

O-BHS News

Volume V, Issue 6

December 2, 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., DEC. 10, 2003, 6:00 PM O-BHS CHRISTMAS MEETING AT THE LAKE NEBAGAMON AUDITORIUM KAY COLETTA WILL SPEAK ON THE HISTORY OF LAKE NEBAGAMON

The next regular meeting of the Old-Brule Heritage Society will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2003, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Lake Nebagamon Auditorium, our Christmas meeting. For our program Lake Nebagamon historian, Kay Coletta, will give a talk on Lake Nebagamon's history. She will use photos and other materials gathered for the Nebagamon history published in 1976 during the nation's Bicentennial Celebration. The evening will begin with our pot-luck dinner which will be followed by Kaye's talk. After a short break we will hold our business meeting. Our gift exchange will follow. Those who would like to participate are asked to bring a wrapped gift valued between \$5 and \$10 and marked "man" or "woman."

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND A DISH TO PASS. OUR THANKS TO THE VILLAGE OF LAKE NEBAGAMON FOR MAKING THEIR AUDITORIUM AVAILABLE.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Everyone,

I hope all of you have had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving, and deer season, for the ones who hunt.

Things are moving right along in our board meetings. We have a great wealth of knowledge in our group. Lois Pollari has brought forward many ideas which will help us reach our goals for the upcoming year. One area I know we will be moving forward on is in applying for a few grants. We are at the stage in our growth where we can be more confident that we will be awarded monies in support of our efforts.

I have been busy searching for historical pictures of Lakeside, and have been making a calendar of Lakeside's past to add to the vision of adding history to the Old-Brule region. Being a history minor in college I have always enjoyed this area of knowledge. I think it's fascinating how people of the past adjusted and adapted to this area. They worked as a team to accomplish visions and goals.

I feel that many of these team building skills of the past are missing in my generation, which is between the Baby Boomers and Generation X. Many of my peers seem to show no interest in our town's business or in politics in general. They say their opinions don't matter, or that they're too busy with life. Yet we hear many complaints about what is happening in the Northland to our basic rights and freedoms. We hear their troubling questions: Why are my favorite campgrounds closing?...Why do they want to take away my burn barrel?...Why is our town handling gravel twice instead of adding to the roads that are bad?...or doing preventive maintenance, especially to a historical bridge that we are responsible for (pre-planning)?, which increases our taxes....Why is the DNR trying to acquire more land, and will they reach out for *my land* in the future?...Is it as was stated by a Wisconsin government official, it's *Wisconsin's land*?... Who are the "biodiversity" people?... etc.

Sometimes we just need to slow down and smell the roses, as my wife would say. I consider myself blessed living up here. Yet there's nothing that irritates me more than people complaining about living up here or in Superior. We live in America...We can be anything we want if we put our hearts into it. I proved this hypothesis myself. Sometimes you have to step backwards before you can move forward. I gave up many of my hobbies and sacrificed valuable family time to go back to school so I wouldn't have to leave this area. Not to pick on my peers alone, but the way I see it many of them watch too much TV and too many videos (self-absorption). There's a lot of distraction and misleading information out there. You have to filter these videos and TV programs as much as possible to counter the overwhelming marketing forces which send signals to their audiences on the way society is moving or should be, which may be contrary to our way of life.

Of course I don't tell my friends this. However, the next time they complain about life to me, you'll know what I am thinking.

Have a safe and loving holiday season.

Moving forward,
Paul Colby

FROM THE EDITOR:

Last week, except for a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with family, I spent my daylight hours sitting on icy stumps and logs, climbing trees, trying to be silent as I struggled over and crawled under snowy, hanging tag alders, and then telling the stories of close calls and just misses in camp at night. The stories carried on into the sizzling sauna some evenings, tales of bucks and hunters, present and past, stories about my father, our grandfathers and even about great-grandfathers, and the hunt.

I remember my father being disturbed by the favorite DNR and press euphemism, deer "harvest," and how on our last trip home ever from deer camp together, the largest whitetail I had ever seen crossed the road in front of us, into lands legal to hunt. We slowly came to a stop and looked into the thick woods up a long abandoned logging trail, and there stood the craggy beast looking back at us. In earlier days there would have been no hesitation. One of us would have jumped out of the truck down the road a way, with one of us posting in the woods near the old logging trail, the other entering the woods making a drive back toward where the buck crossed, carefully studying the wind for best advantage before making a move.

My father, extremely ill and exhausted from several days in camp, waved us on, with the image of the mossy buck still staring back at us. I knew this would be his last hunt. He might have had the strength to take a stand and wait for me to make a sweep, but he was leaving something behind, something wily, majestic and coveted. Something that would be even more a trophy in years to come, or eventually be a wolves' feast. We rode home in silence, satisfied, filled with wonder at this sign of continuity with the past.

I didn't get my buck this year, but watched deer mothers and children, and planned for next season.

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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: OUR NEW TREASURER, SHIRLEY KANKAS ROULEAU, IS NOW COLLECTING DUES FOR 2004. THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!

A REPEAT CALL FOR LOCAL SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORIES

The Steering Committee working on the celebration of the Sesquicentennial or 150th birthday celebration of the founding of Douglas County and its County Seat in Superior is asking for historical 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 County and City of Superior 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. To help things move forward, the Committee has sent out letters to the town and village elected officials asking them to name someone from each community to prepare a history for that community. Other submissions are very welcome.

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 !

SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 12TH BOARD MEETING HELD AT SHIRLEY KANKAS ROULEAU'S.

Present: Eddie Walman, Norma Lind, Shirley Rouleau, Harry Wester, Paul Williams, Janine Seis, Paul Colby, Bud LaPole, Mary Ann Gronquist and Jim Pellman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. We discussed the next regular meeting which will be held on Wed., Dec. 10 at the Lake Nebagamon Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. Alice C. will be contacting someone about a tape about the Lake Nebagamon Boys' Camp shown recently as a program. There will be a pot luck meal and a gift exchange for those wishing to participate with a price range of \$5 to \$10. Shirley will get the key and check on coffee pot, etc. Janine and Shirley will do some decorating.

Jim and Paul talked about grants that are available from the Wisconsin Humanities Council.

Shirley read a letter she received from Wisconsin Trails Magazine about community partnership dealing with fund raising. Members would sell subscriptions to the magazine and the OBHS would receive \$5.00 for each subscription sold. Jim also talked about the selling of Younkers Community Sale coupons as a fundraiser for next year.

Plans were made for a workday, possibly May 15th with a rain date of May 22, and ask for volunteers to come and work on the windmill. Discussed temporarily removing the fence to allow for scaffolding to be put up.

Shirley received orders for merchandise. Janine will pack and mail them.

It was decided to create a fundraising and grants writing committee. Jim and Paul will volunteer. Will ask Velma Doby also.

Harry Wester passed around some maps that he has made up of different townships. He is looking for old platbooks.

Discussed again purchasing a laptop computer for the use of the secretary. Paul will check with Jon Winter on costs and what is available.

We discussed approaching the manager of the General Mills Taco Plant in Poplar about asking for a grant from that company.

Eddie Walman reported that the trailer is almost ready with the exception of installation of linoleum.

The next Board meeting will be at Janine Seis' home, 6913 S. County Road S, on January 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Jim reported on the conference in Chippewa Falls for the Wisconsin State Council on Local History and explained about the recipients of Local History Awards of Merit. He also told about the address of historian, Dr. Jane Marie Pederson, the keynote speaker.

Paul suggested purchasing a digital camera.

The Archives Committee will resume meeting after the holidays.

We discussed the need for a chair for the June 19th event at the Windmill and Lakeside Town Hall. No committee chair was designated at previous meetings.

We discussed the future speaker ideas – possibly on Parkland Hospital, Ken Olson, County Surveyor for many years, or the Douglas County Work Farm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Ann Gronquist, Secy.

ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE TO RETURN TO WORK.

The archives room in the Maple Community Center is slowly filling with archive material. Some construction work still remains, 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 Rouleau, LaVerne LaPole, Arnold and Doris Perala, Jim Pellman, Irene Brazill, Delores Pellman, Irene Parenteau and others have been volunteering their time to the Archives/Collection committee work. The group is now on break but we will welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Our thanks to these loyal members and contributors, and to the Town of Maple for archive space.

2004 BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDAR AVAILABLE

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, has produced its seventh calendar with more pictures of Brule's past. Proceeds of their annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, will be used for the publication of the history of Brule.

Among the photos in the 2004 calendar are the Bellwood Deluxe Cabins "on paved Highway 2" as advertised in a 1932 Sports Afield magazine, a 1938 or '39 Bible School Group, CCC camp in Brule showing 100 bird houses enrollees constructed as one of their projects, Lyons Den Tavern in 1936 and an aerial view of Jack and Edna's Tavern showing Jack's logging business.

The earlier history of Brule is seen in the Waino Post Office which operated from 1898 until Rural Free Delivery was established. It served the community of Oulu until they built their own Post Office in 1903. Around 1910, vacationers disembarking at the Winneboujou Depot, south of Brule were taking advantage of the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railroad Line's two trains daily between Marquette, Michigan and Duluth, Minnesota.

From around 1892 to 1908, the Brule Store Company was reportedly "the best equipped store in Douglas County outside of Superior." The typical Cook Shanty in an area logging camp was a common experience of this area's earliest settlers.

Other photos include the 1951-'52 Brule School Fifth and Sixth Grade Class with their teacher, Mildred Follis. Weaver, Mary Hakkila, is at her loom, and the Brule Fish Hatchery established already in 1927 continues to stock the lakes and streams of northern Wisconsin and Lakes Superior and Michigan with trout.

In the back is a handy reference to Brule area businesses whose advertising helps fund the calendar.

To order a calendar by mail, please write or call Janet Follis, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820 (715) 372-4948 (\$7.50 postpaid), or pick them up locally for \$6 from a BHRG member or at Twin Gables, Lori's Store, River House and Round Up North. 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 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 has a new enlarged design thanks to Bob Aho and was popular at our Midsummer and Bayfield Apple Festival Weekend Windmill Tours.

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 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.

**(UNAPPROVED) MINUTES
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2003, LYLE & GERRY FECHTELKOTTER'S RESIDENCE**

Attendance: 22
6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President, Lois Pollari at 6:10 p.m.

II. PROGRAM: Jim Pellman presented the program which was a video tape of a previous presentation at O-BHS by Dr. Ron Mershart about George Stuntz, early government surveyor, explorer, promoter and settler. Jim answered questions following the video and provided additional information from his research on Mr. Stuntz. Following the presentation, the group broke for refreshments provided by all attending.

III. BUSINESS MEETING: The business meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

A. MINUTES: Paul Colby now presiding, motion by Shirley Kankas Rouleau and seconded by Irene Parenteau that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT: The treasurer reported \$5,010.09 in the Windmill Fund and \$2,021.75 in checking. The tour and sale at the Windmill on Oct. 4 and 5 brought in \$209.50 in sales of merchandise, \$188.20 in donations and \$271.05 from the bake sale. 90 people signed the visitor's book. Delores Pellman moved and Alice Christensen seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Lois Pollari told about a list of committees and a calendar for the upcoming year which she distributed. The committee list was circulated for people to sign up for it they wished. Some of the things listed on the calendar are an open house of the archives room at the April meeting on April 14th; a midsummer festival at the Windmill and Lakeside Town Hall on June 19th; a potluck picnic at the Maple Town Park on August 11th; the annual meeting on September 11th at Northwestern Middle School. A stew cook-off was discussed to choose a recipe for the ethnic dinner in June. Two new committees have been formed: publications and scholarships. Lois Pollari talked about the possibility of publishing a book in the Sesquicentennial about the area townships and villages with excerpts from our newsletter compiled into it.

2. Jim Pellman reported on the Superior/Douglas County Sesquicentennial Committee. He reported that the Superior *Daily Telegram* will be running weekly historical photos and articles, one each week throughout the Sesquicentennial year, for which we might make submissions. Also, Jim reported on the plan for Sesquicentennial Minutes, one minute TV segments to be produced and aired on Channel 8. Corporate funding has proved to be a problem prohibiting the start up of production being handled by Ted Pellman and Dr. Mershart through Channel 8. (Old-Brule is on record in support of one of the segments for \$300 having to do with the Davidson Windmill.) Laila Magnuson read a letter received by the Brule History Research Group from the Sesquicentennial Committee regarding articles about each town in Douglas County. Jim had been contacted by the Town of Maple Chairman to write Maple's. He also reported that the County Sesquicentennial time capsule may not be buried at the Davidson Windmill after all. Our events for the Sesquicentennial will be the tour and dinner on June 19th, and also the entry in the 4th of July parade. It was suggested to have a rummage sale/white elephant sale at the Windmill next year.

3. President Paul Colby reported that we have received a \$500.00 unrestricted grant from Conoco Philips Co. of Houston, Texas, for planning and preparation for the move of the Eskolin log home to the mill site. He said further capital grants are still available. Paul told about a man from St. Paul who toured the windmill and gave a \$100.00 donation during open house.

4. A new member in attendance, Jamie Erickson, was welcomed at the meeting.

5. Jim Pellman led a report on the Wisconsin Regional Council for Local History meeting in Hurley which was attended by several members. There were speakers on Native Americans, Mining, Ethnic Settlement etc. The group also toured the County Museum there. All felt the trip and events extremely valuable and informative.

6. Seven members, Jim and Delores Pellman, Hope Swenson, Paul Colby, Norma Lind, Irene Parenteau and Janine Seis, will attend the Wisconsin State Council for Local History Convention at Chippewa Falls on October 18th. Jim Pellman had been nominated by First Vice President, Larry Luostari, in our group for State recognition but advance word was received that he had not been selected this year. (Jim was honored by the nomination and hoped it would increase state awareness of our Society and of the Davidson Windmill.)

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. PUBLICITY: Audrey Hakkila reported that she was able to have a tour at the home of Editor, Barbara Gardner, at her home where *The Connection* monthly paper is published in Port Wing. The article about the Windmill tours was entered as a past event as it was too late to publicize it before the event.

2. NEXT MEETING: The Christmas Potluck was discussed. It will be held at the Lake Nebagamon Auditorium on Dec. 10th. Lois Pollari moved that we have a \$5 to \$10 gift exchange at the meeting, seconded by Delores Pellman. Motion carried.

3. PROGRAMS: Alice Christensen will continue on the Program Committee. No programs have been finalized as yet.

4. HOSTESS COMMITTEE: It was decided to have a hostess committee responsible for refreshments with members from each community taking turns bringing food for the meetings. Karin Colby volunteered to be the committee chair. Karin Colby will ask about using the Middle School for the annual meeting (as a staff cook and janitor must be present). Jim Pellman will check on a custodian for that day.

5. ARCHIVE COMMITTEE: Archives will not be worked on until after the holidays. Audrey Hakkila reported that she has videos from Cliff Peterson about the Poplar cannery, etc.

6. We discussed changing the time of the meeting for the winter months, but it was decided to leave it in the evening, but to start at 6 p.m.

7. Motion by Jim Pellman, seconded by Alice Christensen, to purchase five plastic bins to hold the T-shirts and other sales merchandise. Motion carried. Shirley Kankas Rouleau will purchase them.

8. Motion by Irene Parenteau, seconded by Lois Pollari, to allow funds from the George Luoma Memorial to also be used for fixing up the newer trailer obtained by Eddie Walman. Motion carried.

9. A discussion was held on providing a laptop computer for the secretary to use. The matter was referred to the Board for further discussion.

E. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. A letter from the Wisconsin Council of Churches was received along with the book entitled "Chaplaincies in Wisconsin Institutions." They request that the book be made available as a resource in our library. It will be kept in the Archive Room.

2. A thank you was received from Liz Urbaniak for the money she received as a winner in our History Essay Contest.

F. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Shirley Kankas Rouleau and seconded by Delores Pellman to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Gronquist, Secretary

<p>Area History: No. 35</p>

"Finns Pioneered Over Douglas County; Here Over Half a Century; Harju Relates Parts Played in This Area," from the *Superior Evening Telegram*, on page 26, June 14, 1939, continued from October's *O-BHS News*.

This, the final of three installment from the English version of Rudolph Harju's history of the early Finnish presence in northern Wisconsin, appeared not long after the large Finnish Pioneer Celebration held at the Coop Park on the Brule River where a Finnish Pioneer Museum had been established. As Harju acknowledged, this history benefited tremendously from Finnish language and other historical source materials gathered by the Northern Wisconsin Finnish Historical Society and its director, Kalle Aine. Would that we knew where the original materials that Harju used are located today. In our first installment Harju spoke about the earliest Finnish presence in Superior and Douglas County. In our second installment he summarized the records of the early Finnish Temperance societies in Superior (from just before the turn of the last century) with branches in Maple, Waino and Brule. He then covered the early Finnish presence in Maple, Lakeside and Poplar. Harju's history concludes with the remaining regional Finnish settlements: Waino-Brule in Douglas County and Oulu, Herbster and Bark Point in northern Bayfield County.

An interesting letter from former Maple residents and O-BHS members, Mr. Francis Orval (Orava, Orville) and wife Colleen (Martin) of Jefferson, WI, adds important insight on the Vanhala/Lukkarila family and earliest Finnish ethnic settler, John August Rante (aka Bran, Brant) mentioned by Harju. Francis recalls that the Vanhala (aka Wanhala) brothers, Thomas and John (the latter took the name Lukkarila) were married to sisters. He adds that John Rante's wife was aunt to these sisters. He also relates that Rante lived in a house on the Lukkarila farm until he died. Douglas County records indicate he died on November 13, 1935, which was about the same time as Mr. Lukkarila. Other notes in our archives taken by John and Susan Tyykila indicate Rante was a Swede-Finn from the Vaasanlääni area of Finland, the source of many Finns in our region.

According to the 1900 US Census Rante arrived in America in 1880 (coming by sailing vessel) and was born in Sweden. His death record also indicates he was born in Sweden, the data filed by William Ukkola, long time clerk of the Town of Maple. But, that he was fluent in Finnish is not disputed, a language with rare exception acquired only in youth. Raymond Pollari, now in his seventies, whose mother was a Lukkarila, tells the story of his staying overnight as a young boy at the Lukkarila house. Rante was there and he had a bushy white beard which much impressed the lad. Aware of this impression, Raymond says Rante told him wide-eyed in Finnish, "Huomenna sullon [white] parta niin kun minulle" [loosely translated: "Tomorrow when you awaken you will have a white beard just like mine!"].

The current writer's comments appear in italics throughout. Jim Pellman, Editor.

By RUDOLPH N. HARJU.

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Waino-Brule Community.

The Waino-Brule are settlement was started approximately at the same time when the first settlers began to arrive in larger numbers in Maple, Lakeside and other Northern Wisconsin communities. Oscar Ekstrom settled on his homestead in 1888. Jacob Koski, Jacob Jarvi, John Lahti and Chas. (Kokko) Johnson arrived during the same year. Isaac Adams, Herman Koski and Matt Ulvila came the following year in 1889. John Tuura arrived in 1891; Kustaa Koski in 1892 and John Bjorn in 1893. All were homesteaders.

These early settlers of Waino-Brule community experienced the same hardships and difficulties that were common to all early pioneers who ventured into the wilderness to build their homes. The following historical details of events may be of some interest:

The first children born in the community were a pair of twins to Herman and Valpuri Koski September 20, 1891. The twins were boys and were named August and Heikki. The latter died in his infancy.

Special Boots For Minister.

The first wedding in the community was that of the Jacob Koski. This wedding was held during the spring of 1891.

The first church services were conducted by Rev. Heikki Sarvela during the fall of 1891. There were no cars then with which to transport the minister from the station to the place of the services. He had to walk. A special pair of homemade boots were provided and given to him at the Brule station so he could trek his way through the wet and marshy roads.

Plans for building a church were started in 1899. The new church was dedicated May 1, 1900. Besides the local people there were three ministers at the dedication ceremonies, namely Reverends Heikki Tanner, Heikki Sarvela and G. Salberg.

The clearing of a community cemetery was started in 1895 and '96 on a piece of land donated for that purpose by Alex Back. The following official name for the cemetery organization was adopted: "Ikuinen lepo hautausmaayhdisty " (Eternal Rest Cemetery association). The first person to be buried in this cemetery was Valentin Sundstrom who died in 1896.

The Brule Finnish National library was established in 1899. At the time of its organization the library had 62 volumes.

The building of a school for Waino was started in 1889.

A socialist local was organized in 1906 or 1907. It functioned until about 1919. The Waino hall was built in 1913.

A telephone association was organized in 1912.

The first cows in the community were owned by Oscar Ekstrom and Isaac Adams, each having one cow. They were bought in 1889. The first ox was owned by Oscar Ekstrom in 1890.

The worst fire in the history of the community occurred November 24, 1916, when a fire started at Matt Ulvila's farm from where it spread to Valentin Aho's farm, burning all the buildings, 10 head of stock, three horses and one pig. Ulvila's barn, hay barn and several head of stock were destroyed.

Oulu.

The first settlers coming into the community now known as the Oulu township (*sic*) were Henry Marjalunti (Maryland) and John Kangas, who during the fall of 1889 started on foot from Superior to their homestead. Soon they had the beginnings of their new homes started. Their families came a little later. The two families did not have to wait very long before they were surprised to find new arrivals when group of two families came from Bessemer, Mich., and settled fairly close by. This latter group included Fred Johnson and Matt Lampi and their families. In 1890 Mr. Marjalunti bought an oxen with which he did work for the entire little community.

These four families were soon followed by others of their countrymen who settled in the community.

The first child to be born in the community was Alina Marjalunti.

The first death was in 1891 that of Juhani Wihela, father of Antti Wihela who had come to the community with a group consisting of Nels Mattson and John Hermanson and their families.

First Red Schoolhouse.

The first red schoolhouse in the community was built in 1893. Its first teacher was Miss Della Dodge. She was followed by Annie Nelson and the third teacher was Hannah Peterson (Mrs. Tarter). *[A Miss Virginia Tarter years later taught many of the students at Northwestern High School. She was the daughter of Dr. Tarter from Iron River.]*

During the 90's a church was built and other social and cultural activity was carried on by various groups. In 1908 a hall was build in the community by a pro-labor group.

The first formal religious services in the community were conducted by Rev. Heikki Sarvela, although for many years prior to that Fred Johnson had administered the duties of a minister by christening children and officiating at funeral services.

A post office was established in Oulu in 1903. Two years later the area comprising the community seceded from the Iron River township and at that time the Oulu township was formally established.

The first general store in the community was owned and operated by Herman Koski.

In 1910 a cooperative creamery was organized. Two years later, in 1912, telephone line was brought into the community.

Herbster and Bark Point.

The first Finnish people coming to Herbster, which formerly was known as Cranberry, were two brothers August and Heikki Jakkila. They came here in 1888 and started fishing. Heikki drowned in the Barkpoint waters and August went back to Finland later.

This territory had large logging operations and saw mills during the 80's and 90's which attracted large numbers of Finnish people. In 1893 the saw mill closed and the logging operations dwindled fast so people had to direct their attention towards the developing of farms and fishing as a source of livelihood. After the logging operations had ended and the saw mill closed the other nationalities except the Finns left the community.

The post office was established in 1894; the first school house was built in 1897. Until 1907 this community was part of Port Wing township. During that year a new township was organized and named the Clover township.

At the time when the township was organized there was only one mile of road, and that very poor, in the entire town. The first road grader was bought in 1908. Today the town has 75 miles of roads, a good road equipment. The roads are kept open for travel year around.

The first chairman of the township was Peter Soronen Jr. who served the township in that capacity for many years.

There is much more yet that should be told, but here we must end our story. In the foregoing we have attempted to briefly relate some aspects of the lives and the endeavors of the early pioneers of this area. We have made no attempt to elaborate any point. Rather we have tried to relate them as briefly as possible. No doubt we have missed many matters that would have been very worth relating. However, the limited space at our disposal has prevented us from going into greater detail.

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Note: The author of this story feels greatly indebted to the Northern Wisconsin Finnish Historical society and to its director, Kalle Aine, for the use of its material in preparing this article. Sincere thanks. (R. H. H.)

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REWARDING TRIP TO STATE CONVENTION OF THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL FOR LOCAL HISTORY HELD IN CHIPPEWA FALLS.

Seven members, Jim and Delores Pellman, Hope Swenson, Paul Colby, Norma Lind, Irene Parenteau and Janine Seis, attended the Wisconsin State Council for Local History Convention at Chippewa Falls on October 18th. Delores Pellman supplied her van. This was the first time ever that the annual convention was held outside of Madison. Dr. Jane Marie Pederson of the UW-Eau Claire was the keynote

speaker, discussing her research on small Norwegian rural communities in Trempealeau County which is on the Mississippi River north of La Crosse. Her work resulted in the groundbreaking book *Between Memory and Reality: Family and Community in Rural Wisconsin, 1870-1970*, which took issue with rural stereotyping among otherwise respected urban historical researchers. Among the tables of other presenters were the friendly faces of Kathy Laakso and members of Douglas County Historical Society whose booth dealt with historic building preservation efforts. Hopefully other members will have the chance to attend future nearby annual conventions. Thanks to Delores for the generous use of her van.

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS

Thanks to all those who have already renewed their memberships for 2004.

Thanks for the new family membership and generous donation to the Windmill Fund by Dave and Alice Duggan of 2399 Bourne Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108, who stopped at the Windmill during Apple Festival Weekend. Dave is very up on mill technology and had some interesting info on a part he believes is an "automatic grain feed controller" on our mill. We look forward to another chance to talk with them in the future.

Thanks to Francis and Colleen Orval for their important and interesting letter referred to in Area History above.

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

We continue to wish members **Margie Koskie**, and **Doris Perala** full recoveries, and **Arnold Perala** improved health. Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Oiva Wuori, lifelong Maple resident, who died this past week at 86. -and who have we missed or forgotten?

Calendar

December 10, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., O-BHS regular bimonthly membership meeting. Christmas Meeting at Lake Nebagamon Auditorium. Pot luck dinner at 6, gift exchange. Program: Mrs. Kay Coletta will talk on the History of Lake Nebagamon.

December 25, Thursday, Christmas Day.

January 1, Thursday, New Years Day. Begin new volunteer hours card and please turn in your card for 2003.

January 12, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., O-BHS Board Meeting, at Janine and Doug Seis residence, Lake Nebagamon.

January 26, Monday, deadline for contributions to the February issue of *O-BHS News*.

WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been working with member **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems** in **Superior** on our own independent site (www.oldbrule.org). Thank you for your patience as we work to build up the site. Thanks to **Audrey Hakkila**, **Jackie Plunkett**, **Donna Bergsten**, **Jamie Erickson** 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) 364-2500, or our Treasurer, Shirley Kankas Rouleau, at 374-2413. 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 always welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.

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