

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPOT HIGHLITES NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2011 - Volume 16, Issue 4

The Aitkin Women of Today will be holding a **Vintage Wedding Style Show** on November 5th at the 40-Club Convention Center starting at 1PM. Tickets are available at the Office Shop for \$20.00. Price includes a style show, lunch (with wedding cake), vender tables and much more! Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Historical Society. Some of our antique wedding dresses will be on display while other people's dresses will be included in a runway show. Please support this event. We need volunteers to help with this event. Need help with the silent auction; help with dressing the models for the runway show, and help setting up and taking down after the event. Contact Jodie Johnson at the Office Shop. Get your friends together, while the men are out deer hunting, for a fun afternoon. **GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!** Tickets are only available at the Office Shop. Over 50 dresses will be featured in the show.

Is the Aitkin County Historical Society a Charity? Donations to the Historical Society are tax deductible. We are a 501C3 non profit organization incorporated under Minnesota law. But, we are much, much more than that. We are the collectors, preservers and disseminators of Aitkin County history. Some Townships and Aitkin County keep their old records with us. Our job is to collect today's history for future generations. It is however, important to remember our past and try to find information and artifacts that represent that past. Check out our donation page and see what kinds of donations we are receiving.

The Aitkin County Historical Society has operated the Museum located in the 1916 Northern Pacific Depot since 1973. A second building is located just west of the Depot. Both buildings hold displays that represent our Aitkin past. Most of the artifacts that you see on display have been donated to the Society. Our original Log Cabin, currently located at the Aitkin County Fair grounds, holds displays during the fair and this year during Aitkin Rendezvous. We do have a fourth building located on 1st street N.W. that holds artifacts currently not on display. Three of the buildings are heated and air conditioned to preserve the artifacts located in them.

We raise money through memberships, donations, grants, garage sale, Aitkin rendezvous, raffle and our cookie walk. It is important to note that all items in our garage sale are items donated just for the sale.

Artifacts from our collection are NOT sold at our garage sale! We do however; pull some items out of the sale to add to our collection. We are starting to collect for next year's garage sale. Give us a call if you have items to donate. Consider donating furniture and other household items when moving to a smaller home or apartment. Are you remodeling your kitchen or bathroom? Consider donating your old cabinets and counters for a tax donation. Maybe you are buying new furniture for your home and could donate your old. This year we filled two of the buildings at the County Fair grounds. Help us fill both buildings again next year. We budgeted to make \$500.00 more next year than we did this year so we do need your help. At the end of the sale we had less than a 10 yard dumpster left over. The left over books were donated to the Jail library. The Salvation Army also filled two vehicles with merchandise. Cost of the dumpster was covered by Garrison Disposal. THANK YOU!

The strength of our Historical Society is through our **membership**. Current membership is 356, up from 280 on January 26th of this year. **However, 27 memberships have not paid their dues this year.** Memberships not only bring in money to the society, but help to bring an awareness of what we do for the community. As our membership has grown over the past 2 ½ years the number of donations has also grown. We have received numerous artifacts, family histories and information about all aspects of Aitkin County. We have been receiving donations of not only money but things like: reams of paper, toilet paper, paper towels, Folgers coffee, and water. These types of donations help to save the society money. The Aitkin All-class committee donated 9 cases of water and numerous All-class souvenirs to be sold in our store. Many members have donated books for our lending library. My goal is to have 400 members by the end of 2012. Please spread the word about the Historical Society. I need everyone's help to increase our membership.

Please consider a **BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP** for your business. Business memberships are only \$30.00. Your business would be listed in our quarterly newsletter and members are requested to support our business members. The Historical Society uses our business members when ever we purchase products for the Depot. Join today and let us help you advertise your business.

We have received **grants** to pay for new electric fixtures, advertising, brochures, microfilm, and matching fund grants. Currently I have grants submitted to purchase 43 Minnesota history books (\$1132.00) and a new microfilm reader (\$9,000.00). Writing grants is an area I hope to improve upon. The challenge is to find grants that apply to the historical society. Our budget is fairly small so it is important to find grant money to pay for improvements to our facility and other projects important to our mission. If you hear of grants that are available, please contact me at the Depot.

The combination of our four fundraising events (garage sale, raffle, cookie walk and rendezvous) brings in total revenue of about 9 to 10 thousand a year. Do you have an idea for an event that we could make some money with? Maybe you have an idea of how to make more money with the events we currently have. Our food booth at the Aitkin Rendezvous normally makes a profit of 800 – 1000 dollars after expenses. With all of the man hours it takes to run the booth is this an event we have to rethink? If you have any ideas, please share them with me. But, remember that we are all getting older and some things are not as easy to accomplish as they use to be. Afternoon naps are starting to sound really good to me. Ha! Ha!

The **Aitkin Rendezvous** was a cold and winding weekend again this year. This year we had our food booth and our log cabin which held a log home display with Bill Stimac playing Nathan Tibbetts. In our booth we sold fry bread, biscuits & gravy, brats, hot dogs, coffee, water and pop. Over 40 members volunteered to work the booth and cabin display. A big thanks goes out to all those who volunteered in the cold and wet weather for this fund raiser. This year we had total sales of only \$1169.38 with a total profit of around \$426.00 after expenses.

Our **Annual Open House/Cookie Walk/Raffle** drawing will take place on December 3rd this year. So, dust off those Christmas Cookie Recipes. Last year we sold out before noon and just past our budget of \$1,000.00. This year I would like to ask everyone to **bake 4 dozen cookies** for this event. If you have never been to this event, try to make it this year. We have free coffee, apple cider and cookies for visitors to the museum. All of the cookies are set up in building #2 and buyers get to pick out their cookies for \$3.00 a dozen. The museum opens its doors at 9am and the cookie walk starts at 9:30 and goes until the cookies are gone. Usually around 11:30 am. The Depot will have Holiday displays throughout. Come to the Depot museum, have a cup of coffee and a cookie, buy some cookies and enjoy our holiday displays built by Joann White.

Our **Annual Meeting** this year will take place the evening of January 25th at Blackrock Terrace. In this newsletter you will find a list of changes to our by-laws that will be voted on at this meeting. Please look them over carefully and call me if you see any problems. These changes were recommended by our County Commissioners.

We are still looking for information and photographs of the **Riverboats** that traveled from Aitkin to Grand Rapids. Please help me get the word out about the need to share this vital information about our Aitkin past. The Riverboats were a huge part of our Aitkin history for 50 years, yet we have very little information about them. We do not even have photographs of most of them. Help the Aitkin County Historical Society find this information.

The Depot is looking for a full size **refrigerator** for use in our break area. Do you have an older refrigerator that still works that could be donated to the society? If you do, please contact me at the Depot. A refrigerator would not only give us a place to put our lunches but, would give us space to store items that need to be refrigerated for our events. Or maybe you know someone who just remodeled their kitchen and have their old refrigerator sitting in their garage.

Don't forget about our Annual Garage sale. We are already starting to collect for next year's sale. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we need everyone's help collecting and donating items for this event. Even with the economy being a tad off and the bad weather the day of our sale we had our second best sale ever. We were only \$38.00 short of our all time record. Great big thanks go out to all that donated items and to everyone that helped with the sale.

New to our **Web Site** is Picture of the Week. Do you have an old photo that could be featured on our web site? It could be of a church, school or local event. Maybe your family was in logging or farming and you have a great photo. Look through that box of old photos and see if there is something to share. This is your historical society.

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 – 28, Individual Memberships – 27, Senior Memberships – 99

Family Members – 183, Life Members – 17, Perpetuity – 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 356

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Aicota Health Care Center
Aitkin Body Shop
Aitkin Chamber of Commerce
Aitkin County Abstract Company
Aitkin Family Chiropractic Center
Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
Aitkin Independent Age
Aitkin Iron Works
Aitkin Lodge No. 164 IOOF
Aitkin Motor Company
American Legion Post 86
Arvidson Tax & Accounting
Blakesly Appliance Service & Repair
Cummings Auto
Enberg TV
Eyecare Center of Aitkin & McGregor
Garrison Disposal
Gobles Sewer Service
Gravelle Plumbing & Heating
Great River Gardens
Hometown Building Supply
Hudrlik Carpet
KKIN-KEZZ Radio
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating
Members Coop Credit Union
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
Paulbeck's County Market
Peoples National Bank
Security State Bank

2011 SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS

NORDLAND
PLINY
IDUN
LIBBY
FARM ISLAND
CLARK
GLEN
LAKESIDE
AITKIN COUNTY

**EVENT SUPPORTING
BUSINESSES**

Cycle, Path, & Paddle – Crosby
Garrison Disposal – Aitkin
Office Shop – Aitkin
Cuyuna Country Auto – Crosby
Traditions Mini-golf – Deerwood
Shiperio Games – Chanhassen
KKIN radio – Aitkin
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Minnesota Timber wolves/Lynx
Minnesota Twins
Water Park of America – Bloomington
Wild Mountain – Taylors falls
Cascade Lodge – Lutsen
MacDonald-Wold – Aitkin
Rialto Theater – Aitkin
Joes Country Store & Kosie's Café
Glen Store & Grill
Aitkin Independent Age
RDJ products – Memphis, TN
Pine Inn Restaurant & Bar - Glen
Aitkin Independent Age
**These businesses donated either raffle prizes or
services to ACHS**

**Please support our member and event supporting businesses.
They need our support during these hard times.**

2011 RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

EARLY BIRD DRAWING WINNERS!!!

1. Minnesota Twins Commemorative Print signed by retired player & coach Tony Oliva - Cathy Buhlmann - Aitkin
2. Cuyuna Country Auto Center – Full Service Oil Change – Bonnie Mickelson - Aitkin
3. Cycle Path & Paddle – Crosby – Carol Wiherski - Aitkin
4. Pre-paid Visa card - Judy Ryan - Aitkin
5. Digital Camera with Telescoping Tripod – John Hendrickson - Aitkin
6. Family Membership to ACHS – Cheryl Seiger - Aitkin
7. Traditions Mini-Golf – Rich Ritchie - Aitkin
8. Glen Store & Grill – Kern Ridlington - Aitkin
9. Shiperio – The Card Game of Golf – Brad Bordwell - Aitkin
10. Aitkin County Naturally – Bird and Nature book – Becky James - Brainerd

MAIN DRAWING SATURDAY DECEMBER 3RD 2011 at 2pm

1. Chanhassen Dinner Theater, (Dinner & Show for 2) donated by KKIN radio – (\$150.00 value)
2. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel package (hotel & meal) – (\$125.00 value)
3. Quilt & 2 Throw Pillows made by Marlene Kingsley – (\$75.00 value)
4. Oil painting – “Wallaby Dreaming” – donated by Alice Dotzler - (\$75.00 value)
5. Old Log Theater Tickets for Two – Donated by KKIN radio – (\$60.00 value)
6. NBA T-shirt/Timberwolves Read to Achieve Notebook (\$60.00 value)
7. Water Park of America – Bloomington – 2 passes – (\$50.00 value)
8. Cascade Lodge – Lutsen – Free night stay with purchase of 2nd night – (\$50.00 value)
9. MacDonald Wold – Aitkin - Free Lube, Oil & Filter – (\$35.00 value)
10. Black & Decker Handisaw donated by Alice Dotzler – (\$35.00 value)
11. Cuyuna Country Auto Center – Crosby – Full Service Oil Change – (\$32.00 value)
12. Shawl made by Connie Pettersen
13. Wild Mountain – Taylors Falls – 2 Snow tubing passes – (\$30.00 value)
14. Garden Tote & Seat – (\$30.00 value)
15. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
16. The Office Shop – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
17. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate)
18. Digital Camera with Telescoping Tripod – (\$25.00 value)
19. Pine Inn Restaurant & Bar – Glen – (\$20.00 Gift Certificate)
20. National Geographic – DVD – 30 years of specials – donate by Larry Nelson - (\$20.00 value)
21. Family Membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value)
22. Joe’s Country Store & Kosie’s Café – (\$15.00)
23. Fleece Stadium Blanket – (\$15.00 value)
24. Traditions Mini-Golf – Deerwood – 2 rounds of mini-golf (\$15.00 value)
25. Joe’s Country Store & Kosie’s Café – (\$15.00)
26. Radio Shack Talking Alarm Clock – (\$15.00 value)
27. Outback Steakhouse – (\$10.00 Gift Certificate)
28. Glen Store & Grill – (\$10.00 Gift Certificate)
29. Shiperio – The Card Game of Golf – (\$8.00 value)
30. Aitkin County Naturally – Bird and Nature book – (\$5.00 value)

Time is running out! Hurry and get your tickets into the Depot before the December 3rd drawing

We need everyone to send their tickets and money in so that we have a chance to hit budget.

PROJECTS FOR 2011

1. Locating a caboose for Museum
2. New heavy duty flag pole
3. Purchase Minnesota Flag
4. Purchase POW/ MIA Flag
5. Clean dirt fill for south of building #3
6. Move artifacts by gardens
7. Level some areas of Cobble stone
8. Install gate in East fence by Depot
9. Grant for Digital equipment
10. Stain/reseal front of building #2
11. Map of historic places in Aitkin County
12. Replace main computer
13. Check into networking computers
14. Wireless Internet?
15. Hold contests/scavenger hunts
16. More promotion for events
17. Organize files for easier access
18. Appraisal nights at museum
19. Write book about riverboats.
20. Barns of Aitkin County book
21. Schools of Aitkin County book
22. Churches of Aitkin County book

CURRENTLY WORKING ON

1. Increasing information on web site - ongoing
2. Increasing Membership - ongoing
3. Working on Obituary files - ongoing
4. Log cabin repair, chinking
5. Lending Library
6. Collecting family histories - ongoing
7. Increasing store book sales
8. Warren William book signing
9. Creating more interest in Museum
10. Developing research facility at museum
11. Book signings at museum
12. More Perennials planted
13. Restore old lumber wagon
14. Display artifacts on walls of museum
15. Replacing lighting in Depot storage areas

2011 COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. New web site up and running
2. Grant received for Depot lighting - \$1000.00
3. Completed our newspaper microfilm library
4. Located wood card file for museum
5. Pictures hung on Depot walls
6. Second Railroad speeder on display
7. Mechanical Horse "Champion" on display
8. New storm windows installed on log cabin
9. Grant submitted for 43 MN history books

Museum Wish List

Reams of white copy paper
Paper towels / toilet paper
Cleaning supplies
Tickets for garbage pickup
Clean rags
Refrigerator for break area
6' Fiberglass Folding Tables
Flowering Perennials
2 - Half Barrel planters
Books for Library – local writers
Minnesota history books
Military history books
Old equipment catalogs
Donations for new Microfilm reader
New Digital camera
Riverboat histories/artifacts
Family Histories
Folgers Coffee /coffee filters
Old maps of Aitkin County
Computer speakers
Railroad artifacts
Old Plat books

Memorials:

Memorials have been received from the class of 1950 in memory of:

Margaret Jacobson Thompson - \$25.00
Ione Bergren Hulderson - \$25.00
Joanne Cartie Morkfeld - \$25.00
Marles Borgman Dragovick - \$25.00
Donald Meacham - \$25.00

Other Memorials

Louise Hasskamp - \$20.00
George Jenkins (1828-1900) - \$250.00

MEMBERS LOST IN 2011

Lucille Jones – 1/15/1917 – 1/1/2011
John Ivory – 10/19/1929 – 5/6/2011
Louise Hasskamp – 7/10/1933 – 5/26/2011
James McKersie – 5/19/1934 – 6/19/2011
Shirley Olson – 10/12/1922 – 8/13/2011

IOOF PENNY MARCH

The Aitkin Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge #164 is collecting Pennies for a Scholarship to be given to an Aitkin County Senior in 2012. Bring your Pennies into the Depot and deposit them in the container for this local fund raiser. The goal is to collect over 60,000 pennies. This would be a \$600.00 Scholarship. What ever amount comes in will be what the Scholarship is. Let us help the Odd Fellows by saving our Pennies out of our change and give a nice Scholarship to an Aitkin County Senior.

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	48
May	77	72	50
6 th Grade	84	109	101
June	84	157	472
July	149	229	266
County Fair	1331	1441	1171
August	202	201	214
September	42	68	128
October	77	141	31
November	30	43	
December	90	83	0
Totals	2322	2687	2566

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

QUICK COOKIES

2 c. Sugar
¼ c. Cocoa
½ c. Milk
½ c. Butter
¼ c. Peanut Butter
3 c. Oatmeal
1 tsp. Vanilla

Combine sugar, cocoa, milk and butter. Bring to a boil on the stove and boil (1) minute. Take off stove and add the peanut butter, oatmeal and vanilla. Stir together. Drop by teaspoon onto wax paper. Cool.

Helpful Hint

If you only have one cookie sheet on hand, line it with parchment paper. While one batch is baking, load a second sheet of parchment paper to have another batch ready to bake. Cleaning is also easier

2012 County Fair Display

Our display for the 2012 County Fair will be Restaurants of Aitkin County. (Beacon Arch, Sugar Bowl, etc) We are looking for old menus, ash trays, and other artifacts to put in our display. If you have an item that we could borrow for this display please contact the Depot. The smaller items will be in glass cases and larger items will be roped off so visitors can not touch the items. We have eight months to put this display together. With your help we can make it a great display.

Helpful Hints

A gadget that works well for decorating sugar cookies is an empty plastic thread spool. Simply press the spool into the dough, imprinting a pretty flower design.

Some holiday cookies require an indent on top to fill with jam or chocolate. Use the rounded end of a honey dipper to make the indent.

Dipping strawberries in chocolate? Stick toothpicks into the stem end of the berry. Coat the berries with chocolate, shaking off any excess. Turn the berries upside down and stick the toothpick into a block of Styrofoam until the chocolate is set. The finished berries will have chocolate with no flat spots. Another solution is to place dipped berries dipped-side up in the holes of an egg carton.

Tin coffee cans make excellent freezer containers for cookies.

Hints that will "floor" you

Silence squeaks forever

Silence floor squeaks by dusting talcum powder or dripping glue into the cracks.

A quick shine between waxings

Mop with a piece of waxed paper under your mop. The dirt will also stick to the waxed paper.

Nylon stockings for dusting

Place a nylon stocking over your dust mop. Discard the stocking and you will have a clean mop.

A good cleaning agent

For varnished floors or woodwork of any kind, rub with cold tea.

Rub those scratches away

With a piece of very fine steel wool dipped in floor wax.

THIRD QUARTER ACCESSIONS

11-093	Dennis Stevens	Billboard from 1943 40-club
11-094	Norm Hulin	Old Spittoon from the Court House
11-095	John Hendrickson	NPR Wrench, Ribbon Wire, History of Aitkin Doctors
11-096	Peggy Sorenson	TR Foley Company Coin Purse
11-097	Gary Klingl	4 books, Wonder Bubbler, Advertising items, Newspapers
11-098	Janet Miller	Standard Lumber Company Nail Pouch
11-099	Beverly Midthun	Alphabet book
11-100	Carol Wold	Furnace Stoker from Aitkin School
11-101	Jennie Hakes	Indian Cradle Board
11-102	Hibbing Historical Society	1907 Postcard of the Willard Hotel
11-103	Terry Kullhem	Ice Tongs & Ice Scraper
11-104	Julie Hansen	2 – Centennial Buttons
11-105	Gordon Pasell	Garden Cultivator
11-106	Denny Petrick	Northern Pacific layouts of tracks in Aitkin
11-107	John Hendrickson	Photo of Downtown Aitkin
11-108	John Ferlita	7 – Photos, family information
11-109	Becky (Tibbetts) Hannigan	Charity Tibbetts Bible – she past away in 1937
11-110	Lavon Heise	1907 Deer mount, taxidermist Francis Jaques
11-111	Bonnie Farley	Microscope, Camera & lenses, Wedding Photos
11-112	Connie Messer	Clothes dryer, book
11-113	Marlys Gustofson	Flour Sifters
11-114	Marcia Cartie Hron	Family History of George Jenkins “Jenkins Addition”
11-115	Bob Neumann	30X40 Display case with sisters dress from when she was lost in woods over night at age 2 1/2.
11-116	Elsie Paulson	Pedestal from Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge in Aitkin
11-117	Darlene Maciej	Allemann genealogy history, City of McGrath petition
11-118	Roger Ferlita	AHS photo of football team
11-119	Gust Carlstrom	Minute book from Aitkin Flying club
11-120	John Hendrickson	6 – photos of 1950 flood, 1917 post card Hebron Township School 2 NPR (Northern Pacific Railroad) Switch Locks, List of people buried in the Evergreen Cemetery
11-121	Janet Miller	1953 Wedding Dress & Photo of Janet in wedding dress
11-122	Unknown	Miscellaneous items
11-123	Bob Lake	2011 AHS All-Class Reunion Variety Show DVD
11-124	Kern Ridlington	3 Palisade school photos, photo of Palisade Methodist church
11-125	Hugh McWhorter	WPA city maps of Aitkin, Hill City & Tamarack
11-126		Set of Slay runners for log wagon
<u>(126 Equals Last Years Record Number of Donations)</u>		
11-127	Jim Kelling	4 Aitkin Public School Minute books, 1934 Aitkin Hi-lites, Guard pictures, Diversion channel map, class reunion pictures
11-128	Darrel Johnson	Photo of Ripple River – information about photo
11-129	Moose Lake H.S.	Map of Aitkin County
11-130	Donohue Sarff	Horse drawn Cultivator, cultivator parts, vice, Potato sack holder Farm implement catalog
11-131	Joyce Schlinger	2 – John Deere repair catalogs, 1890 Secretary of Agriculture report, 1945 Angle dozer parts catalog, books – Geology of MN & Auto engine
11-132	Frank Astar	2 eighth grade diplomas from Tamarack Esther & Edla Hedland
11-133	Louis DuChane	LOL items: 6-Coffee cups, Platter, Hat, Recipe box, key chains, Tie tacks 4 photos of LOL plant and Turkey
11-134	Janet Miller	CCC Camp Handbook & Photos fuse puller, soldering iron
11-135	Doris Nordean	Family research
11-136	David Holm Estate	Railroad Misc. papers
11-137	Roberta Elvecory	28 – Photos
11-138	Arlene McNevin	Egg Scale, 2 Native American Dolls
11-139	Connie Petersen	Norwegian Blanket/Rug/Wall Hanging, 2 gallon Jug
11-140	Fawnie Flowers	John F. Kelly M.D. eye glasses with case
11-141	Florence Tarr	Typewriter, NP Brochures, Scale, Aitkin Feed Store Farm Calculator, bank books

NOTICE for CHANGES TO BYLAWS **Of the Aitkin County Historical Society**

The following changes to our bylaws have been recommended by Aitkin County. The following changes will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on the evening of Wednesday January 25th. The language to be replaced is in the apprentices and the **bold** print is the new language. Changes being made are to update to current technology or to coincide with Aitkin County terminology.

Article IV – Government

1. The officers of the society shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer (and at least three other members to form a Board of Trustees.) **Total board membership shall consist of a maximum of 15 members.** This board shall manage the affairs of the society, subject to such regulations and restrictions as may be prescribed by the society.

Article V – Board of Trustees

5. (A simple majority of) **Five to seven (need to choose 5, 6, or 7)** board members shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors.
7. Board members shall receive written notice or (a telephone call) **email** from the secretary informing them of each board meeting. Notice shall be given no less than five (5) days prior to each meeting.
8. The board shall hold such special meeting as may be necessary for conducting business of the society. Board members shall receive notice of special board meeting as for regular meeting by written notice or (telephone call) **email.**
10. Special meetings of the board may be called by the president or in his/her absence, by the vice-president or (any three trustees) **a majority of the Board of Trustees.**

Article VII – Meetings

2. Special Meetings of the society or Board of Trustees may be called by the director or administrator or the president at any time, and also upon written request by (10 members of the society or) **a majority of the Board of Trustees.**

CONCERNS AT THE DEPOT!

- The heat exchanger went out of our furnace for the second time this year.
- Our water heater has also failed and needs to be replaced.
- We will be purchasing 25 new lighting fixtures for the Depot storage areas with a grant received from Mille Lacs electric and they will need to be installed.
- We had in the budget a new computer for the Administrators desk, but, that has not happened due to unbudgeted items this spring. I will start to look into the costs of new computer soon.
- STS was going to install new chinking in our log cabin which has not happened but, needs to be done. There is a possibility of a grant to accomplish this through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. I am looking into this possibility.
- Most of the volunteers are closing in on 80 or are already there. We need more of our younger members to take an interest in the workings of the Historical Society. Need members to help with maintenance, learn how to accession in new donations, help complete our obituary files, set up our lending library for members and help to organize our files.
- Do we add onto building #2 for more display space? Possibly take some displays out of the Depot to make room for a research area.
- Should we discontinue any of our fundraisers and find something new to raise funds.
- Would people leave the Historical Society something in their wills if we asked? This is something that would help the Historical Society out down the road. Maybe some kind of a memorial.

Interview with Captain C.C. SUTTON, Palisade

From an interview of C.C. Sutton by Professor Hart in the summer of 1935

Captain C.C. Sutton, a retired Methodist minister, was at the time of this interview living a Palisade, MN. His general health was excellent, excepting that he had suffered from a slight stroke which make it difficult for him to walk. I called on him in the afternoon of Aug. 27, 1935.

As a young man, Captain Sutton enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War and went with Sherman to the sea. He took part in a number of bloody battles. He mentioned particularly the Battle of Atlanta, where he said the bodies were so thick that when they crossed portions of the field they could have stepped from body to body. During a part at least of his Civil War service, he acted as assistant to the regimental surgeons, assuming a position very similar to that of hospital steward in later Army organizations, and in this way picked up a crude, but practical, knowledge of surgery.

After the war, he went to work on steamboats operating out of St. Louis on the lower Mississippi River. Sometime late in the 1870's, Sutton came to the upper river and for 20 years operated steamboats in this region. In 1885, he bought the **Fawn** from Captain Houghton. Captain Sutton has an enlarged photograph of the Fawn on the wall of the living room of his home which he showed with evident pride. The **Fawn** was about 125 feet long with a draft of 17 inches unloaded and 2-1/2 feet to 3 feet loaded. It would carry 65 tons of freight with good water when no logs were running and often towed one or more barges carrying 100 or more tons of additional freight.

The **Fawn** made the quickest time on the upper river and for this reason had an advantage in the passenger business. It carried, in addition to Sutton and his son, who were pilots, a crew of two engineers, two firemen, and two men to handle freight. The trip from Aitkin to Grand Rapids and back usually took a week, but in one instance it took Captain Sutton 30 days to make the round trip. Just below Sandy River on this up-trip, the **Fawn** ran into log jam several miles in length and was 22 days in one spot. A crew of more than 40 loggers were constantly at work trying to break the jam but finally they admitted that they were stumped.

Sutton then decided to try to break the jam with capstan, snatch block and 1'500 feet of cable. One by one he, with capstan and cable, removed the logs forming the jam until at least the jam was broken up and the river was clear of logs above him. He left the scene of the jam at 6a.m. and the next morning was in Grand Rapids, 165 miles from Aitkin. On his return downstream, they found that the jam had formed again a few miles below the site of the first jam and again he had to assist the lumbermen in breaking it. He reached Aitkin finally 30 days after his original departure. The worst rapids between Aitkin and Grand Rapids were Crooked Rapids, Sandy Lake Rapids and Pine Rapids.

About 1905, Sutton sold the **Fawn** to a man from Michigan. Later, it struck a snag near the mouth of Swan River and sank, and went to pieces where it sank. Sutton spoke of the **Oriole** and the **Irene** as top-heavy. The **Fawn** often at the beginning of the lumber season towed as many as 10 wanigans upstream at one time. The wanigans were flatboats with houses built on them which were used by lumbermen engaged in driving logs in the small side streams. The wanigans were 25 to 30 feet long and were loaded with supplies. After being cast off at the mouth of such streams as the Willow River, they were poled upstream by lumbermen and furnished their lodging places during the spring drives.

Navigation opened on the upper Mississippi usually the latter part of April and usually continued until the first part of November. Captain Sutton recalled that in three successive years, he left Aitkin on his first trip on April 27. He was very proud of the fact that he always got home with the **Fawn**; that he was never frozen in as were some of the other steamers on the upper river. The latest trip that he recalls having made up the river was in November of a year which he could not recall. He had closed his season and had made a short run up to the mouth of the Willow River to land some supplies there, planning to return immediately to Aitkin. It was Election Day. Before he cast off from the landing at Willow River for his return to Aitkin, Potter and two other men from Aitkin came up on horseback and asked him if he would make the run to Grand Rapids to get the election returns. There was at that time no telegraphic communication between Aitkin and Grand Rapids. Sutton demurred on the grounds that there was too much danger of being frozen in. Potter then offered him \$100 if he would make the trip. He accepted and stripped the **Fawn** of everything movable on the understanding that they were to spend only enough time in Grand Rapids to get the returns and start back immediately. The stream was running full of ice on the upper trip but they made Grand Rapids without great difficulty. There, however Potter and his associates, for reasons of their own, disappeared and did not show up again until the next morning. Sutton finally got them all on board and by breaking the around the **Fawn** and then running the boat forward until the weight of the boat broke the ice, he started on his return journey. After considerable difficulty, he finally reached Aitkin with the election returns and collected his \$100. This was the closest Captain Sutton ever came to being frozen in away from his home berth.

During these years, Sutton was the only doctor along the upper river. The dangers of logging were productive of many accidents and Sutton was often called upon, not only to set broken bones, but to cut off crushed fingers and amputate legs and arms. On one trip up the river, he was met at the landing place at Sandy River by the wife of a half-breed, Bill Lyon. She told him that her husband had been shot and begged Sutton to come and do what he could for him.

The captain went over to the shack where the Indians lived and found that the man had been shot by a musket in the hands of another Indian not more than six feet away. The shot had penetrated the front of the chest and had come out under the shoulder blade. Sutton whittled a cedar stick, boiled it in oil and using this as a probe, poked out of the wound a wad of kinnikinnick bark and some pieces of a felt hat. He then swabbed the wound out with cloths dipped in hot oil, dressed the wound as best he could and left certain in his own mind that the man would not recover. This Indian had been shot on the same day that Garfield had been shot – July 3, 1881. Two weeks later, when Captain Sutton reached the Sandy River landing again and walked up the street, he met Bill Lyon coming down to the landing to meet him. Lyon lived for many years after that and called on Sutton only three or four years ago to thank him again, as he had many times in the interval, for saving his life.

(To be continued)

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 215, Aitkin, MN 56431

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Web Site: www.aitkin.com/achs/

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENEALOGY

Our Genealogy groups next meeting will be held **November 12th at 10am**.
The group meets every month from September – May on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

COLLECTIONS

Our Collection Committee meets the first Friday of every other month at 9:30am starting in January.
Next meeting will be held on November 4th.
The group meets to discuss information and artifacts that have been donated to the Historical Society.

WEDDING DRESS FASHION SHOW

The **Aitkin County Historical Society** has been asked by the **Aitkin Women of Today** to partner with and help put on a Vintage Wedding dress show/luncheon at the 40 Club Convention Center on November 5th at 1pm. Ticket cost per person will be \$20.00 which includes lunch and wedding cake. There will be a Silent Auction, Raffle Baskets, Card Raffle, Purse Raffle and much more. They would like to have wedding dresses representing every decade. They can either be put on display or included in the runway show. Profits from this event will be shared with the Historical Society. For more information contact Greg at the Depot.

ACHS ANNUAL RAFFLE

Raffle tickets were sent out to the membership the first week in June. Check out the list of 30 prizes in this newsletter. If you have a prize to add to the list contact Greg as soon as possible.
The drawing will be held at the Museum on **December 3rd at 2pm**.
Get those tickets and money turned in to the Depot.

COOKIE WALK / OPEN HOUSE AT DEPOT

Our Annual Cookie Walk / Open House at the Depot Museum will take place on **December 3rd 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.
Help us with this fundraiser by baking 4 dozen Christmas cookies.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Depot Museum will be closed during the Thanksgiving holiday (Friday November 25th and Saturday 26th). We will also be **closed from December 22nd thru January 3rd** for the Christmas Holidays. Museum will reopen on January 4th of 2012.

ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting will take place the evening of January 25th. We will be voting on several changes to our bylaws to update them to current times. Please check out the proposed changes located in this news letter. The meeting will take place at the Blackrock Terrace, starting at 5:30pm. Dinner will be catered in from Kathy's Kitchen. The only cost will be the fee for dinner.