

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPOT HIGHLITES NEWSLETTER
FALL 2012 - Volume 17, Issue 3

We had an opportunity to buy the Armory next to the Depot. However, it just was not meant to be, with a \$355,000.00 price tag and an additional \$25,000.00 a year for upkeep. The additional space could have been used to display more of our Aitkin history, develop a research center and have our office in one location. The costs just did not make sense for us. My hope is that someone will buy it or there is a possibility that it will be torn down this fall. I would hate to see one of the areas historic buildings torn down.

Three new permanent displays at the Depot are in place. The first, that I am very proud of, is the International flag display. Volunteers sanded, repainted and installed twelve flag poles along the north fence and twelve international flags from countries that settled in Aitkin County are featured with their flags history attached to the fence. Our flag display has attracted a lot of attention from people visiting Aitkin. The second is of a lumber wagon that volunteers built using four steel wheels that were donated to the museum. The third is located in the railroad room on the east wall about the railroad agent. A six car train made out of wood sitting in a train station.

Three new display cases will be added to the museum this fall. This addition will help us to display more artifacts that currently reside in our storage building. The final placement is still being worked out. Several of our current cases and some displays will have to be shifted. This will take careful planning because; we still want the entire museum to remain handicap accessible.

Sentence to Serve has come to the rescue again. They took on the project of repairing our log cabin at the fair grounds. They repaired the damaged log and chinked the cabin. The original bids on this project ranged from 6500 to 7500 dollars. STS completed the project for less than \$1000.00. Their help with our garage sale from setting up to taking down afterward can not be measured. Needless to say, without the help of STS we would not be able to afford or handle all of the projects that we under take. They also mow the grass at building #3 and shovel snow at the Depot during the winter months. Thank You STS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Greg and Laura Thornbloom are working hard photographing barns and collecting barn histories for our book "**Barns of Aitkin County**". They have taken over 700 photographs of Aitkin County Barns since 2008. Work is progressing on **Churches** of Aitkin County and **Schools** of Aitkin County. We are still looking for more information (photos and histories) about **Steamboats** for a book. I am asking for help with the **History Guide and map** of Aitkin County. After the sites are determined, they will all have to be GPS located. This will be a brochure that will be available to all corners of Aitkin County. Do you know of a site that should be included in this map? Of course some of the sites will be located on private property, so there will be a notice on the map to respect that fact and some sites will not be available for viewing. I would like to have the four books and the brochure in print by sometime next year. Would you like to do some research for one of these projects or help to put one or more of them together? Contact me at the Depot. (218) 927-3348

Next year we expect that our revenue will be down, so several areas in our budget had to be reduced. We will be fine unless we have some unexpected expenses like in 2011 when two of our furnaces broke down. As our members become more mature we need to find a fund raiser that we can make some good money, yet is not as strenuous as lets say the garage sale. If you have any ideas about a future fund raiser contact me. Currently our fund raisers are in July, August, September and December. We need to find something we can work on in March, April or May. Put those thinking caps on and see if we can come up with something.

You can see that we have a lot going on at the Depot this year with much more next year. Check out the list of projects that have been completed so far this year and the list of projects that we are working on. More importantly, check out the items that have been donated to the museum. We are receiving a wide variety of items to add to our museums permanent collection. But, more importantly we are receiving information which is filling some of the holes in our Aitkin County history.

We are still waiting to see if we will be getting our land that is under our buildings from the railroad. There is a good chance that we will own the land by the end of the year. Cross your fingers!

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 – 35, Individual Memberships – 27, Senior Memberships – 100,
Family Members – 192, Life Members – 17, Perpetuity – 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 373

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 Furniture & Carpet
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
Christensen Law Office
Enberg TV
Eyecare Center of Aitkin & McGregor
Garrison Disposal
Gobles Sewer Service
Gravelle Plumbing & Heating
Hasskamp Bros. Well Drilling
Hometown Building Supply
Hudrlik Carpet
K & J C-Stores, Inc.
KKIN-KEZZ Radio
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating
Members Coop Credit Union
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative
Paulbeck's County Market
Peoples National Bank
Jerome D. Poland, MD., LTD.
Red Door Resort & Motel
R & K Cabinets
Security State Bank
Sunset Bay Resort

SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS

NORDLAND – (2009-2012)
PLINY – (2005-2011)
IDUN – (2005-2012)
LIBBY – (2005-2011)
FARM ISLAND – (2005-2012)
CLARK – (2011)
GLEN – (2005-2011)
LAKESIDE – (2005-2011)
RICE RIVER – (2005-2012)
CITY OF AITKIN – (2012)

AITKIN COUNTY – (1990 – 2012)

EVENT SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Aitkin Independent Age
Cascade Lodge – Lutsen
Cuyuna Country Auto – Crosby
Cuyuna Lanes – Crosby
Cycle, Path & Paddle – Crosby
Enberg TV – Aitkin
Garrison Disposal – Aitkin
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
KKIN AM & FM radio – Aitkin
MacDonald-Wold - Aitkin
Minnesota Timberwolves/Lynx
Minnesota Twins
Northland Subway Inc.
The Office Shop - Aitkin
RDJ products – Memphis, TN
Rialto Movie Theater – Aitkin
Shiperio Games – Chanhassen
Traditions Mini-golf – Deerwood
Wild Mountain – Taylors Falls

These businesses donated raffle prizes or services
to the Aitkin County Historical Society

2012 DONATORS IN BOLD PRINT

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

PROJECTS FOR 2012

1. Locating a caboose for Museum
2. Clear area north of building #2 for train car
3. Clean dirt fill for south of building #3
4. Move artifacts by gardens
5. Move tractor closer to building
6. Replace main computer
7. Check into networking computers
8. Hold contests/scavenger hunts
9. 24' Addition to building #2
10. Grant for digital scanner

CURRENTLY WORKING ON

1. Developing research facility at museum
2. Book signings at museum
3. Display artifacts on walls of museum
4. Barns of Aitkin County book
5. Obtaining title to land under Depot
6. Map of historic places in Aitkin County
7. Churches of Aitkin County Book
8. River boat history of Aitkin County book
9. Schools of Aitkin County book.
10. Stain/reseal front of building #2
11. New microfilm reader/scanner/printer
12. Extend east fence next to depot

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
9. Collecting for Garage Sale all year long.

2012 COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. New Depot Museum Banner hung
2. 48 MN history books in Lending Library
3. New lighting in Depot storage areas
4. Motion light in Depot storage area
5. Warren William book signing - Stangeland
6. Warren William movie screening – 2 nights
7. Sand/paint/install 12 flag poles
8. Purchased Minnesota & MIA Flags
9. Purchased 12 International Flags
10. Grant for advertising submitted/**received**
11. Grants for new film reader - **received**
12. New Kodak Digital camera donated
13. Old lumber wagon restored & on display
14. Log Cabin repaired and chinked by STS
15. Cobble stone walkway has been leveled

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

Native American history books

Old farm equipment catalogs

Donations for new Microfilm reader

Riverboat histories/artifacts/photos

Family Histories

Folgers Coffee – Regular or **Decaf**

Coffee Filters

Old maps of Aitkin County

Wrapped Candy

Railroad artifacts

Old Plat books

Postage Stamps

Blank 3" X 5" cards

Small bottles of drinking water

2012 Memorials

Tommy Thompson - \$20.00

Nellie Way - \$20.00

John Roger Ferlita - \$100.00

Lowell Rosnau \$10.00

Eleanor Weitnauer - \$10.00

Mary Lou Gustin - \$10.00

John MacDonald - \$65.00

Charles Petersen - \$20.00

Helen Olson - \$10.00

Richard Andert - \$10.00

Memorials from the Class of 1950

Rhoda Baker - \$25.00

Members lost in 2012

Jeannette Zilverberg (4/30/1920-3/26/2012)

GOALS FOR 2012

- Membership over 400 members
- Collect 50 raffle prizes
- Receive title to land under Depot
- 3000 Visitors to Museum
- Finish obituary files (25 years left)
- More information on web site. - **done**
- Complete AHS yearbook collection
- Depot museum becomes destination

MUSEUM VISITORS

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
January	30	24	40	40
February	18	22	22	55
March	30	61	23	187
April	28	36	48	153
May	77	72	50	100
6 th Grade	84	109	101	91
June	84	157	472	183
July	149	229	266	300
County Fair	1331	1441	1171	0
August	202	201	214	
September	42	68	128	
October	77	141	75	
November	30	43	93	
December	90	83	131	0
Totals	2322	2687	2834	1113

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

GOAL FOR 2012 – 3000

LENDING LIBRARY

Still Looking for Help!!!!!!!

Our lending library for members is close to becoming a reality. Over 450 books have been collected for this project. Books can be found on the following subjects:

- Railroads
- Civil War
- World Wars I & II
- Native Americans
- Railroads
- Pioneers
- Minnesota History
- Regional histories
- American history
- Books by local authors
- Immigrants

We need help organizing the books and putting them by categories. Need cards typed up so they can be checked out to our members. If you can help with this project please contact me at the Depot.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Get more exposure for your business with a membership to ACHS for only \$30.00 year.

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

The Aitkin County Historical Society is looking for photos and histories of barns, schools & churches in Aitkin County. Please share any photos or history that you have in your possession with the Depot Museum. Items shared with us will be included in a collection of books we will be printing about Aitkin County.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets for our Annual Raffle were sent out to our membership during the first week in June. A list of the prizes that we had collected as of that date went out with the tickets. If you have a prize to donate for this event, whether it is from you personally or from your business, please contact Greg at the Depot so he can put it on the list. We do collect prizes up until the day of the drawing. Prizes from businesses will be listed for a year as a supporting business in our newsletter and on our web site. Our early-bird drawing, for all tickets that have been turned in will be held Aug. 6th. Tickets that have been turned in early are eligible for both drawings. The main drawing will be held at the Depot on December 1st. Additional tickets are available at the Depot.

(GOAL – 2000)

GARAGE SALE

Come on down to the Aitkin County Fair Grounds on August 3rd from 9am to 4pm or on Saturday August 4th from 9am to 3pm. Find some hidden treasures. Help out with the sale. On Saturday from 9 am to 1pm everything is half price. From 1pm to 3pm everything you can fit in a box for only \$3.00.

(GOAL - \$5,000.00)

Gerald Hedberg donated a Kodak Easy Share MD41 12.2 Mega Pixels Digital Camera with 3X Zoom to the Historical Society. Thank you Jerry for saving us the expense of buying a new camera for the museum

Sometimes when things are falling apart, they may actually be falling into place

Donations to Museum

Peonies for gardens - Carol Mills
\$20.00 donation - James Loos
Books for Library - John Hendrickson
\$30.00 donation - Stan & Mary Doten
\$30.00 donation - Paul & Luanne Beyreuther
\$30.00 donation - Bob & Jan Kolodji
\$20.00 donation - Elsie Paulson
\$50.00 donation for flowers - Shirley Davies
\$15.00 donation - Betty Young
\$50.00 donation - Kay McKersie

WARREN WILLIAM DAY AT THE MOVIES

Heads Up: Every August Turner Classic Movies (TCM) devotes each day of the month to a different legendary actor or actress during their Summer Under the Stars Festival.. For the first time, TCM will honor Aitkin native movie star, Warren William, with 24 hours of his films on August 30th. He will share the month with other great Hollywood personalities like James Cagney (August 14th), Katherine Hepburn (August 17th) and John Wayne (August 1st). In this period Warren William was unlike any other actor in Hollywood frequently playing predatory and amoral characters while exercising an uncanny ability to remain likable in spite of his delicious wickedness. They're playing 16 of Warren's classic movies. Get some friends together and hold a Warren William movie party. We will have a review of each film on our web site; www.aitkin.com/achs. Check it out! List of movies and times shown below. **All times listed are Eastern time.**

WARREN WILLIAM FESTIVAL ON TCM - AUGUST 30th

6:00 a.m. - Bedside (1934)
7:15 a.m. - The First Hundred Years (1938)
8:30 a.m. - Wives Under Suspicion (1938)
9:45 a.m. - The Mouthpiece (1932)
11:15 a.m. - Skyscraper Souls (1932)
1:00 p.m. - Three On a Match (1932)
2:15 p.m. - The Match King (1932)
3:45 p.m. - The Mind Reader (1933)
5:00 p.m. - Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933)
6:45 p.m. - Times Square Playboy (1936)
8:00 p.m. - Lady For a Day (1933)
9:45 p.m. - Cleopatra (1934)
11:45 p.m. - Employees Entrance (1933)
1:15 a.m. - The Case of the Howling Dog (1934)
2:45 a.m. - Lone Wolf Spy Hunt (1939)
4:00 a.m. - Arsene Lupin Returns (1938)

All Times listed are Eastern Time
Check your local listings

New Books in Museum Gift Shop

Finns in Minnesota
My Mother is Now Earth
Outdoor Adventures - Deer Stands & Stories
Outdoor Adventures - Hunting, Fishing & Trap
Minnesota State Parks: A Camper's Guide
Heroes of the Uprising of 1862
The Great Minnesota Hot Dish
Little Minnesota (100 Towns of 100 people)
Growing Perennials in Cold Climates
Wild About Minnesota Birds - Youth's Guide
Wild Rice-A-Bilia
The Waterslide
The WD-40 Book
Minnesota Running Trails
You Know You're a Minnesotan
Minnesota Day Trips
The Seven States of Minnesota
Birds of Minnesota
Fish of Minnesota
Minnesota Memories & Images
Members receive a 10% discount

2012 RAFFLE PRIZES

The following prizes have been collected so far

EARLY-BIRD DRAWING

1. Old Log Theater Tickets for two – Excelsior – donated by KKin – (\$60.00 value)
2. Cuyuna Country Auto Center Full Service Oil Change – (\$32.00 value)
3. Cycle, Path and Paddle – Crosby – (\$25.00 gift certificate)
4. Sunbeam Imperial Plush Heated Throw – (\$25.00 value) donated by RDJ products
5. Family Membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value)
6. Cuyuna Lanes – Crosby - (\$15.00 value)
7. Fleece Stadium Blanket – (\$10.00 value) donated by RDJ Specialties
8. Shiperio (Golf Card Game) donated by Bruce Leach – (\$8.00 value)
9. Aitkin County Naturally – (\$5.00 value)
10. Red or Blue Bandana – (\$3.00 value)

DECEMBER 1ST DRAWING

1. Chanhassen Dinner Theater for two donated by KKin – (\$150.00 value)
2. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel Package for two – (\$125.00 value)
3. 2 – Wild Mountain Super day passes – (Valued at \$66.00)
4. Afghan made by Carol Bailey – (\$50.00 value)
5. Cuyuna Country Auto Center Full Service Oil Change – (\$32.00 value)
6. 36” White Doily – made and donated by Laurel Lamke – (\$30.00 value)
7. 2 – 20” square Blue & White Throw Pillows made and donated by Marlene Kingsley – (\$30.00 value)
8. Shawl made by Connie Petersen
9. Rialto Movie Theater - \$25.00 Gift Certificate
10. The Office Shop - \$25.00 Gift Certificate
11. Pre-paid VISA card – (\$25.00 value) donated by Greg Leach
12. Rialto Movie Theater - \$25.00 Gift Certificate
13. 28” White Doily – made and donated by Laurel Lamke – (\$25.00 value)
14. 3’ X 5’ Afghan made and donated by Marlene Kingsley – (\$25.00 value)
15. Pre-paid VISA card – (\$25.00 value) donated by Greg Leach
16. 22” Green & White Doily – made and donated by Laurel Lamke – (\$20.00 value)
17. Family membership to ACHS – (\$20.00 value)
18. Folding Chair - donated by RDJ Specialties – (\$15.00 value)
19. 8 GB 2.0 Flash Drive – donated by RDJ Specialties - (\$15.00 value)
20. Traditions Mini-golf – 2 passes for golf – (\$15.00 value)
21. 20” Crème Doily – made and donated by Laurel Lamke – (\$15.00 value)
22. Cuyuna Lanes – Crosby – (\$10.00 value)
23. Shiperio (Golf Card Game) donated by Bruce Leach – (\$8.00 value)
24. Northland Subway Inc. – Free 6-inch Fresh Value Meal
25. Northland Subway Inc. – Free 6-inch Fresh Value Meal
26. Aitkin County Naturally – (\$5.00 value)
27. Red or Blue Bandana – (\$3.00 value)

ADDITIONAL RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED

We will be adding additional prizes up until the day of the drawing in December. If you have a prize to add to our list, please contact Greg Leach at the Depot as soon as possible. (218) 927-3348. I would like to have a total of 40 prizes to give away in December. Please help us reach that goal.

SECOND QUARTER ACCESSIONS

12-026	John Stangeland	12 – Warren Williams Photos
12-027	Elsie Paulson	Old Toaster
12-028	Deb Janzen	Misc. Papers
12-029	Carol Bailey	Sheet Music
12-030	Richard Peterson	Old School and Coop papers
12-031	Bob Monette	Early 1900's paper items found in walls of his home
12-032	Jarold Backstrom	Aitkin 1951 Pioneer Celebration Pin celebrating 80 years
12-033	Janet Miller	1976 prom dress, 1975 floral prom dress, 20 – photos of McGregor photo of Clarince McKay, 21 other photos
12-034	Edna Ashton	Barbers strap, Brownie Camera carried during Korean War 2 free hand stitched art work pillow cases, Race Horse feed sack
12-035	Tom Fiedler	3 photos of Fiedler farm/barn
12-036	Elaine Wischmann	History of MiLady's Beauty Shop, 1957 Beauty Shop Prices, Sterilzer, Curling Irons, Wrist Magnet, Nail Buffer, Clippers
12-037	Mike Hill	Blow Torch
12-038	Laura Thornbloom	124 Kodak Instamatic Camera, Set of Flash Cubes
12-039	Cal Stexnig	McGrath Creamery Butter Box, Photo of McGrath Hall
12-040	Alice Fageroos	3 – hot pads, fish bait can, patterns, kitchen tools, 8 – books 3 – Ice tongs, chisel, carpenters chest
12-041	Jennie Hakes	Mothers Antique Doll
12-042	Colleen Bremner	Oxen Bog Shoes, 2 – Shoulder Yokes, Workhorse harness parts
12-043	Doris Nordean	Ice Pick, Vintage Dresser
12-044	Hometown B.S.	2 – Coal Scoops
12-045	Terry Kullhem	No. 2 Hawkeye Special Camera
12-046	Kit Julum	Aitkin Ames Motor Car Co. Advertising piece
12-047	Sharon Cooper	1930's Republican papers, 1937, 1939, & 1940 phone books from Isle, Malmo, McGrath, & Wahkon, Photos of Seavey Post Office
12-048	Christine Bailey	Photo of Aitkin Band Stand, Aitkin Community Band shirt & hat
12-049	Janet Miller	Photo's
12-050	Russ Peterson	6 – Minnesota Territorial Centennial Year Coasters
12-051	Cliff Nemitz	4 – Aitkin Post Cards
12-052	Gary Reiter	Wood Boat
12-053	Carlton Co. H.S.	Aitkin County Magazine
12-054	Aitkin Airport	Photo, maps and Misc. books
12-055	Debbie Janzen	Metal Doll House, Doll
12-056	Itasca Co. H.S.	35 photos, 6 slides, 50 negatives (Hill City/Jacobson areas)
12-057	Cathy Buhlmann	AHS Yearbooks – 67, 69, & 70. 2011 All-class reunion paper 1973 America Youth in Concert yearbook
12-058	Fawnice Flowers	3 family photos
12-059	Marlys Morris	AHS – 1963 Homecoming button, Misc. clippings
12-060	Sharon Cooper	Photos
12-061	Karen Melich	6 – photos of J & I Hotel + some history
12-062	Janet Miller	Yearbooks, misc.
12-063	Loa Nelson	Hand made Wooden Train and Railroad Station
12-064	Sam Gash	2- railroad spike pullers, railroad pry bar
12-065	Mel Gilmer	Riverboat buttons
12-066	Doris Nordean	Railroad first aid kit, misc.
12-067	Mike Carlson	Shaving mug/brush/straight razor, Secretaries desk, tomato strainer, 2-Threshers books, hair clippers, misc. newspaper, 2-books
12-068	Norm Hulin	Original Sheriffs sign, 3–Road Flares, Aitkin County map, Corn Sheller
12-069	Judy Kinstad	Dipper for molten iron to make babbits, a type for bearings

NEW MEMBERS

Jerome D. Poland, MD., LTD.
Nancy MacArthur
Dorothy Hermanson
Christensen Law Office
Zola Thompson
Paul & Rose Boucher

Need only 27 more members to reach our goal of 400.

GREAT people

Talk about IDEAS

AVERAGE people

Talk about THINGS

SMALL people

Talk about other people

EARLY BIRD RAFFLE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AUGUST 6TH ON KIN RADIO AT 8:30AM. LISTEN AND SEE IF YOU'RE A WINNER. MAIN DRAWING DECEMBER 1ST

Warren William Movie Marathon

On August 30th TCM will be showing 16 of Warren William classic films.

Research Projects taking Shape

We are currently working on five research projects:

1. Barns of Aitkin County
2. Churches of Aitkin County
3. Historical Map of Aitkin County – (GPS sites)
4. Riverboat history of Aitkin County.
5. Schools of Aitkin County

Pick a project and give us a hand

Minnesota State Statute 138.053 states "a town may annually appropriate from its general fund up to 0.02418 percent of its taxable market value to be paid to the County Historical Society if the society is approved by the State Historical Society."

Since Aitkin County Historical Society is officially sanctioned by the Minnesota Historical Society, contributions are within a townships scope of operations.

Missing AHS Yearbooks

1972, 1975, 1979, 2010, 2011, 2012

REMEMBER WHEN!

My curfew was the street lights, and my mom didn't call my cell, she yelled "time to come in". I played outside with friends, not online. If I didn't eat what my mom made me. Then I didn't eat. Hand sanitizer didn't exist, but you COULD get your mouth washed out with soap. I rode a bike without a helmet. And getting dirty was OK. Click "Like" if you drank water from a garden hose and survived.

Unknown Author

COUNTY FAIR

The County fair was canceled this year due to flooding. How does this affect us? Normally we have between 1100 and 1500 people visit our display in the Log Cabin located at the fair grounds. This helps to create interest in our displays at the Depot Museum. It also is part of our visitor count for the year. So instead of the 3000 visitors that I had set for a goal this year, our visitor count will be around 1500 to 2000. It is what it is. We will just have to continue to promote the museum and hopefully more locals will visit.

MEMBERSHIPS DUE

Are you one of the **Sixty-Six** that has not renewed their membership to the Aitkin County Historical Society.

If you are,
Please renew TODAY!

We need everyone to renew and others to join if we are going to reach our goal of 400 members.

More members translate into more history shared with the Society for future generations to enjoy.

Membership Comparison

Carver County, located southwest of Minneapolis, has a population of 91,000. The County Historical Society has a membership of **800**. The percentage of Carver County residents that are members is **.00879%**. Aitkin County has a population of 16,000 with **370** being members of the Historical Society. The percentage of Aitkin County residents that are members is **.02313%**. That's great, but I believe we can do better. (**400 = .025%**)

35 YEARS AGO

Historical Society Notes Depot Museum Progress

Aitkin Independent Age – October 19, 1977

Membership in the Aitkin Historical Society now numbers 80, with 60 regular members and 20 life members, according to the groups annual report.

There were over 621 registered visitors at the depot museum this past summer. The visitors represented 16 states as well as Iceland, Germany, Sweden and British Columbia.

The museum was open in the afternoon each Wednesday and Saturday, staffed by volunteers because of the lack of finances to pay a curator.

Many more artifacts have been donated to the society during the past year. These include numerous articles from the 1901 Aitkin school, old calendars, old dress form, old duplication machine, photographs of the early logging days in Aitkin County, miscellaneous pictures and postcards, newspapers with historical headlines, WWI and WWII souvenirs, artistic scrapbooks, toys from the early days, several old display cases, baby clothing of the early 1900's, an old saddle, old farming and wooden hand tools, miscellaneous books and song books, a miniature covered wagon, adults antique clothing, several china and kitchen articles.

Three members of the board attended an all-day workshop in Grand Rapids sponsored by the Itasca County Historical Society and the Minnesota State Historical Society. Much was learned on cataloging, historical libraries and surveying historical sights.

David Nuystuen, field director of the State Historical Society, visited with the local board several times this past year, commenting favorably on the continuing progress of the depot Museum and Log Museum.

The county society is an annual paying member of the State Historical Society.

Historical Society Elects

Elections of officers for the October 1977 to October 1978 year was held at the annual meeting of the Aitkin County Historical Society Tuesday evening, October 11, at the Depot Museum.

The following officers were unanimously re-elected: John Aklestad, president; Martha Schmitt, vice president; Felix Kaplan, treasurer; Dorothy Hakes, secretary; Leona Ingersol, director, Molly Call was named lunch chairman, and Romelle Peterson was named program chairman.

Annual reports were given by the treasure and secretary. Allyn Hanson, dressed as Uncle Sam, provided a patriotic program with a talk on "I Am America."

Lunch was served to the large attendance by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kliewere.

AITKIN AGE – SEPTEMBER 1904

THE EARLY YEARS

The high incidence of saloons in early Aitkin can be directly attributed to the intense thirst generated among the loggers in their relentless search for the white pine log.

The thirsty logger could, at one period in Aitkin's early history, take his choice of over 17 saloons. The White Fawn, Costello's Place, the Green Tree, were a few of the many. They were often called sample rooms, and assisted, together with a few of the logging camp contractors, in separating the logger from his winter's pay. He was a willing victim, and the ensuing differences of opinions between imbibers often required the services of the town constable or on some occasions, the sheriff.

WILLIAM AITKIN

William Alexander Aitkin was born about 1785 in Scotland and came into the Upper Mississippi region in the early 1800's from Canada.

"W.A. Aitkin died September 16, 1851, and is buried on the east bank of the Mississippi opposite to the mouth of the Swan River in Morrison County where he had a trading post during the last nine years after 1842.

Aitkin Age, April 1883

There will soon be weeping and lamenting in Aitkin. A brass band with all which the name implies is about to be inaugurated and about four-fifths of the populace will go out and declare life a burden.

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

Group has disbanded due to lack of local interest.

COLLECTIONS

Next meeting will be held on September 7th 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. We also discuss artifacts that have been offered to the museum, whether we want them or do not want them. These are usually large items like a saw mill or well drilling rig.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

August 3rd & 4th

Help us with our largest fund raiser of the year. Our goal this year is to make \$5,000.00 at the garage sale. We set a record two years ago with \$4,576.00. Last year we sold \$4,536.00. The past two years we have had the two largest garage sales in the history of the ACHS.

EARLY-BIRD RAFFLE DRAWING

Our early-bird drawing is scheduled to take place at 8:30am on KKIN radio August 6th. Ten prizes will be given away to all tickets that have been received by August 6th. All tickets are also eligible for the drawing on December 1st.

AITKIN RENDEZVOUS

September 14th - 16th

We will once again have a food booth at the rendezvous and a display in our log cabin. This 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. This local event might be ending after this year because of low attendance which means we will loose another fund raiser.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/COOKIE WALK/RAFFLE DRAWING

December 1, 2012

Our Annual Open house starts at 9am and goes until closing 4pm. Free admission to the museum with coffee, apple cider and cookies served. Cookie walk starts at 9:30am and goes until all cookies are sold.

Usually all cookies are gone before noon. We ask members to bake 4 dozen cookies for this event. Come and pick out a variety of holiday cookies. At 2 pm we hold our Annual raffle drawing. Last year we had a total of 30 prizes for the final drawing. Hopefully we will have 40 prizes this year.