

OBHS News

Volume XI, Issue 1

February 5, 2009

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2009
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the History and Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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FEBRUARY OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 6 P.M., FEBRUARY 12, 2009, AT THE MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTER.

Program: Jim Pellman will share the images in our 2009 OBHS Historical Calendar.

WE WILL BEGIN OUR EVENING WITH OUR SLIDE PROGRAM, FOLLOWED BY
A BREAK FOR REFRESHMENTS, AND THEN OUR BUSINESS MEETING.

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

**Thanks to the Town of Maple for the use of their hall
and to all those bringing light refreshments to share.**

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The hot topic of conversation is the cold and endless winter. We by nature talk about the weather.

Looking back sixty years ago - We didn't have automated thermostats to control the temperature in our homes. Most all families heated with wood. Everyone had a nice neat wood pile, used for heating and cooking. The wood would be cut down a year in advance to dry and cure for the following winter's use.

In the neighborhood where I was born and raised, most all the neighbors had a sauna. These saunas were heated two or three times a week, summer and winter. My family didn't have a sauna, but we were always invited to our neighbors to take a bath.

Sauna night was a social event. First we prepared our *sauna pussi* (sauna bag), which included towels, wash cloths and soap. We all piled into the old 1929 Model A car, which most often had to be cranked to get it started. Often we would go to Eskolins. Their sauna was nice and big. Mrs. Eskolin always had homemade rag rugs covering the floor.

The sauna *kiuas* (stove with rocks on top) was fired with wood to heat the water and to make *löylyä* (steam). The water used was always soft rain water. We'd sit on the top *lautet* (bench) and throw water by the dipper full onto the hot rocks to create the *löylyä*. All saunas had a whisk or *vihta*, made of birch or cedar boughs bound together. This was soaked in water and then laid to heat on the rocks on top of hot stove. The hot *vihta* was then slapped against the skin of shoulders and back. This was to invigorate the body, and to lessen back and shoulder pain.

After sauna we were always invited to visit. Coffee and *kahvileipää* (coffee bread) was served to the adults, and Nesbitt orange pop and vanilla ice-cream to my two older brothers and me. Eskolins had an icebox, which didn't keep ice cream hard, something like cool thin pudding. But to us the little cups were a treat as we didn't have much of anything store bought.

The Eskolins were very nice and generous to our family. I'll always remember their kindness.

Sincerely,

Alice Christensen

p.s. Please remember to be kind and generous.

FROM THE EDITOR:

“Too big to allow to fail.” This is one of the ominous pronouncement in what are dangerous world-scale economic developments. As we watch the spectacle of the meltdown of our nation’s economy we stand by almost helplessly, wondering how and when we too shall be swallowed in what appears to be a universal panic and financial stampede. A more consistent metaphor might be that of a tsunami, with its devastation in lives and property, when something from the deep abruptly releases a huge amount of violent energy, and those who once thrived by the sea are engulfed by it. Does anyone in these modern times occupy a safe backwater, buffered enough by distance and height of land? When we consider that just the beginning of the aid packages our government is building to stave off disaster, with interest, will exceed \$1,000,000,000.000.00, we are looking at something unseen in recent history. This amounts to ten percent of the entire annual national gross domestic product which is about \$10 trillion. But what does this have to do with the history of this rural region we inhabit?

I was once told (by a non-historian) that the Town of Maple is too small to have a history. After thirty years of gathering material for that history I have demonstrated to my own satisfaction that he did not know what he was talking about. If he was only thinking about history on the scale of the numbers we have just talked about he may have had a point. But what we are about is “local history.” Local history is the story of our past as it was lived on a more human scale. And even the global tsunami that I mentioned above starts inside the hearts of individuals... in ourselves, in our neighbors, within local communities. Hope and fear arise in us, within the local collective, and are spread from person to person, not as micro-organisms through the air, but in our conversations with one another.

But in the modern world what once was a process of local dialog has become much more media monolog. The mass media short changes us, and forces upon us a passivity. The horizontal conversation with the near neighbor has been replaced with vertical reception of the distant talk of experts, pundits and alarmists, with little means of telling them apart or of truly understanding the games (used in a positive sense) that they are playing, social, financial, political. Instead of making our own history it is expected that we will conform to history as spectators. Local history has at least one role in all of this. If the “too big to fail” do fail we will possess the patterns to pick up the pieces of our lives, which will be more local again. The joys of births and marriages, and the rending deaths of our near neighbors, family members, and friends will remain the true historical landmarks in our lives.

-Jim Pellman

2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 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 *2009 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendar* is now available at \$7.00 each. Our earlier calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2005, 2006) and \$6.00 (2008) in limited numbers. The 2009 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: February 12th, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Unapproved GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.**

Amnicon Town Hall, December 10, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

The evening began with a delicious potluck Christmas supper at 6:00 p.m.

Following supper, our speaker, Pat Luostari, provided a program on the history of 4-H in our area. She noted that the national 4-H program originated in 1914 at Lake Geneva, WI. Obtainable Douglas County historical documents are spotty, but indicate 4-H clubs had organized locally by the early 1930s. Pat provided information that was available leading to the current 4-H program. She also expressed the need for further information and processing related to the history of our 4-H Program in Douglas County and requested input from OBHS members. Pat said that she would like to provide an update at a later meeting. Everyone enjoyed Pat's talk and welcomes her return.

BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Alice Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

MINUTES: Hope made a motion, seconded by Karin to accept the minutes of the General Meeting on October 8, 2008, as presented in the *OBHS News*, December 10, 2008. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron noted that both the checking account and the savings account, formerly held at Chippewa Valley Bank, have been transferred to the National Bank of Commerce, Poplar. Currently OBHS has \$ 4,156.99 in the checking account; \$ 5,336.57 in the Money Market C/D Account; and \$ 4,525.99 in the Davidson Windmill Savings Account. These fund total \$14,019.55. Earl made a motion, seconded by Mary Ann, to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:**Davidson Windmill Committee Report:**

Sidewalk: Paul reports that Phase III is completed. Jim P. continues to work on the pavers. To date, 195 pavers have been ordered. Memorial brick pavers are still being reserved for a \$10 donation each. Forms are available from Jim P. or on the OBHS Website.

Grounds: Additional benches have been ordered and will be delivered in the spring.

Eskolin House: The shutters are completed. John will bring cupboards to Alice's garage soon. The installation of the cupboards and the building of the entrance door will take place in the spring.

Fund-Raising Committee:

With many thanks to Paul, OBHS has received grants up to this point that have given us sufficient resources, given our available manpower. However, now we need to seek further funding. An audit, which is needed for the application process for grants, is scheduled to be completed.

Alice and Jim will write checks during Ron's absence beginning next month. The individuals in these positions have already been established as authorized check signers at the bank, as has been past practice.

Archives Committee: Audrey noted that their next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2008. The succeeding meeting will be scheduled after the holidays.

Website: Earl wants to do more with windmill pictures. He described the problem users have in using the contact button if they are not in the "home" page. Paul volunteered to contact Jon Winter about the problem.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: The map needs to be brought back to Randy Jones for final touches. A meeting among members will be called shortly. Lois donated another \$500 to the project; Randy has already received \$300. Jim describes the map as "beautiful", but it needs to include current points of interest, such as the Davidson Windmill, to meet tourist's needs.

Publicity/Advertising Committee: Audrey noted that she does not control what the *Superior Telegram* does with her submissions. Recently, one was not placed appropriately. Both Audrey and Mary Ann do a great job promoting OBHS and its operation.

Publications Committee: The calendars went to press and should be available before Christmas; they will be distributed to advertisers first. A photo of The Old Lakeside Baptist Church and accompanying text, which is on page 7 of the 12/10/08 *OBHS News*, previews the January image. A sign-up sheet was passed around during the meeting for those who were interested in obtaining a calendar. Contact Jim P. if you have not signed up for one.

Membership Committee: Jim announced that only one or two blue sheets (to the end of July 2008) are still to be handed in.

Brule History Research Group: Laila and Minerva reported that they work every opportunity that they can get together, noting the time spent processing documents accurately.

Finnfest, Duluth 2008: It was a good experience for participants. FinnFest DVDs are available.

Taylor's Bridge: The entire sign should be taken down now, leaving the concrete posts in the ground. Sign replacement will need to follow as soon as possible.

Other Old Business:

As requested, the following information provides a breakdown of receipts earned during the Apple Festival, October 1-3, 2008:

Merchandise:	15.00
Donations:	200.82
Bakery	274.50
Sisu and Sauna	60.00
Calendar	<u>7.00</u>
Total:	\$757.32

NEW BUSINESS:

Communication:

Audrey reported that all membership cards are ready to go out. Those in attendance who have paid their dues should see Jim who will distribute them after the meeting. See Jim P. for paver donations.

Welcome to our latest new member, **Ina Anderson**, who was in attendance.

Next Regular Meeting: February 11, tentatively scheduled in Maple, program to be determined. The April 8th general meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Superior Public Library.

Next Board Meeting: January 14, 2009. Eskolin House (weather permitting). There may be plowing needs.

Next Windmill Committee Meeting: Next spring.

Sympathy and encouragements: To the family and friends of Oscar Anderson.

Other New Business:

Thanks to Shirley and Alice for decorating the Amnicon Town Hall for our Christmas party and program and to George for transporting the materials.

The Town of Amnicon is preparing for their centennial celebration in 2010. Dennis Hill said they

are looking for as much input as they can and expressed appreciation for the helpful work that OBHS has already done. Jim plans to attend an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Shirley moved, seconded by Earl, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Following adjournment at 8:20 p.m., the enjoyable evening closed with an exchange of gifts.

Respectfully submitted,
Lila Ronn, 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, old stock caps, \$5.00, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, now on sale at ½ price, taxes included. **SEE OUR WEBSITE (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 also available for purchase at our meetings or by contacting an O-BHS member. O-BHS Calendars for 2006 (\$5), 2007(\$6) and 2008 (\$7) are also available (\$3.50 shipping). See box on Page 2 above for more info.

**Unapproved BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.**

Christensen Home, Town of Amnicon
January 14, 2009

Members Present: Pres., Alice Christensen; 1stV. P, Shirley Kankas-Rouleau; 2nd VP, Harry Wester; Mary Ann Gronquist; Jim Pellman; and Member Earl Granroth.

CALL TO ORDER: Alice called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

MINUTES: A motion to accept the minutes of the Nov. 12, 2008, meeting was made by Shirley, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report:

Pavers: Ron Hendrickson had secured a bid from a company in West Duluth, Northland Reflections in Wood, to do engraving of the pavers for a low \$ 8.00 per paver, due to the fact that the company has time to do them this winter Jim does not have the time to do the engraving with all his other responsibilities with other projects related to the organization. A motion to accept the bid was made by Jim, seconded by Harry. Motion carried. A motion to purchase 200 pavers rather than to try to dig up the pavers in place under the

snow was made by Harry and seconded by Earl. Motion carried. To cover the cost for the project a motion was made to raise the donation price of the pavers to \$ 15.00 was made by Shirley, seconded by Jim. Motion carried. The pavers that our in place will be removed and used in other areas. Windmill Tee shirts have been delivered to Dave Poolers.

Storage Building: Jim will work on securing a lock for the building, weather permitting.

Flag Pole: The ball for the top of the pole will be put in place when the pole is painted. Jim had heard of a flag security system and will look into it.

Signage: Earl continues to investigate signage for highways and on grounds.

Eskolin House: As weather permits cabinets will be picked up from the Autio home and be cleaned and installed. There was a discussion about the door for the house, some objections to a "Dutch door". The matter was tabled for now. Jim to check houses in Finland on the Web. A screen door was also discussed. Rain gutters for the east side of the house were also discussed.

Windmill Merchandise: Earl will update the merchandise available on the Website.

Windmill Committee Meeting: Next meeting is April 6, 2009, at the Eskolin House.

Historical Map: Work on the map to begin soon with hopes to have it available for the mid-summer event.

Publicity: Decided to use up the supply of brochures before ordering more.

Membership: Dues are continuing to come in. Reminded to record volunteer hours on blue sheets.

Publications: 2009 calendars are available and selling—110 sold so far. Wholesale, \$4.00, and list price is \$7.00.

Brule History Research Group: No report.

Taylor's Bridge: No report.

Clarification of Officers Job Descriptions: Jim is working on this.

Next Board Meeting: March 11, 2009, location pending.

Next General Meeting: February 11, 2009, Maple Community Center. No speaker lined up yet.

The April 8th Meeting will be at 5.00 p.m at the Superior Public Library. Included is a tour of the murals at the library.

Nan Wisherd Books: Unsold books at Finnfest will be returned to her. Just one book of each title sold.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim has received information on being affiliated with a book project of the Northwest Heritage Passages, Inc. No decision on involvement was made.

Mid-summer Scandinavian Dinner will be held on June 20, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with the Windmill open house from 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. on that day only.

Jim turned in several checks for calendars, and pavers, ads and memberships. Included a Business Membership from Paul Dennis of Northern Finnish Mutual Insurance Co. and from new members Don and Andrea Yrjanainen and Viola Palo, and two memorials for Arnold Perala.

Earl questioned if we need more buttons made. We discussed making buttons with magnets instead of pins. Earl will get supplies.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Harry, seconded by Earl. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Gronquist, Acting Secretary

Area History:
No. 66

The following is the February image and text from our new **2009 OBHS History Calendar**.



2. Loading Cordwood in the Town of Maple, c. 1910.

In the days before large trucks and hydraulic loaders men and horses load a Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Sainte Marie (later “Soo Line”) Railroad gondola car with cordwood. Hardwood was being shipped to Ashland to charcoal hives, used there for the smelting of Gogebic iron. In this photo we see the loading crew, Finns from the Maple region: William Olson and Matt Saari from Maple and an Aho from Waino standing together on the right. Matt Antilla waits on top of the railroad car. Charles Jarvi stands in back of the horse. Victor Beck is in front, left of the horse. Konsta Makela’s head is showing behind the horse and Nestor Barkamo stands in the far background. *(Old-Brule Heritage Society, from the collection of the late Elvie [Lehti] Maki of Maple, daughter of Konsta and Maija Makela.)*

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- NOTICES -

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To those many who continue to donate toward Windmill paver memorials. To those who have paid their dues for 2009. Please check your membership cards for expiration date. To the many who have purchased our 2009 calendar. To new members, **Ina Anderson, Andrea & Don Yrjanainen,** and **Viola Palo.** To the **Town of Lakeside, Murphy Oil,** and the **Paul Dennis Insurance Agency** for their recent money donations.

CONGRATULATIONS:..To the **Northwestern boys basketball team** and coaches as they remain undefeated in the current season. To our treasurer, **Ron Hendrickson** and wife **Sue,** on taking their trip of a lifetime.

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To member **John Altshool** of Cincinnati and to **Dr. Frank Telewski,** Weyerhaeuser scholars, as they both continue to face health issues. To the **Town of Amnicon** as it plans for its history and for its Centennial in 2010.

OUR SYMPATHY: To family & friends and wife and OBHS member **Doris,** of charter member, **Arnold W. Perala,** 73, who passed away this Christmas Eve after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. To the family and friends of **Arnold M. Saari** who recently passed away after a car accident at 82.

.. and who have we missed or forgotten?

CALENDAR

February 9, Monday, 1. p.m. Next Archives Meeting at Pellmans'.

February 11, Wednesday, 6. p.m. Next OBHS General Meeting, Maple Community Center. Jim Pellman will present slides and give the history of the photos in our new 2009 calendar.

February 12, Thursday, Lincoln's Birthday.

February 14, Saturday. Valentine's Day.

February 16, Monday, Presidents' Day. **Northern Lakes Arch. Soc.,** Sup. Library. 7 p.m. Lee Johnson talks on Gunflint history.

February 22, Sunday, Washington's Birthday.

February 25, Wednesday, Ash Wednesday.

March 11, Wednesday, 6 p.m., OBHS Board Meeting.

March 16, Monday, St. Urho's Day. Deadline for April *OBHS News.*

March 17, Tuesday, St. Patrick's Day.

April 8, Wednesday, 5 p.m., OBHS General Meeting, Superior Public Library. Mural tour.

April 9, Thursday, Passover.

April 12, Sunday, Easter.

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been building up our Web site (www.oldbrule.org). Our thanks to Earl Granroth who continues to make regular updates, and to **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems in Superior,** 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 also contact any member or the President at the return address below, or our Treasurer, Ron Hendrickson, at the same address. 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
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