

Historically Speaking

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Howard County in 1917

Written by Julie Spilinek,
Historical Society Secretary

Twenty seven is almost ready for the history books. By 2117 some of the events from this past

year may be recorded in the annals of time. Since this a historical publication, let's look back 100 years to 1917. Very few people reading this will remember many of the events as they happened, except for what their parents and grandparents told them. There were quite a few major headlines from that year, most notably the participation of the United States in the first World War. However, much of the information I'm

including here reflects life as it occurred on a daily basis or those events that impacted the local citizens in Howard County as well as surrounding areas in Nebraska. This past year Nebraska celebrated 150 years as a state; in 1917 it was a mere 50 years old. The January, 1917, issue of the *Phonograph* mentioned that the County

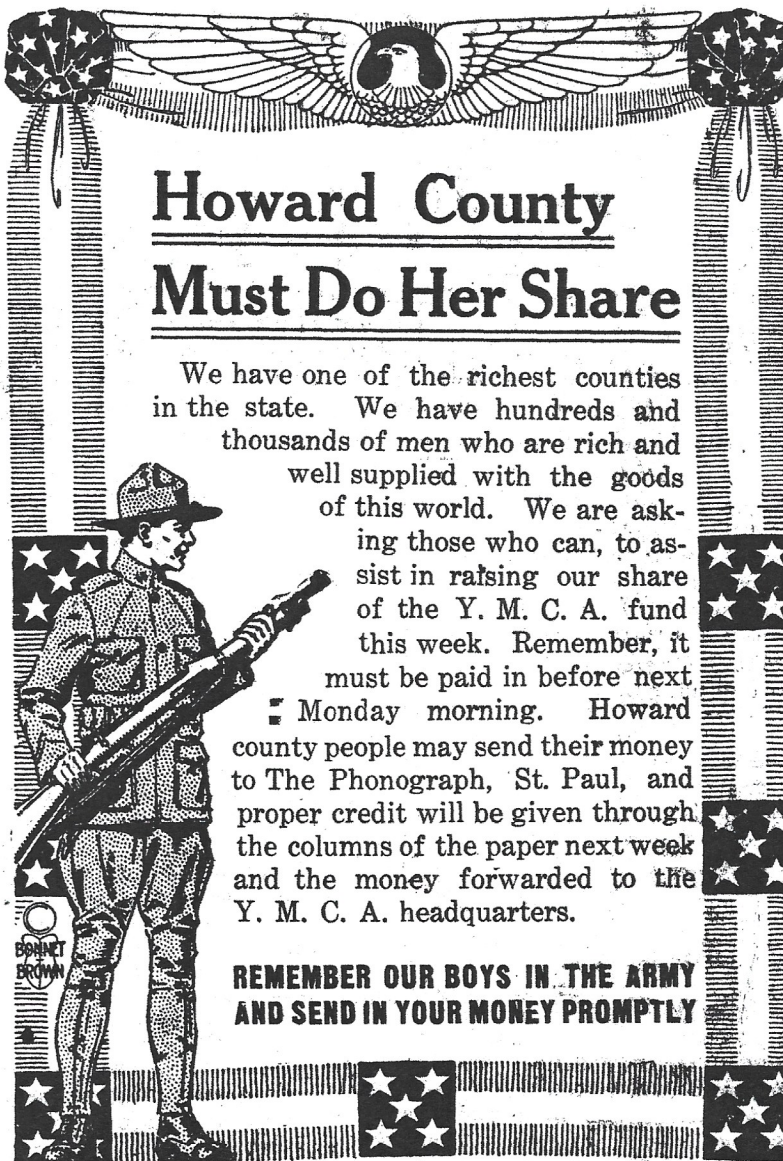
Superintendent, W. G. Baker, encouraged teachers in the county to observe this anniversary.

In 1917 Woodrow Wilson was president of the United States and Keith Neville was the governor of

Nebraska. The year began with much of Europe in the throes of war. Although President Wilson tried to remain neutral, public opinion and Germany's sinking of submarines and other ocean vessels, he

declared war on that country on March 20 but did not deliver his war message until April 2nd. The Senate voted for war 82 to 6 on April 4; the House of Representatives followed on April 6, 373 to 50 with the President signing the proclamation the same day. On June 5th the President put into effect the Selective Service Act that was passed May 18th. As a result of that action life in the United States changed for many citizens as they became involved in the war effort. However, without the instant communication that we have available today, people living in Central Nebraska were pretty much removed from events across the ocean. They were more intent with the day to day business of making a living and

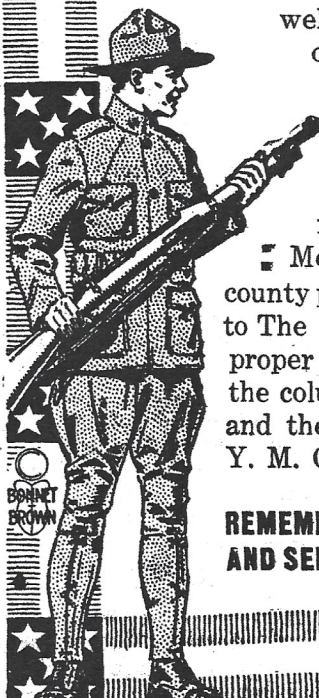
providing something better for themselves and the generations who would follow. However, when it became known that the United States was at war, young men from the state, including Howard



Howard County Must Do Her Share

We have one of the richest counties in the state. We have hundreds and thousands of men who are rich and well supplied with the goods of this world. We are asking those who can, to assist in raising our share of the Y. M. C. A. fund this week. Remember, it must be paid in before next Monday morning. Howard county people may send their money to The Phonograph, St. Paul, and proper credit will be given through the columns of the paper next week and the money forwarded to the Y. M. C. A. headquarters.

**REMEMBER OUR BOYS IN THE ARMY
AND SEND IN YOUR MONEY PROMPTLY**



Howard

A Message From the President

Kaye Tomlinson

Hello and I hope everyone's fall is going great. Our weather is wonderful, but we know what's coming. The Howard County Historical Society is doing very well. The new building is being set up with all the different wars and all of the native Indian items. Donita Anderson and Lynn Larson have been working very hard to get the new building up and ready. It is lots of hard work. They have been doing a lot of hours and a very good job, but it is filling up fast.

Our board meets in the meeting room at the new building. It has lots of space and rest rooms and it is warm! Roger Goettsche and his helpers have put in sidewalks and a drainage ditch that was much needed.

Donita Anderson purchased new flower containers for the front and she has decorated them very nicely with fall flowers and now for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Thank you Donita. Good job.

Donita was also in charge of getting our computer, phone and copier set up in our office. It is finished! Ron Sack is going to put all of our records on the computer for us. It's all shaping up! We could always use new people so come over and join us.

There was a Live Nativity on Friday, December 1, at the Historical Village. It was wonderful to see and a great message for this time of the year. Our Historical Village is very nice and is an asset to the City of St. Paul. It is work to keep it operating so think of joining and help us. Dues are \$15 a year and we need you.

My life has been blessed. I'm well again and ready for a new year at the Village.

County, were ready to join one of the armed forces. (Note an article from the *Phonograph* reflecting this later in this issue)

Although the day-to-day life in rural Nebraska—including Howard County—was pretty

humdrum, there were numerous social events throughout the year, but the one major happening was the County Fair. This was especially true for the farming community. Even with war across the ocean creating havoc and anxious moments, people here supported the County Fair in a big way. In 1917 it was held September 25, 26, and 27. Some of the featured events included band concerts, baseball games, parades and, of course, the exhibits of livestock, homemade foods and handiwork. And for the young people, a merry-go-round and ferris wheel ...A group called the Zat Zams was advertised to perform. Each day's program and time of each event was posted on a blackboard at the Grandstand, and of course in the local paper. In fact, much of the news of that time came from newspapers. At one time Howard County supported two newspapers. Dannebrog even had its own newspaper for a time; of course it was printed in Danish. In looking through the 1917 issue of the *Phonograph*, it was interesting to note what the paper included and how it was arranged. It featured national news and state happenings, along with local headlines. As with newspapers today, it included much advertising from local merchants as well as promoting certain products, especially products that aided in the healing or at least relieving certain malfunctions of the body such as constipation, aching muscles, etc. It also contained a serial—a story that continued for several weeks. There were also numerous tidbits of a social nature.

Within these "who visited whom" and "who went where" were one to three lines promoting local businesses and what they had to offer. Often a rather humorous item would appear, such as the following. A Mrs. Gertrude Halt from Hermosa Beach, California, advertised for a husband, 35 years old and wealthy...She didn't want one who had less than she did. The March 8 issue reported that "Herman Hermansen, the funeral director and embalmer of Elba, the forepart of this week secured an auto hearse...this is the first of its kind for this County and it is said one of the best in the state." I'm assuming the previous hearse was a cart or buggy pulled by horses.

I'm including copies of items from the 1917 newspaper, plus a few other tidbits from it. I hope you find this as interesting as I did.

From January 4, 1917 Phonograph

1917-18 County Officers

The officers for Howard County for the years 1917-18: County Clerk K. D. Bahensky, County Attorney Charles Dobry, County Treasurer Charles Geil, County Superintendent William G. Baker, County Sheriff W. H. Atwood, County Assessor John Leth, Clerk of the District Court J. P. Christensen, Deputy County Treasurer John Frandsen, County Surveyor L. E. Larsen, and County Commissioners C. Theo. Krogh, J. F. Bower, and Fred Olsen.

From January 4, 1917 Phonograph

Ever on the Increase

County Rapidly Coming to the Fore
in Number of Automobiles

County Treasurer C. A. Geil gave out some information this week that may be interesting to our readers. It is in regard to the number of applications for auto and motorcycle licenses issued.

During the year an even nine hundred applications for auto license were issued. Twenty-five motorcycle applications issued. In nine instances were applications made to replace lost numbers. The total cash receipts for the auto licenses was

\$2,579.50; for motorcycles \$46.00, a total amount of \$2,625.50. \$326.55 of this total amount was sent to the state treasury. The balance, \$2,298.95 is applied on the road dragging fund of this county.

The number of auto licenses issued last year, 900, is quite an increase over the number issued the year previous. It will not be long until this county will be right up in the front rank in the number of automobiles in the county.

From May 31, 1917 Phonograph

Mayor's Proclamation

In view of the fact that our national government has set aside Tuesday, June 5th, as the day for the registration of men to serve as soldiers in the war crisis with which our nation is now confronted; and

Whereas: on that day the young manhood of St. Paul will pledge themselves, in behalf of all of us, and in the great cause of American liberty, to fight and die, if need be, upon the bloody battle fields of Europe in order that this government shall not perish, but shall stand with honor unsullied and principles unbroken, and

Whereas: it is befitting and necessary that our citizenry should show due appreciation for the great and noble sacrifice which will be made by the soldiers who will go forth from among us:

A. H. Riness

CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER

Well, here we are, for business too,

So let us have a shot at you,
Will try to hit you so you'll feel,
That there is a live one on the reel,

But when you are landed on the shore,

I am confident you will want some more.

PHONE 153 ST. PAUL, NEBR.

C. J.

CHRISTENSEN

FUNERAL DIRECTOR

— AND —

LICENSED EMBALMER

PHONE 40, ST. PAUL
L46, DANNEBRGG

St. Paul, - Nebraska.

Therefore, it is hereby proclaimed that Tuesday, June 5th, 1917, shall be a patriotic holiday in the city of St. Paul, Nebraska; and every citizen is urged to come with patriotic heart and to lend a serious and respectful presence to any services that may attend the ceremonies of registration.

ROYAL F. JESTER,
MAYOR

From August 30, 1917 Phonograph
**Registration of Women
Is Voluntary**

Registration day for women in Nebraska is Sept. 12, 1917.

This registration is entirely different from the registration of men which took place in our country on June 5th last.

Registration of women is voluntary. No one will compel you to register. Nothing will be done to you if you fail to register.

“Registration” simply means signing your name and address and stating what you can or will do, in the way of service for your country at this time. If you wish to be paid for your service, say so. Nothing will be done to you if it becomes impossible for you to render the service for which you pledge yourself. Your offer will be made in good faith, and no legal significance can be attached to your obligation.

No guarantee is made that you will be given the work you ask for, or the compensation which you may consider it necessary to receive, but the probability is that the work and workers in this state will be so organized thru registration, that each woman may be given to do that which she prefers.

TO THE PUBLIC

I have rented the McCracken feed and livery

barn. Will be open day and night. Put up at my barn when in town. I will treat you right.

JOHN SUMMERS

From November 29, 1917 Phonograph

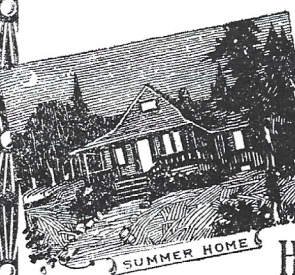
**Anything to Be Thankful for
In Nebraska This Year?**

By Will M. Maupin

Have Nebraskans any thing to be thankful for in this year of world-wide war? With nearly twenty thousand Nebraska boys wearing the uniform of Uncle Sam, have we no cause to be thankful? Is there any reason why we should be mourning by

DELCO-LIGHT

ELECTRICITY FOR ANYONE-ANYWHERE





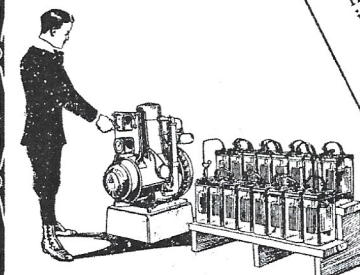
Here's a letter from a local user
of **DELCO-LIGHT**

The Domestic Engineering Co.,
Dayton, Ohio.
Gentlemen:
Having purchased the Delco plant of
the Rasmussen Bros. Jan. 19, 1917, and
installed it Febr. 20, 1917, and it has
been on duty ever since, and never re-
fused to give perfect satisfaction.
The electric light is the safest and
only light for any place a person needs
it, as in my business. I use it for
charging storage batteries which is very
simple. For light it cannot be compared
for me as I can work at night as well as
in the daytime. The cost of operating
it is so small that I cannot even notice
it. If anybody wants to know more
about it I will be glad to show and tell
him.

Yours truly,
A. J. Blaha.
Elba, Nebraska

DELCO-LIGHT
Simple—Durable

DELCO-LIGHT BATTERY
Thick Plates—Long Life.



DELCO-LIGHT
Is a complete electric
plant designed to
furnish light and
power to farms,
country homes,
summer cottages,
yachts, houseboats,
rural stores and
churches.

It betters living
conditions and
pays for itself.

H. & A. Rasmussen
SALESMEN
ELBA, - NEBR.

our firesides?

True we have given twenty thousand of our boys to fight for world-wide democracy, and die for it if need be—but our good Nebraska acres have contributed a greater surplus of food stuffs to feed the soldier boys and the people of the nations bearing the brunt of democracy's warfare, than the acres of any other state. From these acres we are harvesting 260,000,000 bushels of corn. Upon these acres we have grazed \$100,000,000 worth of beef. From the grasses of these acres we have minted \$35,000,000 worth of golden butter. From these acres we have harvested beets that will provide our soldier boys and the people of other countries with 60,000,000 more pounds of sugar than we will need for our own consumption.

The financial burdens of the war are heavy, but

they can be heavier without imposing any impossible burdens upon Nebraska shoulders. There is enough money deposited by Nebraskans in the state and national banks of Nebraska to take up 10 per cent of the next Liberty loan of five billions of dollars.

Anything to be thankful for in Nebraska? When the war started Germany boasted that the control of the potash of the world would help her win the war. When the boast was made three years ago Nebraska was not producing a pound of potash. Today Nebraska is producing more than 400 tons of potash a day worth \$60,000—and Germany's grip on the potash of the world has been broken by this prairie state fifteen hundred miles from the sea board.

Anything to be thankful for in Nebraska? Twenty thousand stalwart Nebraska boys have answered their country's call, and a million Nebraskans at home are privileged to add more to the care and comfort of those boys and their million comrades than any other state.

Anything to be thankful for in Nebraska? We cannot forget in Nebraska the huge guns that are shooting autocracy to death in Flanders, but from the inexhaustible resources of Nebraska soil we are producing the meat and the bread that keep fit the boys who are serving those big guns, and which will enable them to "go over the top" to final victory.

Thankful? Of course we are. Thankful that so many of our boys have offered themselves for the great sacrifice, and thankful that we who are not permitted to follow their example can remain at home and do our bit, and then some, by putting this good state in the very forefront of productivity. Thankful that in the providence of God we can live safely and securely thousands of miles away from where the great guns boom and still play the part of men and women in winning the world for peace

Party-Line Subscribers Are Urged to Hold the Telephone Only 5 Minutes



FIVE MINUTES is usually sufficient to complete an ordinary business or social transaction by telephone.

The telephone company saves work when party lines are "tied up" for long periods while people are talking; but such a policy is unfair to our other patrons.

It is not a kind act to compel your neighbor to wait more than **FIVE MINUTES** while you hold the line unless your conversation is very important. A call for a doctor or an important business transaction may be delayed.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," is a good rule.



NEBRASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY

and righteousness. Thankful that whatever the war burden may be, we may still do our share without greater discomforts than we may readily bear. Thankful that we can come across with our millions for the Red Cross and the Y.M.C.A., and confident that from Nebraska soil we can win more if necessary. Thankful—yea, and proud—that Nebraska is permitted to play so important a part with her men and her foodstuffs.

Thankful—yea, and proud—that to date Nebraska has not lagged behind either in men or in money or in foodstuffs. Her meatstuffs and her breadstuffs have stilled the cries of starving little ones in Belgium; her stream of gold has solaced the widows and orphans of stricken France. Her generous contributions have cheered the trench-weary soldiers from our own land and from the lands of our allies. And this we have been permitted to do without any great sacrifice, although we are thankful that the Nebraska spirit is evidence of Nebraska's willingness to make every needed sacrifice for the perpetuation of democracy.

From November 29, 1917 Phonograph

Howard County Boys Enjoying Army Life in Camp Funston

Ed. Bartle Writes Very Entertainingly of Camp Conditions, Which Are Good

Company E 355th Infantry,
Camp Funston, Kansas,
November 22, 1917

Dear Dan:

Your welcome letter received and am glad to say that your Phonographs reach us every Saturday morning, and are certainly picked up in a hurry by the men. Your idea in sending them all in a bunch is a good one, and there is less chance of losing many of them.

Our quarantine is not half bad, the time we mind it the most is when the folks get down here and we are not able to show them around. The company goes out to drill just the same, and a few of us make errands around the camp. It's a little lively around our barrack tonight as our company happens to be on guard. So far we have had two calls, one to dispose of an automobile which was stolen right before the exchange store. The office is the guard house so we may see some excitement before the night is over.

Use GOOCH'S BEST FLOUR

I sure hope you can come down here and see the way the boys live, and I know you will be more than pleased with the treatment we get. We have steam heated barracks, electric lighted, hot and cold water shower baths, and the eats are excellent—if you don't think so just glance over our coming Thanksgiving menu which I just got thru making out for our chef, and he's a good one. The captain says his Mrs. furnishes the turkey, 175 lbs. of it, you ought to hear the cheers when it was announced.

Everything at home seems to be getting along nicely, and I hear a good many of the boys are enlisting. Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Calvin were here the other day visiting their son and saw the life of a soldier boy. Am very glad to hear you still call St. Paul your home and that in the near future will be back again among all your friends.

We have taken up the French military system of drill work and find it entirely different than our own, but it's very interesting, and a great deal more to it. Right now we have seven officers in our company, and when the company is at full strength we will have twelve sergeants and thirty-three corpo-

Freedom of Action is a
noted Characteristic of

The New Fall

CORSETS



The continuance of the vogue for straight-line garments is responsible for the corsets which, while adequately supporting the figure, are so fashioned as to be exceptionally comfortable. In the new fall styles the low bust models predominate. Many are shown in beautiful brocaded patterns in white and the delicate pink tints. Just at present we are showing a complete range of styles and sizes. An early visit is advisable.

New Fall Number of W. B. & Gossard.
Prices \$1.25 and up.

Bartle's

erals. I think we will receive the balance of the 15 percent of the first draft from Howard and neighboring counties to fill our company, but I am afraid they will have to work pretty hard to catch up with the boys now. Don't know just how they will arrange it. I understand right now there are around fifty thousand soldiers in this camp, and they are making room for sixty thousand. The last two weeks they have taken another spell in building, and buildings seem to be going up all over, and they sure go up in a hurry. By the looks of things, I think they intend to make this a permanent camp for some future use, putting up immense large buildings for amusements, paving the streets, and by the way everything is built looks as tho it's made for more than this war. There is about everything in the amusement line, such as picture shows, one building with a hundred pool tables, bowling alleys, Orpheum circuit, swimming pools, besides the wonderful work the Y.M.C.A is doing. There are twelve of these buildings in camp and some kind of amusement going on in everyone one of them every night. They even go as far as bring the stationery to the barracks for the soldiers. Everything they do is

free to the soldiers; and they are polite in answering any questions you may ask them. I am glad to hear Howard county did so well in raising such a good fund for the Y.M.C.A., as they realize what a great benefit they are to the boys at home and abroad.

I doubt very much if we get a chance to see France before many months. Most of the boys are getting very anxious to go and would be glad to get the orders to move most any time. Our captain has lived both in Germany and France, so knows something about the countries. One of our lieutenants has worked for the government for twelve years, spending a good deal of his time in Alaska and has also been abroad. Another one of our lieutenants has been athletic instructor here in camp for the last six weeks, so you can see that I am proud to say that I know we have the best bunch of officers of any company here.

I could write you a book, explaining our camp in details, but would rather see you come down and see for yourself the wonderful way in which everything is handled. The sight of seeing the many thousand soldiers in drill is worth the time itself. The 30th of this month we have divisional parade, where the soldiers of the camp will all get out in one body, and show Major General Wood his big family.

Give my regards to your entire family and keep a great deal for yourself. Tell all the boys that ask about us that we are happy and enjoying the Victorola that Howard County was so kind in sending us.

I beg to remain, with the hopes of hearing from you again in the near future, and seeing you at Xmas time.

Sincerely yours,
Ed. Bartle

Here is the menu that Ed. spoke about. It looks mighty tempting.

DINNER

Roast Turkey, Chestnut Dressing, Roast Pork Hams, Cranberry Sauce, Cream Gravy, Apple Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Baked Sweet Potato, Asparagus Tips, Drawn Butter, Sugar Corn, Scalloped Oysters, Apple Salad, Fruit Salad, Pies (Mince, Raisin, Lemon, Apple, Pumpkin), Cakes (Chocolate, Fruit, Orange, White Silver Layer), Celery, Olives, Dill, Sweet and Sour Pickles, Apples, Oranges, Bananas, Grapes, Parker House Rolls, Bread and Butter, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Cigars, Cigarettes, Nuts, Candy.—Berton L. Garrison, Chef.

MIDGET MARVEL

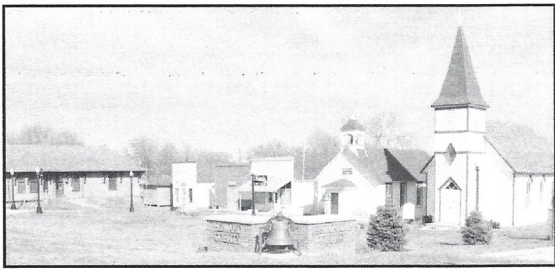
Roller Mills

The Midget Marvel Roller Mills is now ready to do grinding. Will give in exchange, 34 pounds of flour for one bushel of good milling wheat. If bran is wanted, will give 31 pounds of flour and ten pounds of bran per bushel, Feed grinding will be 12 cents per hundred pounds, if ground into meal will charge 30 cents per hundred pounds. Can also make rye graham at 30 cents per hundred pounds. Please bring in your wheat if you want it ground. Will prefer winter wheat, but can use regular spring wheat. Will not take any macaroni wheat just yet.

E. H. Sorensen

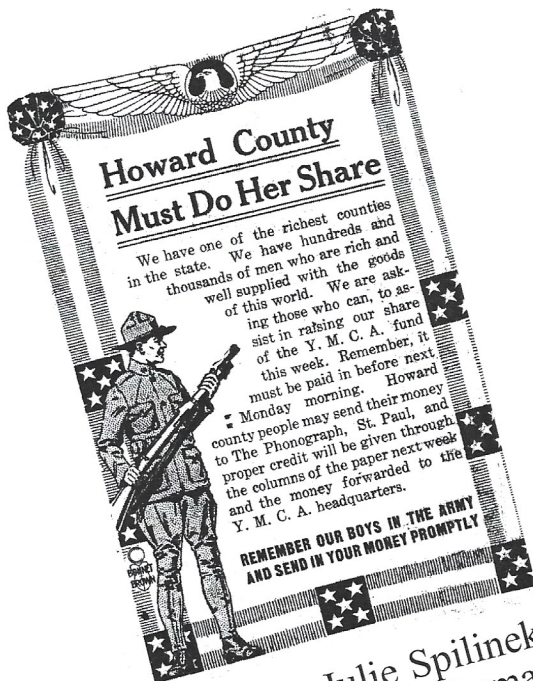
Phone 16

St. Paul, Nebraska.



HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 1
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Historically Speaking



INSIDE: Julie Spilinek has compiled information on Howard County 100 years ago.

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