

N. R. Whidden

N. R. Whidden of the firm of Whidden Bros., dealers in general merchandise, including dry goods, hats caps, clothing, furniture, flour, & feed, is the son of Gregor W. Whidden, a native of Nova Scotia, and was born in 1849. He was educated in the country of his birth, and was in business there fourteen years before coming to this country. He was married first to Miss Emily M. Angell of New York in 1876. His wife having died in 1878 he was married in 1880 to Miss Sadie E. Angell, a sister of his first wife. He had two children, but lost both by diphtheria in New York in Mar. 1884, while visiting their grand parents. Mr. Whidden came to Dakota in April 1883 and erected his buildings and established his business May 1, 1883. His brother John B. Whidden first went to California and remained eight years. At the end of that time he returned to Dakota, and became a member of the above firm Oct 29, 1883. He died at Cooperstown. Mr. Whidden carries a stock of \$15,000, and is insured for \$7,000, one of the largest stores in the town and county.

Bibl. Atlas of Dakota, 1884, p 242

Extract of a letter written by W.R.WHIDDEN  
to a friend in HALIFAX, N.S.

"ABOUT DAKOTA"

(Quoted from the "Cooperstown Courier" of January 25, 1884.)

-----"I would like to tell you about  
this particular locality-----about Cooperstown, scarce a year old, about  
her founders, Cooper Brothers, the Bonanza farmers, who the past season  
ran 50 self binders three weeks, to cut their immense crops-----about  
her \$22,000 Palace Hotel, her \$10,000 schoolhouse, the Union Hotel and  
restaurants, about her bank and its capital, her 50,000 bushel elevator,  
and grand railroad depot, about her four general stores and her business  
transacted in one season, about her land agents, lawyers and doctors-----  
her post-office, drug store and printing office---about her livery stables,  
butcher shops, and last but not least her church society and its work-not  
forgetting her Glee Club and social institutions. If time permitted I  
should like to tell you something about Griggs County with the Sheyenne  
River meandering south through its eastern half----well wooded and  
settled with an enterprising Norwegian population. Also about the  
beautiful lakes too numerous to mention or small to name, except as some  
settler may name from fancy. I might tell you of Lake Jessie and its  
scenery, of the picnics, boating, playing croquet there."-----