

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings to all of you I have not yet met. My name is Mathew Nix and I have been newly hired to the administrator position for the ACHS. It will be my pleasure to get to know and serve you as you visit the depot museum or call us for help.

By way of introduction I will share a little bit my own Aitkin history. When I was six years old my parents moved to the Nix family farm 8 miles southeast of Aitkin in the Glory community. I grew up on that farm hearing about the adventures and escapades of my ancestors. The six year old city boy who was afraid to walk in the tall grass soon became one who was making his own adventures in the woods or the barnyard. Those formative years left a mark on me that never did wear off even after 13 years of city life.

After high school I went to college in Roseville at what was then called Northwestern College. I earned a Bachelors in Arts degree with majors in History and Intercultural Studies and a minor in Ancient Languages. Soon after I got married to my wife, Katie (Dean), who is a native of Fergus Falls. In the intervening 13 years we have had 4 boys (Peter, Silas, Josiah and Asher); I earned a seminary degree and a Masters in Agriculture; ran a Meals-on-Wheels program in Minneapolis; and then we moved back to my family farm in 2013 to raise another generation on the Nix farm.

I am excited to take on this new role at the ACHS for many reasons. My family's deep roots in Aitkin County have instilled an appreciation for the history of this area. As a steward of this heritage I want to make sure that it is recognized and considered. At certain points our Aitkin heritage can be celebrated and at other points it must be lamented. For both cases the ACHS provides the resources to dig into our collective Aitkin history. My hope is to be resource for your to better utilize our research facilities.

Another reason for my excitement to work with ACHS is that we have a wealth of people resources. I am happily getting to know the stellar crew of volunteers who regularly invest time here. I am deeply thankful for all that they do. For the most part I think this society could operate indefinitely on these folks! We have folks working on fixing items up, setting up displays, leading the society, receiving and cataloging donations, organizing fundraisers, answering information requests, and the list goes on! There are a multiplicity of things going on at the ACHS and I am enjoying the opportunity to step into this role.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our volunteer crew please contact us. I am sure we have some needs that would fit the skills you have to offer!

Some things I would like to draw your attention to which you can find more information about in the newsletter are:

- The Depot Museum's new hours: Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10:00 am - 4:00 p.m.
- The Annual Cookie Walk will be held this Saturday (12/2)
- We will be closed for the holidays from December 12th—January 6th.



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## **Business Members**

Aitkin County Abstract  
Company  
Aitkin Family Chiropractic  
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts  
Aitkin Motor Company  
Allen County Public Library  
American Legion Post 86  
Arvidson Tax & Accounting,  
Inc.  
Brands Small Engine Repair  
Bremer Bank  
Eyecare Centers of Aitkin &  
McGregor  
Goble Sewer Service  
Gravelle Plumbing & Heating  
Hasskamp Brothers Well  
Drilling  
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating  
Members Coop Credit Union  
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
Neighborhood National Bank  
Paulbeck's County Market  
Security State Bank  
Shirts Plus  
Sunset Bay Resort



***PLEASE SUPPORT OUR  
BUSINESS MEMBERS!***

## **ACHS Is Supported by These Local Governments**

Aitkin County  
Farm Island Township  
Hazelton Township  
Idun Township  
Lakeside Township  
Libby Township  
Nordland Township  
Pliny Township  
Seavey Township



***IF YOU DON'T SEE YOU  
TOWNSHIP LISTED.  
PLEASE CONSIDER  
ASKING YOUR  
TOWNSHIP BOARD TO  
SUPPORT THE ACHS AT  
YOUR NEXT ANNUAL  
MEETING!***



**ACHS is still collect-  
ing your scrap cop-  
per. If you have bits  
laying around in your  
way bring them on  
down to the Depot  
Museum and we can  
use them!**

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Cheryl Meld—President  
Jennie Hakes—Vice-President  
Laura Thornbloom—Secretary  
Colleen Bremner—Treasurer  
John Hendrickson  
Ron Kemmet  
Lorraine Liljenquist  
Bob Lake  
Nancy Jacobson  
Sherry Arvidson—Accountant  
Mark Wedel—Aitkin Co. Com.



***IF YOU HAVE UN-  
SOLD RAFFLE TICK-  
ETS PLEASE SEND  
THEM BACK OR  
DROP THEM OFF AT  
THE DEPOT.  
THANKS!***



**NEW MEMBERS  
Mike & Barb Macioch  
Mathew & Katie Nix**

## 2017 ACCESSIONS

17.001	Tom Leyeux	books	17.35	Monica W.	Class photos
17.002	Jim Pitt	Elementary school booklets	17.36	Bernice M.	Military souvenirs
17.003	B. Wickman	Ambassador of Peace award	17.37	Lenore J.	AHS gym suit
17.004	R. Severson	Library book	17.38	Killeen Fam.	AHS buttons & '38 BB photo
17.005	C. Mathson	Lanterns & suitcase	17.39	McG. Flwr Cl	Club minutes & mem. lists
17.006	Bunny Voll	Fur coat	17.40	Julie Hansen	Photographs & pamphlets
17.007	Toni Johnston	Library books	17.41	L. Sommer	1939 McGregor HS letter
17.008	R. VanHorn	Print materials	17.42	Unknown	Misc. items
17.009	John H. Pillow	cover	17.43	Sandy Lake	School desk
17.011	Joann White	Misc. clothing and bathing suits	17.44	C. Johnson	Misc. Aitkin items
17.012	Phil Neese	Family history	17.45	Diane Pelto	2 vintage quilts
17.013	C. Bailey	Post cards, pins, & misc. items	17.46	D. Nordean	Misc. items
17.014	Janet Miller	Photographs	17.47	Henry Tan	Photograph
17.015	R. Elvecrog	2 irons	17.48	Dawn Crowe	Hill City HS shirt
17.016	Keith Z.	Hill City newspaper	17.49	Julie Hansen	Photograph
17.017	Davies	Northstar telephone and book	17.50	Janet Miller	Misc. items
17.018	Janice Bare	Yearbooks & centennial books	17.51	J. White	Misc. items
17.019	Killeen Fam.	AHS 1938 award letters	17.52	Jennie Hakes	Arial photograph of Aitkin
17.020	Janet Miller	water bags	17.53	M. Newman	2 old wooden blocks
17.21	Joann White	Medical bottles & roaster	17.54	Marian D.	Wooden corn planter
17.22	Fred Peterson	1959 Parade photographs	17.55	B. Williams	Miner's helmet
17.23	William W.	Clock	17.56	J. Sweet	2 books
17.24	Janet Miller	Hat, various books & items	17.57	Paul M.Box	of flash cards
17.25	H. Larson	Fur coat	17.58	O. Espiseth	Handmade skis
17.26	Ardith Kane	Misc. paper items	17.59	Cheryl Stauter	Misc. newspaper clippings
17.27	C. Peterson	Area postcards	17.60	Elaine Hill	Toy train depot
17.28	Roseau CoHS	Fair photograph	17.61	M. Peterson	Original 1950 flood film
17.29	C. Nemitz	Photographs	17.62	John Oltman	AHS & family items
17.30	Beth. - Ross.	100th anv. booklets	17.63	J. White	Security State Bank yardsticks
17.31	M. Kingsley	Bain twp log book	17.64	M. Gustafson	Baby clothing items
17.32	Les Coleman	Aitkin County 4H info	17.65	Jennie Hakes	R/R lantern
17.33	E. Weijanen	Child's wicker rocking chair	17.66	Ait. Doll Cl.	Club records
17.34	Richard Farah	Pictures and school info			

# EVENTS

## 2017 Garage Sale Report

Garage Sale Proceeds \$8,929.83

There were 30 volunteers who assisted with the 2017 Garage Sale. After the County Fair for the following three weeks we setup for the sale. We are grateful for all of the help.

Donations are accepted at the depot all year on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays with the exception of December. Clean and saleable items are accepted except for electronics, encyclopedia sets, large appliances, upholstered sofas and chairs, VHS tapes and cassette tapes.

Please do not leave donations on the street or outside of the Depot.

Thank you for your support.

Co-chairs

Nancy Jacobson

Colleen Bremner

## ITEMS NEEDED AT THE DEPOT:

**1-2 Nice Office Chairs**

**Upright Vacuum in good working condition**

If you have any of these items that you would be like to donate to ACHS they would be greatly appreciated!

## Cookie Walk & Raffle Drawing!

**December 2nd**

We will be hosting our annual Spirit of Christmas celebration on Saturday December 2nd beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Depot Museum.

This year the cookies will be sold for \$3.50/ dozen. As usual you will be guided through the wonderful display of Christmas cookies by your very own guide elf. The cookies will be on sale until they run out. Come early as we usually sell out quickly!

The raffle drawing will be held at 2:00 p.m. If you have not yet purchased any tickets you can stop by the Depot Museum during our open hours to purchase some. Tickets cost \$1.00 and each one earns you a chance to win a great prize from our generous donors.

## Raffle Prizes Include:

- **A Mall of America Ride Package (valued at \$300)**
- **Launch for 4 from Banevald's Resort (valued at \$130)**
- **Haircut Coombs Cuts and styling products (valued at \$66)**
- **\$50.00 Gift Certificate for Rasley Oil**
- **\$50.00 Gift Certificate for Aitkin Rental**
- **\$50.00 Gift Certificate for Midwest Machinery**
- **\$50.00 Gift Certificate for Pine Insurance**
- **\$50.00 Gift Certificate for Shopko**
- **First Aid Kit (valued at \$50)**
- **And many, many more!**

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Featured Volunteer Position: Front Desk Receptionist

The person who helms our front desk is the first person our visitors meet upon entering the museum. This person will have a basic knowledge of what is on display at the museum and will be able to orient our guests to the available resources in our research room. Our receptionist will also answer phone calls and will help in various tasks related to keeping our displays and collections in tip top shape.

We are currently in need of more volunteers to fill this position. If you would like to help us out by volunteering some of your time for this position please let us know and we can get you started right away!

If being a receptionist doesn't fit with you, but you are interested in volunteering with the ACHS we have many opportunities for you to invest your time with us. Give us a call (218)927-3348 and we'll get you signed up!

## MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED PRIZES TO OUR RAFFLE!

40-Clup	Dairy Queen	Paulbeck's County Market
Adventure North	Farm Island Repair and Maintenance	Pine Insurance
Aitkin Flowers	Farm Island Store	Rasley Oil
Aitkin Glass	Freedom Value Center	Riverwood Healthcare
Aitkin Independent Age	Gramma's Pantry	Roadside Restaurant
Aitkin Municipal Liquor	Hometown Builders Supply	Security State Bank
Aitkin Pet & Farm Supply	Hyytinen's Hardware Hank	Sew Much & More
Aitkin Rental	Hudrlik Carpet	Shopko
Aitkin Second Hand	KKIN Radio	State Farm Insurance
Barneveld's Charter Launch Fishing & Marina	Lorrie's Hair Studio	Subway
Beartooth True Value	MacDonald's	The Beanery
Bginagins	Member's Cooperative Credit Union	The Greenhouse
Bill's Sportsman	MidMinnesota Federal Credit Union	The Landing
Birchwood Restaurant	Midwest Machinery	The Office Shop
Brandl Motors	Mille Lacs Energy	Tire Barn
Bremer Bank	Neighborhood National Bank	Tuscany Room
Cedarbrook Lumber	Northern Air Plumbing & Heating	Unclaimed Freight
Coombs Cuts		Wise Skye Gits
Crossroads-In-Time		Woods & Shores Real Estate



## **Aitkin County Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 215**

**Aitkin, MN, 56431**

We are located just 2 blocks south of the stop-lights in downtown Aitkin. South of the railroad tracks and west of highway 169 at 20 Pacific Street Southwest.

Phone: (218)927-3348

Email: [achs3348@embarqmail.com](mailto:achs3348@embarqmail.com)

Website: [www.aitkincohs.org](http://www.aitkincohs.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Spirit of Christmas Cookie Walk & Raffle Drawing**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Join us for this fun annual fundraiser. Many delicious cookies will be available for you to construct your very own personalized cookie platter and take home. You will also have a chance to meet our new administrator, Mathew Nix. Coffee and Hot Cider will be served. The raffle drawing will held at 2:00 pm.



## MUSEUM HOURS

### **Fall & Winter**

Wednesday, Friday, &  
Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**The Depot Museum will  
be closed for the holidays  
December 24th - January  
6th**

EDITOR:

**Mathew Nix**

Administrator  
Aitkin County Historical  
Society