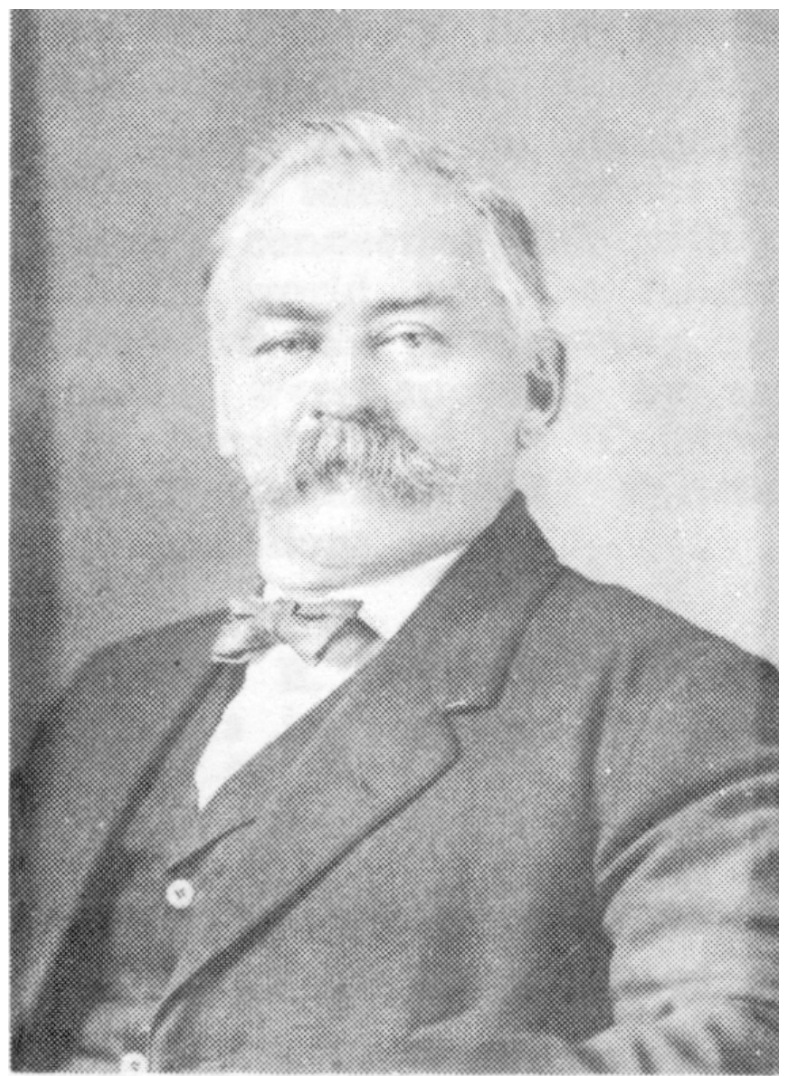


A. E. Thorberg

20 May 1857 – 24 February 1921

Andrew E. Thorberg was born in Ronberg, Norway on May 20, 1857 and came alone to Davenport, Iowa in 1876. He he worked and attended school for a year to become acquainted with the English language. In 1878 he struck out with the West Coast in mind, but he came to Dakota Territory with the survey crew working for the Northern Pacific Railroad platting the new town of Mandan.

The Missouri Slope region satisfied his dersires, and here he remained. When the survey crew finished its work, he remained behind and turned to the western life as a trapper. In this role, he became well acquainted with the countryside and its resources. Thorberg's outdoor life gave him ample opportunities to observe the soil and natural resources of the region and formed the foundation for his life values.



About 1880, he accepted a position as clerk in the store of Hanover and Barth Clothiers. He continued to work there until 1887 when he accepted a position in the Granberry and Cummins, Co. store. Shortly afterward, Mr. Granberry died and Thorberg bought a working interest in the store, which was subsequently renamed Cummins and Thorberg.

In 1890, under President Harrison, Mr. Thorberg was appointed postmaster of Mandan which office he held until 1894, when he resigned because of other pressing duties. In 1914, Mr. Thorberg retired from active business. He continued, however, to invest heavily in the community, opening the Thorberg Tile Company at Old Fort Lincoln flats in 1917. The company specialized in building tile, but as well as rough clay products and high-grade building brick.

He married Ida K. Johnson born March 1, 1864 in Drogsta Sodermanland Sweden to Jonas Eric Anderson and Clara Karoline Carlson. After moving to Mandan, he conducted experimental work in his garden with fruits and trees and from these successful ventures stemmed his determination to secure Mandan as the site of the government operated dry land Experiment Station which was completed in 1915. and was one of the first to try to interest the United States Government in establishing an experiment station at Mandan

He became clerk in the clothing firm of Cummins and Tubbs and in 1891 became a partner in the firm which operated for many many years under the name of Cummins, Thorberg and Theis. He also served as postmaster from 1890 to 1894. He disposed of his store stock in 1916 and invested in farm lands - bought from Peter Hendrickson a cousin - Leonard Johnson - son Alfred Johnson.

Thorberg was one of the founders of the Morton County Fair Association in 1895 and in 1893 was in charge of an Indian exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair. He also represented the city at a hearing in Washington, DC in the early 1890s in its attempt to get an Indian School located in Mandan. Mr. Thorberg always got along well with the Indians, coming in contact with them often in his business, he learned to talk their language. He was well acquainted with Sitting Bull and was one of the party who accompanied him to the World's Fair.

He was active in organizing the first commercial club of Mandan which was known as the Mandan Business Men's Association, also helped established the Mandan Fair Grounds. Although active in politics he did not care to hold public office. With the exception of the four years he was postmaster, he never held a political office.

Andrew and Ida Thorberg were the parents of eight children: Eric A. born in Mandan in 1887; Clara Higgins, born in Mandan in 1889; George E. born in Mandan in 1890; Harry S. born in Mandan in 1892; Lilly Kleinschmitt born in Mandan in 1894; Ida Diebert born in Mandan in 1897; Clifford born in Mandan 1899; Robert V. born in Mandan in 1905.

Andrew Thorberg died on February 24, 1921. He is buried beside his wife in Mandan's Union Cemetery.