



# AITKIN COUNTY HISTORY & ANECDOTES



Long-time ACHS advocate and volunteer Boyd Bremner passed away January 4. Many of you will remember Boyd’s hilarious and educational portrayals of logging camp cook “Joe Girty.” Boyd conducted the annual raffle fundraiser for many years, soliciting prizes and selling tickets. Our condolences to his wife Colleen and family. Boyd was one of a kind.



“You have to know the past to understand the present.”  
~Carl Sagan

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**OPEN HOURS**  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
**10 AM TO 2 PM**  
 OR BY  
 APPOINTMENT  
 BY EMAIL

**Annual meeting of**  
**Aitkin County Historical Society members**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2023**  
**@ 2:00 p.m. at the Depot Museum**

# COLLECTIONS & ASSESSMENTS UPDATE

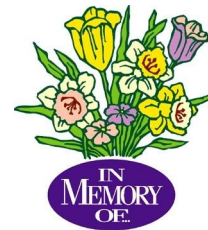
Upon completion of a Building Conditions Assessment in 2021, the ACHS prioritized the recommended (and much needed) projects. It was decided that the leaky roof and lack of gutters was the biggest issue. The leaky roof was causing damage to original features of the historic building. The lack of gutters was damaging the historic paver surface and causing ice build-up and risk of falls in winter. Water damage from lack of proper site drainage was also causing pitting and an uneven walking surface in the paver plaza, making it dangerous for those with walking aids.

As gutters could not be re-installed until after roof repair, and both tied into water and site drainage issues, a combined project was conceived. A large size grant was applied for from MNHS. This was for the completion of architectural drawings and layouts of the restored roof, gutters and drainage, and a re-graded and re-laid paver surface. **The drawings are nearing completion.** The **next step will be** the writing of a grant for the actual work itself. As this will require a large sum, this will hopefully be supplemented with funding from other sources beyond MNHS Legacy grants, such as other grant sources and a capital fundraising campaign.

This building is over 100 years old. To remain the home of the ACHS, with the safety of the collection in our care and our visitors in mind, this project's completion is much needed.

## In 2022 Memorials were received in memory of

Felix & Hazel Kaplin and Gerald Kaplin  
Lori MacDonald  
Frank Kingsley  
Scott Davies



## TOUR GROUP AT THE DEPOT



The Northern Pacific Railway Historic Association (NPRHA) held their convention in Brainerd, September 13-17, 2022. The NPRHA annual conventions consist of historical presentations, swap meets, modeling talks, etc. The group boarded buses to travel to Duluth on Friday, September 16 where they chartered the train from Two Harbors to Duluth featuring NP coach 517, observation car Rainier Club and SD45 3617. Upon returning to Brainerd, they stopped to tour the Aitkin Depot.

At the Depot, they were greeted by the Aitkin County Historical Society board of directors and Jerry Hedberg who is the museum's Ambassador for railroad history. Jerry gave a short historic presentation of Aitkin's Depot.

The group consists of members from all over the United States and members from Germany and Fuji were with the group. We were so honored to have them stop at our historic depot.

### Membership update

Per ACHS bylaws, the Board of Trustees reviewed the membership dues. We voted to the following changes to the level of membership:

Individual	\$25
Family	\$30
Seniors (over 60)	\$15
Business	\$50
Nonprofit	\$30

Per ACHS bylaws, memberships run from June 1 to May 31st. We will be sending out our annual membership letter in April. Your membership fees help to pay our museum and society operating expenses. As various events are cancelled or unforeseen things happen our memberships are important to our survival.

#### SEEKING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The ACHS Board of Trustees is seeking additional board members. The commitment as a board member is to attend meetings throughout the year and to commit to being on one or more of its committees.

Our board meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. Per the bylaws we may have up to 15 trustees. Terms are 1, 2 or 3 years. Please consider this opportunity.

#### Current Board of Trustees

John Hendrickson, President  
 Jeremy Goble, Vice President  
 Roxy Appel Wigton, Treasurer  
 Laura Thornbloom, Secretary  
 Lorraine Liljenquist, Trustee  
 Jenni Cline, Trustee  
 Michelle Peters, Trustee  
 Travis Leiviska, *County Commissioner Liaison*

#### VOLUNTEER HELP IS NEEDED!

We have a variety of tasks a volunteer can do:

- Carpenter to rebuild and weatherize outdoor sign kiosks
- Clerical worker to record and file obituaries
- Gardener to do landscaping around Bldg. 2
- Tree cutters to remove trees by Bldg. 3
- Someone willing to spearhead a fundraiser
- Garage sale help
- Digitizing photographs

If interested, please contact us at 218-927-3348 or email: [achs@aitkincohs.org](mailto:achs@aitkincohs.org)



#### Donation Received

The Aitkin All Class Reunion V committee donated \$500 to Aitkin County Historical Society in honor of Shirley Davies and Claudine Nordean, original members of the 1984 All Class Reunion steering committee.

Shirley and Claudine were two of three grand marshals for this year's Riverboat Parade held in conjunction with the All Class Reunion. Accepting the donation from Gary Tibbitts and Wendy Johnson, All Class Reunion committee is Roxy Appel Wigton, center, ACHS treasurer.



Aitkin County Historical Society  
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(218)927-3348

## Annual Events

### May

**Annual meeting** of members will be on **Wednesday, May 10 at 2p.m.** A year in review will be given along with election of board members, voting on 2024 proposed budget and revision of bylaws. Please plan to attend.

### July

Aitkin County Fair—July 5 through July 8—visit our log exhibit building located at the S.E. corner of the fairgrounds

### August

Annual Garage Sale— is held at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds in conjunction with Riverboat Days Drop off dates are to be determined.

### December

Spirit of Christmas and Cookie Sale—First Saturday in December.



We depend on the support of people  
like you!  
Thank you for your generosity!