

# OBHS News

Volume XI, Issue 5

October 7, 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**NEXT OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, 6 p.m.**  
**To be held at the Middle River Health Care Facility in Hawthorne. We will have a slide program on the history of the facility before our business meeting. ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME.**  
**Our thanks to Mary Wester for making arrangements.**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello everyone.

It's a pleasure to be President of our wonderful group again. We have certainly prospered with many major achievements since I first joined our group. Of course, we have many volunteers who deserve this credit, and our group appreciates and has utilized the talents and gifts of many individuals along the way. And we always appreciate the acts of kindness in providing food during workdays at the mill site: Mary Ann Gronquist, from our board, and Alice Christensen, past president, have graciously and promptly fed us numerous times. Many times we thought a project wouldn't take very long; right Ron H.?

Oh how wonderful it is to see the American flag flying at the windmill site. It's quite the view when you come around the corner and see it slightly waving, especially at night when it's aglow. I admit I don't care for the distraction of the bright light off the storage shed, so we'll see if our group, the Old-Brule Heritage Society, can come up with a solution. Let's hope no one steals this flag like they did the last one. And in September, we also had the pleasure at our site of hosting two tour buses of visiting HCE homemakers; who were holding their annual State convention in Superior this year.

While traveling to Poplar Hardware, I stopped and visited with Delbert Carlson and his wife when I saw them working in their garden. Delbert announced he would soon be stepping down from his Lakeside Cemetery duties. I was admiring his flowers and as I was leaving he explained how Verner Granroth temporarily gave him the cemetery records and he later became Lakesides' sexton.

We lost another valuable elder from the Lakeside community; Nelma Colby, who I remember as a "tough cookie," meaning a lady who worked hard to provide though not having much. Her caring character brings back similar memories of my grandmother, who could be stubborn at times. I've learned so much by taking the time to listen to the history and knowledge of these loved ones from and near Lakeside, and it was absolutely a great pleasure to gather the data for our town centennial book with residents who shared both our towns' uplifting experiences, and its sad, tragic events.

In a similar project, the Town of Amnicon is in its final stage of gathering family history and photos for the publishing their book for their Towns' centennial celebration. Dennis Hill, Alice Christianson and Jeannie Castleberry are on this book committee, members I personally know.

Over in Cloverland, Jane Pearson Grimsrud, with contributions from Judy Lahti, recently finished a book pertaining to the history of the Town of Cloverland. This well-written book includes many historical family documents and photos revolving around the Pearson family-life within their community. Her family was among a small American Swedish group that left Wahoo, Nebraska, to farm the clay soils of Cloverland. Her father was Edwin Pearson who played a vital role in the creation of Northwestern High School.

Lastly, I read in the newspaper that our Town of Lakeside will be holding a special meeting to finally begin to resolve the issues of the historic Sleepy Valley Loop Bridge. I'm eager to see what the neighbors down in the valley have to say. Or maybe someone in our town can bring forward a viable solution, either to raze or to save the neglected historic Pony Truss bridge. I'm optimistic our Town Board will use diligence as they address this sensitive matter.

Sincerely,  
Paul Colby

**FROM THE EDITOR:**

At a recent archiving session, one of our ever upbeat senior stalwarts, Elvie Winkka Agacki, with surprising seriousness, said she was depressed, and rightly so. Her project for several weeks with sister Irene Brazill and niece Nancy Wiitala, had been the recording of clipped obituaries. "I knew all of these people," she said, looking at a box full of these records of local lives and their passing.

Local history is vastly more than the collecting and recording of cold facts. The unique and particular joys and tragedies associated with each of these shared lives remain close in our experience. We carry these memories near our hearts until our own final parting. Elvie is lately recovering from an unrelated health issue and we want to wish her a full and speedy recovery.

-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 (2006, 2007) 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](mailto:musketeer6@cheqnet.net), and phone: 715-363-2549, or check our Web site at [www.oldbrule.org](http://www.oldbrule.org). Shipping and handling costs are \$3.50 each. Our 2010 calendar is now in the works.

**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 October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Unapproved ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY  
Amnicon Town Hall, Town of Amnicon  
August 8, 2009, 12:00 p.m.**

Because of inclement weather, the meeting was held at the Amnicon Town Hall. OBHS began the afternoon with a moment of silence for those we have lost during the past year and for those serving in the military service who are still in harm's way. A potluck lunch followed, with brats and dogs supplied by OBHS.

Bill Eldred, Park Ranger at Amnicon Falls State Park, presented an update of information and activities at the park. There are plans underway to build a new office site at Amnicon Falls State Park, with a goal of funding in the 2011-13 state budget. DNR supports the project. The heart of the park would stay the same, as would the entrance down the hill, but the office would most likely be located closer to Highway U. Mr. Eldred expressed his desire to add on a heated shop to the office, maximizing efficiency. However, the Department of Administration requires the hiring of an architect and engineer.

Camping is up this year, and the park may reach the highest attendance reached in 2000. The sticker sales are about the same as previously, but the campsites have been full on weekends. On a good day, about 1,000 people visit the park. The annual visitor count is about 92,000. Annual revenue totals approximately \$86,000. Some state parks will need to reduce their operation, and some seasonal rangers will be furloughed with hours cut. Because Amnicon Falls State Park has generated more money than it spends, Mr. Eldred stated that it should not see any reduction.

Mr. Eldred explained that there are some opportunities for volunteerism at state parks, with campground hosts being one of the most common. Pattison Park uses a naturalist and interpreter, but because Amnicon Falls requires very light

maintenance there is less need for volunteers. Occasionally, students from Superior High School have completed community projects at Amnicon Falls.

The park removed dumpsters years ago and began an emphasis on recycling. The "take-in, take-out" notion has not worked quite as well as hoped. There is pressure to discontinue the relatively inexpensive use of plastic bags.

Jim Pellman questioned Mr. Eldred regarding the prospects for using historic Taylor's Bridge (found and preserved in the yard of Dave Williams) within the park, something OBHS had proposed to him in the recent past. He did not think it could be used (principally due to cost), and felt that it would be an uphill struggle to get it placed within the park. Mr. Eldred appears to be focusing on the new Headquarters project, in hopes of seeing it completed before he retires.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Alice called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** As of July 31, 2009, Ron reported the following balances at Poplar National Bank of Commerce: Checking - \$1988.92; Savings - \$4531,52; Certificate of Deposit - \$5485.63. Shirley made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, which was seconded by Mary Ann. The report was approved as presented.

**MINUTES:** Jim Pellman read the minutes of the last Annual Meeting which was held on August 16, 2008, at Lake Nebagamon. Hope moved to approve these minutes; Nancy W. seconded this motion. The minutes were approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Finance Committee Report:** Ron presented a proposed budget for the upcoming year prepared by the Finance Committee (Ron, Alice, Shirley, and Jim). In general, a multiplier was used on the 2008-09 budget to proposed budget figures. Certain reductions and increases were explained. OBHS will recoup some printing expenses with the sale of Windmill booklets, for which \$500 were received in a grant from ConocoPhillips. The total budget of \$8250 is about what we had two years ago. Jim thought we might fare better than projected, but thinks the cautious approach is good. Audrey moved that we accept the budget as presented. After a second by Ina, the budget was approved.

### **Davidson Windmill Committee Reports:**

**Events: Tours on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Month:** Same volunteers for August as July.

**Antique Car Visit:** Jim read the letter sent by this group of pre-1916 antique car owners thanking us for our efforts in hosting their visit to the windmill. They enclosed a check for \$100. Two photographs taken during their visit were passed around. Alice plans to frame them to be posted on the wall of the Eskolin House.

**Touring Bicyclists:** Coming from Port Wing, based regionally at Telemark Lodge, the touring bicyclists visited the windmill but their itinerary did not indicate that it was an "eating stop". However, the cyclists came hungry. It was noted that, should the windmill be a stop in the future, OBHS should be prepared to serve food. Toilet supplies needed to be checked in advance.

**Tourist Communication:** Janet Helander from Grantwood, WI, who had attended the July Saturday tour, sent correspondence praising the tour in general. She suggested that coffee be served during these tours and that a hand sanitizer be added to the biffy wall. She and her husband John have joined OBHS with a Family Membership, and also provided two old Windmill photos.

**Sidewalk:** About 250 pavers have been ordered to date. It is planned that those that have been engraved be permanently installed by October. Each paver has its own number. Members expressed satisfaction working with the engraver, Mike Booker, from *Northland Reflections in Wood*.

**Biffy Storage Building:** David Anderson of Anderson Septic Pumping in Maple has been pumping the biffy at no charge. Maintaining proper water level is important. Jim suggested that rain gutters be placed on the storage building. Water could be collected in a rain barrel to be used for filling the biffy and for watering plants around the grounds. Alice noted that gutters are also needed for the Eskolin House. Ron has installed shelving in the storage building.

**Grounds:** Kathy Colby has been contracted to cut grass around the mill site at a rate of \$50 per mowing, not to exceed \$300 annually. She has expressed a wish to whack the grass and weeds inside of the fence by the windmill; a key will be provided.

**Flagpole:** Ron noted that the plan is to dig a trench and lay the wire needed to light the flagpole in the next couple of weeks. He has all the necessary materials. The flagpole may need to be cleaned before it is painted. An internal light switch will be needed, with options for both automatic and controlled lighting. Ron is wiring from the house to the storage building that will serve as a base for the lighting for the pole. It was suggested that motion light be installed for persons using the biffy.

**Memorial Tree:** A tamarack tree was dedicated at Midsummer in memory of the following: Cassius Christensen, Margie Koskie, Kenneth Magnuson, Arnold Perala, Rueben Wiitala, and Paul Williams. Audrey questioned if a photograph of the memorial presentation was available. Mary Ann had one that might be used.

**Fieldstone and Benches:** Stone has been moved into place and benches and tables are on site. Ryland Colby has done a nice job. Thanks to Paul for obtaining the ConocoPhillips grant that made this project possible and for completing all necessary paperwork after completion.

**Eskolin House:** John Lundeen has completed the door, and it is installed. A screen door is also in place.

**Mill Merchandise:** Shirley reported that some children's clothing is now available in sizes S, M, and L (hooded sweatshirts for \$20 and plain sweatshirts for \$15). New hats are \$12. Attractive vests in light gray, navy blue, and black cost \$24.

**Davidson Windmill History Book:** Copies of *The Davidson Windmill, The Natural and Historical Setting and Significance of the Finnish-American Landmark* are now available. This book was written by Jim Pellman, with the last chapter titled "A Windmill Tour and Other Recollections" contributed by Eugene Davidson, grandson of the builder. The cost of the book is \$8.00, including tax. Mailing costs would add an additional \$2 per book. Old-Brule Heritage Society is proud to be listed as the publisher of this excellent and accurate history of the windmill. Our many thanks to Jim for his diligent research and writing. Also, we thank Paul Colby for the special Community Volunteer Grant he obtained from ConocoPhillips, Inc. that was used for publishing costs.

**Next Mill Committee Meeting/Work Day:** Scheduled for Monday, August 17, at 9:00 a.m. Come prepared to work. The next mill committee meeting will take place during this day. (It was noted that the mill appears to need paint. Painting is scheduled every third year and will be addressed in 2010.)

**Fund-Raising Committee:** Thanks to B & B for donating their service of auditing our books.

**Archives:** Next meeting is scheduled for September 14.

**Pollari Memorial Gift Committee:** Lois reported that she wants to hold meetings at her house, but needs someone with technical computer expertise to complete necessary work. Jim said we could put things in with half-tone, not solid lines. Abandoned railroad grades are critical, so we must convert road crossings to solid lines now. Lois said that culling the 300 different monuments that have been identified to only 50 that would be titled and described is an undertaking that needs Jim's input. Harry could also help with this task. Audrey stated that the big decision involves selection of what to put in. Jim stated that it needs to be designed to look right; he envisions that it would look like a roadmap, approximately 22" by 28", which could be folded or rolled up. Randy Jones, who is helping with the project, is waiting for our direction. Jim said that, with the completion of the windmill booklet, he has more time now to spend on this project.

**Publicity/Advertising Committee:** Audrey expressed her desire to retire from this position. After having served in this role for many years, she would like someone else to take over. Ina Erickson has agreed to help and a gradual transition of duties is in place.

**Publications Committee:** Over 180 editions of the 2009 Calendar have been purchased. Jim suggested that 250 might be the number to be ordered in the future. Audrey made a motion, seconded by Lois, that the calendar be an annual project. The motion passed.

**Membership Committee:** Members are advised to begin their record keeping for volunteer hours for 2010. Audrey is mailing out membership cards.

**Brule History Research Group:** Work continues. Laila M. reported that Jim has given them valuable assistance. They need technical help at this time. Nan Wisherd, Cable Publishing Company, has expressed an interest in publishing their history book(s).

**Taylor's Bridge:** Alice has the sign and she and Eddie will get it done.

**Clarification of Officer Job Description:** Jim is working on this project.

**Next Board Meeting:** A meeting will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting to select officers. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the Eskolin House.

**Next General Meeting:** October 14 at the Middle River Health Facility. Mary Wester will arrange the program.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Donation to Amnicon Falls State Park:** Hope moved that we make a donation to Amnicon Falls State Park in the amount of \$45.00. This money had been previously committed to the park for reserving the pavilion. Jim seconded the motion, and it was passed.

**Yunker's Promotion:** Shirley reported that in the past OBHS has made \$200-300 by participating in this promotion; organizations can sell coupon books for \$5 that allow customers to get \$10 on most merchandise. This year there also is a preview day from 6-9 p.m. that gives customers 30% off on merchandise. Hope said that this was a good way for OBHS to earn money and generate publicity. Shirley will check out exclusions of the certificate and a decision about participation this year will be made at the next meeting.

**Town of Amnicon Centennial History Publication:** Dennis said that much progress has been made, crediting Jim's past work for being a significant resource. Jeannie Castleberry is compiling the book as she did previously for the Town of Lakeside. They hope to have the book ready for publishing by the end of October. Paul moved and Audrey seconded the motion to allow the group to use one of the Old-Brule Heritage Society's ISBN numbers. The motion passed.

**Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education (HCE) Tour Request:** Mary Ann reviewed the letter she received from this group requesting two tours of the windmill and house on Monday, September 14 during their state convention at Barker's Island Inn. They will provide some compensation. The first tour group would arrive shortly after 12:30 p.m. Lois made a motion, seconded by Eddie, that we provide the tours. The motion passed. Sue and Ron will be

participating tour members. We will have merchandise available. Jim and Harry have volunteered to lead the tours. Seating will be needed for up to 50 people.

**Nominations to fill Board Positions:** Both Shirley Umolac and Mary Ann Gronquist have agreed to a renewal of a second term of two years. Hope Swenson and Alice Christensen's terms are completed. Karin Colby and Ina Erickson have been nominated as candidates to fill these vacancies. Audrey made a motion to accept both of these nominations that was seconded by Irene P. The nominations were approved.

**Recognition of Service:** Retiring members Hope and Alice received certificates for their contributions as Board Members these past four years. Thanks to Alice for her excellent leadership in the role of President this past year. Members' volunteer hours were also recognized. Hours they have submitted: Alice C.: 200; Barb G.: 59; Earl G.: 170; Mary Ann G.: 64.5; Audrey H.: 116; Ron H.: 110; Delores P.: 80; Jim P.: 364; Lila R.-200; and Nancy W.: 116.5. Special thanks to Audrey Hakkila for continuing her service as Group Historian.

**State Local History Meeting:** Scheduled for October 9-10 in Wausau.

**Birthday Celebration:** Lois Pollari invited everyone to a buffet dinner on September 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake Nebagamon Auditorium in celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Nancy to adjourn the meeting. Elvie seconded this motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lila M. 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, 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](http://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 (\$2.00 shipping).

#### Unapproved BOARD MINUTES OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY Amnicon Town Hall, Town of Amnicon August 8, 2009

**Board Members Present:** Irene Brazill, Karin Colby, Paul Colby, Ina Erickson, Mary Ann Gronquist, Audrey Hakkila, Ron Hendrickson, Jim Pellman, Lila Ronn, Shirley Umolac, Eddie Walman, Harry Wester, Nancy Wiitala

**CALL TO ORDER:** First Vice President Shirley Umolac called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICER POSITIONS:** The following Board members accepted nominations for officer positions for the 2009-10 year:

Paul Colby, President; Shirley Umolac, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Harry Wester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Lila Ronn, Secretary; Ron Hendrickson, Treasurer.

**APPROVAL OF OFFICER NOMINATIONS:** The above slate of nominations was approved by acclamation. (Unchanged from last term except for Paul Colby as President, replacing Alice Christensen. Our deep thanks to her.)

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lila M. Ronn, Secretary

**Unapproved BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY  
September 9, 2009**

**Eskolin House, Town of Lakeside**

**Members Present:** President Paul Colby, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Shirley Umolac, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Harry Wester, Secretary Lila Ronn, Treasurer Ron Hendrickson, Irene Brazill, Karin Colby, Ina Erickson, Mary Ann Gronquist, Audrey Hakkila, Eddie Walman, Nancy Wiitala.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Paul called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ron reported the following balances at Poplar National Bank of Commerce effective August 31, 2009: Checking Account: 1,336.30; Savings: \$ 4,532.29; and Certificate of Deposit: \$ 5,485.63.

**MINUTES:** Audrey moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting from July 8, 2009, as printed in the August OBHS News. Shirley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Davidson Windmill Committee Report:**

**Sidewalk:** Paul delivered a 16 x 16 inch granite paver to Mike Booker. Jim has provided Booker with the script to be engraved: one acknowledging the origin of the Eskolin house and the second including information about the dedication of the windmill. Mike Booker provided two smaller pieces of granite at no cost to practice the engraving.

The owner of X-treme Granite, Don Barry, donated the granite to be used, "American Mahogany", a South Dakota Granite (sample shown earlier to the group). The retail value of this granite is \$158.25. Paul presented Mr. Barry with a Windmill History Book. Ron made a motion to donate a paver in Don Barry's name. After a second by Ina, the motion carried. Our time goal is the first weekend in October (Apple Festival Weekend).

**Biffy/Storage Building:** Don Anderson from Anderson Septic Pumping recently serviced the biffy. Ron, Harry, and Paul have been working on plumbing for the rain barrels. Harry has riveted the gutters, which were donated by Mike Lowe.

**Grounds/Open Mill Hours:** The Davidson Mill will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19 (the last regularly scheduled 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the season). Discussion followed about the special tours to take place on Monday, September 12, for the Wisconsin Homemaker's group. Harry, Paul, and Jim will be available to present the tours. Mary Ann has brought sufficient chairs for the tour participants. In case of inclement weather, the Board decided that participants would not need additional cover, but could move between their tour bus and either the mill or Eskolin House.

**Windmill and Eskolin House Grounds Maintenance:** One more mowing will be done.

**Flagpole:** Only the bottom of the flagpole needs to be painted. The flag lighting plan includes motion lights to illuminate the Eskolin House entrance. Paul and Eddie will meet at 6:00 a.m. on September 11 to raise the flag. OBHS will also fly the flag on September 14<sup>th</sup> for our tour groups. Volunteers will arrive at 12:00 noon on that day to accomplish this task.

**Eskolin House:** Harry and Ron mounted the cupboards in the storage room of Eskolin House. Alice cleaned them.

**Mill Merchandise:** The new vests (gray, dark blue, and black) are available at \$24. Children's sweatshirts are also for sale. The new Mill history books have been added to our mill merchandise.

**Windmill History Booklet:** Silver Tonsberg has printed this booklet, written by Jim with a chapter by Gene Davidson. OBHS ordered 300; they are selling for \$8.00, or \$10.00 with shipping. A \$500 grant from ConocoPhillips is acknowledged in the book.

**Next Mill Committee Meeting:** A Mill Committee Meeting/Workday has been scheduled for Thursday, September 17, beginning at 10:00. Mary Ann and Alice will work on cleaning and painting.

**Apple Festival Weekend:** The Windmill will be open on Friday from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 11:00 – 4:00 p.m. These are the same hours as last year. The bake sale will take place on Saturday only. Ina will write the publicity for this event. Audrey made a motion to add an additional mowing in preparation for this weekend; Harry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Fund-raising Committee:** Because of a reported general lack of interest in the Younkers' coupon sales, Harry made a motion, seconded by Irene, that OBHS not participate in this promotion this year.

**Archives:** The next meeting is on September 14.

**Pollari Memorial Gift Committee:** Map work is again in progress.

**Publicity/Advertising:** Ina E. has taken on the responsibility of Publicity, replacing Audrey who served in this capacity for many years. Mary Ann continues working on the advertising.

**Publications Committee:** Calendars for 2010 were authorized at the annual meeting. Mailings to businesses will go out soon. Some 2009 calendars are left.

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

**Brule History Group:** Jim and Laila M. toured the LeClair site on 09/08 with Adrian and Kathryn Stormo and Diane and David Rauner.

**Taylor's Bridge:** Alice and Eddie are working this task.

**Clarification of Officer Job Description:** Jim is working on this project.

**Next Board Meeting:** 6:00 p.m., November 11, 2009 at the Eskolin House.

**Next General Meeting:** Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. We will meet in the Activity Room at the Middle River Health Care Center. Mary W. is making arrangements. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Jane Pearson Grimsrud Cloverland history book sale prospect:** Jim has a digital copy of this book and supports her offer to OBHS to sell this publication.

**Communications:** The State Local History meeting is scheduled for October 9-10 in Wausau. Wirtanen Farm Days (approximately 20 miles north of Duluth) is being held on September 12. A thank-you note has been sent to the Town of Lakeside for their contribution of \$40.00 in memory of Elmer Colby.

**Sympathy and Encouragements:** A wish for speedy recovery is sent to Elvie Agacki, Donald Anderson, and Melvin Walman following their surgeries.

**Other New Business:** Ron reported that, after studying our Wilson Mutual Insurance Policy (Holden), he has added the Eskolin House to the policy. He questioned why our current policy includes an annual payment of \$ 144.00 for commercial property coverage. He will obtain more information and report to the Board at the next meeting.

After discussion about pest and bug problems at the Eskolin House and the Windmill, Ron made a motion that we purchase bug bombs to be used before the Apple Festival weekend. Audrey seconded the motion; it was passed. Ron will purchase six bombs. Harry offered to perform the service.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Nancy moved that we adjourn the meeting. Following a second by Karin, the meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Lila M. Ronn, Secretary

## Area History:

### No. 70

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

#### 10. World War I Soldiers from North of Maple in Old Brule. Unknown Location, August 24, 1918.

In April of 1917 the United States entered World War I. With hostilities beginning on July 28, 1914, Europe was already weary with war by the time the Yanks entered the battle in support of Britain, France and Russia, after over two and one-half years of struggle against Germany and its allies. Armistice Day finally came on November 11, 1918. While the men were away Miss Aili Beck of Maple faithfully wrote the name and time of return for each of these friends and local conscripts on the back of her photograph. The men from left to right and the date of return for each follows: Andrew Laine came back middle of December 1918; Victor Beck came home April 25, 1919; "Willie" (William Carvala) left Superior July 23, 1918, then Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, August 21, 1918, and came home June 7, 1919; John Raunio came home May 21, 1919; and John Heikki came home June 14, 1919. All returned safely, but John Heikki suffered the lifetime respiratory effects of a mustard gas attack and was hard of hearing. As a sidelight, in 1918 the Spanish Influenza Pandemic affected over 4,000 troops at Camp Grant, taking the lives of over 1,000 soldiers between the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and the first of October. Ultimately 116,708 American troops were killed. Twenty million military and civilian deaths resulted from the war, and its peace treaty, which changed



the shape of Europe, lit the long fuse to World War II. (*Aili Beck Soyring Collection.*)

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- NOTICES -

**THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS:** To **John Altshool** and **Dr. Frank Telewski** for materials and insights on the HN&S (Hawthorne, Nebagamon & Superior), the W&NW (Washburn & Northwestern) and other logging railroad materials. To the hard working crew that made the Apple Festival Weekend a success at the Windmill.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To **Delores Pellman** and the **Jack Pellman clan** on the rapid arrival of four baby great-grandchildren (in four different families).

**ENCOURAGEMENTS:** To members **Elvie Agacki**, and **Ina Erickson**, as they mend after treatments.

**OUR SYMPATHY:** To wife **Wendy**, sons **Travis** and **Taylor**, and family and friends of **Dick Anderson**, 53, who died at their home in Maple on September 7, 2009. To family and friends of **Elmer Colby**, 91, who died August 12, 2009 at Middle River. To family and friends of **Nelma Colby**, 88, who died in St. Luke's on September 2, 2009. . . . *and who have we missed or forgotten?*

CALENDAR

**October 12**, Monday, 1 p.m. Columbus Day. Archives at Pellmans'.

**October 14**, Wednesday, 6 p.m. OBHS General Meeting. Middle River Health Care Facility, Hawthorne.

**November 3**, Tuesday, Election Day.

**November 16**, Monday. Deadline for December *OBHS News*.

**November 26**, Thursday. Thanksgiving Day.

**OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY WEB SITE ON LINE**

The Website Committee has been building up our Web site ([www.oldbrule.org](http://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.

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