

Lake Country Legends

Newsletter of the Lake Country Scenic Byway

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EXPLORE THE ROAD TO ITASCA...AND BEYOND

Hubbard County Old Settlers Association formed

The organizational meeting of the Hubbard County Old Settlers Association was held on a hot, sunny day on the sloping banks of Long Lake. The date was the first Saturday of July in 1900. F.C. Rice was chosen to be the presiding officer of the day and S.L. Doran, secretary. A committee was appointed to consider the articles of organization and the election of officers. The committee was made up of S.L. Doran, S.S. McKinley, Richard Carter, Asher Blunt and H.R. Cobb. They then adjourned for dinner which was held in picnic fashion, in a go-as-you-please, go-where-you-please way.

Articles of organization provided for the name to be "THE



By Frank Mitchell, Byway Historian

HUBBARD COUNTY OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION" with an annual meeting to be held each year in July. The board of directors and officers were all settlers who came to the Shell Prairies prior to August 1, 1891. (The Shell Prairie, or sometimes referred to as the Second Prairie, was located south and west of Park Rapids. Hubbard, or the First Prairie, was located southeast of Park Rapids). They were required to sign the constitution and pay an annual fee of 25 cents. The officers elected were F.C. Rice, presidents, E.J. Moore, E.R. Hinds and S.M. Blood, vice president. H.R. Cobb was secretary and treasurer.

The Association took in members, all old settlers on the Shell Prairies living in Wadena, Becker and

Hubbard Counties. S.S. McKinley of Osage complimented the ladies for their share in the trials of pioneer life and the sacrifices of the early settlers. H.R. Cobb spoke as the representative of the press, having established the Enterprise in July 1882. F.C. Rice stated that when he first came to the Second Prairie in 1881 there were only six settlers there. Among them were S.M. Blood, M. Fox, A.E. Dickerson, J.C. Rue and Robert Schields. He said there was only one log house built where Main Street in Park Rapids is now. They had to go to Shell City to get the mail once a week. The population had multiplied ten times since Hubbard County was organized. He spoke of the marvelous growth of Hubbard County and America during the last twenty years. And,

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 4, 2008
Monthly meeting at Grace Community Church, Osage, 8:30 am-11:30 am

that America had become a mighty force among the nations of the earth. Those old settlers were heroes for "peace hath its victories as well as war."

Honorable E.J. Moore asked to be excused because he was in ill health. Mr. Moore was one of the earliest settlers on the Third Prairie, which was located west of Osage. A.S. Leland spoke of the abundance of wood and water. He gave credit to the brain and brawn of the pioneers for the progress in the development of Hubbard County.

Henry Witter gave an account of the hard-

(Continued on back)



Hubbard County Old Settlers Association (continued)

ships his family endured when they came from Wadena and settled on the Third Prairie in Becker County. S.M. Blood came in June of 1879 and settled on the Second Prairie. S.L. Doran said he came nineteen years ago and settled near Shell City.

J.Y. Smith said he came eleven years ago from Verndale and settled in the town of Streator on the Crow Wing. He said he got his first job in February and was paid a two-dollar greenback, the first money he had earned all winter. Mrs. Way of Oak Lake

Township was introduced as the oldest settler in Becker County. Her husband took up the first claim in that county in 1865.

The enrollment of the day showed 30 of the early settlers had joined the Association. The first annual meeting of

the "OLD SETTLERS" was considered a success and was enjoyed by all.

I don't know when the Association disbanded, but I remember going to a meeting in Lake George in the '30s since my dad was one of the old settlers in Hubbard County.

2008 grant application submitted

At the March meeting of the Lake Country Scenic Byway Association, the group decided to proceed with an application for the 2008 Scenic Byways grants. The National Scenic Byways Program solicits project applications, with awarded projects receiving 80 percent of the cost covered by the grant.

The application deadline was March 21.

The LCSB Association's proposed grant project is an Interpretive Plan, Phase III, calling for a consulting firm to develop an Interpretive Plan with a storyline/ theme for the Byway that would be interpreted through five to eight sign faces along the Byway. As

well, a historical sign face would be developed for a site in Height O' Land Township.

As part of the Interpretation, the identified sites would be included on a Byway map so that visitors would look for the information while traveling the byway. Other forms of media would be considered for interpretation of the

sites to visitors along the byway.

The Lake Country Scenic Byway Association has nearly completed their previous grant project. In all, 14 Community Entrance Signs were placed along the byway. The signs were constructed of native materials.

Why become a member of the Lake Country Scenic Byway Association?

"I'm a member of the Lake Country Scenic Byway because I enjoy the people I meet with each month. I have an interest in history - looking up interesting things from years ago and reporting on them. I also try to do something for the community by improving the Byway.

Frank Mitchell

Membership Levels

- 88 Mile Benefactor\$88/year
- Scenic Sponsor\$25/year
- Friend\$10/year
- Ambassador\$5/year

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: Lake Country Scenic Byway Association
PO Box 249, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Benefits of Membership

- Newsletter subscription
- E-mail announcements
- Opportunity to attend monthly meetings
- Input in key Byway Association issues
- Stakeholder in sustainability of the Byway
- Opportunity to attend Annual banquet and State Byway meeting
- Stay abreast of latest Byway developments