

# DACOTAH PRAIRIE MUSEUM



# Historic Times

Summer History Club • Week of July 20, 2020 • Issue: 08



**Name:** Susan the Sleuth

**Hobby:** History Investigation

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

**Favorite Dress Up Costume:**

Any Historical Character!

**Favorite Summer Memory:**

Tent Camping in My Backyard

**Little Brother:** Thomas



## WIND ADVISORY!

**South Dakota wind gusts can be strong, sometimes strong enough to blow the hat right off of your head!**

**We've hidden lost hats like the hat in this picture throughout the newsletter.**

**How many can you find?**

(Answer on page 10)



## TOPIC OF THE WEEK:

## Hat Store & Church

Hello History Club Members!



I can't believe that summer is almost over, and we only have one more Historic Times to go! Susan the Sleuth here, and my little brother Thomas is playing hide and seek with me, because he doesn't want to put on any other kind of hat other than his Samurai hat which he wears ALL THE TIME! (I even told him we could make it a pirates hat...but no deal!)

This week the two buildings that we will be talking about at Centennial Village are the Church and the Hat Store...or sometimes called Millinery Shop. That's a fancy way of saying that they make and sell hats for men and women...and boys and girls, too.

Before we get to these buildings... I have to ask a question, have you been to the Dacotah Prairie Museum yet? They're open (including the gift shop) and the animals look great! I really liked going up in the tree house exhibit...that's going to be there till the first part of August. You don't go up really high, but you do have a chance to pretend that you're in the tall trees looking around at all the birds and animals that live up there. The Museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 pm till 4:30 pm. Then in August, they'll add even more days and hours!

Remember to social distance, and the Museum even has face masks in case you forgot yours at home. They've marked the floors to show you how to keep apart from other people looking around. Thomas kept hopping from arrow to arrow, sometimes he can be such a little brother!

**IMAGINE:** We go in and out of the house, or school, or businesses all the time and don't think much of what we wear, except for face masks! But, even as late as the 1960's...grown ups didn't go out without some kind of a hat. And I'm not talking about just a winter hat. If you lived on a farm, a lady had a sunbonnet and the man had a straw hat for working. In town, you might have several hats. Ladies would want their hats to match their coats or what they were wearing. Sounds like a lot of work to me, but that's just what everyone did. (Oh yes, no baseball caps or Samurai hats included!)

# 2020 Continues to be a Year for Change

Can you believe, it's been since the middle of March or four months ago, that everything changed overnight. Suddenly we had school at home, we couldn't meet in big groups, we had to wear masks when going into stores and keep washing our hands... over and over!

Pretty soon school will be starting, but it will probably be a little different than it was. That's ok, we'll still be with our teachers and our friends, we just have to be more careful of how we do things. I was reading that back in 1918 there was another time when people were worried about getting sick with a really nasty

flu....the grownups called it a pandemic as well. It was tough for a while, but pretty soon it got better and things got back to normal. One thing you might not take for granted anymore is going up and giving someone a high five or a hug. Or, being able to find whatever you want at the store. Or, going to History Camp at Centennial Village. We couldn't go this year, but we are finding out a lot about the different buildings out there and the buildings that were not only in Aberdeen but lots of little towns around. So, one more lesson (besides this one) about the buildings, the towns

in and around the county and, of course, the scavenger hunts. Everyone at the DPM hopes you're been enjoying these packets and will share them with your friends as you head back to school in the fall. You might even see Miss Mary and Miss Sherri as they come to visit your school and teach about the past.

Thanks for sending in all the cool photos of you exploring history and creating art. Please keep them coming!!!! Send photos to:

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

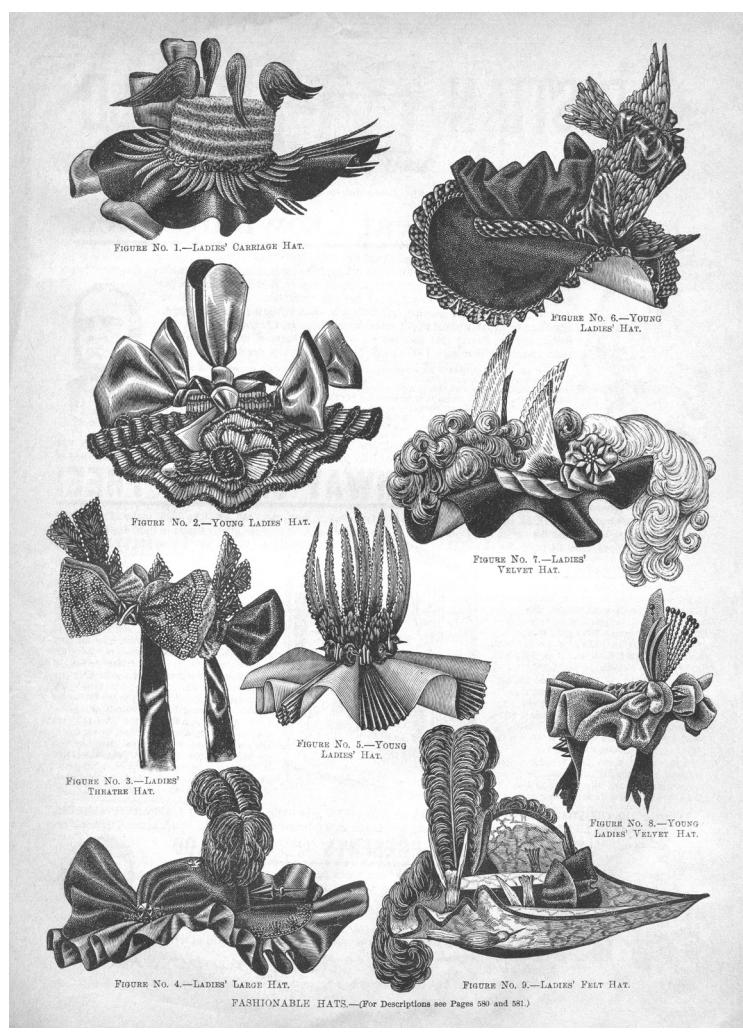
Then be watching our Facebook page as we share them.



**Thomas,**  
**What kind**  
**of hat**  
**should I**  
**wear?**



Hmmm...  
I like the one  
you have on!



## SHARE PHOTOS!

**SHOW US WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING!**

We'd love to hear from you!  
Are you enjoying history club?  
Send pictures of your history club adventures to our email address:  
[dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com)  
(NOTE: Photos may be posted on our web page or social media pages.)

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



Look at these fancy hats!



# Hat Shop and Church Word Search

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

polk bonnet

block head

song books

church pew

funerals

weddings

feather

flowers

ribbon

bowler

window

pastor

straw

bible

derby

organ

silk

bell



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS on page 10

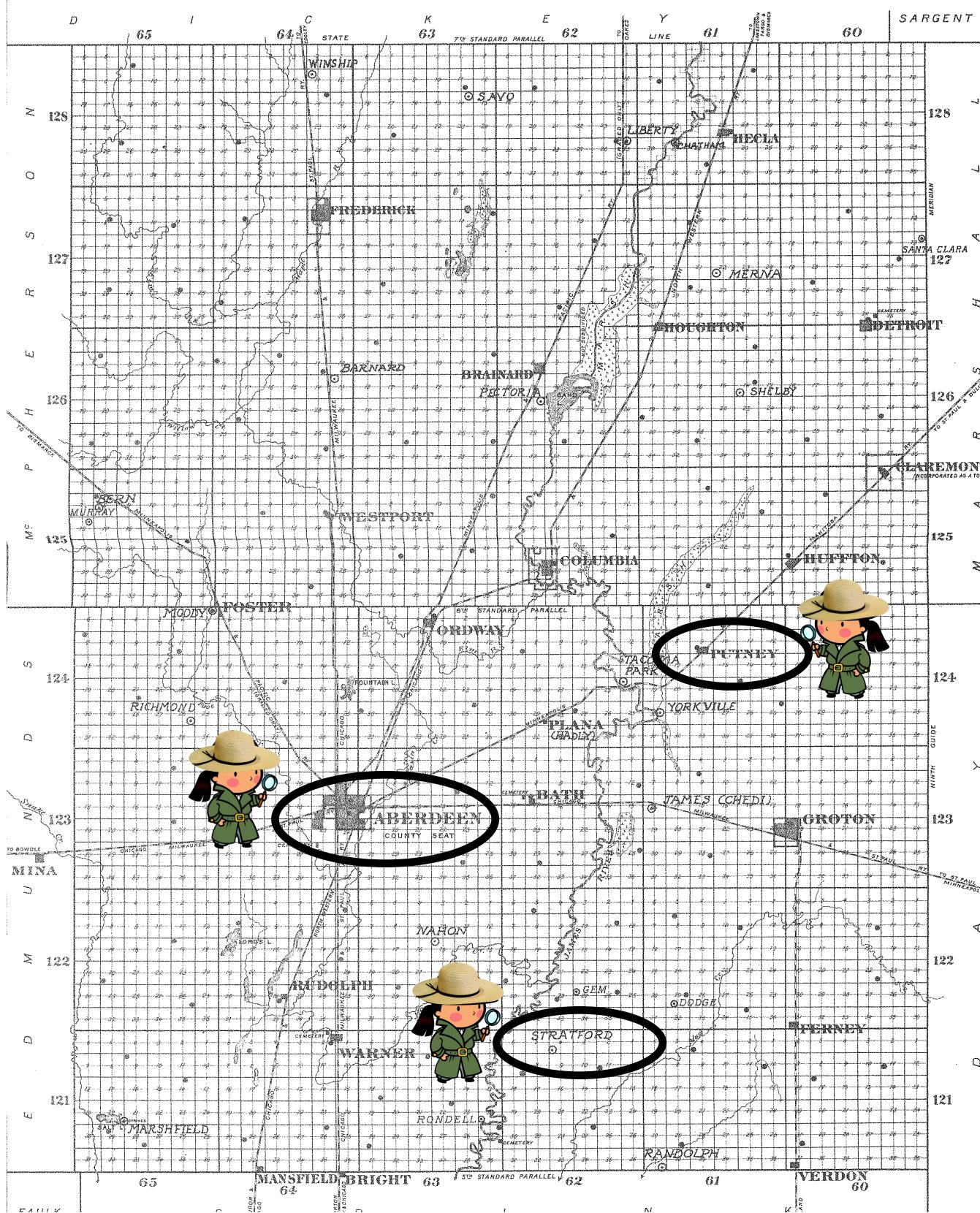


INVESTIGATE: Look at this really awesome old map of Brown County! I've marked the towns we are learning about this week: Stratford & Putney. I've also marked Aberdeen, where Centennial Village is located at the Brown County Fairgrounds. —Susan the Sleuth

# BROWN CO.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

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



# Let's Have Some Fun With Hats!

**THINK ABOUT DIFFERENT KINDS OF HATS:** Most families have some kind of hats at home, usually sports type like baseball caps. Most times those hats have a plastic adjustment band in the back so you can make the hat fit you perfectly...not too big or not too small. Both boys and girls and men and women wear these kind of hats and you will see them almost everywhere, especially at the games. It's showing team pride. But how about different kinds of hats, for ladies like an Easter Bonnet, or a hat for a wedding? Some men like a straw hat for the summer to keep the sun off their face and neck and it helps to keep them cooler. In years past, you didn't leave your house unless you had a hat on, it was a pretty big thing. That included boys and girls, even babies wore little bonnets. Think about cowboy or cowgirl hats made of felt.

**WHAT KINDS OF HATS DO YOU HAVE AT HOME?** Take a look around your house and see what kind of hats you can find. How many different kinds of hats do you see?

**FUN IDEA #1:** Set up a hat store! (Make sure to have your parents' permission.) Gather different types of hats into a "store" in your bedroom and then invite your siblings and parents to "shop" for new hats in your Hat Shop! Make your own paper money, or use play money if you have some. Don't forget to set prices for the hats. Which hats are the most expensive in your store? What makes them the most expensive?



**FUN IDEA #2:** Have a tea party with fancy hats. Dress up and wear fancy hats for a snack time tea party! Serve iced tea and cookies or crackers. Invite your family, and your favorite dolls and stuffed animals.

**FUN IDEA #3:** If you're feeling especially creative, how about making and decorating a hat? You can use ribbon, feathers, an old leather belt, beads, all kinds of things you might have in your craft stash! There are several ways to make a hat "base" to decorate:

1. You could cut a paper band to fit around your head and glue or staple a hat shape to the front. (Heavy paper or poster board create a sturdier hat.)
2. Another way to make a hat is to use a paper plate and a paper bowl. Cut out the center of the paper plate and save the circular outside to make the hat's brim. Glue the bowl (upside down) onto the plate 'circle' for the crown of the hat. Use a paper punch to punch holes in either side and attach yarn or ribbon to create ties to help your hat stay on.
3. You could make a hat out of folded newspaper. See photo.
4. You could also decorate any old hat you have lying around at home. (Make sure to have your parent's permission.)



The Museum would love it if you would send a picture of you and your family in your hats...fancy or plain. Please send to: [dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:dacotahprairiemuseum@gmail.com)

---

**Snack Idea:** An old fashioned Sunday afternoon activity at the local church might have been an ice cream social. The "ice cream" part of the title described the food that was served. The "social" part meant that it was a time for visiting or being "social".



**Organize your own ice cream social at your house!** Get out the ice cream, bowls, spoons, and all the toppings and invite the family to socialize around the dining room table, outside on the patio, etc. If you really want to make it authentic, serve sugar wafer cookies with your ice cream!

# Visit to Centennial Village: The Church & Hat Store



**The Church:** Originally a pioneer country store, this building was moved in the 1880's to the Scatterwood Lake area where it was enlarged and organized as the Scatterwood Lake Methodist Church. It was closed in the spring of 1972, and moved to Centennial Village in 1983 to save it from vandalism which had already claimed the church bell, the pulpit and the alter chair. During its time in Centennial Village, this church has had several weddings throughout the years, and a couple of memorial services for founding members of the Centennial Village Board of Directors.

Church buildings served as community churches for different denominations in the early years. Here community and individual happy and sad times were celebrated. Happy times might be baptisms for babies, weddings and young people becoming members of the church. Sad times would be a funeral, when perhaps someone in your family or the congregation passed away and people would want to come and pay their respects.

Churches held weekly services, usually on Sunday mornings, but during the week they might have had other meetings or classes. They were houses of music in which the congregation shared hymnals, engaged in sing-a-longs to guitar or organ or piano music.

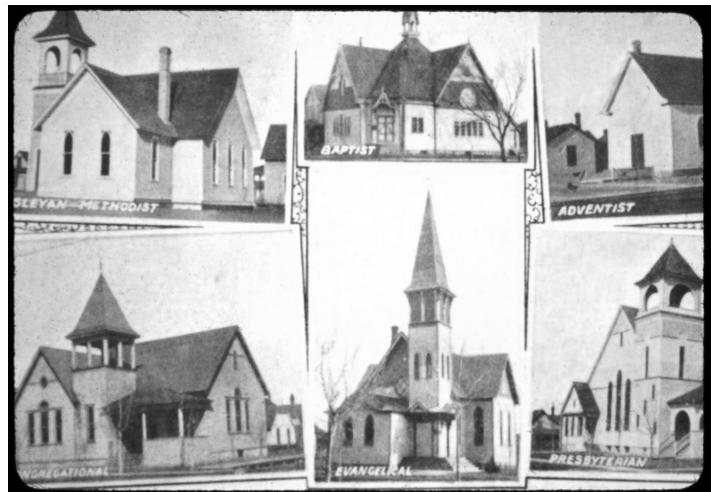
In pioneer times there was usually a race to see which church building would

hold the first service in a new town, and for Aberdeen, the race was between Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Methodists and the Presbyterians. There was a final push on completing the building and the Presbyterians won...but only by a few days. Actually, the original Presbyterians church building is still standing in town, and the sign on the corner says it was built in 1882...it's one of the oldest buildings in town! It is located between Kline and Jay Streets along First Avenue SE...you've probably driven by it many times and didn't even realize how old or important a building it was. Many years ago, the Spellman



Above: Church at Centennial Village

Below: Early Aberdeen Church Buildings



**Left Photo:** First church building in Aberdeen, built as First Presbyterian Church. The building was later used by Zion Lutheran Church. The Brown County history book states that early on, the unheated building was so cold the minister led services while wearing an overcoat and a cap with flaps down over his ears.

family bought the building, painted it green and now use it as a warehouse to keep their supplies for their painting business. They've done a great job preserving the building for almost 140 years!

# Visit to Centennial Village: Church & Hat Store



Above & Photos at Right: Millinery Store at Centennial Village

Below: Display of blockheads (hat forms)

**Hat Shop or Millinery Store:** The frame building just west of the Dacotah Prairie Museum's Dry goods store, is called a Millinery Store, a place where men and women would go to purchase their hats and, if the store was large enough, they might even be able to buy clothing.

This building was moved from western Brown County to save it from destruction, like many of the buildings you will find at Centennial Village. In the early years, a ladies group called Zonta,

took care of the building, arranged the hats, dresses and supplies inside, collected artifacts and told the story of early day towns, what people wore, and the kinds of things that were available to them.



A Millinery Store served as a social center for village ladies. It was a place to come and visit and learn what was happening. Men might do the same thing at the Barber Shop or the Saloon, but such places weren't appropriate for ladies to go into, so the hat shop was their place to socialize. Inside the store you will find wooden oval pieces that are about as big as a head, these are called block heads. These were what the Milliners used to shape new hats. If the hat was made out of felt, the material was soaked in water and then stretched over the block head to the shape that was needed. A similar method was used for straw and other materials.



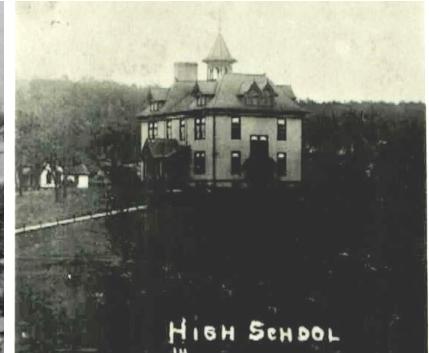
Most stores had several sizes of block heads, starting very small and working up to very large. They needed different sizes because not everyone has the same sized head! Hats back in these days were custom made for you, so they would fit perfectly. After the shape was made, the hat was steamed to keep that shape and then decorated. For men, decoration was usually kept to a minimum, perhaps a band of ribbon around the base of the crown. But, for the ladies, they could get very fancy...depending on what they needed the hat for. Lace, feathers, beads, silk and satin material were used. A ladies hat could be very large and usually matched a dress or coat to complete the look.

Some stores would have a seamstress on staff...usually a woman who was very good at sewing clothes and making her own patterns. Considering the long dresses that ladies usually wore in the 1880's, that could take a lot of fabric and many pieces. If they were lucky, they had one of the new fangled sewing machines that you could put your foot on the treadle and sew a seam in just a minute! But if not, the dress was sewed by hand, with just a needle and thread and someone carefully sewing the pieces together. It could take a very long time and was very expensive. That's why some people didn't have dozens of clothes like most of us have today, it just took so long to make them.





# Family Road Trip Idea: Stratford, SD



**Left:** Stratford, SD, 1992  
**Above:** Stratford High School,  
ca 1910  
**Below:** Stratford Main Street,  
early 1900s

Stratford was a latecomer of towns on the South Dakota prairie, founded when the last rail line was built on the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad in 1906. It was almost two years before the first train actually arrived.

Settlers had been around the area for years, using Rondell as their first trade center on the James River. The town seemed to spring up in weeks after it was platted with city blocks laid out among the wheat fields. Lumber was hauled from Aberdeen and Ferney and the first building to go up was the Stratford Mercantile Company. Four elevators were operating and almost filled by the time the first train rolled into town.

Upon railroad completion in 1908, a round trip fare from Stratford to Watertown cost \$2.15. Soon two freight and two passenger trains were running daily, carrying up to 100 passengers a day – a convenient commuter system. Within three years, Stratford was supporting 35 businesses including "The Stratford News" and in five years, it had reached its population peak of 600 people. Citizens bought trees from the banks of the James River to give shade and beautify their town. An artesian well supplied the town with water and lines were put in to include every



home and business.

Industry, as well as farm-related business, was part of this frontier town on the prairie. As soon as Stratford was settled, a cement factory was started and it grew to supply four other towns in the area. The meat market, which had the second walk-in cooler in the state and operated a smokehouse, became known for homemade sausage, hams, and liverwurst. Pete, the butcher, became famous for hauling wagon loads of meat to Aberdeen and winning a carcass-skinning contest at "Swift and Company" in Chicago.

# Brown County Ghost Town of the Week

## “Putney”

Established: 1886



**PUTNEY** was a thriving town begun in 1886 after three years of bad crops had halted the establishment of new towns. Named for Putney, Vermont, by its New England settlers, Putney grew quickly even supporting its own newspaper, “The Putney Messenger” during its first year of existence.

A general store, two grocery stores, a drug store, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, and a dance hall were all added to serve the settlers of the area. Early in the 20th century, two elevators and a service station were built. Putney’s future was dimmed in the 1930s due to the decline of farm income, leaving it with little but memories of the thriving community it had once been.

Many of the town’s buildings were moved to different locations including Putney Hall, which John Sieh, of Groton, moved to a location a few miles away, across the road from his farm and incorporated it into the Granary Rural Cultural Center. It is still used today.



**Above:** Putney Hall Building, now located at the Granary Rural Cultural Center, Rural Groton

### 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.

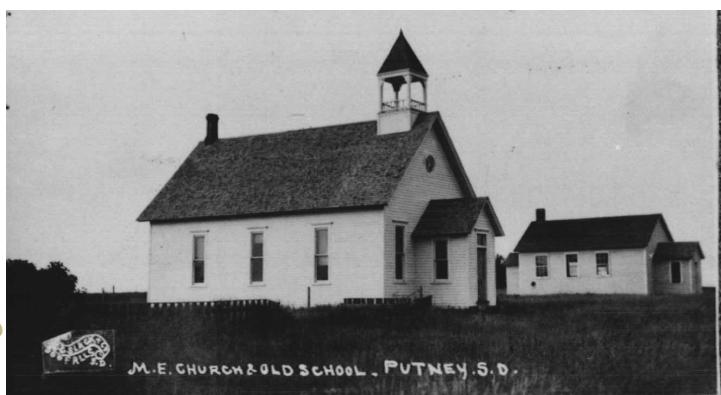


**Above:** Frank Douglas children at Putney School, 1889

**Below:** W.J. Honey General Store, Putney, SD

Built by H.W. Campbell in 1887

**Bottom:** Methodist church and school building, Putney, ca. early 1890s

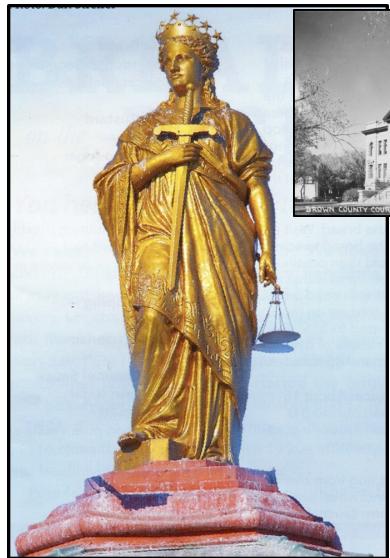
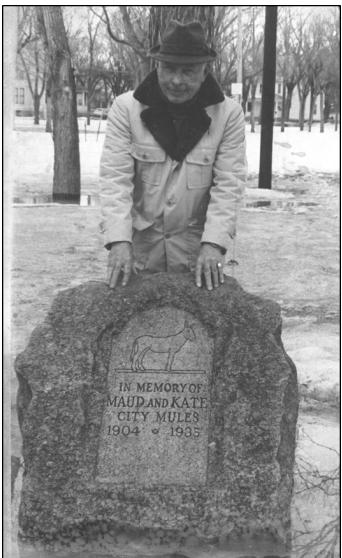


## Different Types of Hats...



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

**Using Last Week's Treasure Map, Did You Find These Statues/Monuments?**



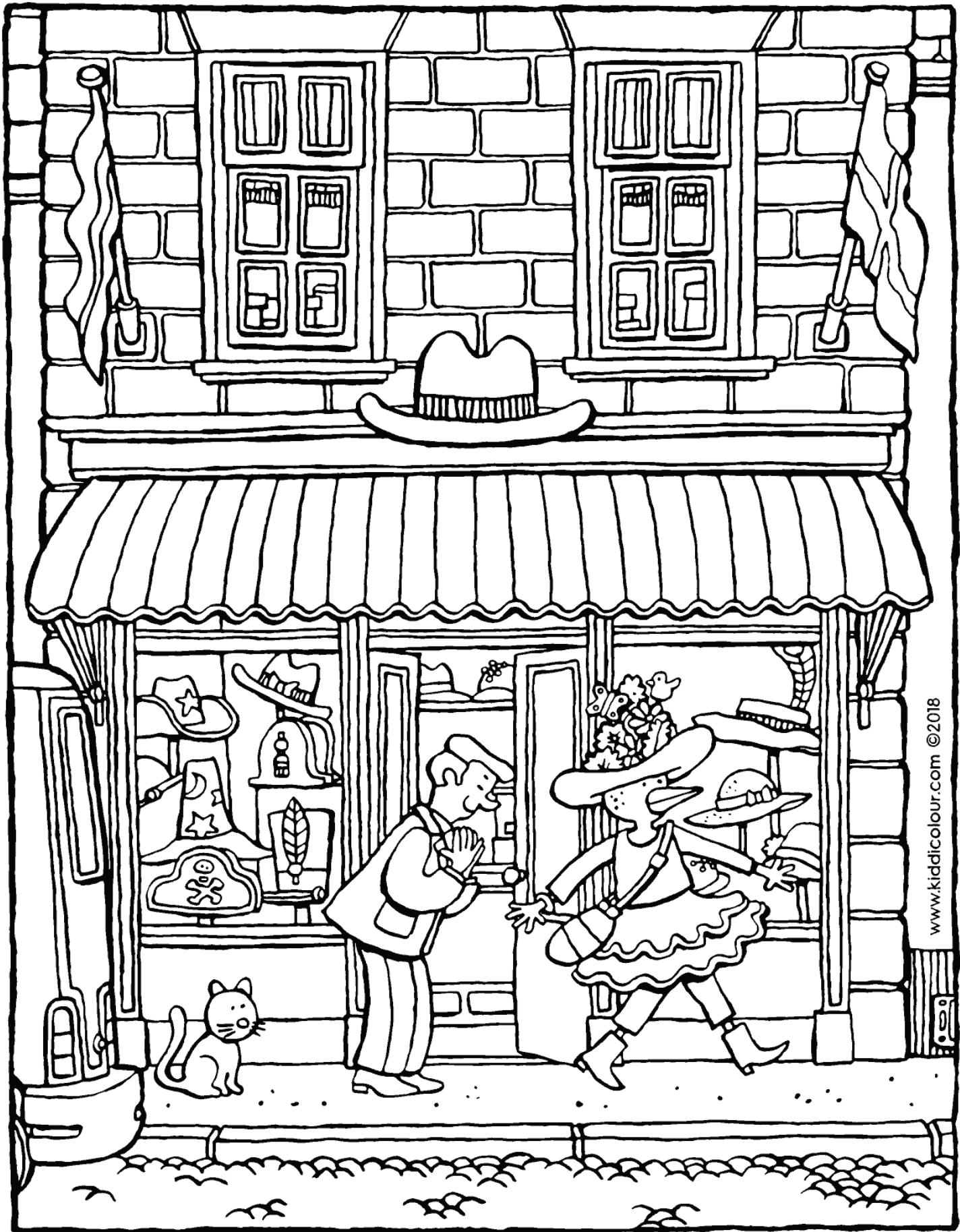
## Monument to City Mules, Aldrich Park

## Andrew Melgaard Statue, Melgaard Park

## Statue on Top of a Building, Brown County Courthouse

## **SEARCH FOR Lost Hats from PAGE 1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## SCAVENGER HUNT MAP

### ACTUALLY, NO MAP NEEDED THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK, THE CLUE WAS ALREADY GIVEN TO YOU, LOOK ON THE CHURCH PAGE AND YOU'LL SEE A PICTURE OF THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING STILL STANDING IN ABERDEEN. IT WAS BUILT FOR THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. WHEN THE CONGREGATION OUTGREW THIS BUILDING THEY MOVED IT AND BUILT A SECOND ONE. THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THIS BUILDING AND CAREFULLY TAKE A PICTURE IN FRONT OF IT. (CAREFULLY BECAUSE THERE IS SOME ROAD CONSTRUCTION AROUND IT)

YOU'LL FIND IT ON FIRST AVENUE SE BETWEEN KLINE STREET AND JAY STREET, OR ACROSS FROM CENTRAL PARK. YOU'VE PROBABLY DRIVEN BY IT HUNDREDS OF TIMES, ITS PAINTED GREEN AND SPELMAN PAINTERS NOW USE IT AS A WAREHOUSE.

SUSAN THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO DO SOME MORE SLEUTHING ON YOUR OWN, SO WHY NOT SEE WHAT INFORMATION YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR CHURCH, OR A CHURCH BUILDING THAT YOU THINK IS INTERESTING OR COOL? ASK IF THE CURRENT BUILDING IS THE FIRST OR HAVE THERE BEEN OTHERS? WHEN WAS THE CHURCH STARTED? HAS IT BEEN MOVED SINCE IT STARTED? YOU CAN DISCOVER LOTS OF GREAT INFORMATION IF YOU JUST ASK AROUND!

PLEASE TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WITH ANY OF THE CHURCHES AND SEND IT TO:  
DACOTAHPRRIEMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM #LOCALHISTORYISFUN