



Historic Times

Summer History Club - Week of June 8, 2020 - Issue: 02



HAVE YOU MET SUSAN?

- Name:** Susan the Sleuth
- Hobby:** Investigating Our History
- Loves:** Learning about what life was like in Brown County, many, many, many years ago
- Favorite Summer Treat:** Ice Cold Lemonade
- Favorite Book:** Too Many to Choose Just One!
- Little Brother:** Thomas



"This is Thomas, my little brother. He likes history too. (He also likes to play hide and seek.) Count how

many times Thomas appears in this newsletter. Be sure to check every page and look closely!

*(Answer on page 9)
—Susan the Sleuth*

TOPIC OF THE WEEK:

Horses & Wagons

Hello Fellow Investigators of History!

Susan the Sleuth here, reporting from Dacotah Prairie Museum, my most FAVORITE building on Main Street! I wish you could visit, but because of a sickness called Covid-19, the museum can't have visitors in the normal way right now. The staff here are bummed that we can't all be together but the GOOD NEWS is, they have a NEW HISTORY CLUB. I'm very excited!!! Every week we can spend time learning fun things about our history! Yipeee! To learn about history, you have to be very curious. Just curious...are you curious? Yes? Great! It also helps to have a good imagination. If we use our imaginations, we can IMAGINE what it would be like if we could travel into the past. Are you ready? Let's investigate some history!

Our topic this week is horses and wagons, and we will be learning about two places that have to do with this theme: a HARNES SHOP & LIVERY BARN.

IMAGINE: Let's pretend we live in Aberdeen in 1890 and our friend, who lives on a farm six miles away has a birthday. We have a really big present to deliver and the train does not travel to our friend's farm. There are no cars and the present is too heavy to carry if we walk. How will we get the present to our friend's house?



Write your answer. _____

This week we will learn how a livery barn or harness shop might help us.

2020 Is A Year for Making History 2020

HISTORY CAMP: Since its start we've only cancelled camp twice!

It has been a year to remember. From the start of 2020 with snowstorms and blizzards, to everyone's lives changing suddenly with Covid 19 starting in March, people everywhere have had to learn to adapt to new things in 2020, like the pioneers of many years ago.

The pioneers moved to the prairie, a place they had never seen or been before. They found few or no trees, and neighbors were miles apart if you lived in the country. If you lived in the city, constant noise from homes and businesses being built filled the air with new people moving in every day to start a new life. Like us, the pioneers lived in times that were full of change and history in the making.

The Museum started History Camp in 1996 as a way to keep students learning about history during the summer, and as a way to use what many consider an undiscovered treasure, Centennial Village. For one day, campers were able to go into the buildings and participate in old-fashioned activities that the pioneer children would have to do... hauling water, building a fire, going to school, eating homemade ice cream and others.

In the history of the Camp, there was only one year that it wasn't held, 2007...the year of the big flood. Museum staff had to take the summer to clean and care for artifacts from the collection that were damaged by flood water, hundreds of them, so camp could not be held.

This is only the second time in its history that History Camp can't be held...social distancing being one of the most important reasons why. But, like many other Museums and businesses, the staff of Dacotah Prairie Museum started thinking out-of-the-box and put together a weekly history club program to serve as a virtual camp. You will still learn about the buildings, the history of our area and play games, just in a different way. Each week for nine weeks there will be a packet with a different theme that hopefully you will enjoy and use to learn some new things about this area. The Museum is also hoping that you and your parents will share photos (or selfies) of your historic discoveries. Send photos to: dacotahpraiemuseum@gmail.com



Does a Horseless Carriage Need to Go to the Livery Barn?



Thomas says, "Liver Barn? I don't think I like liver..."



A horseless carriage was another name for an early car because it moved like a buggy or wagon, but did not need a horse to pull it. They didn't need to be boarded, fed, brushed or taken care of at the Livery.

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



This is a REALLY OLD PHOTO



Harness Shop/Livery Barn Word Search

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

horse collar

side saddle

leather

wagon wheel

stalls

bridle

saddle

wagon

sleigh

buggy

pitchfork

grain

whip

anvil

bit

awl

hay



WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED, CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 9



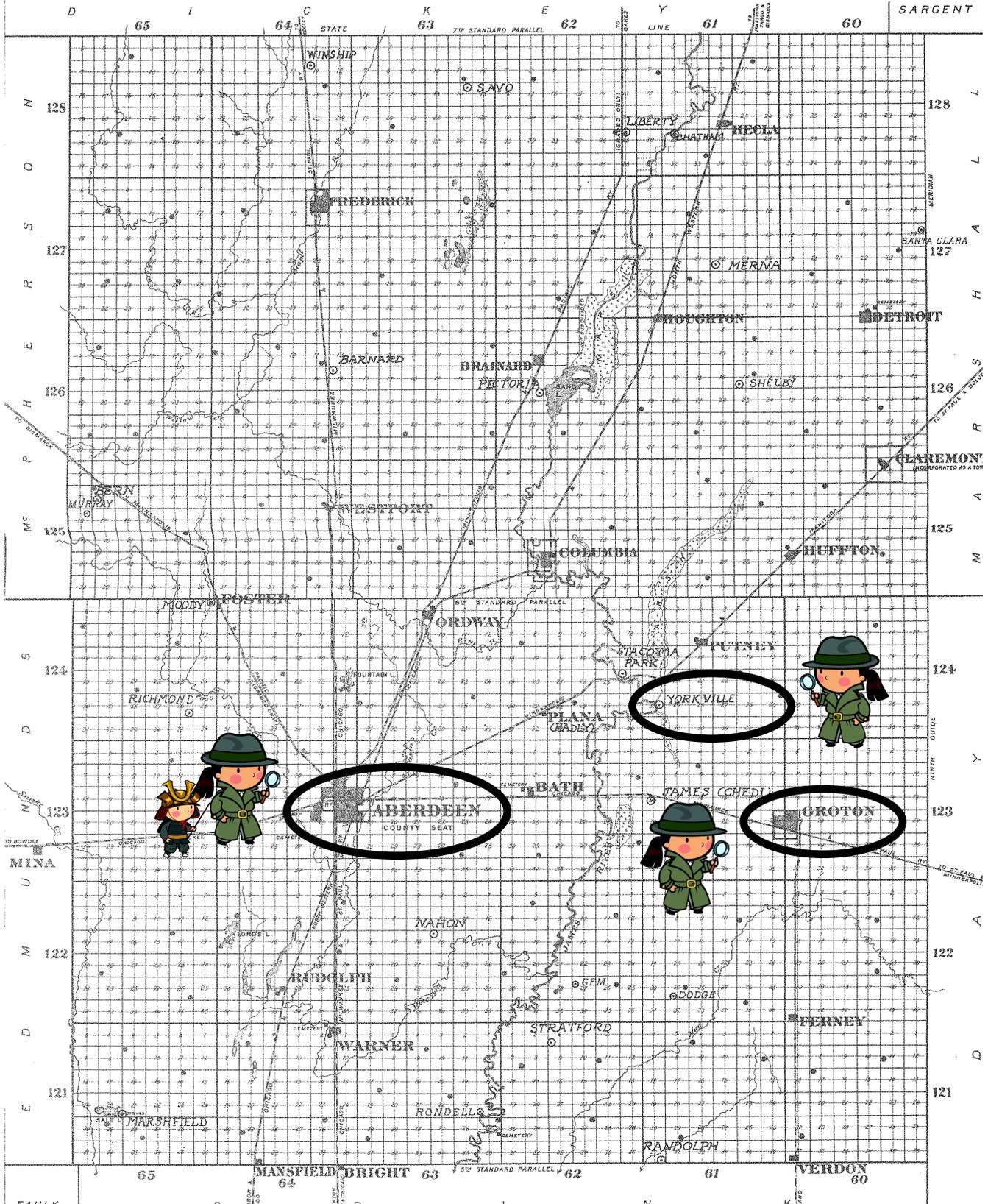
INVESTIGATE: Look at this really awesome old map of Brown County! I've marked the towns we are learning about this week: Groton & Yorkville. Centennial Village is located at the Brown County Fairgrounds on the north side of Aberdeen. —Susan the Sleuth

BROWN CO.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

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

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





Hauling Water

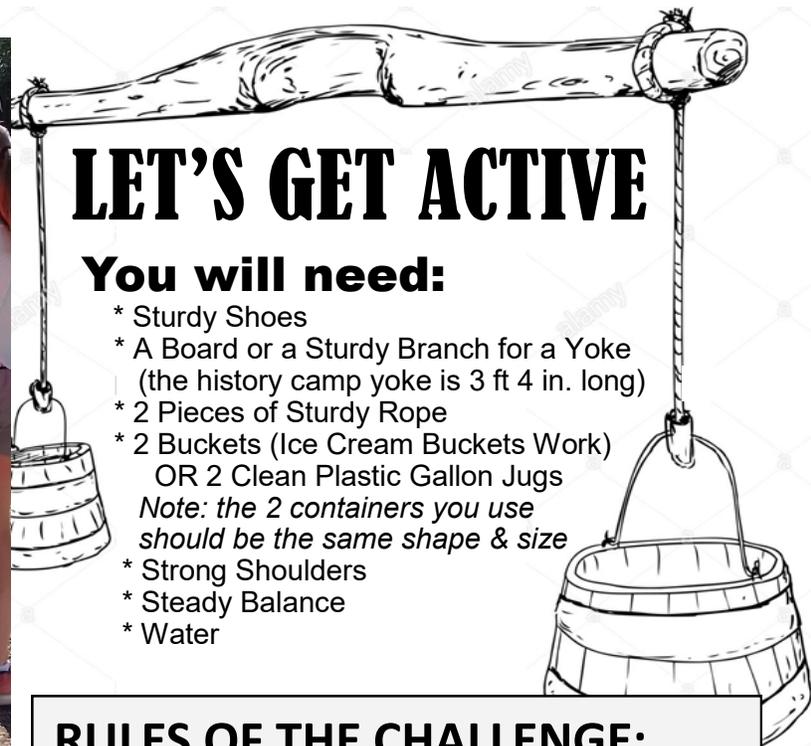
Since hardly anyone had water that came inside the house till after 1900...any water you needed had to be hauled in, usually by the bucketful.

Think about all the times during the day you turn on the water...in fact, take a piece of paper and count the times...just getting a glass of water to drink, doing dishes, washing your hands, washing clothes, taking a bath or a shower and going to the bathroom.

Now, can you guess or estimate how much water that might be? How many gallons?

Write Your Answer Here _____

How Many Gallons of Water Do You Think Your Family Uses in a Month? (Ask your parents if they know.)



LET'S GET ACTIVE

You will need:

- * Sturdy Shoes
- * A Board or a Sturdy Branch for a Yoke (the history camp yoke is 3 ft 4 in. long)
- * 2 Pieces of Sturdy Rope
- * 2 Buckets (Ice Cream Buckets Work) OR 2 Clean Plastic Gallon Jugs
- Note: the 2 containers you use should be the same shape & size*
- * Strong Shoulders
- * Steady Balance
- * Water

RULES OF THE CHALLENGE:

1: THIS IS AN OUTSIDE ACTIVITY USING WATER!

If you accidentally spill water on the lawn, the grass gets watered a little extra. No harm done. Don't try this inside the house. Your parents do not want a flood on the floor.

2: Make your yoke by tying one end of the rope to each end of the stick or board (see picture above.) Don't tie the buckets on yet...

3: Go outside and fill up your buckets or milk jugs with water. Pick them up with your hands and carry them around for a while. Pretty soon, your hands will start to hurt. Let's see if a yoke makes carrying water easier.

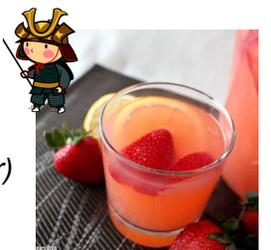
4: Try hooking the buckets up to your homemade yoke by tying the ropes to the bucket or jug handles. Balance the yoke on your shoulders and now try walking. Is it any easier to carry the water?

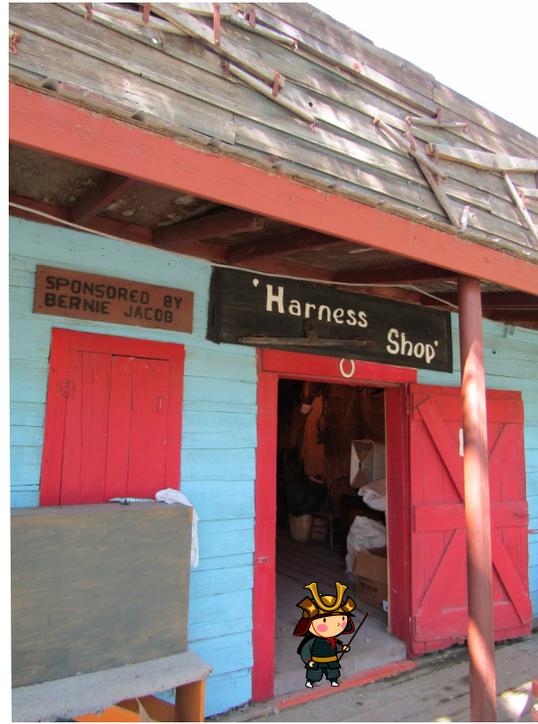
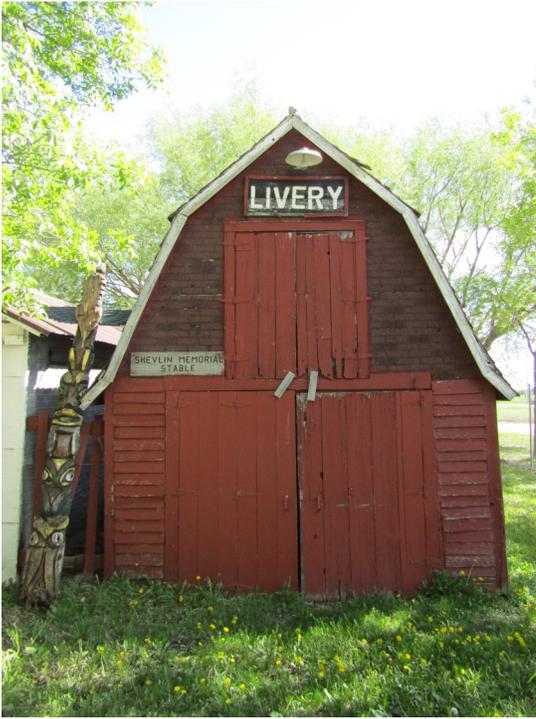
5: What if you were going to water all of the outside plants this way...? No garden hose? Just you carrying the water with your yoke and buckets! It was definitely a job for the kids and everyone helped!

SNACK TIME IDEA: Strawberry Lemonade

You Will Need These Ingredients: Frozen Lemonade Concentrate, Water, Ice, Frozen Strawberries (Optional Ingredient: 7 Up/Sprite or Sparkling Water)

Directions: Get out a pitcher and make lemonade, adding water according to the directions on the can. Put a few ice cubes & 3 or 4 frozen strawberries in a glass. Pour Lemonade into your glass. Add just a little Pop or Sparkling Water if you want to make it fizzy. Yum! This can be made with other types of fruit too. Try fresh pineapple or blueberries or sliced lemon. What are your ideas?





Photos at Left: Livery Barn & Harness Shop at Centennial Village

you need a car today you can go to a car rental business and get one. Or...maybe you did have a horse but if you had to stay in town for a couple of days, where would you put it? You could take your horse to the barn and the owner would take care of it...feed and water it and brush the coat till it was shiny!

Aberdeen had several Livery Barns but we only have a couple

Visit to Centennial Village: The Livery & the Harness Shop

Last week, we talked about the buildings at the very end of the street, but this week the two buildings that are featured you will see as you first enter the area. On the south side stands The Livery Barn. This hip roofed frame structure originated in western Brown County in the early 1900's. It had three stalls for horses and a hay loft for storing the hay and feed. As with many of the buildings at the Village, it was moved from another place to save it from getting torn down. This building came from the Fred Kamm farm.

A Livery barn provided two key services: boarding horses (boarding means being a place where horses could stay and be taken care of) and renting both horses and carriages. As people came to a new area like Aberdeen, some were single or lived in town and didn't have a farm. Some didn't come with wagons or horses. But, if they needed one, the Livery was where you would go, kind of like if

of photos in our collection. The Aberdeen Livery picture was taken sometime around 1905 and the Jenkins and Hill Livery was taken sometime after 1904. They were both much bigger than the building at Centennial Village. Jenkins and Hill also sold horses if needed. If you look closely at the Aberdeen Livery photo, you'll see two kinds of transportation, one old and one newer!



Above: Aberdeen Livery ca. 1905 (See the automobile?)

Visit to Centennial Village: Livery & Harness (CONTINUED)



The Harness Shop is the first business on the north side of Main Street...and you can see what they sell inside, not just by the sign but by all of the different equipment above the main door. This building was originally a granary in Western Brown county, and was donated by Rudy Sammuli of Frederick in the fall of 1981, the same year Centennial Village was started. When you look inside of it today you will see lots of old leather harnesses, other leather equipment, horse collars, saddles and tools from the early 1900's. Settlers visited the harness shop for repair of the thick leather harnesses as well as for buying harness oil to keep it shiny and supple, whips, combs for brushing horses and horse collars. When we do finally get to go to Centennial Village again and go in the buildings, be on the lookout for the almost inch thick leather that was sewed together by hand to hook the horses to the wagons or buggies. Also, what does a horse use to help keep the flies away? How about a covering made out of small ropes that moved as the horse moved and kept the flies moving at least? Or, a special covering for the horses nose made out of a fine metal mesh (it almost looks like what we use to wash fruits and vegetables in). There are many different kinds of saddles...mostly today we use the western saddle where we ride astride, or with our legs on each side of the horse. But, not that long ago, ladies rode a side saddle because they would ride wearing dresses and couldn't show their



Above: Jenkins & Hill Livery, after 1904
Below: This is a photo from a harness shop in Groton taken around 1890, we don't know it's name but it shows all of the tools needed to do repairs.



legs. It's like sitting on the edge of a chair with both of your legs coming down the same side. For many, many years the harness shop at Centennial Village was sponsored by and taken care of by Bernard Jacobs.



Based on what you've read, can you guess what these harness shop items are? Photos taken at Centennial Village.



Family Road Trip Idea:

Groton, SD, Established 1881



C. M. & St. P. Depot, Groton, S. D.

Pub. by W. A. Burnham.

Groton had the seventh post office in the county, commissioned in July 1881. The land was purchased by C.H. Prior, a New Englander. (This connection to New England is why many towns on the Chicago, Milwaukee railroad lines had New England names.) The town grew rapidly and in three months, nine new businesses began. These included two newspapers: the News and the Mirror.

By 1883 the city was divided into three wards or areas, and its population was 410. The citizens elected three trustees, a clerk, an assessor, a treasurer, a marshal, and a justice of the peace.

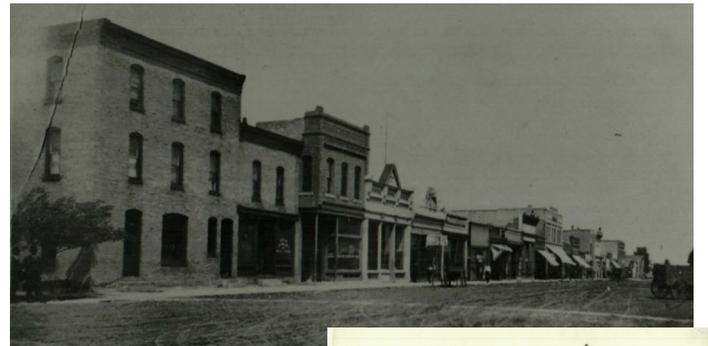
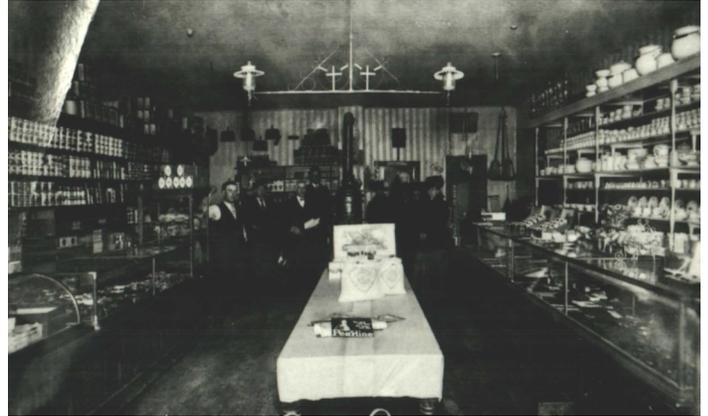
Bonds were soon presented for an artesian well and water system for a flourmill. At first, everyone wanted the well close to his property. Later, no one wanted it, because the first well was a problem for years. It was unstable and created a dangerous chasm which threatened the town. The city finally succeeded in capping this dangerous well as its water pressure weakened after years of seepage.

In 1885, the Presbyterians opened a college, two three-story buildings on a forty-acre treeless plot on the north side of town. In 1889 the Groton college closed and the classroom buildings, a dormitory and

Family Road Trip Idea: Groton, SD Est. 1881 (Continued)



Above Photo: Groton College



Top Photo: John Anderson General Store in Groton 1907 or 1908

Above: Buildings on West Side of Groton Main Street



At Right: Groton Bank Building With Big Snow Drift



a chapel were moved to Huron.

Until 1881, Groton was the leading primary wheat market of the world. Before other rail lines were in, farmers hauled wheat as far as forty miles to Groton, sometimes waiting for a day or two to unload. The crop failures of the late 1880s caused a slowing in that growth.

Early in the 1890s, fire, which originated in a lumberyard, wiped out an entire section of Main Street on the west side. In spite of hard economic times, the street was rebuilt with more permanent brick structures; many of them still in use. The “Great Land Boom” after 1900 brought renewed prosperity to Groton, and the trains brought a continual stream of land seekers, whose unexpected numbers made it difficult for the hotels, restaurants, and livery barns to accommodate them. Old plank sidewalks gave way

to cement sidewalks as frame buildings were replaced or faced with brick.

By 1910, Groton was impressive as a frontier town on the prairie with over ninety businesses.

INVESTIGATE MORE ON YOUR OWN:

GET OUT A DICTIONARY OR LOOK ONLINE FOR THIS VOCABULARY FROM THE STORY:

- Ward
- Marshal
- Chasm
- Trustee
- Great Land Boom
- Artesian
- Assessor
- Bonds
- Prosperity

FROM THE STORY...FIND A MAP AND LOCATE

- Groton, SD
- Huron, SD



From Page 3
Word Search Answer Key

SEARCH FOR THOMAS FROM PAGE 1
ANSWER: Thomas appears 17 times

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Brown County Ghost Town of the Week

“Yorkville”

Not Technically a Town But Still Important ...

“Hmm...
Where did
it go?”



Above: Yorkville Post Office, Store & Home

Not technically a town, the history of Yorkville is still important to learn about. It was named for William A. York, who came to this ford or bend of the James River in the spring of 1878 and built a log cabin from trees along the river before he left that fall to bring his family back. In April of 1879, he returned with his wife, three children, his father and mother, and Ed Harnoise and Lester Blackman. He had brought supplies for a grocery store, added a wing onto his cabin for a hotel, and was granted the right to have a post office on July 30, 1879.

In the severe winter of 1880-81 (the Long Winter written by Laura Ingalls Wilder), the hotel sheltered many homesteaders from the area. They survived on venison and flour ground in a coffee mill. As more settlers arrived that winter, the ferry operated by York was of great importance. However, the coming of the train in 1881 reduced the use of the ferry. The Yorks moved to Groton in 1881, then sold out there and moved to Devil’s Lake the same year. On February 2, 1883, the post office was officially closed and on October 29th, 1884 the Yorkville Bridge was completed. For many years, the plastered log house with a frame addition stood as a reminder of faded hopes.

There is a historic marker for the site of Yorkville that was placed there by the Brown County Historical Society. Getting to it is a little more difficult this year because of all of the high water. However, if you head east of Aberdeen on highway 12 until you get to 400th Avenue (Granary Road), turn north till you get to 129th street (you can’t go any farther north because the road

is closed) turn east and go not quite half a mile...you have to turn north and you are now on Yorkville Road. Go past the first farm and before the road turns east again, look just on the west side of the road and you will see the Yorkville historic marker. Please be respectful as it is on private land. Also, be aware of closed roads due to flooding! It’s a beautiful sight looking west of the marker knowing that William York and his family viewed the same area.

Using Last Week’s Treasure Map, Did You Find These Four Former Railroad Depot Buildings in Aberdeen?

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul



10 Railroad Ave SW

Chicago & Northwestern



203 S Dakota St

Great Northern



1 S Court St

Minneapolis & St. Louis



1108 S Main St

What is a Ghost Town?

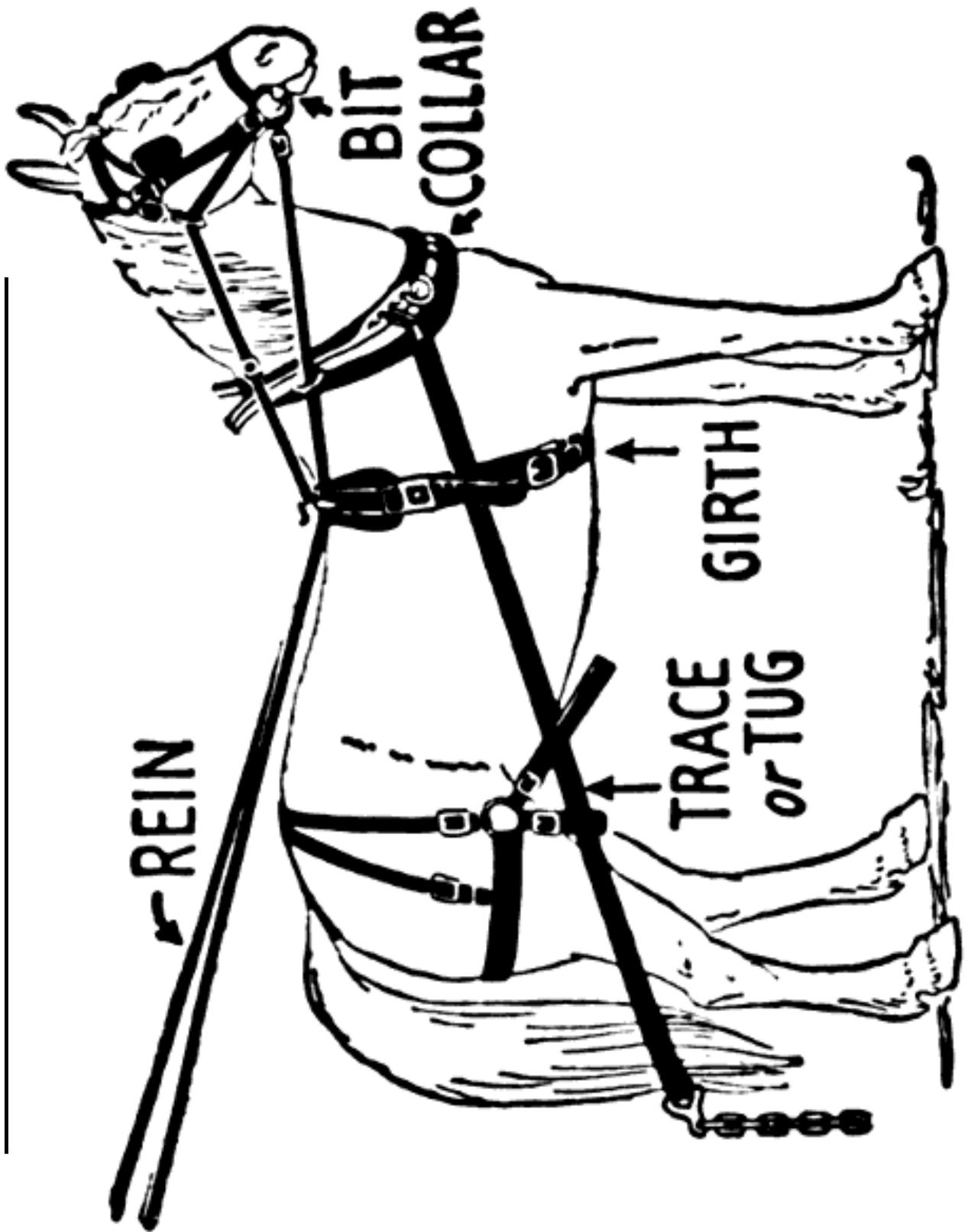
No, it’s not a town with ghosts!

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.

Investigate: YouTube Video About L. Frank Baum

Video of the week....this week, please check out the video that Lora Schaunaman did on March 31st on L. Frank Baum and his time here in Aberdeen. Mr. Baum often wrote of going to the Livery Barn and renting a horse and buggy to get around the county.

Name _____



SCAVENGER HUNT MAP

CAN YOU FIND THE 3 BUSINESSES THAT FEATURE LEATHER WORKING/REPAIR, SADDLES AND

ITEMS FOR HORSES?

X MARKS THE SPOT! PLEASE TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN FRONT OF AS MANY BUSINESSES AS YOU CAN AND SEND IT TO:
DACOTAPRAIRIEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM #LOCALHISTORYISFUN ANSWERS IN NEXT WEEK'S PACKET YOU HAVE A SPECIAL INVITATION TO
GO INSIDE OUR TWO MYSTERY SHOPS DURING NORMAL HOURS AND SMELL THAT LEATHER SMELL!

