

# The Center Piece

## Special Interest Articles:

- From the Past.
- Veterans' Corner
- Winter 2009 Fundraising Event

## Individual Highlights:

- Giving
- Donating Items
- Recognition
- Board Members

## Brandon History Center

### History Center—Once a Dream ...

History is a record of past events, usually with an interpretation of the causes of those past events, together with an assessment of their importance. History is all about where we've been as a nation, state, or community and what we have done. It can provide us with a roadmap of where we should be going as well.

Some people are history buffs—some of us enjoy

being the investigators; others enjoy accumulating and recording history; yet most of us enjoy the historical finds of others.

Brandon has its own history unique to our community, with its beginning on the shores of Little Lake Chippewa.

Four individuals from the Brandon area (Bud Greenquist, Janet Nelson, Carole Severson, and Christella Korkowski) had

been gathering, recording, and preserving Brandon area history for many years but wondered what to do with all they had collected. The concept of the Brandon History Center was born.

On August 28, 2007, the Brandon History Center received its 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

It is located in the historic Brandon Auditorium at 105 Holmes Avenue.

### Once a Dream—Now a Reality

The Brandon History Center is full of displays depicting the histories of Brandon and Millerville.

The History Center Board meets on a monthly basis to carry out its mission.

It is the intent of the Board to have regular posted hours where the center will be open, as well as by appointment.

Although there are many documents and displays to enjoy, there are even more such documents and displays that need to be

preserved and displayed. If anyone wants to assist the Board in "going through the attic" and preparing the documents and artifacts for display, the Board will gladly accept your help!

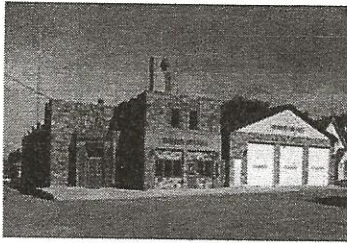
Displays are located throughout the Brandon Auditorium. You will find them as you enter the main doors; you will find them in the History Center welcome area; and you will be pleasantly surprised as you walk throughout the first level of the Auditorium. A

museum-like display area is located on the second floor in the old council room.

If individuals or organizations have old documents or memorabilia that would be appropriate for display, please let us know. We never know what items of interest we might find in our own attics!



## Become a Member of the Brandon History Center



*The historic Brandon Auditorium is the home of the Brandon History Center."*

There are several options available for becoming a member of the Brandon History Center.

Single life memberships are available for \$150.00.

Also you will be entitled to come and browse at no extra admission cost during the hours we are open.

One-year individual memberships are available for only \$10.00.

Why become a member?

The benefits are many. You can help preserve our local history through your membership. You will receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter and will be entitled to attend special History Center events at little or no extra cost to you.

The displays are plentiful and interesting. It will take many visits to take everything in!

One-year family memberships are available for \$15.00, which includes two adults and all family members under the age of 18 living at the same address.

Included is a membership form if you are interested in becoming a member.

## Gifts and Memorials

Since the Brandon History Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, donations and contributions qualify for tax deductions.

and \$500+ will be recognized by name on contributor plaques such as the one on the left which will be displayed in the History Center welcome area.

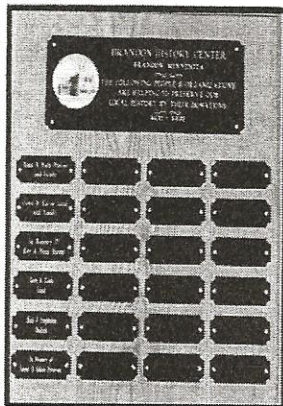
should arrive at a value; and upon receiving it from you, the History Board will provide you with a receipt for its value. When the item is put on display, your name will appear as being the one who donated it.

Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated. Gifts in memory of a loved one are a wonderful idea.

Another gift idea is the giving of memorabilia or historical artifacts that you may want displayed for everyone to enjoy.

Contributions from individuals or organizations ranging from \$100 to \$499

If you wish to donate an item to be displayed, you



## Winter Fundraising Event

In addition to memberships and memorials, the History Center will be raising additional funds to cover major costs for preservation and improvement of assets.

raising event at the Brandon Auditorium which has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 7, to begin raising such funds.

silent auction, and time for socializing with our neighbors and friends. The History Center display areas will be open for browsing at your leisure. A new display unique to the Brandon area will be unveiled at that time as well.

The History Center Board is planning a winter fund-

We anticipate that the evening will include good food, entertainment, a



## From the Past: Brandon's Roots

In 1859, a "major" road, joined by several ox cart trails, was built connecting the town of St. Cloud and Fort Abercrombie on the Red River. As a result of the Abercrombie Trail, as it was called, many stage stations were built along that route.

A station was built on the north shore of Little Chippewa Lake, named Chippewa Station, and our community was born!

The original station was owned and operated by Henry and Mary Gager,

who operated it under a mail delivery contract with the Burbank and Waite Stage Line.

In 1862, a Sioux uprising caused the settlers, including the Gagers, to leave the area. Soldiers took over and Chippewa Station became known as Fort Chippewa.

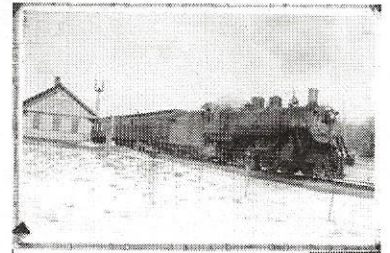
In 1866 a Swiss immigrant purchased the property, and he renamed the station Chippewa City.

In 1869 the station was renamed Brandon, which

became a major trading post in the area. The little town had a post office, school, hotel, blacksmith shop, general store, and several barns.

The St. Paul & Pacific Railroad (later known as the Great Northern Railroad) reached Brandon in the fall of 1879.

With the railroad connecting the community to the rest of the world, Brandon was then moved to its current location. In 1881 Brandon became legally incorporated.



Great Northern Railroad  
Steam Engine at the  
Brandon Depot

## Veterans' Corner

Future issues of this newsletter will feature veterans from our community and historical information regarding the Argonne Forest American Legion Post 278 of Brandon.

To set the stage for future articles, we contacted Bob Reynolds, Adjutant, Financial Officer, and Membership Chairman, for some general information regarding the Legion Club.

The Argonne Forest American Legion Post 278 of Brandon was chartered in 1941 in Brandon and

has a current membership of 71 paid members for the current year.

Officers are elected each year during their March meeting so that election results may be reported to the State and National Legion organizations by April 15.

Men and women who meet membership qualifications are welcome to join. Contact any legion member for details.

Officers for the current year are:

Robert T. Olson,  
Commander  
Lydon O. Sletto, First Vice  
Commander

John E. Lund, Second  
Vice Commander

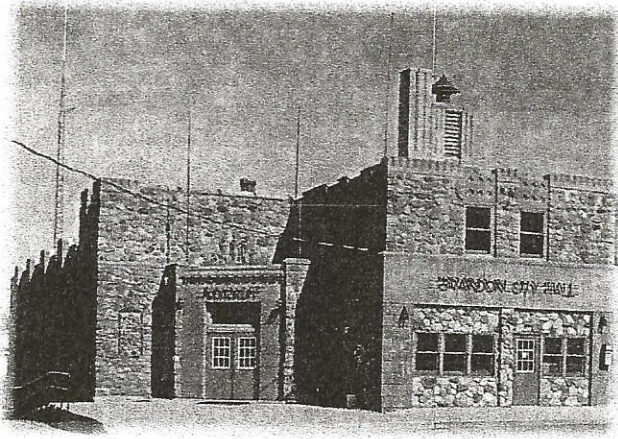
D. Robert Reynolds,  
Adjutant, Financial Officer,  
and Membership Chair.

Post 278 has an active Auxiliary. They work together, serving veterans, their families, and communities. Two notable projects are Boys' State and Girls' State.

*The four pillars of service under which the American Legion operates are:*

*Strong National Security  
Caring for Veterans  
Mentoring Youth  
Promoting Patriotism*





## Brandon History Center Membership Form

### Membership Options

- Individual one year membership per year \$ 10.00
- Family one year membership per year \$ 15.00  
Includes 2 adults and all family members under  
the age of 18 living at the same address.
- Single life membership \$ 150.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Gifts and Memorials

The Brandon History Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.  
With this status, donations and contributions qualify for tax deductions.

Donors will be recognized for cash contributions of \$100.00 or more on  
plaques to be displayed in the Brandon History Center.  
\$100.00 or more contribution entitles the donor to a free one-year membership.

For more information call: Hilda Bettermann 320-834-5228  
Chris Korkowski 320-834-4505 or Karen Thoennes 320-834-4027

*Thank you for helping preserve our local history !*



### Special Thanks

The History Center Board would like to give a special thank you to Joan Fjoslien for her very generous gift of \$50,000, which will be used as an incentive for matching funds from individuals and organizations for the preservation of the historic Brandon Auditorium.



Also special thanks to the Brandon Public Schools for donating the many framed graduation pictures which we have on display.

Special thanks to the following donors whose names are/or will be placed on our contribution plaques:

\$100 - \$499 Donations

Dean & Ruth Plaster and family

John & Karen Lund and family

In Memory of Roy & Nina Strom

Gary & Cindy Lund

Rick & Stephanie Bullick

In Memory of Emma & Edwin Peterson

In Memory of Leslie Carroll

Echo Press Newspaper



\$500 - \$999 Donations

Dennis & Chris Korkowski and family

Bruce & Janet Nelson

Brandon Community Club



### Special Requests

#### **Wanted – Old High School Annuals!**

We are missing several framed graduation pictures from prior years; however, not all is lost. If we can locate some older high school annuals, we can scan the pictures and recreate them. Please check your attics and closets for those memorable annuals and let us know.

Also if anyone is interested in donating any annuals to the History Center, we would be happy to display

them for you.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Wanted – Pictures to Add to our History Collection!**

Please consider letting us scan some of your pictures to add to our collection. A brief description of the picture should be included. Original pictures, once they are scanned, will be returned (unless you wish to donate them).

### Check Us Out

About once a month, we try to post new history pictures on the Brandon website. Go to:

[brandonmn.com](http://brandonmn.com) and click on the Brandon History Center link.

You can reach us at the following email address:

[brandonhistory@gctel.net](mailto:brandonhistory@gctel.net)

Or you can reach any of the Board members at their respective phone numbers.

Or the temporary official phone number where we can be reached is **320-524-2260**.

*“A picture is worth a thousand words.”*

*Fred R. Barnard*

## Brandon History Center

105 Holmes Avenue  
Brandon, MN 56315

PHONE:  
(320) 524-2260

E-MAIL:  
brandonhistory@gctel.net

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.brandonmn.com](http://www.brandonmn.com)

## Members of the Board

The Brandon History Center Board of Directors is made up of eight members:

Hilda Bettermann  
8435 Sara Road NW  
Brandon, MN 563153  
320-834-5228

Florence Bitzan  
17388 Lakes Road NW  
Evansville, MN 5326  
320-834-4942

Marcia Bolin  
13373 Skrove Rd NW  
Brandon, MN 56315  
320-524-2174

Christella Korkowski  
10910 County RD 58 NW  
Brandon, MN 56315  
320-834-4505

Janet Nelson  
P.O. Box 82  
Brandon, MN 56315  
320-834-4401

Ruth Plaster  
P. O. Box 505  
Brandon, MN 56315  
320-834-5433

Carole Severson  
505A Hayes Ave. NW  
Brandon, MN 56315  
320-524-2182

Karen Thoennes  
8779 County Road 7 NW  
Brandon, MN 56315  
320-834-4027

Board members are volunteers from the Brandon-Millerville area who share a common love of local history and a desire to give something back to their community. Most members are lifelong residents of Brandon.

Feel free to contact Board members with any questions you might have.

### ***Brandon History Center Mission Statement***

To collect, preserve and display articles, pictures and memorabilia from Brandon, Millerville and the surrounding area for future generations.

To assist in the preservation of the Historic Brandon Auditorium and other local historic sites.

## BRANDON HISTORY CENTER

105 Holmes Avenue  
Brandon, MN 56315



BOXHOLDER