



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1994

VOLUME XII

NUMBER 3

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH

On Sunday, December 4th from 2-5 pm, the Plymouth Historical Society and the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department are co-sponsoring the Seventh Annual "OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS IN PLYMOUTH". The purpose of the event is to provide some old fashioned Christmas spirit and activities for families in Plymouth. Children can visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be right there to help the Elves hand out candy canes. A sleigh/hay ride pulled by Belgian horses with bells jingling will be giving rides (\$1.00 per person), hot cider and cookies will be provided, storyteller, carollers and making Christmas decorations are other activities for the children.

On Saturday, December 3th, starting at 9 am, we will decorate the two old fashioned Christmas trees and building. We are looking for help in decorating and bringing items that could be borrowed for the day to add some more old fashioned Christmas spirit.

They can be items as follows:

- Old fashioned antique ornaments
- Old fashioned toys to put under the tree
- Poinsettias

If you can help or bring decorations, please call Myrtle Eckes, 545-6168 or Gary Schiebe, 473-4889.

Attached is a flyer describing the event so bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and kids ages 9 months to 90 years young. We had a great time last year and this year it will be even better.

We thought you might be interested in some of the specific volunteers and businesses involved to help the Plymouth Park & Recreation Department and the Plymouth Historical Society put on this event.

Santa
Phil Collins
Mrs. Claus
Mable Swanson
Elves
Girl Scout Troop
Storyteller
Bob Gasch
Singers
Armstrong Chamber Singers
Strolling Musicians
Recorder Ensemble (Mike Anderson)
Flute Trio (Sandy Wronski)
Hay Ride
Bunker Hill Stables
Wreaths, Trees & Garland
Dundee Nursery
Candy Canes
Tad Jude
Cider
New Market and Cub
Cookies
Plymouth Historical Society



MUSEUM DONATIONS

- Singer Sewing Machine Donated by: Delores Engman
- Carpet Runner Donated by: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
- Carpet Laying and Sewing Donated by: Mark Markkala

To help the Plymouth Historical Society ensure donations are properly credited, we ask the donor to identify the name of the item, description, who used it, description of use, date or era. Sign a Gift Agreement Form and have it signed by a member of the Board of Directors. Each donor will receive a copy of the donor form as an acknowledgement of receipt. If you have donated any item within the last six months and have not signed an agreement form, please contact a member of the Board of Directors so we can update our records.

Thank you!



- Donation of picture framing services for numerous unframed pictures at the Society.
- An antique bedroom dresser and chest of drawers.



News Worthy Notes

- The History Festival and Antique Auto Show on September 18th was a big success. There has been a meeting with the City of Plymouth and Car Club and more to come on planning for next year's event.
- On Sunday, October 9th at the 8:30 service, a presentation of the First Plymouth Historical Site Plaque was made to the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. The congregation was very pleased with the plaque which is now mounted on the Mount Olivet Chapel. A word of thanks to Ben Broman who did the woodworking, painting, mounting and overall coordination and Wes Hansen who carved the plaque.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following is the present Board of Directors:

Name	Telephone	Term
Sharon Anderson	475-1974	1994-1997
Ben G. Broman	559-5721	1994-1997
Alberta Casey	559-9366	1993-1996
Vern Doseth	559-3777	1992-1995
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Harvey Schiebe	545-6127	1993-1996
Adeline Schmidt	559-2459	1994-1997
Mable Swanson	545-7705	1994-1997

OFFICERS

The following are the present officers:

President	Gary Schiebe	473-4889
Vice President	Ben G. Broman	559-5721
Secretary	Mable Swanson	545-7705
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 on file.

By coincidence, the history of William and Christina Smith was obtained from Edward Sandhoff. It was discovered by the writer that Herman Sandhoff's wife, Amelia, was a daughter of these two territorial pioneers who really came to America at an early date.

William Smith was born October 10, 1810 in Germany, probably near where he made his home after marriage in Furstenthun, Schwarzburgh, Turingen, Weimer, Saxony, Germany, for that is where his daughter Amelia was born. If he wasn't born there, it must have been in that vicinity. Nothing is known of his parents however, quite a bit has been recorded about his wife, Christina.

The mother, Christina or "Crystal" as she was sometimes called, was born to Martin Schiller and his wife on April 9, 1813. She had at least one brother as none others was mentioned. The father, Martin, was a burgomaster, a sort of mayor or an official, and was considered very wealthy. The terms of wealth in 1813 were considerably different from the terms of being wealthy now in 1955. However, he gave his daughter, Christina, \$2,000 for her marriage to William Smith, which must have been at least 11 or 12 years before Amelia Smith's birth in 1845, as she had a sister, Augusta, who was 10 years old when William and Christina came to America.

Robert Frederick Schiller, the brother of Christina and the son of Martin Schiller, was a musician, a concert violinist and a composer. He married at an early age, had a family of six when he contracted a severe cold and died at the age of 40. It must have been a sad blow to the parents of Martin and his wife to have lost a son and to have their daughter, Christina, go to America. However, William and Christina oddly enough left their one year old daughter, Augusta, with her parents when they left for America in 1846. The daughter, Amelia, was born November 9, 1845 and in March of 1846 departed with two sons, Charles and Henry Magnus and their infant daughter, Amelia, arriving in Fort Wayne, Indiana where they lived for some time. At Fort Wayne, two children were born, Selma Elizabeth, on October 9 and a son, William, who died in infancy.

Upon hearing of the migration to Minnesota, they started and arrived in 1854. William was a blacksmith, a cabinet maker and a wheel-wright and probably carried on his trade wherever he settled as that type of work was greatly needed. They had plenty of cash evidently as they,



William & Christine Smith

instead of pre-empting land, purchased outright for cash. St. Anthony was the seat of the government office to which people had to apply for land. Their choice was on the west shore of Medicine Lake, a very lovely spot indeed and today in 1955 is very valuable. They chose the following and paid cash for it: Lot #1, 61.75 acres, the SW 1/4 of NW1/4, 40 acres and the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, 40 acres. Lot #2 consisting of 34.60 acres was homesteaded. These homesteaded areas were very few and far between at that period as most of the land was pre-empted, which amounts to almost the same thing. This land transaction took place April 5, 1856, in Plymouth Township, Hennepin County, Section 26.

William, no doubt built his log home on the homesteaded lot as that was practically compulsory to hold the land. He also built as a matter of course his blacksmith shop where he could carry on his various trades. Settlers depended very greatly on these blacksmiths and wheelwrights in order to clear land and build their machinery or implements with which to work. A son, George, was born on this location. The

father evidently being very religious had to baptize the child in the creek as missionaries came so seldom. However, the father must have had his conscience bother him because the child was baptized in the proper manner by a missionary when he came on an infrequent visit.

All the Smith children were musically inclined. They either played musical instruments or sang well. The boys especially played instruments, most likely the violin and maybe the accordion or harmonica. The boys played at dances or frolics. The daughter, Amelia, was musically inclined as she saw to it that her daughters were given opportunity to play the organ.

Christina or "Crystal" as she was sometimes called was well educated, loved music and was a wonderful cook and baker. She must have been equally proficient in helping out neighbors at childbirth, sickness and in death. A neighbor, Mrs. Jonas Howe who had been brought up in Massachusetts and came to Minnesota at about the same time as the Smiths, evidently received some attention from Christina as in the Howe Memoirs it states that the neighbors helped her to do things to which she was not accustomed. They were good neighbors regardless of language difficulties. An example of how good they were can be found in the following event.

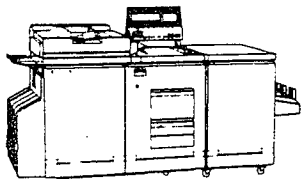
Charles, the son of William and Christina, enlisted in the United States Army as a soldier in the Civil War. He was mustered in on August 14, 1862 at Fort Hutchinson, Minnesota. His sister, Amelia, married Herman Sandhoff on February 26, 1863. Charles got a furlough for this important event and got home in time for the wedding. Of course it was imperative that he return, and on his way back to Fort Hutchinson, Watertown, Minnesota, showing evidence that he must have been walking, he contracted pneumonia and died. He was brought home to be buried on the farm and as no minister was available, Jonas Howe, their neighbor, officiated at the funeral. This shows neighborliness. The evidence of this happening was in the Howe Memoirs, written by Mrs. Carpenter, Jonas Howe's daughter.

William Smith died June 12, 1872. His wife, Christina, died in 1899. They and their son, Charles, were buried on the farm as the little Lutheran Cemetery on the Rockford Road was not opened until 1871. The parents and Charles were reinterred and placed in the cemetery later. The daughter, Amelia Smith Sandhoff, died December 21, 1908. The son, George, who was born on the homestead, inherited the farm after his mother's death and lived there until it was sold. He moved away to Minneapolis.

Do you need copies?

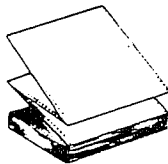
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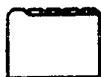


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OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

in

PLYMOUTH

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 4th

2:00 - 5:00 PM

Plymouth Historical Society Building
Plymouth Creek Park - 3605 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN

- ✦ Visit with Santa
- ✦ Old Fashioned Sleigh-Hay Ride
- ✦ Hot cider and Cookies
- ✦ See Old Fashioned Christmas Trees
- ✦ Make Christmas Decorations
- ✦ Storyteller
- ✦ Carolers



Co-Sponsored by Plymouth Historical Society
and Plymouth Park & Recreation Department