

OBHS News

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2012

Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the History and Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

Volume XIV, Issue 4

August 8, 2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alice Christensen, Amnicon, President
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Dennis Hill, Amnicon
Jim Pellman, Maple
Nancy Wiitala, Superior
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OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, Aug. 19, at the Maple Town Pavilion starting at 1:00, weather permitting.
The main agenda will be a summary of our past year and recognition of those whose
time and effort have made caring for our local past possible.**

We will start with lunch, brats provided by OBHS, and our business meeting follows.

Thanks to the Town of Maple for the use of their pavilion, and thanks to all who
provide food and refreshments to share.

All members and guests are welcome!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

I wanted to share again from the book, *Amnicon From the Beginning: a Window into the Past*, which was published in 2010 as part of our Town of Amnicon Centennial Celebration. Sales of the book are being handled by the Old-Brule Heritage Society, through its members and at local business outlets, namely, Poplar Hardware, and Nan Wisherd's Cable Publishing, in Waino (north Brule) and Lake Nebagamon, and by the Amnicon Volunteer Fire Department, which generously divided the printed copies remaining after publication costs were recovered. Materials gathered in the research process have been entrusted by the writing committee to the OBHS Archive. Among the materials gathered and used was another of the interesting articles contributed by Fred Renman on haying with horses, used here with his permission.

Thanks to all the Board Members who are retiring after four years of loyal service: Secretary, Lila Ronn; Treasurer, Ron Hendrickson; Audrey Hakkila, Nancy Wiitala, and Eddie Walman. A special thanks to Audrey who has served as our historian from the start. See all of you soon at our Annual Meeting at the Maple pavilion, Sunday, August 19th.

President Alice

Haymaking With Horses

By Fred J. Renman



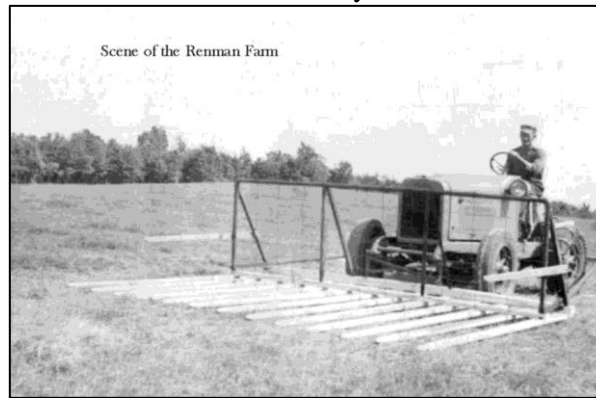
Haymaking in the late 1800s and early 1900s involved a lot of physical labor and the use of horse drawn farm implements. The first step was cutting the hay with a horse drawn hay mower. The mower had a seat for the operator who drove the team and two steel wheels with cleats that provided power from ground traction for the sickle bar. After letting the hay dry for a few days it was raked into windrows with a horse drawn dump rake. The dump rake had long curved tines that scooped up the hay, dragging it along until the driver raised the tines

Using a Buck Rake to Push Hay for Stacking dumping the hay into windrows. If the hay was to be loaded onto a wagon by hand, the horses were then driven down each windrow raking the hay into piles. The piles were then loaded onto the hay wagon by hand and hauled back to the barn or a haystack.



Albert Young used a “hay loader” to load windrowed hay onto his hay wagon out in the field. Horses pulled the wagon down the windrows with the hay loader hitched behind. The wheels powered the loader which picked the hay up off the ground and conveyed it up a slope onto rear end of the wagon.

One person riding on the wagon drove the team while one or two others distributed the load with pitch forks. In later years, Albert used a tractor to pull the wagon and hay loader. Sometimes during haying season, Albert would go to the county workhouse at South Range and hire a couple of prisoners to help with haymaking. The prisoners at South Range were allowed to leave during the day for work if they had a job lined up. Albert would pick the prisoners up in the morning and return them to the workhouse after each day of work.



Ralph Renman with a Doodle Bug and Buck Rake

1998 to 2005, 2006 to 2012 LOCAL 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 & earlier issues are available. Please contact Janet Follis, P.O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820, (715) 372-4948. The 2012 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendars are available at \$8.00 each. Other earlier OBHS calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2006 - 2009), 2010 at \$6.00, & 2011 at \$7.00 in limited numbers. Brule’s Round Up North, Poplar Hardware, Poplar Village Market are also carrying them. 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 & handling costs are \$3.50 each. Please contact us for larger quantities, or if interested in selling them for us.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE OBHS NEWS ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS ALONE & 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 our 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 donors, and to the Town of Maple for Archive storage 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 August 13, 2012, and generally every other week thereafter. Please call 715-363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Unapproved GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
Lakeside Town Hall, June 21, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER: Following a pot-luck supper, President Alice Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

MINUTES: Marion moved to approve the minutes, published in the June 2012 *OBHS News*, of the last General Meeting held on April 11, 2012. Following a second by MaryAnn, these minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Earl Tekippe was not available to provide a report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rinnet property: Jim reported that he has contacted Julia Burke Rinnet in the past regarding the site of the Rinnet house and property, which is located between two parcels that Jim owns in Maple. Dave Conley has been acting as the liaison with the Rinnet family in the present effort. Jim plans to meet again soon with Julia, Dave, and possibly Robert, to see what arrangements, if any, might be made with Julia to seek a temporary easement over this property, and its possible purchase.

Pollari Memorial Gift Committee: Lois, Audrey, Brian, and Jim are currently working on the Pollari Map. Jim noted that the completed map will include an index and additional information on the reverse side. Further work needs to be completed with Randy before the committee finalizes the map. While the committee has worked carefully to ensure that the final product is correct, a disclaimer will be included. Lois reported that the committee will make a final recommendation at an upcoming general meeting.

Scandinavian Dinner & Tours:

Dinner-- Volunteers will meet at 8:30 on Friday morning (June 22) to prepare the dinner. On Saturday morning (June 23) workers are asked to arrive beginning at 7:30 a.m. Barbra will set up table decorations. Dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Brian and Karin will sell tickets during that time.

Mary Ann has advertised the dinner in various publications, including a \$40 ad in the *Superior Telegram*. About 40 posters are on display around the area.

Davidson Mill—Jack Pank will provide tours on both Friday and Saturday.

Eskolin House--Shirley will staff the Eskolin House on both days.

Taylor's Bridge: Brian reported that recent rains caused some erosion on the north end of the bridge. He worked on the site the previous week and will do more work, depending upon the availability of Olson Brothers to deliver 17 more yards of rock and 17 yards of Class 5. Our goal is to obtain a bridge surface for the display of antique vehicles. Lila provided Shirley with written information about the bridge for distribution to visitors. Eventually, a brochure could be developed.

Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at the Eskolin House.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting—After discussion about various sites and dates, Jim made a motion, seconded by Shirley, that our Annual Meeting be held on Sunday, August 19th beginning with a

pot-luck picnic at 1:00 p.m., with the tentative site at the Maple Pavilion/Ball Park. The motion passed. Paul, after checking on the availability of this site, will contact Alice. OBHS will provide brats; Shirley will bring water.

OBHS Annual Northwestern High School Scholarship Recipient – Audrey reported that Abigail Schulz is the recipient of the OBHS 2012 Scholarship. Jim provided Audrey, for her history, the copy of the letter we received addressed to Miss Schulz from the high school informing her of her selection.

Election of New Board Members—A slate of new board members will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Paul Colby, Dennis Hill, Brian Paulson, and Jim Pellman will be entering the 2nd year of their 1st term. Karin Colby will be in the 2nd year of her 2nd term. Alice Christensen and Earl Granroth have completed their 1st term and are eligible to begin a 2nd term of two years. The following board members have completed two 2-year terms and need to be replaced: Audrey Hakkila, Ron Hendrickson, Lila Ronn, Eddie Walman, and Nancy Wiitala. (Audrey also has requested that she be replaced as historian.)

Following the election of board members for 2012-2013, they will meet immediately following the August General Meeting to select officers for the year.

ADJOURNMENT: Dennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Audrey. Alice adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Following the meeting, volunteers set up tables and chairs for the Scandinavian dinner.

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, sweat shirts, key chains, buttons and photos 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. **SEE OUR WEB SITE** (www.oldbrule.org) **FOR CURRENT SALE ITEMS AND PRICES.** Our new vests are for sale for \$24.00.

Our book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, and Nan Wisherd's books, *Pathways* and *Echoes*, Lakeside's *Sisu and Sauna*, and *Amnicon From the Beginning*, are available for \$20.00 a copy + \$3.50 shipping. Wisconsin sales tax is included in all of our prices. Shipping and handling for mugs, caps and tee shirts is a \$3.00 minimum. All items are also available for purchase at our meetings or by contacting an OBHS member. Our booklet, *Davidson Windmill History* by Jim Pellman and Gene Davidson is available for \$8.00 (+\$2.00 shipping). Leigh P. & Richard Jerrard's new expanded and revised edition of *The Brule River of Wisconsin* is now available at \$30.00 (+\$3.50 shipping).

Unapproved Board Meeting Minutes OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. Eskolin House, Town of Lakeside, July 11, 2012

Members Present: President Alice Christensen, 1st Vice-President Earl Granroth, 2nd Vice-President Brian Paulson, Secretary Lila Ronn, Acting Treasurer Earl Tekippe, Karin Colby, Dennis Hill, Jim Pellman, Eddie Walman, and Nancy Wiitala.

CALL TO ORDER: President Alice Christensen called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m.

MINUTES: Earl G. moved to accept the minutes of the previous Board Meeting held on May 9, 2012 as published in the June *OBHS News*. Following a second by Karin, the minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Earl T. did not have an official report from the National Bank of Commerce available. He reported that all bills received to date have been paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scandinavian Dinner and Mill/Eskolin House Tours: Alice reported that 75 dinner tickets were collected in the designated container, but it is possible a few more tickets were purchased. Remaining food was also sold. Dennis noted that only a half dozen people attended the tours, but that attendance was definitely affected by the closure of State Highway 13.

OBHS recognized a profit of \$ 590.97 on the meals and merchandise. Donations totaled \$ 45.00.

Mill/Eskolin Open House & Tour Dates -- Summer, 2012

Jim volunteered to be present at the site on July 21 and Jim and Nancy will be there on August 18. The hours will be 10:00 – 3:00.

Rinnet Property & Monticello School: Jim reported that he, along with Delores Pellman and Jan and Dave Conley, have met with Julia and Toivo Rinnet and Toivo's nephew, Robert Rinnet, near the proposed school site. Mike McKercher who owns adjacent property also was present and expressed agreement with proposed plans. Julia has agreed to allow us to bring in the Monticello School across her land, which parcel is between two parcels owned by Jim.

Jim said that the Monticello School, in its drier condition, and feels more sound. The TyVek is working well. He took some tight measurements. The 1/8-inch thick siding is not original, because it was installed very long ago across the window openings. The building was built with just a board frame construction. Checking on early photographs will give us some idea of the width of siding boards that were used initially. The 8" board drop siding used on the porch addition appears to be authentic.

Materials from the old N.P. Johnson School might be salvageable. Larry Johnson, current owner of the property, could be contacted.

Concern was expressed about the cost of moving the Monticello School to the proposed Maple site. OBHS has a commitment to maintain the Davidson Windmill and has received Town of Lakeside approval and a County Variance in support of our decision in April 2011 to build some type of addition to the Eskolin House. Where will we get the money to move the Monticello School?

Jim noted that Phase 1 of the project would include moving the small school (18'x24') on to a temporary footing on the Maple site where it could be worked on. Dennis made a motion, seconded by Earl G., that OBHS proceed with Phase 1. The motion was approved. Before this project is presented at the Annual Meeting for approval, Jim will drive the project and get good estimates of the cost for Phase 1 and develop a plan for financial support.

Membership Drive: Dennis has developed a letter to send to Maple residents, inviting them to attend an OBHS meeting in October, with hopes of increasing our membership. A special program needs to be planned soon.

Taylor's Bridge Project: Brian reported the rock has been delivered. The hand-railing design is still to be determined, but wood will not be used. Erosion appears to be under control.

Next Board Meeting: 4:30 p.m., September 12, 2012 at the Eskolin House

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting/Picnic: The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 19, 2012, at the Maple Town Shelter by the ball field. The potluck picnic will begin at 1:00 p.m. Brats and beverages will be provided. We will reserve the ball field to improve availability of the shelter. Karin will confirm our reservation at the upcoming Town of Maple Board Meeting.

Election of New Board Members: Out-going board members will serve as a committee to present a slate of potential members for the next term of two years. Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the new Board of Directors will elect officers.

Historian Replacement: Audrey Hakkila has creditably served as historian for many years, but has requested to be replaced. As the new Board determines their officers, they will consider how to best fill this important role.

Possible Field Trips: Brian suggested that OBHS consider a field trip to the John Beck Log House in Solon Springs (Solon Springs Historical Society). Another possibility is a trip to Oulu to visit the Palo Homestead (Lahti Farm) and the Pudas Homestead. Alice will follow-up with more information.

Security/Use of Keys at Davidson Mill/Eskolin House Site: Dennis questioned the vulnerability of the current system that board members use to enter these buildings. Earl G. made a motion that Dennis develop a “key plan” to allow members access without jeopardizing security. Following a second by Nancy, the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Earl moved to adjourn the meeting; Dennis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lila Ronn, Secretary

Area History: No. 85

The following text and image are from the month of July in the 2012 OBHS Annual Historical Calendar.

7. Pollari Well Drilling Rig, c. 1920. The earliest picture of the first Pollari churn well drilling rig, shows Ted Pollari at about 16, an unknown helper, and John Pollari, Maple based well driller, then fifty-five years of age. John was born in Veteli, Finland in 1865, came to



America in 1893, living in the Finnish colony in Lanesville, Massachusetts, working in a granite quarry there until 1899 when he was pressured to leave because of his religious activities. He was forced to abandon a substantial boarding house that he had constructed there. His family came via Upper Michigan to Maple, then part of Old Brule, where he continued his preaching within the Laestadian Independent Apostolic Lutheran tradition. Several of his followers in Massachusetts came to live in Maple as well. He established a farm on Peyton, Kimball & Barber cutover lands in the area of Maple called *Kaskenperä*. He remained active in the well business until late in life. His death came in 1945 while on a preaching trip to Upper Michigan. His son Charlie had become active in the business, with a new rig purchased in the 1930s. His untimely death due to a heart attack in 1949 ended the business, a year in which he did some drilling with the Longs. The spiritual message of life from Rev. John Pollari through his son Ted’s life was that we live lives of non-coerced service to one another, to our neighbors, not because of what he or she has done, but because of what our creating Divine Father has done, in the Creation itself, and though fallen, He brings it back, redeemed through his own re-creative love and suffering, which sacrificial love and giving is the essence, the ultimate nature of Reality itself. Human life is not zero-sum: Our own free giving is the creation or generation of new life itself. The old church building that John preached in and designed

is perhaps the last of the Finnish Kuorikoski churches. His mother was a daughter of Kuorikoski church builders from Kaustinen. *From the Pollari family collection.*

–NOTICES –

THANK YOU'S & RECOGNITIONS: To all of you **OBHS Members** who are up to date on your 2012 Memberships; [Members, please check your newsletter mailing labels to see what we have in our records: The last day of the year date shown is when your membership expires.]; To all of you who have donated your valuable time to make what we do throughout the year possible. **Before the annual meeting, please turn in, as soon as possible, your "blue sheets" (or via the digital equivalent – see the OBHS Website) with all of your tabulated hours for the year running from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012.**

CONGRATULATIONS: To **Axel & Patsy Wiitala** on their 50th wedding anniversary; To **Jim & Nancy Bong** on their recent 50th anniversary. To **John & Tracy TePoel** on their many years of dairy farming, and the recognition they recently received at the event held on the TePoel Farm (and our sympathy below in the death of John's mother).

OUR ENCOURAGEMENT & SYMPATHY: A speedy recovery to **Audrey Pollari** after recent surgery. Sympathy to family, neighbors and friends of the many who have recently passed away: **Bertyl Nelson**, 95, of Port Wing, Wentworth, & Superior, who passed away on Aug. 8, 2012 at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Proctor; **Kathleen E. (Trebilcock) Johnson**, 78, Superior, Hawthorne, Santa Barbara, California was called home on July 16; **David Michael Smith**, 23, of Superior died July 22 as the result of an ATV accident in the Town of Amnicon; **Ellen J. (Vendela) Sibila**, 78, of South Range died July 24 in her residence after a long battle with cancer, surrounded by her family; **Arthur F. Pank**, 73, Superior, died July 19 in his home; **Grace Ann (McGillis) Murray**, 77, of Superior died July 17 in Essentia-St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth; **Martha Mary (Kuismi) Ollanketo**, 81, formerly of Marengo, Wis., passed away with her loving family by her side July 12 at Ashland Health and Rehabilitation Center; **George E. Caspers, Jr.**, 96, formerly of Lake Nebagamon, passed on July 6 at Diamond Willow Assisted Living in Cloquet; **Betty Ann (Maki) Sutherland**, 66, passed away June 23, requesting that her ashes flow in her beloved Brule River; **Beverly J. (Denman) TePoel**, 79, Iron River, former longtime Maple area resident, died unexpectedly June 27 at Essentia Health St. Mary's Medical Center, Duluth; **Julie Anne Banks**, 50, daughter of Lowell & Phyllis, passed away peacefully on June 23 at St Luke's hospital with family and friends at her side; **Alice L. (Khaler) (Kelsey) Wincek**, 95, Town of Highland, passed away on June 6; **Anton "Jim" James Vojacek, Jr.**, 88, of Iron River, passed away on Aug. 3 at St. Francis in the Park in Superior after a brief illness; **Carol J. (Saylor) Marvin**, 71, born in North Dakota, of Superior died June 16, at Essentia-St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth; **Agnes Julianna (Beck) (Gronquist) Kindel**, 88, born Feb. 1, 1924, in Maple to Emma Beck and Isaac Mickila, died June 3 at Villa Marina Nursing Home, in Superior, where she had resided for 3 years; **Dale William "Willy" Hietala**, 70, Ladysmith, born in Poplar, later lived in Waukegan & Kenosha, died on Jan. 21 at his home; **Robert Henry "Bob" Nollet**, 78 of Blaine, born in Poplar, died of complications of cancer, death posted June 6, 2012; **Leonard G. Kavajecz**, 72, longtime Maple School District Superintendent and Superior area resident, died June 3 unexpectedly at his home.

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 annual meeting in August. Higher levels of support are always welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

CALENDAR.

August 13, Monday, 1 p.m. Archives Committee work at Pellmans'.

August 18, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Davidson Windmill Monthly Tours.

August 19, Sunday 1 p.m. OBHS Annual Meeting, Maple Pavilion. New Board meets after to elect officers. Meet at Maple Community Center if bad weather.

August 23, Monday, 1 p.m. Archives Committee work at Pellmans'.

September 3, Monday. Labor Day.

September 9, Sunday. Grandparents Day.

September 12, Wednesday. OBHS Board Meeting.

September 17, Monday. Deadline for contributions to the October *OBHS News*. Rosh Hashanah.

September 22, Saturday. Autumn begins.

September 25, Tuesday (at sunset). Yom Kippur.

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been maintaining our Web site (www.oldbrule.org). **Earl Granroth** continues to make regular updates, and **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems** in **Superior** is our Web host at no charge to us. **Thanks again to Earl and Jon.**