

Whitney, E

A

E. A. Whitney Founder Of First Bank

Sheridan's first bank, the Bank of Sheridan, was established in 1885-86 by E. A. Whitney.

Mr. Whitney, prior to the opening of his bank in Sheridan, had gone to Buffalo and was returning to Sheridan when at a point near Piney creek a man came out of the brush and gruffly said: "Are you

the fellow that's going to open a bank in Sheridan?"

As the stranger put his hand to his hip pocket the banker half believed it was a hold-up, but said "yes."

"Well," said the stranger, who was George C. Moose, "here's \$300. Place this to the credit of Stillman C. Graham."

Mr. Whitney then got a scrap of paper and gave him a receipt. When the bank was opened this was entered as the first deposit.

Later a big time-lock safe was ordered by this bank. It was rail-roaded to Custer station on the Northern Pacific in Montana and was freighted to Sheridan, weight 6,200. In crossing the Big Horn river at Ft. Custer it broke through the wagon and into the water. It was recovered but when it arrived in Sheridan the safe was wet and rusty and the time-lock wouldn't open.

S. J. Inglefield and Charley Williams were sent for and came to the bank. They were unable to fix it. Finally they got mad and struck it a fierce blow with a sledge hammer. The jar started the time-lock and in time it opened and then this telegram was sent by Mr. Whitney:

To Hall Safe and Lock Co., Cincinnati, Ohio: "Safe arrived, time-lock refused to work. You forgot sledge-hammer attachment."

When the Bank of Sheridan was established in Sheridan there were only 70 people, men, women and children in the community. When the bank was succeeded in 1890 by the First National bank, the depositors numbered 560.