

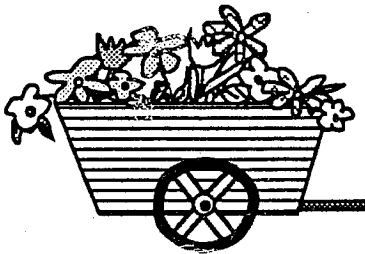


# PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1993

VOLUME XII

NUMBER 1



## Second Annual Flower Sale

The Plymouth Historical Society is planning their **Second 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 19th along with your check.

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

## WANTED!!

Donation to Plymouth Historical Society of:

- Antique piano or organ in good working condition.
- Large antique leather or wood arm chair (suitable for Santa at Christmas event)

Picture framing services.

- Help on sundays when we have the Plymouth Historical Building open in the summer.

## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday  
May 2  
1-4 PM



Plymouth  
Historical  
Society

- The program will be a presentation by our own Dr. Richard Poor, Archeology - *"Bringing the Past to the Present"* (see enclosed flyer).
- The schedule is as follows:
  - A short business meeting at 1:45 with election of new Board of Directors that are up for re-election.
  - Program at 2:00 pm.



## MAILING AND MEMBERSHIP LIST

Attached is the 1993 Membership Dues Form. If anyone would like to become a member of the Plymouth Historical Society, please call Alberta Casey, 559-9366. The annual dues are: Individual \$5.00, Family \$7.50 and Lifetime \$100.00.

All of the people who have previously signed our guest book have been added to the mailing list. You will have to pardon us if we didn't get your name or address exactly correct. If you have any additions or corrections, please call Gary Schiebe at 473-4889.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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   |
| Vern Doseth      | 559-3777         | 1992-1995   |
| Myrtle Eckes     | 545-6168         | 1990-1993   |
| Edith Hopperstad | 473-3427         | 1990-1993   |
| Bea Jordan       | Unlisted         | 1992-1995   |
| Jack Malmstedt   | 473-4493         | 1990-1993   |
| Joyce McCaughey  | 544-2656         | 1990-1993   |
| Vern Peterson    | 559-2317         | 1992-1995   |
| Dick Pouliot     | 569-9275         | 1990-1993   |
| Barb Rasmussen   | 533-8444         | 1991-1994   |
| Gary Schiebe     | 473-4889         | 1990-1993   |
| Harvey Schiebe   | 545-6127         | 1990-1993   |
| Adeline Schmidt  | 559-2459         | 1991-1994   |
| Mable Swanson    | 545-7705         | 1991-1994   |

## OFFICERS

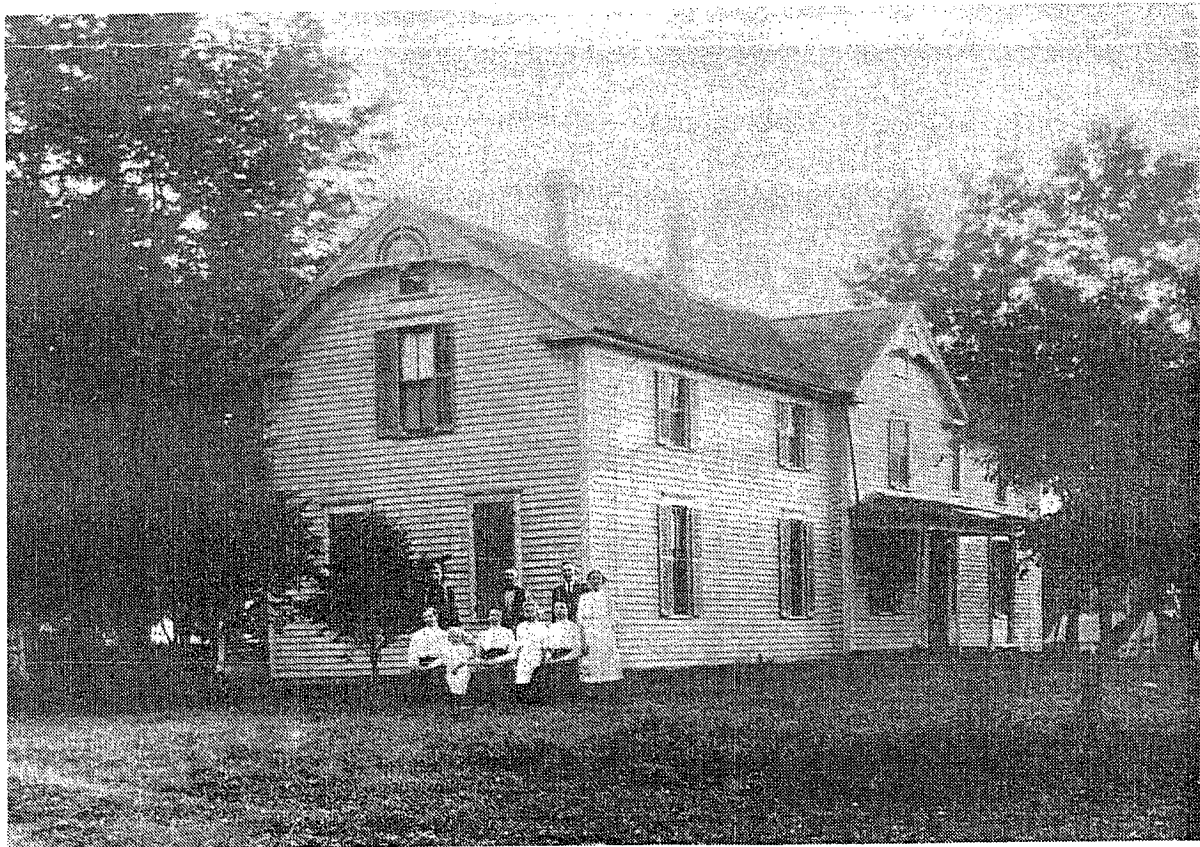
The following are the present officers:

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

## 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 of one of the histories, along with pictures, on file.

### The Sandhoff Family



### Herman Sandhoff House

Located south of Lost Lake (south of Rockford Road and west of 169 at approximately 10600 40th Avenue). The house was large (74 feet long) with it being split in two in 1913 and the west wing moved to make a second house!

## The Sandhoff Family

### Christopher Sandhoff

Herman Sandhoff's father, Christopher, was born July 3, 1787 and died April 2, 1871 at the age of 83 years and 9 months. His home was in Germany, Province of Brandenburg, Uckermark, Village of Hardenbeck - this being about two hours journey on foot from Berlin. He owned a small tract of land on the outskirts of Hardenbeck which leads one to believe he farmed on a small scale. His main occupation was a drayman, hauling heavy loads for someone else. Little is known of his family except that some of his brothers, with their families, emigrated to Australia, but whether or not they reached their destination is not known as they never heard any more from them.

In 1812 when Napoleon enlisted soldiers for the purpose of conquering Russia, he came to Berlin where he met Christopher, who then was 25 years old. Napoleon compelled Christopher to haul the provisions for the army with his wagon and at the same time handed him a sword in a sheath to protect himself. This sword was placed in the Minneapolis Public Library by his son, Charles Sandhoff.

When Christopher returned to Germany from Russia, he married Mrs. Fiegenberg to whom five children were born. Frederick, the eldest, married and had a family but was killed in the Democratic Revolution in 1848. The next children, in order, were Charles, William, Albert and Eiderich who became Mrs. Stendell. After the death of Christopher's first wife, he married Efrosene Kowko, supposedly a half or step sister of his first wife. They in turn had five children who were as follows: Herman, Johanna (Mrs. Kletzen), August F, Wilhemenia (who married a cousin August Sandhoff) and Ferdinand.

In 1832 Christopher, his wife, Efrosene, and five children came to America. Christopher was then 75 years old. The captain of the ship gave him a glass of wine in honor of his age and courage. The parents and five children, who were grown up, William, a child of the first wife, August F. Ferdinand, Johanna and Wilhemenia and their cousin, August, all settled in Plymouth Township. It is said that Charles, the second son of the first wife, and Herman, a son of the second wife, Efrosene, had come to America earlier - Charles in 1847 and Herman in 1849 and had settled in Plymouth Township. Charles was quite concerned about his parents coming alone from New York and traveled there to help them reach Minnesota with their family. In all probability, Charles and Herman, who had worked as stonemasons, financed the trip for the rest of the family. Herman and Charles had settled in Plymouth early enough to preempt land but Christopher did not have that opportunity. He purchased, as did August, the cousin of the Sandhoffs, from Edward Huot in Section 14, a part of the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4. Christopher's log home was built east of the present cemetery of the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church on the Rockford Road. August, the son-in-law, purchased his acre and lived in a little log house which had been built by the Huot's and stood right where the brick house is across from the church. In fact, August built the brick house in 1880, which was purchased by the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in 1955.

Christopher died in 1871 and his wife, Efrosene, in 1875 - just a short time from when his son Ferdinand was killed by lightning. Mrs. August Sandhoff, who married the cousin and lived in the brick house, obtained the land after her parent's death and gave some of it to the cemetery of the Lutheran Church to make the cemetery grounds come out even for certain graves. Mrs.

Keltzen, another daughter, managed the romance of Charles (her half-brother), with Eva Barbara Schwaab, who had come from Germany on the same boat as the Sandhoffs. They became such friends that Johanna persuaded Eva Barbara to meet her brother with whom she became united in marriage.

Christopher was the first to be buried in the little cemetery. His wife and the rest of the family who resided in Plymouth were buried there also.

### Herman Sandhoff, Territorial Pioneer

Herman Sandhoff, son of Christopher, was born January 13, 1830 in the Village of Hardenbeck, Germany, a two hour journey by foot from Berlin. The family was not a farming family as he learned the stone mason trade which took four years to complete the course. The certificate of completion is shown on display sheets accompanying this story. As his father was a drayman, it was assured the family of Sandhoff's were men of trades. At the age of 19, Herman completed his occupation as stonemason in Berlin and had an impulse to go to America. His brother, Charles (a son of the father Christopher by his first marriage) no doubt served as an incentive to go to America, as he had done in 1847 and was well supplied with work as a stonemason. In 1849 Albert Herder, a poor tailor and a friend of the Sandhoff's, took off with Herman, with the Sandhoffs paying the passage for Herder. The boat on which they sailed was named Kossuth. Landing in New York, they were presumably met by brother Charles, who was very solicitous about his relative's welfare. They then proceeded to Chicago where they worked as stonemasons, then to Galena, Illinois where they stayed and worked until they came to Minnesota in 1851. St. Anthony served as a stepping stone to coming to Plymouth Township. As the land office for the government was located there in the early 1850's, they no doubt became enthused with the idea of owning land for so little.

At any rate, they worked and earned money as masons and put forth to find their land which was not more than 8 or 10 miles from St. Anthony.

Having found what they wanted, they no doubt helped Albert Herder to do the same and Albert found his site further to the southwest of Sandhoffs, the land being 80 acres upon which Art Kreatz now lives (1955) on 6th Avenue North, near Road 101. Herder's land was sold later to Frank Kreatz, the grandfather of Art Kreatz.

Herman lived on his land until the time was ready for preemption which occurred on June 6, 1856. He then had to register at St. Anthony, as after 1860 the people had to go to Forest City, Minnesota, near Litchfield. The site Herman chose was 160 acres, the SW 1/4 of Section 13, the land warrant being signed by President Buchanan. Charles, the brother, preempted the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, 40 acres right north and east of Herman's land, but joining it. This preemption was dated November 11, 1860 and was signed by President Lincoln (see copy of document at end of this newsletter). There was plenty of Indians around, the land being an unbroken wilderness with the exception of a few cleared trails. Herman and Charles cleared the land and build a small log cabin on the south shore of Sandhoff Lake. It was done by hand and with plenty of good hard labor involved.

Herman and Charles worked at their trade as stonemasons between the land clearing. They would walk to St. Anthony and

work at various places, some of which were the old paper mill on Nicollet Island, the first court house, the woolen mills and the first jail, a two-room affair in the Village of St. Anthony.

Herman appeared to be very interested in farming and applied himself to the occupation industriously. His brother, Charles, was more interested in his work as stonemason and left his farm after 1860 to live in St. Anthony permanently. Herman lived on his farm all his life, acquiring about 285 acres (the 160 from preemption and the balance by heiring and purchase). The younger brother, Ferdinand, had acquired by purchase, the W. 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 13 from Gottfried Heimback, who had preempted the SE 1/4 of Section 13 and selling it for business reasons. Then August F. Sandhoff, another brother of Herman, Ferdinand and Charles, bought the NE 1/4 of Section 13, making almost a whole section of land owned by the Sandhoff family. When Charles departed to work and live in St. Anthony, he sold his 40 acres to his brother Ferdinand, August F. Sandhoff, and the other brother, Ferdinand, for some labor, so instead of cash, August gave him 5 acres of his 1/4 section, thus making Ferdinand's entire estate 125 acres. Unfortunately, Ferdinand was killed by lightning in 1875 and the land was to be divided among the brothers and sisters as Ferdinand was unmarried. The family persuaded Herman against his own convictions to purchase the entire 125 acres. Herman borrowed money on his own 160 acres at the rate of 10% interest. Edward and Ida Sandhoff, both children of Herman, are living on the 40 acre plot which was originally owned by Charles (1955).

On February 26, 1863, Herman married Amelia Smith and settled down to the life of a real farmer and a good one at that. Amelia, a German girl, had come to America at a very early date with her father, William Smith, and her mother, Christina (or Crystal as she was sometimes called). William Smith lived on the west shore of Medicine Lake. Herman had built a 1-1/2 story log house right on the south shore of Sandhoff's and after his marriage and the subsequent birth of two children, he built a story and a half frame house right south of the lake. It is still the site of the original house (1955). Some years later, as his family increased and finances improved, he built two additions, one to the east and one to the west. Both, however, were added at different times. The new additions had nine foot ceilings unlike the original part of the home which had seven foot ceilings. A roof was made to cover the entire structure, making the house 74 feet long (*Picture at beginning of article*). When Herman Sandhoff's original 160 acres were sold in 1913, Edward, his son, took off the east section and moved it to the present site on the land originally belonging to his Uncle Charles. It is now being lived in by Edward and Ida Sandhoff.

Amelia (nee Smith Sandhoff), as said, married Herman on February 26, 1863. She was born the daughter of William and Christina Smith November 9, 1845 at Furstenthun, Schwarzburgh, Turingen, Weimer, Saxony, Germany. In March of 1846, her parents, their two small sons, their infant daughter, Amelia, along with Charles and Henry Magnus came to America. An older daughter, Augusta, age ten, stayed in Germany with her grandparents, the Schillers. The Smith's settled in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where another daughter, Selma Elizabeth, was born October 9, 1849 and a son, William, who died in infancy. In 1854, William and Christina came to Minnesota with their family and purchased for cash the following: Lot 1, 61.75 acres; the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, 40 acres; and the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, 40 acres and homesteaded Lot #2, 34.60 acres. All the land was in Plymouth Township, Section 26, this transaction having taken place April 5, 1856. This property located on the west shore of Medicine Lake was and is a very choice spot (1955). The father

built a small log home and blacksmith shop on the shore of the lake. He was a blacksmith, a cabinet maker and a wheelwright. The youngest son, George, was born at Medicine Lake and was baptized by his father in the creek as missionaries came at rare intervals. Later the child was baptized by a missionary in the regular orthodox manner.

All the Smith children, including Amelia Smith Sandhoff, were musically inclined. The boys played instruments, probably the violin and Amelia and her sisters sang very nicely. Charles, the son who had been born in Germany, enlisted in the United States army as a soldier in the Civil War. He was mustered in on August 14, 1862 at Fort Hutchinson, Minnesota, and died of pneumonia on March 1863 at Watertown, Minnesota, where he was journeying back to Hutchinson after a furlough to attend his sister Amelia's wedding. Jonas Howe officiated at his funeral as minister as none was available (information obtained in Howe Memoirs, written by Mrs. Carpenter, Jonas Howe's daughter).

Amelia Smith Sandhoff's grandfather, Martin Schiller (on her mother's side,) was a burgomaster and was very wealthy. He gave his daughter, Christina, \$2,000 when she married. Christina, the mother, was born April 9, 1813 and died in 1899 at the age of 86 years. She received a good education, loved music and excelled in cooking and baking. Her brother, Robert Frederick Schiller, was a fine musician, a concert violinist and a composer. He married young and had a family of six children. He contracted a severe cold and died at the age of 40 years.

Amelia Smith Sandhoff's father, William, was born October 10, 1810 and died June 12, 1872. He, his wife and son Charles are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery on the Rockford Road. Crystal, William and Charles were buried on the home farm and reinterred and placed in the cemetery.

Amelia and her husband, Herman, were good Christians and participated in church and community activities. The day they married was a Thursday with Rev. George Fachtman officiating. This minister stayed on in their home until the following Sunday to hold church services in the home. These services were held often in his home and in others. The church was organized in the 1860's but had no building until 1880. Amelia was very kind to help people in need, gave unsparingly of her services in childbirth, sickness or death. Herman was active in township government, acting as town supervisor in 1863 and 1867. He took an active interest in whatever needed his attention and was well liked and respected in the community.

Seven children were born of the marriage of Herman and Amelia Smith Sandhoff. There were as follows:

- The eldest child died in infancy.
- Bertha Lucinda, born May 27, 1865, died January 26, 1942. She married Fred Wille and had the following three children.
  - Augusta lived in Plainview, Minnesota with her husband, Ed Engle. Both she and her husband died during the flu epidemic of October 1918, leaving three small children; Elsie, Merton and George, who were brought up by their grandparents, Bertha and Fred Wille, at Osseo, Minnesota. The Engel children were married and established in business in Park Rapids, Minnesota. Merton was killed in a car accident, November 5, 1954 at the age of 40 years.
  - Bertha Wille, the second daughter of Bertha Lucinda and Fred Wille, married Carroll Hallstrom. She graduated from

# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Part of *Minnesota*  
43713  
402  
800

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

*Re-assignment*

## CERTIFICATE

No. *3671.*

Whereas, *Charles Sandhoff* of *Minnesota* County, *Minnesota*

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the UNITED STATES, a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at *Forest City* whereby it appears that FULL PAYMENT has been made by the said *Charles Sandhoff* according to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the public lands," for *the South East quarter of*

*the North West quarter of section thirteen, in Township One hundred and eighteen, of Range twenty two, in the District of lands subject to Sale at Forest City, Minnesota, containing forty acres.*

according to the OFFICIAL PLAT of the Survey of the said lands, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Charles Sandhoff*:

Now know ye, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Charles Sandhoff* and to *his* heirs, the said Tract above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Charles Sandhoff* and to *his* heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof I, *Abraham Lincoln* PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *first* day of *July* in the YEAR OF OUR LORD one thousand eight hundred and *sixtyone* and of the Independence of the United States the *eighty fifth*

BY THE PRESIDENT:

*Abraham Lincoln*

By *W. L. Stoddard* Sec'y.

*W. L. Stoddard* Recorder of the General Land Office.



RECORDED, Vol. *5.* Page *397.* Examined

Filed for record on the 10 day of Nov A.D. 1860 at 2:30 o'clock P.M.

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Book-1871-Page 237

St. Cloud Teacher's College and has been teaching for many years, the last ten years at least in the Minneapolis Public Schools. Her daughter is married to Dr. Johan Katze, a dentist in South Africa, and they have two children.

- Anna Wille, the third daughter of Bertha Lucinda and Fred Wille, is unmarried and lives at the Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wisconsin, where she helps care for retarded individuals, the institution having some 400 inmates.
- The next child born of Amelia and Herman Sandhoff was H. Frantz, born April 1867. He became a blacksmith and had a shop on the farm. The shop still stands. He died June 19, 1919 from a bee sting. He was unmarried.
- Edward Benjamin was the next born of Amelia and Herman Sandhoff on February 13, 1869. He is living (1955) at the age of 86 in the home which he moved from his father's homestead. With him is his sister, Ida Julia Sandhoff and a niece, Ida Koehne. He is very active physically and mentally. The only defect being a blinded eye caused from an accident. He saws wood with a gasoline motored saw, cuts trees by hand, shovels walks and keep his yard looking like a park. He was town constable for about 35 years and did a wonderful job, taking people to task for misdemeanors and never once hesitated in doing his duty. Edward is deeply religious and righteous. He has a deep seated respect for his heritage and remembers far back into his childhood. He gives a very coherent account of pioneer life and of his family. He is indeed an individual to be admired. Accompanying photos are shown of Edward and clippings from the "Robbinsdale Post" tell of his childhood and work, and will give a more accurate description of him than can be given here.
- Amelia was the next born of Herman and Emelia, on November 26, 1871. She married Henry Koehne October 12, 1905, having one daughter, Ida. Amelia died January 3, 1917. The couple lived in the house which was built by Ferdinand (who was killed by lightning) right next to Edward Sandhoff. The father, Henry Koehne, took care of his daughter Ida after his wife's death and when he died a few years later, Ida was taken in by Edward Sandhoff where she has been since for about 35 years. She has been a wonderful companion for her Uncle Edward and Aunt Ida and must be a great comfort to them in their old age. Ida Koehne graduated from St. Cloud Teacher's College and the Northwestern Bible School, has been Sunday School Superintendent of the Mt. Olivet (formerly Immanuel) Lutheran Church for 11 years and has been of invaluable assistance in getting material for this family history.
- Augusta Maria Fredericka, the next child of Herman and Emelia, was born July 3, 1875 and married Paul Hartwig, February 22, 1898. Two daughters were born of this union:
  - Augusta Hartwig, who died October 1930 at Phoenix,

Arizona of tuberculosis. She was talented in sculpturing, painting and needlework. She had a business career.

- Elsie, who married L. D. Miner. She is a business woman, a pianist and pipe organ player. She sings in the choir and is treasurer of the Congregational Church of Phoenix, Arizona.
- Ida Julia Rosa was the next child born of Herman and Amelia, on May 15, 1877. She lives on the old farm of Charles Sandhoff with her brother Edward. She is very talented. Even at her age now (1955), she does beautiful pastel painting illustrating hymns and biblical expressions. She raised beautiful roses, of such renown that people came from afar to see them. Some pictures accompany this story showing her standing by her roses which were planted by the porch. They are now winter killed or worn out as she has had them over a period of years. Not only was she an artist, but a musician. She proudly played the organ at the church services (Immanuel) Lutheran Church on the Rockford Road. Her sister, Augusta, had formerly been organist until her marriage and then was replaced by her sister, Ida, at the age of 11 and was organist for 23 years.

The Sandhoffs were one of the ten members of the little Lutheran organization who built the church in 1880. The land for the cemetery was purchased by the Sandhoffs and given to the cemetery which surrounds the church. Christopher, the father of the Sandhoffs was first to be buried in this cemetery. The Mt. Olivet now owns the land on which it stands including the cemetery. They have purchased (1954) the land owned and lived on by August Sandhoff, the cousin who married Christopher's daughter, Wilhemina, which is just across from the cemetery.

Herman Sandhoff had been on the Town Board as Supervisor in 1863 and 1867 but served many times after those dates. The information as to exact dates has not been ascertained by the writer but it is known as a fact. He was a very just and patriotic citizen, one of whom Plymouth Township should be seemingly proud. He died March 23, 1911, and his wife, Amelia, equally as well known as Herman died December 21, 1908 and both were laid to rest in their beloved little Lutheran Cemetery near the church they loved on the Rockford Road.

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Material for this story contributed by Edward and Ida Sandhoff in 1955, gathered together by Ida Koehne and the attempt at writing by Mrs. Peter M. Schmitz. All information concerning legal description for preemptions, homesteading and purchase (Wm. and Christina Smith) has been obtained from the Register of Deeds Office, Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, from the First Book of Abstracts. This information is authentic regardless of opinion. The rest of the land transactions, etc. has not been verified legally but by members of the Sandhoff family themselves.

# **PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# **OPEN HOUSE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1993**  
**1:00 - 4:00 PM**



## **PROGRAM**

**Archeology**  
***"Bringing the Past to the Present"***

**SCHEDULE:** 1:45 - Business Meeting  
2:00 - Program

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

**Come and listen to Dr. Richard Poor of the University of Minnesota, who is also a member of our historical society, talk about archeology and how they protect the historical artifacts and yet are *"Bringing the Past to the Present."***

**MUSEUM OPEN -- REFRESHMENTS SERVED**