

O-B-H-S News

Volume VI, Issue 1

February 1, 2004

Newsletter of the Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc. ©2004
Founded in 1998 to Preserve and Share the Heritage of the Old-Brule Region.

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NEXT MEETING/PROGRAM WED., FEB. 11, 2004, 6:00 PM
AT THE BRULE TOWN HALL
OUR PROGRAM WILL BE A HISTORY GATHERING WORKSHOP.
OUR THEME: "FAMILY CONNECTIONS"

The next regular meeting of the Old-Brule Heritage Society will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2004, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Brule Town Hall. We will begin with our business meeting and after a short break, for our program, we will return to the collection of local history. Our Archive/History Gathering Committee will be prepared to take oral histories from anyone willing to share their story (see the oral history questionnaire included with this newsletter which will allow you to prepare by writing your own thoughts down or in gathering and organizing the thoughts of someone you know). We will have computer scanning equipment on hand to duplicate priceless historical photos or documents that you and/or someone else might have that would tell us more about our past. The scan will take moments and the original photos and documents will be immediately returned. We will be requesting written permission to allow our society to use the oral histories and the scans that are made. The meetings is open to the public and we should invite those with stories and important and interesting documents or artifacts to share to join us. To help focus our efforts we will use the theme: "Family Connections." Starting with our earliest settlers we will begin to trace the family connections that have grown over the years in the Old-Brule region.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE BRING A FRIEND. OUR THANKS TO THE TOWN OF BRULE FOR THE USE OF THEIR TOWN HALL, AND THANKS TO THE BRULE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE.

ORAL HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE: Please find attached to this newsletter an oral history questionnaire. Please use this to help you prepare your own oral history, or to take an oral history from someone you know in advance of our meeting. We will go over these as part of our program at our meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. I know things get hectic during the holiday season and in if you're like me things are getting back to normal.

We have very good news at O-BHS. We authorized purchase of some much needed technological equipment; a lap-top computer, a high resolution digital camera, and a digital voice recorder. Also, John Winter, of Winter (computer) Systems, has donated some valuable Microsoft software and state of the art virus protection made by Norman Data Defense...and for you Norwegians, it's developed in Norway. This software overall is valued at \$800, and is a necessity in protecting some priceless history, and not to mention, many hours of donated time to help in the vision of a large and vast future display of heritage of the Northland.

One other important item that came up at our board meeting is that Surveyor Bill Anderson will have the windmill land surveyed by the end of February, and he mentioned he would complete the work at a minimal charge – free!

This month I have been struggling with troubling questions after a visit I made to some family friends who were placed in a nursing home this fall. Other friends have asked me to help find a way to get them back home. (However, I believe one person may need to stay because of special needs.) The great thing is these other neighbors are concerned too; they think these institutionalized friends would thrive better at home. I often wonder if the institution really wants them to leave. Our friends seem fine to me. One can walk, use the bathroom and eat himself. We sit and talk about the old days - he worked with my grandfather at the Superior elevators. I can relate to him because of my upbringing - working with nature... farming, working in the woods, and at the elevators. Then he suddenly becomes agitated because he wants to be home. I would be

upset too and even feel depressed if I couldn't be home in my golden years. After all, working so hard and saving, to have most of it taken.... I'm not only talking about money - how about dignity and pride?

I am not a professional. However, I do know this couple's culture and wonder if the medical team is sensitive to its attributes and heritage. There are many of us who become too busy and need to stop and listen. After all, who knows these individuals best next to family? However, I am not family, therefore, there are privacy requirements that are enforced when questions are asked about their well being.

I left feeling bewildered and stunned. While driving home I decided that I should make my last will and testament soon, and I told my wife that when I die I'd like for it to be at home, if it came down to that.

All these thoughts had passed through my mind when my grandfather passed away under similar circumstances a few years ago. However, the family took care of him as long as humanly possible. Now these thoughts have resurfaced since visiting my friends and they will have to be carefully worked through this year.

Sincerely,
Paul Colby

FROM THE EDITOR: *A letter to the editor published in the Superior Daily Telegram last month. I'll reprint it here as I wrote it.*

Dear Editor:

Contrary to *Telegram* publisher Todd Keute's recent call for a smaller Douglas County Board a case should be made for keeping the County Board the same size, or even for enlarging it. And although some aspects of county government are financial and deal with matters that appear related to the functioning of a business, government is not a business, which is an entity created for profit. Efficiency, though highly prized, is not government's highest priority. A democratic political order first demands full respect for and enforcement of the political rights of each and every citizen, especially at the most local level. For this reason alone, representation that emerges from these local places, be they precincts, villages or towns, and that which most sensitively and immediately conveys the will of the local populace, is best. Where possible the community well being of these smallest political units should be maintained and enhanced, and that means they should be given direct voice through direct representation.

There was a time when this situation existed, when each cohesive precinct, village and town had direct representation on county boards throughout Wisconsin. Town chairmen and women routinely took their places on county boards. U.S. and State Supreme Court decisions in the mid 1960s in controversial attempts to implement the "one person, one vote" principle stripped the most local of government units of their direct representation, overturning the local political order which in Wisconsin had been in effect from its founding in 1848. The quiet revolution of the 60s helped undermine the cohesiveness that held these local communities together, especially rural communities. The natural and organic order underlying the reason for town formation itself was gutted throughout our State and the nation. The new representation,

which was to force the nation and all its political subdivisions away from the representation of citizens in truly local political units in favor of individuals in isolation, ignored the fundamental dynamics of face to face local life: people lived in social political collectives where everyone is known by everyone else, and where local distinctness and local freedom were celebrated.

The County system which now exists clutches to this earlier order, attempting in its representative districts to respect existing town and village boundaries, but clustering them, based upon population, into larger synthetic representative units. Because of population discrepancies in this clustering, in some cases, such as in northeastern Douglas County where the district there joins the full Towns of Brule, Cloverland, and Lakeside, it has been necessary to amputate the northern third of the Town of Maple and put this into that district to equalize numbers. Such acts, driven by the court decisions, are further destructive of local community life. This recent amputation of the northern third of Maple was not even put to a vote by the local residents affected. This decision process in my opinion is unacceptable in a democratic society.

For this reason, in the face of the broad pressures so destructive of local community life in the modern world, to convert Wisconsin to the commission system of county government for "business" and economic reasons as advocated by Mr. Keute and others, should be thoroughly rejected, and instead, efforts should be made to help restore lost local community life by returning direct representation to the smallest political units in the State.

-Jim Pellman

[Published December 17, 2003, in the Telegram with slight editing.]

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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.

A REMINDER: OUR NEW TREASURER, SHIRLEY KANKAS ROULEAU, IS NOW COLLECTING DUES FOR 2004. THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!

2004 BRULE HISTORY PHOTO CALENDAR AVAILABLE.

The Brule History Research Group, organized in 1995, has produced its seventh calendar with more pictures of Brule's past. Proceeds of their annual calendar sales since 1998, when the first one was produced, will be used for the publication of the history of Brule. Among the photos in the 2004 calendar are the Bellwood Deluxe Cabins "on paved Highway 2" as advertised in a 1932 Sports Afield

magazine, a 1938 or '39 Bible School Group, CCC camp in Brule showing 100 bird houses enrollees constructed as one of their projects, Lyons Den Tavern in 1936 and an aerial view of Jack and Edna's Tavern showing Jack's logging business.

The earlier history of Brule is seen in the Waino Post Office which operated from 1898 until Rural Free Delivery was established. It served the community of Oulu until they built their own Post Office in 1903. Around 1910, vacationers disembarking at the Winneboujou Depot, south of Brule were taking advantage of the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railroad Line's two trains daily between Marquette, Michigan and Duluth, Minnesota.

From around 1892 to 1908, the Brule Store Company was reportedly "the best equipped store in Douglas County outside of Superior." The typical Cook Shanty in an area logging camp was a common experience of this area's earliest settlers.

Other photos include the 1951-'52 Brule School Fifth and Sixth Grade Class with their teacher, Mildred Follis. Weaver, Mary Hakkila, is at her loom, and the Brule Fish Hatchery established already in 1927 continues to stock the lakes and streams of northern Wisconsin and Lakes Superior and Michigan with trout.

In the back is a handy reference to Brule area businesses whose advertising helps fund the calendar.

To order a calendar by mail, please write or call Janet Follis, P. O. Box 114, Brule, WI 54820 (715) 372-4948 (\$7.50 postpaid), or pick them up locally for \$6 from a BHRG member or at Twin Gables, Lori's Store, River House and Round Up North. An e-mail address: knmo@baysat.net.

ARCHIVES/COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE RETURNS TO WORK.

The archives room in the Maple Community Center is slowly filling with archive material. Some construction work still remains, 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 already safely stored there. Audrey Hakkila, Shirley Kankas Rouleau, LaVerne LaPole, Arnold and Doris Perala, Jim Pellman, Irene Brazill, Delores Pellman, Irene Parenteau and others have been volunteering their time to the Archives/Collection committee work. The group would welcome other volunteers to help us in this important part of the O-BHS mission. Our next meeting will be on February 2nd and we meet every other Monday starting at 1 p.m. at the home of Delores Pellman. Our current project is learning to use the computer in support of our work, scanning documents and photos and storing records and data bases. Our thanks to these loyal members and contributors, and to the Town of Maple for archive space. If you enjoy exacting work please join us some Monday afternoon.

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 14TH BOARD MEETING HELD AT JANINE AND DOUG SEIS'.

Present: Eddie Walman, Norma Lind, Shirley K. Rouleau, Harry Wester, Janine Seis
Paul Colby, Mary Ann Gronquist, Karen Colby and Jim Pellman.

- The meeting was called to order by Paul Colby at 7:15 p.m.
- Jim P. explained our income tax status with the Federal IRS. We have been on a five year probationary status as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Permanent evaluation will now be assigned based upon the report Jim and Treasurer Shirley have been working on.
- Jim and Shirley also worked on the annual report for 2003 which goes to the State Local History Office.
- Harry Wester has not gotten any more plat books – still needs some.
- The minutes from the last Board meeting were read and approved.
- There was a discussion on interviewing older residents and the need to get it done.
- A letter from Gene Davidson was read regarding a video that was made by Jim and Gene inside the windmill which would be helpful for anyone doing tours on the mill to watch. Also he had made a list of companies and foundations most likely to give grants for the repair and maintenance of the Mill, and that the artifacts he donated should be stored in the Archives Room. Also that Bob Lundberg has a Model T Ford which belonged to Warner Granroth which he possibly would donate to O-BHS for restoration and display.
- Jim reported that there is still no response from Mrs. Rinnet about her property in Maple near the Heritage Park site.
- The King School (Cloverland Community Club) was discussed. We would not be able to take it over at this time if it were offered despite its importance.
- A laptop computer and video camera will be ordered by Jon Winter, pending approval by the Board. Cost was slightly over the \$1,500 amount allowed in a motion at the Dec. general meeting. A motion to allow an additional \$100 was made by Janine and seconded by Norma. Motion carried. This price would include the digital audio recorder approved at the meeting.
- The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5, 110.33 in the Windmill Account and \$2,181.15 in checking. Receipts were \$205 for membership (83 paid members), \$10 for merchandise sales and donations of \$210. Expenses were \$320.93.
- Discussed a speaker for the next meeting in Brule. One possibility is Mike Denny. Jim or Alice will contact him. A tour of the Percival Mine in Waino in the spring was discussed. Dick Tuura would help with it.
- A motion to approve the purchase of the Toshiba laptop computer, model Satellite A10-129 and an HP digital camera recommended by Jon Winter was made by Jim, seconded by Harry. Motion carried.
- Alice Christensen has secured the Lakeside Town Hall for June 17, 18 and 19 for the Midsummer ethnic dinner (and tours). She asked if it would be all right to hire a janitor to do the cleanup. The Board approved that request. We discussed having a white elephant/rummage sale (no clothing) at the Hall that day also, and having our merchandise available for sale there also.

- Karen Colby reported that the NW Elementary School is available on September 11 for our annual meeting. She volunteered her services in the kitchen. A janitor is on duty that day so there is no charge to us. We discussed a speaker for the annual meeting being needed.
- The next meeting will be at the Brule Town Hall on February 11 at 6 p.m. The April meeting will be at Maple with an open house of the Archives part of the program.
- Jim reported that the Archives Committee has not met yet, but will soon.
- Lois Pollari has donated \$1,000 to be used for an Esther Pollari Memorial Story Telling Project, and she asks that the stories be from children or adults and be made available for future generations. Her hope is also to generate greater rapport with the Maple District schools.
- We discussed the histories of the towns in O-BHS for the Sesquicentennial. These would be published in a book to be sold by OBHS. Deadlines for the stories in the April meeting. Harry's maps would be integrated into the project and might be placed in a pocket bound into the book. Articles from the *O-BHS News* will also be used. Lois and Jim will work on it.
- Paul reported that Surveyor Bill Anderson will do the surveying of the Windmill site at no cost to us to finish by the end of February.
- A motion was made by Eddie, seconded by Paul to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Ann Gronquist, Secy.

A REPEAT CALL FOR LOCAL SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORIES

The Steering Committee working on the celebration of the Sesquicentennial or 150th birthday celebration of the founding of Douglas County and its County Seat in Superior is asking for historical 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 County and City of Superior 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. To help things move forward, the Committee has sent out letters to the town and village elected officials asking them to name someone from each community to prepare a history for that community. Other submissions are very welcome.

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 !

(UNAPPROVED) MINUTES OLD-BRULE HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2003, LAKE NEBAGAMON AUDITORIUM

6:00 p.m.

Attendance: 32

I. CALL TO ORDER: 1st Vice President Lois Pollari welcomed all who came. A holiday potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

II. PROGRAM: Alice Christensen introduced Kay Coletta of Lake Nebagamon, who presented a program on the history of Lake Nebagamon and told about the history books they have published, and how they were funded. She brought along many historical articles and pictures for viewing.

III. BUSINESS MEETING: The business meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

A. MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter was made by Audrey Hakkila, seconded by Alice Christensen. Motion carried.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Shirley Kankas -Rouleau reported that there is \$1,812.33 in the checking (Chippewa Valley Bank in Lake Nebagamon) and \$5,098.16 in the Windmill Account (NBC in Poplar). Receipts included \$332.50 in memberships, \$73.00 in merchandise sales, and \$250.00 donation from the Town of Lakeside.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. DAVIDSON WINDMILL: SITE STATUS: Paul Colby discussed the surveying of the Windmill site. Hugh McDonald was suggested to be contacted to do the job. A workday is set for May 15, raindate, May 22.

2. FUNDRAISING: Lois Pollari talked about grant writing. A committee consisting of Jim Pellman and Paul Colby, Lois Pollari and Hope Swenson will meet in the future to make further plans. Hope will head the committee.

3. ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: This committee will resume meeting after the holidays. There was a discussion about purchasing supplies for the archives.

4. BRULE HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP: No calendars were available for purchase this evening. A 2005 calendar is planned, featuring old Webster's Store in Brule.

5. SESQUICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE: We discussed submitting histories of each town in Old-Brule to the Douglas County Sesquicentennial Committee. Jim felt we should produce a book covering all towns and villages in Old-Brule (School District of Maple-Northwestern Schools). An outline from each town should be submitted by the January Board meeting. The Windmill tour and dinner planned for June 19 were discussed. The availability of the Lakeside Town Hall will be looked into. Alice Christensen and LaVerne LaPole offered to head the committee for the midsummer event. Suggestions should be e-mailed to Paul Colby before the next Board meeting. A committee meeting will be called by the chairs.

6. Harry Wester talked about the plat maps he had been working on. He needs books from the 1920s, 30s, 40s, and 50s. He has advertised in the Manney's Shopper for them. He hopes people can fill in the gaps where he cannot get information. Lois suggested using these maps in the book.

7. COMPUTER AND SOFTWARE/WEB SITE: Jon Winter estimated that a laptop computer and digital camera and digital audio recorder could be bought for \$1,500. Lois suggested getting three bids on the equipment and report it at the Board meeting. A motion to allow up to \$1,500 to be spent on this equipment was made by Jim, seconded by Paul Colby. Motion carried. Jon Winter offered to donate software, Windows Pro operating system and anti-virus.

8. NEWSLETTER: It was decided to change the deadline for the newsletter to the 15th on the month of publication. Next deadline, January 15th.

9. PUBLICITY: Jim Pellman will distribute our brochures to the Bong Center and the Chamber of Commerce in Superior.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. NEXT MEETING: Will be held in the Brule Town Hall on February 11, at 6:00 p.m. John Kunz was suggested as a possible speaker. Other topics of interest: Douglas County Workfarm in Town of Parkland, oredocks, Ken Olson, County Surveyor.

2. Audrey Hakkila suggested that recognition be given to the Norman Data Defense/Norman Virus Control Company for the donation of software. This recognition will be given in the newsletter.

3. Shirley K. Rouleau talked about a fundraising offer by Wisconsin Trails Magazine. We would sell subscriptions (\$24.95 for six issues) and our organization would receive \$5 for each subscription. The matter was tabled until the Board meeting.

4. ANNUAL MEETING: We discussed the annual meeting being held at the Elementary School instead of the Middle School. Should schedule now to reserve for the date wanted. Jim moved to change the meeting to the Elementary School on September 11th from noon to three. Karen Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Shirley Rouleau reported that we received \$125.00 from Cooperative Services of Maple for volunteer help provided by Delores Pellman and Hope Swenson at their membership meeting at the Middle School.

6. Jim Pellman reported that the IRS has sent a letter indicating that the five year probationary period is over. We need documentation of income and expenses over the past five years. Jim and Treasurer Shirley will take care of the matter.

7. A \$100 check was received from Paul Dennis, Northern Finnish Mutual Insurance agency, for membership and donation.

8. Harry Wester repeated the need for more plat books and clarified the communities his maps would cover.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING: Will be held at the home of Janine and Doug Seis, 6913 S. County Road S, Lake Nebagamon, on January 10 at 7:00 p.m.

E. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:55, followed by the gift exchange.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Gronquist, Secretary

FUNDRAISING MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The Society 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. A new order of shirts has a new enlarged design thanks to Bob Aho and was popular at our Midsummer and Bayfield Apple Festival Weekend Windmill Tours.

Available also are copies of a David Noah Seis photograph of the mill for sale. This 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 image is 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.

Area History: No. 36

In light of recent news articles talking about the tremendous rise in the prices of metals due to the huge demands in China and the Far East for metal scrap, the following article speaks about a mineral resource quietly sitting in the ground under much of the Old-Brule region. Drilling in the region thirty years ago confirmed the beliefs of the early miners in the mineral richness of the region. The day may come when prices finally get high enough to bring miners back to Old-Brule. The article has some inaccuracies mixed in with much vital data. All editorial remarks are in [italics].

-Editor.

From the Superior Evening Telegram, July 18, 1931:

Douglas County Copper Once Lured Prospectors

Copper, in 1864, sold for 50 cents a pound. And what is now Douglas county loomed as a mining center. The price of copper today [1931] is eight cents a pound. [3/1/2002: 71.40 cents/lb. Today, 2/1/2004: \$1.15/lb.]

Extending in a southwesterly direction across Douglas county, about 15 miles south of Lake Superior, is a formation called the Douglas range. There is copper in "thim thar hills."

In a paper-bound volume titled the "First Annual Review of the Copper Mining Industry of Lake Superior," published in 1899, is an article by Kirby Thomas. The volume was printed in Marquette, Michigan, and is now in the possession of John A. Bardon, East End, pioneer here.

Mr. Thomas, who died recently in Canada, was a successful mining engineer. He was also at one time connected with the management of *The Telegram*. Mr. Thomas' findings were accepted by the United States Geodetic survey on a par with those of its own men.

The former Superior man, in the preface to his article says, "The principal activity (in copper) at this time (1899) is along the copper range in Douglas county, Wisconsin. This range, known locally as the Douglas range, is a series of outcropping spurs, of undoubted Keweenawan origin, which form a well defined range..."

By Keweenawan origin Mr. Thomas refers to the range in Michigan which is productive of much of the world's copper. It appears that the Douglas county outcroppings are really continuations of the rich copper fields of Michigan.

Indians Used Metal.

From Mr. Bardon, who was himself once a copper prospector, one learns that the Indians from the earliest days had been wont to find copper in the bed of the Brule and other south shore rivers and shape it into useful articles, especially spear heads and hooks for the catching of the "Sen-e-sug-Ge-go," or speckled trout of the Brule.

From the start of the 18th century the Indians had been getting copper nuggets from this locality and bringing them to Canadian trading posts [such] as Montreal where they used the mineral in trade.

Even before that time "copper mining operations" were going on here. Traces have been found of a pre-historic race known as the mound builders who mined the metal when it occurred in its natural state.

G. R. Stuntz, a governmental surveyor in the decade 1890-1900 found near the Upper Falls of the Black River a broken stone hammer for use in shaping the metal and located near Copper Creek evidences of the pre-historic man's mining it. [These dates are in error. In the decades 1850-1900 is more accurate. See note in italics below.]

The French traders found the location of the Indian's copper and formed expeditions to secure it. This, says Mr. Bardon, is spoken of in writings known as the "Jesuit Relations." In 1820 [possibly, but for sure in the late 1840s. See note on Stuntz below.] the Astor Fur company prospected for copper and silver in these regions.

In 1870 Gen. George B. Sargent, father of William C. Sargent, Duluth, headed a party of eastern men in copper explorations on the South Range [he means all across the county].

Samples Sent to England.

In 1873 the Percival Mining company named for a geologist, James G. Percival, began work on the east side of the Brule river and blasted out copper, some of which was sent to the company headquarters in Bristol, England. [It should be noted that Bristol was the home of Samuel Budgett, the founder of the Clevedon Colony, and he was owner of the Percival site beginning in 1873, as well as lands at the Brule River mouth totalling 2043 acres. Leigh P. Jerrard, *The Brule River of Wisconsin, Chicago, Illinois, 1956. Ed.*]

From that time on there have been numerous individuals and companies interested. One may today pick up copper about the old shafts and near the contact of sandstone and trap rock. There are, today, men in the county prospecting for copper.

In 1899, writes Mr. Thomas, in his article, there were seven companies engaged in mining the copper in Douglas county with a combined capital of \$11,500,000.

Following the real estate booms in Superior of 1892 capital began to turn to the mining possibilities of the

county and the mines would probably have been opened up, but for the contemporary discovery of the rich iron ore on the Mesaba to which men and money immediately flocked.

When, however, great corporations secured control of the properties here, attention again turned to the Douglas range. This was in 1894.

About this time Joseph Huck, Superior, made some discoveries in Section 10, Town 47, range 12, which is in the town of Maple [*actually on the Middle River in the heart of modern Amnicon. Later called the Chippewa mine of the Corona mining company or the Copper King Mine. Ed.*]. (The terms, town, section, and range are merely a surveyor's method of marking of land). About the same time a western miner, James Wallace, made a discovery in town 37, range 14 [*surely Township 47. This would be on Copper Creek, now in Pattison Park. A site near there had been thoroughly explored and reported upon by George R. Stuntz already in 1863 for James O. Sargent in Boston. Sargent/Stuntz said the Copper Creek site on "the Aminecon Trap Range" had come to "the attention of the American Fur Company...and in the years 1846 and 1847 some attempts at mining were made. Ed.*] He [*Wallace, was*] joined in company by B. J. Van Vleck, Superior, Monroe Ross, and the Culligan brothers of Dedham, Wis. [*Dedham is now a forty acre plat which straddles the BNSFRR, formerly the Great Northern, located north of Highway B just inside the southern boundary of the modern Town of Superior on Dedham Road four miles west of Pattison State Park. Ed.*]

Many Companies Formed.

Later Mr. Van Vleck, interested in the Huck property [*10-47-12*], and together with George B. Nobles, N. M. Nelson, and J. B. Arnold, then of Superior, organized the North Wisconsin company to work the mine [*in 47-14*].

The Co-operative Park association purchased its site on the Brule river from properties of Mr. Arnold just this year [*1931*]. Other of the copper mining land which was owned both by local and by eastern companies has now been sold for farming land, some is retained by the companies and some has passed into the hands of others with a view to mining.

Charles Starkweather, an early mayor of Superior, was at one time (in the 90's) in control of a mine known as the Starkweather mine which later passed into the hands of another company.

Among mines at one time in existence were:

The Percival in town 48, range 10, near Brule. Officers were E. P. Mackey [*not a Finnish name*], president, Gordon; I. P. Estes, Pierre, South Dakota, vice president, and B. J. Van Vleck, Superior, secretary and treasurer. [*This operation worked the site after Budgett from Bristol, England, owned it – and the Clevedon site.*]

The North Wisconsin Mining company in section seven, town 48, range 10, also near the Brule [*No mine existed at these coordinates. The confusion here may be*

due to the fact that the Town of Brule extended east to this site in Amnicon at that time]. Major owners were M. W. Nelson, president; J. B. Van Vleck, vice president, and F. A. Woodward, secretary and treasurer, all of Superior. The idea of the owners was to use the Middle River for water power in the sinking of shafts and other mining operations.

The Starkweather mine later passed into the hands of eastern owners [*also known as the Boston & Lake Superior, located just north of the Amnicon mine owned in 1906 by L. O. Brown*]. It was located in section 2, town 47, range 13, in the northwest corner of the town of Oakland, now owned [*1931*] by Attorney W. P. Crawford of Superior.

The Fond du Lac [*owned by the Superior & Boston Copper Mining Company*] was in section [*8*], town 47, range 13, in Parkland. Officers of the company were Joseph Tuteur, president; A. S. Andrews, of South Superior, vice president; Ernest A. Arnold, treasurer, and M. C. French, all of Superior at the time.

A property known as the Culligan was in section 31, town 47, range 13, Parkland.

Easterners Interested.

The St. Croix Consolidated Copper mines was owned by eastern capital and handled by Ernest A. Arnold, Superior. The company's territory lay just north of the St. Croix river and west of the central part of the county. Prof. T. C. Chamberlain is quoted by Mr. Thomas as having written, "The St. Croix district in the vicinity of Snake and Kettle rivers and thence northeastward into Douglas county still lies wholly unexplored, while promising more to the copper hunter than any portion of the formation outside Michigan." (Written before 1900).

James Bardon, Superior, brother of John Bardon, once mined a prospect at the Upper Black River falls. It included about 300 acres.

The Cascade Copper Mining company held 400 acres in section 28, town 47, range 14, in the town of Superior. Walter Fowler controlled the operations of the organization.

Scattered all through the county, in addition to those named above, are the sites of about 20 other mines. There are reminders of them in names such as Copper Creek, Copper school and others.

In some places the pay loads exceeded 20 per cent, which is considerable for copper. But due to financial panics, the discovery of other veins, and the large sums of money it took to develop the mines, there has never been prolonged and intense activity, although numerous occasions are cited when the metal was shipped out and sold. In some cases silver was found mingled with the copper.

But copper in 1931 sold for eight cents a pound.

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Notices :**THANK YOUS & RECOGNITIONS**

Thanks to all of you who have already renewed your memberships for 2004.

Thanks to **Winter Systems Computers** of Superior for their donation of software to go with the new laptop computer we have acquired. Software donated included Office XP Pro and Frontpage 2003, and Norman Data Defense – Norman Virus Control. **Norman Data Defense** home office is in Norway with a regional office in Madison, Wisconsin. The value of this software approaches \$800.

Thanks to the **Town of Lakeside** for its gift of \$250, to **NFMI, Dennis Agency**, of Superior for its business membership and gift totalling \$100. Thanks to **Cooperative Services of Maple** for their donation of \$125 in the name of **Delores Pellman** and **Hope Swenson** who volunteered their time to serve coffee and refreshments in the name of Old-Brule at the Co-operative's membership meeting held at the Northwestern Middle School in November.

Thanks to **Nan Wisherd** of **Northland Tax Services** for her 2004 membership renewal.

Thanks to **Tyne Alexson** and her family for old Finnish books and 78 rpm records from Tyne's collection.

A welcome and thank you to new member, **Mrs. Patricia Beyersdorf**, of Marengo, WI.

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

Congratulations to **Doug Montavon** of Maple, son-in-law of **Jerry Soyring** of Maple, who has become a partner in **J. R. Jenson Construction Co.** of Superior, after the sudden deaths of owner **Keith Jenson** and his son **Jeff**, keeping fifty workers employed. The company, founded by **Keith H. Jenson**, employs many in the Old-Brule region and has been in operation since 1920.

We continue to wish Archive Committee members **Doris** and **Arnold Perala** improved health. Our sympathy goes out to wife **Joyce** and family and friends of **Reynold Erickson**, long time Poplar resident, and **Bong Heritage Center** supporter, who passed away in early December at 76.

Our sympathy to wife **Vivian (Kinney)** and the family of **Paul Ranta**, of San Diego, CA, and former area resident who recently passed away at 88.

-and who have we missed or forgotten?

LOST/FOUND: Found, a salmon red with white bottom Pyrex 8 x 8 inch shallow pan left at our meeting in Lake Nebagamon. Contact **Shirley K-R** at 374-2413.

Calendar :

February 11, 6 p.m., Wednesday, regular bimonthly O-BHS membership meeting. Brule Town Hall. History Gathering.

February 16, 1 p.m., Monday, Archives Committee meeting. Pellmans. (meets thereafter every other Monday)

March 15, Monday, deadline for contributions to the April issue of *O-BHS News*.

May 1-9, Wisconsin Historic Preservation and Archaeology Week. Northern Lakes Archaeological Society Programs at Superior Public Library and elsewhere to be announced.

May 15, Saturday, with a rain date of May 22, Work Day at Davidson Windmill.

June 19, Saturday, Midsummer (Juhannus) Celebration (Tours and Ethnic Dinner), Davidson Windmill and Lakeside Town Hall. Douglas County Sesquicentennial Event.

September 11, Saturday, noon: O-BHS Annual Meeting, Northwestern Elementary School, Poplar.

WEB SITE ON LINE

The Website Committee has been working with member **Jon Winter** of **Winter Systems** in **Superior** on our own independent site (www.oldbrule.org). Thank you for your patience as we work to build up the site. Thanks to **Audrey Hakkila**, **Jackie Plunkett**, **Donna Bergsten**, **Jamie Erickson** 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) 364-2500, or our Treasurer, Shirley Kankas Rouleau, at 374-2413. 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 always welcome.

New Members and Visitors are Always WELCOME!

Old-Brule Heritage Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 24

Maple, WI 54854