

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 2

April 8, 2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Paul Colby, Lakeside, Treasurer
Alice Christensen, Amnicon
Danny Bergsten, Poplar (pending vote)
Karin Colby, Maple

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

OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 5 p.m. at the Amnicon Town Hall (Note the earlier time)

Program: Our speaker will be McGregor, Minnesota, based historian and author Larry Lukkonen, who will talk on the “early trails and roads, and settlement patterns in the Head of the Lakes region (particularly in Carlton County, Minnesota, and Douglas County, Wisconsin, using photos and old maps from the time of Old-Brule and earlier.” Larry is the author of many scholarly books and articles, and recently the hard to find 2007 publication *Between the Waters*, which traced the old Northwest Trail from Lake Superior to the Mississippi. After a break for refreshments a short business meeting will follow. Thanks to the Town of Amnicon for the use of their Town Hall, to Dennis for making hall arrangement, and to all who serve and bring refreshments to share. Everyone is welcome!

FROM THE EDITOR:

On Thursday, April 4th, the funeral of my mother, Delores Pellman, was held in Lake Nebagamon. My siblings and I went through the emotionally exhausting time of her final days in home hospice, and then the many preparations that go into a dignified funeral memorial. With the help and support of many of you in this short time we’ve made it this far, but there is a great void for Time to fill, both within our family, and within the Old-Brule Heritage Society.

Mother’s name has become synonymous with the Old-Brule Heritage Society, and it seems more than coincidence that she left us amidst the planning for the Monticello School Museum and Archive, which will be the culmination of a vision we’ve had since the passing of Mother’s mother, Esther Pollari, in 2002. The historic lot where the museum and archive is to be located (created in 1888) was part of land transactions between my mother, her sister Karen Simpson, and the School District of Maple which owned the property as part of the old holdings that came to the Town of Maple from old Brule when Brule was divided and Maple was formed in 1907. Adjacent is the site of the very first Brule Town Hall from 1889 which became Maple’s Town Hall by purchase from Brule. The school lot was entrusted by Mother and Karen to me for historical purposes, and now I entrust it to OBHS.

Mother loved the idea of creating a community resource on the grounds she played upon when she was a child (as I did myself). By then the new combined Maple School and Town Hall, (built in 1921) was serving as her schoolhouse, which it did from 1931 until 1938 when all Maple and Blueberry students were moved into the Maple Corner School. The school/town hall building continued to serve the Town of Maple, but eventually it went to Maple Cooperative Services who eventually sold it to Maymie (Pietari) Burke Salomaki. In 1957 the building was torn down together with the old Pollari Maple Garage next door. Maple Town meetings had years before been moved to the Corner School.

Thanks again, Everyone, for your prayers and thoughtfulness. - Jim Pellman & Family

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.

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 April 22, 2013, 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.**

Brule Town Hall, February 13, 2013

Number of Members and Guests Present: 29 signed.

A light potluck lunch was much enjoyed by the group with the Brule ladies serving as hosts. Our thanks to them, to Chairman Dennis Smet and the Town of Brule for the use of their hall. Jim Pellman followed with a Power Point talk on early Brule history emphasizing early town and local government dynamics, personalities and facilities. Dennis briefly summarized the status of the Monticello School preparation. He also briefly described the table display of old kitchen and domestic items he had brought.

CALL TO ORDER: President Dennis Hill called the formal business meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Due to illness, the December 2012 General Meeting had been cancelled. Hence, no minutes were read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Earl Tekippe reported; As of January 2013: CD: \$5,733.76; Poplar Bank Checking Account: \$3,129.00. New Signature Card had been made. Jim P. and Dennis H. were listed. New treasurer will have to be added. New Account for Monticello School Museum donations has been created with call that checks are ready to be picked up. Current balance in that account: \$1322.15. Motion for approval of Treasurer's Report by Earl

Granroth, seconded by Jim Mattson. Motion carried. Because of Earl Tekippe's immediate resignation from the Board Paul Colby was nominated for Treasurer by Audrey Hakkila, with a second by Earl Granroth. Paul agreed to serve and was elected unanimously on a voice vote. Paul's name will be added to the signature cards in Poplar. A second signature on checks had been suggested by the Poplar Bank. Motion by Lila Ronn, seconded by Gary Luoma, to initiate this procedure within OBHS. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Windmill Site Chairman Brian Paulson Report: A lot was accomplished last year with the Taylor's Bridge work, and on Eskolin House. This is painting year for the Windmill. Bids for windmill and bridge painting will wait until April. Earl Tekippe was recognized and thanked for his equipment operation on site, as well as Ron Hendrickson, Brian Paulson, and Paul Colby for all of their work.

Maple Hill OBHS Monticello School Museum and Archiving Facility: Report:

Dennis and Paul have 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 is surveying the property *pro bono*. Woodhull's are building a new floor joist subfloor with 2x12s and plywood, to be put under the structure to stabilize it before moving (Part of Phase II funding, \$1800 estimate.). Jim Pellman and family will advance funds needed to carry the project smoothly forward.

Phase II planning. Basement Final Planning and Fund-raising will begin in earnest. The Conley's with their experience will help with the brochures and fund-raising planning, and their daughter with the computer design work.

Membership Committee: Membership Drive planning: for Lake Nebagamon will come after return of snowbirds (May or June); tabled for later.

Archives Committee: Next meeting: 1 p.m., February 18th, at Delores Pellman's. Please call to confirm.

Jim Mattson reminded us that a trunk or foot locker once owned by Oliver Johnson is available from Douglas County Historical Society. Mary Ann and Paul had examined it. The consensus of the group was to accept the trunk from DCHS as a donation.

Publications Committee:

Pollari Memorial Map Project Report: Slowly progressing. Writing text for map back. Checking ice road vs RR spurs. Disclaimer to be added. Committee to contact Randy Jones as Jim & Randy's time and health permit.

2014 Calendars Report: Done with the support of the Archives Committee. The 2013 calendar has sold very well, thanks to Laila and other members. Motion by Audrey, second by Laila, to put out a 2014 edition. Motion carried. This will be done again at an earlier date to assure good publicity and sales.

2014 NWHS Scholarship: Motion by Audrey, second by Alice C., to sponsor a 2014 OBHS NWHS Scholarship under the same terms as last year. Motion carried.

Sisu and Sauna Reprint: Re-edit still needed & decision on publisher and number. Jim would like strong input from the Lakeside writing committee regarding changes to the new edition. Down to dregs in the old edition.

Nominees Sought for Two Vacant Board Member Slots: Prospects? Some who attended the meeting are giving it serious thought.

Merchandise Inventory:

New OBHS Logo T-Shirts: Discussed 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. We need ideas for an image which will be reviewed at coming meetings (by next Board Meeting, March 13th). Still have to create a final OBHS logo design. See Barb Granroth's DC Sesquicentennial design as prototype. A contest was proposed, with prize possibly the first new T-Shirt. More planning ahead.

Gene Davidson DVD proposal: ideas are being sought for publisher of the DVDs.

Button Creation: Hope was not at the meeting, but she is investigating buttons.

Possible Field Trips: Start next Spring. Solon, Barron County, Palo Farm in Oulu, Mellen (Mary Carol Granberg).

Future General Meetings: Membership growth emphasis. Lake Nebagamon, Auditorium. Tabled for Board review (probably to be held May or June).

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

Other Old Business: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Other New Business: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Earl Tekippe, second by Earl Granroth, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Dennis H. adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Mary Ann Gronquist surprised the group with drawings for two door prizes, one going to Laila Magnuson, and one to Lila Ronn. Thank you, Mary Ann!

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pellman, 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). See our calendar ad above.

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

Hope Swenson Residence, Town of Lakeside, March 13, 2013

Board Members Present: Hope Swenson, Gary Luoma, Dennis Hill, Paul Colby, Brian Paulson, Mary Ann Gronquist, Earl Granroth, Jim Pellman; **General Members:** Arlene Hill, Dan Bergsten (Dan has agreed to take a vacancy on the Board, with formal confirmation at the April General Meeting)

CALL TO ORDER: President Dennis Hill called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m.

MINUTES: Earl Granroth moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held January 9, 2013, at Hope Swenson's residence as published in the *OBHS News* 2/13/2013. Seconded by Mary Ann Gronquist. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Paul Colby submitted a thorough spreadsheet report through February 28, 2013: CD: \$5,745.94; Poplar Bank Existing Checking Accounts (Windmill \$2776.43 & School \$1,505.16): Total: \$4,281.58. The new checking account for Monticello School Museum and Archives donations and expenditures has been created with signature cards signed. A second signature on checks had been suggested by the Poplar Bank. A motion at the February General Meeting in Brule to initiate this procedure carried. This policy is now in place. Motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report made by Earl Granroth, seconded by Mary Ann Gronquist, carried.

Discussion followed as to the need to maintain an OBHS General Account to go with the Windmill Account and the Monticello School and Archive Account under the same terms and procedures to make these funds distinct in the Treasurer's Report to the Group. Motion by Jim Pellman with a second by Paul Colby to create this Bank account. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Windmill Site Chairman Brian Paulson Report: A lot was accomplished last year with the Taylor's Bridge work, and on Eskolin House, plus addition. This is painting year for the Windmill. Three bids for windmill and bridge painting will wait until April. At the General Meeting Earl Tekippe was recognized and thanked for his equipment operation on site, as well as Ron Hendrickson, Brian Paulson, and Paul Colby for all of their work. More wood preservative to be added. New keys for the Eskolin House will be distributed to the Board Members, due to lock (and front door) replacement by Alice C. and Ron H. Jim will get Brian P. the Sloans' phone number as prospective painters. Weed control is being investigated for under the Bridge. Pests (ants & mice) are being controlled. Seek National Register of Historic Sites status. Old highway signage near/on the bridge will be duplicated, plus the Bridge information sign. Change to our insurance policy should be investigated (to include in the policy coverage of Taylor's Bridge, Monticello School and Archives site). "Functional replacement value" for the Eskolin House and the School should be investigated. Coverage is currently with State Farm and Matt Thorson.

Maple Hill OBHS Monticello School Museum and Archives: Report:

Dennis and Paul prepped the site. The Robert Woodhull Company prepped the school and today a crew of five moved it from Erkkilas' with Douglas County Sheriff escort directly off Highway 2 onto the corner Maple Hill lot, bypassing the Rinnet's property. The building and porch have arrived safely and intact. Bill Anderson has surveyed the property *pro bono*. Our thanks to him. Woodhulls had built a new floor; headers and joists, subfloor, with 2x12s and plywood, placed under the structure to stabilize it before moving (actually part of Phase II funding, \$2000 labor & materials). Jim Pellman and family are advancing funds needed to carry the project smoothly forward.

Phase II planning. Basement Final Planning and Fund-raising planning has begun in earnest. Jan and Dave Conley with their experience will help with the brochures and fund-raising planning, and their daughter with the computer design work. Paul has already contacted Tom Higgins with Calumet Superior, LLC, by mail for financial help. Jim is working on brochures as time permits. Two new brochures are in the works, one describing OBHS, its history and mission, and the other on the Monticello School Museum and Archive facility.

Membership Committee: Membership Drive planning: for Lake Nebagamon will come after return of snowbirds (June). Auditorium reservation?

Archives Committee: Next : 1 p.m., March 18th, at Delores Pellman's. Please call to confirm.

Trunk or foot locker: once owned by Oliver Johnson was available from Douglas County Historical Society. Mary Ann now has it. The consensus of the general meeting was to accept the trunk from DCHS as a donation. Paperwork?

Publications Committee:

Pollari Memorial Map Project Report: Slowly progressing. Committee will meet soon as health permits.

2014 Calendars Report: Done with the support of the Archives Committee. The 2013 calendar has sold very well, thanks to Laila and other members. General meeting voted to publish a 2014 edition to be done again at an earlier date for better publicity and sales.

2014 NWHS Scholarship: The General meeting voted to sponsor a 2014 OBHS NWHS Scholarship under the same terms as last year.

Sisu and Sauna Reprint: Re-edit still needed & decision on publisher and number. Jim requested Lakeside writing committee complete changes before we go forward with new edition.

Nominees Sought for Two Vacant Board Member Slots: Prospects? Some who attended the general meeting were to give it serious thought. At this meeting Member Dan Bergsten expressed interest in assuming one of the Board positions. He should be confirmed at our next General Meeting.

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 is moving forward. We need ideas for an image which will be reviewed at coming meetings (Gary presented a sketch for the shirt, front and back. More ideas & refinements needed). Still have to create a final OBHS logo design. See Barb Granroth's DC Sesquicentennial design as prototype. A contest was proposed, with prize possibly the first new T-Shirt. More planning ahead.

Gene Davidson DVD proposal: ideas are being sought for publisher of the DVDs. Gene emailed with more data on possible publisher.

Button Creation: Hope would like to further investigate button making (in support of Monticello School fund-raising, etc.). Earl brought to the meeting the machine and equipment.

Possible Field Trips: Start next Spring: Solon Springs Historical Society museum; Barron County Museum site; Palo Farm in Oulu; Mellen (Mary Carol Granberg); as weather permits.

Future Meetings: Membership growth emphasis; General Meeting: Lake Nebagamon, Auditorium with a dessert lunch. (June 12, will be sought). Next meeting to be at Amnicon Town Hall, April 10, 6 p.m. Will try to get Larry Luukkonen [*Between the Waters*] or Herb Wagner, to speak on their historical publications. Jim will try to make speaker arrangements. Midsummer Event: June 21-23 weekend this year.

Next Board Meeting: 4:30 p.m., May 8, 2013. Eskolin House.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sympathy/Encouragements: Hope has been handling these, and she needs leads. Eddie Walman has been hospitalized recently. Delores Pellman is now being cared for by Essentia Hospice and her family at home.

Windmill Grass Mowing for 2013: Amanda Tuura and husband had the job last year, and will be contacted.

Membership roster: needed, with volunteer interests, skills, and availability. Jim will start list.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Hope to adjourn at 6:50, seconded by Jim. Motion carried. Lunch was served by host, Hope, with the Hills providing an excellent hot dish, and many trimmings by others. Thanks to all.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Pellman, Secretary

Area History: No. 91

This photo is the May entry in our 2013 OBHS History Calendar.

5. Northern Outing: c. 1908. This semi-formal portrait was taken during an unidentified gathering of eligible young people dressed in their Sunday best, segregated by men and women as was the case within the National Evangelical Lutheran Church of the time, although not all here were so affiliated. Those identified mainly lived in the northern region of Maple in the Finnish settlement. They might be on the slope of the cleared but foliage covered red clay ravine cut by Bardon Creek through that area.

Top row: Sam Aho, Art Hokkala, x , Matt Skarpakka, Jack Aho, x, x, Alex Antilla, x, x

Middle row: John Pellinen (Pellman), Nestor Pellinen, William Antilla, x, John Raunio?, x, x, x

Bottom row: Mary Saari, Eva Perala, Ami Luostari, Lizzie Carvala, Anna Antilla, x, Tillie Skarpakka, Hilda Aho, Aina Aho, Hilma Aho

Guesses for those unidentified are welcome. *From the family collection of Henry Antilla.*



-NOTICES -

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS: To **OBHS Members** who have paid dues for their 2013 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. **Please turn in (if you haven't) your volunteer hours "blue sheets" (or use the digital version – see the OBHS Website) with your tabulated hours for the year running from August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012.** *See Jim for a new blue form for August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014.* To **Earl Granroth** for his generous donation to the Monticello School project. To **Danny Bergsten** for stepping up to assume a role on our Board.

To the **Robert Woodhull** family of building movers, and crew, for safely delivering the old Monticello School from its foundation at Erkkilas' in Lakeside to the Maple lot on Highway 2 on March 13.

OUR ENCOURAGEMENT & SYMPATHY: To member **Elvie Agacki** with health issues. To **Eddie Walman** as he mends. To the families and friends of the following people with regional connections who have recently passed away: **Arne W. Lusikka**, 84, Oulu, April 5, 2013 at Ashland Health & Rehab Center; **Delores M. (Pollari) Pellman**, 86, of Maple, April 1, of cancer, at home surrounded by family; **Clarence Heikkila**, 83, Superior, died in his home on March 25th, born in Oulu, Wis. to William and Lillian (Suni) Heikkila, where he lived most of his life before moving to Superior; **Jeanne (Niemi) Makela**, 70, passed away peacefully on Feb. 16th at St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, Ariz.; **Betty Jane (Schueler) Bergstrom**, 91, of Lake Nebagamon, died Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at Golden Living Center in Superior, born in Hawthorne to George and Esther Schueler; **Mary Ellen (Sinclear) Banks**, 79, of Superior, wife of Lowell, passed away Feb. 21, at the Lighthouse in Superior; **Linda (Colby) Hendrickson**, 89, Oulu, Maple, Poplar, Superior, died Feb. 19, at Villa-Marina Health and Rehabilitation Center, born in Oulu, Wis. to John and Mathilda Colby; **Rev. David Lloyd Heyser**, 78, of Duluth, formerly of Brule, Feb. 11; **Frank J. Kongas**, 68, of Oulu, Wis., Jan. 23, at Essentia Health, Duluth, born in Ashland, Wis. to Frank and Aileen (Rautio) Kongas; **Edith E. (Savela) Jossund**, 78, Superior, Jan. 12, at St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth, born in Maple, Wis. to Otto and Tynne (Nykanen) Savela; **Gerald L. "Jerry" Martinson**, 78 of Cloverland & Iron River, Jan. 13th, at Ashland Health and Rehab. Center; **Geraldine "Gerry" (Peterson) Moller**, 87, Poplar, Wis., Jan. 13, 2013, at Middle River Health and Rehab. Center.

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, Paul Colby, 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.

April 10, Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. OBHS General Meeting at Amnicon Town Hall. Larry Lukkonen speaker.

April 22, Monday, 1:00 p.m. Archive Committee meets at Pellmans in Maple.

May 8, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. OBHS Board meeting. Eskolin House.

May 12, Sunday. Mother's Day.

May 18, Saturday. Deadline for contributions to the June *OBHS News*. Armed Forces Day.

May 27, Monday. Memorial Day observed.

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.