

NEW BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NBAHS Annual Meeting April 22

New Brighton Area Historical Society will hold its 41st Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 22, at 1:00 PM at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, in New Brighton.

We will hold our annual election of officers prior to our program.

We are pleased to present a program on Historical Renovation, featuring Andy Yurista, who is now restoring the wagon wheels of our cart located on the deck of the depot. Andy has been involved with the renovation of the depot museum from our beginning work sessions in 1990.

We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to our annual meeting event. Refreshments will be served. And masks are required!



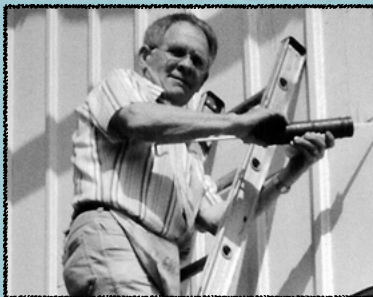
New Brighton History Center

A Winter Scene at Long Lake Park

Yes, the scene above does look a bit bleak, but this is how our depot looks in the winter months while we are closed. This past year has been especially hard on the society and for you as we have had to cancel all of our 2020 events. We intend to reopen again in 2021, but we are very cognizant

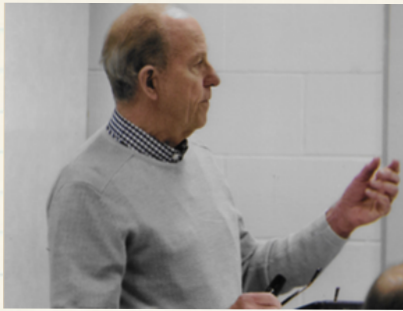
of COVID restrictions and we will abide by our state regulations. So watch our website where we will keep you updated on any changes to our schedule. See our proposed events calendar on p. 2 of this newsletter.

www.newbrightonhistory.com



The NBAHS lost a valuable volunteer when Jerry Blanski passed away in December 2020. The Society composed a book of his contributions for his wife and four daughters. Above are some of the photos of Jerry that we used. Jerry was the volunteer extraordinaire for the society. With his wealth of knowledge from his career in construction, he was always there for us repairing, renovating, doing lawn care, weeding the rhubarb patch, and keeping the depot looking great!

From President Fred Behrens



After what has essentially been a year of “pause,” we are optimistically looking forward to a “back to normal” season. Even though 2020 turned out to be a “bust” with regard to our regular activities, the Board met regularly and continued to maintain the Depot museum.

The downside was that the Society’s source of funding all but dried up, other than from the generous support of our members. As previously noted, we receive no financial support from either the City or County. However, we were very fortunate to obtain some monetary assistance from our community. This came in the form of a \$2,100 Federal COVID relief grant in November, administered by the City of New Brighton. Moreover, just this past February, the good folks at the St. Anthony Culver’s organized a NBAHS promotion, and raised \$800. **THANK YOU CULVER’S!!**

Looking ahead, and as set forth herein, the Society does expect to resume most of its regularly scheduled activities this year, with some exceptions, and fully cognizant that the status of the pandemic may cause a sudden disruption. Accordingly, after a one-year delay, we are looking forward to our Annual Meeting on April 22 at the New Brighton Community Center.

Of extreme importance to us will be the re-opening of the Depot on Saturday, June 5. Although our

Annual Rhubarb Festival will not be held, the Board has arranged for a fresh harvest of rhubarb, which will be available for purchase at the Depot on Saturday and Sunday, June 5 & 6, at 1:00 PM. (The stalks are in 3 lb. bundles for \$5 each; we also will have some potted plants at \$10.) This will be a great opportunity for many of our members to get out and support our first function of the year.

Another positive development is the City’s decision to move ahead with the popular Stockyard Days celebration this year. This is an ideal time to showcase our Depot, which will be open for extended hours on Saturday and Sunday, August 14th and 15th.

Last but not least is our very popular Harvest Festival dinner scheduled for Sunday, October 10. More information on this will be provided later this year in our Fall Newsletter.

And please remember, all membership fees are due on April 1 of each year. (See notice herein.) Your generous support has enabled the Society to proudly display our very unique Depot museum that is indeed a local treasure. Another way to support our efforts is to purchase one of the history books published by the Society. In fact, we have just re-run another printing of Gene Skiba’s popular “A Centennial History of New Brighton”—a masterpiece of local history, and available at the Depot for \$25.

And finally, on behalf of the entire Board, we mourn the recent passing of long-time Society Board member, Jerry Blanski. He was a kind and selfless individual, whose attention to detail kept all of his fellow Board members on their toes. We all miss you, Jerry.

Thanks for your support; we’ll see you at the Depot!

2021 NBAHS Proposed Calendar of Events

Annual Meeting: Thursday, April 22, 1:00 PM, New Brighton Community Center

Depot Cleanup: Friday, May 14, 9:00 AM at Depot

Rhubarb Pull: Saturday, June 5, 9:00 AM at Elk River. Call (651) 270-3623 for more info

Rhubarb Stalks & Plant Sale: Saturday & Sunday, June 5 & 6, 1:00 until all sold

Depot Opening for Summer: Saturdays and Sundays, June - September, 1:00-4:00, per state guidelines

Stockyard Days: Aug. 12-15 Depot open Saturday & Sunday for limited hours

Harvest Dinner: Sunday, October 10, 1:00, Eagles Club, per state guidelines

Treasurer’s Report

Cash box	\$51.00
Checking	\$7,412.56
Savings	\$16,952.02
Total	\$24,415.58

Year ending 3/1/2021

Income \$13,612.99
(\$10,000 Security Grant)

Major Expenses

Installed Security	\$10,531.81
Reprint Green book	\$6,526.86

The Stockyards in New Brighton

By Mark Haidet

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 Brighton owes its beginnings to a group of prominent Minneapolis businessmen, including John S. Pillsbury, William D. Washburn, Thomas Lowry, and William Dunwoody, who envisioned the creation of a major stockyards and meat packing center. As the Dakota and Montana Territories developed as ranch land in the 1880s, they saw an opportunity to develop the leading meat processing center between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest. In 1887, they organized the Minneapolis Stock Yards & Packing Company. The Company purchased over 1,000 acres on the southeast shore of Long Lake. The site was selected because of its access to the western railroads and the fresh water supply needed to water livestock and produce ice for refrigeration. (St. Paul businessmen incorporated the Saint Paul Union Stockyards Company in 1886 and began developing the South St. Paul Stockyards at the same time.)

In the summer of 1889, more than 500 construction workers transformed the area into a flourishing center of activity. The Twin City Stockyards measuring 1,200 feet by 600 feet could water and feed up to 5,000 cattle, 10,000 sheep, and 20,000 hogs daily. Two multi-story slaughter plants capable of processing over 3,000 head of livestock daily and the Stock Exchange Building/Cattleman's Hotel were also built. Company founders created the New Brighton Land Company to develop the village and sell lots. Several related businesses – rendering plants, hide and tallow factories, and several small slaughterhouses – were built in the vicinity. In the early years, several hundred thousand head of livestock were fattened up and watered at the stockyards annually. In 1897, 5,989 rail cars delivered 370,000 sheep, 86,000 cattle, and 63,000 hogs to the stockyards.

The stockyards and packing plants closed during the Financial Panic of 1893. In 1897 the complex reopened. The headline in the April 11, 1897, issue of *The Minneapolis Tribune* declared *New Brighton – The Pork Packers' Paradise*. Fire destroyed the smallest of the two packing plants in November 1897. The other ceased operations in 1900 due primarily to unfavorable railroad shipping rates influenced by Chicago meat-packing operators. The Minnesota Transfer Railway continued to operate the stockyards into the 1950s as a stopping point for feeding and watering livestock while they were in transit to packing plants located elsewhere.

Ruins of the stockyards and associated structures can be seen (with interpretive signage) from the walking trail between the beach and the boat ramp in Long Lake Regional Park. The two packing plants were near the API buildings and View Apartments; the stockyards were in the area of the housing development south of the park entrance. Note: See the next page for photos of the stockyards taken from the archives of the New Brighton Area Historical Society.

Membership Form

The New Brighton Area Historical Society preserves our history and operates the 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! Return the form below to: NBAHS, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112

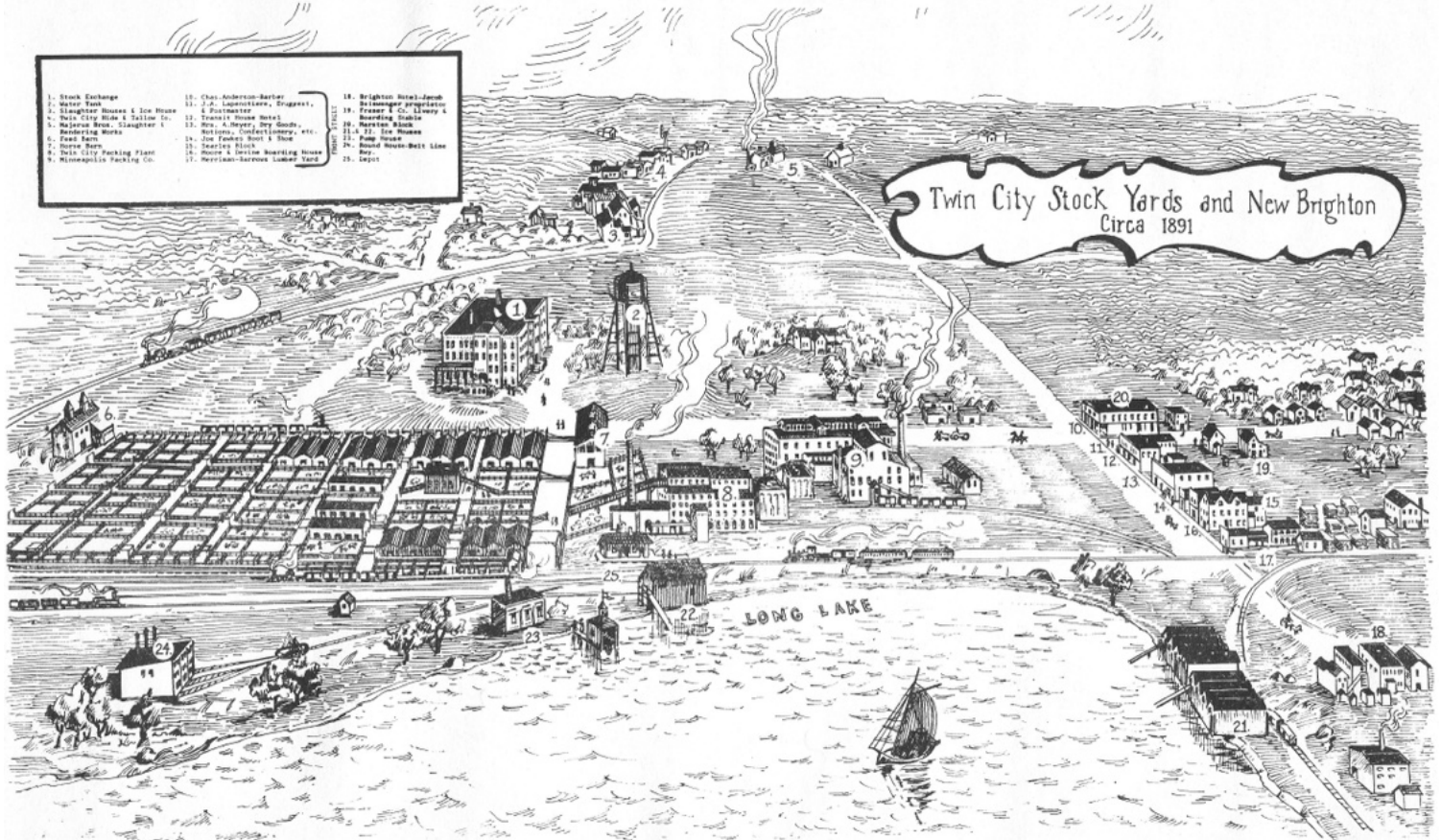
Name _____ Single \$10 _____ Date _____

Address _____ Family \$15 _____

**Invite a friend to
join the NBAHS**

City _____ State _____ Club, Business \$100 _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ Email address _____



A line drawing of the Twin City Stock Yards and New Brighton which was printed in the stockyards newspaper, Twin City Livestock Reporter.



These four photographs show the massive Twin City Stockyards with its barns and pens in the late 1890s. Long Lake and the large ice houses appear in the distance in the second photo on top. Shown above is Martha Bona, with the Exchange Hotel, behind left.

To learn more about the stockyards, see our four historical books for sale at the New Brighton City Hall and Community Center and at Beisswengers Hardware. Please continue to support us by purchasing our interesting books and joining our society.