

# OBS News

Volume VI, Issue 3

June 9, 2004

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2004

Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

~ Special Douglas County Sesquicentennial Issue ~  
A Hearty Welcome and *Tervetuloa* to all joining us  
for our Midsummer Celebration!

## Sesquicentennial Activities:

**June 19<sup>th</sup> Midsummer Celebration (*Juhannus Juhlat*) Old-Brule component of the Douglas County Sesquicentennial - Davidson Windmill, Lakeside Town Hall, in partnership with DCHS.**

1. **11:00 a.m. Dignitary recognitions and remarks.** A letter has gone out to town chairmen and village presidents and the Superior City Mayor inviting their participation, requesting three items of limited volume for the capsule, and separate town, village, and city historical exhibits. These exhibits can be seen at the Town Hall.

2. **11:15 a.m.: Time Capsule Ceremony at Windmill** (Old-Brule and Douglas Countywide, including City of Superior.) Please bring items forward for placement in the capsule.

3. **Placement: Cement work enclosure of time capsules.** The Windmill committee has been charged with preparation of the concrete form and the two plastic capsules.

4. **Scandinavian Dinner menu:** Finnish Mojakka (Beef Stew), Leipää (bread), Pulla, Swedish Rice Pudding, Norwegian Fruit Soup, by the Food Committee and Lakeside volunteers, at the Lakeside Town Hall. Meals will be served from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

5. **Windmill Tours:** With guides: Jim Pellman: 9-12, Harry Wester : 11-2, Paul Colby: 2-4, Eddie Walman our spot relief man.

6. **Merchandise** is available on mill grounds and at the Town Hall, including our brand new book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, which is a collection of local histories. **The *History of Lake Nebagamon* is also available.**

7. **Exhibits** (DCHS and O-BHS at Lakeside Town Hall) plus towns and villages from throughout Douglas County.

*The Davidson Windmill Committee and the Membership of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc..*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Colby, Lakeside, President  
Lois Pollari, Lake Nebagamon, 1st V.P.  
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Mary Ann Gronquist, South Range, Sec.

Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Lake  
Nebagamon, Treasurer  
Robert Aho, Duluth  
Norman LaPole II, Poplar  
The Late Norma Lind, Superior

Eddy Walman, Maple  
Harry Wester, Bennett  
Paul Williams, Lakeside  
Jim Pellman, Maple, Emeritus

**NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM WED., JUNE 9, 2004, 6:00 PM  
AT THE LAKESIDE TOWN HALL  
IN PLACE OF A PROGRAM JIM PELLMAN WILL SHARE AN OFFPRINT COPY OF  
*WISCONSIN, FAR NORTHWEST*, OUR NEW BOOK & FIRST OFFICIAL PUBLICATION.**

We will also use this session as a final working session to tie up loose ends in preparation for the Midsummer & Sesquicentennial Celebration coming up on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Windmill and at the town hall. We will pass out uniform town and village headings for our historical stands.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND. OUR THANKS TO THE TOWN OF LAKESIDE FOR USE OF THEIR TOWN HALL, AND THANKS TO THE LAKESIDE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello everyone,

I hope all is well with you and your families. Things are going great in our group; however, we lost a valuable asset to our Board, Norma Lind. She was a woman that was very gifted in art and vision. She was a person with *sisu* (Finnish for determination and perseverance) and she will be missed by our group.

Also, the family friend and community neighbor I spoke about in our last newsletter, who was in a local nursing home, passed away. I hate to say that I and others predicted this would happen. I'm not sure what all his ailments were, but I know he was depressed and upset that he couldn't come home. As I mentioned, he could walk, eat (even if food had to be ground up), and handle his affairs with some help, within the criteria that allowed him to live in his own house while recovering from a setback.

On the more pleasant side, the O-BHS book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, which will educate individuals about the births of the towns and villages of Old-Brule and neighboring communities to our south, is still on schedule to be released during our Midsummer and the Douglas County Sesquicentennial Celebrations at the Town of Lakeside on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Our O-BHS will host the event which will include *mojakka päivällinen* (boiled dinner) during the *Juhannus Juhlat* (midsummer celebration) at the Lakeside Town Hall. Also, the Windmill will be open for tours from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. The people who have been working on the community histories are the following: Amnicon, Alice Christensen and history group; Bennet and Hawthorne, Harry Wester; Brule, Minerva Johnson and Laila Magnuson; Highland, Janine Seis et al; Lake Nebagamon, Lois Pollari and Shirley Kankas-Rouleau with materials from Kay Coletta; Lakeside, Paul Colby; Poplar, Audrey Hakkila; Maple and Cloverland, our head historian and emeritus Board member, Jim Pellman. Also, I would personally like to thank Jeannie Castleberry for her writing and her editing expertise in support of the Amnicon group, and all of the many other locals who have contributed to our effort. Let's hope that our school district will take advantage of this valuable resource which the people of our communities have produced to help teach our children how we can work together even if we have different ideals and beliefs.

Jim Pellman and Bill Anderson (Corner Post Surveying & Mapping) attended the Douglas County zoning meeting last month on our behalf to obtain the proper permits so we can begin to prepare the Windmill site for the Donald and Julie Anderson log cabin. (I was informed that the Anderson daughters from Maple came back from Iraq last month. Our hats go off to them.) We encountered some resistance to our project from neighbors who felt ill informed about our plans. One neighbor was quite adamant in not wanting to see our group enhance the grounds in any way, even for educational purposes which would show how most people in Old-Brule once lived. The County Zoning Committee then tabled our application for thirty days until we can better inform the Town of Lakeside of our plans. This was partially my fault for not identifying "future structures," like a flag pole, in a letter I wrote to the Town of Lakeside that was read at the annual meeting, since I was unable to attend. I explained there that we would contact the town with our vision once the survey was complete, which will allow us to clear our setbacks from old State right-of-way boundaries, and secure a variance since we are on insufficient acreage by current zoning laws. We have already begun moving forward following all regulations and laws to address these issues. Surveyor Bill will be supplying O-BHS with an updated site map with exact boundaries for use in our presentations. Hopefully the neighbors in the end will appreciate our modest efforts in preserving the site and in explaining the town's early history.

On the great side, my company, ConocoPhillips, has donated \$2,500 to help purchase landscaping and repair materials to help with preserving the Windmill. Another \$500 was given to help with the publication of our collection of histories. Our repair/paint day, was held on May 15. ConocoPhillips replied that they appreciated the "heartwork" that our organization is doing for our community. I commend all those who have helped in these efforts, especially Pat and John Grube of Grube Trucking. They saved us a lot of back pain by lowering the old 35 foot poles and hoisting the new stabilizing poles into place. I am very thankful that Karin Colby gave them a call on her cell phone.

I was surprised that even more residents from Lakeside did not show up to help during the day. However, there was a firefighter recruitment effort going on in many towns at the very same time, including Lakeside. I believe if we were to go back thirty years the townspeople might have wanted to become more involved. I wonder if our townspeople will ever recapture that unity of purpose. Does it matter what our race, religion or creed is while sharing a community with each another? Are we supportive now of what's best for the full town? Or, is there a group that admires its own ideals, values, or concerns, dictating how the town should operate as outsiders, concerned only with benefitting themselves?... I guess that's why it's called politics.

Speaking of values and beliefs, I want to mention, but won't say more about what some of our troops did to Iraqi prisoners. These people were just a small group that dehumanized the Iraqis, and I hope their leadership is held fully accountable as well for their lack of supervision and training.

I and my son have also been occupied with T-ball. To my surprise, after filling out my son's consent form and offering assistance with coaching, I became the head coach for Lakeside, Maple and Poplar. We did have enough kids for a Poplar team, so I became the official coach of Lakeside and Maple. Thank God for the help of Paul Konkler because these kids are a handful. It is a lot of fun watching them. When I was a young lad there was no T-ball. We went right into Little League. It was quite frightening at 7 and 8 years old to face pitchers that were 12, such as Jeff Miesbauer from the Middle River team.

Good bye, and enjoy the summer!

Sincerely,

Paul Colby

#### **FROM THE EDITOR:**

It has been a hectic stretch over the past few weeks, preparing the text for our new book, while trying to keep up with the ordinary routines of a busy spring. But we are now at the printer with our book, and the backlog of neglected items is finally being addressed.

I will enclose an excerpt from the book in our "Area History" feature. Many thanks are in order, and we give a long list in the book. Paul has mentioned a few in his letter. I sincerely hope our vision of what went on in this region is recognized as honest and accurate

As I reread portions of my introduction I felt at times that maybe I was being too harsh with the forces that brought the changes we see in small community government in the past fifty year or so, especially to towns. They were well meaning, these expert, elected representative and court officials, I'm sure, and people of good will. But I believe their efforts were harmful to local life. And perhaps there really was nothing they could do in the face of changes that were bound to come with improved technology, communications and "Modernism," in a world in which we have been convinced to cease looking for our principle meanings in our shared local experience. We collectively have become more and more creatures of mass media contrivance. We are no longer taught that, just like a good marriage, local community is something to be worked at, must be steadily refreshed, and should not be taken for granted.

The problem seems to be false mindedness about our creaturely limits, and about synthetic replacements for local community, false expansions of our identity, built on fleeting team, party and company loyalties, which are unable ultimately to deeply sustain us. The arts of honest neighborliness that structured communities of the past, built upon honest recognition of what we are as struggling, created beings, still can be found, especially among the old. Their earlier world cultivated self sacrifice, and charity, local community involvement, tolerance and respect - all those values that make freedom possible. And the early government process of town formation, initiated locally, allowed this healthy group political expression which balanced individual freedom and community. Rural life became synonymous with these values. I do not see enough in the radical individualism of the present, and in the restraining legion of distant and elite experts, that adequately replaces this self-sustaining, humble, disappearing order.

So if what I have written here and in *Wisconsin Far Northwest* allows me to be seen as a fierce advocate of the small, and disappearing local, of small community and local civil processes, I accept the charge, and continue to advocate for their essential and irreplaceably values.

**FINALLY, WELCOME TO ALL TO OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION!**

- Jim Pellman

#### **ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE.**

The archives room in the Maple Community Center is slowly filling with archive material. The group would welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Our current project is learning to use the computer in support of our work, scanning documents and photos, storing records and creating data bases. Our thanks to our loyal committee members and contributors, and to the Town of Maple for archive space. If you enjoy exacting work please join us at 1 p.m. at the Pellmans some Monday afternoon. Next meeting: June 21, 2004.

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.

***A REMINDER: OUR NEW TREASURER, SHIRLEY KANKAS ROULEAU, IS STILL COLLECTING DUES FOR 2004. THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!***

***Late Note: We had a very Successful Tour of Percival Mine Site on May 16 with over 25 on the tour. Thanks to all for coming and sharing an almost rainy day with us.***

### 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.

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](mailto:knmo@baysat.net).

### (Unapproved) MINUTES OF THE O-BHS MAY 13, 2004, MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD AT THE COLBY HOME IN LAKESIDE.

Present: Karin Colby, Eddie Walman, Jim Pellman, Paul Colby, Lois Pollari, Janine Seis, Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Hope Swenson, Delores Pellman, Mary Ann Gronquist, and Harry Wester.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Paul Colby.

**Minutes** were read from the previous Board Meeting. Jim Pellman moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Janine Seis. Motion carried.

**Financial Report** - Treasurer Shirley Kankas-Rouleau reported income of \$80 in dues (there are 107 members at present), memorials for Norma Lind of \$55 (to the Mill fund), \$15 from the lunch collection; expenses were \$50 for flowers for Norma Lind funeral, \$125 to surveyor Bill Anderson for fees; \$1537 to Winter Systems for laptop and digital camera, \$409 to Wilson Mutual Insurance Co. for liability insurance. Current balances are \$1285.10 in checking and \$4,767.97 in the Mill fund. Motion made by Lois Pollari and seconded by Karin Colby to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Jim reported that he attended the meeting of the Douglas County Zoning Board along with Bill Anderson of Corner Post Survey, (who continues to volunteer his services) concerning the problems with the zoning of the Mill site. There are problems with the right-of-way which need to be cleared up before we can do any landscaping, etc. There were dissenters at the meeting who objected to our moving the log building onto the property. The matter was tabled by the committee for 30 days. It was suggested to have a drawing ready for the next Lakeside Town Board meeting showing plans for the site. The Lakeside Volunteer Fire Dept. will have their equipment set up near the Mill site on the weekend of May 15<sup>th</sup>, which is our workday at the Mill. This is a promotion to get more members interested in volunteering with the Fire Dept. It should not affect our work.

**Fundraising:** We now have a picture of Taylor's Bridge to use for a magnet. Will try to get them ready for our Midsummer event. ConocoPhillips (Paul Colby's employer) has promised a \$3000 grant to our organization, with \$1500 to be used for building materials, \$1000 for landscaping, and \$500 for our Old Brule area book production. A committee is needed to work on applying for grants.

**Archives:** The Committee experimented with the new laptop computer. Shirley and Jim worked on scanning Follis documents at the last Archives meeting. More volunteers needed.

Jim attended the last meeting of the **Brule History Research Group**. He tried to help with getting their book to the publishing phase. The group also lost a vital member in Norma Lind.

A letter from Doug Finn, County Board Chair and Dave Ross, Superior Mayor, was received concerning participating in a **time capsule** planned for burial in Superior at the Government Center. Jim asked for suggestions on what should be included in our packet. Suggestions were a letter from our group to the future, a picture of our group, a membership list and newsletter copies. Must be in an acid free enclosure.

E-mail address for Mary Ann Gronquist is [obhssecy@juno.com](mailto:obhssecy@juno.com). A secret password was created, having to do with the windmill. The **laptop** is here and in use, the camera is at Jon Winter's business - holding on more software. Using our own data base. Progress is being made on the **website**. Jaime Erickson will help.

A new **brochure** needs to be designed. A motion was made by Lois to authorize the printing of 2000 redesigned brochures, seconded by Shirley. Motion carried. A suggestion was made to place stickers asking for contributions on the fliers that are not distributed to the State.

Harry Wester's maps have been copied at ShelDon printers. We discussed the publishing of the book containing the The next **newsletter** deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. This issue will include a lot of Sesquicentennial information.

All information has been turned in to Jim for the **book**. He needs to edit it down (and needs more pictures from Cloverland, and Amnicon data. A motion was made by Lois, seconded by Harry Wester, to authorize \$1500 for publication of the book by Silver-Tonsberg in Superior, and to also have it spiral bound if reasonable (\$200 price range), rather than to bind the pages ourselves. Motion carried.

The **Percival Mine tour** is set for 1 p.m. on May 16<sup>th</sup>. A naturalist from the DNR (Josh) will also be there, as well as members of the Northern Great Lakes Archaeological Society.

The **next meeting** will be at the Lakeside Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Paul will reserve the hall. There will

be no formal program - final plans for the Midsummer event will be discussed.

**Scholarship:** A motion was made by Janine, seconded by Harry Wester to offer a \$200 scholarship to a Northwestern High School graduate again this year. Last year's committee will contact NWHHS Guidance Counselor about scholarship. Motion carried. *[ Jim has called the Guidance Office. A letter should follow.]*

Jim is now the regional representative for the **Northwestern Region of the Wisconsin Council for Local History**, filling the balance of the term of office of cancer victim and strong local advocate, Pat Schroeder. He attended a meeting in Stevens Point in April.

No added **committee reports**. OBHS has been asked to set up a photo display at the **Forest History Association conference** in Ashland in September 2004. The Board was in agreement on participating in this. A motion to allow sufficient funds to cover costs of the display was made by Eddie Walman, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

Registrations due May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>. Non-member attendance registration opened after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

A letter was received from the **IRS granting approval to OBHS of permanent 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status**.

The **Mill work day** was discussed. May rent a paint sprayer. Bring rollers with handles and wear paint clothes.

Motion made by Lois, seconded by Janine to **adjourn** meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The Colby's, Gina and Paul, Gabbie and Trent, were excellent meeting hosts. Thanks to all for their contributions to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Gronquist, Secy.

**(UNAPPROVED) MINUTES  
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 14, 2004, MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Attendance 35

6:00 p.m.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Janine Seis. Jim Pellman presented a slide program entitled "People, Copper and Logs." Following the presentation a lunch provided by the Maple area members was enjoyed by all.

II. **BUSINESS MEETING:**

A. **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the minutes of the February regular meeting was made by Margie Koskie, seconded by Irene Parenteau. Motion carried.

B. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer Shirley Kankas -Rouleau reported that there was income in March of \$1,043.85, expenses of \$345.68, and \$6124.53 in the Windmill Fund, and \$1844.53 in the checking account. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Audrey Hakkila, seconded by LaVerne LaPole. Motion carried.

C. **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **DAVIDSON WINDMILL:** There was a discussion on the upcoming workday at the Mill on May 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Prior to that day, the Windmill Committee will work on replacing rotted wood with lumber secured from Isaacson Lumber Company and Pat Grube. Painting will be necessary, as well as scraping on the May 15 workday. Paul Colby has the paint, and we may rent an airless sprayer. Rollers with long handles can also be used. Bag lunches were suggested, and the Sesquicentennial Committee will provide stew and coffee. The fence may be taken down to allow the scaffolding to be put in place.

2. **FUNDRAISING:** Discussed finding a picture of Taylor's Bridge. Audrey Hakkila suggested taking a picture of it of a video she has. Marian Christensen may be able to get a picture of cabin near bridge. Also discussed watching the video that Audrey has access to, but due to its length, it needs to be edited first.

3. **ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:** This acid free boxes have arrived. The archive room was opened for viewing following the meeting. Next Archives Committee meeting at Delores Pellman's on April 26 at 1 p.m.

4. **BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP:** Laila Magnuson reported that the Brule History article was in the Daily Telegram. Ruth Guhl is assisting in obtaining homestead and census information and is making it available to the group. Calendars are available for sale. They may plan a Sesquicentennial event around Memorial Day.

5. **SESUICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE:** LaVerne LaPole passed around a list for food donations and volunteer workers for the dinner planned on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeside Town Hall. Serving will be from 11-3. A motion was made for the purchase of the supplies necessary for the meal by Irene Parenteau and seconded by Margie Koskie. Motion carried. Plans are to make enough for 150 people. There will be tours of the Windmill offered that day also, and the burying of the time capsule. Each town in the Old Brule area is being asked to provide a display of old pictures from their towns to be displayed at the Town Hall that day. No white elephant sale will be held as discussed previously due to lack of space. Kathy Laakso from the DCHS was present to discuss the time capsule. Two containers will be used, and each local governmental unit in Douglas County, including Superior, will be invited to place up to three articles in the capsule. A suggestion was made to open the capsule in 25 years, so that someone from our group could possibly still be alive to witness it. Referred the matter to the Sesquicentennial Committee.

6. COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE/WEBSITE: The website is still not ready. Jamie Erickson expressed interest in working on it and has skills in that area. The laptop computer has arrived. We need to purchase a Past Perfect program to organize our archives. Molly at DCHS will be contacted for more information.

7. PUBLICITY: Jim Pellman asked for a motion to allow the designing and printing of new brochures. No motion made. Audrey questioned whether she can use the Sesquicentennial logo. She needs to get permission from the Douglas County Sesquicentennial committee to use it. She continues to put articles in *The Connection*.

8. NEWSLETTER: The deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup> for the June issue.

9. PUBLICATIONS: Harry Wester's maps have been copied, and towns invited to update and correct them. These maps will be included in the book to be published including all town and village histories in Old-Brule, plus Hawthorne, Highland and Bennett. May 1 is the deadline for all information to be turned in. Jim asked for volunteers to help compile the book to be ready June 19<sup>th</sup>. Photos from towns are needed, to be used in the book, about 20 pictures per town to pick from, reduced in size. No printer has been lined up yet. A work meeting is set for May 2 at noon at Janine Seis's

10. MEMBERSHIP: No new information.

11. PERCIVAL MINE TOUR: The tour will be on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m. Meet at the parking lot off of Clevedon Road. Rain date May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

12. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

#### D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. COMING MEETINGS: The next board meeting will be held at Paul Colby's at 6:00 p.m. June 9<sup>th</sup> will be the next business meeting, possibly at Lakeside Town Hall. Check the newsletter for final plans. No program at this meeting. Harry Wester offered the Bennett Town Hall as a meeting place in the future.

2. A mini-conference for Heritage organizations will be held at the Kirby Ballroom at UMD from 9:30 to 3:00. The conference is free, and includes lunch. Pre-register by Tuesday, April 20 at 218-726-8657.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Kathy Laakso suggested partnering with other historical societies for floats in the parade. Suggested using the Sesquicentennial logo in some way.

F. COMMUNICATIONS: Insurance on the Mill is due.

G. Jim was recognized for a great presentation. Archive room was opened for viewing.

H. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Margie Koskie and seconded by LaVerne LaPole. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Ann Gronquist, Secretary

**Lunch was served by the Maple Area Hospitality Committee. Many thanks to them.**

#### 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.

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 image is 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 and at the Lakeside Town Hall and Windmill at the Sesquicentennial Event, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Area History:  
No. 38**

An excerpt from the Introduction to *Wisconsin Far Northwest, A HISTORY OF REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT* by Jim Pellman

ABSTRACT:

Once the latest continental glacier retreated from the Lake Superior basin, for eons the region which

encompasses the rural communities of modern Douglas County, Wisconsin, became the hunting grounds, maple sugaring grounds, and wild rice source of aboriginal people. Some of these people utilized native copper outcrops on the mineral range that runs through Douglas County. An ancient trail of these people ran from the mouth of the Middle River on Lake Superior through Maple south on its way to Lake Nebagamon. At the time of the first recorded European contact with people of this region the Santee Sioux were in control. By the 1600s the Algonquian Chippewa or Ojibwe people had pressured the Sioux or Dakota to the west. Late in the fur trade era the U.S. Government treaties with these Chippewa bands opened northern Wisconsin to Euro-American cultural settlement and resource exploitation.

At their creations the earliest towns of northern Douglas County, Wisconsin, were the democratic political expressions of small, separate, determined communities of rural local residents. The towns and villages locally were not the creation of the county government, but were formed often against the stiff opposition of the county board. State law routinely mandated the creation of towns within counties, and this led to the formation of the Town of Superior in 1854 which covered the whole of Douglas County at the county's creation. A railroad was promised but slow to arrive and a booming "Superior City" with more than 2000 people went bust. From 1848 onward copper mining prospects over the following decades had kept hopes alive among those who arrived and stayed on as they searched the county's ridge outcrops and sank exploratory pits and shafts with returns on large investments too marginal to fully develop at the prices of the times. However, by 1887, after the arrival of railroads and the pine logging and lumber boom, the population in the region finally rose rapidly, and settlers in communities throughout Douglas County petitioned for the formation of new towns and villages.

The Towns of (old) Brule and Nebagamain and the Village of Superior were carved that year from the Town of Superior. Thomas Doherty of Poplar became the first Brule town chairman, Brule's town hall built in the heart of the new town near the Maple station on the Northern Pacific Railroad. By 1907, in the hey day of logging, more petitioning and a circuit court judge ruling brought into being first the Town of Amnicon in 1906, and then the early Town of Maple which brought the railroad hamlets of Maple and Blueberry together, both new towns taking land from old Brule. P. A. Peterson of Poplar became the first Town of Amnicon's first Chairman. E. G. Doherty became the first Maple Town Chairman in 1907. Throughout the period from 1887 to 1907 a growing colony of Finns was entering old Brule, most heavily in what would become Lakeside, and north of the Maple station, then northeastwardly into the Waino region, and on into Oulu in Bayfield County, in what collectively became the most densely populated farming region in all of Wisconsin.

When Weyerhaeuser, Hines and the pines were gone much of the boom population moved on, except for the Finns, and farmers of other nationalities, English and French-Canadian, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, German and American, Dutch, Polish and Czechoslovakian, and others who would arrive on the cutover acres of the area mostly during the Teens. Both cooperatives and private businesses grew to serve these local dairy, sheep and fruit farmers. Anchoring the social and spiritual life in the region was a full range of church bodies. In 1921, four years after the Village of Poplar was carved from the second Town of Amnicon, the latest farm settlers in the Cloverland area had to go as far as the Wisconsin legislature to form their own town out of the north ends of both Maple and Brule. The region's political boundaries have remained the same since, but the role of town government, and local rural self government generally in people's lives has been radically eroded. Only a handful of dairy farms remains, and, enabled by the automobile, and the telephone, the region has become part of the suburban Duluth-Superior Twin Ports metro region.

## Notices:

### THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS:

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your memberships for 2004.

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

### CONDOLENCES:

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Norma Lind who recently passed away due to a sudden onset of cancer. She will be deeply missed by all lovers of local history and by friends of Finnish culture everywhere.

### ENCOURAGEMENTS:

We continue to wish Archive Committee members Doris and Arnold Perala improved health. Likewise wishes for improved health go out to LaVerne LaPole and to her sister Marlene LaPole.

-and who have we missed or forgotten?

## Calendar:

**June 6**, 2 p.m., Sunday : DCHS History Sunday. 1101 John Avenue. Swedish Music and History. \$2 non-members.

**June 19**, Saturday: Midsummer Celebration (*Juhannus Juhla*) (Tours 9 - 4 and Ethnic Dinner 11-3), Davidson Windmill and Lakeside Town Hall. Douglas County Sesquicentennial Event. Time Capsule Placing 11a.m.

**June 21**, Monday, Next Archive Meeting, Pellman's in Maple.

**July 15**, Thursday, Deadline for next edition of O-BHS News.

**September 11**, Saturday, noon: O-BHS Annual Meeting, Northwestern Elementary School, Poplar.

## 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](http://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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