



1916 Northern Pacific Depot

Original Depot located to the right of train.

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@embargmail.com

Web Site: www.aitkincohs.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016

Commerce & Outdoor Show

March 12th & 13th

We will once again have a booth at the **Commerce** show. Volunteers will be needed to staff our table during this event.

Aitkin County Fair

July 6th Thru 9th

We will have nine display cases featuring different areas or events in Aitkin County.

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.

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:

Gregory Leach
Administrator, Aitkin
County Historical Society

Business Members – 35, Individual Members – 30, Senior Members – 130, Family Members – 276, Life Members – 20, Perpetuity Members – 4
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 495 (NEW GOAL IS 500)

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
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
Carol Bailey
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
Greg Leach – Administrator

Supported by:

Aitkin County

Supporting Townships

Farm Island Township
Beaver Township
Lakeside Township
Libby Township
Pliny Township
Macville Township
Nordland Township
Idun 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!
November - January**

1205

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.**

2015 Event Numbers

Garage Sale

**Sales - \$11,001.00
Customers – 1843
Best Ever**

Annual Raffle

**\$3664.00
Best Ever**

Cookie Walk

**Sales - \$1008.50
Sold out in 2 hours**

I want to thank everyone who donated something for one of these events, worked one of these events and bought items at one of our events. Without all of you these numbers would not be possible. These funds help us to operate the Depot museum and update our equipment.

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2016 – Volume 21, Issue 1

The year 2015 flew by and before we know it summer 2016 will be here. With it will come the unveiling of our new book "Schools of Aitkin County". The past two years has been spent researching, and collecting photos and information to be included in the book. Many hours were spent interviewing Aitkin County residents about the early country schools. County and Historical Society records were pored over to determine the number and location of all the schools in the county. Sometimes information from two sources did not agree so a third source needed to be found to determine what was correct. Photos for some schools never materialized. The records for some schools had been destroyed by fires and others thrown away. Information about many schools is gone forever and we will never know. We are busy getting permission to use some articles in our book and a UPC code has been purchased. Information and photographs are being assembled to form our new book.

After seven and a half years I will be retiring as your administrator this spring. I have enjoyed working for you and the Volunteers have been beyond great. They followed my lead, no matter how crazy they thought the idea was, and accomplished many projects to make the museum more fun and interesting to visit. This past year many visitors from around the country expressed their surprise and joy at the number of displays and the quality of them. They felt that our museum was better than most of the other museums they had visited. This can be attributed to our volunteers. Their enthusiasm and dedication for the museum shows through in everything that they do. To our volunteers I say: **Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!** It is my hope that the new administrator will be embraced by the volunteers and that the society will continue to grow.

Last year 12,700 people visited our museum, web site or one of our events. They came from 37 US States, 10 Foreign Countries and 180 Minnesota Communities. Our museum has a big impact on the local economy. First of all we try to buy everything we need at the museum from local businesses starting with our member businesses. There is a constant stream of visitors who leave our museum and head to local restaurants, gas stations and Jaques Art Center. Another thing that we have been able to do is connect people living in Europe requesting information about their ancestors who traveled to America with relatives living here in Aitkin County. That is always fun when we can do that. It will not be very long before our visitor ship will be more than the population of Aitkin County.

Our Annual Garage Sale has been very successful over the past three years because of all of the generous donations received. This past year we broke the 11,000 dollar mark. When you are cleaning out your basement, garage, closets, drawers, or downsizing don't forget about the museum to receive those unwanted items. **All donations are tax deductible.** You have already cleaned everything out, How about donating some time working the sale. Hundreds of hours are spent setting up and marking everything for the sale. It takes many volunteer hours working the actual sale. Come and join the craziness. I will be gone, but plan on coming up from the cities and working the sale. If this event is going to continue to grow we need everyone's help with collecting, setting up, sorting, marking and working this event. As we grow older (I like to call it maturing) it seems that it takes longer to accomplish tasks and not able to do others. At least in my case, I am not as strong as I used to be.

Volunteers are always needed, not only accomplishing the everyday tasks of operating the museum, but working at one of our events. Check out the event schedule for 2016 in this newsletter and see if there is one that you could help us with. Call the Depot for more information. (218-927-3348)

Gregory Leach - Administrator

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 Everett Davies



Given By

Roy & Virginia Van Horn
John Borg
Doug & Mavis Olson
Michael & Glenda Murphy
Patricia J. Killeen
Thomas & Jeanne Rikala
John & Joyce Leitner
Thomas & Shirley Gravelle
Ruth Carlstrom
Barry & Eileen Foss
Susan & Michael Friedrich
Rich & Lorraine Liljenquist
Mr. & Mrs. Donald McNevin
Paul & Jeanne Switala
Mary Klingelhofer
Doris Nordean
Mary Rea
Albert & Elizabeth Tibbetts
Terry & Wendy Johnson
Robert & Sally Johnson
Julie Nordean
Paul & Luanne Beyreuther
Dorothy Carlberg
Janet Miller
Christine Bailey
Gary Williams
D.M. Insley
Shirley Olson
Greg & Gale Leach
John & Julie Solien

Memorials

In Memory of Everett Davies

Given by

Tom Betley
Ron & Jo White
Alan Thornbloom
Greg & Laura Thornbloom
Beverly & Marvin Midthun
Timothy & Judy Killeen
Eileen Hallbeck
Jerrold Nelson
Sophia "Trix" Wyant
Jerrold Nelson

In Memory of Mary Cummings Welshons

Given By

Class of 1950

In Memory of Windahl Dragovich

Given By

Class of 1950

In Memory of Algot "Al" Williams

Given By

Ron & Jo White
Val Toivonen

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.

Members Lost During 2015

Algot (Al) Williams
6/29/1915 – 12/10/2015

Everett Davies
2/28/1934 – 11/5/2015

Dorothy Winegarner
9/30/1935 – 8/2/2015

John Young
8/5/1929 - 2/10/2015

Shirley Meyer
6/14/1927 - 1/11/2015

NEW MEMBERS

Jackie Ritter
Edward C. Williams
Jason Brezinsky

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.

Fourth Quarter Accessions

10/2/2015	15.90.	Steve Bare	2-hats & vest from Aitkin Centennial, baby shoes & laces
10/9/2015	15.91	Carlton Co. H. S.	Lawler Creamery information
10/9/2015	15.92	Doug Olson	32" X 42" Aerial Photo of Mille Lakes Lake
10/14/2015	15.93	Tom & Judie Arnold	misc. banks, kitchen utensils, nic naks
10/16/2015	15.94	Marlene Kingsley	LOL Tray, Palisade Coop Pocket knife
10/2/2015	15.95	Janet Miller	3-photos, McGregor Phone Book
10/28/2015	15.96	Cheryl Meld	Tamarack Free Lutheran Church 100 yr. Anv. History & Mug
10/28/2015	15.97	Colleen Bremner	2 photo Post Cards
10/28/2015	15.98	Cherie Holm	Wealthwood Black History
11/13/2015	15.99	Richard Morris	Picture of Morris Farm
12/11/2015	15.100	Cheryl Sorenson	Dennis Day Poster from 1965, McGregor Snr Prom Program
12/11/2015	15.101	John/Marlene Tholen	Stetson box/Top Hat/Spats
12/11/2015	15.102	Barb Lundquist	Veterans Field Dedication 9/11/2015
12/12/2015	15.103	Washington Co. H.S.	1929 Roger Lake In The Pines Business Card
12/11/2015	15.104	John C. Luecke	Book – "SOO Line in Minnesota"
12/12/2015	15.105	B. Thompson - Ait. Co.	Newspapers, Misc. paper stuff
12/16/2015	15.106	Garage Sale items	Various items
12/19/2015	15.107	Ruth (Bunny) Vall	1950's Men's Ice Skates

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.

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.)

Missing Yearbooks

We are missing the following AHS yearbooks in our collection:

Before 1910

**Everything between
1910 – 1931/32**

**1972, 1975, 1979, 2010,
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014,
2015**

Please help us complete our collection of AHS yearbooks.

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

1916 Plat Book

We now have a high definition copy of the 1916 plat book of Aitkin County on all computers at the Depot and on our website. Check it out.
www.aitkincohs.org

Drawing on December 5th at 2pm

1. Emily Greens Golf for 4 + cart – Jackie Ritter – Aitkin, MN
2. Emily Greens Golf for 4 + cart – Harley Elling – McGregor, MN
3. Night Stay at Grand Casino Mille Lacs for two + \$20.00 Grand Play – Samantha Helgersen – Cokato, MN
4. **Enbridge Cooler/Gift Box – Elert Johnson – Aitkin, MN**
5. Framed picture donated by **Aitkin Furniture – Brad Bergerson - Hamel**
6. 250 Full Color Business Cards from **Tidholm Productions – Dorothy Carlberg – Aitkin, MN**
7. 2013 American Eagle coin donated by **Neighborhood National Bank – Marilyn Rossi – Aitkin, MN**
8. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate – Lisa Irwin - New Brighton, MN
9. \$50.00 **Shopko** Gift Card – Mark Bliss - Aitkin
10. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate – Richard Schmidt – Onamia, MN
11. Honeywell FocusPRO 5000 Thermostat from **Gravelle Plumbing – Joan E. Christensen – Aitkin, MN**
12. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate – Kalea S. - McGregor
13. \$50.00 Verizon Gift Certificate – Bob Wold - Aitkin
14. Bird Feeder donated by **Hyytinen Hardware – Barb Mathison – Deerwood, MN**
15. One Year Subscription donated by **Aitkin Independent Age – Kyle Kittleson – Aitkin, MN**
16. **Duane Photography** gift certificate – Jeremy Finke – Hill City, MN
17. Oil Change from **Brandl Motors – Phil Vandervegt – Olivia, MN**
18. Oil Change from **Brandl Motors – Susan Sass – Palisade, MN**
19. Grill Set from **Pine Insurance – Robert Brandt – Aitkin, MN**
20. Oil Change from **Cuyuna Country Auto – Marty Tolvanen – Jacobson, MN**
21. Fish Wind chime from **Aitkin Pet & Farm – Laurie Rupp – Breezy Point, MN**
22. BRK Carbon Monoxide Alarm donated by **Northern Air – Jeff Tidholm – Aitkin, MN**
23. First Aid Kit donated by **Riverwood Health Care – Roger Howard – Aitkin, MN**
24. First Alert Fire & Smoke Alarm donated by **Northern Air – Donna Larson – Aitkin, MN**
25. **Farm Island Repair** – Blue Collared T-shirt – Dr. Paul Kuiken - Aitkin, MN
26. **Farm Island Repair** – Blue Collared T-shirt – Mary Larson – Willmar, MN
27. \$25.00 Gift Certificate to the **Rialto Theatre – Leeann Hohensein – Aitkin, MN**
28. \$25.00 Gift Certificate from **Roadside Restaurant – Dick Dahners – Green Valley, AZ**
29. Stadium Blanket from **Bremer Bank – Mary Peterson – Aitkin, MN**
30. \$25.00 Gift Certificate from **The Office Shop – Florence Tarr – Aitkin, MN**
31. 12-Golf balls donated by **Security State Insurance – Doug Husper – Deerwood, MN**
32. \$25.00 Gift Certificate from **Birchwood Café – Karen Klennert – Swatara, MN**
33. \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Paulbeck's donated by **Woods & Shores Real Estate – June Flier – Aitkin, MN**
34. \$25.00 Gift Certificate to **Sew Much & More – Drew Boland**
35. Folding Chair donated by **Security State Bank – John Hendrickson – Aitkin, MN**
36. **Freedom** Gift Certificate for \$25.00 – Joel Hyytinen – Aitkin, MN
37. **Hometown Building Supply** gift certificate for \$25.00 - Sandi Wolf – Blaine, MN
38. Necklace donated by **Jessica's Treasure Chest – Aloha Buchert – Aitkin, MN**
39. T-shirt & Gift Certificate donated by **Shirts Plus – Lane Fischer – McGregor, MN**
40. Universal Notebook Case - **Lyle Klinghagen – Aitkin, MN**
41. Dairy Queen Gift Certificate for one 8" D.Q. Cake – Barb Gellatly – Minneapolis, MN
42. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society – Katherine Ella – Aitkin, MN**
43. \$20.00 Gift Certificate from **Aitkin Flowers – Ruth Lofgren – Aitkin, MN**
44. \$20.00 Gift Certificate for **The Green House – Dawn Huffman – Aitkin, MN**
45. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society – Rodney Sparks – Aitkin, MN**
46. \$20.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Paulbeck's – Tom Parkin – Aitkin, MN**
47. **40 Club** Gift Certificate for \$20.00 – Lori Gingerich – Aitkin, MN
48. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society – Edward Williams – Aitkin, MN**
49. \$20.00 Gift Certificate to **Aitkin Lanes – Jeremy Goble – Aitkin, MN**
50. \$20.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Paulbeck's – Sean Fleming – Aitkin, MN**
51. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society – Jackie Ritter - Aitkin, MN**
52. **Farm Island Repair** – camo t-shirt – Judy Peysar – Aitkin, MN
53. Baseball cap donated by **Aitkin Glass – (\$20.00 value) – Deb Johnson – Aitkin, MN**
54. Family Membership to the **Aitkin County Historical Society – Jason Brezinsky – Aitkin, MN**
55. Carpet cleaning supplies donated by **Hudrlik Carpet – Mike EisenBraun – Aitkin, MN**
56. 3-in-1 John Deere Power Tools – (\$19.99 value) – Rich Fannemel – Aitkin, MN
57. Framed Swan picture donated by **Unclaimed Freight North – Clint Host – Aitkin, MN**

58. Barns of Aitkin County donated by ACHS – **The Landing – Aitkin, MN**
59. The Money Hungry Hound donated by **Kathy's Kitchen – Julie Hansen – Aitkin, MN**
60. Cardinal Wind Chime donated by **Crossroads In Time – Cindy Cheehane**
61. Barns of Aitkin County donated by ACHS – **Joel Sydues – Aitkin, MN**
62. **Coombs Cuts** Gift Certificate – **Jon Hanson – North Branch, MN**
63. Tire Rotation donated by the **Tire Barn - Abbie Christian**
64. Mag Rain Gauge donated by Midwest Machine – **Jason Brezinsky – Aitkin, MN**
65. 2 Rounds of mini-golf at Whistling Wolf in Crosslake – **Dorothy Glidden – Aitkin, MN**
66. **40 Club** Gift Certificate for \$15.00 – **Bob Carlson – Aitkin, MN**
67. Folding Chair donated by Greg Leach – **Dr. Paul Kuiken – Aitkin, MN**
68. Set of 4 Frosted Glasses donated by **Members Coop Credit Union – Harley Weimer – Palisade, MN**
69. \$15.00 off retail gift certificate from **Lorrie's Hair Studio – Peggy Larsen – Aitkin, MN**
70. **Farm Island Repair** – T-shirt – **Joe Jameson – Aitkin, MN**
71. **Farm Island Store** – 14" two topping Pizza – **Bob Cummings – Aitkin, MN**
72. **Farm Island Store** – 14" two topping Pizza – **Diane Baldwin – Mora, MN**
73. **Bar-B-Q** set donated by Kay Olson – **Sherril Jones – Blaine, MN**
74. Mini Maglite donated by **Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative – P. Barker**
75. Forestedge Rhubarb Blend Wine donated by **Aitkin Municipal – Jill Blanchell – Aitkin, MN**
76. **Rasley Oil Company** Gift Certificate for \$10.00 – **Roy Klennert – Swatara, MN**
77. **Bginagins Used Clothing Store** gift certificate for \$10.00 – **Laura Hernandez – Merrifield, MN**
78. **Cedarbrook Lumber Company** gift certificate for \$10.00 – **Paul Magnuson – Aitkin, MN**
79. \$10.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Bills Sportsman's Service – Vanessa Brockway – Burtrum, MN**
80. \$10.00 Gift Certificate donated by **Gramma's Pantry – Peg Lundberg – Aitkin, MN**
81. \$10.00 Gift Certificate donated by the **Beanery – Lyle Klinghagen – Aitkin, MN**
82. Forestedge Rhubarb Blend Wine donated by **Aitkin Municipal – Andy Peterson – Deerwood, MN**
83. \$10.00 Gift Certificate to **Rasley Oil Company – David Knosalla – Olivia, MN**
84. \$10.00 Gift Certificate to **Bginagins Used Clothing Store – Loa Nelson – Crosby, MN**
85. Umbrella with light donated by Greg Leach – **Lisa Wigand – Aitkin, MN**
86. Umbrella from **Pine Insurance – Vanessa Prince – Tamarack, MN**
87. Bottle of VENDANGE White Zinfandel donated by **The Landing – Heide Benedick – Brainerd, MN**
88. Leather Measuring Tape Holder – **Adam Holder – Carver, MN**
89. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – **Kelly Blake – Aitkin, MN**
90. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal - **Jay Stuart – Aitkin, MN**
91. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach – Chris Duffney – Aitkin, MN**
92. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – **Ardis Ivory – Aitkin, MN**
93. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal – **Vic Keil – Aitkin, MN**
94. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach – Christine Bailey – Aitkin, MN**
95. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – **Connie Pettersen – Aitkin, MN**
96. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal – **Brian McCall – Crosby, MN**
97. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach – Michelle Hanson – Aitkin, MN**
98. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – **Suka Paulson – Aitkin, MN**
99. **Subway** 6-inch Fresh Value Meal – **Doug Olson – Aitkin, MN**
100. **Shiperio** – The Game of Golf donated by **Bruce Leach – Phil Vander Vag – Ogilvie, MN**
101. **McDonald's** Sandwich & Breakfast Sandwich – **Dana Kangas – St. Cloud, MN**
102. **State Farm Insurance** – Coffee Mug – **Dan Gordon – Aitkin, MN**
103. **State Farm Insurance** – Coffee Mug – **Kalea S. – McGregor, MN**
104. **Midwest Machine** baseball cap – **Betty Young – Eden Prairie, MN**
105. Goodyear racing baseball cap – **Beverly Midthun – Aitkin, MN**
106. Steak & Chop Marinade donated by **Kathy's Kitchen – Vicky Dangers – Aitkin, MN**
107. **Midwest Machine** baseball cap – **Gail Wyttenback – Aitkin, MN**
108. Case of Pepsi donated by **EZ Stop – Ole Thornbloom – Aitkin, MN**
109. Case of Mountain Dew donated by **EZ Stop – Louie Clemenson – Aitkin, MN**
110. 2015 Road Atlas from **State Farm Insurance – Jana Frailing – Aitkin, MN**
111. \$5.00 Gift Certificate from **Aitkin Secondhand – Donna Hasskamp – Aitkin, MN**
112. 2015 Road Atlas from **State Farm Insurance – Kirk Peysar – Aitkin, MN**

New in our Gift Shop: AitkinCountyopoly – 2002 Edition

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
January	30	24	40	40	86	45	92
February	18	22	22	55	29	46	55
March	30	61	23	187	99	307	379
April	28	36	48	153	48	61	175
May	77	72	50	100	110	116	141
6th Graders	84	109	101	91	91	74	104
June	84	157	472	183	127	180	208
July	149	229	266	356	251	294	383
County Fair	1331	1441	1171	0	1500	1695	1741
August	202	201	214	202	248	213	224
Garage Sale	1232	1356	1423	1814	1723	1825	1843
September	42	68	128	118	132	126	184
Rendezvous	0	0	0	1077	0	0	0
October	77	141	75	72	102	95	167
November	30	43	93	41	150	75	69
Open House	77	60	83	71	66	81	67
December	13	23	48	50	132	112	78
	3504	4043	4257	4610	4894	5345	5910

VISITORS

The graph to the left shows our attendance at the museum and events over the past seven years.

During 2015 we had visitors from 37 U.S. States, 10 Foreign Countries, and 180 Minnesota communities.

Our Web site:

www.aitkincohs.org
averages around 600 additional visits per month.

What that means is that 12,700 people visited our museum, one of our events or our web site last year.

2015 Web Site Visits

6790 people visited our web site in 2015 but only 1022 returned. What can we do to create more interest in our site so people visit again? Would you have interest in collecting and assembling information to place on our site? Please check out our site and let us know what we are missing.

www.aitkincohs.org

Call the Depot with your ideas.

218-927-3348

2015	Page Loads	Unique Visits	First Time Visits	Returning Visits
January	1,103	569	488	81
February	989	435	370	65
March	1,119	576	471	105
April	1,093	509	449	60
May	1,289	616	493	123
June	1,193	604	523	81
July	1,376	596	513	83
August	1,413	762	636	126
September	1,402	640	505	135
October	1423	714	647	67
November	943	353	297	56
December	764	416	376	40
Totals	14107	6790	5768	1022

WEB SITE - Should we put a list of the people we have obituaries that are available at the museum? Maybe we should put a bigger variety of photos on our site. Maybe, photos of unusual events in the county. More histories of the towns and areas of the county could be added. All of the above suggestions take a lot of time and effort digging through our files and assembling the information to put on the site. What we need are volunteers to assemble the information for our site. Volunteer Today!!!!

2016 PROJECTS

1. Continue to look for a Caboose to put on display
2. Publish "Schools of Aitkin County" book.
3. Add list of obits to our web site.
4. Add additional photos and content to web site.
5. Copy obituaries out of Aitkin Republican Newspaper.
6. Continue to pursue new members.
7. Collect information and photos of Churches, Resorts and Riverboats.
8. Clean out basement of Depot building.
9. Transfer VHS video's to DVD.
10. Catalog and organize research library.
11. Continue to put wheels under display cases for ease of mobility.
12. Purchase Warren William movies to show at Depot.
13. Continue to fill area South of Building #3 with clean fill.
14. Continue to repair plaster walls in Depot and repaint.
15. Publish Historic Map of Aitkin County.
16. Complete our set of AHS Yearbooks.
17. Continue to collect Yearbooks from McGregor, Hill City and McGrath.
18. Remove trees on the South side of Building #3
19. Create more hands on displays for children to interact with.
20. Clean out storage area building #4
21. Label unique items on display in museum.
22. Frame remaining two depot prints.
23. Build addition on building #2
24. Build cold storage building South of Building #3.
25. Seal coat all wood items outside.
26. Continue to collect trains for display.
27. Add second computer to research room.
28. Assemble informational book about items on display in research room.
29. Add high speed internet.
30. Build 5 shelf unit in Building #3 for boxes.
31. Purchase pallet jack to move pallets around.
32. Repaint outside of Building #3.
33. Start putting Township records on Microfilm.

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DEPOT MUSEUM

EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2016

January 27th – Annual Meeting/Dinner – This year’s event will take place at the 40-club. The cost this year will be \$15.00. Event starts at 5:30pm – Social time, 6pm – Dinner, 6:30pm – meeting.

March 12th & 13th - Sports and Commerce show – We will need volunteers to sit at our booth, visit with people who stop at the booth. Watch for news about our new book **“Schools of Aitkin County”** book.

March 29th & 30th – Aitkin Pre-school Tour – The Aitkin pre-school children visit the museum. One morning and one afternoon tour each day. This event gives us an opportunity to show young children the museum.

May 11th – 6th Grade Tour – Volunteers guide the sixth graders to different areas of the museum where presenters explain the areas. Two shifts of children (8:45-10:15 and 1:20-2:50) come to the museum. A lunch is provided for the volunteers.

June – County Commissioner Lunch - Every year we serve lunch to the County Commissioners and show them the progress made over the past year. The County provides around 40% of our Annual budget.

July 6th – 9th – Aitkin County Fair – Visit our Log Cabin, located on the S.E. corner of the fairgrounds. Nine display cases feature different communities in Aitkin County. Volunteers will staff the building from 10am to 8pm during the fair.

August 5th & 6th – Annual Garage Sale – Held at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds during Riverboat days. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and will again use two buildings on the fairgrounds. We have already started to collect items for the sale. Items can be dropped off at the Depot. **Remember, all donations are tax deductible.**

December 3rd – Spirit of Christmas Open House/Cookie Walk/Raffle Drawing – Join us as we open our Depot Museum to cookie buyers and guests. Consider donating a prize for our raffle drawing. Bake some Christmas cookies to be sold at our Cookie Walk. Our special Christmas displays created by member and volunteer Jo White are always a treat.

MUSEUM HOURS

Summer Hours – June, July & August

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday – (10am – 4pm)

Winter Hours – September thru May

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday – (10am – 4pm)

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