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WELCOME TO DISCOVER SPINK COUNTY 2022!

The annual Discover Spink County special section of the Redfield Press features the towns and communities that make up Spink County and all that it has to offer. Last year, I featured Brentford, Mellette and Northville. This year, as all of the towns in Spink County have been covered, I'm diving into Spink County history. Spink County has nine towns and some small communities such as Athol. The county is also home to five colonies. The James River, Turtle Creek, and Snake Creek pass through it. Spink County is also rich in early pioneer and Native American history.

I hope you enjoy this year's edition of Discover Spink County!

EARLY SPINK COUNTY

Population: approx. 6,415 County Seat: Redfield Square Miles: 1,512

The county was created in 1873 and organized by the Territorial Legislature in 1879. Spink County was named for the Secretary of State of Dakota Territory. History dates back to the Mound Builders perhaps 5,000 years ago, the Rees, then the Sioux. An annual trading fair took place in the early 1800's at Armadale Island in Spink. Council Rock to the south was known as the Indian capital of the Dakotas.

A hotly contested election for the county seat nearly caused armed battle between Old Ashton and Redfield until a final election in 1886 gave Redfield the victory.

- South Dakota Glacial Lakes and Prairies Northeast Region Spink County History (www.sdglaciallakes.com)

Armadale Island, Spink County

And Chief Drifting Goose

Armadale Park: Latitude: 45.1866392 Longitude:-98.3839817

In the 1850's, Armadale Island, an island in the James River four miles northeast of Mellette in Spink County was a well-known location in the region. As mentioned above, the island was the location of an annual trading fair in the early 1800's. It was also the headquarters of Chief Drifting Goose and his Hunkpati band of Yanktonai natives. [Of Birds and Baseball, 2015 issue of South Dakota Magazine.] "He's remembered as

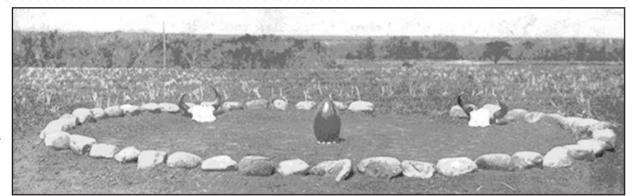
a peace-loving leader who preferred pranking homesteaders to violence. Legend says he once stole the clothes from a settler and then made him run back to his sod shanty naked. When railroad surveyors marked a line through his encampment, he moved the stakes. Eventually the rail was routed through Northville, a more respectful 10 miles west of Drifting Goose's camp," wrote John Andrews for South Dakota Magazine in a 2015 article titled "Birds and Baseball." "Locals tell Drifting Goose stories with a chuckle, but they also respect the leader who never signed a treaty



Above. Armadale Park located along the river.

and, in his mind, never ceded any land. Historians have named a bridge that spans the James River on Highway 20 after Drifting Goose."

Council Rock, Spink County



HISTORICAL FILE PHOTO

Above, Council Rock, the Indian Capitol of the Dakotas, in days gone by. The site is located just north of Redfield in Spink County and is commemorated by a historical marker today.

"This region has a noble history that was first documented by Lewis and Clark in their journals. They recorded annual Indian tribal councils and trade fairs held at the Council Rock site. A marker is approx. 3 miles north of Redfield

The Sioux tribes established, near here, Council Rock as a central meeting place for all the bands.

Using a black oviate rock measuring 6" x 11" surrounded by a circle of stones 15 feet in diameter, representatives of each tribe sat with feet extended toward the Council Rock to settle affairs of the Sioux nation. The site had religious significance and was maintained as a sanctuary from war and strife. As many as 3,000 Teton, Santee, Yankton

and Yanktonai gathered here annually for a great Trade Fair, where goods were bartered among the tribes. Needy persons could always find supplies here.

Prehistoric Indian people selected this general area because of the protection afforded by the James River and the high elevation of the terrain.

The Council Stone site

was first occupied by a people who constructed a village of dirt lodges. The James River, called Whitewoods by the Indians, served as a natural boundary as well as a convenient waterway for travel. The Yankton and Yanktonai bands of Sioux later located villages in the vicinity."

Spink County history from redfield-sd.com

* COUNCIL ROCK INDIAN CAPITOL OF THE DAKOTAS

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In 1939 the Daughters of the American Revolution and county school
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hildren made a reproduction of the original site.

HISTORICAL FILE PHOTO

Above, the historical marker commemorating Council Rock was erected in 1975 by the 4-H Bicentennial Community Pride Project.

REDFIELD SENIOR CENTER, NUTRITION SITE & PUBLIC TRANSIT



- 1. **Redfield Senior Citizens** is a non-profit organization providing happiness, health and safety to seniors so they may live a full and productive life in their own home. Anyone age 55 and over may join.
- 2. **Spink County Senior Citizens Council** is incorporated with groups in Doland, Conde, Mellete and Redfield. Each site also has it's individual club and delegates to the council. County funding is disbursed to each.
- 3. **Public Transit System** provides for the public Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wheelchair buses are available. State, Federal and local funds support this program. Anyone is eligible to ride with a suggested donation of \$2.00 one way or round trip.

For Information Call: Lisa Manning, Dr. - 472-1552

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For more information call Anna Schwartz, Site Manager - 472-0155

Did you know?



Just north of Redfield, a monument states "about one mile east of this spot" Abbie Gardner was delivered to her rescuers after 83 days of captivity among the Sioux Indians following the Spirit Lake Massacre in May of 1857. (SEE PG.7)



EARLY SPINK COUNTY PIONEER STORIES

The Great Blizzard of January 12, 1888 (as told by Laird MacNeill)

By Laird Mac Neill Reprinted from: Our Heritage: Tulare Community History 1883-1983

The blizzard of January 12, 1888, is considered by the U.S. Weather Bureau as being a climactical phenomenon; something that occurs not more than once in a century or two. The area it covered, from the prairie provinces of Canada, the plains of the U.S.A. to the panhandle of Texas; the intensity of the storm set records that still stand unbroken.

In this part of the country, the influx of

homesteaders in the years 1882-1884, found at least a claim shack or two on every section (excluding school sections). In the few short years since homesteading, the settlers had scant knowledge of the vagaries of Dakota Territory weather and were ill-prepared to cope with a storm of that magnitude.

Very few, if any, are living today that remember January 12, 1888. My only source of information was from what my father and mother told me of that day; their

experience and those of neighbors. At that time, my father was sixteen years old. He occasionally went to school during the winter with an older brother and two who were younger.

The morning of January 12 dawned clear with the temperature in the 20's. My grandfather, an old sea captain with the intuitive instincts that a sailor must have to survive the challenge of the sea, told the boys not to go to school that morning as a storm was on the way and it would be a

bad one. Grandfather was acutely aware of changes in air pressure, and like a competent seaman had to be, a walking barometer. He ordered the boys to take care of the livestock and move enough feed near, keeping all livestock in the barn. They were thus able to weather the storm with a minimum of hardship.

In that day and age,

there was no Weather Bureau to warn the residents, and if there had been, there was no method of communication. Each settler and his family were isolated in small, poorly constructed claim shacks, for the most part, set on some of the abundant priaire rocks. There was nothing, not even a barb wire fence to check or impede the Arctic air as it spilled over the Canadian boundary. Many of the hoemsteaders had arrived here with little more than the shirt on their backs, hoping somehow to survive until they had proved up on the quartersection on which they had filed their claim.

On that fateful morning of January 12, the rural schools opened as usual. There was about six or eight inches of snow on the level. The morning was nice, so nice that some farmers went to town. Every farmer with a team of

horses had a sled, called a pung; homemade, a box built on two 2" by 12" eight foot long iron shod runners, a tongue or pole was fastened to the center between the runners, on which the double trees and neckyoke were fastened. It was cheap transportation. The one drawback was you sat so low, that when the temperature was just right, the ones in the sled were bombarded with perfumed snowballs from the flying hooves of the horses.

By 10a.m., the wind had shifted to the northwest. Increasing in velocity, it soon started picking up the old snow. At the same time, a long low bank of dark clouds appeared over the northern horizon, moving southward with the speed of an express train. The whole country was soon enveloped in a blinding, smothering blanket of snow driven by winds that exceeded 60 mph. At noon, the temperature had fallen to -12 degrees Fahrenheit, and before the next morning, to -40 degrees Fahrenheit. The wind chill factor would have been -100 degrees Fahrenheit. Unprotected flesh freezes in thirty seconds at that temperature.

My mother 's parents homesteaded about ten miles north of Wessington in 1882. In

1888, she was ten years old and a pupil in the local school about a mile from where they lived. When the storm struck in all its fury at 10:30 a.m., the teacher wisely refused to allow anyone to leave for home. Instead she had the older boys and herself take turns groping their way to the coal bin (a shed built on one end of the school), alwasy two together and with one hand on the schoolhouse. That way they managed to lay in a supply of coal that was enough to keep the little Round Oak heater glowing red throughout the storm, the only source of light during a day that had turned as dark as night, and the long, frightening and bitter cold of a never to be forgotten night. The wind seemed to force its way through the single pane windows and even the very walls, taking the heat from the stove with it as it escaped through the other wall of the school.

They were all wearing their outside clothes and overshoes, but to sit still would have been to freeze, so the teacher had them all crowd around the heater and keep moving, singing songs they knew, dancing jigs in a sort of a ring around the rosy Round Oak heater.

GREAT BLIZZARD/
pg.5



EARLY SPINK COUNTY PIONEER STORIES

The Great Blizzard of January 12, 1888 (as told by Laird MacNeill)

By the next morning, the storm had abated enough for a well bundled up person to go outside without getting lost.

The place nearest the school was that of the herman Fritzsches, a young couple who were kind, generous, and compassionate. Seeing the smoke from teh school chimney, Herman said to his wife, "The children must have spent the night at the school. They will be hungry. Fix a basket of food and I will take it to them." For the school. the first sign of life in the wilderness of white, still drifting snow was the

sturdy figure of Herman plodding through the drifts with a big basket of food. Mother always said that no breakfast ever tasted so good.

Before noon the parents had picked up the pupils and the teacher went to the place where she stayed for a well-earned rest. I hope th parents expressed their thanks to a teacher whose wisdom, foresight and competence averted what might have been a tragic incident for the community. The little ones had gotten so tired, but the teacher never gave up. She kept them all awake and moving.

In the week following the blizzard, reports came in slowly. There was hardly a townsip that did not record at least one death from the storm. Many townships reprted several deaths. In this vicinity I can recall only one person that I was told had lost his life in teh blizzard.

This young man was a homesteader (an uncle of Ernest Steinbis). he was single and lived alone on his claim. That moring he went over to visit a neighbor. when hte blizzard struck, he started for his claim shanty on this treeless, fenceless land with

the wind-driven snow so thick one could scarcely breathe. He soon lost all sense of direction. His frozen body was found ont far from his home. A shovel he had carried was near by. They could see where he had scooped snow in a vain effort to stay alive.

A few miles east of Hitchcock, in a now abandoned cemetery, lie the three bodies of the little French children that perished trying to reach home from school. The oldest, a girl, was still alive when they were found the next morning; but she was so badly

frozen, she only lived a few days..

Through the years following the Great Blizzard, many tall tales surfaced concerning those who survived by burrowing into hay or straw stacks. One that I dscount considerably was of a farmer returning home from town in his sled: lost in the blizzard, one horse down in a drift. He cut the other horse loose, killed the one that was down, disemboweled it and crawled into the carcass and let the snow cover them.

Many who were caught out, even for a brief time,

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lost fingers and toes, and in extreme cases, limbs. Many of the small barns and shacks that dotted the prairies were completely covered by drifts. By 1888, most of the sod houses had been replaced by frame structures. Almost as if from a plague, the many new mounds that appeared in rural cemeteries after the blizzard of 1888 were but mute evidence of the vast power of nature over the feeble efforts of man.

The changing times

By Laird Mac Neill

By 1915, the advent of the car and better roads ended the era of the country Sunday School...

Any schooling beyond what was offered in the little country school was unthinkable. At the age of 14 you were supposed to do the work of a man. The "Old Man" (the father) gradually expanded the farming operations so that he would be able to help the boys get a start farming on their own. The girls were prepared for life by working at home or as a hired girl for the neighbors, some took a short course at college, and if they passed an examination test by the county superintenent of school, would teach a country school for a few years, the ultimate goal was, of course, to find a suitable young man that would be a good provider and marry him.

The result was an increase in the population and number of farm homes built on decreasing number of acres, with more land brought under the plow. This trend continued until the drought and depression f the 30's. Unable to make a living, there was an exodus of farmers seeking greener pastures, the advent of the tractor and consequent mechanization of farming operations led to bigger and bigger farms until over half of the farm homes were abandoned forever. *CHANGING/pg.6*

"Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known."— Ralph Waldo Emerson





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CHANGING TIMES/ from pg.5

The old, almost self-supporting farm units have been replaced by those that are as dependent on the local grocer as town folks are. Except those who specialize, no farmer milks cows or raises poultry. The R.E.A. did more to change the life style of the farmer, running water and the bathroom made the little house out back a thing of the past. It is true that the grubbing work on the farm with pitch fork and shovel, shocking grain and corn, threshing and the picking of corn by hand is all history, but with every gain, there is a loss

(Emersons law of compensation). The farmer of 50 years ago needed very little cash, the cream and eggs bought the groceries and gave the farm wife a little extra for the few things she needed when the Watkins or Rawleigh medicine wagon called on her. Most farm women

made their own clothes, with one black silk dress for funerals and special occasions. To anyone who never lived through those times, it would appear to be a hard, dull existence, but it was far from that, for the young, what we called play parties (there were many young people

then) Community Clubs, etc. It was the day when the horse was the source of power and the farmer had to limit his hours of field work by what the horse could stand. The farmer and his family experienced little of the stress of long hours on tractors, need for large

and constant cash flow to meet fuel bills, high cost repairs and expenses of the modern farmer. The farmers of that period could be called hicks and hillbillies, but they were far more satisfied and content with their way of life than those of the present day.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR IN REDFIELD

"The history of Redfield Chapter #19, Order of the Eastern Star indeed goes back further than one hundred years. Its beginning reaches back to the territorial days of Dakota. Existence in Dakota Territory demanded the qualities of leadership and character in its citizens. It has been often noted that many of the community leaders during this time were also Masons. But there appeared to be a void for the female relatives of Masons which was filled when Brother Robert Morris founded the Order of the Eastern Star in 1867.

In the days before television, automobiles, telephones, computers, indoor plumbing and central heating, married women did not work outside the home. Organizations such as the youthful Eastern Star proved to be a strong bonding agent for women in Dakota. Over a dozen chapters were constituted by the Grand Chapter of (South) Dakota before the seed began to sprout in Redfield.

We are grateful to our faithful historians of this Chapter who have provided us with a wealth of information about our past. The earliest minutes were written in long hand with pen dipped in ink."

History of Redfield Chapter No.19 Order of the Eastern Star

The Order of the Eastern Star in Redfield celebrated it's 100th anniversary on July 11th, 1993. Today, the Eastern Star nursing home and assisted living is located at 126 W 12th Ave, Redfield.



FILE PHOTO

Above, the main entrance to the Eastern Star nursing Home in Redfield in present day.





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EARLY SPINK COUNTY PIONEER STORIES

The early days of Tulare, South Dakota

By Bill Otto Reprinted from: Our Heritage: Tulare Community History 1883-1983

"...The first store in [Tulare] was built by ira Dorcas on the lot where the McCoy Store stood for years. They also had the first post office in teh store. Dorcas sold it to E.A. Moosdorf in September 1891. He moved the building that was there to the south part of town and built a new store with living quarters in the back nd rooms upstairs. They also had the post office there and the telephone switchboard. One of the first operators was one of the Petersmeyer girls. Others included Gertie Stephens, Mrs. Martin Schneider, Alfred Boyd, marcella Seeman, Mayme Roeber, mrs. Walter Ashby and her sister Elizabeth Drake, Mrs. Francis Walker, and perhaps many more.

many more. In 1920, the switchboard was moved to the little house where Mrs. Willett lives and Nellie Wash and her family moved in and ran it for about 30 years. When she retired, Elmer and Mabel Meyer moved in the house and Meta Parrish helped. Machines may be more productive, but these people had hearts of gold and nothing could replace the dedication that they had for their community. If anyone was sick or needed help, they got the calls through one way or another.

At first, the switchboard was shut off at 9 o'clock

and the rest of the night only for an emergency. When ther was an emergency, a general ring went out on the line and everyone listened and responded to whatever the need may have been. Such a ring went out at 4 o'clock on the morning of November 11, 1918, when the call came that the war had ended. Prairie fires were a big hazard and as soon as one started, there was always a general ring. Mike Anderson reported on April 14, 1916, 'Nearly every citizen in the Tulare area responded to the call for help when a fire started nine miles west of Tulare and was driven toward town by high winds. Great amounts of

destroyed but Tulare was not burned to the ground as some had feared."

The Farmers' Telephone Company

The Farmers' Telephone Company was organized in 1918 to serve the area west of Tulare.

...The company operated through the Tulare switchboard and served over 40 farms between Tulare and the Hand County line. In 1956, the company was sold to Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative of Highmore.

...This had been a company financed and built by the farmers in the community. The hand crank telephones varied their shorts and longs on the party line. In case of fire or other emergency, a general ring was given

over the line and help came where it was needed. If your clock stopped you could always call central for the time, too. A long time switchboard operator, whose voice was familiar to all who used the phone, was Mrs. Nellie Walsh who lived in the Telephone office. Now that the community has a modern dial system the old crank wall phones have become sought after antiques."

The Spirit Lake Massacre and the captivity of Miss Abbie Gardner

While searching through Spink County early pioneer history, one is bound to come across the story of Miss Abbie Gardner, a young girl (13 years old at the time) who was taken as a captive by Inkpaduta and his band of warriors in Iowa after they killed her family. She was later released in Spink County after 83 days of captivity.

The memories of that time were recounted by Miss Gardner herself years later in a book titled "History of the Spirit Lake Massacre and captivity of Miss Abbie Gardner." Following are some excerpts from the book, which are reflective of the times in which they were written.

The massacre at Spirit

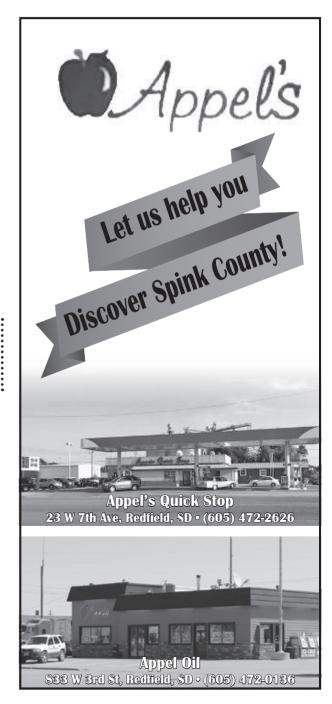
"...Here had perished five men, two women, and four children; and the bodies, save the two in the burning cabin, lay about the camp, their ghastly features clearly revealed by the light of the burning building; presenting a frightful scene beyond the power of my feeble pen to describe. Carl Granger's remains lay beside the Granger cabin. He had been first shot, and then his head chopped off above his mouth and ears, supposed to have been done with a broad-ax, found on the premises.

pasture and hay land were

....None but those who have had a personal experience with Indian warfare can form a just conception of the terror with which their wardance is calculated to inspire. Amid such fearful scenes, I spent that long, long, sleepless night — the first of my captivity, and the thoughts that fired my brain, and oppressed my heart, can never be imagined, except by those who have suffered like pangs, and had them burned in their souls by a like experience."

- Abbie Gardner Sharp

CAPTIVITY/pg. 8

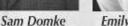


"The butterfly counts not months, but moments, and has time enough." — Rabindranath Tagore











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CAPTIVITY/ from pg.7

"...we reached the banks of the James River, where now is situated the town of Old Ashton, in Spink County, Dakota Territory. Here was an encampment of one hundred and ninety lodges of Yanktons, a powerful branch of the Sioux nation. I counted the lodges and would have been glad to count the Indians had that been practicable. But there were evidently two thousand or more. All the other Indians I had ever seen seemed tame and civilized by the side of these. There was not a single article of white man's manufacture visible.

The tepees were made of buffalo robes as was their clothing (when they wore any). They started their fires with flint and roasted their meat on the fire or ate it raw. Some time previously they had captured some property from the Red River half-breeds, but at this time little or none of it was visible. Bows and arrows and clubs were their principal weapons. In the use of these they were expert. From fifty to seventy-five of these Yanktons would surround a herd of buffalo, and knock down and kill them by the dozen. They made no use of salt; but the meat, sliced and spread in the sunshine, would dry without becoming tainted. This was a mystery to me then, but I have since

done almost anywhere in central North America. I was probably the first white person these Yanktons had ever seen, and was, to them, as great a curiosity as anything Barnum ever brought out was to the people of civilized communities. They not only gathered around the door of the teepee where I was, but came in and looked me over, wondering and commenting on my flaxen hair, blue eyes, and still light though terribly tanned complexion. Some of my original captors would roll up my sleeves showing my untanned arms, and then explain that when they found me, my face and hands were as white as that. No sooner was one company out of the teepee than others came; and so they kept it up from morning until night, day after day, as long as I was with them.

learned that it may be

If my one-legged proprietor had only had an eye to business, and had charged every adult a mink-skin, and child under twelve a muskrat-skin, he might have filled his tent with downy pelts, and possibly have paid his way to the national capital, where he in turn might have been an object of curiosity.

CAPTIVITY OF ABBIE GARDNER/pg.10

EARLY SPINK COUNTY **PIONEER STORIES**

Grandma Tasche Cafe in Tulare

"The building that was known as Grandma Tasche's Cafe was built for her son-in-law, Orrin Starr, who had a barber shop on the first floor and living quarters upstairs. In 1919 he became postmaster and had the post office in part of it, and C.Sharp had the barber shop in the other part. When Starrs moved away in about 1931, Minnie Tasche started a cafe with good homemade pies, cakes and rolls. When the threshing crews came in to eat, everything was set on the table and one could eat as much as he liked. If there was a dance in town she stayed open until it was over, in case someone was hungry and wanted a sandwich before they started home. She did most of the cooking, and had high school girls waiting tables. Some of them were Marjorie and Gail Ames, Martha Roeber, and Hazel Schmidt. She sold out to Mrs. Noreen and later Bob and Thelma Hamilton ran it until 1957 when they quit and it was torn down. Mildred Otto started a cafe on the highway then and she operated that until she retired in 1981. Cecil Polak [became] the new manager.

Ida and Emma Roeber had a milinery shop in 1914 in what is now the Standard Station. They had a full line of hats and did dressmaking and sewing of all kinds. Then Dora Schroeder ran a beauty shop there, and Ione Gross had a cream station in it for awhile. Don Hultman then bought it for the Standard Station and his wife Merle had a beauty shop in the back.



PHOTO FROM TULARE COMMUNITY HISTORY

Above, Grandma Tasche Cafe in the early days. Standing behind the counter are Martha Roeber and Grandma Tasche.

We are open year 'round serving the full Dairy Queen menus, snacks and all the famous DQ specials including frozen cakes for all occasions



REDFIELD DAIRY QUEEN

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CAPTIVITY OF ABBIE GARDNER/ from pg.8

"At least, if he did not feather his nest, he might have lined it with fur. But, possibly, he felt that to be the owner of such a curiosity was honor enough.

This camp of the Yanktons was located on the west bank of the James River, and unfavorabe as my situation was for aesthetic enjoyment, I could not altogether ignore the grandeur of the landscape. The river, though not wide, is deep and clear, and the water dark blue. At intervals along

the banks are clumps of thrifty timber, gracefully and conpicuously festooned with wild grape and other clinging vines. As the river travels on in majestic winding curves and loops, its course may be traced for many miles by these picturesque groups of timber. On either side, the green, rolling prairie is limited only by the horizon.

The rich soil produced grass on which subsisted immense herds of buffalo. All that were slaughtered by the voracious Indians

seemed to have no effect towards exhausting the supply. But, lo! what a change a few short years have wrought. Where then buffalo, and naked savages who had never seen the face of a white man or learned any of the arts of civilized nations, then susisted on the spontaneous luxuriance of nature, now a teeming population, abreast with the front line of modern progress, culture and refinement, develops and controls the resources

of nature. Spink County

has today a

population of not less than 8.000. Two great railroad corporations have extended their lines up the James, and one has pushed,a second line well into the county from the east, making over one hundred miles of railway in the county. Such are some of the changes twenty-seven years have wrought in Dakota.

We had been in this camp two or three days, and the

novelty and excitement caused by the arrival of Inkpaduta's band, with a white captive, had hardly begun to subside when a new and, to me, more intense excitement occured. By this time, all hope of ever escaping this bitter, galling servitude had completely died out. I had once changed masters, it is true; but it brought no relief. We were constantly moving further and further from civilization, and deeper into the heart of an unbroken realm of barbarism.

The disappearance of all traces of civilization in manners, customs, clothing, or equipments, told me how widely we were separated from the abode of the whites.

...No words can express, or imagination conceive, my situation at this time. Hope gone, my vitality and energy exhausted, I was bruised, sore, and lame in every part of my body. It seemed impossible for me to get rested. Although twenty-eight years have passed since then. I have not recovered from the fearful strain upon my physical and

nervous system. Of all the living things taken in Iowa and Minnesota, Dr. Harriott's pony and myself were all that remained. Of the seventeen horses taken, all save this one had succumbed to the severity of the journey and the cruelty of their masters. The horses had starved to death, or died from exhaustion, and

been eaten by the Indians

before grass had come. And while game was scarce.

While this dark cloud of

gloom was settling upon me heavier and heavier day by day, a deep interest was being awakened in the hearts of the most influential persons in Minnesota. Among these were Governor Medary and Major C.E. Flandrau. To these persons I owe a debt of gratitude I can never repay. How often have I mentally exclaimed "Where would I have been, or what would have been my fate, had it not been for these men!" Their well-laid and carefully executed plans are so happily told in Major Flandrau's report, that words of mine are needless.

The morning of May 30th dawned as fair and lovely as any mortal eye has ever seen. The sky was blue, the earth green, the air balmy with the breath of spring; while the sun poured down a perfect flood of golden light. But all the brightness and beauty of nature could not symbolize the brightness of that day to

While the Yanktons, as usual, were crowding our tent to see the "white squaw," there came into the tent three Indians dressed in coats and white shirts, with starched bosoms.

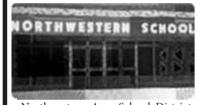
Coming into the camp of the Yanktons, who were without a single shred of white man's make, these coats and shirts would

naturally attract attention adn excite wonder. To me the interest was deep and thrilling. I knew at once that they were from the borders of civilization, whether I should ever reach there or not; but it was some comfort even to see an Indian clothed in the habiliments of the whites.

Much as I wished to communicate with them, I dared not attempt it. I could only watch and wait. No attempt was made by them to communicate with me, and I was left in doubt as to the object of their visit. I at once discovered, however, that there was some unusual commotion among them, and was not long in divining that it was concerning me. Councils were held after the usual fashion of the Indians. First they gathered in and around the tepee where I was; and then, they adjourned to the open prairie where they sat in a circle and talked and smoked and smoked and talked.

These pipes — though the same as ordinarily used — yet deserve description. The bowls were made of the red pipestone, clumsily wrought, and large enough to hold a good, single handful. The stems were of reed, found abundantly in marshy places, or of ash. After holding their council for an hour or two, they would walk about and talk and eat, then gather into a circle again."

GARDNER/ pg.11



Northwestern Area School District, located in Mellette, S.D., provides a friendly, small-town atmosphere for 300 students from the surrounding communities in grades K-12. Students receive a top-notch education with highly regarded academic programs and extracurricular activities.

Academically, Northwestern offers elective courses in art, business, music, agriculture, and wellness in addition to the core curriculum. Students enjoy one-on-one attention with staff members, while they also can take high school, dual-credit, and AP classes on-

Northwestern has been 1:1 with technology devices in grades K-12 since 2010 with the release of the iPad. The school issues iPads to students in grades K-8 and laptops in grades 9-12. Nearly every classroom is equipped with large, flat-screen television screens, and interactive whiteboards have recently been installed in elementary classrooms.

Organizations such as Future Business Leaders of America, Journalism, Drama Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, FFA, Chess Club, and Student Council provide students with additional learning opportunities outside the classroom. FBLA advances several students to the national convention each year. The screen-printing business run by the students encompass both the art and business programs to make high-quality apparel for organizations inside and outside of the school. In addition to performing a spring play, the Drama Club advances thespians to the state competition in oral interpretation and one-act play. The journalism class produces the all-state yearbook, live streams school events, and produces digital media. The student council organizes and manages all homecoming festivities. The FFA program allows students to explore agricultural interests and attends several events around the state each year in addition to the national convention in Indianapolis.

Athletically, Northwestern played in 25 state championships, bringing home 15 state titles. Northwestern possesses a strong tradition of volleyball, cross country, football, basketball, track and field, competition cheer and dance, as well as wrestling. Northwestern athletes work out in a facility that features two gymnasiums, a weight room, a cardio room, and a full-size football field with a concession stand and skybox seating.

A consolidated school district, Northwestern provides educational services to the towns of Ashton, Athol Brentford, Chelsea, Conde, Cresbard Mansfield, Mellette, and Northville. With tremendous support from parents, staff, patrons, the Booster Club, the Northwestern Community Foundation and the Plains Lions Club, Northwestern students receive a firstrate education and are the pride of their communities.

GARDNER/ from pg.10



Above, Abbie Gardner Sharp.

This they kept up for three days during which time I was kept in perfect ignorance as to the state of affairs. Inkpaduta's men and the Yanktons, however, amused themselves by telling me the most fearful and outrageous falsehoods. The Indians' love for torturing their victims is well illustrated in these falsehoods.

Along with the other things, they told me that the "Indians with shirts" were going to take me a long way off, farther from the whites, where there were a great many more Indians, and that then I would be killed. As to the method, everyone seemed to have a version of his own. One would say that I would be taken to the river and drowned, portraying with gesture, my gasping for breath, and dying struggles in the water.

Another would tell me that I would be bound to a stake and burned, showing the manner in which I would writhe and struggle in the flames. Another declared that I was to be cut to pieces by inches; taking his knife and beginning at my toes, or fingers, he would show how piece after piece was to be cut off, leaving the vital parts till the last, that they might wring from me the last possible groan and the last pang of anguish. To all this I listened with composure and indifference.

But the darkest cloud, we are told, has silver lining, and there is said to be a soft spot in even an elephant's head, though it may be hard to find. The only instance of truth and the only manifestation of sympathy showed me during my captivity, came in right here.

One day, after the Indians had been describing the fearful things about to befall me, and had gone out, leaving me alone with a Yankton squaw, she took pains to tell me that there was no truth in their "yarns;" but that I was to be taken where there were many whites, and no Dakotas; and that I was to be free again. Which to believe I hardly knew. The squaw seemed to be sincere, and actuated by a generous impulse, but honesty and generosity were such rare virtues among them that I could hardly believe her. On the other hand, the adverse statements had been made in the presence of the "Indians in shirts," and had gone unrebuked, so far as I could see; so I was kept in suspense and trepidation, vacillating between hope and fear.

"A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind." At this same time, this squaw told me how cruelly her husband treated her. She pointed him out as he sat in council; and then would strike herself, to show how he was accustomed to beat her. It was no unusual thing for the males thus to treat the squaws. I have often seen the squaws fleeing from tent to tent, screaming at the tops of their voices, seeking to escape from their infuriated masters.

All this parley and these repeated councils, I subsequently learned, were occasioned by the fact that the council was divided. The head Yankton chief seems to have been something of a "granger," and disposed to ignore middle-men. He therefore proposed that they should themselves take me to the military station on the Missouri River, claiming that they would get more for my ransom than these Yellow Medicine men were able to pay; that is, more tobacco and powder.

At last, however, his consent was obtained, somewhat as the votes of pale-faced legislators have often been. A present was made to him, and then all "went merry as a marriage bell."

The price paid for my ransom was two horses, twelve blankets, two kegs of powder, twenty pounds of tobacco, thirty-two yards of blue squaw cloth, thirty-seven and a half yards of calico and ribbon, and other small articles, with which these Indians had been provided by Major

The bargain having been agreed to and the price paid, I was at once turned over into the hands of my new purchasers. But so great a business transaction as this must be sealed and celebrated by nothing less than a dog-feast. Of all feasts known to Indians, a dog feast is the greatest and the giving of such a feast to me and my purchasers was the highest honor they could have conferred upon us. I was, however, so unappreciative of the honor, and had such prejudice against dog soup, that I did the unhandsome thing to remain in my tent.

This feast occured in the after part of the day, and together with the many and mysterious rites and ceremonies connected with it continued well into the night. This was my last night with the Yanktons; one never

to be forgotten. I was still in uncertainty, but felt thankful to get rid of those from whom I had suffered so much, and who had murdered so many dear to

— Abbie Gardner Sharp

"A human being has no discernable character until he acts." Constantine Nash and Virgina Oakley

Redfield School



Redfield School District has an enrollment of 240 students in Grades K-5, 295 students in Grades 6-12, and 14 students at Turtle Creek High School.

Check out our School Website at www.redfield.k12.sd.us for events and activities.

ELEMENTARY

Redfield Elementary proudly supports Pre-School through 5th grades with a Positive Behavior Support program, full time school counselor and nurse. Redfield Elementary uses a customized approach in grades 3-5 for Reading and Math. This approach allows us to break down traditional classroom walls and teach students the standards at the level they are ready to learn. We also use a Walk to Read intervention program for reading in grades K-2. This program has also helped up reach students at the level they are ready to learn. Every student in grades 3-5 has a computer and students in grades K-2 has an iPad.

MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGH **SCHOOL**

Redfield Middle School and High School staff look forward to a new school year with updated CTE courses such as Interior Design, Fashion

Design, and a new high school course called Introduction to Computer Science. We stand by our long tradition of arts excellence and academic excellence. Redfield Middle School staff is excited to have our middle school students participate in FLEX classes that provide additional support in math, science and reading. Redfield Middle School and High School are recognized as a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) focused school. Their first events include Redfield Community Clean-Up Day and CORE Day. Redfield School District takes pride in working together with our community leaders to beautify the community before winter sets in. CORE Day is time spent with students, tremendous speakers and workshop leaders to encourage positive behavior responses and resiliency when difficulties arise. Redfield Middle School and High School faculty take pride in encouraging students to rise to the challenges before them. We are proud of our new facilities and believe we are achieving "excellence in academics, activities, athletics and attitude".

SPORTS

In the fall sports, Boys Golf had one member qualify for the state tournament. The Girls VB Team advanced to the SoDak 16 Tourney. The Cheer squad competed at the state meet. The winter sports saw the Wrestling squad have 8 members qualify for state, placing 5 of them, and secured 4th place as a team in the individual tourney. Two girls qualified for the State Track Meet, with one placing.

Brentford Congregational Church



Above, the Brentford Congregational United Church of Christ. This is the only church still active in Brentford, Spink County.



The Hitchcock-Tulare School District currently has 251 students enrolled in the district PK through 12th grade. Hitchcock has the PK-6 attendance center with 102 students; the junior and senior high is located in Tulare with 32 students in the junior high and 59 in the high school. The district also has two colony attendance centers with Spink Colony having 36 students and Glendale Colony with 22 students in K-8. We are in our 12th year on a 4-day calendar, which utilizes Friday's for classroom enhancement and professional development. Staff and students both utilize Friday's to work on improving themselves through additional work, collaboration, and professional development offerings.

We have a Pre-school program which is available to 4-year-old students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students go all day and transportation is provided for those living in our district.

Our district is 1-to-1 with technology from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Our K-2 students all have their own iPad to use throughout the day and students in grades

3-12 have their own Chromebook or laptop to use at school as well as at home for the older students.

Some projects that involve the K-6 students are the accelerated reading program, 5th and 6th grade basketball, 3rd - 6th grade volleyball, 4th-6th football, grades 1-6 spelling bee, the Geographic Bee and our annual track and field day. Our elementary students are in self-contained classrooms where they receive instruction in all the core content areas and also have PE and Music two times per week. We also offer band to 5th and 6th grade students two times per week.

The 7-12 attendance center, offers a wide variety of academics including advance placement classes over the DDN as well as dual credit courses through a variety of post secondary schools. The district also has strong participation in FFA, FCCLA, band and choir, sports, oral interpretation, class plays and yearbook. We also offer an Audio Visual Class, which manages the Hitchcock-Tulare School TV Station that is sponsored by Venture Communications. H-T TV can be found on channel 384 for those people that subscribe to cable TV from Venture Communications.

All of these things help us provide a well-rounded education for the students that attend Hitchcock-Tulare as we help them become college, career, and life ready.

Spink County Museum

The Spink County Historical Memorial Museum in Redfield is home to the Hindersman collection of 260 mounted or stuffed birds and more than 760 mounted butterflies and moths from around the world. Sioux Indian

Artifacts, old farm machinery and household items and clothing are just a few of the items on display. A mural of Abbie Gardner being rescued is one of the newer additions to the museum.

The building is air conditioned and open during the summer months with a curator on duty. The first museum was housed in the basement of the Carnegie Library, later moved to City Hall, then moved to the corridors of the Courthouse building before the present building was erected.

A Member of the Spink County Historical Society will greet you and share the "stories" of the people whose picture and belongings are on display. Displays include the Peter Norbeck family, musical, farm armed service uniforms,



and pictures of Redfield's last Civil War Veteran's reunion. The Spink County Museum was built by donations. Memorials were dedicated June 25, 1960.

Located at 3rd Street E. and 8th Avenue E. south of the Spink County Courthouse. Open daily from 1:00 - 5:00 from June 1 to September 1, or by appointment.

Cemeteries in Spink County

Ashton Cemetery	aka Northville Cemetery	
•	•	Roe Cemetery
Baldwin Cemetery		
	Garfield Cemetery	Saint Anne Cemetery
Buffalo Cemetery		
	Graceland Cemetery	Saint Bernard Cemetery
Calvary Cemetery		
Clife C	Greenlawn Cemetery	Saint Johns Cemetery
Clifton Cemetery	Cuttonhana Cometons	Saint Marya Camatary
Crandon Cemetery	Guttenberg Cemetery	Saint Marys Cemetery
Crandon Cemetery	Hillestad Cemetery	Tulare Cemetery
Doland Cemetery	Timestad Cemetery	Tutate Contents
2 ciana comecij	Irving Cemetery	Union Cemetery
Ebenezer Cemetery	<i>5</i> - <i>y</i>	,
·	Mount Hope Cemetery	Verdon Cemetery
Ecimpian Compatany	Dlainview Cometons	
Fairview Cemetery	Plainview Cemetery	

Spink County Historical Society history

Reprinted from August 2020 edition of the Redfield Press

Over the years, membership [in the Spink Couny Historical Society] changed as did curators and officers. In October 1977, the Society elected Jerry Hansen, treasurer. Little did Jerry know when he signed on that the tenure would be quite so long nor did he fathom what the job entailed. He did know that he was passionate about history and working with people like John Solheim would only add to that passion. At the time, he was one of the younger pups of the organization and had the energy to take on the job. But it was more than keeping the books and paying the bills. He even had to take the Society through an IRS audit relying on his treasurer's check book and the secretary minutes.

As an active member of the Society, he was as close to the operation of the Spink County Museum as anyone sensing how Spink County's story needed to be told along with trimming trees, painting fences with his wife Angela's assistance, emptying dehumidifiers, checking the furnace in the winter and the air conditioner in the summer, turning out the lights, paying the utilities year round, and opening the museum to visitors during the off-season. His address served as the official site for anything related to the Society and the museum including letters asking either for assistance with ancestry or possible artifacts donations or arranging a personal tour.

Since the care of the old Fire Hall is a joint endeavor of both the city and Spink County Historical Society, Jerry would often open those doors to the public. As a sideline, he helped maintain the old fire engines which involved taking them out for a yearly spin or a run in a parade. And if that were not enough, he would take the Redfield story to the public doing an impromptu tour of what included former businesses on Main Street. He often talked about the 21 feet of history which was the allowable storefront of a Redfield business. He and Angela stepped out of their comfort zone a few years ago when they presented at the annual Spink County Historical meal /speaker event. Using an aerial view of the video "Indian Trails in Northeast South Dakota," they explained the part Drifting Goose played.

In his humility, Jerry would vouch that he has been supported by many members of the Society, both past and present who confidently allowed him to fulfill his duties. He would also acknowledge the assistance of the Spink County commissioners that play a big part in keeping the museum's doors open.

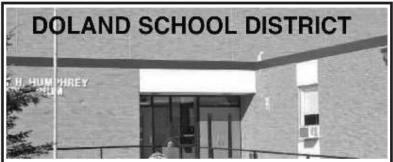
He later handed over the treasurer's books to Marlene Eimers. Under his care, the museum's most recent changes involved the Deiter School including moving it from Fisher Grove, arranging for its shingling, installing a ramp to accommodate those with disabilities, and preparing the site for landscaping. The Abbie Gardner mural was also restored and safely hung.

"As early as 1900, citizens from different parts of the county banded together to form the Pioneer Association. They were concerned that many of the community's young people were losing their sense of local history. Those early settlers did not want their story of floating down all their worldly goods over the river at Belcher's Ford to go untold nor their living in sod houses or crude shacks to be forgotten. At the same time, Henry Hindersman had a private museum in his home on Humboldt Avenue (Main Street in the

vicinity of Tom Gallup's Cinema Theater) not limited to historic objects. This included mounts of birds and butterflies and sea shells. He built special glass fronted cabinets with added secret drawers and compartments to display his collections. These would later be displayed in the Carnegie Library basement and then in the halls and vestibules of the court house. In 1955 the Pioneer Association reorganized as the Spink County Historical Society. By 1957, they started building a museum south of the court house. In 1958, they moved, designating the first floor to glass fronted cases arranged by family donations of objects. The Hindersman's collection, including his handcrafted cabinets, also made its way to the museum."

— Mary Lou Schwartz

(reprinted from an earlier edition of Discover Spink County)



Doland School District has an enrollment of 157 students. Projected enrollments expect Doland School numbers to remain consistent for years to come. The percent of classes <u>not</u> being taught by highly qualified teachers for Doland School District is 0%.

The Doland School District is enjoying the four-day school week. The Doland School District is in the eleventh year of the four-day school week and has many benefits of the four-day school week. Doland School is one of the few four-day schools that provides a meal and transportation for students on tutor Fridays.

The Doland School District continues to be advanced in technology education. Students in grades 3-12 are one to one with technology. The school continues to educate their teachers and students to prepare them for life after high school with technology.

The Doland FCCLA has had students qualify for nationals. The Doland Student Council provides a positive impact for students. The FFA program has continued to grow with having a region president representative. While being a

small school, the extracurricular activities encourage students to compete at any level and develop lifelong positive characteristics.

The percent of classes **not** being taught by highly qualified teachers for Doland School District is 0%.

The Doland School District is enjoying the four-day school week. The Doland School District is in the eleventh vear of the four-day school week twice a week for morning only.

The Doland School has award winners at the NSU science fair. The students put on a Science Fair this year with Hitchcock-Tulare High School, Chemistry Days, and other assemblies for the entire school.

Several community and alumni scholarship programs recognize the accomplishments of our graduates annually. An average senior class from Doland School accumulates over \$38,500 in scholarship incentives from the community and alumni scholarship programs alone, excluding other scholarship opportunities. This school district is very fortunate to have a community and alumni so supportive of the local district.

SPINK COUNTY HISTORY FAST-FACTS

• Spink County has four natural lakes, the larges of which is Cottonwood Lake. The other three are Twin Lakes, Price Lake and Alkali Lake. Spink County were made during Autumn of 1878. They were made at

Spink County were made during Autumn of 1878. They were made at points on the James River about five miles Northeast of Old Ashton. These people were probably the first white men to set foot in Spink County with the view of settlement.

born to Mr. and Mrs.

H.J.B Bagge on Oct. 29, 1881.

- The first railway in the county was built by the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company from Huron to Redfield in the spring of 1881.
- The James River, which goes through Spink County, is over 500 miles long and has sometimes been called the longest unnavigable river in the world.
- A mounted buffalo head secured in the last

buffalo hunt in Spink County in July, 1881, became a prized possession displayed in the first courthouse built in Spink County.

- * The first Fourth of July cel- ebration was held in Fisher's Grove in 1880. The next year it was celebrated at Redfield with Adjutant General S. J. Conklin as orator.
- Early settlers opposed saloons in Spink County. The first one appeared

- in 1880, but through the efforts of J.S. Huston, it was permitted to remain in the town just one week, and for years thereafter the county was without a saloon.
- Spink County's population grew from 500 people in 1881 to 12,000 people in 1891; from one school teacher in 1881 to 183 school teachers in 1891

Cities, colonies and townships in Spink County:

Cities in Spink County: Ashton Athol Conde Doland

Frankfort Mellette Tulare Turton

Redfield (County Seat)

Brenford Northville

Colonies in Spink County:

Clark Colony Spink Colony Hillside Colony Glendale Colony Camrose Colony

Townships in Spink County:

Antelope Athol Belle Plaine Belmont Benton Beotia Buffalo Capitola

Conde

Cornwall Crandon

Exline Frankfort Garfield Great Bend Groveland Harmony Harrison Jefferson

Lake La Prairie Lincoln Lodi Mellette

Olean Prairie Center Redfield Richfield

Northville

Spring Summer Tetonka Three Rivers

Tulare Turton

organizations in Spink County:

Organizations in Redfield, SD:

Association

4-H Clubs Aglow International American Legion American Legion Auxiliary Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of South Dakota Catholic Daughters of Americas Cottonwood Lake

Family Career and Community Leaders of America Inc. Family Crisis Center Fraternal Order of Police Grow Spink Inc. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lions Club Kiwanis International Knights of Columbus Modern Woodmen of

America

P.E.O Redfield Area Concert Association Redfield Discovery Program Redfield Ringneck Association Redfield School Foundation Redfield Soccer Association Spink County Coalition Spink County Historical Society

Tulare Economic Develop-

ment Corp. VFW Auxiliary Girl Scouts Organizations in Tulare, SD: American Legion American Legion Auxiliary Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of South Dakota Hitchcock-Tulare School Foundation Lions Club

RDO Equipment Co.

17440 US-281 Redfield, SD 605-472-2540 Order of the Eastern Star of SD

Organizations in **Doland SD:** 4-H Clubs American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Beadle and Pink Enterprise Community Future Farmers of America

Organizations in Mellette SD: 4-H Clubs American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Mellette Community Development Foundation Northwestern Community Foundation



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"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done."

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Hav-A-Rest Park & Campground

Location: US Hwy 212 West, next to Redfield Lake • has two modern comfort stations with showers, several water hydrants, additional port-a-potties strategically placed for your convenience & supervised by a park manager.



Park

2 playground facilities, 2 picnic shelters, a dump station, boat dock and ramp

Campground

19 campsites; each with 30-50 amp electricity, & 2 tent areas

Payment is due when established at campsite. Cash or Checks payable to the City of Redfield.

Redfield Park & Rec Registration

Park & Rec Brochures Available mid April

A limited number of printed copies of the full brochure will be available at the Parks and Recreation Office, City Hall, and the Redfield Carnegie library.

Online Registration and Reservations are available at RedfieldRecreation.activityreg.com.

Open Reservations begin on April 1st

Contact: Parks & Rec. Office @ 605-472-4552 Monday - Friday 8-5. *First come, First serve.*

Reservations can be made online at RedfieldRecreation.activityreg.com or by calling the Park and Recreation office at 472-4552

Confirmation will be given when payment is received.

Park and Recreation Office at: the Armory 309 3rd Street W. Mon - Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm

Community Memorial Hospital & Redfield Clinic is proud to serve Spink County



Medical Staff Matt Owens, MD; Kris Wren, MD Alex Falk, MD; Randall Waldner, MD Ron Wren, PA; and Andi Rische, NP

HEALTHCARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY MEMORIAL & REDFIELD CLINIC RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY

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CPR Classes CT Scan

Cardiac Rehabilitation

Cardiac Stress Test

Chronic Care Management Colonoscopy

Continuous Glucose Monitor

Dexascan

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Digital Mammograms

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Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

eEmergency System

EKG

EMR - Hospital & Clinic

ePharmacy

Emergency Room

Gastroscopy

Geriatrics

Holter Monitors

Home Health

Home Making Services/Private Pay

Hospice

In-Patient Services

Intensive/Coronary Care Unit

Laboratory

MRI / Ultrasound

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Redfield Clinic 1010 West 1st Street Redfield, SD 57469 605-472-0510

http://www.redfieldcmh.org

Redfield Clinic Services

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Management

The Doctor is in... call to make your appointment

Redfield Clinic Hours:

Monday - Friday (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) Saturday (9:00 a.m. - noon)

Doland Clinic Hours:

Monday (2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.) Thursday (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m).

For Appointment Call 635-6300