



### Old Fashioned Christmas

On Sunday, December 1st from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 hay ride pulled by Belgian horses with bells jingling will be giving rides (50 cents per person), hot cider, cookies and cake will be provided, carollers and making Christmas decorations are other activities for the children.

This year we again have our great story teller back. Bob Gasch will be telling holiday stories, something you don't want to miss! Also the Armstrong Chamber Singers will be singing holiday songs and delighting the children young and old.

On Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 am, we will decorate the two old fashioned Christmas trees and the 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.

These can be items such as: old fashioned antique ornaments, old fashioned toys to put under the tree, poinsettias, etc.

If you can help to bring decorations, please call Myrtle Eckes, 763-545-6168, or Gary Schiebe, 763-473-4889.

So bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and kids ages 9 months to 90 years young. The annual event has attracted large crowds with some families having a perfect attendance record with their children since it started in 1987. We had a great time last year as we do every year!

*Activities include:*

*Visit with Santa*

*Old Fashioned Hay  
Ride*

*Hot Cider, Cookies and  
Cake*

*Old Fashioned Xmas  
Decorations*

*Old Toy Train Display*



*Wood Carver*

*Crafts*

*Story Telling by  
Bob Gasch*

*Music Groups  
Armstrong Chamber  
Singers*

*Messiah Recording*

*Fantasia Flutes*

# A Brief Look at the Early History of Plymouth

*By Nel O. Nelsen*

**P**lymouth, rich in history, can be traced back to the pre-Columbian period, 1400 to 1500 A.D. Its original inhabitants were the Wahpeton Sioux whose encampment was at the north end of Medicine Lake. The lush woodlands, still partially unchanged, hold much history such as the still visible Indian mounds. Medicine Lake, its name derived from the Indian word MDE-WAKAN (meaning lake of the spirit), was named by the Wahpeton Sioux after a warrior overturned in his canoe and his body never recovered. The Indians believed the lake held a great spirit. The first settlers shortened the name to Medicine Lake.

The first settler to this area was Antoine LeCounte who arrived in 1848; however, he did not settle at this time. Antoine LeCounte was known as an adventurer, guide and explorer; he carried mail from the Red River country to points south, along the way trading trinkets and other goods to the Indians for horses. LeCounte returned in 1852 and built the first cabin on East Medicine Lake Blvd. At approximately 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.

Others followed LeCounte to Plymouth, claiming land and clearing and settling it, which was all that was required then. Plymouth had its first beginning as a town on the northwest shores of what is now known as Parkers Lake in 1855 with a grist mill and other structures springing up. In the spring of 1857, the waters of Parkers Lake rose, flooding and forcing the mill to be taken down and moved to Freeport, Minnesota, which is now called Wayzata.

With many new settlers coming into the area, they decided they should organize. Plymouth was the name given by the Hennepin County board of commissioners to the new settlers who had organized a group. On April 19, 1858, the group met at the home of Francis Day to open elections for town officers. On May 11, 1858, among other items voted on was changing the town's name to Medicine Lake. This was used once at the next town meeting, but for reasons unrecorded, it was never used again.

In 1862 during the Sioux uprising at Fort Ridgely near New Ulm, the settlers of Plymouth formed a militia to protect themselves against raiding Indians. At the start of the Civil War, Plymouth paid its volunteers a \$25.00 bounty for their patriotism.

Plymouth's growth took on a new look. Now schools and churches were being built, and a series of post offices located throughout Plymouth. By 1863 hotels began springing up. More changes and progress arrived after the Civil War, and by 1880 Plymouth boasted a population of 1,074 and reaped taxes of \$667.00 for the year.

After 1880 railroads began crossing Plymouth, and the Indians had moved on due to the growing progress in Plymouth. From this time on, it was like most other towns. Farming had become the trade of most of the settlers. Roads were petitioned for and built across Plymouth, and access to other towns was possible. Medicine Lake had become a major tourist attraction, and resorts and wayside spots sprang up around the shores.

Plymouth, its heritage and history rich, should and will be preserved before it is completely lost to progress. Many landmarks still stand, and much of its lush woodlands and its hills still there can be imagined if one concentrates. Your help is needed to help us preserve it. Our past is present, help us keep it...

Plymouth Historical Society  
Plymouth, Minnesota 55447



## Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Vern Petersen	763-559-2317
Vice President	Vern Doseth	763-559-3777
Secretary	Mable Swanson	763-545-7705
Treasurer	Harvey Schiebe	763-545-6127



## Meetings

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



## Old Toy Trains



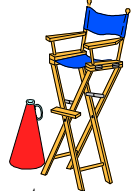
**Do you have any old Lionel or other toy trains? If you do, please contact Gary Schiebe, 763-473-4889.** If you are not a member and want to sign up or if you have any questions, please call Alberta Casey, 763-559-9366.

## Donations!

The Plymouth Historical Society wants to thank the following people for their donations:

- Rocking Chair - Marilyn Anderson
- Nursery Set from 1920's - Kay Bertrand
- Picture and Letter regarding Dora McGowan-Kathryn Adams
- White Child's Dress - Mary & Bill Farguahr
- Ladies High Top Shoe - Lynn Struck

## Board of Directors



The following is the present Board of Directors:

Kay Bertrand	763-249-0138	2000-2003
Ben G. Broman	763-559-5721	2000-2003
Alberta Casey	763-559-9366	2000-2003
Vern Dotseth	763-559-3777	2000-2003
Myrtle Eckes	763-545-6168	2000-2003
Delores Morris	763-535-8756	2000-2003
Vern Peterson	763-559-2317	2000-2003
Gary Schiebe	763-473-4889	2000-2003
Harvey Schiebe	763-545-6127	2000-2003
Margerite Schiebe	763-541-7187	2000-2003
Mable Swanson	763-545-7705	2000-2003

## 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, 763-559-9366.

The annual dues are:

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

*See you at the Old Fashioned Christmas*



**Merry  
Christmas**