

# THE CENTER PIECE



Brandon History Center, 105 Holmes Avenue, P. O. Box 514, Brandon, MN 56315  
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## Chili Cook-off February 17

The Brandon History Center is sponsoring another Chili Cook-off on February 17, 2012, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Brandon Auditorium. Eleven teams have signed up for this year's event:

- Brandon Fire Department
- Brandon Lions Club
- Design Tree Engineering
- Gardonville/Brandon Communications
- Hilltop Lumber
- Integrity Title/Alexandria YMCA
- Orb Management Corporation
- Ravishing Ruby Red Hatters
- Two Sons' Heating, Cooling & Refrigeration
- Voyager Aluminum
- Wellness Center

The cost for enough samples of chili to fill you up, crackers, and two beverages is \$8 for adults and \$3 for kids from 4 to 9 years of age; kids 3 and under will eat free.

## Genealogy Guild Meets at Brandon History Center

The November meeting of the Douglas County Genealogy Guild was held at the Brandon History Center. Guild members toured the building to view the renovations in progress and the exhibits of the Brandon History Center.

**Back row:** Janet Nelson, Barbara Johnson, Joyce Hausmann, Marcine Nightengale Peterson, Marcella Isackson. **Front:** Joan Larson, Harland Hanson, Darlene Hanson, Dale Braunschweig

Our historic Auditorium continues to be a gathering place for various community activities.

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A dessert bar will be available--your choice of desserts at a cost of \$1.00. A cash bar will be available as well. Bring your family and enjoy chili made by the best cooks in the area.

There will also be a silent auction for added fun. Anyone interested in donating to the auction, please feel free to contact any of the Board members.

Bob Piotrowski will be on hand to entertain us with musical selections geared to all generations.

Proceeds from the cook-off will go toward updating the auditorium kitchen.



## Third and Fourth Graders Create Chili Recipes

Brandon third and fourth graders were asked to spontaneously create their very own chili recipes. It is apparent these students have the potential of hosting their own cooking shows some day!

Recipe names included: Bears and Doves Chili; Old Spicey; Rosacata Chili; Party Time Chili; Chili Fire Flame; Boom; Chili Round Down; and Wipe Out.

Tabasco, onions, jalapenos, various peppers, chili powder, and garlic were the seasonings of choice. Vegetables such as carrots, beets, corn, varieties of beans, and zucchini, along with turkey, beef, bacon, pork, and sausage were included--and, of course, lots of butter and sugar!

These recipes will be available at the Cook-off for review and copying. Thank you, students!



3<sup>rd</sup> grade Teacher – Wendy Nelson

**Front Row (L to R):** Kendra Fuchs, Julianna Hansen, Grace Stewart, Anakin Bosek, Madisen Hansen, Tommy Shores, Kyle Schaffran, Emma Roers, Katelyn Suchy, Bailey Schaefer, Korrie Randt

**Middle Row (L to R):** Morgan Storey, Nicole Blowers, Nathan Baumann, Dylan Wagner, Nolan Bitzan, Paige Habberstad, Erik Bitzan, Trent Koloski, Kaleb Pikkaraine

**Back Row (L to R):** Logan Thompson, Colton Hensinger, Mikenna Patrin, Kobe Reiland, Cade Carlson, Brian Lauthen, Brandon Johnson, London Suchy,

4<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher – Diane Olson

**Back Row (l to r):** Maddie Otto, Kerryn Lund, Tanner Bitzan, Brittany Koep, Luke Moore, Andrew Johnson

**Middle Row (l to r):** Blake Koloski, Brittany Korkowski, Brea Koep, Emily Elliott, Tony Schaffran, Trevor Peterson, KD Tomoson

**Front Row (l to r):** Kailee Klimek, Kristen Kokett, Caitlyn Deschene, Corbin Olson, Zack Haugen, Keagan Schiele





## Brandon High School Band in 1940



Lorraine (Dolly) Rogney, nee Thompson, supplied the History Center with the above photo of the Brandon High School Band of 1940. The Brandon Auditorium was only four years old at the time. Dolly and LaVerle Bergh Wilken provided the band members' names.

**Back Row:** Arliss Korkowski, Arnold Albertson, Barbara Pischke, Dorothy Johnson, Eileen Ulsager, Earl Stuberg, Adrian Johnson, Norma Sateren, Lorne Newhouse, Randolph Juvland, Merwin Olson, Doris Eastman, Rodney Berg, and Orlando Newhouse

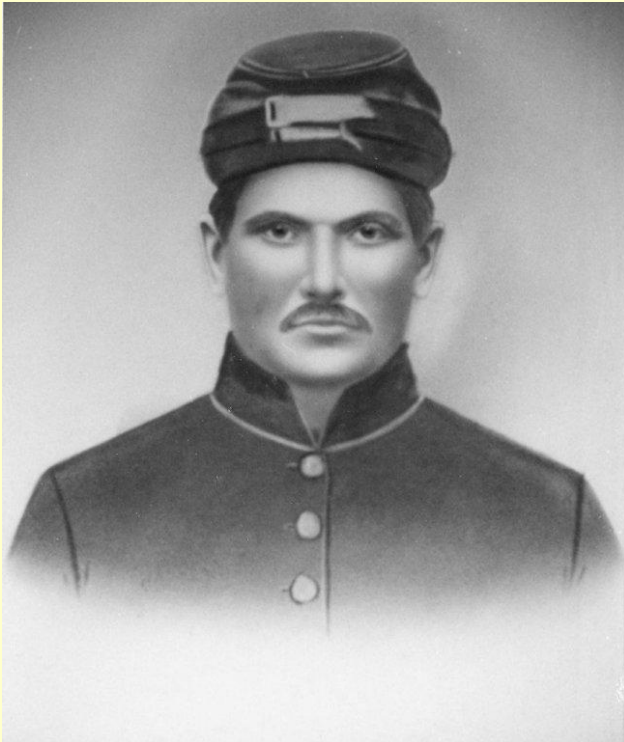
**Middle Row:** Virgil Plaster, Michael Kelly, James Scherrer, Lillian Berg, Clair Severson, Clarence Korkowski, Evangeline Toft, LaVerle Bergh,

Elroy Meissner, Marcine Renkes, and Carleton Linnard

**Front Row:** Lorraine Rogney, Maxcine Rosengren, Janelle Helgeson, Clinton Foslien, Jeanette Bolin, and Sylvia Sateren

The uniforms for the 1940 Band were very different from today's uniforms or even the uniforms from the 1950s. The males wore slacks, and the women wore skirts.

The Brandon Auditorium was the site for many band concerts from the time it was built until the new high school was built. Most often the band was situated on the auditorium stage. Brings back memories!



**Sven Olson – Civil War Veteran**

## Veterans' Corner

Sven Olson enlisted into Company I of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Infantry regiment on August 15, 1862. He was involved in several military engagements in Tennessee and Georgia. He was wounded in the battle at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia, which lasted from June 19 – July 2, 1864. Sven spent the rest of the war in a hospital recuperating from his injuries and was discharged on April 25, 1865.

Sven was the grandfather of the late Conrad Hanson of Brandon. The picture at the left and the military history of Sven were provided by Leila Hanson and are located at the Brandon History Center. Leila and her son Howard visited Kennesaw Mountain to view the battlefield and found that a cannon from that civil war battle is still situated on top of the mountain.



**Actual Photo of Kennesaw Mountain Battle Field**

## Toivo Hulkonen

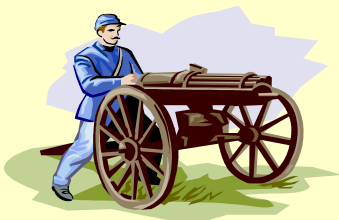


Toivo William Hulkonen, a veteran of World War II, died December 5, 2011. He joined the U.S. Navy in May, 1941.

He served in the Mediterranean and European Theaters, in Africa, Sicily, Anzio Beachhead, and France. He was honorably discharged in December of 1945.

He lived in the Kensington, Moorhead, and Brandon areas. He enjoyed returning to the family farm to tend to his yard and vegetable garden. He was a lifetime member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Moe Township. Toivo was a member of the Brandon American Legion.

Toivo's wife, Ellen, predeceased him; he is survived by his three sons and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.





## Brandon Landmark – How It Was



The picture on the left shows the location of the first city well; the windmill is just to the left of the grain elevator. It was located on Front Street, which runs east and west between the grain elevator on the south side and the Post Office, Moe & Urness, beauty shop, grocery store, the bank, and the city offices on the north side. The picture was taken in 1890.



This photo shows the location of the well in its current location. A black water tower was erected. This picture was taken in 1943.

## Brandon Landmark Comes Down

These photos depict the progression of history in the city of Brandon. These water towers, visible from miles away, welcomed Brandon's residents home and provided a beacon to visitors that they were welcome here. With population growth, a new well was necessary to supply the city with a sufficient water supply.

Construction of a 100,000 gallon elevated tank has begun. The new location of the well and water tower will be on the south-east corner of the block on which the liquor store is located. The engineers are Design Tree of Alexandra, and the contractor is General Construction Services from Stillwater. The project is financed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development.



Current Water Tower which will be torn down as soon as its replacement is constructed.

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**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Hilda Bettermann  
Florence Bitzan  
Marcia Bolin  
Christella Korkowski  
Janet Nelson  
Ruth Plaster  
Karen Thoennes

*We're on the Web! Visit us at:*

[www.brandonmn.com](http://www.brandonmn.com)

## Thank you . . .

\$20.00 donation in memory of Toivo Hulkonen  
\$250.00 from REA Operation Roundup

Thank you to Wendy Nelson, Diane Olson, and the third and fourth grade classes from Brandon Schools for those wonderful chili recipes.

We appreciate the restaurants and the school who share their kitchens for our chili cookers.

Thanks to all who provide memorabilia, photos, clothing, and documents for preservation at the History Center for future generations to enjoy! Thank you to all who provide photos and content for the newsletter.

### Our 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**

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