Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2011 Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the History and Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

Volume XIII, Issue 1

February 5, 2011

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shirley Kankas Umolac, Lake Nebag., Pres. Earl Granroth, Lakeside, 1st V. P. Harry Wester, Bennett, 2nd V. P. Lila Ronn, Lakeside, Secretary Ron Hendrickson, Parkland, Treasurer Alice Christensen, Amnicon Karin Colby, Maple Ina Erickson, Superior Mary Ann Gronquist, Parkland Audrey Hakkila, Poplar Nancy Wiitala, Superior Eddie Walman, Maple, Alternate Jim Pellman, Maple, Emeritus

THE OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 6 p.m., Cloverland Town Hall

The meeting will begin with our program followed by coffee and refreshments and then our business meeting.

Please contact Nancy Wiitala at 715-392-8317 who is coordinator of refreshments.

PROGRAM: Phoebe Martens will talk on the History of Lake Superior Fishing in the Cornucopia Area.

Thanks to all who provide refreshments to share, and to the Town of Cloverland for use of their town hall.

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

On fairly short notice our president has gone on a trip to Texas to witness the Packers defeat the Steelers. We expect to get a full report from her in our next OBHS News. She did say she would be back for our general meeting next week.

FROM THE EDITOR:

The current unfolding mass upheaval in Egypt raises all sorts of questions about why things like that don't happen here in our neighborhoods, anywhere in America. I believe it has to do with our superior morally based civil foundation. We are not a military dictatorship. We are not the product of a central coercive elite of any kind. At our deepest selves, we are not a mass culture, although this has more and more been compromised. The broad current of American history has been the confluence of a multitude of local histories, and each of these histories has been the confluence of the activities of hundreds of free, private lives joined in voluntary communities. Nor have we been comfortable with mass frenzy, since Hitler, a hallmark of our times. Our highest public civic symbol has not been the roaring stadium of 100,000, but the town hall of 100.

Does something like the bloody upheaval of our Civil War compare with what is happening in Egypt? Our traditions of federalism, state's rights, and local freedom under law, were retained, and even strengthened, after the release of the moral stresses of slavery that had built up over "four score and seven years." Even those years of violent battles could not bring down our Constitutional order, anchored as it is in a Bill of Rights, and resting upon the personal responsibility of its citizens. And that body of law, with the shedding of blood, finally had to be extended to all our people. The uneven process continues.

What makes us different? I'm certain it has to do with our local histories. A country conceived in freedom is filled with a myriad of unique local histories, the records of mature lives freed to seek the best for themselves and for neighbors who are allowed to live and express themselves in their own freedom.

Coincidentally we have just heard that Rev. Lee and Ricky Boleman were trapped in the exodus of Americans and Canadians from Egypt earlier this week and that after a harrowing ordeal through violent streets and mob filled terminals they now find themselves safe in Stillwater. Today's Duluth paper says they are now home. PTL.

-Jim Pellman

2006 to 2011 OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY 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, to be completed very soon. Limited numbers of their 2005 calendar and earlier issues are still available. Please contact Janet Follis, P.O.Box 114, Brule, WI 54820, (715) 372-4948.

The 2011 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendars are available at \$7.00 each. Other earlier calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2006 - 2009) & 2010 at \$6.00 in limited numbers. An e-mail address for more info: **musketeer6@cheqnet.net**, and phone: 715-363-2549, or please 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. The next formal meeting will be on February 7, 2011. Please call 714-363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

Unapproved General Meeting MINUTES OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

Maple Community Center, Town of Maple December 8, 2010

Prior to the meeting, members enjoyed a splendid potluck Holiday Buffet. Thank you, Shirley, for creating the festive ambiance (including edible gingerbread men) and to everyone who brought the tasty food.

BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: President Shirley Umolac called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

MINUTES: Alice moved to approve the minutes, published in the December *OBHS News*, of the General Meeting which was held on October 13, 2010 at the Amnicon Town Hall. Following a second by Audrey, the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported that, effective November 30, 2010, OBHS had the following balances at the National Bank of Commerce in Poplar: Checking Account -- \$ 2,417.33; Certificate of Deposit #1 -- \$ 5,650.78; and Certificate of Deposit #2 -- \$ 5,109.94. Earl made a motion to accept this report; Mary Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ron also presented a final report comparing the revenue received during the Apple Festival Weekend the past two years:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
BOOKS	188.00	64.00
Sisu &Sauna	60.00	40.00
MERCHANDISE	92.00	170.00
DONATIONS	108.35	71.25
BAKE SALE	186.00	257.00
PAVERS	30.00	30.00
TOTALS	664.35	632.25

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill committee Report:

Sidewalk: 321 pavers have been ordered to date. Sidewalk fencing will be installed as part of the awning and bridge projects, pending their approval at the county level.

Grounds: The drainage trench has been excavated. Some surface work will be completed as a spring project.

Eskolin House: The awning project has been approved by the Town of Lakeside, but approval is still needed at the County level for both zoning and construction

Taylor's Bridge Move: County approval is also pending for this project. Planning needs to be done for abutment base preparation and for the move. Ron reported that Wes Johnson has gone out of business and sold his equipment to another contractor located south of Pattison Park.

Mill Merchandise: Shirley showed one of the new camouflage hats she had ordered. It has a backwoods background and mesh on the side, making it cool for summer use. These hats will sell for \$12.00 each.

Next Mill Committee Meeting: On call.

Archives Committee: The next meeting is scheduled at the Pellman residence beginning at 1:00 p.m. on January 10, 2011.

Website Committee: Earl reported that *OBHS News* editions from the years 1999, 2000, and 2001 are now on the website. Newsletters from the years 2002-2004 remain to be done. Thank you, Earl, for your past and continued work.

Publicity/Advertising Committee: Thanks to Mary Ann and Ina who lead these efforts. Audrey reported that *The Connection* recently included another historical article in their publication. Thank you, Audrey, for your help in publicity.

Publications Committee: Jim will be picking up the 2011 Calendars this week from Arrowhead Printing. The cost of printing remained the same this year, but we may wish to consider raising the cost \$.50 next year. Jim plans to deliver calendars to all advertisers and to anyone else who wants copies at this time.

OBHS has seven copies of the Grimsrud/Pearson/Cloverland history left on inventory. We have sold 13 thus far. Nan Wisherd has offered her help with placing our books.

Amnicon History: OBHS has a box of 15 copies of this publication available to sell. Dennis reported that their committee's book revenue has reached the break-even point with expenses, and checks reflecting additional sales will be made out in January. There are 50 more DVDs of the book photos plus additional images, some of which are unidentified.

Brule History Group: Laila reported that they are waiting for Jeannie to contact them from California. **Pollari Memorial Gift Committee:** The committee is waiting for Randy Jones to complete the process of electronically transferring map features from Harry Wester's historical maps; afterwards they will meet with Randy and a printer to set up final plans.

Membership Committee: 2011 dues continue to come in. Blue forms used to record members' volunteer hours are available from Jim or on-line.

Monticello School: The roof cover was not done this fall; it will be a spring project.

Arnold Johnson Flour Mill: The mill will be moved from the Johnson site to Eddie Walman's place soon.

Update of Officer Job Descriptions: Lois P. has drafted an outline of job descriptions. Lila will provide a typewritten copy of this outline to the Board on January 12 for initial review.

Next Board Meeting: This meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Eskolin House, weather permitting.

Next General Meeting: Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cloverland Town Hall. We are anticipating that Herbert Wagner will be our presenter (atthecreation.com). Jim reported that Mr. Wagner would prefer to react to our questions in an informal program format.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communication: Additional dues and calendar donations and orders have been received.

OBHS received an invitation to Karin Colby's recent 70th birthday party. Many members helped celebrate with Karin at this well-attended event at the Maple Community Center.

Many newsletters from other historical groups have been received, as well as the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, which is sent to OBHS on a quarterly basis.

Sympathy and Encouragement: Our sympathy is extended to the Winkka family on the passing of sister Aileen Gadda whose funeral was held on October 14, 2010.

Donations: A generous donation has been received from member and historian Dr. Ron Mershart.

Other New Business: In appreciation of Jim's continued contributions to OBHS, Ron presented him with a "Finnish brief case".

ADJOURNMENT: Earl moved to adjourn the meeting; Janine seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Following the meeting, Jim Pellman introduced us to the 2011 OBHS Calendar, providing an interesting visual presentation of its photographs and content. Members appreciate all of the work Jim has done to produce this calendar and enjoy what has come to be a traditional holiday program.

Thank you, Jim. Our Christmas gift exchange followed.

Respectfully submitted, Lila Ronn, Secretary

FUND-RAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Society has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps, 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, new stock caps, \$12, and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund. Sweat shirts, any size are \$25.00, some older styles on sale at 80% off, 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. Our book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, and Nan Wisherd's books, *Pathways* and *Echoes*, and Lakeside's *Sisu and Sauna*, and now Amnicon's History book 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. 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, INC.

Eskolin House, Town of Lakeside, January 12, 2001

Members Present: President Shirley Umolac, Treasurer Ron Hendrickson, Secretary Lila Ronn, Alice Christensen, Karin Colby, Audrey Hakkila, Jim Pellman, Eddie Walman, and Nancy Wiitala.

CALL TO ORDER: President Shirley Umolac called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. [Thanks to Ron for de-icing and clearing our sidewalk and starting a warm fire in our stove. Without his efforts long before this meeting started, we would not have been able to use the Eskolin house.]

MINUTES: Alice moved to approve the Board minutes of November 10, 2010, as published in the December *OBHS News*. Following a second by Karin, this motion was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported that, effective December 31, 2010, OBHS held the following balances at the National Bank of Commerce in Poplar: Checking Account -- \$ 1,890.75; CD #1 -- \$ 5,650.78; and CD #2 -- \$ 5,135.23. Alice made a motion, seconded by Jim, to approve this report. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report:

Sidewalk: 325 pavers have been ordered to date. It was noted that periodic cleaning, using a brush for scrubbing, will keep them presentable and legible.

Grounds: Tim Johnson has installed the windmill drainage trench, assisted by Ron and Jim. Some surface work remains for the spring.

Shirley will contact Gary Kane at Wentworth Gardens regarding our Memorial Tree planting.

Eskolin House: Ron suggested we define a system to complete the awning, expediting the process of obtaining County approval in the spring. A discussion followed regarding the construction of the awning (degree of enclosure on sides and front of the awning, use of take-down panels over screens, pitch of roof, size of logs, etc...). A plan needs to be developed. Ash logs need to be cut and peeled.

Taylor's Bridge move: The move has been previously approved by the Board and the Town of Lakeside. County approval is still needed. Ron has received a certified map of our property from Bill Anderson. In the spring, once the points have been staked out, the planned bridge location may meet the 66 foot requirement. Planning for the abutment base preparation and the move, itself, needs to be done. Ron reported that Wes, with whom he had previously made tentative plans for the move, has sold his equipment to an operation in Pattison Park. Restarting the moving process, Ron will contact the new owner/operator.

Mill Merchandise: Most of our orders consist of books and calendars. Alice suggested we cut back on ordering any new merchandise. Everyone agreed that we need to focus on selling our existing clothing merchandise.

Next Mill Committee Meeting: On call.

Archives Committee: The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., January 24, 2011, at the Pellman residence. The committee has been working on indexing and scanning Cloverland Community Club records dating back to 1926. In 2001, the Cloverland Community Club requested transfer of these records to OBHS for their care. Appropriate written forms were signed, legalizing the move. OBHS has stored them in climate-controlled and fire-protected archives located in the Maple Community Center. The records have been accessible and used by researchers since that time. Related to current action by the Town of Cloverland to save the King School-Cloverland Community Club Building, The Cloverland Community Club has recently requested return of these records. Action will be needed at the February 8, 2011 General Meeting regarding this request.

Lois Pollari is donating a computer to OBHS for Archive committee use.

The deadline for State Mini-grant applications is in May.

Website Committee: Thanks to Earl for improving and maintaining this site. He has been converting and adding old newsletters. Everyone is encouraged to access them to read the many historical articles. **Publicity/Advertising Committee:** Mary Ann and Ina head this committee. Thanks to them and to Audrey, who has provided considerable assistance.

Publications Committee: 2011 Calendars are on sale. Laila Magnuson has done a splendid job promoting and selling them. We have seven copies of the Grimsrud/Pearson/Cloverland history and two copies of the recent Amnicon publication in stock. Nan Wisherd has offered to place five copies each of *Wisconsin Far Northwest, Sisu and Sauna, The Davidson Windmill*, and *Amnicon: From the Beginning* and ten 2011 Calendars in her store. Northern Lights Bookstore in Duluth is closing; Shirley will pick up books we have there.

Amnicon History: Dennis reported last month that the break-even point (expenses to revenue for the 2010 Centennial Celebration) was reached. The history book remainder will now be evenly divided between the Amnicon Fire Department and Old-Brule Heritage Society. Depending upon the count this gift to Old-Brule after sale of the books will amount to thousands of dollars. Our thanks to Dennis Hill and to the Town of Amnicon.

Brule History Research Group: Work has resumed after the holidays. Jeannie Castleberry Pederson is helping them prepare for publication.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: Work continues on this project.

Membership Committee: Dues for 2011 continue to come in. A business membership was received from Nan Wisherd. Members are reminded to record volunteer hours. Forms are available from Jim or on our website.

Lila and Jim described their efforts to coordinate sympathy and encouragement information to OBHS members and their families in the newsletter. Members are asked to keep them informed as needed.

Monticello School: Covering the roof will be a spring project.

Arnold Johnson Flour Mill: Pat Grube will be moving the mill from the Johnson site to Eddie Walman's place soon.

Update of Officer Job Descriptions: Lila distributed typewritten copies of the draft Lois P. developed. Some editing was suggested to reflect the current status. A revised copy will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at the Eskolin House, weather permitting. [Note: Earl Granroth will preside over this meeting and Karin Colby will take minutes, filling in for Shirley Umolac and Lila Ronn, respectively.]

Next General Meeting: The next General meeting will be held beginning 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at the Cloverland Town Hall. It is anticipated that Herb Wagner will provide our program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Drawings of Mill: Ron shared illustrations of major mechanical parts of the windmill based upon a Eugene Davidson drawing; they will be helpful educational tools at future windmill tours.

Communications: Newsletters have been received from various other historical groups.

Sympathy and Encouragement: Encouragement is sent to Jack Gronquist, Mary Wester, Lorraine Autio, Clifford Walman, and Anna Bong.

Donations: Donations have been received from the Paul Dennis Agency and the Town of Lakeside.

ADJOURNMENT: Alice moved to adjourn the meeting; Karin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lila Ronn, Secretary

Area Gistory:

No. 77

The following text and image is from our 2011 OBHS History Calendar. We would hope that others will follow the lead of the late Margie Koskie who contributed a family history and several family photographs to our archive from which this page was selected.

2. February: "Doughboy" Roy William Smith, c. 1918. Former Town of Cloverland resident, Roy William Smith, the late Margie Smith Koskie's father, was born April 28, 1892, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. In his early teens his family moved to Frazee, Minnesota, and in 1910 he helped build a sod home and homesteaded with his grandfather and uncle near Dickinson, North Dakota. This picture is from the time of his service in World War I, when he fought in the bloody Battle of the Argonne Forest in France, part of the final fighting in that war, leading to the armistice of November 11, 1918. Roy thereafter carried a scar on his thigh from a "scabbard sword." Margie remembered the saying, "10,000 men went in and only 213 came out." In 1920 28 year old Roy married 27 year old Lynda Jane Boulton who was born in Austin, Minnesota, and who had been a one-room school teacher in Bemidji and in Ely. Lynda's direct ancestor, Matthew Boulton, from England, was a skilled silver and metal smith, who did the brass work on James Watt's steam engine. Margie was born in 1924 but after the stock market crash, in 1931 her



family lost their bank holdings and left their Belfield, North Dakota, home, moving to the former homestead of Charlie Coquet in the Town of Cloverland.

Picture from a copy in the Margie Koskie collection in the OBHS Digital Archives. Data is from Margie's written life history, a copy held in the OBHS Archives.

- NOTICES -

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To the Town of Maple for the use of the Community Center for our Archives, and for space for our Christmas meeting. To the Town of Cloverland for use of the Town Hall for our February meeting, and to Phoebe Martens who has agreed to be our speaker. To Dr. Ron Mershart, our favorite local historian, for the generous and gratifying money gift to our group. To our business members, Nan Wisherd at Northland Tax Service & Cable Publishing; Paul Dennis, agent for Northern Finnish Mutual Insurance; John's (Deterling's) Body Shop. To Lois Pollari whose Dell Computer is now serving our Archive group.

 $CONGRATULATIONS: \ \ To\ Char\ \&\ Rich\ Harms\ \ on\ the\ arrival\ of\ their\ new\ grand daughter,\ Latisha.$

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To Darwin & Ruth McKonkie as Darwin keeps on the mend.

OUR SYMPATHY: To family and friends of the many who have recently passed away: William J. "Bill" O'Brien, 83 years, of Itasca-Superior & Iron River, who died Dec. 11, 2010; Doloris Irene (Johnson) Korhonen, 78, Oulu & Superior, Dec. 8; Delores C. (Pelander) Nelson, 71, Superior & Iron River, Dec. 5; Calvin Wayne "Bud" Linden, 84, Cloverland, Brule River, & Superior, Dec. 5; Eileen (Langermann) Johnson, 91, Hawthorne, died Dec. 21; Nancy M. (Sewall) Wiitala, 71, Superior, Dec. 17; Dolores "Lol" A. (Hanson) Lundberg, 93, Poplar teacher, Dec. 24; Gerald M. Dalbec, 74, Blueberry & Superior, Jan. 3; Mary A. (Moravcik) Meierotto, 73, Ino-Ondossagon & Brule, Jan. 2; Ralph Edward Jondreau, 67, Brule, Jan. 13; Stephen (Steve) Louis Kelsey, 75, of Highland, Jan. 12; Theon "Ted" W. Borgh Jr., 76 of Lake Nebagamon, Jan. 11; Mervin L. Lindelof, 90, Chicago, Iron River & Ashland, Jan. 19; Charles W. Orville, Superior, Sun Prairie & Duluth, 50, Jan. 13; Taylor Samuel Anderson, 20, Maple, Jan. 12; Derald B. "Smokey" Suoja, 69, Superior, Jan. 14; Corlin D. (Johnson) Johnson, 85, Lake Nebagamon & Hawthorne, Jan. 27; Edward W. Salo Sr., Town of Lakeside & Superior, who died Jan. 25, 2011. May these, our dear friends and neighbors rest in peace.

... and who have we missed or forgotten?

RETURN ADDRESS:

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY. INC.

Post Office Box 24 Maple, WI 54854

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 Board 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!

CALENDAR.

February 7, Monday, 1 p.m. Next OBHS Archives Committee meeting at Pellmans.

February 9, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Cloverland. OBHS General Meeting. Phoebe Martens to speak on Cornie fishing.

February 14, Monday. Valentines Day.

February 21, Monday. Presidents Day.

March 9, Wednesday. 2 p.m. Next OBHS Board Meeting, at Eskolin House. Ash Wednesday.

March 16, Wednesday. St. Urho's Day. Deadline for contributions to the April OBHS News.

April 13, Wednesday, 6 p.m. OBHS General Meeting. Author and historian Larry Luukkonen to speak.

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been maintaining 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 "hot." Thanks to Earl and Jon.