

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

Spring 2011

It is hard for me to believe that I have been here for two years two months now. After learning the job the first year, the second year was one of making changes. The first thing that we did was to have a new handicap ramp installed by the front door and steps put in by our back door. The damaged overhang was repaired and STS came and scraped and painted all of the Depot trim. Metal bookcases and file cabinets were removed from hallway and barrister type bookcases from storage were set up in their place. New flower barrels were installed and planted by our entry door. All overgrown shrubs were removed from the museum grounds and perennial gardens were planted. New wood chips were spread around the gardens. Bookcases that were custom made to match the Depot were installed in our gift shop. Seventy-five new book titles were added to our store. New energy efficient lighting was installed in the Depot display and office areas. Outlets located in the office were removed from the light circuit and a new circuit installed. UV protective sleeves were placed over the fluorescent bulbs. A Fairmont Railroad Speeder was located in Pequot Lakes, purchased, moved to building #3, dismantled, sand blasted, repaired, painted, reassembled and moved to the museum grounds.

What's next for the Depot Museum? In this news letter you will find a list of 32 items that I would like to work on this year. Some items, such as the Caboose, are things that I hope to accomplish this year, but others are things that will be done this year. Find something on the list that you are passionate about and help us out. It might be purchasing the item for the Museum, helping with a project, letting me know where something can be found or maybe you know of some grant money available for a project. Maybe you know of someone looking for a place to dump some clean fill. What would you like to see at the Museum? I only have two eyes, so I need your help locating things that need or should be done at the Museum. Let us all work together to make this year even better than last year. By working together we can accomplish anything.

We are still asking for those family histories, photos and artifacts that pertain to Aitkin County. I am looking for someone to help catalog and set up our member lending library. Many books have come in but, have to be numbered, stamped and organized.

A grant has been received through the Minnesota Historical Society Legacy Grant program. We have received \$2070.00 to purchase the 38 rolls of film to complete our newspaper collection through 2007. This includes the McGregor Voyageur Press from Aug 22, 2000 thru Dec 26, 2007. The Aitkin Independent from Jan 17, 1903 thru Jul 27, 1912. The Aitkin Independent Age from Jan 3, 2001 thru Jun 25, 2008. The Newshopper from Jun 9, 2001 thru Dec 29, 2007. And the Lake Country Reporter from Feb 13, 1963. This will give us a complete set of 242 rolls of film which includes all of the newspapers from Aitkin County, naturalization records, 1916 plat book and census records for Aitkin County.

I will be sending out requests for items for this year's Raffle soon. What would you like to see as a prize? Do you know someone that would be willing to donate a prize? We had record sales during our 2010 raffle but, we are still under what we are budgeted to sell. We need to sell 2000 tickets to hit budget. In 2010 we sold 1865 which was a record. I am hoping to increase the number of prizes offered again this year. Help me find some different prizes for this year's raffle.

GREG LEACH (Administrator)

Board of Directors: Bill Stimac (President), Carol Bailey (Vice President) Lorraine Liljenquist (Secretary), Alice Fageroos (Treasurer), Cheryl Meld (Ex- Officio), Jon Jacobson, Mary Rea, Alice Dotzler, Barb Gottsch, Pat Williams, Arlene McNevin, Susan Benson, Mark Wedel (County Commissioner), Sherry Arvidson (Accountant), Greg Leach (Administrator)

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Business Memberships – 24, Individual Memberships – 21, Senior Memberships – 89, Family Members – 129, Life Members – 15, Perpetuity – 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 280

MEMBERS LOST IN 2010

Lois Lyons – 2/10/1921 -1/10/2010
Beverly Just – 3/18/1930 – 1/27/2010
Bryan Bailey – 8/10/1933 – 5/19/2010
Betty Davies – 5/16/1929 - 6/19/2010
Pauline Snyder – 2/6/1927 – 9/6/2010
Michael Ryan – 5/17/1935 – 9/6/2010

MEMORIAL'S RECEIVED IN 2010

\$50.00 in Memory of Helena Dotzler
\$200.00 in Memory of Vernon Miller
\$25.00 in Memory of Philip Virkus
from the AHS class of 1950
\$25.00 in Memory of Roger Wold
\$10.00 in Memory of Eleanor Gamradt
\$20.00 in Memory of Paul E. Filer
\$20.00 in Memory of Conrad Lueck
\$10.00 in Memory of Henry Janzen
\$10.00 in Memory of Bryan Bailey
\$25.00 in Memory of Betty Davies
\$10.00 in Memory of Mary Lee Stewart

Total Memorials - \$405.00

MEMBERS LOST IN 2011

Lucille Jones – 1/15/1917 – 1/1/2011

PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. Locating a Caboose for Depot yard.
2. Repairing log cabin, chinking and storms.
3. New Web site up and running
4. Replace remaining lighting in Depot
5. Develop research facility
6. Open Library for members
7. New Flag Poles
8. New Minnesota & MIA Flags
9. Request grant for MN history books
10. 2nd Speeder rebuilt
11. Continue to work on Obituary files
12. Request Grant for Digital equipment
13. Digitalize some files for web site
14. Hang large pictures from storage in Depot
15. Display more artifacts on walls
16. Continue to collect family histories
17. Move some artifacts by gardens
18. Continue work on Perennial gardens
19. Level some areas of cobblestone
20. Install gate in East fence
21. Work on increasing Membership
22. Book signings at Museum
23. Stain/reseal front of building #2
24. Map of Historic sites in Aitkin County
25. Clean fill for area south of building #3
26. Create more interest in Museum
27. Increase book store sales
28. Complete our newspaper film library (grant)
29. Request grant for Minnesota history books
30. Replace main computer
31. Locate wooden card file for use at Museum
32. Appraisal nights at museum?

2010 RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

EARLY BIRD DRAWING

Held on KKIN radio August 9th

1. Canterbury Inn (night stay, breakfast) - Ruth Kuiken
2. Rutgers Golf on the Lakes – (2) – 18 hole rounds of golf – Everett Davies
3. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) – (donated by KKIN) D. Denley
4. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) – (donated by KKIN) John Newstrom
5. Shakespeare Complete Fishing Kit - Richard Topp – Aitkin
6. 2 – 22” White Doilies made by Laurel Lamke – Briana Gernick – West St. Paul
7. Seasons In Time – pictorial history – Dorothy Hermanson – Aitkin
8. Aitkin County Naturally – Darlene Pearson – Aitkin

DECEMBER 4TH RAFFLE DRAWING WINNERS

1. Eddy's Resort Package (Fishing/night stay/meal) – Vern Anderson - Aitkin
2. Grand Casino Hotel package (hotel/meal) – Dorothy Hermanson - Aitkin
3. Ramada Mall of America (Night stay, breakfast for 2) – Ron Steward - Aitkin
4. Water Park of America (Bloomington) – Claudine Nordean - Aitkin
5. Timberwolves Ticket package (2 tickets/T-shirt) – Laura Cassady - Aitkin
6. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) 2 Tickets – Mary Rea - Aitkin
7. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) 2 Tickets – Sandy Arcand - Crosby
8. Old Log Theater (Excelsior) 2 Tickets – Darlene Maciej - McGrath
9. Afghan made by Marlene Kingsley – Gabriel Degris - Monticello
10. Lutsen Cascade Lodge – Iva Zanker - Aitkin
11. Minnesota Twins 50 year commemorative 8" X 10" poster – Mark Tuenge - Aitkin
12. 46" White Doily made by Laurel Lamke – Jackie Ritter - Aitkin
13. Minnesota Remembrance Set – Beth Lambert – Coon Rapids
14. Wild Mountain Snow Tubing (Taylor's falls) – Elaine Moser - Deerwood
15. 28" Red & White Doily made by Laurel Lamke – Douglas Olson - Aitkin
16. Shawl made by Connie Pettersen – (\$30.00 Value) – Susan Bushard
17. Rialto Theater – Louise Hasskamp - Aitkin
18. Cuyuna Bowling Lanes (Crosby) – Robert Graff
19. Rialto Theater – Don Hyytinen - Aitkin
20. 1 – 15" X 20" Cream Doily made by Laurel Lamke – Terry Kullhem - Palisade
21. Tradition Mini-golf (Deerwood) - Dorothy Brandt
22. Seasons In Time – Beth Kuiken - Aitkin
23. Aitkin County Naturally – Cheryl Kangas - Aitkin

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Aitkin Independent Age
Members Coop Credit Union
Enberg T.V.
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
Peoples National Bank
Security State Bank
KKIN-KEZZ radio
American Legion Post 86
Aitkin County Abstract Company
Aitkin Chamber of Commerce
Eyecare center of Aitkin & McGregor
Garrison Disposal
Hometown Building Supply
Aitkin Motor Company
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating
Hudrlik Carpet
Aitkin Lodge No. 164 IOOF
Arvidson Tax & Accounting
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
Aitkin Iron Works, Inc.
Gobles Sewer Service
Aitkin Family Chiropractic Center
Great River Gardens
Paulbeck's County Market

BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT OUR EVENTS

Aitkin Independent Age
KKIN-KEZZ radio
Garrison Disposal
Rialto Movie Theater
Water Park of America – Bloomington
Ramada Mall of America - Bloomington
Wild Mountain – Taylor's Falls
Cascade Lodge – Lutsen
Ruttgers – Golf - Deerwood
Cuyuna Bowling Lanes - Crosby
American Leagion Post 86
Tradition Mini-Golf - Deerwood
Minnesota Twins
Mille Lacs Grand Casino
Eddy's Resort
Canterbury Inn – Shakopee
Aitkin Auto Body
Minnesota Timberwolves

WRITERS STILL NEEDED

I am still looking for individuals that would like to help with the quarterly newsletter. Write about some event that impacted your life. Submit a favorite recipe to share with our members. Do you have a gardening tip to share? What do you do to stay active and mobile? How about picking a topic and writing an article about it. Have you had an adventure lately? Write about it. Our next newsletter will come out the first week of May so please consider writing an article to be published in our summer newsletter. Submit articles to Greg at the Depot museum or email them to:

achs3348@embarqmail.com

2011 GARAGE SALE

The Garage Sale in 2010 was the largest on record for the Historical Society. But, I believe that we can do better. Last year we collected items for our garage sale all year. We will again collect items for our sale all year long. Some items have already been brought into the Museum for next year's sale. When you are downsizing, buying new furniture or just cleaning out your house, please consider donating your extra items to the Historical Society for our Annual Garage Sale. Remember, **all donations are tax deductible!** If you have items to donate they can be dropped off at the Depot during operating hours or we can come to your home and pick the items up. Call us at 218-927-3348 for Depot hours or a pick up. Help us make our garage sale in 2011 the biggest and best ever. We need your help!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

1. Holiday display has come down
2. Dentistry display coming down
3. Glory display coming down
4. Women's clothing display coming down
5. Women's accessory display coming down
6. Children's & Baptism clothing display going up
7. Beauty Shop going up
8. All Class Reunion Display's
9. More Artifacts up on walls

WANTED – WOOD CARD CATALOG

We are looking for an old Wooden Library card holder. Ideally it would be one that has over 20 drawers that could be used with 3X5 or 4X6 cards. Contact Greg!

STEAMBOATS

DO YOU HAVE PICTURES, LOGBOOKS, OR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE STEAMBOATS THAT OPERATED OUT OF AITKIN? IF YOU DO, PLEASE CONTACT GREG AT THE DEPOT. WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE DIGITAL COPIES FOR OUR RECORDS. ALL ORIGINALS WOULD BE RETURNED. WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSEMBLE A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE STEAMBOATS. THE INFORMATION IN THE SHIPS LOG BOOKS WOULD HELP US FIND INFORMATION ABOUT PASSENGERS AND CARGO CARRIED ON THE STEAM BOATS. PASSENGER LISTS HELP WITH GENEALOGY SEARCHES. IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE SHARE IT WITH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. INFORMATION SHARED WOULD BE LISTED AS PART OF YOUR COLLECTION. THANK YOU!

Museum Visitors

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Jan	30	24
Feb	18	22
Mar	30	61
Apr	28	36
May	77	72
Students	84	109
Jun	84	157
Jul	149	229
Fair	1331	1441
Aug	202	201
Sep	42	68
Oct	77	141
Nov	30	43
Dec	90	83
Totals	2322	2687

DONATE ON LINE!!!

Donations can now be given on line to the
Aitkin County Historical Society
Go to **OUR WEB SITE** and click on
Donate. www.aitkin.com/achs/

RON KEMMETT **Sell's 238 tickets for our** **2010 Annual Raffle.**

When you see Ron around
town, make sure to thank him
for helping to make this years
raffle our best ever.

ALL CLASS REUNION

Aitkin High School will be holding an All Class Reunion this year from June 24th thru July 3rd. The Depot Museum will be open every day during the Class Reunion. We could use your help staffing the Museum. Need help with people sitting at the front desk and making sure everyone signs in. Need people to give tours. If you would be able to help us please call the Depot at 927-3348.

Aitkin Age – May 21, 1898

- From time immemorial the little limpid stream flowing through our little city and joining its clear waters with those of the Father of Water, has been known to our people as “Mud” river. It is time this misnomer was corrected. The stream is not muddy, in fact is so clear and pure that the city water supply is drawn therefrom, and is satisfactory. The name on the town plat is “Ripple” river, and Ripple River it should be. The name “Mud” in this connection is libelous, and the stream should not be incorrectly heralded through the papers or otherwise, as it conveys a wrong impression to strangers abroad or visitors within our gates. Let’s all call it by its proper name hereafter.
- James McDonald is improving the appearance of his residence lot, corner of Ash and Second streets by planting of trees. That is, it will be improved when those forked sticks he has planted develop into trees.
- The electric light connections for the Northern Pacific depot were completed Wednesday, and the current turned on. Agent Campbell is bound to have a modern place to do business in, if it takes all summer.

WANTED RESULTS

Aitkin Independent Age – 1926

Dorothy had been praying every evening for a baby sister. The other day her mother while reading the paper exclaimed: ‘I see Mrs. Smith has a little daughter.

“How do you know that, mama?

“It says so in the paper, dear.”

“Read it to me.”

Her mother read: “Born to Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Smith, a daughter on August 3.

Dorothy thought a moment and then said, “I know what I’m going to do. I am going to stop praying for a sister and begin advertising in the Age.”

Donations received during Fourth Quarter 2010

104 Marjie Harr	30 Journals/Diaries
105 Janie Tibbetts	Box of World War II medals
106 Jim McKersie	Jack Pot game
107 Eleanor Whitnouer	Book of her life
108 Carol Bailey	5 Ostlun school #32 books, 5 Seavey Township books
109 Jon Jacobson	Jacobson Precast Concrete card
110 Cherie Holm	Picture of Hillside School
111 Pat Frances	Muff – fur & pencil lead
112 Julie Hanson	1946 memorabilia, spice cans
113 Larry Hayes	Slide rule & drafting
114 Don Hyytinen	Book – Portfolio of War
115 Florence Tarr	1984 Aitkin Class Reunion poster
116 Roy Pearson	23 photos
117 Doris Nordean	9 photos, paper, misc.
118 Clifford Nemitz	3 photos
119 Hallet Library	View Masters, 100's of view master cards sorted by state and venue, projector, glass slides
120 Edie Orazem	3 music boxes
121 Raymond Larson	Various pictures, bible, etc.
122 Terry Kullhem	2 photos of Andy Gibson
123 Alice Dotzler	book – “Through Indian Eyes”
124 Barbara Monnier	5 books – The Fires of Autumn, Snowshoe Country, Picturing Minnesota, We Went A Logging, Our Minnesota for our new library
125 Greg Leach	Roll and Lift Jack, 23 books for library
126 Elaine Hallbeck	Picture of President Roosevelt signing Social Security bill

RECORD YEAR FOR DONATIONS

Our old record of 85 for donations in a year has been SHATTERED. 2010's total of 126 donations sets the bar high for this year. I would like to thank all of the people who brought items into the museum. Also I would like to thank **KKIN Radio** and the **Aitkin Independent Age** for all of their help in promoting the Depot Museum.

LIBRARY COMING SOON!!

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT!

The Historical Society has started assembling a library. All of our books in the collection will have to be indexed so we can keep track of them. Would you like to help with this project? Do you have books about Minnesota, Aitkin County or the Midwest that could be donated to our library? How about books written by Minnesota authors? Do you have books about Native Americans, Pioneers, Trappers, Loggers, or Railroads? Maybe you have a book about some event that affected Minnesota. **Go through your books and see if there is anything you would be willing to donate to the Museum Library.**

RIVERBOAT HERITAGE PART II

By Jack Christensen

A FEW MORE HI-LITES FROM THE LIVES OF THE GRAND LADIES OF THE RIVER

As one of the “ragamuffins” who grew up on the river on the east end of the town, the writer remembers with fond memories the many trips we made on our bikes, balancing a cane pole to try our luck at the “mouth of Mud River” and the Mississippi.

It was a favorite spot to fish and when we got bored with not catching anything we could drop our poles and proceed to play pirate on the riverboat that had sunk there years before our time. That exposed relic with name still visible was the Swan.

After cutting ourselves with swords and other weapons from the willows, we would proceed to the deck, and defend to our death, our ship against the invaders. After the pirating battles, we would most likely take our ship out into the ocean to fight a typhoon and it often took two or more bare-footed midshipmen to turn the wheel to keep our great ship afloat.

FROM RAGAMUFFIN’ MEMORIES TO REAL TALES

On June 29th 1895, the Aitkin Age noted that the Swan had gone upriver towing a barge with lumber for the government works at Sandy Lake.

The Swan was the first boat to pass through the lock in the new dam, according to the Age of Oct. 12, 1895. Captain Warren Chase took it through the lock, crossed the lake, and ascended Prairie River to the mouth of the West Savanna.

On Nov. 16, 1895, Captain Chase brought the Swan to its dock at Aitkin and tied it up for the winter, establishing a new record by closing navigation one day later than ever before.

The Swan continued to operate in 1896, 1897 and 1898, being used for the most part in connection with log drives. The boat changed owners several times during the five years of its activity. According to Captain C. C. Sutton, the Swan burned at the mouth of Mud River sometime later.

AS GREAT LADIES WOULD HAVE IT ...

NOT ALL THEIR TIME ON THE RIVER WAS SPENT ON MENIAL LABOR

On a Sunday afternoon in June 1886, the Fawn took a group up to John Lyon’s place near the mouth of Willow River, where “they strolled under the trees and gathered flowers,” “Crackers were passed every now and then so no one got hungry.”

A moonlight excursion “the first of the season with music and dancing on the lower deck,” was advertised for the Andy Gibson on July 16, 1886. The boat was to leave the dock for a run up to Rice River and back at 8p.m. and be home by midnight. The fare was 50 cents per person.

HAVE SOME HAPPY FUNFILLED RIVERBOAT DAYS!

Lines and Quote from the book “Down the Great River” by Captain Willard Glazier in 1886.

Captain Willard Glazier was the discoverer of the true source of the Mississippi River. An excerpt from his diary on the 14th day of the trip from the source to mouth of Mississippi – written August 14, 1881, Captain Glazier states: “We met the “City of Aitkin”, a small steamboat, late in the afternoon, on its way to Grand Rapids. This pioneer craft was commanded by Captain Houghton of the former place (Aitkin) and deserves special mention as the first boat propelled by steam which we have thus far seen in the descent of the river. The clatter of a stern wheel, much puffing and blowing, followed by the report of several shots fired by sportive passengers, betokened the approach of this wonder of the Upper Mississippi. The captain of the “Aitkin” and his gallant crew must have been well advised of our movements for, as soon as they had reached a point opposite the one we had taken on the shore, they saluted us with several rounds of cheers, supplemented by general discharge of firearms. This complement was reciprocated on our part by three cheers and a Chippewa yell for Captain Houghton.

HAVING HARD TIME MOVING BIG BOAT Aitkin Age – 1908

The “Gertrude” a craft 57 feet long, reached Aitkin Friday from Duluth where she was taken from the great lake to go to Mille Lacs. The boat was shipped on two flat cars and arrived in good shape. She was built for a Houghton concern but is now the property of Weatherland Brothers who will use her for general traffic on the big inland lake. It is figured that with railroad connections with the Soo there will be considerable business for a good seaworthy craft on that lake and so the “Gertrude” is out for her share of it. The boat was blocked up and the car run out from under her. It was neatly done and the start for the lake was made Sunday afternoon. Many horses were put on but getting over the hills is going to be a slow job as all the machinery is in place and the load is a heavy one. They are going out over the west road.

Do you own a business? We currently list our business members for other members to support. I would like to also list businesses that are owned by our members for other members to support. Contact Greg at the Depot to add your business to the list.

THE FOSTER MOTHER OF THE WORLD

Aitkin Independent Age – February 19, 1927

The cow is a most wonderful laboratory. She takes the grasses of the pasture and roughage of the field and converts them into the most perfect food for man. In that food there is a mysterious something which scientists have found essential to the highest health of the human race, and which can be found nowhere else. Men have sought for centuries the fabled Fountain of Youth. The nearest approach to that fountain which has yet been discovered is the udder of the cow. Without here milk, children languish, the vigor of the adult declines, and the vitality of the human race runs low. – Frank O. Lowden

Don't Spoil the Fun for Mama

Far be it from a 9-year old school girl to spoil her mother's Christmas. After Santa Claus and his temperamental reindeer had visited the school, the girl confided to her teacher: "Course I know Santa isn't real, but mama thinks he is, and I for the world wouldn't want her to find out otherwise."

SMALL POX IN LUMBER CAMPS

The only death thus far reported from the small pox camps of northern Minnesota is that of one John Swanson near Sparta, Minnesota, who while running the quarantine guard got a bullet through the heart. The disease thus far has been of a mild type proving to have been a severe case of fright or a case of Cuban measles. Actual small pox is rare in the woods. But the very rumor of its being there is causing not a little trouble to loggers.

One of the first ill effects of the small pox scare is to cut off the supply of laborers. Though labor was plentiful a few weeks ago, it is now scarcer because of the fear of the plague. Men are deserting in some quarters, fearing quarantine and subsequent loss of wages, or fearing the disease and the rough treatment that awaits the sick. It is doubtful if the actual danger from small pox in the pine woods is today as great as the danger out of the woods.

It is openly charged by many that the quarantine and the scare are abetted by certain physicians who see a fifty cent fee in every lumber jack in the woods. No doubt there are doctors who would sow all kinds of scare seed to reap a harvest of this kind. While the woods have many honest physicians, the woods is a good breeding place for fake medical men whose skill is confined to getting fees

-Mississippi Valley Lumberman-

Harmon Killebrew

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass."

"We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."

Jimmy Piersal (major league baseball player), on how to diaper a baby

Spread the diaper in the position of the diamond with you at bat. Then, fold second

Base down to home and set the baby on the pitcher's mound. Put first base and Third together, bring up home plate and pin the three together. Of course, in case of rain, you gotta call the game and start all over again.

Mark Twain said: When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could Hardly stand to have the old man around. But, when I got to be twenty-one, I was Astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.

ACCEPTING GARAGE SALE DONATIONS NOW!

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

There is one relationship in life that is never sullied by misunderstanding. It is the comradeship of man and dog.

A dog's love and loyalty are complete and unreserved. He has no selfish or sinister motives. He holds nothing back. He responds with his entire nature to your slightest whims or wishes. The only reward he seeks is an approving word or look – or a pat of your hand.

Foreign to a dog's soul is the coldness and hardness of man. He doesn't measure your worth by the gold in your purse or the clothes on your back. He doesn't weigh you on the scale of selfish interests. He stands firm when others fail you. He is of a sterner fiber.

With world events revealing man's inhumanity to man, there is something comforting and reassuring about the fidelity and devotion of man's best friend – his dog.

Arnold H. Glasow

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, THAT MAKES YOU ABOUT AVERAGE.

DIRTY LAUNDRY

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean", she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap." Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time her neighbor would hand her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments. About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband: "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?" The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows." And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look. I hope that you have a very blessed day!

Found in the Aitkin Age – August 11, 1903

A. D. Leach, a prominent fruit grower of Lake Minnetonka, arrived here yesterday to visit his nephew Mr. Kibby, of Cutler.

A.D. Leach (Alonzo) was my great-great grandfather who settled along the shores of Lake Minnewashta after the Civil War. His sister was Charles Kibby's mother. Charles parents are buried in the Leach Cemetery located a couple blocks west of Lake Minnewashta. I use to take care of the Leach cemetery and I always wondered why there were Kibby's buried there. It was after I took this job that I worked it out.

Found in the Aitkin Age – September 1, 1903

Tom Madden and John McLeod who left here a few weeks ago for the west are now at Butte, Mont. The mines there have been shut down and times are quiet but the boys write that all the men go back to work Sept 1 when they expect to see things humming.

I found this article interesting because my mother grew up in Butte, Montana and her father's name was John McLeod. However, my grandfather would have been only three at the time of this article. I find it interesting that there was another John McLeod in Butte Montana in 1903. We have found many articles about McLeod's in the early 1900's in the Aitkin area. I have started to do some research to find a connection. I know that my great-grandfather came over to America from Scotland in the late 1800's. It will be interesting what I find.

What Flag Means to Us

Aitkin Independent Age – 1919

The flag means more to Americans in the year 1919 than it has ever meant in our lives. And why? Not, surely because it floats over hosts of soldiers and mighty fleets. There were soldiers and fleets before. Not, therefore, because of its new part in the panoply of war.

It means more to us because we have put more into it. Because, after years of peace and plenty in which we thought our flag chiefly as something to protect and guard as, we have in time of war and grief and hardship learned to know our flag as something for us to protect and guard and serve.

A flag, in short, is as great as its people – and no greater. When they are great and generous, and courageous, it is great and beautiful and holy. When they falter and hagggle, their flag is less than nothing to them, as to the world.

Ours to love and cherish and die for in the greatest of causes! Therefore a source of pride and of deep emotion to every American. That is the lesson we are learning in these days of sacrifice and devotion, when a flying bit of color becomes the most glorious and joyous and sacred thing in the whole wide world. – New York Tribune.

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Email: achs3348@embarqmail.com

Web Site: www.aitkin.com/achs/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011

COMMERCE & SPORT SHOW

Show will take place on **March 12th & 13th** at the Aitkin High School.

We need members to man our booth both days. This year we will stress the importance of sharing information and photographs about Aitkin County with the Historical Society. Membership drive will also be stressed at this event. Contact the Depot for times.

6TH GRADE CLASS TOURS

This year's tour will take place on **May 4th**. If you would like to help by either being a tour guide or presenter please contact the Depot. Morning and afternoon shifts needed.

GENEALOGY

Our Genealogy group next meeting will be **February 12th** at 10am.

COLLECTIONS

Next meeting of the Collections committee will be **Friday March 4th** at 9:30am.

ALL CLASS REUNION

June 24th – July 3rd

The Depot Museum will be open everyday during the All Class Reunion from 10am to 4pm.

We need volunteers to help staff the Museum during this event.

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR

July 13th – July 16th

This year's fair has been moved to the second week of July to put some distance between the Fair and the 4th of July. We staff our Log Cabin from 10am to 8pm each day. Please consider sitting in our building this year.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Donations are **NOW BEING ACCEPTED** for this year's sale, which will be held on **August 5th & 6th** at the Aitkin County Fair grounds. Set up for our sale begins the week after the County Fair. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Come and give us a hand.