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Chadron : a chronological view of the early history of the old-home-town

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CHADRON

A Chronological View
of the Early History
of the
Old-Home-Town



COMPILED BY
H. D. MEAD

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TO CHADRON'S PIONEERS**(Eddy C. Newland)**

Do you know the story of Chadron town,
And the days of eighty-five?
Its founders, who died without renown,
Or the few who still survive?

Well! Here is the story, by H. D. Mead,
Who was here in the "Indian Days,"
And had a place in the dream, and the
deed,
That gave our city its prosperous ways.

So, here's to you Hudson, and to all pio-
neers,
From trapper Chadrone, who gave us a
name.
We reverence you now, after fifty years,
And give you a place in our hall of fame.

FOREWARD

I am pleased to have had a part in making it possible for the people of Chadron and those former residents who are still interested in the "Old Home Town," to secure the information that has been gathered together in this booklet. I want to convey to H. D. Mead the most sincere appreciation both of myself and the people of this community, for many months of careful work in the compiling of the facts contained herein. Mr. Mead has not only worked hard in the preparation of this material but has at all times been exceedingly careful in the source of the information, so that it would be as nearly correct as it is humanly possible.

Much of this information would have been lost had it not been for the efforts of Mr. Mead.

H. D. Mead came to this community with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Mead, in June, 1882. For eighteen years he engaged in ranching on the White River. He then took up civil engineering and has been identified with many Chadron enterprises. He has surveyed and plotted several new additions to the city as well as the water and sewer systems, and was construction engineer in charge of Chadron's paving program.

C. H. POLLARD, Publisher.

A HISTORY OF CHADRON

Progressive, substantial and prosperous, is a phrase fully descriptive of every activity of Chadron; yet do we ever pause, do we ever stop to think to whom we owe our prosperity? Who was it that paved the way, who was it that laid the foundation of Chadron and Dawes County? Who was it that hewed this commonwealth out of the wilderness, forded rivers and scaled the hills in their onward march, faced the war-like redmen and wrested food from the virgin soil, established schools and erected churches in the sight of God, in order that those who followed, and you and I might enjoy the blessings of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?" To the pioneers of Chadron and Dawes County, to the gray-haired fathers and mothers who are with us today, and to those who have answered the final call the credit is due.

These people, endowed with the indomitable pluck and energy which never fail to succeed, suffered hardships and adversities, but always overcame them. There was scarcely a day in the years gone by but which presented difficulties before which a weaker people would have turned in despair. But over and through it all they pressed onward, until the broad prairies of Dawes County and towns within its borders became the commonwealth of today to crown their laborous achievements.

The pioneers who came to make their homes in the Valley of the White River realized the need and the value of a town, of supply stores, of a post office, and of doctors, so a small town was built on the banks of the White River. This was the first town—the first Chadron. It was started in the fall of 1884 and was located on the east bank of the river near what is now Dakota Junction. All of this vast open country was shown on the maps of those days as Sioux County, unorganized territory. It was attached to Cheyenne County, of which Sidney was the county seat, for judicial purposes.

There was no communication with the outside world, and no laws, each man being the law unto himself. There were only a few settlers and cattle ranches on the streams; the only settlements being Fort Robinson, thirty miles southwest which was garrisoned by United States soldiers, and Pine Ridge Indian Agency, forty miles

northeast, where more than 6000 Ogalala Sioux Indians were camped, and receiving rations from the government.

As a flower opens its petals with the rising of the sun, so the new town commenced to grow. Tents were set up, log and rough frame buildings were built, supply stores, hotels and restaurants were opened. Soon a livery barn, a saloon and a clothing store were opened and a newspaper was published. A doctor arrived in the new town and opened a drug store, and finally a post office was established.

The Fort Robinson and the Pine Ridge Agency stage-line was changed from the regular route to pass through the new town bringing mail and express. Long lines of mule teams were arriving daily over bad and winding roads from the end of the railroad at Valentine, bringing supplies and merchandise for the new stores.

The modest homes of the pioneer settlers were being built on their claims in the Valley; some were log houses and others only dugouts, but they were homes and a refuge for the families of the pioneers who were imbued with the spirit of confidence in the development of the new empire.

Several families of the Sweat Colony, from Missouri, arrived in the Bordeaux Valley on April 16, 1884. They were followed later by two parties of several families each, and were building their homes and plowing their fields. The members of the colony, including their families, contributed much valuable assistance to the early activities of Chadron and Dawes County in a social, professional, and business way. The members of the colony were: Leader, Levi C. Sweat, Russell Sweat, Solomon Hartzell, James Hall, Frank Black, John Butler, Thomas J. Wilson, H. G. McMillan, Robert K. Burns, Barney Colwell, Henry P. Kelly, Alex Dureson, Vincent Rucker, Samuel Ballard, T. Y. Grantham, Charles Mann, James Crawford, Sherman Crawford, C. Eldredge, J. Stevens and Charles M. White. There were several other families represented in this colony, but we have been unable to get their names.

After the Indians were moved out of the Valley by the government onto the reservation in Dakota Territory, Peter B. Nelson settled on the Bordeaux Creek, in 1878, and established his home. He operated the Fort Robinson and Pine Ridge stage line for several years, in connection

with his ranch affairs. The Powers Brothers located a cattle ranch on the Bordeaux Creek, the Price and Jencks cattle ranch on Chadron Creek, the Van Tassel cattle ranch on Deadhorse Creek and the Ox Yoke ranch on Ash Creek, were all located in 1879, each ranch having a large number of cattle grazing on the grass-covered hills and valleys.

The Sioux City Cattle Company located a ranch on Beaver Creek in 1883, and H. P. Simmons and John G. Mead each located on White River in May 1884. Both white and black tail deer were numerous in the pine clad hills and along the streams. Antelope were also plentiful in the open country north of White River.

In the spring of 1885 the new town was growing rapidly. There were many new arrivals seeking business locations, many new buildings constructed, and new stores opened. Several land locaters, lawyers, and doctors were among the citizens of the new town.

The Sioux County Journal was published by E. E. Egan, on a hand press, located about one-half mile south of the new town. It was later moved to the new town into a small frame building. Volume I, No. I, was printed November 6, 1884; the first newspaper published in Northwest Nebraska, west of Valentine and north of Sidney. The name was changed to The Dawes County Journal in March, 1885.

The stream of new settlers, with their teams and wagons, loaded with their families, bedding and supplies and driving small droves of cattle and horses came wending over the hills, down into the Valley of the White River. There to make their homes and fortunes; there to build the community of the future.

March 5, 1885, the legislature passed a bill creating Dawes County, with its present boundaries and including what is now Box Butte County. Dr. George P. Waller was the first doctor locating in Chadron, arriving March 11, 1885, and soon after opened a drug store.

May 1, 1885, a partial list of the different lines of business located in the old town include: Burr Shelton, general stock; W. A. and George Birdsall, livery barn; Waller and Lyman, drugs; M. F. O'Brien, saloon; M. Dempsey, barber shop; Curran and Moses, saloon; John Soles, saloon; Lockler and Harrison, saloon; W. Ward, restaurant; William Wilson, furniture; H. F. Lander, laundry; Mr. Jones, shoe shop; Harrah Brothers,

hardware; Kass and Company, hardware; Glover and Brower, general stock, W. E. Higman, bank; Benjamin Loewenthal, clothing; N. P. Cook, attorney; Mrs. Leach, restaurant; Ed. Flynn, saloon; Cotton's Dance Hall; Lake and Halley, bank; Carter and Dixon, saloon; C. H. King and Co., general stock; William Belanger, groceries; Tom Coffey, saloon; Peterson and Toble, brick yard; Emil Faust, bakery; May and Fox, groceries; Brewster and Sons, restaurant; F. H. Fall, attorney; George P. Waller, doctor; C. R. McCoy, hotel.

The first peace officers in Dawes County were: Burr Shelton, Justice of the Peace, and George W. Clarke, Deputy Sheriff, having been appointed by the commissioners of Cheyenne County at Sidney, on April 20, 1885. The first court held in Northwest Nebraska was held April 26, 1885, by Justice of the Peace Burr Shelton, before whom a man by the name of "Tex" was being tried for assault.

On May 7, 1885, the governor appointed temporary county officers and Chadron was designated the temporary county seat. The officers named were: C. Fairchild, E. E. Egan and H. G. McMillan, commissioners, and F. B. Carley was appointed clerk. The first commissioners meeting was held on May 9, 1885. At this meeting the Dawes County Journal was named the official paper of Dawes County. An election was called to be held on June 27, 1885, for the purpose of electing the county officers and locating the county seat.

On May 14, 1885, Mrs. Fannie O'Linn was named postmistress. She was at this time considering an offer from the townsite company for her land on which the new town was located. The track laying of the railroad was at the time finished to a point fifty miles west of Valentine. The grading of the roadbed was progressing very rapidly and the bridge builders were well ahead of the track laying.

The first county election was held in Dawes County June 27, 1885. The officers elected were:
Commissioner of First district, D. Y. Mears.
Commissioner of Second district, R. H. Morehead.

Commissioner of Third district, A. H. McLaughlin.

County Clerk, F. B. Carley.

County Sheriff, George W. Clark.

County Coroner, R. K. Burns.

County Superintendent, O. H. Turner.

County seat, Chadron, 582, Dawes City, 354, Bordeaux 3. On July 9, 1885, the assessed valuation of Dawes County was \$71,513.00.

July 18, 1885, Reverend John Gray preached a sermon in the post office in the old town.

July 22, 1885, the first train of cars hauling rails and construction material entered the new townsite in the afternoon. The engineer was P. F. Killoron; Fireman, John Paul; Conductor, Smith; Brakeman, Cullivan; and Engine Watchman, B. W. Caldwell. The engine number was 25.

At this time a party of surveyors was surveying the new townsite six miles east on land purchased by the Townsite Company. Lots and streets were staked out and side-tracks and a roundhouse were being built by the railroad company.

July 28, 1885, the first death and burial in the new town. Percy Meaney, a member of the track laying gang, was accidentally killed in the railroad yards, and was buried in the railroad property north of the roundhouse site.

July 30, 1885, a terrible storm and cloudburst occurred in the upper Lone Tree Creek. A wall of water ten to twelve feet high rolled down the Valley destroying several miles of grade and carrying away the camps of several grading outfits, wagons, horses, as well as all camp supplies and horse feed. Several camps of travelers and freight outfits were nearly destroyed. The loss amounted to many thousands of dollars.

August 1, 1885, the first sale of lots was held at the new town and many lots were sold. A large number were present from the Black Hills country and from the east. Station Agent, ~~R.~~ L. Albertson had the first residence in the new town completed. It was located north of the roundhouse near the south line of what is now Kenwood. R.L.

August 3, 1885, the first regular passenger train crew was: Engineer George Martin, engine No. 30; Conductor, R. Flanders; Postal Clerk, John F. White. The first regular passenger train arrived the morning of August 4, the crew was: Engineer, George H. Conner, engine No. 31; Conductor, Herb A. Cox.

August 5, 1885, the first baby in the new town was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Albertson, at their home.

DeForest Richards purchased the first lot, erected the first business building, and made the first draft, amount \$15,612.00, in the new town of Chadron. He was, a few years later, elected governor of Wyoming, and served in that office several terms.

August 13, 1885, three hundred and ten town lots had been sold to date at a valuation of \$75,000.00. Over 100 buildings were in the course of construction and great activity prevailed. The moving from the old town was also in progress.

The first train of cattle was shipped from Chadron to the Chicago market on August 15, 1885, by Charles F. Coffee, a Wyoming cattle man.

August 19, 1885, connection was made by the Western Union with the government telegraph line from Fort Robinson to Pine Ridge Agency. This line passed through the new town, giving Chadron commercial wire service. This government line was constructed by the government about 1878.

August 20, 1885, the Sidney and Deadwood stage line changed their railroad connection from Sidney to Chadron, and operated between Deadwood and Chadron. The first treasure coach arrived from Deadwood on August 26, with gold bullion for shipment east. There were four guards aboard with sawed-off shotguns. Several ten and twelve mule teams with trail wagons started each day loaded with freight for towns in the Black Hills.

August 27, 1885, Volume I, Number I, of the Chadron Democrat, published by Lucas and Allen, was printed on this date. A list of advertisements carried in the Chadron newspapers of September 1, 1885, one month after the starting of the new town, were those of:

Attorneys: Alfred Bartow, N. P. Cook, W. W. Byington, Frank Fall.

Drugs: Waller and Lyman.

Banks: Richards Bros. and Brown, Lake and Halley, Dawes County Bank.

Clothing: Loewenthal Brothers, S. Feldenheimer.

Hardware: Christensen and Anderson.

Doctors: Waller and Orchard, J. M. Davidson.

Blacksmith: D. S. Cockrell.

Livery Barn: W. A. Birdsall and Co.

Meat Market: John G. Mead.

General Stores: Glover and Brown, C. H. King, May and Fox, W. S. McPheeley, Gillette Grocery, William Belanger.

Hotels: Daniels Hotel, Brewster House.

Lumber Yard: W. A. Langworthy.

Saloons: Carter and Dixon, Tim Higgins, Burton and Curran, Detto Brothers.

Contractors: Morton and Perry, Goff and Barrett, C. E. Wheeler.

Flour and Feed: Charles R. Sharp, Tom Moore and Co.

Restaurants: Logan and Wickam, Bennett and Sweetzer.

September 2, 1885, a meeting was held and steps were taken to organize a Masonic lodge in Chadron.

During the week about 3000 head of cattle were loaded and shipped to the Chicago market. Charles F. Coffee, a well known cattle man from Wyoming, was in town overseeing the loading of his beef steers.

September 13, 1885, the Congregational church was officially recognized by the Congregational Council. This church was organized by Rev. Harmon Bross, D. D., in August.

Edwards and Son, who had been running the water tank wagon, sold to B. Bible, who continued to supply the people with pure spring water at 25c per barrel.

September 14, the Chadron and Deadwood stage coach was held up near the Cheyenne River. The robbers failed to secure any valuables and no one was injured.

September 16, Chadron School District No. 2 was organized and officers elected. William Wilson was elected moderator; DeForest Richards, treasurer; F. H. Fall, director; and P. E. Baird, secretary.

September 24, 1885, Mrs. Mary E. Smith opened her millinery and dry goods store at Second and Egan streets.

September 30, William Wilson was installed as post master, succeeding Mrs. Fannie O'Linn.

October 29, the passenger depot was completed and the railroad eating house was opened to the public by Dresser and Judd.

October 31, the I. O. O. F. lodge held a meeting in the Masonic hall over Loewenthal's store to perfect plans for organization.

November 2, 1885, the first school was opened in a building on Egan street (the building used as a school was later the residence of Henry Hooker and family for many years.) In the school there were two rooms, two classes and two teachers: Mrs. George Clay and Miss Evans.

Stock shipments for the month of October was 904 cars.

December 9, the new roller skating rink was completed and opened to the public. The first brass band was organized in Chadron.

December 20, the new Congregational church was dedicated with appropriate services.

December 21, 1885, the new town of Chadron was incorporated as a village. The first Board of Trustees were: DeForest Richards, Thomas H. Glover, M. M. Harrah and W. H. Carter. E. S. Ricker was elected clerk and Lyman Brower was elected treasurer. Tim Morrissey was appointed village marshal. Ordinance No. 1 was passed forbidding the use of stove pipes in dangerous places.

January 23, 1886, eighteen ten-mule teams loaded with freight for points west, left Chadron on this date.

A Board of Trade was organized and held its first meeting.

February 4, Chadron Lodge No. 140 I. O. O. F. was organized with twelve charter members.

February 8, the first term of District Court convened in Chadron. This was the first district court held in western Nebraska, west of Valentine, and north of Sidney.

February 15, a petrified adult human body was on exhibition in Chadron. It was discovered by William Allen in the Bad Lands of Dakota Territory. It was pronounced genuine by several experts.

March 2, 1886, Catholic services were held at the residence of Mrs. Margaret Murphy by Father Russing, of Fremont. A committee was selected to secure a suitable site for the erection of a church building.

A lodge of Knights of Pythias was organized with twenty-nine charter members.

March 23, Chadron was made a city of the second class, divided into three wards.

Several large grading outfits passed through Chadron going west to work on the grade of the west line. Many new settlers were arriving daily from the east looking for government land open to filings for homesteads.

Martin Morrissey was awarded a contract for the construction of plank cross-walks on certain streets and alleys. These were the first street crossing constructed in Chadron.

April 3, 1886, the Dawes County Fair association was organized and W. Henderson was elected president and F. E. Aken, secretary.

April 6, a city election was held with the following results:

Mayor, D. Y. Mears; City Clerk, R. G. Dorr; and Treasurer, Ben Loewenthal. Councilmen, F. E. Rodd, F. M. VanHorn, Jacob Kass, J. C. Dahlman, Thomas Moore, and F. B. Carley.

May 5, a tract of land was selected on the east side of the school section, one and one-half miles northeast of the city for the location of a cemetery.

There had been 3590 filings made on government land up to this date in Dawes county.

May 27, 1886, L. J. F. Jaeger was appointed police judge.

June 24, Drs. Waller and Orchard had a telephone installed in their office connected with their homes. This was the first telephone installed in Chadron.

The Chadron Fire Company was organized and business men were urged to maintain barrels full of water near their business houses.

July 4, the first Fourth of July celebration ever held in Northwest Nebraska was held in Chadron. It was a grand affair. The day began with a parade led by the Mayor and Council in carriages, then the band, followed by several Indian chiefs in carriages. Then thirty-eight young women in costume representing the States, 100 Sioux warriors on horseback, and several other notable displays. The procession was one mile long. More than 5000 people were in town to witness and take part in the celebration. The Indians performed an Omaha dance on the street in the evening and there was a wonderful display of fireworks at nine o'clock in the evening that closed a great day.

July 20, agitation was started to secure a water supply for fire protection and domestic use. Shallow wells and a pumping plant were proposed as well as the drilling of a deep well to secure artesian water.

July 25, the first fire occurred in Chadron when the barn on the rear of Burr Shelton's

place was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

August 2, a fatal shooting affray occurred a few miles east of Chadron on Bordeaux Creek. A man named Tony Whitfield shot and killed a gambler named "Smithy."

August 30, the first County Fair was held by the Dawes County Agricultural Society. There was an excellent display of vegetables, small grains, corn, and potatoes. There was also a stock show and horse racing.

September 6, the organization of a Post of the G. A. R. was completed in Chadron.

September 6, the first annual teachers' institute of Dawes County was held two days in Chadron. A. J. Gillespie was County Superintendent and instructors were Charles E. Foster and Mrs. Fannie O'Linn.

September 9, a contract was entered into with J. H. Bowman, of Pennsylvania, for the boring of a well 8 inches in diameter and 1000 feet deep, at a cost of \$3.50 per foot, for an artesian water supply for Chadron.

September 20, 1886, the public schools were opened in the new two story school building on West Second street. The enrollment was 117.

The construction of the new Catholic church was under way, located on the corner of Fourth and King streets.

October 14, 1886, the new Methodist church on the corner of Third and Morehead streets was nearing completion.

October 28, 1886, about 200 Sioux Indians with a drove of ponies passed through Chadron on their way to visit the Ute Indians in Utah Territory.

November 2, 1886, Bronco Bill in charge of 250 Sioux Indians left by train for New York City, to join the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. After training and rehearsals during the winter they were to open at London, England, May 2, 1887.

A list of advertisers carried in the Chadron newspapers November 1, 1886, fifteen months after the starting of the new Chadron:

Dry Goods: W. S. McPheeley and Co., M. F. Smith and Co., Burr Shelton.

Banks: Richards Bros. and Brown, Chadron Banking Co., Lake and Halley.

Hardware: Christensen and Anderson, Willis Bros., J. Kass and Co., T. J. Cook and Co.

Flour and Feed: L. Butler, Rosa and Thompson.

Drugs: Waller and Lyman, C. F. Ferbrache, Lewis and Ingersol.

General Stores: P. B. Nelson, C. H. King & Co., Glover and Brower.

Candy, News and Cigars: Keys and Soder, Bisbie and House.

Groceries: William Balanger.

Boots and Shoes: R. McLeod, Boston Shoe Store.

Barber Shops: Ed. Simms, Hatch and Van-Horn.

Dentist: E. C. Coons.

Doctors: Waller and Lyman, A. J. Gillespie, O. V. Harris, A. N. Jackson, E. R. Miller.

Lumber Yards: Finney and Williams, Robert Hood, F. M. Merritt.

Blacksmiths: D. S. Cockrell, J. W. Rank, Forbes and Isham.

Livery Barn: W. A. Birdsall and Co.

Photographer: R. Burse.

Meat Market: Chadron Meat Co., Dahlman and Simmons.

Clothing: Ben Loewenthal & Sons.

Jewelry: R. S. Hawley.

Furniture and Undertaking: William Wilson.

Farm Machinery: Pioneer Implement Co.

Loans and Insurance: Ballou and Cassidy.

Hotels: Cooke Hotel, Chapin House.

Attorneys: Ricker and Houghton, P. E. Baird, Samuel Ballard, N. P. Cook, W. W. Byington, Fall, Sparger and Fisher, M. Ballard, Mrs. Fannie O'Linn, L. G. Sweat, A. Bartow.

January 6, 1887, the two cisterns ordered constructed by the council were completed. One at the intersection of Second and Main streets, and one at Second and Egan streets. They were fifteen feet in diameter and 15 feet deep. They were filled with water for use in case of fire. A large pump, a hose cart and 1000 feet of fire hose was also ordered.

January 23, 1887, the new Catholic church was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies and Mass was celebrated.

February 3, 1887, Grace Episcopal church was organized and officers elected. Burr Shelton, warden; Alfred Bartow, clerk; G. E. Myers, treasurer. Grace Guild was also organized with Mrs. Burr Shelton, president, Mrs. G. E. Myers, secretary; and Mrs. A. C. Putnam, treasurer.

February 13, 1887, the Baptist church organization was perfected.

March 3, 1887, Chadron had its first big fire. A fire starting in the Poznansky building on Main street spread to the Danielson Hotel, and got beyond control, destroying the Waller and Lyman Drug Store, the Eckles building, the Lake and Halley Bank, the Chadron Democrat building and several other small buildings. The loss was placed at \$25,000.00.

March 10, 1887, fifty-seven cars of immigrants were unloaded in Dawes County during the previous week.

May 2, 1887, a new Building & Loan Company organization was started in Chadron. The officers were: Robert Hood, president; T. H. Glover, vice-president; C. H. Lutz, secretary; and Jacob Kass, treasurer.

May 10, 1887, the drill in the artesian well was down 900 feet and no water. The pipe was plugged and work ceased.

May 26, 1887, the Chadron Brick Company finished burning a kiln of 100,000 brick and had started another kiln.

June 7, 1887, the third addition of fifteen blocks was platted and lots placed on sale by the Townsite Company.

June 21, 1887, a county election was held and the proposition to issue county bonds in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the construction of a court house carried by a large majority.

July 1, 1887, the United States Land Office was opened for business in Chadron with A. W. Crites, as receiver, and M. J. Montgomery, as register.

July 17, 1887, Reverend J. N. Chestnut, new rector of Grace Episcopal church, arrived.

July 20, 1887, the artesian well machinery was taken down and shipped to Douglas, Wyoming. The expectations of securing an artesian water supply were shattered.

July 27, 1897, Company E, 2nd Regiment, Nebraska National Guard, was the name of the Chadron Militia Company organized on this date. F. M. Dorrington was captain, and W. G. Burke, 1st Lieutenant.

The taxable value of property in Chadron was \$450,000.00 as given by the assessors.

December 13, 1887, the cornerstone of the new court house was laid with ceremonies by the Masonic lodge.

January 2, 1888, the bank of Richards Bros. and Brown was reorganized as a National Bank with Bartlett Richards, president; DeForest Richards, vice-president; and A. L. Miller, cashier. The first National Bank of Chadron.

April 10, 1888, Professor Hatcher and assistants were excavating the petrified skeleton of a Mastadon on Trunk Butte Creek.

May 24, 1888, a city election was held and waterworks bonds were voted in the amount of \$35,000.00 for the construction of a water system—the plan adopted was to construct a steam pumping plant on Chadron Creek about two and one half miles from the city and pump the water through eight inch pipe line to a large reservoir placed on the hill south of the city. From there the water would flow by gravity through an 8 inch pipe line to the water mains laid in the streets.

June 3, 1888, Reverend Father Bronhy, having been assigned this parish, held services in the Catholic church.

June 28, 1888, the city council awarded a contract for the construction of the water works system to be completed by October 1.

August 24, 1888, great excitement was reported at Pine Ridge Agency. A large band of Indians had left the Agency without permission and were headed for Montana to join other Indians there. Troops were sent out to head them off and return them to the Agency.

September 3, 1888, the public schools were opened in the new high school building with 227 pupils enrolled. Professor J. S. Denton was principal.

September 25, 1888, A. E. Sheldon had installed a complete printing plant and commenced the publication of the Chadron Advocate.

October 6, 1888, the Pine Ridge Camp, M. W. A., was organized in Chadron.

November 27, 1888, a large new bell was placed in the tower of the Congregational church.

December 1, 1888, the County court house was completed and the county officers were moving in.

December 28, 1888, D. Y. Mears was appointed water commissioner by the mayor at a salary of \$300.00 a year. He was to take charge of the new water system which was entirely completed and in operation with water turned into the

mains. Complete fire protection was assured.

January 6, 1889, the new Grace Episcopal church was completed and dedication services were held.

— January 18, 1889, the Chadron Flour Mill was completed and the machinery moved in.

June 14, 1889, F. M. Merritt opened a fully equipped planeing mill on East Second street prepared to turn out all kinds of mill work.

The Chadron Cornet Band was organized with L. A. Dorrington, A. A. Record, W. S. McPheeley and L. A. Brower, as directors.

Dawes County sent seven cars of food to the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, flood victims. The railroads hauled it free of charge.

July 12, 1889, the Nelson opera house on Main street was completed and opened to the public.

A meeting was held to plan the organizations of a cemetery association. Those present were: Burr Shelton, Robert Reed, John Mead, Levi Sweat, R. McLeod, G. E. Myers, A. C. Putnam, B. Loewenthal, T. H. Glover, E. Mead, and J. Butler. The name of "Greenwood Cemetery" was adopted. Officers chosen were: A. C. Putnam, B. Loewenthal and T. H. Glover, trustees; and Levi G. Sweat, clerk, a plat was filed for record and lots placed on sale.

August 2, 1889, an old settlers' gathering was held at Lowry's Grove on White River. One hundred and fifty old-timers were present.

August 9, 1889, the Chadron Mill commenced making flour and other mill products.

August 22, 1889, the Chadron Public Library was opened to the public with 107 volumes on the shelves.

October 1, 1889, the Chadron Academy was opened and exercises appropriate to the occasion were held. Sixteen students were enrolled and J. M. Hulbert was principal.

January 24, 1890, the new hook and ladder truck was put in service by the Chadron Fire Department.

November 21, 1890, news of the Indian uprising was circulated. Ghost dances were being held by the Indians on several reservations north of here.

November 28, 1890, troops were being steadily concentrated at Pine Ridge Agency. About 1100 were there and more were on the march

to that point. Several troops of General Custer's old regiment, the Seventh Cavalry, were there.

December 19, 1890, it was reported that a five foot vein of coal had been discovered on Spring Creek, two miles south of Chadron.

Several carloads of supplies had arrived for the drouth sufferers and for settlers who had fled from their farms to the towns in fear of the Indian uprising. Many hundreds concentrated in the towns and were without subsistence. Many families were camped in the court house square in Chadron. Several were on vacant lots also.

December 23, 1890, Chief Big Foot and 150 of his band left Standing Rock Agency to join the hostile Indians there. Troops were sent out to intercept them and a fight was expected.

December 28, 1890, word came to Chadron of the battle at Wounded Knee Creek northeast of the Agency. The troop of Cavalry sent out to head off the Big Foot band found and surrounded them. In attempting to disarm them an Indian struck an officer with a war club and shooting was consequently started by the Indians. A battle followed. Captain Wallace and twenty-five enlisted men were killed and thirty-four men wounded. One hundred and thirty-two Indians were killed and six taken alive.

December 29, 1890, General Nelson A. Miles passed through Chadron on his way to Pine Ridge to take command of the troops in the field.

January 9, 1891, eighteen companies of the Nebraska National Guard were assembled and were posted close to the towns in the war zone. All towns were overflowing with refugees from the farms and ranches. Excitement was intense.

January 15, 1891, General Miles held a prolonged council meeting with the leading Indian Chiefs and agreements concluded to call in the hostile Indians and surrender their arms. Peace was predicted within a short time.

January 30, 1891, peace was declared with the Indians. General Miles departed for Washington and only a few troops remained at the Agency.

February 13, 1891, a terrible storm raged across this territory. All lines or railroads and wagon roads were blocked, wires were down and there was no mail for four days. William Viscount, 60 years old, was lost in the storm north of Chadron and was found frozen to death.

February 17, 1891, the young people of the Congregational church completed the organization of an Epworth League with twenty-seven charter members.

March 30, 1891, a bill to locate a Normal school in Chadron was defeated in the legislature.

May 1, 1891, a survey was being made for a gravity pipe line up Chadron Creek. If found possible a pipe line was to be laid and the pumping plant dismantled.

June 18, 1891, a 72-hour rain fell over this area and all streams were running bank full.

February 12, 1892, E. E. Egan, editor and publisher of the Dawes County Journal, sold the paper to the Journal Publishing Co., and retired from active journalism. The Chadron Advocate was consolidated with the Journal.

February 26, 1892, meetings were being held to promote the raising of sugar beets in Dawes County.

November 6, 1892, the Chadron Academy was completely destroyed by fire. Plans were made for immediate rebuilding.

December 16, 1892, preliminary plans were made for the 1000 mile cowboy race from Chadron to the Chicago World's Fair.

January 6, 1893, rooms were secured to use as class rooms for the students of the Chadron Academy. Fifty students were enrolled and the classes were held in these rooms until the new building was completed.

March 24, 1893, plans were completed for the 1000 mile cowboy race. An executive committee was named consisting of E. D. Satterlee, chairman; B. F. Pitman, secretary; J. C. Dahlman, J. O. Hartzell, and George Waller.

June 13, 1893, at five o'clock in the afternoon in front of the Blaine Hotel in Chadron, was started the 1000 mile cowboy race from Chadron to the Chicago World's Fair. A crowd of 3500 assembled to see the start of the race at the pistol fired by James Hartzell. The riders who started in the race were: C. W. Smith, Doc Middleton, Emmet Albright, Joe Gillispie, George Jones, James Stephens, Joe Campbell and John Berry.

The first riders in this race arrived in Chicago on June 28. John Berry was first, Emmet Albright, second; Joe Gillispie, third, C. W. Smith,

fourth. A protest was filed against Berry and Albright for unfairness, which was allowed, and Gillispie was declared the winner and Smith was second.

July 10, 1893, the new pipe line constructed to convey water from the Chadron Creek to the city by gravity was completed and put into operation. Pumping was suspended and the expense of operation of the water system was greatly reduced.

During the period from 1890 to 1897 drouth conditions in this territory prevailed. Business became depressed. The price of livestock was low and real estate transfers were few. There were no storms but crops were very poor and many settlers left for greener fields. Some of the streams became dry in places and the grass and hay crop was short, yet many settlers remained. They had faith in the future and their faith was rewarded. Snow and rain came again; seed was planted and crops were produced. New settlers came in, business improved, confidence was restored and hardships were forgotten as the years passed.

During these years' events of real historical value were few and far between.

July 10, 1894, Chadron was visited by a small cyclone; outbuildings were turned over, a few buildings were unroofed, lumber yards were damaged, and limbs were broken from trees. One person, John F. Tenzer, was struck by a swinging door and killed.

August 18, 1894, bicycles had become quite numerous. The first lady rider to appear on the streets wearing bloomers was Mrs. B. F. Pitman, introducing the latest style. They were considered very appropriate.

September 4, 1894, contracts were signed for the construction of a beet sugar factory. Dr. Hirsh, from Chicago, was the representative of the Company promoting the industry said to employ 1000 men. Great expectations were expressed by the citizens of the success of the enterprise.

September 2, 1894, Chadron Academy was completed and was ready to be opened to the students. There were 100 students enrolled with John N. Bennett as principal.

February 15, 1895, many pictures of the proposed sugar factory appeared in the local newspapers.

April 5, 1895, the Y. M. C. A. was organized in Chadron with H. E. Wells as General Secretary. Rooms were secured on Main street and opened to the public.

May 17, 1895, a paint factory started operations in Chadron. Local raw material was used in the manufacture of paint.

May 31, 1895, a twelve-hour rain covering this territory placed crops in excellent condition.

October 30, 1896, a party of business men and farmers left for Norfolk, Nebraska, in the interest of the beet sugar factory in an effort to revive the proposition.

December 18, 1896, the Blaine Hotel was reopened to the public by E. D. Satterlee.

January 15, 1897, the city paid a \$1,000.00 water works bond. The Chadron school district had \$5,000.00 cash on hand.

The salary of the City Clerk was cut to \$150.00 per year.

April 7, 1897, all communication was blocked from Casper to Chadron on account of a severe blizzard. All the wires were down and trains were stalled.

April 16, 1897, many persons claimed to have seen an airship passing over Chadron in the evening. Colored lights were seen passing from northeast to southwest.

May 22, 1898, the White River cattle round-up started at the junction on White River, working the country north of Chadron and down the river on the reservation in Dakota. This was said to be the last general round-up in this country.

February 18, 1898, news was received about the blowing up of the Battleship Maine in Havana Harbor. There were war rumors on every hand and great excitement prevailed. On April 19th war was declared against Spain. Troop trains from Fort Robinson passed through Chadron on their way east. Company H, Nebraska National Guards, mustered in at Chadron. Captain Fisher, 1st Lieutenant, L. A. Dorrington, and 2nd Lieutenant Godsall, entrained for Lincoln to join the regiment.

September 9, 1898, a cattle and sheep war over range rights north of Chadron occurred resulting in several clashes. John Eckman, a sheep herder for Dr. J. S. Romine, was killed north of the state line.

January 6, 1899, the city contracted to furnish water to the railroad company for the sum of \$800.00 per year. The contract was to run ten years.

February 24, 1899, Dr. R. K. Langson opened a well-equipped hospital in Chadron. This was a greatly needed institution, which was cordially greeted by the citizens.

February 24, 1899, a fierce blizzard raged over northwest Nebraska. All business was suspended for several days. Snow plows were sent out to open rail lines. Twenty-seven head of cattle were killed by a snow plow in a deep cut into which they had drifted.

January 10, 1900, the Telephone company commenced putting in telephones on a monthly rental basis. Previous to this time the patrons had been required to purchase phones in order to secure service.

September 1, 1900, Dean S. Efner purchased the Dawes County Journal and was editor and owner.

October 3, 1900, Governor Theodore Roosevelt was in Chadron a few hours. He delivered an address to an audience of 4000 people and was largely cheered by the throng.

November 9, 1900, the Dawes County Journal was changed to The Chadron Journal.

June 21, 1901, a stage line was established between Chadron and Pine Ridge Agency. Daily trips were made which was a benefit to the Chadron merchants.

November 10, 1902, the Chadron high school and Chadron academy football teams were playing some interesting games on the local field.

Reverend George Mitchell was making a state-wide campaign for an endowment fund for the Academy.

March 3, 1903, the name "F. E. & M. V. Railway" passed into history and the name of "Wyoming Division of the C. & N. W. Railway" applied to the line from Missouri Valley, Iowa, west.

May 15, 1903, the oil well that was being drilled on Beaver Creek near the Braddock ranch was down 200 feet. It was being financed by an Omaha company with Martin J. Miller in charge. They had leases on several sections of land.

June 1, 1903, Broghamer and Pitman installed new brick machinery in their brick yard and started the manufacture of brick.

July 17, 1903, a heavy rain and cloudburst in the Bordeaux Valley sent a wall of water 7 feet high rolling down the valley, washing out bridges, fences and buildings. Several hundred feet of railroad track was washed out and train service was annulled. Several other streams were running bank full.

August 7, 1903, news from Pine Ridge Agency reported that Red Cloud, Chief of the Ogala Sioux, was near death. He was 91 years old.

August 7, 1903, all crops were in good condition in the county. August Hakanson reported 3000 bushels of wheat from 100 acres.

October 3, 1903, the public schools of Chadron had an enrollment of 400.

April 8, 1904, the O'Hanlon hotel building, purchased and remodeled by the Railway Y. M. C. A., was opened to the public.

October 4, 1904, the Blaine Hotel was purchased by Dr. Elmore and W. H. Donahue. Mr. Donahue assumed the management of the hotel.

April 27, 1906, Chadron sent a carload of potatoes to San Francisco to help the homeless people made destitute by the earthquake. The car was consigned to the American Red Cross Society there.

May 27, 1906, Council No. 1128 Knights of Columbus was instituted in Chadron.

October 30, 1907, the new cement settling basin located near the water works dam on Chadron Creek was completed and put into operation.

March 1, 1908, the Chadron public library was installed in the rear room of the city hall and was opened to the public.

April 17, 1908, the Chadron Commercial Club was organized and activities were planned.

May 25, 1909, a special election was held at which time \$25,000.00 bonds were voted upon for the construction of a sanitary sewer system.

November 24, 1909, the sanitary sewer system was completed and put into operation. Cess pools were outlawed.

January 8, 1910, the people of Chadron were elated by receiving word from Lincoln notifying them that the Normal College would be located here.

June 17, 1910, the site was located for the main building of the Chadron Normal College.

June 24, 1910, a site was purchased for a Carnegie library.

August 4, 1910, the C. & N. W. Railway roundhouse and shops were destroyed by fire. Several locomotives and all of the machinery were entirely destroyed.

From this date until 1925 Chadron made wonderful progress. The several buildings of the Normal College and the Carnegie library were completed adding a great cultural improvement to the city. There were many extensive improvements to the water works system. Many new business houses and a great number of fine homes were built. An intensive paving program was completed covering nearly the entire city. Cement curb and gutter with gravel was put down on all other unpaved streets. Many fine new buildings were constructed; the high school building, the Kenwood school, the West Ward school, the Municipal hospital, the plant of the Western Public Service Company, the four additional buildings of the Normal College, the City Hall, the United States post office and federal building, the Pace Theatre, and the Assumption Academy.

Not only were buildings constructed but many new lines of business were opened and hundreds of new families became residents of Chadron. And, finally it became the prosperous city that it is today; a city that was builded in the wilderness.

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