



Aitkin Co-op Creamery

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

20 Pacific Street S.W. / P.O. Box 215

Aitkin, MN 56431

We are located just 2 blocks south of the stoplights in downtown Aitkin, south of the railroad tracks and west of highway 169 on Pacific Street S.W.

Phone: 218-927-3348

Email: achs3348@embarqmail.com

Web Site: www.aitkincohs.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

Aitkin County Fair

July 6th Thru 9th

We will have nine display cases featuring different areas or events in Aitkin County. Volunteers needed to staff building. Schools of Aitkin County for sale.

Annual Garage Sale

August 5th & 6th

Table set up and merchandise will be moved to the fairgrounds on Tuesday July 12th and sorting and pricing will begin on July 13th. Once again we will use two of the fair buildings for our sale. Volunteers will be needed for setup, sorting, pricing and working the sale. Merchandise for the sale can be dropped off at the Depot Museum.

Annual Open House/Cookie Walk/Raffle

December 3rd (9am – 4pm)

Cookie walk opens at 9:30. Usually all cookies are sold before noon. Last fundraiser of the year.

MUSEUM HOURS

June thru August

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday &
Saturday 10am to 4pm

September thru May

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
10am to 4pm

**THE PRESERVATION OF
OUR HERITAGE
DEPENDS ON YOU**

Editor:

Scott Rian

**Administrator, Aitkin
County Historical Society**

Business Members – 36, Individual Members – 31, Senior Members – 129, Family Members – 282, Life Members – 20, Perpetuity Members – 4
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 502 (NEW GOAL IS 525)

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Aicota Health Care Center
Aitkin Auto Body
Aitkin Chamber of Commerce
Aitkin County Abstract Co.
Aitkin Family Chiropractic
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
Aitkin Independent Age
Aitkin Lodge #164 IOOF
Aitkin Motor Company
American Legion Post 86
Arvidson Tax & Accounting
Bremer Bank
D.Q. Grill & Chill
Eyecare Center of Aitkin &
McGregor
Garrison Disposal
Gobles Sewer Service
Gravelle Plumbing & Heating
Hasskamp Bros. Well Drilling
Hometown Building Supply
Hudrlik Carpet & Tile
Jim Blakesley Enterprises
K & J C-Stores, Inc.
KKIN Radio
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating
Members Coop Credit Union
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
Neighborhood National Bank
Northern Air Plumbing &
Heating
Paulbecks County Market
R & K Cabinets
Security State Bank
Shirts Plus
Sunset Bay Resort
The Tire Barn, Inc.
Tidholm Productions
Woods & Shores Real Estate

**Please Support Our
Business Members!
They Support us.**

Board Members

Cheryl Meld – President.
Jennie Hakes – Vice President
Colleen Bremner – Secretary
Susan Benson
Ron Kemmett
John Hendrickson
Robert (Bob) Lake
Jodi Johnson
Pam Brand
Allen Ladd Hakes
Russell Peterson
Darlene Maciej
Mark Wedel – County Com.
Sherry Arvidson – Accountant
Scott Rian – Administrator

Supported by:

Aitkin County Supporting Townships

**Farm Island Township
Beaver Township
Lakeside Township
Libby Township
Pliny Township
Macville Township
Nordland Township
Idun Township**

New Members

Bob Wickman
Chip & Jean Borkenhagen
Ann Erlandson
Barbara K. Kane

Members lost in 2016

David Hasskamp
1935 -3/23/2016
Elwood Swanson
1928 – 2/27/2016

Memorials

The following have given a gift to the Society in memory or in honor of friends and relatives. We appreciate their thoughtfulness.

In Memory of Curtis John Leach

Given By

Greg & Laura Thornbloom
Shirley Davies
Doug & Mavis Olson
Ron & Jo White
Ladd Hakes
Lorraine Liljenquist
Jennie Hakes
Sue Benson
John Hendrickson
Jodie Johnson
Cheryl Meld
Darlene Maciej
Mark Wedel
Carol Bailey
Pam Brand
Jo Jacobson
Cathy Broberg
Alice Fageroos
Diana Deppe

Museum Needs

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Kleenex
Paper Napkins
Windex
409
Pine Sol
Photo Paper
Copy Paper

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2016 – Volume 21, Issue 2

As you read this a new administrator will have taken my place. Please support Scott Rian, our new administrator, as you have supported me during my seven year five month run. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you during that time. Our volunteers took my ideas and thoughts and made them a reality. A great big “**Thank You**” goes out to all of our volunteers that have supported me during my tenor as your Administrator. Because of you I have had the opportunity to check off many items on my bucket list. The Administrator job has turned out to be my favorite job of my life. And once again it is because of our incredible volunteers.

Many volunteer opportunities are just around the corner. Volunteers will be needed to set up and staff our log cabin display during the County Fair (July 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th). We need a couple of people at the building during the entire fair. On July 12th we will gain access to the Fairground to set up our tables and display cases for our Annual Garage Sale. On July 13th merchandise will be transferred from storage to the fairgrounds with the help of STS. Then the sort will begin. All items donated will be unpacked, sorted and marked from July 13th thru August 4th. Our sale will be held on Friday August 5th (9am to 4pm) and on Saturday August 6th (9am to 3pm). Clean up of the buildings will take place on Monday August 8th or Tuesday August 9th. It takes 100's of hours for the setup and marking of the merchandise. At the beginning of setup the amount of boxes to unpack seem overwhelming. But, through the hard work of our volunteers it gets done. Usually there is around 20 people each day (men and women) working and having fun. The Garage sale is our largest fundraiser of the year. If you have volunteered at one of these events before please consider volunteering again. For those who have never volunteered at one of our events please consider doing so. Contact the Depot museum (218-927-3348) for more information. If I am still in the area I plan on helping out as a volunteer instead of being in charge. Sounds like fun to me.

What's next for me? My wife and I plan on selling our house in Crosby this spring and moving down to the Twin Cities to be closer to my parents and our siblings. Our plan is to find a small apartment to use as home base and start to travel around the country. We plan on traveling back roads to see the sites and stopping at various restaurants that were featured on “Dinners, Drive-ins and Dives. Retiring will also give us a chance to spend more time with our grandchildren. Currently we have four grandchildren with a fifth due on May 2nd.

After watching one of my younger brothers fight Leukemia for two years and being unable to do much or enjoy his life and then his passing on February 14th it is time for us to start doing the traveling we have talked about for so long. There are so many places in this country that we have always wanted to see and things we want to do that it is time while our health is still good. There is no guarantee about tomorrow so we want to enjoy every day like it is our last. It is our hope however, to live another 20 to 30 years.

The adventure begins!

Greg Leach – (Past Administrator)

Address from Scott Rian the new administrator

I would like to thank you all for welcoming me into the fold. I thank Greg Leach for all the work he has done in the past and for the work he has done to get ready for the transition. I wish him and his wife the best on their new adventure. Some of you may know me if not I will give you a little background feel free to ask me any question I have no secrets. I am a nearly lifelong resident of Aitkin County. My dad was Dennis Rian from McGregor (Deceased 1992) and My Mom Is Pat Turner (Shorty and Esther Evan's daughter) from Aitkin.

I graduated from Aitkin in 1986 and joined the Air force after 4 years on Active duty I joined the Air Force Reserves in Minneapolis I served 22 years and retired as a master sergeant in 2008. After retirement I finished a Bachelors and Master's degree through St Scholastica. In 2009 my wife Allison (Tange) and I had our first child Faythe we welcomed Grace in 2012. We live in Hazelton Township next to some nefarious people whom you may know (Doug and Mavis Olsen). For over 20 years I have run a local tree trimming company (Cabin Savers Tree Service Inc.) and though I love the work it is difficult and dangerous and I am not getting any younger. From February 2013 until June of 2015 I worked at Long Lake Conservation Center. I left there because I could no longer help them due to differences in the centers priorities.

It is my hope is that I can look with open eyes at what the Historical society and community needs, so I can help others to appreciate what we have to offer. I am an old father as some of you who have done the math are aware. I appreciate my life/wife/children much more than maybe others. I see this as an opportunity to make a lasting contribution to my community and be present for my family and to participate in raising my children.

Some view Museums and Historical societies as groups that cling to the past and fear change. I see it as the opposite, change is continual in life. We are here to help people realize that things are not as they were and that is ok. If you look back at things and who people thought they were as a community that has faced continual evolvment. From the native communities settled by the current airport to the original Aitkin town site north of the fairgrounds. The era of riverboats to lumber camps to farming with its butter and cheese production to turkey farms and tourism.

We are not just a nice retirement community. Who we are is not stagnant nor should it be. Former residents are moving back and creating sustainable farms because they like the area and the lifestyle. We have never been nor do I want to be a one story community. History celebrates the diverse stories that are interwoven through the passage of time. Like a cloth, individual threads that create a beautiful garment. I look forward to working with everyone and helping to tell our communities story.

Bags, Bags & More Bags

We need bags for our Annual Garage Sale.

Paper or Plastic.

If you have bags lying around your house please bring them to the Depot museum by the end of June. Thank You!

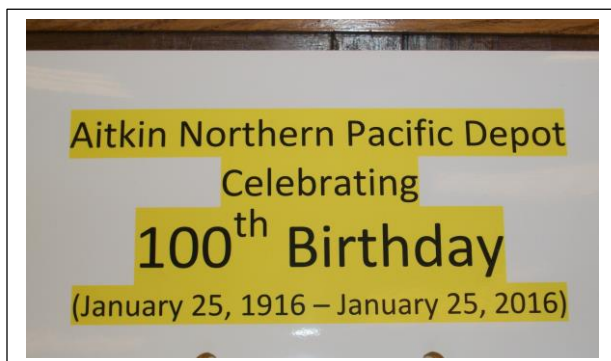
Teddy Bear Exhibit

Come in to see the teddy bear exhibit created by Joann White it chronicles the story of Teddy Roosevelt, his hunting trip and how an act of kindness attained a legendary status. So how did toy bears come to be named after Theodore Roosevelt? It all started with a hunting trip President Roosevelt took in 1902 to Mississippi at the invitation of then governor Andrew h. Longino. After 3 days of hunting, other members of the party had spotted bears but not Roosevelt. Now What? The presidents bear hunt would be a failure! The next day, the guides tracked down and old black bear that the dogs had trailed for quite a distance and attacked. The guides tied the bear to a willow tree and called for the president. Here was a bear for him to shoot. But Roosevelt took one look at the bear and refused to shoot it. He felt it would be unsportsmanlike. However since it was injured and suffering, Roosevelt ordered that the bear be put down to end its pain. Word of this hit newspaper's across the country, and political cartoonist Clifford Berryman picked up on the story, drawing a cartoon showing how Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear. More than a century later "Teddy Bears" have never lost their popularity and it can all be traced back to that one hunting trip in Mississippi. So to find out the rest of the story and see some fine examples of teddy bears in action come to the depot museum.



Ojibwa Exhibit

This is a picture of the display in the hallway loaned to the depot by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwa. There are 5 panels that explain the band history, significant leaders their current governance structure as well as treaty milestones and regions of control within the band and reservation area. Stop by and learn a little.



Help the Aitkin County Historical Society/Depot museum calibrate the
NP Depot's 100th Birthday
Watch for upcoming events this summer.

Great News Thrivent Members!

The Aitkin County Historical Society has been approved to participate in the Choice Dollars. Any member of Thrivent Financial may decide to donate the "Choice Dollars" to ACHS. This could be the only selection made or one of several.

Thanks for your support.

What legacy have you left? Consider leaving something to the Historical Society in your will. It might be a piece of our Aitkin history or some money as a memorial in your name. A memorial paid for our new research room.

SCRAP COPPER

The society is now **collecting scraps of copper as a fundraiser.**

Pieces of scrap copper pipe, connectors, or electrical wire. Do you have small pieces of wire taking up room in your garage or basement? Not enough to make it worth your while. Please consider donating it to the historical society. Wire or copper plumbing pieces **CAN** be dropped off at the Depot museum during operating hours.

(Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10am to 4pm.)

2016 Completed Projects

1. Hardwood floors in Railroad room varnished.
2. Six foot display case repaired/painted.
3. Research room library cataloged.
4. Schools of Aitkin County book published
5. Log Cabin storage area cleaned out.

Looking for old Plat books

The following list is the books that we have.

1916, 1969, 1972, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1999, 2003, 2010, 2013

If you have an Aitkin County Plat book that is not on this list please consider donating it to the Aitkin County Historical Society

TRAINS NEEDED!

The Aitkin County Historical Society is still looking for model trains to put on display in our Depot museum railroad room. Do you have a model train of any size that could be donated for this permanent display? Not ready to get rid of it. Loan it to the museum to help fill up our display. We need eleven more to fill our three display cabinets. This train display is becoming one of our favorite displays. If your trains are just packed away in the garage or attic, share them with everyone.

Township Records

The Minnesota Historical Society has requested that we collect the records from our Townships and put the information on microfilm.

Some Townships already store their old records at the Depot Museum in Aitkin. We are requesting that all the Townships in Aitkin County contact us and let us know how many ledgers they have in storage. Once placed on microfilm the information would be available to view at the Depot Museum in Aitkin and at the Minnesota Historical Society. We can store the old records or return them to the Township.

Pennies for History

Help us raise money to build interactive displays for children by donating your pennies. Pennies can be turned in at the Depot Museum.

Total Pennies Collected!

2792

2016 First quarter accession's list

Date	Number	Name of Donor	Items Donated
1/13/2016	16.001	Mark Wedel	6 - Aitkin County Plat books
1/13/2016	16.002	Maxine Ridlington	Petticoat
Unknown	16.003	John Hendrickson	WWII Medals & Compass, Fishing Lure
1/23/2016	16.004	Mark Lieb	25 Radio Repair Manuals, 4 - Tubes
1/27/2016	16.005	Sharon Vanous	Julia Ann Perry information, WWII Pins
1/29/2016	16.006	Ted Landgren	5 - car American Flyer Train
2/3/2016	16.007	Doris Nordean	Plat book & Misc. paper info
2/5/2016	16.008	Shirley Davies	Library books
2/3/2016	16.009	Alma Bailey	Book - A Century of Pioneering Pioneers
2/19/2016	16.010	Jennie Hakes	2 - 1950 Aitkin County Maps
2/24/2016	16.011	John Hendrickson	Box / Spoon
2/24/2016	16.012	Debra Janzen	3 - AHS Yearbooks
3/2/2016	16.013	Pam Landgren	Misc. Aitkin Advertising Items
3/2/2016	16.014	Robert Harder	Misc. Advertising items - Tamarack, McGregor
3/16/2016	16.015	Ron White	Sign/Poster
3/16/2016	16.016	Leawan Sotnak	Wool Hand Knit Socks
3/23/2016	16.017	Russell Peterson	5 - car Train set
3/25/2016	16.018	Greg Leach	Gillette Navy Shaving Set, Old wooden tops
3/16/2016	16.019	Ellen Nelson	Photo & Souvenir R. Ridge School
3/19/2016	16.020	William Lainer	Scrapbook - Postcard
3/26/2016	16.021	Ardith Kane	Newspapers, Photos, NP Book, 4 Car train set

"Schools of Aitkin County, Minnesota"

For the past two and a half years Greg and Laura Thornbloom have searched through County records, museum records and records at the Minnesota Historical Society. They have read family histories and books written about Aitkin County. Local residents were interviewed and other information and photos were sent to the museum. The job of assembling the information into book form was a gargantuan task. 1000's of hours were spent sifting through information, verifying the information, and then typing all the information into book form. Many sets of eyes proofed the information and then it was sent to the publisher. A proof copy was sent back to us and more sets of eyes read the book looking for mistakes. The hard work has paid off, and **"Schools of Aitkin County, Minnesota"** is now available at the Depot museum and DAC Mart in downtown Aitkin. The book is 304 pages, (104 pages more than our Barns of Aitkin County book) with the same retail price of \$19.95. If you see Greg and Laura please thank them for all their work on these two books. Without their hard work and dedication to these projects they would not have been completed. We will have the book available at our log cabin during the County Fair and at our Annual Garage sale on August 5th & 6th. If you have any interest in working on one of our book projects please contact Scott Rian at the Depot. 218/927-3348