

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS NEWLETTER
SPRING 2013 – Volume 18, Issue 1

My term as the Administrator of the Aitkin County Historical Society began with the Cookie Walk in December 2008. Now, four years and two months later, I find myself looking back and analyzing the direction that I have nudged the Society. During that period we have accomplished so much. All four of our buildings have had repairs made, energy efficient lighting was installed, perennial gardens have been planted around museum, many artifacts have been refurbished for display, more artifacts have been added to our displays, numerous displays have been added, new steps and handy-cap ramps were installed at the museum, obituary files are almost complete from 1883 to the present, added a variety of electronic equipment (i.e. computers, microfilm readers and copy machines). Check out the list of 40 projects/needs completed or fulfilled during 2012. My volunteers are completing projects faster than I am able to come up with them. Not a bad problem to have.

It is my hope that we will be able to assemble all four book projects, the historical map of Aitkin County and the GPS walking tour of the City of Aitkin during 2013. A huge undertaking for one year, but one that I believe is possible with the help of the community and volunteers. We would like to make the books as complete as possible including both photographs and historical information. We want to make sure that these projects are done right and not hurried. Many hours of research will have to be completed by going through the records at the Court House, our files and newspaper files. It is my hope that these four book projects will become a comprehensive history of our Aitkin barns, schools, churches and riverboats. Please come to the museum and help us collect all of the information so that we get our history correct. If you have information that should be included in one of these projects please share it with us now!

Not interested in helping us with one of the book or map projects, how about helping us with our photo album project. Our plan is to put together photo albums for most of our displays showing artifacts in those displays being used in Aitkin County. Come to the museum and help us search our photo archives.

The Aitkin County Historical Society needs a **GRANT WRITER** to help us find additional funds through grants to pay for various projects and programs. Do you know someone who writes grants or are you a grant writer? Call me at the museum as soon as possible. As our costs continue to rise and our volunteers mature it becomes more important to find outside money to help fund projects at the museum.

Have you seen something at the museum that needs to be addressed that I have missed? Is there a project that you think we should be working on? Would you like to help with the perennial gardens? Do you have plants that you plan on splitting this spring? Consider donating some to the museum. Come and give us a hand making the museum a more inviting and interesting place to visit. We would like to make the museum a place that locals want to bring all of their visiting friends and relatives to.

Two new displays are currently being built at the museum. The first, which will only be up until next November, has to do with **"MUSIC"**. A variety of musical instruments, sheet music, record albums, players, radios, etc. will be featured. The second display will feature photos, artifacts and information pertaining to **"LAND-O-LAKES"** that operated in Aitkin. This display will feature both the Creamery and the Turkey processing plant. Five glass display cases that were donated to the museum during the past year and two others will house these displays. Both displays will be located in the Depot building.

We are still looking for that elusive **CABOOSE** that we have been unable to locate to add as a feature display at the museum. If you hear about one that is for sale or could be donated please let us know. Ideally it would still have its wheels/trucks and have an upper copula. If we were able to find one, it would make a huge addition to our museum and help to draw more visitors.

This year's **Annual Garage Sale** will take place on August 2nd and 3rd. We have already started to collect items for this sale. When cleaning out your garage, basement or sheds, downsizing, or getting new furniture please consider donating those unwanted items for our sale. Having a garage sale this spring or summer and do not know what to do with the items left over? Drop the items off at the Depot or give us a call and we can pick them up. **All donations are tax deductible.** Last year we filled two of the large buildings at the fairgrounds and had the best sale in the history of the historical society. With your help we can beat last year's numbers.

Have you been to the museum lately? If you have not, please come in to see all of the new displays and the additional artifacts that we have displayed throughout the museum. Go to the railroad room and check out the **link and pin coupler** that was used in logging railroads or the 1900 map of railroad lands for sale.

During the first five months of the year from 2009-2011 we averaged only 292 visitors to the museum. 2012 showed a sharp increase of visitors with a total of 626 during that same period. Part of that was due to four Aitkin preschool classes (4 & 5 year olds) visiting the museum during March and April.

During the calendar year of 2012 we had a total attendance including events of 4610 people. Visitors to our facility came from 145 different communities in Minnesota, 31 other states and 3 foreign countries. We will continue to promote the museum and hopefully our numbers will be close to 6000 this year.

2012 also brought record dollar amounts in donations, memorials and grants. A record number of projects were completed during 2012. (A list of 40 can be found listed in this newsletter) Record sales were also reached in our Annual Garage Sale, Cookie Walk and Raffle Drawing. Our membership of 384 is also a record high. When we reach 400 members this year, our membership will be around 2 ½ % of the population of Aitkin County. None of these numbers would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our many volunteers. **THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!!**

Where do we go from here? What do we have planned for the near future? How do we proceed? We have five new board of directors, a new President and Vice-President that will ultimately help make that decision. Things that will or might happen this year are; building two new displays in the Depot building (Land-O-Lakes & Music), doubling the size of the log cabin display in the depot to increase the variety of items on display, adding a 40' addition to building #2 for additional displays, find a caboose for display, complete our obituary project, finish repairing the red cedar strip boat, lending library set up, publish set of books on Aitkin history, publish Historical Map of Aitkin County, GPS walking tour of the city of Aitkin and get research facility running. Many of the items on this list will require finding outside funding to accomplish them. Others will require numerous volunteers and a lot of hard work.

The museum needs additional volunteers. We need volunteers to sit at the front desk, welcome visitors and make sure that they sign in. We need volunteers to help with photo archiving, filing information, and accessioning items into the museum. We need volunteers to type information into the computer. Volunteers are always needed to work our fundraising events. We will need volunteers to welcome guests to our log cabin display during the County Fair, mark and set up our Garage Sale, work our food booth during Aitkin Rendezvous and bake cookies for our Cookie Walk. Help sell Raffle tickets or collect prizes for the raffle. Looking for something to do with your spare time, consider volunteering.

Greg Leach (Administrator)

MODEL TRAINS NEEDED!!!

Looking for model trains to display in our Railroad room. Do you have any old model trains that could be donated to the museum? We would like to start to collect trains and display them on the walls in the Railroad room. Any Northern Pacific or SOO line cars and engines are most desirable for this display as they were the two lines that originally traveled through Aitkin County. The railroad that current travels through Aitkin is BNSF.

Board of Directors: Darlene Maciej (President), (Vice-President), Lorraine Liljenquest (Secretary), (Treasurer), Cheryl Meld (McGregor H.S. Rep.), Jon Jacobson, Alice Dotzler, Connie Pettersen, Pat Williams, Arlene McNevin, Susan Benson, Carol Bailey, Ron Kemmett, John Hendrickson, Bob Lake, Colleen Bremner, Mark Wedel (County Commissioner), Sherry Arvidson (Accountant), Greg Leach (Administrator)

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Business Members – 36, Individual Members – 28, Senior Members – 103, Family Members – 198,
Life Members – 17, Perpetuity Members – 2

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP - 384

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 #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 Brox. 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 Coopertive
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
Tidholm Productions

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

Aitkin Independent Age
Cross Woods Golf Course
Cuyuna County Auto
Cuyuna Lanes
Cycle, Path & Paddle
Emily Greens Golf Course
Enberg TV
Garrison Disposal
Grand Casino Mille Lacs
Hyytinen Hardware
KKIN AM & FM Radio
Kosie's Café
Minnesota Twins
Minnesota Wild
Northland Subway Inc.
The Office Shop
RDJ Products
Rialto Movie Theater
Shiperio Games
Sentence to Serve (STS)
Traditions Mini Golf
Whistling Wolf Mini Golf
Wild Mountain

SUPPORTING TOWNSHIPS

FARM ISLAND TOWNSHIP
IDUN TOWNSHIP
LAKESIDE TOWNSHIP
LIBBY TOWNSHIP
NORDLAND TOWNSHIP
RICE RIVER TOWNSHIP
LOGAN COMMUNITY FUND
CITY OF AITKIN

AITKIN COUNTY

2013 PROJECT LIST

- Find a Caboose for display at the museum.
- 40' addition to second display building.
- Set up research area and library in Depot.
- Assemble photo albums for displays showing artifacts in use.
- Clean out building #4
- Cut down trees south of building #3.
- Fill low area south of building #3 with dirt.
- Replace Hot Water Heater
- Transfer videos to DVD
- Create more hands on displays for children.
- Purchase good set of International Flags.
- More information in displays.
- Walking tour of the city of Aitkin (GPS)
- Publish "Barns of Aitkin County" book.
- Print historical map of Aitkin County.
- Create more displays to with local interest.
- Collect info and photos for three other books. (Schools, Churches and Riverboats.)
- Work with local business leaders to create more interest in the museum.

"Life is one big road with lots signs. So when you're riding through the ruts, don't complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief and jealousy. Don't bury your thoughts; put your vision to reality. Wake up and live."

~Bob Marley

2012 COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. Replaced Museum Banner on Fence.
2. 48 MN History books added to Lending Library through a Minnesota Legacy Grant.
3. Energy efficient lighting was installed in Depot storage areas.
4. Energy efficient lighting installed in building #3.
5. Motion light installed in depot garage area.
6. Warren William book signing – Stangeland.
7. Movie screening of Warren Williams films.
8. 12 Flag poles donated by the American Legion were sanded/painted/installed along fence.
9. Purchased 12 International Flags for poles.
10. Purchased new MIA & Minnesota Flags.
11. Aitkin Tourism Grant submitted/received.
12. Grants submitted/received for new micro film reader.
13. Purchased new ST View Scan microfilm reader.
14. Received new Kodak Digital Camera as a donation from Jerry Hedberg.
15. Lumber wagon built on metal wheels that had been donated to the museum.
16. STS repaired and chinked log cabin (building #4)
17. Cobble stone walkway has been leveled.
18. Main computer has been replaced.
19. Museum now set up with wireless.
20. More artifacts now displayed on museum walls.
21. All doors and windows in Depot building have been caulked.
22. Fence on East side of Depot building has been extended out 15' to help preserve stone walkway.
23. 1937 F-12 Tractor with steel wheels has been moved area just fenced in.
24. Depot storage area lights are now on separate light switches.
25. Old wooden Railroad Luggage cart has been torn apart, repaired and put back on display.
26. Artifacts rearranged in garden areas.
27. Area North of building #2 has been cleared for future placement of Caboose.
28. Grant for new digital scanner has been submitted.
29. To accommodate additional storage in building #3 a two shelf unit (24' X 6') 6' off of floor was built.
30. Held book signing for "The Oranges are Sweet".
31. Hyytinen hardware donated a new air compressor for use at the museum.
32. "MARCUS" movie projection equipment has been reassembled for future display.
33. Information on our WEB site has been increased.
34. Photos of all Aitkin County Barns have been taken.
35. Front of building #2 re-stained and sealed.
36. Additional Perennials planted in gardens.
37. Sanded paint off of 1950's Cedar lap board fishing boat bottom.
38. Removed rotten stern of boat. Replaced with new cedar boards.
39. Artifacts in building #3 have been reorganized.
40. Garage area in building #3 was enlarged to accommodate additional space for work on building projects.

MUSEUM VISITORS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
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 Graders	84	109	101	91	
June	84	157	472	183	
July	149	229	266	356	
County Fair	1331	1441	1171	0	
August	202	201	214	202	
Garage Sale	0	0	0	1814	
September	42	68	128	118	
Rendezvous	0	0	0	1077	
October	77	141	75	72	
November	30	43	93	41	
Open House	77	60	83	71	
December	13	23	48	50	
TOTALS	2322	2687	2834	4610	

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Completing Obituary files.
2. Assembling Barns of Aitkin County book.
3. Assembling Historical map of Aitkin County.
4. Schools of Aitkin County book.
5. Churches of Aitkin County book.
6. Riverboats of Aitkin County book.
7. Adding additional information on WEB site.
8. Repairing lapboard red cedar boat for display. (Strip, repair, paint, stain, clear coat)
9. Complete set of AHS yearbooks.
10. Increasing membership.
11. GPS Walking Tour of the City of Aitkin.
12. Developing research facility at Depot.
13. Obtaining title to land under Depot.
14. Increasing local interest in Museum.
15. Create photo albums for each display connecting artifacts to Aitkin County.

2013 GOALS

1. Membership over 400 members.
2. Complete Obituary files.
3. Visitor count surpasses 5000.
4. Raffle ticket sales reach 2500.
5. Garage sales surpass 6500 again.
6. Increase number of displays in museum.
7. Lending library set up and running.
8. Clean up museum files.
9. Organize museum supply areas.
10. Complete research on book projects.
11. Find a Caboose.
12. More grant money to promote museum.

2013 MEMORIALS

Helen Liljenquist -
\$10.00

New Members

Carol Wermter
Gary Reiter
Mary Broome

Hyytinen Hardware
Heard about our
need/request for a
compressor to use
in our shop and
graciously donated
a new one to us.
THANK YOU!!!!

Anyone who was BORN
In the 50's, 60's 70's or
80's... We were the
last
generation who played
in the street. We are
the first who played
video games, the last
to
record songs off the
radio on a cassette
tape. We walked over
a mile with no worries
on
being taken... We
learned how to
program the VCR
before anyone else: we
played from Atari to
Nintendo... We are the
generation of Tom and
Jerry, Looney Toons,
And Captain Kangaroo.
We traveled in cars
without seat belts or
air
bags, lived without cell
phones. We did not
have flat screens,
surround sound, iPods,
Facebook, Twitter,
computers or the
Internet... But
Nevertheless we had a
GREAT time.

SPOON LEGEND

Spoons are considered symbols of affection in many cultures. In Wales for example, in times past, a young man would present a decorative hand carved spoon to the girl he wished to marry. The fine finish and intricate design of the carving reflected his affection for her. If she accepted his gift, they were considered betrothed.

While the love spoon tradition dates back to 300 years, the handle design on this particular spoon is far more ancient. It is an example of Celtic knot work. These interwoven designs, thousands of years old, are etched into stone artifacts and appear throughout Ireland and parts of Britain. The pattern on this spoon forms one continuous loop symbolizing the togetherness and loyalty of the couple.

To Do List

1. Make vanilla pudding. Put in mayo jar. Eat in public.
2. Hire two private investigators, Get them to follow each other.
3. Wear shirt that says "Life." Hand out Lemons on street corner.
4. Get into a crowded elevator and say "I bet you're all wondering why I gathered you here today.
5. Major in philosophy. Ask people WHY they would like fries with that.
6. Run into store, ask what year it is. When someone answer, yell "It worked!" and run out cheering.
7. Become a doctor. Change last name to Acula.
8. Change name to Simon. Speak in third person.
9. Buy a parrot. Teach the parrot to say "Help! I've been turned into a parrot.
10. Follow joggers around in your car blasting "Eye of the Tiger" for encouragement.

November Newsletter Corrections

In our November Newsletter I listed a grant from the Kaplan Foundation for \$1,000.00. The money was not a grant, but was a donation given as a memorial in memory of F.C. (Kap) and Hazel Kaplan. Memorial plaques have been installed in the museum.

Also, some of the newsletters went out with Jeannette Zilverberg's name misspelled.

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."
~John F. Kennedy

The one who follows the crowd will usually get no further than the crowd. The one who walks alone is likely to find themselves in places no one has ever been.

2012 MEMORIALS

F.C. (Kap) & Hazel Kaplan -
\$1,000.00
John MacDonald - \$1,230.00
Leota Howard - \$165.00
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
Charles Petersen - \$20.00
Helen Olson - \$10.00
Richard Andert - \$10.00
Luella Sell - \$30.00
Gordon Crosley - \$30.00
Charles Petersen - \$60.00
Lorraine Erickson - \$10.00
John Karelis - \$10.00
Rhoda Baker - \$10.00
Catherine Gabrio - \$10.00

**Total 2012 Memorials
- \$2,780.00**

Donations to Museum

Garbage Tickets – Elsie Paulson
2 cases water – Greg Leach
Snow blower repaired by Tom Brand
Display case – Deepsystems
Display case – Nordlake Reflections

2012 Grants Received

Aitkin Tourism Grant - \$530.00
MN Legacy Grant - \$7,000.00
Mille Lacs Roundup - \$1,000.00
Thrivent Matching Grant - \$800.00
Grand Casino Community Grant - \$500.00
Blandin Grant - \$16,900

New Books in Our Gift Shop

I Miss My Dog by Bob Erickson
Grandparents Minnesota Style
Hiking Minnesota with Kids
Minnesota Rocks & Minerals
The Missabe Road
Seven Iron Men
Vikings in the Attic

Museum Needs

White Copy Paper
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Tickets for Garbage Pickup
Bottles of Drinking Water
Wrapped Candy
Folgers Coffee (Regular or Decaf)
Coffee Filters
Garbage bags
Copier ink

Museum Wish List

2 – Half Barrel Planters
6’ Folding Tables
Railroad Artifacts
Old Plat Books
Old Maps of Aitkin County
Old City Plat maps
Family Histories
Riverboat photos/histories
Minnesota History books
Native American History books

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.

~**Charles Darwin (1809-1882)**

Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.

~**Mark Twain**

2012 FORTH QUARTER ACCESSIONS

12-110	David Cline	History of Myrtle & Cliff Shisler
12-111	Phyllis Hagquist	2 - Tattings, Rug Hook, 1930's Wall Paper Cleaner in shape of Elephant
12-112	Doris Nordean	3 – Aprons
12-113	Itasca County H.S.	29 – books, 19 – event pins, 20 photographs
12-114	Carol Wernter	Old Store Ledger
12-115	Robert Harder	Marcus Theater Projection Equipment and Sign
12-116	Jennie Hakes	Swedish Candle Holder, Cookie Press, 2 – Wool Sock Stretchers, 2 – AHS Homecoming buttons, 2 – AHS patches
12-117	Lewann Sotnak	Old Atlas
12-118	Hibbing H.S.	School Photo
12-119	Janet Miller	Unique bread dough maker, family history
12-120	Larry Hayes	Old Wood Furniture Clamp
12-121	Carlton Co. H.S.	Link & Pin Railroad Coupler
12-122	Gary Babcock	Horn Seed Sower, 12 – WWII Pencils, Edison Dictaphone, Court Recorder machine
12-123	Maxine Schroeder	Photo of Hodgedon-McDonald building
12-124	John Almquist	SOO Line Magazine
12-125	Gary C, Reiter	12 photos of Camp Kitchi Kahniss
12-126	Ardis Ivory	Guitar Harp
12-127	Corrine Walker	Military Items
12-128	Unknown	McGregor Oriole Button
12-129	Mike Tetrault	Old Fireman's Coat and Helmet from Tamarack, Various Tools

Over the past year we have received a large variety of artifacts, photos and information that pertain to the history of Aitkin County. Many of those items donated have filled gaps in our rich history. We will continue to work hard at filling in the gaps with your help.

Do you have old photos or information in your possession that pertains to the history of Aitkin County? Please share it with the Historical Society. We can easily make copies and return the originals to you. Please, do not let a part of our history get lost forever.

Was your family one of the first families to settle in Aitkin County? Please remember that your family history is also the history of Aitkin County. Share that history with us. Has someone in your family written a family history? Consider donating a copy to the Historical Society.

If you do not know if information you have is important, please call and ask us. (218) 927-3348

2012 RAFFLE WINNERS

1. Emily Greens Golf for 4 with cart (\$152.00 value) – **Jennie Hakes** – Monticello, MN
2. Emily Greens Golf for 4 with cart (\$152.00 value) – **Brad Landgren** – Aitkin
3. Chanhassen Dinner Theater for two (\$150.00 value) – **Janet Miller** – McGregor
4. Grand Casino Hotel Package for two (\$125.00 value) – **Jesse Rian** – Aitkin
5. Wild Mountain Super Day Passes (\$66.00 value) **Sara Beckstrand** – St. Paul, MN
6. Minnesota Twins – Print #2 – (\$50.00 value) **Kit Julum** – Aitkin
7. Minnesota Wild Gift Pack – (\$50.00 value) – **Myron Larson** – Aitkin
8. Afghan – (\$50.00 value) **Cindy Walz** - Aitkin
9. Round of Golf – Cross Woods (\$45.00 value) – **Ray Morris** – Aitkin
10. Rhubarb Leaf Bird Bath (\$45.00 value) – **Paul Kuiken** – Aitkin
11. Cuyuna Country Auto Oil Change (\$32.00 value) – **Darlene MacGregor** – Aitkin
12. 36” White Doily (\$30.00 value) – **Eleanor Lemire** – Aitkin
13. 2 – 20” Square Throw Pillows (\$30.00 value) – **Larry Tollefson**
14. Shawl made by Connie Pettersen – **Hannah Oliverius** – Minnetonka, MN
15. Rialto Movie Theater (\$25.00 value) – **Kaitlyn Davies** – Aitkin
16. The Office Shop (\$25.00 value) – **Mike Hill** – Aitkin
17. Pre-paid VISA card (\$25.00 value) – **Bonnie Swanson** – Crystal, MN
18. Rialto Movie Theater (\$25.00 value) – **Doug Collins** – Aitkin
19. 28” White Doily (\$25.00 value) – **James Kalb** – Woodbury, MN
20. 3’ X 5’ Afghan (\$25.00 value) – **Cathy Aykens** – Crosby
21. Pre-paid VISA card (\$25.00 value) – **Bob Cummings** – Aitkin
22. Sunbeam Plush Heated Throw (\$20.00 value) – **Margery Howard** – Aitkin
23. 22” Green & White Doily (\$20.00 value) – **Don Niemi** – Aitkin
24. Kosie’s Café (\$20.00 value) – **Becky Roden** – Aitkin
25. Shakespeare Fishing Set (\$20.00 value) – **Chuck Armstead** – Aitkin
26. Sunbeam Plush Heated Throw (\$20.00 value) **Ron Arvidson** - Aitkin
27. ACHS Family Membership (\$20.00 value) – **Mary Broome** – Aitkin
28. Folding Chair (\$15.00 value) – **Mary Henke** – Aitkin
29. 8 GB 2.0 Flash Drive (\$15.00 value) - **Betty Young** – Eden Prairie, MN
30. Traditions Mini-golf (\$15.00 value) – **Larry Robberstad** – Aitkin
31. 20” Crème Doily (\$15.00 value) – **Ardis Ivory** – Aitkin
32. Cuyuna Lanes (\$10.00 value) – **Cheryl Meld** – Tamarack
33. Shiperio Golf Game (\$8.00 value) – **Linda Hommes** – Aitkin
34. Northland Subway Value Meal (\$8.00 value) – **Darlene Maciej** – McGrath
35. Shiperio Golf Game (\$8.00 value) – **Joe Paakkonen** – Cook, MN
36. Northland Subway Value Meal (\$8.00 value) – **Connie Pettersen** – Aitkin
37. Whistling Wolf Mini-golf (\$6.95 value) – **Bob MacGregor** – Aitkin
38. Aitkin County Naturally (\$5.00 value) – **Chuck Streasick** – Rockport, TX
39. Wood Souvenir Pen (\$5.00 value) – **Bea Roscoe** – Aitkin
40. Aitkin county Naturally (\$5.00 value) – **Lael Carlstrom** – Aitkin
41. Red or Blue Bandana (\$3.00 value) – **Louis Rowell** - Aitkin

2013 RAFFLE PRIZES

We collected a total of 51 prizes for our 2012 raffle drawings. (early-bird in August and final drawing in December). Our goal is to collect 50 prizes again this year. So far we have collected 14 prizes for this year’s raffle. If you have a prize to donate for this fundraiser please contact Greg at the Depot so it can be added to the list.

Northern Pacific Railway Company
Map Showing Railroad Lands for Sale
Corrected to January 1900

The following are excerpts from the back of the map describing Aitkin County.

That portion of Eastern-Central Minnesota represented by Aitkin County, together with the more northerly county of Itasca, has achieved a prominence of late which is destined to command it to the very serious consideration of farmers and stock growers everywhere. The fact that the Aitkin County exhibit secured first prize among all counties at the recent Minnesota State Fair, has served to stimulate public curiosity respecting its resources of that new section, and to cause many inquiries to be made in regard to land there, opportunities for settlement, etc.

Aitkin County is so large that its present population of ten thousand leaves ample room for thousands of other prosperous farmers and for many other thriving communities. It is within easy reach of excellent markets and the larger outlets afforded by Duluth and Superior and Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The Northern Pacific Railway Company owns several hundred thousand acres of the best lands in Aitkin and Itasca Counties.

In addition to this, there is a large amount of government land which can be taken up under the homestead laws.

The soil in Aitkin County is exceedingly fertile, consisting of alluvial clays along the river bottoms, and a considerable quantity of mixed clay soil, which is generally considered the most desirable, on account of its power of absorbing water, and holding it in reservation for the growing of crops while the surface quickly dries, and is therefore easily tilled after rain. Part of it is a sandy loam, containing a large proportion of vegetable substances, which give richness to the soil, as well as warmth early in the spring. Last, but not least, there is a good deal of peaty soil, which for celery and other vegetables cannot be excelled.

No part of agriculture need be neglected in Aitkin County. You can grow enormous crops of cereals: you can grow fruits and vegetables, and you can utilize the unequalled grasses to fatten stock or to make the yellowest and richest butter and cheese which ever pleased human palate or brought to prices in the open market.

Wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, corn and all the small grains yield prodigiously. Sweet potatoes and the common varieties can be grown for the world. Celery, beets, turnips, cabbage, and all vegetables common to the West and Northwest, grow to perfection and in enormous quantities. Sugarcane does well there, also. If this is not enough, let it be known that Aitkin County is the coming fruit region of this entire section of the country. Apples, plums, pears, grapes, and all kinds of berries, all of the most delicious flavor, thrive there unflinching and are becoming more and more of a resource every year. Cranberries grow there in great quantities and edible wild rice is found in abundance. The growing season is long enough to permit of these products maturing before killing frosts come.

Aitkin County's State Fair exhibit was remarkable for several reasons, one of which was the wealth of grasses and forage plants displayed. There were twenty varieties. Magnificent samples of timothy were shown from a field from which two crops had been cut, and also a sample of timothy the seed of which had been sown in the middle of April, 1898, the hay having been cut in August. This new timothy yielded two and a half tons per acre – a fact which J.J. McDonald, chairman of the Board of Aitkin County Commissioners, will vouch for. Three growths of red clover from the same fields in one season is not at all unusual. All kinds of grasses grow there luxuriantly. It is a stock country par excellence. In this one county are over 200 beautiful lakes, not to mention numerous rivers and creeks, and there is no trouble to get inexhaustible supplies of pure well water.

It is a paradise for cattle, hogs and sheep. The great variety of juicy grasses, the pure water, the dry air, the wholesome climate, and the adaptability of the soil and seasons to all kinds of crop products for feed as well as for shipment; render it an ideal section for stockmen and farmers generally. Those diseases which kill off so much live stock in other parts of the country are unknown in this land of spring-fed lakes and brooks. There is abundance of timber for shelter against cold and heat as well as for fuel and building purposes, and the big lumber mills of the country, with their ever pressing need of logs, afford constant and profitable occupation for the farm holders during the winter period.

The timber in the northern part of the county consists principally of pine with hardwood belts and occasional growth of tamarack. In the southern part the hardwoods predominate and include oak, ash, hard and soft maple, elm, basswood, butternut, poplar and birch, intermixed with cedar, pine, balsam, fir, spruce and tamarack.

The lumber and timber industries of this region constitute an important element of wealth, and offer a reliable source of revenue to settlers, a large force of men and teams are employed during the winter months, at good wages, in cutting and hauling logs, railroad ties, piling, paving and telegraph poles. In supplying the demand for logs, cordwood, etc., farmers realize good price for their lumber.

Nor is the county lacking in other desirable features. Newcomers would not be moving into a wilderness. One's neighbors would be largely emigrants from the older states, with many sturdy and industrious people from across the ocean. In Aitkin and Grand Rapids, the respective county seats of Aitkin and Itasca counties, are schools and churches, as well as homes and business houses that would be a credit to any place in the land. They are thriving, prosperous young towns. Aitkin has a population of about 1800. Its public buildings, hotels, electric-light plant, water-works system and other modern conveniences, generally, among the best in the state. There are other large settlements, of course, and good district schools are everywhere available. In a few years there will be a largely increased population in the county – farm values increasing at a corresponding rate. It abounds in game of every description from the big black bass to the huge muskellunge and from ducks, geese, grouse, prairie chicken and partridge, to deer, moose, bear and other large animals.

It must be remembered also, that this county, which is so rapidly forcing its way to the front as one of the most highly favored localities in Minnesota, is only 90 miles from Duluth, and the head of Lake Superior, and only 150 miles from the Twin Cities, St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In corroboration of what has been here said regarding this county, the following statements by actual settlers will be of interest.

Joseph Elmhurst, whose post-office address is Aitkin, Aitkin County, Minn., says: "I came from Hunnewell, Shelby County, MO.; last spring was induced to come here by Mr. B.M. Hungerford whom I had never known or heard of, and I am simply delighted with the county and prospects. I am an Englishman, and have seen much of the world, but have never seen such wonderfully productive soil as her in Aitkin County."

Peter Anderson, whose address is the same says: "I threshed this year from one and one half acres, sixty-two bushels of wheat. My other crops are equally as good. Have not had a failure since I came here fourteen years ago."

Capt. N.C. Honnold, Attica post office, Aitkin County testifies as follows: "I have lived in Aitkin County five years. I have raised corn each year, and it has always matured and has averaged forty bushels to the acre. I have lived in Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Nebraska, but have never seen such productive soil. It is the coming fruit country of the Northwest."

Here is what S.H. Hodegen says. His post office is Aitkin: "I have 38 acres of corn this year that yields forth bushels shelled corn per acre. I have seventy acres of oats that threshed sixty-eight bushels to the acre. I cut 115 tons of timothy from forty acres. I have lived her twenty-seven years, and have never known a failure of crops, excepting on lands that have overflowed."

County Commissioner E.A. Hanson says: "I have lived in Aitkin County eighteen years. I cut four tons of fine hay per acre from natural meadow this season. I have threshed forty bushels of wheat to the acre. I do not believe Aitkin County soil is surpassed in the United States for productiveness."

Ole Sjodeve, Attica post office says: "I have lived in Aitkin County thirteen years and have never had a failure of crops. I keep twenty-five head of cattle, six horses, twenty sheep, and twenty hogs and have never lost any by disease. I do not believe there is such a stock country in the United States."

C.G. Welton, who has lived in Aitkin County eighteen years, and whose work is as good as gold, says that he has just threshed 169 ½ bushels of wheat from three acres and 400 bushels of oats from four acres, the latter weighing forty-four pounds to the bushel, which makes the actual yield 135 bushels per acre – a world beating record."

Towns in Aitkin County

Aitkin, an important town on the Northern Pacific Ry, is situated on the Mississippi and is a shipping point for a line of steamboats running on the river. It has sawmills, planing-mills, a stave mill, a \$20,000 Courthouse, a \$10,000 School house, churches, hotels and a good representation in general business enterprises. It has 1,800 population and is an active trade center.

Cedar Lake, population 500, a fishing resort, and **Rossberg**, **Kimberly**, **McGregor** and **Tamarack** are stations on the Northern Pacific Ry. and shipping points for new farming districts. They offer good openings for new business projects.

Nichols, **Hickory**, **Attica** and **Malmo**, reached from **Aitkin** are attractive lake resorts with excellent fishing, hunting, and boating. The climate is exceedingly healthful and the lakes are visited annually by large numbers of people in pursuit of health and pleasure.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013

COLLECTIONS

Committee meets the first Friday of every other month starting in January at 9:30am. We discuss donations that we have received and the donation of larger items that have been offered to us.

6TH GRADE TOUR

This event takes place the first Wednesday in May. This event is open to all sixth graders. We offer a morning and afternoon tour. Children get a good taste of what the museum is all about. They visit the following areas: research, railroad, riverboat, heritage room and logging camp kitchen.

AITKIN COUNTY FAIR

This year's County Fair will take place on July 10th thru 13th. Our Log Cabin will be open for this event and we will need volunteers to staff the building.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

August 2nd and 3rd

For the third year in a row we plan on filling two buildings at the County Fairgrounds. Last year was our largest sale in the history of the Historical Society. Saturday will be half price day at our sale. Last year everything that was left was donated to the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). We have already started to collect for our sale. When cleaning out your garage, basement or sheds please consider donating those unwanted items to us. **All donations are tax deductible.** Items can be dropped off at the Depot or call us for a pickup.

EARLY-BIRD RAFFLE DRAWING

August 5th

This is held for all raffle tickets that have been returned to the museum. All tickets turned in early are also in our final drawing held during our Annual Open House in December. Ten prizes will be given away at this drawing.

AITKIN RENDEVOUS

September 17th, 18th & 19th

We operate a food booth at this event located at the Aitkin County Fairgrounds. Last year we sold fry bread, biscuits & gravy, cheese curds, pickles on a stick, hotdogs, brats and candy bars.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/COOKIE WALK/RAFFLE DRAWING

December 7th

Our Open House runs from 9am to 4pm. Visitors receive free entrance to the museum, free coffee, apple cider and cookies. Cookie Walk starts at 9:30am and runs until all of the cookies are gone. (Usually before noon) At 2pm we will hold our Annual Raffle drawing. A list of 2012 winners can be found earlier in this newsletter. Last year 41 prizes were given away at this drawing.

<p>We will be checking with Paulbecks about setting up a table to sell raffle tickets a couple times and to see about selling food out front of their store this summer.</p>
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