

OBHS News

Volume XII, Issue 1

February 4, 2010

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2010
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the History and Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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THE NEXT OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 6 p.m., Maple Community Center.

**PROGRAM: Mr. Todd Lindahl will give a slide presentation on
*The History of the Early Passenger Boats on Lake Superior.***

**This will be followed by coffee and refreshments, and then our business meeting.
Todd, who is from Two Harbors, is an active local historian, a member of the
Lake County Historical Society and of the Northern Lakes Archaeological Society.
Our thanks to Karin Colby for making hall arrangements, to our kitchen hosts,
and to all who bring refreshments to share.**

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Everyone,

It's hard to believe the time has come to quickly write for another bimonthly newsletter. I'm hopeful we're all moving forward, listening to and helping our neighbors, family and friends, as we make our rounds.

What a beautiful January thaw we had and now, of course, we're back to a normal winter. Our Lakeside Town employees did another fine job plowing our roads and driveways. The compliments definitely outweigh a couple of gripes. The wise decision of our chairman to have our employees plow during the Christmas Eve snowstorm made travels easier and safer for families and friends. The same goes for Maple and Amnicon employees; as I listened to their team cooperation on the radio. And I'm sure the same goes for all the Towns and Villages of Old-Brule.

Over at the Windmill site we're holding our board meetings in the Eskolin log house. The atmosphere is wonderful and the smell of the wood stove brings back memories of my parents' and grandparents' places. While our board braved the cold night travels, and we warmed our cold chairs, Ron Hendrickson informed us about his communication with the Department of Transportation pertaining to our plans for placing historical signs along State Highway 13 recognizing the mill. The signs will be located on the roadside, just before the windmill site coming from each direction.

I've heard the Amnicon centennial history group is nearing the final stage in having their research ready to print. This is truly a wonderful community effort for their town's centennial this year. I placed my order for a copy last month.

Lastly, I'm carefully following the developments in the legislation for the current federal health care plan. From this distance it is difficult to tell who and what are steering the process. Many are opposed to socialized medicine, if that is what results.

Take care everyone!

Sincerely,

Paul Colby

FROM THE EDITOR:

The Cherokee Cowboy, Will Rogers, liked to begin his Vaudeville act with the quip, "All I know is what I read in the papers." I wonder what he would say about the suffocating mass of news materials in our day. As the newspapers struggle and get thinner we have as their rivals (or complements) more television news programs, local and network, cable news of all political slants, and the hardly digested commentary of the internet blogs, and Facebook, and the "tweets" of Twitter.

Somewhere in this vicious circle we jump in as consumers in hopes of catching something "newsworthy." (That word sounds old-fashioned.) One thing harder, if not impossible to find is local news of the kind that found someone "motoring" to visit their cousins in Ashland or to somewhere else just over the horizon. An admirable exception is found in the *Bayfield County Journal* where Viola Palo still keeps her readers up to date on local weddings, visitations and climate shifts. The importance of this community binding effort is especially seen when these dedicated writers are forced to retire.

A curious rival to all of these voices is our own bimonthly newsletter. Insurance agent, Paul Dennis, with his recent generous annual business membership and donation offered the suggestion that we might begin to run annual business ads in each issue as an added revenue source. This was a great compliment, but I am afraid that this effort, which remains a labor of love, might change in ways we can't predict. We do appreciate the contributions of those whose business cards appear in our annual historical calendar which makes that publication possible. But we remain an all volunteer group, a community in our own right, which works to preserve and share our collective past in the spirit of the free will giving and service that marked the lives of our pioneer forebears. Thank you all who help and want to help.

-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 now available at \$6.00 each. Other earlier calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2006, 2007, 2008) in limited numbers. The 2010 calendars are now available from O-BHS members and at limited local business outlets for \$7.00. 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 meeting: **Tuesday**, February 9, 2010, 1:00 p.m. Please call 363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

Unapproved GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Brule Town Hall, December 16, 2009

Following a delicious potluck buffet, Jim Pellman presented a power point preview of the 2010 OBHS Calendar. (Thank you, Jim, for your outstanding work in its production.) Group discussion of the 12 photographs provided additional historical information and insight.

CALL TO ORDER: President Paul Colby called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES: Audrey moved to accept the minutes of the previous general meeting held at Middle River on October 14, 2009, which were published in the December issue of OBHS News. Following a second by Marion, these minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported the following balances at the Poplar National Bank of Commerce: Checking-- \$1,185.01; Savings -- \$4,533.04; and Certificate of Deposit-- \$ 5,536.70. The CD, which currently is earning 2.7 % annually, is maturing in February. Following this report, Paul made a motion to transfer \$500 from checking to savings, seconded by Mary Ann. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee:

Sidewalk: A total of 294 pavers have been ordered.

Grounds: No activity. Harry will snow blow as needed in order to hold the January Board Meeting at the Eskolin House.

Insurance: Ron explained the recent change in our insurance carrier from Wilson Mutual to State Farm. The insurance coverage, itself, has not been changed, but the costs for our liability insurance have been reduced from \$406 to \$104 annually. OBHS recently received a \$320 rebate check from Wilson Mutual.

Signage/Zoning: OBHS can put signage on our property that abuts the highway property. But if we wish to pursue a plan to put signage on the side of the highway 500 feet from the mill in both directions, we need Department of Transportation (DOT) approval. Patricia Polluck from the DOT had informed Ron that we would need to place two flagged stakes marking the planned location of these signs. If this placement were approved, we would then send in an application for a permit along with a \$175 application fee. Ron plans to incorporate our historic registered status on the sign. Information regarding open dates and times for touring, as well as "closed" status, could also be included.

Eskolin House: The cabinets are in and the cupboards have been raised to allow for use of appliances. Thanks to Carlson Flooring, East End Superior, for their donation of linoleum and some trim. Thanks, also, to Ron for his installation work.

Mill Merchandise: This merchandise has been recently inventoried. Lila will be given this information to transfer to a spreadsheet. A new style of vest is available in a light blue fleece at the cost of \$24.

Windmill History Booklet: These books are on sale for \$8 (plus \$2 shipping charge, if needed). They are available at the Douglas County Historical Society. Barnes and Noble headquarters has not responded to our submission yet. Efforts will be made to have these books available at the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland.

Fund-raising Committee: Paul, Jim, and Laila M. attended a recent grant-writing workshop sponsored by the Wisconsin Arts Board at the Superior Public Library on November 19. (Pat Lenz from Cloverland had contacted us and invited our group to attend this informative workshop.) The hands-on critiquing exercise was of great help in demonstrating what is really needed in a successful grant application. OBHS might consider a grant application for exhibits inside the Eskolin House.

Archives Committee: The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2010 at the Pellmans.

Website Committee: Thanks to Earl for his work in managing this website.

Publicity/Advertising Committee: Thanks to Ina E and Mary Ann for their fine efforts.

Publications Committee: 250 2010 calendars will be published. A copy of the Grimsrud-Pearson Cloverland history book is circulating. The OBHS Board will decide how many copies to order at their January meeting. A qualifier will probably be included to separate opinions of the author with that of our organization.

Brule History Research Group: Velma reported that their work has been slowly progressing and that they are working with a publisher. She noted that they need technical assistance, including help with photography, and suggested that a grant application might be written seeking this needed help. She thanked Janet for the assistance she had given to date.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: This committee will meet after Randy Jones completes transfer of railroad grades from Harry's historical maps this winter.

Membership Committee: Dues are currently being collected for 2010. Members are reminded to record all volunteer hours on blue forms available from Jim.

Taylor's Bridge. Alice, Eddie, Jim and Ron are happy to report that the replacement of the damaged sign has been completed. DCHS funded one-half of the cost of the replacement map and its text.

Update of Officer Job Description: On hold.

Next Board Meeting: January 13, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the Eskolin House.

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. Karin Colby will check on the availability of the Town of Maple Community Center. Jim will check on a speaker.

Other Old Business: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monticello School: The Walter Erkkila family has initiated interest in donating this building to OBHS. The school is located on their estate in the Town of Lakeside.

Communications: Many dues and book orders have been received. Doris Perala sent a monetary gift to OBHS in memory of her late husband, Arnold Perala. She also ordered four pavers.

Presentation of Gift: Velma presented OBHS with a collection of local newspapers from Miriam Lehto that dated back to 1913.

Cemetery History: Ron reported that he recently read an article by Rachel Martin about the history of certain cemeteries in rural Superior, including a Swedish/Norwegian cemetery, still being used, near the Pokegama River. This article also noted a Finnish Cemetery named *Faith Hill*. Ron is seeking information about the location of this cemetery.

ADJOURNMENT: Shirley moved to adjourn the meeting; Laila seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed the exchange of Christmas gifts.

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 & 2008 (\$5), and 2009 (\$6) 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, January 13, 2010

Members Present: President Paul Colby, 1st Vice-President Shirley Umolac, 2nd Vice-President Harry Wester, Secretary Lila Ronn, Treasurer Ron Hendrickson, Irene Brazill, Mary Ann Gronquist, Audrey Hakkila, Jim Pellman, and Nancy Wiitala.

CALL TO ORDER: President Paul Colby called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported the following balances at Poplar National Bank of Commerce: Checking account: \$ 2,546.92; New CD purchased this past month: \$ 5,034.55; and existing CD: \$ 5,587.86. Audrey moved to accept this report. After a second by Harry, the report was approved as presented.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A correction was made to the secretary's report as printed in the December 9, 2009 OBHS News. Under OLD BUSINESS, Mill Merchandise, the 5th sentence should read as follows: "B&N would sell the books for \$8.00, retaining 40% of their cost (\$3.20), and leaving 60% of the proceeds (\$4.80) for OBHS". Shirley made a motion to accept this report with the correction above; Jim seconded the motion and it was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report: The board members thanked Harry for clearing the driveway and sidewalk to the Eskolin House and to the Mill. The Town of Lakeside Maintenance Department has been contracted to provide plowing service, as needed, for the remainder of the season. The board also expressed appreciation to Ron for opening the Eskolin House and firing up the stove prior to our meeting.

Grounds:

Sidewalk: Orders for pavers now total 297.

Biffy/Storage Building: The biffy has been pumped recently.

Flagpole: The addition of a third motion light is planned this spring/summer to better illuminate the corner.

Eskolin House: Linoleum, donated by Carlson Flooring, will be installed on cabinet working surfaces when weather allows.

Mill Merchandise: Shirley will get the recently completed merchandise inventory from Alice to begin the process of including all inventory information on an electronic spreadsheet.

Jim plans to pursue the request he submitted to Barnes & Noble Corporation a few months ago that they sell the Mill History Booklet. *Wisconsin Far Northwest* is listed in the Library of Congress; a similar request could also be made for this publication.

The 2010 Calendars are now available for \$7.00. Calendars need to be delivered to the Douglas County Historical Society again this year. Jim thanked Laila M. for her great effort in making these calendars available throughout the general community.

Next Mill Committee Meeting: On call.

Windmill Zoning Change: Ron has placed two flagged stakes visible from State Highway 13, one from each direction noting the approach of the windmill. The DOT will advise us regarding the suitability of this placement.

Fund-raising Committee: No report.

Archives Committee: The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2010, at 1:00 p.m.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: This committee will resume activity after Randy has completed his work.

Publicity/Advertising: No report.

Publications Committee: Because of timing problems, OBHS was unable to include an advertisement for B&B Accounting & Tax Services in the 2010 calendar as planned. OBHS is most appreciative of their donation of time and service in completing our last audit and will make every effort to include an ad in the 2011 calendar.

Jane Pearson Grimsrud has sent e-mail to Jim, noting that she will send an update of her publication soon that will include some additions and corrections. Board members are currently reviewing a draft copy of this history about the Pearson family and the community of Cloverland.

Membership Committee: Dues for 2010 continue to come in. Members are reminded to record all volunteer hours.

Brule History Committee: The Board is supportive of the committee's dedication to this ambitious project.

Clarification of Officer Job Description: On hold.

Next Board Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. Tentative plans include gathering at the Walter Erkkila estate in Lakeside at 5:30 p.m. to view the old Monticello school. Following this tour, the board will hold its meeting at Lila's house in Lakeside. Lila will contact Ruth Erkkila and confirm these arrangements to all board members.

Next General Meeting: This meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 10, 2010. Karin will follow up on our tentative plans to meet at the Town of Maple Community Center. Paul reported that Ron Mershart is not available to provide a program for us until April. Jim suggested Todd Lindahl, an active member of the Two Harbors Historical Society, and Herb Wagner as possible speakers for our general meeting in February. Jim will contact Todd Lindahl. Harry will attempt to locate Herb, a former teacher in the Solon Springs School District.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communications: A thank-you card has been received from the family of Denise Dahlen. Renewals and orders for calendars and books have also been received.

Sympathy and Encouragement: Wishes for improved health are sent to Howard Hakkila.

Donations: OBHS thanks the Dennis Insurance Agency for their recent generous contribution. Thanks, also, to David Christianson for his recent dues and donation.

Other New Business:

Sales Form: Ron has developed a form to improve the recording process of sales (food, merchandise, and tickets) and donations.

Thank you, Jim Pellman: Shirley suggested that the Board consider a small monthly stipend for Jim Pellman in consideration of all of the work that he does for Old-Brule Heritage Society. Everyone in attendance agreed that his contributions have, and continue to be, essential and central to the operation of this organization. Jim, however, did not wish us to pursue this matter. He described many intangible rewards he has received. In his inimitable style, he also cited various contributions of other members. **THANK YOU, JIM, FOR ALL OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT PILOT AND SUPPORT THE OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INCLUDING THAT OF THE PUBLICATION OF *OBHS NEWS!***

New T-Shirt: Ron made a motion, seconded by Jim, that OBHS have a t-shirt designed with a slogan "I've Been Through The Mill". The motion passed. It was suggested that Barbra Granroth might assist with the logo.

Monticello School: After our March visit to the Monticello School, the Board will consider the Erkkila family proposal to donate this school to OBHS.

Donation to the Bong WWII Museum: It was noted that only 30 days remain for donations to the museum that would be matched by the Lundberg family. Ron moved that OBHS donate \$100 to the Richard I. Bong Veterans Historical Center. Following a second by Mary Ann, the motion passed.

Music at the Eskolin House and grounds: Shirley will check into obtaining a used cassette and CD player which could be used to play old suitable music during open houses and tours.

ADJOURNMENT: Nancy made a motion, seconded by Ron, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lila M. Ronn, Secretary

Area History:

No. 72

The following is the January image and text from our 2010 OBHS History Calendar.

1. Maple School, School District 2, Town of Maple, c. 1918. Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of modern US Highway 2 (at first the Bayfield Road, then State Highway 10) and County Road F (then Davidson Road), this school was built in 1888 by the new Town of Brule, School District 3, before the Brule Town Hall which was erected in 1893 on the adjacent lot to the east, both lots in the far northwest corner of the homestead of Brule Town official Thomas Nephew (Demas Neveu). Ebba Johnson 1915, Blenda Jackson 1916, Elizabeth Brecht 1917, 1918, Elizabeth Brunner 1919, and Regina Brunner 1920, were the young teachers who served the students of this one room school during its last five years in use. In 1921 a new combination Maple Town



Hall-Maple School was authorized and built, this the same year Cloverland was created as a town by act of the Wisconsin Legislature. This later building was razed in 1957. Children from the Ed Niemi, George Davidson, August Nurkkala, Karl Larson, John Salomaki, John Ranta, John Aho, Henry Schulties, Charles Embody, John Deterling and Edward George Doherty families, and others attended this early school. Maple Hardwood Lumber Company buildings are glimpsed to the far right. *Old-Brule Heritage Society Collection, courtesy of Ernest Saari of the Hilda Aho Saari family.*

- NOTICES -

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To those sending their membership renewals, for themselves, and for others. To the **Town of Lakeside** for its memorial gift in memory of former Town Chairman, **Elmer Colby**. To **Jim and Georgia Walsh** for their gift to the Davidson Windmill Memorial fund in Elmer Colby's memory. To **Don & Julie of Anderson Septic Pumping** for their service at the Windmill at no charge. To **Floyd and Mary Ann Ketola** of Mesa, Arizona, for their renewal at the family level. To **Paul Dennis of Northern Finnish Mutual Insurance** for his business membership and annual gift. To **David Christianson** of Kendallville, Indiana, for his new membership and for his generous "contribution to the cause." To **Doris Perala** for many old photographs from the collections of her mother, **Ellen (Koivu) Anttila**, and Ellen's sister, aunt **Aili Perala**. To **Carlson Flooring** for linoleum for our Eskolin House counter top.

CONGRATULATIONS: To **Nan Wisherd of Northland Tax Service** and now of **Cable Publishing Company**, and a thanks for her business membership renewal.

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To **Howard Hakkila** for continued improvement.

OUR SYMPATHY: To family and friends of **Eileen Braman Thomas**, 94, of Superior, who passed away February 1, 2010. To wife, county board member **Carol Johnson**, and family and friends of **Cedric D. Johnson**, 72, of Hawthorne, who died January 26, 2010 due to cancer. To the family and friends of **Elna M. Karra**, 92, of Superior, daughter of **Charles and Hilda (Soyring) Jarvi** of Maple. Elna was the sister of **Vienna Polaski**, and the late **Auni Johnston**, **Alie Mikkola**, and **Uno Jarvi**. To the family and friends of **Hans J. Knoll, Jr.**, 76, of Lake Nebagamon, who passed away Jan. 14, 2010.

... and who have we missed or forgotten?

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!

RETURN ADDRESS:

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.
Post Office Box 24
Maple, WI 54854

CALENDAR

February 9, Tuesday, 1 p.m. Archives at Pellmans'.

February 10, Wednesday, 6 p.m. OBHS General Meeting. Todd Lindahl will give a public presentation on the history of *the Early Passenger Boats on Lake Superior*. Business meeting to follow coffee and refreshments.

February 12, Friday. Lincoln's Birthday.

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

February 15, Monday. Washington's Birthday observed (actually on the 22nd.). President's Day.

February 17, Wednesday. Ash Wednesday.

March 10, Wednesday, OBHS Board Meeting, at the Walter Erkkila estate in Lakeside at 5:30 p.m. to view the old Monticello school. Following this tour, the board will hold its meeting at Lila Ronn's house in Lakeside.

March 14, Sunday. Daylight Saving Time begins.

March 16, Tuesday. St. Urho's Day.

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

March 19, Friday. Deadline for April *OBHS News*.

March 20, Saturday. Spring begins.

March 28, Sunday. Palm Sunday.

March 30, Tuesday. Passover.

April 4, Sunday. Easter.

April 14, Wednesday. OBHS General Meeting.

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.**