

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

**Spring 2018 — Volume 25, Issue 2**

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Greetings all, Spring has finally arrived and just in the nick of time for anglers! I hope you are enjoying this turn in the weather and finding many things to do in this splendid weather.

Spring is membership renewal time here at ACHS and you will find a membership renewal form inside this newsletter. We are sending this issue out to everyone in the mail so that you can fill it out and send it in with your payment if you haven't already renewed.

Since our last newsletter we've been busy hosting a booth at the Commerce and Outdoor Show at the Aitkin High-school in March and hosting 110 6th graders from Aitkin and McGregor in May. At the Commerce show we had six new members sign up and hundreds of visitors. You can find more about the 6th grade event inside the newsletter.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events this summer. We will be kicking off these events on June 16th with the River's and Lakes Fair at the Aitkin Highschool. During this fair we will be hosting a booth that highlights historical artifacts from Aitkin's logging history. Our next event will be on June 27th with our annual meeting which will be held at the Depot Museum at 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Shortly after the annual meeting we will be at the Aitkin County Fair from July 5th - 7th in our log building. The museum will be closed during the fair so if you'd like to come see us on those days see us at the fair! Finally in early August we will be having our annual garage sale. The garage sale will run for three days from the 2nd to the 4th. We are already collecting items for the garage sale so if you have items to donate bring them down to the depot museum. If you have more than a couple boxes let us know and we'll meet you at our storage building to unload the items. Both the fair and the garage sale will require many volunteers which means you can give us a hand! If we don't hear from you, you'll probably hear from us :-)

At our annual meeting we will be electing new board members. By chance we actually have all our board members' terms ending this year, so we will be electing a whole slate this time! Many of our current board members will be continuing on and we hope to fill a couple more one year term spots. If you are interested in serving on the board please let me know! You can view our preliminary slate of board member candidates inside this newsletter. If you are interested in seeing our proposed 2018 and 2019 budgets as well as the agenda for the meeting you can view them on our website ([www.aitkincohs.org](http://www.aitkincohs.org)). I hope to see you there!

**Have a Happy Spring!**

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Business Members

Aitkin County Abstract  
Company  
Aitkin Family Chiropractic  
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts  
Aitkin Independent Age  
Aitkin Motor Company  
Allen County Public Library  
American Legion Post 86  
Antoine Electric  
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  
Jim Blakesly Appliance Service  
& Repair  
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

## ACHS Is Supported by These Local Governments

Aitkin County  
Aitkin Township  
Beaver Township  
Farm Island Township  
Lakeside Township  
Libby Township  
Nordland Township  
City of Tamarack



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



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



**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.



## NEW MEMBERS

Mara Funk  
Loretta MacDonald  
David Brashowitz  
Nancy MacArthur  
Henry Fellerman  
Beverly Swenson  
Jane Hill  
Deanna Glumac  
Janice Hasselius  
John Woodrow  
Jeff & Heidi Mitchell  
Steve & Julie Hughes  
Byron & Diane Schlagel  
Eddie Williams  
Brielle & Jacob Bredsten

## PHOTOS FROM OUR COLLECTION



Above: Arthur Olts was an Aitkin County native drafted to fight for the Army in World War I. While training he contracted the flu and died on October 12, 1918, the same day of the great fire that swept from Duluth to the northeast area of Aitkin County.

Below: Frank Erickson was founder and captain of the home guard in Aitkin. The home guard was instrumental in the clean up of Bain and Lawler after the great fire as well as converting the Aitkin High school into a 200 bed hospital when the flu hit Aitkin.



# MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

## Board of Director Candidates:

**Jennie Hakes**  
(President) 3 year term

**Cheryl Meld**  
(Vice-President) 3 year term

**Laura Thornbloom**  
3 year term

**Bob Lake**  
2 year term

**John Hendrickson**  
2 year term

**Colleen Bremner**  
2 year term

We would like to have up to 3 more 1 year term board members added to this list. If you are interested in joining this distinguished crew please let us know.

## OUR 2018 6TH GRADE VISIT DAY WAS A SUCCESS!

Thanks to 20 volunteers we had a very successful visit day for our community's 6th graders. In total we hosted 110 6th grade students along with many teachers and aids from McGregor and Rippleside and area homeschools. These students came in two shifts, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Our volunteers helped out by guiding each group of students around to 5 areas of the museum where they learned about the fur trading era, the logging era, wool spinning, the railroad, and how to do genealogical research in our resource room. Each of these areas had volunteers demonstrating their craft and sharing their knowledge.

Between shifts the volunteers had a scrumptious homemade meal of pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad and baked beans.

Many thanks to all of you who helped out! If you are thinking, "Darn, I missed out" Don't worry! We are planning to continue this great event next year and you are welcome to help us out in 2019!



## 1918: FIRE, FLU AND ARMISTICE

A new temporary display has been arranged with artifacts and photos that highlight the 100 year anniversaries of the great fire of 1918, the flu epidemic of 1918 and the ending of World War I. These items include a partially melted sheep bell that Captain Frank Erickson of the home guard found while helping with the clean up of the fire, a doctor's bag from the days when doctor's home visits were commonplace, and many military items and uniforms from World War I.

Come check out this display and let us know what you think! Also, if you have interest in arranging displays and would like to help us out occasionally please let us know!

## ITEMS NEEDED AT THE DEPOT:

### 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!



**Help us save money on postage by requesting your newsletter to be emailed to you.**

**You can let us know by calling us (218)927-3348 or by emailing us [achs3348@embarqmail.com](mailto:achs3348@embarqmail.com)**

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in helping out at one or more of our events this year? Great! We'll need your help. Listed below are the events coming up with the approximate amount of volunteers/timeslots we'll need to make them a success.

## **River's & Lakes Fair—June 16th—Aitkin Highschool—9:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

We will be hosting an educational booth that will have a "What's This?" game for people to guess what different logging artefacts are and how they were used. We'll need 6 volunteer spread over three shifts. If you're interested let us know!

## **ACHS Log Museum at the Aitkin County Fair—July 4th to 7th Aitkin County Fairgrounds**

We will be setting up various displays of Aitkin County History for the fair goers to enjoy for the entirety of the Aitkin County Fair. There will also be a small bookstore in which we will offer books from local authors and books on Aitkin history. We have roughly 30 2-hour timeslots to fill as well as setup and breakdown crews for this great undertaking. Will you join us for this event? If so contact us with your availability and we'll get you signed up!

## **2018 Annual ACHS Garage Sale—August 2nd to 4th Aitkin County Fairgrounds**

Our annual garage sale will again coincide with Aitkin Riverboat Days on the first weekend of August. The garage sale will span three days (Thursday to Saturday) and will need volunteers to help setup, run and breakdown the garage sale. To help this event run smoothly we need approximately 30 folks. We'll be giving you a call to see if you can help out, but if you don't hear from us and want to help out, let us know you're ready to go!

## **Opportunity to Volunteer at the Museum**

At present we are in need of volunteers to help out in two important roles.

#1. A receptionist/greeter for Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays is needed. This job would include greeting guests as they arrive as well as answering incoming phone calls. When there is a lull in the activity we also have data entry work to do on a laptop computer. If this sounds like something you'd like to do occasionally, once a month or once a week let us know, we would love to have you on our team.

#2. If you enjoy working with collections more than people we also are in need of folks to help digitize our photo collection and card catalogue. These jobs would require you to have basic computer skills and an ability to decipher handwriting. If this sounds like something of interest to you please stop on by and we'll get you started. You could do this work any of the days we are open and as occasionally or regularly as you prefer.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_new \_\_\_\_\_renewal

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual       | \$15.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family           | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (over 60) | \$7.50   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life             | \$200.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business or Club | \$30.00  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive the quarterly newsletter via email instead of US mail
- I am interested in volunteering

-----  
*Please cut off and return the top portion with your payment.*

Make checks payable to: AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Mail check and application to: **Aitkin County Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 215**  
**Aitkin, MN 56431**

Throughout the year The Depot Museum has several special programs and member related activities, such as tours, banquets and book signings. A quarterly newsletter that the society publishes is sent to each member.

June – May AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DEPOT MUSEUM
NAME: _____
<i>Working today to save yesterday's artifacts for tomorrow's citizens.</i>

# SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

## Old Rialto Theatre Being Remodeled

Work was begun Monday morning at tearing down the interior of the Old Rialto Theatre. The building will be remodelled, Chas. Lyons, owner, stating that he plans to put in a basement, new ceiling and a store front. The work is being done by Louis Johnson and it is expected that the job will be completed within the next two months.



**Coffee** Bliss 1 lb. Tin 22c  
Maxwell House 27c  
Extra Special "Sanka" 35c

**Baking Powder K. C.** 16-oz. Can Each 13c

### FRESH MEATS

SWIFT'S BRANDED BEEF  
**Beef Roast** . . . . . per lb. 17c  
**Short Ribs of Beef** . . . 2 lbs. 23c  
**Lamb Shoulder Sank** per lb. 17c  
**Spare Ribs** 2 lbs. All for 35c  
**Sauer Kraut** 1 qt.  
**BOLOGNA** . . . . . lb. 13c  
**Minced Ham** . . . . . lb. 19c  
**Veal Shoulder Roast** per lb. 17c  
Fresh - Pike - Herring - Oysters - Chicken

## ZISKE'S

FOR SERVICE and QUALITY WE DELIVER—PHONE 18

### YOUR CHANCE

To Buy Such FINE O'COATS  
At Such LOW PRICES

### ANNUAL CLEARANCE OF MEN'S O'COATS

The Final Cuts on last winter coats have been made . . . the Biggest Price Concessions have been made on such garments as still remain in stock. There are still many excellent garments from which to choose. Buy now for next winter.



PRICES Are Slaughtered Values up to \$19.50 \$13.45

Values to \$25 \$17.45  
Values to \$35 \$23.45

Buy Men's Apparel At A SAVING

Throughout the store we offer many more big at DRAMATIC REDUCTIONS. Purchasing Boys' Apparel and Shoes can now be bought for a fraction of their real value. Shop now for your apparel needs for the immediate future and next winter. YOU'LL SAVE many, many dollars.

Royal Clothing House Co.

GOOD CLOTHING FOR MEN AND BOYS  
AITKIN, MINNESOTA

## Former Aitkin Boy Does Post Cover

The beautiful painting of flamingoes which appears on the cover of this week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post was done by Francis Lee Jaques, former Aitkin boy, now residing in the East. This is the second time within a year that the Post has used one of Jaques' paintings as a cover design. Jaques, well known by many Aitkinites, is a brother of Alfred Jaques of Route 3, Aitkin.

All but one of these clippings came from the Aitkin Republican's January 1938 editions. Can you guess the odd one out? Hint it was clipped from a 1918 paper.

**PATRIOTIC DRIVE AGAINST THE "FLU"**

An onion car arrived today, Cabbage, too, they vend down there,  
Labelled red, white and blue, At the Bessemer Transfer track,  
"Eat onions, plenty, every day, Sold heads, three cents the pound,  
And keep away the 'Flu'." Enough to supply the town.

So take a trip out Kittanning St. And use what you can buy,  
With what is left from Liberty Bonds, Lay in your winter supply.

## Eat More ONIONS

One of the Best Preventatives for Influenza.

Car Load of Onions will be on sale on siding at Bessemer Freight Station

**TODAY and TOMORROW**  
Will Be Sold Direct from Car  
Bring Your Own Sacks or Baskets if Possible  
THE PRICES ARE RIGHT

**J. W. GARDOCKY, Grower**

## LIBBY TOWNSHIP

Everett Evans took Mrs. Evans and little son to Aitkin Saturday from there they left for Huron, S. D., to visit Mrs. Evans' parents. Her father is in very poor health.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Ladd spent Friday in Aitkin.

Mrs. Louise Ward and son, Carl, Mr. and Mrs. F. McMahon, Mrs. Beta Magnuson and son, Harold, were entertained at dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wold of Workman township recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Ward and children of Hill City visited last Sunday at the Sarff home and later in the day accompanied by Mrs. Louise Ward, they drove to Sandy Lake and visited at the Ed Scriven home.

Mr. and Mrs. Gust Bucholz returned on Saturday from Duluth after visiting their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Bucholz, and children.



## **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**

### **June 16th—Rivers and Lakes Fair**

9-2 @ Aitkin Highschool

### **June 27th—Annual Members' Meeting**

3:00 p.m. @ The Depot Museum

### **July 5th-7th—Aitkin County Fair**

10-9 (5th & 6th) @ the County Fairgrounds

10-4 (7th) @ the County Fairgrounds

### **August 2nd-4th—Annual Garage Sale**

County Fairgrounds

## **MUSEUM HOURS**

### **Memorial Day to Labor Day**

Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday, & Saturday  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



**EDITOR:**

**Mathew Nix**

Administrator  
Aitkin County Historical  
Society