Rededication of the Historical Marker
"The Sioux Quartzite"

Photo Courtesy of Del Duncan, ca. February, 1966
(Left to Right: Ralph Kalaher, Chief Executive, Sioux Council; Royce
Adams, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 48; Don Olmstead, Scoutmaster,
Troop 48; Darrell Modica, Professional Scout, Sioux Council

Troop 48, Sioux Council
Boy Scouts of America
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
July 28, 1998
Minnehaha County Historical Society
REGISTER OF MCHS HISTORICAL MARKERS

A. BALTIC area:
   1) — JOHN THOMPSON, PIONEER — EARLY SETTLERS’ ASSOCIATION
   2) — SITE OF THE JOHN & KIRSTI THOMPSON 1866 SOD HOUSE

B. BRANDON and area:
   1) — EMINIJA, MINNESOTA TERRITORY
   2) — THE CITY OF BRANDON

C. CROOKS area:
   1) — TO GOD BE THE GLORY!
   2) — PETER BYG, PRAIRIE FIRE VICTIM

D. HUMBOLDT area:
   1) — PUMPKIN CENTER

E. RENNER:
   1) — LINDBERGH LANDING — RENNER FIELD
   2) — THE VILLAGE OF RENNER

F. ROWENA and area:
   1) — THE TOWN OF ROWENA, DAKOTA TERRITORY
   2) — THE CITY OF EAST SIOUX FALLS
   3) — IVERNON CROSSING ROAD
   4) — BEN CLARE, DAKOTA TERRITORY
   5) — BANNING’S MILL AND CROSSING

G. SIOUX FALLS:
   1) — THE AMIDON AFFAIR
   2) — IN MEMORY OF MAKANA NA OTA E’ EN
   3) — THE HANGING OF AN INNOCENT MAN
   4) — EARLY FIREFIGHTING IN SIOUX FALLS
   5) — THE SQUATTER GOVERNMENT AT SIOUX FALLS CITY
   6) — THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING
   7) — U.S. SENATOR R.F. PETTIGREW (1848 - 1926)
   8) — THE QUEEN BEE MILL
   9) — AN INSTITUTION OF ORGANIZED KINDNESS
   10) — THE 1900 CAMPAIGN WHISTLESTOP BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT
   11) — WEST SIOUX FALLS
   12) — SOO SKYWAYS AIRPORT
   13) — ELIZA TUPPER WILKES (1844 - 1917)
   14) — THE DUBUQUE HOUSE
   15) — FROM GLORY TO GLORY
   16) — MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY
   17) — INCIDENT AT FORT SOD
   18) — THE TOWN PUMP

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19) — CALVARY CATHEDRAL
20) — THE CATARACT
21) — THE AMIDON STONE HOUSE
22) — THE OLD YANKTON TRAIL and STAGE ROAD
23) — THE FIRST "FLYING MACHINE"
24) — THE BIG SLIDE
25) — THE PETTIGREW-TATE LAND GRANT
26) — RADIO STATION WFAT
27) — THE SIOUX QUARTZITE

Minnehaha County Historical Society

PURPOSE - The Minnehaha County Historical Society's purpose is to study and record the history and development of Minnehaha County. As part of its mission, the society works to mark and preserve historical buildings and sites across the county. Through its monthly meetings, the society educates its members and the public on the rich heritage of the people and land we call Minnehaha County.

MEETINGS - The Minnehaha County Historical Society meets monthly during the months of September through May. Meetings are usually held at the Old Courthouse Museum, 200 West Sixth Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Members receive a monthly newsletter which informs them of program topics.

HISTORY - The Minnehaha County Historical Society was organized in 1927 after it was evident that such a group was needed to protect local historical sites. The city had sold Seney Island before a group could be organized to protest the action.

From the early years of the society, its members have worked to save and preserve many local historical sites. Just months after forming, it fought to save the late U.S. Senator Richard F. Pettigrew's home and museum so the building could be used by the city as a public museum.

During the 1960s, society members were a driving force behind the county's saving the Old Courthouse and its development as a museum.

The society has always been ready to champion historic causes.

OFFICE - The office of the Minnehaha County Historical Society is located on the second floor of the Old Courthouse Museum, 200 West Sixth Street in Sioux Falls. The office is open and staffed on Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Please stop by or phone (605) 367-4210.
The Sioux Quartzite

The Sioux Quartzite, deposited more than a billion years ago, is among the oldest rock exposed in South Dakota. The quartzite and associated pipestone deposits were known to white men as early as 1822, but the American Indian used pipestone centuries earlier to make ornaments and utensils.

The Sioux Quartzite consists of thick beds of silica-cemented quartz sandstone, the grains of which were deposited and rounded by wave action on the floor of an ancient continental sea. This fact is illustrated by laminations and ripple marks preserved in the quartzite. The density of the rock resulting from cementation and compaction makes it very resistant to erosion as shown by the falls at this site; the Big Sioux River has been flowing in its present course here for about 10,000 years.

In Pioneer Days this rock was the principal building and paving material in this area. At the present time its use as an aggregate in concrete construction makes the Sioux Quartzite an important natural resource of Eastern South Dakota.

Donated by Sertoma Boy Scout Troop 48, John Bradford District, Sioux Council

MINNEHAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers and Directors of the Minnehaha County Historical Society

Bruce Blake, President
Jack Timm, First Vice President
Jeanette Hay, Second Vice President
Jeanne Richardson, Treasurer
Bill Hogan, Secretary
Shon Cronk, Historian
Kathryn Joslyn, Shirley Nelson and Art Moe, Directors
The Story Behind This Marker

by Tom Howard

This historical marker was first dedicated by Troop 48 in February of 1966. At the time I am sure that the area around the Falls was not the same as we have grown to cherish. The marker was dedicated by Troop 48 as a community service to help others realize the importance of this area to this city. In fact, if it was not for the Falls, the entire city of Sioux Falls may have never existed. The settlers came to this area because they needed the river for both a water source and a mode of transportation. The Sioux quartzite rock formations provided an excellent building material for the growing city. Some of the historical structures in the Sioux Falls area are made with Sioux quartzite such as: The Old Courthouse Museum, and old Washington High School.

After the marker was in place, the people of Sioux Falls began to see the importance of this site to their history. This was one of the major reasons that the Falls Park was established. To allow not only a place to go and enjoy the outdoors but in some way expand the city's knowledge of this area's rich historical roots. Before the renovation of this site I am sure it was not the most desirable place to be when the sun went down. Thankfully we now all have the opportunity to go experience the Falls and learn of our heritage in such wonderful surroundings.

Sioux quartzite is a rare rock and is one of the oldest rocks exposed in South Dakota. The materials found in this rock were deposited by the ancient continental sea that covered this entire area billions of years ago. It is plain to see the ripple marks preserved in the rock from the ancient sea. The way this rock was formed makes it very resilient to erosion as shown by the falls. Even though this rock is old we are still using it for new uses such as concrete construction.

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I am glad to help continue this city’s historical awareness. However, we do owe much of this vast knowledge to the Troop 48 of 1966 who first dedicated this historical marker. Under the leadership of the late Don Olmstead, Scoutmaster, who gave 12 years of his life to Troop 48. I hope you all are looking forward to look back on this city’s history.

Boy Scouting was founded in 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell who was a decorated war hero in the British Cavalry. His ideas of shaping boys into fine young men through scouting soon spread to the United States from Britain. Many have heard the story of a lost businessman in England who was offered help by a young scout at no fee to the wayward traveler lost in the dense fog. The traveler, William D. Boyce, was so impressed by this good deed that he went to the scouting head office to talk to Baden-Powell. They discussed the institution of scouting in the United States. Then on February 8, 1908, Boyce and other leaders started the Boy Scouts of America.

Currently I am a Life Scout in Troop 48 and I have been with this troop for over 5 years. Now I am working on my Eagle Candidate Project which consists of the rededication of this historical marker and the fabrication of a cement pad for the marker. During my years as a Boy Scout I have earned 23 merit badges and have only 3 required merit badges to complete before I am eligible for Eagle rank. I would definitely recommend scouting to any young man. The skills acquired for life will make any scout a stronger man later on in life and more than likely a leader.

Troop 48 is also one of the most historic troops in the entire Sioux Council. It is the longest continuously chartered troop in the council. It was first chartered in April of 1930 which means it has been serving for over 65 years, always doing “A Good Turn Daily.” The Troop has been under the watchful eyes of 18 scoutmasters and numerous other adult leaders. Even though there may be a lot of adult supervision it has always been the young men who led the troop. Many of these young men go on to achieving the highest status of Eagle. In the troop their has been approximately 80 Eagle Scouts with many more working hard to achieve this great status. We have always prided ourselves on our great reputation and service to others.
It's time
to become a
Registered Historian
of the
Minnehaha County Historical Society

It's fun, it's easy, it's informative, it's educational!! And it is all free!! Visit 25 or more historic sites in Sioux Falls and in Minnehaha County and read the historical markers. Then send in your application to the Minnehaha County Historical Society. You will be invited to a regular monthly meeting of the society where you will be introduced and recognized and presented with a Certificate attesting that you are a REGISTERED HISTORIAN of the Minnehaha County Historical Society. You will become an Honorary Member of the society for one year. And it is all free!!

Phone 367-4210 for a free Historical Marker Locator.
PROGRAM

July 28, 1998
7:30 p.m.
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Sioux Falls, SD

Emcee
Tom Howard

Presentation of the Colors
Troop 48

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome from Troop 48
Richard Howard, Scoutmaster

Welcome from the MCHS
Jack Timm

About the MCHS Historical Marker Program
Bruce Blake

Remarks About the 1966 Dedication
Royce Adams, former Scoutmaster

Remarks About the 1998 Rededication
Tom Howard, Eagle Scout Candidate

Marker Rededication and Unveiling

Retire the Colors
Troop 48