

Historic Times

Summer History Club • Week of June 22, 2020 • Issue: 04



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 Room in My House: My Room!!! (Of course)

Favorite Color:

Green

Little Brother: Thomas



You will learn in the story about the bank that some people did not trust banks in the early

pioneer days because they were not insured like they are now. Because of this reason, people sometimes hid money at home.

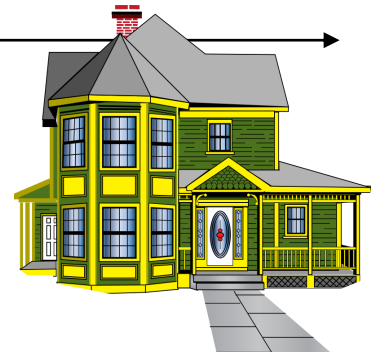
In keeping with that theme, this week we have hidden pennies throughout the pages of the newsletter. Make sure to search each page carefully!

"How many can you find?"

(Answer on page 9)

TOPIC OF THE WEEK:

Bank & House



Hello History Club Members!

Susan the Sleuth here, reporting from Dacotah Prairie Museum. I'm getting to know the museum very well! I wish you could visit, but because of a sickness called Covid-19, they can't be open in the normal way...but in the meantime we have HISTORY CLUB and it is awesome! If you are new to the club and would like to catch up on past topics, check out the museum website to download and print past newsletters. Find them at dacotahprairiemuseum.com

Our topic this week is the big Victorian house and the bank. Thomas says he wants to work in the bank most of all, because of all the money and the big safe to keep the bank robbers away. I want to be in the Victorian house with my very own room that I don't have to share with a little brother!

IMAGINE: You can search the internet to find all kinds of pictures of "tiny houses" today, but in the pioneer times, most houses were tiny! If you lived out on the prairie, there were very few trees so you couldn't build a log house. Some early day farmers built sod houses made out of blocks of dirt and prairie grass roots from the ground. If you decided to stay, you would have to go into town and buy wood from the lumber store to build your own house. Most early houses were one story, maybe a dug out basement and 4 or 5 rooms (one of them was not an inside bathroom!) According to the Homestead Act, pioneers wanting to obtain land to start a farm under the rules of the act had to build a home that was at least 12 ft. by 14 ft. **TRY IT:** Take a tape measure outside to your yard and measure out a rectangle 12 feet long and 14 feet wide. Could you live in a house this size? (Make sure to get your parents' permission.) **Victorian homes were bigger, several floors and many rooms! If you came to town and saw a Victorian house, it was like a mansion!**

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. Thank 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. Three weeks down and six to go!



Hey Thomas,
Let's have a fancy
Victorian tea party!

Ok!
I'm very good at
eating snacks!



Snack Idea Fancy Sandwiches



You Will Need These Ingredients:

Sliced Bread (dense bakery breads work best— cocktail rye bread pictured)
Sliced Deli Ham, Sliced Baby Swiss Cheese, Thinly Sliced Tomato, Thinly Sliced Cucumber, Spreadable Butter
(*Sprig of Dill from the Garden - Optional*)

Directions: Use a butter knife to spread butter on bread slices

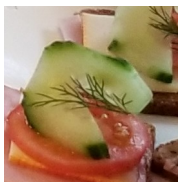
Then put on toppings in this order:

1. Ham, 2. Cheese, 3. Tomato, 4. Cucumber.

Decorate with dill if you have some growing in your garden.

To make the cucumbers look fancy, make a cut from the outside to about 2/3 of the way across the slice. Pull the ends on either side of the cut apart to create a twisty shape. Place on your sandwich for the finishing touch.
See photo at left.

(These sandwiches are served open face style, without a second slice of bread on the top.)



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.

I don't think
anyone lives in
this old house!





Bank and House

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

ledger book

cash drawer

dining room

money bags

front door

bath room

basement

accounts

robbery

stairs

kitchen

bed room

teller

parlor

window

piano

money

porch

safe



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS on page 10





INVESTIGATE: Look at this really awesome old map of Brown County! I've marked the towns we are learning about this week: Westport & Rudolph (not to be confused with Randolph which we learned about last week). I've also marked Aberdeen, where Centennial Village is located at the Brown County Fairgrounds. —Susan the Sleuth

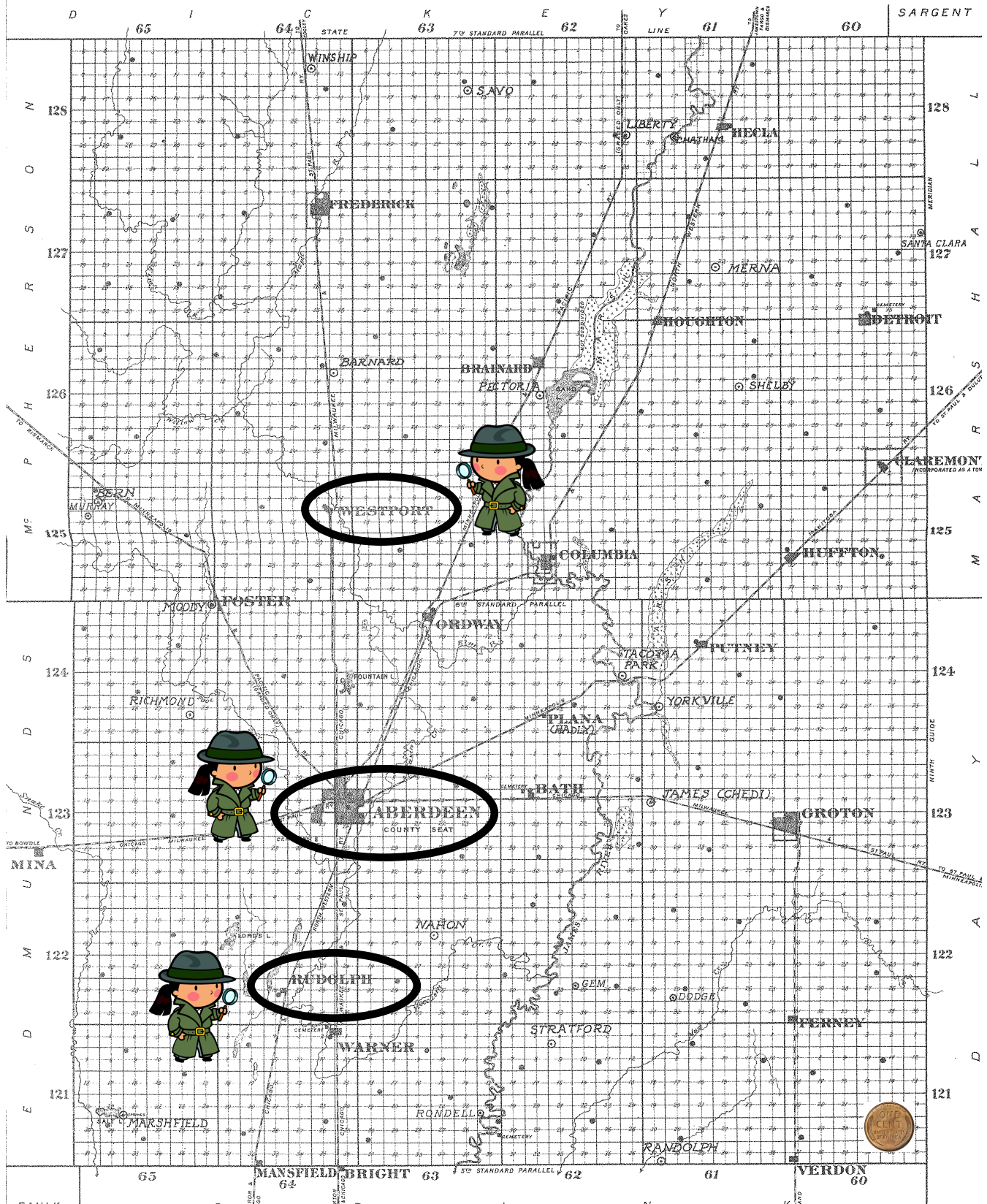


BROWN CO.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

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

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



A NEW NATIVE AMERICAN GAME OF CHANCE

YOU WILL NEED: - 6 LARGE CRAFT STICKS (1 set per family provided)

- REGULAR MARKERS or SHARPIES

- SIMPLE PRIZES *Prizes can be anything your parents choose...a goldfish cracker, an M&M or other candy, a grape, or your favorite nut. (We use a pipe cleaner and have different colored "bead prizes" that can be threaded on to make a bracelet.*

TO MAKE THE GAME: Use markers or sharpies to decorate one side of each stick with any design you would like. It could be Native American symbols or geometric shapes or just squiggles.

Remember, only decorate one side...leave the other side blank.

A GAME WITH A LIFE LESSON:

We play a lot of games during History Camp, but one of the most popular is a Native American game of chance. It's easy to learn, but sometimes not so easy to play. This game taught Native American children that they weren't always going to win....and a way of judging character is, how do you act and treat others when you lose? Or win?

Basketball, football, soccer, almost any kind of sporting game are games of skill. The more you practice, the better you'll get. This is also true when learning to play an instrument like the piano, trumpet or drums. Sometimes, talent and practice has nothing to do with a game, it's just pure luck. In life, some days you can be very lucky....your outfit rocks, you score a delicious lunch, all your friends have your back! But other days, nothing goes right...no one wants to play with you, even your dog or cat wants to be alone, you keep dropping or spilling things, maybe even missing basketball shots you usually make. How do you act then?

This is a game of chance and not everyone is going to win....so, do you pout? Do you cry when everyone else has a prize in front of them but you don't? The Native American children learned that the village was a family and that everyone needed to get along and support each other, no matter what! Maybe today was the day you found the only deer for food, but the next five times you go out, someone else finds the food and you come up empty. Should they share their food with you? Should you share yours with them?

RULES OF THE GAME: Sit in a circle, at a table or on the ground, and take all six sticks in one hand, get a couple of feet off the surface and let them drop, all at once. They might make a bit of a mess, but look how they landed.

There are 3 potential ways to win a prize with your toss:

1. all 6 sticks land design side up

2. all 6 sticks land blank side up

3. 3 sticks blank side up & 3 sticks design side up

You only win a prize if the sticks land in one of these ways!

Continue going around the circle, each taking a turn to toss the sticks. Remember two things, when you're playing the game, why not cheer the others on more than yourself? And if you find yourself winning prize after prize and someone in your group doesn't have anything, how about sharing one of your prizes with them? Someday, you might be the one with nothing in front of you. Think of how you would feel if someone would share with you?





Above Photos: Victorian House at Centennial Village
Photo at Right: Bank Building at Centennial Village

Visit to Centennial Village: The House & The Bank



THE VICTORIAN HOUSE: At the end of the village is a two story home with a pillar-studded front porch on which residents viewed street activity. Built in 1896 by M. Bennett at 512 South Jay Street in Aberdeen, it was donated by the Mack Brothers realtors and moved to the village to avoid demolition. The interior features hardwood floors, a spiraling staircase with hand carved banister, crystal chandeliers and a leaded stained glass window.

A village visitor might visualize a lady in an apron, as L. Frank Baum did in 1890, badgering her boarders to make sure they had paid their rent, fetching pancakes and syrup for their morning breakfast, baking them memorable apple pies and discussing with those boarders crop failures and follies of town folk. When Mr. Baum lived in Aberdeen he was editor of a newspaper with the weekly column...The Landlady...based on the goings on of a boarding house, kind of like this one.

This house was not the biggest or the fanciest that Aberdeen had during that time, but it is a fine example of how people with money lived in the late 1890's and into the 1900's. The porch was big and covered over with mosquito screen...so that in the hot summer, you could do a lot of your living and even sleeping outside where it was a little cooler without getting bitten by mosquitos



Historic Photos: Interior Photos of the S.C. Hedger Home at 1117 N. Main St., Aberdeen



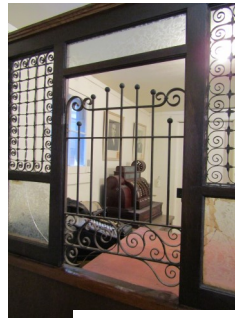
Visit to Centennial Village: House & Bank (CONTINUED)

and flies. Remember, no electricity so no central air conditioning!

Inside as you come through the front door you will find the staircase to go to the 2nd floor to your left and to the right the front parlor, a room that you kept for when company came for visiting. As you work your way towards the back of the house, there's a dining room on the left side and a music room/living room on the south side. In the very back of the house is a well-appointed kitchen. Up the stairs, the master bedroom is overlooking the front of the house, then down a hallway for 4 extra bedrooms, one very small for the live in maid. You would need help keeping this house up! It has an attic area for storage and would have had a full basement for keeping your food and dairy cool and storage. One place not mentioned? A bathroom. When this house was built, bathrooms were outside and called outhouses. What would you think if you lived in a 10' by 15' sod house and you came into town and saw this house? Pretty impressive!

THE BANK: In today's world, most everyone has a bank account of some kind, but not everyone goes inside a bank building. With internet banking and drive-thru's available, it's quicker and easier than ever to get your business done. But, back in the pioneer days, you had to go inside the building and work directly with the teller (the bank employee) The bank building at Centennial Village wasn't a real bank at first. The structure, just east of the Post office is marked by a wraparound porch with eleven wood supports and by a low pitch hip roof. For many years it served as the Secretary Building at the Fairgrounds; it was built during the Tri-State Fair days in the late 1920's. Inside is a display of ledger books, original safe and hand operated equipment. It was donated by the Brown County Commissioners in the Fall of 1981, the year Centennial Village started.

Pioneer banks acted as agents for insurance and real estate, received deposits and made collections. They also sold tickets for travel from and to Europe and loaned money to homesteaders. Not everyone trusted banks, especially the people coming over from Europe to start their own farms. Many people found hiding spots around their farms to keep their extra coins safe. If a bank was robbed, which did happen during the wild west days, but not that much around our area, the government didn't insure the loss like it does today. It would be up to the



Photos Left & Above:
A look inside the bank building at Centennial Village

individual banks to make good on any stolen money. If the bank was a member of a company, chances were pretty good you would get your money back. But if it was a stand alone business, then you probably would never see your money again.

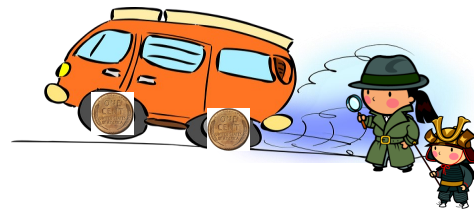
Most early banks, including this one, had a solid front wall inside, with iron grates that locked inside to protect the tellers. They wouldn't of had security cameras like we do today, but you would probably remember if someone came up and said..."Stick 'em up, this is a holdup!" If course, all you would have to do is call Thomas, right? Banks could be small or large. The building that the Dakota Prairie Museum is in started out as a bank, on the first floor in the southwest corner. It was called the Northwestern Bank building.



Photo: Inside of Coe & Howard Abstract Office located in Northwestern National Bank Building (Our Museum Building) The man sitting at the desk is S.C. Hedger. Recognize the name from the historic house photos on page 6?



Family Road Trip Idea: Westport, SD



Westport had an early post office, opened on May 22, 1882. The town itself was plotted as early as 1880 and when the first train arrived from Aberdeen in 1881, the little community was off to a flying start.

City streets were laid parallel to the railroad tracks and by 1887, Westport had become a community of four general stores, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, a school, a lumberyard, a confectionery, a hardware store, and a bank of the two meeting halls, one is still used.

This little frontier town flourished as a farm and ranch center and has survived with the added attraction of a larger town close by (Aberdeen) with a job-market and excellent roads. Many people who live in Westport drive to work in Aberdeen.

The town of Westport is located near the Elm River, and has had challenges with flooding occasionally throughout the years. Drive a little to the north to see how far the river is from the town and imagine how much extra water filled the Elm River until it reached the middle of town!

The historic photo of the construction of the Westport church above is the only photo the museum has in its collection featuring the town or buildings of early Westport.



Above: Building Westport Sacred Heart Church, mid 1900s

Below: National Weather Service Photo of Spring Flooding in Westport in More Recent Times, Exact Year Unknown



Brown County Ghost Town of the Week

“Rudolph”

Platted: Nov. 18, 1881



“Hmm...
Where did
it go?”



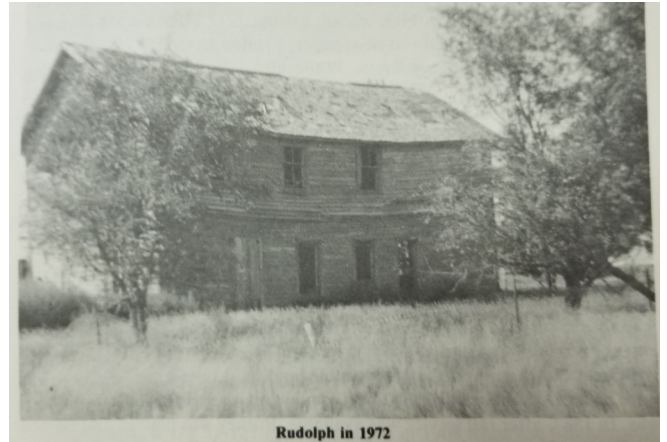
Post Office: April 3, 1883

Rudolph was platted when it became the end of the line for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad in 1881. John Morrow, owner of this land, was operating a livestock enterprise on it at the time but built a large structure next to the train depot which would serve as his home as well as a general store, post office, and meat market.

Morrow also operated a livery barn and stockyards until 1908. Despite the promotion efforts of both Morrow and the Railroad, Rudolph collapsed quickly due to the rapid growth of both Aberdeen and Warner.

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.



Above: An old building was standing in Rudolph in 1972, but by 1980 no buildings were left. (Photo Brown County History Book 1980)



DID YOU KNOW?

Our museum building started out as a bank with other businesses renting other parts of the building? (Find out more on page 7!)

Investigate: YouTube Video

GO TO: Dacotah Prairie Museum's
YouTube Channel



VIDEO TITLE: “Behind the Scenes Tours -
Pioneer Kitchen with Sherri Rawstern”

INVESTIGATE: The you tube video we would like to you investigate is our YouTube video on a behind the scenes look at the Pioneer Kitchen at the Dacotah Prairie Museum. See how many of the artifacts we still use in our kitchens today, and how many you might know about.

(For those of you who are familiar with the museum exhibits, this is your chance to get a closer look inside the Turn of the Century (1800s to 1900s) Pioneer Kitchen, a view visitors normally do not get to see!)

Using Last Week's Treasure Map,
Did You Find the Barber Shops with Barber Poles?



Ivey's Barber Sign
426 N Hwy 281 Suite 2



Mike's Barber Shop
621 S Main St





Photo: (Do you see the piano?) A view of a parlor music room, looking into a sitting room in the background, Dacotah Prairie Museum Photo Source Unknown



What is a Parlor?

Houses these days do not have parlors, but we often hear the word parlor mentioned when we learn about larger size historic houses. (Very

small sod houses and claim shanties on the prairie did not have parlors.) If you've read Laura Ingalls Wilder's book "Farmer Boy", you probably know what a parlor is, thanks to her detailed description in the story.

A parlor is a fancy living room, decorated with nice furniture and 'special treasures' on display. The children were to be on their best behavior in the parlor! It was not a room where children would play, especially not rough play. In fact, it was not a room used for everyday activities at all.

The parlor was a room for receiving, visiting with, and entertaining guests. The parlor might have had a musical instrument such as a piano, a pump organ, (or a dulcimer like our parlor exhibit at the museum.) In later years, the parlor might have had a Victrola. Do you know what that is?

The Family Piano

In the days before electronic devices and recorded music, pianos were a popular form of entertainment in the home. Young people, ladies especially, learned to play the piano as a sign of accomplishment and were often expected to perform for social gatherings or parlor entertainment. (Someone who spent time learning to play an instrument was interested in 'improving themselves' a very widely held ideal during the Victorian era [1837-1901].)

Very rich families often owned a piano and middle class families were proud if they had a piano as well, as it was a status symbol, or a sign that the family was doing well. Can you name something that might be a status symbol of our time? A nice car, or the latest video game console, etc.?

The invention of the ability to record music contributed to the decline of musical instruments in the home. People began spending more time listening to recorded professional musicians and less time learning to play music themselves.



Hitching Posts

This is a photo of a Hitching Post located just outside the house at Centennial Village. A post such as this was useful for tying up your horses so that they would "stay put" while you stopped at various places in town. You could tie up your horse using the ring on top! If you feel up to an extra hunt and want to see a real (or replica) hitching post, examples can be found in Aberdeen:



- ** on S. Washington St. - between 9th&10th Ave – East Side of Street
- ** on N Main St - Just before 12th Ave - West Side of Street

Photo Above: Stone Hitching Post at Centennial Village

These are the examples we have found, if you find others, email us a picture & location. We'd love to know if there are more around the area!

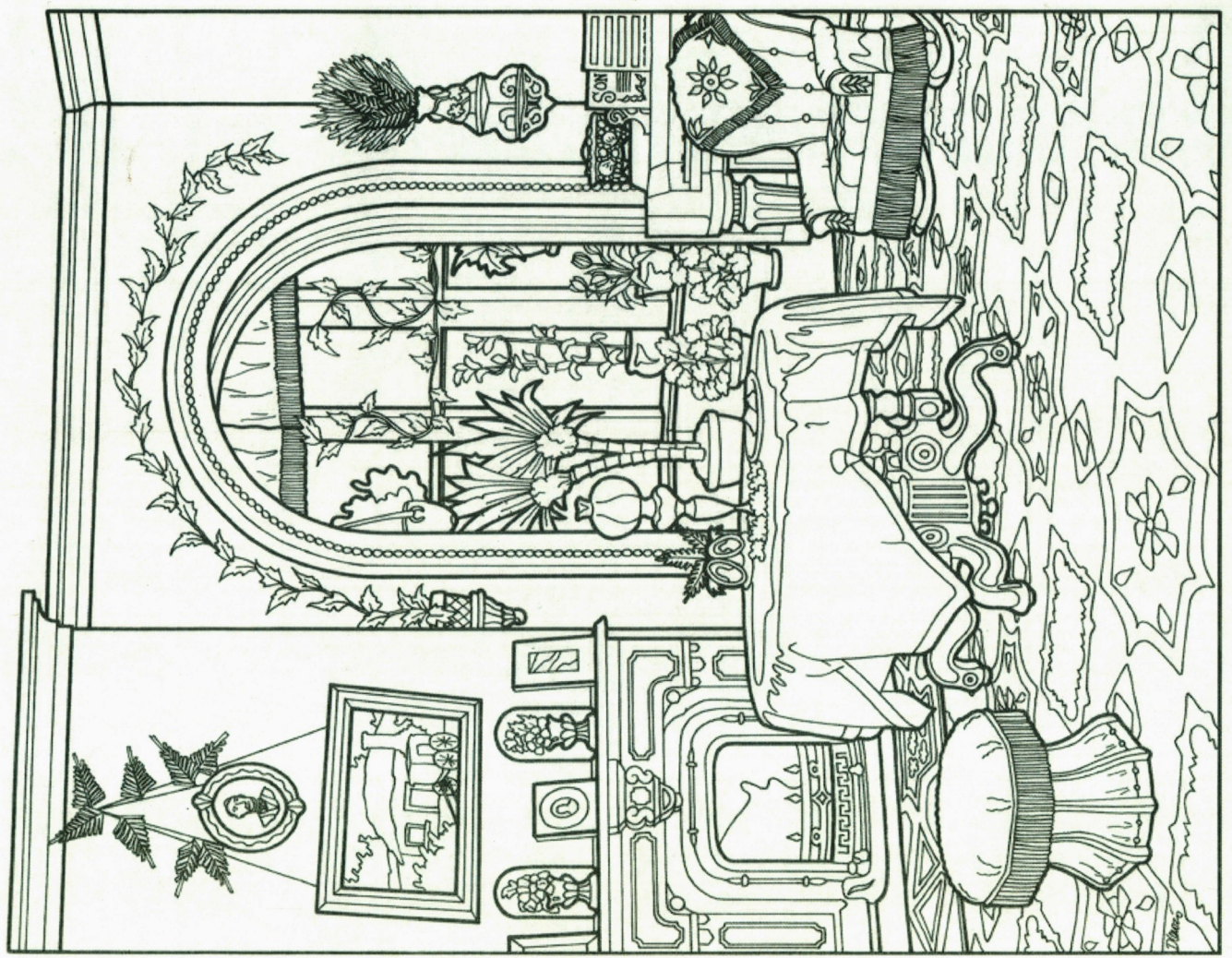
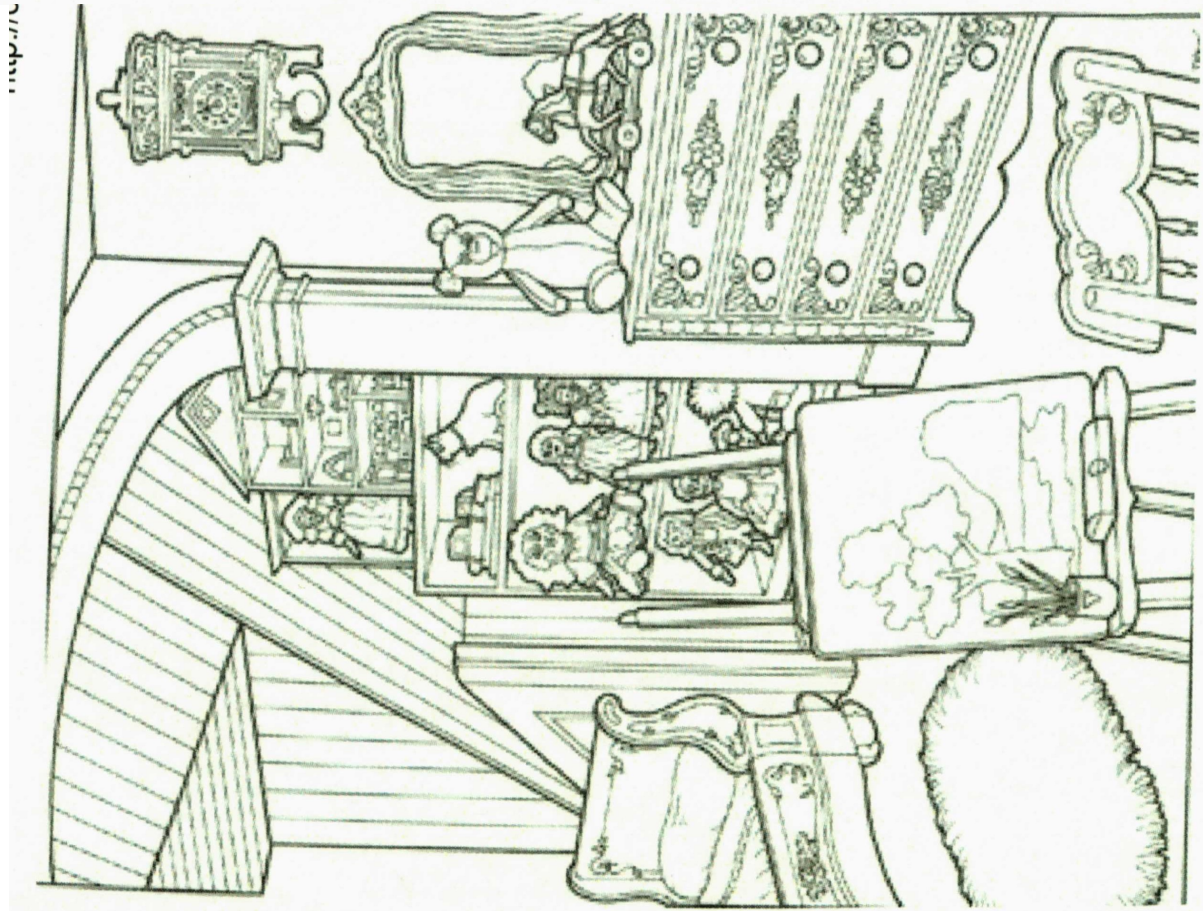
From Page 3 Word Search Answer Key

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

SEARCH FOR Pennies from PAGE 1
ANSWER: There are 25 hidden pennies.



Name _____



Coloring Page: Bedroom & Parlor

SCAVENGER HUNT MAP

CAN YOU FIND THE 4 BUILDINGS THAT USED TO BE BANKS?

X MARKS THE SPOT! PLEASE TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN FRONT OF AS MANY BUILDINGS AS YOU CAN AND SEND IT TO: DACOTAHPRAIRIEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM #LOCALHISTORYISFUN
ANSWERS IN NEXT WEEK'S PACKET TWO STILL HAVE THEIR ORIGINAL NAMES ON THEM, HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT. ONE IS JUST SOUTH OF THE OTHER BUT NOW MAKES YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL. LOOK FOR HINTS IN THE HISTORIC TIMES.

