

OBHS News

Volume XI, Issue 6

December 9, 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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NEXT OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Our CHRISTMAS MEETING, *rescheduled* to DECEMBER 16TH, 2009, 6 p.m.

To be held at the Brule Town Hall. After our meal Jim Pellman will give a power point presentation on the pictures in the OBHS 2010 Calendar, followed by our business meeting.

Our gift exchange will close out the evening (\$5 to \$10 gifts marked man, women or either).

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

Our thanks to Laila Magnuson for making hall arrangements, to Shirley Kankas-Umolac for her decorations, to our kitchen hosts, and to all who bring food to share.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Everyone,

I certainly enjoy watching all the progress as individuals were still haying after the first frosts and were plowing their fields in preparation for next year's crops. Sadly, however, a good hayfield in our town (Saalasti/Olson) is being converted into unnatural wetlands.

Winter has definitely arrived. Most appreciated was our extended fall season here in far northwestern Wisconsin. I'm still hearing many deer hunting stories from neighbors and friends. Despite deer numbers down, my young son had his first kill. He requested more venison bacon from Hursh's Meats in Poplar.

We also feel for those who have had recent losses of loved ones in our communities. May they find comfort and relief from their times of sadness and emptiness, and the sharp pangs on this life journey. Our town lost another remarkable individual and Old-Brule member. I met Walter Erkkila eight years ago while gathering Lakeside history. He was 84 then. I can still hear his voice sharing new and familiar stories. His wry humor won't be forgotten.

There's a newly formed committee in Lakeside that will be meeting during the winter months. The committee will be addressing issues pertaining to the Sleepy Valley Loop Bridge, which has rested over the Middle River for almost 100 years. This Pony Truss Bridge was built in 1910 by the Worden-Allen Company of Milwaukee. This bridge is two decades older than the Queen Truss Post Bridge (Taylor's Bridge) removed a few years ago located upstream on the same river on the Bayfield Road in the Town of Amnicon. The Committee's problem-solving abilities will hopefully bring forward the best potential local options and solutions for decisions to be made at our annual meeting.. Any input from the outside will be welcomed.

Speaking of the Queen Truss Post Bridge, which rests in the yard of the Dave Williams family, a new and weather resistant historic sign was purchased for the original spot of interest. We need to thank Alice Christianson, Ron Hendrickson and Eddie Walman for their efforts with sign, and the Douglas County Historical Society for kindly helping with half the costs.

And lastly, I'd like to recognize Hope Swenson for her contributions over the years. Her ideas, suggestions and helpfulness have been appreciated. She's a giving and generous person and someone our community can be proud of.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Sincerely,

Paul Colby

FROM THE EDITOR:

There is little in the Northland more humbling than a good old early blizzard. Ten inches down and ten more to come, and the wind and drifts are rising, and the temperature is dropping like a rock as a Polar Express moves in. With all of our systems in place we hunker down to calmly wait it out. Then we notice at dawn that the carefully draped blue tarp has ripped loose from several of its moorings and it's soaring over the woodpile. It is time to bundle up, find a straw broom, a hank of rope, and head out into the swirling white to lash down the tarp and reclaim our serenity (and our dignity if the neighbors are watching).

This breakdown of systems isn't quite on a par with the investment of hours in a newsletter, only to have something go mysteriously wrong with the old Perfect Works program as you're cutting and pasting text from someone else's word file, then to notice that your cursor has disappeared, and to find that everything has locked up, even the system back ups, and all of your hours and refining of thoughts is gone! Who do you sue! If you're a cursing person, this is the time. Curse and cursor...hmmm. ...ya, same root.

And so it is with the careful plans for our meetings, and school schedules. A good storm reminds us of our true place in Nature. All our fleeting synthetic brittle ordering means nothing when God seeks to act, contrary to our designs and carefully planned escapes. A blizzard can give us perspective on the need to conform more closely to the natural order, in Nature, and within and among ourselves, so that we individually and collectively bend (postpone) instead of breaking. We need to be ready when the lights flicker and the voltage drops, even at twenty below. We will smile when the robins return. -Jim Pellman

2006 to 2010 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.

The 2009 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendars are still available at \$7.00 each. Our earlier calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2006, 2007, 2008) in limited numbers. The 2010 calendar will soon be available from O-BHS members and at limited local business outlets for \$8.00. 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: December 14th, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

Unapproved GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Middle River Health and Rehabilitation Facility, Town of Hawthorne

October 14, 2009

Old-Brule Heritage Society members welcomed the many residents of the Middle River Health and Rehabilitation Facility who joined them for the program about the history of the facility and for refreshments. Jim Pellman's presentation included information about relevant land transactions beginning in 1874 to the

current time. He also showed many slides of the buildings and site, the staff, and the residents over the years. Tom Perry, who was in attendance along with his wife Helen, provided additional information.

CALL TO ORDER: 1st Vice President Shirley Umolac called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

MINUTES: Alice moved to accept the minutes of the June 19, 2009 general meeting, which were published in the August OBHS Newsletter. Following a second by Earl, the minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported that as of September 30, 2009, OBHS had a balance of \$ 1,185.01 in its checking account, \$ 4,533.04 in savings, and \$ 5,536.70 in its Certificate of Deposit. These accounts are held at the National Bank of Commerce in Poplar.

Sales receipts for the Festival Weekend totaled \$677.25, compared to about \$1,000 last year. Merchandise sales totaled \$274 (about the same as last year); bakery/donations were \$328.25 (compared to about \$475 last year); and \$45.00 in memberships were collected. This year, fewer pavers were ordered during this weekend. Inclement weather had an effect on attendance and sales. After a motion by Alice and a second by Mary Ann to accept the treasurer's report as presented, it was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report:

Sidewalk: 277 pavers have been ordered. More will be coming soon to the site.

Grounds: No more mowing will be done until next year.

Signage: Future project.

Eskolin House: The cupboards are in but need to be cleaned and modified. The plan is to use old-fashioned linoleum for the counter tops. Doors are painted.

Mill Merchandise: The pink hats have all been sold; the sale of vests is moving slowly. Earl has featured a cap in blue on the OBHS website. Shirley and Alice plan to complete a merchandise inventory soon.

Windmill History Booklet: About ten of these were sold during the Festival Weekend.

Next Windmill Committee Meeting: No date is set. Work will commence in the spring.

Fund-Raising Committee Report: OBHS has decided to forgo participation in the Youngers' promotion this year.

Archives Committee: The next meeting will be held on October 26.

Website: Earl reported that he was unable to make changes on the website for a period of three weeks. Microsoft had dropped service to our program, creating a lack of log-on access. Earl contacted Jon Winter and the problem has been resolved. Earl has plans to put more pictures on the website. Thanks, Earl, for your time and creativity in keeping our website easy-to-use, attractive, and current.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: Jim reported that Randy Jones is enthusiastic to get going on the project again. It will be a winter project. Randy will be working from Harry's historical map to transfer railroad line information. Logging grades need to be confirmed. The map will be upgraded, including the addition of the Davidson Windmill. Work will resume when Randy is ready.

Publicity/Advertising Committee: Thanks to Ina and Mary Ann for the great job they are doing.

Calendars: In progress. Jim had suggested during the General Meeting in August that we order 250 for the next year.

Membership Committee: Dues collection for 2010 is in progress. Members are reminded to record volunteer hours on the blue forms.

Brule History Group: No report was received. Jim noted that the group is leaning toward having Nan Wisherd publish their work.

Taylor's Bridge: Ron Hendrickson said that two possibilities for getting the sign completed are being explored.

Clarification of Officer Job Description: On hold.

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

Next General Meeting: This will be our annual Christmas gathering. Shirley volunteered to do the decorations. It was decided to see if we could meet at the Brule Town Hall. Mary Ann will check with Minerva regarding arrangements.

Other Old Business: Mary Ann noted that there were a few items left from the bake sale, which have been frozen, and brought to this meeting for sale. All prices have been reduced at least 50%. Monies can be given to Ron. Mary Ann reported good attendance for the bake sale.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communication: Many dues have been received. Book orders have been slowly, but steadily coming in. Ron read several thank-you notes. Lois Pollari made a contribution to OBHS from money she received at her 80th birthday celebration. The Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education (HCE) sent correspondence thanking OBHS for the tour of the windmill and Eskolin House during their recent convention. According to Mary Ann, we received a \$100 donation from this group.

Publications: Jim reported that he is having a copy of Jane Pearson Grimsrud's book printed from the digital file copy that she has provided to enable our group to better assess and appreciate the work. The book is about the early days of Cloverland, her family, and their neighbors.

Audrey Hakkila noted that the Ed Pearson family provided Old-Brule Heritage Society with a booklet about the history of the old Parkland Hospital and other items for the archives. Thank you to the Ed Pearson family for this contribution!

Sympathy and Encouragement: OBHS sends sympathy to the family of Elna Rantala. Elvie A., who was in attendance at the meeting, demonstrated good recovery following her recent surgery.

ADJOURNMENT: Audrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Elvie. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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) 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 MEETING MINUTES**OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY**

Eskolin House, Town of Lakeside

November 11, 2009

Members Present: President Paul Colby, 2nd Vice-President Harry Wester, Secretary Lila Ronn, Treasurer Ron Hendrickson, Irene Brazill, Karin Colby, Mary Ann Gronquist, Audrey Hakkila, Jim Pellman, Eddie Walman, and Nancy Wiitala.

CALL TO ORDER: President Paul Colby called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported the following balances at Poplar National Bank of Commerce effective October 30, 2009:

Checking Account – \$ 1,879.60; Savings Account -- \$ 4,533.81; and Certificate of Deposit -- \$ 5,536.79. Jim moved that the report be approved, followed with a second by Audrey. The motion passed.

MINUTES: Audrey made a motion to approve the minutes of the last Board Meeting held on September 9, 2009, as printed in the OBHS News of October 7, 2009. Audrey moved that these minutes be approved and Mary Ann seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

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

Sidewalk -- Paver orders now number 291. Ron recently picked up 21 of the completed ones. Audrey noted that some pavers are not organized together as families wish.

Biffy/Storage Building – Lighting, plumbing, and shelving has been completed. Eddie will check with Don regarding the status of service for this building. If possible, the Board decided that the Biffy be left open during the winter, with no pumping done. Jim suggested some type of antifreeze such as that used in recreational vehicles.

Flagpole -- The flagpole light and a light for the parking lot have been used. Ron noted that a third motion light to illuminate the corner would be desirable.

Eskolin House: Cabinets have been moved into the storage room, but the upper units need to be repositioned six inches higher to allow for use of small appliances on the counter. Ron will be working on this task.

Mill Merchandise: A clothing inventory has been done. The Mill History books have been selling. Five have been consigned at the Northern Lights Bookstore in Canal Park. Jim reported that Barnes & Noble has been contacted. We are already on their website. They have requested that we send one book via UPS to their headquarters in New York. B&N would sell the books for 40% of their cost (\$4.80), leaving 60% of the proceeds for OBHS (\$4.80). Other vendors such as Northern Lights would be offered the same percentage.

Next Mill Committee Meeting: On call.

Insurance: Ron reported that we could drop the personal property coverage that we have with our current insurance carrier, Wilson Mutual. However, our annual premium would remain at \$406 per year. Ron has contacted an agent from State Farm, Matt Thorson, who quoted a policy cost for liability only of \$104 annually. Jim moved that OBHS obtain this policy from State Farm. Harry seconded the motion and it was passed.

Fund-raising Committee: The Wisconsin Arts Board in Superior is offering a Grant Writing workshop in Superior on Thursday, November 19, from 1-4 p.m. Jim reported that the Brule Research Group (Laila, Minerva, and Velma) has expressed an interest in attending. Ron will call Patricia Lenz to pre-register these three participants. Others who are interested in attending should call Ms. Lenz at 715-364-2453. Paul noted that late registrants would be able to attend as well.

Archives Committee: Next meeting is on Monday, November 23. Audrey noted that the Pearson family booklet on the Parkland Health Facility is a great resource. Several board members expressed an interest in reading it.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: Randy Jones plans to work on the map during the winter as time permits. He has expressed need for input regarding what is to be excluded. Jim suggested that all main lines and runs of the railroad should be included. Branches could be added later as "non-confirmed". The committee will meet once Randy has completed his work.

Publicity/Advertising: Ina (publicity) and Mary Ann (advertising) continue their outstanding work on this committee.

Publications Committee: As decided at the annual meeting, 250 calendars will be printed for 2010. Jim is working on the production and hopes to have them ready before the holidays. Mailings to businesses for donations for ads have been sent, and ten responses have come in to date. There are OBHS Calendars in inventory for all years from 2006. Jim will contact B & B to get information from this firm for an ad in our 2010 calendar; this action is a follow-up to an earlier decision by the board to recognize the complimentary audit B & B completed for us.

A copy of the Jane Pearson Grimsrud family and Cloverland history is ready to be picked up from Silver-Tonsberg for board review. If we order 10-20 spiral bound books, our cost would be \$22.00 per book. The publication would total 303 pages bound back to back, with a clear vinyl cover and spiral wire binding.

Membership Committee: Audrey has been mailing membership cards as dues continue to come in. Members are reminded to record their volunteer hours.

Brule History Group: Work continues.

Taylor's Bridge: The sign has been completed by Cricket Signs of Superior and was on display in the Eskolin House. It will be mounted into the frame and brought to the bridge site. An identical sign, only smaller in size, is available for use elsewhere.

Clarification of Officer Job Description: On hold.

Next Board Meeting: After a discussion about accessibility to the Eskolin House during the winter, Jim made a motion that OBHS pay \$50.00 to the Town of Lakeside, the current annual fee for driveway snowplowing. After a second by Nancy, the motion was approved. Harry and Jim will be responsible for snow-blowing the sidewalk to the house. The next board meeting will be held on January 13, 2010 at the Eskolin House.

Next General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held at the Brule Town Hall on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. We will begin with a potluck dinner, followed by a preview of our 2010 calendar by Jim. After the meeting, a Christmas gift exchange will take place. Members interested in participating in this exchange should bring a gift, valued between \$5-10, and labeled as male or female (or both). Shirley will be responsible for decorating.

Board members applauded Jim for his work on the calendar and for all that he does on a regular basis for OBHS.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communications: The New Holstein Historical Society noted in their recent newsletter that they had redone their website to provide linking potential and to allow users access to archive photos. Jim noted that he and Earl reviewed this user-friendly website and consider it a model for OBHS.

Sympathy and Encouragement: Wishes for improved health are sent to Philip Ketola, Darwin McConkie, Howard Hakkila, Marvin Colby, and Denise Dahlen.

Donations: Thanks to Jon Winter for his donation of a letter file and to Jim Pellman for two chairs to be used in the Eskolin House. Jackie Plunkett sent OBHS a packet of photos of our early years, beginning with the very first board meetings. Thank you, Jackie.

News: Members Janine and Doug Seis will be performing in the play "Fort Nebagamon" on November 13. Congratulations to member Patricia Luostari, for whom the new auditorium at NWHS has been named. Congratulations and best wishes to the NWHS football team.

Other New Business: Ron will revisit the process related to having the OBHS property re-zoned to commercial.

ADJOURNMENT: Audrey moved to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second by Jim. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Lila M. Ronn, Secretary

**Area History:
No. 71**

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

12. Amnicon Mine, 1900.

From the time of the first Euro-American visitors along the South Shore of Lake Superior in the 1600s the presence of native copper deposits was known, and excited interest. Native American extraction sites became the best evidence for the presence of significant copper amounts, such as those at Copper Creek now in Pattison State Park. Beginning in the 1840s mining was attempted along the Douglas-Brule Range, and later on further south in Douglas County. The deposits in Upper Michigan were well exploited very early, and miners from Michigan's Ontonagon District



were among the very first settlers in Superior in the early 1850s. Expectation was that successful copper mining was almost inevitable in the region. Success proved more difficult than predicted. Limited by the remote conditions and technology of the time, abandoned sites and mines came to dot the higher regions paralleling the lake shore. The Bardons were interested parties in the attempts made around 1900, including exploratory pits right in what is now Amnicon Falls State Park. This may have been activity at those excavations. *(Picture from John McCabe's Superior Annual 1900, photo-copy in OBHS Archives.)*

- NOTICES -

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To those sending their membership renewals, for themselves, and for others, especially to **Janie Ahola** for memberships and an unrestricted donation. To **Doris Perala** for her generous donation in memory of late husband **Arnold** & paver donations. To the Town of Lakeside for its annual donation which we apply to maintenance of the Davidson Windmill and grounds. To new family members: **Judy & Richard Lundeen & John M. & Jane A. Grimsrud** (daughters of **Mr. & Mrs. Ed Pearson**), and **Diane & Chris Werner** of Bristol, WI. To member **Janet Helander** of Brantwood for her kind note (who also caught a typo making Brantwood "Grantwood" & who encourages us to plant more memorial trees, which we are). To those **Local Businesses** who donated to help make our new calendars possible. We give them an ad space, and a new calendar.

CONGRATULATIONS: To the **Northwestern Tiger Boys Football Team** on their incredible season.

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

OUR SYMPATHY: To family and friends of so many who have passed away just recently, listed by name, age, home, date of passing: Lutheran Pastor **Dennis L. Bergeson**, 63, Solon Springs, Nov. 10, 2009; **Bonnie Kay (Sletten) Buck**, 59, Barnes, Oct. 27; **Denise (Colby) Dahlen**, 49, Mountain Iron, Minn., Nov. 14; **Collette Joyce Dembroski**, 70, Superior, formerly of Lake Nebagamon, Oct. 21; **Rudolph M. "Rudy" Erkkila**, 89, Superior, Oct. 10; **Walter A. Erkkila**, 92, Lakeside, Dec. 1; **Edna E. Frostman**, 86, Oulu, Nov. 27; **Philip A. Gustafson**, 79, of Superior, formerly of Poplar, Nov. 22; **Phillip R. "Phil" Ketola**, 73, Maple, Nov. 20; **Henry L. "Tiger" Nelson**, 66, Poplar, Nov. 20; **Elna L. Rantala**, 92, Maple, Oct. 7; **Esther E. Yaworski**, 95, Lake Nebagamon, Oct. 26.

... and who have we missed or forgotten?

CALENDAR

December 14, Monday, 1 p.m. Archives at Pellmans'.

December 16, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Rescheduled OBHS General (Christmas) meeting. "Potluck Supper." Jim to give presentation on 2010 Calendar images. Gift Exchange (\$5-\$10, marked Man, Woman, or Either).

December 25, Friday. Christmas Day.

January 1, Friday. New Year's Day 2010.

January 11, Monday, 1 p.m. Archives at Pellman's.

January 13, Wednesday, 6 p.m. OBHS Board Meeting, Eskolin House.

January 15, Friday. Deadline for February *OBHS News*

February 12, Friday. Lincoln's Birthday.

February 14, Sunday. St. Valentine's Day.

February 15, Monday. President's Day observed.

February 17, Wednesday. Ash Wednesday.

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.

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