

# History of Bandon Township

Bandon Township was established on January 4, 1871 and was officially known as Township 113 Range 33, in Renville County, State of Minnesota, and consists of 36 full sections. 2021 represents Bandon's sesquicentennial.

The organization of the township was held at the home of Jeremiah Farrell in section 18. Township officers were elected. The first officers were Chairman Timothy Carline, John Reagan Treasurer, James Hurley and Jacob Anderson Volen Supervisors, Jeremiah Farrell assessor and Justice of the Peace, and Gunerus Peterson, Clerk. The township was named by Mr. Farrell who came from the Town of Bandon, County Cork, Ireland.

A few struggling settlers were in the township as early as 1865, but because the topography was mainly sloughs, marshes and two large creeks which flooded large areas with heavy rain, they left the area to locate in areas where the land was more suitable to farm.

As more settlers came in the 1870's, roads became more important to establish. Road overseers were appointed or elected, and each male inhabitant was required to pay a poll tax by working one or two days as determined by the elected officials. Early road records show a long list of persons receiving money for dragging and king dragging. The first application of gravel on town roads was in 1905.

Bandon was without a town hall until one was erected in 1886 in the S.E. ¼ of section 16. A new site was purchased in 1953 after schools consolidated. The District #124 school and grounds became the township meeting place located in section 28.

Bandon had five rural schools within its boundaries. They were District 29, 60, 66, 69 and 124. Some students from Bandon also attended District 125 in Wellington Township.

The Bandon Busy Beavers 4-H Club was organized on January 27, 1948. County Agent Frank Svoboda and Mrs. Harry Fullerton were very helpful during the first year of this organization. The least number of enrolled members was 10 in 1952, and the largest number was 55 in 1967. Mrs. Ben Torgerson, who was also a teacher in District 124, and Ray Isaacson were the first volunteer leaders. The mothers of 4-H members organized the Kitchen Klatter Band for a club meeting on May 29, 1959 using various kitchen utensils as instruments. They played for many years bringing cheer and happiness to many groups.

For many years the little country store in the northwest corner of section 15 in Bandon Township served the farmers in the area as a "convenience" store, gas station, and social center. The history of the Bandon Store, known as "Low Marie" and "Husky Town", dates back to the depression year of 1933 when it was opened for business by Walter and Mary (Savela) Williams. The original store had its beginning as a summer kitchen on the Savela farmstead, and was moved to the corner lot at the intersection of county roads 2 and 3. Gas pumps were installed and Husky gas and oil were sold. Throughout the years, the store had several owners besides the Williams families including Mr. and Mrs. Art Benjamson, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Sayer, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Menk, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Klinker, and in 1980, Roger and Carol Schwartz became the new owners.