

It was more of a unit for the registration of Land titles. In 1883, the County of Dufferin was carved out of Marquette. This too was a unit used solely for land titles registration. At the same time, the Municipality of South Dufferin was created for local government purposes. Manitou was then included in that area which consisted of townships 1, 2, and 3, in ranges 5, 6, 7, and 8.

In 1890, the Municipality of Pembina was formed and Manitou was a part of that until 1897, when it was incorporated as a Village.

The story of Manitou, as such, really begins in 1883. Previous to that time, there were only a few scattered settlers, with no town centre. In 1882 it was definitely announced that a railway would be built through Southern Manitoba, and the line was partially surveyed.

In anticipation of this, John Stewart, surveyed a town site on the north half of Section 19, Township 3, Range 8, immediately north of the present line of the C.P.R. To this was given the ambitious name of "Manitoba City". In the fall of 1882, building operations were begun and a number of houses and business places were erected. The first business opened was a General store, located in a tent and operated by Jas. Huston, who had been in business in Emerson.

In later years he was appointed Postmaster and was elected member of the Provincial Legislature.