

O-BHS News

Volume VIII, Issue 4

August 1, 2006

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2006
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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2006 (EIGHTH) O-BHS ANNUAL MEETING

SAT., AUGUST 12TH, 11:00 A. M., AT THE HOPE SWENSON RESIDENCE, LAKESIDE.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN WITH OUR SPEAKER, JOE COSMOS, ON "THE HUNGARIAN UPRISING OF 1956" FOLLOWED BY A POT LUCK LUNCH. OUR BUSINESS MEETING WILL FOLLOW. THIS WILL INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF OUR PAST YEAR, RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS. ALL MEMBERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT BOARD NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO REPLACE THOSE BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE SECOND TERMS HAVE EXPIRED. Our outgoing Board members are ROBERT AHO; our President, PAUL COLBY; our Treasurer, SHIRLEY KANKAS-ROULEAU; our Secretary, MARY ANN GRONQUIST. THOSE CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE FIRST TERMS HAVE EXPIRED WHO HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE TO SERVE A SECOND TERM WILL BE PRESENTED FOR REELECTION. These include, KARIN COLBY, EARL GRANROTH, MARION CHRISTENSEN, AND ALTERNATE, IRENE PARENTEAU.

A BRIEF BOARD MEETING WILL FOLLOW TO INSTALL NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP, AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT ARISES.

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

Thanks to Hope for hosting this event (for a second time), and to all who bring refreshments to share.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

To Everyone,

Greetings. I hope and wish all is well with everyone's families and friends, especially any encountering burdens and discomforts as we move into another season in our beautiful Northland.

Was it a hot July or what? Our dogs were miserable, as I'm sure many of the people caring for their animals were too. Some of the wild berries weren't as plentiful this year, but the much-needed rain may help my personal favorite, blackberries, to recover. You could also see the stress caused by the heat and lack of moisture in many of the trees and plants. It was a great year for the butterflies though.

At our annual meeting many officers of the Board whose terms are completed will be replaced. Thanks to all for their help and time, and Congratulations! to the new Board members. As my term ends (finally) I would once again like to thank everyone for their valuable time while assisting and helping our wonderful group move forward in reaching many of our goals. I would like to revert back a few years and once again thank Bill Anderson of Cornerstone Surveying and Bob Aho from Bob Aho Architect for their donated expertise from their fields of employment. Their volunteerism was highly appreciated by our group and by myself, and without their knowledgeable contributions our vision would have been delayed and halted. And one more gifted individual, a special thanks to Jon Winter of Winter Systems for building and assisting our O-BHS web site. As the Duluth/Superior Huskies league comes to a close at the end of this month, he'll focus on training the five key holders to maintain and update our web site.

A disappointment during my term was the repeated continuous circle we, and myself, have encountered while attempting to locate windmill signs along Highway 13 and other various highways. We have a unique status, which should make us exempt from the Wisconsin Heritage rules that require us to man the site to qualify for their program. I will gladly assist anyone who volunteers to attempt the sign issues and misunderstandings that follow.

The Windmill Committee is working on the roofing issues on the log house and windmill. This is to be completed by the Bayfield Apple Festival weekend (despite wind damage to tar paper during our recent storms).

In Lakeside this month we'll be celebrating our Centennial on Aug 19th. Our brief history book (*Sisu and Sauna*) will be available as well. Karen Johnson and Barb Granroth have ordered some beautiful shirts for the event as well. I attended Lake Nebagamon's pleasant centennial program in July. Next year Maple will celebrate their centennial and I've learned the

Town of Amnicon will hold theirs in 2010. I'm not sure what the other Towns and Poplar has planned, but I'm sure someone with grass roots will help with the events.

And Finally, it was fun, yet baffling at times.

Sincerely,
Paul Colby

p.s. How about the fires in the boundary waters. What a waste of natural resources. They could have carefully harvested the useable timber in 2000 and minimized or possibly prevented all these losses now. You could only predict this would happen, as many did, including myself.

p.p.s. Our thanks to Pat and Carolyn Grube for generously donating sawing and logs used at the Windmill cabin.

FROM THE EDITOR:

I had the pleasure on Sunday afternoon, July 29th, of leading several tours of the Davidson Windmill for members of the extended Winkka family. Among those celebrating with their family at the Lakeside Town Hall were Sanna (Vinkka) and Pavo Pernu and nephew, Antti, who live in Finland. Also there were Elvie Agacki and Irene Brazill, active members of the O-BHS Archives committee, and several other family members have been long time Society members, Helen Johnson, John Agacki, David and Shiella Snell, Ruben and Bonnie Winkka. Other family members who have been generous supporters of Old-Brule: Aileen Gadda, Ronald and Lucille Born, and Peter Schuler, The family has roots in Maple with Finnish roots going back to the community of Reisjärvi in Finland. The Winkka's are also related to the Ammesmäki family in this region. Among these is O-BHS member, Brenda (Mrs. John) Deterling, Junior, of Poplar.

Despite the temperatures of this past week, David Maki and his father, Merv, were back for more research on the abandoned Henry Knuutila farm site on Friday and Saturday, July 28th and 29th. This time, with my and Paul Colby's help, they were scanning the three 30 meter grids for electrical resistance, which when processed, gives even a more refined picture beneath the surface. Equipment and weather conspired to keep them from finishing their work, sponsored in part by the Finlandia Foundation. David was just back from work in Wyoming's remote areas, and described some recent hair-raising encounters while researching in Yemen. There he was near the ancient oriental spice road with a team from the University of Pennsylvania near the home of the Queen of Sheba. Hopefully we will have David back shortly to provide us the results of these fascinating studies. Preliminary results show interesting features that will require even more on site assessment.

Mark your calendars for the next Douglas County Historical Society annual meeting (in April 2007). Kathy Laakso has been seeking our help and that of the Gordon/Wascott Historical Society in promoting a visit by Dennis McCann, noted for his visits to out of the way places, while writing for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. A grant she wrote has been approved.

-Jim Pellman

2006 OLD-BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDAR STILL AVAILABLE.

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, produced its eighth and final calendar in 2005 with more pictures of Brule's past. Proceeds of these annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, are being used for the publication of the history of Brule, hopefully to be completed soon. Limited numbers of the 2005 calendar and earlier issues are still available. To order any of these calendars by mail, please write or call Janet Follis, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820 (715) 372-4948.

Continuing the BHRG calendar tradition, the first *Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendar* is now available in limited numbers. 400 copies were published and they are available this year only for \$5.00 from O-BHS members or at limited local business outlets. An e-mail address for more info: musketeer6@cheqnet.net, and phone: 715-363-2549. The 2007 calendar is moving forward in the design stage.

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 Archives Committee 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 7th, 2006. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

**(UNAPPROVED) MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING
OLD- BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
JUNE 21, 2006, LAKESIDE TOWN HALL**

Time: 6:30 p.m., Attendance: 25 members

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at by Vice Pres. Earl Granroth.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2006 meeting was made by Audrey Hakkila, seconded by Irene Parenteau to approve the minutes with a correction of the amount owed Delores Pellman for ISBN numbers (\$50 instead of \$40). Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: As of 6/20/2006.

Checking Acct. \$1,237.02, Windmill Acct. \$9,772.78

Books sold – 546 plus 6 recently wholesaled to Poplar Hardware, awaiting payment. Calendars sold – 73

At the last Board Meeting it was voted on to transfer some of the monies into a CD or Money Market Account, but the treasurer is waiting until after our Midsummer Event and cabin expenses before pursuing this. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Hope Swenson, seconded by Janine Seis. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

DAVIDSON MILL: Jim Pellman reported on progress at the Millsite. The cabin is down on the foundation with new logs replacing some of the bottom logs that were rotted out. The rafters are up as far as the useable ones are concerned, and some new ones will be needed and are on order. Jim and Eddie Walman and Karin Colby made a trip to Isaksson Lumber to pick up lumber, but due to the length of the lumber, it was decided to have Isaksson's deliver the load instead at a cost of \$50. The total amount of the lumber purchased was \$552.33 which includes the subfloor and green treated framework lumber and some fascia boards and other needed lumber. Jim asked for any volunteers to come and help the following day. They had to postpone their work so that Scott Essen could do work on the apron and the lean-to slab. An area was included in the apron to accommodate the commemorative bricks discussed at a previous meeting. Two carloads of staff members from the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center came to tour the windmill on June 20. They were impressed!!

FUND-RAISING: No progress on the pins and magnets. Jim had a lead on another source for magnets. Calendars will be available at the Midsummer event.

ARCHIVES CTTE. The committee meets every other Monday at the Pellman home, but will not meet on July 3. More volunteers needed, especially typists. More information needed also.

WEBSITE: Jon Winter has a new prospective member who is a CPA who is willing to update our website every other month. A meeting to go over update procedures would still be useful. Website address is www.oldbrule.org.

PUBLICITY: Audrey Hakkila continues to place articles in the *Connection* and the *Daily Telegram*. She is waiting for a picture of the OBHS scholarship recipient, Amanda Lustig, and she will submit it to the *Daily Telegram* when she receives it. She has sent PR to several papers for the Midsummer events.

PUBLICATIONS: The Heritage Map is on hold. Calendars are selling for \$5.00. Ads were sold for \$15 this year but will be \$25 next year. Jim asked for a committee to design the next calendar. Laila Magnuson asked to have calendars for her to sell at the Waino/N.P.Johnson/Juntti School reunion on July 1 in Brule. Personal contacts will be made for advertisers again. More can be accommodated. The *WI, Far Northwest* book was discussed. About 50 books are left. Discussed ordering another amount, possibly 100 if the printer is agreeable. Jim will check with the printer.

Earl reported on the progress of the Lakeside Centennial book being worked on. Hopefully they will be ready by August 19. They received a \$500 grant from Conoco-Philips. A motion to change the amount to be reimbursed to Delores Pellman for the bar codes to \$50 rather than \$40 was made by Hope Swenson, seconded by Barbra Granroth. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues are being collected for the coming year. There are 128 members at present. Volunteer hours should be turned in after the July Board Meeting.

POLLARI MEMORIAL GIFT (Northwestern Schools) No further progress.

DAVID MAKI GRANT: Has received a grant from the Finlandia Foundation (not University of Turku, Finland). Jim explained where the Knuutila homestead is in Lakeside behind Paul Colby's. David will give us a presentation at some point.

CENTENNIAL FARMS: Forms are available from Jim Pellman. The Korhonen farm was suggested.

LAKE NEBAGAMON CENTENNIAL: A \$500 anonymous gift was presented in our name. OBHS calendars are being sold at their events this summer. Earl suggested getting a folding display to be brought to different community events explaining our Archives program and displaying our history and fliers. A motion to go ahead with this plan was made by Paul Hakkila, seconded by Audrey Hakkila. Motion carried. Mary Ann Gronquist offered a display box she has and she will bring it to see if it would work for this purpose. It will be free.

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING: Saturday, August 12. Hope Swenson offered her home for this meeting. A motion to hold the Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 12 at 11:00 was made by Janine Seis, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried. Joe Cosmos is a possibility for a speaker. Alternatives would be someone speaking on the Lakeside or Lake Nebagamon history. A Board meeting will be held directly following the Annual Meeting, including new Board members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: No one volunteered for this committee. A suggestion was made to have the outgoing Board Members serve as this committee. A motion to that effect was made by Jim Pellman, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next Board meeting will be at the Hope Swenson home at 6:00 p.m. on Wed., July 12,

2006.

MIDSUMMER EVENT: Alice Christensen reported on the Scandinavian Dinner plans. Janine Seis made the posters and had additional ones available for distribution. The new sign has been made at a cost of \$700.

Alice Christensen and Eddie Walman donated the board for the sign.

NEW BUSINESS: Paul Colby had reported to Earl that a complementary book was received from the WI Policy Research Institute which is a biography of Gov. Walter Kohler. Also a pamphlet about preserving history of Wisconsin from the WI Historical Society.

DOOR PRIZE: A door prize donated by the Wentworth Gardens was won by Alice Christensen. Thanks to them for this prize and to the Lakeside Township for the use of this building for our Scandinavian Dinner.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Barbra Granroth, seconded by Karin Colby to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Following the meeting lunch provided by members was enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Gronquist

DONATIONS FOR SCANDINAVIAN DINNER:

Eddie Walman – Beef for stew (commercially processed), rice pudding, water for cooking and coffee	Alice Christensen – rice pudding, spices
Carolyn Grube - Beef base for stew	Mary Ann Gronquist – 8 loaves bread, rice pudding, ice cubes
Karin Colby – 2 cases milk, rice pudding, ice cubes	Delores Pellman - bars
Julie Anderson – 6 lbs. butter, 2 loaves bread	Hope Swenson – bars
Castleberrys – 2 loaves bread	Irene Brazill - bars
Lorraine Autio – 2 loaves bread	Elvie Agacki - bread
Lois Pollari – 1 loaf bread, bars	Nancy Wiitala - bars
Shirley Rouleau – 2 loaves bread, bars	Barb Granroth – 2 pans bars
Marian Christensen – 3 loaves bread	Mary Wester – rice pudding
Irene Parenteau – 3 lbs. coffee	Laila Magnuson – 3 loaves bread
Delores Hakkila – 3 loaves bread	Susan Magnuson Jahn - bars
Janine Seis – cookies	Linda Hendrickson - bread
Marilyn Pank – rice pudding and bars	Faye Laakso and Audrey Hakkila – bars

WORKERS AT SCANDINAVIAN DINNER:

Alice Christensen, Mary Wester, Karin Colby, Jeannie, Katie and Betsy Castleberry, Janine Seis, Irene Parenteau, Audrey Hakkila, Barb Granroth, Delores Pellman, Mary Ann Gronquist, Gloria Johnson, Lois Pollari, Marilyn and Jack Pank, Irene Brazill, Elvie Agacki, Hope Swenson, and Earl Granroth.

WORKERS AT MILL AND LOG CABIN:

Jim Pellman, Paul Colby, Harry Wester, Eddie Walman, Paul Williams, Ron Hendrickson, Paul Hakkila, Shirley Kankas-Rouleau.

Any names omitted from these lists is purely unintentional. Thanks to all who helped and also to all who brought food for the fellows who have been working on the log house. Check your E-mail to see when they are working again and bring them some nourishment if you can. They work very hard for us.

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 ½ 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 book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, and Nan Wisherd's *Pathways* and *Echoes* 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 O-BHS member.

(UNAPPROVED) MINUTES BOARD MEETING

OLD- BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, JULY 12, 2006, HOPE SWENSON HOME

Present: Jim Pellman, Hope Swenson, Alice Christensen, Harry Wester, Irene Parenteau, Marion Christensen, Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Paul Colby, Delores Pellman and Mary Ann Gronquist.

WELCOME:

BUSINESS MEETING: Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Paul Colby.

A. MINUTES. A motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2006 Board meeting was made by Jim Pellman, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT (May 11 to July 12, 2006)

INCOME:		Scholarship-Amanda Lustig	200.00
Dues	\$ 135.00	Delores Pellman-ISBN number	40.00
Interest	13.65	Michelle Swanson-sign	690.00
MDSE	331.00	Paul Colby-mill expenses	176.50
Calendars	323.50 (125 sold)	Scandinavian Dinner supplies	214.10
<i>Far Northwest</i> books	266.00 (558 sold)	Essen Concrete-concrete work	1,536.00
<i>Pathways</i> books	60.00 (3 sold)	Mr. Biffy	85.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,129.15	TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$4,213.09
EXPENSES:		BALANCES:	
Insurance	\$ 420.00	Checking Acct.	\$1,798.96
Waino Publishing (Wisherd books)	143.64	Windmill Acct.	\$7,983.82
Jim Pellman-lumber, newsletter expenses, stamps	688.85		

A motion was made by Alice Christensen, seconded by Harry Wester to approve the financial report. Motion carried. Shirley will check on money market accounts.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. DAVIDSON MILL: The log house now has tarpaper on the roof done by Paul Colby and his brother. Randy Tuura possibly can get a crew to do the shingling. Obie Saari has shingles which need to be removed from roof sections at his place. Doors and windows are needed. Eddie Walman may have some windows.

2. FUNDRAISING: Jim suggested getting the magnets from Trevoranus in Lake Nebagamon or else from Insty Print. Jim also has checked on having pins made. The cost for us for the first 250 pins would be \$2.20 each, with the cost going down thereafter. He will receive a design by Email and he will present it to the Board when he receives it. A motion to table the pin project until more research is one on the pins was made by Shirley, seconded by Alice. Motion carried. Alice suggested that more tour guides are trained to give tours of the windmill and the house when it is ready.

3. ARCHIVES: Harry Wester has been doing some Archives work at home on his computer. There is a need for more typists.

4. WEBSITE: Website address is www.oldbrule.org. No further progress. Paul will ask Jon Winter to set up a meeting to talk about the site.

5. LOIS POLLARI MEMORIAL GIFT: (Northwestern Schools). No further progress. Jim will draft another letter to the school.

6. PUBLICITY: Articles in the *Connection* and *Daily Telegram* are being submitted by Audrey Hakkila. The Scandinavian dinner and windmill tours were published in the *South Shore Scene* and the *Summer Visitor* edition. It was suggested to put a paid ad in next year for the dinner and open house. There was a suggestion to have a publicity committee. Will bring it up at the Annual Meeting. Alice will get a list of publicity sources.

7. PUBLICATIONS: Discussed the upcoming calendar for 2007 and procuring ads for it. A calendar committee will meet on July 20 at Alice Christensen's at 2:00. The committee members are Shirley, Mary Ann, Alice, Jim, Harry and Laila. Jim has talked to the printer about a book reorder with some additional maps and some corrections included. Will order 100 with a perfect binding. Paul Colby gave an update on the Lakeside Centennial book. They will give a check to OBHS for use of bar codes.

8. MEMBERSHIPS: There are 130 paid members now. Volunteer hours blanks were collected.

9. DAVID MAKI GRANT: He has received a grant from the Finlandia Foundation (not University of Turku, Finland, this year). He is coming in July to do more research at the Knuutila homestead. His report can be researched on the Internet. He will also do the Luostari homestead and maybe the Thomas Peterson homestead. He will be asked to talk to us at a future meeting.

10. CENTENNIAL FARMS: New blanks are available from Jim Pellman.

11. LAKENEBAGAMON CENTENNIAL: Shirley reported on the centennial activities. The Jarvenpaa singers will perform Monday, July 17 at 7:00. Discussed portable display for OBHS. Jim has two display boards available.

12. UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING: It will be held at Hope Swenson's on Sat., Aug. 12 at 11:00. It will be a potluck. Speaker will be Joe Csomos or Kay Coletta will be asked if Joe is not available. Discussed nominations for the Board. Earl has agreed to take the President's position. Alice will ask Karin Colby if she would be interested in the secretary's position. Paul will ask Ron Hendrickson or Jack Pank.

13. NEXT BOARD MEETING: Immediately following Annual Meeting.

14. MIDSUMMER DINNER AND TOURS: Well attended and successful.

15. SCHOLARSHIP: Amanda Lustig was the scholarship recipient.

16. OTHER: There will be a presentation by a representative (C. Leslie Cowan) from the Antiques Road Show at the DCHS on Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. at cost of \$20. Hope will call Kathy Laakso to reserve some seats for those interested in

going.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hope Swenson brought up the fact that the DCHS could use a dishwasher as they use china dishes for their activities and have to carry them into the basement. Shirley Kankas-Rouleau volunteered to donate a portable dishwasher that she has in her basement. We will check into the situation further on Sept. 30

2. Shirley received a letter from Younkers asking if we are interested in participating in their Community Day on Sat., Nov. 11. Shirley moved to propose at the Annual Meeting that we participate, seconded by Hope Swenson. Motion carried.

3. COMMUNICATIONS: Gene Davidson has written to Paul Colby wanting to know if he could make some battery operated lights for the Mill that would be remote controlled. He would donate them. Jim moved to accept his offer, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried. He also sent a letter explaining how to make repairs that should be done to wood supports that support the main bearing rods. There are plans to have the blades turning at some point.

A newsletter from the Wisconsin Historical Society has been received. Paul Colby has passed on historical information collected for the Lakeside Centennial to the Archives Committee. A thank you note was received from Hope Swenson for the flowers received following her surgery. A book about the Berg Park History was received from Gertrude Satter Davis and will go into the Archives.

E. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Marion Christensen, seconded by Irene Parenteau. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Gronquist

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

[Retiring after two terms, must replace] President, Paul Colby, Lakeside, 2002, 2004; Secretary, Mary Ann Gronquist, Parkland, 2002, 2004; Treas., Shirley Kankas-Rouleau, Lk.Nebagamon, 2002, 2004; Robert Aho, Duluth, 2002, 2004.

[Need to contact re. second term] Marion Christensen, Superior, 2004; Karin Colby, Maple, 2004; Earl Granroth, Lakeside, 2004; Irene Parenteau-alternate, Superior, 2004.

[No action needed] 2nd V. P., Harry Wester, Bennett, 2003, 2005; Paul Williams, Lakeside, 2003, 2005; Jim Pellman-emeritus, Maple.

Area History:
No. 51

Another excerpt (pages 77-82) from our book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, ©2004, 2005, 2006.

THE VILLAGE OF POPLAR

Audrey Hakkila

The Village of Poplar is bordered by the Town of Amnicon on three sides and by the Town of Maple on the east. At the founding of Douglas County in 1854 this whole area became part of the Town of Superior, and then in 1887 the Poplar area became part of the Town of Brule. The Town of Amnicon was started in 1906 by decision of Circuit Court Judge Aad Vinje and vote of the local electors and included the Poplar region. It finally became the Village of Poplar when it was incorporated on April 14, 1917.

The Northern Pacific Railroad in 1882 was being built through what became the village, using some of the local settlers as labor on the project. It was ready for service in 1884. The first passenger train went from Duluth to Ashland in April 1891. The depot was built in 1899 with the first commissioned depot agent, P. A. Peterson. In 1910 the water tank which was a long time landmark in Poplar was built to fill locomotive boilers before the steep climb to Maple. The section house was located by the water tank and the depot housed the railroad foreman, Gust Bong. His family was one of several Bong families in Poplar, all related to the famous World War II American Flying Ace, Richard I. Bong. Fred Sandin had also been a Bong (*Bång*) in Sweden but changed his name upon his arrival in America.

Two town pumps were put up on the village site in 1895 with the purpose of furnishing the settlers with water. One was located near Paulus Park by the railroad crossing and the other pump stood on the hill near the fire hall which was east of the Poplar River and dam.

The first school was started in 1885 using one room of the section house with permission from the Northern Pacific Railroad in St. Paul, Minnesota. This would have been when Poplar was still part of the Town of Superior. Members of the first school board were Director, Mr. Elof Berg; Clerk, Mrs. Charles Howard; and Treasurer, Mr. J. M. M. Peterson. The first teacher was Miss Christine Larson, a Superior girl.

With the increase in children a new school was needed already the following year. When complete it was a one-room school built by contractor J. L. Olson in what had become the Town of Brule.

On September 1, 1894, a fire raged through Poplar and besides much other damage it completely destroyed the first school and everything in it. School classes were then held in the Lutheran Church on cemetery hill until a new two-room school could be

built. The cost to rebuild the school was \$700.00. At this time Poplar was still in the Town of Brule. Because of increased enrollment, an addition was added in 1898, at which time it became a state-graded school. In 1905 the school was sold to the Lutheran Church for \$200.00. A new and better school was then built where the Village Market is today. This school carried the sign of the Town of Amnicon. In May 1921 ground was broken for the \$22,000.00 brick school one block north, erected by the Village of Poplar, which had been organized in 1917.

The first store began business on the north side of the railroad tracks in front of the section house about 1886. Mr. Hart built a two-story building and sold general merchandise such as tobacco, flour, calico, kerosene and other necessities needed so people did not have to go to Superior to get supplies. In a year or so he sold the store to Thomas Doherty. Thomas Doherty (no relation to the current "Daugherty" Hardware Store namesake), was a Canadian, and in 1887 became the first Town Chairman of Brule, while living in Poplar. He had come with his brothers Edward George, Andrew and John who all homesteaded in the area, and later their Irish born father, Francis, who, coming from New Brunswick, moved in with Thomas. Among the earliest settlers, besides the Doherty brothers, were Mrs. Lottie Carlson, Mrs. Westberg, Mrs. Asker, and Charlie and Gus Jones who would tell how in the earliest years they had to carry stoves, heaters, fifty-pound flour sacks and groceries into Poplar on their backs over hill and stream along the old Bayfield Road. This road intersects modern Highway 2 near the Chickbee Hatchery. Portions of this 1870 road can be traced westward into Amnicon, and eastward through Maple.

The mail was first brought from Superior and left at the section house for each one to pick up. In 1888 J. M. Peterson who was made postmaster fixed up a room in his house for the post office. He owned a home where the present bank is located. This bank, the Poplar State Bank, which was purchased by the National Bank of Commerce in Superior in 1972, had been started by Robert Olson and his son Clarence in 1919.

In 1896 Thomas Doherty was appointed postmaster and moved the post office north to his store across the tracks from the section house. The store burned in 1907. His father, Francis Doherty, died in 1907 at 100 and son Thomas the following year.

Figure 26. *The Poplar Northern Pacific Depot. c. 1900. The depot was built in 1899. The first passenger train went from Duluth to Ashland in April of 1891. The last regularly scheduled passenger train went through in 1965, and Amtrak took over nationwide on May 1, 1971, ending passenger service to and from the Twin Ports. To the east Ashland's last passenger train on any line went out in 1968. Geraldine Bong Fechtelkotter Collection.*



In 1907 Mr. Fred Sandin opened a general merchandise business. He purchased a house on the south side of the railroad tracks from Anna Westberg who had purchased it from Charlie Smith. Sandin rebuilt the house to look like a store building. In 1922 Mr. Sandin sold the business to Clifford Peterson. In November 1925 Peterson moved his business, the Peterson Mercantile Co., to the present location, where the Village Market is now, made available when the new brick school was built. The Peterson store later housed the Poplar Post Office.

Poplar's old creamery was located where Mothers Kitchen is now. It once housed the bank until the brick building was erected. Feed was ground in the back for local farmers. That building, destroyed by fire, was later rebuilt, and had long use by successive owners as a restaurant, grocery store, ice cream parlor and a bus stop.

The Poplar Telephone Company started in 1909 with the first telephone being in the Andrew LeMone home. The first line ran to Berg Park and then to Wentworth, Lakeside and Cloverland. The switchboard was built and installed by Eric LeMone.

Mr. A. J. Dixon was the first switchboard operator, which was located in his home from 1909-1919. It was then moved to the Lemones who lived over the Lundberg and Jones Store.

The store was built by Clause Johnson and later bought by A. D. Brown in 1908. Mr. Brown took William Lundberg as a partner and later he moved out West and George Jones bought his share of the business known as Lundberg and Jones until it was sold to the present Hardware Co. The store burned in 1928.

In May 1915 Harold Erickson moved to Poplar and started the first garage, which was located west of the Sandin store, then moved it to Main Street in 1924. Gus Carlson bought the garage from Erickson. The next owner was Stucky who then sold it to C.O. Lindquist who tore it down to build the Tourist Court.

In 1894 a Fire Hall was built to serve the Poplar area, still being the Town of Brule. When Amnicon was organized, it became the Poplar Town Hall. It became the center for games, church auctions, school and PTA plays and other functions. In 1941 Jack Kane remodeled it for the first Feed Mill later owned and operated by Glen and Dean Pearson.

Mr. J. B. Chase and Andrew Munson built a sawmill on the Poplar River near the railroad bridge in 1888-1889. The mill ran every season and a planing machine was added to make finished lumber for building.

In the year 1903, the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society leased fifteen acres from Mr. P. A. Peterson for the purpose of planting a trial orchard.

The Bethany Swedish Lutheran Church built their first structure on cemetery hill being completed in November 1893, holding the first service on November 12, 1893. In 1905 the church bought the old school house and lot on County Road D and began building the new church costing \$3,000.00. The new church was dedicated in the spring of 1906 with the cornerstone laid on Tuesday, May 22, 1906.

The Mission Covenant Church was organized in 1894 with 22 charter members. When plans for the erection of a church building were formulated, the church was officially incorporated as the Swedish Mission Church on October 2, 1897. The building

was sufficiently completed so services could be held on August 19, 1898. In 1940 the members decided to erect a new building on the site of the old church. By Easter 1943 construction was completed.

The cannery was started by the Lange Canning Company in 1924 and later was purchased and operated by N. H. LaPole. Peas, beans and much later, pie fillings and chop suey vegetables were canned. The company has had several owners through the years, is still in operation and making taco shells.

John M. Peterson owned a brick factory where the skating rink is now. His nephew William Lundberg, built his home with these bricks in 1897.

Some of the firsts in Poplar were:

The first public sidewalk was a board sidewalk from the road to the post office, which at this time was the home of J. M. M. Peterson.

The first telegraph operator was Beagle. Mr. Beagle had his office in the section house.

Poplar's first commission depot agent was Mr. P. A. Peterson.

John Stenbeck was the first blacksmith.

Charlie Woodhull purchased the first car, a 1908 Oldsmobile for \$50.00 with speed up to 40 miles per hour.

Andrew Doherty owned the first cow which he later sold to Charlie Jones for \$50.00.

The first local couple married were Anna Loveling and J. M. M. Peterson. They were married in Duluth on June 29, 1884.

The first twins born in Poplar were Levi and Lily Nelson, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Nelson. They were born on February 10, 1895.

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Notices:

THANK YOU & RECOGNITIONS:

To **all of our members** for their gift of many volunteer hours this past year. To the **many businesses** who choose to place ads in our 2007 calendar. To **everyone** caught up on their dues for 2006. Congratulations to member **Arnold Perala** on his recent birthday. Please remember: turn in your volunteer hours for Sept 2005 thru July 2006.

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To member, **Lois Pollari**, and her family as her daughter **Anne** faces her last days. To **Rita Ronchi** and her family as she recovers after her terrible crash on Highway 2 in Wentworth near Lackson Road early in June.

OUR SYMPATHY: To the **Bitner** family in the loss of **Martin** . . . *and who have we missed or forgotten?*

Calendar:

August 12, Saturday, 11 a.m. O-BHS Annual Meeting, Hope Swenson Residence, 9795 E. Moonshine Road, Lakeside. Brief Board meeting to follow to install officers.

August 19, Saturday, Noon to 4 p.m. Town of Lakeside Centennial Picnic. All are welcome. **New Lakeside History on sale.**

September 13, Wednesday, Board Meeting.

September 15, Friday, Deadline for October issue of *O-BHS News*.

September 30, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Wes Cowan of the *Antiques Road Show*, presentation at DCHS. \$20.

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** for her efforts. **MS Web site software has been received permitting updates to the site!**

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. Her address is PO Box 171, Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849. Our annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$25.00 for families, payable at the time of our annual meeting. Higher levels of support are always welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 24

Maple, WI 54854