September 26, 2026

Town of Torrey 175th Anniversary
Time Capsule Burial

Welcome everyone to the burial of the Town of Torrey Time Capsule, commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Torrey!

On November 12,1851 Henry Torrey, the Town Supervisor of Potter and chairman of the Yates County Board of Supervisors proposed creating a ninth township in Yates County. The proposal was rejected.

Not to be deterred, he reconvened the Board of Supervisors on November 14th at the American Hotel (the site now occupied by the Knapp Hotel) and again proposed creating a new town from the Eastern portions of the towns of Benton and Milo. After much deliberation and perhaps libation, the proposal was approved. In recognition of the efforts of Henry Torrey (a former Dresden resident), the new town was named after him.

I'm Grant Downs and along with my co-chair, Donna Rae Sutherland, with Town Board approval, we decided to recognize the 175th Anniversary of Torrey's founding with a Time Capsule, which is to be opened in 25 years (2051) during Torrey's 200th Anniversary!

We envisioned the purpose of the time capsule to offer a glimpse of the past, not just a collection of historical documents and articles.

We also wanted to suggest a hint of the future with newspaper articles/magazines on various topics, such as the advent of **AI** and its possible impact.

But mostly we wanted to focus on the people, businesses, and organizations that comprise the Town of Torrey in 2026. So we have tried to take a snapshot of our community in 2026 through photos, newspaper clippings, and various donated items from the community.

We would like to thank the Torrey Town Board for its support and suggestions for this endeavor. We appreciate the Town of Torrey Highway Department (Josh Wood, Doug DeKay, Brian Murphy) led by Tim Chambers in finding an appropriate Time Capsule container for this project and their efforts in its proper “burial”. Of course, a special thanks to City Hill Construction for donating the time capsule container. We are appreciative of Betty (Dunning) Daggett’s wealth of information about the community and locating the town’s historical documents and of course in putting together this reception. A special thanks to all the businesses who donated items for the time capsule. They are very much appreciated, as they provide a visible context of the town at this time. We appreciate Darlene (Chambers) Conley for sharing her trove of photos and narratives on the Village of Dresden. A special thanks to Bruce Henderson for his pictures and notes detailing his family’s long history of farming in Torrey since the 1870s. We would also like to note George Thompson’s unique post cards, some of which captured an unique event on Klaas Martens’ farm. We had significant help from Nancy Sarver, the former Town Historian, who unearthed a great deal of historical information when she participated in Yates County’s 200th Anniversary (2023). A special thanks to Paul Welker, whose father Ray Welker, was a previous Town Historian. Paul provided a thumb drive of over a 1000 pictures his father had taken! Finally, I wish to acknowledge and express my profound gratitude to my colleague and co-chair Donna Rae Sutherland. It was her skill, talent, and organizational ability that brought the structure and narrative to this collection.

In closing, we hope those here today will return in 25 years with family and friends when the time capsule is to be opened and enjoy the items contained inside.

Thank you all!