

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTED

Brainerd

The railroad, commonly known as the Missouri Pacific, came across this area early in 1885. It was surveyed to cross a quarter-section owned by Elisha Brainerd. A town was surveyed and platted in May, 1885, and 48 lots on Main Street sold immediately. Brainerd, being named for the landowner, was organized on May 25. 150 lots were sold by June 2. The railroad was completed and operating to Newton by the end of June 1885. Lumber was delivered regularly to Brainerd by the train carload. On September 1, 1885, 180 buildings had been built, about 40 of which were business houses. On the same date, the population of Brainerd was given at 500. Brainerd was incorporated on November 14, 1885.



Brainerd Depot

Obviously, leaders and residents of Brainerd were aware of the proposal of a north/south train route and certainly did not oppose it. However, they seemed to lack the aggression to encourage the railroad. Within two years, the railroad had a set course slightly to the southwest.

In 1888, the north/south railroad, the Rock Island, was operating trains on the new track, Whitewater was being prepared as a new town, and Brainerd was waning. Over the next two years, 35-40 buildings were literally moved to Whitewater and businessmen and residents changed addresses. Un-incorporation of Brainerd began in 1901.