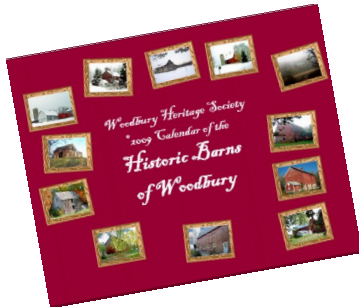


# Heritage Happenings



Woodbury Heritage Society

Volume 25 No. 3 Autumn 2008



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## Mark your calendars...

- **Dedication** of Bernice Bielenberg Memorial Butterfly Garden on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 2:00 pm
- **Second Annual Appraisal Fair** Sunday, October 5, 2008 at Central Park. Members—2 pm, Public 3—5 pm

## Wayne Shilling Heads Burr Oak Project

Action by the Heritage Society Board Preserves Important Piece of History



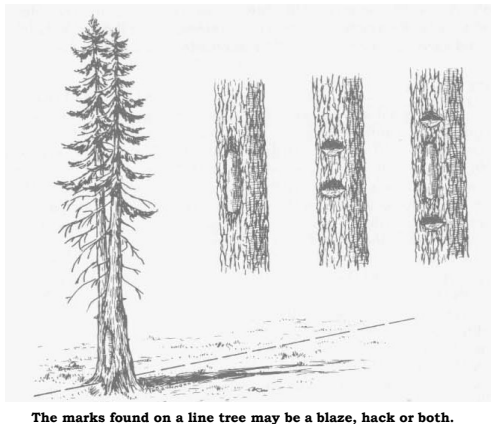
This tree may look like one of the ugliest trees ever. However, as the Woodbury Bulletin observed in its November 16, 2005 edition, "this tree has served as an important marker to Woodbury's first residents." The story on the following pages chronicles the efforts of the Woodbury Heritage Society to keep its importance to our city alive. (2005 Photo through the courtesy of the Woodbury Bulletin)





A significantly historical tree was lost to progress in the spring of 2007. A Burr Oak that was identified in 1847 as a "line tree" or a connection to some natural object as a fixed point for laying out the mile section lines and subsequent land division points for the community of Woodbury. That tree was located on the east side of Radio Drive approximately ½ mile north of Bailey Road. Radio Drive was upgraded to a four lane divided highway and as a result the tree had to go.

This tree was marked in 1847 as a bearing tree with "blaze marks" almost a "tree brand" with numbers. Records provided from Washington Co. transportation indicate it was a 12" tree already in 1847. Possibly this burr oak was already 20-30



The marks found on a line tree may be a blaze, hack or both.

years old. According to Walden Run "Blazes are typically made with an axe, stripping away just enough wood to leave a permanent scar without killing the tree. If the trees are still there they should be visible, usually appearing as an oval scar about 4-5 feet above ground". To the disappointment of many, the blaze on this tree had been taken over by a hollow space and no blaze was to be found.

After the tree was cut down in the spring of '07, the trunk was taken to Washington County Public Works



garage near Stillwater. Slices 8" thick were cut through this huge (50 inch diameter log. To the dismay of

dendrochronologists (people who study the science of tree-ring dating) the core was hollow thus preventing accurate estimation of the age of the tree.

The sample is now being preserved by a carpenter, Gaylen Schilling, in Somerset Wisconsin.



Upon its return to Woodbury, this slice of history will be on display at an undetermined location. The WHS Board is entertaining suggestions as to which location would most suitable. Several options thus far include Central Park or the Heritage House as

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President -John Seemann  
Vice President-Bud Urtel  
Secretary-Ruth Duncan  
Treasurer-Richard Pribnow

Special thanks to Kathryn Ho for proofreading the *Heritage Happenings*. It is with her help that this issue is minus many errors.

*Heritage Happenings* is edited and published by Bill Schrankler. Contributions from members and other interested parties are welcomed. Contact Bill at 651.738.1836 or email: [bschrankler@comcast.net](mailto:bschrankler@comcast.net). Email or snail mail is preferred in the interest of accuracy.  
6821 Lydia Lane  
Woodbury, MN 55125



Wayne Shilling at the future location of the bench and Burr Oak marker plaque



possible venues.

The location of the tree as it grew and lived will be marked by a bench and a plaque. Thanks to Vonnice Stutzman and Bernice Bielenberg of the Heritage Society as well as John Ranum of the Washington County Public Works for making this "rescue" of the burr oak marker tree.

*Editors note: Wayne Schilling is a fifth generation farmer in Woodbury and member of the Heritage Society Board. A special thanks to Wayne for contributing this article and several of the photos.*

## **Annual Report for 2007-2008 of the Woodbury Heritage Society**



Submitted by Ruth  
Duncan, Secretary  
September 1, 2008

### Annual Meeting 2007

The annual Members Meeting on April 22, 2007, was held in the Valley Creek Room at Woodbury Central Park. It was an Antiques appraisal event and the Midtown Antiques of Stillwater were the appraisers. There were close to 200 people attending, and it was "standing room only". There was a brief board meeting and election of new board members. Earl Rath was elected for a two (2) year term; Ruth Duncan, Bill Schrankler, Ken Wolterstorff, and Don Lindeman were each elected for a three (3) year term. Needless to say, the board was overwhelmed with the large attendance of this meeting, due to the Antiques appraisal, therefore there were numerous suggestions made for the next Annual Members Meeting.

### July 5, 2007

The Woodbury Heritage Society lost one of their beloved founders, Bernice Rath Bielenberg. Bernice was actively working on all of the family histories and artifacts that were being registered in the Heritage office. She devoted many hours of her time and a lot of herself to the Heritage Society. People came from all over the United States for assistance with their family history, and Bernice was always willing to accommodate them. The Heritage Society received many memorials in remembrance of Bernice, because she had touched them in some

kind way, assisting them to locate or find their ancestors. We owe much of the Heritage Society success to Bernice and all of the originating founders.

### July 8, 2007

Kathryn Ho organized a Summer Garden Tour of the Heritage House and gardens on Sunday, July 8, 2007. This would be one of eight gardens on the tour, as a fundraiser for the South Washington County Youth Services Bureau. The tickets were sold for \$10.00 - \$15.00 per person and there were about 180 guests in attendance. Of course, the Woodbury Heritage House garden tour was an enhancement when the visitors found that the Heritage House was "Open" to tour also.

### October 18, 2007

The members meeting was held at the Jim and Stephanie Kivel home on County Road 19, in Woodbury. This event featured tours of their family home and movies of the home being moved to this location. This home once stood on the Oehlke farm in Woodbury, and it was scheduled to be relocated or demolished, so the Kivel family decided to purchase it and move it to their property. This event was an RSVP event for Members only, and was very successful. There were refreshments served and many stories were exchanged by young and old with memories of being in this home at its original location.

### October 27, 2007

For the Woodbury City Hall dedication and 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday party Celebration, the City Hall committee requested that we have the Heritage Society Office open to visitors. The board members had made up a Timeline and had those available along with answering questions that anyone may have had concerning the history of Woodbury. The event was a huge success and the visitors were all very impressed.

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January 6, 2008 - Members Holiday Party

The members Holiday Party was held on January 6, 2008, at 12:00 noon with a "Pot Luck" luncheon at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Woodbury. Invitations were sent to all members and our response was noted to be the largest Holiday Party ever! And it was overheard that there was enough food for an "Army"! Our guest speaker was Miss Lisa Clinton, a Girl Scout working for her Gold Award, who did a presentation on the roads of Woodbury and their origins. The members had quite the time remembering those original names and asking questions concerning what they had been called many years previous, and some of the members had their own theories as to how those roads got their names.

Heritage Society Office - City Hall

The Heritage Society Office was re-opened in October in time for the City Hall 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. The city moved all of the artifacts and file cabinets etc. back to the Heritage Society room, and the board members attempted to identify where everything should be placed. Dick Rath has volunteered to take care of the office when there are calls from members, or others looking for information concerning ancestors or other Woodbury history.

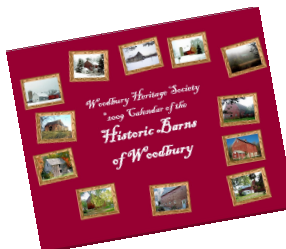
The board meetings were resumed back at City Hall by October 4, 2007, in the Poplar Conference Room and have continued to be in that conference room on the first Thursday of every month.

Heritage House and Gardens

In April the board members began cleaning and polishing the Heritage House for the Open House season. beginning June 5, 2007. There was also a construction project started by the city and county that was interfering with some of the Sundays of our "Open House" on Lake Road and Radio Drive. The Open House season was to be held on the second and fourth Sundays of every month starting in June through September of 2007. However, because of the construction constraints it was not a very successful year for the Heritage House season. By August the board had made the decision not to have any open house Sundays for the rest of the season.

The Middleton Elementary School students made visits on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 11:30 am. Kathryn Ho Ken Wolterstorff, Bud Urtel, Don Lindeman, Earl Rath, and Ruth Duncan, volunteered to host this event, and as usual, the students were very excited to come and learn about the "good old days".

As always, there are the usual repairs that need to be done to the Heritage House, and we are always looking for volunteers, so if you can help with any of those repairs, or if you have any ideas on how to make some of those repairs, please give us a call at the Heritage Office.

Historic Barn Calendar

Bill Schrankler has chosen a committee to assist him with the barn calendars for decisions on the barn pictures and obtaining histories of the farms and families associated with the barns. The board has chosen to sell the 2009

calendars as a fundraiser for the Heritage Society expenses.

Annual Members Meeting of 2008

The Annual Members Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2008, at Salem Lutheran Church in Woodbury. There was a short business meeting addressed by the president, John Seemann, however, there was no treasurer's report and there was not a secretaries Annual Report for the year of 2007 - 2008. The treasurer's report was filed in the last Members Newsletter (Heritage Happenings). The guest speaker was Mr. Tom Wood who gave a presentation of Mile Road (south of Bailey road) Tom explained the story of his adventures of walking the road every day for a year and taking his camera along for expressing the entertainment that went along with his walk. Tom studied the plant life, the seasons, the changes in the road, and the population of the people and animals. And the best part was he was able to share this with us through a digital camera. He has a website that he encourages us to look at, and invited us to share our opinions at, [www.informationhighwaytohell.com](http://www.informationhighwaytohell.com). We also had a presentation by Emily Wolterstorff of notebooks, scrapbooks, of old 4H history as Emily was looking for someone to volunteer to help her document this history.

John Seemann requested that the members please volunteer for positions for work that needed to be done for the WHS, and to let him or someone on the board know if they have some time for different projects. The meeting was fun and very interesting, but, the evening was all too short. The Girl Scouts served refreshments, and did the kitchen clean up.

Please contact the Heritage Office if you have any questions at 651.714.3564.