

OBHS News

Volume V, Issue 1

February 1, 2003

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2003
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM WED., FEB. 12, 2003, 1:00 PM MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTER MS. LORRIE MADDEN WILL PRESENT HER VIDEO ON CHIEF OSAUGIE

LORRIE MADDEN of Superior is the great-great-great granddaughter of Chief Joseph Osaugie whose band of Chippewa once occupied the far western Lake Superior southshore region in what is now northern Douglas County. She has been gathering material in preparation for a book on her ancestor, and she is preparing a video with a talk which will include many slides based upon these materials. Although her health prohibits her speaking directly to us she promises to come to briefly introduce her video and to answer questions we might have at our next Old-Brule Heritage Society meeting. This will be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 at the Maple Community Center beginning at 1 p.m.

This region generally, and the Brule River Valley in particular, were once a battleground between the Santee or Dakota Sioux and the Chippewa tribes. The latter had moved into this region in the early 1600s, migrating from much closer to the east coast of the United States via Sault Ste. Marie, probably to escape a displacing pressure and decimating diseases that had arrived with the early European settlers of the New England area. One of the charges of Sieur Duluth in his travels in 1678 was to attempt to end these battles which were disrupting the flow of furs to the east and then on to Europe. The Chippewa are part of the Algonquian (or Algonkian) language speaking group of peoples, among which are also the Cree, the Micmac, and Malecite of the eastern Subarctic, the Fox and Potawatomi of the Prairies, the Blackfoot, Cheyenne and Arapaho of the Plains, and the Shawnee and the Delaware who with other extinct tribes in the language group once occupied the American east.

The Chippewa [Ojibwa, or Anishinabe] based themselves first in this area on the island of LaPointe for the security it afforded against their enemy, the Sioux,

but once firmly in control of this district they were able to set up encampments throughout the region, carrying on their lives close to the resources nature provided, but also supplying furs to the earlier French traders, and the later British factors and Americans who eventually had outposts in the region. The Brule-St. Croix River passage to the Mississippi River system was a major canoe transportation corridor in these activities. Duluth built Fort St. Croix near the Brule-St. Croix portage.

The Head of the Lakes region, although finally made firmly a part of the United States after the War of 1812, remained exclusively Indian Country, meaning Chippewa country, until the Treaty of LaPointe in 1854. That same year marked the creation of Douglas County out of LaPointe County and the establishment of the early Superior City (East End). Just before the treaty, George R. Stuntz, working for Surveyor General George Sargent, established the sectional and town boundaries throughout the area which permitted loggers, miners, settlers and other claimants to enter the region. Stuntz relied heavily on the local Indian population for their knowledge of the region in his surveys and prospecting, and his brother, Albert, who joined him in the survey, upon his death in Green County in southern Wisconsin, was in his obituary credited with the ability to speak the Chippewa language.

Chief Osaugie's family had lived east of Lac Vieux Desert near the headwaters of the Wisconsin River on the modern boundary of the states of Wisconsin and Michigan. In about 1827 when he was in his early twenties he moved his family westward, coming to the far western end of Lake Superior, and here he lived and raised his family. He was well known among the fur

traders as a good builder of canoes of many sizes used in their trade and for general travel in a region without roads, where the waterways were the major highways when free of ice.

Osagee's band fished on the Lake side at the base of Wisconsin Point using nets, and traveled up the local streams to gather bark for his vessels. They planted crops in the fertile soils at the mouths of the Poplar, Middle and Aminicon Rivers. They also used the Middle River-Nebagamon Trail to reach their maple sugaring grounds on the copper range in the vicinity of modern Maple and north of Blueberry.

Osagee was always a friend of the white men, and when fears were high that the Minnesota Sioux might spread the New Ulm Uprising of 1861 north he was influential in keeping the local peace.

Lorrie will expand considerably on this sketch, and she will bring her ancestor much more back to life.

Thirty year after the LaPointe treaty the farming homestead settlements of the Towns in Old-Brule were being established as eastern Americans, Canadians, both of English and French heritage, Finns and Swedes, moved into the region. Twenty years after these early arrivers, among them Jacob Davidson, a windmill first caught the Lake Superior breezes.

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND REFRESHMENTS TO SHARE!

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

[What I have to say in what follows are my own impressions and should not be construed in any way as a collective statement by the committee members I will refer to.]

Awhile back I was persuaded to join the Comprehensive Planning Committee for the Town of Maple which is dealing with State mandates for land use planning and "smart growth". This is an inherently risky prospect these days at a time when many locals are extremely alarmed, concerned that we are losing our historical freedoms as private land owners to a class of well intentioned planners who have been given the power to control our lives in the name of ends that have been generated in far too distant places, without our full representation...even as far away as the United Nations. It is widely believed that comprehensive planning serves their ends at "our" expense.

We developed and mailed out a survey to get a sense of what Town of Maple residents might want and we tabulated the results. We held public meetings to gather more input and to share what we had discovered up to that point. Now, based in part upon our survey and later public input, we are shaping our recommendation for a comprehensive plan for our town.

Our survey had close to a 50 percent response...far above average for surveys. We now know in part what that 50 percent think, but the thoughts of the other 300 residents or land owners in our town are still to me an

important mystery. Were these people preoccupied, indifferent, or angry, or none of these? Other things have concerned me about the process: should the future direction of any community ever be set by the results of a survey, even if it is loaded with open-ended questions and appeals for "out of the box" input? Where has our town failed that planning might be necessary in the first place? When does a comprehensive plan go too far in trying to shape the decisions that are applied to a free people? Why weren't we, a local, free people, situated right in our local community, being fully trusted to determine the quality of our own life spaces when it is we who were going to live in them? What has happened to local autonomy?

Worse yet, it began to seem in some of the sample plans that we were using, taken from other towns, that "land use" has as its ideal "non-use" of our land. Implicitly the fields that our great-grandmothers and grandfathers carved from the northern forest were an abuse of the space. We were still intruders. None of this made our committee comfortable, despite our own personal care and respect for nature.

There is some flexibility in how our recommendations can be drawn. We have decided to put the well being of our citizens and our town first throughout our presentation. We gave ourselves a principle if I may be so bold as to try to state it: land use must respect and reflect common sense human scale local

needs. And we added a second principle, that the local town should be an active partner in any planning going on within its space, whatever the agency or level of government, "local level" meaning the town and village, rather than the county. We realize this flies in the face of

The bottom line: individual personal freedom and local self-government as an expression of local civil community must be the first things served by any land use policy or in any comprehensive planning. Yet individual abuses of this personal freedom, even as they might relate to the natural environment, should be handled face to face, neighbor to neighbor, first, and in the courts later if necessary. These happen to be the values that have shaped my waning O-BHS presidency, and they are the concrete realities that give non-sentimental, solid footing, to the great issue of patriotic sacrifice...we serve and fight for our homes and families and friends, our locality. And in these days of too facile computer graphics and wide aerial surveillance and mapping, they have been too much abused. Towns and local community have become endangered species.

Was democracy really served by the changes of the 1960s? Let me give the final word to the famous State historian, Dr. William Raney, who wrote in 1940 in a very different world: "After considerable wavering the

current trends which seek to economize by combining a n d centralizing "local" power. We also realize that a quiet revolution took place in the 1960s when towns were stripped of their direct representation on county boards.

smallest political unit of the state was called a town rather than a township. Today this is usually, though by no means always, coterminous with the surveyor's township. The residents of the town choose three supervisors and at the same time indicate one of them as chairman, who is thus designated to represent the town on the county board. Besides the supervisors from the purely rural areas, other supervisors are chosen, one from each ward of the incorporated villages and cities. In many counties the board numbers more than forty people and in a few cases exceeds seventy. At times since 1848 attempts have been made to get a smaller body, but every town is represented on the board at present, and thus far democracy has triumphed over alleged economy and efficiency, and the large board continues."

—Jim Pellman

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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.

REMINDER: TREASURER ALICE IS STILL COLLECTING DUES FOR 2003. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ALEXANDER MCDUGALL PROGRAM TOPIC AT DECEMBER MEETING

Mr. Pat Labadie shared with us his vast expertise on the life of the creator, inventor and builder of the whalebacks, Captain Alexander McDougall. Pat is currently involved in Great Lakes underwater archaeology in Michigan after many years as director of the Lake Superior (Canal Park) Maritime Museum and Visitor Center. This, our Christmas meeting, was held at the Amnicon Town Hall beginning with a tasty pot luck supper which we shared with Pat and his wife June. Mr. Labadie, is currently a member of the Superior Public Museums Board. Our business meeting followed.

Jack Angus, captain of the schooner "Siskiwit," and Alexander McDougall were well known pilots on Lake Superior during the early copper mining days when schooners and sidewheeling steamers were a common site on the big lake. Angus and McDougall later bought land along the Brule River, and for the greater part of McDougall's long life his name was identified with events on the upper reaches of our local stream.

He was also associated with the movement to create a State of Superior.

According to Albert Marshall, "one of those who came often to note the beauties of the upper Brule was that doughty sea captain and friend of the outdoors, Captain Alexander McDougall." With shipping done for the season, it was his pleasure during the winter months to go on wide ranging explorations of this region. He was living in Bayfield during the winter of 1870-71 when he sought the guide skills of Antoine Dennis. Together the two mushed a dog team to the "spring ponds" on the Brule River and fished through the ice using hooks baited with buckskin. About another winter trip to the Brule the Captain tell this tale: "In the early part of 1873, I went with W. Clow up the Brule River to a trapper's camp. On the way up Clow became played out so I had to help him along with our load and shelter. We fished for about a week on what is now the H. C. Pierce ponds. There we caught eight thousand trout that weighed about four thousand pounds. I think we caught three-quarters of them with a barbless hook and a piece of buckskin for bait. I caught two bushels of fish in an hour.

Most of the fish we took out with a dog team to Bayfield trail, then by horse team to Duluth. I made a trip each way every day, over eighteen miles of trail." Word of this fishing paradise would make its way to St. Louis where Henry Clay Pierce would eventually hear about it, leading to his vast purchases along the river by the early 1880s and to a much later visit of a U.S. President in 1928. The colorful captain left his mark on

the Twin Ports as well as on the Old-Brule region.

Our thanks to Pat and June, to the Town of Amnicon, and to those who added the fruits of their cooking expertise for our wonderful lunch. We wish the Labadies well in their future endeavors.

ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING REGULARLY

The archives room in the Maple Community Center is filling with archive material. It still has some construction work left, but this has not stopped the Archives/Collection Committee from getting down to a work routine which we hope will some day entirely fill the new space. It is a relief to have many valuable town and regional records and items safely shelved there. Audrey Hakkila, Shirley Kankas, Arnold and Doris Perala, Jim Pellman, Irene Brazill, Delores Pellman and others have been volunteering their time to the Archives/Collection committee work. We welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Currently we are finishing the inventory of a suitcase full of the William Follis papers. These have been made available to us by members Bill and Jan Follis, and we will be indexing and assessing them, and copying the most essential. Another treasure are copies of financial records of the Northern Cooperative store from Oulu/Iron River given to us by Darrel Alm from Duluth. Our thanks to the Town of Maple and to Chairman Gary Saari for their support and for Gary's many volunteer hours.

2003 BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDAR AVAILABLE

The Brule History Research Group organized in 1995 to research, write, and publish the history of Brule. Their annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, will be used for the publication of the history.

The 13 photos in the 2003 calendar include summer and winter logging scenes, the Weyandt homestead, students at the Juntti School (1911-1937), a 1939 Waino deer hunting group, fishermen and their day's catch, musicians Ailie and Walter Johnson with a wedding group, Brule River guide John La Rock and his wife Lizzie, among other scenes and sites.

Available from Janet Follis, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820 (715-372-4948) for the cost of \$7.50 postpaid, or \$6.00 locally from a BHRG member or at Lori's Store. An e-mail address: knmo@baysat.net.

FUNDRAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Society has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps and some tee shirts for sale. Magnets are going for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00, proceeds to our general fund. The Windmill mugs are \$8.00, caps, \$9.00, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. A new order of shirts will have a new enlarged design.

Available also are copies of a David Noah Seis photograph of the mill for sale. This improved image comes in three sizes: 4 by 5 inches, 5 by 7 inches, and 8 1/2 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 improved image is now available in our magnet series. Our thanks to Noah who donated the digital image to O-BHS.

Wisconsin tax is included in all our prices. Shipping and handling for mugs, caps and tee shirts is a \$4.00 minimum. All items will also be available for purchase at our meetings, or by contacting your President at 363-2453.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. Regular Meeting
DEC. 11, 2002, AMNICON TOWN HALL

Attendance: 32

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Jim Pellman, President, welcomed all who came. A Christmas potluck supper was enjoyed by all.

II. PROGRAM: At 6:00 P.M., Jim introduced our speaker, Mr. C. Patrick Labadie and his wife June. Pat presented a slide program on Capt. Alexander McDougall, creator, inventor and builder of the whaleback ships which were constructed mainly in Superior. Mr. Labadie is a member of the Superior Public Museums Board and was former director of the Lake Superior Maritime Museum at Canal Park. Following the program there was a refreshment break and a Christmas gift exchange. Those participating made a \$5 donation to receive a gift.

7:30 P.M.

III. BUSINESS MEETING:

A. MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes printed in the newsletter by Minerva Johnson, seconded by Audrey Hakkila. Motion carried.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT: Alice Christensen reported the balance in the General Fund checking at \$1,995.56 and the Windmill Fund savings account at \$3,680.26. A \$100 donation was received from Enbridge Energy (formerly Lakehead). About \$580 is to be transferred from the General Fund to the Windmill Account. Hope Swenson moved with a second to allow Alice to purchase a gift for Gabrielle Colby and to pay her \$20 for mowing at the Windmill as requested by her father Paul Colby in lieu of any other payment for three times mowing at the windmill. Motion carried. Jackie Plunkett moved with second by Norma Lind to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. HERITAGE PARK: No new action taken.

2. DAVIDSON WINDMILL: Permits are needed to move the Eskolin log building to the Windmill site. LaVerne LaPole invited the Windmill Committee to meet next time at her home. Time and date to be set once contact is made with the DOT regarding their potential interests in the project. Jim will contact Eddy Walman on the visit to the DOT.

3. ARCHIVES/MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTER: Shelves are in place, as well as filing cabinets. Another filing cabinet will be moved there from Jackie Plunkett's. The Archives Committee meets every other Monday. Currently they are going through the Wm. Follis materials, some of which date back to the 1800s. They are being inventoried and will be put on a data base. Jim thanked the committee for their work. The next meeting is at Delores Pellman's on Mon., Dec. 23, at 1:30 P.M.

4. MERCHANDISE FOR SALE: A discussion was held on whether to get cards to sell from Nancy Moreland, and whether to buy them outright or to get them on consignment. A motion was made by Delores Pellman and seconded by Hope Swenson to have Jim contact Nancy and find out details on the cards. Motion carried. Hope talked about the magnets that have been received, including the Waino Church, Bong's P-38, and the Windmill. Some are still on order. About 60 were left at the Bong Center - not sure if they will be willing to sell them. We discussed making more magnets picturing other buildings or scenes.

5. VOLUNTEER HOURS: New forms for volunteer hours for 2003 were distributed to members, and we should all be keeping track of our hours spent at meetings and other volunteering for our organization. 2002 forms should be turned in at our next meeting.

6. BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: Laila Magnuson reported that Jim attended their last two meetings. Nancy Moreland had problems with losing materials on a disk, so their progress on their book has been slowed. They most likely will produce a 2004 calendar also.

7. SESQUICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE: We need to have a committee meeting - set for Jan. 9 at 1:00 P.M. at Delores Pellman's.

8. HISTORY PAPER AWARD: Hope Swenson and Minerva Johnson have gone to the Northwestern District schools to discuss the History Paper project, and found them receptive to the idea. Only fourth graders will be involved. They are to interview a family member or friend, and criteria for the contest was given. Prizes will be \$25 each for a boy and a girl.

9. COMPUTER SOFTWARE: Jim is yet to purchase for about \$250 the "Past Perfect" program to help organize our archives. All collection information will be entered into it, and all other organization materials will also be put on the computer.

10. OTHER BUSINESS: The Venture North program (Channel 8, WDSE-Duluth-Superior) filmed at the Windmill will be aired on Dec. 26 at 7 P.M. and also on Sunday, Dec. 29 at 10:00 A.M.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. NEXT MEETING: Jim will contact Lori Madden to give her talk on Osaugie for our February meeting. Other alternative speakers are Kyle Maunu on the Brule River Coop Park or John Kuntz of UWS on oral histories.

2. CENTURY FARMS AWARD: A form will be given to Richard and Barbara Tuura to apply for the Century Farm Award. The Bill Goddard family of Hawthorne has a family home of over 100 years and should also be contacted.

3. PERMANENT STATE AFFILIATION: Jim explained the qualifications for State affiliation; we are now in a probationary status. Hope Swenson moved to apply for permanent State affiliation; Audrey Hakkila seconded; motion carried. All members present and voting voted to retain affiliation (23 for, none opposed. 7 Board members for, none opposed). The Executive Committee will meet to fill in the blanks required. Alice Christensen will host the meeting and set the date.

4. HISTORICAL ARTICLES: Norma Lind brought several historical articles which had been made in Finland to share with the group. She also donated a pair of old leather and wood handmade clogs made by her father-in-law.

5. DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Jackie Plunkett, on the DCHS Board, brought in a book on the Great Northern Railway which is being marketed by the County society. There will be an open house at their new location, 1101 John Avenue, the old Vasa (Swedish) Lodge, on Sunday, Dec. 11. It will be open all the following week.

6. NEXT MEETING: A discussion was held on changing the meeting time to daytime, especially during winter months. It was agreed to meet on Wed., Feb. 12 at 1:00 P. M. at the Maple Community Center. Jim to contact Maple.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. DAVIDSON WINDMILL: Nothing added to the above.

2. PROGRAMS: Nothing added to the above.

3. ARCHIVES/COLLECTION: Grants had been available from the State for archival material; awarded every other month. We will need to apply.

4. FUNDRAISING: Bob Aho will have to be contacted regarding our new T-Shirt order and design. _____

5. WEB SITE: In progress - would like to have newsletter on it. New Web address: www.oldbrule.org.

6. NEWSLETTER: Deadline for Feb. issue, January 25, 2003. (Archives related) Larry Drews has requested that the Sportsmen's Club records/newsletters be stored in the archive room. We would welcome those records.

7. PUBLICITY: Audrey Hakkila received a round of applause for her good job of doing publicity. Copies of *The Connection*, which contains articles submitted by Audrey, are available for free in various local business places, and can also be subscribed for. Audrey, our Historian, thanked people for bringing in photos for the historical scrapbook.

8. CESA: No new information.

9. SCHOLARSHIPS: The Secretary was requested to send a letter to the Guidance Counselor at Northwestern High School informing him/her of the \$200 scholarship offered by our organization to be awarded this coming spring.

F. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Shirley Kankas reports she received a magazine entitled *Sukutiето* from members of the genealogical group from Finland that we hosted on their recent tour of our area and Minnesota and Michigan in search of records of their relatives and Finnish culture. The magazine included an article in Finnish about the tour mentioning our part.

2. Richard and Delores Gunderson of Duluth donated a copy of the 1943 Poplar High School yearbook entitled Aloha which will go into the archives.

3. Pat Schroeder, President of the Northwest Regional Local History Council reported that the position of Debbie Kmetz has been eliminated and funds raised in support of retaining her position would be returned.

F. ADJOURNMENT: All matters dealt with the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Gronquist, Secretary

SUKUTIETO

Shirley Kankas received the latest issue of the Finnish genealogical magazine, *Sukutiето* ("Family Facts" might be a loose translation), which contains an article about the American trip of the Finnish genealogical group this past summer. The travelers were extremely thankful for the hospitality they received in this country, and that definitely included their time here in the Old-Brule/Oulu region. We have received e-mails from several, and a copy of *Nurmon Joulu 2002*, ("Nurmo's Christmas, 2002"), all memorializing the trip and wanting to thank us for a what we did for them. It was our honor to serve them, and we must thank them, and again thanks to all of you involved in any way.

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS

On short notice twelve Old-Brule Society representatives went to Ashland to attend a lecture given by **Mr. Tom McKay** of the State Local History Office of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Our thanks to host **Mr. Steve Cotherman** and his staff at the Northern Wisconsin History Center in the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Our group provided half or more of those in attendance for Tom's valuable and colorful insights, and we thank all who took time and traveled there at their own expense. Many of us gathered after the program at **Deep Water Restaurant** in Ashland for a fine meal, and then visited **Superior Water-Log Lumber Company** where we saw a video giving the story of the venture. Thank you everyone for a wonderful day.

Speaking of Ashland, we want to welcome to a new business level membership, **Mr. Emery Mattson** and his wife **Judy of Mattson Properties, LLC**.

We would like to thank **Ms. Debbie Lamoreaux** of the Thornton, Illinois, Historical Society who recently sent materials requested by Paul Colby relating to James Stinson who owned large tracts of mineral lands in the Old-Brule region before going bankrupt about 1900. Stinson was one of the early proprietors and promoters of Superior and Douglas County and helped bring in the Northern Pacific Railroad in the early 1880s.

Thanks to the **Town of Lakeside** for their recent donation of \$250. This will help in our efforts at the Davidson Windmill.

Audrey Hakkila has recently donated articles on the histories of the schools in Lakeside and Poplar churches.

Congratulations to **Dr. Ron Mershart** on the publication of his new book, *Frontier Village*, which covers the early years of the Village of Superior.

WE CANNOT THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH FOR YOUR MEASURES OF CONFIDENCE & SUPPORT.

—and who have we missed or forgotten?

Finally our condolences to member **Mrs. Irene Brazill** whose husband, **Glenn**, passed away this week. This sad news just preceded shocking report of the Columbia disaster.

Area History: No. 29

MAPLE PROVED THAT FRUIT CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY GROWN IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

By Henry P. Peterson

The following article appeared in the Superior Evening Telegram on December 4, 1915. It was written by Henry P. Peterson who wrote a series of articles concerning the condition of towns within Douglas County about this time. The article describes circumstances which have changed in so many respects we wonder whether he is describing the place we know of today as Maple. The vista he describes is mostly hidden by fully mature second growth forests which have filled hard wrought growing spaces. The hotel, station and even the railroad are gone. His positive (and accurate) assessment of local soils and growing conditions is no longer recognized nor promoted and has no state political support. The rural promoters that looked so positively at the agricultural prospects of the community and region are impossible now to find. The generation of settlers he refers to, both Finnish and English speaking, has gone to its reward, and many of the children of the following generations left the region for warmer climes and bigger places, especially after World War II, many settling as far away as California, and in cities like the Twin Ports, the Twin Cities, Chicago and Detroit. The stores he mentions are all gone, replaced by businesses built on transport and transportation and home based professional services. Most people commute to jobs in the adjacent cities or serve the much enlarged facilities of the local school district, the young scattering after graduation, pursuing dreams and opportunities Mr. Peterson would find inconceivable. Most of the fields first turned by Finnish settlers are still open on the gentle red clay slope to Lake Superior, but those with herds of dairy cows now are down to three, despite milk prices at a terrible low. Even state maps of the region refuse to call our producing fields "agricultural land" ("grasslands" by their definition).

At the highest point on the line is Maple on the Northern Pacific 28 miles along the track from the union depot.

In reaching the point the locomotive has a hard job, with more than ordinary loads the conductors are sometimes compelled to leave some of the tonnage behind or to have an extra engine. From Maple the road descends either way. It is a high view indeed for nowhere is the vista of the fertile Superior valley, nor the western "finger" of Lake Superior or the hills on the Minnesota side more magnificent than at Maple. For that reason A. T. Fox wanted to change the name to AltaVista (high view) and thus rebaptized his hotel.

The Maple country is quite old as settling goes. E. G.

I can speak from my own experience as a child growing up in Maple, and now owning what is left of E. G. Doherty's orchard; its apple trees and berry crops thrived, and the same soil grows green beans in profusion. In the heyday of the nearby Poplar cannery local farmers grew tons of peas and beans successfully for years. Were the market confined to this region we would not starve, but transportation and market scale have worked against successful local enterprise. Of course we all know of the success of the Bayfield orchards. The same held for Doherty's. Jim Pellman, Editor.

The article in the copy is preceded by a very poorly reproduced photograph of Doherty's orchard. The caption says: "Trial Orchard No. 6 of the Wisconsin Horticultural Society at Maple." [This orchard was a "spin off" of that orchard first started in Poplar where Ed Doherty first lived.]

Doherty, the earliest pioneer, came there in '82 [*actually nearby in Old-Brule/Poplar*] before the railroad was finished. In those days some of the present nabobs of the Twin Ports and Ashland used to explore the country with packs on their backs and seemed to prefer the high view for a camping place. Later on the lower country was settled by a colony of Finns. They are there today, their children and incoming friends, for the Maple settlement is said to be the largest of that nationality outside of New York Mills, in Becker county, Minnesota. Many of the Finn farmers at Maple are well to do and all are vastly better off than their fellow workers in town with fluctuating wage conditions and the cost of living soaring high.

The Maple country has seen great improvement during the last

year or two. For one thing Henry A. Johnson is to clear two full sections of his own land. [*This and other references include that portion of north Maple that would go to Cloverland in 1921.*] He is going into sheep and is trying hard to get the other farmers to get busy in sheep, too. The lambs thrive so well on the juicy clover that springs up spontaneously wherever the underbrush is cleared away. The sheep farms to the east, over the Bayfield county line, have been a success from the very start, and the industry will prove as successful here. The recent experiment in grazing "stop-over" shipments from Montana was a profitable one. Other parties in the Maple country are busy making new farms as for instance Benjamin Palmer, Richard Embody and Ed Rody [*Rhoda*] from Iowa, Carlson Bros. And Charles Taft from Superior, V. Zimmerman down. It took a lot of agitation, some of it more strenuous than pleasant, to shake things down properly, but that time is happily a part of history. Douglas county fruit growing is now an established fact and the commercial possibilities of several kinds of apples, plums and cherries are beyond the lines of successful contradiction. The best varieties are the Wealthy, the Duchess, Hibernial, Transcendents and Yellow Transparents, as well as the Whitney Crabs. The latter variety is especially considered an apt and profitable fruit to raise in the lake region.

Maple has three good stores: Ed Doherty's, Ed Niemi's and the Farmer's Cooperative Store, with Alex Mattson in charge. The latter concern also conducts a successful grist and flour mill.

from Duluth and others.

Henry A. Johnson sold 200 acres only last week to W. H. Bean of Iowa, who is at work clearing it and will have a large part of it ready for next spring's seeding. At Maple is located one of the state's trial orchards and E. G. Doherty is its keeper. It is mighty proud that Ed is of the showing of that orchard, too, for he pronounces it an unqualified success from the very start. I was thinking that the tune has changed some from the way it sounded only a few short years ago. Then it was decreed in the councils of the knowing ones that tree fruit growing up here was a failure. That fruit ripened each year proved nothing. The wise ones had figured it otherwise and that was meant to settle it. But a few stubborn cusses like W. H. Webb and Henry A. Johnson wouldn't

A. T. Fox, former conductor on the N. P. owns a large tract of land at Maple and is doing much to promote the development of the country thereabouts. [*Fox would die within two years and his lands would return to John Deterling's widow who became Mrs. Annie Embody and lived on the very top of Maple hill on County F.*] That it will soon be the locality of a number of small dairy and fruit farms owned by Twin Ports people I do not doubt. It is just in the handiest place possible for that. A man from here can go there in the morning and return at night. Maple is speedily coming into its own. A town built on a mountain cannot be hid. It will attract new home makers, both because of its natural beauties, the high quality of its soil and its excellent communications.

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LECTURE ON KARELIAN HISTORY

On December 5, 2002, **Dr. Markku Kangaspuro**, a visiting Finnish historical scholar, gave a lecture open to the public on "The Formation of the Karelian Workers' Communes," at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, arranged by **Dr. Alexis Pogorelskin**. Dr. Kangaspuro's lecture covered in depth the background of the early history of the Karelian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, which included insights into migration of Finnish-Americans from this region. He expects to return to lecture at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus, sometime in the near future. We hope to hear more from him then.

Calendar

- February 1**, Saturday, 12 - 2 p.m. Dr. Ron Mershart book signing at DCHS, 1101 John Ave. History of Superior. Refreshments served.
- February 4**, Tuesday, 11:45 p. m., Sesquicentennial Steering Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Superior.
- February 10**, Monday, 1 p.m., O-BHS Archives/Collection Committee biweekly meeting at Delores Pellman's.
- February 12**, Wednesday, 1 p.m., O-BHS bimonthly meeting. Speaker: Lorrie Madden, video on Chief Osaugie.
- February 12**, 5:30 p.m., Douglas County Historical Society Dinner Theatre and Silent Auction Fundraiser. Held at the Shack Restaurant, Kathy Laakso, Finley Stalvig and others star in the madcap comedy "Caught in the Net." Auction starts at 5:30 and the play at 7:30. Reservations are necessary. Call (715) 392-9836.
- February 17**, Monday, President's Day., The Northern Lakes Archaeological Society monthly meeting. See press for topic and site.
- February 24**, Monday, 1 p.m., O-BHS Archives/Collection Committee at Pellmans'.
- March 25**, Tuesday, deadline for contributions to the April issue of O-BHS News.
- April 12**, Wednesday, O-BHS regular bimonthly meeting. Program and details to be announced.

WEB SITE ON LINE

Member Donna Bergsten has recently been working with Member Jon Winter of Winter Systems on site changes which have led to a changed web address and to our own independent site (www.oldbrule.org). Please have patience as we master these changes. Thanks to Audrey Hakkila, Jackie Plunkett, Donna Bergsten, and Jon Winter.

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) 363-2453, or our Treasurer, Alice Christensen, at 364-2535. Our annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$25.00 for families, payable at the time of our annual meeting in September. Higher levels of support are also welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 24

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