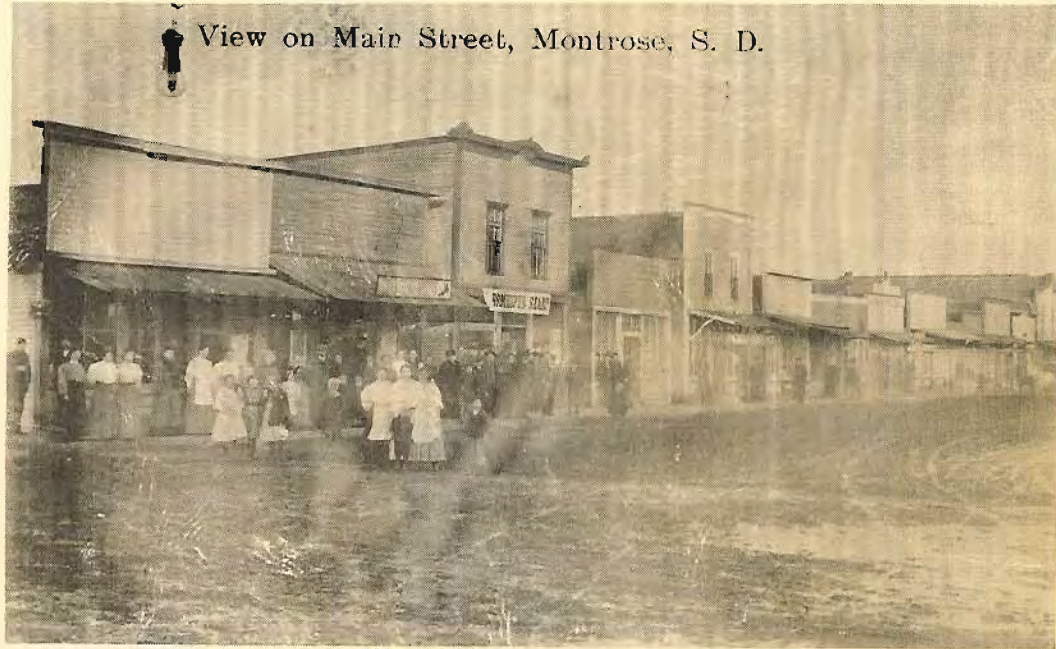


# MONTROSE

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# MEMORIES

## INTRODUCTORY

To write a complete factual history of a particular location one would have to go back to the beginning of time. This being impossible we have to rely on the earliest available records and eyewitness reports.

McCook County was created from Hanson and Jayne counties January 8, 1873 in Dakota Territory. Boundaries were changed February 22, 1879. Montrose is a name that is said to be a combination of the words mountains and roses, suggested by W. M. Brown, first postmaster, because of the high terrace covered with wildroses that surrounds the town. Another version is it was named by R. F. Pettigrew of Sioux Falls for Sir Walter Scott's "LEGEND OF MONTROSE." It was plotted 1879-1880 by Messrs. Drake & Wilder, representing the town site company. The first store was erected in 1881 by Walker & Smith in which they placed a general stock of merchandise. During the same year, W. J. Clark, Fuller & Butterfield put up business houses. The Catholics and Baptists had church edifices and Methodists and Presbyterians had organizations without regular houses of worship. During 1882, a fine school house was erected at a cost of \$2,500.00. The business interests consisted of five general stores, two hardware, one drugstore, one millinery store, one harness shop, one meat market, three warehouses, one hotel, one lumber yard, two livery stables, two lands loan offices and one newspaper office. Montrose is located twelve miles east of Salem on the Chicago, Northwestern, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad in a fertile valley of the East Vermillion River. It had a population of 300." Taken from pages 173 and 174 of Alfred T. Andreas' Historical Atlas of Dakota 1884.

Montrose was the first town in the county to have a free rural mail delivery.

# *Memories of Montrose*

1879 - 1976

"I plan for the future, I yearn for the past and meantime the present is leaving me fast."

This book is dedicated to all the people who ever lived in the Montrose community. The people who were the earliest settlers of the area, the developers, the people who lived the area for a time and moved on, through the years to the present citizens.

We have tried through our unprofessional efforts, to compile a book that will stir the memories of all who have had a part, either large or small, in building our community. We want to remember those who lived here at one time but now are scattered to all corners of the country. We hope this book will inspire many memories of the "good old days" and you will always be proud to say "Montrose, my home town".

The task of finding the necessary material and writing the history of Montrose would have been impossible but for the assistance of the many people who searched through their family records and belongings to locate information which help make this book as authentic as possible. The sources of material for this book are old newspaper files, county history, old private papers and visiting with our older citizens.

The family histories were compiled and written by members of the individual families.

Undoubtedly this book leaves much to be desired. It is not intended to be a best seller but a valuable book of reference for the present and the future. We wish to assure our readers that neither time or effort has been spared. We hope any mistakes or omissions will be forgiven. We sincerely hope this volume is accurate in all major respects.

## *Little Town*

I like to live in a little town  
Where the trees meet across the street  
Where you wave your hand and say hello  
To everyone you meet.

I like to stand for a moment  
Outside the grocery store  
And listen to the friendly gossip  
Of the folk that live next door.

For life is interwoven  
With friends we learn to know ;  
And we hear their joys and sorrows  
As we daily come and go.

So I like to live in a little town,  
I care no more to roam,  
For every house in a little town  
Is more than a house; It's home.

Author Unknown

# *Family Histories of the Montrose Area . . . .*

## **JAMES CHRISTIE ACHESON**

Mr. and Mrs. James Christie Acheson and their three children James Boyd, Mary Eliot and Ray Metcalf came to Montrose from Rock County,

Wisconsin, in 1900. They bought a farm one and one half south of Montrose.

In 1907 James C. sold the farm and moved into town. He passed away in 1912. Mrs. Acheson lived in Montrose until her death in 1922.

## DR. WALLACE ADRIAN

Dr. Wallace Adrian of Canistota, veterinarian by trade, purchased farms from Ward Clark and Lyman Anderson in 1960. Adrians home town was Marion, S.D., where they were married in 1949. They have five children, four boys and one girl.

Marlin Carsruds worked for Dr. Adrian Farm until it was sold in 1975 to Clarence Connolly of Graceville, Minn.

## OLAF M. ALSGAARD AND FAMILY

Olaf M. Alsgaard was born in Norway June 26, 1882. He emigrated to America and worked in the coal mines in Michigan. He came to Montrose area about 1908.

On March 10, 1909, Olaf Alsgaard married Martha Howe and Emery H. Williams married Amelia Howe in a double wedding ceremony, the wedding was held in the home known as the Vasvik place.

Algaards homesteaded a farm on the east side of the Valley road near Art Erickson place. The house was made of stone. There were eight children born to them. The oldest three children died quite young.



Ernest Alsgaard family.

Clara, Harold and Kermit are living together northwest of Montrose. Allan is married and lives at Salem. Ernest married Myrtle Johnson on June 4, 1944 and they live northwest of Montrose. Nine children were born to them and they have six grandchildren.

Olaf Alsgaard died on May 28, 1956, and Martha Alsgaard died on April 20, 1931.

## BISHOP PAUL ANDERSON

Paul Anderson born 1917, was educated in public and parochial schools of his native Boston and Winthrop, Massachusetts. He was ordained a priest January 6, 1943. Father Anderson began his service in South Dakota January 15, 1959. He was named Pastor of St. Patrick's, Montrose, August 6, 1962. He was ordained as Bishop October 17, 1968. Bishop Anderson is at Duluth, Minnesota.



James and Julietta Acheson.

Boyd went to North Dakota in 1908 to file a claim. He worked in the coal mine. He returned to Montrose in 1910. On December 20, 1911, Boyd and Ethel Butterfield were married. They resided in town until they moved to the farm in 1920. They had two sons James and Vivien. Vivien passed away at the age of 15.



Ethel and Boyd Acheson.

Ray passed away in 1911.

Boyd and Ethel lived in Montrose until they reached the ages of 87 and 89.

## JAMES ACHESON

Rosalie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Raap, and James Acheson, son of Boyd and Ethel Acheson, were married in 1941 at Groton, South Dakota.

Rosalie continued to teach school for several years and James farmed with his father. In 1946 their son David was born. The following year they moved to the home place and Ethel and Boyd moved to the Louie Platt farm. In 1951 Rosalie and James' son David passed away. The following year Phyllis came to them and three years later Larry joined the family. They continued farming until the fall of 1969. Rosalie works at the Montrose School for the lunch program and James is employed at Feterl Manufacturing, Salem.

# MONTROSE MEMORIES

1879 — 1976

Published by the

**BUSY BEE CLUB**

1976

Montrose, South Dakota 57048

Made available as Adobe Acrobat

(PDF) file by Roger Berke

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Busy Bee Club of Montrose, SD



WE WISH TO SAY "THANK YOU" TO THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS BOOK POSSIBLE. YOUR COOPERATION IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.