



The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)

& The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)

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What's in a name? Where's Calhoun Street?

Ever wonder how streets and sections of cities get their names? Mitchell, like many towns, went through growing pains and at times confusion about how to arrange the city. This reprint of an article from Don Boyden D.D.S. printed in the June 2009 Courier helps to explain the history and this ongoing process of organizing Mitchell.



Where's Calhoun Street?

The original town site for the Village of Mitchell was bought from the government by General John Lawler on May 5, 1879. The land was located in the SE quarter of Section 21 and the SW quarter of Section 20, Town site 103, Range 60 of Davison County, Dakota Territory. Lawler paid for the land with scrip he had obtained from a Mr. Petty of Saginaw, Michigan. General Lawler had to travel to Springfield to register his ownership of the land as that is where the land office was located. The people of the area villages of Rockport and Firesteel were informed that the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad had selected the land upon which the railroad would build a city and that the city would be named in honor of its president, Alexander Mitchell. Said land was that which had previously been purchased for that purpose by General Lawler. The original town site, thus platted, extended from Railroad Street north to Fourth Street and from Sanborn Street east to Langdon Street. The filing of surveyor Myron H. Rowley's plat on August 28, 1879, in the office of Rufus F. Alerton (Allerton), Register of Deeds, at Firesteel, was a signal for a rush from Firesteel, the village at the mouth of Firesteel Creek. In less than a month, the people of Firesteel had moved to Mitchell and brought the buildings with them—except for the hotel which was too big to move.

The original thoroughfares were all designated as streets. As the town grew, additional plats were annexed. The City Fathers accepted street names indicated

by the sub-division developers, but reserved the option to change the names if deemed proper or necessary. They also found it necessary to start differentiating between streets and avenues. The east-west streets north of the original village plat continued to be referred to as streets, while the east-west streets south of the original plat became avenues, but both were designated by numbers—First, Second, Third, etc.

The north-south streets all continued to be named for prominent citizens of Mitchell and/or took the names of the persons who filed the addition plat. Some of these names remain named streets today: Lawler, Rowley, Kimball, Burr, Duff, and Edmunds. In 1884, Dakota University negotiated with the Hon. A. M. Bowdle, a prominent citizen of Mitchell, to plat 230 acres to the Village of Mitchell, 20 acres designated for a college campus and the rest as lots to be sold. This acquisition thus became the University Addition. Previously, the City had annexed the Railroad Addition, Van Eps Addition #1, and Van Eps Addition #2 to the south of the original town site. The University Addition abutted the Van Eps Additions.

The streets in the University Addition were purposely laid out as short streets with boulevard islands and two-block sized neighborhood parks. It was definitely designed to be a residential area. Streets were named in honor of those men who had been influential in establishing Dakota University and acquiring the land for the University Addition. Ste-

phen Mason Merrill, a Methodist-Episcopal Bishop in 1882, was probably the most influential individual for establishing Dakota University. The first building on campus was named Merrill Memorial Hall, and the street leading to the University is named Court Merrill. Other streets in the University Addition named for Methodist clergy include Hurst (Bishop John Fletcher Hurst), McCabe (Rev. C. C. McCabe), Foss Place (Bishop Cyrus David Foss), Andrews (Bishop Edward Gayer Andrews), Vincent Place (Bishop John Hyel Vincent), Williams (Rev. John A. Williams), and Ninde (Bishop William Xavier Ninde). Two cousins, Rev. Erastus Otis Haven and Bishop Gilbert Haven, were honored by having a street named for both of them, the street name having an s added to their name to make it plural— Havens. A neat semantic play on words! Many of the original street names have been changed over the years. The Railroad Addition had east-west streets named thus:

Then - Now

Brunson St. - Hanson Ave.

Barber St. - Ash Ave.

Bowdle Street - Birch Ave.

The Van Eps Additions #1 and #2 had the north-south continuations of streets named in the Railroad Addition, which are in use today, names as follows:

Then - Now

Pennington St. - Rowley St.

Sanborn St. - Duff St.

Van Eps St. - Sanborn Blvd.

La Due St. - Edmunds St.

Rathman St. - Wisconsin St.

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What's in a name? ... Cont. from front page

Stewart St. - Minnesota St.
Washburn St. - Montana St.
Kimball St. - Iowa St.

Interestingly, the original town site plat already had a street designated as Kimball Street.

The east-west streets were numbered, but designated as Avenues. The University Addition added confusion to the naming of connecting streets. Havens Street was the northern boundary of the University Addition. It was at this street that name changes took place. Going south on one of the following streets, one could get very confused as to what street they were actually on. Each was a continuous street, but named and/or designated differently in each Addition. These are examples from north to south:

Railroad Add. - Van Eps Adds. - University Add.
Rowley St. - Pennington St. - Pennington Ave.
Duff St - Sanborn St. - Sanborn Ave.
Sanborn St. - Van Eps St - Court Merrill
Edmunds St. - LaDue St.
Wisconsin St. - Rathman St. - University Blvd.
Minnesota St. - Stewart St. - Carpenter Ave.
Montana St. - Washburn St. - Foss Place - Mitchell Blvd.
Iowa St. - Kimball St. - Miller

It wasn't just the south and west Additions which had confusing street continuation names. Applegate's Addition, on the east side of Mitchell, contained street names which were different from the names of the adjoining streets in the adjacent Additions.

For example:

Then - Now
Applegate St. - Capital St.
Shelby St. - Winsor St.
Worline St. - Mentzer St.
West Park St. - Gamble St.
Julian St. - Kittridge St.
Dexter St. - Hunter St.
East Park St. - Foster St.

And not to be outdone by other Additions, Hammer's Additions contained names not familiar to us now.

Then - Now
Dakota Ave. - Winsor St.
Mitchell Ave. - Mentzer St.
Firesteel Ave. - Gamble St.
The east-west streets in Hammer's Additions lined up with but did not connect with
Davison St. - Eleventh Ave.
Homestead St. - Twelfth Ave.

Prospect St. - Thirteenth Ave.
Park St. - Fourteenth Ave.

In 1924, the City Planning Commission took up the task of changing street names so that through streets had the same name along their entire course. Also, the east-west streets, for the most part, were designated Avenues while the north-south streets were called Streets.

In addition to streets and avenues, we now have many other designations such as Circles, Paths, Trails, Ways, Boulevards, Courts, Places, Lanes, Ridges, Roads, Points, Hills, and Drives. The avenues south of Hanson were given letter designations. Avenue A, Avenue B, etc. But in 1963, the City Planning Commission and City Council changed the names of these avenues to the names of trees: Ash, Birch, Cedar, Douglas, Elm, Fir, Hackberry, Ivy, Juniper, Kay, Linden, and Maple. Norway, Pine, and Spruce were added as they became designated thoroughfares.

Names of east-west avenues in the University Addition were exempted from the name change. Many additions have been added to the City of Mitchell in an orderly, well laid-out manner with little or no confusion. While it may seem that all is well in the naming of streets in Mitchell, along comes Miller. To be more accurate, South Miller— not designated as a street or avenue, just South Miller. In 2006, a debate arose as to whether South Miller was a street or an avenue. When originally platted, in 1884 as the west boundary of the University Addition, it was designated an avenue (as were Sanborn, Pennington, Carpenter, East and West University). It remained so until September 2006. After the issue of name designation was aired before the City Council, the Council decided to eliminate any further confusion regarding a street or an avenue designation, and henceforth just called it South Miller, period. Besides, the only other remaining north-south thoroughfares in Mitchell were East University Avenue and West University Avenue. But alas, East University Avenue is now McGovern Avenue.

So, you ask, where's Calhoun Street? Named in honor of one of Mitchell's early settlers, H. H. Calhoun, the street extends from East Second Avenue north to Bridle Drive one block east of Wallace Street on Mitchell's eastside. Why wasn't it extended to East First Avenue? It would have cut right through Mr. C. F. Bates' dairy farm!
Don Boyden D.D.S.

Who were the Calhouns of Calhoun Street?

Who Were the Calhouns of Calhoun Street?

Henry H. Calhoun was a long-time resident of South Dakota and Dakota Territory. As with many of the early settlers Mr. Calhoun wore more than one hat. He is listed as a carpenter in the Business Directory of 1888 and in the City Directories of 1896, 1902 and 1904. He also farmed.

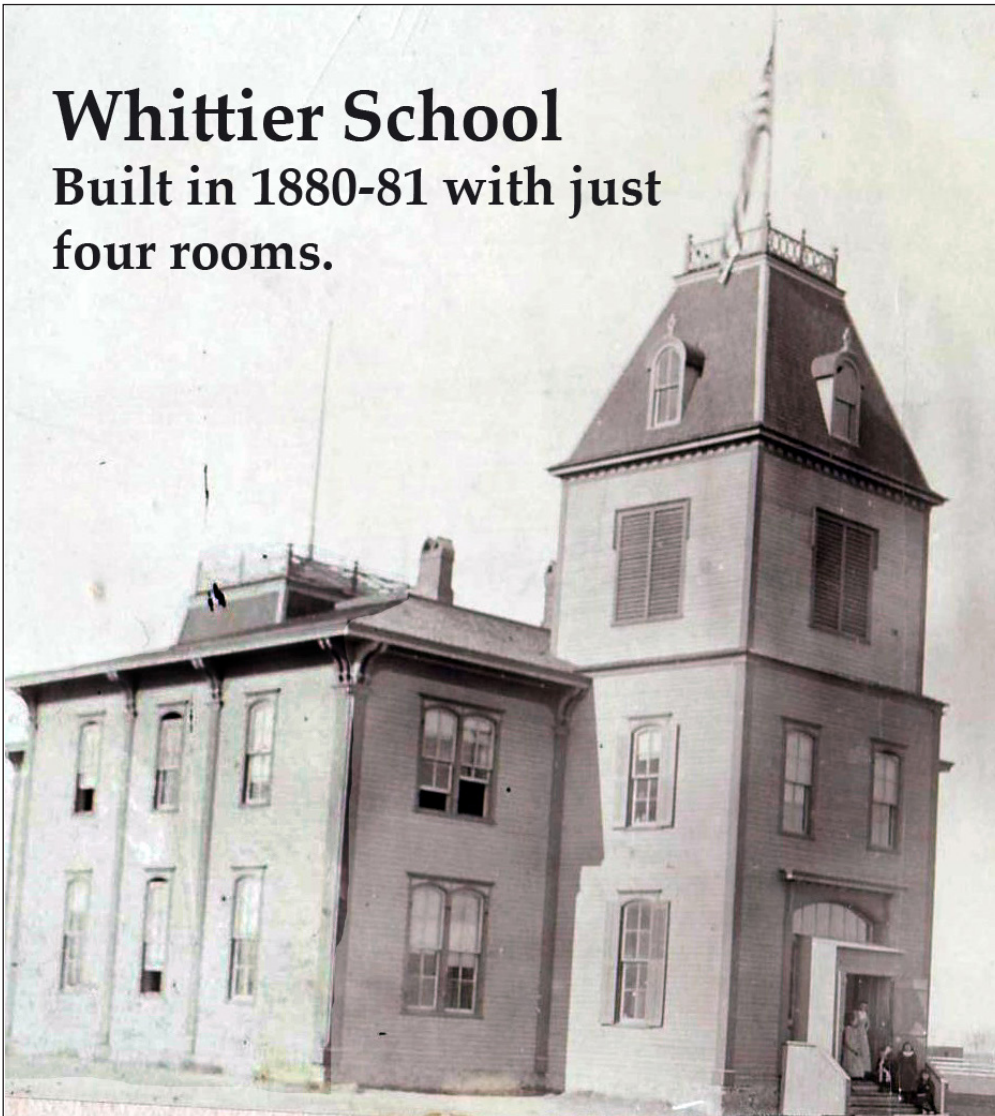
H.H. was born in Wayne County, NY on April 14, 1831. When still a child his family moved to Michigan where he lived a "pioneer life." He then ventured to Chicago when it was still a vast prairie. From there he went to the "wilds of Wisconsin" where he "pioneered." Henry H. and his wife Sylvia Niles were married July 22, 1863, in Berlin, Wisconsin. They made their home in Baraboo, Wisconsin where they had two children, Frank E. and Edith, whose married name was Mrs. E.A. Baughman.

While at Baraboo he practiced his craft of architecture, building and contracting having built the Court House in that city. In May 1870 he and his family moved to Yankton in Dakota Territory and then on to Mitchell in 1879. H.H. and Sylvia remained in Mitchell until their deaths.

Detailed information about H.H. was recorded in a booklet, believed to have been published by the Capital newspaper because there is a statement in the booklet that says, "During the past summer and fall the CAPITAL has presented its readers with brief sketches of the settlers of Davison county, and from the list the following pages on 'South Dakota's Resources' have been selected." The booklet titled, Carefully Compiled Facts, Davison and Adjoining Counties, Exhibit of the Growth and Prosperity of Mitchell - For the Year 1883 provided a description of H.H. Calhoun's property. The following information was given about the assets of H.H. Calhoun: H.H. Calhoun has been in Dakota 15 years, having lived formerly at Yankton. He has 150 acres in 23, 103, 60 just east of Mitchell, on which he has 400 rods of fence and 40 acres broken, and the following crops in: Oats 16 acres, corn 12, potatoes 3, with an acre of garden. He owns three horses, four cows, two yearlings, five hogs, two

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Whittier School Built in 1880-81 with just four rooms.



We believe this is the school that H. H. Calhoun built.

HELP! Carnegie needs computers

The time has come that several of our computers need replacing. Our "refurbished computers" (this means they were not new when we got them) are 8 years old and will not handle some of the new software. We are limping along for now but by next year some of the programs running our hardware will no longer be supported. We have been running 5 computers, but with hardware issues we are now only running 4. We have a quote from Dell for 3 new computers. We also have to pay someone to help with the installs and file transfers. Projected cost to get us up and running is \$6000-\$7000. Currently we do not have the funds available for this project. Please consider a donation to help cover these costs. Thank You!!!



Who were the Calhouns ...

sheep and 200 head of poultry. Mr. Calhoun has \$2500 in improvements on his place, including a chalkstone dwelling 18 by 26, with a frame addition 12 by 20, a frame barn 24 by 30 and \$500 worth of farm machinery beside a good well and cistern. The place is further improved by an acre of shade and ornamental trees, comprising 1000 cottonwood, maple, elm and box elder; and 2,000 apple trees, 12 of which bear fruit this season. He has also a large number of grape vines, currant, gooseberry, raspberry, and strawberry plants which bear good crops. In connection with his farming operations Mr. Calhoun has followed his profession of contractor and builder having put up a number of the first buildings in Mitchell,

including the school house, and having just finished the Court House.

Sylvia Niles Calhoun and her daughter traveled to Baraboo, Wisconsin to visit on December 23, 1902; she had been "in delicate health" for several months before her trip and while she was visiting she became very ill. We know that H.H. was informed that his wife was dying from a Mitchell Capital blurb on January 9, 1903, stating that a telegram came to him; he left that night for Baraboo, Wisconsin on the Omaha railroad to join her. She passed away in Wisconsin on January 5, 1903. She was interred in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

H.H. passed away at his daughter's home, Mrs. Edith Baughman, on Main

Continued from page 2

Street in February 1910. His obituary printed in the Mitchell Capital on February 17, 1910, stated that many "oldtime friends" were sad to hear of his death. His funeral was held in the home of his daughter with Rev. F.B. Barnett, rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, conducting the ceremony with "appropriate" music provided by Mrs. W.E. Anderson, Miss Minnie Bingham, Sid W. Smith and C.W. Downey with Mrs. W.A. Heimberger at the piano. Pallbearers were A.B. Seaton, J.K. Smith, W.H. Conyes, J.E. Wells, George W. Law and H.C. Preston. His children took his remains to Baraboo, Wisconsin for burial next to his wife.

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

~ MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists."

~ FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

"We can complain that rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice that thorn bushes have roses."

~ Abraham Lincoln

Please read the writing on the facing page first and then the writing on this page.

Original Plat of the West Side of Main Street- Mitchell, Dakota Territory, 1879

The red script over the top of the black is added to clarify the original black script on the Plat.

I hereby certify that I did on the 23rd day of July A.D. 1879 complete the survey of a part of the South half of the North-East quarter and the North half of the North-East quarter and the North half of the South-West quarter of Section Twenty-two (22) Township 103, Range 60. Situated in Davison County Territory of Dakota into Lots, Blocks, Streets and alleys all shown on the plat herewith, and I further certify that the width and size of said Blocks, the width and length of said Lots, the width of all streets and alleys and the number of each Block and the number of each Lot and the name of each street are properly shown in figures and writing in the plat to which this certificate is attached and I also further certify that I caused to be planted and fixed firmly in the ground on the line of two of the Main Streets named on said plat, First Street and Rowley Street two good and sufficient stones at least 16 inches in length, that the said stones are set in the ground over 250 yds apart, and that the corners of said Blocks and lots are plainly marked by good and sufficient stakes set firmly in the ground.

Territory of Dakota
County of Hanson
"County of Davison"

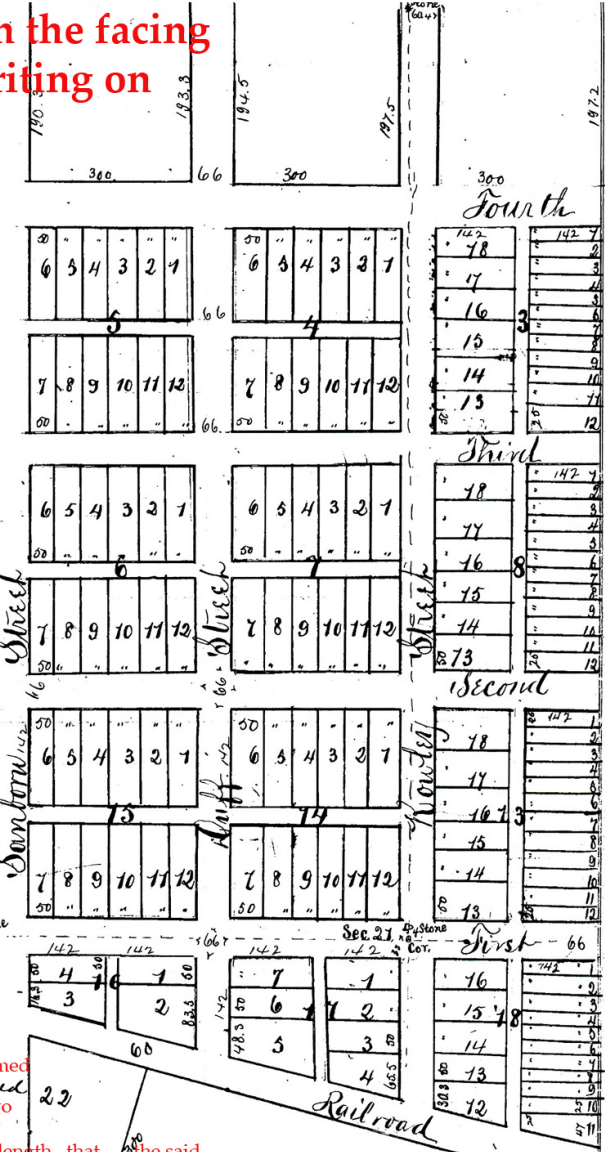
On this 28th day of August A.D. 1879 personally appeared before me, Clerk of the District Court in and for said County at my office in Rockport, B.B. Colborne to me personally known and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing certificate to be his own act and deed Witness my hand and seal this 28th day Aug. A.D. 1879

Territory of Dakota
County of Hanson
"County of Davison"

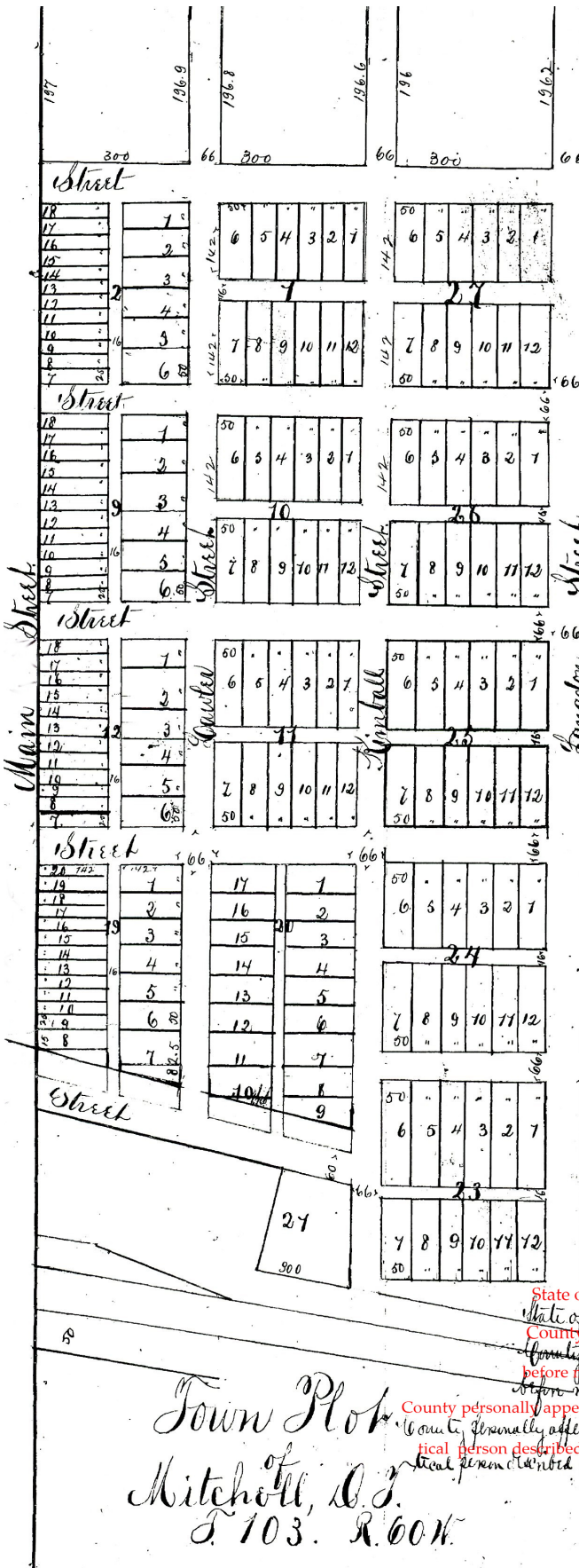
(Signed) B.B. Colborne, Surveyor.
(Signed) B. B. Colborne, Surveyor
(Benny B.)

On this 28th day of August A.D. 1879 personally appeared before me, Clerk of the District Court in and for said County at my office in Rockport, B.B. Colborne to me personally known and acknowledged the execution of the foregoing certificate to be his own act and deed Witness my hand and seal this 28th day Aug. A.D. 1879

Witness my hand and seal this 28th day Aug. A.D. 1879



(Signed) Elisha B. Foster,
(Signed) Elisha B. Foster,
Clerk of the District Court,
Hanson County, D.T.



Please read text on this page first

Original Plat of the East Side of Main Street- Mitchell, Dakota Territory, 1879

The red script over the top of the black is added to clarify the original, black script on the Plat.

Town Plot of Mitchell, D.T.

T 103. Range 60 W.

Know all men by these presents that John Lawler of the County of Crawford, State of Wisconsin, owner of that part of the South half of the North-East quarter and that part of the North half of the South-East quarter of Section Twenty-one (21) and that part of the South half of the North-West quarter of the South half of the North-East quarter and that part of North half of the South-West quarter Section Twenty-two (22) Township one hundred and three (103) Range one hundred and three (103) Range 60 on which the Town of Mitchell is located upon as per annexed plat, have caused a plat to be laid out upon said land under the name and title of Mitchell and have caused the annexed map or plat to be made with the Streets, Alleys, corners, distances, lots, Blocks and marks designated therein, and I do hereby acknowledge and declare that the said disposition of said lands are shown by the map and plat is with my free consent and in accordance with my desire - Signed the 11th day of Sept. A.D. 1879

(Signed) John Lawler
(Signed) John Lawler

Be it remembered that on the 11th day of September A.D. 1879 before me J.D. Lawler a Notary Public written and for said County personally appeared before me Jno. Lawler well known to me to be the identical person described and who executed the annexed and foregoing

Scale - 200 ft. to the inch
Scale. 200 ft. to the inch.

Town Plot of Mitchell, D.T. T 103. R. 60 W.

There is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know.

~ HARRY S. TRUMAN

“When your mother asks, ‘Do you want a piece of advice?’ it is a mere formality. It doesn’t matter if you answer yes or no. You’re going to get it anyway.”

~ Erma Bombeck

“My definition of an intellectual is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking of the Lone Ranger.”

~ Billy Connolly, actor

(over)

*Thank
You*

- to the Garden Club for taking care of the spring clean-up around the fence at the Carnegie. Their efforts for the last couple of years have made our grounds more inviting.

-to Dakota Wesleyan for including us in their Sharing Day. Eight young ladies came to help sort files and saved us at least 20 hours of work. They did a first-rate job and we hope that we see them back next year!

-Nickoli B for helping at the Carnegie doing various tasks from cleaning, sorting and filing.

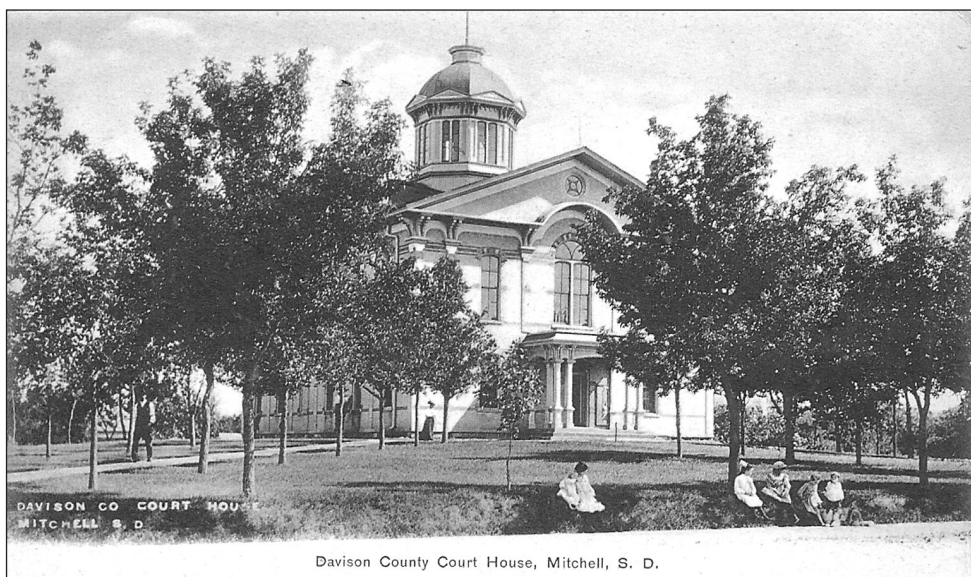
-Nina Akin for presenting a program on scarf design. Her story was very informative and entertaining.

-to Register of Deeds for Davison County, Danna Kolbeck for helping interpret handwriting from 1879 document

-to Register of Deeds from Hanson County who tracked down the name of Benny B. Calborne, a surveyor and officer of the court listed on the Lawler plat map of Mitchell.

-to all the members who have renewed their memberships and to those who have donated to help keep the Carnegie functioning.

- to the volunteers who faithfully staff, organize, keep records, greet visitors, work on our computer system, care for the lawn, clean, research, give programs about Mitchell Area Historical and Genealogical Societies, and all the other tasks required to keep the Carnegie functioning.



A history of the original Davison County Courthouse

When the founding fathers and citizens of Davison County were of the opinion that the area was permanent and stable, talk of a place to hold county business arose. Davison County was established in 1874 with different boundaries than today.

Mitchell had been established as the County Seat. The money for the construction of the building was to come from the selling of warrants (bonds) to be no bigger than \$500 with no more than 7 percent interest.

A canvas was taken with 264 for and 56 against the venture. The contract was given to H.H. Calhoun, who was also the

architect. It turned out that he was unable to finish the project and settled with the county.

The commissioners decided to take on the job of finishing the project. Originally, the plan was to have the building completed by December 31, 1882, but it was not able to be occupied until late 1883. The building was to cost no more than \$20,000 but it went over budget. It was an elegant building in its day and served the public for 50 years until the current building was built in 1935.

Davison County had simply outgrown the capacity of the first Davison County Court House.

Genealogy Corner ...

Hello everyone!!!

Have you ever been interested in genealogy? Just Curious? How do I begin? I had these and many other questions when I started working on my family genealogy and history. Have I found all the answers? Not yet, but I continue to work to find those answers.

If you are new to genealogy, I would encourage you to join a genealogy society. People have the same interests, and many have years of experience to help you along the way. Experience is especially important to eliminate mistakes.

There are many websites dedicated to

genealogy. Understanding what each provides and how the "trees" are made is vital to ensure proper research. For example, I love the ancestry.com website, however, there are many, many, trees out there with incorrect information. How do I know this? Well, I have attempted to correct some of them with proper information. I have an ancestor who shared the same name as his cousin. To make matters worse they both lived in the same community and their wives had the same first name. If you are not incredibly careful in your research, these 2 cousins can get very confusing. Most people find 1 and do not check any

Beth Walz, MAGS president

further. They look at one record and do not verify all the information available. This may seem to be an isolated case; however, names can be confused by locations, immigrations, remarriages, and a host of other reasons.

The Mitchell Area Genealogical Society has a lot of information to get you started right. We also have ideas and websites for the seasoned genealogist. Give us a call or come to a program; we would love to meet you! There is a list on the back page of upcoming events that will be held at the Carnegie Resource Center.

Hope to see you there!



Nationally known, award-winning designer, Nina Akin presented a program about the process and enjoyment of scarf designing.



Sebert Tool Collection a welcome addition to Carnegie

Thanks to Louis and Carol Sebert for donating these promotional items from businesses many years ago.

The bottle opener is from Mitchell Creamery Company which started in business in August 1923 by Jorgen Jorgensen from Huron in the building located at 112 East First Ave. It was the location of the Lorraine Chocolate Company, a candy manufacturer. By December 1925 the Mitchell Creamery Company was sold to C. I. Braught of Brookings and C. E. Clossen of White Lake. The printing on the opener says "Mitchell Creamery Phone 2886" On the back side "Perfection Butter - Milk - Cream & Cheese."

The information on the opener says "Mitchell Wholesale Grocery & Fruit Co. Mitchell S.D". The business was started in 1917 at 220 South Kimball Street and remained open until 1950. Officers of the corporation were F.C. Dickson, E. W. Lechan, C. C. Miller, B. I. Lahey and J. F. Collins.

_____ & Navin. Thomas P. Navin was born in 1897 at Kidder, Missouri. His parents both died when he was a boy

and he came to Dakota Territory with his grandfather, Patrick Tobin in 1882, settling on a farm in Tobin Township. In 1897 he moved to Mitchell and then to Plankinton where he was in the liquor business. He returned to Mitchell in 1904 and entered the wholesale liquor business and in 1916 entered the retail liquor business at 119 North Main Street and continued to operate it until the time of his death. He passed away in November of 1944 and is buried at Graceland Cemetery. His son Virgil Navin continued to operate the bar. Imprint on the cork screw says, "Drink _____ Whiskey _____ & Navin Mitchell S. Dak."

Issac Spears Ice, Sand & Gravel. From 1898 until 1903 Isaac was the proprietor of the brick yard. By 1911 he was in the ice business and by 1917 was in the ice and spring water business. By 1921 he was also in the sand, gravel, and house moving business at 823 North Main Street. He was living at 815 North Main Street. The imprint on the ice pick says, "Isaac Spears Phone 2120, Ice Sand & Gravel Where Service Counts Gas & Oils".



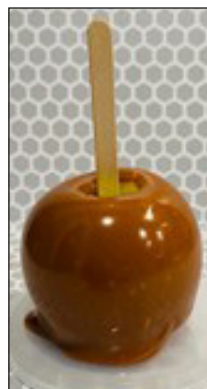
Isaac died in January 1944 and is buried at Graceland. His son Harry took over the business. By 1948 Harry moved his family to California.

Upcoming Events

*Mitchell Area Genealogical Society (MAGS)
And Mitchell Area Historical Society (MAHS)*

- June 17** - 7 P.M. MAHS Business Meeting
June 24 - 6 P.M. MAGS Business Meeting
7 P.M. – Program -Catalogs The Key To Using
Familysearch.Org and Ancestry.Com- James Tanner
July 15 - 7 P.M. MAHS Business Meeting
July 18 – 7 P.M. Summer Celebration with
Barbershop Harmony and Billy Lurken
July 22 - 6 P.M. MAGS Business Meeting
7 p.m. Program - Enhancing Your Genealogical
Research With Newspapers – Beth Walz
July 21-26 –Online- Institute of Genealogy and Historic
Research – 13 Courses offered
Aug 19 - 7 P.M. MAHS Business Meeting
Aug 26 - 6:30- Program - Aaron Willis -Grave Dousing
aka Grave Witching at Graceland Cemetery
Aug 28 – Sept 2 – South Dakota State Fair
Genealogy Scrapbook Theme – Farm Life
Sept 16 - 7 P.M. MAHS Business Meeting
Sept 23 - 6 P.M. MAGS Business Meeting
7 P.M. – Program -TBD

Caramel Apple fundraiser coming up fast



It's not that far away -- Caramel Apple Fundraiser During the 2024 Corn Palace Festival, on Wednesday through Sunday, August 21st- 25th at A.C.T. Theatre, 700 N. Main Street.

The annual, firm and juicy Braeburn apples, coated with caramel, will again be available.

If you would like to be a volunteer to join with MAHS/MAGS workers in various tasks, including apple polishing, please call Jacque 605-770-1972 or Bobbie 605-770-2768 On-the-job training is available!

Mitchell Main Street & Beyond shares in this project with MAHS. A few hours of your time would be greatly appreciated.

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

