



August 1999

Volume XVIII

Number 2

# PLYMOUTH HISTORY FEST

Saturday, August 14, 1999

Parkers Lake Park

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

*Old Fashioned Family Fun*

- Music Groups
- Old Fashioned Melodrama
- 1858 Baseball Game Exhibition
- Plymouth Historical Display
- Ice Cream Social Society
- Antique Car Show
- Wood Carvers
- Petting Zoo
- Children's Games
- Community Square Dance

*So bring yourself and friends for a very enjoyable day by the lake!*



## Handy Helper Needed!!

The Plymouth Historical Society is looking for a person that could provide Handy Helper type services. Simple tasks like hanging pictures, fixing items, arranging artifacts, moving shelves, et. A few hours per week or every other week would be helpful. Contact Joe or Delores Morris at 535-8756.

### Officers

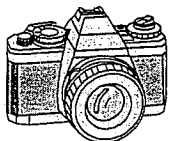
The following are the present officers:

President	Jim Garvey	559-3047
Vice President	Ben Broman	559-5721
Secretary	Mable Swanson	545-7705
Treasurer	Harvey Schiebe	545-6127

### Meetings



The monthly meetings are normally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth Historical Society Building, located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane North, Plymouth, MN.



## Wanted!!

Do you have any old pictures of the Plymouth area such as churches, homes, farms, people and events?? We would very much like to make a copy for the museum. Contact any of the board members if you can provide.



## Mailing and Membership List

If you are not a member and want to sign up, or if you have any questions, please call Alberta Casey at 559-9366.

The annual dues are:

Individual	\$ 7.50
Family	\$12.00
Individual lifetime	\$100.00
Family Lifetime	\$150.00

### Board of Directors

The following is the present Board of Directors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Term</u>
Kay Bertrand	559-5042	1997-2000
Ben G. Broman	559-5721	1997-2000
Alberta Casey	559-9366	1999-2002
Vern Dotseth	559-3777	1998-2001
Myrtle Eckes	545-6168	1999-2002
Jim Garvey	559-3047	1997-2000
Joe Morris	535-8756	1999-2002
Joyce McCaughey	557-6948	1999-2002
Cork Ornborg	475-0930	1997-2000
Vern Peterson	559-2317	1998-2001
Gary Schiebe	473-4889	1999-2002
Harvey Schiebe	545-6127	1999-2002
Margerite Schiebe	541-7187	1997-2000
Mable Swanson	545-7705	1997-2000



Muriel Johnson donated several articles of antique clothing – hat, coat, black silk dress, slip, shawl and short jacket.

Myrtle Eckes donated a booklet from Woody Budnick's memorial program.

Many thanks to Charlotte Stevens and the Western Hennepin County Pioneer Museum for her work in compiling a book for Plymouth on births and deaths in the 1870's, 1870 census and early Plymouth town meeting records.

Vern Peterson donated a pair of clamp-on ice skates.

## 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.



The family of Andrew Jordan. Left to right first row: Anna and Francis, daughters of Anna, Andrew and Elizabeth. Back row standing: Daughter Anna and Son John.

### Andrew Jordan

Andrew Jordan was born May 20, 1812 at Cologne Preusen, Prussia (now Germany). Little can be learned of his early life except that his family was of the middle class of farmers. He was married in Germany to Clara Kramer, who was born in 1815, the exact date and place unknown.

Andrew and Clara had a total of eleven children, ten of which were born in Germany and the last, Elizabeth, was born in the United States. As much information as is available on these children will follow in sequence later in this history.

Five of the children born in Germany passed away there apparently at young ages, since it is estimated they were married about 1835 and Karl, the oldest, to arrive with them, was twelve years old. One son died aboard ship on the

way to America and was buried at sea. This was one of the unfortunate incidents in the life of Andrew and his wife, one of which he often spoke with sorrow in later years.

Andrew and his wife, Clara, arrived in the United States with their four remaining children in 1852. Little is known of their crossing except it is noted they came by a "big boat", very likely a large crude sailing vessel. The four children were Karl, John and the twins, Anna and Katherine.

The family landed in New York and from there migrated to Illinois. The exact place where they settled in Illinois or what Andrew did there as a means of living is not recorded. Neither are my family incidents. They lived in Illinois about three years.

In 1855, the family came to Minnesota by covered wagon. This journey, no doubt required several months since it is established they arrived here in the fall and no doubt left in the spring or early summer. Andrew immediately started a search for a piece of property to settle on and chose the south half of the southwest quarter and the north half of the southwest quarter, section 18 in Plymouth Township. He filed a homestead claim to this property that same year.

Before winter set in, he had cut the timber, hewed the logs and built a small cabin on the southwest shore of what was known as Jordan Lake. This lake has now been drained and what remains is a swampy bog, however, at that time it was quite a good size lake with a small island to the west of the Jordan cabin. It is reported the fishing was good too and many of the family meals came from the fish that were caught there.

The choice of site for the cabin had its practical side also in that it served as a place to do the family wash and a place to water the livestock and chickens.

The wooded area also abounded in wild game including bear and deer. Andrew was an enthusiastic hunter and provided a good share of the family's food with all sorts of wild game.

Indians were quite common in the area and though no incidents of actual damage or harm to property or family were reported, they always dreaded their appearance. They were never sure if they were friendly or hostile and since no one spoke their language, they never knew what their intentions were.

It was in this cabin on August 10, 1858 that Elizabeth was born, the last of the eleven children and the first to be born in this country.

In 1858, when the territory of Minnesota became a state, Andrew Jordan was appointed as the first Constable of Plymouth Township. He held this position for several years, records do not show the exact dates.

On November 23, 1860, Andrew acquired title to the property as required by the new Minnesota laws. The records show the property was purchased on this date but since he had already filed homestead rights in 1855, it is presumed there was a fee that had to be paid to the State.

In the same year, work was begun in cutting and hewing the logs for a new house. All cutting and hewing was done by hand and all logs used were of red or white oak. The house was completed in 1861. It was a log frame structure with log rafters, the roof was covered by roof boards and shingles and the sides covered by sheathing and siding. It was considered a rather new type of construction and a forerunner of our present buildings. This house was located on the south side of the Perkinsville Road about three fourths mile west of Highway 101.

Andrew moved his family into this new house in the summer of 1861, where they lived until his wife, Clara, died on November 2, 1867. She was buried at Holy Name Cemetery, Medina, Minnesota.

In 1871, he was married to Gertrude Timmers, who was born in Sittard, Folland on April 19, 1852. She came to the United States when she was ten

years old. It is known that her crossing was also made in an old type vessel and took 59 days. She died in Wayzata on November 23, 1932 and was buried at Holy Name Cemetery, Medina.

Eight children were born of this marriage. They were Katherine, who died at the age of four as a result of a reaper accident, Anna, Andrew, Mary, Katherine (who was renamed after the first Katherine killed in the accident mentioned), John, Theresa and Elizabeth. The death of Katherine was another incident which caused a deep sorrow in Andrew's life. He was operating the reaper himself, one of the first horse drawn reapers of that time, and did not see the little girl who had walked into the grain field. As the reaper passed over her, it amputated both her legs. Little medical aid was known or available in those days and the child died from loss of blood.

*To return to the history of the children of the first marriage...*

Karl was born in Prussia about 1840. He came to the United States with his parents in 1852. He died at the age of 22 during the Civil War and buried in St. Anthony.

John was born in Oberhausen, Germany on January 16, 1845. He also came with his parents in 1852. In 1864 he enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Regiment and was mustered out May 16, 1865. He returned to Plymouth Township and married Mary Anna Widenbach on November 10, 1868, who was born in Dahlembach Frier Preusen, Germany on January 10, 1849. In 1871 he bought the farm where Mathias Jordan now lives. Twelve children were born to them, John and Andrew died in infancy, Mary died at five years old, Elizabeth, John, Alex, Herbert, Michael, Mary, Mathias, Laura and Clara. In 1874 he was elected assessor. He was assessor until 1880 when he was appointed town clerk, an office he held for approximately 22 years. His son, Herbert, has held the office since 1916. In 1881 he built the house where Alex now lives. He died February 16, 1916, buried at Holy Name Cemetery. His wife died December 25, 1914.

Anna, also born in Oberhausen October 30, 1848 and came with her parents. She married Peter Puetz and moved to Parry Township, Dane County, Wisconsin. They later moved to Starr, South Dakota and from there to Parkston, South Dakota. Anna died in Parkston about 1920 and was buried there. They had twelve children including two sets of twins, Julia and Josephine and Henry and Rose, also Margaret, John, Frank, Joseph, Elizabeth, Anna, Francis, Magdelene.

Katherine, twin of Anna, came to this country with her parents at age four. She died at 17 and was buried at Holy Name Cemetery, Medina.

Elizabeth, first of the children born here on August 10, 1858, married Frederick Eckes on September 23, 1872. They had thirteen children, two dying in infancy, and Mathias, Andrew, Clara, Anna, Fred, Catherine, John, Phillip, Magdalen, Joseph and Cecelia. They first lived in a small log house on a few acres on what is now known as Fox Avenue, also beside a creek in which all the family washing was done. Later they bought a farm at the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Perkinsville Road, now owned by a grandson, Fidelis Eckes. Elizabeth died May 10, 1935 and was buried at Holy Name, Medina.

Of the second family of eight children, all were born at the old homestead. Katherine's story has been told in preceding paragraphs.

Anna was born on January 13, 1874, married Joseph Koeckner on May 5, 1889 and lived in the old log-frame house on the Perkinsville Road for many years. They later moved to Wayzata about 1915 and again later moved to Minneapolis where Anna died. They had a family of eight children.

Andrew was born December 30, 1876 and lived with his parents and farmed the old homestead until about 1910. He married Lillian Case of Corcoran, October 4, 1910. They lived in Corcoran Minnesota until they died in a fire that destroyed their home in 1919. He was buried at Holy Name Cemetery, Medina.

Mary was born February 2, 1879. She never married. She later moved to Wayzata and went to work as a housemaid in Minneapolis. She died in Minneapolis on March 1, 1949 and was buried at Holy Name, Medina. Katherine was born February 25, 1882 and was married to William Gerling of Phillips, Wisconsin. They had one son. They lived on the farm until her death, November 19, 1941. Burial place unknown.

John was born December 2, 1884 and married Melvina Case on September 26, 1914. They had four children. He worked as a section hand on the Minneapolis/St Paul and Sioux Ste. Marie Railroad. He retired from the railroad and bought a small farm near Hanover, Minnesota. He later sold this and moved to Robbinsdale, where he now lives.

Theresa was born March 1885, passed away at the age of eleven and was buried in Holy Name Cemetery, Medina.

Elizabeth was born November 7, 1889 and married Nicholas Koeckner May 28, 1908. They moved to Wayzata where they still live at the present time. They have two daughters, Bernice and Eleanor.

Of the entire family of Andrew Jordan, John and Elizabeth are the sole survivors.

In conclusion, it could be said that Andrew Jordan was a tireless worker, though small in stature, 5 feet 7 inches who cleared a great deal of the land alone and a good share of cutting and hewing the logs for his homes. Practically all family supplies that had to be bought were brought home on his back from St. Anthony Village, a distance of about sixteen miles or more on narrow trails.

He loved to entertain guests at his home and many a gay party was held in his home. Travelers and guests were always welcome. Because of this hospitality, a priest from some great distance away was allowed to come to his home and say Mass on Sunday mornings. Holy Name Church was not yet then established. This priest would have to come on Saturday and possibly stay over until Monday morning. Andrew and his wife gave up their bed for this priest and slept in the basement.

After his death, the homestead was rented out for a while, then later sold to Frank Mengelkoch and after Mr. Mengelkoch's death, was again sold to Joseph Leuer who is now the present owner.

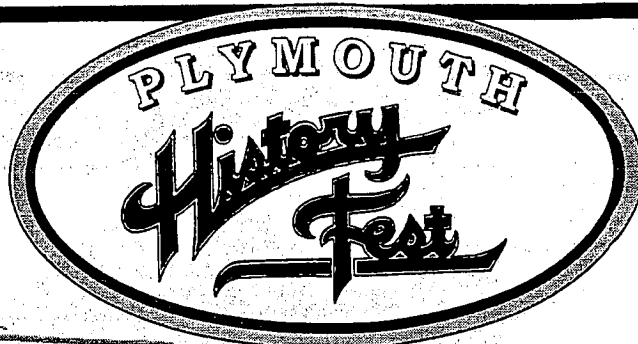
It is to be noted that there were many duplications in the names of the children. This was sort of an old German custom. When one died, the next of its sex was almost always named the same name. Records were not as accurate or complicated as now and people were not too concerned about confusion in mail, bank or charge accounts.

As near as can be calculated, Andrew Jordan had a total of 51 grandchildren. On December 12, 1904, he died and was buried in Holy Name Cemetery, Medina, Minnesota.

**John Jordan, son of Andrew Jordan by first wife. Copied from "History of Hennepin County", NeIII 1881**

"John H. Jordan, a native of Prussia, was born January 16, 1845, when he came with his parents to America. They landed in New York in the fall of 1852, and went to Newark, New Jersey, for a short time and in 1853, moved to Illinois. In the spring of 1855, they came to Minnesota and made a claim on section 18, of what is now Plymouth Township, where they experienced, of course, their share of the hardships of pioneer life. In July 1964, John H. enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Regiment, Vol. Served nine months and was mustered out at Fort Snelling, May 16, 1865. He returned to the homestead and lived until his marriage with Anna M. Weidenbach, which occurred in November 1868. In 1871 he bought the farm where he now lives. Mrs. Jordan has been active in all the public affairs of the town, also in promoting the causes of christianity and education. He had been assessor for six years, also justice of the peace, and school officer for a number of years. At present, he fills the office of town clerk. They have six children, only three of whom are living, Anna, John and Alexander".

There were more children, see Andrew Jordan history. In the 1873 Atlas there is no indication of his having owned land at that time. It came later. ■



# Saturday, August 14, 1999

## Parkers Lake Park

County Road 6 & Niagara Lane

### Featuring Olde Fashioned Family Fun

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| <p>Ongoing</p> <p>10:30 a.m.</p> <p>11:30 a.m.</p> <p>12 p.m.</p> <p>12:30 p.m.</p> <p>1:15 p.m.</p> <p>1:45 p.m.</p> <p>2 p.m.</p> <p>2:30 p.m.</p> <p>3 p.m.</p> | <p>Voyager Encampment - campsite, tepee, birchbark canoes<br/>gunsmith/blackpowder demo, cannon, basket maker<br/>spinners, story tellers, log cabin trading post</p> <p>Antique Car Show</p> <p>Farmers Market</p> <p>Plymouth Wood Carvers</p> <p>Down on the Farm Petting Zoo</p> <p>Refreshments featuring Forester sausages</p> <p>Plymouth Historical Society Display</p> <p>Plymouth Community Band</p> <p>Ice Cream Social - Plymouth Seniors</p> <p>Children's Games &amp; Activities</p> <p>Quicksteps - 1858 baseball exhibition</p> <p>Cake Walk</p> <p>The Plymouth Rockers Senior Ensembles</p> <p>"C" Notes Barbershop Quartet</p> <p>Car Parade</p> <p>Olde Fashioned Melodrama - "Saving the Old Homestead"</p> <p>Community Square Dance and Demo - Wayzata Whirlers</p> |
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#### SPONSORS

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#### FREE ADMISSION

Event will be held rain or shine - bring blankets and/or lawn chairs  
For more information, call 509-5200

