

# ALTOONA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 1, 2006

Number Ten

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## A GREAT SPRING FOR AAHS!

The Altoona Area Historical Society participated in the Altoona Public Library Literacy Festival the first weekend in May. AAHS volunteers photographed historic sites around Altoona and prepared a program using the pictures. The Library staff helped our group by providing copies of an up-to-date list of items in the historic collection at the Library. The AAHS display of photographs and historic points of interest was well received by those attending the Festival.

We continue to receive inquiries from people wanting historical information and photographs about the community. Our historic maps of Altoona are available at several locations around the city. If you know anyone interested in attending a meeting or program, please encourage them to attend.

The Society has received numerous items from area citizens to add to the AAHS collection. Each donated item has been photographed and catalogued into the Collection system. Volunteers are available to pick up donations. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact us at 967-4815.

The Altoona Area Historical Society

Presents a special program about

## THE MEDAL OF HONOR

by

State Senator Dennis Black

on

Monday, June 26, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Altoona Public Library

The public is invited to attend.

# CITY OF ALTOONA NEWSLETTER

The AAHS is a regular contributor to the Altoona Life newsletter published by the city of Altoona every two months. One of the goals of our article is to share interesting stories and photographs about Altoona in the past. If you have photos you would like to share, please bring them to one of our regular monthly meetings so we can scan them for the city newsletter.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Norma Teuber for her help and contributions to our display at the Altoona Literacy Festival in May.

Special thanks to Dan Bakke and the Altoona Library staff for their help in preparing for the Literacy Festival.

Thank you to Tina Hadden for the use of her PowerPoint projector during our program at the Literacy Festival.

A note of appreciation to Bob and JoAnne Pinkerton, and Peggy Wright, for their work on the Altoona Herald/Rustler name index for the year 1890.

## PRAIRIE DAYS

Prairie City, Iowa

June 23-25

**Celebrating Prairie City's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

Festivities include a parade, an antique wedding dress display, games of yesteryear, and 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake and numerous other activities.

A DVD of Old Settlers from previous years will be shown continually at Dick Charles TV during Prairie Days.

## THOMAS MITCHELL DAYS

**Celebrating Mitchellville's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**July 21-23**

Festivities include a Spelling Bee, a best beard and best mustache contest, a 1870s baseball game, a cemetery walk, and historic tours of the city.

# *The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of America's Interstate Highway System*

The U.S. Interstate Highway system will commemorate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer by hosting a caravan along Interstate 80 from California to Washington, D.C. in June 2006. The eleven day trip includes stops in seventeen cities along the route and follows an original cross county trip that passed through Iowa in 1919.

During the event, travelers will have the opportunity to celebrate the Interstate Highway System and learn more about its history.

For information on activities in Iowa, log on to [www.iowainterstate50th.com](http://www.iowainterstate50th.com)  
Additional information can be found at [www.interstate50th.org](http://www.interstate50th.org)

## **HOW ALTOONA HAS GROWN!!**

Altoona Decennial Population – 1880 to present

<u>Decade</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Change from previous decade</u>
1880	400	-
1890	325	-22.7%
1900	328	0.6%
1910	438	25.1%
1920	502	12.7%
1930	514	2.3%
1940	640	19.7%
1950	763	16.1%
1960	1,458	47.7%
1970	2,883	49.4%
1980	5,764	50.0%
1990	7,242	20.4%
2000	10,349	30.0%
2005	13,301	22/2%

### Key dates:

Railroad preceded incorporation  
1960 – Interstate 80 opened  
1974 – Adventureland opened  
1989 – Prairie Meadows opened  
1994 – Highway 65 Bypass opened

**\* \* \* AAHS Dinner at the Amish Pantry \* \* \***

**The Altoona Area Historical Society will hold its July meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 24 at the Amish Pantry restaurant in Olde Town Altoona. Dinner choices will be a hot beef sandwich, Mandarin chicken salad, or a club sandwich. Dessert and drink are included. The cost of the meal will be \$8.00 per person. The program for the evening will include information about the history of the building. Make your reservation by calling Diane Burget at 967-4815 no later than July 20.**

## **Calendar of Events**

- June 23-25**                      **Prairie Days – Prairie City**
- June 26**                         **Regular June meeting – program by Senator Dennis Black**
- July 21-23**                      **Thomas Mitchell Days - Mitchellville**
- July 24**                         **Regular July meeting – 6:00 p.m. –**  
**\*\*\*DINNER AT THE AMISH PANTRY\*\*\***
- August 28**                      **Regular August meeting**

**Altoona Area Historical Society  
1060-14<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Altoona, IA 50009**

**Tim Burget, President**

**Dan Higginbottom, Vice President**

**Diane Burget, Secretary**

**Barb Bolt, Treasurer**