

ELIZA ELLEN (YENNY) REDDICK

Yenny was born on March 19, 1870 on the farm on lot 4, concession 4, in Marlborough township, and was baptised in the North Gower Anglican church on February 29, 1876.

Several of the James Reddick family settled in Aitkin, Minnesota in the 1880's and 1890's. Yenny was not in Aitkin at the time the 1880 census was recorded but the 1900 census of Minnesota listed her as single, born in March 1872 and 28 years old, a teacher living with her sister and brother-in-law Matilda and John Cluff.

After her arrival in Minnesota, Yenny put herself through teacher training at St. Cloud. When Mime (Jemima) went to Aitkin, Yenny did the same for her.

On December 15, 1909, Yenny married Weldon V. Puntney, part owner of a small boat on the Mississippi. Aitkin is located on the upper reaches of the river where it is very narrow and his boat was not the type that one thinks of in the context of "Mississippi River Boats". A picture of it survives.

In the 1910 census of Aitkin Village, Minnesota, appeared;

Puntney,	Weldon V	Head	50	Iowa	Engineer, river boat
"	, Eliza E.	Wife	35	Can.	imm.1882
Reddick,	Matilda	M/Law	87	Ire.	imm.1898

As to Matilda, the date of immigration is valid since we have an item in the Kemptville Weekly Advance reporting her departure for Aitkin in that year. As to Yennie the matter is different. The 1900 census records her year of immigration as 1882 and her years in the United States as eight. It is unlikely that she immigrated in 1882; she was twelve years old then. The information that we have indicates that Matilda and Minerva were the first of the sisters to emigrate but that was not till 1884, perhaps 1885. The 1920 census reports that she immigrated in 1887 and that is about right. She would have been 17 then and there were two brothers and at least two sisters already in Aitkin. The 1920 census reports that she was naturalized in 1909; that may have been by marriage.

The 1920 census listed :

Punteney,	Weldon V	Head	60	Iowa	farmer,	home mort-free
"	, Eliza E.	Wife	50	Can.	imm.1887	nat.1909

Weldon was born in Burr Oak, Iowa, on September 5, 1859. He went to Aitkin when he was still young and the place was a rough barging center. He was a part owner of the steamboat "Irene" then making regular trips on the river. He acted as engineer for nineteen years, until boat service ended, and then worked for a time in the Aitkin power and light plant..

Weldon and Yenny had one child, their daughter Mary Goldie, who was born in 1911 and died at the age of four and one-half years in 1916. She is buried in Lakeview cemetery at Aitkin.

Weldon died on September 21, 1940, Yenny on December 3, 1953. Both are buried in Lakeview cemetery.