

# AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DEPOT HIGHLITES NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011 - Volume 16, Issue 2

Our feature display at the Depot Museum is the **Aitkin all-class reunion**. Items on display range from 1901 to 2010. Come to the museum and see who you can find on display. Many of our displays have had items added to them, plus new displays have gone up throughout the Museum. The Depot museum will be open everyday of the all-class reunion (June 24<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>) from 9am to 4pm. Our normal summer hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

**NOW OPEN FOR VIEWING!!!** Our **NEW WEBSITE** is now up and running.

**Jennie Hakes, ACHS member, donated her services to develop and now maintain the new site.**

The site can be found at: [www.aitkin.com/achs](http://www.aitkin.com/achs). Currently available on our site for your viewing:

- Pictures of our current displays located in the Depot and building #2
- Riverboat pictures and histories that we currently have on file.
- Newsletters from – 2009, 2010, 2011
- 1916 Plat book
- A way to donate online to the Historical Society
- History of Aitkin County Historical Society and Log Cabin
- List of possible projects to work on for 2011
- Interviews with Aitkin County residents
- Calendar of Events for 2011
- Genealogy research page tied to other Genealogy sites
- Research page listing materials found at the museum
- Aitkin County Historical Society Mission Statement
- History of Community Post Offices
- Museum location and hours of operation
- History of Townships and Communities

As you can see many new items are now available on our web site. Additional information will be constantly added to our site to encourage return visits. Check it out! What kinds of information should we put on the site? Give us your ideas. We will put another slide show on this spring of our outside area between our two display buildings. If you have the history of one or more of the Townships please share the information so we can add it to our site.

On February 28<sup>th</sup> I made a trip to Pine City Minnesota to meet with 17 other Administrators for networking together. We formed a group that will be known as **“ECHO” (East Central Historical Organizations)** to work together to increase our visitor ship. This group comes from seven counties. (**Aitkin, Carlton, Pine, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Chisago and Isanti**) We have put together a series of day tours to visit area Museums. Also a brochure, map and web site that will feature all of the group’s museums and each museums web site. The new web site and brochures will be in the museums by the end of May. I left home at 7:30 so I could be there at 9:30 when the meeting started. This was a great opportunity for me to meet and spend time with other Museum Administrators to the East and South of us. The only cost to ACHS was a \$10.00 gift out of our Gift Shop for a prize and some mileage. Costs for the map, brochure and website were covered by a Legacy Grant.

During the past year numerous projects were completed that enhanced the look of the Museum. This year we will continue to work on our flower gardens, moving artifacts around outside, and finish replacing the lighting in the Depot building. In this newsletter you will find a list of projects that we will be working on this year. Pick out a project that interests you and give us a hand. This could be by donating either some time or money to the project. Some big projects like the website and completing our micro-film library have been completed. However, the website will continue to change as new information is added.

We received a 30 drawer wood card file cabinet from the **Jesse F. Hallet Memorial Library in Crosby**. This donation saved us from having to buy more 2 draw units for \$100.00 each. By the end of this year that cabinet will be filled and we will need a larger one. Keep your eyes out for possibly a 45 drawer unit. We make out a card for every obituary that we have on file.

Our biggest and most important project this spring is our **Log Cabin** at the County Fair Grounds. We need to scrape out all of the old chinking, fix a bad log and put new chinking between the logs. Our log cabin is the second

oldest building, built especially for the use of a Historical Society, in the State of Minnesota. One building in the State of Minnesota is older by only 1 year. Although we only use this building a couple of times a year it is important to keep maintaining it. It is a big part of the history of the Aitkin County Historical Society. Sentence to Serve has stepped forward and wants to complete this project for us. This donation of time and labor will save the Historical Society thousands of dollars this year and help to preserve the Log Cabin for years to come.

The next biggest project for me is to continue to educate the residents of Aitkin County about the importance of our Society. This encompasses not only membership but the donation of artifacts and information about our County. Everyone must remember that a single small piece of information might be what we are looking for to complete a section of our history or it might tie two pieces of our history together. For example, a photo might have people in it you do not know but what is in the background, such as a business could be what we are looking for. Please remember your local Historical Society when you have photos or information that you are thinking about throwing out. If you are not willing to give them up please consider letting us make copies.

Our **Perennial gardens** need more flowers. If you are thinking about removing some from you gardens please consider donating them to the Depot Museum. Help us to make the grounds around the Depot Museum more beautiful for our visitors. This project has already made a huge difference with the look of the grounds around our display buildings.

**ANNUAL GARAGE SALE** will be held this year on **August 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**. We have already started to collect items for the sale. When you are cleaning out your house, garage or shed this spring please consider donating those extra items for our sale. We have a big number to beat from last year but I believe that we can do a lot better. But that will not happen if no one donates items for it. If you have a garage sale this spring or summer, donate the items that you have left. **Remember that all donations are tax deductible.** This is our largest fund raiser of the year. Please help us! I recently picked up 18 apple boxes full of books, record albums, cassettes and 8-tracks for our sale. I also received from the "Mustard Seed" thrift store boxes of excess books for our sale. We will accept anything for our sale **EXCEPT:** clothes, computers, printers, monitors, and major appliances. We are looking for tools, sporting goods, furniture, old kitchen or bathroom cabinets, book cases, household goods, holiday decorations, jewelry, toys, games, and etc. Items may be dropped off at the Depot Museum or call for us to pick up your donations.

Another project that we have started is a **Lending Library** for our members. We need donations of historical books pertaining to Aitkin County, Minnesota History and World Events (Wars, Immigration, etc). Also, we are looking for books written by local authors. Some local writers have donated copies of their books to be included in our Library. Go through your books in your home and see if there are some you would be willing to donate to the Depot Museum. If this summer, when you are at garage sales, look for books about our area. Pick them up and donate them to the Museum. Not only are we assembling a lending library, but it will also act as a research library. We have received many books about the Civil War, World War II, Military Equipment, Native Americans, Minnesota, and the Railroad. We need books about Logging, farming, immigration, pioneers and riverboats.

**Membership** is also on our list of projects for this year. More members mean that we will be able to collect more information for our files. It also will give us a broader base of people to draw ideas and volunteers from. During the past year members stepped up and took over the garden project, refurbished a railroad speeder, cleaned up the museum bathroom, made repairs to our buildings and donated a large number of family histories and artifacts. More members also give us the opportunity to spread the need for donating those histories and artifacts to the Historical Society. Talk to your friends, neighbors and relatives and see if they have an interest in Aitkin County history.

We are still looking for information and photos of the **Riverboats** that operated between Aitkin and Grand Rapids. Do you know someone that has in their possession information about the riverboats? If they would donate this information to the Museum or at least let us make copies for our files, have them contact me at the Depot. This information is a huge part of our Aitkin County history. Please help the Historical Society find this history. Check out our web site to see what information we currently have.

**AITKIN COUNTY HERITAGE book is currently being reprinted in a soft cover version and will be available for the All-class Reunion in June. (Price will be \$39.95 each) Reserve your copy today!**

Around April 10<sup>th</sup> the furnace located in the Depot building broke down. Costs of repairs to the furnace were **\$1500.00**. This expense was not budgeted for. Please contact Greg at the Depot (927-3348) if you can help with this expense. If every member would donate \$5.00 to this cause the expense would be paid for.

**GREG LEACH (ADMINISTRATOR)**

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

**AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Business Memberships – 26, Individual Memberships – 23, Senior Memberships – 92,  
Family Members – 150, Life Members – 16, Perpetuity – 2

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 309**

**SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS**

Aitkin Independent Age  
Members Coop Credit Union  
Enberg TV  
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  
Paulbeck's County Market  
Aitkin Motor Company  
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating  
Hudrlik Carpet  
Aitkin Body Shop  
Aitkin Lodge No. 164 IOOF  
Arvidson Tax & Accounting  
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts  
Gobles Sewer Service  
Aitkin Family Chiropractic Center  
Great River Gardens  
Cummings Auto  
Aicota Health Care Center

**2010 SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS**

NORDLAND  
PLINY  
GLEN  
IDUN  
LIBBY  
FARM ISLAND  
LAKESIDE  
RICE RIVER  
SPENCER

**2011 SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS**

NORDLAND  
PLINY  
IDUN  
LIBBY  
FARM ISLAND  
CLARK

**Businesses that Support Our Events**

Cycle, Path & Paddle – Crosby  
Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin  
Garrison Disposal - Aitkin  
Cascade Lodge – Lutsen  
Traditions Mini-Golf – Deerwood  
KKIN-KEZZ radio - Aitkin  
Aitkin Independent Age - Aitkin  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs  
The Office Shop - Aitkin  
Wild Mountain – Taylors falls  
Water Park of America – Bloomington  
Shiperio Games - Chanhassen

**IS THE AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY A CHARITY?**

**Yes and No!** Yes we are a **501 C 3**, so donations are tax deductible and we are considered a charity by the government. However, we are much, much more than that. We are the keepers of our Aitkin County history. We search out, gather and collect small pieces of Aitkin County history for future generations. It might be family histories, information about churches or schools, Townships and communities, railroads, steamboats, logging and agriculture. So as you see we are much more than a charity, we are the caretakers of our Aitkin County history.

## **GARAGE SALE ITEMS NEEDED!!!!**

Donate your unwanted items for our Annual Garage Sale. Drop your items off at the Depot or call 927-3348 for us to pick your items up. **Items donated are tax deductible!** We need; tools, sporting goods, toys, lamps, furniture, books, movies, games, puzzles, dishes, pots & pans, jewelry, cooking utensils, linens, bedding, holiday decorations, kitchen or bathroom cabinets, canning jars, nick knacks, and miscellaneous. **Please no large appliances, hide-a-beds, computers, scanners, printers or monitors.**

## **GARDENS AT THE DEPOT**

Last year at the Depot all of the overgrown shrubs were either pulled out or cut back. In their place we started to plant Perennial gardens. If you are going to clean out your flower gardens this spring, please consider donating your extra plants to the Depot. Help us make the grounds around our museum more beautiful. Nancy Jacobson is in charge of this project.

## **NEW DISPLAYS AT THE DEPOT**

New displays at the Depot include: Aitkin All-Class Reunion throughout the Depot building, Hair dresser, new items in Glory display, additions to military display, Children's clothing and baptismal.

## **Teachers were female and young** **1915 Rules for Teachers**

1. You will **NOT** marry during the term of your contract
2. You will **NOT** keep company with men
3. You **MUST** be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am unless attending a school function.
4. You **MAY NOT** loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You **MAY NOT** travel beyond the city limits without the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You **MAY NOT** ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You **MAY NOT** smoke cigarettes.
8. You **MAY NOT** dress in bright colors.
9. You may **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** dye you hair.
10. You must wear **AT LEAST** two petticoats.
11. Your dresses **MUST NOT BE ANY SHORTER THAN TWO INCHES ABOVE THE ANKLE.**
12. To keep the school clean you must:
  - a) Sweep the floor at least once daily
  - b) Scrub the floor with hot soapy water at least once a week.
  - c) Clean the blackboard at least once a day.
  - d) Start the fire at 7am so the room will be warm by 8am.

The school day started at 9am and closed at 4pm with a 15 minute recess morning and afternoon and an hour noon break. The day started with the Pledge of Allegiance and a patriotic song. Assignments in math and other subjects for third grade and up were listed on the blackboard. Class time with the teacher usually ran 15 to 20 minutes, with some combining of grades. Each level had its own spelling books and the seventh and eighth grade students were very helpful in tutoring the little ones. Art, music and physical education were each combined for all grades

**If you attended one of the Aitkin County one room school houses, please write down your memories and share them with the Historical Society. Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren would like to hear about the one room school houses.**

## **RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED**

We are currently looking for a wide range of prizes to add to our list of prizes for our Annual Raffle. Here is a list of things we are looking for: gift certificates for hair cuts, restaurants, stores, oil changes, services, etc. Look around your store and see if there is something you would be willing to donate to the Historical Society. What do you get out of donating an item? We will list your company in our quarterly newsletter, for a year, as a company that supports the Historical Society and should be supported. Also, you will be listed on our list that goes out with the tickets to our membership. We will hold an Early-bird drawing **August 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am** on KKin radio and the main drawing on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Winners are listed in the Aitkin Independent Age. Winners will be listed on our website. **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

## **2011 RAFFLE PRIZE LIST**

### **EARLY BIRD DRAWING Held August 8<sup>th</sup> on KKin radio at 8:30am**

1. Cycle Path & Paddle – Crosby – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
2. Family Membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value)
3. Traditions Mini-Golf – Deerwood – (15.00 value)
4. Shiperio – The Card Game of Golf – (\$8.00 value)
5. Aitkin County Naturally – Bird and Nature book – (\$5.00 value)

### **MAIN DRAWING SATURDAY DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2011 at 2pm**

1. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel package (hotel & meal) – (\$100.00 value)
2. Quilt & 2 Throw Pillows made by Marlene Kingsley – (\$75.00 value)
3. Oil painting – “Wallaby Dreaming” – donated by Alice Dotzler - (\$75.00 value)
4. Water Park of America – Bloomington – 2 passes – (\$50.00 value)
5. Cascade Lodge – Lutsen – Free night stay with purchase of 2<sup>nd</sup> night – (\$50.00 value)
6. Wild Mountain – Taylors Falls – 2 Snow tubing passes – (\$30.00 value)
7. Garden Tote & Seat – (\$30.00 value)
8. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
9. The Office Shop – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
10. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
11. National Geographic – DVD – 30 years of specials – donate by Larry Nelson - (\$20.00 value)
12. Family Membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value)
13. Fleece Stadium Blanket – (\$15.00 value)
14. Traditions Mini-Golf – Deerwood – 2 rounds of mini-golf (\$15.00 value)
15. Shiperio – The Card Game of Golf – (\$8.00 value)
16. Aitkin County Naturally – Bird and Nature book – (\$5.00 value)

## **SENTENCE TO SERVE**

Sentence to Serve (STS) has agreed to do the work on our Log Cabin located at the Fair grounds. They will remove all of the old chinking and then install all new chinking. This project received bids from \$6500.00 to \$7500.00. With STS doing the work we will only have to pay for the supplies to complete the project. Please consider a donation to help pay for this project. A big thank you goes out to STS.

Our Log cabin is the second oldest building built especially for use by a Historical Society in the state of Minnesota. It is very important that we preserve this building. It's part of our history.

For those of you that do not know, STS helps us with projects throughout the year. During the winter months they shovel the snow in front of the Museum. Last year they scraped all of the trim on the Depot building and then painted two coats of paint. Last year they also helped us with moving the railroad speeder around. Their help is invaluable during our Annual Garage sale. They help with setting up the tables, move all of the garage sale items to fair grounds and then help us clean up after the sale. During the Aitkin Rendezvous they set up and tear down our booth. When ever we have asked for their assistance, they have stepped forward and given it to us. Without the help of STS many of our projects could not be done. Over all, the STS program has been a great service to the ACHS and Aitkin County.

## FIRST QUARTER ACCESSIONS

1. Itasca Co. H.S. 2 Post Cards (Grace Lutheran Church, Kare Phree Pine Hotel)
2. Tony Gabrio 1950 Flood DVD
3. Terry Kullhem Ice Auger made by Cliff Newton
4. Marlene Kingsley 4 Palisade Americans, Kennedy Assassination Papers
5. Dorothy Hermanson Betsy Doll
6. Greg Leach 12 Civil War books for Lending Library
7. Charles Wikelius Family history – Andrew & Kara Mattson
8. Bill Fox Gamble Store Boiler certificates
9. Betty Larson Book – **“Bring Warm Clothes”** for Lending Library
10. Janet Miller 4 – Anniversary Pins
11. Julie Hansen Mid-Minnesota Wild Rice Container
12. Carol Mills Photo – 1956 1st grade Cutler School, Calvary Baptist Church directory
13. Russell Peterson 7 books for Lending Library
14. Solvei Lewann Sotnak Book – **“Furuly – Shelter in the Pines”** for Lending Library
15. Crow Wing Co. H.S. 16’ X 20” Photo of Depot
16. Cuyuna Heritage H.S. Photo – School located between Cutler & Farm Island
17. Eleanor Weitnauer 5 – Post Cards
18. Jennie Hakes Photo – Queen Ann Riverboat
19. Romaine Bonneville 17 – Photos
20. Victoria Ladwig Aitkin Hi-Lites 1930 – 1954
21. Lorraine Liljenquest 2 books for Lending Library
22. E.J. Hallett Library 30 Drawer wood card catalog
23. Thomas Arnold Photo – Mason Lodge meeting in Odd Fellow Hall
24. Pat Williams 7 – Photos
25. Bernard Leach Pig Scale
26. Rich Fammemal Desk from the Casey Building
27. Unknown Hats & Picture
28. Marlene Kingsley Book – 1898 Modern Music
29. Jennie Hakes Blue Prints of Creamery, Photos, news articles and magazines
30. Janet Miller 1936 Trophy - Lake Region Basket Ball Tournament
31. Greg Leach 84 books for Lending Library
32. John Brula CD – Shamrock Township Photos
33. Bonnie Farley Early map of McGregor area showing resorts & stores
34. STS Caboose shaped bird house
35. Janet Miller 4 – Photos
36. Gloria Preston 11 - Photos
37. Debbie Janzen Photo
38. Lorraine Liljenquist Misc. clippings & paper items
39. Lynn Futhey Photos
40. Darlene Maciej Photo, Vivant & Borg family information

## DONATIONS CONTINUE TO POUR IN

Last year we had a total of 126 donations for the year, which smashed the old record of 85. Will we be able to pass last years total? Check out the items that have come in so far this year. We have received numerous books for our lending library, photos and information about Aitkin County. Also, some very unique artifacts have been received to add to our collection. What information, photos or artifacts do you have that could be shared with the Historical Society? Either donate or let us make copies. The Aitkin County Historical Society is only as good as the information that is shared with us. Help us complete our Aitkin County History.

### PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. Locating a caboose for Museum
2. Repair Log Cabin, chinking, storms
3. Replace lighting in Depot storage areas
4. Set up Lending Library
5. New heavy duty flag pole
6. Purchase Minnesota Flag
7. Purchase POW/ MIA Flag
8. Rebuild second Railroad Speeder
9. Continue work on Obituary files
10. Clean dirt fill for south of building #3
11. Hang pictures on walls
12. Display artifacts on walls
13. Continue to collect family histories
14. Plant more Perennials
15. Move artifacts by gardens
16. Level some areas of Cobble stone
17. Install gate in East fence by Depot
18. Grant for 43 Minnesota History books
19. Grant for Digital equipment
20. Increase membership
21. Book signings at museum
22. Stain/reseal front of building #2
23. Map of historic places in Aitkin County
24. Create local interest in museum
25. Increase store sales
26. Replace main computer
27. Check into networking computers
28. Wireless Internet?
29. Hold contests/scavenger hunts
30. More promotion for events
31. Organize files for easier access
32. Appraisal nights at museum
33. Develop research facility at museum
34. Increase information on web site

### 2011 COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. New web site up and running
2. Requested grant for lighting
3. Complete our newspaper microfilm library
4. Locate wood card file for museum

### MEMBERS LOST IN 2011

Lucille Jones – 1/15/1917 – 1/1/2011

### Museum Wish List

Reams of white copy paper  
Paper towels / toilet paper  
Cleaning supplies  
Tickets for garbage pickup  
Clean rags  
Photo scanner/printer/copier  
6' Fiberglass Folding Tables  
Flowering Perennials  
2 - Half Barrel planters  
Books for Library – local writers  
Minnesota history books  
Prizes for Raffle  
Donations for new Microfilm reader  
Digital camera  
Riverboat histories  
Family Histories  
Folgers Coffee / bottled water  
Computer speakers

### A SWEET MEMORY

A little white church stands on a hill,  
The doors of that church now stand still,  
Will they ever squeak or groan again  
Or the little old organ peel out its refrain?

In the tall iron stove, no embers now glow  
To warm the feet, some swift, some slow,  
For many a mile some had trudged their way  
To be in their place on each Lord's Day  
Now the pulpit so cold and bleak, where then  
We could hear the pastor's low "Amen"  
And he brought us the word from the dear old book  
We'll find no better, where e'er we look.

Oh, let me again on a clear Sabbath morn  
Wind my steps up that aisle, now bare and forlorn,  
Let me open again that hymn book so dear,  
And sing with the saints, "He is near, always near."

But the church, now a memory, on the hill,  
Seems sad as the doors stand still.

Dedicated to the memory of the Eastwood Free  
Church, by one who still remembers.

From the Aitkin Independent Age - 1940

## ALL CLASS REUNION

Aitkin High School will be holding an All-Class Reunion this year from **June 25<sup>th</sup> thru July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Depot Museum will be open every day during the All-Class Reunion from **9am to 4pm**. We could use extra help at the museum sitting at the front desk making sure everyone signs our guest log or giving tours of the facility. All visitors will receive a **10% discount in our gift store** during this period. As we get closer to the reunion and find that you could help for an hour or two please contact Greg at the Depot. (218) 927-3348

## MUSEUM VISITORS

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
January	30	24	40
February	18	22	22
March	30	61	23
April	28	36	46
May	77	72	
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	84	109	
June	84	157	
July	149	229	
County Fair	1331	1441	
August	202	201	
September	42	68	
October	77	141	
November	30	43	
<u>December</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2322</b>	<b>2687</b>	<b>131</b>

**Come to the Depot and enjoy the many diverse displays, work on your family Genealogy, explore Aitkin County history.**

## CARAMEL BARS

Combine:

1 ¼ cups of flour  
 1 ¼ cups quick cooking oatmeal  
 ¾ cup brown sugar  
 ½ tsp soda  
 ½ tsp salt  
 ¾ cup melted butter

Mix above until crumbly. Pat ½ of mixture in greased 9X13 pan. Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees.

1 pkg. (14 oz.) caramels  
 1/3 cup cream

Heat & stir (or microwave) until melted. Pour over baked mixture. Sprinkle with about ¾ cup chopped peanuts & ¾ cup chocolate chips.

Top with remaining crumbs.

Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Cut while warm.

## WORKING ON OUR MISSION

Over the past two and a half years our membership has grown from 246 members to our current 309. I believe that our growth is great. However, the Minnesota Historical Society says we should have closer to 600 members. Crow Wing County's membership is not much different than ours.

Donations to the ACHS of information and artifacts in 2009 were 85 which was a new record. In 2010 we hit 126 donations which shattered 2009's total. This year we are on track to beat that total. It is not just the number of donations that are important but, it is the type of donations we are receiving. Numerous photographs, family histories, and information about past residents and businesses have been received. Also many unique artifacts have been received to add to our current and future displays.

Volunteers have been going through our local news papers and pulling out information for our files such as obituaries, births, marriages and events. They started in 1883 and currently are working on 1944. When we started this project we had two drawers filled with obituaries. When completed we will have at least six. Why is this important? This is a huge project that when completed will make it much easier to find information for people doing genealogy searches.

While working on this project we have been able to find information about steamboats, railroads, logging, military, towns, villages, and townships which we have added to our files. Our job is to collect today's history and preserve it for future generations. But, we are going one step farther by going back in our past and collecting that history also.

One of the projects we need to work more on is interviewing our senior citizens. We need to collect their memories of growing up in Aitkin County before they are gone. Some people think that their memories are not important because others remember it differently. However, everyone sees things differently and remembers different details of events that shaped their lives. By putting together people's memories we are able look at events from different angles. This gives us a better understanding of what happened in the past. We need help with this project. If you would like to help with or are willing to be interviewed please contact Greg at the Depot.

Over the past couple of years numerous projects have been completed to improve our facility. New lighting has been added to save energy and protect our artifacts, a handicap ramp and steps to make it easier for our volunteers and visitors to enter the museum. Trim on Depot was scraped and painted, over grown shrubs removed and perennial gardens planted. New custom made book cases were installed in our gift shop. Seventy five book titles were added for sale.

This year we will make repairs to our log cabin, replace our main computer and purchase a new digital camera. We will add more flowers to our gardens, rebuild our second railroad speeder and change out some of our displays. We are currently working on putting together a research and lending library for use by our members.

There is a good chance this year that we will finally own the property under our buildings. I will let you know more in our August newsletter. Until then we will continue working on our mission.

## NEWS FROM McGRATH HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The McGrath Historical Committee, Inc. initially began in 2007 and was incorporated 2009. We are proud to announce we are 501 (c) (3) and officially are a member of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) besides sharing information with the Aitkin County Historical Society. We will be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual meeting June 18 to be held at The Holden Church Hall. In the past meetings we had displays of historical information regarding the Schools in Early Years, Old Bank Book, info on our founding father - James E. McGrath, list of the Mayors for the city, military photos, snapshots of the flood in 1950 and we sold tickets for the raffling of the historical quilt. The items on display and raffle tickets being sold also took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and at the Logging and Threshing Show on the Labor Day weekend. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting was held at the Presbyterian Fellowship Hall and Dan Hershon, and Denny Mager were present to do appraisals on items brought to the meeting.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting we setup the Microfilm machine which was purchased at the beginning of the year. The McGrath Tribune on microfilm is now available for usage.



An article was written up on Ervin Buck, a fellow Marine, in regards to his military service and submitted and published on the MN Greatest Generation section of the MHS web site. The Centennial Book was written by Carol Bailey and we sold 250

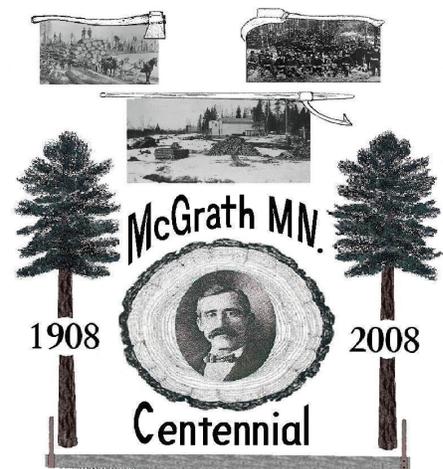
books within a month and had a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> printing.

Presently we are working with Gerald Wollum from Red Top and the Mille Lacs Historical Society in writing up a book on the SOO Line Railroad. We have submitted information from the McGrath area. I was surprised at how big the operation of the SOO Line was to ride the rails. We are hoping the book will be ready by the end of the year.

The "Amazing Book of McGrath History" is another book we are pulling together. There is an abundance of history and one and two books do not seem to cover it all. History is in the present day times. We have to collect what is happening now for the next generations.

Events this year will include: June 18 - the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, 12:00 Lunch with Meeting to start at 1:00, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Logging and Threshing Show. There may be one or two more depending on the events in the area.

Presently board members to be reach are Larry Bullen 800-592-4353, Phyllis Walters 320-592-3268 and Darlene Maciej 320-592-0222.



### MISSING "A" BOOKS

1953, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1979, 1986-1995, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2007, 2009, 2010

# AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 215, Aitkin, MN 56431

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

Web Site: [www.aitkin.com/achs/](http://www.aitkin.com/achs/)

## 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### GENEALOGY

Our Genealogy groups next meeting will be held on **May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am**. The group takes June, July and August off and will start meeting again on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### COLLECTIONS

Our Collection Committee meets the first Friday of every other month at 9:30am starting in January. The group meets to discuss information and artifacts that have been donated to the Historical Society.

### AITKIN ALL CLASS REUNION

The Aitkin all-class reunion will be held from **June 25<sup>th</sup> thru July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Depot Museum will be open everyday during the all-class from 9am to 4pm. We will need volunteers to help staff the museum during this event. If you have some free time during this event please help us out.

**Soft cover reprint of AITKIN COUNTY HERITAGE book will be available.**

### AITKIN COUNTY FAIR

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July falling on a Monday the County Fair was moved to **July 13<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>** so that it would not fall on the same week as the 4<sup>th</sup>. We staff our Log Cabin, which is the second oldest building in the state of Minnesota built especially for a Historical Society, 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 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Aitkin County Fair grounds. Set up for our sale begins the Tuesday after the County Fair. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Come and give us a hand. Contact the Depot if you can help.

### AITKIN RENDEZVOUS

Known in the past as the Festival of Adventures, the Aitkin Rendezvous will take place on **September 16, 17 & 18**. This event moved to the Aitkin County Fair grounds last year and will once again be at the fair ground. We will be operating our food booth and have a display in our Log cabin. Contact Greg if you can help.

### ACHS ANNUAL RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be sent out to the membership the first week in June. Check out the list of prizes in this newsletter. If you have a prize to add to the list contact Greg as soon as possible so we can add it to the list that goes out with the tickets. The main drawing will be held at the Museum on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm**. We will hold an early-bird drawing on KIN radio at 8:30am on August 8<sup>th</sup> for all tickets and money turned into the Depot.

### COOKIE WALK / OPEN HOUSE AT DEPOT

Our Annual Cookie Walk / Open House at the Depot Museum will take place on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30am to 4:00pm**. The Cookie Walk is our last fundraiser of the year. Last year we sold out of cookies before noon so come early, enjoy some apple cider or coffee, tour our Holiday display. Get ready to bake some cookies.