

# OBHS News

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2001  
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

**Volume III, Issue 4**

**August 8, 2001**

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**OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 8, 2001,  
7 P.M., AT THE CLOVERLAND TOWN HALL.**

**For our program, Barry Hanson of Brule (Maple Post Office), will give us a talk on the Kensington Runestone. Please note that the August meeting site, originally planned for the Poplar Village Hall, has been moved to Cloverland.**

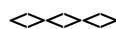
Member Oscar Anderson's neighbor, chemist Barry Hanson, just happens to be coordinator of the ongoing project investigating the evidence for the authenticity of the Kensington Runestone. Barry's research activities on the Kensington Runestone have recently been profiled in an article which appeared in *The Bridge*, a publication for alumni of the University of Minnesota, Duluth. To help determine the date of the stone, Barry, acting for Runestone Foundation, had engaged the expertise of UMD alumnus Scott Wolter of American Petrographic Services of St. Paul, Minnesota, and independently, Paul Weiblen a retired U of M geology professor. Wolter in turn engaged a prestigious crew including former UMD geology department professors Charlie Matsch, John Green, and Richard Ojakangas, Ken Harris of the Minnesota Geological Survey, Minnesota geology professor Robert Johnson, and stone carver Janey Westin.

This tombstone-like historical artifact is better known to the school children of Minnesota since it was found within Minnesota's western state boundary. If authentic, however, it has significance far beyond Minnesota, and speaks to the record of the boldness of the exploits of the Vikings while in this hemisphere. The many in our region with Scandinavian heritage would be able to add this to the record of their forebears.

The runic text reads in translation: "8 Goths (Swedes) and 22 Norwegians on a voyage of discovery from Vinland (of) the West. We had a camp by 2 skerries one day journey north from this stone. We were out fishing one day. After we came home we found 10 men red with blood and dead. AVM (Ave Virgin Mary) save (us) from evil. (We) have 10 men of (ours) by the sea to look after our ships 14 day journeys north from this island. Year 1362."

The 200 pound graywacke stone slab is alleged to have been discovered by a Scandinavian immigrant farmer, Olof Ohman, in 1898 (with witnesses). It now rests in the Runestone Museum in Alexandria, Minnesota. Barry delivers an interesting and wide-ranging talk with overhead projected images.

Thanks to Larry Luostari for arrangements at the Cloverland Town Hall, to Delores Pellman, Larry and Pat to Marge Koskie who have offered to provide hospitality for the evening. Miss anyone? Thanks also, to Barry.



**WELCOME ALL!**

**The Brule History Research Group 2002 Calendars are now available. Proceeds benefit the publication of the history of Brule. Please submit orders to Brule History Research Group, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820. Cost by mail is \$7.50 which includes postage and handling. Purchased from Brule outlets the calendar is \$6.00.**

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THE O-BHS NEWS ARE THOSE OF THE WRITERS ALONE AND ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF THE O-BHS ORGANIZATION.

### **From the President**

It is hot as I write these words . . . life threatening hot and humid. And I am a week behind on this newsletter, but hopefully in the name of what most of you will consider a good cause, especially O-BHS members who are also family members who shared the past weekend with me. Via my mother I am a member of the Pollari family which originates from the family of Rev. John Victor and Maria Elizabeth (Jarvela) Pollari, early settlers in Old-Brule/Maple. John, his family, and several relatives settled in the Maple area just before the turn of the century (1898-99) coming via Massachusetts from Veteli/Kaustinen/Toholampi, Finland. John was a rounding Finnish Apostolic (Laestadian) Lutheran minister, and visited most of the Finnish colonies in the United States via railroad, before his death at 80 years in 1945 on a preaching trip to Champion, Michigan.

The family held its third American reunion in the sweltering Lake Nebagamon Auditorium over this past weekend. Leading up to the reunion were several frenzied weeks and days of preparations by many including many members of our organization: your President, Lois Pollari of St. Paul and Lake Nebagamon, and many members of her family, including member Lora Pollari-Welbes from Arlington, Virginia, member Janine (Pellman) Seis, of Racine, soon to be Drummond's postmaster, Delores Pellman, and many members of her family, including members Lora Olson of Two Harbors, and Charlene Harms of Duluth, member Karen Simpson's daughters Jennifer Green and Teri Richardson. Coming from the West from Green River, Wyoming were Cindy (Pellman) Crider, and Jan (Pollari) Bong of Golden, Colorado (and spouses of course!).

Your president's role was to compile family genealogy and history. With Janine's and Jennifer's major contributions the work was judged a success. The text reveals that the Pollari family is intermarried and related to many local families: the Jarvinens, Ukkolas, Davidsons, Pellinens (Pellmans), the Maple Saaris, Makelas, the Nebagamon Khalars, the Oulu and Waino Johnsons, Bustraks, Tuuras, the (Ed) Niemis, Lukkarilas, the Bongs, and many others. At 95 years of age, member, Esther Pollari, is the sole survivor of her generation, and the last Pollari listed in the Chequamegon area phone book. The Pollari name was once prominent in Maple, the Autio Road, once part of County Road FF, was called Pollari Road in the 1910 Census, and a Pollari School once stood along this route.

There is much Old-Brule history associated with this family history and we intend to place a copy of this seventy page work in the O-BHS archives for the sake of future generations. We would appreciate for our archives copies of any other genealogies done for other families from our region.

—Jim Pellman (715) 363-2453, <musketeer6@juno.com>

### **Recent Donations by Paul Colby and Members of the Edwin Colby Family of Lakeside.**

New "family" level member Paul Colby has presented numerous items of historical significance to the O-BHS, many related to early logging activity in the area, which come from the estate of Edwin Colby.

Thanks to Paul and Colby Family, and Welcome, as members!

### **More Donations from the Davidson Family.**

Gene Davidson and his family have donated several more items associated with Gene's father's and grandfather's farming activities. He also has given us the logs from a barn he took down which we hope to use in the future in interpreting the mill site and Finnish log building technique. Also several books were donated.

#### **Donation to the Davidson Windmill Fund by the Ahola Family**

\$220 has been donated to the O-BHS Davidson Windmill Fund by the Ahola Family of Lakeside in memory of Nels Allen. A thank you to them for thinking of us.

### **Survey Completed for the Center for Organizational Excellence.**

The Institution of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington is conducting a study of museum and school programs for K-12 education. They want to know how museums are being utilized across the country by our schools. The Center for Organizational Excellence who is conducting the study under Office of Management and Budget control randomly chose our group for this research. Results will be used by IMLS to inform Congress in how best to help museums serve the public, and for IMLS grant programs.

#### **Dr. Walter Kukkonen and his wife Edna Donate \$50 to the O-BHS.**

The Pellman's in Maple recently enjoyed a visit from Dr. Walter Kukkonen and his wife, Edna, from Tucson, Arizona. Former Riverside resident, Dr. Kukkonen has been a prominent American Lutheran theologian in the ELCA and he recently published another book, *The Gate to the Beyond Within*. As they departed they left a donation of \$50 to the Old-Brule Heritage Society. We welcome them to a family membership. Thank you!

### **JUNE MEETING REVIEW**

Our President, Jim Pellman, called to order our latest regular meeting on Wednesday evening, June 13, 2001, at the Lake Nebagamon Auditorium at 7:10 p.m. Our Program for the evening was a workshop on collecting oral histories held after our business meeting. We all got practice in the recommended procedures for conducting these sessions. We had as guests for the evening Mrs. Gertrude Bergsten of Poplar, and former Brule resident Pete Irle, who now lives near Washington, D. C., and spends summers in Barnes. Attendance was 25. Irene Brazill served as acting secretary.

The April minutes were approved as printed and distributed.

The Treasurer reported that we had \$726.37 on hand in checking. The Davidson Windmill Fund had a balance of \$1,767.19. She reported that the bill for our insurance premium from the Stone Agency came to \$300/year, a \$1 million dollar policy.

After discussion it was decided to hold our next meeting August 8th in Poplar if the village hall was available. Jerry Fechtelkotter and Audrey Hakkila were charged with securing the site. For program Chuck Zosel was to contact M. Lindquist who he said was interested in old maps and summered in the area.

Old Business:

We discussed the Davidson Windmill Dedication Event. All felt it to be a success. Letters from high officials including Governor McCallum, Senator Russ Feingold, Douglas County Board Chairman Doug Finn, and others would be framed and hung in the Archives room when completed until we have our own site. Hope Swenson would be contacted regarding the memorial sign costs, the sign itself coming to \$267.50.

The President mentioned that promotional items were available that evening and could be purchased at his mother's

home in Maple.

We discussed the need for two roadside signs, one from each direction, and motion was made by Velma Doby, with second by Alice Christensen that we go ahead with the process of securing them. Chuck Zosel reported on their availability. Motion was approved.

New Business:

Laila Magnuson reported that the 2002 Brule History Research Group (BHRG) calendars would be available for their music and dancing event, July 1, Sunday, 2-4 PM, at the Brule Town Hall. "Curtis, the Music Man" will provide some selected recorded music to help us recall the music history. More pictures were to be added to the O-BHS/BHRG photo stands.

The group talked about touring the Duane Lahti Farm in Oulu, on Saturday, August 25th. The President was to investigate this prospect.

We discussed prospects for another raffle, but there was little interest for this year. On motion by Marge Koskie, second by Jackie Plunkett, it was proposed that we at least renew our raffle license for next year. This motion carried.

Motion carried that we have 50- 8 by 10 laser copies made of a Davidson Windmill photo taken by David Noah Seis for sale.

Committee Reports:

It was decided that we include Davidson Windmill promotional items sales brochures with our newsletter mailings, and also post this information on our website and leave brochures at regional tourist information outlets.

Donna Bergsten reported that she is getting files from Dave Short necessary to transfer our site to its own web address.

Audrey reported that she needed pictures of Mayme Sevander for publicity, and Norma Lind had such pictures.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM, and lunch followed. On the hospitality crew were Alice Christensen, Norma Lind, MaryAnn Gronquist, others? Thanks to the Village of Lake Nebagamon for use of their fine facility, and to Chuck Zosel for securing it. Thanks, too, to Irene Brazill for taking the minutes.



#### **PRESIDENT COOLIDGE BIOGRAPHICAL VCR TAPE**

We would like to again remind everyone that the tape we ordered from CSPAN on the life of President Calvin Coolidge has arrived and is available to check out for use.

The tape is close to two hours long, with fresh insights into the life of a much more complex figure than is generally portrayed. We would strongly encourage the tape's showing in our schools to the higher grades. It will help bring a neglected period in our nation's history to life. Please see or call Jim P. (363-2453) to check out the tape.

**We have received Letters of Recognition from the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society and from Senator Russ Feingold regarding the Davidson Windmill.**

#### **Fundraising Merchandise for Sale**

The Society now has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps and tee shirts for sale. Magnets are going for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00, proceeds to our general fund. The Windmill mugs are \$8.00, caps, \$9.00 and tee shirts, any size, \$10, all proceeds going into the Windmill Fund.

Wisconsin tax is included in all prices. Please contact us in advance if you want any items shipped. All items will be available for purchase at our meetings, or by contacting your President at 363-2453.

## Area History: No. 19

### Edward George Doherty Store in Maple

Members Mike and Sue Doherty of Portland, Oregon, have sent your President a truly historic photograph of the general store of Mike's grandfather, Edward George Doherty, Maple's first town chairman and early postmaster (Maple founded in 1907).

E. George Doherty was also an early town officer of Old-Brule, serving in 1887 and 1888 as Brule Town Supervisor in days when one was elected for only a one year term. At this time his older brother, Thomas, served as Chairman of Old-Brule, both residents of the Poplar area of Old-Brule. In the 1889 election all four of the Doherty brothers, Thomas, already Chairman, E. George, already a Supervisor, Andrew, candidate for Justice of the Peace, and John for Assessor were candidates. All took office but incumbent Thomas who was defeated by Edwin Johnson by four votes out of 183 cast. In the following election no Doherty's were candidates. A reporter for the *Superior Times* wrote: "This is generally a new deal all round. The old wheel horses have been turned out to browse on the cold and barren pine stumps, while a new lot of political chargers have been put to harness, most of them for the first time. We hope they may all prove true and pull all together for the good of this town."

We estimate the date of the photo to be from before 1910, before Ed Niemi began to manage the store (1910-1911). This store flourished during the logging boom, which lasted from 1900 to 1910. Ed Niemi would shortly found his own store across the Bayfield Road (now Highway 2) from Doherty and just after that the Maple Farmers' Cooperative would be organized (1913).

### Old Brule Station Railroad Sign Donated

**Salvaged from a scrap heap, the sign which once marked the Brule Station on the Northern Pacific Railroad, has been donated to the O-BHS. Mr. Tom Rogers of Oxford, Wisconsin, with a cabin north of Brule, saved the sign at the time of the demolition of the depot and has donated it to our organization. He has signed it over but has graciously agreed to store it until we have a suitable space.**

## Calendar:

**August 8**, Wednesday, 7 PM

O-BHS Regular bimonthly meeting, Cloverland Town Hall, Program: Barry Hanson on the Kensington Runestone.

**August 25**, Saturday, Northwest Regional Convention, Moquah.

**September 12**, Wednesday, Annual Meeting. Nomination and Election of Board Candidates. Election of Officers by the Board in special session after the Membership meeting.

**September 21**, Friday, O-BHS News deadline.

**October 10**, Wednesday, our next regular bimonthly meeting. Place and Program to be announced.

## WEB SITE ON LINE

Again a reminder that computer volunteer, **Mr. Dave Short** of Poplar, has designed our web site and has kept it running. It's web address remains for now <http://discover-net.net/~dshort/> . Check it out! **Donna Bergsten** has volunteered to help with site changes. **Thanks Dave, Audrey, Jackie & Donna.**

**Anyone interested in joining the Old-Brule Heritage Society is encouraged to attend any of our meetings and programs. To join they may contact any member or the President at the return address below, or call him at (715) 363-2453, our Secretary, Hope Swenson, at 364-2296, or our Treasurer, Alice Christensen, at 364-2535. Our annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$25.00 for families, payable at the time of our annual meeting in September. Higher levels of support are also available.**

**New Members and Visitors are WELCOME!**

### **Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.**

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