

The Center Piece

Winter 2021

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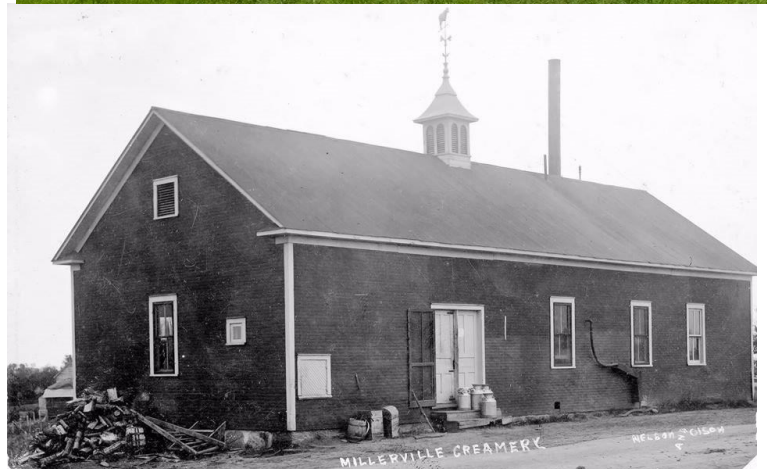
Millerville Cooperative Creamery

The Millerville Creamery has been a fixture in the village of Millerville since the early 1900s. On Oct 3, 1904, at the Millerville village council meeting, a motion was made to pay a bonus of \$500 as “an inducement to a financially substantial party or parties and that the village council will retain all rights as to condition of contract etc.” The creamery was built by Matt. Haehn and Joseph Schmitz and opened for business in fall of 1905. It had various owners until the Famers Cooperative Association formed in 1929 and purchased the creamery, reportedly due to dissatisfaction with the current owners at the time. Shares in the cooperative were sold for \$25 each and 62 local farmers purchased between 1 and 4 shares each.

In 1951, a new 30,000 square foot building was dedicated. At that time, there were about 125 patrons using the creamery. The manager at that time was Gabriel Schwegler, who won a number of awards for his buttermaking skills.

Originally, there were about 100 farmers who sold their milk to the creamery. In 1978, that number was down to 80 and by 2008, it was down to 9-10. By 2018, the creamery was no longer buying milk directly from farmers, and was purchasing milk from the Melrose Land O'Lakes plant. Also, in Aug of 2018, the creamery entered into an agreement with Gardonville Cooperative to take over management of the creamery and to help modernize business practices.

Today, every 2 weeks, the Millerville Cooperative Creamery still produces 1,100 pounds of hand-crafted butter. The cream is trucked in and pasteurized for a day. It is then placed in the butter churn and salt added. The whey is drained off and the butter is packed by hand into 90 pound boxes and chilled. On the third day, the butter is cut and placed in the yellow Millerville butter boxes. The butter can be found at local area grocery stores or at the creamery itself which as of May 2021 includes a True Value hardware store.



Resorts on the Brandon Chain of Lakes



Jones Resort on Big Chip



Tracy Resort on Big Chip

Did you know that we have our own “chain of lakes” right here in Brandon Township? The “Chain” begins with Big Chippewa Lake on the east side of the township and flows west to Devils Lake which is then connected to Little Chippewa Lake which, in turn, flows down Hoplin Creek to Stowe Lake from which the Chippewa River flows west to meet the Minnesota River at Montevideo, MN. Whiskey Lake is also connected to Big Chippewa Lake.

Each of these lakes have a DNR public access and are well populated with year-round homes and summer cabins. These lakes also had a number of resorts in the day of which only one true resort remains; Westwood Beach Resort on Big Chippewa Lake.

Other notable resorts that have since ceased to operate include:

- Chippewa Hills Resort off Chippewa Heights Rd on Big Chippewa
- Kamp Kappy on the north side of Devil’s Lake
- Two Havens Resort on Co Rd 7 between Big Chippewa and Devils Lake
- Lawsons Resort on the north side of Devils Lake
- Stowe Lake Resort on the west end of Stowe Lake

Information on the history of the ownership and operation of these resorts can be found in the Brandon Centennial Booklet located on the Brandon History Center website at brandonhistory.org.



Kamp Kappy on Devils Lake



Westwood Beach Resort on Big Chip

Thank you!

To everyone who requested research on family members, other Brandon/Millerville research, or other, that we are glad help. Thank you to all who have donated money, items for our history collections, and information about people of the area for our family files.

Gifts and accessions:

- Kay Larson—Monetary Donation; school yearbook
- Kathy Dols—Monetary Donation
- Muriel Keil—Monetary Donation
- Jane Templin—Monetary Donation in memory of mother Shirley Renkes Nord
- Ben Stroh—Monetary Donation; German to English/English To German dictionary; book in German
- John Nelson—Biographical book about his grandfather, John Hopner, 1879-1941
- Tom Shea—11 The Warrior yearbooks and one Ashby yearbook
- Mary Lee Korkowski—many newspaper clippings pertaining to Brandon area
- Brandon School—composite photos of recent events and students; medicine bottle from nurse's office
- Dan Botner—various Centennial papers; church anniversary books; newspaper items
- Ruth Plaster—school newspaper
- Patricia Carroll—West Moe Cemetery information booklet; short histories submitted by relatives
- Bonita Wager—The History of Millerville by Karl Klein; business advertising items; silver bank from Citizens State Bank of Brandon
- Mary Rossum—2 calling cards — Elect Mrs. Ted Olson for Superintendent of Schools
- Nora Goodburn—a photo of a car accident near Brandon
- Cindy Haffner—family photo collection
- Carol Corcoran—1938 Millerville Flour Millerville advertising calendar
- Kathy Brethorst—3 photos from July 1981
- Chris Korkowski—3 RR spikes and Brandon Depot print
- Janet Nelson—Feed sack from J.O. Renkes business

Membership Information

Annual Memberships are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for family. Life time memberships are \$150 for individuals and \$200 for family.

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.

Brandon History Center Holds Annual Meeting

The Brandon History Center held its 13th annual meeting in the historic Brandon Auditorium on Monday, October 25, 2021.

Included on the agenda was discussion of the changes made during the past year on remodeling the office area to make it easier to catalog and research family histories and other items of historical significance. A new website was also developed which contains much history of Brandon and Millerville and the surrounding area. The website is located at brandonhistorycenter.org.

It was decided to develop a video history of the Auditorium Building to preserve the history of the construction and uses of the building over the past 85 years. We are asking for anyone with pictures or stories of the construction that occurred during 1935 and 1936, or of any events that have occurred since then, to contact us. Bring in those old pictures that have been hidden away in your or your parent's attics and garages. Your kids may not want them but we sure do.

A new Board was elected. We would like to thank Deb Shea for her service on the board and Florence Bitzan for her service as Vice President.

We are also looking for new volunteers, especially if you have a passion or interest in history. The pay is non-existent but the non-monetary rewards are numerous.



Brandon History Center Board 2021

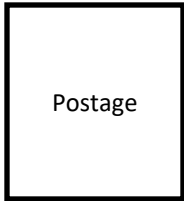
Back L-R: Mike Cleary Pres., Cheryl Johnson, Karen Thoennes Sec. Treas., Janet Nelson
Front L-R: Florence Bitzan, Ruth Plaster, Carol Ramler Vice Pres.

History Center Hours

The History Center hours are Friday 9 a.m.—noon or by appointment. It is open for research or to donate items of historical value such as family pictures and stories. Call Janet Nelson (320-834-4401) or Mike Cleary (320-290-4490) or email brandonhistory@gctel.net. to arrange a time to drop off your items.

We are also grateful for your patience during this time of pandemic.

Brandon History Center
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P. O Box 514
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P.O Box 514

Email: brandonhistory@gctel.net
Website: www.BrandonHistoryCenter.org
Blog: <http://brandonhistorycenter.blogspot.com>
Facebook: Brandon History Center

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Florence Bitzan
- Carol Ramler
- Mike Cleary
- Janet Nelson
- Ruth Plaster
- Cheryl Johnson
- Karen Thoennes

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

Trivia

1. What kind of mill was built in Millerville in the 1870's?
2. How many townships are in Douglas County?
3. What invention eliminated the need for skimming cream from milk by hand?
4. What church was organized in Moe Township in September, 1867?

From the Douglas Country Trivia game published by the Douglas County Historical Society 1986

1. Flour Mill — 2. 20 — 3. A cream separator — 4. West Moe Lutheran Church