



HERITAGE GROUP NORTH

PO Box 266, Pine River, MN 56474

HERITAGEGROUPNORTH.ORG

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

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This is the first known photo of the Pine River Depot in 1902
Established in 1895, little is known of any earlier structures

There has been many articles and much history written about George and Amarilla Barclay.
This is a brief summary of his path and how it involved the railroad.

In 1873 Barclay purchased 840 acres of land along the Pine River and Dennis McNannie settled on 80 acres nearby. That same year, Barclay and McNannie constructed a trading post, south of what would become the town of Pine River. Two years after building this post, Barclay moved to a location where in

2022 stands the Essentia Clinic and the US Post office. This became the center of a new community, a store, a halfway house and a home. By 1890 the booming lumber business dictated railroads coming to the area. In 1894 when the B&NMRy surveyed for the railway, Barclay was ready. Just days after the survey, Barclay contracted to have his ranch-trading post, a hotel and store built. Thus, Pine River continued to boom and grow along the railroad for many years. Detailed history can be found on our website heritagegroupnorth.org and in the Logsleds to Snowmobiles book. This building was situated almost directly across what is now hwy 371 from depot building seen on the previous page. It burned down in 1915.



1873 – 2023

PINE RIVER

WILL BE 150 YEARS OLD!

2023 IS FAST APPROACHING !!! A small group of volunteers has been meeting to begin planning for a celebration. THE PLANNING COMMITTEE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOUR HELP IN ORGANIZING THE PINE RIVER 150 YEAR CELEBRATION (or sesquicentennial) Follow on Facebook, Pine River's 150th Anniversary, or the Pine River Chamber website. Contact:

Michaela Reed, Executive Director, Pine River Chamber of Commerce

Heritage Group North will be planning some events to coincide and celebrate 150 years of history.

We invite other organizations to take part in any way they can!



This is by no means a complete list. We realize many loved ones were lost and these are just a few of our memorable Pine River citizens

Charles Pelzl October 16, 1927 ~ February 7, 2021 (age 93)

Chuck started his medical practice in Pine River in 1956, when he moved north to join his former classmate Denny Loftstrom. He and Tina planned to stay "for a year or so" but Pine River quickly became home. He continued his practice for 41 years and left a legacy of making house calls, attending home deliveries, performing surgeries, along with all things family medicine. He also spent many years teaching and mentoring medical students as they came to the clinic through the RPAP program. Rumor has it that he was caught speeding between Pine River and the Brainerd Hospital so many times that the highway patrol eventually issued him a "Medical Emergency" license plate for his car.

Norma Coughlin November 7, 1926 ~ April 22, 2021 (age 94)

In 1949, she married George "Bud" Coughlin. They spent winters in Chicago, and summers in Pine River, running Kilworry Resort. In 1954, they moved to Minnesota to live year-round. She was the face of Kilworry for 71 seasons. She was affectionately known as the Queen of Kilworry by guests and family.

Jeanne Stranne 1939 - 2021 Jeanne married John Stranne on October 8, 1960. She worked at the Pine River Clinic for over 30 years. Jeanne liked to square dance, bowl, play cards and she was a great cook and baker known for her delicious fudge and caramel rolls.

Manford Gregory - 2021 He attended Mildred Public School and graduated from Pine River in 1945. He later attended the Dunwoody College of Technology. From 1945 to 1948, he served in the Navy as a radio operator stationed on the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. On April 11, 1953, he married Arlita Uhlig. The majority of his career was as an Independent Insurance agent in the Pine River area.

Marcella Fisher November 26, 1921 ~ August 26, 2021 (age 99) Marcella was an educator for 33 years, teaching in one-room schools in Dorset and Osakis. The remainder of her teaching years were with 1st through 4th grade students at Pine River and Backus Schools. She retired from teaching in 1982.

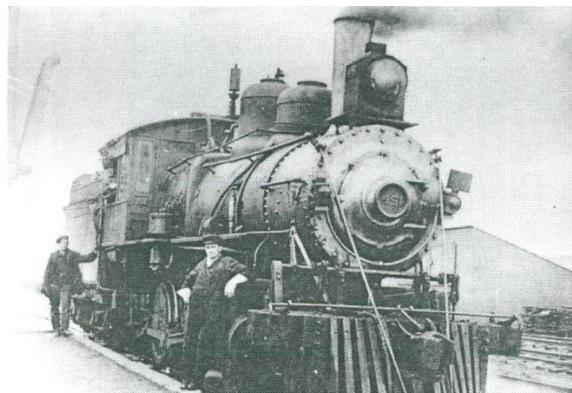
Clara Weiss June 11, 1926 ~ August 2, 2021 (age 95) In Clara's 95 years, she witnessed many great changes and lived most of her life in her beloved Pine River, MN. She had a great memory and recall of history and events of this area and was happy to share her knowledge.

Mody Gardiner October 24, 1921 ~ October 13, 2021 (age 99) Mody was a volunteer at the Pine River Information Center and was known for her knowledge of the history of her beloved hometown. In 2006 she was awarded Pine River Chamber's Distinguished Service Award. Mody's family was very important to her, and she greatly enjoyed socializing with them as well as her many friends.

Gertrude "Sis" Rishes April 6, 1920 ~ November 24, 2021 (age 101) In her retirement, Sis became an active member of the Pine River Methodist Church, Heritage Group North and Pine Ridge Cemetery Association (started by her own grandmother, Nora Kline). She worked on the election board for many years, was on the Pine River Housing Authority Board, and received a volunteer award from the Cass County Lutheran Social Services Senior Nutrition Program.

Carroll Stimson December 4, 1929 ~ November 24, 2021 (age 91) Carroll Laverne Stimson passed away at his home Wednesday evening, November 24, 2021 at the age of 91. Doing his own marketing, he produced the "Carroll's Wild Rice" label which is sold nationwide. As a custom processor for other growers, he was well known and respected among the wild rice Minnesota and Canadian community throughout his 50 years in the business.

Do you think these people arrived in Pine River by train? Chances are pretty good that they did! How ever they got to Pine River, we are grateful they were here!



1930s - M&I Locomotive 451 idles at the southeast end of the Pine River Depot station platform.



PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY -- You can do it !

Are your kids and grandkids interested in your family history? Maybe they aren't now, but someday they or one of their offspring will be. It will only take an old story or photo to get them started. For me the story in the back of my mind has always been that my grandfather was adopted in England and came here with his adoptive family in 1898. Why?, what happened? and who were his parents? Fortunately, I have had family members that did a lot of past research and have given me a head start.

You don't have to go all out or even put a lot of work into it to give your family the information they need to find their ancestors. Start with writing down the facts you know. It is amazing how a few dates and names can now assist in finding family members and valuable information now at our "fingertips" (ie. Internet).

Start with: your full name, birth date, place of birth, parent's names, their birth places, birth dates, etc. Any dates, places, marriage info that you have regarding grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, etc. is always helpful to find family connections. If this is as far as you take it, SHARE it with several family members. Maybe one of them will take it further and make entries in one of the available tools such as Ancestry.com.

Save the old photos! Write names and dates on the back of them. This sounds old fashioned, but it could be the only way of identifying them. If you are able, scan or have them scanned into an organized format. Then SHARE the files with whatever family members will safe guard it or have the interest to continue the process.

Family documents sitting around? Maybe it's your parent's marriage certificate or military documents from WWII. Scan them or take photos of them and SHARE an electronic file with family. A caution here though, I would suggest using a flash drive for sharing so you are not emailing or otherwise putting sensitive documents out for the taking.

Here are some things I have done and am still working on. Use what you can and help to keep your family history alive!

1. Over the years I gathered whatever old photos, books written by relatives, family tree work anyone has done, documents and memorabilia handed down through family members. That set of little ceramic cows that my grandfather brought with him from England at age seven has much more meaning when you connect the story with them.
2. I was fortunate that my mother lived to age 101 and was able to add names to photos and help with stories. Both she and my dad wrote some very informal stories about growing up. I hired someone to scan photos into files and then named the photo and

included birth and death dates. This took me a couple years, but it was well worth it. There is much more to do, as I started with the oldest photos from 1856 and worked my way up to 1970.

3. I am combining those scanned photos with a family tree document that myself and my cousin have been working on. Putting a photo next to an ancestor makes it interesting! Even more fun is to include a photo of that old tin cup Uncle John gave you! It may not survive but it can be remembered as a special family connection.
4. Old family tree documents that were printed out and given to me are being scanned for preservation along with memories various family members have written.

Start with the basics or dig in! Involve other family members and above all SHARE the information you have so that future generations can look back at their family history! There are many resources available and once you start you will find those that work for you and your needs. Here are just a few: ancestry.com, findagrave.com, public records such as property taxes, census records, legacy.com, obituaries and newspaper archives, historical society websites. For those that want to research without doing it through the internet: courthouses, churches, libraries, historical societies, etc.

You may be surprised how much information your local historical societies have besides the items they display. This is a great place for you to donate memorabilia and also to share your stories.

HAVE FUN LEARNING AND SHARING! - Annette Houg



TRIVIA:



COZY COTTAGE CAFÉ

Originally the building was the first Catholic Church in Pine River. Later used by Frank Marsh as a garage and as a filling station by Fred Moulster. In the 1920's Reba Abear opened the first CAFÉ there. Later owners/operators included: Earl and Winnifred Cromett, Mabel and Wesley Cromett, Della and Clyde Jones, Mel and Vivian Johnson, Kermit Torske, Leslie Sawyers, Harry Olson and Ed and Mary Switajewksi. That takes us to the 1970's. WHO has had the café since then? How fortunate for Pine River to still have this gem.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK OR HERITAGEGROUPNORTH.ORG

To view the Pine River – Backus yearbooks go to the “school history” page on our website and follow the link there



SUMMER 2022 AT THE DEPOT

Open to the public Friday afternoons in conjunction with the farmer’s market in front of the building. NEW this year, inside the depot we will have local crafters selling their wares. Make sure to stop in and visit our new depot history displays and check out the crafts every Friday !!

HGN 2022 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:
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