

OBS News

Volume IX, Issue 4

August 7, 2007

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2007
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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2007 AUGUST O-BHS ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007, 11:00 A. M., AT THE DAVIDSON WINDMILL AND LAKESIDE TOWN HALL WE WILL BEGIN WITH OUR BUSINESS MEETING, FOLLOWED BY A MUSICAL CONCERT PERFORMED BY THE JÄRVENPÄÄ FINNFEST CHOIR. TOURS OF THE MILL WILL BE AVAILABLE. REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW AT THE LAKESIDE TOWN HALL AS WE JOIN WITH LAKESIDE IN THEIR ANNUAL PICNIC.

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

Thanks to the Town of Lakeside for their offer to join with them, for the use of their hall, to the Lakeside Baptist Church as weather backup, to all who serve us in the kitchen, and to all who bring refreshments to share

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Heritage (*Something immaterial, as a style or philosophy, that is passed from one generation to another*). The 50th Wedding Anniversary that my wife Barbra and I celebrated last week was an example of our heritage. Our children providing a video presentation of our engagement to the present time, which represents a small view of what we did during these 50 years, people we have meet, places where we have been, and things that we have done. This is the heritage that our children and their children have to build upon, to provide a basis for what they believe and who they are. We enjoyed sharing our 50 years with our family and friends and catching up on their lives and their heritage.

Without a record like we have, how does one knows what we are to believe, and how does one pass this information on to the following generations.

We at the *Old-Brule Heritage Society* are here to collect and preserve this Heritage of the Old-Brule area. We are collecting, categorizing and electronically preserving this information, but we cannot do this without **you** providing this information of Old Photo albums, scrapbooks and many other items, which we can determine as to its benefit to the heritage of this area. Please do not throw away any of these items. Instead please contact one of the members of Old-Brule Heritage Society, at P.O. Box 24, Maple, WI. 54854, or view our Web site at www.oldbrule.org for additional members to contact.

One of our group's own examples of preserving our Heritage are the scrapbooks of most the of the Old-Brule Heritage Society events and activities in the form of pictures, newspaper articles and other items. This scrapbook is available at most of the general meetings of the Old-Brule Heritage Society and is presently maintained by Audrey Hakkila, and has been from the start. Please take a moment at the next meeting to look at the Heritage of our Old-Brule Heritage Society. Our thanks to Audrey.

Please check out the www.oldbrule.org Web site as your president is presently updating the site on a regular basis.

Respectfully,
Earl Granroth

FROM THE EDITOR:

"In Praise of Garage Sales."

I have a belief that our small local communities are the true canaries in the dark mines of modern civilization or mass culture. As they fail, we as a people are surely moving in the wrong direction. Along these lines of thought I have a keen

interest in how we employ two words, “community,” and “freedom.” Do we as members of O-BHS constitute a “community?” In some sense we do, but how does this compare with old traditional uses of the word? The old French and Latin meanings derive from the word “common” or “in common” and hence already at that early time imply a “fellowship.” This might mean then a group sharing something in common even at some physical distance. In the modern world, with its vast expansions of our individual physical boundaries due to changes in routine transport and communications, our “communities” can extend around the earth. Our “communities” now seem to be those we take with us wherever we go, maybe in our iPods and on our cell phone call lists.

I think of the Lapp or Saami word, *Baiki*, which scholar Faith Fjeld chose as the title of her journal dedicated to Saami heritage and studies. *Baiki* loosely means “that home which we carry within our hearts.” A seasonally migratory people would be especially sensitive to a home that had to do more with relationships with others than with a fixed particular location. Our modern world in many ways is carrying us back to this type of mobile “home” or “community.” In contrast, our local towns and villages, at their founding, in a pre-automobile, pre-telephone world, and being almost totally agriculturally based, were anchored in place. The communities that grew on this basis developed within relatively narrow physical boundaries. A “community” in this context, imported from Christian Europe, had come to mean those who lived together within these fixed political boundaries.

Now, considering these two variations on the meaning of “community,” how might these change the meaning of the word “freedom” in the understanding of each group? “Freedom” for the enclosed community might be embodied in sacred property rights, or private ownership, that were essential for harmonious life in the group. “Freedom” in the migratory group might be the simple right of access to the community. One thinks of how in aboriginal communities the worst fate for a criminal was to be banished from the group. In an enclosed “community” punishment was by fine or by imprisonment which would deny one the use of one’s property.

There are troubling questions that start to emerge from this analysis. How do our towns and villages reestablish definitions of “community” and “freedom” that provide coherent meaning for life with neighbors who we hardly know, places where we live without social mechanisms that could provide meaning thereby enabling “community,” to develop. What does “freedom” mean for us today? Certainly our churches and our schools attempt to provide answers, but in some ways often they too seem to be communities isolated unto themselves within modern life. If it wasn’t for garage sales I would never even get to meet many of my new neighbors. Could it be that informally the more profound social meaning of neighborhood garage sales is to help isolated modern people re-establish connection to their struggling communities and to protect their freedom?!

-Jim Pellman

2006 and 2007 OLD-BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDARS FOR SALE.

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, produced its eighth and final calendar in 2005 with more pictures of Brule’s past. Proceeds of these annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, are being used for the publication of the history of Brule, hopefully to be completed soon. Limited numbers of their 2005 calendar and earlier issues are still available. To order any of these calendars by mail, please write or call Janet Follis, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820 (715) 372-4948.

Continuing in the BHRG calendar tradition, the *2007 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendar* is still available at \$6.00 each. Our 2006 calendar is also available at \$5.00 in limited numbers. They are available from O-BHS members or at limited local business outlets. An e-mail address for more info: musketeer6@cheqnet.net, and phone: 715-363-2549, or check our Web site at www.oldbrule.org. Shipping and handling costs are \$3.50 each. A 2008 calendar is now in the planning stages.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE O-BHS NEWS ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS ALONE AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF THE O-BHS ORGANIZATION.

ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The Archives Committee would welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Our continuing project is learning to use the computer in support of our work, scanning documents and photos, storing records and creating databases. Our thanks to our loyal committee members and contributors, and to the Town of Maple for archive space. If you enjoy exacting work please join us at 1 p.m. at the Pellmans’ some Monday afternoon. Next meetings: August 13, 2007, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Unapproved MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
LAKESIDE TOWN HALL, JUNE 14TH , 2007**

ATTENDANCE : 17

BUSINESS MEETING.

A. CALL TO ORDER: Earl called the meeting to order at 6:20 PM

B. MINUTES: Barb moved that we approve the April 11th, 2007 meeting minutes. Jim seconded. Motion carried.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT: Jackie gave the report.

Checking Account Chippewa Valley Bank:.....\$ 550.80

NBC Mill Fund.....\$3,110.44

NBC CD's.....\$7,500.00

Hope Swenson moved that we approve the Treasurer's Report, Jack Pank second, motion carried.

D. OLD BUSINESS.

1. DAVIDSON WINDMILL COMMITTEE REPORT: CONSTRUCTION REPORT: Roofing of Mill & cabin complete. Jim explained what all has been done at the Mill. And about our new BIFFY and about the need to put a wall around it for more privacy. Thanks to the Tutors & Panks, Jay Elmore, Hobart Finn. Electricity to the grounds is in. Special Thanks to Paul Colby & Ron Hendrickson, ConocoPhillips and clay crew. Thanks to Roger Colby & Eddie Walman, Earl & Barb. BIFFY was purchased, cabin floor, windows & ceiling complete. Thanks to Harry, Eddie, Donald Andersons. Needed: pathway, chimney, handicap ramp, interior door to be installed donated by Delores Pellman, benches, fieldstone final landscaping, culvert repair & replacement. Safety railings. 2008 Finnfest tours coming. Mill painted (touch ups). Thanks to Harry & Mary. Fire extinguishers are in, First Aid kits needed. Tables in. Memorial Tree planted. Plaque ordered. Thanks to Eddie & Alice. We are missing Paul Williams who is ill. Earl thanked Jim for all his work at the Mill. Harry mentioned about the stairway and Mary said to give thanks to all who have worked there. Jim mentioned about what Essen had to say about the ramp.

2. FUND RAISING COMMITTEE: New Windmill key chains are available. Magnets are in. Magnet Pads, Bong plane, Windmill, Taylor's Bridge magnets and button-maker in. Earl & Barb have been busy making buttons.

3. ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Next Meeting will be at Pellman's home on Monday, June 18th, 2007, 1:00 pm every other Monday. Volunteers always needed. Earl wants to put in a series of pictures of the Eskolin home of what it once looked like, and what it looks like now. Follis papers scanning is nearing completion. Committee again helped get out on the OBHS Newsletters again last session. Thanks to all who helped.

4. WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Earl Granroth has been making routine updates and improvements. Check out our Web site address at www.oldbrule.org. More work is needed on the sites market portion, Davidson Windmill description, history, etc, as time permits.

4. SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MAPLE ACTIVITIES: Pollari Memorial Gift for use in Northwestern Schools Committee is waiting for results of a the letter Lois has now drafted to be sent. John Rautio of Iron River is the one who received 2007 OBHS Scholarship. There was a thank you from John Rautio who intends to be a pharmacist.

6. PUBLICITY (ADVERTISING) COMMITTEE: Articles in the *Connection* and *Daily Telegram* are being submitted by Audrey Hakkila. Maryann explained the ad that was purchased for the Midsummer event in the Superior *Daily Telegram*. The Superior Bank on East Second St. and the bank on Tower Plaza advertised on their outside signs about our Midsummer Festival that was held at Lakeside Town Hall on June 16th, 2007. Earl was putting it on our Website. Jim said the Douglas County Historical Society had a nice write up also.

7. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Regional Historical Map still on hold. Lois explained about the Maple School District getting interested in a project. *Wisconsin Far Northwest*: 12 remaining. Printing on still on hold. Calendars sell for \$5.00 for 2006 and \$ 6.00 for 2007. Work will begin soon on 2008 calendars.

Wisconsin Far Northwest reprint preparation has been ongoing. Printer was no longer listed. Need to get another estimate? Lakeside history, *Sisu and Sauna*, sales, Beecroft? No reply? Davidson Windmill brochure completed. 2007 is Centennial Anniversary for Village of Lake Nebagamon, Towns of Hawthorne and Highland, and Town of Maple, and Brule River State Forest. Town of Maple history in progress. Special Maple Annual Picnic August 4th to celebrate Centennial. Live music planned.

8. MEMBERSHIPS: Dues for 2008 will start being collected at the Annual Meeting. Please keep track of Volunteer Hours on the Blue Form and turn in at the end of July ahead of the Annual Meeting in August. O-BHS Volunteer Recognition patches will be investigated.

9. BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: Good Progress being made. ISBN No. reserved.

10. DAVID MAKI ACTIVITIES: Recently received via email latest research downloadable report.

11. NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, July 11th, 2007 at Hope Swenson's home, Lakeside.

12. SECOND COOPER CREEK MINE SITE TREK: With Northern Lakes Archaeological Society, north of Pattison Park on May 19th, was a great success with 19 participants. Harry & Mary W. made contact with the Willoughbys for a shorter route into the site and all should be thanked.

13. TAYLOR'S BRIDGE: Sign repair permanent replacement available from Superior Trophy. Partner with DCHS on this? There has been no reply yet from DCHS. Taylor's Bridge prospect: to possibly install it within Amnicon Falls State Park. Jim talked with Mrs. Dalbec with Friends of the Park who is enthusiastic. More follow up needed.

14. HISTORICAL CAR TOUR: Possibly have Brule State Forest people join us in the Fall of 2007 for a History Tour via car caravan.

15. ANNUAL MEETING PREP: The Annual meeting will be at the Windmill on August 18th, 2007, tentatively 1:00 p.m. It will be a pot luck picnic. Bring your own lawn chair. The Järvenpää Singers will be singing. Hope moved that we pay the singers \$ 25.00 and Shirley seconded the motion. Motion carried. A hat will be passed. Mary Jane Sedin, and Gail Saari will speak on their trip to Finland. In case of rain it will be held at the Lakeside Baptist Church.

16. BOARD NOMINATING (REPLACEMENT) COMMITTEE: Harry Wester and Paul Williams (whose second terms are ending). We need 2 replacements: Shirley Kankas-Rouleau has already agreed to be nominated.

17. OTHER: NONE

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: October 10th, 2007, Highland Town Hall, 6:00 pm. Janine to contact Town of Highland for use their new hall. Speaker to be Dave Thorson of Barnes speaking on Glaciers if available. Jim to contact.

COMMUNICATIONS. State granted a one time reduction at their sites in the month of June for affiliated organizations. Certificate mailed with last news letter

OTHER:

1. Jim moved we send Wisconsin Council for Local History \$15:00 and Jack Pank seconded motion. Motion carried. There is a meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on the 26th & 27th of July. It is a 2 day affair. Tabled. Hope asked about a sign to talk about the Eskolin house and pictures. Hope said she would put something together.

2. Presentation of the Memorial Tree. At Midsummer. Paul is going to present a check to Earl in the name of our group. Unveiling of the Memorial Tree and plaque.

F. ADJOURNMENT. Barb moved that we adjourn the meeting, and Mary Ann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Thank you, to the Town of Lakeside for the use of their town hall, and to everyone who helped with the Midsummer Fest and to all who donated.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Colby, Secretary

FUND-RAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Society has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps and tee shirts and sweat shirts for sale. Early issue magnets are going for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00, proceeds to our general fund. The Windmill mugs are \$4.00, caps, \$5.00, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, taxes included. SEE CURRENT SALE ITEMS ON OUR WEB SITE (www.oldbrule.org).

Available also are copies of a David Noah Seis photograph of the mill for sale. This image comes in three sizes: 4 by 5 inches, 5 by 7 inches, and 8 ½ by 11 inches. The smaller reproductions can also be used as post cards as each has a brief historical description on half of its reverse side. Prices are \$1.00, \$2.00 and the largest one which has no printing on it \$3.00. All are laser reproductions on card stock suitable for framing. This same image is available in our magnet series. Our book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, and Nan Wisherd's books *Pathways* and *Echoes*, and Lakeside's *Sisu and Sauna* are available for \$20.00 a copy + \$4.00 shipping. Wisconsin tax is included in all our prices. Shipping and handling for mugs, caps and tee shirts is a \$4.00 minimum. All items are available for purchase at our meetings or by contacting an O-BHS member. O-BHS Calendars for 2006 (\$5) and 2007 (\$6) are also available (\$3.50 shipping).

**Unapproved MINUTES, BOARD MEETING
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
HOPE SWENSON'S HOME, LAKESIDE, JULY 12th, 2007**

PRESENT: Board members: President, Earl Granroth; Vice President, Harry Wester.; Secretary, Karin Colby; Treasurer, Jackie Plunkett; Alice Christensen, Hope Swenson, Jack Pank, Eddie Walman, Jim Pellman, Emeritus; member Shirley Kankas-Rouleau.

A. CALL TO ORDER: Earl Granroth, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

B. MINUTES: Alice moved that we approve the minutes with a second by Jack. Motion carried.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Chippewa Valley Bank.....	\$550.80
NBC: Mill Fund.....	\$3,119.44
NBC: C/DS.....	\$7,500.00

Jackie gave the Treasurer's report. She stated that the Mill advertising wasn't included. Hope Swenson moved that we approve the Treasurer's report, and Alice Christensen seconded the motion. Motion carried. Hope asked about the inventory for *Wisconsin Far Northwest*: 7 books; *Sisu & Sauna*, 108 books. We still owe Lakeside Fire Aux for some books. Discussion on whether to pay Lakeside Aux annually or semi-annually. Hope moved that we pay Lakeside Fire Department Auxiliary semi-annually for the books sold, and Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jackie & Alice spoke on our Midsummer Celebration. It was a real nice turn out for the dinner.

We took in.....	\$723.60
<u>Minus Expenses.....</u>	<u>\$157.10</u>
Profit (meals).....	\$566.50
<u>We took in on Merchandise Sales.....</u>	<u>\$662.37</u>
Total from Merchandise & Dinners....	\$1,228.87
<u>Donations (tours, etc.).....</u>	<u>\$101.50</u>
Total.....	\$1,330.37

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. DAVIDSON WINDMILL COMMITTEE REPORT: Most of goals met before Windmill tours at Midsummer Celebration Paul Colby to submit a new planning grant from ConocoPhillips \$ 500.00 for planning grant for ground improvements memorial sidewalk, benches, roadside signage, etc. Now needed: inside door and locks need to be installed, urethane foam caulking, huge monolith boulder from Ron Hendrickson for memorial, mount plaque, address tree damage. Jim moved to allow Paul Colby to go ahead with the planning grant and Alice seconded the motion. Motion carried. Three new folding tables for use at cabin stored temporarily at Archives. Fire extinguishers are on site. Jackie to see about 2 first aid kits. Jim thanked everyone for all their hard work for making the Midsummer Celebration a success. The sub-parking lot matting is still there. Discussion to keep the rest of it (about 100 lineal feet). Harry moved that we keep the rest, and Jackie seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was mentioned that there was some tree damage at the mill. Alice mentioned about the need to be watering the trees and flowers at the Mill, and it was stated that there has been some of the members who have been stopping over there and watering them at times. Our thanks to people who have stopped and watered them.

2. FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE: Button sales best results was image of mill and cabin. Earl is going to put our merchandise on the web site. Jackie asked about the shipping of the pins. There was a discussion on the cost of the shipping of the pins. Also Jackie asked about putting our shirts on sale again. After discussion Jackie moved to sell the shirts for 50% off from now until the end of the year, and Alice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3 ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Next meeting, Monday, August 13th, 2007 at Pellmans' home 1:00 p.m. More help needed.

4. WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT: Faithfully kept up dated by Earl as time permits. There will be more things added on Windmill history. Earl did mention that he had worked on some issues with Jim. Jim mentioned his sister has a computer we could have. Jim made a motion to get the computer and Shirley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. POLLARI MEMORIAL GIFT COMMITTEE: Lois has a meeting scheduled to talk to the principals.

6. PUBLICITY/ADVERTISING COMMITTEE: New pamphlet distribution. Annual Meeting publicity: our publicity would be put in the new "Life Style" page in the paper on Saturdays with our ads and pictures of our singers for the Annual Meeting. It should be put in the paper at least two weeks before the date. Need to call Audrey or Mary Ann and request it to say Saturday the 18th of August, 12:00 noon [*Moved to 11:00 a.m. See elsewhere this issue.*] at the Windmill Site. Jim moved that we move ahead with the 2008 calendar. Alice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Heritage map still on hold. *Wisconsin Far Northwest* fourth printing still in

progress. Four more calendars, 2 2006, 2 2007, were ordered by Kathy Emmons of Gopher Hole. Calendars for Maple Centennial will be available. Possibly offer to sell those left over?

8. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Please turn in your current years (to end of July 2007) Blue Volunteer hour sheets if you haven't already done so. Dues collection for 2008 will start at the Annual Meeting in August.

9 BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: ISBN No. reserved. They are making good progress this year. They still have not decided who will publish their work.. They will include many family histories.

10. DAVID MAKI ACTIVITIES: his latest report on local research is downloadable on Web. Paul has made copies.

11. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:-our ANNUAL MEETING: Saturday, August 18th, 2007, at the Windmill site at 12:00 noon. [*Plans later modified to start at 11:00 with food at the Lakeside Town Hall. See elsewhere in this issue.*]

Alice asked about buying wieners & brats. Alice moved that we buy the wieners and brats and condiments and buns, and Jack seconded the motion. Motion carried. Earl said if it rains we are able to use the Lakeside Baptist Church; also bring your own lawn chairs for sitting. Alice and Jackie asked about how we are going to set up for that day. Alice said we should talk to Irene Brazill and find out which way their group will be performing. That way we will know how to set up our tables and other things we need that day for our Pot Luck Picnic. Jackie will ask around about risers for the performers. The Finnish *Järvenpää* singing group which Irene sings with will be performing for our Annual Meeting and Picnic. Also for that day Gail Saari and Mary Jane Sedin were invited to talk briefly on their trip to Finland & Russia.

12. MHS WORKSHOP:.-Paul Colby attended in Chisholm at Iron World, May 11th, 2007 at his own expense. He felt it was a profitable trip.

13. FINNFEST DULUTH 2008: -Paul Colby attended a planning session in Cloquet regarding the 2008 Finnfest.

14. LOCAL CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES: -for the Town of Maple, Village of Lake Nebagamon, Towns of Hawthorne and Highland, Brule River State Forest: possible Fall car tours with other groups. E.g., Brule Valley CCC Camps, Historical Highlights, Cemetery Tours. A Historical Highlights and Cemetery Tour Committee will be created in time to develop tours. August 4th will be the Town of Maple Annual Picnic with Centennial Theme. Historical Calendars to be published by then. Jim Pellman and Gwen Saari Project, Town of Maple to publish. Also T-shirts.

15.-FALL SPEAKERS: David Thorson to be contacted to give a talk and show slides on Glaciers in the Brule Valley.

16. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (the two departing board members). Shirley Kankas-Rouleau has agreed to have her name put into nomination. One more candidate is needed. Several names were mentioned. Harry would call people who were mentioned to see if they would fill the Paul Williams position. There will also be nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Verify willingness of those whose terms are to be renewed and years of service.

17. TAYLOR'S BRIDGE: Internal sign damage. Jim moved that we insert a new sign but not a paper one. Alice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

18. OTHER OLD BUSINESS: None.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. SERVICE TOURS: Bob Kiskan Photo tours, 300 new area photos to Finland. Helped Vesa & Päivi Oja on tour.

2. SYMPATHY & ENCOURAGEMENTS: the Nancy Rantala family, Hope Swenson family in the loss of her sister

3. COMMUNICATIONS: Bill from *Duluth News Tribune*.

4. NEXT BOARD MEETING: .Sept 12th, 2007, 6:00 p.m., Shirley Kankas Rouleau home, Lake Nebagamon.

5. OTHER NEW BUSINESS:. Harry mentioned the folding signs and talked about putting them along Highway 13. There was a discussion on trying to turn the mill with the one horse motor. Eddie said he has a chain. Harry said we should have the magnet signs out 1 week before our doings at the mill. Harry said he has a new map made. Jackie brought us our Fall Apple Fest tours mentioning that we need a Mill Meeting before it. Earl said he would announce at the Annual Meeting about the Apple Fest.

F. ADJOURNMENT: Shirley moved that we adjourn and Jackie seconded the motion. Motion carried. *Thank you to Harry Wester and Paul Williams for the many hours they have donated while serving on the Board and to all who have donated so many hours of their time. And to all who brought treats tonight to share.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Colby, Secretary

Area History:

No. 57

From *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, "Part I. The Government of a Free People," pages 7-8, © 2004 Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc., and Jim Pellman.

On August 15th Old-Brule Heritage Society's first publication will arrive in a new (fourth) printing dressed up in what is called a "perfect binding," and it will include several new plat maps drawn by Harry Wester which will cover most of the remaining "rural" communities within Douglas County. To commemorate this event it seems right to include the opening part of the "Introduction" to our book which has been such a success for our group. "Part I" is a challenge to the reader to really think about what our truly local government historically has been and what it is now in the face of any modern forces that would weaken or even remove it within the state and the nation. Editor.

It is critical to this discussion to understand the political nature of people — of a free people. There has been a profound, centuries long, debate over what government best serves a free people. A variation in this line of thought is the question, What type of government would a free people create for themselves? In order to clearly shape answers to these questions one needs an understanding of the unique American experience in social and political life. How was the representative system of government in America formed? What were the expectations and preconceptions of the founders as they drafted such important documents as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with its Bill of Rights? We cannot go into these issues in a thorough way, but it is important to say that understanding gained from this type of questioning goes into our sense of what constitutes our own small towns and villages and their importance to us, and this understanding should be foundational in any efforts at projecting "urban plans" into rural places. A more thorough, but brief historical sketch is needed to provide the perspective we need to understand what might be, from the standpoint of local freedom, the most important issues of the present.

Far from the Nation's founders deliberating from a circumstance of anarchy and lawlessness, we find them bringing to their deliberations the centuries long Judeo-Christian European legal tradition, but also a unique local American experience and traditions of democracy and community self-rule¹ their experience of life in towns, what we speak of as "New England town government." Jefferson thought the best protection we had from the rise of a number of political

tyrannies, including a tyranny of the majority, was the creation of "wards" or "little republics"— what we have called "towns." Each successively higher representative level would gain and preserve its political legitimacy only through the support given it by citizens freely governing themselves in these small, local "wards." The rectangular "township" system employed by Federal land surveyors was an attempt to facilitate the formation of these most local political units or governments.

What has happened in our state (and the Nation) that has changed the role, the importance of towns, in our political lives and experience? What has happened locally? What have we individually and collectively gained or lost in these changes? How much should we resist these changes and their local political consequences? Are the communities in Far Northwestern Wisconsin case studies in these changes? Are the profound changes brought on by the new technologies, those in transportation, communications and media, so overwhelming that local government in the form of towns might no longer be necessary or realistic? Has our understanding of "persons" or "people" and of "community" so shifted over time, have we become so digitized and mechanized, so malleable, mass minded, and predictable in this modern world, that the preservation of local human and community rights remains only a matter of lip-service? To answer in the negative (or positive) begs that we better understand what has been, and what we must struggle to preserve if not regain. This history is dedicated to understanding these important issues.

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Notices:

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To **Harry Wester**, and **Paul Williams** for their service to us in so many ways as they leave the Board, each after four busy years. Again, to **Paul Colby** & his employer, **ConocoPhillips**, for the additional planning grant which will help us so much with our site design project for the Windmill grounds.

CONGRATULATIONS: To **John Rautio** of Iron River, winner of the 2007 OBHS NWHS Annual Scholarship. John is the son of **John and Luella Rautio** of Iron River. Good luck to him as he pursues a career in pharmacy. To all of the **Class of 2007 Northwestern Graduates**, congratulations and best wishes as they go on to follow their dreams. To the communities celebrating Centennials this year: the **Towns of Hawthorne, Highland and Maple, and the Village of Lake Nebagamon**.

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To **Paul Williams** as he battles recently discovered serious health issues. Our prayers are with him and his family. To **Cash Christensen** in the fight for recovery after his recent fall. To **Shelby Adolphson** of Poplar as she continues to heal, and to **Rita Ronchi** as she continues the miracle of her recovery after graduating with her NWHS Class of 2007. To **Jackie Plunkett** and her family as her brother **Pat Meteraud** goes through critical treatments at Abbott Hospital. To **Hobart Finn** of **True North Cedar** in Duluth who provided us with a fine product at rock bottom price in the white old growth shingles he sells, after the fire that consumed their shingle making business on the Duluth waterfront.

OUR SYMPATHY: To parents **Laila and Ken Magnuson** and family and friends of **Sue Jahn** who just passed away after sudden trouble with her heart. To the family and friends of **Nancy Nurkkala Rantala**, and to **Hope Swenson** of the loss of her sister . . . *and who have we missed or forgotten?*

Calendar:

August 13, Monday, 1 p.m. Archives Committee meets at Pellmans'.

August 18, Saturday, Windmill and Lakeside Town Hall, **O-BHS ANNUAL MEETING:** 11-5 p.m., *Järvenpää Singers*.

September 3, Monday, Labor Day.

September 9, Sunday, Grandparent's Day.

September 23, Sunday, Autumnal Equinox, First day of Autumn.

October 4-6, Friday to Sunday, Bayfield Apple Festival, Windmill Tours.

October 8, Monday, Columbus Day (Observed).

October 16, Tuesday. Deadline for contributions to the October issue of *O-BHS News*.

November 22, Thursday, Thanksgiving Day.

WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been working on our own site (www.oldbrule.org). *Please note routine updates and changes at the site.* President Earl Granroth has been making these updates. Thank you all for your patience as we continue to build up the site. Thanks to **Audrey Hakkila** for her many efforts. **Microsoft** has donated Web site software permitting updates. Thanks to all for your gifts and contributions of skill. **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems** in **Superior** is our Web host at no charge to us.

Anyone interested in joining the Old-Brule Heritage Society is encouraged to attend any of our meetings and programs. To join they may contact any member or the President at the return address below, or call him at (715) 364-2216, or our Treasurer, Jackie Plunkett at 363-2417. Her address is 4845 S. County Rd F, Maple, WI 54854. Our annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$25.00 for families, payable at the time of our annual meeting in August. Higher levels of support are always welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 24

Maple, WI 54854