



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2013

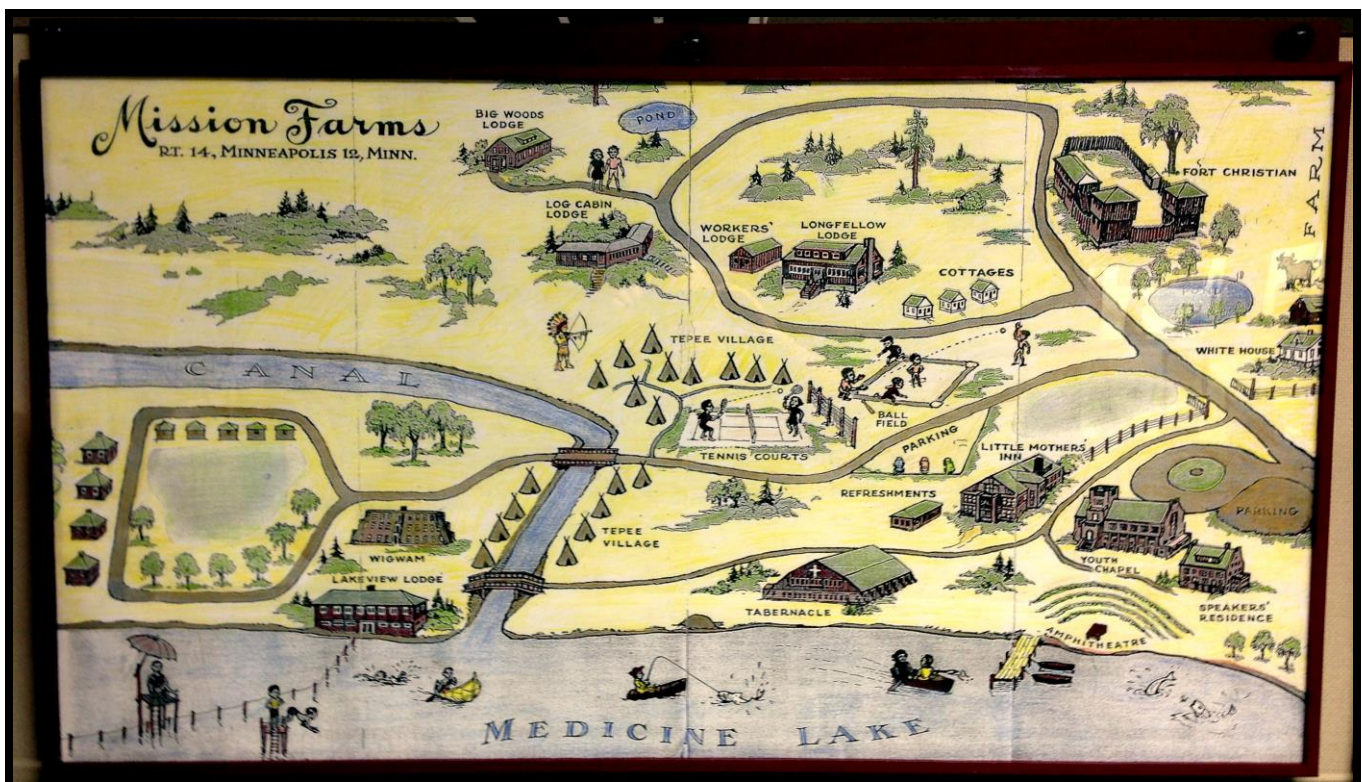
Spring

New Open House Days

Attention -- The Plymouth Historical Society Museum has added additional open house days. We will be open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM starting June 2nd and running through October. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to see the new exhibits and learn more about Plymouth's wonderful history.

The Museum is located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane N, Plymouth, MN in the "Old Town Hall".

Just an example of one of the new exhibits is this wonderful large wall display depicting the Mission Farms circa 1940's. A small brochure enlarged/enhanced and donated by Gene Heezen. Thank You Gene



A Family Tragedy

Catherine Milbert and Anthony Ernst were married on May 16, 1899 and resided on a farm in Plymouth to start their new life together. On May 16, 1900 they were blessed with their first born, a girl they named Mabel. Mabel was their pride and joy and growing up quickly. She was soon joined by a younger brother named Richard. The following is a picture of Mabel and Richard ca. 1904.



Mabel was now six years old and time to attend school. Catherine had concerns because Mabel would have to walk by herself to District #95 School down Perkinsville Road from the farm (Hwy 55 and 494 to where the Beacon Heights Education Building is located). There were apparently no other children she could walk with at that time. Catherine and Anthony's third child Irven was born Sept. 1905 the previous year so Catherine had her "hands full".

Mrs. Margaret Brandt who was Catherine's sister-in-law; lived in Kansas City, MO. The Brandt's were well to do and Mrf. Brandt had a high level position with the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. They suggested that Mabel come down to Kansas City and start school there since Mrs. Brandt had two young daughters named May and Cora. The school was very close to their home. To Catherine and Anthony having two small sons it seemed logical to let little Mabel start school so far away. The travel to Kansas City was easily accomplished because Mr. Brandt could provide the Ernst's with free passes. Plymouth farmers like the Ernst's didn't have a lot of money, as they were just getting by on the farm like all their neighbors.

Mabel started 1st Grade and was enrolled as Mabel "Brandt". They certainly didn't have open enrollment like today and it just simplified things to pretend she was Mrs. Brandt's daughter. It was a temporary arrangement to have Mabel attend school in Kansas City and the next year back in Plymouth. Here is a copy of her report card.

Blank No. 3. Public Schools of Kansas City, Mo., 190

HALF TERM REPORT OF Mabel Brandt

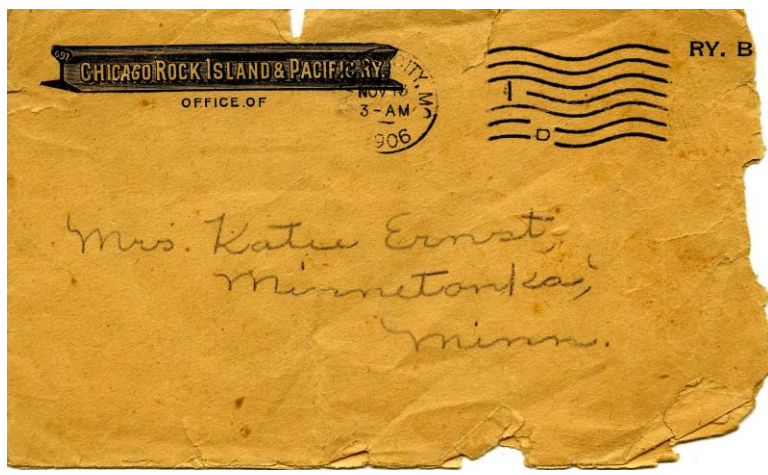
ROOM NO. 19 (2nd) W. Luther SCHOOL, Anna P. Miller TEACHER.

Term of Work	Half Term	Class	Grade	Reading	Spelling	Arith.	Writ'g	Geog. Hist'y	Ment. Arith.	Draw-ing	Music	Comp.	Avg.	Form	Deport	½ Days absent	Times Tardy	Name of Parent or Guardian.
	1	C	1	7	7	9	9	7	7	9			7	9				Mrs. C. H. Brandt
	2	"	"	8	9	9	9	9	9	8			9	8				
Ex.																		
	3																	
	4																	
Ex.																		
	5																	
	6																	
Ex.																		

7 = Fair

J. W. Heermans, Principal

Apparently Mabel enjoyed her time living at her aunts house but she certainly missed her mother, father and little brothers. Her penmanship is excellent for a first grader. She was looking forward to head home to Minnesota and wrote a letter to Mama.



Dear Mama:
 I was glad to
 get the post cl
 May had a party
 saturday day.
 had a good
 time. Write.
 Mabel.
 Nov. 12, 06.

Note: The envelopes address is Minnetonka and apparently that was the post office covering that area of Plymouth. Later it was Hopkins with Wayzata, Hamel and Robbinsdale handling mail delivery depending on where your farm was located. Plymouth didn't have a post office at that time. Catherine wrote back and you can tell there is excitement in the air because her little Mabel will be coming home for Christmas.

Dear Mabel.
I received your letter
and was very glad to
get it I've been ~~in~~ now
he is so nice we are all
well Richard and your
mama and Papa and
Irene are all well Did
you write a letter to
Santa Claus yet he is
coming pretty soon. ~~He~~
I wrote him a letter and
told him to bring me
a doll head and a story
book and candy and nuts

so he can come and get you
home. I don't suppose Old
Santa Claus will bring you
any thing if you won't be
here for Christmas.
Richard wants a Car.
Good bye write me a
long letter real soon.
Your Mamma:

In December Anthony received a railroad pass from Mr. Brandt so he could travel to Kansas City to pick up Mabel. In the mean time Mabel had contracted diphtheria and was very sick. Her father didn't know she was ill until he arrived in Kansas City. Mabel died Christmas Eve December 24, 1906 in Kansas City. Her father brought her body home along with her possessions and she was buried in St. Josephs Cemetery.

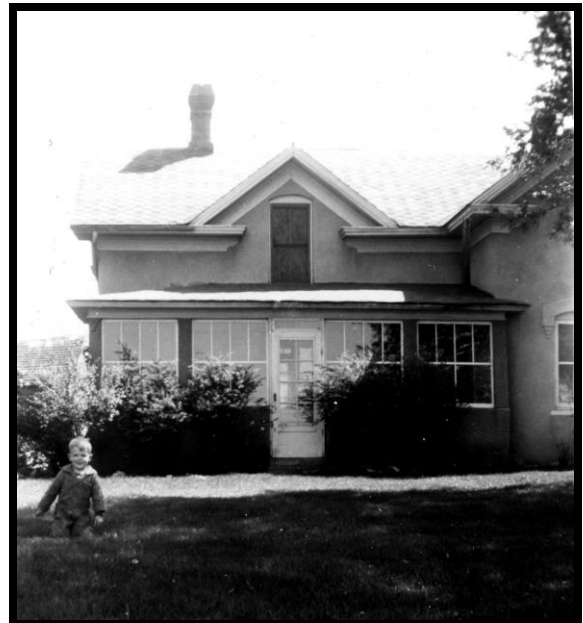
The tragedy of losing any child in a family is devastating and being the first born had to be overwhelming sorrow. We can only speculate now but Catherine and Anthony must have lamented - *Why oh why did we let Mabel go to Kansas City.*

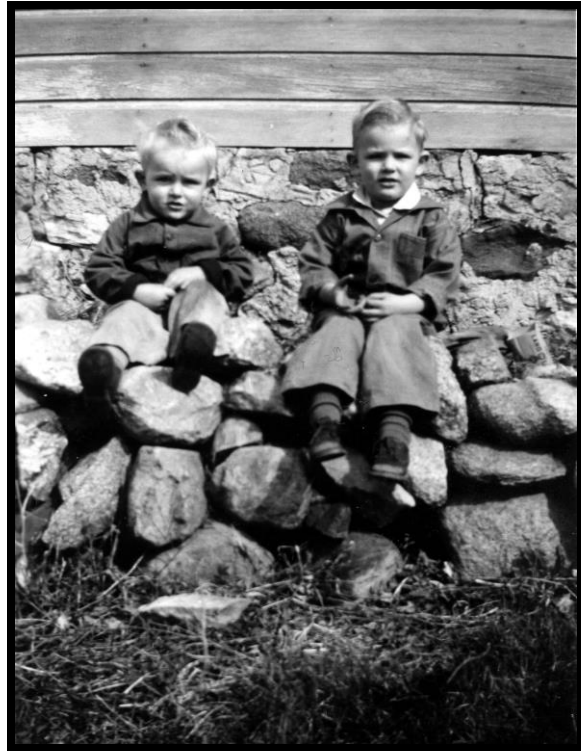
A big thank you to Genevieve (Ernst) Lane for letting PHS make copies of the letters and pictures to share with us. Mabel's belongings were kept in a box all these years. There is a doll that was given to Mabel and the family believes it was from Aunt Margaret Brandt . It probably was a Christmas gift for Mabel but she never had the opportunity to cherish the beautiful doll. It is like new and has never been played with. It was stored all these years in Mabel's box. It is an Ernst family heirloom now and displayed with great care in a special case. The pictures below are of the doll and it looks new for being over 100 years old. Genevieve did donate Mabel's little red dress she wore when she was six years old to PHS and will be used in a display.



Do you recognize the farm house?

Does anyone recognize the farm house below? We do know that upon returning from WW II Marvin and Betty Sieloff rented this farm house about November 1945. Marvin had just got a job at the Mpls Work House at Parkers Lake. About six or seven months later they moved to Robbinsdale and later to Wayzata. Not much is known about the farm except that it was on Cty Road 24 or maybe Medina Road. In either case it was probably close to the Medina and Plymouth Township line.





The Sieloff boys at the farm

If you have any information to help identify this farm please give a call to 763-473-4889 or send e-mail to:

info@plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

PHS New Officers

Dennis Jacobson has been elected President and Kay Bertrand elected Vice President. Reelected were Betty Jacobson – Secretary and Gary Schiebe – Treasurer.

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.

New Life Time Members

- Roger Adams
- Kathy McGowan
- Carol Senn
- Joy & David Kurth

Donations

Donated by Les Rascob:

- Surveying Transit in wooden box
- Three antique saws
- Adding Machine –RC Allen hand powered
- Block Plane
- Dual Head Library Lamp (PHS restored and it is being used in PHS library)

Donated by Gene Heezen:

- Large wall display of the Mission Farms circa 1940's

Donated by Pat & Gary Schiebe:

- Boys Navy Suits - wool
- Pencil Box
- Metal boot
- Antique ceramic bedpan



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 2013 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 \$1.50 per copy to print and mail