

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEPOT HIGHLITES NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012 - Volume 17, Issue 1

Items of historical importance are still being thrown away instead of them being donated to the Historical Society. One of our members was dumpster diving and located an old map of Aitkin County. It is one of the items on my list of items we are looking for. Please do not let your children throw these important articles away when you are gone. Consider donating them to the society now! If we are going to preserve our Aitkin County history we need everyone to contact the Depot before they throw something away. The Aitkin County Historical Society or any Historical Society is only as good as the items donated to them. Artifacts are great to receive but information about our past is invaluable. If you are holding information or photographs about Aitkin County history, (i.e. farming, logging, riverboats, businesses, resorts, etc.) please share that information with us. Either donate the item or let us make a copy. We need everyone's help preserving Aitkin County History!

The Depot received 12 flag poles from the American Legion. We will sand the flag poles in the spring, repaint them, and then attached them to our fence poles along the North side of building #2. During special occasions we will fly 12 flags from the different countries that settled Aitkin County.

Florence Tarr has donated a side by side refrigerator/freezer to the Historical Society. We now have a place to keep food for events and beverages for our volunteers. A great big thank you goes out to Florence Tarr for this generous donation.

On November 5th the Aitkin Women of Today held a Vintage Wedding Style show at the 40 Club Convention Center with the help of the Historical Society. The Society had 8 dresses from our collection on display for the show. Sixty-five Wedding dresses were displayed in a runway show. A simple lunch of Wild Rice soup and a chicken salad sandwich was served. For dessert: Wedding Cake. For our help the Aitkin Women of Today donated \$1000.00 to the Historical Society.

We received a Legacy Grant for \$1132.00 to purchase 46 standard Minnesota history books that have been added to our lending and research library located in the Depot Museum. I will contact local organizations to help pay for the new international flags (approximately \$500.00) so that we have them on hand when the flag poles are installed. The next item on my list are grants to purchase a digital scanner for books, photos, documents, glass flats, film, color slides, and a ST Scanner to read our microfilm library. Cost on these items is \$5,000.00 and \$9500.00 respectfully.

New energy efficient light fixtures have been installed in the storage areas of the Depot building and some of Building #3. This year we will continue this project so by the end of the year all three of our buildings will be equipped with energy efficient lighting. A new water heater will be needed this year in the Depot museum. I will try to get grants to pay for these improvements to our facility. Another project that needs to be done this summer is the repair of our log cabin. There is a possible grant available for this project also. Another item that is needed by the Historical Society is a new digital camera for taking pictures of our events and displays.

We have added to our web site a large variety of books, with pictures, that are available in our gift shop. Look under **store** on our web site. www.aitkin.com/achs/ These can be purchased at the Depot museum or purchased through the mail. We carry over two hundred titles in our gift shop so those shown are only a small sampling of what we carry. Look for the list of new books in this newsletter that will be coming soon. Remember that members receive a 10% discount on all purchases. Profits from book sales help cover expenses of maintaining four buildings.

The 1940 Census will be available some time this year. As soon as it becomes available we will order it and also pick up the next rolls of film from the Aitkin Independent Age, Newshopper and the McGregor Voyageur Press. We should be able to get Legacy money to pay for these also. (\$200.00)

Would you be interested in working on a map project of historical sites located in Aitkin County? This would be a two sided brochure the size of four tri-folds. There would be a map of Aitkin County on one side with photos and information on both sides about historical sites in the county. This would be a county wide brochure that could be given out everywhere and would promote tourism in the county. I know that we can get grant money to pay for this project. If you would like to help with this project please contact me. I would like to complete this project this year so that it would be available in 2013. I have a brochure example from Burnett

County in Wisconsin that you can look at. When this is completed, it will make a great brochure to hand out to people visiting Aitkin County. I need your help with this one!

Things are moving forward on the purchase of the railroad land located under our buildings. Everything is on the table and only waiting on the approval of the railroad. If everything goes well we will own the land by the end of the summer or sooner. Keep your fingers crossed. The cost to us will be a \$4,500.00 transfer fee paid to the railroad and possibly \$15,000.00 to help offset the cost of purchasing the land for a city park. The city would close the railroad crossing and we would receive the land under our buildings. There are a lot of pieces to the puzzle but they are starting to come together. The original price to buy the land under our buildings and the next lot west was around \$76,000.00. If we are able to get it for \$19,500 would be good.

As I begin my fourth year as the Administrator of the Aitkin County Historical Society's Depot Museum I find myself reflecting on what we have accomplished during my first three years. On one hand there are many things I am proud of and on the other there are things not yet accomplished. It is my hope that I have gotten better as my time as administrator has past. I know that I am better at finding grant money. I believe that we will be able to accomplish the items on my project list for this year. The hardest item on the list will be finding a caboose to display at the museum.

I have always believed that when you buy a home, go camping, or work a job that the location is in better shape than the way you found it. Improvements have been made to the facility, more artifacts are on display, and the quantity of information in our files has increased. Our obituary files have increased from two drawers to six. We now have obituaries on file from 1883 up until 1965 that we did not have before. I have put together a time table of what and when the administrator has to do certain things. The reason for this is so that it easier for the next person that has this job to do their job better. That way they will be able to hit the ground running and will be able to make the job theirs faster and with out struggling with when certain things have to be done. At times this job can be challenging and a bit overwhelming. Some months nothing is going on and others are crazy from start to finish. But, you know what, I love it. I have been able to do things that I had not even dreamed of doing, or if I had, I never thought I would get to do. Writing articles for a paper, writing a newsletter, being a guest on the radio, and writing grants. I have had the opportunity to work with some great volunteers and hopefully all of our hard work has made the museum a more interesting place to visit. I am working on several projects to help make the Depot museum a destination and hopefully attract more visitors.

What are some of my goals for this year? We currently have a total of 356 members. My goal is to break the 400 mark by the end of the year. We gained 76 members during 2011. I would like to see the garage sale bring in over \$5,000.00 and the raffle bring in over 2,000.00. We are already accepting items for our garage sale. Remember that **all donations are tax deductible**. Last year we gave away 40 prizes during our annual raffle. This year it is my hope to raise that to 50. I already have 5 and have not really started to work on it. With your help all of these goals are within our reach. I would like to see the completion of our obituary history project. All of our light fixtures in our three buildings should be energy efficient. Twelve new flag poles should be installed along our fence where we can fly the flags from the countries that settled Aitkin County. Our log cabin, located at the Aitkin County Fair grounds, needs to be repaired this year before it is beyond repair. The log cabin was originally built next to the Court house, then moved between the Depot and the Armory and then eventually to the fair grounds. It is the second oldest building in the state of Minnesota that was built especially for use by a historical society. That is why it is so important to maintain the log cabin in good shape so that it will be around for years to come.

On January 25th we held our Annual Meeting/Dinner at the Blackrock Terrace. Thirty-six members attended. John Schaubach, Commissioner for the Great River Road from Grand Rapids to Brainerd, was our speaker. He talked about the area of the Great River Road that lies in Aitkin County. He displayed maps of the river in three mile increments. Aitkin County has more Mississippi river shoreline than any other county in Minnesota. John explained what a great opportunity for tourism Aitkin County has. Changes to our by-laws were approved at the meeting. The number of board members required to hold a meeting was set at 7. Bill Stimac was elected to remain as President and Mary Rea was elected to serve as Vice-President. Twenty-four door prizes were given to the members present. Twelve center pieces made by Marlene Kingsley and twelve doilies made by Laurel Lamke. Both ladies deserve a great big thank you. **THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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 – 27, Individual Memberships – 25, Senior Memberships – 96

Family Members – 189, 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
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 WINNERS

DRAWING WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 3RD 2011

1. Chanhassen Dinner Theater, donated by KKin radio – (\$150.00 value) – **Cheryl Kangas**
2. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel package – (\$125.00 value) – **Claudine Nordean**
3. Quilt & 2 Throw Pillows made by Marlene Kingsley – (\$75.00 value) – **Paulette Anderson**
4. Oil painting – “Wallaby Dreaming” – donated by Alice Dotzler - (\$75.00 value) – **Gerald Nelson**
5. Old Log Theater Tickets for Two – Donated by KKin radio – (\$60.00 value) – **Cheryl Blinkman**
6. NBA T-shirt/Timberwolves Read to Achieve Notebook (\$60.00 value) – **Mark Pirner**
7. Water Park of America – Bloomington – 2 passes – (\$50.00 value) – **Carol Bailey** – (Isle, MN)
8. Cascade Lodge – Lutsen – (\$50.00 value) – **Kay McKersie** – (Apache Junction, AZ)
9. MacDonald Wold – Aitkin - Free Lube, Oil & Filter – (\$35.00 value) – **Gary Tibbitts**
10. Black & Decker Handisaw donated by Alice Dotzler – (\$35.00 value) – **Jackie Ritter**
11. Cuyuna Country Auto Center – Crosby – Full Service Oil Change– **Deb Mackay** – (Crosby, MN)
12. Shawl made by Connie Pettersen – **Iva Zanker**
13. Wild Mountain – Taylors Falls – 2 Snow tubing passes – (\$30.00 value) – **Carson Emery**
14. Garden Tote & Seat – (\$30.00 value) – **Logan Cluff**
15. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate) – **Tim Catlin**
16. The Office Shop – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate) - **Watkins**
17. Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin – (\$25.00 Gift Certificate) – **Dorothy Glidden**
18. Digital Camera with Telescoping Tripod – (\$25.00 value) – **Betty Pasell**
19. Pine Inn Restaurant & Bar – Glen – (\$20.00 Gift Certificate) – **Jerry Farley** – (McGregor, MN)
20. National Geographic – DVD – donate by Larry Nelson - (\$20.00 value) – **Ed Peysar**
21. Family Membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value) – **Toby Gabrio**
22. Joe’s Country Store & Kosie’s Café – (\$15.00) – **Rick Anderson** - (Palisade, MN)
23. Fleece Stadium Blanket – (\$15.00 value) – **Melvin Johnson** – (Tamarack, MN)
24. Traditions Mini-Golf – Deerwood – 2 rounds of mini-golf (\$15.00 value) – **Lori Tibbetts**
25. Joe’s Country Store & Kosie’s Café – (\$15.00) – **Matt Farley** – (McGregor, MN)
26. Radio Shack Talking Alarm Clock – (\$15.00 value) – **Steve Danielson** (Watertown, MN)
27. Outback Steakhouse – (\$10.00 Gift Certificate) – **Jamie Holzinger** – (Brooklyn Park, MN)
28. Glen Store & Grill – (\$10.00 Gift Certificate) – **Gary Mieser** – (Glen, MN)
29. Shiperio – The Card Game of Golf – (\$8.00 value) – **Jan Koldji**
30. Aitkin County Naturally – Bird and Nature book – (\$5.00 value) – **Dorothy Insley**

2011 RAFFLE UPDATE

Our raffle in 2011 was our most successful ever. We sold a total of 1917 tickets and gave away a total of forty prizes. Once again a big thank you goes out to Ron Kemmett. He sold a total of 270 tickets this year. Because of his efforts we had another great year.

We are now collecting prizes for this year’s raffle. The drawing will take place on December 1st. Listings of prizes will start in our next newsletter which will come out in May. Donate a prize from your business today! Your business will then be listed in our newsletter as a business to support. If you would also purchase a business membership for \$30.00 your business would be listed on our web site as a business to support with links to your site.

PROJECTS FOR 2012

1. Locating a caboose for Museum
2. Purchase Minnesota & POW/MIA Flags
3. Purchase 12 International Flags
4. Clean dirt fill for south of building #3
5. Move artifacts by gardens
6. Level some areas of Cobble stone
7. Install gate in East fence by Depot
8. Stain/reseal front of building #2
9. Map of historic places in Aitkin County
10. Replace main computer
11. Check into networking computers
12. Sand/paint/ install 12 flag poles
13. Hold contests/scavenger hunts
14. 24' Addition to building #2
15. Grant for repairs to log cabin
16. Write book about riverboats.
17. Schools of Aitkin County book
18. Churches of Aitkin County book
19. Grant for digital camera & scanner

CURRENTLY WORKING ON

1. Log cabin repair, chinking
2. Warren William book signing
3. Developing research facility at museum
4. Book signings at museum
5. Restore old lumber wagon
6. Display artifacts on walls of museum
7. Barns of Aitkin County book

ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Increasing information on web site
2. Increasing Membership
3. Completing Obituary files
4. Lending Library
5. Collecting Family histories
6. Creating more interest in Museum
7. Planting more Perennials
8. Organize files for easier access

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. Received Grant for 43 MN history books
10. New Flag Pole Installed
11. Increased Store Book Sales
12. Purchased 43 MN history books
13. New lighting in Depot storage areas installed

Museum Wish List

Reams of white copy paper
Paper towels / toilet paper
Cleaning supplies
Tickets for garbage pickup
Clean rags
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/photos
Family Histories
Folgers Coffee /coffee filters
Old maps of Aitkin County
Computer speakers
Railroad artifacts
Old Plat books
Stories about your wood barn
Postage Stamps
Blank 3" X 5" cards
Small bottles of drinking water

2011 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 2011 Memorials

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

2012 Memorials

Tommy Thompson - \$20.00

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

LOOKING FOR YOUR IDEAS

I have only one set of eyes and need yours to help me with projects that should be done or nice to have done at the depot museum. Share your ideas with me. What direction should we be going in? Am I going in that direction, or do I need to about-face or head in a slightly different direction? If you are happy with the progress at the museum let me know that too.

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	75
November	30	43	93
December	90	83	131
Totals	2322	2687	2834

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

NEW BOOKS IN GIFT SHOP

The Oranges are Sweet
The Great Northern Railway
The White Pine Industry
The Swedish Table
Norwegian American Women
Scandinavian Cooking
Lost Minnesota
Birds In Our Backyard
Wild Rice-A-Bilia
All My Feathers of Time
Go If You Think It Your Duty
This Business of War
Little Minnesota
Our Neck of the Woods
Minnesota Real & Imagined
Tales from a Finnish Tupa
Swedish Folktales & Legends
Aitkin Centennial Book 1871-1971
Aitkin County Heritage
Furulv

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

- Business members are listed in our quarterly newsletter with the request that our members support them.
- Businesses are also listed on our web site with links to their web sites and emails.
- The Aitkin County Historical Society tries to buy everything it needs from our business members first.

If you have a business and would like a little more exposure, consider a business membership for only \$30.00 a year.

BOOKS COMING SOON

Finns in Minnesota
**Everything you wanted to know about
Indians But were Afraid to Ask**
Rhubarb Renaissance
Great River Birding Trail Guide
Minnesota Day Trips
Birds of Minnesota
Fish of Minnesota
The Seven States of Minnesota
Minnesota Running Trails
The Great Minnesota Hot Dish

As we grow up, we learn that the people that weren't supposed to ever let us down probably will. You'll have your heart broken & you'll break others hearts. You'll blame a new love for things an old love did. You'll fight with your best friend, you'll cry because time is flying by & eventually you'll lose someone you love. So take too many pictures, laugh too much, forgive freely, & love like you've never been hurt. Because every second you spend angry or upset is a second of happiness you can never get back!

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Are you going to remodel your kitchen or bath? Consider donating your old cabinets and counters. Are you going to be cleaning out your garage, basement or sheds? Why not donate your unwanted items to the historical society. Moving to a smaller home or an apartment? Donate that extra furniture, decorations, dishes, etc. Just drop off your items at the Depot museum or call us to pick the items up. Please remember that all donations are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE**. All proceeds go towards maintaining the integrity of our four museum buildings.

FOURTH QUARTER ACCESSIONS

11-142	Alice Fageroos	Log splitting axe, Ice axe
11-143	Elsie Paulson	Carpet Sweeper bought with Green Stamps
11-144	Ann Cordon	10 photos Shingwauk Resort
11-145	Doris Nordean	Picture and article of Clock on Farmers Bank Building
11-146	Marlys Gustofson	Misc. paper items
11-147	Cheryl Crawford	4 – Photos
11-148	Phyllis Hagquist	State block quilt & pillows
11-149	Opel Banks	Hay fork, 2 grub hoes
11-150	Alice Fageroos	2 – AHS Class Rings – (1949, 1973)
11-151	Betty Evans	3 – books, hairclips, jewelry and old silverware
11-152	Georgianna Wold	Wedding Dress
11-153	Laura Thornbloom	6 – photos, Jackman Genealogy, Misc. Information
11-154	Debbie Janzen	Poster – Ed Wold
11-155	Doris Nordean	2 – Photos of parks along the Ripple River
11-156	Lewann Sotnak	Sheet Music & books
11-157	Bob Lake	Negative
11-158	Crow Wing Co. HS	Gil Atwater License, photos, etc.
11-159	Marlene Kingsley	Twins 1987 button, pitcher – R/R Serving Piece
11-160	Terry Kullhem	1905 Eastman Kodak camera
11-161	Dave & Lois Sandberg	Barbeau Bible
11-162	Pope Co. H.S.	2 – Post cards of Ak-Sar-Ben Gardens
11-163	Gerald Backstrom	3 ¾” Souvenir plate of Opera House

This past year has been another record breaker with 163 donations. 2010 set the old record of 126 and 2009 had set a record with 85. It is my hope that the reason that our donations keep going up is that people are starting to realize that their children are not interested in it. By donating items that make up our history of Aitkin County the society is able to get a better understanding of that history. Like putting pieces of a jig saw puzzle together. The picture of our Aitkin County history is starting to become clearer. A great big thank you goes out to all those who have shared photos, artifacts and family histories with us.

ACHS Membership

The Historical Society has several membership levels. They are as follows:
 \$7.50 – Senior \$15.00 – Individual \$20.00 – Family \$30.00 – Business

Your membership allows ACHS to preserve Aitkin County history and to educate the public about Aitkin history. Your membership brings you the quarterly newsletter of the Society, plus a 10% discount on all items in our book store. To become a member of the ACHS, send your name, address, telephone number and email address along with your membership dues to:

Aitkin County Historical Society, P.O. Box 215, Aitkin, MN 56431.

When requesting gift memberships to the Society, please send the name and address of the person for whom the membership is intended. Donations to ACHS can be directed to the same address. **Donations to ACHS are tax deductible.**

Missing AHS Yearbooks

We are missing the following AHS yearbooks to complete our collection. If you have one of the missing year books please consider donating to the ACHS.

1972
1975
1979
2010
2011

Chow Mein Hot Dish

2 lbs hamburger	1 c. celery, chopped	1 large onion, diced
1 can tomato soup	1 can mushroom soup	1 can of water
1 can chow mein vegetables		2 Tbsp. soy sauce
2 ½ - 3 c. chow mein noodles		

Brown the hamburger, onion and celery. Add remaining ingredients and bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Interview with C.C. Sutton continued

Sutton told an interesting story of his experience in a storm on Sandy Lake. He had gone in and across the lake to the east side to get a boom of a million feet of logs. It took him all night to cross the lake towing this enormous boom. Toward dawn as the fawn was approaching the western side of the lake, Sutton saw a storm coming from the northwest, and fearing that he might not make the shelter of the western shore before the storm struck, he sent members of his crew out in a small boat with the 1,500 feet of cable to make a landing and tie the Fawn up to trees on the western shore. When the small boat was only about 200 feet from the west shore, the storm struck. The force of the wind was so great that, although Sutton kept the boat headed straight in the wind with full steam on, it was all that he could do to keep the Fawn from being beaten aback against the logs. This, of course, would have been disastrous to a stern-wheel steamer and would have meant utter shipwreck. The boom was broken up by the force of the wind and the logs and the Fawn drifted steadily back across the lake into Bill Horn Bay which Sutton said was then called Von Dusch Bay. During all this time, they kept all the pumps going. Sutton was on his feet steadily for 22 hours until the storm finally blew itself out. The logs, of course, were scattered along the east shore of the lake. The lumbermen gathered them up again, reassembled them into a boom and eventually Sutton got the logs across the lake and into the river ready for the drive downstream.

Sutton said there never was a settlement at Portage City. A town was laid out there but it was never anything but a steamboat landing. At times, Sutton said there were as many as 500 or 600 Indians at Sandy Lake. They gave Sutton the Indian name We-as-na-bi-quan, the first part of which meant "meat" and the last part "steamboat". The name was given to him because he usually brought them their meat supply on the **Fawn**.

Sutton said that the only license which was required of him was a pilot's license. So far as he could recall the steamboats themselves were not required to be registered by the state.

Sutton said in response to a question about night running, that he found it better than day running. He equipped the Fawn with two big locomotive headlights and by means of these could make as good time at night as by the day. He recalled running into a dense fog on one trip just below Sandy Lake. As they moved slowly upstream, he suddenly thought he caught the sound of oars, and grabbed the whistle cord and blew a signal which resulted in warning some men in a skiff in time for them to get out of the way of the steamer.

In addition to being the only doctor on the upper river, Sutton was for many years one of the very few preachers in this region. In all, he preached for 42 years. He recalled on one trip up the river to have seen a signal flag displayed at a landing near the Pine Grove cemetery. He tied up to the bank and found relatives, friends and neighbors of a little boy who had been drowned. They were assembled there for the funeral, awaiting only the arrival of Captain Sutton to preach the sermon. He preached the sermon, went back to his boat and went on up the river.

Sutton said that he never drank, nor kept bad company, but he did have one serious fault – he would fight at the drop of the hat. As a young man, he had been taught boxing by the captain of a steamboat on which he worked out of St. Louis. When he first came to Aitkin, he found the town filled with lumberjacks. As he walked along the street past the many saloons (I have been told there were at that time 40 saloons and two grocery stores in Aitkin) he heard someone say, "I am going to down that long guy". Captain Sutton in his prime stood about 6 foot 3 inches and weighed considerably over 200 pounds without any superfluous flesh. Sutton said he did not want any trouble, so he did not pay any attention to this remark and continued his way down the street. But without looking around he heard footsteps following his and finally the taunting remarks were more than he could stand, so he turned around and met the man who was going to "down the long guy," knocked him down and then knocked down the next fellow in the procession and by that time the ambition to "down the long guy" had apparently evaporated. Sutton said he never had any more trouble in Aitkin.

From that time on, they always let him alone. He did have some trouble on board the boats, though and often when the lumberjacks started back up the river pretty well liquored, it took a firm hand to keep them in order. There was one Irishman named Jack Welsh who was a ringleader in all kinds of deviltry. He used to make a practice of wrecking and upsetting everything that was movable on any steamer that he boarded. Welsh and his comrades boarded the Fawn for the upstream trip and immediately the Irishman went down to the dining room and grabbed the first table he came to and upset it with all its contents. Sutton had followed him, but did not get there in time to prevent this much damage. In commenting on how he brought the Irishman under control, Sutton said, "You know I had to hit him a second time before I knocked him down." His eyes gleamed with more than a bit of the old fire as he thought back to those days and he said, "It makes me mad yet."

One of the delightful parts of the interview with Captain Sutton was the presence and participation in the conversation of Mrs. Sutton. Mrs. Sutton is a much younger woman than the captain, and, as I learned later, she was his second wife. There were married only eight or nine years ago. At the wedding, one of Sutton's grandsons acted as best man. Mrs. Sutton spoke of living on a farm along the river and her memories of watching for the coming of the Fawn which used to stop at their landing place to pick up their milk cans to take them to the creamery.

Obituary found in the 1937 Aitkin Independent Age **C.C. Sutton Died Easter at Age of 93**

Flags floated at half mast on Aitkin streets Wednesday in honor of Rev. C.C. Sutton, Aitkin County's last Civil war veteran, who went to his well earned reward on the morning of Easter Sunday at his home in Palisade where he observed his 93rd birthday anniversary, March 3rd. He was born in Port Andrew, Wis., in 1844, and given the name Christopher Columbus Stutton.

Capt. Sutton, as he was familiarly known by a host of old time friends, was an outstanding figure in this section of Minnesota for many years, coming here from Wisconsin, Sept. 22, 1880. At that time the Civil war was fresh in the memory of many and Mr. Sutton had served his country well. He enlisted at the age of 17 in the 25th Wisconsin Inf., a sharp shooter, and was with General Sherman in Georgia during that bitter strife. His parents were southern born and many of his relatives were in the Confederate army. When mustered out after Lee's surrender he was sick in a hospital in Washington D.C.

At Stevens Point, Wis., he married Miss Josephine Wilbur on Christmas day, 1870, and ten years later they came to Aitkin, which at that time was headquarters for the lumbermen operating camps and buying supplies. Mr. Sutton purchased the property generally known as the "Sweetman Corner" for which he paid \$75, and opened a meat market that he afterward sold and became owner of the steamboat Fawn, plying the Mississippi between Aitkin and Grand Rapids before there was a railroad at the latter place. Both freight and passengers were carried. At the helm with a firm hand and clear vision he had upon some occasions piloted steamboats down the river as far as St. Louis, Mo.

The Sutton ranch, nine miles north of Aitkin on the bank of the Mississippi, was more than a mere stopping place for the traveling public of those days, it was an institution. The needy were fed, the sick were nursed and the discouraged were cheered. With an inborn love for humanity Mr. Sutton embraced the faith of the Methodist church and became a minister to the spiritual needs of the community. He was a preacher of the old type, forceful, dynamic, swerving not one dot from what he believed to be right. He preached in school houses, in lumber camps, as well as in humble homes of the settlers and buried their dead when called upon to serve.

He was ordained in the Northern Minnesota conference and held the pastorate of the Palisade church until superannuated and had served many smaller groups in the parish. He performed scores of marriage ceremonies giving each couple his blessing. One of the last services he performed was baptizing his great-great granddaughter, Laura Virginia Lang.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutton had but one child, their son, Glen.

Mrs. Sutton died in 1930 and afterward Mr. Sutton married Mrs. Ida Maydole, who with his son survives. There are seven grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. One of the prized possessions of the family is the picture taken recently of the five generations.

All military honors were accorded the veteran of many years. Funeral services were conducted here from the Methodist church Wednesday afternoon. As the flag draped casket rested before a huge bank of flowers, a guard of honor stood at attention until the service. The American Legion and Co. B formed the escort and the Woman's Relief Corps and Legion Auxiliary attended in a body.

In this church Mr. Sutton had preached many sermons and it was fitting that ministers with whom he had been associated should pay their final tribute to his memory. Rev. O. M. Holt, the pastor presided. Rev. Mr. King, pastor of the McGregor and Palisade parish, read the Scripture: Dr. Burress, Duluth, District Superintendent offered prayer, and Rev. A.L. Richardson of Princeton, an old time friend, preached the sermon. Friends from far and near filled the edifice to overflowing. A message of condolence was read from the Ministerial association of which Mr. Sutton was a member.

The choir composed of Mrs. E.A. Larson, Mrs. Chas. Megarry, Mrs. J.C. Thorpe, Mrs. W.A. Henderson, E.A. Larson, O.S. Hartman, Jay McCoy and H.D. McNeil with Miss Virginia Larson at the piano, sang three favorite hymns.

Pall bearers were: John T. Galarneault, Chas. Young, Gustaf Bergland, Chas. Megarry, Howard Cluff and E.J. Chatelle. Burial was in the family lot in Lakeview cemetery. Co. B. Fired the salute and taps were sounded by Danny Sjodin.

Among the relatives attending were two sisters-in-law, Mrs. A. P. Wilbur, Aitkin, and Mrs. J.E. Dawley and her son, R.E. Dawley, Duluth; Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Wenger, Mrs. Clarissa Tennant, Ralph and Amos Sutton, all of Minneapolis; Mr. and Mrs. Leon Sutton, St. Cloud; Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Heath, Swatara. A large number of friends came from Palisade.

1937 Aitkin Republican

April 1st, Additional Information

Military honors with the firing squad from Company B, 135th National Guard, giving the last salute and sounding taps were accorded Rev. C. C. Sutton, last Civil War veteran of Aitkin County who died at his home at Palisade Sunday.

At the close of the war he was given an honorable discharge and returned to Wisconsin. He was married to Miss Josephine Wilbur at Stevens Point on Christmas day, 1870.

Mr. Sutton began his work as a pioneer preacher in 1890 when he was appointed pastor of the Aitkin Circuit which consisted of three preaching assignments, Morrison, Esquagamah Lake and Ladds Logan.

Funeral services were attended by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Palisade and Aitkin, of which he was an honorary member, the auxiliaries and the Women's Relief Corps.

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 215, Aitkin, MN 56431

Email: achs3348@embarqmail.com

Web Site: www.aitkin.com/achs/

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENEALOGY

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

COLLECTIONS

Next meeting will be held on March 2nd at 9:30am.
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.

SPORTS & COMMERCE SHOW

March 10th & 11th

6TH GRADE MUSEUM TOUR

May 2nd

Would you be interested in being a guide for the one of the tours? (9:30am to 11:00am or 12:30pm to 2:00pm.)
Guide your group of children from one area to the next. Presenters will introduce the children to different aspects of the Depot Museum

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR

July 11th – 14th

This year's display in the log cabin will be on Aitkin County restaurants. Do you have an item we could feature in the display? (Ash tray, photos, napkin holder, table, stools, etc.)

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

August 3rd & 4th

We are **NOW** collecting items for our annual garage sale. We are once again planning on filling two buildings at the Aitkin County Fair grounds. Drop your tax deductible donations at the Depot or call for us to pick up your items. Help us with our largest fund raiser of the year.

AITKIN RENDEZVOUS

September 14th – 16th

We will once again have a food booth at the rendezvous and a display in our log cabin. The event will take place at the Aitkin County fair grounds for the third year in a row. Come and take a step back in time and enjoy the Aitkin Rendezvous.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/COOKIE WALK/RAFFLE DRAWING

December 1, 2012