

OBHS News

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 2

April 7, 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

THE OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 6 p.m., Poplar Village Hall

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

PROGRAM: Larry Luukkonen on the topic "Some [Old] Trails West [from Lake Superior]"

Historian and author Mr. Larry Luukkonen, now a resident of McGregor, Minnesota, was born and raised in Cloquet. He has taught history at the University of Minnesota, Bemidji State and community college. He is the author of many historical works, most recently the award winning *Between the Waters*, a book on the Northwest Trail from Lake Superior to the Mississippi. The title of his talk before our group will be "Some Trails West" which will include a discussion of paths of human movement throughout history at the western end of Lake Superior. He will be bringing some maps to share. He is also an expert on the firearms of the fur trade era. Please bring your questions.

Thanks to all who provide refreshments to share, and to the Village of Poplar for use of their village hall, and to Audrey Hakkila for making arrangements.

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

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Hello Everyone,

The Koffee Klatch takes its name from a casual social gathering for coffee and conversation. *Fika* is the Swedish word to take a coffee break, and *kahvi aika* is Finnish for coffee time. No need to call first, and the table was always set. The table had an oil cloth cover and spoons were always kept at the center in a thick glass sugar bowl. A smaller bowl held the Domino sugar cubes. Those may have been broken into pieces by a sugar crimper. The little pieces were sometimes put inside one's lip while the coffee was drunk, for a bit of added sweetness. Although fresh cream was prepared from our own dairy cows, most people preferred their coffee black.

They could always anticipate a visitor. When chores were completed, ladies would stop on over for a few cups with their handwork to talk about everyone or everything. Even at night, folks would carry a lantern to light the way to the neighbors for an evening cup. Of course all cups were bottomless, but nobody talked about insomnia, jitters, anxiety or other caffeine attacks. And it was usually served in a cup and saucer; no large plastic mugs or fancy take-out containers were used.

Co-op coffee was the popular brand and it was sold in three styles. The red can was excellent, the blue can was okay and the green can was the worst. Using wood burning cook stoves, the enamel pot with water and coffee was put inside the largest hole to boil, and then strained out and into a Pyrex glass pot for serving. The women cooks instinctively knew how long to let it boil, based on their family's taste. Sometimes the coffee had an egg smashed into the pot after a full boil was reached. This kept the grounds at the bottom of the pot instead of seeping into the cup. Coffee grounds were occasionally reused, and discarded ones ended up in the flower beds. Although percolator coffee pots were pretty widespread by the mid-1900's, many Scandinavians continued to brew the old method way, and still do to this day.

Of course there was always food to go along with the coffee. Scandinavian women in town liked to display their great baking as a true indicator of their heritage. Some of the treats served were a braided yeast cake known as *pulla*, biscuits, flat bread with jam, crackers and cheese, hard tack, a bowl of sauces like apple sauce or canned peaches, yellow cake in a large pan, or cinnamon toast which was dunked right into the coffee. Later in the day, salt fish with raw onions made a great sandwich as did sliced meats and even a ring of Bologna. But the food wasn't the real focus; it was all just about the visit.

President Shirley

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 April 18, 2011. Please call 714-363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Unapproved GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.**

Cloverland Town Hall, Town of Cloverland, February 10, 2011

PROGRAM [Also serving as "Area History No. 78"]

Phoebe Martens talked about the *History of Lake Superior Fishing in the Cornucopia Area*. Her personal experience began in the mid 1950s when she moved to Cornucopia as a young newly-wed. Like nearly everyone else in town, she worked in the "sheds", picking fish out of nets. She described the "big deal" it was then. There were, at the time, 19 Wisconsin commercial licenses. Fish sold for 75 cents per bushel basket. Phoebe and her husband also owned the cheese factory for ten years.

Cornucopia was established early in the 20th century as fishermen and farmers began to move in after

logging operators had cleared the land. Phoebe described Cornucopia as a town that included all ethnic groups. There is a Russian Orthodox Church still standing, which was only one of two in the entire state at one time. She also noted the importance of the Ehler's store, which brokered the fishermen's harvest, with most fish hauled on ice to Chicago by truck straight through the night. The fishermen depended upon the credit that Ehlers offered them over the winter. Two boats ran from Duluth to Bayfield and brought supplies as needed and shipped out their lumber.

Tim Martens, Phoebe's son, joined the program and described the different types of nets used in fishing and some of his experiences when he was a young man. High school students worked during the herring season, which began in November and lasted until it was too cold to fish. The fishing business declined by 1960 because of declining fish population, primarily caused by pollution (taconite tailings) and lamprey. However, Tim reported that there is more fish now in the lake than there has been in decades, but obtaining a commercial fishing license poses difficulties.

Phoebe also shared many interesting tales directly from the interview notes she had taken over the years from residents who are no longer living. She recommended the "wonderful little" museum in Cornucopia. She also presented many photographs, newspaper articles, and illustrations that further described Cornucopia's fishing industry. Everyone in attendance shared Phoebe's fascination with the subject and strongly encouraged her to write a book.

BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: President Shirley Umolac called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m.

MINUTES: Laila moved to accept the minutes of the last General Meeting, as printed in the February *OBHS News*, which was held on December 8, 2010, at the Maple Community Center. Following a second by Alice, the minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron reported the following balances at National Bank of Commerce in Poplar, effective January 31, 2011: Checking -- \$ 2,389.40; Certificate of Deposit #1 -- \$ 5,650.78; and Certificate of Deposit #2 -- \$ 5,135.23. These two CDs earned interest income in 2010 of \$100.68 and \$62.92 respectively. Earl made a motion, seconded by Barb, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report:

Sidewalk: 326 pavers have been ordered to date.

Grounds: Some surface work will need to be done in the spring to complete the windmill drainage-trenching project.

Eskolin House: Awning – Two basic options were discussed. In general, both planned for a 16' footprint, but opinions varied regarding the preferred structure. Jim originally presented an open design that would maintain the architectural integrity of the Eskolin House, itself. In the winter, panels could be dropped in to provide greater enclosure and protection.

However, some members expressed interest in a more closed add-on, at least a three-season enclosure, allowing for greater function including storage. Harry presented a possible plan using treated 6"x 6" above-the-ground timbers and board and batten siding on the exterior.

Everyone agreed that more discussion regarding the awning design and construction is needed. The mission of Old-Brule Heritage Society, our long-range property use plan, and other philosophical and practical issues need to guide our action. Earl moved that the Board schedule a special meeting for this topic only. Following a second by Barb, the motion passed.

Taylor's Bridge Move: Ron reported that he contacted the company that purchased Wes Johnson's business, but that they were not interested in this undertaking. He then contacted RJS in Superior; they have

expressed interest in the project. One of their estimators, Charlie Brown, from Lakeside, has been assigned to follow-up. Ron alerted Dave Williams that someone from RJS might be coming to view the bridge. Ron has asked RJS to submit a bid and noted to them that there would be acknowledgment of their role, possibly a plaque.

Mill Merchandise: Sale merchandise is available for members after the meeting.

Next Mill Committee Meeting: On call.

Archives Committee: The next meeting will be held on February 21 at 1:00 p.m., at the Pellman residence. Jim noted that, related to the recent action to save the King School-Cloverland Community Club Building, the Cloverland Club has requested that OBHS return records they transferred to us in 2001. (Since that time, OBHS has stored them in climate-controlled and fire-protected archives located in the Maple Community Center, where they have been accessible and used by researchers.) While OBHS is very supportive of the King School project, there was agreement that safe preservation of these records, dating back to 1926, is of the highest priority. The Archives Committee has been working to complete full cataloging and copying of these Cloverland Community Club records. Permanent CD copies could be provided at any time. Jim moved that we send a letter to the Cloverland Community Club stating the feelings of the group. Following a second by Earl, the motion was approved.

Website Committee: Earl reported that he has now included all of the OBHS newsletters, even those that were published prior to 1999 in an older format, on the OBHS Website. He encouraged members to read these early newsletters, noting that they include lots of old and interesting history. THANK YOU, EARL, FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THIS PROJECT. We know you have spent hundreds of hours on this website; it is a source of pride for our organization.

Publications Committee: Shirley has brought OBHS publications to *Up North* in the Badger Building. Paul said that Luanne from Poplar Hardware had asked about obtaining our publications for sale. A contact needs to be made.

Amnicon History: Dennis Hill reported that the Amnicon History Committee, having completed their assignment, has dissolved. All proceeds were divided equally between the Amnicon Fire Department and OBHS. OBHS has received a \$330 check and currently has 220 Amnicon History books and some t-shirts in inventory. Congratulations to the Amnicon History Committee on their successful undertaking; thank you, Dennis, for all of your contributions.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: Jim reported that Randy Jones is nearly done with his transfer.

Arnold Johnson Flour Mill: This move is ready to go. Jim thanked the Johnson family for their patience.

Next Board Meeting: Meeting will be held beginning at 2:00 p.m., Wed., March 9, 2011, at the Eskolin House.

Next General Meeting: This meeting is tentatively planned for the Poplar Village Hall site. Historian and author Larry Luukkonen will talk about old western Lake Superior trails.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communications: A thank-you has been received from The Wisconsin Council for Local History for the recent \$30.00 contribution they received from OBHS.

Lakeside Fire Department Defibrillator: The Town of Lakeside needs to relocate one of its two defibrillators to the western side of the town. Their fire chief has requested that OBHS consider placing this defibrillator at the Eskolin House. Earl moved that, if the Town of Lakeside provides an outdoor mounting, that they be allowed to do so somewhere by the outdoor biffy/storage building. Following a second by Dennis, the motion carried.

Annual Scholarship Recipient Selection: The Faculty Scholarship Committee at Northwestern High School currently determines the recipients for the OBHS Annual Scholarship. It was agreed that these arrangements continue for the time being.

ADJOURNMENT: Earl made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Barb. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laila 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. *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.

Alice Christensen's Home, March 8, 2011

Member's Present: First Vice President Earl Granroth, Jim Pellman, Harry Wester, Alice Christensen, Eddie Walman, Nancy Wiitala, Audrey Hakkila, Karin Colby.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President: Earl Granroth called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. Earl thanked Alice for the use of her home.

MINUTES: Audrey moved to approve the Board Minutes of January 12, 2011 as published in the February Newsletter. Following a seconded by Alice the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Earl gave the Treasurer's Report in Ron's absence.

OBHS held the following balances at the National Bank of Commerce in Poplar: Checking Account: \$2,063.00; CD # 1: \$ 5,650.78; CD # 2: \$ 5,109.94. The report was approved as given by Earl.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill Committee Report:

Sidewalk: Pavers: 325 have been ordered. Earl mentioned they have to purchase some too. Earl asked if they are being engraved and Jim said they are still being engraved and that there are a few more orders than last time. He said that we are not putting them down yet at this time.

Grounds: Tim Johnson has installed Windmill drainage trench assisted by Ron and Jim. Some surface work remains for spring. There was a lot of discussion on what we need to do to get the lot described so a decision on the ROW parcel can be made at the Lakeside Annual Meeting. We have a copy of the certified survey which will need to be registered with the Register of Deeds that shows this strip. We will be able to use this to accurately describe our request. Ron will have to do this when he gets back. Maybe Bill Anderson could also help us describe the ROW piece. With this added property we would leave the metal survey stakes in place but the bright yellow markers in our memorial garden would not then be needed.

Harry had questions about our property line and said it looks like we have enough room for the bridge

Memorial Tree: Shirley will be contacting Gary Kane about our Memorial Tree.

Eskolin House Awning: Alice made a motion to table the discussion on the Eskolin House Awning until all board members are here. Harry seconded the motion which carried.

Taylor's Bridge Move: The move has been previously approved by our 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 requirements. Planning for the abutment base preparation and the move itself needs to be done. Ron has gotten a bid from Woodhull's for \$ 2,500.00. More information from Ron later on that. Earl asked if we would have a problem with the County and Jim said Ron didn't think so. We will have to have a building permit from the county; the Town has already approved it so we shouldn't have trouble getting it. The question was raised whether we have some type of a drawing showing where we want it put. The new site certified survey drawing can be adapted to show current boundaries and measurements. Audrey mentioned when you get a permit you need to have a value it was mentioned that this is a land use permit. There was more discussion on how we have to go about doing the abutment. Harry asked if we want a drawing of the site Harry said he could do that at home if given lot and bridge measurements. It was decided to table it for further information and certified permit. On motion by Nancy with a second by Harry the matter was tabled until Ron gets back and all members are present

Mill Merchandise: Alice said nothing has been ordered and thinks we should hold off ordering. Earl explained the new order form he has completed for the website. Everyone agreed that we need to focus on selling our existing clothing merchandise before ordering any more. Alice thanked Earl for all the work he has done on the website.

Mill Committee: On Call.

Archives Committee: The next meeting will be held 1:00 p.m on., March 21 at Pellman's. Earl said that they appreciate everyone who can come. Work has been on the indexing and scanning the Cloverland Community Club Records. Jim had received a call from Jessie Burhans who had read the summary Jim had written for our recent meeting there and she said there would be no rush to reacquire the club records. Ina has been doing a lot of data entering and scanning at home on her own. Earl has been involved in getting the homestead records organized, and is now in the process with Jim's help of putting the information from the old computer into the new one.

Jim had taken Lois' donated computer in to get more RAM and a second hard drive. It basically bombed. What the shop did was sell us a higher order used computer and took Lois' in trade with \$150 in credit. The total cost of the "new" computer with XP, with two large hard drives and a fast chip was \$ 327.44.

Website Committee: All old newsletters have been added which now gives online access to the full history of articles, minutes and all of the basic history of our organization. Earl is happy to be working on the website, but, as with Jim, he said he will need someone to take over at some time, too. Changes are planned for the website, streamlining the first page to make it friendlier and a faster read, plus a map of the Old-Brule region is planned showing also the modern town and village boundaries to make clear who we are.

Publicity/Advertising Committee: Mary Ann and Ina head this committee Thanks to them and to Audrey who has provided considerable assistance. Alice mentioned that Mary Ann needs dates for the Midsummer Festival. There is a date for it on the website, basically the same as last year. We decided to set the date for Friday, June 17th, and Saturday June 18, 2011 with the same hours as last year. No Sunday. Our June General Meeting at 6 p.m. and work day will be on Thursday, June 16 at Lakeside Town Hall.

Alice will take care of making arrangements for the use of the hall. We also talked about putting up both signs earlier this year, about on Monday of that week. Mary Ann wants to put this into the *County Journal*.

Publications Committee: 2011 Calendars are for sale. Laila Magnuson has done a splendid job promoting them and selling them.

Brule History Research Group: Group has resumed after the Holidays and Jeannie Castleberry Pederson is working with them.

Pollari Memorial Committee: Randy Jones is completing electronic transfer of railroad grades from Harry's historical maps and once completed we will visit with Randy and a printer to set up final printing plans

Membership Committee: Dues for 2011 are now coming in. Members are reminded to get in their Blue Volunteer slips. See Jim for forms or check the website.

Monticello School: This is a Spring project.

Arnold Johnson's Flour Mill: Moving plans are waiting for weather break up before hauling it.

Update on Officer Job Descriptions: Laila has drafted the job descriptions and she has typed it up. Review needed. There was discussion on the job description it was tabled until all the board members are here.

Next Board Meeting: Will be on Wednesday May 11, 2011, 2:00 p.m. at Eskolin House.

Next General Meeting: April 13, 2011, Poplar Village Hall, 6:00 p.m. Audrey to reserve it. Speaker Historian Larry Luukkonen of McGregor, Minnesota: "Some Trails West [from Lake Superior]"

Other Old Business: Meeting at Northern Great Lakes Center in Ashland, April 8, 2011 Topic: Designing Small Museum Exhibits. \$35/person. Jim also talked about an OBHS museum separate from the Mill Site.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Communications: News Letters have been received from various other historical groups.

Sympathy and Encouragement: Sympathy to Bob Bergsten Family.

Donations: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Jim moved to adjourn the meeting and Audrey seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Colby, Acting Secretary, in the absence of Laila Ronn, Secretary

- NOTICES -

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To **Eddie Walman, Arnold Johnson**, and the **Grubes** who have been able finally to move the old Maple mill. To **Gordy Lahti** for another generous money gift to our group. To **Audrey Hakkila** for old papers and documents donated by **Obie Saari** that come from his father **Arnold's** estate. To **Lora Olson, Char Harms & Janine Seis**, Pellman sisters, who are transcribing 300 pages on the 500 plus Jacob & Tilda Pellinen family descendants which will eventually go online.

CONGRATULATIONS: . To **Doris Perala** on her recent 80th birthday and party.

ENCOURAGEMENTS: To members **Donald & Julie Anderson** with the loss of their septic truck due to fire, and to **Lorene Anderson** and member **Doug Seis** who faced health issues recently.

OUR SYMPATHY: To husband **John**, and family and friends of **Angeline Wuori**, of Maple, who recently passed away, and to the family and friends of **Bob Bergsten**, Village Board Chairman of Poplar, who suddenly passed away at 72 on March 2. He will be missed by those who love to share local history. To the family of **Norma Suominen**, 86, of Iron River, daughter of Evert and Alina (Perala) Suominen of Maple who died February 11 at her home. We received word from **Jean Olson** that **Delores Lundberg**, residing in Florida, had passed away. "She always enjoyed your newsletters and publications - keep up the good work." To the family of **William Culhane**, 88, of Brule who passed away on February 3. To the family and friends of **Melvin C. "Clifford" Walman**, 79, formerly of Maple, who died February 12 at Villa Marina in Superior.

... 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.

April 13, Wednesday, 6 p.m. Poplar Village Hall. OBHS General Meeting. Larry Luukkonen to speak on Old Trails.

April 18, Monday, 1 p.m. Next OBHS Archives Committee meeting at Pellmans.

April 24, Sunday. Easter.

May 8, Sunday. Mother's Day.

May 11, Wednesday. 2 p.m. Next OBHS Board Meeting, at Eskolin House.

May 16, Monday. Deadline for contributions to the June *OBHS News*.

May 30, Monday. Memorial Day.

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.**