



# AITKIN COUNTY HISTORY & ANECDOTES



## TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND SHARE THE UNIQUE HISTORY OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

“I do not speak Hebrew, but I understand that it has no word for ‘history’. The closest word for it is memory.”  
~David Miliband



### Volunteer Opportunities

Help is needed at our **annual garage sale**, if interested in helping please contact Roxy Appel Wigton at 218-927-4558 or [achs@aitkincohs.org](mailto:achs@aitkincohs.org).

We are in need having our **informational displays** located in the yard repaired. Please contact the museum at [achs@aitkincohs.org](mailto:achs@aitkincohs.org).

Volunteers are needed for **maintaining the grounds**. Please contact the museum at [achs@aitkincohs.org](mailto:achs@aitkincohs.org).

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annie Stein	2
Garage Sale	3
Memberships	5

#### OPEN HOURS

**SATURDAYS**  
10 AM TO 2 PM  
OR BY  
APPOINTMENT  
BY EMAIL

We depend on the support of people like you!



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



## FROM THE COLLECTIONS

Aitkin County has been home to many artists, most famous among them Francis Lee and Florence Page Jaques. Many pieces of art, from sculpture to oil paintings, are in our collection at the ACHS.

In amongst the work of professional artists is the work of local Aitkin people who never sold or displayed their artwork, but were lifelong artists. Multiple scrapbooks and works of art full of sketches, poetry, memorabilia, and more.

Amongst this collection is the single artwork pictured below, attributed to an Annie Stein. In trying to learn more about Ms. Stein, we combed through the archives and records of the Resource Room. Nothing is mentioned in family files or obits, no record of her in school histories so far. More digging will hopefully lead to a more complete story. Was she a life-long Aitkin county resident? Born here? Did she move away later in life?

As we research and explore more, perhaps others have found pieces tucked away in attics, basements, or scrapbooks. If you have other works by Annie Stein, please consider sharing them with us at the ACHS.

# Thank You!

A 1928 oil painting of the city of Aitkin by Annie Stein.  
An aerial view of the city as it looked in 1922 with surrounding fields.



# Garage Sale @ Aitkin County Fairgrounds

## Drop-Off Days (Your Chance to Donate!):

**August 13, Noon - 4pm at Fairgrounds**

**August 20, Noon - 4pm at Fairgrounds**

## Sale Dates

**Thursday, August 24 and Friday, August 25**

**9 am—4 pm**

**Saturday, August 27**

**9 am—2 pm**

Acceptable Items	Items We <b>Cannot</b> Accept
Antiques	Baby items- cribs, highchairs, car seats
Art	Clothing- unless it is VINTAGE
Books	Computers
China	Encyclopedias
Collectibles	Firearms
CD's	Home entertainment centers
Designer & Vintage clothing	Items tagged from another sale
Dolls	Large appliances- washing machines, fridge
Furniture (e.g. tables, chairs)	Large exercise equipment
Glassware	Mattresses and box springs
Jewelry	Microwaves
LP records	Non-working appliances, or without cords
Seasonal items (e.g. Halloween, Christmas, Easter)	Outdated college and/or computer books
Sporting Equipment	Sofas, hide-a-beds, futons
Tools	Stereo equipment
Toys	TV sets
	VCR tapes

Thank you to the Aitkin Motor Company for sponsoring the redo of our historical sign. Located at the end of our building, it tells a brief history of the Depot for those without the time to visit us inside. With previously illegible text and tears in the material, it now looks great! 😊




---

## DE-ACCESSION PROCESS

According to the [AASLH](#) (the American Association for State and Local History): "Collections shall not be deaccessioned or disposed of in order to provide financial support for institutional operations, facilities maintenance, or any reason other than the preservation or acquisition of collections." The museums facing most issues with this are art museums, with the high value of and desire of collectors to possess, valuable art.

However, over time, as museum collecting policies become more strident, and as collections continue to grow, a periodic review of accessions is necessary. Many collections have a formative collections, which started the museum, and may not fully match its mission. Others may have dozens of duplicates, items damaged beyond repair, or items that would be a better fit in another museum's collections.

This is the case with the ACHS. After completing the full inventory of collections, it was found that a large percentage of the original collection we know nothing of the donor or history of the item, there are dozens of the same item, we acquired a later piece that is in better condition, or it has no relevance to Aitkin County history. As such, with limited collections storage and thinking of the next 100 years of collections acquisitions, many of these items will be deaccessioned.

For example, a number of items will be passed on to Crow Wing and Itasca counties. We have over 30 axe heads (no handles) and many axes with handles, of all types. Only 1-2 pieces of each type are needed, so the best examples are being kept and the others will be sold, with all proceeds going back into the care of the rest of the collection.

De-accession, as long as it's done for the good of the collection and not profit, does not have to be bad.

---

### *Donors*

Betty Young	David & Victoria West	Jeff & Cathy Chatelle
Mike & Darla Wayrynen	Ken Johnson	Aicota Health Care Center
Joe Fellego	Carolyn Kuechle	Rhonda Broberg
Ardis Ivory	Michelle Block	Linda Hommes
Lorraine Liljenquist	Stanley Doten	Elaine Hill
Russell & Mary Peterson	Dave & Sue Benson	Hugh & Debra Janzen
Michael Elliot	Shirley Davies	Katherine Ella
Steve Hawrysh & Jennie Hakes	Bryan & Karin McGinnis	Paul & Luanne Beyreuther
Virgie Van Horn	Barbara Monnier	Rick & Kim Liljenquist
Phyllis Morris	Newstrom Legacy Fund— John &	Mille Lacs Trails
Paul & Rose Boucher	Diane Newstrom	
Mary Larson	Bob & Jan Kolodji	
	Shirley Barber	

**Thank you to all ACHS Donors,  
New and Renewing Members  
May-July**

***New and Renewing Members***

Betty Young  
Kevin & Cheryl Gorsuch  
Bob & Betty Monroe  
Monica Westerlund  
Annette Von Bargaen  
Bob & Cheryl Kangas  
Harold (Butch) Tibbetts  
Joe Fellegy  
Sara & Clint Beckstrand  
Mike & Darla Wayrynen  
Jon & Nancy Jacobson  
Ardis Ivory  
Lorraine Liljenquist  
David & Sharon Cooper  
Eyecare Centers of Aitkin &  
McGregor  
Dr. Paul Kuiken  
Byron & Diane Schlagel  
Ruth & Gerald Erickson  
Gary & Gloria Rogers  
Marlene Kingsley  
Gary Jacobson  
Barbara Kane  
Bonnie Graff  
Ken Johnson  
Roberta & Glenn Elvecrog  
Russell & Mary Peterson  
Lu Leistiko  
Don McKay  
Phyllis Morris  
Virgie VanHorn  
Shirley Barber  
David & Victoria West  
Jeannie Jauss  
Ted Landgren  
Paul & Rose Boucher  
Janet Miller

John Doherty  
Carolyn Kuechle  
Robert & Doris Harder  
Neighborhood National Bank  
Hasskamp Bros. Well Drilling  
Dennis & Laurel Lamke  
Sorensen-Root-Thompson &  
McGregor Funeral Homes  
Michelle Block  
Stanley Doten  
Erik Christensen  
Dave & Sue Benson  
Ann Erlandson  
Betty Pasell  
Barbara Monnier  
Allen Renstrom  
Frank & Sally Bowser  
Bryan & Karin McGinnis  
Dawn Watson  
David Brashowitz  
Pam Landgren  
Christine Bailey  
Security State Bank  
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
Gretchen & Tim Catlin  
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating  
Mark Wedel  
Jeff & Cathy Chatelle  
Valerie Narr  
The Office Shop  
John & Diane Newstrom  
James Peterson  
MyRene Magdsick  
Thomas Fielder  
Richard & Margaret Ladd  
Bryan & Marilyn Johnson  
Rhonda Broberg  
Richard Lowe

Boyd & Colleen Bremner  
Gerald & Christine Hedberg  
Linda Hommes  
Elaine Hill  
Leslie & Gaylen Goble  
Carol Wermter  
Julie Hansen  
Terry & Wendy Johnson  
Dennis Kerbaugh  
Gloria Logid  
Michelle & Dan Peters  
Sally Prill  
Terry Carter  
Hugh & Debra Janzen  
Katherine Ella  
Paul & Luanne Beyreuther  
Aitkin Independent Age  
Craig Hafferman  
Rick & Kim Liljenquist  
Richard Loberg  
David Strand  
Pamela Vincent  
Paul & Keely Wojda  
Maggie Mackaman &  
Brian Amelang  
Bryan Spencer

***In Memorium***

Arnold Alanen & Lynn Bjorkman  
in memory of William & Ina Pursi  
Alanen and John & Mary Pursi of  
Salo Twp.

Aitkin County Historical Society  
 20 Pacific St. SW  
 P.O. Box 215  
 Aitkin, MN 56431  
 www.aitkincohs.org  
 (218)927-3348

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_ renewal

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Senior (over 60)	\$7.50
Life	\$200.00
Business or Club	\$30.00

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

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

Make checks payable to: AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL or ACHS

Mail check and application to: **Aitkin County Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 215**  
**Aitkin, MN 56431**

Board of Directors:  
 John Hendrickson, Aitkin, *President*  
 Roxy Wigton, Aitkin, *VP*  
 Laura Thornbloom, Aitkin, *Secretary*  
 Kirk Peysar, Aitkin, *Treasurer*  
 Jeremy Goble, Aitkin  
 Lorraine Liljenquist, Aitkin  
 Jenni Cline, Aitkin  
 Mark Wedel, Aitkin,  
*County Commissioner Liaison*

Staff  
 Administrator  
 achs@aitkincohs.org

*If it's time to renew your yearly membership, or you know someone who should be a member, use this handy form.*

*\*\*If you are unsure of your member renewal date, please call (218)927-3348 or email achs@aitkincohs.org before renewing to avoid paying extra.*