



The Center Piece

Winter 2023

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The Railroad in Brandon



agent would load the mail into a two wheeled cart and push the cart by hand to the post office and then return with the out-going mail for the next train. Around midnight, the Express Mail would be hung on a post and the train would attempt to grab the mail without stopping. If the train missed the bag, it could result in mail being scattered and the agent would have to pick up the letters.

In 1923, Jacob Goering became the Brandon agent and in 1969 retired after 51 years as agent and telegrapher, and in that time reportedly, he never missed a day of work.

Almost everything needed for construction of the Brandon Auditorium, except the local fieldstone and sand, came by rail.

The last really big job that the railroad had was in 1966, when it hauled in gravel, cement and steel for construction of Interstate 94.

In the 1970's, the depot was dismantled.

July 28, 1992, the final train went through Brandon and the rails were pulled.

In 2005, the Central Lakes Trail was constructed.

For the complete "The Railroad Comes to Western Douglas County" by Bud Greenquist article, visit our website at BrandonHistoryCenter.org



In August of 1879, the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad located their depot in Section 21 which was 2-1/2 miles south of Fort Chippewa. This caused the original town to be abandoned and moved to the current location in 1881 so that it was closer to the railroad.

Over the years the railroad was owned by several companies: St. Paul & Pacific Railroad; St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad; Northern Pacific Railroad; Burlington Northern Railroad; and the Great Northern Railroad.

In the early days, after the tracks went through, lumber came in to build stores and homes. Coal sheds were built and the trains brought in coal. After the coal was delivered by the dray man to the customers, the agent would sweep up the coal dust and that would burn in the pot belly stove in the passenger waiting room. Elevators were built and farmers could ship their grain. Stockyards were built west of the depot and farmers could ship their cattle and other livestock. A tile company was started between the stock yards and the lumber company, and the tile was shipped out on a regular basis. Carp from local lakes was packed in refrigerator cars and shipped to New York. In the early morning hours, a milk train stopped at every station to pick up milk.

Two passenger trains per day ran each way plus freight trains. This was the only transportation in and out of town. Many large bags of mail arrived each day. The

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BOARD MEMBERS:

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Leadership Alexandria Visits Brandon History Center



Twenty-five members of Leadership Alexandria visited the Brandon History Center on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 on their annual History

Day Tour of Douglas County. They spent about 45 minutes viewing the Auditorium Video and Museum before continuing on to Chippewa Park with additional stops in Evansville and Kensington before heading back to the Douglas County Historical Society and the Runestone Museum.

Leadership Alexandria is an in-depth nine-month program sponsored by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce which provides an opportunity for participants to develop leadership skills and learn more about the community that they live and/or work in.

Veteran's Corner



James M. Goering World War II

Entered the National Guard Battery C. 217 217 Coast Artillery on February 10, 1941 in Alexandria Minnesota. Arrived at Camp Haan California on Feb 13, 1941. Left Camp Haan in July 1941 in a convoy to Oakland, San Francisco area. Morning of August 8th we took a train from Oakland R.R. Terminal across U.S. to Boston Massachusetts, arriving August 12th. We embarked on August 19th in Boston Harbor. On August 31 we awoke in Reykjavik Iceland, our home for 14 months.

We left Iceland on October 31, 1943 to Grenoch Scotland and by train to Glasgow. We were in training until July 17 when we arrived at Utah Beach and a nine mile march to our camp site. We were set up to defend the Port of Cherbourg. The next assignment was the defense of Antwerp. From November 1944 to March 1945 we shot down 400 V bombs. We were sent to LeMans France to assist in maintaining a prisoner of war enclosure.

Date of discharge was August 31, 1945 from Camp McCoy Wisconsin Headquarters Battery 494 Coast Artillery Battalion.

James passed away May 10, 2023 at the age of 101

He is resting at peace at the Gethsemane Cemetery, New Hope Minnesota

Edgefield Cemetery



The Summer 2023 article on the history of Brandon discussed the abandoned Edgefield cemetery located near Fort Chippewa. After that article which was written in 1981, volunteers from the Lions Club in 1997 started a project to reclaim and cleanup the cemetery. Brandon Township is now responsible for maintaining the cemetery.

Edgefield cemetery was in use at least by 1866. In 1879, the cemetery was officially platted and recorded as Edgefield Cemetery by George Freudenreich. It is estimated that many pioneers were buried at Edgefield, however, only two headstones have been found and no burial records have been located. Burial at Edgefield would have continued well into the 1890's since the new Brandon did not acquire cemetery land near its present location until 1899. Information from Bud Greenquist.

The Brandon History Center has information on everyone buried at the following local cemeteries:

- St. Ann's Catholic Church Cemetery—Brandon
- Our Lady of Seven Dolours Catholic Church Cemetery—Millerville
- Chippewa Church Cemetery—Brandon Township

Other local cemeteries include

- Brandon Cemetery—Brandon Township
- East and West Moe Lutheran Church Cemeteries—Moe Township
- Lake Moses Lutheran Cemetery—Millerville Township—inactive
- Trinity Lutheran Cemetery—Millerville Township

Thank you!

To everyone who requested research on family members, other Brandon/Millerville research, or other, items, we are glad to 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.

- Bernice Kuhn Braun—various Kuhn and Ledermann family items
- Lorlee Bartos—items belonging to Clara Klimek Bartos
- Eugene Rossum—two books written by Eugene Rossum
- Sherri Koep Morical—Brandon Quasquicentennial T-Shirt
- Paul and Julie Simonett—dress worn by Magnhild Bergh
- Joann Otto—Class of 79 Reunion Booklet.
- Virgie Morical & Ruth Plaster -- Red Hat Ladies Scrapbook
- John Nelson—various books on the Hopfner/Wilken family
- John Anderson —John's Story by John Anderson

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 your 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.

History Center Hours

The History Center hours during the winter will be by appointment. It is open for research or to donate items of historical value such as family pictures and stories. Email brandonhistory@gctel.net to arrange a time for a visit or to drop off your items.

Our Mission Statement

To collect and preserve the history of Brandon, Millerville, and the surrounding area for future generations.

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



CPL Bruce Hertzog United States Marine Corp Vietnam Era

Bruce Hertzog spent one year in college before he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. on October 29, 1959. His first training took place at Marine Corp Training Station at Oceanside, California. He spent 32 days on a ship going to Japan. During these days, the crew spent a great deal of time chipping paint off the hull of the ship. Bruce served in Japan for 13 months. While in Japan he was a Motor Vehicle Heavy Truck Operator. Bruce spent much of his time being a chauffer for the company priest. When Bruce returned to the states, he spent his remaining service at the Marine Corp Base in Yuma, Arizona. He received his rifle training and his motor vehicle training at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California. During his time serving his country he received the 1st Award Rifle Marksman Badge, MI and a Good Conduct Medal. Bruce received his honorable discharge Oct 28, 1963. Bruce Hertzog passed away on May 27, 2023. He will be receiving a Full Military Graveside Salute at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Duluth in Saginaw, Minnesota.

CPL Charles Joseph Goering United States Army Korean War Era



Charles passed away on August 24, 2012

He Rests at Peace in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

Little Falls, MN

