



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 2007

Number 1

Treasure Hunter Extraordinaire

Al Lagen

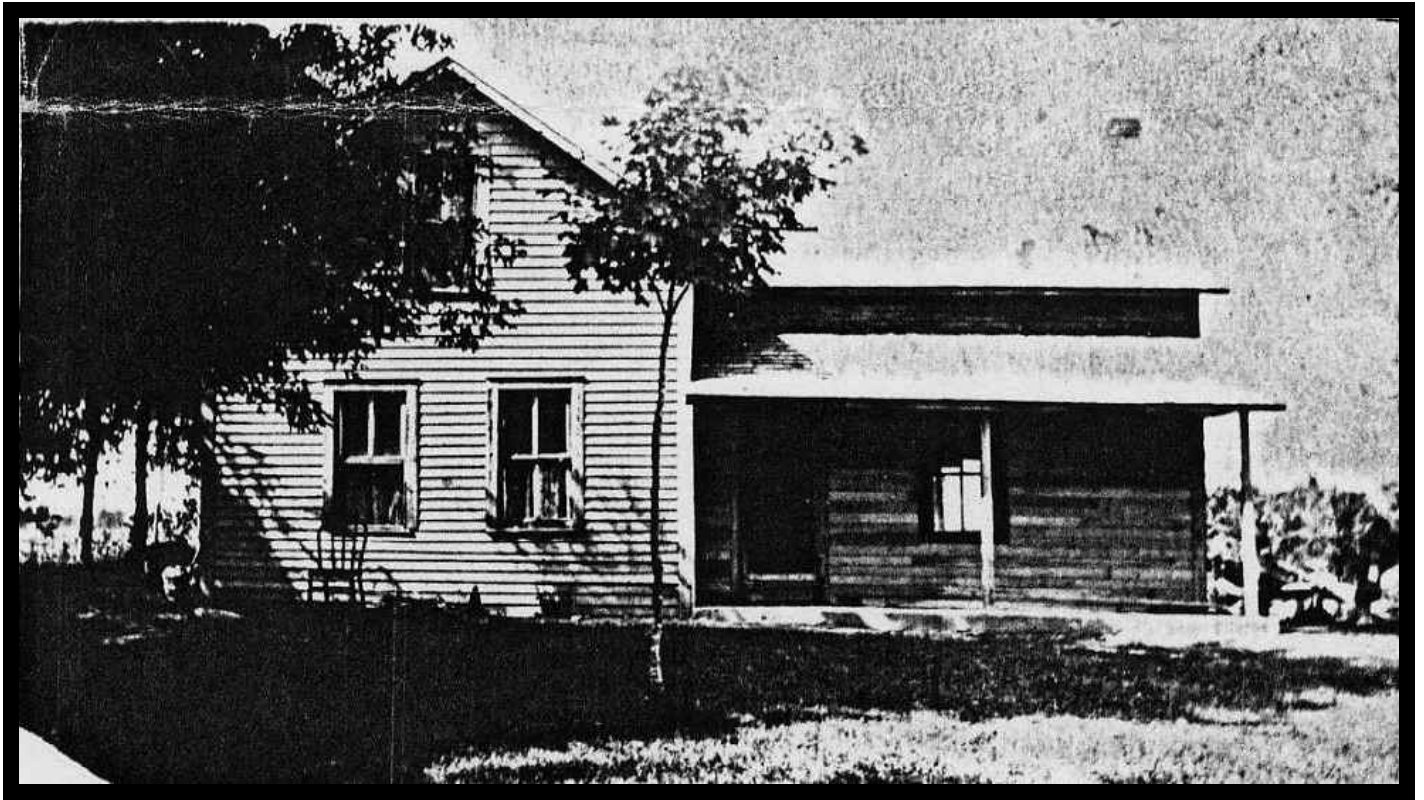
**Will provide insight on his hobby of treasure hunting
and display many of his priceless finds.**

He will also tell you how you too, can join in the fun.

Come join us Monday April 23rd at 7:00 PM

At the Old Town Hall - refreshments will be served.





Original Plymouth home of Joseph & Maria Ernst purchased April 18, 1864

A Bit of Minnesota History by Walter Ernst's

I am sure that most of us have heard of the early American Inns which provided over night care for the colonist travelers as well as stables to care for their horses. Longfellow in his poetry made famous the Wayside Inn.

I mention this because the newcomers in Minnesota needed the same type of accommodations when hauling their farm products to the City. A limited number of farmers were fortunate and were able to reach the city and return the same day, while most others needed a day or two to make a return trip home.

Farmers Inns were necessary to provide stopover care for these travelers.

When Minnesota was established as the Minnesota Territory in 1849, the railroads terminated in St. Paul and St. Anthony Falls. In an effort to attract farmers, the Territory was opened up to homesteading. At that time the population of St. Paul was about 1,000.

At this same time as farmers rushed to the area, the effects of the industrial revolution attracted many industrialists to the area to utilize the low cost water power in the Mississippi River.

When Minnesota became a state in 1858, St. Paul population climbed to 10,000. The St. Anthony Falls

area grew likewise. With all these consumers, the need for the production of the farm was great and the Inn's for farmers brought about the Farmers Inns.

My grandparents, Joseph and Maria Ernst, being influenced by the growing reports of the New World, came to New York in 1851. They settled on a farm near Lockport, NY which was located on the West end of the Erie Canal.

Grandfather's attention was drawn to Minnesota when a friend said he had a farm out there and that he would play him a game of cards for it. Grandfather said, "If the land out there was that cheap he wouldn't be stupid enough to fall for it." When Minnesota became a state and made glowing reports on the wonders of the state, he became interested and proceeded to move to Minnesota in 1863 or 1864. At any rate, he bought a farm of 80 acres in Plymouth Township in 1864. Incidentally, his friend's farm adjoined his 80 acres but the buildings were so dilapidated that they were not suitable for living in. However, grandfather did purchase this property in 1869, raising his acreage to 200 acres.

My maternal great-grandparents living in Germany were influenced by the reports of the wonderful Minnesota country and decided to gather their family together and set sail for America in 1868. When they arrived in New York they traveled directly to St. Paul and St. Anthony Falls where they were met at train by a guide who led them on foot over a bridge crossing the Mississippi River.

According to my grandmother's story, they were soon on a trail and walked for miles with her mother crying and begging Mr. Roehl to turn back and return to Germany. In due time they arrived at the Farmers Home Inn where they were to live with Mr. Roehl as Manager. They continued to live here for a number of years when Mr. Roehl decided to purchase a farm about 2 miles away.

During this period, the Carl Schiebe family left Germany in 1863, arriving in New York where they settled in the Western New York state. They remained here several years and then proceeded on to Minnesota. In 1873 they purchased the Farmers Home Inn, built in 1893, from Nicholas Bufferding. This probably was at the time that the Roehl's gave up management of the Inn.

As business grew, the Schiebe's expanded the Inn, ending up with 28 rentable rooms.

Gary Schiebe, one of Carl Schiebe's descendants, supplied me with a photograph of the improved Inn (come and see at the Plymouth Historical Museum). He also supplied me with another picture showing the remodeling of the Inn by Frank Schiebe, grandson of Carl, in 1914. This shows the end of the Farmers Home Inn and a conversion to Schiebe's General Store. This would indicate that the Inn was active from about 1863 to 1914. From this we concluded that it had a life span of about 50 years.

St. Paul, the Western terminal of the railroad in Minnesota became the capital of the Minnesota Territory formed in 1849. At that time it had a population of about 1000. The territory was then opened up to homesteading so that by the time statehood was granted in 1858, the population had grown to 10,000, with a similar growth in St. Anthony Falls – Minneapolis area.

It was during this period that the industrial revolution had reached the area and farm products were wanted to satisfy the needs of people. The availability of low cost water power from the Mississippi brought about the installation of the lumber mills and flour mills.

It was during that time that the Minnesota Inns were organized to provide stop-over facilities needed by the farmers to enable them to travel greater distance to dispose of their farm products.

With the rapid movement of farmers West of the Mississippi River, an ambitious industrialist, James J. Hill, in 1870 proceeded to buy the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad with its terminal in St. Paul. He took the name of Great Northern Railway and immediately proceeded to span the Mississippi River and frantically began westward building of the new railroad. As the railroad progressed, there were industrious people who saw a chance to service the farmers and built small cities along the way. They built grain elevators to collect and store the wheat, corn, and other grain. Creameries to take the cream, and any number of dealers and other services needed by the farmers appeared so they no longer had to make the long trips to the cities. Hotels were even built to accommodate all of the traveling buyers and salesmen.

The Inns for farmers originated when the railroads terminated in St. Paul and St. Anthony Falls and eventually died when the railroads proceeded westward. Thus ended a necessary service once needed by those early farm settlers.

Walter A. Ernst
10/31/06



Catherine and Anthony Ernst wedding May 16, 1899



Catherine and Anthony Ernst first farm house



Ernst Farm House in 1977



Look what is in the neighborhood now!

Thank You

A special thank you to Walter Ernst for the article and to Walter and Sisters Genevieve and Dorothy for the family pictures. These and other Ernst farm pictures have been incorporated into the Plymouth Historical presentation.

Donations

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

- Pictures and history of St. Mary's of the Lake church - Charles & Ann Stephen
- Original oil painting of Schiebe's Corner and duplicate plaque of the one displayed at the Station 73 Transit parking ramp – Jerry Schiebe

Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

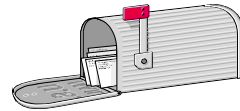
President	Vern Doseth	763-559-3777
Vice President	Ben Broman	763-559-5721
Secretary	Mable Swanson	763-545-7705
Treasurer	Gary Schiebe	763-473-4889



Meetings

The monthly 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. The Museum is also open the third Sunday of the Month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

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 2007 annual dues are:

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