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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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OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2009, NOON, AT AMNICON FALLS STATE PARK PAVILION

WE WILL BEGIN OUR MEETING WITH A POT LUCK LUNCH.

GRILLED DOGS AND BUNS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY OBHS.

OUR PROGRAM AND THEN BUSINESS MEETING and VOLUNTEER RECOGNITIONS WILL FOLLOW.

Thanks to Amnicon Falls State Park and MR. BILL ELDRED for the site and program, and to everyone who brings food and refreshments to pass. BILL WILL TALK ON THE PARK'S HISTORY. ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME. A PARK VEHICLE STICKER IS NEEDED.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

July, *heinäkuu* in Finnish, literally "hay month," was haying season, as it is today. I have been looking back and reminiscing at how hard people worked with a minimal amount of equipment, especially at haying time.

We had a team of horses, Molly and Queenie. When it came time to catch them they weren't very cooperative. We had to bribe them with a bucket of feed.

Cutting hay would start with the five foot mower drawn by the horses. To rake the hay we had a dump rake which was pulled by one horse. This would make the wind rows. These wind rows would have to be separated into piles so the hay wagon could get through which made it easier to pitch the hay into the wagon. This was all done by hand.

The wagon had wooden wheels and was pulled by a Doodle Bug, which I'm sure nobody would recognize as this was home made. It was an old car, top cut off, a bigger motor installed, the only original things left, the driver's seat, shift and steering wheel. People were very creative.

The hay load was pulled to the hay barn, then a large fork (*harsina*) was pushed into part of the load and the horse would pull the load into the hay barn. The person in charge of signaling had a very important job. I had that job at times and I was quite young and didn't always pay attention. I learned quickly, and didn't argue. Haying was a slow process. Yet, despite everything, it always got done.

As I close these thoughts (and my term as president), I would like to say that I will always remember my mother, Hannah Walman, a lady who worked so very hard, cooked, carried water to wash dishes, washed clothes, milked cows, and so much more. She was always kind and sincere with everyone. Many modern women would not endure the hard, physical labor that was demanded of her in my mother's day.

Sincerely,
Alice Christensen

FROM THE EDITOR:

There is a lot of summer work left. Between newsletters, agendas and short histories, there is the job of bringing in the firewood, and cutting trees, and blocking them up for next year's supply. Many farm families in the region had wood lots from which trees were carefully taken. As second growth forests naturally thin themselves and cycle themselves through the species, the aspen or popple is often the first larger tree to follow the colonizing sumac and alder, neither much good as firewood. The seasoned popple burns hot and fast and serves well the quicker, hot fires of the Finnish sauna, or the kindling pile which ignites the longer burning red oak or maple logs. The oak and maple trees, white birch and the occasional ironwood, yellow birch, and black ash form the bulk of the wood supply. None of these is cut when healthy, and in many wood lots members of these species will be left to grow into hardwood bolts, or if "disfigured," will be left as seed trees.

A few years back amidst the stress of attacks by tent caterpillars (army worms) and after two or three years of drought, many red oak and white birch died on the copper ridge which runs through Maple. One white birch in back of the Pollari house was over three feet in diameter when it died. Another birch must have been just a sapling when some lumberjack wound it from bottom to top around a larger adjoining maple tree, and both survived. This tree and its mate died at the same time following the drought years. My grandmother, Esther Pollari, once asked me if I had ever noticed this tree. She had marveled at it herself years before on one of her explorations behind her house.

The care of a small forest or wood lot is very much a matter of gardening. Trees come to assume individual identities and their stress is shared by the land owner. The scale of this type of life and the degree of connection with life on the land is something that comes with true land ownership and responsibility. The degree of empathy that this involvement demands has become too often a luxury in the modern world, to be replaced by hikes on interpretive trails and mediated glimpses of what was once our American birthright. The speed and mega-scale of American life has tremendous inestimable costs.

-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 very 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 still 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 and interpreting 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: September 14th, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

Unapproved GENERAL MEETING MINUTES OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Lakeside Town Hall, Poplar, WI June 19, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Alice Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Hendrickson reported that, as of 05/29/09, our checking account balance was \$2,655.44; our savings account balance was \$4,530.01; and our CD totaled \$5,434.94. Mary Ann moved to accept the report. After a second by Jack, the report was approved as presented.

MINUTES: Audrey moved that the minutes of the last General Meeting on April 8, 2009, as printed in the June OBHS Newsletter, be approved. Following a second by Irene, the motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report:

Sidewalk: Paul brought five samples from *Extreme Granite* to be considered for our special engraved tiles for the windmill and the Eskolin House. The samples shown would be the size of eight bricks (16 x 16). The cost for both of them would be \$220, not including engraving. While they are not as thick as brick, and would need to be built up, they are of similar durability. Discussion that followed included concern about slipperiness, consideration of obtaining bricks from other sources, and color. No decision was made at this point.

Biffy Storage Building: Don Anderson pumped The Biffy on Wednesday, June 17. It was noted that his phone number could be placed inside the Biffy. Lila will contact Mr. Anderson, thanking him for the service, and providing him with the necessary paperwork he might need indicating the value of this and future work.

Grounds:

Flagpole: Alice reported that no solar lights have been ordered. Ron had noted that his church had experienced various problems and shortcomings with theirs. We could access electricity and have a good power spotlight shining on the flag. It was mentioned that the Golden Apartments have a system such as that. Alice will follow up.

Memorial Tree: The Annual dedication will be Saturday at 4:30 p.m. The names of Margie Koskie and Arnold Perala will be added to those previously listed. It would be good to have a more permanent sign to include all of the names of deceased members. Jacob Davidson's photograph might be included somewhere. Jim said there was a retail trophy store at the Mariner mall that might develop such a sign for us at the same time that the Taylors' Bridge sign is done.

Fieldstone & Benches: Because the construction of the benches has not even started, we will need to look elsewhere for a builder. The grant money to be spent for these benches was at least \$200 according to Paul. Mark from Maple may be available to do them. It was also suggested that Ryland Colby might construct them. Eddie will give the dimensions to Ryland.

Eskolin House: The cupboards are in Alice's garage. She has also obtained an antique cupboard-like pantry that will be used in the main room.

Mill Merchandise: Shirley showed the handsome new vests, with pockets, that will be sold for \$24. They are available in gray, dark blue, and black. The \$400 invoice needs to be paid. Tina will be called to get a duplicate copy of the bill.

Windmill History Booklet: The booklet, which Jim and Gene Davidson are writing, is nearly completed. Jim thought 250 might be a reasonable order. He didn't think we could beat the quoted costs he has received from *Silver Tonsberg*: \$3.50 each for an order of 500, and only slightly higher costs for smaller orders. We would expect to sell them for \$10.00. Hope made a motion, seconded by Paul, that we order 300. The motion was approved.

Next Mill Committee Meeting: Nothing scheduled at this time. Jim will call John Lundeen to see if he is still interested in constructing the Eskolin House door, as he has not yet started the project.

Fund-raising Committee: B & B completed the audit of our books. Recognizing the hard work put in by Old-Brule Heritage members, B & B volunteered this service for us. We are most appreciative of this gift.

Archives: No report. The next meeting is on July 13.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: Work will be delayed until booklet is finished.

Publicity/Advertising Committee: Mary Ann said notice for the Scandinavian dinner was printed in the Superior

Telegram last week and in today's Duluth Tribune. There are lots of posters out.

Publications Committee: Over 180 editions of the 2009 Calendar have been sold to date.

Membership Committee: Audrey has been mailing membership cards. Members are reminded to record their voluntary hours.

Brule History Group: No meeting has been held.

Taylor's Bridge: Alice will complete the task of getting the sign done.

Clarification of Officer Job Description: We need to know what each officer is doing and the officers, themselves, would appreciate a clarification of their duties.

Finance Committee: Ron is responsible for the development of an official budget. It would be good if a preliminary budget could be developed for the Annual Meeting. Members of the committee would include board officers and those who work with inventory.

Next Board Meeting: July 8th, 6:00 p.m. at the Eskolin House. There will be an August meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting for the purpose of officer selection.

Next General Meeting: Tentative plans are to schedule the October meeting at the Middle River Health Care Center. Harry will see if Mary can help with arrangements.

Midsummer Scandinavian Tours & Dinner: The work has been done. Thank you to all who helped to prepare for the two events. Eddie Walman supplied the beef used for the mojakka. Point of clarification: While the tours were originally scheduled from 9 to 5, the windmill will be open until 6:00 because at least one advertisement included this closing hour.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting: This event will be held at Amnicon Falls beginning at 12:00 noon with a potluck picnic, followed by the meeting and program. Mary Ann said that we would need to reserve the shelter for \$45.00 in order to ensure its use. Bill Eldred will give us a presentation at no charge. Jim suggested we take a tour through the quarry. The daily admission auto sticker for Wisconsin residents costs \$7.00, \$3.00 for senior citizens. Those 65 and over can obtain an annual Wisconsin State Park Sticker for \$10. Hope moved that we reserve the pavilion for \$45.00. After a second by Barbra, the motion was approved. Those who desire transportation should call Alice. She, Mary Ann, and Lila (and others) will drive members who desire a ride to the park. Grills are available. Because we will be able to meet at Amnicon Falls regardless of the weather, Audrey will not reserve the Amnicon Town Hall and Senior Center as a backup.

Alice and Hope, who are completing four years of continuous service on the board, are seeking candidates to fill two new positions. Shirley and Mary Ann are up for renewal for another two-year term.

Communications: The State Local History meeting is scheduled for October 9-10 in Wausau. The 6th Annual Flea Market, sponsored by the Port Wing Heritage Hall Herald, will be held at the Port Wing Town Hall on July 4 and 5.

Windmill and Eskolin House Grounds Maintenance: Kathy Colby has recently been cutting the grass on the Windmill and Eskolin House grounds. It is important to keep the facility looking nice. After discussion about paying for this service, Minerva moved that we pay \$50 per mowing up to six times each summer. Shirley seconded the motion and it was approved. Alice will call Kathy to make her this offer. OBHS thanks both

Jack Pank and Harry for volunteering their mowing services in the past.

Additional Photo Sheets: Audrey reported that, as historian, she is now on her third book of records and photos. She has ordered new sheets at the cost of \$18.00.

Dinner Centerpieces: Mary Ann showed the centerpieces to be used on the dinner tables tomorrow. Earl and Barbra have donated them to OBHS. Our thanks to them.

Open Mill Hours: The Davidson Mill will be open the 3rd Saturday (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) of every summer month. These dates need to be published.

Markers and Granite: Jim thought that perhaps the two large stones should not be polished, but left rough instead. A polished surface becomes greasy with wet clay soil. Any sealer will darken the stone, so the American Mahogany made from South Dakota granite (one of the samples shown earlier to the group) would work well.

Jim's recommendation was that each of the stones would be placed in the center of an octagon, on islands. One would acknowledge the origin of the Eskolin House. The other would include information about the dedication of the windmill. It would be desirable if these stones could be cut to the thickness of the pavers. Paul was not sure about available stock thickness. He will do more investigation.

Congratulations: Best wishes to Mrs. George Umolac (Shirley) upon her recent marriage.

ADJOURNMENT: After a motion by Earl to adjourn the meeting and a second of the motion by Harry, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lila M. Ronn

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, new stock caps, \$12.00, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, still on sale at ½ price, taxes included. SEE OUR WEB SITE (www.oldbrule.org) FOR CURRENT SALE ITEMS AND PRICES. Our new vests are for sale for \$24.00.

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 & 2007 (\$5), 2008(\$6) and 2009 (\$7) are also available (\$3.50 shipping). See box on Page 2 above for more info. Our new book, *Davidson Windmill History* by Jim Pellman and Gene Davidson is now available for \$8.00 (\$3.50 shipping).

Unapproved BOARD MEETING MINUTES OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Eskolin House, Town of Lakeside July 8, 2009

Members Present: President Alice Christensen, First Vice President Shirley Rouleau Umolac, Treasurer Ron Hendrickson, Paul Colby, Jim Pellman, Hope Swenson, Irene Brazill, Nancy Wiitala, Eddie Walman, Karin Colby, Audrey Hakkila, and Mary Ann Gronquist.

CALL TO ORDER: Alice called the meeting to order at 6:22.

MINUTES: Minutes from the May 13, 2009 meeting as printed in the June 2009 *OBHS News* were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported that as of June 30, 2009, our balances are as follows: Checking, \$2,529.99; Savings, \$4,530.75; CD, \$5,485.63.

The Midsummer event totals are as follows:

Income:	Dinner	\$	725.00
	Donations		100.50
	Merchandise		567.65
	Paver sales		150.00
		\$1	,543.15
Expenses:	Dinner		-160.19
Total Profit:		\$	1,382.96

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made and seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report:

Sidewalk: Paul reported that he brought 30 more pavers in to be engraved. Samples of stone were shown to be used for 16-inch square pavers to be placed in the center of each octagon and engraved referencing both donation of the mill to OBHS and referencing the donation of the Eskolin House. Jim suggested unpolished stone. A motion to purchase the stone was made by Shirley, seconded by Eddie. Motion carried. A motion to have the stones engraved at a cost of less than \$100 was made by Audrey, seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

Audrey has placed articles in the papers about the mill being open for tours every third Saturday during the

summer. Shirley will get a container of merchandise ready for these days. Tour guides will be Jim, Paul and possibly Harry and Earl. Kathy Colby has mowed the mill site a second time.

Grounds:

Flagpole: There was a discussion about having the light for the flag wired electrically rather than using a solar light. Ron will check on the cost of materials and report back. The switch would be on the inside of the house. Motion to go electric made by Ron, seconded by Eddie. Motion carried.

Memorial Tree: The Memorial tree was dedicated at 4:30 p.m. the day of the Midsummer event. The names of Margie Koskie and Arnold Perala were added to the list. A more permanent sign should be made. Jim suggested that the trophy store at the Mariner Mall might be a place we could acquire it. No action taken.

Field Stone/benches: Two benches have been made by Ryland Colby at a

cost of \$200. They have been installed and secured. Will be covered by grant money, as will the Eskolin House door.

Eskolin House: The door is 95% done, but is not a Dutch door as had been planned. The door is cedar with panels. There was a discussion on whether to leave it as is or try to make it into a Dutch door. A motion was made by Jim, seconded by Ron to use the door as made. Motion carried.

The cupboard to be installed in the lean-to is at Alice's, but needs a back

installed on it. We are still looking for a base cabinet and counter to fit.

Mill Merchandise: Smaller size vests are needed. Shirley will order them as well as hats in pink and blue. Vest purchase price will be \$19. A motion allowing Shirley to make this order was made by Shirley, seconded by Audrey. Motion carried.

Windmill History Booklet: The book is nearly complete. The cost will be \$3.50 each if 500 are purchased. Jim is trying to find a picture of Jacob Tapola for the book.

Next Mill Committee Meeting: None set.

Fund Raising Committee: B & B Accounting has audited the books at no cost. This will be acknowledged in our next newsletter.

Archives Committee: No report.

Membership Committee: It was explained that all memberships run from January 1 until December 31. New members get a break as their memberships run until December 31st of the following years. A new member is **Walter**

Erkkila. Welcome!

Taylor's Bridge: No progress.

Pollari Gift Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: A special meeting to make the budget for next year will be called by Ron.

Newsletter: 75 copies are complimentary.

Next Board Meeting: After annual meeting to elect officers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting: August 8th at 12:00 noon at Amnicon Falls State Park. A motion was made by Shirley to purchase brats and buns, seconded by Audrey. Motion carried. Paper products will be provided. Bring your own beverage. The shelter has been reserved at a cost of \$45.00. Bill Eldred will give a short talk. The Board meets after to elect officers. **Communications:** State Local History meeting is in Wausau, October 9-10.

Bike Tour: Up to 450 bicyclists are touring the area on July 15 and will stop at the Mill. Jim will buy water and pop to sell, and Jim, Alice, and Ron volunteered to be there.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Audrey, seconded by Nancy. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Gronquist, Acting Secretary

Area Gistory:

No. 69

The following is the August image and text from our 2009 OBHS History Calendar.



8. John Anttila Stationary Hay Baler (Press) (?At the John L. Davis-Peter Olson-Dan Baxter Farm in Maple). c. 1915.

There were three early Anttila families in Maple: Henry (arrived 1887) (later Antilla), John H. (c.1904), and Hugo (1929), none related. In this picture we see John H. He and wife Pauliina (Saarimaa) were parents of the late Lillian Jarvi, Olga Vanhala, Martha Ketola, Sigrid Ahola, Helen Brown, and Jacob or Jack (mail carrier), Matt, Edward, Einard, and the surviving Hilda Korpie, Eino, and David Anttila. Most early Maple farmers lifted their hay unbaled into their barn lofts, with the earliest settlers stacking their hay in neat piles in their fields. Baling was done to make handling the hay easier and to compress it to save space. Another reason for baling was to make easier the marketing of excess hay. In early days a baler or hay press of any kind was a luxury, and a baler might be jointly owned, or become a means for custom work. The horse would provide power to the baler by walking in a circle. If this is the John L. Davis-Olson-Baxter farm, John and his crew are doing custom baling. Civil War Veteran John L. Davis homesteaded the forty acres facing Highways 2 and F, now the site of Diamond Design (the former Maple Coop Store) and Northwestern High School. (Courtesy of Elvie Lehtimaki, and Francis Orval. Jim Pellman collection.)

- NOTICES -

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To B & B Accounting & Tax Services of Superior who has audited the books at no cost. To John Lundeen for his work on shutters and doors at the Eskolin House. To the many who continue to purchase our memorial pavers at the windmill. Check those installed. To Northland Reflections in Wood from West Duluth and Mike Booker who continues to do a great job at a bargain price. To Robert Olson, son of Richard and Laina Olson, who has provided a box of historical pictures. Again, to member Gene Davidson for his recent family membership renewal, and for recollections and Windmill Tour used in our new Davidson Windmill History. To cousins, member Bruce Carlson and Judy Lahti, for historical materials on Maple & Cloverland. To members Paul and Delores Hakkila on donations of historical photos and materials, and paver purchases. To Clynt Schmidt who now owns the Art Olson farm for bringing his extended family on a recent visit and tour of the Davidson Windmill and Eskolin House. To Alice Christensen and Hope Swenson as they retire again after two terms on the Board.

CONGRATULATIONS: To the **Criders** of Green River, Wyoming on the marriage of daughter, **Jen**, and thanks for book purchases. To **Mark** and **Marsha** (**Alexson**) **Burdick** on their 25th wedding anniversary. To retiring Maple Postmaster, member **Patrick Carter**. To member **Janine Seis** on her retirement as Lake Nebagamon's Postmaster. To members **Shirley** (**Kankas**) and **George Umolac** on their recent marriage. (Thanks for their donated table and chairs.)

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To member Minerva Johnson as she continues to mend, and her partners in the Brule History Research Group as they finalize their huge effort. To member Doug Seis after recent surgery.

OUR SYMPATHY: To the family and friends of **Walter L. LaJoie** of Superior, 87, late of Duluth, who passed away on July 24th, brother of **Judy Coda** of Maple, and family and friends of **Rose M. (Koehler) Raunio**, 82, widow of **George**, who passed away on June 20th.

... and who have we missed or forgotten?

CALENDAR

August 8, Saturday, Noon. OBHS Annual Meeting. Pavilion, Amnicon Falls State Park. Bill Eldred to speak. Board meeting afterward to elect officers.

September 5, Saturday, 9-3 p.m. Archaeology Festival, Glensheen Mansion Duluth. Flintknapping, pottery.

September 7, Monday, Labor Day.

September 14, Monday, 1 p.m. OBHS Archive Committee meets at Pellmans.

September 15, Tuesday. Deadline for October OBHS News.

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. Our contact button is now "hot." Thanks to Earl and Jon.

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 Maple, WI 54854