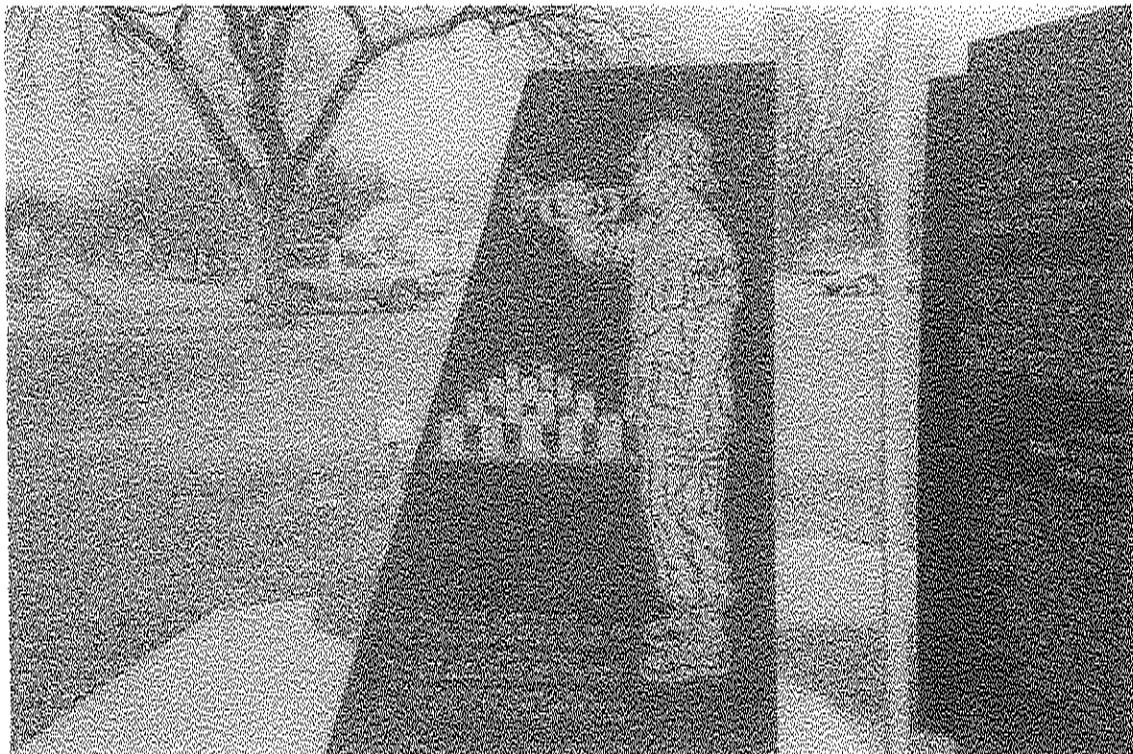


# MONUMENTS MARKERS MEMORIALS OF BROWN COUNTY



*Memorial To Brown County Vietnam Veterans*

Published by the Aberdeen/Brown County  
Landmarks Commission

1998

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#### COMPILATION AND AUTHORSHIP OF SUBJECTS

W. E. "Gene" Aisenbrey, member of the Aberdeen/Brown County Landmarks Commission, takes full responsibility for the narrative, interpretations, and format of this booklet along with any inaccuracies that might come to light in the compilation of this size. Readers who have corrections or disagreements with contents please notify the above, in writing, to P. O. Box 405, Aberdeen SD 57402. Data was gleaned from various sources ranging from personal contact to newspaper files, especially the 75th Anniversary Edition of the Aberdeen American News, 17 June 1956. Other sources were obtained from the files of the Alexander Mitchell Public Library and the Dacotah Prairie Museum and the personal library of this booklet's compiler.

## ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

The intent of this booklet is to highlight the various monuments, markers and memorials within the confines of Brown County. Not included are: the State of South Dakota historical markers, the attractive metallic signs ones sees along the highways and roadways; stained-glass memorials; bronze plaques affixed inside or upon buildings, and specific landmarks which have been and are readily recognized as a historical focal point. There are a total of 34 photographs between the covers of this booklet. The typography on the cover was furnished by the Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, which serves all the citizens of Brown County. All subjects have essentially the same format: site designation, location and significance. On the inside back cover is a Brown County highway map with the present "9-1-1" designations. One can use this map to locate their favorite memorial, marker or monument by its description in this booklet; with astute planning, make a two-day or weekend tour to visit all these sites. All of the sites are easily accessible, with the exception of the Rondell Trading Post--some may require a little walking to get up close.

## THE ABERDEEN/BROWN COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION

The Aberdeen/Brown County Landmarks Commission, originally a facet of the Brown County Historical Society, was born in response to a county-wide concern for the preservation of our individual heritage. On 12 September 1985, the Landmarks Commission became into being as an official representative for Brown County and the City of Aberdeen in the National Park Service's Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The over-all goals of the Landmarks Commission are the preservation of architecturally and historically significant structures and the education of the public on the cardinal advantages of historical preservation. It is a non-profit, citizen-inspired volunteer commission. The 1998 members of the Commission are: Dr. Arthur Buntin, Frances "Peg" Lamont, W. E. "Gene" Aisenbrey, Nancy Aman, Brett Bill, Lola Dixon, Natalie Geffre, John Meyer, and Irma Olson.

## FUNDING AND DISCLAIMER

This activity has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior.

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The opinions and contents expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the NPS, nor does the mention of trade names, businesses, or products constitute an endorsement or recommendation of this booklet's sponsors.

**SITE DESIGNATION: G.A.R. MONUMENT, CIVIL WAR CIRCLE**

**LOCATION: RIVERSIDE CEMETERY, Melgaard Road West, Aberdeen**

**SIGNIFICANCE:** A monument to honor the Civil War dead of the Union Army and Navy. This monument is 21 feet in height on a granite base, and faces to the north entrance of the cemetery. The inscription reads:

IN MEMORY  
OF THE  
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS OF  
1861-1865  
ERECTED BY  
ROBERT ANDERSON  
W.R.C. NO. 18

MUSTERED OUT

[Followed by the quotations:]

"Liberty has been bought at a  
great price."

"The unselfish workers of the  
country."

"They are beyond the reach of  
honors."

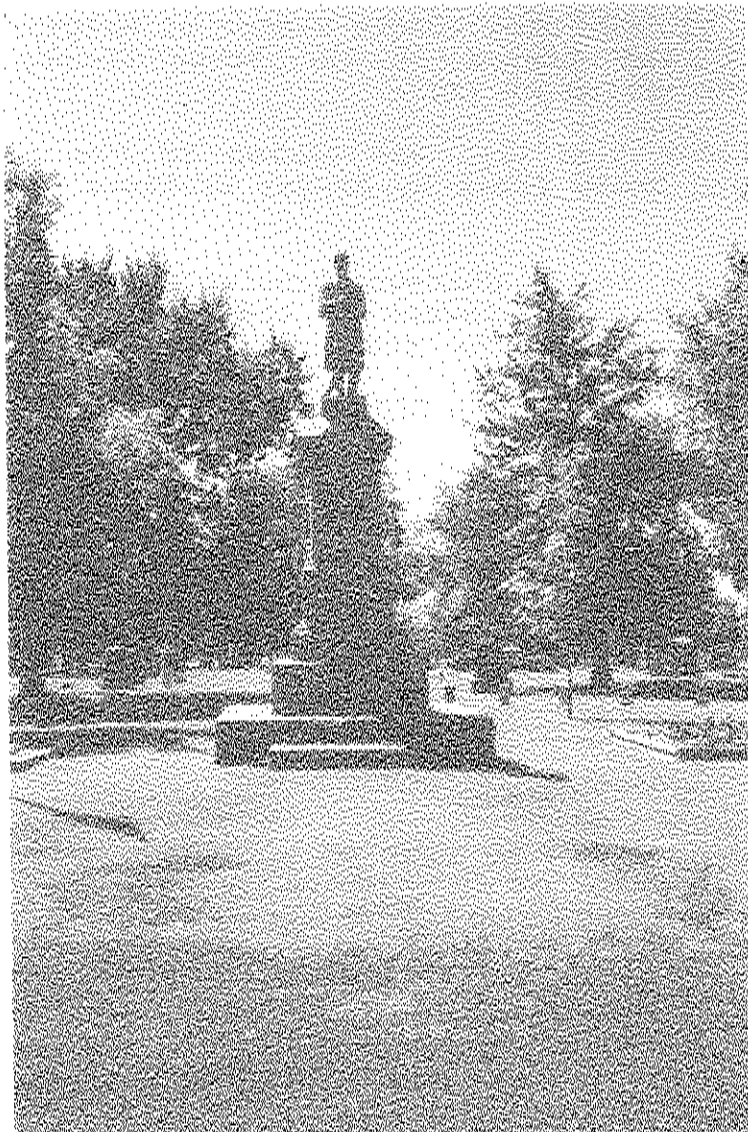
DEDICATED MAY 30, 1905

In June, 1896, the Women's Relief Corps of Post #18 of the Grand Army of the Republic, (G.A.R.) established a fund-raising drive to create this monument. This organization labored for ten years to realize this project. In May 1905, they had raised \$1,500.00; at today's dollars--about \$40,000. They were a few dollars short of their goal in 1905, but they operated a soda fountain at a local drug store to apply on the final payment. The monument was formally dedicated on Decoration [Memorial] Day on 30 May 1905 as advertised. The monument was constructed of "Ortonville granite" by the Aberdeen Granite Company at the estimated cost of \$1,500. The W.R.C. paid the bill in full in June, 1905. The unveiling of the 21-foot in height monument, took place after the formal dedication ceremony. Mrs. Eva Williams, Watertown, state secretary of the WRC, delivered the address. This was followed by the response by Captain J. H. Hauser, commander of the local GAR post, and E. T. Taubman, on behalf of the City of Aberdeen. Today, the monument is surrounded by thirty-five graves of veterans of the Union Army of the War of the Rebellion. There are 53 other Civil War veterans buried throughout this cemetery. There is a Major, formerly of the Confederate States Cavalry, buried within the sunset shadow of this monument. Since its dedication, this monument has been an assembly point for the veterans groups and others to observe Memorial Day.

[See Picture #1]

## TWO MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONUMENT

On Sunday afternoon, 28 May, at 2:00 p.m. members of the Robert Anderson Post (G.A.R.) and all visiting soldiers of the Rebellion, the W.R.C., and the soldiers of the Spanish-American War met in front of the Alexander Mitchell Library and marched to the Methodist Church for the first memorial exercise to the monument of the Civil War veterans' circle at Riverside Cemetery. On Tuesday afternoon, 30 May, at 1:00 p.m., members of the Grand Army of the Republic and all old soldiers who fought in the war of the Rebellion, the W.R.C., Spanish-American War veterans and Company L, SD National Guard formed up a parade, passing through the core area of Aberdeen, later boarding carriages to transport the marchers to the cemetery for the formal dedication of the monument. [There are only three other monuments of this magnitude to the Civil War in South Dakota: Grant County Courthouse, Milbank; Town Park, Hurley, and Capitol Avenue Triangle, Pierre.]



**SITE DESIGNATION: STATUE OF ANDREW MELGAARD**

**LOCATION:** MELGAARD PARK CIRCLE--Park is located in area of South State Street and between 17th Avenue S.E. and Melgaard Road, Aberdeen.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** In the spring of 1909, the City of Aberdeen received a gift from Andrew Melgaard of eleven wooded acres to be used as a park. The acreage was located south of the city just east of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway right-of-way. Acceptance of the gift was predicated upon that the park be named in honor of Andrew Melgaard. Additional acreage was purchased and landscaping was accomplished over the years. Today, Melgaard Park has excellent camping facilities, play grounds, picnic areas and other forms of recreations. It is the site of the annual "Arts in the Park" event.

In late December, 1930, the construction of a concrete base for the huge 12-ton rough granite boulder was started. Upon the boulder, a 6½ foot dark bronze statue of Melgaard was placed, facing south. The statue of the Brown County pioneer was dedicated in the spring of 1931.

The large boulder 8'x6'x6½' was hauled to the park from near Mina village and Snake Creek by Kruger Brothers (Ira and Wesley) of Aberdeen.

The statue, made by a Chicago manufacturing firm, with its concrete and stone base, towers to the height of 14½ feet. The bronze plaque placed on the south side of the boulder reads:

THIS STATUE ERECTED IN MEMORY  
of  
ANDREW MELGAARD  
PIONEER  
WHO PRESENTED THIS PARK TO  
THE CITY OF ABERDEEN

On the east base of the statue is the legend: A signature--Alice Littig Siems, Sc. [Sc. denotes "Sculptress"] followed by block letters--Designed and Executed by American Bronze Co., Chicago, Ill. Alice Littig Siems, Sculptress, 1931.

[See Picture 2a]

**SITE DESIGNATION: MEMORIAL TREE TO THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (G.A.R.), ABERDEEN.**

**LOCATION:** MELGAARD PARK CIRCLE, east and south of Melgaard Statue.

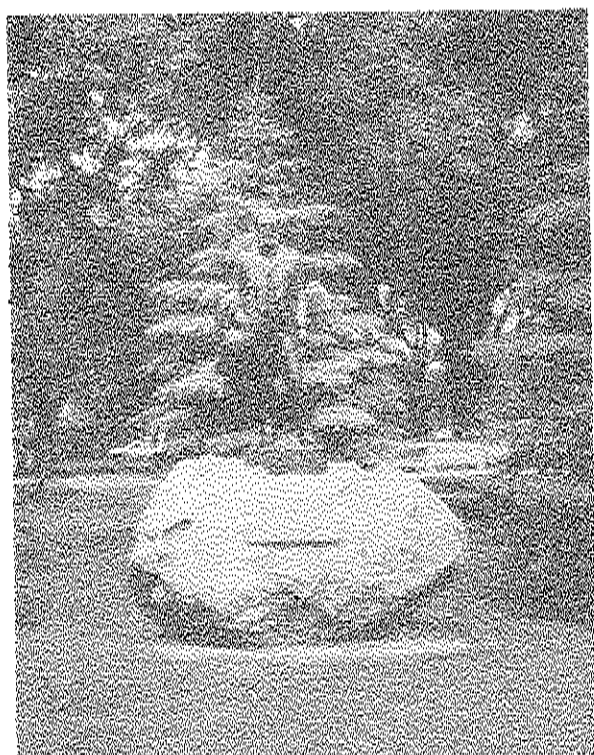
**SIGNIFICANCE:** At the 46th Annual Encampment of the GAR, Department of South Dakota, on 4-5 June 1929, held in the Chamber of Commerce Building it was decided to dedicate a tree, planted



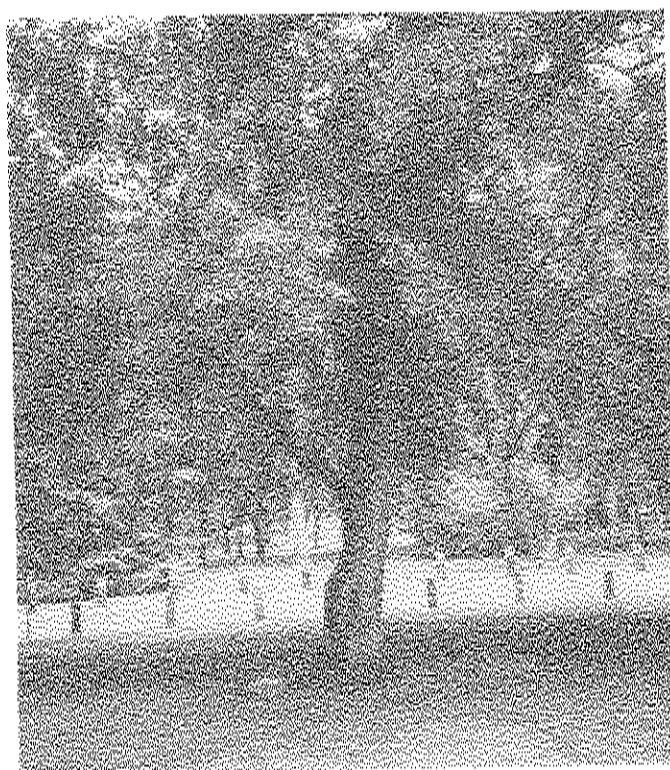
in Melgaard Park by the Women's Relief Corps, on 5 June 1929. The crab apple tree still survives to this day. Beneath the tree, on a small granite base, is the bronze plaque which states:

MEMORIAL TREE  
Planted In Honor Of The  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
By Its Auxiliary The  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS

(To the left of this legend is the insignia of the Women's Relief Corps [WRC] a Maltese cross with the date of 1883.)  
[See Picture 2b]



2a



2b

**SITE DESIGNATION: NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY MEMORIAL GATEWAY**

**LOCATION: SOUTH JAY STREET AND TWELFTH AVENUE SOUTH EAST**

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This very beautiful entrance to the quadrangle and campus, completed in 1920, was the gift of five previous graduating classes: 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919 and 1920. It has a very special significance as it stands as a memorial to those students, faculty and alumni who served in World War I and whose lives symbolizes the spirit of service which was given to the United States of America. Mr. C. O. Reed, Jr., of the Class of 1908, was the architect. [Throughout the years, since the dedication, the gateway has had a few changes; compare present existence with circa 1922 picture on the following page.]

[The two largest pillars, flanked by the other set of pillars, are dedicated to servicemen of other conflicts: World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts; being a dedication by later students and faculties of NSU, and the American Legion Post #24, Aberdeen.]

**EAST MIDDLE PILLAR BRONZE PLAQUE**

The Supreme Sacrifice  
In Memory of the Students  
And Alumni of the School  
Who Gave Their Lives  
1914 in the World War 1918  
ELMER BOWLBY  
BERT FOX  
CURTISS EVERETT HALL  
HAROLD HIGGINS  
HENRY JUNKER  
JOHN WARREN KEMPTON  
FRANK MATTERN  
HAROLD ALVIN MOORE  
SIDNEY LAURENCE SMITH  
THOMAS OTWAY THOMAS  
ERNEST WILLIAM TIFFANY  
EMANUEL TRAUTMAN  
JOHN LEE WELSH

"Lest We Forget"  
The Sacrifices Made By  
These Men That  
Liberty and Equality  
Might Not Perish  
From The Earth.

**WEST MIDDLE PILLAR BRONZE PLAQUE**

This Archway  
Erected By  
The Classes of 1916, '17,  
'18, '19, and '20.  
Northern Normal and Industrial School  
Dedicated To The  
Four Hundred and Forty-Two Students,  
Alumni And Instructors  
Of This School Who Offered  
Their Lives In Humanity's  
Defense In The Great War Of The Nations;  
And To Those Who Gave The  
Last Full Measure Of Devotion.

United States Entry

April 6, 1917

Armistice Signed

November 11, 1918

[On 14 July 1919, a charter was granted to a group of ex-service-men of World War I, to establish an American Legion Post. This post was named in honor of SIDNEY LAURENCE SMITH, whose name appears on the middle east pillar noted above. Smith was the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Lincoln Smith, Aberdeen. He was killed at Sissions, France, 20 July 1918.]





3a

### § THE TOUR OF "THE QUADRANGLE" OR "THE GREEN" -- NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

This campus quadrangle boasts many memorials. One of the first of such, stepping through the Jay Street Memorial Gateway is a large boulder inscribed with a memorial plate--"Class of 1924"; above which is a relief of a pasque flower. [See Picture 3c] We might mention here that there are also dedicated pillars at campus entrances on Washington Street, which is a gift of the Class of 1921, and Kline Street, which is a gift of the Classes of 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928.

To the west of the 1924 boulder, today, is the remains of the "1926 MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN," in a concrete circular structure. In 1928, it was described thusly: "The center pyramid of this very beautiful fountain is made of colored stones from the Black Hills. The fountain is the gift of James E. Lawson, in memory of his parents. Mr. Lawson was influential in the legislature in the founding of NSTC [now NSU]\*. In his last will he also generously remembered the school with a gift of books in a bequest of \$5,000 for scholarships in English, history and debates." Over the years the fountain mechanisms deteriorated and became inoperative and today the concrete structure stands as a silent sentinel to by-gone days. [\*] For further data about Mr. Lawson, refer to the 1928 Pasque, page 18, (NSTC yearbook) on file at the local public library and Williams Library, NSU.

The Class of 1923 gave (as a gift) a FLAG POLE as a worthy memorial. It was written in 1928 about this vertical staff: "through stormy nights of winter and the scorching heat of summer days, towering many feet above trees and buildings, it stands erect and steady, the dependable and ever-willing servant of the school. With "Old Glory" at its top it is an object of beauty and a constant teacher of patriotism and true citizenship." Today, the flag pole has been replaced with a

long-lasting stainless steel flag pole, a gift of the tax-payers.

Following the walk-way to the south and west, you will run across the "SUNDIAL STONE" with a now damaged sundial firmly placed on top of the granite stone. On the west side of the stone is a plate which is inscribed with the words: Mathematics Club 1922.

[See Picture 3b]

**FATHER ROBERT W. HAIRE MEMORIAL:** [From the Aberdeen Evening News, Monday, 21 January 1924]

"A large white granite memorial to the late Father Robert W. Haire, one of the pioneers of South Dakota, [and Brown County] and who was perhaps the first man to conceive the idea of the Northern Normal and Industrial School [NSU], will be placed on the campus of the local institution during the coming of spring. The purchasing committee of the Father Haire Memorial Association, consisting of J. E. Kelly and John Wade, has ordered a monument from the Godden Monument Company of Emmetsburg, Iowa. The monument will consist of a large South Carolina white slab with a tablet in old United States Army bronze. The bronze tablet will contain a likeness of Father Haire with a suitable inscription.

[IN MEMORIAM  
FATHER ROBT. W. HAIRE  
HUMANITY'S FRIEND]

The interest which Father Haire took in the Northern Normal, and his part in getting it founded, makes his memory all the more dear to Aberdeen and makes it all the more fitting that the monument be placed on the Normal campus. The South Dakota Blue Book for 1923 says: "It is probable that the first official proposal to establish an institution of higher education at Aberdeen was made by the late Honorable Reverend Father Robert W. Haire of Aberdeen when a member of the State Board of Regents. Father Haire was an intimate friend of the governor of the state at that time, Honorable Andrew E. Lee..."

The money for the memorial to the memory of Father Haire was raised by gifts from many Aberdeen people. The general committee ...is as follows: H. C. Jewett, C. N. Herried, Rev. Father Michael Dermody, J. E. Kelly, C. F. Easton, C. J. Burns, John Wade, and John T. Ronayne." [See Picture 3d].

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS' STATE MEMORIAL:** East of the Father Haire Memorial, is this concrete and bronze marker, which denotes the efforts of the American Legion of South Dakota.

During the summer of 1939, N. Peter Wenge, a Legionnaire from Aberdeen, heard an address on Boys' State. Being impressed he explained the matter to Dr. Harry Darling and Ivan Huntsinger, whereupon the three World War I veterans proceeded to inaugurate

the program in South Dakota. They appealed to Charles J. Dalthorp, and Harry E. Mundt, both Legionnaires. After meeting with the State Department of the American Legion, it received \$150.00 for "seed monies." The 40 et 8 of the American Legion also advanced \$150.00 for the promulgation of Boys' State in South Dakota.

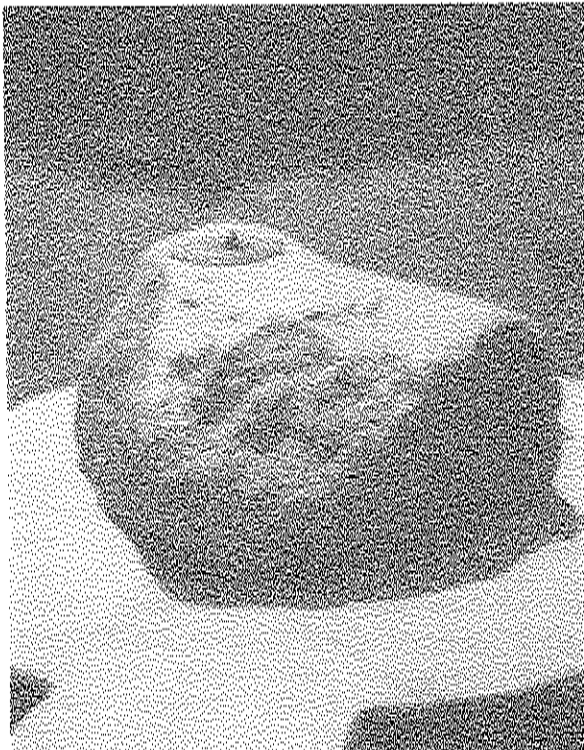
The first encampment was held in Aberdeen during the summer of 1940 at Northern. One hundred and sixty boys participated. In 1943 and 1944 it was discontinued until 1945, when it resumed at Northern and has been continuing ever since. [Later a Girls' State program evolved from this effort and continues to this day.]

The bronze plaque is inscribed:

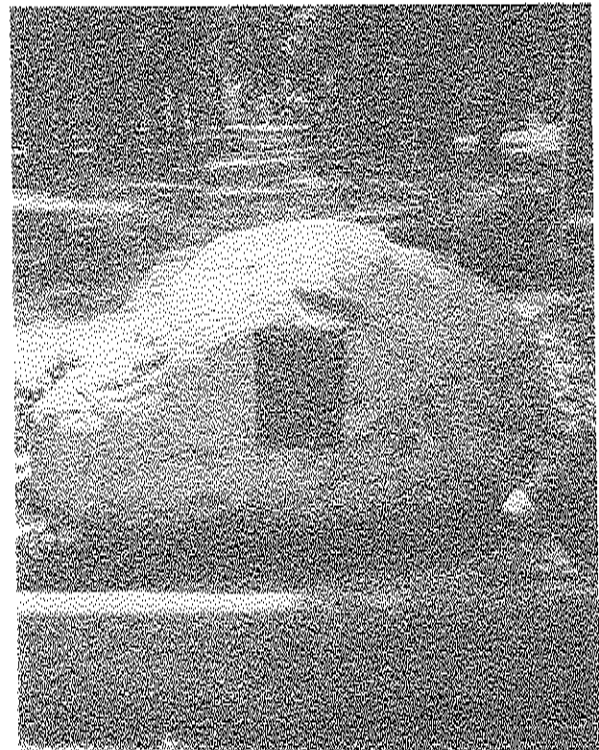
HOME OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA BOYS' STATE  
FOUNDED ON N.S.T.C. CAMPUS  
1940

[American Legion Emblem]

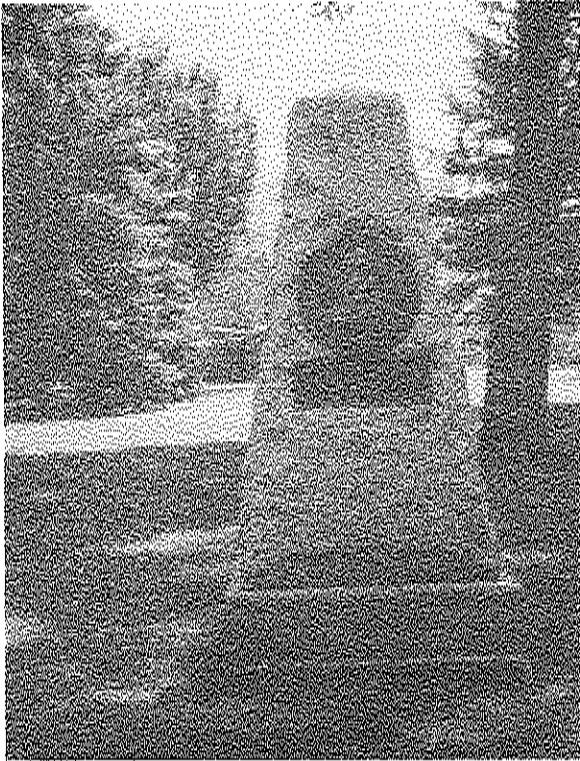
Charles Dalthorp            Ivan Huntsinger  
Dr. Harry A. Darling       Judge Harry E. Mundt  
N. Peter Wenge  
[See Picture 3e]



3b



3c



3d



3e

**SITE DESIGNATION: JESSIE G. HARRIS MEMORIAL**  
[MRS. C. N. HARRIS]

**LOCATION: ANDERSON PARK - 1303 7th Avenue South East, Aberdeen**

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This royal purple South Dakota granite marker was originally sited on the grounds of the first Alexander Mitchell Library (6th Avenue South East and Lincoln Street); towards the north end of the then grassy lot, not many feet from the south wall of the First United Methodist Church. [Today this area is a asphalt-covered parking lot. This seven-foot shaft was formally dedicated in July 1944.

In 1943, the memorial became a reality when the city commissioners approved a petition of the library board that the monument be placed on its grounds. This culminated many months of planning on the part of three organizations in the city: the B.P.O.E. (Elks Lodge), represented by Bart Archer; the Yelduz Shrine, by N. H. Wendell, and the Order of the Eastern Star, represented by N. P. Wenge. They had formulated plans in February 1943, to place the memorial somewhere in Aberdeen honoring Mrs. C. N. [Jessie] Harris for her unselfish humanitarian services rendered over a better part of 50 years.

Among the committees she unselfishly served upon are: Elks "Do Good" Committee. [If fact, her services was so appreciated by the Elks that she was made an honorary member of the lodge, probably the only woman in the United States ever so honored

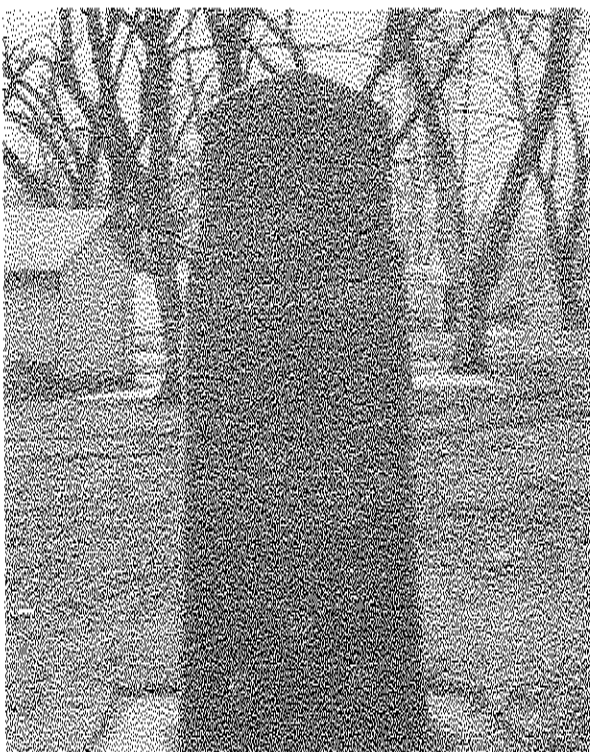


at that time. She was appointed to the committee in 1913 and served with it until just two years before her death at the age of seventy-three years. She also served with the O.E.S. for fifty-plus years. She was given an honorary life membership in the Minerva Chapter, Aberdeen. She served on the Shriner Crippled Children's Committee, the Alexander Mitchell Library board. She received honors from the Cosmopolitan Club ... the most distinguished service award. There was a whole parade of functions on which she actively participated, too numerous to relate in this article. She was the personification of charity and dedication.

It was decided in 1943, that after the termination of World War II, a bronze plaque with Mrs. Harris' profile will be placed on the memorial directly below her name JESSIE C. HARRIS, and above the legend ERECTED IN APPRECIATION OF HER UNSELFISH SERVICE TO MANKIND. This project never came to reality. (For reasons unclear, the monument is dated 1942.) [See Picture 4a]

The original Alexander Mitchell Library was dedicated in 1902 and demolished in 1963 to increase parking area for the city. As early as 1961, representatives of the Elks, Shriners and O.E.S. were concerned as they stated: "...what is going to become of the impressive granite shaft...? Will it be stored (or thrown) away, eventually to crumble and disappear?" The monument was eventually moved to its present location in Anderson Park.

Mrs. Harris was born Jessie G. Campbell at Wellington, Wisconsin, 24 August 1862. She married Mr. C. N. Harris in Aberdeen, 14 November 1892. She died 7 June 1941. She was a resident of Aberdeen for 54 years, and is buried at Riverside Cemetery.



4a



4b

**SITE DESIGNATION: BROWN COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**

**LOCATION:** LAWN AREA, ANDERSON PARK, Aberdeen, Facing Sixth Avenue (Use S. Harrison St. & 7th Ave Entrance)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This six-sided granite memorial is dedicated to Vietnam War veterans and specifically to the fourteen Brown County servicemen who perished in this conflict, the longest war fought in the history of the United States of America.

A 21-gun salute, wreaths of flowers and tears of sorrow signaled the dedication on Wednesday, 11 November 1987 of this cardinal memorial in Brown County. Favored by sunny, warm weather, the imposing ceremony attracted more than 1,000 veterans, family members and Brown County residents.

The Vietnam memorial, unveiled on that afternoon, consists of three 6-foot in height black granite stones, inscribed on both sides. On one stone, the names of 14 military men are carved along with dates of birth and death, military specialty and place of death. This panel is carved thusly:

THE CLOCK OF LIFE  
IS BUT ONE TIME WOUND  
AND NO MAN SHOULD HAVE  
THE POWER TO TELL AT  
WHAT HOUR--LATE OR EARLY--  
THE HANDS WILL FINALLY STOP.

LEONARD E. ANDERSON 5-6-1938--10-27-1965  
Navy Disbursing Officer So. China Sea

RONALD P. SCHNAIDT 12-24-1946--4-5-1967  
Air Force Loadmaster Tan Son Nhut

LANNY R. KRAGE 1-31-1947--4-21-1967  
Marine Corps Infantryman Da Nang

JOEL C. KERVIN 12-13-1948--5-3-1967  
Army Rifleman Da Nang

CHARLES J. MILBRANDT 2-27-1947--5-13-1967  
Army APC Driver Pleiku

BERNHARDT D. MILLER 9-20-1942--11-10-1967  
Army Rifleman Dak To

VERN J. FRIED 5-9-1948--2-7-1968  
Marine Corps Infantryman Quang Tri

RICHARD F. RENNOLET 5-12-1949--4-14-1968  
Army Long Range Patrol Bien Hoa

WILLIAM E. PASCH 10-3-1947--5-11-1968  
Army Tank Crewman Ben Cat

DENNIS R. VOLK 3-25-1947--6-5-1968  
Army Company Clerk Lai Khe

DONALD D. KORB 10-31-1933--6-21-1968  
Army Platoon Sergeant Phuoc Vinh

EDGAR D. MATTHEWS 1-6-1919--6-3-1970  
Army Supply Sergeant Can Tho

DONALD D. LAYTON 4-26-1949--8-4-1970  
Army Rifleman Chu Lai

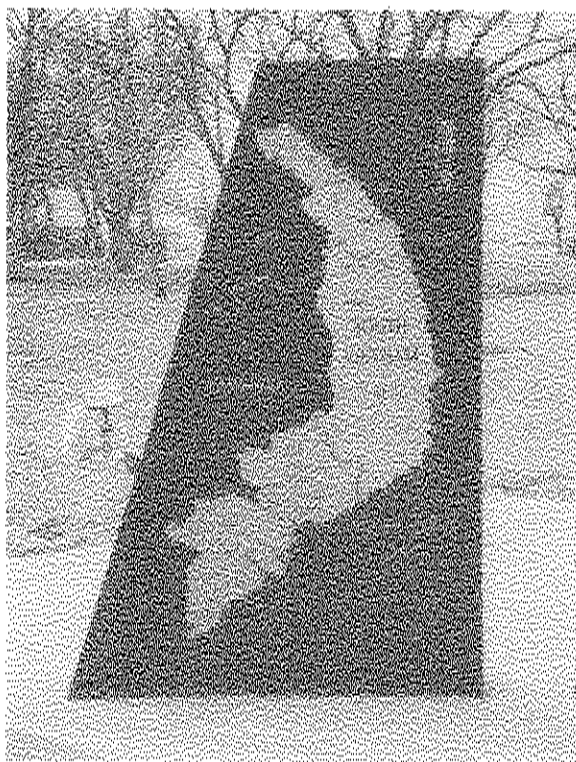
LONNIE L. STERN 6-6-1949--1-3-1971  
Army Transportation Crewman Da Nang

[Image of Vietnam Service Medal and Order of the Purple Heart Medal]

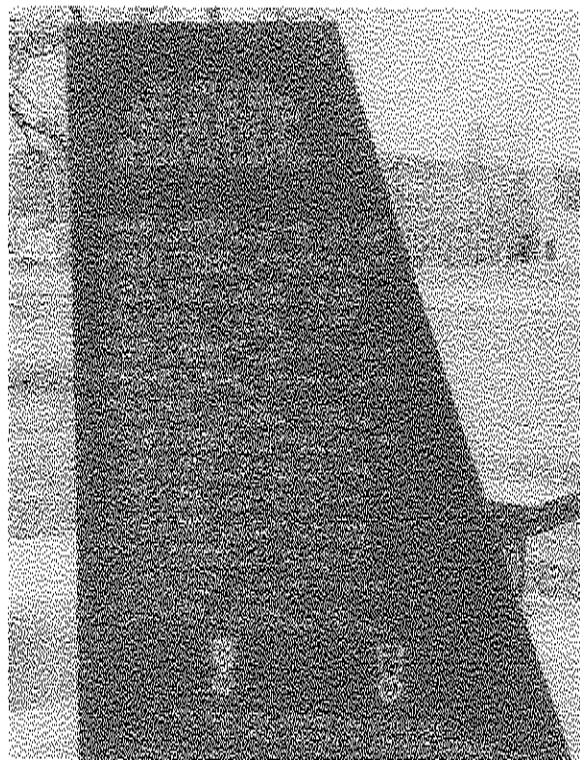
Ask not what your country can do for you,  
But what you can do for your country.

--J.F.K.

[See Pictures 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, and 4f]

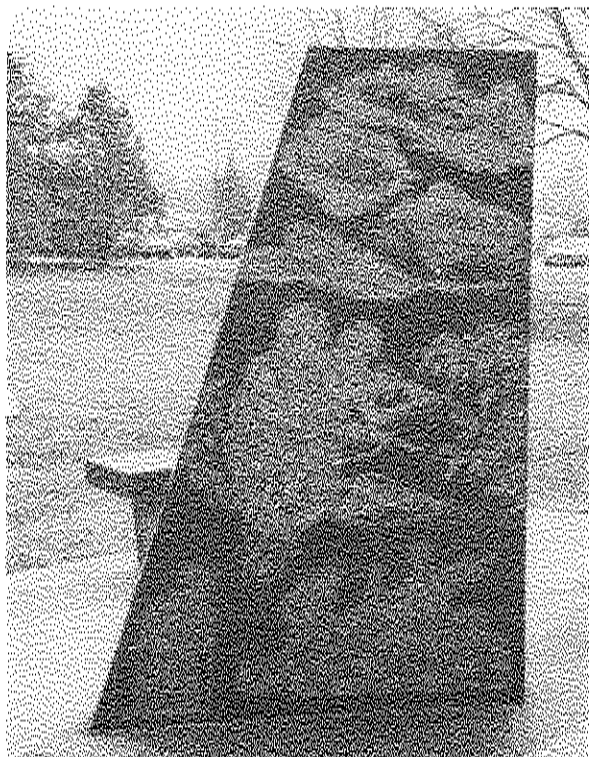


4c



4d





4e



4f

Other stone panels reflects quotations, a pictorial of war scenes, map of Vietnam, and a sketch of a lone bugler sounding taps over the graves representing the fourteen fallen soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. The youngest of the fallen was 18 years of age; the oldest was fifty-one. Three black granite benches flank the shrine denoting "DUTY," "HONOR" and "COUNTRY."

The memorial was planned and built by the Brown County Vietnam Memorial Association in a love of labor which began in January 1986. At the dedication Robert Bobby served as master of ceremonies. Michael Fitzmaurice, Huron, was acknowledged as a Vietnam veteran who received the Medal of Honor. Donn Grandpre read a letter from retired Army General William Westmoreland, who served as commander of U. S. Forces in Vietnam.

Four jet fighter aircraft from the South Dakota Air National Guard flew over the memorial site in "missing man" formation. A military jeep of the Vietnam era and a helicopter were also on display at the dedication site.

The ceremony ended with a 21-gun salute to area Vietnam veterans and the sounding echo of taps by Robert and Mike Downie. (Earlier in the day, Veteran's Day ceremonies were held in the Aberdeen Civic Arena leading up to the monument dedication.)

The City of Aberdeen graciously furnished the site for the beautiful and thought provoking memorial which was professionally created by Rausch Bros. Monument Company of Big Stone City,

South Dakota. This memorial is one of two such memorials of this magnitude to the fallen in Brown County. The other memorial is the Civil War Memorial at Riverside Cemetery, Aberdeen.

---

**SITE DESIGNATION:** MAUD AND KATE, CITY MULES, MEMORIAL

**LOCATION:** ALDRICH PARK, Southwest Entrance, Main Street and Third Avenue North East, Aberdeen

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Aldrich Park was dedicated in 1909. The Maud and Kate monument was erected in 1935 for the memory of two faithful mules who labored and pulled the city garbage wagon for 31 years. The granite stone was first placed on the Main Street side of the park along with an iron watering trough (in the shape of a miniature bath tub). The trough was removed due to the diminishing population of equine animals in the city. The present location of the granite stone is near the southwest entrance to the park. It was relocated there when Main Street was widened in 1961. Money was raised to finance this marker by Aberdeen school children. The stone is inscribed with an outline of a mule below which is the legend:

IN MEMORY OF  
MAUD AND KATE  
CITY MULES  
1904-1935

[See Picture 5]

**SITE DESIGNATION:** ORIGINAL CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT BELL

**LOCATION:** NORTH SIDE FIRE STATION, NORTH MAIN STREET AND SIXTH AVENUE NORTH EAST

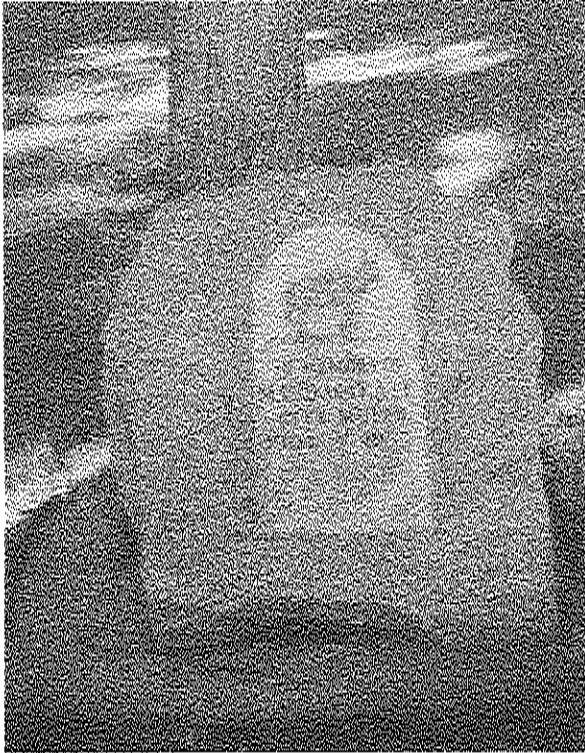
**SIGNIFICANCE:** In 1885, the town of Aberdeen ordered up a large fire bell to be placed in the steeple of the town hall. The bell was in service until the town hall structure was replaced. The sounding device is now mounted on a sturdy metal frame on the lawn at the North Side Fire station (#2). The company which manufactured this bell is on the legend of the piece:

L.M. RUMSEY M'F'G CO.  
ST. LOUIS, MO.  
1885

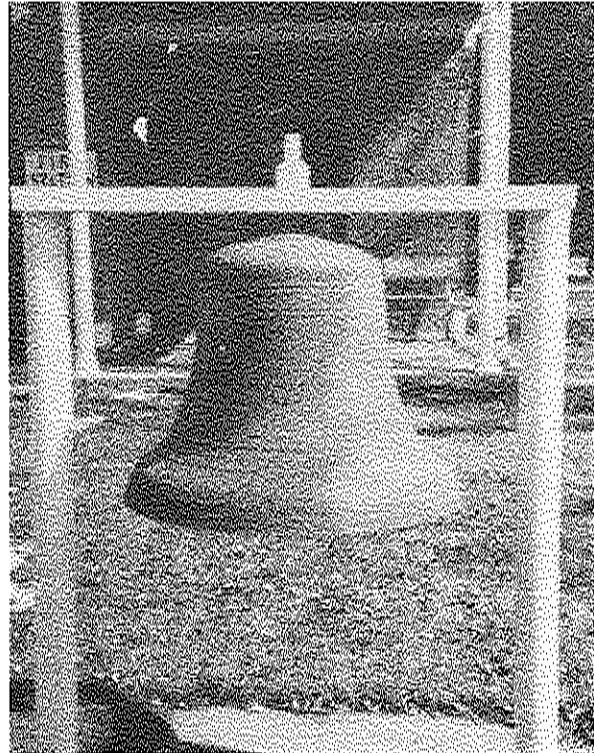
On the bell opposite of above notation it reads:  
ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT  
JULY.1885.

(Near the crown of the bell the numbers 7 4 5 has been stamped into the metal, the purpose of which is unclear.

[See Picture 6]



5



6

**SITE DESIGNATION:** BRONZE STANDING STATUES OF THE DENNIS BROWN FAMILY

**LOCATION:** SUPER 8 MOTEL HEADQUARTERS, 1900 BLOCK, EIGHTH AVENUE  
NORTH EAST AND CAMELOT DRIVE, ABERDEEN

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The four bronze standing figures represent the image of the late Mr. Dennis Brown's family; his wife, Barbara and three daughters Elizabeth, Jennifer and Alexandra. He was a devoted family man and his family ethics reflected in his business acumen when he founded the Super 8 corporation. He died at the age of 47 years in Hillsborough, California on 25 February 1988. (This information was furnished from the genealogical files of the Aberdeen Area Genealogical Society and the Alexander Mitchell Public Library, Aberdeen.

[See Picture 7]



**SITE DESIGNATION: WYLIE PARK BRICK PILLAR WITH BRONZE PLAQUE**

**LOCATION:** PARK ENTRANCE APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE WEST OF  
US HIGHWAY 281 ON 131 ST. NORTHWEST OF ABERDEEN

**SIGNIFICANCE:** On 29 August 1910, the Aberdeen City council authorized the purchase of Alva N. Aldrich's 160 acre farm. Terms of the agreement required that the land be known as Wylie Park in honor of James Wylie, the father of Aldrich's wife. There were several "disputes and disagreements" before the purchase was finalized. The artificial lake adjacent to this marker is named "Minne-eho" said to mean "water behold" in the tongue of the Plains Indians. Today, Wylie Park hosts a variety of seasonal events, and is a summer focal point of Aberdeen's trade territory. The marker is simple:

WYLIE PARK  
Named In Honor Of  
JAMES H. WYLIE  
Aberdeen Pioneer and Hotel Owner  
1881-1894

[See Picture 8]

**SITE DESIGNATION: T. CLARKSON GAGE HOMESTEAD MARKER**

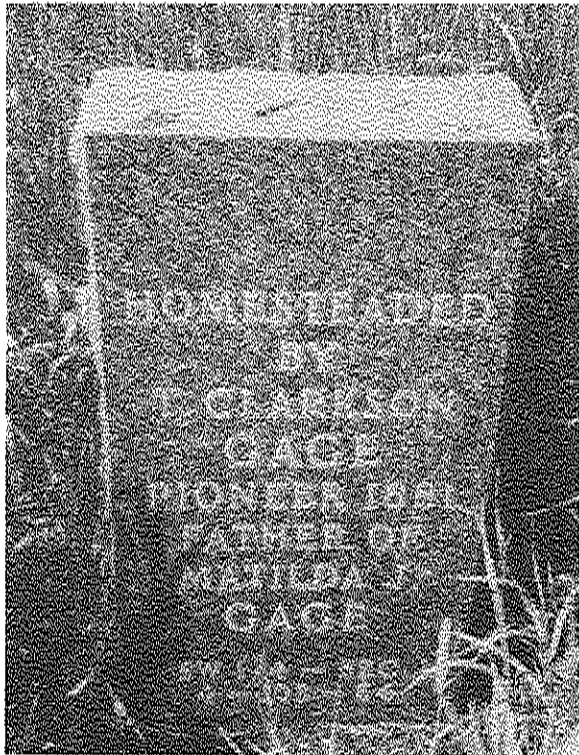
**LOCATION:** ONE-AND-ONE-HALF MILES WEST OF THE WESTERN EDGE OF  
WYLIE PARK ON 131 STREET (ON THE NORTH SIDE OF ROAD)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Mr. T. Clarkson Gage, Brown County Pioneer and early Aberdeen businessman, homesteaded this land in 1881. He had a shack on the land and transacted his daily business in Aberdeen--returning to his claim at the end of the day's activities. He never farmed this land. Various people tilled this soil. Since 1937 Gordon Bergh has been the steward of this land. Gage's daughter, Matilda Gage, sold this land to Gordon, who has deeded it to his daughter, Mrs. William Donaldson. Miss Gage commissioned this marker a few years before her death. The legend on the red granite stone placed on the southeast corner of the property, states:

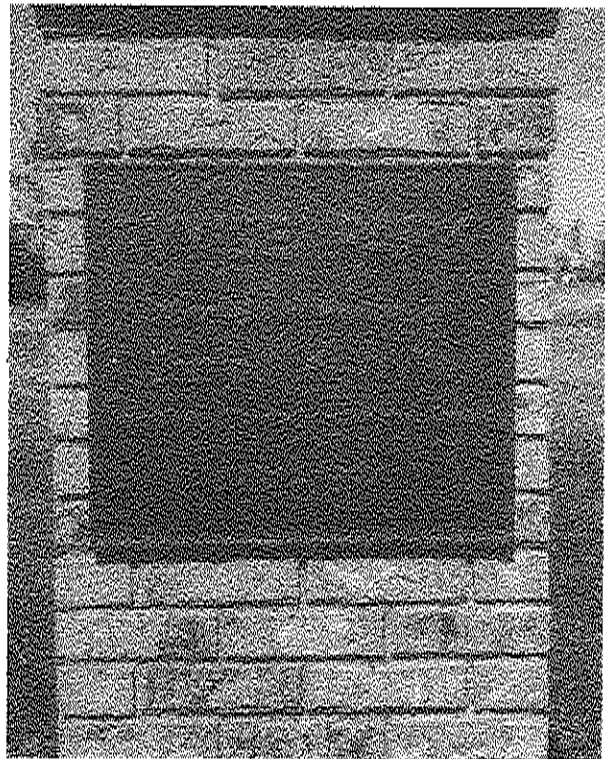
HOMESTEADED  
BY  
T. CLARKSON GAGE  
PIONEER 1881  
FATHER OF  
MATILDA J.  
GAGE

SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SEC  
4 - 123 - 64

[See Picture 9]



9



8

**SITE DESIGNATION:** BATH CENTENNIAL WAGON TRAIN NOON-HOUR STOP

**LOCATION:** APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE NORTH OF U. S. HIGHWAY 12 ON BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 16 (395 AVENUE ON EAST SIDE OF ROAD NEAR BATH, SOUTH DAKOTA.)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** During the state-wide observance of South Dakota's Centennial Year (1889), a large wagon train was formed to tour the state. One of its scheduled stops was at Bath with forty-four wagons. The caravan had a noon-hour stop-over where they devoured old-fashioned barbecue and beans and were entertained with local talent in song and story-telling. Everyone was fed in less than an hour. This event was on 22 June 1989.

After the dust had settled from the trek of the wagon train, the Bath Centennial Committee decided that a monument would be in order to signify this once-in-a-lifetime event. Tying together the Bath community and the Bath Township, the committee settled upon the existing monument of black granite with high-lighted letters, manufactured by the Aberdeen Monument Company of Aberdeen. It is placed upon a concrete base and surrounded by an attractive fence. This area is being maintained by the Bath Ladies Aid.

Lyle Fritz, Bath, donated the land for the monument which was dedicated on 22 June 1990. This monument is also an unwritten tribute to display what a community can accomplish when united



with a common bond--a significant goal.  
[See Picture 10]



10



11

**SITE DESIGNATION:  HAMLIN GARLAND MEMORIAL**

**LOCATION:**   TWO-AND-A-HALF MILES NORTHWEST OF THE VILLAGE SITE  
              OF ORDWAY.   [OR ½ MILE WEST OF THE INTERSECTION  
              OF BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 11 AND 14 (123RD STREET  
              AND 391ST AVENUE)]

**SIGNIFICANCE:**   In June of 1936, the Brown County Commissioners named the road between Columbia and Aberdeen the Hamlin Garland Highway. [Beginning on the Highway at Columbia, thence westerly approximately 10 miles to U. S. Highway 281...] The Community Club of Ordway, a village Hamlin Garland once described as "a desolate, drab little town," placed and dedicated a large native stone memorial at the site of his father's [Richard H. Garland] homestead where Hamlin wrote his earliest recognized work Main-Travelled Roads. The boulder has been placed in the dooryard of the farm. (The original homestead farm house burned down in February 1920.) L. E. Falk, Aberdeen, of the Works Progress Administration's Writers Project, speaking in behalf of the Ordway Community Club, appeared before the Brown County Commission in May of 1936, "asking their cooperation in moving the rock, weighing about 10,000 pounds from its resting place to the Garland homestead, as a memorial to the greatest poet and novelist of his time." On 23 May 1936, the County Commission

approved this action. The boulder was donated by Brown County Commissioner John Foersting and the committee in charge of the memorial were Mesdames R. M. Van Winkle, Bert Warner and F. L. Prunty, all of the Ordway area.

Beneath a hot, summer sun, a large gathering of admirers, friends and neighbors of the Garland family attended the dedication exercises on this Sunday, 12 July 1936. The memorial marked the site of the Garland home, where the author lived intermittently between 1881-1884.

Dr. A. H. Seymour of Northern State Teachers College (now NSU) was the main speaker at the ceremonies. Dr. Seymour pointed out there was no "Pollyanna" theme throughout the works of the author. "Garland," the speaker said, "portrayed a true picture of the prairies with their trials and hardships."

L. E. Falk delivered the welcome and acknowledgment. It was through Mr. Falk's suggestion that the memorial movement started. The memorial was unveiled by Mrs. C. E. Locker, intimate friend of Mrs. Richard Garland, Belle; she formerly lived a short distance from the homestead.

Mrs. R. M. Van Winkle, chairman of the memorial committee, read the address of the author, who was unable to attend. The "Pledge of Allegiance" was given by the Young Citizens League children from the Ordway and Garland townships schools. Edna Buntrock and Cecilia Wagner were the teachers at these schools, respectively.

Resting on a huge boulder, a bronze plate reads:

HAMLIN GARLAND  
WHO ROSE TO DISTINCTION IN  
AMERICAN LETTERS  
.....RESIDED ON THIS SPOT 1881-1884.....  
HERE STOOD THE  
GARLAND HOMESTEAD  
WHERE HE BEGAN HIS FIRST BOOK  
"MAIN TRAVELLED ROADS"

Among the prominent guests at the event were Lawrence K. Fox, Pierre, secretary, South Dakota State Historical Society. Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Hassenpflug, Groton, who formerly resided on the farmstead and were hosts to Hamlin Garland on his last visit here in 1915.

So in 1884, Garland headed for Boston to become a writer, "the first actual farmer in American literature," as a contemporary characterized him. This friend of numerous luminaries died on 4 March 1940 in Hollywood, California and his ashes are buried in the family plot in West Salem, Wisconsin. [He authored 54 books, some of which mention references to Ordway, Columbia and Aberdeen. He won the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 1921.] [See Picture 11]



**SITE DESIGNATION: LOCATION OF FIRST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN  
BROWN COUNTY**

**LOCATION:** FOUR MILES EAST, ONE-HALF MILE NORTH OF COLUMBIA  
ON 400TH AVENUE AND BROWN COUNTY 11 INTERSECTION.  
(The road  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north is an unimproved township  
road, almost a "cow-path.")

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Aberdeen,  
was founded by Father Robert W. Haire who with a colony of  
Catholics came from Flint, Michigan, and settled at the  
confluence of the James and Elm Rivers in Brown county, Dakota  
Territory in the spring and summer of 1880.

On Sunday, 27 June 1880, Father Haire offered Mass in the sod  
shanty of John Lavin four and one-half miles east of Columbia.  
This was the first Mass offered to white Europeans in Brown  
County of which there is documentation.

Some years later, however, Father Haire was informed by Father  
Ravoux, a French missionary to the Plains Indians, that he had  
offered Mass in Dakota Territory in 1842 at a place which he  
named Sand Lake. This specific location is in present-day Brown  
County, where the very first Mass was held.

A committee of pioneers, under the leadership of Mrs. J. E.  
Kelly, erected a memorial on the site of Father Haire's first  
Mass in Brown County. The monument is a natural boulder,  
weighing one-ton, set in a concrete base. A bronze plaque,  
with letters high-lighted in gold, carries this legend:

ON THIS SPOT  
JUNE 27, 1880  
FATHER  
ROBERT W. HAIRE  
AND THE PIONEERS  
OF THIS COMMUNITY  
ERECTED OF SOD  
THE FIRST CATHOLIC  
CHURCH IN  
BROWN COUNTY  
SOUTH DAKOTA

[Thereby, the claim of the first Mass in Brown County is changed  
to the first Catholic Church.]

A copper box enclosed in the base contains documents relating  
Father Haire's missionary labors and incidents connected with  
his later life and his death; also the complete text of Bishop  
O'Gorman's eulogy.

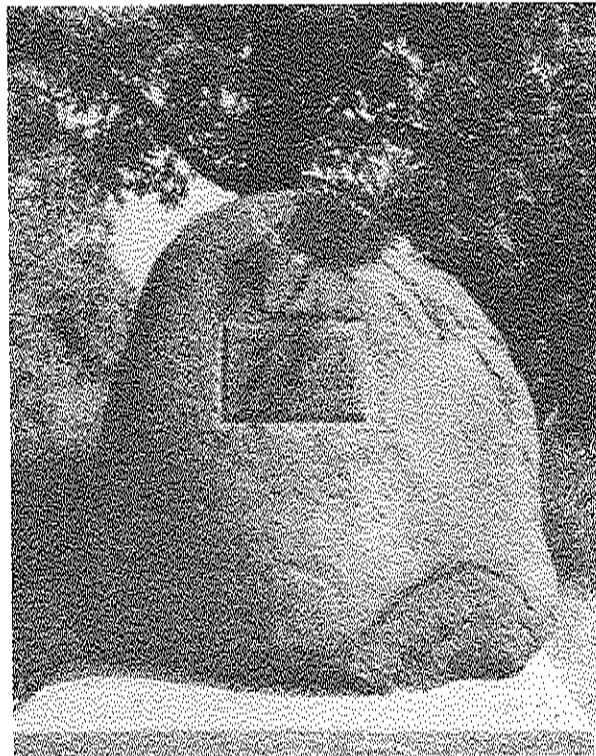
The memorial was dedicated on 27 June 1940, the sixtieth  
anniversary of Father Haire's first Mass in Brown County. Father  
H. Hoerner of St. Mary's, Aberdeen, officiated at the dedicatory

ceremonies and the Presentation Sisters Choir, under the direction of Sister M. Lorette, furnished the music.

[See Picture 12]



12



13

**SITE DESIGNATION:** FATHER RAVOUX'S FIRST CATHOLIC MASS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

**LOCATION:** SAND LAKE REFUGE, PICNIC AREA, JUST OFF BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 16, APPROXIMATELY FIVE MILES NORTH OF COLUMBIA [ALSO KNOWN AS 396TH AVENUE.]

**SIGNIFICANCE:** In the late 1870's Aberdeen was a flat place on the prairies, simply a part of the ancient Lake Dakota. For a hundred miles around there was little to note the European's presence. Military trails [like today's unimproved township roads] were the main highway. French voyageurs and trappers were in Dakota. As early as 1845 Father Alexandra Ravoux (referred to as Augustin Ravoux in Catholic church histories), a missionary priest accompanying the trappers, celebrated the first Mass of record in South Dakota in a Cuthead Indian village located north of Columbia in the Sand Lake area. A plaque in memory of this historical church event was placed at the site by the Catholic Order of Foresters Court 1384, Aberdeen.

The Cut Heads were a band of Indians akin to the Yanktonais Sioux tribe. A majority of this band, Cut Heads, were relocated

in the 1870's on the Fort Totten Reservation south of Devils Lake, North Dakota.

The legend on the monument reads:

IN 1845  
NEAR THIS SPOT IN A CUT HEAD  
+ INDIAN VILLAGE +  
FATHER  
ALEXANDRA RAVOIX  
CELEBRATED THE FIRST MASS  
OF RECORD IN SOUTH DAKOTA  
Sponsors  
CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS  
COURT 1389 ABERDEEN

[See Picture 13]

**SITE DESIGNATION:** PRUNTY-WESTPORT BASEBALL DIAMOND MONUMENT

**LOCATION:** WESTPORT, RAILWAY AVENUE AND SECOND STREET SOUTH;  
(Behind Backstop at Baseball Diamond)

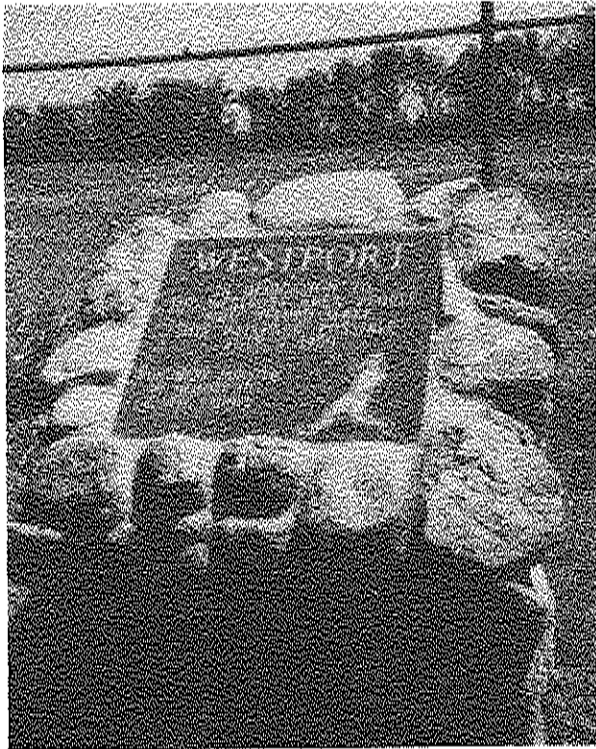
**SIGNIFICANCE:** Westport has been noted throughout the years, as a baseball town; sponsoring a team and being active in "little league" and "teener" teams. Although Westport had not always been as successful as other Brown County towns, relative to baseball, the spirit of the game is alive and well in this Elm River community. In 1948, the team went to the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Tournament at Watertown. The team won the first round. The first baseman on that team was Neil Prunty. Neil helped all forms of baseball along in this Brown County area and nearby Wetonka. He managed "Teeners" baseball teams in Wetonka and served on the Frederick Youth Athletic Council. He served on the Westport School Board and Westport Town Council. He maintained a life-long avid interest in baseball. Therefore this monument was dedicated in the memory of E[dward] Neil Prunty, who died on Tuesday, 2 August 1988.

The carved inscription on this reddish granite monument states:

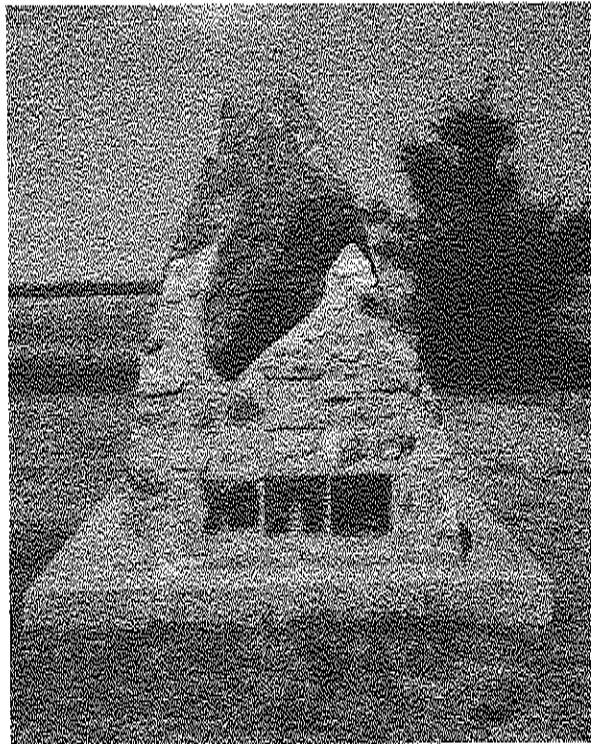
IN DEDICATION TO  
THE WESTPORT AREA PEOPLE  
WHO HELPED MAKE  
THIS BALLPARK POSSIBLE  
JULY 9, 1989

Monument Donated  
In Memory Of  
E. NEIL PRUNTY

[In the lower right to Prunty's tribute is a image of a right-handed slugger.]  
[See Picture 14]



14



15

**SITE DESIGNATION: AURLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL**

**LOCATION:** APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF MILE NORTH OF S.D. HIGHWAY 10 ON BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 14, ON WEST SIDE OF ROAD

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This monument signifies the establishment, longevity and cessation of services of the Aurland United Lutheran Church, located southeast of the town of Frederick. The monument is constructed of local fieldstone and concrete with two stainless-steel plaques, one facing east, the other south. It has an enclosed glass vault on the south side of the stone structure.

Plate on the south side reads:

**AURLAND**

1908 Church was built remain[ing] in place: 1961  
This topping rock came from the Lewis Tviet Farm E. Qt. Sect Twp 120, Range 65, Dickey Co. N. Dak. and was presented and transported by him in memory of his brother Andrew Tviet.

The design work was done by John G. Peterson of Frederick S. Dak. Martin Lien, Gustav Lien and Emory Gelling as helpers.

Altar furnishings enclosed in glass vault below this plaque. This monument was erected by the Senior Ladies Aid in 1961.

Stamped by J. G. P. Nov. 1961. [John G. Peterson's plate-stamping talent is reflected in at least two other local monuments: Savo Monument and the Frederick School Bell Monument, both subjects in this booklet.]

Plate on east side of monument reads:

AURLAND  
HISTORY

The United Norwegian Lutheran church. In memory of the Pioneer Members of the Aurland Congregation, organized in 1885. Rev. Rogne was the first pastor. The services were held in homes and school houses until when in 1908 [this church was built.]

The interior fixtures were purchased by the following organizations: The Altar & Pews were purchased by the Senior Ladies Aid; the Altar picture was donated by Einer Nygaard. The organ, the altar ring railing and lamp were purchased by the Young People's League. The Baptismal Fount was purchased by the Jr. Ladies Aid (Pige Forening).

The pastor chair was donated by J. Oscar Anderson of Frederick, S. Dak. Due to circumstances beyond our control, services were discontinued in 1953. Rev. Hjelmseth was the last pastor. Monument was erected by the Senior Ladies Aid in 1961.

In my Father's House are many mansions,  
I go to prepare a place for you.

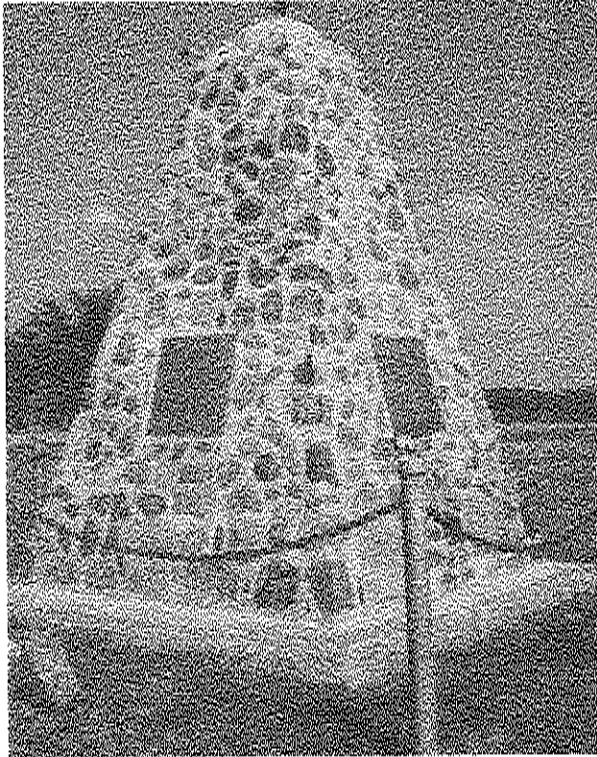
[Listing of Pioneer Members and Founders of Aurland Church]

Iver & Martha Tviet	Lars & Ragnild Tviet
Mons & Marta Tviet	John & Marie Johnson
Gilbert & Nellie Mellang	Ole & Betsy Holten
Ole & Gunhilde Kvan	Ole & Arne Kvan
Amond & Emilie Hamar	Onfin & Kari Vangen
Gustav & Sarah Lien	Anders & Brita Thye
Karl & Olianna Kristianson	Oskar & Ingeborg Berkheim
Ole & Kristina Nilsen	John & Ingeborg Buene
Ingeborg Wangen	Christian Wangen
Hans Larson	Hans L. & Anna Tviet
Einar and Theresa Nygaard	John & Minnie Turnquist

Charter members had immigrated from Aurland, Norway. They named their new church after the village church, which was established around 1202. Although there is no pictorial record of that home church among the records, traditions suggests that details of the church may have been copied from the mother church. Another traditional feature of the church is the cemetery, which borders the building on two sides. Due to population changes in the area, there were no longer enough members of the Lutheran faith to keep up its support as a full-time function. Its last regular divine service was held in 1953. The church is a well preserved example of a simple, frame country church and the Aurland Church remains a symbol of Norwegian settlement in Brown County. It reflects the spirit of its pioneer builders.

[See Picture 15]





16



16a

**SITE DESIGNATION:** SAVO FINNISH MEMORIAL

**LOCATION:** 104 STREET AND 396 AVENUE (BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 14)  
[OR THREE MILES NORTH OF BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 5  
ON BROWN COUNTY HIGHWAY 14.]

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This monument was created to forever make available the history of those Finnish people who pioneered here in Brown County, South Dakota, and Dickey County, North Dakota. This four-sided monument was erected by the Savo Finnish Historical Society under the direction of John G. Peterson, Frederick; the stamping of the stainless-steel plates are his painstaking handiwork. The monument, fenced off by steel post and chain, but easily accessible, is made of concrete and fieldstone from the local area. The monument was dedicated in 1955.

South facing plaque: Lists Finnish people and Townships in 1955.

East facing plaque: lists cultural activities 1884-1955; lists names of five servicemen killed in action, World War II.

North facing plaque: List Finnish settlers in Savo Township in Dakota Territory 1882-1886.

West facing plaque: Lists Pioneer settlers in Savo Township, 1882-1886, by section diagrams.

[See Picture 16]

SITE DESIGNATION: MEMORIAL TO MOTHER, INFANT AND FIFTY-FIVE  
OTHER PIONEERS BURIED IN UNMARKED GRAVES  
IN CEMETERY OF FINNISH APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

LOCATION: 4 MILES EAST OF FREDERICK AND 7 MILES NORTH ON BROWN  
COUNTY HIGHWAY 14 THEN 1 MILE EAST [INTERSECTION  
OF 101 STREET AND 392 AVENUE]

SIGNIFICANCE: First, a few words about the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places: Built in 1884, this church is one of several Finnish churches in the area. However, it is one of the oldest and best preserved examples of 19th century Apostolic Lutheran pioneer settlements in South Dakota. Officially dedicated on St. John's Day, 24 June 1884, the simple nave plan church is located on the open prairie near the North Dakota state line. The congregation was officially organized in 1887 as the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Savo. The church building was used for seventy years and was finally replaced with a larger, modern frame structure across the state line in North Dakota. Now maintained as a museum by the Pioneer Church Restoration Association, the original church is dedicated to the Finnish Pioneers and a memorial was constructed and placed in the church cemetery just west of the church. The memorial's bronze legend, placed upon a large granite stone, reads:

IN MEMORIAM

On June 22, 1883 Mrs. Matt (Valborg) Hanhela became the first Finnish settler here to die (in child birth.)

She and her infant son were the first to be buried here. Their grave is unmarked and unknown.

Ten acres of land for this cemetery and for the church, built in 1884, were given by Matt Hanhela. In exchange, forty homesteaders with oxen, horses and plows broke fifty acres of prairie sod for him.

Here also rests fifty-five souls whose wooden grave markers were destroyed in a prairie fire. Their names are recorded in the church, but their final resting places are known only to God.

SLEEP YOU ALL WHO ARE HERE IN  
PEACE AND REST ETERNALLY IN  
THE GARDEN OF HEAVEN.

"PIONEER CHURCH RESTORATION ASSOC."

-1989-

[See Picture 16a]



- SITE DESIGNATIONS:** [1] **FREDERICK SCHOOL BELL**  
[2] **WA-NE-TA SIOUX INDIAN CHIEF/LASTING  
LEGACY MONUMENT**  
[3] **ND-SD STATE LINE MARKERS**

**LOCATION:** SIMMONS PARK, FREDERICK (While visiting any of the three monuments listed above, look for other points of interest in the park as previously outlined in the 1997 issue of booklet SIMMONS! FREDERICK'S RIVERSIDE PARK, published by the Aberdeen/Brown County Landmarks Commission.)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** [1] Frederick School Bell: On 4 September 1964, it was reported in the Brown County News that John Peterson has erected a concrete foundation on which Frederick's first school bell would be placed. Located a short distance east of the archway, the native rock structure contained 300 Plains Indian arrowhead agates and other interesting stones. When the old schoolhouse was to be razed, Norman Glarum saved the school bell of 1888 which knell had warned of approaching snowstorms.

At the 1964 dedication the audience was reminded of the bell's story. In April 1888 after hours of writing and memorizing some twenty-two skits and songs, students entertained area residents at the Odd Fellow Hall. Their efforts raised \$50 to purchase a school bell. In 1899 the school house was moved to its present location and in 1908 came the brick addition. In the 1950's Frederick athletes rang the bell late in the night to observe a school-team victory.

Cheryl Glosser in her dedicatory remarks of 1964 urged listeners to take pride in the school bell monument. She asserted that remembrance of the bell is "a part of our forefather's history" and "testimony to the living." She asked Frederick residents to imagine at each sunset Simmons Park bell tolling a tribute to these pioneers.

The school bell was manufactured by the Buckeye Bell Foundry-1888. The stainless-steel metal plate reveals the following:

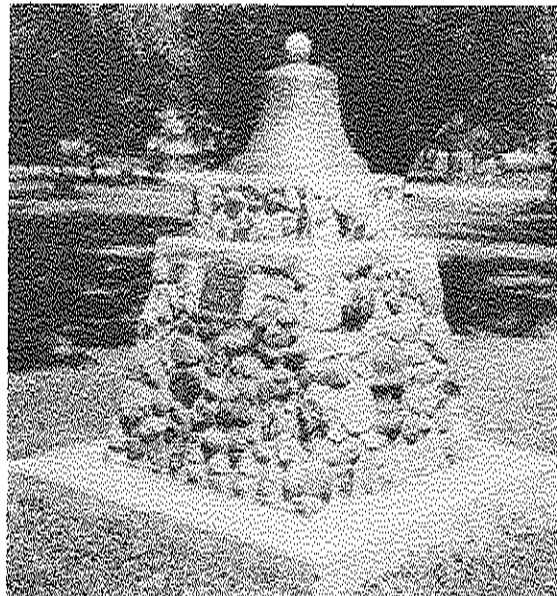
The First Frederick School  
House was built in  
1882.

The main building was  
built in 1922 with  
four year curriculum.

The original bell of the  
Frederick School.

Purchased with money  
raised by Student  
Entertainment  
in April 1888.

PARK BENEFACTORS  
John C. Simmons



Alpha Circle  
Glenn Jeffers  
Girl Scouts  
Brooke Howell  
Paul J. Silberberger  
Norman Glarum  
Dedicated - 1964  
1963 Monument and Flag's [sic]  
Built by  
John G. Peterson  
  
[See Picture 17a]

[2] WA-NE-TA SIOUX INDIAN CHIEF/LASTING LEGACY MONUMENT: Celebrating the State of South Dakota Centennial on 7 June 1989, about 150 folks watched at 4:00 p.m., the dedication of this four-sided monument, six-feet high and four-feet wide--the area's "lasting legacy" for the noteworthy occasions. The polished quad of granite emphasizes the area's past and the future. The four themes in Frederick's history used both pictorial and narrative means to embrace remembrances. On the pillar's west side is the list of the five ideals in "steps to the future": County, Community, Fame, School and Church. On the east side of the pillar are the words Frederick 1882 with etched image of Wa-Ne-Ta, "great chief of the Sioux," rifle in hand suggesting Indian presence in the area prior to the arrival of the European settlers. At the top of the south end plaque is an etching of a railroad station with a steam locomotive pictured at the bottom--denoting Frederick's earlier days. In between are these words:

Our Heritage  
Extends back in  
Time to the Indians  
Remember the Prairies  
and Fur Traders  
Exploring the Land

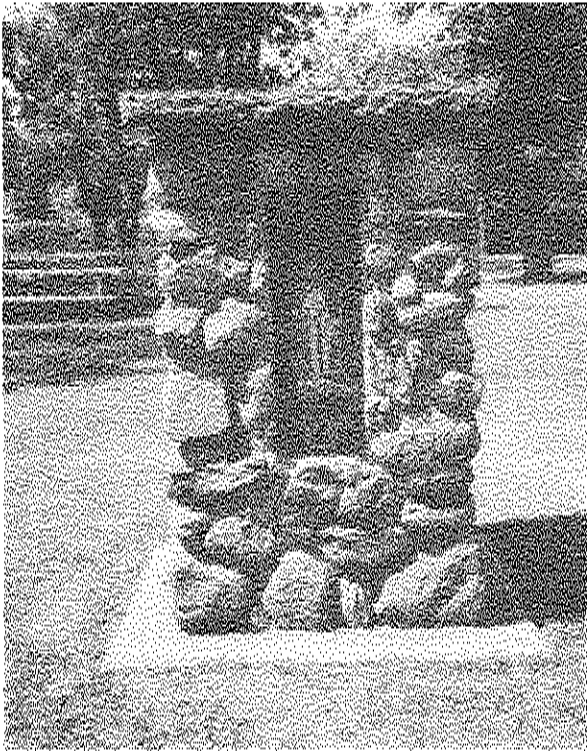
The north pillar profiles a United States flag and the face of a soldier with words praising wartime courage and sacrifice.  
[See Picture 17b]

[3] ND-SD STATE LINE MARKERS: In 1984 two additional markers were placed in Simmons Park well before the 1989 Centennial. These differed from past and future monuments in that they were brought from the North Dakota-South Dakota border and were not directly connected with Frederick's local history. After permission was granted to place the markers in the park, John Geranen and Arne Karjalainen labored in digging the holes and Robert Pence and Ralph Cranage set the markers in position.

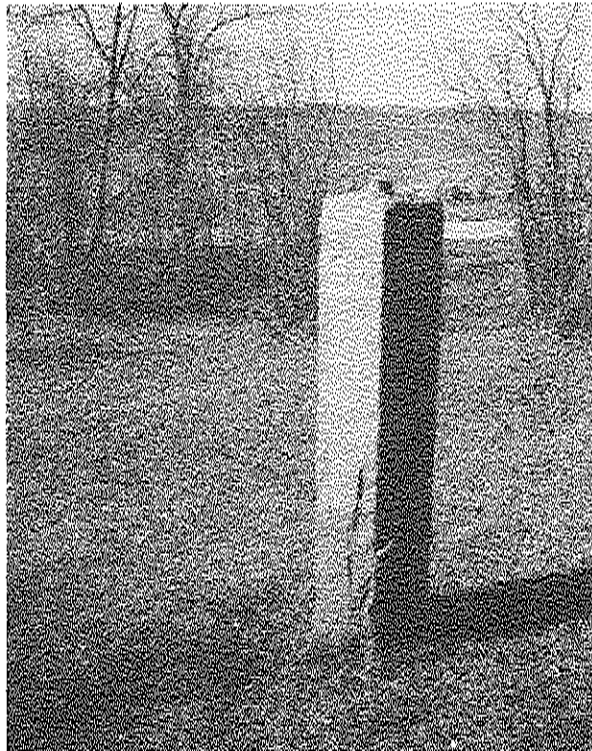
Cut and engraved in Sioux Falls, these seven-foot quartzite stone markers were only two of 720 pink mile posts placed in 1891 along the North and South Dakota border honoring the entry

of those states into the nation. The north face of each read N. D. and the south face S. D.

[See Picture 17c]



17b



17c

**SITE DESIGNATION:** BARNARD FAMILY HOMESTEAD MARKER

**LOCATION:** WAYSIDE CEMETERY, FREDERICK, WEST SIDE

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Frederick was only a few weeks old when townspeople began to think about starting a school. Mr. Horace Barnard was the first teacher. He homesteaded on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 12, T127N, Range 64W, just south east of Frederick. (George Sumption is now the steward of this land.) This marker in the cemetery serves a dual purpose as it denotes the Barnard family plot and the fact that Barnard homesteaded in 1881 on that quarter section of land. It is a unique family marker, consisting of a large boulder and an attractive bronze plaque. In the family plot are two grave markers, one for a 17-year-old DeWitt Barnard who died on 21 March 1900 and Sylvia (nee Light) Barnard, who died in 1920 at the age of 68 years. There is not a marker for Horace Barnard. Where is he buried? Was he buried to the south of Sylvia sans marker? Also, some sources claim that the town of Barnard was his namesake; other sources are in favor of Frank H. Barnard, pioneer landowner in Brown County, who set aside land for the townsite.

[See Picture 18]



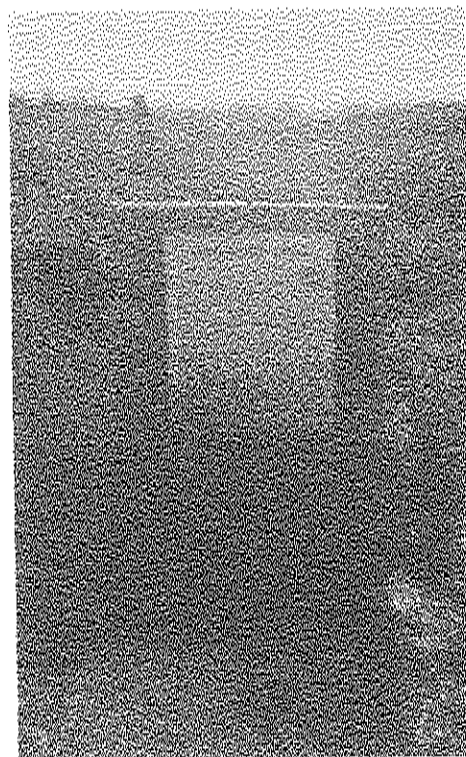
18



19



20



21

**SITE DESIGNATION: COLIN CAMPBELL FUR POST AND BIRTHPLACE OF  
SIOUX CHIEF WA-NE-TA**

**LOCATION:** Join Brown County Highway 6 west of Aberdeen (382 Avenue) and proceed north until it intersects with 111 Street. At this point, keep going north, looking for a fenced area approximately 150 yards off the road (northeast) for a boulder with a large bronze plaque...or proceed 4 miles west and four miles south of the town of Frederick (Brown County Highway 5 (104 Street) west, and south on Brown County Highway 6 (282 Avenue, a look to your left for the boulder.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** On this granite native stone is an attached bronze plaque which presents the legend:

ON THIS SPOT STOOD  
COLON CAMPBELL FUR POST  
1822 - '28  
The Very Important Sioux Waneta  
Was Born Near This Place  
1794 - 1848

---

The fur trader's first name Colin is misspelled on the bronze plaque (Colon). Waneta is sometimes spelled Wa-Ne-Ta.

Colin Campbell was credited for establishing this Elm River fur post, as it was named in his honor. The post had a very short life, from 1824 to 1827 or 1828, date is in dispute. It was probably William Dickson who managed it during this time. It appears that the post was closed after the 1827 merger with other fur companies. However, other fur companies used this site intermittently and its last known use was the winter of 1836-1837. It is interesting to note that in 1827, this same William Dickson moved this post from the Elm River to the James River to a place where the Dakota Indians called "Utuhouja"...the place where the oaks spring up....Rondell. Other sources differ on the Indian spelling of "Utuhouja" with a shorter version--"Otuhu"--the Oakwood Settlement after the jack oak trees in that area.

This monument along the Elm River was erected in 1922 and dedicated on 20 June 1926. This trading post, called a fur post, was the first building to be built in Brown County by a white man. No traces of the wooden building exist today, the granite boulder and bronze plaque stands as a sentinel at its site.

The American Fur Company required that daily journals of leading events be kept at each of its more important posts and some of these have survived. Colin Campbell is mentioned in these surviving journals. They tell about his dealings with the Indians, the Oglallas on the Cheyenne River and Cherry Creek in western South Dakota. He traded with Frederick LaBoue (LaBeau) who has descendants living in Aberdeen and Pierre.



For further data on Colin Campbell, refer to Chapter XIV, Volume I, History of South Dakota (c) 1904 by Doane Robinson. Reference copy at Alexander Mitchell Public Library, Aberdeen.

From 1700 until 1879 Brown County was part of the hunting range of the Dakota Indians. About 1750 the western Dakota began to acquire horses and this greatly extended their hunting and trading ranges, to intermingle with the French, British and American trappers. Waneta was one of these Indians. His birthplace was near the Elm River and the Campbell Fur Post. Waneta means "The Charger" in the Dakota tongue. Waneta played a part in the War of 1812. He received nine wounds, one from a musket ball seriously injuring him. Despite this wound he continued to fight and kill seven of the enemy. Waneta was honored by the British for his valor with medals and perhaps a commission. He remained loyal to the British and hostile to the United States until 1820. In that year he was arrested on a visit to Fort Snelling, Minnesota. His British medals was confiscated and destroyed and he was compelled to recognize American authority in the lands of the Dakota. In this era, he was regarded as "one of the greatest men of the Dakota nation. Wahanantan, the correct Dakota spelling of his name, was six feet and three inches in height; a handsome face, a gentle gaze. He was ornamented with the feather of a warrior, his coat of buffalo skin, telling the stories (pictographs) of his wars." In his late years, blindness overtook this great warrior and ultimately cost him the leadership, and one of his rivals within his band, no longer fearing the blind old warrior, shot him through the heart in 1840, ending the life which had begun in the little valley on the Elm River.

[See Picture 19]

**SITE DESIGNATION: OAKWOOD INDIAN TRADING POST (RONDELL)**

**LOCATION:** Brown County Highway 25 (gravel-surface, 146 Street) east side of James River, approximately 200 yards north of road in flood plain...[or Brown County Highway 25, east side of James River 6 miles east and 5 miles south of Warner--use Brown County 14 to approach BCH 25 (146 Street)].

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The memorial boulder is affixed with a bronze plaque which states:

OAKWOOD  
INDIAN TRADING POST  
RONDELL  
Established In 1835  
Important In  
South Dakota History  
marker by  
MacPherson Chapter  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
and Dacotah Society Children  
of the American Revolution  
Aberdeen South Dakota

This bronze plaque was dedicated by above groups in 1933. (Nearby is a similar marker dedicated in 1990 by the Rondell Sunshine Circle of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons.)

History, education and patriotism are the purposes of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) of which the MacPherson Chapter was organized in Aberdeen in 1913 and chartered in 1915. Membership is open to any woman who is a descendant of a loyalist to the cause of the American revolution.

**RONDELL:** Records of an encampment at this spot date from at least 1827. In 1842 Raundelle came up from St. Louis via the Mississippi River and onto the James River to Oakwood Post. He built a large log cabin for the American Fur Trading Company. In 1851 he relocated at Waubay. In April 1879 James Humphrey built a cabin on the high bank west of Rondell crossing. He started a store and later the Rondell Post Office.

For detailed data about Rondell and the Oakwood Trading Post refer to pages 158-165 Early History of Brown County South Dakota, sales copies available at Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, and lending copies at the Alexander Mitchell Public Library, Aberdeen.

This bronze plaque has some recent damage by two high-powered rifle shots, and evidence of two lesser attempts with .22 calibre shots by vandals who have no respect for property, public or private.

[See Picture 20]



**SITE DESIGNATION: OAKWOOD POST (RONDELL TRADING POST)**

**LOCATION:** Brown County Highway 25 (gravel-surface) on west side of James River bridge and south side ditch area. Brown County Highway 25 is approximately 13 miles south on Brown County Highway 14. (Highway 25 is prone to flooding during high waters on the James River.)

**SIGNIFICANCE:** This marker, constructed with cinder block and a metal legend on a gold background, approximately 20" x 28" in size states to all who take time to read it:

**OAKWOOD POST**

Oakwood Post, established in 1835 by Major Joseph R. Brown for the American Fur Company, was an early trading post in Brown County. French explorers called it "place of the scrub oaks." A landmark used by Indians and Whites alike. Pierre Le Blanc, the first trader was killed after cruel treatment of a starving Indian gathering corn from the cracks in the post floor in the severe winter of 1836. The original cabin burned and was rebuilt in 1838 by Major Brown. Francis Raundelle (Rondell) expanded the post during his nine year tenure (1842-1851) as manager. Chief Drifting Goose made area period his camping ground. Following the influx of white settlers 1879, James Humphrey built a store, and Rondell became a popular spot for picnics, community gatherings and celebrations. Rondell Post Office opened in 1880 and closed in 1902. The store closed in 1950. In 1933, the Aberdeen Daughters of the American Revolution placed a bronze tablet on a boulder at this memorial spot.[\*] It tells the story of the rich furtrader and heritage of the pioneers.

Erected in 1990 by the Rondell Sunshine Circle of the International Order of the Kings, Daughters and Sons to rededicate the Oakwood historic area to the memory and spirit of both Indians and homesteaders who loved the Rondell area and the James River.

[\*] Reference to other memorial markers located approximately 200 yards to the northeast of this marker. In 1990, the owner of the land would not permit this Oakwood Post marker to be placed adjacent to the 1933 marker, so it was situated on the county right-of-way on Highway 25.

The upper left-hand corner of this marker has been damaged by rifle-fire from a vandal who obviously has no respect for markers, county highway signs, and the like.

In earlier days, say 45-55 years ago, Rondell hosted a Girl Scout camp, had a baseball diamond for weekend activities. The area lost its appeal in the late 1950s, and there are no traces today of its glory of days gone by... so sad.

[See Picture 21]

**SITE DESIGNATION:** JOHN MANSFIELD TERRITORIAL MEMORIAL BOULDER

**LOCATION:** Mansfield Centennial Park, Mansfield, Brown County.  
[Two miles west on Brown County Highway 27, off U. S. Highway 281, fifteen miles south of Aberdeen.]

**SIGNIFICANCE:** A gray-speckled granite fieldstone boulder is engraved with the following data:

JOHN MANSFIELD  
FOUNDER  
MANSFIELD DAK. TERRITORY  
1882

The boulder is flanked by two concrete block and brick walls. The bricks are engraved with the names of citizens contributing to the past of the Mansfield area. Also included are businesses in the Mansfield area. Each wall contains approximately 70 bricks with identification of the donors.

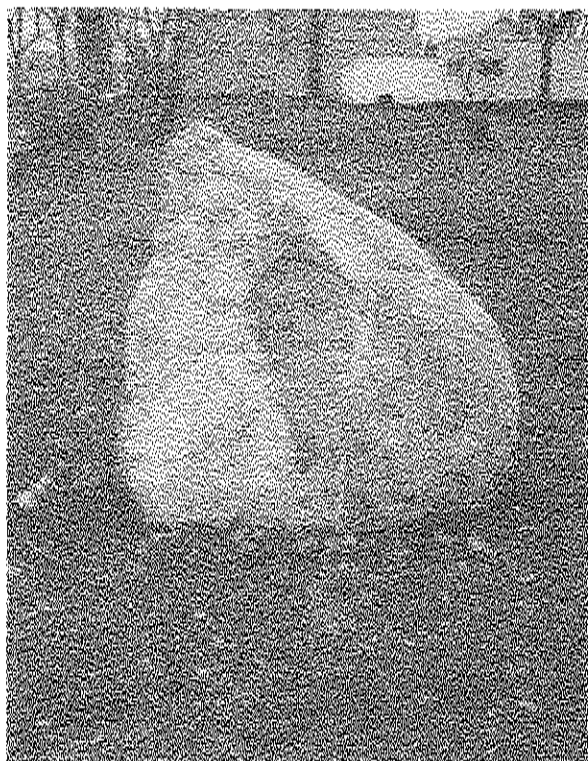
When the first settlers arrived in what presently is the Mansfield village and community, an area of approximately 18 miles east and west and 10 miles north and south along the Brown-Spink county line, they came on horseback, oxen and wagons and by foot, these hardy pioneers of the 1880-era.

During 1881 and 1882, some rode the train to Mellette and walked the remaining distance. Those early settlers raised potatoes as their main crop and, for many, potatoes were what they subsisted on during the first winters on the Dakota prairies. Perhaps the Irish heritage of the very first settlers reflected the potato as a main-stay of the diet.

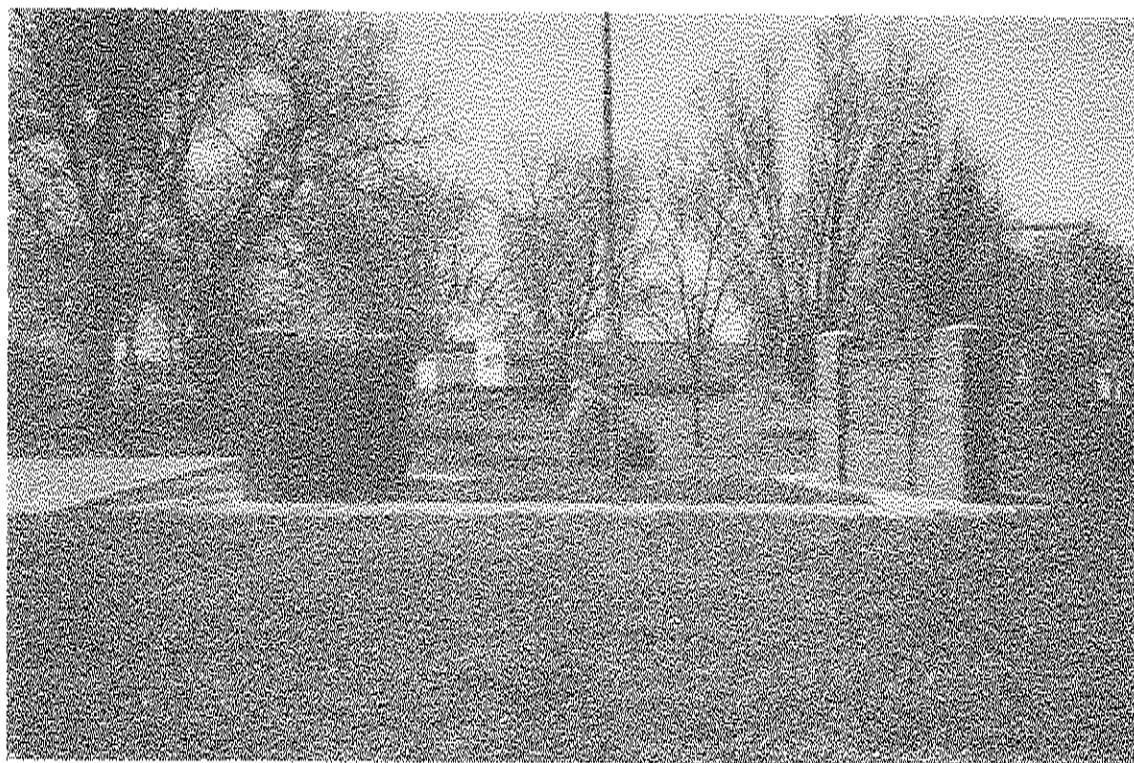
By October 1881, the Dakota Central Railway Company (which later became the Chicago and Northwestern) had laid tracks north through this area on its route to Ordway.

The Michael Mansfield family from Ireland, for whom the village is named, arrived in May, 1882. John Mansfield, a son, paid \$1.25 per acre for the land which would become the townsite. John Mansfield was named the first post master of Mansfield, Dakota Territory on 23 October 1882. All the first buildings in town were built on the Brown County side of what is present day Main Street. The south side of town, (in Spink county) remains undeveloped in early years. Mansfield was never incorporated, and is governed by two township boards. Sometimes frustrating, sometimes humorous, it caused the village to be the subject of feature stories in nearby newspapers often. A trip to Mansfield is rewarding, especially if you visit with Paul (Bob) and Bonnie Palmer and their antique museum and also view the 1902 building where Lawrence Welk played in his early career. (The museum is open by appointment only in the spring, summer and early fall.)

[See Pictures 22a and 22b on next page]



22a



22b

## A SALUTE TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic preservation works for all of us. It develops pride in place and sense of community, promotes economic development through tourism and a more eye appealing landscapes and structures. Aberdeen and Brown County towns and rural areas have a varied and significant architectural, artistic and historical heritage which includes landscape as well as people and buildings. Some of our heritage has vanished due to fire, demolition, neglect and over utilization of the building's design. Other features have survived through careful maintenance, improvements and resourceful alternative uses such as Aberdeen's Christian Science Church and the Great Northern Railway Depot renovated for law offices and the Capitol Theatre renovated as a community arts center. This partnership with community-minded citizens and businesses is a positive factor in improving our quality of life. Aberdeen has three historic districts and throughout the city and county many individual homes and farms are on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of these may be found in the Aberdeen/Brown County Landmarks Commission's booklet Exploring Brown County published in 1994.

Aberdeen/Brown County Landmarks Commission was officially created 11 May 1978. In 1985 the Landmarks Commission joined the newly Certified Local Government Program [CLG]. The Brown County and Aberdeen City Commissioners adopted South Dakota Codified Law 1-19B pertinent to Landmarks Commissions.

As a CLG entity the Landmarks Commission functions to promote adaptive use of endangered structures and conservation of historic properties--business and residential, urban and rural. Through an educational and inspirational program the Commission aims to increase public awareness of our architectural and historical heritage. One objective is to help people apply for official recognition of their structures on the National Register of Historic Places with the hope that the visible remnants of Brown County's heritage will be cared for and preserved by present and future generations.

Citizens interested in corresponding with the Landmarks Commission as to concerns or volunteering their services on the Commission please correspond to P. O. Box 1420, Aberdeen SD 57402-1420. The Commission meets every third Thursday of the month in the Municipal Building second floor conference room, at 3:30 p. m.

### MISSING MARKERS; LOST OR STOLEN OR IN NEED OF REPLACEMENT OR ORIGINATING

Certain markers of historic significance have faded out of existence throughout the years. One comes to mind: Samuel Brown's ride located northeast of Ordway. One which was removed is the Putney School Bell denoting the first schoolhouse in Brown County, 1881. It was displayed in Putney in 1963. Other sites in need of a marker: Townsites of James, Rudolph, Nahon and Winship...just to mention a few. The Yorkville site marker needs to be more discernible as well as Clare D. Johnson's first home near Columbia. Rural Brown County sites deserve to be properly noted and perhaps a service club could pick up the idea for a project by fulfilling the need for said markers.

**SIDE-BARS AND TRIVIA:** On the preceding page mention was made of Yorkville, the site of Brown County's first United States Post Office. A modest marker was placed about two decades ago near the intersection of the Yorkville Road and 128th Street. The marker is a black rectangle of metal, approximately 12"x14" mounted on a galvanized iron pipe about four feet off the ground. Its appearance is a bit common; on the slanted black metal piece are printed, in 14 point type, white letters describing the significance of Yorkville in five paragraphs. In a larger type in the upper left-hand area it reads:

**YORKVILLE  
FIRST POST OFFICE  
IN BROWN COUNTY**

Opposite that legend is an engraved image of William York's cabin. At the bottom area of this plate is the statement: "This historical marker was donated by the Putney Ladies Aid (1908-1977) and sponsored by the Brown County Museum and Historical Society, Inc." [See Inside Back Cover.]

According to the marker William York came to Dakota Territory in the spring of 1878 and settled on the James River. There was a ferry crossing at that point. Mr. York was the first settler in Riverside Township. The York family built a log house from the trees along the James. It consisted of a grocery store, a hotel and a post office. [The life of this post office was from 30 July 1879 to 2 February 1883, when the Bath Post Office superseded Yorkville's duties with the U. S. mail. At this writing the oldest U. S. Post Office in service in Brown County is at Columbia as it was established on 12 February 1880 and like that battery bunny on television--it just keeps on going! Aberdeen Post Office was established on 17 February 1881. Over the years in Brown County, there were 43 post offices, including name changes--and today only nine are still operating.]

**CLARENCE D. JOHNSON**, also referred to as "Clare" or "Clair" was an early Brown County settler. Clare and his party of pioneers settled on the west bank of the James River where the 6th standard parallel crosses approximately 4 miles east and about one mile south of present day Columbia. Johnson's party completed three comfortable cabins creating the first white settlement in Brown County. He and his group traded and exchanged words with Dakota Chief Drifting Goose and his people. Years later Johnson's home site was noted by a marker. The ownership of this land has changed hands throughout the years. There are descendants of Johnson living in Brown County today.

**FATHER ROBERT W. HAIRE** has been noted two times previously in this booklet. Prior to his conversion to Catholicism, he was a Presbyterian. He was one of the prime movers and founders of present day Northern State University in Aberdeen. He was deeply involved in South Dakota political issues and was good friend of Governor Andrew Lee, who was a member of the Fusion Party and was at the helm of the state from 1897-1901.

**SIDE-BARS AND TRIVIA (Continued):** In the 1928 Pasque (Northern's yearbook) it was said of Father Haire:

"According to history we are informed that it was Father Haire who first suggested that a state school should be located in the northern part of the state. His influence was felt not alone in his particular profession; it was statewide. 'Like many great reformers,' says one account, 'he was far ahead of his time; measures and policies that he stood for then are settled facts today.' Among other things he was an implacable foe of the open saloon, and was the father of the Initiative and Referendum. He was a teacher, preacher, missionary, scholar, statesman, benefactor and friend to his fellowmen. He was a member of the state Board of Charities and the state Board of Regents."

Another reference to Father Haire says: "Father Haire's career was unique...After filing on his homestead and building a sod church near Columbia, he made preparations to administer to his wide-spread flock. Father Haire's trips to his flocks were so planned that he returned to his claim at least every month in order to comply with the homestead law...His congregation included many non-Catholics who helped and encouraged Father Haire in his work.

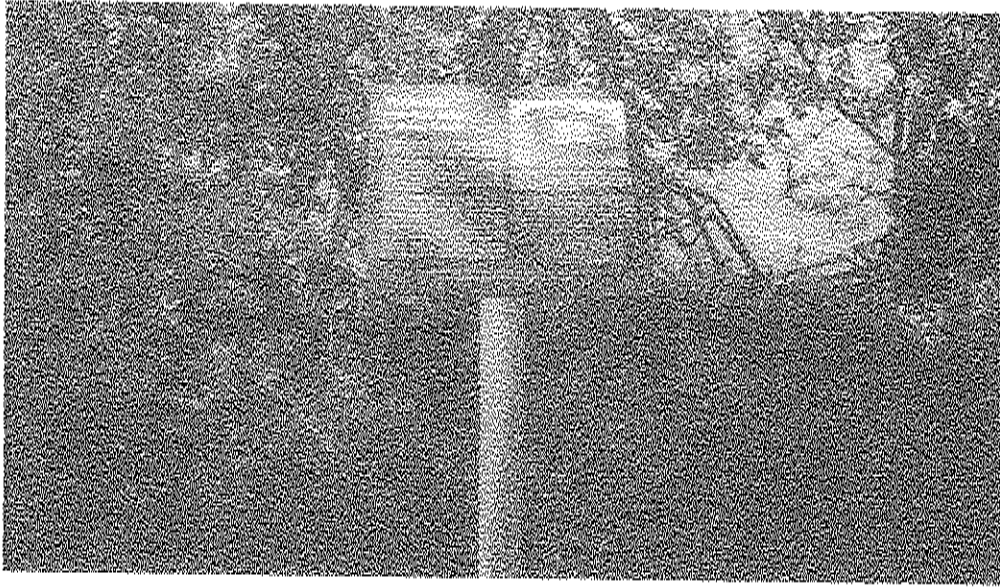
"The first Holy Mass was said in Aberdeen, according to Father Haire, in Joe Grace's sod house in the fall of 1880. After that, as his schedule permitted, usually only once or twice a month, mass was offered in the Sherman House in Aberdeen, in various homes, or in an available [railroad] boxcar."

Father Haire's untiring efforts and devotion to mankind contributed greatly to the development of Brown County both in the religious and education fields of endeavor.

**THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MONUMENT** in Riverside Cemetery, is the oldest dedicated monument in Brown County, dating to 1905 and the newest marker is the **OAKWOOD POST** which was erected in 1990 and placed on the side of the road, Brown County Highway 25. The sponsors, the Rondell Sunshine Circle of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons are active to this day. The order was founded in 1886. The first South Dakota branch of the Order was organized in 1888, by Millie Strong with ten girls in her Sunday School class forming the circle. This was near Rondell, Dakota Territory. In 1891, young men were admitted to this circle. The motto of this order is "In His Name."

**REFERENCE MATERIALS:** There are two publications available for purchase at the Dacotah Prairie Museum, Aberdeen, containing an abundance of historical data of Brown County: Early History of Brown County South Dakota (1961) and Brown County History (1980). For a further taste of early days in Brown County, you are invited to visit the Dacotah Prairie Museum.





#### YORKVILLE: FIRST POST OFFICE IN BROWN COUNTY

Government land surveyors went through this area in 1872, but long before, there had been a military trail from Fort Pierre to Fort Sisseton which forded the James River here.

William York was the first settler in this area, arriving in the spring of 1879 to establish a claim at this river crossing. He built a log house from trees along the river in April, 1879. Brought his wife, his three children and his parents to live here. Ed Harnoise and Lester Blackman came with them from Lake Kampeska.

York bought supplies for a grocery store, added a section to his cabin for a hotel, and applied for the right to operate a post office. There were no post offices west of Watertown, the railroad terminus, until the fall of 1879 when Yorkville was made a post office and a star route was established from Firesteel to Jamestown. Yorkville continued to serve as the post office for a large area until the summer of 1881 when post offices were established at Groton and Aberdeen after the railroad arrived in those settlements. In the meantime Aberdonians hired Ira O. Curtis at \$3 a trip to go to Yorkville several times a week to pick up their mail.

The first white girl to be born in Brown County was Stella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Everson. She was born in Yorkville in the spring of 1880 with Mrs. York acting as midwife which she did quite often.

The early settlers had plenty of antelope, deer and other game, and fish, but other supplies and lumber had to be hauled from Watertown, which took about one week for a round trip. In the terrible winter of 1880-1881 many single homesteaders stayed at the York Hotel. The snow was so deep that it was impossible to drive a team through it, so the only means of travel was by snow shoes or skis. [From the Yorkville Post Office Marker.]

## HIGHWAY MAP

SCALE IN MILES

