



The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)
& The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)

Volume XII, Number 4

www.mitchellcarnegie.com

Winter 2019-20

Carnegie gets much-needed repairs

On Oct. 22, Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Inc., of Parkston, began the process of replacing the damaged Kasota limestone rock at the Carnegie.

They will inspect all the Kasota limestone faces and those found to be broken shall be cut out and replaced with new Kasota limestone matching the original in size, color and texture as closely as possible. The Kasota limestone shall be set in a fresh bed of mortar, colored and tooled to match the adjacent joints in appearance as close as possible.

With all the snow and rain we have had in 2019 water has infiltrated the damaged stone and allowed moisture in the walls, which caused damage on the interior.

The paint and plaster is falling from the walls. Once we can be assured that the exterior is keeping the water out, work can begin to repair the interior.

This repair was bid as two separate projects. The first was to repair the north wall with the Kasota limestone lintel visibly cracked for a bid price of \$28,875 (no interior damage).

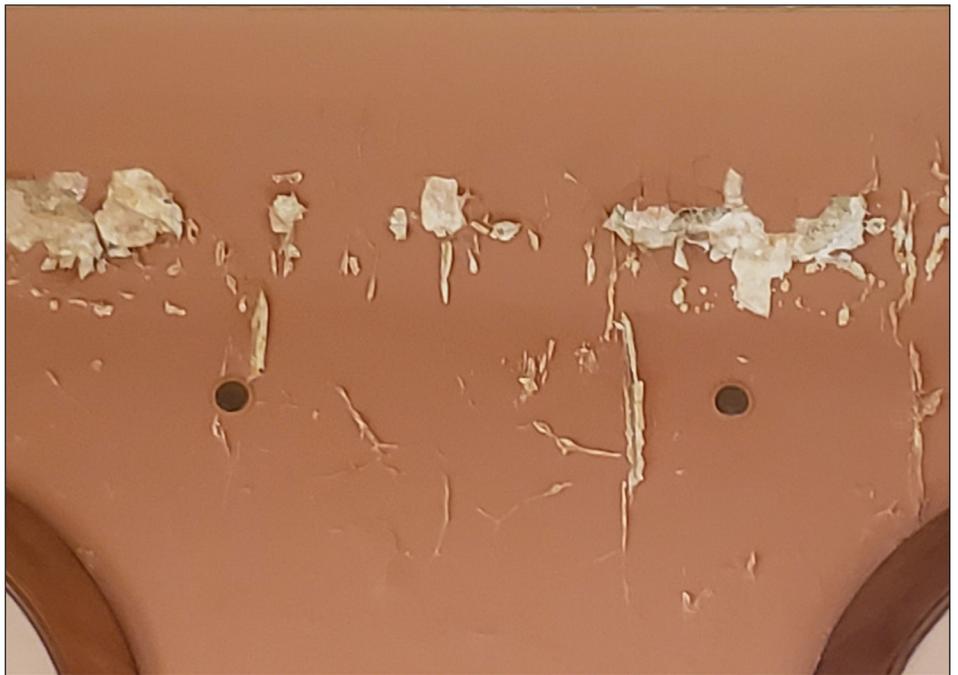
After the damage appeared on the interior, a bid of \$34,245 was secured to repair or replace the limestone on the remaining three sides of the building for a total project cost of \$63,120.

MAHS has applied for grants to help pay for these repairs.

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Workers from Mid-Continental Restoration in Parkston repair the limestone facade one day this fall.



Interior damage done by water leaking in from cracks caused by damaged limestone exterior.

Genealogy Corner

Merry Christmas!
Well almost.

Just a few notes about what is coming up in Mitchell Area Genealogical Society over the next few months.



Beth Walz
MAGS president

It is time for membership renewal, so please fill out the yellow form in the newsletter.

We will not have a meeting the month of December. The break will give all of us a bit more time to focus on our families. January and February program nights are Genealogy Research and Help Nights.

Having these two nights have been set aside for YOU - our members and guests - to come to the Carnegie and research using our resources and internet subscriptions.

Members will also be available to assist you with getting started, helping with a roadblock or questions.

Having these in the winter months also helps because speakers will not have to travel.

On the agenda for March is "Who are the Mennonites?"

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in January!

Beth J. (Vlasman) Walz
MAGS president

Who, What, Where, When?



This section of the Carnegie Courier is dedicated to labeling our "unknown or partially unknown" photographs or items in our collection. We will list known information when possible. Although this photo appears to have been taken at a studio, there are no identifiable markings on the photo holder. Can you help identify these people? If you have any information on this picture, please call us at 605-996-3209 or email us at info@mitchellcarnegie.com.

Carnegie repairs ... cont. from Page 1

The City of Deadwood will assist with \$10,000 from the Outside of Deadwood Funds and we have been awarded \$8,000 from the Sam F. Weller Family Foundation. This leaves a balance of \$45,120 to be funded by MAHS.

We Need Your Help

The year 2019 is almost over and we would so greatly appreciate receiving your 2020 membership dues. Dues received in December 2019 will apply for 2020.

Dues are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for a couple for the historical soci-

ety and are the same for the genealogical society.

We have a challenge set before us. MAHS has received a pledge from an anonymous donor to match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 all donations specifically designated for this exterior repair project.

If you are able to include a donation, please make your check payable to the Mitchell Area Historical Society, put "repair project" in the memo, and mail it promptly with the enclosed completed form by Dec. 31, 2019.

The anonymous donor hopes this match will be an incentive for you to help our 501(c)3 nonprofit Mitchell Area Historical Society.

CHRISTMAS
AT THE CARNEGIE
THURS., DECEMBER 12 AT 6:30 p.m.



Enjoy Christmas at the Carnegie with Christmas carols by the Mitchell Barbershop Harmony Chorus and pianist Laurie Kent playing our Knabe Grand Piano.

Admission is a bag of groceries or a cash donation to the Mitchell Food Pantry.

Cider and Christmas Goodies will be served.



Caramel Apple Success!

The Woolworth Caramel Apples sales during the Corn Palace Festival in August at our new location inside The Back 40, were a success. We sold 2,835 caramel apples and netted \$7,683.60 to share with Mitchell Main Street & Beyond (MMS&B).

We also did a 50/50 raffle during the Festival and Terry Nutter was the lucky winner receiving \$255.

During the Downtown Trick or Treat and on Halloween we sold another 480 caramel apples netting \$1,572.99 and sharing it with MMS&B.

The Carnegie funds will be used to help with building repairs.

Barbershop Chorus has long-standing tradition in Mitchell

by Dick Goldammer and Tom Schumacher

The MITCHELL BARBERSHOP HARMONY CHORUS was organized in 1955 with just eight singers and is presently about 20 members strong. One of the long-time members is Dick Goldammer who has been with the chorus since he was in high school. Under the direction of Mike Sejnoha, the chorus shares its unique four-part harmony singing at various community activities and charitable functions as well as birthdays and other special events throughout the city of Mitchell and surrounding area.

The songs they sing range from traditional old songs to religious and patriotic. The chorus has sung in a variety of places including churches, MTI, DWU, various other schools, personal residences, assisted living facilities in Mitchell and Parkston, business establishments, funeral homes, at funerals, at ball parks, a sale barn and even once at the city jail and city landfill!

Mitchell Barbershop's two major events include "Singing Valentines" in February and its annual concert, which is held in the fall. The group always appreciates the support of dedicated sponsors who make the concert possible each year.

Many organizations and groups have benefited from the generosity of the Mitchell Barbershop Harmony Chorus. They have raised money for school music programs, CASA, cancer events, the Carnegie Resource Center, the Food Pantry, the Safe House, the Salvation Army, the weekend Snack Pack program, and half of the cost of the grand piano at the Mitchell High School Performing Art Center (PAC) to name a few of the recipients.

Since 2009, the chorus has been the featured entertainment for the Christmas at the Carnegie concert along with Wanema Weiczorek as pianist for the Christmas carol sing-a-long. Admission is a bag of groceries or a cash donation all for the Mitchell Food Pantry. In the past 10 years, the efforts have netted 1,704 food items, \$3,078 from the public and \$2,000 donated from the chorus, all to feed the needy.

Previously, the chorus donated \$500 to the Carnegie Resource Center, and this year the group plans to donate the proceeds of the 2019 concert to assist with building repairs of the historic Carnegie building.

Join us on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. for another Barbershop Chorus Concert and Christmas Carol sing-a-long with Laurie Kent. Admission is a bag of groceries or a cash donation all to benefit the Mitchell Food Pantry.

The History of WHITE'S MILL

The grist (flour) mill was the center of community activity in the early days of settlement along the James River in Dakota Territory. This was true of the mill located on the east bank of the James River three-quarters of a mile northeast of the pioneer town of Firesteel. There were some 170 mills in South Dakota and three in this vicinity along the James River including White's Mill, as it was often referred to in later years. In the early days of the operation, this mill was called the Scholfield and White Bros. Mill. A picture of the mill in the Hanson County Atlas of 1902 is captioned, "Scholfield's Mill."

In the fall of 1879, Thomas Scholfield (sometimes spelled Schoel-field), John R. White and Robert J. White, all previous citizens of Le Grande, Iowa, formed a partnership and constructed a dam and flour mill on land purchased by John R. White from Barlett Tripp. This land was earlier homesteaded by Levi Hain in 1873.

Mr. Scholfield had built and operated a mill near Le Grande for many years. In June of 1879, he decided to head west and look for a new site in unsettled Dakota Territory. The railroads were planning to push their lines west of the James River and Scholfield may have felt that a mill would be a profitable business to establish in the new territory.

Lumber supply in the open prairie would be a challenge. Scholfield and the Whites weren't deterred; they built a dam and the mill. Robert White, "hauling lumber from Yankton, 75 miles to the south" for the dam which was completed in the



The picture shows White's Mill and the dam built along the James River northeast of Mitchell in 1879.

fall of 1879. Their first two loads of lumber for the mill came from Yankton. The first load arrived via the railroad as far as Marion Junction some 42 miles east, and the second load 20 miles closer at Bridgewater because the railroad had expanded to that point. The last load of lumber to construct the three-story mill came from the Moses Lumber Yard. It was the first railroad car of lumber to be off-loaded in the new town of Mitchell. The mill was completed in 1880 at a cost of \$10,000. Updates were made in 1882 as *The Mitchell Capital* carried this story on Dec. 7, 1882.

J.R. White and Co's Flouring Mill

This well-known mill situated on the Jim, east of Mitchell has been closed for the past three weeks during which time a force of skilled workmen have been busy night and day putting in a full line of improved mill machinery. The work is

now about completed and the mill will start up again in a few days. The re-opening of the mill will prove a convenience to the farmers of the surrounding country who have been patiently waiting to have their wheat crop converted into bread material.

"Under the skillful management of the present proprietors, this mill has acquired a fine reputation for turning out a superior quality flour and with new and improved facilities an article can be manufactured that will compete with the best brands on the market."

Although not the oldest mill along the James River (Maxwell mill in 1872), this mill was the first of its kind in the communities of Firesteel and Mitchell. It is believed that the construction of White's Mill

was like those built in eastern Iowa since that is where Scholfield had earlier built and operated a mill. A three-story building was constructed with the grinding machinery and millstones on the second or main floor. Screens and sifters were located on the top floor above the grinders and millstones. The lowest level and basement were used to house the drive shafts that provided the power from the undershot waterwheel to the hoisting equipment, grinders and sifters.

It is easy to realize why the mill was located on the east bank of the James River because the main floor of the mill would be directly accessible from the east. Heavy wagons hitched to teams of horses and loaded with grain could go directly onto the milling floor. Grain brought to the mill would have been unloaded directly from the wagon into a hopper above the millstone. The finished product (flour) would have been loaded directly back into the wagon either as bulk or sacked, so it could be delivered to its final destination with the least amount of work.

During the time the mill operated, Scholfield and John White owned about 200 acres surrounding the mill and dam site. John White continued to acquire land with his last purchase of 150 acres west and south of the mill from Jane Chambers in October 1902 for \$6 per acre. This land included some upstream land that contained much of the water held back by the dam and used for milling operations. It is believed that Ms. Chambers may have been involved with the mill operations as the 1902 Hanson County Atlas map refers to the mill as the "Chambers' Mill."

The Whites were not associated with mill for the entirety of its operating history. Robert White, newly married in December of 1879, returned to Le Grande with his wife on the last train to leave Mitchell before the winter of 1880. By the spring of 1881, Robert White was out of the mill ownership having sold his interest in the mill to Ami Willets, the father-in-law of his brother John. In the early 1880s, Scholfield and J. White failed to entice the railroad to the mill site. J. White sold his interest in the mill to Scholfield in 1886. White moved on to other interests. He continued to hold land in the mill area until 1906 when he sold his holdings of 912.42 acres to John C. Creighton for \$25 an acre.

Thomas Scholfield held his interest in the mill the longest. *The Mitchell Capital* on page nine of the Aug. 26, 1909, edition, ran the following story:

H.W. Miller of Manchester, Wis., has taken a lease of the White mill northeast of town on the Jim river and is now in possession. Mr. Miller says that he will remodel the mill and add some new equipment and that he will have it ready for business again in about a month. For a great many years Thomas Scholfield has been running the mill but he is getting too old to do the work.

"Mr. Scholfield is past 80 years and has devoted a good many years to the milling business."

John White's autobiography states that, "the mill had ceased op-

erations in 1917, after a service life of 38 years." Other information indicates that the mill may have been taken out of service in the early 1920s.

Even after it ceased to operate, White's Mill was an old landmark for a long time. Its site at the bend of the James River in Hanson County, Hanson Township, section 18 made it a favorite subject for photographers and artists. Many photos of the mill are available. Bill Lackey, WPA artist, painted a mural with the mill in the background that hangs on the west wall in the lobby of the Davison County Court House and Cal Schultz painted a picture of the mill that hangs in Fanny Horner's Eating Establishment.

Remnants of the dam and mill can still be seen in the area. To find the location of the dam and mill go north down Foster Street, turn east onto Shanard Road (Old Mill Road), go across the James River bridge, and look toward the southeast at the east bank towards Riverside Hill. During times of high water and flood stage, it is difficult to see the dam. Parts of the foundation of the mill are also visible. The grindstone from the mill and a historic marker explaining the stone are located at the northwest corner entrance to Hitchcock Park.

Credits

*James C. Hunt

*John R. White – *Quaker Pioneer (written in 1937 at the age of 87) an Autobiography*

**The Mitchell Capital* newspaper; December 7, 1882; August 26, 1909

**The Wi-iyohi – Monthly Bulletin of the SD Historical Society*, volume 8, October 1, 1954

Champeny Building just a memory

by Lyle Swenson

The Champeny Building at 301-303 North Main in Mitchell was built in 1887 by the Champeny family. The 50-by-94 building housed the Champeny Brothers Department Store, which sold dress goods, groceries and shoes with a step-down section (50-by-42) added in 1896 to the rear of the building that housed the Champeny Creamery.

The creamery was sold in 1901 to Turner Creamery and operated until approximately 1921.

This step-down section was replaced in 1921 with the current structure.

The gaping hole that was on the south side is the rear of the original Champeny building. In its glory days, it was a charming three-story building that sat in the heart of the business district.

A unique feature of the original building on the second floor was the window arrangement consisting of every other window being a bay window. Sometime in the early days of the building these bay windows, six in total, were removed, and we have never been able to establish when and why.

I have often thought about the two steep stairways, one in front and one on the south side near the rear. They were both long stairways and hard to climb! Those businesses, their customers and the residents who lived there had to be in good shape to make the climb several times a day.

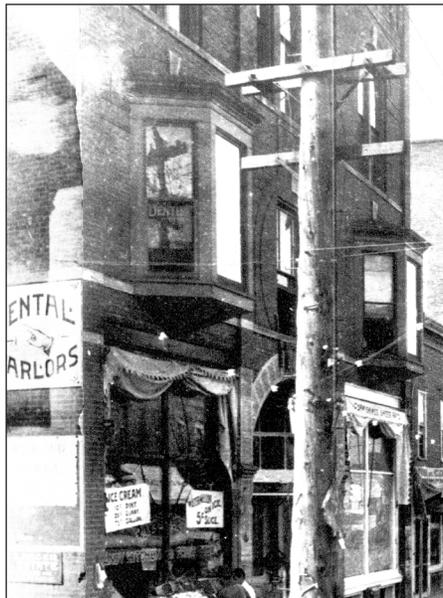
Shortly after the Mitchell Area Historical Society moved into the Carnegie, Dan and Brenda Hauser donated a pair of antique doors that had been taken from the second floor of the Champeny.

Mel and Karen Pooley took them home, refinished them, including removing paint from the glass, and returned them to the Carnegie.

Mel framed them into two doorways in the basement of the building. They look as if they had always been part of the area but still carry the original Champeny numbers of



ABOVE, the demolition of the Champeny Building began on Monday, Nov. 11, 2019. The building was built in 1887 and has housed a number of businesses and apartments throughout the decades. BELOW, the picture shows the Champeny Building when it featured bay windows for the apartments on the second floor.



219 and 221.

Our sincere thanks to Dan and Brenda Hauser and Mel and Karen Pooley for preserving a bit of history.

The Champeny Building has been home to many varied business ventures over the years, including the Mitchell Masonic Lodge, which took up the entire third floor from Nov. 30, 1887, to June 30, 1924.

The Masonic logo was built into the front top roof line and was still

there until demolition crews took it off on Nov. 12, 2019, to be preserved. In 1894, the Mitchell Trust Company took ownership of the Champeny Building.

Gust Keriakedes, on June 3, 1909, purchased the 301 address for the Mitchell Candy Kitchen with W.H. Bacon occupying the 303 address for a grocery and bakery. The second floor was used for offices and apartments. By 1911, the area that had been the grocery was turned into the Maynard Theatre that sat 300, and the Gello Brothers, who sold homemade candies, fruits and fountain drinks replaced Keriakedes' Mitchell Candy Kitchen. The City Directory changed the listing of the building to the Mitchell Trust Company in 1911.

Dr. E.W. Heyler bought the building in 1914 from the Mitchell Trust Company and it again changed hands in 1919 when the Baron Brothers purchased it as part of a larger deal that included the Realty Building (300 North Main) across the street to the east.

In 1928, Lydia Farver took over the area that had housed a paint and wallpaper shop and opened an "Eat Shoppe" at 110 West Third.

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'The Life and Music of Badger Clark' performed by Pegie Douglas

By Laurie Langland

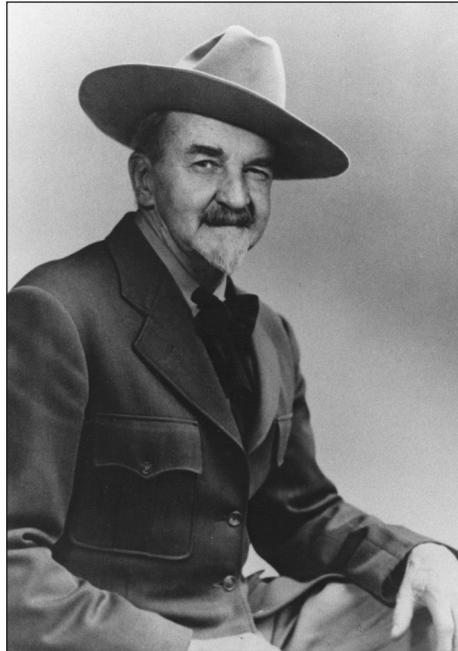
The Mitchell Area Historical Society held its annual dinner meeting on Monday, Sept. 16, 2019, at Wesley Acres Senior Living.

After a delicious dinner, attendees were treated to a delightful program titled "The Life and Music of Badger Clark," which was performed by Pegie Douglas, a South Dakota Humanities Council scholar. Douglas is an author, composer and guitarist, who resides in the Black Hills at Hill City.

Douglas set Badger Clark's poetry to music that she composed and sang. Her performance was an enjoyable blend of music, Badger Clark history and poetry, and Douglas's personal experiences.

As she shared interesting details of Badger Clark's life story, Douglas explained how different pieces of Clark's poetry inspired her to set them to music. Her lovely voice and guitar-playing brought Badger's lines to life, for an evening of entertainment that was informative and inspiring.

Douglas invited attendee Tammy (Patten) Parks, daughter of the late



Badger Clark

Darryl Patten, to share stories of her father's experiences in portraying Badger Clark.

Parks told of one performance that was so convincing that Darryl Patten was approached by a woman who

was convinced that he was the real Badger Clark, whom she had known.

Later in the program, Ron Fuchs distributed copies of "A Cowboy's Prayer," one of Badger's best-known poems. At Douglas's invitation, Fuchs read the poem for all to enjoy.

"The Music of Badger Clark Vol. II" by Pegie Douglas and the Badger Sett Band was named CD of the Year by the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame in September 2019. Information on her CDs and performing schedule can be found at her website: <https://www.pegiedouglas.com>.

Badger Clark (1883-1957), cowboy poet and South Dakota's first Poet Laureate, was posthumously inducted into the South Dakota Country Music Hall of Fame, also in September 2019.

The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation at Pierre oversees the publication and distribution of Clark's books.

Laurie Langland is the university archivist for Dakota Wesleyan University and the archivist for the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Champeny Building ... cont. from Page 6

This sat to the rear of the Champeny Building with a "Tea Room" on the balcony.

In 1938, it was called Mrs. Bett's Tea Room. "A very popular place to go for lunch or dinner," so stated the ads from the newspaper.

At some point after the Masonic Lodge left the building, the third floor became Champeny Apartments. A few other businesses that occupied space in the building during its history include a dentist, Mitchell Business College, Norm's TV, Koupal & Anton Insurance, Wardrobe Cleaners, Dahle Jewlery, clothing stores for both men and women, Holst Photograph Studio, a tattoo shop, and real estate offices.

From 1935 to 1978, Saterlie Drug became the long-time tenant of the 301 section of the building.

Merchandise Outlet was the last occupant.

As time passed over the years, the building was not kept up and deterioration caused renters to leave.

The Champeny Apartments, both upper floors, had fewer and fewer residents and ultimately were closed due to unsafe conditions. Likewise, the businesses on the lower levels struggled. VanderPol Dragline of Mitchell started demolition Nov. 11, 2019. After 132 years of serving Mitchell's Main Street, another historic building is just a memory.



CHAMPENY BUILDING after the windows were redone.

Upcoming Events

All events are held at the Carnegie Resource Center and begin at 7:00 p.m. unless stated otherwise

Dec. 12

Christmas at the Carnegie Benefits the Mitchell Food Pantry, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 25

Merry Christmas

Jan. 1

Happy New Year!

Jan. 6

MAGS Program – Genealogy Research & Help Night. (Bring your research. Help available.)

Jan. 16

Historical Society Business Meeting

Jan. 27

MAGS Business Meeting

Feb. 3

MAGS Program – Genealogy Research & Help Night
(Bring your research. Help available.)

Feb. 20

Historical Society Business Meeting

Feb. 24

MAGS Business Meeting

NEEDS & WANTS

The following items are still needed at the Carnegie to help with research.

Any Newspapers found prior to 2000. (We have a few gaps in our collection.)

Mitchell City Directories – Especially any older than 2000.

County Atlases for the Counties of Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Douglas, Clay, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Sanborn, Turner, Union & Yankton.

We would also like County Farm Directories or Plat books.

County History Books for any county in South Dakota.

Church History Books for the surrounding counties.

Carnegie Resource Center
119 West Third Avenue
Mitchell, S.D. 57301

