

Axon Area Museum



The Time Capsule

Volume 2, Number 1

Spring 2011

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-The Time Capsule-

Publication of the
Akron Area Museum
601 Main Street - P.O. Box 252
Akron, Plymouth County, Iowa 51001-0252
akronareamuseum@gmail.com

Akron Area Museum meets on the
1st Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. in the
Museum Community Room

Akron Area Museum Board of Directors

Officers

Brenda Groon ~ President
Rodney Anderson ~ Vice President
Denise Loutsch Beitelspacher ~ Treasurer
Christina Lewison ~ Secretary

Board Member

Dee Hilliker

Museum Hours

Special Events
Available upon appointment
Contact: Brenda Groon ~ 712-568-2400

Comments or Suggestions Contact:

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Akron, Iowa 51001

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Or akronareamuseum@gmail.com

Message from the Editor / Vice President

I would like to thank everyone for their kind compliments on the first newsletter that was published for the Akron Area Museum. It is just a small part of keeping people informed on what is going on at the museum.

After the first newsletter was published, I did a cost analysis of what it takes to bring this letter to everyone. Unfortunately it takes a good share of each member's yearly membership fees to distribute this publication to everyone. We are more than happy to send hard copies out the members who do not have computer access; however, we do ask that if you are of the tech savvy age, please let us know, so that we can better utilize the funds for utilities and upkeep of the facility.

For those of you who have computer access we have set up on line through Akron's web site www.akronia.org a link to the museum's newsletter. Just type in the link name in your web browser and then select "Recreation" and then "Museum" and click on the newsletter link under "The Time Capsule" for the most recent letter.

We have also set up an email account for the museum. akronareamuseum@gmail.com. Please add this to your email address book as an acceptable account. With this method you will know that the communication is coming from the museum.

I made a few errors in the last news letter and some of them were corrected in later versions that were printed. John and Kim Mook were the couple that purchased the home from the Rosses, and the carpenter during the construction was Schultz. I apologize for these errors.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and I appreciate any news items or suggestions.

~ Rodney Anderson~

Museum tours available upon request.

Please contact a board member
to schedule a tour.

Grant from Plymouth County

The Akron Area Museum has received a grant, for \$1,200.00 from the Akron Community Foundation for DVD/TV combo displays. Even though the museum has been made handicapped accessible to the first floor, those with disabilities are not able to enjoy all of the beauty and treasures of the home on the upper floors. By using such devices, we will also be able to present a uniform history of the community to visiting patrons, which is sometimes described differently by the various volunteers that perform the tours.

New Horizon's United Church of Christ Donation

On March 17th The New Horizons United Church of Christ presented the Akron Area Museum with a check worth 10 percent of the proceeds from their Potato Bake held March 11th.



Joy Porsch and Shirley Gerling of New Horizons United Church of Christ present a check to Akron Area Museum board members Brenda Groon and Rodney Anderson.

The museum has a Community Room available for Rent. Please contact a board member for details.

Minutes from Meetings

If you would like to review a report of minutes from the museum, they are published in the Akron Hometown, or you can find them on line at www.akronia.org. Click on the "Recreation" tab and select "Museum" and then the minutes you wish to review. If you do not have internet access, please contact a board member and we will be sure to get you a copy.

The Akron Area Museum meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month in the Museum Community room. The Annual Board meeting, which will include the election of officers and board members, will be held June 6th at 7 p.m. in the museum community room.

Amy Adix Resigns

Amy Adix has resigned as a board member effective as of our April 4th meeting. She will be leaving Akron to pursue another venture in her life. Anyone interested in filing this position, please contact a board member, or come to our next meeting.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is set for June 6th at 7 p.m. in the community room. At this meeting there will be a president's report and election of board members. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting.

Grants Received

Three grants have been received this year by the museum totaling \$9,409.53. Plans are under way for completion of the grant monies received.

The following foundations have awarded money to the museum; The Community Foundation of Greater Plymouth County, restoration of the Victorian Porch, \$6,709.53; Akron Community Foundation, Florence Peterson Fund, DVD/TV combos for presentation of museum artifacts, \$1,200.00; Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) funds from Plymouth County, for entryway and garage improvements, \$1,500.00.

Museum Acquisitions

- ♥ Doris Brundeen donated a Platt book of Plymouth County.
- ♥ Arlene Swift's family donated a framed photo of her wearing the muskrat fur coat that she donated to the museum along with a copy of the layaway ticket that was used to purchase the coat.
- ♥ Personalized coffee mug from Dr. Joseph Trotzig donated by Coyla Trotzig.
- ♥ Veterinary books from Dr. Warren Thompson.
- ♥ Dr. Kerr newspaper article donated by Karen Allen.
- ♥ Akron Feed Mill advertisement donated by Merle Lucken's family.
- ♥ Duncan Ross family history photos donated by the Duncan Ross family.

Life Time Members

- Carlsen Funeral Home
- Evelyn Claesson
- Harold "Bud" Higman, Sr.
- John Lucken
- Mary Lucken
- Nadine Philips
- Sam Philips
- Helen Raymond
- Jim Raymond
- Marianne Siefer
- Joyce Thorson
- Ramona Vanderhelm

Heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of
Harold "Bud" Higman, Sr.
whom passed away April 1, 2011

Deepest sympathy also goes out to the families of
Merle *Rustin* Lucken
whom passed away November 19, 2010

Message from our President / Brenda Groon

One of the things that I do as president of the Akron Area Museum is to volunteer once a month, along with board member Amy Adix, to provide a program to the residents of the Akron Care Center. The following is a summary of some of the programs which we have provided.

In March our theme was barns and their history. I presented part of my barn collection and brought along a wooden milking stool that belonged to Jim Boetger, my grandfather. We talked of barn dances, putting up hay in the hay mow, kittens hidden in the hay mow, and milking cows by hand. **We talked about why barns are painted red. (Check out our contest for this question.)** Oh, yes there were those that talked about what they learned behind the barn and a couple of residents admitted to sneaking and smoking a cigarette behind the barn.

Other programs we have presented have been on local military soldiers and the former military residents told us their stories. Men's and Ladies clothes and Hat's from the 1800's, and the residents wore old fashioned hats. Then there was wash day were we brought in a wooden wringer on a stand, a wash board, and homemade soap and talked about how it was made.

Amy and I have very much enjoyed presenting these programs to the residents. We always walk away having learned something

more about the "Old Days."



Julie Haage wearing her father's, Charlie Boetger's, Army Coat

Contest

Win a Free Victorian tea and light lunch at the Museum for telling us **"Why are Barn's painted red?"** You must contact us by June, 20th, 2011 with the correct answer and be able to attend. Lunch and tea will be held June 25th, 2011 at 6 p.m. Details on last page.

Poetry Weekend held at Museum
Sponsored by Akron Public Library

In honor of National Poetry Month the Akron Public Library sponsored *pRhyme Time on the Prairie 2011*, April 15th and 16th.

On April 15th the first part of the poetry weekend was hosted at the museum with a dinner catered by Akron Jo's Café. After each meal course the guest poets, Mary Black Bonnet, Phil Hey and Jim Reese, presented samples of their work, followed by individual readings after the meal was served. There were about 30 people in attendance at the event, which was supported by Humanities Iowa.

The following day poetry workshops were held at the Village North Bed and Breakfast.

Both events were greatly enjoyed by all of those that attended. Be sure to watch for and attend next year's event.



Julie Schmitz, Reta Milbodt, Carolyn Taylor and Rosemary Root socialize in the parlor prior to the serving of dinner in the community room for the poetry weekend event.

ROSS WILL CASE DECIDED
J.U. SAMMIS SCORES A VICTORY IN
THE SUPREME COURT.
DECISION OF LOWER COURT AFFIRMED

[Reprinted from: Le Mars Semi-Weekly Sentinel]

Bitter Fight, Lasting Nearly Three Years Over Will of the Late Duncan Ross, of Akron, Is Brought to Close by High Tribunal.

The supreme court of Iowa has handed down a decision in an important Plymouth County suit in which the disposition of an estate worth \$150,000 is involved.

Duncan Ross, a wealthy land owner died at the age of ninety-six years at his home in Akron in April, 1906, and the contents of his will showed that nearly all his fortune was left to two of his sons Boyson Ross and Robert Ross. The other children were cut off, some with small sums and some with nothing. The contestants of the will are James Ross, of Akron, Mrs. Massey, of Jefferson, S. Dak., Walter Ross and John Ross, of Akron, and Mrs. Susan Hardy, of Ontario, California. There are also a large number of grandchildren of the testator who are interested in the case, among them six children of a deceased son, Duncan Ross Jr., and eight children of a deceased daughter, Mrs. Jessie Smith.

The contestants of the will claimed that Duncan Ross was in a senile condition when he executed the instrument produced as his last will and testament and claimed that Boyson Ross and Robt. Ross unduly influenced the old man to the detriment of the other brothers and sisters. The case was tried twice in the Plymouth County district court, and occupied the attention of the court for a week at the first trial in October, 1906, and between fifty and sixty witnesses were put on the stand. At this trial held before Judge Hutchinson the jury failed to agree after being out twenty-seven hours. It stood 11 to 1 in favor of maintaining the will. The case was tried again at the December term of court in that year and the defendants gained a verdict.

The case was most stubbornly fought in the lower courts. J.U. Sammis, of this city, and E.C. Ericksen, of Elk Point, S. Dak, represented Boyson Rose and Robt. Ross and McDuffie & Keenan, Martin & Martin, of this city, and Fred Sarguil of Sioux City represented the contestants of the will.

The Ross family is one of the oldest and best known in the west part of the county, which added interest to the case. The will which was disputed was made three years before the death of Duncan Ross, who at the time of his demise was owner of 1,400 acres of land in the vicinity of Akron and had considerable money in banks and loaned out at interest.

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court which has handed down, a decision in favor of the defendants, Boyson and Robert Ross, upholding the legality of the will.

Reprinted from: *Le Mars Semi-Weekly Sentinel*; Friday, November 6, 1908; Vol. XXXVIII, No. 89, Page 1

Notice of Sale of Personal Property. Executor's Sale.

Notice is hereby given, that in pursuance of an order of the District Court of the State of Iowa, in and for Plymouth County, made on the 29th day of May, 1909, in the matter of the Estate of Duncan Ross, deceased, the undersigned, Executors of the last will and testament of said deceased, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, on Saturday, the seventh day of August, 1909, at two o'clock p.m., at the Duncan Ross elevator on the railroad right of way in Akron, in said Plymouth County, the following personal property, to-wit:

The Duncan Ross elevator building and two corn cribs, located on the railroad right of way in Akron, Iowa; one saddle and bridle, bedstead, mattress, feather bed and pillows, one Morris chair, one old heating stove, one trunk, and one gray mare (in the possession of Walter Ross, and which mare will be sold subject to any and all liens); also 13,000 feet of cottonwood boards and dimension stuff, sawed and piled in 1906, and being on the Duncan Ross homestead in Union County, South Dakota.

BOYSON ROSS,
ROBERT ROSS,

Executors of the Estate of Duncan Ross, Deceased. 49-3

Reprinted from: *The Akron Register Tribune*; Thursday, July 22, 1909, page 4; Volume 22, Number 49

Become a Member or Donate Today!

We appreciate every donation and membership which we receive. Every dollar helps with the day to day expenses of the Museum. Your donations are also used for education of our communities past years.

Help preserve History and make your contribution today!
Become a member today and fill out the below donation form.

2011 Membership Form

- Single Membership \$25.00
- Couple Membership \$50.00
- Life Time Membership \$500.00
- Gift Membership for someone else
- Donation for Day to Day Expenses
- Memorial Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

In Memory of/for _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Mail to:
Akron Area Museum
P.O. Box 252
Akron Iowa 51001
Tax ID# 20-1563299

Win a Free Victorian Tea Party and Light Lunch!

By correctly answering the following question:

Why are Barns painted red?

Email us at: akronareamuseum@gmail.com

Or contact one of the following:

Rodney Anderson at: 605-565-3168

Brenda Groom at: 712-568-2400

Deadline to enter: June 20th, 2011

Tea Party will be held: June 25th, 2011 at 6 p.m.

Snippets

A large touring auto of Italian make attracted much attention during its brief stop here Monday to replace a punctured tire. The car bore a New Jersey license tag and was in the charge of a genuine, simon-pure French chauffeur. The passengers were an elderly gentleman and his young daughter. It was stated by the chauffeur that the tire which received a puncture in coming up from Westfield had been on the machine ever since the start was made from New York.

Reposing snugly in a market basket in a cool corner of one of Akron's general stores are six motherless little chicks, bearing conclusive evidence that some farmers in this vicinity are either ignorant of or woefully lacking in respect for a stringent provision of the Iowa pure food law. Tuesday, when the employees of this store— who, by the way, have acquired something of a reputation as chicken fanciers, and do not fool badly over this purchase of poultry at seventeen cents per dozen — inspected the produce brought in the day before, they were surprised to find those six downy little chicks in one of the egg cases, where they had probably been hatched out by the excessive heat. It would be a difficult matter for the parties who sold those eggs to convince any state pure food inspector who might happen along that the hen fruit in question was of very recent product when it was brought into town. The little chicks appear happy and contented in their home in the market basket, seemingly conscious that there is no danger of their being packed off to an orphanage.

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