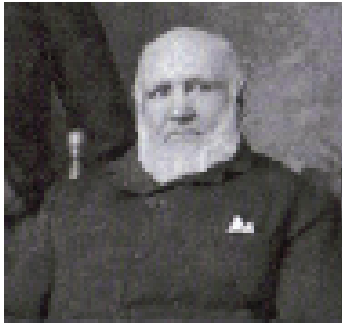


# Dobbyn City

The “Manitoba Boom” hits the Southwest Corner



*John Dobbyn – Melita Pioneer and Businessman*

Pioneer John Dobbyn had selected a homestead along the Souris River near where Melita would later be located. He, and many of the other settlers expected that a railway line would pass nearby, and that his land would be a good spot for a town. If that happened the land would be valuable.

Across the province there were many people speculating in land. They hoped to buy land that was now empty, but would later be a town, and be worth much more. They hoped to get rich. Knowing this, Mr. Dobbyn had “Dobbyn City” surveyed and marketed.

It was a typical example of the paper city. It was just believable enough to be sold and also full of wishful thinking and outright lies.

Apparently the ads worked... for a while. In March of 1882, The Winnipeg Daily Sun reported the sale of 80 lots at an average of \$30 each. How much, if any, of that money made its way into Mr. Dobbyn’s hands, no one knows.

Have a look at the ad from the Winnipeg Daily Sun, March 9, 1882. People in Winnipeg or back east had no way of knowing that no railway would be built for

another eight years, or that no real businesses or houses yet existed in Dobbyn City. It didn’t matter - they just hoped it would happen and their \$30 lots would be worth ten times that much.

## DOBBYN CITY!

The future great manufacturing city of the

**Souris District !!**

**MAGNIFICENT WATER POWER**

And illimitable supply of coal and iron, is situated on Sec. 32 Tp. 3, Range 26 West. The centre of Souris River County in Southwestern Manitoba, at the point where the Manitoba Southwestern Railway crosses the Great Souris River.

The whole country surrounding Dobbyn City is acknowledged by all to be the actual Garden of Manitoba, and every available foot of land for miles and miles around, is settled.

Mr. Dobbyn, after whom the city is called, having colonized five townships himself, with wealthy farmers from Western Ontario.

**Dobbyn City !**

Is to be made the

**COUNTY TOWN**

OF

**Souris River County**

Being opposite Bismarck, it is here that connection will be made with the Northern Pacific.

A company is now being formed to build a line of railroad from Dobbyn City by way of Qu'Appelle to Edmonton.

Building is now going on to the extent of \$25,000.

^ Large Mill is being Erected

The railway did eventually come in 1890, but Dobbyn City was long forgotten and the river was crossed about a mile further downstream. Mr. Dobbyn had long since focused on his farm, and became a leading citizen of the new town of Melita.