

The Center Piece

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Brandon History Center

Feb. 21st Fundraiser—a Huge Success!

Our Brandon Auditorium restoration and renovation fundraiser held on February 21 was a resounding success! Funds raised totaled \$9,192.01, which includes matching funds from Thrivent!

And, yes, the one cent is important! We are committed to ongoing fundraising activities for as long as it takes to make the necessary repairs to our "Grand Old Hall"—a penny at a time.

The success of the fundraiser can be attributed to the volunteer efforts of all

who helped with planning and organizing, to Bob and Joanie for providing the great entertainment, to all who attended, to all who donated money and silent auction items, and to all who purchased the nearly 100 donated items. THANK YOU ALL!!

The new displays (state representative and community) were unveiled and are permanent additions to the History Center.

The hall is a cherished piece of history for the Brandon-Millerville area;

and, recognizing that, the community stepped up to the plate to make things happen.

Along with the \$10,000 contribution from the Brandon Firemen's Relief Association, we now have \$19,192.01 with which to match Joan Fjoslien's generous contribution.

Stay tuned for future fundraising events. Also, you may see some fundraising jars located around town. Remember—we can accomplish much a few cents at a time.



Veterans' Corner (Roy H. Christenson)

"Chris had repeatedly drawn the tougher missions, and his work was spectacular. He developed into one of the most capable pilots, and led several flights with excellent results. His loss was keenly felt by all members of the squadron."

Above quote taken from commander's narrative (118th Tactical Recon Squadron website)

In this issue, we will feature the second memorial at the Earl C. Sletto Park dedicated May 26, 1997, honoring Roy H. Christenson.

Roy was the son of Henry and Louise Christenson, and was born August 20, 1920, in Brandon. He attended Brandon High School, graduating in 1938. Roy had one sister, Elda Christenson Sletto.

Roy and his father owned the General Store located at the current post office site in Brandon.

Roy enlisted in the Army Reserve Corps in Sept. of 1942 and was called to active duty March 2, 1943. He graduated from advanced fighter pilot's school on Jan. 6, 1944, and graduated from Tactical Reconnaissance pilot training in Aug. 1944.

Roy was based with his Tactical Recon Squadron at Chenkung in southern China and flew a P51 named *Bad Penny*. 1st Lieutenant Christenson received a Bronze Star for meritorious conduct during an enemy attack on the

squadron's airfield in Dec. 1944. He entered a burning building with "utter disregard for his own safety" (along with several others) and saved all vital equipment, records, and intelligence files, leaving only fixtures fastened to the walls.

Roy lost his life in a training mission on March 12, 1945, when his plane experienced mechanical problems and crashed into a hillside. He is buried in the Brandon Cemetery.

His name is among the patriots of our nation.

Argonne Forest Post 278 News

American Legion Argonne Forest Post 278 has a membership roster of 70 plus members.

The following veterans of World War II have been members for 60 years:

Clarence Haabala
Clifford Haabala
Ralph Ostlund

Other members having 60 or more years of membership with the post are:

Wilbur Hopfner
Toivo Hulkonen
Darold Plaster
Charles Rossum

In future articles, we would like to honor our veterans by providing brief

biographies, beginning with the most senior.

Those veterans who have passed away will be honored with biographies of their service as well.

Thank you veterans!



Military Service Research

We welcome any information relating to military service of individuals in the Brandon-Millerville area.

We found excellent information for this issue of the Center Piece by googling on the Internet the squadron name in which

Roy Christenson served. We found tons of pictures and narratives of missions, personnel rosters, honors given for meritorious service, etc.

If anyone has unit or squadron names with identifying numbers, we

can do the research for you.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have this all included at the Brandon History Center! What a wonderful tribute to those that have served our country!

From the Past: Brandon--1896

Since our "From the Past" article in our Winter issue of the Center Piece regarding Brandon's business community in 1890, we located additional information from the family records of former Brandon resident, Don Hoplin, for the year 1896. In addition to the pioneers and their business interests we included in our earlier article, we will add the following:

Mr. Gunberg, Policeman
 Mr. Berg, Tinsmith for O.F. Olson
 Charles Molden, Section Foreman
 Dave West, unknown occupation.

Johnny Aldrich, worked at Hotel
 Lew Williams, Agt., Great No. Rwy.
 Mr. Davidson, School Principal
 Lucy Foss, Grade Teacher
 George Myron, Town Clerk & Echo Editor

Also we located a list of farmers who were in business in 1886. They are listed as follows by section number:

Jens J. Angen 36
 F. O. Augdahl 16
 P. J. Carlson 23
 J. E. Check 24
 Henry Diment 23
 T. A. Emerson 10
 Gust Guenther 3

Knud Gunderson 35
 Elling Holgrimson 29
 Halver Johnson 30
 Garan Johnson 8
 Lars P. Larson 22
 Peder Larson 25
 Jacob Mathison 15
 J. W. Nelson 35
 V. D. Nichols 18
 Dr. Charles Nootnagel 4
 J. A. Olson 32

This is why those old papers we might find in attics or closets are so important. One never knows where we might find more history of our area. If anyone knows anything about any of our early settlers, let us know.

"When you start about family, about lineage and ancestry, you are talking about every person on earth."

Alex Haley
 Author of best-selling novel, "Roots"

Dr. Charles Nootnagel – Early Settler

Dr. Charles Nootnagel settled in Section 4 of Brandon Township, and was listed as a resident in 1886. It is believed that he was a doctor of homeopathic medicine.

Dr. Nootnagel was the great-great-grandfather of Fred Nootnagel who graduated from the Brandon Public Schools in 1959. Doctor Nootnagel died at Brandon on November 21, 1905.

The History Center contacted Fred about his great-great-grandfather to

learn a little more about him and his family.

Dr. Charles Nootnagel's son, Fred Nootnagel, was also a resident of the Brandon area. In 1899, he became a member of the Brandon Fire Department.

He was married to Anna Kapphahn. He died in Minneapolis in March of 1943.





Al Korkowski—Making Hay

Wanted: Pictures/Memorabilia

Please consider allowing us to scan some of your pictures to add to our collection as well as providing memorabilia or antiques for display purposes.

We are still looking for older high school annuals so that we can scan graduation pictures. It seems that we are missing framed graduation pictures for the years 1960 through 1964. Actually, individual graduates' pictures

would be better for reproducing; but we will accept pictures in any form.

If anyone can help us out, please contact any of the Board members.

Wonderful pictures such as the one above are what we are also looking for. Family photo albums contain history of our area. So check them out!

The History Center blog contains many wonderful pictures and descriptions and is updated on a fairly regular basis. The blog site address is found on the last page of this newsletter.

Family, school, community events, businesses, farming ventures, sporting events, and news-making pictures will add to the richness of our collections.

Douglas County Historical Society Visits Brandon

The Douglas County Historical Society held its Annual Meeting at the Brandon Auditorium on April 21, 2009.

After the business meeting and a delicious lunch served by the DCHS, the History Center Board made a presentation regarding the auditorium's history and our community's goals for future renovation and preservation of the building.

Then on May 19, DCHS volunteers came to the auditorium for a tour of the building and of the History Center and for a cup of coffee and treats, of course.

It is wonderful that we can show-case our historic building and share it with other communities.



Lion's Fundraising Event – June 6

On Saturday, June 6, from 8:00 to 12:30, the Brandon Lions Club held a fundraiser at the Auditorium. It was a wonderful turnout with over 350 people enjoying Dad's Belgian waffles. The proceeds will be used to purchase new tables for the auditorium. AND HOW WE NEED THEM!

Many community members have put up and taken down the existing heavy and well-worn tables; and everyone knows the need for their replacement.

The Lions Club will be releasing the results of the fundraiser soon. Thank you, Lions and all who attended!



Cheryl Augdahl, Jim Augdahl, Greg Slack, Deb Holberg and Missy Groen from Dad's Waffle Company, Leila Hanson, Jim Spencer, Mike Clearly, and Chuck Carlson shown above worked the first shift at the waffle feed.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.brandonmn.com

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Check Us Out

You can find us by going to the Brandon, Minnesota, website:

Brandonmn.com and then click on the Brandon History Center Link.

OR check our blog at:

<http://brandonmnhistorycenter.blogspot.com>

Special Thank You!

Thank you to Brent and Deb Johnson for their lifetime family membership.

Donations were received in memory of:

Joe and Barb Webskowski

About Our Organization...

The Brandon History Center changed from a dream to a reality on August 28, 2007, when it received its 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

Because we are a non-profit organization, contri-

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.

Jacob and Hortulana
Goering

Clarence and Ethel
Anderson

John Esala

A contribution was also received from the graduating Class of 1947.

The History Center is very grateful to all who have donated so generously!

butions are tax-deductible.

Consider making a contribution of \$100 or more. Your gift will be recognized by name on our contributor plaques.

Also make use of our

three membership options: Individual or family one-year memberships or single life membership.

