

NEW BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NBAHS HARVEST DINNER CANCELLED

New Brighton Area Historical Society regrets to inform you that we have had to cancel our Annual Harvest Dinner, which was scheduled for October 10, during which we honored our residents over the age of 80. Due to the spread of the COVID variant, we cannot expose our guests to this deadly virus.

This past year has been especially hard on the society and for our members as we have had to cancel all of our 2020-2021 events. We have reopened our New Brighton History Center summer weekends, but had masks and wipes available. So watch our website, newbrightonhistory.com, where we will keep you posted on any updates for our society.



Goodbye & Thanks to Long-time Board Member David Fleming

We say goodbye to David and Bonny Fleming who have moved permanently to Florida. David has served on our board since the 1990s and has been our treasurer in the past. David and Bonny were our official photographers for many years.

David also provided help for many historical society projects over the years, including the initial renovation of the depot, cleaning and staining the deck many times, helping out with spring cleanups - we especially

remember him climbing ladders to vacuum our ceiling height displays. He provided a way to winter-proof our windows, thus saving us propane costs. And he was always one of our volunteers to pick rhubarb in Elk River before our yearly Rhubarb Fest.

There are probably many more projects with which David was involved, and we thank him for each and every one of them. David also provided financial support for many projects. We will always remember David and Bonny 'stepping up to the plate' to help us out when needed. So accept our heartfelt thanks, David and Bonny, and we wish you a happy life in Florida. You will be missed!

Stockyard Days (SYD) Celebrates 40 Years!

Our New Brighton Area Historical Society has participated all 40 years of this celebration, beginning in 1981 when we collaborated with the New Brighton Jaycees to bring steam engine #328 to New Brighton on its inaugural run. Over 10,000 people rode the train that weekend, and the train was the highlight until 1985. In 1983, SYD was officially incorporated and new bylaws were written. Twelve New Brighton organizations were given directorships: Eagles and Eagles Auxiliary, Historical Society, Lions and Lioness, Jaycees and Jaycee Women, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Sportsmen's Club, League of Women Voters, and the City of New Brighton. During this time a "Save the Depot" campaign began to fundraise to move the depot from its site on 5th Street to Long Lake Park. In 1987 SYD celebrated New Brighton's Centennial with a city-commissioned Photo Exhibit which now hangs in the living room of the depot museum. An original play, entitled "Tales, Ties & Tallow," written by society members, performed six performances at Irondale High School. Gene Skiba's book, "A Centennial History of New Brighton, Minnesota," was published. SYD moved to Long Lake Park in 1987.

In 1990, SYD officially merged with the Antique Car Run. In 1991, to celebrate the 1891 incorporation, NBAHS again produced their musical, "Tales, Ties & Tallow." In 1995, the New Brighton History Center officially opened as a museum during SYD. Valspar Corporation awarded the NBAHS its 1950 Great Northern caboose. We beat out the Mall of America! The caboose sits at our museum site in Long Lake Park. All of these past SYD events helped make New Brighton a better city in which to live. We congratulate SYD for entertaining us for 40 years and hope for 40 more years!

From President Fred Behrens



After a year of pause, 2021 finally brought back some semblance of normalcy. We were able to provide a scaled-down r h u b a r b

promotion in June by selling freshly harvested rhubarb bundles to the public; however, we did not have our regular festival, which we certainly hope to continue next year. Again, we wish to thank Dave Nathe for making his farm available to our volunteers to harvest a top quality product.

The first week-end in June kicked off our official New Brighton History Museum opening for the season. Each year seems to bring increased attendance to this remarkable facility—not only from local residents but also from across the nation—and the world! Just recently we had a visitor from Charlotte, North Carolina. This summer we had a visitor from Europe, and during Stockyard Days I personally had the pleasure of giving a museum tour to a young woman from South Africa, along with her party from Atlanta, Georgia.

There appears to be one common thread linking most of our visitors after seeing the depot. It is one of simple amazement, particularly after they receive a tour and an explanation of the very unique collection of artifacts on display. This positive reaction makes it very gratifying to be a volunteer; and of course we're very proud to render this service.

Speaking of Stockyard Days, it was once again a delight to see this major community event come to life. Coupled with great weather, we welcomed a high volume of traffic to our depot museum, which led to book sales and overall support by our community.

A big boost to the Society's fund raising is the opportunity to sell Culver's frozen custard at a concession stand delivered and set up by Culver's Restaurant, located on Silver Lake Road in St. Anthony Village. And earlier this year Culver's did a fundraiser promotion for our Society, and raised \$800. We are deeply appreciative of this fine local establishment and its generous support of our community.

So as the season winds down, we wish to thank the entire community for your support of the Society. And please take note that we always need new member support, which costs merely a token amount each year. In particular we need board members/volunteers, which can really be an interesting and stimulating experience. In fact, this past year we were actually short of volunteer help during Stockyard Days.

And lastly, and as noted herein, we will miss long-time Board member Dave Fleming and his wife Bonny. Dave had the reputation of "giving the best tour" of the depot facility; he was also a tireless volunteer, and gave unselfish financial support to our organization. We will miss you both; please come back and see us next summer!

Treasurer's Report 9/10/2021

Cash on Hand	\$50.00
Checking	\$6,188.51
Savings	<u>\$21,363.40</u> (for book publishing)
Total	\$27,601.91

The pandemic has seriously hampered our ability for income. With expenses to our storage area and deck maintenance coming up, we hope next year we can get back on track. We sincerely appreciate your membership and donations.

Wayne Searles, Treasurer

New Brighton History Tidbits

The below article, written by former NBAHS Board Member Mark Haidet, a resident of Applewood Pointe, was done for its monthly newsletter. Mark is a professional historian that helped craft the Minnesota Historical Society into what it is today. He spent 36 years at MNHS as Director of Development leading capital campaigns for the Society. He then transitioned into the Senior Development Officer for the Minnesota State Fair Foundation. He has now retired.



New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run

By Mark Haidet

On Saturday, August 14, 50 to 60 antique cars built before 1916 crossed the finish line of the New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run. The cars crossed that line at the main picnic pavilion in Long Lake Regional Park between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The car run commemorates one of the world's most historic motoring events – the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run in England. The first event in 1896 was known as “the Emancipation Run.” It celebrated the repeal of the “Red Flag Law” that limited speeds to four miles per hour and required motorized vehicles to be preceded by a man on foot carrying a red flag. To celebrate, London members of one of the world's first automotive clubs jumped into their automobiles and sped off (the speed limit was raised to 14 mph) to Brighton – a resort community on the English Channel – 57 miles away. Today, the annual London to Brighton Veteran Car Run is a world-famous event featuring several hundred pre-1906 automobiles viewed by approximately two million spectators.

In June 1980, a local group of antique car owners commemorated this historic event by organizing a New London to New Brighton car run. They mapped out a 120-mile scenic route that travelled back roads through small towns and the rolling countryside.

The idea was resurrected in 1987 for New Brighton's Centennial Celebration. Several antique car enthusiasts proposed including an Antique Car Run as part of the city's Centennial Stockyard Days Celebration. Seventeen “horseless carriages” built between 1906 and 1910 participated in the inaugural run. The Mayor of Brighton, England and his family and several Brighton officials were special guests of honor. Fourteen cars completed the run. In 1988, the founders incorporated the Antique Car Run as a non-profit. The organization, which has continued to partner with Stockyard Days, relies on many volunteers in New London (where several days of events precede the run), New Brighton and communities along the route to make the event a success.

The event is not a race, but an endurance run designed to promote the beauty and reliability of these early automobiles (early motorcycles, trucks, and Stanley Steamers have also participated in the run). In 1996, the year of peak participation, 79 of 93 registered vehicles completed the run. Vehicles built before 1908 and one- and two-cylinder vehicles built before 1916 are eligible to enter. Drivers who complete the run receive a special medallion. Vehicles from England, Canada, and Australia, as well as many states have participated.



Here Ed Walhof, SYD official, in his 1909 Reo, and Councilperson Ron Sweeley are shown at the finish line of the Antique Car Run in 2001 at Long Lake Regional Park after driving the New London to New Brighton leg of the run.

RIVERSIDE FARMS

ELK RIVER, MN

Joe and David Nathe began Riverside Farms in Elk River in 1980. With the help of Joe's son Eric and other family members, they farm 450 acres of sweet corn, cabbage, green peppers, squash and pumpkins. Concern for future generations prompted Joe and David to use environmentally friendly farming methods, including proper land stewardship.



David and Eric Nathe



Congratulations to the Nathe Family!

David Nathe, pictured above with his son Eric, has provided rhubarb for our Annual Rhubarb Fest for the last twenty-two years. That rhubarb stock originated at Lakeside Berry Farm in Long Lake Park, run by Joe Hipp. This ad, promoting his Riverside Farms in Elk River, was shown in a Lunds & Byerlys ad this past summer. We thank the Nathe family for their donations of the best rhubarb in the Twin Cities over the past many years.

Welcome Intern Erik Pearl

The New Brighton Area Historical Society's newest associate is an intern! Erik Pearl started working with the society this July. After completing course work for his MA in Museum Science degree at Texas Tech University in spring of this year, he returned home to New Brighton to look for an internship that would allow him to complete his program requirements and attain his MA degree.



He reached out to the historical society in the hopes of learning more about local history. Erik and his fiancée moved to New Brighton in spring of 2019 before he moved to attend Texas Tech University. As a newcomer to the area, he did not know much about New Brighton history beyond the history of the stockyards. Erik now has literal hands-on experience with historic artifacts, most recently with the holloware used in train dining cars.

Erik's primary goal as intern is to bring modern preservation techniques to the historical society's care of its collections. This means examining and updating the current storage of artifacts, as well as creating a digital database of information so that future generations can always learn more about the artifacts in the collection. Erik looks forward to applying his knowledge and skills through this internship and is glad to directly apply his knowledge and skills to benefit the local community.

Farewell & Thank You



We are saddened to report that we have lost Gerald Bensing, an original member of our board of directors. Jerry served the society for forty years, primarily as our treasurer. He was our primary connection to Keys Restaurant who used the Nathe rhubarb to make our rhubarb desserts for the Rhubarb Fest. He also arranged crews to pick rhubarb the day before the Fest.

Jerry was also our go-to guy to design, produce and sell our NBAHS buttons for many years. In 2017 Jerry was honored by Stockyard Days and the Minneapolis Aquatennial for his work with New Brighton Ambassadors and candidates' yearly tours of the New Brighton History Center.

Jerry, we will miss you and thank you for your many years of service to the NBAHS.

Registration Form
New Brighton Area Historical Society
For new and renewing members.
 Mail to: NBAHS, Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112

The New Brighton Area Historical Society preserves our history and operates our New Brighton History Center, located in Long Lake Regional Park. Your membership supports our all-volunteer organization and allows us to showcase our history and honor our heritage for years to come. Help us preserve and share the fascinating history of the New Brighton area by becoming a member today and/or making a donation to our cause! **Our Society's Future Depends on Your Support. We Thank You!**



Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____

State and Zip _____ Phone _____ Email Address _____

Membership Options (Check One)

_____ Single \$10.00 _____ Family \$15.00 _____ Business/Club \$100.00

_____ Please consider an extra donation for museum maintenance

• A Great Holiday Gift Idea for Your Family •
New Brighton Area Historical Society
Four Historical Books

- 1. HISTORICAL SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST**
- 2. A PICTORIAL HISTORY: NEW BRIGHTON AREA, MINNESOTA, FROM THE 1880s - 1950s (2002)**
- 3. A CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF NEW BRIGHTON, MINNESOTA (1987)**
- 4. A PICTORIAL HISTORY: NEW BRIGHTON AREA, MINNESOTA, FROM THE 1950s - 2000s (2005)**

Available at: • New Brighton Community Center • Beisswenger's Hardware
 • New Brighton History Center (summers) or by mail

Mail form below to: **New Brighton Area Historical Society, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112**
 Payable to: **New Brighton Area Historical Society.**

Each hardbound book, including tax **\$25; Snippets \$12** - Packaging & Mailing (per book) \$6.00

Book(s) and number(s) requested: Snippets _____ 2005 _____ 2002 _____ 1987 _____

Name _____ Total Enclosed: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

