



The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of

The Mitchell Area Historical

Volume VI, Number 1

www.mitchellcarnegie.com

June 2012

Mitchell Area Historical Society Annual Dinner Meeting Monday, September 17, 2012, at Wesley Acres

Annual dinner meetings of the Mitchell Area Historical Society are always special events. This year, on Monday evening, Robert Kolbe, author, historian, and authority on antiques, will tell the history of photographers in the Dakotas from 1853 through 1960 and show stereoscopic photographs of early Mitchell. MAHS will provide a large wall-hung screen so that the view will be good from any place in the beautiful Wesley Acres dining room.

Ruby Tuesday will serve, at a very reasonable price, a delicious dinner. Please make your choice of entrée on the form included in this newsletter and mail the form and your check to MAHS. If you have questions, please call Kathryn Crockett at 996-2723. It is not too early to make your reservations now so that as we near September 17 we can more carefully plan.

With Bryan Bade, Kolbe wrote the book [They Captured the Moment](#) (published in 2006) which told of 1,675 photographers in Dakota Territory and the Dakotas from 1853 through 1920. The book will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Currently, Kolbe is working on a book about the 1875 to 1879 Black Hills Gold Rush.

Kolbe has owned Kolbe's Clock Repair Shop and antique business in Sioux Falls for 40 years. Some of his other interests include serving as president of the Sioux Valley Historical Society, as a Minnehaha County Commissioner for 20 years, and as a member of the South Dakota State Historical Society. He is considered an authority on regional photography of the Upper Midwest which includes the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Incidentally, "Bob" Kolbe's acceptance on a volunteer's answering machine was in rhyme. He says that he will do "Photographers from A to Z."

To the reader: To conserve space and ink, throughout this newsletter these abbreviations are used:

CRC- Carnegie Resource Center

MAGS- Mitchell Area Genealogical Society

MAHS- Mitchell Area Historical Society

SDSHS - South Dakota State Historical Society

Look for the Carnegie Resource Center on Facebook and at www.mitchellcarnegie.com.

**If you change your postal or email address, do let us know.
605.996.3209 or range@mitcheilcarnegie.org**

Lyle's Corner

What a great time we are having here at the Carnegie with items being received faster than we are able to get them processed. However, don't let that deter you from donating as we are working at it continuously and if we never catch up that's not all bad. With the window project completed - what beautiful windows they are - we have turned to other repairs. Still under consideration is the possibility of an elevator so that those who are unable to climb the steps can still enter our beautiful building. Location of an elevator and the cost are the two major factors involved. Mel, as usual, has several refinishing and restoration projects going, and the outcome on each of these has been well worth the wait.

We are prepared for a busy summer of tourists. We have already had several bus tour groups in, with more coming, as well as the day-to-day traffic. I believe it is worth repeating that we receive no tax dollars of any kind, and we exist only due to your generosity as well as the generous grantors that assist us. Also this is a good time to say THANK YOU to all of our great volunteers. Without them, we could not exist. Further, we want to make sure our work continues after we are gone, and getting new volunteers involved is the way to do it. Please give consideration to volunteering some time even if it is some part of a day, I can assure you that you will get great satisfaction doing it. Maybe you have a passion to write. How about picking a history item to write about? You can do it from home if you wish. We need to write about the great variety of newspapers that existed in Davison County in past years. So, pick a topic and join in to help make our history more complete.

We like to think that RESEARCH is our middle name and what we exist for whether it be for history items or genealogy. I usually spend several hours each day at the CRC researching old papers and other old documents to find that historic fact and/or piece of gossip that might complete a story. Like today, separating fact from fiction is difficult. It may be about businesses of the day and who was involved, where they were located, etc. In Mitchells early days, just as now, business advertisements were very important. Therefore, I photocopy the old newspaper original, clip the ad or other information, and file it. The value of these items was recently revealed when an out-of-town visitor was in for a tour of the building. She asked if we might know anything about her grandfather who was in the men's clothing store business in Mitchell back in the early 1900s. Lo and behold, we showed her in our files numerous clippings and advertisements of her grandfather's business. She was elated, to say the least. That is the real fun part of it all, being able to help! Your continued financial assistance will keep us doing it well into the future. Thanks in advance for your help.

Lyle's Corner (continued from page 1)

We had a small amount of hail damage to the glass roof that protects the beautiful dome. Special wire glass had to be ordered, but the Mueller Lumber Company crew got it repaired and cleaned in short order. This is the first time we have been able to get inside the glass roof of the dome. What a difference it made being able to get the glass cleaned. Our thanks to Muellers for the quick and excellent service.

Our faithful lawn mowing expert came back out of retirement and saved the day. Our special thanks to Jim Schneider for keeping us looking sharp.

If you have not attended our recent programs, you have missed some great ones that pertain to local longtime businesses. But, not to fret, as we have video recorded each program and you can purchase one or all of these to view in the comfort of your home. Think how interesting these will be 100 years from now when folks gather to watch how they did it all back 2012!!

We still get lots of wonderful comments about our "Back in Time" pictures every week in The Daily Republic. Since sometimes we really have to dig to come up with one, please let us know if you have some pictures that you think would be interesting. We are able to scan your picture and give it right back to you and give credit where credit is due.

In case you have an interest in helping by donating cash or needed items, here are a few items on our wish list: new computer, large computer monitor, new door assembly for the east side of the building, dehumidifier, new sump pump, and last, but not least, an elevator!

Come see us and be a part of saving the history of the Mitchell area.

Lyle W. Swenson, President, MAHS

Hail Damages Glass of Carnegie Dome

The dome of the Carnegie has two layers of glass that help protect and light the mural painted by Oscar Howe, Yanktonai Sioux artist, in 1940. The May 5, 2012, heavy hail storm broke three panes of the exterior wire-glass, pieces of which fell down onto the interior glass layer which, fortunately, did not break.

MAHS President Swenson arranged for Mueller Lumber Company to do the difficult repair. The three replacement wire-glass panes cost over \$700.00. Before they were installed, Mueller workers completely removed not only broken wire-glass pieces but also years of dust from atop the inside glass surface. The total cost of this challenging job was \$1,247.56. All is now in as good shape as before and much cleaner. Thankfully, no hail or water was able to enter inside the dome to damage the mural.

Discounts for Historic Churches Throw

In response to still rather worrisome economic times, the price for these fine quality throws depicting eleven churches Mitchell has been reduced to \$49.95 plus \$3.00 tax, or \$52.95 total. Shipping and handling will remain at \$10.00 per throw and \$5.00 for each additional throw. To take advantage of this special offer, you must place your order by July 31, 2012.

These throws make wonderful wedding and Christmas gifts. The throws are washable cotton, medium-weight, and generously sized (57 by 74 inches including the 1.5 inch surrounding fringe). They make convenient lap robes in the home or in vehicles. In horse and buggy days, a wool-lined horse or buffalo hide robe would have been better.

A flyer is enclosed in this newsletter with specific ordering information. So take advantage of a great bargain and also help the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Mitchell Area Historical Society to pay for the many costs of the Carnegie Resource Center.

VOLUNTEERS, GOD BLESS 'EM

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgment nears
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there's no committee chairman,
No group leaders or car pools.
No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar or no bake sale,
There will be nothing to staple,
Not one thing to fold or mail.
Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
Cold drinks and gourmet dinners
And treats fit for a king.
You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged few
And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on Earth.
Author Unknown

Newest (and Youngest?) CRC Volunteer

Alexandra King, SDSU history major, is helping with various computer related tasks including accessioning (recording) of donations. She is the grandniece of Charlotte Nicholson, valued CRC volunteer since 2009.

Volunteers to help in the many and varied tasks at the CRC are always welcome. Contact Pam Range at the CRC, 605- 996-3209.

Genealogy Corner

We live in the best of times for sharing and preserving heritage. I believe that the more we know about the past, the more we know about ourselves.

Whether it is through genealogical research, building databases, assembling and archiving a digital collection, or developing a website, I am passionate about preserving our past and helping ensure that it is available for the future. Our CRC volunteers are dedicated to preserving your past and the history of the Mitchell area. It is with this passion that I have photographed most of the cemetery stones in Davison County. How many of you have just wandered around in your local cemetery? I find the oldest stones intriguing and the newer stones full of memories of times shared. Family and friends leave us but the memories remain. Cemeteries are one of the best resources for genealogical research.

Find A Grave (findagrave.com) has 62 million records, is a free site, easy to use, and anyone can add a grave, post a message, or leave a flower. Most Davison County burials are listed at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sddaviso. You might also find ancestors at South Dakota Gravestones (<http://southdakotagravestones.org>). A Billion Graves (www.abilliongraves.com) is in its infancy but has partnered with Family Search. You can download an app for your smartphone or iPhone and upload pictures directly from the cemetery with promise for an Android app. In the future, both Find A Grave and A Billion Graves will include the GPS coordinates of individual graves. A company in Indiana is now offering to add QR codes to your tombstone, with a one-time fee included in the cost of the headstone. The code takes you to a web page displaying your family's genealogy, photos, and biographies. People can add text messages to the family members, share stories, etc. We can only imagine what future technology will hold. All of the 1940 United States census images are now online, and thousands of volunteers are indexing those images. To view the progress of the indexing project, or if you would like to help with the indexing, log on to <https://the1940census.com>. At present, 54 percent of South Dakota has been indexed. By the end of this year the complete 1940 census will be free and can be searched at FamilySearch.org, Archives.com, FindMyPast.com, National Archives, and Pro Quest, as well as the pay site of Ancestry.com. 1940 was a momentous time in our nation's history when we were recovering from the Great Depression just before our entry into World War II. It was also the first census that looked in greater detail to describe American life.

The average cost of a new car was \$1,611, a gallon of gas was 18 cents, and a one-pound loaf of bread was 8 cents. A radio was owned by 82.8 percent of households. On January 31, 1940, Ida May Fuller became the first person to receive Social Security benefits. Now we look back and realize how much America has changed.

In partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), archives.com is digitizing and indexing millions of records containing baptism, confirmation, marriage, and funeral records of Lutheran congregations throughout the United States from 1793 through 1940; the data will be online later this year. Some of the records are handwritten in Norwegian, German, Danish, and Slovakian, as well as English, making this an especially unique and valuable set of records.

MAGS recently acquired a mobile wireless scanner which is ideal to use to copy items when you are away from your computer. This little scanner would be handy for those of you attending family reunions this summer. It scans onto a memory card that you can then later upload to your computer. For information and reviews, log on to www.flippal.com

We have posted many pictures of Mitchell in days past on our website www.mitchellcarnegie.org, but we also collect and value your more recent photos. Our present lives will be history to your grandchildren and the generations to come. Many of you have shared your pictures with us, but we know there are many interesting pictures still uncovered in family albums. Generations to come will delight in seeing the house, car, business, clothing, and hair styles of today. Our present lives will be history tomorrow. We will scan your photos and return them promptly to you, or you can e-mail them to Pam@mitchellcarnegie.com.

If you are interested in keeping up with the latest and greatest genealogical finds, local news, and history, we invite you to attend the meetings of MAGS and MAHS where we share our knowledge and help you discover your memories and the memories of your ancestors. The above are just a few of the tidbits we share at our meetings. MAGS meets every fourth Tuesday evening. Join us and bring a friend. Please call me at 933-0823 if you have any questions.

Andrea Harmes-Sindt, President, MAGS

Used Book Sales - May 19 and July 28, 2012

The CRC book sale had over 170 boxes of used books contributed for the book sale. All were organized and displayed in categories on tables in the basement of the First United Methodist Church across Third Avenue from the CRC.

The sale was well patronized, with \$448.60 raised. Save your books, magazines, etc. to donate for the May 2013 sale, or drop them off at the CRC. And, of course, come to buy more books to fill your shelves. Thanks go to Ron Fuchs for organizing this annual event which requires not only brains but brawn!

**Mitchell Native and American Hero
Vice Admiral Lloyd J. Wiltse (1891 – 1984)**

Research by Chris Festvog, MAHS secretary, and the staff of the Carnegie Resource Center

From the 1870s when Firesteel was founded as Mitchell's predecessor and as the first settlement in Davison County, this region has been home to many who served our country with honor and distinction in our armed forces.

Many Civil War veterans were attracted to this area by the free land being offered under the Homestead Act. A notable early settler was Israel Greene. He served with the U.S. Marines during the Mexican-American War, with Admiral Matthew C. Perry in his historic expedition to open Japan to world trade, and with Robert E. Lee in the capture of John Brown at the raid on a federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry. Although Greene switched his allegiance and served the Confederacy during the Civil War, he eventually joined his brother, Heman, to homestead in Davison County. He became a highly respected citizen of the Mitchell community and of South Dakota, serving not only as a surveyor and landowner in Davison County but also as an Indian agent at the Fort Sisseton Agency.

Although George McGovern served as a B-24 pilot in World War II, the heroic nature of his service was not widely known until his friend, Stephen Ambrose, told the story of McGovern and other airmen in [The Wild Blue – The Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24s Over Germany](#). We were also fortunate to hear more details of McGovern's wartime experience when he spoke at the MAHS annual meeting in 2008, attended by over 100 members and friends.

In November 2009, Jimmy Traupel told MAHS about his service in World War II with the Eighth Air Force while stationed at Kimbolton, England. He described the intense training he underwent to prepare him for bombing missions over Germany and of how he was wounded but recovered in time to fly two missions on D-Day in June 1944. We are also aware of the service of Marine Jack Thurman on Iwo Jima. Below is the picture MAHS has a picture of Thurman on Mount Suribachi as he and his buddies celebrate the first time an invader's flag flew over Japanese home territory.



“Gung Ho” photo, Jack Thurman, standing, far left. The first flag on Iwa Jima comes down as the second flag goes up. February 23, 1945, photo by Joe Rosenthal.

There are many stories that need to be told, but one that Lyle Swenson thought deserved more attention than it had so far received, was the result of his finding an obituary while going through old newspapers. The obituary recorded the death of former Mitchell native Lloyd J. Wiltse on February 1, 1984, at Scripps Memorial Hospital in San Diego, California. Lyle was intrigued by the story because Wiltse was the skipper of the *USS Detroit*, a light cruiser docked at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Lloyd Jerome Wiltse was born in Mitchell on September 11, 1891. His father, Jerome Wiltse, was a photographer. Records indicate that in 1884 Jerome Wiltse and George W. Fox were partners in a photography business, although by 1896 each had his own studio. Wiltse Photography was located in the L. O. Gale Building at 209 North Main Street, and the family lived at 402 East Third Avenue.

In the spring of 1900 Jerome became seriously ill with typhoid fever. After four or five weeks, although he seemed to be improving, he suddenly took a turn for the worse and died on May 10, 1900. He left behind his wife Jennie (age 34) and three young children, Lois (age 12), Lloyd (age nine), and Burr (age two).

With the death of his father coming soon after the Spanish-American War and with the expansion of America's sea power during this time, one can understand why Lloyd, a young South Dakota boy, might have developed an interest in sea power and the possibilities of having a career in the U. S. Navy. Whatever the reasons, Lloyd maintained those interests throughout his young life and made them known to those around him, including South Dakota U. S. Senator Coe Crawford, who nominated him for admission to the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Lloyd graduated from Mitchell High School in 1910, and, after being accepted as a midshipman, began his service in the U. S. Navy on June 14, 1910, and his studies at the Naval Academy that fall. By March of 1913 he had marched in the inaugural parade for President Woodrow Wilson and was the assistant manager of the Naval Academy basketball team. In June 1914, Lloyd's mother, Jennie Wiltse, went to Annapolis to attend her son's graduation and then traveled with him to visit relatives in Washington, D.C., and Rochester, New York.

In 1916 Wiltse participated in United States' efforts to end civil unrest in Managua, Nicaragua, and, following a Christmas leave in 1917, returned to duty in the Navy Submarine Service aboard the K-3, one of America's eight steam-powered submarines.

In 1923, Wiltse was named escort commander to return the remains of President Warren G. Harding from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., for a state funeral and on to Marion, Ohio, for burial.

From records of passenger lists of ships it is apparent that Wiltse traveled relatively frequently by sea, possibly to or

from Naval assignments. On March 19, 1928, he arrived in New York aboard the *HMS Leviathan*, from Cherbourg, France. On October 28, 1934, he arrived in New York aboard the coastal passenger/cargo ship *Peten*, from Cristobal, Canal Zone, Panama. He also made at least one trip from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Los Angeles, California (arriving January 15, 1941), and a number of trips to Honolulu, Hawaii (arriving June 6, 1934, and October 22, 1947).

During the years leading up to World War II, Wiltse served on the presidential yacht, *Mayflower*, as a White House Naval aide. By 1939, he was listed as the head of the records section of the Navy Department.

A September 20, 1939, Associated Press article in the *Reading* (Massachusetts) *Eagle* reported the following from Nahant, Massachusetts: "Mrs. F. [Frances] Haven Clark, mother-in-law of John A. Roosevelt, son of the President, filed intentions to marry Commander Lloyd Jerome Wiltse, of Washington. Mrs. Clark, widow of a Boston investment counselor, gave her maiden name as Frances Sturgis and her age as 46. Commander Wiltse, a bachelor, gave his age as 48. Mrs. Clark's first marriage took place in 1914. Her husband died in 1936, after a long illness."

In 1940, Wiltse was assigned to sea duty as the commanding officer of the *USS Detroit*. He arrived in Honolulu on July 1, 1940. The *Detroit* (CL-8) was berthed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and was the only Navy warship at Ford Island that escaped during the surprise attack by the Japanese. Although undergoing several strafing passes, the *Detroit* managed to make its way to the open ocean.

In his December 10, 1941, report on the Pearl Harbor December 7 attack, Commanding Officer Wiltse stated the following:

1. Set condition Zed [order to "general quarters/ man all battle stations"] throughout ship
2. Manned and fired all A.A. [anti-aircraft] guns, both 3" and .50 caliber machine guns. Rounds fired: 422 3"; 10,000 .50 calibre.
3. Two planes were brought down by this vessel and *Curtiss*.
4. Two men received superficial wounds.
5. No damage to ship, motor boat sunk by explosion alongside *Nevada*.
6. No case of distinguished conduct.
7. One aerial torpedo passed about ten yards astern of *Detroit* at Berth F-14.

Believe this torpedo buried in mud or coral between Berths F-12 and F13."

As reported in the obituary clipping, many fellow sailors felt that the calm, decisive action taken by Wiltse during that attack was the main reason they lived to fight another day. A large number of them maintained regular correspondence with Wiltse until the time of his death.

By 1942 Wiltse had been assigned to the Pacific Ocean Areas staff as Administrative Chief of Staff for Admiral

Chester W. Nimitz. The photo accompanying this story shows Wiltse along with Admiral Nimitz on a dock at Pearl Harbor on June 8, 1942. They were part of a reception committee watching the *USS Fulton* arrive with survivors of the carrier *USS Yorktown* which had been sunk at the Battle of Midway.

On August 12, 1943, Rear Admiral Wiltse assumed command of Cruiser Division 11. Although there are several action reports from the division commander (Wiltse), they only offer hints and small clues of what that action may have been. For example, I know of a report dated December 13, 1943, covering action that took place on December 4 and 5, 1943, and another report, dated February 16, 1944. The 1944 action report has this brief tease, "aa [anti-aircraft] action report, off Truk, Carolines [Caroline Islands], from the flagship of the commander of Cruiser Division 11." Starting with that information I can assume that Wiltse and his cruiser division took part in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign. That campaign took place from November 1943 through February 1944. The combined attack by United States Navy aircraft, surface ships, and submarines on February 17 and 18, 1944, largely neutralized the effectiveness of the Japanese forces on the atoll of Truk.

Although there is a microfilm record of a seven-page action report of September 24, 1944, by L. J. Wiltse covering operations from 0700, August 29, 1944, to 2400, September 24, 1944, the full report was not available to me. However, a brief on-line account indicates that it covers actions as support group to TG 38.1 in connection with amphibious operations against Palau Islands and Morotai and carrier air strikes against Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The United States Third Fleet began carrier-based raids against Formosa [now Taiwan] on October 12, 1944. During the next two days the heavy cruiser *USS Canberra* and the light cruiser *USS Houston* were seriously damaged by enemy

torpedoes. It was for his decisive action to retrieve these ships that Admiral Wiltse was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service. On October 24, 1944, Admiral Wiltse assumed command of Cruiser Division 10. An online report about the *USS Indiana* lists the ships of Task Group 38.2; the ships listed in Cruiser Division 10 are the *USS Baltimore* (CA-67) (F), *USS Pittsburgh* (CA-72), and *USS Chicago* (CA-29) [I believe the letter "F" designates the flagship of the cruiser division].

If my assumptions are correct and the *USS Baltimore* was Admiral Wiltse's flagship, the *Baltimore* and other ships under his command were very active in the final assault on the Japanese home islands. The *Baltimore* supported carrier

strikes against Tokyo in mid-February 1945 and against Iwo Jima during the latter half of February and early March 1945. In late March it was active in screening duties as U.S. carriers struck targets on Okinawa and on Kyushu, the southwestern-most island of the Japanese archipelago. During this time,

Wiltse and the crew of the *Baltimore* saw how devastating the Japanese "Divine Wind," or kamikaze, attacks could be. When successful, those desperate attacks were capable of inflicting grave losses on U.S. aircraft carriers. While operating off the east coast of Okinawa on June 5, 1945, the *USS Baltimore* was hit by a second typhoon that destroyed her planes and damaged her bow [the *Baltimore* had sustained damage when it encountered a typhoon on 10

December 1944. In that storm its two observation planes had been damaged, two whaleboats destroyed, 40- and 20- millimeter gun mounts bent, and deck plates buckled]. Damage from the second typhoon was far more serious, and the *USS Baltimore* sailed for the Philippines to seek repairs.



On the dock at Pearl Harbor, watching *Fulton* arrive and forming a reception committee for survivors of the carrier *Yorktown*, are Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, second from left; in the center background, Rear Admiral Lloyd J. Wiltse who was administrative chief of Nimitz' staff but would soon get back to sea; and at the right front of the group, Rear Admiral William L. Calhoun, commander of the Pacific Fleet Service Forces. Official U.S. Navy photograph, June 8, 1942.

The heavy cruiser, *USS Quincy*, survived the typhoon with little damage, but, on June 13, 1945, it also returned to its base at Leyte, in the Philippine Islands, for general upkeep and repairs. During this repair period Rear Admiral Wiltse transferred his flag to the *USS Quincy*. On July 1, 1945, the *Quincy* sailed from Leyte to begin a series of strikes against the Japanese home islands that lasted until the end of hostilities.

On September 2, 1945, Rear Admiral Lloyd J. Wiltse, along with numerous U.S. military dignitaries (Admiral William F. Halsey, Rear Admiral Forrest Sherman, Vice Admirals Charles A. Lockwood, John S. McCain, and John H. Towers; Generals Robert L. Eichelberger, Jonathan Wainwright, Carl A. Spaatz, and British Lieutenant General Arthur Percival) were aboard the battleship *USS Missouri* as General of the Army and Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers Douglas MacArthur accepted the surrender of the Empire of Japan. The surrender document was signed by the Japanese foreign minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, General Yoshijiro Umezumi, and the following representatives on behalf of each of the Allied Powers:

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz for the United States
 General Hsu Yung-Ch'ang for the Republic of China
 Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser for the United Kingdom
 Lieutenant General Kuzma Derevyanko for the Soviet Union
 General Sir Thomas Blamey for Australia
 Colonel Lawrence Moore Cosgrave for Canada
 General d'Armee Philippe Leclerc de Hautecloque for France
 Lieutenant Admiral C.E.L. Helfrich for the Netherlands
 Air Vice-Marshal Leonard M. Isitt for New Zealand



On board the *USS Missouri*, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz signs the Japanese surrender instrument on September 2, 1945. *U.S. Navy Photo # 80-701293*.

On September 17, 1945, Rear Admiral Wiltse transferred his flag to the *USS Vicksburg*.

After World War II, Wiltse was assigned command of the Terminal Island naval base in Long Beach, California, and served there until he retired from the Navy in 1947. City directory records from La Jolla, California, from 1950 through 1959 show Lloyd J. and Frances S. Wiltse living at 1865 Soledad Drive. The Find a Grave website indicates that Frances Sturgis (Clark) Wiltse died on February 21, 1959. California public records show that Lloyd J. Wiltse, age 71, and Rosalind Seatree (Tyson), age 58, were married on February 13, 1963, in San Diego, California. Rosalind Seatree Wiltse died on February 8, 2007. Rear Admiral Wiltse and his first wife (Frances) are buried at the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, California.

Wiltse is credited with earning 13 campaign stars. With each Silver Campaign Star representing five Bronze Stars, Wiltse, and the ships under his command, would have been credited with two Silver Stars and three Bronze Stars.

For his service during the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Rear Admiral Wiltse was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in operations against the enemy from October 14 to October 24, 1944. His Task Group towed two damaged cruisers from a position deep in enemy waters to safety while under constant threat of enemy air attacks, thereby saving from destruction two valuable units of the Fleet [see Wikipedia note below].

The following are excerpts from the text of citations from the Legion of Merit and the four Gold Stars with Combat "V" [valor] for conduct awarded to Wiltse:

"...in the command of a special force assigned to important duty in connection with salvaging heavily damaged ships in enemy waters during the period 13 to 17 October 1944. By his skillful and outstanding leadership in coordinating the units of his command, he contributed greatly to the withdrawal of two heavy ships from close proximity to enemy territory.

"... in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Western Pacific War Area from 22 March to 19 May 1945. An outstanding leader, Vice Admiral Wiltse directed his cruisers in delivering effective anti-aircraft fire against numerous hostile air attacks, thereby contributing to the defense of the entire Task Group. Skillfully using cruiser planes under his direct command, he executed numerous rescues of downed pilots in the vicinity of enemy land areas.

"... as Commander Cruiser Division TEN during the first bombardment of the Japanese Mainland at Kamaishi on 14 July 1945; the bombardment of Hamamatau on the night of 29-30 July 1945; and the second bombardment of Kamaishi on 9 August 1945. A skilled and efficient leader, Vice Admiral Wiltse ably commanded the heavy cruisers of Task Unit 34.8.1 during these important engagements and contributed materially to the successful outcome of these operations.

“... as Commander of a Cruiser Support Unit operating with the SECOND Carrier Task Force, during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Western Pacific Waters from 1 July to 15 August 1945. Participating in strikes against Kyushu, Shikoku, Honshu and Hokkaido, Vice Admiral Wiltse skillfully supervised his command during long and rigorous operations and, by his tireless efforts, maintained the ships of his division in a high state of combat readiness and fighting efficiency. His leadership throughout this period of unremitting offensive activity was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. Vice Admiral Wiltse is authorized to wear the Combat ‘V’

“...for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States.”

I will do more research to find copies of the original documents and reports and continue work on the fascinating story of Vice Admiral Lloyd J. Wiltse, one of Mitchell’s finest sons.

End notes:

1. Photo of Jack Thurman by Bob Campbell and information obtained from the website iwojima.com.
2. From staff and Associated Press Reports, *The Daily Republican*, February 3, 1984, pp. 1,2:3-4.
3. Smith, John, *Photographers by Town*, p. 93.
4. *Polk Mitchell City Directory*, 1898-9, pp. 95, 113.
5. *Mitchell Capital*, May 18, 1900.
6. Online genealogical and passenger list sources provided by Mitchell Area Genealogical Society.
7. *Reading Eagle* [Massachusetts], September 20, 1939.
8. *USS Detroit*, Report of Pearl Harbor attack from website: history.navy.mil/docs/wwii/pearl, selected naval documents.
9. *The Pacific War Online Encyclopedia* at pwenyl.kgbudge.com shows that Wiltse commanded a cruiser division during the Gilberts and Marshalls campaigns.
10. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_and_Marshall_Islands_campaign, <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/pacificwar/timeline.htm>. *A guide to the microfilm edition of U. S. Navy Action and Operational Reports from World War II, Pacific Theater*, copyright 1990 by University Publications of America, ISBN 1-55655-191-6.
11. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Canberra_\(CA-70\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Canberra_(CA-70)) and <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-h/cl81-1.htm>.
12. <http://ussindianabb58.com/log/shipslog7.html>.
13. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Baltimore_\(CA-68\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Baltimore_(CA-68)).
14. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Quincy_\(CA-71\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Quincy_(CA-71)).
15. Information is from Wikipedia website titled “Japanese Instrument of Surrender.”
16. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Quincy_\(CA-71\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Quincy_(CA-71)).
17. Andrea Sindt of the Mitchell Area Genealogical Society provided much of the genealogical data for this article.
18. Information on all awards and citations for Vice Admiral Wiltse was obtained from militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards

CRC Thermal Windows Project Completed

The 1903 former Carnegie Library now has 2011 thermal windows throughout. Thanks to Dominic Truniger, president of Hurd Windows and Doors, who coordinated the work by Richard Boettcher, fabricator of the windows, and of others involved, deficiencies of some imperfectly fitting windows were corrected. The Carnegie is now equipped with draft-free thermal pane windows in the entire building. The impact on CRC heating bills has been very favorable, especially since some of the deteriorated old windows leaked drafts so badly.

Greatly appreciated are the many donations that helped pay for this project which was budgeted at \$56,500 for the windows contract. Tuck pointing costs were also incurred. As Lyle Swenson has commented, “Our gratitude is beyond measure.”

Vendor’s Cart Display

Internationally known Hansen Wheel and Wagon Shop north of Mitchell on Highway 37, at the request of Hannah Walters, then director of Mitchell Convention and Visitors Bureau, designed and built a vendor’s cart for display in the Corn Palace lobby of promotional literature about tourist attractions in Mitchell.

Doug Hansen did extensive research to produce this authentic replica of a vendor’s cart of the late 1800s. The cart is about 45 ½ inches long by 32 inches wide and has a handle which the vendor used to pull the cart. The replica cart was customized for the Corn Palace lobby display purposes with holders and compartments to hold the tourism literature.

Visitor numbers are up at the CRC this summer. It is very possible that having the CRC rack cards included in that unique and attractive display is one of the reasons. Thank you to Doug Hansen and family members who restore and/or produce the elegant replicas of stage-coaches, sheepherders’ wagons, and other means of horse-drawn or oxen-drawn transportation.

The vendor’s cart was purchased with some of the funds granted in 2011 by the City Council for tourism development in the Mitchell area.



MAHS Programs - July 2011 through June 2012

Each month MAHS features at its regular meeting speakers who add to knowledge about Mitchell area history. The topics are varied and of great interest to the audience. Frequently, audience members add information about the topic. Evening programs begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and sometimes last well over two hours.

Following are the programs presented from July 2011 through June 2012:

July – Dr. Alan K. Outram, head of archaeology and associate professor of archaeological science at University of Exeter, United Kingdom, presented a video and spoke about “The Earliest Horse Domestication – the Site in Kazakhstan,” and Dr. Adrien Hannus, professor of anthropology and director of the Archeology Laboratory at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, described progress at Mitchell’s Archeodome.

August – Day-time carpooling excursion to Huron to visit the Gladys Pyle home, the 1887 stone building of the Grace Episcopal Church, and the remarkable Dakotaland Museum.

September – In tribute to the contribution of Yanktonai Sioux artist Oscar Howe, Gwen Hoffer, of the Akta Lakota Museum in Chamberlain, spoke about the collections of the museum and its role in educating Native American children.

October – “The History of Trail King” by Jerry Thomsen, son of founder Gordon Thomsen, who added much to Jerry’s video and presentation.

November – “The Past, Present, and Future of Muth Electric, Inc.” presented by owners Dick and Darlene Muth. The event was hosted at Muth’s new headquarters building at 1717 North Sanborn and featured a tour after the video presentation.

December – The Mitchell Barbershop Chorus and Wanema Wieczorek performed magnificently in the festively decorated historic former Carnegie Library.

January 2012 – Lyle Swenson, MAHS president, and Chris Festvog, MAHS secretary, told of the history of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad in Mitchell. The Milwaukee depot building is now The Depot restaurant next to the railroad tracks in Mitchell.

February – In their pioneer period costumes, Louise Maeschen and Ruby Pattison described heirloom quilts and told compelling stories. The Carnegie was filled with colorful and uniquely designed quilts.

March – “The Story of Iverson Motors” was told by John Iverson, son of Merv Iverson, who was a cofounder of Iverson Motors. The program was held in the beautiful Iverson building at 600 South Burr. The group toured all parts of the facility. In the boardroom were displayed the many awards and some photographs of the firm’s history.

April – Dick Rozum, former owner of Rozum Motors, described the history of this major automobile firm which is now owned by Vern Eide Ford and located at 2300 North Main Street.

May – LifeQuest, formerly called the Mitchell Area Adjustment Training Center, serves persons with disabilities. Daryl Kilstrom, executive director, described the long history of this valuable resource.

June – Chris Festvog, MAHS secretary, presented the wealth of information he has found about Vice Admiral Lloyd J. Wiltse, a Mitchellite who served with great distinction and valor in World War II. See Chris’ article in this [Carnegie Courier](#).

Grant Award by the Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation

Although acoustics at the CRC are excellent, at times it has been difficult for audience members to hear the speaker. To remedy this problem, MAHS applied to the Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation for a grant to purchase two microphone sets for use by presenters of programs. Thanks to the June 2012 grant award of \$820.24, the microphone sets can be purchased. Not only will audience members be better able to hear but the sound quality of the video productions by Mel Pooley of each program will be much improved. The videos are used to build MAHS files of Mitchell area history and for gifts to the program presenters. MAHS is very grateful for the continuing support of the Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation.



Bonny Hansen, Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation treasurer, presents a check on July 2, 2012, to Lyle Swenson, MAHS president, as a grant award to purchase two microphone sets for use at MAHS and MAGS programs. Thank You !!

Dakota Wesleyan University Community Service Day

On May 1, 2012, the CRC benefited from help by four very capable, hard-working staff of the DWU Admissions Office who pitched in with great energy and efficiency to pull weeds, rake lawns, sweep sidewalks, wash windows, and spot-clean carpeting. For a combined total of nine hours, they worked wonders! A million thanks!

The Admissions Office staff were Missy Herr-Valberg, Mateya Berg, Dan Bonte, and Grayson Pirner. Diana Goldammer, director of student life at DWU, coordinated 500 students and faculty to help in this community service project.



Help Us Identify This Wooden Bowl

Recently William Belitz donated to the MAHS the above-pictured large wooden bowl which he and his wife, Jane, found on the beams in their basement. This unfinished old bowl, which measures 27 inches long by 13 inches wide by 4 3/4 inches high, has puzzled CRC volunteers and visitors who have wondered about its purpose. Some of the suggestions are (1) perhaps a kitchen item used for butter-making, grinding cornmeal, or as a bowl in which to make bread dough; (2) used as a baby's bath-tub, and (3) as seen recently by a CRC volunteer on the television show about the Hatfields and McCoys as a vessel for bobbing apples.

Let us have your guess - or even your certain knowledge - of the bowl's use by calling 605-996-3209 or by emailing your answer to Pam@mitchellcarnegie.com.

MAHS Members and Donors

The lists below represent the time period of December 1, 2011, through May 31, 2012. An asterisk following a member's name indicates that a donation was also made. The donors list does not include the names of members whose donations have been indicated by an asterisk. Much gratitude by MAHS is due new and renewing members and donors for their support of this all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Condolences are extended to the families and friends of supporters who have died. The memorial contributions are greatly appreciated, as are the contributions honoring our volunteers.

Renewing MAHS Members

Jon Airhart
 Stella Ramos Angelucci
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In Memoriam

Annie Asher
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The Carnegie Courier

Newsletter of the Mitchell Area Historical
& Genealogical Societies
119 West Third Avenue
PO Box 263
Mitchell, SD 57301

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June 2012 Newsletter

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Inserts

- **Order form - Churches 2011 Throw**
- **MAGS and MAHS Membership Form**
- **MAHS Annual Dinner Meeting Reservation Form**

**The Carnegie Resource Center is open
Monday through Saturday, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Call 605.996.3209 for additional times.**

MAHS 2012 Coming Events

Programs are at the CRC, 119 West Third Avenue, unless otherwise noted.

July 16 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. Dr. Alan Outram, University of Exeter, United Kingdom, and Dr. Adrien Hannus, Augustana College. These world-recognized archeologists will update us on their past year's progress and future endeavors.

August 12 (Sunday) 1:00 p.m. Meet at the CRC to carpool to Kaylor to tour the German/Russian Heritage Center, visit the cemetery for a demonstration on grave witching, and return to the Center for kuchen and coffee.

September 17 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. at Wesley Acres, MAHS Annual Dinner Meeting (see reservation form in this newsletter). Robert Kolbe, antique dealer, historian, and author will speak about "Dakota Photographers from A to Z" and show stereographic photographic views of early Mitchell. Ruby Tuesday will cater a delicious meal.

October 15 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. To be announced.

November 12 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. Ken Stach will present a program on the "Postal History of Davison and Sanborn Counties."

December 13 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m. Traditional "Christmas at the Carnegie" featuring the Mitchell Barbershop Chorus.