

PLYMOUTH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

PHS CELEBRATES 45-YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



PLYMOUTH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

This fall, the Plymouth Historical Society celebrates forty-five years since its founding. This "throwback" edition of the newsletter will take a look at the amazing people, preservation efforts, and events that have brought Plymouth to better understand its history through the dedicated efforts of volunteers through the last four decades. We hope you enjoy learning more about the rich history of Plymouth and join us at an upcoming virtual open house to continue this tradition of history sharing and learning together!

PHS HISTORY

**PLYMOUTH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
—○—
**CHARTER
MEETING**

WED. NOV. 12 7:30 P.M.
W. MEDICINE LAKE COMMUNITY CLUB

CTY. RD. 9 ↗
W. MED. LAKE
HIWAY 55 ↗

DAVID NYSTUEN of the
MINN. HISTORICAL SOC.
WILL SPEAK AND SHOW
"The TIME KEEPER"

The Society's Early Beginnings

The Plymouth Historical Society began as a preservation response. Early leaders were concerned over increasing development in the 1970s and felt a call to action to "preserve something of our past for future generations." With a love of heritage and history, invitations were sent to community members to attend a chartering meeting, which took place on November 12, 1975 at the West Medicine Lake Community Club. Members' first concern was the preservation of Plymouth's first town hall building (now the Plymouth History Museum). The Society's meeting minutes of December 1, 1975 shows a motion was approved to write "a petition for use of the previous City Hall." By January 1976, the organization boasted a membership of 100 persons and it was made known that "the Mayor and Council back our use of the previous City Hall," allowing the group to take next steps toward the building's

(Continued on page 2)

PHS Charter Meeting Invitation. 1975.

(Continued from page 1)

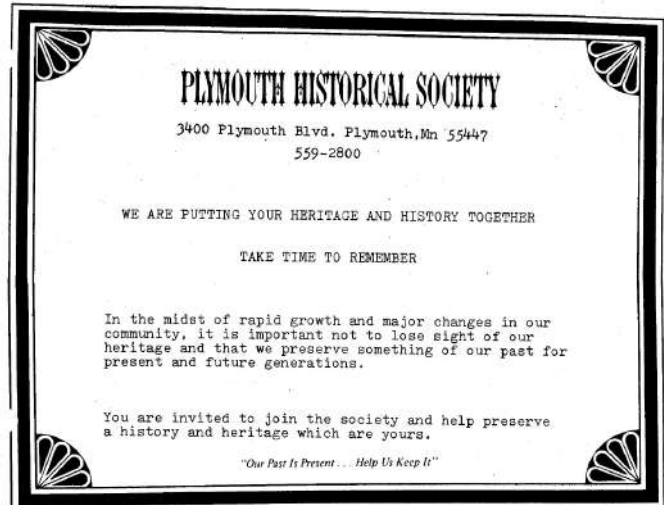
physical preservation. This first year also saw the development of the Society's mission, with its purpose decided as an institution for "public information, education, development of speakers, accumulation and housing of artifacts, [and] development of a history of Plymouth" (PHS Minutes, 3 March 1976). Early members meetings were informal, consisting of "displays, entertainment and refreshments" and encouraged members to bring personal items of historical interest to share or even to "wear a costume from the 'olden days.'"



Display areas in the newly opened Plymouth History Museum. From Harvey and Fern Schiebe Scrapbook. PHS Collection.



Attendees at the PHS Open House, April 24, 1982. From Harvey and Fern Schiebe Scrapbook. PHS Collection.



PHS Membership Request. 1975.

Town Hall Preservation and Museum Opening

One of the first actions taken by the Society was the preservation of Plymouth's first town hall. These works began in 1978 under the leadership of Mark Eckes and was funded through a combination of grant monies from the Minnesota Historical Society and donations from local business and individuals. In addition to preserving the original town hall, an addition was placed to the building's east and a new basement level was excavated to allow for greater display and meeting space. The Society began collecting artifacts from local community members, with an original interest in items dating to the 1880s and 1890s. After four years of preservation and collecting efforts, the museum opened for its first open house in April 1982. In the following years, the Society established a set of objectives to help reach their preservation aims, including holding regularly open houses and museum hours; inventorying historic sites within the town of Plymouth, led by board members Alice Mellen and Bea Jordan; recording a series of oral history interviews; and establishing regular lectures and presentations. Presentation themes included early Minnesota railroads, automobile history, Mission Farms, lessons in genealogy, historic landscaping, and music demonstrations.

Town Hall Centennial

In 1985, the PHS celebrated both its tenth anniversary as a society and the centennial of the "Old



1885-1985 Commemorative Mug. PHS Collection.

Town Hall." The Society commemorated the event through special programs, a display in the then-new Plymouth city hall building, and designing a mug that features both the original and later civic buildings.

Carriage House Addition and New Traditions

Through the late 1980s and into the 1990s, the Society continued to expand and explore ways to preserve and present the history of Plymouth. December 1986 saw the first "Old Fashioned Christmas." This winter-themed event featured a decorative tree, bake sale, and storytelling, with later iterations featuring a visit with Santa, carol singers, sleigh rides, and reindeer. In 1988, due to the generosity of donors, the Society noted an increased need for storing its blossoming historical artifact collection. This led to the construction of a second building near the history museum for the purposes of additional storage and display area, known lovingly as the "Carriage House." In 1991, the Society held its first "History Fest," another annual tradition that ran through the 2000s that included historical presen-

tations, including the legendary Schiebe automobile collection. Annual flower sales, led by Ben Broman, brought colorful fundraising opportunities to the museum. 2008 saw the first of the "History on Parade" bus tours, led by Gary Schiebe. Attendees would enjoy a two-hours' ride on a classic bus while learning about historic sites throughout Plymouth. Sites explored through the tour included historic farms and homesteads, places of worship, places affiliated with the Luce Line railroad, and other sites related to nineteenth and early-twentieth century Plymouth history. In 2010 and 2011, the Society hosted historical fashion shows, demonstrating examples of different kinds of dress within the museum's collections.



*Carriage House during Construction. 1988.
PHS Collection*

City Partnership and PHS Today

In 2017, the Society and the City of Plymouth entered an agreement through which the City would provide a staff person to assist the Society with its ongoing preservation and programmatic efforts. This partnership has led to new opportunities for exploring how Plymouth's past can be preserved for the future. Volunteers continue to be a cornerstone, and they contribute through numerous ways, including serving as board members, assisting with collections sorting and inventorying, helping with communications, participating in events such as our recent cemetery tour and (now virtual) open houses, and assisting in our Finding Place in Plymouth oral history project. We are thankful for the past forty-five years of dedication to make the Society what it is today, and we look forward to how we can continue to discover, preserve, and share the history of Plymouth!

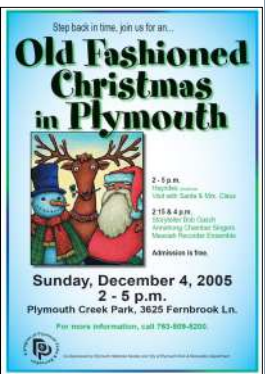
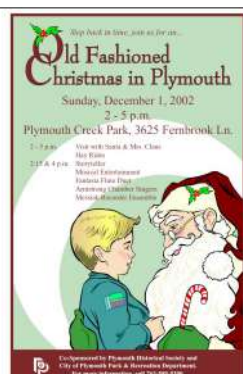


Volunteers Rajee and Aradhana assisting at the history museum. 2019.

PHS EVENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

The Plymouth Historical Society has been honored to host a number of engaging public events in its history. In the following pages we share just a sampling of the many highlights of our past!

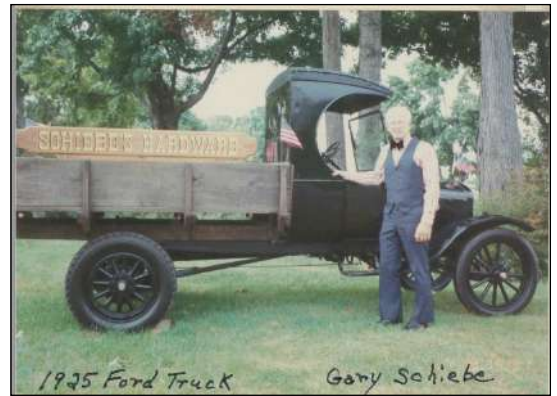
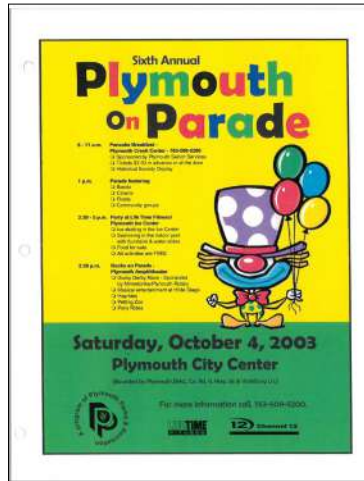
OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS



FASHION SHOWS



PLYMOUTH ON PARADE



HISTORY FEST

HEAR, HEAR! - HEAR, HEAR! COME ONE, COME ALL!

"THE HOME FRONT"
Sharon Anderson and Terry Leonard

For the benefit of the Plymouth Historical Society and to thank the sponsoring and donating organizations, we are presenting the 1st Annual HISTORY FEST

Bring your friends and bring your family for a day of entertainment and an educational program all day long by "The Home Front", in conjunction with the Plymouth Historical Society, will have an OPEN HOUSE during which you will be able to view a tour of the Historical Society, hear the speakers and view the exhibits, program shown for the night, educational music provided by Terry Leonard, and the delicious home-baked items. Finally, another opportunity, we will be at the Fairgrounds for our historic tented for display and sale all over the evening event.

WHERE: The Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Creek Park located at 3818 Avenue North and Fordbrook in Plymouth.

WHEN: Sunday, September 23rd from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Schedule of Activities:

- 2:00 P.M. Historical food items, program and the Plymouth Historical Society to open for more educational information.
- 2:30 The Historical Society Show
- 3:00 Paper show
- 3:30 Historical food items
- 4:00 Paper show
- 4:30 Historical food items
- 5:00 Paper show
- 5:30 Historical food items
- 6:00 Paper show
- 6:30 Historical food items
- 7:00 Paper show
- 7:30 Historical food items

This year's ticket day is sponsored by the Plymouth Historical Society and "The Home Front"

Sharon Anderson and Terry Leonard
Historical Society
761-1493

PLYMOUTH History Fest

Saturday, September 23, 1995
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Plymouth Creek Park, 3625 Fernbrook Ln.

Featuring Olde Fashioned Family Fun:

Story Telling
Antique Cars from 1900 to 1931
Fiddle Contest and Jam Session Tent
Demos of Olde Tyme Crafts and Skills
Entertainment
Tour the Historical Society Refreshments

Sponsored by: Plymouth Historical Society and Plymouth Park & Recreation
For more information, or to participate, call 766-6666.

PLYMOUTH History Fest

Saturday, August 14, 1999
Parkers Lake Park
County Road 6 & Niagara Lane

Featuring Olde Fashioned Family Fun

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Plymouth Historical Society
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Plymouth Historical Society
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Plymouth Historical Society

HISTORY FEST
Plymouth Park & Recreation

Saturday, May 10, 2003
Parkers Lake Park - County Road 6 & Niagara Lane

- Vintage Encampment
- Band Making
- Blacksmithing
- Flower Weaving
- Hack Tossing
- Trading Post
- Antique Car Show
- Walties' Indian Pitting Zoo
- Olde Fashioned Farm Equipment
- Olde Tyme Refreshments

10:00 a.m. Bob Carch - Showalter
10:45 a.m. Ash & Borden Fast Horse - Native American Culture
11:30 a.m. Backroads Junction - Show
12:15 p.m. The Plymouth Concert Band - Olde Tyme
1:00 p.m. Bob Carch - Showalter
1:45 p.m. Ash & Borden Fast Horse - Native American Culture
2:30 p.m. Car Parade


Event will be held rain or shine.
Bring children and/or farm chairs.
For more information, call 761-606-5286.

FREE ADMISSION

OPEN HOUSES

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OPEN HOUSE
 SEPT. 28, 1988
 7:30 PM
 GUEST SPEAKER
DAREL LEIPOLD
 "HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE"
 LOCATION: PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL BUILDING
 3655 FERNBROOK LANE
 PLYMOUTH, MN
 MUSEUM OPEN - REFRESHMENTS SERVED

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OPEN HOUSE
 SEPTEMBER 27, 1989
 7:30 PM
 GUEST SPEAKER
ARTHUR L. FINNELL
 "ADVENTURES
 ON THE FAMILY TREE"
 LOCATION: PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL BUILDING
 3655 FERNBROOK LANE
 PLYMOUTH, MN
 MUSEUM OPEN - REFRESHMENTS SERVED

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OPEN HOUSE
 APRIL 25, 1990
 7:30 PM
 GUEST SPEAKER
ROGER LILLEMØ
 OF
DUNDEE NURSERY
 "LANDSCAPING THEN AND NOW"

 DOUTH HISTORICAL BUILDING
 FERNBROOK LANE
 DOUTH, MN
 REFRESHMENTS SERVED

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OPEN HOUSE
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1990
 2:00 - 5:00 PM
 GUEST ENTERTAINER
ROBERT F. LARSON
 "THE WHISTLER"

 DOUTH HISTORICAL BUILDING
 FERNBROOK LANE
 DOUTH, MN
 REFRESHMENTS SERVED

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OPEN HOUSE
 SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1991
 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 GUEST SPEAKER
MILLIE GERSHON
 "THE HISTORY OF BELLS"
 SCHEDULE
 1:45 - BUSINESS MEETING
 2:00 - GUEST SPEAKER
 LOCATION: PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL BUILDING
 3655 FERNBROOK LANE
 PLYMOUTH, MN
 MUSEUM OPEN - REFRESHMENTS SERVED



SCHOOL GROUPS



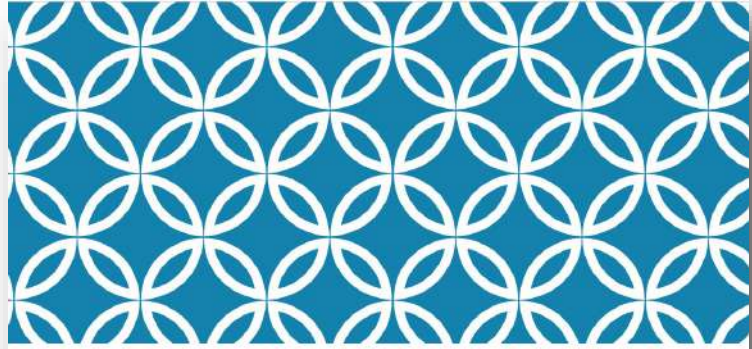
HISTORY TOURS



VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE SERIES

The Plymouth Historical Society is continuing to imagine new ways to engage members and visitors during the unprecedented times surrounding Covid-19 and its effect on our communities. Historically, the museum would be open seasonally to welcome our community to visit and learn with us. While the museum is currently closed for onsite gathering, we will be hosting a series of virtual open houses.

More information and registration link can be found at:
www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org/visit/



PHS VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAYS 4-5PM

JULY 15	OCT. 21
AUG. 19	NOV. 18
SEPT. 16	DEC. 16



PARKERS LAKE CEMETERY TOUR

Thank you to all those who attended our outdoor history tour of the Parkers Lake Cemetery on October 10. We enjoyed a brilliant presentation by PHS Board Members Bob Gasch and Paul Ellefson on a perfect, color-filled fall day. Based on the success of this year's tour, we hope to hold a tour of another local cemetery in the future!

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Details are being sorted for our upcoming Old Fashioned Christmas. Please save the date in your calendar, and keep an eye on our website and the Plymouth Parks and Recreation Winter/Spring guide for details soon. It is sure to be a fun-filled time for the whole family!



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Do you love history? Do you love Plymouth?
Then we would love to have you volunteer!

We are looking for help with a number of upcoming opportunities, virtual and in person, including blog post writing, collections research, collections cataloging, storytelling, and more!

To get connected, please fill out a volunteer application form on the City of Plymouth's website:
<https://www.plymouthmn.gov/departments/parks-recreation-/volunteer-opportunities/apply-now>

Plymouth Historical Society Board of Directors

Ben G. Broman, At-Large
Vern Doseh, *ex-officio*
Paul Ellefson, Treasurer
Bob Gasch, Secretary
Ted Hoshal, President
David Preves, At-Large
David Schiebe, Vice President

City of Plymouth Historic Site Manager

Rebekah Coffman
rcoffman@plymouthmn.gov
info@plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org

Plymouth Historical Society

3400 Plymouth Boulevard
Plymouth, MN 55447

Discover Plymouth's history
on our website!

www.plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.org