



## PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 1997

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Number 3

### OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH

On Sunday, December 7th from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the Eleventh 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 6th, 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 (John Miller)
Mrs. Claus	Mrs. Santa Claus (Mabel Swanson)
Elves	Girl Scout Troop
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 Society	Plymouth Historical Society



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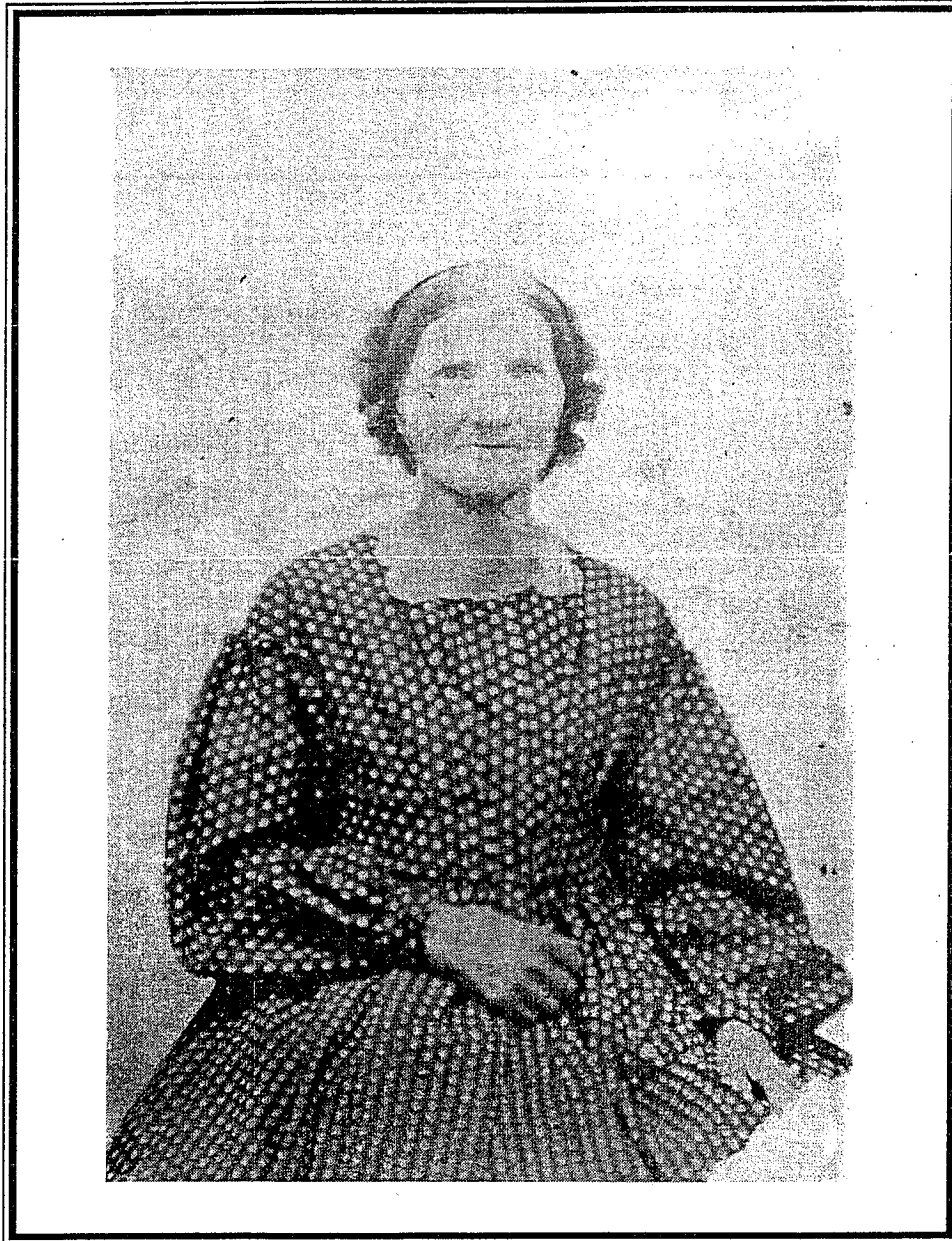
**FAMILY HISTORIES**

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.

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**The Hughes Family History**

by  
Eva L. Hughes



Hannah Buckell Hughes  
Wife of Thomas Hughes, Sr.

## Descendants of Thomas Hughes and Hannah Buckell

Thomas Hughes was born in England on November 25, 1803. He served in the British Army for five years. In February 1824 he married Hannah Buckell. To this union, nine children were born. James, MaryAnn, John, who died, Thomas, Henry, Charles, Ellen (deceased), Edward and Ellen 2nd, who also died. In the year 1849, Thomas brought his wife and children (except for James the eldest) and located in Burlington, Iowa, where they lived for five years. In the fall of 1853, they moved to Minnesota and settled on a claim, section 19, in Plymouth. The date of actual purchase was October 18, 1860. At the time he came there were no roads except the Indian trails used by Shakopee and his band of Sioux. Here he built a home and lived until his death in 1887. His wife had died in 1882. Both are buried in Parker's Lake Cemetery.

James Hughes, eldest son of Thomas Hughes, was born in England, January 2, 1825. He lived with his parents until he was 21 while serving an apprenticeship of seven years at the black smith trade. He then went to Wales and was engaged in Lee's iron-works for nine months. He returned to England and established his own smithing business. He was married to Elizabeth Hatcher in England in 1848. They had nine children, six of them lived. They were Edward, Ellen (Mrs. Joseph Day), John, Julie (Mrs. Frank Hatcher), Thomas and Carey. In 1852 he left England and followed his father to Burlington, Iowa, and engaged in business there until March 1854, when he started for Minnesota. He had at the time six yoke of oxen, two cows and a covered wagon. The journey was pleasant until they arrived in Minnesota Territory, where they found much snow and no roads. He was obliged to leave his family alone in the wagon one night while he went in search of food and help during a bad snowstorm. They finally arrived at Red Wing and had only five oxen and one cow left, the others having perished enroute. Here they shipped to St. Paul where he sold his remaining cattle and went to St. Anthony. In May 1854 he made his claim to 120 acres in Section 18 in Plymouth. Actual purchase and payment was made on March 4, 1857. Here he engaged in farming and smithing until during the Civil War. In July 1864 he enlisted in the 8th Minnesota and was detailed as post-blacksmith at Fort Snelling, where he served until mustered out in May 1865.

While he was at Fort Snelling, his family lived in their cabin back in Plymouth. One day while his wife Elizabeth had her quilting frame set up on four flour barrels, a band of Indians stopped and asked for food. Only one of the barrels contained some flour and the Indians looked into the three which happened to be empty. Leaving the fourth in disgust, they walked out the door and into the garden patch where the young vegetables were coming through the ground. They proceeded to trample the rows methodically until they were ruined.

After James Hughes returned from serving at Fort Snelling, there were other experiences with Indians. One of which showed the kindlier side of the Indian nature. While out hunting one day he found an old Indian with his feet frozen. He carried him home to his cabin and tended him until he was able to walk again and sent him on his way. Late one winter night there was a thud as if some heavy object was hitting the cabin door. In going to see what it was they found a saddle of fresh venison lying on the door step. There was no explanation except that it must have been the grateful Indian.

During the years between 1858 and 1866, James Hughes held various township offices such as constable, town clerk, overseer of highways and supervisor of the town board. He passed away in 1882 and his wife in 1894. Both are buried in Parkers Lake Cemetery.

Thomas Hughes, third son of Thomas Sr., lived all his life with his father and never married. He enlisted in the 6th Minnesota Infantry in 1861, served one year, and was transferred to Company K, 23rd Regiment, Vet. Reserve Corps, and served as General's orderly until mustered out at St. Paul in 1865. He was engaged in the battle of Birch Coolie and Wood Lake during the Indian outbreak. He is reputed to have been a very strong man and at one time on a dare he lifted and carried a full barrel of molasses into the store for Joseph Hamel, who ran a store at which was then called Lenz, now Hamel. He died in 1888.

Henry, fourth son of Thomas Hughes Sr., was born in England January 28, 1835. He came to the United States with his parents in 1849 and was engaged in blacksmithing in Burlington, Iowa, until 1853. At which time at age 18, he had accumulated two yoke of oxen, two cows, three horses and two wagons. They were 27 days on the road to Minnesota. He worked one year at blacksmithing at St. Anthony and then joined his father on the homestead in Plymouth. He was married December 4, 1862 to Mary A. Case of Ohio, and they had nine children. They are Fred, Frank, George, Robert, Clarence, William, Amanda, Ida and Rosa-Nell. William, the youngest, still lives in the old homestead but in a new house - the old one having burned to the ground in 1914. Uncle Henry passed away in 1899. His wife in 1929. Both are buried in Parkers Lake Cemetery.

Charles Hughes, fifth son of Thomas Hughes Sr., was born in England May 2, 1838. He came with his parents to America in 1894 and to Minnesota in 1853. He was 15 years old at the time and remained at St. Anthony working with Daniel Bassett, one of the first carriage makers in the place, for 1-1/2 years. He and his older brother, Henry, made claims in Benton County, remained one year, but were obliged to abandon them because of a scarcity of provisions. In the fall of 1859 he built a carriage shop near the suspension bridge in Minneapolis and remained there until 1861 when he enlisted in Company D, 1st Minnesota Infantry, and served until mustered out in May 1864. He participated in 21 engagements, some of them the hardest fought battles of the Civil War. In 1864 he joined General Sully's expedition up the Yellowstone. He returned in the fall and worked for the government at Fort Snelling until the spring of 1865 when he came to Plymouth and bought 40 acres of land, later adding another 40 acres and built a home for the wife he married on May 14, 1865. She was Martha Hatcher, daughter of Frank Hatcher, Sr., who also had migrated from England. Eight children were born to the. They are John, Charles, Henry, Hubert, Annette, Cora, Addie and Minnie. His wife died March 18, 1882. He sold his farm and moved to Minneapolis. Later he left the state for Denver, Colorado. He died in 1912 at the age of 74 and is buried as is Martha in Parkers Lake Cemetery. (See letter and poem written to his sister from the Army.)

Edward, the youngest son of Thomas Sr., was born in England in 1844 and he too migrated with his parents, brothers and sisters to America in 1853 and lived with them until grown. He was one of the first eight men in

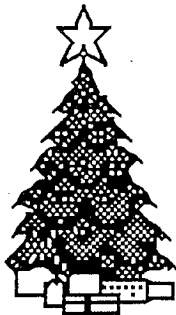
Plymouth to volunteer for service in the Indian uprisings about 1863. He served one year and after suffering a broken leg, was mustered out. At the age of 25 he was married to Ellen O'Hearn of Norwalk, Ohio. To this union were born five children: Mark, Albert, Mary, Emma and Emory, who died at an early age. Edward, or Uncle Ned as we called him, died in 1918. His wife, Aunt Ellen, died in 1940. Both are buried in Holy Name Cemetery in Medina.

Now we come to the third generation and find there were four sons and two daughters, descendants of James Hughes. As mentioned earlier, they were Edward, Thomas, John and Carey, Ellen (Mrs. Joseph Day) and Julia (Mrs. Frank Hatcher). Of these, Thomas and John stayed on the original land inherited from their father and their sons in turn are still on the farms which they have inherited. My husband is James, eldest son of Thomas 3rd, and Harry, his brother, second son of Thomas 3rd. Sisters are Gertrude and Mable.

It is to my good father-in-law, Thomas Hughes, that I owe the knowledge of these accounts and happenings which he remembered from his youth. He told of helping to clear the land on which we now live, it having been entirely covered by Maple trees as was much of the territory. There was a bog in which wild cranberries grew in abundance and the higher ground where the wild strawberries grew. There were still a few of these when we were married 44 years ago. That it was the abode of Indians has also been proven, as we have found arrow tips and tomahawk heads on the farm which turning the soil. These are things which our children in the fifth generation treasure. We treasure too, the memory of all these good and simple people who were our forbears and whose virtues and deeds we aim to perpetuate. They have lived, laughed and loved to serve their God and their neighbors and may we too live simply in the love of our God and of our neighbors.

Respectfully submitted

Eva L. Hughes



A Letter Written by Chas. Hughes  
to His Sister During Civil War

Warrington, Va  
November 13, 1862

*My Dear Sister;*

*I received your lovely letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you. Glad to hear you were all alive and enjoying health. We are now some 60 miles from Staffersberg and thought since I wrote you last. We left there the first of the month crossed the Shennadoah, wound around Loudon Heights and then followed the Blue Ridge, drove the rebels from Ashby Gap and held it for a day or so as we had possession of the Gap. we found ourselves near the town of Warrington. It is quite a little town for Virginia and here we have been for 3 days. But I don't think we shall stop here 3 days longer, it is the best County we have marched during the whole campaign. Those ladies came for curiosity sake, whether they were rebels or not. I can say those grey Backs were rebels certainly. They all wear grey clothes with the exception of some that takes it off our dead men. It is very fine weather now and has been for a day or two. But we took out for a winter campaign. I dread it, we saw enough of that last spring. Did Ellen ever receive a letter from me with something in it? It is a long time since I wrote it, long enough to get an answer if you have received it. I suppose before this reaches you, you will have heard about the removal of McClellan. It caused a great dissatisfaction among the officers and men and a great many have sent in their resignations. ut there was an order read on dress parade last night that all those officers who wished to resign in the face of an enemy on account of McClellan being removed, would get a dishonorable discharge, so that will be apt to change their opinions if I am not much mistaken. You must excuse this writing. Give my love to George and a thousand kisses for the children. Am very sorry to hear Charley is sickly for I do want to see him. I have nothing interesting to write about this time but very likely shall before long.*

*Good bye my dear sister and may God answer your prayers.*

*C. W. Hughes*

Poem Written by Chas. Hughes  
to His Sister During Civil War

**If You Are Going To Love Me**

If you are going to love me  
Love me now, while I can know  
All the sweet and tender feeling  
Which from real affection flow,  
Love me now while you are with me  
Do not wait till I am gone.

If you've dear sweet thoughts about me,  
Why not whisper them to me?  
Don't you know I'd make me happy,  
As glad as glad could be.  
If you wait till I am sleeping, Ne'er to  
waken here again,  
There'll be walls of earth between us  
And I wouldn't hear you then.

If you know someone was thirsting  
For a drop of water sweet,  
Would you be so slow to bring it  
Would you step with laggard feet?  
I won't hold your kind caresses  
While the grass grows o'er my face  
I won't crave your love and kisses  
In my last, low resting place;  
So if you do love me any  
If it's but a little bit,  
I'd rather know it now, while I  
Can, living, own and treasure it.

Charles W. Hughes

The 1873 atlas shows Charles Hughes' farm as follows; Sec. 17 the SE1/4 of the SE1/4. His wife Martha died at childbirth leaving eight children who were cared for by relatives. There are copies of letters written by Charles Hughes while a soldier in the Civil War and I believe were written to his sister Mary Ann.

**Excerpt from "History of Hennepin County", Neill 1881**

"**Henry Hughes**, the son of Thomas Hughes, was born in England, January 28, 1835. He came to the United States with his parents and was engaged in blacksmithing at Burlington, Iowa. He came with his parents to Minnesota in 1853 with two yokes of oxen, two cows, three horses and two wagons, being twenty seven days on the road. He worked at blacksmithing in Minneapolis one year, then joined his father on the homestead in Plymouth. He was married December 4, 1862 to Mary A. Case, of Ohio, who has born him eight children, seven of whom are living. In July 1864 he enlisted in the Eight Minnesota Infantry and was mustered out May 1865. Mr. Hughes has a fine farm, and in connection with it, carries on the blacksmithing business.

Henry Hughes and his wife had the following children, some of whom are dead: Fred, deceased; George, deceased; Clarence and Frank, deceased; Robert, deceased; Amanda, deceased; Ida, deceased; Willie, living on the Henry Hughes farm (1956); and Nell, in Minneapolis (1956).

Henry Hughes died in 1898 and his wife in 1929. Both are buried at Parker lake Cemetery.

The farm of Henry Hughes in 1873 was as follows: Sec. 9, NE1/2 of which Thomas Hughes the father retained the NE1/4 of NE1/4 for his home. The whole NE1/4 was then the property of Henry Hughes."



**Excerpt from "History of Hennepin County" Neill 1881**

"**Charles W. Hughes** was born in England, May 2, 1838. He came with his parents, Thomas and Hannah Hughes to America in 1849 and to Minnesota in 1853. Charles W. remained in St. Anthony, working with Daniel Bassett, one of the first carriage makers in the place, one and one half years. He and his brother, Henry, made claims in Benton County, remained one year, but were obliged to abandon their claims on account of scarcity of provisions. In the fall of 1859, he built a carriage shop near the suspension bridge, in Minneapolis, and remained there until 1861, when he enlisted in Company D, First Minnesota Infantry, and served until mustered out in May 1864. He participated in twenty one engagements, some of them the hardest fought battles of the war. In 1864 he joined Gen. Sully's expedition up the Yellowstone; returned in the fall and worked for the government at Fort Snelling, till the spring of 1865, when he came to Plymouth, bought forty acres of land, to which he has since added forty more, and has built up a good home. Married to Martha Hatcher, of Hennepin County, May 14, 1865. They have eight

**Board of Directors**

The following is the present Board of Directors:

Name	Telephone	Term
Kay Bertrand	559-5042	1997-2000
Ben G. Broman	559-5721	1997-2000
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	1997-2000
Joe Morris	535-8756	1996-1999
Joyce McCaughey	557-6948	1996-1999
Cork Ornborg	475-0930	1997-2000
Vern Peterson	559-2317	1995-1998
Gary Schiebe	473-4889	1996-1999
Harvey Schiebe	545-6127	1996-1999
Margerite Schiebe	541-7187	1997-2000
Mable Swanson	545-7705	1997-2000



# Wanted

The Plymouth Historical Society is looking for:

- Old children toys for Christmas display
- Old doll house furniture and furnishings
- Candle holders to fit an old pump organ



## 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

## Meetings

- The December event will be the Old Fashioned Christmas event on December 7th.
- 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.

## Mailing and Membership List

Attention!! We have included a 1998 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
Individual Lifetime.....	\$100.00
Family Lifetime.....	\$150.00

## Donations

The following articles have been donated recently to the Plymouth Historical Society:

<u>Article</u>	<u>Donated by</u>
2 Wooden Butter Molds	Marvel Sandgren
1 Wooden Butter Paddle	Marvel Sandgren
Photo of the Eckstrom Family by the Shamrock Bar & Restaurant N.E. corner of Parkers Lake in 1946.	Bruce Eckstrom
Framed photo of Frank Hatcher Sr.'s family members at a family reunion at Buffalo Lake, 1945 or 1946.	
Records of the Bass Lake Mothers & Friends Club, 9/11/52 to 7/14/71.	Rich Giebenhain
Minutes of the Farm Club of District 51, organized in 1920.	Rich Giebenhain
3 Sepia Photos of Minnehaha Falls in 1904 & 1905.	Walter Kozub
Suitcase used in 1920's by Mr. Gugisberg.	Ben Broman
Computer and Printer	Gary Schiebe
Leather shopping bag used by Wilhelmena Schiebe.	Fern & Harvey Schiebe
Hardwood desk from Schiebe's Hardware	Harvey Schiebe

# Merry Christmas

# Guess who's coming to town?



## OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS *in* PLYMOUTH

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7th  
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

