

## Important people and locations for the Meridian Bridge becoming a reality

Learn all the detailed history by utilizing the books:

The Bridge We Built: The story of Yankton's Meridian Bridge

A Tour Guide to Historic Yankton: Nine Routes through the Dakotas' Territorial Capital

- Holman cabin- made from wood floated across from Nebraska side of river in 1858.
  - First structure built at the site of the future town.
  - Approximate location would be north of the Riverside Amphitheater at the intersection of Pine and Levee.
  - A Tour Guide- page 106.
- Pontoon bridge
  - One location was the south end of Pearl Street.
  - South of baseball field @ boat ramp area.
  - The Bridge We Built- pages 5-6, 59-60, 64.
- Henrietta Kloppling (Mrs. D.B. Gurney)
  - She worked at MacElroy's Department Store (later Fantles- see information below)
  - The store is where she met D.B. Gurney.
  - The Bridge We Built- pages 2-3, 5, 19, 33, 51, 86, 163, 180, 201, 203, 214-215.
- D.B. Gurney
  - Gurney Seed & Nursery Company- 110 Capitol Street- A Tour Guide- page 100.
  - Lived at 503 Pine- A Tour Guide- page 83.
    - Son- John Chandler "Chan" Gurney- United States Senator.
    - Son- Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Gurney.
  - D.B. would eventually be the third to pledge \$5,000, but he would raise it to \$25,000 if the bridge included railroad also.
  - He would be the President of the Meridian Highway Bridge Company from 1919-1940.
- June 1, 1919
  - Supper club night.
  - Held at 609 Douglas Avenue, home to Levi French- A Tour Guide- page 58.
  - The question was asked "what does Yankton need most?" A bridge was the answer.
  - The Bridge We Built- pages 12-13
- E.J. Dowling
  - Dowling's Department Store
  - Located at 103-105 West Third Street; SW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Douglas
  - The day after the supper club discussion, on June 2, 1919, he went to discuss the bridge with Ray Heaton.
  - They devised a plan to get pledges with the goal being \$300,000.
  - He, along with his mother Mary with whom he operated the store, would pledge \$2,000.
  - He would be the Treasurer for the Meridian Highway Bridge Company from 1919-1927.
- W.C. Lusk- first to sign a pledge. In the amount of \$3,000.
  - Yankton Printing Company (now Press & Dakotan)- located at 319 Walnut
  - The Building was originally known as Turner Hall- A Tour Guide- page 21.
  - He would be a member of the board of directors for the Meridian Highway Bridge Company periodically from 1922-1939.

- W.J. Fantle- second to sign a pledge. In the amount of \$10,000.
  - Fantles Department Store- A Tour Guide- page 31.
  - Located at SE corner 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut- 121 West 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - He would be a member of the board of directors for the Meridian Highway Bridge Company from 1927-1939.
- Dr. S.M. Hohf- fourth to sign a pledge. He also made a condition of having railroad on the bridge. Pledge amount of \$10,000.
  - Hohf Medical Building- located at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Douglas- 100 West 4<sup>th</sup>
  - A Tour Guide- page 66.
  - He would be a member of the board of directors for the Meridian Highway Bridge Company from 1919-1939.
- Ray Heaton- fifth to sign a pledge. In the amount of \$10,000.
  - He was vice-president of the First Loan & Trust Company- would later become First Dakota National Bank.
  - Located across the street south from the Dakota National Bank.
  - SW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut- A Tour Guide- page 33.
  - He would be a member of the board of directors for the Meridian Highway Bridge Company from 1944-1946.
- American State Bank- 106 West 3<sup>rd</sup> - A Tour Guide- page 30.
  - The bank was an investor in bridge company. Pledged \$15,000.
  - M.P. Ohlman, Sr., was president of the bank.
  - He resided at 205 Green Street. A Tour Guide- page 147.
  - He would eventually be the vice-president of the Meridian Bridge Highway Company from 1919-1928.
- Dakota National Bank- A Tour Guide- page 18. Pledged \$20,000.
  - Located at the NW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut- 200 West 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - The Danforths were officers in the bank.
  - They lived at 417 Pine Street- A Tour Guide- page 82.
- Fred Donaldson Company- located at 300 East 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Tour Guide- page 41.
  - Investor in the bridge company. Pledge of \$5,000 made by A.W. Donaldson, vice-president of company.
  - Fred Donaldson lived at 313 Pine- A Tour Guide- page 42.
- D.D. Gross
  - Investor. He would pledge \$2,000.
  - Gross Hardware. Located at 100 West Third Street. NW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Douglas.
- June 2, 1919
  - Monday Evening Supper Club was held at the Merchant's Hotel.
  - Located at the NW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Broadway
  - Continued bridge conversations were had and pledges totaling \$82,000 were presented.
- June 10, 1919
  - A meeting of bankers was called by Dowling and Heaton to discuss the bridge effort.
  - Held in the director's room at the First Loan & Trust Company- which would become First Dakota National Bank.
  - Located across the street south from the Dakota National Bank.
  - SW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut- A Tour Guide- page 33.

- June 24, 1919
  - The Yankton Chamber of Commerce hosted the Meridian Highway Banquet.
  - Delegates from Fargo to Columbus were present.
  - Met at the Congregational Church- 210 West 5<sup>th</sup>
  - A Tour Guide- page 50.
- July 31, 1919
  - First stockholders meeting of Meridian Highway Bridge Company
  - Met at director's room of Dakota National Bank. A Tour Guide- page 18.
  - Located at the NW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut- 200 West 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Aug. 1919
  - Another stockholder's meeting.
  - Back rooms of First Loan & Trust Company- would become First Dakota National Bank.
  - Located across the street south from the Dakota National Bank.
  - SW corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut- A Tour Guide- page 33.
- Dec. 10, 1919
  - First Annual Meeting of the Stockholders was held in the rooms of the Yankton Chamber of Commerce.
  - The rooms were located over the Olof Nelson Grocery Store. It was located one door west of Dakota National Bank.
  - 202 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street- A Tour Guide- page 17.
- April 3, 1920
  - Meridian Highway Bridge Company board meeting.
  - At this meeting they bought the sixth lot south of Second Street on Walnut.
  - This lot was used for storage and construction staging for the bridge.
- Aug. 25, 1920
  - Stockholder's meeting in the new County Breeders Association Building.
  - Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mulberry.
  - SD Governor Peter Norbeck was in attendance
  - Congressman Charles A. Christopherson was in attendance.
  - The building was mostly destroyed by fire in 1983. 215 Mulberry is remaining part of the original building.
- 207 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
  - Meridian Bridge Celebration Headquarters for October 12-19.
  - The old "Frick & Lawrence" location.
- The Portland Hotel- Located at 120 East 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Tour Guide- page 38.
  - A surprise complimentary dinner for President D.B. Gurney was held on October 29, 1924, to celebrate the building of the Meridian Bridge.
  - The Portland Hotel building was bought 20 years later by D.B.'s son, Lieutenant Colonel Charles H., and renamed The Hotel Charles Gurney.