

The Center Piece

Winter 2024



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Saloons, Temperance Unions, and Prohibition

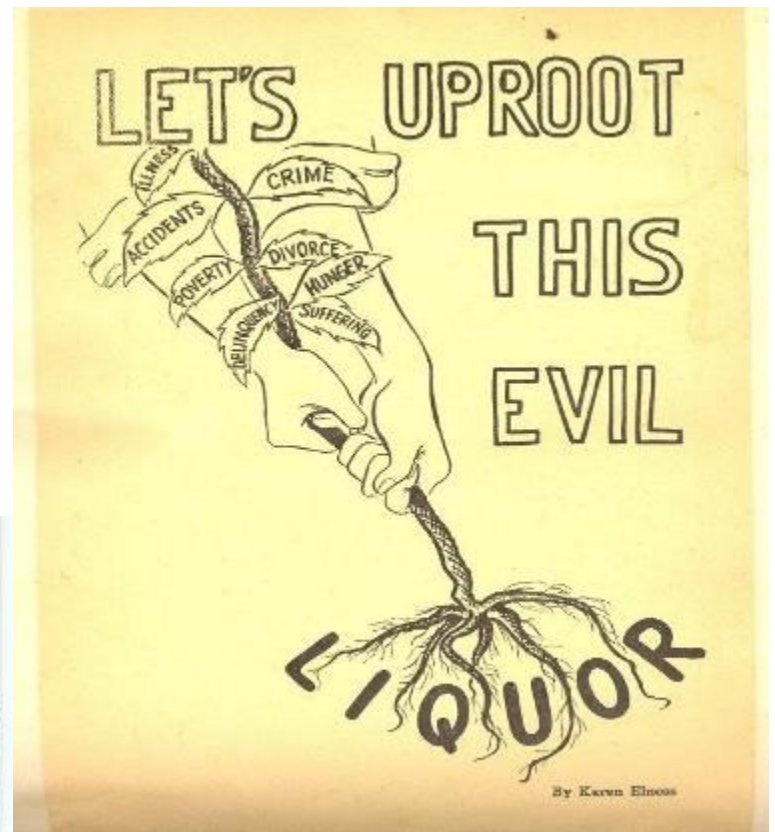
Saloons were among the first businesses in Brandon and a source of ongoing controversy and contention for the early citizens of the area. Early Brandon Village council minutes list the fees for liquor licenses. In 1885, the fee was \$500 but by 1909 it was \$2000, which is about \$71,000 in today's dollars. In 1885, the council voted that all saloons should be closed by 10 pm and in 1892 liquor licenses were issued to August Swanson, Jacob Table, and Peter P. Bjerken.

The Temperance Movement was a political and social movement in the United States (and in Europe) that promoting temperance or the complete abstinence from consumption of alcoholic beverages. Supporters of the Temperance Movement, mostly Protestant and known as "teetotalers," worked for many decades to end the sale of alcohol across the United States at the local, state and national level and eventually succeeded in helping pass

the 18th amendment. Groups like the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and Anti-Saloon League argued alcohol was the root of numerous social problems plaguing the nation at the time.



Finnish Temperance Hall (Moe Township)



Karen Elness, the artist, was a local area resident and former member of Chippewa Lutheran Church

Even in Brandon and surrounding areas, there were a number of citizens who were upset by number of

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Veteran's Corner

Muriel Olson Kappler

United States Army

World War II

Muriel enlisted in the United States Army on January 31, 1944. She reported to Fort Bragg and joined the 42nd Field Hospital. At Fort Bragg she received training on setting up and breaking down surgical tents as well as remote hospital training. On February 16, 1944 she arrived at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. February 20th she went on the ship Susan B. Anthony in a convey headed for Belfast, Ireland. Eventually they ended up in Bromyard, Herefordshire, England, where they set up a field hospital on June 10, 1944, Muriel arrived on Utah Beach. Later they setup their first hospital at St. Marie Du Mont, France. Muriel worked in the shock tent. The next hospital they setup was at St. Vith, Belgium. In Flerengin, Germany, they stayed in a bombed out hospital, later a hospital in Weida, Germany. She participated in the D Day Invasion and was the first American woman to

enter Paris after the liberation. After the war was over Muriel was one of the first American soldiers who was able to enter the concentration camp near Buchenwald. The smoke stacks with furnaces were still burning. Muriel was decorated with a Bronze Star for her honorable and brave service. Muriel was discharged in November 1945. Read more about her time in the service in a book written by her niece Joann Sandbo Engstrom which can be found online at www.BrandonHistoryCenter.org.

Muriel passed away January 21, 2015 and is buried at Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN

Jacob Tamble House

A piece of Brandon history came down on May 22, 2024 when the Jacob Tamble house at 208 Nelson Ave was torn down. It was currently owned by Aaron and Katherine Lund. The house dated from the late 1800's. The Tambles owned various businesses in Brandon including a general store and a furniture store.



Saloons, Temperance Unions, and Prohibition

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saloons and the number of men who partook in alcohol. For example, Haagen Holing refused to sell a lot when he heard that it was going to be used for a saloon. The editor of the Brandon Echo, George S. Myron's death was attributed to excessive use of liquor.

By the early 1900's, many towns and village voted to go "dry". Eva Wold, along with her husband Carl Wold who was editor of the Brandon Echo at the time, had helped make Brandon a dry town by 1905. The absence of saloons had an unintended side-effect in that people started drinking patent medicines that may have been 20% alcohol or flavoring extracts which were 40% alcohol.

There were also local temperance societies such as the Finnish Temperance Society that met at Moe Township Hall which provided a social outlet other than drinking. Eva Wold was president of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union and a delegate to the National Prohibition Convention.

Brandon ceased to be a "dry" town and "eventually earned the reputation of being the only spot to get a drink of liquor between here and the South

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Saloons, Temperance Unions, and Prohibition

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Dakota border” until the 18th amendment enacted prohibition in 1919. The amendment was repealed in 1933.

Today the Brandon Municipal Liquor store is owned and operated by the city and is the only “saloon” in town.



Saloon in Brandon—undated and unnamed picture.



Startlite Bar and Grill

Whiskey Lake Naming Trivia: Two versions of the story exist, take your pick as to which one you prefer. The lake was used as a place to cache the kegs of whiskey until the next cart came by or a load of whiskey went through the ice of the lake.

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.

- REA Roundup—grant used toward purchase of a new printer/copier.
- Mindy Kassow Andreasen—Ziegenhagen-Pfeffer letter collection and materials related to Marie Pischke.
- Donation in memory of Wilbur and Leon Hopfner
- Donation in memory of Ray and Norma Strom
- Donation in memory of Jenny and Elphege Webskowski
- Donation in memory of Carol Koep
- New lifetime member Rosalie Kelly Grams
- New lifetime members Jerry and Nora Goodburn

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 or 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

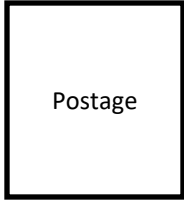
The History Center is usually open on Friday from 9-12, please e-mail to verify, or by appointment. It is open for research or to donate items of historical value such as family pictures and stories. Email brandonhistory@gctel.net to arrange a time for a visit.

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

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BOARD MEMBERS:

- Florence Bitzan
- Carol Ramler
- Mike Cleary
- Ruth Plaster
- Cheryl Johnson
- Karen Thoennes
- Dennis Korkowski

Brandon and Brandon-Evansville YearBooks Needed

The Brandon History Center does not have a copy of the Brandon and Brandon-Evansville YearBooks for the following years: 1950, 1951, 1953, 1989, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2015, and 2018. If you are willing to donate, please contact the History Center.

Trivia

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

1. What was the name of the church built in 1871 in Brandon?
2. Before St. Ann's Catholic Church was built in 1902, where did the Catholic's attend church?
3. What was first used in the Millerville flour mill to grind the flour?
4. Where did the Big Ole statue stand before it came to Alexandria?

1. Chipipewa Lutheran Church 2. Millerville 3 Mill Stones 4. The 1965 World's Fair