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Minatare, Nebraska - photo taken about 1950. How many buildings do you recognize that would not be in an aerial photo taken today?

Evolution of a County

The Nebraska Territorial Legislature created Lyon County out of part of Western Nebraska. The first Nebraska State Legislature, in 1867, made some readjustments. They eliminated Lyon County, created Taylor County and then changed Taylor County to Cheyenne County in 1871. Cheyenne County was extensive and included most of the Panhandle. Even the large ranches, such as the Coad and Sheedy Ranches, paid taxes to Sidney in Cheyenne County, and some of the revenue was collected from as far away as Cherry County. Unfortunately for most of the areas outside of Sidney, the tax monies did not benefit them.

By 1888 Scotts Bluff County was established, and Governor John Thayer set the date of January 16, 1889 for the newly formed county to select county officials and choose the location for a county seat. Governor Thayer selected Gering as the temporary county seat until elections could be held.

The Race for the County Seat

In a warmly contested race, the following three sites were chosen:

A site belonging to Elijah Beers, south of present day town of Mitchell and near the then Mitchell post office. E.B. Peck set up the *Mitchell Quirt* newspaper to represent this area.