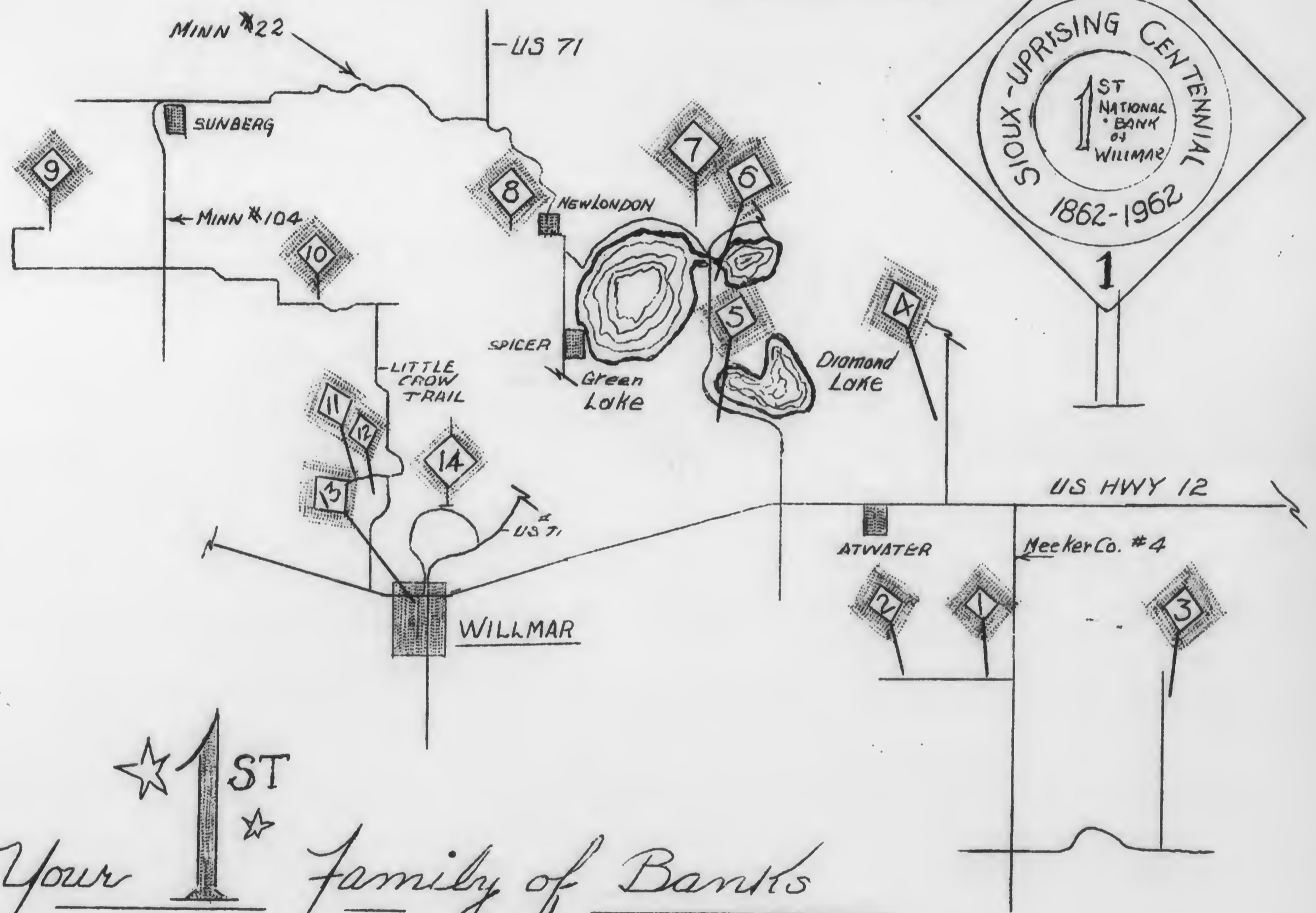


9445

Randolph County

Look for this sign



Your 1st Family of Banks

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK'S
HISTORICAL TOUR
OF SITES FIGURING IN THE SIOUX UPRISING
IN AND NEAR KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Leave Willmar, going east on U. S. Highway #12 to Meeker County Highway #4, which turns south one mile west of Grove City. Go south about 4 miles, until you see the State Historical site marker. Turn right at the marker $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. You are at the

✓ (1) ACTON MASSACRE MONUMENT. On August 17, 1862, four young men from the Rice Creek Sioux Village were hunting in the Acton woods. They had not been successful and approached the cabin of trader Robinson Jones, demanding whiskey. Jones refused, and they left, following a fence line to the Howard Baker cabin about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east. Here Mr. and Mrs. Viranus Webster, emigrants on their way west, had stopped to rest and to visit the Baker's. They were later joined by Mr. and Mrs. Robinson Jones.

When the Indians approached the whites they appeared to be friendly and they even traded guns---with Baker paying \$3.00 "to boot" on the trade. Then the Indians suggested a target match, and they fired at an old oak tree which stood in the open field to the southwest of the cabin. The Indians fired first and reloaded. Then the whites fired but forgot to reload. The Indians then turned upon the whites and killed Mr. and Mrs. Robinson Jones, Howard Baker, Viranus Webster, before leaving for their village. Shortly after the killings a half-wit appeared upon the scene, assured Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Webster that the dead were only sleeping, rifled the pockets of the victims and made off through the woods.

See the Acton Monument which stands upon the site of the Baker cabin. The log cabin which stands near the monument is nearly 80 years old.

✓ Continue westward from the marker about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. You will see (2) SITE OF ROBINSON JONES' TRADING POST. This site has been marked by the people now living in the area. One of Jones' cabins is still in existence (although it has been moved), and they hope to restore it on the original site in the near future. As the Indians left the Baker cabin they returned to the Jones cabin, where they shot Clara Wilson, Jones' niece. Her young brother who was asleep at the time was unharmed.

Retrace your route back to Meeker County Highway #4, turn right (south) about 3 miles, until you come to a large cross-road, with Arndahl Church on your right. Turn left here until the road passes on the shore of a lake. This is Hope Lake, and you have just passed through the ghost town of Acton. Continue eastward until you come to a large cross-road. You will see a church off to your left about 1 mile. This is

✓ (3) NESS CHURCH. The victims of the Acton Massacre are buried here in a mass grave marked by a tall, slender, white monument on the north side of the church. The night they were killed the bodies were kept in a granary at the Baker farm, then buried here, at Ness Church, after a group of citizens had come from Forest City to hold a coroner's inquest.

(2)

Retrace your route back to highway #12. Turn left until you see the Kandiyohi County boundary sign on the highway (1 mile east of Atwater). Turn right here about 1 mile. You are now at the place where

4) SVEN BACKLUND AND ANDREAS LORENTSON were killed. These two men were herding livestock behind a refugee train making its way from the Green and Diamond Lake areas to Hutchinson. The train was attached on the low hills to the southeast of this site. When the settlers answered the Indian's fire, the Sioux broke off the attack and killed Lorentson and Backlund here. A small stone marker lies on the west side of the road, marking the spot where they died.

Retrace your route to Highway #12, turn right and continue west, through Atwater, to Kandiyohi County #4, three miles west of Atwater. Turn right and continue until the road begins to turn to the left. You are now driving over a portion of

5) THE PEMBINA TRAIL. This trail, which connected the settlement along the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers with the northern settlement of Pembina, went through Kandiyohi County from the southeast to the northwest. A portion of the actual trail may be seen between George and Nest Lakes, but is extremely hard to locate. This route, which you are driving is one of the few places where a highway has been built over the old trail. You will only follow the trail to the place where the highway bends to the right around the lake. The highway continues past the Diamond Lake Kandiyohi County Park, and the Pembina (Red River) Trail continued on to the northwest, instead of turning toward the east as the highway does.

Continue past the Kandiyohi County Diamond Lake Park, then keep going to the north until you pass Indian Beach. You are now at the

6) INDIAN MOUNDS. This is one of the largest, if not the largest, Indian mound complexes in the State of Minnesota. They lie to the east of the road (in fact the road is built across some of them) in long, low mounds, which have, due to cultivation, become rather difficult to discern. Look carefully and you'll see them. The Sioux who lived here did not bury artifacts with their dead, so it's useless to dig into the mounds.

Continue northward across the Green Lake outlet, then turn left along the north shore lake road. You are now driving over the site of the

7) SIOUX CAMP. This was an extremely large camp and was here during the 16th century. It covered nearly all the woods on the north side of Green Lake. When the Sioux were driven from northern Minnesota they made one of the greatest ethnological changes in the history of man. They changed from forest to plains Indians, completely altering their basic way of life. As this change was being made they still clung to their old forest and water ways, hence this camp in the forest, along a lake, but near the prairie.

Continue westward on the north shores road until you reach the Old Mill Inn. Turn north here, and follow the highway into New London. Turn left just before you reach the New London Mill Pond (Cross River), then left again and up the hill to

(3)

✓ 8) LEBANON CHURCH. This is the home of the oldest congregation in Kandiyohi County. Andreas Lorentson, among others, signed its original constitution before he was killed by the Indians during the Uprising. In Lebanon's cemetery, which lies just south of the church, is the burial place of the victims of the West Lake Massacre, who were also members of this congregation (then known as New Sweden). They lie beneath a tall state monument, in a mass grave.

Return to Highway #71, cross the Mill Pond and stop for a moment at the U. S. Fish Hatchery in New London's business district. The Hatchery has a very interesting aquarium, containing Minnesota fish, in its lobby. There's no admission charge.

Continue north on Highway #71 until you reach the Belgrade intersection. Go west here (you're now on Highway #22) until you reach Sunburg. Shortly after you enter Highway #22 you'll pass near the entrance to Sibley State Park. It's a nice place to stop for a rest or a swim or a hike. Park sticker must be purchased.

When you reach Sunburg turn south on Highway #104 for a couple of miles until you see the Monson Lake State Park sign. Turn right here and follow the signs to Monson Lake State Park. This is the site of the

✓ 9) WEST LAKE MASSACRE. Here all but two members of two entire families were killed as they returned home from church. The two Broberg families which lived here had gone to the Lundborg cabin two miles to the east for a church service. They'd left the younger children at home. While they were gone Indians came to the cabin and began annoying the children. Young Peter Broberg ran to the Lundborg cabin to get his parents. The four Lundborg brothers went immediately to the Broberg cabins, while the Broberg families followed by oxcart. Three of the Lundborg's were killed, and the fourth seriously wounded, before the Indians discovered and attacked the oxcarts bringing the families home. The partially-filled cellars of the two cabins are still visible, as are some of the logs from the original cabins. A hand-hewn monument, made by Peter Broberg, marks the site.

Retrace your route to Highway #104, then cross the highway and continue eastward. You are now on the Little Crow Trail. Follow this trail until you reach the Norway Lake Church. Stop $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the church and look northward. You will see

✓ 10) THE ISLE OF REFUGE. This island was the place of refuge for many of the settlers in this area, during the Uprising. Upon hearing of the attacks elsewhere on the frontier, many of the settlers went to the island, bringing supplies and all boats and canoes in the area with them. Having all the water transport on the island they were safe from attack.

Continue eastward until the Little Crow Trail turns southward (just south of Norway Lake, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the church). The trail is black-topped. Follow this road until you are one mile north of Vikor Church. Turn right here for about a mile, until you reach a fork in the road. Take the left fork, then keep bearing to the right, through the woods until you reach.

(4)

✓ 11) THE BURI ENDRESON CABIN. The cabin is now being restored by the Kandiyohi County Historical Society. When Indians attacked Lars Endreson and his sons Endre and Ole were shot in and near the farmyard. Lars and Endre were killed, and are buried where they fell. Small headstones mark their graves. Ole was wounded and left for dead. Daughters Guri and Britta were kidnapped. Mother Guri and her infant daughter hid in a root cellar when the Indians came and escaped. Later Guri came from her hiding place, found her daughters gone and her husband and sons dead. She placed pillows under their heads and covered them with blankets, then left for the home of her sister a few miles away. During the night she became lost and wandered back to her own cabin in the morning.

Son Ole had regained consciousness during the night and was packing to find an uncle somewhere in Wisconsin. With his mother he hitched an ox to a sled and they went to the Erickson cabin a few miles south-east. Here they found Erickson and Foot, both wounded. They cared for the wounded men and brought them safely to Forest City. Guri's daughters escaped from the Indians, were rescued by a burial party and brought to Forest City where they were reunited with their mother,

Retrace your route to the Little Crow Trail, then turn right (south) about 1 mile to

✓ 12) VIKOR CHURCH. The Governor of Minnesota dedicated the monument which stands near the highway in the churchyard. In the southwest corner of the cemetery, which lies in back of the church, you'll find Guri Endreson's grave. The tombstone is marked "Rosseland".

Continue south on the Little Crow Trail, into Willmar. Turn east at Fairview Cemetery, and follow Gorton Avenue (along the lake) to North 7th Street. Turn north and follow 7th St. to B Avenue. In the north-east quadrant of this intersection stood

✓ 13) BERGER THORSON'S CABIN. Thorson was the first man killed by Indians in Kandiyohi County. Indians found him at his cabin at dusk and, not wishing to frighten nearby settlers with gunfire, killed him with a tomahawk.

Continue north to the fairgrounds, then follow new road to the Willmar Country Club (or retrace your route back to Ella Avenue, then across the lake to Highway #71). The 6th hole of the club dog-legs around

✓ 14) FOOT'S WELL. This is all that remains of what was once the home of Solomon Foot, an Indian fighter during the Uprising. He was wounded during a battle at the Erickson cabin a little way to the northwest, and was rescued by Guri Endreson. The rifle he used during that battle has been presented to the Kandiyohi County Historical Society's Museum, by his grandson, Clyde Foot of San Pedro, California.

We hope you've enjoyed your tour. There are many other sites of equal interest in and near Kandiyohi County. If you'd like more tours like this, please let us know, and we'll try to arrange them for you.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WILLMAR