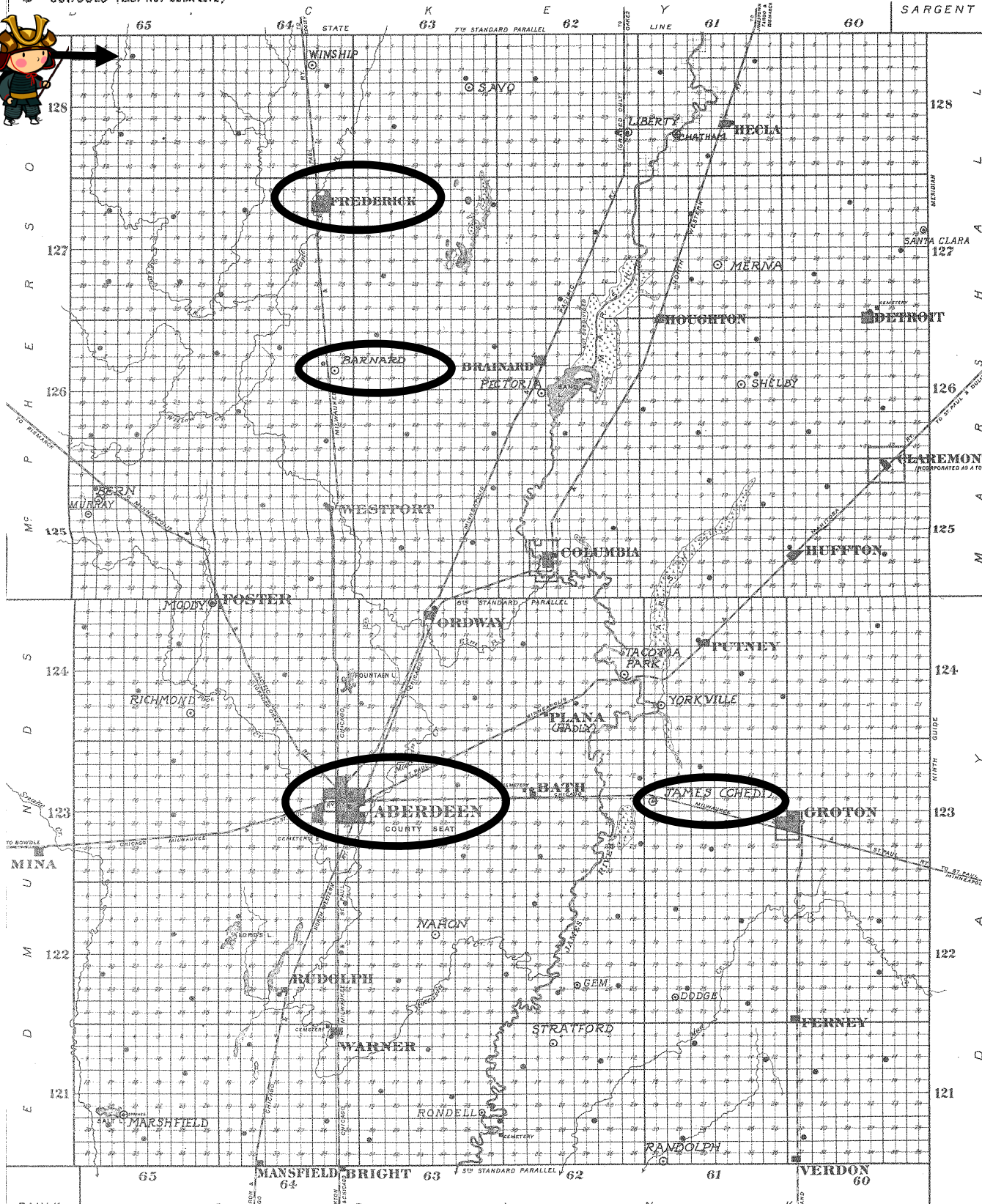
BROWN CO.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY W. P. BUTLER, MAP PUBLISHER, ABERDEEN, S.D.



- ⊙ POST OFFICES
- CORPORATE LIMITS
- ▣ PLATTED TOWNS
- SCHOOLS (LIST NOT COMPLETE)



COUNTRY SCHOOL MAP SEARCH: There were a lot of families in Brown County that lived outside of a town. So, when choosing a site for a country school, officials wanted to be sure the kids wouldn't have to walk more than five miles one way. That meant a whole lot of schools needed to be built and a whole lot of teachers had to be hired. If you look at the map you'll see some black dots all over the map. (Also see the key at the top left.) Each dot was a country school, although even the map key says it isn't a complete listing. (It is likely there were more schools!) How many are shown on the map? Can you count them all? Answer on Page 10. (P.S. Thomas wanted to help you find the first one.)

WRITE A LETTER, Just like the pioneers!

YOU WILL NEED:



A Piece of Paper & an Envelope

Pencil or Pen

Postage Stamp

Address of a Friend or Family Member

Dear Grandma & Grandpa,

This week's activity will take you back to the pioneer days. When you wanted to tell your best friend about something you learned or found out something new...you had two options. Talk to them in person (and hope that your little brother isn't listening...right Thomas?) or, send them a letter. We don't send as many letters and cards as people used to, it's easier to send a text or a picture on your phone or tablet.

Take a step back and spend some time writing a letter on paper, get an envelope and a stamp from your supervising adult and send it to someone special. Maybe your best friend, or a Grandma or Grandpa...or a cousin that lives far away. It doesn't have to be very long, just tell them about what you've been doing this summer and ask them to write back to you. How much fun will it be when the mail comes and you have your own letter?

Pioneers on the very remote prairie sometimes had to wait for months to send and receive letters because trips to the nearest town (and post office) didn't happen very often, or the weather prevented such trips at all. In the very early days, home mail delivery was not common, you likely had to pick it up at the post office. Old time immigrant settlers in

America writing to family members 'back home' in their home countries also had to wait a long time. There were no airplanes to transport 'airmail' and ships took a long time to travel across the ocean.

How many days will it take for your letter to get to its destination and then how many days back?
Do you have the patience to find out? Susan thinks you do!



Snack Idea 'Old School' Style Picnic Lunch

Schools in the early days did not have cafeterias with hot lunches. School children had to bring a packed lunch from home every day. Plan a picnic, but make it interesting by packing 'old school style' lunches!

INGREDIENTS... What can you come up with? No pre-packaged meals, Jello, or Subway sandwiches, and no potato chips (they hadn't been invented yet!) If you are up for a challenge, and have the help of your adult supervisor, try not to use plastic...and carry your lunch in an old fashioned way, in a paper bag, a small metal pail, a metal lunch box, a basket, or tied up in a bandana.

CONSIDER: What foods would farm families have available in pioneer times? Bread, Cheese, Garden Vegetables, Local Fruits (Fresh/Dried), Butter, Meat, Eggs, Home Baked Foods, Milk, Jelly/Jam, etc.

IMAGINE: Depending on the time of year, you had to be careful of what you brought to eat in your lunch pail. During the winter you could keep your lunch out where it was colder, you could bring almost anything...a sandwich with ham or roast beef or chicken, along with a piece of fruit, and some kind of dessert...maybe chocolate cake or cookies or pie? But when it was warmer, like the spring or fall school terms, you couldn't leave meat out in the heat. So, a bread and butter sandwich, or cheese, a piece of fruit (which wouldn't include an orange, too hard to get in this part of the country) and some kind of dessert...maybe your Mom would make fried hand pies? In cooler weather you could bring milk (in a jar), but other times of the year, you probably just drank water.

A Visit to Centennial Village: One Room Country School & Post Office



ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE: The Clear Lake school, that was used from 1885 – 1954, was moved to Centennial Village in 1992 from Leo Hansen’s farm three miles west of Aberdeen. Leo and his entire family attended the school.

Having an on-site or nearby school assured a town’s future. As a result of a township system law of March 8, 1883, Brown County divided into 22 school townships and departed from the district school system. By 1916, South Dakota had 5,011 one teacher, one room, rural schools!

Schools served as learning and social centers. Early schools functioned as Sunday schools, a site for programs and funerals and neighborhood parties. Teacher and students stoked the stove as a mutual chore. The stove was placed right in the middle of the building to give the most even heat. Even so, the students closest to it would get very warm in the winter trying to do their studies and the students sitting closest to the windows would be cold all the time. Most of the time the teacher realized this and allowed the students to move around the building, (if they would do it quietly and not let it interrupt their lessons). The teacher took turns staying with the families of the students that went to the school.

Above Left: Clear Lake School Building, now located at Centennial Village, with adjacent outhouse building

Above Right: Centennial Village Post Office

Photos of Two Different Rural Brown County Schools

Right: Photo Taken
ca. 1905 (Notice the
outhouse in back?)

Below: Photo Taken
ca. 1910



Notice any
trees in the
background of
these
photos?

Imagine
walking to
school on a
windy day or a
hot day with
no shade?

A Visit to Centennial Village: Country School & Post Office

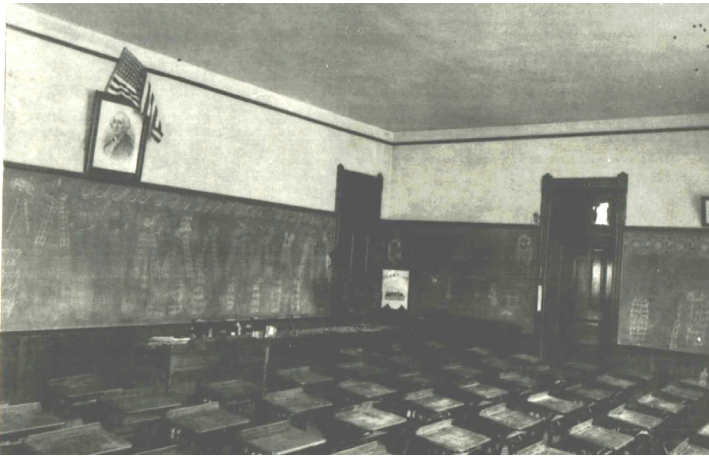


Photo Above: This is a photo of a classroom in a school in the 'city', Washington School, Aberdeen.

There were usually three school terms, fall, winter and spring, each lasting between six and eight weeks. Older boys were needed for farm work so sometimes they only attended the winter term and could be far behind on their studies. A 16 year old boy could still be working on the 4th or 5th grade level.

Teachers were required to teach all of the students, who came from families nearby. That meant that they didn't just teach 3rd or 4th grade only, but all the grades from 1st to 8th grade...that was as far as the students were required to go. Imagine having to teach 15 students and there were 7 different lessons for math, social studies or history, spelling, English and others...that's a lot for one teacher who mostly got paid between \$20 and \$30 per term, depending on experience.

THE POST OFFICE: The post office building at Centennial Village has a square frame structure with a gable roof. It was built in the early 1900s and moved from an abandoned town in western Brown County in 1981, donated to the Village by Reinhold Glaesman.

It was an important step in a town's history to be granted a post office. Town and rural people wanted a suitable post office space and facilities. In some lobbies, cigars, stationery and other items were sold depending on the postmaster's business interests. The post office, like today, kept people connected to the outside world. Unlike today, rural delivery wasn't always available, so you would have to travel to the post office to pick up your mail. It was always exciting to see what you would find... letters, postcards, catalogs, newspapers...so much came



Photos of the Centennial Village Post Office Interior
Above: Service Counter
Left: Mailboxes



through the mail, though probably not quite as fast as today. Each family would get their own little box with a number on it. You needed to know the combination before you could open it and get your mail. There was usually someone working behind the counter to sell the stamps or hand out the bigger mail that wouldn't fit in the little box. They usually knew a lot of what was going on... because as they sorted the mail they would look at what people would write on the postcards!

This building contains an oak counter and mail window from Westport (remember from last week) dated to the early 1880s, a sorting table and rack from Westport from the early 1900s, and a mail collection box of early 1890s vintage just outside the building. The flagpole was donated about 1987 by the Exchange Club.



Family Road Trip Idea:

Frederick & Barnard, SD



Photo at Right:
Frederick Railway
Depot Building, 1895

FREDERICK was platted in September 1881 when the first Chicago, Milwaukee train arrived from Aberdeen. The town was named by the railroad for one of its immigration agents, Kusta Frederick Bergstadius. He was one of two Finnish land agents who brought settlers to the Savo township area (northeast of town).

The town grew rapidly with the Post Office opening on March 3, 1882. The first issue of The Free Press newspaper was distributed just three days later. A general store was opened with a hotel upstairs and by the end of 1882, there were 27 buildings in Frederick.

Citizens met to organize a fire department in 1884 and the flour-mill, the first big industrial project in Frederick. It served as an important industry for many years.

Frederick prospered as a center of a large farm and ranch area. After the turn of the century, it became known for the co-op movement, local people coming together as owners of businesses for mutual benefit. In 1915, the frontier town incorporated the Frederick Exchange Elevator. The following year, electric lights came to Frederick and three years later, The Cooperative General Store was opened. The local ownership movement prevailed through hard



times and farm co-op is still important.

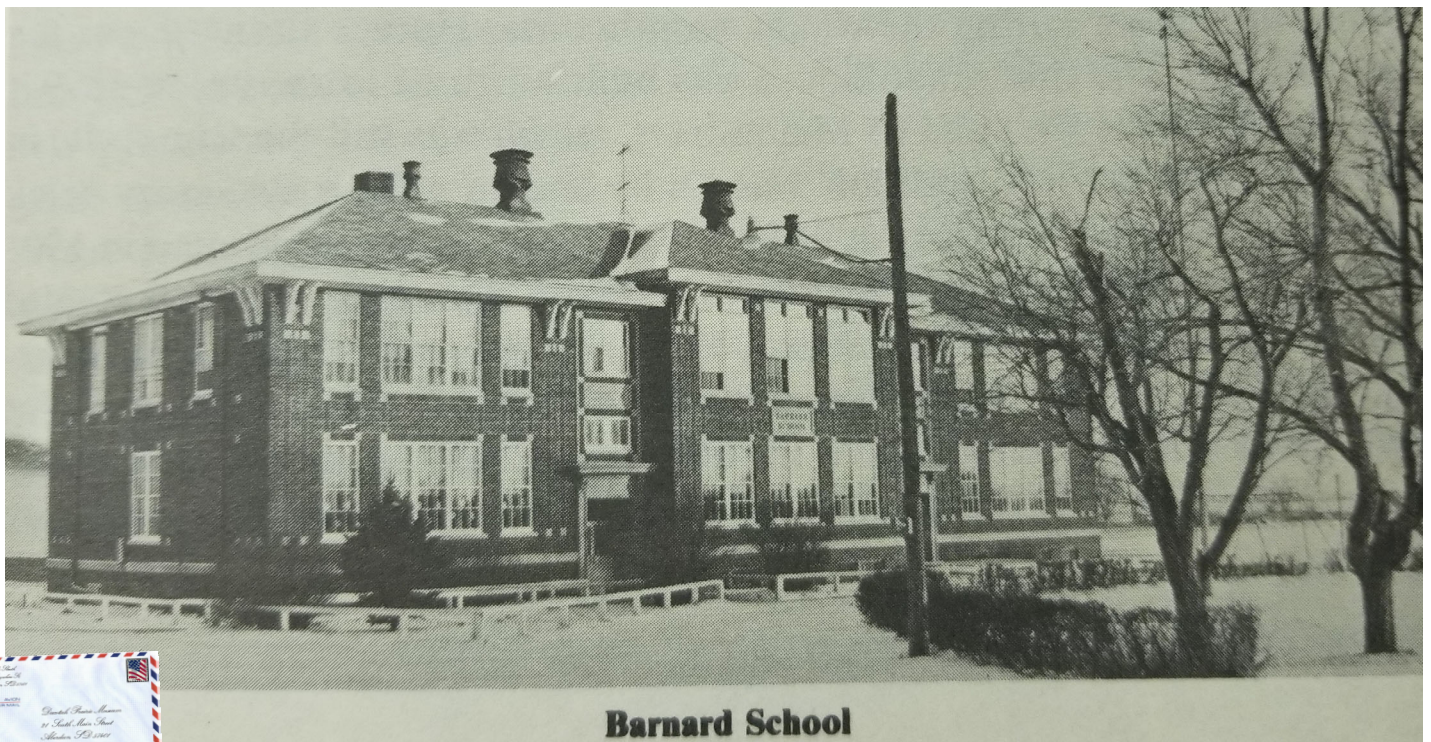
If you drive through during open hours, be sure to stop at the Frederick Community Store and see some original features of stores from years ago. The building is listed on the register of historic places. There are not many community stores left. The Frederick store is still in business thanks to a local volunteer board and stock holders in the community. Be sure to check out the tin ceiling,



Photo Above: Interior of the Marttila, Penttingill & Gorder General Store in Frederick, the same building used as the community store today.

BARNARD was the last town in Brown County to have post office commissioned in January, 1910. Although claims were filed as early as 1881 in the area and Milwaukee trains were running through by 1882, it took two more years to

In just five years, although the population was only 18, there was a bank, a general store, a grain dealership and feed mill, a blacksmith shop, and a lawyer in Barnard. Within a few years, the population had grown to 50, which remained typical over many years of change. This fixed population was caused largely by the stability given the community when it became a pioneer in school-district consolidation. The Barnard school is no longer used as a school, but it is still standing. It was purchased a few years ago and is now owned privately. It is used as a hunting lodge for the family and visitors. It still can be seen from several miles away, the biggest and largest building left in the town. (As you look for the school... another building in Barnard is the Post Office. Can you find it?)



Barnard School

PHOTO: Brown County History Book



Brown County Ghost Town of the Week

“James”

Original Name: Chedi

Post Office: 1889

Name Changed to James: 1896



JAMES, originally named Chedi, was re-named for F.D. James owner of the quarter of land to be subdivided for the town. A train depot was erected in 1889 and was soon joined by a hotel and cafe, a lumberyard, a church with a parochial school, a general store, a poolroom, a jail, three elevators, and several homes.

The general store was the typical type for the early 1900s selling everything from groceries, clothing, millinery and fine laces to oil, farm machinery, and hardware. It burned down in 1927 and was never rebuilt.

The saloon was the business that made James famous, especially during the years Aberdeen and Groton were “dry”. Some of the liquor sold was labeled “Bottled by Ladner Bros., James, S.D., 1897”. With liquor, came rough and rowdy transients, who were jailed when drunk but left unattended with an open cell door when the freight train was due to arrive in town--a convenient solution to the problem.

Because the town was located between Bath and Groton, it stayed relatively small over the years. Another thing that James was noted for was its baseball team and up until a few years ago, there were still enough people living on farms in the area to make a team. If you travel one mile north of U.S. Highway 12 at 400th Avenue (or the Granary Road) you will see a road sign for James.



Above: Street Scene in James after 1915

Below: Main Street, James, 1891—Lutheran Church Visible



What is a Ghost Town?

No, it's not a town with ghosts! A ghost town is a town that has had all (or almost all) of the people leave and move away. It may or may not have buildings left.

Page 3—Word Search Answer Key



SEARCH FOR LOST ENVELOPES from PAGE 1
ANSWER: There are 32 hidden envelopes.
COUNTRY SCHOOL MAP SEARCH from PAGE 4
ANSWER: There are 121 schools shown on the map.

School Word Scramble

KEDS _____
 LIENCP _____
 ALERN _____
 RSSACLOMO _____
 HEEACTR _____
 DUESTNT _____
 OWMEROKH _____
 DULOYNRPAG _____
 HMAT _____

When you finish, check your answers below.



...A Post Office of Former Days... Aberdeen Post Office & U.S. Courthouse Building

(Was Located at the Corner of
 4th Ave & South Main St.
 Operated as Post Office Building 1904-1938)
 This marble building was torn down in the 1940s
 and metal from the rubble was recycled
 and donated toward the World War II effort.

Word Scramble Answer Key

KEDS
 LIENCP
 ALERN
 RSSACLOMO
 HEEACTR
 DUESTNT
 OWMEROKH
 DULOYNRPAG
 HMAT

DESK
 PENCIL
 LEARN
 CLASSROOM
 TEACHER
 STUDENT
 HOMEWORK
 PLAYGROUND
 MATH

INVESTIGATE THIS!

Two different banks
 occupied the building at
 206 S Main St. Look closely
 at the black and white
 photos. Notice the differ-
 ence in the neighboring
 structure on the right?
 (See arrows)

Using Last Week's Treasure Map, Did You Find the Bank Buildings?



Northwestern National Bank Building
 21 S Main Street
 (Now Dacotah Prairie Museum)



First National Bank Building
 201 S Main Street
 (Now a consignment store)



Citizens Bank Building
 202 S Main Street
 (Building of former Red Rooster location)



Building & Loan Association (Built 1891)
 Became First State Savings Bank in 1903
 206 S Main Street
 (Studio 9)

Name _____



SCAVENGER HUNT MAP

ACTUALLY, NO MAP NEEDED THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK, YOU ARE CREATING THE X THAT MARKS THE SPOT!

SUSAN THOUGHT SINCE LAST WEEK'S HUNT FOR THE DOWNTOWN BANKS WAS RATHER DIFFICULT, THAT THIS WEEK WE WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU. IN HONOR OF LEARNING ABOUT COUNTRY SCHOOLS...PLEASE SEND US A PICTURE OF YOU STANDING OUT IN FRONT OF YOUR SCHOOL. OR, IF YOU HOMESCHOOL, A PICTURE OF YOU IN FRONT OF YOUR DESK OR LEARNING AREA. LET'S HAVE YOU SHOW YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE!!!!

PLEASE TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND SEND IT TO:

DACOTAH PRAIRIE MUSEUM@GMAIL.COM #LOCALHISTORYISFUN