

OBHS News

Volume X, Issue 3

June 6, 2008

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2008
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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JUNE OBHS REGULAR MEETING

JUHANNUS JUHLAT/MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008, 6:00 P. M. AT THE LAKESIDE TOWN HALL. AS THE PRIOR DAY WILL HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO VOLUNTEER WORK AT THE WINDMILL GROUNDS WE WILL BEGIN OUR MEETING WITH A LIGHT "POT LUCK" LUNCH.

AFTER OUR LUNCH WE WILL CONDUCT OUR BUSINESS MEETING.

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

Thanks to the Town of Lakeside for the use of the hall, and to those serving & bringing food to share.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The busy summer months are a time for the farmers to plant, watch, wait, and then the harvest. It is also a busy time for the Old-Brule Heritage Society to work on the Davidson Windmill, the property, and the Eskolin Log House that is now on the property, but these are not the only items that are part of group activities. We also have the Mid-Summer Festival with the Windmill and Eskolin House open for tours. The FinnFest 2008 in Duluth and our part in making the Windmill and the grounds available for tours along with manning a *Tori* at the FinnFest and the sale of our merchandise at both locations. The normal functions of any organization must continue during all these extra activities, and as President I am so thankful that we have a very willing group of individuals that put in so many hours doing these necessary tasks. And especially the Treasurer. I have commented before about the willingness of many who have put in countless hours working on the Davidson Windmill and the Eskolin Log House to get it to the present condition though not complete. We are very thankful that most recently Gene Davidson, but also those members of the Davidson family with their available funds and manpower, repaired and maintained it from 1904 as best they could, for without this foresight we would not have a Windmill to show. The most recent project is installing a brick chimney in the Eskolin Log house with most of the bricks coming from an old chimney constructed in the early 1930s. We appreciate the willingness of Mr. Duane Colby (Paul Colby's father) laying all the bricks for this chimney. Again there were many others who helped in this project. We have members working on advertisement, poster displays, writing a booklet on the Windmill construction and operation, inventory control of our merchandise, all the Mid-Summer Festival including help with the dinner. Committees for: Archiving, Windmill and grounds, Newsletter, Web site, and others. We can always use more help in all of these area.

At the present your President is working on a study to determine the various nationalities and their numbers around 1900, that were part of the old Town of Brule, as well as working on a personal archives of my grandparents, my parents and my family which entails scanning into my computer the pictures from six old photo albums and our family slide collection of 20 years. I have found it to be very interesting and informative.

The Old-Brule Heritage Society is trying to preserve and find as much of the history and heritage about our area before it is all lost. Please help us by giving us the opportunity to scan your old records and photo albums, or if you do not want to keep them we will be glad to add them to our Archives.

Please check out "www.oldbrule.org". The Web site is being updated on a regular bases. (Note: if the Web site looks like it has not changed please push the refresh button on your browser.)

Respectfully,
Earl Granroth

FROM THE EDITOR:

It feels as if I'm riding an avalanche of events. This will be the busiest summer we in the Old-Brule Heritage Society have ever seen, but the weather has not cooperated entirely for outside work. Some, with reason, have wondered if we haven't entered another mini-Ice Age, the kind that erased the Viking Greenland Colony, and froze over the canals in Holland.

Regardless, we still have plenty of inside work, computer work, which needs to be done to be really ready for touring Davidson Windmill visitors, and for the thousands who will be in the area for Finnfest 2008 Duluth. Among the projects completed or nearing completion about now: Midsummer Celebration or *Juhannus Juhlat* Tours and Ethnic Dinner preparations, the Pollari Memorial Douglas County History Map, the Eskolin House chimney, wiring, security and other steady improvements, the Handicap Accessible Memorial Walkway, the Davidson Windmill History Booklet, the Windmill Grounds Flag Pole, the Memorial Monolith, the Finnfest 2008 Windmill lecture, *Tori* (Marketplace) and Northwestern Wisconsin Bus Tour preparations, and so on.

All of this goes with the normal tasks of staying caught up on Web site changes, keeping our financial records and inventories, fund-raising, publicity, hosting, Archive progress, Annual Meeting preparation, scholarship support, and so on. None of this would be possible without the united efforts of our team of faithful volunteers, and the deep support of our membership. Timely donations from ConocoPhillips, Murphy Oil, the Dennis Agency, and recent memorial tributes to Paul Williams, allow us to hold this momentum of improvements in our work of history education and community service. Our Town and Village Boards continue to support our vision of a vital and irreplaceable tradition of local community life. Thank you everyone!

-Jim Pellman

2006, 2007 and now 2008 OLD-BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDARS FOR SALE.

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, produced its eighth and final calendar in 2005 with 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 their 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 in the BHRG calendar tradition, the *2008 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendar* is now available at \$7.00 each. Our earlier calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2006) and \$6.00 (2007) in limited numbers. The 2008 calendar is available 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, or check our Web site at www.oldbrule.org. Shipping and handling costs are \$3.50 each.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE *OBHS 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 OBHS mission. Our continuing project is learning to use the computer in support of our work, scanning documents and photos, storing records and creating databases. 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 meetings: June 30th, 2008, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

UNAPPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY

AMNICON TOWN HALL, APRIL 9th, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: 30

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by our Vice President, Alice Christensen, in the absence of our President, Earl Granroth. Alice had Jim introduce our guest speaker, Dr. Richard Hudelson. He spoke and showed slides on "Ethnic Roots and Global Visions" He is the current President of St Louis County Historical Society and Professor of Philosophy at UWS Superior. He is an author of 4 books and various articles. He has an interest in local history. It was a very interesting program and he responded to several questions. Alice thanked him for coming. We took a break for refreshments before our regular meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: The business meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by our Vice President Alice Christensen.

MINUTES: Alice for the approval of the minutes of the February 13, 2008 Meeting at the Maple Community Center

as printed in the April OBHS Newsletter. Hope Swenson name should be added to those working on the Pollari Memorial Historical Map Project. Harry Wester made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mary Ann seconded the motion which carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jackie gave the report:

Chippewa Valley Bank Account:	Prev. Amount	Current
	\$4,122.50	\$1,582.50
Mill Fund	\$4,574.24	\$1,849.24
NBC Money Market CDs		
1-\$ 2,599.84	2-\$ 5,199.68	Total: \$ 7,779.62

Jackie said that there are over 800 pavers left, and 18 more have sold. Jim explained what the pavers are. He had forms with him and they are also available on the website if anyone might be interested. Shirley moved and was seconded by Irene Parenteau to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

DAVIDSON WINDMILL: Jim gave brief highlights of what is taking place at the Davidson Windmill & Eskolin House. We are moving toward Phase II. Paul Colby has secured another grant for \$ 1,500.00 earmarked for Phase II. Paul has been in contact with Pooler's regarding a new bid estimate for Phase II. Completion slated before Midsummer Events, June 20-22, 2008, and Finnfest 2008 in Duluth, July 22-27. Memorial Brick pavers are being reserved for a \$10.00 donation each. County approval must be granted for construction of a small storage building next to the Biffy on the new slab, This will help disguise Biffy towards the west. Lattice and ivy will be added.. Some of our 2007 grant funds will go toward Tee shirts that Paul will be ordering to be given to volunteers who work at the mill site. Windmill lot zoning change or a variance for a undersized lot is being investigated.. Sidewalk, benches, road signage, fieldstones etc. yet to be done. Cupboards, counters, caulking, custom outside door, and chimney will have to be completed in Eskolin house. Duane Colby to lay bricks. Also we need security lights and an old light for the ceiling. Jackie P. may have one. A memorial stone from Ron Hendrickson has been installed. Thanks to Ron the plaque can now be installed. Tree protection needed. Alice will get the First Aid kit. A plaque is needed on the Biffy privacy wall to state that the logs are from the Davison homestead site. Parking for Finnfest July 22-27th to be addressed with the Town of Lakeside. Finnfest Tours July 22. Midsummer prep under way.

FUND-RAISING: We still need to get our solicitation letters out to larger business to seek more financial contributions. Recent \$ 100.00 membership has come in from the Dennis Agency in Superior. Murphy Oil has donated \$250.00 recently. Sales of all merchandise see also on the website.

ARCHIVES: Next meeting at Pellmans, Monday, April 14, 2008, 1:00 p.m. They are working on Maple Cooperative Materials and the Maple History Collections.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Site is faithfully kept up by Earl. Our thanks to him & to Jon Winter who has agreed to help with Email contact button on the site.

POLLARI MEMORIAL GIFT COMMITTEE: Progress on Douglas County / Old Brule historical map. Randy Jones is helping. Lois has donated another \$ 500.00 to help project along. Thanks to Dr. Randy Gabrys-Alexson, Lois, Harry, Hope, Audrey, and Jim who are members. Harry explained what they are doing on the project.

PUBLICITY/ ADVERTISING COMMITTEE: Audrey does press announcements. Mary Ann is working on brochures. Our thanks to them. Mary Ann mention that there is a deadline for the South Shore Magazine. She would like to know the dates & times of Midsummer Dinner and the Tours at the Mill.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Heritage Maps now in progress under Pollari Memorial. *Wisconsin Far Northwest* books printing is in. Calendars for 2008 were available for sale and at several different places.(Gopher Hole, Round Up North, Poplar Market, Sharon's Café in Lake Nebagamon, and looking for other sites. Color maps have been requested. Another grant for \$500.00 from Conoco Phillips via Paul for publication of our Windmill History booklet now in progress, about local history, the Davidson family and the Windmill.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Please turn in last year's blue volunteer hour slips to the end of July 2007 if you haven't already done so. Dues collection for 2008 is well along. 136 adult members.

BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: ISBN Number reserved. They are making progress. Their history will include many family histories.

FINNFEST DULUTH 2008: Paul & Jim have attended the planning sessions. Finnfest will host 7,000+ people in Duluth, July 22-27, 2008 We will be ready for the tours. Partnering with DCHS in booth at Tori. We need to make booth reservations. Jim to lead Northern Wisconsin Tour, and also give slide talk on windmill. We are encouraged to plant blue & white flowers at homes and at mill. Alice mentioned that we are going to need help at the Mill to serve coffee & cookies and help with the tours. Jim asked Kathy Laakso about sharing a booth at the Tori and she said that we could do it together she said she would take care of sending the money in and we would pay her back the

\$150.00 for our half of the booth.

TAYLOR'S BRIDGE: Internal sign damage, replacement with other than paper needed. Kathy Laakso has talked with Lakehead Signs and she explained what they said. We may have to share the cost with DCHS for repairs. Jim also talked about Superior Trophy some commercial process to remake the sign. Kathy will bring it up with DCHS.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

ZONING CHANGE AT WINDMILL SITE: Harry said he talked to Carol Johnson about the zoning for the mill, about changing to commercial, or leaving it Agricultural with a special use permit. He said that there isn't really a problem with. It would be \$ 150.00 for a commercial permit. Carol was going to talk to someone about it the following day. Harry explained that if we go commercial we would go through Lakeside first, then the county. Commercial you can put signs on the site.

DCHS BATEAU: Kathy Laakso, DCHS Director, talked to us about a boat that DCHS would like to display at the Mill. It was built in 1875, 32 feet long. They have no place to store it. They said it wouldn't be at any expense to us and they would take care of it. We tabled it until the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

BATEAU (Boat) to be placed on the agenda for Board Meeting.

ZONING CHANGE: Lots of discussion on the zoning on which way to go: Commercial or Ag. One main incentive is to bring our lot into conformity with zoning requirements. Jim said he moves we act to meet zoning requirements for the mill property. Ron Hendrickson seconded. Motion carried

SYMPATHY & ENCOURAGEMENT: Dale Tuura and Diane Pearson families & John Autio.

COMMUNICATIONS: Paver donations and orders- Paul Dennis Northern Finnish Mutual Insurance Mormon Church in Utah, request to digitally use our book *Wisconsin Far Northwest*. Book orders : Darrel Nicholson, Finnish Cultural Resources 1tr. 2008 WHS Spring Workshops: Milwaukee, Wisconsin Dells, Madison. 2 DOT info requests.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, June 18, 2008. Location: Lakeside Town Hall 6:00 p.m. Midsummer.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, May 14, 2008. Earl Granroth home in Lakeside, 6:00 p.m.

NEXT WINDMILL COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, May 13, 2008. Alice Christensen's, Amnicon 6:00 p.m.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Harry Wester moved to adjourn. Paul Colby seconded. Motion carried.

Thank you to all who brought refreshments, and a Happy Birthday to Alice.

Respectfully , Karin Colby, Secretary

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. Early issue magnets are going for \$1 each ,or 6 for \$5.00, proceeds to our general fund. The Windmill mugs are \$4.00, caps, \$5.00, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, taxes included. **SEE OUR WEB SITE (www.oldbrule.org) FOR CURRENT SALE ITEMS AND PRICES.**

Available also are copies of a David Noah Seis photograph of the mill. 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 books, *Pathways* and *Echoes* , and Lakeside's *Sisu and Sauna* are available for \$20.00 a copy + \$4.00 shipping. Wisconsin tax is included in all of 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. O-BHS Calendars for 2006, 2007(\$5) and 2008 (\$7) are also available (\$3.50 shipping). Our 2008 Calendar is available to buy at our meetings or from any member by request.

UNAPPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES, OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY

May 14, 2008, Earl Granroth Home, Lakeside

PRESENT: Earl Granroth, Jim Pellman, Shirley K.-Rouleau, Karin Colby, Jackie Plunkett, Mary Wester, Jack Pank, Irene Parenteau, Hope Swenson, Marion Christensen, Barb Granroth, Mary Ann Gronquist, Harry Wester, Eddie Walman.

CALL TO ORDER: Earl called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

MINUTES: Approval of the March 12, 2008, Board Meeting Minutes as published in our last news letter. Hope Swenson moved to approve the Minutes. Marion Christensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jackie gave the Treasurer's Report:

<u>Mill Fund</u>	<u>Available</u>
\$ 4,574.24	\$ 1,849.24
<u>Checking Account</u>	

	\$ 3,998.19	\$1,010.35
<u>CDs</u>	\$ 2,599.84	Earmarked for the walkway
	\$5,199.68	In Reserve

Jackie said she received a check the prior night for \$500.00, the grant that Paul Colby received that will be put toward the new Windmill History booklets. Jackie also got 9 more orders for pavers. Marion Christensen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Irene Parenteau seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

DAVIDSON WINDMILL REPORT: Jim said he had heard that day from Paul that he was able to reach Dave Pooler and Pooler is coming on Monday or Tuesday in the coming week. Paul is trying to talk to Pooler to submit a more precise bid on Phase 2, and to itemize the changes done to Phase 1 (dollar amounts). Paul has secured another ConocoPhillips volunteer grant for Phase 2 for \$1,500.00 to cover materials for the walk from Biffy to windmill which includes an octagon shaped pad by the mill. Dave said he would be charging the same per square foot as last year despite the rising cost. The deadline was set for June 1st to be done. Paul wanted it done by June 1st so he would be able to document what has been done so far at the windmill for the grants he has gotten. Hope moved that we poll the Board as soon as we hear how much the Phase 2 or completion bid will be. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GROUNDS: Memorial Stone: Ron Hendrickson set up the Memorial Monolith. 3/4 yard of cement was added to our sidewalk order for the base. Stone is ready for the plaque to be installed.

FLAG POLE: Eddie is getting help from Frank Hietala regarding the Flag pole. Eddie will find out more information on the pole. It was stated that we need a Finnish flag too. (Both to be purchased by the Carl Pellman family.)

STORAGE SHED: Jim and Paul and Harry to work on it. The permit will cost \$ 40.00. Material to be ordered for it might fit in grant application which will include benches, picnic tables and field stone.

SIGNAGE: Earl to investigate.

WEB ADDRESS SIGN: There was a discussion on how the sign should look.

PAVERS: Jim is going to start working on the pavers. He will call for help as needed.

MIDSUMMERFEST: *Juhannus Juhlat:* June 20th — 22nd, 2008 at Lakeside Town Hall and the Windmill. Alice is heading the food committee. It hasn't met yet. Meeting set for next Monday, May 19, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at Alice's home. Mary Ann was going to see if we could meet at 10:30 a.m. because some have to go to Archive's Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Tour Guides, and Merchandise sales, blue and white flowers to plant. Shirley needs the inventory that we will be selling at the Mill and Town Hall.

ESKOLIN HOUSE: Current projects: Paul is working on another grant. He needs pictures to show our progress. It would be another \$ 1500.00 grant for more things we need at the mill. Alice & Marilyn to go forward soon on cabinets and counters. Jack said it is still on hold. There are some used cabinets we might be able to get. Alice to check on them as soon as she can. Harry has located a security door 30" wide. He said the door was a little wider than he thought. It still has to be installed. Jackie has a light fixture. Ron Hendrickson to rewire and install. Chimney: Paul's dad to lay the brick. Jim had talked to Duane and he said he would like to be done by Memorial Day. Main door Jim is working on it. Shelving: Jim has heavy brackets. Other lighting. Flooring for second story has been donated by Alice in memory of Cassius. Finishing the Memorial Walkway has first priority.

NEW MERCHANDISE: Vest with name and logo. New order of post card size mill pictures is in (100 count). Paul is going to check into the vest and logo at lower cost than Jim found.

WINDMILL HISTORY BOOKLET: To be published in time for FinnFest if not earlier. Need estimate. Website to include book contents. Paul has secured a \$ 500.00 grant from ConocoPhillips. We will seek best offer (price breaks in number of books ordered). Jim explained what our new booklets will look like.

INVENTORY: Shirley is explaining about our merchandise. She made a list of all our merchandise, gave every item a stock number, and card to write stock number on, January–December, Dept., and size, and inventory we have on hand, and what the OBHS cost is. We are going to put tags on each item. We need two people to sell at the mill and two at the hall during our Midsummerfest activities.

NEXT MILL COMMITTEE MEETING: June 10, 2008, Eskolin House.

FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE: Yonkers had sent a \$ 39.00 check plus our other money totaling around \$ 350.00.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: Next meeting: Monday, May 19, 2008, 1:00 p.m., Pellmans'. Scanning Maple Town Photo's, World War II, and Maple Farmers' Coop records.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Jon Winter is working with Earl regarding E-mail Button. Thanks to Earl, Jim, Paul & Jon.

POLLARI MEMORIAL MAP COMMITTEE: Harry reports map is near ready, in its final design stage. Lois is going to get in touch with Randy Jones for a meeting to put on the final touches. Harry, Randy, Audrey, Jim & Hope.

PUBLICITY/ADVERTISING COMMITTEE: Mary Ann said she hasn't brought too many out yet. She said it doesn't have an address on it. We need to put one on it, and also name on top so people will see them easier. Press release once

walk is complete: Julie Moravcek. Finn Publicity needed. "Mill is turning" should be part of future press info.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Heritage maps now in progress under Pollari Memorial above. 2008 calendars sold quite well under 100 left. Those wanting *Far Northwest* maps to complete their collection should sign up. A request from John Altshool for color copies (He sent copy of Harry's new RR Map.)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Dues collection 2008 well in progress. Please record Volunteer Hours on Blue Sheets.

BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: Preparing to publish their book this year if possible.

FINNFEST 2008 DULUTH: Paul Colby and Jim Pellman attending planning sessions. Jim explained that FinnFest will be held July 22 (23) -27, and host around 7,000+ people. Scheduled tour times, speakers ,tours of the windmill, Jim to give talk on Windmill and guide bus tour of our area. We are partnering with DCHS at the *Tori* (marketplace). Need work schedules. Pick items to sell. Hope Swenson, Shirley K Rouleau, Jim will tend the tori booth, etc. Two passes available.

TAYLOR'S BRIDGE: Need to complete repairs using plasticized foil, at Superior Trophy, sharing expense with DCHS.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Lakeside Town Hall, June 18, 2008. Mid -Summer workshop, 6:00 p.m. There were discussions who would provide refreshments for that evening.. Mary Ann moved to bring a dish to pass to serve volunteer workers from throughout the day, and Shirley seconded. Motion carried.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: BATEAU: Windmill Committee recommendation: Jim moved that we help find a safe storage place to allow time to carefully plan, and tell DCHS that we are not able to take boat at this time, but encourage them to keep looking for another storage place, and to, please, not destroy it. Motion seconded by Shirley and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT BOARD MEETING: July 9, 2008, 6:00 p.m., Eskolin House.

ANNUAL MEETING: August 16, 2008, Lake Nebagamon Auditorium. Pot Luck lunch at noon and meeting to follow. Guest Speaker, Mr. John Altshool (on Local Weyerhaeuser Railroads and Logging) .

MEMORIALS: Jackie brought up planting a tree or plant at the mill in memory of a group member or family member when they pass away during the year for the sake of uniformity. A plaque with their names would be placed in our memorial park, announced at our annual meeting . Jackie made this a motion and Irene P. seconded. Motion carried.

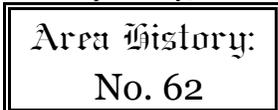
CORRESPONDENCE: Jackie explained that the Mormons wanted permission from us to put our local history books which they had ordered digitally into their records. The matter was tabled.

SYMPATHY AND ENCOURAGEMENT: Paul Williams, Margie Koski. (*I will now send a sympathy card to Mrs. Gloria Williams with the loss of her husband , Paul, who passed away on Memorial Day.*)

Thank you to Earl & Barbra Granroth for hosting the meeting and for all the wonderful refreshments.

ADJOURNMENT: Jackie moved to adjourn. Hope seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully, Karin Colby, Secretary



History of Old Brule; an entry quietly edited off the Internet Encyclopedia Wikipedia

Expanded and Updated by Jim Pellman © 2008

It is convenient to distinguish between the much smaller in area modern Town of Brule, Wisconsin, and the town as first formed within its original boundaries in 1887. The latter here will be referred to as "Old Brule." Old Brule formed against a background of expanding settlement in northern Douglas County coming upon the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad (NP), which was built through the region to its eastern terminus in Ashland in 1884. The huge white pine growing throughout the Lake Superior region were already being exploited utilizing the several northern Douglas County streams running northward into Lake Superior. They were then tugged west to mills in the booming Duluth-Superior port on the St. Louis River, or

eastward to commercial rival, Chequamegon Bay and Ashland. However, the NP railroad represented a greatly expanded opportunity for movement of logs from the forest, and the later movement of finished board products throughout commercially developed America.

Just as attractive to early speculators was the prospect of finding rich copper deposits on the variously named Brule, Douglas, or South Range, which entered Wisconsin in Burnett County and traversed the whole of Douglas County from the southwest to the northeast. The formation had been exploited by the Native Americans who used the native copper metal in unsmelted form. Their tools and excavations were used by the early copper prospectors

as evidence of potentially profitable sites.

This range was examined as far back as the French Regime in the Seventeenth Century, was noted by English explorer, Jonathan Carver, just before the American Revolution and was explored by the Astor American Fur Trading company until it folded. Government surveyor, George R. Stuntz, did exploration along Copper Creek in the 1860s and submitted his reports to James O. Sargent back east in Boston. Upper Michigan's "Copper Island" ore formations appeared to be duplicated within Douglas County, and for a brief time more copper ore left the ports of Superior and Duluth than iron ore.

Through the year 1900 several exploratory copper ventures were at work along the range, sinking shafts, in some cases hundreds of feet into the formation, only to be suddenly abandoned as the national economy went through its boom and bust cycles. As early as 1870 Samuel Blodgett of Bristol, England, founded the Clevedon Colony at the mouth of the Brule and bought up extensive copper range holdings in an ill fated scheme that ended within a decade due to the remoteness of the region and poor economic times. The demands of war in much later years would temporarily raise interests in these sites, but none of them ever attained the status of those in the Michigan formations.

The earliest land speculation in the region appears to have been along this same copper range. Men such as James Stinson of Hamilton, Ontario, later of Chicago, and lumberman, Isaac Staples, bought lands along the range early after Douglas County was formed in 1854. Frederick Weyerhaeuser, while involved in the logging and lumbering in the region invested heavily in a mine site in southeastern Douglas County in a formation that parallels the Brule Range. This too, was exploited by early Native Americans. In the early years of Old Brule's existence there were high expectations that places like the Percival Mine, and the Astor Mine and many others would finally produce the strike that would boom the region. Even

iron deposits were found near Blueberry but the boom never came. The rich Vermilion and Mesabe Ranges absorbed exploration resources.

It was during these same years that settlers came into the region to take up government homesteads. This was before the days of the so called "cutover." Many of these settlers came before the Northern Pacific and in some cases they joined the laboring force as the line moved through their vicinity. The earliest of these homesteaders were settling in what was then part of the old Town of Superior. In 1887 the settlers managed to create the local town governments they were entitled to. The large towns of Brule, Nebagamain and Gordon formed leaving the Town of Superior reduced to a quarter of its original size, that having been the full extent of Douglas County.

Eventually Old Brule would become victim of the same desire for home rule. In 1906 the Town of Amnicon with its Poplar and Wentworth hamlets took the western third of the town. The following year the Town of Maple took over the middle third of the town and even the Old Brule town hall. The same year the Village of Lake Nebagamon formed after the positive vote of its male citizens and took two more sections from Old Brule. The community of Lake Nebagamon had developed in conjunction with the logging activities of Weyerhaeuser's Nebagamon Lumber Company beginning in 1898 until 1907, the year the village government fully recognized.

It is noteworthy that a significant portion of the early homesteaders within Old Brule were of Finnish origin, and their settlement across northern Old Brule, extending into the Town of Oulu in Bayfield County, formed at the time the most densely populated farming region within the State of Wisconsin. Surrounding them were settlements made up of French Canadians, English Canadians, Swedes, Swede-Finns, and old Anglo-American stock.

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Notices:

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To those who continue to donate toward Windmill **paver memorials**. To **Duane Colby** for three days of skilled bricklaying and supplies for our Eskolin House chimney. To **Kathy Colby** and the family of the late **Elmer Hermanson** of Lakeside, who have donated many bags of historical documents, volumes of clippings, VCRs, and records he collected to our Archives. To **Colleen (Martin) Orval** (& **Lorraine Korhonen**) for donating the article Francis Orval wrote on Maple's "Heaven Avenue."

To **Ron Hendrickson, Harry Wester, Earl Granroth, Paul Colby Jack Pank** for their hard work and donations of materials at the Windmill. To the **cooks and kitchen crew**, and **ticket and merchandise sellers** at Midsummer. To our publicity people, **Audrey Hakkila and Mary Ann Gronquist** for their efficient quiet work throughout the year. To **Eddie Walman, Karin Colby, Alice Christensen, and Frank Hietala** for financing and pulling together our flag pole at the mill, and to the **Families of Carl Pellman** who are purchasing both our Finnish and our American flags. To our **Treasurer, Jackie Plunkett**, for her many hours of work keeping us in balance during tough budget times. To **ConocoPhillips Corporation** and **Paul Colby** for numerous grants supporting sidewalk work, and book publishing at the Davidson Mill. To **Hope Swenson** for her donation of **Cliff's** boards now serving as shelves in our lean-to, and to her son, **Lee** for donation of his photograph of the Isaac Lake Homestead. To **Ruth Waldin Lintelmann** for her recent donation of her carefully constructed scrapbooks and memorabilia.

CONGRATULATIONS: To all **99 Northwestern High School Graduates of 2008 and their families**. To **Jenna Willoughby** who received our OBHS Annual Memorial Scholarship, and to her parents, **Jon and Judy** of Lake Nebagamon.

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To **Margie Koskie, Arnold & Doris Perala, Irene Brazill and Pat Meteraud**.

OUR SYMPATHY: To the family and friends of member, **Paul Williams**, of Lakeside, who died Memorial Day this past week at 75. We thank **Paul**, wife **Gloria**, and his family as well, for sharing memorial donations in his name with OBHS.

... and who have we missed or forgotten?

CALENDAR

June 6, Friday, 6:30 p.m. Pollari Memorial Map Committee at Randy Jones' Office, Poplar.

June 10, Tuesday, 6 p.m. Windmill Committee Meets at Eskolin House. Workday earlier in the day.

June 14, Saturday. Flag Day.

June 15, Sunday. Father's Day.

June 19, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Lakeside Town Hall. Pot luck lunch. OBHS Regular Meeting. Workday for Midsummer.

June 20-22, Friday to Sunday. Midsummer Celebration (*Juhannus Juhlat*). Lakeside Town Hall and Windmill grounds.

June 30, Monday, 1 p.m. Next Archive Meeting at Pellmans'.

July 4, Friday. Independence Day.

July 9, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Board Meeting, Eskolin House, Davidson Windmill, Lakeside.

July 15, Tuesday. Contributions to August *OBHS News* are due. Articles are encouraged!

July 22, Tuesday, 8:30 to 5:30. Jim's FinnFest NW Wisc. Bus Tour. Ends at Windmill. Tours, and coffee at Eskolin House.

July 23-27, Wednesday to Sunday. FinnFest 2008 Duluth. Tori Booth with DCHS.

September 1, Monday. Labor Day.

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been building up our Web site (www.oldbrule.org). President Earl Granroth has been making regular updates. Thank you all for your patience as we continue our improvements. **Microsoft** has donated Web site software permitting updates. Thanks to all for your gifts and contributions of skill. **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems in Superior** is our Web host at no charge to us.

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) 364-2216, or our Treasurer, Jackie Plunkett at 363-2417. Her address is 4845 S. County Rd F, Maple, WI 54854. Our annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$25.00 for families, payable at the time of our annual meeting in August. 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