

CASS COUNTY CLIPPINGS

July 1, 2011

CASS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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The Holman Hospital

Edward Eames Holman was born on December 25, 1854 in Massachusetts. At the age of 18 he began teaching school and studying medicine, which he pursued for three years and then entered the Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago. The Hahnemann Medical College opened in 1860 and became coeducational in 1871. Except for the emphasis upon homeopathic therapeutics, instruction resembled that of Chicago's "regular" medical schools. Dr. Holman graduated with honors in 1878 and began practicing medicine. He was a surgeon at a number of hospitals in Chicago and also taught anatomy and pathology at the Harvey Medical College, which was unique in that it offered night classes and also attempted to provide quality medical education to working-class men and women.

Dr. Holman came to Pine River in 1902 to practice medicine. He was on call, day or night, for crisis duty. He married Mary E. Corey, a nurse, in 1913 and she became his able assistant. He soon became aware of the need for a hospital and began building a two-story log building for this purpose in 1916. An advertisement in the Pine River Sentinel Blaze newspaper in 1919 is shown above.

In 1916, Dr. Robert J. Williams came from Ohio to form a partnership with Dr. Holman. The partnership was terminated after about two years, although Dr. Williams continued to offer homeopathic treatment in Pine River at an address two doors down from Dr. Holman. Both are described as homeopathic physicians on the 1920 census for the village of Pine River.

Dr. Holman died on June 25, 1926. Doctors B. F. Bickford, W. F. Hobart and G. Kertesz operated the hospital for a short time after Dr. Holman's death. Dr. Dittrich purchased the hospital and wanted to remodel and enlarge the hospital. He collected large sums of money locally for that purpose and then abruptly left town. The Minnesota Medical Board closed the hospital in 1928.

In 1933, Dr. Arthur J. Button took possession of the building and christened it the Holman Hospital in honor of the deceased doctor. In 1934 Dr. Button was awarded a contract to care for the aged and ailing poor. The county hospital was moved from Walker to Pine River in 1934, upsetting a precedent of long years. Dr. Button furnished medical care to county patients for \$125 a month until 1938 when he retired. The Holman Hospital became an integral part of the Good Samaritan Home, which had its grand opening in 1959.



Cass County Historical Society
Calendar of Events 2011

- July 12, 2011 – History Walk along Minnesota Ave, 7:00 p.m.
- July 26, 2011 - Battle of Sugar Point Presentation, 7:00 p.m. at museum
- August 9, 2011 – History Walk along Minnesota Ave, 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting (time to be determined)
- Aug 23, 2011 - Battle of Sugar Point Presentation, 7:00 p.m. at museum
- October 11, 2011 – Annual Meeting at the Museum, 7:00 p.m.
All members encouraged to attend
- December 13, 2011 – Board Meeting at the Museum, 4:00 p.m.

**From the President
Dan Eikenberry**



Your Historical Society is excited to announce that we have purchased new equipment that will allow us to serve the community better and will also allow us to begin digitizing our collection. The equipment you see pictured includes a microfilm/microfiche reader and a flatbed scanner. These coupled with the new computer we bought earlier in the year will bring us into the 21st century. Coming soon will be our connection to the internet. We are thankful to Minnesota Power, memorials in memory of Harry Winter, the estate of Jo Eikenberry, contributions by Cass County, City of Walker, and numerous townships, and the sale of the anonymously donated Trapper's Cabin for giving us the funds to make these substantial purchases.

New Staff

Shirley Tatro of Akeley with Experience Works is with us this summer. She is working 18-20 hours a week and is updating our obituary file. Shirley owned Shirley's Café in Akeley for 24 years. She also worked as a cook in Nevis for 10 years. She worked at ARCC in Akeley.

**Cass County Historical Society
Board of Directors**

- Dan Eikenberry, Pres.
Lois Orton, V-Pres
Karen Keener
Elsie Nelson
Sue Eikenberry
Don Beadle
Martha Winter
Alexis Hadrava - Treasurer

**Cass County Research
Center**

The research center is staffed by the Cass County Historical Society at the Cass County Museum in Walker. Through the winter, research help is available by appointment. The research library, obituary indexes, newspaper microfilm, and other archival materials are accessible for a \$10 research fee for non-members.

Among our Books For Sale:

Murder & Mayhem

True Crime Accounts of Early
Cass County

Volunteer Opportunities

Barb Thomas and **Mona King** are coming in every Wednesday afternoon this summer to share their love of spinning with us. Come on in and say hello to these ladies!

Terrie Cornell from McKeown Lake is coming in to help us with exhibit interpretation. She has had extensive experience working in museums and we look forward to working with her.

The 1898 Battle of Sugar Point

A 40-minute presentation and book signing is scheduled at the museum for 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of July and August for the new Cass County publication, *The 1898 Battle of Sugar Point*. Authors Cecelia McKeig and Renee Geving will sketch out some of the stories from the battle and its aftermath. The book includes important information from the Chicago and D.C. branches of the National Archives as well as much local research that was gathered over the past eight years. The new book will sell for



\$24.95 and is available through the Cass County Museum and the Little Apple Bookstore in Walker. If ordered, please include sales tax and shipping. Dates of the presentation are July 26th and August 23rd. (Photo: Camp Libbey, Cass Lake, Minnesota)

Pioneer School

Pioneer School has received new putty and new paint on the windows and the door has been readjusted. We are also having a new screen door made to order. Thanks to Betty Hutt for her annual donation since 1996 for maintenance on the school.

Additional Hours in July

The Museum will try staying open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays in July to see how many visitors take advantage of the additional hours. Renee Geving and Lori Gamache will be representing Cass County Historical Society at the Pine River Fair on July 2nd.

Hiddenwood Hospital

Arthur J. Button was born in December 1868 and grew up in Olmsted County. In 1896, he was a medical student in Minneapolis. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with his Ph.D. in Medicine. He began his practice in southern Minnesota and was listed as a physician and surgeon in Wabasha County in 1900. He then worked in South Dakota in those early years. He and his wife Katie had nine children. In 1910, he was the doctor in Tolstoy in Potter County, South Dakota. He was a physician in Mobridge, South Dakota in 1920.

Dr. A. J. Button purchased a tract of land in Birch Lake Township consisting of 118 acres located on the east side of Co. 45 on the pine-studded shores of Pleasant Lake. Hiddenwood Hospital, located four miles east of Hackensack, was opened in 1921. It had 15 patient rooms, two bathrooms, an operating room, and two offices, one upstairs and one on the first floor. Besides a very spacious reception room, there were two large porches screened and glassed in. The building had three stories with a full basement. It was a very modern and sanitary hospital for the time. A Webber Electric light system was installed. Four hundred people of the Hackensack and Backus area attended a Grand Opening event in August of 1922. On the morning of October 26, 1925, Dr. Button carried a kerosene lamp down the basement stairs. There had been some problems with the electric light plant the night before. The doctor fell and the lamp burst when it struck, spreading the flames about the basement. Dr. Button had some difficulty getting out of the basement because of the flames, but managed to rescue his wife who was bedridden at the time. Because of the hospital's distance from Hackensack, it was impossible to secure assistance in time to save even the outbuildings. All was lost!

Birch Lake Nursing Home

After the loss of Hiddenwood Hospital and the death of his wife Katie on Nov 21, 1925, Dr. A. J. Button moved and became the physician at Greenbush in Roseau County, Minnesota. He married Nora Clark on Aug 17, 1926 in Roseau County. In 1933, he took possession of the Holman Hospital. When Dr. Button closed his office in Walker in 1939, he retired to the Wendover home on Birch Lake in Hackensack. He lived in semi-retirement while he and his wife Nora (Clark) Button operated this home for the county's old-age pensioners. There were usually about ten patients. He also saw other county patients here and responded to many medical emergencies as well as attending to at-home deliveries of babies in the Hackensack area. Dr. Button died Feb. 26, 1944 in Cass County.



Esterdy Hospital, c. 1894 Dr. Joe VanSandine in center

Van Sandine Hospital

In 1892, Dr. Joe Van Sandine built a two-story log building at Esterdy, and we at Cass County Historical Society believe this was the first hospital in this new county. Patients at the hospital in 1894 were Mrs. M. Rice and son Charley from Park Rapids, and Ole Peterson from Moorhead, Mn. Dr. Van Sandine must have been a very good doctor and treated his patients well as these people traveled some distance to get there. Dr. Van Sandine was still treating patients there in 1900. When Staples began to advertise their hospital, that was the beginning of the end for this rural hospital.

Tornado for Cass County

(Walker Pilot, September 9, 1910)

Cass County has never been considered in the cyclone belt, but a storm early Monday evening between Pontoria and Pine River proved the wind twisters would just as leave travel through Cass County as not. The storm while of short duration was terrific in force. It struck the earth a short distance from the Roscoe school house, uprooted twenty-five or thirty trees, and then struck the school house with such force as to demolish everything except the foundation. Even the floor was removed, the stove twisted out of shape, the iron frame work of the school seats bent and broken, and school books were picked up the following morning on the opposite side of Roscoe lake nearly a mile distance from the school house. In fact the school building was stripped bare of everything and nothing but the foundation left standing. It was a new building. There are no other houses in the vicinity of the Roscoe school. This is the first storm of cyclonic nature to ever visit this county.

Railroad History

(Walker on Leech Lake, 1996)

The Brainerd and Northern Minnesota Railway Co. (the B & NM) was incorporated in 1892. The B & NM Line to Bemidji, 31.79 miles, opened on December 17, 1898. The B & NM incorporated on July 16, 1900 with the Minnesota and International Railway. The Northern Pacific purchased the M & I on October 22, 1941, and sold to Burlington Northern in 1970. When Burlington Northern removed the rails in 1986 and the Shingobee Bay trestle was demolished, it was part of the longest abandoned rail line in Minnesota. (Photo taken 1986)



Membership - 2011

Individual (\$10)

Patricia Abraham
Karen Arson
Bob Bean
Francis Bean
Vi Blackburn
Margaret Dewey
Ricky Johnson
Karen Keener
Karen Kezele
Steven Mecklenberg
Elsie Nelson
Frank Olson
Dr. Otto F. Ringle
Tom Salwasser
Arthur Shenk
Jeanette Silbaugh
Glenna Tappe
David Yde
Betty Zaffke

Family (\$15)

Don & Tanis Beadle
Bob & Dodie Burdick
Don & Karen Jensen
Pat & Diane Pitzen

Sponsor (\$250-\$999)

Anderson's Cove
Chippewa Lodge
Bob & Nita Frink
Grand Vu Lodge
Ron Libertus
Northland Lodge
Lois Orton
Spirit of the North

Harry Winter Memorial

Benefactor (\$20 - \$99)

Virginia Abullrade
Doug & Linda Birk
Audrey Chelberg
Gordy & Liz Dahn
Leland & Dorothy Delger
Richard & Joan Downham
Michael J. & Karla Elsenpeter
Dick & Donna Evenson
Don Flyckt
Tom & Lori Gamache
Jerry & Renee Geving
Nancy Jacobson
Bob & Shirley Jewell
Steve & Kay Johnson
Robert & Betty Kangas
Keith & Janice Matson
Cecelia McKeig
Noel Mills, M.D.
David Nieman
Norbert & Rosemary Ochs
James & Leona O'Neal
Chris & Dorothy Opheim
Hugo & Jana Pence
Carole Sargent
Richard & Elizabeth Sauer
Erma Schantle
Dana & Bev Sheldon
Gary & Margaret Trimble
Bob & Ann Winegar
Martha Winter

Business (\$50+)

Acorn Hill Resort
D. W. Jones, Inc.
Huddle's Resort
Leer Title Services
Orton Oil Co.

Friend (\$100-\$249)

Willard Arends
Carl & Judy Berg
Dr. Steve Bilben
Don & Margaret Brown
Dan & Sue Eikenberry
First National Bank, Walker
Betty Hutt
Gramma Jo's House
Kelly & Jeanne Nelson
Dick & Kathie Stoneking

Cities & Townships

City of Backus - \$50
City of Lake Shore - \$50
City of Walker - \$500
Blind Lake Township -- \$100
Fairview Township - \$200
Gould Township - \$100
Kego Township - \$500
Leech Lake Township - \$200
Pine Lake Township - \$200
Pine River Township - \$100
Powers Township - \$150
Rogers Township -- \$50
Salem Township - \$30
Shingobee Township - \$1,000
Smokey Hollow Township - \$100
Sylvan Township - \$85
Town of Loon Lakes - \$100
Torrey Township - \$50
Trelipe Township - \$250
Turtle Lake Township - \$500
Wabedo Township - \$50
Walden Township - \$50
Wilkinson Township - \$250