Souvenir Program
Dedication of the Historical Marker
“TWIN MOUNDS”

Geologist Dennis Tomhave

Dennis W. Tomhave is a geologist with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey Program, University of South Dakota. TWIN MOUNDS is the sixth earth history marker in which Dennis has provided technical assistance. Thanks again, Dennis!

Sioux Falls Gem and Mineral Society
Gilbert Science Center
Augustana College
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
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MINNEHAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TWIN MOUNDS

A continental ice sheet covered this area tens of thousands of years ago. The glacier flowed here during the Illinoian glacial stage, which lasted from about 302,000 to 132,000 B.P. (years Before Present). Part of its leading edge stretched from Garretson to Dell Rapids.

As the climate warmed, the glacier began to thaw, and meltwater streams formed on top, within, and under the ice. Well-sorted sand and gravel were dumped into a fanlike shape at the margin of the glacier.

The small hills nearby are the deposits that remained after the ice sheet retreated. Geologists call such glacial hills, kames. Directly south of this location is a kame of sand and gravel with matching twin mounds on its east and west flanks.

In the late 1870s and 1880s oxen- and horse-drawn covered wagon trains carried new settlers into this area. Few landmarks existed to guide the wagon masters or to break the monotony of the tall grass, treeless, and gently rolling prairie; but the kame with two mounds was easily recognized. It became a point of reference for incoming pioneers who named it Twin Mounds.

DEDICATED IN 2005 BY THE MINNEHAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN MEMORY OF JON H. KENTFIELD AN IN HONOR OF NORMAN NIELSEN

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Marker Location:
Rural Garretson,
244th St & 482nd Ave
This schematic map shows three North American centers of flow (marked 1, 2, and 3), the general directions of flow from these centers, and the southern extent of glaciation. Note that western South Dakota was not glaciated. Generally much of the glaciation in eastern South Dakota originated from the middle center of flow located on the west side of Hudson Bay (marked 2).
Covered Wagon Train

Covered wagon trains brought homestead-minded settler families to Minnehaha County during the mid to late 1870s. After the first of six railroad lines reached Sioux Falls in 1878, wagon trains quickly fell into disuse.