



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 1996

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OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH

On Sunday, December 8th from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the Tenth 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 7th, 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:

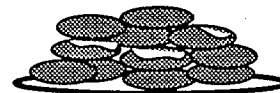
- Old fashioned antique ornaments
- Old fashioned toys to put under the tree
- Poinsettias

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 History put on this event.

Santa	Santa Claus
Mrs. Claus	Mrs. Santa Claus
Elves	Girl Scout Troop #2110
Storyteller	Bob Gasch
Wood Carver	Dan Ronning
Singers	Armstrong Chamber Singers
Musicians	Messiah Recorder Ensemble (Mike Anderson) Flute Duet Fantasia (Sandy Wronski)
Hay Ride	Bunker Hill Carriages
Wreaths, Trees & Garland	Dundee Nursery
Cider	New Market and Cub
Candy Canes & Cookies	Plymouth Historical Society



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 excerpts from a copy of one of the histories on file.

The Ditter Family History by Caroline Ditter Henderschiedt



Thomas and Rosa Ditter Family
Left to right - Back row: John, Maggie (Mengelkoch), Edward, Will Ben
Front row: Thomas, Math, Frank, Lizzie, Rosa. The photo was taken about 1892

My father was Edward Joseph Ditter born November 7, 1873 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and died June 9, 1946 near Medicine Lake, Minnesota. He was 73 years old. His father was Thomas Ditter who emigrated from Baden, Germany.

Thomas came to Hennepin County in 1866. It was stated later in his wife's obituary in 1908 that they had lived in Hennepin County for 42 years.

In the 1870 Minnesota Census Town of Richfield in Carver County it listed Lawrence Adelman with a

daughter, Rosa, as a domestic servant for Ervin Everett and wife, Maria.

Thomas Ditter and Rosa Adelman were married January 30, 1873 in Minneapolis and lived there for ten years. One address was 1880 N. 8th Street and another place was 2117 8th Street. They had five children there: Edward Joseph (my father), William Anthony, Margaret Caroline, John Thomas and Jacob Bernard (Ben). Thomas and his partner, Mr. Kee, owned and operated a livery barn in Minneapolis.

In 1882 Thomas traded his house for a farm owned by Steven Roth. It was between the Perkinville Road and the Rockford Road and 12 miles from the Minneapolis city hall. They moved to the farm in the fall of 1882. In 1883 this farm was registered at Plymouth Township. Six more children were born at this place: Elizabeth Rosa, Albert Mathias (Matt), Frank Carl, George Reinard, Mary Christina and Katherine Antonette - 11 children in all. They attended school at District 104.

On the morning of May 8, 1889, the barn burnt down. The 36' x 48' barn had been built by Steven Roth. Thomas rebuilt the barn a little farther south. The new barn was 40' x 60'. In 1891 he built a new brick house and they moved in December 1st of that year.

The only thing that I can remember my father telling me about Grandfather Thomas was that he was a mason worker and had taught him to do cement work. In the early days masonry and carpentry went together in building. Most old timers were quite skilled in both.

A place of great interest to many and especially to the Ditters and Mengelkochs and to my maternal ancestors, the Schiebe's, is the Old Town Hall. It stands on its original ground at 3605 Fernbrook Lane, Plymouth, Minnesota, which is a suburb of Minneapolis. It is adjacent to the old Ditter farm. The Schiebe's also had settled in Plymouth Township.

The Town Hall was built in 1885 by Thomas Ditter and Clem Mengelkoch. Thomas did the lathing and plastering. It is still in very good condition today, including not only the walls and ceiling, but the chimney with its original wooden pedestal on which it sits. The front door and the windows with some of the original glass are original. A portion of the original siding has been left exposed when an addition was added in 1980. It shows the 20 inch boards that were cut with a straight saw. A room was built on the back and a basement added which has a kitchen, restrooms and a meeting room. The Plymouth Historical Society owns and maintains this building and grounds. The Hall is filled with antiques and artifacts that came from the surrounding area. I have a membership in the Society.

Mark Eckes, who is a descendant of the Schiebe's, did much of the work in the renovation and remodeling of the Hall. Before Mark died in 1986, he wrote some of the history and ended it with this, "If you want someone to remember you when you are gone, you've got to make tracks. These are my tracks".

My sister, Doris Ditter Baker, and I visited the Town Hall for the first time in 1980. We were interested and enthused with it. I had been tracing the family history since 1962. This is where our Minnesota roots started with our ancestors.

Thomas and Rosa Adelman Ditter lost one of their children in infancy. George Reinard was born June 4, 1891 and died February 2, 1892. Another son, John Thomas, died in 1917 in a run-away accident with horses. He had married Laura Jordan four months earlier.

Five members of the Thomas Ditter family went west to make their homes. Edward Joseph and Annie Schiebe Ditter farmed near Spencer, South Dakota. Frank Carl and Elizabeth Fritschen Ditter farmed near Farmer, South Dakota. Jacob (Ben) and Bridget Duffy Ditter farmed near Twin Falls, Idaho. Samuel and Elizabeth Ditter Crismor farmed near Buhl, Idaho. Simon and Mary Ditter Scherer

farmed near Timber Lake, South Dakota. Bartholomew and Katherine Ditter Ackerman farmed near Foley, Minnesota. William Anthony and Annie Mengelkoch Ditter, William and Margaret Ditter Mengelkoch and Mathias (Matt) and Barbara Adams Ditter all farmed near Minneapolis.

After living on the farm for 25 years, Rosa Ditter passed away at their home on September 13, 1908. The death certificate states the cause of death was the Hypertrophic Cirrhosis of the liver. She was buried in the Medicine Lake Cemetery near St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Thomas retired from farming in 1908, the same year Rosa died. His son, Matt, and new bride Barbara Adams, took over the farming. Thomas was ill for a year and a half before he died on January 9, 1919. His death was caused from Hypertrophy of the prostate and retention of urine. The contributory cause was the removal of prostate, gangerine of bladder and senility. (Aunt Katherine said his mind was clear.) The length of this illness was 21 days. These reports I copied from their death certificates. Thomas was buried in the Medicine Lake Cemetery beside Rosa.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church still stands today and it is not too far from the old Ditter farm and the Town Hall. The church was a place of worship for the Ditter families for many years. One of the beautiful stained glass windows was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ditter and their names are on the lower portion. The cemetery is along the side of the church and it is a place where many Ditters were buried. My sister, Adeline, is at rest there. This covers the information that I have researched on the Ditter ancestors.

Caroline Ditter Henderschiedt
July 1992

Happy
Holidays



Old Log Cabin

As this newsletter was being printed, the old log cabin from the Gillfillan property is being built on the shore of Parker Lake. Many of you remember the old log cabin on County Rd. 6 close by Parker Lake.

The old cabin was so rotten that the only way to preserve it was to have it reproduced. The person responsible for this wonderful act of service to her community action is Carol Creelman.



OFFICERS

The following are the present officers:

President	Jim Garvey	559-3047
Vice President	Cork Ornborg	475-0930
Secretary	Mable Swanson	545-7705
Treasurer	Harvey Schiebe	545-6127

Congratulations to our new officers, especially Jim Garvey and Cork Ornborg who have accepted the roles of President and Vice President.



Mailing and Membership List



Attention!! We have included a 1997 Membership Dues Form. Please send in the form or if you have any questions, please call Alberta Casey, 559-9366.

The annual dues are:

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

New Additions

New additions to our collection:

- A copy machine so visitors can easily make copies of information.

- Butter Churn

Donated by: Mary and Jeff Bisek

- Photograph of the wedding party of John Ditter and Laura Jorden

Donated by: Marian Bauer

- Ball cap, Herb's Service Garage, 1933-1983

Donated by: Marvel Sandgren

- Miscellaneous items of clothing; a panorama photograph of the Wyman-Partridge picnic held at White Bear Lake; a panorama photograph of the XY Club picnic at Parker's Lake on August 17, 1918.

Donated by: Sharon Ryan from the estate of Neil & Zylpha Ryan

- A copy of THE COUGAR Year Book of Plymouth Middle School for 1989-1990.

Donated by: Tim Layeux

- Velvet Joe's Almanac for 1918

Donated by Adeline Schmidt

- Family History of Clem & Mary Neumann

Donated by Joe Morris

- Five pound Calumet Baker Powder Can; Calumet Recipe Book; Schedule of Minneapolis/Glen Lake/Excelsior Streetcar Line; Picture of Heidelberg, Germany; 1938 Calendar; a souvenir program of the Old Heidelberg Club Picnic

Donated by Harvey & Fern Schiebe



Wanted

The Plymouth Historical Society is looking for:

- Dresser or Chest of Drawers for bedroom area
- Old children toys for Christmas display
- Old doll house furniture and furnishings
- Candle holders to fit an old pump organ
- Picture framing services

Board of Directors

The following is the present Board of Directors:

Name	Telephone	Term
Sharon Anderson	475-1974	1994-1997
Ben G. Broman	559-5721	1994-1997
Alberta Casey	559-9366	1996-1999
Carol Creelman	545-9698	1996-1999
Vern Dotseth	559-3777	1995-1998
Myrtle Eckes	545-6168	1996-1999
Jim Garvey	559-3047	1994-1997
Joe Morris	535-8756	1996-1999
Joyce McCaughey	557-6948	1996-1999
Cork Ornborg	475-0930	1994-1997
Vern Peterson	559-2317	1995-1998
Gary Schiebe	473-4889	1996-1999
Harvey Schiebe	545-6127	1996-1999
Adeline Schmidt	559-2459	1994-1997
Mable Swanson	545-7705	1994-1997



Did You Know ??

That County Rd. 9 was called Green Rd., according to the Plymouth Council Meeting of 4/16/1869?

The first Plymouth Village was laid out on the northwest shores of Parker's Lake in 1855?

Plymouth can be traced back to pre-Columbian Period, 1400-1500 A.D. Its original inhabitants were the Wahpetan Sioux whose encampment was at the north end of Medicine Lake?

(According to Niel Nelsen from a Brief Look at the Early History of Plymouth)



~ Meetings ~

- The next Plymouth Historical Society meeting is Wednesday, November 20th at 7:30 at the Plymouth Historical Society Building.
- The December event will be the Old Fashioned Christmas event on December 8th.
- A January meeting date will be scheduled at the Plymouth City Hall.
- The February and follow-on meetings are normally on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 in the Plymouth Historical Society Building.



Artifact Labeling

A special thanks to Delores and Joe Morris, Myrtle Eckes and Kay Bertrand 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.

And a special thanks to Betty Stephens at Control Data Systems, Inc. who types and prints the variety of labels.