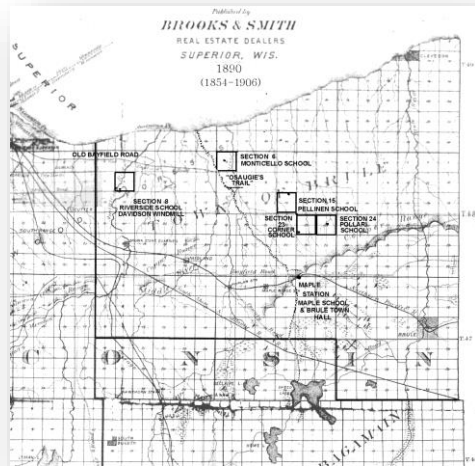


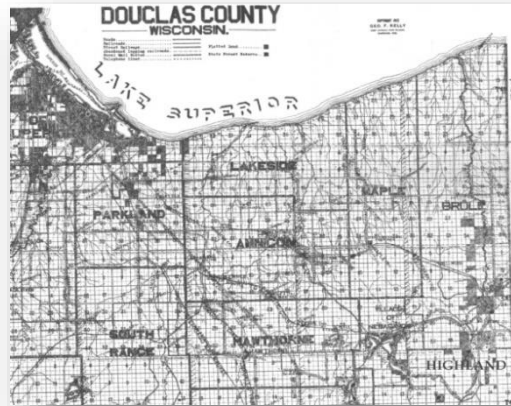
# Monticello School Museum and Archive

## OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

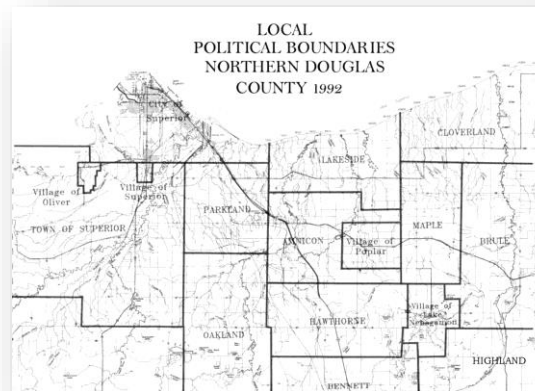
The Old-Brule Heritage Society celebrates the history of the creation of the town and village governments in Wisconsin's Northern Douglas County. It takes its name from the old Town of Brule, named itself for the Bois Brulé River, "the River of Presidents," which runs through it. The Brule River was part of the ancient interior Lake Superior-Brule-St. Croix-Mississippi River waterway system, used by the Sioux and Chippewa natives, and later the French, British and American fur traders from the 1600s to the 1840s.



The extensive lands in Douglas County first made part of the Town of Brule, were separated from the Town of Superior in 1887, but eventually were sub-divided and became all or part of the lands of seven local



governments: (1) the remnant of the Town of Brule itself, (2) the Town of Amnicon in 1906, later called the Town of Lakeside in 1910, (3) the Town of Maple in 1907, (4) the Village of Lake Nebagamon in 1907, (5) the Town of Midland which separated from the Town of Amnicon in 1910, later called the Town of Amnicon (II), (6) the Village of Poplar, created in 1917, and (7) the Town of Cloverland, separated from the Towns of Maple and Brule by the Wisconsin Assembly in 1921.



The Town of Brule legally first met in April of 1887 at a private home near the Poplar station on the Northern Pacific Railroad. By 1890 it had built a town hall located near the Maple or also called Little Canada railroad station. The Town of Brule at its origin extended from what became the City of Superior on its west to the Bayfield County boundary on its east. In modern times, after 1950, the Northwestern High School (School District of Maple) service area covered the entire large old town, and the Towns of Highland and Hawthorne besides.

All of this boundary creation reflected the desire of local residents to run their own affairs as close to home as possible. This prominently included the education of their young and the construction of their own neighborhood school houses.



## THE MONTICELLO SCHOOL

Among the earliest of the schools constructed by settlers in the old Town of Brule then, within its fullest boundaries, was the

Monticello School. It was located on the Federal Homestead of Isaac Rautio near the Poplar River, two miles from the shore of Lake Superior.

### THE BRULE/MAPLE TOWN HALL & MAPLE SCHOOL SITE

The original Maple School was erected by School District 3 of the Town of Brule in 1888 or 1889. The Brule Town Hall seen behind the school in this picture, was built two years or so later. Both



were an easy walk from the Maple Northern Pacific Railroad Station.



Info  
Source:  
Inez  
Berglund

### MONTICELLO SCHOOL 1890 MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

The Monticello School Museum and Archive will bring into service the little old red Monticello School House, built about 1890, from the Town of Lakeside, a gift of Walter Erkkila's family, moved in 2013 to the site of the first Maple School from 1889, located on US Highway 2 at the junction with Highway F. The site was next to the original Town Hall of Old Brule, built in 1891. Beneath the school will be constructed a walkout basement archive facility which will overlook the valley of the headwaters of the Bardon Creek, formerly a Brule and Maple town park. The lands were donated to OBHS by Delores (Pollari) Pellman and her sister Karen (Pollari) Simpson, and will serve as a memorial to the late Delores, and to the young educators who served the local youth. The archive will be a climate controlled workspace and permanent organization base of operations, housing its historical collection.

The Old-Brule Heritage Society was formed in 1998 to help gather and preserve the records of these local political changes, and to collect the stories of lives of those who shaped them or were affected by them. Our programs and publications have examined the history of important landmarks in the region, both natural, like the Brule River, and humanly created, like the Davidson Windmill, Taylor's Bridge, and the Eskolin Finnish Log House. Our book, *Wisconsin Far Northwest*, has gathered the histories of the local governments and the communities that have given them life and shape. Our growing collection of records and artifacts will soon have a permanent home in the Monticello School Museum and Archives. OBHS is a 501(c)(3) IRS non-profit group affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The OBHS can be reached via our website at [www.oldbrule.org](http://www.oldbrule.org), or at:

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