



## PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 1995

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Number 3

### OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH

On Sunday, December 10th from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the Eighth Annual "OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH". The purpose of the event is to provide some old fashioned Christmas spirit and activities for families in Plymouth. Children can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be right there to help the Elves hand out candy canes. A sleigh/hay ride pulled by Belgian horses with bells jingling will be giving rides (.50 ¢ per person), hot cider and cookies will be provided, storyteller, carollers and making Christmas decorations are other activities for the children.

On Saturday, December 9th, starting at 9 am, we will decorate the two old fashioned Christmas trees and building. We are looking for help in decorating and bringing items that could be borrowed for the day to add some more old fashioned Christmas spirit.

They can be items as follows:

- Old fashioned antique ornaments
- Old fashioned toys to put under the tree
- Poinsettias

If you can help or bring decorations, please call Myrtle Eckes, 545-6168 or Gary Schiebe, 473-4889.

Attached is a flyer describing the event so bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and kids ages 9 months to 90 years young. We had a great time last year and this year it will be even better.

We thought you might be interested in some of the specific volunteers and businesses involved to help the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department and the Plymouth Histoy put on this event.

Santa	Phil Collins
Mrs. Claus	Mable Swanson
Elves	Girl Scout Troop
Storyteller	Bob Gasch
Wood Carver	Walter Grittner
Singers	Armstrong Chamber Singers
Strolling Musicians	Recorder Ensemble (Mike Anderson) Flute Duet (Sandy Wronski)
Hay Ride	Bunker Hill Stables
Wreaths, Trees & Garland	Dundee Nursery
Cider	New Market and Cub
Candy Canes & Cookies	Plymouth Historical Society



Amable Le Count

Amable Le Count, a brother of Antoine's settled in Plymouth Township near Antoine's on the west side of Medicine Lake. He purchased the SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 and Lot 6 containing 30 acres on September 25, 1860. There is not much information available concerning him. However, through his granddaughter, Elizabeth Begin, mother of Mrs. Ben Leuer, and others still living, told the following. They were 1/4 Indian blood as was most of the French who settled in that vicinity as they originally came from Canada. Elizabeth Begin's mother was a daughter of Amable who married a Morin of Corcoran Township. Other children of Amable's were Minnie, Mary, Rosella, Morin, Frank, Joe (who died) and Vitilene. After Amable died and was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, his wife who was about 75 years old went back to St. John, Canada to live but was killed by two men. Her body was brought back to Minneapolis and buried at St. Mary's Cemetery.

A sister of Antoine's and Amable's was a deaf mute. ■



*Parkers Lake History*

Have you seen the wall display on the history of the northwest corner of Parkers Lake Area?

Carol Creelman has put together a chronological history starting from the Gilfillan Mansion, City Work House up to the Parkers Lake Park development. Stop by and see it and if you have any questions, please call our expert on the area, Carol Creelman 545-9698.

*Artifact Labeling*

A special thanks to Delores and Joe Morris for their work on updating the labeling and cataloging of the items in the museum collection. It is a big job and we really appreciate their efforts!



**Board of Directors**

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 Doseth	559-3777	1995-1998
Myrtle Eckes	545-6168	1993-1996
Jim Garvey	559-3047	1994-1997
Edith Hopperstad	473-3427	1993-1996
Joyce McCaughey	557-6948	1993-1996
Cork Ornborg	475-0930	1994-1997
Vern Peterson	559-2317	1995-1998
Gary Schiebe	473-4889	1993-1996
Harvey Schiebe	545-6127	1993-1996
Adeline Schmidt	559-2459	1994-1997
Mable Swanson	545-7705	1994-1997



**OFFICERS**

The following are the present officers:

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



**Mailing and Membership List**



Attention!! Due to increased costs for the newsletter, we have adjusted the annual dues. The annual dues are:

Individual.....	\$ 7.50
Family.....	\$12.00
Lifetime.....	\$100.00

If you have any questions, please call Alberta Casey, 559-9366.

## FAMILY HISTORIES

The Plymouth Historical Society has quite a few family histories on file. We welcome people to come and look at them, which may help you trace family roots. The following is a copy of one of the histories on file.

### Antoinne Le Count



Antoinne Le Count was considered the first settler in Plymouth Township, coming October 1853, locating on the east shore of Medicine Lake. The records in "Abstract of Lands" in the Register of Deeds' office at Hennepin County shows that he purchased 97.82 acres in Section 24, Lot 3 and SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 on November 27, 1860. He lived on it previous to purchase as required by law. Antoinne's life was adventurous and as colorful as any character in history. He was a traveler, explorer and a guide in the great Northwest Territory. His father was a noted guide and explorer, carrying mail from the Red River Valley near the International boundary down to St. Louis. He would carry mail, fancy trinkets and "wampum" made by the Indians and trade in whatever locality he delivered the mail for whatever he could get of value, preferably horses to take back to his home in the Red River Valley. This practice brought him considerable wealth. Antoinne's father, called Le Gros, took into his family Pierre Bottineau who later became famous as a guide, traveler and an agent for settling immigrants.

Antoinne was born on the Minnesota side of the Red River on November 6, 1822. In the summer of 1837, his father took him to Fort Snelling, remaining until September, when he returned to his home. Le Gros had made a claim on the east side of the Mississippi River near the falls including Nicollet Island. This claim was made in connection with Franklin Steele. In June of 1838 he decided to take his family to his new claim.

Antoinne's father took with him Bottineau and others including a Thomas Simpson who was in great hurry to get to his destination. Simpson successfully persuaded Le Count to take a short cut at an agreeable price, thereupon

#### **Antoinne and Amable are buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery.**

Le Gros divided his party, one under Bottineau consisting of Mrs. Le Count and children with the exception of Antoinne, to take the long and less hazardous trip through Lac Qui Parle and the group under Le Gros to take the short cut with Mr. Simpson, Antoinne and two others. The fourth day out, Mr. Simpson became insane and shot Le Gros. Antoinne's father urged his son to escape as he knew he was about to die. Simpson shot another man and at Antoinne and Jim, the hired hand. They escaped, however, and sought out the party manned by Bottineau. After about 50 miles of travel, they found the party and Bottineau and Antoinne returned to the scene of disaster. Taking the bodies of Le Gros and the other murdered man, they returned to the Red River Valley to bury them. Simpson had killed himself so his body was left by the roadside.

The party, conducted by Bottineau, continued the journey until they reached Fort Snelling, arriving about the middle of July. Antoinne and his mother with the rest of the family stayed there until the following spring and then moved to Pig's Eye (St. Paul), where they remained one year. Then Antoinne roamed wherever his fancy dictated and finally settled in Plymouth Township where he lived until his death some time between 1895 and 1900. He built a one room log house of tamarack on what is now Road 18. By 1895 he had built three newer and larger homes. He was married when he settled in Plymouth. A child of his was the first one to be buried in the St. Joseph's Cemetery. His wife Mary Begin, died at the age of 49 on September 18, 1884. Two children, Frank, age 3 months and 3 days, born June 18, 1873, died September 24, 1873. Jennie, age 18, died February 27, 1988. They were buried at the same cemetery.

# Guess who's coming to town?



## OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

in

## PLYMOUTH

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 10th

2:00 - 5:00 PM

Plymouth Historical Society Building  
Plymouth Creek Park - 3605 Fernbrook Lane  
Plymouth, MN

- 🎄 Visit with Santa
- 🎄 Old Fashioned Sleigh-Hay Ride
- 🎄 Hot cider and Cookies
- 🎄 See Old Fashioned Christmas Trees
- 🎄 Make Christmas Decorations
- 🎄 Storyteller
- 🎄 Carolers

