

Welcome to Ritzville

by Harland Eastwood



One hundred years ago Ritzville was the largest single wheat shipping point in the entire United States, and was known as the "Bread Basket of the World." During the next 50 years the downtown business area was bustling with activities especially during Harvest. In addition to being one of the most productive dry-land wheat producing areas of the country, Ritzville was, and still is, the county seat of Adams County.

It was after the Northern Pacific Railroad was completed through Adams (then Whitman County) in 1881, that the first Volga German immigrants arrived by covered wagon and started taking homesteads in the surrounding area. By 1900 these Volga German immigrants and other settlers were engaging in business endeavors, many building fine brick blocks on Ritzville's Main Street.

Local author Harland Eastwood has assembled a collection of historic photographs that document this period of growth and prosperity. Many of these photographs have never been published before.



ISBN-10 0-9823834-8-7

ISBN-13 978-0-9823834-7-6

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