



HERITAGE GROUP NORTH

HGN is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to preserving community history and identity through various projects, programs, and displays. Among HGN's most visible works are the restored railroad depot, the caboose, the historic fire-engine display, and HGN's walking tours. If you enjoy history and are supportive of community development, please consider donating or joining HGN. The modest dues are \$10 a year for general membership. HGN also seeks volunteers.

Heritage Group North, P.O. Box 266, Pine River, MN 56474

PH 320-492-1357

January 2019

Annette Houg: Editor

2018 was a BUSY year for Heritage Group North!

In July we celebrated the Spurrier Hotel



In September we hosted “Tea at the Station” with the theme “HATS”



Our last event of the year: December 9th we enjoyed a day of movies, popcorn and visiting. The theme for the Pine River Parade of Lights was Grumpy Old Men and Women. In the depot window you could see the characters from that movie all dressed up and ice fishing. Indoors we had seven trees decorated; what fun!



2019 is shaping up to be another exciting, event filled year!

We are excited to announce the addition of a new Heritage Group North Board of Directors member: Harriet Travis. We look forward to Harriet's experience and local history knowledge as we work to share history with a growing audience and community support.

Come see us at the Pine River Historical Depot!

Open this summer on these dates:

June 8, 22, 29, July 13, 27, Aug 10, 24 and Sept 7

10 a.m. - 2.p.m.

Watch for our special events and additional opening dates!

For a personal or group tour of the depot
contact Denny Houg at 320-492-1357
or email heritagegroupnorth@yahoo.com

Heritage Group North event being planned for July 25, 2019

After the success of the Spurrier Hotel Remembered event last year, we made the decision to continue with annually recognizing other Pine River history subjects; thus the theme title for future events, "Pine River Lost". This year's "Pine River Lost" event will be "The Pine River Creamery, a tribute to Pine River's dairy industry".

To make this the best possible event and to include as much area history as possible, we are asking for your help. Any historical creamery items, milk can numbers, butter fat slips, milk check slips or a menu from a customer appreciation lunch are a few items we would love to display. Anything else anyone has connected to the early years of the Pine River dairy industry or written stories would be welcomed also. There are a couple ways of participating; by gifting items directly to Heritage Group North or by loaning items at the time of the event.

Please email: heritagegroupnorth@yahoo.com or contact Bev Kramp 218-587-4899



We will also have the annual "Tea at the Station" September 5, 2019
and participate in the Parade of Lights in December
Watch our Facebook page and Pine River Chamber website for updates

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

PINE RIVER DEPOT – EXCERPTS FROM PINE RIVER JOURNAL ARTICLE

May 12, 1994, written by BILL BURNSON

“First on the northbound line was the Minnesota Logging Railroad in 1889. It was headed for the great Leech Lake timber stands via North Gull Lake, Gilpatric (now Lake Margaret) and Spider Lake west of Pine River. But the great Spider Lake bogs and marshes were too large a barrier. In 1892 the MLRY became a part of the Brainerd and Northern and headed northward from the Hubert station anchor point. By the end of 1894 it had reached a temporary terminus at Lothrop just north of Ten Mile Lake, which suddenly became a 700 population rails and boom town but retrogressed to a ghost town when the railroad moved on to Walker in 1896.

By 1898 the BM&N was in Bemidji and in 1908 destiny was fulfilled when the line reached the timber-rich Rainy Lake area and International Falls. But now it had a new name, Minnesota and International, for in 1900 the Northern Pacific had financed the purchase of the old Brainerd and Northern and renamed it. It operated independently as the popularly known M&I until 1941 when it was taken over and operated by Northern Pacific. In 1970 it became Burlington Northern.

When the first train pulled into what is now Pine River in 1894 there had to be a station master and depot ready and waiting. That man was a gent name E.W.Flucke. The depot which housed his office and equipment was a Barclay Ranch outbuilding adjacent to the track. Our study indicates that, following several rough changes in that first crude station house, the first of several sections in what in now Pine River’s endangered depot was built in 1898. By 1901 a new waiting room and open air porch had been added. Since then it has been remodeled several times to the point where it is today. Our personal recollection dating back to 1927, has been that the railroads always had a building maintenance crew which gave regular and quality care to the Pine River structure over the years.

So what does the future hold for this aged, lonesome, historic treasure, the last remaining corporeal remnant of those days of railroad glory? They say it must be moved or destroyed, but a local poll would surely run 1,000 to 0 for saving it, for woe be unto any sad case soul who dared vote nae. As the old saying has it, “The mills of the Gods grind exceedingly slow.” It can also be said that the mills of the highway department and various forms of government agencies can grind more slowly still. But as this is written the announcement comes that the legislature has just passed a \$3,000,000 appropriation for the Paul Bunyan Trail.

The old Pine River depot has stood firm, cooperative, yet defiant for almost a century. There may be time yet.”

And we thank you, Bill Burnson, for this and many writings. We are thankful that your last sentence rang true and that there was yet time that the depot could be saved!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE US TO RESEARCH AND SHARE IN THE FUTURE?

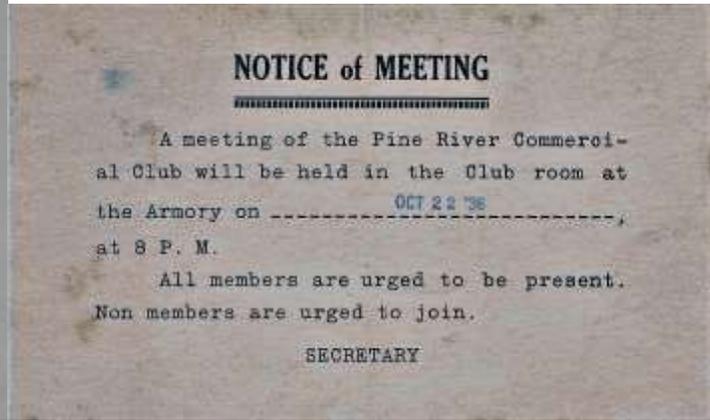
Here are some of the things we are working on:

Schools, Pine River and country, Churches
Resorts and tourism, Military, Fires, Tornadoes, Industry
Armory and other buildings by Pop Evans
Local organizations; Art Club, Civil Air Patrol, 20 Year Club, Eradelphian Club, 4 H

Twenty Year Club 1926



Pine River Commercial Club 1936



FUND RAISER ----- Pine Ridge Cemetery and Heritage Group North's Caboose

This July, we are teaming with Northern Bedrock who will help to make needed repairs both with Heritage Group North and the Pine Ridge Cemetery Board. We are raising money for Heritage Group North to assist with the restoration and undercarriage repair of the 1887 caboose. Also raising funds for Pine Ridge Cemetery restoration of headstones and grave sights. Look our fundraiser on our Facebook page or make your check payable to Northern Bedrock and mail it to Heritage Group North, P.O. Box 266, Pine River, MN 56474. Be sure to indicate which project you wish to support.



Information Request

Heritage Group North, Inc. is embarking on a new major project. It involves the Abe White Farmstead, which is located about one block from HGN's historic Pine River Railway Depot. Owners of this property, subsequent to Abe, include Lloyd Watters, James Filibeck, Fred Weis, and currently Paul and Lynn Hunt.

HGN has contracted MacDonald and Mach to research the history of this farmstead to see if it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The farmstead is comprised of a barn, farmhouse, smokehouse, and Monitor chicken house, all believed to be built around 1909. Abe White was the depot agent for many years, which provides a nice tie-in to the historic depot.

Paul and Lynn Hunt have offered to donate the barn, smokehouse and chicken house to HGN if it is designated eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and if the project will benefit the community and be a complimentary addition to a planned residential development under consideration by Hunt Utility Group.

HGN would appreciate any information about this farmstead and the Abe White family or any of its' past owners. If you have photographs, newspaper articles, personal knowledge, contact information for prior owners, or anecdotal stories, etc., please contact Alan Johnson, Project Director (218-851-4441), Dennis Houg, President (320-492-1357), or email Heritagegroupnorth@yahoo.com.

Many of you have already sent in your 2019 membership dues. We greatly appreciate your support and donations. It is you, our members and supporters that enable us to continue to protect and share local Pine River history!

HGN 2019 MEMBERSHIP

To join or renew your membership:

NAME(s) _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Annual Fee is \$10.00 per person, \$20 per family

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ ADDITIONAL DONATION (strictly optional) _____

Mail / Make Checks Payable To:
Heritage Group North, Inc.
PO Box 266
Pine River, MN 56474-0266

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may want to consider making charitable donations through a QCD.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

See your personal financial advisor or tax preparer for how you can donate to Heritage Group North!

Current Board Officers: President: Dennis Houg, Vice-President: Bev Kramp, Secretary: Pat Johnson, Treasurer: Agnes Farnam

Board of Directors: Annette Houg, Alan Johnson, Betty McAllister, Harriet Travis, Henry Kramp, Jerry Peterson, Joan Helms, Kasey Helms, Lynda Weiss