



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013

Fall

Old Fashioned Christmas

On Sunday, December 8th from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the 27th Annual “OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH”. The purpose of the event is to provide some old fashioned holiday 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. See Santa’s reindeer and go for a hay ride pulled by Belgian horses with bells jingling. The rides are free, hot cider and cookies will be provided; carolers 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 in the Carriage House, 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, December 7th starting at 9 AM, we will decorate the old fashioned Christmas trees and the building. We are looking for help in bringing unique items that could be borrowed for the day to add some more old fashioned Christmas spirit. If you can help please call Gary Schiebe, 763-473-4889.

So bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and kids ages 1 month to 100 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

Live Reindeer

*Old Fashioned Hay
Ride*

Hot Cider and Cookies

*Old Fashioned Xmas
Decorations*



Old Toy Train Display

Crafts

*Story Telling by
Bob Gasch*

*Music Groups
Armstrong Chamber
Singers
Messiah Recorder
Ensemble*

Highlights of Searching for Plymouth History

Plymouth Historical continues to find interesting photographs and documents about Plymouth's early history. The ones below are from the Hennepin Museum, MN State Historical Society, Plymouth Township records, City of Plymouth and PHS files.

Plymouth Township Town Clerk books from 1903 to 1957 are at the MN State Historical Society. For the years 1931 to 1936 plus earlier years before 1903 starting in 1858 are at the PHS Museum.

City of Minneapolis Work House



City of Minneapolis Work House Barns before tear down 1980's

As you see from the picture the barn was massive. On Oct 6, 1986 Veit Co. won the bid to demolish 11 structures on the property within 90 days. The barn was to be pushed in a pile away from the silos so the Plymouth Fire Department could burn it.

Let's go back farther in the timeline of the Mpls. Work House. Relocating the Minneapolis Work House to Plymouth met with opposition from the people of Plymouth. It was reflected in a letter we found stuck between the pages of the 1923 Town Clerk book penned by Herb Jordan Town Clerk on June 26, 1923. It is a two page letter (shown below) written to the Attorney General asking about taking legal action and ability of the Township to fund the injunction effort. We don't know if the letter was sent or was this a copy? It is clear that Plymouth doesn't want it built in their "back yard" and asks the question how can Minneapolis go 10 miles out to build it? It is interesting to note the mailing address is R2, Wayzata, MN which handled mail delivery for portions of Plymouth.

A Plymouth Township board of supervisors meeting was held Saturday June 30, 1923 indicating that the attorney met with the Mpls. Welfare Board with an injunction. The Mpls. City Council decided not to go ahead with building a Crematory (fancy term used for garbage burner) on the Work House property. Only the Work House would be built and Plymouth Township supervisors decided not to pursue the injunction per advice of attorney.

R 2, Wayzata, Minn. June 26 1923

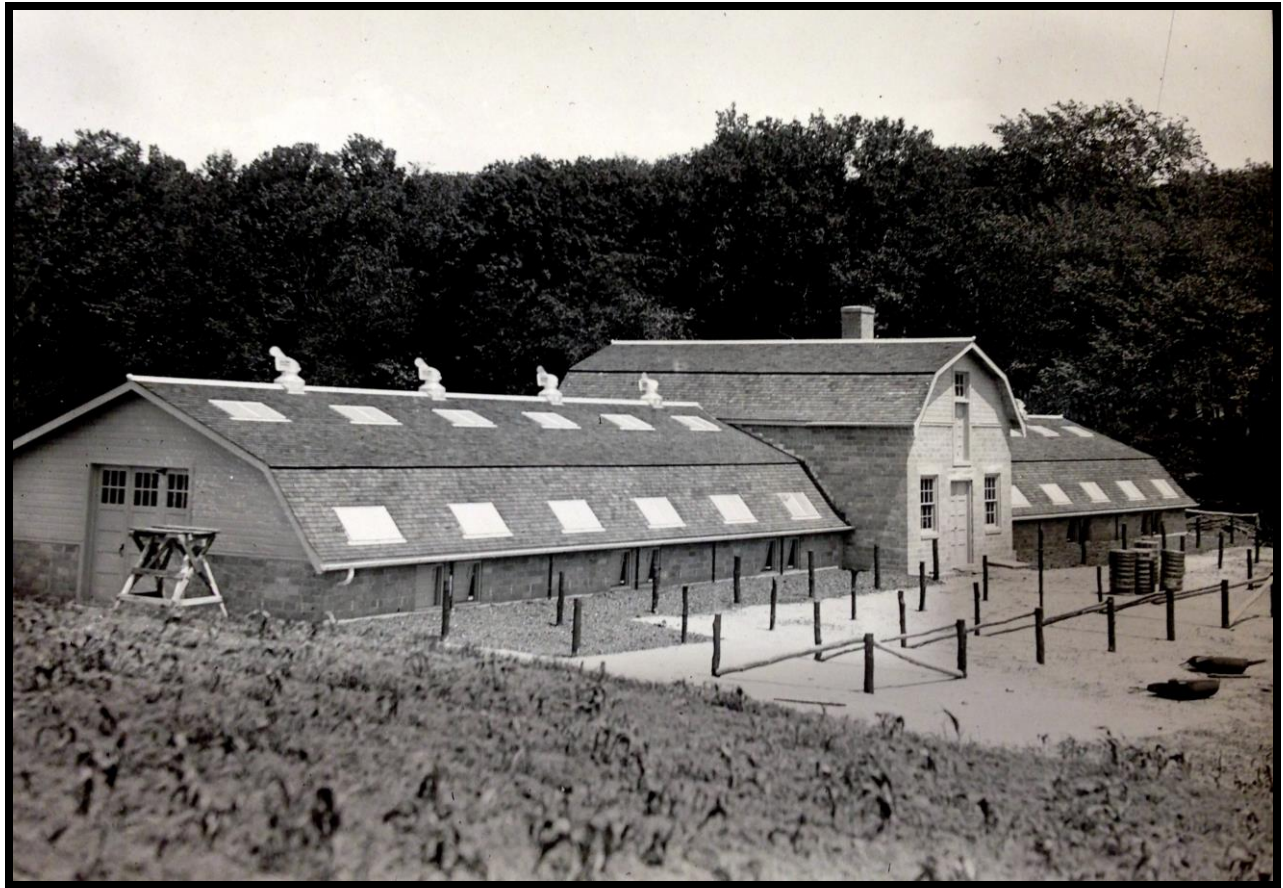
Hon. C. L. Hilton, Atty Gen.
Dear Sir,

The City of Mpls has purchased a tract of 575 Acres of land known as the J. B. Delphellan farm in the Township of Plymouth for the purpose of erecting a Workhouse and Crematory. We, the Town Board have circulated a petition and got about two hundred signatures against said Workhouse and Crematory. It seems the City is however determined to go ahead with same. Therefore would you kindly advise us on the following questions:
1. Would it be lawful for the Town Board to take a Court action in this case.
2. Could the expense of said Court action be paid by the Town Treasurer

out of the General purpose fund or by calling a special meeting would the Voters have right to vote a Fund for that special purpose
3rd In case the Town Board cannot go ahead to prevent said Workhouse and Crematory can a tax be collected from the City on said Real Estate and Personal properties
4th Has in your opinion the City of Mpls. a right to go ten miles outside of their limits and buy said piece of land in a thickly populated Community and use it for the purpose intended.
Thanking You for any advice that you can give us in this matter I am
Very Truly
H. J. Jordan Town Clerk
Wayzata Minn. R.R. #2

M. A. Jordan Atty. appeared before the Board with an injunction which protected against the Work House and Crematory site at Parkers Lake. He also advised that the City Council had withdrawn their intention of connecting the Crematory with the Work House at Parkers Lake and that in his opinion it would be a hard matter to stop the City from establishing a Work House alone.
At 6:30 P.M. on motion the Board adjourned.
Recorded by me this 2nd day of July A.D. 1923
H. J. Jordan
Town Clerk

June 30, 1923 Town Clerk Book reference to dropping injunction



The Piggery Barn at the Work House Farm

This is a great picture taken in 1937 by A. F. Raymond who took many other pictures of the Work House. The Piggery as it was called stood east of the big barn. It was very modern with steam heat piped under County Rd 6 to the Superintendents House and the Barns from the boilers in the Work House.

It was one of the finest pig operations in Minnesota. Many times the farmers passing by on what was then Watertown Road (Cty Rd 6) and would stop in to admire the operation. The story goes that one day a farmer stopped and was admiring the little piglets. One of the inmates asked the farmer if he wanted to buy some and sold him a couple piglets at a good price. The farmer stopped in again a few weeks later and inquired about buying some more piglets. This time the guard heard it and the inmate was caught.

John B. Gilfillan

In a previous newsletter a picture was printed of Gilfillan's summer home at his Ben Avon Farm in Plymouth. A donor had given the Plymouth Historical Society a "coffee table" type book called the City of Homes printed in 1898. In the book was a picture that we had been searching for many years.

The Hennepin History Museum recently located pictures of John and Lavinia's home in Minneapolis at 222 Clifton Ave. The pictures were probably taken after John had passed away in 1924 and Lavinia no longer lived in the house. We are not positive but it was probably demolished when I-94

went through Minneapolis. It was located about two blocks south of Loring Park and today the west bound lane of I-94 went through approximately where the house was located.

As you can see it was a substantial house and fit for the social elite. In the Social pages of the Minneapolis Newspapers of that era noted quite often the social gatherings for music recitals and special guest musicians performing at their home.



Music Room



Hallway

2nd Grade Class Tours

Again this October the Plymouth Historical Society hosted second grade classes from Birchview and Oakwood Elementary Schools. The event was organized by Bob Gasch – story teller. The children arrived by bus with adults for each six students. They were very well organized in groups and toured the museum, carriage house and Bob Gasch took them for a story telling walk in the “Big Woods” between raindrops some of the days. Kay Bertrand, Betty Jacobson, Dennis Jacobson, Vern Dotseth, Ben Broman. Paul Ellefson and Gary Schiebe dressed in period clothing hosted the young visitors.



Website

The Plymouth Historical Society has a web site. The address is:

www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

Check us out!

Note: All past newsletters dating back to 1986 are available on-line in PDF format for viewing or printing.

Donations

Donated by Ryan Peterson:

- Black Leather Police Officers Jacket

Donated by Birchview School:

- \$100



Meetings

New - The Museum is also open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM during the Spring, Summer and Fall.

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

Open by special appointment in January, February & March

Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Dennis Jacobson	763-972-0988
Vice President	Kay Bertrand,	763-249-0138
Secretary	Betty Jacobson	763-972-0988
Treasurer	Gary Schiebe	763-473-4889



Mailing and Membership List

If you are not a member and want to sign up or if you have any questions, please call: Kay Bertrand, 763-249-0138.

The 2014 annual dues are:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Individual Lifetime	\$100.00
Family Lifetime	\$150.00

If you would like the newsletter delivered via E-mail please notify Kay Bertrand or send an e-mail to: info@plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

If you do, it is a plus for both of us. When you receive via e-mail it will be in color. When sent by mail it is in black and white and costs PHS about \$2.00 per copy to print and mail.