



# Historic Times

Summer History Club • Week of July 6, 2020 • Issue: 06



**Name:** Susan the Sleuth

**Hobby:** History Investigation

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

**Favorite Way to Drink Milk:**

In a Milkshake! Yum!

**Favorite Summertime Stop:**

The Museum, of course!

**Little Brother:** Thomas



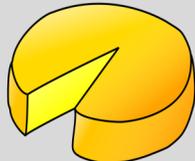
## WHERE IS THE CHEESE?

*Since the dairy is one of the topics this week, we have chosen a 'cheesy' seek and find theme.*

*How many cheeses can you find on the pages of this newsletter?*

*Look carefully!*

*(Answer on page 9)*



## TOPIC OF THE WEEK:

# Land Office & Dairy



*Hello History Club Members!*

*Susan the Sleuth here, reporting from the Dacotah Prairie Museum. It's getting really exciting at the Museum because this is the week they open back up, but for limited hours. Starting this Wednesday, July 8th (just two days from today) you can come to the Museum with your family or an adult from 1 to 4:30 pm and look around at all of the exhibits! Well, almost all of the exhibits...because of Covid 19, they won't be able to open the Children's area at the top of the stairs...but you can see the prairie and Buster the Buffalo (one of Thomas's favorites!), the pioneer house, railroad, early Brown County History exhibit with all the guns (another of Thomas's favorites), the animal room...(both of our favorites), the telephone and telegraph room...except we can't use the switchboard or telephones for a while, the Native American houses, and more things upstairs including the Tree House traveling exhibit and a really cool art show. We've been waiting for so long and I bet you have too. As time goes on, more days and longer hours will be added...but for now, at least we can go in three afternoons a week.*

*Our topics this week are the Land Office and the Dairy buildings out at Centennial Village. Now, I know all about the Dairy (at least I think I do...), but I've never heard of a Land Office. Thomas wanted to know how can you sell land? Well, it's an interesting story so I hope you're ready to do some learning and exploring. You know I always am.*

**IMAGINE:** Some of my friends can't eat dairy because they're allergic to different things in it. No ice cream or cheese and stuff. But, there are other things they can eat that are made of dairy substitutes, like almond milk and soy cheese. So they can enjoy a gooey, cheesy pizza or grilled cheese sandwich or Mac and cheese (Thomas likes that with hot dogs). A dairy is a place where you can take the milk from your cows and the people there work with it and make delicious things. There are all kinds of dairies, some big and some small. We don't have any close to here...but there are lots of them in the state. Next time you're in the grocery store, look close at the labels and I bet you'll find some. —Susan the Sleuth

# 2020, More Changes Coming... 🗑️

Sometimes change can be scary, like what happened last spring when schools and a lot of businesses suddenly shut down because of the virus Covid 19. We were told to stay home, wear masks, wash our hands, don't get too close to people and do school at home! There were lots of changes, not being able to see your friends whenever you wanted... Birthday parties had to be celebrated differently. But now, slowly, things are changing again, starting to return...not to normal but at least starting to re-open. Lots of festivals have been called off during the sum-

mer, including the DPM's History Camp, but you can still learn about the buildings at Centennial Village. When it does open back up, you can be the tour guide and teach your family about the buildings we have learned about, share some interesting facts, and be able to say whether we still have a business like it in Aberdeen today. This virtual History Camp has four weeks to go, including this one. So, four more lessons about the buildings, the towns in and around the county and, of course, the scavenger hunts. Everyone at the DPM

hopes you've been enjoying these packets and will share them with your friends as you head back to school in the fall. You might even see Miss Mary and Miss Sherri as they come to visit your school and teach you even more things about our area history. Thank you for sending in all the cool photos of you and your family finding the buildings, exploring history and creating art. Please keep them coming!!! Send photos to: [dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com). Then be watching our Facebook page as we share them.



**Have you ever smelled rotten milk?**

Yeah, I forgot to put the milk back in the fridge on that really hot day last week. Mom wasn't happy. It was stinky! Ewww...



## What did they do with extra milk?

Did you know that milk traveled on the train?

Most farms had a couple of cows and they had to be milked twice a day. That means the farmer might have had more milk than he could use. So, sometimes they put the extra milk in a milk can to sell it. They would take it to the railroad depot early in the morning so when the train stopped they would pick up the can, pack it with ice to keep it cold, and take it to the closest dairy. They needed the ice, especially when it was hot, so the milk wouldn't sour...yuck!!!



# 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: [dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com)

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

**KIDS: Make sure to have your parents help & permission to send emails.**



That picture is cheesy!



# Land Office and Dairy

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

homesteader

equipment

buttermilk

separator

half mile

ice cream

milk can

section

quarter

cheese

butter

claim

survey

acres

cream

churn

milk

desk

cow

map



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS on page 9



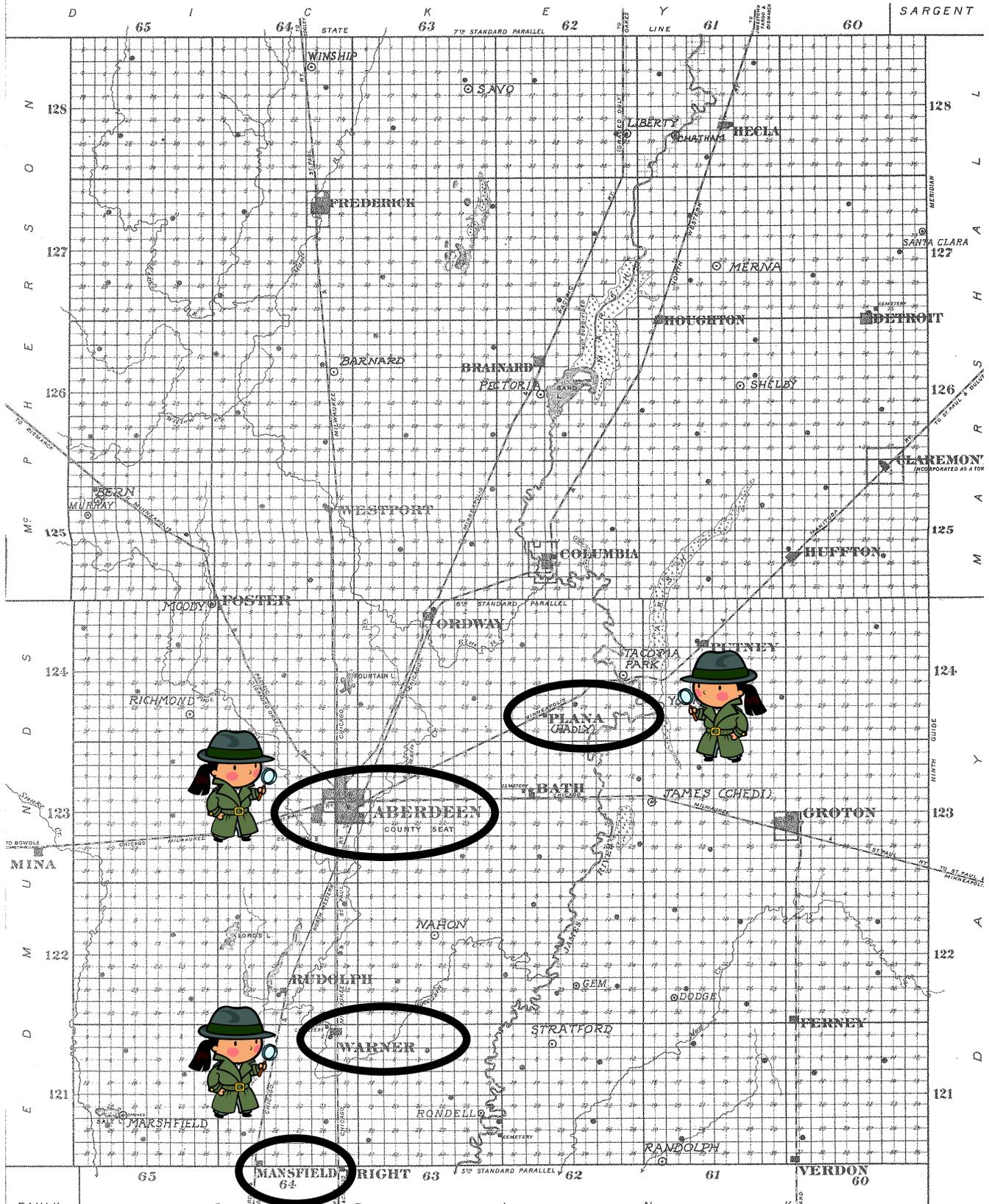
INVESTIGATE: Look at this really awesome old map of Brown County! I've marked the towns we are learning about this week: Warner, Mansfield, & Plana. I've also marked Aberdeen, where Centennial Village is located at the Brown County Fairgrounds. —Susan the Sleuth

# BROWN CO.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

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

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



# Make Your Own Homemade Butter!!

## YOU WILL NEED:

- Heavy Whipping Cream (*NOT half and half OR buttermilk OR plain milk*)
- A Butter Churn (*if you can find one, if not, try these suggestions*)
  - ...Or a Disposable Plastic Container with a Screw Top Lid that will Hold at Least 4 Cups
  - ...Or a Quart Size Canning Jar with a Lid
- A Mixing Bowl (Glass or Metal)
- Some Kind of Big Spoon or Spatula for Working the Butter
- 1 Bottle COLD Water
- Some Salt (for Taste)



**WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE FIRST:** Miss Sherri just posted a new YouTube video showing three different ways of making butter at home, please check it out before you try the activity to see which method you might like better. If you don't have a churn, don't worry. The plastic container, or you could use a quart canning jar with a lid, works best, it's just more shaking.

**VIDEO: Find the Dacotah Prairie Museum Channel on YouTube**  
**Play the Video Titled "DPM How to Videos: Making Butter"**

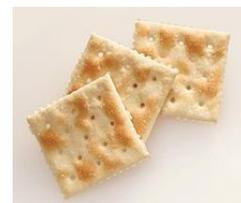
**TIPS FOR SUCCESS:** Make sure the cream is at room temperature, and that you are using heavy whipping cream that isn't ultra pasteurized or homogenized; that means it holds together and doesn't breakdown, and you want the cream to break, to divide into two things, butter and buttermilk. (*NOTE: You may want to save the buttermilk to make brownies. Read snack ideas below.*)

Only fill your churn, container or jar about a quarter full. Then follow the directions on the video. When the cream has broken and you have the butter, take it out of the container and be sure to wash it with COLD water. If you use hot you will just melt everything you created! Add a little salt and stir it in, it will taste better than unsalted butter. Then think about if you had to make butter 3 or 4 times a week. It was definitely a kids job, too!



## Snack idea....

So you've made the butter, how about spreading it on a saltine cracker (with a little grape jelly is also good) or melt butter over freshly popped popcorn with a little salt sprinkled over the top?



You can save the buttermilk for baking! There are all kinds of recipes for things you can make with it...buttermilk donuts, pancakes, cookies, or our favorite...**Buttermilk Brownies!** The brownie recipe is on page 10 of the newsletter.

# A Visit to Centennial Village: LAND OFFICE & THE DAIRY

**The Land Office building** is a gabled roofed structure at the Village. It was originally located one mile east of Plana (see the map on page 4) in the 1890's and owned by the family since homestead days. In the fall of 1981, Dennis Jones donated the building which was moved due to the abandonment of the homestead. It contains original homestead and tree claim maps of 1888 and furniture of the early 1900's.

Aberdeen's Land Office was opened in August of 1882, before that you had to travel to Watertown to select your property. As immigrants and people came to this area, most came because of the Homestead Act. That act was passed May 20, 1862 and it sped up the settlement of the western territories (including Dakota Territory where North and South Dakota are today). It granted adult heads of families 160 acres of surveyed public land for a minimal filing fee of \$18 and 5 years of continuous residence on that land. You had to make some improvements as well, like building a house, planting crops or starting a tree claim.

If you go back to page 4 in the packet, take a close look at the map of Brown County. First, it's divided into townships and then there are smaller squares called sections. Each section has a number, and when you went to register at the Land Office, you would look at the map and choose a numbered section and one of the smaller blocks inside called a quarter. Each smaller block is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile square. (That became your farmland.) Sometimes families would come together and each brother or a father and son would pick out two quarters right next to each other. Then they would have more land for farming and sup-

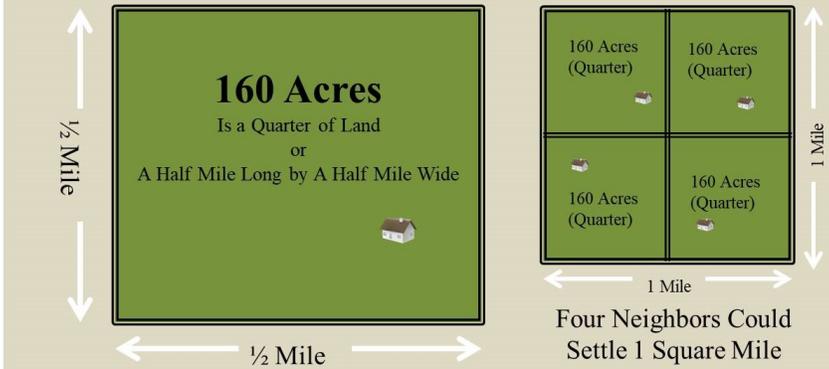


**Top Photo:** Land Office Building at Centennial Village  
**Bottom Photo:** Dairy Building at Centennial Village



# 👉 Visit to Centennial Village Continued: Land Office & Dairy

## Do you know how big 160 Acres is?



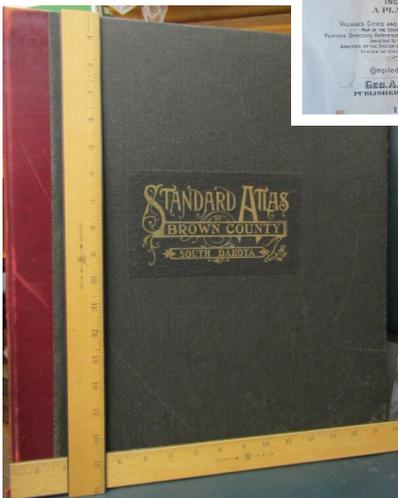
**Above:** Hub City Dairy, N Washington St., Aberdeen  
**Below:** Equity Union Creamery, ca. 1935



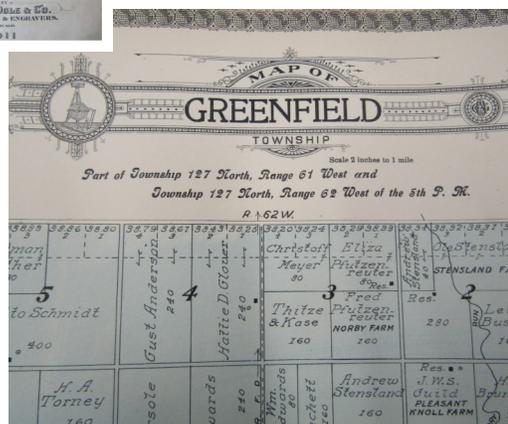
porting two families. The land office had to keep track of every person who owned every quarter, and that was quite a job! Some people tried homesteading and it wasn't for them and they left, others bought and sold land all the time to make money. All the while the Land Office had to make sure the map was up to date.

**The Small Dairy (Creamery) Building** located just west of the church is one of the few buildings in Centennial Village with a history that is unknown. What is known, however, is that Leo Hansen, one of founders of the Village, outfitted it with cream testing equipment and an egg candler to turn the building into a small dairy dealing in the buying and selling of eggs and cream (also known as a creamery). Likely due to the small size of the building, it is not outfitted as a full dairy.

Other people might start dairies in larger buildings to be able to also sell milk and make cheese. Once the farmers had separated the milk, they then could haul the cream to a station such as this, where it was tested. The cream was mixed



**Photos:** This large (18"x 15.5" size) Brown County Plat (map) Book from 1911 includes maps of all townships with land owners marked



to an even consistency to bring butter fat to the top. A sample was taken and placed in a special marked glass with a narrow top. A spinet machine measured the amount of butter fat. Station personnel read the marked lines on the glass and paid the farmer for cream which met the standard. Eggs as well as cream proved to be an important source of income for the farmer. The egg candler that Mr. Hansen donated held 24 eggs and it determined not only if the eggs were fresh but the size or grade of them.

Over the years, Brown County had quite a number of smaller dairies and creameries. Shortly after 1900, the Hub City Dairy started. By 1914 they claimed to supply milk to 80 percent of the homes and businesses in Aberdeen. Later a new building was built out west of town.

By far the largest dairy and creamery in Aberdeen was the Equity Union Creamery, located just off south 5th Street between 3rd and 6th Avenues SW. It was opened in 1916 and because it was right on the railroad tracks, it was very easy to ship its products all over the area. In its first year it churned over 800,000 pounds of butter! Many years later the business was sold and moved to another state, but for many years Aberdeen was the biggest supplier of milk, butter, cheese and eggs in the area. This picture was taken of the new building built in 1920 after they expanded.



# Family Road Trip Idea: Warner & Mansfield, SD



**WARNER** evolved on a site where the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad laid tracks to Aberdeen. The post office opened in June 1881, because of the need created by the rush of settlers to the area. Other businesses were added quickly, and in a short time, Warner was larger than Aberdeen.

Because the only transportation other than train was wagon, this ten-mile station on the tracks became an economic center. Soon it boasted twenty-six businesses.



As early as August 1883, The Warner Sun was published weekly and continued for a number of years. This little frontier town also established industry with a furniture factory and a dray and transfer oper-

**Above:** Warner Main Street Looking East, September 1909  
**Below Right:** Photo Taken Outside the Warner Telephone Office Early 1960s  
**Below Left:** Snow on Main Street Warner, March 1955, Bank Building on Left, Morgan Grocery on Right



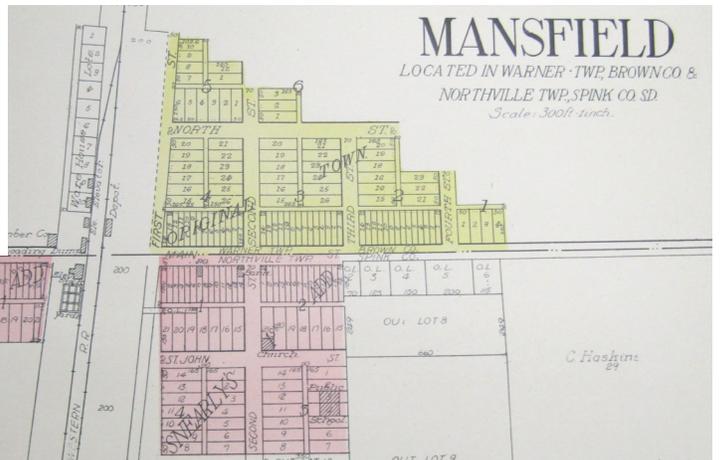
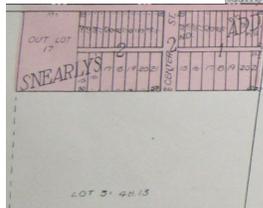
ation as well as the more cultural side of life supported by a dressmaker's shop and theater.

# Family Road Trip Continued: Warner & Mansfield



## MANSFIELD

was named for John Mansfield, an immigrant from Ireland who purchased the land in 1882 and sold lots for \$25 each. He also donated land to the railroad, persuading them to lay a line through the town. This little frontier town straddled Brown and Spink Counties, with the county line dividing the store, depot, blacksmith shop, saloon, and several small homes into two sides of the city.



**Top Photo:** Postcard of Birds Eye View of Mansfield, 1910

**Above:** Mansfield Plat Map, 1911, Notice the County Line

**Above Left:** Charles Woodman Home Near Mansfield, Late 1890s

In the 1890's the first elevator was built, long and low as opposed to the traditional high structure. There was also a feed mill powered by a horse continually circling. By 1910, there were four elevators, a clearly needed addition since Mansfield shipped 450 cars of grain and over 30 cars of potatoes in one year.

Because Mansfield is a border town with Brown and Spink counties, when you drive through town today, the buildings on the north side of the street (highway) are in Brown County and the south side is Spink County...not something you see every day! The middle of the street is the border!

**SEARCH FOR Cheese from PAGE 1**  
ANSWER: There are 18 hidden blocks of cheese.

**From Page 3**  
**Word Search Answer Key**

L	K	E	O	U	P	M	E	N	T	V	C	B	B	H	S	D	B	T
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Y	F	K	K	C	T	K	Z	E	G	D	B	T	A	C	R	S		
Q	U	A	R	T	E	B	I	C	D	T	Z	S	O	E	O	V	L	N
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# Brown County Ghost Town of the Week

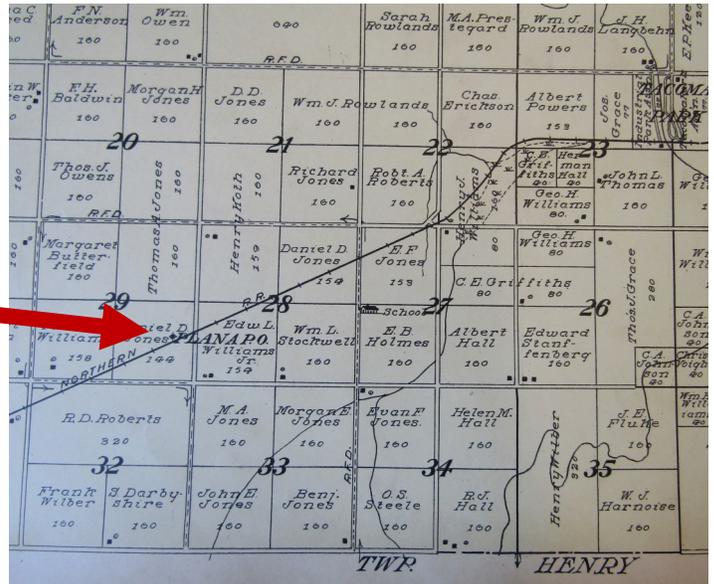
## “Plana”

### Post Office: 1887

**PLANA**, was first named Hadley and was founded by Welsh settlers who came from Wisconsin. It was one of the smaller towns along the Great Northern Railroad.

A post office was commissioned in August of 1887 and soon the town boasted a general store, a depot, a school, a church, a community hall, a barber shop, three elevators and several homes. The Presbyterian church was built in 1887 but the community started church and Sunday school as early as April 1882. Various traveling ministers would hold services either in the Bath Depot or after it was completed, the Plana School. After the church was completed, the community held services every Sunday, but they had two...one in Welsh and one in English. The last regular service was November in 1941.

Now, only grass grows were the thriving community once stood.



**Above:** Map of Cambria Township with Plana Post Office Marked

**Below:** Map of Brown County with Townships Shown in Different Colors

Photos from Standard Atlas of Brown County SD, 1911

### 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.

### RECIPE: Buttermilk Brownies 🍪

- 4. Tbsp. Cocoa
- 1 cup margarine
- 1 cup water

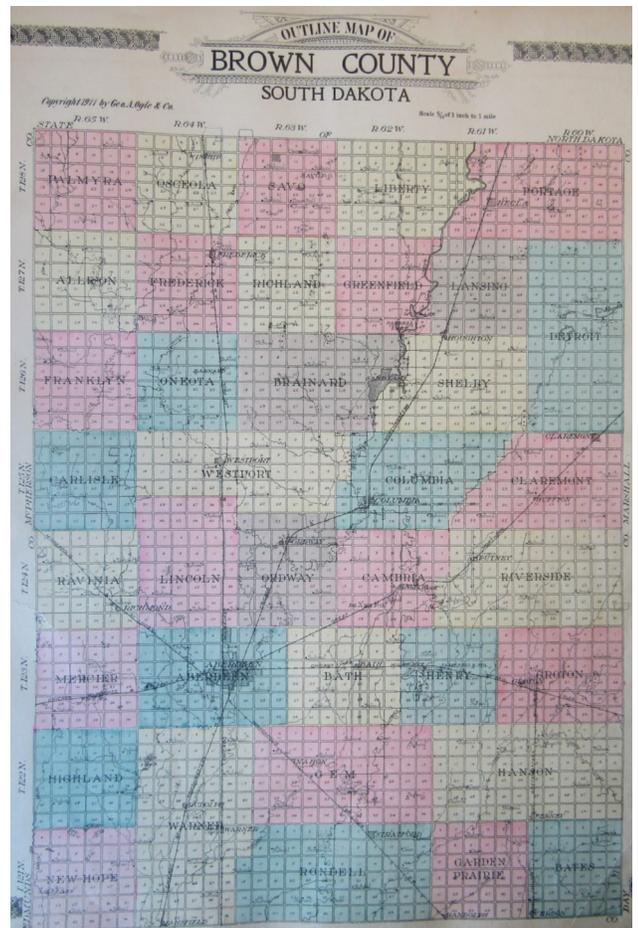
Bring the above ingredients to a boil and in the same pan add:

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- ½ tsp salt

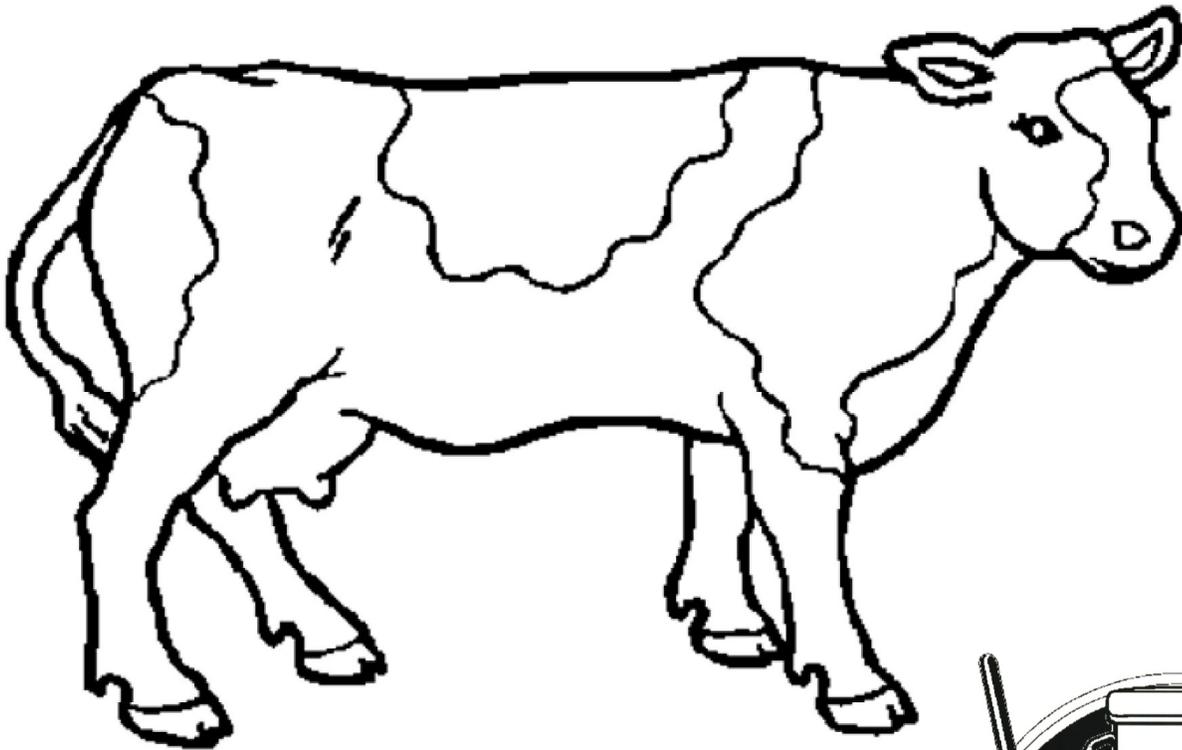
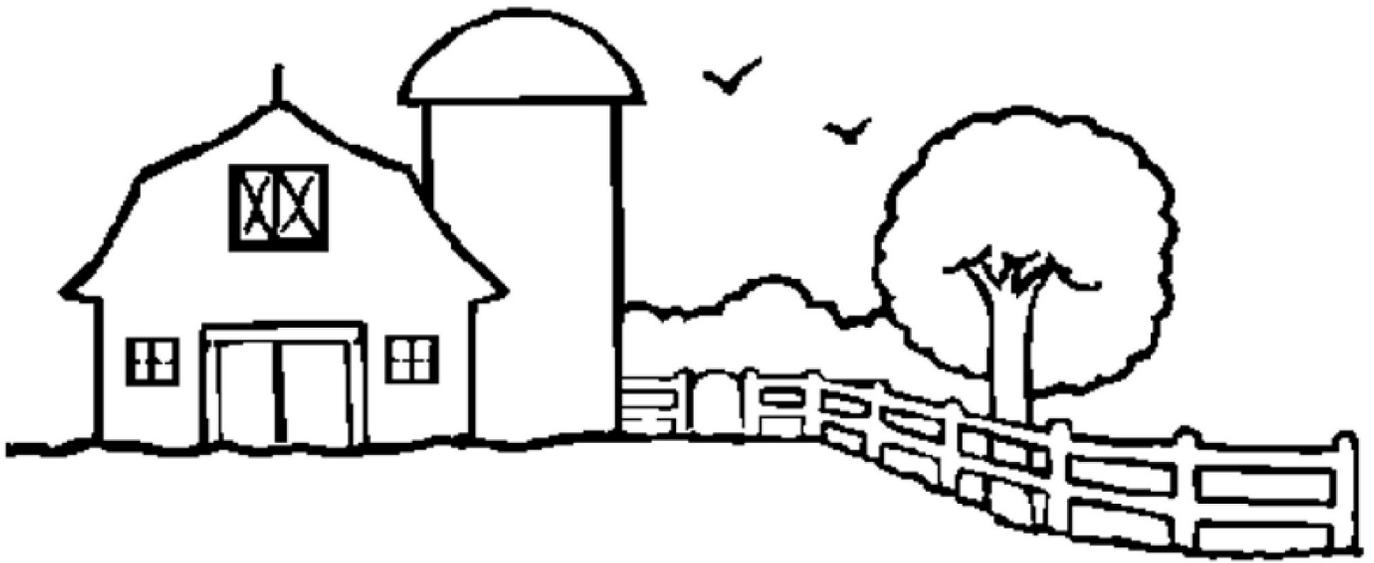
Stir well and add:

- 1 cup buttermilk mixed with 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Stir well. Bake in a greased jelly roll pan at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Frost with canned chocolate frosting.



Name \_\_\_\_\_



Butter Churn

Cream Can

Ice Cream Churn

## SCAVENGER HUNT

SINCE ABERDEEN DOESN'T HAVE ANY CREAMERIES OR DAIRIES TODAY, THE SCAVENGER HUNT IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT. THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE IS TO GO TO A LOCAL GROCERY STORE, SUSAN RECOMMENDS KENS SUPERFAIR FOODS, KESSLERS OR NATURAL ABUNDANCE AND SLEUTH AROUND IN THE DAIRY DEPARTMENT AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ANY PRODUCTS....CHEESE, MILK, EGGS, CREAM...THAT MIGHT COME FROM A DAIRY EITHER IN BROWN COUNTY OR SOUTH DAKOTA. TAKE YOUR PICTURE HOLDING THE PRODUCT AND SEND IT IN TO: [DACOTAHPRAIEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DACOTAHPRAIEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM) #LOCALHISTORYISFUN

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY ANYTHING, UNLESS YOU'D LIKE TO TRY SOME DELICIOUS LOCAL FOOD!

THIS WEEK'S SCAVENGER HUNT WILL BE A LOT COOLER TO FIND THAT THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS...IT'S ALWAYS COLD IN THE DAIRY DEPARTMENTS!!! HAPPY HUNTING!!!