

Brandon History Center
105 Holmes Avenue
P.O. Box 514
Brandon, MN 56315

Postage

The Center Piece

Winter 2020



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Thank you . . .

- \$100 donation from Phil and Lola Kvalvog in the memory of Zach and Conner Kvalvog.
- Various Brandon historical and school items from James Rolf, Dick Simpson, Lydon Sletto, Terrance Strater, Darlene Kehoe, Lillian Olson, Cindy Haffner, Wayne & Linda Rotz, Kay Larson, the Schwartz and Brennon families, and to the many others who donated items and information.
- 2 display cases and school maps by Mike Cleary
- \$400 from REA Operation Round-up for the creation of a website.

Our Mission Statement

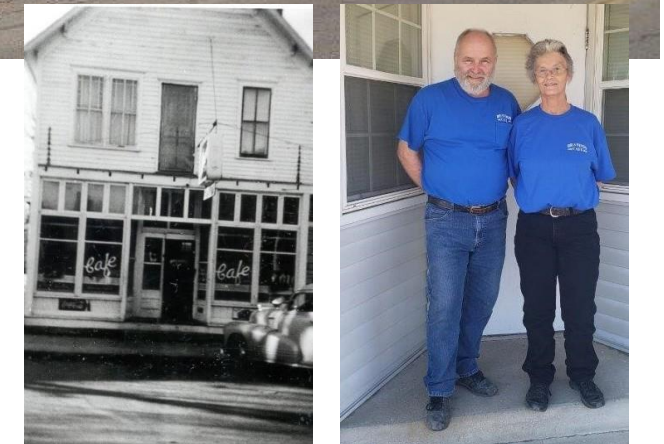
To collect preserve and display articles, pictures, and memorabilia from Brandon, Millerville, and the surrounding area for future generations.

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

The Café at 104

The Café at 104 is one of the oldest business buildings in Brandon. The café, with residence above, was built in 1898 by O.L. Stenberg who went on to build many other buildings in Brandon.

At one time this was a popular beer and pool hall. Over the years, there have been more than two dozen owners of this property and many renters. Some of the establishment names were: George Videen Restaurant, Stariha's Café, Sportsman Café, Madsen's Café, Milt's Café, Phil's Café, Curt's Café, Morin's Café, Fish's Café, Blue Gill Inn, Mom's Pizza & Café, Fischrs' Café, Ran Den Café and Grandma Patty's.



The building was recently purchased by Brandon resident, Rick Bullick, and is being operated by Sandra Reger as the Brandon Café. This building has stood the test of time and continues to provide a vital service to the area as a café.

Brandon History Center

105 Holmes Avenue
P. O. Box 514
Brandon, MN 56315

Email: brandonhistory@gctel.net
<http://brandonhistorycenter.blogspot.com>

BOARD MEMBERS:

Florence Bitzan
Marcia Bolin
Mike Cleary
Janet Nelson
Ruth Plaster
Deb Shea
Karen Thoennes

How Did Our Townships Get Named

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED how the twenty townships in Douglas County, Minnesota were named?

Five of the townships were named after lakes located within those townships. Examples include:

- **Carlos** – from the lake named after a homesteader's friend from back east.
- **Ida** – from the lake named by an early settler for a friend residing back east.
- **Lake Mary** – from the lake named after the sister of the Kinkaid's of Alexandria.
- **Miltona** – from lake named after Miltona Roadruck, wife of an early settler.
- **Osakis** – from the lake named after the Sauk Indians living in the area.

Seven townships were named after early settlers in those areas. These townships are as follows:

- **Alexandria** – named after Alexander Kinkaid who was the first settler in the county.
- **Brandon** – first named Chippewa after the Chippewa lakes and river located therein, later changed to Brandon for village of Brandon located in the township.
- **Holmes City** – named after Thomas Holmes, leader of the first group of settlers in that area.
- **LaGrand** – first named West Alexandria, then renamed after a resident of Alexandria.
- **Millerville** – named after John Miller, a prominent German settler.
- **Moe** – initially named Adkinsville after an early settler, then renamed for a district in Norway.

The remaining nine townships were named as follows:

- **Belle River** – was first named Riverdale after the Long Prairie River, later changed by a vote.
- **Evansville** – named in honor of a mail carrier who had an overnight log cabin.
- **Hudson** – named for Hudson, Wisconsin from which a number of settlers came.
- **Leaf Valley** – named to its situation at the southern border of the Leaf Hills.
- **Lund** – named for the ancient city of Lund, Sweden.
- **Orange** – a common name in twenty other states.
- **Solem** – took its name from a district in Norway from which many pioneers came.
- **Spruce Hill** – named for many of tree and shrubs species in the area.
- **Urness** – first named Red Rock and later changed to honor a district in Norway.

Help Needed: Volunteers to sew on labels of items that have been donated. Includes putting name of donor on label and attaching to each donated item. Contact Janet Nelson if you are able to help.

Brandon American Legion Auxiliary Celebrates 100 Years



The Brandon American Legion Auxiliary observed the 100th anniversary of the National American Legion Auxiliary on November 10th 2019 at the Brandon Auditorium. Pictured are Hope Wilson, Cheryl Johnson, Jan Bjerkness, Mary Ann Ostlund, Sarah Planka and Mary Beth Rossum. Current members not pictured are Nancy Anderson, Donna Berg, Judy Cress, Julie Keller, Mary Ann Keller, Katherine Lee, Marlene Lund, Rita Metzger, Nelda Olson, Rita Plaster, and Linda Sletto.

On October 29, 1942, the Brandon American Legion Post 278 endorsed the ladies interested in beginning a Legion Auxiliary for Brandon. The endorsement was signed by John Knudson, Post Commander and attested to by Walter Hoving, Post Adjutant. On November 2, 1942 the Unit Charter Application was sent in and had been signed by Mrs. J. O. (May) Angen, Mrs. Louis O. (Marie) Lea, Mrs. Richard A. (Clara) Dahl, Mrs. John (Clara) Knudson, Mrs. Harry O. (Ethel) Falaas, Mrs. Edwin (Gulborg) Severson, Mrs. Henry (Hannah) Syverson, Mrs. Ted (Elda) Plaster, Mrs. W. H. (Ella) Hoving, Mrs. Carl O. (Edna) Linnard, Mrs. Clarence (Mabel) Newhouse, Helen Johnson, Mayme E.A. Johnson, Miss Christine Elness, Mrs. Victor (Pauline) Dorsch, and Mrs. Peter (Edna) Hoplin.

Since that time the Brandon American Legion Auxiliary has continued to strive to support veterans and the community in whatever ways they are able, always promoting one hundred percent Americanism and service - not self.

Thank You Ruth...

Ruth has resigned as the Brandon History Center Board President; however, she remains on the board. Mike Cleary has taken over as board President. Thank you, Ruth and Mike, for all your work.



Brandon History Center Board Members

Front Row: Deb Shea, Ruth Plaster, Flo Bitzan (Vice President), *Back Row:* Marcia Bolin, Janet Nelson, Karen Thoennes (Secretary/Treasurer), Mike Cleary (President)

New History Center Hours

The History Center open hours are now Friday mornings starting Jan. 1, 2020 or by appointment.

Membership Information

Annual Memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for family. Single life time memberships are \$150.

In addition to renewing you membership, you may want to consider a tax deductible charitable contribution of \$100 more to the History Center. The Brandon History center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

With a \$100 donation, the donation is remembered on the wall plaque with either your own name or in memory of a family member or friend.