



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2014

Winter



The Plymouth Historical Society wishes you a very Happy New Year

Membership Renewal

Hurry – Hurry – Hurray it’s the New Year. Don’t miss out on your 2014 PHS Membership Renewal. The renewal form for 2014 is included at the back of this news letter and you might want to think of becoming a Life Time Member. Please help keep your Plymouth Historical Society active and growing. The Plymouth Historical Societies mission is the discovery, preservation and dissemination of historical knowledge about the City of Plymouth, Minnesota.

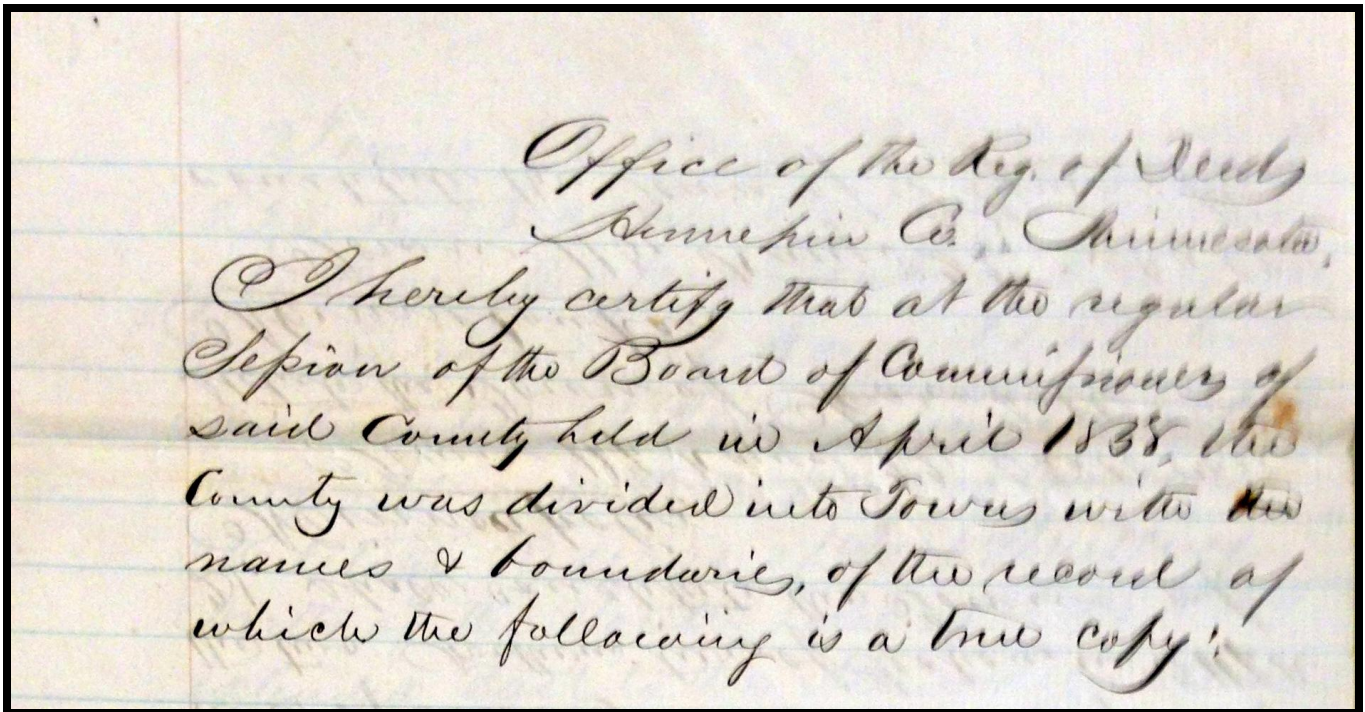
History Mystery

In an attempt to find out more about how Plymouth along with other Townships were named in Hennepin County; a trip to the MN State Historical Society was undertaken. They have in their collection the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners Journals (Minutes) starting in October 1857 along with large map registers and listings of all towns/townships along with name changes.

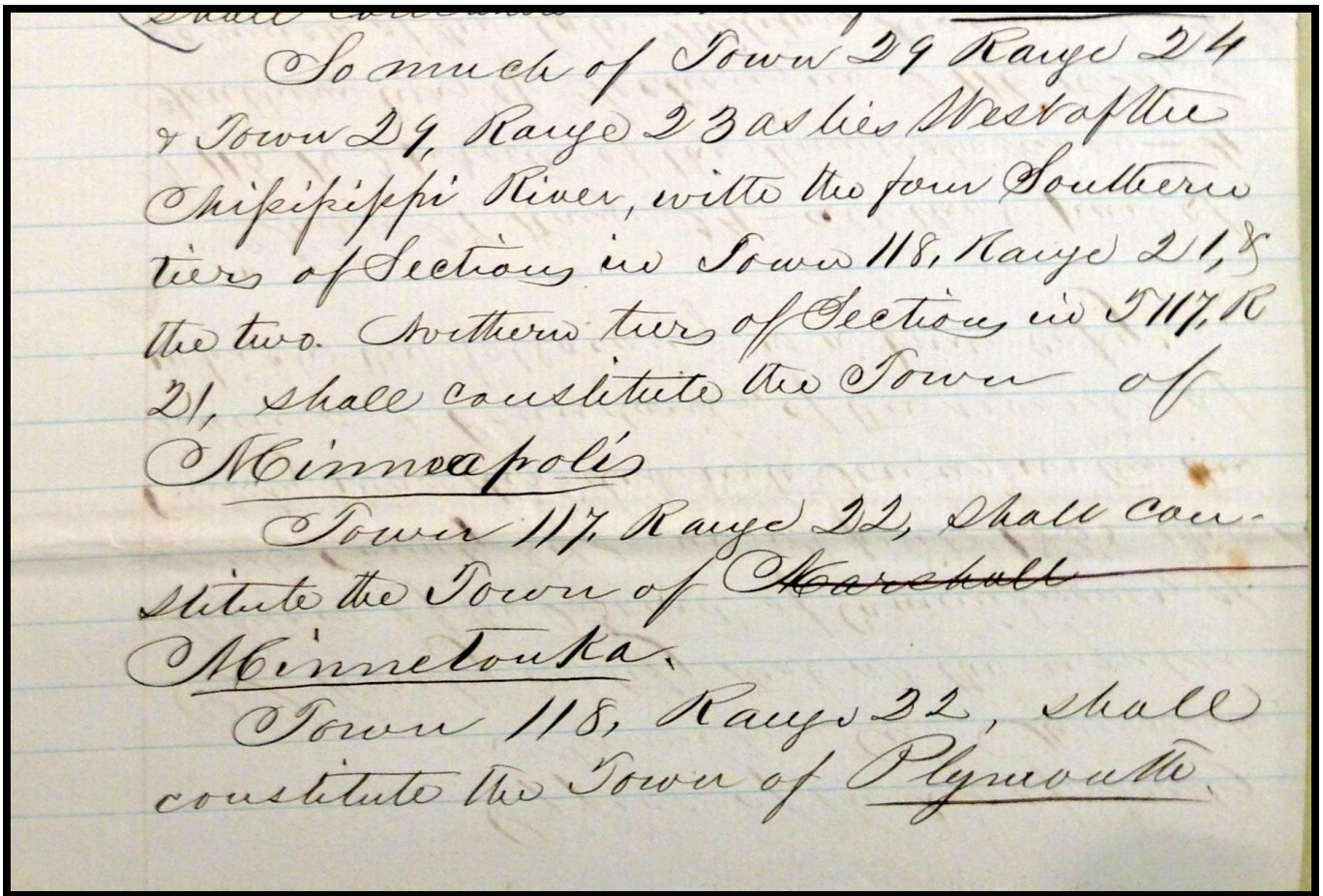
The Hennepin County Commissioners were very busy in 1857 and 1858 leading up to Minnesota joining the Union as the 32nd State in May 11, 1858. The 157 year old Journals are wonderfully preserved and protected at the State Historical Society. They provide a very interesting glimpse into the past. As you read them you gravitate to trying to visualize what they were going through in organizing the government; county by county. The Hennepin County Commissioner Journals document the approval of the names of the Townships, establishing school districts, roads, etc and authorizing payment of all county bills for services.

The following are copies of excerpts from selected pages that add to the story about the naming of Plymouth and its name change to Medicine Lake for about 1 ½ years. The mystery only heightens because Plymouth Township records don't indicate a reason why it was changed back to Plymouth in 1860. It was always thought that the County Commissioners didn't approve of the name change but they did on Oct 15, 1858. At this point there is no reference in the county journals indicating the decision was reversed. One possible explanation is that maybe the vote in Plymouth didn't adhere to the process for a name change and the Office of Register of Deeds wouldn't issue final approval. If that was the case then it would null and void the County Commissioners approval. That is only a theory and buried in the many journal pages for 1859 – 60 is probably the answer and will require a more detailed examination.

It should be noted there are several interesting items. There was a township proposed to be established called Farmersville and later it was split and became part of Minneapolis and the Crystal Lake. It is also interesting to note that the Mississippi River was spelled by the clerk as Chipippi River in several places in the journal. It begs the question was it a spelling error or maybe the river went by various early local names.



This is the heading for the list of names April 1858 for Hennepin County Towns (Townships)



This portion of the alphabetical list of towns (townships) included Minneapolis, Minnetonka and Plymouth. There was no indication as to why or how certain towns (townships) names were chosen.

It can be assumed there were many people lobbying for certain names, but only the names were listed of those approved.

In a *“History of Hennepin County”* (by George Warner and Charles Foote published in 1881) it was noted that Plymouth was named after a proposed town on the north side of Parkers Lake. The land speculator/developer that drew up a map and proposed the town probably had political influence to retain the name Plymouth but the town never materialized on Parkers Lake back in the 1860’s.

Note in the description the location of Minneapolis west of the “Chipipippi” River.

A reader provided the following correction - The Winter 2014 newsletter states that the Clerk spelled Mississippi “Chipippi.” I believe that is incorrect. The letter that was interpreted as a capital “C” is actually a capital “M,” with a decorative initial flourish that looks like a “C.” (See image at p. 3 of the newsletter. That image shows “Minneapolis” with the same beginning letter.) The letters interpreted as the first “p” and the double “pp” are actually both “fs.” The letter that looks like an “f” in “fs” is what is known as a long “s,” which would now be written “s.” Thus, “fs” would now be written “ss.” (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_s) The Clerk actually spelled Mississippi as “Mifsissippi,” using the long “s.” If you look at the U.S. Constitution, you will see an example of the use of the long “s,” with “Congress” being spelled “Congrefs.”

OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS,
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

To State Auditor:

You are hereby notified that the Board of County Commissioners of Hennepin County, State aforesaid, at a regular meeting held at Minneapolis on the 8th day of July A. D. 1858 created Town 118 Range 21, excepting three Southern tiers of Sections, into a Town by the name of "Farmersville;"

Also, created fractional Town 120 Range 21 & the Eastern tier of Sections in T. 120, R. 21, into a Town named "Champion."

Also, changed the name of the Town of "German Home" to "Minnetrista!"; &

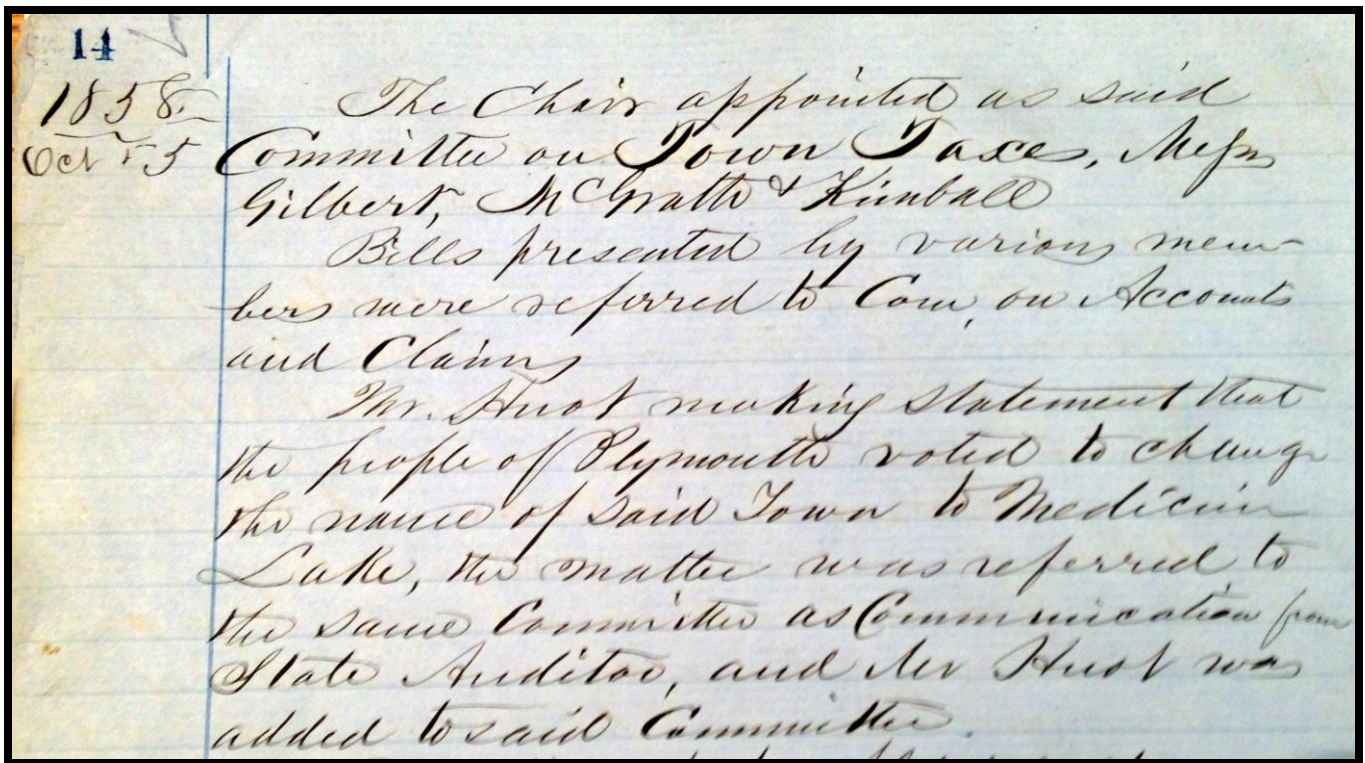
Also, changed the name of "Marshall" to "Dayton."

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Board of County Commissioners of Hennepin County, at Minneapolis, this 22nd day of July A. D. 1858

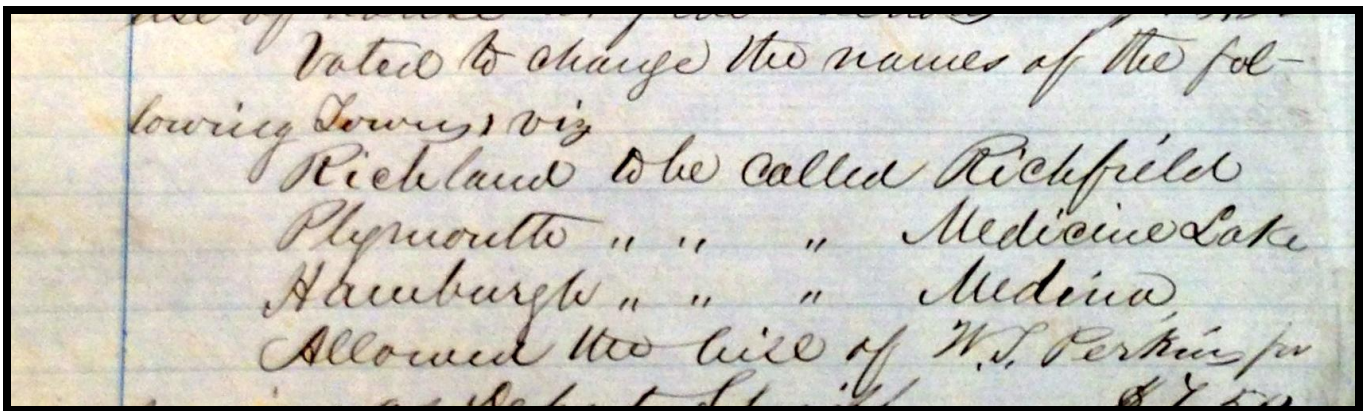
C. L. Ames

Register of Deeds and Clerk of Board County Commissioners.

A July 8th, 1858 meeting approved name and boundary changes for townships. German Home was changed to Minnetrista, and Marshall changed to Dayton



Oct 5, 1858 Mr. Huot from Plymouth reported that the people of Plymouth voted to change the name to Medicine Lake. He then was added to a committee working with the State Auditor.



Oct. 15, 1858 the Commissioners voted to change the name from Plymouth to Medicine Lake. Also note that Richland was changed to Richfield and Hamburg was changed to Medina. The name changes of Richfield and Medina continued but Medicine Lake reverted back to Plymouth by spring of 1860.

On April 5, 1859 the Annual Meeting was called to order in the name of Medicine Lake. The following year on April 3, 1860 the Annual Meeting was called to order in the name of Plymouth with no explanation of the change in the Town Clerk's book.

Names of Towns	value of Personal Property	value of Real Estate	Total Valuation	
Bloomington	\$12,190 20	\$125,422 00	\$137,612 20	00175-125
Brooklyn	34,070 00	139,438 00	173,508 00	00175-130
Coconan	13,574 00	28,013 00	41,587 00	00175-130
Dayton (or Marshall)	42,025 00	91,665 80	133,690 80	00175-125
Eden Prairie	8,570 00	64,245 00	72,815 00	00175-100
Excelsior	3,588 00	33,531 09	37,118 09	0041=150
Greenwood	8,777	43,689	52,466	001=150
Hassan	6,894 00	68,241 75	75,135 75	
Independence	6,387 00	53,572 59	59,959 59	00064=42.2
Maple Grove	30,467 00	76,077 00	106,544 00	0015=150
Medina (Hamburg)	14,916 00	22,576 65	37,492 65	0025=100
Medicine Lake	15,973 00	47,105 20	63,078 20	0016=150
Minnetonka	12,823 00	98,226 00	111,049 00	00035=35.66
Minneapolis	396,119 00	1,956,321 60	2,352,440 60	000925=1850
Minnetrista	15,450 00	35,678 73	51,128 73	
Richfield	39,883 00	369,002 66	408,885 66	001=200
St. Anthony	18,270 00	196,784 93	215,054 93	000225=25.52
Totals	\$843,498 20	5,220,654 42	6,064,152 62	

In late 1858 there was a list of personal and real estate value of towns in Hennepin Cty. Medicine Lake (Plymouth) had a total assessed valuation of \$63,078.10 of that \$47k was the value of all the real estate.

Old Fashioned Christmas

On Sunday, December 8th the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation held the 27th Old Fashioned Christmas in Plymouth. It drew record crowds and the highlight was not only Santa Claus but his Reindeer along with story telling, crafts, s'mores and hayrides. It is always a great photo opportunity for the families. Here are a few photos of the wonderful day.



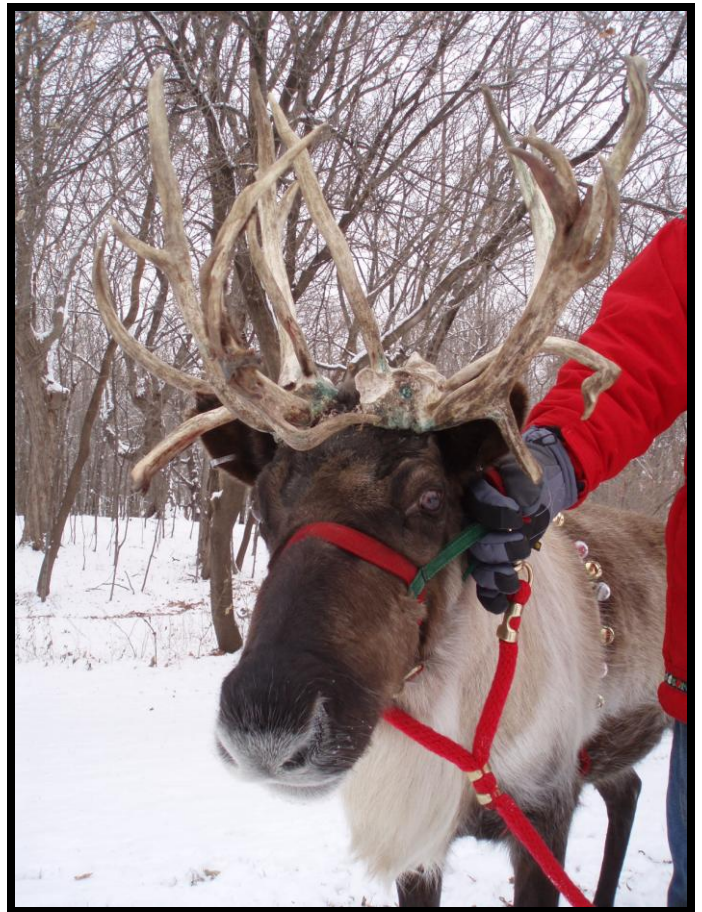
The Christmas Tree was decorated with care.



Y.E.S. Volunteers from WHS at the ready



Did all the children's wishes come true?



What every boy wanted 60+ years ago.

The reindeer were ready to fly!

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 Dundee's:

- Xmas Trees, Garland and Wreaths used for Old Fashioned Christmas

Donated by Cub, Lund's and Rainbow:

- Cider and supplies for Old Fashioned Christmas



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.



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

Dear Member:

This is a reminder that you're **2014 Annual PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Dues** are payable starting in January 2014 unless you are a Life Time member.

We hope you enjoyed the events of our Society during the past year, and we thank you in advance for your continued membership and participation. All members and friends are invited to our regular meetings which are held on the fourth Monday of every month (spring, summer & fall) at 7:00 p.m. in the Old Town Hall at 3605 Fernbrook Lane.

Please tear off the lower part of this sheet and send it with your check in the enclosed envelope. If you itemize deductions on your income tax forms, you may qualify for a deduction.

Yours truly,

Kay Bertrand
16025 5th Ave. N.
Plymouth, MN 55447
763-249-0138

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Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-Mail _____

I am interested in helping with:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Cataloging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Collecting Art-facts | <input type="checkbox"/> | Programs for meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Interviews for oral history | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Annual Dues:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Individual | \$10.00 |
| Family | \$15.00 |
| Individual Lifetime | \$100.00 |
| Family Lifetime | \$155.00 |

