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## Quote of the week:

“If you don’t read the newspaper, you’re uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you’re mis-informed.”  
~Mark Twain

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## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED: DISCOVERING FORGOTTEN SOLDIERS

**Dustin White**  
Editor

For years, photos of soldiers sat collecting dust in a box. Their tales waited to be told, as to not be forgotten. They had served their country, but as time passed, that sacrifice had begun to slip away from the collective memory.

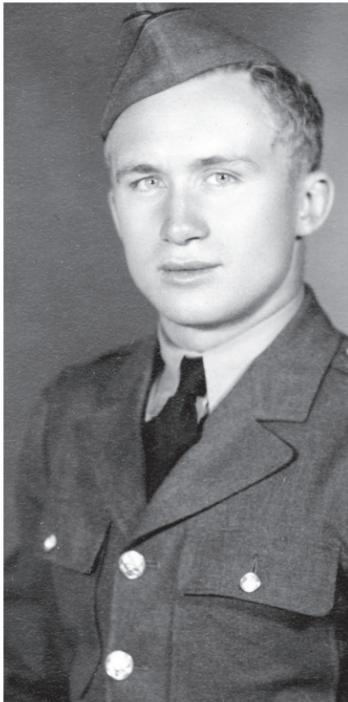
As time passed, that box would switch hands, and come into my position. Along with the transfer, a request was made, that something be done to honor the memory of those soldiers. Nearly another year would pass until work would begin on documenting those who were pictured.

Chronicling those who served our country can be a difficult task. While at times, there may be a great amount of history recorded for an individual, other times, only a blank appears. In this series, my goal is to fill in that blank as much as possible.

### Francis Heidt

While many of the soldiers whose photos I go through have little information given about them, there are a few that have good deal written about them. Francis Heidt is one of those latter cases. As with many whom he was photographed with, much of his life remains a mystery.

Born in Mandan around 1920, the son of Russian immigrants, he would finish his schooling in his home town, and be employed as a telegraphy boy. But as World War II waged on, Heidt, along with his older brother John, would enlist



**FRANCIS HEIDT**

with the Army National Guard in 1941.

Assigned to the 188th Field Artillery Regiment, Heidt would quickly be deployed. A quick westward march, Heidt would be stationed in Washington State, at the end of the Olympia Peninsula.

While not told their mission, the member of the 188th assumed that a Japanese naval and air attack would soon occur on the strait, and they were there to protect the United States after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

As no attack occurred, Heidt and the 188th would find themselves in one of the most memorable battles during World War II. On June 11 and 13, 1944, they entered

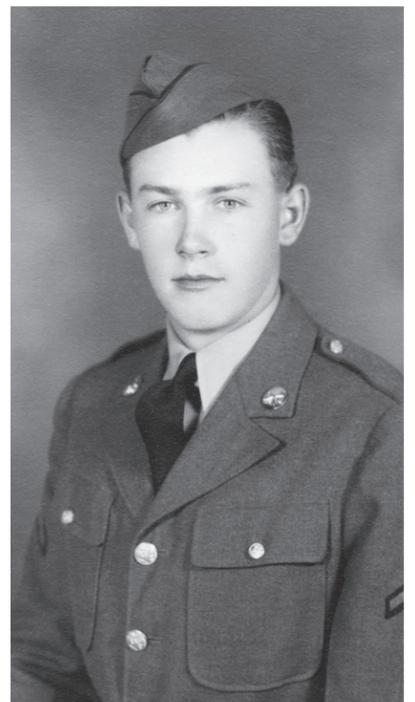


**MATT HOFFMAN**

Normandy, France, to participate in the D-Day offensive that had begun a week earlier.

Often finding itself on the front lines, the 188th would have to adopt infantry methods of fighting. Moving across the continent, they would face action in the battle of Belgium, where they captured 258 enemy soldiers. However, the darkest part of their history would be at the Battle of the Bulge. The fighting would rage for several days, but the 188th would emerge with an impressive record.

In just one day, on 80 different missions, the 188th would pour through their guns 2,430 rounds of 96-pound shells. It would exceed any previous record by 1,100



**PAUL STOLBERG**

rounds.

The 188th would fight against the Nazis in five foreign countries. After V-E Day, Heidt, among his fellow North Dakotans became eligible to return home. While he was able to seek immediate discharge, Heidt would remain with the 188th for almost another decade, as a Warrent Officer.

Exiting the military life, Heidt would bounce around a bit. Joining the Northern Pacific Railway, as a caller, Heidt would make his way to Glendive, Montana, and eventually, continuing west, settle in at Spokane Washington.

Heidt passed away on July 28, 2001.

*Continued on Page 2*

## DENNIS FERDERER: A HERO FOR HIS COUNTRY

**Dustin White**  
Editor

It was a decade ago that a young soldier lost his life in Iraq. For Morton County, it signified the first death of a local individual during the War on Terror. The name Dennis “DJ” Ferderer represented a new chapter, standing alone on the Morton County Courthouse memorial.

DJ, from New Salem, had enlisted in the Army during his senior year of high school. At just 17 years old, he was too young to join himself, and needed his mother to sign off. It was a start to his life long dream.

Serving with the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, which is based in Fort Benning, Ga., DJ

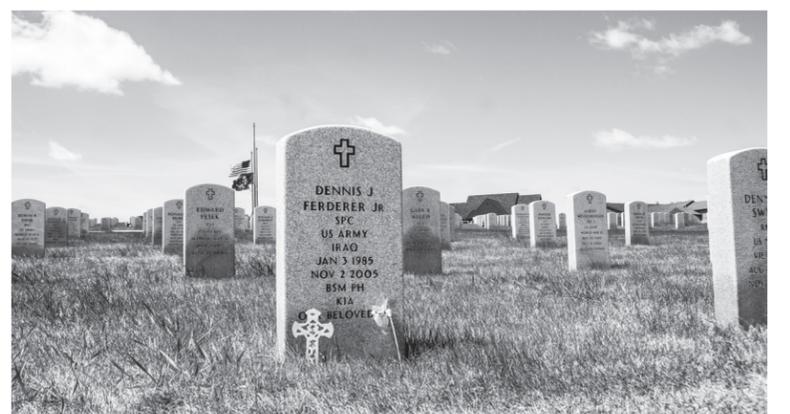
would find himself in Iraq, fighting not only for his country, but also for the freedom of others.

Having completed his first year in Iraq, DJ began wanting to continue with his training, with the hopes of becoming a ranger and air borne. Ultimately, he had wanted to return to Iraq again.

Tragedy struck before he was able to begin his additional training. On Nov. 2, 2005, the Humvee DJ was in was struck with a RPG with an armor piercing head. He was killed in action.

Deployed in Iraq, DJ had been aware that he was living in constant danger; however, he knew he was there for a reason. He wanted to give the people of Iraq the same peace he knew growing up.

Posthumously, DJ would be awarded the prestigious Bronze



*Dustin White photo*

**DENNIS “DJ” FERDERER WAS WELCOMED HOME A HERO. TODAY HE RESTS AMONG THOUSANDS WHO GAVE TO THE COUNTRY.**

Star and Purple Heart. When he finally returned home, he did so as a hero; a hero that his home town had long known him as.

During a funeral service in

New Salem, business closed, and hundreds turned out to pay their respects to their fallen soldier. For many, his death had brought the war home.

# REMEMBERING HISTORY: MANDAN CITY HALL

## Restoring History Dustin White

Over the years, the city of Mandan has changed drastically. Many of the old landmarks have succumbed to the test of time, and are just a memory. However, there are a number of these buildings that continue to not only exist today, but still hold a real function in the city.

One such building is the World War Memorial Building, which was completed in 1937. Upon the completion, N.D. Supreme Court Justice A.M. Christianson would call it "a living memorial, a daily tribute to our men who our men who gave their lives in the great World War."

Construction on the building had began in 1932, as "The Great Depression" was wreaking chaos across the country. Federal funds were provided for the building, having been a Works Progress Administration project.

When it first opened, it included an auditorium, offices for the local chamber of commerce, meeting rooms for small groups, a fully equipped kitchen and the largest indoor swimming pool in the state. It was also the only municipally owned indoor pool in North Dakota.

The pool would't be long lived. In 1941, after the coun-

ty courthouse on the hill burned, the pool area would transform in order to house the records and offices from the courthouse. This situation would remain in place until 1956, when a new courthouse was completed.

The building itself as meant to serve as community center, and it would boast one of the finest auditoriums in the state. With room to seat 3,000, the space had two balconies, and included a full stage, with lighting. It was made to configure as a full-size basketball court, or serve as a dance floor.

Later on, the building would serve as the headquarters for Company A, 131st Engineers Combat Battalion of the N.D. National Guard. The headquarters would eventually move as a new Armory was built north of Mandan High School.

In 1939, the World War Memorial Building as housed the first public city library. Opening in the southeast corner of the basement, in March 1939, a 99 year lease was signed by the city. The library would be able to remain at the location for no cost, but was responsible for its own utilities.

As part of the lease, the



THE WORLD WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING, THE CURRENT CITY HALL AND HOME TO DAKOTA STAR GYMNASIUM, IN MANDAN. PHOTO FROM THE 1950S.

library had to guarantee that it would be open at least two nights a week, as well as supply a free reading room. To help defray operation costs, patrons of the library had to pay a subscription fee.

In June of 2006, Mandan residents made the decision to consolidate the city and county libraries, and the Morton Mandan Public Library would relocate to its current location at 609 West Main Street.

Eventually, the structure of the World War Memorial Build-

ing would undergo a few changes. It would be retrofitted with a modern air conditioning system. In the process, several windows on its south face were eliminated, while the rest were replaced.

The pool would also eventually be changed. Due to problems with the water treatment system, it was filled in in the late 1960s.

While the building would change a bit over the years, it continues to stand as a reminder; a way to recognize the military veterans of World War I.

## DID YOU KNOW: A CEMETERY FOR THE GIANTS

In 1883, the Mandan Pioneer printed a story about the discovery of two vast prehistoric cemeteries, where giants were said to have been buried. It didn't take long for the story to spread throughout the country, reaching well respected publications such as the Scientific American.

Labeled "A City of the Dead" by various papers, the first cemetery was said to be on the bluffs, near the junction of the Heart and Missouri rivers. Just east of Fort Lincoln road, the cemetery was said to cover 100 acres, which was filled with the bones "of a giant race."

The discovery of the "dead nation" occurred after an exploration was conducted in the area. After initially discovering the cemetery, half a day was spent exploring the area. After digging

a series of little holes into the mounds, it was determined that trenches had been piled full of bodies, both human and animal, and then covered with several feet of earth.

According to the Mandan Pioneer, "In many places mounds from eight to ten feet high and some of them a hundred feet or more in length have been thrown up and are filled with bones, broken pottery, vases of various bright colored flints and agates."

The pottery, especially, amazed those present, as it was said to have shown great skill, and suggested it was built by a people "of a high state of civilization." At the time, only feeble efforts at excavation had been attempted at the sight, and a systematic exploration was hoped for, as it promised to be a "grand



field for the student."

While an exact reason for the cemetery was not known, it was suggested that it was the result of a grand battle, where thousands of men and horses had fallen. There was hope though that further investigation would reveal who this "dead nation" was.

The second cemetery only got a brief mention. It was said

to have been miles north of Mandan, on the Bismarck side of the Missouri. Exploration of the area had not yet been conducted.

In trying to find out more about the cemeteries, a reporter for the Mandan Pioneer questioned an aged American Indian about what his people knew of the graveyards. His answer; "We know nothing about them. They were here before the red man."

## Soldiers

Continued from page 1

### Matt Hoffman

Private First Class

Matt Hoffman was the first photo drawn from the stack of photos. Born in 1908, in Russia, his family would soon relocate to the United States. Immigrating to North Dakota, the family would settle in rural Morton County, where Hoffman would consider his home.

Completing school in Mandan, Hoffman eventually be employed first by the local lumberyard, and later as a chauffeur and driver.

On Nov. 26, 1932, Hoffman would marry for the first time, to Marguerite Ball, at Terry, Prairie, Montana. It would be a marriage that was short lived.

On April 1, 1941, Hoffman would enlist with 188th Field Artillery Regiment of the U.S. Army National Guard, along with Francis Heidt. As fighting finished in Europe though, Heidt would return to the states, where he would meet his future wife, Gladys Hoffman.

In 1951, the family would move to Moorhead, Minnesota, where Hoffman would send the next two decades of his life. He passed away in November of 1972.

### Paul Stolberg

For this individual, little could be found. I believe his name was Paul Stolberg. He would have been around 18-19 when he enlisted at Fort Snelling, in Minnesota.

He found himself in the regular army, and for three years, he worked as a sheet metal worker.

After serving during WWII, Paul largely vanished from the record. It is possible he moved to the west coast, and raised a family, but exact details are fuzzy.

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# CONTINUING CONSTRUCTION ON THE MARINE HOUSE

**Dustin White**  
*Editor*

It was over a year ago that local Mandan businessman, Fred Berger, gifted the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment of the Marine Corps the former VFW Post building. While the building was warmly welcomed by the Leathernecks, it would require an immense amount of work.

The restoration project began back in October of 2015. Approached by Fred Berger, who owned the property, the Dakota Leathernecks were given the opportunity to take over ownership of the building.

“These guys gave for our country, for our freedom, this is a small way for me to say thank you,” Berger said. “Their efforts will allow for this building to come back alive.”

Activity at the Marine House, located two miles west of Mandan on Highway 10, would soon pick up. The inside of the building would be stripped down to the stud walls, while other areas were taken down to the foundation. Investing 3,000 volunteer Marine-hours into gutting and rebuilding the historic building, more than 24 tons of lathe, plaster, garbage and debris would be hauled out.

## Breathing life

The building that Berger gifted to the Dakota Leathernecks had a long history. Built in 1915 as Price Consolidated School, it would serve the community of Price, N.D., through 1943.

As with many small town schools during that time, Price Consolidated School would shut its doors in 1943. For more than a decade, the building would sit vacant, until in 1959, when it was purchased by the Mandan VFW Post #707.

Moved to it’s current location, the VFW Post would serve the community until the late 1980s. Once again, the build-

ing would fall vacant. Through the years, it would become neglected, and fell into disrepair. When it eventually reached the hands of the Leathernecks, there was considerable work to be done.

“The building is structurally sound, this is a great benefit but it needs updating,” Raymond Morrell, Commandant of the Dakota Leathernecks Detachment said. “As Marines, we have a lot of expertise, but like active-duty military, funding is key and right now, our funds are very limited.”

Making due with what they had, as well as getting a great amount of support from the community, the building has begun to transform.

## Fundraising

Along with donations from the community, the Dakota Leathernecks had a great boost in their efforts to restore the building after becoming finalists in the Bernzomatic “Find Your Fire” program.

In late December, 2015, the Leathernecks were informed that they were among the top ten finalists.

“There was just a little bit of excitement when we received confirmation of being one of the ten finalists. Winning the grand prize of \$10,000 will be a big boost towards the \$50,000 plus we still need to finish this project,” Morrell said.

While the Leathernecks wouldn’t win the grand prize, they received a \$10,000 grant, which went a long ways in helping bring the building back to it’s former glory. However, they still fell short of their ultimate goal.

Having received a great amount of support from the community, the Leathernecks were able to bridge some of the gaps that they faced. With many local businesses donating not just funds to the project, but also goods and services, the Marine House slowly has transformed into a building the community



can be proud of.

However, while a major transformation has been undertaken, with much of the exterior now completed, the Leathernecks have now begun the process of working on the interior.

Looking to complete construction on the Marine House, the Leathernecks are looking to the community for additional help. Having set a goal of \$6,000, they have created a GoFundMe account to help fund the continued renovations of the historical building.

Once completed, the Marine House will serve as a meeting place and club house for the Dakota Leathernecks. It will also serve as a facility where they can connect to veterans who are in need. During reconstruction, the Leathernecks have assisted with three veterans who contemplated the issues of suicide, as well as two families who were facing the loss of loved ones.

The Leathernecks are also looking to use the Marine House as a place to serve the commu-



*Dustin White photo*

**THE MARINE HOUSE, WEST OF MANDAN ON HIGHWAY 10, HAS HAD A MASSIVE FACELIFT. TOP: THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING HAS BEEN STRIPPED BARE, AS IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP TO MODERN DAY CODE. BOTTOM: THIS SUMMER, THE DAKOTA LEATHERNECKS OPENED UP THE BUILDING TO THE COMMUNITY DURING A BURGER FEED.**

nity by hosting events, including their 1940s USO Night, Cycling For The Corps, BBQ With USMC Recruiters, Toys For Tots, or even their Marine Corps Ball.

To help support the renovation project at the Marine House, go to [www.gofundme.com/marine-house-renovations](http://www.gofundme.com/marine-house-renovations).



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# BECOMING A RODEO LEGEND: CHAD BERGER

**Dustin White**  
Editor

Chad Berger has become a household name; at least in the realm of bull riding. In Mandan and the surrounding area, he is a man who is known as being gracious, and willing to help wherever he can. However, he is quick to admit that without family, he wouldn't be where he is today.

Born at the Mandan Hospital, Berger formed a deep bond with the area early on.

"We lived in Mandan, but had a ranch and feedlot that we went to everyday," Berger said.

It would be out on that ranch that Berger began learning the skills that would propel him onto a national stage. His teacher in all of this; his father, Joe Berger.

"My dad was a cattle buyer," Berger said. "He taught me and my brother (Fred) everything he knew."

While learning about the family business, Berger also began developing a passion that would last a lifetime.

## Bucking bulls

Engrossed in ranching, Berger and his brother soon got involved with the rodeo.

"Dad did a bit of everything, from bull riding and bronc riding to roping," John Berger, Chad's son, said.

Supporting his sons, Joe began buying bulls for them to practice on. By the mid 1960s, he would have enough to begin to supply small events. From there, the business took off.

Joe didn't stop at just purchasing bulls though. Breeding and raising some of his own, Joe would eventually have some of the best bulls in the world, including the legendary Little Yellow Jacket.

Amassing decades of knowledge, which he would pass on to his children, Joe was able to enjoy a successful run in the arena.

"When bull riding really became popular, he already had thirty some years into it," Berger said.

By the late 1980s though, Berger was beginning to finish his career as a rodeo athlete. In 1987, he retired from being in the ring. While he was still young, having a family, and knowing that if he got injured, it would be hard to support them, caused him to choose a different path.

"It's a young man's game," Berger said. "By their early 30s, their career begins going the other way."

## Bred into it

While Berger would step out of the ring, he didn't go far. First starting out as a hobby, his bucking bulls would soon expand to reach across the country.

However, with Chad Berger Bucking Bulls, officially established in 2003, taking off, Berger's career focused more on the beef cattle business.

Running beef cattle all over the United States, Berger says that he spends much of his time as a buyer. It is through this work that Berger is able to support his passion.

"It takes a lot of money to raise and care for these bulls," Berger said. "I'd probably starve if that was all I had. But this is my passion, and my get away."

The two areas of his life often meld though, with Berger using his knowledge of cattle to complement the bucking-bull business. Using what he has learned, much of which he credits to his father, Berger has been able to also breed some of the top animal athletes in the world.

"My father was a great teacher," Berger said.

With the bucking-bull business taking off, it appeared as if it was inevitable that Berger would go along that path. Much like the bulls that his father first raised, and that he continued, it was in his blood.

"It's kind of like these bulls, it's bred into me," Berger said. "It's something I've always loved."

Using the study of genetics to help breed superb athletes, many of the bulls that Berger has are the product of generations of bucking bulls, with many being sons and grandson of Little Yellow Jacket. But there is more to a good bucking bull than just the father.

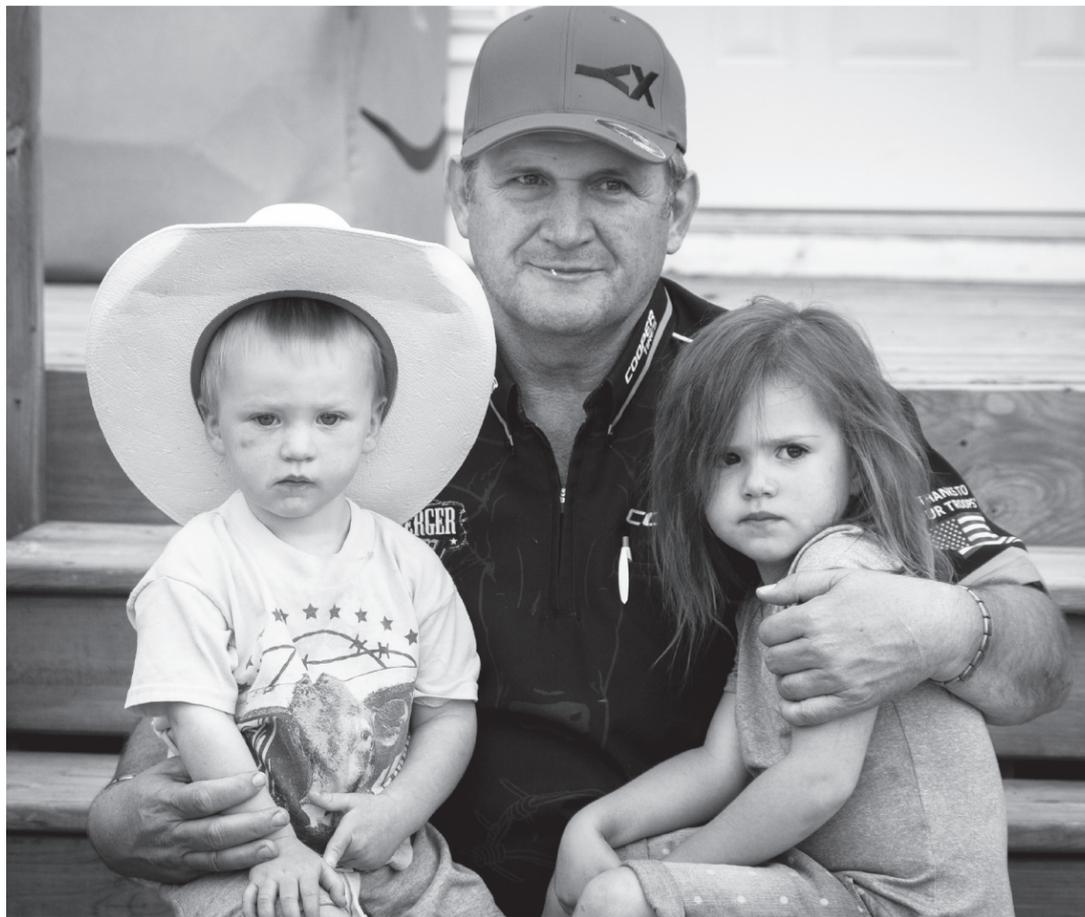
"You have to have a good female," Berger said. "I believe that the female is often more important than the bull in breeding."

With that understanding, as well as always looking to acquire new top bulls, Berger has been able to become a leading stock contractor.

## Standing out

Berger's passion for the sport has not gone unnoticed. While he provides some of the greatest bulls in the world, his work goes beyond that.

Part of what has made Berger stand out is the relationships he has formed. One bond that stands out is with Cooper Tires.



*Dustin White photo*

**ENJOYING TIME WITH HIS FAMILY, CHAD BERGER CREDITS THEM WITH MUCH OF HIS SUCCESS. FROM LEARNING THE ROPES FROM HIS FATHER, TO HIS OWN CHILDREN HELPING WITH THE BUSINESS, BERGER HAS HELPED FORM A FAMILY LEGACY.**

What first began as a friendship, turned into a long lasting sponsorship. While Cooper Tires has sponsored a number of athletes, Berger would be the first stock contractor to gain that unique honor.

"No other contractor has a sponsor that big," Berger said. "I've been with them longer than anyone else."

Berger has also formed a friendship with many of the bull riders, often going out of the way to build up those relations.

Those relationships have led many to be ecstatic with seeing Berger rack up numerous awards, including six Stock Contractor of the Year awards. For 2016, Berger once again was honored with the award, for the third year in a row.

"Winning has been a highlight of my career," Berger said. "What's most exciting is sharing it with family and friends. It has taken the whole family, and hired hands, to get this far."

Knowing that he has to continue to go up against the top guys, Berger is always looking to have a better, stronger bull than the average Joe.

That drive has provided Berger with some unique opportunities. With around 200 bulls in his care, Berger is able to put on events few else could manage. One is the annual PBR Bull Rid-

ing Challenge, which is hosted in Bismarck.

"For an event that level, most would have to bring in several contractors," Berger said.

## Berger's Bulls

While Berger has received some much deserved recognition for his work, he has remained quite humble in light of the fame. He is quick to give credit to his bulls.

Spending a bit of time at the Berger ranch, it becomes very clear that his bulls are truly cared about. At home, they take on a whole new light.

"They are very docile," John said. "They are calm when they are in their element."

The bulls are so calm that one can move freely in many of the pens with little worry. With one bull in particular, Beaver Creek Beau, a son of Bodacious, who was often referred to as the "world's most dangerous bull," Berger said it was possible to go and actually sit on him.

As with any athlete, Berger's bulls do get a good deal of rest and relaxation after a performance. Intent on keeping his bulls in excellent health, Berger spends a good deal of resources providing for his athletes.

"They have the best of life out here," Berger said.

Having the possibility of liv-

ing up to 20 years, Berger's bulls also get the chance to retire.

"We will retire a bull to pasture at around nine or 10 years of age," John said. "It used to be that some would buck their bulls until they were in their teens, but we value them too much to push them for that long."

## Mandan Rodeo

With all of the accolades that Berger and his bulls have acquired, one of his crowning achievements has been being the stock contractor of the Mandan Rodeo.

"It was my dream to have the Mandan Rodeo," Berger said.

Part of the reason it has meant so much to Berger is that the Mandan Rodeo has been part of his life since he was little. Two important figures in his life have also had it in the past.

J.C. Stevenson, Joe's partner, and the man who helped get Berger into rodeo, was the stock contractor in the 1960s and 70s. Joe would also serve as the stock contractor during those years.

"This means as much to me as being the stock contractor of the year," Berger said.

Continuing a long tradition in Mandan, Berger has given the city some positive light, something the community can be proud of.

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# WARRING NEWSPAPERS: THE CRITERION VS TRIBUNE

**Dustin White**  
Editor

As the twin cities of Bismarck and Mandan began to grow, so did their need for relating the news. In Bismarck, that task was taken up by Col. Clement A. Lounsberry, who founded the Bismarck Tribune. For half a decade, the Tribune stood as the newspaper for the area, but in 1879, a man named Harry Robinson would shake that up a bit. The Mandan Criterion was formed.

Welcoming the new paper, the Tribune announced the Criterion with a simple greeting on May 24, 1879: "This wee bring forth the first number of the Mandan Criterion, which will be a spicy, newsy little paper."

Both towns were now able to boast that they had one of the oldest papers on their respective sides of the Missouri. However, the honor for the first paper in North Dakota went to Fort Union, and later Fort Rice, with the printing of the Frontier Scout.

As the Criterion began publishing, the Tribune was impressed. On May 31, 1879, having reviewed the first issue, the Tribune wrote: "The Mandan Criterion is little but neat. Harry Robinson, the proprietor, has a good lot of material and does excellent work."

While the relationship between the two papers began cordially, as often happens, a

feud shortly began to rise. By July, the Criterion had begun to sing praises as to how Mandan, and the west side of the Missouri was superior to the east side.

Just the next month, Robinson would stir up a bit more trouble by denouncing the officials of Bismarck, Burleigh County and the U.S. Land Offices. The offense leveled at them was that those officials "have not seen fit to publish two or three notices in relations to the lands lying on the west side of the river in the columns of the Criterion ..."

Wanting to serve as the official paper of Morton County, containing such legal ads was not only a sign of their status, but also served as an additional revenue for the tiny paper, one that they desperately needed. However, having just recently been created, the Criterion had yet proved that it was "regularly established and regularly published."

The Criterion would soon rectify that matter, and in September of 1879, the paper was enlarged. Yet, with the increased size in the paper, an ever ballooning sense of importance was also growing.

## Growth

The sense of importance that the Criterion felt was also being observed throughout Mandan, and for good reason.

By October of 1879, the city was beginning to experience rap-

id growth. Elevators in Mandan were being filled, and "groaning under the weight of their loads," while another engine had been added to the division, as business was beginning to increase.

That same month, the city had completed nearly all of the bridges that crossed the Heart River, and plans had begun to formulate in regards to the railroad. Mandan had a bright future, and the Criterion was not going to allow that to be unnoticed.

The boasting did not go unnoticed. On Dec. 12, 1879, the Tribune printed a small column, that passively dealt with the claims of the Criterion.

"From the Mandan Criterion The Tribune learns that Mandan is still in existence ..." opened the column. Detailing other points that the Tribune learned from the Criterion, the column read "that Mandan 'lays' over Bismarck in the way of a debating society;" and "that Mandan is the cause of the earth's movement."

## Matters escalate

While 1879 left off with a few insults, 1880 began with theft.

Having grown the paper, the Mandan Criterion was in need of additional equipment. In particular, it was in need of a bellows.

In January of 1880, the Tribune had reported that its own bellows had been stolen. To their surprise, they found it after

having read the Mandan Criterion, where the paper, on the first article of the first page, disclosed the "fact that it had taken editorial charge" of it.

Adding insult to injury, the Criterion continued with their boasting, "speaking of next year's rise of Mandan and fall of Bismarck ..."

The Tribune responded in jest. In the same Jan. 16, 1880, issue, where the Tribune reported that Mandan had proposed to build a railroad to the Black Hills, an enterprise that Bismarck held the charter for, the Bismarck paper wrote that "Bismarck has a kind of sisterly love for Mandan and will help her in any way that her virtuous inclinations may suggest."

Responding to the accusations of theft, while acknowledging that they were in possession of the stolen piece of equipment, the Criterion was unapologetic, and in their next issue, stated that the "Tribune has been obliged to fall back on a squirt gun," after having their wind instrument stolen.

Not allowing such statement to go without response, the Tribune continued with their jokes, at the expense of Mandan and their paper. In their Jan. 30, 1880 issue, under the section, did you know, the Tribune wrote: "That Mandan had a regularly published weakly newspaper?" and "That Mandan property is a safe investment, but it is best to sell it inside of ninety days?"

Going a bit further, the Tribune, made mention that the Mandan Criterion said that "if the editor of The Tribune could make the people believe he is not its editor it would improve his chances for Congress."

In response, the Tribune said such a statement was correct, and continued by writing that no newspaper man could ever hope for political honors, regardless of how good they were. While the statement seemed quite innocent at first read, it was poking fun of Robinson, who was himself, active in politics.

The gloves were beginning to come off, and soon the final straw would be had. But before that, not allowing the Criterion to forget that they had

stolen property, in introducing a story about C.S. Weaver and Co. having lengthened their fans on their wind-mill, took a jab at the Criterion

"This is the only private wind mill in Burleigh County, except the Mandan Criterion. The mill was erected near The Tribune office to supply the deficiency of the stolen bellows," the Tribune wrote on Feb. 6, 1880.

## Final straw

While the two papers had gone back and forth with their insults, the final straw for the Tribune occurred in mid-February of 1880, when the Mandan Criterion began publishing personal attacks against Robert Macnider.

The Tribune did not necessarily put the entire blame on Robinson, but did say that it was representative of his weakness.

The gloves were now off, and for the next few months, the Tribune looked over the Criterion with an ever critical eye, calling them out when they didn't get their facts straight.

As the Criterion neared the end of its first year, it was beginning to feel the heat of the Tribune, but more importantly, they were feeling the effects of low circulation. The end was coming for the Mandan paper.

Foreshadowing this impending doom, Robinson, in December of 1880, wrote of the "terrible loss his sudden demise would be to the community."

By the next year, the Criterion was being advertised for sale, in an eastern paper. Robinson had purposely concealed such information from his readers, but The Tribune, having found out about the want to sell, informed the citizens of North Dakota.

That sale didn't come until later in the year. Announcing the news, the Jamestown Alert wrote that the Criterion would change hands around Jan. 1, 1882.

The sale would signal the final demise of the paper. On Jan. 1, 1882, the Mandan Pioneer replaced the Criterion as the official paper of Morton County.

For the Tribune, a bit of excitement was growing, as they warmly welcomed the new paper. However, that warmth wouldn't last long.

Bismarck-Mandan

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## Resting in the Pasture



*Dustin White photo*

RESTING IN THE PASTURE, CHAD BERGER'S BUCKING BULLS GET A GOOD DEAL OF RELAXATION.

# DEATH OF TATANKA IYOTAKE: SITTING BULL

**Dustin White**  
Editor

*(The death of Sitting Bull stands as an important event of a tumultuous time. While it signals neither the beginning or the end, it did set off a string of incidents that, in part, led to an Indian Panic in the Dakotas. Today, the effects of such can still be seen.)*

Few throughout history have managed to capture the public imagination like Tatanka Iyotake, Sitting Bull, has. Today, he continues to be remembered as one of the greatest Indian leaders, as well as an American patriot. However, like many, his life was cut down early, more than 125 years ago on Dec. 15, 1980.

Having attained fame throughout the world, Tatanka Iyotake would straddle two separate worlds after he surrendered to the United States on May 6, 1877. Living a life at his new home on the Standing Rock Reservation, he would quickly begin to butt heads with James McLaughlin, the U.S. Indian Agent at Fort Yates.

McLaughlin feared the influence that Tatanka Iyotake continued to have with his people, as well as the traditional Lakota life that he encouraged. Those fears erupted anew when a new religion was brought to the broken Lakota people. It was called "Dance in a Circle," the "Spirit Dance," or Ghost Dance.

For the Lakota, the new religion gave them hope that one day, they would once again be free. With the Ghost Dance came a promise that performing the ceremony would bring about an apocalyptic ending, where the white people would be removed from the land, and the Indians' way of life would be restored.

The new religion was not for Tatanka Iyotake though, who preferred the traditional ways of the Lakota. However, with the introduction of the Ghost Dance to Standing Rock by Kicking Bear, Tatanka Iyotake was placed in between a rock and a hard place. Realizing that the new religion may help his people survive, by giving them a hope for the future, he eventually allowed it to be taught to the people around him.

## McLaughlin

McLaughlin's relationship to the Indians in his care was one of great complexity. He was known for both liking and respecting the Indian people, having married a Lakota woman and learning the language.

However, that respect only stretched so far, as he saw his ultimate mission as "civilizing" them. That meant stripping them of their Indian culture and replacing it with that of the white Europeans. The traditional

Lakota way, for McLaughlin, was taken as a threat to his work. It was a threat Tatanka Iyotake embodied.

When the Ghost Dance arrived at Standing Rock, McLaughlin would be quick to do an investigation. Objecting to what he saw, McLaughlin would lecture Tatanka Iyotake about what he considered improper activities.

But the dancing continued. Initially, McLaughlin sent Indian police to arrest Kicking Bear, but the attempt failed. Fearing Kicking Bear's powerful medicine, the police would come back to McLaughlin empty handed.

For McLaughlin though, the real force behind the Ghost Dance was Tatanka Iyotake. Contacting the Commissioner of Indians Affairs, McLaughlin recommended that Tatanka Iyotake be placed into a military prison away from Standing Rock. The recommendation was turned down after the Secretary of War decided that it would cause additional problems.

## Getting out of hand

As McLaughlin was busy trying to figure out a way to have Tatanka Iyotake removed from his people, Tatanka Iyotake was becoming worried by the effects the Ghost Dance was having. Instead of giving hope, the dance began to overpower the people.

Unbeknownst to McLaughlin, the two individuals would be attempting to rid the reservation of the new religion. However, their attempts would be very different, with misunderstandings leading to death.

It wasn't just on the Standing Rock Reservation where the Ghost Dance had taken hold though. The Lakota had already adopted the ceremony at Pine Ridge and Rosebud, where similar problems had arose.

With the situation continuing to worsen, Tatanka Iyotake began to prepare for a trip to Pine Ridge, where he planned to confer with Red Cloud. It would be a trip he never took. He would be betrayed by his own family, which would lead to the arrest and murder of Tatanka Iyotake.

At the same time, McLaughlin was continuing his move to have Tatanka Iyotake arrested and removed from Standing Rock. His chance would shortly come.

As the Ghost Dance continued to rise in popularity, the Indian Bureau became alarmed. On Nov. 20, 1890, agents were given the requirement to identify the leaders of the new religion. McLaughlin would single out Tatanka Iyotake as the one leading the "Messiah craze."

McLaughlin believed that Tatanka Iyotake was promoting

the Ghost Dance, or the "Messiah doctrine" as he called it, in order to unite the Indian people, and have himself asserted as the "high priest." McLaughlin worried that Tatanka Iyotake would soon try to leave and spread the doctrine to others.

With hearing that Tatanka Iyotake planned on leaving the reservation, McLaughlin saw his misguided predictions beginning to come true. He believed that the great Indian chief was trying to regain his former prestige and popularity.

## Arrest

The decision for Tatanka Iyotake to leave Standing Rock to consult Red Cloud at Pine Ridge had been made in private; however, there was a traitor in their midst.

One Bull, who was the nephew of Tatanka Iyotake, had been informing McLaughlin of what was occurring during their meetings. It would be One Bull who ultimately alerted McLaughlin to Tatanka Iyotake's plan on leaving the reservation.

Still waiting for the go ahead to make the arrest of Tatanka Iyotake, when McLaughlin heard of the plans to leave, he decided there was no more time to wait, and made the order to apprehend the chief.

On Dec. 15, 1890, 43 Lakota police, under the command of Lieutenant Bull Head, arrived at Tatanka Iyotake's cabin just before sunrise. Three miles away, the cavalry was present to back the Indian police.

By all accounts, Tatanka Iyotake, when initially informed of his arrest, agreed to go quietly. After that, the accounts diverge. What appears to true though is that while Tatanka Iyotake remained peaceful during the arrest, violence soon erupted, and he was shot, purposefully, by the Indian police.

## Burial

When Tatanka Iyotake's body was set to be recovered, it had been beaten to a point in which it was hardly recognizable. He would soon be taken to Fort Yates, where the post surgeon, Dr. Horace M. Deeble would perform a postmortem examination.

Tatanka Iyotake would then be wrapped in a canvas bag, placed in a pine box and buried unceremoniously in the post cemetery. It would not be his final resting place.

In 1953, Tatanka Iyotake's three granddaughters made the decision to move their grandfather from Fort Yates. Along with their uncle, Clarence Gray Eagle, and the assistance of the Moberly, S.D., Chamber of Commerce, the three set out to rebury their grandfather's remains.



As was required, they sought permission from the the state health board, which was denied. It was claimed that Tatanka Iyotake belonged to the state of North Dakota.

Instead, on April 7, 1953, the granddaughters, their uncle and member of the Moberly Chamber of Commerce, under the cover of darkness, entered the military cemetery at Fort Yates and recovered the remains of Tatanka Iyotake.

Dan Heupel, a member of the chamber of commerce donated a track of 10 acres of land on the west side of the Missouri River, across from Moberly. There, the artist Korczak Ziolkowski sculpted a monument of Nancy Kicking Bear, a granddaughter of Tatanka Iyotake.

Not all of the granddaughters agreed on the location. Angeli Spotted Horse - LaPointe refused to accept the new burial spot. Instead, she wanted to see her grandfather buried in the Black Hills, but eventually was outvoted.

Her reasons for objecting would soon prove true. From the beginning, the gravesite has largely been in disarray. Serving as a party location for the youth of Standing Rock and Moberly, the grave has been trashed with beer bottles and other debris.

## Wounded Knee

The death of Tatanka Iyotake increased tensions among the Lakota. A rift had formed between those seeking to live according to the traditional ways of the Lakota, and those who were being "civilized" by adopting the culture of white Europeans.

Fourteen days after the death of Tatanka Iyotake, on Dec. 29, more than 150 (possibly twice

as many) were massacred at Wounded Knee. Half of them were women and children.

It was the U.S. Army's Seventh Cavalry, posted at Fort Abraham Lincoln, that surrounded a band of Ghost Dancers. Demanding that they surrender their weapon, a shot was fired. A massacre ensued.

Some historians believe that part of the motivation for the tragedy was that the Seventh Cavalry was seeking revenge for their defeat at Little Bighorn, where Tatanka Iyotake's tribe would meet George Armstrong Custer.

After the incident, the Ghost Dance movement was essentially ended, and it also marked the last major confrontation in the war against the Plain's Indians.

## Today

Views on Tatanka Iyotake have changed greatly over the last century. Today, he is largely seen as a great American, having been featured in the United States Postal Service 1989 release of Great American series, as well as in President Barack Obama's children book, "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters," which features 13 great Americans. Tatanka Iyotake is largely seen as an American patriot.

However, there are those who would object to such a depiction. For some, depicting Tatanka Iyotake as a great American is loosing a part of the great chief. Tatanka Iyotake instead is seen as Lakota, as it wasn't until 1924 that Indians were given U.S. citizenship.

One thing remains constant in either view though; Tatanka Iyotake has kept the public's imagination.

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# THE SAGA BEGINS FOR AN EARLY PIONEER

**Dustin White**  
*Editor*

When David and Mary Jenkins boarded a ship in Wales, looking to start in new life in the United States, little did they know the impact their children would have on a small community in what would become North Dakota.

The couple would arrive in New York in the early part of the 1800s. Settling in Oneida County, David would support his growing family as a farmer.

The two would eventually have at least four children; two sons, David and James, as well as two daughters, Elizabeth and a sister whose name has been lost, but was possibly Mary. Two of the children, James and Elizabeth, would be born close together, with only about a year separating their births. That closeness would follow them throughout the rest of their lives.

In 1861, the nation would completely change. The South broke from the Union, and over the next four years, three quarters of a million people would perish. For the Jenkins family, their two sons would join the fight.

David would eventually be assigned to the infantry, and sent out west. He would settle in North Dakota, after a short stay at Fort Rice. James would see action closer to home. Enlisting in 1863, James would bounce around a bit, but eventually would land in Company A, of the 16th Regiment, N.Y. Heavy Artillery.

## The Way out West

After the war ended, Elizabeth and James would work their way west, and eventually join their brother David in Dakota Territory. Both would take different routes though.

James would initially settle in Kent, Michigan, getting married, and having at least one child, Ira O. Jenkins.

Elizabeth, on the other hand, traveled to Brainerd, Minnesota, where she would begin to establish her career. However, her stay would be short lived. In 1873, the city of Brainerd, in an attempt to rid themselves of their “soiled doves,” enacted an

ordinance that would suppress “houses of ill-fame” and punish those who ran such establishments. For Elizabeth, it was a message to leave; she had worn out her welcome.

That same year, as the railroad reached the banks of the Missouri at Bismarck (or what was then known as Edwinton), Elizabeth, and a companion, would arrive in the wickedest city in the west. Stepping off the train, she would begin to make plans for setting up her own shop, a brothel, in the heart of the city.

## Little Casino

Arriving in Bismarck, Elizabeth would quickly make a name for herself. While she would receive mail as both Ida Lewis and Elizabeth McClellan (sometimes spelt with a d at the end), she would largely be known as Little Casino. The name became her calling card, with the two of spades, being referred to as the little casino in the game of casino, being her trademark.

Elizabeth would have this sign placed over her house, while she carried the deuce of spades card in her purse, to display when needed in order to advertise her business. And business was good, with Bismarck being the end of the tracks, a steamboat landing, a jumping off point for the Black Hills, and the Seventh Cavalry just stationed across the river, it was an ideal place for Elizabeth to open up shop.

The first few years in Bismarck were quiet for Elizabeth. As a true business woman though, she quickly made a few wise investments, by buying up dozens of lots in the city. While a few parcels of her property would be developed on, the most impressive would be the building she built at 701 Front Avenue, where the current Bismarck Tribune building now sits.

Situated just across from the railroad tracks, construction on the building would finish in the fall of 1877. To celebrate its opening, Elizabeth held a ball, that became the talk of the town.

Soon, Elizabeth’s brothel would become the premier emporium of its kind in town. The reputation of her establishment



*Dustin White photo*

**AFTER PASSING AWAY, ELIZABETH MCCLELLAND WOULD BE BURIED IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE, WHERE SHE WOULD REMAIN FOR NEARLY THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY, UNTIL A GROUP OF CITIZENS FROM WILTON, RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH AS AN EARLY PIONEER, SOUGHT TO ERECT A GRAVESTONE FOR HER.**

was furthered enhanced by her acquisition of the first piano in the city.

Many who frequented her bordello would take a part of it home with them. Muleskinners and bullwhackers, driving freight in and out of town, prized the tassels from her window curtains, using them as adornments for the lead animals of their pack trains. Elizabeth would end up having to replace her curtains many times.

While the opening of her new establishment on Front Avenue would be a great accomplishment for Elizabeth, it didn’t come without a number of problems.

Having passed an ordinance in regards to houses of ill-fame in 1875, a shift began to occur in Bismarck. That ordinance would cause Elizabeth, who was said to run the “the toniest bawdy house” in the city, as well as 10 other persons, to be indicted by the grand jury.

Ten of those indicted would plead not guilty, pay a \$300 bond, and had their cases continued. Elizabeth, showing her savvy, plead guilty, paid the \$100 fine, accepted the receipt for it,

and went back to her home and business.

## An Early Pioneer

Through running such a successful establishment, Elizabeth would position herself as a pillar of the community.

In 1879, when the First National Bank was founded, Elizabeth was among the early stockholders, and would remain such for many years.

As leaders of Bismarck came together, working on a bid to make the city the capital of Dakota Territory, she was said to have unofficially given, as her name does not appear on the list of donors, \$1,200 to the cause. When asked if that wasn’t a lot of money for her, she simply looked around the room and said that she saw much more from where that came from.

Bismarck became Elizabeth’s home, and it appeared that she truly loved the community. While she would work to help accomplish large goals of the city, she was also interested in helping those who were down on their luck. It would be said that her largest fault appeared to be

her generosity. While she would make a lot of money, through helping others, as well as having expensive tastes, she would also spend a lot.

In order to give back to the community wisely, Elizabeth would end up working with Reverend I.O. Sloan, a Presbyterian Minister, giving him money in order that he could use it to help the needy through his church. However, if she knew of a family, or child that was in need, she would do what she could to help their situation.

## Trouble with the Law

Even though Elizabeth would often try to make Bismarck a better place, she also knowingly ran counter to the law, and often, it caught up with her.

While her first decade in Bismarck was relatively quiet, as she became more widely known throughout the area, and her business expanded, things became more complicated for Elizabeth. The 1880s would see her in court on numerous occasions.

# COMPETING AGAINST FAKE NEWS AND BAD HEADLINES

**Observations**  
*Dustin White*

When writing headlines, it can be difficult to find a balance between catching ones attention, and accurately detailing what the story is about. The balancing act becomes even more important when one realizes that it is often just the headlines that many people read.

I have strived to make sure that the headline matches what the article is about, while keeping it engaging. I also know that there are times that I am more successful than others. Hopefully, if anything, I have erred more in the way of being boring than deceitful.

As a reader though, I have found myself falling prey to catchy headlines that promise more than they really deliver. In a recent case, the headline, and story, were brought to my attention by my wife.

The story in question claimed that ancient humans could not see the color blue, and had no words to describe it. My wife was initially skeptical about the claim, and had asked me about it.

Having some background in classical languages, specifically ancient Greek, I had my doubts about the argument, but wanted to do additional research.

Digging into the claim, I quickly found dozens of instances of ancient cultures having words

for the color blue, and that the color was often used. In Roman writings, blue-eyed barbarians, whom they were fighting, were often described. In the ancient Middle East, the Ishtar Gate of Babylon was colored blue, and inspired awe. And throughout the Mediterranean, paintings of peacocks, colored blue, could be found.

The claim ended up turning out to be a bit of poor researching, and a good deal of overblown headlines.

Recently, there was also another similar case of poorly researched material and exaggerated headlines. In this instance, the story that has been touted is that Earth is headed towards a

mini ice age.

It isn’t the first time that this claim has surfaced though. In 2013, the same argument, that the sun was going to enter into a more dormant stage, was being circulated.

While it is definitely possible that the sun will enter into a more dormant stage, and with the blizzard that ripped through North Dakota making it easy to think we are going into an ice age, in regards to solar flare activity, many scientists have been quick to point out that the effects on Earth’s temperature are negligible.

The problem though is that one story is more interesting than the other. Ancient people not being able to see the color blue, or

the Earth heading towards an ice age, are exciting ideas.

So it isn’t much of a wonder that when experts came forward to correct the misunderstanding, those stories never gained the same traction. Ancient humans could see blue just isn’t a catchy headline.

What’s the solution then? Regrettably, it will most likely fall on the reader to be diligent in what they read, to find sources that they can trust, and more importantly, to be willing to question.

At the *Midwestern Scout*, I hope you find a source that you feel is trust worthy. And if at times we fail, let us know, keep us honest.

# AN EARLY CHRISTMAS AT FORT MANDAN

**Dustin White**  
*Editor*

Half a year into the expedition, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had finally made their way to present day North Dakota. Fall had settled in, and temperatures were plunging below zero. It was Oct. 14, 1804.

The day was marked with turmoil. On Oct. 13, private John Newman had been court-martialed. He was found guilty of uttering “mutinous expressions.”

Upon arriving into North Dakota, Newman would be given 75 lashes, on his bare back, and banished from the permanent party.

Witnessing the punishment, the Arikara leader, Arketarnarshar, who was accompanying the expedition as a temporary guide, cried out in pity for Newman, saying that it would have been better for the party to have killed him instead of subject Newman to such public humiliation.

Continuing the journey with a bloodied man in tow, Lewis and Clark came upon their first earth lodge villages. All that they found was mats and toys. Smallpox had traveled ahead of the expedition, wiping out villages in its path.

## First contact

Almost two weeks after entering into North Dakota, Lewis and Clark encountered their first Mandan Village, Mitutanka, near present day Stanton.

There were a total of two Mandan villages, as well as three



*Dustin White photo*

**LOOKING OUT AT WHAT ONCE WAS A HIDATSA VILLAGE, THE SINGLE RECONSTRUCTED EARTHLODGE AT THE KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES, NEAR STANTON, N.D. THE VILLAGE WAS ONCE THE HOME TO SACAGAWEA AND WAS VISITED BY LEWIS AND CLARK.**

villages inhabited by the Hidatsa and Arahami tribes. The party was hesitant as they were unaware as to how the Mandan and Hidatsa would receive them.

With the exception of one account of violence, where Joseph Whitehorse struck a Mandan individual with a spoon, the two groups found themselves in a peaceful relationship. The warm reception convinced Lewis and Clark that they would stay the winter with the Mandan and Hidatsa.

## Fort Mandan

Having found a suitable location to stay the winter, Lewis and Clark began work on Fort Mandan on Nov. 3.

Completion of the fort wouldn't be completed until Christmas day; however, because of the cold, the party moved in early.

Shortly after work had commenced on Fort Mandan, Toussaint Charbonneau was signed on

as an interpreter for the journey that would once again begin after winter was over. His Shoshoni wife, Sacagawea, would accompany the party.

As Christmas continued to near, the temperatures would steadily drop. By Dec. 17, they had reached 43 degrees below zero.

## Christmas

On Christmas Eve, 1804, the final touches to Fort Mandan

were being placed. The party was getting ready for Christmas.

As morning came on Dec. 25, snow was falling on the fort. The men were in high spirits, waking the captains with “salutes” of gunfire.

With the men drinking rum mixed with water, the party was permitted to fire the cannon three times, as the United States flag was raised over the fort. It would be the first time the flag would be raised in North Dakota.

# LOOKING BACK AT THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

**Dustin White**  
*Editor*

Whether one is religious or not, almost regardless of where one is born, Dec. 25 marks the same day on their calendars: Christmas.

While Christmas originally evolved to be a Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus, over the more than century and a half that it has been observed, the day has developed into something which now incorporates a host of traditions and practices.

Some shed the more religious nature of the holiday in favor of a secular observation, while others have increasingly tried to keep in mind their “reason for the season,” but what keeps most together in the day is the underlying message of giving.

As with most holidays though, there have been many changes to how one celebrates the day.

## Saturnalia

In Rome, where Christianity was beginning to form, winters were quite mild. Leading up to the winter solstice, temperatures would fall, but it was not a time of a great freeze, as those living

farther north often experienced.

However, the changing of the seasons was still apparent, and with the winter solstice also came a celebration. Food and drink were often plentiful during this time, and the city would rejoice by honoring Saturn, the god of agriculture.

The winter solstice also marked a time for other festivals, such as the honoring of Mithra, a Persian god of light.

It was in this world that Christianity was forming. However, in its early days, Easter was seen as the main holiday, while the birth of Jesus was never celebrated.

As Christianity began to expand in the fourth century, and rise in popularity, which brought it power, church officials began to search for a way to help assimilate Romans into the forming religion.

A manner in which this was done was by creating a festival to coincide with those festivals that were already celebrated. With the winter solstice being an important time of the year, it didn't take long before church officials to select that time to observe the birth of Jesus.

## Christmas tree

As Christianity spread, with its customs and traditions, it was exposed to new cultures. With that exposure, new ideas, along with converts, were assimilated into the new religion.

Spreading north, into what is now Germany, Christianity would encounter beliefs that regarded evergreens to be a special plant, as they continued to live throughout the year.

It wouldn't be until the 16th century though that the Christmas tree tradition, as we know it, was created.

At that time, devout Christians began bringing decorated trees into their homes. It is believed that it would eventually be Martin Luther who was the one to add the first lights to trees.

Upon walking home one winter evening, Luther is said to have been struck with awe by seeing the stars twinkling through the evergreens. Wanting to recreate the scene for his family, he erected a tree in his family's main room, and wired it with lighted candles.

For most Americans, the tradition of Christmas trees appeared to be an oddity. They were still considered as a pagan symbol by many, and thus not accepted. However, as Germans continued to settle into communities in

the United States, especially in Pennsylvania, the Christmas tree gained a holding.

It wouldn't be until 1846 that the Christmas tree would start to become popular among non-Germans in the United States. Queen Victoria, along with her German Prince Albert, would be sketched for the Illustrated London News, standing in front of a Christmas tree with their children. Because of Victoria's popularity with citizens in Britain, as well as in the United States, the tradition would start to become adopted by American's as a whole.

## Santa Claus

The origin of Santa Claus can be traced back to monk, St. Nicholas, who was born around 280 C.E., in Patara, near Myra in modern-day Turkey.

During his life, he would be admired for his piety and kindness. In his death, he would end up being remembered for much more, as legends began to arise.

It was said that Nicholas would give away all of his wealth, and travel, helping those who were in need.

His popularity would quickly spread, eventually making him known as the protector of children and sailors. By the Renaissance,

Nicholas could boast being the most popular saint in Europe. His popularity would continue even after the Protestant Reformation, when the veneration of saints would begin to be discouraged.

It wouldn't be until the late 18th century that Nicholas would begin to find a place within American culture though. Honoring the anniversary of Nicholas's death, on Dec. 6, Dutch families would begin to bring the popular saint to the United States.

However, it would be Washington Irving, who in 1809, started to help popularize Sinter Klaas, the Dutch's nickname for Nicholas, through writing the stories out.

## Conclusion

Adopting traditions from around the world, and bringing them to the United States, the American version of Christmas began to flourish and take on a life of its own.

Eventually, Christmas would become more than a religious observation. Instead, while for some it kept the religious meaning, it also became a symbol for America as a whole. Just as the United States would be seen as a melting pot, Christmas would be the Holiday that brought it together.