

OBHS News

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2013

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

Volume XV, Issue 1

February 13, 2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Hill, Amnicon, President
Earl Granroth, Lakeside, 1st V. P.
Brian Paulson, Amnicon, 2nd V. P.
Jim Pellman, Maple, Secretary

Earl Tekippe, Amnicon, Treasurer
Alice Christensen, Amnicon
Karin Colby, Maple
Paul Colby, Lakeside

Mary Ann Gronquist, Parkland
Hope Swenson, Lakeside
Gary Luoma, Superior, Alternate
One Board Vacancy

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 6 p.m. at the Brule Town Hall

Program: Our speaker will be Board Member and Secretary, Jim Pellman, who will talk on the early history of the Town of Brule, using photos and old maps, and images from our latest calendars. He will also review progress surrounding the move of the Monticello School from the Town of Lakeside to our Maple Hill Historic Site. After a break for refreshments a short business meeting will follow. Thanks to the Town of Brule for the use of their Town Hall, and to all who bring refreshments to share.

FROM THE EDITOR:

There is activity on a park-like vacant lot a block from Northwestern High School in Maple. The Monticello School is on the move and will soon be located a few yards from the site of the earliest Town of Brule Town Hall. It will be on the lot which was adjacent and dedicated to the first School District 3 school of the old Town of Brule. This school just happened to be in the village of Maple. This building's move will be the first step in a project that will not only save this historic structure, but because it will be built over a full, modern walk-out basement, will allow Old-Brule Heritage Society to more completely fulfill its original charge: to preserve and share the history of the Old Brule region. It is part of the vision shared by the earliest membership of Old-Brule Heritage Society, which saw itself as a historical society to serve the communities that feed their children into the School District of Maple, or Northwestern, schools.

An important responsibility of any historical group is its collection, and the facilities needed to take care of them, and to interpret and display them. Other than the buildings at the Windmill site we have relied on the generosity of our communities and our members for space to allow us to perform our duties. For this we thank them all. Yet this has made us vulnerable to the inevitable demands of changing community needs and human circumstances. When the Monticello School Museum and Archives is complete, we will have a place and a mailing address totally our own, for the first time, to fall back upon. We thank all who see the vital importance of this project to our group and our vision, and who are contributing, each in his or her own way, to its future success. - Jim Pellman

1998 to 2005, 2006 to 2013 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 2013 Old-Brule Heritage Society History Photo Calendars are available at \$8.00 each. Other earlier OBHS calendars are also available at \$5.00 (2006 - 2010), 2011 at \$6.00, & 2012 at \$7.00 in limited numbers. Brule's Round Up North, Poplar Hardware, Poplar Village Market, Gopher Hole, and Sharon's in Lake Nebagamon are also carrying them. An e-mail address for more info: musketeer6@cheqnet.net, and phone: 715-363-2549, or Laila at 715-372-4963, or please check our Web site at www.oldbrule.org. Shipping & handling costs are \$3.00 each. Please contact us for larger quantities, or if you might be interested in selling them for us.

**Area History:
No. 89**

The following is from the month of March in our 2013 OBHS Calendar.

3. Hawthorne, Nebagamon & Superior Railroad Caboose Derailment, c. 1905. This photograph

was taken during the time of the HN & S shortline railroad, built by Frederick Weyerhaeuser interests in 1898 to connect the large Nebagamon Lumber Company mill with the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad in Hawthorne (the Omaha), avoiding the need to deal with the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroad which also served the village of Lake Nebagamon, but via



the City of Superior. The HN & S also ran several branches north into the company's pine land holdings throughout old Brule. This derailment undoubtedly required immediate attention as it happened on the main line just as it left Lake Nebagamon, and at the point where the branch from the Poplar direction and north (now Highway P) arrived into Lake Nebagamon. The mill and the railroad ended service the same year as Lake Nebagamon officially became a village in 1907. *Image courtesy of Weyerhaeuser researchers John Altshool and Frank Telewski.*

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 February 25th, 2013, and generally every other week thereafter. Please call 715-363-2549 to confirm meeting time and place.

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). See our calendar ad above.

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

Hope Swenson residence, Town of Lakeside, January 9, 2013

Members Present: Dennis Hill, Brian Paulson, Jim Pellman, Mary Ann Gronquist, Hope Swenson, Earl Tekippe, Gary Luoma, Alternate; (One board vacancy).

CALL TO ORDER: Dennis Hill called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Motion for approval of the minutes of the previous Board Meeting held on November 14, 2012 at the Eskolin House, as published in the Dec 2012-Jan 2013 *OBHS News*, by Mary Ann G. Second by Gary Luoma. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Earl Tekippe: As of 1/9/2013: CD: \$5733.76; Poplar Bank Checking Account: \$3624.06. Motion for approval by Jim Pellman, seconded by Hope Swenson. Motion carried. Earl T. then in a surprise advised us that he would be resigning from his post as Treasurer, effective immediately. He explained that he had not been fully aware of the range of our organization's wider vision at the time he agreed to the office, thinking our efforts were mostly confined to maintenance of the Windmill site. After gallant efforts to get him to change his mind we regretfully resigned ourselves to his departure, but persuaded him to carry on until our next general meeting in February.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill/Eskolin House/Taylor's Bridge Committee:

Chairman Brian Paulson Report: Bids for painting mill will wait until April.

Maple Hill OBHS Monticello School Museum and Archiving Facility:

Report: Erkkila legal transfer documents completed. Letter arrived from DC Zoning 11/13/12 for our representatives to appear before DC Board of Adjustment regarding issuance of variance on 11/28/12, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. Jim P. attended and spoke for OBHS. Dennis & Arlene also were there. Unanimous approval was granted by the hearing committee on driveway

location issues: Hwy 2 set back and separation from neighbor issues. Fee for this: \$475.00. Bid has been secured on Phase I moving of school from Woodhulls: \$3500 for initial move, \$1500 for move from crib on final site to new basement, to be accomplished around February 1, 2013. A motion was made by Jim, and seconded by Mary Ann, to approve this bid from Woodhulls, pending their demonstration of insurance and licenses. Jim assured the group that he would arrange funding out of his own resources as necessary to back the Phase I bid amount. Motion carried.

Dennis has been prepping the site. Woodhulls propose moving the school directly off Highway 2 onto the corner Maple Hill lot, bypassing the Rinnet's property. Bill Anderson has agreed to survey the precise lot lines *pro bono*.

Once on site: preliminary roof repairs, and winterizing, as needed. Thorough vision and planning documents need to be drafted for Phase II, and letters thoroughly describing the basement construction plans for Phase II will be needed with requests for bids and help to go out to local contractors: possibly Glen & Mike Hill, Kevin Maki, Poolers, Gary Peterson, Scott Essen, Olson Brothers, others?

Materials from the old N.P. Johnson School might be salvageable. Larry Johnson, current owner of that property, could be contacted. Eddy has an old building with drop siding that can be salvaged and used. Axel Wiitala has siding from the old Maple Hall he is willing to donate. A final estimate of the costs involved should be generated. A tentative date of completion should be formalized as early as possible.

More planning is needed regarding Phase II fund-raising, further specific fund-raising from within our own group, a possible public campaign, grant writing to groups like the Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation, Wisconsin Humanities Council, Finlandia Foundation, and others. Matching grants should be sought. Local banks, businesses and corporations should be contacted for what help they might be able to give us. A packet needs to be prepared that describes and itemizes all phases and needs within the project that can be presented on contacts and visits to potential donors at all levels.

Dennis and Jim have been in contact with the Conleys in Florida, and Jan has offered her services in our designing a fund-raising campaign. Two new brochures are proposed in support of these efforts. Jim will be supplying Jan with documents, images and maps in support of this work to be done with the digital help of Jan's daughter. Jim hopes to help with this as his health returns.

A 36 inch culvert will be needed once we move to the Highway F driveway project. These can cost \$600. We will seek to coordinate our work with the County and the DNR as requested to help mitigate costs in this area.

Architect, Robert Aho, might be contacted to assist us if possible.

The letter acknowledging the Rantala Family Log House offer still needs to be drafted and sent; was not addressed at this meeting.

Membership Committee: Membership Drive planning: for Brule and Lake Nebagamon. Letters, as before, to go out to Brule, and then LN prospective members, and others, inviting them to attend a coming OBHS General Meeting. A PowerPoint talk can be prepared for the specific community audience. Dennis would talk on historic kitchen tools.

Recognition Certificates for latest retired Board members, and recognition for hours donated last year should be part of the next General meeting; was not addressed at this meeting.

Archives Committee: Next meeting: January 14th at Delores Pellman's.

Publications Committee:

Pollari Memorial Map Project Report: Slowly progressing. Writing text for map back. Checking ice road vs RR spurs. Disclaimer. Contact with Randy Jones: After surgery, he is ready to sit down in quieter winter to move project along.

2013 Calendar Project Report: Selling well. 2014 Calendar. Earlier publication again.

2013 Scholarship Fund Request from Northwestern. Submitted according to our treasurer. 2014 Scholarship?

Sisu and Sauna Reprint: Re-edit still needed & decision on publisher and number.

Nominee Sought for Vacant New Board Member Slots: Prospects?

Historian Replacement: Audrey Hakkila has creditably served as historian for many years, but has requested to be replaced. Nancy Wiitala has accepted the position.

Merchandise Inventory:

New OBHS Logo T-Shirts: Gary Luoma's suggestion for a new T-shirt with a map of Old-Brule included in the design to emphasize the full scope of our organization's charter. Need ideas for image at coming meetings. Still have to create design. Barb Granroth's DC Sesquicentennial design as prototype.

Gene Davidson DVD proposal: Motion by Gary Luoma, seconded by Hope Swenson that we investigate costs of Gene proposal. Motion carried.

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. Barron County's site? Next Spring, we'll see.

Future General Meetings: Membership growth emphasis?, Wed., February 13th, 6.p.m.; Lake Nebagamon, Wed., April 10th., 6 p.m., Auditorium. (see Maple Hill Museum discussion above)

Next Board Meeting: 4:30 p.m., Mar.13, 2013: Hope Swenson's.

Other Old Business: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Monticello School Museum Bank Account: Jim moved that we create a separate account for deposit of donations received designated for the Monticello School Museum and Archive. Mary Ann seconded the motion. (Discussion followed shortening the name of the account to Monticello School Museum.) There would be created an actual separate Monticello School Museum checking account at the bank in Poplar to hold donations coming in dedicated specifically to that purpose. There was also discussion having to do with the sources of funding for the school project, Phases One and Two, these having to do with the preparation and move and of the School, and then for construction of the museum/archiving basement. Earlier minutes expressly say that these will be done with new funds raised for the project. We have other dedicated funds in our accounts which commitments are to be met, not least the Windmill maintenance itself, and these are not to be touched. With these assurances the motion on creation of a new account carried.

Trunk available from Douglas County Historical Society: Jim Mattson from the Douglas County Historical Society Archive stopped at our last Board meeting, and proposed we examine a duplicate trunk held by DCHS that is available. Jim P. was to investigate, but cancelled due to health, but will do so soon.

Sympathy/Encouragements: Hope has been handling these and needs leads.

Button Creation: in support of an OBHS logo adoption and new T-Shirt, and for fund raising for our new Maple Hill museum. Discussed a possible design contest.

Other New Business:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Brian Paulson, seconded by Earl Tekippe that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned by President Dennis at 8:00 p.m. The group stopped for quiche and other refreshments served by the host and others, along the way, for which we thank them.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pellman, Secretary

**Area History:
No. 90**

The following text and image are from the month of April in the 2013 OBHS Annual Historical Calendar.

4. Swedish Homesteaders, John M. M. and Annie M. Peterson's Log House and Farmstead in Poplar, 1887, Located in Section 6, T47N-R11W. On the Fifth of April 1887 the Town of Brule held its First Annual Town Meeting at this site as part of the great division of the Town of Superior which had covered all of Douglas County. (Gordon and Nebagamain also became new towns at the same time.) The Poll List for the new town of Brule included fifty-one voters, all men, and was certified by new Town Clerk, C. S. Howard. Merchant Thomas Doherty with 39 votes was named winner in the tally for Chairman soundly defeating other nominees, saw mill owner, J. E. Chase, 12 votes, and George Foltz, 10 votes. The meeting was held in this house, one near the Poplar Station on the Northern Pacific Railroad. It would be two years before Brule would have a Town Hall, and that would be located not at the Poplar or the Brule Stations but near the centrally located Maple Station. Poplar would never legally exist as a Town, but was part of the Town of Amnicon after 1906 until the Village of Poplar was finally created in 1917. "Double M" would become Poplar's first postmaster, and the Peterson family would grow to eleven members. In 1932 they were living in Oregon.



Photo courtesy of Geraldine Fechtelkotter, and poll data courtesy of Tubb Olson and Doreen and Jody Swanson who have located early Brule records.

AGENDA
OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.
Brule Town Hall, February 13, 2013

No. Present:

CALL TO ORDER: President Dennis Hill.

MINUTES: The December 2012 General Meeting was cancelled. No minutes exist.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Earl Tekippe: As of _____: CD: \$ _____
Poplar Bank Checking Account: \$ _____. New Signature Cards made. New Account for Monticello School Museum donations has been created. Motion for approval

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidson Windmill/Eskolin House/Taylor's Bridge Committee:

Chairman Brian Paulson Report: Bids for painting mill will wait until April.

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Phase II planning.

Membership Committee: Membership Drive planning: for Lake Nebagamon.

Archives Committee: Next meeting: January 14th at Delores Pellman's.

Trunk available from Douglas County Historical Society? Status.

Publications Committee:

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2014 Calendars Report:

2014 Scholarship?

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Other Old Business:

NEW BUSINESS:

Sympathy/Encouragements: Hope has been handling these and needs leads.

Other New Business:

ADJOURNMENT:

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, Earl Tekippe, 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.

February 14, Thursday. Valentine's Day.

February 18, Monday. Presidents' Day. 1 p.m. Archives Committee meets at Pellmans'.

February 22, Friday. Washington's Birthday.

March 10, Sunday. Daylight Savings Time begins.

March 13, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. OBHS Board Meeting at Hope Swenson's residence.

March 15, Friday. Deadline for contributions to the April *OBHS News*.

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 G. and Jon.**