

# OBHS News

Volume V, Issue 3

June 3, 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., JUNE. 11, 2003, 5:30 PM**

#### **CLOVERLAND TOWN HALL/KING SCHOOL**

#### **MR. KYLE MAUNU WILL SPEAK ON**

#### **“THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN OUR AREA.”**

The Old-Brule Heritage Society will hold its next regular meeting and program on June 11th, 2003, at the Cloverland Town Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. The evening will begin with a pot luck dinner followed by Mr. Kyle Maunu of Duluth speaking on "The Cooperative Movement in the Head of the Lakes Region." A native of Cloquet, Kyle is a graduate in History at UMD. While interning at the Carlton County Historical Society he created an exhibit entitled "The Spirit of Cooperatives: The History of Carlton County's Cooperatives; 1910-1999" which ran from June to October (Co-op month) at the Carlton County History and Heritage Center. This then led to two further grant projects based on oral histories of people involved in co-ops in one aspect or another. A business meeting will follow the program. After the meeting those interested can join the group as we briefly tour the site of the Cloverland Community Club, the old King (and Harvey) School, located on Highway 13 about four miles east of the Town Hall. *We are disheartened to report that the old school was recently senselessly vandalized. The tour is still on at this time.*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND REFRESHMENTS TO SHARE! OUR THANKS TO LARRY LUOSTARI AND THE TOWN OF CLOVERLAND FOR USE OF THE TOWN HALL AND TO JIM MARTIN OF THE CLOVERLAND COMMUNITY CLUB FOR MAKING THE COMMUNITY CLUB AVAILABLE.**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

It is becoming clearer now just how radically our extended family life has been affected by the injuries my brother sustained in the truck accident on March 18<sup>th</sup> on the North Shore. There is slightly more time to reflect on what we have accomplished and what sacrifices have been and still must be made. We have also seen an outpouring of support from all quarters, with Jack's employer and his coworkers at Como Oil, leading in the preparations for a community supper held in Two Harbors on May 21<sup>st</sup> that brought out a tremendous crowd of friends, neighbors and supporters from as far away as Gordon. Cards and flowers and e-mails have come in from throughout the country and even from Finland. Please excuse me if I am slower to get to messages left while I am gone to Two Harbors or Duluth.

Our bylaws were created to be sure that our organization will thrive beyond the efforts of any one person's contributions to our successful operation. I prepare to step down in fast coming September this year by doing my best to identify what might be needed or should be addressed by those who will succeed me. The style of leadership from one person to another can vary a lot, and I hope it might be said that my style has been suited to gathering creative, talented, informed and committed people who share with me a concern for our rural, small community heritage and values...and our love of freedom. My leadership style I suppose has the shortcoming of taking on too much at once, but hopefully the board and the several

standing committees now in place can share the burden, divide up the tasks, and master the great amount of work that needs yet to be done. I'm not really going anywhere so I'll do what I can to help those committees continue to move forward, but I am anxious, too, to have the time to return to my life labor of art, in writing and painting and design, infused with my love for history. There is the history of Maple that I have been working on for so long that is ripe for completion, and should be a much richer work for all that I have learned over the past few years. And I will need time to be with Jack.

So I hesitate to prescribe precisely our needs as I see them except in a very general way:

(1) We should cautiously look for the grants which will compliment our emphasis on the local without compromising our freedom to remain fully local and grass roots in our preservation and presentation of the past.

(2) We should learn the language of the young and the media they have embraced and that has embraced them: the Internet. The Internet is very much like the freedom it was designed to enhance: it opens up opportunities that only have meaning when brought back and applied sensitively to local circumstances. Finite human realities must be served by this seeming boundlessness, both of personal and group freedom and of "unlimited" digital data. Wisdom (or sensitivity to contexts) is still most cherished. History should be about that.

(3) We must not forget to nurture one another in our task, for we have become a "tribe" ourselves with obligations to one another, as well as to our local history.

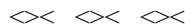
(4) We must continue to sensitively probe a structure somewhat uncomfortable with our partnership...our local school district.

(5) We must keep lines of communication open to other historical groups. Our own history did not grow in a vacuum. I foresee a Head of the Lakes historical alliance. We share our past with northern Minnesota, and with Ironwood, Michigan, and beyond. Our rural past is tied to minerals and mineral exploration, for our farms were needed to feed a population doing other things than farming.

(6) We must do better at studying our spiritual heritage as far back as we can find it for we have learned much in this region from the Native American.

(7) Finally, we must find a solid place of our own when the time is right...perhaps to compliment our bimonthly visits to the different towns and villages, something to tangibly tell the story of these political places, these Jeffersonian "wards," and why they began, and should remain.

-Jim Pellman, (715) 363-2453, musketeer6@juno.com <mailto:musketeer6@juno.com>



**JEFFREY STOVERN RECEIVES 2003 O-BHS NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP.**

On May 23 in the Guidance Office at Northwestern High School Old-Brule President Jim Pellman presented Mr. Jeffrey Stovern, a graduating senior at Northwestern, with a letter of congratulations for being selected to receive our 2003 scholarship. The \$200 scholarship is given annually to a worthy graduating senior going on to higher education through the financial office of the campus the students chooses to attend, in Jeffrey's case, UW-Eau Claire. Again, congratulations to Jeffrey and his family, and best wishes in his future academic career.

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!***

**DR. RONALD MERSHART TALK AT APRIL O-BHS MEETING**

Next year marks the Sesquicentennial (150th birthday) of Douglas County and its county seat, which was to occupy the future Superior site. Local efforts were made to establish a City of Superior (East End) shortly after the county's founding by the Wisconsin Legislature in the enabling legislation of 1854, but Superior would not even become a village until 1887, the same year the Town of (Old-)Brule was formed. (A rapidly growing Superior would finally begin to operate under a city charter in April of 1889.) Until 1887 there was only one town in Douglas County, the Town of Superior, which covered the entire county. The same personalities that

influenced the direction of this Town of Superior were also principal players in the activities of the county government. This might help explain why in their writings, even after the city was formed, these Superior figures were extremely possessive of the Brule River. [See for instance *The Eye of the Northwest*.]

We must remember that during this time, in the decades just before and after the Civil War, the population of all of Douglas County was probably less than 3,000--and much of the time it was only about a quarter of that, less than the current populations of either of the modern Towns of Brule or of Maple. Another thing we should remember is that the "towns" of that time had local powers that we now associate with county government. The amount of local oversight and responsibility at that time is quite amazing, but this was consistent with the nature of the New England town after which our local government had been fashioned. After that time rival factions would compete over which "local" government should be in the ascendant, the town or the county. Since the mid-1960s, after U.S. and State Supreme Court decisions, towns and their "rural" constituents have been in eclipse. When and how the pendulum might shift back to the more democratic order remains to be seen. Ron Mershart's talk illuminated the context for these political struggles that played themselves out over the next 150 years.

As Chair of the committee planning events to celebrate our region's Sesquicentennial, Ron is overseeing a competition to gather histories of Douglas County. In light of this we offer the following:

#### **A REPEAT CALL FOR LOCAL SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORIES**

About 150 years ago a wiry, fair haired, thirty-three year old U.S. government surveyor, George R. Stuntz, and his crew of nine, came in three canoes to the Head of the Lakes region, up from Stillwater, Minnesota Territory, via the St. Croix-Brule River passage. They were charged with creating the survey grid that would open the future Twin Ports region to eastern settlement. Wisconsin at that time was only four years old and Minnesota had only recently been recognized as a Territory. Before the time of these surveys only the representatives of licensed fur trading companies had been routinely permitted into what was Indian country. The final northern boundary of the United States had only been fully settled along the 49th parallel in 1846, seven years prior.

Treaties were being pushed through and events were moving fast. Stuntz had only the year before surveyed the boundary separating northern Wisconsin from Minnesota territory, starting at the first rapids on the St. Louis River. No railroads had yet been run up to the shores of St. Louis and Allouez Bays. These would not come for almost two decades. The only mechanized access to the region was via the waters of Lake Superior where sailing vessels and early steam sidewheelers could make their way in the months free of ice.

In the following year Douglas County would be created followed by the establishment of the City of Superior, and the population would boom. Despite ups and downs, this region, our home, still thrives, but much of its story remains untold.

The Steering Committee working on the celebration of the Sesquicentennial or 150th birthday celebration of the founding of Douglas County and the City of Superior is asking for scholarly essays from anyone on any topic which will help illuminate our past. The Committee will select the best entries, first for publication in local papers, and then would like to collect and edit them for inclusion in a published text containing a fully rounded City and County history. Hopefully there will be someone to create entries on the history of each of the communities within the county, and on the businesses and activities, and important personalities that have at one time or another touched and shaped our lives.

The Committee asks private individuals, companies, schools and governments to come forward with submissions. Entries can be sent immediately to the Douglas County-Superior Sesquicentennial Committee-History Project, Jan O'Brien, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, 205 Belknap Street, Superior, WI 54880. Please let the Committee hear from you !

#### **ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE ON SUMMER BREAK.**

The archives room in the Maple Community Center is filling with archive material. Some construction work is 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 already safely shelved there. Audrey Hakkila, Shirley Kankas, LaVerne LaPole, Arnold and Doris Perala, Jim Pellman, Irene Brazill, Delores Pellman and others have been volunteering their time to the Archives/Collection committee work. The group is now on a summer break but we will welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Before our break we finished the inventory of the William F. Follis papers. These were made available by members Bill and Jan Follis,

and we will be indexing and assessing them, and copying the most essential. We also inventoried the papers of Helen and Harvey Johnson of Lakeside which also will end up on a computer database. Our thanks to these loyal members and contributors and to the Town of Maple for archive space.

### **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](mailto: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 APRIL 9, 2003, BRULE TOWN HALL**

Attendance: 28  
1:00 p. m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Jim Pellman welcomed all who came
- II. PROGRAM: Jim introduced Ron Mershart, Professor Emeritus in History at UWS, who spoke on "The Several Nations a the Head of the Lakes in 1854."

Intermission: A pot luck lunch was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who brought food for the lunch and worked in the kitchen.

#### III. BUSINESS MEETING:

- A. MINUTES: A motion was made to approve the minutes printed in the newsletter by Jackie Plunkett, seconded by Paul Colby. Motion carried
- B. FINANCIAL REPORT: In the absence of Alice Christensen Jim reported that the amounts in the treasury were \$1,837.80 in the General Fund checking account and \$4,348.61 in the Windmill Fund. Memorial donations in the name of George Luoma in the amount of \$445.00 were received to be added to the treasury. A motion was made by Irene Parenteau and seconded by Jackie Plunkett to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
- C. OLD BUSINESS:
  1. HERITAGE PARK: No new action taken.

2. DAVIDSON WINDMILL SITE: Bruce Peterson from the DOT (392-7949 or cell 715-491-5017) will tour the site, possibly by next week. The Hendrickson-Eskolin-Anderson building will be moved to the site at a later time. 2004 will be the centennial of the building of the mill. Ron Mershart and Jackie Plunkett have suggested the Windmill to be the site of the burial of a time capsule during the Sesquicentennial celebrations of 2004. Eddie Walman reported that a flagpole donated by the ConAgra Daisy Mill Complex will be removed by J. R. Jensen Construction and will be delivered to the Windmill site by Kenny Copp. Signs have not yet been ordered.
3. MERCHANDISE FOR SALE: Nancy Moreland's cards will be available in the future. Magnets picturing Bong's plane are being sold at the Bong Heritage Center in Superior, with proceeds coming to O-BHS..
- 4.. VOLUNTEER HOURS: Volunteer hours for 2002 should be turned in to any of the O-BHS officers. Keep track of your 2003 hours. Forms are available from Jim if you need one.
5. BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: Laila Magnuson reported that photos and family histories are still coming in. A 2004 calendar will be produced. A WWII plaque displayed at the Brule Town Hall has been repaired by Rudy Lind, and a dedication of the plaque is planned in the future.
6. SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: A meeting will be held on May 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the Delores Pellman home. Jim showed pictures of a trailer donated by Norma Lind which will be revamped to be used as a traveling exhibit and an on-site display area at the Windmill. Committee members are LaVerne LaPole, Jim Pellman, Delores Pellman, Hope Swenson, Maryann Gronquist, Norma Lind, Paul Colby, and Harry and Mary Wester.
7. HISTORY PAPER AWARD: No new information. Jim will present two \$25.00 awards to the winners, one for a boy and one for a girl.
8. COMPUTER SOFTWARE (for archives): Still not purchased. Jim is checking it out to see if there is a later version.
9. STATE AFFILIATION: We have been granted Permanent State Affiliate status.
10. BOARD MEMBER NOTEBOOKS: Inserts have not yet arrived.

#### D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. NEXT MEETING: Will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., tentatively planned at the Cloverland Community Club on Highway 13. Will try to get Kyle Maunu to speak on the Brule Coop Park and the area Co-ops. John Kunz of UWS is another option for a speaker. Will check on the availability of electricity. Pot luck lunch.
2. TAYLOR'S BRIDGE: June 8, 2 p.m. is the time set for a site commemoration and erection of a sign. This was the last queen-post truss bridge in the state of Wisconsin. This is a joint project of the O-BHS and the DCHS. Plans for coffee at Amnicon Town Hall following program. Hope is that historic bridge which is still in the Town of Amnicon might be restored for community use.
3. Margie Koskie has offered to sell a photo display stand, new in box, for \$35. Motion made by Shirley Kankas, seconded by Paul Colby, to purchase. Motion carried. Margie donated a slide projector stand also.
4. Jim showed articles donated by Norma Lind, a pair of leather boots and an old auger, which will be placed in the archives
5. Linda Hendrickson has donated a notebook on local farming practices, written in Finnish.
6. Jim reported that his brother Jack was severely injured in a vehicle accident; receiving therapy at St. Mary's Medical Center. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jack and his family.

#### E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. DAVIDSON WINDMILL: No further report.
2. PROGRAMS: Nothing added to the above.
3. ARCHIVES/COLLECTION: Grants can be applied for for archive work. Committee meets again April 14 at Delores Pellman's at 1 p.m.
4. FUNDRAISING: Audrey Hakkila and Minerva Johnson volunteered to represent O-BHS and Brule History Research at the Channel 8 fundraising telethon. Our thanks to them.
5. WEB SITE: No new report.
6. NEWSLETTER: Deadline for June issue, Monday, May 26.
7. PUBLICITY: Brochures on Windmill are to be placed at the Superior/Douglas County Chamber of Commerce
8. CESA: Digital camera has not been found..

9. SCHOLARSHIPS: No information on recipients received yet.

F. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. UW-Richland, Cont. Ed. Richland Center, Tipplesaukee Symposium 2003. 6/15/03 deadline..
2. EXCHANGE: workshops at Old World on 5/10 and Villa Louis on 6/20. \$25.00 fee.
3. Heritage Tourism Forum to be held at Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, on May 15<sup>th</sup>; Ruth Goetz, Dept. Of Tourism and Tom McKay, Wisconsin Historical Society, speakers. \$10 fee, includes lunch. Motion made by Laila Magnuson, seconded by Paul Colby to pay one-half of the fee for two people to attend. Jim and Paul will attend – possibly others too.
4. Jim explained about grant-writing information.
5. Ron Mershart talked about the Whaleback in Superior. Grants have been applied for to repair the boat by next year.
6. Elmer Hermanson of Lakeside has donated three vintage cars. Paul Colby will advertise on E-Bay to try to sell them.; also two trucks behind Maple Auto repair/Maple Community Center.
7. Jackie Plunkett reported that the Douglas County Historical Society annual meeting will be on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the new location at 1101 John at 1:00 p.m. This will be potluck. She also reported that grants up to \$150.00 are available via the Internet referring to family histories. The address is [www.honoringourancestors.com/grants.html](http://www.honoringourancestors.com/grants.html)
8. Laila Magnuson suggested that towns should take pictures of their buildings in the event they are destroyed by tornados or fire.
9. Thank you from Irene Brazill family was read.

G. ADJOURNMENT: All matters dealt with the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Gronquist, Secretary

### THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS

We want to thank the many who contributed to the memorial fund established in the name of **George Luoma**. We will provide a full listing of donors once the list is complete. Our sympathy and thanks to **Shirley Kankas-Rouleau**.

Thanks again from the **Pellman** family for the many gestures of support that have come since my brother **Jack's** accident March 18th.

Thanks to members **Mrs. Kaye (Ramsted) Pellinen**, and husband **Walter**, for their visit two weeks ago on their vacation north from their home in Arkansas. They were doing further research on her interesting family background which may connect with the **Embody** family mentioned in a recent newsletter. Kaye also has the name **Spooner** in her background, which included several political figures. They were also to make stops at the Douglas County Historical Society and the Douglas County Court House.

For his interest in local history, thanks to **William Grapentine** of Maple, who (with his younger brother) sat through a dry lecture by your president on Maple's and the region's history as Willie prepares for a Boy Scout Merit Badge, in the troop led by **Clinton Mattson**. The three of us then eluded the wood ticks on a brief hiking tour of the Tacke-Langer sawmill site on Mill Loop in Maple.

Thanks to **Dr. Ron Mershart** who on the day of his talk joined us at the family membership level. And speaking of memberships, our thanks to **Mike and Sue Doherty** of Portland, Oregon, for their family membership.

Thanks to **Jack and Mary Ann Gronquist** and **Norma Lind** for their gift in memory of their relative, **Henry Olson**.

Welcome to new members **Ms. Marion L. Christensen** of Superior, and **John and Brenda (Ammesmaki) Deterling** of **John's Body Shop** in Poplar, **Mr. Robert Holmbeck** of Poplar and **Ms. Sondra Rockenbach** of the Port Wing Historical Society.

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

Thanks to our hosts in Ashland for the Heritage Tourism Forum. Among those attending for Old-Brule were **Norma Lind, Minerva Johnson, Delores** and **Jim Pellman**. **Christabel Grant** of the Bong WWII Heritage Center was among the presenters. **Phoebe Martens** and **Kathy Laakso** attended for Douglas County Historical Society, and **Susan Anderson** for Superior Public Museums. This forum was planned by hosts **Nori Newago** and **Ruth Goetz** as the first of several sessions designed to join the organizations along the South Shore into a working heritage tourism partnership for promotion of our sites.

Our sympathies to the friends and family of **Ronald Bartholomew**, and to those of **Maymie Sevander** who died a month ago in Sweden.

-and who have we missed or forgotten?

<b>Area History: No. 31</b>
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### CAPT. BERNARD DOHERTY

*In brief fashion the following biography lends insight into the type of entrepreneur that thrived in the Old-Brule region at the time of the logging boom. Captain Bernard Doherty is not a known relation of the four Doherty brothers from New Brunswick who in the early 1880s settled in Poplar as homesteaders and were farmers, loggers, businessmen and prominent in early Old-Brule politics.—Editor.*

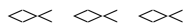
**From Beers, John H., ed., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Lake Region*, Chicago: J. H. Beers and Co., 1905, pages 23-24:**

"CAPT. BERNARD DOHERTY (deceased) was an extensive landowner and lumberman from Ashland, Wis., where he was engaged in the lumber business from 1889 until his death, Nov. 29, 1903.

"Mr. Doherty was born Feb. 21, 1834, in Toronto, Ontario. His father, William Doherty, an Irish farmer, emigrated to Canada when a young man. He and his wife, Catherine, also a native of Ireland, had a family of eleven children, of whom but three are still living, viz.: Mrs. James Wall, of Green Bay; Mrs. Margaret Buckelew, of Washington, D. C.; and Mrs. M. D. Feldsmith, of Iron River. The mother died in 1865, the father, a lifelong farmer, surviving until 1871. Four of the sons did service in the Union army during the Civil war. James was a sailor on the "Mound City," and was scalded to death at the battle of Fort Charles, Ark.; he had enlisted in the 2d Wis. V. I., but at the call for naval volunteers was transferred to the marine service. Charles enlisted in 1862 in the 17th Wis. V. I., and died in a St. Louis hospital from disease contracted while he lay in the rifle-pits during the siege of Vicksburg. John enlisted in 1863, in the 3d Wis. Cav., and was in the service during the entire war; he met his death in a fire, in 1871, where his father and sister lost their lives. Bernard Doherty twice recruited a company, helping to organize Company A, of the 21st Wis. V. I., but on account of injuries received in falling from a spar could not pass examination and did not go to the front.

"Bernard Doherty first attended school in Toronto, but in 1841 he came with his parents to Milwaukee, and in 1849 the family moved to Fond du Lac. When quite young he started out in life as a sailor on the great lakes, and he rose from the place of man before the mast to the position of sailing master. In 1857 he built his first boat, a schooner, which he named the "Eleanor" after his girl bride. In 1867 he removed to Oshkosh, where he built the steamer "Lumbermen" in partnership with the late Hon. Philetus Sawyer, and ran her until 1871 on the Fox river. He then took her into the Mississippi river, where he sold her, and returning to Oshkosh built the government steamer "Neenah." In 1872, running her until 1880. He then removed to South Kaukauna, where he constructed the large government waterpower. After building this work he removed to Ashland and began the boating business in 1882. He built the steamer "City of Ashland," the first steamer ever built in Ashland, and ran her until 1887, when she was lost by fire, and the captain was compelled to swim for over an hour in the icy waters of Lake Superior. Chilled and saddened by the loss of one of his brave crew, he abandoned the water forever, and bought the Sheffield sawmill, taking up the milling business with the same zest that characterized every enterprise of his life. Until two years before his death he held an interest in the Murray mill, built on the site of his own mill, which burned in 1886. After that he gave his entire attention to his lumber interests. He was the owner of considerable land, owning a farm of 160 acres in Ashland county, and another 430 acres on the Brule river. From 1882 he was the principal owner and general manager of the <page 24> Brule River Improvement Co., having secured a charter on that river. In the same year he built two large dams on the Brule. Even after the athletic limbs were powerless, the active mind reviewed the changing scenes of his eventful life, and he still remained the motive power of his business.

"In 1856 Capt. Doherty married Ellen Coughlin, daughter of Patrick and Mary Coughlin, both natives of Ireland. Patrick Coughlin was a farmer in his native country. He emigrated to America, where he died soon after landing in New York. His wife lived until 1881. They had a family of seven children, of whom only three are living. To Mr. and Mrs. Doherty were born the following named children: Edward W., who is the owner of a steam laundry in Grafton, N. Dak.; Erwin J., Edgar, Ella R. and Emma, all four deceased.; Capt. John, a sailor on the Great Lakes, who served as a soldier in the Spanish-American war; and Sarah M. Capt. Doherty was a Republican in politics. Fraternally he was connected with B. P. O. E., Lodge No. 558, of Ashland, which took entire charge of his funeral services, which were held from the residence on Seventh avenue west, on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Many beautiful floral emblems were sent to the house, and many of the old settlers were present to pay the last sad respects to the man they had known and esteemed for so many years. Mrs. Doherty, his noble, self-sacrificing helpmeet for nearly fifty years, survives, and makes her home in Ashland county. "



## Calendar

**June 8**, Sunday, 2 p.m. Dedication of sign at the Taylor's Bridge site on the Bayfield Rd. in Amnicon. Joint DCHS , O-BHS project. Coffee after the dedication at the Amnicon Town Hall.

**June 11**, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., O-BHS regular bimonthly meeting, Cloverland Town Hall, Kyle Maunu on region's Cooperative Movement. Tour of Cloverland's King School. Pot luck lunch.

**June 21**, Saturday, Davidson Windmill Tours and boiled dinner at Lakeside Town Hall, organized by the O-BHS Douglas County Sesquicentennial Committee. ("Juhannuspäivä-St. John's Day)

**June 28**, Saturday, 10 a.m-1 p.m., Superior Children's Home Reunion and Fairlawn Mansion in Superior by invitation. If you know of someone who was involved with the Children's Home and did not receive an invitation please call 394-5712. 1-5 p.m. new Children's Home Exhibit opens to the public.

**July 4**, Friday, Independence Day. O-BHS float in Superior's Parade.

**July 25**, Friday, deadline for contributions to the August issue of *O-BHS News*.

**August 13**, Wednesday, O-BHS regular bimonthly meeting. Place and speaker to be announced.

**September**, O-BHS Annual Meeting. Election of new board members.

**September 26-November 1**, Washburn Historical Museum & Cultural Arts Center: Wisconsin Humanities Council/Smithsonian Exhibit, *Barnstorm Wisconsin-Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon*. 2003 is the "Year of the Barn."

### WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been working with member **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems** in **Superior** on site changes which have led to a changed web address and to our own independent site ([www.oldbrule.org](http://www.oldbrule.org)). Look for changes coming very soon. Thank you for your patience. 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.  
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