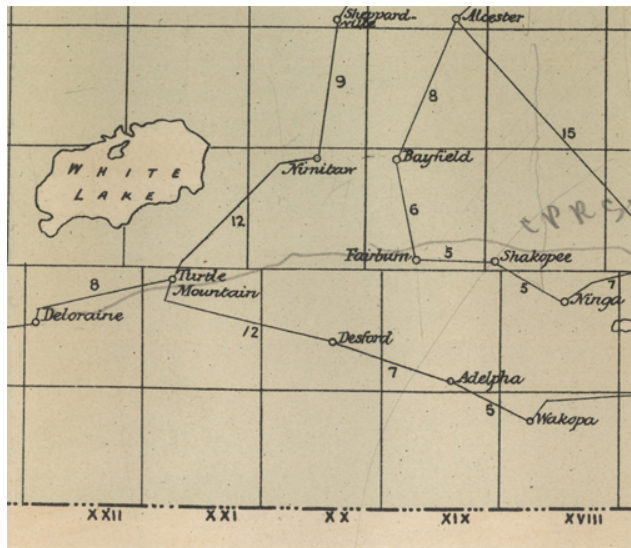# Desford.

An Englishman named Barneby did a tour of the North American in 1883. He passed through Brandon and then went south. In the book he published he mentioned one of little villages that came and went in those early days.

"On our route we passed a store named Desford, where we watered our horses; but the water was bad. A road comes in here from Brandon. The Turtle Mountains are still to the south."

That's about all he had to say.

This map shows post offices in 1884.

The Desford community began in the late 1870's along the Old Commission Trail about 12 kilometres south-southwest of Boissevain, and was, like Wakopa, one of the first trading centres in the area.

People living where Boissevain would soon be located would do their shopping at Desford. Sunday Church service was held at a local home.
Fox's sawmill served the district in the early 1880's and produced most of the lumber that was used for the first buildings in the region.

Like nearby Wakopa, Desford seemed ready to become an important town if only the railway would pass through.

That didn't happen. The railway passed to the north and the town of Boissevain became the centre of the region.

But the Desford story wasn't over.

In 1906 the Great Northern Railway was put down through the area and a small village, also called Desford, sprang to life.

In 1908 the hamlet consisted of the water tower for the trains, the Railway Station, elevator, section house, bunkhouse, the Methodist Church, the blacksmith shop, a Community Hall, a General Store and a few houses.

All traces of Desford, once located in this field, are gone. This sign, placed in 1970, is left to remind us