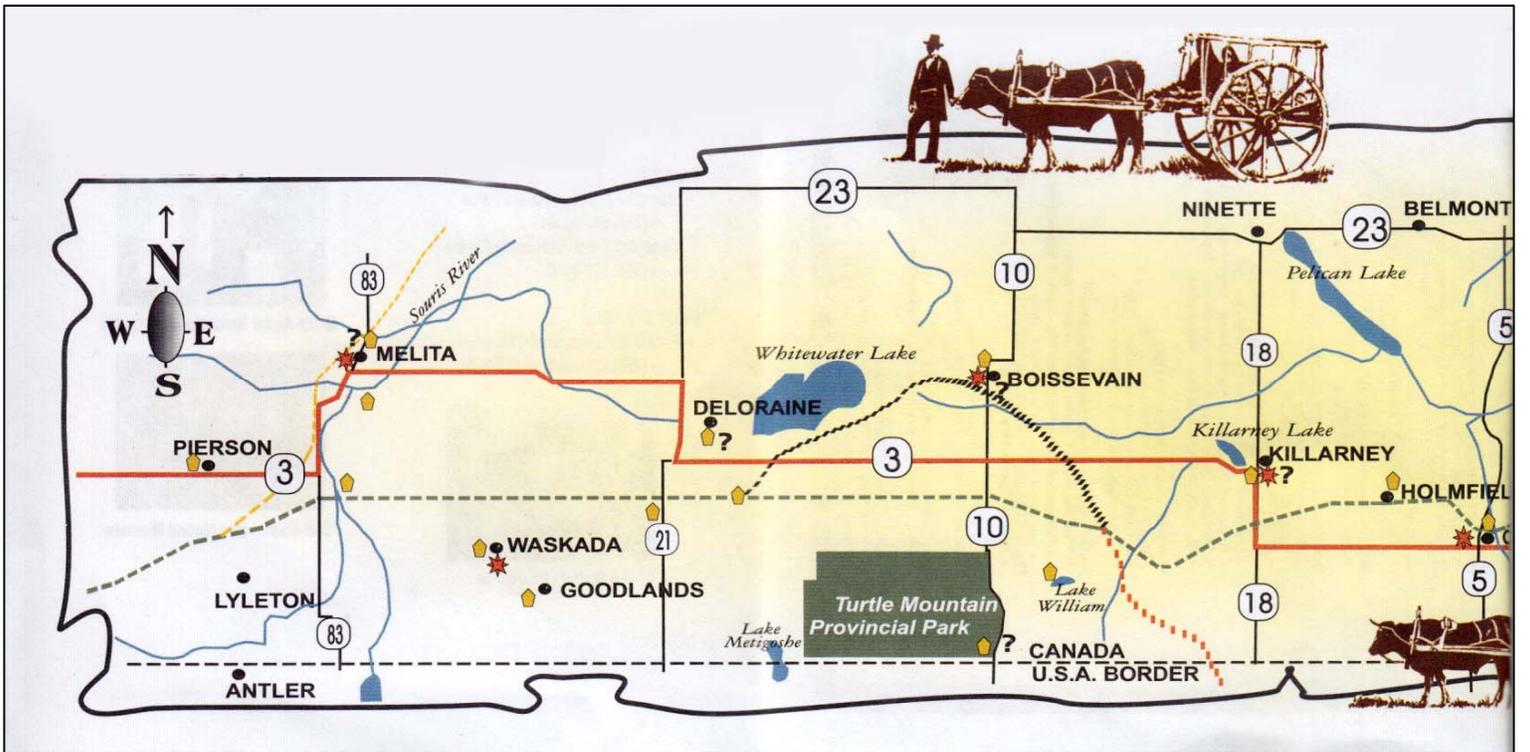
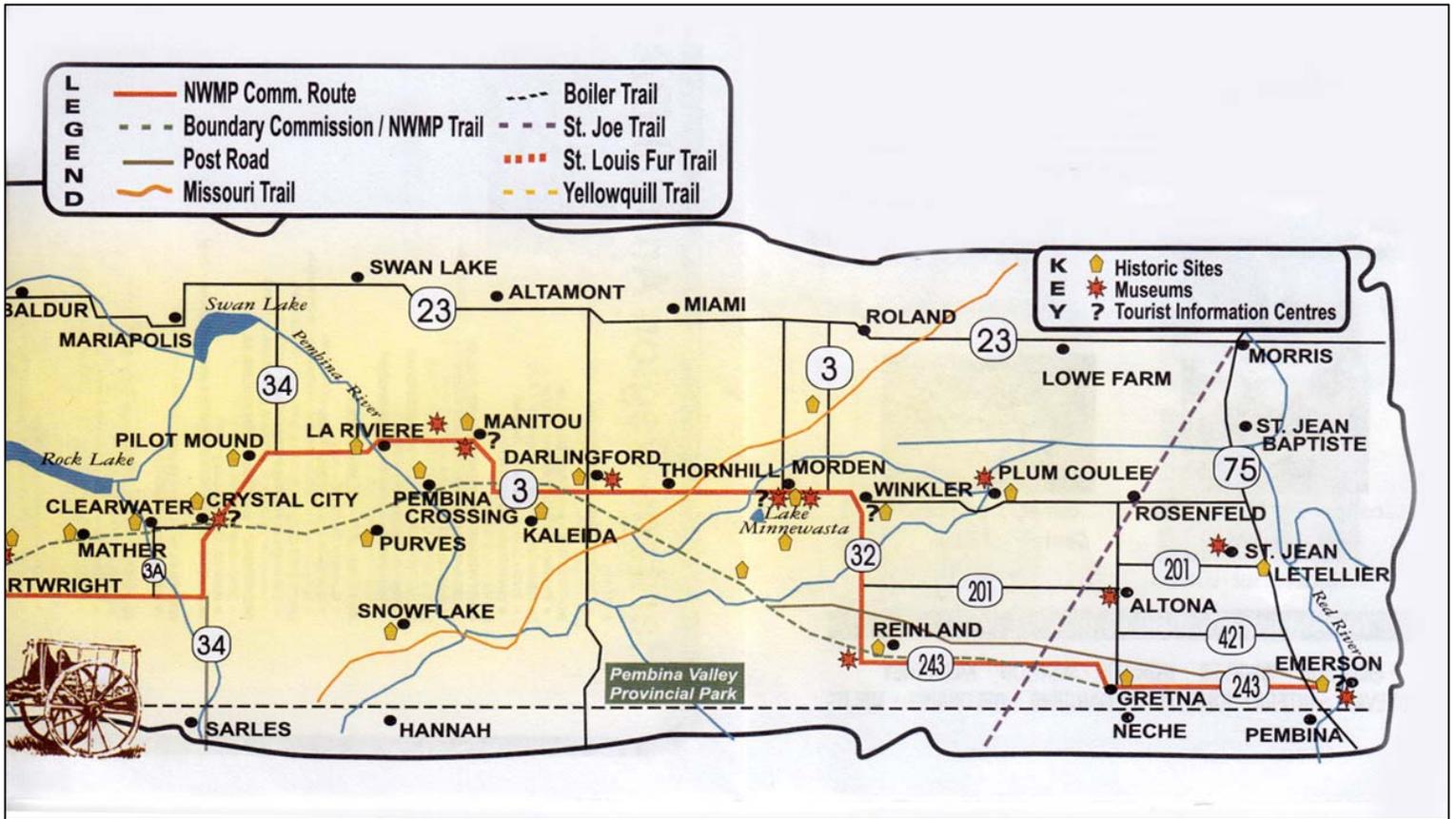


**A  
GUIDE TO THE PRINCIPAL HISTORIC SITES  
ON AND IN THE VICINITY OF**

**THE TRAIL  
In the  
Townships of  
PEMBINA  
NECHE  
and  
ST. JOSEPH  
in the County of PEMBINA, North Dakota  
and  
In Manitoba  
in the Municipalities of  
FRANKLIN  
MONTCALM  
RHINELAND  
STANLEY  
PEMBINA  
LOUISE  
ROBLIN  
TURTLE MOUNTAIN  
MORTON  
WINCHESTER  
BRENDA  
ARTHUR  
and  
EDWARD  
(1993)**

**"The great highway of the southern portion  
of the British Dominion in the far West."**

*- The London Illustrated Graphic -* 7 May 1881



## **Sites in US Territory along the Boundary Commission Trail**

### **1. FORT PEMBINA 18-163n-51w,**

Pembina Township, Pembina County, North Dakota

The agreement between the US and British government for a survey of the 49th parallel was a direct result of an order by the US Department of War for the establishment of a new army post at Pembina. The 1860s had seen several massacres in this part of the US by the Sioux Indians and during the winter of 1869-1870 General George Sykes received orders to establish a new army post at Pembina. In May 1870, acting on these orders, he also made a survey of the 49th parallel. His observations established the boundary 4,600 feet north of the line marked as early as 1823 and placed the Hudsons Bay post at North Pembina well inside American Territory. US Secretary of State Fish, learning of this new survey, suggested to the British government that a joint survey be made of the parallel west of the Lake of the Woods.

In March 1872 Congress apportioned \$50,000 as its share of the costs of this survey, the legislation stipulating that regular officers of the army were to be assigned to the survey without an increase in pay and that Fort Pembina was to become the headquarters of the US contingent of the Boundary Commission.

### **2. PEMBINA 4-164N-51w,**

Pembina Township, Pembina County, North Dakota

During the last quarter of the 1700s, permanent settlement reached the Great Central Plains of the American Northwest. The first inhabited place in this section of the world was at the junction of the Red and Pembina Rivers. Here, in 1780, a French Canadian free trader took up permanent residence. He was followed in the first years of the 1790s by Peter Grant of the North West Company who established a post on the east side of the Red River opposite its junction with the Pembina. The first post on the west side was erected in 1797 by Charles Charboillez, also of the North West Company. David Thompson was a visitor here in March 1798 and mentions that there were 95 Chipeway Indians in the vicinity trading with the North West and Hudsons Bay Companies. In September 1801 Alexander Henry the Younger of the North West Company built a new post on the north side of the Pembina River. He regarded his post as being on British territory and every Sunday flew the British flag on a 75 foot flag staff carved from a single oak log. The Pembina Post of the HB Company at this site was to remain its prairie headquarters until 1823 when, after it was shown to be in US territory, it was reluctantly transferred to Fort Garry.

During the first years of the 19th century this little settlement had several claims to fame. It was, for example, the birthplace of the first white children in the Canadian or American Northwest. Both born during the same week of December 1807, the older was a daughter of a Hudsons Bay Company servant girl who had come from the Orkney Islands earlier that year disguised as a boy. The other was Reine Lagimodiere, the first child of Jean Baptiste Lagimodiere and Marie Anne Gaboury, the grandparents of Louis Riel.

In the fall of 1812 the HBC built a new post on the north side of the Pembina which it named Fort Daer in honour of Lord Selkirk who had recently secured a massive land grant in central Canada. His Selkirk Settlers arrived at Red River during the summer of 1812 and the entire group spent the winter of 1812-1813 at Pembina and all but one of the Selkirk Settlers, the winter of 1813-1814. A church built here late in 1818 by Fr. Dumoulin was the first west of the Great Lakes and was attended by some 300 people. (He and Father Provencher, later first bishop of St. Boniface, had arrived in the Northwest in July of that year.) A school with 60 pupils, also established by Fr. Dumoulin, was the first institution of learning in this part of the world. In January 1864, Pembina was also the birthplace of fraternal life in the Northwest; its founder of the first Masonic Lodge west of the Great Lakes was Dr. John Christian Schulz of Fort Garry.

### **3. SMUGGLERS POINT** Neche and Felson Townships, Pembina County, North Dakota

A well known ford across the Pembina River in this area is mentioned many times in Alexander Henry's journals, sometimes as GRAND PASSAGE; in other places one finds the English translation, PEMBINA RIVER TRAVERSE. In 1864 Mr. Wm. H. Moorehead, in 1867 appointed first sheriff of Pembina County at its establishment in August of that year, moved from St. Joe to 11-163-54, a mile and a half south of the present location of Neche. Here a customs house was established in an effort to curb the smuggling across the border, which had assumed such proportions that, the name Smugglers Point had been given to the location. Later this customs house was relocated 4 miles northwest to the border west of a coulee 2 miles from the future site of Gretna. Here a Mr. W. P. Leslie was US customs collector and postmaster of Smugglers Point.

### **4. POINT MICHELLE** North Dakota, 30-164n-54w

Although the Hudsons Bay company had a post here as early as September 1801, (it was burned a few months later by the NW Co.), the first permanent white settlers of this district did not take up land here until the 1860s. They were Charles

Bottineau and Charles Grant with the latter settling on the north bank of the Pembina four miles west of the future site of Gretna and directly on the trail linking Pembina with St. Joe. On 11 June 1873, on their first night out from Fort Dufferin, the first reconnaissance party of the Boundary Commission camped here and located the first astronomical station west of the Red River at "Grants at Point Michelle." A year later, the NWMP stopped here at noon, 11 July 1873 to water their horses at a well on Mr. Grant's farm. With the arrival of the railroad in 1883 the town of NECHE, named for the Chippewa word for "Friend", was established.

**5. ST. JOSEPH A LA MONTAGNE** Walhalla Township,  
Pembina County, North Dakota, 20-163n-54w

In the last years of the 1700s, Charles Chaboillez in charge of the NW Co. post at Pembina, established a post "a la Montagne", at the Mountain which he named LITTLE HOUSE. Enroute south to Park River in September 1800, Alexander Henry left a party at Morris, Manitoba in charge of Michael Langlois to set up a post at the Hair Hill thereafter noted in his journals as LANGLOIS HOUSE. After his mission at Pembina was severely flooded in 1851, Fr. George A. Belcourt moved it to St. Joseph a la Montagne where a trading post established by Mr. Antoine Gingas in 1844 was located. Norman W. Kittson of the American Fur Company, (later an associate of James J. Hill, the "Empire Builder"), likewise moved his headquarters from Pembina to St. Joseph. Today, his post, built in 1853, is the oldest building in North Dakota. Father Belcourt organized the first religious order in this part of the world, the Sisters of the Propagation of the Faith, which ministered to Metis settlements as far distant as Carman, Manitoba. One of the two bells he brought to St. Joseph still hangs in the belfry of the Catholic church of the Assumption established by Fr. Belcourt. The towns present Icelandic name, "Home of the Gods" was given to it in the mid 1870s by the heroic settlers who had originally settled at Gimli, Manitoba. Among the former teachers of the Walhalla public school was Vilhjalmur Steffanson, the noted Arctic explorer.

**SITES IN BRITISH TERRITORY ALONG  
THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION TRAIL**

**6. FORT DUFFERIN** 13-2-1e,  
Montcalm Municipality

In 1874 a site 2 miles north of the Hudsons Bay Fort was selected as the location for the headquarters of "Her Majesty's North American Boundary Commission". After the erection of several dozen buildings, Fort Dufferin, the marshalling point and principal supply depot for the 300 men of the Commission,

assumed the appearance of a small town. In 1873 and 1874 the old fur trading trails across southern Manitoba west of Fort Dufferin were transformed into THE COMMISSION TRAIL, the first real road of southern Manitoba. In the spring of 1874, 150 recruits for the NWMP reached Fort Dufferin via the USA. Here they joined other recruits who had spent the winter at Fort Garry. On 8 July 1874 the 274 men of the newly formed North West Mounted Police left Fort Dufferin on their long march to the foothills of the Rockies.

**7. L'ISLE DU PASSAGE 5-1-1w,**  
Rhineland Municipality

The earliest mention of this district is in the records of Alexander Henry who several times mentions a grove of trees here known as L'ISLE DU PASSAGE or PASSAGE ISLAND. In 1874 this grove of trees located just north of the future site of GREтна was a NWMP campsite. The townsite was originally known as HESPELER.

In 1882 the arrival of the railroad brought the town into existence, but the grade had been built the previous year. Wednesday, 24 August 1881 marks the end of the era of trail transportation in this part of southern Manitoba. That afternoon the road gangs of the CPR completed the construction of a grade across the Post Road just a mile north of Gretna.

**8. ALLARDS POINT 6-2-5w,**  
Stanley Municipality

In the 1850s, the trail passing along the foot of the Pembina Mountains became known as ST. JOE TRAIL for it linked that settlement with various other points to the north and northwest. In August of 1872, the surveyors of Township 2-5 noted "a belt of very fine oak" in the southern tier of sections. It was within this fine bush situated along the Plum River that Mr. Nelson Bedford of Goderich, Huron County, Ontario, filed for a homestead on 6 July 1874, two days before the NWMP left Fort Dufferin. Mr. Bedford located his building right beside the trail and within a few years became one of the most prosperous farmers of the district. The foundation of his massive barn which burned in the 1920s remains on the original site as a reminder of the first homestead taken up along the Trail.

**9. PEMBINA MOUNTAIN DEPOT 4-2-5w,**  
Stanley Municipality

Three weeks before the first reconnaissance party of the Boundary Commission left Fort Dufferin on 11 June 1873 under the leadership of Commissioner Anderson, a site had already been made for the Boundary

Commission's first depot west of Red River. Located 43 miles west of Dufferin, at the ford of the trail through Plum River, this choice was no doubt made on the advice of the Commission's Metis scouts. It was one of their favorite campsites along the trails linking the two centres of Metis settlement established in the 1850s, St. Joseph on the Pembina River and Isle du Bois, (now Carman) on the stream by the same name and now known as the Boyne.

## **SITES ALONG THE POST ROAD**

### **10. EMERSON 1-1-2e, Franklin Municipality**

Emerson bears the name of Ralph Waldo Emerson, a hero of its founders, two Wisconsin business men, Wm. Fairbanks and Thom. Carney. Friends of James J. Hill of St. Paul, his advice to them was to secure land along the route he had chosen for his railroad into Canada. In the spring of 1873 they initiated the contacts with Manitoba's Lieut.-Gov. Archibald which soon led to their receiving a large land grant just north of the border on the east side of the Red River. In September 1874 the land office was relocated from Fort Dufferin to Emerson. That same month saw the erection of the town's first buildings constructed of 60,000 board feet of lumber purchased off a flatboat tied up to stump on the bank of the river. The growth of the first town in southern Manitoba was gradual until the arrival of the railroad in November 1878. This link with the rest of the civilized world quickly made Emerson the trading centre for an area 200 miles to the west linked to the "Gateway City" by THE POST ROAD and the COMMISSION TRAIL. During its boom years, Emerson was likely the most fascinating town in western Canada to make ones home. Its bust was equally as dramatic.

### **11. WEST LYNNE 2-1-2e, Montcalm Municipality**

The Hudsons Bay Company constructed its first post at the junction of the Red and Pembina Rivers during the first years of the 1800s. However, when it became obvious that these were located in American territory, they were abandoned. About 1850 the Hudsons Bay Company constructed a trading post on the west side of the Red just north of the boundary. This site was known as NORTH PEMBINA but when one of Manitoba's first post offices was established here in the early 1870s, it received the name West Lynne. In July 1879 the Hudsons Bay Company surveyed a townsite here and the following April this historic structure was demolished to make way for the construction of 80 new buildings put up at a cost of \$75,000. Incorporated as a town in 1882, in 1883 it became part of Emerson. Since 1889 it has been, once again, part of the 5000 acres officially constituting the Emerson town

property.

12. **HALBSTADT** 4-1-4e,  
Rhineland Municipality

In spite of the fact that the spring flood waters of the Pembina and Marais Rivers often inundated this district, in the late 1870s some 10 or 12 families established a village here. Although located on the Post Road, the site proved unsuitable and the village was later relocated two miles north.

13. **EDENBURG** 2-1-1w,  
Rhineland Municipality

In wet weather, and particularly in spring, the poorest section of the entire Trail was west of West Lynne. When the roads were mud, this twelve mile section was all that could be managed the first day out on the Trail. Thus this settlement became well known to English speaking travellers as the TWELVE MILE VILLAGE. Rev. Heinrich Wiebe, one of the original Mennonite delegates to America in 1873, was a pioneer of Edenburg. Buried in the Edenburg cemetery, his headstone is now located beside the monument honouring the pioneer travellers along the Post road at its junction with Highway 30.

14. **NEU ANLAGE** 4-1-1w,  
Rhineland Municipality

This was another well known stopping place along the Post Road or, as it was known to the Mennonite settlers, the "Post Wajch". One first store of the reserve was located here and it was also the home of Mr. Franz Kliever, from 1884 until 1889 clerk of the RM of Douglas which later became the RM of Rhineland.

15. **NEUHORST** 1-1-3w,  
Rhineland Municipality

Among the principal claims to fame of this village is its association with Obervorsteher Issak Mueller, one of the original pioneers of the settlement. Otherwise known as "Kaiser Mueller", he directed the secular affairs of the West Mennonite Reserve during its formative years and was the leader of the resistance to the activities carried on by Mr. Brown of the Grand Central Hotel.

16. **KRONSTHAL** 18-1-8w,  
Rhineland Municipality

The Post Road had several detours and just as Neuhorst was slightly south of it, Kronsthal was more than a mile north of it. However, it was one of the first villages in which a regular stopping house was located. By March 1880 travellers along the trail were regular over night guests. As in all the Mennonite homes, the rates were modest; bed and breakfast for as little as 5 cents per person or 60 cents for an entire family with stabling and feed for their team of oxen or horses included. By 1881 Kronsthal was the home of 21 resident farmers.

**17. BROWNS GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL** 11-1-3w,  
Rhineland Municipality

As early as December 1880 a "Canadian" had established a hotel 25 miles west of Emerson on a school section within the West Mennonite Reserve. In March 1881 Mr. Wm. Brown, previously manager of the Davis House in Winnipeg, took over management of this establishment and it soon became a great favorite among the more affluent travellers along the trail who did not care to partake of the hospitality offered in the nearby Mennonite homes. "It was a good house," recalls a pioneer of the Clearwater district, "and at that time considered pretty steep at \$2 a day."

**18. SCHOENWEISE** 17-1-3w,  
Rhineland Municipality

This was one of the largest villages of the West Reserve and in 1881 was the home of forty-three families. Its main street running north and south intersected with the Post Road.

**19. REINLAND** 24-1-4w,  
Rhineland Municipality

This village was the "capital" of the West Reserve. Among its most prominent residents was Peter Wiebe, who as secretary of the West Reserve, shared its secular administration with Isaak Mueller. One of the spiritual leaders of the reserve, Bishop Johann Wiebe made his home here until his passing in 1905. Western Canada's oldest Mennonite Church, an oak log building erected in 1876, is located in Reinland and presently serves as a community centre. By May 1879 travellers along the Trail were amazed at the expanse of 200 acres of wheat sown in the vicinity of this village. By 1881 it had 26 resident farmers.

**20. HOCHFELD** 33-1-4w,  
Stanley Municipality

One of the original villages of the reserve, Hochfeld was founded in 1875 or

1876. In 1881 it had 20 resident families.

**21. OSTERWICK** 6-2-4w,  
Stanley Municipality

This is one of the few villages of the reserve not named after a location in Russia. According to local tradition, it received its name, "Easter Vetch" from the flowers brought to the first Easter service in the newly established village. By 1881 Osterwick had 32 resident families.

**22. STODDERVILLE** 10-2-5w,  
Stanley Municipality

In pioneer times the stream which today is known as Glencross Creek had two other names, Calamity Creek and the River Liffy. The latter is the stream that flows through Dublin and was no doubt named by some of the pioneers, originally natives of the Emerald Isle, who settled here in sufficient numbers to have the district become known as "an Irish settlement." Among these were several members of the Stodder family, (John, James and Hugh D.), Alex Wilson, Joseph Johnson, and Hugh Hassard. In 1878 James Stodder became the postmaster of the post office opened in his home, a well known stopping place along the Trail. In later years he built a fine stone house on this site. Various members of the Stoddart family were prominent in Morden during the first years of this century. Daniel Bell Stodder, a younger brother of John and James Stodder, (and a pioneer of the Clearwater district), was the grandfather of the present Archbishop of Rupertsland, Rev. Walter H. Jones. Stodderville was also the home of the first member of the Manitoba Legislature for South Dufferin, Mr. Wm. Winram, elected in December 1879.

**23. MOUNTAIN CITY** 24-2-6w,  
Stanley Municipality

In 1875, F. T. Bradley, Collector of Customs at West Lynne and later Emerson, purchased the land on the St. Joe Trail. In July 1877 he had a portion of it surveyed a townsite in July 1877. The first business, a general store, was opened later that year. Thanks to Mr. Bradley's ceaseless promotion of his townsite, it gradually assumed an air of considerable prosperity. His choice of a location had been an auspicious one for with the arrival of the Mennonites to the West Reserve and the establishment of the Post Road, its western terminus was set at his townsite. Since the Pembina Hills are only a gentle rise at this point, it was almost certain that any railroad from the east would pass through Mountain City. In 1882, in anticipation of the arrival of the Southern Manitoba Colonization Railroad, more than \$25,000 was spent on construction. Unfortunately, the line bypassed the town four miles to the north and

soon most of the town's buildings were relocated to Morden.

**24. ALEXANDRIA** 20-2-6w,  
Stanley Municipality

In July 1877, Mr. J. W. Harris of Winnipeg, a well known surveyor and public figure, chose a hill overlooking the ford of the Trail through Dead Horse Creek for a townsite. That June Alexandria became the first townsite in Canada surveyed west of the principal meridian. Fifty three acres were surveyed into 13.5 blocks containing 270 lots. The following year John McInrue opened a store and stopping house and the first post office west of West Lynne was established in the home of Mr. John Thompson. Several pioneer families of the district were members of an early branch of the Methodist church known as the Bible Christians and in 1888 they completed a church which they named Ebenezer. In Nov. 1882 Rev. Andrew Gordon became the minister of this congregation. His wife was the first woman minister in Canada.

**25. CALF MOUNTAIN HOTEL** 34-2-7w,  
Pembina Municipality

In May 1877 Mr. Spencer Bedford filed for a homestead at the junction of the Missouri and Commission Trails. His home, described by an early visitor as "of modern architecture with something of a rustic appearance" became the first stopping house in this section of the country. Although nothing remains on the site today except a flowing spring and a few trees, it is still known as the gravesite of a settler who died in the "hotel" in April 1878. He was one of three young men, (of a party of ten), who died within weeks of leaving their former homes near Paris, Ontario.

**26. LA VERENDRYE CAIRN** 33-2-7w,  
Pembina Municipality

An engraved stone picked up a mile north of Manitou in July 1938 was judged to have been left by La Verendrye as he passed through the district on his way to Calf Mountain. Interest was widespread, particularly in Winnipeg where celebrations of the two hundredth anniversary of the great explorer, including the unveiling of the magnificent statue in St. Boniface Park, were well underway. Locally, interest in commemorating La Verendrye's probable visit to the district on his way to the Mandan Indians in the fall and winter of 1738 was spearheaded by Mr. Adolph Dack of Morden. He was instrumental in the establishment of the attractive La Verendrye Park at the junction of Highways 3 and 31 and in having the adjacent sections of Highway 3 designated at the La Verendrye Trail

**27. CALF MOUNTAIN** 5-3-7w,  
Pembina Municipality

This ancient burial mound is the landmark most frequently mentioned in all the early records of southern Manitoba. Visited by Alexander Henry the Younger in 1806, he often refers to it in his journals as "Tete de Bouef." Half a century later, Palliser dubbed it "Beef Lodge" and noted it as "a very curious hill". Pioneers attributed its construction to the extinct race of Mound Builders and opened it several times during the first years of settlement to uncover some clues as to the fate of its builders. Another attempt to dig into it in 1886 was stopped due to the protests of the local Indians. In the fall of 1908 Prof. Henry Montgomery of the University of Toronto carefully excavated it. In addition to copper beads from Michigan and engraved shells from the Gulf of Mexico, more than 20 skeletons buried in a sitting position were uncovered.

**28. DARLINGFORD** 6-3-7w,  
Pembina Municipality

In July 1880 Mr. W. C. Alderson of Mountain City put up a stopping house beside the ford of the Commission Trail across the little Pembina River. DARLINGTON, his native town in Durham County, England, became the namesake of this location and of the townsite he surveyed here in 1881. Soon after the name was changed to Darlingford. It was such a promising location that less than a year later Premier Norquay and several other Winnipeg citizens purchased adjoining quarters and laid out EAST DARLINGFORD. In 1882 the CPR located their station in the center of a large swamp on Premier Norquay's property. Although bypassed, the little town survived for a few years more before it was abandoned and all the buildings moved to other locations. The present Darlingford townsite was laid out in 1898 and given the name of the former location.

**29. PEMBINA CROSSING** 25-2-9w,  
Pembina Municipality

Pembina Crossing's first resident was Mr. John E. Adamson who, in the summer of 1879, established a small store a few hundred yards from the Commission Trail's ford through the Pembina River. A few months later the Pembina Crossing Post Office was opened in these premises and before the end of the year his store became a well known stopping house. In 1880 Rev. L. O. Armstrong, rector of St. Lukes Church of England in Emerson, purchased the land for a townsite. Advertised as "the most prosperous town in southern Manitoba", in 1882 Pembina Crossing was secured by Mr. James Lowe of Ottawa, federal Secretary of Agriculture. With the arrival of the railway near the present site of Manitou in December 1882, Pembina Crossing began to fade away and its last residents, Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Young, left in the spring of 1886.

30. **RUTTANVILLE** 24-2-10w,  
Pembina Municipality

In April 1879 Mr. W. D. Ruttan, a native of Adolphustown, Ontario, filed for a homestead on the eastern edge of the Rock Lake Country. He built a sod shanty along the Trail that he replaced in December 1880 with a two storey structure, the first frame building in the district. After being enlarged, it became, in addition to the first store and post office in the district, the location of most of the first church services, concerts and political meetings in the neighbourhood. In 1886 it was taken apart and rebuilt on Manitou's Main Street.

31. **TREBLES HALFWAY HOUSE** 22-2-11w,  
Louise Municipality

Mr. Samuel T. Treble was a pioneer of 1879 eight miles west of Ruttanville and four miles east of Crystal City. His first home along the Trail was a sod shack where many tired travellers enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Treble. It received its name because it was about halfway to the Turtle Mountains. Mrs. Treble passed away in the summer of 1881, (she was the first person buried in the local cemetery), and her husband continued the management of this stopping house on his own. A clapper from a large threshing bell in the home of Mr. J. Allan Beavis of Crystal City is a relic of his grandfather's farm and stopping house.

32. **CRYSTAL CITY** 13-2-12w,  
Louise Municipality

In October 1879 this district was visited by Mr. Thomas Greenway, until a few weeks before member of the House of Commons for South Huron, Ontario. In April of the following year he was back with the first of the more than 300 settlers he brought out to the Rock Lake Country. On 9 April he filed for the quarter section of land on which was located the ford of the Commission Trail through Crystal Creek, the site he had selected as a townsite. In August of that same year a report in a Winnipeg newspaper noted, "The city is not large save in the determination of its inhabitants, having only one house erected yet, but there are a number of families in tents who will have houses up before winter." By 1884 Crystal City had several hundred residents but during the winter of 1885-1886 the entire town was moved to the newly constructed CPR line.

33. **CLEARWATER** 16-2-12w,  
Louise Municipality

Palliser and the Boundary Commission referred to the stream, which we today know as Cypress Creek by the name of Long River. In 1856 Palliser camped here and in 1873 the Boundary Commission established their LONG RIVER DEPOT here 90 miles west of Fort Dufferin. With the arrival of the first settlers, the district became known as CYPRESS CROSSING, its later name Clearwater being a translation of an earlier Indian one. After first visiting the district in January 1880, Rev. L. O. Armstrong purchased land here where Mr. Alexander McLaren had taken up his homestead in 1878. Here he laid out the town of Clearwater in March 1880.

Businesses soon began to arrive and by March 1882 a local resident reported to a Winnipeg paper, "We entertain the proud ambition of outrivalling even the ambitious Brandon." Why? Because they were "expecting the facilities of two competing railroads." Today the distance between Clearwater and Crystal City is four miles distant but prior to the arrival of the railroad, the survey of each had been so enlarged that their suburbs were just a mile apart. Today Clearwater is the only town along the Trail remaining on its original location.

**34. CARTWRIGHT 34-2-12w,**  
Roblin Municipality

The first settlement on the Badger Creek ford of the Commission Trail was known as WAUGH TOWN after Mr. J. C. Waugh, a settler of June 1879. In 1880 the property passed into the hands of Sir Richard Cartwright, Minister of Finance during the Liberal regime of Alexander McKenzie and a close political friend of Thomas Greenway. In August 1881 the townsite here was named for him. A post office was opened in 1882 and by 1884 the town had almost as many residents as today. The following year the CPR line to Boissevain bypassed the town, necessitating its removal to its present location. Cartwright's rival on its original location bore the name ROCK LAKE CITY, located on the adjoining section, was the property of Mr. F. T. Bradley of Emerson, proprietor of Mountain City and Mr. G. W. Baker, a customs broker in Emerson.

**35. PANCAKE LAKE 6-2-16w,**  
Turtle Mountain Municipality

Local legend credits a pioneer resident, Harry Coulter, with christening this lake as he sat on its shores enjoying his evening meal cooked over a fire of wild willow scrub. Early in 1880, the federal government, at the prompting of Rev. Armstrong, placed four portable shelters here for the convenience of travellers along this particularly open stretch of the Trail. Free fuel and light were provided. A year later these structures were replaced by a log structure in which Messrs. Finlayson and Shier provided "limited accommodations" but "a Godsend to the weary traveller on a

winter road. Often it was "a packed house", for example during the great blizzard of March 1882 when 21 travellers waited out the weekend storm in the one room that served as sleeping quarters, dining room and kitchen.

36. **WAKOPA** 29-1-18w,  
Turtle Mountain Municipality

In 1873 the Boundary Commission established their TURTLE MOUNTAIN DEPOT at the Long River ford. Here the Commission Trail crossed another well known route to the Missouri River. Its pioneer settler was Mr. Bernard B. La Riviere, previously of Crookston, Minnesota, but originally from Ottawa, Ontario. He purchased the depot and its remaining supplies in 1874 and established a trading post and farm. He was the first permanent settler along the Trail. By 1880 his claim totaled 1280 acres.

With the arrival of pioneers on their way to the Turtle Mountain Country in the late 1870s, LA RIVIERES was one of the best known stopping places on the Trail. By 1880 Mr. La Riviere was the proprietor of a townsite here, WAKOPADOSA. In 1881 a post office was established with the present name. STANLEY CITY, the rival townsite of Wakopadosa, was laid out on an adjoining quarter by its proprietor, Rev. Armstrong.

37. **ADELPHA** 4-2-19w,  
Morton Municipality

The first business on this site was a store opened in 1880 by a Mr. Dodd. Local tradition recalls that Adelpha was named after the farm of Mr. John R. Stuart, for many years secretary-treasurer of the RM of Turtle Mountain and the first postmaster of Adelpha. He had received a classical education in England and had chosen as the name of his property a word from ancient Greek meaning "brotherly". In 1902 the Great Northern Railroad built an extension southwest from Greenway through Holmfield and ended the line just a short walk from the original site of Adelpha. The name of the old stopping place on the Trail was then transferred to the station located at this point.

38. **DESFORD** 15-2-20w,  
Morton Municipality

Eleven miles northeast of La Riviere's the Trail crosses a small creek where, during the summer of 1880, the first land office in the Turtle Mountain opened for business. Mr. Alfred Codd, assistant to Mr. Newcombe, the newly appointed Dominion Land Agent for the Turtle Mountain district, registered the first homesteads in a tent. Local

residents can still point out its location. The following summer, Mr. Erskine Nicholl opened a store here and in May 1882 became the postmaster of the post office opened in his business premises. In 1905 the post office was relocated six miles east to the newly constructed Great Northern line where it remained in operation until 1955.

**39. WASSEWA 19-2-20w,  
Morton Municipality**

In 1883 a store on this site passed into the hands of Mr. George Morton, the well known Ontario capitalist who had attempted to establish a massive dairy enterprise on the shores of Whitewater Lake in 1880. He thoughtfully kept a beacon burning above his place of business to guide travellers across the plains to the north on stormy nights. Local Indians soon came to refer to the place as Wassewa, "White Light".

**40. WHITEWATER 4-3-21w  
MORTON MUNICIPALITY**

In 1880 Rev. Armstrong also purchased a property at the ford of the BOILER TRAIL through Waubeesh Creek and by October he had "a beautiful residence" under construction. The following year he put up a store and stopping house. By June Rev. Armstrong had the adjoining property surveyed out into the townsite of Whitewater. By this time his store was rented to "two enterprising young men", Messr. Tregent and Beck. In 1882 a post office opened in this store was christened TURTLE MOUNTAIN CITY after Rev. Armstrong's renamed townsite which now included land on the adjoining quarter to the south, n1/2 32-2-31w. A rival townsite by the name of WAUBEESH, just a half mile to the north, the property of Mr. John A. Brondgeet, soon outranked Turtle Mountain City and grew to a fair sized little hamlet before its failure to secure a railroad connection also doomed it to extinction.

**41. DELORAINE 30-2-22w,  
Winchester Municipality**

Of the more than a dozen former townsites along the Commission Trail, none has a more impressive monument than Old Deloraine. After more than a century, the vault of the Cavers and Stuart private bank still stands. Mr. James Cavers, the original resident of this town, in March 1882, gave the post office opened in his store the name of his birthplace in Roxburgshire, Scotland. The town established on this section quickly became the centre of settlement in this section of the Turtle Mountain Country. However, because it was 130 feet above Whitewater Lake, in 1886 the CPR built their line along the lake rather than into Deloraine. That winter almost the entire town was moved to its present location.

**42. TURTLE MOUNTAIN LAND OFFICE** 19-2-22w,  
Winchester Municipality

An Order-in-Council of April 1880 established the first land office in the Turtle Mountain Country with Mr. George F. Newcombe in charge of a territory that extended over 100 miles into what is now Saskatchewan. Several months later he selected the site for his office, the junction of the Commission Trail, Turtle Head Creek and a trail linking the Souris River with North Dakota. A large, two-storey log building soon became the busiest place in the district with sometimes as many as 70 people waiting to do business. A Winnipeg paper reported in May 1882 that occasionally those who arrived early one day had to wait until late the following evening to be served by Mr. Newcombe or his assistant.

**43. MONTEFIORE** 20-2-24w,  
Brenda Municipality

Although most of the settlers of this district were Scottish, when they were called upon in 1885 to suggest a name for their post office, they chose to honour an Englishman. Its namesake was Sir Moses Montefiore, the first Jewish Lord Mayor of London who had just celebrated his 100th birthday.

**44. SOURISFORD** 26-2-7w,  
Arthur Municipality

One of the most historic sites along the trail, the journals of two sons of La Verendrye refer to this location as HE-A-PA-WA-KA, translated as Head and Horns. Later records refer to it as RED DEERS HEAD CROSSING and it was here that the Boundary Commission found a good ford through the river and later built the first bridge. Mr. Walter Thomas, one of the earliest settlers, arrived here in 1879. SOURISBURG was a name in use for the district as early as the summer of 1881 but when a post office was opened in December 1883 in a the newly established store of Messrs. Warren and Snider, it received the name Sourisford. A townsite by the name of SOURISAPOLIS soon followed but it never amounted to more than a handful of buildings, the most significant of these being the local land registry office opened in May 1883 under the management of Mr. J. P. Alexander. Another townsite not far distant received the name SOURIS CITY. Today the area is best known as the site of western Canada's oldest pioneer picnic dating back to 1 July 1882.

**45. BUTTERFIELD** 36-1-29w,  
Edward Municipality

The last principal historic site in Manitoba along the Trail is Butterfield, once the center of the North Antler settlement. Here a post office was established in 1884. Its first postmaster was a local pioneer, Mr. Joseph Dann, who received the mail from Brandon, 92 miles distant by stagecoach. Three years later, another member of the family, Henry Dann, was the postmaster, and the mail then came from Virden, 65 miles away, the location of the nearest railroad, telegraph and express office. In 1890 a beautiful fieldstone church, consecrated in 1892 as St. Georges Anglican, was built in the nearby Copley district and soon became better known as the Butterfield Church. It is today in ruins.