

OBHS News

Volume V, Issue 2

April 3, 2003

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2003
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM WED., APR. 9, 2003, 1:00 PM BRULE TOWN HALL

RONALD MERSHART WILL SPEAK ON “THE SEVERAL NATIONS AT THE HEAD OF THE LAKES IN 1854.”

We will hold the next meeting of the Old-Brule Heritage Society at the Brule Town Hall on Wednesday, April 9th, at 1 p.m. Our speaker will be the well known local historian, Dr. Ron Mershart, who will address us on the topic “The Several Nations at the Head of the Lakes in 1854.” He adds that his topic will encompass “our contemporary historical categories, ‘race, class, and gender.’”

Next year marks the Sesquicentennial (150th birthday) of Douglas County and its county seat, which was to occupy the future Superior site. Local efforts were made to establish a City of Superior (East End) shortly after the county’s founding by the Wisconsin Legislature in the enabling legislation of 1854, but Superior would not even become a village until 1887, the same year the Town of (Old-)Brule was formed. (A rapidly growing Superior would finally begin to operate under a city charter in April of 1889.) Until 1887 there was only one town in Douglas County, the Town of Superior, which covered the entire county. The same personalities that influenced the direction of this Town of Superior were also principal players in the activities of the county government. This might help explain why in their writings, even after the city was formed, these Superior figures were extremely possessive of the Brule River. [See for instance *The Eye of the Northwest*.]

We must remember that during this time, in the decades just before and after the Civil War, the population of all of Douglas County was probably less than 3,000-and much of the time it was only about a quarter of that, less than the current populations of either of the modern Towns of Brule or of Maple. Another thing we should remember is that the “towns” of that time had local powers that we now associate with county government. The amount of local oversight and responsibility at that time is quite amazing, but this was consistent with the nature of the New England town after which our local government had been fashioned. After that time rival factions would compete over which “local” government should be in the ascendant, the town or the county. Since the mid-1960s, after U.S. and State Supreme Court decisions, towns and their “rural” constituents have been in eclipse. When and how the pendulum might shift back to the more democratic order remains to be seen. Ron Mershart’s talk will illuminate the context for these political struggles that played themselves out over the next 150 years.

As Chair of the committee planning events to celebrate our region’s Sesquicentennial, Ron will oversee a competition to gather histories of Douglas County. See the invitation for essay submission to this Douglas County/Superior Sesquicentennial History contest in the press release published on page 5 below.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND AND REFRESHMENTS TO SHARE! OUR THANKS TO THE TOWN OF BRULE AND TO THE BRULE AREA MEMBERS FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HOST THIS SESSION.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Our time is sorely out of joint. War and its violence have afflicted us human creatures throughout history. As family and friends are called to war duties at home and overseas, for many, stable family and community routines are temporarily, and sometimes permanently, disrupted. But for most there is the hope of return to new routines, new orders and rhythms in life, that approximate the old. For some, though, those marked by permanent physical and emotional disabilities, their struggles to reestablish routines and rhythms can be long with unpredicted outcomes.

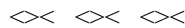
Collectively, more violent even than war, and even more numerous, are the injuries and deaths on our highways. The automobile and its rival for road space, trucks of all sizes, have revolutionized both our physical and social spaces. In an historical blink we have found ourselves thrown into a great human experiment with great costs to go with hard to measure gains.

I have keenly witnessed and felt in my life both types of violence-at present, concurrently.

A profound historical topic would be the study of how transportation technology has changed our lives, collectively and individually. What has it meant for our understanding and experience of freedom? What has it meant for the local institutions that were created to preserve (and express) our precious individual political and property rights, here and abroad?

With these abstractions I hold away the emotional realities of these exhausting days. I pray for those in harms way defending our freedoms, and I pray for my brother(s) and sisters, who have fallen in the violence of this moment in history, and look for healing.

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



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.

***REMINDER: TREASURER ALICE IS STILL COLLECTING DUES FOR 2003.
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!***

CHIEF JOSEPH OSAUGIE TOPIC AT FEBRUARY MEETING

For the program at our February meeting because of her health Lorrie Madden could not attend our meeting but provided a copy of a video of one of her talks on her ancestor, Chief Joseph Osaugie. Lorrie has promised a copy of a video covering the same material for our archives, but the one more professionally produced that she had been working on.

A question was raised whether Osaugie was truly a "chief." Just one of the pieces of historical documentation to indicate just what was the case is the list of signers at the Treaty of LaPointe of 1854. The Chippewa signers of the treaty represented the different bands scattered throughout this region in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, and Minnesota Territory. They were described in translation as 1st Chiefs, 2nd Chiefs, and "Head-men." Osaugie signed as one of several "head-man" from the Fond du Lac band. Whether he moved to the status of 2nd or even 1st Chief later in life is not known. The early Superior press speaks of him simply as chief and head of the local band. Thanks to Lorrie for her efforts.

ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING REGULARLY

The archives room in the Maple Community Center is filling with archive material. It still has some construction work left, but this has not stopped the Archives/Collection Committee from getting down to a work routine which we hope will some day entirely fill the new space. It is a relief to have many valuable town and regional records and items safely shelved there. Audrey Hakkila, Shirley Kankas, Arnold and Doris Perala, Jim Pellman, Irene Brazill, Delores Pellman and

others have been volunteering their time to the Archives/Collection committee work. We welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Currently we are finishing the inventory of a suitcase full of the William F. Follis papers. These have been made available to us by members Bill and Jan Follis, and we will be indexing and assessing them, and copying the most essential. Another treasure are copies of financial records of the Northern Cooperative store from Oulu/Iron River given to us by Darrel Alm from Duluth. Our thanks to the Town of Maple and to Chairman Gary Saari for their support and for Gary's many volunteer hours.

2003 BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDAR AVAILABLE

The Brule History Research Group organized in 1995 to research, write, and publish the history of Brule. Their annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, will be used for the publication of the history. The 13 photos in the 2003 calendar include summer and winter logging scenes, the Weyandt homestead, students at the Juntti School (1911-1937), a 1939 Waino deer hunting group, fishermen and their day's catch, musicians Ailie and Walter Johnson with a wedding group, Brule River guide John La Rock and his wife Lizzie, among other scenes and sites.

Available from Janet Follis, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820 (715-372-4948) for the cost of \$7.50 postpaid, or \$6.00 locally from a BHRG member or at Lori's Store. An e-mail address: knmo@baysat.net.

FUNDRAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Society has available regional history magnets, plus Davidson Windmill memorabilia: mugs, caps and some 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. A new order of shirts will have a new enlarged design.

Available also are copies of a David Noah Seis photograph of the mill for sale. This improved image comes in three sizes: 4 by 5 inches, 5 by 7 inches, and 8 1/2 by 11 inches. The smaller reproductions can also be used as post cards as each has a brief historical description on half of its reverse side. Prices are \$1.00, \$2.00 and the largest one which has no printing on it \$3.00. All are laser reproductions on card stock suitable for framing. This same improved image is now available in our magnet series. Our thanks to Noah who donated the digital image to O-BHS.

Wisconsin tax is included in all our prices. Shipping and handling for mugs, caps and tee shirts is a \$4.00 minimum. All items will also be available for purchase at our meetings, or by contacting your President at 363-2453.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. Regular Meeting FEB. 12, MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTER

Attendance: 32
1:10 P. M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Welcome and introductions by President, Jim Pellman. He referred to the map on the agenda/program for the day, saying that the map helped in the video presentation.

II. PROGRAM: He went from the agenda directly into the video with an introduction explaining why the speaker provided the video on Chief Osaugie, instead of coming in person as expected before the agenda was printed. The great-great-great-granddaughter is willing to make a more clear video for our archives, but provided this hurried video to cover the meeting. Jim was thankful she will send us another video because the one provided is not clear (but we could make out most of the video. Jim answered questions about what he knew regarding the program's contents.

Jim called for a coffee break immediately following the video.

III. BUSINESS MEETING:

A. MINUTES: Hope Swenson will take notes in place of Maryann Gronquist, Secretary who could not attend. December's unapproved minutes were published in the last newsletter. Audrey Hakkila moved we accept the minutes as printed. Margie Koskie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT: Alice Christensen reported the balance in the General Fund checking at \$1,919.05, and the Windmill Fund savings account at \$4,343.52. The proposed budget for 2003 was handed out. Motion to accept both

was given by Norma Lind. Janet Follis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. HERITAGE PARK: No new action taken.
 2. DAVIDSON WINDMILL: County permits are still needed to move the Eskolin log building to the Windmill site. LaVerne LaPole invited the Windmill Committee to meet next time at her home. Time and date to be set. Contact has been made with Bruce Peterson of the DOT regarding their potential interests in the project. A meeting will be held at the mill site, Jim will contact the committee members and Bruce (office phone 392-7949 or cell 715-491-5017) once warmer weather arrives to tour the site. Jim has contacted the Zoning Office which has provided paperwork to fill in once the DOT assessment is made. New signs have not been ordered. Flagpole committee is waiting for land changes to see where to place the pole.

3. ARCHIVES/MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTER: The Archives Committee meets every other Monday. Currently they are going through the Wm. Follis materials, some of which date back to the 1800s. They are being inventoried and will be put on a data base. Jim thanked the committee for their work. The next meeting is at Delores Pellman's on Mon., Feb 24th, at 1:30 P.M.

4. MERCHANDISE FOR SALE: Hope has collected \$16.00 this meeting for magnets. Bong Museum has agreed to make plane magnets available to sell for \$1.00. Jim suggested people to look for pictures for new orders for magnets. Several ideas are being worked on to sell stationery and T-shirts, etc.

5. VOLUNTEER HOURS: New forms for volunteer hours for 2003 were distributed to members who hadn't gotten the form, and we should all be keeping track of our hours spent at meetings and other volunteering for our organization. 2002 forms should be turned in.

6. BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: Laila Magnuson reported the group is still working. Calendars are still for sale. (Velma's 80 birthday coffee.)

7. SESQUICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE: This committee has met once. A June 21st, midsummer meal at Lakeside with tours of the mill is being planned and the hall has been contacted. Committee members are LaVerne LaPole, Jim Pellman, Delores Pellman, Hope Swenson, Maryann Gronquist, Norma Lind and Paul Colby. Other volunteers are welcome.

8. HISTORY PAPER AWARD: Hope Swenson and Minerva Johnson have organized the history contest at Northwestern District schools for grade 4. End of contest is around the beginning of Easter, about 17 April. Presentation of two prizes will be April 25th at (9:00 Poplar, and 10:30 at Iron River) one or both locations, depending upon where the students who won go to school. Jim, Minerva and Hope will judge the entries. Hopefully, there will be several entries. The schools made the contest an option for those who wished to enter the contest.

9. COMPUTER SOFTWARE: Jim gave an update.

10. STATE ISSUES: Permanent State affiliation. Jim gave an update. No approval to date.

11. WEB-SITE: Discussion and update given by Jim.

12. CENTURY AND SESQUICENTENNIAL FARMS AND HOMES: Jim led discussion.

April 1 is State deadline for application. Phone: 414-777-0580.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. NEXT MEETING: Jim will announce location and time when speaker is obtained. He will try for day meeting, depending upon topic and speaker. Brule Town Hall will be location. Kyle Maunu will be first contacted.

2. BOARD ISSUES: Based upon information from Ashland meeting, Jim will purchase board member notebooks. Marlene moved we purchase three packages from the State. Alice seconded. Motion carried.

3. TODAY'S SPEAKER HONORARIUM ISSUE: Hope moved we send \$25.00 to the Osaugie Fund at the Library if that fund is still active. Motion to this was made and seconded. The motion carried.

4. DUES: Alice is still collecting dues.

5. ASHLAND WORKSHOP: Jim updated us on where and who went. The workshop was well attended despite short notice. Far and away the O-BHS was best represented. Our thanks to Steve Cotherman and staff & Tom McKay.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. DAVIDSON WINDMILL: Nothing added to the above.

2. PROGRAMS: Nothing added to the above.

3. ARCHIVES/COLLECTION: Nothing added.

4. FUNDRAISING: Nothing added.

5. WEB SITE: [In progress - would like to have newsletter on it. New Web address: www.oldbrule.org]

6. NEWSLETTER: Deadline for April issue, March 25, 2003.

7. PUBLICITY: [Audrey Hakkila and Minerva Johnson to represent O-BHS and BHRG at Channel 8 public TV fundraiser on the air end of March]
8. CESA: No new information.
9. SCHOLARSHIPS: The Secretary has sent a letter to the Guidance Counselor at Northwestern High School informing him/her of the \$200 scholarship offered by our organization to be awarded this coming spring.

F. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Jim gave us titles for new articles sent on to Archives Committee for accessioning.
2. AON-Affinity Insurance sent publications.
3. New Richmond Center sent a letter and brochure for possible tours.

G. ADJOURNMENT: All matters dealt with the meeting adjourned.

Jim thanked the committee for lunch and the Town of Amnicon for use of the town hall. He again thanks representatives from Gordon/Wascott and Port Wing Historical Societies for visiting our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Swenson for Maryann Gronquist, Secretary

PRESS RELEASE

A CALL FOR LOCAL SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORIES

About 150 years ago a wiry, fair haired, thirty-three year old U.S. government surveyor, George R. Stuntz, and his crew of nine, came in three canoes to the Head of the Lakes region, up from Stillwater, Minnesota Territory, via the St. Croix-Brule River passage. They were charged with creating the survey grid that would open the future Twin Ports region to eastern settlement. Wisconsin at that time was only four years old and Minnesota had only recently been recognized as a Territory. Before the time of these surveys only the representatives of licensed fur trading companies had been routinely permitted into what was Indian country. The final northern boundary of the United States had only been fully settled along the 49th parallel in 1846, seven years prior.

Treaties were being pushed through and events were moving fast. Stuntz had only the year before surveyed the boundary separating northern Wisconsin from Minnesota territory, starting at the first rapids on the St. Louis River. No railroads had yet been run up to the shores of St. Louis and Allouez Bays. These would not come for almost two decades. The only mechanized access to the region was via the waters of Lake Superior where sailing vessels and early steam sidewheelers could make their way in the months free of ice.

In the following year Douglas County would be created followed by the establishment of the City of Superior, and the population would boom. Despite ups and downs, this region, our home, still thrives, but much of its story remains untold.

The Steering Committee working on the celebration of the Sesquicentennial or 150th birthday celebration of the founding of Douglas County and the City of Superior is asking for scholarly essays from anyone on any topic which will help illuminate our past. The Committee will select the best entries, first for publication in local papers, and then would like to collect and edit them for inclusion in a published text containing a fully rounded City and County history. Hopefully there will be someone to create entries on the history of each of the communities within the county, and on the businesses and activities, and important personalities that have at one time or another touched and shaped our lives.

The Committee asks private individuals, companies, schools and governments to come forward with submissions. Entries can be sent immediately to the Douglas County-Superior Sesquicentennial Committee-History Project, Jan O'Brien, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, 205 Belknap Street, Superior, WI 54880. Please let the Committee hear from you !

THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS

Thanks to **Linda Hendrickson** for her donation of a notebook on local Finnish farming practices.

Thanks to the **Board of Curators and Director at the Wisconsin Historical Society** which on February 18, 2003 approved our permanent affiliate status with the State Historical Society. And thank you to our membership which did the work to earn this status through their efforts during our four year probationary status.

Thanks from the **Pellman** family for the many gestures of support that have come since my brother **Jack's** accident March 18th.

Thanks to Mrs. **Kaye (Ramsted) Pellinen**, wife of **Walter**, who writes from their home in Arkansas about her interesting family background which may connect with the **Embody** family mentioned in our last news letter. Our wishes to **Walter** for continued speedy recovery from a leg injury.

To **Flora Colby** of Lakeside, now in Golden Apartments in Superior, thanks for a photo of early Maple settler, **Sanna Kirkas** (Kergas, Kirgas).

WE CANNOT THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH FOR YOUR MEASURES OF CONFIDENCE & SUPPORT.

Congratulations to artist **Barbra Granruth** of Lakeside for her winning design to be used as the logo for the Douglas County/City of Superior Sesquicentennial Celebration.

-and who have we missed or forgotten?

Area History: No. 30

THE FAMOUS BRULE.

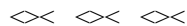
Interesting Gossip About the Great Trout Stream of the North.

[By an unknown correspondent to the Superior *Evening Telegram*, October 5, 1894, page 7]

This article gives fascinating clues to the Brule River world that preceded Weyerhaeuser's major logging operations in the region, and the reputation that had already been cultivated about the Brule in certain circles at this early date. - Editor.

Brule, Oct. 6.-The close of the camping season on the most famous trout stream in America, has ended and the deer season begun. Nearly a thousand people have encamped on the upper Brule this year, there being a much larger percentage of ladies than ever before. The last campers for the season are, Alex McDougall, of Whaleback fame, Colgate Hoyt, and Major Smith of Detroit, who are expected any day from the Pacific coast. McDougall spent three weeks at Lucius' club house, a mile south of the South Shore tracks, this summer, and his family even longer. He takes so much interest in the camp Brule that he put Mr. Lucius, an employe of the steel barge works, in charge of the club house, which goes by the name of Lucius' place, but which is on McDougall's land. It is not a private club house, but Lucius has the opportunity of making good money by running a public club house. The steamer North West has brought many eastern people to the Brule, and has largely increased the number of campers. It is estimated that nearly a thousand people have encamped on the upper Brule this summer. Taking the club houses in their order, going up the river, to-wit: St. Paul or Winneboujou club house, 50; Milwaukee or Gitchee Gumees club house, 30; Ashland or Nissishin, 50; Lucius, (public club house on McDougal's land,) 300; Tibbits camp (public) 60; Kline's of Duluth, 10; St. Louis, 22; White Birch, 50. This range of club houses extending along the river, from the St. Paul club house on the north near the D. S. S. & A. tracks, south fifteen miles to the White Birch club house near the Omaha railroad, covers practically, the fishing grounds of the Brule. The fishing laws ought to be further modified to prevent shipping at any season. One party shipped over 2,700 trout to Superior this summer, supplying three restaurants. Over sixty campers were on the grounds as early as May.

From the station of Brule, north to the lake, is an almost unbroken series of rapids, down which none but the most skillful boatmen run their canoes. Your correspondent went down the rapids two weeks ago. For two miles at a time it was impossible to stop our boats. Dragging our poles behind the canoes, they would click on the stepping stones.



Calendar

April 5, Saturday, 9 a.m., DCHS bi-annual rummage sale at their new building 11th and John Ave.

April 9, Wednesday, 1 p.m., O-BHS regular bimonthly meeting, Brule Town Hall. Dr. Ron Mershart will speak on "Nations at the Head of the Lakes in 1854."

April 14, Monday, 1 p.m., O-BHS Archives/Collection Committee biweekly meeting at Delores Pellman's.

April 18, Good Friday

April 20, Easter Sunday

April 21, Monday, 7 p.m., Northern Lakes Archaeological Society monthly meeting. Superior Public Library large meeting room. Bill Ross of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture will present the talk: "Neat, Weird, Strange and Different Things from 25 Years as an Archaeologist." **(date may change)**

April 23, Wednesday, Secretaries Day

April 27, Sunday, 1 p.m., DCHS Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon at DCHS

April 28, Monday, 1 p.m., O-BHS Archives/Collection Committee at Pellman's.

May 26, Monday, deadline for contributions to the June issue of *O-BHS News*.

June 8, Sunday, 2 p.m. Dedication of sign at the Taylor's Bridge site on the Bayfield Rd. in Amnicon. Joint DCHS , O-BHS project.

WEB SITE ON LINE

Member **Donna Bergsten** has recently been working with Member **Jon Winter of Winter Systems** on site changes which have led to a changed web address and to our own independent site (www.oldbrule.org). Please have patience as we master these changes. Thanks to **Audrey Hakkila, Jackie Plunkett, Donna Bergsten, and Jon Winter.**

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, 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 welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.
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