



# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 1994

VOLUME XIII

NUMBER 1



## ***Third Annual Flower Sale***

The Plymouth Historical Society is planning their ***Third Annual Flower Sale*** to raise money. Enclosed you will find the bright blue flyer and order form. This is a great opportunity to make your spring flower shopping a breeze. Complete the order form and send it in by April 18th along with your check.

Don't wait -- place your order now to enjoy your flowers this spring and all summer long.



## ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

We have openings for two more on the Board of Directors. If anyone has an interest in Plymouth's history and it's preservation, please contact any one of the Board Members.

The following is the present Board of Directors:

| <u>Name</u>      | <u>Telephone</u> | <u>Term</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Sharon Anderson  | 475-1974         | 1991-1994   |
| Ben G. Broman    | 559-5721         | 1991-1994   |
| Alberta Casey    | 559-9366         | 1993-1996   |
| Vern Doseh       | 559-3777         | 1992-1995   |
| Myrtle Eckes     | 545-6168         | 1993-1996   |
| Edith Hopperstad | 473-3427         | 1993-1996   |
| Joyce McCaughey  | 544-2656         | 1993-1996   |
| Vern Peterson    | 559-2317         | 1992-1995   |
| Barb Rasmussen   | 533-8444         | 1991-1994   |
| Gary Schiebe     | 473-4889         | 1993-1996   |
| Harvey Schiebe   | 545-6127         | 1993-1996   |
| Adeline Schmidt  | 559-2459         | 1991-1994   |
| Mable Swanson    | 545-7705         | 1991-1994   |



**Plymouth Historical Society**  
**Sunday, April 24th**  
**1-4 PM**

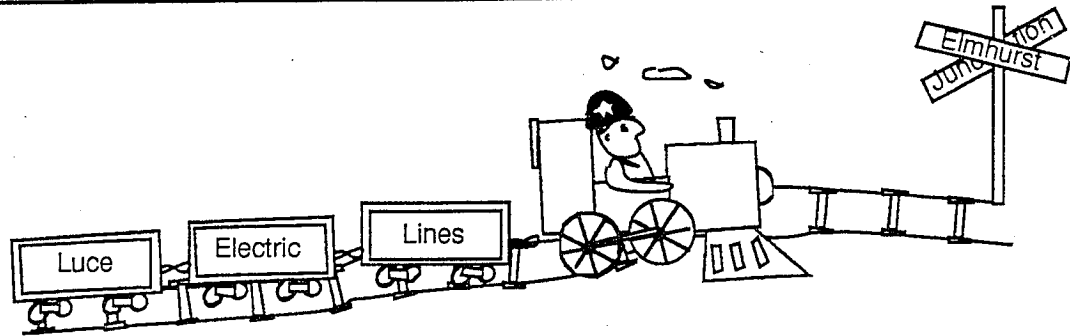
The program will be presented by Ann Theis, owner of *The Stained Glass Shoppe*.

***Stained Glass***  
***"A History Lesson with Hands-on"***

Please see the attached flyer for more details.

The schedule is as follows:

- A short business meeting at 1:15 with election of new Board of Directors who are up for re-election.
- Program at 1:30 p.m.



### Elmhurst

If you wanted to catch a train to Elmhurst from Minneapolis, you had your choice of arrival times of 7:05 a.m., 10:55 a.m. and 6:55 p.m.

This branch line saw three trains a day and they turned off at Elmhurst Junction.

Do you know where Elmhurst Station was located? The first person to call 473-4889 with the correct answer will win a Plymouth Historical Mug.

To find out you will have to look at the Electric Short Line Railway (Luce Electric Lines) brochure and time table.

It has been enlarged and framed with the brochure, promoting the wonders of Plymouth with its lakes, picnic grounds, boating and dance hall.



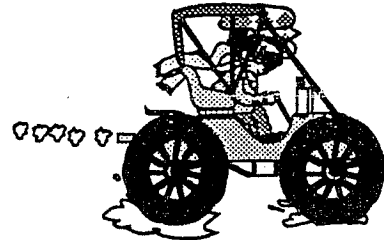
- Donation of picture framing services for numerous unframed pictures at the Society.
- Two more people to be on the Board of Directors.
- Donation of upholstery services for a large rocking chair and ottoman.
- Membership dues for 1994.
- Weavers and quilters for History Festival on Sunday, September 18th.
- Other demonstration events such as butter churning, wood carving, etc. that would fit in with a Plymouth History Festival theme.

#### OFFICERS

The following are the present officers:

|                |                 |          |
|----------------|-----------------|----------|
| President      | Gary Schiebe    | 473-4889 |
| Vice President | Ben G. Broman   | 559-5721 |
| Secretary      | Sharon Anderson | 475-1974 |
| Treasurer      | Harvey Schiebe  | 545-6127 |

### History Festival and Antique Auto Show



On September 17 and 18th, there will be a Plymouth History Festival and Antique Car Show at the Plymouth Historical Building and Plymouth Creek Park.

So mark your calendars and watch for future flyers!



#### MAILING AND MEMBERSHIP LIST

Attention!! For all those who have forgot and not paid their 1994 dues (due by April 1st), we have included a 1994 Membership Dues Form. Please send in the form or if you have any questions, please call Alberta Casey, 559-9366.

The annual dues are:

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Individual | \$5.00   |
| Family     | \$7.50   |
| Lifetime   | \$100.00 |

## FAMILY HISTORIES

The Plymouth Historical Society has quite a few family histories on file. We welcome people to come and look at them, which may help you trace family roots. The following is a copy (as written including spelling and grammatical errors) of one of the histories on file.

Francis Asbury Clay was born in Augusta, Maine in 1829. His father Jonothan was born in Maine and was of English descent. His mother's name was Drucilla and little is known about her. In 1851 Jonothan, then a widower, came to Minnesota Territory with his son, Francis, his daughter-in-law and a small grandson, Edwin. They traveled from Maine to St. Louis, and then up the Mississippi to either St. Paul or St. Anthony. Whether they came directly to Plymouth Township or not cannot be definitely stated, but on September 1, 1854 Jonothan went to Forest

City where all others of Plymouth registered and purchased their land. Jonothan purchased the E 1/2 of S.E. 1/4 and Lot 8 of Section 32, consisting of 111.17 acres. This land was registered for his son, Francis, although the registration was in the name of Jonothan. Later, on September 1, 1857, he again traveled to Forest City and registered and purchased for his daughter, Rachel Reynolds, the S.W. 1/4 of S.W. 1/4 of Section 33, 40 acres. This was also transacted in his own name. His daughter and husband arrived later than her father and brother and no reference was every made of her living on this land. It is known that later, she and her husband went to live in the vicinity of Albert Lea, where later her father joined her and died.

In all events, Francis Clay and his father were one of the very first settlers in the township and built a log home amid beautiful maple trees not far from Gleason Lake. They sent for Phoebe Greer, Matilda Greer Clay's mother. Phoebe was the wife of James Greer who was born at Perth Scotland on March 4, 1801, migrated to Maine, meeting Phoebe who was born at Wayne, Maine, marrying her and in his work at sea met his death. Phoebe was born October 12, 1792. Daniel Thompson, a friend of Francis Clay, was paid Phoebe's transportation and went to Maine from Minnesota, to bring her back with him and, of course, to transact personal business.

Mr. Thompson was long in returning but arrived in time with Mrs. Greer to allow Mrs. Greer the honor of officiating



**Francis & Matilda Clay**

at the birth of twin sons to Francis Clay and wife, Matilda, on December 25, 1855. It must have been a very happy household. Phoebe evidently was a very independent soul, as she lived alone in a log cabin in the back of the one occupied by Francis Clay's family. She had a nice stove, a spinning wheel and other necessary furniture. She took her meals with the Clay family and spent her time in her own house where she carded wool, spun and knit. She could knit and read at the

same time according to the comments of Laura Howe Carpenter, daughter of Jonas Hose. She would visit them at intervals to help them with their spinning and weaving. They lent her books and Phoebe would tell them tall stories of her early childhood which the Howe children loved. Phoebe was worshipped by her grandson, Charles, Blanche Rosing's father. One can picture Phoebe in front of her little stove with the door of the stove open to throw more light upon her knitting and tell her grandchildren stories, for that is what she actually did. Her Bible evidently brought her much comfort as she was profoundly interested in reading it.

Mrs. Greer's daughter, Matilda Clay, was well educated as evidenced by her being a teacher in School Number 48. It is said that she rowed her three small sons over Parker's Lake and in all possibility, it might have been Gleason Lake as the later was nearer the school and to her home. The school according to 92-year old Wm. Varner (1953) of Golden Valley, and a life long friend of Charles Clay, was on the present 6th Avenue North right west of the land on which the Minneapolis Work House Superintendent's home is located. Mr. Varner said there was a store there owned and operated by Mr. Logan and the school was a short distance went of that on a little knoll. Regardless, Mrs. Clay, could have rowed, as the lake must have been open, as school for small children was almost always in the spring.

Francis Clay was well educated also and was a staunch Democrat and a good Methodist. He was Justice of Peace, elected at the meeting of the first official town

meeting in 1858. He was Road Overseer in District 8 and 9 different years. Not only was he of firm political and religious beliefs, he was a patriot. At the first call for enlistments for the Civil War in 1863, he volunteered for service immediately as did seven others of the township. The records of the Plymouth Township Minutes of their meetings show that in 1863, he and other men were paid the magnificent sum of \$25 as a bounty for enlisting. He was discharged from the Army August 19, 1865, broken in health due to malaria and asthma contracted in the service.

Matilda Clay, during the war period, assumed the position as post mistress at the South Plymouth Post Office which was at her home. This was established in 1862 and discontinued in 1864 when the post office was re-established at Wayzata. It must have been a pleasant occupation for her, as people had to collect their mail and their coming and going must have broken the monotony while her husband was at war.

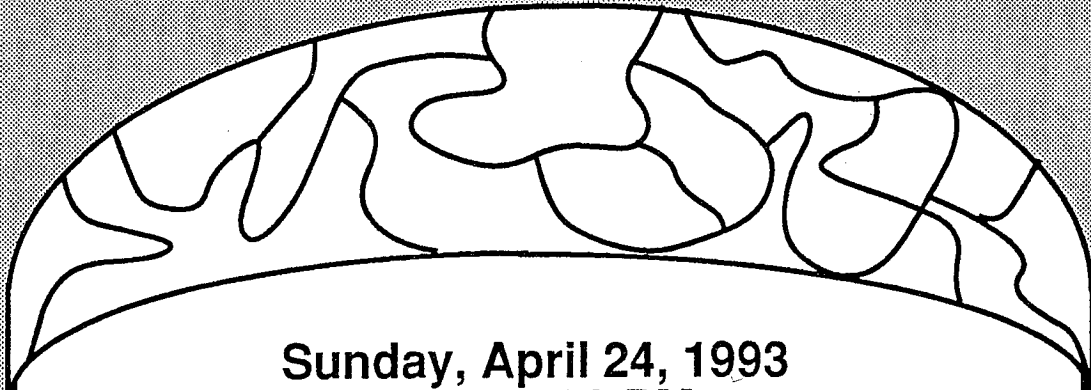
Good times were in evidence also, as references were made in newspaper clippings of celebrations on the Fourth of July. In "Old Fence Rail Corners" and in the Howe Memoirs references were made of events such as picnics, barn dances, visits and other good times. Clay's name was mentioned quite a few times. Matilda often told her children of her writing back home to relatives or friends of having gone to a ball in a coach and four. What she did not tell them was that the coach was a bob sled and the team of four, her husband and three other young men who lled it with her. An item in the book, "Old Fence Rail Corners" mentions a Mrs. French and neighbor from Long Lake. They were traveling to Minneapolis by oxen with Mr. French and stopping at Clay's overnight and continuing onto Minneapolis the next day, returning and spending another night at the Clay's. There must have been many travelers doing likewise as they were in a direct line of travel and were extremely hospitable.

In 1875 the Clay farm was purchased by Mr. Ottoway, who had been Superintendent of the King Farm in Minneapolis. Mr. Clay, broken in health, moved to Minneapolis with his family and lived between Second and Third Avenues South on Washington. There Mrs. Clay took in boarders and Francis worked at Dean's Sawmill which was located where Basset Creek empties into the Mississippi. From this residence, they moved to Third Street between Second and Third Avenues south. While there, Mrs. Clay started an Employment Office on Fourth Street where the Globe Building now stands, between Hennepin and Nicollet. The site of the office was owned by Wm. Varner, father of the Wm. Varner now living in Golden Valley (1953). From there Mrs. Clay had her business on Third Avenue South between Third and Fourth Streets. The Clay's then built a home on Emerson Avenue North between Eighth and Tenth Avenues.

Francis Clay died in Minneapolis in 1913 and his wife, Matilda, at Winona in 1916. Phoebe Greer, Matilda's mother died in Minneapolis in 1885 at the age of 93. The children of Francis and Matilda were Edwin, born in Maine in 1849, married to Nellie Brown and lived in Minneapolis where he died. Henry and Homer, twins, born December 25, 1855 at Plymouth Township, with Henry dying in 1871 at his home and Homer, marrying Rebecca Ray and dying April 6, 1927. Mary was born in Plymouth in 1858 and died there in 1873. Chas. Asbury Clay, father of Louella and Blanche Rosing, was born in Plymouth on September 10, 1861, married Anna Williams of Minneapolis on November 20, 1883 and passed away November 18, 1934. Bertie was born in Plymouth in 1867 and died in Minneapolis in 1879. Abbey Louella was born in Plymouth March 29, 1873, married Dr. Edwin Muir in 1893 and passed away January 20, 1935. Francis Clay and wife, Matilda, and children, Henry, Mary, Bertie, Charles and his wife, Anna, and Phoebe Greer are all buried at Parker's Lake Cemetery, Plymouth Township.

Upon making a map of Minnetonka Township in 1954, I came upon some information about Francis Clay which was unknown until then. This map is of the first abstract of lands such as made of Plymouth Township. Francis Clay, purchased by cash the following: October 10, 1855, Entry # 592, N.E. 1/4 of N.E. 1/4, Lot #5, S.E. 1/4 of N.E. 1/4 and Lot #4 consisting of 146.93 acres. This land joined the Jonathan Clay farm on the south. The N.E. 40 of Francis Clay's land lay directly south of and joined the S.W. 40 of Jonathan Clay's land. Mr. Wm. Varner's description of the location of the Francis Clay home, just on the bank of the small lake in Minnetonka Township and on the north, the road which lead to St. Anthony, lay the Francis Clay home. The home the Ottoway's purchased on the Jonathan Clay's original land was not the Clay home because it was built after the Clay's moved to Minneapolis. Francis Clay evidently had his home in Minnetonka Township and farmed the Jonathan Clay land in Plymouth. The Francis Clay land as of today has never been farming land to any extent and in all probability the Jonathan Clay land became Francis's after Jonathan's death or maybe before.

# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE



Sunday, April 24, 1993  
1:00 - 4:00 PM

## PROGRAM

### **Stained Glass**

*"A History Lesson with Hands-on"*

**SCHEDULE:** 1:15 - Business Meeting  
1:30 - Program

**LOCATION:** PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL BUILDING  
3595 Fernbrook Lane  
Plymouth, MN

Ann Theis, owner of The Stained Glass Shoppe, will delight us with a program on stained glass. Ann will call upon her year's of experience to talk about stained glass history, usage and how windows, lamps are put together. Best of all, she will provide us with a "hands-on" demonstration. Come one, come all and learn about stained glass.

*MUSEUM OPEN -- REFRESHMENTS SERVED*

Third Annual.



PLYMOUTH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TOWN HALL-BUILT 1885 FLOWER SALE "1994"

Plymouth Historical Society's Third Annual Flower Sale is underway. This year it will be the Tuesday after Mother's Day. A great opportunity to order your spring flowers. Attached you will find an order form so you may order.

Please make checks payable to: Plymouth Historical Society  
And include it with your order.

Orders may be mailed anytime between now and no later than Monday April 18, 1994. Mail To:

B. G. Broman  
4055 Glacier Ln. N.  
Plymouth, MN 55446-2721

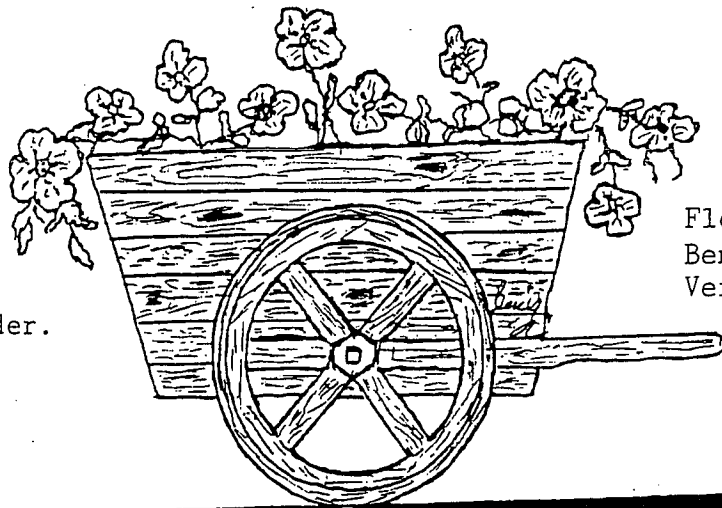
You may pick up your order Tuesday May 10, 1994 at 3605 Fernbrook Ln. N. (Old Town Hall). Anytime between 9:00am until 8:00 pm. Additional flowers will be available for purchase also.

We hope you again will enjoy the convenience of ordering your spring flowers through the Plymouth Historical Society and letting it benefit from something you would purchase anyway.

Please help is needed. If you could help for an hour or more, or if you have any question, PLEASE CALL.

Ben G. or Ruth A. Broman at 559-5721

Please  
keep this  
letter as  
your reminder.



Flower Committee:  
Ben G. Broman  
Vern C. Dotseth

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Last First

| Qty.  | HANGING BASKETS - 10 inch   | Price   |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|
| _____ | BRIDAL VEIL.....            | \$14.00 |
| _____ | <u>IMPATIEN</u>             |         |
| _____ | Rose .....                  | \$14.00 |
| _____ | Pink .....                  | \$14.00 |
| _____ | Red .....                   | \$14.00 |
| _____ | Salmon.....                 | \$14.00 |
| _____ | <u>IVY GERANIUMS</u>        |         |
| _____ | Red .....                   | \$14.00 |
| _____ | Pink .....                  | \$14.00 |
| _____ | Lavender .....              | \$14.00 |
| _____ | <u>FUSHIA</u>               |         |
| _____ | Swingtime (Red/White).....  | \$14.00 |
| _____ | Dark Eyes.(Purple/Red)..... | \$14.00 |
| _____ | PATIO GERANIUM 10" Tub..... | \$14.00 |

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GERANIUMS 4 1/2" Pot

|       |                               |         |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------|
| _____ | Red .....                     | \$ 2.25 |
| _____ | Pink .....                    | \$ 2.25 |
| _____ | White .....                   | \$ 2.25 |
| _____ | Salmon .....                  | \$ 2.25 |
| _____ | SPIKES 4" Pot.....            | \$ 2.25 |
| _____ | SPRENGER FERN 4 1/2" Pot..... | \$ 2.25 |
| _____ | VINCA VINE 4" Pot.....        | \$ 2.25 |

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 2.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VEGETABLES - 3 1/2" Pot

|       |                          |         |
|-------|--------------------------|---------|
| _____ | PEPPER (Sweet Bell)..... | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | <u>TOMATOES</u>          |         |
| _____ | Better Boy.....          | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | Red Cherry.....          | \$ 1.25 |

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 1.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Column 1 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Column 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL OF ORDER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To:

Plymouth Historical Society

BUYER \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

FLOWERS FOR SHADE(4 plants per pack)

| Qty.  | BEGONIA                           | Price        |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| _____ | Red .....                         | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Pink .....                        | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Mixed.....                        | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | <u>COLEUS MIX</u> .....           | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | <u>IMPATIENS</u>                  |              |
| _____ | Orange .....                      | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Red .....                         | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | White .....                       | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Pink .....                        | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Salmon .....                      | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Mixed .....                       | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | PANSIES -mixed, partial sun ..... | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | TOTAL                             | x \$ 1.25 \$ |

FLOWERS FOR SUN(6 plants per pack)

| Qty.  | PETUNIAS                       | Price        |
|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| _____ | Red (for beds).....            | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Red Cascade (trailing).....    | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | White (for beds).....          | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | White Cascade (trailing).....  | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Dark Blue.....                 | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Sugar Daddy.....               | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Pink Magic.....                | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Pink Cascade (trailing).....   | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | <u>SALVIA (red)</u>            |              |
| _____ | Short .....                    | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Tall .....                     | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | <u>SNAPDRAGONS</u>             |              |
| _____ | Rocket Mix (tall).....         | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | Floral Carpet (mix dwarf)..... | \$ 1.25      |
| _____ | TOTAL                          | x \$ 1.25 \$ |

FLOWERS FOR SUN(6 plants per pack)

|       |                                      |         |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| _____ | <u>AGERATUM</u> - border.....        | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | <u>ALYSSUM</u> - border, white.....  | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | <u>ALYSSUM</u> - border, purple..... | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | <u>DIANTHUS</u> Wee Willie.....      | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | <u>DUSTY MILLER*</u> .....           | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | <u>MOSS ROSE</u> .....               | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | <u>MARIGOLD</u>                      |         |
| _____ | Dwarf Mix.....                       | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | Dwarf Yellow.....                    | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | Dwarf Orange.....                    | \$ 1.25 |
| _____ | Dwarf Flame Bi-color.....            | \$ 1.25 |

\*Note: Good in shade or sun

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 1.25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Column 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

