



Sam S. Fifield
Bayfield Heritage Association Image # MHR 297

Sam S. Fifield Obituary
Bayfield County Press
Friday, February 19, 1915

Prominent Wisconsin Resident Dead: "Ashland bows her head in grief over the demise of one of her most cherished citizens. Honorable Sam S. Fifield left his earthly abode at eight o'clock Wednesday evening and is now one of Ashland's honored dead. His death was a shock to his numerous friends, many not knowing of this illness as he was on the streets but a few days ago. Mr. Fifield was born in Bangor, Maine, over 75 years ago. His mother died when he was a young boy, and the father moved west and lived in Prescott, Wisconsin, in the early 50s. Young Sam became a steward on one of the upper Mississippi River steamers and followed this work until he located in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin where he had charge of the toll bridge across the St. Croix River between St. Croix Falls and Taylors Falls until we

¹ Robert J. Nelson sharing the history; research and transcription for Bayfield Heritage Association, May 6, 2016 (sic)

moved to Osceola Mills, on the St. Croix, and became editor of the *Polk County Press* in the early 1860s. Here he resided until he moved to Ashland and 1872.

He and his brother, Henry O. Fifield, established the *Bayfield Press* in the early 70s, which paper was removed to Ashland in 1872 and became known as the *Ashland Press*, and was then ably edited paper under the management of the Fifield brothers, and did much to call the attention of the public to the resources of northern Wisconsin.

Hank O. Fifield sold out to his brother in a few years, and removed to Menomonee, Michigan, and then went to Wellington Ohio, where he now conducts a paper. S.S. Fifield became owner and editor-in-chief of the *Ashland Press*, and continued such until 1888, when he sold out to John M. Chapple.

For over 42 years Mr. Fifield made his home in Ashland. He was the first chairman of the town Board of Supervisors, in 1872, then the County seat being at La Pointe, Wisconsin. He has been honored by being elected to the state legislature and chosen speaker of that body. He was a state senator and later elected lieutenant governor. He was Ashland's postmaster for several terms, going out of that office when President Wilson was elected.

Mr. Fifield was proprietor of the old Chequamegon Hotel on the bay front when the late Charles Colby was president of the Wisconsin Central Railroad. He conducted a summer resort on Sand Island, one of the famous Apostle Island group, for a number of years. He was one of the organizers of the Ashland National Bank, and a director for several years. He was one of the charter members of the first Masonic Lodge established in Ashland in 1872.



Stella Grimes Fifield
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Ms. Stella Grimes Fifield, the late wife of Samuel S. Fifield, died a little over a year ago, a few months before the golden anniversary was to have been celebrated." *Ashland Daily Press* in the *Bayfield County Press* Friday, February 19, 1915.

"It was my privilege to be intimately acquainted with Gov. Fifield for 35 years, meeting him at Madison before I came a resident of the Lake superior country, and during all these years and found him at all times, in all places, a staunch supporter of the "new Wisconsin" as he named it and untiring in his efforts to make others appointed with its wonderful, undeveloped resources, and the great future he believed in store for this portion of our Commonwealth. All North Wisconsin, especially, Chequamegon Bay country, owes much to Gov. Fifield. Among the old residents of this section are many who loved Sam S. Fifield and not "for the any means teammate," but for his loyalty and good fellowship at all times under all circumstances." Curry G. Bell- *Bayfield County Press* Friday, February 19, 1915.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Sam Fifield

14th Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin

In office

January 2, 1882 – January 3, 1887

Governor [Jeremiah Rusk](#)

Preceded by [James M. Bingham](#)

Succeeded by [George W. Ryland](#)
by

Wisconsin State Senate

In office

1876–1881

Wisconsin State Assembly

In office

1874–1876

Personal details

Born June 24, 1839
 [Corinna, Maine](#)

Died February 17, 1915 (aged 75)
 [Ashland, Wisconsin](#)

Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	Stella Grimes Fifield (1845-1913)
Children	Lillian Fifield Payne (1868-1956)
Residence	Ashland, Wisconsin

Samuel S. Fifield (June 24, 1839 – February 17, 1915)^{[1][2]} was a [Wisconsin](#) politician and influential [businessperson](#). The town of [Fifield, Wisconsin](#) is named after him.

He was born in [Corinna, Maine](#) in 1839 and received an education as a printer. He moved to Wisconsin in 1854, where he worked as a clerk on a [steamboat](#) on the [St. Croix River](#). He founded the *Polk County Press* in 1861.^[3]

After the [American Civil War](#), he entered politics and served as a [Sergeant-at-Arms](#) for the [Wisconsin State Assembly](#) in 1871 and 1872. He later served as a [Republican](#) member of the Assembly from 1874 through 1876, serving as [speaker](#) the last year.^[4] He was elected to the [Wisconsin State Senate](#) in 1876, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of [Henry D. Barron](#). He served in the State Senate until 1881, at which time he was elected as Wisconsin's [14th Lieutenant Governor](#).^[5]

Having lived in [Ashland](#) since 1872, he helped found the [Ashland Press](#) newspaper. He was the chairman of the first [board of supervisors](#) in June, 1872.^[6]

After retiring from politics in 1887, he served as Postmaster in Ashland,^[7] and opened a summer resort on Sand Island in Lake Superior.^[8] Named "Camp Stella," after Fifield's wife, the camp was one of the first successful resorts in northern Wisconsin.^[9] The site is now within the boundaries of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore; many of the buildings are still standing, and one, the "Sevona Memorial Cottage," is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.^[10]

Fifield died in 1915 at his home in Ashland.^[11] In Ashland, there is a street of Historic homes named *Fifield Row*, in his honor.