



Granite monument and resting place of Minnie Henline at Springfield Cemetery. A white unmarked limestone monument of another individual lies next to it. Courtesy photo **Whisenant, county look to save Springfield Cemetery**

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times On Dec. 10, 1892, Joe Fuest signed a proclamation declaring Liberal the county seat of Seward County.

That news came following a rivalry between Fargo Springs and Springfield that involved threats being made from Springfield residents to influence polls which would later decide where the county seat would be located.

The Springfield Town Company was chartered on Sept. 18, 1885, but the town was not laid out until the spring of 1886.

Springfield was straight north of Fargo Springs, and the Canyon Road between the two towns was the scene of the killing of Seward County Sheriff Sam Dunn during the county seat war in Stevens County.

Springfield grew to a population of 800 in a few years. Later a \$30,000 water system was built, along with a large brick school house, two hotels and public square filled with business buildings.

The post office and several newspapers would soon follow, and Springfield's population would eventually exceed that of Fargo Springs after Springfield won the county seat war.

Springfield would need only a railroad to become the central city of the region, but the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska railroad, building west through neighboring Meade County in 1887, crossed the Cimarron River below Fargo Springs a few miles.



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