

HAWARDEN.... HOW IT ALL BEGAN

An Introduction

We want to WELCOME everyone to what we hope to be a weekly column on Hawarden's early days and events through the 125 years of its existence. Cathy Noble and I will be writing these columns and hope you enjoy reading about the events of the past.

2011 has passed into the history books, and we can only imagine what stories the next 25 years will have to tell. We will leave that for the 150th Committee to write in 2037. We are going to concentrate on the last 125 years, and especially the last 25 years since 1987 when we celebrated Hawarden's Centennial.

Everyone loves to hear stories from the past, and over the years those stories continue to be told, many with additions and exaggerations, and many fall to the wayside and are forgotten and the stories lost to the pages of history. Most of the stories we hope to write will come from the Centennial Book or from the Sioux County Newspaper Archives, some will be stories handed down by grandparents, and octogenarians who have passed on and left their legacy. We will make every attempt to be as accurate as the stories were when we heard them, but we cannot be positively certain that everything is 100% correct. Just as much history changes with the telling of the events, it may be possible that some of our memories have added or subtracted events as time passes. We will attempt to include both the good and the bad in Hawarden's history, with most of the emphasis on the good.

Let's go back now and try to remember how we got to this place in time. Think of the world over 125 years ago, no global warming, no Iowa Caucus, no political phone calls. Sounds wonderful, but let's not forget; there was also no warm houses, no electricity or police protection, no indoor or outdoor plumbing, nothing but Iowa/South Dakota harsh winters, Indians native to the land, and the dreams and ambitions of immigrants to claim the land in this area and eventually bring their families to this wilderness they would call Sioux County

Most everyone who lives in Hawarden has noticed a "rest stop" or "turn around" about 3 1/2 miles south of Hawarden on top of a huge hill on the west side of Highway 12. How many of you know that there is a large rock with a marker there designating this as the Historical Site of the founding of Sioux County. The marker on the rock reads: "Sioux County founded here,

February 6, 1860, by four individuals, Fredrick M. Hubbell, W.H. Frame, Joseph Bell, and E.L.Stone, in a dug out over looking a ford into the Dakota Territory. The Centennial book tells us that they did so in order to take advantage of the procedure at that time of receiving a regulation county salary for county organizing. The Historical Rock and sign marks the site of the "dugout" where the four men lived in an area now known as "Scott's Bottom".

The county was named for the Sioux Native American tribe, which was once prosperous in Iowa and adjacent areas. The tribe was also known as the Dakota Tribe. Sioux means "Snakes" or "Little Snakes", probably also a good reason for calling the river separating the two territories the Sioux River.

This takes us to the first organized government in Sioux County. In the next few weeks we will further explore the "rise" of Calliope and the rivalry that developed between the eastern and western boundaries of Sioux County.

By: Mary Johnson