



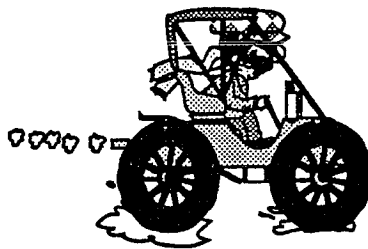
# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 1994

VOLUME XIII

Number 2

## *History Festival and Antique Auto Show*



**Sunday, September 18, 1994**

**10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

***Plymouth Creek Park, 3625 Fernbrook Lane***

### Featuring Olde Fashioned Family Fun -- Including

Antique Cars from 1890 to 1931

Fiddle contest

Story Telling

Music by:

♪ Angelo the Organ Grinder

♪ The Plymouth Rockers

♪ "C" Notes Barber Shop Quartet

Demos of Olde Tyme Crafts & Skills

Food Vendors

Tour the Historical Society

Pictures taken with Antique Car

Come in Olde Fashioned Costume

The Best Costume will receive a FREE

photo with an antique car!

### Schedule of Events

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

People's Choice Antique Car Judging

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Angelo the Organ Grinder, The Mechanical Maestro

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Open Mic Fiddle Demonstrations

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Story Telling on the Hour

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Olde Tyme Demonstrations on the half-hour

1:00 p.m.

The Fiddle Contest Begins!!!

1:30 p.m.

Performance by the Plymouth Rockers

1:30 p.m.

Antique Car Parade and Awards Presentation

2:30 p.m.

Performance by the "C" Notes Barber Shop Quartet

Admission: \$2.00 Children 12 and under FREE. For more information, call 550-5130.

Event will be held rain or shine! Bring a blanket or lawn chair!

Major Sponsors: Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth Park & Recreation, Sharon Anderson, REALTOR, RE/MAX Results, Superior Ford and Precision Graphics



**Rooney Boys**  
James B., Thomas G. and John Francis (Frank)

### **James Rooney Family**

This pioneer was born in Carlo County, Ireland in 1821. Like a great many other pioneers, he was enthused about new adventures and riches of a new country. He evidently was a farmer in Ireland, as that was his vocation for the rest of his life in the United States. He ventured to the New World in 1846, landing in New York and immediately set forth to farm near Utica, New York. He knew what he wanted and went straight toward his ambitions. His two brothers came to the United States a little later but journeyed straight on to northern Michigan and were never heard from again.

James farmed for ten years in New York State and during that time he met and married a pretty Irish miss, Bridgett McCaul, also from Ireland. She was born in about 1825. When their first child was about two years old, a daughter named Mary Ann, they decided to go to California above all places. After traveling by train from Utica, New York to Dubuque, Iowa, they embarked on a river steamer and came to St. Anthony. Bridgett was very weary and heavy with pregnancy so she was willing to compromise and take Minnesota for California. Her husband, James, set forth from St. Anthony, with assistance from the United States Government Office then located in St. Anthony, and found a piece of land which delighted him in Plymouth and

Medina Townships. He immediately returned to St. Anthony and on April 3, 1856 purchased with cash the SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 7 and the NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 18 in Plymouth township. In Medina Township the same day and with the same entry number, 1431, he purchased the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 12 and the NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 13. In all, his land comprised 160 acres and judging now, a fine location right on the edge of the town of Hamel, Minnesota on a new super highway and near a large metropolis. What better choice could he have made but, of course, unconscious of what the future held.

An Irish man named Tuey located directly south of him on a farm purchased the same year but in the month of August. Perhaps he was a friend, being of the same nationality and religion. Like nationalities, they settled together and it must have been rather comforting to have a good Irish friend near amongst the German, French and English settlers in that territory. Also, since Bridgett expected another child, who was named James, born in 1856, it was a blessing to have a good friend near in a crisis like that. This is all supposition, but from a little information later, I believe this must be true. Next child born was John in 1860, then Thomas in 1866 and Eliza born in 1868. Besides these children, Bridgett had two infants

who died very young and were buried on the home farm.

A very good and unusual story is told by the grandson, Earl Rooney, who in turn was told by his father and uncles and it is supposed to be true. James Rooney, Sr. had built his home of tamarack logs which he obtained north of his farm. He had already completed his home and was going to build a barn. He stepped out of the house and hitched up his oxen when he spied two men busily engaged in cutting and making a place to build a cabin and of all places, right on James Rooney's land. That piece of land is just where the LaPoint property is now in Hamel (1954). Mr. Rooney did a lot of thinking, but took his oxen and cart or sled and proceeded to go after his logs. When he returned later, the men were still busy. James unhitched the team, put them in whatever place he kept them and went into the house. He obtained a bottle of whiskey and it was not to entertain those men. Oh, no, he also got a pistol and out he went. He went right to the men asking what they were planning on doing. They informed him they were building a cabin and had the right to do so. They in turn were informed that the land belonged to Mr. James Rooney and to cease building. The two men refused and continued. James just took the bottle of whiskey from his pocket and took a (made believe) big "snort" and lay the bottle down. Then he proceeded to pick up his pistol and the two men, seeing the big "snort" and pistol not knowing when the whiskey would take effect and the pistol working, raced away toward St. Anthony. Later, James Rooney heard through grapevine telegraphy that the two intruders thought they would pay back Mr. Rooney in like manner and proceeded to buy plenty of whiskey and together with guns started for Mr. Rooney's farm. However, they imbibed too freely with what James had made believe and got to quarreling between themselves and one man shot the other man's arm off. Finis!

The method of transportation to the farm from St. Anthony with his wife and family made it wonderful for a settler to be inconvenienced. He bought a team of oxen and had the foresight to equip himself with a covered wagon in which they lived until living quarters in his cabin were complete. In all the stories I have heard of settlers here in Plymouth, I have never heard that. Perhaps others did live in their covered wagons but it was never mentioned by descendants. Maybe that California vision included a covered wagon and this part was what materialized of it. Plymouth Township was all the right for this as she gained another pair of good citizens.

With so many young people around, there was bound to be parties and get togethers. Dancing and games were the main forms of entertainment. These parties were held in homes and barns and were furnished music by John and Thomas, two of James' sons. Thomas was famous for both fiddling and calling off square dances and was in great demand.

Vivian and Earl Rooney (1954), granddaughter and grandson of James and Bridgett, tell of the difficulties the old settlers had in attending church. As priests were missionary priests and church was held in homes until cabins could be built for church purposes, the James Rooney family attended mass wherever it happened to be. It is known that the mass was held in the Andrew Jordan home near Rooney's

and it is possible they attended there. When Holy Name church, a rude building by Hansman Lake, was erected, the Rooney's happily attended mass at that place. Later when St. Anne Church was built at Hamel, there, of course, you found the Rooneys. We often hear of the physical hardships of these settlers but should we not contemplate their mental discomfort when unable to obtain sacraments of the church when needed? They were very devout people and church and schools were deemed a necessity.

At the time of the Indian uprising in 1862, James Rooney took his wife and children to St. Anthony. There is some vague remembrance on the part of the grandchildren, Vivian and Earl, that the Rooney's went to Osseo to stay with the Furey's or something to that effect. This is where I connect the possibility of Tuey, the family in Plymouth, south of the Rooney farm. The pronunciation was vague in their minds and so was the spelling but they may have been a part of the Tuey family next to whom they lived. James left his family in either Osseo or St. Anthony for safety and returned to spend the days and nights in the tall brush, looking for Indians and trouble. Neither materialized to their relief. James was armed with his pistol and was really ready to defend his home. All other settlers were on the alert as was James Rooney and some left and never came back. When this scare was over, the wife and family returned and life went on as usual. James had to go to St. Anthony for necessities and took two days for the trip with the oxen. It took much less time to go by foot but carrying provisions back wasn't too easy either. James' wife and children usually stayed at home as they were too small and the trip was too strenuous. She must have been very brave to face loneliness and fear of Indians while her husband was on these trips. It is not known when the first horse was purchased.

Indians used to come and beg for food, especially white bread and offered venison in exchange. However, this became a nuisance at times as flour had to be toted a great distance and it was necessary to have flour on hand for food. One time, two Indians looked in for bread and saw James' gun over the door frame. One Indian decided to own it and took it from its resting place. James ordered his wife to step into the lean-to and get his pistol. In the meantime, James grappled with the Indian and managed to make the Indian drop the gun. When the Indian saw the wife with the pistol, he and his comrades departed rather hastily.

When John F. Rooney became 22 and James B. Rooney 26, they purchased a farm in Minnetonka Township in the year 1882. It was located in Section 3 and contained 200 acres. These two young men batched it together, going back and forth between their farm and their father's to assist with the work. Thomas stayed on the home farm with his father. John married Annie Rooney from Ireland in 1903. He was the only boy in the family to marry. This couple had two children, Earl and Vivian, who gave the information for this story.

Mary Ann, the eldest girl and child, married Henry McGinty of Minnetonka Township and son of a very early settler there. This young man had just returned from the Civil War and Mary Ann, who was only 18 years of age, and her

husband settled down to farming. McGinty Road in Minnetonka Township is named after this McGinty family. They had four children, one of whom is still living - a daughter(1954). Mary Ann died in 1922. Eliza, the youngest daughter, went to Montana while quite young either to visit or work and contracted pneumonia in 1903. She was to have been married but her sickness grew worse and she died. She was buried in Montana.

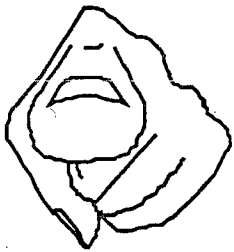
James Sr. died in 1901 and his wife Bridgett in 1895. Both were buried in Hamel. John and Thomas also died in 1922 and James Jr. in 1939. Three in this family died within one year. James Jr. who died in 1939 lived with the Rooney's in Minnetonka Township a long time before his death.

The old Rooney farm was divided among the relatives, Vivian and Earl Rooney still retaining 22 acres. They

declare they will never part with them. The old frame house, James' first frame one, was built about 1870 or later. It was just torn down in recent years.

John was treasurer of School District 105 from 1906 to 1920. He was active in public affairs and was highly respected as a neighbor and a helpful citizen. If all the people in the community were as aware of the history of their ancestors, there would be much to relate. Vivian and Earl Rooney had the advantage of listening to their father and two bachelor uncles who at some time in their life, always lived with them, and they listened with intensity and were able to relate incident after incident which makes information important. Never once did I hear "I am sorry but I wish I had listened or written this down." They did and are so very grateful for what they do know about the Rooney family.

**IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!**



**If you want to remain on the mailing list, see attached notice.**

**OFFICERS**

The following are the present officers:

President	Gary Schiebe	473-4889
Vice President	Ben G. Broman	559-5721
Secretary	Mabel Swanson	545-7705
Treasurer	Harvey Schiebe	545-6127

**DONATIONS TO MUSEUM**

- Antique Pump Organ     Ann Mundale
- \$415 Check based on one cent donation of Caliber's Building Development in Plymouth     John Lavander Caliber Development Corp.
- Printing Press     Arnie Wesla  
Owned by Roland and Holland Knapp
- Reading Award     Florence Kardong  
District #95, 1915
- Dance Card Holder-Crocheted, 1921     Florence Kardong
- Graduation Watch     Florence Kardong  
1924
- Prose and Poetry Book     Florence Kardong

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We have openings for two more on the Board of Directors. If anyone has an interest in Plymouth's history and its preservation, please contact any one of the Board Members.

The following is the present Board of Directors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Term</u>
Sharon Anderson	475-1974	1994-1997
Ben G. Broman	559-5721	1994-1997
Alberta Casey	559-9366	1993-1996
Vern Doseh	559-3777	1992-1995
Myrtle Eckes	545-6168	1993-1996
Jim Garvey	559-3047	1994-1997
Edith Hopperstad	473-3427	1993-1996
Joyce McCaughey	544-2656	1993-1996
Carl Ornborg	475-0930	1994-1997
Vern Peterson	559-2317	1992-1995
Barb Rasmussen	533-8444	1994-1997
Gary Schiebe	473-4889	1993-1996
Harvey Schiebe	545-6127	1993-1996
Adeline Schmidt	559-2459	1994-1997



## OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH

December

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

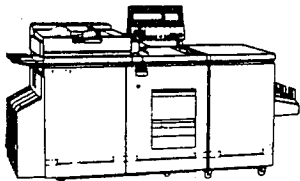
- Donation of picture framing services for numerous unframed pictures at the Society.
- An antique bedroom dresser and chest of drawers.

Just a reminder to plan ahead and mark your calendar for the Eighth annual "Old Fashioned Christmas in Plymouth", Sunday, December 4th, co-sponsored by the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park Recreation Department.

## Do you need copies?

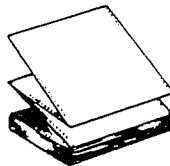
MANUALS • BOOKLETS • PRICE LISTS • PRODUCT INFORMATION •  
DATA RESEARCH • COURSE MATERIAL • ECT.

### We have a Xerox



- 92 copies per minute
- Collates on line
- Staples

*Copies Continuous Forms  
without bursting.*



Other services we have to go along with our copier.

COMB  
BINDING



CUSTOM  
COVERS



CUSTOM  
TAB  
DIVIDERS

*Highlight*

Printing

**553-9014**

*FREE pick up & Delivery!*

*Call to get special pricing!*