

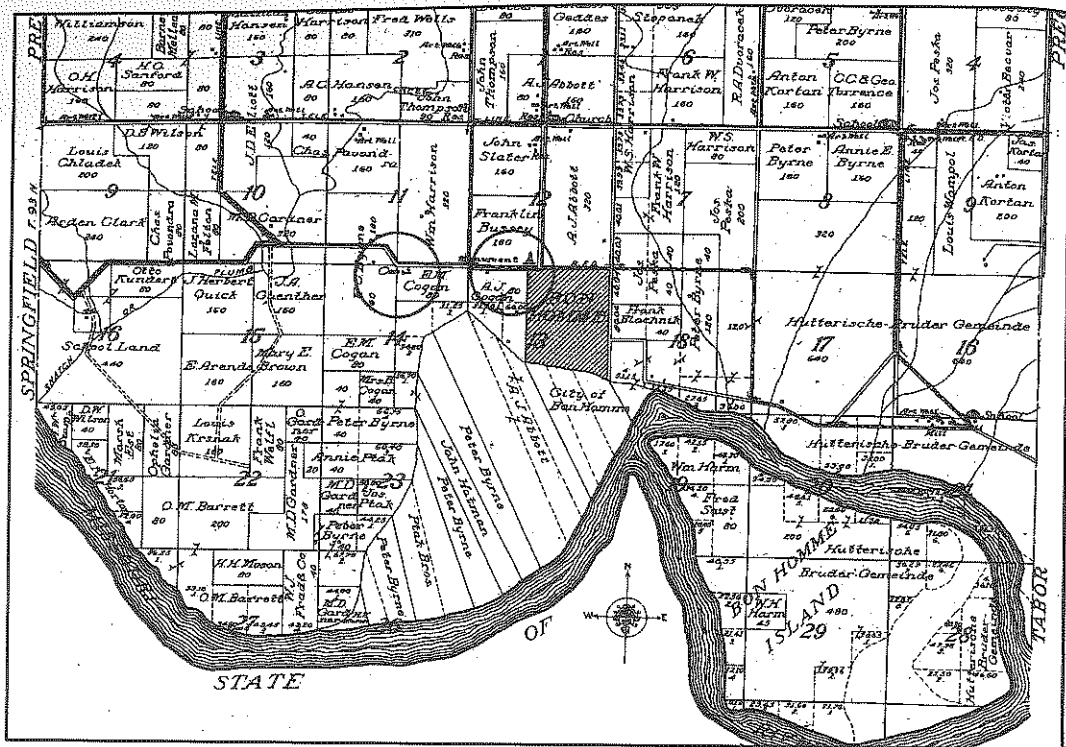
Bon Homme County, Then and Now

In 1857, only gentle plains and rolling hills blanketed the treeless terrain between the eastern border of Bon Homme County and a dot on the map named Brownsville on Choteau Creek. No towns yet existed and, depending on the weather, only two major and a few minor creeks presented challenges. The Sioux City to Fort Randall Military Road entered the county in a gently meandering manner several miles north of the Missouri River. By 1861, a survey map already showed branches angling about three miles southward toward the Bon Homme Village community on the Missouri River shore.

Bon Homme Village was founded in 1859 and within ten years became as prominent a village and steamboat port as Vermillion and Yankton. In 1858, sixteen members of a John Shober Colony from Minnesota had crossed the Missouri River from Nebraska where they had been exploring claim possibilities. They built two cabins on the beckoning Dakota side, "too soon" as the land still belonged to Indians. Soldiers from Fort Randall chased the settlers back across the river and burned their cabins. The colonists returned in 1859, their numbers bolstered by new colonists from Minnesota.

The land which the settlers claimed for a village had been purchased from Zephyr Recontre by next door neighbor Dr. Walter Burleigh and his father-in-law Andrew Faulk who predicted great promise for a riverside port. The federal government had awarded Recontre the land in gratitude for his assistance in ratifying the Yankton Treaty of 1858.

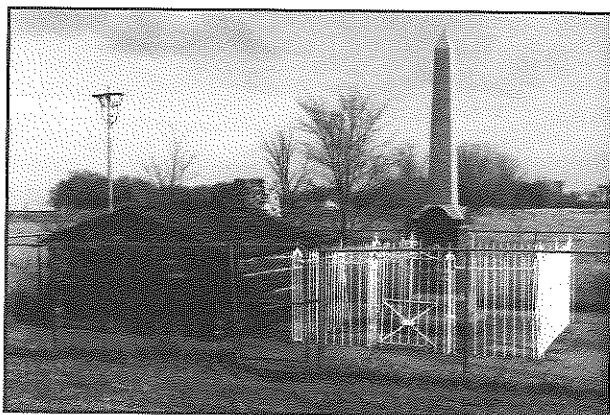
After the Minnesota Santee Sioux Uprising scare in 1862 had subsided and frightened residents returned from protection in Yankton, Bon Homme Village grew rapidly. Not only was it voted county seat but also claimed the distinction of having built the first school in Dakota Territory (1860). Hotels, liquor establishments, stores, and a hall flourished, and the rudimentary log Bon Homme County Courthouse served temporarily as site for the United States District Court. However when the railroad bypassed the village in 1879 and the courthouse moved to Tyndall in 1885, decline set in rapidly. Only the Bon Homme National Cemetery situated one-half mile west of the



A survey map of Bon Homme Village community points out the location of the village established in 1859, first school monument and replica (circled, right), and Bon Homme National Cemetery (circled, left), first burial 1859. The Missouri River encircles Bon Homme Island, visited by Lewis and Clark.

former village testifies to the town's brief existence. The oldest tombstone marks the burial site in 1859 of four-year-old Sophia Brown, half-breed daughter of J. (Jonathan) and S.J. Brown. It lies flat on the ground near the homemade monument which memorializes six of General George Custer's cavalymen who died in May 1873 while camped at nearby Snatch Creek. Burials continue in the "cemetery with a view."

Oral histories recount several incidents which occurred at or began soon after the Sioux City to Fort Randall Road entered Bon Homme County. One involved a member of Company A, First Dakota Cavalry, Corporal Adolph Mauksch, born Prussian, left a claim south of Lakeport in Yankton County in 1862 to volunteer for service.

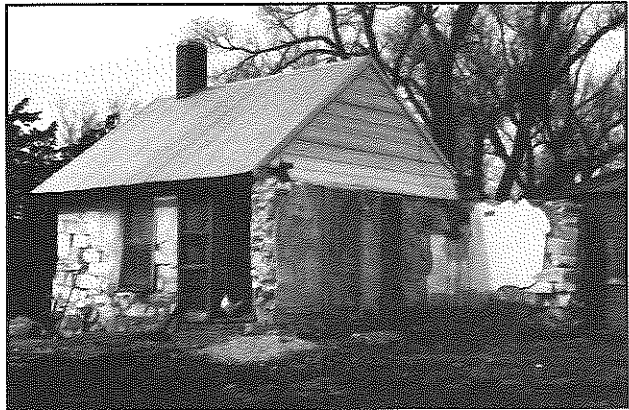


A replica of the first school in Dakota Territory (1860) and an obelisk monument listing first teacher and students constructed in 1910 with funds raised by county school children stand just north of the entrance to the once prosperous Bon Homme Village.

While riding his horse alone in eastern Bon Homme County on dispatch duty from Fort Randall to General Pope in Chicago, he came upon an apparently deserted stage coach. The mule team was unhooked and standing by quietly but he saw no one. An eerie feeling prompted Mauksch to continue without investigating further. On his return two weeks later he learned that there had indeed been a stage coach robbery, that robbers were believed to have forced passengers and driver into nearby slough grass until the person they perceived as military had passed. After retirement in 1865, Mauksch returned to his claim in Yankton County, which had been usurped, took another, married, and became a respected farmer with an expansive view of the Missouri River.

A young man whose family lived in the Tabor vicinity north of the above occurrence hoped to satisfy his desire to "see the world" by joining a wagon train headed west on the Military Road. He had planned to stake a claim near Geddes in Charles Mix County. Separated from the wagon in a terrible blizzard, Frank Burgr was rescued by a French Canadian named Dion who sheltered him overnight in his tepee. Dion then delivered the severely frozen Bohemian lad to Fort Randall by travois where the military surgeon amputated both legs. Burgr did not survive and was supposedly buried in the cemetery on the grounds. Neither were his remains ever located by his family nor did they learn the whereabouts of money entrusted to the wagon master for safekeeping!

When William M. Walker was a lad in the early 1870s, his family lived alongside the Military Road two miles west of the Yankton County border and three miles south of Tabor. His father Abner Walker, encouraged by his uncle Philip Risling who lived east of Yankton, filed his claim in 1870. By 1880 Abner and his family were living in a newly built chalkstone home from where they could observe daily stagecoaches en route to Fort Randall via Bon Homme Village and Springfield. Occasionally the Walkers played host to freighters with heavy wagons who camped overnight near their home.



A portion of the Abner Walker family chalkstone home located alongside the Sioux City to Fort Randall Road served as chicken shelter and storage in 1996.

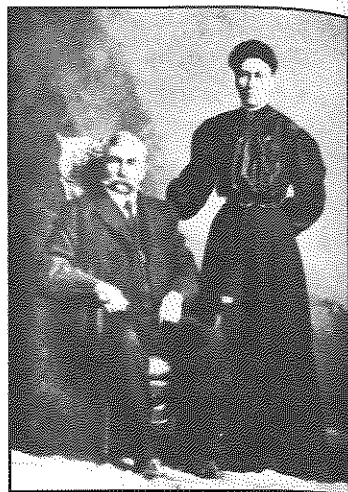
When the federal government stretched telegraph lines in the early 1870s along the Military Road, William and his three siblings would scare up plentiful prairie chickens nesting under the lines and reap those who entangled themselves in the wire. He vividly remembered seeing stagecoaches drawn by oxen during a period when horses were afflicted with distemper. He recalled as well the flurry of gold-seekers heading west on the Trail, some with mule teams, some with oxen and some on foot carrying frying pans, bedding and a few clothes, and then returning two years later in ragged clothing, disappointment showing in the slump of their bodies.

In recent years, the family home, last used as chicken coop and storage facility, was diminished in size by removal of chalkstone for use in restoration of a chalkstone building at another site. The remainder may still be standing. William Walker's memories were published in the 1971 edition of the *Bon Homme County Pioneers Bulletin* (Old Settlers) edited by Hazel Abbott.

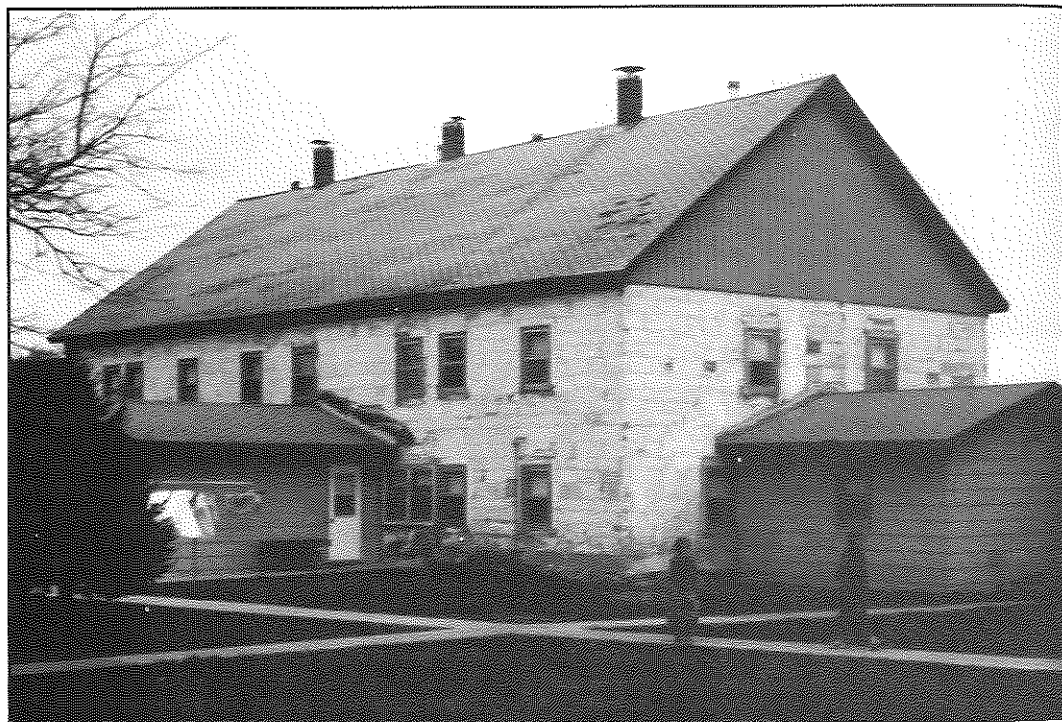
By the mid-1870s, a branch from the Military Trail led to the communal Hutterische Colony newly located three miles east of Bon Homme Village along the Missouri River. One hundred twenty men, women and children, followers of the conservative Anabaptist religion, emigrated in 1874 from Russia to settle on 2,500 acres of bottom land they had purchased from Dr. Walter Burleigh for \$10 per acre. The colonists lived temporarily in sod huts until completing permanent chalkstone barns, two-story living quarters, a carpenter shop, steam-powered flour mill, and other structures. Many original buildings remain on grounds of the agriculturally progressive community.

Travelers along the original Military Trail with large retinues spread out widely as they made their way to the Brownsville Crossing into Charles Mix County. After 1870, a tiny stage station, post office and wayside shelter named Havlicek (noted on early maps variously as Hawlijek and Havilicek), stood two miles into Bon Homme County three miles south of Tabor.

Bohemian immigrant Josef Ptak built Havlicek on his claim in 1870 and at one time planned a town site. Members of the Ptak party had come up the Missouri River by flatboat from Sloan, Iowa, and lived for a time in caves on the river bottom before settling in the Tabor area. The only remnant of Ptak's dream is a



Bohemian immigrant Josef Ptak and his wife Anna settled on a claim in Bon Homme County in 1870 prior to establishing Havlicek Station and Post Office.



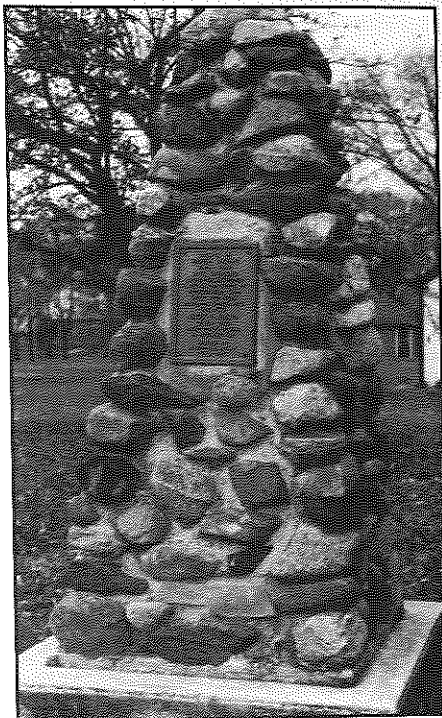
The Bon Homme Hutterite Colony has attached annexes to original chalkstone buildings constructed shortly after emigration from Russia in 1874.

family cemetery planned as part of his town. In 1874, at age 45 he became its first inhabitant. Although Ptak's National Cemetery is used infrequently, it is cared for devotedly by descendants.

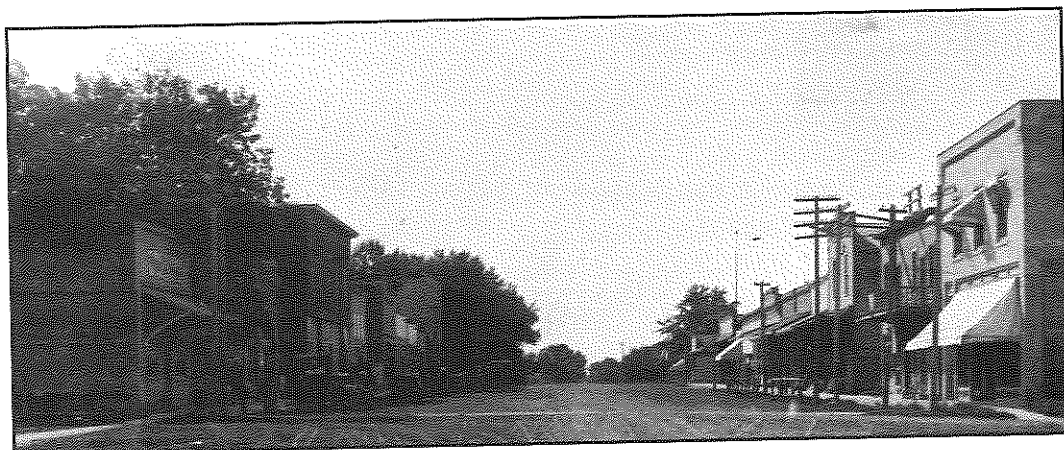
Four and one-half miles west lay sometimes challenging Snatch Creek. From there only minor streams and draws interrupted the dozen or so miles to Emanuel Creek in central Bon Homme County. When General Custer and his entourage marched along the trail north and west of Springfield in 1873 to camp along the scenic Emanuel, citizens of Springfield traveled four miles north in droves to observe the cavalry's passage.

A brief attempt in 1860 to found a village at the Springfield site had been foiled by the 1862 Santee Indian Insurrection in Minnesota, and it would be close to a decade before the present town was established. Ogden Marsh platted the town on May 2, 1870, and with his family became first residents. Before his death two years later, he had become a prominent civic leader, counting proudly among his accomplishments the founding of the Springfield Temperance Union. An impressive field stone monument within the town marks his and his wife's graves.

Steamboats docked regularly at Springfield and the telegraph line reached the village in 1870, the year the federal government located a Land Office there. In its first year of service, the Land Office recorded more than \$46,000 in revenue. In 1879, Episcopal Bishop Wm. Hobart Hare established a boarding school for



A plaque on a fieldstone monument built in 1981 by the Springfield Rotary Club near the corner of Walnut and Sixth Street in Springfield memorializes first settler Ogden Marsh and his wife. It reads, "Graves of Ogden Marsh 1818-1872, Civil Engineer-Surveyor, Attorney, Platted the town of Springfield in 1869, Built the First Dwelling House in 1870. His wife Addie L. Marsh 1844-1872, First White Woman in Springfield."



A progressive Springfield was quick to border its wide business street with sidewalks.

Indian boys. In 1894, the boys were sent to St. Paul's Episcopal Boys School at Greenwood and girls were accepted in the Springfield school. Early residents in town, predominantly of British extraction, included Territorial Governor John A. Burbank and briefly, J.B.S. Todd.

The *Springfield Times* began publishing on July 27, 1871, its editor L.D.F. Poore. It remains the oldest weekly newspaper continuously published in South Dakota. Interesting historical tidbits reflecting pioneer life appear in the current paper's "Way Back When" columns. In May 1874, the *Times* noted "Last week the Brule Sioux Indians came down on settlers at Cottonwood and Little Platte and the settlers all fled to Niobrara to save their stock. In the Bohemian settlement on the Niobrara they killed fifteen head of cattle Friday and Saturday." The following month the newspaper complained, "The Ponca Indians shot eight head of Texas cattle while they were being crossed from Niobrara to this side of the river on Saturday." And, "A train of five immigrant wagons came into town yesterday accompanied by about fifty head of stock among which was about a dozen sheep. They were Norwegians and will settle west of Emmanuel Creek."

The June 10, 2009, issue of the *Times* replayed what was to be a gallant 1884 Fourth of July celebration in Springfield. June 1884: "There is to be a grand Independence Day celebration on July 4 starting with the Sunrise National Salute by the Grand Army boys. At 9 o'clock is the grand parade by 500 mounted Indians, and at 10:30 the procession will form on 8th Street headed by Neligh cornet band and march to the grove followed by music, the prayer, reading of Independence by A.T. Bridgeman, an oration by Hon. Firman Church and adjournment for dinner. Starting at 2 o'clock will be the sack race, potato race, foot race, 5 mile foot race, pony and horse races. Fireworks in the evening concluding with a Grand Ball at Odd Fellows Hall."

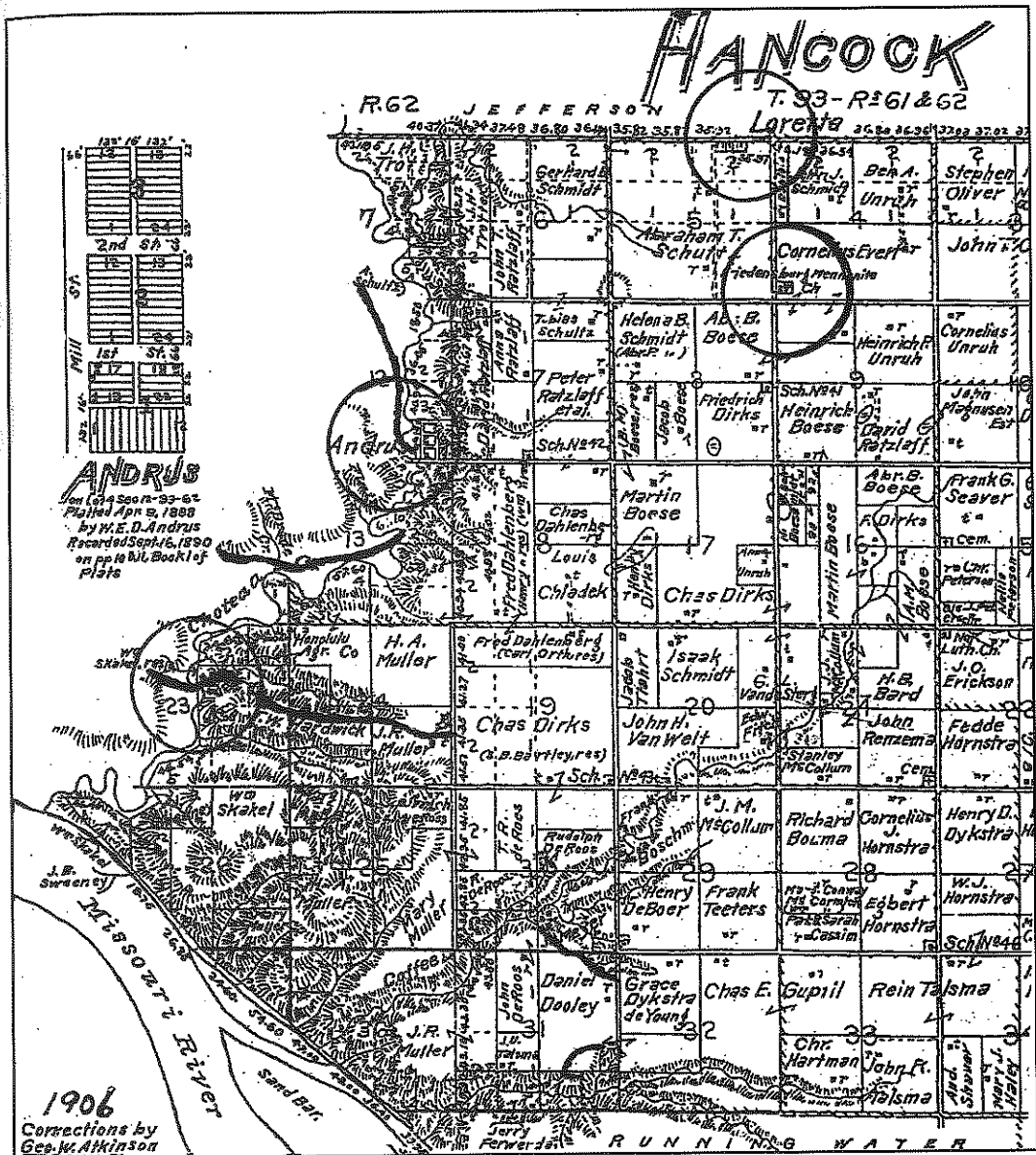
Before Springfield acquired its post office in 1870, Nathan McDaniels operated a mail station at the stagecoach depot on Emanuel Creek. McDaniels, 44, had arrived at Bon Homme village with the first Shoher Colony, and according to the Census of 1860 (*SDHC, vol. X*), may have then had farm property in the Choteau Creek area. He served as Second Lieutenant in Company B, Dakota Cavalry, having enlisted in Elk Point on October 20, 1862. However in 1868, while living in a substantial log house on Emanuel Creek, he and his wife, three sons and two daughters experienced an unusual and miserable occurrence.

A heavy rainstorm in May hit just as the McDaniels family was retiring for the night. One son still outdoors observed a huge wall of water rushing down the creek towards their home. The family climbed to the roof where drenched, cold, and hungry they remained all night and part of the next day until water subsided. It was then that they noted dead pickerel littering the creek banks, a fish unknown in Bon Homme County.

On that same night, a similar cloudburst occurred near the Military Trail at Choteau Creek. A large party of emigrants and freighters were sleeping alongside the creek when a fifteen-foot wall of water came rushing down, sweeping their wagons to the Missouri River three miles away. Two trunks, each containing \$1,000 in greenbacks were lost; however, one was recovered as it had been thrown back on the bank along with dead fish. The assumption was that an unusual water spout had taken pickerel from distant rivers or lakes and deposited them in Dakota. (The above two incidents appear in *Kingsbury I*, p502). McDaniels and family eventually moved to Meade County where he died.

The distance from Emanuel Creek to the challenging hills leading to the crossing noted on earliest maps as Brownsville was about nine miles. Two post office stations, Wanari and Dalystown (once a stage station as well) served predominately Dutch and Norwegian settlers in that area.

A little north of those two settlements was the village of Loretta established in 1874 and 1875 by a cluster of German Mennonites from Russia. The German speaking immigrants followed the teachings of Menno Simon and quickly established the Friedensberg Mennonite Church and Cemetery. Influenced by their proximity to Choteau Creek and the nearby Yankton Reservation, the soon-to-be Americans learned to get along peaceably with their neighbors. A blacksmith shod horses for the Indians, and while doing so learned their language well enough to act as interpreter.



Loretta Village appears (barely) at the extreme north border of 1906 Hancock Township. Also noted are locations of Friedensberg Mennonite Church, Andrus village, and the Choteau Creek crossing at Skakel's Honolulu Ranch, originally Tackett's Station. (1906 Atlas of Bon Homme County, South Dakota, E. Frank Peterson)

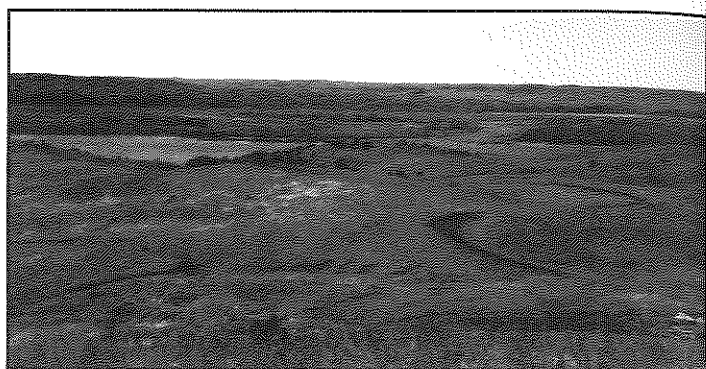
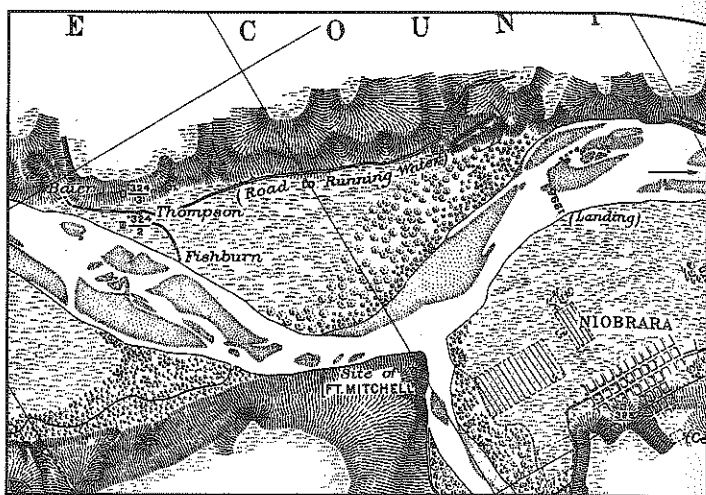
Large herds of Texas cattle bound for Yankton Agency were driven across newly-settled farms, annuity cattle which had forded the Missouri from Niobrara to an opening in the hills west of Running Water. Cowboys herded the longhorns north several miles through the Norwegian Hills to near the German settlement where they crossed Choteau Creek onto the Indian reservation, possibly near or north of Andrus. Busy (or lazy) cowboys occasionally did not round up either strayed cattle or dropped calves, which helped compensate the Germans and other settlers for crop damages.

The little settlement of Andrus was located on the Bon Homme County side of Choteau Creek almost midway below the original crossing of the Military Road at Brownsville and Tackett's Station near the Missouri River. The village took its name from Major W.D.E. Andrus, who, according to *SDHC, Volume*

32, served as United States Indian Agent at Greenwood in 1880. However, storage facilities were already in that location in 1861 during Dr. Walter Burleigh's term as Yankton Agency Agent. Indian oral history suggests that Burleigh had surreptitiously stored both personal and annuity supplies there salvaged from the sinking of his personally, not federally, hired steamboat.

The Andrus post office served patrons from May 16, 1889, until February 15, 1914, at the popular stagecoach crossing. Amenities on site included stage station, hotel, blacksmith shop, flour mill, and saloons.

Karl Sterba, his wife Anna Vavorka Sterba and large family were early residents of Andrus. He ran the Andrus Roller Mill and also hauled mail by horse and buggy to Greenwood and White Swan, often accompanied by his teen-aged daughter Sophia. Anna operated the hotel which featured a café and post office on first floor and rental rooms upstairs.

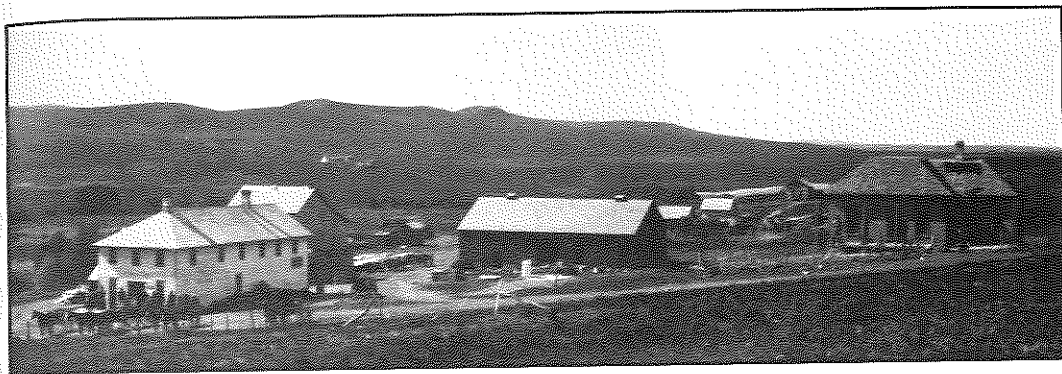


Top: Herds of Texas cattle may have forded the Missouri River from Niobrara, Nebraska, into hills west of Running Water. (1891 Missouri River Commission survey)

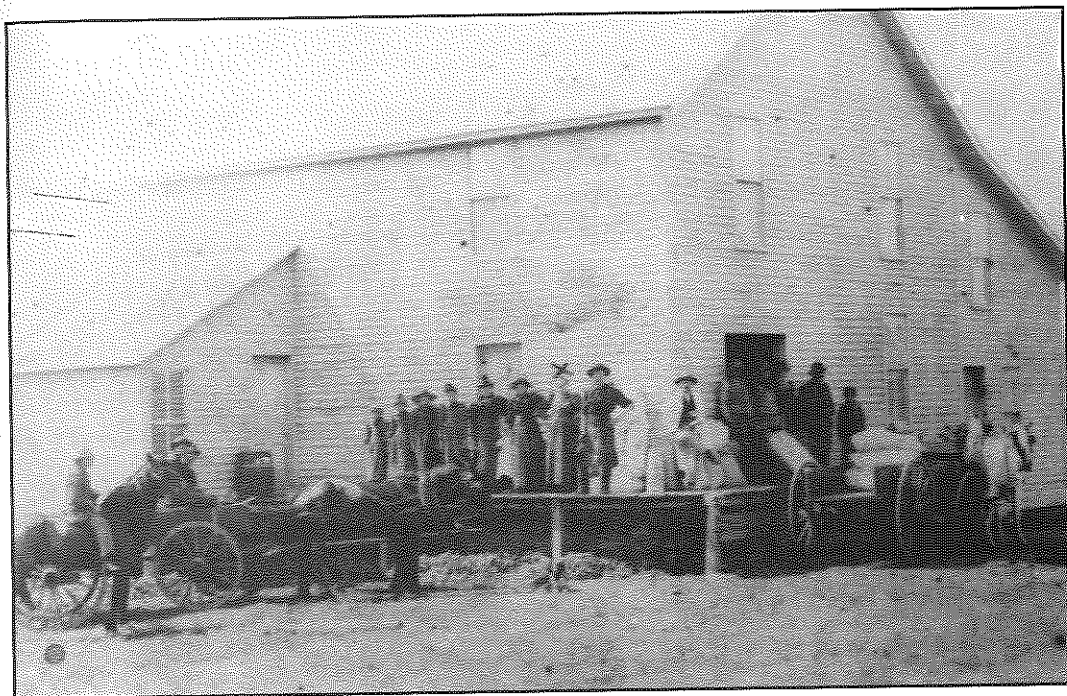
Bottom: Texas cattle wended through rolling "Norwegian Hills" in western Bon Homme County headed for Choteau Creek and the Indian Agency at Greenwood. The Nebraska Hills repose in the background.

Two huge grist stones worked the mill on Choteau Creek, each seven feet in diameter and one inch thick. The "runner" stone contained grooves and turned slowly atop the "nether" stone. A millrace made of dammed rocks backed up sufficient water to power the stones. The grist mill eventually burned but its remains still scar the creek.

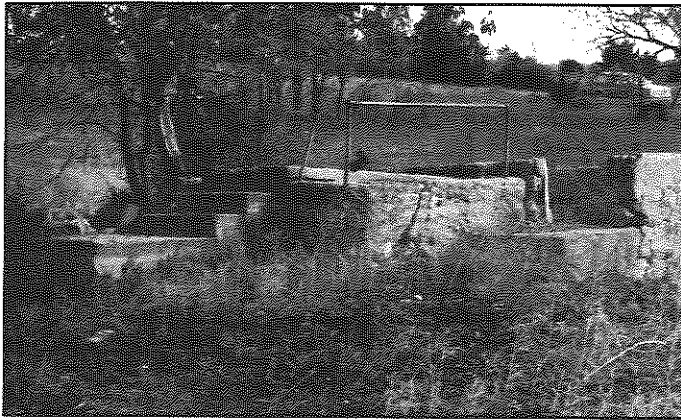
Daughter Sophia Sterba, who was ten when the family arrived at Andrus in 1886, married blacksmith John Theodore Youngbluth in 1896 when he was 29 years old. Youngbluth had left his



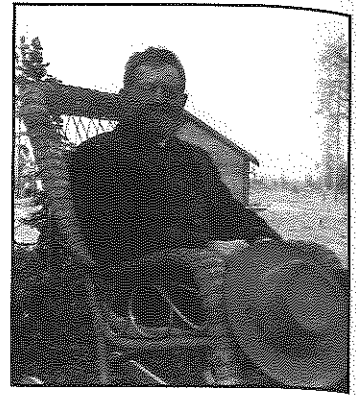
Andrus on Choteau Creek once had hotel, blacksmith shop, flour mill, home and other small buildings. Note tiny Indian settlement with tepee in the background across Choteau Creek. Signal Hill can be seen in distant center.



A faded photograph captures a gathering on a warehouse platform in Andrus: from left, two daughters of Joe Krejci, Lucy Sterba (in large hat), Francis Sterba, Sophie Sterba, Emma Sterba (child in white), her mother Mrs. Frank Busta Sterba, Mrs. Karl Vavorka Sterba (marked with X), John Youngbluth in blacksmith's apron, Joe Krejci (on corner sitting with leg crossed), unknown, Frank Sterba (holding cart with flour bag), his father Karl Sterba, Sr. (long white whiskers), and two unknowns.



All that remains in Andrus are partial foundations and ruts leading to a rock crossing still used occasionally for machinery too wide to cross at a bridge.



Wm. Grant Muller and fellow Irish immigrants were first to break soil in Hancock County near Tackett's Station. (Courtesy Lisa Einrem)

home in Apple River, Illinois, at age fifteen to avoid parental pressure to serve the church. Having learned the blacksmith trade by apprenticing, he briefly ran a shop in Springfield and then set up shop in Andrus. In 1895, he filed in Charles Mix County for 80 acres three miles south of Wagner. Lumber for the couple's one room frame house had to be hauled from Springfield, and as John's property had no well, he was forced to haul water from a source eight miles away.

A well-known settler with Irish heritage also lived near Choteau Creek between the Andrus location and Tackett's Station. William Grant Muller was born in Alsace, Lorraine, on May 27, 1837. He married Mary Grattan in 1863, and the two acquired considerable property in Hancock Township. In 1861 (or 1862), Muller was first to break farm land on the creek bottom north of Tackett's with fellow Irishmen James Keegan and James Donnelly, nephew. He knew horses well and enjoyed horse-trading. His wife Mary was not shy either as she solved a neighborhood dispute over whether or not to replace the district's aged schoolhouse by hooking her team up to the building and pulling the structure down! The winter of 1880-1881 had doomed the primitive log school which had been built with lumber salvaged from the Muller's 1878 claim shanty. Winds had blown snow through the logs where chinking had fallen out, followed by melting snow dripping through the earthen roof. Neighbors built a new frame school on the nearby Ed Fitch, Sr., farm which served until 1914.

In the 1930s, the Mullers entertained neighbors from both sides of Choteau Creek by hosting rodeos, ball games and pow-wows in a natural amphitheater on their property. Crowds enjoyed watching young Indian

Third Annual

Picnic & Rodeo!

POWOW GROUNDS
SAT. & SUN., AUG. 25-26

6 miles south and 4 west of Avon

Saturday	Sunday
<p>Kittenball Game Baseball Game HORSE RACES KEG ROPING STEER RIDING Indian Tribal Dance</p>	<p>Baseball Game Avon vs. Dante, 2 p. m. 10 BUCKING HORSES 10 BUCKING STEERS RACES TUG-OF-WAR Indians vs. The World</p>

BRING YOUR PICNIC DINNER
AND STAY ALL DAY

ADMISSION—Adults 15c, Children 10c.

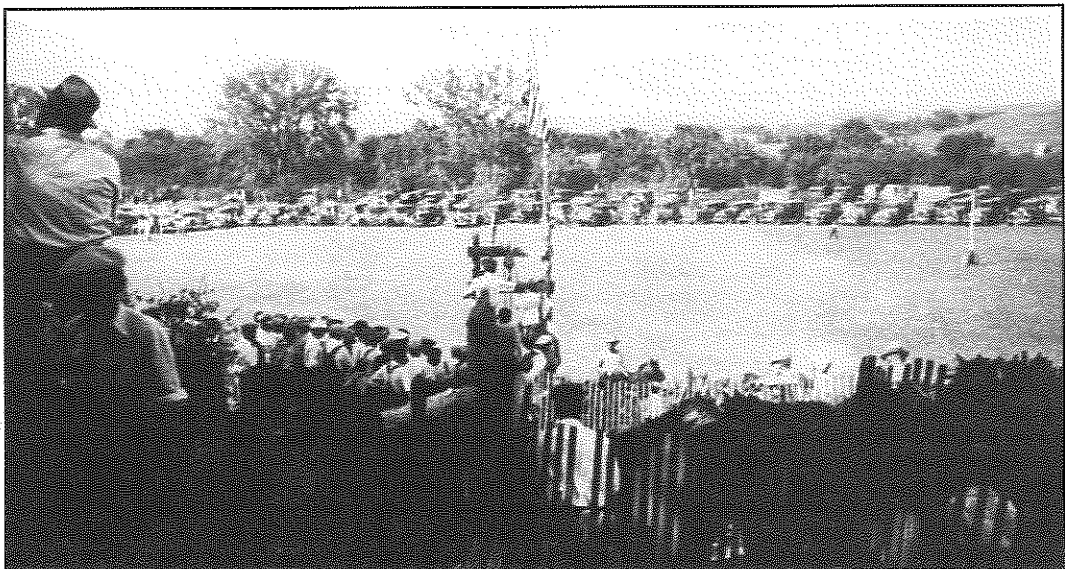
Posters spread the news in the 1930s when entertainment was forthcoming.

men ride horses and steers, and after cars were available, at dusk people would turn on their headlights to prolong the fun. Baseball was very popular and competition brisk between natives and whites.

Visible from the Andrus site is the landmark Signal Hill in Charles Mix County used by Indians and soldiers for an observation point. Gone, however, are the remains of buildings, also on the Charles Mix side, associated with the Andrus Indian Agricultural Colony, one of four fenced experimental colonies the federal government provided Indians to encourage independence. The experiment lasted two decades.



Spectators enjoy competitive baseball at the Muller ranch.



Indian and white neighbors enjoy rodeo on grounds at the Muller ranch close to Chouteau Creek. Headlights from autos provided light when the hour grew late.

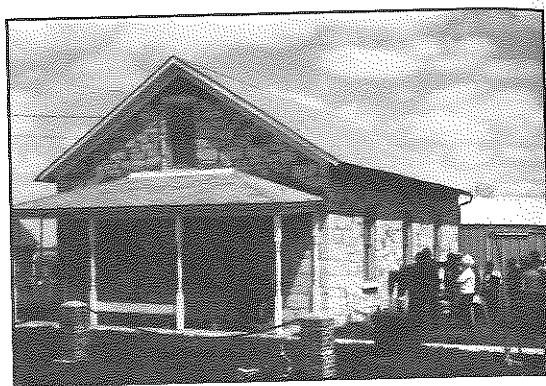


A postcard photo of Scotland's Main Street postmarked 1912 shows an active Main Street.

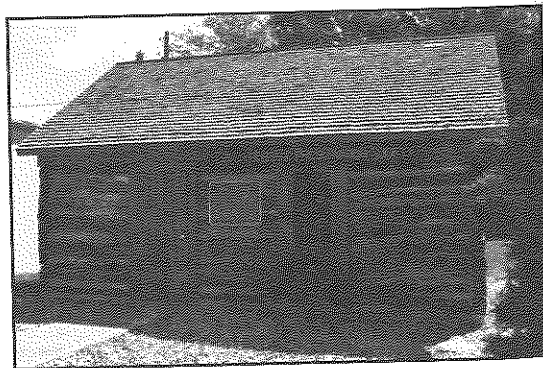
Bon Homme County today has five incorporated towns, one residential-only village, one rural elevator and feed store location (formerly Kingsburg), and the Hutterite Colony.

General Charles T. Campbell, founder of Scotland in 1870, had discovered an ideal place for trading post and inn on Dawson Creek along Firesteel Trail. Campbell, war veteran and former inspector of Indian agencies, lived with his common-law wife who was sister of Governor Andrew Faulk, who in turn, was Walter Burleigh's father-in-law. Campbell convinced his Scottish friend John Stafford and families to join him at his new post, and soon a chalkstone village grew on the prairie above his inn. Germans from Russia arrived in large numbers in the mid-to-late 1870s, prompting the establishment of a German business street set at an angle apart from the main business section. Census figures today estimate a slowly dwindling population of less than 800.

The Tabor Czech Heritage Preservation Society restored and moved the town's first school into Czech Heritage Park on Lidice Street, so-named to commemorate the massacre by German Nazis in 1942 of all males in the village of Lidice in Bohemia.



An 1874 chalkstone Methodist Church has since 1976 served the Scotland Historical Society. Chalkstone was abundantly available from a quarry one-half mile southeast of Scotland. Onlookers (above) observe a chalkstone repair demonstration performed in 1996 by Bob Hanson of Yankton.





The Tabor 1890 Bohemian Band performed heritage music still played by devoted musicians: (front row, from left) John Kudrna (or John Schuch), Jim Petrik, Joseph Petrik, Matt Petrik (Jim and Matt were brothers); (back, from left, order unclear) Charles Skorplik, A. Krejčík, Albert Melmer, Tom Simek.

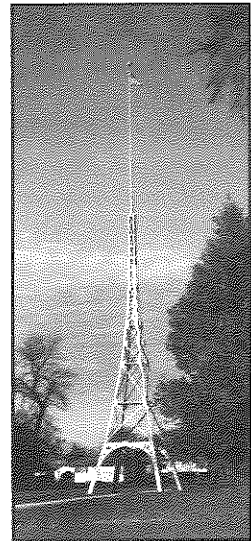
Springfield, described previously, today is home to almost 1,500 residents; however, that number includes close to 1,000 prisoners incarcerated at the Mike Durfee State Prison located in 1984 on former Southern State Normal grounds.

Tabor, established in 1872, remains a largely Catholic Czech community whose heritage is proudly celebrated annually in June with the nationally-known "Czech Days." The spirited town lacks a grocery store but due perhaps to its proximity to Yankton as a bedroom community, the population of about 400 remains steady.

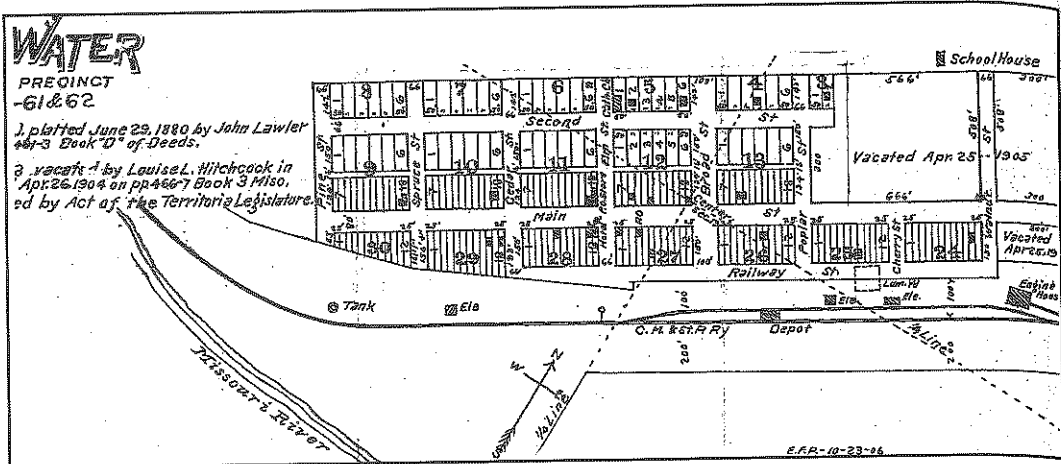
Tyndall, a railroad town established in central Bon Homme County in 1879, became county seat in 1885 and retains that position today. It is base for Bon Homme School District 4-2, encompassing Springfield, Tyndall and Tabor. Amenities include a hospital, nursing home, swimming pool and park, and active



Bon Homme County citizens voted to move the county seat from Bon Homme Village to Tyndall in 1884. The present courthouse was completed in 1914 at a cost of \$92,449.38.



Bon Homme County commissioners allowed \$200 in 1898 to build a 100-foot flag tower on courthouse grounds, possibly as a Spanish-American veteran's memorial.



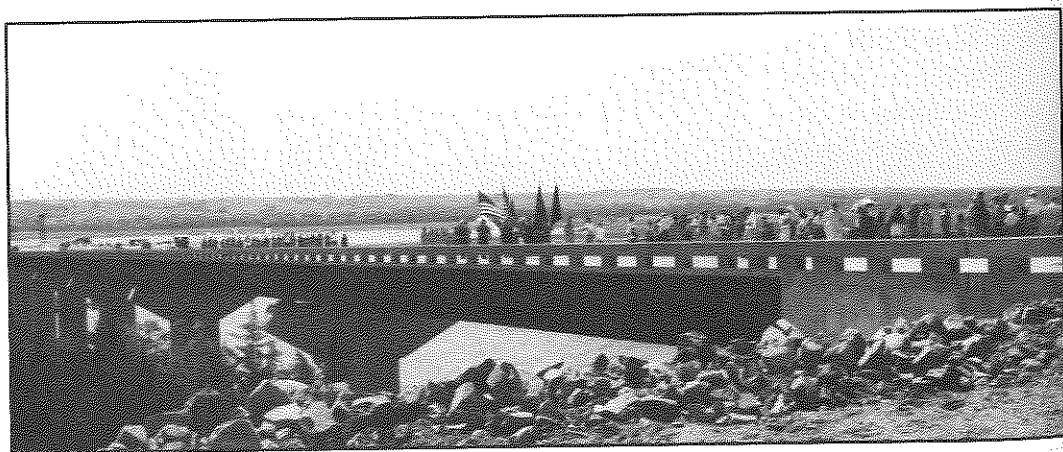
By 1906 the bustling village of Running Water had already vacated portions of its original 1880 plat.



A Running Water Ferry employee edges a farm truck into a narrow space alongside a car before embarking for Niobrara in 1931.



Ferryboat passengers in 1966 crowd the rail of an updated paddle wheeler ferrying several cars between Running Water and Niobrara.



Celebrants march across newly dedicated Chief Standing Bear Bridge connecting Running Water to Niobrara on August 29, 1998.

Main Street. Its population has diminished only slightly in the last decade from 1,115 to about 1,100.

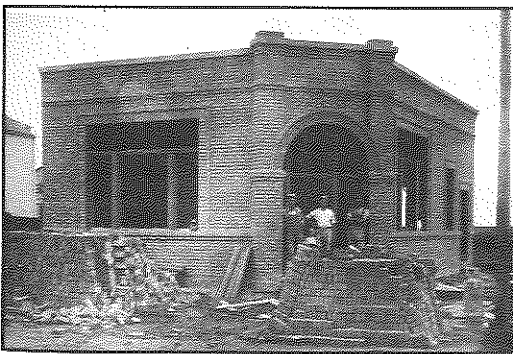
Avon, founded as a railroad town in 1900, celebrated a heartwarming centennial in 2000. A recent South Dakota Highway map lists the town's population at 561. Like many small mid-western towns, its slowly declining population reflects loss of youth and the difficulty of keeping viable businesses on Main Street.

Running Water, platted in 1871, was once a fur trading post and active railroad village. Today the residential only community nestles against the Missouri River across from Niobrara, Nebraska. Since 1996, the beautiful Chief Standing Bear Bridge built adjacent to Running Water has connected South Dakota to Nebraska where previously only an active and historical ferry service plied the waters. Ferry service ceased in 1984.

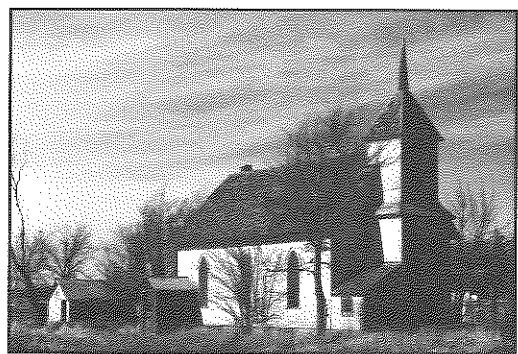
Villages which no longer exist and the years they were founded include Vodnany, 1878, a Bohemian Catholic community west of Scotland whose Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church now serves at Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center near Irene; Perkins, 1897, northwest of Springfield where Dutch and Norwegians mingled to shop, dance and pray; and Blaha, 1909, a Czech and German railroad town between Tyndall and Scotland. Kingsburg, originally named Brownsville, 1912, served patrons between Tyndall and Springfield. It was once a lively railroad town with amenities but is now site of a thriving grain elevator and feed business and little else.



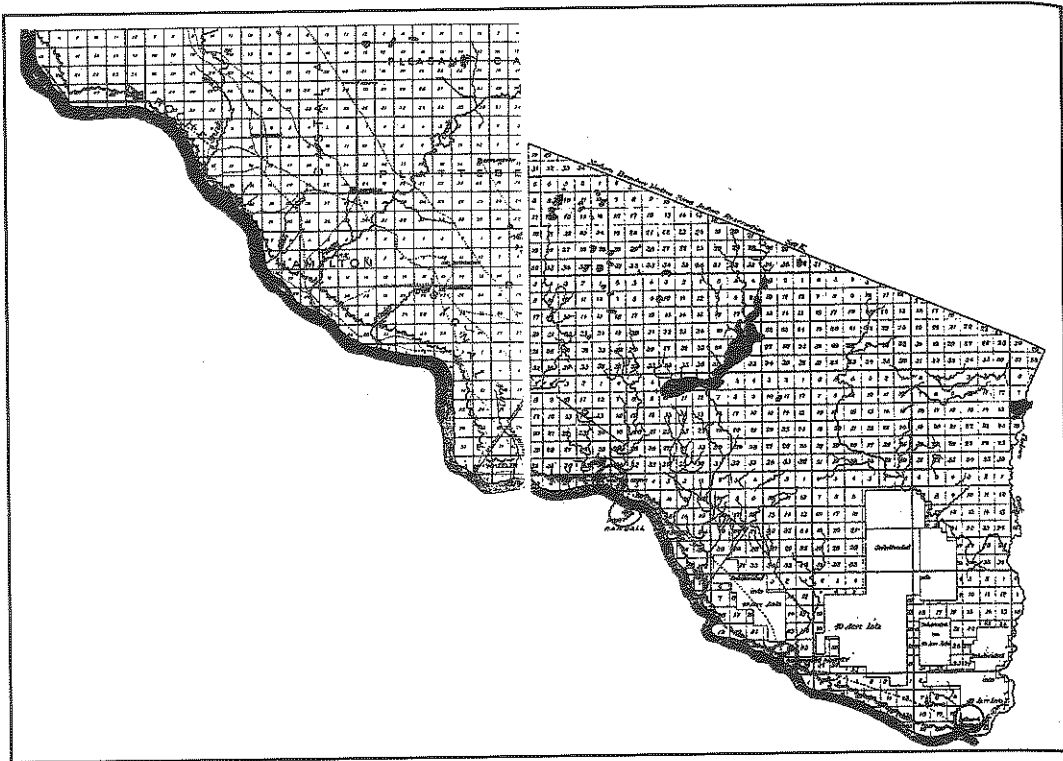
A unique iron cross monument reminiscent of Old Bohemia marks a grave site in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Cemetery adjacent to where a church once was a nucleus of the abandoned Vodnany community.



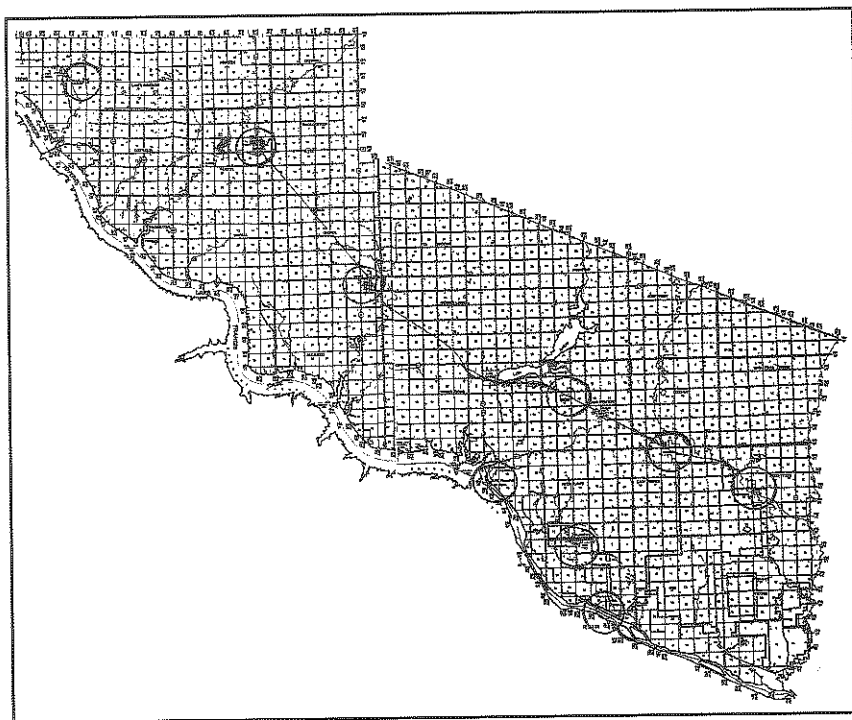
Workers pause in construction of Tom Pier's Bank of Kingsburg, which functioned from 1914 to 1933. Originally platted as Brownsville, the now defunct village was named Kingsburg for its principal founder Mike King.



A Congregational Church built in Perkins in 1901 was purchased in 1940 by Norwegian Lutherans. The abandoned building deteriorates among empty lots where active businesses once thrived.



Andreas Atlas of Dakota 1884. Circled from right are Holy Name Episcopal Chapel, Greenwood Agency, Fort Randall and White Swan.



Charles Mix County, 2009. Circled along the Missouri River (from right) are: Greenwood, Marty, Pickstown/Fort Randall. Circled, center of county, (from right) are Dante, Wagner, Ravinia, Geddes, Platte, and Academy. Lake Andes (not circled) lies west of Ravinia at lower tip of the lake.