

THE CENTER PIECE



Brandon History Center, 105 Holmes Avenue, P. O. Box 514, Brandon, MN 56315
Website: www.brandonmn.com Email address: brandonhistory@gctel.net Phone No. 320-524-2260

J. C. Metcalf Flour Mill

A Brandon business came to life again many years after closing its doors. A J. C. Metcalf flour mill gear was found in June 2015 by a trenching crew working for Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association. The cement gear is 16 inches in diameter, six inches wide, and weighs 80 pounds (See picture below.)

The gear was found near the West Central Concrete Building, 101A County Road 82 West, Brandon, which was the original location of the J. C. Metcalf Flour Mill. The gear was donated to the History Center by Diane Richter.

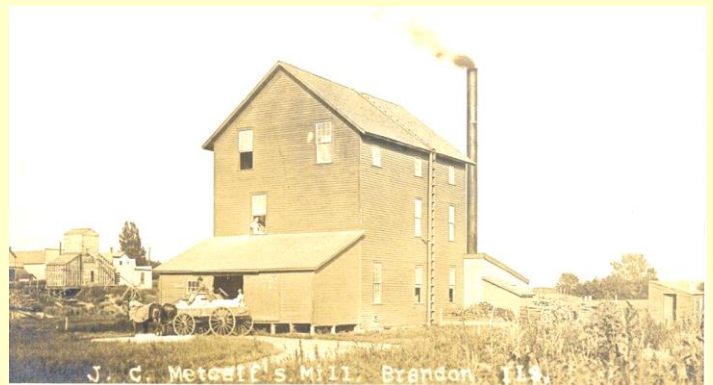


The J. C. Metcalf Flour Mill was in operation during the 1920s providing a valuable service for local farmers and homemakers. Some lumber from the demolition of the Metcalf Mill was used in the construction of the home where Michelle and Scott Schaffer live.

The gear is on display at the Brandon History Center.

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Pictured above is the Metcalf Flour Mill in its operational days. It was an imposing structure in the southeast corner of Brandon.



Clarence Anderson and Paul Goering capping the flour mill well after demolition

Finnish Immigration to Moe Township

On October 22, 2016, Greg Isola, an independent Finnish researcher, made a presentation at the Brandon History Center on the immigration of Finnish settlers to Moe Township. He told the story of a young Finnish couple, their young children, and three bachelor men making the long trek from St. Cloud to the Holmes City area to establish one of the first Finnish settlements in Minnesota. And the rest is history. More Finns followed and moved to various parts of Moe and Urness Townships.

The event was well attended by our community. Pictured at right is Mr. Isola during his presentation.

Mr. Isola had made a special request that Finnish cakes be served with coffee at the event. The History Center board members gladly obliged. Let's see how many of you can pronounce the names of the cakes that were served that day:

Kermakakku – Finnish Sour Cream Cake

Mantelikakku – Almond Cake

Hilman Kakku – Hilma's Fruit Spice Cake

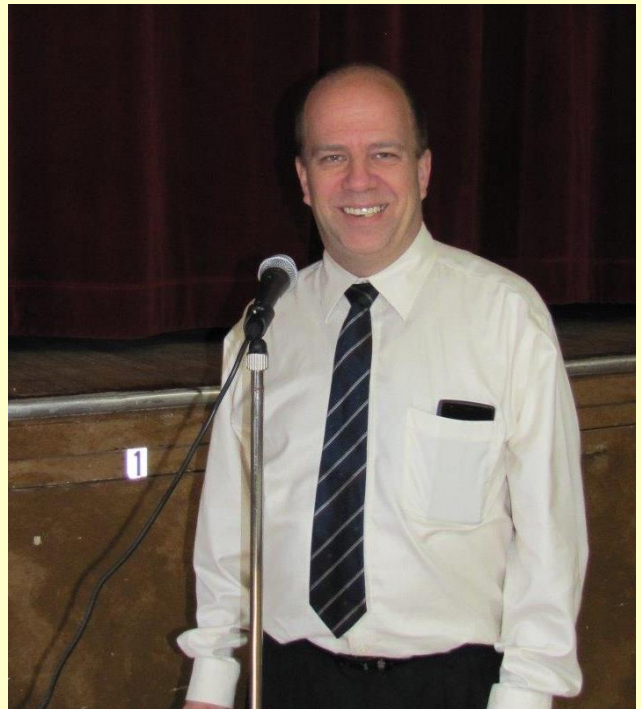
Murokakku – Butter Pound Cake

Omena Sokerikakku – Apple Sugar Cake

Mrs. Adamson also graciously contributed:

Nisu – Spueaky Cheese

Pulla – Cardamom Bread



Greg Isola



Correction to Last Newsletter

In the Veterans' Corner article regarding the passing of Ralph Olson, it was inadvertently stated that Ralph's name was on the Viet Nam Veterans' Memorial Wall; it should have read that "his name was on the Black Wall in Washington, D.C. for being an honorary Korean War Veteran." We apologize for the mistake.

For more on the Black Wall, the following link will provide a history and explanation of the wall:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War_Veterans_Memorial.

BHC 2016 Annual Meeting

The Brandon History Center's annual meeting was held on Monday, November 14, 2016. President of the Board, Christella Korkowski, called the meeting to order at 4 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary's minutes of the 2015 annual meeting and the treasurer's reports were approved.

Reports were given by board members about their areas of responsibility. No elections were held due to the three- and four-year terms of board members.

The History Center Christmas coffee was scheduled for Thursday, December 1.

Veterans Corner



James G. Schwegler

Jim Schwegler, a graduate of Brandon High School, enlisted in the U.S. Navy on July 21, 1957. He was stationed in several locations on the east coast during his career, as well as serving in Newfound-

land, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Spain, Viet Nam, and Japan.

During his 20-year distinguished naval career, he attained the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer and received many medals, commendations, and citations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Good Conduct award, meritorious service commendation, NROTC Unit-Harvard University Commendation, and citations and medals from the Republic of Viet Nam.

Jim died on February 22, 2016, and was buried at the Atlantic County Veterans Cemetery, Mays Landing, New Jersey. He was preceded in death by his wife Edith.



Joseph Schiele

Joseph Schiele enlisted in the United States Navy on August 26, 1942. He completed basic training at Great Lakes Training Center near Chicago Illinois. He was sent to the Campus of A & M University in College Station Texas for twelve weeks of Basic Electronics and Radio Maintenance training and was then sent to Corpus Christi Naval Air Station on Ward Island in Texas, for 20 weeks of Advance

Radio Maintenance training. After completion of his training, he was stationed at Patuxent River Maryland as an Aviation Electronics Technician until January of 1945. He was then sent to the Naval Air station in Oakland, California for 6 weeks training for construction. Joe spent the last eleven months on Saipan and the Mariana Islands helping to repair and maintain airstrip facilities. Joseph was discharged on February 5, 1946 with the rank of Aviation Electronics Technician First Class.

Joe was a lifetime member of the Alexandria and Millerville American Legions. Joe passed away on December 15, 2015, and was buried at St. Ann's Cemetery in Brandon.



Gordon N. Wibstad

After graduating from Brandon High School in 1946, Gordon Wibstad moved to Spokane, WA, where he was employed at the Universal Match Company. He then enlisted in the Navy and was stationed in San Diego, CA. After his discharge from the Navy, Gordon returned to Minnesota. He was employed at Minneapolis Moline in Hopkins for a time, then returning to Brandon where he began working for Strom Construction.

Gordon married Joyce Peterson of Two Harbors, MN, on November 7, 1953. While raising four children, he not only farmed east of Brandon but also worked at Douglas Machine from 1968 to 2002.

Gordon died on March 10, 2016, at the age of 88 years. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, and all four children, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren, one brother and one sister and many nieces and nephews.

Praying Soldier Sculpture

The Inspiration Peak Legion Post 527 donated the following laser etching to the History Center. It is a replica of a much larger laser-cut metal sculpture of a praying soldier which is located on the lawn by the Legion Hall in Millerville.



Legion Post 527 had been looking for something to place in front of the Legion Hall for a number of years. The Legion members had noticed a praying soldier sculpture at the Trinity Church Cemetery near Millerville, one of five cemeteries in the area where they conduct Memorial Day Services each year. They located the pattern and recruited the expertise and talents of D. R. Epic, a laser manufacturing company located in Garfield, MN, who created and donated the black laser sculpture to the Millerville Legion Post. The sculpture is 4 by 8 feet; and its black finish contrasts nicely with its backdrop which is the Legion Post's white building. The small replica shown here was donated to the History Center by Legion Post 527. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Thanks . . .

Paul Pladson for donating children's books and other items.

"Time In Midst of Eternity," Volumes 1 & 4, donated by LuWanna Hintermeister, which were written by her grandfather, Oscar Newhouse.

Two pieces of needlework dated 1908 from the Diment home donated by Pat Botner.

\$100 donated by Joyce (Korkowski) Navratil.

Evelyn Myrin donated a military picture and other family photos.

Ellry Schulte for donating Leonard Schulte's three medals and one Purple Heart.

\$64 from the class of 1947 and \$270 from the class of 1970.

Collection of items from the William/Margaret Thoennes family donated by Teresa Thoennes.

Post Office postal cancelling machine donated by the Brandon U.S. Post Office.

Roger Hanson Air Force uniform.

Hilda Bettermann donated a B Flat clarinet. Hilda and Mae Eichelberger played this instrument in high school and college.

Bonnie Wagner donated School District # 72 record books, one dating back as far as 1889.

Brandon School donated large picture of students and teachers for 2009-2010 school year.

Elphege Webskowski donated three Brandon High School yearbooks and an old Brandon town baseball score book.



THANK YOU to Lori and Jerry Lee for donating the oak glass enclosed display cabinet, shown above, in memory of Orv and Doreen Schjei.

The City of Brandon donated an old green Village of Brandon voting receptacle and an original light globe from the auditorium ceiling.

Lisa and Mike Hynes of ETC Signs donated a Toshiba copy machine.

LaVern Bitzan donated a box full of newspaper clippings.

Brandon Community Club donated \$500 to the history center to be used for updating the auditorium kitchen. With this donation, there is now \$7,113.13 in the kitchen fund. If you are interested in donating to this project, please make your check payable to the Brandon History Center (with Kitchen written in the memo line). Remember: Your donation would qualify as a tax deduction.

Gabe Pipo donated \$20 from the proceeds of his book sales during the Greg Isola Finnish immigration presentation.

The Conrad/Joyce Botner family donated a collection of antique photos and a 1914 Minnesota map with a Scandinavian cover.

Brandon History Center

105 Holmes Avenue, P. O. Box 514
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E-MAIL: brandonhistory@gctel.net

<http://brandonmnhistorycenter.blogspot.com>

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

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.

**Best wishes for a happy and successful 2017
from the Brandon History Center Board!**

We would like to thank all of our volunteers who give so freely of their time. And thank you all for helping us preserve history from the Brandon-Millerville area. Much information can be gleaned from our history center.