

OBHS News

Volume VII, Issue 4

August 1, 2005

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2005
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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Eddy Walman, Maple
Paul Williams, Lakeside
Irene Parenteau, Superior, Alternate
Jim Pellman, Maple, Emeritus

NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM

WED., AUGUST 10, 5:45 P. M., AT THE BENNETT TOWN HALL & COLEMAN FARM

BEFORE OUR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING WE WILL GATHER AT THE BENNETT TOWN HALL. FROM THERE AT 5:45 PM SHARP WE WILL HEAD OVER TO THE KEN AND GEMMA COLEMAN FARM TO TOUR THEIR ROUND BARN AND VIEW THEIR HORSES. AFTER THE TOUR, AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY THE COLEMANS, WE WILL RETURN TO THE BENNETT TOWN HALL FOR OUR BUSINESS MEETING. The Colemans own a cheese shop on Belknap in Superior, and one of the few round barns ever built in Douglas County. The Bennett Town Hall is located just off Highway 53 on County L.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND.

Thanks to the Colemans, the Town of Bennett for the use of their hall, to Harry Wester for making arrangements, and to all members who bring refreshments for our breaks..

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings to All,

To you that are burdened by ailment, may you only feel better as I attempt to inform and inspire you as I complete this year of duties and write a few words of encouragement to the great people of northwestern Wisconsin. I do wish you and your families the best in the future. With the annual meeting upon us, a new President may be nominated, and this may be my last informal response to you members. I would like to thank everyone who contributes and supports our organization, which helps to push our vision forward. If it wasn't for the talents, commitment and dedication that many individuals in our group possess, many ideas wouldn't have moved forward and some of our goals might not have been attained.

Progress at the windmill continues, with Essen Concrete pouring the foundation and slab last week, and this week the lean-to and apron slabs should be completed. We might be able to have the house on site by the end of August; however, there is still some prep work to complete before Grube Trucking will relocate the structure. Anyways, if later than August, it's still going to be a great achievement seeing the house resting on the windmill grounds during our bake sale during the Bayfield Apple Festival weekend in early October.

As I'm typing, I've been reminiscing on the awesome time I had at the Northwestern Class of 1985 reunion, held in Lake Nebagamon during this last weekend of July. It was great seeing my old friends and classmates, and connecting closer to others that I was distant from in school, in other words, a different "click" as a gentleman from Maple said to a few of us from Lakeside: "You're the Lake people." Later it struck me that the Cloverlanders should as well inherit this label, even though political boundaries separate us. I really talked my old friend Bill Wiemer's ear off since I haven't seen him in over 20 years, and he's probably content for another twenty after our conversations. I will also mention that some classmates even complimented our group for its efforts and accomplishments. I will acknowledge Tina (Androski) Prior and Kay (Kavajecz) Gordon for all their hard work planning and setting up our festivities.

In Lakeside we've planned a town picnic for August 20th from 2-6 p.m., with a rain date of August 21st. It was emphasized that people don't have to live in Lakeside to attend, especially past residents. On August 21st, Cloverland

Covenant Church will be hosting a picnic at Anderson Park in Maple with Faith Lutheran and Lakeside Baptist attending as well. Mike Granlund is still hammering out ideas while striving to save the grain inspection jobs in Superior.

I would like to stress the importance of supporting the Douglas County Historical Society, as well as many other non-profit groups that are feeling the pain due to budget cuts and rising costs. It's a nice outing and there's a lot to see and appreciate at DCHS which would make a good family day by stopping in and visiting. If any of you are in Madison make sure you visit the Wisconsin Historical Society; they have many nice exhibits and a nice selection of books; they too need support as they lose financial help.

In this year with its summer super-abundance of raspberries, butterflies and rabbits, I would like to close, wishing our organization the best, and thanking everyone who has helped along the way.

Sincerely,
Paul

FROM THE EDITOR:

On Wednesday, July 27th, I attended an auction in Blueberry. Items from the Alex Peet estate were up for sale, which included the old Northern Pacific Blueberry Depot and contents, and items from the antique shop of the late Irene Carlson. It had been many years since Irene had gathered her inventory and much that sold was very old by local measure. On August 6th, 1976, her body was discovered in her shop. Irene, 77 at the time of her death, had been shot in the back of the head with a .22 caliber pistol, allegedly by serial killer, Allen LeRoy Anderson, then 33, a native of Austin, Minnesota. Anderson remains in prison in Minnesota serving time for another of his alleged eight killings in his 1976 spree. There were sobering moments when I thought about that tragic time.

My own prized purchase of the day: the sign on heavy cedar post that marked the Maple NP railroad station. What does someone do with a weathered railroad sign? Save it for the day a local museum grand enough to enclose it can be established.

Our by-laws were drafted with the intention of spreading responsibility and opportunity for leadership in our group among as wide a segment of our membership as possible. To accomplish this we limited each term on the board to two years, and successive terms at two, which means any board member is limited at any time to a maximum of four consecutive years time served. The board member is eligible for nomination again after a year's respite when they are again eligible to serve two terms and four consecutive years.

This year at our September annual meeting we lose the board services of Eddy Walman, who has served us well for four years. His knowledge of local history and willingness to serve have been valuable assets in the growth and stability of our organization. We hope he will find time to serve us on the board again sometime soon.

Paul Colby writes above with a note of finality about his valuable service as Board President. In the face of his many family and work obligations, we hope he can be persuaded to take on the many duties of President for at least one more year, through to the end of his second term. First Vice President, Janine Seis, whose first term is about to end, has indicated that her work duties might be too demanding to stay on for a second term. Even though we hear that she will be moving into a new position as Postmaster in Lake Nebagamon, we would benefit much by her services, and as we wish her "Congratulations!" we hope she can be persuaded to stay. (I'd even say that if she wasn't my sister.)

- Jim Pellman

2005 BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDAR AVAILABLE.

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, has produced its eighth 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, hopefully to be completed this year. This is their final 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.

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

ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The 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: August 8, 2005. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER STATUS (dates after names = start dates of terms)

President, Paul Colby, Lakeside, 2002, 2004; *1st V.P., Janine Seis, Lake Nebagamon, 2003 (need to contact re. second term); *2nd V. P., Harry Wester, Bennett, 2003 (need to contact re. second term); Secretary, Mary Ann Gronquist, Parkland, 2002, 2004; Treasurer, Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Lake Nebagamon, 2002, 2004; Robert Aho, Duluth, 2002, 2004; Marion Christensen, Superior, 2004; Karin Colby, Maple, 2004; Earl Granroth, Lakeside, 2004; Irene Parenteau-alternate, Superior, 2004; *Eddie Walman, Maple, 2001, 2003 (retiring after two terms, must replace); *Paul Williams, Lakeside, 2003 (need to contact re. second term); Jim Pellman-emeritus, Maple.

**(UNAPPROVED) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
JUNE 15, 2005, LAKESIDE TOWN HALL**

Attendance: 28

Time: 6:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President, Paul Colby.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2005 regular meeting was made by Audrey Hakkila, seconded by Janine Seis. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Checking Account Balance \$ 916.12, Mill Fund Balance \$8244.18, Roofing Fund \$ 535.00

Treasurer Shirley Kankas reported that two old Davidson vehicles have been sold for \$500, and that money has been put into the roofing fund. 409 books have been sold with a profit of \$1,179.00. There are 195 books on hand. A motion was made by Lois Pollari, seconded by Jim Pellman to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

DAVIDSON WINDMILL: The rains have caused a delay in the making of the concrete slab for the log building. Scott Essen has given an estimate of \$1,150.00 plus sand, and he will also make a decorative apron in colored concrete. Excavation has been done by Del Carlson and the fiberoptic line is lowered. Paul Colby reported on a failing culvert that may need to be replaced. Harry Wester reported that he probed the culvert. Jim explained the shape of the lot and the setbacks required.

The sign status is still being worked on. The cabin will have a lean-to, 8' x 16', which can be used for storage and can be locked up. Pat Grube has offered to move the cabin on a lowboy for \$500. The Windmill Committee will meet on Sat, July 9 at the Mill at 10 a.m. Gerald Tutor needs more cedar blocks for shingles. Earl Granroth has some available. Ten squares of shingles are needed for the mill and the house. Bill Anderson is working with Bob Aho on the architectural site plan for the Mill site. Bill Anderson will be paid from grant monies for any further services. Bob Aho is donating his services. Jim has mailed copies of zoning information to the Town of Lakeside. A certified survey was required at a cost of \$100. It may be possible to use sand from the site for the base for the slab. There was discussion on recognizing people who have donated their time for the Mill site preparations.

MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Alice Christensen reported on plans for the dinner and lists were circulated for workers and food needed. A refrigerator was located for use at the dinner. Merchandise will be sold at the Hall and at the Windmill. A motion for rental of a portapotty for the Mill was made by Audrey Hakkila, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried. Janine Seis made posters which have been distributed. Those donating food for the stew were recognized. Audrey Hakkila put an article in the newspapers about the dinner and tour. Jim will be working on magnets of Taylor's Bridge and the Windmill. No vendor found for pins. A new order of shirts has arrived. Paul reported on shirts available from Tina Pryor and he had samples for viewing. Signs were discussed. The Mill committee will pursue the matter of having signs made professionally for next year. The display panels were discussed. Lake Nebagamon and Hawthorne are needed.

FUNDRAISING: Paul Colby will submit a form to Conoco-Philips reporting on how grant monies have been spent.

ARCHIVES CTTE. The committee meets weekly at the Pellman home on Mondays. Additional volunteers are welcome. Materials have been received from Ruth Lintelmann, Velma Doby, Joyce Erickson, Nan Wisherd, (material on Maple Hall) and Arnold Christensen. Elvie has a photo album of servicemen from the region.

BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: No calendar will be made for 2006. Some 2005 calendars are still available. Work is progressing on their book which should be published this year. When they are finished materials will be donated to the OBHS archives.

WEBSITE: Paul Colby checked the Website and it is still unchanged. The Website address is www.oldbrule.org. Shirley Kankas-Rouleau reported that she attended a class at UMD on Quickbooks. She will get help from a professor from UMD to help set up an accounting program on her computer. A program needs to be purchased at a cost of \$200. Shirley donated a printer to OBHS.

NEWSLETTER: Jim explained the producing of the newsletter. Copies are printed at Office Max. Newsletter deadline is July 16.

PUBLICITY: A second copy of WI, Far Northwest was sent to The Finnish American Reporter for review. Complementary copies of the newspaper were sent. The Windmill brochures have been completed. Jim has distributed some to the Superior wayside, the Bong Center and the Hudson Information Center.

PUBLICATIONS: Locations of where our book is available were listed. Marilyn Pank suggested the Health Food Store in Iron River as another location since they have had requests for our book. Jim suggested trying to find someone who has a shop at Finnfest in Marquette, Michigan, who might take our book on consignment.

HISTORICAL POSTER: The committee will meet at Pellman's on July 16 at 1 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP: Volunteer cards are available. No new members last month.

POLLARI MEMORIAL GIFT: Waiting to hear directly from Mr. Gregg Lundberg regarding writing contest scholarship. Committee will meet.

DAVID MAKI ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH: The grant application was passed around. Amount of grant will be \$18,460. (including matching funds). Jim sent a letter of our support to the committee.

MN HIST. SOCIETY WORKSHOP: Jim and Paul reported on attending the workshop at Split Rock Lighthouse on May 6. Information on grant writing was helpful.

NEW BUSINESS:

SCHOLARSHIP: Jim got a phone call from the Northwestern Counselor's office asking if we are providing a scholarship this year. A motion to provide \$200 for this scholarship was made by Minerva Johnson, seconded by Karin Colby. Motion carried. The Local History Office has requested an annual donation of \$15.00 to belong to their association. A motion to donate the \$15 was made by Alice Christensen, seconded by Earl Granroth. Motion carried. We also received a solicitation from the Wisconsin Council for Local History for \$100 for a workshop. Jim made a motion to table the matter until we know more about it, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting will be at the Bennett Town Hall on August 10 at 6:00 p.m. The hall is located just off of Hwy. 53 on Hwy. L. Harry Wester will check on possibly touring a round barn in Bennett. The next Board meeting will be on July 13 at 6:00 at Paul Colby's on Middle River Road.

ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting will be on Sept. 17 or 18 at the Douglas County Historical Society, 11th and John. Alice Christensen volunteered to chair the nomination committee.

OTHER: There was discussion about recognition of volunteer hours at the annual meeting. Lois suggested using commemorative bricks that people would purchase. Jim received a call from a Greg Mueller who is involved with the Blueberry Catholic Church. He is looking for a group to take on preserving the church building. We decided that we cannot take on any more projects. Lois Pollari made a motion that an article be put in the paper in support of the project and a letter of support be sent to Mr. Mueller, seconded by Jim Pellman. Motion carried. Jim will write the article and letter or contact a reporter from the Telegram. An update on LaVerne LaPole's health was given. She will be home from Minneapolis soon. A card will be sent. Jim suggested giving a name to our newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, seconded by Laila Magnuson to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Gronquist

(UNAPPROVED) MINUTES BOARD MEETING, OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY

PAUL COLBY RESIDENCE, LAKESIDE, JULY 13, 2005

Present: Paul Colby, , Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Harry Wester, Jim Pellman, Paul Williams, Earl Granroth, Janine Seis, and Mary Ann Gronquist.

Time: 6:10 p.m.

I. WELCOME:

II. BUSINESS MEETING:

A. MINUTES. A motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2005 Board meeting was made by Janine Seis, seconded by Shirley Kankas-Rouleau. Motion carried.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT

Income:	\$271.02,	Expenses:	3218.43
Checking	1245.94,	Mill Fund	6597.63

Roofing Fund	535.00,	Book Sales (432 sold)	145.00
Midsummer Daily Gross Income	\$1,477.97 (not included in income above)	Net:	\$1,238.08.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jim Pellman, seconded by Harry Wester. Motion carried. Kerry Drew will do an audit by September.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

DAVIDSON MILL: Discussed progress at Millsite. The ground is leveled for the concrete slab. Work is on hold until Bob Aho has completed his site plan. He is making some revisions. Town of Lakeside has sent a letter authorizing the moving of the cabin to the site. We discussed problems with the failing culvert. Earl Granroth spoke of some concrete culverts that were given to the Town of Lakeside that may possibly be available. Riprap will be necessary on the downhill side. Will cost around \$500. Gerald Tutor has picked up cedar blocks from Earl Granroth's. He will notify Earl or Jim when they are ready to saw them. Discussed a way of recognizing those who have contributed time and/or money towards cabin installation or work at the Millsite. Discussed bricks or pavers which would be inscribed with names. People could also purchase them in memory of a person. Paul will report to Conoco-Philips on how grant funds have been spent. The report on the Midsummer event is as follows:

Dinner Income	\$ 745.00	Donations at dinner	\$25.35	
Dinner Expenses	171.31	Donations at Mill	\$83.25	Net: \$1,290.71
Rental for Toilet	68.58	Merchandise Sold	\$677.00	

FUNDRAISING: Jim is working on finding a source for windmill pins. Nan Wisherd's books are down to three left. A motion to purchase 15 more to sell was made by Jim, seconded by Janine Seis. Motion carried. We discussed having a donation box at the Mill but the consensus was that it may lead to vandalism or theft. Also discussed having a box with brochures there. Jim explained a solicitation letter that has been drafted to be sent to area businesses and corporations along with a brochure inviting support and membership.

ARCHIVES: The next meeting is at the Pellman home on July 25 (every other Monday.) More volunteers are needed.

WEBSITE: No further progress. A motion to offer Robin Berglund up to \$150 to set it up stipulating a deadline of August 30 was made by Harry Wester, seconded by Jim Pellman. Motion carried.

PUBLICITY The new brochures are out. Audrey Hakkila will publicize upcoming meetings as soon as she has the information on them.

PUBLICATIONS: The Heritage Map Committee will meet at the Pellman's on July 16 at 1 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP: We now have 104 individual members. We discussed a better way of notifying members who are in arrears with dues. We discussed recognizing LaVerne LaPole for her service. A motion to purchase a plaque for her years of dedication was made by Jim Pellman, seconded by Earl Granroth. Motion carried.

POLLARI MEMORIAL GIFT: Still waiting to hear from NWHS administration regarding. Jim will try to set up a meeting while Lois Pollari is in the area.

DAVID MAKI RESEARCH GRANT: The grant application was denied. He will apply elsewhere or reapply to the WI Humanities Council.

CENTENNIAL FARMS: No new candidates.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The meeting will be at the Bennett Town Hall, meeting there at 5:45 and going on a tour to the Ken and Gemma Coleman farm to see a round barn and workhorses, then back to the Town Hall for the meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting will be at the DCHS Vasa Hall, Saturday, Sept. 17, if the building is available, otherwise Sunday, Sept. 18. There is no charge for the use of the building. 6 board members need to be elected. Alice Christensen will chair the nomination committee. The program will be a tour of the building and possibly a talk from Ron Mershart.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Directly following Annual Meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS: None.

Approving the relocating of the cabin. Land Use Permit 19057, Parc. LA-018-00412-02. Other communications received were the WHS flyer, *Now and Then*, newsletter of Superior Public Museums, *Minnesota History Interpreter* and *Columns*, WHS.

E. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Janine Seis, seconded by Harry Wester to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Gronquist

FUND-RAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Society has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps and tee shirts and sweat shirts for sale. 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. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, taxes included.

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 **NEW BOOK**, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, and Nan Wisherd's *Pathways* are available for \$20.00 a copy+ \$3.00 shipping. Wisconsin tax is included in all our prices. Shipping and handling for mugs, caps and tee shirts is a \$4.00 minimum. All items are available for purchase at our meetings or by contacting an OBHS member.

Area History:
No. 45

Another excerpt (pages 52-59) from our new book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, ©2005.

THE TOWNS OF MAPLE by Jim Pellman

The formation of towns in Wisconsin was an entitlement guaranteed to residents by the State Constitution. The creation of the towns in Douglas County was not initiated by the County Board nor by the State government, but was first the result of political pressures in the form of signed petitions by small groups of local residents requesting their own local government, that local government being town government. Compared with the functions of town government today, these local governments were of much more consequence in directing the local political life. This petitioning for self government was behind the creation of the Town of Maple itself.

The Town of Maple was legally recognized after a court order in 1906. The original Town of Brule from which Maple was to be carved had been approved by voters within its own proposed boundaries in 1887. This was the same year the Village of Superior and the Town of Nebagamain were carved from the original Town of Superior which covered all of Douglas County after its formation in 1854. In the 1906 decision Circuit Court Judge Aad Vinje of Superior sorted through several petitions for town formation from residents in different locations within the old Town of Brule and the even larger Town of Nebagamon. His decisions established the new towns of Amnicon in 1906 and Maple the following year. This resulted in a much smaller Town of Brule. Maple held its first annual meeting in April of 1907, presided over by Town Chairman, Edward George Doherty.

Maple assumed its final boundaries after losing one-third of its territory (as did the 1907 Town of Brule) to the Town of Cloverland by action of the Wisconsin Legislature in 1921, again after local petitioning in the Cloverland area, and the County Board's refusal to act.

Eastern Douglas County developed in parallel with the county seat, Superior, to its west, once the port city rose on sure footing with the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1881, a decade behind Duluth across the Bay and the State boundary. The Northern Pacific continued its line on to its easternmost point in Ashland and was completed from there to Puget Sound, Washington, in 1884. In the process the N.P. intersected all of eastern Douglas county crossing what was to become the old Town of Brule three years later.

In 1887 old Brule had been set off from the Town of Superior and until 1906 its boundaries extended from the Amnicon area all the way to the eastern Douglas county border and from Lake Superior on the north to the Town of Nebagamain on the south. Judge Vinje carved Maple out of forty nine sections in old Brule's center (later reduced to 32 sections), and also gave three sections of southern old Brule to the new Village of Nebagamon. The first Town of Amnicon would later have to give up land to Midland, later to a new Amnicon.

The new residents of the town of Maple found themselves with two hamlet sites, the Maple and Blueberry stations on the N.P. tracks. In the Maple hamlet, situated on the old Bayfield-Superior road (now part of U.S. Highway 2), was a thriving hardwood lumber mill, with "hotel barn," and mill-master's house; also houses for mill-engineer, and mill-fireman, a railroad depot, a boarding house with a bar, old Brule's (now Maple's) town hall, a small old Catholic church on land donated by Weyerhaeuser, an 1888 school house, a jail, E. G. Doherty's general store with post office, two saloons, a taxidermist, a large number of settlers who were Canadian by birth calling the Maple station "Little Canada," and a colony of Finns to the north almost all of whom were farmer-logger-road laborer-fire fighters, living on purchased, homesteaded or cutover parcels of land, extending north almost to Lake Superior, all amidst railroad spurs connecting the remaining stands of white pine and hardwoods. The pine were being cut and shipped to the giant Weyerhaeuser sawmill at Lake Nebagamon, the new village site to the south, or by Edward Hines to the McCord mill in Superior. Hardwoods were being shipped to Ashland to its charcoal iron ovens where they were turned into fuel to be used in making iron from ores mined on the Penokee range just to the south or from the Gogebic range to the east which extended into Upper Michigan.

In Blueberry, again, was a settlement of Canadians, mostly French-Canadians, many of Indian heritage. Many of these settlers had come to the area via Michigan, several from the Bay City area, and also from Connors Point in Superior,

following the lumbering trade. Many worshiped at St. Anne's Catholic church built in 1905, and lived in houses situated around the church and along the old Bayfield-Superior Road which angled north-eastward into Brule and beyond. In Blueberry were two more saloons, a school, another general store, a saw mill to the north, and abandoned copper mining sites. There was also a chapter of the Redmen's Lodge.

Maple should not be overly romanticized and stereotyped to have been, based upon what has been described above, exclusively a "Finntown." The Finnish settlers had much influence, and gave a Finnish character to many of the local institutions, among these the important local cooperatives; the Farmers' Cooperative Store, the Maple Telephone Cooperative, Cooperative Services, the Northern Finnish Mutual Fire Insurance Cooperative, and the Brule Coop Park. Yet with the loss of the town's northern area to Cloverland, the smaller Maple was still a dynamic community with both large and subtle social divisions, the most obvious, the inclusion of the old French-Canadian Blueberry settlement.

The railroad station area of central Maple contained not only the Doherty family but the Nephew farm and hotel, later owned by John Deterling and William Follis. It was sold to absentee owner, Chicagoan, Eugene Stockton, and was run by his manager, Oscar Halverson, then later by the Hogobooms, and finally by the TePoels. Halverson, a non-Finn, became Maple's first Town Chairman after the unsettling split with Cloverland. Other residents around the station were the Rhodas, the Davidsons, Olsons, Baxters, Schultieses, Faleskis and others who were non-Finn. There were non-co-operative Finnish businesses: the Pollari bothers, who, with the help of their father, John, started drilling wells and set up an auto repair and welding shop, and gas station; and Edward Niemi, a Finn-Swede from Haparanta, who established a Red & White store which served the region for over forty years, competing first with Doherty and later with the Farmers' Cooperative, including the hauling of local milk production by truck into the Twin Ports, after the railroad gave this up. He also competed with the Pollaris and the Co-ops in the petroleum business selling Standard Oil products.

The great Maple school consolidation into Corner School in 1939 would bring together the Maple hamlet school children, the Blueberry hamlet school children and those of predominantly Finnish background who had earlier been joined to the Corner School from the Pellinen and Pollari schools in 1921. Many ethnic factions were blended in this difficult consolidation.

The earliest school in Maple was the Maple School on Thomas Nephew's land, built by the Town of Brule in 1888 which served the "Little Canada" area of Maple on the Bayfield Road. This was followed by the Pellinen School on the land of Jacob and Matilda Pellinen in 1889 which served the earliest Finnish speaking population in the northernmost settled area, now divided north and south by Highway 13. Once cutover areas of Maple were being settled, more schools were needed which included the Corner School in 1898 on Matt Pelto's land, later Isaac Soyring's, and the Pollari School in 1904 on the Rieskaniemi farm, on the northeast corner of the intersection of modern Haukkala Road and Karna Road in a part of Maple named *Kaskenperä* by the locals. The English meaning is "slashed and burned area."

One of Maple's most recognized citizens for many years was Reverend John V. Pollari. He traveled the United States on his ministerial railroad pass from coast to coast, visiting the Finnish speaking colonies as he preached the gospel within the Laestadian-Independent Apostolic Lutheran circle. He and his sons drilled many of the early wells in the region.

The last run of any kind from Superior to Maple on the Northern Pacific tracks was August 22, 1985, the same year the line to Ashland was abandoned. But for some the most memorable moment in Maple's railroad history came the day an NP steam locomotive exploded, February 26, 1952. Steam engines would take on water quite regularly before making a climb like that from Poplar to Maple to ensure that no part of the inside of the boiler would be without water contact on the long incline to prevent overheating. Bud LaPole recalls that on that day no water was taken on at the Poplar water tower. Just after making it across the Highway 2 crossing pulling twenty-six cars, the boiler blew sending the locomotive over backward so that it was facing Superior after the explosion. William Ukkola, Maple's Town Clerk for many years, and other Cooperative Services employees, Kenny Wedanoja, and Signe Welter responded at the scene. First to arrive was Levi Anderson from Oulu who worked in Superior and was driving by. Killed in the wreck was the engineer, Conrad Abrahamson of Duluth. The fireman, Michael Ladish of Superior was severely injured but survived. Amalia Maki, a neighbor, felt the blast lift her home. Others heard the boiler explosion over three miles away. Tragically the accident happened very near the end of the steam era.

The Town of Maple at the time of this tragedy had become a successful American civil community, people living well together, despite their differing cultural traditions and beliefs, in freedom, under the law, running their own educational and governmental affairs. Effective small communities like these produced those of the "greatest generation," men like Dale Falk who gave his life, and Ace of Aces, Richard Ira Bong, from nearby Poplar, who, among many, when called to defend freedom in World War II, each anchored his National sacrifice in a love of a local place.

Notices:

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS:

To **Jim Walsh** for a 1942 photograph of the Windmill; to **Russell Tuura** of Lakeside for carrying our brochures in his gift shop. Best wishes to him and his wife for good health. To **All** who made Midsummer happen.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Member **Richard Harms** of Boulder Lake on his recent birthday.

ENCOURAGEMENTS:

To Members, **Paul Marvin Hakkila**, who is currently mending at St. Mary's, and to **Jack Gronquist** in St. Luke's, both in Duluth. To Member **Dr. Ron Mershart** for full recovery.

Again, to **Ernie Ronn**, Brule History Research Group Secretary, and wife **Leona**, and to Members **LaVerne LaPole**, and **Arnold and Doris Perala** as they face health issues.

BEST WISHES: To **John Anttila** on his retirement, & Welcome Home to **Stanley Jacobson**, back from Finland.
-and who have we missed or forgotten?

Calendar:

August 8, Monday, 1p.m., Next Archives Meeting, Pellman's in Maple.

August 10, Wednesday, 5:45 pm, O-BHS Regular Meeting, Bennett Town Hall, Round Barn Tour.

September 15, Thursday, Deadline for October *O-BHS News*.

September 17, Saturday, 1 p.m., O-BHS Annual Meeting, Vasa Hall-DCHS, 1101 John Ave.

Board meeting follows immediately for election of officers.

October 1-2, Saturday-Sunday, Bayfield Apple Festival. Windmill Tours.

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 **Mr. Robin Berglund** who has recently begun to assist us with our site and especially **Audrey Hakkila** for her efforts.

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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