

AITKIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEPOT HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019 — Volume 26, Issue 1

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Greetings from the Depot! This winter has been a doozy with all the snow and cold. I hope you are doing well and staying warm. If you are thinking it has been a while since you've received a newsletter you are correct. We have been busy at the museum with lots of projects and we didn't get a Fall newsletter out to you. We'll have lots to catch up on in this newsletter. You'll read about new displays, what has been donated and opportunities to get involved. Jennie Hakes, our board president also shares a little bit of her history in the President's Corner.

Work is being done at the museum to digitize photos, our card catalog for artifacts and convert VHS to DVD. We will also have an Eagle Scout candidate working on a project to digitize our card catalog of Aitkin people. All of these digitization projects will enable us to make our resources easier to access and share with all of you!

ACHS is continuing its work on the StEPS program which helps us self-assess how we are doing with our practices compared to other historical societies. We will start assessing our Mission, Vision and Goals soon. If you would like to join the Board of Trustees in working through this portion of the StEPS assessment please let us know and we'll get you the materials. The time commitment for this portion of the project will be around 4 hrs. We would love to have your input!

I also had the opportunity to attend a short course in museum law early in January at Hamline Mitchell Law School in St. Paul. I learned a lot about copyright law and the importance of written policies and procedures for smooth museum operations. After attending this course I am very thankful we are working through the StEPS program. It will help us identify and prioritize the policies we need to get in place.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the volunteer opportunities section of the newsletter. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization and we could use some more key volunteers for this year. If you have a passion for Aitkin County history I would urge you to consider investing some time into ACHS. We can use help in all areas of our operations!

Memorials

**Sonja Nina Svenkerud
Alan Ladd Hakes
Luella 'Kit' Julum
Margery Lena Howard**

Many thanks to those of you who have honored the passing of loved ones through a memorial given to ACHS. Your generosity helps us accomplish our mission of preserving and sharing Aitkin County history!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Business Members

Aitkin Flowers & Gifts
Aitkin Independent Age
Allen County Public Library
American Legion Post 86
Antoine Electric
Brands Small Engine Repair
Bremer Bank
Eyecare Centers of Aitkin &
McGregor
Lundberg Plumbing & Heating
Security State Bank
Shirts Plus

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**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
BUSINESS MEMBERS!**

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**Do you shop on
Amazon?**

If so, you can support us through Amazon Smile. Through this program Amazon donates a portion of your purchases to ACHS. The cost of your purchase does not increase. It is a tool Amazon uses to allow its customers to direct its charitable giving. You can use [this link](#) to use Amazon to make your purchases or you can go to smile.amazon.com and search for Aitkin County Historical Society to select us as a beneficiary. Thanks!

ACHS Is Supported by These Local Governments

Aitkin County
Aitkin Township
Beaver Township
Farm Island Township
Idun Township
Lakeside Township
Libby Township
Nordland Township
City of Tamarack

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**IF YOU DON'T SEE YOU
TOWNSHIP LISTED.
PLEASE CONSIDER
ASKING YOUR
TOWNSHIP BOARD TO
SUPPORT THE ACHS AT
YOUR NEXT ANNUAL
MEETING!**

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**ACHS is still collect-
ing your scrap cop-
per. If you have bits
laying around in your
way bring them on
down to the Depot
Museum and we can
use them!**

BOARD MEMBERS

Jennie Hakes—President
Cheryl Meld—Vice-President
Laura Thornbloom—Secretary
Colleen Bremner—Treasurer
John Hendrickson
Bob Lake
Kirk Peysar
Mark Wedel—Aitkin Co. Com.

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**WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS!**

**Doug & Carolyn
Johnson**
Maggie Mackaman
**Bruce & Kathy
Rewaldt**
Clyde Swanson
Kathryn Engdahl
Dean Frost
Kathleen Valdez
Les & Elaine Moser

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RECENT AQUISITIONS

18.58 Janet M.	Numerous photos	18.72 Dick F.	Photos - lumbering
18.59 Pat H.	Baby bunting	18.73 Dawn W.	Photos - Palisade
18.60 Roxy W.	Miscellaneous directories	18.74 Mike W.	Thor Tel. Co. Papers
18.61 Joann W.	Dresser set, Cigar mold etc.	18.75 Beverly M.	AHS programs
18.62 Dennis C.	Casey family pics & booklet	18.76 Robert V.	Photos
18.63 Audrey E.	Coffee pot, 4-H book, misc.	18.77 Audrey E.	Hand-carved birds
18.64 Paul M.	1800s rope bed	18.78 Alan J.	Royal typewriter
18.65 Aitkin Lib.	Old Books	18.79 Dawn W.	Willow Schl #58 info
18.66 City of Aitkin	Misc. papers - Beecher	18.80 Lois D.	Pens, Spoon etc.
18.67 Laura C.	3 rubber canning rings	18.81 CW Hist.	Maps , photo, ink blotter
18.68 Lori M.	Menus, adv. items, uniform	18.82 Marlene K.	Photos
18.69 Sharon N.	'38 AHS scrapbook, etc.	18.83 John H.	Lady's hat, booklet
18.70 Closuit Est.	Medical bag, Mil. items etc.	18.89 Itasca Hist.	Book, Hill City MC plate
18.71 Nancy P.	Birch Haven - painting & tray		

President's Corner

Jennie Hakes



For those of you who don't know me, allow me to introduce myself. I was born and grew up in Aitkin, moved to the big City for college, married and had a career in project management for a lot of big corporations. I have come full circle, ditching the rat race three years ago and moving back to Aitkin with my husband Steve. Why am I a member, let alone President of the historical society? My mother, Dorothy Hakes, was on the Board of Trustees many years ago. She was born, married, and died in Aitkin. My father, Boyd Hakes, moved here in the 1930s to help run the local creamery and he lived here until he died also. I am drawn to and steeped in the history of this area. As President I have some major goals for ACHS. One is to automate a lot of our paper records, including our artifacts and photos. Another is to pull together one set of Policies and Procedures and figure out what is missing and/or can be improved. So many of our treasured volunteers are aging (including me). Who is going to carry on our work in 5 years, in 10 years - and how will they know how to do it? Knowledge in our heads needs to be put into writing. Speaking of volunteers, we have many projects, both large and small, to fit your talents. Even an hour or two once in awhile can be a great help. I hope to see you at the Depot, where the coffee pot is always on.

HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS



ITEMS NEEDED AT THE DEPOT:

- **A High Speed Document Scanner**
Books:
- **Hell's Kitchen Tulagi 1942-1943 by Thomas J Larson**
School Yearbooks:
- **Aitkin A books:** 1972, 1979, 2010—present
- **Hill City Stinger:** all years before 1976, 1980, 1985, 1987—1991, 1993—2000, 2002, 2006—present
- **McGrath Memories:** all years except 1954
- **McGregor Pine Log:** 1934-1948, 1965, 1979, 1982—1984, 2003—present

Periodicals:

- **Minnesota History**

Volumes 1-3, 5, 6, 10-32, 40

Issues 4.7, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 33.3, 33.4, 34.4, 37.4, 38.4, 38.5, 38.6, 38.8, 39.1, 39.2, 39.3, 39.5, 39.6, 39.7, 39.8, 41.1, 41.2, 41.3, 42.8, 44.4, 44.5, 44.7, 56.1, 63.8, 65.4, 65.5, 65.6

If you have any of these items that you would like to donate to ACHS they would be greatly appreciated!

Sports and Commerce Show

On March 9th and 10th we will be joining the Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce for their annual Sports and Commerce Show at the Aitkin Highschool. We will be selling books published by ACHS as well as books by local authors; recruiting volunteers; and receiving new and renewing memberships. If you are visiting the show be sure to stop by and visit our booth to sign up for a prize drawing!

6th Grade Visit Day

On May 10th the Depot Museum will host our area 6th graders for a day of delving into Aitkin County History. We will be showcasing our research room to show the students the available resources they can use for historical research. We will also have folks on hand who will be demonstrating skills used in the fur trading, logging, and pioneering eras. If you'd like to demonstrate a skill from these eras for the kids please let us know and we'll get you set up.

Showboat Board Members Needed

The Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce reached out to us to see if there might be someone within our membership who would like to be a part of the Showboat Board of Directors. The Showboat's renovation is nearly complete and the board is now focusing on programming for the upcoming year. They are interested in having someone with ties to our historical society be a part of the leadership for this boat. If you might be interested in applying to be a board member you can click [this link](#) or call the Chamber's office at (218)927-2316

Help us save money on postage by requesting your newsletter to be emailed to you.

You can let us know by calling us (218)927-3348 or by emailing us achs3348@embarqmail.com



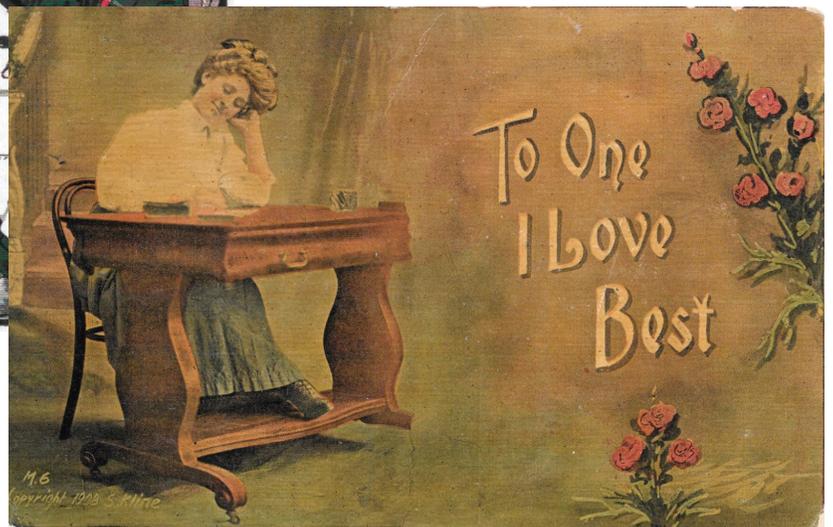
MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

A New Display: State Birds

Recently we had the privilege of receiving a beautiful collection of hand carved and painted birds from Audrey Engels. She grew up on a farm near Palisade, the daughter of Robert and Ruby Sanford. She graduated from Aitkin High School in 1947 and then went to the University of Minnesota, majoring in Zoology and Botany. She married John Engels in 1951 and they raised a family of four in Brooklyn Center. In the 1960s they both started carving after attending a Minnesota Woodcarving Association show. The collection she donated to ACHS is comprised of carvings she has done of all the different state birds. From Minnesota's Loon to Hawaii's NeNe Audrey has carved them. Can you name all the state birds? Come by the Depot and see if you can!



Also on Display:



Valentines from the Past

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As you can see below, we have ample opportunities for you to plug in and volunteer with ACHS. Some spots are a one time commitment others can be more extensive. Whatever your schedule might be, we have something for you to help out with. Please consider helping out in one of the ways below.

6th Grad Visit Day

On May 10 we will again be hosting the 6th grade kids from Rippleside and McGregor Schools. We will give them a taste of Aitkin County History through living history demonstrations and displays and museum tours. We will also show the students what is in our resource room and how they can utilize it for research. If you are interested in helping us out on that day we will need help with leading groups of students around to the different learning stations and people to give demonstrations and historical talks. Let us know if you'd like to participate in this fun event.!

Sports and Commerce Show

On March 9 and 10 we will be operating a booth at the Outdoor and Commerce Show in the Aitkin High School. We will be selling our books, recruit volunteers, and taking memberships at our booth. We still could use help at the booth on Saturday 1:00-4:00 pm and Sunday 10:00-12:15 am. Let us know if you'd like to represent ACHS at this event.

Maintenance Projects

As the days get warmer and our snow birds start to return we have a crew that gathers together to maintain our buildings. Sometimes the job for the day will be constructing shelves other days it may be changing air filters. This crew is always keeping our place looking great. If you have a handy way about things and would like to help keep things looking good around the museum let us know and we'll get you on our maintenance crew!

Board Members

Our board of trustees is looking to add a couple more board members. The commitment as a board member is 6 trustee meetings throughout the year and a commitment to be on one of our committees (Collections, Display, Fair etc.). If you are interested in being part of ACHS' leadership please let us know!

Gardener

Our previous gardener has moved out of town and we are in need of someone with a green thumb to help manage our perennial garden beds. If you have a knack with plants and don't mind going to war with weeds there's a place for you on our volunteer team.

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST



Above: Morris McGee, the cook of a logging camp on Hill Lake in the winter of 1900

Below: Lunch brought to the lumberjacks of the Bovey-DeLaitre logging outfit by horse and swing dingle (small sleigh)





Aitkin County Historical Society

P.O. Box 215

Aitkin, MN, 56431

We are located just 2 blocks south of the stop-lights in downtown Aitkin. South of the railroad tracks and west of highway 169 at 20 Pacific Street Southwest.

Phone: (218)927-3348

Email: achs3348@embarqmail.com

Website: www.aitkincohs.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 6

Collections Committee

@ The Depot Museum 10:00 am

March 27

Board of Trustees Meeting

@ The Depot Museum 10:00 am

March 9-10

Commerce and Outdoor Show

@ Aitkin High School 10:00 am-4:00 pm

May 10

6th Grade Visit Day

@ The Depot Museum 9:00 am

MUSEUM HOURS

Fall & Winter

Wednesday, Friday, &

Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

EDITOR:

Mathew Nix

Administrator

Aitkin County Historical
Society